American Political & Military Affairs
1828-60.

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New York
COUNTY: New York
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: General Winfield Scott House

AND/OR HISTORIC: General Winfield Scott House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 24 W. 12th Street

CITY OR TOWN: New York | CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: New York | CODE | COUNTY: New York | CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: XX Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	XX Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious	Medical Clinic	
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Odyssey House c/o Mrs. Nancy Canizio, Administrator

STREET AND NUMBER: 208 E. 18th Street

CITY OR TOWN: New York | STATE: New York | CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: New York County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: New York | STATE New York | CODE

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: | STATE: | CODE

STATE | COUNTY: | ENTRY NUMBER | DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The structure in question is half of a pair of houses. The New York City Landmarks Commission reports the following with regard to these structures: "Together this handsome pair of houses forms one of the most distinguished examples of street architecture of the period." These adjoining four-story "Brownstones" were built for Charles Partridge in 1851-52. Partridge, whose match business was at 3 Cortlandt Street, lived in the neighboring house, No. 30, while Nos. 24 and 28 were being built. It was purchased in 1853 by General Winfield Scott.

These four-story Anglo-Italianate houses have the familiar rusticated English basement, entered just a few steps above street level, with plain ashlar walls above. The doorways and windows, at entrance level, are round-arched with paneled keystones above the windows. Crowning the English basement is a continuous band course which juts forward over the doorways to form small hoods, carried on boldly defined console brackets, set above paneled pilasters at doors and at the central window. This central double window, now part of No. 24, was originally an arched entranceway leading to two houses built on the rear of the lots. The three upper stories are crowned by a continuous bracketed cornice with paneled fascia. Crisply detailed "eyebrow" cornices accent the lintels of the segmental-arched windows of the upper floors. These windows retain most of their original sash. The areaway ironwork at No. 24 appears to date from the Eighteen-eighties.*

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* Greenwich Village Historic District, Vol. I., published by the City of New York, 1969, p. 96.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1854-55

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [x] Military
- [ ] Music
- [x] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Military historian, Russell F. Weigley, has said of Winfield Scott that he was "something of a mirror of the Army itself. His flaws were great, but he had large virtues as well."[1] Flamboyant and proud, he would pout like a juvenile, reacting beyond all reason to an imagined insult. At the same time, he was a man of unusual humaneness and dedication to principle. Even though not a professional soldier, he was one of the most prominent "professionalizers" of the new army. He was virtually the author of the revised Hand Book for Infantry--the first officially espoused tactical manual. Darrow's Cavalry Tactics of 1822 conformed to this model. Scott himself assisted in the preparation of the cavalry and artillery manuals of 1826.[2]

The outstanding drillmaster of the War of 1812, he turned his dedication to soldierly training into the gallant heroics at Chippewa and Lundy's Lane. He lead American troops to stunning victories in the Mexican War. He earned the rank of Lieutenant-General, the first since Washington, and ran for president in 1852.

William Ellery Channing wrote, "His exploits in the field, which placed him in the first rank of our soldiers, have been obscured by the purer and more lasting glory of a Pacificator. . ."[3] Indeed his skill as peacemaker was tested on countless occasions: the nullification crisis in 1832; removal of the Cherokees in 1838; the northeast boundary dispute, 1838-1842; the northwest boundary dispute, 1859.

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1. Russell F. Weigley, History of the United States Army (New York, 1967), p. 170.

2. Ibid., p. 171.

3. Quoted in Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XVI, p. 508.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. Significance: (1) Gen. Winfield Scott House, 24 W. 12th St., NYC,NY

Biography

Born at "Laurel Branch" near Petersburg, Virginia in 1786, Winfield Scott attended William and Mary College and studied law in Petersburg. An easily agitated young man, flamboyant and physically powerful--6 foot 5 and 230 pounds--he joined the Petersburg troop of cavalry in 1807 as the result of the attack by the ship Leopard on the Chesapeake. As a young artillery officer his criticisms of the service earned him a suspension during which he improved his education, returning to assist in road building through Creek and Choctaw lands to New Orleans. All the while he continued to study the law.

With the outbreak of war with Great Britain in 1812, Scott was present with his first opportunity to display his talents. He planned and executed the successful attack on Fort George and was placed in command there, restoring the pitiful defenses by super-human efforts. Ignominious defeats on the Niagara had taught him the need for exacting military training, a lesson he put to great use at Buffalo where he developed the best units of that war. In July, his brigade drove the enemy in a running fight for 16 miles to Chippewa and bore the brunt of battle at Lundy's Lane, one of the most stubborn and bravely fought contests of the war. His part in the war brought him great honor and he was brevetted a major-general.

After the war he served diligently on the board that prepared the first Rules and Regulations for the Field Exercise and Maneuvers of Infantry (1815). In 1834 he revised this work singlehandedly. The three volumes remained the sole standard down to the Civil War. He frequently served as president of the boards of tactics, and with noted fairness, acted as virtual chief of the board to select out officers following the War of 1812.

In 1832 he was ordered by President Jackson to observe and report on the Nullifiers in South Carolina. This assignment was to initiate Scott's long career as a pacifier--a quality not generally recognized in this great military figure. By his tact and sagacity he contributed considerably to the preservation of peace in that year.

In 1835 he took charge of the campaigns against the Seminoles, Creeks and other civilized tribes and was charged with the rounding up of these Indians for removal to trans-Mississippi territory. Believing him to be dilatory in these pursuits, Jackson placed Scott before a board of inquiry which exonerated him. The truth was, that if Scott was more deliberate than Jackson felt was warranted, it was Scott's sympathy for the Indian and his tact in handling the assignment that were to blame.

(Continued)

8. Significance: (2) Gen. Winfield Scott House, 24 W. 12th St.,NYC,NY

Scott exercised his consummate diplomatic skill once again along the northeastern border with Canada. In 1838, by his sheer energy and force of personality he arranged a modus vivendi along that tense border sufficient to prepare the successful negotiation of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty.

In 1841 he was made general-in-chief of the army, a position he should have had much earlier. His influence upon the service was salutary and profound. He was zealous in eradicating cruel and harsh discipline. He emphasized professional schooling and encouraged his officers to associate with those of culture and sophistication, stressing that the military must not be narrowly isolated from the best that society has to offer.

The politics of the Polk administration served to diminish Scott's role in the Mexican War. Polk had to be pressured into turning the campaign over to Scott to rescue the war effort under Zachary Taylor. And rescue it he did. His strategic thrust from Vera Cruz to Mexico City was confirmed by a series of great tactical victories, a number of which appear to have rested on Scott's will alone. As Governor of occupied Mexico his rule was so remarkably humane, a delegation of Mexicans offered him the dictatorship. During the occupation, he sent revenues home to establish the first Soldier's Home for retired veterans.

His achievements in the Mexican War were clouded by the unjustified criticisms leveled at him by his subordinates for which Polk ordered him to stand before a board of inquiry. He took leave of the army in 1848 "turned out," as Robert E. Lee observed, "as an old horse to die." He tried to shrink from the public eye in retreat at Elizabeth, New Jersey but the public never failed to applaude him. New York City favored him with a reception and an unprecedented ovation. The charges against him were withdrawn and Congress designated him the first lieutenant-general since Washington.

Scott was boosted for presidential nomination within the Whig party in 1840 and 1844. He won the nomination in 1852 but was defeated by Franklin Pierce. The time of sectional dispute was not propitious for candidates of strong conviction. After the election, as the result of a dispute with Pierce's Secretary of War, he removed army headquarters to New York City. In 1857 he opposed the Mormon War and in 1859, at 73 years of age and crippled from a fall, he traveled to San Juan Island in Puget Sound to pacify the growing tension with the British over the Northwest boundary.

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Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
New York	
COUNTY	
New York	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance: (3) Gen. Winfield Scott House, 24 W. 12th St., NYC,NY

With the developing Civil War he threw himself to the side of the Union and urged the immediate reinforcement of Federal bases. His growing physical disability and advanced age reduced his influence on the administration. It will continue to be debated what effect upon the war his plan for action would have had. In 1861 he requested retirement and in 1866 he died.

GPO 921-724

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Weigley, Russell F. Weigley, History of the United States Army, Macmillan, New York, 1967.

Landmarks Preservation Commission of New York City, Greenwich Village District, published by the City of New York, 1969.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	40 °	44'	06"	79 °	59'	48 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Ben Levy, Senior Historian

ORGANIZATION: Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service

DATE: 6/19/73

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C.

CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

_____
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS