

BENJAMIN PERRY MANSION  
(Coryell's Ferry)  
45 South Main Street  
New Hope  
Bucks County  
Pennsylvania

HALS PA-18  
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

### BENJAMIN PARRY MANSION (Coryell's Ferry)

HALS NO. PA-18

- Location:** 45 South Main Street, New Hope, Bucks County, Pennsylvania  
Bounded by South Main Street to the East, West Ferry Street to the North, and the D&L Canal to the West and South.  
40.362970, -74.951398 (Center of Benjamin Parry Mansion, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84)
- Significance:** This site was home to the Coryell Ferry, and may have been occupied by General George Washington during the Revolutionary War. It was through here that General Washington led his army over the Delaware River on Christmas Day in 1776 to surprise the enemy in the Battle of Trenton. Later the Ferry was bought by Benjamin Parry, where he then built a mill and brought much financial success to the town. His mill in New Jersey had burned down in 1790, and the mill at Coryell's Ferry was built with the idea of "New Hope", thus giving the town its present day name.
- Benjamin Parry also built a mansion on the site of Coryell's Ferry in 1784, and over 4 generations of the Parry family have lived there. The site is significant not only because of its strong relationship to General Washington's historic Christmas Day crossing of the Delaware River, but also because of its importance to the town of New Hope. The site of the Parry Mansion and Coryell's ferry marked the terminus of the Old York Road, and served as a landmark for travelers.
- Description:** The Parry Mansion site has undergone many changes over the past 225 years. The Mansion itself is still very much intact and has been preserved. Because of the site's close proximity to the Delaware River, much of the historic landscape has been washed away with floods. Attempts to preserve the landscape are underway as the New Hope Historical Society tries to bring attention to the Parry Mansion site and its connection to the Revolutionary War. Increased tourism to the site could generate the extra funding necessary to preserve the landscape.

History: The Old York Road was the main connection between Philadelphia and New York City in the 18th Century. Originally, a Leni Lenape Indian trail, the road was established in 1703. The road forked at the Rising Sun Inn, one path towards Doylestown, and one towards present day New Hope. Once visitors reached the end of the Eastern part of the Old York Road at New Hope, they needed a ferry in order to pass over the Delaware River. The town was built upon this ferry service, and up until the name "New Hope", people generally knew the town name to be whoever was running the ferry service. In 1732, the town was named after Coryell's Ferry, as Emmanuel Coryell was the owner and operator.

The site takes on more historical significance because while at Coryell's Ferry it is believed that General Washington made final plans for the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War. It is also at Coryell's Ferry that General Washington's army crossed the Delaware River several times. Most famously was his travel across the Delaware River on Christmas day in 1778 to surprise the British in a victorious battle. The site of the Ferry was very strategic in the Revolutionary War, as it was almost impossible to get past without being seen. It was also the only point for miles in which you could safely cross the treacherous Delaware River.

The town's name Coryell's Ferry was later changed to New Hope because of Benjamin Parry. He owned mills across the Delaware River in New Jersey, and when they had tragically burnt down in 1780, he replaced them at Coryell's Ferry. This brought much commercial success to the town and as a gesture to the bright future of the town, the name "New Hope" was adopted. He later built the Parry Mansion in 1784, and since then over four generations of Benjamin Parry descendants have lived there.

Sources: "New Hope History." New Hope Historical Society. N.p., n.d. Web.  
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