

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM PHOTO/SITE PLAN SHEET**

Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission

Bureau of Historic Preservation

Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026

Survey Code/Tax Parcel/Other No.: 170 / 66-00-04351-00-2 Block Unit #024-032

County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 285 Mount Pleasant Road

Historic Name/Other Name:

**SITE PLAN****PHOTO INFORMATION**

Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	House façade	
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
Photographer Name:	Robert Wise	Date: 1999
Negative Location:	Robert Wise Consulting, Station Square 1, Suite 104, 37 N. Valley Road, Paoli PA 19301	

8/10/01

Mitsie: If you like this letter, I will email it to you. –B. Wise

**Open Land Conservancy of Chester County  
Stabilization of the Acker Farmhouse  
Grant Application**

Dear

Open Land Conservancy (OLC) has recently acquired an important addition to our cluster of nature preserves in the Great Valley. The 60-acre “Cedar Hollow” tract was purchased from Trammell Crow Company, with funding from Chester County and DCNR. It has been combined with two adjacent additions to make our 7<sup>th</sup> nature preserve. The OLC now preserves over \_\_\_\_\_ acres in the rapidly developing Route 202 corridor, most of it open to the public and served by a network of trails.

Cedar Hollow contains the Valley Creek and Cedar Hollow Run (a tributary), wetlands, floodplain, old fields and forest, and large Sycamore trees. Until recently it had been a working farm, as evidenced by the c. 1830 farmhouse and adjacent fields. The farmhouse is in need of immediate stabilization.

**The Acker Farmhouse**

OLC recognizes the farmhouse as a vital part of the preserve’s, and indeed, the Great Valley’s cultural heritage. Sitting amidst the former – and *forever* undeveloped farm – the vernacular farmhouse makes evident the agricultural development of the Great Valley. It is located near St. Peters Church, a National Historic Landmark. The farmhouse is adjacent to Church Road, and at a midpoint of Cedar Hollow’s open space, giving a visual focus to the preserve. This location makes it a well-known entity to local residents, as well as hundreds of commuters to use Church Road to access the Great Valley Corporate Center. OLC is planning to connect Cedar Hollow with the proposed Tredyffrin Township hiking trail on the Warner RR spur, which, in turn, connects to the Chester Valley Trail. Preserving the house will certainly be a benefit to the public, now and in the future.

**Stabilization Plan**

The house has stood empty for several years, though its solid stonewalls and structural system is in tact. While OLC has no *immediate* use for the building, our board felt strongly that the building should not be demolished or neglected. As such, OLC would like to preserve the building now so that it can be rehabilitated for future use. It could be used for OLC offices, nature center, heritage center, director’s house, or meeting site.

After examining several options, our board has opted to *stabilize* the structure. Stabilization is the first step towards preservation. It involves securing all openings, replacing the roof, debris removal, establishing ventilation, and conducting water away from the building. In short, stabilization protects the building in its current state, making

# PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - DATA SHEET

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

89B

## IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Survey Code: 170 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66-00-04351-00-2 Block Unit #024-032

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2.

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2.

Address: 285 West Mount Pleasant Avenue Historic Name:

Other Name:

Owner Name/Address: Robert & Elizabeth Ervin 285 W Mt Pleasant Ave. Ambler PA 19002

Owner Category:  Private  Public-local  Public-state  Public-federal

Resource Category:  Building  District  Site  Structure  Object

Number/Approximate Number of Resources Covered by This Form: 2

USGS Quad: 1. Lansdale 2.

UTM A. \_\_\_\_\_ C. \_\_\_\_\_

References: B. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_

## HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category: **Subcategory:** **Code:**

A. Residence Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

Particular Type: A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

Current Function Category: **Subcategory:** **Code:**

A. Single Family Residence Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: A. Colonial Revival \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior Materials: Foundation \_\_\_\_\_ Roof \_\_\_\_\_ slate \_\_\_\_\_

Walls stucco \_\_\_\_\_ Walls \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Structural System: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Width 2 bay / 30 feet \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_ Stories/Height 2 \_\_\_\_\_

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: \_\_\_ ca. \_\_\_\_\_ Additions/Alterations Dates: \_\_\_ ca. \_\_\_ ca. \_\_\_

Basis for Dating:  Documentary  Physical

Explain: Tax records

Cultural/Ethnic Affiliation: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Associated Individuals: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Associated Events: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Architects/Engineers: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Builders: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## PREVIOUS SURVEY, DETERMINATIONS

### EVALUATION (Survey Director/Consultants Only)

Individual NR Potential: \_\_\_ Yes  No Context(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Contributes to Potential District  Yes  No District Name/Status: \_\_\_\_\_

**Classification:** While this house is in excellent condition, it is a Class II resource due to its reconstruction.

## THREATS

Threats:  1. None 2. Public Development 3. Private Development 4. Neglect 5. Other

Explain:

## SURVEYOR INFORMATION

Surveyor Name/Title: Robert Wise Date: 6/16/2000

Project Name: Whitpain Township Historic Resource Survey

Organization: Robert Wise Consulting/Whitpain Township Telephone: (610) 722-5818

Street and No.: Station Square 1, Suite 104, 37 North Valley Road

City, State: Paoli, Pa Zip Code: 19301

Additional Survey Documentation: n/a

Associated Survey Codes: n/a

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM  
NARRATIVE SHEET 89C

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code: 170 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66-00-04351-00-2 Block Unit #024-032  
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township  
Address: 285 Mount Pleasant Avenue  
Historic/Other Name:

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Sitting perpendicular to the road, this Colonial revival house is in excellent condition. It consists of a core, built c. 1790 and rebuilt after a fire in 1928. An addition, constructed in 1965 is attached to the south end of the core.

The core is a two bay, two story, end gable house with an interior central chimney (which is less common). It has stuccoed walls. Windows on the second floor are six over six double hung sash with shutters. Five square columns support the one story porch which shades the two doors (there are no windows below the porch). A one and a half story addition (1965) on the same axis to the right side of the facade sports a wall dormer.

**Associated Resource:** Pyramidal-roofed garage.

**Classification:** While this house is in excellent condition, it is a Class II resource due to its reconstruction.

