

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.: 171 / 66 00 04345 50 3 Block-Unit #024-041

County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 299 W. Mt. Pleasant Avenue

Historic Name/Other Name:

SITE PLAN**PHOTO INFORMATION**

Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	House – façade	
2	House – additions	
3	Root Cellar	
4	Carriage House	
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

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - DATA SHEET

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

89B

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Survey Code: 171 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 04345 50 3 Block Unit #024-041

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2.

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2.

Address: 299 West Mount Pleasant Avenue Historic Name: Pleasant Hill

Other Name:

Owner Name/Address: Lawrence D. & Barbara C. Bodine 299 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: 3

USGS Quad: 1. Lansdale 2.

UTM A. _____ C. _____

References: B. _____ D. _____

HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category: Subcategory: Code:

A. Residence 1786 3,526 SF Land 1.15 Acre 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. Federal _____

B. _____

C. _____

Other: _____

Exterior Materials: Foundation _____ Roof _____

Walls stucco _____ Walls _____

Other _____ Other _____

Structural System: 1. _____ 2. _____

Width 5 bay _____ Depth _____ Stories/Height 2 _____

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: ca. 1786 Additions/Alterations Dates: ca. ca.
Basis for Dating: x 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: x Yes No Context(s): _____
Contributes to Potential District Yes No District Name/Status: _____

Classification: This excellent late eighteenth century house with a nineteenth century addition has been well maintained and warrants a Class I resource classification.

THREATS

Threats: x 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: 171 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 04345 50 3 Block-Unit #024-041
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township
Address: 299 West Mount Pleasant Avenue
Historic/Other Name: Pleasant Hill

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Sitting on an axis perpendicular to Mount Pleasant Avenue is this fine house originally constructed in the Federal style.

The house is a two and a half story, five bay, end gable structure built c. 1786. It is clad in stucco and has two exterior end chimneys (somewhat less common for its time), and outstanding Federal fanlights in the gable. The roof is end gabled with asphalt shingles. A pent roof separates the lower two floors. Windows on all three floors have shutters. A nineteenth century rear addition clad in stucco is two and a half stories and sits on a perpendicular axis to the core. It has two gabled wall dormers and shutters for the windows on the second floor. Just off this addition are two porches: one entry porch resting on three columns and an enclosed one story addition with a flat roof.

Associated Resources:

Carriage House: An excellent example of a Victorian style carriage house is located behind the house. Key features include a huge centered gable and large, end gabled, asphalt shingled roof. In the middle of the center gable is a decorated window with an arch and keystone and shutters designed to match the arch. A one story porch wraps around two sides of the barn to shield a small shed to the side.

Root Cellar: An earthen-doomed root cellar is located adjacent to the carriage house. It includes an arched doorway made of stone.

Classification: This excellent late eighteenth century house with a nineteenth century addition has been well maintained and warrants a Class I resource classification.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

“Pleasant Hill”

By Dr. Harry D. Carrozza

The census of 1734 showed Cadawallader Morris to be proprietor of the land in the area of Mt. Pleasant Avenue. It is thought that in 1760, Johnathan Taylor purchased 186 acres from the original Morris tract; however, the deed for the area of Mt. Pleasant is missing. On February 19, 1776, at the death of Jonathan Taylor, the land passed to his sons. Isaac and Morris Taylor inherited the central part of the homestead comprising 100 acres. As the Revolutionary War drew on, the sympathies of Isaac Taylor were with the Mother Country. He was a Tory and eventually left home and entered the British Army. Prior to that, he aided the British by selling supplies to the British troops. As a result of his activities, he was arrested by the American authorities.

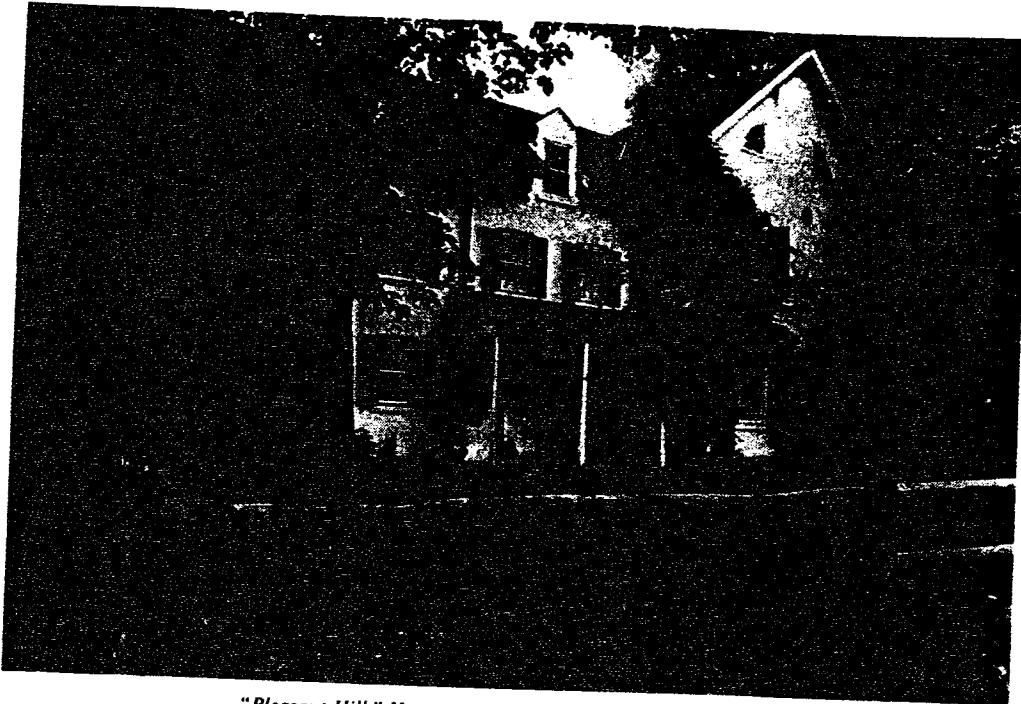
At a meeting of the Supreme Executive Council in Philadelphia on January 28, 1779, Isaac Taylor was ordered to be arrested for high treason. His property was ordered to be confiscated and sold as the lands of a traitor. This sale, however, did not take place until two years after the strife was over. Fifty acres were sold to the University of Pennsylvania on September 22, 1785. After Isaac's death in 1789, his brother, Morris, bought back the land from the University for £100 and the land again became known as the Taylor plantation for the next fourteen years.

Between 1803 and 1817, the land and homestead on the north corner, at Mt. Pleasant Avenue and Morris Road, passed through several owners. In 1817, the property was acquired by Dr. Thomas Chalkey James of Philadelphia. Dr. James was married to Hannah Morris, who was a descendant of Abram Dawes and James Morris. In 1834, Dr. James conveyed three-fourths of an acre of the property on the northeast side of Morris Road to Philip Matthias, Benjamin Mattis, and Jacob Conrad, trustees of the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, to erect a meetinghouse and provide a burying place for the dead.

In 1836, Dr. James died and the land passed through several hands eventually being sold to Saunders Lewis of Whitpain in 1854. At that time, a three-story wing was added to the original homesite by the Lewis family and the estate became known as “Sunset Hill.” In 1867, the Lewis family sold the property to a prominent Philadelphia Quaker, Anthony P. Morris. Morris used the home as his country residence and renamed it “Farm View.” In 1879, the Morris family sold the home to Ann Jane Mercer after which in 1885 it became part of the Mercer Presbyterian Home for Retired Clergy.

At around the turn of the century, a Victorian carriage house was added to the property just adjacent to the Baptist Church and the old root cellar. In 1933, the property was acquired by Theodore Seeyle who lived there with his family until his death in 1963. During that time, many changes were made in all parts of the dwelling as well as the addition of a magnificent patio which overlooks the carriage house and fields.

In 1971, the property was acquired by the present owners, Dr. and Mrs. Harry D. Carrozza. Today, the home and land amount to well over five acres. There are many fine old trees on the property including several tamaracks and cedars which are well over one hundred years old. The carriage house serves as a bath house as well as a stable for two Sicilian Burros, while the old root cellar still remains functional as a place for storing vegetables. During the spring and summer, the fertile soil continues to yield great amounts of vegetables. Presently, a formal garden which was started by Mrs. Theodore Seeyle is being restored to its original grandeur.



"Pleasant Hill," Home of Dr. and Mrs. Harry D. Carrozza

"Pleasant Hill"

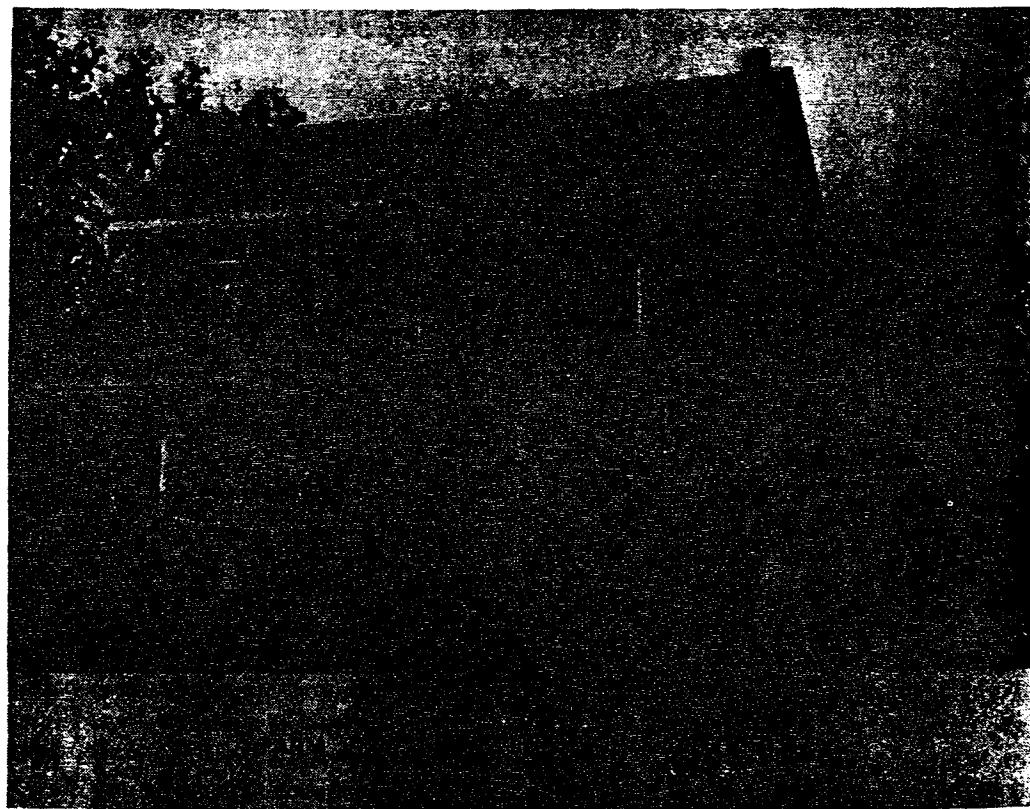
By Dr. Harry D. Carrozza
Photography by George S. Peck

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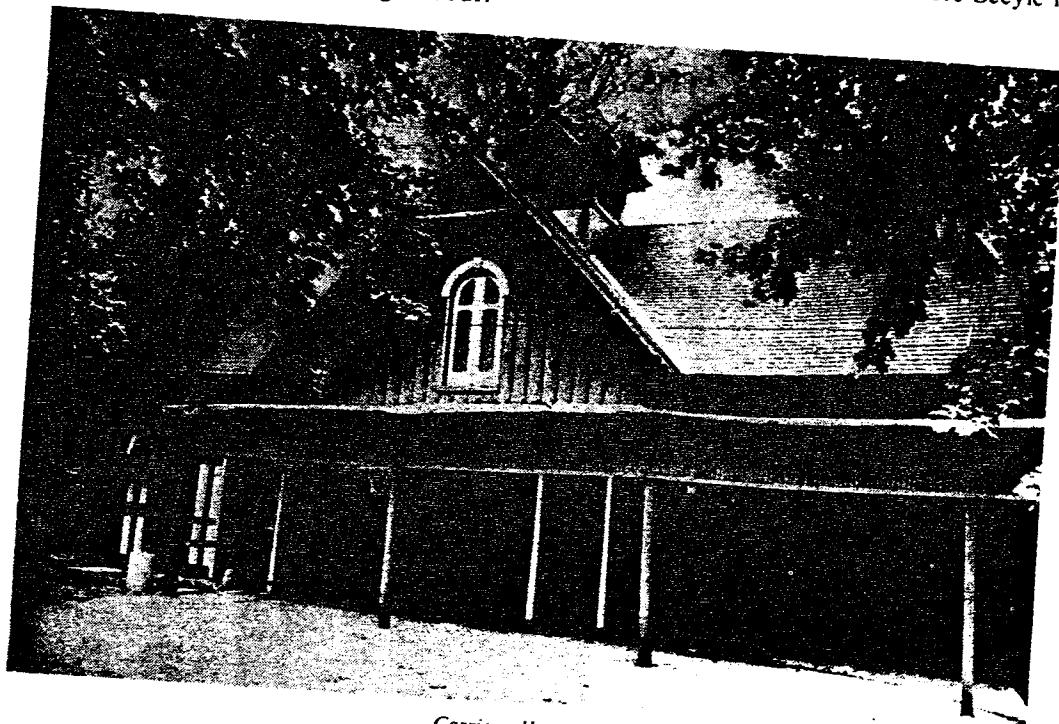
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Carriage House

