

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.: 053 / 66 00 04309 00 8 Block-Unit #018-005

County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 480 Morris Road

Historic Name/Other Name: _____

SITE PLAN

PHOTO INFORMATION



Number

Description of View

**Direction of
Camera**

1 House

2 Barn

3 Springhouse

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

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - DATA SHEET

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

89B

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Survey Code: 053 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 04309 00 8 Block Unit #018-005

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2. _____

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2. _____

Address: 480 Morris Road Historic Name: _____

Other Name: _____

Owner Name/Address: James S. Jr. & Virginia Armentrout 480 Morris Road 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_1890 9,672 SF Land 76.73 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:

B. _____

D. _____

A. Italianate _____

C. _____

Other: _____

Exterior Materials: Foundation _____

Walls stone _____

Other _____

Roof _____

Walls _____

Other _____

Structural System: 1. _____ 2. _____

Width 3 bay _____ Depth _____ Stories/Height 3 _____

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: ca. 1890 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 is an incredible nineteenth century estate sitting on a large tract of land. The intact house and fantastic barn/livery stable and springhouse make it a Class I resource.

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: 053 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 04309 00 8 Block-Unit #018-005
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township
Address: 480 Morris Road
Historic/Other Name:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Secluded from the road is this outstanding farm consisting of three significant buildings. The house is an incredible Italianate house, built c. 1890. It is a large house built of coursed stone. The roof is a pyramidal hipped shape with a small gable on the center of the façade; large brackets appear to support its overhanging eaves. The house is a three story, three bay structure. Interior end chimneys appear on the rear corners of the house. Each of the windows has shutters. The center window on the third floor is a paired window, and its shutters imitate the arched window heads. Below this window is a second floor window with a segmental arch; the window is flanked by windows with a mitered gable trim. A large wrap-around porch encompasses the first floor on three sides of the house; its supporting columns are square.

Associated Resources:

- (1) **Barn/Livery Stable** The barn/livery stable associated with this house appears to be described in the Furness style. It is a two-story building with a stone ground floor and a shingled second floor. It has a flowing hipped roof encompassing the several dormers, towers, and port cochere. A nice fanlight crowns the door.
- (2) **Spring House** Somewhat between the barn and house is an impressive spring house. This one story stone building has a hipped roof with a louvred cupola and spire.

Classification: This is an incredible nineteenth century estate sitting on a large tract of land. The intact house and fantastic barn/livery stable and springhouse make it a Class I resource.

George Greger or Krieger as the name was originally spelled came from Blenheim, Germany in 1748. According to the Biographical Annals of Montgomery County, he was a certified flax weaver. He paid £480 for the 116 acre farm. George Greger belonged to the Reformed faith and was an elder in Boehm's Reformed Church at various times from 1790 to 1816. He died at the age of ninety-one on October 4, 1818, and his wife, Catherine, died eight days later. They are buried in Boehm's Reformed Church Cemetery. According to his will his son Abraham, was given the Whitpain homestead and his son George, was bequeathed a farm in Plymouth. The daughters: Margaret, Elizabeth, Barbara and Mary got legacies of money.

During the Revolutionary War, Brigadier-General Weeden's regiment of Virginia troops were encamped here from October 19 through November 2, 1777. During their stay the season was very inclement and they met with many discomforts.

George Greger lived in a two-story stone farmhouse that was situated in the center of the property near a spring and meadow. According to the tax records it was built prior to 1785; the exact date can only be assumed. In 1793 George Greger built an addition to the house and according to the tax records built the stone barn when this was completed. It is presumed that the spring house in front of the house was built at the same time.

This house is as beautiful today as when it was built, maybe even more so, as pride and quality of workmanship such as this is not to be found in houses today. The first floor of the original house with white plastered walls and ceiling is the living room. The fireplace is the original and in excellent condition as is the handsome floor-to-ceiling wood corner cabinet and the door leading to the front porch.

The first floor of the addition contains the dining room and kitchen and above are bedrooms. Between the house and the barn is an overgrown thoroughfare that is believed to have been the original Morris Road. This road can be traced to the other side of Penllyn-Blue Bell Pike.

It was during the ownership of Abraham Greger that the great Whig mass meeting of August 2, 1844 was held on his premises. The speakers stand and the crowds that cheered for Clay and Frelinghuysen were mostly congregated on a grove near the Pike.

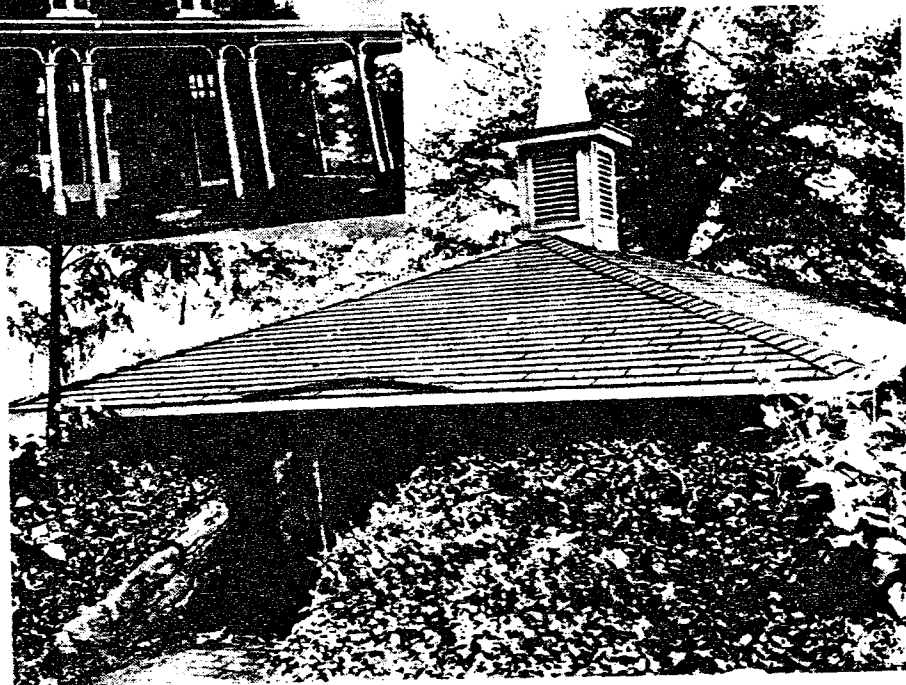
Abraham held possession of this property for nearly forty years. He lived here with his wife, Mary, and children: George, Jacob, Charles, Elizabeth, David, Catherine, Abraham and Meridith. Two more houses were built on the farm during this time. David lived on the family homestead until 1856. All his children were born here. Abraham and Mary died in 1854 and were buried with others of the family in Boehm's Cemetery.

The "Cedars"

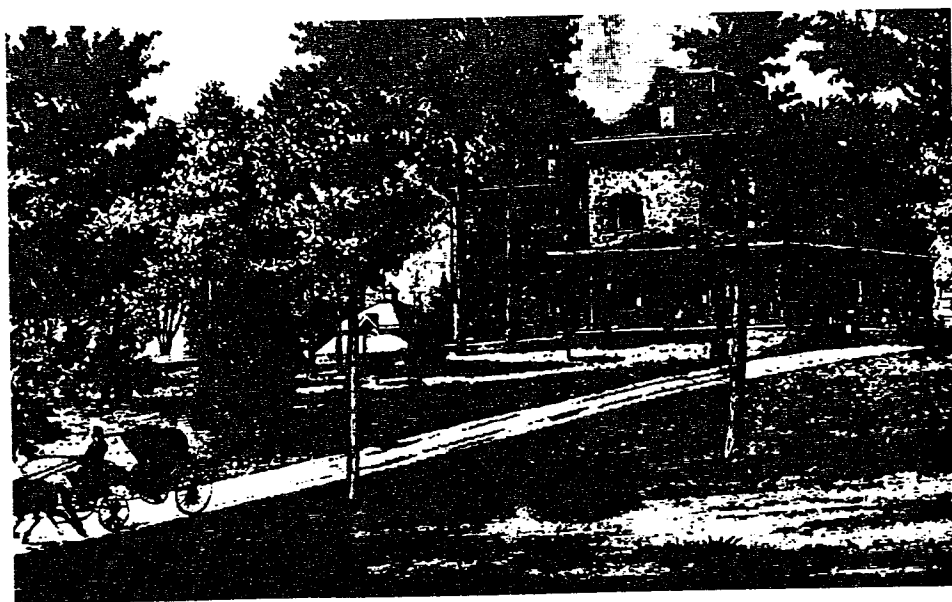
After Abraham Greger's death the farm was sold several times in quick succession and in 1857 it was bought by Mrs. Harriet Coleman for \$7,375.00. She proceeded to build as her summer home the stately stone mansion with the hugh porch on Morris Road. The rear wing of this dwelling was a farmhouse assumed to have been built by a Greger.



Armentrout Mansion



Restored Icehouse



Blythewood Built 1868



