

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.: 040 / 66 00 03277 01 4 Block-Unit #018-091

County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 525 Lewis Lane

Historic Name/Other Name: _____

SITE PLAN

PHOTO INFORMATION



Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	House – façade	
2	House – rear	
3	Green House	
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: 040 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 03277 01 4 Block Unit #018-091
County: 1. Montgomery 091 2. _____
Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2. _____
Address: 525 Lewis Lane Historic Name: _____
Other Name: Dawesfield
Owner Name/Address: Francis J. Carey 485 Lewis Lane Ambler PA 19002
Owner Category: x Private _____ Public-local _____ Public-state _____ Public-federal
Resource Category: x 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_5,829 SF _____ Single 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. _____ C. _____
D. _____ Other: _____

Exterior Materials: Foundation _____ Roof _____
Walls stone _____ Walls _____
Other _____ Other _____

Structural System: 1. _____ 2. _____
Width _____ 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: This house is in excellent condition, on the National Register (3/29/1991), and is a Class I resource.

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: 040 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 03277 01 4 Block-Unit #018-091
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township
Address: 525 Lewis Lane
Historic/Other Name: Dawesfield

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Dawesfield – This Colonial Revival house is based on a Colonial-style core. The house is a two story, six bay building with interior end chimneys which break through the gable ends. The roof is wood shingled. A cornice frames the roof. The core was constructed of semi-coursed stone. The first story windows have stone lintels and all windows have shutters except two small round headed windows in the front centered gable. A large one story porch on the façade rests on decorative iron supports. The third story windows on the side of the core have arched heads with small keystones; these wooden elements have three louvers. An arched entry on the first floor leads to a covered porch with a door to the inside of the house. The rear wing has roof dormers with shed roofs. There is evidence that the original core has been incorporated into this rear wing: there are quoins in the wall, and two chimneys appear to have originally been the interior end chimneys of the core. Off the rear of the house is a two story frame addition and a one story frame enclosed porch.

Associated Resource: (Greenhouse). The gable ends of this building are stone covered with stucco, but the other walls and roof are glass. (C)

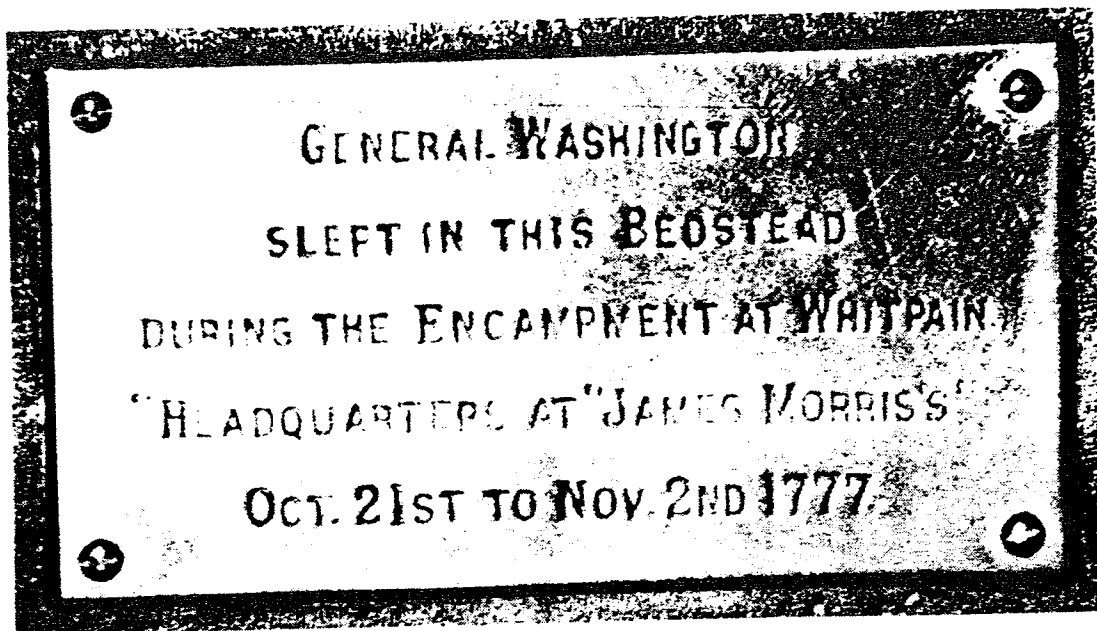
(Also see 485 & 555 Lewis Lane)

Classification: This house is in excellent condition, on the National Register (3/29/1991), and is a Class I resource.

525 Lewis Lane



Dawesfield in 1976



Dawesfield

By Marjorie H. Gerhart
Photography by George S. Peck
Artwork by Becky Huttinger

Because it was Washington's Headquarters for a short time during the Revolutionary War, a most important historic house in Whitpain Township that remains from Colonial and Revolutionary times is Dawesfield. The house is situated on Lewis Lane between Skippack Pike and Morris Road about one mile west of Ambler and one and a half miles north of Broad Axe. It was here that Washington had his headquarters, with his troops encamped on the grounds, from October 20 or 21 until November 2, 1777, following the Battle of Germantown. His office was in the north parlor. He occupied the front room on the second floor that still contains his bed. General Le Marquis de Lafayette was quartered in what is now the front hall as a leg wound he had suffered in the Battle of Brandywine a few weeks earlier necessitated his remaining on the ground floor. Other officers and staff slept on the floor of what is the present dining room.

In the north parlor, which was a little larger than it now is, several court-martials were held, the most memorable being that of Brigadier General Anthony Wayne, at his own request, to investigate his action at the "massacre at Paoli." He was honorably acquitted by a court presided over by General Sullivan. In the same room on October 29, 1777, a Council of War was held at which time it is believed a decision was made that it was not advisable to attack the British in Philadelphia.

Years later Hannah Morris told her daughter, Phoebe James, how she remembered sitting on George Washington's knee when she was about four years old and being kissed by him.

In the north parlor today, there is a framed order from Colonel Pickering dated November 18, 1779, commanding that a Hessian soldier, a farmer, be delivered to James Morris:

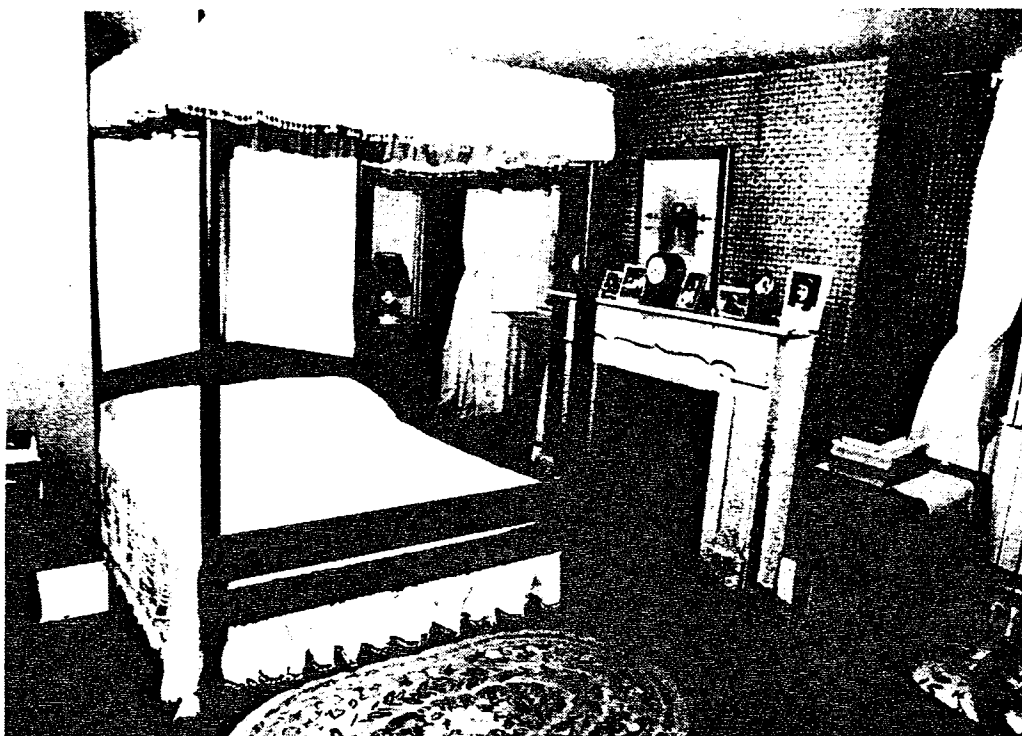
"Sir:

You will please deliver one Hessian Prisoner, who is a farmer, to Joseph Morris for his son James Morris at Whitpain to whom the prisoner is to be immediately sent.

Mr. Thos. Bradford
c of Prisoners

By order of the Board
Tim Pickering"

It is thought that this was to partially repay James Morris for the use of his property.



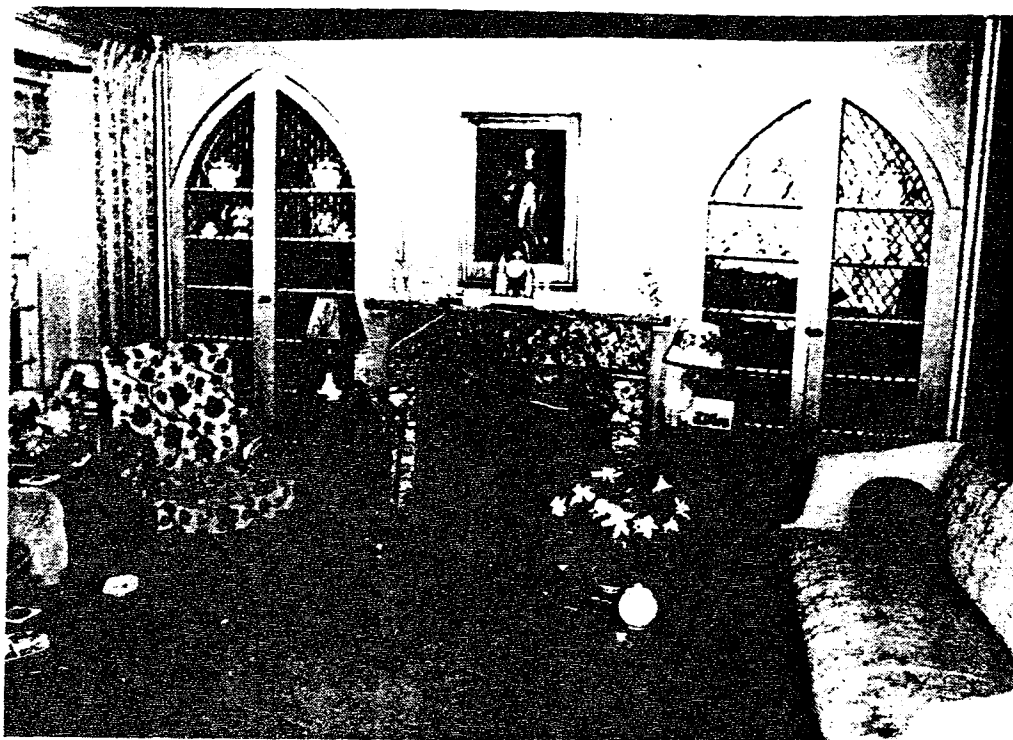
Washington's Bedroom; Elevator Installed In 1965 Reduced Size Of This Room

It was believed that several Hessian prisoners who died during the encampment were buried in the northeastern corner of the field just north of the house. Over the years tales of seeing "Headless Hessians" in the nearby woods, known as Camp Woods, grew. None of the neighborhood children wanted to be in that area when it was dark.

Today, Dawesfield is a lovely mansion with beautiful iron grillwork on several porches. In 1777 it was the smaller, plainer, but comfortable home of Elizabeth and James Morris. The name Dawesfield came from the last name of its first owners, but the estate was not always known by that name. During the Washington encampment, it was referred to as "James Morris's" or "Camp Wippen (Wippen)." Before the death of Elizabeth Morris, the name Dawesfield was used occasionally. Later it was known as "Montgomery," probably after the name of the county. In 1867, however, Saunders Lewis decided to revive Dawesfield to give the estate a more distinctive title.

The first Abraham Dawes was one of three brothers, Abraham, Francis and Edward, who came to this land from Wales about 1702 or 1703. William, thought to be the son or grandson of Francis or Edward, was one of the three patriots in Boston, Paul Revere, Dr. Samuel Prescott, William Dawes, who rode on April 18, 1775, to warn people of Concord and Lexington that "the British are coming."

In 1713 Abraham, who sometimes spelled his name Daws or Dawes, purchased 250 acres in the county of Philadelphia, province of Pennsylvania, adjoining the lands of Richard Whitpain, from Jeremiah Hopton. The property was situated near Broad Axe on both sides of the present Butler Pike, which road was not constructed until 1739. In 1728 he



North Parlor As It Is Today

purchased 419 acres in Whitpain Township adjoining his other property from Rees Thomas and Anthony Morris for "£ 250, 16 shillings, lawful money." He and his wife, Edith, were Quakers. He was identified as a "Yoeman (farmer) and Maulster of Whitmarsh." He built the original section of the Willow Lake Farmhouse located in Whitmarsh on Butler Pike. There is an inscription stone in the southern wall with "A.E.D. 1715" which stands for Abraham and Edith Dawes. They had seven children according to the records of the Gwynedd Friends Meeting.

A son, Abraham, survived two other sons who died without issue. He came into possession of the land upon which Dawesfield was built in 1731, upon the death of his father. In 1734, this second Abraham who always spelled his name "Dawes," was listed as owning 350 acres in Whitpain. It is thought that Abraham, the second, built the original house that would become known as Dawesfield between 1728 and 1736. There is no date on the house, but the springhouse, a short distance south of the residence, has an inscription, "A.M.D. 1736" for Abraham and his wife, Mary.

The second Abraham Dawes had married Mary Harry, daughter of David Harry, at Plymouth Meeting on August 20, 1731. They had seven daughters and no sons. After Mary died, Abraham married a woman named Hannah but had no children by this marriage. After Abraham died, the name "Dawes" died out in Whitpain township. While he lived, he was a man of importance in his community. In 1752 he was made Justice of the Peace. When he became ill in 1775, he moved to Philadelphia with Hannah and a daughter, Judith. He turned his farm over to his son-in-law, James Morris, who had married his daughter, Elizabeth.

The obituary in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, dated October 30, 1775, for Abraham Dawes, the second, described his contribution to the province. It reads: "... In the early part of his life he was engaged in the fatigues of improving an uncultivated country, which he encountered with fortitude and seeing his labour blessed, was encouraged to persevere by which means, in the emphatic language of Scripture, he made the wilderness to appear like Eden ... "

His will gave to his wife his negro "Wench Porthena;" to his daughter, Edith, his young negro girl, Esther; to daughter Mary his negro boy named Jeppo. The inventory filed contained among other things: "£ 2,432, one negro wench named Dinah, 20 years old, and at James Morris's, a variety of farming utensils."

Although members of the Society of Friends which condemned the ownership of slaves, James Morris and his wife continued to own a few as house servants for a time. It is not known when these slaves were freed, but the Society of Friends made several reports that the slaves were well treated and during the lifetime of James Morris reported that no slaves were any longer held by any members.

Gwynedd Friends Meeting recorded the marriage of James Morris and Elizabeth Dawes on October 1, 1772. James Morris, a miller in Upper Dublin Township, was the son of Joseph Morris, a merchant on Front Street in Philadelphia. Their daughter Hannah was probably born in 1773 before the family moved to Dawesfield where their only son, Joseph, was probably born. This was the family when Washington made the home his headquarters and a portion of the American Army was camped in the area. James Morris was thirty-four at the time.

James Morris was censured several times for his interest in the American Cause by the Gwynedd Meeting. One entry: "At the Monthly Meeting held 26th of the 3rd mo: 1776, 15 Plymouth Friends acquaint the Meeting that James Morris has acted in the Military way and says he does not think he was wrong in so doing."

Case was brought before each Monthly Meeting for the next four months.

Entry: "27th, 8th mo: 1776. James Morris appeared in this Meeting and gave a paper wherein he acknowledged that he deviated from his profession in meeting to learn the Military exercise, and condemns the said act which was read in this meeting and received for satisfaction."



Elizabeth Morris
1746-1826



James Morris
1753 - 1795

In the minutes of the Meeting through the end of 1779, there was no mention of James Morris, even during Washington's encampment at Dawesfield. In the Meeting minutes of February 29, 1781, there was the following statement: "James Morris paying fine in lieu of personal Military Service. Serving the Office of Assessor and Supposed to have taken the Test of Allegiance." The case was brought before the Meeting until on June 27, 1780 it was noted: "Whereas James Morris had a Birthright amongst Friends but for want of taking heed to the dictates of Devine Grace in his own Heart so far deviates from our Christian principles as to pay fines in lieu of Military Service, Served the Office of Assessor and is under the imputation of taking the Test, for which misconduct he has been much laboured with, but it hath not had the desired effect. Therefore for the clearing of truth and our Christian profession we do hereby disown the said James Morris from having any right of membership amongst us until by unfeigned Repentance and Amendment of Life he Recommend himself worthy, is what we desire."

James Morris continued to hold military and civilian offices. In 1782 and 1783 he was elected to the General Assembly. When Montgomery County was formed, he was commissioned one of the first justices of the peace and a judge of the Common Pleas Court. He was a delegate to the Pennsylvania Convention in 1787 to ratify the Federal Constitution. He was Recorder of Deeds and Registrar of Wills for Montgomery County in 1791. He was a captain of the Montgomery Troop of Light Horse. In 1794, joined by his son Joseph, he took part in an expedition to western Pennsylvania to help put down the Whiskey Insurrection. He died July 10, 1795, at the age of fifty-two and was buried at Plymouth Friends Meeting.

The estate was bequeathed to his widow, Elizabeth, and to their two children. The son, Joseph, died a year later at the age of twenty-two, unmarried.

The daughter, Hannah, married Dr. Thomas Chalkley James at Plymouth Meeting on June 10, 1802, and it is recalled that friends were "sumptuously entertained at Dawesfield." Dr. James was the son of Abel and Rebecca James. The father was said to have furnished Washington, at one time, with a large sum of money to meet pressing needs. His mother's father, Thomas Chalkley, was an eminent member and preacher in the Society of Friends. Dr. James had graduated in 1787 from the University of Pennsylvania. He had also studied in London and Edinburgh. On the Western Expedition against the Whiskey Insurrection, he had served as a surgeon. In 1810 he became the first Professor of Midwifery at the University of Pennsylvania which position he held for twenty-four years.

This was the first specialty recognized in the hospital. He was a Fellow of the College of Physicians in Philadelphia and its president in 1835. He had an extensive medical practice in Philadelphia where he lived with his family. Dawesfield was visited in the summer. Dr. James' visits were usually short as he would drive out of the city in his gig and return the next day.

His mother-in-law, Elizabeth Morris, moved to Philadelphia when she was older where she died at the age of eighty, in 1826, and was buried in the Friends' burial ground at 4th and Arch Streets. Hannah inherited the estate. Hannah's husband, Dr. James, died at the age of sixty-nine and was buried at Friends' ground at 16th and Race Streets. He left everything to his wife with the advice to dispose of Dawesfield as she saw fit stating, "It is valuable but not productive." There was a financial depression and it was feared that the estate would have to be sold. It was divided into three parts and advertised for sale. However, this was decided not to be necessary, but a good deal of the furniture was auctioned.

After Hannah died, in 1842, her will gave a sixth of the estate to each of her surviving children and a niece, Elizabeth H. James. The will was administered by a son, Thomas James, who received \$10,000 as his portion of the estate. Martha James, who was married to William Jackson, died a year after her mother, and her husband accepted \$2,000 in return for his interest in the property.

In the summer of 1842, Rebecca and Phoebe James and their cousin, Elizabeth, moved from the city to live at Dawesfield. In October Phoebe married Saunders Lewis in Philadelphia at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Phoebe had already been disowned by the Society of Friends for attending Episcopal services and Saunders Lewis was disowned at this time. In 1845 there was an amicable agreement among the remaining heirs that gave Phoebe and Saunders Lewis the Dawesfield Farm, which at that time included the residence and a little more than 336 acres. Later, she inherited Westside, another house Dr. James had built on the original property.

Since Saunders Lewis practiced law in Philadelphia, the family used Dawesfield mostly as a summer home. They had five children, none of whom was born there. When they were at Dawesfield, the family attended services at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Whitemarsh although they did not become members. Saunders Lewis had a distinguished career in law. He also served in Philadelphia as a member of Common Council from 1845 to 1848 and as a member of the Select Council from 1849 to 1852. For a period from 1854 until 1857, because he suffered poor health, he lived the year round at Dawesfield. However, when he recuperated, the family returned to the city.

Phoebe and Saunders Lewis had five children. One daughter, Bessie Lewis, married Colonel George G. Meade when she was about twenty-seven, sometime after the War Between the States was over. Colonel Meade was the son of General George G. Meade who commanded the Northern forces that defeated the forces of Robert E. Lee at the Battle of Gettysburg. It is related that the wife of General Meade and their children spent two summers in a house across the road from Dawesfield. It is not certain that General Meade ever visited at Dawesfield. However, his descendants have lived in Dawesfield and homes nearby.

After Abraham Dawes, the home came down through the distaff side. There were male heirs who might have inherited it; but they died, did not want it, or could not afford to keep it up. It has been owned continuously by descendants of Abraham Dawes. It was probably occupied every year since it was built, although sometimes as a summer home. Some of the original furniture is in the house. Some was sold; other pieces were inherited by other members of the family who did agree that the bed George Washington had used should stay in its original place. There is a Peter Stretch clock, built circa 1741, and historical mementos such as a framed original land grant signed by William Penn and a lock of Washington's hair.

Uninterrupted possessionary interest in Dawesfield to the present, is as follows:

1728 — 1731	Abraham Dawes and his wife, Edith
1731 — 1775	His son, Abraham Dawes and his wife, Mary
1775 — 1826	His daughter, Elizabeth Dawes and her husband, James Morris
1826 — 1842	Their daughter, Hannah Morris and her husband, Dr. Thomas C. James
1842 — 1901	Their daughter, Phoebe James and her husband, Saunders Lewis
1901 — 1912	Their daughter, Bessie Lewis and her husband, Colonel George G. Meade
1912 — 1937	Their daughter, Elizabeth Lewis Meade and her husband, George J. Cooke
1937 — 1967	Their daughter, Elizabeth L. Cooke and her husband, James Cheston
1967 —	James Cheston, now married to Laura J. Wayne

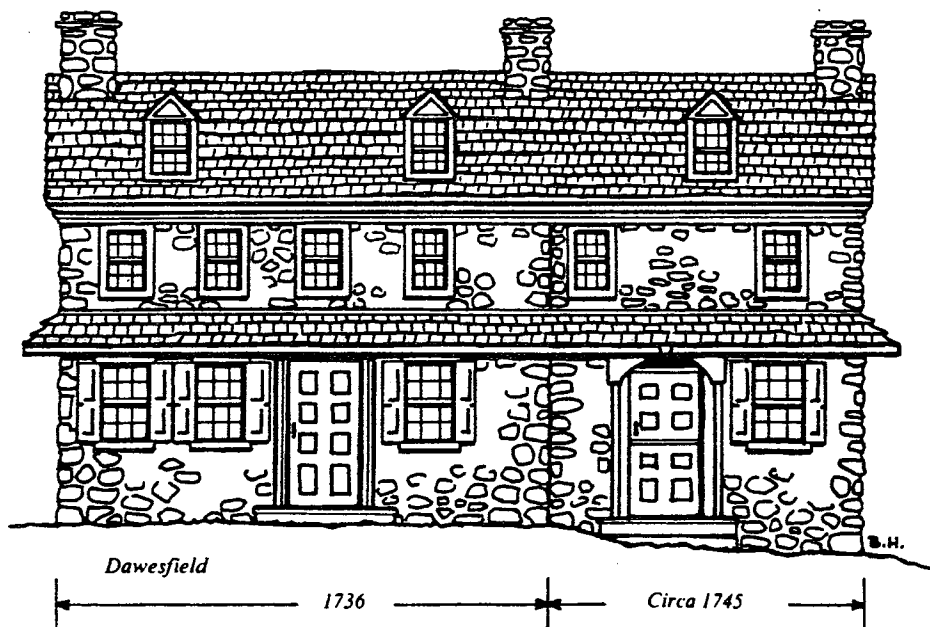
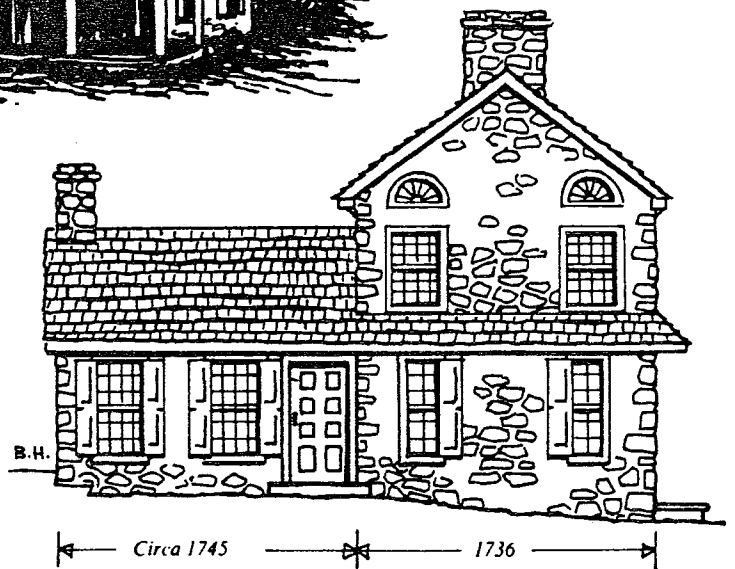
Many changes and additions have been made at Dawesfield. Originally, the house was thirty-six feet across the front, which faced south, with a depth of twenty-two feet. There were only two rooms on the first floor. It was two stories high with garrets and dormer windows. The kitchen was added a few years later. The additions can be noted from the different appearance in the stone work. A small one-story wing, which was later used as Washington's office, was built on the north side at an undetermined date. The second story, above this wing, was not added until 1785–86.

The south wing was not built until about 1821. A long pent house (overhang), part of which still remains over the kitchen window, extended across the entire southern side of the house. It widened into a portico over the front door which had seats on each side in the manner of the old-fashioned "Germantown stoop."



Becky Huttlinger

Dawesfield, The Green Portico, 1821



In a novel, *The Quaker Soldier*, published anonymously in Philadelphia without a date, but thought to be the work of John Rickter Jones who lived between 1803 and 1863, there is a description thought to have been inspired by Dawesfield:

"Colonel Lynneford soon reached the house which he rightly supposed to be 'Head Quarters' and springing from the saddle committed his horse to Tobby. Before he approached the door he paused an instant. It was one of those farm-houses erected by the better class of 'first settlers,' in infinitely better style than the more gaudy edifices of the present rural generation: of stone, mortar pointed; two stories high, a broad cornice, or pent house running all around between the stories, sheltering all the lower windows, and expanding into a portico over the front door; the roof high peaked, with pointed dormer windows. The windows of the second story square, with projecting eaves, the broad pent house diminishing much the apparent height. Such a building, and a few such may still be found — erected only by the first settlers who had the old English manor-houses in their mind's eye, and were not imitated by their American-born descendant . . ."

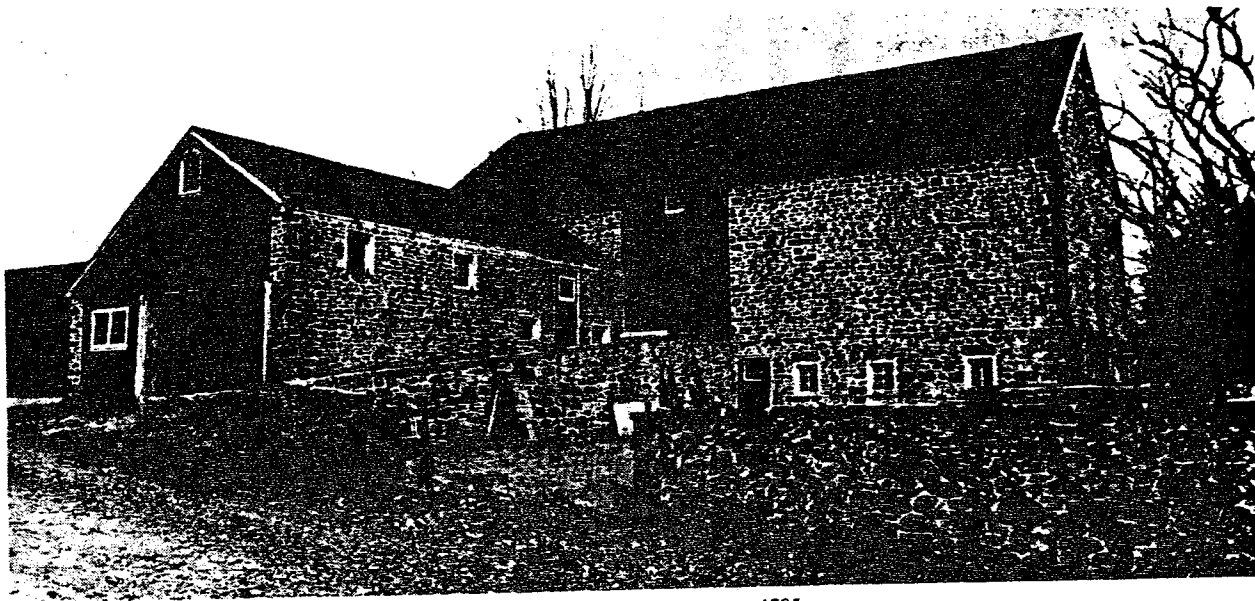
In 1821, the south wing was built, and the front door was changed from the south to the west side of the house, and the building took its present shape. The alterations upset a friend, Mrs. William Meredith, to the extent that she wrote the following note dated August 16, 1821, to Elizabeth Morris: "I pity your state of confusion and I grieve sincerely that the old porch has not been held sacred from the hand of modern improvement. I am so much of an antiquarian that I prefer what belonged to other times to any present convenience. Good chambers are great comforts certainly, but they will never associate in my mind with the heroes of the Revolution, and no feeling of patriotism will revive in my bosom on being in them, for Washington never hallowed them with his presence . . ."

In 1867, the veranda was built. The front porch with the lovely Louisiana grillwork was added in 1872.

Running water was brought into the house about 1870 from a tank mounted over a well to the north, pumped by a windmill. The plumbing and heating were gradually installed over a seventy year period.

After a fire damaged some of the floors in 1938, the front door became the outside door to the coatroom and the front entrance was changed to the north. The size of the north parlor, Washington's office, was reduced by the size of the closet. Also at this time, a partition was built between the hall and the dining room. In 1947, a new shingle roof was put on replacing a slate roof and restoring it as it had been originally. The stone terrace to the east was built in 1954 out of flagstones found in a pig pen and in the bottom of the springhouse.

The owners of Dawesfield built a number of buildings on the grounds, some of which have disappeared while others are still standing. As mentioned earlier, the two-story stone springhouse bears the date, 1736. The lower room is into the ground while the upper room is at ground level. It was used for butter making and as a smoke-house. The narrow opening in the west wall was probably for ventilation, but legend tells that it was intended to be used as a loop-hole in case of trouble with Indians. It is also told that a child was born here to a soldier's wife during the Washington encampment. There is a lovely buttonwood tree standing nearby that was planted in 1754 by Elizabeth Dawes.



Barn Built by James Morris, c. 1795



Tenant House Built In 1845



"Westside"



*1796 Datestone on Barn
Built by James Morris*



Springhouse, With Buttonwood Tree Planted by Elizabeth Dawes Morris

There was a log hut on the northwestern part of the property that served as slave quarters, but that has disappeared.

It is said that the soldiers cut down most of the trees on the land to erect huts in preparation for a long encampment. When they departed for Emlen House after a short period, James Morris used the lumber to construct a mill on the southeastern part of the property near Morris Road on Prophecy Creek. This is the mill that was purchased, in 1798, after the death of James Morris by Adam Wertsner and was well-known for the next century as the Wertsner Mill. Adam Wertsner paid 1,000 pounds sterling for the grist mill and fourteen and three quarters acres of land. The deed mentions the dam, mill pond and a mill race 3,432 feet long.

Dr. James built several buildings that still stand. A 120 acre section of the farm to the west was divided into a separate tract and called "Westside." A house and barn were built but the barn later burned down. The house, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ross L. Campbell, bears the inscription on the original date stone: "T. C. J. 1819."

A tenant house was built in 1821 in a southeast section, corner of Lewis Lane and Morris Road. This is now the property of Dr. and Mrs. F. Otto Haas.

In 1834, Dr. James and his wife deeded land to the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church: "That establishment of a place of worship at Mount Pleasant may tend to increase the piety and morality in the neighborhood." The church was demolished in 1976 after standing vacant for a number of years.

Saunders Lewis continued building on the Dawesfield property and in the vicinity. Still part of the Dawesfield estate is an attractive tenant house built in 1845 near the stone barn.

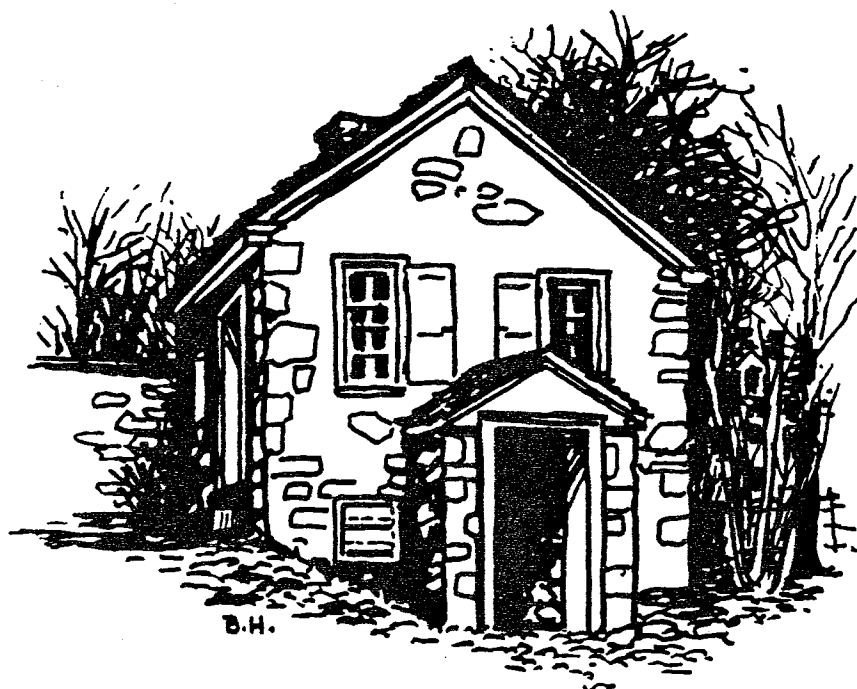
"Sunset Hill" was built for Mr. Lewis's mother, Rebecca C. Lewis, in 1855 on Morris Road and Thompson Lane on land bought from James Bartleson. It is now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Harry Carrozza.

Dawesfield had its beginnings as a working farm. Saunders Lewis recalled that a Squire Schoenberger, an old neighbor dead many years, told him he remembered when he and thirteen others sat down at James Morris' table during harvest time and that James Morris would place a silver quarter of a dollar as the day's wages in front of each plate. At the time of Dr. James' death the property was described as "valuable but not productive."

The wall around the place was once much higher but has been reduced to a retaining wall. Flowers have been grown from the earliest days in the box-bushed garden. Indian "Love Apples" were grown here for their ornamental value long before it was considered safe to eat them as tomatoes in the middle of the nineteenth century. There was a vegetable garden next to the flower garden that is now used as a picking garden for small vegetables, grapes, raspberries and flowers. In the early days, vegetables were also grown on the

present lawn below the flower garden. At one time the 1786 stone garden house had a wooden addition where the laundress and her family lived. The Italian fountain-head was installed in 1920. In 1952, an old ice house was converted into a greenhouse. There are still many old trees besides the famous buttonwood on the property. Some of the lindens were planted in 1821 and an osage orange tree is one of the largest in the area.

As Mr. Cheston, the present owner, has written, "The property in the last century was much larger than at present including lands to the south and west with farm buildings thereon. The deed to the property contains the privilege of cutting ice on the Wissahickon Creek one half mile away. However, the descendants of the Daweses and their families still own about a hundred contiguous acres."



Stone Garden House Built In 1786

Acknowledgement

The account of Dawesfield and the Dawes family has been written from material given by the present owner of Dawesfield, Mr. James Cheston, and from a book in his possession, *Reminiscences of Dawesfield and Vicinity*, by Saunders Lewis, Illustrated and Elaborated by Morris J. Lewis, M.D., 1896. This book was written after careful research into deeds and wills which are listed in this document. Mrs. Carroll Wetzel, a direct descendent of the Dawes, Morrises, and Meades, also contributed information.



