

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.: 158 / 66 00 06856 00 8 Block-Unit #019-041

County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 527 Stenton Ave.

Historic Name/Other Name: _____

SITE PLAN

PHOTO INFORMATION



Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	House	
2	House	
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

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - DATA SHEET

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

89B

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Survey Code: 158 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 06856 00 8 Block Unit #019-041

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2. _____

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2. _____

Address: 527 Stenton Ave. Historic Name: _____

Other Name: _____

Owner Name/Address: C. Cresson & Alisa E. Wistar 527 Stenton Ave., Blue Bell PA 19422

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: 4

USGS Quad: 1. Lansdale 2. _____

UTM A. _____ C. _____

References: B. _____ D. _____

HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

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

A. Residence_1799 4,382 SF Land 10.64 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. Second Empire _____

C. _____

Other: _____

Exterior Materials: Foundation _____

Walls stucco _____

Other _____

Roof slate _____

Walls _____

Other _____

Structural System: 1. _____ 2. _____

Width _____ Depth _____ Stories/Height 2.5 _____

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: ca. 1799 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: Yes x No Context(s):
Contributes to Potential District Yes No District Name/Status:

Classification: This heavily modified house is a Class II 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: 158 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 06856 00 8 Block-Unit #019-041
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township
Address: 527 Stenton Avenue
Historic/Other Name:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

This secluded Second Empire house is connected to a large twentieth century addition by a small room. The core, built c. 1870, is a three story, two bay house clad in stucco. The concave mansard roof is covered with hexagonal and square shingles (slate) and hosts roof dormers with segmental arches. A corbelled chimney punctures the roof between the dormers. Each of the windows has shutters. A small neo-Second Empire addition has a straight mansard roof punctured on the façade by a segmental arched wall dormer. A brick exterior chimney on the side of the addition also punctures the roof. There are two other additions off the core. One of these additions gives the core an L-shaped pattern and maintains the dormer, roof, and window patterns of the core. The other addition is a one-story addition.

Note: Resource is invisible from road.

Classification: This heavily modified house is a Class II resource.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The C. Cressen Wistar House

By Elizabeth M. DeVincent
Photography by George S. Peck

Mr. and Mrs. C. Cresson Wistar have resided on Stenton Avenue, on the northeast side just above Walton Road, since 1963. The house can only be viewed from the road when all the trees are bare. Come spring, the mail box is the only indication of a dwelling.

This long, rambling, white plastered house situated on twelve acres of ground is set back from the road. The house has been expanded and improved many times. The oldest part with its twenty-two inch thick walls is the first and second level of the center section. From there the house has grown in all directions. Although the exact date of the house is unknown, a twenty by eighteen stone dwelling is listed in the tax records of 1799.

It is thought that one wing and the third level with a mansard roof were added in the late nineteenth century. The latest addition was added after Winslow Lewis purchased the house in 1936.

The outside of the house is very appealing with many beautiful trees and a spring house that is in very good condition. A fine old stone building is used as a storehouse; there are no records of its history. The nineteenth century barn was destroyed by fire in the thirties. It was later used as a paddock. The walls are still standing.

The house stands on part of the original 5,000 acre tract belonging to George Palmer. This was part of his son John's inheritance. Henry Conard bought two hundred and twenty-two acres from Charles Mullin early in the seventeenth century. Joseph Hallowell purchased one hundred and eleven acres in 1786. This farm extended from Penllyn-Blue Bell Pike to Walton Road. In 1798, when James McDowell became the owner, the acreage was eighty five.

John Fitzwater bought forty-eight acres from William McDowell in 1810 for nine hundred and seventy pounds. Frederick Rumer became the next owner in 1818 for the sum of \$3333.33. He sold the farm of forty-eight acres to George Kerper in 1831 for \$2,500.00.

The tax records of 1850 list George Kerper as a farmer, fifty-eight years of age; wife, Catherine, fifty-one; children, Maria, Catherine, Hiram, Willamina, Charles, and George. They ranged in age from six to twenty-eight. The only other record of the Kerper family was a newspaper clipping noting their fiftieth wedding anniversary. It was held at the home of their son who lived on Narcissa Road. Their son had a farm containing one hundred acres not far from his parents.

George Kerper died in this house. He lived here for over fifty years. His Sons, George Jr. and Charles, sold the farm to Henry Rex. He lived here for nine years and then sold the farm to Edward H. Phipps for \$5,490.00.

Charles J. Sealer purchased the farm in 1915 for \$11,500.00. He sold it to Charles D. Hackett in 1919 for the token sum of one dollar.

Charles D. Hackett and his wife bought and sold much of the property in this area at that time. The farm was divided and Alfred J. Steiner, in 1922, bought the house, barn, and twelve and three quarters acres for the sum of \$7,600.00.

Winslow Lewis paid \$16,000.00 for the farm in 1936. He improved the property and added the last wing to the house. Mr. and Mrs. C. Cresson Wistar purchased the property from him in 1963.



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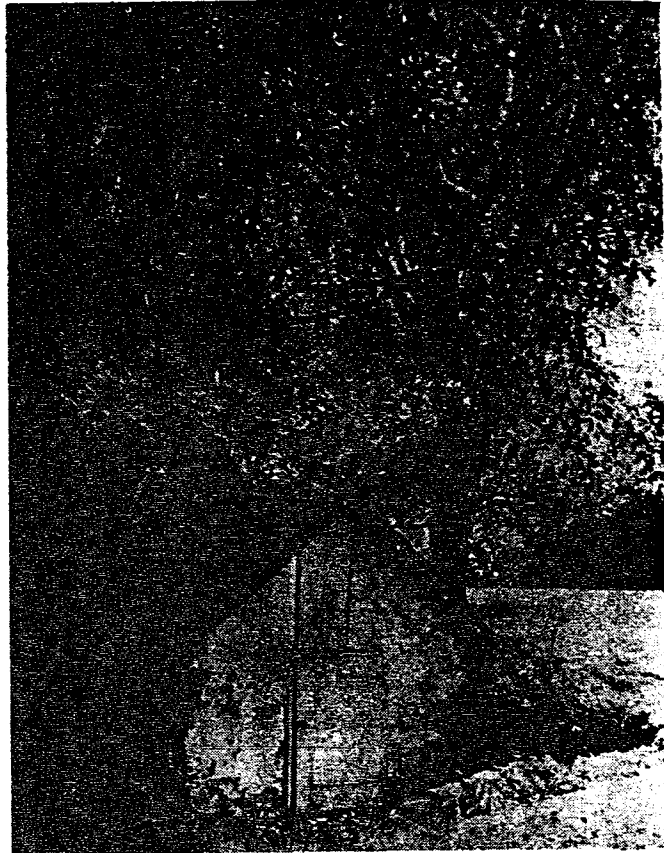
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Springhouse



*Remains Of Barn Destroyed By Fire
In The 1930's*



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