

**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.: 117 / 66-00-06188-00-1 Block Unit #019D-084

County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 598 Skippack Pike

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: 117 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66-00-06188-00-1 Block Unit #019D-084

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2.

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2.

Address: 598 Skippack Pike Historic Name: Black Horse Inn

Other Name:

Owner Name/Address: James Blair & John Chambers 1539 Potshop Rd RD 1 Norristown PA 19403

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

Resource Category:  Building  District  Site  Structure  Object

Number/Aproximate Number of Resources Covered by This Form: 1

USGS Quad: 1. Lansdale 2.

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

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

## HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

### Historic Function Category:

A. Residence 1796 Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

### Particular Type:

A. \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

### Current Function Category:

A. Office Building Business \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

### Architectural Classification:

A. Georgian \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Exterior Materials: Foundation \_\_\_\_\_ Roof \_\_\_\_\_ asphalt shingles \_\_\_\_\_  
Walls \_\_\_\_\_ stone \_\_\_\_\_ Walls \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

Width 5 Depth \_\_\_\_\_ Stories/Height 2.5 \_\_\_\_\_

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: ca. 1796 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:** Although there are alterations, this is a fine example of the Georgian style and thus Class I.

## 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: 117 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66-00-06188-00-1 Block Unit #019D-084  
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township  
Address: 598 Skippack Pike  
Historic/Other Name: Black Horse Inn

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The original section of this 2-part, 2.5 story Georgian style house (currently the office of Weichert Realtors) was constructed in 1781 (date stone). It consists of a stone core with a frame addition on the north end. The core is 2.5 stories high with an end-gabled, asphalt-shingled roof. A single chimney, corbelled and stucco covered, is located on the south end above the date stone. The walls are coursed fieldstone with c. 1920 beaded pointing. Two curve-topped dormers grace the roof. Fenestration consists of 5 bays one the first and second floor. Windows are new, 6x6 double hung sash windows with dormers. Each window has a recessed, wooden window surround. The main entrance, located in the front and center of the core, consists of a newer paneled door with sidelights and fanlight, all located under a curved opening. There are two additional doors located on the south end of the house. It is likely they were once windows.

The frame addition is attached to the north end of the core. Slightly lower than the core, it is 2-stories high and clad in wood clapboard. A single dormer is located off-center near the south end of the addition – it appears likely that a second dormer was never added. The dormer is identical to those on the core. The roof is end-gabled and asphalt shingled, with an exposed brick chimney on the north end. The top of the chimney is corbelled. Three bays wide, the addition also has a rectangular bay window, with hip roof, on the first floor on the north side.

The core measures 40'x 20'; overall the building measures approximately 65'x 20'.

Classification: Although there are alterations, this is a fine example of the Georgian style and thus Class I.

## HISTORIC NARRATIVE

### **Chambers Home (Formerly Black Horse Inn)**

By Herman J. Prischmann

The Black Horse Inn was located on the southwest side of Skippack Turnpike, a short distance below the intersection of Plymouth Road (now known as Blue Bell-Penllyn Road). It was erected by James Bartleson. A license to operate as the Black Horse Inn was granted in May 1796. The Inn remained open until 1826 when it reverted to being a private homestead.

In 1872, it was purchased by Sam Rader, a German. On June 2, 1877 a tragedy took place in the home, Mrs. Rader was murdered by an unknown hand. A negro was arrested, tried at Norristown and acquitted. Popular opinion at the time held that the accused was guilty and that he shot the woman when he was surprised in the act of robbing the house. Sam Rader subsequently moved to West Philadelphia and died there in a home for the aged.

The property was purchased by James B. Long who owned and lived in the home until his demise. Mr. Long was Design Engineer for the present DeKalb Street Bridge over the Schuylkill River, built in the late 1920s to replace a wooden covered bridge which was destroyed by fire. His daughter, Betty, married John Chambers and their son, James, lives in the house with his wife and child.

The Black Horse Inn was often confused with the White Horse Inn, now known as the Blue Bell Inn, because both were in Blue Bell on different corners; however, the Black Horse Inn was only in existence as an inn for thirty-one years. It then became a gentleman's estate after 1826, some fifty years before the Rader tragedy.

## Chambers Home (Formerly Black Horse Inn)

By Herman J. Prischmann  
Photography by George S. Peck

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