

**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.: 125 / 66 00 06589 00 5 Block-Unit #011-008

County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 951 Skippack Pike

Historic Name/Other Name:

**SITE PLAN****PHOTO INFORMATION**

Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	House – façade	
2	House – façade (right)	
3	Barn	
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: 125 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 06589 00 5 Block Unit #011-008

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2.

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2.

Address: 951 Skippack Pike Historic Name:

Other Name:

Owner Name/Address: Jacqueline D. Sexton 951 Skippack Pike Blue Bell PA 19422

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: 2

USGS Quad: 1. Lansdale 2.

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

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

## HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

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

A. Residence 1870 2,825 SF Land 2.24 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. Vernacular \_\_\_\_\_

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

D. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior Materials: Foundation \_\_\_\_\_ Roof \_\_\_\_\_

Walls stucco \_\_\_\_\_ Walls \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: ca. 1870 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:** Class II due to alterations.

## 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: 125 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 06489 00 5 Block-Unit #011-008  
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township  
Address: 951 Skippack Pike  
Historic/Other Name:

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

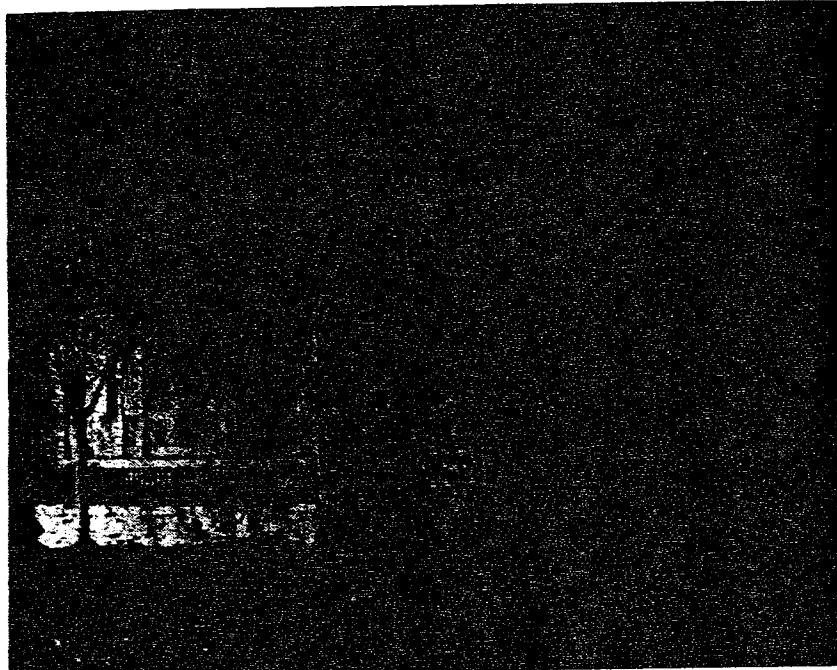
This house, dated 1870, actually looks much older. It appears vernacular with Federal influences. The three-part house consists of a 5-bay, 2.5-story core, a 2-story rear addition, and a 1-story extension on the rear of the addition. There is also a large barn to the rear of the house.

The core consists of stucco over stonewalls, protected by an end gabled, asphalt shingled roof. There are two small chimneys: a flush, stucco-covered unit on the south end, and a newer stucco-covered exterior chimney (for an oil burner) on the north end. Fenestration consists of larger, 6 x 6 windows on the first floor and smaller, 6 x 1 windows on the second floor. The shutters have been removed yet scrolled hardware remains. There are also two gabled dormers with weatherboard cladding on front facade. The center door has a decorative broken pedimented triangular door surround with flat transom. The core measures  $\approx$  35' 18".

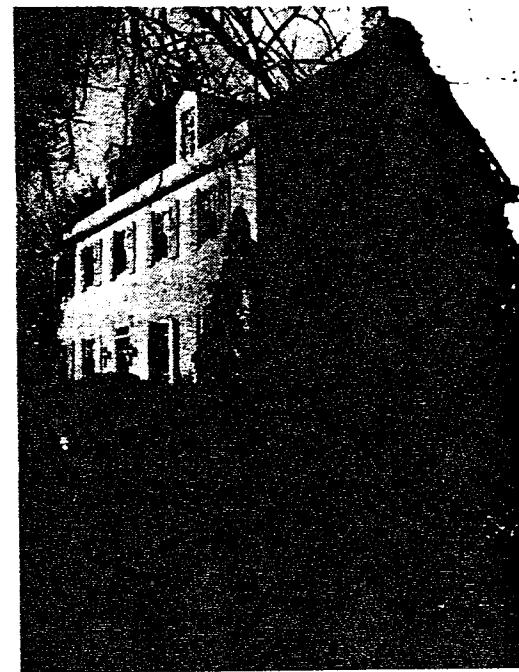
The rear addition is a 2-story unit with stucco over stonewalls. Its southern wall has a shed-roofed porch. Attached to the rear of it is a single story, end gabled extension clad in machine shingles. The overall building measures  $\approx$  35' x 40'.

**Associated Resource: (Barn)** To the rear of the house is a large, machined shingled barn with several additions. The ell-shaped structure measures  $\approx$  50' x 45'. Notable features include the end gabled, standing seam tin roof, two-story shed roofed addition on the southern end, and a half-gabled addition attached to the front or western side of the barn. A garage extension with two bays also runs along the southern side of the core, east of the half gabled extension.

**Classification:** Class II due to alterations.



*Rile Home c. 1881*



*Rile Home Today, At Christmas Time*



*Veterinarian Building and Kennels*

## Dr. and Mrs. Barclay Rile Property

By Dorothy S. Conard  
Photography by George S. Peck

This property has been the home of a medical doctor, a pastor and two veterinarians.

This six acre parcel, with message (building), located on Skippack Pike across from the Post Office, was part of a larger tract of land deeded to Jacob Kurr on September 3, 1766. In 1798, William and Barbara Still, paying two hundred pounds and one shilling, were the highest bidders for this property at a public sale. It is interesting that the dimensions of this land, six acres, remained the same throughout the years.

In 1810, Barbara Still, now a widow, turned the property over to her son, Henry Still, and his wife Elizabeth. Dr. Anthony Steinberger, a medical doctor, and his wife Susanna were owners and occupants until 1830, when the estate was purchased by Cornelius Tyson and his wife, Hannah, and Abraham Wentz and his wife, Charlotte. In 1838, the property was sold to Leonard Styer whose ownership was brief since he sold to George Worl in 1839 for two thousand, one hundred dollars.

In 1842, the administrators for the estate of George Worl sold the property to Reverend Samuel Helffenstein and his wife. Reverend Helffenstein was pastor at Boehm's Reformed Church and was one of the most eminent ministers of the Reformed Church in America. The property, in 1867, came into the ownership of Henry Dull, and in 1874 it was sold to Thomas Jefferson Rile.

From the year 1874 it has remained in the Rile family. Four generations have occupied the home as it passed from father to son. Dr. Edward A. Rile, who was born here in 1885, bought the property from his father in 1909 and operated a well-known veterinarian business throughout a very large area of Montgomery County and surrounding Counties until his retirement in 1952. He and his wife, Alice Conard Rile, are presently residents of a Nursing Home in Sellersville, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Edward Rile has a wealth of stories to tell about the area, residents, and his experiences. One of the stories is about a man calling from the driveway of his home to the second floor, about three o'clock in the morning. When Dr. Rile opened the window, he recognized the person and asked, after the gentleman had requested that he come to see his sick wife, why he didn't call a medical doctor. The man replied that he had, but couldn't get the doctor to his home. After some contemplation Dr. Rile, dressed, got out his horse and sleigh, and accompanied the man to his home.

Upon arriving, he found the wife had had teeth extracted, was unconscious and bleeding profusely, and had practically no pulse beat. Dr. Rile's thoughts naturally were what the consequences would be if the woman should die, and he, a veterinarian, was treating her. He used an old fashioned wooden match, wrapped a piece of cotton on the end, dipped it into chloroform, and held it into the socket where a tooth had been removed. He continued this in each socket until he came to the middle of her mouth, when she opened her eyes and said, "Doc, you're a vet. What are you doing here?" Doctor Edward Rile has always been Hank Conard's favorite Uncle, and he well remembers frequently being taken to the corner drugstore at Butler and Main Streets in Ambler and being treated to an ice-cream soda.

In 1952, Dr. E. Barclay Rile, son of Edward and Alice, and his wife Grace Arn Rile purchased the home and are the present occupants.



