

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.: 035 / 66 00 02926 00 5 Block-Unit #003-019

County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 1002 Jolly Road

Historic Name/Other Name:

SITE PLAN**PHOTO INFORMATION**

Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	House – façade	
2	House – rear	
3	Tenant / Springhouse	
4	Barn	
5	Carriage House	
6	Pavilion	

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: 035 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 02926 00 5 Block Unit #003-019

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2.

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2.

Address: 1002 Jolly Road Historic Name:

Other Name:

Owner Name/Address: William & Irene Berardelli P.O. Box 60 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: 5

USGS Quad: 1. Lansdale 2.

UTM A. _____ C. _____

References: B. _____ D. _____

HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

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

A. Residence 1860 10,856 SF Land 62.3 Acre Dwelling _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

Particular Type: A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

Current Function Category: **Subcategory:** **Code:**

A. Recreation Park/ Swim Club Commercial _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: A. Second Empire _____

B. _____

D. Other: _____

Exterior Materials: Foundation asphalt shingles _____

Roof asphalt shingles _____

Walls stucco _____

Walls _____

Other _____

Other _____

Structural System: 1. _____

2. _____

Width 3 bay / 30 feet _____ Depth 45 feet _____ Stories/Height 2.5 _____

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
NARRATIVE SHEET 89C

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code: 035 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 02926 00 5 Block-Unit #003-019
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township
Address: 711 DeKalb Pike
Historic/Other Name:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

This recreation park and swim club is located on a site with a series of historic resources. The main house is a Second Empire-style house with eclectic details, built c. 1860. This house is a 2½ story, three bay house clad with stucco. The mansard roof has a concave flare and dormers on the ends. The mansard roof is pierced on the façade by a large centered gable with a pointed window. The chimney is located in the center of the house. A heavy cornice frames the roof and the centered dormer. There are two tall vertical windows on the second floor, each with a curved lintel. A large bay window with a flared hipped roof emphasizes the door, which has its own gabled entry hood. The rear of this 30 x 45 house is richly complicated. It has a three story, eight-sided tower with an interesting ball pinnacle. A huge gable projects through the mansard roof on the rear of the house. A one story enclosed, wrap-around porch surrounds the house except for the front façade.

Associated resources:

(1) Barn This large barn, built c. 1800, has gabled ends and a louvered, four-sided cupola. The walls are stucco over stone, the roof is asphalt shingled. It has several one story additions, including one with a square cupola of its own resting against the core of the barn.

(2) Tenant House/Spring House. This two story building has a stone foundation and vertical wood (board and batten) siding on the second story. It has end gables and a rear two story addition.

(3) Carriage House. This two story stone building is clad with stucco. It has end gables and a pent roof supported with braces. A one-story addition on a perpendicular axis offers additional storage space (no photographs).

(4) Pavilion. This building was built c. 1940. It is a large end-gabled building with five bays and several out buildings.

(5) Other Resources. There are several additional resources, mostly noncontributing, on property that were not documented.

Classification: This large stone house has seen many significant alterations and is a Class II resource. Overall, the property is Class II due to alterations, additions, etc.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: ca. 1860 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 large stone house has seen many significant alterations and is a Class II resource. Overall, the property is Class II due to alterations, additions, etc.

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



Mermaid Swim and Golf Club

By Blanche P. Zimmerman
Photography by George S. Peck

The history of what is now the Mermaid Swim and Golf Club down to the time when it was inherited by Sylvester Zimmerman at the death of his father, William Zimmerman, in 1862 is told in the piece about the Zimmerman family printed elsewhere in this book.

When William Zimmerman divided his property into three parcels for his sons, Sylvester, Franklin, and Lorenzo, he designated the homestead as Sylvester's lot. The others were envious for it had the nicest house and the best ground — or so they thought. Sylvester was very happy with his inheritance and set out to beautify it so that during his time there it was considered quite a show place.

It is believed that the house which now stands on the property was the house which was there when Christopher and Deborah Zimmerman bought it from the widow of Charles Jolly in 1775. A smaller house, which was destroyed by fire in 1959, was a tenant or farmer's house. The old carriage sheds, currently used as a garage, also still stands, as does the stone barn which William Zimmerman built in 1800 with the help of his brothers, Jacob and Isaac.

After Sylvester's death, his son Harry Zimmerman lived there. Harry was not a farmer and eventually sold the farm and moved into Norristown where he was engaged in the real estate business. His two sons and daughter also went in other directions.

About 1927, John and Louise Crowell bought the property. They saw the potential of the little stream which ran across their land, fed also by the big spring which was nearby, and so the idea of Mermaid Lake was born. By 1930, a dam had been constructed across the stream, bath houses built and a refreshment stand put up. They were in business.

Mermaid Lake proved to be a very popular "watering place" for many years. It was open to the public for a fee, but John Crowell scanned the cars as they pulled up to the admissions gate.

In 1945, Roland Randal bought Mermaid Lake from the Crowell's. He continued to run it in much the same way as it had been, but he also began to look at the larger potential of the property. He made improvements to the area. He turned what had been pastures into lawns, put picnic tables around and built tennis courts and a small golf course.

In 1958 the big, sturdy empty barn was turned into a recreation center. It was separated from the swimming pool built adjacent to it. This has been a very busy area. In the summertime from Memorial Day to after Labor Day, the "Barn" is a center of activity, rain or shine, with the picnics and outings held by many large organizations.

Meantime, Whitpain Township was growing and the crowds at Mermaid Lake got bigger and bigger. It became apparent that some form of regulation would have to be found, so in 1961 the Mermaid Swim and Golf Club was organized. At this time, a huge pool was constructed within the lake which made for more pleasant swimming. It continues to operate as a private club.

Roland Randal Home



*Stone Barn
Built in 1800*







