

**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.: 026 / 66-00-01609-00-8 Block 006 Unit 021

County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 1063 DeKalb Pike

Historic Name/Other Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	House – façade (left)	
2	House – façade (right)	
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: 026 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66-00-01609-00-8 Block 006 Unit 021

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2.

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2.

Address: 1063 DeKalb Pike Historic Name: The Creamery

Other Name:

Owner Name/Address:

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: 2

USGS Quad: 1. Lansdale 2.

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

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

## HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category: Subcategory: Code:

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

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. \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior Materials: Foundation \_\_\_\_\_ Roof \_\_\_\_\_ asphalt shingles \_\_\_\_\_

Walls \_\_\_\_\_ machine shingles \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

Width 35 feet \_\_\_\_\_ Depth 45 feet \_\_\_\_\_ 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:** The vernacular building is Class II.

## 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: 026 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66-00-01609-00-8 Block 006 Unit 021  
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township  
Address: 1063 DeKalb Pike  
Historic/Other Name: The Creamery

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

This vernacular building (c. 1940) est. is rather unique in appearance. It is a two-story or possibly 2.5-story arrangement with an end-gabled, asphalt shingled roof. One gabled end faces DeKalb Pike and features two sets of double sash (6x1) windows on the first and second floors and a single set of windows at the attic level. The south side has a three bay arrangement with a hooded entrance in the center. The north side has three bays on the second floor and four on the ground floor. Like the south side, it has a single, hooded entrance. The hood is a gabled hood projecting from the wall. A one-story, shed roof addition is attached to the back end of the building. The building is of frame construction resting on a ½-story, stucco covered block foundation. The frame portion is clad in machined shingles. A single brick chimney is located on the back gabled end. The building measures approximately 45' x 35', plus the addition.

**Classification:** The vernacular building is Class II.

## The Creamery

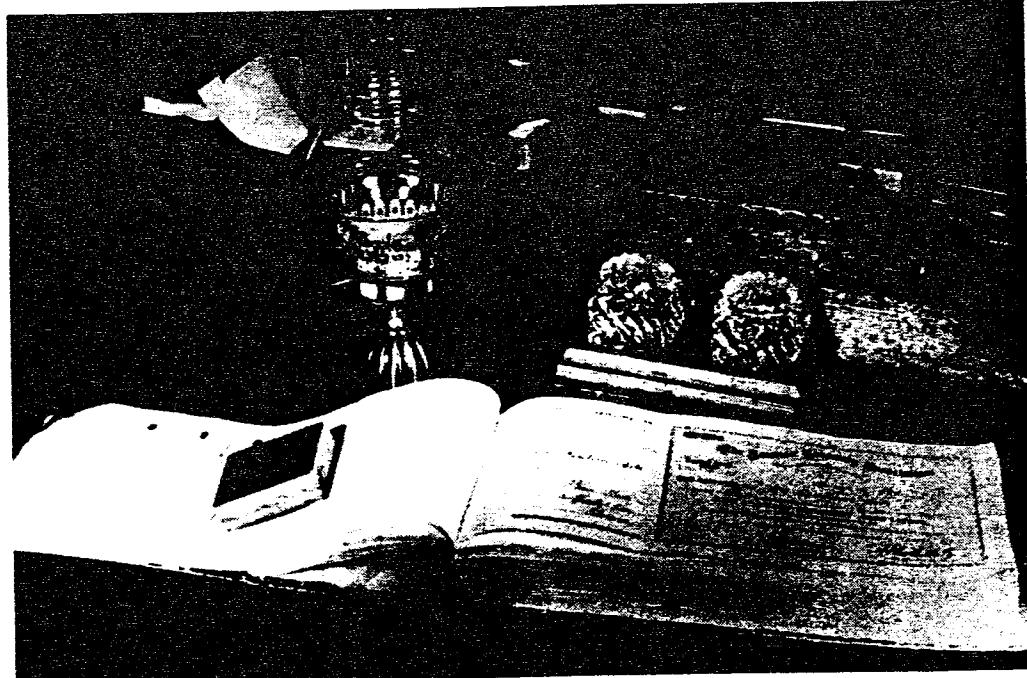
By Agnes Baker Jefferson  
Photography by George S. Peck

In Bean's "History . . ." page 1170, under Villages; Centre Square, it states that "the Creamery is located here and does a flourishing business." In the Recorder of Deeds office, a transaction states that land and building (indeterminate age) were acquired by the Creamery Association from Joseph Irwin Yost in 1881, the year indicated in the Creamery Ledger that the business was begun.

The actual Creamery Ledger, with Victor H. Baker as Secretary-Treasurer, is shown in the accompanying picture. It is now the property of Dr. Charles Baker, Victor Baker's grandson.

The Ledger is distinguished in that, it presents a simplified lesson in economics, i.e., how stock companies are formed and operated. It would make an excellent device to explain investing money to an elementary business class. Secondly, it contains the names of 92 members. These stockholders were locally prominent people who purchased stock at \$5.00 per share. The capital stock was \$3,800.00. The list of people gives an insight as to who lived and worked here approximately 100 years ago. Some names are of people who are descendants of old families from 100 years before that (1780) and some are the names of the ancestors of some of our families still living here in 1976.

Not all stockholders were farmers. The local physician, Dr. Samuel E. Seiple, bought 25 shares. William Singerly, the owner of the old Philadelphia Record and former owner of what is now Normandy Farms, purchased 200 shares. Albert Katz, innkeeper, possessed 20 shares and the former Reverend D. Levin Coleman owned 12 shares.





*Former Creamery Building Now Homes of McKelvey Family*

Robert McKelvey, the present owner and resident of the refurbished building, told the writer that cheese, butter, and other related dairy products were made and sold here.

The white-shingled structure is located along the Silver Run that flows through the village. The water from the stream was utilized in the cooling process. The central location was an ideal place for an infant industry to flourish with the source of supply — milk from large and improved dairy herds nearby — and a ready market in Norristown and neighboring villages. The cooperative efforts of this group of men had a favorable influence in the community and deserves attention here.

Robert and Betsy McKelvey live on one side of the two-dwelling arrangement, while the sister-in-law and niece, Marion and Joyce McKelvey, reside on the south side. Bob and Betsy take great pride in their continuous blooming of flowers — from crocuses, daffodills, tulips, petunias, begonias, right through the seasons to chrysanthamums.

Bob likes to relate the story of his birth. His parents emigrated from Ireland and his brother John was born here. When his parents returned to Ireland for a visit, Bob was born there and came to the United States as an infant. Much to his dismay, when it became time for him to vote, at age 21, he had to take out citizenship papers and become a naturalized citizen. His loyalties show he is a good one!

This pleasant home is the only really old building remaining along DeKalb Pike on the west between Reed's Country Store and St. Helena's Church.

