

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.: 129 / 66 00 06268 00 2 Block Unit #012-011

County: Montgomery

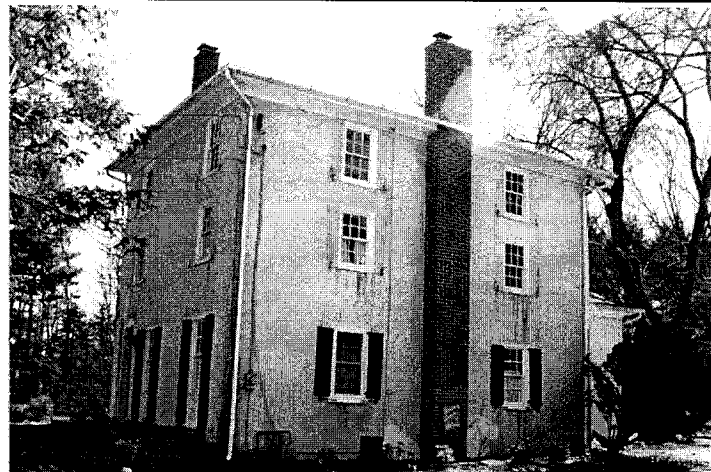
Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 1098 Skippack Pike

Historic Name/Other Name: _____

SITE PLAN

PHOTO INFORMATION



Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	Museum	
2	Museum	
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: 129 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 06268 00 2 Block Unit #012-011
County: 1. Montgomery 091 2. _____
Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2. _____
Address: 1098 Skippack Pike Historic Name: Boxwood Farm
Other Name: _____
Owner Name/Address: Historical Society of Whitpain, 961 Wentz Rd P.O. Box 800 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: 2
USGS Quad: 1. Lansdale 2. _____
UTM A. _____ C. _____
References: B. _____ D. _____

HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category: Subcategory: Code:
A. Residence Dwelling
B. _____
C. _____
D. _____

Particular Type: A. _____
B. _____
C. _____
D. _____

Current Function Category: Subcategory: Code:
A. Museum
B. _____
C. _____
D. _____

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: A. Federal
B. _____ C. _____
D. _____ Other: _____

Exterior Materials: Foundation _____ Roof _____
Walls stucco Walls _____
Other _____ Other _____

Structural System: 1. _____ 2. _____
Width 2 Depth _____ Stories/Height 3

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: ca. 1730 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: 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: 129 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 06268 00 2 Block Unit #012-011
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township
Address: 1098 Skippack Pike
Historic/Other Name: Boxwood Farm

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

“Boxwood” (Whitpain Township Historical Society)

This three story, Federal style house consists of a large, nearly square core and a 1.5 story rear addition. There is also a barn on the property (no photograph). The core has a nearly flat hip roof with extended eaves on all four sides. The eaves are one of the defining characteristics of the building. There are two chimneys – a small brick chimney near the front of the resource and an exterior chimney, also brick, on the north side. The walls are stucco over masonry (stone or brick). Markings between the first and second floors indicate the presence of a porch roof. Fenestration on the front (east) and south facades is asymmetrical; the north sides feature a symmetrical window arrangement. Windows on the second and third floor are 6x6 sash. The shutters have been removed but the decorative iron hardware remains. The two first floor windows are large, 6x6 sash windows located above wood paneling running from the window to the floor. It is likely that these doors were originally French doors; the current door may have later been added. The main entrance is through an in-set door near the southeast corner. A 2-pane transom is located above. In addition to the main entrance, a side entrance is located on the south side of the building near the rear. There are irregularly spaced windows above and flanking this entrance. (It is possible that this part of the core – the southwest corner - was added to what may have been an ell-shape building.) The core measures 30' x 30'.

The 1.5-story is attached to the rear of the building, near its southeast corner. It features a hipped roof with wall dormers on both sides. The walls are stucco. The addition measures approximately 12'x 12'. With the addition, the building measures 30'x 42' and is ell-shaped yet irregular, given the size of the core.

Associated Building: (Barn) Also located on the property is a stone and frame barn, measuring 40'x 50'. There are no photographs of the barn.

Classification: Class I.

HISTORIC NARRATIVE

“Boxwood Farm”

By Bonnie Schmid

“Boxwood Farm,” a charming 18th century farmhouse, is located on the southwest side of Skippack Pike at its junction with Cathcart Road. It was purchased in 1945 by Charles and Margaret Olson and has been extensively renovated by them. Over the last thirty years, they have made a pleasant home for today’s living while preserving a fine example of an early Whitpain farm. The property consists of nearly 50 acres of land, a house, barn and several smaller buildings. Extensive plantings of boxwood adjacent to the main house have given the property its present name.

When the Olsons purchased the property, it was much in need of repair. They lived on the third floor as the restoration of the main part of the house was accomplished. From their study of the house during its restoration, they discovered that it had probably been built in three sections. What is now the kitchen, is thought to be the original farmhouse. Built about 1730, it consisted of one large room with a spiral staircase leading to a cellar and a built-in ladder leading to a loft above. Remains of both the staircase and the ladder are still visible.

The next section, a three-story addition was built towards Skippack Pike. Later another three-story section was added bringing the house closer to Skippack. The newest section has two lovely fireplaces, one in the living room and the other in a second floor bedroom. From the type of construction and style of mantel, the fireplaces appear to be 200 years old.

Although the property changed hands at least a dozen times between 1864 and 1945, the acreage and the buildings on the land stayed pretty much the same. The owner, in 1901, gave the Inland Traction Company the right-of-way to place poles on the land along Skippack Pike. These were to be used by a trolley line that was to run from St. John’s Church in Centre Square to The Fort Side Inn. There is no indication that these rights were ever used.

Prior to the 1864 sale to Nathaniel Longabow, the property belonged to the Wood family for many generations. The Wood name appears on property deeds recorded at the Montgomery County Court House in the mid-1700’s. The Wood family was one of the original families in the township. At one time, the Wood family owned land on both sides of Skippack Pike. Cathcart Road appears as Wood Road on some deeds.

A portion of the present property, about 20 acres, was purchased from various owners by Israel Robinson between 1786 and 1802. He willed this land to his granddaughter Janette Robinson who married William Wood. This parcel of land then became part of the Wood property.

It appears that members of the Wood family built the original house and the additions, although no specific documents or wills have been found to verify this. One Charles S. Wood is said to have been born in a house at this location in 1748. We may never know the precise early history but records do show that the Woods settled on this property before we were a nation. Today, we can enjoy their legacy to our township thanks to the care taken by the Olson’s in restoring and maintaining this lovely home.

"Boxwood Farm"

By Bonnie Schmid
Photography by George S. Peck

1098
Skippack

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Front View of Olson Home

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Boxwoods For Which Farm Was Named



Side View of Olson Home



