

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.: 131 / 66 00 06637 00 2 Block-Unit #010-014

County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 1149 Skippack Pike

Historic Name/Other Name: _____

SITE PLAN

PHOTO INFORMATION



Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	House	
2	House	
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: 131 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 06637 00 2 Block Unit #010-014

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2.

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2.

Address: 1149 Skippack Pike Historic Name: Wentz Tavern

Other Name:

Owner Name/Address: Richard Hubbert 1149 Skippack Pike Blue Bell PA 19422

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

Resource Category: x 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: Residence Subcategory: Dwelling Code: 1764

A. 1764 2,356 SF Land 1.61 Acre B. _____

C. _____ D. _____

Particular Type: A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

Current Function Category: Subcategory: Code: Retail Commercial

A. Commercial B. Office

C. Apartments D. Multi-Use

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: A. Federal _____

B. _____ C. _____

D. _____ Other: _____

Exterior Materials: Foundation wood shingles Roof wood shingles

Walls brick Walls _____

Other _____ Other _____

Structural System: 1. _____ 2. _____

Width 6 Depth Stories/Height 2.5

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: ca. 1764 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 house (with later barn) is an excellent example of the Federal style and is Class I.

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: 131 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 06637 00 2 Block-Unit #010-014
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township
Address: 1149 Skippack Pike
Historic/Other Name: Wentz Tavern

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

(CYMA Building)

This resource, listed as being constructed in 1850 but possibly late 18th or early 19th century, two-part additive, 2.5-story brick (Flemish Bond) building consisting of a large, 6-bay core facing Skippack Pike and a smaller, 2-story section on the rear. Overall it is an el-shaped building measuring 45' long with a 50's depth, including the addition. Notable features are the three large, pedimented dormers with arched windows, large plaster, cove cornice with full returns on gabled-ends, and pent roof. The roof consists of wood shingles on both sections. Fenestration on the first two floors, main façade, is 6x6 sash and flanked by louvered shutters on the second floor and solid paned shutter on the first. There are also smaller, single-light windows (new) under each gable on the third level. The main entrance has a three light transom over a solid paneled door. Stone chimneys (rebuilt) are found at each end. The rear addition has larger, 8x8 sash windows and entrances on both sides. A porch runs along the south side of the addition, within the el. The size of the chimney on the addition may be an indication that it was once a summer kitchen, since incorporated into the house.

Associated Building: (Barn) To the rear of the house is a medium size, frame barn, c. 1850. The barn consists of a board and batten framework resting on a high, stone foundation. The foundation consists of rough fieldstone and has been altered in several places. A large equipment door faces the house. Like the house, the barn is Class I.

Classification: This house (with later barn) is an excellent example of the Federal style and is Class I.



"Rising Sun Inn" Now A Private Residence

"Rising Sun Inn" Wentz Tavern

By Dorothy S. Conard
Photography by George S. Peck

This homestead, a red brick house on Skippack Pike at Cathcart Road, was for more than a century a "wayside inn," one of the most notable along the Skippack Pike. It was one of the few old taverns that was not built at the crossing of important roads. Here have stopped innumerable way-farers, an endless succession of teamsters and market men with their loads of produce. At no inn along the road did so many wagons stop and remain overnight. It was called the "wheat market" because the millers and farmers met here for the sale and purchase of wheat.

From 1831 to 1867, the elections of Whitpain Township were held here. On October 4, 1788, a county meeting for the nomination of a ticket was held at this house, then kept by John Wentz. The old tavern had a "rising sun" for its sign and was known as the "Rising Sun Inn." The brick house, still in fine condition today, was erected by Abraham Wentz in 1764. It is reputed to be the oldest brick house in Montgomery County. Tradition says that John Wentz, his son and future landlord, had just been clothed in trousers at the time it was first opened. It was a public house until 1867, more than 100 years.

Abraham Wentz came to Whitpain in 1759. In the list of taxables of the year 1760, he is called an "innkeeper." He bought 110 acres of land from John Johnson, which was part of a larger tract belonging to Anthony Morris and Rees Thomas that had originally been purchased by Richard Whitpain. A dwelling was there and sixty acres of land had been cleared on one or both sides of the road when Abraham Wentz purchased the property. He speedily added other surrounding lands to his farm.

The name "Abraham" was popular in the Wentz family and there have been three owners of the Inn by that name, including the first and last.

Abraham Wentz was born in 1725 and died in 1774, at age 49. He left no will and the estate went to his widow, her children and four grandchildren, who were sons of Abraham, Jr., who had died shortly after his father and before the estate had been settled.

During this time the property was greatly neglected. In 1784, the Orphans' Court adjudged the plantation and tavern to John Wentz, son of the first Abraham, who also owned the property across from the tavern on Skippack Pike.

Abraham Wentz, the oldest son of John Wentz, became owner of the tavern and homestead in 1818 and remained there as inn-keeper until 1867 when the tavern ceased to have a license. He died in 1870 and willed the estate to his son, Joseph Tyson Wentz. Finally, in 1887 Joseph Tyson Wentz conveyed the property to his brother Abraham, who was owner until 1888 when it passed out of the Wentz family.

An article in the Times Herald, April 26, 1939, reported that the inscriptions on two tombstones in the woods on the property, that once marked the graves of early settlers, were still quite discernible: "Barbara Kres, died January 16, 1757, aged 62 years — Charles Kres, died November 10, 1766, aged 72 years." They were evidently husband and wife. He had been born in 1694.

Edward Mathews, in an article in a scrap-book at the Montgomery County Historical Society, conjectured that they might have been tombstones from a graveyard established there when there was an intention to build Boehm's Church on that site instead of on Penllyn Pike in Blue Bell.



BARBARA KRES
Died January 16
1757 Aged 62 years.



