

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.: 132 / 66-00-06271-00-8 Block Unit #012-010 County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township Address: 1150 Skippack Pike

Historic Name/Other Name: _____

SITE PLAN

PHOTO INFORMATION



Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	House	
2	House	
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

HISTORIC NARRATIVE

John Wentz Home

By Dorothy S. Conard

John Wentz, son of the innkeeper Abraham Wentz, was married on the 14th of April 1785 to Hannah Nanna, daughter of Abraham Nanna of Gwynedd. Between 1790 and 1800, he built a stone house, 1150 Skippack Pike, opposite the red brick inn. He continued to run the inn as his son, Abraham, did after him. On May 28, 1798, John was commissioned Justice-of-the-Peace and held the office until his death in 1818. He was widely and favorably known as a justice who transacted much legal business and was a trusted man of affairs around the region. He served as County Treasurer and during the closing days of the war of 1812, he collected internal revenue for the United States Government. His death took place March 11, 1818, at the age of sixty-eight. John's son, Abraham Wentz, became owner of the residence and fifty-one acres of land, and in 1872, Abraham's son, Abram, purchased the entire property.

In 1888, Abram Wentz sold to Reuben C. Beyer. Beyer remained owner of the stone house until 1915 when he sold to Tamzen E. Shelley, wife of Emanuel F. Shelley, who sold one year later in 1916 to William Jackson. From this time the land was gradually sold; and when Stanley and Helen Posen purchased the property in 1966, it contained a little more than four acres and the stone house. Mr. and Mrs. Posen's daughter Mary Beth Marsh and her husband, Richard, presently occupy the home with their two sons, Ryan Richard and Jason Christopher.

There is a huge magnolia growing on the property which is rare in this area, since it is the type that grows in the south. Mr. Jackson, who is now a resident of Florida, related that they used to call it a "cucumber tree" because of the cucumber type growths. When a tree was taken down to enclose the front porch, they found a metal box full of old coins which is now in the possession of Mr. Jackson. The remains of an old stone barn that was blown down by a tornado are still in evidence. This is a lovely old home.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - DATA SHEET

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

89B

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Survey Code: 132 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66-00-06271-00-8 Block Unit #012-010

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2.

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2.

Address: 1150 Skippack Pike Historic Name: John Wentz House

Other Name:

Owner Name/Address: Mary Elizabeth Marsh 1150 Skippack Pk 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. Single Family Residence Dwelling

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: A. Colonial

B. _____ C. _____

D. _____ Other: _____

Exterior Materials: Foundation _____ Roof wood shingles

Walls stone Walls stucco

Other _____ Other _____

Structural System: 1. _____ 2. _____

Width 3 Depth _____ Stories/Height 2

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: ca. 1795 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 Class II building has been nicely restored.

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: 132 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66-00-06271-00-8 Block Unit #012-010
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 1150 Skippack Pike
Historic/Other Name: John Wentz House

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

John Wentz House

This 3-bay, Colonial style house consists of a core with two rear additions. The property also contains a garage and chicken house. The 2-story core is mainly stucco over stone, with an end-gabled asphalt shingle roof. A stucco, flush chimney is located on the north side. A date stone indentation is located just under the chimney near the apex of the roof. An asphalt shingle covered pent roof stretches across the front of the house. The front wall beneath the pent consists of exposed cut fieldstone. The main entrance is located through a deeply in-set door near the left corner. The front side also contains symmetrically spaced windows, consisting of new 2x9 sash windows. An additional entrance is on the north end of the core, near the northwest corner. It is located under a gabled hood entrance, recently constructed. The core measures 25'x 22'.

The main addition is a two story, stucco clad extension with a gabled roof. It measures approximately 22'x 22'. Its roofline is much lower than the core's roofline. Attached to the rear of this addition is a 2-story frame extension completed in c. 1920. Per the roofline of the first addition, the c. 1920 addition has a lower profile. Its walls are clad in vinyl.

Associated Building: (Garage) The property contains a single frame garage, with one bay. There is also a chicken house. Both resources would be considered "contributing" if located in a historic district.

Classification: This Class II building has been nicely restored.



The John Wentz Home Now Occupied by Mary and Richard Marsh

John Wentz Home

By Dorothy S. Conard
Photography by George S. Peck

1150 Skippack Pike

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Magnolia Tree

