

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM PHOTO/SITE PLAN SHEET

Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission

Bureau of Historic Preservation

Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026

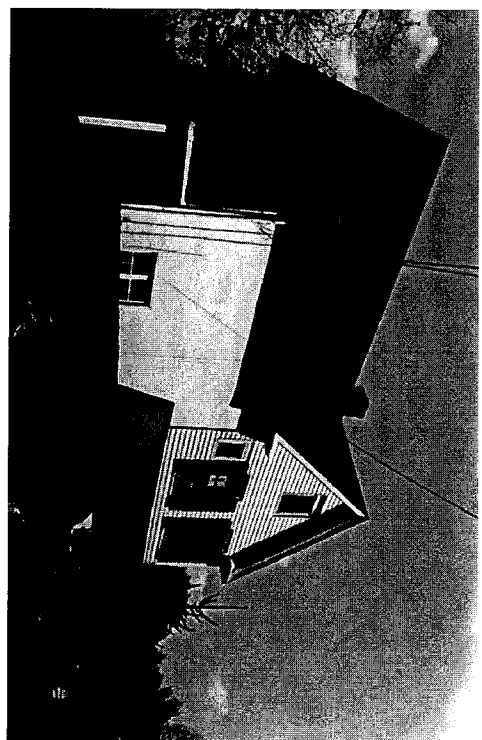
Survey Code/Tax Parcel/Other No.: 086 / 66 00 05317 00 8 Block-Unit #019-005 County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whippain Township Address: 1198 Penllyn Blue Bell Pike

Historic Name/Other Name: _____

SITE PLAN _____

PHOTO INFORMATION



Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	House – facade	
2	House – rear	
3		
4		
5		
6		

Photographer Name: Robert Wise Date: 1999

Negative Location: Robert Wise Consulting, Station Square J, 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: 086 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 05317 00 8 Block Unit #019-005

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2.

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2.

Address: 1198 Penllyn Blue Bell Pike Historic Name:

Other Name:

Owner Name/Address: Nina C. Cochran Hulls Cove ME 04644

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: 1

USGS Quad: 1. Lansdale 2.

UTM A. _____ C.

References: B. _____ D.

HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category: _____ Subcategory: _____ Code: _____

A. Residence 1872 1,753 SF Land 0.49 Acre 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. Folk / Victorian _____

B. _____ C. _____

D. _____ Other: _____

Exterior Materials: Foundation _____ Roof asphalt shingles _____

Walls stucco _____ Walls _____

Other _____ Other _____

Structural System: 1. _____ 2. _____

Width _____ Depth _____ Stories/Height 2.5 _____

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: ca. 1872 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 is in excellent condition but is a Class II resource due to its alterations.

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: 086 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 05317 00 8 Block-Unit #019-005
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township
Address: 1198 Penllyn Blue Bell Pike
Historic/Other Name:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

This residence is a Folk/Victorian plan with cross gables. The core of the house was built c. 1872 and is an end-gabled house clad in stucco with an asphalt shingle roof. There are two six over six double hung windows with shutters on the second floor gable end and one such window to the left of the door. There is a smaller window on the third floor. A small entry porch at the door is composed of an overhang with dentil molding supported by square columns. The frame addition was built on a perpendicular axis (parallel to Penllyn Blue Bell Pike) later in the nineteenth century. It has a similar roof and window configuration. There is an enclosed porch of the frame addition.

Classification: This house is in excellent condition but is a Class II resource due to its alterations.

"Swallowfield" — Demo **Penllyn-Blue Bell Pike**

By Elizabeth M. DeVincent
Photography by George S. Peck

In 1745, Catherine Singer bought twenty-five acres of land from Mathias Tyson. The property began in the proximity of Skippack Pike and went down the south side of Penllyn-Blue Bell Pike ending at what is now the property of the Honorable Patrick J. McGinnis. This ground was part of a tract owned by Henry Conard who bought 222 acres from Charles Mullin in 1711. Mullin in 1703 purchased 322 acres of the great Palmer patent.

Catherine Singer was a widow with seven children: Catherine, Christian, Phillip, Margret, Barbarah, John and Samuel. In 1760 according to the tax records Jacob Adams rented the land for farming and Catherine moved to North Wales. She died in 1794 and was buried in the cemetery of Boehm's Church.

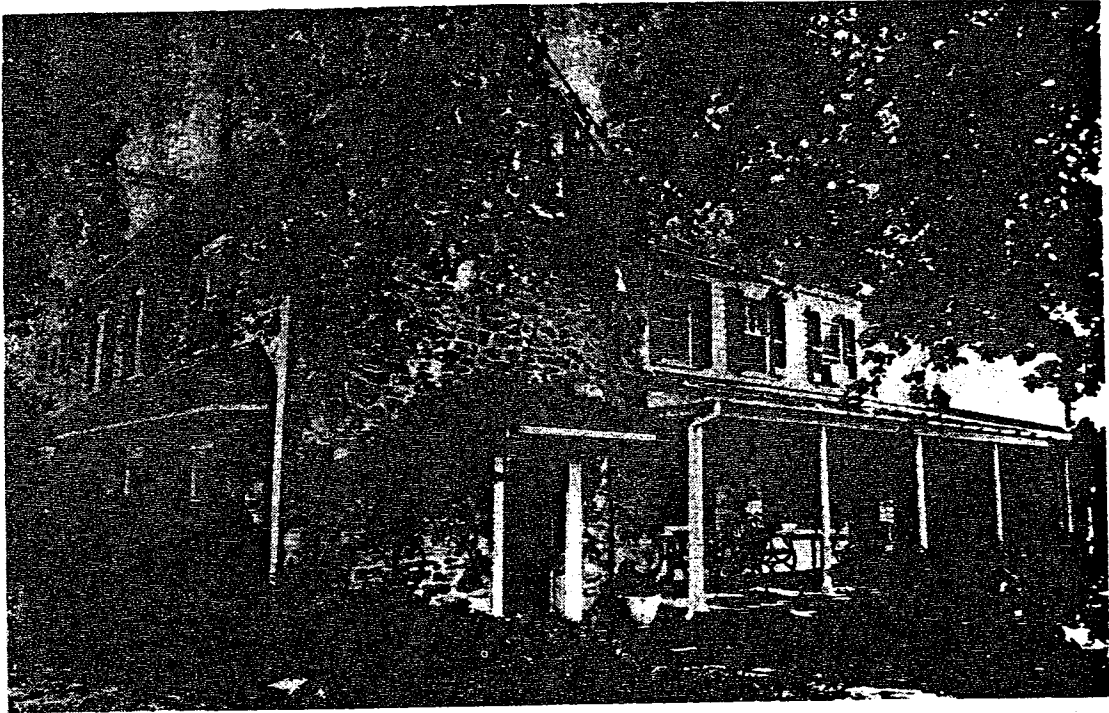
Phillip Singer bought the top twelve-and-one-half acres next to his mother and built a house that is no longer standing on the corner of Skippack Pike. In 1794, Phillip sold his property to a James Bartleson who proceeded to build the house that is standing today. When this house was completed Bartleson procured a license in 1796 and opened it as a tavern. It did not remain a tavern for too many years. The Rader tragedy in which Mrs. Rader lost her life took place in this house on June 2, 1877.

In her will Catherine Singer reserved for her son Christian the privilege to live in the house he had built on the west corner of her property for the term of eight years from the time he first built on said lot. Her will was dated 1783 and it must be assumed that she had a change of heart because in later tax records not only was Christian still living there but had acquired four acres from his mother.

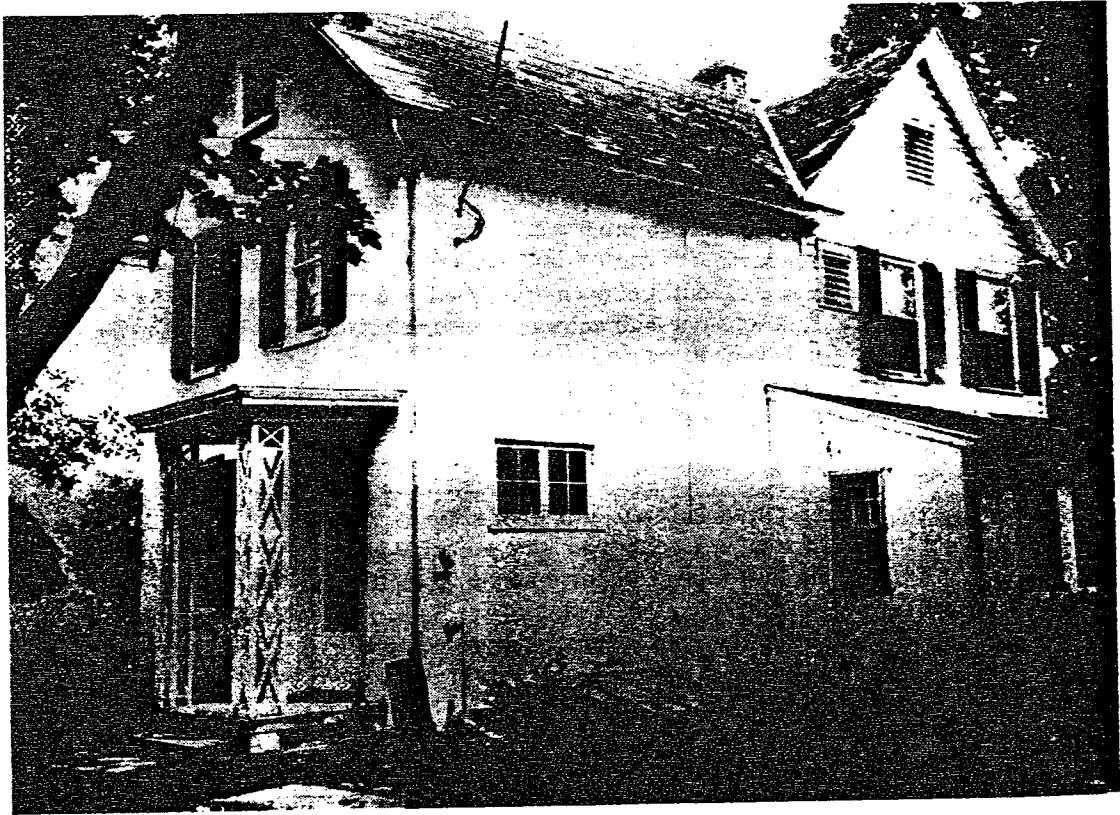
John Singer was the sole executor of his mother's will. Catherine Singer left four acres to a Joseph White and four-and-one-half acres to a Joseph Fitzwater. All the remaining acres and her worldly goods were to be sold to the highest bidder. This included another lot of land containing seven acres adjoining the lands of Peter Bisbing. The money arising from the sales was to be shared and shared alike among her children.

In the next five years the property changed hands three times. It first went to John Fetzer then to John Dutterer who kept the small white house and three-quarters of an acre of ground. Wendel Kingfield in 1799 bought this property and adjoining ground from Israel Coulston thus giving him a farm of forty acres. According to his will dated March 31, 1809, this tract was divided into lots. Two lots were left to his wife, Margaret, and it is this ground in which we are interested. After her death this property was sold to John Preston in 1828. At this time the neighbors on either side of the property were Samuel Lukens and John Fitzgerald.

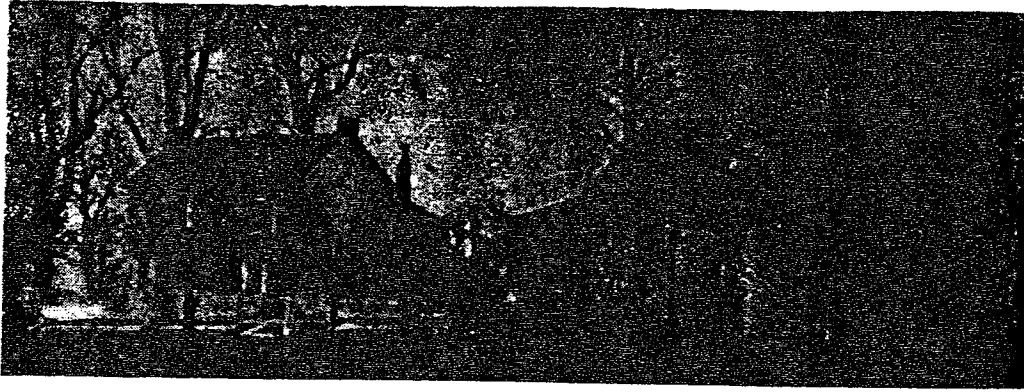
Demo



Home of Nina Cooke Emlen



Christian Singer House c. 1780



Old Photo of "Swallowfield"

In 1831 Frederick Rumer bought eight-and-one-half acres and a house and outbuildings for \$850.00. It was then owned by William Michner from 1838-1843. At this time it was bought by Samuel F. Shaeff. Mr. Shaeff was a machinist and in 1847 he bought a building in Centre Square for business purposes. This was located on the State Road now known as DeKalb Pike near Skippack Pike. He was noted for making the one-horse-power threshing machine.

In the 1850 census the Shaeff family is listed as Samuel F. Shaeff, 37 (machinist); Margaret, 38; Amanda, 13; Elizabeth, 12; George, 9; and apprentices David Eli, 18; William Craft, 18; William McDonald, 15; and Allen Mathias, 21. Later George lived here with his wife Catherine and their five children. Upon George's death his son Walter bought the property from his brothers and sisters. In 1897 Walter Shaeff sold the little white house that Christian Singer had built to Eugene M. Davis for \$2,000.00. In 1903 it was bought by Walter L. Bright.

"Swallowfield" belonged to the Shaeff family for eighty-six years. Walter Shaeff was a carpenter and undertaker and lived in this house until 1929. He and his wife Jennie and family then moved to a house on Penllyn-Blue Bell Pike above Skippack Pike. His daughter and her family now reside at this address.

In 1929 Edward C. Quin bought this property and a great many more acres of ground on Penllyn-Blue Bell Pike and Walton Road. His residence was on Walton Road. Mr. Quin raised horses and had two race tracks on his property. In 1946 he sold the original Shaeff tract to Mr. and Mrs. Alan L. Emlen.

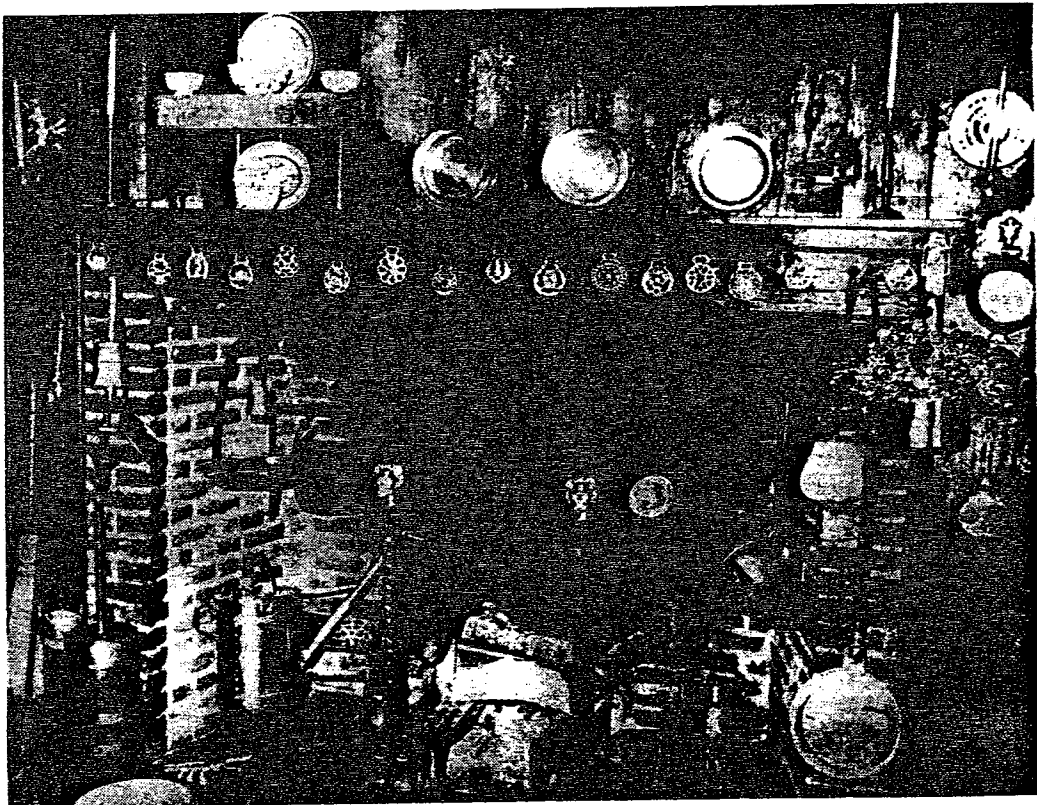
The original house of Catherine Singer, circa 1750, was a three-story fieldstone house with two rooms on the first and second floor and an attic. A wing was added later that contained a dining room and kitchen.

Prior to 1946 the house had been vacant for some years and the upstairs ceilings were on the floor. Needless to say, this was one of the major projects that had priority in remodeling. The outside walls had been plastered and Mrs Emlen had this removed and the house returned to its original stone appearance. In the small room on the first floor, the fireplace was removed and a door was placed in the side wall. The frame and door came from the Andorra Inn which was being demolished.

In 1953 a wing was added to take care of the needs of a growing family. It consists of a sun room and a large sitting room downstairs and two bedrooms and bath on the second level. The floors on the first level are handmade bricks used in the streets of Germantown at one time. The fireplace in the sitting room is faced with wood siding that came from the Hobensack barn that was being demolished to make way for Broadaxe Village. The beams on the ceiling are from the same barn.

The next wing was added in 1964. The original dining room and kitchen were done away with. The dining room is now a spacious hall leading to a beautiful new dining room and a kitchen that no woman could ever complain was too small. A hall separates these rooms from a handsome and airy living room. The beautiful plank floors and fireplace and mantel in this room were bought from an antique dealer in Connecticut. Upstairs more bedrooms and baths were added.

The barn was destroyed by fire in the 1930's but replaced a short time later. The grounds now consist of twenty-two acres, three acres less than when Catherine Singer lived in this house.



Fireplace in 1953 Wing

