

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.: 006 / 66 00 00568 00 5 Block-Unit #021-008

County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 1301 Butler Pike

Historic Name/Other Name: _____

SITE PLAN

PHOTO INFORMATION



Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	House – additions	
2	House -- façade	
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: 006 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 00568 00 5 Block Unit #021-008

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2.

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2.

Address: 1301 Butler Pike Historic Name: Febas Farm

Other Name:

Owner Name/Address: Michael & Jane Hastings 348 Level Rd. Collegeville Pa 19426

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 1795 1,593 SF Land 4.22 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. Penn Plan _____

B. _____ C. _____

D. _____ Other: _____

Exterior Materials: Foundation _____ Roof _____

Walls stucco Walls _____

Other _____ Other _____

Structural System: 1. _____ 2. _____

Width _____ Depth _____ Stories/Height 2.5 _____

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: There have been many changes to this house, including the removal of the front door and replacement stucco. These changes make the house a Class II resource.

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: 006 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 00568 00 5 Block-Unit #021-008
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township
Address: 1301 Butler Pike
Historic/Other Name: Febas Farm

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Secluded from the road, this house is a Penn Plan house with several additions. The core is a 2½ story, five bay house with exterior end chimneys in the gables. The house and chimney are stuccoed, and the roof is covered with wood shingles. The windows are double sash and have shutters. Two gabled roof dormers adorn the front façade, and a one-story porch with a shed roof shades one side of the façade. The additions are two stories tall and sit on a perpendicular axis to the core. The first addition had an end chimney, which became an interior chimney when a later addition was added. Another two-story addition sitting parallel to the house has an end chimney and has a one story addition.

Classification: There have been many changes to this house, including the removal of the front door and replacement stucco. These changes make the house a Class II resource.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

“Febas Farm”

By Dorothy S. Conard

On a four acre site, at 1301 Butler Pike in Broad Axe, that now belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stratton, there once stood a log cabin that belonged to an early settler in Whitpain Township. It was part of a larger farm of about twenty-one acres. There are deeds dated 1781 that show that two parcels of land with two messuages or tenements were transferred to Samuel and Elizabeth Hallowell by John Hallowell and his wife and Jonathan Davis and his wife. One piece of land was seven acres; the other, fourteen acres. In 1796 Samuel and Elizabeth Hallowell sold these properties and twenty-one acres of land to Aquilla Tool.

In 1798, Aquilla Tool sold a little more than four acres to David and Catherine Trexler. David Trexler probably built the present home, as he was married and raising a family. William Greacy bought the property from David Trexler in 1802 and in 1820 William Greacy sold to Baltis Hoffman. Rachael Welsh was the next owner in 1845 and after that the house came down in the same family through inheritance and purchase. John and Mary Dutill occupied the home and later the property was owned and tenanted by Harry Moyer. In 1945, Fred and Edna Stratton bought the property from Harry Moyer, an uncle of Fred Stratton, and it still remains “a little more than four acres” of land.

The present stone house, when it was first built, according to Mrs. Stratton, was one room downstairs, two rooms upstairs and two rooms on the third floor. The dining room and room above were built later, partly on the spot of the log cabin that had been torn down.

Outside the dining-room window is a very large ancient boxwood where remains of a log cabin have been found. It is believed the boxwood was planted at the window of the log cabin. The present owners were offered \$500 for the boxwood in 1945. Mrs. Stratton has found many pieces of old pottery and china and said that when they cultivate, they “always dig up something.”

The white oak tree between the house and barn is 300 years old and is sixteen feet in girth and is registered in State records.

The dry wall at one end of the swimming pool is built from stones from two homes that were demolished at the North corner of Butler and Skippack Pikes.

This home has been in the Stratton family for four generations. Mr. Stratton related that one of the stories handed down through the family is that in Revolutionary days milk from the farm was taken to Broad Axe to serve the soldiers of the Continental Army.

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By Dorothy S. Conard
Photography by George S. Peck

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Mr. and Mrs. Stratton have in their possession a copy of an Indenture of Apprenticeship dated February, 1803 whereby John Dutill, by and with the consent of his father, John Dutill, Sr., put himself apprentice to David Eastburn for a term of fifteen years and one month:” . . . during all which Term, the said Apprentice his said Master faithfully shall serve, his Secrets keep, his lawfull Commands every where readily obey. He shall do no Damage to his said Master, nor see it to be done by others, without letting or giving Notice thereof to his said Master. He shall not waste his said Master’s Goods, nor lend them unlawfully to any. He shall not commit Fornication, nor contract Matrimony within the said Term. He shall not play at Cards, Dice, or any other unlawful Game, whereby his said Master may have Damage, with his own Goods, nor the Goods of others, without License from his said Master, he shall neither buy nor sell. He shall not absent himself Day nor Night from his said Master’s Service without his Leave: Nor haunt Ale-houses, Taverns, or Play-houses; but in all Things behave himself as a faithful Apprentice ought to do, during the said Term. And the said Master shall use the utmost of his Endeavour to teach or cause to be taught or instructed the said Apprentice in the Trade or Mastery of a Farmer . . . and procure and provide for him sufficient Meat, Drink, Apparel, . . . Lodging and Washing, fitting for an Apprentice, during said Term of fifteen years and one month . . . and shall and will in the course of the said Term teach or cause to be taught the said Apprentice to Read distinctly write a legible hand and cypher through the Rule of three and at the expiration thereof shall and will give unto him One good new Suit of Apparel over and besides his common every day Clothing. . . . ”

For some reason, John Dutill did not remain as apprentice to David Eastburn the full term of fifteen years and one month, since in October 1809, David Eastburn assigned over “Right Title Interest or Claim to A Certain Servant Boy Named John Dutill” to Joseph Phipps “. . . for the consideration of twelvedollars ”

The Indenture of Apprenticeship was cancelled in March, 1818 after the fifteen years and one month had expired.

