

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.: 090 / 66-00-06832-00-5 Block 020 Unit 014 County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township Address: 1400 Penllyn Blue Bell Pike

Historic Name/Other Name: _____

SITE PLAN

PHOTO INFORMATION



Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	House – façade	
2		
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

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Survey Code: 090 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66-00-06832-00-5 Block 020 Unit 014
County: 1. Montgomery 2.
Municipality: 1. Whippain Township 2.
Address: 1400 Penlyn Blue Bell Pike Historic Name: The Cloot
Other Name:
Owner Name/Address: Carolyn Parziale 1400 Penlyn Blue Bell Pike, Blue Bell PA 19422
Owner Category: x Private Public-local Public-state Public-federal
Resource Category: x Building District Site Structure
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 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. Vernacular
B. C.
D. Other:

Exterior Materials: Foundation
Walls stucco
Other
Roof asphalt shingles
Walls
Other

Structural System: 1.
Width 4 bay / 40 feet Depth 18 feet Stories/Height 2

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: ___ ca. ___ 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 ___ x ___ No Context(s): _____
Contributes to Potential District ___ Yes ___ No District Name/Status: _____

Classification: This house is a good example of vernacular architecture but is a Class II resource.

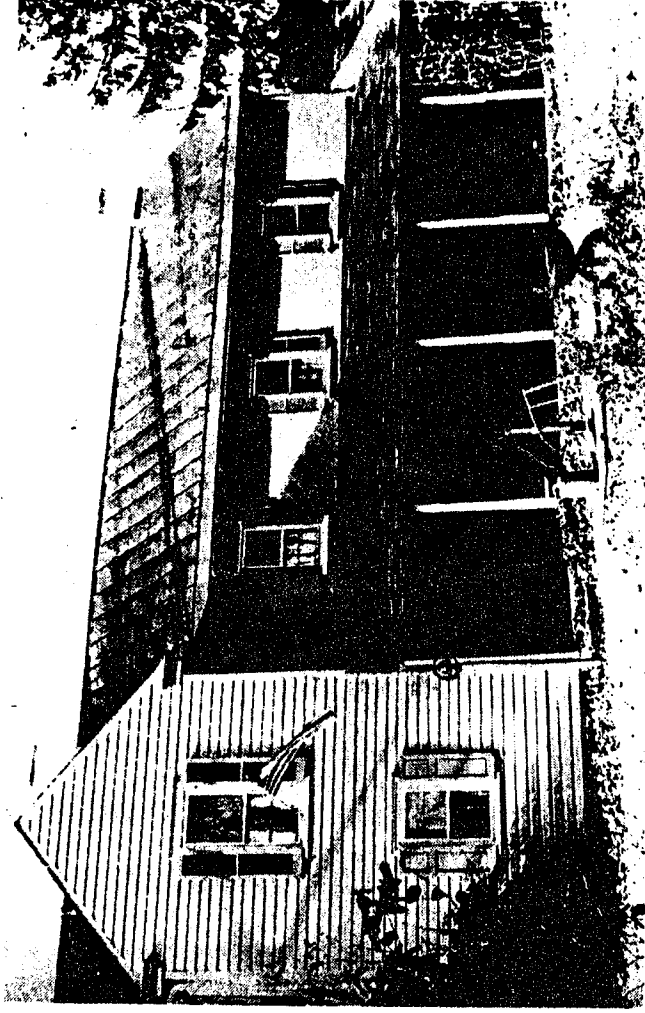
THREATS

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 I, Suite 104, 37 North Valley Road
City, State: Paoli, Pa Zip Code: 19301
Additional Survey Documentation: _____ n/a
Associated Survey Codes: _____ n/a



*"The Cloot"
1400 Blue Bell Road*

"The Cloot"

By Dorothy S. Conard
Photography by George S. Peck

The Conard family is one of the oldest families in Montgomery County. Thones (Dennis) Kunders, who was the founder of the family in this country, emigrated from Crefeld, Germany, in October 1683, and was one of the early settlers of Germantown. He was a member of the Society of Friends, as were most of his descendants in this section of Pennsylvania. The first Friends' meeting in Germantown was held at his house or cave, as their temporary homes in a new country often were, soon after the arrival of the little band of immigrants. He had been a blue dyer in the fatherland and he continued that humble occupation after settling in Germantown. In 1688, Thones Kunders was one of the little band of Germantown Friends who raised their voices against negro slavery, theirs being the first formal protest ever made in America. In 1691, on a charter of incorporation being granted to the village of Germantown, Thones Kunders was chosen as one of the burgesses. He resided in Germantown for a period of forty-six years until his death.

Thones Kunders and his wife, Elin, had six sons and a daughter. These descendants adopted various ways of spelling their last names and no two sons spelled the name in the same way. Conard, Conard, Cunard, Cunard and Cunreds have all been in use for generations and still continue.

Henry Cunreds, the youngest son of Thones, was born in 1688. He was married at Abington Friends Meeting in 1710 to Katherine Streypers and a year later, in 1711, he bought a tract of 220 acres in Whippain Township for which he paid £175. It was stated that the ground lay in low areas in some sections and had an undulating surface. In the early days this section was called "The Cloot." Henry built a stone house at the corner of Blue Bell Road and Stenton Avenue and raised a family of seven sons. William, the eldest, left the neighborhood and the other six sons remained in Whippain or the surrounding townships.

Dennis, Henry's second son, married Lydia Potts of this neighborhood, raised three children, Catherine, Henry and Rachael, and died in 1786. From this line come the very large Shoemaker family, Rachael having married Isaac Shoemaker.

John, the third son, married Ann Rogers and lived a mile out of Norristown at what is now known as the Jeffersonville Inn. They had three sons and a daughter.

Peter, the fourth son, married Catharine Evans and their daughter, Tacy, married John Styer, from whom comes the large Styer family.

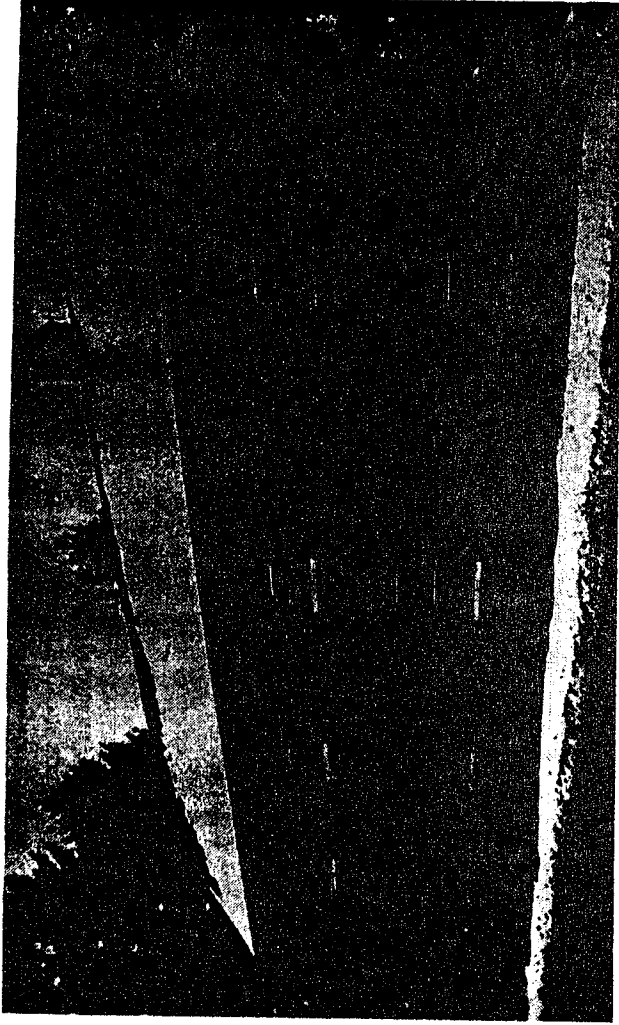
Joseph, Henry's fifth son, married Rebecca Cook. He left two sons, Joseph, Jr., and John. Benjamin, the sixth son, left no children. Samuel, the seventh son, was married twice. The children of the first marriage drifted away from the neighborhood in their youth. A son, Abraham, went to Nova Scotia and his son, Sir Samuel Conard, became one of the founders of the famous Cunard line of ocean steamers. Samuel's second wife was Susanna Foulke and from this marriage there was one child, Nancy, who married Abraham Philips and ten children were born to them.

Henry Conard died in 1758 and his plantation was divided equally between his two sons, Benjamin and Joseph. Benjamin died in 1760 and his wife was married again to Thomas White who went through the fortune in a short time and the Benjamin Conard land of 110 acres was sold.

Henry's son, Joseph, who married Rebecca Cook had two sons, Joseph, Jr. and John. Following Joseph's death in 1786, the land was divided between the two sons. The messuage and approximately fifty-six acres went to Joseph, Jr.

When Joseph, Jr., died in 1840 the property was deeded to William Stockdale who had married Sarah Conard, daughter of Joseph, Jr. The property remained in the Stockdale family until 1912 when it finally passed out of the hands of the Conard descendants for the first time in nearly 200 years.

When G. Howard Bernhard purchased the house and fifty-six acres in 1912, there were two rooms on the first floor and two on the second floor. At this time an additional room was added on the first and second floors. The barn, which had burned, was also rebuilt.



View From Blue Bell Pike Showing Frame Addition

For the next twenty-eight years there were a succession of owners, few of whom had either the interest or time apparently to contribute very much to the premises. Their primary concern appeared to be land speculation. As a result, the house did not suffer greatly from alteration.

Nicholas Kuchorsky purchased the house and eight acres in 1928. He added the room which is now the kitchen and operated a penny candy store there.

In 1946, Robert Cunningham Hamilton and Mabel Smith Hamilton bought from Kuchorsky. Mrs. Hamilton stated that many people attempted to purchase the north upper floor woodwork which is very fine. They admired the hearts carved in the wood of the mantle which are most unusual. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton sold off the remaining land, leaving only the present house and barn lots.

Jacob Christian Myers and Ruth Kennedy Myers purchased the property in 1965. Ruth, who was greatly interested in "saving" old houses, did restoration and research; renovations were made at this time. The heating system was modernized; insulation was blown in; closets were added; bathrooms altered; storm windows and shutters were added and fencing was put up.

In 1971, Henry Slingsluff Conard and Dorothy Steigerwalt Conard returned to "The Cloot." They were not aware of the fact that this site at 1400 Blue Bell Rd. was originally a Conard property. At the time, they were inspecting the barn on the property for possible conversion and they were attracted by the house. When they returned the barn key to the house, they spoke about the pre-revolutionary appearance of the house and were greatly surprised to learn from the owner that it was built by a man whose name was Conard.

After research and aided by an old family history book, Dorothy and Hank discovered that it was part of the 220 acre property that had been in the Conard family for 200 years, beginning in 1711. The 1977 Henry Conard, who unwittingly "walked into" his ancestral home, is a direct descendant of the original Henry Conard. Between them lay generations of Conards who were intimately involved with the growth and development of the Whitpain area.

After the purchase of the property, they removed the plaster from the beams of the living room and dining room, exposing beams that were hand hewn, with axe marks quite apparent. The plaster was removed on the outside of the first floor front area, revealing the beauty of local stone and the entire outside of the house was painted with suitable Williamsburg colors. A two-car garage and workshop building was added, using the Mennonite wagon-shed design.

The home gives the feeling of still belonging to the past, of which it is so much a part. Should only the homes of the affluent survive our automotive age, what an erroneous concept future generations would have of our founding years. Just as surely as the politicians, great planters and merchants directed our future, the artisan and frontiersman furnished the tools, endured the dangers and hardships that made our founder's dream a reality. How and where he lived and labored to create our environment is of utmost importance if posterity is to understand its heritage.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
NARRATIVE SHEET 89C

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code: _____ 090 _____ Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66-00-06832-00-5 Block 020 Unit 014
County: _____ Montgomery _____ 091 _____ Municipality: _____ Whippain Township

Address: 1400 Penllyn Blue Bell Pike
Historic/Other Name: The Cloot

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

This house is a vernacular structure with two additions and a barn reviewed separately. The core is a two-story, three bay end gabled building clad in stucco. The molding framing the roof is a nice touch. There are two interior chimneys, which were originally both interior end chimneys; the modern addition on one gable end moves that chimney one bay from the end. There are three windows on each floor, six over six double hung sashes with shutters. A new one-story addition one the eastern gable end balances an older addition on the western end which added a bay to the core. This older addition has four over four double-hung windows and otherwise continues the texture of the core except for its cladding.

Classification: This house is a good example of vernacular architecture but is a Class II resource.