

# 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.: 178 / 66 00 08554 00 2 Block-Unit #008-006

County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 1623 Yost Road

Historic Name/Other Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## SITE PLAN

## PHOTO INFORMATION



Number

Description of View

Direction of  
Camera

1

House – façade

2

House – façade (right)

3

Stone Extension of House

4

Barn

5

Garage

6

House and Shed

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: 178 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 08554 00 2 Block Unit #008-006  
County: 1. Montgomery 091 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: 1623 Yost Road Historic Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Name/Address: Anna Bruno 1623 Yost Road 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: 6  
USGS Quad: 1. Lansdale 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM A. \_\_\_\_\_ C. \_\_\_\_\_  
References: B. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_

## HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Subcategory: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Residence 1814 3,893 SF Land 7.86 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. Georgian \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_ C. \_\_\_\_\_  
D. \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior Materials: Foundation \_\_\_\_\_ Roof asphalt \_\_\_\_\_  
Walls stone \_\_\_\_\_ Walls stucco \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Structural System: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Width 5 bays / 35 feet Depth 20 feet Stories/Height 2.5

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM  
NARRATIVE SHEET 89C

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code: 178 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66.00 08554 00.2 Block-Unit #008-006  
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township  
Address: 1623 Yost Road  
Historic/Other Name:

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

**(Bruno Farm)** This is a multi-resource property with a c. 1814 stone house, stone and stucco barn, two-story stone shed/garage, stone shed, two-part garage kennel, two smaller houses, and two gable roofed sheds.

**Farmhouse:** The house, c. 1834, is a 2.5 story, Georgian-style building with un-coursed stone front and back façades and stucco ends. The house contains an end gabled, asphalt shingled roof, a flush stone chimney on one end and a small brick chimney at the opposite end, and a large gabled dormer centered on the main façade and clad in weatherboard. The main façade consists of un-coursed stone with exaggerated cut stone quoins. The façade is five-bay wide and the fenestration consists of original 6 by 9 light sash windows. It measures 35' by 20'. The dormer has a dual, 1x1 window arrangement, presumably showing its age (c. 1920s). The main entrance is centered under a gabled hood that projects from the main wall. Free standing and engaged square columns support the hood. A multi-light transom provides light into the center hall. A similar hood, without columns, is located on the rear, centered entrance. However, the rear of the house is only three bays wide. A small shed roofed, enclosed porch is located on the right end of the house. Attached to the porch end of the house is a stone summer kitchen type structure. To the right of the house is a front-end gabled structure, possibly a summer kitchen. The house is clad in stucco and features a small brick chimney with chimney pot (Class II)

**Associated Resources:**

1. **Barn:** The barn is a two story, stone barn clad in stucco. It contains an end-gabled, standing-seam tin roof and large shed-roofed additions on the front and end. The front addition is a frame structure open on all sides; the end addition is clad in board and batten. (Class II)
2. **Garage:** The garage is a two-story stone and frame resource that was probably once an equipment-shed. Its defining features at the thick stone walls on three of its sides; the front end is frame and clad in machined shingles. The roof is an end gabled, asphalt shingled structure with an additional pent over the garage door on the front façade. There is a single garage door under the pent roof and a triple window arrangement under the gabled roof above. There are small windows on the sides of the building. (Class II)
3. Two-part garage with gabled roofs.
4. Small Stone Shed with gabled roof.
5. Small Stone Shed with gabled roof.

**Classification:** The property is one of the few intact farmsteads in the Township, and its buildings, though somewhat altered, convey the historic appearance of the farm. Class II.

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: ca. 1814 Additions/Alterations Dates: ca. ca.  
Basis for Dating: x 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: x Yes No Context(s):   
Contributes to Potential District Yes No District Name/Status:

**Classification:** The property is one of the few intact farmsteads in the Township, and its buildings, though somewhat altered, convey the historic appearance of the farm. Class II.

## THREATS

Threats: x 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

## Yost Road

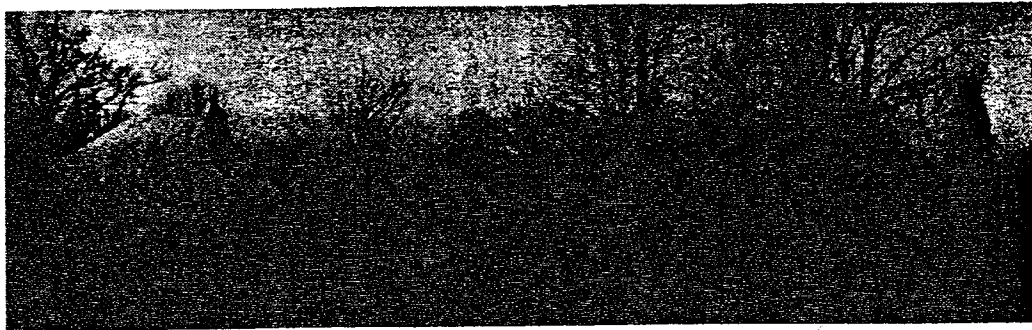
By Agnes Baker Jefferson  
Photography by George S. Peck

As one crosses Skippack Pike, the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike "slashes" its way and "rushes" across the township from Plymouth to the Poconos. Several hundred feet farther, on North Wales Road going southwest, the Philadelphia Electric Tower Line "marches and struts" its way from Arch Road and the Zimmerman farm up across the Worcester hills and beyond! Nestled under these towers are acres of modernistic steel columns that flash from the Power Plant, suggesting something for a setting for a science-fiction movie. The Stony Creek branch of the Reading Railroad winds its way along this part of the stream called the Stony Creek. Snaking and crawling across all this is the Texas Eastern Gas Line! *What Price Progress!*

All this, where once beautifully rolling farm lands graced the hillsides, where there was no continuous drone of raucous sounds, no danger of explosion, no ozone and no air pollution.

Yet, Yost Road retains some semblance of colonial days. Despite the growth of new housing developments and the two modern schools and a Day-camp, there remain four or five "bits" of the past.

Yost Road extends at a right angle from North Wales Road to DeKalb Pike (Rt. 202) and it is believed that at one time the Yost family owned both sides of the road. The houses, barns, shops, and the mill combined, all made up the Yost Plantation. Three visible structures and other small buildings still stand, and concerning them, there are some fascinating stories.



*Site of Old Log Cabin, c. 1711*

As one turns left from North Wales road, the first site on the left is where the William Knoll log cabin, which the Otto Haas' bought and moved to their place on Lewis Lane, formerly stood. Mrs. Jane Burris of the Montgomery County Historical Society researched this antiquated cabin in May 1966. The following are her words:

"THE LOG CABIN, Early 1700's. Located on Yost Road, off Dekalb Pike (Route 202) at St. Helena's Catholic Church and School, and between North Wales Road, in Whitpain township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The name on the mail box at the premises reads — William Knoll. The little stream close by is known as Silver Run.

"The first settler in the wilderness on the north side of Silver Run was Randall Osborne who bought 200 acres in 1731 of Thomas Anthony Morris and Ann Whitpain. This land extended to the Worcester township line and included in 1895 at least five farms. The map of 1848 by Morris of Montgomery County lists the owner of the property as 'J. Calp,' or correctly John Kalb. John Kalb appears in the 1850 census of Whitpain township, age 32, carpenter; Sarah, his wife 33, and children: — Amanda 5, Elizabeth 3, Joseph 10/12. Real Estate \$1800."

On the 1871 and 1877 atlases of Montgomery County, Whitpain Township, J. or Jas. Kinginer is the owner of the location, with 30 acres of land. In 1893, the name listed as owner is — Boyer.

It is likely that this property was once a part of the old Yost homestead nearby."

The Log Cabin has been the subject of several artists. It is pleasing both in color and other artistic media. The Log Cabin was an attraction on the Whitpain House Tour in 1975 at its new location on the Haas grounds.

Yes, most of the land on both sides of the road at one time or another was owned by the prominent Yost family. But then there was the prolific Osborne family also. Both families' occupancy and holdings are so entwined, it is difficult to place them in any kind of order.

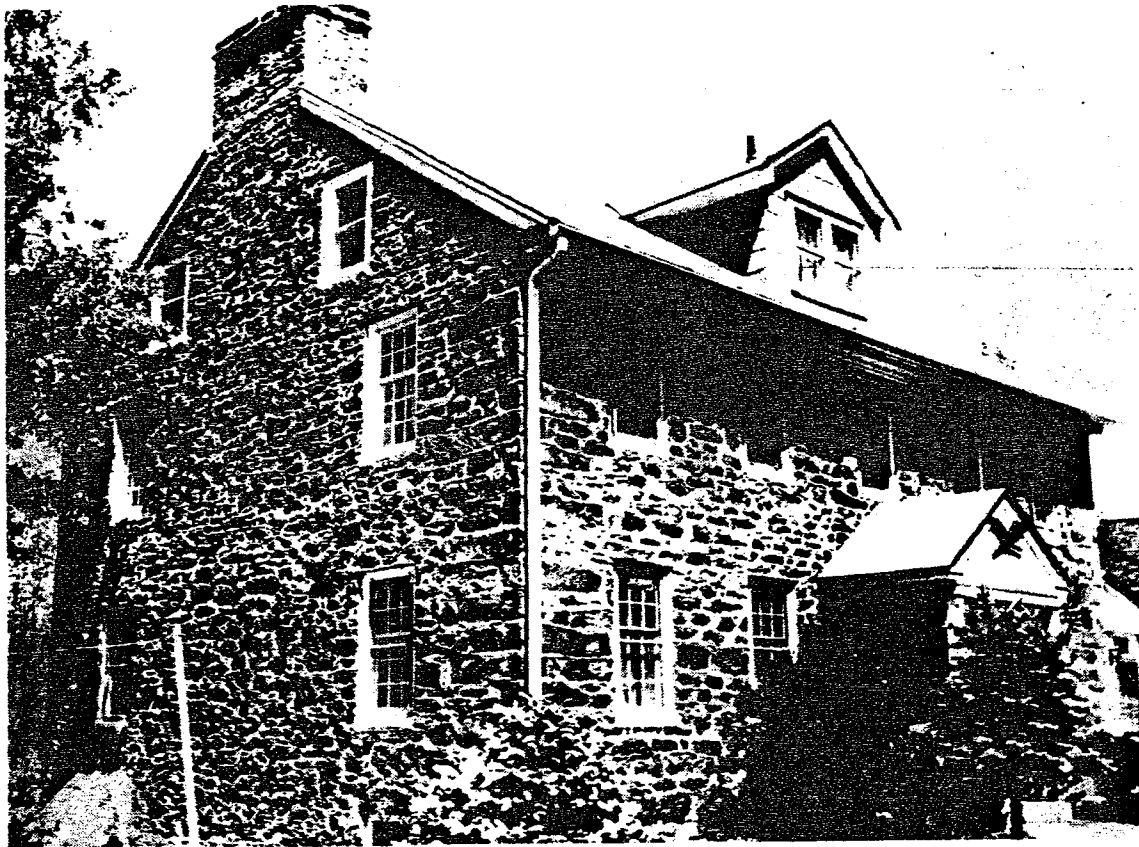
So much has been written about the Yost family that it seems unnecessary to go into full record and genealogy here. And it goes without saying that the Yosts at the height of their land and industrial power, wielded a tremendous influence on the whole community.

To be specific: Bean's History (written by Jones Detwiler) tells about . . . "the first industry that we have any notice, was that of weaving, carried on near Centre Square by Jacob Yost in 1727. In 1732 he purchased what is known as the Yost farm, and carried on the business more extensively." . . . "The Yosts are famed for their sickles, scythes, and edge tools which were made from 1760-1816 at the old homestead. These implements were forged by hand. In 1746, the first grist mill was built along the creek. It was a saw, grist, and chopping mill. It is yet standing."



*Yost's Mill As It Was In 1920*

*Restored Yost Home Now Owned By Charles Bruno*

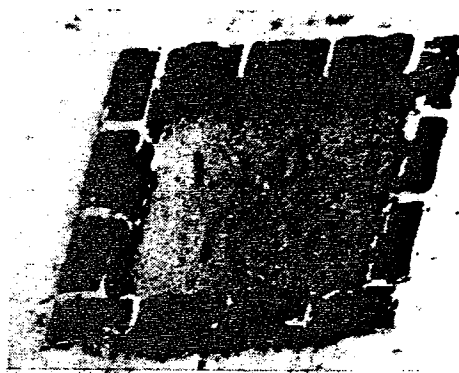


A Yost great-aunt told of manufacturing rifles at the time of the Revolution — some “of which are still in use by the neighbors in the area.” This great-aunt also told stories about soldiers having horses shod in the blacksmith shop.

When Jacob Yost arrived in this country in 1727 on the ship “William” from Rotterdam, he came with the minister, George Michael Wies. From 1740 to 1900, six generations of this branch of the family owned and operated the farm and mill. The records of family reunions are sources of births, marriages, deaths, and family trees. Among the outstanding ones are Daniel, Abram, Peter, Isaac, Jacob II, and Joseph Irwin known as J. Irwin. He died in 1923, the last to bear the Yost name. Mary Yost Thomas, his only daughter, still living, now resides in Jeffersonville.

It should be noted here that Yost's daughters married into other eminent families, i.e. Jacob Yost's daughter, Maria, married John Philip Boehm, thus increasing the power of the landowners by merely possesssing great numbers of acres. This is evidenced by the fact that in 1761 the tax records show that Daniel Yost, called a smith, owned 100 acres . . . 50 of which were still in woodland.

The Yost farm buildings are located in a valley on a curve in the road near the Silver Run (where the mill once stood). They include the main stone house built in 1814 and now restored. The blacksmith shop, where Washington had his horse shod, and several small other buildings were built in 1740. One which may have been the first small barn is now a two-story apartment. The massive barn overlooks all of the other stone structures and has a datestone which says: A. Yost — 1834.



Charles Heinsbaugh farmed the land and ran the mill for the last Mr. Yost for twenty years (1890-1910), and for a while the property fell into disrepair. Toward the end of World War I, the Reverend Father Francis Higgins purchased it, thus adding more ground to the St. Helena Parish. The mill was finally razed in the 1950's, before crumbling and blocking the flow of Silver Run.

What happened to this branch of the Yost family, to Jacob, Daniel, Abram, Peter, Jacob II and J. Irwin? The records in the Court House show that properties were sold all over the northwest part of the township from as early as 1787 to as late as 1916. In the Yost Road area, it was sold to Andrew Knox, Randall Osborne, Isaac Detwiler, and John Egbert. In the Centre Square area . . . to Jeremiah Frantz, the Creamery Association, Dr. Samuel C. Seiple, Max Trinkle and George Loudon.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bruno and son Charles now own and occupy the “Yost Plantation,” having moved here within the last several years from West Conshohocken. They carry on a sort of semi-retired gentleman-farming, stocking it with horses and beef cattle. They are “in love” with the spot and fully realize the richness of the history of it.



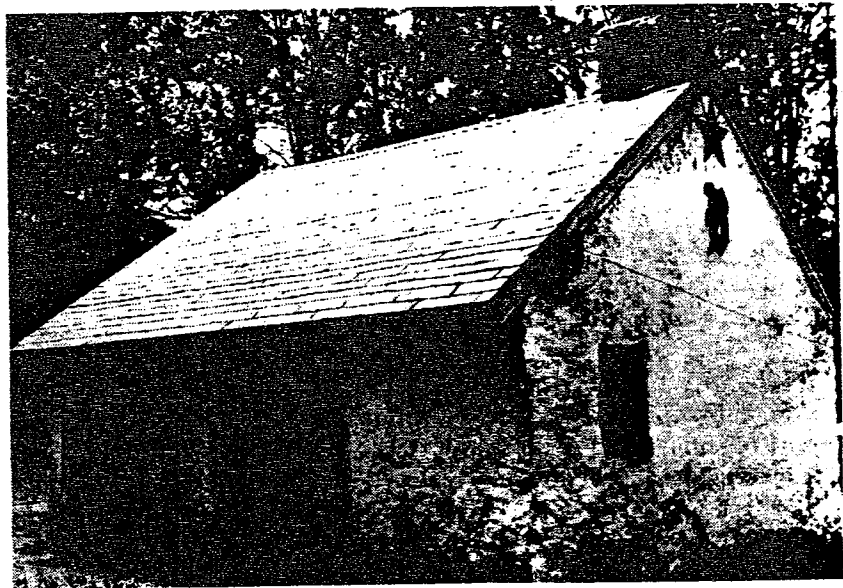
Before locating places along Yost Road, one must understand the Osborne family. Randall Osborne, in 1731, acquired from the Rees Thomas — A. Aiken — Anthony Morris — Ann Whitpain — group, a tract of "200 acres bounded by Worcester line," midway between Belfry and Custer Station. "Southeast was bounded by the later Yost purchase of 1740. It includes five present farms." When one views the area, it is easy to see a conflict could arise between the Yost's and the Osborne's, for in 1760, 170 acres of this 200 acres was still in forests, and both claimed land on both sides of the path that was called a road.

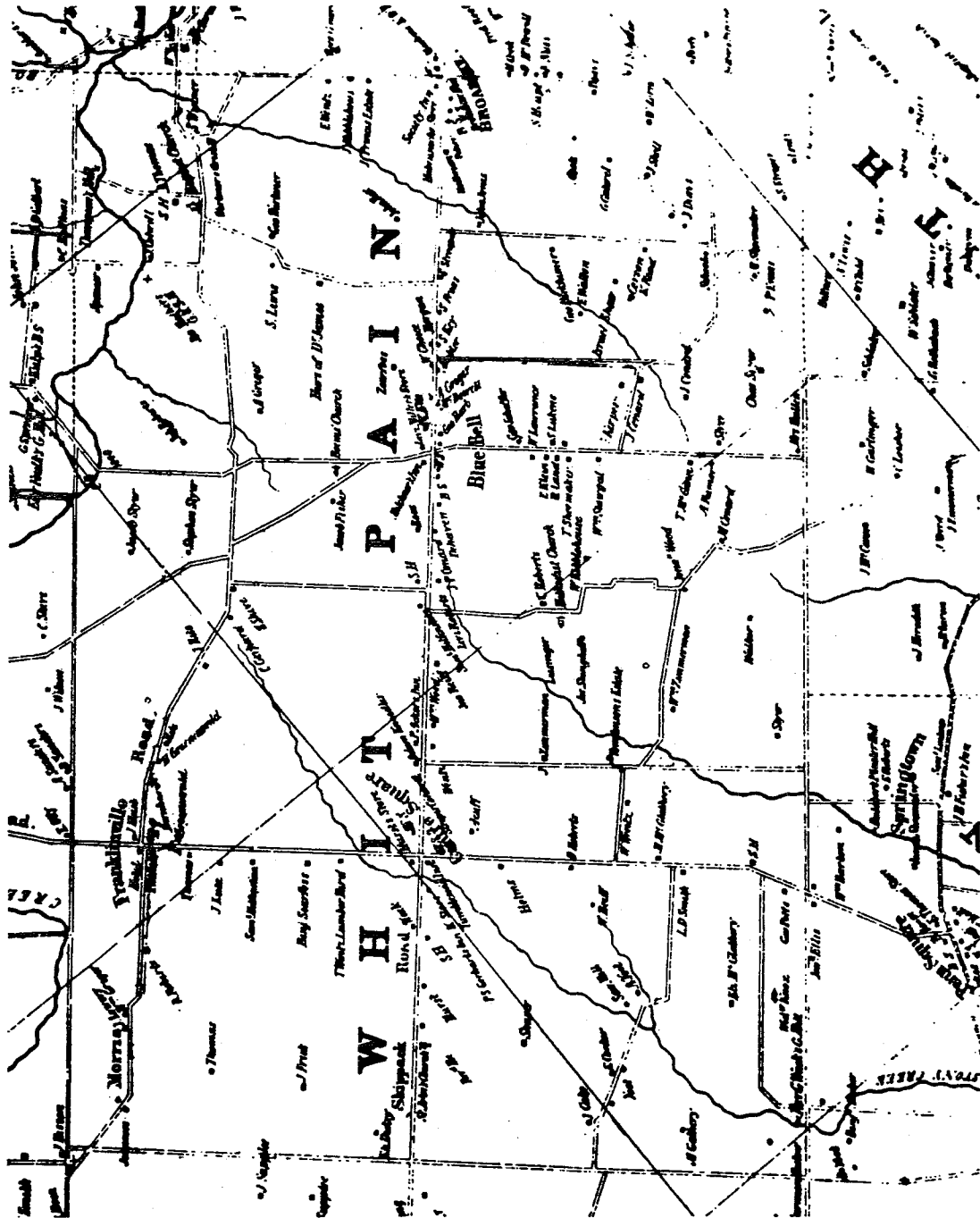
Randall III lived until 1815. However, in 1791 he sold 14 acres to Daniel Yost. When Randall died, he left a widow and several sons. The part of the land he claimed was divided into three parts. One must have been the Dougherty place (now Bonnie and Charles Taylor — 1722 Yost Road) and the other, the Spacht place (Florence and Donald Spacht — 1819 Yost Road).



*Yost's Blacksmith Shop As It Was In 1920*

*Structure Today On Charles Bruno Property*





Whittier Portion Of Map Of Montgomery County, Pa. By William E. Morris, 1848

