

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.: 146 / 66 00 06397 00 8 Block-Unit #006A-086

County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 1690 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	

# PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - DATA SHEET

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

89B

## IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Survey Code: 146 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 06397 00 8 Block Unit #006A-086

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2.

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2.

Address: 1690 Skippack Pike Historic Name:

Other Name:

Owner Name/Address: Alice & Donald Colosimo 1690 Skippack Pike Center Square 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. Residence Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:

A. Colonial \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior Materials: Foundation \_\_\_\_\_

Roof wood shingles \_\_\_\_\_

Walls stucco \_\_\_\_\_

Walls \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Structural System: 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Width 3 bay / 35 feet \_\_\_\_\_ Depth 20 feet \_\_\_\_\_ Stories/Height 2 \_\_\_\_\_

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: \_\_\_ ca. \_\_\_\_\_ Additions/Alterations Dates: \_\_\_ ca. \_\_\_ ca. \_\_\_

Basis for Dating:  Documentary  Physical

Explain:

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:** Class II due to 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: 146 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 06397 00 8 Block Unit #006A-086  
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township  
Address: 1690 Skippack Pike  
Historic/Other Name:

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

This Colonial style house is positioned perpendicular to Skippack Pike. The house consists of a 2-story stone core with three additions on the end of the house. The core is 2 stories high with the historic entrance facing south. The roof is end gabled asphalt shingle roof with flush, stucco-clad chimneys on both ends. While the south side of the house is stucco-clad over stone, the rear of the house is un-coursed fieldstone. Cut quoins are highly visible on the corners of the north side. Fenestration mainly consists of 9x6 windows with shutters. On the main or south façade, the house is 4-bays wide. A pent roof separates the 4 second-floor windows from the three below. The door is paneled. On the north side, there are just four windows with an off-centered door. The core measures 35'x 20'.

The additions consist of a 2-story frame addition attached to the east end of the core. The vinyl-clad unit has a slightly lower roofline than the core. To the rear of this addition, there are two additional units, including a shed roof addition and a gabled extension. The latter extends southward, creating an overall ell-shape to the house. These additions are also vinyl-clad. With the additions, the building is 30'x 70'.

**Classification:** Class II due to alterations.

## The Reichels

It is a real delight to "discover" the Wayne and Helen Reichel house. First of all, it stands among a cluster of large old trees and shrubbery and can hardly be seen from the road, although it is only a few feet from the present concrete curb. Secondly, upon studying the deeds and dates of sale, it was found that Peter Wentz, of Worcester and Washington's Headquarters fame, was the second owner and resident of the attractive old house.

The Reichels were fortunate enough to have the former owner, Horace Shabacher, look up the history of the owners, which he gave to them. As mentioned before, if George Kastner's name appears, then that is about the third transaction from the original Penn Grant.

The list includes:

- 1776 — George Kastner to William West
- 1784 — W. West to Peter Wentz
- 1786 — Peter Wentz died and left the property to his wife and six children
- 1795 — Mordecia Jones, an agent for the widow and children, sold to Elias Hurst
- 1814 — Elias Hurst will to John, Elizabeth, Charles and Adam Hurst
- 1862 — Adam Hurst conveyed to Charles Hurst
- 1870 — Part sold by Elizabeth and John Hurst to George Cressman
- 1878 — G. Cressman to ? Smith
- 1894 — Smith to Thomas Wunder
- 1901 — T. Wunder to Rev. Robert Hetherington
- 1907 — Richard and Theresa Andrews et al and Emerson Conrad
- 1907 — Rev. William and Nancy Galloway
- 1926 — William and Amelia Schwendt (house was occupied by tenants, one of which ran a 'tea room')
- 1941 — William and Helen Camp
- 1947 — Horace and Ethel Shabacher
- 1969 — Wayne and Helen Reichel

The original old stone part of the house contained two rooms down and two above. The kitchen room has the large walk-in size chimney fireplace, and corner circular stairs. The front room or parlor has a more formal fireplace. This part has remained almost intact. A frame kitchen and dining area was added about one hundred years ago, and the Reichels have added a modern family room, which extends the house in a southerly direction, thus taking advantage of the sun's path and continuing the position of the original house.

On June 5, 1976, when the Peter Wentz Farmstead of Worcester was opened, the speaker who gave the history said that, in 1784, Peter Wentz retired to a farm in Whitpain. At that time it was evidently not known where. To come upon such information and put it 'together' reveals some of the pleasure in researching these fine old dwellings.

