

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.: 172 / 66 00 07690 00 2 Block-Unit #001-060

County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 1751 West Township Line Road

Historic Name/Other Name:

SITE PLAN**PHOTO INFORMATION****Direction of Camera**

Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	House – façade (right)	
2	House – façade (left showing additions)	
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: 172 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 07690 00 2 Block Unit #001-060

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2.

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2.

Address: 1751 West Township Line Road Historic Name:

Other Name:

Owner Name/Address: Sara A. & Peter Black 1751 W. Township Line 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: 2

USGS Quad: 1. Lansdale 2.

UTM A. _____ C. _____

References: B. _____ D. _____

HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category: Subcategory: Code:

A. Residence 1764 2,194 SF Land 0.94 Acre Dwelling _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

Particular Type: A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

Current Function Category: Subcategory: Code:

A. Multi-Family Residence _____ Duplex Dwelling _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: A. Vernacular _____

B. _____ C. _____

D. _____ Other: _____

Exterior Materials: Foundation _____ Roof _____

Walls stucco _____ Walls _____

Other _____ Other _____

Structural System: 1. _____ 2. _____

Width 3 bay _____ Depth _____ Stories/Height 2 _____

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: ca. 1764 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: Yes x No Context(s): _____
Contributes to Potential District Yes No District Name/Status: _____

Classification: The many additions to the house and the highly altered state of the core make it a Class II resource.

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

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
NARRATIVE SHEET 89C

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code: 172 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 07690 00 2 Block-Unit #001-060
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township
Address: 1751 West Township Line Road
Historic/Other Name:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

This house is an example of mid-eighteenth century architecture. The core is a two story, three bay, end gable (asphalt shingles) house built c. 1764 which is clad in stucco. It has end chimneys and no door on the façade. The door is on the two story addition on the back which sits on a perpendicular axis to the core and connects it to the one story shed at the rear of the house. The replacement windows on this house have aluminum frames.

Classification: The many additions to the house and the highly altered state of the core make it a Class II resource.

From Mathews, "between 1742 and 1762, ninety acres were sold from the southeast corner to Andrew Knox." On this particular section was built the house of his son Andrew, where occurred a stirring episode of the Revolution, when this patriot was attacked by a force of British and Tories under the leadership of Enoch Supplee's sons.

In 1762, Robinson and the former Mrs. Morgan sold to a Mathias Tyson, who quickly sold to Valentine Shearer. (See Jensen.) It was probably V. Shearer who built the first part of the present Siegfried house because the date-stone on that part is marked 1764.

Valentine and Mary lived in the house during the Revolution and it is reputed that grain was ground in Shearer's Mill to help feed soldiers at Valley Forge in 1777-1778.

The stone barn erected by him in 1776 was still standing and in use in 1895, but has since burned. Today, a garage is built on the foundation. The old house became insufficient for the Shearer's wants and size of the family, so an addition and two stories were added in 1792.

In 1895, Phillip B. Custer was the resident owner and farmer, but the mill and other house had become separated. An involved story transpired in those one hundred years concerning the mill and its house.

To finish the account of the Siegfrieds; The residents and owners of the Custer house since 1900 are: Kulholz, Marino, Himes, the Samuel and Margaret McCracken family (Charles and Robert) . . . all tenants. In 1934, an A. Houseman purchased and restored the lovely old dwelling.

After the mill was torn down some of the stones were taken to the Siegfried place and today, these large stones form a rock garden and landscaping around the swimming pool. One huge stone has carved in it — B.F.C. — and an indescernible date.

Clifford and Dorothy Tate — Cassel Place

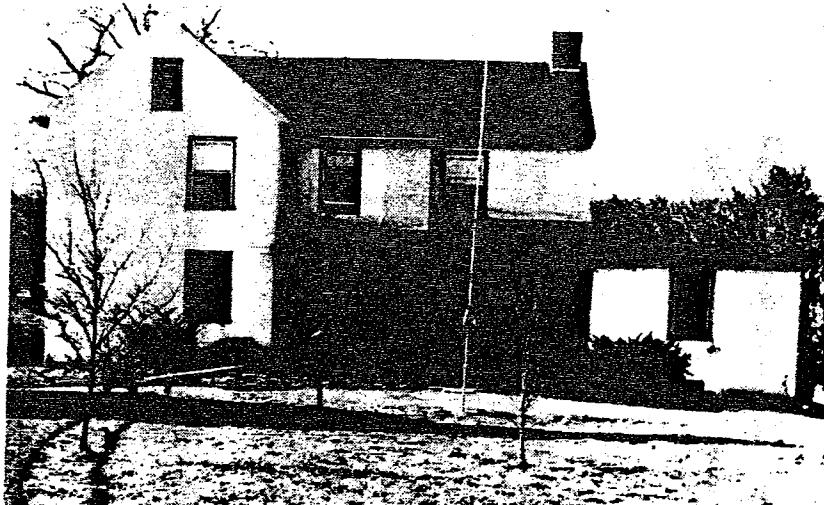
Valentine Shearer died in 1809. His daughter, Mary, became owner of the mill and farm. She married the Lutheran pastor, Reverend Henry Geisenhainmer. But after eleven years, Reverend G's financial affairs were in bad shape, and the property was seized by the sheriff and sold at public auction, 68 acres — to Reverend George Wack, a Reformed Minister, for \$850.00. It was then known as Wack's Mill until 1850. During this time Rev. Wack sold 46 acres to Herman Custer for \$4,700.00. (Became Phillip Custer's place.) The mill and 22 acres were retained and sold to George Erb for \$3,500.00.

It was Erb's Mill for twenty-five years, but due to financial difficulties again it fluctuated between several owners. The Mill must have been a lucrative business for it seems it was "up for grabs" many times. It went from Erb to Adam Wierman, to Jacob Beideman, to Elias Moyer, to the sheriff, to Congressman Irving Wangert, then back to George Erb again. There are even records of earlier judgments by George Wack on George Erb. It must have been a real struggle for Erb to operate the mill continuously.

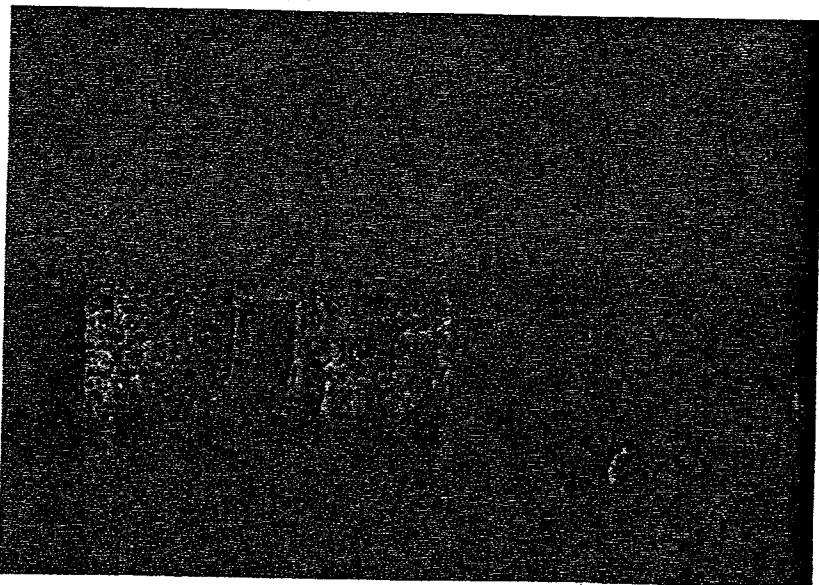
George Erb died in 1901. His daughter Mary inherited the mill. She married Edward Cassel. Edward and Mary had two sons, Mahlon and B. Frank. Mahlon signed off to Frank in the 1960's. After Frank's and Edna's (his wife) deaths, the Cassel girls, Dorothy and Thelma, became the owners.

But the mill is gone! The house is in comfortable well-kept condition, but like all old houses, it is very close to the road — Township Line. Some of the front, door, porch, and windows had to be sacrificed when the road was widened and became a busy thoroughfare.

Edward and Frank Cassel sold much of the land from the original acreage. Some went to the Joseph Burke farm. Some went to the Benjamin and Charles Cassel property (formerly the A. Knox land). Nonetheless, the house retains much of its charm, and the girls enjoy their "piece of antiquity". Both girls were born here and both, with the exception of a few years after Dorothy was married, have lived in the house all their lives.



Cassel — Tate House



*(Found on back of
picture in Mrs.
Bertha Beideman
Rezer's handwriting)*

"George Erb's Grist Mill, situated on right side of Twp. Line Rd. just below railroad, Custer Station, Pa.

"Ed Cassel on top platform of steps

"Elias Moyer on third step

"George Erb with horse and cart

"Mill was run by large wooden wheel, propelled by water which was banked in a raceway which came from dam to the east along driveway."



