

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.: 180 / 66 00 08572 00 2 Block-Unit #008-003

County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whitpain Township

Address: 1819 Yost Road

Historic Name/Other Name:

SITE PLAN**PHOTO INFORMATION**

Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	House - Ell	
2	House - façade	
3	Garage	
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: 180 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 08572 00 2 Block Unit #008-003

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2.

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2.

Address: 1819 Yost Road Historic Name:

Other Name:

Owner Name/Address: Donald L. & Florence 1819 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: 2

USGS Quad: 1. Lansdale 2.

UTM A. _____ C. _____

References: B. _____ D. _____

HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category: Subcategory: Code:

A. Residence 1760 2,476 SF Land 25.02 Acre Dwelling _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

Particular Type: A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

Current Function Category: Subcategory: Code:

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: A. Colonial _____

B. _____ C. _____

D. _____ Other: _____

Exterior Materials: Foundation _____ Roof wood shingle _____

Walls stucco _____ Walls _____

Other _____ Other _____

Structural System: 1. _____ 2. _____

Width _____ Depth _____ Stories/Height 2 _____

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: ca. 1760 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 building is Class II due to the addition.

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: 180 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 08572 00 2 Block-Unit #008-003
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township
Address: 1819 Yost Road
Historic/Other Name:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

This resource consists of a Colonial house (c. 1760) and c. 1920s garage.

The house is an el-shaped, 2-story, 2-part, stucco over masonry house. The el protrudes from the front of the house. The core may have originally been constructed in two parts with the right part (near the el) the original. The roof is an end-gabled structure with wooden shingles. A large shed-roof porch with wood shingles runs the length of the core(s). Fenestration consists of 6 x 6 sash windows on the second floor with replacement windows on the first. There are two non-descript doors on the main façade. The el addition is also a 2-story structure. It is probably a frame structure clad in stucco. Dual windows on the gabled end indicate that it was probably added in the early to mid-twentieth century.

Associated Building:

Garage: To the east of the house is a large, three bay garage with a front-end gabled, asphalt shingled roof. The structure is a combination of stone, block, and frame. Two sash windows provide light to the second level. The doors are located under a pent roof. Attached to the rear of the structure are two extensions: a low lying block building in the center and a frame building on the end.

Classification: The building is Class II due to the addition.



Florence and Donald Spacht Home Today

Florence and Donald Spacht

The Spacht's is the next "old house" southeast of the Log Cabin area. It is easier to trace the history of this house backward, because Florence possesses all the original copies of deeds to 1841. Beyond that, one comes upon some surprises that are significant, and some "tie-in" matters which were later uncovered. One should be aware that Florence was born in this house and has lived all her life in it.

In 1948, Mrs. Adelaide Knoll deeded the house and property to Florence and Don. Mrs. Knoll, formerly Mrs. John Cole I, had moved there with her first husband and family in 1904, at which time they had purchased it from a Francis and Elizabeth McLaughlin.

In 1888, Albert and Caroline Katz, one of the former owners of the "Waggon Inn," must have retired there. The Katz's were the grandparents of Mrs. Otis Fry, Edna Drake, (still living). According to the 1897 map, they owned a considerable amount of ground where the Philadelphia Electric tower line now stands.

From 1882 to 1888 — William and Sara Eisenberg owned the property
From 1859 to 1882 — Benjamin and Emeline Zearfoss lived there
From 1856 to 1859 — Elias and Marian Cooker held it for a short time

Then in 1841, confusion begins. Elias Cooker, through a Hestor Krupp in 1839, probably an agent or attorney of some kind, acquired it from a John Osborne. More perplexing is, what happened between 1839 when a George Fisher is named as claiming twenty-two acres in 1830. For it was then that a Thomas Osborne tried to reclaim it from Christian Moser. But there is evidence in the Deed, Book 45, page 526, that Christian Moser owned and lived there before and during the Revolution.

The name of Christian Moser awakened interest. While the writer was wandering through the old section of St. John's Cemetery, she came upon the tombstones of Christian Moser and his wife, Margaret, with an American flag of the D.A.R. placed in front of Christian's marker. The inscription has been quoted in the St. John's Chapter. Christian Moser died in 1838 and his wife, Margaret, died in 1830.

It seems logical to assume that there is much truth to the legends about the events surrounding this place during the War. On the list of Militia-in-reserve from Whitpain, there are residents from this section. Some that are recognizable are: Samuel, Jesse, Moses, David, and Johnathan DeHaven, Amos and Issac Ellis, Robert and David Knox, George Fitzwater, Jonathan Greenawalt, and Jacob and Issac Martin. Close by are: Jonathan Osborne, Jonathan Porter, Jacob Yost, Christopher Zimmerman and Nicholas Rile. Issac McClathery was the guide to the Battle of Germantown.

The stories from the Yost and Cole-Knoll families say that Christian Moser's 22-acre farm was called "Camp Hill." Without a doubt, without having it written in history books, one can be convinced that a group of soldiers, probably under Capt. Abram Wentz's command, trained and awaited orders from Washington in Worcester or Valley Forge. The hill was used as a "look-out" under the directorship of Moser and Yost. The mill and blacksmith shop were sources of supplies for the soldiers.

The older part of the Spacht house dates between 1750 and 1760. It is placed in such a way as to receive the full benefit of the sun, as was the custom practiced by most builders in those days.

The Spacht house, with the newer wing added on the north side at a right angle to the old part, is beautifully restored and furnished. An oil painting of the Log Cabin is prominently placed in the long living room. The setting on a well-kept lawn and garden, among tall old maples and old-fashioned shrubbery, tells that this place has been inhabited for a long time. What a story this house could relate!

As mentioned before, Florence had lived here all her life. A poem she wrote sums up her feelings:

Reflections

*How many of our modern folk to-day
At the age of fifty will be able to say
"Still sleeping in the same room where I was born"
Oh no, my friends, from these roots they've been torn.*

*These days are past but mem'ries stay
For better or worse, just who can say
For progress they call it has set a new pace
For an old timer this is hard to face.*

*Our open fields where cows once fed,
Have been up-rooted for homes instead.
The sound of the bull-dozer crushing the trees
So where do they go? — the birds and the bees.*

*"Population Explosion" is the popular term,
But all this turmoil just makes me squirm.
For I know with the coming of these new invaders
Life really gets tougher for us old crusaders.*

*With food prices so high and taxes so great,
My ulcer gets worse when I think of our fate
For each new day, as we grow older
The burden gets too great to shoulder*

*You're wondering what prompted this bit of verse
Thoughts of a lady who feels that a curse
Has come upon our country-side
Where we so dearly love to abide.*

*You know if you've read between these lines
I've never left home with these changing times
But now at the age of fifty-two
I must leave all of this and begin anew.*

*There is just one thing that remains the same
That's our CREATOR above in His great "Hall of Fame"
So we'll put out faith and trust in Him
Life then seems brighter and not so dim!*

*Florence Knoll Spacht
Spring, 1976*



