NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received

date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Thomas Thematic Group (A part of the Multiple Resource Nomination of West Whiteland Township)

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number See Continuation Sheet N/A not for publication

city, town West Whiteland Twp. N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Chester code 29

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	X private	X unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
X Thematic Group	N/A being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	X other: Not in Use

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (See Continuation Sheet)

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds/Chester County Courthouse

street & number Market and High Streets

city, town West Chester state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Chester County Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1979-1981 ___ federal ___ state X county ___ local

depository for survey records Chester County Historical Society

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	X unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date N/A
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The individual structures that make up the Thomas Thematic Group are mainly concentrated on the floor of the Great Valley and all are west of Route 100. They comprise an impressive collection of buildings that stretch from the most medieval and archaic to architect designed dwellings that incorporate the latest improvements and design philosophy.

The first Thomas to see the township and, in fact, the first owner of most of its land was Richard Thomas I (1672-1744). His father, Richard Thomas (d. 1683), was a Welsh Quaker who had been granted a land holding of 5,000 acres in Pennsylvania. He died soon after arriving in this country and left his son Richard a ward of friends. Upon reaching legal age, Richard Thomas I found that his father's claim had been taken by others. However, Richard was given another tract of 1869 acres which was located in the "Great Valley" in what is now the township of West Whiteland. He also received additional tracts in the townships of East Whiteland, West Goshen, the present day Borough of West Chester and the Northern Liberties in Philadelphia. Richard married in 1712 and proceeded to develop his holdings. Large tracts of land were sold to fellow Quakers such as Evan Lewis (Evan Lewis House - Map #4), John Spruce (Colebrook Farm - Map #37), and Adam Baker (Sleepy Hollow Hall - Map #6). Other tracts were split among his heirs at his death in 1744. Most of these lands would remain in the hands of Thomas family members well into the twentieth century.

Richard's only son, Richard Thomas II (1713-1754), died only ten years after his father's death and did not have much chance to make an impact on the township. His one lasting contribution, other than his children, was his construction of the Thomas Mill (Map #42) soon after his father's death. While the mill was built after Richard I passed away, he might well have been responsible for laying the plans for the mill since the construction techniques used were out-of-date and would probably not have been readily known or acceptable to a builder who was born after 1700. The use of the interrupted sill and the double studs laid flat are all techniques that were antiquated in England by 1700. The Thomas Mill is the only example of this construction system known to students of vernacular architecture in the mid-Atlantic states.

When Richard II died in 1754, his wife Phebe married William Trimble and moved to Concord Township, Delaware County. Her three daughters married sons of William Trimble. Her two sons, Richard III (1744-1832) and George (1746-1793), each were progenitors of independent family lines. Richard was the most famous and the most active builder credited with the construction of three major properties: Whitford Lodge (Map #32) in 1782, Whitford Hall (Map #31) in 1796 and Ivy Cottage (Map #33) in 1799. He also owned the Thomas Mill as well as a number of other dwellings. In 1798, the Direct Tax for the Federal government lists Richard's holdings as five houses, several barns, the Thomas Mill, cooper, smith and "taylor's" shops and several small storage buildings. Most of these smaller buildings do not survive but it is interesting to note that the tax collector was observant enough to record that several of Richard's barns had thatched roofs. The use of this older roofing material is generally thought to have long been out of fashion but it appears to be in keeping with the Thomas family tradition of not being satisfied with the usual in architecture.

Map #31 Whitford Hall
145 West Lincoln Highway
Exton, PA 19341

Map #32 Whitford Lodge
179 West Lincoln Highway
Exton, PA 19341

Map #33 Ivy Cottage
225 West Lincoln Highway
Exton, PA 19341

Map #40 Fairview
225 North Whitford Road
Exton, PA 19341

Map #41 Oaklands
349 West Lincoln Highway
Exton, PA 19341

Map #42 Thomas Mill and Miller's House
130 West Lincoln Highway
Exton, PA 19341

Map #51 Whitford Garne
201 West Boot Road
West Chester, PA 19380

Historic resource forms, verbal boundary descriptions and summary statements of significance for the Thomas Thematic Group are included with the main group of the overall nomination.

Map #31 Whitford Hall
Richard W. Thomas II
Southeast National Bank
Trust Dept. c/o Stanley Heist
P.O. Box 417
West Chester, PA 19380

Map #32 Whitford Lodge
Castleman D. & Ruth B. Chesley
P.O. Box 208
Linville, NC 20646

Map #33 Ivy Cottage
Ann Howell Chandler
P.O. Box 117
Exton, PA 19341

Map #40 Fairview
Wilmer B. and Amy H. Huffman
225 North Whitford Road
Exton, PA 19341

Map #41 Oaklands
John G. McIlvaine
349 West Lincoln Highway
Exton, PA 19341

Map #42 Thomas Mill and Miller's House
John Gilbert Hagee
130 West Lincoln Highway
Exton, PA 19341

Map #51 Whitford Garne
Ronald McClellan
201 West Boot Road
West Chester, PA 19380

Richard Thomas III was a very active individual. Although born a Quaker, he enlisted in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and was appointed Colonel of the First Regiment of Chester County Volunteers. As a result, he became known as the "Fighting Quaker" and was read out of the local meeting. He moved his religious affiliation to the Episcopal Church after that. The break in Quakerism was actually a common occurance during the last part of the eighteenth century and was not the severe punishment that it once had been.

When he returned from military service, he took up his place as a gentleman farmer and also became active in politics and local business affairs. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly from 1786 to 1798 and was a member of the 4th, 5th and 6th Congresses of the United States. He was also a manager of the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike for 39 years until his death. This Thomas was deeply interested in transportation and was heavily invested in various turnpike and canal companies when he died.

His brother George remained a Quaker and stayed close to home with his interests centering around agriculture and his Oaklands Farm (Map #41). He won a great deal of local respect for his well managed farm and his interest in scientific agriculture. He is credited with helping to introduce into the area the use of lime as a soil supplement.

George's offspring remained with the family farm at Oaklands and maintained a strong interest in improving agriculture and the farm that had been so carefully developed by George Thomas. His grandson, George (1808-1887) earned a medical degree but never took up a practice. Instead he preferred to manage Oaklands and was given high marks by his contemporaries for his horticultural advances and improvements on the farm. He expanded the family holdings by building Fairview (Map #40) for his son Charles (1847-1948) as a wedding present in 1877. This house was designed by the architect Addison Hutton. Charles' brother, J. Preston Thomas (1842-1905) built a large Second Empire house at the corner of Whitford Road and Route 30. It was known as Lindenwood and was destroyed in 1970 to make room for a gas station. J. Preston's son, George (1871-1937) built the last grand Thomas mansion in 1905. Whitford Garne (Map #51) is located in the South Valley Hills and is the farthest south of any of the Thomas properties.

structures that were built as monuments to the family. They convey to all who pass by them that the Thomas family members were prosperous and influential citizens who commanded the respect due to those who could build dwellings like Whitford Hall (Map #31), Whitford Lodge (Map #32), Oaklands (Map #41), and Ivy Cottage (Map #33). Richard Thomas III, who built most of these properties, was very aware of his position and was also sufficiently concerned with appearances that after the Lancaster Turnpike was constructed, he altered his house so that the front of Whitford Lodge was oriented towards the Turnpike.

These four dwellings were a once-common form of large, well-built mansion houses in the Great Valley. Due to the increased suburbanization of the valley, most of the houses of this type have been destroyed and these four represent one of the last reminders of the richness of the Great Valley, both in terms if its agriculture and in terms of its architecture.

A few years before Ivy Cottage was given its Queen Anne appearance, Fairview (Map #40) was designed by Addison Hutton for a newly married Thomas offspring. This house was built in a Gothic-Revival manner and is a perfect example of that style in a country house. By 1877, Gothic buildings were beginning to go out of fashion except for church buildings. However, the Thomas family demonstrated its fondness for older forms by choosing the conservative rather than the modern. The home, which overlooks the Thomas farms in the Valley, is one of the few examples of late Gothic-Revival architecture in the Great Valley that has survived to the present day without either being torn down or being so altered that its basic shape and design is no longer recognizable.

Whitford Garne (#51) is a Georgian-Revival building that was designed by Albert W. Dilkes. Dilkes tried to be as true as possible to the Georgian tradition when he designed this house and it remains one of the best examples of the revival of interest in colonial architecture to be found in the township. While its massing and scale are different than the Furness-designed Morstein (Map #20), the same concern for detail and for architectural correctness is found in both buildings.

Bibliography

R.W. Brunskill, Illustrated Handbook of Vernacular Architecture, (London: Faber and Faber, 1978).

Collections of the Athenaeum, Philadelphia
Bibliographic Files
Biographic Files
Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builder's Guide

Collections of the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA
Clipping Files
A.P. Reid Title Search Files
Smedley Genealogy
Thomas Family Papers
"Whitford Lodge and its Builder"

Stephen G. Del Sordo, "Eighteenth Century Grist Mills: Some Chester County, Pennsylvania Examples," in C. Wells, ed., Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture (Annapolis, MD: Vernacular Architecture Forum, 1982).

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	X agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/humanitarian
X 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	X industry	___ politics/government	X other (specify)
		___ invention		

Association with locally significant family (Thomas)

Specific dates N/A **Builder/Architect** Various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Thomas Family Thematic Group is elibible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion B for its association with the Thomas family, who developed the township and who were influential in its development. It is also eligible for listing under criterion C for its significant grouping of standing structures that illustrate the evolution of architecture from a vernacular craft to an art practiced by trained designers.

The Thomas family was directly responsible for the growth of the township and for the creation of a rich agricultural area west of Route 100 in the Great Valley. The first Thomas, Richard Thomas, came to this country from Wales for the express purpose of creating a large land holding that would enable his offspring to live well and to continue the middle-class life style that they had achieved in Wales. While he died before he could carry out his plans, his children were able to achieve the status of gentlemen farmers and live close to the land on which they were first settled. Many of the structures that they built remain in the family today. The Thomas family continues to be well represented in the township. Over the almost 270 years since they first arrived, they maintained close ties with the township while actively managing their farms and industrial holdings including the Mill (Map #42) and the Marble Quarry (Map #43) Many family members served in local, county and state government as well as participated in philanthropic and social organizations in an attempt to improve the quality of life in the township and county.

Members of the Thomas family have long maintained a fond affection for the land and for the houses that they had built. When Richard Ashbridge, a grandson of Richard Thomas II, went to build a new dwelling on land originally settled as the Thomas homestead, he chose to recreate his grandfather's house with its gambrel roof. The mansion at Indian Run Farm (Map #49) was of course larger and grander but nonetheless it was modeled after the original Thomas homestead. Recently, another Thomas (Horace) went so far as to have his remains sent back from New Mexico to be buried in the old Thomas family graveyard along with Richard Thomas II.

The most important structure in the group is the Thomas Mill (Map #42) built by Richard Thomas II in 1744. An extremely rare building, its construction techniques are similar to earth fast buildings in that the upright posts provide most of the support for the upper floors while the sills serve to tie the bays together. The interrupted sill system of brace frame construction went out of style in England before 1700. It has been judged by members of the vernacular architectural history community to be a most unique building. No other examples are known to exist in the mid-Atlantic region.

More conventional structures are the eighteenth century dwellings built by Richard Thomas III and his brother George. These dwellings are all substantial masonry

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 31.46 total acreage for thematic group

Quadrangle name Downingtown.Pa. Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References See Individual Historic Resource Forms.

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Individual Historic Resource Forms.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state		code		county		code	

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	1) Steve Del Sordo & Diane S. Snyder 2) Steve Kouter & Martha L. Wolf		
organization	1) West Whiteland Historical Commision 2) Brandywine Conservancy	date	January 1982; Revision - March 1
street & number	1) 222 N. Pottstown Pike 2) P.O. Box 141	telephone	1) 215-363-8091 2) 215-388-7601
city or town	1) Exton 2) Chadds Ford	state	1) Pennsylvania 2) Pennsylvania

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E.Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

1. Brooks, Robert L., Grove United Methodist Church 1773-1973.
2. Chester County Historical Society: West Whiteland Clipping File-Schools, Churches, Business Houses, Surname File (Hoffman, Boyer, Fisher).
3. Futhey & Cope, History of Chester County, 1881.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 19 acres

Quadrangle name Downingtown

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	445720	4428460
B	18	445930	4428210
C	18	446020	4428300
D	18	446070	4428100
E	18	445930	4428040
F	18	445740	4428180
G	18	445630	4428400
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Attached.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code N/A	county	N/A	code N/A
state	N/A	code N/A	county	N/A	code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	1) Steve Del Sordo & Diane S. Snyder 2) Steve Kouter & Martha L. Wolf
organization	1) West Whiteland Historical Commission 2) Brandywine Conservancy
date	January 1982
street & number	1) 222 N. Pottstown Pike 2) P.O. Box 141
telephone	1) 215-363-8091 2) 215-388-7601
city or town	1) Exton 2) Chadds Ford
state	1) Pennsylvania 2) Pennsylvania

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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___ national ___ state X local

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State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/22/03

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8,300 acres-total township

Quadrangle name Downingtown, Malvern, Unionville, West Chester **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

UTM References

For entire township (individual sites and district on individual survey cards)

Malvern Quad

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	441830	4143720
C	18	441740	4142720
E	18	441650	4143270
G	18	441470	4142790

Unionville Quad

	Zone	Easting	Northing
B	18	450830	4421960
D	18	445180	4421652
F	18	442460	4413100
H			

Downingtown Quad

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	1) Stephen Del Sordo & Diane S. Snyder and 2) Steve Kouter & Martha Wolf
organization	1) West Whiteland Historical Commission 2) Brandywine Conservancy
date	Jan. 1982 Revised Feb. 1983
street & number	1) 222 N. Pottstown Pike 2) P.O. Box 141
telephone	1) 215-363-8091 2) 215-388-7601
city or town	1) Exton 2) Chadds Ford
state	1) PA 19341 2) PA 19317

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national X state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E.Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 9/20/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8,300 acres-total township

Quadrangle name Downingtown, Malvern, Unionville, West Chester

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

For entire township (individual sites and district on individual survey cards)

Malvern Quad

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	448730	4143720
B	18	450830	4429560
C	18	447460	4142720
D	18	445180	4426520
E	18	446500	4143230
F	18	442460	4431300
G	18	444700	4142930
H			

Unionville Quad

Downingtown Quad

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1) Stephen Del Sordo & Diane S. Snyder and 2) Steve Kouter & Martha Wolf

organization 1) West Whiteland Historical Commission 2) Brandywine Conservancy

date Jan. 1982 Revised Feb. 1983

street & number 1) 222 N. Pottstown Pike 2) P.O. Box 141

telephone 1) 215-363-8091 2) 215-388-7601

city or town 1) Exton 2) Chadds Ford

state 1) PA 19341 2) PA 19317

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national X state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/20/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received

date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic: Historic Resources of West Whiteland Township, Chester County;

and or common: Pennsylvania (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties)

2. Location

street & number: The Incorporation Limits of West Whiteland Township — N/A not for publication

city, town: N/A — N/A vicinity of

state: Pennsylvania code 42 county: Chester code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
X district	___ public	X occupied	X agriculture	X museum
X building(s)	X private	X unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
X structure	___ both	X work in progress	X educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	X religious
___ object	N/A in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	X transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name: Multiple Ownership: See individual nominations

street & number:

city, town: N/A vicinity of — state:

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Recorder of Deeds, Chester County Courthouse

street & number: High and Market Streets

city, town: West Chester — state: Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title: Chester County Historic Site Survey/ National Register (Zook House,1976) — has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date: 1979 - 1981 — ___ federal ___ state X county ___ local

depository for survey records: Chester County Historical Society

city, town: West Chester — state: Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	X unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date N/A
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

A. General Physical Description:

The historic resources described in this nomination are located in West Whiteland Township. They consist of 53 individual properties and two historic districts. The Township is situated in central Chester County, one of the three original counties established by William Penn in 1682. West Whiteland has 8,300 acres of land within its boundaries. Philadelphia, the major market place throughout the Township's history, lies about 25 miles to the east. The county seat, West Chester, was established at the end of the 19th century and is four miles to the south. The rectangular shape of the Township reflects, to some extent, the original boundaries of the "Welsh Tract," an intended barony of 40,000 acres surveyed in 1684. Out of this tract, the Township of Whiteland was formed in 1704; in 1765, it was divided East and West. West Whiteland enjoyed an advantageous location in the Chester or Great Valley, the natural features of which were conducive to early settlement, agriculture, industry and developments in transportation. In 1855, it was described "with its smiling farms and restful homes...as looking like...one vast and magnificent garden." To the north and south of the valley is hill and timber land.

The location and topography of the Township contributed to its prosperous and diversified rural agricultural economy which persisted into the mid-20th century. The Great Valley which cuts through the center of the Township, extends north and west for approximately 25 miles and contains most of the County's major towns, among them Atglen, Parksburg, Coatesville and Downingtown. The Valley is particularly wide and level in West Whiteland and, with its limestone-enriched soil, is well-suited for agriculture. While the Valley floor was ideal for house and farm, the hills to the north and south provided the timber essential for building and (until the acceptance of fossil fuels) energy for home and industry. It was common for a prosperous farmer to have 100 acres or more of farmland in the Valley and a woodlot of 10 or 20 acres on the slopes.

West Whiteland also had its Barrens which was, according to 18th and 19th century connotations, hilly, scrubby, and partially open land. The Barrens are found in the Township's southwest corner.

With its underlying band of limestone, the Great Valley was found suitable for more than farming. The wide limestone deposit is largely dolomite, with isolated pockets of iron ore and marble. Marble deposits ranged in hue from nearly pure white to dark blue and black. To the north of the Township are quartz and quartz schist formations and, to the south, Wissahickon Schist. These resources were mined and quarried extensively in the 18th and 19th centuries; limestone continues to be extracted from one active quarry. Evidence of earlier extractions of local stone presents itself in the walls of the Township's predominantly stone houses. The combination of abundant limestone and timber contributed to the early success of a lime-burning industry, the product of which was essential in mortar and used as a soil supplement. The importance of this early industry cannot be over-emphasized; in fact, it may be argued someday that it was the limestone, and not the opportunity for agriculture, that induced settlement in the Great Valley.

By the mid-19th century, the water resources of the Great Valley were nearly legendary: "fountains of cold and pure water so numerous that almost every farm has its springhouse near the door..."

West Whiteland lies within the Brandywine drainage basin and is drained primarily by Valley Creek, which meanders in an east-west course across the Township. Broad Run, one of the Valley Creek's major tributaries, drains the southwest corner, and they converge in East Bradford. In addition to supplying domestic needs, the water powered grist, corn, clover, and saw mills.

The most significant man-made features of the Township, aside from its dispersed farm complexes and rural homes, are key transportation routes: the Lincoln Highway (the Nation's first turnpike, the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, 1792-4), the Pennsylvania Railroad (one of the earliest railroads in the United States, 1833-4), the Chester Valley Railroad, 1850-4, and the Trenton Cut-off, 1880-1904. It is along these significant avenues of travel that most of the Township's historic and architectural resources are located, including wayside inns, grist mills, outstanding farm complexes and manor houses, and late 19th century suburban homes.

B. Historical Physical Description:

West Whiteland's development as a rural township on the outskirts of the county seat, West Chester, can be traced on historical maps supplied with this nomination. Two of these, (Maps #5 and #6) depict various properties found along the proposed route of the Lancaster Turnpike in 1790. The illustrations on these maps confirm the 18th century appearance of several of the nominated buildings, notably Whitford Lodge (#32), Oaklands (#41), Sleepy Hollow Hall (#6), Colebrook Farm (#37) and others. Maps dated 1860, 1873, and 1883 show the Township to contain dispersed farm complexes with some clustering of structures at crossroad villages along the Turnpike, the Pennsylvania Railroad, and at intersections of old roads. There was little significant change in the general appearance of the Township from after the completion of the Pennsylvania Railroad until the 1950's. In the late 19th century, however, numbers of old farm complexes were transformed into elegant country estates by transplanted Philadelphians. Still, the overwhelmingly rural character of the Township was retained. Only in the last three decades of this century has the Township experienced measurable suburban growth, primarily due to its central location and convenient transportation. Through its recent planning activities, which have included the identification, evaluation, and research of its historic resources, the Township has taken major steps towards promoting the preservation of the best of its past.

C. Architectural Component:

As is typical of rural, agricultural communities, few of West Whiteland's buildings can be classified as high style. Rather, most are representative examples of vernacular

architecture of southeastern Pennsylvania. This is particularly true of the Township's 18th and early 19th century dwellings, mostly sturdy stone houses of practical, traditional design. The completion, however, of the Lancaster Turnpike in 1794, prompted the construction of several architecturally distinguished manor houses along that route. Following the construction of the Columbia Railroad in 1833 and its expansion and development as the Pennsylvania Railroad in the 1850's, the architecturally conservative landscape became dotted with some fine expressions of Victorian taste. In terms of style, the architecture of the Township reached its peak in the 1880's through 1920, during which period prominent Philadelphia architects were given a free hand in the design of certain homes and estates. It can be argued that West Whiteland was the westernmost extension of the "Main Line." It offers a full menu of late Victorian architecture including Queen Anne, Shingle Style, Stockbroker's Tudor, and an assortment of Period houses. Unlike most Chester County communities of the era, deliberate style was the rule, not the exception.

The nominated properties in the multiple resource area can be grouped in historical periods defined, in part, by architectural characteristics and styles. This method of ordering the data, although open to interpretation, is nevertheless useful in assessing the architectural components of the nomination.

I. Colonial Settlement: c. 1700-1770's

A. It can be stated with some certainty that the early settlers of West Whiteland erected first log houses for immediate shelter. Most of these were torn or eventually fell down; some were incorporated into permanent homesteads. There are three habitable log dwellings remaining in the Township, all of which appear to date between 1770-1810. Significantly, each of the three uses a different plan and/or method of construction, attesting to the versatile nature of the material and the individual preference of the builder. (Pancott Log House #52, Wollerton Log House #57, and David Ashbridge House #17.)

Most of the Township's first settlers were quick to add to or replace their log cabins with permanent stone houses. A number of house plans were used in this period of colonial settlement; representative examples are noted below.

B. Hall/parlor plan, single pile:

Generally, this was the earliest plan adopted and is identified by its single pile construction, two rooms on the first floor, steep roof, solid end walls, and exterior projections, i.e., pent roof and/or eaves. The plan was used for stone, brick and log houses and was used in modest homes until the end of the 18th century. (Evan Lewis House-core #4, Pancott Log House #52 and David Ashbridge House #17.)

I. Colonial Settlement (cont.)

B.[1] Single pile hall/parlor houses were enlarged frequently by the addition of a kitchen wing. (Solitude Farm - core #16)

C. Hall/parlor plan, double pile:

By the 1730's, a double pile version of the hall/parlor plan made its appearance in the Township. Still lacking a center hall, the plan was nevertheless more refined in its further segregation of living and cooking areas. The severe proportions of the single pile hall/parlor house were softened as the roof pitch flattened slightly and windows of assorted size and arrangement made their appearance on the gable ends. (Zook House #12)

D. German Colonial:

According to tax statistics, 9% of West Whiteland's population was German at the end of the 18th century. This was the southernmost penetration of German immigrants at that time in Chester County. There is one house in West Whiteland featuring elements of the German Colonial style; i.e., nearly square shape, two stories high, and an interior off-center chimney pile serving two fireplaces on the first floor. (Grove Historic District - Map #1)

E. Center hall Georgian:

With the center hall plan came a taste for formal symmetry and a separate hall. Although high style Georgian houses usually were a full five bays wide, double pile, and featured a formalized central entrance, West Whiteland's best example of the early Georgian style is but three bays in width. Its characteristically Georgian features include large (12/12) windows, pointed fieldstone walls, and segmented arches above structural openings. (Colebrook Farm #37)

E.[1] "External quasi-symmetry":

Many a hall/parlor and side hall house were dressed in Georgian face to achieve a "modern appearance." The imposition of a symmetrical face with central extrance was, however, only skin deep. Inside, the colonial arrangement of living areas was left intact. (Wee Grimmet #47)

E.[2] Center hall "I" house:

"I" houses are characterized by their two story height, single pile depth, and symmetrical three or five bay facade with centered entrance and separate hall. This plan was especially useful for houses fronting on the Lancaster

Turnpike which enjoyed a high degree of public exposure. (Whitford Hall #31)

F. Double-door Georgian:

Using the Georgian notion of balance but restricted to four bays in width, double pile houses with two balanced entrances made their appearance in the region about 1800, somewhat rarely in West Whiteland. In this plan, the first floor was divided usually into four rooms of nearly equal size; a central entrance hall was abandoned in favor of separate entrances into two front rooms. (Ivy Cottage-core #33)

F.[1] Double-door Georgian facade:

For those who could not build a double door house from scratch, there was the option of rearranging the doors and windows or building an addition to achieve the same exterior impression. (Fox Chase Inn #10)

G. Penn Plan:

William Penn's advocacy of this two story, double pile, two bay plan for Philadelphia residents virtually assured its acceptance. It also became well used in rural areas and remained popular into the 19th century. West Whiteland has a number of examples. (Fox Chase Inn #10, House at Turnpike Station #5)

II. Post-Revolution: 1780's-1840's

A. Georgian/Federal Transitional:

Always a conservative area, West Whiteland was slow to respond to the new Federal style evident in Philadelphia after the Revolution. Georgian forms lingered well into the 19th century and tended to dilute the impact of the lighter Federal style. Use of Federal design elements tended to be superficial and was limited, for example, to a fanlight over the doorway or lighter interior trim and decoration. Punch and groove work from this period has been found in several of the nominated properties. The center hall Georgian floor plan was unaffected by Federal trappings. (early Federal - Whitford Lodge #32, Joseph Konnagee House #25, Sleepy Hollow Hall #6)

B. Late Federal/Greek Revival:

A few wealthly landowners along the Lancaster Turnpike endowed their manor houses with such textbook Federal features as dual, joined, gable end chimneys, Palladian windows and entablature entrance. Towards the end of the period a bit of the Greek Revival was found mixed with Federal trimmings and

Georgian floor plans. (Summit Hall #21, Benjamin Pennypacker House #14, Colebrook Manor #38)

C. Double pile, side hall:

Although this type of house plan is referred to frequently as "two-thirds Georgian", it made its appearance in West Whiteland in the Federal period. Houses of this type were three bays wide, double pile, two stories high and had a separate hall to the side of two bays. A small kitchen was usually attached. A few houses were built on this plan beginning in the 1790's. By 1810, it was one of the most widely-used plans in the Township, either alone (Daniel Meredith House #23) or as an addition to an older structure. In the latter case, if attached to a two bay core, the resulting structure appeared to be a five bay, center hall Georgian/Federal house presenting a unified face to passersby. Fashionable quarter round garret windows were installed, for the most part, only on the gable ends visible from the road. Behind the stately facades however, lay many an additive vernacular house. (Green Valley Farm #3, Benjamin Jacobs House #15, Ball and Ball #35, West Whiteland Inn #36, Grove Tavern-Grove Historic District)

D. Greek Revival:

In its own way, West Whiteland participated in the Greek Revival. Although there are no explicitly classical buildings in the Township, a fact common to most of Chester County's rural areas, white marble for Thomas U. Walter's celebrated Girard College, "the grandest building in America...with snowy whiteness and...magnificant marble columns and marble roof...", * and the Bank of Chester County were quarried at the Thomas Marble Quarry and shipped by rail to Philadelphia and West Chester.

III. Second Half of the 19th Century

A. Rural Gothic: 1840's - 1850's, 1870's

Despite its rural, conservative character, the Township welcomed certain styles of the Victorian era. The Rural Gothic style was popularized in the region in the 1840's and 1850's through the published works of A. J. Downing. This early revival of Gothic forms was not particularly successful in Chester County. One house in West Whiteland, however, the Kates Mansion #9, is a rare and fine example of the early Rural Gothic or Cottage Style. By the 1870's, Gothic trimmings were present everywhere: on Georgian farmhouses, temple-front one-room schoolhouses, and staid churches. (Joseph Price House #44, Greenwood School #22, St. Paul's Church #13)

* Guide for the Pennsylvania Railroad, Philadelphia, 1855

III. Second Half of the 19th Century (cont.)

B. Italianate: 1850's

Expressions of the Italianate or American Bracketed Style are nearly non-existent in West Whiteland. Its one example, the Exton Hotel #2, is fortunately, true to form with its square symmetrical plan, flattened hipped roof, overhanging bracketed eaves, and smooth white exterior walls.

C. Queen Anne: 1880's - 1890's

After the Centennial of 1876, there was a reaction to the predictable formality of the Gothic style. This and other forces contributed to the success of the next stylistic period, the Queen Anne, during which all manner of historical styles were combined freely on flowing floor plans. It was during this era that the architectural profession exerted an unprecedented influence on domestic architecture. (Joseph Price House #44)

C.1 Shingle Style: 1880's - 1890's

This Queen Anne variant is recognized by its ample size, rambling "open" plan and informal impression. Architect Frank Miles Day designed his first shingle style house in West Whiteland's Bradford Hills based on his observation of European architecture and New England seaside houses. (Francis Kennedy House #54)

C.2 Half-timber/Stockbroker's Tudor:

The Main Line of Philadelphia was a veritable haven for this historical Elizabethan style, introduced to America at the 1876 Centennial. Its presence so far west would be hard to explain were it not for the fact that prominent Philadelphians set up summer housekeeping in the Township in the 1880's and 1890's and hired architects to outfit their country homes in rich, tudor trappings. (Colfelt House #8)

IV. The 20th Century:

A. West Whiteland is home to a number of Period Revival homes, all designed by prominent Philadelphia architects and located on formerly large estates. They are well preserved and some have been adapted to new uses, among them multi-family, institutional, and professional. The oldest of these, Morstein #20, was designed somewhat surprisingly by Furness and Evans, a firm renowned for its High Victorian Gothic buildings. For its size and density, the Township's collection of outstanding, original Period Houses rivals those of most Main Line communities. (Morstein #20, Whitford Garne #51, Chesteridge #27, Church Farm School Historic District.

B. Other:

In the 1930's architects were designing buildings less slavishly imitative of historical styles. Their clients were well-heeled and travelled and expressed preferences for homes modeled for their personal needs but based on remote, idealized models. In the 1930's French country architecture commanded attention on the Main Line; West Whiteland's Meadowcourt #26 (1928, Edmund B. Gilchrist) can be viewed as a forerunner of this trend.

C. Wrightian:

Few rural communities can boast of a house by Frank Lloyd Wright. Folly Cottage #39 is an exquisite example of Wrightian design as well as a documented example of the meticulous manner in which Wright's designs were executed by Taliesin Associated Architects after his death.

Viewing the multiple resource nomination as a whole, it is apparent that the majority (approximately 32) of houses are in private residential use.

A significant number of properties (8) are owned and farmed by the Township's major educational institution which in view of its ownership of 1/6 of the total land area of West Whiteland, is not surprising. There are approximately 8 buildings now in commercial use and that number is expected to grow as more buildings, particularly along the Lincoln Highway, are adapted to new uses.

This multiple resource nomination encompasses the full spectrum of historic uses, styles, and dwelling types, ranging from the typical Great Valley gentleman's farm to the simple homes of quarry workers. The individual and in some cases representative historical and architectural merits of each property decided its inclusion in the nomination. As a group the components of the nomination tell a full story of the Township's 250 year old history.

D. Archaeological Component:

At the present time, in-depth research into the Township's archaeological resources has not been conducted. Therefore they are not included in this Multiple Resource Nomination. Potential sites have been identified by the West Whiteland Historical Commission (Map #7). This has been based mainly on artifact collectors' finds. During late 1982 and early 1983, additional sites were being investigated for the initial design review of a major highway passing through the Township somewhere between Route 30 and the Pennsylvania Railroad main line. If this investigation identifies and tests eligible sites then they will be added to the nomination.

E. Survey Methodology:

This nomination is the result of a comprehensive survey of all structures in the Township built before 1930. The survey was conducted during 1979 through 1981 by the West Whiteland Historical Commission. Some assistance was provided by the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA. Limited funding was provided to the Commission by the Chester County Historical Society from a survey and planning grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Funding was also provided by West Whiteland Township. The Township also paid for the preparation of this nomination.

Approximately 240 properties were visited, photographed and their architectural features recorded on architectural inventory forms. A set of forms and a set of photographs are on file with the West Whiteland Historical Commission at their office in the Zook House, Exton Square Mall, Exton, PA 19341. Another set of forms and the survey negatives are on file at the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA 19380.

Structures included in the West Whiteland Multiple Resource Nomination are all those buildings that meet the National Register Criteria for eligibility in the township. Those structures that might be eligible under one or more of the criteria for listing but not included here have been so altered that they no longer convey a sense of the past and do not have sufficient integrity to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	X agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
X 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	X exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	X transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	X industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates N/A **Builder/Architect** Various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The historic resources of West Whiteland Township contain a wide variety of historic sites. All have a high degree of integrity and have been evaluated according to the standards of the National Register of Historic Places. Many of the properties are directly associated with events of historical significance and are eligible under Criterion A. This would include the Ship Inn #1 and the Halfway House #18 of the West Chester Railroad. Others are associated with influential or significant persons and are eligible under Criterion B. Within this group are the Thomas Thematic resources such as Whitford Lodge #32 and Oaklands #41. A number of properties are eligible under Criterion C as significant examples of architectural styles or building techniques. Represented in this class are the Thomas Mill #42 and Morstein #20.

Within Chester County, the nominated properties are significant as representative of the County's growth and development since its organization in 1682. West Whiteland's resources are distinguished by their high visibility within a major east-west transportation corridor, the Great Valley, and by their unusually rich architectural quality.

In terms of state and national history, West Whiteland's resources are notable for their 250 year range of construction dates and for their relationship to two events of national importance: the 1792-4 construction of the nation's first turnpike and the opening of the Columbia (Pennsylvania) Railroad in 1833 coupled with the construction of the West Chester Railroad in 1832.

Prior to European settlement, the Lenni-Lenape Indians of the Delaware were established at various locations in Chester County. Their trails crisscrossed the County, connecting such villages as Queonemysing and Minquhanan with major trading centers. According to an account by Richard Thomas I, West Whiteland's first settler, there was an Indian village along the Valley Creek in the vicinity of present-day Exton. Its name, Katamoonchink, meant "hazlenut grove." Folklore tells that it was the barking dogs of the Indian village which induced Richard Thomas to settle nearby for protection from wild animals. Evidence of the Indian presence in other areas of the Township has been found in the form of arrowheads, points, grinding stones, etc. A map compiled by the West Whiteland Historical Commission, based on oral accounts, shows the general locations of such discoveries. (Map #7) The data have not as yet been critically examined and, in view of the exclusion of sites in the southern half of the Township, appear incomplete.

The friendliness of the Indians toward Richard Thomas I and those that followed him was but one factor conducive to the early settlement of Whiteland. The Indians' paths and trails, in addition, provided initial access to the then wilderness. The Conestoga, Ship, Swedesford, and Whitford Roads are said to be based on such trails.

Another very large factor encouraging to European settlement was the Great Valley itself, a natural path of Westward migration. For those able to purchase tracts in the Valley, it offered limestone-enriched soil, level land, a moderate climate, abundant water, and mineral wealth. A road petition filed in 1701 mentions the "Limestone Hills" where the petitioners had "...purchased land...intending to set up a kiln and burn lime..." (RD Vol 1, p. 11)

William Penn, the proprietor of Pennsylvania, was anxious to see his "holy experiment" succeed. After receiving his patent from King Charles II in 1681, he appointed a Surveyor General to implement an orderly plan of occupation. Part of that plan entailed the surveying of large tracts of land to groups and individuals as manors and grants. The largest of these was the Welsh Tract, a 40,000 acre tract laid out in 1684 for Welsh Friends who desired to have their purchases surveyed contiguously. The original plan for the Welsh Tract adhered to Penn's general policy of establishing Township units of approximately 5,000 acres each. The Welsh, however, requested their own government, or Barony, for the entire tract. For various reasons which will not be detailed here, the concept of a separate Welsh Barony had failed by 1689. Nevertheless, by 1701, 41 purchases had been laid out in the tract, among them a 5,000 acre parcel for Richard ap Thomas. Despite incursions in the boundaries of the Tract, a sizable number of Welsh Friends settled in the area, which eventually included nine townships. According to statistics set forth in The Best Poorman's Country, a Geographical Study on Early Southeastern Pennsylvania by James T. Lemon (1972), the Welsh population, which in Chester County peaked at 17% in 1730, stood at over 50% in Whiteland, County-wide, it declined to 8% by 1759 and 7% by 1782. Although a Welsh Barony was never established, the survey of the Welsh Tract strongly influenced the pattern of settlement in West Whiteland and similar townships; initially lots were laid out in an orderly manner and occupied by Welsh Quakers who were soon joined by family and friends. In West Whiteland, Richard Thomas I, son of Richard ap Thomas, settled in about 1711 on 1869 acres. He sold off lots to other Welsh Friends, among them Evan Lewis and David Howell. Through intermarriages and additional acquisitions, the Thomas family occupied most of the Township's prime Valley land by the end of the 18th century.

The breakdown of predictable settlement in West Whiteland more or less paralleled the deterioration of Penn's orderly plan of occupation after his death in 1718, and patents were issued indiscriminately by Penn's sons John, Thomas and Richard. In 1779, by an act of the Assembly, the estates of the (by then) late proprietors became vested in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. There had been a number of patents given by the Penn brothers in the 1730's within West Whiteland.

Another wave of patent issuance occurred in the 1780's, these being for still vacant land in the less desirable Barrens in the southwest area of the Township.

West Whiteland's Welsh population was diluted eventually by English Quakers. The Township also was settled by a small number of German families, apparently the southernmost penetration of this nationality in the County. Two families, in particular, the

Boyers and the Hoffmans, controlled several hundred acres in the southwest through purchase and intermarriage.

Throughout the 18th century, West Whiteland was dominated by large landowners, such as the Thomas and Jacobs families who, in addition to their farms, controlled mills and lime kilns and quarries. One of the five tanneries and one of nine distilleries in the County (consisting of 42 townships) were located in the Township. There was little significant commercial development of any sort until the construction of Lancaster Turnpike in 1794. Except for the young congregation at Grove, there were no concentrations of religious or cultural groups in the Township. The population in 1800 stood at 100 families, having grown from 71 in 1790; it depended primarily on agriculture for survival and lived on dispersed farm complexes. Although, the 19th century would bring dramatic changes in transportation, the rural agricultural character of West Whiteland, established in the 18th century, would persist through the 19th century and well into the next.

The growth and development of West Whiteland's agricultural economy through the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries generally paralleled agro-economic trends at the County and regional levels. West Whiteland was distinguished, however, by the comparative wealth and size of its farms which benefited from their access to major markets via the Lancaster Turnpike and several railroads.

Wheat was the key crop in 18th century southeastern Pennsylvania. It was cultivated for local needs and for export through Philadelphia to Europe and the West Indies. Grown by a system of extensive, as opposed to intensive agriculture, wheat was produced most profitably on large farms. West Whiteland's farms were among the largest in the County in 1710, ranging between 400 and 603 acres. Although that range declined to between 150 and 200 acres in the second half of the 18th century, the size of the average Township farm consistently was ranked with the largest in the region. Correspondingly, the percentage of tenant taxpayers was high, standing at between 32 and 50% in 1782. The prosperity of the Township's farms is attested to by the high rate of cattle, horses, and sheep per taxpayer.* In addition to wheat, rye, and spring grasses, some fruits and vegetables were grown as well.

Dairying and the raising of stock surpassed wheat production in importance in the 19th century. The shift from wheat to cattle was accommodated easily on the Township's large farms. The construction of the Columbia (Pennsylvania) Railroad in 1833 made possible the shipping of perishable dairy and meat products to Philadelphia in a fraction of the former travelling time.

* Animal	1758-9	1781-2	
Cattle	4.18-7.78	4.06-17.29	(number per taxpayer)
Horses	2.69-4.54	2.90-4.50	(number per taxpayer)
Sheep	8-10.8	8.7-23.2	(number per sheepkeeper)

Source: The Best Poorman's Country pp. 195-8, 212, 214.

West Whiteland's landed gentry of the 19th century generally was conservative in its approach to agriculture. This was reflected in the "tidy" and uniform appearance of their farmsteads. While reputedly slow to accept change, it seems that Township farmers were among the first in the State to apply lime as a soil supplement. George Thomas (1746-1793) was called "one of the pioneers in its introduction... having done much before his death to call attention to the subject and having first employed lime on his land...about the year 1787".*

Lime had been used in England as a soil amendment prior to American settlement. It was not discovered immediately in the colonies and ground oyster shells were substituted. During the mid-18th century, the German population in Lancaster County made extensive use of lime, and it was noted that by 1754 every farm had a lime kiln to serve the farmer and his immediate neighbors. The commercial lime industry did not develop until after 1840. George Thomas's use of lime on his fields in 1787 appears to have been an early example of its application in Chester County. Between 1810 and 1830 "an incredible improvement" in soil fertility became apparent, primarily resulting from the use of lime; by 1830, liming was firmly established as a standard farm practice. This was instrumental in allowing Pennsylvania to maintain its leadership in grain production in the United States.

Another member of the Thomas family, Dr. George Thomas (1808-1887) took a leading role in the practice of horticulture. In addition to his dairy farm of 500 acres and creamery, Oaklands, Dr. Thomas maintained a 40 foot long "grapery" (an early greenhouse) and an "orchard house" and grew a wide variety of exotic and acquatic plants on the "ornamental grounds" surrounding his residence. The first mention in a newspaper of a silo in Chester County was for that erected by Shoemaker and Robinson in 1883. It was 14 feet deep and measured 33x35 feet. A one-story building for storing grain was built over the whole. Shoemaker and Robinson's conclusion that "a silo will soon become a necessity with every farmer in the country"** was indeed correct.

The tradition of large farms was carried into the 20th century. The Thomases were well represented with three major farms in operation at the turn of the century: Whitford Farm, Oaklands, and Fairview, together totaling nearly 1,000 acres. New faces made their appearance in the Township, lured by the rich Valley land, ease of access via the railroads, and healthfulness of the rural life. Although many were part-time residents who hired tenant farmers, a few, such as Clarence Sears Kates and Joseph M. Price, plunged wholly into farming. Kates, in particular, embraced the "most modern mechanical methods of agriculture" and was described in 1907 as "the model farmer of Chester Valley.." (L 6-22-1904, 9-24-1907).

* Country Gentleman, Vol. 18, 7/11/1861, p. 25.

** L 1-12-1883

Smaller farms, less visible than the large Valley operations and comprising about 100 acres on average, were worked mostly in the hilly, southern portions of the Township. Several of these, such as the Hoffman and Meredith farms, remained with the descendents of the founding family for over 100 years. Despite their lesser acreage, these farmsteads resembled the larger complexes in their "neat" appearance and traditional organization of the farm buildings. Even the most humble dwelling was adjoined by a much larger barn, often built of finer materials than the farmer's house.

The establishment of Church Farm School in the Township in 1918 was a major factor in keeping the Township open and in agricultural use in the 20th century. Through its curriculum, which advocated a sound education in agricultural practices, and its aggressive land acquisition policy, which resulted in the school growing from 127 to over 1600 acres at present, farming continues to be a dominant economic force in West Whiteland.

Large farms in private ownership prospered until the 1950's and involved long-established families as well as wealthy, former Philadelphians. In view of the Township's 250 year history as a significant agricultural area, the loss, in recent years, of so many of its prize farms is lamentable.

Thanks to its location within the Great Valley, West Whiteland was destined to witness two important developments in the history of transporation: the construction of the first turnpike in America and the earliest railroad in Pennsylvania. Prior to the completion of the Lancaster Turnpike in 1794, the Lancaster or Provincial (now Swedesford), Road served as the major east-west access to the Philadelphia marketplace. It provided a relatively direct route for the transporting of wheat, lime, and other products. Running somewhat parallel to the Lancaster Road on the south, Boot Road served a similar purpose for markets in Chester and places south. Pottstown Pike (Wilmington Road) became the primary north-south route, with Ship and Whitford Roads, both based on old Indian trails, serving as secondary routes. By the end of the 18th century, there were inns and taverns along most of these roads and some clustering of service facilities at or near their points of intersection.

The construction of the Lancaster Turnpike between 1792 and 1794 (also known as the Lincoln Highway and Route 30) contributed to the decline in importance of all other east-west roads. It cut a new path across the Township along which would be built fashionable inns, new service areas, and imposing farm complexes. In addition to creating new wealth, it increased that of the existing landowners, particularly the Thomas, Downing and Jacobs families. In several cases, they found it necessary to reorient their mansions to the new road by relocating the main entrance to the south side or by adding long, tree-lined drives. Richard Thomas III, blessed with intelligence and wealth, suddenly found his family grist mill within easy access of the nation's first turnpike. Land along that road was highly valued; there was hardly a notice of sale or lease which did not make mention of the property's location relative to the turnpike.

Until the construction of the Columbia (Pennsylvania) Railroad in 1833-4, the Lancaster Turnpike dominated the Township. Its importance declined considerably in the second half of the 19th century, while that of the railroad increased. By the beginning of the 20th century, however, the Turnpike was physically improved for use by the newly invented automobile, and it again became heavily trafficked. The Turnpike no longer boasted of its horse and wagon traffic, but rather of its use by autos bearing licenses from nearly every state in the Union. Both the Turnpike and the Railroad opened the Township to new, as well as part-time, residents; both figured in the selection of the site for Church Farm School in 1918. The Turnpike, in particular, provoked cultural exchange. The Township's attractive, rural character did not go unnoticed to passersby; conversely, it adapted, albeit conservatively, to more sophisticated, urban styles. Most of the Township's strongest architectural statements are found within site of the Turnpike.

Despite dramatic changes in the use and appearance of the Lancaster Turnpike, the course which was laid out in 1792 remains essentially the same in West Whiteland to this date. And, while many of its early 19th century resources have been lost, enough remain to tell an important story of the history of transportation and the growth and development of a small township.

Several railroad lines were constructed through West Whiteland, among them the first to be completed in Pennsylvania. It was a seemingly unlikely candidate for such distinction, the tiny West Chester Railroad which ran through the southeast corner of the Township, that claimed the title of the State's first completed non-industrial railroad. The West Chester Railroad Company was chartered in 1830 to construct a line connecting the county seat, West Chester, with the Columbia Railroad (Pennsylvania Main Line), then under construction and pushing eastward. Only nine miles in length and consisting of yellow-pine string pieces plated with flat, iron bars for use by horse-drawn cars, the West Chester Railroad was completed in 1833, months before the connection could be made with the Columbia at the "Intersection" in East Whiteland. Uninterrupted travel to Philadelphia became a reality in 1834. In that year, a 3/4 mile spur was built from Kirkland to Whiteland near the Thomas Marble Quarry. White marble for the Thomas U. Walter-designed Bank of Chester County was transported to West Chester along this line. The West Chester Railroad was leased to the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1858 and sold to that company in 1879. Its tracks have since been mostly removed, and the Halfway House in West Whiteland stands as the only real tangible evidence of this early railroad. The Kirkland and Woodland (Morstein) stations and the railroad houses on King Road (1872) were constructed by the Pennsylvania Railroad during its management of the line.

The Columbia Railroad cut through the Township in much the same way as the Lancaster Turnpike. Three stations were established in West Whiteland; Oakland (Whitford), Whiteland (Walkertown), and Glen Loch. Their distances from Philadelphia

were 28, 27 and 25 miles, respectively. The impact of the Glen Loch station was felt mostly in East Whiteland Township, while two new communities in West Whiteland developed at Oakland and Whiteland. In direct response to the emergence of the railroad, a hotel, several small stone houses, a few service shops, and a steam pond were built at Oakland. A stage, running three times per week, connected Oakland with West Chester. Whiteland, further east, was designed by Richard Thomas III in 1830, three years prior to the actual completion of the line; he believed "it would be beneficial to have a town" on a ten acre tract of land at the intersection of the railroad with the Pottstown Pike. Thomas deeded the tract to John R., William A., and Richard M. Thomas in 1830 to be held in trust for his son Samuel D. It was laid out carefully in lots by surveyor Samuel Haines, a close friend of Richard Thomas. The town became known locally as Walkertown due to the construction there of a house and hotel by Thomas Walker, a well-known local carpenter and builder. Prior to its decline (a result of a fire in 1872 which destroyed Walker's hotel and the straightening of the train tracks in 1881), the town had a store, mansion house, lumber yard, tenements, stables, warehouse, turnabout, and tailor shop. The reconstruction and widening of the Pottstown Pike sealed its demise.

In addition to its passenger trade, including many who commuted to Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Railroad carried lime, iron-ore, marble, grains and other goods. The Trenton Cut-off was constructed between 1890-1904 as a freight line to facilitate the movement of commercial traffic apart from the Main Line passenger service. During the First World War, the Trenton Cut-off Bridge at Whitford was considered a strategic location and was patrolled by the United States Army.

Another railroad was added to West Whiteland in 1850 following the incorporation of the Chester Valley Railroad. Operated by the Philadelphia and Reading Company, it was a 22-mile route which ran from Bridgeport to Downingtown. As with other railroads in the Township, the Chester Valley hauled both passengers and freight. A station was established at Exton and, shortly thereafter, the Exton House was built. Spurs from this line were built to the James Peck sand quarries and Thomas Marble Quarry, enabling the latter to reopen after 20 years of inactivity.

Within West Whiteland's rural agricultural economy, industry was conducted on a limited scale. Like the Township's farms and hamlets, it located at dispersed sites directly dependent upon the land's natural riches, such as limestone, marble, and iron, and its readily available sources of energy, i.e., wood and water. The presence, however, of the Turnpike and the various railroads enabled the local industries to profit handsomely from trade with distant markets. Until the early 20th century, the Township's major industries were quarrying, limeburning, mining, and milling. There was, in addition, the traditional array of cottage industries, a distillery, and a large tannery.

West Whiteland's marble quarries attracted regional attention from the time of their opening in the 1830's until their demise in the late 19th century. A quarry measuring 120'x60'x100' was opened on George Thomas's farm at Oakland in 1833, the

same year in which were completed the Pennsylvania and West Chester Railroad. That quarry's yield of pure white to pale bluish-white marble was particularly well-suited to use in classically-inspired architecture then in vogue. In order for this marble to be used in construction by Thomas U. Walter's Bank of Chester County, a spur from the West Chester Railroad was extended to Walktertown near the Thomas Quarry in 1834. Thomas Marble was carried to Philadelphia as well, for use in Girard College and other classical buildings. Due to difficulties encountered in the quarrying and hauling of the large blocks, and perhaps attributable, as well, to a shift in public taste away from classicism to the Gothic, the quarry closed in 1844. It reopened in 1867 under steam power adjacent to a siding of the Chester Valley Railroad. The quarry's dark blue to black veins of marble were exploited during this period for use in country residences and churches. Another marble quarry at Oakland was opened in the 1830's on the Boyer tract and was worked until the 1880's by Shoemaker and Robinson. A few miles east along the Pennsylvania Railroad, marble quarries were worked intensively at Glen Loch.

Although its white marble was the Township's pride, limestone was its bread and butter. Small and large limestone quarries were found all along the Great Valley. Most of these were opened on large farms and leased to quarry workers, who lived near the sites in small, rented houses. Shoemaker and Robinson were prominent limeburners at Oakland between 1865-1894. At least one kiln, and generally two, were located adjacent to the quarries. Here, limestone was reduced to lime for use in mortar and whitewash and for application as a soil supplement. A description of lime kiln construction on the Thomas Downing farm in West Whiteland, published in 1861, notes the typical kiln was oval, 16' in diameter at the bottom, 12' at the top, and 18' high. It had three sides protected by solid earth in a hill, with a flue at the bottom 2' wide by 1' high. The kiln was filled with kindling wood which was covered with a grating and then heaped with alternate layers of coal and limestone. Burning required four days and ten and one-half tons of coal. From this process, the limeburner was rewarded with 1400 bushels of lime at a cost of just 4¢ a bushel.

Iron ore, less available than limestone, was mined at a few locations in the Township, notably Oakland and Springdale Farm. A silica mining company prospered for 40 years north of the Lancaster Turnpike. The Peck Quarries were opened in 1879 to remove sand from "one of the finest (veins) in the State." In 1880, Mr. Peck convinced the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company to build a siding from the Chester Valley Railroad to haul sand, an action which was much opposed by the neighbors. In 1899, the company was incorporated as the James D. Peck Fire Sand Company whose purposes were to "dig, quarry and mine sand, sand stone, clay and manufacture fire sand, brick, fire brick..." The company was sold in 1900 to New York capitalists who renamed it the West Whiteland Silica Company and purchased the Malvern Federal Building for its headquarters in 1905. The company operated for a while at full capacity and was apparently "perfecting a secret process for smelting." The Silica Company closed in 1919 and its properties were sold at Sheriff's sale.

Grist mills, essential to West Whiteland's agricultural economy, were found along Valley Creek and its tributaries. The earliest of these, the 1744 Thomas Mill, is remarkable for its survival, architecture, and its unbroken chain of ownership by its founding family. While the Hoopes and Downing Mills have vanished, the c. 1790 Trimble Mill remains alongside busy Pottstown Pike. Saw-mills most often were found at or near grist mills, but occasionally stood alone, as with the Newlin and George Thomas examples.

Blacksmiths, wheelwrights, tailors, carpenters and other tradesmen were established at Oakland, Grove, and Exton. Like the lime burners, quarry workers, and millers, they tended to reside in rented houses and to relocate frequently. Occupation data are somewhat incomplete, but it is apparent that the numbers of persons engaged in the above pursuits were considerably higher in the 1840's-1850's than in the 1880's. Limeburning, for example, occupied between 4-6 persons in the earlier period. By 1888-9, one individual listed himself as a "lime manufacturer" in a local directory and by 1896 the slot was blank. Similar trends can be detected for millers and quarry workers. Blacksmiths and wheelwrights, however, maintained a consistent representation throughout the 19th century.

The decline in the number of persons engaged in local industry corresponds to the gradual change in the economic and social character of the Township, which began in the late 19th century. Population and economic growth stabilized as residents became more dependent on outside employment and services.

Some sense of the primary occupations of West Whiteland's citizens can be gleaned through an analysis of census and tax records. Those finds, while yet incomplete, support the contention that the Township's economy was based on agriculture and the traditional array of rural-support services.

The census of 1800, based on 100 family units, reveals that over 1/3 of the individuals reported were engaged in farming. There are listed, in addition, 17 laborers who probably assisted with farming. Popular trades represented include: blacksmiths (6), masons (7), shoemakers (7), and carpenters (4). Individuals occupied as saddlers, tanners, millers, shopkeepers, and plasterers number one or two each.

According to the Septennial Enumeration of Taxable Inhabitants taken in 1842, the total number of heads of households numbered 232. Farmers (96) and laborers (70) accounted for more than half that total. The trades of blacksmith (4) and shoemaker (5) continued to be popular. Limeburner (4), not mentioned in 1800, made its first appearance, as did physician (1) and surveyor (1).

The regular Federal Census of 1850 listed a total population of 1141. Farming occupied 144 heads of household and labor 72. In this year, limeburners numbered 5, quarrymen 4, shoemakers 10, blacksmiths 8, wheelwrights 5, and millers 6.

Data available for the year 1857 reveal that farming remained the primary occupation, with the number and type of support trades virtually unchanged. In contrast, the number of "gentlemen" and "ladies" jumped from a total of 1 in 1880 to 24 in 1857.

By the 1880's and 1890's, occupation lists show more specialization and include, in addition to those trades mentioned previously, threshers, upholsterers, a surgeon, etc.

For the most part, the Township's tradesmen were to be found in villages and hamlets. Grove and Belvidere, situated at crossroads, each offered general stores and, for a time, post offices. Grove was the more developed of the two, with its blacksmith and wheelwright shops and a hotel. Where the railroads intersected with major roads, small service villages developed, all with inns or hotels, stores, stations, and blacksmith and wheelwright shops. Due to its central location and the presence of major transporation routes, the Township supported a number of inns and hotels, several of which are preserved. Logically, its earliest public houses were situated along roads. After 1833, new facilities were built in proximity to rail transportation.

The first petitions for licensing public houses in West Whiteland were filed in 1786. In that year, three applications were made and but one was allowed. Quinn's Fox Chase Inn on the Old Lancaster Road was joined by the Indian King in 1786, located at King and Boot Roads. Not until after the construction of the Lancaster Turnpike in 1794 did another petitioner, John Jones, file for a license for an inn known as the Wheat Sheaf. His exclusive position on the Turnpike was challenged in 1796 by the licensing of the newly-built Ship Tavern, run by experienced innkeeper, John Bowen. By 1800 there were four licensed inns in operation: Fox Chase, Indian King, Wheat Sheaf and the Ship Tavern. Another inn on the Lancaster Turnpike was licensed in 1803 under Joseph Harvnot, Jr., but was closed by 1808. The Grove Tavern on Boot Road opened in 1808 by Isaac Few. By 1828 five inns were operating in the Township, three on the Turnpike and the remaining two on important secondary roads.

The completion of the Columbia (Pennsylvania) Railroad in 1833 provoked the construction of the Oakland Hotel, increasing the number of public houses to an all-time high of six in 1834. By 1841 that number had been reduced to three, the Ship, Grove Tavern, and Oakland Hotel, at which level it remained until 1853. After the construction of the Chester Valley Railroad, the Ship Station (Exton House) was opened by James Beale in 1858 and was licensed for a number of years after.

West Whiteland's earliest educational facilities other than the home, where most learning occurred, were subscription schools; here, tuition was charged to support the individual school's operation. Each year, beginning in 1810, the Township was obligated to make a report of the children whose families were unable to bear the expense of subscription school. Under a State Act of April 4, 1809, these so-called "poor children" were entitled to free education. Although none of the Township's earliest schools remain and information concerning them is scant, a recollection of the "Little Woods School House," written in 1887, provides some insight

into local education. Located on that part of the Richard Thomas tract known today as Indian Run Farm, it reportedly was "the principal school in that section." Like most of the oldest schools, it was log, one story high, and contained one room. The Little Woods School House had a hipped roof, one door, and five windows. It was heated by a ten plate stove located in the center of its single room.

According to a tax list from 1796, there was a stone school house "for public use" on the John Jacobs property. A Wollerton School House is mentioned in a few road dockets from the 1820's. A log school was located in Grove before 1783. It doubled as a Methodist meetinghouse until the "Old Stone Chapel" was constructed in 1783-4.

By an act of the State legislature in 1834, free public education was made mandatory. Chester County adopted the free school school law in 1836 and West Whiteland followed suite in 1841. One of the first actions of the directors of the common schools of West Whiteland was the purchase of a ½-acre lot from William Everhart in 1844. By 1847, a school known as Greenwood was erected there. It was demolished in 1872 and replaced by the second Greenwood School. Other early common schools dating from the 1850's were on Ship and North Whitford Roads and at Grove. Of these, only the "first" Ship School (1856) remains, and it has been changed greatly by the addition of a second story and major wing. A number of schools survive from a second period of construction in the late 1860's and early 1870's: the second Ship School (1866), the Grove School (1871), and the second Greenwood School (1872). Each of the Township's common schools were sold to private owners following the erection of a consolidated school in 1941.

The adoption of the common school system in 1841 did not signify the end of private education in the Township. As indicated previously, the Little Woods School operated into the 1850's. A school for Thomas children, their relatives, and neighbors was held over a spring house on the Oaklands farm in the 1890's; it moved in about 1900, to a refurbished gatehouse on the mansion house lot. The "houseman" slept in the loft above. "Miss Ann Cresson's Boarding School" operated in a house near Kirkland along the West Chester branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad in the 1870's. Education in West Whiteland in the 18th and 19th centuries generally progressed along traditional lines. In 1918, however, a school was formed in the Township which had no counterpart in Chester County.

The Church Farm School was founded by Dr. Charles Schreiner, an Episcopalian rector from Philadelphia, for young men, aged 11-20, who had "not the proper home influence." It was intended as a home and farm and industrial school for fatherless boys "of a class between those attending Williamson Trade School and Glen Mills Reform School." From the beginning, the church was tied closely with adjacent St. Paul's Church, and the two institutions shared the same individual, Dr. Shreiner,

as rector and headmaster for 27 years. Church Farm School was modeled reputedly after schools in California. It was innovative in its emphasis on agriculture as well as the trades, personal hygiene and health, and for its use of small residential cottages with private cubicles for sleeping and studying. The school began in a converted wagon house on a 127 acre farm with an enrollment of 30 boys. It has since grown to include approximately 1600 acres and 160 students and has absorbed several important Valley farms.

Unlike so many of the oldest Chester County townships founded by Welsh Friends, West Whiteland did not develop an enduring Quaker community. The religious institutions which finally were established in West Whiteland represented the Episcopal, Methodist, and Catholic faiths.

Two factors contributing to the lack of a unified Quaker community were the absence of a meetinghouse in the Township and a division within its founding family, the Thomases. Due to its central location, West Whiteland's Quakers had the option of attending a number of local meetings, among them Goshen (1702), Uwchlan (1712), Downington (1806), and Whiteland (1816). When the Uwchlan Meeting in Lionville was used as a hospital in 1777, George Thomas's Oakland farm served as a meeting place in its stead. Aside from that unique situation, there is no record of either a need or request for a Quaker meeting in West Whiteland.

The Revolutionary War had more of a social/religious than a military effect on the Township. As result of Richard Thomas III's military activities as a Colonel under General Washington, which conflicted with pacifist Quaker principles, he was read out of (expelled from) Meeting. He and his descendants subsequently became affiliated with the Episcopal church. Richard's brother, George, on the other hand, adhered to Quaker non-violent ideals and remained on the family farm in West Whiteland. The descendants of George Thomas continued in the Quaker faith. Members of another of the Township's principal Quaker families, the Jacobs, were read out of meeting as a result of their active support for the Revolution and they, too, joined the Episcopal church.

Given the defection of some of West Whiteland's most prominent citizens from the Society of Friends, it was not long before an Episcopal congregation was established in the Township. St. Paul's Church was founded in 1828 out of the "mother" church, St. Peters of the Great Valley. The Episcopal congregation, wealthy and powerful, was a strong presence in West Whiteland and in 1918 further increased its influence by founding the Church Farm School, which today occupies 1600 acres in the Township's northeast corner.

A strong Methodist community developed in the southern portion of the Township at the end of the 18th century. The Grove Methodist Church is credited as being the oldest Methodist congregation in Chester County and one of the oldest in the State. Its founder, George Hoffman, was a West Whiteland resident who donated the land for the construction of the first chapel in 1783-4. It was replaced in 1844 with a more substantial church and again in 1888 with the present edifice. A small

Methodist community grew up around the Grove Church, although its congregation came from all parts of West Whiteland and adjacent townships. In addition to the Hoffmans, early members who were local residents were the Merediths, Givens, Eltons, Fews, Fishers, Boyers and Whites.

In 1873 a small Catholic mission church was constructed on land obtained from Marie Brazier, current owner of the Ship property across the Lancaster Turnpike. She was reputedly a devout Catholic which, in this Episcopal/Methodist Township, was then unusual. St. Mary's Chapel of the Immaculate Conception was associated with St. Joseph's parish in Downingtown and remained only a mission church until 1959. It was built about the time of a significant Irish immigration following an agricultural depression in that country in the early 1870's. The early membership of St. Mary's was nearly 100% first generation Irish. For this group, which labored on the Pennsylvania Railroad and in the Township's quarries and mines, the small chapel on the Turnpike was the center of their social and religious life.

At the end of the 19th century and continuing into the next, West Whiteland's rural, agricultural character remained strong. The enduring conservative landscape belied the fact that in the previous two decades a significant portion of land was turned over "from the heirs of its original owners...into the hands of strangers." (L 11-26-1887). The major exception to this trend was the Thomas family whose holdings stood at over 1,000 acres in 1900. The real estate firm of Zook and Chase located at 629 Walnut Street in Philadelphia was the primary agent in the transfer of several thousand acres of Township land in the 1880's and 1890's. A talley of sales, taken on November 26, 1887, showed that 24 farms and properties on some 1800 acres had been sold since October 24, 1886. Purchasers of the land were, for the most part, from Philadelphia. Operating individually or in partnerships and syndicates, they acquired many of the Township's prime properties with the intention of building vacation homes, extracting minerals, continuing farming and, in one case, establishing "a fashionable summer resort." Attempts at suburban residential development were made by the Chester County and Bradford Hills Land Companies. Of these, the latter was the more successful, although only a few houses were actually built during its brief six year existence.

Financed by insurance companies in Philadelphia, the Bradford Hills Land Company was formed in 1888 and took title to over 300 acres of rolling, wooded land bordering the Pennsylvania Railroad in West Whiteland and East Bradford Townships. The land was assembled through several purchases by Nelson F. Evans, Barton F. Blake ("gentlemen"), Peter A. and Walter S. Nicholson and Harry Nichols, all of Philadelphia. Work began at once on the tract; lots were surveyed, a road constructed, lawns landscaped, and architects were hired to design summer homes for the wealthy purchasers. The developers of Bradford Hills had every expectation that it would become "a second Bryn Mawr." The list of architects commissioned to design houses was impressive and included some of the most respected in the field: Wilson Eyre, Frank Miles Day, the Wilson Brothers, Constable Brothers and T. Mellon

Rogers, and Newton H. Culver. The financing for this early development collapsed in the 1890's, Nelson F. Evans was convicted of "crookedness", and the unsold lots were put up for Sheriff's sale. Fortunately, a few houses were completed and today serve as reminders of a community which was never realized. Two houses in particular, those by Wilson Eyre and Frank Miles Day, are of strong architectural significance.

The Township witnessed little physical change in the first half of the 20th century, other than the paving of the Lancaster Turnpike which dramatically increased traffic along that corridor. Farming remained the principal occupation and fox hunting the recreation. West Whiteland, with its large, immaculate farms and various avenues of transportation, was a realization of the "ideal rural life" for which Chester County, and the Great Valley in particular, will long be remembered.

The built environment in the Township is a very interesting mix of structures. It is composed of an eighteenth and nineteenth century vernacular base with formal examples of the builder's art being introduced in the nineteenth century. During the late nineteenth century professional architects were beginning to be employed in the Township to create either new country seats or redesign older ones. The work of two master architects is represented in the Township in the design of Morstein #20 by Frank Furness and in the design from the firm of Frank Lloyd Wright.

The vernacular buildings in the Township represent traditional building forms as they were interpreted by their owners and builders. The initial structures consisted of designs that employed hall-parlor plans such as the Evan Lewis House #4 and the David Ashbridge House #17. The so-called "Penn Plan" which was a traditional English and Welsh plan was also employed frequently. The Township's architecture during the eighteenth century was conservative, not altogether participating in the evolving Georgian Ethic. The 1798 Direct Tax records that a number of owners, including the Thomas family, were using thatched roofs as coverings on agricultural buildings. As would be expected the 1798 Tax also lists a wide range of both domestic and agricultural buildings built of logs. One little used construction technique not specifically recorded in the 1798 Tax can be seen in the Thomas Grist Mill #42 erected in 1744. It sits on a stone foundation. The frame upper story rests on the stone work and is erected not using a continuous sill but rather an interrupted sill with massive posts resting directly on the stone and not on the sill. This technique was employed in northern England and was not in use in that area after about 1700. It is reminiscent of the hole-set structures that were part of the impermanent building traditions of the Chesapeake and lower Delaware Bay areas.

The 1790's were a watershed period for building construction in the Township. After the completion of the Lancaster Turnpike in 1794, the Georgian symmetrical floor plans and Federal period details take firm hold in the Township. The Ship Inn #1, Summit Hall #21 and the Konnagee House #25 among others show the influence of those two building styles.

The symmetrically arranged house was the norm, in both vernacular and formal dwellings throughout the nineteenth century. Older structures were redesigned to accommodate the symmetrical ideal. Sleepy Hollow Hall #6 is a prime example. The eighteenth century construction was to become the rear wing when the early nineteenth century main block was added. Even the Italianate influenced Exton Hotel #2 displays the symmetrical formality and interior arrangement of rooms associated with the Georgian and Federal period.

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the Township became popular as a location for country estates for wealthy Philadelphia businessmen. The Colfelt House #8 remodeled in 1889 marks the beginning of this tradition that was continued with the Joseph Price House #44, the Kates Mansion #9, Chesteridge #27, Morstein #20 and with Meadow Court #26. Other homes were built for wealthy local owners such as Fairview #40 and Whitford Garne #51.

These buildings also reflect a more experimental attitude towards building form and design. Many incorporate Arts and Crafts influences into their design with the use of cross gables and half timbering. Others are squarely within the Queen Anne or "Free Classic" building traditions in that they are based in asymmetrical designs and the use of shingles as a wall covering. Classical-Revival and Colonial-Revival elements also are reintroduced in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Morstein #20 reflects Frank Furness' use of the massiveness of the Georgian forms to serve as a base from which to break out of the rigidity of the Georgian. His use of 7 bays across the front and a single pile design coupled with the gambrel roof demonstrates Furness' way of using the Colonial style to modern advantage.

From the foregoing, it is apparent that certain persons and events played a pivotal role in the Township's growth and development.

1. Thomas Family: The Thomas family controlled 2,000 acres of land at the beginning of the 18th century. By 1900, through intermarriages and a continued line of direct descendents, that total has lessened only slightly. In addition to their Valley farms, the Thomases owned mills, quarries, kilns, and cottage industries. Particularly outstanding members of the Thomas family were Richard III, a Colonel in the Revolutionary army, and George I, an innovative gentleman farmer. The properties associated with the Thomas family lie chiefly along the former Lancaster Turnpike.

2. Given the Township's location within the Great Valley, it comes as no surprise that it witnessed important events in transportation. Possibly the first railroad to be completed in Pennsylvania, the West Chester Branch, was constructed through the Township's southeast corner in 1832. Still standing from that period is the Halfway House. The Columbia Railroad passed through the Township on its way to Philadelphia in 1833. A resource directly associated with that event is the House at Whitford Station. Much attention has been given, and deservedly so, to the Lancaster Turnpike,

2. (cont.)

completed through West Whiteland in 1794. A number of inns, shops, and farm complexes were established subsequently along that route, its original course unchanged to this day.

The Turnpike, now known as the Lincoln Highway, continues to dominate the Township both visually and economically. Resources associated with its early years of influence are the most endangered in the Township.

3. One institution in particular has affected profoundly the 20th century development of the Township. Church Farm School, established in 1918 along the Lancaster Turnpike on a 127 acre farm, now controls approximately 1/6 of the total land area of the Township and is its major farmer. The School acquired several key farms in the northeast quadrant and uses the 18th and 19th century farmhouses as faculty residences, dormitories, and farm worker's dwellings.

4. The establishment of a Methodist congregation at Grove contributed to the growth of the southwest corner of the Township and Grove village, a proposed historic district, in particular.

Preservation Activities

The West Whiteland Historical Commission is the most active and well funded municipal historical organization in Chester County. Since its establishment in 1971, the Commission has conducted broad based programs including oral history, photography of historic sites, in-depth research, community presentations, publications and survey. Its base of operations is from the Zook House, a nationally registered building within Exton Square Mall. The Zook House was preserved and restored by the Rouse Company in the course of developing this regional shopping center and is used by several local organizations. There are a number of additional examples of adaptive reuse of historic properties either completed or in progress. Two institutions, Church Farm School and the Devereaux Foundation, have demonstrated commendable concern for the preservation of the historic buildings they occupy. A number of historic properties along the Lincoln Highway are in active professional/commercial use. The Malvern Federal Building on Pottstown Pike is an example of the reuse of a 19th century farmhouse by a local financial institution.

Private preservation and restoration efforts are evident in all areas of the Township. It is hoped the submission of this multiple resource nomination will encourage similar activity for all the nominated properties.

Planning Activities

Work is currently underway on an updated comprehensive plan for West Whiteland Township. The historic sites map produced by the comprehensive survey will be a key component of the historic resource background section. Work on the multiple resource nomination enabled the Historical Commission to develop a prioritized list of sites worthy of preservation. Plans are underway for implementing historic site protection through ordinance revisions, an easement program, subdivision review, and educational programs. Copies of the nomination have been deposited with the West Whiteland Board of Supervisors, West Whiteland Planning Commission, Chester County Planning Commission, and the County Library.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8,300 acres-total township

Quadrangle name Downingtown, Malvern, Unionville, West Chester

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

entire township (individual sites and district on individual survey cards)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	448730	4438720	B	18	450830	4429610
C	18	447460	4427720	D	18	445180	4426520
E	18	446500	4432730	F	18	442460	4431010
G	18	444700	4427930	H			

Unionville Quad

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1) Stephen Del Sordo & Diane S. Snyder and 2) Steve Kouter & Martha Wolf

organization 1) West Whiteland Historical Commission 2) Brandywine Conservancy

date Jan. 1982 Revised Feb. 1983

street & number 1) 222 N. Pottstown Pike 2) P.O. Box 141

telephone 1) 215-363-8091 2) 215-388-7601

city or town 1) Exton 2) Chadds Ford

state 1) PA 19341 2) PA 19317

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national X state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E.Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

Bibliography

Collections of the Athenaeum, Philadelphia, PA
- Architectural Drawings
- Biographic Files

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- Tavern Papers
- A.P. Reid Title Search Files
- 1798 Direct Tax MSS Books
- Tax Assessment Records, 1715-1930
- U.S. Census of Population, 1790-1900
- Brinton, The Lewis Family Genealogy
- Cope, The Genealogy of the Smedley Family
- Futhey and Cope, History of Chester County
- Heller, A History of St. Paul's Church
- O'Gorman, Architecture of Frank Furness
- Pinkowski, Chester County Place Names
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- U.S. Census of Industry

ABBREVIATIONS USED ON INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORMS

A.P. Reid T.S.	-	A.P. Reid Title Search
AR	-	American Republican
BC	-	Brandywine Conservancy
CCHS	-	Chester County Historical Society
CR	-	Coatesville Record
DLN	-	Daily Local News
L	-	Daily Local News
PRERBG	-	Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builder's Guide
VR	-	Village Record
WWHC	-	West Whiteland Historical Commission

Total Properties Surveyed: Some eliminated after review.

INDEX TO PROPERTIES

Map #	Name/Location	Acreage	Boundaries/ Deed Book Reference
1	Ship Inn/100 N. Ship Road	1.1581 a	I40-178
2	Exton Hotel/423 E. Lincoln Hwy.	1.846 a	Q37-286
* 3	John Cuthbert House / Green Valley Farm/208 N. Ship Road	14.925 a	S26-416-7
4	Evan Lewis House/117 N. Ship Road	5.1 a	F45-291-2
* 5	House at Turnpike Station/411 E. Lincoln Hwy.	0.48 a	G37-915
6	Sleepy Hollow Hall/109 E. Lincoln Hwy.	5.543 a	Z19-202
7	Lochiel Farm/111A N. Ship Road	1.4 a	**
8	John Bell Farm / Colfelt House/463 N. Ship Road	5.3 a	**
9	Hewson Cox House / Kates Mansion/Church Farm Road	7.3 a	**
10	Fox Chase Inn/613 Swedesford Road	4.25 a	C2-53
11	Malvern Federal Bldg./109 N. Pottstown Pk.	(1.) a	S35-373 Not Eligibl
12	Zook House/300 Exton Square	2. a	* On NR.1/1/76
13	St. Paul's Church/901 E. Lincoln Hwy.	2.5 a	**
14	Benjamin Pennypacker House/800 Swedesford Road	1.72 a	**
15	Benjamin Jacobs House/325 N. Ship Road	4.6 a	**
16	Solitude Farm/Church Farm Road	9.6 a	**
17	David Ashbridge Log House, 1181 King Road	(1.2) a	P51-453
* 18	Halfway House/1360 Phoenixville Pk.	.286 a	D51-432
19	Morstein Station/408 King Road	9.115 a	H41-166-8
20	Morstein/1426 Lewis La.	0.52 a	*
	1401 Lewis La.	1.15 a	G29-434
21	Summit Hall/640 E. Lincoln Hwy.	Withdrawn(demolished)	
22	Greenwood School/700 King Road	.86 a	U20-25
23	Daniel Meredith House/1358 Glen Echo Road	2.5 a	M40-1048
24	Kirkland Station/1370 Kirkland Ave.	2.99 a	Z57-471-2
* 25	Joseph Konnagee House/129 S. Ship Road	1.1 a	**
26	Meadowcourt/371 E. Boot Road	5. a	N39-113-4

* Properties with owner objection, submitted for determination of eligibility

	Map #	Name/Location	Acreage		Boundaries/ Deed Book Reference
	27	Chesteridge/E. Boot Road	1.43	a	*
	28	William Everhart House/S. Ship & Boot Rds.	.995	a	B25-179
*	29	St. Mary's Chapel/E. Lincoln Hwy.	.73	a	I8-285
	30	Church Farm School/E. Lincoln Hwy.	19.7	a	**
	31	Whitford Hall/145 W. Lincoln Hwy.	1.7	a	**
*	32	Whitford Lodge/179 W. Lincoln Hwy.	4.5	a	I34-348-9
*	33	Ivy Cottage/225 W. Lincoln Hwy.	2.4	a	**
*	34	Trimble Mill/103 Shoen Rd.	1.89	a	D36-517
	35	Ball & Ball/463 W. Lincoln Hwy.	(6.2)	a	Y20-211-2
	36	West Whiteland Inn Schiffer's/609 W. Lincoln Hwy.	2.8	a	B29-413
*	37	Colebrook Farm/601 W. Lincoln Hwy.	7.1	a	**
	38	Colebrook Manor/637 W. Lincoln Hwy.	14.	a	Q28-615
	39	Folly Cottage/570 Colebrook Rd.	(5.123)	a	E38-88-9 Not Elig.
	40	Charles Thomas House Fairview/225 N. Whitford Rd.	6.376	a	D26-99
	41	Oaklands/349 W. Lincoln Hwy.	1.2	a	***
	42	Thomas Mill/130 W. Lincoln Hwy.	12.126	a	D39-284
	43	Thomas Quarry Houses/Quarry Lane	18.0	a	**
	44	Joseph Price House/401 Clover Mill Rd.	3.589	a	058-558
	45	Meadow House/146 S. Whitford Rd.	Withdrawn (altered)		
*	46	Hunt Downing House Arrandale/600 W. Lincoln Hwy.	10.6	a	**
	47	Wee Grimmet/624 W. Lincoln Hwy.	1.	a	B56-452-3
	48	Riter Boyer House/350 W. Boot Road	.82	a	Y36-430
*	49	Richard Ashbridge House Indian Run Farm/200 S. Pottstown Pike	14.6	a	**
	50	Newlin Miller's House/1240 Samuel Rd.	4.686	a	P39-941
	51	Whitford Garne/201 W. Boot Rd.	1.268	a	V57-574
	52	Hannah White Log House Pancott Log House/545 W. Boot Rd.	.36	a	U56-519
	53	Kinbawn/405 Highland Ave.	4.818	a	N10-235
	54	Francis W. Kennedy House/1417 Highland Ave.	5.78	a	M40-470
	55	Hoffman House/1311 Grove Rd.	1.466	a	R56-450

* Properties with owner objection, submitted for determination of eligibility

Map #	Name/Location	Acreage	Boundaries/ Deed Book Reference
56	House at Whitford Station/405 S. Whitford Rd.	.82 a	L58-352
57	Wollerton Log House/1282 Copeland School Rd.	(1.132) a	B54-507 Not Elig.
58	Whitford Bridge/Whitford Station	(N/A)	** Not Elig.

Total Acreage Nominated for Individual and Thematic Properties: 243.3971

* Verbal Boundary Description included

** Verbal Boundary Description and map included. Contour map is from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Highways, Modjeski and Masters Consulting Engineers, Harrisburg, PA. January 1967, re-photographed February 1982. Scale 1 inch = 200 feet.

*** Verbal Boundary Description and map included. Survey map scale is 1 inch = 50 feet.