

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

| |
|-------------------|
| For HCRS use only |
| received |
| date entered |

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

1. Name

historic "Wolley Stille" - The Joseph Sharpless House

and/or common

RECEIVED

OCT 29 1979

PH & MC
Historic Preservation

2. Location

street & number Harvey Road at Maple Road

not for publication

city, town Wallingford

vicinity of

congressional district

7th

state PA 19086

code 42

county Delaware

code 045

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Joseph K. Schlosbon

street & number Harvey Road at Maple Road

city, town Wallingford

vicinity of

state PA

19086

5. Location of Legal Description

Deed Book #2136, page 229

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Delaware County Courthouse

street & number Front & Orange Streets

city, town Media

state PA

19063

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title WPA 1936 survey (#21, Nether Providence); 1963 HABS report; 1973 PA Inventory; has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date DVRPC 1979 list (#3861) federal state county local

depository for survey records Delaware County Planning Dept., Courthouse

city, town Media, PA

19063

state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Farmstead of fieldstone quarried on property, built in two parts: pre-1700 and 1700, with 1751 addition and 1916 service wing. Walls are 2 feet thick; date medallion "1700-1751" over door of front main facade.

Earliest section, pre-1700 and possibly once a separate dwelling, 2 stories, 2 bays wide by 1 bay deep. Corner fireplace, unpeeled log floor joists, batten door with original bar and hardware (moved from original location as main entrance to 1700 Great Hall). First floor used as weaving-spinning room and later as schoolroom; loom hooks still in oak and chestnut beams. 2nd floor, once connected by ladder, was the tutor's room and flax storage. Basement, still dirt floor and shallower than the rest of the basement area, was a rootcellar, and now is a wine cellar and general storage area. There was no connection between this section and the 1700 Great Hall until the 1916 renovation (see below).

The present living room was the 1700 Great Hall (3 stories, 3 bays wide by 2 bays deep), originally divided into two rooms by a plank partition which was removed and used to panel the diningroom and corner cupboard. The ceiling is approximately 9 ft. high, with oak and chestnut chamfered beams, 4" x 15" in thickness. Above each fireplace are rare, built-in storage cupboards with pannelled doors and drawers. Hinges are original; drawer and door pulls were teardrop brass and are retained elsewhere in house. Two original "gunport" windows are extant, with oak shutters and original strap and pin hinges. The other windows were recut to larger size in the 19th Century. Floorboards in the weave room and Great Hall are original wide random flooring.

The present diningroom is the 1751 addition (separate datestone), and served as the kitchen until the mid-19th century. Large fireplace was subdivided into a smokehouse-closet arrangement, still retained. Stone walls were unplastered, now covered with Great Hall partition. This room is one step below level of Great Hall. East door leads to courtyard, pump and 19th century kitchen (now demolished), and is Dutch (original). West door leads to small porch with original roof. Window shutters are original.

Second story space is divided: tutor's room retained over weave room, but with connection now to rest of house; Great Hall 2nd floor was originally two rooms with large oak beams, is now divided into master bedroom, second bedroom and bath. Staircase repositioned from original, winding stair on SE side of fireplace (where open archway now leads to weaveroom) to NE side of fireplace, and an upper hall created. Bedroom above 1751 addition has fireplace, and has been divided to allow addition of a small bathroom. Third floor is unchanged (see floor plan).

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

| CONTINUATION SHEET | ITEM NUMBER | PAGE |
|--------------------|-------------|------|
| DESCRIPTION | 7 | 2 |

Original dormers were one pane high, and shed style. Dormers were enlarged and pedimented in 1915-1916 Donald Robb (architect for Washington Cathedral, etc.) restoration of house. Other changes at that time were re-positioning of stairs, change of one "gunport" window to French doors (SW corner of Great Hall); addition of a stone service wing (modern kitchen, coal room, laundry, etc.) with same materials and proportions as original building; raising of roofline and change to gambrel roof to allow more room; replastering of W Fireplace and opening up of E fireplace in Great Hall; removal of Victorian front porch and replacement(?) of pent eave-door hood on front facade; rebuilding of cellar stairs (still exterior access only); stone retaining wall along driveway; building of stone steps and open arch access between weave room and Great Hall; most doors recut to 6 ft. height; modern plumbing and wiring.

1936: brick arches and tunnel in basement cemented over; floorboards moved from original pegged positions to closer alignment (too many gaps between boards).

October 8, 1972: Daughters of American Colonists, Wissahickon Chapter dedicated a plaque on "Wolley Stille", for its architectural merit and representation of two early cultures.

April 1977: present owners removed asphalt and wood shingles and re-shingled entire house with 45 square 24" red cedar shingles; one chimney rebuilt, other two replastered.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates pre 1700, 1700, 1751 Builder/Architect (Swedish?) unknown; John & Joseph Sharpless

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

61-year old John Sharpless and his family of seven were among the first English Quakers to settle the predominantly Swedish Delaware River tier. Arriving at Upland on Aug. 14, 1682, the Sharpless family moved up Ridley Creek to part of their 1,000 acre tract, between Ridley and Crum Creeks. A log cabin was erected against a large rock in the floodplain, and a larger, more permanent home was started by John Sharpless before his death in 1685. Several of the children died and the family faced hard times until the surviving sons grew up. Son Joseph, a carpenter, finished the house with the help of his brother in 1700.

This house is "Wolley Stille", named for neighbor Olof Stille, and exhibits both Swedish and English elements of design and construction. It is unknown whether this is because an earlier Swedish structure was incorporated into the later Sharpless building, or because, as tradition has it, Swedish neighbors assisted in the erection of the house.

The Sharplesses became and remain a prominent Pennsylvania family, professional leaders and educators. The original cabin's rock just below "Wolley Stille" is the site of family reunions, and two significant Sharpless colonial homes are extant on adjoining properties, as are remains of the farm outbuildings, mill race, springhouse, and related sites. Except for 1939-1961, the Sharpless family has owned this homestead since its construction.

Besides the curious mingling of Swedish and English elements, "Wolley Stille" is noteworthy for the extensive Philadelphia panneling over the interior fireplaces; Winterthur authorities have commented that this design and execution may be the earliest extant example of the type. The teardrop brasses and other original hardware, the gunport windows, and basement brick arcade supports are also unusual elements. A tunnel, now closed, once led to the lower hillside and was reputedly built in case of Indian attack and later used in the Underground Railroad.

The house has undergone alterations by later generations, but these are well-documented and minor except for the 1915-1916 "colonial" renovation by architect Donald Robb, as described in item #7.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Anderson, Bart. Sharples-Sharpless Genealogy. 1966. V.1, facing title page.
Ashmead, Henry G. History of Delaware County... Phila., 1884. p. 653.
Cope, Gilbert. Genealogy of the Sharpless Family 1682-1882. 1882, passim.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 44048 sq. ft., irregular dimensions 1.01 acres
Quadrangle name Bridgeport Quadrangle scale 7.5 minutes

UMT References

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| A | <u>118</u> Zone | <u>4411302</u> Easting | <u>41680890</u> Northing | B | <u> </u> Zone | <u> </u> Easting | <u> </u> Northing |
| C | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | D | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| E | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | F | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| G | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | H | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Enclosed Tax Map and verbal boundary description

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| none | | | |
| | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. & B. Schlosbon/N.V. Webster

organization Del. Co. Planning Department date 10-24-79

street & number 3rd & Orange Streets telephone (215) 891-2381

city or town Media, PA 19063 state

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

| | |
|--|------|
| title | date |
| For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. | date |
| Keeper of the National Register | date |
| Attest: | date |
| Chief of Registration | date |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|----------------|-------------------|---|------|---------|----------|--|
| A | <u>118</u> | <u>4413012</u> | <u>4168108910</u> | B | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| C | | | | D | | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

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|-------|------|--------|------|
| none | | | |
| state | code | county | code |

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street & number 3rd & Orange Streets telephone (215) 891-2381
city or town Media, PA 19063 state PA

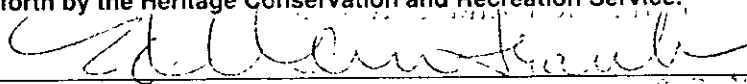
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State Historic Preservation Officer signature



ED WEINTRAUB, Director
title Office of Historic Preservation

date 3/10/80

| | |
|--|------|
| For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. | date |
| Keeper of the National Register | date |
| Attest: | date |
| Chief of Registration | |

5962 LV NH
(MEDIA)

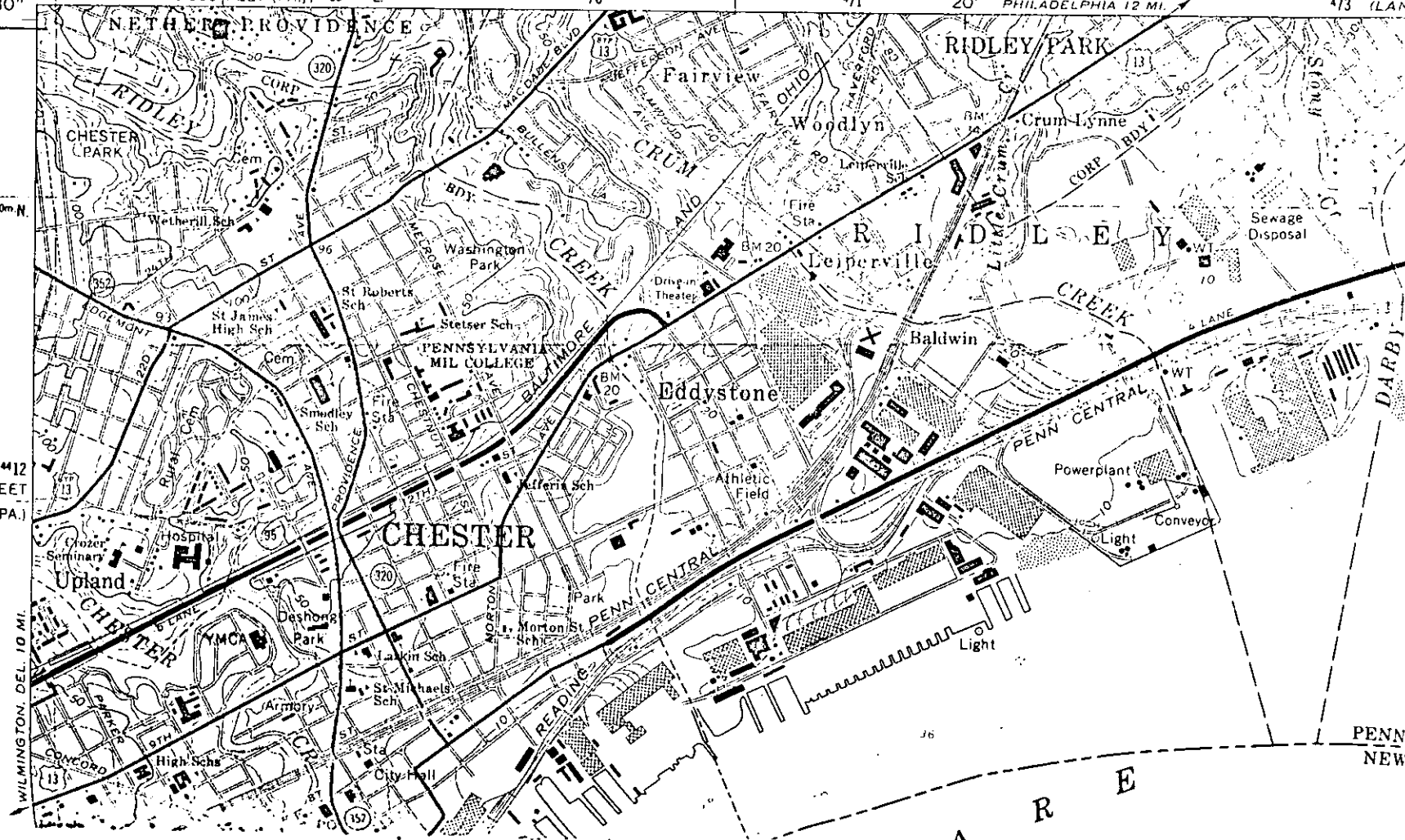
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

75°22'30" 2 670 000 FEET (PA.); 469000m E 470 471 20' PHILADELPHIA 12 MI. 473 (LAN) 596

Wolley Stille
Delaware County
Zone 18 E441302 N4680890

4413000m N

412
200 000 FEET
(PA.)



WILMINGTON, DEL. 10 MI.

PENNS
NEW

A R E