

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Delaware	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-12-42-0008	DATE 12/29/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Thomas Leiper Mansion

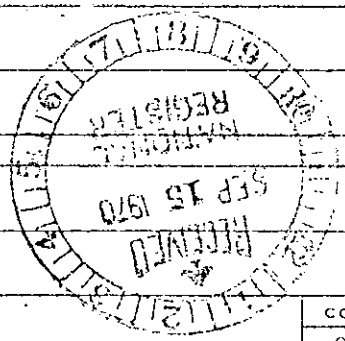
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Avondale

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Avondale Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Willingford

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 20 COUNTY: Delaware CODE: 048



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments Empty

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Nether Providence Township
William Pastuszek, Swarthmore and Dr. Brill, Nether Providence

STREET AND NUMBER:
214 SYKES LANE

CITY OR TOWN:
Swarthmore WALLINGFORD 19086

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 4200

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Delaware County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Media

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 048

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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DATE: 12/29/70

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)
 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)
 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)
 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Thomas Leiper Property as it appeared in the 1791 Pennsylvania Direct Tax:

One dwelling house 414 acres valuation \$10,477. (Believed to be the largest in Delaware County)

House was 36.5 feet by 30 feet made of stone 2 stories high 22 windows, 408 lights in the windows and in good repair.

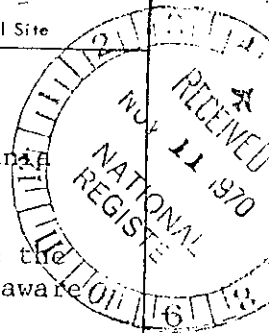
One kitchen 30 by 17 feet, of stone two stories high (Kitchen later joined to the house)

Springhouse 16 by 16 feet, stone and new

Outbuildings: Stone barn 41 by 31 feet
 Stone wagon house 31 by 19 feet
 Stone barn 43 by 39 feet
 Stone snuff mill 22 by 18 feet
 Stone snuff mill 50 by 29 feet, in good repair and on a strong stream.
 Stone drying house 25 by 20 feet
 Log house 25 by 14 feet, old building lately repaired
 Log smith shop 18 by 15 feet, old.

The three storey yellow stuccoed mansion house of 1785 occupies a dramatic position on the side of a hill overlooking Crum Creek Valley. A long avenue paved with granite rails leads up to the pedimented main entrance with its delicately carved frieze and transom. The most outstanding characteristic of the mansion site is the integration of the plan. In contrast to the contemporary farmhouses of the area, the builder of this mansion made an obvious effort to design it, in both floor plan and in its ambiance with the natural surroundings and outbuildings. An outside door on the first floor leads to the basement, making a continuous progression from hall, drive, office (in the basement of the house), to the money in the vault in the "Fireproof" outbuilding. Further evidence of the builder's freedom of imagination can be seen in the unified conception of the first floor rooms, the chimney behind a false window and windows which can also be opened into doors.

Few changes have been made to the house. The west porch with its fret-work railing was added in 1786. The original French windows of the dining room (now a kitchen) have been replaced, and the paneling of the entrance hall was changed in the 1880's.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1785

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas Leiper Estate is a rare and important example of a small and almost completely intact eighteenth century community which developed around the varied industrial and manufacturing activities of Thomas Leiper, an ardent patriot, an ingenious inventor and a highly successful merchant.

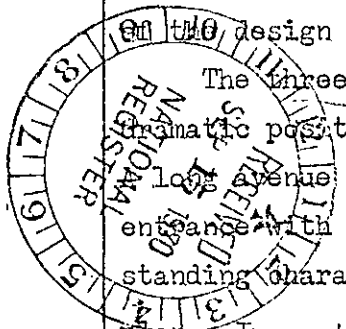
Thomas Leiper was born in Strathhaven, Lanark, Scotland in 1745. He came to America in 1764 where he made a fortune in the tobacco and snuff business. In 1776 he bought his first land in Nether Providence Township and established two snuff mills. Four years later he bought the adjoining stone quarries. In 1809 he built the railroad which carried the stone down to Ridley Creek, the first permanent railroad in the United States. When he died at his Nether Providence estate in 1825, the Aurora wrote in its obituary notice of July 8, 1825, "Few men ever lived a more patriotic, useful, and honorable life than he; for singleness of heart, integrity of purpose and conduct, devotion to the cause of liberty and of his country, he was unsurpassed."

The estate is important not only for its contribution to industrial history, but for the relatively unchanged character of this beautiful Crum Creek site with its complex of workmen's cottages, dam, mill, quarry, barn, mansion house and outbuildings, and the architectural significance of the design of the house and grounds.

The three story yellow stuccoed mansion house of 1785 occupies a dramatic position on the side of a hill overlooking Crum Creek Valley. A gravel driveway paved with granite rails leads up the the pedimented main entrance with its delicately carved frieze and transom. The most outstanding characteristic of the mansion site is the integration of the plan. In contrast to the contemporary farmhouses of the area, the builder

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1745
1809



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Pennsylvania	
COUNTY	Delaware	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	70.12.42.0008	DATE
		12/29/70

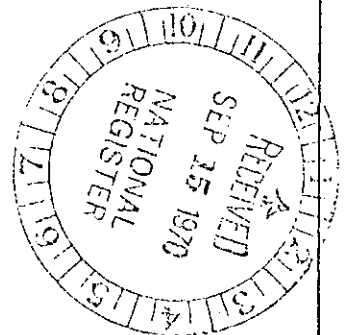
(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

of this mansion made an obvious effort to design it, in both floor plan and in its ambiance with the natural surroundings and outbuildings. An outside door on the first floor leads to the basement, making a continuous progression from mill, drive, office (in the basement of the house), to the money in the vault in the "Fireproof" outbuilding. Further evidence of the builder's freedom of imagination can be seen in the unified conception of the first floor rooms, the chimney behind a false window and windows which can also be opened into doors.

Few changes have been made to the house. The west porch with its fret-work railing was added in 1786. The original French windows of the dining room (now a kitchen) have been replaced and the paneling of the entrance hall was changed in the 1830's.

The Leiper Estate with its complex of mansion house "Fireproof" vault communal outhouse, barn, carriage house, smokehouse, warehouse, tenant's house and quarry, is very much endangered by plans for the Midcounty Expressway through this area. If this Expressway follows another route and if Nether Providence Township buys this property, Historic Delaware County Inc. will restore and maintain it.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ashmead, Henry G. History of Delaware County. Philadelphia. 1889.
 "Let's Save Thomas Leiper's Eighteenth Century Menage". Historic Delaware County, Inc.
 Simpson, Henry. The Lives of Eminent Philadelphians now Deceased. Philadelphia 1859.
 Smith, George. History of Delaware County. Philadelphia. 1862
 Weiss, Harry B. and Grace M. "The Early Snuff Mills of New Jersey". Trenton. 1962.

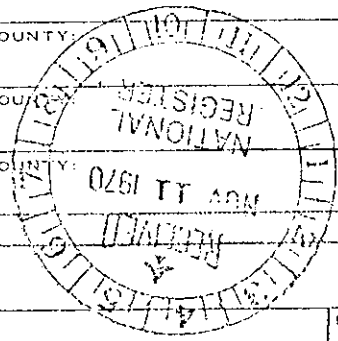
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	39°	53'	19"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	75°	21'	28"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ~~10 acres~~ 9 acres surrounding house

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Elizabeth Donaghy

ORGANIZATION: Historic Delaware County, Inc. DATE: 8/11/70

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 267

CITY OR TOWN: Swarthmore STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name [Signature]

Title Executive Director

Date September 8, 1970

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DEC 29 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:

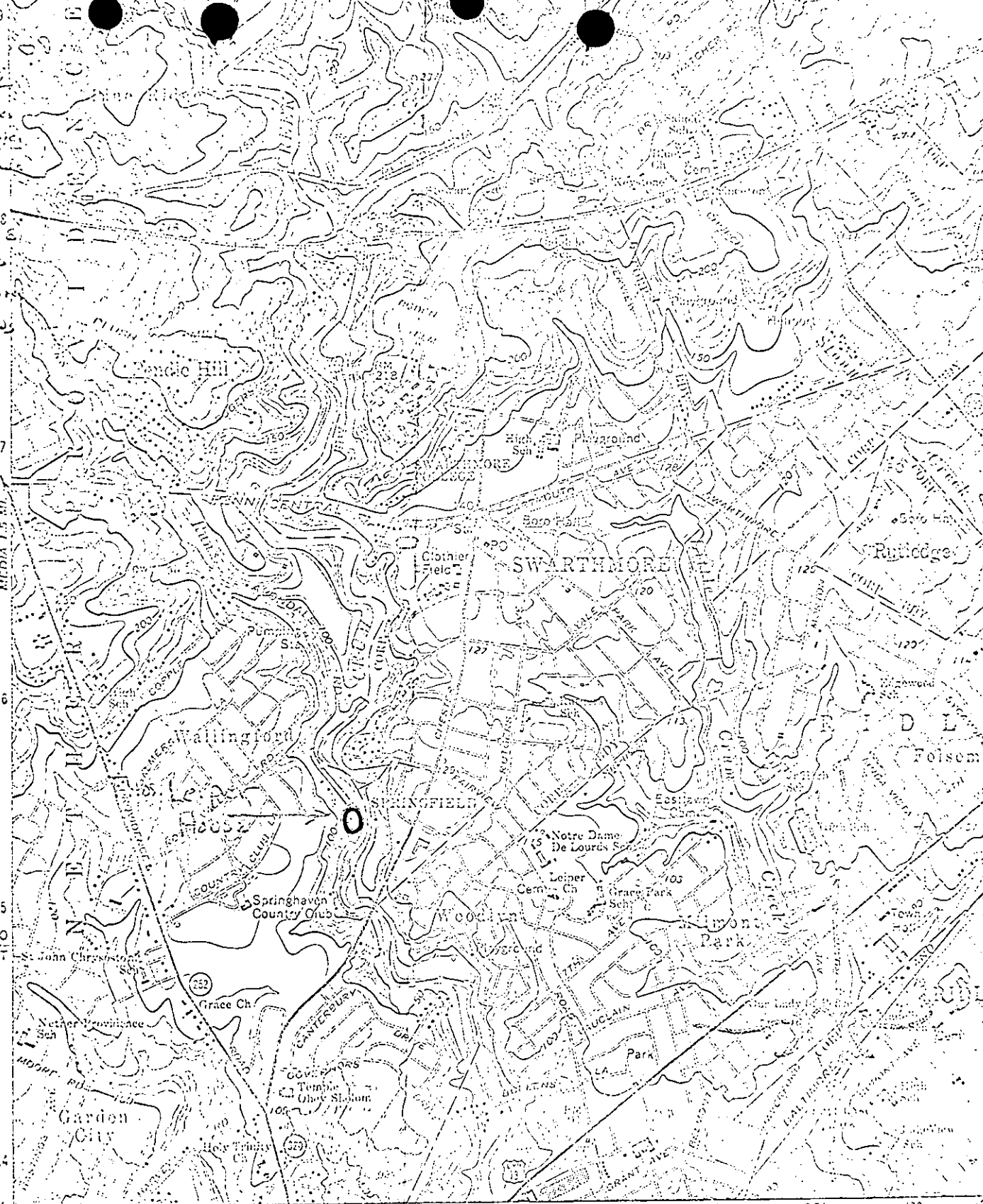
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date NOV 17 1970

SEE INSTRUCTION 52

LATITUDE
 39° 53' 55" N
 24' 50" S

LONGITUDE
 75° 21' 27.5" W



44:8
 44:7
 44:6
 44:5
 44:4

MEDIA 1.5 MI.

210 000 FEET

39° 52' 30" 75° 22' 30" 2 670 000 FEET: 439 CHESTER U.S. 131 1.6 MI. 470

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography by planetable surveys 1939-1940. Revised from
 aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1967
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 18, shown in blue
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

MARCUS HOOK
 5503 IV SW

LANT DONNIE (CA)
 ROAD
 (1968)

9 1/2" MN
 169 MILS GN
 0 1/2" 4 MILS

UTM GRID AND 1967 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET