

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED 22
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 HILL OF SKYE -- Chamberlain-Pennell-Dickson House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Baltimore Pike & Valley Brook Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Chester Heights

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE
Pennsylvania

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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Anna D. & Agnes MacAlpin Dickson

STREET & NUMBER
Baltimore Pike & Valley Brook Road

CITY, TOWN
Wawa

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Delaware County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Front and South Streets

CITY, TOWN
Media

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE
1969

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
1819 J. F. Kennedy Boulevard

CITY, TOWN
Philadelphia

STATE

Pennsylvania

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building known as the Hill of Skye was built by John Chamberlain ca. 1722. The house is laid out in the "hall, passage, parlor" plan common to large rural residences in England. As originally constructed by Chamberlain, the house was a 3 bay, single file, 2 story and garret building constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond. The front facade entrance was axially oriented with the heavily framed door topped by a four light transom. A stoop, or small porch framed by benches, the backs of which were let into pockets in the brick wall, was a major element of the entranceway.

A pent roof between the first and second floors ran the full length of the facade and across the east gable, continuing over more than half of the rear facade to protect the north door. A gable-end pent above the second floor provided a continuous cornice in keeping with the other formalities inherent in the mansion.

The stone cellar area, with square niches in north and south walls, was lighted and ventilated by segmentally arched windows at grade in the east gable, and the first floor east parlor featured an angled corner fireplace, the chimney for which broke low on the roofline. (The corbelled support for this fireplace ties into the stone walls of the northeast corner of the cellar.) While it is possible that casement windows were first set in the house, double-hung windows with frames of 12/8 panes on the south and 6/6 on most north windows were being used by 1798. In the parlor, a 12/8 window was on the south wall; 6/6 on the north. There was no window on the east wall. Both north and south entrance doors opened to a narrow central passage which contained a boxed winding stair, lit by a four-paned window high in the north wall.

The hall, or general purpose room, featured a large cooking fireplace in the west wall, near the north corner. Either a second boxed stair or a closet fit between the fireplace and the south wall. Both front and rear windows here were 12/8 by 1798. An architectural cupboard was built into the northeast corner of this room and a small closet was set in beside the fireplace.

The second floor was composed of a large chamber in the east, conforming in dimensions to the parlor below. Like the parlor, this room also had an angular corner fireplace. West of the passage, a smaller chamber on the north had its fireplace on the west wall, contiguous to the north wall. Another small chamber at some early time was separated from the northwest chamber by a board partition.

Before 1798, the one and one-half story stone kitchen wing was added to the west side. A boxed stair in the southwest corner of this space gave access to the second floor. Entrance to this addition was not possible from either the second or garret floors of the brick house.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input 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 c. 1722, 1798, 1850 BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Chamberlain

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The brick house on the property known as the "Hill of Skye" is a reflection of the strong English influence on the building styles of the early settlers. Architecturally, the house is an outstanding example of the tall brick boxes which lent so much to the well-known unity of early 18th century Delaware Valley architecture. As such, it is strongly associated with cultural pattern peculiar to a specific location. It is not only one of the few such examples left in Delaware County, but an extraordinary example of Pennsylvania's contribution to the "Black header" technique in early brick building.

With its hall, parlor, and passage and its Flemish bond brickwork overall the house is more sophisticated than many of its contemporaries. (Other examples of c. 1720 dwellings in the area are often limited, not only to two (hall and parlor) first floor spaces, but to the use of Flemish bond on front facade only.)

Rather than being an encapsulation of one specific time of Pennsylvania's early history, the place portrays the continuity of two hundred and fifty years of inhabitation. Volumes, however, have not been destroyed. Since so many of the changes obviously occurred in the mid 19th century, it can be said the house is a rare example of additive Victorian construction which was exceptionally sensitive to maintaining the intrinsic historicity of the structure.

Built c. 1722 by John Chamberlain (1692-1731), weaver, a son of Robert Chamberlain, (c. 1666-1732) an immigrant from Wiltshire, the brick house on the property known now as "Hill of Skye" is documented as the second dwelling on a 180 acre parcel in Aston Township acquired of Thomas Brassey by William Lewis in 1702.

Perhaps the most interesting tenants of the house during its early history were Joseph Pennell and his grandson, Mark Pennell. A maltster, Joseph Pennell (1749-1820) inherited the place from his grandfather, a brother of the builder. Although an inventory of his estate (July 24, 1820-Delco #534) shows that Joseph Pennell owned other property in Wilmington, Virginia and Philadelphia, as well as three nearby farms, he lived in this brick house in Aston for the greater part of his life.

Mark Pennell (1813-1902) was a noted horseman and one of the founders of Rose Tree Hunt. Indeed, the meetings involving the initial action organizing that long-time Media-based hunt took place in this house.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Ashmead, Henry Graham. History of Delaware County. Philadelphia: L. H. Everts, 1884, p. 291.
- Smith, Benjamin. Atlas of Delaware County. 1880.
- Dornbusch, Charles H., and John R. Heyl. Pennsylvania German Barns. Pennsylvania Folklore Society, 1958.
- Patterson, Mary S. "Pennsylvania's Old Red & Black Brick Houses" - Unpublished article.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.5 acres
UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Alice Kent Schooler/William K. Watson

ORGANIZATION

National Heritage Corp./Pa. Hist. & Museum Comm.

DATE

April, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

309 N. Matlack Street/P. O. Box 1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

West Chester/Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE WILLIAM J. WEWER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.5 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

A	18	459000	4415300	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

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 ORGANIZATION
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 STREET & NUMBER
 309 N. Matlack Street/P. O. Box 1026
 CITY OR TOWN
 West Chester/Harrisburg
 DATE
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 TELEPHONE
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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *William J. Wewer*
 TITLE WILLIAM J. WEWER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION
 DATE 6/13/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

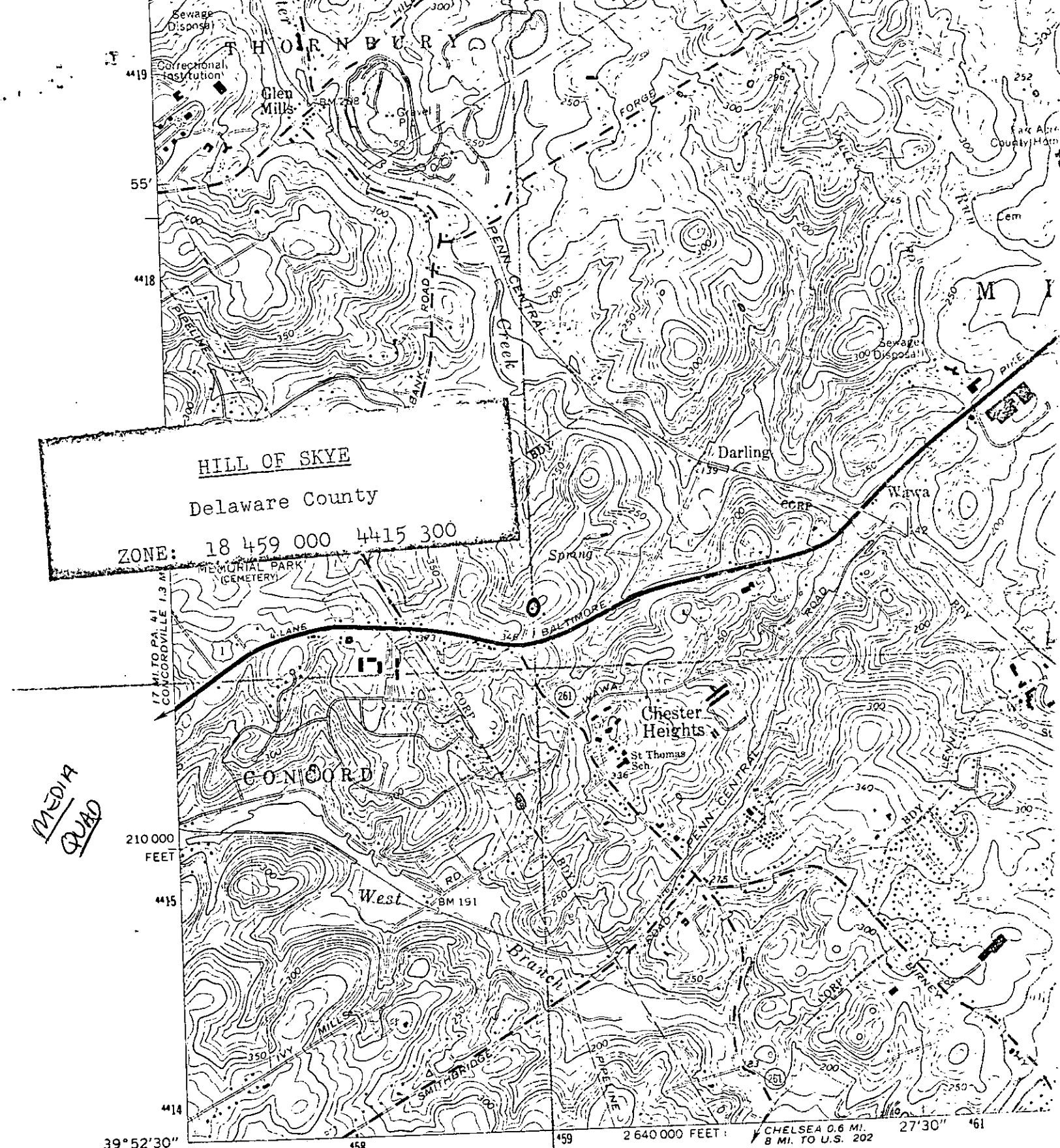
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

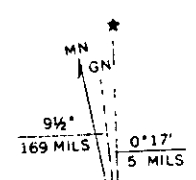


MEDIA QUAD

*(WILMINGTON NORTH)
5863 / SE*

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
 Topography by planetable surveys 1943
 Revised from aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1966
 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

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

