

559 11 SW  
WINNINGTOWN

WEST CHESTER QUADRANGLE  
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

35

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
954, PHOTO REVISÉD 1968  
SCALE 1:24000

75° 36' 15"

75° 37' 30"

447000m E

PA. TURNPIKE 6 MI.  
EXTON 2 MI. 443

449

PHOENIXVILLE 10 MI.  
2.4 MI. TO U.S. 30 450 35'

451

40° 00'

4427000m N

4426

39° 58' 33"

ALTON 2.5 MI.

MARSHALLTON 3 MI.  
COPEVILLE 1.7 MI.

57' 30"

4423

4422



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Chester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Collins Mansion

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
633 Goshen Road (West Goshen Township)

CITY OR TOWN:  
West Chester

STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Chester	CODE 029
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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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Chester County Historical Society with life tenure to Bart Anderson

STREET AND NUMBER:  
225 North High Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
West Chester

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Chester County Court House      Chester County Hist. Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
10 North High Street      225 North High Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
West Chester

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington, D.C.

STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania  
COUNTY: Chester  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

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**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1727

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 type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input 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 Collins Mansion is the oldest house in the borough of West Chester and one of the earliest country residences in southeastern Pennsylvania--the area of original settlement in the Commonwealth. The house is also one of the first in the area to employ locally-quarried serpentine stone which later became a popular building material around West Chester. The house is also significant for the state of preservation in which it exists today. The house is substantially unchanged from its condition after renovations in 1760.

Despite its rural location, the mansion exhibits many of the characteristics of Philadelphia town houses of the early period of the city. The sophistication of style demonstrated is notable considering its original rural setting.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Collins Mansion is constructed in the tradition of Philadelphia city dwellings of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Built in 1727 for Quakers Joseph and Mary Collins, the house features a facade of locally quarried and regularly dressed serpentine stone with side walls of fieldstone. The 1727 structure (measuring 23' by 21'6") is rather small but style is evident in the dressing of the stone facade and in the keystoneing over the datestone among other characteristics. The Goshen Road was one of the main routes west from Philadelphia, but today the Collins Mansion sits well back from the placid country lane on a neatly landscaped three and one-half acre property.

The front of the Collins house (facing south) is especially typical of the "Philadelphia Style." Rectangular forms predominate and a sense of balance is clearly exhibited in the fenestration and placement of the door with datestone directly above it and between the second floor windows. A hood above the door and pedimented gables serve to moderate somewhat the rectangular emphasis. Proportion is shown again in the counterposing of the horizontal form of the facade's pent eaves with the verticality of the gable ends.

Between 1758 and 1760, the mansion underwent extensive renovation (both interior and exterior) under the direction of Nathaniel Moore. The most significant change was the addition of a one and one-half story north wing of fieldstone (23'3" by 20'4") to house a kitchen. Other exterior changes included replacement of the 1727 windows (leaded glass above, oak casements below) with new sash windows in the same wide apertures. Two windows--one on each floor--were added to the west wall of the 1727 section at this time.

In 1760, the interior of the mansion was much changed in detail from the original. The alterations made included the following:

The huge cooking fireplace in the front room of the 1727 section was removed and a smaller parlor-sized chimney was erected on the original arch. In the newly built rear-wing, a ten foot cooking fireplace was built. In the first floor front room (nearly square in size) upright poplar board partitions covered with plaster were constructed to divide the room into three sections.

The second floor of the 1727 section was originally divided into two rooms by board partitions. These were removed in 1760, and plaster ones were installed to make three small rooms.

The boxed stairs were replaced by a ballustered and paneled stairway of six wide treads leading to the original turn. The stairway was changed to make the major part of it run along the north wall of the old section with a turn near the top. A small window in the north wall giving light to the stairway was made into a wall closet opening into the new kitchen wing.

In 1946, needed restoration of the mansion was undertaken. During the nineteenth century the house had been spared the ravages of wholesale change because of its use as the foreman's home for a large nursery. The technical

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Pennsylvania	
COUNTY	
Chester	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (continued)

Plans of Philadelphia architect Walter Durham were used for chimney and flue work and for the addition of a modern kitchen. In both first floor rooms the ceilings were removed to expose again the poplar joists. It was discovered that the parlor joists projected through the outside south wall in such a measured way as to assure that pent eaves and a hood had been featured earlier in the facade. The parlor fireplace has been retained and moved to incorporate three modern flues within the stone west wall. In the 1946 restoration the original red, gray, and blue paint of the house was closely copied.

The house is restored to appear as it did in 1760, including all 1727 elements not changed at that time.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gowans, Alan. Images of American Living, Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1964, p. 85, 215.

Historic American Buildings Survey. Work Sheet, Washington, D.C.: Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, 1958.

Manuscripts and deeds in files of Chester County Historical Society

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	39°	58' 33"	75° 36' 15"
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Three and one-half acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY for Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

NAME AND TITLE:  
by: **Harvey Freedenberg, Student Aide**

ORGANIZATION: **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission** DATE: **July 7, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**William Penn Memorial Museum**

CITY OR TOWN: **Harrisburg** 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
**State Liaison Officer**

Title **Executive Director, Pa. Historical and Museum Commission**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Keeper of The National Register*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_