



Lat: 39° 54' 07"  
 Long: 75° 35' 22"

420  
 LINNAPE 0.9 MI.

419

55'

0.6 MI. TO PA. 52

417

WILLOWDALE 5.4 MI.  
 RED LION 3.4 MI.

416

210 000  
 FEET

415

WEST CHESTER Q. AD.  
 1954. REVISED 1968

Westtown, T.

Osborne Hill

Radier

Birmingham Lafayette

Birmingham

Seal

BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM

BRANDLINE

Brinton Bridge

Britton

CHESTER CO.  
 DELAWARE CO.

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:  
"Edgewood"

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Sharpless (Charles) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Intersection L. R. 15087 and 15221, S.E. Corner

CITY OR TOWN:  
Birmingham Township

STATE: Pennsylvania      CODE: 42      COUNTY: Chester      CODE: 029

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Thomas B. and Sidney S. Marshall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
R.D. # 5

CITY OR TOWN: West Chester      STATE: Pennsylvania      CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Chester County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
High and Market Streets

CITY OR TOWN: West Chester      STATE: Pennsylvania      CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Pa. Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg      STATE: Pennsylvania      CODE: 42

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania  
COUNTY: Chester

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent   
  Good   
  Fair   
  Deteriorated   
  Ruins   
  Unexposed

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(Check One)

Altered   
  Unaltered

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(Check One)

Moved   
  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

ORIGINAL:

The Sharpless House was built during the nineteenth century in the Gothic Victorian style, and constructed of Serpentine stone which came from nearby quarries. The interior first floor was divided into four rooms flanking a large entrance hall. The first floor hall was wainscoted to four feet, and the entire dining room was panelled. The northwest room was also panelled. The kitchen, laundry rooms, wine cellar and pantries were in the basement.

When the Biddles bought Edgewood, they remodelled it extensively. On the exterior they added the four story tower. They replaced the first floor casement windows with sash windows opening from the living room (north east side) onto the porch. The Biddles also made the rooms on the northeast side of the hall into a single large room. This was probably done after the tower was added, for at the time the living room was enlarged, the chimneys were removed from the south-east side of the house.

PRESENT: The present owners have made very few architectural changes in the house. The shutters, windows, and pent over the doorway are original. Much of the gingerbread has rotted away and not been replaced. The pendant on the eastern gable is gone, but there is still one on the south gable. In the nineteen fifties the Marshalls were forced to remove the parapet because it was in danger of falling. The kitchen is now located in the southeast room, first floor, instead of the basement. The elevator in the dining room was removed. Some of the interior carving on the dining room mantel was also removed, and the hall floor hall was replaced.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The exact date of the rural gothic Sharpless house is unknown, but the Chester County Historical Society has a picture taken in 1846 which shows the house surrounded by small trees. The picture is entitled "Property of Charles Sharpless". Deeds in Chester County Courthouse show that Charles L. Sharpless owned the property in 1852. Subsequently, it became the country seat of Philadelphian, Henry Pepper, Esq.

At his death in 1859, he left the property, then valued at \$16,000, to his widow, Sally Norris Pepper. Mrs. Pepper sold the property in 1873 to Mrs. Mary D. Biddle, the widow of Colonel Henry J. Biddle. Mrs. Biddle was the founder of, and a major contributor to, the Dilworthtown Presbyterian Church. Upon Mrs. Biddle's death in 1900, Edgewood passed to her daughter, Miss Christine W. Biddle, for her life. In 1944, Christine's brother, Spencer, became the owner. In 1946 he transferred the property to John Marshall, from whom it passed to the present owners.

The house stands on a site which a major American force, under General Stirling, occupied during the Battle of Brandywine, 11 September, 1777.

The significance of Edgewood is that it is one of the earliest and most ornate statements of Victorian architecture in the Brandywine area. It is a complete break with the Quaker traditions which surround it.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas of Chester County, Pennsylvania, Safe Harbor, A.R. Witmer, 1873.  
Breou's Official Series of Farm Maps: Chester County, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia: W.H. Kirk & Co., 1883.  
 Cope, Gilbert, Historical Address, January 19, 1919. n.p.  
 Estate of Henry Pepper, Deceased, Sur Petition of Henry Pepper in the Orphans' Court of Philadelphia County, April Term, 1879, No. 390, and Answer of Respondents, pp. 1,6-7,9.  
 Lossing, B.J., Pictorial Fieldbook of the Revolution, New York: Harper Bros., 1855. Volume II.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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 ° 54 ' 07 "	75 ° 35 ' 22 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 Acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission      DATE: May 1, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg      STATE: Pennsylvania      CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Deputy Executive Director  
 Pa. Historical and Museum  
 Commission

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Chester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References (con't)

MacElree, Witmer W., *Down the Eastern and Up the Black Brandywine*,  
West Chester, MacElree, 1912, pp. 174-176.

Obituaries:

Henry Pepper, Esq., American Republican, West Chester,  
July 12, 1859

Mary D. Biddle, Daily Local News, West Chester, December 4 and  
December 12, 1900.

Christine W. Biddle, Daily Local News, West Chester, January 25,  
1944.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas of Chester County, Pennsylvania, Safe Harbor, A.R. Witmer, 1873.  
 Breou's Official Series of Farm Maps: Chester County, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia: W.H. Kirk & Co., 1883.  
 Cope, Gilbert, Historical Address, January 19, 1919. n.p.  
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CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 54' 07"	75° 35' 22"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 ACRES

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

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NAME AND TITLE:  
 Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission DATE: May 1, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 39-665), 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: William J. Weaver  
 State Liaison Officer

Title: Deputy Executive Director  
 Pa. Historical and Museum Commission

Date: 6/11/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS