



Warwick Farm  
 Westchester County  
 Section 18

A	E434620	N4445020
B	E434540	N4445480
C	E434310	N4445500
D	E434400	N4445900

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

42

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

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
*THE LAHR FARM*

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
*RD #1, Route 23*

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN  
*Elverson*

— VICINITY OF *16th*

STATE  
*Pennsylvania*

CODE  
*42*

COUNTY  
*Chester*

CODE  
*029*

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input 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  
*Mrs. Joseph N. Pew, Jr.*

STREET & NUMBER  
*650 Dodds Lane*

CITY, TOWN  
*Ardinore*

— VICINITY OF *Pennsylvania* STATE *19003*

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET & NUMBER  
*High and Market Streets*

CITY, TOWN  
*West Chester*

STATE  
*Pennsylvania*

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
*Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places*

DATE  
*6-16-77*

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS *Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission*

CITY, TOWN  
*Harrisburg*

STATE  
*Pennsylvania*

**77 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 Lahr House, laid in random field stone with large cover quoins is set on a gentle slope. The main portion of the building is 2½ stories high, 4 bays wide by 2 bays deep. Its gable roof has a simple box cornice with partail returns. It was built in 2 sections.

The northwest (right) section was a free-standing structure, 25' wide by 28' deep, the only section to have a cellar. The cellar door is located at the front right corner, half above ground level, with a six light window beside it and another cellar window on the north wall around the corner. Both windows are at grade level. The first floor windows above each of the basement windows has been changed from a single window to double, each holding two 6 over 6 sash-hung windows. The front entrance is reached by a short flight of stone steps as the house is a ½ story above grade at the front. The door is in the left bay of the early section. It has a six panel door and a four light transom above it; it is surmounted by a short pent roof.

The addition is 20' by 28', 2 bays wide by 2 bays deep. It has a very large and old chimney in the south wall. This chimney appears to be older than the free standing house to which it is joined, and may have been part of an earlier log structure.

Windows in both sections are 6 over 6 on both the first and second floors, but the first floor windows are taller. First floor shutters are panelled; those on 2nd floor windows are louvered. Each gable end has two small four light windows with rudimentary pegged frames at the attic level. There is a deep shed-roofed porch across the entire southern wall. The west bay on this gable end is a door with panelled bottom and four panes of glass in the top half.

To the rear, or west, is a 2nd addition. This 2½ story addition has a gable roof perpendicular to the main gable. Its windows are 6 over 6 except for one four light attic window. A shed roofed porch on its south wall has been enclosed in stone compatible with the rest of the house.

The main entrance opens into a full length hall with two rooms to the right and one to the left. Most striking in the large room is the enormous cooking fireplace and a large slimmer beam. The room was originally partitioned. Other interesting interior features include three small (2' x 1') wooden cupboards located in various rooms of the house. Each is identical, with one shelf, and is more amateur in workmanship than other carpentry in the house.

Available records make it difficult to determine what date should be applied to the present house. There is a plastered date stone in the north wall, which, if chipped away, might declare the building date. The entire structure is without date well before 1840, judging from its style and details of craftsmanship.

In front of the house, to the east, is a small gable roofed, 1½ story stuccoed stone lathen and/or wash house. It has a roomy fireplace with stairway wrapped around it. At one time, there was a bake oven in the fireplace; it is now bricked up. There is one 6 over 6 window to the east and one to the west. The door faces south and is of board and batten. There is a small four light window in the gable above the door.

The bank barn is situated south of the house and is oriented to the east. It has a frame forebay supported by 4 conical stone pillars plus enclosed end wall supports. There are several additions to the back. The building has been converted for use as a steer or stock barn.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD

PREHISTORIC  
 1400-1499  
 1500-1599  
 1600-1699  
 1700-1799  
 1800-1899  
 1900-

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

## SPECIFIC DATES

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*The Lahr Farm is a beautifully preserved example of a typical Chester County farmstead of the early nineteenth century. The fine stonework and fine original interior details are evidence of careful workmanship and distinguish it from lesser examples in the area. Surrounded by farm-lands, the farm complex retains the rural, agricultural flavor of its early history. Its boundaries are largely intact and it is still a productive agricultural enterprise.*

*The significance of the property lies in the fact that it was a part of the Reading Furnace Tract of William Branson, a wealthy Quaker ironmaster from Philadelphia. It was one of the early partitionings of those lands. By 1783, Thomas Rutter and Samuel Potts had purchased all of William Branson's land in northern Chester County from the Branson grandchildren.*

*Rutter and Potts had no interest in Reading Furnace and allowed it to fall into disrepair. The wooded hills still had timber for making charcoal, which they used for their operations at Warwick and Coventry furnace and forge. As fields were cleared, they sold off farm-size portions. One of the earliest of these partitions was a 223 $\frac{1}{4}$  acre farm sold in 1783 to James Kenny, an Irish freeholder. This parcel was later sold to Philip Filman, Sr. in 1794.*

*The present stone house was probably built at least in part by Philip and James Filman, for they lived there 30 years. David Potts, Jr. purchased the farm from the Filmans in 1830, and 4 years later it came into the possession of Joseph Lahr, together "with houses, outhouses, buildings, barns, stables, ways, woods, water courses, etc." The farm remained in the possession of the Lahr family until 1938.*

*The early boundaries of this property have remained the same on the north, west, and part of the south sides.*

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

MacElree, Urlmer, Archaic the Boundaries of Chester County, W. Chester, PA 1934, p. 518.  
 Breou's Original Series of Farm Maps: Chester County, PA Philadelphia: W.H. Kirk, 1883.

Cope, Gilbert and Ashmead, Henry, Geneological & Personal Memoirs of Chester & Delaware Countie PA Vol. I West Chester, PA: Chester County Historical Society. 1904

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 Acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Elverson, PA

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
E	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
G	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
F	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
H	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Estelle Cremers and J. Kelly Murphy III

ORGANIZATION

French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

RD #2, Box 360

CITY OR TOWN

Pottstown

DATE

TELEPHONE

469-6287

STATE

Pennsylvania

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

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 Ed Weintraub

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION