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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

WHITE HORSE TAVERN

AND/OR COMMON

White Horse Inn, Old Swanenburg Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

480 Swedesford Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Malvern (Frazer)

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Chester

CODE

029

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: unused

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Skip and Pat Miller

STREET & NUMBER

179 Sproul Road

CITY, TOWN

Malvern

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania 19355

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Chester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Market Street

CITY, TOWN

West Chester

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Marker Survey

DATE

1935

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Chester County Historical Society, 225 North High Street

CITY, TOWN

West Chester

STATE

Pennsylvania

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Swayne, Robert L. History of White Horse Inn, Daily Local News, West Chester, Pa., 4-2-54.
Sachse, Julius F. East Whiteland, 19th century newspaper article, date and origin unknown.
Futhry, J. Smith & Cope, Gilbert. History of Chester County Pennsylvania, Louis H. Everts, Publ., Phila., Pa. 1881. pp. 235, 395, 416, 419, 432, 741.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.8 acres
UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	45,07,7,0	44,3,214,00	B	1,8	45,07,2,0	44,3,228,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	45,06,6,0	44,3,228,0	D	1,8	45,06,6,0	44,3,236,0

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: Madeline L. Cohen
 David & Carolyn Dillman/Doris M. Powell
 ORGANIZATION: Pa. Hist. & Mus. Comm.
 Citizens: E. Whiteland Twp.
 STREET & NUMBER: Box #1026
 418 Westgate Village/ 20 Doe Lane
 CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg
 Frazer Malvern
 DATE: July, 1976
 TELEPHONE: 717-787-4363
 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: *[Signature]*
 TITLE: Executive Director
 Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
 DATE: 10-30-78

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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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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WHITE HORSE TAVERN - Chester County

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Significance: (continued)

took a stand against Howe's troops, then at the site of Immaculata College on the Edgmont Road. Skirmishing occurred but a heavy down-pour wetted the powder of both armies and prevented further confrontation. Washington's troops withdrew down the Lancaster Road toward Howellville, John Kerlin, then the proprietor of the Inn, served captive host to the Hessian regulars. Their pillage amounted to 199 pounds in value, and Kerlin's claim for this amount still exists. When, in December of 1777, Washington went into quarters in Valley Forge, one of his most trusted messengers, Captain Patrick Anderson, rested here on his relay to Lancaster where the Continental Congress was then in session. Indeed, his home was a short mile or two from the White Horse.

The history of the White Horse as a center of commerce and transportation, of military concerns, and the concerns of simple Pennsylvania farm life is long and has touched many lives in the growth of Pennsylvania and our nation. It has only been since the construction of the new road to Lancaster one mile south of White Horse, that the use of the Tavern as such has declined. Under the care of the Swanenburgs of Frazer, the Inn stood in fine condition for the better part of this century. Within the past 22 years, the Tavern has changed hands often, and received inadequate care.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The White Horse Tavern was situated at the 23rd milestone from Philadelphia, on an early east-west trail (called "The Great Wagon Road"; later, called the "Old Lancaster Turnpike"; later still, "Swedesford Road"). 24th

An inn stood in this area from the early 18th century, the first building of log. On the opening of several 1735-40, the log inn was enlarged to the east with the present (early) stone section. Later, (Post-Revolutionary) the log building was removed for the new west section.

The White Horse Tavern served as a center of commerce to the west for the early life of the colonies. It later served as headquarters for the American forces following the Battle of Brandywine, and at the Battle of the Clouds. It served as a waystation on the Post to Lancaster during the sessions of the Continental Congress there. Its owners were implemental in the communications with Washington at Valley Forge.

As a tavern on the edge of the civilized colonies, the White Horse drew from all classes its clientele; the general traveling westward to Lancaster and York would sit beside the cattle drovers on the split slab benches and stools of the Inn. Indians, sometimes a threat and at other times entertainment, would perform feats with bow and arrow for drinks of rum or room in the loft of the barn.

The tavern served as a waystation for the first successful coach line to Lancaster. Established by Frederick Doersch and William Weaver, it began its trip from the King of Prussia Tavern, at Market and Third in Philadelphia twice a week. Since the White Horse Tavern stood at the 24 milestone of the Lancaster Road, it served exclusively as the overnight stop of the stage. The fare was 20 shillings.

From its strategic location in the Great Valley, the White Horse commanded a fine view not only of the valley but of the hills to the south. This fact, and the ready access to routes of escape, caused the Inn to serve as headquarters of the continental army after the defeat at Brandywine. On September 16, 1777, Washington regrouped at White Horse, a spot of his own choosing for the reasons above and

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White Horse Tavern

CONTINUATION SHEET

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save for one door and two mantles recently stolen. Original hardware is in most cases present. However, several shutters, catches, door knobs, etc. have fallen prey to scavengers.

Also located on the property is a gable roofed stucco barn.

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The White Horse Tavern is a two-story stone structure, pointed beneath its present stucco surface. It was built in two stages, the eastern end being built circa 1750. The western end was built at the last decade of the 18th century. The former portion being low-ceiled, the roof of that part is lower than that of the western end thus giving the Tavern an easily recognizable profile.

The exterior is distinguished by two end chimneys and a center chimney which actually served the west end of the old section before the addition around 1790. These stone chimneys are capped with brick at the attic level. Two broad doors serve as front entries, and two smaller doors exit from the kitchen-ell and the rear hall. The windows in the eastern end are predominately 6 over 6, with deep sills and plastered squarely on the interior. Those in the western end are 6 over 9.

An enclosed porch runs the length of the Tavern front. It is likely, from accounts of the times, that this was enclosed in the 19th century.

The interior of the tavern is as follows:

The eastern end is constructed in the style of early Pennsylvania. The first floor has two fieldstone fireplaces lined with brick. Two oak lintels remain intact, the one 11-12 feet in length, the other 8'. The larger fireplace has stone ledges for cookware and a candle niche, as it no doubt served the needs of the tavern for cooking. This fireplace is flanked by a spiral stairway leading to the second floor landing.

The western end downstairs has two adjoining rooms with one fireplace in each. These are of steel-grey marble and are closeted on the side.

The cellar is stone-walled with no less than four chimney arches. Some had open flues in the past and may have been used for soapmaking and some cooking. A tunnel connects the new and old portions of the cellar. Original doors still persist between the cellar compartments, and to the outside, leading to a stairway on the exterior. The timbers are at this date, in good repair.

Broad plank flooring exists throughout the Tavern, and all ceilings were originally lath and plaster. Two of these have been "renovated" in the recent past, exposing the beams. These would have to be replastered to the original state. These would have to be replastered to the original state. Vandalism has left many windows broken and the interior exposed to the elements. In spite of this the plaster and woodwork remain intact,