

(OXFORD)
5863 IV SW

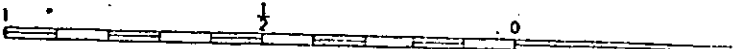
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by stereophotogrammetric

COATESVILLE QUAD.

CHATHAM 1.7 MI.
WEST GROVE 4.2 MI.

(WEST GROVE)
5863 IV SE

SCALE 1:24000



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Primitive Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route #841, north of 926

CITY OR TOWN:
West Marlborough

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
5th

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

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"/> Object	<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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input 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:
The Primitive Hall Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
West Grove RD # 19390

STATE:
Pennsylvania CODE: **42**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
10 North High Street

CITY OR TOWN:
West Chester

STATE:
Pennsylvania CODE: **42**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Office of HABS

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 627, 801 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington, D.C.

STATE:
Pennsylvania CODE: **42**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Penna.**
COUNTY: **Chester**
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

This house demonstrates much about the way the transitional Georgian style was treated in the countryside of the western Delaware Valley. The four-bay facade faces south, high on a commanding site. The reconstructed pediment gable has white coves accenting diagonals and a horizontal. More horizontals are seen in the pent eaves, the limited placement of large windows, and in the eastern gable which is coved only on the horizontal. Details common for the early date include Flemish bond brickwork, segmental arches above the windows, and a transomed door with fielded panels.

The floor plan is divided into four three-story brick boxes in the four corners. On the first floor, a wide hall at ground level extends from front to back. It has been paved with brick.

In the interior, the closed stairway with baroque balusters, and the panelled overmantels and doors, demonstrate a sort of Quaker "trimness". Plain lines, and the lack of cornices and of an arch dividing entrance hall from stairway, stress volume rather than detail. One outstanding feature of this early home is the open-well stairway which rises from the first floor to the attic. Each of the four corner rooms in the two floors has a hollow-cheeked corner fireplace. In one bedroom, the mantel piece and chairrail seem never to have been finished. The wainscot following the open stairway is missing; elsewhere, missing panels or pieces of wood trim have been replaced and are evident as new work.

In the cellar, the presence of a window with iron bars, inside a partition, may indicate a detention quarter, used by the early magistrate when he had to keep people in custody before traveling to far-off Chester to court.

The house underwent changes as new tastes dictated "modern" ideas. An 1845 view shows the house with the then-popular porch and an ell on the east side. In the January, 1948, "Antiques" a picture shows gable windows in the form of a vertically divided semicircle, probably added in the early 19th century.

Plans for restoration are for the house to appear as it stood in 1800. The 1798 county tax record lists Joseph Pennock as owning 250 acres, a brick two story house, a kitchen, a malt house, a brick and stone barn, and a stone springhouse and shop. The springhouse-shop still exists. To the south of the mansion is a reconstructed log building which houses a small library. A brick kitchen addition to the northwest end of the house has been planned by architects.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1738**

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Primitive Hall is important in architecture, in the environment, and in colonial history. As a brick home in the countryside in 1740, it is one of the most ambitious early eighteenth century houses in Chester County.

The house is also significant as the homestead of a historically prominent family. The builder, Joseph Pennock, owned 1250 acres in Chester County when he began the mansion in 1738. A farmer, maltster, county justice, and member of the Provincial Assembly, Pennock's prominence is attested to by a letter from John Morton. He was the progenitor of other generations of prominence. His daughter, Sarah married Humphrey Marshall, the botanist. Isaac Pennock, a grandson, founded what is today the Lukens Steel Corporation. Isaac's daughter, Rebecca Pennock Lukens, became one of the first women industrialists when she ran the family iron works as a widow.

Primitive Hall never left the founding family until Mr. Stewart Huston deeded the house and fifty acres to the Primitive Hall Foundation in 1960. The original 1250 acres had been cut to 122 by that time.

In a park of 50 acres, set aside under the aegis of the Foundation, the complex stresses the environmental aspects of the multi-purpose trust.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chester County Courthouse: Deeds, Deeds of Assignments, Judgement Dockets, Orphans' Court Dockets, Partition Dockets, Wills.
Chester County Historical Society: Pennock Papers, Pennock geneological notes, Lukens geneological notes.
 Mr. J. Stewart Huston, Coatesville. Biblical Concordance once owned by Joseph Pennock.

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° 52' 32"	75° 50' 02"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Alice Kent Schooler, Historic Sites Research

ORGANIZATION: **For Primitive Hall Foundation** DATE: **8-10-71**

STREET AND NUMBER:
R. D.

CITY OR TOWN: **West Grove** 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 William J. Wewer
William J. Wewer

Title Executive Director
Pa. Historical and Museum Commission

Date 11/6/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS