

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:
Simon Meredith House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
One-half mile west of Pughtown, Pa. on Pughtown Road

CITY OR TOWN:
South Coventry Township

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 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:
J. David and Helen Y. Jackson

STREET AND NUMBER:
R. D. #2

CITY OR TOWN:
Pottstown

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Prior to 1800: Philadelphia. Thereafter: 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:
None Known.

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original early eighteenth-century house, the west wing of the present house, is of random fieldstone, subsequently covered with stucco. It is two and one-half stories high and two bays wide across the south elevation. The house has a gable roof and a chimney at the west gable end. According to 1798 Glass Tax, the house has five twelve-light windows, i.e. six-on-six light windows on both the first and second floors, and one fourlight window, at the attic level. A one-story shed-roofed wooden porch has been added to the west elevation and a one-story shed-roofed enclosed wooden addition was made to the north elevation.

The larger Federal addition attached to the east gable end of the original house is also of stucco over stone and two and one-half stories high. It has a gable roof and a chimney at each gable end. The addition is four bays wide and three bays deep at the gable ends. Windows on both the first and second floors have panelled exterior shutters, while the second floor windows have louvered ones. An unusual feature for the area is the location of the principal entrance in the gable end (in the south bay of the east elevation). This door is topped by a three-light rectangular transom. A one-story shed-roofed wooden porch has been added to shelter the entire length of the east elevation, and a similar one has been added to the next from the east bay of the south elevation.

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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)

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 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

Built by Simon Meredith in the early-eighteenth century, the original house on the property, the west wing of the present house, is now one of the oldest structures in northern Chester County. Simon Meredith was born about 1663 and came about 1708 from Radnorshire, Wales, to settle in Chester County. There he obtained 300 acres along French Creek prior to a 1713 survey, probably through purchase from James Logan, one of Pennsylvania's commissioners. He lived in a cave or "dugout" of a more permanent dwelling. Meredith was included in the 1718 assessment, the first list of settlers in Coventry Township. In 1720, he was taxed for 20 pounds in the first assessments of inhabitants. A prominent, as well as early inhabitant of the area, Meredith was elected as a member of the Provincial Assembly in 1727.

Simon had four sons; Hugh, Thomas, James, and John. Hugh was employed, along with Benjamin Franklin, at Samuel Keimer's Philadelphia Printing establishment. Hugh Meredith approached Franklin with a proposal to open their own printing shop in Philadelphia. Hugh's father Simon furnished the capital, 100 pounds, and an agreement was made. The partnership lasted about five years, and Franklin borrowed money from his friends and fellow member of the "Junto", Robert Grace, to buy out the Merediths. Simon's son, John remained in Coventry, managing the family plantation, and inherited the house with its 300 acres when his father died.

John Meredith died in 1769 leaving to his son, Simon (grandson of the first Simon) the house and 175 acres of the 300 acres along French Creek. In the Glass Tax of 1798, Simon Meredith was assessed for one house, 22 feet by 30 feet, part stone and part logs, two stories high with kitchen included. It had twelve-light windows and one four-light window. Included with the house were a log springhouse, 10 feet by 12 feet, a barn, part stone and part logs, and a wagon house. The west wing of the present house measures 22 feet by 24 feet, 6 feet shorter than the Glass Tax measurements. There is evidence in the outside wall of a larger

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fireplace aperture, and there may have been a kitchen where the present back porch is located. This old wing, which is separated from the newer wing by a 19-inch stone wall, has 5 twelve-light windows, many with old glass, and 1 sixteen-light window.

In addition to the early date of the houses's west wing and the prominence of the Meredith family, the house is representative of a pattern of additive growth characteristic of area farmhouses. Typical is the addition of a much larger wing, in the Federal period to an existing eighteenth-century house. The original Simon Meredith house, is two bays wide, and the Federal addition to its east gable end is four bays wide. The Federal addition itself is notable among area farmhouses for having its principal entry at the gable end as reminiscent of the classical pediment.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fay, Bernard. Franklin. Little, Brown and Co., 1929.

Futhey, J. Smith and Gilbert Cope. History of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: L. H. Everts, 1881.

Heathcote, Charles W. (Ed.) History of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Harrisburg: National Historical Association, 1932.

Pennsylvania Gazette. Philadelphia, Pa. January 9-16, 1735.

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
NW	40° 10' 14"	75° 40' 34"		40°	10'	14"
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

39°

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Eleanor Winsor/Natural and Historic Resource Associates**

ORGANIZATION: **for the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, Inc.** DATE: **10-5-72**

STREET AND NUMBER: **313 South 16th Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Philadelphia** 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
 Title: **Executive Director
 Pa. Historical and Museum
 Commission**
 Date: 10/2/74

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 _____