

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120		7. Local survey organization West Whiteland Historical Commission		5. present name Exton Hotel	1. County Chester
8. property owners name and address Robert & Lillian I Wilson 423 E. Lincoln Highway Exton, PA 19341		9. tax parcel number / other number 41-5-81	10. U.T.M. zone 18 easting 44721510 Map# 2 northing 44309610 usgs sheet: Malvern 1.846A		
12. classification site () structure () object () building (X) In N.R. district yes () no ()	13. date(s) (how determined) 1859 14. period 1840-1859	15. style, design or folk type Italianate	19. original use Commercial	6. other name (historic name if any) Exton Hotel/Exton House/Ship Station	2. municipality West Whiteland
16. architect or engineer	17. contractor or builder	18. primary building mat./construction Stone/Stucco	20. present use Residence		
23. site plan with north arrow 				3. street address or specific location 423 East Lincoln Hwy.	4. survey code 029-09-41-309
24. photo notation PG: Richard Glaum PV: South Elevation PD: 2/1980		25. file/location CCHS, WWHC, 09-45, #6A			
26. brief description (note unusual features, integr...) The Exton Hotel property is bounded by two important avenues of transportation: the Lancaster Turnpike on the south and the Chester Valley Railroad on the north. A description of the property published in 1861 suggests how the structure appeared originally and proves how little it has changed, architecturally at least, since construction. "Stone Hotel, pebble-dashed and pebble roofed, ...40 by 37 feet, with 4 rooms and hall on first floor, 5 rooms and hall on second floor, and 7 chambers and hall on third floor, basement kitchen and cellar, with dumbwaiter, from kitchen to dining room..." Since 1859 some changes, of course, have occurred. A one-story wing was added to the west side. The original three-sided porch was reconstructed and reduced to two sides. The outbuildings-including the springhouse, carriage house, hitching shed, pig pen, chicken house, and frame hot houses - are gone. In view of the old hotel's (continue on back if necessary)					
27. history, significance and/or background Commerce: In 1859, James Beale petitioned for a license for an "eating house", Ship Station, in a newly-built, three story structure on land he had acquired recently from T. Penrose Brinton at Turnpike Station. In 1860, he filed an application as the "Exton Hotel" and was allowed. In 1863, two petitions were filed against Beale, as were two in support. The Exton Hotel at that time contained the post office and the ticket office. (continue on back if necessary)					
28. sources of information: West Whiteland Tavern Papers 1859-1869; West Whiteland Clipping File AR 7-19-1859, VR 6-4-1864, L 2-9-1880, L8-20-188, L3-25-1885, L5-10-1905, VR 11-23-1905, L 11-6-1906, L 7-10-1967 (continue on back if necessary)				29. prepared by: M. L. Wolf BC L. Goldstein WWHC	
				30. date 12/1981 revision(s)	

#26 Cont'd...

location along one of the busiest roads in America and the reduction in its acreage from 3 acres to 1.1 acres, the loss of the outbuildings would be expected. The hotel's surviving architectural integrity, however, is commendable. No apparent alterations have been made to the three story core structure. It retains, for example, its bracketed cornice, eight-pane door, trim, etc.

#27 Cont'd...

(Commerce): He was denied a license in that year and the next, but resumed his restaurant only business in 1866. Between 1860 and 1869, there were only three licensed public houses in the Township. The Exton Hotel was the youngest and, initially, least successful. Less than two years after construction it was up for Sheriff's sale. Beale managed, however, to hold onto his business. In 1864, he was taking in boarders, "either permanent or transient." The property subsequently passed through a succession of owners and was operated as a hotel and summer boarding house. It had a number of colorful owners and lessees, among them Colonel James G. Riley of Philadelphia, Miss Isabel Darlington (Faunbrook), and "Ma" Diem.

Transportation

The Exton Hotel was built in response to the construction of the Chester Valley Railroad between 1850 and 1854. It is the only resource in the Township directly associated with that line, for which it served for several years as a ticket office.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania
Multiple Resource Nomination

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Exton Hotel Map #2

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Exton Hotel is eligible under criterion C as the only Italianate structure in the township. It interprets the design grammar in a vernacular fashion which is not surprising in that this very mid-nineteenth century style was not commonly employed in the Great Valley. The Exton Hotel is also eligible under criterion A for its association with both the Lancaster Road and with the Chester Valley Railroad. By the 1860's the Lancaster Turnpike was no longer a toll road but it was still the most important east-west road from Philadelphia to Lancaster and beyond. It was eclipsed only by the railroad that ran nearby. The intersection of the two transportation routes of the road and of the Chester Valley rail line gave the Exton Hotel an excellent location to exploit the need for both shipping and passenger traffic in this part of the Great Valley. It also gave local residents an option in that they did not have to send their produce into Philadelphia but instead could ship goods into Norristown and hence into the Montgomery County markets.

West Whiteland Township,
Chester County, PA
Multiple Resource Nomination
Survey Code 029-09-41-309
Exton Hotel Map #2

Now this Indenture witnesseth, *That the said* Grantor

for and in consideration of
the sum of TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND (\$24,000.00) -----DOLLARS

lawful money of the United States, to it well and truly paid by the said Grantees

at and before the sealing and delivery hereof, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged,
has *granted, bargained, sold, aliened, released, and confirmed and by these presents,*

does

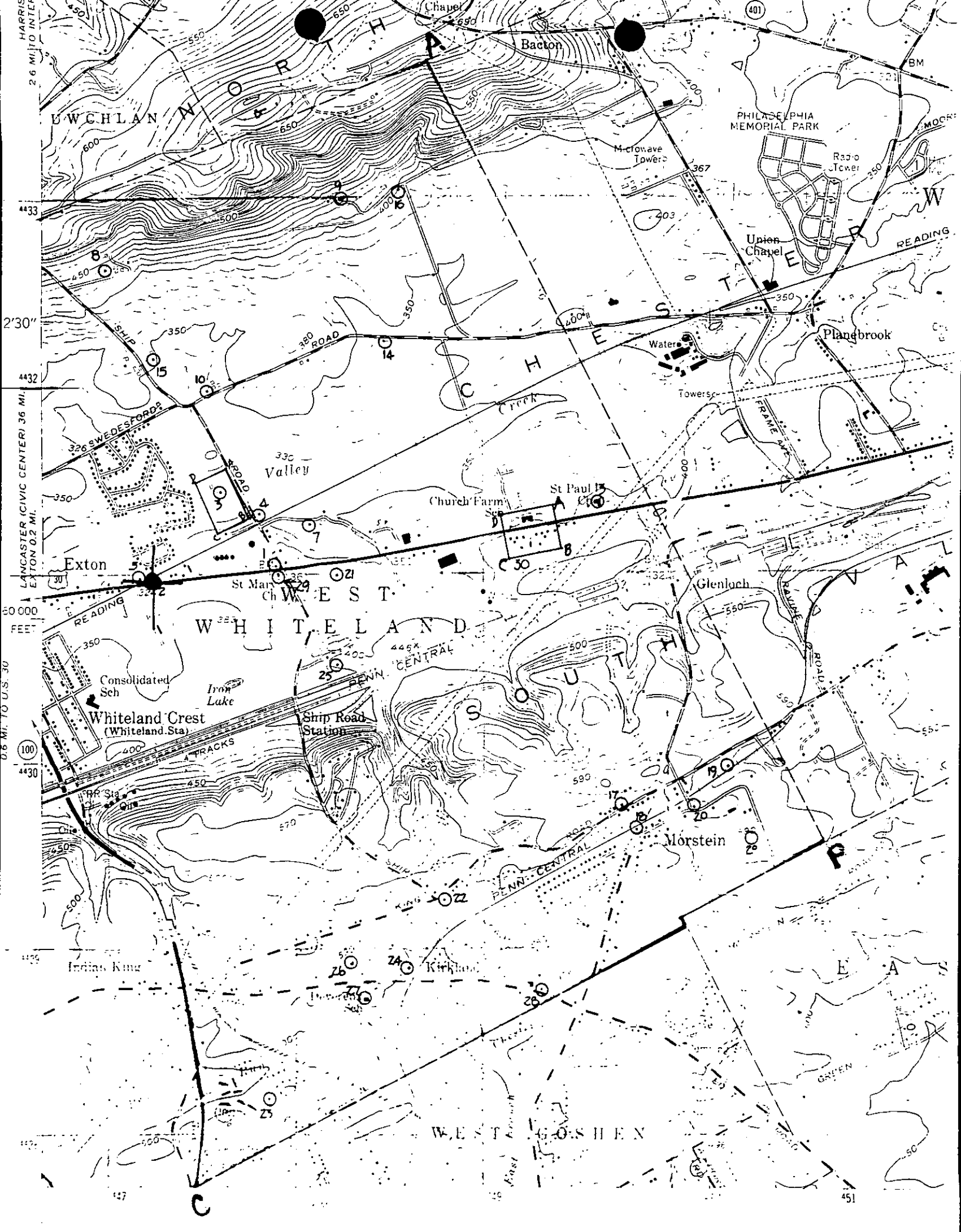
grant, bargain, sell, alien, release and confirm unto the said Grantees, their heirs and
assigns, as tenants by the entireties

ALL THAT CERTAIN stone building, garage and tract of land
situate in the Township of West Whiteland, County of Chester and State
of Pennsylvania, which according to a survey made by J. Vernon Keech,
Registered Surveyor, is bounded and described as follows to wit:

BEGINNING at a hole drilled in the concrete at the intersection
of the center of the Lincoln Highway, Traffic Route #30 and the middle
of the railroad track of the Chester Valley Branch of the Philadelphia
and Reading Railway; thence extending by the middle of said track North
sixty three degrees and ten minutes East six hundred ninety four and
four tenths (694.4) feet to a rail monument, a corner of property of
William P. Carson, Jr.; thence extending by said Carson's property and
passing over an iron pin set on the north side of the Lincoln Highway
South fifteen degrees and thirty seven minutes East two hundred thirty
six and forty one hundredths (236.41) feet to a point in the center of
the Lincoln Highway aforesaid; thence extending by the center of same
South eighty two degrees, fifty minutes and forty seconds West six
hundred eighty eight and sixty three hundredths (688.63) feet to the
first mentioned hole and place of beginning.

CONTAINING one and eight hundred forty six thousandths (1.846)
acres of land be the same more or less.

BEING a part of the same premises which Isabel Darlington, by
her deed dated August 1, 1928 and recorded in the Office of the Re-
corder of Deeds of Chester County in Deed Book S-17, page 280, granted
and conveyed unto Harry Diem and Alva G. Diem, his wife, in fee.



HARRIS
2.6 MI. TO INTER.
LANCASTER (CIVIC CENTER) 3.6 MI.
EXTON 0.2 MI.
50 000
FEET
0.6 MI. TO U.S. 30

PHILADELPHIA MEMORIAL PARK
Union Chapel
Bacton
Ship Road
Ship Creek
Church Creek
Valley
Church Farm
St Paul
Glenloch
Morstein
Whiteland Crest (Whiteland Sta.)
Ship Road Station
Consolidated Sch.
Iron Lake
Indian King
Kirkland
WEST GOSHEN
READING
PENN. CENTRAL
MORSTEIN
GREEN

401
BM
MOOR
W
READING
FRAME
RAILROAD
A
L
E
A
50

447

451