

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

8. property owners name and address
 James H. & Nancy D. Carville
 117 North Ship Road
 Exton PA 19341

9. tax parcel number / other number
 41-5-91

10. U.T.M. zone 18 easting 4478110
 Map#4 4431320 northing
 usgs sheet: Malvern 5.1A

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)
 CCHSS,
 Pa. Inventory

12. classification
 site () structure () object ()
 building (X)
 in N.R. district yes () no ()

13. date(s) (how determined)
 c. 1717

15. style, design or folk type
 Hall/Parlor
 (core)

19. original use
 Residence-farm

14. period
 1700-1799

20. present use
 Residence-farm

16. architect or engineer

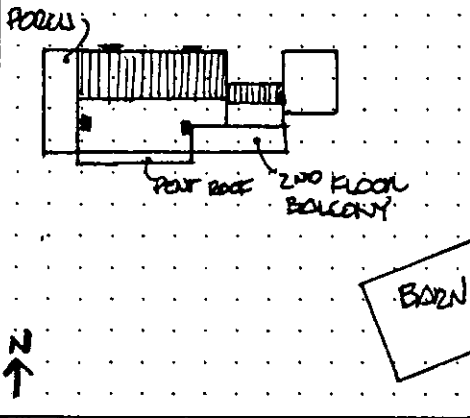
17. contractor or builder
 Evan Lewis

18. primary building mat./construction
 Stone

21. condition
 Above Average

22. integrity
 Average

23. site plan with north arrow



24. photo notation

PG: John Ronayne
 PV: Southwest elevation
 PD: 11/1981

25. file/location

CCHS, WWHC- #09-73, #31

26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and suggested treatments)

The Evan Lewis House was constructed circa 1717 as a traditional single pile, hall/parlor dwelling by Welsh Quakers. It has over the years assumed a much more complex configuration which represents something like an architectural diary of the skills and fortunes of six generations of the Lewis family, many of whom were carpenters. The house is situated 30' east of Ship Road, faces due south, and is slightly banked. It is situated on a tract brimming with springs, some of which run through the basement and into a nearby tributary of Valley Creek on the north. The core of the house is rectangular, measuring 20'x27'. It is stone (now stuccoed), 2½ stories high and had opposing front and rear doors and windows. Its chimney arrangement is of interest in that both the west and east chimneys are located off center of the gable on the south side. They serve two fireplaces which, although are both located in the corners of

(continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background

Exploration/Settlement

The Evan Lewis House holds the distinction of being one of the Township's last surviving structures from West Whiteland's first period of settlement. Extensive deed research and site inspections indicate only this house and a portion of Sleepy Hollow Hall date from this period. The survival of the Evan Lewis House is fortunate evidence of the early Welsh Quaker

(continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information

CCHS: Tax Records 1715-1825; Brinton, The Lewis Family Genealogy;
 G. Cope, The Genealogy of the Smedley Family. Chester Co. Court-
 house: Recorder of Deeds, Register of Wills.

29. prepared by:

Nancy Carville
 WWHC

12/1981

revision(s)

(continue on back if necessary)

1. County Chester
 2. municipality West Whiteland Twp
 3. street address or specific location 117 North Ship Road
 4. survey code 029-09-41-338
 5. present name Evan Lewis House
 6. other name (historic name if any) Evan Lewis House

#26 cont.

the house, are substantially dissimilar. The eastern fireplace is situated diagonally in the corner and supported by corbelled stone, a building technique used in many of the area's very early 18th century houses. The western fireplace, in contrast, is in the corner parallel to the exterior wall. It was used as the cooking fireplace and features a 3'x8' rectangular stone support in the basement. Evidence of a stairway adjacent to the support in the basement suggests it was of the winding, closet type, and probably extended to the second floor. Joists in the cellar are bark-covered log which support random width (up to 15" wide) pine floors.

While the dimensions of the core correspond exactly to those for a stone house in the 1798 Direct Tax, the progression of the additions making up the remainder of the house is difficult to determine. The Tax also listed a 30'x20' stone and log house, a 23'x18' one story kitchen, a 16'x18' kitchen, and a 13'x12' milk and smoke house. Some of these structures appear to have been incorporated into the existing structure. One of these early additions is located to the north of the core (16'x18') and another (12'x16') to the north and east. The latter contains a full basement with spring which appears to have served as a storage area for food. An inverted V-shaped fireplace support on the north wall serves a fireplace on the first floor. This room features heavy floor to ceiling paneling, which although from a later era (c.1850), is of a admirable design and craftsmanship. The northern addition seems to antedate this section in that it features an exterior stone foundation wall in the crawl-space basement which abuts the smaller addition. This section contains an open stairway and a formal entrance on the west which faces Ship Road. During the 1820's this portion of the house was rebuilt in that a second story and attic were added. The roof of core was altered at that time and two 1/2 round garret windows installed. The eastern gable end, on the other hand, retained its less showy 4/4 rectangular attic openings which were not visible from the road. The present day dining room and kitchen extend off the east end of the core and probably replaced or absorbed the 30'x20' stone and log house. Although the existing barn bears a datestone of 1821 it may have been rebuilt on the foundations of a 50'x30' banked stone barn mentioned in the Direct Tax.

#27 cont.

occupation of the Great Valley and the Welsh Tract, a group whose presence and influence had dissipated by the mid-18th century. That the Lewis family continued to occupy the site for six generations strengthens its significance to Township settlement.

Evan Lewis and his wife Magdaline (Maud) settled on a 225 acre tract which had been purchased from Richard Thomas (I) in 1717. The house passed to his son, Griffith, in 1726. Under the hand of Griffith Lewis, a farmer and carpenter, the plantation prospered and additional land was acquired. His name is found on the 1731 petition requesting a division of Whiteland Township east and west. His son Samuel inherited the homestead and his father's carpenter and joiner's tools. The 1798 Direct Tax lists a one story, 18'x20' carpenter shop "in want of repair." Samuel left the tools and house to his son Griffith in 1799. Griffith appears to have made substantial improvements to the house and rebuilt the barn in 1821. The property was inherited by his son Nathan in 1829 who sold it out of the family in 1840.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania
Multiple Resource Nomination

Survey Code 029-09-41-338 Page 3
Evan Lewis House Map #4

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Evan Lewis House is eligible for listing under criterion C as an example of the original building traditions employed by the first settlers of the township. The hall-parlor design was part of the original building grammar of the Welsh Quakers and was well suited to their needs both as a first house and later as a structure that could be easily added to as both family size and wealth increased. A modern barn built within the stone walls of an 1823 "Great Barn" is included in this site.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, PA MRA

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Survey Code 029-09-41-338
Evan Lewis House

Page 4
Map #4

The nominated acreage consists of all land presently associated with the resource and includes a non-contributing modern, 2 story, rectangular, frame and cement block stable/garage. The stable/garage has incorporated into it a portion of the stone wall of an 1821 "Great Barn".

