

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
 Church Farm School
 Box 662
 Paoli, Pennsylvania 19301

9. tax parcel number / other number
 41-2-84

10. U.T.M. zone **18** easting **447250**
 Map# **15** northing **44321150**
 usgs sheet: **Malvern 4.6A**

12. classification
 site () structure () object ()
 building (x)
 In N.R. district yes () no ()

13. date(s) (how determined)
 c. 1790

14. period
 1700-99

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

15. style, design or folk type
 Two thirds Georgian/
 Additive

19. original use
 Residence-farm

20. present use
 Residence-farm

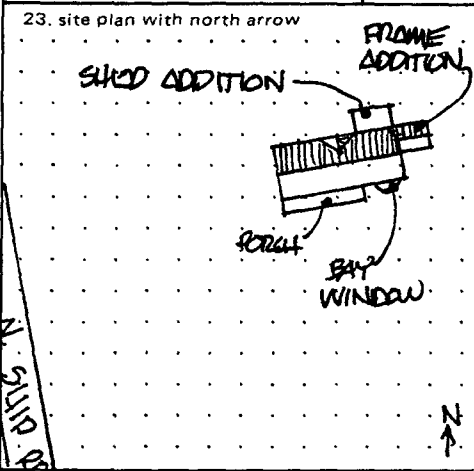
16. architect or engineer

17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construction
 Stone

21. condition
 Above average

22. integrity
 Above average



24. photo notation
 PG: John Ronayne
 PV: South Elevation
 PD: 11/23/1981

25. file/location
 CCHS, WWHC, #09-72, #5

26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings)

Following a plan used frequently in the Great Valley, the Benjamin Jacobs house was built as a three bay, double pile, side hall dwelling. This plan, referred to as two-thirds Georgian, is found throughout West Whiteland Township, although generally as an addition rather than core structure. The dimensions of the Jacobs house, 35'x32', correspond precisely with those cited in the 1798 Direct Tax. To the east of the core is a wing measuring approximately 20'x35', again in close correspondence to the 1798 dimensions for a stone kitchen. A frame wing on the east with two story porch completes the dwelling. It is an impressive house, attractively situated in the Valley with the Whitford Hills on the north providing a suitable backdrop. On the west gable end of the core, which is visible from Ship Road, are two quarter round garrett windows installed to present a fashionable appearance to passersby. The reconstruction of the kitchen wing permitted a center hall where there is an open string stairway of four flights in the rear. The main entrance (over which is a transom) is opposed by an

(continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background

Agriculture: The Benjamin Jacobs House falls squarely within the group of 18th century farm manor houses which once dominated the Great Valley. Unlike so many of these, the house and its rural setting are remarkably preserved. Its use as a dwelling for a farm operation has remained unchanged for two hundred years. The farm was acquired by the Church Farm School in 1955, consisting at that time of 350 acres. Like other farms in the vicinity, it included originally limestone quarries and kilns. In 1830, it was

(continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information
 CCHS, A. P. Reid T.S.# 2013; West Whiteland Clipping file-Lands VR9-16-1821, VR10-27-1830, AR12-14-1839, VR1-18-1842, AR5-14-1839, AR5-5-1845, VR12-20-1866; Jacobs family clippings and papers

(continue on back if necessary)

29. prepared by:
 Martha Wolf

30. date
 12/1981

revision(s)

1. County
 Chester

2. municipality
 West Whiteland

3. street address or specific location
 North Ship Road 325

4. survey code
 029-09-41-324

5. present name
 Ship Road Farm
 Strawbridge/

6. other name (historic name if any)
 Benjamin Jacobs House

#26 Cont'd...

outside door on the north wall. Mantles in the core are marble. The trim is symmetrically molded with rosette corner blocks and window reveals are paneled. The core and wing are stuccoed, thereby concealing lines of addition. A two story bay window was added to the wing and three dormers installed across the south slope of the roof. Large, brick, lipped chimneys are found on the gable ends of core and wing. According to the 1798 Direct Tax there was a stone barn (foundations remain), stone smith shop, spring house, and smoke house.

#27 Cont'd...

noted that \$2,000 of lime and stone could be sold annually. It was part of the large John (I) Jacobs tract in the 18th century which was divided upon his death in 1780 between his two sons, Benjamin and John (II). Benjamin Jacobs inherited the western portion, consisting of between five and six hundred acres. He lived in this house and led a distinguished life as a lawyer, gentleman farmer, surveyor and judge. He was appointed associate judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1790. During the Revolution Jacobs was a signer of the Continental money, an act which caused him to be read out of Quaker Meeting in 1777. The property passed out of the Jacobs family in 1821 when Benjamin's son, Samuel, lost it at Sheriff's sale to Job B. Remington, a "gentleman" from Philadelphia. Remington sold it to Jabez Jenkins, also of Philadelphia in 1834. Jenkins offered it for sale in 1842, describing it in the notice of sale as "...a large stone mansion modernly finished with convenient out-buildings and fountain of water from summer kitchen..Situating on an eminence in a lawn of about 3 acres which is planted with ornamental and fruit trees and shrubbery...occupied by Jabez Jenkins as an experimental farm...pleasant and profitable for gentleman farmer.."

Architecture:

As an example of an additive, two thirds Georgian manor house, this dwelling is without parallel in the Township.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania
Multiple Resource Nomination

Survey Code 029-09-41-324 Page 3
Benjamin Jacobs House Map #15

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Benjamin Jacobs House is eligible for listing under criterion C as an example of the type of domestic structure that was built during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in the Great Valley. Originally begun as a 2/3 Georgian building, it was enlarged in the early nineteenth century to complete the grammar of the Georgian Style and was given Federal details to make the entire building appear to be of the latest architectural fashion.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point 175 feet south of the intersection of the southernmost edge of the Benjamin Jacobs House driveway and the northern edge of Ship Road; thence north 54° east 500 feet to a point; thence north 31° west 400 feet to a point; thence south 54° west 500 feet to another point in the northern edge of Ship Road; thence along the various courses of Ship Road in a southeasterly direction to the place of beginning, containing 4.6 acres.

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

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

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, PA NRA
Continuation sheet Item number

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Page

Survey Code 029-09-41-324
Benjamin Jacobs House

Page 4
Map #15

The nominated acreage consists of a rectangle with the mansion house at the center. It includes sufficient land to protect the integrity of the setting and provide a green buffer zone against future development.