

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

1. County
 Chester

8. Property owners name and address
 Devereux Foundation
 c/o Raymond Van Lenton
 19 S. Waterloo Road
 Devon, PA 19333

9. tax parcel number / other number
 41-6-61

10. U.T.M. zone 18 4 4 9 3 1 1 0
 Map# 28 4 4 2 1 8 7 7 0
 usgs sheet: Malvern 995A

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

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

13. date(s) (how determined)
 14. period 1800-1819

15. style, design or folk type
 Federal vernacular

19. original use
 Residence-non farm
 20. present use
 Institutional

16. architect or engineer

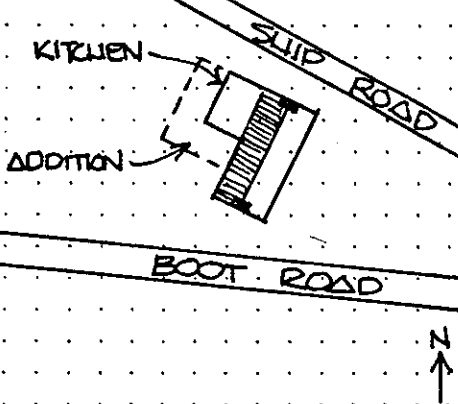
17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construction
 Brick

21. condition
 Average

22. integrity
 Above Average

23. site plan with north arrow



2. municipality
 West Whiteland

6. other name (historic name if any)
 William Everhart House

24. photo notation

PG: Steve Del Sordo
 PV: NE Elevation
 PD: 11/2/1980

25. file/location
 CCHS: 09-63, #17

3. street address or specific location
 Intersection of S. Ship
 and Boot Roads

26. brief description (note unusual features, integr...

The William Everhart House (c.1810) is one of West Whiteland's most intriguing buildings. Its brick construction is rare to the limestone-rich area. Out of the handful of brick structures built in the 18th and 19th centuries, only Whitford Lodge (1782) and the Everhart House survive. The latter is located in the SE corner of the Township (just a few yards from the W. Goshen boundary line) at the V formed by the convergence of Ship and Boot Roads. It faces neither road, however, but rather, looks to the SE towards the site of the old Boot Tavern. It's 5 bay, symmetrical facade shows 2 entrances, 1 adorned with a fanlight, and the other plainly trimmed - which correctly implies an unconventional floor plan within. The Everhart House measures 50'x21' and has an attached rear kitchen. The facade is laid in Flemish Bond and features a brick drip course; the back (NW elevation) uses Common bonding with glazed headers. The plain gable roof of the main block is slate. It shows (Cont'd) (continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background

The William Everhart House was long associated with one of West Whiteland's most active general stores. In 1814, William Everhart was listed as a storekeeper and assessed for a brick dwelling, a brick tenement, and various outbuildings. By 1817, mention was made of a "new cloth store opposite his former stand." This was a 75'x26' stone building, now demolished, but featured prominently in newspaper advertisements into the mid- (continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information

CCHS: West Whiteland Clipping File - Lands VR 1849,
 AR 12-22-1846, AR 12-30-1851, AR 12-14-1852 (over)
 (continue on back if necessary)

29. prepared by:

D. Snyder WWHC
 M. Wolf BC

30. date 12/1981 revision(s)

4. survey code 029-09-41-046

#26 Cont'd...

brick chimneys at either gable end, a box cornice, and an unusual punch and groove decorated cornice frieze. Although shallow in depth, the SE gable wall shows a "full Georgian" arrangement of windows. The east door opens into a small hall with a stairway in the rear and a room to the right. The fluted trim and narrow chair rail in this section, while charming, appear to be "homemade"; they bear no resemblance to mill work found elsewhere in the Township and are inconsistent in design and scale. This is true as well of the fanlight over the door which, with its coarse punch and groove work, has an almost "folk" quality. A closed-string stairway of two flights leads to the second floor. The attic is reached by a separate stairway, which is unusually wide and has uncomfortably angled steps. The attic shows the use of traditional construction techniques, i.e., pegged rafters marked with Roman numerals. The brick kitchen, which extends from the NE wall of the house, has a shed roof and a cooking fireplace on the north wall. The cellar under the kitchen is particularly interesting for its vaulted subterranean root cellar which is said also to contain the well. The door on the west is flanked by windows on each side and opens into one large room which shows none of the domestic features of the eastern portion of the house.

#27 Cont'd...

19th century. Although the store, which carried a wide assortment of dry goods is gone, the brick dwelling, i.e., the storekeeper's house, remains admirably preserved. It and the store were advantageously located near the Old Boot Tavern and, after 1833, the West Chester Railroad. Encouraged by the success of his West Whiteland business, Everhart opened a hotel in West Chester in 1835. There, through various mercantile pursuits and the subdivision of a farm into more than 50 building lots, Everhart amassed a considerable fortune. William Everhart, born in 1785, was a colorful and beloved local figure, and after his death in 1868 a monument was erected in his honor. He is best remembered for his celebrated escape from "a watery grave" upon the sinking of the Albion off the coast of Ireland in 1822. In thanksgiving for his deliverance, Everhart's family held annual services on the anniversary of the shipwreck and continued to do so long after his death at age 84. Everhart served in the 33rd Congress of the United States between 1853-1855.

Architecture:

The William Everhart House in West Whiteland is unusual for its brick construction, primitive-appearing decoration, and unusual facade and floor plan. The only other surviving brick dwelling in the Township is Whitford Lodge (c. 1782), a mansion in every sense of the word. The William Everhart House, in contrast, is plain and practical and lacks the refinements of the Thomas family mansion. Its punch and groove work in the cornice frieze and clumsily executed fanlight, while not the work of a master carpenter who would have worked in the fine valley manor houses, are nonetheless significant features and worthy of further study. The five bay facade with its double entrances implies that it was either a double house or one which was built to serve a dual purpose perhaps as a store or storehouse and dwelling combination. Fortunately, the adaptation of the William Everhart House for institutional use by the Devereux Foundation has not diminished its architectural integrity. With the loss of the Boot Tavern, the general store, and other historic buildings in the immediate area, the William Everhart House alone recalls 19th century life at the "Boot."

EVALUATION / #28 cont. Business Houses, William Everhart, "Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1744-1927, p. 953.

EVALUATOR(S)

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania
Multiple Resource Nomination

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Rose Villa Map #28

Summary Statement of Significance:

Rose Villa is eligible for listing under criterion C as an example of a vernacular tradition that often incorporated a dwelling and a store under one roof. The facade conveys the impression of a 5-bay structure when in reality it was a 3 bay and a 2 bay building. This house is also interesting in that it is near the northern limit for brick dwellings in Chester County. Most domestic structures in West Whiteland and further north were built of either stone or frame.

Whiteland Township,
Chester County, PA
Multiple Resource Nomination
Survey Code 029-09-41-046
Rose Villa Map #28

STROMBERG,
D
X FOUNDATION

the one part; and The Devereux Foundation, a Pennsylvania corporation, with
offices in Devon,

(hereinafter called the Grantor), of

(hereinafter called the Grantee),

JESSETH, That the said Grantor S
of the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)

lawful money of the

to, unto them well and truly paid by the said Grantee

; and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold, aliened, enfeoffed,

and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff, release and confirm unto the said Grantee its Successors Heirs and Assigns.

ALL THAT CERTAIN messuage and lot 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 an iron pin in the bed of a public road leading from the Boot to Kirkland Station, and known as the Boot Road; thence extending along the bed of the Boot Road the next three courses and distances to wit: South seventy-one degrees and twenty-nine minutes East eighty-six and forty-five hundredths feet to a stone; thence South sixty-seven degrees and fifty-five minutes East One Hundred thirty and thirty-five hundredths feet to a stone, and South sixty-one degrees and forty-three minutes East Two Hundred forty-three and seventy-seven hundredths feet to a stone on the South side of the Boot Road aforesaid, a corner of land belonging to Walter C. Fatters, formerly J. Frederick Wagner, and at the intersection with another public road known as the Ship Road; thence extending along the bed of said Ship Road and land belonging to Walter C. Fatters the next two courses and distances, to wit: North thirty-eight degrees and fifty-two minutes West Three Hundred ninety-four and four-tenths feet to an iron pin, and North thirty-six degrees and two minutes West Sixty-five and two-tenths feet to an iron pin, a corner of land belonging to W. Howard Green; thence leaving the road and extending by said Green's land South thirty-seven degrees and fifty minutes West Two Hundred thirteen and nine-tenths feet to the first mentioned iron pin and place of beginning. The Hundred and ninety-five one-thousandths (995/1000) of Acre of land to the same more or less.

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

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

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

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The nominated acreage consists of all land currently associated with the resource. Included in the acreage is a non-contributing modern, 1 story, rectangular frame building (built after 1952) which serves as a garage and recreation room.

