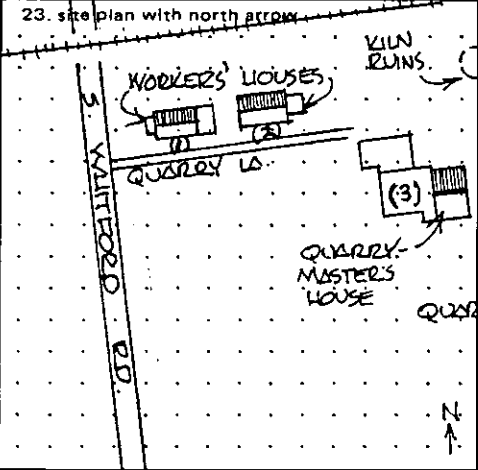


<b>PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM</b> OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120		7. Local survey organization West Whiteland Historical Commission		1. County Chester  2. Municipality West Whiteland  3. Street address or specific location Quarry Lane  4. Survey code 105
8. Property owners name and address 1) R.D. Rimel 2) R.H., Jr. & S.L. Ludwick 3) R.K. & B.H. Smith Quarry Lane Exton, OA 19341		9. Tax parcel number / other number 41-5-126.1, 126.1A 127		
12. Classification site ( ) structure ( ) object ( ) building (X) in N.R. district yes ( ) no ( )		11. Status (other surveys, lists etc.) CCHSS		5. Present name Thomas Marble Quarry Houses
13. Date(s) (how determined) c.1833		15. Style, design or folk type Vernacular		
16. Architect or engineer		17. Contractor or builder		6. Other name (historic name if any)
14. Period 1820-1839		18. Primary building mat./construction Stone		
19. Original use Residence-tenant 18A		20. Present use Residence		3. Street address or specific location Quarry Lane
21. Condition Above Average		22. Integrity Average		



24. Photo notation  
 PG: John Ronayne  
 PV: South elevation  
 PD: 11/1981

25. File/location  
 CCHS, WWHC #09-71, #26

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

Three structures remain from the famous Thomas Marble Quarries, established in 1833: two quarry worker's houses and the Quarry Master's House. The site features, in addition, vestiges of two lime kilns, stone ruins from the quarry operation, and the quarry itself, now filled with water. A spur from the old Chester Valley Railroad (now Conrail) has been removed.

All three houses are built of locally quarried stuccoed stone. The worker's houses, each of which served two families, were constructed identically and designed to give shelter but little in the way of luxury to the quarry workers renting them. The houses were divided into two sections of two small bays and featured double entrances on the facade. Originally, the two doors were protected by a smaller pent roof, only as wide as the openings. A common, centrally located brick chimney served stoves on each side of the house. The two stairways, each located along the common central wall, wound from basement to attic. While the basement was divided by a central stone wall, the attic

(continue on back if necessary)

27. History, significance and/or background

Industry

These three structures derive their significance from their association with the Thomas Quarry which opened near Oaklands in 1833, easily the most famous industry to ever operate in West Whiteland. In that year, the Columbia Railroad was under construction and pushing east towards Philadelphia. According to one writer, the marble "might have lain dormant for centuries" had it not been for the arrival of the railroad. Within

(continue on back if necessary)

28. Sources of information  
 CCHS Clipping File - Industry AR 10-22-1833, VR 7-10-1834  
 VR 1-29-1869; Sloans Architectural Review and Builders Journal

29. Prepared by:  
 M.L. Wolf

30. Date  
 12/1981

revision(s)

(continue on back if necessary)

029-09-41-103, 104,  
 105

#26 cont.  
was left as one space. The interior of the houses were left completely plain, the walls being simply plastered stone and the windows untreated. Doors were made of vertical boards. Each of the worker's houses has been converted to a single family residence involving some alteration and additions. The basic stone core of each house, however, has been carefully retained without loss of architectural integrity.

The Quarry Maſter's House is heavily obscured by shrubbery, and impossible to photograph adequately. The original building was banked and one story with a loft above. It measured 14' by 20'. Where as local legend has it that the basement was the scene of numerous cock fights, the room above was used as an office for the Quarry. It retains its original mantle and outside door on which the word "office" is just barely discernable. An addition was made in 1956 by members of the Thomas family.

#27 cont.

months after the discovery of marble on the John R. Thomas farm, the new quarry, under the management of Jacobs and Cornog, was under contract to furnish marble for the construction of Girard College in Philadelphia.

This proved to be an exceptionally visible commission as it was designed by famed "architect" Thomas U. Walter and admired widely for its classical style and white marble. The marble from the Quarry was transported via horse drawn carts over a spur from the West Chester Railroad. The Quarry was worked from 1833-1844, in which year Girard College was completed and the Quarry closed. In the preceding years the Quarry had also furnished stone for the construction of other buildings in Philadelphia (including the Preston Retreat) and for the Bank of Chester County in West Chester, erected in 1836-7 on designs provided by Thomas U. Wlater.

The Quarry reopened in 1867, this time under steam power and connected by a siding to the Chester Valley Railroad. Modern equipment was brought in to cut the stone and keep the quarry free of water.

Samuel Sloan, in his Architectural Review and Builder's Journal (1869), discussed the quarry and its marble at length. He noted that this deposit was one of the most extensive in the Chester Valley, consisting of two veins, ranging in color from a pale, blush-white to a dark blue and black. Sloan gives exact measurements for each of the veins, noting the total size of the quarry was 120 feet (long) by 60 feet (wide) by 100 feet (deep). He compared the marble to "Italian statuary marble" in quality.

The marble industry was intensely important to West Whiteland in the mid-19th century both economically and as a matter of local pride. There were at least two quarries in operation by then; the Thomas Marble Quarry garnered the most fame for the use of its product in Thomas U. Walter commissions.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania  
Multiple Resource Nomination

Survey Code 029-09-41-103,104,105

Page 3

Thomas Marble Quarry Houses

Map #43

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Thomas Marble Quarry Houses are eligible under criterion C as examples of vernacular housing used to provide shelter for the quarry workers. Houses of this sort are rare in the township which had a mostly agricultural base. The houses are also eligible under criterion A for their association with the Thomas Quarry which was an important source of building grade marble used on and in many important Delaware Valley buildings. The quarry is not worked any longer but it still survives to the east of the houses. Two of the engine house walls and a tail race to draw water away from the quarry still survive on the site. All other evidence of heavy industry has been cleared away because the quarry was used as a private swim club for many years after the hold suddenly filled with water in the process of working the marble vein. It is alleged that machinery and tools still survive in the bottom of the hole.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point at the intersection of the southeast edge of the roadbed of the Reading Railroad tracks and the northeast curblin of Whitford Road, then in a northeasterly direction along the southeast edge of the Reading Railroad tracks for 1400 feet, then in a perpendicular direction the the said Railroad tracks, south 30° east for 800 feet, then south 67° west 675 feet to a point, then north 30° west to the south edge of the private driveway of the Thomas Marble Quarry Houses (Quarry Lane), then in a westerly direction along the several courses of said driveway to its intersection with the northeast edge of Whitford Road, then north east along said curblin to the place of beginning, containing 18.0 acres.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, PA HRA

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

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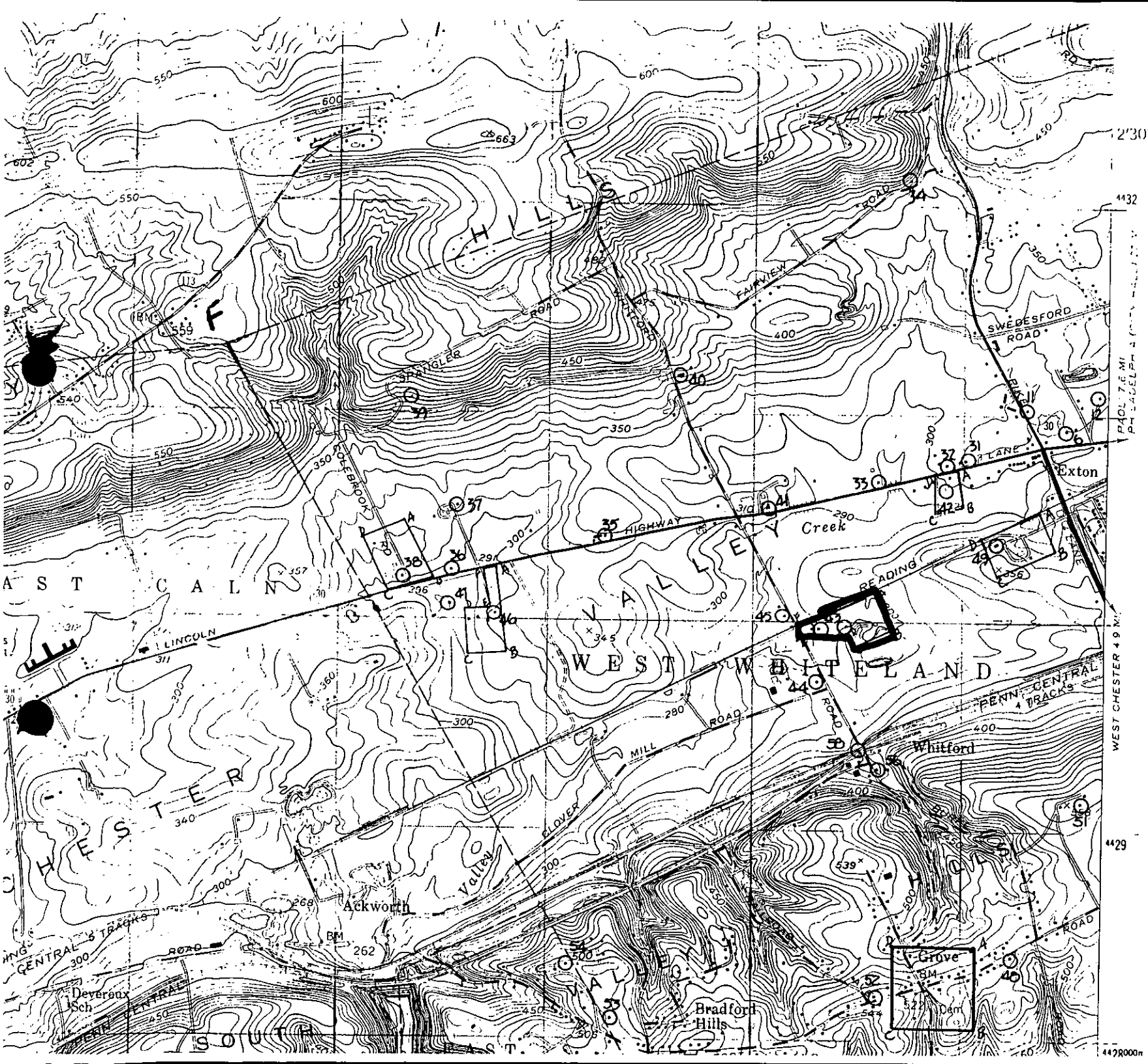
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date entered

Survey Code 029-09-41-103,104,105  
Thomas Marble Quarry Houses

Page 4  
Map#43

Following a site visit and consultation of the 1873 Witmer Atlas and the 1883 Breou Farm Atlas, the boundaries of the nominated acreage were drawn to include all contributing above ground structures (two worker's houses, the "office", a small stone springhouse, engine house stone wall ruins), the below ground resources (the quarry itself, the tail race, lime kiln ruins) and the bed of the spur which connected the quarry to the Chester Valley Railroad. Non-contributing features included on the site are a 1 story, frame baggage or freight shed circa 1880 which was relocated from its original location at the nearby Whitford Station and two 1 story, small frame cabannas which were built in the 1950's for the Blue Hole Quarry Swim Club.



	43	010
	44	30 050
E	4	43 730
	44	30 060
F	4	43 700
	44	30 240
	47	4 43 530
	44	30 080
	48	4 46 230
	44	28 400
49		
A	4	46 370
	44	30 530
B	4	46 440
	44	30 340
C	4	46 160
	44	30 230
D	4	46 090
	44	30 400
	51	4 46 560
	44	29 140
	52	4 45 590
	44	38 210
	53	4 44 310
	44	28 100
	54	4 44 100
	44	28 360
	56	4 45 600
	44	29 300
	58	4 45 510
	44	29 380
Grove District		
A	4	46 060
	44	28 440
B	4	46 070
	44	28 050
C	4	45 670

2'30"

4432

P40L 7.6 MI  
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WEST CHESTER 49 M.

4429

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