

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
 Wilmer B. and Amy H. Huffman
 225 N. Whitford Road
 Exton, PA 19341

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

10. U.T.M. Zone 18 Easting 4141610

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

Map# 41413111810
 40 Northing
 usgs sheet: 6.376A
 Downingtown

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

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1877

15. style, design or folk type
 Gothic/Victorian

19. original use
 Residence-farm

16. architect or engineer
 Addison Hutton
 (1877), Albert Dilks
 (1896)

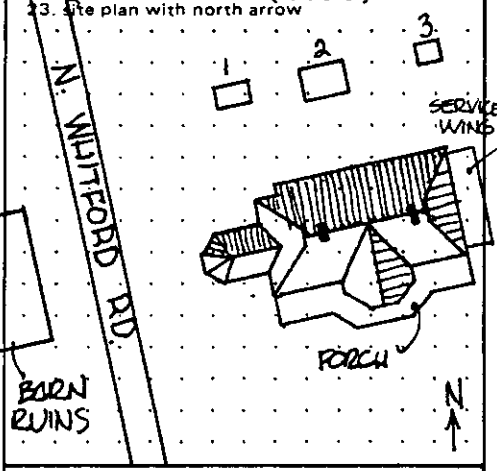
17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construction
 Stone

20. present use
 Residence-non-farm

21. condition
 Above Average

22. integrity
 Above Average



2. municipality
 West Whiteland

6. other name (historic name if any)
 Charles Thomas House

24. photo notation
 PG: George Chandler
 PV: SE Elevation
 PD: 2/1980

25. file/location
 CCHS: #09-46, #11A

3. street address or specific location
 225 No. Whitford Road

26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, streets and associated buildings)
 The Charles Thomas House, Fairview, commands a broad view of the Great Valley from its vantage point off Whitford Road as it ascends the North Valley Hills. Built in 1877-1878, Fairview was the main dwelling for a 245-acre Thomas family farm. Designed by prominent architect Addison Hutton, Fairview is an exquisite example from the Victorian period. From the blueprints and specifications which have survived, it is evident that Fairview has experienced little, if any, alteration, other than the addition of a compatible library wing in 1896. The house was conceived in 1877 as a rectangular main block with a service extension on the east. Built of brick, faced with "broken range" blue limestone from the Thomas Brothers Marble Quarry, its south-facing facade is 5 bays with a projecting 2-story bay, culminating in a cross gable with stickwork detail. This bay opens into an octagonal center room complete with fireplace
 (continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background
 Thomas Family Thematic Group: Within the Thomas Family Thematic Group, Fairview falls in the line of George Thomas. The mansion was commissioned by George Thomas, MD in 1877 as a wedding present for his third son, Charles, who resided there until his death in 1948. Charles was a birth-right Quaker and, like his father, pursued agriculture and horticulture. He was, in addition, an active participant in Township affairs, serving
 (continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information
 1877-Specifications by Addison Hutton and John Ord;
 Oral History Tape 1-20-81 (WWHC); CCHS: (Clipping
 File) -7-31-1948, 8-5-1948, 11-22-1900, 6-28-1879;
 PRERBG 3-18-1896
 (continue on back if necessary)

29. prepared by:
 Martha Wolf

30. date
 12/1981

revision(s)

4. survey code
 029-09-41-210

#26 Cont'd....

and windowseats. Flanking the room are a parlor, room and dining room, each with fireplace and, like the hall, featuring elaborate plaster work in the ceiling. In the rear of the main block are two staircases, one open and formal and the other "private" connecting the basement with the third floor. The house was designed for a coal furnace and had a bathroom with cherry wood appointments. Fairview's walnut woodwork was left natural and interior paneled shutters were included on the first and second

stories. In 1896, Albert W. Dilks added a two story pentagonal library wing and piazza off the northwest corner for Charles Thomas. Great care was taken to blend the old with the new. Windows and doors were removed and reused; identical blue limestone was specified for the exterior. The wing contained an upper and lower hall, library, chamber, and bathroom.

#27 Cont'd...

as both clerk and Road Supervisor for most of his adult life. He also served on various boards of local institutions, among them the State Normal School and Chester County Hospital. Upon his death at age 101, Fairview passed out of the Thomas family. A granddaughter, Mrs. Barbara Burdick, who grew up in the house, resides on a neighboring property and is a member of the West Whiteland Township Historical Commission.

Agriculture: By the end of the 19th century, the three sons of prominent gentlemen farmer, George Thomas, MD, ran prosperous farms of their own--Oakland, Whitford, and Fairview--on land inherited from their father. That the Thomas family farmed for over two hundred years on land obtained by their ancestor, Richard ap Thomas, is a proud fact of Chester County history and a testament to its vital agrarian culture.

Architecture: Fairview is of clear architectural significance in that it was designed by noted Philadelphia architect of the Victorian style, Addison Hutton. His work was well represented in the West Chester area, in particular Westtown School, the West Chester Normal School (Old Main), and "Loch Aerie." The latter, built in 1865, was located along Route 30 in neighboring East Whiteland Township. As in Fairview, Hutton utilized blue limestone as the primary exterior wall material. He also drew from the J. Preston Thomas Quarry (brother of Charles) marble for various other commissions. The original blueprints and handwritten specifications for the house are preserved. The architect of the 1896 addition was Albert Dilks who also designed the Thompson Building in Coatesville and Whitford Garne for George Thomas in 1905.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, PA
Multiple Resource Nomination - The Thomas Thematic C

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Fairview Map #40

Summary Statement of Significance:

Fairview is part of the Thomas Thematic Group and is eligible for listing under criterion B for its association with the Thomas family and also under criterion C as an example of a Victorian Gothic-Revival mansion House. The house was designed by a well known Philadelphia architect, Addison Hutton and is a well-preserved example of the type of dwelling built for prominent families in the 1870's. However, the Gothic-Revival was not a common form used to create the large county house of the period and there are not many examples of this style in the area. The house has recently been converted to an apartment building. While the house has been sectioned, no interior details have been destroyed. The only real change has been to enclose the porch to provide additional living space but the house still conveys its past and its style.

**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 includes all land currently associated with the property. A contributing feature on the site is a circa 1877, 1 story, square, frame carriage shed with shingle sides, a shake covered, hipped roof and large strap hinges on the door (building #1). Non-contributing structures include:

1. a 20th century, 2 story, rectangular, frame building with a cross gable and shingles over novelty siding - converted into a tenant house from a dog kennel/granary (building #2).
2. a 20th century, 1 story, rectangular frame building converted from a chicken coop into a tenant house circa 1950 (building #3)
3. a 19th century, 2 story stone and frame carriage house located to the northeast of the main house. It suffered many unsympathetic alterations when it was converted into apartments.

10
WILBER B. HUFFMAN et ux

parties of the first part and
Wilmer B. Huffman and Amy Huff-
man, County and State aforesaid,

West Whiteland Township,
Chester County, PA
Multiple Resource Nomination P
Thomas Thematic Group
Survey Code 029-09-41-210
Fairview Map #40

of the second part: Witnesseth, That the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of
(\$26,000.00) dollars lawful money of the United States of America, well and truly paid by the
of the first part, at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have
sold, aliened, enfeoffed, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents do
unto the said parties of the second part, their Heirs and assigns, as tenants by the entireties.

NATIONAL HEALTH...

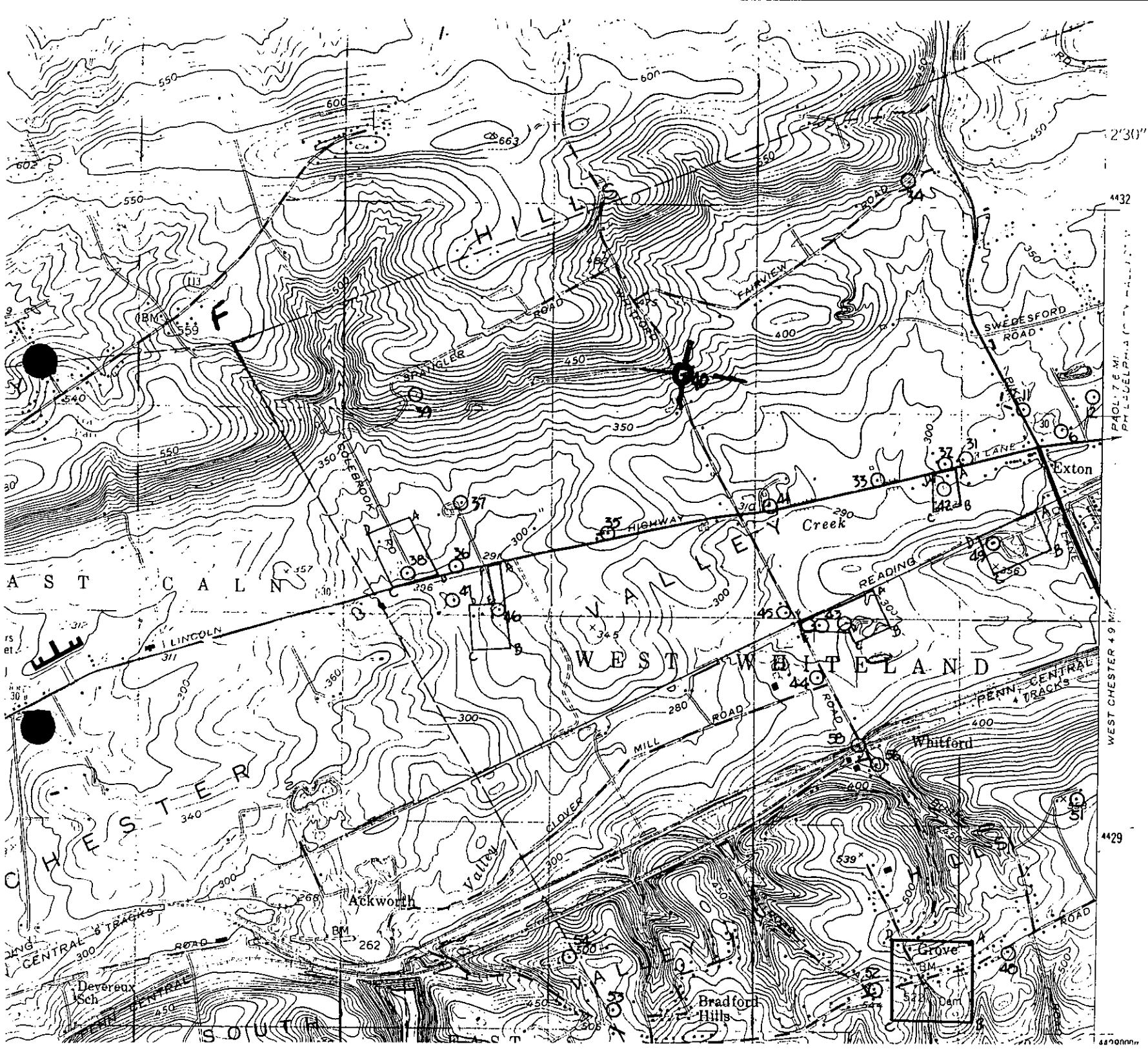
grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff, release, convey and confirm

ALL THAT CERTAIN messuage or lot of land with the improvements thereon erected situate in the Township
of West Whiteland County of Chester, State of Pennsylvania, more particularly bounded and described according to a survey
hereof made by T. G. Colesworthy, County Surveyor April 9, 1949, as follows:

BEGINNING in the Middle of the Public road leading northward from Whiteford to Lionville at a distance
of two hundred eighty four and eighty-four one-hundredths (284.84) feet on a course of North eighteen (18°)
degrees forty-eight (48) minutes West measured along the middle of said road from the Northwest corner of land
belonging formerly to the Estate of Charles T. Thomas, deceased, recently conveyed to Marian G. T. Beeman;
thence extending along the middle of the public road by land of John R. Thomas and other land of the Estate of
Charles T. Thomas, deceased, North eighteen (18°) degrees forty-eight (48) minutes West three hundred sixty-
two and fifty five one-hundredths (362.55) feet to a spike; thence continuing along the middle of the public
road by land of the Estate of Charles T. Thomas, deceased, North seventeen (17°) degrees fourteen (14) minutes
West, two hundred three and three tenths (203.3) feet; thence leaving the road and extending along other land
of the Estate of Charles T. Thomas, deceased, the remaining six (6) courses and distances to wit: first
passing over an iron pin on the East side of the public road at a distance of twenty-eight and two tenths
(28.2) feet from the last mentioned corner, North sixty-nine (69°) degrees thirty-eight (38) minutes twenty (20)
seconds East, three hundred two and sixty-five one-hundredths (302.65) feet to an iron pin; thence North
twenty-eight (28°) degrees thirty-five (35) minutes West, one hundred fifty-four and eighty-nine one-hundredths
(154.89) feet to an iron pin; thence South twenty-eight (28°) degrees fifty (50) minutes thirty (30) seconds
East, three hundred ninety six and thirty-five one-hundredths (396.35) feet to an iron pin thence South twenty
five (25°) degrees forty seven (47) minutes East, two hundred sixty-one and six tenths (261.6) feet to an iron
pin; thence South sixty-two (62°) degrees fifty-eight (58) minutes West five hundred twenty and thirty-three
one-hundredths (520.23) feet, passing over an iron pin set on line, on the East side of the public road at a
distance of seventeen and forty-seven one-hundredths (17.47) feet East of the point of beginning, to the first
mentioned point and place of beginning.

CONTAINING six and three hundred and seventy-six one thousandths (6.376) acres of land be the same more
or less.

BEING the same premises which John R. Thomas, et al, by their Indenture bearing date the Twenty-seventh
day of June, 1949, and of record in the Office for the Recording of Deeds, in and for the County of Chester, at
New York, New York, in Deed Book H-23, Volume 555, Page 255, granted and conveyed unto Hugh J. Lattor-



D 4 43 610
 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