

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Church Farm School Historic District (A part of the Multiple-Resource Nomination of West Whiteland Township)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number North and south sides of U.S. Route 30, approximately 1.8 miles east of U.S. Route 100 ^{N/A} not for publication

city, town West Whiteland Township ^{N/A} vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Chester code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Church Farm School

street & number Box 662

city, town Paoli, ^{N/A} vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds/Chester County Courthouse

street & number Market and High Streets

city, town West Chester state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Chester County Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979-1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Chester County Historical Society

city, town West Chester state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date

N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Church Farm School Historic District is composed of the main campus of the school which was designed in the Tudor Revival or Collegiate Gothic style in 1918 by Philadelphia architect Milton Medary. Surrounded by fields of open space, it retains its pastoral setting while lying in the Great Valley along both sides of the heavily traveled Lincoln Highway (U.S. Route 30). The district consists of 14 contributing structures and 5 intrusions. It's buildings are united by their common orientation, color scheme, scale, materials and architectural features to form an unusually self-contained complex which is outstanding for its integrity of setting and design.

A master plan for the Church Farm School (known briefly as the Farm and Trade School) was laid out in 1918 by Milton Medary of the firm Zant-zinger, Borie & Medary. Construction continued into the 1930's but the original plan proposed by Medary was essentially adhered to. Given the close association between St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the School, Medary's choice of a cruciform layout was most appropriate. The administration and former school building, Greystock Hall, anchors the complex on the north and is separated from the rest of the original campus by the Lancaster Turnpike. To the south, a rectangular "park" is flanked by clusters of cottages, an infirmary and the Director's House. The chapel (Church of the Atonement) is located on a rise at the head of this complex. All of these buildings share scale, orientation, materials (whitewashed stone, cypress shingles, tin) and recurring design features such as a "kicked" or flared eave and rounded window openings. The original architectural drawings for Church Farm School are on file at the Athenaeum in Philadelphia.

The contributing structures include Greystock Hall (Map #1), eight cottages or dormitories (Map #5 through 12), faculty living quarters (Map #13), the chapel (Map #15), the infirmary (Map #16), the Director's House (Map #14) and the Bell Gate (Map #4). Non-contributing structures include the Science building (Map #2), the Underpass (Map #3), a garage (Map #17), a storage shed (Map #18) and a gazebo (Map #19).

Inventory

Map #1 Greystock Hall (Administration Building)

Location: North side of U.S. Route 30, 1.8 miles east of U.S. Route 100.

Description: Core built 1921-23; 3 story, whitewashed stone; original "U" shape was converted into an "E" by the addition of 2 wings added to the back of the building in the early 1960's; steeply pitched gable roof with flared eaves, an interior chimney, plain gable dormers and a clock tower; main door features a transom with a double row of 6 panes each and side lights; windows are 12 over 12 with brick segmental relieving arches.

Much of the interior work was done by boys in the carpentry and woodwork departments. Greystock Hall contained the original classrooms, gymnasium, assembly room, dining room, library, faculty living quarters, chapel, storerooms and offices.

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

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

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, PA MRA
Church Farm School Historic District

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Map #2 Earl B. Wilson Science Building INTRUSION

Location: North side of U.S. Route 30, 1.8 miles east of U.S. Route 100, east of Greystock Hall.

Description: Built c. 1970, 3 story, 13 bay wide, 5 bay deep, rectangular, whitewashed stuccoed building with hip roof; rectangular windows are 8 over 8; vertical pilaster-like mullions; central 5 bay portion extends to accommodate a green house.

Map #3 Underpass INTRUSION

Location: Running beneath U.S. Route 30, 1.8 miles east of U.S. Route 100.

Description: A tunnel built in 1965, allows students to go between the north and south sides of U.S. Route 30 without crossing the heavily traveled roadway. Both accesses to the underpass are protected by a 3 sided stuccoed frame shelter with gable roof and large overhang.

Map #4 Bell Gate

Location: South side of U.S. Route 30, 1.8 miles from U.S. Route 100, across from Greystock Hall.

Description: 1 story, rectangular, open pavillion with steeply pitched, wood shingled gable roof and a tall pyramidal bell tower covered with wood shingles. Designed in the early 1930's by Arthur H. Smith (an original member of the firm of Zantzinger Borie & Medary).

Map #5-12 Cottages/Dormitories

Location: South side of U.S. Route 30, 1.8 miles from U.S. Route 100.

Description: Map # 5-9 were built from 1918 to 1922, Map # 10 - 12 from 1929 to 1932; each cottage is a 2 story, 5 bay wide, 2 bay deep, rectangular whitewashed stuccoed stone building; exterior gable end chimney, half-round window in garret opposing the chimney end; steeply pitched, wood shingle, gable roof with flared eaves, 2 hipped dormers flanking a central elliptical dormer with flared edges, dormer windows are 6 over 6, others are 8 over 8.

Interior features a center hall with living areas on the first floor and partitioned cubicles for some 11 students located on the second floor; each cottage has a full basement and was coal heated. The overall floor plan including the location of the six foot wide sleeping cubicles appears unchanged from the 1918 architectural drawing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, PA MRA
Church Farm School Historic District

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Map #13 Faculty Living Quarters

Location: South side of U.S. Route 30, 1.8 miles east of U.S. Route 100.

Description: Built in 1931; 2 story, 4 bays wide, 3 bays deep, rectangular, whitewashed stuccoed double family house; steeply pitched, wood shingled roof, plain gable dormers, central brick chimney, windows are 8 over 8.

Map #14 Director's House

Location: South side of U.S. Route 30, 1.8 miles east of U.S. Route 100.

Description: Built in 1919, rectangular, 3 story, whitewashed stuccoed stone, 3 bay main block has a cross gable roof and flared eaves; it is flanked on each side by hipped roof wings; 2 chimneys each with 5 flues are set off center of the gable; north elevation shows a purposeful asymmetry; the use of "stepped" windows which indicate the location of the interior stairways is both practical and visually dynamic; the rounded arch windows in the cross gable and the 2 adjoining rounded arch windows on the north facade feature brick segmental arches. A 1 story, stuccoed multicar garage is attached.

Map #15 Chapel (Church of the Atonement)

Location: South side of U.S. Route 30, 1.8 miles east of U.S. Route 100.

Description: Built in 1927-28; 1 story, whitewashed stuccoed stone; the long rectangular nave has a gable roof and wall buttresses, it terminates in a chancel formed by the confluence of 5 gable roofed bays. Overall, the chapel has a modified cruciform appearance. Main & side entrances have compound round arched portals with plain archivolt; stained glass circular windows appear over the main entrance and in the gable ends of the chancel bays; other stained glass windows are round arched; the front facade extends above the main entrance to hold an exposed bell in a rounded arch.

Considered one of Medary's finest works, it was enlarged in 1963 by Arthur Smith, an original member of Zantzinger, Borie & Medary.

Map #16 Infirmary

Location: South side of U.S. Route 30, 1.8 miles east of U.S. Route 100.

Description: Built in 1929, 3 story, 5 bays wide, 2 bays deep, whitewashed stuccoed stone, steeply pitched wood shingled gable roof with cross gable and flared eaves; centered gable end

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

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

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, PA MRA
Church Farm School Historic District
Continuation sheet

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Item number 7 Page 3

Map #16 (cont)

exterior chimney, hipped dormers, dramatically flared canopy extends over main entrance; a tall round arched window in the cross gable, 6 over 6 windows in dormers, mostly 8 over 8 elsewhere.

Map #17 Garage INTRUSION

Location: South side of U.S. Route 30, 1.8 miles east of U.S. Route 100.

Description: Built c. 1935, 1 story, rectangular, whitewashed stuccoed cinderblock, multi-car garage with gable roof.

Map #18 Storage Shed INTRUSION

Location: South side of U.S. Route 30, 1.8 miles east of U.S. Route 100.

Description: Built c. 1935, 1 story, 2 bay wide, 1 bay deep, rectangular, stuccoed shed, hip roof with wood shingles.

Map #19 Gazebo INTRUSION

Location: South side of U.S. Route 30, 1.8 miles east of U.S. Route 100, south of the garden.

Description: Built c. 1950, 1 story, long rectangular, frame lattice gazebo with wood shingled gable roof.

The gazebo was built soon after the formal garden was established. In 1980 the formal garden gave way to several small rose beds.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1932	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1918-1932

Builder/Architect Milton Medary

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Church Farm School Historic District is eligible for listing under Criterion C as an example of architect-designed Period-Revival architecture as applied to an educational institution. The complex was intended to harmonize with the landscape and the existing architecture of the Great Valley as well as to inspire the boys who would be attending the school. It is also eligible for listing under Criterion B for its association with Dr. Charles W. Shreiner who conceived of, carried out and oversaw this innovative experiment in education.

Church Farm School was founded on the premise that a thorough education combined with a healthy emphasis on the work ethic and Christian principles as well as a wholesome upbringing on the farm would best prepare youth for their future responsibilities as businessmen, farmers, professionals, even soldiers. The educational philosophy inculcated by Dr. Charles W. Shreiner remains essentially unchanged at Church Farm School today.

That the school was established the same year in which WWI concluded was not altogether coincidental. According to one interview with its founder in 1943 "one of the lessons to be drawn from the first World War was the conservation of youth that they might be trained to meet any emergency." (Phila. Bull. 7/8/1943) Church Farm School was modeled after "various schools in California which are operated successfully." It was, however, and continues to be unique to the Lower Delaware Valley. It was founded to educate young men aged 11-20 years, who had not "proper home influence" in that they came from broken homes. The School was innovative in its emphasis on agriculture, the trades, personal hygiene and health, and for its use of small cottages with private cubicles for sleeping and studying.

From the beginning, Church Farm School has relied heavily on agriculture for both curriculum and income, the latter originally intended as a means of achieving self-sufficiency. From its origins in a converted wagon house on a 127 acre farm, the school expanded to over 1600 acres or 1/6 of the Township. Through its curriculum and landholdings, Church Farm School can be credited with keeping the practice of agriculture and the agricultural landscape alive in West Whiteland. In retrospect, it seems altogether fitting that the Great Valley was chosen as the location of this educational and agricultural experiment. What better place to nourish a young man's body and soul than in the proverbial Valley of God-given riches?

The original campus of Church Farm School is of architectural significance because with great foresight, Dr. Shreiner sought out through church contacts "one of the best architects of the day... (who) laid out an entire masterplan in fine detail." Dr. Shreiner was, as a result, able to avoid "haphazard growth of the school" and to solicit contributions for what was

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

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

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, PA MRA
Church Farm School Historic District

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

For NPS use only
received
date entered

needed most. The architect, Milton Medary (1874-1929) was prominently associated with the Tudor Revival and Collegiate Gothic style. Among his numerous commissions were the Penn Charter School, Henry and Foulke Dormitories at Princeton, and the Bryn Mawr Hospital Group. He seems to have been favored in Episcopal circles, having designed the Divinity School of P.E. Church of Philadelphia, the Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge and, of course, Church Farm School. Medary probably obtained the commission through his earlier (1904-05) work for one of the School's founders, Clarence Sears Kates, at Solitude Farm in West Whiteland. Medary's ability to "fit style to the symbolic use of the building" is well-illustrated in Church Farm School. Founded in 1918 as a farm and industrial school for fatherless boys "of a class between those attending Williamson Trade School and Glen Mills Reform School," the School attempted to provide a healthful, compassionate, and church-oriented environment for the youth. Accordingly, a site was selected near St. Paul's Church in the Chester County countryside, which was conveniently located on the newly-paved Lancaster Turnpike. Informal and home-like clusters of cottages were erected for the children and, naturally, the focus of the cruciform campus was the modified cruciform chapel. A landmark along the Turnpike since 1918, its architectural design was observed correctly to be an "inspirational plan, which has evoked much favorable comment from the thousands of motorists who roll along the highway." (Philadelphia Bulletin 7/8/1943).

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Architectural Drawings on file at the Athenaeum, Philadelphia, PA.
2. Halsey, Ashley, "The School That Came From Nothing" Sat. Eve. Post 4/1954
3. Hibbs, Ben "The Lord Helps Charley and Vice Versa" Reader's Digest, 1964
4. Personal Communication, Dr. Charles H. Shreiner, Jr. 1983-84.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 19.7

Quadrangle name Malvern

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

18	449380	4431360
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

18	449410	4431120
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

18	449140	4431070
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

18	449100	4431310
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

Zone	Easting	Northing

F

Zone	Easting	Northing

G

Zone	Easting	Northing

H

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation page.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
-------	-----	------	-----	--------	-----	------	-----

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
-------	-----	------	-----	--------	-----	------	-----

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Diane S. Snyder 2. Martha Wolf

organization 1. West Whiteland Historical Commission
2. Brandywine Conservancy date Jan. 1982 Rev'd July, 1984

street & number 1. 222 W. Pottstown Pike 1. 215-363-8091
2. P.O. Box 141 telephone 2. 215-459-1900

city or town 1. Exton, state Pennsylvania
2. Chadds Ford,

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Dr. Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, PA MRA
Church Farm School Historic District

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point approximately 500 feet west of the line of the Transcom Gas Pipe Line along the south line of the Lincoln Highway (U.S. Route 30) then south 13° east 650 feet to a point; then south 70° west 900 feet to a point; then north 20° west to a point on the south line of the Lincoln Highway; then east along the south line of said highway about 250 feet to a point opposite the east line of a private driveway on the north side of said highway; then along the several courses of said driveway about 300 feet to another driveway that goes to the east behind the Church Farm School Administration building; then along the south line of said driveway to the 400 foot contour line; then in a south southeasterly direction to the south line of the Lincoln Highway; then east along the south line of said highway to the place of beginning, containing 19.7 acres.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated acreage as indicated in the attached map encompasses the core of the main campus of Church Farm School as it was designed by Milton Medary in 1918. Over the years some additional buildings, barns, tennis courts etc. have been added but they were not designed by Medary as part of the original concept and have not been included here.

West Whiteland Twp., Chester

SEP 29 1933
3840

MATCH

County, Pennsylvania

Multiple Resource Nomination

Survey Code 029-09-41-025,
026,027,345

SILC

SILOS

CULV.

3680
TRACK

POOL

371.5
BASKETBALL COURT

TENNIS COURT

CHURCH FARM SCHOOL

TEXAS EASTERN CORP.
2-20" PIPE LINES

389.0

389.0

408.5

LINCOLN

400.5

400

425

4370

438.0

FORMAL GARDEN

CHURCH

FARM

SCHOOL

K.V.

