

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		5. present name Whitford Hall	1. County Chester
8. property owners name and address Richard W. Thomas, II Southeast National Bank (Stanley Heist) Trust Dept. P.O. Box 417 West Chester, PA 19380		9. tax parcel number / other number 41-5-39	10. U.T.M. zone <u>18</u> easting <u>446000</u> Map# 31 northing <u>44130790</u> usgs sheet: <u>Downingtown 1.7A</u>		
12. classification site () structure () object () building (X) in N.R. district yes () no ()		13. date(s) (how determined) 1796	14. period 1700-1799	15. style, design or folk type Federal	19. original use Residence
16. architect or engineer		17. contractor or builder Richard Thomas	18. primary building mat./construction Stone	20. present use Not in use.	21. condition Average
22. integrity Above average		23. site plan with north arrow 		2. municipality West Whiteland Twp.	
24. photo notation PG: George Chandler PV: South elevation PD: 2/1980				6. other name (historic name if any) Whitford Hall	
25. file/location CCHS, WWHC #09-46, #1A		26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, etc. and describe changes) According to family records, Whitford Hall was built c. 1796 by Colonel Richard Thomas, whose 1783 brick mansion Whitford Lodge stood adjacent. The Federal styling of Whitford Hall shows a purposeful deviation from the earlier structure, although both were constructed by the same individual within 13 years. Like the Lodge and other Thomas family principal dwellings, Whitford Hall is located on the northern side of Route 30 which was laid out as the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike between 1792-4. Whitford Hall is distinguished, however, by its strictly Federal facade clearly oriented to the recently completed Turnpike. It presents a five bay symmetrical facade of carefully coursed stone. The center entrance displays a typically Federal surround with semi-circular fanlight. Brick chimneys are set flush on the gable ends of its shallow roof. A one-story porch spanning three bays dates to the early 1900's. While the facade presents a neat Federal appearance, the remainder of the building adheres more to vernacular traditions. Only one bay deep and, save for one window,		3. street address or specific location 145 West Lincoln Highway	
27. history, significance and/or background <u>Thomas Family</u> Whitford Hall falls within the group of Thomas family principal dwellings. It was built by Colonel Richard Thomas on land contained within the original patent and remains in Thomas family ownership to this day. Family legend states that Colonel Richard erected this house for his second son, Samuel D. Thomas, who was born at Whitford Lodge in 1793. Samuel's son, Templin R. Thomas, was born at Whitford Hall in 1826		28. sources of information CCHS: Thomas Family papers; Smedley Genealogy; Chester County Recorder of Deeds		4. survey code 029-09-41-202	
29. prepared by: M.L. Wolf, Brandywine Cons.		30. date 12/1981		revision(s)	

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featuring solid gable end walls, Whitford Hall falls within a vernacular group known as the "I" house, which, although found throughout southeastern Pennsylvania, is rare to West Whiteland Township. The severity of the design is broken by a one and one-half story kitchen extension to the rear which is similarly narrow, and gable roofed with gable end chimney where the cooking fireplace is located. Here there is evidence of a bake oven and secondary kitchen. Unlike the main block, there is no cellar beneath the service wing. There are non-descript frame additions on either side which do not detract from its overall integrity. On the property at present there are, in addition, a stone shed, frame carriage barn, and tenant house converted from an old outbuilding.

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and he eventually acquired the Thomas Mill, Whitford Lodge and Whitford Hall. Templin R. Thomas served in the Civil War after which he returned to West Whiteland to resume farming and working in the family grist mill. He joined St. Paul's Episcopal Church in 1867.

Industry

Whitford Hall is closely associated with the Thomas or Whitford mill which was constructed in 1744 and stands directly south of the house across Route 30. A northern mill race ran just west of Whitford Hall and occupants of the house at various times owned and/or worked in the family business.

Architecture

The architecture of Whitford Hall is clearly of the Federal period, although vernacularly interpreted. This house is a good example of the use of a traditional floor plan with the addition of more modern decorative features. Its formal Federal facade belies a more primitive single pile house of the "I" type. That it was built by the man also responsible for Ivy Cottage and Whitford Lodge is significant in that it reveals his broad knowledge of and interest in various architectural traditions of the region.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

NATIONAL REGISTER

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Multiple Resource Nomination -

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Summary Statement of Significance:

Whitford Hall is eligible for listing under criterion C as an example of Federal style architecture and under criterion B for its association with the Thomas family, most especially with Col. Richard Thomas. Besides the house there is a small tenant house, a mid-nineteenth century barn and a carriage house. The small one story barn contains a conveyor system similar to that employed at the Thomas Mill #42 for use in the flour milling business of the Thomas Family.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point in the northern edge of the Lincoln Highway located 1037.5 feet southwest of the center line of North Pottstown Pike (U.S. Route 100); thence north 17° west 300 feet to a point; thence south 74° west 250 feet to a point; thence south 17° east 300 feet to another point on the northern edge of the Lincoln Highway; thence in a northeasterly direction along the northern edge of said highway 250 feet to the place of beginning, containing 1.7 acres.

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

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

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The nominated acreage consists of a rectangle around the centrally located complex including a green buffer zone to help maintain the integrity of the setting.

Contributing structures present on the site are:

1. a mid-nineteenth century 1 1/2 story, rectangular, stone and frame, 3 bay tenant house which appears to have been rebuilt using remaining stone walls of an earlier building. This house was occupied by tenants and family members engaged in the milling industry.
2. a small, 1 story, frame carriage barn built in 1856 which contains a conveyor system similar to that used in the Thomas Mill.

A 1 story rectangular, masonry carriage shed with cinder block additions is also present on the site but does not contribute to the resource's significance.

West Whiteland Twp., Chester
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