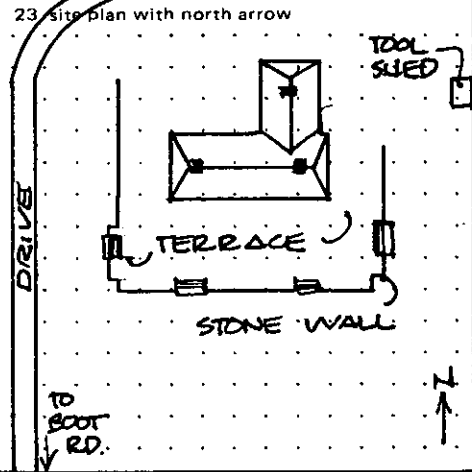



PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120		7. Local survey organization West Whiteland Historical Commission		1. County Chester 5. Present name Meadowcourt	
8. property owners name and address Albert & Marcia Green 371 E. Boot Rd. West Chester PA 19380		9. tax parcel number / other number 41-6-51.1		10. U.T.M. zone 18 4418131010 Map # 26 442819110 usgs sheet: Malvern 5A	
12. classification site () structure () object () building (x) in N.R. district yes () no ()		13. date(s) (how determined) 1928-29 14. period 1920-39		15. style, design or folk type Period House	
16. architect or engineer Edmund Beaman Gilchrist		17. contractor or builder		18. primary building mat./construction Masonry/stucco	
19. original use Residence-non-farm		20. present use Residence-non-farm		21. condition Above average	
22. integrity Above average		23. site plan with north arrow 		6. other name (historic name if any) Autun	
24. photo notation PG: John Ronayne PV: South elevation PD: 11/1981				2. municipality West Whiteland Twp. 3. street address or specific location 371 E. Boot Rd.	
25. file/location CCHS, WWHC #09-72, #15		26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, streets and associated landscape) In 1928 Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Rush (II) commissioned architect Edmund B. Gilchrist to design for them a country house in the French style. When completed in 1929 Mrs. Rush called the house "Autun," a name it kept for the next 20 years while owned by the Rush family. Currently called "Meadowcourt," the house possesses astonishing exterior and interior architectural integrity. It is L-shaped and one and one half stories high. The facade is oriented due south and is composed of five bays grouped in a 1/3/1 arrangement. The extension to the north containing the kitchen, pantry, laundry, and some bedrooms consists of three bays. The slate roof is steeply hipped, is slightly graduated to give it an additive appearance and has numerous dormers and several skylights all of which are original to the structure. Gilchrist's eclectic combination of rounded and gabled dormers on the same elevation is an identifying feature of his work and, in fact, led to the discovery of his involvement in the design of Meadowcourt. The house contains three tall, brick, interior chimneys, two spaced apart evenly in the main block and the			
27. history, significance and/or background <u>Architecture</u> Meadowcourt meets National Register criteria in the area of architecture. At 54 years old, it satisfies the minimum 50 year limitation. Having been owned by just three families since its construction, Meadowcourt's architectural integrity is unchallenged. Other than the remodeling of the kitchen there have been no structural changes to the house. Even its original brass plumbing in the basement has been retained. The French					
28. sources of information Biographical files - The Athenaeum, Philadelphia; Yearbook(s) (over)		29. prepared by: M.L. Wolf Brandywine Cons. 30. date 12/1981 revision(s)			

#26 cont.

other located toward the north end of the kitchen. Although the south elevation features five French double doors, the main entrance is on the north wall at the end of a brick walkway. A French door opens into a large hall notable for its delicate, curved stair and marble tile floor. (According to Mrs. Rush these tiles were taken from the Hotel Colonnade on Chestnut Street during its demolition.) To the left is the formal dining room which retains its original linen-backed wallpaper hand-painted in China. A study features floor to ceiling bookcases and paneling. The two bookcase sections flanking the fireplace have concealed mechanisms which permit them to open as full sized doors. On the second floor are four bedrooms, two fireplaces, three bathrooms and a sitting room.

#27 cont.

styling of Meadowcourt is unique to the multiple resource area and extremely rare to conservative Chester County. Next to the Frank Lloyd Wright/John H. Howe "Folly Cottage" (1960), Meadowcourt's 1928 date of construction makes it the youngest property included in the nomination.

Meadowcourt was the creation of master architect Edmund B. Gilchrist. It was Mrs. Benjamin Rush (II) who selected the French theme for the country home, who met frequently with Gilchrist in his Philadelphia office to revise the plan, and who, upon its completion, christened the house Autun (Autumn). Although it was Benjamin Rush (I) who constructed the house for his son and family, Meadowcourt's French styling was the antithesis of his own Colonial Revival home (George Page, 1908), just a few yards east on Boot Rd.

The architect, Edmund B. Gilchrist, was born in 1885 in Germantown and attended local schools and universities. He worked with the nationally known architect, Wilson Eyre, for five years and Horace Trumbauer for one year. In 1924 Gilchrist was awarded the medal for "most meritorious work" by the Philadelphia Chapter of the AIA. Gilchrist proved himself an extremely versatile architect capable of capturing the essence of a multitude of styles. He had a special fondness for French chateaux of which Meadowcourt is an early and superb example. Another French-inspired work from the same period was the Rodman Griscom House in Gladwyne. Photographs of this and Meadowcourt were published in the 1930 and 1931 Yearbooks of the Annual Architectural Exhibition of the Philadelphia Chapter of the AIA.

The list of professional architects whose work is represented in West Whiteland is impressive for a small, rural township. It's location along the Pennsylvania Railroad and the West Chester branch was a major factor leading to suburban commissions for such architects as Furness and Evans, Frank Miles Day, Milton Medary, George Page, and now, Edmund Gilchrist.

#28 cont.

of the Annual Architectural Exhibition(s) Philadelphia, 1930 and 1931. (Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects); Mrs. Benjamin Rush II and Mr. Benjamin Rush III - Personal communication, 1981.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, PA MRA
Continuation sheet

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Item number

Page

Survey Code 029-09-41-055
Meadow Court

Page 4
Map #26

The nominated acreage includes all land currently associated with the resource. A 20th century 1 story, small frame tool shed on the site does not contribute to the significance of the main house.

The southern facade of the house overlooks a terrace and large lawn area screened from the public view by plantings of shade trees on the periphery. The northern facade of the house overlooks a drive and walk lined with European linden trees pruned in the pollard style. This popular European style of pruning trees enhances and complements the French styling of the building. The European linden trees were planted in 1930 by Mrs. Benjamin Rush II.

NATIONAL REGISTER

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania
Multiple Resource Nomination

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Meadow Court Map #26

Summary Statement of Significance:

Meadow Court is eligible for listing under criterion C as an example of a French country house that is extremely rare in Chester County. Designed by the noted architect, Edmund B. Gilchrist, it was built for the socially prominent Rush family that maintained another property across Boot Road, Chesteridge #27. Meadow Court's architecture is further enhanced by the use of landscaping to provide an attractive and sheltered lawn area for the enjoyment of the residents.

18th day of August
one thousand nine hundred and SEVENTY.

West Whiteland Township,
Chester County, PA
Multiple Resource Nomination
Survey Code 029-09-41-055
Meadow Court Map #26

Between

FRANCES JEAN PIETRINFERNI

Grantor, of the one part, and

NATIONAL REGISTER

SILVIO D. PIETRINFERNI and FRANCES JEAN I

hereinafter called the Grantees,

of the second part: Witnesseth, That the said party _____ of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of ONE DOLLAR

lawful money of the United States of America, well and truly paid by the said parties _____ of the second part to the said party _____ of the first part, at and before the enrolling and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, - has - granted, bargained, sold, aliened, enfeoffed, released, conveyed and confirmed and by these presents - does - grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff, release, convey and confirm unto the said parties _____ of the second part, - their heirs - and assigns.

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, SITUATE in the Township of West Whiteland, County of Chester, State of Pennsylvania, and described according to a Plan thereof, made for Earl Cooke, by Henry S. Conrey, Inc., Division of Chester Valley Engineers, Paoli, Pennsylvania, on July 26, 1963 and revised August 26, 1963, as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the Northerly side of Boot Road, as shown on said Plan, measured the three following courses and distances from the point formed by the intersection of the title line in the bed of said Boot Road, with the title line in the bed of Kirkland Avenue; (1) extending from said point of intersection, along the title line in Boot Road, North seventy-seven degrees West, eight hundred five and thirty one-hundredths feet to a point, an angle, and (2) still along said title line, North eighty-three degrees thirty-three minutes West, two hundred ninety-two and thirty-eight one-hundredths feet to a point; and (3) leaving said title line and extending North seven degrees, forty-five minutes West, twenty-five and seventy-nine one-hundredths feet to the point and place of beginning; thence extending from said beginning point, North seven degrees, forty-five minutes West, three hundred fourteen and eleven one-hundredths feet to a point; thence extending North nine degrees eleven minutes East one hundred eleven and eighty-three one-hundredths feet to a point; thence extending North eighty-three degrees eight minutes East, one hundred sixty-nine and twenty-seven one-hundredths feet to a point; thence extending North five degrees forty-eight minutes West, fifty feet to a point; thence extending North eighty-three degrees eight minutes East two hundred fifty-six and twenty-seven one-hundredths feet to a point; thence extending South nineteen degrees one minute East, four hundred twenty-eight and twelve one-hundredths feet to a point; thence extending North seventy-seven degrees West, two hundred five and fifty-eight one-hundredths feet to a point; thence extending South nine degrees forty-three minutes thirty seconds West, two hundred one and eighty one-hundredths feet to a point on the Northerly side of Boot Road aforesaid; thence extending along the same, the two following courses and _____

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distances: (1) Northwestwardly on a line curving to the left, having a radius of eight hundred ninety-eight and seventy-nine one-hundredths feet, the arc distance of fifty-one and thirty-seven one-hundredths feet to a point of tangent; and (2) North eighty-three degrees thirty-three minutes West, two hundred forty-eight and seventy-one one-hundredths feet to the first mentioned point and place of beginning. ---
BEING Lot No. 37, as shown on said Plan.

AND ALSO, ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of land with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, hereditaments and appurtenances, Situate in the Township of West Whiteland, County of Chester and State of Pennsylvania, bounded and described according to a Plan thereof made by Henry S. Conrey, Inc., Division of Chester Valley Engineers, Paoli, Pennsylvania, dated July 26, 1963 and last revised November 27, 1964, as follows, to wit:-----

BEGINNING at a point on the Northeasterly side of Boot Road (as shown on said Plan) which point is measured the two following courses and distances from a point of curve on the Westerly side of Station Place (fifty feet wide) (1) on a line curving to the right having a radius of twenty-five feet, the arc distance of thirty-nine and twenty-seven one-hundredths feet to a point of tangent; and (2) North seventy-seven degrees West three hundred forty seven and twenty-nine one-hundredths feet to the point and place of beginning; thence extending from said beginning point along the Northeasterly side of Boot Road the two following courses and distances: (1) North seventy-seven degrees West, forty-two and seventy-one one-hundredths feet to a point; and (2) on a line curving to the left having a radius of eight hundred ninety-eight and seventy-nine one-hundredths feet, the arc distance of fifty-one and thirty-seven one-hundredths feet to a point; thence extending North nine degrees forty-three minutes thirty seconds East, two hundred one and eighty one-hundredths feet to a point; thence extending South seventy-seven degrees East one hundred five and fifty-eight one-hundredths feet to a point; thence extending South thirteen degrees West two hundred feet to the first point and place of beginning.

---CONTAINING 20,001 square feet of land, be the same more or less. ---
Being Lot No. 34, as shown on said Plan. -----

BEING the same premises which Harry Berdeler Halladay and Frances Jean Halladay, husband and wife, West Whiteland Township, Chester County, PA of record in the Office for Recording of Pennsylvania, in Deed Book I-39, page 53 Multiple Resource Nomination Frances Jean Halladay, in fee. Survey Code 029-09-41-055 AND the said Frances Jean Halladay is situated in Meadowcourt Map #26 Pietrinferni and is now known as Frances herein, party of the first part hereto.---



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Radio Tower
Union Chapel
READING
Planesbrook
Water
Towers
Creek
Valley
Church Farm
St Paul
Glenloch
Whiteland
SOUTH
Morstein
Kirkland
Indian King
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