

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

8. Property owners name and address
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 901 East Lincoln Highway
 Exton, PA 19341

9. tax parcel number / other number
 41-6-6,7

10. U.T.M. zone **18** Easting **4149161210**

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

Map#13 Northing **443113710**

usgs sheet: Malvern 2.5A

12. classification
 site () structure () object ()
 building **10**
 in N.R. district yes () no ()

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1828/1872

14. period
 1820-39/1860-79

15. style, design or folk type
 Rural Gothic

19. original use
 Religious

20. present use
 Religious

16. architect or engineer

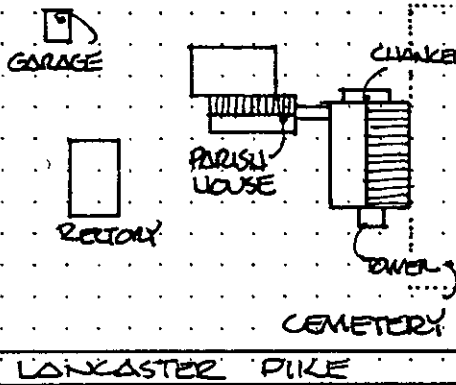
17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construction
 Stone/Stucco

21. condition Above Average

22. integrity Above Average

23. site plan with north arrow



24. photo notation

PG: W. Scudder
 PV: South Elevation
 PD: 1980

25. file/location

CCHS: #09-11, #16A

26. brief description (note unusual features, integr...)

As it stands today St. Paul's Church is an architectural blending of elements derived from two major periods of construction - the original 1828-9 "core" church and the 1872 Gothic alterations. The first church to be built on the site was 44'x60', "stone-dashed white," one story and had a plain gable roof. The pews originally faced south towards the pulpit which was located immediately inside between the two entrance doors. In 1871-2 the church was substantially rebuilt but retained its original walls and roof, i.e., its approximate size and height. To date the church has been little altered since the date of its major renovation over one hundred years ago.

Despite the vitality of the Gothic Revival, especially in the region's small towns and boroughs, the 1872 alterations were remarkably restrained. The pulpit was relocated to the north of the building where a 12'x17'

(continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background

Religion

With the exception of Grove Methodist Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church is the Township's oldest religious congregation in continual existence, having been founded in 1828. Physically, the 1872 church building antedates all other religious structures existing in the Township. St. Paul's is linked historically to other early Delaware Valley Episcopal churches,

(continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information

Heller, Landis R., A History of St. Paul's Church,
 Graphic Arts Department of the Church Farm School:
 Glen Loch, PA 1978

29. prepared by:

M. L. Wolf
 Brandywine Conservancy

30. date
 12/198

revision(s)

(continue on back if necessary)

1. County Chester
 2. Municipality West Whiteland
 3. street address or specific location 901 E. Lincoln Highway
 4. survey code 029-09-41-346, 347
 5. present name St. Paul's Church
 6. other name (historic name if any) St. Paul's Church

26. Cont'd.

chancel was constructed. A robing room and library, both measuring 12'x12', were added as well. The pews were replaced and a single, central aisle replaced the original double aisle plan. Other interior changes included the addition of a black walnut and white pine organ gallery, a 12 light bronze chandelier, wainscotted walls, and a triplet window in the chancel. In 1928 this window was replaced with one donated by Rev. W. L. Bull which was designed by D. Ascenzo Studio of Philadelphia. The Gothic pointed arch was used in the design of the new pews and around window and door openings which on the exterior are accented by dressed stone trimming. The walls of the nave are simply plastered as are the window reveals. The most substantial alter was made on the facade where a vestibule and bell tower with spire were erected. The tower is roofed with patterned slate and accented with mock dormers using a trefoil motif. The horse sheds which stood to the west of the church were torn down in 1912 and replaced by a Parish House. A Rectory was constructed between 1884-5.

27. Cont'd. (Religion)

among them St. Davids in Radnor, St. Peter's of the Great Valley, and Christ Church in Christiana Hundred, Delaware. It was common for the various congregations to share rectors.

The laying of the cornerstone for the original church was an event of state-wide religious significance. In addition to the attendance of Bishop White of the Pennsylvania Diocese and Reverend Brinckle, distinguished rector of St. David's and St. Peter's, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania also was present. Bishop White, who consecrated the new building on May 28, 1829, is considered the "founding father of the Episcopal Church in the United States" and is further distinguished for having signed the Declaration of Independence. The impressive beginnings of St. Paul's tend to overwhelm the rather surprising fact that an Episcopal congregation of any size should have been established at so early a date in the predominantly Quaker Great Valley. A significant number of Quakers did in fact convert to the Protestant Episcopal Church following the Revolutionary War. The decision of certain Quakers to abandon the pacifist principles of their religion and participate in the war effort generally resulted in their expulsion from the Society of Friends. This, and the Separation of 1828 which saw a split into Hicksite and Orthodox branches, weakened the Quaker community. Approximately 3/4 of the subscribers of St. Paul's Church formerly were Quakers, among them members of the locally prominent Thomas and Jacobs family. The central role of St. Paul's in community life has remained strong. St. Paul's was similar to Grove in the south in that it primarily served residents, most of whom were prosperous farmers, in the northern half of the Township. Unlike the Grove congregation, however, St. Paul's was affected by economic and social change brought about by improved transportation along the Lancaster Turnpike and various railroads, and by the establishment of Church Farm School. In the midst of all this change, the church itself was the one unchanging landmark.

Social Humanitarian/Education

Since 1918, St. Paul's Church has maintained a unique and close relationship with the Church Farm School. The School was founded as a farm and industrial school for boys by Dr. Charles Shreiner, an Episcopal rector in Philadelphia. The selection of the site for the school in West Whiteland was based on the availability of Turnpike and rail transportation, and adjacent, a strong Episcopal congregation at St. Paul's. Dr. Shreiner was assisted in the establishment of the school by Clarence Sears Kates, a wealthy parishioner who had a keen interest in scientific farming. Ties between church and school were solidified in 1921 by the appointment of Dr. Shreiner to the rectorship of St. Paul's. He held this position for 27 years while continuing as headmaster of Church Farm School.

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania
Multiple Resource Nomination

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St. Paul's Church Map #13

Summary Statement of Significance:

St. Paul's Church is eligible for listing under criterion C as an example of Gothic-Revival architecture. While the Gothic elements date from the 1872 remodeling of the church, they are none-the-less significant for the restrained manner in which they are carried out. There are numerous Gothic-Revival churches in the Great Valley but most take full advantage of the more extravagant elements of the style. St. Paul's simpler example is probably the result of the close ties that many of its members felt with their Quaker roots.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point on the northern edge of the Lincoln Highway located 50 feet west of the middle of the intersection of the Philadelphia Electric Planebrook Station access road with the Lincoln Highway; thence north 11° west 337.5 feet to a point at the northeast corner of the cemetery; thence south 77° west 350 feet to a point; thence south 11° east 100 feet to a point; thence north 77° east 25 feet to the western edge of a private drive; thence along the western edge of said drive following the various courses in a southerly direction to the intersection of the drive with the Lincoln Highway; thence following the northern edge of said highway 325 feet in an easterly direction to the place of beginning, containing 2.5 acres.

**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 Item number

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Page

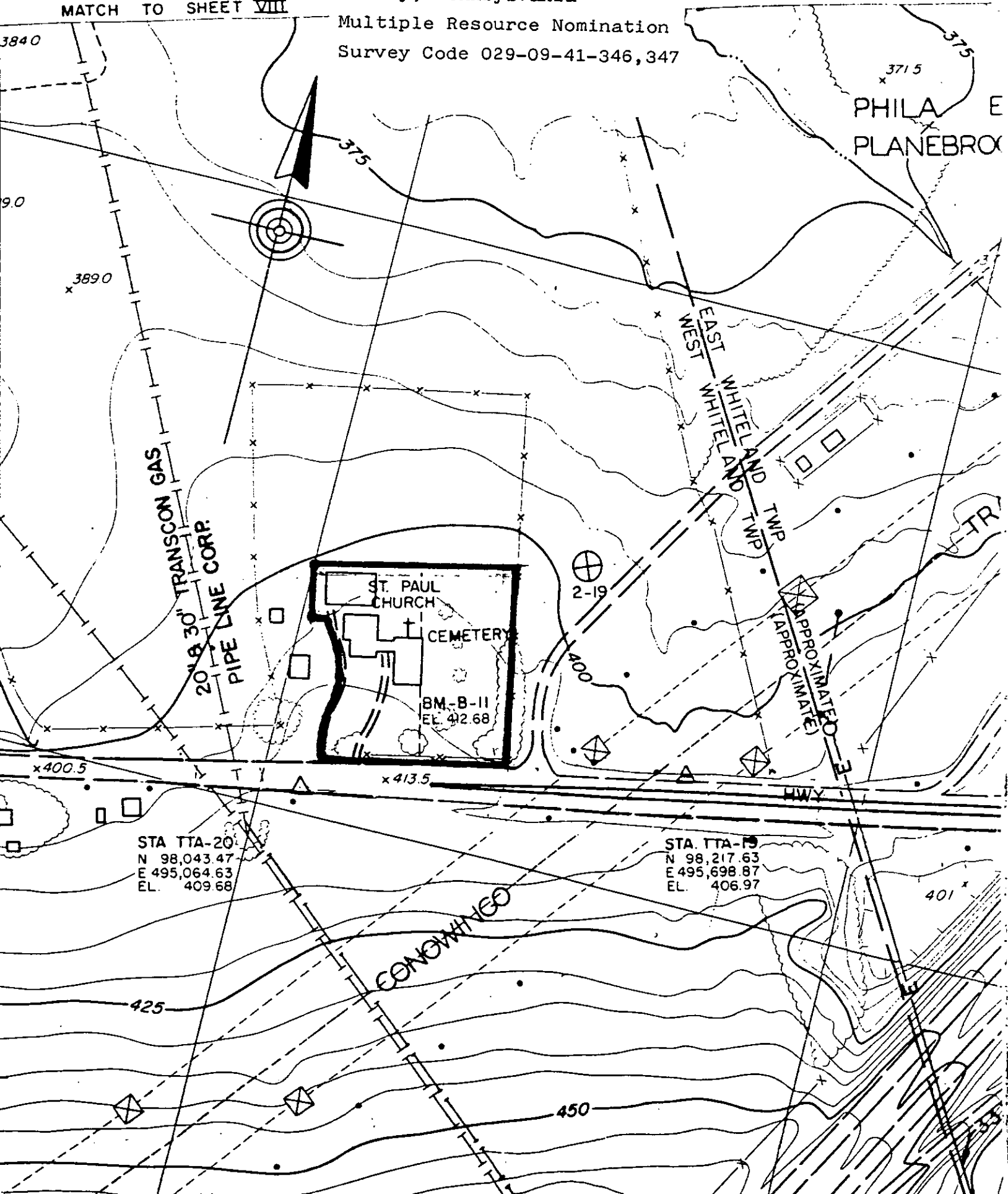
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St. Paul's Church

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Map #13

The nominated acreage is roughly a square which encompasses the church, the cemetery, the parish house and a school. In addition to the church, the other contributing structure is the 2 story, stone rectangular Gothic style parish house which was built in 1912. On its northern elevation, the parish house has a 2 story, rectangular stuccoed wing built in 1956 which is not visible to the public view from the Lancaster Turnpike. A 2 story, rectangular stuccoed school built in 1981 is located to the north of the parish house, is not visible from the Lancaster Turnpike and does not contribute to the significance of the resource. The cemetery is located to the east of the church and is enclosed on 3 sides by a fieldstone wall built in 1843. Interred there are many members of prominent early West White-land families who converted from the quaker faith including the Thomas, Jacob and Trimble families. A 2 1/2 story stone rectory built in 1884-5 has suffered numerous unsympathetic alterations over the years. A small 1 story frame barn/garage and the rectory have not been included in the nominated acreage but their location can be seen in the site map and contour map.

West Whiteland Twp., Chester
County, Pennsylvania
Multiple Resource Nomination
Survey Code 029-09-41-346,347

MATCH TO SHEET VIII



PHILA E
PLANE BROOK

STA. TTA-20
N 98,043.47
E 495,064.63
EL. 409.68

STA. TTA-19
N 98,217.63
E 495,698.87
EL. 406.97