

Ferron, John House
 Chester County Zone 18
 A E 427220 N 44160840
 B E 427300 N 4416580
 C E 427190 N 4416540
 D E 427050 N 4416800

Hoopes, Cyrus House & Barn
 Chester County Zone 18
 A E 428840 N 4417980
 B E 429900 N 4417660
 C E 428750 N 4417650
 D E 428700 N 4417950

(OXFORD)
 5863 N SW

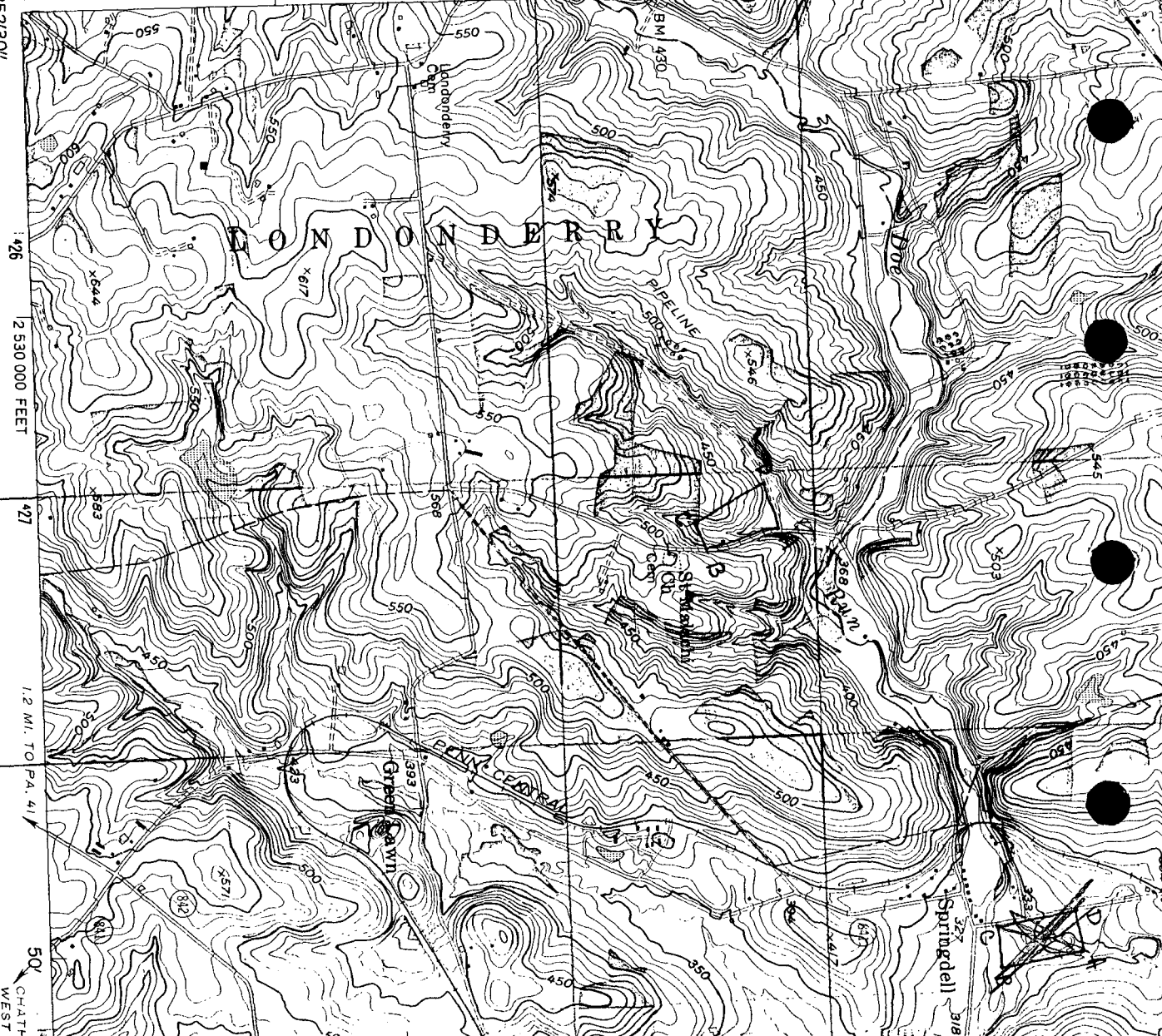
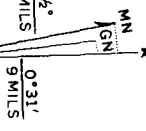
39°52'30"
 75°52'30"

210 000
 FEET

GOCHRANVILLE 3 MI.

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography from aerial photographs by stereophotogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1950. Field check 1953
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue
 Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Pennsylvania agencies, from aerial photographs taken 1958 and 1973. This information not field checked

UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



50' CHATHAM WEST

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026
 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120

7. Local survey organization
 Brandywine Conservancy

1. County Chester
 5. present name John Ferron House

8. Property owners name and address
 Mary I. Leitch
 St. Malachi Rd.
 Cochranville PA 19330

9. tax parcel number / other number
 46-1-8

10. U.T.M. zone 18 easting 427270

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)
 Chester Co. Historic Sites Survey

usgs sheet: 4416650
 northing Coatesville

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

13. date(s) (how determined)

15. style, design or folk type
 43 Penn Plan

19. original use
 010200P 150300A

14. period 1825-49 (04)

20. present use
 Residence 010200

16. architect or engineer

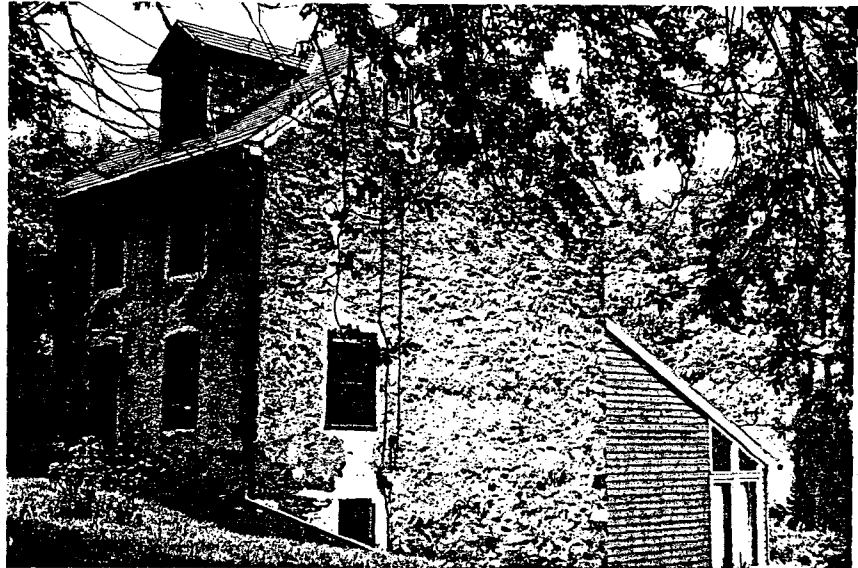
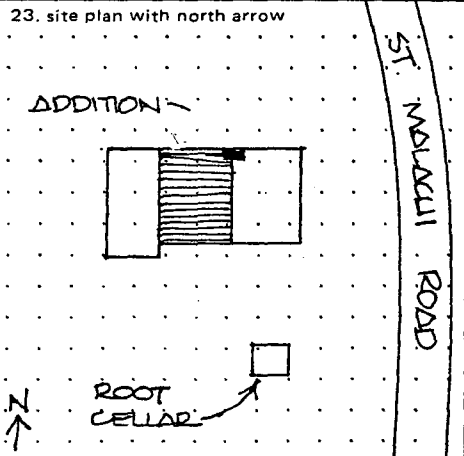
17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construction
 02 Stone

21. condition Excellent

22. integrity Excellent

2. municipality Londonderry Twp.
 6. other name (historic name if any) Leprechaun Hollow



24. photo notation

PC: Diane Snyder
 PD: 1984
 PV: Northeast elevation

25. file/location
 Brandywine Conservancy

26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings)

This small stone house sits high on the rolling hills of Doe Run Valley, as does St. Malachi Church (46-1) which is just across St. Malachi Road. Its setting is remote and picturesque, unbroken by other buildings. At the base of the hill flows Doe Run, a major tributary of the West Branch Brandywine River which meanders through the countryside toward the villages of Springdell and Doe Run.

The house has sat on the same 10-acre tract since its construction about 1838. It is banked into the hill which provides for a basement cooking area. Only two bays wide, the house rises to two stories with an attic. A single pedimented gable dormer is located on the east pitch of the plain gable roof. A brick chimney arises from the north gable end. The house features a wood shake roof, simple box cornice, and six-over-six windows in pegged rectangular frames.

(continued on back)

(continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background

Given its proximity to St. Malachi Church and the absence of other houses in the immediate vicinity, it is of no surprise that the John Ferron House is associated with the church. According to its chain of title it was the property of the church's carpenter-builder, John Ferron, and his heirs for 64 years. Ferron had obtained the property by an unrecorded deed from Mary Lloyd. Between 1821 and 1838 it changed hands four times as 10 3/4 acres of "Land only."

(continued on back)

(continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information

Chester Co. Historical Society - Clipping file;
 Chester County Place Names, Pinkowski; History of Chester Co.
 1881

29. prepared by:
 M.L. Wolf

30. date
 1984

revision(s)

(continue on back if necessary)

3. street address or specific location
 St. Malachi Rd.

MAP 46-2

4. survey code (029-46-010)

#26 cont.

A new frame addition featuring horizontal cedar siding extends off the west elevation. Its shed roof echoes the slope of the core's roof and the net result is pleasing and unobtrusive.

To the south of the house is an outside root cellar dug into the hill. It has an arched brick entry. Also on the property is a non-contributing frame shed utilizing the traditional Quaker carriage shed design. Like the addition, it compliments rather than detracts from the overall complex.

The boundaries for the John Ferron House are its legal metes and bounds description on file at the Chester County Recorder of Deeds in Deed Book P53, page 21. Although the tract exceeds by .7 acres the nominal 10-acre limit suggested for individual buildings nominated to the National Register, it is felt that the entire property should be included in recognition of this as its historical boundary. A copy of page 21 is attached.

#27 Cont.

Although records of the St. Malachi Church are scant, it is known that Ferron was its carpenter and that a Henry Ferron was its stonemason. Probably it was John Ferron's father, James, who with his wife Penelope landed at New Castle (Delaware) in 1791 and were among St. Malachi's first parishioners. At the time John Ferron's heir put the property up for sale in 1907, it was described as a "6 room stone dwelling house" with a frame barn, wagon shed, corn crib, carpenter shop, and other outbuildings. The barn burned in 1966. Ferron could have had other connections to the church -- such as being its sexton -- but these records are not available.

John Ferron was also the first postmaster of "Rosenvick" in 1872, a small manufacturing village, nearby on Doe Run, once known as Ogden's Mills. Ferron named the post office for his ancestral Irish home. He died in 1884. Ferron's descendents still live in the general area and are members of St. Malachi.

Another long-term resident of the John Ferron House was William Shank, sexton of St. Malachi for more than 30 years. He owned the house between 1922 and 1978.

Acre: 10.75

Outbuilding

Root cellar: contributing

Area of Significance

Period

x 1800 - 1899

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

27. Continued John Ferron House

The John Ferron house is important to the West Branch Brandywine River corridor for its architecture and for its long term association with nearby St. Malachi Church. Its plan is a banked version of the regionally popular Penn Plan, introduced in Philadelphia in the colonial period and spreading rapidly to the surrounding rural counties. The plan remained popular for years to come, offering practical living space with economy of materials. Banked Penn Plan houses were especially suitable for rural areas where natural slopes could be used to maximum advantage, providing in this case an easily accessed cellar kitchen. Since its construction, the core of the John Ferron house has undergone minimal alteration. It retains the original cellar cooking fireplace and evidence of a bake oven. The original two-room (front and back) with a side winder staircase floor plan is intact, as are its woodwork, mantels, and structural openings. Not until the late 1970s were modern plumbing, heating, and wiring installed, with care taken by its current owner not to damage the basic integrity of the house. In addition to physical integrity, the house exhibits notable integrity of setting. It occupies the same 10 3/4-acre tract of land established in a 1821 deed of sale, and the surrounding landscape is uninterrupted by new construction--truly a historic landscape at its best.

While the origins of the house are still in some doubt (the current owner believes it to be earlier than 1838), its long term association with the small Catholic mission church across the road is clear. All of its previous owners (from at least 1838 to 1978) were members of St. Malachi; one was its builder; and at least one served as the church sexton for several decades. Together, the two properties--St. Malachi Church and the John Ferron house--tell of the history of Catholic settlement in Chester County.

LEITCH

ALL THAT CERTAIN message and tract of land, situate in the Township of Londonderry, in the County of Chester and State of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a stone a corner of land of Morris T. Kendig; thence by the same North 89 degrees, West 45.2 perches to a stone in the line of land of Thomas C. Ferron; thence by the same South 15 Degrees West, 31 perches to a stone; thence by land of Morris T. Kendig South 89 Degrees East, 63.6 perches to a stone near the great road; thence by the same on the West side thereof North 6 3/4 degrees West 30.6 perches to a stone; thence North 89 degrees West 6.4 perches to the place of beginning.

CONTAINING 10 3/4 Acres of land, be the same more or less.

BEING THE SAME PREMISES which Louis P. Herley, singleman, by Deed dated August 20, 1940, and recorded at the Office for the Recorder of Deeds in and for Chester County, Pennsylvania, in Deed Book G-21, page 15, granted and conveyed unto William B. Shank and Isabelle Shank, his wife, their heirs and assigns.

AND THE SAID William B. Shank departed this life on May 7, 1971, whereby the said Isabelle Shank, by virtue of the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relating to tenants by the entireties, became vested of the entire fee.

AND THE SAID Isabelle Shank departed this life on October 2, 1976, leaving a will dated July 7, 1976, said will duly probated on November 3, 1976, and remaining of record in the Register of Wills Office in and for Chester County, Pennsylvania, in Will Book 115, page 855, wherein she appointed Francis Vincent Shank and Thomas Gregory Shank, as Executors, to whom Letters Testamentary were granted on November 3, 1976.

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