



Unionville Quad
63-1 Wilkinson House
Pocapsox Twp.

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 029-Chester	5. present name Wilkinson House
8. property owners name and address John Chip P. O. Box 2 Chadds Ford, PA 19317		9. tax parcel number / other number 63-1-51	10. U.T.M. zone easting 18 4 4 3 0 9 0		
12. classification site () structure () object () building (X) In N.R. district yes () no ()		11. status (other surveys, lists etc.) Chester County Historic Sites Survey sheet: Unionville			
13. date(s) (how determined) c.1884		14. period 1875-99 (03)			
15. style, design or folk type Rural Gothic		16. architect or engineer		17. contractor or builder	
19. original use Pr. Residence 010200		20. present use Pr. Residence 010200		21. condition Good	
22. integrity Excellent		23. site plan with north arrow 		2. municipality Pocopson Township	
24. photo notation PC: Martha Wolf PD: 1984 PV: Northeast elevation				6. other name (historic name if any)	
25. file/location Brandywine Conservancy		26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings) The Wilkinson House sits in a heavily wooded area of the West Branch Brandywine Scenic River Corridor. The tracks of the former Wilmington and Reading Railroad seem to run through its front yard. Route 842 and the river are but a stone's throw to the north. To the south a steep, rocky hill, almost a cliff, forms a dramatic backdrop to this isolated building. The pure Rural Gothic styling of the Wilkinson House is a welcome change from the mostly Colonial and Georgian homes found in the Scenic River Corridor. Although a relatively modest house, it is nevertheless noteworthy for its external and internal architectural integrity. The Rural Gothic style is declared in its central cross gable, frame construction, narrow proportions, front porch, and decorative touches. Still sheathed in its		3. street address or specific location Route 842	
27. history, significance and/or background The Wilkinson House marks the site of a former coal business which was established on this property lying adjacent to the tracks of the Wilmington and Northern Railroad in 1880. For many years the area was known as Wawaset Station; in reality it was more of a flag stop along this essentially freight line. Using a small portion of his father's 125-acre farm, Wilkinson built a siding from		28. sources of information Chester County Recorder of Deeds-Clipping File; Chester County Recorder of Deeds; History of Chester County.		29. prepared by: M. L. Wolf	
30. date 11/1984		31. revision(s)		4. survey code (029-63-1) MAP 63-1	

(continue on back if necessary)

26. Continued

original wood German siding, the house is two stories with a full basement and attic. The gable roof with cross gable only extends over about half the house; in the rear the roof changes to a plainer shed profile. Small brick chimneys are found at each gable end and about midway in the back.

The front corners of the house are accented with contrasting decorative wood "quoins." Two-over-two windows in their original sash are placed in rectangular frames with slight caps. A centered front door features a single-light transom and sidelights. A front porch on a stone foundation extends across three bays and features turned posts and jigsaw work in the railings and brackets. The shutters, which are original, are paneled on the first floor and louvered on the second.

The house is entered through a center hall containing a stairway with a small landing. It goes on to the attic. Access to the basement is by a rear stairway in the kitchen which also provides a back stairway to the second floor. The basement reveals that the house was L-shaped; it has a coal shoot and white-washed walls. The kitchen retains its original pantry, i.e., cupboards and drawers, as well as a "pass-through" window to the dining room.

Besides these kitchen features, the house has its original random-width floors, box locks, moldings, chimneys, closets, and--most remarkably--its light fixtures.

A small frame barn or stable near the house also contributes to the property's significance. It has the German siding and window caps seen in the main house.

To the northeast of the house on the other side of the railroad tracks is evidence of a large outside coal bin.

The boundary for the Wilkinson House is its legal metes and bounds description on file at the Chester County Recorder of Deeds in Deed Book A21, page 454. A copy of page 454 is attached.

ACRES: 2

OUTBUILDINGS:

STABLE/BARN: CONTRIBUTING

COAL BIN: CONTRIBUTING

Area of Significance

x architecture

Period

x 1800-1899

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

27. Continued

the railroad, under which he placed coal storage bins. In 1882 he built a frame bran house measuring 20 by 48 feet. At that time the siding was removed to provide more room for the bran operation. The existing "stable" on the property with its sliding double doors is more than likely the original bran house.

In 1884 Wilkinson took legal possession of two acres and built a Rural Gothic-style frame house adjacent to his coal and bran business. He was active here in the coal business until the early 1900s.

The Wilkinson coal business is a perfect reflection of the Wilmington and Northern Railroad's intended purpose, which was to haul freight, primarily coal, from the Reading area to Wilmington (Delaware). Wilkinson seized the opportunity to intercept some of that coal for sale to his neighbors in the Scenic River Corridor. That his was a small operation is evident in a 1902 newspaper article which notes his bins were empty, although 25 cars of anthracite coal had passed by recently, already spoken for by a Wilmington firm.

As noted in the architectural description, above, the Wilkinson House is a noteworthy survivor of the Rural Gothic style. Although there are a few other houses of this vintage and type in the corridor, this is by far the most intact.