

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

7. Local survey organization  
Brandywine Conservancy SEP 16 1980

8. property owners name and address  
Sara M. Gwynn  
Box 600, R.D. 4  
Coatesville PA 19320

9. tax parcel number / other number  
49-2-13

10. U.T.M. zone 18 437100  
easting  
44206810  
northing

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)  
Chester County Historic Sites Survey  
USGS sheet: Unionville

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

13. date(s) (how determined)  
c. 1770

15. style, design or folk type

19. original use  
020201

14. period  
1751-1800 (04)

20. present use  
Residence 010200

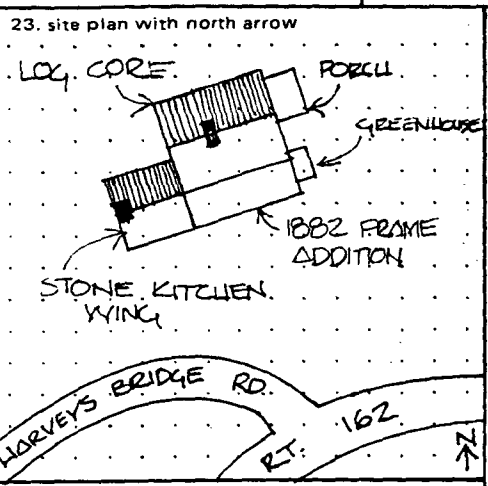
16. architect or engineer

17. contractor or bullder

18. primary building mat./construction  
01-Log/02-Stone

21. condition  
Excellent

22. integrity  
Fair to Excellent



24. photo notation  
PG: Martha Wolf  
PD: 1984  
PV: Northwest elevation

25. file/location  
Brandywine Conservancy

26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, objects and associated changes)  
The Hayes Homestead sits on 7.275 acres north of Route 162 and within site of the West Branch Brandywine River. Although there were once two barns (one log and frame, the other stone) on the property, today only the old farmhouse occupies the tract as a contributing building.

The house consists of three basic sections: a log core (c1770); a stone kitchen wing (c.1799); and a frame addition (1882). All sections were constructed by members of the Hayes family and are significant architectural statements of their time.

The log core is remarkable for its unusual floor plan. It is a hall/parlor plan contained in a rectangular two story with full basement and attic, gabled roof house. Most interesting is its mammoth central stone chimney, a feature commonly associated with German Colonial houses. There is no evidence, however, that it was (cont.)

(continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background

The Hayes family, who figured in many of the West Brandy Brandywine's historical themes and events, is represented by three houses in the corridor: The Hayes Homestead (c.1770); the Hayes Mill House (c.1780); and the Jacob Hayes House (1841). This extraordinary family - intelligent, artistic, socially concerned -- witnessed and participated in major events in the Scenic River Corridor's history. Never leaving the family's ownership and still highly valued by them, the Hayes homestead (see Cont. sheet)

28. sources of information  
Hayes, J. Carroll, "Annals of Ye Old Hayes House Near Embreeville" 1916. Prescott, Charlotte, "Great American Patriot". Better Homes and Gardens June 1941.

29. prepared by:  
M.L. Wolf

30. date 11/84  
revision(s)

1. County 029 Chester  
5. present name  
Hayes Homestead

2. municipality Newlin Township  
6. other name (historic name if any)  
Green Lawn Farm

3. street address or specific location  
Route 162 and Harvey's Bridge Road

4. survey code (029-49-6)  
MAP 49-6

#26 continued:

built by anyone other than Thomas Hayes, grandson of an English Quaker settler in nearby East Marlborough Township. The basement of the log core reveals that the central chimney was original to the house. Here there is a huge arched fireplace support positioned about midway in the basement, directly above the "hall" or original kitchen above. A second stone support in the basement is corbeled and occupies the corner formed by the central fireplace support. Above this was a corner fireplace designed to heat the second first-floor room of the house (the parlor), called the "little back bed room" by the family, but now used as the kitchen.

A winding stairway located on the south wall about midway in the core leads from the basement to the attic. The second story contains two bedrooms. The stone chimney is visible in the west bedroom.

A 1½-story stone kitchen wing extends off the southwest corner of the core. A datestone found near this part bears the date 1799 and is assumed to have been removed from the kitchen. It can be accessed from a one-time exterior door in the basement or through the 1882 wing off the south wall of the core. The kitchen wing is notable for its brick floor, huge cooking fireplace with bake oven, original joists, and stone dry sink complete with an outside drip stone. The roof of the north side of the kitchen has been raised slightly and an outside entrance added.

An 1882 frame addition extends off the south wall of the core. It replaced a stone wing built about the same time as the kitchen. In 1882 William Hayes tore down the stone walls of this wing and the fireplace on its west end and built a new frame two-story wing covered with horizontal wood siding. Later he added the French doors and pedimented hood with supporting brackets. The original kitchen in the log core was remodeled into a sitting room and a new window and side door were added. In the 1950's the house was updated with new electrical wiring, plumbing, heating and well. The wood siding was stuccoed.

Despite the number of changes made by members of the family, the house retains many of its original interior features. Fortunately the plan of the log core with its fireplaces and stairway was never altered. Most of the walls in this section are simple vertical wood panels and the doors appear original as does much of the hardware. The kitchen wing is the least disturbed area of the house.

The boundaries for the Hayes Homestead are the metes and bounds description on file at the Chester County Recorder of Deeds in Deed Book U44, page 187. A copy of page 187 is attached.

Acres: 7.295

Area of Significance  
Architecture

Period:  
1700-1799; 1800-1899

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

# 27 continued:

is rightfully considered the center of their history.

The Hayes family, English Quakers who had settled in Marlborough Township in 1705, became established along the West Branch Brandywine in 1771. In that year Thomas Hayes, grandson of the immigrant Henry Hayes (1667-1745), acquired 203 acres of land in Newlin Township from Nathaniel Newlin, Jr. Thomas sold the property to his brother Mordecai in 1774 who then settled on the tract with his wife Ann and three children. The log homestead, reputedly built by Thomas, was subsequently occupied by many generations of Hayes.

Mordecai (1738-1824) and Ann Hayes added three children to their family and more rooms to the small log house. About 1799, a 1½-story stone kitchen wing was added to the west end and a stone-walled room was built off the south end of the original house. A stone barn (no longer standing) bearing the datestone "M.H. 1818" was built to the north of the house. About 1780, Mordecai Hayes had opened a quarry on a portion of his land to furnish stones for "whetting scythes, grain cradles, and sickles." (See 49-4) Mordecai transferred the quarry to his son Eli by a deed dated 1808.

Mordecai Hayes opened his home to Indian Hannah, Chester County's last Lenape Indian, between 1798-1800. (See general Statement of Significance, C. 1. ) According to an agreement worked out by neighbors along the West Branch Brandywine, Indian Hannah was boarded for a few days or weeks at their various homes. Indian Hannah visited the Hayes homestead for brief periods from 1798-1800. The family still calls a part of the large cooking fireplace in the stone kitchen wing, "Indian Hannah's chimney corner."

The homestead was inherited by Mordecai Hayes, Jr. in 1824. Mordecai, Jr. (1780-1847) was a teamster whose account book still is in the family's possession. The book indicates he traveled to places like Wilmington (Delaware), Philadelphia, Columbia (Pennsylvania), and Elkton (Maryland), with a six-horse team hauling nails, lime, and various other items. On November 30, 1827, Mordecai Jr. even hauled "ten thousand cents for the Bank of Chester County," for which he was paid 75 cents.

Mordecai Jr. and his second wife, Esther, took a typically Quaker position against slavery. They entertained abolitionists in their home, among them William Lloyd Garrison, and also harbored escaping slaves (See Smedley's History of the Underground Railroad, 1883, page 304.) Jesse Kersey, a noted minister of the Friends of international reputation, was a guest of Mordecai and Esther Hayes. They also sheltered homeless children and temperance lecturers. After the Separation of 1828 which gave rise to the Orthodox and Hicksite branches of Quakerism, the Hayes became members of the Orthodox Romansville Meeting.

After Mordecai Jr.'s death in 1847, the homestead became a tenant house to the new, much larger adjoining house built by Mordecai's son, Jacob, in 1841 (49-5). In 1882 Jacob's son, William, an attorney living in West Chester, began refurbishing the old homestead as a summer home. His mother, Carolien, continued to live at the "big house." About this time the entire family compound was pictured in Futhey and Cope's History of Chester County as Green Lawn Farm.

By 1900 the homestead was serving as the summer home of William's son, J. Carroll, and wife Louella. His other son, John Russell, used the "big house" as his summer place. J. Carroll Hayes was particularly interested in history. A lawyer

#27 continued: page 2

like his father, he was a historian by hobby. He published historical sketches (mostly about subjects of local interest) and served as President of the Chester County Historical Society. He also traveled widely and took photographs. Some of his pictures were used to illustrate his brother's literary works about the Brandywine. In 1916 J. Carroll Hayes compiled a family history from which much of the above information has been taken.

In 1943 the homestead and "big house" were established on separate lots. J. Carroll Hayes retired in the homestead and installed central heat and electricity. Every year he had tried to make "some little improvement" in the property. After his death in 1951, the homestead was purchased by one of his grandchildren, George Oppenlander, and his wife Peggy Oppenlander. It continues in Mrs. Oppenlander's ownership today.

In addition to its unbroken association with one of the Brandywine corridor's most influential families, the Hayes Homestead is of considerable architectural interest. Its original floor plan utilizing a central and a corner chimney combined with log construction is exceedingly rare in Quaker-settled parts of southeastern Pennsylvania.

#28 continued:

Time line compiled by Peggy Gwynn, 1984.

"Proceedings of the Bicentennial Gathering of the Descendents of Henry Hayes at Unionville, Chester County, PA," September 2, 1905  
White, Emma Chambers. Your Family (1941)

Unionville Quad  
476 Hayes Homestead  
Newlin Twp

