

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

1. Name

historic Twining Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number East Side of Buck Road _____ not for publication

city, town Newtown Township _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 8

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Bucks code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Warren A. Custer Estate / Under Agreement of Sale to: Greenbelt Associates

street & number RD #2, Box 100 / The Mews at Brookside

city, town Newtown _____ vicinity of _____ state Pennsylvania 18940

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bucks County Courthouse

street & number Main and Court Street

city, town Doylestown _____ state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pa. Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 5/20/80 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg _____ state Pennsylvania

7: Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Twining farmhouse is situated just south of Newtown and overlooks Newtown Creek near its confluence with the Neshaminy Creek. The building is of stone construction except for a small 2 story, 1 bay frame shed-roof addition to the east gable end. The west main section is a 2 1/2 story double pile, 6 bay structure with double brick chimney on the east wall. This section shows a clear division line on both the north and south facades, indicating 2 periods of construction (A & B, see Floor Plan). The earlier period (A) includes the 3 bays to the east, and is constructed of rough stone. The window openings are set close together and the sash on the 2nd story may be original, possessing wide muntins. The west portion (B) of this section is constructed of cut stone laid in rough courses and bears a date stone with "1832" and the initials "D.H." in the gable between the double chimney. Dr. David Hutchinson purchased the building from his mother at that date, and it is reasonable that he constructed this 3 bay addition. The window openings are widely spaced, and the muntins are thin, characteristic of that period (A) correspond to the later style, indicating that they were probably replaced at the time of the addition.

The stone section to the east is 2 1/2 story single pile and about two feet lower than the previous section. The north wall has a deep set back, whereas the south facades of the two sections are exactly aligned. This section is 3 bays long and possesses a large stone and brick chimney on the east gable end. It appears that the building pictured in the Edward Hicks paintings of the Twining Farm consisted of the early period of section one (A) and section two viewed from the north, which was probably the front of the building at that date.

The building as it stands today has been only slightly changed from the 1838 period. Additions since then include the frame wing to the east and gable roof dormers, 3 facing north and 3 south. The most drastic change to the basic structure is a large bow window that was cut into the south wall of the early period of section 1. This change was made by the Custer family around 1940.

The front of the building now faces south. A center hall is flanked by 2 rooms with fireplaces in the 1832 west portion, and 2 rooms, one with corner fireplace in the old period of section 1. The floor level of section 2 is one step below section 1, and a large fireplace is located in the east wall. Most of the wood trim, doors and panelling appear to be of the 1832 period of construction when the building was enlarged and updated.

Description of Outbuildings: Stable-A rather long (6 bay) 1 1/2 story stone and frame structure with shed roof. The rear wall is constructed of field stone, the side walls are frame, and the building is open in the front. Condition is poor. Chicken House-A frame 2 1/2 story gable roof building with vertical board and batten type siding. The structure is 24 foot by 12 foot on a stone foundation and is in good condition. Barn Complex-This building is stone and frame and was built in three sections. Section 1 is entirely of stone construction, 2 1/2 stories with 3 bays. It's a bank style barn with a forebay in the south wall. Section 2 is a 10 foot wide, 2 story, frame extension added across the entire south wall. Section 3 is a frame 2 1/2 story, one bay extension to the west gable end of Section 1, & a long 4 bay wing extending to the south. The frame sections have high stone foundations that extend nearly to the level of the second story.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Twining Farm is a fine, well preserved example of the multi-stage construction typical in the Bucks and Chester County areas where the major building material is stone. The use of stone and the lengthward addition of sections as the family and need for space grew is a distinctive characteristic of this area of Pennsylvania. The structure has fine wood-work detailing from the 1832 period. This farm was also associated with the development of a famous American painter, Edward Hicks. The farm is also the subject of three of his paintings.

David Twining and his wife Elizabeth owned the property from 1757, when it was purchased from his father, John, until 1791 when David Twining died. During his lifetime he acquired 341 acres of land in the southwest corner of Newtown Township, was the owner of the grist mill on Newtown Creek, and possessed extensive other property in Bucks and Westmoreland Counties. David Twining was a prominent man in Bucks County society and business and he served two terms in the General Assembly. He was one of the original directors of the Newtown Library Company, 3rd oldest in Pennsylvania, and filled the office of Librarian for 28 years. However, it was the relationship that the Twining family had with young Edward Hicks, the famous painter of American folk art, that establishes the importance of this property. When the artist was a young boy he was taken in by the Twinings, his mother having died and his father having lost his home and means of livelihood because of the revolution. Edward lived on the farmstead for about 10 years, and it is likely that the Twinings had a beneficial influence on him, especially since it was during this period that the community library was being housed there. Three Hicks paintings featuring the Twining homestead were painted, c. 1845-1848. One is in the collection of the Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute; one in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum; and one in a private collection.

The dwelling is a fine example of multi-staged construction typical of Bucks County stone farmhouses, the earliest period being c. 1750, with stages added through the 19th century. The bank barn is particularly noteworthy for its pointed stone walls and early construction techniques, examples of which are becoming increasingly rare in Bucks County. Although the Georgian style doorway and large front window are recent additions, the house retains many of the original architectural features representing major periods of construction from 1740 to 1838. This farm complex was one of the most prosperous and dominant Newtown estates from the time it was purchased by David Twining in 1757 until the end of the first half of the 20th century. It therefore represents the finest points of typical Newtown architecture of the Colonial and Federal styles.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10

Quadrangle name Langhorne, PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	5	0	5	0	0	0	4	4	5	1	9	2	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

1	8	5	0	5	2	8	0	4	4	5	1	9	6	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

1	8	5	0	5	0	2	0	4	4	5	1	7	6	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

1	8	5	0	5	3	1	0	4	4	5	1	8	3	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Newtown Joint Historic Commission c/o Mrs. A. Newton Gish, Jr., Chairman

organization Newtown Joint Historic Commission date March 14, 1980

street & number P.O. Box 103 telephone 215-968-3402

city or town Newtown state Pennsylvania 18940

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Ed Weintraub, Director

title Office of Historic Preservation date

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

Twining Farm
Bucks County
Verbal Boundary Description

m Commission

TWIVING FARM #29-9-5
Continuation Sheet #2

(7) Following along the same, and partially along Lot No. 18, on the arc of a circle curving to the right having a radius of 175.00 feet, the arc distance of 126.76 feet to a point of tangency.

(8) Following along the same, North 54 degrees 35 minutes 28 seconds West, 190.51 feet to a point of curvature.

(9) Crossing Braeburn Lane at a perpendicular from the last mentioned course, South 35 degrees 24 minutes 32 seconds West, 50.00 feet to a point on the South side of said Braeburn Lane.

(10) Following along the South side of Braeburn Lane along the arc of a circle curving to the right having a radius of 38.00 feet, the arc distance of 33.79 feet to a point of reverse curve.

(11) Following along the same, along the arc of a circle curving to the left having a radius of 62.00 feet the arc distance of 99.90 feet to a point.

(12) Leaving Braeburn Lane, South 05 degrees 58 minutes 00 seconds East, 31.89 feet to a point.

(13) North 84 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds East, 140.10 feet to an iron pin, the point of Beginning.

Thence (1) South 05 degrees 58 minutes 00 seconds East, 420.00 feet, to an iron pin.

Thence (2) South 84 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds West, 633.34 feet, to an iron pin.

Thence (3) South 49 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds West, 213.00 feet to an iron pin.

Thence (4) North 64 degrees 34 minutes 55 seconds West, 205.31 feet to an iron pin.

Thence (5) North 05 degrees 58 minutes 00 seconds West 435.25 feet to an iron pin.

Thence (6) North 84 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds East, 983.09 feet, to the first mentioned point and place of Beginning.

CONTAINING 10.00 Acres of land be the contents thereof, more or less.

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TWINING FARM, BUCKS COUNTY

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

Deeds and Wills on record at the Bucks County Courthouse, Doylestown, Pa.

A Dream of Peace, Edward Hicks of Newtown by Edna Pullinger, Published by Dorrance and Company, Philadelphia, 1973

Edward Hicks - A Gentle Spirit, Published by Andrew Crispo Gallery, Inc., 41 East 57th Street, New York City, 1975

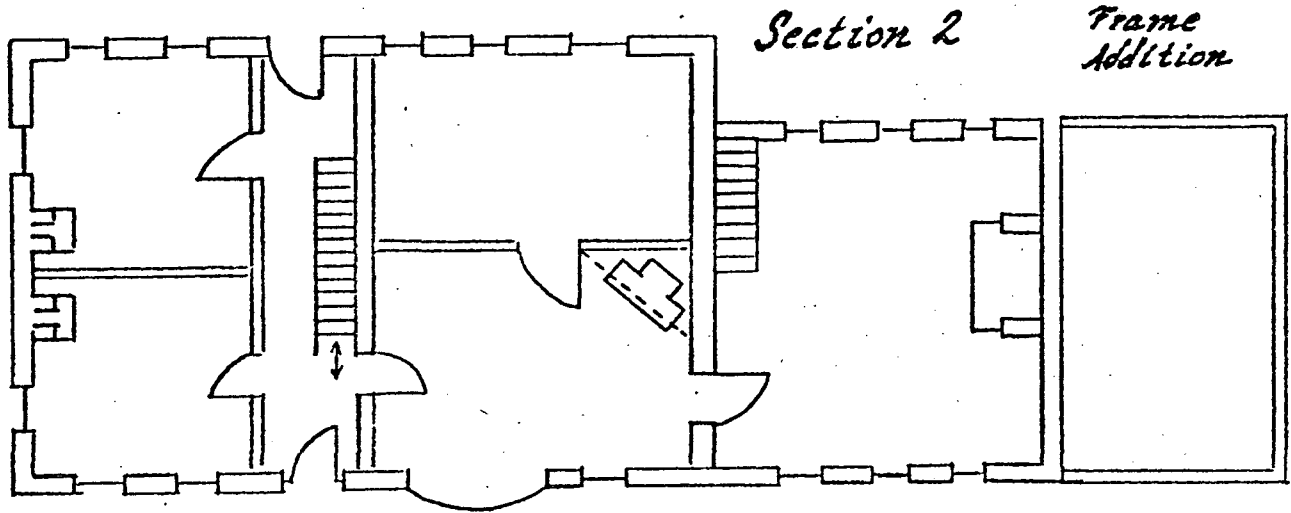
Edward Hicks Primitive Quaker by Eleanore Prince Mather, Printed by Sowers Printing Company, Lebanon, Pa., 1970

Edward Hicks 1780-1849, Exhibition catalogue with Introduction and Chronology by Alice Ford, published by Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection, Williamsburg, Va., 1960

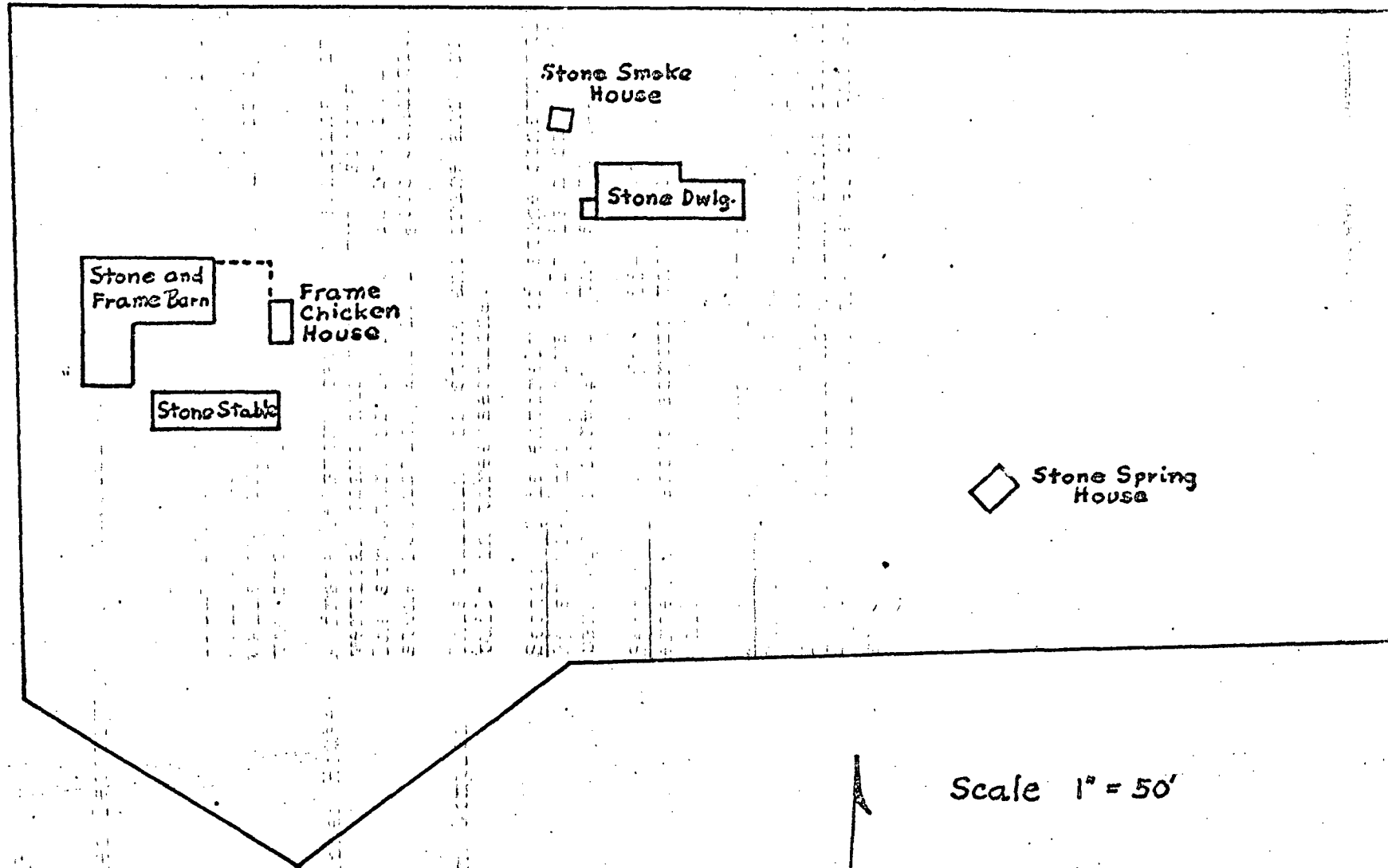
Twining Farm
Bucks County

Floor Plan - First Floor

Section 1



Plot Plan of Twining Farm



Scale 1" = 50'

Twining Farm
Bucks County
Site Map

Twining Farm
Bucks County
Zone 18

A	E505000	N4451920
B	E505280	N4451960
C	E505020	N4451760
D	E505310	N4451830

