

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026 PA. HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120		7. Local survey organization East Fallowfield Township	
8. property owners name and address Ramsay, W. Chester and Edith W. Box 383, R. D. #1 Coatesville, PA 19320		9. tax parcel number / other number 47-4-171	10. U.T.M. <u>18</u> <u>4129</u> <u>01515</u> 2000 EASTING <u>4</u> <u>42</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> NORTHING usgs sheet: Coatesville
12. classification site ( ) structure ( ) object ( ) building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in N.R. district yes ( ) no ( )		13. date(s) (how determined) 1825, <u>base stone</u> 14. period 1820 - 1860	15. style, design or folk type Federal
16. architect or engineer		17. contractor or builder	18. primary building mat./construction stone
		19. original use farm & tannery	20. present use residence
		21. condition average	22. integrity excellent



24. photo notation  
 PC: M. S. Young  
 PD: 1980  
 PV: Northeast Elevation

25. file/location  
 Historic Research Assoc.

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

Five bay wide, two story Federal farmhouse on the south side of Strasburg Road. It has lipped chimneys at both gable ends, six over six and nine over six light windows, a centered main entrance, stucco over stone facades, paneled shutters on the first floor, double width hipped dormer, plain box cornice and a partial front porch on the front facade. There are also small wings on both sides. The focal point in the building is the formal entryway that possesses pilasters, an elliptical fanlight crowned with a pedimented top.

(continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background **COMMERCE**

The property is significant in both Federal architecture and commerce. Robert Wilson, born in 1775 in Londonderry, Ireland, emigrated in 1798 to the United States. His early years in this country are well documented in Futhey and Cope's History of Chester County along with a drawing of Wilson. He leased a tannery in Londongrove for five years and then moved to the drovers road halfway between the

(continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information

1. Futhey, J. Smith and Cope, Gilbert. History of Chester County. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881.

(continue on back if necessary)

29. prepared by:  
 Historic Research Associates

30. date: 1981

revision(s)

1. County  
**CHESTER**

2. Municipality  
**EAST FALLOWFIELD TOWNSHIP**

3. street address or specific location  
**STRASBURG ROAD**

4. survey code  
**SR1H-12**

5. present name  
**ROBERT WILSON HOUSE**

6. other name (historic name if any)



27. Significance continued:

the east and west boundaries of East Fallowfield Township. He immediately commenced to build a tannery and within eight years accumulated enough capital to erect a handsome Federal home still standing today. Business continued to be brisk and the property became known as "The Wilson Tannery on the Strasburg Road." Wilson saw the value of the drovers road as the ideal location for a profitable business enterprise and went from a penniless immigrant to a prominent Chester Countian respected by his fellow citizens. The tannery is the only documented one on the Strasburg Road included in this application. Although it has long passed from the thriving economy the ruins from the tannery operation can still be seen to the west of the Federal Robert Wilson House by the casual motorist.

28. Sources of information continued:

2. West Chester. Chester County Courthouse, Recorder of Deeds.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

STARTING at a point on the south side of Strasburg Road where parcel 47-4-171 intersects with it, then south for three hundred twenty-five feet, then southeast for two hundred (200) feet, then northeast to the south side of Strasburg Road for three hundred ten (310) feet, then northwest along the south side of Strasburg Road for four hundred twenty-five (425) feet, to the place of beginning.  
CONTAINING 2 acres.

Chester County Historic Site Survey Code Number: 029-07-47-50

Miscellaneous Information:

1. Deed recorded in Chester County Courthouse, Recorder of Deeds, Deed Book C26, page 184.

2. Plotted on the 1860 map - Tannery, R. Wilson.

27. Significance continued:

ARCHITECTURE

The structure is important in local architecture as it relates to a conservative interpretation of the Federal architecture period. Even though the use of the style arrived later in the township than in the eastern part of Chester County it is significant because it illustrates Federal architecture being interpreted along the main thoroughfare in a very rural township and is basically the same as the White Horse Tavern also located on the Strasburg Road, the major east-west artery through the township.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)  
Jane L. S. Davidson  
Historic Research Associates

EAST FALLOWFIELD TOWNSHIP MRA, CHESTER COUNTY  
STRASBURG ROAD THEMATIC GROUP  
ROBERT WILSON HOUSE (SRTH-12)  
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For over one hundred fifty years the Strasburg Road contributed to the development and expansion of the agricultural economy in East Fallowfield Township. The road was an important east-west transportation and commercial corridor through the township and had its greatest impact on the development of the township during the third historic period, 1811-1865.

The significance of this property is in the relationship to the Strasburg Road as a local reaction to the accessibility of the road. The farmer located his buildings close to the road in order to be more accessible to the marketplace.