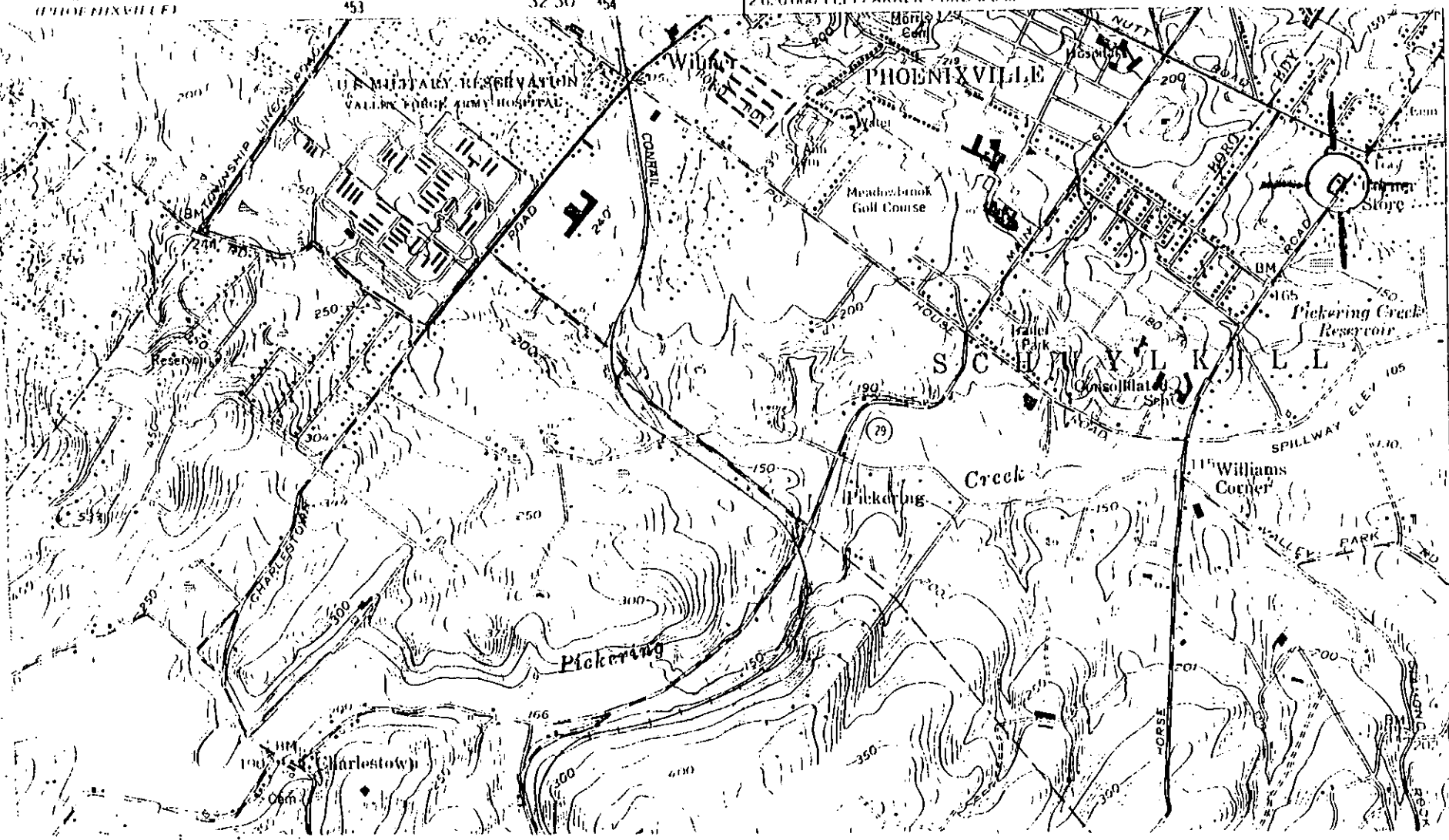


White Horse Farm

Chester County
Malvern Quadrangle
Zone 18
E456940 N4440810

5266 U III
(1105 NIXVILLE)

11 MI. TO PA 1
2630000 U III PARKER FORD G G M.



(21)
1141
1140
1139
VALLEY FORGE 5.5 MI
PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE 5.5 MI

114
SEVILLE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic White Horse Farm

and/or common Elijah F. Pennypacker House

2. Location

street & number 54 S. Whitehorse Road N/A not for publication

city, town Schuylkill Township N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Chester code 029

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Joe Thomson

street & number 54 S. Whitehorse Road

city, town Phoenixville N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chester County Court House

street & number High Street and Market Street

city, town West Chester state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Chester County Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979-1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Chester County Historical Society

city, town West Chester state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

White Horse Farm features a 2½ story stucco over stone house. It is an additive type house representing four main stages of development. The house has good integrity. Nearby the house on the nominated property are a c. 1810 stone barn, an eighteenth century stone springhouse, and a 1983 three car garage. Three of these buildings—the house, barn and springhouse—contribute to the significance of the property. The garage is non-contributing. The nominated property sits alongside White Horse Road on a hill top surrounded by suburban development in Schuylkill Township, Chester County.

The core of the house is a six bay portion built in three sections. The oldest section of the core, the part of the house which stands closest to White Horse Road, is a simple two story, two bay stone, one over one room portion built well before 1800. About 1810, a stone two bay section was added to the north, making a four bay, gable roofed building. A two bay, two story frame section was attached to the north gable c. 1840. This addition increased the facade to six bays and provided a second entrance. Another two bay, two story frame section was at the same time, at a set back, to the extreme north end of the rectangular core. A photograph taken in 1911 shows the building's appearance resulting from these stages of development (see photo 15).

In 1915 the house was enlarged and remodelled under the ownership of Col. Edward C. Meier. At this time the addition of an impressive Georgian Revival frontispiece and shed roof dormers greatly revised the appearance of the building's main elevation. On the rear of the house a large two story section was added containing a 24'x 35' ballroom. Changes were also made on the interior of the core of the house, particularly in the c. 1840 frame section, and a small service addition was made to the north end of the house.

The six bay core presently has symmetrically arranged windows and doors. Counting the bays from the south front corner to the north, there are doors in the second and fifth bays. The first door is a solid panelled door with plain board reveals and a three light transom. The second door is panelled on the bottom. The top has 24 lights with a round arch top surmounted by a three-light transom. Windows in the eighteenth century section first floor are 6/9 on the front and back walls and 8/12 on the gable end. All other windows in the first and second stories of the six bay core, including the second floor of the oldest section, are 6/6. Gable attic windows are four light sash. Shutters are panelled on the first floor and louvered on the second. The core has a chimney on the south gable end and another between the c. 1810 and c. 1840 sections. Cornices on the six bay core are box style with short partial returns on the gable ends.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

White Horse Farm

Section number 7 Page 2

The entire house is stuccoed except at the north gable end, which is shingled. A shed roof over the set back section slopes down to a tall extended chimney on the north gable. This addition is pierced by 6/6 windows on the first and second floors, and a front door with panelling on the bottom and 24 lights in a round top arch. A small, one bay, one floor service area, added in 1915, includes the present kitchen and laundry room.

The 1915 rear addition to the house is two stories with a gable roof and measures three bays long by two bays deep. This addition features many Arts and Crafts details. The southeast facade of the addition has diamond paned casement windows flanking a multi-paned round-topped entrance door with elaborate hood. The casement windows feature colored keystones. A chimney flanked on either side by a window is centered on the east end wall. Angled buttresses decorate the east wall and continue along the north wall. Shed roofed dormers crown the north roof of this addition.

On the front of the house the 1915 one story veranda spans the entire six bay width of the core. It has a brick floor and a flat roof with plain entablature supported by Doric columns at the extreme front corners. The central entablature of the veranda (corresponding in width to the central two bays of the core) is interrupted by two colossal columns which rise to enframe the enclosed second story sleeping porch. The sleeping porch has twelve-light casement windows above ornamental panels and has a flat roof. A denticulated cornice extends the length of the facade and around the sleeping porch.

The first floor interior of the house is divided into five main rooms. The room located in the first floor of the eighteenth century section is quite plain in appearance. Random width floor boards and a fireplace are original to this room. The north wall of this room is taken up with a short hall with an enclosed stairway that ascends to the second floor. The first floor room in the c. 1810 section is almost as simple as the first room; however, walls are furred. In 1915 one rear window of this room was replaced with a french door which opens into the 1915 rear addition. A lavatory was also installed under the stairway off the east wall of this room. Cross beaming and Upson board were installed in the ceiling at this time.

The main first floor room in the frame c. 1840 section was changed greatly in 1915 to its present appearance. Ceiling beams were exposed, the original fireplace was faced with brick and a steel hood and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

White Horse Farm

Section number 7 Page 3

decorative iron ornamentation added above the fireplace. Glass doored, built in cupboards were installed to the left of the fireplace, and a matching built-in corner cupboard was added. The cupboards have diamond shaped upper glass doors and cross bucked lower doors. The original solid door wall cupboard to the right of the fireplace, and a thin display cupboard with Queen Anne glass door were not disturbed. The adjacent first floor room in the c. 1840 frame addition is a simple room. The original fireplace is now closed. The pantry space in this room, which was originally the kitchen, has been converted into a second stairway. The first floor room in the 1915 rear addition is a ballroom with a ten foot fireplace decorated by iron work. The ballroom uses iron rails for ceiling supports. They are hidden above a "true" beam and all are encased in beaded wood. Exposed rafters and plaster appear between the "beams." Hardwood flooring is used.

The second floor interior is divided into six main rooms. The second floor room of the eighteenth century section contains a gable end hearth located off center to accommodate a centered window. The second floor of the c. 1810 section is divided into two rooms. The back (east) room was converted in 1915 into a tiled bathroom and hall with leaded glass skylight. In the front (west) room one window was replaced in 1915 with a door that opens onto the sleeping porch. Plain rooms are also located on the second floor of the c. 1840 sections. The second floor of the 1915 rear addition includes a master bedroom, sitting room, and small bedroom with interior moveable transoms for air circulation.

Beneath the first floor of the eighteenth century section is a root cellar that once had an outside entrance. A cellar is also located under the c. 1810 and c. 1840 sections. A game room is situated under the 1915 ballroom. It features ceiling beams and flooring similar to those found in the ballroom.

Standing eighty feet in front of the house is the c. 1810 barn. Stone to the square and frame in the gable, it uses pegged timber construction within the stone walls. On the west facade it has a short overhang protecting three stable entrances, each entrance paired with a small window. A fourth entrance on the extreme south end is a double door opening into a wagon shed. Three pairs of modern twelve-light steel sash pierce the second floor of the west facade, and an original "throw-down" door remains in the center of the west facade. Large double doors remain on the east wall at a gangway. Attached to the north wall is a shed roofed, two story addition composed of a stone room on the first floor and a second story frame room. A modern garage roll-up door

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

White Horse Farm

Section number 7 Page 4

was installed on the northeast end of this addition in 1983, replacing double barn doors.

A springhouse faces the stable doors across a small pond. It has a door and two windows on the east wall and one window on the west wall, and is gable-roofed. A 1983 three car garage stands to the north of the house, facing southwest. It is constructed of particle boards over studs and is stuccoed. It is connected to the house by two wide, wooden, head-high gates.

The nominated buildings possess good integrity. The house has major 1915 front and rear additions in the style of a locally prominent trend in renovation architecture using columned facades. White Horse Farm is an early and representative example of this trend and remains as it was renovated in 1915. Behind the 1915 additions, much of the exterior of the eighteenth and nineteenth century sections still survive largely intact. Significant changes that were made to interior rooms during the 1915 renovation also remain. The original floorplan and some major eighteenth century elements, such as fireplace mantels and floor boards, also survive. The barn and springhouse of the Pennypacker years are still in use without change. The garage is the only non-contributing resource on the nominated property. Thus White Horse Farm reflects its two centuries of architectural heritage well.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input 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 checked="" 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 c. 1770, 1810, 1840, Builder/Architect various

1915

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

White Horse Farm is significant primarily in the area of architecture. The house is an early and representative example of an architectural trend of columned renovations of eighteenth and nineteenth century farmhouses into country gentleman's estates. This columned renovation design was a distinct architectural trend in the Schuylkill River Valley between Valley Forge and Pottstown during the first decades of the twentieth century. The nominated property has secondary importance for its association with Elijah F. Pennypacker (1804-1888), a prominent Pennsylvania Abolitionist and humanitarian.

Elijah F. Pennypacker was born at White Horse Farm and lived all his adult life in the nominated house. Pennypacker was appointed in 1830 to the Pennsylvania Surveyor General's office. Through this appointment, he met Thaddeus Stevens who proved to be his life-long friend and ally in politics. In 1831, Pennypacker was elected to the House of Representatives, a post he filled until 1836. While serving in the state legislature, he took a leading role in the passage of important bills that furthered commerce, education and transportation in the state and nation. As chairman of the Bank Committee, he obtained the charters for the Bank of the United States and the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, both of which carried national importance. He also shaped much of the content of the 1834 Public School Bill which was the basis for the common or free school system of Pennsylvania. In 1836, at the request of Stevens, he became secretary to the State Board of Canal Commissioners. Shortly after, he was appointed to the Board, which was the most powerful commission in the state at this time.

In 1839 when his career was in full ascendancy, Pennypacker removed himself from the political arena, devoting his life instead to the Abolitionist cause. He became president of the local, county and state Anti-Slavery Societies. He also made his home along White Horse Road a major stop on the Underground Railroad. From 1840 on, hundreds of fugitives from three routes on the Underground Railroad—a western route through York and Adams Counties, a middle route through Columbia and Lancaster Counties, and a southern pathway from Delaware—were directed to his home. Pennypacker personally transported slaves in his two-horse Dearborn to Norristown and points north and east. None were ever apprehended while in his care. In addition to these efforts in the Abolitionist movement, Pennypacker also spoke frequently and widely against slavery, often opposing local sentiment, becoming a prominent Pennsylvanian in the national cause. His untiring work led John

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

White Horse Farm

Section number 8 Page 2

Greenleaf Whittier, himself a celebrated Abolitionist, to characterize Pennypacker: "In mind, body, and brave championship of the cause of freedom, he was one of the most remarkable men I ever knew." After the end of slavery, Pennypacker moved back into the political arena, this time in support of the temperance movement. In 1875, he was the Prohibitionist Party's candidate for state treasurer. After losing this election, he did not run for public office again. He died at age 84 after a lifetime of aid to commerce, transportation, and especially humanitarian causes.

White Horse Farm left Pennypacker family ownership in 1911 when it became the summer home of Phoenixville resident Frank P. Norris. The Norris family sold the farm in 1914 to Edward C. Meier, president of the Heine Safety Boiler Company of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania and St. Louis, Missouri. As their children came of school age, Meier and his wife settled on White Horse Farm as their principal abode. It was the Meiers' need for entertainment facilities that led to the 1915 enlargement of Elijah Pennypacker's house. Edward Meier added a Georgian Revival columned frontispiece and a rear, large two story section that included a "Ballroom" to the eighteenth and nineteenth century house.

Meier's columned renovation was one of the first in a local architectural trend of columned renovations of farmhouses into country gentleman's estates. By the early twentieth century businessmen, whose primary homes were located in cities, began to convert eighteenth and nineteenth century farmhouses in eastern Chester and southern Montgomery Counties into country retreats. They often built additions onto the houses and modernized building interiors in order to provide urban amenities while preserving the surrounding rural setting. White Horse Farm served as a model for a distinct local architectural trend in such conversions during the 1910s and 1920s. Sixteen conversions, most of which were executed after 1915, feature large-columned frontispieces which dominate the principal facades of the former farmhouses. These columned renovations were a decided trend in the Schuylkill River Valley between Pottstown and Valley Forge. All sixteen conversions are confined to this section of the valley, with only a few known to exist beyond the valley in eastern Chester and southern Montgomery Counties. There are no other similar concentrations of columned renovations of farmhouses in the region.

In addition to being one of the first in a local architectural trend, White Horse Farm is a representative example of these columned renovations. Like White Horse Farm, these conversions feature two to six bay columned verandas or porticos. The columns are usually the most impressive architectural feature on the houses, and are most often

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWhite Horse Farm
Section number 8 Page 3

found with Doric capitals. Most columns were custom made by the Somerset Door and Column Company of Somerset, Pennsylvania, a company which is still in existence. These gentleman's estates also make use of the sun porch (sometimes a sleeping porch), much as White Horse Farm does. For example, in 1917 William H. Llewellyn, a Philadelphia businessman, transformed an 1821 house in Charlestown into a part-time country estate and summer residence called "Llewellyn Gardens." He added a two story portico with classical pediment and Doric columns to the main facade, and extended one end of the farmhouse with a first story sun room and a second floor sleeping porch. A quarter mile southwest of White Horse Farm, Howard K. Wells, a Norristown businessman, embellished an 1802 farmhouse by adding two story Doric columns to the southwest facade in 1924, creating "Pickering Heights." In East Vincent Township, William L. Cremers, Sr., a Philadelphia manufacturer's representative, purchased a stone farmhouse in 1927 and added rear and side wings and a two story columned veranda across the front facade. He named the converted house "Sun Dell." The veranda features four evenly spaced Doric columns, and two forward columns supporting a jutting classical pediment.

Thus White Horse Farm stands as a trend-setting example of the conversion of eighteenth and nineteenth century farmhouses into country gentleman's estates. It possesses secondary importance as the home of a prominent nineteenth century humanitarian.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .764 acres

Quadrangle name Malvern

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

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 N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Estelle Cremers/edited by Greg Ramsey and William Sisson

organization N/A/PHMC

date April, 1987

street & number R.D. 4/Penn Museum

telephone (215) 469-6977/(717) 783-8946

city or town Pottstown/Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Dr. Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

White Horse Farm

Continuation sheet

Form number 9

Page 1

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Dr. R. C. Smedley, History of the Underground Railroad (Lancaster, 1883), Published at the office of the Journal. 206-215.

William Still, History of the Underground Rail Road (Philadelphia: 1872), Porter & Coates. 688-689.

William Still, Underground Rail Road Records (Philadelphia; William Still, Publisher, 244 S. Twelfth Street, Revised Edition, 1886). 339-342.

J. Smith Futhey & Gilbert Cope, History of Chester County, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881), "Underground Railroad", 428; and Biography: 682-3.

Charles L. Blockson, The Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania (Jacksonville, North Carolina, Flame International, Inc., 1981), 41, 48, 50, 55, 56.

Martin Duberman, editor, The Antislavery Vanguard (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1965), "Iconoclasm Has Had Its Day", Willie Lee Rose, 178, 179.

Joseph Smith, "Some Aspects of the Underground Railway in the Counties of Southeastern Pennsylvania," Bulletin of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, 3 #1 (October, 1941) 3-19.

James Anderson Pennypacker, A Genealogical Biography of Pennypacker Relatives. (Private printing: 1974 found at Pennypacker Mills, Schwenksville, Pa.) "Joseph and Elizabeth (Funk) Pennypacker.

Carl Oblinger, oral history of Blacks in Chester and related counties, unpublished thesis (held by Chester County Historical Society).

Chester County (PA) Recorder of Deeds, Court House, West Chester, Deed Books, N2-37-516, K3-58-247, Y3-71-77, U4-92-451, G5-104-454, Y13-321-75, G14-329-154, Y16-369.

The North American (Philadelphia, PA.) June 15, 1913, "Old Philadelphia Families: Pennypacker" by Frank Willing Leach.

Chester County Tax Records (original books), 1798, 1799. Held in Chester County Archives, West Chester, PA.)

Chester County Historical Society, clipping files under E. F. Pennypacker, E. C. Meier, and others.

(1)
Oral interviews: John V. Norris, son of White Horse Farm owner, Frank P. Norris, January 7, 1986, February 4, 1986, February 12, 1986, March 10, 1986.

(2) Stella Finnerty, previous owner of WHF, February 6, 1986, February 21, 1986;

(3) Mrs. Frank Woodson Hancock, previous owner of WHF, January 27, 1986.

Advertisements for Upson Board in The House Beautiful, 1914 issues and thru 1924.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

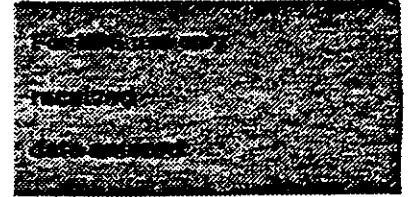
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

White Horse Farm

Continuation sheet

NRRA number 10

Page 2



Beginning at a point on the northwest side of White Horse Road approximately 100 feet northeast of the intersection of White Horse Road and N. Philip Drive, then proceeding northeast 196 feet; then proceeding northwest 135 feet; then proceeding southwest 196 feet; then proceeding southeast 135 feet back to the point of beginning.

The boundary contains the nominated contributing buildings and all remaining historically associated land.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .764 acres

Quadrangle name Malvern

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

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 N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Estelle Cremers/edited by Greg Ramsey and William Sisson

organization French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust /PHMC

date April, 1987

street & number R.D. 4/Penn Museum

telephone (215) 469-6977/(717) 783-8946

city or town Pottstown/Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Donna Williams

title Donna Williams Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Dr. Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/9/87

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration