



The Harlan House
 Chester County
 Kennett Square Quadrangle
 Zone 18
 E445480 N4410000

WILMINGTON NORTH
 5863 / SE
 CENTERVILLE 0.7 MI.
 WILMINGTON (CIVIC CENTER) 7.6 MI.

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 The Harlan House

and/or common "The Log House"

2. Location

street & number Fairville Road, Chadds Ford N/A not for publication

city, town Kennett Township N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Chester code 29

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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | N/A in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | N/A being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Drew and Beverly McCausland

street & number "The Log House," Fairville Road

city, town Chadds Ford N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chester County Courthouse

street & number High and Market Streets

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 1980 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input 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

The Harlan House is a Pennsylvania example of eighteenth century vernacular log construction with nineteenth century stone additions (Photo 1). The house consists of a 1715 log section, an 1814 stone wing on the east side of the log portion, and an 1890 stone and frame addition attached to the east end of the 1814 addition. The log and stone house, a separate cinderblock and stone garage, a stone springhouse, and a pool sit on a five acre site in a residential area just one half mile west of the village of Fairville in Kennett Township, southeastern Chester County. Fairville is the last crossroad community on Route 52 before that route crosses the arc boundary separating southern Pennsylvania from northern Delaware. The Harlan House possesses good integrity, with original log construction, exterior fenestration and roofs, and much of the interior having been retained or restored. The nominated property contains two contributing buildings, one non-contributing building, and one non-contributing structure.

The two story saddle notched log core measures 26 feet by 26 feet. (Photo 2). In 1814 James Cloud added a two story stone wing, measuring 19 feet by 15 feet, which extended the house to the east. A stone and frame wash house of one story height further extended the structure to the east.

The north facade of the Harlan House faces Fairville Road (Photo 1). The hewn logs are narrow in width and are filled between with chinking and stone. The stone is set in a very deliberate pattern suggesting that it was not originally covered with stucco.¹ The log core sits on a full-depth stone foundation of common fieldstone. The north facade is symmetrically arranged. A center doorway is flanked by 6/6 double-hung windows. Paneled shutters compliment the first story windows. While a hood supported by rectangular posts covers the entrance, joist remnants provide evidence that a pent eave originally covered the first story. Two second story 6/6 double-hung windows symmetrically balance the facade. A simple box cornice projects over the second story windows. The roof is steeply pitched and covered with shakes. The north facade of the adjoining fieldstone wing is two stories on a fieldstone foundation of crawl space depth. The fieldstone wing's north side has a single 6/6 window in the center of each story. The roof of the wing is covered with shakes and its steep pitch compliments well the pitch of the log core roof. The 1890 wash house is one story in height and has a single 6/6 window on its north side. The wash house has a saddleback roof covered with shakes.

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

The Harlan House

Section number 7 Page 2

The east side of the 1890 wing has two 3/3 windows horizontally placed side by side in its gable (Photo 3). The gable itself is sheathed with board and batten siding. The east side of the 1814 stone wing has a single square four pane window in its gable. The box cornice makes a shallow partial return on the east side. A narrow brick chimney with a metal cap rises above the peak of the roof. The east side of the 1715 core features clapboard siding and a six pane casement window above a pent roof in the attic story, and stucco facing on the first and second stories.

The south side of the house faces the fields and meadows that once served the home's owners as farmland. The 1890 wash house has a single door and a 6/6 window framed in clapboard and a 6/6 window set in fieldstone (Photo 4). The 1814 fieldstone addition features a symmetrical, though offset, two bay arrangement. A dutch crossbuck door and a 6/6 window with paneled shutters are on the first story; two 6/6 windows are on the second story. The 1715 log core features a three bay configuration with a six panel door and two 6/6 windows to the west of the door on the first story (Photo 5). Three 6/6 windows are symmetrically arranged on the second story. A close examination of the south side of the log section indicates that it originally matched the north side (Photo 6). It was changed in 1814 when the fieldstone wing was added and the log core "modernized." The porch which joins the log core and the stone addition was built in 1947 and replaced a late nineteenth century porch which covered the first story of the log core.

The symmetrically balanced west side of the Harlan House has two 6/6 double hung windows on the first and second stories (Photo 7). A projecting box cornice and pent roof shade the upper story. The gable is covered with clapboards. Two six pane casement windows light the attic story. A narrow, tall, brick chimney rises above the gable (Photo 8).

Entering the interior of the Harlan House through the door on the south facade of the log core, the south parlor bears evidence of the changes which took place in 1814 when the stone wing was added and the log core modernized. The south parlor measures 21½ feet by 12½ feet (Photo 9). A fireplace occupies the northwest corner of the room. A mantel with a center projecting panel and flanking pilasters surrounds the firebox (Photo 10). The three windows in the parlor all have a double bead and quirked architrave characteristic of the early nineteenth century. A closed staircase rises on the east wall of the parlor. Lightly turned Federal balusters support a banister which is echoed by a handrail (Photo 11). A board partition separates the south parlor from the room to the north. A bookcase in the board partition was added in 1947.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

The Harland House

Section number 7 Page 3

The north parlor is much smaller, measuring 14'9" by 11'8" (Photo 12). A corner fireplace in the southwest corner backs up to the larger corner fireplace in the south parlor. The fireplace has a simple wood mantel with a bead which accentuates the linear shape of the firebox (Photo 12A). The window molding has a simple outside bead which, like the mantel, accents the linear quality of the window frame itself (Photo 13)

A narrow hall, two small closets, and a bath measuring 10 feet square complete the first floor plan of the log core. The hall provides access to the basement stairs. In the basement the corner fireplace supports are arched with storage shelves built in (Photo 14).

On the second story of the log core two bedrooms are above each of the first floor parlors. Squared chimneys project into the adjoining corners of each room but there are no fireboxes. The moldings in both rooms are very simple. A hall, a bath and two closets complete the second story of the log core. A dogleg stair, with double doors closing off the ascending side rises from the second floor hall to a fully plastered attic.

The stone wing built in 1814 increased living space in the Harlan House by adding one room on each story. On the first story a kitchen, 17'6" by 13', with a cooking fireplace and beehive oven was added (Photo 15). The appearance of the fireplace today reflects a 1947 reconstruction in which the brick firebox was decreased in size and a wooden door was added to the beehive oven (Photo 16). The windows in the kitchen have squared reveals defined by a simple beaded molding (Photo 17).

The only access to the second floor bedroom above the kitchen is by the staircase in the log core. The bedroom in the stone wing is 14'6" by 13' (Photo 18). The bedroom has a fireplace and two built-in cupboards. The simple mantel matches the linear mantel of the fireplace in the north parlor of the log core. The cupboards have paneled doors (Photo 19). A simple bead molding outlines the square reveals of the bedroom windows (Photo 20).

Access to the attic of the stone wing is gained from the dogleg staircase in the log section. The stone addition attic is not plastered but the presence of meat hooks attests to its use as a storage and drying room.

To the east of the 1814 stone addition is the single story stone wash house built about 1890. A portion of the 1890 wing is used as a modern kitchen. The room measures 11'2" by 13' and its north and west

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

The Harlan House

Section number 7 Page 4

walls are lined with cabinets. Just off the kitchen is an unfinished room probably used as a wood shed originally. It still retains a dirt floor and open rafters. This unfinished room completes the 1890 stone addition.

Two other buildings are on the property. In 1817 a stone spring house was built³ (Photo 21). Constructed of fieldstone with a saddleback roof covered with wood shakes, the springhouse sits about thirty yards to the south of the house. Typical of springhouses in the southeastern Pennsylvania area, the springhouse at the Harlan House sits over a natural spring and is built into a hillside. A recessed door provides entrance to the springhouse on its south side. A square four pane window provides light. From the north side, the board and batten door is flush with the crest of the hill (Photo 22). The springhouse today encloses the pump for a swimming pool at the foot of the hill.

The remaining building on the property is a modern cinderblock garage with stone facing which sits about twenty yards to the east of the house (Photo 23). A small greenhouse is attached to the south side of the garage.

The Harlan House appears to have gone through four major additions or restorations: the first in 1814 when the stone wing was built and the log core modernized with larger windows and the addition of mantels, moldings, and a staircase in the Federal vein; the second in 1869 when cross gables were added to the roof and the exterior walls were repaired; the third in 1890 when a stone and frame wing with subsequently modernized kitchen was added; the fourth in 1947 when the stucco was removed and the roofline returned to its original appearance. Considering the nearly 275 years of use as a family home, the Harlan House bears remarkable integrity.

In 1946 Thomas Hooker and several business associates purchased the Harlan House and sixty-two acres surrounding it with the intention of creating a housing development. Mr. Hooker retained five acres and the Harlan House, which had fallen into disrepair, for himself. In 1947 Thomas Hooker undertook a major restoration of the Harlan House and documented his steps in photographs.

A view of the west facade of the Harlan House just before the restoration started shows the entire facade covered with stucco (Photo 24). A basement entrance stands at the southwest corner. Evidence of the underlying lath is seen above the basement entrance. The saddleback roof has the same pitch as today but cross gables had evidently been added in the late nineteenth century. The chimney appears broad and short with a lip. The window placement is identical to today. There is a simple gable

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

The Harlan House

Section number 7 Page 5

hood over the entrance on the north facade and a porch with square pillars runs the entire length of the log core's south facade.

Another view of the west side shows the stucco almost completely removed (Photo 25). This view shows the initials "E.T. & L.D." and the date "1869" inscribed in the gable stucco.⁴ There is evidence that the windows were enlarged, probably in 1814. Unfortunately the Glass Tax of 1798 for Kennett Township is missing so we have no documentary clues from the period. Another question left to debate is the question of the stucco. Three likely possibilities exist; one, the stucco was original to the log construction; two, the stucco was added in 1814 in the manner of the day to stylistically link the log core and the stone addition; or three, the stucco was added in 1869 to insulate the house and repair the exterior. As was stated earlier the deliberate placement of the stone in the chinking seems to indicate it was intended to be seen. The use of stucco as an exterior wall treatment was widely used in the late Federal period to achieve the smooth exterior walls so highly regarded during the time. It seems likely that stucco would have been used to modernize an old log house and to hide any finishing problems resulting from the expansion of the windows. The use of stucco in 1814 would have architecturally linked the log core and the stone addition into one unified (and socially acceptable) presentation. For these reasons 1814 seems the most likely date for the first use of stucco on the exterior walls of the Harlan House. The 1869 coat of stucco, as documented from the 1947 photographs, may well have been added to repair cracks in the exterior wall. 1869 is a likely date for the addition of the cross gables to the roof. In all probability the attic was plastered at that time to provide sleeping space for threshing crews as was often the custom on large southeastern Pennsylvania farms during the nineteenth century.

Another view of the west facade from 1947 shows the restoration work almost complete (Photo 26). Clapboard siding has been added to the gable end and the attic story accented with a pent eave. The chimneys have been rebuilt in brick and capped.

A view of the north facade shows the deep V in the roof resulting from the removal of the cross gable (Photo 27). The stucco has already been removed from the log core and the chinking appears to be in good condition. An additional view of the north facade of the stone wing shows the deteriorated condition of the stucco before removal (Photo 28).

An interior view of the cooking fireplace and bakeoven in the 1814 stone addition before restoration reveals that the fireplace was built of brick with a flat brick arch over the fireplace and a rounded arch

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

The Harlan House

Section number 7 Page 6

over the bakeoven. The area around the fireplace was stuccoed and a deep mantel shelf has been removed (Photo 29). Another interior photograph from 1947 shows that the staircase in the log core was restored as it was found (Photo 30).

By comparing the 1947 photographs with those of today, it appears that Thomas Hooker's intent was indeed to restore the Harlan House. Some artistic license was taken in the rebuilding of the chimneys, the reconstruction of the cooking fireplace, and the addition of the pent eave on the west gable. Nonetheless, no exterior doors or windows were changed; no exterior walls were broken.

¹Harley J. McKee. Introduction to Early American Masonry. (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1973), p. 84. In writing about exterior plaster, McKee states: "In the northern states, stucco walls were not numerous."

²Henry C. Mercer. The Dating of Old Houses. (New Hope, PA.: Bucks County Historical Society, 1923, reprinted 1976), p. 84.

³Chester County Tax Records for 1817 as reported for Kennett Township, Collection of the Chester County Historical Society.

⁴The initials refer to Ephraim T. and Louisa Deacon who owned the property from 1852 until 1870.

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 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 checked="" 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 1715, 1814, 1890 **Builder/Architect** Joshua Harlan

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Harlan House is a vernacular example of eighteenth century log construction in southeastern Pennsylvania with nineteenth century stone additions. Techniques used in the log core's construction link it to Swedish colonial log construction. Built by Joshua Harlan, a descendant of an English Quaker settler, about 1715, the log core reflects as well English customs of building. The Harlan House includes the largest, earliest and best preserved log structure left in Kennett Township. In addition, Joshua Harlan was one of the first, prominent settlers in Kennett Township.

The rich rolling hills and free-flowing streams of southern Chester County, Pennsylvania invited eighteenth century Quaker settlement. William Penn himself chose 10,000 of these prime acres for his daughter, Letitia, and her husband, William Aubrey. Their acreage was called "Stenning Manor." In 1713, George Harlan, an English Quaker, purchased 400 acres from the Aubreys and several London merchants, Daniel Wharley, Samuel Waldenfield, and Henry Goldney, through their attorneys, James Logan and Samuel Carpenter. In that same year, George Harlan deeded the acreage to his two sons, James and Joshua, in equal parts in consideration of his "natural affection and fatherly love."¹

George Harlan was born in 1650 near Durham, England. After living in Ireland for a while, he brought his family to the American colonies in 1687. George Harlan served as provincial governor of the "three lower counties" (later to become the state of Delaware) in 1695.² He was a Quaker and successfully petitioned for the establishment of Centre Meeting,³ near Centreville, Delaware and within a few miles of the site of the Harlan House.

Joshua Harlan was born in America in 1696. He was married in 1719 to Mary Heald and they settled on the 200 acres given him by his father, George.⁴ At about the same time Joshua Harlan became a partner with his brother, Joseph, in a saw and grist mill on Joseph's neighboring property.

Tax records support a construction date of 1715-1720 for Joshua Harlan's log core. Joshua Harlan's name first appears in the Chester County tax rolls for Kennett Township in 1715.⁵ While no verbal description of the property being taxed is given, a comparison of the rates levied against Joshua Harlan and those levied against the other taxables in Kennett Township reveals no significant jump in assessment for Joshua Harlan after his initial 1715 appearance in the rolls. Joshua

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Harlan House

Section number 8 Page 2

Harlan's name is listed for every year in which a county tax was ordered until his death in 1744, and the rate for Joshua Harlan during those years is consistent with the rates for other taxables.

The Harlan House bears much in common with Swedish log construction in the Delaware Valley. The "Lower Swedish Cabin" along Darby Creek, in present Delaware County (originally Chester County), displays many of the features later seen in the Harlan House. The actual construction technique of layering logs horizontally and filling between with chinking, the corner fireplace, and the framed gable covered with sheathing are seen in both the "Lower Swedish Cabin" and the Harlan House.

While sharing much in common with Swedish log construction, the Harlan House was built by a Pennsylvanian with English roots and shows resemblance as well to other English log houses of the period. The Martin's Corner House in West Caln Township, Chester County, is two story like the Harlan House. The exterior configuration of entrance door and windows is similar with the door centered on the facade and flanked by windows and the door covered by a hood. Both houses are built on a stone foundation. The Martin's Corner House, however, is rectangular in shape like the Swedish log houses, while the Harlan House is square as was the custom in English log houses.

When Joshua Harlan died in 1744 the property was inherited by his son, Joshua. The tax rates under the younger Joshua Harlan's name remain consistent throughout his lifetime. The first verbal description with the assessments is in 1796 when Joshua Harlan, Sr.¹⁰ was assessed \$5.10 for ninety acres of land and "log house and barn."¹⁰ The property remained in the Harlan family until 1812 when James Cloud purchased the log house and 106 acres. The 1814 tax for Kennett Township levied an assessment of \$350 against James Cloud for a "stone and log house."¹¹ The evidence is clear that both the jump in assessment and the initial description of the Harlan House as having both log and stone materials point to 1814 as the construction date for the stone wing and the "modernization" of the log core.

The property remained in the Cloud family until 1852. Ephraim and Louisa Deacon purchased the property and farmed it until 1870. George and Sarah Satterthwaite continued farming the property until 1905 when Alice McCord purchased it and maintained her home there until 1946. Thomas Hooker and several business associates purchased over 62 acres at that time for a housing development. Mr. Hooker, however, kept over five acres and the log and stone house for himself. He undertook the restoration of the house and it stands today as it was restored in 1947. The Hookers lived on the property until 1973 when they sold it to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

The Harlan House

Section number 8 Page 3

Frederick and Eugenia Fiechter. In 1976 the present owners, Drew and Beverly McCausland, purchased the property with the intention of operating a bed and breakfast inn under the name, "The Log House." The McCauslands now intend to use the log and stone house as a private dwelling.

The Harlan House remains the largest and best preserved log structure in Kennett Township. A small 1½ story log house is located on Bayard Road, and a 1½ story saddle notched log house with two story stone wing and frame additions stands next to Hillendale Road. Both these log homes have experienced alterations, such as the addition of dormers or gable board and batten siding. Another log structure at Chandler's Mill Road and Kaolin Road has been subsumed by much larger frame additions.¹²

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

The Harlan House

Section number 8 Page 4

¹Chester County Deed Book "D", p.68. Chester County Courthouse, West Chester, Pennsylvania. The indenture was dated 1713 but not recorded until 1717.

²Alpheus H. Harlan. History and Genealogy of the Harlan Family. (Baltimore: The Lord Baltimore Press, 1914), p.2.

³Norma Jacobs, ed. Quaker Roots. (Kennett Square, Pa: Western Quarterly Meeting, 1980), p.16. Incidentally, the first permanent building for Centre Meeting was built of log in 1711.

⁴Harlan, pp.20-21.

⁵Collections of the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

⁶Margaret Berwind Schiffer. Survey of Chester County, Pennsylvania, Architecture. (Exton Pa.: Schiffer Publishing Limited, 1976), pp.12-13.

⁷Schiffer, p.89.

⁸Irwin Richman, Pennsylvania's Architecture, Pennsylvania History Studies: No.10. (University Park, Pa.: The Pennsylvania Historical Association, 1969), p.6.

⁹Joshua Harlan's brother, Joseph, has a son named Joshua. By 1796 the nephew Joshua is referred to in the tax records as "Joshua Harlan, Jr."

¹⁰Chester County Tax records for Kennett Township for 1796. From the Collections of the Chester County Historical Society.

¹¹Chester County Tax, 1814.

¹²Architectural Inventory Survey Forms, Chester County Historic Sites Survey, from the Collections of the Chester County Historical Society.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chester County Deed Books, D, p. 68; D3, p. 196; G3, p. 215; E4, p. 446; Q5, p. 4; S10, p. 360;
K7, p. 33; W12, p. 429; E22, p. 45; S21, p. 565; K22, p. 548; V41, p. 189; W48, p. 263.
Chester County Wills, Chester County Archives: File #893; File #5141; Book 106, p. 141.
(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5.0218 acres

Quadrangle name Kennett Square

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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| 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 Susan Herr/edited by William Sisson

organization Restoration Architects/PHMC

date March 8, 1987

street & number 126 London Tract Road/Penn Museum

telephone (215) 255-4264/(717) 783-8946

city or town Landenberg/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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

The Harlan House

Section number 9 Page 1

- Chester County Historical Society, General Collections: Newspaper Clippings, Tax Records, Surname Files, and HABS Records; Chester County Historic Sites Survey Architectural Inventory Survey Forms.
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

The Harlan House
10

Section number _____ Page 1

Beginning at a point on the south side of LR 15040 leading to Fairville, said point being 551 feet from an iron pin marking the northeast corner of Cherry Hill Development, being a course S64°36'W; then proceeding S25°E 360'; then proceeding S52°W 537'; then proceeding N25°W 437'; then along the south side of LR 15040 N64°36'E 525' to the point of beginning.

The boundary includes the contributing buildings and the immediately adjacent land. The boundary excludes non-contributing buildings to the southwest, west and north, and vacant land to the south and east.