

A HISTORY OF WEST WHITELAND

by

Martha Leigh Wolf Brandywine Conservancy

and

Diane Sekura Snyder  
West Whiteland Historical Commission

Compiled, Edited and Published by  
Diane Sekura Snyder

Written and Published under the Auspices of  
THE WEST WHITELAND HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Exton  
West Whiteland Township Chester County, Pennsylvania

1982

Revised by Commonwealth Heritage Group

2022

**Cover Description:**

- Front Top:** Woodcutter's Cottage (101) early stone building located near the site of first permanent settlement in West Whiteland.
- Front Bottom:** Thomas Grist Mill (108) built in 1744, owned and operated by the Thomas family for nearly 200 years.
- Back Top:** 25th Mile Marker along the Lancaster Turnpike.
- Back Bottom:** Whitford Station (126) and Whitford Bridge (127) which carries the Trenton Cutoff freight line over the PARR main line.

Sketches by Linda McNeil.

Photographs, illustrations and maps, except where indicated, are from the Library of the West Whiteland Historical Commission.

Library of Congress Catalogue

Card Number: 82-60137

Copyright 1982

## Contents

TO THE READER.....	5
INTRODUCTION .....	7
EARLY SETTLEMENT: PLOTS AND PLANS.....	8
THE WELSH TRACT.....	8
KATAMOONCHINK .....	9
THE ENGLISH.....	10
THE GERMANS .....	11
WHITELAND ROOTS .....	11
THE THOMAS FAMILY .....	11
THE ZOOK FAMILY.....	16
THE JACOBS FAMILY.....	17
DOING THEIR BIT FOR FREEDOM.....	19
THE BATTLE OF THE CLOUDS .....	19
THE PLUNDERING .....	20
TRAVEL BY ROAD .....	22
EARLY ROADS .....	22
THE LANCASTER TURNPIKE .....	23
TRAVEL BY RAIL.....	27
WEST CHESTER RAILROAD .....	27
PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.....	29
CHESTER VALLEY RAILROAD.....	34
TRENTON CUTOFF.....	35
THE BOUNTEOUS GREAT VALLEY: FARMS.....	36
THE LARGE AND THE SMALL .....	36
AGRICULTURAL INNOVATIONS.....	38
PUBLIC HOUSES AND STORE HOUSES.....	41
TAVERNS AND INNS .....	41
GENERAL STORES .....	47
THE BOUNTEOUS GREAT VALLEY: INDUSTRY.....	51
MARBLE QUARRIES.....	51
LIMESTONE QUARRIES .....	53
MINES .....	54
MILLS .....	54
COTTAGE INDUSTRIES .....	57
FRIENDS AND WORSHIPERS.....	60
THE QUAKERS .....	60
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH .....	60
GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH .....	61
ST. MARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION .....	62
LEARNING: A SOUND MIND.....	64
SUBSCRIPTION SCHOOLS .....	64
PUBLIC SCHOOLS .....	65
CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS .....	67
CHURCH FARM SCHOOL.....	69
DEVEREUX FOUNDATION.....	72

RYERSS INFIRMARY .....	72
RECREATION: ... IN A SOUND BODY .....	74
THE WHITELANDS HUNT .....	74
SUNDRY DIVERSIONS .....	76
COUNTRY CLUBS .....	76
EPILOGUE .....	77
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	79
APPENDIX .....	69

## **TO THE READER**

(From the 1982 edition)

In 1982, Chester County's Tricentennial year of 1982 has provided an incentive for the West Whiteland Historical Commission to share with others what we know about the history of the Township. Recent developmental pressures in West Whiteland have threatened a number of our historic buildings. In an effort to preserve as many of our remaining historic properties as possible, we decided to locate and evaluate all of the historic resources in the Township as part of the Chester County Historic Sites Survey. Additional protection was sought for our most historically valuable properties by nominating them to the National Register of Historic Places. This book enables us to share with the public a vast amount of information which we have generated as the result of this work. The emphasis in this book is on life and events in West Whiteland as they were prior to 1930.

The Chester County Historic Sites Survey has been conducted as part of a national program to identify all historic resources in the United States which are at least 50 years old. Two hundred such locations were discovered and recorded in West Whiteland during the survey (1979-1981). From these, we selected the properties of most probable significance for further investigation and documentation, with the intent of submitting those most worthy to the National Register in one, comprehensive Multiple Resource Nomination. Sources of research material included the Chester County Court House (wills, inventories, title searches, road docket), the Chester County Historical Society's extensive collections, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Athenaeum, the Hagley Library, the Philadelphia Free Library, the State Archives in Harrisburg, the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and the Commission's own files, including taped oral history interviews with long-time residents. After evaluating available information and visiting each site, we determined the Township's most historically significant properties. The Multiple Resource Nomination, containing 58 properties and one district, was submitted in its initial form to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in January 1982.

The format of this book is designed to give you ready access to the information that may most interest you. A brief summary of what is presently known about each of the Township's historic resources is contained in the Appendix. The 3-digit numbers in parentheses throughout the book are keyed to the Appendix and the Historic Sites Map. While reading, you may want to pinpoint the location of each property by referring to the Appendix and Map. They will also enable you to take a do-it-yourself historic tour of the Township. Perhaps this book will provide information on a building which has always intrigued you or unearth for you the surprising significance underlying a seemingly conventional exterior.

One of the West Whiteland Historical Commission's goals is to increase awareness among Township residents of the rich historic heritage which still surrounds us. Each property can best be appreciated when described in the perspective of its own time and the contribution it has made to West Whiteland's development. The information in this book represents our interpretation of a considerable amount of material.

We hope you will be encouraged to explore West Whiteland's history further. There still is much to be learned. Additional information is available at the offices of the West Whiteland Historical Commission; you are most welcome to use our library and collections.

Diane S. Snyder Chairman

(From the 2022 Edition)

Beginning in 2019, West Whiteland Township commenced a comprehensive update to the original 1979-1981 Chester County Historic Sites Survey. The project was supported by West Whiteland Township and a grant provided by Chester County's Vision Partnership Program. Since 1982, the West Whiteland Historical Commission has used the valuable information contained in this book and the companion Historic Resources Map to assess proposed changes affecting historic resources, thereby safeguarding the Township's history for future generations. The 2019 survey update was completed in the beginning of 2022 and represented the first comprehensive update to the original 1982 survey.

Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. (Commonwealth), under the direction of the West Whiteland Historical Commission, revisited every historic resource listed on the Township's Historic Resources Map, and produced updated photographs and survey forms for each property where possible. Additionally, survey data was recorded and organized into a geodatabase allowing future updates to survey information to be seamlessly integrated into the data structure thereby eliminating static paper forms. The survey update also revealed and recorded over 400 historic buildings, structures, and archaeological sites related to the vibrant history and development of West Whiteland. The survey was further updated by inventorying select buildings constructed between 1930-1972, which were not 50-years old at the time of the initial 1982 survey, but since that time have continued to describe the development patterns and history of the Township. The updated survey information has been integrated into this book honoring its original format.



Zook House (305). Former headquarters of the West Whiteland Historical Commission (Commonwealth 2020).

## INTRODUCTION

(From the 1982 edition)

West Whiteland Township occupies 8,250 acres of land in central Chester County, Pennsylvania and lies approximately 25 miles west of Philadelphia, historically the region's port of entry and major market center. Originally part of Whiteland, a township established in 1704, it divided, East and West, in 1765. West Whiteland's perimeter is rectangular, with its northern and western boundaries following lines surveyed in 1687 for the Welsh Tract. Despite attempts in the 1870's to alter the boundary between East Caln and West Whiteland for the convenience of certain landowners, the citizenry petitioned successfully against any changes which would "disfigure and mar the symmetry of the lines of West Whiteland." In the 18th century, West Whiteland's four-mile breadth was calibrated in milestones along the Lancaster Turnpike. Today, the Township's eastern and western boundary lines are readily discernible by Route 30's intersections with Route 202 and the Downingtown Bypass, respectively. The northern and southern limits are suggested by the North Valley Hills (Whitford Hills) and South Valley Hills.

The Chester Valley or, as it is known interchangeably, Great Valley, cuts through the center of the Township and extends north and west for approximately 25 miles. Major transportation routes, primarily Route 30 and the Pennsylvania Railroad, follow this valley to a succession of Chester County towns, among them Downingtown, Coatesville, Parkesburg, and Atglen.

Historically, the Great Valley formed the heart of "one of the greatest agricultural districts in the country." The West Whiteland segment of the Valley is particularly wide and level, and thus well-suited for farming; as a consequence, agriculture dominated the Township's economy until the 1950's. While the Valley floor was ideal for house and farm, timber from the North and South Valley Hills warmed the hearth and fueled local industry.

With its broad band of limestone pocketed by veins of white, blue and black marble and iron ore, the Great Valley's riches have not been reserved solely for farming. Quarries and mines have been worked in the Township since the time of settlement. And the Valley is still cherished for its water resources, which in the mid-19th century were described as "fountains of cold and pure water so numerous that almost every farm ha(d) its springhouse near the door." Lying within the Brandywine watershed, West Whiteland is drained primarily by Valley Creek and its tributaries. One of these, Broad Run, flows through the Township's southwest corner and converges with Valley Creek in East Bradford. Until the late 19th century, all of the Township's mills were water-powered.

As this narrative will reveal, the historical development of West Whiteland has been influenced strongly by its position within this Great Valley of natural and locational advantages.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT: PLOTS AND PLANS

### THE WELSH TRACT

The 1711 settlement of Whiteland was the result of plans laid in England nearly 30 years earlier by William Penn and a group of Welsh Quakers. While the general history of Pennsylvania's founding needs little elaboration here, the intriguing story behind Penn and the "Welsh Tract" merits retelling for its impact on West Whiteland.

In 1682, William Penn found himself in London, meeting with certain Welsh landed gentry to discuss the sale of some land. These gentlemen, like Penn, were converts to Quakerism. At that time, Quakers were unpopular in England, and were subject to persecution and imprisonment for their beliefs. Penn, born in 1644, recently had received a charter for 50,000 square miles of land in the New World from King Charles II as repayment for a debt owed to William's late father, Admiral Penn. By virtue of that charter, Penn became the sole proprietor of what would become Pennsylvania, with full rights to govern as he saw fit. He began organizing an emigration of his fellow Quakers to America where they could, in his "holy experiment," enjoy religious freedom and self-government.

Penn's negotiations with the Quakers from Wales bore little resemblance to his dealings with those from England. According to Browning in *Welsh Settlement of Pennsylvania*, English Quakers were mostly the "plain people, small lease holders, yeomanry, farmers, tradesmen and shop keepers." Consequently, few of their purchases were for more than several hundred acres. On the other hand, the Welsh Friends as members of the upper classes, had more grandiose visions of their future in America. It is thus understandable that, in London in 1682, these members of the "highest social caste of the landed gentry" would meet privately with Penn to negotiate the purchase of one large tract of land solely for settlement by the Welsh. Before leaving Wales for their new land in America, the Welsh were convinced that William Penn had given them his "solumn word" that they would "not be obliged to answer nor serve in any court whatsoever but should have courts and magistrates of their own." As a result of these negotiations, Penn issued a warrant in 1684 to his Surveyor-General, Thomas Holme, with instructions that "about 40,000 acres, may be layd out contiguously as one Barony" for the Welsh Friends. This "Barony" became known as the Welsh Tract. In adherence to Penn's general policy of settlement, David Powell, Holme's deputy, surveyed township units of 5,000 acres within the Tract. Although the western boundary of the Welsh Tract was not clearly defined, a 1687 survey draft showed Whiteland to be the westernmost township. Despite several attempts to alter it in the 1860's and 1870's, West White-land's western boundary line remains true to that 1687 survey. The Welsh Tract, even in 1687, included the Townships of Haverford, Radnor, Merion, Tredyffrin, Willistown, Easttown, Goshen, and part of Westtown, along with Whiteland, and it far exceeded the 40,000 acres originally agreed upon.



*Map showing the approximate location of the Welsh Tract in Chester County c. 1682-1684.*

The boundary line between Philadelphia and Chester counties ran through the Welsh Tract. This resulted in the Welsh being called upon to pay taxes and serve as jurors and constables by both counties. The Welsh resisted this separation but, as they could not present written evidence of Penn's "solumn word," the courts upheld the boundary line between the two counties. This decision, along with repeated intrusions into the integrity of their Tract by other national groups (primarily the English), caused the Welsh to abandon their idea of an autonomous barony by 1686.

Despite these initial setbacks, West Whiteland's first settler was a Welsh Quaker. Richard ap Thomas of Whitford Garne, Flintshire, Wales, had purchased 5,000 acres of unlocated land from William Penn while in England. Accompanied by his young son, Richard, Thomas traveled in 1683 with Penn to America, where he died shortly thereafter. Upon reaching legal age, Richard Thomas (I) set about to claim his father's legacy. By this time, most of the more desirable land in or near Philadelphia had been claimed, thereby forcing young Thomas to accept land further west. In 1704, he received a patent for 1869 acres in the "gloomy dale," the name given to the Great Valley in Whiteland.

### **KATAMOONCHINK**

In the early 18th century, the Lenni-Lenape Tribe continued to inhabit Whiteland. To date, only a few of the villages established by this peaceful, agrarian people have been identified in Chester County, among them Queonemysing along the Brandywine and Minguhanan on the White Clay Creek. According to Richard Thomas (III)'s account of his ancestors in West Whiteland, there also was a Lenni-Lenape settlement along the Valley Creek, in the vicinity of present-day Exton. Its name, Katamoonchink, meant "hazelnut grove." It was near here, in what was then a veritable forest, that Richard Thomas (I) settled about 1711, purportedly to share in the protection from the "wild beasts" provided by the barking dogs of the Native American village.

Within a year, Thomas took as his bride Grace Atherton from Liverpool, England. Their wedding, held at the Thomas homestead, was witnessed by a number of

individuals who, it appears, were living in the Township. Among those attending were: Richard Anderson, Adam and Elizabeth Baker, John Earle, David Howell, Thomas James, Evan Lewis, David Meredith, Llewellyn Parry (married to Richard Thomas's sister), John and Catharine Spruce, and Lewis Williams. As this was a Quaker ceremony, it may be assumed that most of those present were members in good standing of the society of Friends. During the succeeding decade many of these Quakers purchased land from Richard Thomas in the northern half of the Township. The 1715 Whiteland Tax List shows 17 heads of household living in what today is West Whiteland; at least 10 of these taxpayers were Welsh. Statistics from *The Best Poorman's Country* show that, while the Welsh population in Chester County peaked at 17% in 1730, it stood at over 50% in Whiteland at that time. As the new settlers in the Township became increasingly numerous, their relationship with the Native Americans continued, by and large, to be amicable. There were some problems, however, even for Richard Thomas. A letter from George Aston to Governor Gordon in 1727 verifies a claim filed by Richard Thomas against a Native American leader referred to as "*King of Five Nations of Indians*." Thomas alleged that, upon returning through Whiteland from a treaty meeting with the Governor in Philadelphia, the "King" helped himself to one of Thomas's cows valued at four pounds. As was the custom, Thomas brought two of his neighbors (one of whom was his father-in-law) to testify before George Aston as to the value of the cow.

## THE ENGLISH

Settlement continued in the Township and expanded beyond the Welsh. The presence of Grace Atherton Thomas in Whiteland inspired purchases by her father, Henry, and her two brothers, Thomas and William. Some other early residents of English extraction were John Holland and David Worthington. Holland apparently was a friend of the Atherton family and instrumental in bringing Grace's sister, Mary, from England around 1714.



*Woodcutter's Cottage (100.02). Located near the site of the first settlement in West Whiteland, has a 1707 datestone.*

After William Penn's death in 1718, a second wave of patents was issued by his sons, John, Thomas and Richard, in the 1730's. These were for land located in the southeastern portion of West Whiteland. The patent holders, most of whom were English, included: John Holland (1734); Richard Anderson, George Garret, and Thomas Atherton (1735); David Meredith (1736); William Lewis (1738); Henry Atherton, John Morgan, and John Jerman (1739); John Ingram and John Collins (1741); and Mathias Lamey (1743).

## THE GERMANS

In 1779, by an Act of Pennsylvania's Assembly, the estates of Penn's three sons became vested in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Yet a third group of patents was issued in the 1780's, mostly for the still vacant land in the less desirable hilly, scrubby Barrens in the southwest part of the Township. A small number of German families settled this land, apparently representing the southernmost penetration of this nationality into the County. Two families in particular, the Boyers and the Hoffmans, controlled several hundred acres in the Barrens through purchase and intermarriage.

In the midst of these developments, the influence of the Township's founding family remained strong. Through family ties and further acquisitions, the Thomas's occupied or controlled most of the Township's prime valley land by the end of the 18th century, a position they were to maintain for the next 200 years.

## WHITELAND ROOTS

### THE THOMAS FAMILY

The marriage of Richard and Grace Thomas in 1712 marked not only the initial settlement of West Whiteland but, just as importantly, the dawning of a local dynasty. Thomas and his descendants, through their success in marriage, agriculture, and industry, easily dominated the Township for the next two centuries. Fortunately, this was a family of strong intellect and civic purpose, with many members contributing notably to their community.

While little is known of Richard and Grace Thomas' first house, a "permanent" homestead was erected c.1749. Of stone construction, two stories high, and distinguished by its distinctive gambrel roof, the homestead stood until 1895. A small stone building **(100.02)**, banked into a slope near the Valley Creek and known locally as the "Woodcutter's Cottage," is all that remains from the so-called mansion tract. The homestead was acquired in 1843 by a grandson, Richard Ashbridge, who "...erected thereon a capacious colonial mansion...on exactly the same plans as the old farmhouse which stood for a long time on this property, the new house being, however, much larger." This house is referred to as the "Richard Ashbridge House" **(100.01)**.

Richard and Grace's only son, Richard (II) (1713-1754), is credited with construction of the Thomas Mill **(107)** in 1744. He married Phebe Ashbridge in 1739, and she bore him two extraordinary sons, Richard (III) and George, as well as three

daughters.

Following Richard's death in 1754, Phebe remarried, this time to William Trimble of Concord Township. Her three daughters by Richard Thomas each married a son of Trimble; one of these, William, established the Trimble Mill **(214)** c. 1790.

West Whiteland had no citizen more remarkable than Richard Thomas (1744-1832). Although born a Quaker, he took up arms as a Colonel of the First Regiment of Chester County Volunteers, thereby earning the epithet, "the Fighting Quaker." Following seven years of active military service, Richard returned to his West Whiteland farm, which had been managed in the interim by his brother, George, and initiated an ambitious building program. Whitford Lodge **(204)**, a two-story brick manor house, went up c.1782. It was followed by Whitford Hall c.1796 **(202)** and Ivy Cottage c.1800, **(205)**.



*Whitford Lodge (204). Built c. 1782 Richard Thomas (III) (Commonwealth 2021).*

By 1798, Richard (III)'s holdings included five houses, several barns, the 1744 Thomas mill, cooper, smith, and "taylor's" shops, and several related structures. In addition to his role as gentleman farmer, Richard served in the Pennsylvania Assembly (1786-1798), the Pennsylvania Senate (1790), and the 4th, 5th, and 6th Congresses of the United States. Despite these important duties (and the traveling they entailed, which, in the winter of 1800, had taken him to Washington, DC), Richard maintained a strong affection for his West Whiteland home. As a Congressman in Washington, D.C. in 1800, he was seized by an apparent attack of "homesickness." In a letter to his nieces which compared the city to "our Valley," Thomas implored them to "...write and give me accounts of occurrences or any little cheerful anecdotes, or sentiments, or any free thoughts as they rise."



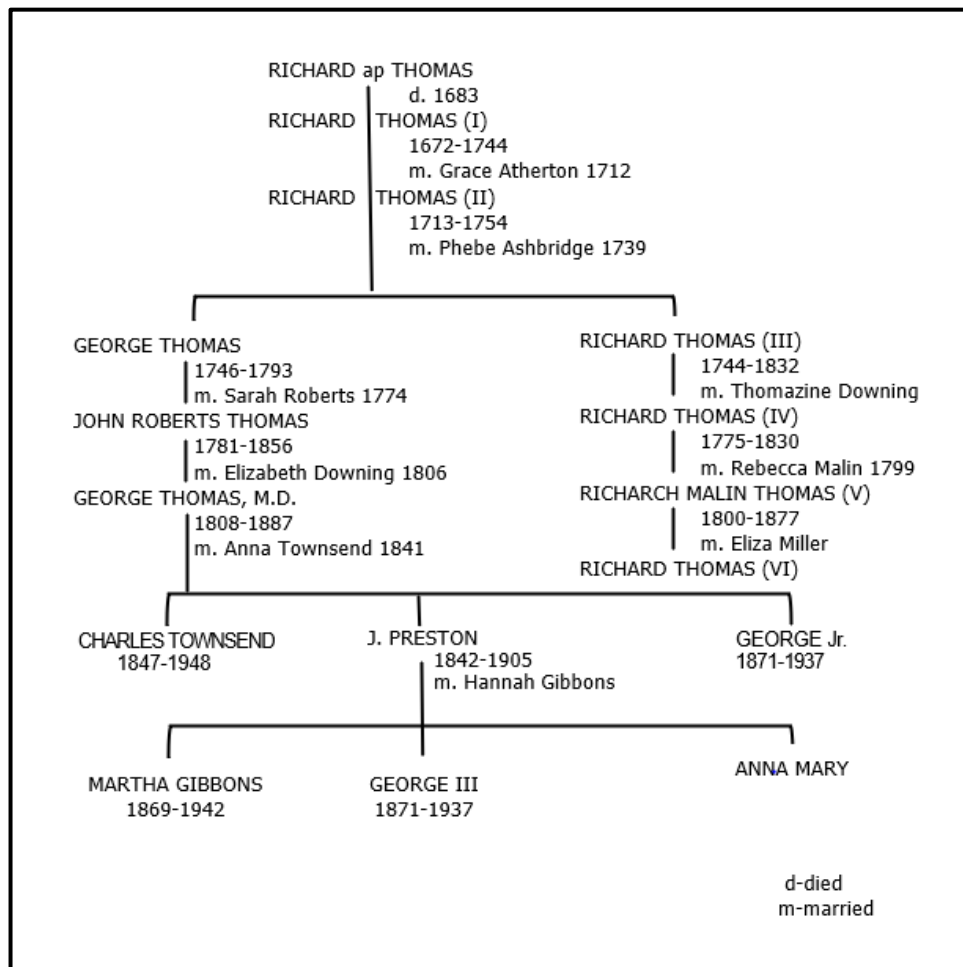
*Colonel Richard Thomas (1744-1832).*

With his wife Thomazine (Downing), Col. Richard resided at Whitford Lodge. He was a Manager of the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Company for 39 years.

While the career of Col. Richard's brother, George (1746-1793), centered entirely on his Oaklands farm **(207)**, his innovations in agriculture earned him a high degree of respect in his own right. In addition to managing one of the largest farms in the Great Valley, George Thomas pioneered in the introduction of lime as a soil supplement in 1787. Unlike his brother, who joined with the Episcopal Church at the War's end, George continued within the Society of Friends, remaining a pillar in the Township's Quaker community.

Two independent Thomas lines descended from Col. Richard and from George. Richard's progeny evidently inherited his talent for business and industry. One branch settled in Centre County and engaged in the iron industry. For several generations following Richard, the family remained on the original patent in West Whiteland, keeping the Thomas Mill **(107)** open until 1935. The Miller's House **(107.01)** and Mill **(107.02)** were owned by Thomas family descendant John Hagee and his wife, Fran through the 1980s.

George Thomas' line pursued agriculture and horticulture while continuing the family's active participation in civic affairs. A grandson, George, M.D. (1808-1887), through his meticulous management of Oaklands Farm, earned the title "Prince of the Great Valley." Despite obtaining a medical degree, he never practiced medicine, preferring horticulture and farming instead. (Family legend has it that George hated the sight of blood.) He also served as a director of the National Bank of Chester County. The sons of George, M.D., George, Jr., Charles, and J. Preston, oversaw large farms in West Whiteland. George, Jr. remained at Oaklands **(207)** where a branch of his descendants, the McIlvaines, resided through the 1980s. Charles (1847-1948) inherited Fairview **(210)** and, in addition to his long service as a Township Supervisor, took a keen interest in horticulture. His granddaughter, Barbara Burdick, a charter member of the West Whiteland Historical Commission and local authority on the Thomas genealogy, resided at the former Whitford School in the 1980s **(209)**.



*Selected genealogy of the Thomas Family.*

J. Preston Thomas (1842-1905) farmed at Whitford and demonstrated a deep commitment to public service. He was named Director of the Poor of Chester County in 1887. Among numerous other appointments were board positions with Dime Savings Bank, Preston Retreat (in Philadelphia), the Epileptic Colony at Oakbourne, the Chester County Hospital (of which he was a founder), and the National Bank of Chester County. (He was named its President in 1901). He was also one of the founders of the Oaklands Creamery Association who opened the Oaklands Creamery (**111**) in 1881.



*Lindenwood, home of J. Preston Thomas, formerly located on the north-west corner of Whitford and Route 30. Seated on porch are J. Preston and Hannah Thomas. Standing are (left to right) Martha Gibbons, Anna Mary and George III. Photograph taken c. 1885. House was demolished c. 1970.*

J. Preston's son, George III (1871—1937), built Whitford Garne **(155)** in 1905. Employed by Lukens Steel of Coatesville, to which he commuted daily, George III was the first of his immediate family to find non-farming employment outside the Township. The family's agricultural bent did not die with J. Preston, however, for his daughter, Martha Gibbons Thomas (1869-1942), known by the family as "Pattie," took an early interest in those pursuits. At the age of 8, she was described by her mother as "full of her Banties now, a regular little farmer as ever was...(who) tries to teach her brother some time but teacher and scholar soon give out." Martha grew up to be a member of Bryn Mawr College's first graduating class and was very active in the Women's Suffrage movement. She also was the first woman from Chester County to be elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1922. Martha maintained a life-long interest in farming, becoming a breeder and authority on Guernsey cattle. J. Preston Thomas's line continued to be represented in West Whiteland through the 1980s by his granddaughter Ann (Howell) Chandler who resided at Ivy Cottage **(205)**.



*Ivy Cottage (205) constructed c. 1800 by Colonel Richard Thomas (III) (Commonwealth 2021).*

No accounting of the Thomas family would be complete without mention of Rev. William L. Bull (d.1932), a descendant of both Col. Richard and George Thomas. From his mother, Sarah Thomas Bull, he inherited both Ivy Cottage and a philanthropic spirit. Although an Episcopalian, Bull did not confine his energies solely to missionary work within his own church. He donated generously to St. Mary's Chapel **(032)**, and Church Farm School **(025)**. A champion of the working class, Rev. Bull purchased Whitford Lodge **(204)** in 1901 from a collateral branch of the family and donated it to the Pennsylvania Association of Women Workers as a vacation retreat for its members.

### **THE ZOOK FAMILY**

Another family of long residency in West Whiteland was the Zooks. Moritz Zug (Zook), grandson of a Swiss Anabaptist preacher, moved to the Township from Berks County in 1770. He purchased a house built by William Owen in 1750; eight generations of Zooks subsequently resided there. The Zook House/Owen House **(305)** served as a haven for Amish and Mennonites migrating west from Philadelphia to Lancaster County and Ohio. It also played a more recent role which Moritz Zug certainly never envisioned--as catalyst for the founding of the West Whiteland Historical Commission. In 1971-1972, during its development of the Exton Square Mall on the Zook property, the Rouse Company, in consultation with the newly formed Historical Commission under Mildred Willenbrock, agreed to preserve and fund the restoration of this local landmark. Appropriately, the West Whiteland Historical Commission used the Zook House as its headquarters for a time.



*Zook House/Owen House (305). Home to eight generations of the Zook family.*

### **THE JACOBS FAMILY**

For nearly 200 years, members of "an ancient and distinguished family," the Jacobs', resided in West Whiteland. John Jacobs (1722-1780) was the first of his family, who were Quakers living in Perkiomen, to settle in the Township. He purchased several contiguous tracts in the northeast portion of West Whiteland c. 1752 and commenced farming. Although an exemplary citizen under British rule (he was a member of the General Assembly from 1762-1776), Jacobs became a "violent Whig" at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of July 15, 1776 and is reputed to have entertained Gen. Washington at his Solitude Farm (329). Jacobs died in 1780 while "giving...Washington the benefit of his services in keeping the patriot army supplied with provisions-and clothing and was getting together horses and fodder from among the Quakers of Chester County, who were 'doing their bit'."



*Benjamin Jacobs House/Strawbridge Farm (324).*

John's son, Benjamin (1731-1806) was expelled from the Uwchlan Meeting in 1777 for signing paper currency to finance the War effort. He also assisted his father in gathering supplies for Washington's army encamped at nearby Valley Forge. Benjamin attained great prominence as a surveyor, lawyer, judge (Court of Common Pleas, 1790), and large landholder, both in West Whiteland and elsewhere. He built the Benjamin Jacobs House/Strawbridge Farm **(324)** on his 500-acre property c. 1790. At his death in 1806, his inventory was valued in excess of \$30,000 and included a bathing tub-- quite risqué for conservative Chester County.

Later descendants of John Jacobs continued to reside in West Whiteland on farms in the Great Valley. They served the Township as Supervisors, members of the school board, and were active politically. For 113 years, Summit Hall/Springdale Farm **(031)** was home to the Jacobs family, including Thomas H.B. Jacobs and, later, his son George. Thomas H.B.'s grandson and namesake died there, childless, in 1938, thus marking the end of the Jacobs' 186 years of residence in West Whiteland.



*Summit Hall/Springdale Farm (031).*

## DOING THEIR BIT FOR FREEDOM

### THE BATTLE OF THE CLOUDS

Although no major battles of the Revolutionary War were fought in West Whiteland, her citizens suffered plundering by British and Hessian troops as a result of the so-called "Battle of the Clouds" **(042)**. On September 16, 1777, the southeast portion of the Township readied itself for a confrontation between the British and Continental armies. Thanks to a sudden, torrential downpour, the anticipated battle literally was rained out, but not before two skirmishes had been fought and property losses exceeding 950 pounds had been inflicted in the aftermath.

The Battle of the Clouds occurred on September 16, 1777, only five days after the Battle of Brandywine. That encounter had forced Washington's retreat from the scene of battle, near Chadds Ford, toward Chester and on to Germantown. Here, Washington's army regrouped and, within a few days, marched back to Chester County to engage the British once more. By the evening of September 15, Washington was encamped near the White Horse Inn in East Whiteland, along the Old Lancaster Road.

Following the Battle of Brandywine, a force of British troops under Cornwallis and Grant pursued Washington toward Chester, camping near Village Green, while General Howe, commander of the British army, remained near Chadds Ford. Informed of Washington's new position in the Chester Valley, Howe plotted a multi-pronged attack against the Continentals. Cornwallis and Grant were to move their 13,000 troops northward from Village Green, along the Goshen Road (Route 352). Howe marched to Turk's Head (West Chester), at which point he divided his army of 5,000 into two columns--one, led by General Matthews, proceeded north along Pottstown Pike as the other, Knyphausen's Hessians under Count von Donop, marched north along "Boot" Road (Phoenixville Pike.)

Learning of the British advance, Washington hurried to organize a battle line on the crest of the South Valley Hills, near King Road. His 12,000 troops would be stretched from the Three Tuns Tavern in East Goshen to Ship Road.

Before the Continentals could secure final positions, there was a skirmish at their eastern flank involving Cornwallis' advance guard and a band of 300 Pennsylvania militia. In his account of the event, Sergeant Thomas Sullivan wrote the British First Light Infantry "defeated them, killing twelve and wounded more", with no British casualties.

The western end of the Continental line, near Ship Road in West Whiteland, also was under attack. Sullivan reported that the Hessians, under von Donop, "fell in with 500 Pennsylvania militia which lay in a wood to obstruct our march and cover the retreat of their army and after exchanging a few volleys, they (the militia) fled, leaving an officer and five men killed and four men prisoners" with three Hessians wounded. The militia's retreat left Washington's entire western flank exposed to attack.

According to Futhey and Cope, the dead from this skirmish were buried near a farmhouse on Ship Road (near 043), with the wounded taken to a makeshift hospital farther north on Ship Road (near 041). Musket balls have been found in this part of the Township.

Washington's position as a result of these skirmishes was extremely precarious. Both ends of his battle line were in jeopardy; retreat would mean falling back along the steep descent of the South Valley Hills into the Chester Valley.

As the prospect of defeat grew closer, the rain, which had been gently falling throughout the skirmishes, turned into an extraordinarily severe cloudburst, and the torrential downpour continued until the following morning. According to a Hessian's account, it rained so hard that in "...a few moments we were drenched and sank in mud up to our calves."

The gun powder of both armies quickly became soaked and useless. The Americans chose to retreat immediately through the muck and mire to northern Chester County for fresh supplies. Thus, rain put an end to a battle which could have proven devastating to the Americans.

### THE PLUNDERING

As Washington retreated north, British and Hessian troops remained behind and camped overnight in West Whiteland on the Thompson and Dunwoody farms. Eleven Township residents later reported damages inflicted by the unwelcome overnight guests. The remaining five listed below simply were shown as "plundered" in the 1778 Tax List; it may be presumed, however, that damages resulted from events surrounding the Battle of the Clouds.

Resident	Cause of Damage (Commander)	Cost of Damage (Pounds/Shillings/Pence)
David Dunwoody	Matthews	382.0.5
Daniel Thompson	von Donop	237.4.1
John Bull	von Donop	130.11.6
James Dunwoody	Matthews	81.16.3
Ezekiel Rigg	British Army	67.18.1
Evan Anderson	von Donop	56.4.0
David Williams	Grant	54.5.0
Edward Lammey	Grant	45.8.0
John Boyers	British Army	31.7.0
Jeremiah Jarmon	Harcourt	30.0.0
Peter Ubles	British	18.0.0
John Jones		
Samuel Jeffries		
Isaac Speakman	<i>No details available. Listed as plundered in the 1778 tax list</i>	
Richard Thomas		
George Thomas		



*"Map showing the location of land owned by residents who were plundered in 1777. Boundaries were determined by plotting deed descriptions. Those who suffered the most damage (See Table) were situated near the sites where British and Hessian troops encamped.*

A reading of the items plundered suggests a wanton destruction and waste of property. Enemy troops burned at least 19,000 fence rails, timber supplies, and an occasional plow and harrow, presumably for cooking and warmth. In addition to the loss of food, bedding, and livestock, items not essential for survival also were listed, such as "silver buckles, cash, velvet breeches, fine shirts, womens mittins, a demmity petticoat, chintz gown, stays, buckskins and a half silk jacket."

Ezekiel Rigg, a carpenter, had so much taken from him in this one incident that he apparently never did recover, and twenty years later was described as "a poor soul" in the 1796 tax list.

It was perhaps during the days surrounding the Battle of the Clouds that British troops paid their now legendary visit to the home of Col. Richard Thomas (III). According to family folklore, the troops, upon finding Col. Thomas not at home, plundered the farm and attempted to determine his whereabouts from his wife, Thomazine, then heavy with child. Her refusal to answer their questions provoked attempts by the British to hang her by the neck from a series of pegs on the kitchen wall. Resulting from her portliness, one after another of the wooden pegs broke under her weight, until the British abandoned the effort. The very next peg was made of iron and surely would have proven fatal to Thomazine, had the troops been more observant and persevered. This same iron peg reportedly remained a Thomas family possession.

Richard's brother George was also an object of enemy plundering during 1777. While not bearing arms against the British, nevertheless he did his "bit" in the war for freedom. Family tradition tells us that George, while manager of the family grist mill **(107)** in the absence of Richard, produced a special blend of flour intended only for enemy use. This flour "accidently" included ground glass.

## TRAVEL BY ROAD

### EARLY ROADS

Native American paths provided the first access routes to West Whiteland and other townships outside Philadelphia. Their exact locations are virtually impossible to document, but legend has it that Ship and King Roads and Route 100 originally were Native American trails. Public roads were established as early residents developed the need for improved road conditions and successfully petitioned the court for approval. Such petitions usually expressed why a new road was needed. One example, dated 1701, mentioned the need for a good road to the Limestone Hills where new landowners intended to set up kilns and burn lime.

As colonization progressed westward from Philadelphia, roads connecting new settlements with established trading centers were laid out in a somewhat chaotic manner. Recognizing the benefit of a more uniform transportation system, the Council in Philadelphia authorized the construction in 1703 of "one Direct road of fifty foot in breadth" from the Schuylkill to the upper settlements on the Brandywine. According to a map of early highways prepared in 1907 by H. Frank Eshleman of Lancaster, that road was in place by 1705 and came to be called the King's Highway. It followed a relatively straight course through the entire northern half of West Whiteland and terminated near Downingtown. A connection to Lancaster was completed in 1733. By 1741, improvements were made to the eastern portion of the King's Highway from the John Spruce house (near 229) to Philadelphia. Known by several other names (the Old Lancaster, Old Philadelphia, Provincial, and Continental Road), the King's Highway served as the major east-west artery until completion of the Lancaster Turnpike in 1794. In West Whiteland, present-day Swedesford Road follows the original route of the King's Highway.

The history of the Township's other roads is less thoroughly documented. The Chester (Boot) Road was laid out c.1739 as a more direct route to Chester, the market for much of the area's wheat and flour. In 1774, Whitford Road was surveyed through the lands of George Thomas, Samuel James, and Nicholas Boyer to connect with the Chester Road. Despite Samuel James' protest in 1775 that the road was to run through his saw-mill dam, thereby isolating four acres of his land, the road nonetheless was confirmed by the court.

West Chester's designation as the new County Seat in the late 1780's prompted construction of a road (Old Phoenixville Pike) from the White Horse Tavern in East Whiteland, through West Whiteland, to Gay Street in 1789.

By an Act of the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1839, a commission was appointed to lay out a 40-foot-wide State Road from Allentown to Pottstown, and then on to West Chester where it would connect with the Wilmington Road. In West Whiteland, the Wilmington Road already was a primary north-south route by 1790, and it became incorporated into State Road #147, known now as Pottstown and Route 100.



Excerpt from a survey Map of the Great Valley in West Whiteland c. 1790. Lancaster Road crosses through the Township north of Valley Creek. From left to right, the north-south roads are Whitford, Wilmington (Route 100) and the northern part of Ship. Buildings sketched along the Valley Creek include George Thomas's Oaklands **(207)** and sawmill, Whitford Lodge **(204)**, Thomas Mill (107), Sleepy Hollow Hall/Massey House **(303)** and tanning yard, the Zook House/Owen House **(305)**, Henry Zook's House and the John Cuthbert House **(314)**.

Any other road developments paled in comparison to the construction of the nation's first turnpike through West Whiteland in 1792-1794.

### **THE LANCASTER TURNPIKE**

The Lancaster Turnpike Company was incorporated in 1792 by an Act of the Commonwealth for the purpose "of making an artificial road from the City of Philadelphia to the borough of Lancaster." Citing the need for an adequate roadbed for the passage of heavily laden carriages traveling daily between those two cities, the Act authorized the President and Managers of the Turnpike Company to lay out such a road and charge a toll for its use. The method of constructing its roadbed, specified in the Act, came to be regarded as a model for the next century.

Milestones were erected along the Turnpike. Of the five markers originally installed in West Whiteland (miles 24-28), only one, the 25-mile marker, is known to have survived and, in the 1980s, was on display at the Ship Inn **(311)**. Fees, fixed by the Turnpike Company, were collected at toll houses spaced at roughly 10-mile intervals. There were no toll houses in West Whiteland, the nearest having been near Glen Loch in East Whiteland. Repair and maintenance of the road was the Company's responsibility.



*25 Mile marker on the Lancaster Turnpike, artist's rendition.*

Actual surveys for the Turnpike seem to have begun two years prior to the Turnpike Company's incorporation. A c. 1790 map showing the proposed route was drafted by Richard Thomas (III), a manager of the Turnpike for 39 years until his death in 1832. Now part of the Chester County Historical Society Collections, the map depicts in fine detail the Turnpike's intended path from the 10th milestone to Lancaster. It names those fortunate enough to own land adjacent to the Turnpike and includes small, but remarkably accurate, sketches of their properties.

Construction of the Turnpike through West Whiteland prompted the decline in importance of all other east-west roads. It cut a new path across the Township, along which would be built several fine inns, service facilities, and imposing farm complexes. It forced the abandonment of a nearly parallel road laid out in 1786 from the Wilmington Road to the White Horse Tavern in East Whiteland. According to a petition to vacate that road, filed in 1794, the road had "become in a great measure useless, as well as burdensome to the Township and landholders through whose land it pass(ed)" since construction of the Turnpike. In 1803, the entire portion of the Old Lancaster Road west of Route 100 was vacated for the same reason.

In addition to its impact on the Township's road system, the Turnpike helped create new wealth and increased that of existing landowners, particularly the Thomas, Downing, Roberts, and Jacobs families. The Thomas family found it advantageous to reorient Whitford Lodge (**204**) to the Turnpike by relocating the main entrance to the south side. John Roberts of Colebrook Farm (**229**) added a long, tree-lined drive from his house to the new road. Richard Thomas (III), blessed already with intelligence and wealth, found his family grist mill (**107**) within easy access of the Nation's first turnpike. Land along that road became highly valued; nary a notice of sale or lease failed to mention the property's location relative to a milestone on the Turnpike.

Until construction of the Columbia (Pennsylvania) Railroad in 1833-34, the Lancaster Turnpike dominated the Township. With the railroad's availability, however, Turnpike travel declined. The Company, in 1866, began selling off portions of

the road; by 1880, a stretch of the Turnpike east of its intersection with Route 100 was abandoned.



*The Ship Inn (311). Built in 1796 by John Bowen in response to completion of the Lancaster Turnpike (Commonwealth 2021).*

The last section of the Turnpike was sold c.1900 to A.M. Taylor of the Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Company for the purpose of laying a trolley line to Coatesville. That plan was never fulfilled. The County purchased the Turnpike Road from Taylor in January 1902 and, to the great satisfaction of local users of the road, declared it free of tolls. In the same year, the Turnpike Company was dissolved. An era had ended.

Although the condition of West Whiteland's roads always was a subject of local concern, it became more acute with the proliferation of the automobile. In 1908, coincident with the introduction of the landmark Model T, a citizen's group formed in the Township to advocate, of all things, a *doubling* of the tax rate for the purpose of reconstructing the roads. Organizations of this type, the forerunners of modern automobile clubs, were forming at that time throughout the United States; many joined together as the Lincoln Highway Association to promote the completion of a continuous road from coast to coast. The Lancaster Turnpike was viewed as a key component of that proposed route. In June 1908, West Whiteland's Road Supervisors were visited by Maurice Elderidge, an engineer from the U.S. Department of Public Roads in Washington. He came to inspect a portion of the Lancaster Turnpike with the intention of adopting a mile of it "for experimental purposes and build(ing) there, one of the new highways." In a Township meeting on July 6, 1908, the Supervisors declined the Government's offer.

Despite their refusal to have an experimental highway built, the Supervisors recognized the need to improve the Township's roads, particularly its main arteries. At that time, most township roads consisted of packed dirt, with the more highly traveled routes being packed cinders or crushed stone from local quarries. Long-time

resident Beulah Cunningham recalls that she "could hear the rumble" of the logs under the packed dirt of the corduroy roads as she drove over them in a horse and wagon. (Remnants of a corduroy road recently were uncovered near the intersection of Burke and South Whitford Roads.) Throughout 1908, residents complained of bad roads at nearly every meeting of the Board of Supervisors. In response, the Board hired a group of Italian workers (at 12.5 cents per hour) to repair the roads.

Under the Sproul Highway Act of 1911, a State Highway Department was established, and the Lancaster Turnpike was added to the State system. Soon thereafter, the road received a hard surface. Traffic had yet to become a problem along the highway, at least according to two eyewitnesses. Ernest Rodney, a former constable and owner of the Jacob Zook House/Rodney's Store **(036)**, recalled that prior to 1920, turkeys were driven along Route 30 from Lancaster County to Philadelphia. At night they roosted in the trees, but "at the crack of dawn the turkeys was off the roost and was ready to go." Richard "Buzz" Newlin, who lived at Indian Run Farm **(100)**, recalled that, in the period following World War I, traffic would be stopped along the Lincoln Highway and dances held on the road to benefit the Visiting Nurse Association. Between waltzes, traffic was allowed to pass. Things soon were to change, of course, as an item in the Aug. 10, 1923 edition of a local newspaper clearly shows:

*"One of the transformation scenes caused by the good roads system and the automobile can be observed at the old cross-roads on the West Chester and Lionville road, now Route No. 147, and the Lincoln High- way. In years agone, in the evening, a lone farm wagon or horse-drawn buggy would occasionally be seen on either road, but the crossing was dark and quietness reigned.*

*Now all is different; on either corner of these busy highways are brilliantly lighted places of business and nearby an automobile tourists' camp adds another new touch to the old crossroads. There are many motor cars parked, or coming and going and up and down the high- ways are rapidly moving touring cars, motor trucks and motorcycles.*

*The scene last evening would have made an interesting scenario for a moving picture show. A mosquito-netted coop for an infant, a tent or two, tables set with camping outfits for late supper by tourists. Here and there an automobile parked, carrying license tags from different States. The business places were full, the clerks were dispensing oil and ice cream, cakes, soap and other tourists and travelers needs.*

*Shades of Jacob M. Zook and Thomas Templin and Richard Ash- bridge! What would they say to see the environment of Exton and Whiteland and Whitford, a regular tourists' stream of motor-driven vehicles from all parts of "the States" and even Canada? Things are different from the days when Conestoga wagons did the hauling and later the old pike was only used by local travel-wornout turnpike toll road. Exton is on the map."*



*Valley Creek Coffee House (037) and Atlantic Gasoline Service Station near the southeast corner of Route 30 and Route 100. This was the appearance of the Exton Crossroads c. 1940.*

## **TRAVEL BY RAIL**

### **WEST CHESTER RAILROAD**

Included among the three major railroad passenger lines constructed through West Whiteland in the 19th century was the first to be completed in Pennsylvania. A seemingly improbable candidate for such distinction, the tiny West Chester Railroad, which ran through the Township's southeast corner, claimed the title of the State's oldest non-industrial railroad.

The West Chester Railroad Company was chartered in 1830 to construct a branch line connecting West Chester with the Columbia Railroad, then under construction and pushing east towards Philadelphia. In an 1831 letter, Dr. William Darlington, one of the company's founders, explained, "The thriving condition of our Town, the fertility of the surrounding country, and the productive industry of the people-all induce us to believe that a branch railroad, to intersect the Pennsylvania road, will be of inestimable value to all concerned..."

When finished in 1833, months before the connection could be made with the yet-incomplete Columbia at the "Intersection" (Malvern), the railroad was nine miles long. For many years, horse-drawn cars were the principal means of transportation. With the completion of the Columbia in 1834, uninterrupted rail travel from West Chester to Philadelphia became a reality.

In 1833, the West Chester Railroad Company purchased a quarter-acre lot in West Whiteland, adjacent to the narrow-gauge tracks, and erected a modest frame building. Due to its location midway between West Chester and Malvern, this building became known as the Halfway House (011). The Halfway House apparently was occupied by a workman who maintained the tracks and watered the horses. It was sold in 1842, about the time horse-drawn cars were replaced by locomotives. The Halfway House stands today as one of the oldest extant rail-related buildings in the State.



*Halfway House (011). Built in 1833 by the West Chester Railroad Company (Commonwealth 2021).*

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company acquired the Columbia in 1851, and one year later it began to lease the West Chester branch. The company built Railroad Rowhouses **(014)**, a group of duplexes, for its workers in 1872 on land along King Road between the two lines. Two stations, Woodland/Morstein **(003)** and Kirkland **(053)**, were constructed on the West Chester branch by 1873. Despite these improvements, the poor condition of the "Pan Handle Railroad" prompted this observation in the *Daily Local News* in 1876:

*"... the W.C. & P.R.R. Company should be arranged (sic) in the Court of Quarter Sessions for gross neglect of the tract (sic) between West Chester and Malvern; neglect which really renders travel over that branch of its road extremely dangerous...passengers literally take their lives in their hands when seated in the cars for the purpose of reaching Malvern Station"*

Full ownership of the West Chester branch was transferred to the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1879, and the tracks subsequently were improved. Today, only the trackless bed of the old railroad, the Halfway House, and Kirkland and Morstein Stations mark the course of this first railroad through West Whiteland.



*Woodland Station/Morstein Station built c. 1870 (003) (Commonwealth 2021).*

## **PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD**

Less than 40 years after completion of the Lancaster Turnpike, the Columbia Railroad was constructed through West Whiteland on a nearly parallel course. It was one component of a system of State-authorized public improvements designed to connect Philadelphia with Pittsburgh. When this "Main Line of Public Works" was completed in 1834, it included two canals, the Allegheny Portage Railroad, and the 82-mile line Columbia to Philadelphia Railroad.

Following a crooked course through Lancaster and Chester Counties, the Columbia Railroad was built from west to east. Its tracks initially were shared by horse-drawn cars and locomotives. By 1837, however, the number of engines using the track had jumped from 3 to 40.

Surveys for the railroad were initiated in 1827. Certain West Whiteland landowners, over whose properties the track was to pass, recognized the opportunity for development and seized it. In anticipation of the railroad's arrival, Richard Thomas (III) laid plans in 1830 for a town at the Columbia's proposed intersection with Pottstown Pike. At Oakland, Riter Boyer put up a handsome public house in 1833. His first petition to obtain a license for the new Oakland Hotel **(132)** is particularly descriptive of the expectations aroused in the citizenry by the coming of the railroad.

*To the Honourable the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the  
County of Chester. on holding a Court of General Quarter Session for said  
County*

*The Petition of the Subscriber, respectfully represent That in our opinion  
— it would be of service to passengers and to contractors carrying  
passengers — and running stages and Burden Cars — on the Pennsylvania*

*Rail Way — to grant a Licence to Righter Boyer of West Whiteland Township to keep a public House at the place represented in his petition to your honours presented to February Session last*

*That a reservoir for supplying water to Steam Engines running on the Rail Way is to be erected a few yards East of Said House — That Messers Slaymaker & Co. — and Osborne & Co — have both applied for Stabling for their Horses — at said place — and intend to make that a changing place or their Car Horses — That from its situation it must certainly be a point at which cars will stop and passengers and horses — require to be entertained & fed — and at which Public convenience will require the accomodation only to be had at a public House —*

*They therefore pray your Honours to grant him Licence to keep a public House at said place —& they will &c*

*Benjamin Hoffman    William W. Torbert    Lewis Glenn    Joel Matlack*

It seems the Columbia's course through West Whiteland was one of the most difficult along its entire route. Due to steep grades and sharp curves, trains frequently were forced to slow down, thereby losing valuable time. Although written recognition of this problem exists as early as 1851, the necessary improvements were not made until 1881. By that time, the Columbia was owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad, incorporated in 1846. With a labor force consisting mostly of Irish immigrants, the Company straightened the tracks and built more rail worker housing at Oakland **(136)**. It aggressively promoted passenger service through special excursion trips and company guidebooks. By 1890, there were five stops or stations in West Whiteland along an approximate 4-mile span.

### **Glen Loch**

A station was established at Glen Loch c. 1870, at which time three trains ran daily to Philadelphia, 25 miles away. The brick and frame station house **(023)** was built c. 1890 and doubled as a post office. From this location, there is an extended view of the Chester Valley. In 1890, one of the Company's guidebooks observed, "...The Chester Valley, with its smiling farms and restful homes, looks like one vast and magnificent garden."

By 1901, Glen Loch Station had been reduced to a flag stop on the Pennsylvania Railroad. It later became a private residence.



*Glen Loch Station (023) built c. 1890 (Commonwealth 2021).*

### **Ship Road**

A stop at Ship Road was added in the 1880's, perhaps at the urging of Philadelphia politician and attorney Dallas Sanders, who had purchased the Ship Inn. He also owned several adjoining properties, on which he offered a number of building sites for sale. Yet, while the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported in 1889 that "Ship Road is becoming one of the best known as well as one of the prettiest suburban places within easy reach of Philadelphia" (26.6 miles), it failed to develop along the lines envisioned by Sanders. As with Glen Loch and, indeed, all of West Whiteland's stations, Ship Road was a mere flag stop by 1901.

### **Whiteland (Walkertown)**

It seems rather incredible, yet in some ways predictable, that Richard Thomas (III), Colonel of the Revolution, Member of the Assembly, State Senate, and U.S. Congress, and prominent local resident, should also have designed a town along the Columbia Railroad. Three years prior to construction of the line through West Whiteland, Thomas, in fact, did just that.

In 1830, Thomas deeded a 10-acre plot along the route in trust for his son, Samuel, thinking it "beneficial to have a town." A survey of this "Town of Whiteland" was made by his friend, Samuel Haines. The tract was divided into 35 lots on four streets, two of which were named in honor of Thomas. A well-known local carpenter, Thomas Walker, purchased lots 3 and 4, whereon he built a "commodious dwelling house," apparently intended as the village hotel. He petitioned for a license in 1836 to keep a tavern for the convenience of travelers..."



*Plot Plan for the Town of Whiteland. Located where the Pennsylvania Railroad crosses Route 100, it was laid out in 1830 by Colonel Richard Thomas and became a ghost town by 1900. No trace of it remains today.*

From that time, the town was called Walkertown and Whiteland almost interchangeably. Even after his departure from the Township in 1851, Walker retained his holdings and his name clung to the village. Despite the proximity of the railroad and the erection of a new station house in 1860, Whiteland gradually declined. The hotel burned in 1872, ignited by a spark from a passing locomotive. In 1881, Walker offered his interests for sale, including a dwelling, store house, tailor shop, tenements, stables, warehouse and "3 cars." In the same year, the character and layout of the village were impinged upon as the railroad company straightened the tracks.

The area northeast of Whiteland was eyed by the Chester County Land Company in 1889 as suitable for a community of fashionable country homes, similar to Bradford Hills. Toward this end, land was acquired, with plans made to cut avenues to Whiteland Station, where the building of a new station house was anticipated.

The nation's financial panic and depression of 1893 may account for the lack of any further activity on this proposed community. In 1926, however, the area finally was laid out as Whiteland Crest **(352)**, the Township's first planned housing development. The Whiteland Station, south of Whiteland Crest, was closed in 1960. It was replaced in 1981 by a new Exton Station, very near the old stop.

### **Oakland (Whitford)**

Less than a mile west of Whiteland, a station was established where the Whitford Road intersected the Pennsylvania Railroad. It was here, at Oakland, that Riter Boyer petitioned to gain a license for the newly built Oakland Hotel in 1833. As at Glen Loch, marble quarries were worked extensively in the area, the most famous being the Thomas Brothers Marble Quarry, which opened in 1833. In response to the arrival of the railroad, a small village developed at Oakland containing a blacksmith and wheelwright shop, stables, a hotel, several houses and a warehouse. By 1869, a station was built of Thomas Quarry marble. It was left some distance from the tracks as a result of the 1881 straightening and was replaced in the late 19th or early 20th centuries by the current

station house, Whitford Station (**126.01**). Oakland seems to have been particularly active in the 1880's with its quarries, kilns, and mines, a post office, and 16 daily trains.

By 1890, though, Oakland had reverted to an agricultural community, the nearest hostelry for travelers being two- and one-half miles away.

### **Bradford Hills**

Improved passenger service, combined with a movement toward suburban living, prompted another attempt at development along the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1888. In that year, the Bradford Hills Land Company was formed with financial backing from Philadelphia insurance companies. Over 300 acres of hilly, wooded land in West Whiteland and East Bradford were acquired by a group of investors who viewed the area's development potential as "a second Bryn Mawr." Led by Nelson F. Evans, a "gentleman" with entrepreneurial ambitions, work began at once on the tract; lots were surveyed and sold, a road constructed, lawns landscaped, and architects hired to design country homes for wealthy city residents. The list of architects commissioned to design houses was impressive and included some of the most respected in the field: Wilson Eyre, Frank Miles Day, the Wilson Brothers, Constable Brothers and T. Mellon Rogers, and Newton H. Culver. The bloom on this speculative rose was short-lived, however. Financing for the development collapsed in the 1890's, Nelson F. Evans was convicted of "crookedness," and the unsold lots were put up for Sheriff's sale. Fortunately, six houses were completed which today serve as reminders of a community plan unfulfilled.



*Francis W. Kennedy House (143). Designed in 1889 by renowned architect Frank Miles Day as a summer cottage in Bradford Hills (Commonwealth 2021).*

## CHESTER VALLEY RAILROAD

A third railroad line passing through West Whiteland was constructed between 1850-1854, following the reorganization of the defunct Norris- town and Valley Railroad. The Norristown line had been chartered in 1837 but was never completed despite the expenditure of \$800,000 toward its construction; the Chester Valley Railroad Company evolved from its demise. When finished in 1854, the Chester Valley Railroad extended from Bridgeport to Downingtown over a 22-mile route. In addition to its passenger service, the Chester Valley Railroad carried freight. In a solicitation to potential investors in 1852, a company brochure predicted it would haul marble (for "architectural purposes"), limestone, iron ore, anthracite coal, and agricultural goods. The railroad would "in effect make that beautiful valley one entire market garden for the 400,000 inhabitants of Philadelphia."

In West Whiteland, the line ran north of the Pennsylvania Railroad and formed an "X" where it crossed the Turnpike. Some believe this intersection inspired the name Exton. Here, James Beale opened an eating house in 1859 under the name Ship Station. The following year, Beale's establishment, an impressive, new three-story stone building with a basement kitchen and dumb waiter, became known as the Exton Hotel **(309)**. It served for a number of years as a ticket office for the Chester Valley Railroad and a boarding house.



*Exton Station, a milk pick-up stop on the Chester Valley Railroad. Photograph c. 1950 shows the Exton Hotel (309) to the right.*

Within the Township, there were stops at Exton and Oakland. Spurs from this line were built to the James Peck sand quarries in 1880 and the Thomas Marble Quarry **(103)** in 1867, enabling the latter to reopen after 20 years of inactivity.

## TRENTON CUTOFF

While the West Chester, Columbia, and Chester Valley Railroads carried both goods and passengers, a line exclusively for freight was built by the Trenton Cutoff Railroad Company between 1889-1892. It was designed as a single-track, low-grade, high-speed line. Originating just east of Downingtown and traveling through Whitford, it passes well north of Philadelphia by way of Norristown, thereby avoiding passenger train congestion, and terminates at Trenton, for a total length of 45 miles.

The cost of construction was enormous--a 15.7-mile portion near Norristown exceeded \$1.3 million. In 1893, the entire Cutoff was double-tracked. It was consolidated with the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1902, at which time the line was renovated. The Whitford Bridge (**127**), a two-track, curved cord Pratt Truss, carries the Trenton Cutoff over the Main Line.

Prior to the ascendance of commercial trucking, the Trenton Cutoff served as a major east-west corridor for the movement of freight. During World War I, U.S. Army troops camped in the meadow north of Whitford Station to protect the Whitford Bridge from sabotage.



*Whitford Bridge (127) and Whitford Station (126.01) (Commonwealth 2021).*

## THE BOUNTEOUS GREAT VALLEY: FARMS

Agriculture dominated West Whiteland's economy, as it did in most of Chester County, from the 18th through the mid-20th century. As a group, the Township's farms ranked among the most productive in the region, thanks in part to the great fertility of the limestone Chester Valley and the proximity of rail and turnpike access to major markets. They were, in addition, comparatively large, *averaging* between 150 and 210 acres by 1750 and for nearly a century thereafter. A correspondingly large group of tenant farmers soon was in residence; in 1782, they represented between 32 and 51% of Township taxpayers.

Nearly all of the Township's prime agricultural land in the Great Valley was acquired by Richard Thomas (I). His 1704 patent was for 1869 acres, and he added 243 acres by purchase in 1716. Thomas sold large tracts to other monied settlers, retaining approximately half for himself. In this manner, the Great Valley soon was parceled into "gentleman" farms, thereby beginning the Township's long experience with large-scale farming. Land in the southern portion of the Township, on the other hand, being less easily cultivated and inaccessible to transportation routes, was settled later, primarily by yeomen of more modest means.

By the 1800's, the stage was set for the next 150 years of agriculture in West Whiteland. Tidy farmsteads, dominated by barns of log or stone, dotted the landscape, ranging in acreage from several hundred (in the Valley) to as few as twenty.

Wheat, the key crop at that time, was cultivated extensively (and quite profitably) on the large spreads, with much of it then exported from Philadelphia to Europe and the West Indies. Stock raising and dairying came to prominence in the 19th century. These trends were most evident in the Township's large farming operations but were replicated at a reduced scale on the smaller farms, as well.

### THE LARGE AND THE SMALL

The sharp differences between the landed gentry and smaller farmer are well illustrated by contrasting the lives of Jehu Roberts and David Ashbridge, contemporaries in late 18th century West Whiteland.

Although Jehu Roberts (1751-1818) did not settle in the Township until 1792, he came as no stranger. Connected by marriage to the Township's most prominent family (his sister, Sarah, was the wife of George Thomas), Roberts purchased the property of his uncle-in-law, Samuel Bond, for 2100 pounds and commenced gentleman farming. He joined the Uwchlan Meeting and, in 1795, was made an Elder.

Roberts' 540-acre farm (**229**), located in the heart of the Valley, had frontage on both the Old Lancaster Road and Lancaster Turnpike. Suited not only for agriculture, the tract also rewarded its owner with additional income from its limestone quarries and, later, an iron ore mine.

Jehu Roberts' considerable wealth is discernible from the 1798 Direct, or "Light" Tax. In that year, he owned and occupied a large (55' by 33') two-story stone house which, with its 25 windows, was valued at a very high \$1,900--the equivalent of George Thomas' Oaklands mansion house. Roberts was taxed additionally for a two-story stone

barn (75' by 33') in "good repr," wash, milk, and smoke houses, a smaller frame barn; and 370 acres of land under cultivation. The farm's value, apart from the dwelling, was \$3,540. A sampling from the inventory of Roberts' estate, taken after his death in 1818, reveals the nature and extent of his assets: 11 rooms of furniture, 14 beds, 4 horses, 4 cows, 9 pigs, 10 steers owned outright and a greater number, including 33 sheep, held in partnership with his tenant, a total of 8 carts and carriages, a 100-volume library, and cash and investments exceeding \$15,000 on hand.

Following Jehu's death, the Roberts homestead descended to his son, John, and then to Samuel, a grandson. It stayed within the family until 1914. Under Samuel, the farm became one of the most valuable in the Township; its assessment of \$30,000 in 1850 was more than 10 times that of the average farmer.

Clearly distinguishable from the lifestyle of Jehu Roberts was that of fellow farmer David Ashbridge. In many respects, Ashbridge personified the small West Whiteland farmer of the late 18th century. Although born into the Society of Friends, he settled in West Whiteland in 1782 as a disenfranchised Quaker, having been read out of Goshen Monthly Meeting in 1776 for continuing to "exercise in a military way." Ashbridge subsequently served at least three years as a private in the 4th Battalion of the Chester County Militia. At the War's end and lacking an inheritance (he was the third son in a family of seven) Ashbridge purchased a 96-acre tract near West Whiteland's South Valley Hills. There he set about erecting a 20' by 25' log house **(021)** of two low stories for his wife and two children. (Nearly half the Township's 151 dwellings were log by 1798.) For his 3 horses, 3 red cows and 2 calves, 7 feeding hogs, 4 pigs, and 9 sheep, Ashbridge built a commodious (40' by 20') log barn. Using farm equipment common to the time, he planted wheat, rye, flax, buck wheat, Indian corn, oats, and potatoes. He also kept three hives of bees. As did numerous local citizens, David Ashbridge served for a year as Overseer of the Poor and later as tax collector for the County.

Compared to that of Jehu Roberts, Ashbridge's estate, filed in 1788, was meager, totaling 135 pounds, 5 shillings, and 8 pence. Whereas Roberts' furniture, spread through eleven rooms, was too numerous to mention in detail, the Ashbridge inventory recorded one looking glass, six silver teaspoons, three pewter dishes, a few old books and other small items.



*David Ashbridge Log House (021) constructed in 1782 (Commonwealth 2021).*

The Ashbridge farm stayed in the family only until 1824. In that year, the house and barn were platted as a one-acre parcel and sold to a tradesman. Not all of the Township's smaller farms met such a fate, however; several remained family operations for well over 100 years, most notably those owned by the Merediths **(043, 061)** and Hoffmans **(169,170)**.

## **AGRICULTURAL INNOVATIONS**

The 18th and 19th century West Whiteland farmer, whether a gentleman, tenant or small landholder, generally was conservative in agricultural practice. One exception was George Thomas (1746-1793), among the first in the County to apply lime as a soil supplement.

Thomas was called "one of the pioneers in its introduction, having done much before his death to call attention to the subject and having first employed lime on his land... about the year 1787." By 1830, liming was a firmly established farm practice resulting in an "incredible improvement" in soil fertility.

Thomas' grandson, Dr. George Thomas (1808-1887), assumed a leading role in the practice of horticulture, then in its infancy. In addition to his 500-acre dairy farm, Oaklands, he maintained a 40-foot long "graperv" (an early greenhouse).



*Oaklands (207) in the late 1800's showing exotic plants, trees and a dirt- packed Route 30 running in front.*

A silo erected in 1883 by Shoemaker and Robinson may well have been Chester County's first. It measured 33' by 35', was 14' deep, and was capped by a one-story grain storage area. In a tone of self-congratulation, Shoemaker and Robinson predicted "that a silo will soon become a necessity with every farmer in the country." this, of course, proved to be no idle speculation.

Large-scale farming continued into the 20th century. The Thomas family, with its Whitford, Oaklands, Fairview, and South Hills farms, together totaling more than 1,000 acres, maintained a position of prominence. By this time, too, West Whiteland was enjoying a reputation for its fine herds of Guernseys. This was due in part to Miss Martha G. Thomas, a breeder of Guernseys and a charter member of the Chester County Breeders Association. West Whiteland's attachment to the breed gained public acknowledgment in the 1930's with the opening of the Guernsey Cow Dairy Bar **(304)**, a popular outlet specializing in the sale of ice cream made with rich Guernsey milk. The Guernsey tradition was kept alive by Church Farm School until 1976; thus, the nostalgic Guernsey pictured on the Bar's well-known sign is the last of her kind to graze in West Whiteland.



*Miss Martha Gibbons Thomas with her prize Guernsey, Willoughby's Queen of Whitford c. 1923. The two men are unidentified. Courtesy of Ann Chandler.*

Lured by the fertile Valley land, so easily reached by road or rail, and believing in the "healthfulness" of the rural life, new faces began to appear in the Township by the onset of the 20th century. Although many were part-time residents who hired tenant farmers, a few such as Clarence Sears Kates **(330)** and Joseph M. Price **(115)**, plunged wholly into farming. Kates, in particular, embraced the "most modern mechanical methods of agriculture" and was described in 1907 as "the model farmer of Chester Valley ..."

The establishment of Church Farm School **(025)** in the Township in 1918 helped agriculture persist as an element of the Township's economy well into the 20th century. Between 1918 and the 1980s the school grew from 127 acres to nearly 1,700 acres and continued to use hands-on agricultural activities as part of its curriculum. Since the 1980s, the school has ceased agricultural education and sold much of its 1,700 acres; however, its presence in the Township is a reminder of the area's agricultural history.



*Students at Church Farm School loading silage c. 1926. Courtesy of Dr. Charles W. Shreiner, Jr.*

## **PUBLIC HOUSES AND STORE HOUSES**

### **TAVERNS AND INNS**

West Whiteland, located as it was along major transportation routes, hosted travelers in a number of inns and hotels. Four of these stand today and one, the Ship Inn **(311)**, still plies its original trade. Logically, the earliest public houses were situated along the through routes. Upon completion of the Lancaster Turnpike in 1794, new businesses were established to cater to the stagecoach trade. The arrival of the railroad--the Columbia in 1833-1834 and the Chester Valley in 1854 — prompted the opening of several hotels for their passengers. For three years beginning in 1834, the number of hotels and taverns operating in the Township reached an all-time high of six.

West Whiteland's old public houses played an important and colorful role in community life. Here, at least until the sale of liquor was banned in the 1870's (if not sooner), locals could congregate over a bottle of spirits, exchange conversation, and study the constant stream of travelers passing through the Township. Some establishments, such as The Ship and Oakland Hotel, served as polling places. For friends of the temperance movement, though, banning the sale of intoxicating liquors" from the Township's inns and taverns was a focus of what became their crusade. Temperance emerged as an issue in the Township in the 1840's. A local group met frequently in the Grove Methodist Church, often presenting practiced

speakers on the issue. In 1845, Grove was the site of the "County Convention for friends of the Temperance cause" by order of the "Union Total Abstinence Society." By 1849, the group called itself the Grove Temperance Society. No one, it seemed, was immune from the Society's scathing criticism-- from the local taverns, the courts and State legislature, even to the editors of newspapers publishing legal notices of license petitions. In response to a published resolution in which the Society condemned all of the above, the editors of one newspaper, thinking the list incomplete, offered this amendment:

"Resolved, that all truth, logic, wisdom and honesty, in Temperance, morality, politics, law and legislation, are confined to the Grove Temperance Society."

In 1873, the Temperance Society's goal was achieved in West Whiteland. The Township, through "local option" officially went dry.

### **Fox Chase**

The Fox Chase Inn (**325**) claims the distinction of being the first licensed public house in West Whiteland. It is located, appropriately enough, along the Old Lancaster (Swedesford) Road, the first major east-west artery through the Township. In 1783, John Quinn, a weaver by trade, purchased a 4 ¼ acre tract from Eli Bentley, a clockmaker. He petitioned for and was granted a tavern license in 1786 under the name Fox Chase Inn. Following Quinn's death in 1793, the business was taken over by inn-keeper Thomas Cummins who leased the property from its new owner, Benjamin Jacobs (**324**). The last petition for Fox Chase Inn was filed by Cummins in 1800.



*Fox Chase Inn (325) the Township's first licensed public house, built c. 1765 (Commonwealth 2021).*

### **Indian King**

In 1786 Peter Smith petitioned unsuccessfully for a license to operate a tavern he called Indian King **(062)**. His petition the next year bore fruit, and the Indian King was in business without interruption until 1840, making it one of the longest-running establishments in the Township's history. In 1815, Indian King was described as a "convenient square log house, 2 stories high with 3 rooms on a floor with a cellar under ...and with kitchen adjoining." By 1842, however, the Tavern was held in considerably less esteem. In a remonstrance filed in opposition to the renewal of its liquor license, the Tavern was maligned as an "old log house with its dilapidated sheds." Further, the document calls it "nothing but a dissipated grogery destructive to the virtue and happiness of the neighborhood." Faced with such antagonism in the community, innkeeper Joseph Himes' attempts thereafter to regain the lost license were to no avail. Long a landmark on the Pottstown Pike at its intersection with King Road, the Indian King was torn down c. 1930.

### **Wheat Sheaf**

Within one year of the Lancaster Turnpike's completion, John Jones took out a petition for an inn on his property between the 24th and 25th milestones. First called the Wheat Sheaf, then the Sheaf of Wheat, and, for its two final years, the West Whiteland Inn, it was rented to various tavern keepers and licensed annually until 1839. The Sheaf of Wheat was described in 1836 as a "2 story tavern house with 3 rooms on a floor, a kitchen adjoining...a new open shed." It no longer stands.

### **The Ship**

The Wheat Sheaf's monopoly position on the Turnpike ended in 1796 with the appearance of John Bowen's magnificent new tavern, The Ship **(311)**. An experienced innkeeper, Bowen previously had operated the Boot Tavern in West Goshen between 1778 and 1792. The Ship was larger and finer in appearance than other inns in the Township or, indeed, along the Turnpike. With its impressive 6-bay facade, well-appointed interior, large stone barn and stable, horse sheds, and smoke, bath and ice houses, the stand rightfully was considered "one of the most valuable between Lancaster and Philadelphia." Following John Bowen's death in 1815, the business was run by his son, Holland, who hosted a lavish Birth Night Ball, honoring George Washington, on Feb. 22, 1821. The Ship served as the regular meeting place of the Lafayette Rangers, a local militia, as well as the Old Hickory Club, which "militantly supported" Andrew Jackson's candidacy for President in 1832. It was purchased by Levi Evans in 1826, and leased by him to various tavern keepers until his death in 1837. Evans' wife, Susanna (widow of John Bowen, Jr.) then ran The Ship until 1854, when it lost its license.

It would be nearly 100 years before the Ship again would serve weary travelers along the Turnpike.

### Sign of the Trooper

Little is known about the Sign of the Trooper. It was opened just east of the 27th milestone of the Turnpike by Joseph Harvnot, but served as a tavern only from 1803-1808. Sign of the Trooper was located on the northwest corner of Whitford Road and Route 30. J. Preston Thomas later selected this site to build his home, Lindenwood.

### Grove Tavern

In 1808, Isaac Few, a hatter, opened a tavern in his log house at Grove. Thus began a 63-year period in which the Grove Tavern **(150.08)** and nearby Methodist Church coexisted with little incident. For example, its owner from 1836-1863, Conard Shearer, was "scrupulously careful" in running the business and was in the "habit of closing his bar even on weekday" when church events were underway.

Mary Shade was easily Grove Tavern's most colorful and popular innkeeper. According to an 1873 newspaper article, "Mam(m)y," as she was called, was an eccentric hostess, known far and wide for her sleighing parties and other "pleasurable occasions." During her tenure (1816-1826), the stone end of the tavern was constructed.

Not in position to attract the fashionable turnpike trade, Grove Tavern accommodated teamsters and travelers of a more common sort.

The old stand was acquired in 1872, by George Hoffman, whose intent was to convert the Inn into a residence. It was he who demolished the east end of the building, which contained the bar room.



*Grove Tavern (150.08)*

### West Whiteland Inn

An old farmhouse on the John Roberts property was adapted to serve as the West Whiteland Inn in 1827 **(226)**. It was located between milestones 27 and 28 of the Turnpike. Denied a license on his first petition in 1826, Roberts and, his tenant, Joseph

Hall, petitioned again the following year; the house by then was "lately much enlarged," and this time they were successful. Hall ran the West Whiteland Inn until 1834; he was succeeded by Jacob Fisher, who stayed but two years. Upon his departure, Fisher expropriated the name of the inn to his next place of employment, the (former) Sheaf of Wheat, thereby creating considerable confusion to future historians regarding the whereabouts of the "real" West Whiteland Inn.



*The West Whiteland Inn (226) (Commonwealth 2021).*

### **Oakland Hotel**

Oakland Hotel (**132**) was constructed in 1833 by Riter Boyer in anticipation of the Columbia Railroad's arrival in West Whiteland. Demolished in 1980, it is remembered as a handsome stone building of late Federal styling. Although they attempted repeatedly to dispose of the property, the Boyers continued to run the hotel for 33 years. It finally was acquired in 1866 by Harry E. Gray, a Civil War colonel recently returned to West Chester. Gray was a man of high moral character, and he removed the Hotel's bar altogether after "local option" went into effect. In its stead, he established a "neat reception place." Gray conducted his business by the strictest temperance rules, including the restriction of tobacco and cigars. No artificial fluid for refreshment whatever, but excellent pure water...

Even a decade after closing his business, the Colonel held strong feelings on liquor licenses. When asked in 1893 whether it was worthwhile to apply for one, he replied, "Never, not in a country place. There is always alot of skunks hunting and watching around to keep you in trouble. It is a mean business." The Hotel closed operation c.1884.



*Oakland Hotel (132)*

### **Exton Hotel**

The Exton Hotel (**309**), the last of the "old" inns or hotels to be opened in West Whiteland, was built in the summer of 1859 by John M. Beale. Located at the intersection of the Chester Valley Railroad and Lancaster Turnpike, it seemed ideally situated for a house of public accommodation. And the facility, a new, three-story stone building with basement kitchen and dumbwaiter, could not be faulted. By 1863, Beale was also the postmaster and ticket agent for the railroad. In spite of these auspicious qualities, however, the Hotel encountered one serious obstacle-- its repeated petitions for a liquor license met stormy opposition from the local citizenry.

Beale's first petition was filed in 1859 for an eating house, the Ship Station, and it was approved easily. His subsequent attempts to obtain a liquor license were less successful. A remonstrance filed in 1863 against the granting of the license reiterated the citizens' understanding that the Hotel was erected specifically as "a first-class eating and boarding house," as opposed to a place in which to sell "intoxicating liquors." The residents' real objection, even fear, was the Hotel's clientele. Apparently, two women "of notoriously ill repute" had resided on the premises during that year, thereby allegedly opening up "one of the avenues by which...young men are led to destruction." The rebuttal by one of those women to such an accusation by a leading matron is recorded in 1874 court testimony:

*"If you think so madam you are very ignorant of the rules that govern fashionable society...the women of the Valley deserved no credit for being virtuous as they never went out of the smoke of their own chimneys."*

Exton Hotel eventually settled into a comfortable role as a summer boarding house. Liquor finally did make its appearance, although not quite as John Beale might have envisioned. During Prohibition, the Hotel was notorious among

local residents, and favored by some, for its well- stocked supply of the bootleg variety.



*Exton Hotel (309) (Commonwealth 2020).*

## GENERAL STORES

The Township was served by a number of general stores in the mid-19th century. Prior to the erection of separate "store houses," goods were sold directly from residences or places of production, such as mills. Richard Thomas, for example, is listed as a storekeeper in the 1796 Tax List, although no store is shown; rather, he owned a mill, tailor shop, and other miscellaneous buildings. Similarly, although John Jacobs' occupation in 1800 is indicated as shopkeeper, it is unlikely he ever had a store distinct from his farm residence.

Indications are that William Everhart was the first individual to erect a store house in the Township. Fresh from mercantile experience in Tredyffrin and Pughtown, Everhart settled near the Boot Tavern in 1811. By 1814, he had built a brick house **(046)**. As he is listed in the tax rolls that year as a storekeeper, it may be assumed he ran a store from his residence. In 1817, however, Everhart advertised a "new cloth store" opposite his former stand, measuring 75x26 feet. Here, a wide assortment of items was stocked, including British cloth goods, Irish linens, gingham, calicoes, silks, and Indian muslins. Everhart's store also carried queensware, hardware, and "Ladies Fur Hats." By 1825, his inventory had been expanded to include groceries, wines and spirits, drugs and medicines, and "Live Feathers."



*William Everhart's brick store house (046) (Commonwealth 2021).*

While living at the Boot, Everhart sailed for Ireland in a packet ship, the Albion, presumably on a buying trip. The Albion wrecked off the coast of Ireland on April 22, 1822; Everhart was the sole surviving passenger. This sobering experience seems to have inspired him to greater achievement. Upon his return to West Whiteland Everhart purchased land in West Chester which he subdivided and sold as building lots (thereby amassing a considerable fortune). In addition, he erected a second store in the Borough, and moved there in 1824. He was elected to the 33rd U.S. Congress in 1852.

Despite his West Chester residency, and his real estate and business interests there, Everhart retained his property in West Whiteland, renting it to various storekeepers. Among his merchant tenants at the Boot Store were George Norris (1825), Benjamin Johnson (1836), and William Strickland (1857).

Other long-established general stores in the Township were located at Exton, where one proprietor, Mary A. Ryan, kept store **(034)** for 39 years, and Grove **(150.05)**.



*Mary Anne Ryan's General Store and Exton Post Office (034) c. 1925.*

The Belvidere Store, which until 1950 stood at the southwest corner of Whitford Road and Lancaster Turnpike, seems to have opened in the 1830's. Over the years, it was rented to many storekeepers, with fortunes periodically rising and falling. In 1843, Thomas C. McLoud, a Philadelphian, took over the business and aggressively promoted it as a country store "furnishing goods at city prices." Under Jerome John's management in the 1850's, the Belvidere Store offered "READY-MADE CLOTHES" in addition to its traditional stock of cloth goods. In 1866, Stephen Lockart took over the store, which had not been open for several years, and changed its name to Oakland Store. Known by the 1880's and 1890's as the Whitford Store, it thrived under William Wells during that period. Leroy Campbell served as storekeeper and postmaster from 1910--1941. He recalls that the local children were especially fond of his penny candies.

The store's demise, in 1950, was described in a local newspaper:

*"Last week the wheel of progress turned again and crushed the Whitford Store, familiar to many generations of Valley residents, to make way for a wider, speedier Lancaster Pike."*



*Whitford or Belvidere General Store c. 1885.*

## THE BOUNTIFUL GREAT VALLEY: INDUSTRY

Within West Whiteland's predominantly agricultural economy, a variety of small, local industries flourished. These, even more than the Township's farms, were dependent on the Chester Valley's abundant natural riches and available sources of energy. The proximity of the Turnpike and major railroads enabled local industry to profit handsomely from trade with distant markets. Until the early 20th century, the Township's major industries were quarrying, lime burning, mining, and milling. There were, as well, the traditional cottage industries including blacksmiths, wheelwrights, shoemakers, hatters, and coopers which located chiefly in villages and hamlets.

### MARBLE QUARRIES

1833 was a year of mounting excitement and anticipation at Oakland. Not only was the Columbia Railroad nearing completion and the new Oakland Hotel **(132)** ready to receive travelers, but also extensive deposits of marble were discovered on the Boyer and Thomas properties. Of the two veins found on George Boyer's land, the smaller was, according to an eyewitness in 1833, "of whiter marble than I have ever before seen, probably as white as any in the world." The Oakland Marble Quarries (northwest of 114), as the Boyer deposits came to be known, were worked until the 1880's by a number of individuals and concerns, with the most extended operation that of Shoemaker and Robinson. One of the quarry's workers' houses remains standing **(114)**.



*Oaklands Quarry Workers' House **(114)**, built 1833.*

Some credit for opening the Thomas Marble Quarry **(103)** in 1833 was given to the construction of the Columbia Railroad, as the marble "without it, might have lain dormant for centuries." There were two veins of marble at the Thomas property, ranging in color from dark blue/black to a pale bluish white. The deposit reportedly was comparable in quality to Italian statuary marble. By July of 1833, the quarry,

operated by Jacobs and Cornog, was under contract to furnish marble for the building of Girard College in Philadelphia.

Designed by Thomas U. Walter, architect of the U.S. Capitol dome, and renowned for its Classicism and its "snowy whiteness and magnificent marble columns," Girard College was regarded in 1855 by some as "the grandest building in America." Residents of Oakland felt justifiable pride in their suddenly famous marble. In addition to Girard College, Thomas Quarry marble was used in several other Philadelphia buildings and, in West Chester, the Bank of Chester County (1836-1837), now Southeast National Bank. For this latter project, designed also by Walter, the marble was shipped by horse-drawn carts along a spur from the West Chester Railroad.

Upon completion of Girard College in 1844, and owing to the "difficulty and cost of sizing the blocks" and getting them to market, the Thomas Marble Quarry ceased operations. It lay dormant until 1867; at which time it reopened under steam power and connected by spur to the Chester Valley Railroad. In 1870, it was reported that \$75,000 was invested in this operation, which employed 25 men. By this time, both the light and dark blue marble were quarried; the latter was prized for its appropriateness in Gothic-style country homes and churches. Barbara Burdick, granddaughter of Charles T. Thomas, recalls being told that the marble quarries were closed when, because of underlying springs they became too wet to operate profitably. All the quarrying machinery apparently was left at the bottom of the 80-90-foot-deep pit, and water was allowed to cover it. The old quarry was resurrected once more, in the early 1900's, this time as a Thomas family swimming hole known (because of its great depth) as the "Blue Hole." It continued in this use until c. 1970.



*Office and Quarry Master's House (103.03) for Thomas Marble Quarry (Commonwealth 2021).*

## LIMESTONE QUARRIES

While marble was the Township's pride, limestone was its bread and butter. The Chester Valley was well endowed with limestone which was quarried for building stone or burned to produce lime for use in mortar and whitewash and as a soil supplement. Limestone quarries of all sizes were opened in the Township; one continues to be worked to this day by Exton Materials. Although usually associated with quarries, kilns were constructed on farms large and small throughout the Valley. Some were used solely by the farmer and adjoining landowners; by 1840, others were being leased to quarrymen for commercial exploitation. Several small stone houses occupied originally by quarry workers remain in the Township, close to the sites of old quarries and kilns (**103.01, 103.02, 114.01, 123.01**). Most of the kilns themselves, low structures banked into the earth, were abandoned by 1890 and left few perceptible traces.



*Wee Grimmet (123) constructed c. 1820 as a worker's cottage for a local quarrying and limekiln operation (Commonwealth 2021).*

A description of lime kiln construction on the Downing farm (**120**) was published in 1861. The typical kiln at that time was stone, oval in shape, 18 feet high and tapered, being 16 feet in diameter at the bottom and 12 feet at the top. It was banked into a hill on three sides. The flue at the bottom measured approximately 2 feet (wide) by 1 foot (high). For lime burning, the kiln was stocked with kindling wood which then was covered with a grating, and upon that were heaped alternate layers of coal and limestone. Burning took four days and required ten and one-half tons of coal. At its completion, this process rewarded the lime burner with 1,400 bushels of lime at the cost of a mere 4 cents per bushel.

Two of West Whiteland's most prosperous commercial lime burners were Kersey Shoemaker and James Robinson, whose compatibility as partners was seemingly undiminished by their status as brothers-in-law. Shoemaker and Robinson

purchased kilns at Oakland (near 114) in 1866. Aided by a warehouse, market cars on the Pennsylvania Railroad, and a sideline in coal, the concern prospered. Kersey Shoemaker erected a fine stone house with a green serpentine stone facade at Oakland c. 1880 **(115)**. It later was purchased by Dr. Joseph Price, a prominent Philadelphia surgeon. The railroad carried their products to distant markets, but for local hauling, Kersey and Robinson used eight mule teams, making a colorful sight in the West Chester area.

According to an Industrial Census taken between 1850 and 1880, lime production peaked in the 1860's. The number of commercially-operated kilns rose from 4 in 1850 to 15 in 1860. A total of 17 "hands" were employed at the 5 companies then in business. Annual output reached 121,000 bushels, nearly three times the 1850 total. The industry was in decline as early as 1870 and by about 1890, appears to have ceased operation altogether.

## **MINES**

The mineral riches of the Great Valley were not limited to marble and limestone. For a time, mining of the Township's iron ore deposits provided employment for nearly 70 persons. Four iron ore mines were in operation by 1860. The largest, Hitner and Brothers, produced an average of 5,000 tons per year between 1860 and 1880. The influx, during this period, of Irish and Italian immigrant labor enabled the iron mining industry to prosper, albeit briefly. The deposits, not of great depth, soon were exhausted. When production ceased, the Hitner mine filled with water. Known today as Iron Lake (1/4 mile southwest of 032), it was a popular swimming and picnic spot for West Whiteland residents in the mid-1900's.

"Mining" of a different nature was initiated in 1879 by James Peck. In that year, he opened a sand or silica quarry **(216)** on his Shoen Road property to remove sand for use in smelting furnaces. The deposit reportedly was "one of the finest in the State." The next year, over the opposition of his neighbors, Peck convinced the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company to build a siding from the Chester Valley Railroad to the quarry, over which he could haul the sand and firebricks he manufactured.

The company was incorporated in 1899 as the James D. Peck Fire Sand Company for the purposes of digging, quarrying, and mining sand, sandstone, and clay and manufacturing fire sand, brick, and fire brick. In that year, daily shipments averaged 20 tons. The company was sold in 1900 to "New York capitalists" who renamed it the West White-land Silica Company. The Chase/Malvern Savings Bank **(302)** was purchased in 1905 for use as headquarters for the company, which operated for a time at full capacity while allegedly "perfecting a secret process for smelting." The West Whiteland Silica Company closed in 1919.

## **MILLS**

Mills, the mainstays of West Whiteland's agricultural economy were located chiefly along Valley Creek and its tributaries. The oldest extant mill in the Township (and one of the oldest in the County) was built by Richard Thomas (II) in 1744 **(107)**.

Remarkably, it stayed in the Thomas family through the 1980s. Using a building technique rare to Chester County and the United States, the stone and frame Thomas Mill with riven shingle siding is little altered from the original; most of the mill machinery, still intact despite long disuse, dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Over the years, the Thomas Mill used waterpower to process corn, wheat, oats, and "plaister paris," and to power a sawmill. When finally it ceased commercial operations in 1935, it was functioning as a cider press.

There were two milling centers on the Valley Creek near Oakland by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Little evidence remains of either. One was a clover and sawmill operated by Hunt Downing c. 1820. Further east, a grist mill **(113)** was constructed in 1817 by Joseph Hance. The property was purchased in 1832 by George Hoopes, in whose family it remained for 54 years. Employing two men, the gristmill's average annual output of ground wheat, rye, corn, and oats generally exceeded all others in the Township. Plagued by insufficient water, it was fitted for steam power in 1881, although the water-powered turbine remained operational. Sold to J. Preston Thomas in 1886, the mill was struck by lightning and burned to the ground four years later.



*Thomas Mill (107). John D. Thomas, the last miller, holds a bag of flour. Photograph c. 1930 from John and Fran Hagee.*

The picturesque Trimble Mill **(214)** still stands alongside Pottstown Pike. The Trimbles, after intermarrying with the Thomas family, acquired land in the Township in 1757 and had established a sawmill and grist mill by 1790. The grist mill, under William J. Trimble, tripled its output between 1850-1860, but by 1880 had ceased operation. The Trimble Mill was sold in 1889 to Henry C. Forrest of Philadelphia, who had it converted to a carriage house and stable for his hunting horses. Two years later, Forrest sold to Charles Porter, a Philadelphian also, who quarried flintstone on the property in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It remained in the Porter family until 1946.



*Trimble Mill (214).*

With nary a sawmill standing today in West Whiteland, it may seem surprising that, in 1798, they outnumbered grist mills by three to one. One explanation for the disappearance lies in their construction, which usually was of temporary, non-sturdy materials. This was done so that the machinery could be moved to different locations as the need (and supply of wood) dictated.

Grist mills almost always were associated with a nearby sawmill; conversely, however, several sawmills in West Whiteland stood alone. This was true of the Newlin Saw Mill (west of 172), which once stood in a remote part of the Township's "Barren Ridges." Constructed in the early 19th century, it was described in 1858 as a "frame sawmill with stone foundations, driven by an 18' overshoot wheel with 5-foot face, iron segments on face of wheel gearing into pinion, (with) stone dam breast." The sawmill and its Miller's House **(172)** were owned between 1876 and 1895 by William Speakman, a carpenter residing in Grove **(150)**.

## COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

Blacksmiths and wheelwrights tended to congregate in the Township's small villages, such as Grove (**150**), Oakland (**128, 130, 132**) and Exton (**308**). They were modest but steady trades, never employing more than two helpers, and frequently were practiced by father and son. In an average year, a wheelwright might produce between 6 and 9 wagons in addition to other work. Shoemaking was a similarly vital cottage industry throughout most of the 19th century; each shoemaker made as many as 200 pairs of boots and/or shoes annually. The number of persons listed as shoemakers in the 1850 Census stood at 10, a total exceeded only by farmers (of which there were 144) and laborers (of where there were 72) as the highest concentration of individuals in a single occupation.



*House at Whitford Station (130). An early 19<sup>th</sup> century tradesman's house in Oakland (Commonwealth 2021).*

Two of the more unusual cottage industries once operated in West Whiteland were clockmaking and pottery manufacture. As it happened, both involved outstanding Chester County craftsmen. Eli Bentley, a clockmaker and silversmith, practiced his trade in West Whiteland between 1775 and 1778, moving then to Maryland. While in the Township, Bentley occupied a small property (**325**) alongside the Old Lancaster Road, not far from the Red Lion Tavern operated by his father, Joseph. Eli Bentley's clocks (11 of those made in Chester County survive) are admired for their pleasing proportions and fanciful decoration. One of these clocks, made in West Whiteland, currently resides in the Chester County Historical Society. Dr. Arthur E. James, author of *Chester County Clocks and Their Makers*, concludes that "a Baptist background made it possible for Eli to add artistic embellishments while his contemporary Quaker competitors in Chester County did not have this freedom."

Another clockmaker, David Williams (alias "Mahedegow Clockmaker"), worked in the Township between 1778 and 1796.

John Vickers, best known for his pottery operation at Lionville (now Vicker's Tavern) and his role as Chester County's primary agent on the northern route of the Underground Railroad, operated a pottery (near 215) in West Whiteland between 1814 and 1822. During that time, he was active in the Abolitionist movement and, in 1818, reportedly hid two fugitive slaves in the attic over the garret of his house on Shoen Road. His nearest neighbor, William Trimble, also was a well-known Abolitionist who, on occasion, accommodated overflow from the regular stations. According to the U.S. Census Record of 1820, Vickers employed one man and one boy, had two wheels in operation five months of the year, and produced \$500 worth of common earthen-ware and water pipes. Sales at the West Whiteland shop were on the decline by 1822 and, perhaps for this reason, Vickers disposed of the property and relocated to Lionville, where he established the highly successful Vickers Pottery.

From the few records that have been found, it appears that distilling was a popular cottage industry toward the end of the 18th century. Home distillers such as John Newlin (1792-1793), Joseph Wollerton (1793-1795), and Jacob Souders and George Lap (1794-1795) sold their "spiritous lickers" to storekeepers and innkeepers. Not until 1798 is there mention of a "distillery," per se. In that year, Joseph Konnagee erected a 20'x22' distillery, completing it even before his own house **(040)** on the site was finished. Massey's tanyard, which occupied both sides of the Lancaster Turnpike in Exton until the 1840's, was the most expansive of the Township's cottage industries. Founded c.1778 by Isaac Jacobs, the tanyard was sold in 1789 to saddlers Levi and Isaac Massey, from whom George Massey purchased it two years later. Under his control, and thanks to its prime Turnpike location, the business thrived. By 1798, it was one of but five in the County. The Direct Tax of that year lists the following tannery buildings:

*"1 currying shop, 1 bram house, 1 stone handling shed (midling repr), 1 mill house and bark shed (bd repr)"*

George Massey enlarged the old log and stone dwelling on the property to its current appearance between 1810 and 1820. A revered local landmark, Sleepy Hollow Hall **(303)** was rumored to have hidden runaway slaves.



*Sleepy Hollow Hall (303). Home of George Massey, tanner and prominent Quaker (1791-1848) (Commonwealth 2021).*

## FRIENDS AND WORSHIPERS

### THE QUAKERS

As with many of Chester County's oldest communities, West Whiteland was founded by the Society of Friends. Unlike most of its neighbors, however, the Township did not develop an enduring Quaker community. Instead, the religious institutions which became well-established represented the Episcopal, Methodist, and Catholic faiths.

One fact contributing to the Quaker community's decline from prominence was the absence of a meetinghouse in the Township. The central location of West Whiteland in a solidly Quaker area allowed Friends to choose among a number of nearby Meetings, including Goshen, Uwchlan, Downingtown and, later, Whiteland. The only known Meeting to be held in West Whiteland was temporary, occurring in 1777 when the Uwchlan Meetinghouse in Lionville was in use as a hospital for continental soldiers. During this brief time, George Thomas' Oaklands (**207**) served instead as the meeting place. This lack of a regular Meetinghouse and the proximity of other Quaker Meetings led to a fragmentation of West Whiteland's Friends and a gradual loss of Quaker influence in the Community.

The unity of the Quaker community was further weakened by its members' disparate responses to the Revolutionary War. Richard Thomas (III)'s role as a Colonel under General Washington was directly at odds with Quaker pacifist beliefs. Ironically, despite his celebrated personification of the "Fighting Quaker," Thomas joined the Episcopal Church at the War's end. Richard's brother, George, overseer of the family holdings during the War, remained a member in good standing of the Society of Friends.

Another old and prominent Quaker family, the Jacobs, gravitated to the Episcopal Church as a result of its war-time support of the Continental Army. One son, Benjamin, whose signature appeared on "Continental money" that helped finance the War, was "read out of" Meeting in 1777. For many Friends who grew wealthy in the colonies, the more liberal doctrine of the Anglican religion presented an attractive alternative to Quakerism. By 1828, a deep rift developed within the Society, culminating in a separation into two branches, Hicksite and Orthodox.

### ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

With the defection of some of West Whiteland's most eminent citizens from the Society of Friends and the subsequent impact of the Separation of 1828, it was not long before St. Paul's Episcopal Church (**347**) was founded in the Township. Its history is meticulously chronicled in *St. Paul's Church*, by Landis R. Heller.

St. Paul's lineage, like that of its early members, was impressive. With the support of Rev. Brinckle, Rector of Old St. David's and of St. Peter's in the Great Valley, a congregation was organized in West Whiteland in 1827-1828. By May 1829, a church was erected alongside the Lancaster Turnpike. It was consecrated by Bishop White, founder of the Episcopal Church in the United States and a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

St. Paul's prospered throughout the 19th century. The church was remodeled

in the Gothic style in 1870. A rectory was built in 1884 and a parish house in 1912. The church supported the establishment of the Church Farm School **(025)** in 1918 on an adjacent tract, with its rector, Dr. Charles Shreiner later serving simultaneously as the school's headmaster for 27 years. Pupils from Church Farm School attended services at St. Paul's until 1963. Its regular congregation included members of the Valley's long-established families and, by the turn of the century, wealthy Philadelphians who took up residence in West Whiteland.



*St. Paul's Church (347) c. 1900. Horse sheds on the left were replaced by a Parish house in 1912. Note the dirt packed Route 30. Courtesy of St. Paul's Church.*

## **GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

A strong Methodist community developed in the southern portion of the Township toward the end of the 18th century. Its nucleus was the Grove Methodist Church, the oldest Methodist congregation in Chester County. A thorough history of this church is recounted in Robert Brook's *Grove United Methodist Church 1773-1973*, from which the following information was obtained.

Known first as the Valley and then the Goshen Meeting, and finally the Grove Church, the congregation was formed in 1773. Its most prominent member was George Hoffman, a German immigrant who purchased land in West Whiteland in 1772. He has been called Chester County's first Methodist. Assembling in various members' homes during its first year, and thereafter in a log schoolhouse at Grove, the congregation erected a meetinghouse in 1783 on land provided by George and Elizabeth Hoffman. This building, the "Old Stone Chapel," measured 30'x40', had three doors with its entrance to the west, and featured an end gallery and tub pulpit. By 1844, this building had outlived its usefulness and a new church was erected on the site by contractor Thomas Walker (of Walkertown) for \$1,599.75. It was stone, two stories, and had its main entrance on the south side, away from Boot Road. (This feature was regarded later as a "mistake.") The Church experienced steady growth in the 19th century. In 1857, a house and lot about 1/4 mile west of Grove were purchased from

Tamer Sylvester for \$1,000.00. The house **(145)** was used as a parsonage until 1868, at which time the Church acquired a house closer to the Church from Samuel Tennis for \$2,000.00. Originally the residence of the Grove storekeeper, it was later used as a parsonage **(150.04)**. The current Church **(150.01)** was built in 1888-1889 by contractors Morgan Ruth of Malvern and R.T. Meredith of West Whiteland for \$7,000.00. Green serpentine stone used in the Gothic-styled edifice was obtained from the Brinton quarries in Westtown and hauled by teams supplied by Shoemaker and Robinson, limeburners at Oakland. An addition, the Educational Building, was dedicated on November 22, 1959.

The cemetery at the Grove Church **(150.02)**, which dates to its founding, has been enlarged several times. The roster of parishioners interred there includes members of the Hoffman, Boyer, Fisher, and White families, all early members of the congregation who resided in the Grove area.

As with St. Paul's Church in the north, the Grove Methodist Church was the focal point for the community's religious, cultural and social life. Located far enough from busy Rt. 30 to be unaffected bit, Grove village continues to be dominated by the Church and stands as the Township's only remaining example of a 19th century hamlet.



*Grove United Methodist Church (150.01).*

## **ST. MARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

In 1873, a small Catholic mission church was constructed at the corner of the Lancaster Turnpike and Ship Road on land obtained from Marie Brazier, then the owner of the Ship Inn **(311)** property. Prior to construction of the lovely chapel called St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception **(032)**, mass was said at private homes in the area. St. Mary's was an extension of St. Joseph's parish in Downingtown, as was another mission church built about the same time at Reilly's Bank in East Whiteland. A priest from St. Joseph's visited the mission churches each

Sunday to say mass, either early or late. On most occasions, he rode the Chester Valley Railroad to Ship Station, where a man with a team waited to drive him to St. Mary's for services. Disembarking the train presented something of a challenge, however, as the engineer seemed reluctant to slacken the train's speed enough for anything but a well-timed leap. When he chose to pass up that opportunity, the priest would ride to the next station, chased by the waiting wagon. The patient parishioners, meanwhile, had time for another round of gossip until "Father gets here."

With few exceptions, St. Mary's early congregation was composed of new Irish immigrants who worked at the summer homes of the wealthy, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, and in the Township's quarries and mines. To this group, recently arrived from a country devastated by an agricultural and economic depression, St. Mary's became the foundation of a new life.

In 1915 both St. Mary's and the church at Reilly's Banks joined with the parish of St. Patrick's in Malvern as mission churches. Not until 1959 did a regular Catholic Church, Saints Peter and James, become established in the Township. St. Mary's is much beloved by the congregation in its current use as a weekday chapel.



*St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception (032).*

## LEARNING: A SOUND MIND

### SUBSCRIPTION SCHOOLS

Outside the home, where most learning occurred, West Whiteland's earliest educational facilities were subscription schools, where a small tuition was charged to support the individual school's operation. The opportunity for a free education was extended to "poor children" by an Act of the Commonwealth on April 4, 1809. Beginning the following year and continuing until 1841, West Whiteland submitted annual returns of the names of children whose parents could not afford tuition. These children then were assigned to the Township's various subscription schools. The list of 1810 included 20 such children; by 1841, that number had grown to 43.

None of the early subscription schools appears to have survived, and information concerning them is scant. The recollections of a former student were published in a local newspaper in 1891 and provide some insight into the appearance and operation of one such school. This particular school was located on the original Richard Thomas (I) tract near the Exton crossroads, a property now called Indian Run Farm **(100)**. Richard Thomas (III) called it the "Little Woods School House" and included it on an 1826 sketch of his property. The former student recalls:

*"... it was a log building and a very primitive looking structure. It was a square one-story structure, with a pyramidal roof having eaves on every side and the apex of the roof exactly in the centre. There were five windows. A small one was on either side of the door in front. These had sash which moved up and down in the ordinary manner. In each of the other sides of the building there was one large window the sash of which slid longitudinally past each other. The desks were arranged around the walls and the benches were made of slabs turned upside down with holes bored in them to admit the feet. An old ten-plate stove stood in the centre of the room and supplied the heat. The school was what was known as a subscription school, and the tuition cost \$2.50 to \$3.00 per quarter for each pupil. "*

#### NOT WEATHER- PROOF

*The floor was open; great gapping seams appeared where the boards in the floor had shrunk up so that a pencil that fell from a pupil's hand was almost sure to go through a crack. When it snowed the drifting flakes came through the roof and fell in fine particles over the inmates. Yet year after year it was maintained as the neighborhood school ..."*

Even before the Township's adoption of the common school system in 1841, West Whiteland was fairly well endowed with one-room schoolhouses. As early as 1796, there was a "stone school house for public use" on the John Jacobs property in the northeast quadrant of the Township. A log house, very near the East Bradford/West Whiteland boundary and known as the Wollerton School, is mentioned in road docketts dated 1819. By 1783, there was a log school at Grove which doubled briefly as a Methodist

meetinghouse until the "Old Stone Chapel" was built there in 1784. According to early maps and road docket, there was a log school on North Whitford Road near its junction with the Old Lancaster Road.

## **PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Following the Township's adoption of the common school law in 1841 in accordance with state legislation passed in 1836, existing subscription schools gradually were assimilated into a free school system. Four schools were operated, each serving a quadrant of the Township. The one-room school taught the first through eighth grades. Students desiring additional education could attend schools in West Chester.

### **Greenwood School (Southeast)**

One of the first actions taken by West Whiteland's Directors of the Common Schools was the purchase of a half-acre plot from William Everhart in 1844. Here, at the intersection of Ship and King Road, a school known as Greenwood was erected shortly thereafter. It was demolished and replaced on the same site with another building in 1872 **(047)**. Although serving as a residence since 1941, the Greenwood School is virtually unaltered from the 1872 rebuilding.



*The Greenwood School (047), constructed in 1872 (Commonwealth 2021).*

### Northside and Whitford Schools (Northwest)

The Northside or Fairview School (**212**) was constructed c.1865 on land obtained from George Thomas, no doubt replacing the earlier school on North Whitford Road. It was abandoned in 1895 for a new Whitford School, at which time the property reverted to the Thomas family. Ground for the Whitford School (**209**) also was located on the Thomas tract. It was erected by F. F. Brown, a local contractor, for \$2,225. The Whitford School was considered unusual at that time for its central heating system and "manual training room" where the students were instructed in sewing and other domestic skills.

According to a newspaper clipping dated 1893, "plain sewing (was) taught in all the public schools in (the) township" and was thought to be "the only work of the kind done in the public school in the United States."



*Whitford School (209). Most modern of the one room school houses. Photograph c. 1949.*

### Grove School (Southwest)

The village of Grove first supported a school in the late 18th century. The old log school stood on the south side of Boot Road, just west of the present church. It was noted in 1856 that there were two schools at Grove, "the scholars being divided by merit." In that year, Riter Boyer, a local landowner and school director, had provided one acre for the "establishment and support of a common school." Fourteen years later, c. 1870, the Grove School (**150.03**) was built on land obtained from Pearce Oakes.

### The Ship Schools (Northeast)

What is possibly the Township's earliest common school is found on Ship Road. Now a private home (**312**) it has been altered greatly from the original one-room, one-story plan. The building and lot were deeded to the School Directors in 1856 by Thomas H. B. Jacobs, owner of nearby Summit Hall (**031**). Within seven years, another lot was provided by the Jacobs family for the erection of a new building, the "second" Ship

School **(342)**. Bids were opened for this school, also one room, in 1864. A second story was added by Frank F. Brown in 1906. For many years it was the largest school in the Township. This building later served as a convent for Saints Peter and James Parish.

Each of the Township's neighborhood or common schools played a central role in local community life. Maude Green Haldeman, long-time Secretary of the Greenwood Home and School League, recalled that, well into the 1930's, parents and friends of the students would hold fundraising socials to provide their school with books, chairs, and hot lunches for the children. The schools also hosted local entertainments, frequently on weekends, consisting of songs, recitations, and readings. Further, they provided a meeting place for local groups and clubs, such as the lyceums or literary societies which became popular in the 1880's and 1890's. In the winter months, the schools were a magnet for sleighing parties provided by local farmers who seemed only too glad to hitch up their horses and sleighs and take the children for long rambles about the countryside and into West Chester. One snowy day in 1884, 15 sleighs were pressed into service for transporting the entire Ship School to Grove School "for the purpose of settling the question as to which school was entitled to the championship for spelling ..."

### **CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS**

One hundred years after its adoption of the common school system, West Whiteland took another significant stride toward improving the education of its youth. In 1941, the Consolidated School at Whiteland Crest, known as Exton School **(351)**, was completed and the "segregated rural schools" at Grove, Greenwood, Ship, and Whitford became private homes. The old one-room neighborhood schools were abandoned in favor of a new five-room school with an assembly hall and modern kitchen. An addition to the Exton School was completed in 1954 by contractor Robert White of Coatesville for \$125,000. Two more schools were added to the Township in the 1960's: the Mary C. Howse School, dedicated October 16, 1962, and North Junior High School, dedicated November 12, 1963.

The adoption of the common school system in 1841, culminating in the consolidation of 1941, did not signify the end of private education in the Township. A school for Thomas children, their relatives, and neighbors was conducted over a spring house on the Oaklands Tenant Farm **(110)** in the 1890's; it moved, in about 1900, to a refurbished gatehouse on the Oaklands mansion house lot **(207)**.

"Miss Ann Cresson's Boarding School" operated in the 1870's in a house **(052)** near Kirkland along the West Chester branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. And, while education in West Whiteland generally progressed along traditional lines, a school was formed in the Township in 1918 that was unique in the Lower Delaware Valley.



*Anne Cresson's Boarding School for Girls (052) (Commonwealth 2021).*

## CHURCH FARM SCHOOL

The Church Farm School (**025**) was founded in 1918 by Dr. Charles W. Shreiner, rector of the Church of the Atonement in West Philadelphia. Dr. Shreiner, the product of a broken home, had experienced the devastating effects of a fatherless household. He dreamed of establishing a boarding school in a rural setting for boys aged 12-18 "who had not the proper home influence." He believed that, to build character and prepare young men for successful, productive lives, the traditional secondary school curriculum needed a healthy emphasis on the work ethic and Christian principles. Combined with its wholesome, rural environment, the program at Church Farm School has proven effective in achieving his desired results.



*Tack House where Church Farm School began in 1918. Courtesy of Dr. Charles W. Shreiner, Jr.*

Through Lardener Howell, head of the real estate department at Girard Bank (and, coincidentally, a resident of Whitford), a site for the school was selected in West Whiteland. One of the attractions of the site was its proximity to St. Paul's Episcopal Church (**347**), the Lincoln Highway, and Glen Loch Station (**023**). School began for 15 students in 1918 in an old tack house on the former George C. Thomas farm. From this modest start in an outbuilding on a 125-acre farm, Church Farm School acquired approximately 1,100 acres between 1947 and 1953. Students, in addition to attending classes, were required to work the school's agricultural fields and tend to its livestock.

Church Farm School put an early emphasis on student health and well-being, and its facilities were praised for their sensitive design. In recognition of the student's need for privacy within a group environment, small cottages or dormitories with private cubicles for sleeping and studying were built in clusters around a central green.



*Chapel of the Atonement (025.07) at the Church Farm School (Commonwealth 2021).*

The school was affiliated with St. Paul's Episcopal Church and, in fact, shared Dr. Shreiner as rector and headmaster for a total of 27 years beginning in 1926. The school's religious orientation is reflected in the cruciform plan of the original campus, laid out in 1918. In that year, through church contacts, Dr. Shreiner sought out one of the best architects of the day to design a master plan for the new school. Dr. Shreiner hoped thereby to avoid "haphazard growth" and, more importantly, to stimulate contributions for urgently needed facilities. The architect chosen, Milton Medary, of the firm Zantzing, Borie & Medary, was well known in Episcopal circles and had worked in West Whiteland for one of the school's early patrons, Clarence Sears Kates. While taking better than a decade to complete, the main campus of the Church Farm School was built in conformity with the 1918 master plan.

Two cottages were the first structures erected. Detailed drawings of the Headmaster's House (025.04) were prepared in 1919. By 1923, Greystock Hall (025.01), the teaching and administrative enter, was completed. A chapel, the Chapel of the Atonement (025.07), materialized between 1927-1928. It was enlarged in 1963 by Arthur Smith, a member of the original architectural firm. An infirmary (025.10) was built about 1919. The campus is now considered an architectural landmark along the Lincoln Highway. As early as 1943 its plan was described as "inspirational", having "evoked much favorable comment from the thousands of motorists who roll along the highway."The Church Farm School remains in operation although it focuses on providing a traditional college preparatory education and no longer incorporates agricultural labor into

its curriculum. The silos **(025.06)** that remain standing on the campus are a reminder of the school's agricultural origins.



*Greystock Hall (025.01) at Church Farm School as it appeared in 1935 on a traffic-free Route 30. Courtesy of Dr. Charles W. Shreiner, Jr.*

## DEVEREUX FOUNDATION

A relative newcomer to the Township, having purchased several properties in the 1950's, the Devereux Foundation was organized in 1912 by Helena T. Devereux. Headquartered in Pennsylvania but with branches in 12 states, the foundation is recognized as a world leader in the field of residential treatment of children with intellectual and emotional handicaps. In West Whiteland, the Devereux Foundation operates residential and training centers at several historic properties along Boot Road: the Benjamin Rush House/Chesteridge **(060)**, the William Everhart House **(046)**, and, formerly, at Greenway **(156)**.



*The Benjamin Rush House/Chesteridge **(060)**. Originally built for Benjamin Rush in 1908 as a summer home. Courtesy of Devereux Foundation.*

## RYERSS INFIRMARY

The Ryerss Infirmary for Dumb Animals was a "retirement home" for aged members of the equine family. Ryerss was incorporated in 1888 when its founder, Anne Waln Ryerss, established a trust fund for an infirmary near Philadelphia. In 1956, Ryerss relocated to a 200-acre farm in West Whiteland **(044)**. To be accepted, animals must have attained the age of 18 and be in good health. Never worked or ridden while in residence, they were turned out to pasture and cared for till their deaths at no cost to their former owners. Ryerss' numerous occupants included race and show horses, jumpers, U.S. Army horses from as far away as Fort Myers, Virginia, and retired Fairmont Park police horses. The organization relocated to a property in South Coventry and Warwick Townships in 1987. The barn has been converted to a house.



Barn at Ryerss Infirmary for Dumb Animals (044).

## RECREATION:...IN A SOUND BODY

### THE WHITELANDS HUNT

In West Whiteland, as with many areas in Chester County, fox hunting was a favorite form of recreation for the landed gentry during the 19th and 20th centuries. An informal group was organized in East and West Whiteland around 1815 and remained active until the 1850's. This Hunt used "Trencher Fed" hounds, so named because they were kept at the farms of their respective owners rather than being kenneled together, and reportedly would chase a raccoon as willingly as they would a fox. Some "leading spirits" of the Hunt included Thomas H.B., Joseph, and Brinton Jacobs, Col. Richard Thomas (III), Penrose Brinton, Isaac Meredith, John Bowen, Jabez Jenkins, William Trimble, and George Massey, among others. The Hunt was reorganized briefly in 1876.

Following this period, and until the formation of the Whitelands Hunt in 1913, other clubs hunted regularly in the Township with little apparent objection from local farmers. Grove was an especially popular area in which to "drop" foxes. One of the largest hunts in the County during that era began with the release of a fox on the Grove farm of George Hoffman (**170**) in February 1888. More than 70 horsemen and 75 hounds from the West Chester and Lionville Hunts pursued the fox to its capture in Devon.

In 1913, a group led by George B. Jacobs, grandson of the first president of the original Hunt (1815), formed a new Whitelands Hunt. Its membership included descendants of long standing West Whiteland families as well as such newcomers as Richard Newlin and Wikoff Smith, recent purchasers of old farms in the Township. The Hunt erected kennels and, upon refurbishing Colebrook Farm (**229**), established its headquarters there in 1918. It was officially recognized by the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association in 1919.

The Whitelands Hunt prospered for many years in the Township, meeting three days each week during a season which extended from November 1st to April 1st. It merged with the Perkiomen Valley Hunt in 1959 and relocated its kennels to Guthriesville. Eventually, after two inactive years, the Hunt disbanded in 1973.



*Colebrook Farm (229). Converted to a Clubhouse for the Whitelands Hunt by Wickoff Smith.*

## SUNDRY DIVERSIONS

Foxhunters were, in the main, a select and wealthy breed, and the vast majority of West Whiteland residents centered their recreational activities around home and family. In winter months, sleighing parties were a favorite diversion and often served as the only means of transportation. Miss Sarah R. Thomas recalled that, as a child in the early 1900's, she flew down the treacherous hills on North Whitford Road all the way to the train station on a sled. "Oh, the sledding on those Flexible Flyers. We went so fast that the tears ran down our icy cheeks. Then home for some hot cocoa."

Neighborhood churches and schools provided additional social events outside the family. One typical church activity was the St. Mary's annual picnic, featuring a merry-go-round and pony rides for the children and a specially erected dance floor and fiddler for the adults. Everyone enjoyed the "bountiful supper."

The Township's schools doubled as headquarters for literary societies and local clubs. The Northside Literary Society met on Friday afternoons. One of its meetings, in 1890, included readings by members on such wide-ranging topics as "If I were a Bird," "Husband's Cooking," "Total Annihilation," and "Rum and Revenue."

In the 1880's, at a time when the Mummers were just getting started in Philadelphia, a number of small bands began forming throughout the Township. Each took pride in its own military-type, fancy dress uniforms, and often would serenade individual residents on special occasions. Ann Chandler, of Ivy Cottage **(205)**, fondly remembers being serenaded on her 10th birthday by a local band in which Sam Fisher **(220)** played. Martial music also was popular for Harvest Home dances in the fall. When the Morstein Fife and Drum Band entertained, every other musical selection was of a military nature.

Dances were important summer events in West Whiteland. According to Pinkowski's *Chester County Place Names*, Mamy Shade's Tavern was renamed Grove "for a nearby grove of trees which made this spot a popular dancing place in the 19th century."

In the early 1900's baseball's popularity as the national past time was clearly evident in West Whiteland. There were neighborhood teams in Grove, Whitford, Morstein, Glen Loch, and Exton, and most had their own home field.

## COUNTRY CLUBS

Prior to the successful organization of the Whitford Country Club in 1956, at least one attempt had been made to form a club in the Township which would offer "tennis, cricket, and baseball" to its members. In February of 1890, a group of prominent citizens met at Jacob Zook's house in Exton **(305)** and announced its intention to form the Chester Valley Country Club. Headquarters were to be in the old West Whiteland Inn **(226)**. Like so many schemes of the financially-troubled 1890's, plans for a grand opening on May 30th of that year failed to materialize, nor was any further progress ever made.

Some 66 years later a country club was established in the Township. Its location, in a converted barn on the old Wickoff Smith property **(234)** that was the former home of the Whitelands Hunt, is very near the site originally selected for the Chester Valley Country Club. Opened officially in 1957, the Whitford Country Club has, in addition to a restaurant, facilities for golf, swimming, and tennis. The club celebrated its Silver Anniversary in 1981.

## EPILOGUE

Beginning in the 1950's, West Whiteland's 250-year tradition as a farming community began to erode in the face of unprecedented population growth and attendant pressures to convert the land to development uses. In retrospect, this decline of the Township's agricultural economy was foretold by events of the 1880's.

While land speculation was commonplace in West Whiteland from the time of earliest settlement, it became rampant in the late 19th century, fueled by an expanding economy, improvements in transportation, and recent successes in communities close to Philadelphia. The real estate firm of Zook and Chase, headquartered at 629 Walnut Street in that city, handled a multitude of transactions in the 1880's and 1890's for local "capitalists" whose plans ranged from the construction of suburban developments modeled after Bryn Mawr to light mining and manufacturing. By 1887, this trend had become a cause for concern in the Township. Noting that, in 1886, 24 farms and properties on 1800 acres had been sold to a "syndicate of Philadelphians," a local newspaper observed, "It has rather dawned upon the minds of the residents of West Whiteland that the land of that Township is fast disappearing from the heirs of its original owners and passing into the hands of strangers." The speculative bubble, its expansion seemingly unlimited, burst in the financial panic of 1893, and the Township was spared, for a time, the shock waves of change.

In the ensuing decades West Whiteland's population gradually declined. From a high of 1345 in 1880, it decreased to 859 in 1920, reflecting a closing of many of the Township's small industries and the departure of farm workers to the cities. The population remained stable until the 1950's when, in the wake of the post-war baby boom, it literally skyrocketed due to the development of residential subdivisions like Whiteland Crest **(352)** Meadowbrook Manor **(353)**, Sunset Grove **(354)**.

The tripling of population between 1950 and 1960 led to strong demands for improved Township services. The West Whiteland Fire Company formed in 1953. Two years later, it constructed a headquarters along Route 30; in 1976, a new building was dedicated in Whiteland Crest. In 1965, the Fire Police organized under the early leadership of George Willenbrock. Part-time police coverage was instituted in 1964, as five members of the fire police were sworn in for regular Township police duty under Chief Joe Flynn; as a result of the opening of Exton Square Mall in 1973, which put increased demands on the police department, coverage expanded to full-time in January of 1974, under Chief Robert Bitter. In 1981, a new Chester County Library was constructed adjacent to the Mall.

Development in West Whiteland Township has continued since the 1980s, fueled by the Township's position at the crossroads of Lincoln Highway and Route 100. The construction of the Route 30 bypass in the 1990s further accelerated this development and spurred the construction of additional residential subdivisions and

large shopping centers. The West Whiteland Historical Commission continues to work with the public to find new and creative solutions to development that also preserve the Township's historic character. Redevelopment of the Indian Run Farm as a commercial property **(100)** and Lochiel Farm **(341)** as a residential subdivision are two of the many examples of these endeavors.

Few municipalities in Chester County have experienced the evolution of development that has characterized West Whiteland. From a predominantly agricultural community, peopled in 1790 by 90 families, the Township has become a focal point of County growth, its 2020 population nearing 20,000. While this transformation has taken its inevitable toll on the Township's historical landscape and resources, the processes of change, as we have seen, were laden with events rich in their significance. And the physical trappings of that legacy are with us today in surprising numbers.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**  
(From the 1982 edition)

At a time when our Township is undergoing dramatic changes, we are fortunate to have a Board of Supervisors which appreciates the need to identify and document our remaining links with the past. An effort can be made to protect and preserve our most significant historic resources so that they may be incorporated into a plan which will provide a higher quality of life for all in the future. We wish to thank Al Miller, Robert Shenkin, Olga Taylor and Ronald White for their support of our efforts to encourage the preservation of worthy historic properties and for their support of the preparation of this *History of West Whiteland*.

For the enormous amount of research which was necessary to provide a basis for this book we wish to acknowledge the contributions of John Ronayne for compiling information on the Whitelands Hunt and, most especially Louella Goldstein for her totally selfless efforts on all aspects of the research with special emphasis on inns, schools, and roads. The contributions of other current and former members of the West Whiteland Historical Commission as well as those of so many other helpful friends are most appreciated.

For her very welcome assistance with the details of the publication process we wish to thank Rita Kraiger. We acknowledge Sally Duff for her reading of the final manuscript and for superb editorial comments and advice we are grateful to David Sweet of the Brandywine Conservancy.

### *. . . ABOUT THE APPENDIX AND MAP*

The 3-digit numbers in parentheses used throughout the book are keyed to the Historic Sites Map and the Appendix. **The Map identifies each numbered site with a symbol to describe its classification.**

The Appendix provides a street address where possible for each numbered site. Historic and current names of the property are listed, then followed by a brief summary which tells what we know about the history of the site. Page numbers are included if the property has been discussed in the book.

The Historic Sites have been grouped by location:

Sites 001--062 are located south of Route 30, east of Route 100; Sites 100--181 are located south of Route 30, west of Route 100; Sites 200--234 are located north of Route 30, west of Route 100; and Sites 300--347 are located north of Route 30, east of Route 100. Sites 27, and 348-355 were added to the inventory in 2022 are not grouped geographically.

## APPENDIX

- 001 1408 Weston Way**  
**Morstein.** Designed 1898-1899 by Furness and Evans in the Colonial or Period Revival style for John Frederick Lewis, a Philadelphia maritime attorney. Lewis had Woodland Station **(003)** renamed Morstein Station in its honor. Complex contained gatehouse, stables and other outbuildings. Purchased and remodeled by Roy Weston in 1955.
- 002 1396 King Road**  
**Twelve Oaks.** Federal style farmhouse built c. 1840. Became part of J. Frederick Lewis estate c. 1900.
- 003 1400 Weston Way** **Pages 28, 29**  
**Morstein Station/Woodland Station.** Built c. 1870 as ticket office, station master's residence, stop on West Chester RR. Name changed from Woodland to Zermatt then to Morstein by J. Frederick Lewis owner of Morstein Mansion (001) Frame waiting room added 1889 to original brick station house Ticket window, passenger benches remain. (See also Halfway House **(011)** and Kirkland Station **(053)**).
- 007 1365 Old Phoenixville Pike**  
**Malvern Farm Supply.** Moved here c. 1951.
- 010 1359 Old Phoenixville Pike**  
**Old Fitzgerald Farmhouse,** built c. 1885.
- 011 1360 Old Phoenixville Pike** **Pages 27, 28**  
**Halfway House.** Built 1833 by West Chester RR, midway between Malvern and West Chester. RR worker who watered horses, maintained tracks lived here. Oldest existing structure in PA directly associated with West Chester RR. (See also Morstein **(003)**, Kirkland Station **(053)**)
- 012 1101 King Road**  
**Haldeman House.** Frame farmhouse built c. 1860. Was in Haldeman family c. 90 years as of 1982.
- 013 1150 King Road**  
**1150 King Road.** Frame house built c. 1890.
- 014 1200-1212 King Road** **Page 28**  
**Railroad Row Houses.** Four duplexes built 1872 by Pennsylvania Railroad as worker housing. Located near Glen Loch Station **(023)** and West Chester RR.
- 020 1214 King Road**  
**1214 King Road.** Built c. 1835 on foundation of log house and owned by PA RR 1872-1940. Pay drawer in window indicates that it may have been a pay office. Stucco on exterior scored to look like brickwork.

- 021 1181 King Road** **Pages 37, 38**  
**David Ashbridge Log House.** Built c. 1782 by English Quaker farmer on 96 acre farm. House initially one story but raised to two stories in 1845. Rounded side of log placed on interior of house suggests Ashbridge was unfamiliar with log construction techniques. One of 3 habitable log houses in Township (See Hannah White Log House **(146)**, Wollerton Log House **(179)**).
- 022 1444 Phoenixville Pike**  
 1444 Phoenixville Pike. Stone house constructed c. 1930s with later additions.
- 023 1 Whitewoods Lane** **Pages 30, 31**  
**Glen Loch Station.** Gothic style brick and frame post office, station master's house on PA RR Main Line. Built c.1890. One of two stations remaining from West Chester Railroad along with Kirkland Station **(053)**.
- 025 107 Chapel Lane, 1012 Chapel Lane, 1005 E Lincoln Highway** **Pages 16, 40, 69, 70, 71**  
**Church Farm School.** Founded 1918 by Episcopal Reverend Charles W. Schreiner for education of boys from fatherless home. Instructed students on agriculture and trades. Campus design by Milton Medary of Zantzinger, Borie & Medary.
- 027 949 East Swedesford Road**  
**Church Farm School Faculty Housing.** Housing built in mid twentieth century for faculty of Church Farm School **(025)**.
- 028 855 Springdale Drive**  
**Old Autocar Himes Trucking Site.** Commercial building constructed prior to WWII for milk transport business. Later auto dealership of Otto Linton. Demolished 1986.
- 031 725-753 Springdale Drive** **Pages 18, 67**  
**Summit Hall/Springdale Farm Site.** Federal-style house built 1822 by Oliver Bowen. Noted for its 12-foot ceilings, and black marble fireplaces. Tenant house located on property. Demolished c. 1982.
- 032 694 E. Lincoln Highway** **Pages 16, 62, 63**  
**St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception.** Built 1873 as mission church from St. Joseph's parish in Downingtown. Church legend says stones from Ship Inn's livery were used to build St. Mary's.
- 033 402 E. Lincoln Highway**  
**Exton Station Site.** Station built c.1890, demolished ca. 1975 (NETR 1968, 1981).
- 034 402 E. Lincoln Highway** **Pages 48, 49**  
**Maryanne Ryan's General Store/Exton Post Office Site.** Built ca. 1880 and served as a general store c. 1880-1898. Was Exton Post Office until 1935. Demolished 1980.
- 035 312 E. Lincoln Highway**  
 Moses Feed and Grain. Constructed as feed and grain store. Currently chiropractor's office.

- 036**      **290 E. Lincoln Highway**      **Page 26**  
**Jacob Zook House/Rodney's Store.** Stone core built c.1820 by Jacob Zook in Federal style. Kitchen addition c.1850. Storefront installed 1960.
- 037**      **101 S. Pottstown Pike**      **Page 27**  
**Valley Creek Coffee House Site.** Moved c.1950 when Lincoln Highway was widened. Exton Post Office c. 1935-1960.
- 038**      **125 S. Ship Road**  
**Andrew Brogan Farm Tenant House.** Additive dwelling constructed in late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century with later addition. First appears on Lathrop and Ogier map in 1912 at northern tip of Andrew Brogan property.
- 040**      **131 S. Ship Road**  
**Joseph Konnagee House.** Stone house and kitchen wing constructed 1798-1799 in Georgian style and remodeled in Queen Anne style c. 1880. Konagee operated one of nine distilleries in the county in 1798. Large quoins at corners of house are considered characteristically German and are unique in the Township.
- 041**      **697 Stonegate Court**  
**1454 S. Ship Road.** Constructed c. 1860. Was residence of Rev. Samuel Tennis 1881. Wounded soldiers from Battle of the Clouds (**042**) were taken to home of Daniel Thompson, the ruins of which are located on the property.
- 042**      **Throughout Township**      **Pages 19-21**  
**Battle of the Clouds Historic District.** Skirmish between British and American forces that occurred on September 16, 1777. Many properties were plundered by British Troops. The battle was prevented by rain, earning the event its name.
- 043**      **1421 Ship Road**      **Page 38**  
**George Meredith Farm Site.** Constructed after 1850. Property farmed by Meredith family for c. 150 years. Demolished 2017. See also (**048**).
- 044**      **1410, 1416 W. Woodbank Way**      **Page 72, 73**  
**Ryerss Infirmary for Dumb Animals.** House and barn rebuilt 1911 after fire. Ryerss' Infirmary for Dumb Animals relocated to property 1956. Provided free room and board for aged working horses. Barn converted to residence after Infirmary relocated.
- 045**      **Northeast of Ship Road**  
**William Everhart Tenant Farm Site.** Farm included brick house and stone barn. Was located northeast of William Everhart House (**046**). Burned and was demolished in 1980.
- 046**      **1300 Ship Road**      **Page 47, 72**  
**William Everhart House.** Built c. 1810 by William Everhart, an Irish immigrant, land developer, and member of 33<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the United States. Used as storekeeper's house and store until c. 1817. Only survivor of 19<sup>th</sup> century community surrounding Boot Tavern. One of two historic brick houses left in Township, the other being Whitford Lodge (**204**).

- 047**      **700 King Road**      **Page 65**  
**Greenwood School.** One room school built 1872 on site of previous school. Served southeast quadrant of Township, grades 1-9. Became a private residence in 1941 when schools were consolidated.
- 048**      **1426 Ship Road**  
**George Meredith Farm Tenant House.** Tenant House built c.1860. Served as a residence for a tenant farmer on the Meredith Farm **(043)** in the early 1900s.
- 049**      **N. Pullman Drive**  
**Bonnie Blink Dairy Farm and Tenant House Site.** In 1777 was part of David Dunwoody Farm where British Troops camped during Battle of the Clouds. Dairy farm built 1841. Was last large dairy farm in Township before being demolished in 1981.
- 051**      **451 King Road**  
**Meredith Farm Tenant House.** Stone farmhouse. Was Meredith Farm Tenant House early 1900s. See also **(043)**.
- 052**      **1375 Kirkland Avenue**      **Pages 67, 68**  
**Ann Cresson's Boarding School for Girls.** Private school for girls in the 1870s. Bricks manufactured here from clay found on site c. 1906-1908.
- 053**      **1370 Kirkland Avenue**      **Page 28**  
**Kirkland Station/Station Master's House.** Built c. 1870 as ticket office and station master's house for West Chester RR. Station relocated 1880 when rail line straightened. Two story addition c. early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Along with Glen Loch Station **(023)** one of two stations remaining from West Chester Railroad.
- 054**      **651 E. Boot Road**  
**William Wells Farm.** Dwelling associated with 119-acre William Wells Farm in 1880s.
- 055**      **1353, 1355 Autumn Way**  
**Autun/Meadowcourt.** Designed 1928 by Edmund B. Gilchrist for Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Rush II and initially called "Autun." Later renamed "Meadowcourt." Marble tile floors on interior reportedly from Colonnade Hotel in Philadelphia. Interior also featured hand-painted wallpaper, moveable bookcases. Rare example of French Eclectic style in Chester County.
- 056**      **175 E. Boot Road**  
**Abraham Haldeman Farm Site.** Built after 1850, was farmhouse for 90-acre Haldeman Farm in late 19<sup>th</sup> c. Demolished c. 2014.
- 060**      **261, 390 E. Boot Road**      **Page 71, 72**  
**Benjamin Rush House/Chesteridge.** Built 1908 as summer home for Benjamin Rush, an insurance executive. Included chauffer's apartment/garage called "The Pines." Library wing c. 1928. Unique blend of Georgian Revival and Queen Anne Architecture. Used as residential facility for Devereux Foundation since 1952 and called "Glen Loch East."
- 061**      **1358 Glen Echo Road**      **Page 43**  
**Daniel Meredith House.** Core constructed c. 1815 on 100-acre parcel, replacing earlier log house and barn. Farmed by Meredith family for c. 100 years. Notable example of side-hall Georgian Plan in Township.

- 062**      **210 King Road**      **Pages 38, 43**  
**Indian King Tavern Site.** Site of Indian King Tavern, a log tavern that operated between 1787-1840. Demolished c.1930.
- 100**      **101 Woodcutter Street; 102 Main Street**      **Pages 10, 11, 26, 64, 78**  
**Indian Run Farm/Richard Ashbridge Farm/Thomas Family Homestead Site.** Site of farm settled by Richard Thomas (I), Township's first settler. Woodcutter's Cottage on property has date stone reading 1707 making it the oldest building in Township. Greek Revival house currently on site built by Thomas family descendant Richard Ashbridge c. 1843, modeled on original Thomas family house. Ashbridge also likely built barn. Property purchased by Philadelphia banker Richard Newlin (Master of Hounds for Whitelands Hunt) 1914 who hired architect Charles Jackson McIlvain and Spencer Roberts to remodel as "gentleman's farm." Property converted to commercial use.
- 103**      **331, 351 Quarry Lane; 253 S. Whitford Road**      **Page 34, 51-53**  
**Thomas Marble Quarry.** Two vernacular stone duplexes and office/quarry master's house constructed c. 1833 when marble was discovered on John R. Thomas farm. Fine marble quarried here used in Thomas Ustick Walter-designed Girard College in Philadelphia and Bank of Chester County in West Chester. Inadvertently filled with water and used as swim club in 1950s. A similar duplex **(114)** was associated with Oaklands Quarry.
- 106**      **315 S. Whitford Road**  
**Golden Acres.** Built c.1840 by George Thomas, M.D. as a tenant farmstead for Oaklands Farm. Served as dairy farm for tenant of Whitford Garne **(155)** on Thomas estate c.1905-1950.
- 107**      **130 W. Lincoln Highway**      **Pages 11, 13, 21, 24, 55**  
**Thomas Mill.** House and water-powered grist mill constructed c. 1744 by Richard Thomas (II) or (III). Mill constructed with interrupted sill framing, a rare construction technique developed in northern England. Interior milling equipment dates to 19<sup>th</sup> century. Operated as apple press until 1935. Unique for its framing system and as a rare surviving example of a frame mill. One of two surviving mills in township, the other being Trimble Mill **(214)**. House relocated from original position near highway in 2001.
- 110**      **105 S. Whitford Road**      **Page 67**  
**Oaklands Tenant Farm.** Core of dwelling constructed c. 1750 with later early 20<sup>th</sup> century additions. Served as tenant farm for Oaklands **(207)**. Springhouse on site once served as schoolhouse for Thomas family children and children of friends. Large barn on property demolished c. 1960.
- 111**      **400 W. Lincoln Highway**      **Page 14**  
**Oaklands Creamery Ruins.** Creamery built by Oaklands Creamery Association founded 1881 by J. Preston Thomas on land inherited from his father George Thomas, M.D. Creamery sold milk and butter but ceased operation in early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Currently in ruins, although some equipment remains in place. Tenant house on site built c. 1840, demolished c. 1985.

- 112 400 W. Lincoln Highway**  
**George Thomas, M.D. Tenant Farmstead Site.** Tenant farmstead built mid-19<sup>th</sup> c. by George Thomas, M.D. Inherited by J. Preston Thomas after his death. Demolished c. 1985.
- 113 146 S. Whitford Road** **Page 55**  
**Richard Hance House/Meadow House/Hoopes Mill Site.** Core of house built c. 1830 by Richard Hance on 40-acre tract deed him by James Hance. In 19<sup>th</sup> century property contained grist and saw mills, lime kilns and mill pond. Property purchased by Hoopes family in 1832 and by Thomas family in 1886. Additions to house in early 20<sup>th</sup> century designed by architect J. Gilbert McIlvaine. As part of renovations, barn converted to house and renamed "Rabbit House." Hance house renamed "Meadow House." Property has been converted to a restaurant.
- 114 206 S. Whitford Road** **Page 51, 53**  
**Oaklands Quarry Workers' House.** Duplex built c. 1830 as worker housing for Oaklands Quarry. Later purchased by Shoemaker and Robinson who operated quarry and built Joseph Price House **(115)**. Property once contained kilns and quarry pit. Similar houses associated with Thomas Marble Quarry **(103)** located nearby.
- 115 401, 441 Clover Mill Road** **Page 54**  
**Joseph Price Property.** Core of house was Gothic Revival style building constructed of limestone and serpentine, constructed by Shoemaker and Robinson. Shoemaker and Robinson likely also constructed barn to west of house. Dr. Joseph Price, a Philadelphia-based abdominal surgeon and president of the American Medical Association purchased property in 1894. Price remodeled home in Queen Anne Style and established a "gentleman's farm." Considered a unique blend of Gothic Revival and Queen Anne architecture.
- 117 501 Clover Mill Road**  
**House.** Owned by Caleb Chambers family 19<sup>th</sup> century and was part of George M. Coates Estate in early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Stone walls and foundation constructed by Coates. House rebuilt after fire c. 1947. Outbuildings date to c. 1880.
- 118 559 Clover Mill Road**  
**House Site.** Property contained ruins of stone house owned by Richard White in 1870s.
- 120 600 W. Lincoln Highway; 535 James Hance Court** **Page 53**  
**Arrandale/Hunt Downing House.** House built by Hunt Downing c. 1810 in Federal style. Purchased in 1940 by Charles Young, Vice President for Pennsylvania Railroad. Interior of house contained 12-foot ceilings and unusual "rope" molding. Farm also contained several tenant houses although only one remains. Property considered a unique example of a Federal-era farm complex.
- 123 624 W. Lincoln Highway** **Page 53**  
**Wee Grimmet.** Dwelling constructed c. 1820 as worker house for nearby quarry and limekilns. House and acreage purchased 1923 by Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Ostheimer who soon built Grimmet **(124)**. House named "Wee Grimmet" at that time. Remodeled and expanded c. 1939 by J. Gilbert McIlvaine. Considered a unique example of a single-family worker's home.

- 124**      **626 W. Lincoln Highway**  
**Grimmet /Martha and Dr. Maurice Ostheimer Estate.** Constructed 1923 by Dr. Maurice Ostheimer and his wife Martha (nee McIlvain) on large quarry property which included Wee Grimmet **(123)**. Mrs. Ostheimer's cousin, architect J. Gilbert McIlvain was hired to design a new house in style reminiscent of Tudor architecture. Name derived from McIlvain family's ancestral home in Scotland. Property once contained elaborate gardens and landscaping although much has been removed. Considered a fine example of late Victorian era country homes built in the area.
- 126**      **405, 407 Spackman Lane**      **Pages 32, 35**  
**Whitford Station.** Ticket office and freight station built late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century on Pennsylvania Railroad's Main Line. Replaces earlier station built 1873.
- 127**      **Pennsylvania Railroad and S. Whitford Road**      **Page 35**  
**Whitford Bridge.** 373-foot Parker through truss bridge constructed c. 1904 to carry freight line over PA RR main line. During WW I troops were stationed to guard it against sabotage. Considered a rare example of the Parker through truss bridge and one of only remaining "jump over bridges" associated with PA RR.
- 128**      **1575 S. Whitford Road**      **Page 57**  
**Wheelwright and Blacksmith Shops for Oakland Village.** Built c. 1833 after construction of Oakland Hotel **(132)** and PA RR spurred development of Oakland village. Village also contained House at Whitford Station **(132)**. Wheelwright shop is currently a residence. Blacksmith shop serves as its garage.
- 129**      **1551 S. Whitford Road.**  
**Duck Pond Farm House.** First visible in 1873 atlas although likely older. Associated pond added c. 1940.
- 130**      **405 S. Whitford Rd.**      **Page 57**  
**House at Whitford Station.** Built c.1833 as tradesman's house after construction of Oakland Hotel **(132)** and PA RR spurred development of Oakland Village. Village also contained house and blacksmith shop **(128)**. Unique example of early 19<sup>th</sup> century tradesman's house built on Penn Plan and one of few surviving buildings associated with Oakland.
- 132**      **401 Spackman Lane**      **Pages 29, 45, 46, 51, 57**  
**Oakland Hotel Site.** Hotel built c. 1833 along PA RR. Served as resort and spa for travelers from Philadelphia. Its construction sparked development of Oakland village (also called Whitford). House and blacksmith shop **(128)** and tradesman's house **(130)** are all that remain. Hotel demolished 1980.
- 134**      **1556 S. Whitford Road**  
**Farmhouse and Log Cabin.** Log cabin likely dates to late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century and served as a residence until 1950s, later converted to barn. Stone Gothic Revival house constructed 1875 per an inscription on beam. Property owned by Grey family in late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 135**      **1550 S. Whitford Road**  
**Stone House.** Built c. 1875. Was part of 16-acre farm in late 19<sup>th</sup>, early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

- 136**      **408-412 Spackman Lane**      **Page 30**  
**The Pennsylvania Railroad Workers' Houses.** Two duplexes built c. 1880 for workers on Pennsylvania Railroad.
- 139**      **1485 Spackman Lane**  
**House.** Constructed c. 1860 and added to c. 1897. J. Maull ran steam heated greenhouses on the property c. 1910-1920. Remains of blacksmith forge chimney evident.
- 140**      **1485 Spackman Lane**  
**Thrush Bush.** House built 1903. Served as a tenant house for 1485 Spackman Lane **(139)** and is associated with Leven Acres **(141)**.
- 141**      **1460 Spackman Lane**  
**Leven Acres.** Constructed c. 1860 and served as tenant house for 1485 Spackman Lane **(139)**. Historically associated with Thrush Bush **(140)**.
- 142**      **1425 Spackman Lane**  
Thorney Acres. Built c. 1798 by merchant Benjamin Few and was part of a dairy farm.
- 143**      **1417 Highland Road**      **Page 33**  
**Francis W. Kennedy House.** Summer house designed 1889 by architect Frank Miles Day in the 300-acre Bradford Hills subdivision, which aspired to be the next Bryn Mawr. Soon after lots were laid out, financing fell through with very few homes having been constructed. Nearby Kinbawn **(144)** was also part of the development. Considered a fine example of Shingle style architecture, rare for Mid-Atlantic region.
- 144**      **1387 Highland Road**  
**Kinbawn.** Built 1889, designed by Newton H. Culver of Culver and Rodgers, and commissioned by R. Rowley Baker, a Philadelphia attorney. Part of 300-acre Bradford Hills subdivision, which aspired to be the next Bryn Mawr. Soon after lots were laid out, financing fell through with very few homes having been constructed. Nearby Francis W. Kennedy House **(143)** was also part of the development. Considered fine example of Queen Anne style architecture.
- 145**      **555 W. Boot Road**      **Page 62**  
**Former Grove Methodist Church Parsonage.** Built c.1851 by Tamer and William Sylvester and purchased c. 1857 by the congregation of Grove Methodist Church. Used as parsonage until 1863, when congregation purchased a home **(150.04)** closer to the church.
- 146**      **545 W. Boot Road**  
**Hannah White Log House** Constructed by owner Hannah White c. 1800 on hall and parlor plan. Considered a rare example of a hall and parlor log house common during Chester County's settlement period. One of three log houses in Township and similar in form to David Ashbridge Log House **(021)**.
- 150**      **Intersection of W. Boot Road and S. Whitford Road**      **Pages 44, 48, 56, 57, 61, 62, 66**  
**Grove Historic District.** Settlement of village began c. 1783 when early Methodist meetinghouse constructed. Flourishing village including tavern, stores, houses, and shops existed by c. 1850 but development stopped in late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Much of village's growth attributed to Riter Boyer **(164)**. Grove Methodist Church constructed 1888 replacing earlier

church. Considered a fine grouping of 19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular dwellings and businesses and is significant as early Methodist settlement.

- 154 255 W. Boot Road**  
**Tenant House.** Core of house is log, constructed c. 1840 as home for tradesman. Part of 16-acre Linhoff property in late 19<sup>th</sup>, early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Later owned by George Thomas III.
- 155 1509 Belvedere Circle** **Page 15**  
**Whitford Garne.** Built 1905 by George W. Thomas III, son of J. Preston Thomas on 418-acre "South Hills" farm. Designed by Albert Dilkes protégé of Addison Hutton. Named derived from Thomas family home in Wales and is the last Thomas family mansion to be built in Township. Considered exemplary of Colonial Revival architecture.
- 156 60 West Boot Road** **Page 71, 72**  
**Greenway.** Federal-style stone house constructed in early 19<sup>th</sup> century and used as a residence and weaver's shop. Remained part of 99-acre farm until 1945. Later used as residential facility by Devereux Foundation.
- 157 1397 Whiteland Drive**  
**Richard Walsh Barn Ruins.** Masonry ruins of barn owned by Richard Walsh.
- 158 296 W. Boot Road**  
**Tenant House.** Built c.1840 as tenant house for tradesman, advantageously located near village of Grove **(150)**.
- 159 Michael Lane and Katie Way**  
**Green Bank Farm Site.** 72-acre gentleman's farm with tenant house constructed c. 1830. Demolished c. 1975.
- 161 272 Colwyn Terrace**  
**Richard Walsh House.** Stone foundations reportedly date to tenure of Richard Walsh. Upper stories moved from another site and placed on foundation.
- 162 1331, 1315 Burke Road**  
**James Hoffman Estate.** House built c. 1840, owned by James Hoffman in late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Remodeled in Colonial Revival style c. 1930.
- 164 350 W. Boot Road**  
**Riter Boyer House.** Stone core built c. 180 by John Hoffman, son of prominent Methodist George Hoffman and later sold to John Boyer. In 1832 property inherited by Riter Boyer, a speculator who is credited with construction of shops and dwellings in Grove **(150)**. Boyer lived on property until he died in 1862. Considered significant as an example of early vernacular architecture in the region. House's 1850 addition also significant for its incorporation of 18<sup>th</sup> century vernacular features.
- 165 290 W. Boot Road**  
**Tenant House.** Constructed c. 1800 on outskirts of Grove **(150)** as tradesman's house. Part of small 11-acre farm. Owned by Andrew Crust, a shoemaker from 1818-1843 and by Isaac Dresser, a thresher, from 1862-1899.

- 168**      **1365 Grove Road**  
**Frame House.** Likely constructed in 1800s. First mapped in early 20<sup>th</sup> century on 6-acre property of William Parker.
- 169**      **490 Scott Drive** **Page 38**  
**Vernon L. Hoffman House.** Built c. 1840 as dwelling on large dairy farm. Owned by Vernon Hoffman in late 19<sup>th</sup>, early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Barn near house demolished c. 1960.
- 170**      **1239 Grove Road** **Page 38, 74**  
**George Hoffman House.** First section of house constructed c. 1772 on 275 acres by George Hoffman, a German immigrant dubbed “Chester County’s First Methodist” and noted as the earliest settler of Township’s southwest quadrant. House added to by Hoffmans over 19<sup>th</sup> century, with final addition c. 1900. House and barn part of dairy farm owned by Hoffmans until 1902. Considered notable as an 18<sup>th</sup> century vernacular dwelling gradually expanded throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 171**      **1250 Grove Road**  
**Springhouse.** Small masonry springhouse. A c. 1930 pre-fabricated house was located on the site but was demolished c. 1990.
- 172**      **1205, 1240 Samuel Road** **Page 56**  
**Newlin Miller’s House and Barn.** Core of house constructed early 19<sup>th</sup> century by William Newlin who had also constructed a saw mill nearby. Later additions c. 1850, 1865. Barn dates to c. 1858. Owned by carpenter William Speakman of Grove **(150)** 1876-1895. House considered notable as a vernacular stone dwelling that used smaller rubble or “trash” stones in its construction and for association with lumbering in Township.
- 174**      **650 W. Boot Road**  
**Stone Farmhouse.** Core likely built c. 1800 by Hannah White **(146)** to replace older log house. Later owned by Richard M. Shepherd c. 1866-1887 and part of Dr. Joseph Price **(115)** estate in early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 177**      **1357 Copeland Road**  
**House and Store.** Constructed c. 1860s and used as store in 1870s by owner John Berry.
- 178**      **714 Ravine Road**  
**Stone House.** Built c. 1860. First mapped on 4-acre property of William Parker in early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 179**      **1282 Copeland Road**  
**Wollerton Log House.** Banked log house constructed c. 1800. Distinguished from two other log houses in township, David Ashbridge Log House **(021)** and Hannah White Log House **(146)**, for its large masonry chimney and banked construction.
- 180**      **1296 Samuel Road**  
**Frame House.** Built c. 1875. Part of “Lone Pine Farm” mapped in early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 181**      **1270, 1276 Samuel Road**  
**Davis Dairy Farm.** Core of dwelling likely built c. 1840. Operated as dairy farm. Surrounding acreage became part of Sunset Grove Subdivision **(354)** in mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Associated barn has been converted to a residence, retains rounded masonry forebay piers considered typical of Chester County.

- 201**      **108 North Pottstown Pike**  
**Stone House Site.** Stone house built c. 1930 and owned by Richard W. Thomas. Demolished c. 1990.
- 202**      **145 W. Lincoln Highway**      **Page 12**  
**Whitford Hall.** Constructed c. 1796 by Revolutionary War veteran Col. Richard Thomas (III) as a wedding gift for his son Samuel D. Thomas. Secret room in basement is said to have sheltered runaway slaves. Considered exemplary of vernacular Federal style architecture. Associated tenant house and outbuildings demolished c. 1990.
- 204**      **179 W. Lincoln Highway**      **Page 12, 16, 23, 24**  
**Whitford Lodge.** Built c. 1782 by Revolutionary War veteran Col. Richard Thomas (III) as his personal residence. In Thomas family until 1900 then donated to Association for Women Workers as summer resort for working women. Used by Women's Land Army during WW I. Donated to Chester County for civic use in 1930. Notable as well-preserved example of Federal architecture. Its design was likely influenced by the Colonel's travels to Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.
- 205**      **225 W. Lincoln Highway**      **Pages 12, 15, 16, 76**  
**Ivy Cottage.** Built c. 1800 by Revolutionary War veteran Col. Richard Thomas (III) as a summer home for two unmarried Thomas family women. Later owned by philanthropist Sarah R. Bull who remodeled it in Queen Anne style c. 1881. Pentagonal stone wing called "La Sala" added at this time.
- 206**      **325 W. Lincoln Highway**  
**John Roberts Tenant Farmstead.** Constructed c. 1800 with addition c. 1830. Served as tenant farm for both Oaklands (**207**) and Ivy Cottage (**205**). Remodeled by architect J. Gilbert McIlvain 1930s. Notable for its associations with the Thomas family and its association with agriculture in the Great Valley region.
- 207**      **349 W. Lincoln Highway**      **Page 13, 23, 39, 67**  
**Oaklands.** Built 1772 on 500-acre farm by George Thomas, brother of Revolutionary War veteran Richard Thomas (III). Used as Prosperous farm due to Thomas's early adoption of liming soil. Used temporarily as meeting house for Uwchlan Meeting during Revolutionary War (the meeting house was being used as hospital for soldiers wounded at Valley Forge at the time). Expanded to 1,000 acres by George Thomas, M.D. in 1860s. Small gatehouse on site used as a family school house. Notable as a late 18<sup>th</sup> century vernacular dwelling with a distinctive 2-story porch which is rare in Chester County and for its association with the Thomas family.
- 209**      **289 N. Whitford Road**      **Pages 13, 66**  
**Whitford Schoolhouse.** Constructed 1895, replacing Northside School (**212**) as school for northwestern quadrant of Township. Land was donated by Charles Thomas. School incorporated central heating and manual training room considered state of the art for the time. Private residence since 1941 when schools were consolidated.

- 210**      **225 N. Whitford Road; 403 Grand Oak Lane**      **Page 13**  
**Fairview/Charles Thomas House.** Built 1877 by George Thomas, M.D. as a wedding present for his son Charles Thomas. Designed by architect Addison Hutton in Gothic Revival style incorporating blue marble from Thomas Marble Quarry **(103)**. 1896 library addition designed by Albert Dilks, architect of Whitford Garne **(155)**. Notable as a rare example of a Gothic Revival country house and as work of Addison Hutton.
- 211**      **435 N. Whitford Road**  
**Valley View Farm.** Double-door Georgian style dwelling constructed c. 1800 with later additions. Acquired by Margaret Johnson of Scarsdale , New York in 1926 and remodeled.
- 212**      **308 Shoen Road**      **Page 66**  
**Fairview Schoolhouse/Northside School.** Constructed c. 1865 on land formerly belonging to George Thomas. Served northwestern quadrant of Township until 1895 when Whitford Schoolhouse **(209)** was constructed. Currently part of a private residence.
- 213**      **225 Shoen Road**  
**James D. Peck House Site.** House associated with 119-acre Peck Farm, located near Peck's Sand Mine, later West Whiteland Silica Company **(216)**. Likely demolished prior to 1951.
- 214**      **103, 105 Shoen Road**      **Page 12, 55, 56**  
**Trimble House and Mill.** Constructed c. 1790 by William Trimble Jr. on 120 acre property. Operated through 19<sup>th</sup> century, reaching peak production in 1860. Closed 1880 and was purchased by wealthy Philadelphian Henry C. Forrest and renovated it. Mill is considered notable as an 18<sup>th</sup> century mill that had an exterior water wheel, more common in southern states, including Appalachian region.
- 216**      **Near Kimberwyck Lane**      **Page 54**  
**West Whiteland Silica Mines Site.** Founded by James D. Peck **(213)** in 1879. Produced sand for firebricks and firesand. Active until 1919.
- 217**      **340 N. Pottstown Pike**  
**House.** Older dwelling adapted to commercial usage.
- 218**      **N. Pottstown Pike at Jughandle**  
**Richard Ashbridge and Sisters House.** Likely constructed c. 1880. First mapped in 1883 on 103-acre property belonging to Richard Ashbridge and Sisters. Remained in family through early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Currently an office.
- 220**      **112 N. Whitford Road**      **Page 76**  
Frame tenant house for J. Preston Thomas's Whitford Farm. Demolished c. 1990.
- 221**      **463 West Lincoln Highway**  
**Ball and Ball.** Core of building constructed c. 1838 as tenant house for Arrandale **(120)**. 2-story wing and jerkinhead gables added c. 1876. Operated as "White House Inn" 1920s. Purchased by renowned restoration hardware company Ball and Ball in 1943. The company operates a showroom, workshop, and museum on the property. Building is notable as a Federal-style building with later 19<sup>th</sup> century Colonial Revival modifications popularized in the period by A.J. Downing's "Cottage Residences."

- 223 100 Woodledge Lane**  
**Woodledge.** Commissioned by industrialist Park L. Plank of Downingtown Iron Works, designed by Ralph P. Minich. House completed in 1935. Notable for its strict adherence to Colonial and Georgian architectural precedents on interior and exterior and as one of the large period-revival homes constructed in the area in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 224 244 N. Whitford Road**  
**Fairview Farm Tenant House.** Banked dwelling constructed c. 1850 as tenant house for Fair (210). Rear wing appears to be an earlier dwelling. Home of Dague family in early 1900s.
- 225 426 N. Whitford Road, 303 Whitford Hills Road**  
**Frame Tenant House and Barn.** Gothic Revival style house built c. 1860. Part of 22-acre property in late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Barn on property converted to residence.
- 226 609 W. Lincoln Highway** **Pages, 44, 45, 76**  
**West Whiteland Inn.** Core constructed late 18<sup>th</sup> c. as tenant house on 540-acre Jehu Roberts Farm. Later inherited by John Roberts who expanded it with a 2-story wing c. 1826 and opened a public house. Like Ship Inn (311), had two entrances on Lancaster Turnpike. Tavern moved 1837 and renamed "Sheaf of Wheat Inn."
- 228 645 W. Lincoln Highway**  
**Colebrook Manor.** Built c. 1842 by Orthodox Quaker Richard I. Downing on 130 acres. Farm expanded to 700 acres in 19<sup>th</sup> century. Purchased by Wikoff Smith, president of American Bank Note Company 1914 for use as fox hunting lodge. House features unusual triple-sash windows also present at Trimble House (214). Notable as well-preserved mid-19<sup>th</sup> century farm complex.
- 229 637 W. Lincoln Highway; 297-301 Newport Place** **Page 24, 36, 74, 75**  
**Colebrook Farm.** Core constructed c. 1750 by John Spruce or Samuel Bond and was part of 540-acre farm. Addition constructed before 1798. Later purchased by Roberts family who owned it until 1914. Purchased by Wikoff Smith, president of American Bank Note Company 1914 for use in fox hunting. House converted to clubhouse for members. Notable as an early 3-bay, double-pile Georgian dwelling, large for its time. Associated tenant house demolished c. 1990.
- 231 570 Colebrook Road**  
**Folly Cottage.** Built c. 1960 for Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Royston on Frankl Lloyd Wright design. Wright had designed the cottage in the 1920s for his stepdaughter Svetalana who later died in a motorcycle accident. Design was carried out by Wright's apprentice John Howe. Built into hill and utilizes natural materials. Only one right angle in entire building.
- 233 522 Westfield Drive**  
**Lost Acres/John Fisher House.** Constructed c. 1830 by John Fisher, with later additions. Barn to southeast of house demolished c. 1975.
- 234 600 Whitford Hills Road** **Page 77**  
**Wickoff Smith Barn.** Constructed by Wickoff Smith, president of American Bank Note Company and resident who purchased Colebrook Manor (228) and Colebrook Farm (229) in early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Used for fox hunting. Converted to clubhouse for Whitford Hills Country Club c. 1956.

- 300**      **403 N. Pottstown Pike**  
**John Mc Clenahan House.** Built 1928 by John Mc Clenahan, a Philadelphia advertising executive from Villanova. Located on site of earlier Thomas D. Trimble dwelling which was demolished. House has been repurposed as ski shop.
- 301**      **101 Swedesford Road**  
**George Ashbridge House.** Built by George Ashbridge 1875. Served as team room and as home of Judge Theodore Rogers. Surrounding property developed as strip mall.
- 302**      **109 N. Pottstown Pike** **Page 54**  
**(Chase) Malvern Savings Bank/Isaac Jacobs House.** Eastern three bays constructed c. 1780 by Richard Thomas's granddaughter Hannah and her husband Isaac Jacobs as an addition to an earlier log house. Sold 1789 to Isaac and Levi Massey who later built Sleepy Hollow Hall **(302)** and ran tannery on property. Second 3-bay section built prior to 1816. Office of Dr. Andrew Wills early 19<sup>th</sup> century and Dr. Davis B. King in mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Purchased by West Whiteland Silica Company 1905 for use as office. Malvern Federal Savings Bank purchased property in 1964 and replaced earlier porch with distinctive two-story porch in place today. Notable as example of late 18<sup>th</sup> century architecture continuously adapted to commercial usage.
- 303**      **109 E. Lincoln Highway** **Pages 58, 59**  
**Sleepy Hollow Hall/Massey House.** Rear wing of house is one-room cabin built by Adam Baker c. 1730, later sold to Isaac Jacobs **(302)**. Purchased by Levi and Issac Massey 1789 who operated tannery on property until 1849. Earlier log house updated with stone walls and main wing added by Quaker George Massey c. 1810. House and summer kitchen are all that remains of tannery complex. Significant as a center hall manor house which incorporates an earlier dwelling into its design and for its association with early industry in the Township.
- 304**      **340 Exton Square Parkway** **Page 39**  
**Guernsey Cow Dairy Bar.** Built 1927 as retail store for dairy products by Frank B. Foster. Masonry taken from demolished barn on site. Sold to Ilario "Larry" Polite who expanded building 1945 and ran Dairy Bar until 1976 when it closed. Notable as locally significant small business dating to Depression and post World War II era.
- 305**      **410 Exton Square Parkway** **Pages 16, 23, 76**  
**Zook House/Owen House.** Core built c. 1750 by William Owen. Purchased by Swiss Anabaptist Morritz Zug (Zook) 1770. Zook sheltered other Swiss Anabaptists moving westward at his home. Kitchen and staircase addition built c. 1800, limestone addition c. 1820. Inhabited by Zook family for six generations. Moved to current location 1998 due to construction of addition to mall. Notable as vernacular dwelling constructed in 1700s and added to during 10<sup>th</sup> century.
- 307**      **407 E. Lincoln Highway**  
**Turnpike Station Tenant House.** Likely constructed c. 1800 as tenant house for turnpike station. Rear addition 1920.
- 308**      **411 E. Lincoln Highway** **Page 57**  
**House at Turnpike Station.** Penn Plan building constructed in early 19<sup>th</sup> c., owned by John Bowen builder of Ship Inn **(311)**. Occupied by tenant or blacksmith serving travelers on Lancaster Turnpike and, after c. 1853, Chester Valley RR. Significant as rural 19<sup>th</sup> century Penn Plan House and for association with history of Lancaster Turnpike and Chester Valley RR.

- 309**      **423 E. Lincoln Highway**      **Page 34, 46, 47**  
**Exton Hotel/Exton House/Ship Station.** Constructed 1859 by James Beale at juncture of Lancaster Turnpike and Chester Valley RR. In 1863, also held local post office and ticket office for Chester Valley RR. Significant as only Italianate-style building in West Whiteland and for its association with history of Lancaster Turnpike and Chester Valley RR.
- 311**      **693 East Lincoln Highway**      **Page 25, 41, 43, 62**  
**Ship Inn.** Built 1796 by John Bowen in response to construction of Lancaster Turnpike in 1794. Bowen family ran inn until 1854. It served as public house, social center for community and later as a private residence. Re-opened as an inn 1948, currently a restaurant. Significant as well-preserved commercial building with elements of Federal and Georgian design.
- 312**      **111 N. Ship Road**      **Page 66**  
**First Ship School.** Constructed prior to 1857 when it was purchased by Directors of Common Schools as a schoolhouse for northeast quadrant of Township. Served as school for 10 years before being sold and used as private residence. Replaced by Second Ship School **(342)**. Significant as earliest extant school building in Township.
- 313**      **116 N. Ship Road**  
**Hickory Hearth.** House built around stone core that was likely part of smoke house for Ship Inn **(311)** Evan Lewis House **(338)**.
- 314**      **208 N. Ship Road, 206 Green Valley Road**      **Page 23**  
**John Cuthbert House/Green Valley Farm.** Constructed 1773 by John Cuthbert, local farmer. Purchased by John Bowen, builder of Ship Inn **(311)** in 1786. Inherited by son Joseph Bowen who built house's final addition c. 1819. Significant as example of rural Federal vernacular architecture.
- 315**      **Swedesford Road, W. of N. Ship Road**  
**Weaver's Cottage Ruins.** Masonry ruins of home constructed prior to 1798, built on foundation of early 18<sup>th</sup> century log building owned by weaver John Quinn. Quinn was proprietor of Fox Chase Inn **(325)**. Destroyed by fire in 1976.
- 316**      **311, 316 Horizon Court**  
**Ship Farm Tenant House Site.** Penn Plan house constructed c. 1800 by John Bowen, owner of Ship Inn **(316)**. Home of wheelwright or blacksmith who worked at Bowen's shops. Roof damaged in 1970s, demolished c. 1995 along with surrounding outbuildings.
- 317**      **460 N. Ship Road**  
**North Ship Road Tenant House.** Built c. 1850.
- 318**      **519, 521 Colfelt Court**  
**Dr. Jones House Ruins.** Masonry ruins of dwelling on 4-acre property of James Brown in late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. By 1933, was denoted as property of Dr. L. Jones, an African American "herb doctor" active in the Township in early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

- 319**      **531, 533 N. Ship Road**  
**Sarah Rittenbaugh House and Barn.** House built c. 1840 and barn built c. 1880 located on small 12 acre farm of Sarah Rittenbaugh in late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Later belonged to Sarah A Moore and Ethel McConnell. Barn later converted into residence.
- 322**      **463 N. Ship Road**  
**Colfelt House/John Bell Farm.** Core built c. 1840 by Quaker farmer John Bell. Renovated by Rebecca Colfelt, a Philadelphia socialite, in Tudor Revival style in 1887. Tenant house constructed at this time. Purchased by Church Farm School in 1954. Significant as example of Arts and Crafts architecture in late 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 324**      **325 N. Ship Road** **Page 18, 42**  
**Benjamin Jacobs House/Strawbridge Farm.** 3-bay, double-pile core constructed c. 1790 by Benjamin Jacobs a Quaker lawyer, farmer, and judge on 500-acre farm. Was read out of his Meeting for signing Continental Currency during American Revolution. Summer kitchen wing later incorporated into dwelling, giving it its current appearance. Purchased in 1880s by Strawbridge family and remodeled.
- 325**      **613 E. Swedesford Road** **Page 42**  
**Fox Chase Inn/Ship Road Farm.** Core (western half) of building constructed c. 1765 on Penn Plan. Two-bay addition constructed in 18<sup>th</sup> century over log kitchen. First licensed public house in West Whiteland in 1786, run by John Quinn. Later home of Eli Bentley, a clockmaster, 1775-1778. Barn built 1823 by Job B. Remington. Significant as rare example of Penn Plan house in West Whiteland Township.
- 327**      **949 E. Swedesford Road**  
**Pickwick/John Kent Kane, Jr. House.** Commissioned by socialite John Kent Kane, Jr. and wife Alice on 2 acres deeded them by Kane's father. Designed by Sherman G. Coates, brother of local farmer George Coates. Completed 1930 and later purchased by Church Farm School who built faculty housing nearby **(027)**. Brick stable at rear constructed 1950. Significant as best example of Tudor Revival a architecture in Township.
- 329**      **402 Church Farm Lane; 925 Old Valley Road** **Page 17**  
**Solitude Farm/Jacobs Homestead.** Core constructed c. 1750 on hall and parlor plan by John Jacobs, enlarged c. 1760. Jacobs was member of Constitutional Convention of 1776 and Speaker of First General Assembly of Pennsylvania. Assisted George Washington by drawing map of Chester County for him while he was camped at Valley Forge. In 1904, purchased along with Kates Mansion **(330)** by Clarence Sears Kates who hired Milton Medary architect of Church Farm School **(025)** to remodel. Purchased by Church Farm School 1950s. Site of "harvest Home" festival. Significant as 18<sup>th</sup> century hall and parlor plan house later enlarged to a Georgian center-hall dwelling.
- 330**      **901 Old Valley Road, 400 Church Farm Lane** **Page 40**  
**Kates Mansion/Hewson Cox House/Swedesford.** Core constructed c. 1853 by Hewson Cox on 312-acre farm. House modeled on cottage-style residences popularized by A.J. Downing. Purchased along with Solitude Farm **(329)** in 1900. Kates hired Milton Medary architect of Church Farm School **(025)** to remodel. Gatehouse built at this time. Significant as early example of Gothic Revival architecture in Great Valley region, with additions and modifications exemplary of Arts and Crafts movement.

- 336 800 E. Swedesford Road**  
**Benjamin Pennypacker House.** Constructed c. 1840 by Benjamin Pennpacker in earlier Federal style and with a Georgian floor plan. Farm one of first to be acquired by Church Farm School **(025)** after it was founded in 1918. Significant as a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century house built with earlier Georgian and Federal influences, indicative of conservative building traditions at the time.
- 337 732 E. Swedesford Road**  
**Azariah Thomas Farm.** Built c. 1837 by Azariah Thomas, local lumber merchant and farm. Later called "Crack O' Dawn."
- 338 117 N. Ship Road**  
**Evan Lewis House.** Core built c. 1717 by Evan and Magdaline Lewis on 225 acre farm. Their descendant Griffith rebuilt barn 1821. Significant as early hall and parlor plan house typical of Welsh Quakers in Great Valley.
- 341 701 Livingston Lane** **Page 78**  
**Lochiel Farm.** Georgian style house built c. 1814 by Griffith Lewis, descendant of Evan Lewis **(338)**. Later sold to Church Farm School **(025)**. House significant as a 19<sup>th</sup> century house built in a manner most often seen in 18<sup>th</sup> century houses. House and one associated tenant house recently relocated as part of Lochiel Farms residential subdivision development. Another tenant house has been demolished.
- 342 101 N. Ship Road** **Page 67**  
**Second Ship School Site.** Constructed 1864, replacing first Ship School **(312)** as schoolhouse for northeastern quadrant of Township. Closed in 1941. Demolished after 1968.
- 343 723 E. Lincoln Highway**  
**Saints Philip and James Rectory.** Former rectory for Saints Philip and James Church. Contains 1726 date stone in fireplace. Currently a parish thrift store.
- 344 731-733 E. Lincoln Highway**  
**Dr. R.B. Carey's Barn Site.** Large barn constructed c. 1880 for physician R.B. Carey. Later converted to residences. Destroyed by fire.
- 347 901 E. Lincoln Highway** **Pages 60, 61, 69**  
**St. Paul's Episcopal Church.** Core built c. 1828 when congregation founded. Remodeled c. 1871 in Gothic Revival style. Parish Hall constructed 1912. Significant as example of Gothic Revival architecture tempered with Quaker restraint. Oldest church in Township, attended by members of Thomas and Jacobs families.
- 348 509, 543, 551 E. Lincoln Highway**  
**Williams Deluxe Cabins/Ichabod's.** Motorcourt built by Leon H. Williams in the 1930s. Initially included a caretaker's house, service station and four cabins serving motorists. Operated until 1964. Tudor Revival style cabins echo the architectural trends of the time.
- 350 920 Springdale Drive**  
**White Motor Company Factory.** One building on site constructed prior to 1950. Larger building constructed 1954 as a production facility by White Motor Company who purchased the property in that year. The company owned the site until they moved operations to Utah in 1980.

- 351      301 Hendricks Avenue      Page 67**  
**West Whiteland Consolidated School/Exton Elementary.** Opened 1941, replacing four earlier one-room schoolhouses that served the Township. Originally a simple rectangular building, the school has been extensively altered and enlarged.
- 352      Crest Avenue, Namar Avenue, Hendricks Avenue, Walsh Road,      Page 32, 77**  
**Bartlett Avenue New Street, Walsh Road**  
**Whiteland Crest.** Subdivision platted prior to 1933 and developed through approximately the 1970s. Early houses are 1-story, 3-bay homes many of which have been given a second story. Also includes later ranch houses. Earliest subdivision in Township.
- 353      Hillside and Lakeside Drives, Heather, Brookview, Valley, and Brian      Page 77**  
**Roads, N. Laurel and Meadow Lanes, Winding Way**  
**Meadowbrook Manor.** Developed in the 1950s on acreage formerly belonging to Elizabeth McIlvaine and acquired by the Pennsylvania Company for Banking and Trusts. Houses are generally ranch or split level. Streets lined with with low stone walls near entrance.
- 354      Bounded by Grove, Copeland, and Grubbs Mill Roads, and Palomino      Page 77**  
**Drive**  
**Sunset Grove.** Developed on land that was formerly part of a large farm **(181)** c. 1961 and built by Hickman Development. Houses are generally split-level or ranch houses. Development was largely complete by 1968.
- 355      1450 S. Whitford Road**  
**Dwelling.** Small stone dwelling that appears to date to 19<sup>th</sup> century, possibly a tenant house.