

*Thank you for your dedication
to historic preservation in West
Whiteland Township!*



**West Whiteland Township's
Historical
Commission
2022 Historic
Preservation
Awards**

*Wednesday, March 29, 2023
Hosted at VK Brewing*

Welcome / Agenda

Welcome Comments:

Theresa Santalucia, Township Supervisor

Importance to the Township:

Pam Gural-Bear, Township Manager

Historic Award Significance:

Phil Yocum, Commonwealth Heritage Group
(Historic Consultant)

Presentation of Historic Sites:

Joshua Anderson, Historical Commission

Award Presentation:

Joe McCormick, Chair, Historical
Commission

Site 181: Davis Dairy Farm Barn

The core of the dwelling on the property likely dated to c. 1820-1860. It was owned by Mr. Davis in 1873 and was part of Mrs. E. Kate Davis's 84-acre property in 1883. It remained roughly the same size throughout the early 20th century when it was owned by C.W. Talbot and then William Rodgers. The property was originally used as a dairy farm and was eventually developed with a main house, a barn, and a springhouse. The springhouse was awarded the Historic Preservation Award in 2015 for the immense restoration work undertaken to restore the structure.



Mr. and Mrs. Porco purchased Davis Dairy Farm Barn in 1986, when a friend of theirs, who owned the larger Davis tract, subdivided the lot to have the barn on a separate parcel. Mr. Porco lived nearby and said he was ready for a change, so they decided to "move downstream." When they purchased the barn, it was, well...a barn. You were able to look up from the basement and see the hay storage and cattle stalls. The structure and the roof were in great shape, with 30" thick walls in the basement, and 18" thick walls in the upper portion. Over the next year, the Porcos turned the barn into a three bedroom, two and a half bath home.

Mr. Porco had gone to school for carpentry and cabinet making and was able to do most of the woodwork himself, including the trim. After the Porcos moved into the home, family members, including cousins and Mr. Porco's father, restored the exterior stonework. Being trained masons themselves, they were mentors to Mr. Porco, who, through completing the work on the barn, also made masonry his trade. Mr. Porco built a kennel behind the barn in the same style, using stone and lumber from the barn. All of the restoration work has been a labor of love that is over 30 years in the making. Needless to say, the results were well worth the wait.

Site 328: *Kates Gatehouse*

Clarence Sears Kates was a wealthy Philadelphian who came to West Whiteland due to its rich soils and his desire to involve himself with modern agriculture. Overtime, he successfully established himself as an enlightened agriculturist. Kates lived permanently in his mansion on Old Valley Hill Road,



and the Gatehouse was built in 1905 as an additional structure for his estate. The original house was built as a duplex to house two families, with a 10,000 sqft dairy barn built near the gatehouse. The barn burned down in 1912; all was destroyed except the foundation.

Over time, as wealthy farmers passed or sold off their holdings, the Reverend Charles Schreiner of Church Farm School acquired most of the Kates estate. Church Farm School utilized the gatehouse for faculty and staff housing during the first half of the 20th century.



Mr. and Mrs. Rouse purchased Kates Gatehouse in 2019. They discovered the house while walking on Church Farm Lane towards the Chester Valley Trail. The couple recognized the hidden beauty of the home and were instantly drawn in by a feeling that the house itself wanted to be restored. It was

the right time for this project in their lives, so they got right to work! The Rouses were able to restore the home themselves with help from their family. The work included new floors, ceilings, insulation, windows, plumbing, HVAC, electric, stonework, and interior/exterior trim. The team worked energetically and really enjoyed restoring the home. Kates Gatehouse is now a pristine single family home that has become a brilliant representation of historic preservation in West Whiteland.

Spotlight on Ship Inn



Ship Inn, an historic inn and tavern, was built in 1796. The two-story, six bay, Georgian style stone building with brick chimneys remained in operation as an inn until 1854. In the 20th century, a restaurant opened in the building. It is now VK Brewing Co & Eatery, a veteran-owned brewery, taproom and restaurant.

Below is a quote from the 1981 resource nomination. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

“In 1796 John Bowen, a very experienced innkeeper, opened a tavern on the new Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike. Although John Bowen had the tavern and its out-buildings built specifically to serve the travelers and stages on this new road, he used the sign and name of an old inn that had ceased operation in 1792 in Downingtown. The sign which John Bowen hung outside his new tavern had been shot, according to legend, thirteen times during the Revolution by patriotic Continentals... Of the many fashionable inns which once lined the Lancaster Turnpike, the Ship ranks as one of the best preserved - and most thoroughly documented.”

Site 341: *Lochiel Farm Manor House*



Lochiel Farm dates back to the 1700s when Welsh Quaker families were settling in West Whiteland. Richard Thomas Lewis Jr. and Samuel Lewis were the original owners of the farm, which at that time totaled more than 2,000 acres. Over the years,

the Lewis family developed the farm into an agricultural complex including a gentleman's farmhouse, great barn, carriage shed, tenant houses, and various other agricultural buildings.

In 1911 the farm changed hands to become the summer home of the Master of the Whitelands Hunt, Max Livingston. The farm remained with the Livingston family until Church Farm School purchased the land in the mid-20th century. Church Farm School continued its use as an agricultural property even into the late 1990s. The Manor and Tenant Houses were used as staff residences and student dormitories throughout the duration of Church Farm School ownership.



Mr. and Mrs. Tyrrell, who own the Manor House, say they have always been attracted to historic homes and designs. They have acquired many antiques, including furniture, over the years that fit this particular home very well. Mr. Tyrrell also noted that this home was perfectly laid out for them to include a library/study that they have wanted for a long time.

Site 339: *Lochiel Farm Tenant House*



Church Farm School sold the tract in 2001, but it wasn't until 2017-2018 that the full plan for the properties came together. The first thing to be done was to move the tenant house from its original location to join the manor house at the rear of the tract in order to accommodate the new community and create a quaint area for the homes to shine. The developer of the Lochiel Farm Community, Lennar, moved the house to its permanent location.

After the homes were in place, they were then sold to Intersect Homes for the full restoration project. Both homes needed massive renovations. They consulted with Architectural Concepts to create plans that would maintain the historic nature of the homes while also providing modern amenities. The work included window replacements, roof repairs



and replacements, repointing of the Manor House, a new foundation and rear addition for the Tenant House, and complete interior fit outs for both. Once the homes were complete, they were quickly sold.

Ms. Hunter, who owns the Tenant House, was looking for the perfect home to fit her large family. She was drawn to the restored historic home with its new addition. The family loves to tell the story of the Tenant House and thanks to Chadd Martin's great documentation—they even have photos of the move hanging in the home!