

# Historical Sites in Whitpain



Ann McCarty and husband, Thomas, were early settlers in the area before purchasing land in Whitpain Township in 1704. Ann's grave is enclosed by a picket fence that can be found along Skippack Pike, across from Prophecy Creek Park.

The Waggon Inn, located in Centre Square, was founded in 1758. Records describe the structure as a modest, one and a half story building originally owned by Thomas Fitzwater. Fitzwater sold the Waggon Inn to L. Rennet and the inn has since had several owners and housed several businesses over the years. Today, the original Waggon Inn is now Reed's Country Store.



The first mile markers were installed in 1764 along Skippack Pike in order to keep the post riders on schedule. George Washington used "Skippack Road, 15th milestone" as his return address when he was at Dawesfield.

Dawesfield, built in the 1720's and 1730's is a large estate located on Lewis Lane between Skippack Pike and Morris Road. Originally the home of James Morris, it was used by George Washington, Marquis De Lafayette, and General Anthony Wayne for two weeks during the army's encampment in October 1777. Dawesfield has been listed on the National Registry of Historical Places since 1991.





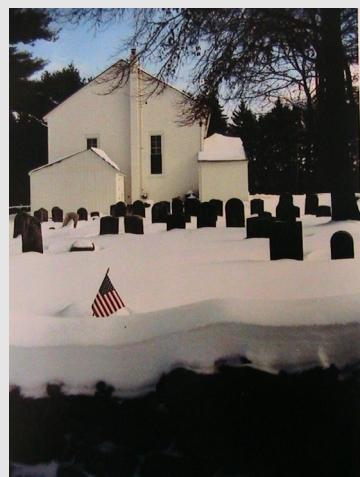
The Yost log cabin, dating back to the early 1700's, was originally built on the north side of Yost Road. Features such as recessed shelves, stairs to an upper loft, an abnormally high fireplace opening, and strap hinges on the Dutch door helped to date the structure. The Yost log cabin is said to indicate a Swiss influence due to the cabin not being made with stone and not entirely from logs. In 1970, the cabin was saved from demolition and was moved to a property on Lewis Lane and Morris Road.

Prophecy Creek flows underneath Skippack Pike and continues on through Prophecy Creek Park before it meets up with the Wissahickon Creek. As Ann McCarty neared her death, she prophesied that if she was buried high above Skippack Pike, a spring would rise near her grave. Folklore says that her prophecy came to pass and the nearby creek was named, Prophecy Creek.



Boehm's Church can trace its history back to 1740. Founder John Philip Boehm was a strong presence in Whitpain until his death in 1749. The Boehm church even served as a hospital for the wounded soldiers during the Revolutionary War. During the War, the Valley Forge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a marker for the common burial site of unknown soldiers buried in the churchyard cemetery.

The Union Meeting House was built on the north side of Union Meeting Road in 1814. It began as the Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church and has been used by various church groups over the years.





Franklinville School was one of Whitpain's original, one-room schools. Built in 1858 on Morris Road, it was later saved by the Historical Society of Whitpain, and recently listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

St. John's Lutheran Church in Centre Square was originally constructed in 1769. The church served as a hospital for wounded soldiers during the Revolutionary war and its cemetery contains the graves of fallen soldiers.



The Whitpain High School was built in 1895 in order to consolidate educational facilities for the community. The first floor was used for grades one through eight, and the second floor for grades nine through twelve. After closing as a public school, it accommodated township offices and the Whitpain Library and has since been home to the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society. The building is listed on the National Registry of Historical Places.