

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM PHOTO/SITE PLAN SHEET**

Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission  
Bureau of Historic Preservation  
Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026

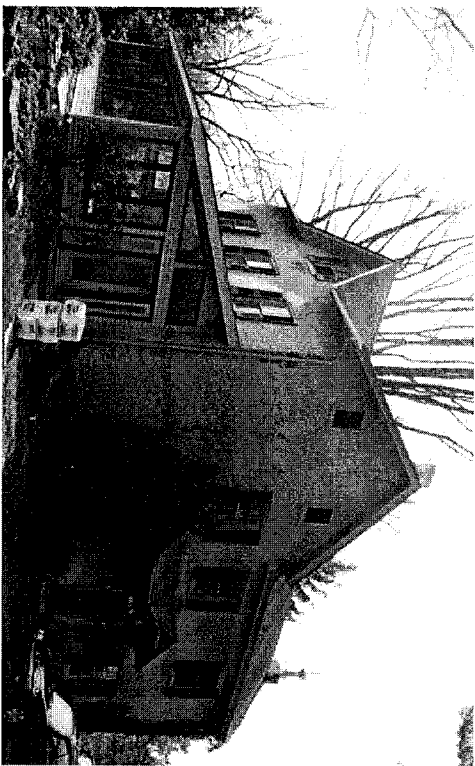
Survey Code/Tax Parcel/Other No.: 078 / 66 00 05401 00 5 Block-Unit #018-052 County: Montgomery

Municipality: Whippain Township Address: 490 Penllyn Blue Bell Pike

Historic Name/Other Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE PLAN**

**PHOTO INFORMATION**



Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	Farm House	
2	Carriage House (rear)	
3	Carriage House (facade)	
4	Barn	
5	Shed / Chicken House	
6		
Photographer Name: Robert Wise		Date: 1999
Negative Location: Robert Wise Consulting, Station Square 1, Suite 104, 37 N. Valley Road, Paoli PA 19301		

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - DATA SHEET

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

89B

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Survey Code: 078 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66.00.05401.00.5 Block Unit #018-052

County: 1. Montgomery 091 2.

Municipality: 1. Whitpain Township 2.

Address: 490 Penllyn Blue Bell Pike Historic Name:

Other Name:

Owner Name/Address: Charles K. & Jean B. McCracken 490 Penllyn Blue Bell Pike Blue Bell PA 19422

Owner Category: x Private Public-local Public-state Public-federal

Resource Category: x Building District Site Structure Object

Number/Approximate Number of Resources Covered by This Form: 4

USGS Quad: 1. Lansdale 2.

UTM A. C.

References: B. D.

HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category: Subcategory: Code:

A. Residence 1823 3,009 SF Land 7.24 Acre Dwelling

B.

C.

D.

Particular Type: A.

B.

C.

D.

Current Function Category: Subcategory: Code:

A. Single Family Residence Dwelling

B.

C.

D.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: A.

B. C.

D. Other:

Exterior Materials: Foundation Roof

Walls stucco Walls

Other Other

Structural System: 1. 2.

Width Depth Stories/Height 2.5

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM  
NARRATIVE SHEET 89C

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code: 078 Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66 00 05401 00 5 Block-Unit #018-052  
County: Montgomery 091 Municipality: Whitpain Township  
Address: 490 Penllyn Blue Bell Pike  
Historic/Other Name:

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

This secluded complex of buildings consists of an L-shaped farmhouse, a large barn, a carriage house, and a chicken house/shed. The house, built c. 1823, is a vernacular cross-gabled structure with interior end chimneys. It is a two and a half story, three bay house clad in stucco. The windows are six over six double hung with shutters. The back portion of the house is two story on a perpendicular axis. A small overhang over the door has wooden shingles and is supported by two simple braces. A sunroom has been added to the house.

**Associated Resources:**

**Barn:** The barn is partially clad with stucco and partially with vertical wood siding. It has a nice square cupola. A small centered gable replicates an element from the house and chicken house.

**Carriage House:** The carriage house is a frame one and a half story structure clad with vertical wood siding. The carriage house also has a square cupola which supports a weather vane. The windows on the gable ends are eight over eight double hung with no shutters. Windows on the side are six pane awnings.

**Chicken House/Shed:** The chicken house is a two and a half story, four bay structure with simple drop siding. An interesting house-shaped cupola clad in wooden shingles adorns the roof. The structure is end-gabled with a small centered gable. Other windows are irregularly placed on the building. There is a small porch on each side.

**Classification:** Although separated from the original estate, the property is a fine example of a "back estate" complex with an excellent collection of resources. It is a Class II resource.

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: ca. 1823 Additions/Alterations Dates: ca. ca.  
Basis for Dating:  Documentary  Physical  
Explain: Tax records

Cultural/Ethnic Affiliation: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Associated Individuals: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Associated Events: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Architects/Engineers: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Builders: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## PREVIOUS SURVEY, DETERMINATIONS

## EVALUATION (Survey Director/Consultants Only)

Individual NR Potential:  Yes  No Context(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Contributes to Potential District  Yes  No District Name/Status:

**Classification:** Although separated from the original estate, the property is a fine example of a "back estate" complex with an excellent collection of resources. It is a Class II resource.

## THREATS

Threats:  1. None 2. Public Development 3. Private Development 4. Neglect 5. Other

Explain:

## SURVEYOR INFORMATION

Surveyor Name/Title: Robert Wise Date: 6/16/2000  
Project Name: Whitpain Township Historic Resource Survey  
Organization: Robert Wise Consulting/Whitpain Township Telephone: (610) 722-5818  
Street and No.: Station Square 1, Suite 104, 37 North Valley Road  
City, State: Paoli, Pa Zip Code: 19301  
Additional Survey Documentation: n/a  
Associated Survey Codes: n/a

Clarence Ederer, a former State Representative, and his wife, Margaret, did extensive repairs to the mansion. It took workmen six months to remove the paint from all the doors and restore them to their former condition. Mr. Ederer was an avid hunter and traveled all over the world. Many of the animals that he caught were mounted and stuffed and hung on the walls of the library or displayed on tables. His sense of humor knew no bounds; placed strategically on the walls of the powder room were two huge coiled rattlesnakes.

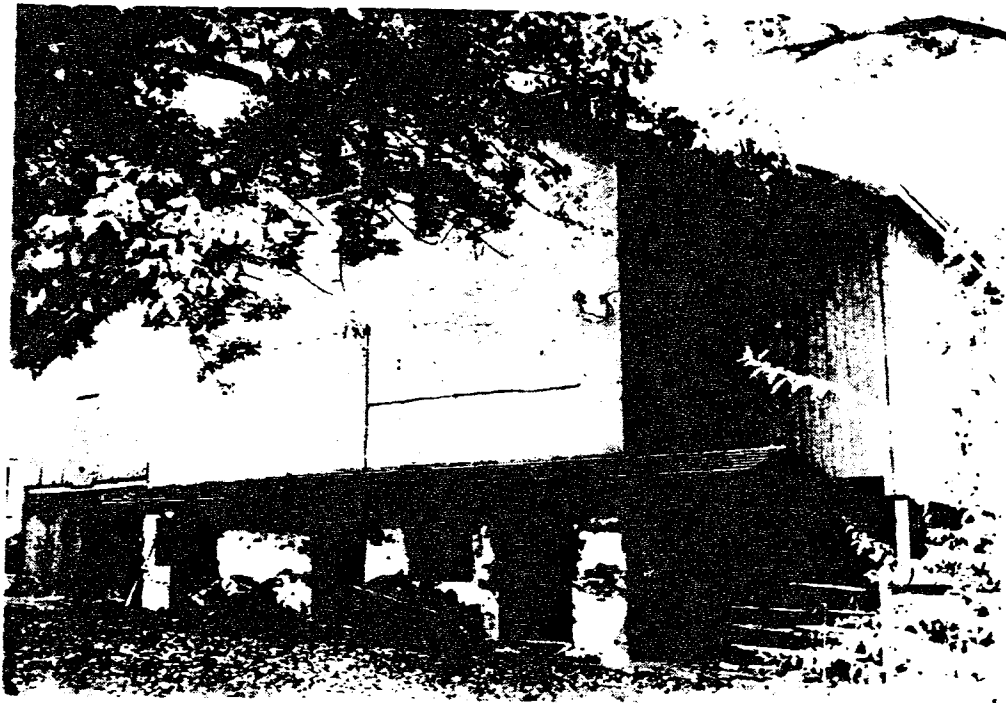
The Ederer's built a new house on the two front acres of the property and sold the mansion to Mr. and Mrs. William L. Scott. Mr. Ederer was buried on the day they were to move into the new house. Mrs. Ederer lived there for a short time and then moved to Virginia.

### **“Charles McCracken House”**

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCracken on the former Biddle estate is believed to have built by a Greger about 1823. The house is a typical Pennsylvania farmhouse of the early nineteenth century. It is a three-story farm house of plaster over field stone. The drawing by Laurie Youtz illustrates the additions to the house since 1823. The original house had two rooms on each floor and a fireplace in the initial kitchen that is still in use. The former porch is now the kitchen and all the kitchen cabinets were made by Mr. McCracken with siding from the interior of the barn.



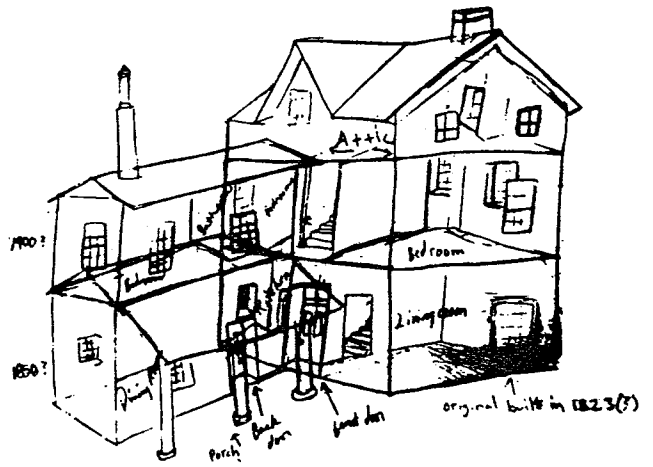
*Charles McCracken House Today*



*McCracken Barn*



*Fireplace, Original House, Painting by Charles McCracken*



*Additions to House Since 1823*

