

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – PHOTO/SITE PLAN SHEET
Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, Bureau of Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026

Survey Code / HR #:	66-001a & b, 66-001c, 66-001d, 66-002	Historic / Other Name:	Davis/Darlington Farm & Spackman Corner Chimney House
Tax Parcel #	66-3-2, 66-3-1, 66-3-2.1, 66-3-6	Address:	1252 Thornbury Rd. & 760 West Street Rd.
County:	Chester 029	Municipality:	Thornbury Township

1252 Thornbury Rd.

Photographs

Photo 1: South (front)
Elevation, House

Photographer:

J. Christopher Lang

Date: 9/06/2007

Negative Location:

Thornbury Township



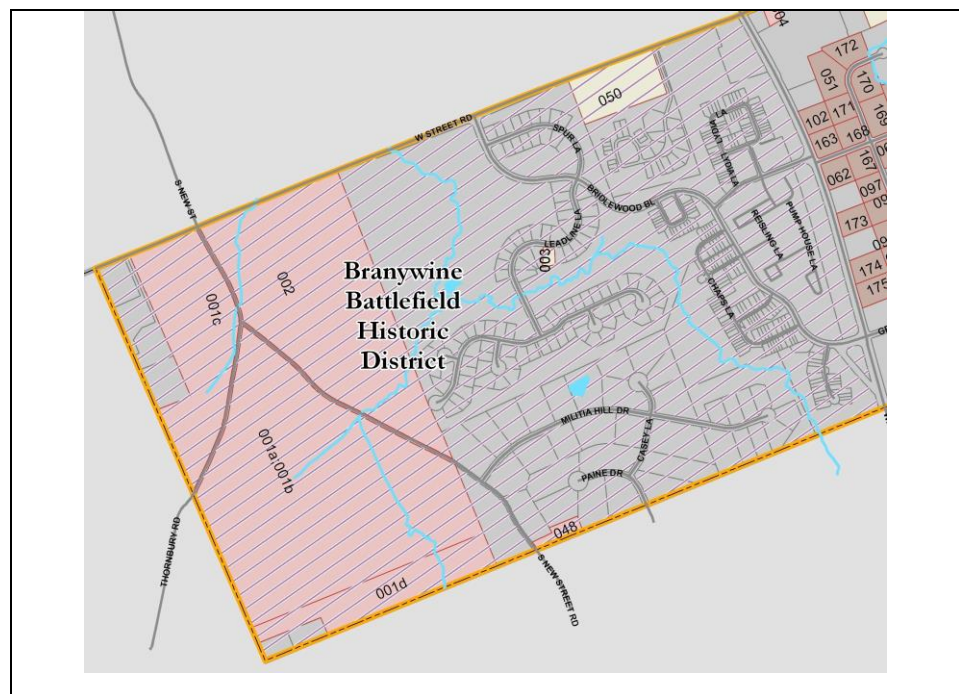
Location Map

Thornbury Township
Historic Resource
Inventory GIS Map

**LOOK FOR: HR #001a,
001b, 001c, 001d, & 002**

MAP KEY

- 001a = HR Number
- Purple = Class 1
- Pink = Class 2
- Yellow = Class 3
- Med. Grey = Class 4



PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – DATA SHEET

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION					
Survey Code/HR #	66-001a & b, 66-001c, 66-001d, 66-002	Tax Parcel No.	66-3-2, 66-3-1, 66-3-2.1, 66-3-6		
County	1. Chester 029	2.			
Municipality	1. Thornbury Township	2.			
Address	1252 Thornbury Rd. & 760 West Street Rd.				
Historic Name	Davis/Darlington Farm & Spackman Corner Chimney House				
Other Name					
Owner Name / Address					
Owner Category	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Public – local	<input type="checkbox"/> Public – state	<input type="checkbox"/> Public – Federal	
Resource Category	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Object
Number/Approximate Number of Resources Covered by This Form	10				
USGS Quad	1. West Chester		2.		
UTM References	A.	B.	C.	D.	

HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS			
Historic Function Category		Subcategory	Code
A.	Domestic	Single Dwelling	01 A
B.	Domestic	Secondary Structure	01 C
C.	Agriculture/Subsistence	Animal Facility	09 D
D.	Domestic	Secondary Structure	01 C
Particular Type	A.	Farmhouse	
	B.	Tenant House	
	C.	Barn	
	D.	Spring House	
Current Function Category		Subcategory	Code
A.	Domestic	Single Dwelling	01 A
B.	Domestic	Secondary Structure	01 C
C.	Agriculture/Subsistence	Animal Facility	09 D
D.	Domestic	Secondary Structure	01 C

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION				
Architectural Classification	A. No Style		B.	
	D.		Other	
Exterior Materials	Foundation	Stone 40		Roof
	Walls	Stone 40 (Serpentine)		Walls
	Other	Wood 20		Other
Structural System		1. Masonry 20		2.
Width 7 Bays F		Depth 2 Rooms B		Stories / Height 2.5 B

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code/Historic Resource #66-001a & b, 66-001c, 66-001d, 66-002 / Davis/Darlington Farm & Spackman Corner Chimney House / 1252 Thornbury Rd. & 760 West Street Rd.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: X c. 1709 Additions/Alterations Dates: c.

Basis for Dating: X Documentary ___ Physical

Explain: According to the deeds, John Davis [I] acquired 100 acres in 1696 with no house on it but in 1719, when he died, there was a stone house on the property.

Cultural / Ethnic Affiliation	1. N/A	2.	Associated Individuals	1. N/A	2.
Associated Events	1. N/A	2.	Architects / Engineers	1. N/A	2.
Builders	1. N/A	2.			

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dorchester, Jane E. “Deed Lineage Historic Resources #001 & 002, Davis/Darlington Farm.” Thornbury Township, July 31, 2009.

PREVIOUS SURVEY, DETERMINATIONS

The Davis/Darlington Farm is included in the Chester County Historic Sites Survey as Thornbury Township Historic Sites #1, #1a, & 2, 1979.

The Spackman Corner Chimney House is included in the Chester County Historic Sites Survey as Thornbury Township Historic Site #3, 1979.

EVALUATION (Survey Director/Consultants Only)

Individual NR Potential: X Yes ___ No Context(s):

Contributes to Potential District X Yes ___ No District Name/Status: Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark

Class: 2

Justification: The Township of Thornbury has deemed this property to have the potential to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places either as an individual resource or as a contributing resource to a potential historic district.

THREATS

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

Explain:

SURVEYOR INFORMATION			
Surveyor Name / Title	Jane E. Dorchester	Date	8/2009
Project Name	Thornbury Township VPP Historic Resource Inventory & Survey		
Organization	Jane E. Dorchester, Historic Preservation Consultant	Telephone	610-431-3737
Street and No.	19 S. Church St.		
City, State	West Chester, Pa.	Zip Code	19382
Additional Survey Documentation			
Associated Survey Codes	PHMC Key #065252; #065251; #079532		

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – NARRATIVE SHEET 89C

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The farmhouse on the Davis/Darlington Farm is a seven-bay, two-and-a-half-story, side-gable, stone building that was erected in at least three stages. The house faces south. The first stage was a three-bay, two-and-a-half-story, side-gable, stone house with an interior chimney on its east gable. It has a drip course on its south elevation, evidence that it once had a pent roof. The next stage was a two-bay, two-and-a-half-story, side-gable, serpentine stone wing attached to the core's west gable. The wing has an interior chimney on its west gable. The third stage was a two-bay, one-and-a-half-story, side gable, stone wing attached to the first wing's west elevation. It has an interior chimney on its west gable and a full-length, one-story, enclosed porch on its south elevation. There is a one-bay, one-story, side gable, frame wing attached to the west gable of the second wing.

The Spackman Corner Chimney House (also known as the Thomas Darlington House) is a one-and-a-half-story, two-bay, side-gable, serpentine stone building with a corner chimney in its northwest corner. A one-story, two-bay, shed-roofed, frame wing is attached to the core's east elevation.

The Davis/Darlington Farm Tenant House is a two-bay, two-and-a-half-story, frame buildings that faces west. It has two dormers in the west face of the roof and a deep, half-length, hipped-roof porch on its west elevation. A large frame addition was attached to its east elevation.

The Davis/Darlington Farm Barn is a large frame and stone Chester County Barn with stone supports for the forebay.

There are also on the property a long, stone spring house with a serpentine stone front, a frame wagon shed, a new frame carriage shed, two quarries, and the ruins of a limekiln.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – NARRATIVE SHEET 89C

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (including a brief statement of significance for Class 2 properties only):
In 1696, John Davis [I] bought 100 acres from John Simcock. There was no house on the property at the time. John died in 1719 and bequeathed to his wife Mary and his son Isaac his stone messuage and plantation in Thornbury which by then contained 158 acres of land. Isaac died in 1775 and his farm was sold at Sheriff's sale to Thomas Darlington in 1782. Thomas is reputed to have built the corner chimney house (HR #002). His grandson, Abraham Darlington [II], may have built the frame tenant house. The Davis/Darlington Farm stayed in the Darlington family until 1883. The last Darlington to own the farm was William Darlington. The farm then passed through nine families, including the Nobles, Brintons, and Atwater Kents, until it was acquired by the present owners.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Davis/Darlington Farm (including the Spackman Corner Chimney House) is significant for two reasons. First, it is significant under Criterion C (architecture) because the core of the farmhouse is one of the oldest houses in the township and the Chimney House is significant for what it can tell us about the evolution of the use of serpentine stone as a construction material. Second, it is significant for the role it played during and just after the Battle of the Brandywine.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – PHOTOGRAPH SHEET

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South (front) and West Elevations, House



East and South (front) Elevations, House

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North (back) Elevation, House



North (back) and West Elevations, Spackman Corner Chimney House

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West and South (front) Elevations, Tenant House



South (front) Elevation, Barn

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South Elevation, Spring House