

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

Survey Code / HR #:	66-008	Historic / Other Name:	Eavenson, Richard, I, House
Tax Parcel #	66-2-6.3A	Address:	756 South Westbourne Rd.
County:	Chester 029	Municipality:	Thornbury Township

**756 South Westbourne Rd.**

**Photographs**

Photo 1: North (back)  
Elevation, House

**Photographer:**

J. Christopher Lang

**Date:** 4/23/2007

**Negative Location:**

Thornbury Township



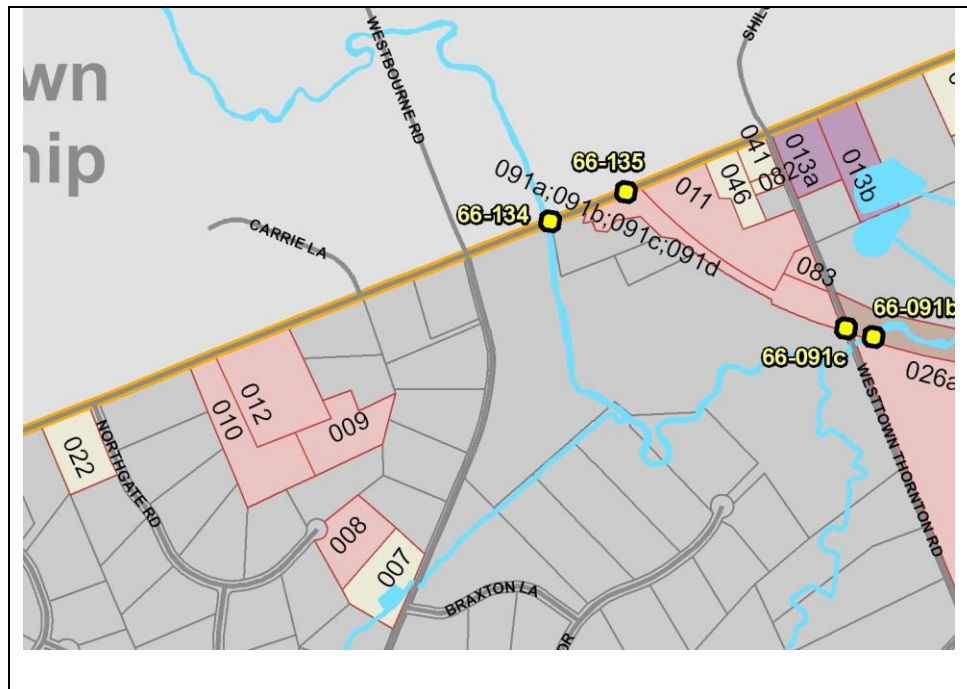
**Location Map**

Thornbury Township  
Historic Resource  
Inventory GIS Map

**LOOK FOR: HR #008**

**MAP KEY**

008 = 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

<b>IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION</b>					
Survey Code/HR #	66-008		Tax Parcel No.	66-2-6.3A	
County	1. Chester 029		2.		
Municipality	1. Thornbury Township		2.		
Address	756 South Westbourne Rd.				
Historic Name	Eavenson, Richard, I, 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	3				
USGS Quad	1. West Chester		2.		
UTM References	A.	B.	C.	D.	

<b>HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS</b>			
Historic Function Category		Subcategory	Code
A.	Domestic	Single Dwelling	01 A
B.			
C.			
D.			
Particular Type	A.	Farmhouse	
	B.		
	C.		
	D.		
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.			

<b>PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
Architectural Classification	A. No Style		B.	
	D.		Other	
Exterior Materials	Foundation			Roof
	Walls	Stone 40		Walls
	Other	Wood 20		Other
Structural System	1. Masonry 20			2.
Width 5 Bays E	Depth 2 Rooms B			Stories / Height 2.5 B

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

Year Built: X c. 1740 Additions/Alterations Dates: c.

Basis for Dating: \_\_\_ Documentary X Physical

Explain: When Richard Eavenson died in 1739, there was a house on the property which has already been added on to at least once.

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 Resource #008, Richard Eavenson [I] House.” Thornbury Township, July 31, 2009.

**PREVIOUS SURVEY, DETERMINATIONS**

Included in the Chester County Historic Sites Survey as Thornbury Township Historic Site #9, 1979.

**EVALUATION (Survey Director/Consultants Only)**

Individual NR Potential: X Yes \_\_\_ No Context(s):

Contributes to Potential District \_\_\_ Yes X No District Name/Status:

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:

<b>SURVEYOR INFORMATION</b>			
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 #065258		

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – NARRATIVE SHEET 89C**

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code/HR #	66-008	Tax Parcel / Other No.	66-2-6.3A
County	Chester 029	Municipality	Thornbury Township
Address	756 South Westbourne Rd.	Historic / Other Name	Eavenson, Richard, I, House

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The Richard Eavenson [I] House is a five-bay, two-and-a-half-story, side gable, stone building that was constructed in two parts and has had three additions made to it. The house faces south and has two interior chimneys, one on each gable elevation. There is a three-quarter length pent roof on the north elevation and a pent roof on the west end of the south elevation that wraps around to a full length porch on the west elevation. There is a small interior flue located just above the roof edge on the south face of the roof. The first addition (not necessarily chronologically) is a small, two-bay, one-story, side-gable, stone ell attached to the center of the house's south elevation. This ell features an interior chimney on the east side of the roof ridge at the south elevation of the ell. The second addition is a two-bay, two-story, side gable, frame ell attached to the house's east elevation. This ell is inset from both the north and south elevations of the house. The first floor of the ell's south elevation wall has been pushed out to be flush with the house core's south elevation wall. There is a small wood stoop on the east end of the ell's south elevation. The third addition is a two-bay, one-and-a-half-story, side gable, stucco ell attached to the east elevation of the first ell. There is an interior chimney on the second ell's east gable.

There is a new five-bay, two-and-a-half-story, frame barn located to the east of the house and a new frame garage located northeast of the barn.

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – NARRATIVE SHEET 89C**

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

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**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE** (including a brief statement of significance for Class 2 properties only):

Thomas Eavenson acquired from Thomas Bradford 317 acres in 1702. In 1711, Eavenson sold 133 acres out of his 317-acre tract to his son Richard [I]; at that time, there was no house on the property. Richard died in 1739 and bequeathed to his wife, among other things, “the use of the back room over the new house with the bed and furniture therein standing together with the use of the little room below where we used to lodge in the old house and . . . to have the use of the vault in the cellar under the new house during her widowhood.” This bequest indicates that not only had Richard had a house constructed for his use, he also had had an addition made to it. It is presumed that at least one of these sections of Richard’s house are now part of the existing house. Richard went on to bequeath this plantation, now consisting of 352 acres, to his son Nathaniel, including the house to which his widow had privileges. After Nathaniel’s death in 1783, the farm was split among his heirs. His daughter Elizabeth received the farmstead, including the Richard Eavenson [I] House, consisting of 91 acres. In 1837, 86 acres of Elizabeth’s farm including the house were sold to Edward Shimer. Shimer died in 1857 and in his Will directed his Executors to sell his real estate. In 1859, his heirs and Executors sold the 86 acres with the house on it to Samuel J. Sharpless. Sharpless proceeded to have a large, serpentine stone Gothic Revival mansion house (HR #012) and carriage house (HR #009) constructed on a rise of land to the north of and overlooking the Richard Eavenson [I] House. Sharpless named his country estate “Lenape Stock Farm”. He retained ownership of his farm, adding to his acreage, selling off bits and pieces (see HR #011), and constructing at least one other house (HR #010), until his death in 1904. His children (his only heirs-at-law) Charlotte M. Waln, Elizabeth J. Sharpless, Samuel Franklin Sharpless [II], and Thomas Wilson Sharpless divided Lenape Stock Farm among themselves. Charlotte took a tract of land of approximately 53 acres upon which she had a mansion house (HR #086) constructed. In 1908, Elizabeth Sharpless took the 11 acres of the farm that included the mansion house and its carriage house. She then married Lucian Keith of Virginia and in 1911, she took the 189 acres that included the Richard Eavenson [I] House, thereby gaining control of the total acreage that originally had made up Lenape Stock Farm. After her death in 1921, Lenape Stock Farm was broken up for the final time. The 189-acre farm with the Richard Eavenson [I] House on it was sold out of the family and her brother Samuel took possession of the 11 acres with the mansion house (HR #012) on it. The 189-acre farm remained in tact until 1968 when it was subdivided for residential use.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Richard Eavenson [I] House is significant for two reasons. First, it is significant under Criterion C (architecture) because its core may be one of the oldest houses in the Township. And second, it is significant for the role it played in the history of Lenape Stock Farm (HR #012) which is significant because of what it can tell us about the establishment and development of country estates and gentlemen’s farms in Thornbury Township in the mid-Nineteenth Century through the early Twentieth Century.

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – PHOTOGRAPH SHEET**

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East Elevation, House



East End, South (front) Elevation, House

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West Elevation and West End, South (front) Elevation, House



South (front) Elevation, Barn