



**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – DATA SHEET**

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

<b>IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION</b>					
Survey Code/HR #	66-009	Tax Parcel No.	66-2-5.1		
County	1. Chester 029	2.			
Municipality	1. Thornbury Township	2.			
Address	750 East Street Rd.				
Historic Name	Lenape Carriage House				
Other Name					
Owner Name / Address					
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	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	Secondary Structure	01 C
B.			
C.			
D.			
Particular Type	A.	Carriage House	
	B.		
	C.		
	D.		
Current Function Category		Subcategory	Code
A.	Domestic	Single Dwelling	01 A
B.	Domestic	Secondary Structure	01 C
C.	Landscape	Garden	15 D
D.			

<b>PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
Architectural Classification	A. Gothic Revival	B.	C.	
	32			
	D.	Other		
Exterior Materials	Foundation		Roof	Slate 45
	Walls	Stone 40 (Serpentine)	Walls	Aluminum 55
	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. 1865 Additions/Alterations Dates: c.

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

Explain: This building was constructed as the carriage house for Lenape (HR #012) which it matches and which, architecturally, dates from c. 1830 to c. 1880.

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 #012, Lenape Stock Farm.” Thornbury Township, July 31, 2009.

**PREVIOUS SURVEY, DETERMINATIONS**

Included in the Chester County Historic Sites Survey as Thornbury Township Historic Site #10, 1979.

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

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

Contributes to Potential District X Yes \_\_\_ No District Name/Status: Serpentine Multiple Property Group/Potential

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 #065260		

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

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code/HR #	66-009	Tax Parcel / Other No.	66-2-5.1
County	Chester 029	Municipality	Thornbury Township
Address	750 East Street Rd.	Historic / Other Name	Lenape Carriage House

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Lenape Carriage House is a five-bay, two-and-a-half-story, side gable, serpentine stone, Gothic Revival building that faces north. There are two interior chimneys, one is located on the west gable elevation and the other is located east of the center of the house on the roof ridge. The north (front) elevation features a cross-gable. The two carriage openings have been replaced, one with a door with two small windows, one on either side, and the other one with a tripartite window. A two-bay, one-and-a-half-story, side gable, frame garage is connected to the house on the west side by a small one-story, frame hyphen that is attached to the house's west elevation. The garage has a shed-roofed, double window dormer in the east face of its roof.

A new, three-bay, two-and-a-half-story, side gable, frame bank-building was constructed to the west of the garage in 2007. There is a small walled garden located on the property.

**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):

This property is associated with Lenape Stock Farm (HR #012), the land for which was acquired by Samuel J. Sharpless from the heirs of Edward Shimer in 1859. The property Sharpless acquired was made up of two tracts located in Westtown and Thornbury Townships. The Thornbury Township tract consisted of 86 acres and included an existing farmhouse, barn, and spring house (HR #008). Sharpless proceeded to have a large, serpentine stone Gothic Revival mansion house (HR #012) and carriage house (this property) constructed on a rise of land to the north of and overlooking the existing farmstead. These two buildings were probably completed by c. 1865. 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 farmstead (HR #008), 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 farmstead was sold out of the family and her brother Samuel took possession of the 11 acres with the mansion house and carriage house on it. It is very possible that he had been living in the carriage house during his sister’s ownership. The mansion house and carriage house finally left the Sharpless family when Samuel’s widow sold them in 1948 to James Clifford and Mary D. Scott. In 1952, the Scotts subdivided the property, separating the carriage house from the mansion house.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Lenape Carriage House is significant because it was an integral part of Lenape Stock Farm (HR #012). Lenape Stock Farm is significant for three reasons. First, its house and carriage house are significant under Criterion C (architecture) because they are outstanding examples of the Gothic Revival architecture fashionable in the mid-Nineteenth Century. The house and its matching carriage house are two of a collection of excellent examples of fashionable mid-Victorian architecture located in Thornbury Township. Second, Lenape (the house) and its carriage house are significant for what they can tell us about the evolution of the use of serpentine stone as a construction material. And third, Lenape Stock Farm is significant because of what it can tell us about the establishment and development of country estates and gentleman’s farms in Thornbury Township in the mid-Nineteenth Century through the early Twentieth Century.

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – PHOTOGRAPH SHEET**  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code/HR #	66-009	Historic / Other Name	Lenape Carriage House
Photographer	J. Christopher Lang	Date	4/23/2007



East Elevation, House



North Elevation, House

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West Elevation, House, Showing South Elevation, Hyphen and new Construction



North and West Elevations, New Outbuilding with House and Garage in Background