

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - PHOTO/SITE PLAN SHEET

89A

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Bureau of Historic Preservation

Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor

400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Survey Code/Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66-02-0041.0100

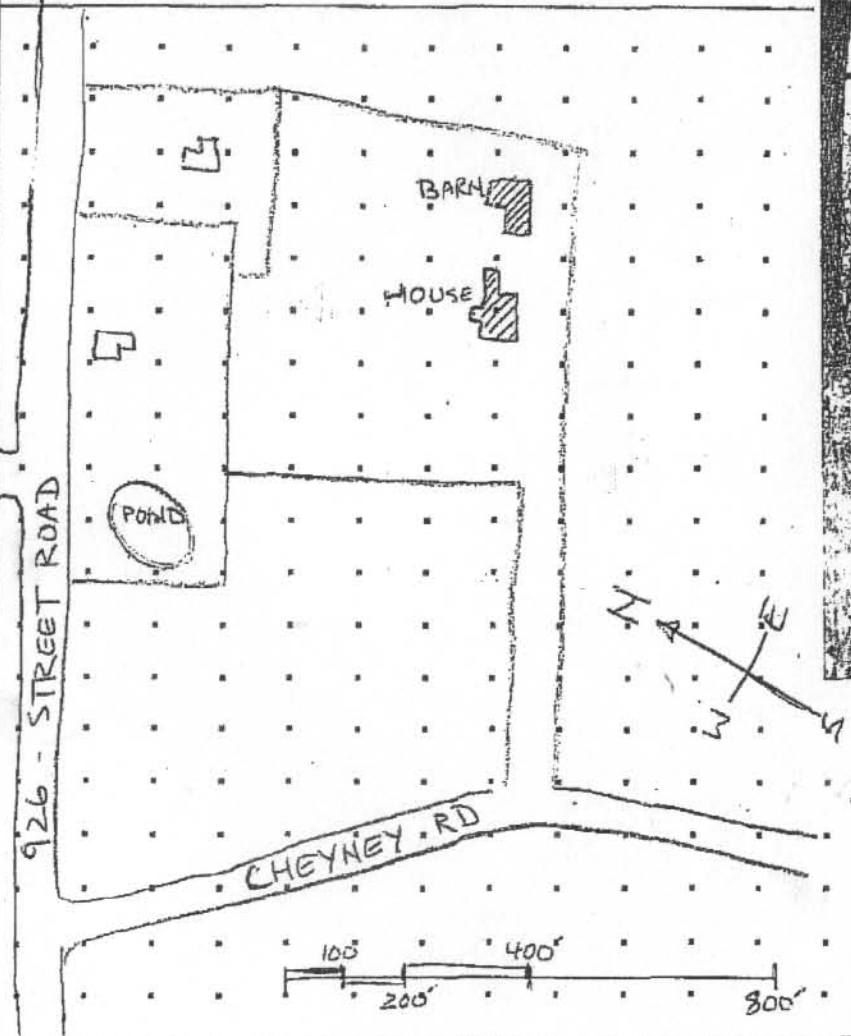
County: CHESTER

Municipality: THORNBURY TOWNSHIP

Address: 1231 CHEYNEY RD, WEST CHESTER, PA 19382

Historic Name/Other Name: DALLETT, THOMAS H. HOUSE

SITE PLAN



Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	SOUTH & WEST	NE
2	NORTH SIDE	SE
3	EAST SIDE	W
4	N&W SIDES OF BARN	SE
5	SOUTH SIDE OF BARN	N
6	EAST " "	SW

Photographer Name: PAT MACPHERSON

Date: 2004

Negative Location: 610 399 0173

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Survey Code: _____ Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66-02-0041.0100
 County: 1. CHESTER 029 2. _____
 Municipality: 1. THORNBURY TOWNSHIP 2. _____
 Address: 1231 CHEYNEY RD, WEST CHESTER, PA 19382
 Historic Name: DALLETT, THOMAS HOUSE
 Other Name: _____
 Owner Name/Address: DOH & PAT MACPHERSON, 1231 CHEYNEY RD WEST CHESTER 1938
 Owner Category: Private Public-local Public-state Public-federal
 Resource Category: Building District Site Structure Object
 Number/Approximate Number of Resources Covered by This Form: 2
 USGS Quad: 1. WEST CHESTER 2. _____
 UTM A. _____ C. _____
 References B. _____ D. _____

HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category: Subcategory: Code:
 A. DOMESTIC SINGLE DWELLING 01A
 B. _____
 C. _____
 D. _____

Particular Type: A. FARMHOUSE
 B. BARN
 C. _____
 D. _____

Current Function Category: Subcategory: Code:
 A. DOMESTIC SINGLE DWELLING 01A
 B. _____
 C. _____
 D. _____

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: A. LATE VICTORIAN 40
 B. _____ C. _____
 D. _____ Other: QUAKER PLAIN
 Exterior Materials: Foundation STONE 40 Roof ASPHALT SHINGLE 63
 Walls SERPENTINE STONE Walls _____
 Other WOOD PORCH 20 Other COPPER PORCH ROOF 52
 Structural System: 1. STONE 40 2. _____
 Width 48 E Depth 38 B Stories/Height 3 1/2 C

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: C. 1878 to 1880 Additions/Alterations: C. _____ C. _____

Basis for Dating: Documentary _____ Physical _____

Explain: The Dallett family have receipts for all stone, millwork of the heating system

Cultural/Ethnic Affiliation: 1. ENGLISH-QUAKER 2. _____

Associated Individuals: 1. _____ 2. _____

Associated Events: 1. _____ 2. _____

Architects/Engineers: 1. UNKNOWN 2. _____

Builders: 1. SPEAKMAN ? 2. _____

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

DALLETT FAMILY RECORDS & RECEIPTS

PREVIOUS SURVEY, DETERMINATIONS

None

EVALUATION (Survey Director/Consultants Only)

Individual NR Potential: _____ Yes _____ No Context[s]: _____

Contributes to a Potential District: _____ Yes _____ No District Name/Status: _____

Explain:

THREATS

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

Explain: Subdivision plans submitted to Thornbury Twp. propose open land at lower elevations and houses grouped around our property.

SURVEYOR INFORMATION

Surveyor Name/Title: DON MACPHERSON

Date: 12/04

Project Name:

Organization:

Street and No.: 1231 CHEYNEY RD

Telephone: 610 399 0173

City, State: WEST CHESTER, PA.

Zip Code: 19382

Additional Survey Documentation:

Associated Survey Codes:

Survey Code: _____ Tax Parcel/Other No.: 66-02-0041-0100
County: CHESTER Municipality: THORNBURY TOWNSHIP
Address: 1231 CHEYNEY RD, WEST CHESTER, PA 19382
Historic Name/Other Name: DALLETT, THOMAS HOUSE

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Thomas Dallett bought the Cheyney family farm some time in the 1870s to build a house in which he could be a gentleman farmer, could entertain guests and could commute to Philadelphia on the West Chester and Philadelphia Railroad.

The pre-revolutionary Squire Cheyney house sits in the horseshoe of a stream.

Dallett built his house on the hill that overlooks the Cheyney farmstead. It's built of stone which was supplied by J.H. Brinton's Birmingham Serpentine Stone Quarries in 1878.

It's a large, south-facing center-hall house with the entire west side of the front hall used as a parlor. East of the hall are a sitting room and dining room separated by another hall and the main staircase.

A two-story stone L has the kitchen on the first floor, a back staircase and two small rooms and a very early bathroom above.

Both the second and third floors of the main house each house four bedrooms.

There's a frame one-story extension to the kitchen L, which has a back kitchen, a wood shed and four hole-in-a-board privies over a pit, representing early rural indoor plumbing.

A ten-foot wide porch wraps around three sides of the main house with a porte cochere extending another 14' to the north over the driveway. Until a hail storm in 1918 there was a conservatory off the sitting room.

East of the house is a barn which looks like a Victorian version of a traditional bank barn. It housed horses. What appears to be an addition on the east end has head locks for milking cows below, and more storage and hay loft above. This addition would have been an early one as the millwork used for batons and the windows match the rest of the barn.

Here's what we find remarkable about the house. First, while the property, the site, and the scale of the house, the number of rooms and the quality of materials are all grand, there's a simplicity I'd attribute to Dallett's Quaker roots. Ornamental plaster work is not at all showy. Medallions around electric lights are stock items of the day. Since the house never had gas, the electric lights went in early and are fairly simple chandeliers in the major rooms, bare bulbs hanging on cord in the major bedrooms, and modern lights elsewhere.

Second, while it was built as a grand house, it hasn't been renovated over the years. No one ever painted the walnut doors, or the secondary pine stained to match the walnut.

In the kitchen, the Othello stove, which was made in Reading, PA, still heats a water tank which provides hot water to the kitchen sink, sinks in the back kitchen and a tinned copper bath tub in a walnut frame in a bathroom just above the kitchen. The original cabinets and closets were never modernized.

While the old bathroom has a modern toilet, we found the original one in the barn. It's a Haines, Jones and Cadbury, made in Philadelphia, with a walnut tank to match the wainscoting. I've never seen an earlier bathroom. It has no sink.

The following things are not original:

1. The slate rooves on the house and barn were replaced with "slate style" asphalt singles, probably in the early 1990s.
2. The failed tin roof on the porch was replaced with copper in 2001.
3. A powder room was added under the main stairs, a bathroom was added on the third floor and another bathroom was added in a small room next to the original bathroom.
4. The coal furnace was replaced by an oil burner in the 1980s or 1990s.
5. A well with an electric pump replaces the old gravity system, which relied on a cistern on land that now belongs to a different branch of the family (the Cheyney property cited above).
6. Over the years, more outlets and light fixtures and an electric hot water heater have been added.

I have been a renovation carpenter since 1980 with an interest in old houses. I've only seen one house that rivals this for preservation of its originality. That one was also owned by Quakers, in Germantown, and it was original as much through neglect as intention. Our house (the Dallett house) was preserved intentionally by five generations of the Dallett family, and we intend to maintain that wonderful tradition. We hope the house qualifies for registration under Criteria C for architecture.

Historic Name/Other Name: DALLETT, THOMAS HOUSE

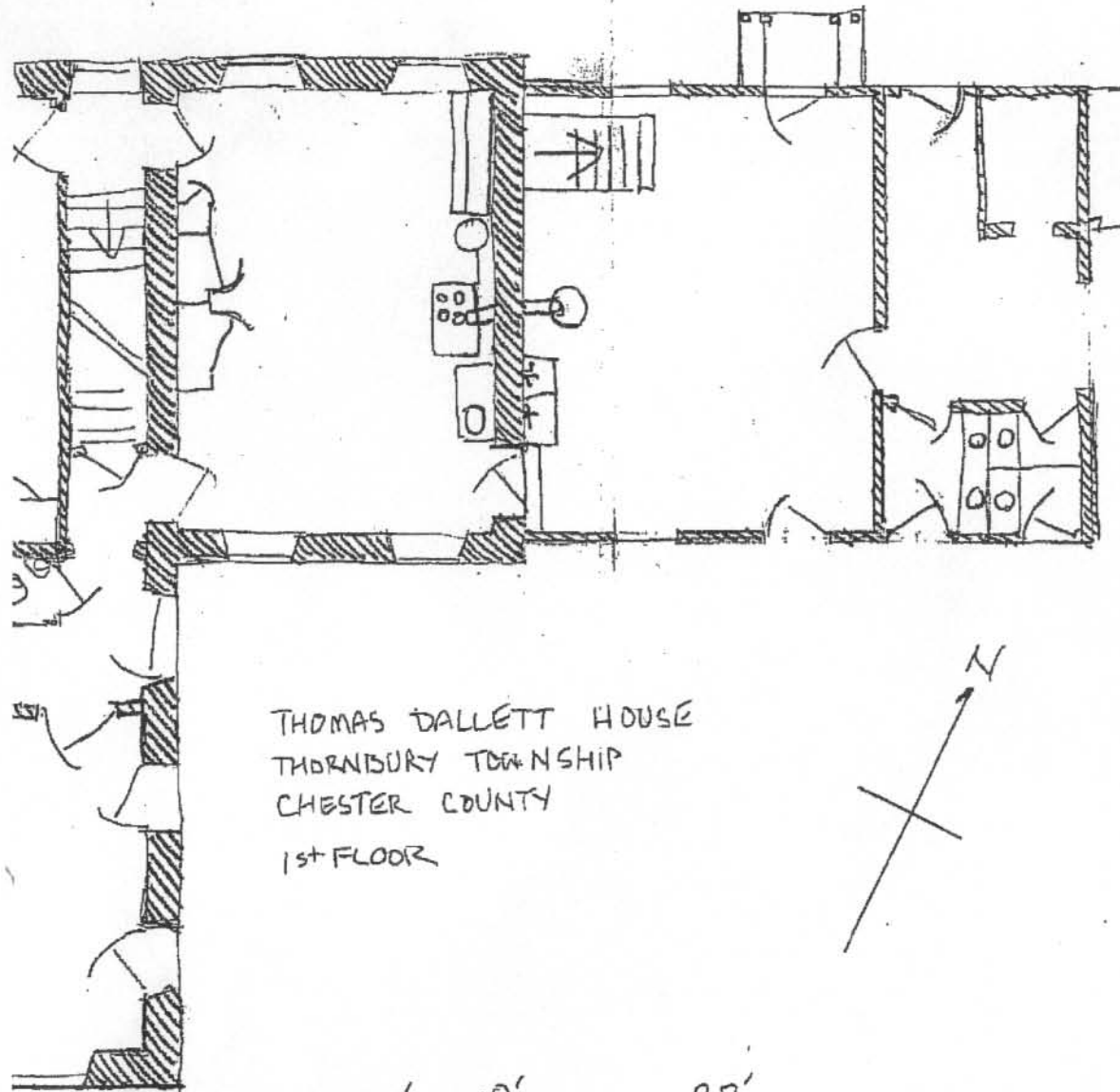
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

The Industrial Revolution and the West Chester and Philadelphia Railroad, completed in 1858, opened Thornbury Township to wealthy Philadelphians who bought land and build country homes using building materials shipped in from Philadelphia, Wilmington and West Chester.

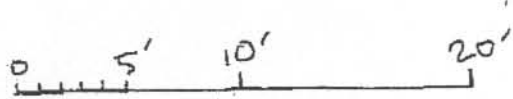
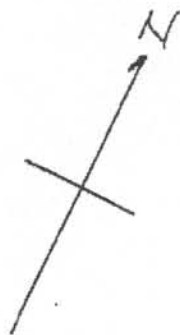
J.H. Brinton owned the Birmingham Serpentine Stone Quarries and Steam-Power Stone Works, which produced a green tinted sedimentary stone in huge quantity. A fire in 1887 ended its peak period. Brinton rebuilt on a much smaller scale and produced stone until 1899, when an angry employee destroyed the pump that kept the quarry dry. The Quarry is now a swim club that just celebrated its centennial (booklet, The History of the Quarry, June 2002, Westtown Township, Chester County).

While they shipped stone as far as Chicago and New York, southern Chester County has a large number of serpentine houses, churches, barns and banks. We have the bill from J. H. Brinton to Thomas Dallett for the stone for our house. We have receipts for all the millwork, which is typical of contemporary houses in both Media and West Chester.

Thomas Dallett bought the Cheyney farm near the Cheyney Station of the railroad, and built his house big enough to entertain in the summers. Subsequent generations of the Dalletts divided the Thomas Dallett house off from the rest of the farm. Either by choice or necessity, those generations did little more than basic maintenance to either house, leaving both the Cheyney house and the Dallett house extremely pure examples of their respective eras. I think the Dallett house qualifies under criteria C for inclusion on the National Registry.

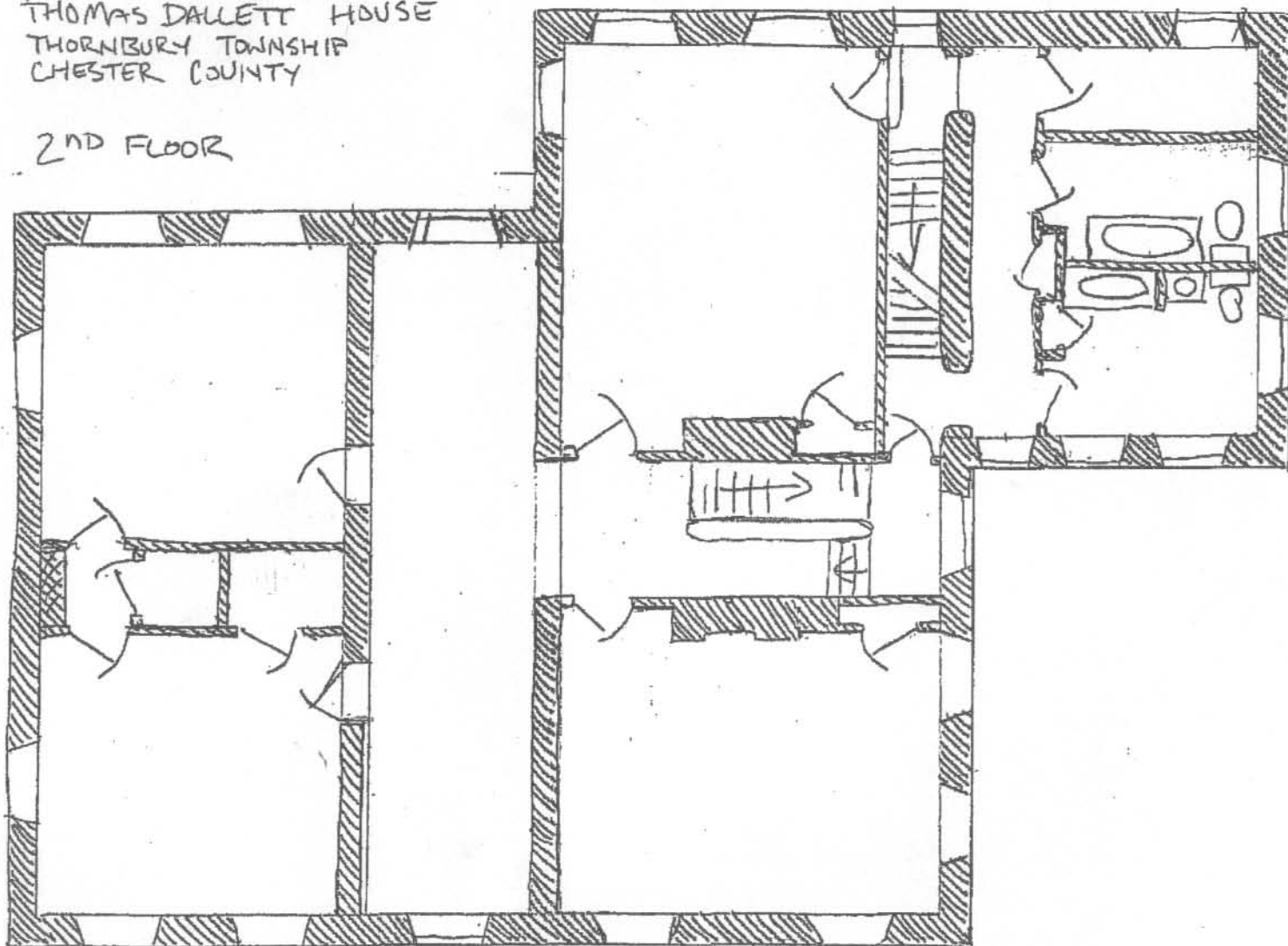


THOMAS DALLETT HOUSE
THORNBURY TOWNSHIP
CHESTER COUNTY
1st FLOOR



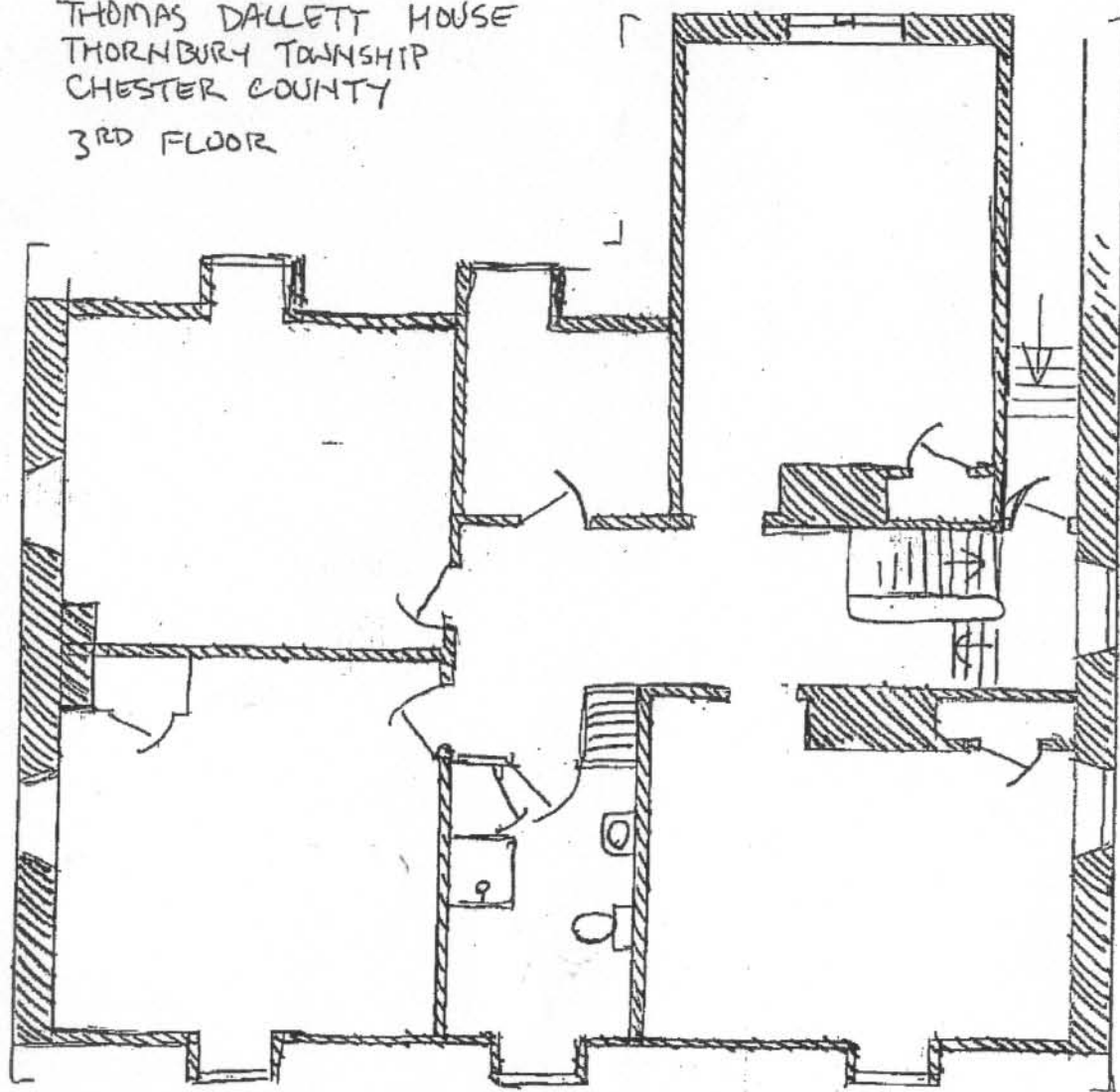
THOMAS DALLETT HOUSE
THORNBURY TOWNSHIP
CHESTER COUNTY

2ND FLOOR



0 2' 5' 10' 20'

THOMAS DALLETT HOUSE
THORNBURY TOWNSHIP
CHESTER COUNTY
3RD FLOOR



0 2' 5' 10' 20'

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM

Bureau for Historic Preservation Box 1026
 PA Historical & Museum Commission Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026

Tax parcel 66-02-0041-0100
 Survey Code:

Municipality: THORNBURY TOWNSHIP

Historic Name: DALLETT, THOMAS HOUSE

BUILDING INVENTORY FORM

County: CHESTER

Address: 1231 CHEYNEY RD

Other Name: _____

Map	Road or Street Address	Date or Period	Height/Stories	Material	Style	Machinery	Historic Use	Current Use
	1231 CHEYNEY RD	1878	3 1/2	STONE	40		01A HOUSE	01A HOUSE
	"	"	3	BOARD + BATTIN	40		09 BARN	09 BARN