

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 #:	66-017	Historic / Other Name:	Vernon, Jacob, II, House
Tax Parcel #	66-2-37	Address:	1230 Cheyney Rd.
County:	Chester 029	Municipality:	Thornbury Township

1230 Cheyney Rd.

Photographs

Photo 1: South (front)
Elevation, House

Photographer:

J. Christopher Lang

Date: 4/25/2007

Negative Location:

Thornbury Township



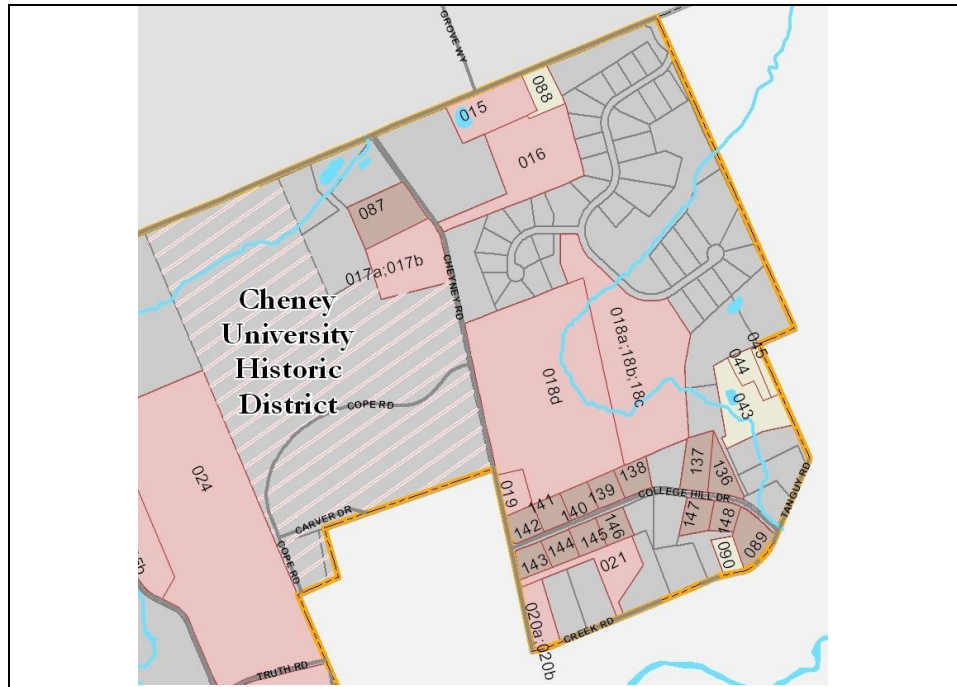
Location Map

Thornbury Township
Historic Resource
Inventory GIS Map

LOOK FOR: HR #017

MAP KEY

017 = 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 #	66-017		Tax Parcel No.	66-2-37	
County	1. Chester 029		2.		
Municipality	1. Thornbury Township		2.		
Address	1230 Cheyney Rd.				
Historic Name	Vernon, Jacob, II, 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.	

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

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION				
Architectural Classification	A. Italianate 42		B.	
	D.		Other	
Exterior Materials	Foundation		Roof	Asphalt shingles 63
	Walls	Stone 40 (Serpentine)	Walls	Stucco 61
	Other	Wood 20	Other	
Structural System	1. Masonry 20		2.	
Width 6 Bays F	Depth 2 Rooms B		Stories / Height 3 C	

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: c. 1750 Additions/Alterations Dates: c.

Basis for Dating: X Documentary ___ Physical

Explain: According to the deeds, there was a house on the property in the same location as the existing house at the time of Jacob Vernon [II]’s death in c. 1750.

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 #017, Jacob Vernon [II] House.” Thornbury Township, July 31, 2009.

PREVIOUS SURVEY, DETERMINATIONS

Included in the Chester County Historic Sites Survey as Thornbury Township Historic Site #019, 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: 4 1. None 2. Public Development 3. Private Development 4. Neglect 5. Other

Explain: The property is now an apartment house with numerous maintenance and repair issues, including code violation citations from the township.

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 #022611		

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – NARRATIVE SHEET 89C

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code/HR #	66-017	Tax Parcel / Other No.	66-2-37
County	Chester 029	Municipality	Thornbury Township
Address	1230 Cheyney Rd.	Historic / Other Name	Vernon, Jacob, II, House

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Jacob Vernon [II] House is a six-bay, three-story, shallow side-gable roofed, serpentine stone and stucco building designed in a conservative Italianate mode. The house faces south. There are two interior chimneys, one on each gable end. There is a full-length, one-story, shed-roofed, wood porch on the south (front) elevation. There is one five-bay, two-and-a-half-story, double-pile, side-gable, stucco addition to the house which may include the original house core. This ell is attached to the center of the north (back) elevation of the house, forming the upright of a “T”. Both the east and west elevations of the ell have full-length, one-story, shed-roofed, wood porches. There are two interior chimneys, one on each side of the ell’s roof ridge at the north gable end.

There is a small, two-bay, two-and-a-half-story, side-gable, stucco and stone building that appears to be a bank-building. It may be the remainder of the barn which, according to the historic maps, once stood in the general vicinity of this building. This building faces east and has a shed roof, wood portico protecting the front door. There is another similar portico located towards the west end of the south elevation. There is an exterior chimney on the west elevation. This building is now being used as a dwelling.

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):

The land on which the Jacob Vernon [II] House is located was originally part of the 1500-acre Cheyney Tract which John [II] and Thomas [I] Cheyney bought from John Bellers in 1724. In 1728, Thomas Cheyney died and bequeathed to his wife, Elizabeth Hickman Cheyney, 60 acres of his 700 acre-portion of the 1500-acre Cheyney Tract. By 1734, Elizabeth had married Jacob Vernon [II] and Jacob had acquired an additional 208 acres from John Cheyney. Elizabeth and Jacob built a house on this 268 acre tract. This house probably faced west. Jacob, upon his death in 1751, bequeathed the use of the house to Elizabeth until her death, whereupon the house was to go to their children. Eventually, John Harper, Phebe Vernon Harper's husband, ended up with the house and a lot of 86 acres of land. The Harpers sold their farm to William Williamson in 1769. He may have made the first addition to the house. In 1815, William died and bequeathed to his son Passmore Williamson his farm, now consisting of 100 acres, and the house in which he had dwelled. He also bequeathed to his two daughters, Sarah and Phebe, the use of the two southerly rooms in the house one below the other upstairs and also the privilege of the oven and a part of the cellar for as long as they remained unmarried. Passmore died in 1819 intestate, leaving six siblings, Sarah, intermarried with Abraham Hoopes, Phebe, William, Thomas Cheyney, and Augustin who was a minor at the time. Thomas Williamson elected to take his brother's estate. In 1820, Thomas sold the 100-acre farm with the house on it to James Dresser. Dresser may have been the one to reorient the house to the south by adding the six-bay, three-story, serpentine front to the existing farmhouse. Dresser died in 1848 and in his Will ordered his executors to sell his farm, subject to the privilege of Ann Jefferis to use and occupy the house she then lived in and the use of the pump for her natural life.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jacob Vernon [II] House is significant for two reasons. First, it is significant because it is another link in the story of the Cheyney Tract, one of the largest tracts settled in the Township. The history of this property adds to the growing evidence of how Thornbury was settled and developed from the late 1700s through to the mid-Twentieth Century. And second, it is significant for what it can tell us about the evolution of the use of serpentine stone as a construction material.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – PHOTOGRAPH SHEET

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East and North (back) Elevations, House



West Elevation, House

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South and East (front) Elevations, Outbuilding



East (front) and North Elevations, Outbuilding