

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 #:	66-021	Historic / Other Name:	Pennyscroft
Tax Parcel #	66-2-52	Address:	1343 Creek Rd.
County:	Chester 029	Municipality:	Thornbury Township

1343 Creek Rd.

Photographs

Photo 1: South (front)
Elevation, House

Photographer:

J. Christopher Lang

Date: 9/9/2007

Negative Location:

Thornbury Township



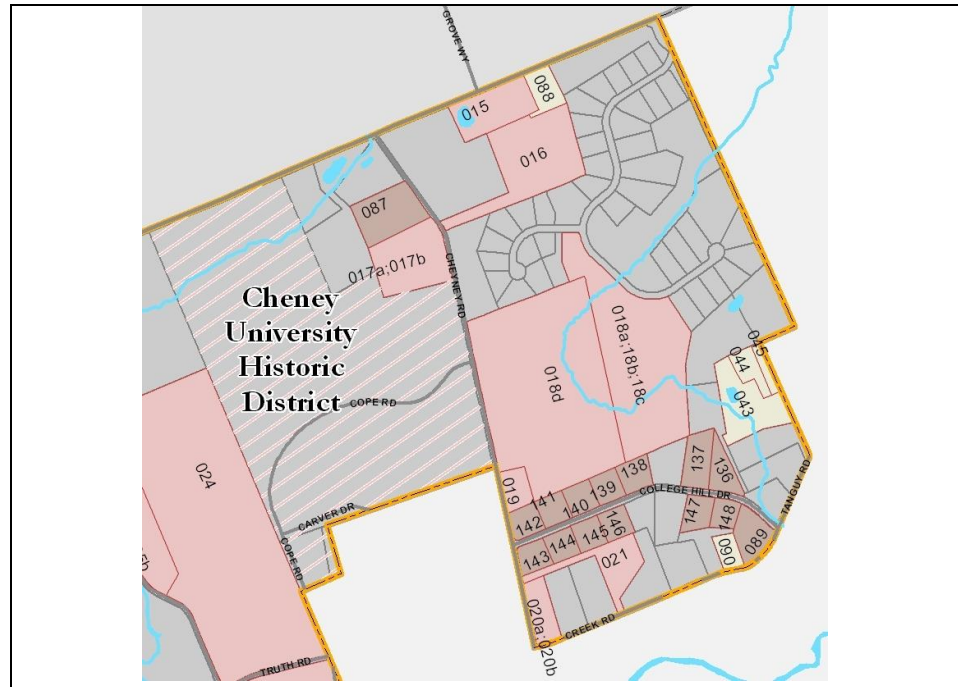
Location Map

Thornbury Township
Historic Resource
Inventory GIS Map

LOOK FOR: HR #021

MAP KEY

021 = 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 #	66-021		Tax Parcel No.	66-2-52	
County	1. Chester 029		2.		
Municipality	1. Thornbury Township		2.		
Address	1343 Creek Rd.				
Historic Name	Pennyscroft				
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	2				
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.			
D.			
Particular Type	A.	Mansion House	
	B.	Garage	
	C.		
	D.		
Current Function Category		Subcategory	Code
A.	Domestic	Single Dwelling	01 A
B.	Domestic	Secondary Structure	01 C
C.			
D.			

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION				
Architectural Classification	A. Second Empire		B.	
	43			
	D.		Other	
Exterior Materials	Foundation		Roof	Slate 45
	Walls	Stone 40 (Serpentine)	Walls	
	Other	Wood 20	Other	
Structural System		1. Masonry 20		2.
Width 5 Bays E		Depth 2 Rooms B		Stories / Height 3 C

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: c. 1887 Additions/Alterations Dates: c.

Basis for Dating: X Documentary X Physical

Explain: The owner has a copy of a mechanics lien that implies the house was completed in 1887. The house is a good example of the Second Empire (1855-1890) architectural style.

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 #021, Pennyscroft." Thornbury Township, July 31, 2009.

T. K. Prior and Sons vs. Spencer Trotter. Common Pleas of Chester County Mechanics Lien #1827, November 23, 1887.

PREVIOUS SURVEY, DETERMINATIONS

Included in the Chester County Historic Sites Survey as Thornbury Township Historic Site #022, 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:

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 #022615		

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – NARRATIVE SHEET 89C

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code/HR #	66-021	Tax Parcel / Other No.	66-2-52
County	Chester 029	Municipality	Thornbury Township
Address	1343 Creek Rd.	Historic / Other Name	Pennyscroft

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Pennyscroft is a five-bay, three-story, serpentine stone Second Empire building with two interior chimneys placed more or less in the middle of the roof. The house faces south and has an unusual central cross gable in its south elevation, an element borrowed from the Gothic Revival style. The south elevation also features a deep, full-length, one-story, colonnaded, wood porch with a balustrade around the edge of its roof.

There is a three-bay, one-and-a-half story garage located on the property. The garage is thought to have been constructed in c. 1930.

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

The land on which Pennyscroft is located was originally part of the 1500-acre Cheyney Tract. In 1840, Joseph Cheyney acquired 150-acres of the tract. In 1854, Joseph sold 145 acres to Isaac Thomas of Newtown, Delaware County. Isaac died the following year and his son J. Preston Thomas acquired the land from his father's estate. In 1886, Preston sold two plus acres of land to Spencer Trotter, M.D., of Philadelphia. Spencer promptly had a Second Empire mansion house constructed of serpentine stone erected on his two-acre lot. Unfortunately, Spencer got into financial difficulties and the house and lot were put up for Sheriff's auction in 1898.

Significance

Pennyscroft is significant to the history of Thornbury Township for two reasons. First, it is significant under Criterion A (architecture) for its use of serpentine stone and its unusual architectural design which married the Second Empire with architectural elements borrowed from the Gothic Revival and Colonial Revival. Second, Pennyscroft is significant for what it can tell us about the evolution of the use of serpentine stone as a construction material.