

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 #:	66-026a & b	Historic / Other Name:	Cassett, Robert S., House; & dePaul, St. Vincent, School
Tax Parcel #	66-2-26	Address:	1257 Westtown Thornton Rd.
County:	Chester 029	Municipality:	Thornbury Township

**1257 Westtown
Thornton Rd.**

Photographs: East and North (front) Elevations, House

Photographer: J. Christopher Lang

Date: 4/23/2007

Original Negative Location: Thornbury

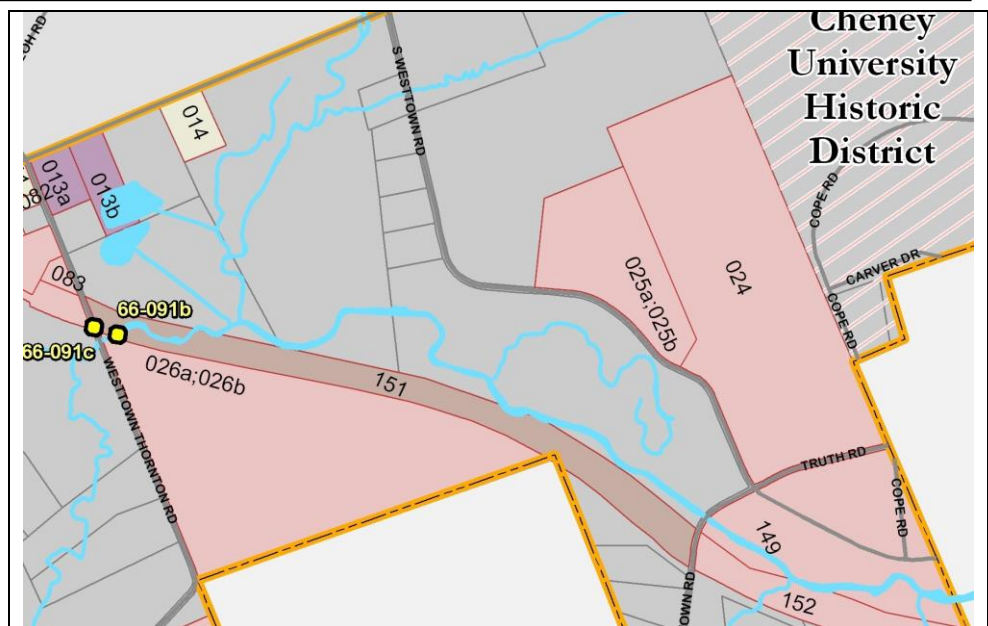


Location Map
Thornbury Township
Historic Resource
Inventory GIS Map

**LOOK FOR: HR #026a
& 026b**

MAP KEY

026a = 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 #	66-026	Tax Parcel No.	66-2-26		
County	1. Chester 029	2.			
Municipality	1. Thornbury Township	2.			
Address	1257 Westtown Thornton Rd.				
Historic Name	Cassett, Robert S., House; & dePaul, St. Vincent, School				
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	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.	Education	School	05 A
C.			
D.			
Particular Type	A.	Farmhouse	
	B.	Classroom Building	
	C.		
	D.		
Current Function Category		Subcategory	Code
A.	Domestic	Single Dwelling	01 A
B.	Vacant/Not in Use		98
C.			
D.			

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION					
Architectural Classification	A. Mid-Nineteenth Century 30		B. Georgian Revival 51	C.	
	D.		Other:		
Exterior Materials	Foundation	Stone 40		Roof	Asphalt 63
	Walls	Stone 40		Walls	Aluminum 55
	Other	Wood 20		Other	
Structural System		1. Masonry 20		2.	
Width 3 Bays C		Depth 2 Rooms B		Stories / Height 2.5 B	

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

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code/Historic Resource #66-026 / Cassett, Robert S., House; & dePaul, St. Vincent, School / 1257 Westtown Thornton Rd.

HISTORICAL INFORMATIONYear Built: c. 1863; c. 1930 Additions/Alterations Dates:Basis for Dating: Documentary Physical

Explain: Robert Cassett bought 39 acres of land only in 1860 and sold the same parcel with a house on it in 1866. In 1923, the Society of St. Vincent dePaul of Philadelphia bought the property.

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 #026, Robert S. Cassett House & St. Vincent dePaul School." Thornbury Township, July 31, 2009.

PREVIOUS SURVEY, DETERMINATIONS

Included in the Chester County Historic Sites Survey as Thornbury Township Historic Sites #27 & #27a, 1979.

EVALUATION (Survey Director/Consultants Only)Individual NR Potential: Yes No Context(s):Contributes to Potential District Yes 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.

THREATSThreats: 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 #022609		

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – NARRATIVE SHEET 89C

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

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County	Chester 029	Municipality	Thornbury Township
Address	1257 Westtown Thornton Rd.	Historic / Other Name	Cassett, Robert S., House; & dePaul, St. Vincent, School

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Robert S. Cassett House is a three-bay, two-and-a-half-story, side-gable, stone house that faces north. It features two interior chimneys, one on each gable, and two dormers in the north face of its roof. It has a full-length, one-story, wood porch attached to its north elevation. There have been two additions made to the house. The first one is a one-bay, two-story, shallow hipped-roofed, frame ell attached to the east end of the south elevation of the core of the house. The second one is a small, one-story, stucco hyphen that was attached to the southeast corner of the first addition's east elevation. The second addition connects the house to a two-bay, one-story, front-gable, stucco garage.

The property also includes the St. Vincent dePaul School building which is a twenty-four-bay, two-story, flat-roofed, brick, Georgian Revival building located to the east of the Cassett House. It faces north and has a full-length, one-story, colonnaded porch on its north elevation. The porch has an iron balustrade and there is a two-story, three-bay, wood portico which interrupts the porch in its middle. There is a plain, wood cornice and frieze band located just below the roof edge on the north and west elevations.

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

The Robert S. Cassett House was built sometime between 1860 when Robert acquired 39 acres of land (without a house) from Wellington and Jane Hickman and 1866 when Robert sold the 39 acres with a house on it to Addinell Hewson, a doctor from Philadelphia. Robert was the father of American Impressionist artist Mary Cassett.

After the Cassetts gave up ownership of the property, it changed hands on an average of every 3.3 years until 1923, when The Society of St. Vincent dePaul bought the property and erected a school building. The Society stayed on the property for 61 years before closing the school and selling the property.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

This property is significant for two reasons. First, it is significant under Criterion B (persons) because of its possible association with Mary Cassett. And second, it is significant under Criterion C (architecture) because the St. Vincent DePaul School is a good example of a Georgian Revival institutional building and is the only example of such in the Township.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – PHOTOGRAPH SHEET

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

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Photographer	J. Christopher Lang	Date	4/23/2007



East Elevation, House



South (back) and East Elevations, House

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West Elevation, House



North (front) and West Elevations, St. Vincent dePaul School

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West and South (back) Elevations, St. Vincent dePaul School



North (front) and West Elevations, House, with St. Vincent DePaul School in Left Background