

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 #:	66-037	Historic / Other Name:	Rokeby Stock Farm / Brian's House
Tax Parcel #	66-2-1.2-E	Address:	1300 S. Concord Rd.
County:	Chester 029	Municipality:	Thornbury Township

1300 S. Concord Rd.

Photographs: East
(front) Elevation, House

Photographer: J. Christopher
Lang

Date: 4/20/2007

Original Negative Location:
Thornbury



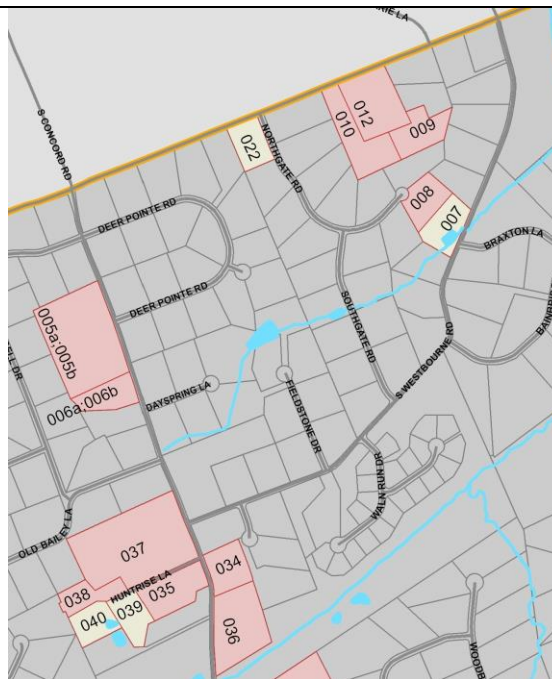
Location Map

Thornbury Township
Historic Resource
Inventory GIS Map

LOOK FOR: HR #037

MAP KEY

- 037 = 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 #	66-037	Tax Parcel No.	66-2-1.2-E		
County	1. Chester 029	2.			
Municipality	1. Thornbury Township	2.			
Address	1300 S. Concord Rd.				
Historic Name	Rokeby Stock Farm / Brian's 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	1				
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.			
C.			
D.			
Particular Type	A.	Mansion House	
	B.		
	C.		
	D.		
Current Function Category		Subcategory	Code
A.	Domestic	Single Dwelling	01 A
B.			
C.			
D.			

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION			
Architectural Classification	A. Gothic Revival	B. Queen Anne 45	C.
	32		
	D.	Other:	
Exterior Materials	Foundation		Roof Asphalt 63
	Walls	Stone 40	Walls Wood 20
	Other	Wood 20	Other
Structural System	1. N/A		2.
Width 3 Bays C	Depth 1 Room A		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 #66-037 / Rokeby Stock Farm / Brian’s House / 1300 S. Concord Rd.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: X c. 1830 Additions/Alterations Dates: 1863, c. 1885, c. 1910

Basis for Dating: X Documentary X Physical

Explain: John B. Taylor acquired the property from his father in 1831, possibly with a house on it. A date stone in the front elevation has 1863 inscribed on it. According to a history of the property, the middle section of the house was built in the 1880s by John Wyeth, and James Gay Gordon added the library in c. 1910.

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

Bridgens, H. F., and A. R. Witmer. Atlas of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Safe Harbor, Lancaster County, Pa.: A. R. Witmer, 1873.

Breou's Original Series of Farm Maps, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: W. H. Kirk & Co., 1883.

Dorchester, Jane E. “Deed Lineage Historic Resource #037, Rokeby Stock Farm.” Thornbury Township, July 31, 2009.

Lathrop, J. M. and St. Julian Ogier, CEs. Atlas of Properties on Main Line of Pennsylvania Railroad from Devon to Downingtown and West Chester. Philadelphia: A. H. Mueller, 1912.

“Rokeby . . . Westtown, Pa.” Ms. 1977[?].

PREVIOUS SURVEY, DETERMINATIONS

Included in the Chester County Historic Sites Survey as Thornbury Township Historic Site #40, 1979.

EVALUATION (Survey Director/Consultants Only)

Individual NR Potential: X Yes ___ No Context(s):

Contributes to Potential District X Yes ___ No District Name/Status: South Concord Road Historic District/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 #065291		

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – NARRATIVE SHEET 89C

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Address	1300 S. Concord Rd.	Historic / Other Name	Rokeby Stock Farm / Brian's House

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Brian's House is a three-bay, two-and-a-half-story, single-pile, side-gable, serpentine stone Gothic Revival building with an interior chimney placed in the center of the roof ridge and two front-gabled wall dormers on its east (front) elevation. The fenestration is symmetrical. There is a full-length, one-story, wood porch attached to the east (front) elevation. The house has had several additions made to it. The first addition is a three-bay, two-and-a-half-story, hipped-roofed, granite stone, Queen Anne Revival ell that is attached to the west elevation of the serpentine core. This addition has an interior chimney on its west elevation and a side gable on its south elevation, possibly indicative that it is an addition to an earlier stone house. Three three-story frame additions were made to the north half of the west elevation of the granite ell, the southern-most one has an interior chimney on the party wall with the granite ell. The final addition is a one-bay, two-and-a-half-story, front-gable, serpentine stone, Queen Anne Revival ell attached to the west elevation of the granite ell and the south elevation of the southern-most frame addition. This addition features a pedimented roof and a serpentine chimney on its west elevation. After this addition was made, a one-story, frame, shed-roof porch was added along the south elevation of the granite ell between the west elevation of the serpentine core and the east elevation of the serpentine ell. There is a large, frame, two-story tower located more or less in the center of the house.

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):
In 1862, John Penrose bought this property from the estate of John B. Taylor for the purpose of turning it into a gentleman's farm which he called Rokeby Stock Farm. Penrose was an avid horseman. The serpentine core of the house was constructed in 1863, possibly as an addition to an existing stone house. Possibly at the same time the first frame addition was attached to the south elevation of the existing stone house and the frame tower which acted as a bridge between the serpentine addition and the existing stone house was erected. Penrose died as a result of a riding accident in c. 1870 and title passed to John Dowling and his son John who retained the name of the property and then to Samuel Harlan, who may have dropped the name. In 1884, John Wyeth, founder of Wyeth Pharmaceutical Laboratories, bought the property and reinstated its name as "Rokeby". The granite addition, which may have been added to the older stone house, is reputed to have been erected for Wyeth. At the same time, the second frame addition is also reputed to have been added for Wyeth. In 1903, Wyeth and his wife conveyed the property to James Gay Gordon. John Wyeth died in 1904; from 1907 to 1908, the property was conveyed back and forth between Gordon and Stuart Wyeth, John's son. Ultimately, Gordon ended up with 53 acres and the house and most of the buildings associated with Rokeby, the Tenant House and Barn (HR #38), the Hay Barn (HR #039), and the Carriage Barn (HR #40), and Stuart Wyeth ended up with Rokeby Stable (HR #35) and a tract of land containing 64 acres upon which he built an Adirondack-type lodge (HR #133).

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

This property is significant for two reasons. First, it is significant under Criterion C (architecture) because it is a good example of how country houses, be they farmhouses or country estate houses, evolve over time, changing to meet the changing needs of their owners. And second, it is a potential contributing resource in the South Concord Road Historic District whose area of significance would be the establishment and development of country estates in Thornbury Township in the mid-Nineteenth Century through the early Twentieth Century.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – PHOTOGRAPH SHEET

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Photographer	J. Christopher Lang	Date	4/20/2007



South Elevation, House



West (back) Elevation, House

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North Elevation, House



Long View, Rokeby through Entranceway, Looking West