

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 #:	66-149	Historic / Other Name:	Glen Burnie / Armstrong House
Tax Parcel #	66-2-56-E	Address:	Truth Rd.
County:	Chester 029	Municipality:	Thornbury Township

Glen Burnie

Photographs

Photo 1: South (front)
Elevation

Photographer:

J. Christopher Lang

Date: 4/25/2007

Negative Location:

Thornbury Township



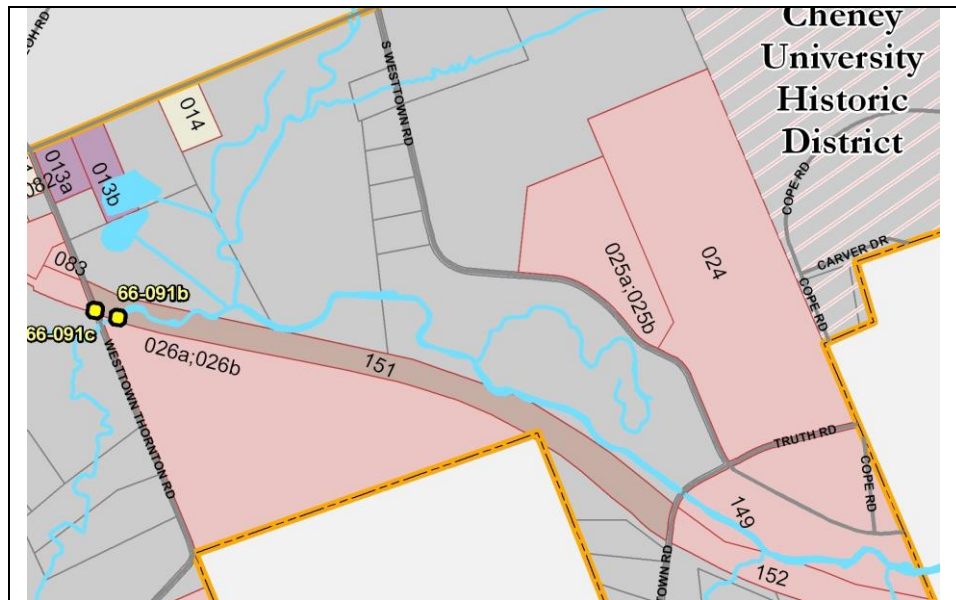
Location Map

Thornbury Township
Historic Resource
Inventory GIS Map

LOOK FOR: HR #149

MAP KEY

- 149 = 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 #	66-149	Tax Parcel No.	66-2-56-E		
County	1. Chester 029	2.			
Municipality	1. Thornbury Township	2.			
Address	Truth Rd.				
Historic Name	Glen Burnie / Armstrong House				
Other Name					
Owner Name / Address					
Owner Category	Private	Public – local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public – state	Public – Federal	
Resource Category	Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.	Agriculture/Subsistence	Animal Facility	09 D
C.			
D.			
Particular Type	A.	Farmhouse	
	B.	Barn	
	C.		
	D.		
Current Function Category		Subcategory	Code
A.	Education	College	05 B
B.	Vacant/Not in Use	Ruin	98
C.			
D.			

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION					
Architectural Classification	A. No Style		B.	C.	
	D.		Other:		
Exterior Materials	Foundation	Stone 50		Roof	Wood Shingle 22
	Walls	Stone 50		Walls	Stucco 61
	Other	Wood 20		Other	
Structural System	1. Masonry 20			2.	
Width 5 Bays E	Depth 2 Rooms B			Stories / Height 2.5 B	

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation
 Survey Code/Historic Resource #66-149 / Glen Burnie / Armstrong House / Truth Rd.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: X c. 1805__ Additions/Alterations Dates:

Basis for Dating: X Documentary __ Physical

Explain: The Tax Assessment Records for Thornbury Township list the house on this property as being made of log through 1802.

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

Chester County Tax Records, Chester County Triennial Tax Assessments, Thornbury Township, 1796-1802. Photocopy.

Cheyney University Armstrong-Glen Burnie / Armstrong House. Cheyney University, c. 2005 [?].

PREVIOUS SURVEY, DETERMINATIONS

Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form, 1982.

PHMC determined that Glen Burnie / Armstrong House “Contributes to Resource”, 5/11/2007.

EVALUATION (Survey Director/Consultants Only)

Individual NR Potential: __ Yes __ No Context(s):

Contributes to Potential District X Yes __ No District Name/Status: Cheyney University Historic District

Class: 2

Justification: The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) has deemed Glen Burnie / Armstrong House to have the potential to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource to the Cheyney University Historic District; therefore, according to the Township’s Historic Resource Classification Definitions, this resource is a Class 2.

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 #106955		

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – NARRATIVE SHEET 89C

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code/HR #	66-149	Tax Parcel / Other No.	66-2-56-E
County	Chester 029	Municipality	Thornbury Township
Address	Truth Rd.	Historic / Other Name	Glen Burnie / Armstrong House

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Glen Burnie is a five-bay, two-and-a-half-story, double-pile, side-gable, stone house with two interior chimneys, one on each gable end. The house faces south. There are two wings. The first wing is a two-bay, two-and-a-half-story, single-pile, side-gable, stucco addition attached to the east elevation of the main house; it has one interior chimney on its east gable. The second wing is a one-and-a-half-story, two-bay, single-pile, shed-roofed, stucco addition attached to the west elevation of the main house; the peak of the shed roof is attached to the west elevation of the main house. The fenestration is somewhat irregular. The first floor south (front) elevation has five openings, two windows, two doors and a window, while the second floor south elevation has four windows, two centered over the western two windows on the first floor, one centered over the eastern front door, and one over the eastern window. There are two dormers centered on the south (front) elevation of the roof. There is a pent roof across the south (front) elevation of the main house. The two front doors have wooden stoops and the east wing has a wood porch attached to its south (front) elevation. There is a stone terrace with wood railings that wraps the west wing from its south (front) to its west elevation. The north (back) elevation is four bays with two windows, a door, and a window on the first floor and four windows on the second floor centered over the openings on the first floor. There are two dormers centered on the north (back) elevation of the roof. There is a wooden half porch centered on the north (back) elevation that is accessed by a wooden staircase in front of the door and an ADA ramp on the east end of the porch.

There is the ruins of a stone barn located to the west of the house. The ruins include the foundation walls and a three-bay, two-and-a-half-story, side-gable, stone structure with a one-story, one-bay, shed-roofed, stone wing that was once a part of the larger barn.

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 house now known as “Glen Burnie” may have been constructed in c. 1805 by Thomas Hickman as his farmhouse. He had acquired the tract the house sat on from John and Thomas Cheyney. In 1825, the property passed to Benjamin Hickman, a dealer in hogs, who held the title until his death in 1866. At that point, the house sat on 133 acres which passed to his son Jesse Hickman, a prominent Chester County Republican and long-time Registrar of Wills. In 1893, Robert W. Neilson purchased the house and at least 23 acres of the farm and renamed it “Glen Burnie”. He had stone gate posts erected at the end of his driveway in which “Glen Burnie” was incised. In 1923, Eugene J. Keiffer purchased the property and remodelled the house into a Tudor Revival mansion. The property was then sold to T. J. Armstrong who sold the house and 23 acres to Cheyney State College in 1966. The college used the building as housing for college staff until 1983. In that year, the decision was made to turn it into the President’s House. The Department of General Services embarked on an ambitious renovation project which was abruptly stopped early in the project, leaving the house uninhabitable. The house was left vacant from 1983 until 2005, when Cheyney University rethought the original plan to turn Glen Burnie into the President’s House, decided to use it as a conference center, and received funding to renovate the house into a conference center. The renovation was completed in 2007.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Glen Burnie is significant for two reasons. First, it is significant on the local level as a good example of the type of farmhouse that was being built throughout the township from 1700 to 1850. It also 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 the role it plays in the history of Cheyney University. Cheyney has been deemed a potential historic district by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – PHOTOGRAPH SHEET
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code/HR #	66-149	Historic / Other Name	Glen Burnie / Armstrong House
Photographer	J. Christopher Lang	Date	4/19/2008



North (back) Elevation, Glen Burnie



Driveway off Truth Road, showing One of the Stone Gate Posts, Looking South

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM – PHOTOGRAPH SHEET

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code/HR #	66-149	Historic / Other Name	Glen Burnie / Armstrong House
Photographer	J. Christopher Lang	Date	4/16/2009



West and South (front) Elevations, Barn, with Glen Burnie in Right Background