

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026
 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120

7. Local survey organization

West Whiteland Historical Commission

1. County **Chester**
 5. present name **Thomas Marble Quarry Houses**
 2. municipality **West Whiteland**

8. property owners name and address

- 1) R.D. Rimel
 - 2) R.H., Jr. & S.L. Ludwick
 - 3) R.K. & B.H. Smith
- Quarry Lane
 Exton, OA 19341

9. tax parcel number / other number

41-5-126.1, 126.1A
 127

1018
 U.T.M. Map #43
 Usgs sheet: A445580/4430140
 B445660/4429950
 C445500/4429880
 D445470/4429930
 E445250/4429930
 F445220/4429980

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)

CCHSS

Downingtown
 Residence-tenant 18A

12. classification
 site () structure () object ()
 building (X)
 in N.R. district yes () no ()

13. date(s) (how determined)

c.1833

15. style, design or folk type

Vernacular

19. original use

Residence-tenant 18A

14. period

1820-1839

20. present use

Residence

16. architect or engineer

17. contractor or builder

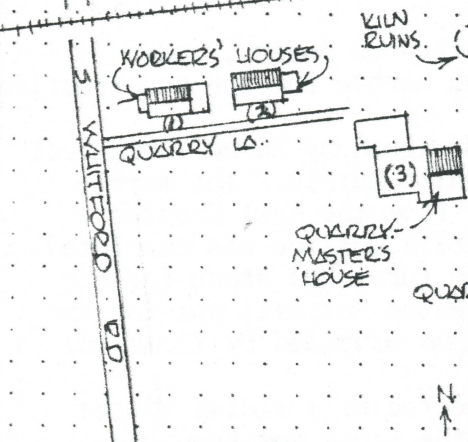
18. primary building mat./construction

Stone

21. condition Above Average

22. integrity Average

23. site plan with north arrow



24. photo notation

PG: John Ronayne
 PV: South elevation
 PD: 11/1981

25. file/location

CCHS, WWHC #09-71, #26

26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings)

Three structures remain from the famous Thomas Marble Quarries, established in 1833: two quarry worker's houses and the Quarry Master's House. The site features, in addition, vestiges of two lime kilns, stone ruins from the quarry operation, and the quarry itself, now filled with water. A spur from the old Chester Valley Railroad (now Conrail) has been removed.

All three houses are built of locally quarried stuccoed stone. The worker's houses, each of which served two families, were constructed identically and designed to give shelter but little in the way of luxury to the quarry workers renting them. The houses were divided into two sections of two small bays and featured double entrances on the facade. Originally, the two doors were protected by a smaller pent roof, only as wide as the openings. A common, centrally located brick chimney served stoves on each side of the house. The two stairways, each located along the common central wall, wound from basement to attic. While the basement was divided by a central stone wall, the attic

27. history, significance and/or background

Industry

These three structures derive their significance from their association with the Thomas Quarry which opened near Oaklands in 1833, easily the most famous industry to ever operate in West Whiteland. In that year, the Columbia Railroad was under construction and pushing east towards Philadelphia. According to one writer, the marble "might have lain dormant for centuries" had it not been for the arrival of the railroad. Within

28. sources of information

CCHS Clipping File - Industry AR 10-22-1833, VR 7-10-1834
 VR 1-29-1869; Sloans Architectural Review and Builders Journal

29. prepared by:

M.L.Wolf

30. date
 12/1981

revision(s)

(continue on back if necessary)

6. other name (historic name if any)

3. street address or specific location
 Quarry Lane

4. survey code
 029-09-41-103, 104,
 105



#26 cont.

was left as one space. The interior of the houses were left completely plain, the walls being simply plastered stone and the windows untreated. Doors were made of vertical boards. Each of the worker's houses has been converted to a single family residence involving some alteration and additions. The basic stone core of each house, however, has been carefully retained without loss of architectural integrity.

The Quarry Master's House is heavily obscured by shrubbery, and impossible to photograph adequately. The original building was banked and one story with a loft above. It measured 14' by 20'. Where as local legend has it that the basement was the scene of numerous cock fights, the room above was used as an office for the Quarry. It retains its original mantle and outside door on which the word "office" is just barely discernable. An addition was made in 1956 by members of the Thomas family.

#27 cont.

months after the discovery of marble on the John R. Thomas farm, the new quarry, under the management of Jacobs and Cornog, was under contract to furnish marble for the construction of Girard College in Philadelphia.

This proved to be an exceptionally visible commission as it was designed by famed "architect" Thomas U. Walter and admired widely for its classical style and white marble. The marble from the Quarry was transported via horse drawn carts over a spur from the West Chester Railroad. The Quarry was worked from 1833-1844, in which year Girard College was completed and the Quarry closed. In the preceding years the Quarry had also furnished stone for the construction of other buildings in Philadelphia (including the Preston Retreat) and for the Bank of Chester County in West Chester, erected in 1836-7 on designs provided by Thomas U. Wlater.

The Quarry reopened in 1867, this time under steam power and connected by a siding to the Chester Valley Railroad. Modern equipment was brought in to cut the stone and keep the quarry free of water.

Samuel Sloan, in his Architectural Review and Builder's Journal (1869), discussed the quarry and its marble at length. He noted that this deposit was one of the most extensive in the Chester Valley, consisting of two veins, ranging in color from a pale, blush-white to a dark blue and black. Sloan gives exact measurements for each of the veins, noting the total size of the quarry was 120 feet (long) by 60 feet (wide) by 100 feet (deep). He compared the marble to "Italian statuary marble" in quality.

The marble undustry was intently important to West Whiteland in the mid-19th century both economically and as a matter of local pride. There were at least two quarries in operation by then; the Thomas Marble Quarry garnered the most fame for the use of its product in Thomas U. Walter commissions.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania
Multiple Resource Nomination

Survey Code 029-09-41-103,104,105
Thomas Marble Quarry Houses

Page 3
Map #43

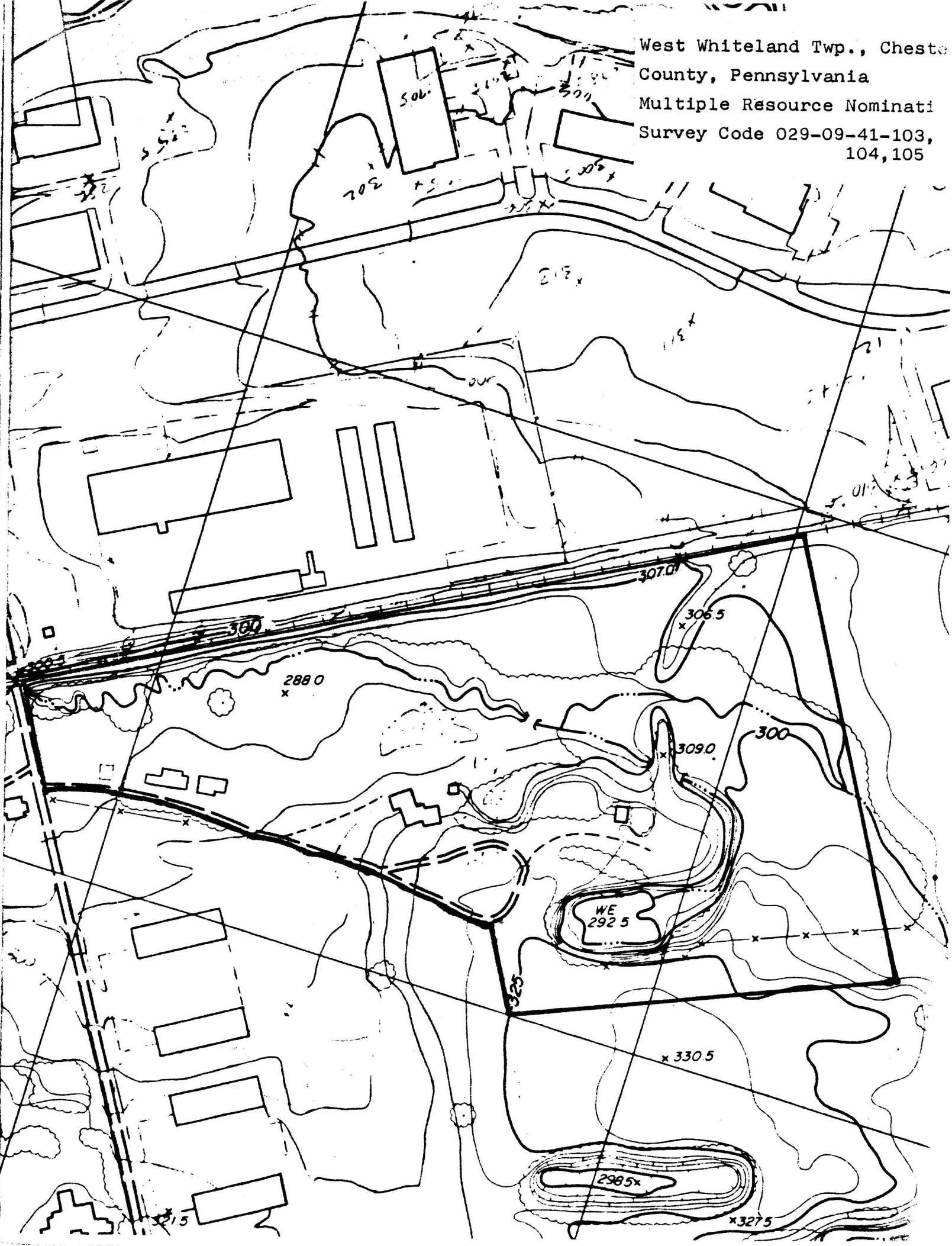
Summary Statement of Significance:

The Thomas Marble Quarry Houses are eligible under criterion C as examples of vernacular housing used to provide shelter for the quarry workers. Houses of this sort are rare in the township which had a mostly agricultural base. The houses are also eligible under criterion A for their association with the Thomas Quarry which was an important source of building grade marble used on and in many important Delaware Valley buildings. The quarry is not worked any longer but it still survives to the east of the houses. Two of the engine house walls and a tail race to draw water away from the quarry still survive on the site. All other evidence of heavy industry has been cleared away because the quarry was used as a private swim club for many years after the hold suddenly filled with water in the process of working the marble vein. It is alleged that machinery and tools still survive in the bottom of the hole.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point at the intersection of the southeast edge of the roadbed of the Reading Railroad tracks and the northeast curblin of Whitford Road, then in a northeasterly direction along the southeast edge of the Reading Railroad tracks for 1400 feet, then in a perpendicular direction to the said Railroad tracks, south 30° east for 800 feet, then south 67° west 675 feet to a point, then north 30° west to the south edge of the private driveway of the Thomas Marble Quarry Houses (Quarry Lane), then in a westerly direction along the several courses of said driveway to its intersection with the northeast edge of Whitford Road, then north east along said curblin to the place of beginning, containing 18.0 acres.

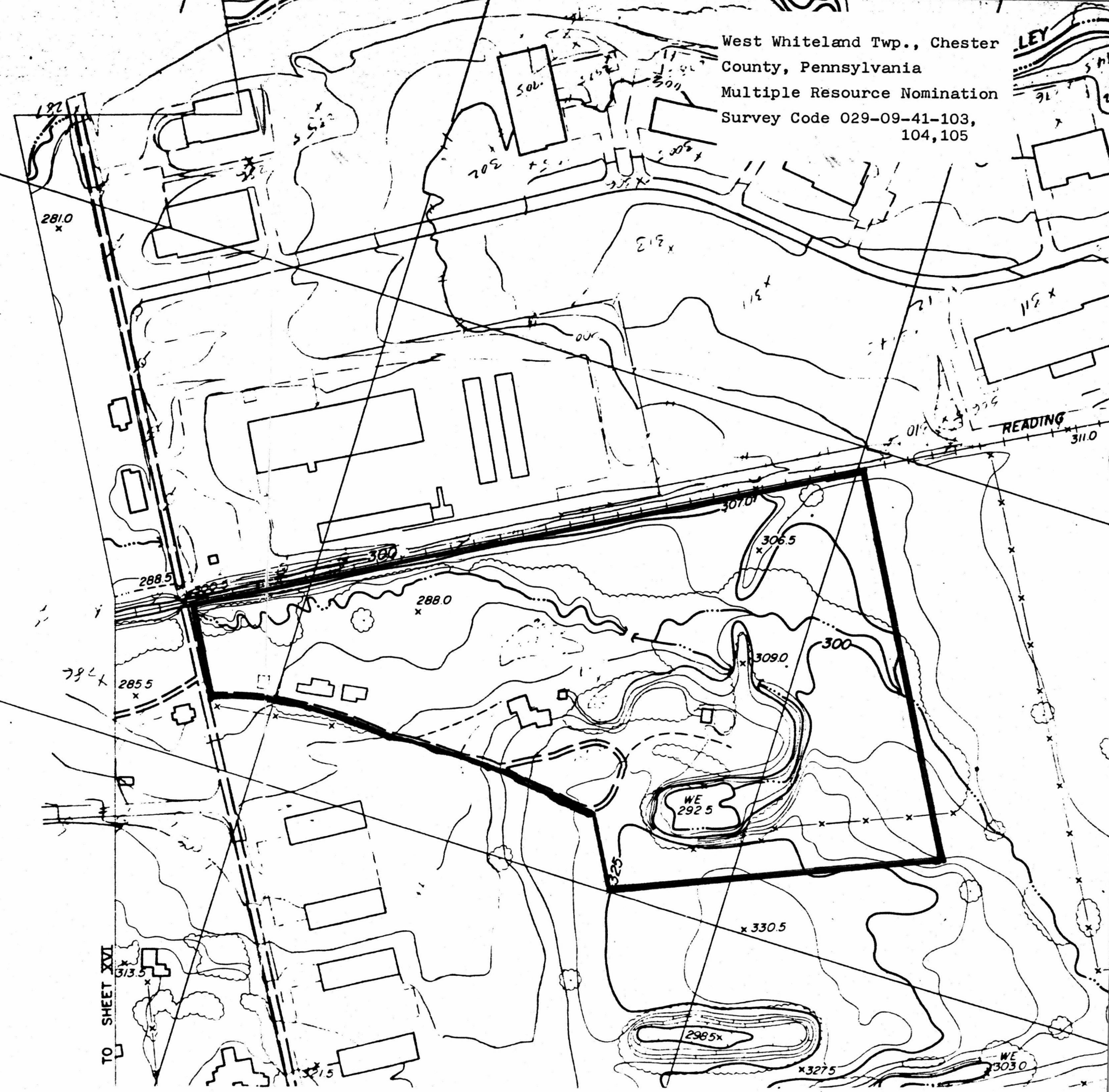
West Whiteland Twp., Chester
County, Pennsylvania
Multiple Resource Nominati
Survey Code 029-09-41-103,
104, 105



West Whiteland Twp., Chester
County, Pennsylvania
Multiple Resource Nomination
Survey Code 029-09-41-103,
104,105

N 94,000

N 93,000



TO SHEET XVI

READING

LEY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Thomas Marble Quarry Houses (West Whiteland
Township MRA)
Chester County
PENNSYLVANIA

Substantive Review

Working No. SEP 29 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 10/28/83 - 11/13/83

Action: ACCEPT

RETURN 11/10/83

REJECT _____

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Please evaluate and describe
all of the important features
of the site.*

Recom./Criteria RETURN

Reviewer Neil Mous

Discipline A.H.

Date 11-10-83

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection *Please justify*

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below _____

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

Please provide -- Acreage does not appear to be excessive but needs justification.

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed *Ann Ann [Signature]* Date *11/10/89* Phone: _____

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, PA MRA

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Survey Code 029-09-41-103,104,105
Thomas Marble Quarry Houses

Page 4
Map#43

Following a site visit and consultation of the 1873 Witmer Atlas and the 1883 Breou Farm Atlas, the boundaries of the nominated acreage were drawn to include all contributing above ground structures (two worker's houses, the "office", a small stone springhouse, engine house stone wall ruins), the below ground resources (the quarry itself, the tail race, lime kiln ruins) and the bed of the spur which connected the quarry to the Chester Valley Railroad. Non-contributing features included on the site are a 1 story, frame baggage or freight shed circa 1880 which was relocated from its original location at the nearby Whitford Station and two 1 story, small frame cabannas which were built in the 1950's for the Blue Hole Quarry Swim Club.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received SEP 29 1983
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 4 of 6

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name West Whiteland Township Multiple Resource Area

State Chester County, PENNSYLVANIA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 31. St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception **Determined Eligible** **Substantive Review** Keeper Paul M. Boyd 7/2/84
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Attest _____
- 32. St. Paul's Church **Determined Eligible** Keeper Paul M. Boyd 9/6/84
Attest _____
- 33. Ship Inn **Substantive Review** Keeper Paul M. Boyd 8/2/84
Attest _____
- 34. Sleepy Hollow Hall **Determined Eligible** Keeper Paul M. Boyd 8/2/84
Attest _____
- 35. Solitude Farm **Substantive Review** Keeper Paul M. Boyd 8/2/84
Attest _____
- 36. Thomas Marble Quarry Houses **Determined Eligible** Keeper Paul M. Boyd 8/2/84
Attest _____
- 37. Trimble Mill **Determined Eligible** **Substantive Review** Keeper Paul M. Boyd 11/10/83
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Attest _____
- 38. Turnpike Station House **Substantive Review** **Determined Eligible** Keeper Paul M. Boyd 11/10/83
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Attest _____
- 39. Wee Grimmer **Substantive Review** Keeper Paul M. Boyd 8/2/84
Attest _____
- 40. West Whiteland Inn **Determined Eligible** Keeper Paul M. Boyd 8/2/84
Attest _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Thomas Marble Quarry Houses (West Ehiteland
Township MRA)
Chester County
PENNSYLVANIA

Substantive Review

Working No. 9/29/83
Fed. Reg. Date: 12/5/85
Date Due: 8/2/84
Action: ACCEPT 8-2-84
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Accept
Reviewer Phyllis Ann Dwyer
Discipline A-11
Date 8-2-84
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use
Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

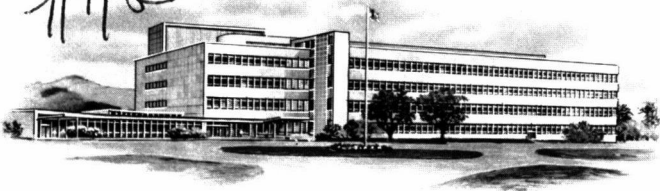
Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000736

Received
1/1/83



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NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

MONTPELIER, VERMONT 05602



ROBERT K. SMITH, C.L.U.
347 N. Pottstown Pike
EXTON, PA. 19341
Telephone: 215-363-8210

GENERAL AGENCY
Suite 816, G.S.B. Building
Monuments & City Line Aves.
BALA - CYNWYD, PA 19004
Telephone: 215-667-2440

July 6, 1983

Pa. Historical and Museum Commission
P.O. Box 1026
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

Dear Sirs:

We approve of any nomination you would give the Thomas Marble Quarry Houses, West Whiteland Twp., Chester County to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert K. Smith".

Robert K. Smith