

## PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - PHOTO/SITE PLAN SHEET

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Bureau of Historic Preservation

Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026

119243

Survey Code/Tax Parcel/Other No.: Multiple (see Continuation Sheet 3)/R2

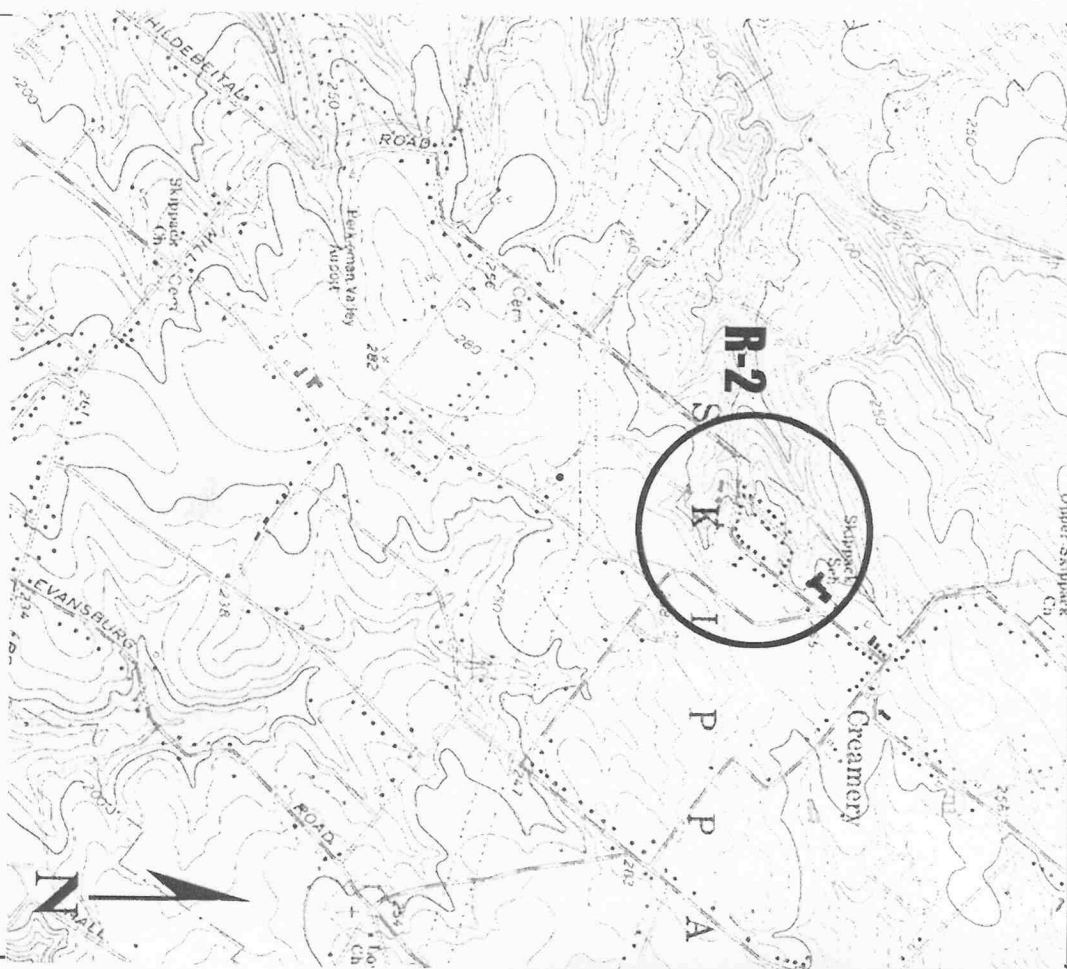
County: Montgomery

Municipality: Skipack Township

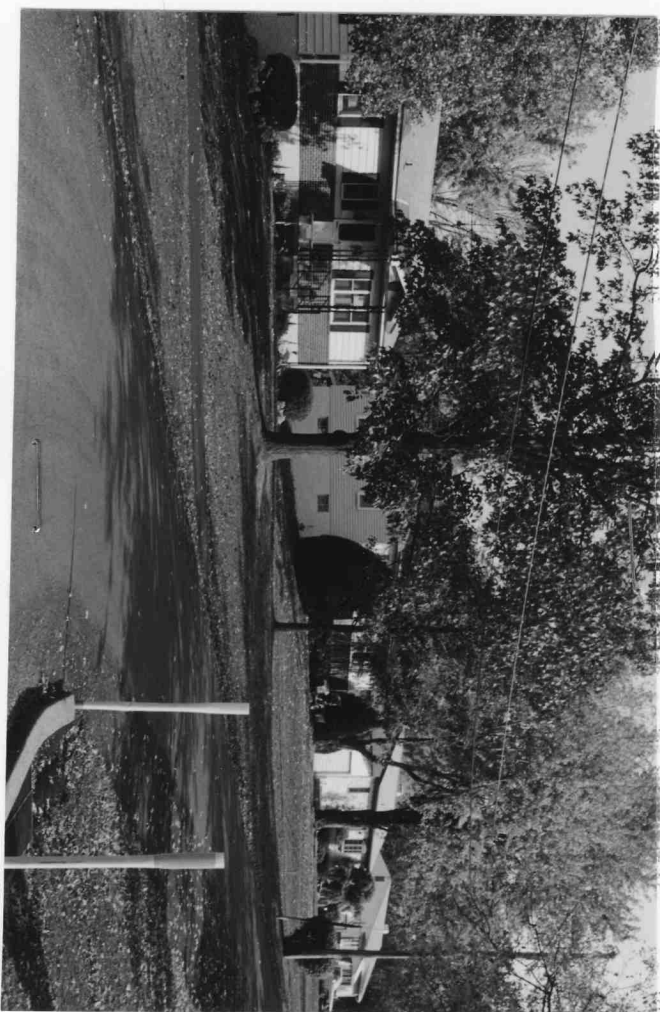
Address: Bridge Road (Route 113) and Mary Ellen Lane

Historic Name/Other Name: Mary Ellen Lane Subdivision

## SITE PLAN



## PHOTO INFORMATION



Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	View of houses along Mary Ellen Lane.	East

Photographer Name: Katie Post Date: 11/08/2001

Negative Location: McCormick, Taylor & Associates, Inc.

## IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Survey Code: R2 Tax Parcel/Other No.: Multiple (see Continuation Sheet 3)

County: 1 Montgomery 091 2

Municipality: 1 Skippack Township 2

Address: Multiple (see Continuation Sheet 3)

Historic Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Name: Mary Ellen Lane Subdivision

Owner Name/Address: Multiple

Owner Category: ☒ Private ☐ Public-local ☐ Public-state ☐ Public Federal

Resource Category: ☐ Building ☒ District ☐ Site ☐ Object

Number/Approximate Number of Resources Covered by this Form: 26

USGS Quad: 1 Collegeville, PA 2

UTM References: A. 18 E 4451956 N 464278 C. 18 E 4451829 N 463979  
 B. 18 E 4451996 N 464167 D. 18 E 4451803 N 464149

## HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Subcategory: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

A. Domestic Single Dwelling 01A

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

Particular Type: A. Residences

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

Current Function Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Subcategory: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

A. Domestic Single Dwelling 01A

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: A. Modern Movement 70

B. \_\_\_\_\_ C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior Materials: Foundation Concrete 65 Roof \_\_\_\_\_

Walls Stucco 61 Walls Brick 30

Other Vinyl 72 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Structural System: 1. Wood--General 20 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Width: Varies Depth: Varies Stories/Height: Varies

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: C. 1950 to C. 1958 Additions/Alterations Dates: C. to C.

Basis for Dating: ☒ Documentary ☐ Physical

Explain: Deed research, in addition to tax assessment information conclude that the houses were constructed between 1950 and 1958.

Cultural/Ethnic Affiliation:	1. _____	2. _____
Associated Individuals:	1. _____	2. _____
Associated Events:	1. _____	2. _____
Architects/Engineers:	1. _____	2. _____
Builders:	1. _____	2. _____

## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet 4

## PREVIOUS SURVEYS, DETERMINATIONS

None

## EVALUATION (Survey Director/Consultants Only)

Individual NR Potential: ☐ Yes ☒ No Context(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Contributes to Potential District: ☐ Yes ☐ No District Name/Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain:

See Continuation Sheet 3

## THREATS

Threats: 5 1. None 2. Public Development 3. Private Development 4. Neglect 5. Other

Explain: This property falls within the area of potential effect for the proposed work associated with the Creamery Relocation Project/S.R. 0113, Section 04R.

## SURVEYOR INFORMATION

Surveyor Name/Title: Francine Arnold/Historic Preservation Specialist Date: December 2001

Project Name: Creamery Relocation Project/S.R. 0113, Section 04R

Organization: McCormick, Taylor & Associates, Inc.

Telephone: (215) 592-4200

Street and No.: 2001 Market Street, 10th Floor

City, State: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Zip: 19103

Additional Survey Documentation:

Associated Survey Codes:

Survey Code: <u>R-2</u>	Tax Parcel/Other No.: <u>Multiple (see continuation sheet 3)</u>
County: <u>Montgomery</u>	Municipality: <u>Skippack Township</u>
Address: <u>Bridge Street (Route 113) and Mary Ellen Lane</u>	
Historic/Other Name: <u>Mary Ellen Lane Subdivision</u>	

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

The Mary Ellen Lane Subdivision consists of 27 residences situated along Bridge Street (Route 113) and Mary Ellen Lane near the Village of Creamery in Skippack Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania (*See Site Plan*). Mary Ellen Lane is a secondary residential road. According to the Skippack Township Municipal Offices, there is no subdivision plan for this area. However, deed research suggests that the land was subdivided by James B. Elsassor in the mid-1950s. The houses were all constructed between c. 1950 and c. 1958 according to Montgomery County tax assessment information.

There are three (3) styles represented, they are; ranch, Cape Cod and split-level. It doesn't appear that any of the styles dominated during any time, rather they were constructed randomly throughout the 1950's. There are 11 ranch houses, mostly situated along the northern side of Mary Ellen Lane. Eight (8) of the ranch houses are aluminum sided with partial brick-face. Two (2) ranch houses are completely aluminum sided and one (1) is stucco with partial brick-face. Two (2) of the ranch houses have attached garages, one (1) has a detached garage and the remainder do not have garages. The ranch house at 986/988 Bridge Road is a twin, therefore there are 27 residences in the subdivision, but only 26 structures. (*See Photos 1,2,9,15,18,19,21,23,25*)

There are 10 Cape Cod style houses, all situated along Bridge Road. Seven (7) of the Cape Cods are stucco. Two (2) of the Cape Cods are brick-faced and one (1) is aluminum sided. Eight (8) of the Cape Cods have attached garages. (*See Photos 3-8 and 10-13*)

There are five (5) split-level houses, all situated along the southern side of Mary Ellen Lane. They are all aluminum sided with partial brick-face. All but one of the split-level houses have attached garages. It appears that the garage area of the exception has been converted into an additional room. (*See Photos 16,17,20,22,24*).

***Montgomery County***

Montgomery County formed part of the original charter to William Penn. The City of Philadelphia served as its County Seat until its separation in 1784. After the division, Norristown became the Montgomery County Seat. The county is bounded to the north by Lehigh County, the northeast by Bucks County, to the southeast by Philadelphia, to the south by Delaware County, by the southwest by Chester County, and to the northwest by Berks County. The 482 square miles that form Montgomery County contain old rural boroughs, early 19<sup>th</sup> century boroughs along the Schuylkill River, railroad boroughs from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, and mature and new suburban communities. The population in 1770 was 22,929; in 1850 it was 58,291. The number of municipalities has risen from 42 in 1880 to 62 in 1990; the population has grown from 96,494 in 1880 to 750,097 in 2000 ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)).

The railroad held the most dominant influence on the county spurring expanded and new settlement, particularly near the stations that offered service to Philadelphia. New governments formed to provide police and fire protection, water and sewer systems, and paved streets.

Most of the boroughs remained rural owing to a scarcity of good, paved roads that could access rail stations and beyond. It was not until after 1920 that state and federal funds were provided to local government for the construction of roads.

## CONTINUATION SHEET: 2

The funds that built these roads increased the accessibility to rural areas and opened them to suburban development. While the outlying areas grew, the river boroughs increased in size and importance as centers for employment and service.

After World War I, the county experienced a growth spurt and witnessed the rise of suburbanization. The single-family dwellings and general stores at a crossroads gave way to one-story houses and strip commercial development along major arterial roadways. Although population declined during the Depression, by the 1940s steady growth resumed. City dwellers could move to the suburbs owing to government-sponsored programs such as highway construction and low-cost home mortgages.

Steady growth turned more dramatic after World War II. Industry left the city, often requiring the construction of single-story buildings over many acres. Although sites were chosen near expressway exits, this relocation spurred migration from the city; open land gave way to subdivisions and the related construction of schools, churches, shopping centers, offices and utility lines. Despite county growth, the older river boroughs suffered: industry in these areas moved south and west where there was a supply of cheap labor, malls devastated main streets, and those residents who moved were not replaced.

By the 1980s, the county had old and new boroughs clustered around railroad stations, mature suburban townships near Philadelphia, new suburban townships on the fringe of the metropolitan area, and rural townships. Mass transit carried only a fraction of people to their destinations and traffic congestion increased (Toll, p. 1-4).

### ***Skippack Township***

Skippack Township was originally part of the Township Perkiomen (sometimes referred to as Township of Skippack and Perkiomen), until they were divided c. 1886, along the Perkiomen Creek. The land on the eastern side of the creek became Skippack, and the land on the west bank became Perkiomen. Skippack has always been predominately agricultural (*Bean, 1884*). However, after World War II farmlands were rapidly subdivided and developed, creating the suburban environment visible on the landscape today.

The Village of Creamery was named for a creamery built here in 1878. The village was originally known as Harmony Square, but the name was changed when applying for a post office in the late 1880's (*McVarish, 1996*).



***Deed Research***

The Mary Ellen Lane Subdivision was originally an 11-acre plot along Bridge Street. In October of 1954, James B. and Margaret Elsassor acquired the parcel from Claire Backman, a widow. The Elsassors sold off plots ranging from just under a quarter-acre to a little over one-half acre, which created the subdivision.

The following tax parcel numbers/addresses make up the Mary Ellen Lane Subdivision:

51-030-013 & 51-030-014/983 Mary Ellen Lane	51-030-031/970 Mary Ellen Lane
51-030-015/987 Mary Ellen Lane	51-030-032/966 Mary Ellen Lane
51-030-016/991 Mary Ellen Lane	51-030-033/962 Mary Ellen Lane
51-030-017/993 Mary Ellen Lane	51-030-035/979 Bridge Road
51-030-019/988 Bridge Road	51-030-036/975 Bridge Road
51-030-020/986 Bridge Road	51-030-037/973 Bridge Road
51-030-021/982 Bridge Road	51-030-038/969 Bridge Road
51-030-024/973 Mary Ellen Lane	51-030-039/963 Bridge Road
51-030-025/969 Mary Ellen Lane	51-030-040/959 Bridge Road
51-030-026/965 Mary Ellen Lane	51-030-041/955 Bridge Road
51-030-027/961 Mary Ellen Lane	51-030-042/953 Bridge Road
51-030-028/957 Mary Ellen Lane	51-030-044/949 Bridge Road
51-030-029/980 Mary Ellen Lane	51-030-046/945 Bridge Road
51-030-030/974 Mary Ellen Lane	

**DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY**

The Mary Ellen Lane Subdivision is recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Some subdivisions are significant contributions to our history because of their design or characteristics. This particular subdivision was not planned or designed as referenced by the lack of a subdivision plan at the township. The houses within the subdivision are common examples of Ranch houses, Cape Cods and Split-levels and are not architecturally significant. Therefore, it is not eligible under Criteria A or C. In addition, it is not associated with the lives of significant persons from our past (Criterion B). There is little probability that new information will result from any archaeological testing performed in the vicinity of this resource (Criterion D)

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

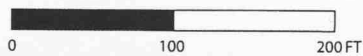
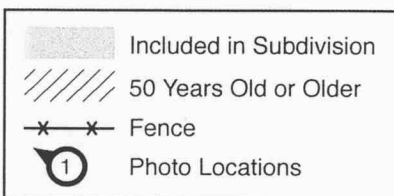
Bean, Theodore W. *History of Montgomery County Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1884.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Toll, Jean Barth and Michael J. Schwager. *Montgomery County: Second Hundred Years, Volume 1*. Norristown: Montgomery County Federation of Historical Societies, 1983.

[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

Free Library of Philadelphia  
Montgomery County Historical Society  
Montgomery County Planning Commission  
Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds  
Montgomery County Tax Assessment Office



**SITE PLAN**  
**Mary Ellen Lane Subdivision**



Photograph 2: Lateral view of 988/986 Bridge Road, facing south.



Photograph 3: Lateral view of 982 Bridge Road, facing south.





Photograph 4: Lateral view of 979 Bridge Road, facing west.



Photograph 5: Lateral view of 975 Bridge Road, facing west.



Photograph 6: Lateral view of 973 Bridge Road, facing west.



Photograph 7: View of 969 Bridge Road, facing northwest.



Photograph 8: Lateral view of 963 Bridge Road, facing northwest



Photograph 9: View of 959 Bridge Road, facing northwest.





Photograph 10: Lateral view of 955 Bridge Road, facing north.



Photograph 11: Lateral view of 953 Bridge Road, facing north.



Photograph 12: Lateral view of 949 Bridge Road, facing north.



Photograph 13: Lateral view of 945 Bridge Road, facing northeast.





Photograph 14: Lateral view of garage at 949 Bridge Road, facing southwest.



Photograph 15: Lateral view of 957 Mary Ellen Lane, facing north.



Photograph 16: Lateral view of 962 Mary Ellen Lane, facing east.



Photograph 17: View of 966 Mary Ellen Lane, facing east.



Photograph 18: View of 961 Mary Ellen Lane, facing northwest.



Photograph 19: View of 965 Mary Ellen Lane, facing north.

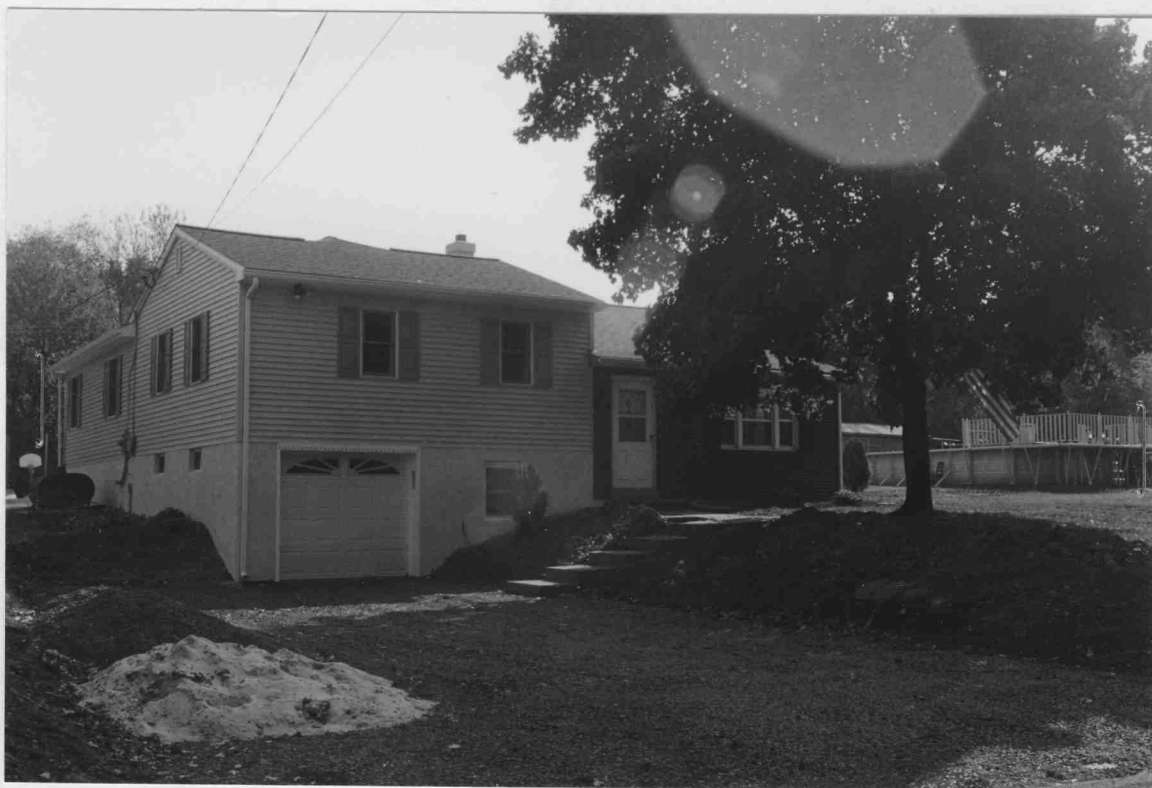




Photograph 20: Lateral view of 970 Mary Ellen Lane, facing east.



Photograph 21: Lateral view of 969 Mary Ellen Lane, facing north.



Photograph 22: Lateral view of 974 Mary Ellen Lane, facing southeast.



Photograph 23: Lateral view of 973 Mary Ellen Lane, facing north.





Photograph 24: Lateral view of 980 Mary Ellen Lane, facing east.



Photograph 25: View of 993 Mary Ellen Lane, facing north.



Photograph 26: Corner of Mary Ellen Lane and Bridge Road, facing northeast.



Photograph 27: Corner of Mary Ellen Lane and Bridge Road, facing south.