

**NOMINATION OF HISTORIC BUILDING, STRUCTURE, SITE, OR OBJECT  
PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**SUBMIT ALL ATTACHED MATERIALS ON PAPER AND IN ELECTRONIC FORM ON CD (MS WORD FORMAT)**

**1. ADDRESS OF HISTORIC RESOURCE** (must comply with an Office of Property Assessment address)

Street address: **339 East Wister Street**

Postal code: **19144**

Councilmanic District: **5**

**2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE**

Historic Name: **"Woodside:" the Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat**

Common Name: **Wister Gardens**

**3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE**

Building

Structure

Site

Object

**4. PROPERTY INFORMATION**

Condition:  excellent  good  fair  poor  ruins

Occupancy:  occupied  vacant  under construction  unknown

Current use: **Apartment House**

**5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Please attach a plot plan and written description of the boundary.

**6. DESCRIPTION**

Please attach a description of the historic resource and supplement with current photographs.

**7. SIGNIFICANCE**

Please attach the Statement of Significance.

Period of Significance (from year to year): from **1797** to **1904**

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: **Built, 1797-1798 Enlarged, 1850 Enlarged 1869**

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: **Unknown**

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: **Unknown**

Original owner: **Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille**

**CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:**

The historic resource satisfies the following criteria for designation (check all that apply):

- (a) Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; or,
- (b) Is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
- (c) Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or,
- (d) Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen; or,
- (e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
- (f) Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation; or,
- (g) Is part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area which should be preserved according to an historic, cultural or architectural motif; or,
- (h) Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City; or,
- (i) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history; or
- (j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

**8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Please attach a bibliography.

**9. NOMINATOR**

Name with Title **Oscar Beisert, Historian/Author**

Email **Oscar.Beisert@gmail.com**

Name with Title **J.M. Duffin, Historian/Author**

Date **February 4, 2016**

Street Address **605 Rochelle Avenue**

Telephone **717.602.5002**

City, State, and Postal Code **Philadelphia, PA 19125**

Nominator  is  is not the property owner.

**PHC USE ONLY**

Date of Receipt: 2/4/2016

Correct-Complete  Incorrect-Incomplete Date: 4/18/2016

Date of Notice Issuance: 4/20/2016

Property Owner at Time of Notice

Name: Twin Enterprise LLC

Address: 216 E Prince St

City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19144

Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Final Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Designated  Rejected

**Proposed for Historic Designation in the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places**



**“Woodside.”** Courtesy Marianne “Nancy” Dawson Shipley Rhoads.

**“Woodside”  
The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat  
339 East Wister Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**



**Looking southwest. Taken by Oscar Beisert.**

## **PREFACE: EXPLANTION OF TERMS**

Due to the length of this nomination and the amount of information presented, the following terms are explained to provide context so that they may be presented in a clear manner.

**“Woodside”:** The name “Woodside” appears to have been given to the subject building by Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris. Because of this, the name likely dates to the late 1830s. To honor the memory of the building as the country seat of this old Quaker family, and for the sake of both clarity and consistency, the subject building will be referred to throughout the document as “Woodside.”

**1797–1798 Main Block:** This refers to the first phase of construction of “Woodside,” which appears to have occurred between 1797 and 1798. This section of the building is highlighted in Section 6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: PREFACE.

**1850 Addition:** This refers to the second phase of construction of “Woodside,” which appears to have occurred by 1850. This section of the building is highlighted in Section 6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: PREFACE.

**1869 Addition:** This refers to the third phase of construction of “Woodside,” which appears to have occurred by 1869. This section of the building is highlighted in Section 6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: PREFACE.

**E. Wister Street:** Like many streets in this part of Philadelphia, E. Wister Street started life as a lane named after a land- and/or business-owner. Over time the street is known to have had the following names:

**Dannenhower’s Lane:** Named for early landowner George Dannenhower, E. Wister Street was known as Dannenhower’s Lane from the 1790s to the 1810s. Spellings of the name include Dannahower, Dannehauer, Donehower.

**Duy’s Lane:** Named for early landowner George Duy, E. Wister Street was known as Duy’s Lane from the 1810s to the 1870s. Spellings of the name include Dewey, Duey, and Duy.

**Haas’ Lane:** Named for early land- and tavern-owner Adam Haas, E. Wister Street was known as Haas’ Lane from 1770s to 1810s.

For the purpose of clarity, the street will be referred to as E. Wister Street at all stages of the historic context. The use of the other names will only occur in quotations.

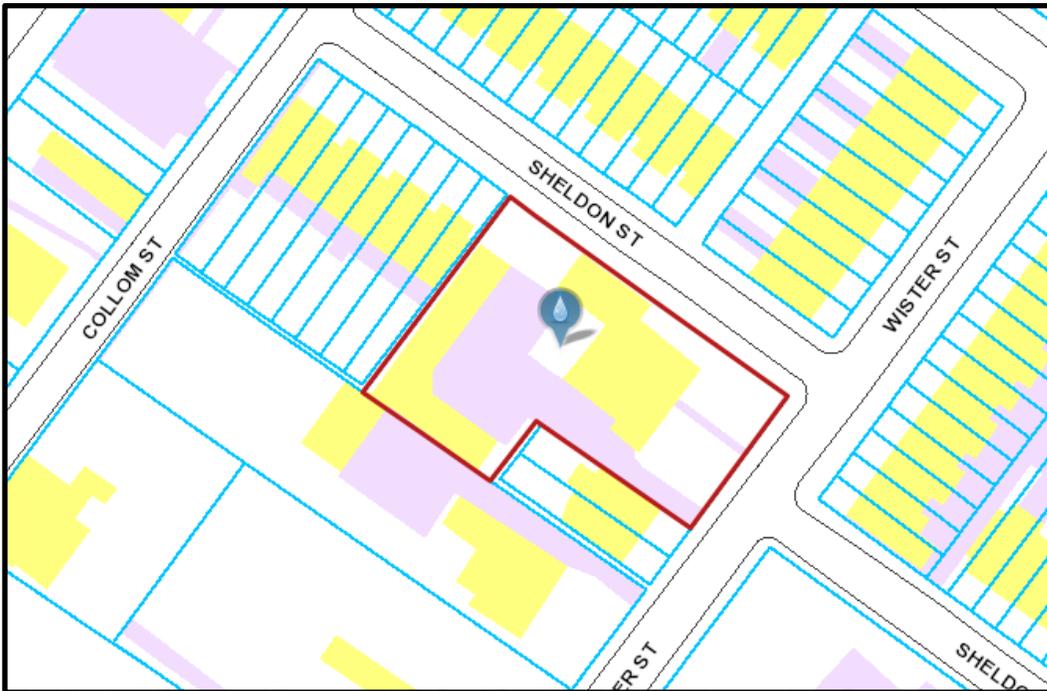
**Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille:** The original owner and builder of “Woodside” was Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille. Like many foreign names in the English-speaking New World, Dorfeuille’s surname went through several iterations such as: D’Orfeuille, D’Orfeville, Dorfile, Dorfeuille, Dorfenille, and, most commonly, Dorfeuille, which is the spelling he usually employed in his distinctive hand and its signature. The name Godfrey, in French

*“Woodside:” The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat  
E. Wister St., Germantown*

Godefroid, is also spelled in several different ways including Godfried and Gottfried, among other variations. For the purpose of clarity, the spelling of his name will be consistently used as Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille, unless stated as part of a quote.

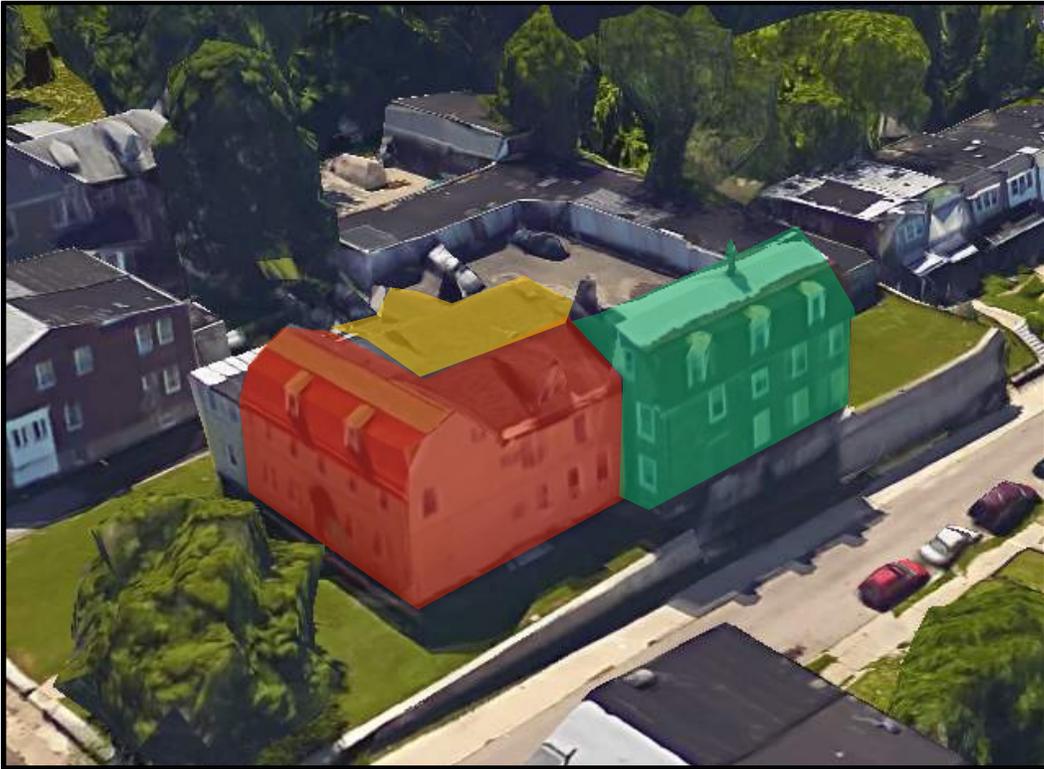
## 5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The parcel and building portion subject to this nomination for the “Woodside” is limited to the following boundaries: Beginning at a point on the Northwest side of Wister Street at the distance of 202 feet Southwestward from the Southwest side of Rubicam Street, then extending Southwestward along the Northwest side of Wister Street 91 feet 2-7/8 inches to a point, then extending N51°36'W 104 feet to a point, then extending S40°4'W 41 feet 6 inches to a point in the line of land now or late of Gertrude Weiner, then extending N51°36'W along the same 86 feet 7/8 of an inch to appoint, then extending N50°4'E 136 feet 2-1/8 inches to Sheldon Street, thence extending along the Southwest side of Sheldon Street S50°33'30"E 189 feet to the place of beginning. The property is known as Parcel No. 054N07-0181, Office of Property Assessment Account No. 881056100.



Boundary of designation in red. Courtesy the Water Department.

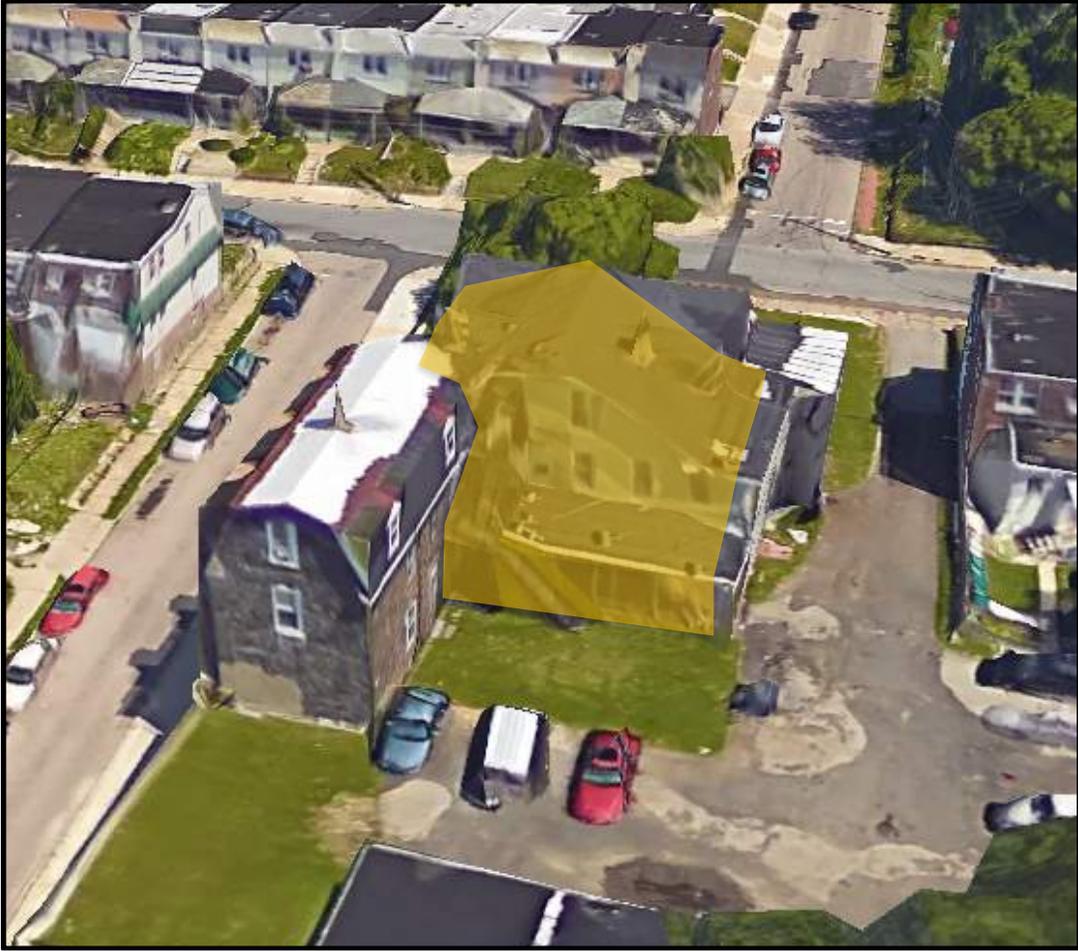
## 6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: PREFACE



Looking southwest, “Woodside” was constructed in three major phases, which will be highlighted above. The 1796–1797 Main Block is highlighted in red. The 1850 Addition is highlighted in yellow. The 1869 Addition is highlighted in green. Courtesy Google Earth.



Looking west, the 1797–1798 Main Block is highlighted in red. Courtesy Google Earth.



Looking east, the 1850 Addition is highlighted in yellow. Courtesy Google Earth.



Looking southeast, the 1869 Addition is highlighted above in green. Courtesy Google Earth.

## 6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Dating to ca. 1797–1798, “Woodside” is a multi-unit apartment house known today as Wister Gardens that maintains the outward appearance of a building constructed in several early phases with later, unsympathetic alterations. Located in Lower Germantown, “Woodside,” as it came to be known under the ownership of Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris, is located at 339 East Wister Street on the northwest side of said street near the Wister Station.

“Woodside” is a two-and-one-half-story stone house that was constructed in three distinct phases: phase one, the 1797–1798 Main Block (including the kitchen ell); phase two, 1850 Addition; and the third phase, 1869 Addition. Originally built upon a larger parcel, “Woodside” is set upon a parcel that is in concert with the nineteenth century suburban nature of East Wister Street.

The 1797–1798 Main Block is a two-and-one-half-story roughcast stone building that serves as the primary, northwest elevation. The 1797–1798 Main Block features a side-gable with a broken pitch, forming a gambrel roof. Appending the southeast elevation at the north corner of the 1797–1798 Main Block is a kitchen ell or wing, which is buried within the 1850 Addition at the southwest. While constructed in a manner that was characteristic of building types in eighteenth century Germantown, the 1797–1798 Main Block maintains a symmetrical façade and hints of Philadelphia’s well-known Georgian architectural antecedents. The primary elevation of the 1797–1798 Main Block is five bays wide. Centered upon a single-pedestrian door, the remaining apertures are windows with stone sills. The doorway features an arched transom. The half-story at the third level retains a nineteenth century standing-seam metal roof, which is pierced by two dormers. The dormant windows and cheeks retain replacement materials. In fact, all of the apertures within the 1797–1798 Main Block have replacement materials of low grade and quality, which are unsympathetic to the building’s integrity. At the southeast side of the 1797–1798 Main Block is a two-story, one-room addition that appends the façade at two bays in width, all of which are windows. The 1850 Addition appears to have included a small open porch, recessed from the primary elevation, at this portion of the building. The porch appears to have been enlarged into the present room at some point after the 1869 Addition, although the precise date is unknown. This portion of the building does not contribute or detract from the integrity of “Woodside.” At the northeast, side elevation of the 1797–1798 Main Block, there is one window per floor, one of which, at the first floor, has been infilled. One small window is located within the half-story. The configuration of this fenestration is original. At the southeast elevation, the half-story, within the gable end, retains two small windows. The chimneystacks that once rose above the roofline at each end of the 1797–1798 Main Block have been removed. Since at least 1837, the building appears to have been finished in a roughcast treatment at the façade and the rest of the stone was whitewashed. The wooden architraves may be present under the metal flashing at each window. Attachment hardware may be present, but all of the shutters have been removed.

The 1850 Addition is also roughcast, and the stone building stands two-and-one-half stories at the rear of the 1797–1798 Main Block. This appears to have included the

*“Woodside:” The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat  
E. Wister St., Germantown*

addition of four rooms, not counting the attic and/or basement rooms, two per floor that extend the full depth of the kitchen ell or wing and project slightly beyond the southeast wall of the 1797–1798 Main Block, making room for the aforesaid open porch. The 1850 Addition is peculiar in that its northwest facing elevation features an irregular gambrel front not unlike the commonly known façade of Cedar Grove now located in Fairmount Park. The 1850 Addition also included a large piazza at the back of the addition in a one-story form, which appears to be extant. This elevation, facing west, features roughly eight apertures two of which are pedestrian doors, one at the first floor and one, although not functional, at the second story, indicating that the piazza once featured second floor roof access. The remaining apertures are windows and are irregularly placed. Two of the porch posts may be original.

The 1869 Addition is also of stone construction and stands two-and-one-half stories; however, unlike the roughcast section of the building, this portion features exposed, rusticated Wissahickon Schist, finished in an irregular pattern, which is extant to-date. If the primary elevation is perpendicular to that of the 1797–1798 Main Block then the 1869 Addition is also a side-gable, gambrel roof, which is more distinctly Victorian in its stylization than the 1797–1798 Main Block. The 1869 Addition appends the kitchen ell or wing at its northwest corner, roughly fifty percent of which projects to the north beyond the elevation of the 1797–1798 Main Block. Three windows follow the exposed section of the open gambrel section of the house, one per floor. At the north, primary elevation of the 1869 Addition is a fenestration of eight apertures—one pedestrian door near the northeast corner and the remainder windows—all of which feature replacement materials. The gambrel roof at the third level is more commodious in form than the 1797–1798 Main Block, which isn't always the case. The gambrel roof in the 1869 Addition takes the form of a mansard roof, which is pierced at the north by three dormers. The west elevation of the 1869 Addition features three windows, one per floor at center. The south elevation of the 1869 Addition includes the attachment of the wing to the 1797–1798 Main Block, at the joint of which is a conical tower, which also features a mansardic roof that appears to have once had a usable aperture, but this is no longer functional. The south-facing mansard treatment of the gambrel roof also features dormer windows. The first and second floors feature irregular apertures.

## **INTEGRITY**

**Location:** The building retains integrity of location.

**Setting:** While somewhat compromised, the building retains integrity as related to its late period of significance.

**Design:** While components of the building have been changed, the overall design of the three buildings that comprise “Woodside” is intact and, therefore, the building retains integrity of design.

**Workmanship:** While certain elements of workmanship have been diminished, the stonework that comprises both façade ornament and the primary structural system of “Woodside” is intact. The building retains integrity of workmanship.

*“Woodside:” The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat  
E. Wister St., Germantown*

Materials: Windows, doors, shutters, chimneys, porches, etc., are important elements of “Woodside” that are no longer extant; however, the primary characteristics of the house are extant, including the stone structure, the historic façade treatment including both roughcast and exposed stone fascia. There is also a nineteenth century standing seam metal roof at the primary elevation of the building appears to be somewhat intact and in fair condition. Therefore, the building retains integrity of setting.

Feeling: While much of the feeling has been diminished by insensitive replacement and removal of the building’s materials and its material elements, the loss of feeling is not irrecoverable.

Association: The building retains its original form, construction materials, and cladding at nearly every elevation. As a result, the building retains integrity of association.

Overall, “Woodside” appears to retain sufficient integrity to convey its historical significance.



Looking north. Taken by Oscar Beisert.



Looking north. Note the Rapp House is second from the corner. Taken by Oscar Beisert.



Looking northeast. Taken by Oscar Beisert.



Looking northeast. Taken by Oscar Beisert.



Looking northwest. Taken by Oscar Beisert.



Looking northeast. Note the infill and continuation of the base coarse. Taken by Oscar Beisert.



Looking southwest.. Taken by Oscar Beisert.



Looking southwest. Note rear, shed dormer and ell. Taken by Oscar Beisert.



Looking southwest. Note rear, shed dormer and ell. Taken by Oscar Beisert.



Looking southwest. Note rear, shed dormer and ell. Taken by Oscar Beisert.



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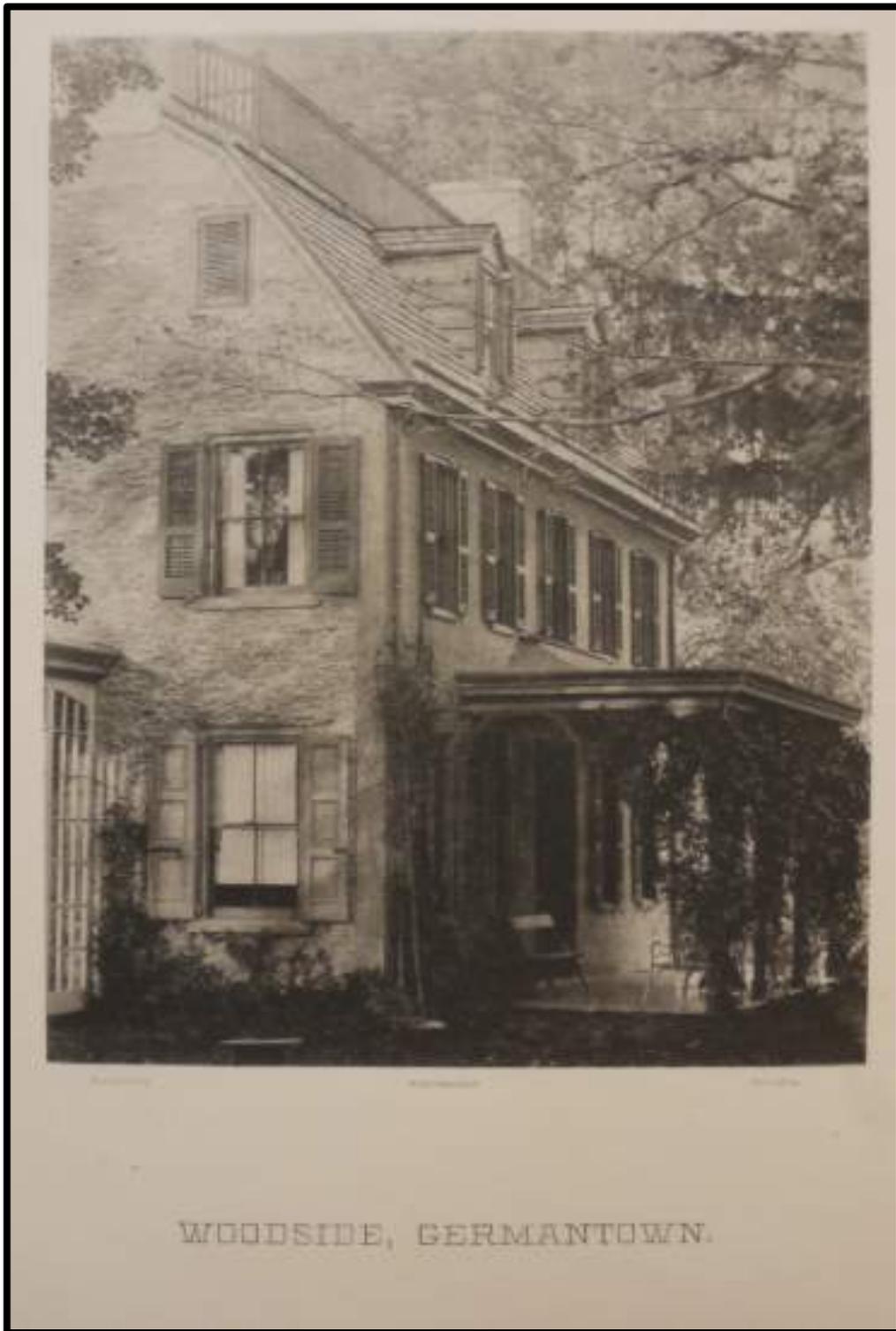
## 6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: CONTEXT



Looking east, land once owned by the Hacker family is highlighted in red. Courtesy Google Earth.



Looking east, extant houses associated with the Hacker family are highlighted. William Estes Hacker owned the house highlighted in yellow. Jeremiah Hacker owned the house highlighted in red. The houses highlighted in blue appear to have been constructed by the Estate of Jeremiah Hacker, but the question of who lived in these houses was not within the scope of this work. Courtesy Google Earth.



“Woodside.” Courtesy Marianne “Nancy” Dawson Shipley Rhoads.

*“Woodside:” The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat  
E. Wister St., Germantown  
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Winter 2015 – Page 20*

## 7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

“Woodside” at 339 E. Wister Street is a significant historic resource that merits designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The building satisfies Criteria for Designation a, c, d, and j of Section 14–1004 of the Philadelphia Code. “Woodside,” an unprotected historic property:

- (a) *Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past;*
- (c) *Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style;*
- (d) *Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen; and*
- (j) *Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social, or historical heritage of the community.*



Looking southeast, this photograph of “Woodside” shows the 1797–1798 Main Block with its kitchen ell or wing; the porte-cochère , circa 1837; and the 1869 Addition. This photo was likely taken in the 1870s. Courtesy Arthur Heathcote “Heath” Hacker, III.

Located at 339 E. Wister Street in Germantown, “Woodside” was constructed as a “country seat” in three major phases: the 1797–1798 Main Block; the 1850 Addition; and the 1869 Addition.

“Woodside,” in its earliest form, is one of the oldest single-family, detached houses on a cross street in Germantown, as the built environment of eighteenth century Germantown was largely situated on the avenue. The first era of construction appears to date to 1797–1798. Even as late as the 1790s, there were few cross streets transecting Germantown Avenue, making this house an unusual feature representing the development of Germantown. The eighteenth century component(s) of “Woodside” *have significant character, interest, and value, as part of the development and heritage of Germantown within the larger context of Philadelphia.*

Despite the viable economic factors as its own industrious village, Germantown also served as a salubrious resort from the city of Philadelphia throughout its history. However, it wasn’t until the late eighteenth century that Germantown became a popular resort for country seats as an important social trend. During the establishment of his private “Maison D’Éducation” on Germantown Avenue, Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille, a French educator and entrepreneur, invested in the construction of a country seat on E. Wister Street. While Dorfeuille may have used the subject house as his own residence, “Woodside” was clearly intended to serve as a resort and its construction appears to have been motivated by the popularization of Germantown as a resort for wealthy Philadelphians. While a complete list of tenants is lost to history, perhaps its most illustrative occupant was Tench Coxe, an important and wealthy merchant and politician of Philadelphia, who appears to have been a major patron of Dorfeuille. The subject building, in its own right and through its relationship to both Dorfeuille and Coxe *exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, and historic heritage* of eighteenth century Germantown.

While it is not clear exactly when the subject house became known as “Woodside,” the country seat became home to Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris in 1837 and would remain in their family until 1904. Both Jeremiah Hacker and his brother Isaiah Hacker purchased their country seats, while maintaining a house in town in the 1830s, after the construction and opening of the Philadelphia, Germantown & Norristown Railroad in 1832. Retaining the form of the 1797–1798 Main Block through 1837, Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris enlarged the subject building in two major phases—the 1850 Addition and the 1869 Addition. As a result, the procurement of “Woodside” as a country seat by the Hackers *exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, and historic heritage* of Germantown and its early development as a rail road suburb of Philadelphia.

The Hackers tripled or even quadrupled the size of “Woodside” over time and enhanced the landscaping. Both the 1850 Addition and the 1869 Addition are important to the story of the subject building and its historical significance. The broken-pitch, side-gable, gambrel roof was a known architectural form in Philadelphia and, specifically, in Germantown. Employment of the broken-pitch, gambrel form was a type associated with the Hacker family in America since the construction of “Ye Old Hacker House,”

*“Woodside:” The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat  
E. Wister St., Germantown*

circa 1711, in Salem, Massachusetts. Unlike most Americans of new means, the Quakers usually reused older building. When executing the 1850 Addition, the Hackers chose a complex roof system that terminated at the west end to make a rather unusual façade that was dominated by a massive expanse of a gambrel roof facing what would have been the back yard of “Woodside”. This was likely both a choice of nostalgic taste and feasibility. The feasibility component is related to the extant ell, which no doubt had a half-gamble roof, appearing from the rear in half-built, flounder format. While not an exact copy, this employment of the gambrel form harkens back to the girlhood home of Beulah Morris—Cedar Grove, which was renovated its current, distinctive appearance by Beulah Morris’ parents Isaac Wistar Morris and Sarah Paschall in 1795. The 1869 Addition also uses the gambrel form as the defining feature of its design—this time employing a more “Victorian” stylistic treatment. As a result, “Woodside” is one of the more eclectic and nostalgia-inspired Quaker-owned houses in Germantown, not only reflecting the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural type, but furthermore embodying distinguishing characteristics of an important local vernacular tradition as executed by well-to-do, yet conservative Quakers of the nineteenth century.

“Woodside” is associated with the lives of significant persons in the past, as related to Philadelphia and Germantown. Jeremiah Hacker, an important Quaker merchant in Philadelphia and early Germantown suburbanite, lived in the house from 1837 until his death in 1866. Beulah Morris, also an important Quaker, lived in the house from 1837 until her death in 1892. Beulah Morris was the quintessential Philadelphia Quakeress—descending from the earliest of William Penn’s cave dwellers, as well as the Wisters of Germantown, among other important early Philadelphia families.

The Period of Significance for aforementioned Criteria as related to “Woodside” is 1797–1904.



“Woodside” [in the front lawn of]. Courtesy Arthur Heathcote “Heath” Hacker, III.

**Criterion A:** “Woodside,” in its earliest form, is one of the oldest single-family, detached houses on a cross street in Germantown, as the built environment of eighteenth century Germantown was largely situated on the avenue. The first era of construction appears to date to 1797–1798. Even as late as the 1790s, there were only a fraction of the current cross streets transecting Germantown Avenue, and those streets were limited to only a few dwellings. This gives “Woodside” special importance representing the development transition of Germantown in the late eighteenth century. The eighteenth century component(s) of “Woodside” *have significant character, interest, and value, as part of the development and heritage of Germantown within the larger context of Philadelphia.*

**Criterion J:** Despite the viable economic factors as its own industrious village, Germantown also served as a salubrious resort from the city of Philadelphia throughout its history. However, it wasn’t until the late eighteenth century that Germantown became a popular resort for country seats as an important social trend. While establishing his private “Maison D’Éducation” on Germantown Avenue, Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille, a French educator and entrepreneur, invested in the construction of a country seat on today’s E. Wister Street. While Dorfeuille may have used the subject house as his own residence, the building was clearly intended to serve as a resort and its construction appears to have been motivated by the popularization of Germantown as a resort for wealthy Philadelphians. While a complete list of tenants is lost to history, perhaps its most illustrative occupant was Tench Coxe, an important and wealthy merchant and politician of Philadelphia, who appears to have been a major patron of Dorfeuille. The subject building, in its own right and through its relationship to both Dorfeuille and Coxe *exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, and historic heritage* of eighteenth century Germantown.

**Criterion J:** While it is not clear exactly when the subject house became known as “Woodside,” the country seat became home to Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris in 1837 and would remain in their family until 1904. Both Jeremiah Hacker and his brother Isaiah Hacker purchased their country seats, while maintaining a house in town in the 1830s, after the construction and opening of the Philadelphia, Germantown & Norristown Railroad in 1832. Retaining the form of the 1797–1798 Main Block through 1837, Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris enlarged the subject building in two major phases—the 1850 Addition and the 1869 Addition. As a result, the procurement of “Woodside” as a country seat by the Hackers *exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, and historic heritage* of Germantown and its early development as a rail road suburb of Philadelphia.

### **Germantown History**

Germantown was founded in 1683 by a group of thirteen families, the majority of whom were Quaker and from the Lower Rhine, and Francis Daniel Pastorius. Pastorius was the agent of a group of Pietist merchants centered primarily in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Granted a 5,900 acre tract of land which today includes the communities of

*“Woodside:” The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat  
E. Wister St., Germantown*

Germantown, Mount Airy and Chestnut Hill, the first settlers created a classic *Strassendorf* settlement of small house lots spread along on the main road to Philadelphia which would later become Germantown Avenue. When the formal division of the land in the village was finalized by the mid-1680s, the main street became the spine of the community with a string of narrow lots all facing the main street and extending in some cases a mile or two back from the road. This form would shape the development and growth of Northwest Philadelphia for the next two centuries.

The community grew quickly in the 1690s and 1700s with new immigrants from the Lower Rhine and Netherlands, as well as migrants from other places in America, specifically New York. In 1689, Germantown was the first town in Pennsylvania to receive a charter for self-governance from William Penn. Though the Borough of Germantown did not survive past 1707, it helped to encourage a special sense of place unique from Philadelphia that lasted through much of its history. Taking advantage of the trade and religious networks to Pennsylvania established by Quaker and Pietist merchants, large numbers of German-speaking immigrants and settlers from Palatine, Southwest Germany and Switzerland began to pour through Germantown from the 1720s to 1760s. They established three new churches, several small church schools, fire companies and other institutions. This community also fostered Christopher Sower, a leading figure in the German-language press in British North America.

The layout of the community as a street village by the original settlers, who were not farmers but highly skilled linen weavers and flax cultivators, attracted other similar immigrants who were craftspeople. As Stephanie G. Wolf's seminal work on eighteenth century Germantown describes it: "It was craft and processing, raised to a surprisingly complex and sophisticated level, rather than commerce and trade that formed the backbone of the economic system in Germantown and made it unique among Pennsylvania towns."<sup>1</sup> The population of the township in 1790 had grown to close to 2,800 (the same size as Reading) from roughly 200 a century before and in 1800, there were 3,200 people.<sup>2</sup> By this time, the cultural character of Germantown had begun to shift away from the German-speaking population a generation before.

A major change occurred in Germantown in the 1790s due to the influx of summer residents. Germantown's high elevation relative to the original city of Philadelphia, its relative proximity, and its existing village infrastructure made it an attractive place for wealthy Philadelphians to establish summer residences by the 1750s and 60s. Some people bought houses and remodeled them (like William Allen's "Mount Airy"), built new houses (like Benjamin Chew's "Cliveden") or simply rented houses. This practice was accelerated in the 1790s due to the yellow fever epidemics. Wolf describes it as follows:

The steady stream of Philadelphia visitors and Philadelphia influence became a flood with the yellow fever epidemics of the 1790s. The first

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<sup>1</sup> Stephanie G. Wolf, *Urban Village: Population, Community and Family Structure in Germantown, Pennsylvania, 1683 – 1800* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976), 102.

<sup>2</sup> Wolf, *Urban Village*, 43.

epidemic in 1793 did not create much permanent change. While both the federal and state governments were temporarily located in Germantown and rooms were almost impossible to obtain, a crisis was avoided since Congress was not in session. By the time cool weather set in as Germantown had returned to normal. By 1797 when the next big epidemic struck the city, Germantown had a reputation as the place to go, and businesses as well as families and individuals moved out at once. The township began to look more like the suburbs and less like a small city. During the next two summers, which also saw increased health hazards in Philadelphia, the changes in Germantown became better established, and in many cases permanent. Only five announcements [were] in the newspapers relating to the location of Philadelphia enterprises ... in Germantown for the “sickly season” in 1797. There were over thirty such ads in the summer months of both 1798 and 1799. The businesses included insurance companies, banking offices, and merchants’ headquarters, as well as small establishments—perfume shops, shoe stores, dry goods shops, and the like. Some of the businessmen who ran these shops settled permanently with their families and contributed to changing the character of the local population in the nineteenth century.<sup>3</sup>

The summer resident phenomena permanently fixed Germantown’s status as a suburb of the city of Philadelphia; however, it was not until the 1840s that true suburbanization really began to take off after the opening of the Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown Railroad line to Germantown in the late 1830s.

**Country Seat, Owned by Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille, Haas’ Lane: ca. 1797-1836**

Located at 339 E. Wister Street, the subject building was for the greatest extent of its history home to a venerable old Quaker family associated with Germantown—the Hackers. Despite its weathered appearance today, the part of the building closest to E. Wister Street features an ancient form that was once commonplace in the region, its primitive-scale side-gable roof taking the form of a broken pitch, gambrel roof, which might suggest to any well-versed person in architectural forms that the Jeremiah Hacker-Beulah Morris family had been in residence since the early days of the new republic

Nevertheless, the subject building pre-dates the Hackers by nearly half a century for certain, and the ownership of the land upon which it stands makes the Hackers seem like a recent memory at the site. The subject house, “Woodside,” was built upon a parcel that was once part of the original Germantown town lot granted to Thönis Kunders, later known as Dennis Conrads, a blue dyer from Krefeld, Germany, in 1683, which stretched from Germantown Avenue to Wister Street at Belfield Avenue.<sup>4</sup> Kunders built his house on the front of the lot on Germantown Avenue and it was here that the first Quaker Meetings were held in Germantown. In 1727 the configuration of Kunders’ property changed when the Philadelphia County Court of Quarter Sessions granted a petition of

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<sup>3</sup> Wolf, *Urban Village*, 51–52.

<sup>4</sup> J.M. Duffin, *Acta Germanopolis: Records of the Corporation of Germantown, Pennsylvania, 1691–1707* (Philadelphia: Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, 2008), 501.

the residents of Germantown to close a road set aside at the first division of the town and open a new street in its place on the southeast side of Kunders' property. The new road, which is today East Wister Street, provided access to Wingohocking Creek and opened up the side of Kunders' property. Kunders held this lot for the remainder of his life. In his will he devised the property to his seven children who split the lot in half, selling the northwest section to Jacob Weiss and the southeast section to John Jansen in 1733.<sup>5</sup> Only a year later Jansen sold his portion to Jacob Weiss, thus giving Weiss full ownership of the original 14½ acre town lot of Kunders.<sup>6</sup> Except for a small lot on E. Wister Street off Germantown Avenue, Weiss held on to this property until his death around 1750.

Between 1750 and 1770, the property was subdivided and passed through several hands. In 1772, George Dannehower (1719–1795) secured title to several lots, which included all of the land on the northwest side of E. Wister Street from roughly 350 feet northeast of Germantown Avenue to the township line.<sup>7</sup> On Dannehower's death, his property along E. Wister Street was divided into lots and immediately sold by his executors. One lot containing two acres and a frontage on E. Wister Street of 371¼ feet was purchased by a Philadelphia coach maker, Peter Umrickhouse (Humrickhouse), in May 1795.<sup>8</sup> At that time Umrickhouse already owned a roughly 3¾ acre lot fronting Germantown Avenue and extending back behind Dannehower's E. Wister Street land.<sup>9</sup> The 1795 purchase provided access for the rear portion of his earlier purchase. The county tax records suggest that Umrickhouse did not live on his Germantown property but rented it out. By 1796, the lot on Germantown Avenue consisted of two adjacent houses (one of which still stands at 5139 Germantown Avenue) which were rented to a French school master, Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille, who was able to purchase the houses together with the lot on E. Wister Street in 1797.<sup>10</sup>

“Woodside” was built sometime around 1797–1798, as it appears in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax. It is likely that Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille built it as a country home to attract the same prosperous clients that he sought for the school he established in Germantown during the period of summer resident influx.

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<sup>5</sup> Deeds of Lease and Release: Cunrad Cunrads, of or near Matachen, Philadelphia County, husbandman, and Anne, his wife, Barbara Cunrads, widow, sole executrix of Mathias Cunrads, late of Germantown, decd., John Cunrads, of Upper Dublin Twp., and Elizabeth, his wife, Henry Cunrads, of Plymouth Twp., husbandman, and Catharine, his wife, Anne Strepers, of Germantown, widow, Samuel Powell, of Bristol Twp., husbandman, and Agnes, his wife, and Griffith Jones, of Germantown, yeoman, and Elizabeth, his wife, heirs of Denis Kunders (alias Cunrads), late of Germantown, dyer, decd., to Jacob Weiss, of Germantown, brass button maker, 3 & 4 April 1733, Philadelphia Deed Book G., No. 2, pp. 539; Deeds of Lease and Release: Cunrad Cunrads, et alia, to John Jansen, of Germantown, weaver, 3 & 4 April 1733, Philadelphia Deed Book G., No. 2, pp. 536, CAP.

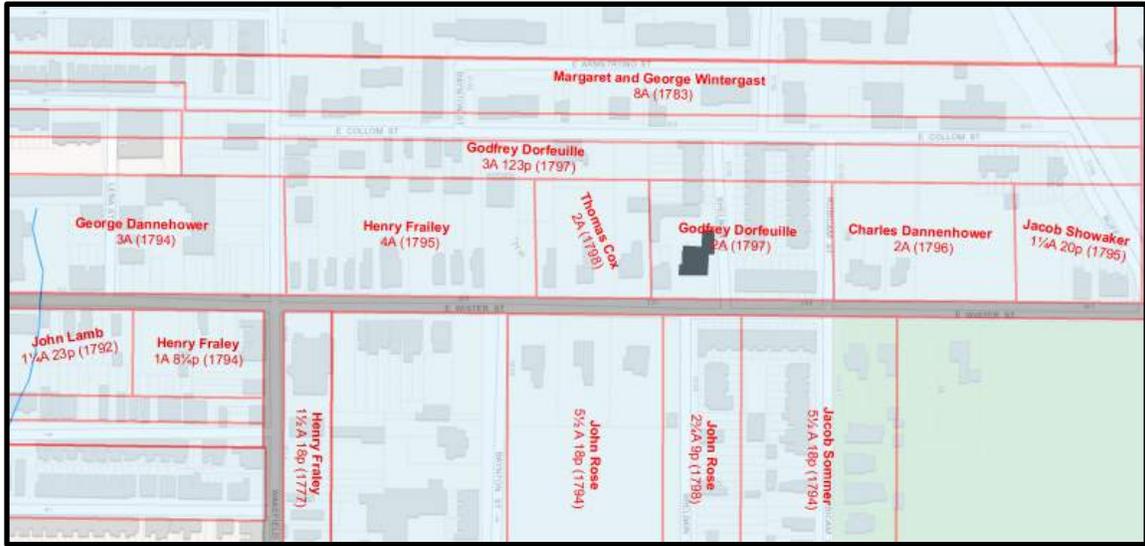
<sup>6</sup> Deeds of Lease and Release: John Jansen, of Germantown, weaver, to Jacob Weiss, Germantown, 23 & 24 1734, Philadelphia Deed Book G., No. 2, p. 534, CAP.

<sup>7</sup> Deed Poll: Joseph Redman, Esq., Sheriff, to George Dannehower, of Gtn., miller, 5 June 1762, Common Pleas Court Sheriff Deed Book A., No. 1, p. 305; Deed: Joseph Swift, of the city, merchant, and Margaret, his wife, to George Dannehower, 26 January 1772, Philadelphia Deed Book E. F., No. 10, p. 167, CAP.

<sup>8</sup> Deed Tripartite: Christian Duy, Charles Dannenhower, and George Dannenhower, of Germantown, of the first part, Catharine Beck, of the City of Philadelphia, widow, of the second part, to Peter Umrickhouse, of the City of Philadelphia, coach maker, 1 May 1795, Deed Book D., No. 65, p. 74.

<sup>9</sup> Deed: John Biddis and Mary, his wife, to Peter Umrickhouse, 30 May 1784, Philadelphia Deed Book D., No. 35, p. 120, CAP.

<sup>10</sup> Deed: Peter Umrickhouse, of the City of Philadelphia, coach maker, and Mary, his wife, to Godfrey Dorfeuille, 27 March 1797, Philadelphia Deed Book D., No. 60, p. 322, CAP.



Map showing 1798 property lines, ownership, acreage and dates of purchase of the parcels that extended from Germantown Avenue along the northwest side of E. Wister Street in relation to the current buildings and streets (the subject building highlighted in black). Note, this map shows the parcels owned by Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille. Courtesy J.M. Duffin, Archivist and Historian.

### **Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille (ca. 1757–1815), Educator & Entrepreneur**

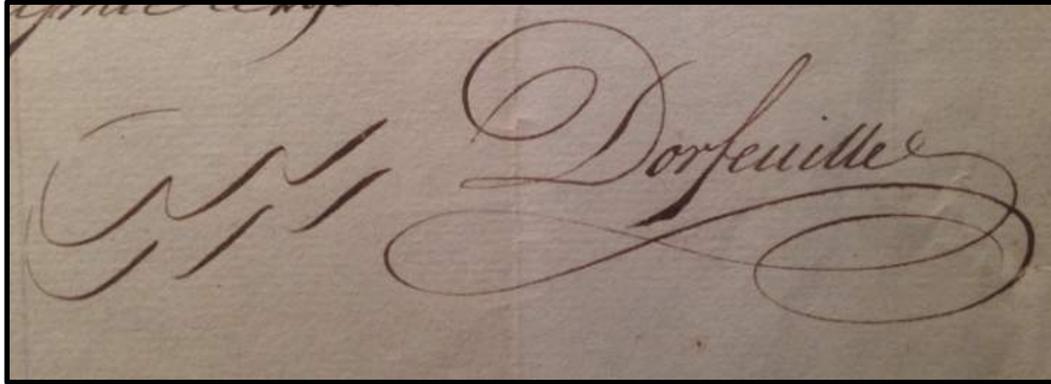
When Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille, a native of France, and his family arrived at Philadelphia, all of the papers of the day reported on him as being “late of Cape Francais,” which references the previous chapter of his life in Cap-Haïtien (then Cap-Français) on the north coast of Haiti. At the time of Dorfeuille’s last period of residence, Cap-Français would have been in trudging through the third decade after losing its distinction as the capital of the French Colony of Saint-Domingue, having ceased jurisdiction nearly twenty-five years prior in 1770.<sup>11</sup>

MR. GODFREY DORFEUILLE, late of Cape Francais, where he superintended an Academy for twelve years prior to the conflagration of that city...<sup>12</sup>

According to the church records of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans, Martin Godefroi Dorfeuille was a native of Bordeaux. Like many foreign names in the English-speaking New World, Dorfeuille’s surname went through several iterations such as: D’Orfeuille, D’Orfeville, Dorfile, Dorfeuillee, Dorfenille, and, most commonly, Dorfeuille, which is the spelling he usually employed in his distinctive hand and its signature.

<sup>11</sup>Franklin W. Knight and Peggy K. Liss, *Atlantic Port Cities: Economy, Culture, and Society in the Atlantic World, 1650-1850*, (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2001), 23-25.

<sup>12</sup> *Aurora General Advertiser*, 8 July 1796, 2.



Signature of Dorfeuille. Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Records indicate that Dorfeuille had founded or served as “Superintendent” of a school in Saint-Domingue as early as 1780. Naturally, Dorfeuille was lured to Saint-Domingue – “la Perle des Antilles” – by the opportunity this enormously profitable French colony offered him as a young “educator” and Frenchman. Saint-Domingue’s period of tranquility, however, came to a rather disastrous end for the French colonists when, beginning in 1789, the newly freed people of color agitated for a local French Revolution to enlarge their rights within the purview of the colonial government. When less violent negotiations proved unsuccessful, the revolutionaries set fire to “everything on their way,” including Cap-Français, which was largely destroyed between 1792 and 1793.

As early as 1792, Dorfeuille appears to have established a professional relationship with the Dutilh family, including Etienne Dutilh’s brother in Saint-Domingue and Etienne Dutilh in Philadelphia. While employed primarily as an educator of private institutions, Dorfeuille supplemented his income by selling and/or representing the Dutilhs in some capacity. Records from 1792 through 1801 indicate that Dorfeuille was involved in transactions with the Dutilhs, starting in Saint-Domingue and, mostly, continuing in Philadelphia from 1793 to 1801 in the multi-hundreds of dollars and/or pounds per transaction. While it appears that Dorfeuille knew both branches of the Dutilh family, the majority of his transactions appear in relation to Dutilh and Wachsmuth—and specifically Etienne Dutilh and John Godfried Wachsmuth of Philadelphia. Dorfeuille and his family would emigrate to Philadelphia, the largest city and capital of the United States—a place of opportunity.<sup>13</sup>

Etienne Dutilh was born in Marsac, France in 1748 and arrived in Philadelphia in 1783, via Rotterdam and London. E. Dutilh & Co., founded about 1784, were shipping merchants trading in the West Indies as well as Europe. By the late 1780s John Godfried Wachsmuth was in business with Dutilh, and the two established one of the most important shipping firms of the late eighteenth century—Dutilh & Wachsmuth. Later records indicate that both Dutilh and Wachsmuth provided assistance to French refugees and it was no doubt Dorfeuille’s connection to this firm that allowed him to remove

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<sup>13</sup> Carol Sue Humphrey, *The Revolutionary Era: Primary Documents on Events from 1776 to 1800* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2003), 206-212.

from Saint-Domingue to Philadelphia in 1793.<sup>14</sup>



Etienne Dutilh (left) and his wife Catherine Dutilh Wachsmuth, by Charles Balthazar Julien F vret de Saint-M min. Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Dorfeuille clearly planned his removal to Philadelphia, as his report published in the February 1793 edition of the *Moniteur G n ral de la Partie Fran aise*, Cap-Fran ais states. The story included a detailed description of his plan to transfer his “Maison de Education” to Philadelphia. It’s important to note that he made his associations with both Dutilh and Wachsmuth known in this article. His plans were to leave Saint-Domingue in April.

A country house, located a short distance from the city, is the place that Citizen Dorfeuille has chosen to receive his students.<sup>15</sup>

In anticipation of his departure, the article exceeded 1,000 words and provided a detailed outline of his background, plans, etc., relating to his future venue. Interestingly, the above quote promises a “country house,” which is a goal that takes several years to realize, but is already in the works long prior to the threat of Yellow Fever during his residence in Philadelphia. Nonetheless, Dorfeuille would realize these plans by 1797–1798.

Shortly after his arrival in Philadelphia, in 1793, Dorfeuille advertised his “Boarding School” in the *Aurora General Advertiser & the Federal Gazette* and *Philadelphia Daily Advertiser*.

GODFREY DORFEUILLE,  
Lately arrived from Cape Francois [sic],

<sup>14</sup> The Dutilh and Wachsmuth Papers, Hagley Library, Delaware.

<sup>15</sup> Original text: Une maison de campagne, situ e   une petite distance de la ville, est le lieu que le citoyen Dorfeuille a choisi pour y recevoir ses  l ves, “Suppl ment au Moniteur G n ral,” *Moniteur G n ral de la Partie Fran aise*, 13 February 1793.

“Woodside:” *The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat*  
E. Wister St., Germantown

INFORMS the public that he has taken that airy and commodious House and Garden, No. 56 Fourth Street North, opposite to the German Lutheran Church, were he will open an institution for the instruction of youth, a professional which Mr. Dorfeuille has followed for many years past with the most flattering success.<sup>16</sup>

It appears that Dorfeuille's first school in Philadelphia was located at 56 (later 124) N. Fourth Street, "opposite the German Lutheran Church."

He will also open a WRITING SCHOOL for English and German to be held every day from ten to twelve and a school for French every evening from five to eight.<sup>17</sup>

In his first years in Philadelphia no fewer than fifty advertisements for his "French Academy" or "Maison de Education" were published in various papers in Philadelphia.<sup>18</sup> As we know, his goal was to remove from the city proper to a more rural location. Perhaps his plans were to purchase property. Nevertheless, it is clear from Dutilh's account books and local advertisements that Dorfeuille was also earning money in dry goods and likely something related to the shipping business. Both the *Philadelphia Gazette & Universal Daily Advertiser* and the *Aurora General Advertiser* announce Dorfeuille as a cloth salesman. In fact, on June 11, 1795, the *Aurora General Advertiser* refers to "Godfrey Dorfeuille, & Co.," as selling "white thread gloves, prints framed, CLOTHS."<sup>19</sup> This corresponds with several of the surviving records of Dutilh & Wachsmuth, recording numerous payouts to Dorfeuille throughout the 1790s.

His plan soon took root, as sources show that between 1795 and 1796, Dorfeuille and his family removed from Philadelphia to Germantown, where he was "...TEACHER of the FRENCH LANGUAGE and ENGLISH PENMANSHIP in the Public School at Germantown..." This was no doubt related to the movement of many Philadelphians to more salubrious environs, away from the Yellow Fever epidemics that had infected Philadelphia at-large, as well as Dorfeuille's foretold plan to seek a rural location for his school. Dorfeuille's business associate, Etienne Dutilh was actively looking for and eventually rented a "country seat" on School House Lane in Germantown in the spring of 1796.<sup>20</sup>

Despite his employment with the Germantown Academy, Dorfeuille advertised his private educational services in June 1796 in the *Aurora General Advertiser*:<sup>21</sup>

... [Dorfeuille has] taken a large and commodious house, for the accommodation of such of his publics as may wish to reside in his family,

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<sup>16</sup> *The Federal Gazette and Philadelphia Daily Advertiser*, 22 May 1793, 3.

<sup>17</sup> *Aurora General Advertiser*, 29 November 1793, 1.

<sup>18</sup> *General Advertiser*, 6 February 1794, 1.

<sup>19</sup> *The Philadelphia Gazette & Universal Daily Advertiser*, 6 May 1795, 4; *Aurora General Advertiser*, 11 June 1795, 1.

<sup>20</sup> Letter William Crammond to Stephen Dutilh, 7 March 1796, Naaman H. Keyser Papers, Germantown Historical Society. Dutilh later purchase the house, the former Pemberton family country house, in 1797 (Philadelphia Deed Book E.F., No. 28, p. 722).

<sup>21</sup> *A History of the Germantown Academy* (Philadelphia: Germantown Academy, 1910), 131.

"Woodside:" *The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat*  
E. Wister St., Germantown

(being natives of France and thereby join theory with practice in their study of the French language).<sup>22</sup>

Though Dorfeuille had rented “a large and commodious house,” the advertisement also states that he was personally living in “Pikersis’-lane” (present-day E. Haines St) where he was working with “Mr. Herman, the established Minister of that place, and Latin Teacher of the same Academy.” Dorfeuille’s time at the Germantown Academy, however, was fairly short, like many of the other instructors at that period.

The *General Advertiser* published the following advertisement in French (translated here) on November 7, 1796 announcing his plan to establish a new school at Germantown:

MR DORFEUILLE, desiring to assemble all the appropriate capital and benefit, has just acquired of MR UMBRICKHOUSE two beautiful contiguous houses in Germantown, as well as the small property connected to them. These two houses united into one, while procuring to his boarding school a vast locale, advantageously arranged, will place him able to deal with his property as a whole. He will also have the means to provide all the pleasantness of a plantation appropriate to its purpose<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> *Aurora Daily Advertiser*, 8 June 1796, 2.

<sup>23</sup> *Aurora General Advertiser*, 7 November 1796, 1.

**Maison d'Education.**

FRANCAISE & ANGLAISE, établie à Germantown, à 6 miles de Philadelphie.

**L**E SIEUR DORFEUILLE désirant réunir chez lui tous les moyens de commodité et d'utilité convenables vient d'acquiescer les deux belles Maisons contigues de M. UMRICKHOUSE à Germantown, ainsi que la petite terre qui en dépend; ces deux Maisons réunies en une en procurant à sa pension un local vaste et avantageusement distribué le mettront à même de traiter son établissement en grand, tandis qu'il aura la facilité de le pourvoir de toutes les douceurs d'une plantation appropriée à cet effet.

La pension de SIEUR DORFEUILLE fondée sur le même plan que celle qu'il avoit à Saint-Domingue, fera toujours composée de maîtres capables de diriger les élèves avec succès dans les branches qui s'enseigneront chez lui.

On enseignera dans son académie les langues LATINE, ALLEMANDE, FRANCAISE, & ANGLAISE: les MATHEMATIQUES, l'HISTOIRE, la GÉOGRAPHIE, les ÉCRITURES dans la langue ANGLAISE ou FRANCAISE et la tenue des livres, les arts de goûts au choix des pères.

Les élèves ne seront jamais perdus de vue d'un instant: le maître qui sera de semaine, présidera à leur lever et coucher, à leurs jeux aux heures de récréations, au soins domestiques, les accompagnera à la promenade, et couchera dans leur dortoir, qui sera éclairé tout la nuit par une lampe, en cas que quelque enfant se trouveroit incommodé.

Le prix de la pension pour logement, nourriture, chauffage, blanchissage & éducation est de 40 gourdes par quartier.

**Maison d'Education**  
**Française & Anglaise Etablie**  
**A Germantown, dirigée par Mr. Dorfeuille**  
**ci-devant maître de pension au Cap**  
**François,**

**L**ES ÉLÈVES y sont reçus dès l'âge le plus tendre et le prix de la pension est proportionné à leur âge. Ils sont nourris, logés, chauffés, blanchis, & instruits dans les diverses branches et après détaillées, selon le désir des pères et leur dispositions naturelles.

SCIENCE & ARTS

Qu'on enseigne dans L'Académie du  
**SR. DORFEUILLE,**

La Lecture (par une méthode aussi ingénieuse que facile) les écritures Françaises, Anglaises et Allemandes, l'Arithmétique, la tenue des Livres, la langue Latine, Allemande, Française et Anglaise, l'Histoire, la Géographie et les Mathématiques. Les Arts de goût, tels que la danse, les Arts, la musique et le dessin se payent à part. Les Éléves ne forcent jamais de l'exce-  
 sante de la pension; dont les dépendances offrent assez d'étendu non seulement pour l'exercice nécessaires à leur santé mais encore pour la promenade.

m:hrf

1796 advertisement published in French in the *Aurora General Advertiser*, regarding establishment of a "Maison D'Education" in Germantown, which would have been near today's Wister Street. Courtesy ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

Peter Umrickhouse's double house is located at present-day 5137–39 Germantown Avenue. After only one year running his school at that location, Dorfeuille was able to purchase the property in March 1797 for the substantial sum of £2,000. The property consisted of a large house with three acres, which had 53.3 feet of frontage on Germantown Avenue, and a lot on E. Wister Street with 1,815 feet of frontage.<sup>24</sup>

While this research has only discovered a few names of students educated by Dorfeuille, it is clear that his pupils were the children of upper-middle to upper class Philadelphians, as one might expect. One of Dorfeuille's students was George Mifflin Dallas, who attended during the first years of the nineteenth century.<sup>25</sup> However, the most documentable of his pupils were Charles Sidney Coxe (1791–1879) and Alexander Sidney Coxe, two of three sons of the illustrious Philadelphian, Tench Coxe and his wife Rebecca Coxe.

<sup>24</sup> Deed: Peter Umrickhouse, of the city, coach maker, and Mary, his wife, to Godfrey Dorfeuille, 27 March 1797, Philadelphia Deed Book D., No. 6, p. 322, CAP.

<sup>25</sup> George W. Childs, *Brief Memoir of George Mifflin Dallas, of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: R.E. Peterson & Co., 1853), 3.

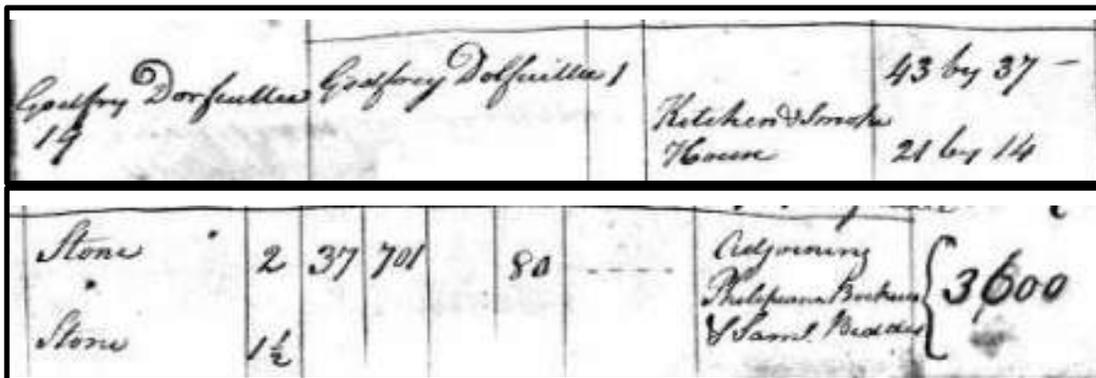
Tench Coxe—The Ideal Patron for Dorfeuille

Tench Coxe was born in 1755 to William Coxe and Mary Francis and was the third of ten surviving children. Coxe played an important role in the American Revolution; was a successful merchant early in his career; and became an important player in both National and Philadelphia politics in the late eighteenth century. Under the Federalist and Republican administrations of the Federal government, Tench Coxe served as Secretary of the Treasury under Alexander Hamilton from 1790 to 1792; Commissioner of Revenue from 1792 to 1797; Secretary of the Pennsylvania Land Office from 1800 to 1801; Collector of the Revenue for the City and County of Philadelphia from 1801 to 1803; Purveyor of Public Supplies from 1803 to 1812; and Clerk of the Philadelphia Court of Quarter Sessions from 1815 to 1818. While he had founded important Philadelphia businesses early on, his activities in land speculation greatly enlarged his inherited wealth.

After Coxe married his second wife, also his cousin, Rebecca Coxe in 1792, they went on to have a family, which ultimately led to Coxe’s relationship to the subject building. A receipt for educational services for Coxe’s children dated 1796 is the earliest indication of his patronage of Dorfeuille’s services. This also illustrates that the Coxe children were among Dorfeuille’s first pupils at Germantown. The relationship appears to have continued through the early years of the nineteenth century, as indicated in both letters as well as receipts of payment.

Dorfeuille’s Buildings

According to the U.S. Direct Tax of 1798, “Godfrey Dorfeuillee” owned a lot between Philipina Bockius and Samuel Biddis, on Germantown Avenue, then Main Street, that had a house 43 feet by 37 feet.<sup>26</sup> This was likely the main school building for his “Academy” in Germantown. The northwest portion of this building still stands today at 5139 Germantown Avenue, known as the “Dorfeuille [sic] House,” and was placed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places in 1957.



Pennsylvania, U.S. Direct Tax of 1798, Original Schedule No. 1, showing entry for house on Germantown Avenue.

<sup>26</sup> *United States Direct Tax of 1798: Tax Lists for the State of Pennsylvania*. M372, microfilm, 24 rolls. Records of the Internal Revenue Service, 1791-2006, Record Group 58. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

Godfrey Dorfeuille 1		42 ft. by 18	Stone	2
Kitchen		27 ft. by 15	Stone	2
Stable & hay house		14 ft. by 14	Frame	
2		on Haas's Lane		2500
2		Joi[n]g Charles Donahower		

Pennsylvania, U.S. Direct Tax of 1798, Original Schedule No. 1, "Additional," showing entry for house on E. Wister Street ("Haas's Lane").

In addition to providing information on the property that Dorfeuille owned along Germantown Avenue, the Direct Tax proves that at the time of the assessment, "Woodside," at 339 E. Wister Street, was extant and match the building surveyed in 1837 by the Franklin Fire Insurance Company for Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris. The following summary demonstrates the link between the two buildings:<sup>27</sup>

U.S. Direct Tax of 1798, Germantown Township, List No. 1, "Additional"<sup>28</sup>  
 "Godfrey Dorfeuille" "on Haas's Lane Joi[n]g Charles Donahower"  
 House, 42 ft. by 18, stone, 2 stories  
 Kitchen, 27 ft. by 15, stone, 2 stories  
 Stable & hay house, 14 ft by 14, frame

Franklin Fire Insurance Survey, September 29, 1837<sup>29</sup>  
 Jeremiah Hacker, "two story stone dwelling House ... on the North West side of Duey's [Duy's] Lane [E. Wister Street]"  
 House, 42 ft. by 18 ft.  
 Back building, 27 ft. 6 in. by 15 ft. 6 in.

The fact that the precise building dimensions are found in both sets of records and the property lines place the buildings in the same location provides definitive proof that part of the subject building was standing by 1798. Since there is no reference to a building on the two-acre lot on E. Wister Street in Dorfeuille's 1797 purchase deed, it is likely the subject building was constructed between 1797 and 1798.

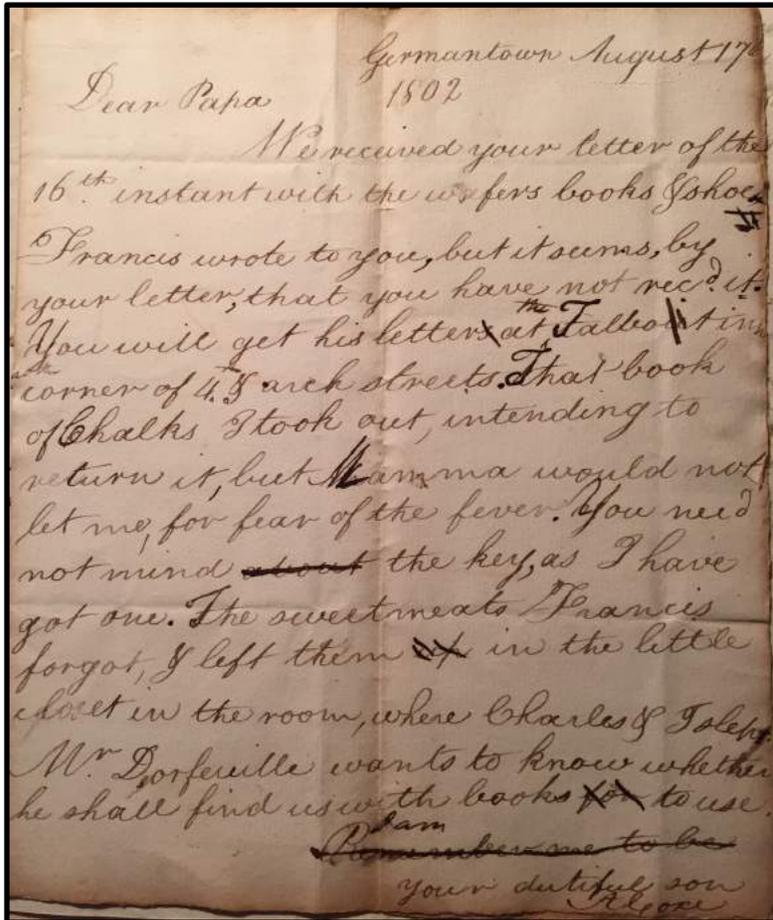
Since Dorfeuille already had the large house on Germantown Avenue where he ran his

<sup>28</sup> United States Direct Tax of 1798.

<sup>29</sup> Survey, Perpetual Insurance Policy No. 1931, Franklin Fire Insurance Records, Historical Society of Pennsylvania (hereafter HSP).

boarding school, it seems clear that the house on E. Wister Street was built to capitalize upon the early use of Germantown as a resort from Philadelphia, which occurred as a reaction to the Yellow Fever epidemics of the 1790s. In the same period, Dorfeuille published an article that advertised Germantown as a salubrious resort from the City of Philadelphia. Unfortunately, because the rentals were probably not long enough to make into the county tax assessments, there is no way to track who the renters of Dorfeuille's country house were. There is, however, one notable exception.

An 1802 receipt in the Tench Coxe Papers reveals that Coxe rented Dorfeuille's house in "Haas' Lane" for "eight months" that year, likely escaping a period of feverous Philadelphia. This shows that in 1802 the subject house was leased as a "country seat" to Tench Coxe and his family. Most importantly, this proves that Dorfeuille, while he may have also lived in the house, used the building and its grounds as an investment property, renting it to important wealthy Philadelphians during his period of ownership.



Germantown August 17  
1802

Dear Papa

We received your letter of the  
16<sup>th</sup> instant with the w<sup>o</sup>fers books & shoes  
Francis wrote to you, but it seems, by  
your letter, that you have not rec<sup>d</sup> it.  
You will get his letter <sup>the</sup> at Falls <sup>at</sup> time  
corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Arch streets. That book  
of Chalks I took out, intending to  
return it, but Mamma would not  
let me for fear of the fever. You need  
not mind ~~about~~ the key, as I have  
got one. The sweetmeats Francis  
forgot, I left them ~~at~~ in the little  
chest in the room, where Charles & Isley  
Mr. Dorfeuille wants to know whether  
he shall find us with books ~~for~~ to use.  
I am  
your dutiful son  
T. Coxe

Letter from Alexander Sidney Coxe to his father Tench Coxe, Germantown, August 17, 1802. Tench Coxe Papers. Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

In December 1802, it appears that Dorfeuille may have lost Tench Coxe as a patron, as evidence of their relationship trails off after the following plea is sent:

"Woodside:" *The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat*  
E. Wister St., Germantown  
*Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Winter 2015 – Page 36*

Mr. Tench Cox  
Philadelphia

Germantown, the 12.9ber.1802

Sir,

It is with much regret that I must leave your children; the docility of their character and the sweetness of their manners have entirely won my affection. I am extremely pained that our arrangement has not permitted you to allow them to spend more time with me.

Still I am so attached to them that if it will work for you I will take them to 50 gourdes better working than I could do for anyone else; that is to say 310 dollars for both of them. I would be very happy if this modification would suit you. I have an excellent professor for Greek and Latin who was recommended to me by Dr. Davidson, so the children can study dead languages and learn colloquial French. They can also have one hour of math lessons each day.

I would be infinitely flattered if this proposition would allow me the pleasure of having your children under my supervision, but in some manner that is acceptable to you. Please would you regard it as you yourself would do.

I am honoured to be in your perfect consideration, Sir

I am your very humble and very obedient Servant,

Dorfeuille

P.S.: According to your request I have included the account for your children.

Coxe was no doubt one of several important clients that allowed Dorfeuille to operate his school and lease his Germantown “country seat” to make investments and earn a living. Whether or not his relationship with Coxe ended after this letter is not known. However, the evidence found in the Tench Coxe Papers indicates the type of clientele that were patrons of Dorfeuille, as well as the extent of his services.

Mr. Trench Coxe  
Phil.

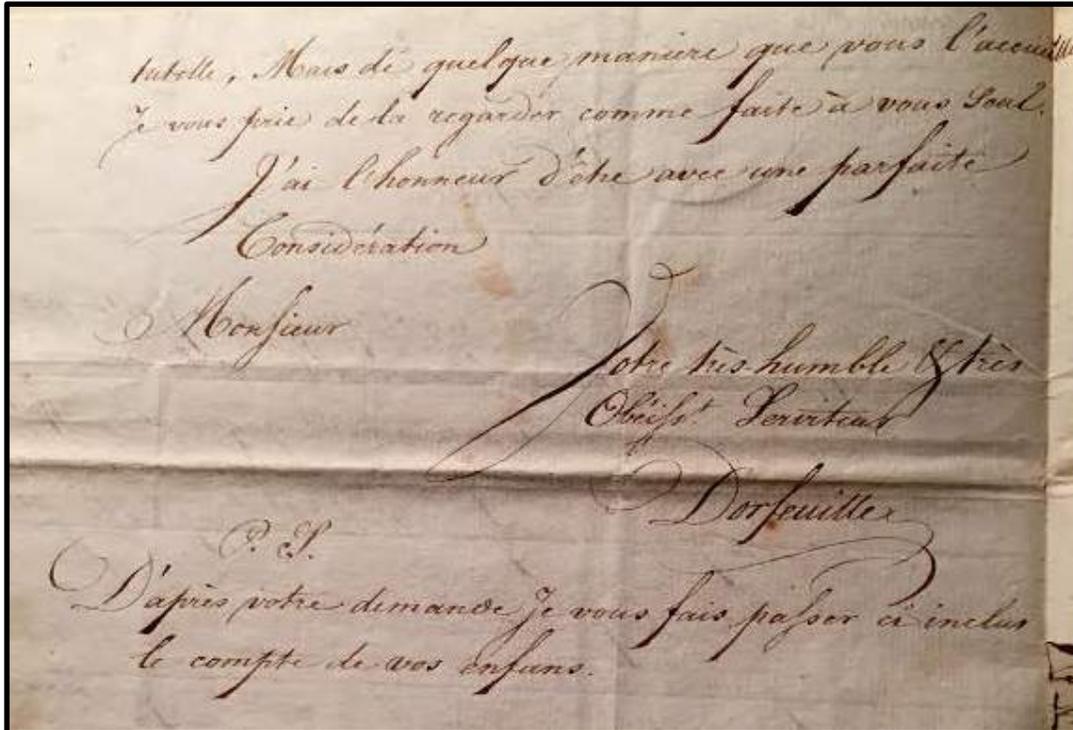
Germantown ce 12. 9<sup>bre</sup> 1802

Monsieur

C'est avec un bien grand regret que je vois partir vos  
enfants; la docilité de leur caractère et la douceur de  
leurs moeurs avoient entièrement gagné mon affection.  
Je suis entièrement fâché de ce que vos arrangements  
ne vous permettent pas de les laisser plus long temps  
avec moi. Cependant je leur suis si attaché que si  
cela pouvoit entrer dans vos arrangements je les prendrais  
à cinquante pour cent meilleur marché que vous je  
ne ferois pour tout autre; c'est à dire 310 dollars par  
an pour les deux. Je serois charmé que cette modifica-  
tion pût vous convenir. J'ai un excellent professeur  
pour le Grec et le Latin qui m'a été recommandé  
par D.<sup>r</sup> Davidson, ensuite que vos enfans pourroient  
étudier les Langues mortes & apprendre le français  
familièrement. Ils pourroient en outre avoir tous les  
jours une leçon de Mathématiques.

Je serois infiniment flatté que cette proposition pût  
vous procurer le plaisir de revoir vos enfans sous ma

Letter from Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille to Trench Coxe, December 9, 1802, Germantown. Trench Coxe Papers. Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.



Letter from Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille to Tench Coxe, December 9, 1802, Germantown. Tench Coxe Papers. Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

In addition to building the country seat on E. Wister Street, Dorfeuille also made additional land investments nearby. In 1802, he bought at sheriff sale a one-story frame house and two-acre lot that was formerly owned by Charles Dannenhower and was located northeast of the country seat lot.<sup>30</sup> The following year, he added another lot to the northeast which extended his holdings as far as present-day Rufe Street.<sup>31</sup> Dorfeuille also invested in other properties at the northeast corner of Germantown Avenue and E. Wister Street in 1803, but did not hold on to them long.<sup>32</sup>

#### Dorfeuille Household

The 1800 United States Federal Census recorded Dorfeuille as “Godfry Dorfile” in Germantown and enumerated the following: eleven free white males under 10 years of age; two males between 10 and 15; four males between 16 and 25; five males between 26 and 44, one male over 45; one free white female under 10; one female between 16 and 21; one female over 45 – in all it appears that there were twenty-nine people in one household.<sup>33</sup>

One member of the household was Dorfeuille’s wife, Maria Bertrand, who gave birth to

<sup>30</sup> Deed Poll: Israel Israel, sheriff, to Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille, teacher of the French Academy in Germantown, 18 October 1802, Common Pleas Sheriff Deed Book D, p. 300, CAP.

<sup>31</sup> Deed: Jacob Showaker, of Germantown Township, cooper, and Dorothy, his wife, to Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille, same, teacher of languages, 23 March 1803, Philadelphia Deed Book A.D.B., No. 46, p. 338, CAP.

<sup>32</sup> Deed: Rachael Leshner, of Germantown, widow, et alia, to Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille, teacher of the French Academy in Germantown, 6 May 1803, Philadelphia Deed Book E.F., No. 12, p. 475, CAP.

<sup>33</sup> Second Census of the United States, 1800: Population Schedules, Philadelphia County, Germantown Township. NARA microfilm publication M1804 (1 roll).

Maria Antonia Dorfeuille on April 13, 1800 in Germantown.<sup>34</sup> Their daughter was christened at St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church in Philadelphia shortly after her birth. Prior to their arrival in Philadelphia, Dorfeuille had at least two sons—Godfrey Dorfeuille (1789–1815) and Joseph Dorfeuille (1790–1840). There were certainly other children, but these offspring may or may not have survived to adulthood. One child, a 13-month-old infant, died in Germantown in 1797 and was buried in the Lower Burial Ground.<sup>35</sup> Maria Bertrand died on November 26, 1807 and is buried in Saint Mary’s Catholic Churchyard in Philadelphia.<sup>36</sup>

467	George Danenhour	2	2																
468	John Davis	2			4														
469	Samuel Meckling																		
470	Godfrey Dorfeuille	11	20	4	5	1													2
471	Samuel Bibb																		
472	George Wintercart	1																	
473	David Foil	2																	

Second Census of the United States, 1800. Courtesy Ancestry.com

Dorfeuille began selling his properties in Germantown in 1808. In addition to a former tavern at the northeast corner of Germantown Avenue and E. Wister Street, he sold off all of his property fronting E. Wister Street.<sup>37</sup> His country seat property, the subject dwelling, along with 3½ acres of land was sold to a butcher from Northern Liberties, George Kurtz, Sr., for \$3,600.<sup>38</sup>

The last known Philadelphia newspaper reference to mention Dorfeuille was *Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser* in May 1810, advertising the sheriff sale of the original school property on Germantown Avenue which he lost as result of a court case.<sup>39</sup> It would appear that by this time Dorfeuille removed from Philadelphia to New Orleans. In August 1810, he purchased a property at 635–641 Royal Street in the French Quarter. He apparently made out well from the sale of his property in Germantown, as three houses were built at Royal and St. Peter Streets.<sup>40</sup> Dorfeuille died in 1816, leaving two minor children in the care of his adult son, Joseph Dorfeuille (1791–1840), who later become famous for his Western Museum in Cincinnati.

<sup>34</sup> Edmund Adams and Barbara Brady O’Keefe, *Catholic Trails West: St. Joseph’s Church, Philadelphia (1733)*.

<sup>35</sup> Frederick S. Weiser and Debra D. Smith, *St. Michael’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Germantown (Now Part of Philadelphia) Pennsylvania, 1745–1841*, 2: (Rockport, Maine: Picton Press, 2000), 148.

<sup>36</sup> *Find A Grave*. Find A Grave. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi>.

<sup>37</sup> Deed: Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille, of Germantown, gentleman, to Anthony Cardon, of the city of Philadelphia, paper hanging manufacturer, 11 July 1808, Philadelphia Deed Book E.F., No. 31, p. 244; Deed: Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille, Germantown, teacher of the French language, to Michael Magrath, Northern Liberties of city, tallow chandler, 27 May 1808, Philadelphia Deed Book E.F., No. 30, p. 294, CAP.

<sup>38</sup> Deed: Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille, Germantown, gentleman, to George Kurtz, Sr., Northern Liberties, victualler, 7 June 1808, Philadelphia Deed Book E.F., No. 30, p. 189, CAP.

<sup>39</sup> *Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 12 May 1810, 2.

<sup>40</sup> Deed: Jeanne Bosonie to Godefroy Dorfeuille, 24 August 1810, Volume 11, 433; and Deed: Godfrey Dorfeuille to Jean Baptiste Arnaud, 2 April 1817, Volume 1, 200.

### **“Woodside”, Post-Dorfeuille, Pre-Hacker**

George Kutz, who bought the property in 1808, was probably acting as an agent because only two months after buying the house and lot he transferred the property to Philadelphia merchant William Taylor, Jr.<sup>41</sup> Taylor held onto the property for two decades and then sold to Daniel Zeller.<sup>42</sup> Since Zeller was a resident of Germantown, he may have used the house as his home. In 1837, Zeller sold the house to Jeremiah Hacker.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Deed: George Kurtz, Sr., of Northern Liberties Township, victualler, and Margaret, is wife, to William Taylor, Jr., of the City, merchant, 29 August 1808, Philadelphia Deed Book E.F., No. 30, p. 462, CAP.

<sup>42</sup> Deed: William Taylor, Jr., of the City, merchant, and Mary Alice, his wife, to Daniel Zeller, of Germantown, gentleman, 22 April 1828, Philadelphia Deed Book G.W.R., No. 22, p. 247, CAP.

<sup>43</sup> Deed: Daniel Zeller, of Germantown, gentleman, and Elizabeth, his wife, to Jeremiah Hacker, city, merchant, 4 May 1837, Philadelphia Deed Book S.H.F., No. 19, p. 51, CAP.



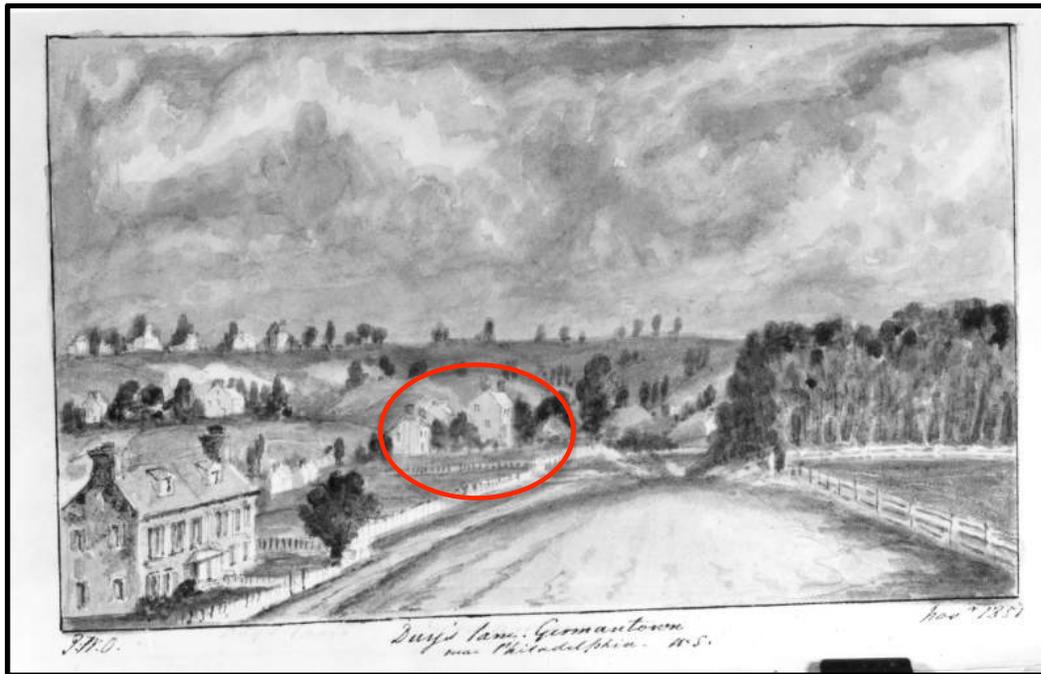
A view of "Woodside," showing the 1797-1798 Main Block and the 1850 Addition, as well as another small collection of outbuildings. This image shows the building prior to the execution of the 1869 Addition. the Country House of Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris: 1837–1892. Courtesy Marianne "Nancy" Dawson Shipley Rhoads.

**CITERION C & D: The Hackers tripled or even quadrupled the size of "Woodside" over time and enhanced the landscaping. Both the 1850 Addition and the 1869 Addition are important to the story of the subject building and its historical significance. The broken-pitch, side-gable, gambrel roof was a known architectural form in Philadelphia and, specifically, in Germantown. Employment of the broken-pitch, gambrel form was a type associated with the Hacker family in America since the construction of "Ye Old Hacker House," circa 1711, in Salem, Massachusetts. Unlike most Americans of new means, the Quakers usually reused older building. When executing the 1850 Addition, the Hackers chose a complex roof system that terminated at the west end to make a rather unusual façade that was dominated by a massive expanse of a gambrel roof facing what would have been the back yard of "Woodside". This was likely both a choice of nostalgic taste and feasibility. The feasibility component is related to the extant ell, which no doubt had a half-gamble roof, appearing from the rear in half-built, flounder format. While not an exact copy, this employment of the gambrel form harkens back to the girlhood home of Beulah Morris—Cedar Grove, which was renovated its current, distinctive appearance by Beulah Morris' parents Isaac Wistar Morris and Sarah Paschall in 1795. The 1869 Addition also uses the gambrel form as the defining feature of its design—this time employing a more "Victorian" stylistic treatment. As a result, "Woodside" is one of the more eclectic and nostalgia-inspired Quaker-owned houses in Germantown, not only reflecting the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural type, but furthermore embodying distinguishing characteristics of an important local vernacular tradition as executed by well-to-do, yet conservative Quakers of the nineteenth century.**

As previously stated, “Woodside” was constructed in at least three phases, which appear to have included the 1797–1798 Main Block, the 1850 Addition, and the 1869 Addition. In 1837, “Woodside” passed from Daniel Zeller to Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris. The Franklin Fire Insurance Company surveyed the property on September 29, 1837, recording it as “A Two-Story Stone Dwelling House Situate on his Country Seat on the North West Side of Duy’s Lane [E. Wister Street] about one-fourth of a mile north of Germantown.”

Dimensions 42 feet front by 18 feet deep and a Back Building 15 feet 6 inches wide by 27 feet 6 inches long; the front and last end rough cast.<sup>44</sup>

In 1797, Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille purchased the property from Peter Umrickhouse. Records of the U.S. Direct Tax of 1798 record a two story stone house belonging to Godfrey Dorfeuille on E. Wister Street adjoining the property of “J. Charles Danahower [Dannenhower],” the main block (the 1797–1798 Main Block) measuring 42 feet by 18 feet with a kitchen, measuring 27 feet by 15 fifteen feet.<sup>45</sup>



“Duy’s Lane, Germantown,” 1851. Sketch by John W. Oldmixon of E. Wister Street looking northeast from a short distance above Wakefield St. “Woodside” can be seen in the distance on the left. Note the woodland across from the house. Courtesy of the British Museum.

1797–1798 The building described by the Franklin Fire Insurance Company of Philadelphia for Jeremiah Hacker (and Beulah Morris) is the front portion of the building that is extant in 2016 at 339 East Wister Street and constitutes the 1797–1798 Main Block. It appears that between 1798 and 1837 the house was largely unchanged, so

<sup>44</sup> Survey, Perpetual Insurance Policy No. 1931, Franklin Fire Insurance Records, HSP.

<sup>45</sup> *United States Direct Tax of 1798*.

that the fire insurance survey provides documentation for what is likely a period (1797–1798) interior at the time the Hackers arrived at “Woodside.”

The first story of the front house is in 2 rooms, entry and stairway between, stud partitions, heart pine floor, a circular top front door frame, paneled jambs and head outside frontispiece with pilasters and pediment head, fan sash, wood sill and paneled doors in 2 parts, 2-18 light 8 by 10 windows in each room front, 1 ditto in the west end and ditto back, windows have all plain jamb casings and single faced architraves, surface and washboard, 5/4 double worked passage doors, double faced architraves to doors, and plain wood mantel piece in each room, story 9 feet high in the clear, a doorway into the Back Building. The Stairs from the first-story to the garrett are open newell, 3 feet going, open string, return nosings, turned newels and balusters, fancy brackets, painted hand rail, heart steps and rizers, square steps, windows and quarter passes.

The Second Story is in 2 rooms as the first story, 5-15 light 8 by 10 windows front, one in each gable end, and two back, casing mouldings surface and washboard at the first story. Single worked panel doors, plain mantel in each room, side closet in the east room and a recess closet in the west room, white pine floor and story 8 feet 6 in. high in the clear.

The Garrett is in 2 rooms, white pine floor and ledge doors, a small store room between the rooms, Double broken pitch Roof 9 feet high, Cedar Shingles, Tin gutter front, barge boards, trap door and ladder, a plain balustrade on the roof, 5 posts, plain rail and ballusters, lighting rod on the east gable end, 2-12 light 8 by 10 Ridge top Dormer Windows front and 1 back, cheeks shingled, 2-6 light 8 by 10 windows in west-gable end, wood eaves front and back, Cornice and bed mould, Vaulting Window, panel shutters to first-story and Venetian Shutters to the Second Story windows and to garrett and dormer windows, sash single hung, house lathed and plastered, cellar door at the West-end wood cheeks and sill.

The Back Building first story is the Kitchen, a plain door frame and 24 light 8 by 10 window each side, panel doors and shutters, a large fire place and mantel shelf, 3 side closets in north gable end, panel doors, mouldings and washboard, heart pine floor and story 8 feet 6 in. high in the clear; 3 flights of Common Winding Stairs of white pine boards from the cellar to garrett.

The Second Story is in 2 rooms, white pine floor, 2-12 light 8 by 10 windows each side, Venetian Shutters to all except one in east side which has panel shutters, side closets and plain mantel piece in the north room, panel doors, moulding and washboard, story 7 feet 4 inches high in the

clear; the first and second stories are both lathed and plastered and a doorway from each story into the main house.

The Garrett is in one room, rough floored and not plastered double pitch roof 7 feet pitch, Cedar Shingles, Wood Eaves and spouts, cornice and bedmould, and barge boards, valley shingled in with main house a 6 light flat top dormer window east side and a 7 light-window in North gable end; Adjoining the Kitchen on the east side is a one story stone milk house 7 feet by 9 feet and 7 feet high, Cedar Shingle roof to it; a shed also over the pump by the Kitchen door, and a portico or shed in the rear of the house and west of the Back Building 26 feet 6 inches long by 10 feet wide and 8 feet high, 7 turned posts or columns to it filled in between with green Venetian doors heart floor in it, plastered ceilings and Cedar Shingle roof to it.<sup>46</sup>



Paramore's aka Delaplaine House, NE corner of School Lane and Germantown Avenue, retaining materials described in the 1837 Survey of "Woodside" by the Franklin Fire Insurance Company of Philadelphia, although feature more colonial elements of a house with a gambrel form in its side-gable end. Courtesy the Library Company of Philadelphia.

After the Hackers purchased "Woodside" in 1837, and Jeremiah Hacker's retirement in January 1841, the house was brought to its present form. Between 1837 and 1850, a

<sup>46</sup> Survey, Perpetual Insurance Policy No. 1931

substantial addition was completed that doubled the size of the house. This phase of construction is referred to in this nomination as the 1850 Addition; however, the precise date of its construction is unknown. The Franklin Fire Insurance Company recorded this addition with a new survey.<sup>47</sup>

After Jeremiah Hacker died in 1866, the third major phase of construction appears to have been completed between 1866 and 1869. This phase of construction is referred to as the 1869 Addition in this nomination. The Franklin Fire Insurance Company completed a third survey of the property. The survey describes the 1797–1798 Main Block, the 1850 Addition, and the 1869 Addition.<sup>48</sup>

Samuel F. Hotchkin's history of Germantown describes the house as it was in the late 1880s:

#### JEREMIAH HACKER'S HOUSE

Duy's Lane is now styled [E.] Wister street. On the upper side of this street, a little above the Reading Railroad, near Wister Station, stands an old-time mansion of stone, which [Townsend] Ward mentions and hoped to describe, but the [Pennsylvania] Magazine [of History and Biography] contains no further account of it, though Isaiah Hacker's house on Main street has its place in history. This ancient building stands among old trees, which are its fitting companions. Formerly a wood stretched behind it, but the rapid march of improvement and the axes impelled by American Gladstones have destroyed its glory. A hedge with an iron railing on its outer side bounds the street in front of the dwelling and a fence stretches along the front of the lawn. The lawn extends both above and below the mansion, and is, on an autumn day, covered with the pretty fallen leaves. The grounds slope toward the railroad, while there is a pleasant view of the rolling country beyond, and the resting cattle on the sward give a pretty touch to the picture. The massive walls of the old house show themselves in the interior, where a later addition in the rear makes the back wall of the house a partition and its doors betray the thickness, which shows how strongly the forefathers built the houses which were to stand alone, and did not need to be in a modern row for mutual support. The wall is so thick that a closet has been constructed in what was formerly a window. The old furniture within the hall and parlor is in unison with the walls, which protect it.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> Survey, Perpetual Insurance Policy No. 1931

<sup>48</sup> Survey, Perpetual Insurance Policy No. 1931

<sup>49</sup> Samuel Fitch Hotchkin, *Ancient and Modern Germantown, Mt. Airy, and Chestnut Hill* (Philadelphia: Ziepler & Co., 1889), 241.

*"Woodside:" The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat  
E. Wister St., Germantown*



A view of “Woodside,” showing the 1850 Addition with the earlier ell and its out buildings. Courtesy Marianne “Nancy” Dawson Shipley Rhoads.

### **“Woodside”: the Architecture of Nostalgia**

One of the most peculiar, yet prevalent forms to emerge in the larger context of American architectural expression in the Victorian period, perhaps we can even call it an architectural style of its own, is the Colonial Revival as expressed by the Philadelphia and, it is fair to say, Germantown Quakers, as well as other descendants of the early non-Quakers of the first families of colonial Philadelphia.

Built by Dorfeuille ca. 1797–1798, “Woodside” featured a symmetrical fenestration at its primary elevation, like most of the Georgian-inspired houses in the area; featured a center hall plan; featured numerous Federal-period details: “a circular top front door frame, paneled jambs and head outside frontispiece with pilasters and pediment head, fan sash”; and featured a “plain balustrade on the roof,” all of which are typical features of other Federal style country places in the United States at that time.



Old Washington Tavern, SE corner of Washington Lane and Germantown Avenue, a building featuring a gambrel form at its side-gable ends. Courtesy the Library Company of Philadelphia.

Less usual in the greater American context, until the Colonial Revival period in the second half of the nineteenth century, was the continued employment of the gambrel roof, as, by this time, such a form was far too old-fashioned to adhere to the high style Federal motifs employed in most new houses—even in the country. Yet, if the 1797–1798 Main Block was built in its entirety in 1797–1798, it employed the age-old gambrel form in its broken-pitch gable-ends. Several country houses were built in Germantown in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. One building featuring a similar architectural effect is the building located at 39 East Logan Street (late Fisher’s Lane), one of the early cross streets of Germantown. Later home to the Sanborn family in the early twentieth century, among other families in the nineteenth century, some historians contend that this house, although altered during the Victorian period, may be an early design for a country house by Benjamin Latrobe. Interestingly, the main block of 39 East Logan Street shares similarities in scale and form to the 1797–1798 Main Block of “Woodside,” featuring the gambrel form in its side-gable ends. This house is also, and understandably so, misinterpreted and overlooked as being of the Colonial Revival period. Another house that is overlooked in the Federal-period context of Germantown is the poorly labeled “James Matthews House” at School House Lane and Green Street, which has long been overshadowed by the Germantown Academy.<sup>50</sup> While potentially earlier than the commonly associated date of construction, let’s say, for argument’s sake, that it was built or substantially “federalized” in the first

<sup>50</sup> Hotchkin, *Ancient and Modern Germantown, Mount Airy and Chestnut Hill*. Philadelphia.

years of the nineteenth century. This would indicate that several developers or speculative country house builders employed and/or stuck with the gambrel form in the gable ends of their Germantown “mansions,” including James Matthews, who supposedly built this house. Interestingly, perhaps Matthews found this form too old-fashioned, as he did not use it when building the more celebrated Vernon Park in 1803—an important Federal style house at 5800 Germantown Avenue, which he sold to John Wister in 1812. However, there is no doubt that the 1797–1798 Main Block *embodies distinguishing characteristics and elements both of important high style elements and important local vernacular tradition.*

After purchasing the 1797–1798 Main Block of “Woodside” in 1837, Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris substantially enlarged this building as their “country seat,” an undertaking that no doubt involved both architect and contractor. However, it is clear that whatever influence the architect had on the design was purely technical. The 1850 Addition is so called as it appears to have been completed by 1850, at the time of the 1850 Survey by the Franklin Fire Insurance Company when it first appears on any record.



Looking northeast, the primary elevation of the 1850 Addition is at center and partly obscured by the later, 1869 Addition.

No doubt, the 1850 Addition, as shown in the image above, featured a fully articulated gambrel form, as purposely employed to comprise the primary elevation of the enlarged section of the “Woodside”. Still out of fashion in 1850, as much as it was in 1837, it is likely that to the Hackers, fashion wasn’t a serious consideration in terms of aesthetics, but that their nostalgia for architectural forms of the past was their primary influence that suited their architectural taste. Despite the sober nature of the Philadelphia Quaker’s aesthetic, and far less opulent in architectural expression than Episcopalian and other

Philadelphians of similar means, “Woodside” was, nevertheless, still a large and impressive house, only with a stronger emphasis on the Hackers’ attachment to their actual historic architectural motifs of their ancestral past. Unlike many other houses of the period, especially the houses mentioned above that fit into the context of the 1797–1798 Main Block, “Woodside” was enlarged substantially in two major phases with the 1850 Addition and later the 1869 Addition. Both of these additions employed strong elements of design that feature dramatic architectural expressions of the gambrel form in the gable ends with broken pitch roofs. For example, the above image of the 1850 Addition depicts a very unusual employment of the gambrel form not only in the context of additions in Philadelphia, but certainly in its period of construction, the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Yet it is not inexplicable.

The Hacker family had long since employed the gambrel roof since their arrival in America. For example, their ancestral home, circa 1715—dubbed “Ye Old Hacker House”—in Salem, Massachusetts featured the gambrel form in its large broken-pitch, side-gable ends.<sup>51</sup> And the Hackers were stylistically very conservative people, despite the fact that Jeremiah Hacker and his brothers achieved great wealth while in Philadelphia. The Hackers certainly had the money to demolish the 1797–1798 Main Block and construct a more fashionable dwelling type or, at the least, alter the original house beyond recognition, as was done by other wealthy Quakers who were less nostalgically and/or frugally inclined to keep the original design, but not liberal enough to abandon a perfectly good house. This is certainly the case with “Torwood,” the home of Justus Strawbridge, who encapsulated the original Georgian style house in a Victorian mansion.<sup>52</sup>

Perhaps the most interesting part of the “improvements” made to “Woodside” over the years was, in fact, the 1850 Addition and its unusual employment of the gambrel form. However, the design becomes less mysterious upon closer inspection of Beulah Morris and her antecedents.

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<sup>51</sup> Courtesy Arthur Heathcote “Heath” Hacker, III

<sup>52</sup> Diary entry for June 10, 1886, Cornelius Nolen Weygant Papers, 1849-1907, University Archives and Records Center, University of Pennsylvania.



Looking west, Cedar Grove with Cousins Lydia and "Rowdy" at the gate. Morris, Marriot Canby, 1863–1948, photographer. Courtesy the Library Company of Philadelphia.



Looking northeast, this view of "Woodside" shows the rear elevation of the building that emulates Cedar Grove. Courtesy Marianne "Nancy" Dawson Shipley Rhoads.

In 1795, Isaac Wister Morris married Sarah Paschall, the only heir to Cedar Grove—the Paschall family home near Frankford in Philadelphia County. In the years after their marriage, the young couple made substantial enlargements to Cedar Grove, which led to its present form.<sup>53</sup> While the house faced a lane at the time of its enlargement in its usual period format—a symmetrical, flat fenestration—the primary elevation of their enlarged house has come to be known by its unusually large gambrel form in its gable-end and, incidentally, the employment of a rambling piazza beneath this broken pitch. Beulah Morris was born to Isaac Wistar Morris and Sarah Paschall in 1811 and no doubt spent much of her childhood at Cedar Grove.



Rear View of Cedar Grove. Morris, Marriot Canby, 1863-1948, photographer. Courtesy the Library Company of Philadelphia.

While the 1850 Addition of “Woodside” certainly takes on its own form, it is strikingly similar to the 1790s-era creation that became Beulah Morris’ childhood home. In fact, it explains what is otherwise an oddity, as the mere expression of nostalgia—regardless of fashion—by a prominent and wealthy Quakeress and her Quaker husband in the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

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<sup>53</sup> Fairmount Park Historic Houses, managed by the Philadelphia Museum of Art.



“Woodside”. Courtesy Arthur Heathcote “Heath” Hacker, III.

“Woodside” was expanded by the Hackers again in the 1860s and likely between 1866 and 1869. The 1869 Addition, standing almost as an independent work of architecture, is nearly practically detached from the 1797–1798 Main Block and the 1850 Addition. Likely built after the death of Jeremiah Hacker in 1866, the 1869 Addition first appears in the 1869 Survey of the Franklin Fire Insurance Company of Philadelphia. The 1869 Addition features a more “Victorianized” gambrel form in the broken-pitch gable-end, which includes elements of style that harken to the Mansard mania of the day, but nevertheless are articulated in the nostalgic form. Other buildings of the period have this similar and quite purposeful design—a design that clearly was more architect-influenced than its predecessor, 1850 Addition.



Rear view of “Woodside,” showing the 1850 Addition and the 1869 Addition. Courtesy



Beyond the Deshler-Morris House (left) is the Bringhurst House, which features a Victorianized mansard roof with a side-gable, broken-pitch gambrel roof. The roof of the Bringhurst House is very similar to the style employed in the 1869 Addition. Courtesy the Library Company of Philadelphia.



Looking north at the 1797-1798 Main Block of Woodside. Courtesy Marianne "Nancy" Dawson Shipley Rhoads.



Beulah Morris and Jeremiah Hacker. Courtesy Marianne “Nancy” Dawson Shipley Rhoads.

**Criterion E: “Woodside” is associated with the lives of significant persons in the past, as related to Philadelphia and Germantown. Jeremiah Hacker, an important Quaker merchant in Philadelphia and early Germantown suburbanite, lived in the house from 1837 until his death in 1866. Beulah Morris, also an important Quaker, lived in the house from 1837 until her death in 1892. Beulah Morris was the quintessential Philadelphia Quakeress—descending from the earliest of William Penn’s cave dwellers, as well as the Wisters of Germantown, among other important early Philadelphia families.**



Silhouette of Jeremiah Hacker. Courtesy Arthur Heathcote “Heath” Hacker, III.

*“Woodside:” The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat  
E. Wister St., Germantown  
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Winter 2015 – Page 55*



Jeremiah Hacker. Courtesy Marianne “Nancy” Dawson Shipley Rhoads.

### **Jeremiah Hacker (1799–1866)**

In private life Mr. Hacker was of a most retiring disposition, in fact his modesty amounted almost to a peculiarity...<sup>54</sup>

Born on July 12, 1799 in Salem, Massachusetts, Jeremiah Hacker was the youngest of ten children born to Isaac Hacker (1750–1818) and Anna Estes (1754–1802).

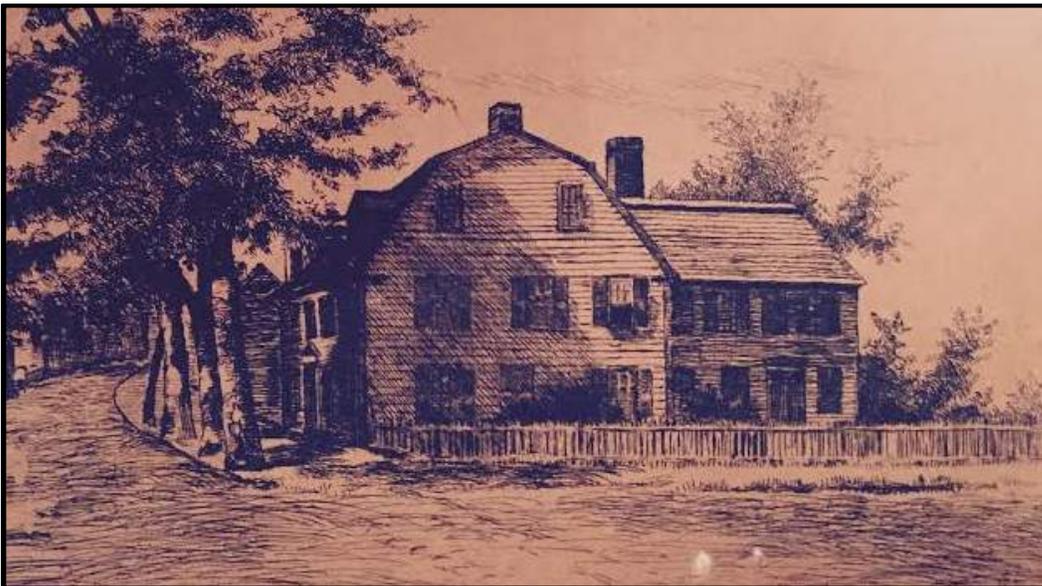
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<sup>54</sup> Obituary [of Jeremiah Hacker]. unknown Philadelphia publication. 1866. Courtesy Arthur Heathcote “Heath” Hacker, III.

*“Woodside:” The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat  
E. Wister St., Germantown  
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Winter 2015 – Page 56*

Unbeknownst to even some of the most avid Quaker enthusiasts, the Hackers were members of the Society of Friends, despite their origin in Massachusetts. However, while there was a faction of that population in the northeastern states, the region certainly had a smaller population in proportion to more southerly locals (i.e. Philadelphia). That said, the Friends that arrived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony were among the earliest in America.

Long before “Woodside” was built, William Hacker (1594–1661) was one of the earliest Quakers to arrive in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, where he settled in Lynn, Essex County, no doubt thinking he was to escape the religious persecution that the Society of Friends had endured under the reign of Charles I of England. In between Jeremiah Hacker and his ancestor William Hacker were several other generations, which are too numerous to name in this work, but within these lines is the great old tradition of ancestor worship in the repetition of names, which prevails in the Hacker family to-date.<sup>55</sup>



“Ye Old Hacker House,” Salem, Massachusetts, Built 1715. Courtesy Arthur Heathcote “Heath” Hacker, III.

Isaac Hacker and Anna Estes were married on April 26, 1774 in Lynn, where Anna had been born to Thomas and Ruth Estes in 1754.<sup>56</sup> Isaac’s parents, the first Jeremiah Hacker (1725–1801) and Lydia Smith (1726–1764), were also natives of Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts. Isaac Hacker and Anna Estes had ten children which included Lydia Hacker (1775–1799), Rebekah Hacker (1777–1799), Hannah Hacker (1779–1792), Isaac Hacker (1782–1804), William Estes Hacker (1784–1858), Isaiah Hacker (1787–1866), Springet Penn Hacker (1790–1791), Hannah (1792–1863), Elizabeth Hacker (1795–1806), and, the subject of this work, Jeremiah Hacker. Only a few of the

<sup>55</sup>William P. Hacker, “Our Hacker Family of America: 1630-1970,” unpublished manuscript.

<sup>56</sup> Jordan Dodd, Liahona Research, comp. *Massachusetts, Marriages, 1633-1850* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.; New England Historic Genealogical Society. *Massachusetts, Town Birth Records, 1620-1850* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1999.

children survived into adulthood and had issue. Perhaps the most memorable and illustrative of the children was Isaac Hacker, a merchant, who died while at sea in 1804 on the Isle of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean, a log of which is still extant in the Hacker family to-date. It is important to mention the siblings of Jeremiah Hacker because they are integral to the story of his life, leading him from Salem, Massachusetts to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and eventually Germantown.

Jeremiah Hacker's older brother, Isaiah Hacker, received his education in the counting house of Dulch & Deland of Salem, Massachusetts. However, this did not yield a lucrative place for Isaiah in the Salem maritime community. After a short go at the lumber business, it was Isaiah Hacker who decided to pursue a living in Philadelphia, which compelled him to move there in 1821.

Isaiah Hacker was born at Salem, Massachusetts in the year 1787, where his family had lived since the early settlement of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay. They were called "old cottagers" when William Penn came to America in 1682. The family always lived on Hacker's Corner on Federal Street. The old house is still standing, which was built in 1711. The family was always attached members of the Society of Friends, during the days of the persecution in Governor Endicott's time, and Isaiah remained a consistent and interested Friend all his life.<sup>57</sup>

After his arrival in Philadelphia, Isaac Hacker co-founded the firm of Hacker, Brown, & Company, dry goods merchants, which was a business he had with his brother-in-law David S. Brown. William Estes Hacker joined his brother in Philadelphia between 1821 and 1824. By 1824, Jeremiah Hacker also removed to Philadelphia where he entered "the wholesale drygoods trade," becoming a partner in Hacker, Brown, & Company in the years after his arrival.<sup>58</sup>

No doubt once the Hacker brothers arrived in Philadelphia, they knew most the other prominent Quaker families of Philadelphia. As a result, even before his move, Jeremiah Hacker knew of Beulah Morris. The two were married on November 10, 1830.

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<sup>57</sup> Hacker, "Our Hacker Family," 12.

<sup>58</sup> Obituary [of Jeremiah Hacker]. Unknown Philadelphia Publication. 1866.

Whereas Jeremiah Hacker of the City of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania Son of Isaac Hacker late of Salem in the State of Massachusetts and Anna his Wife both deceased, and Beulah Morris Daughter of Isaac W. Morris of the said City of Philadelphia and Sarah his Wife, having declared their intentions of Marriage with each other before a Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends held at Philadelphia according to the good order used among them and having consent of the surviving Parents their said proposal of Marriage was allowed of by the said Meeting Now these are to Certify whom it may concern that for the full accomplishment of their said intentions this Fourth day of the Eleventh Month in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty<sup>(1830)</sup> they the said Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris appeared in a Public Meeting of the said People held at their Meeting House on Pine Street in the said City of Philadelphia and the said Jeremiah Hacker taking the said Beulah Morris by the hand did on this solemn occasion openly declare that he took her the said Beulah Morris to be his Wife promising with Divine assistance, to be unto her a loving and faithful Husband until Death should separate them: And then in the same Assembly the said Beulah Morris did in like manner declare that she took him the said Jeremiah Hacker to be her Husband, promising with Divine assistance, to be unto him a loving and faithful Wife until Death should separate them - And moreover they the said Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris (she according to the custom of Marriage) assuming the name of her Husband) did, as a further confirmation thereof then and there to these presents set their Hands

And We whose Names are also hereunto Subscribed being present at the solemnization of the said Marriage and Subscription have as Witnesses therunto set our hands the day and year above written.

		Jeremiah Hacker Beulah M. Hacker	
Thos. Stewardson Benj. Kite W. Lloyd John Hutchinson Jos. Scattergood Charles Allen David S. Brown Thos. Stewardson Jr. Oliver Fuller Jr. Esa. C. Bridle Wm. Henry Brown Wm. Chambers Thos. Booth Jon. Evans Jr. Joseph Gibbons Jonas Evans Thomas Evans Charles Evans Isaac Lowry Thos. Wood Jeremiah Brown Elizabeth C. Brown	Moses Brown Mary Miller Brown Samuel Robinson Mary P. Gibbons Mary B. Hartshorn Eliza B. Howard Rebecca Allen Syrach Allen Sarah Ann Crow Anna Hagen Hacker Isaiah Hacker Rebecca Hacker Elizabeth C. Copie Anna M. Morris Amy Coates Sarah Gibbons Lydia Shipley Jane Johnson Sarah M. Grimke Beulah Johnson Hannah Paal Sarah Blanchard	Ann Myflin Sarah Robeson Elizabeth Robeson Sarah W. Logans Mary L. Morris Eleanor W. Howard Sarah Emelen Mary Offley Sharples St. Churchman Margaret Churchman Matthe B. Reese Margaret Coates Ann Lowry Mary Jones Easton Blakely Sharples James S. Newbold Thos. Lea	Isaac W. Morris Sarah Morris Catherine Morris Caleb Johnson Susanna M. Johnson Martha Morris Catherine W. Morris Hannah St. Myflin Stephan C. Howard Rachel Morris Lucas B. Morris Mary L. Morris Hannah Ann Morris Hannah P. Morris Elizabeth B. Morris Anthony P. Morris Joseph P. Morris Deane P. Morris Pascall Morris Sarah P. Morris

Marriage Certificate of Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris with the Names of those in Attendance. Courtesy Ancestry.com.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>59</sup> Swarthmore College; Swarthmore, Pennsylvania; Index-Marriages Book A, 1773-1846; Collection: Quaker Meeting Records  
 "Woodside:" The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat  
 E. Wister St., Germantown  
 Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Winter 2015 - Page 59



**Beulah Samson Morris Hacker (1811-1892)**

Courtesy Marianne "Nancy" Dawson Shipley Rhoads.

*"Woodside:" The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat  
E. Wister St., Germantown  
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Winter 2015 – Page 60*



Tinted Photograph of Beulah Morris. Courtesy Arthur Heathcote "Heath" Hacker, III.

### **Beulah Sansom Morris (1811–1892)**

It was a glorious sunset, after a lovely day in June. The evening was just showing its silvery light in the soft, blue western sky. The Morris family was seated in the porch. Thoughts sweet and pensive, thoughts of early childhood, were gliding through the mind of Beulah Morris. They were interrupted by the stopping of a carriage at the gate.<sup>60</sup>

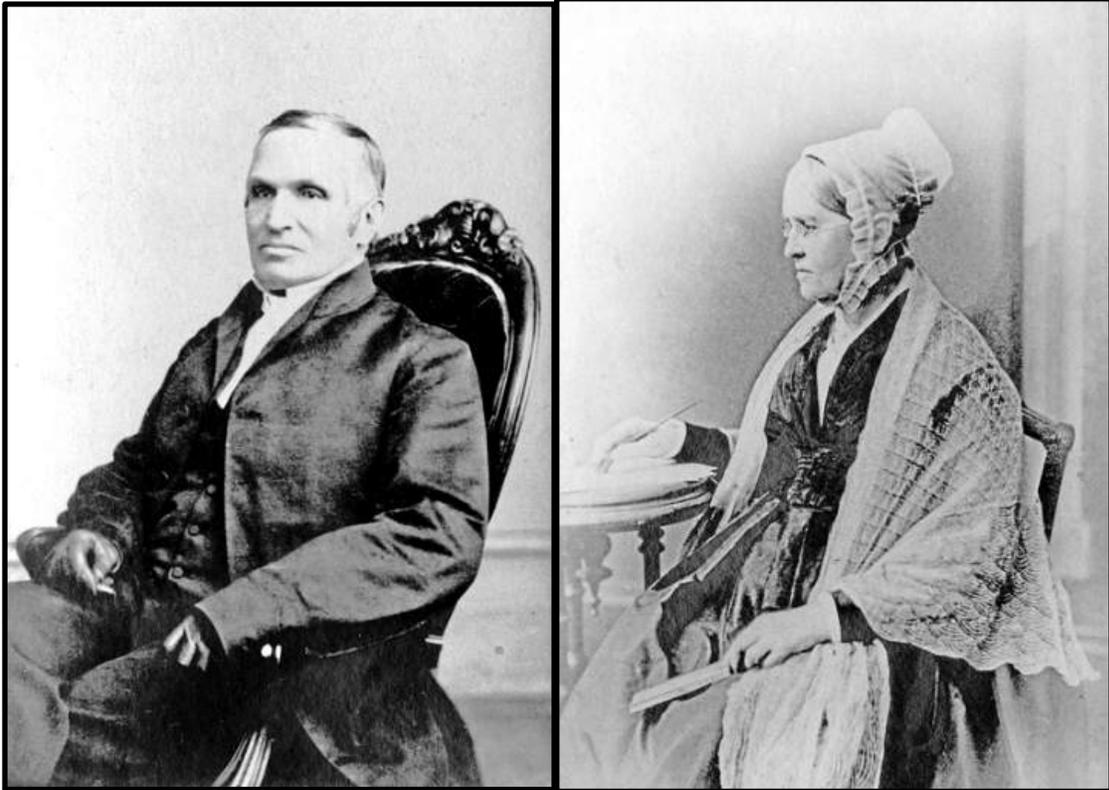
The daughter of Isaac Wistar Morris and Sarah Paschall, Beulah Samson Morris was born on February 2, 1811 in Philadelphia.

Isaac Wistar Morris (1770–1831) was the son of Samuel Morris (1734–1812) and Rebecca Wistar (1735–1791). Samuel Morris was the son of Anthony Morris, IV (1705–1780) and Sarah Powell (1713–1751), and Rebecca Wistar was the daughter of Caspar Wistar (1695/96–1751/52) and Katharine Jansen (1703–1786). The Morrises had arrived in 1683 with William Penn, dwelling first in a cave along the Delaware River. In fact, Anthony Morris's mother, Phebe Guest, was of the one of the first of the English Quakers to build a house in Philadelphia after arriving with William Penn on the

<sup>60</sup> Louisa Caroline Tuthill, *I Will Be A Lady: A Book for Girls* (1852), 140.

*"Woodside:" The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat  
E. Wister St., Germantown*

Welcome. The Wisters/Wistars and the Jansens were among the earliest settlers of Germantown.



Left: Jeremiah Hacker. Right: Beulah Sansom Morris. Courtesy the Germantown Historical Society.

### **The Family of Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris**

Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris first lived in Philadelphia proper, in a typical townhouse occupied by middle-class Quakers of the period. Their union was blessed with the following children: Morris Hacker (1831–1872), who married Letitia Poultney Perot and, after the death of his first wife, Isabel Wetherill; William Hacker (1834–1898), who married Hannah Jones Wistar; Edward Hacker (1835–1837); Paschall Hacker (1838–1898), who married Mary Scull; Elizabeth Morris Hacker (1840–?); John Barclay Hacker (1844–1911), who married Mary Perot Dawson; and Hannah Mifflin Hacker (1848–1915), who married William Henry Jenks.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> Hacker, “Our Hacker Family.”



Looking south, the 1869 Addition of “Woodside” is on left. The image features an expensive, sporty phaeton, which has been wheeled out from beneath the open vehicle shed. On right, the open wooden vehicle shed stood approximately in the center of Sheldon Street (late Miller), slightly to the west of the tail end of the 1869 Addition. This image captures the salubrious nature of E. Wister Street during the period the Hackers were in residence. Courtesy of Arthur Heathcote “Heath” Hacker, III.

The prosperity known by the Hackers of “Woodside” can be best described in this passage from the obituary of Jeremiah Hacker in 1866:

One by one the old men who once adorned our mercantile community are passing away. Every few weeks it becomes our painful duty to announce the decease of a worthy merchant, who, in earlier days of Philadelphia, lent their might aid to our commercial strength.<sup>62</sup>

Eventually, David S. Brown went on to become a successful manufacturer and, as a result, Hacker, Brown, & Company was dissolved in 1832. About that time, Thomas Lea joined the Hacker brothers in establishing the firm of Hacker, Lea, & Company, which also enjoyed success in the dry goods business.<sup>63</sup> The firm was located at 32 Chestnut Street in the 1830s. Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris were then living at 128 Spruce Street.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> Obituary [of Jeremiah Hacker].

<sup>63</sup> Obituary [of Jeremiah Hacker].

<sup>64</sup> Hacker, “Our Hacker Family.”

In January 1841, Hacker, Lea, & Company announced the retirement of Jeremiah Hacker, at which time the remaining partners included Isaac Hacker and Joseph Lea, Jr. Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris appear to have permanently removed to Germantown at this time, making “Woodside” their primary residence.<sup>65</sup> After his retirement, Jeremiah Hacker dedicated his time and energy to charitable pursuits. For example, in 1845, he was serving as the treasurer for an early soup society.

THE SOCIETY FOR SUPPLYING THE POOR WITH SOUP has concluded to open the House, No 16 Green Street, between Spruce and Pine, above Fourth streets, for the gratuitous distribution of Soup to the Poor, on FIFTH DAY, the 23d month, during the inclement season, between the hours of 11 and 1 o’clock. They did, however, keep their house at 141 South Fourth Street.<sup>66</sup>

Aside from the Society For Supplying the Poor with Soup, Hacker was also a member of the Union Benevolent Association.<sup>67</sup> While he had retired from active involvement in the dry goods house, Jeremiah Hacker was still involved in other business interests and investments. For example, in December 1845, he advertised a rental property on North Front Street.<sup>68</sup>

According to the 1860 United States Federal Census, the Hackers were living at “Woodside”. Jeremiah Hacker, “Gentleman,” as the sixty-year-old head of household, was worth \$135,000 in real estate and \$75,000 in personal estate. The enumeration includes Beulah Morris, then forty-nine; Morris Hacker—a merchant worth 10,000 in personal estate; William Estes Hacker and Hannah Jones Wistar—a Gardener; Paschall Morris—a Clerk; Elizabeth Hacker; John Barclay Hacker; and Hannah Hacker. The live-in servants included Mary Fox, a fifty-year-old lady from New Jersey; Catherine M. Lea, a forty-five-year-old Irish woman; Jane Hearvey, a twenty-one-year-old Irish girl; and Henry Back, a nineteen-year-old labor from Ireland. Sarah E. Hacker, an eighteen-year-old niece, was also in residence.<sup>69</sup>

In the decade that transpired the household diminished significantly. The 1870 census records Beulah Morris, sixty years of age; Elizabeth Morris Hacker, twenty-eight years old; and Sarah E. Hacker, the same twenty-seven-year-old niece. Then sixty, Mary Fox was still in service. However, everyone else had departed her service. The servants included Isabella Carey, a thirty-year-old Irish woman; Annie Scott, a thirty-one-year-old Irish woman; and Margaret Lynch, a thirty-one-year-old Irish woman. Within a stone’s throw from “Woodside” were the houses of William Estes Hacker and Hannah Jones Wistar—with three sons; and Paschall Hacker and Mary—with one daughter.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> *North American*, 4 January 1841, 2.

<sup>66</sup> *Public Ledger*, 22 January 1845, 2.

<sup>67</sup> *The North American*, 22 October 1845, 2.

<sup>68</sup> *Public Ledger*, 9 December 1845, 3.

<sup>69</sup> 1860 U.S. census, population schedule. NARA microfilm publication M653, 1,438 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

<sup>70</sup> 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.



The Hacker Boys: Paschall, Morris, John Barclay, and William Hacker. Courtesy Arthur Heathcote "Heath" Hacker, III.



Top: Morris Hacker and William Hacker. Bottom: Paschall Hacker and Elizabeth Morris Hacker.  
Courtesy Marianne "Nancy" Dawson Shipley Rhoads.



Barclay Hacker and Hannah Mifflin Hacker. Courtesy Marianne “Nancy” Dawson Shipley Rhoads.

A lovely day for your moving my dear friends;— My eyes were no sooner opened on the morning light than your whole family appeared before me, in all the bustle of preparation;— little Lizzie with her Lirrie Pope arrag’d for a ride— Paschall wrapping up his sticks & trinkets— Willy with his trunk, and Morry arranging his books.— Father & Mother full of business, and cousin Esther— what is she doing? — a little of every thing.<sup>71</sup>

In 1862, Jeremiah Hacker executed his last will and testament, which included specific provision for each of his surviving children. The first of the children mentioned was Morris Hacker.

As I have from time advanced to my son Morris several sums of money amounting at this date, as appears by my books, to eight thousand five hundred dollars I give and bequeath to him the sum of eight thousand five hundred dollars and I am hereby direct that no interest shall be charged him upon any of these advances. In case I should hereafter advance to him any amounts beyond eight thousand five hundred dollars the principal of such further advance together with any interest that may

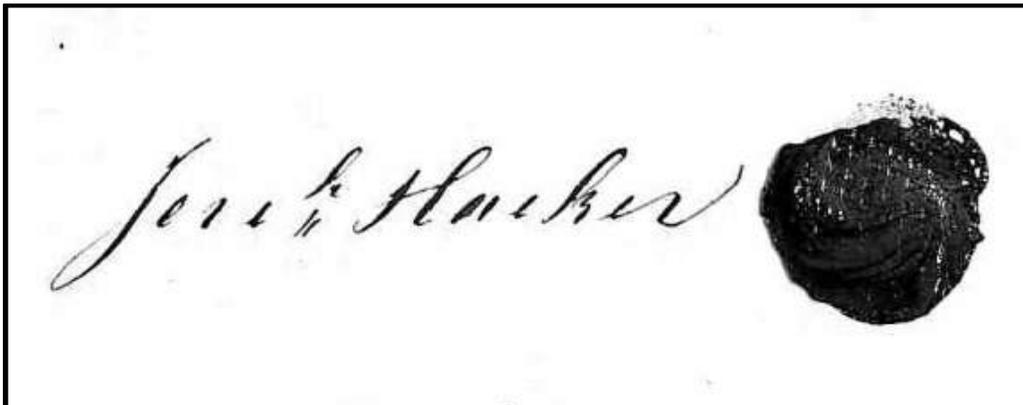
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<sup>71</sup> Letter: Sister [one of Beulah Morris’], Butler, Pennsylvania, to Jeremiah Hacker, Philadelphia, for Beulah M. Hacker. 16 May 1844. Letter courtesy the private collection of Arthur Heathcote “Heath” Hacker, III, Byrn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

become one thereon is to be collected by my executors for the benefit of my estate.<sup>72</sup>

William Estes Hacker was given “the house and lot now occupied by him at the South East corner of E. Wister and Miller Streets,” which was described as “containing about 140 feet front on Duy’s Lane [E. Wister Street] by about 235 on Miller Street-at the valuation of six thousand dollars” William Estes Hacker was also given \$2,500. Paschall Hacker was given \$8,500 to be paid in cash or stocks. Elizabeth Morris and Hannah Mifflin were given equal shares as tenants in common on a yearly ground rent of six hundred and eighty two dollars “payable by Charles A. Repplier and issuing out of a lot of ground on the North side of Arch Street about 103 feet West of Broad Street,” which was said to be worth eleven thousand three hundred and sixty-six dollars sixty-six cents. He also gave his daughters the sum of two thousand eight hundred and sixteen dollars sixty-seven cents. John Barclay Hacker was also to inherit \$8,500, but only if he had achieved his twenty-second birthday.<sup>73</sup>

Naturally, Jeremiah Hacker gave the residue of his estate to his wife Beulah Morris. At the time of his death in 1866, Jeremiah Hacker’s estate was valued at \$130,000on at least one inventory.<sup>74</sup> The final number reached in 1867 by the executors was \$156,809.72.<sup>75</sup>



The Signature of Jeremiah Hacker from his will. Courtesy Ancestry.com.

According to the 1880 census, Beulah Morris was living at “Woodside,” then 170 (now 339) East Wister Street, as the head the household. Elizabeth Morris Hacker, then forty years of age, and Sarah E. Hacker, then thirty-eight, were both in residence with Beulah. There were just two live-in servants at this time—Isabella McQuaid, a fifty-year-old Irish woman; and Mary Dunlap, forty years of age—a native Pennsylvanian.<sup>76</sup>

<sup>72</sup> Will: Jeremiah Hacker, Wills, No. 551-579, 1866. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Probated 29 April 1862, pgs. 3-4, Philadelphia Register of Wills.

<sup>73</sup> Will: Jeremiah Hacker, 1-5.

<sup>74</sup> Will: Jeremiah Hacker, 9.

<sup>75</sup> Will: Jeremiah Hacker, 14.

<sup>76</sup>Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.



Beulah Sansom Morris, likely taken in the 1880s at "Woodside," as a house interior appears to be the setting. Courtesy Arthur Heathcote "Heath" Hacker.

At eighty years of age, Beulah Morris died on January 20, 1892 and was buried on January 23, 1892 in the Orthodox Friends Ground at Germantown.<sup>77</sup> Elizabeth Morris Hacker, her daughter, was to receive "all of my furniture, kitchen utensils, china, silver and plated ware, portraits, ornamental articles of all description, clothing, linen, my library and all my books, and my household effects of all and every kind." A grandchild, Beulah Morris Jenks, and a niece, Sarah E. Hacker, were each given \$100. Beulah Morris gave each of her servants fifty dollars. A period of residence and an option to purchase "Woodside" was given to Elizabeth Morris Hacker. Beulah gave equal one-sixth shares of her estate to her children, excepting said portions of money loaned to John Barclay Hacker. As her son Morris Hacker was deceased at the time of her death, his share of the estate was divided among his three children: Beulah Morris Hacker, Morris Hacker and Isabel Wistar Hacker. At the time of her death, the estate was valued at \$165,586.27.<sup>78</sup>

After the death of my great-grandmother, Beulah Morris Hacker in 1893, among the things in her attic were two barrels of breast bones of geese. These were all dated in ink and initialed. It appears that my great-grandfather's family took the theory of the goose bone seriously. The idea was to look at the breast bone of locally raised geese after they had been saved and dried, following the large Thanksgiving and Christmas

<sup>77</sup> "Pennsylvania, Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803–1915." Index. FamilySearch, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2008, 2010. From originals housed at the Philadelphia City Archives. "Death Records.."

<sup>78</sup> Will and Probate Record: Estate of Beulah M. Hacker, Deceased. Application for Probate and Letters Testamentary. Filed 1892, Philadelphia Register of Wills.

family dinners. These geese were either raised on the farm at Woodside or obtained locally. The idea was to forecast what kind of a winter was ahead by reading the coloration near the front end, then the winter was suppose to be cold in the early months. If the dark coloration was near the back end of the bone, then the winter was to be prolonged and stormy. With the large family of seven children, they had several geese at a time for eating and thus had a good chance to observe the winter portents.<sup>79</sup>

It appears that Elizabeth Morris Hacker remained at “Woodside” until the 1890s and in 1907 she sold the remaining property to Benjamin W. Green, a manufacturer of Philadelphia, for roughly \$35,000.<sup>80</sup>

All of the deeds up to 1907 related to this property are attached to this nomination and provide a precise record of the division of the parcel over the years. However, many of the houses adjacent to “Woodside” were built for members of the Hacker family. For example, the immediate grounds of “Woodside” at the northeast were subdivided for the creation of Sheldon Street and the northeast grounds of the estate were further subdivided for the construction of Spanish Revival row houses. However, earlier pieces of the Hacker Estate had been enlarged by the purchase of additional parcels, which were later subdivided, upon which Jeremiah Hacker and/or his children constructed houses immediately adjacent to and/or across from “Woodside.” Immediately to the northeast of “Woodside” across and at the corner of Rubicam Street, facing on Wister, were two buildings—a semi-detached, yet architecturally unique twin at 403 and 405 East Wister Street, and a larger detached house at 411 East Wister Street. Both of these houses were owned by the Jeremiah Hacker Estate through 1889.<sup>81</sup> More importantly, in 1860, the newlyweds William Estes Wister and Hannah Jones Wistar were living at “Woodside”; however, by the time of Jeremiah Hacker’s will of 1862, William Estes Hacker and Hannah Jones Wister had commissioned a large stone house across from “Woodside” at the southeast corner of East Wister Street and Miller Street (now Sheldon), which Jeremiah Hacker financed.

## Conclusion

“Woodside,” in its earliest form, is one of the oldest single-family, detached houses on a cross street in Germantown, as the built-environment eighteenth-century Germantown was largely situated on the avenue. The first era of construction appears to date to 1797–1798. Even as late as the 1790s, there were few cross streets transecting Germantown Avenue, as we know the street configuration today and the number of close-in houses standing in the extant cross street were a minute fraction of today’s built environment. The eighteenth century component(s) of “Woodside” *have significant character, interest, and value, as part of the development and heritage of Germantown within the larger context of Philadelphia.*

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<sup>79</sup> Hacker, “Our Hacker Family.”

<sup>80</sup> Deed: Elizabeth M. Hacker, surviving executor of the will of Beulah M. Hacker, to Benjamin M. Greer, 16 December 1907, Philadelphia Deed Book W.S.V., No. 951, p. 465, CAP. The house was used as a boarding school for girls run by the Episcopal religious order of the All Saints Sisters of the Poor at the turn of the century.

<sup>81</sup> G.W. Bromley, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, Volume 7, 22<sup>nd</sup> Ward* (Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley, 1889), Plate 7.

Despite its viable economic status as its own industrious village, Germantown served as a salubrious resort from the City of Philadelphia throughout its history. However, it wasn't until the late eighteenth century that Germantown became a popular place for country seats as an important social trend. While establishing his private "Maison D'Éducation" on Germantown Avenue, Martin Godfrey Dorfeuille, a French educator and entrepreneur, invested in the construction of a country seat on today's E. Wister Street, then Haas' Lane. While Dorfeuille may have established his own residence at the subject house, the building was eventually used as a resort. While a complete list of tenants is lost to history, perhaps its most illustrative occupant was Tench Coxe, an important and wealthy merchant and politician of Philadelphia, who appears to have been a major patron of Dorfeuille. The subject building, in its own right and through its relationship to both Dorfeuille and Coxe *exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, and historic heritage* of eighteenth century Germantown.

Known later as "Woodside," the subject house became the country seat of Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris, being owned by the Hacker family from 1837 to 1904. Both Jeremiah Hacker and his brother Isaiah Hacker purchased their country seats, while maintaining a house in town in the 1830s, after the construction and opening of the Philadelphia, Germantown & Norristown Railroad in 1832. Retaining the form of the 1797–1798 Main Block through 1837, Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris enlarged the subject building in two major phases—the 1850 Addition and the 1869 Addition. As a result, the procurement of "Woodside" as a country seat by the Hackers *exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, and historic heritage* of Germantown and its early development as a railroad suburb of Philadelphia.

The Hackers tripled or even quadrupled the size of "Woodside" over time and enhanced the landscaping. Both the 1850 Addition and the 1869 Addition are important to the story of the subject building and its historical significance. The original broken-pitch, side-gable, gambrel roof house, facing E. Wister Street was a known architectural form in Philadelphia and, specifically, in Germantown. Employment of the broken-pitch, gambrel form was a type associated with the Hacker family in America since the construction of "Ye Old Hacker House," circa 1715, in Salem, Massachusetts. Keeping the original house is typical of Quakers of this period. When executing the 1850 Addition, the Hackers chose a complex roof system that terminated at the west end to make a rather unusual façade that was dominated by a massive expanse of a gambrel roof facing what would have been the back yard of "Woodside". This was likely both a choice of nostalgic taste and feasibility. The feasibility component is related to the extant ell, which no doubt had a half-gambrel roof, appearing from the rear in half-built, flounder format. While not an exact copy, this employment of the gambrel form harkens back to the girlhood home of Beulah Morris—Cedar Grove, which was renovated to this appearance by Beulah Morris' parents Isaac Wistar Morris and Sarah Paschall in 1795. The 1869 Addition also uses the gambrel form as the defining feature of its design—this time employing a more "Victorian" stylistic treatment. As a result, "Woodside" is one of the more eclectic, nostalgic of the Quaker-owned houses in Philadelphia, not only reflecting the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural type, but,

*"Woodside:" The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat  
E. Wister St., Germantown*

furthermore, embodying distinguishing characteristics of an important local vernacular tradition as executed by well-to-do, but sober Quakers of the nineteenth century.

“Woodside” is associated with the lives of significant persons in the past, as related to Philadelphia and Germantown. Jeremiah Hacker, an important Quaker merchant in Philadelphia and early Germantown suburbanite, lived in the house from 1837 until his death in 1866. Beulah Morris, also an important Quaker, lived in the house from 1837 until her death in 1892. Beulah Morris was the quintessential Philadelphia Quakeress—descending from the earliest of William Penn’s cave dwellers, as well as the Wisters of Germantown, etc.

“Woodside” is largely unknown and forgotten in the context of Germantown’s rich heritage and its name is more recently associated with the Francis Reeves Strawbridge Mansion on West School House Lane (formerly School Lane)—no longer extant, which his wife, Anna Estes Hacker, named for the home in which she was raised by her grandmother, Beulah Morris, after the death of her own mother as a young girl. Furthermore, the late eighteenth century building has transcended all of the names of its street—Dannehower’s Lane; Haas’s Lane, Duy’s Lane; and E. Wister Street, closely situated to the Wister Woods. Most importantly, “Woodside” tells the story of Germantown through its long and important history and is, without question, eligible for listing in the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.



Likely a double exposure showing the lawn tennis court at Woodside. Courtesy Arthur Heathcote “Heath” Hacker, III.



Photograph showing the 1797-1798 Main Block with various Victorian-era improvements.  
Courtesy Marianne "Nancy" Dawson Shipley Rhoads.

## 8. Bibliography

### Contributors.

The quality of this nomination was greatly enhanced by information and materials provided by descendants of the Hacker and Strawbridge families, including Marianne "Nancy" Dawson Shipley Rhoads, Arthur Heathcote Hacker, III, and Hazel Hacker. The nomination was researched, written and compiled by Oscar Beisert, Architectural Historian and Historic Preservationist, with assistance from J.M. Duffin, Archivist and Historian. We are also thankful for edits by Christopher Mote, Editor and Writer.

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 Library Company of Philadelphia  
 Quaker Archives of Haverford University  
 Quaker Archives of Swarthmore University

"Woodside:" *The Dorfeuille-Hacker Country Seat*  
 E. Wister St., Germantown

University of Delaware  
The “Woodside” Collection

## APPENDIX A: “Woodside” and the Hacker Family Legacy

Descendants of Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris retain possessions, known as being from “Woodside” in Germantown and value these items as family heirlooms to-date. Several of the items are portrayed below as a tribute to the Hacker Family and the lives that were lived at “Woodside”.



Arm chair, ca. 1820-1850  
Probably Philadelphia  
Mahogany (dimensions not disclosed)  
The “Woodside” Collection

This arm chair is Greek Revival style, which is defined by clismos legs front and back, and robust scroll arms, but with a simple rush seat. The arm chair was one of a set that was likely purchased in the 1830s by Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris.



Bookcase on desk, ca. 1760-1780  
Probably Philadelphia  
Mahogany (dimensions not disclosed)  
The "Woodside" Collection

This bookcase on desk is Chippendale style. The desk was owned by Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris, but came into their possession by descent.



Branding Iron: "HACKER," 1800-1850  
Probably Philadelphia  
Iron (dimensions not disclosed)  
The "Woodside" Collection

Iron brand for the purpose of branding barrels.



Canton plate, ca. late eighteenth or early nineteenth century  
Made in China or Japan  
Porcelain

This lovely Blue Canton China Dinner Plate was used by Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris on the many occasions that they entertained at their home, “Woodside”—339 E. Wister Street. Blue and white Chinese porcelain, much like the present example, was used through the mid-nineteenth century by American families.



Chair, ca. 1780-1800  
Probably Philadelphia  
Mahogany (dimensions not disclosed)  
The "Woodside" Collection

Set low to the ground, this slipper chair, while understated, is Chippendale style defined by pierced ribbon back and Marlborough leg features. It was once owned by Beulah Morris Hacker, the daughter and wife of wealthy Quaker merchants in Philadelphia. Pierced ribbon back Chippendale chair.



Chair, ca. 1780-1820  
Made in England  
Probably Yew Wood (dimensions not disclosed)  
The “Woodside” Collection

This chair is a typical English Windsor style. The chair was said to be owned by Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris; however, this would likely mean that the Hackers purchased this English-made chair.



Chest, ca. 1890s  
Made in Philadelphia  
Pine (dimensions not disclosed)  
The “Woodside” Collection

This chest was made for William Hacker from wood that was salvaged from the attic floor of “Woodside,” the country seat of Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris at 339 E. Wister Street in Germantown.



Corner chair, ca. 1720  
Probably New England  
Unknown (dimensions not disclosed)  
The “Woodside” Collection

This corner chair reflects both William and Mary and Queen Anne stylistic influence. Likely made in New England, this chair was likely given to Jeremiah Hacker by his ancestors, which he brought to his home in Philadelphia and/or his country seat at 339 E. Wister Street in Germantown.



Engraving, ca. late eighteenth or early nineteenth century  
Mahogany frame with gilt liner (dimensions not disclosed)  
The “Woodside” Collection

This colored engraving was once owned by Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris, wealthy Quakers of Philadelphia. One of several like-engravings, the frame is likely original, having been a decorative feature of “Woodside”—the country seat of the Hackers at 339 E. Wister Street in Germantown.



Side chair, ca. 1780-1800  
Probably Philadelphia  
Mahogany (dimensions not disclosed)  
The “Woodside” Collection

Likely one of a set, this chair is Chippendale style, which is defined by its pierced ribbon back, saddle seat, and Marlborough leg features. It was once owned by Beulah Morris Hacker, the daughter and wife of wealthy Quaker merchants in Philadelphia, and likely used at “Woodside,” 339 E. Wister Street, the family’s country seat.



Silver pitcher, ca. mid-nineteenth century  
Probably by the Meriden Britannia Company, Connecticut  
Silver (dimensions not disclosed)  
The “Woodside” Collection

This silver pitcher is typical in size and scale to its period of make—the post Civil War years, but features an unusual swan finial on its top. The use of the swan was known to be a design of the Meriden Britannia Company, Connecticut, but this attribution is not conclusive. As shown in the detail image below, this pitcher was a gift to Jeremiah Hacker and Beulah Morris in 1866.





Spectacles, ca. 1800-1850  
Probably Philadelphia  
Metal (dimensions not disclosed)  
The "Woodside" Collection

The spectacles were likely owned by Jeremiah Hacker and/or Beulah Morris.



Tall case clock, ca. 1760s  
Case made in New England  
Mahogany (dimensions not disclosed)  
Works made in England  
(maker not disclosed)  
The "Woodside" Collection

This tall case clock is Chippendale style defined by its bonnet, broken scroll top, flame finials, etc. Once owned by the ancestors of Jeremiah Hacker, it has been handed down in the Hacker family to the present owner.

Note: In the foreground is a replica of a New England Windsor Chair.



Tilt-top Tea Table, ca. 1760-1780  
Probably Philadelphia  
Mahogany (dimensions not disclosed)  
The “Woodside” Collection

This tilt-top tea table is Chippendale style with carved mahogany details, featuring transitional Queen Ann slipper feet. Once owned by Beulah Morris Hacker, the table likely descended from the Morris or the Paschall families in Philadelphia.