

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

7. Local survey organization  
 West Whiteland Historical Commission

8. property owners name and address  
 Solar Environments, Inc.  
 c/o Robert Tucker, Jr.  
 541 Foxwood Lane  
 Paoli, PA 19301

9. tax parcel number / other number  
 41-5-100

10. U.T.M. zone 18 Easting 44451320

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)  
 CCHSS

Map# 44 Northing 4442197110

Usgs sheet: Downingtown 3.589A

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

13. date(s) (how determined)  
 1878 Datestone

15. style, design or folk type  
 Rural Gothic/Queen Anne

19. original use  
 Residence-farm

20. present use  
 Residence- non farm

16. architect or engineer

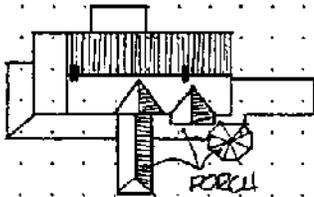
17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construction  
 Stone

21. condition Average (being

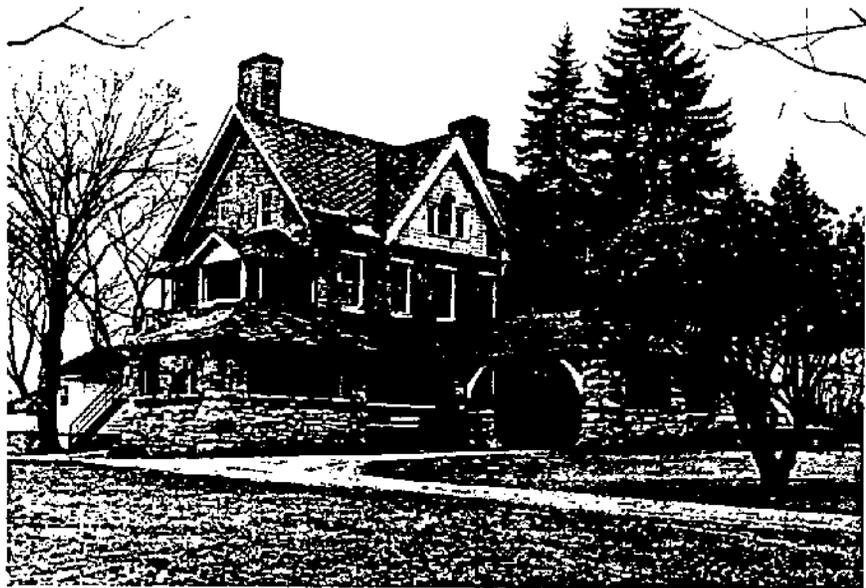
restored)  
 22. integrity Above Average

23. site plan with north arrow



24. photo notation  
 PG: John Ronayne  
 PV: South Elevation  
 PD: 11/1981

25. file/location  
 CCHS: #09-71, #22



26. brief description (note unusual features, integr...)  
 The Price House is the primary building of a former country estate established by a Philadelphia surgeon in 1894. Prior to that, the core of the structure was the residence of Kersey Shoemaker, a West Whiteland lime manufacturer. The house currently is situated on a 3.5 acre lot, still rural in feeling, which formerly was part of an 80-plus acre farm. The house is oriented south, toward the PA Railroad, and is within walking distance of the Whitford Station and freight depot. On the tract now are the main residence, a stone and frame outbuilding, and converted stable. The house was erected between 1870 and 1880 by Shoemaker and Robinson, brothers-in-law and partners in a local lime, coal, and lumber business. Extensive alterations were made to the original house after its sale in 1894 to Dr. Joseph Price of Philadelphia. As it appeared originally, the core was L-shaped, two stories, with a steeply-pitched roof and cross gable. It is built of limestone, no doubt locally quarried, and features a rectangularly cut green serpentine stone facade. Serpentine stone was much in fashion in Chester Co during the mid-19th century. Using 8 mule teams, Shoemaker and Robinson had to travel some dis- (continue on back if necessary)

27. history, significance and/or background  
 The Price House is significant in the area of industry in that it is located on a tract from which limestone was quarried throughout the 19th century; further, it was built by Shoemaker and Robinson, prosperous lime burners at Oakland. The house sits on a tract of land which can be traced back to a 200 acre purchase made by Thomas James from Richard Thomas in 1713. The property was acquired by Nicholas Boyer in 1769. With his son George, who inherited the property, Boyer figured prominently in the development of Oakland. The tract had been reduced to 90 acres by 1840, at which time it was pur- (continue on back if necessary)

28. sources of information  
 CCHS: West Whiteland Clipping File-Lands, Dr. Price, A. P.  
 Reid T. S. # 3010 Old photographs

29. prepared by:  
 Brandywine Cons.  
 M. L. Wolf

30. date 12/1981 revision(s)

(continue on back if necessary)

1. County Chester  
 2. municipality West Whiteland  
 3. street address or specific location 401 Clover Mill Road  
 4. survey code 029-09-41-115  
 5. present name Joseph Price House  
 6. other name (historic name if any)

#26 Cont'd...

tance to the Brinton Quarries in Westtown to obtain the distinctive green stone, then prized for its color and the clean lines and assorted shapes that its cutting could produce. The partners also hauled serpentine stone for the construction of the Grove Methodist Church in 1888. The facade is evenly divided into five bays and shows a central entrance of double 2/2 paneled doors with transom above. The windows are long and linteled with 2/2 panes. Brick chimneys are located in the gable ends, including the 2-story service wing. At present, there are plain overhanging eaves and an asphalt shingle roof. After Dr. Price purchased the property in 1894, extensive alterations and additions were made to the existing building. The symmetry of its facade is obscured by rambling additions to either side, full length porch and porte cochere. The additions are in stone and frame and use an assortment of roof profiles. A palladian window was incorporated into the cross gable and other windows were reconstructed using flat and round arches and stained glass. A 1-story porch was added to the west side, featuring an arched entrance and picturesque buttress. The interior, which is outstanding, was transformed under the hand of Dr. Price, who intended to raise his seven children here as well as conduct a private practice. He made use of richly carved woodwork and paneling. An eclectic assortment of fireplace treatments is evident, ranging from a rustic "arts and crafts" example to a serene white marble surround with colonettes. Dr. Price favored open-beamed ceilings and flowing interior spaces, utilizing in an inglenook an arcade-like arrangement of columns supporting a series of round-arched openings.

#27 Cont'd...

chased by Henry P. Sharpless, who probably was attracted by sale notices claiming "inexhaustible quarries of good limestone and extensive beds of marble." William Buchanan purchased the tract in 1850 and subsequently was known as the owner of the "Oakland Kilns". Shoemaker and Robinson brothers-in-law, partners, and dealers in lime, coal, and lumber, acquired the property in 1864 and enjoyed thirty years of prosperity at Oakland. They dealt primarily in lime which was used for agricultural purposes, mortar, and whitewash. It was during their ownership that the existing L-shaped "core" was built from locally quarried limestone in tasteful Rural Gothic styling. Shoemaker bought out his partner's interest in 1891 and, three years later, sold his "handsome residence, farm and lime quarries" to Dr. Joseph Price of Philadelphia for \$20,000.

Architecture: The Price House is a rich and well-preserved example from the late 19th century when the High Victorian style was transmitted to rural areas. Philadelphia, then under the influence of such eclectic architects as Frank Furness and Addison Hutton, was the regional source and showplace of the style. With the opening up of rural areas by the railroads, particularly the PA "Main Line" this flamboyant style was imposed on many of the outlying counties' vernacular structures. Assisted by professional architects, wealthy Philadelphia transformed many a plain and practical farmhouse into stylish country retreats. The Price House is a particularly fine example from this period, showing use of indigenous materials, sensitivity to the surrounding landscape, enhancement of the original house, superb craftsmanship and familiarity with the conventions of the High Victorian or "Picturesque" Style. The Price House exemplifies, in addition, the out-migration of wealthy Philadelphians to "rural retreats" far removed from their places of business in the urban core. The property was purchased in 1894 by Dr. Joseph Price, a prominent Philadelphia surgeon who maintained a private hospital on 18th St...Price had married Lois Troth of Philadelphia, who had relatives in West Chester. It was perhaps through them that he came to choose Chester County as his place of retreat. The house he purchased at Whitford, or Oakland as it was known also, was conveniently located near the PA Railroad, making possible his daily commute to the City. Price rapidly acquired the trappings of a gentleman farmer. He established an arboretum, brought in all manner of domestic and wild animals, including peacocks and a herd of 40 deer, and purchased additional land in the Township. That his attachment to his country home was complete is evident from his will, proven in 1911, which directed that his children should be "kept and reared in the country.. and not taken to (any) city, town or Europe.." Dr. Price distinguished himself in Philadelphia where he maintained a private hospital, served as President of the AMA and was a recognized pioneer in abdominal surgery. It was said he was an inspiration to Dr. Will and to Charles Mayo, who traveled to Philadelphia to observe him operate. Dr. Price apparently practiced surgery at his country home; he is listed in local directories as a Surgeon and maintained a small operating facility in the house. On one occasion, he performed surgery on the Shah of Iran and was rewarded with a Persian rug.

EVALUATOR(S)

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania  
Multiple Resource Nomination

Survey Code 029-09-41-115  
Joseph Price House

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Map #44

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Price House is eligible for listing under criterion C as an example of the combination of Gothic-Revival and the Queen Anne styles in a single dwelling. At a time when the Gothic was falling out of favor for domestic buildings, Kersey Shoemaker used that style to build his residence in 1878. Still later Joseph Price retained the Gothic features when he added the Queen Anne elements during his 1894 alterations to the building. Also located on the site are a small carriage house and some related outbuildings.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

West Whiteland Township, Chester County, PA MRA  
Continuation sheet Item number

For NPS use only

received

date entered

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The Price House is also eligible for listing under Criterion B for its association with a nationally prominent physician who co-founded the "largest private institution in the United States for abdominal surgery" which was subsequently renamed the Joseph Price Memorial Hospital and who was elected national president of the American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists while living in West Whiteland. Joseph Price was responsible for the Queen Anne alterations to the house.

The nominated acreage includes all land currently associated with the resource. Two contributing structures on the site include a stone carriage shed/garage and a small 1 1/2 story, square stone end frame outhouse with hipped roof which currently houses bathing and toilet facilities. Both structures are located to the north of the main house and were built at the time of the Queen Anne additions.

West Whiteland Township,  
Chester County, PA  
Multiple Resource Nomination  
Survey Code 029-09-41-115  
Joseph Price House Map #44

This Indenture made the 7th day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty one (1981)

Between

Matilda Evans, widow

(hereinafter called the Grantor), of the one part, and

Solar Environments Inc., a Pa. Corp.

(hereinafter called the Grantee), of the other part.

Witnesseth That the said Grantor

for and in consideration of the sum of

Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00)

lawful money of the United States of America, unto her well and truly paid by the said Grantee, at or before the sealing and delivery hereof, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged and granted, bargained and sold, released and confirmed, and by these presents does grant, bargain and

sell, release and confirm unto the said Grantee, its successors and assigns,

ALL THAT CERTAIN message and tract of land Situate in the Township of West Whiteland, County of Chester and State of Pennsylvania, which according to a survey made by J. Vernon Keech, Registered Surveyor is bounded and described as follows, to wit:

BEGINNING at a spike at the intersection of the middle of the public road leading from Whitford Station to Lionville and the middle of another public road leading to Downingtown, thence extending along the middle of the Downingtown Road South seventy-five degrees and twenty-four minutes West three hundred eighty-six and nine-tenths feet to a spike, thence leaving the road and extending by other land formerly of the said Herbert D. Kennedy, the next five courses and distances to wit: North seventeen degrees and twelve minutes West, three hundred and seventy two feet to an iron pin, thence North eighty two degrees and forty-eight minutes East twenty feet to an iron pin, thence North seven degrees and thirty-seven minutes West seventy-one and fourteen hundredths feet to an iron pin, thence extending North eighty degrees and twenty-four minutes East one hundred six and ninety-seven hundred feet to an iron pin one foot North of garage, thence North seventy-four degrees and twenty nine minutes East two hundred four and seventy five hundredths feet to a spike in the middle of the public road leading from Whitford Station to Lionville aforesaid, thence extending along the middle of the same South twenty-three degrees East four hundred thirty-eight and three tenths feet to the first mentioned spike and place of beginning,

containing 3.589 acres.

U 5844 558

44 30 050  
 44 43 730  
 44 30 060  
 44 43 700  
 44 30 240

47 4 43 530  
 44 30 080  
 48 4 46 230  
 44 28 400

49  
 A 4 46 370  
 44 30 530  
 B 4 46 440  
 44 30 340  
 C 4 46 160  
 44 30 230  
 D 4 46 090  
 44 30 400

51 4 46 560  
 44 29 140

52 4 45 590  
 44 38 210

53 4 44 310  
 44 28 100

54 4 41 100  
 44 28 360

56 4 45 600  
 44 29 300

58 4 45 510  
 44 29 380

Grove District  
 A 4 46 060  
 44 28 440  
 B 4 46 070  
 44 28 050  
 C 4 45 670  
 44 28 060

