



Sharpless Homestead Placed in National Register of Historic Places

The National Park Service has approved placing the Sharpless Homestead, located in Birmingham Township, Chester County, in the National Register of Historic Places.

The architecture of the Sharpless Homestead is considered locally significant because it demonstrates the evolution of the vernacular serpentine stone building tradition in Chester County. The structure shows the progression from the less refined “folk” tradition to the more refined – and rare – dressed stone tradition. In addition, the complex (which includes a smokehouse, a springhouse and a stable) demonstrates significant craftsmanship for the area.

The period of significance for the property’s history is c. 1790 to 1860, when Joshua Sharpless began constructing an addition to the previous home built by John Davis, and the later additions culminating in the major building campaign of 1860. The house was enlarged c. 1820 when the East Section replaced the original Davis house, and was followed by construction of the Northeast Section. The Homestead has been privately owned by the Walker family since 1960.

There are 311 properties and districts listed on the Register in Chester County, including 7 National Historic Landmarks. More information about the National Register is available on the National Park Service website at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/places.htm>.