MALIN ROAD DEVELOPMENT

Historic Committee Narrative

Whiteland Friends Cemetery

TMP: #42-4-320

TWT Job #06476

Date:
October 30, 2020
Constitution Drive Partners, LP is proposing to construct a residential development consisting of 86 townhouses on the approximately 13.7-acre tract in the Township of East Whiteland, Chester County, Pennsylvania. The site is located at 1 S. Malin Road, in the RRD – Residential Revitalization Zoning District. Currently, the site contains a vacant industrial building (former Bishop Tube manufacturing facility) with associated parking, loading areas and overgrown vegetation.

On the opposite side of Malin Road, across from the proposed residential development, is the historic burial grounds of East Whiteland’s Malin family (surviving cemetery of the no longer extent Whiteland Friends Meeting). This tract is known as Parcel #42-4-320 and is comprised of approximately 0.3 acres. The property is now owned by Friends Fiduciary Corp. located at 1700 Market Street, Suite 1535, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Friends Fiduciary Corp. is a Quaker non-profit organization.

Per the attached article, prepared by the Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society, Whiteland Friends Meeting House was built in 1816. As soon as the meeting house was built, a cemetery was begun beside it. Here virtually all of the local Malins were buried from 1816 until about 1890, when the meeting house was closed. The building was torn down in 1895 and all that remains is the cemetery which is boarded by a stone wall. A year or so after the Whiteland Friends Meetinghouse closed, the Pennsylvania Railroad built its Trenton Cut-off right beside the old structure.

Currently, the Friends Cemetery is surrounded by a stone wall, of varying height. The stone wall is approximately 7-ft away from the Malin Road curbline on the eastern side of the property. Driveways to the Buckeye Terminal are located on both the north and south side of the cemetery. A Buckeye Terminal parking area is located to the west and an electric substation is adjacent to the southern side of the cemetery. The cemetery is maintained lawn area with some trees along the perimeter, inside the stone wall. There is an unlocked gate to allow access to the cemetery.

According to the Chester County Planning Commission “National Register Eligible and Listed Historic Resources and Districts”, January 2018, the subject property is not presently within the National Historic Landmark District nor the National Register Historic District. Also, National Register Structures, Buildings or Sites, National Historic Landmarks, or National Register Bridge are not present on the subject property. Lastly, the subject property is not located within a Local Historic District.

1. Friends meeting houses are places of worship for the Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers. A “meeting” is the equivalent of a church congregation, and a “meeting house” is the equivalent of a church building
2. Burying Grounds of East Whiteland’s Malin Family; Tredyffrin Easstown Historical Society
As stated above, the proposed residential development will be constructed on the opposite side of Malin Road. The development is proposing to realign Malin Road in this area. The Malin Road curb will remain at its current location at the northern end of the property and be moved further away from the stone wall at the southern end. The development will remove the existing dilapidated industrial building and overgrown vegetation. New sidewalks and street trees are proposed along the residential development frontage with Malin Road. This will increase the aesthetics of the area from what currently exists. The closest proposed home will be constructed approximately 130-feet away from the cemetery.

In summary, the proposed residential development will not create any adverse impact to the historic cemetery across the street. The introduction of a residential use on a site which was used for heavy industry for decades, is more compatible with the existing cemetery setting. The Malin Road curbline will not encroach closer to the existing cemetery and the proposed residential subdivision will be a more aesthetically pleasing and less intrusive use than the existing manufacturing use.
One of the more interesting and historic sites in East Whiteland Township is the surviving cemetery of the no longer extant Whiteland Friends Meeting. The meeting house was built in 1816 on land donated by Randal Malin (the Malin brother who inherited the Malin Hall farm from their father Randal Sr.). Its location was just south of the Lancaster-Philadelphia Turnpike (later Lincoln Highway) on, what else, Malin Road. (Actually in 1816 the road was called Hood Road.) As soon as the meeting house was built, a cemetery was begun beside it. Here virtually all of the local Malins were buried from 1816 until about 1890, when the meeting house was closed and memberships transferred to the new Malvern Friends Meeting.

Another small, ancient cemetery north of Swedesford Road and west of Conestoga Road (Route 401) has been considered by some people (at least in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries) to be the private burying ground of the Malins. Yet strangely the only marked graves are for James Cloyd and his son Hockley, interred in 1807 and 1803 respectively. The father of the James Cloyd buried here, also named James, purchased the tract of land just west of the original Malin acreage from the Paschall family in 1752. This old cemetery was on Cloyd land but is very close to the boundary line with the Malins. Perhaps the Paschalls and the Malins created it for the use of both families early in the eighteenth century. If so it could be the place where Isaac Malin, who settled here in 1709, is buried.
From 1788 to 1816 the East Whiteland Malins were almost all members of the Willistown Friends Meeting. Before 1788 they belonged to the Goshen Monthly Meeting at Goshenville. Only twelve years after their meeting house was built in 1816, East Whiteland’s Friends experienced the Orthodox-Hicksite Split which began about 1828. Joseph Malin II (son of Joseph I who hosted George Washington in 1777) was “disowned for joining the Hicksites 31 Jul 1828 and Amy [Hoopes—his wife] was disowned for disunity and joining the Hicksites.” Apparently many rural Quakers followed the reformer Elias Hicks in the schism that struck The Society of Friends in America in the 1820s and afterwards. The Philadelphia Yearly Meeting remained in control of the “Orthodox” group. All over the country Quaker Meetings split. The doctrinal differences aren’t simply liberal (Hicksite) vs. conservative (Orthodox). Elias Hicks stressed the Inner Light and the Spirit Within, throwing into question the orthodox positions on Christ’s divinity, the virgin birth, and salvation from sin through Christ’s death and resurrection. Both Hicksite (Joseph II and Amy, e.g.) and Orthodox were buried in White- land Friends cemetery. Joseph Malin III (a “birthright Quaker”) was baptized (as an adult) into the Baptist faith and three generations of his family are buried together in the Malvern Baptist Cemetery.

A year or so after the Whiteland Friends Meetinghouse closed, the Pennsylvania Railroad built its Trenton Cut-off right beside the old structure. Historian J. Gilmore Wilson writes that the building was torn down in 1895. Quaker simplicity and personal humility have always been expressed in very small, squat grave markers with minimal inscriptions that, after a century, can be very hard to read. This is certainly true of the stones at White- land Friends. Perhaps sixty years of steam engine smoke alongside them contributed. So it was with a shout of delight that a few years ago I discovered in the map case of the Chester County Historical Society the “Plot of Burying Ground of East Whiteland Friends Meeting,” made on “6th mo. 11th” (June 11) 1875 by D. E. Many genealogists and local historians are probably unaware of this valuable document. Since it only gives names (no dates), it is most useful paired with a thorough knowledge of the families buried there (Malin, Hibberd, Corson, Hutchinson, Smith, Lear, Evans, Richardson, Dilworth, Phillips, Pratt, Mendenhall, Lewis, Hoskins, Potts, Davis, McLean, Griffith, and a few others). For obvious reasons, Malins are the predominant family. Joseph I and his second wife Rachel (Valentine), five of Joseph I’s children, his brother John’s widow Sarah and almost all their children (family of the Malin-George House), Joseph’s brother Randal and wife Jane Hoopes (of Malin Hall) are interred here. In all I count 22 marked Malin graves and 19 Hibberds, a family closely allied with the Malins.

Research on this subject is ongoing. Further findings will be shared in a future issue as they are uncovered.

1. Quite a few of the East Whiteland Township Malins were no longer Quakers when Whiteland Friends closed its doors in 1889. Some, like Joseph Malin III (who died in 1892 and had been “disowned” by the Orthodox Friends in 1850), joined the Willistown (later Malvern) Baptist Church.
2. I remember hearing, as a boy, that it was an Indian graveyard!
Refer to Photo Location Map at end of Report:

Photograph 1: Malin Rd and Buckeye Terminal Exit Driveway looking North.

Photograph 2: Malin Rd and Buckeye Terminal Exit Driveway looking West.
Photograph 3: Malin Rd and Buckeye Terminal Entrance Driveway looking South.

Photograph 4: Buckeye Terminal Entrance Driveway looking South at cemetery gate.
Photograph 5: At the cemetery gate looking South.

Photograph 6: Malin Rd and Buckeye Terminal Exit Driveway looking Northwest.
Photograph 7: Malin Rd and Buckeye Terminal Exit Driveway looking Northwest at retaining wall. Southeast corner height is 4.5 feet and Northeast corner height is 8.5 feet.

Photograph 8: Malin Rd and Buckeye Terminal Exit Driveway looking east at the proposed Malin Road Development. Photo came from Google Earth Street View dated 2020.
PARCEL #42-4-285
NF:
BUCHEYE TERMINALS, LLC.

PARCEL #42-4-320
NF:
FRIENDS FIDUCIARY CORP.

GUTTER ELEVATION
G38.00

TOP OF CURB ELEVATION
K38.50

EXISTING INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM UTILITY COMPANIES.

- Utility locations shown on the plans are approximate, and based on existing information. May necessitate the relocations of other utilities.
- Final inquiries to Pennsylvania One Call System Inc. (Phone #: 1-800-242-1776).
- Verification of utility location with the appropriate utility companies.