



Nicholas East House

Downingtown

441

440

290 000  
FEET

439

438

57

5.7 MI. TO U.S. 30

435

WEST VINT

CENT

WEST PIKELAND

Byers

Pickering

Anselma

Uppermans Corner

Toilgate

PENNSYLVANIA

BERCHANOE 23

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Chester County</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Nicholas East House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Birchrun Road**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**West Vincent Township**

STATE <b>Pennsylvania</b>	CODE <b>42</b>	COUNTY: <b>Chester</b>	CODE <b>029</b>
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Vincent G. Kling, Jr.**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Birchrun Road**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>West Vincent Township</b>	STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	CODE <b>42</b>
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Chester County Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**High and Market Streets**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>West Chester</b>	STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	CODE <b>42</b>
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**None known**

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original house was built by Nicholas East in 1820 of random fieldstone with heavy corner quoins. The house is two-and-one-half stories high, five bays wide across the south (front) elevation, and two bays deep at the west. The house has a gable roof with a fieldstone chimney at each gable end.

The west elevation has two six-on-nine light windows on the first floor, two six-on-six light windows on the second floor, and two two-on-two light windows at the attic level. The south elevation has two six-on-nine light windows, a doorway, and two more six-on-nine light windows on the first floor. The door is set within deep, panelled reveals, is topped by a rectangular transom, and is framed by a simple architrave molding. The second floor has five six-on-six light windows. A heavy cornice spans this elevation. In the late nineteenth century, a one-story wooden porch was added along the full length of the south elevation. It consists of a flat roof joined to eight pillars by lacework brackets. On the interior the original house is of center hall plan. Notable is the original open stairway with scrolled step ends.

Several additions have been made to the rear elevation of the original house. A two story random fieldstone addition was made over an existing one-story shed-roofed wing at the rear of the original house. Later a further one-story random fieldstone addition was made to the rear of the previously enlarged house.

The present owner has remodelled the kitchen and has worked to restore the house to its original appearance, removing a stucco coating from the exterior and repointing the stone underneath.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

While the Nicholas East House was not erected until 1820 a stone barn was located on the property as early as 1798. Nicholas East purchased the property in 1804. The property remained within the East family until sold by the estate of John East. The newspaper advertisement offering the property for sale in 1863 lists its improvements as a "large and comfortable stone dwelling house, large stone barn with overshoot and straw-house attached, large wagonhouse and Blacksmith shop." This implies that early owners combined blacksmithing with farming of the property.

The house itself is a recently restored example of the most characteristic area farmhouse type of the early nineteenth century. It includes the most characteristic Late Victorian modification of an existing house, the addition of a one-story flat-roofed wooden porch across the front elevation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

