

Upper Uwchlan Township Historic Commission local history collection

01

**Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Sarah
Leu through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden
Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories.**

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Upper Uwchlan Township Historic Commission

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Summary Information

Repository	Upper Uwchlan Township Historic Commission
Creator	Upper Uwchlan Township Historic Commission
Title	Upper Uwchlan Township Historic Commission local history collection
Call number	01
Date [inclusive]	1829-2005
Extent	17 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Upper Uwchlan Township in Chester County, Pennsylvania, was established in 1858 when it broke off from Uwchlan Township. Its boundaries include the historic district of Byers Station and the Wheelen House (Fellowship Farm), a Georgian-style farmhouse built in the mid 18th century. Remaining a rural community for most of its existence, Upper Uwchlan experienced large population growth beginning in the 1980s, leading to an increase in area development and the construction of several new subdivisions. The Upper Uwchlan Township Historic Commission local history collection, 1829-2005, contains a mix of primary- and secondary-source materials relating to the people, buildings, property, organizations, and other aspects of Upper Uwchlan Township. The collection is organized into four series: I. Manuscripts (organized by family/donor), II. Property files (organized by location), III. Subject files (organized into sub-groupings: people, clippings by date, and other), and IV. Subject binders.</p>

Biography/History

Upper Uwchlan Township in Chester County, Pennsylvania, was established in 1858 when it separated from Uwchlan Township. Its boundaries include the historic district of Byers Station and the Wheelen House (Fellowship Farm), a Georgian-style farmhouse built in the mid 18th century. Remaining a rural community for most of its existence, in the 1980s Upper Uwchlan started experiencing a large population boom when many families and individuals began moving to the area, attracted by its school system and suburban location proximate to Philadelphia. Today, many new subdivisions stand alongside the older homes in Upper Uwchlan.

Bibliography:

Cremers, Estelle, and Pamela Shenk. *The Upper Uwchlan: A Place Betwixt and Between*. Morgantown, PA: Masthof Press, 2008.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains materials relating to the people, buildings, property, organizations, and other aspects of Upper Uwchlan Township (Chester County, Pennsylvania). The collection is organized into four series: I. Manuscripts, II. Property files, III. Subject files, and IV. Subject binders.

The Manuscripts series consists of original family papers organized by family or donor name. The materials include: Dewees farm ledger, 1928-1948; Ford family deed, 1858; Bertha Mercer autograph books (2 volumes), 1925-1929; Bertha "Bert" McCardell's tax receipts journals, 1995-1997; Upper Uwchlan Township Justice of the Peace court docket, 1885-1950 (with gaps); tax collector's book, 1864; and other materials relating to residents of Upper Uwchlan Township. One of the largest groupings is Harper family materials, which include: a manuscript volume with Fetters and Acker genealogy (circa 1880); Edgefield Institute ledger (1882), teacher's monthly reports (1868), and other papers; other documents relating generally to schools and schooling; and various documents relating to the Fetters family including a few Abraham Fetters, Jr. Civil War records. There is a small quantity of photographs, principally late 19th century school class photographs and late 20th century photographs and slides of Upper Uwchlan properties, with a variety of other black and white and color photographs. There are also some loose deeds, several oral histories on audiocassette tape, and some CDs with digital versions of house photographs and some maps.

The Property files series is organized by location and includes Chester County Architectural Inventory form records executed by the Upper Uwchlan Survey Commission, 1980, as well as surveys commissioned by the Upper Uwchlan Historic Commission and executed by Robert Wise, 2001-2005. Some of the folders contain both of these forms, just one, or none. Other document types that appear in

the folders include photographs, slides, photocopies of original manuscripts and property drawings, and newspaper clippings, some of which are photocopied.

The Subject files series is organized into two larger sub-groupings, People and Newspaper clippings, with additional folders pertaining to topics outside of these sub-groupings. The People sub-group contains varying amounts of information in each folder, but can include items such as request forms for records from the National Archives, photocopies of newspaper clippings and obituaries, photocopies of original manuscripts, family notes, and genealogy research. The Newspaper clippings sub-group is organized by date and includes a mix of photocopied and original newspaper clippings, 1850-2000. Additional folders in this series contain information about various other topics relating to Upper Uwchlan Township including insurance papers, roads, churches, schools, tax records and other topics.

The Subject binders series is a collection of information organized into binders by topic, such as local cemetery inventories, oral history transcripts, and copies of manuscript and printed materials.

Administrative Information

Upper Uwchlan Township Historic Commission

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Sponsor

This preliminary finding aid was created as part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories. The HCI-PSAR project was made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Access Restrictions

Contact Upper Uwchlan Township Historic Commission for information about accessing this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

Materials collected by the Upper Uwchlan Township Historic Commission from various sources over time.

Processing Information Note

Summary descriptive information on this collection was compiled in 2012-2014 as part of a project conducted by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to make better known and more accessible the largely hidden collections of small, primarily volunteer run repositories in the Philadelphia area. The

Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR) was funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This is a preliminary finding aid. No physical processing, rehousing, reorganizing, or folder listing was accomplished during the HCI-PSAR project.

In some cases, more detailed inventories or finding aids may be available on-site at the repository where this collection is held; please contact Upper Uwchlan Township Historic Commission directly for more information.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Chester County (Pa.)
- Upper Uwchlan (Pa. : Township)

Personal Name(s)

- Fetters, Abraham, 1828-1893

Subject(s)

- Genealogy
- Historic districts
- Historic sites
- Local history
- Property