

MAEN-0004 (The Grange)

HABS NO. PA-6058

(Clifton Hall)

200 Grove Place

~~Havertown Vicinity~~ **HAVERTOWN VICINITY**

Delaware County

Philadelphia

HABS

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MAEN-COCH
(The Grange) (Clifton Hall) HABS No. PA-6058

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Location: 200 Grove Place, ~~Havertown Township~~, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

Significance: Maen-Coch, currently known as The Grange, owes its significance to its high-style Gothic design with an eighteenth century core, its association with prominent individuals, and to its old and extensive gardens. The Grange is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Description: The Grange is a six-bay, two-and-one-half story, Gothic Revival stone dwelling covered with stucco. It faces southeast overlooking a landscaped lawn and ravine. The house has a slate, cross-gabled roof with wide overhanging eaves, large wooden brackets, and decorative gable trim. The third bay contains a projecting gable on the second floor and the principal entrance below. The projecting gable is embellished with curvilinear vergeboards, a pendent, a small circular window and a four-light casement window with crowned by decorative Gothic carving and a finial. The windows on the first floor are six-light casement windows with plain trim, while those on the second floor are four-light casements with drip-mold hoods. Numerous gabled dormers with decorative vergeboards extend from the gabled roofs. A wide wrap-around porch with decorative sawn brackets and posts, exposed rafters and a standing-seam metal roof embellish the house. The porch extends out at the third bay, marking the principle entrance. The vestibule is octagonal, with five sides extending out into the porch. The entrance contains double doors with a Gothic motif panel. The doors are framed by an elaborate surround with carved wood molding. Flanking the entrance are with diamond light leaded glass casement windows. Four brick double-stack ridge chimneys, all in the English Gothic style with corbeled brick caps, surmount the roof. A two-and-one-half story, gabled-roof detached wing with a porte-cochere, extends to the northeast. This structure is similar to the main house, though the decoration is simpler and the chimneys have brick stacks with circular pots. The southwest facade of this wing is aligned with a side entrance leading into the main house.

The Grange is on ten acres, which includes the main house, a carriage house with four box stalls, a church (originally a dairy barn), a long barn, a detached kitchen, two spring houses, a farmer's house, a wood shed, a garden house, a necessary, and a 12' x 15' stone foundation that was likely a bathhouse. The gardens consist of three long terraces separated by gravel paths. The two formal upper terraces have geometric flower beds and small shrubs. The lower terrace has large specimen trees and boxwood hedges. Mature forested areas surround the gardens and terraces. Woodland trails wind through the forest and pass a water-wheel and ruins of the bathhouse.

History: The property currently known as The Grange was part of an estimated 400 acre land grant from William Penn to Henry Lewis in 1683. Lewis, a Quaker and one of the first settlers in Haverford Township, came from Narberth, Pembrokeshire, Wales. He built a dwelling named Maen-Coch, after the Friend's Meeting in Wales, which may be incorporated into the existing carriage house. In 1750, Lewis's grandson sold the property to Captain John Wilcox, who renamed the estate Clifton Hall and built a two-story, six-bay, Georgian-style house constructed of stone. This dwelling, which is the core of the existing rear section of the main house, had six-over-six light double-hung windows, panelled shutters, two end chimneys and one central chimney, and four dormers, two on each side.

Captain Charles Cruikshank, a Scottish gentleman, bought the house ca. 1760 and built what is currently the main facade of the house. The additions were done in the Georgian style to complement the existing building. Captain Cruikshank was also responsible for laying out the gardens, cutting the terraces and establishing greenhouses. The land attached to the grange was in three counties, including Chester (now Delaware), Philadelphia and Montgomery.

In 1768, John Ross, a merchant and ship owner involved in the East India trade, married Cruikshank's daughter, Clementine. Ross became active in the American cause of the Revolutionary War and is known to have corresponded with Benjamin Franklin. After the war, Cruikshank returned to Scotland and Ross bought the estate. He added many of the outbuildings and increased the quantity of land to 600 acres. Between 1782 - 1800, Ross entertained many distinguished persons from the United States and abroad, especially from France, at his Pine Street home (Philadelphia) in the winter and at the Grange in the spring, summer and autumn. According to Ross's 1899 memoir, these included General George Washington, Dr. Franklin, Generals Knox and Mifflin, Robert Morris, the Duc d'Orleans, Marbois, Talleyrand, Volney. In 1784, Ross became banker to South Carolina, and thus a number of prominent South Carolinians, such as the Rutledges, Hugers, Izards, Pickneys, Middletons, Lauton Smiths and Butlers visited the Grange. It is believed that Ross renamed the estate the Grange after Lafayette's home in France.

Dr. John Ashurst, a distinguished physician, surgeon and professor at the University of Pennsylvania, bought the estate for his country seat in 1850. Ashurst added the porte-cochere, expanded the gardens and terraces and extensively renovated the building by covering the Georgian-style house with its current Gothic Revival features. The Gothic Revival, which began in England as an offshoot of the Picturesque movement, became popular in the United States in the mid nineteenth century mainly through the books of Andrew Jackson Downing, Alexander Jackson

Davis and Calvert Vaux. These books enabled local carpenters to construct houses based on their cottage and country house designs. In addition, new tools like the steam powered scroll saw made it possible for carpenters to add variations of intricate Gothic motifs at a modest cost. Houses generally lost their symmetrical facades and were built to be harmonious with the natural landscape. Like the Grange, some of the most interesting Gothic Revival designs resulted from the remodeling of earlier buildings, such as those shown in Calvert Vaux's Villas and Cottages.

Today the Grange is owned by Haverford Township and retains much of its mid-nineteenth century appearance.

Sources:

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Mifflin, Elizabeth. "1899 Memoir of John Ross, Merchant of Philadelphia." Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography. Vol. 23, p. 77-85.

"Valuable Farms at Public Sale - Estate of Manuel Eyre, Deceased." Delaware county Republican. Chester, Pennsylvania, September 17, 1847. This is announcement of the public sale of the Grange. It lists all of the outbuildings and describes the gardens and land. Manuel Eyre owned the estate from 1816 to 1847.

Historian: Janet G. Blutstein, HABS Historian, 1994.