

The Shelter: Association for the Care of Coloured Orphans
HRP # 203
Cheyney, Thornbury Township, PA

Richard Humphreys, a Quaker, was born on the island of Tortola in 1750. His parents were among 100 British subjects that inhabited Tortola and owned 10,000 slaves to raise coffee and sugar on plantations. In 1741 a Quaker Meeting was established in Tortola and his parents were the first to marry in the Meeting.

As young men, he and his brother Thomas were sent to Philadelphia as apprentices. Richard was a Goldsmith and Silversmith; and Thomas was a Tanner. Richard became successful and opened a shop at 54 High Street in Philadelphia and later on Front Street. Richard married in 1771 to Hannah Elliott and she died three years later. He again married Ann Morris of Upper Dublin. Richard advertised his work as located at the sign of the Coffee Pot on Front St. He was a member of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, a Hicksite Quaker Meeting. His silver work is stamped RH and today is found in many private collections. He was disowned by meeting for enlisting to serve in the Revolutionary War and he served as Captain in General Cadwalader's division. In 1783 he was reinstated as a member of his Meeting.

Richard had concerns for the slavery he experienced on Tortola and for the care of the Negro population in the United States and their lack of access to education. Upon his death Richard left \$10,000.00 in his will to establish a society or institution that would "instruct the descendants of the African race in school learning, the various branches of the mechanic arts and trades, and in agriculture, in order to prepare and fit and qualify them to act as teachers...said institution to be located not far distant from the city of Philadelphia" Richard died in 1832 and his will further instructed that 13 members of the Yearly Meeting would have oversight of the project and that all future members would be members of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Richard's concern for the Negro population was echoed by the Quaker community in Philadelphia. In May of 1838, a mob of twenty five thousand whites burned the Pennsylvania Hall where an assemblage of Quakers were holding a three day meeting, discussing ways to alleviate the frightful conditions which confronted the Negro. Persons of color who opened schools at this time were met with arson. In this hostile environment the Institute for Coloured Youth was conceived under the direction of Richard's will and opened in 1837.

Simultaneously, a great concern for Negro youth that had been orphaned by horrific circumstances in the late 1700's and early 1800's was a focus of the Quaker community as well. In 1822 Quaker and African American women, led by Friends Ann Yarnell and Beulah Samson, opened a home for Negro children of

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both sexes who had lost their parents known as the Association for the Care of Coloured Orphans. Their first home was on Noble Street in Philadelphia. 20 to 50 children received a home and an education. Many were children of those who had been enslaved. The women established a family atmosphere for the orphans and all were addressed as members of a family. The primary focus was on health as many children arrived sick and malnourished without access to medical care. The orphanage was managed by Quaker women, similar to the direction of The Institute for Colored Youth. Both institutions flourished under the support of the Quaker community.

As The Institute for Coloured Youth grew and moved to several property locations in Philadelphia, the Institute Board of Managers of the school felt growing pains. In 1842 the Commonwealth issued a Charter to the Institute for Coloured Youth and by 1844 there were 14 boys in the school who split their days in school; also working on the farmlands of the school. Many were apprenticed to farms in the Philadelphia community as well. Later in 1849 a school was opened on Lombard Street near 9th Street. The enrollment grew, a night school and a day school were held. In 1856 two graduates of the school were admitted to Oberlin College in Ohio. In 1860 44 boys and 64 girls were enrolled. In 1865 Fannie Jackson was added to the teaching staff. She was born a slave and was the first Negro woman to graduate from Oberlin College. She served as the Principal from 1869 until 1902. The Institute grew and by 1878 the enrollment was 324 students. Many of these students were orphans from the Association for the Care of Coloured Youth.

Fannie Jackson married Rev. Lewis J. Coppin who was Bishop of the AME Church in Philadelphia. By 1865, 21 of the graduates were now serving as teachers in the Institute. Fannie resigned as Principal in 1902. The Board of Managers sought advice from various educators and the decision was made to relocate the Institute to the country. The Board of Managers decided to sell their Philadelphia property and acquire the farm of Mary Hickman Cheyney, who was the daughter of George Denton Cheyney and Anna Bailey Cheyney.

George D. Cheyney and Anna Bailey Cheyney married around 1854, the birth year of their first child; they had five children: Howard, Mary, James, Willis and Warren. George D. Cheyney was the grandson of Thomas Cheyney's brother, John. However, his wife received title to these lands that were originally his great uncle's lands (Thomas). George lived an interesting life as a farmer. His wife held title to these lands and her will stipulated that these lands were to go to her five children, not husband George.

Mary Hickman Cheyney was born in 1857 in the farmhouse, now known as Melrose House. Mary never married and graduated from the Medical College of

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Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Women's Medical College in 1885. Mary established a medical practice in West Chester at 21 South High Street; and inherited the farm along with her brothers when her mother, Anna, died in 1876. The children did not sell these lands until 1894. Oldest son, Howard, sold his estate interest to his sister, Dr. Mary Hickman Cheyney. Mary ultimately became owner.

Mary ran the farm until she died. She had four brothers who had no interest in farming. She was known for teaching hygiene to many in the community and worked with the Negro population. Unlike the Cheyney family's religion of Church of England, (Episcopalian) Mary was raised a Quaker. One can find out more information regarding George and daughter, Mary H. Cheyney in the Thornbury Township House History Project: Painter Cheyney House HRP # 000 located on the corner of Cheyney and Station Roads and how these lands were held by the Cheyney family since the early 1720's.

Mary died of pneumonia on November 9th, 1907 and was buried in the Birmingham Lafayette Cemetery of Birmingham Meeting. Mary died intestate and without heirs. The farmstead went to Sheriff's Sale in 1902 and was purchased by Hannah R. Llewelyn, single woman, of Ardmore, PA. Hannah was a Hicksite Quaker but did not have any formal association with The Association for the Care of Coloured Children or the Institute, but she did sell the farmstead to The Institute for Coloured Youth in 1903.

The 116 acre farmstead, located in Cheyney, Delaware County was converted to a school campus. The farmhouse, known as Melrose House became the home of the new Principal, Hugh Browne. Humphrey's Hall was built out of local stone. The focus would be a two year degree for teachers. In 1905 a celebration of the creation of the Institute invited dignitaries from many states to attend, noted invitees were John D. Rockefeller, Booker T. Washington and his wife as well as many local families and professionals.

In 1913 six acres of the Institute's property was sold to the Association for the Care of Coloured Children. The 1913 77th Annual Report of the Association noted their 91 years of work caring for orphans. They had sold one of their Philadelphia properties located at 44th and Wallace Streets and purchased the Cheyney acreage. The Superintending Committee hired Morris and Erskine Architects to erect three buildings on the new campus. Two cottages for dormitory homes and one school building were erected. The architect and contractors agreed to have the construction complete by 1914. These buildings were for girls only. Sunnycrest Farm for Negro Boys was also in the works to the northwest of this acreage. Sunnycrest would provide the boys an opportunity to learn farming and attend school; they too had been located in Philadelphia and had been founded in 1855 as The Home for Destitute Coloured Children by Hicksite Quakers. They

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built in Cheyney in 1922 and prior to such had provided education and placed orphan boys in private homes. The name changed when they moved to Cheyney and were located north west of the girls' complex, now referred to as the Shelter.

The Shelter cottages were given names, the most westerly cottage was Douglass, named after Frederick Douglass, the famous Negro author, editor and orator. The easterly cottage was named Wheatley, for Phyllis Wheatley, the first Negro poetess who was brought from Africa in 1761 at age 7 and sold into slavery in Boston. In the center of the cottages the School Building was erected.

In 1902 a search committee for the Institute sought a replacement for Principal Browne. They were fortunate enough to retain Leslie Pinckney Hill, a cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Harvard. In 1914 the Institute changed its name to The Cheyney Training School for Teachers and provided a 3 year program focusing on academic, domestic art, domestic science, manual training and agriculture.

The 1913 Annual Report for the Association for the Care of Coloured Orphans created the rules for the Shelter. No child under the age of two or over seven or defective in mental faculties or having material deformity of body shall be received except by special exception of the Board of Managers. Mothers and friends may visit on the last Friday of each month except during the three winter months. All applications for admission are reviewed by the Matron and the members of the Admission Committee. In 1913 the Association cared for over 62 orphans, with an average of 50 throughout the year. In 1913 the girls had escaped the whooping cough of the summer months, but at the end of the year were in quarantine due to chicken pox. A Superintending Committee made regular visits to ensure compliance and reported to the Board of Managers. This year the Annie Lowry Fund was established which assisted in maintenance and purchase of school books. The Shelter hoped to enhance the fund for strengthening their industrial training program so those who did not go on to college would have employable skills upon graduation.

By 1914 the construction of the Shelter buildings was complete and the orphans who had been housed temporarily in private residences came to campus.

The 1914 Annual Report notes the sale of a Philadelphia property at 44th and Wallace St. A student shall live in each cottage from the Training School and each morning a student from Domestic Science degree of the Training School will help the House Mother prepare dinner which provided practical experience for their degrees. Leslie Pinckney Hill was the general supervisor of the Shelter and the Training School. The Shelter also had two Board Members from the Training School in order to work closely together for the benefit of the students and the orphans. Committees were created to assist with the school, property, provisions,

clothing and house furnishings. Their annual operating expense was \$21,960. By 1915, that expense had doubled with the cost of the buildings. Each of these Annual Reports is enclosed and note donations of items and money from the community annually.

In 1919 a Delaware County Quaker, William C. Sproul, was elected Governor of Pennsylvania. He had a genuine concern for education and was a personal friend of several members of the Board of Managers for the School. Under the strong tutelage of Dr. Hill and the support of the Commonwealth, in 1933 the Cheyney Training School became a fully-fledged State Normal School and the School was granted the right to confer diplomas for a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics, elementary education and industrial arts. There were 377 students enrolled with 30 staff on campus.

Again, the Shelter and Sunnycrest gave student teaching access for the Cheyney Training School degree requirement. Segregation in schools prevented Cheyney students from getting access to schools to fulfill this requirement. The Shelter students were first taught in the center school building and later attended the Coppin Laboratory School with the boys from Sunnycrest. As a result, these orphan students received an excellent education and access to the Library on the Training School campus. Some Negro children from the community also attended the Coppin Laboratory School as well as employee's children of the orphanages and the Training School.

The children remained at this school until they were old enough to attend Stetson Junior High's 9th grade and later the West Chester High Schools. Report cards are enclosed to see the quality of education received at the Shelter and in later school years in public education. The orphans were also taught practical skills to prepare them for the work environment upon graduation. Many went on to college at Cheyney or other universities. Some were given practical apprenticeship experience by living and working in private homes in preparation for a domestic type of employment upon completion of school.

Many of the orphans had family that would contribute to their room and board at the Shelter. County monies were available for support and some court ordered funding was available as well. Some orphans had lost family or family members were unable to care for them due to financial or medical issues.

Each child was documented, followed carefully and assessed regularly for mental and physical health. They resided in a family structure in either Douglass or

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Wheatley Cottage. As enclosed correspondence notes the total care and concern for each young lady in the Shelter was followed closely. It is noted in one set of minutes of the Board, they sometimes paid for college level education for the orphans who demonstrated a proficiency in their academic studies. Other than Cheyney, the most commonly attended school was the Quaker Christiansburg Industrial Institute in Virginia or Oberlin College. Most of the girls were groomed for domestic work in homes and apprenticed to be trained as such. As times improved for black children's educational advancement, their goals were directed more towards academic achievement and less towards apprenticeships; many attended colleges.

We will follow sisters who came to the Shelter, via correspondence found in the Swarthmore College archives, their names have been removed from enclosed documents and will be identified as P and E.

P and E tragically lost their parents, they had eight brothers and sisters, their father had died of ore poisoning from working in the mines and their mother died in child birth. They had resided in Wilkes Barre, PA region and were brought to the Shelter by the Child Welfare Department of United Charities in Wilkes Barre. Documents are enclosed from evaluations, House Mother Notes and decisions made by the Shelter, as both young ladies became teenagers.

The correspondence begins in 1930 with a Christmas trip to Philadelphia for five orphans to see the decorations and have lunch. The documents continue to describe life events recorded by the House Mother and others which record progress or lack thereof for P and E. P seems to have not fared well and had exhibited some challenging actions. She was defiant and did not fare as well as her younger sister, E, did over their years at the Shelter. Sadly, at the end of their stay it was suggested that P be considered for Pennhurst or Elwyn Training School, with a preference for Elwyn as Shelter members could continue visiting her there. These considerations were discussed and decided along with the Wilkes Barre United Charities. E was chosen to return to Wilkes Barre for a Household position. The enclosed letter from Elwyn clearly notes that they would not accept P because she was not white.

As previously mentioned, the young ladies were placed in homes for an apprenticeship as a domestic, so they had trained experience with the role for future employment. One letter enclosed notes how one young lady was taken

advantage of by the homeowner. She had a younger sister at the Shelter as well. The young lady apprentice had to tend the furnace, cook breakfast, bathe and dress two children in the morning and clean the entire house in the afternoon. She was kept late on Saturdays as well. She left the home and went to her aunt's house and was enrolled in school while the aunt was at work. A friend of the aunt looked in on her while the aunt was absent. The Shelter advised the aunt that it would be in the best interest of both young ladies to be together with their aunt. At this juncture the aunt was considering such for the orphans. The Shelter realized the importance of family that had interest in the care of the orphans.

Difficult times were experienced by all during both World Wars. Women stepped in to fill the shoes of the male workforce that was sent off to war. Food was expensive and rationing affected the Shelter members. The apprenticeships for the young orphans were lessened as working women hesitated to take in an orphan. Further, Delaware County Welfare was looking for existing child care homes to take on daycare due to the effects of working mothers during World War II. Donations lagged during the war years but sufficient monies had been saved to enable the Shelter to continue care of the orphans.

At some point the Fannie Jackson Coppin Laboratory School was erected on Cheyney campus, just to the south of the Shelter buildings and served first through eighth grade students. Here the male and female orphans now attended class together, along with children from the staff of Cheyney University and some black children from the neighborhood.

Gloria Stewart Jones, who had resided at the Shelter, gave an Oral Interview for Thornbury Township, Delaware County Historical Commission's Project. Gloria is now a retired nurse who had received her Master's Degree. She talked of her 8 years at the Shelter. She was the wife of Lyn Jones who was the son of Beulah Jones, the Shelter Director in the 1930s through the 1950's. Many of her peers attended Cheyney University. Gloria fondly remembers her years at the Shelter. The Board Members met once a month and had a meal with the orphans. A doctor and nurse attended orphans regularly. She noted the grace and eloquence, personal identity given each orphan and how, through Beulah Jones' love and guidance benefited the orphans who called her Mother.

A second Oral Interview was given by Carolyn Whitfield who arrived at the Shelter with her older sister when she was 4 years old. They were orphaned in

Chester and Mrs. Wetherill, a wealthy, Irish Quaker, Social Worker who strongly supported the Shelter, brought Carolyn to the Shelter and enrolled her. Carolyn was under age, as they were to accept 6 year olds and none younger. Mrs. Jones made an exception as her son, Donald, was the same age and felt he would benefit from a peer friendship. Carolyn's sister, who was 10 years her senior, had been caring for her and vowed to continue while living at the Shelter. Carolyn's 11 year old brother went to the Sunnycrest orphanage for Black boys, located just to the west of the Shelter. All the students from both orphanages attended the Coppin Laboratory School until the 8th grade. Cheyney University President, Leslie Pinckney Hill's daughters attended Coppin with them along with other Cheyney staff's children. Cheyney University student teachers educated the children. They also served as house mothers and cooks for the children of the Shelter. This offset their room and board costs while giving the students practical experience.

Carolyn recalls fresh dairy products from local farms, vegetables and fruits grown in their garden and orchard. They dined in Douglass Cottage and the kitchen was there too, along with Mrs. Jones office. The children were taught to garden by Mr. Jones who also worked on Cheyney Campus. In the summers they walked to the Westtown School, about a mile away, to go swimming in the lake and have a picnic lunch. They traveled to the Philadelphia Zoo, the circus and museums, as well as the Christmas visit to Philadelphia to see the amazing decorations and department stores. One summer they traveled to Lenape Picnic Park for a day of fun but were refused entrance, as they were colored. Mrs. Jones saw a water fountain and asked if the girls could drink some water as it was a hot day. Knowing full well that fountains in other buildings in the nation were marked for colored and white people, this one was not marked. They were permitted to have a drink in silent defiance.

Mrs. Jones made sure that the children were educated about slavery and reconstruction years, as she had lived in both times. The girls walked to the African Methodist Episcopal Church (HRP#093 in Thornbury HR inventory) every Sunday, located just down the road. Here they met other black families from the area.

Once the girls completed 8th grade in the 40's and later, they attended West Chester High School. Initially the orphans rode the train to West Chester and later School Buses were provided. Trips to West Chester presented episodes of

segregation. All blacks had to sit in the balcony at the movie theatre. The high school staff was noted to be racist at times. This was foreign to the orphans, as they had not experienced such in Thornbury. Carolyn attended Cheyney University for two years and studied to be a teacher. She then transferred to University of Pennsylvania to study Philosophy. Carolyn worked with foreign students and also worked on African American History. She owes her success to the support and guidance of Mrs. "Mother" Jones who instilled self-confidence and love during her formative years.

In 1965 the Shelter's name was changed to Friends Shelter for Girls. It continued to serve young ladies in a group home setting, offering education and psychological support. The focus was more on teenage orphans who could not attend local schools due to discrimination and segregation. The agency began to find more foster homes for the young children brought to the orphanage. Post war, there was an easier path to Foster care for children, as women were less likely to be in the work force, as in war years.

As Foster care advanced the need for orphanages waned. The name again changed to The Friends Association for the Care and Protection of Children and they chose to leave the Cheyney University Campus. In 1982 they tried to purchase a home on Dean Street in West Chester, but the community protested severely and the opposition drove them to the second floor of the YMCA. At the time the YMCA was located in the present day Chester County History Center located on High Street. Christmas Eve in 1982, the shelter was vacant, all children were in homes. They were asked to take in a family with young children. Thus became their new focus- emergency housing for families with the effort to locate secure stable housing and a permanent residence in the community.

The Friends Association became involved with the Oak Street Housing project in Coatesville, the largest federal housing project in Chester County. They worked to provide housing and social services, with enrichment programs to strengthen families that had been evicted, or were in the process of reuniting families with parents in detox or rehabilitation. They remained in West Chester YMCA until 1989 when the building was sold to the Chester County Historical Society. They purchased the Kesher Israel Synagogue and moved in to maintain their offices and provide housing for 6 families.

In 1996 the Association bought 128 E. Chestnut St. house for apartments for transitional housing. Forty five to fifty children were placed in specialized Foster care by the Association. In 1996 a Special Needs Adoption Program was started for Foster parents in the process of adopting children. The innovative Family toFoster Program in Coatesville kept children in their community and reduced the trauma of relocation and loss of their birth family. This program supports team work of new and birth families working together for the betterment of the children.

By 1997, the 175th Anniversary of the Association, they celebrated their services providing Foster Care, Adoption, Family Shelters and Transitional Housing. The Chestnut Street house became an emergency family shelter. Transitional Housing became the Home for Good Supportive Housing Program. The program partners with landlords to keep families in their homes through rental subsidies and eviction prevention.

In 2010 Foster Care and Adoptions transferred to York, PA to the Children's Home in York. The Association moved to 113 West Chestnut Street and aligned the mission focus of preventing and ending family homelessness. The focus remains strongly Quaker principled, acknowledging value and importance in every person.

This author met with the Director of Communications, Cory Lovera and Family Center Director Vanessa Hunter at the Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children in West Chester. Vanessa is a graduate of Cheyney University. She returned to complete her college degree in Communications at age 28, as a young wife and mother residing in Thorndale. After achieving a 4.0 and graduating, Vanessa worked with homeless families in Lycoming, PA. Cory and Vanessa both came to the Friends Association this year. Cory had previously worked in the field of mental health and homelessness. They, along with their coworkers, are proud to be celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Association for Coloured Children as it matured and changed to meet the needs of the community and is now known as the Friends Association for the Care and Protection of Children.

In August of 1977 the original campus of the Shelter, adjacent to Cheyney University, was sold to Thornbury Township, Delaware County. The center building houses the township offices. A day care business occupies Wheatley

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Cottage and the Thornbury Township Historical Society and Historical Commission Archives occupy Douglass Cottage. The campus is one hundred and eight years old and continues to serve the community.

Along with Cheyney University, the Cottages can be considered eligible for National Register Nomination, as other entities have suggested previously. This author concurs as many resources have been maintained on both campuses and contributes to the history in it's entirety for the community of Cheyney, Pennsylvania.

Architectural History

As we have read, the home on the Cheyney family farmstead was known as Melrose House, which remains on Cheyney University Campus today. Six acres were sold to the Association for the Care of Coloured Orphans in 1913 and the buildings were immediately under construction. All three buildings were designed by the Architects Morris and Erskine of Philadelphia. This architectural firm had worked for one of the Board members, George Vaux Jr., on his home in Bryn Mawr. Morris and Erskine were Philadelphia natives who formed their business in 1909. They had many institutional design contracts: Friends Hospital, a substantial addition on Arch Street Friends Home, The Moore School are a few of their Philadelphia projects. Morris was a Quaker and had attended Westtown School.

The three buildings: Douglass Cottage to the west, the original school building in the center and to the east Wheatley Cottage are erected on gently sloping lands with a circular driveway to access each building and Cheyney Road to the east. The main entrances are on the north façade of all three buildings. The materials and design are all alike, brick courses, stucco and brick framed doorways and window sets. The roofs are slate and have multiple structural intersections. Each building has a main core with additions to the east and west facades.

The Douglass Cottage main entrance opens north onto the roadway. The doorway is inset in the projecting gable roof core. A marble plaque is over the entrance foyer with Douglass Cottage, 1914 inscribed and surrounded with a brick framework on this three bay core. The east and west sections of the structure are mirror images, with two pairs of windows inserted between the core and the arched entry ways of the porch entrances. The western arched entryway was infilled after the construction of Douglass Cottage. A wooden stairway leads from this side entrance. The south façade echoes the front façade, excepting a dormered addition projecting from the face of the core. A brick band separates the first and second floors around each building. The east and west sections each hold the brick and stucco chimney that rests in between the sets of double windows on the first and second floors. The eastern section holds the mirror image arched brick porch as seen on the front and eastern façade. A fire escape leads to a second floor door with single windows on either side with a triple window at the clipped gable end of

the roof on the third floor. Two Doric pillars support the opening on the east façade.

A second eastern entrance opens on the porch and a walkway leads to the north roadway and main entrance of the front façade. The core on the southern façade projects to accommodate triple sets of windows on each floor. The depth of this Douglass core projects further from the face of the building, when compared to the same element on Wheatley Cottage. Douglass Cottage held the dining room in the center of the first floor and the kitchen for the Shelter, as well as an office for the House Mother. A floor plan is noted in the 1914 Annual Report. Now Douglass Cottage is the home of the Thornbury Historical Society and the Thornbury Township, Delaware County, Historical Commission's Archives

The central building was the administration and school initially, also the Director resided in this building after the Coppin School was built to the south on Cheyney University campus. Currently, Thornbury Township, Delaware County offices occupy this building. The design is similar to Douglass and Wheatley Cottages and the materials are the same. The building has no porticos or porches on the east and west facades. A cupola with a weather vane sits atop the roof line of the core of the building. The gable ends of this roofline are clipped to hold a triple window in each gable end of the third floor. The brickwork and banding is identical to both cottages, only one chimney is located on the south western façade. An entrance with a gable end roof is located on the south façade and opens into the basement of the building which is exposed by the slope of the land. This entrance is centered in a three bay core holding two triple windows on the first floor and single windows on either side of the entranceway. Parking is now located here, as well as a second parking lot located to the north of the front entrance of the building on the opposite side of the roadway. The front core is a five bay two story clipped gable roof structure. The entrance, like the southern entrance, has a gable end roof protecting the entrance. There are two additions to the east and west of the core on this building. The west façade holds a door way and is two bays deep, the east façade holds two double windows, both east and west façade roofs are clipped gable end and slate to match the cottages. No formal name was ever granted to this building and the original school use changed with the erection of Coppin Laboratory School.

The Wheatley Cottage sits to the east on the circle encompassing the complex. The building currently houses a day care center. The cottage is similar to the design of Douglass Cottage. The core is three bay with the entrance on the north façade with the same inset entrance with a white marble slab over the door with the inscribed name and date. The portico on the east end of the building is open from north to south on the first floor. The west façade is built similarly to Douglass, with a corner portico, this is the entrance to the day care and holds a wooden handicapped ramp that leads to the side entrance. A fire escape leads to the second floor with a second floor door with single windows on either side. The southern façade core is less deep than the core on the southern façade of Douglass Cottage. Also, an entrance is centered on this façade basement, which is exposed due to the slope in the land.

Looking at these three buildings that comprised the Shelter campus, they remain much the same as when they were erected. The cottages were home to many young ladies who were well cared for and educated by a dedicated University next door. The symbiotic relationship benefited both entities, especially the orphans who were raised in a warm and caring environment that allowed them to reach their potential despite the loss of their birth families. The students were role models for the orphan girls.

The Shelter buildings complimented the University but were erected 10 years later and maintain a style independent of the architecture of the University campus. The campus architecture is predominantly stone, Colonial Revival. The cottages possess a simplistic Victorian Romanesque style as demonstrated in the brick framed windows and doors, arched porches and bands of brick work in the stucco which separate the stories on each building. The cross gabled roof lines and clipped gable ends lend a more Romanesque complex roof design along with the grouped windows in sets of two and three windows. This simplistic rendition was appropriate for a country, academic setting when compared to the surrounding early Georgian farm estate houses and the stone buildings of Cheyney University.

The Shelter buildings have been adaptively reused for government and educational purposes, as well as the interest in relating the history of the Shelter and how it fits with the unique and complex history of Cheyney and Thornbury Township in Delaware County.

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