

## LOCLLYN AT GWYNEDD

2010

A SHORT HISTORY BY CURRENT OWNER H. MATHER LIPPINCOTT, JR

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The Old Manor House at 1730 Sumneytown Pike in Lower Gwynedd Township, PA has for over 200 years served its community in several different ways while housing descendants of Welsh Quaker Jenkin Jenkins who arrived in Philadelphia in 1720. The name LOCLLYN means "the place of the Locust" named for a William Penn tree in the backyard that finally fell about 15 years ago. In 1766 Jacob Wentz of nearby Worcester built a brown stone building on Sumneytown Pike which opened as a Tavern, and military records note that American Solders during the Revolution visited the property.

In 1794 Edward Jenkins purchased the property and added to the building for residence and country store use. In 1810 the store part was further enlarged and served the growing community as a store and Post Office until closed in 1914.

Toward the middle of the 1800's the colonial ridged roof was replaced by the current mansard roof, with gray slate shingles and coppered dormer windows. A stone barn was built to the west, before the Civil War, a produce storage building, later and currently a garage, adjoined the barn. The stone barn burned down in 1927 and its remaining walls still make an attractive garden activity and pond. A wooden barn for goats and pheasant activity behind the garage was demolished in 1975.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Jenkins family, sired by Walter Hallowell Jenkins and Hetty Lukens Jenkins his wife were Sarah, William, Esther, Horace and Evan. Unfortunately Evan died of polio as a child. In 1914 Sarah was married to Horace Mather Lippincott and moved to Chestnut Hill. The remaining 3, William, Horace and Esther enjoyed unmarried life with many European visitors, and renting the house until William died in 1974 when the whole property passed to Sarah's son H. Mather Lippincott, Jr, the present owner.

In 1950 the 3 single Jenkins remodelled the Manor House extensively, happily with the help of an historical builder Raymond Lukens. The Pike

and NW sides were cleaned and restored by removing a surrounding porch and some additions. The brown stone original section was cleaned, pointed and shed dormered roofed. Woods, farm gardens and an orchard were better cultivated. The mansard slate roof began to leak and was covered with asphalt shingles. The last sibling, William, lived his last ten years alone and modestly, with his farmer in the south wing and Bassett family renters in the east end.

As the current ownership began in 1974 it was obvious that the old family house really needed considerable up grading to stay alive in the now totally rental market. In 2004 the old slate and asphalt mansard roofing was removed and replaced with new architectural slate (rubber ) shingles, matching nearly exactly the original 1850 finish roofing and coppered dormers. All exterior walls have been power washed and stuccoed or painted to match the original surface. So while respecting historicity, the interior was reconfigured with new heating, plumbing, and air conditioning to provide modern comfort. Three updated apartments are now in competition on the market as charming space for families and children. For over 2 centuries the Manor House has served its community and its many and varied occupants while continuing to preserve its varied history.