

# History - Mill Grove Barn, Mill, and Other Buildings

Little is known about this barn. While a barn or barns are listed on the property as of 1777, the earliest record is its appearance in a painting done ca. 1820-1830 attributed to Thomas Birch (of Philadelphia) for Samuel Wetherill, the owner of the Mill Grove property at that time.

A reduced version of that painting is shown below. The painting still exists and is in a private collection. *(There is second, identical painting at the New-York Historical Society in New York City.)*



The view of the property is from across the Perkiomen Creek (site of the present day Lower Perkiomen Valley Park).

Only the three buildings shown at the top of the hill still exist today. These are: the stone mansion and its attached addition at the left-side of the house, built 1762 & 1764 respectively; and the stone Barn, seen to the right of the house. The mining structure shown at left was probably gone by 1900 or before (*lead & copper were mined here in the 1800s*). The mill, miller's house & outbuildings shown in the lower right were taken down in 1928 when that portion of the land was purchased by a water company.

Some 60 yrs. after the above painting was made, a "garage" was added to the Barn. This is the circular portion of the Barn as seen from outside (added ca. 1892 - early 1900s).