

PH0021415

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.10.10.0016	DATE 11/5/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Breck's Mill Area

AND/OR HISTORIC:
(Henry Clay Village) Rokeby

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Breck's Lane and Creek Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Wilmington

STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: New Castle	CODE 003
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
New Castle County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rodney Square

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE
Wilmington Delaware 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Junior League Historic Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1962-1964 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historical Society of Delaware

STREET AND NUMBER:
509 Market Street

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE
Wilmington Delaware 10

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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71.10.10.0016 11/5/71

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Breck's Mill area is three miles northwest of Wilmington on the Brandywine and has three different types of buildings that exemplify the industrial community of early 19th Century: The Mill; The Workers' houses; The Mill Owner's Home.

From the outside Breck's Mill has been little changed since it was rebuilt in 1813. Badly damaged by fire in 1846, it was rebuilt as before within six weeks. It is a large sturdy construction, 55 feet by 43 feet, three stories high of random stone with five bays. Brick flat arches are over the windows. The stone bell tower has its fifth story of brick with louvered sides. Early photos show the top of the bell tower as flat. It now has a pitched roof as does the main building of the Mill.

Close to the mill is an area of small domestic buildings that originally housed the workers for the nearby mills and trades people to service their needs. These were small single or double houses unlike the long row houses, the "Banks," on the other side of the river. Rectangle in shape, built of stone or clapboard with shed roof and dormers, they had simple wooden porches centered in front of the house with wooden stairs, square balusters and square columns. The Charles I. duPont house on the north end of the Creek Road is this type house although a bit more substantial and generous in its proportions. It is of random field stone. In the case of Hagee's Tavern, the porch was two story. Inside, the floor plan was a simple division of two or three rooms downstairs and upstairs. There is a chimney on each end of the house. Fifteen buildings remain from the mill working times, not including Breck's Mill or the mill owner's house, "Rokeby." These original structures, most of which are greatly modified for contemporary living, are indicated by shading in the accompanying map. Only one is not in its original site: The Kennett Pike Toll House has been moved from the northwest corner of Breck's Lane and Kennett Pike and is now incorporated as part of No. 198, Breck's Lane.

"Rokeby" was built in 1836 for Gabrielle du Pont when she married William Breck, then part owner of the mill that still carries his name. This late Federal house is rectangular in plan, measuring 55 feet across and 26 feet 4 inches deep. It is entered through a small portico with two Ionic columns on plinths. The entrance side is two story. Opposite the long rectangular entrance hall are two identical marble mantels with marble shelves. Two bays open on to a porch with a two story portico overlooking the Brandywine. This portico measures 9 feet by 34 feet 9 inches. A family story says that Gabrielle wished to imitate Louviers and sent architects to measure the house (said to be upper, but portico indicates lower). They measured the inside and applied those measurements to the outside of the new house. Hence, everything was more condensed in the new structure and little room was left for the stairway. Although extended by Alice du Pont Wilson when she moved into it in 1911, it still has a cramped aspect.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

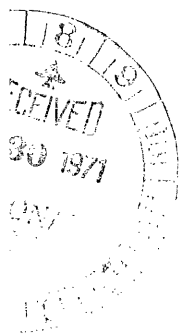
- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Breck's Mill area is an excellent example of an early 19th Century industrial village. Around 1813 large mills were being built on the Brandywine due to advanced technical skills that could dam the river and due, too, to the larger demands of the American markets cut off from Europe by the 1812 War. Louis McLane and his brother-in-law, George Milligan, bought the mill site from Vincent Gilpin in 1813 and built the large stone mill that is now known as Breck's Mill. As in other industrial area the 19th Century factory was to grow where earlier 18th Century mills had been. Gilpin had had a saw mill and a grist mill near to where the large stone mill was built. McLane used all these mills for cotton production. Louis McLane was to become Senator, United States Minister to England, Secretary of the Treasurer, and Secretary of State. Various subsequent tenants ran the mill. In 1832, William Breck became one of the partners to take over the mill, marrying in 1836, the niece of Charles I. du Pont and becoming his manager when Charles I. du Pont who had been involved since his youth in the woolen industry at the Louviers Mills further up the stream, brought woolen production to Breck's Mill and the production of blankets. Fire and debts led to loans from the du Pont Company which took over the property in 1852. However, the mill ceased to function in 1854 prior to the more widespread depression of 1857-1858. It has been a recreational center off and on since 1890 and now belongs to the Hagley Museum. The nearby earlier grist mill, transformed and made part of the McLane textile industry, was called Rokeby, after a poem of Sir Walter Scott. It was used by the du Pont Company as its first experimental station. It burned in 1906 and was not replaced.

A characteristic of the early 19th Century industrial scene was the compactness of the community. Close to the mill and the source of its power, the river, were the workers' houses and not far from them the millowner's house. Although these houses have been modified and there are fewer of them, the feeling of the closely grouped homes on the hillside can be found in the Breck's Mill area. Breck's Lane runs into Creek Road, on the west bank of the river. At the north end of this road is the house built by Charles I. du Pont, the only house in this area that is in the Historic American Buildings Survey. On the south end of Creek Road is Hagee's Tavern, the only building left with a commercial function. Breck's Mill area was

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Primary Sources

American Watchman, July 4, 1826, p. 2, col. 3.
 Announcement of sale in du Pont Museum Collection, safe compartment 261.
 Assessment List, Christiana Hundred, 1816, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.
Ibid., 1823.
Delaware Gazette, April 2, 1816, p.3, col. 4.
Ibid., Feb. 26, 1822, p.3, col. 2.
Ibid., Feb. 21, 1823, p. 3, col. 4.

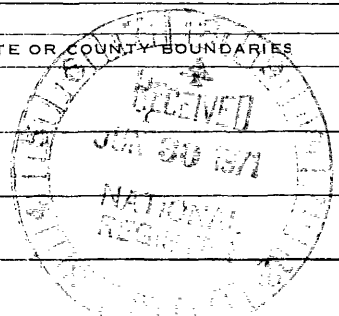
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	39° 46' 23"	75° 35' 16"				
NE	39° 46' 23"	75° 34' 38"				
SE	39° 46' 03"	75° 34' 38"				
SW	39° 46' 03"	75° 35' 16"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 96

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Eleanor M. Webster, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Tri-County Conservancy of the Brandywine, Inc.** DATE: **August 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 141

CITY OR TOWN: **Chadds Ford** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Lea McKie*
 Title: Historic Registrar, State Liaison Officer
 Date: June 28, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 NOV 5 1971

ATTEST:
W. Bradford
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: Oct 26, 1971

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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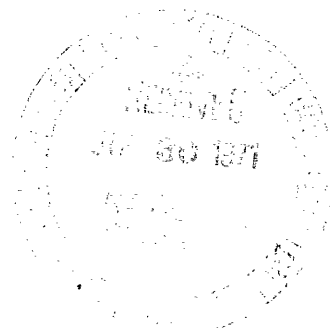
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle	
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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd.)

known as Henry Clay Village, named for the statesman who championed higher tariffs and was a hero of mill areas. This village was complete with hotel, railway station, post office, store, cooperage, and tavern.



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (cont'd.)

Primary Sources

Documents relative to the manufactures in the United States, collected and transmitted to the house of Representatives, in compliance with a Resolution of January 19, 1832 by the Secretary of the Treasury. (2 vols. Washington, D.C., 1833), II, 796-797.

Laws of Delaware, IX, 395 and 399. (Incorporation that shows what buildings were on property.)

New Castle County Deed Record A-5-359.

Ibid., Record V-4-272.

Ibid., Record C-5-245.

Old Stone Office Records-Wool, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library, Greenville, Wilmington, Delaware. Contains correspondence of Charles I. duPont too numerous to list.

Rokeby Manufacturing Company, Miscellaneous Petitions, 1841, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.

Maps & Surveys

Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 1941.

Mill Sites May c.1822. Now in the rare-book room of the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library, Greenville, Delaware.

New Castle County Regional Planning Commission, "Historic Buildings and Areas, A County Comprehensive Development Plan Background Study." County Engineering Building, Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington, Delaware.

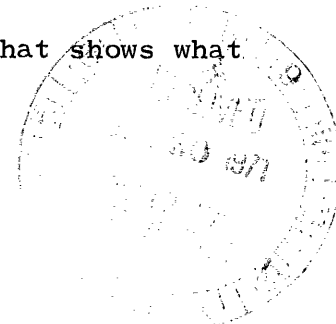
Rea and Price, "Plan of the City of Wilmington, Brandywine Hundred, and Christiana Hundred." Smith & Wiston, Philadelphia, 1849.

Secondary Sources

Bennett, George Fletcher, Early Architecture of Delaware, Historical Press, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware, 1932.

Canby, Henry Seidel, The Brandywine, Farrar & Rinehart, New York, 1941.

Eckman, Jeanette, et al., Delaware, A Guide to the First State, Federal Writers's Project of the Work's Progress Administration, Viking, New York, 1938.



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (cont'd.)

Henry, Allan J., The Life of Alexis Irene duPont, Vol. II, William F. Fell Co., Philadelphia, 1945.

Marquis, James, Alfred I. duPont, The Family Rebel, Bobbs-Merrill, New York, 1941.

Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Delaware, 1609-1888, 2 Vols., Richards & Co., Philadelphia, 1888.

Zebley, Frank R., Along the Brandywine, Wilmington, Delaware, 1940.

Unpublished Manuscripts

Boatman, Roy M., "The Brandywine Cotton Industry, 1795-1865," Eleutherian Mills Hagley Foundation, Research Paper, 1957.

Gibson, George H., "The Delaware Woolen Industry," Eleutherian Mills Hagley Foundation, Research Paper, 1963.

Hancock, Harold, "The Industrial Worker Along the Brandywine," in three parts 1800-1840; 1840-1870; 1870-1902. Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation Research Report, Greenville, Delaware, 1967.

Hartman, Thomas B., "The DuPont Woolen Venture," Eleutherian Mills Hagley Foundation, Research Paper, 1955.

Silliman, Charles A., "A Mill in Henry Clay Village," Wilmington, Delaware, 1967.



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Delaware	
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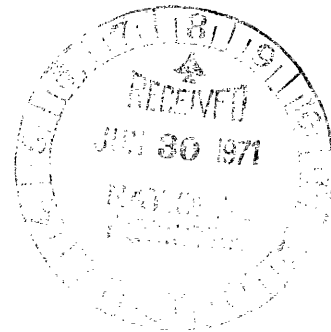
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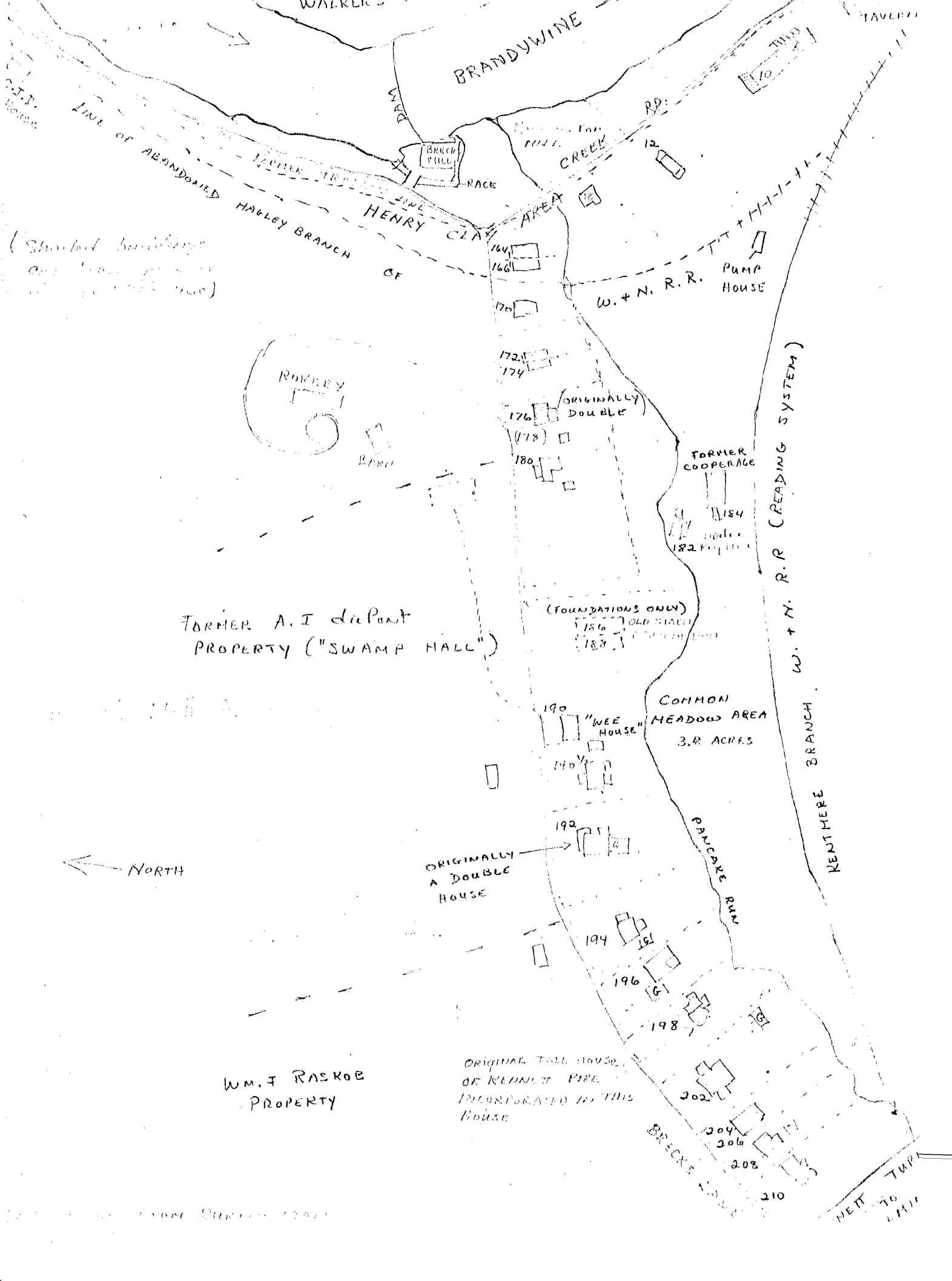
Breck's Mill Area--Description--2

On the garden facade, or river side, two Ionic columns support a pediment with center window. The house is three stories on this side, with bays extending two stories in height. The plan of the house remains basically the same with kitchen in the basement. Another living wing has been recently extended on the North end. Many original details remain such as the attractive single leaderhead with star design and downspout in the South end of the house; also a fine floral motif of plaster cornice running through both front parlors. Close to the South of the house is the handsome rubble stone barn, measuring 60 feet by 40 feet and mentioned in early documents.

Boundary Description

All that land bounded on the North by Barley Mill Road, on the East by the centerline of Brandywine Creek and by the bridge over Brandywine Creek at Rising Sun Lane, on the South by the Reading Railroad tracks, and on the West by Delaware Routes 52 (Kennett Pike) and 100.





(Sketch of boundaries and buildings as of 1900)

FORMER A.I. duPont PROPERTY ("SWAMP HALL")

← NORTH

W.M.F RASKOB PROPERTY

ORIGINAL TALL HOUSE OF RENNET PIPE INCORPORATED IN THIS HOUSE

W. + N. R. R. (READING SYSTEM)
RENTHERE BRANCH

BRECK'S

NEPT TWP