

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Henry Clay Village Historic District (Breck's Mill Area, Amended)  
other names/site number N-333

2. Location

street & number Kennett Pike, Rising Sun Lane, Breck's Lane, Brandywine River not for publication  
city, town Wilmington vicinity  
state Delaware code DE county New Castle code 003 zip code 19399

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	61	17 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	2	15 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	3	1 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0 objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	66	33 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register unknown

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*[Signature]* \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11/30/87  
Signature of certifying official  
Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

NA \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

*Patrick W. Andrews* \_\_\_\_\_ 1/25/88  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation SEE ATTACHED SHEET

walls

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---

roof

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other

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Henry Clay Village Historic District occupies an area slightly larger than one-half square mile along the Brandywine River in Christiana Hundred, New Castle County at the northwestern border of the City of Wilmington, Delaware. The river provided power for the mills along its banks, and the mills in turn provided employment for the people who lived in the village. The district is almost rural in appearance in contrast to the city and the highly developed suburban areas around it. The district's narrow Main Street follows the curves of the Brandywine and its other two principle streets, Breck's Lane and Rising Sun Lane, rise sharply from the bottom of the valley to the plateau along the Kennett Pike. There are no stores or industries operating in the district today, but a church and school are still active. The majority of the 82 buildings in the district are residential and include small houses built for mill workers and large mansions built for the mill owners. The typical worker's house was a small stone semi-detached house with gable roof. Many of these houses have now been altered to become a single house but alterations have not destroyed their character or removed much of the original fabric. The larger houses of the mill owners and managers range from the simple early nineteenth century house built by Charles I. duPont to the large early twentieth century hosues built by Ernest duPont and William Raskob. Much of the district is heavily wooded, and the nearby Brandywine is one of the region's main scenic attractions. The houses, sites, and structures that remain from the milling days of Henry Clay Village combine with the natural geography of the area to present a reasonably accurate picture of a nineteenth century industrial village.

A large portion of the Henry Clay Village Historic District (#1 through #40 on the accompanying map) was listed in the National Register under the name Breck's Mill area of Henry Clay Village, Rokeby, in 1971. The present nomination adds houses on Rising Sun lane and Kennett Pike which have historically been considered to be a part of Henry Clay Village.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture  
Industry

1812 - 1924

1812-1924

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

NA

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Henry Clay Village Historic District is a revision of what was originally called the Brecks Mill/Henry Clay District. The original nomination included open space where there are now modern buildings; it did not include all of the area now generally considered to be Henry Clay Village. Therefore, the present nomination realigns the boundaries and also includes an inventory. The name Henry Clay Village Historic District now seems more appropriate as a name for the district than the old name which was Breck's Mill Area (and/or historic: Henry Clay Village, Rokeby). The present nomination includes the residences and other buildings that were originally part of a nineteenth century industrial village located along the Brandywine River on the western border of Wilmington, Delaware. The village continued to house industrial workers as well as mill owners through the early decades of the twentieth century when the Du Pont Company moved into its new corporate headquarter in downtown Wilmington. Early residents of the village worked for the nearby mills, which had started as textile mills and eventually became a part of the original Du Pont black powder operation. The mill owners built houses here for their workers, yet this was not a planned company town; many villagers operated taverns, stores, and other small businesses. This group of well-preserved early industrial workers' homes, mixed with a few mill-owners residences and other buildings, is one of the few remaining examples of early industrial villages in America. It is also the only large group of extant workers' houses that remains from the early days of E. I. Du Pont de Nemours and Company. Therefore, the Henry Clay Village is significant under Criterion A because of its association with nineteenth century and early twentieth century American industry. Its period of significance extends to 1924. It was that year that the local post office was closed and the village lost its formal identity. The village includes the residences built exclusively to house the industrial workers, as well as the homes of the ill owners and members of the Du Pont family. A few buildings exhibit high architectural styles, but most are vernacular expressions of several popular styles and exhibit the construction skills of the industrial worker. Together they represent a distinguishable entity: the industrial vllage. Therefore, Henry Clay Village is also significant under Criterion C.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 110 (96 in original district) (41 acres of original district have been removed)

UTM References

A                  
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B                  
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Priscilla Thompson  
 organization The History Store date Sept 86 and Sept 87  
 street & number P. O. BOX 207 telephone 302-654-1727  
 city or town Wilmington state DE zip code 19899

12/14/87

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NRIS DATA

Henry Clay Village Historic District

FUNCTION

Historic

Domestic/multiple dwelling  
Domestic/single dwelling  
Commercial/restaurant  
Industry/manufacturing facility  
Religion/religious structure  
Education/school  
Transportation

Current

Domestic/single dwelling  
Domestic/multiple dwelling  
Recreation/museum  
Education/school  
Religion/religious structure

DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification

Mid-19th Century  
Late Victorian  
Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals

MATERIALS

Foundation - granite  
Walls - granite  
Roof - asphalt  
Other - wood

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Henry Clay Village Historic District occupies about one half a square mile on the northwest border of the city of Wilmington, Delaware. It lies along the Brandywine River at a point where the banks rise steeply on both sides. Main Street or Henry Clay Road curves along the river bank at the bottom of the valley. The other two streets which are roughly at the northwest and southeast boundaries of the district, Breck's Lane and Rising Sun Lane, rise sharply to a plateau above the river valley. These are both old roads and still rise at a steep grade with curves. Kennett Pike which forms most of the southwest boundary of the district is a numbered four lane route from Wilmington to Pennsylvania. Houses and other buildings in the village are scattered along these roads. The area between these roads also rises sharply from the river valley, is rocky, and in sections is heavily wooded. Pancake Run, a tiny stream, also runs through the district roughly parallel to the lower end of Breck's Lane and a short distance east of it.

Although the district is not a large one, much of the area between the roads is inaccessible. It is occupied by a few private houses on large lots. A railroad, no longer operating, also cuts through the district; this is the former Wilmington and Northern Railroad. Today its most interesting feature is probably the tunnel or enclosure that was built to hide the railroad from houses above it. The outside of this enclosure is intended to blend with the natural landscape and gardens.

The largest number of houses in the district are on the south side of Breck's Lane, the west side of Main Street, and the east side of the lower end of Rising Sun Lane. This is where the former mill workers' houses are concentrated. The houses were built in the nineteenth century by the mill owners for rental to their workers. Even today, many are still owned by descendants of those owners.

The typical mill worker's house in Henry Clay Village was a two and a half story, two bay wide, semi-detached stone house. (#27 through #30) Some of the houses appear to be built of random fieldstone, but the

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stone was probably cut from quarries along the Brandywine. The Brandywine granite is a dense dark grey and appears in houses, mills, and stone walls throughout the area. Other workers' houses, similar in size and style were finished in stucco or wood siding. The houses were generally built by employees of the mills, and the workmanship is good.

Life in Henry Clay Village has been the topic of much research at the nearby Hagley Museum, and there is a considerable amount of information available on workers' housing and material possessions. The house interiors were evidently fairly similar - simple, but adequate. Most of the houses apparently had two rooms on each floor and in the early days had fireplaces which were replaced by stoves as the years passed. Many of the houses had porches on the front, some of which still exist. There was originally a privy in the back and of course, there was no electricity in the early days.

The fronts of the houses built for workers are all fairly near the street, but most do have open space at the rear. All accounts of early life in Henry Clay Village agree that the residents had their own vegetable gardens and often raised some cows or chickens, too. Although there were once many more houses than are standing today, the fact that the existing workers' houses could be adapted to modern residences indicates that the construction was good and that they were basically comfortable.

The mill owners' houses were larger and more elegant than the workers' houses and the differences became more pronounced with the passing years. Charles I. du Pont's house on Main Street, built in 1823, is a stone and stucco house in style similar to the workers' houses and only slightly larger. It is a simple rectangular house with gable roof and front porch. In fact, the house was actually divided to become two workers' houses after Charles moved to Louviers. Rokeby, on the hill overlooking the Brandywine, was built slightly later. It is not only further from the mills, it is larger, and incorporates more classical detail in its entry and two story portico.

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As the milling activity in Henry Clay Village changed from a mixture of cotton and other products to the exclusive manufacture of black powder, the Du Pont Company purchased nearly all the land in the village. Younger members of the du Pont family gradually began to build houses that were much larger than those of the earlier mill owners. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the du Pont family grew rich as the company expanded. Their houses reflected this increased wealth as well as the fashions of the time.

There were several large du Pont houses in the late nineteenth century that no longer exist. Foundations, stone walls, garden remnants, and outbuildings are all that remain of Pierre du Pont's St. Amours, Swamp Hall, and the first Felix du Pont house. Although the main house has been demolished, St. Amours' large garage/carriage house and the remains of its formal gardens are enough to indicate how large and grand the main house was.

The Ernest du Pont house (#49) was remodelled in the Spanish Colonial style by the Philadelphia architect Robson Lea Perot in 1916. It still stands on the Kennett Pike with its swimming pool in the basement and green house and chemistry lab in adjacent buildings. The organ and some other fittings are gone, but this large house is basically intact. The William Raskob house (#10), a large brick house built in about 1920 is also standing and is used by the Raskob Foundation.

Because Henry Clay Village was an industrial village and not a company town, there have always been a few privately owned houses that belonged to people who were not connected with the mills. At the upper end of Breck's Lane are several houses that are larger than the average worker's house. Here, for instance, lived Dr. Greenleaf, the village physician. Four fully detached houses near Greenhill Presbyterian Church were homes for the minister, John Wood, the local druggist, and others who did not work in the mills.

There are also several buildings that are used for houses today, but which were originally used for commercial



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purposes. In the nineteenth century, commercial buildings, especially in rural areas, were similar in style to residential buildings. Toy's Tavern (#34), Hagee's Tavern and general store (#37) and Blakeley's Tavern (#42) are all private residences today. Hagee's, a fully detached stone building, is somewhat larger than the average worker's house, but Toy's and Blakeley's could easily pass for pairs of workers' houses.

Additional buildings not built for residences include Breck's Mill (#3) which stands on the banks of the Brandywine. This stone mill with its tower at the north end was a cotton mill and eventually became a recreational center for the Du Pont Company. The one church in Henry Clay Village Historic District is the Greenhill Presbyterian Church (#51) in gothic style. A small and rather simple building on Dorcas Street (#66) served as a school, but is now a private house. The Alexis I. du Pont School, Richardson Romanesque in style was built in 1893 and faces the Kennett Pike.

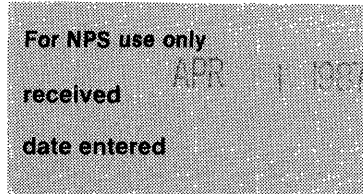
There is sufficient room around even the smaller houses for gardening, and landscaping is quite extensive around the larger houses. Two of the large houses still have greenhouses, and a large portion of the formal garden of St. Amours still remains. There are very few incompatible intrusions into the district. The most notable is the Tower Hill Field House, a large rectangular building on the former grounds of St. Amours. The other non-contributing buildings are modern garages and houses.

Hagley Museum has already undertaken some archaeological investigations on nearby property, and it is not known whether they have similar plans for this area. However, the foundations of Swamp Hall, the gardens and grounds of St. Amours, and the site of former workers' houses along the Brandywine probably offer additional archaeological opportunities.

Almost without exception, the buildings in Henry Clay Village Historic District are in excellent physical condition. The district is a very desirable residential area today. There are modern additions on most of the

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former workers' houses, and the paint and trim on the exteriors may be fancier than it was originally. However, the character of the houses is generally unchanged, and much of the original fabric remains. Some of the resources within the district are foundations and ruins as noted in the inventory. The influence of nearby Hagley Museum and its restoration and research projects has certainly helped to encourage the proper preservation of Henry Clay Village.

The present nomination includes the area along Breck's Lane and Main Street (#1 through #40 on the accompanying map) that was nominated to the National Register in 1971 under the name Breck's Mill Area or Henry Clay Village, Rokeby. That nomination also included the area northwest of the district which is now the site of the Columbia Gas Company. That nomination did not include the houses on Rising Sun Lane and Kennett Pike (#41 through #68).

A complete inventory follows:

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1. 162 Main Street -- Charles I. du Pont House. This two and a half story random fieldstone house is four bays wide. It has a gable roof with ridge line parallel to the street, and a one story porch with shed roof crosses the facade. A gable roofed hood tops the entrance at the south end of the house. Two gable roofed dormers project from the roof. The house was built in 1823 by Charles I. du Pont, son of Victor du Pont. It was later made into two houses for rental to mill workers. Although the house now stands alone there were additional workers' houses near it in the nineteenth century. This building is also included in the Walker's Mill Historic District and in the Hagley Historic District. Built 1823. 1 Contributing building.
2. Vacant lot along bank of Brandywine River. n/c site (may have archaeological significance, as untested industrial site)
3. Breck's Mill -- This is a three and a half story rectangular shaped mill building of random fieldstone. It has a steep pitch gable roof of which the ridge line is parallel to Main Street. The side facing Main Street is five bays wide and the ends are two bays wide with twelve over twelve double hung wooden sash windows. A rectangular tower rises from the ground to one story above the roof at the upstream end of the building. Built in the early nineteenth century by Louis McLane and his partner, George Milligan, this was originally a textile mill. In 1839 Charles I. du Pont became the owner of the mill which he used for woolen manufacture until he transferred it to the Du Pont Company in the 1850s. The Company then rented it to various mill operators until 1883 when it became a recreation center. It has been restored by its present owner, Eleutherian Mills Hagley Foundation, and is used by Hagley Museum for special events. Built 1814-15. 1 Contributing Building.

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4. Site of Rokeby Mill. Rokeby Mill purchased by Louis McLane in the early nineteenth century is no longer standing. It is now a parking lot. 1 Non-Contributing Site.
5. Rokeby -- This Greek Revival 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 onto a porch with a two story portico overlooking the Brandywine. This portico measures nine feet by 34 feet nine inches. It was enlarged by Alice du Pont Wilson in 1911. This information is taken from an earlier National Register Nomination because the house is not accessible. Rokeby was built in 1836 for Gabrielle Josephine du Pont who married William Breck. Family tradition states that it was to be a copy of Louviers, another du Pont family house on the opposite side of the Brandywine. An error in measurement made Rokeby smaller than Louviers. Rokeby has been the home of several members of the du Pont family. Built 1836. 1 Contributing building.
6. 175 Breck's Lane -- This is a large building is built on the stone foundations of the Rokeby barn. 1 Non-Contributing Building.
7. Site of Swamp Hall -- Only a few of the foundations of the house are now visible. This was a three and a half story house, enlarged to a six bay facade with cross gable at the roof and a one story porch across the facade. The original house was built very early in the nineteenth century, perhaps by Louis McLane when he purchased Rokeby Mill. It became the home of Eleuthere Irene duPont II and of his son, Alfred

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- I. du Pont. Swamp Hall was demolished in 1913.  
1 Non-Contributing Site.
8. 191 Breck's Lane -- This is a brick two and a half story house three bays wide with gable roof. The windows hold six over one double hung sash and have brick relieving arches above them. A white gate stands at the walkway to the house, and the main entrance in the central bay is within a hip roofed entry porch. Built early 20th century. 1 Contributing Building.
9. 183A Breck's Lane -- This is a one and a half story white bungalow in typical bungalow style with a large dormer and porch on the facade which faces Breck's Lane. Built about 1925. 1 Contributing Building.
10. 183 Breck's Lane -- Raskob House, Intersection of Breck's Lane and Kennett Pike -- This large brick house sits diagonally on a large lot at the intersection of Breck's Lane, Kennett Pike, and Montchanin Road. In the Classical revival style of the 1920s, its most distinctive feature is a large semi-circular porch lined with columns on what appears to be the facade. A hip roof covers each section of the house and dentils line the roof cornice. The multi-paned windows, many with keystones above, are among the many twentieth century adaptations of classical motifs which adorn the building. A large garage/utility building/ greenhouse stands between the house and Breck's Lane. This was the home of William F. Raskob, Secretary of E. I. Du Pont Company and brother of John J. Raskob, Vice President of the company. Built 1920. 2 Contributing Buildings.
11. 210 Brecks Lane -- This random fieldstone house is two and a half stories high and three bays wide with steep gable roof. A central entrance has one bay wide entrance porch, The windows are eight over one double hung wooden sash. There is a small garage at the side. Dr. R. P. Greenleaf, the physician of Henry Clay Village lived at this

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- location from 1868 until the 1890s. It is uncertain whether any of the existing house was that of Dr. Greenleaf. Probably built early 1800s. 1 Contributing building. 1 Non-contributing building.
12. 208 Brecks Lane -- The main block of this two and a half story white clapboard house is three bays wide, and it has a gable roof with ridge line parallel to street. The windows are two over two double hung wooden sash with panelled shutters on the first floor and louvered blinds on the second. On the downhill side there is a one bay wide ell that is open on bottom to form an entrance porch. Probably built early 1800s. 1 Contributing Building.
13. 206 Breck's Lane -- This semi-detached brick house is two bays wide and has a steep pitch gable roof with gable end toward the street. All windows are six over one double hung sash except one; it is in a slate-filled gabled pediment and has an arched upper sash. A porch across the facade has square fluted columns and a balustrade with square wooden balusters. Probably built late nineteenth century. 1 Contributing Building.
14. 204 Breck's Lane -- This semi-detached brick house is two bays wide and has a steep pitch gable roof with gable end toward the street. All windows are six over one double hung sash except one; it is in a slate-filled gabled pediment and has an arched upper sash. A porch across the facade has square fluted columns and a balustrade with square wooden balusters. Probably built late nineteenth century. 1 Contributing Building.
15. 202 Brecks Lane -- This is a three bay wide two and a half story white stucco house of vernacular Greek Revival style with small windows on the third floor. The ridge line of the gable roof is parallel to the street, wood double hung sash

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- windows have six over six lights, and there is a small shed roof entrance porch enclosing the main front door on the downhill side. There is also a one story three car garage. Built mid-nineteenth century. 1 Contributing building. 1 non-contributing building.
16. 198 Breck's Lane -- This is a two and a half story random fieldstone house with steep pitch gable roof. The gable end of the roof faces the street. The windows are double hung six over six sash. An ell extends downhill perpendicular to the main block. The ell has a gable roof and a shed roofed entrance porch. This section and another one bay wide ell which is smaller are covered with clapboards. According to an earlier National Register Nomination form, the old toll house which originally stood at the corner of Breck's Lane and the Kennett Pike is now a part of this house. There is also a garage on the property. Original structure built early 1800s. 1 Contributing building, 1 non-contributing building.
17. 196 Brecks Lane -- This is a three bay wide house of dressed fieldstone. It is two and a half stories high with a steep pitch gable roof with its ridge line parallel to the street. A shed roof across most of the first floor facade covers the main entrance. The house has a small two story wing at the rear and a separate garage with pyramidal roof. Built mid 1941. 2 non-contributing buildings.
18. 194 1/2 Breck's Lane -- This three bay wide, two and a half story brick house has a high gable roof with ridge line parallel to the street. Two gable roofed dormers on the front have wooden pediments and their sides are covered with slate. Slate shingles cover all roofs. The windows are six over one double hung wooden sash. The main entrance in the center of the facade has a gable roofed entrance porch with a fanlight in the

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- pediment. Garages are in a wing on the uphill side of the house. Built early 20th century. 1 Contributing building.
19. 192 Breck's Lane -- The main block of this yellow clapboard house is four bays wide. It has a low pitch gable roof with ridge line parallel to the street. The windows contain six over six double hung wooden sash and all have shutters. A one story porch extends across the first floor on the side facing Breck's lane and continues around one side of the house. The porch has a shed and hip roof supported on square chamfered posts with lacy openwork brackets at the tops of posts. The brackets extend below the roof cornice to meet in a shallow arch between the posts. The porch also has a wooden balustrade. An ell extends to the rear of the house. Probably built early 1800s. 1 Contributing Building.
20. 190 1/2 Breck's Lane -- This brick house is two and a half stories high and has a gable roof with ridge line parallel to street. It is three bays wide and has eight over one double hung wooden sash in the windows. A one bay wide gable roofed entrance porch is now enclosed with glass. There is a one car garage. Built early 20th century. 1 Contributing building. 1 non contributing building.
21. 190 Breck's Lane -- This small house is part random fieldstone and part brick, and a vertical seam in the center of the facade indicates that the house was built in two stages. The house is one and a half stories high with a gable roof from which two gable roofed dormers project. All windows contain six over six double hung wooden sash. There is a separate garage and utility building at the side. Built early nineteenth century. 1 Contributing building. 1 Non-contributing building.
22. Lane leading to railroad track.  
non-contributing site.



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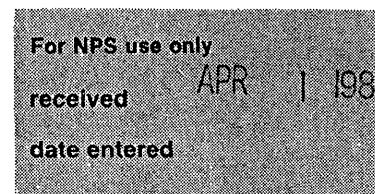
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23. Vacant lot behind house # 11-20, non-contributing site
24. 184 Breck's Lane -- This is apparently an old mill site on Pancake Run. The building standing on the site today is relatively modern, but stands on an old stone foundation. The main section is a six bay one and a half story rectangular section with gable roof and two chimneys. There is a smaller section, similar in shape, but only two bays wide. 1 Contributing Building.
25. Vacant lot on Breck's Lane beside lane to the mill site. Non-contributing site.
26. 180 Brecks Lane -- This is a two and a half story grey wooden clapboard house. The ridge line of its gable roof is parallel to the street. The facade is four bays wide and the clapboards are somewhat rough, especially on the sides. The windows have small wooden lintels and contain double hung wooden sash with six over nine lights on the first floor and six over six lights on the second floor. There are panelled shutters on the first floor and louvered blinds on the second. A panelled entrance door has a fanlight above it. A two story wind extends at the rear and a one story garage has also been added to the main block. According to the Hagley Walking tour, this was originally built as two semi-detached houses which workers rented from mill owners. Other sources say the house belonged to the operator of the mill on Pancake Run. Built early nineteenth century. 1 Contributing building (were originally two). (duplex)
27. 176 Breck's Lane -- This two and a half story four bay wide house of random fieldstone has a shed roofed porch across the first floor facade. The windows contain double hung wooden sash with a variety of numbers of lights. The main entrance is a heavy panelled door at the end of the facade. Two dormer windows with gable roofs face Breck's Lane. This was originally a pair of

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- workers' houses. Built early nineteenth century.  
1 contributing building (was originally two)(duplex)
28. 172 Breck's Lane -- This is a pair of semi-detached random fieldstone houses. Although they are listed as one address and are on one lot, they are still two houses. They are two and a half stories high with gable roof with ridge line parallel to street. Two gable roofed dormers face the street, and a small shed roofed porch with wooden balustrade covers the main entrance doors. These houses were originally built for mill workers. Built early nineteenth century. 1 Contributing Building
29. 170 Breck's Lane -- This is a two and a half story random fieldstone house with gable roof with ridge line parallel to street. Two gable roof dormers face Breck's Lane and a one story porch with shed roof is in the center bay of the facade. The roof is supported by square chambered posts and there is no balustrade. Originally, this was a pair of houses built for mill workers. Built early nineteenth century. 1 Contributing Building (originally two). (duplex)
30. 164-166 Breck's Lane -- This is a pair of two and a half story semi-detached houses covered with green siding. The gable roof has a ridge line parallel to the street, and two gable roofed dormers project from it. A screened porch in the first floor central bays has a balustrade with thick square balusters and a roof supported on square chamfered posts. A short run of wooden steps with wood handrail goes from street to porch. This pair of houses was built for mill workers. Built nineteenth century. 1 Contributing building
31. Vacant Lot includes much of Pancake Run. non-contrib. site
32. 18 Main Street -- This is a white stucco house, two and a half stories high. Its gable roof has

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- a ridge line parallel with the street. The house has a very high foundation which lifts it above the level of Pancake Run beside it. There are two pairs of windows on the facade, and an ell extends out to the rear with a screen porch overlooking Pancake Run. Built late nineteenth or early twentieth century. 1 Contributing building.
33. 12 Main Street -- This is a two and a half story brick house, four bays wide with one two window gable roofed dormer. The house has a gable roof with ridge line parallel to street. A shed roofed porch crosses the first floor facade and the roof is supported by chamfered posts on brick piers. There are open brackets at the top of the posts. Built late nineteenth or early twentieth century. 1 Contributing building.
34. 6 Main Street -- This now appears to be a pair of semi-detached houses. The one at the west or upstream side has new siding. The other one is of random fieldstone and is three bays wide with gable roof. These houses have very high foundations and are built into the bank which rises steeply behind them. The fieldstone house was originally Toy's Tavern which operated here from the 1860's to 1919. It was operated by Thomas Toy who had a saloon on the first floor and a grocery store on the second floor. Built early nineteenth century. 1 Contributing building.
35. Vacant Lot between Toy's Tavern and Hagee's on Main Street. non-contributing site.
36. Vacant Lot next to the river along the Brandywine. non-contributing site. (may have archaeological significance as industrial site but is untested.)
37. 2 Main Street -- This is Hagee's Tavern, a three and a half story four bay wide random fieldstone building with gable roof with ridge line parallel to street. The door in the central bay of the ground level has a wooden frontispiece entrance

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- and recessed door. Most of the windows are six over six lights in wooden double hung sash. There are brick chimneys at both ends of the roof. This served as a general store for the last half of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century. It was also where the Henry Clay Village Post office was located from 1911 to 1924. After the last store closed in 1933 it became a tavern and it is now a private residence. 1 Contributing Building.
38. Railroad cover or tunnell. This is a stone and concrete structure that covers the railroad forming a walls and roof. It was apparently built to screen the railroad track from view from the house above it and from the outside appears to be a terrace. 1 Contributing structure.
39. Railroad Track. Although the railroad is no longer in operation here this was originally the track of the Wilmington and Northern Railroad that was laid just before the turn of the century. 1 Contributing Structure
40. Vacant Lot with Stone wall at intersection of Rising Sun Lane and Main Street. 1 non-contributing structure.
41. 2005 Rising Sun Lane -- This small three bay wide, two and a half story house of light green stucco has a gable roof with its ridge line parallel to street. It has a chimney at each end of the roof. The house is very close to the railroad track and is reputed to have been at one time the station for the Wilmington and Northern. Built nineteenth century. 1 Contributing building.
42. 2003 Rising Sun Lane -- This is a grey stucco three bay wide, two and a half story house with gable roof. A one story porch with shed roof and wooden balustrade crosses the facade. The main entrance in the central bay is surrounded by a simple Greek Revival frontispiece entrance.

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- Behind the house there is a stone utility building and a modern house. 2 buildings built late nineteenth century, one built late twentieth century. 2 Contributing Buildings. 1 Non contributing building.
43. 1919 Rising Sun Lane -- A large three and a half story brick house, mostly modern, is the main house on this lot. There is also a bungalow on top of the hill overlooking the river. A two and a half story dressed fieldstone house stands near the entrance on Rising Sun Lane. A terrace, balustrade, and other elements from a late nineteenth century or early twentieth century garden are near the main house. Built late nineteenth century to late twentieth century. 2 contributing buildings, 1 contributing structure, 1 non-contributing building (main house)
44. 1915 Rising Sun Lane -- Four bay wide, two and a half story house covered with light blue wooden German siding. The house has a gable roof and one small chimney in the center. A pent roof crosses the facade above the first floor. This was built for mill workers' housing and was probably originally a pair of semi-detached houses. Built in mid nineteenth century. 1 Contributing Buildings (originally two houses, (duplex) plus outbuilding)
45. Tower Hill Field -- This large open space at the intersection of Kennett Pike and Rising Sun Lane is used for athletic fields by the Tower Hill School which is across the street. It is the site of St. Amours, the house built by Pierre S. du Pont in the late 1890s. The house no longer stands, but a terrace, walls, and some other elements remain from the formal gardens which surrounded the house. At the western boundary of the property stands a dressed fieldstone garage or carriage house with a long central section to accommodate six cars. A wing at each end has a one and a half story section with high hip roof. A new rectangular field house with no window

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stands near Rising Sun Lane near its intersection with 19th Street. At the northern end of the property stands a mid-twentieth century one and a half story brick house. North of this house is one and a half story green wooden garage or carriage house. 2 contributing buildings (garages), 2 non-contributing buildings (field house and small modern house) 1 non-contributing site (of St. Amours).

46. 3124 Kennett Pike -- A large modern house stands near the center of this lot. 1 Non-contributing building.
47. Kennett Pike, behind 3124 -- Large early twentieth century English Tudor house. Not visible to surveyor. 1 contributing building.
48. Behind 3124 Kennett Pike - Lot 07030.4 002. Not visible to surveyor. Non-contributing site.
49. 3124 Kennett Pike, house #2 -- The present house is the enlargement and remodelling of a smaller, older house. Today this Spanish Colonial REvival House, two stories high with a pink stucco finish is five bays wide with Spanish tile roof. The central bays project slightly and the main entrance is in the western bay of this section. Two wings extend to the rear; one contains the kitchen and utility rooms and the other contains the music room. The present house is the 1916 design of the Philadelphia architect Robeson Lea Perot (1872-1944). The architect was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania, and was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. Perot also designed the original A. Felix du Pont house of Ernest's father, Francis Gurney du Pont, and created some additions to Winterthur in 1896. A garage and greenhouse stand behind the house and on the western edge of the property is a small square building, once used by Ernest as a

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laboratory. Built about 1900, remodelled 1916.  
3 Contributing buildings.

50. Alexis I. du Pont School -- This public school was built in 1893, largely through contributions of land and money made by the du Pont family. The school itself is in Richardsonian Romanesque style with three large rounded bays facing the Kennett Pike. The main building was originally a rectangular stone building with gable roof with the rounded bays making up the facade. The main entrance is in the middle of the central bay and the entrance doors are behind heavy round arches resting on bulky stone columns of the type made popular by the architect H.H. Richardson. Between the first and second floors are panels of false timbering in the Tudor style. A modern addition at the rear makes the present building more than twice its original size. Built 1893. 1 Contributing building.
51. Greenhill Presbyterian Church -- This simple gothic church in stucco has a central entrance in a tower on the facade. There is a single large gothic window above double red entrance doors. There are two smaller gothic windows above one another higher up in the tower. The tall octagonal spire rises to a peak topped by a weathervane. Large dentils line the gable roof on the facade. There are small buttresses at the corners of the tower and along the sides of the church. The cornerstone of the church was laid on November 15, 1848 and the church was dedicated in 1851. The land was purchased from John Wood who operated a drug store and was the postmaster in Henry Clay Village. A remodelling job in the 1870s added the gable roof, and further renovations in 1897 removed the old box pews and changed the two aisle interior into a single central aisle. In 1936 the present windows were installed to replace stained glass, and the chancel and pulpit were remodelled. A cemetery surrounds the church. One of its interesting graves is that of the "Unknown Drummer Boy

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- 1861-63" who came to the Brandywine area with troops during the Civil War. He was later killed in battle and his body was brought to the Greenhill cemetery for burial. (from Frank Zebley's Churches of Delaware) Church Built 1851. Cemetery probably established about the same time. 1 Contributing Building. 1 Contributing Site.
52. Vacant Lot Lot at east corner of Kennett Pike and entrance to Greenhill Presbyterian Church. non-cont. site
53. 3110 Kennett Pike -- This is a three bay wide stucco house with gable roof with ridge line parallel to the street. It has a sun porch on the front which faces Kennett Pike. Built mid-nineteenth century. There is some confusion in the numbering of this and the following three houses. The numbers on the actual houses are not identical to those in the country assessor's office. However, all are under the same ownership. 1 Contributing building.
54. 3108 Kennett Pike -- This is a three bay wide house which now has aluminium siding, but still retains wood dentils below the cornice on the facade. The ridgeline of the low pitch gable roof is parallel to the street. There are two interior end chimneys and fluted pilasters trim the main entrance. 1 Contributing building.
55. 3106 Kennett Pike -- This five bay wide house has a slightly projecting central pavillion or tower that is one bay wide. The tower projects slightly above the gable roof of the main house and also has a gable roof. Two gable roofed dormers with bargeboards face the street. The house is now covered with aluminium siding, but has wooden lintels. A flat roofed porch at the northwest corner has turned posts, open brackets, and a wood balustrade. A similar porch with a shed roof is also at the northeast corner of the house. At the rear of the house there is a small red, one and a half story barn with board and



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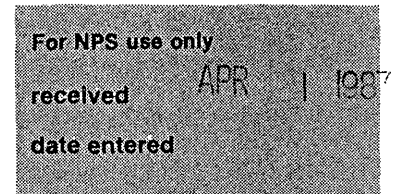
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- batten siding. Built mid-nineteenth century. 2  
Contributing buildings.
56. 3104 Kennett Pike -- This three bay wide, two and a half story house has a central entrance and a cross gable in the center of the gable roof. The cornice is trimmed with scrolled brackets, and a bolection moulding trims the arched top door frame. The wooden door has arched panels at the top and a transom above it. A porch with a flat roof crosses the first floor facade. Chamfered posts have open brackets at the top that meet to form shallow arches between the posts. Built mid-nineteenth century. 1 Contributing Building.
57. 1912 Rising Sun Lane -- This is a two and a half story semi-detached house of white stucco. It has a gable roof from which a gable roofed dormer projects. Above the main entrance door there is a hip roofed hood. Built late nineteenth century. 1 Contributing building.
58. 1914 Rising Sun Lane -- This is a two and a half story semi-detached house of white stucco. It has a gable roof from which a gable roofed dormer projects. Above the main entrance door there is a hip roofed hood. Built late nineteenth century. 1 Contributing building.
59. 1916 Rising Sun Lane -- Two and a half story brown stucco house with gable roof. The house is two bays wide and there is a one bay wide shed roof porch over the main entrance. Built late nineteenth century. 1 Contributing building.
60. 1918 Rising Sun Lane -- Two and a half story brown stucco house with gable roof. The house is two bays wide and there is a one bay wide shed roof porch over the main entrance. Built late nineteenth century. 1 Contributing building.
61. 1920 Rising Sun Lane -- A cross gable with two arched topped windows crosses the gable roof of

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- this two and a half story semi-detached clapboard house. The first and second floor facade windows are two over two double hung wooden sash. The main entrance door and transom above it share a hood with the adjoining house. Built late nineteenth century. 1 Contributing building.
62. 1922 Rising Sun Lane -- A cross gable with two arched topped windows crosses the gable roof of this two and a half story semi-detached clapboard house. The first and second floor facade windows are two over two double hung wooden sash. The main entrance door and transom above it share a hood with the adjoining house. Built late nineteenth century. 1 Contributing building.
63. Vacant lot between 1922 and 1926 Rising Sun Lane.non-con. sit
64. 1926 Rising Sun Lane -- This fully detached gothic or "picturesque" house with rough brown stucco finish is two and a half stories high with a cross gable in the center. A classical pediment and pilasters frame the main entrance and scrolled brackets trim the roof cornice. A one story porch with flat roof and wooden balustrade crosses the north side of the house. Built late nineteenth century. 1 Contributing building.
65. 1930 Rising Sun Lane -- White clapboard house four bays wide with gable roof and interior end chimneys. This appears to have been a pair of houses built for mill workers. Built mid-nineteenth century. 1 Contributing Building (originally two) (duplex)
66. 2020 Dorcas Street -- This three bay wide yellow stucco house is two and a half stories high with a low pitch gable roof. It is three bays wide and has an entrance porch with pediment in the central bay. This was originally a school and shows on the 1868 and 1881 maps as a school. It was later used by social clubs and is now a private residence. Built mid-nineteenth century. 1 Contributing Building.

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67. 1913 Dorcas Street -- Both of a pair of two and a half story houses seem to be listed at this one street number. They sit on a very high foundation with porches across the first floor facades. Each house is two bays wide and has a gable roof; one has wooden stairway leading up to the porch and wooden handrail across across the porch. Built mid-nineteenth century. 2 Contributing Buildings.
68. 1907 Dorcas Street -- This is a two and a half story tan stucco house, two and a half stories high with a gable roof. It also appears to have originally been a pair of semi-detached houses. In front of the house is a flat roofed stone garage for six cars. Built late nineteenth and early twentieth century. 2 Contributing Buildings.
69. Gardens of St. Amours -- A substantial remnant of the gardens that were once a part of St. Amours remain including a fountain, stone walls, portion of the rose gardens, and pathways. The gardens were undoubtedly altered over the years, and the earliest photographs of the house show little landscaping. The earliest date of the garden plan is unknown, but in 1915 Marion C. Coffin, landscape architect of New York made a plan including rose gardens, a garden house, and other features. This plan is in the collections of the Hagley Museum. It is asymmetrical with a curving drive and with gardens at various angles from the main house. The overall plan of the gardens reflects the English tradition (as it followed Capability Brown) as it was altered in colonial America. It also reflects the influence of the landscape architects who were followers of Frederick Law Olmsted who believed that the landscaping plan should be governed by the natural contours of the land. 1 Contributing Site (Gardens)

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Henry Clay Village Historic District includes Henry Clay Village which takes its name from the U.S. senator, secretary of state, and presidential candidate who championed what he called "The American System." Clay was a proponent of protective tariffs and other government policies that would protect American industry from foreign competition. As David A. Hounshell points out in From the American System to Mass Production, 1800-1832 the American system has also come to mean the manufacturing method that includes a series of operations producing interchangeable parts.

Henry Clay visited the Wilmington area several times, and the mill that is now within the Hagley Museum property was given his name in about 1843.<sup>2</sup> Within a few years a post office had opened, and the area became known as Henry Clay Village. The earlier name for the area, Rising Sun, remained only as a street name. As the years passed, the area also became known as Du Pont's Banks or Brandywine Banks; this was the name used in the 1880 census, for instance. However, even today, Henry Clay Village is the locally accepted name for this area.

Henry Clay Village borders the Brandywine River about three miles northwest of central Wilmington. Early in the nineteenth century the fast flowing Brandywine provided power for many mills. The earliest large cluster of Wilmington mills was located further downstream in Brandywine Village, where the Brandywine rapids met the head of navigation. There the river powered eighteenth-century flour mills, whose product sailing vessels carried to distant ports. Gradually other mills developed further upstream along the river that produced snuff, cotton, woolen, and black powder. In the early nineteenth century, before the city of Wilmington had expanded to its present western boundary, small industrial villages tended to cluster around these mill sites. Along the Brandywine there were no planned company towns like Lowell, Massachusetts. Although the Brandywine manufacturers built housing for their workers, they did not plan the entire community, which often came to include independently operated stores and taverns as well as a few privately owned houses.<sup>3</sup>

The industrial villages along the Brandywine were located in rural settings. Their proximity to the river and

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their location on the Brandywine's steep banks has made them desirable housing in the post-industrial age. Therefore, most of the houses in these villages have been altered, expanded, or demolished for modern dwellings. Henry Clay Village is unusual in that although there have been alterations, the buildings retain much of their original fabric, and there is very little new housing in the district.

The mills were the most important buildings in Henry Clay Village, for without them there would have been no reason for the workers to live there. Although all the mills in the Henry Clay area eventually became a part of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours Company, they had been started independently by various owners. Two mills at the foot of Breck's Lane, Breck's Mill and Rokeby Mill, were operated by Louis McLane, the Delaware native who became Secretary of the Treasury and Secretary of State under Andrew Jackson. McLane's partner in this milling venture was his brother-in-law, George Milligan, with whom he purchased Rokeby, a former gristmill, from the heirs of Vincent Gilpin of the Wilmington paper-making family. The owners did not prosper from the operation of Rokeby, but McLane owned it (Milligan left Wilmington) until 1835, when William Breck and his partner Joseph Dixon purchased it.

Shortly after they purchased Rokeby, McLane and Milligan built another cotton mill adjacent to it. That was the present Breck's Mill, which bears the name of William Breck, who purchased it at the time he purchased Rokeby. In 1839 Charles Irene du Pont (1797-1869) acquired Breck's Mill along with Rokeby Mill, and eventually converted both to the manufacture of woolen. Charles was the son of Victor Marie du Pont, brother of Eleuthere Irene du Pont who founded the Du Pont Company. Eleuthere had imported Merino sheep to America and built a house, "Louviers," with a woolen mill beside it for his brother Victor to operate using the wool of the merino sheep. Victor's son Charles was involved in the operation of that mill and apparently expanded his operation with the addition of Rokeby and Breck. Charles' Rokeby Manufacturing Company stopped operating in the 1850s, and he transferred the property to E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company. In 1859 the company leased the mills to James Bond, who operated them for about

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a decade. The firm of Wilson and Green then took the mills over from 1869 to 1877. In 1883 Breck's Mill became a recreation center for local residents. Today it belongs to The Hagley Museum.

Unfortunately, fire destroyed the Rokeby Mill in 1906 after it had been converted into a laboratory, serving as which<sup>5</sup> was the forerunner of the Du Pont Experimental Station. Staarting in about 1815 Breck's and Rokeby operated almost continually as textile mills, providing employment for some village residents for almost sixty five years.

The Henry Clay Mill, now the main exhibit building for the Hagley Museum (and within the Hagley Historic District), stands near the entrance to the lower Hagley yard and was built in about 1815 by Duplanty, McCall and Company, which produced cotton until 1819. Eleuthere Irene du Pont and his brother Victor purchased the mill in 1821 and began a long series of short term leases to operators who had little success with its operation. In 1884 the Du Pont Company began making metal kegs in the old cotton mill. This operation continued until the powder yard closed in 1921. Nevertheless, this mill, too, manufactured textiles for about sixty years.

Two other mills, no longer in existance, also operated in the nineteenth century. The Sharon Cotton Mill produced textiles on Squirrel Run for a few years before 1817 and was later rented to another operator before the Du Pont Company made it into a carpenter shop in 1848. Another mill was a gristmill built in about 1825 by Samuel Kirk. The Du Pont Company purchased it in 1844. The company rented out the mill, and<sup>7</sup> Pyle and McIntyre were operating it when it burned in 1897.

On the opposite side of the river Joseph Sims of Philadelphia built in 1814 the mill today called Walker's Mill. Sims leased the mill to John Siddall and Company, which made cotton fabric. The mill failed once at the end of the War of 1812, and many subsequent operators experienced similar hardships. E. I. du Pont de Nemours acquired the mill in 1843, leasing it to various operators including Joseph Walker, for whom it was named. Three more operators leased the mill, which did not close until 1934 making it the last textile mill to operate in or near Henry

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Clay Village. This mill is now within the Walker's Bank Historic District. The frequent changes in management and business failures suffered by the Henry Clay mills make it clear that textile manufacture was not an easy business there. Consequently, textile workers' jobs must have been somewhat insecure. As mentioned above, the Du Pont Company had acquired all of the Henry Clay Village mills by the middle of the nineteenth century, but they continued to rent them as textile operations for several decades. The reasons for acquisition and rental of the mills by Du Pont are varied. The Du Pont black-powder mills just upstream from Henry Clay Village expanded almost continually during the nineteenth century and there was always a potential danger to surrounding areas from explosions. Some members of the du Pont family thought in 1850 that mills along the Brandywine, including Rokeby and Breck's, should become a part of the Du Pont property because they were so close to it.

However, it appears that the Du Pont Company and family were also purchasing large tracts of land as an investment and for possible future expansion. Nineteenth-century maps clearly show the early expansion of their land holdings. The Price and Rea map of 1849 shows Du Pont lining almost all of both sides of the Brandywine from a point below Rockland to Rising Sun Lane. The Pomeroy & Beers Atlas of 1868 shows the same holdings plus additional lands further from the river banks. By 1881 the Hopkins Atlas indicates that the Du Pont lands extended further upstream along the Brandywine as well as northeast to the present Rockland Road and southwest toward the Kennett Pike. As shown on this map, Du Pont owned the entire tract of land bounded by Brecks Lane, Rising Sun Lane, Main Street, and the Kennett Pike, the major part of the Henry Clay Village Historic District.

The 1893 Baist Atlas shows even further expansion of the Company's holdings to include lands that would eventually become the site of numerous du Pont family mansions. In fact, St. Amours, Pierre S. du Pont's home was by that time standing near the intersection of Rising Sun Lane and Kennett Turnpike. Pierre, who eventually became president of the company and set it on its course toward becoming an international corporation, was aware of the

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intermingling of company and family real estate and other property. In Pierre S. du Pont and the Making of the Modern Corporation the authors wrote:

There had developed a tradition of what might be called "family communism". The firm owned most of the land and the houses in which the du Ponts lived, and accommodations were assigned by Boss Henry, the company president. The firm maintained and improved the properties and charged no rent. Pierre wrote that his father probably did not have a bank account of his own as long as he lived on the Brandywine.

By 1893 the Wilmington Branch of the Wilmington and Northern Railroad, principally owned by Henry A. du Pont, also crossed through this same tract of land. Gradually most of the land, mills, and houses of Henry Clay Village became the property of the Du Pont Company and/or family. They still own much of the land today.

It appears that in the mid-nineteenth century when Du Pont acquired the mills in Henry Clay Village, they were not needed for the powder plant. Therefore, it must have seemed prudent to rent the mills to cotton manufacturers until Du Pont had need for them. This incidentally provided employment for many of the residents of Henry Clay Village, particularly women and children, who were not likely to find employment in the black-powder mills.

Henry Clay Village did not have specific boundaries, and the perception of its area varied from one person to the next. The number of houses in the village also varied from time to time. Walker's Mill and the houses around it were at one time considered to be a part of the village, as were the now-demolished houses in Squirrel Run. Late-nineteenth-century directories also included the houses around Greenhill Presbyterian Church on the west side of the Kennett Turnpike and St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Henry Clay. The Henry Clay Village Historic District includes those houses and other buildings that most sources seem to agree were a part of the original Henry Clay and which are not already included in another historic district, except



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for Breck's Mill and the Charles I. du Pont house, which are also a part of the Hagley Historic District.

Most of the houses in Henry Clay Village were built by mill owners for rental to their workers and were a part of the mill property as it was transferred from one owner to the next. Because the land was transferred in rather large parcels and also because it was transferred back and forth between different branches of the Du Pont Company and the du Pont family, it is difficult to identify positively the dates and origins of all the individual houses. In The Workers World at Hagley Glenn Porter has used the resources and records at the Hagley Museum to present a portrait of the daily lives of workers, including those in Henry Clay, in the nineteenth century. The book also includes a map showing the location of all housing belonging to the Du Pont Company. This is the most valuable source of information on the residents of Henry Clay and other nearby industrial villages.

The workers' houses were generally built as pairs of semi-detached houses or in short rows. Most writings on the subject of workers' housing in the Brandywine River area agree that while the houses were not luxurious, they were reasonably comfortable and offered their occupants adequate living, cooking, and sleeping areas. Although their houses were simple and their working days and weeks were long by modern standards there seems to be little question that living conditions were much better for workers on the Brandywine than in the crowded urban centers of nineteenth century America. In Henry Clay Village the workers had sufficient land around their houses for gardens and to keep a cow and other animals if they wished.

The houses at the lower end of Breck's Lane and on Rising Sun Lane (# 27, 18, 19, 30, 41, 44, 44, 65) give us reasonably accurate pictures of what most of the workers houses were like in size and style. Porter's book includes many quotations from interviews with people who lived in these houses and could describe their interiors:

I'll tell you what the houses were like. Just four walls, no conveniences. They were comfortable. They had privies in the backyard - and they were good substantial houses, good and war. A lot of them had fireplaces in them, and

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then they got stoves, what they used to call "parlor stoves". And the cookstoves in the wintertime, they did the cooking.

There was this great big living room and then what we called the pantry; and the stairway, which was a crooked one, went up out of the pantry. Then on the other side of that there was a great big kitchen which was only one story. My mother had a kitchen stove, a settee, and a big sideboard, about eight or ten chairs, and a bench table. We ate off the table, and our schoolbooks were kept on the seat underneath. Then we had a pair of steps go up the hill in back, and we had a chicken shed"<sup>10</sup>

The furnishings were also simple but apparently adequate for a reasonable amount of comfort. Estate inventories of local residents who worked in the nearby powder yards or mills indicate ownership of tables, chairs, dishes, utensils, and other living room or kitchen items, as well as beds, bed clothing, and other bedroom furnishings. These inventories have been studied by several Hagley scholars and are cited in their writings.<sup>11</sup>

The Pomeroy and Beers Atlas of 1868 shows that the Du Pont Company then owned all of the houses on the lower half of the south side of Breck's Lane and other houses scattered on Rising Sun Lane and the upper part of Breck's Lane. The Hopkins Atlas of 1881 shows additional houses owned by Du Pont. Directories of approximately the same time describe Henry Clay Village P.O. as a large collection of houses, or a thriving manufacturing village populated mostly by workmen of E. I. Du Pont de Nemours & Company's powder works.<sup>12</sup> The directory for 1882 gives the population as about 500.

The manuscript censuses of 1870 and 1880 list the occupation of many of the men of Henry Clay as powder workers, but a large number of women and boys worked in the cotton mills. Village residents also had other occupations. John Wood operated a drug store and was also the postmaster from before 1868 until after 1882. Wood's establishment was on the east side of Main Street between Rising Sun Lane and

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Breck's Lane. Several taverns or hotels played an important role in the social life in Henry Clay Village. Thomas Toy operated The William Penn Hotel in 1879 and his establishment presumably had the same name during the period from 1876 to 1896 when directories listed him as a hotel owner. The Toy establishment was variously referred to as a tavern or saloon and evidently operated near John Wood's drug store on Main Street from before 1868 until well into the twentieth century. At times Toy operated a general store on the second floor while his family lived on the third floor. The building in which it was located is still standing (#34).<sup>13</sup>

There seems never to have been a shortage of hotels, actually taverns or saloons, in Henry Clay. The 1849 Price and Rea Map shows an Inn on the north side of Rising Sun Lane, and later nineteenth-century maps all show hotels in the village. The directory for 1876-77 lists five hotels operated by Thomas Lawless, Charles Dever, Owen McCallion, Thomas Toy, and Charles O'Donnell. Two years later, in the Directory for 1879 the following hotel proprietors and their establishments were listed: Dennis Dougherty, Franklin House; Charles Dever, Rising Sun Hotel; Charles O'Donnell, Rising Sun Hotel No. 1; Thomas Toy, William Penn Hotel. In 1882 Dever, Dougherty, and Toy still operated hotels while O'Donnell was no longer listed as an hotel owner, but Thomas Lawless was added to the list. Fifteen years later, in 1897 Thomas Toy was still the proprietor of the William Penn Hotel, and Thomas J. Lawless was also listed as a hotel owner. New to the tavern business were James Dugan and Webster Blakely. Blakely's near the foot of Rising Sun Lane (#42) lasted into the era of Prohibition. Nearly all writings on Henry Clay Village refer to the taverns as places where the men of the village gathered to talk, sing, argue about politics, fight, and pass the time of day. The last tavern to operate in the village was Hagee's (#37) on the east side of Main Street, south of Toy's. Because the building is still standing and was operated as a tavern until about 1980, many assume that it was one of Henry's Clay's early taverns. However, it served as a general store for the last half of the nineteenth century and also served as the community's last post office from 1911 to 1924.<sup>14</sup>

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As can be imagined, the mill owners, particular black-powder mill owners, did not approve of heavy drinking and the fights and unruly behavior that might result. Therefore, they offered their workers alternative activities for their rather brief leisure hours. Breck's Mill, which had started as a textile mill, became a recreation center starting in 1883. From 1890 to 1923 it housed the Hagley Community House which offered education and recreation for adults and children. <sup>15</sup>

The mill owners, particularly the du Ponts, contributed heavily to the development of churches and schools for their workers and their families. While their activities might be characterized as paternalistic in that it was an effort to direct their employees activities while they were not working, such efforts were generally beneficial and welcomed by the workers. Du Pont had a long tradition of bringing Irish workers to the powder mills. Census records reveal that many of the residents of Henry Clay Village were of Irish birth or were the children of parents born in Ireland. Although Greenhill Presbyterian Church is the only church located within the Henry Clay Village Historic District, the Catholic residents attended nearby St. Joseph's Church, while Mt. Salem Methodist Church, and Christ Church Episcopal served some Protestants.

Many early residents of Henry Clay attended the Brandywine Manufacturers Sunday School established in 1817 within the present Hagley Museum grounds. Saint Joseph's Church established a parochial school in 1850. Other schools included one on Dorcas Street (#66) and the Alexis I. du Pont School on Kennett Pike, built in 1984.

Mill workers and the people whose businesses supplied their daily needs were not the only residents of Henry Clay Village. Dr. R. P. Greenleaf, the local physician, lived at the southeast corner of the intersection of Kennett Turnpike and Breck's Lane from 1868 through the 1890s. Local directories always listed a few farmers and fruit growers in Henry Clay, too.

From very early in the nineteenth century some mill owners also lived near their workers in Henry Clay Village. Charles I. du Pont built a house for himself on the west side of Main Street, north of its intersection with Breck's Lane (#1), in 1823. On the death of his father,

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Charles moved to Louviers, which was further upstream on the east side of the Brandywine. Charles moved only a short time before he purchased the Breck's and Rokeby mills. At that time Charles' house on Main Street was divided into two houses for rental to workers. Other workers' houses that once stood near the Charles I. du Pont house have been demolished.

Another mill owner's house was Rokeby (#5), which stands on the hill behind Charles I. du Pont's house. Rokeby was built in 1836 for Gabrielle Josephine du Pont, Charles's niece, when she married William Breck, who had recently purchased Breck's and Rokeby mills. Family tradition holds that Mrs. Breck wished her house to be a copy of Upper Louviers but that by mistake the inside measurements of Louviers were applied to the outside of Rokeby producing a much smaller house. The Brecks lived at Rokeby until 1859, when Charles I. du Pont, Jr. moved there. After his death other members of the family, including his brother Victor, his sister Mary Van Dyke du Pont, E. Paul du Pont, Henry Belin du Pont, and Dorcas Van Dyke Buck have lived there.<sup>16</sup>

Another owner's house that is no longer standing within the Henry Clay Village Historic District is Swamp Hall (#7), whose foundations can be seen near the north side of Breck's Lane. Built very early in the nineteenth century, perhaps by Louis McLane when he owned Rokeby, it was the home of E.I. du Pont II (1829-1877), grandson of the founder of the company, in 1858. He and his wife both died during the same year leaving their five children as orphans. The children stayed on in the house and one of them, Alfred I., lived there after his first marriage. The house was demolished in 1913.<sup>17</sup>

As noted above, the Du Pont Pont Company expanded its real-estate holdings through the nineteenth century, and until about 1900 houses were built for family members even though ownership of the property was not necessarily turned over to them. A large tract of land between Rising Sun Lane and Breck's Lane became the site for several family residences. St. Amours, a large stone Queen Anne style house with towers and porches was built in 1891 at the northeast corner of the intersection of Rising Sun Lane and the Kennett Turnpike. This was the home of Pierre S. du

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Pont after his graduation from M.I.T. when he returned to Wilmington with his widowed mother and his ten sisters. Although the house is no longer standing, some of the outbuildings and portions of its formal gardens remain (#45). Among the other family houses built in this area were the homes of A. Felix du Pont (1879-1948) and Ernest du Pont (1880-1944), two sons of Francis Gurney du Pont. Felix's house is no longer standing. Ernest's house, originally a fairly simple house that was enlarged by the Philadelphia architect, Robeson Lea Perot in 1916 in the Spanish Colonial Revival style still faces the Kennett Turnpike. (#49). Another large house, built slightly later on the north side of Breck's Lane is that of William F. Raskob, Secretary of E. I. Du Pont Company and brother of John J. Raskob, one of Pierre S. du Pont's most valued and trusted advisors.

The tract of land between Rising Sun Lane and Breck's Lane provided land for other du Pont ventures as well as housing. The Wilmington and Northern Railroad, one of Henry du Pont's holdings, cuts diagonally through it. The track is still in place. Although no longer in use, the road once provided freight and passenger transport through Henry Clay Village. Most accounts of life in Henry Clay Village indicate that the mill workers who lived there only occasionally left the village. However, as early as the 1860s there was streetcar service from Rising Sun Lane to Wilmington.

Almost without exception, the buildings in the Henry Clay Village Historic District are in excellent physical condition. Although some have large additions and alterations for modern living, others are in nearly original condition or have been meticulously restored. There are only a few incompatible intrusions, the new Tower Hill School Field House being the most obvious. Although there is some new construction within the district, it tends to be near the large houses and in compatible scale.

The boundaries of the district are approximately those of the nineteenth century Henry Clay Village. Areas that would have been considered a part of the original village but which have changed radically are excluded from the district. Sections along Dorcas Street and Rising Sun that are now occupied by new townhouses and a new school and

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football field are excluded. The areas to the north and south of the Greenhill Presbyterian Church are excluded because they are now a golf course and a twentieth century housing development. Mt. Salem Church, which would have been a part of the original Henry Clay Village is excluded because it is no longer contiguous with the historic district. Walker's Mill, Henry Clay Mill, and St. Joseph's Church are excluded because the property on which they stand is not contiguous with the district; all three, however, are already listed in the National Register.

There are probably few other areas that contain all the elements of a nineteenth-century industrial village, - mill, workers' houses, owners' houses, school, church, stores, and taverns - in their original setting and in as good original condition as in Henry Clay Village Historic District. There is no other area that contains all of these elements plus the homes of members of the du Pont family that were built as the company expanded to become an international corporation.

Footnotes

Because the original Du Pont Powder Mills are now a part of the Hagley Museum and Library, there has been a great deal of scholarly research done on the early years of the Du Pont Company. Much of that research has been published and much is used as a matter of course in publications about Wilmington and its surroundings. The museum itself is also a valuable resource in presenting and interpreting the early operations of the black powder mills and the life of the workers and owners. Specific sources are cited in the text, the Museum itself is probably the most valuable resource.

1. David A. Hounshell, From the American System to Mass Production, 1800-1832 (Baltimore, 1984) p. 15.
2. William Sisson, "A Mill Village on the Brandywine: Henry Clay Village During the Nineteenth Century", 1980. Unpublished paper at Hagley Library. p. 2
3. Glenn Porter, The Workers World at Hagley (Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, 1981) p.8 outlines the differences between the industrial village and the company town

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4. Sisson p. 9,10; Lamont Hulse, "Workers Communities Along the Brandywine, unpublished manuscript, 1984, Hagley Library, p. 17 and short paper on Breck's Mill; also John A. Munroe, Louis McLane, Federalist and Jacksonian (New Brunswick, 1973) p. 48-50
5. Sisson, p. 9, 10; Hulse, p. 9; du Pont Geneology
6. Sisson p. 3,4
7. Sisson, page 4, 5. This mill also shows as a grist mill on the 1868 Pomeroy and Beers 1868 Atlas
8. Sisson, p. 11
9. Alfred D. Chandler, Jr. and Stephen Salsbury, Pierre S. du Pont and the Making of the Modern Corporation (New York: 1971) p. 6
11. Because Hagley is a center for scholarship of early American industry as well as a library, there are numerous research papers and books based on Hagley's holdings. The above comments are taken from Sisson, p. 12-14
12. Directory of Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland for 1876-77 published by Commercial Printing Company, Wilmington, DE 1876. p. 28; The Delaware State and Peninsula Directory for 1879-1880 published by James & Webb, Wilmington, Delaware, p. 207-208; The Delaware State and Peninsula Directory for 1882 published by Ferris Brothers, Wilmington, Delaware p. 163
13. The above information is taken from directories, maps, atlases and the writings of Sisson and Porter.
14. Information on hotel owners and names from Directories, information on Hagee's last operation from walking tour of Henry Clay Village published by Hagley Museum
15. Walking Tour of Henry Clay published by Hagley Museum



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16. Allen J. Henry. The Life of AlexisIreneee du Pont  
(Philadelphia, 1945) Vol. II, p. 16-17

17. Henry, p. 33

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The best source of information on Henry Clay Village and the surrounding mills and villages is Hagley Museum which through its exhibits, properties, and library on the site of the first Du Pont Powder Mills explains and interprets the life of the mill workers and owners of this area. Specific sources include:

Chandler, Alfred D.Jr. and Salsbury, Stephen. Pierre S. du Pont and the Making of the Modern Corporation. New York: Harper & Row, 1971.

Delaware State and Peninsula Directory for 1879-1880. Wilmington: James & Webb, 1879.

Delaware State and Peninsula Directory for 1882. Wilmington: Ferris Brothers.

Directory of Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland for 1876-77. Wilmington: Commercial Printing Company, 1876.

Henry, Allen J. The Life of Alexis Irene du Pont Philadelphia, 1945.

Hoffecker, Carole E. Wilmington, a Pictorial History. Norfolk, Virginia: 1982

Hounshell, David A. From the American System to Mass Production, 1800-1832. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984

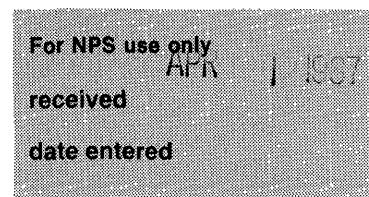
Porter, Glen. The Workers World at Hagley. Wilmington: Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, 1981.

Sisson, William. "A Mill Village on the Brandywine: Henry Clay Village During the Nineteenth Century", 1980. Unpublished paper at Hagley Library.

"Walking Tour of Henry Clay Village" pamphlet published by Hagley Museum.

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Zebley, Frank. Churches of Delaware. Wilmington: 1947.

National Register Nomination of 1971 for Breck's Mill Area

U.S. Manuscript Census, 1880

Pomeroy & Beers Atlas of Delaware, 1868

Hopkins Map of Wilmington, 1881

Price and Rea map of New Castle County, 1849

Baist Atlas of New Castle County, 1893

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The Boundary of the Henry Clay Village Historic District is as shown on the accompanying map: Starting at the northwest corner of the intersection of Breck's Lane and the Kennett Pike following the curb line of Kennett Pike and Montchanin Road to the north boundary of lot 070030.1 016 and then along the northern boundary of lot 070030.1 017 to the point where it meets the boundary of lot 07030.2 002 and following its north and west boundary line until it meets lot 07030.2 001 and following its west and north boundary line to Main Street (or Henry Clay Road) and crossing this road to the bank of the Brandywine River. Then following the river bank south to New Bridge Road, then southwest along the line of New Bridge Road and crossing Main Street to the southwest curb line of Main Street. Then following that curb line of Main Street to the south side of the railroad track where Main Street becomes Rising Sun Lane. Then crossing Rising Sun Lane to the northeast property line of 1930 Rising Sun Lane, then following that property line to Dorcas Lane and following along the rear property line of 2020, 1913 and 1907 Dorcas Lane. Continuing along the south property line of 1907 Dorcas Lane and across Dorcas Lane, then along the rear property lines of 1916 to 1912 Rising Sun Lane; Then crossing Rising Sun Lane and continuing along the curb line on the northwest side of Rising Sun Lane to its intersection with Kennett Pike. Continuing along the curb line on the north side of Kennett Pike and crossing Kennett Pike at 3104 Kennett Pike. Continuing along the southeast property line of that property and then along the rear property lines of the adjoining houses to lot 07030.3 118 (Greenhill Presbyterian Church). Continue around the property line of this lot and along the southeast curb line of the lane leading to Greenhill Presbyterian Church. Cross to the northwest side of Kennett Pike and continue along that curb line to its intersection with Breck's Lane.

The boundary justification is based primarily on the fact that the area within the historic district is the area that was considered to be Henry Clay Village in late nineteenth century directories. The northwest boundary excludes the new Columbia Gas building, but otherwise includes properties and lands that belonged to mill owners and Henry Clay Village residents until early in the twentieth century when the mills ceased to operate. The boundary along the river bank includes one mill and one mill site, but excludes Walkers Mill on the other side of the river. Although it was at one time considered a part of Henry Clay

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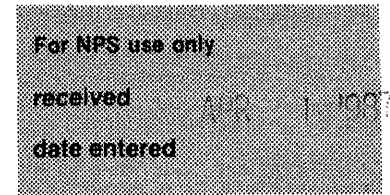
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Village, it is listed on the National Register in two other districts. The southeast boundary includes mill workers' houses and properties of the du Pont Family along Rising Sun Lane. The southwest boundary crosses Kennett Pike to include Greenhill Presbyterian Church and four nineteenth century houses that historically have been considered to be a part of Henry Clay Village. It excludes the twentieth century housing development of Westover Hills and the modern golf course which border these properties. The southwest boundary also includes the properties of the du Pont family and the Alexis I. du Pont school that late nineteenth century directories specifically list as a part of Henry Clay Village. The boundaries exclude St. Joseph's Church properties and Mt. Salem Church because they are no longer contiguous with the district boundaries as outlined even though they were at one time considered to serve the residents of Henry Clay.

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UTM coordinates of original district  
(double letters on USGS map indicate original bounds)  
(original nomination submitted with longitude and latitude)

- AA 18/450430/4402530
- S 18/450370/4402410
- T 18/450570/4402070
- U 18/450560/4402030
- V 18/450610/4401940
- FF 18/449829/4401920
- M 18/449670/4402180
- N 18449670/4402220
- HH 18/449660/4402500

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UTM coordinates of district as amended

UTM REFERENCES

A	18/450670/4401920
B	18/450590/4401750
C	18/450500/4401780
D	18/450310/4401440
E	18/450210/4401530
F	18/450180/4401470
G	18/450120/4401500
H	18/450060/4401380
I	18/449910/4401440
J	18/449950/4401540
K	18/450070/4401490
L	18/450140/4401620
M	18/449670/4402180
N	18/449670/4402220
O	18/449850/4402190
P	18/450150/4402240
Q	18/450180/4402350
R	18/450310/4402410
S	18/450370/4402410
T	18/450570/4402070
U	18/450560/4402030
V	18/450610/4401940

Henry Clay Village Historic Dist.  
Christiana Hundred  
New Castle County, Delaware

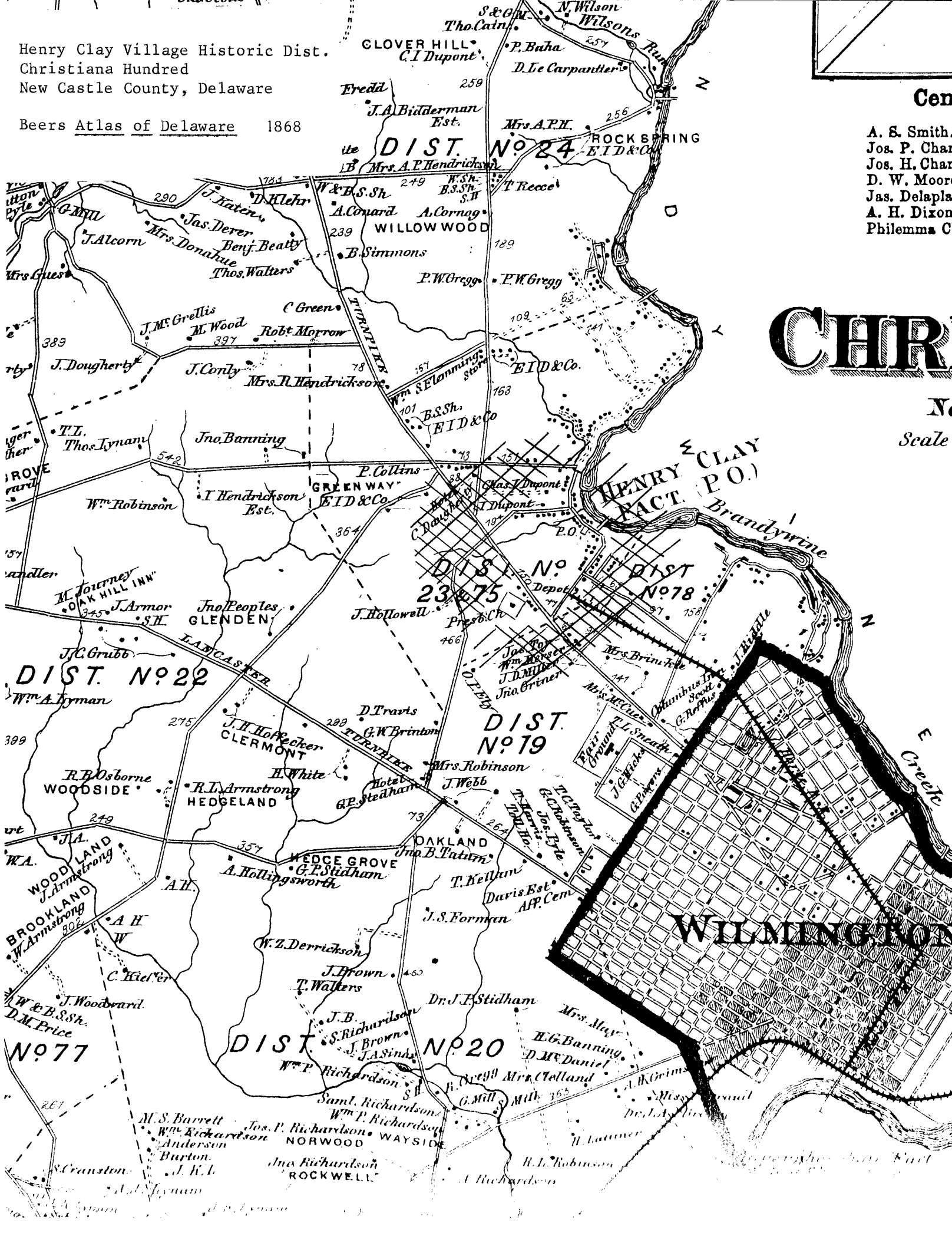
Beers Atlas of Delaware 1868

Cent

A. S. Smith  
Jos. P. Char  
Jos. H. Char  
D. W. Moor  
Jas. Delapla  
A. H. Dixon  
Philemma C

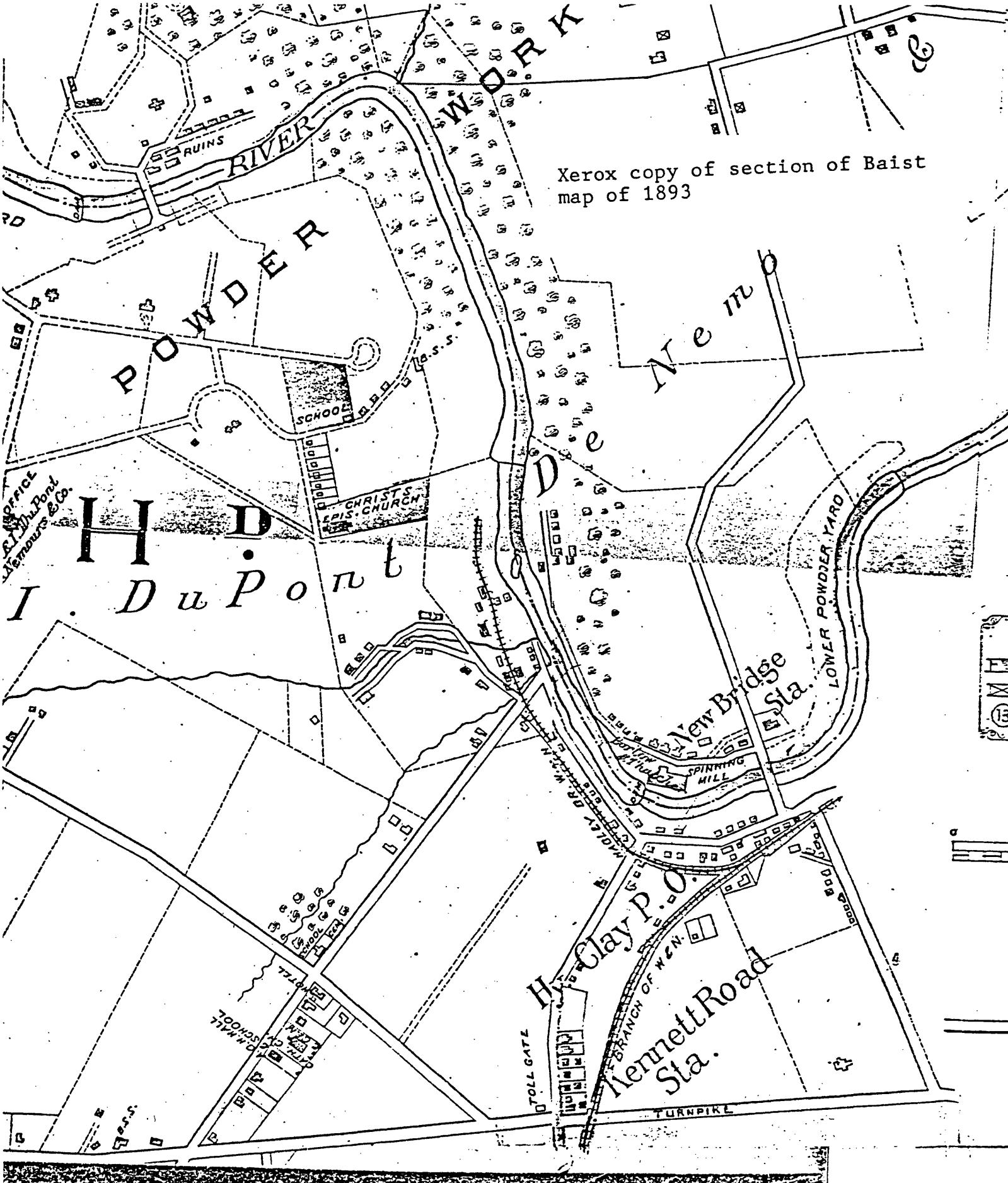
**CHR**

Scale





Xerox copy of section of Baist map of 1893



OFFICE  
I. DuPont  
Memphis & Co.

H. D.  
I. DuPont

CHRIST'S  
EPIS. CHURCH

New Bridge  
Sta.

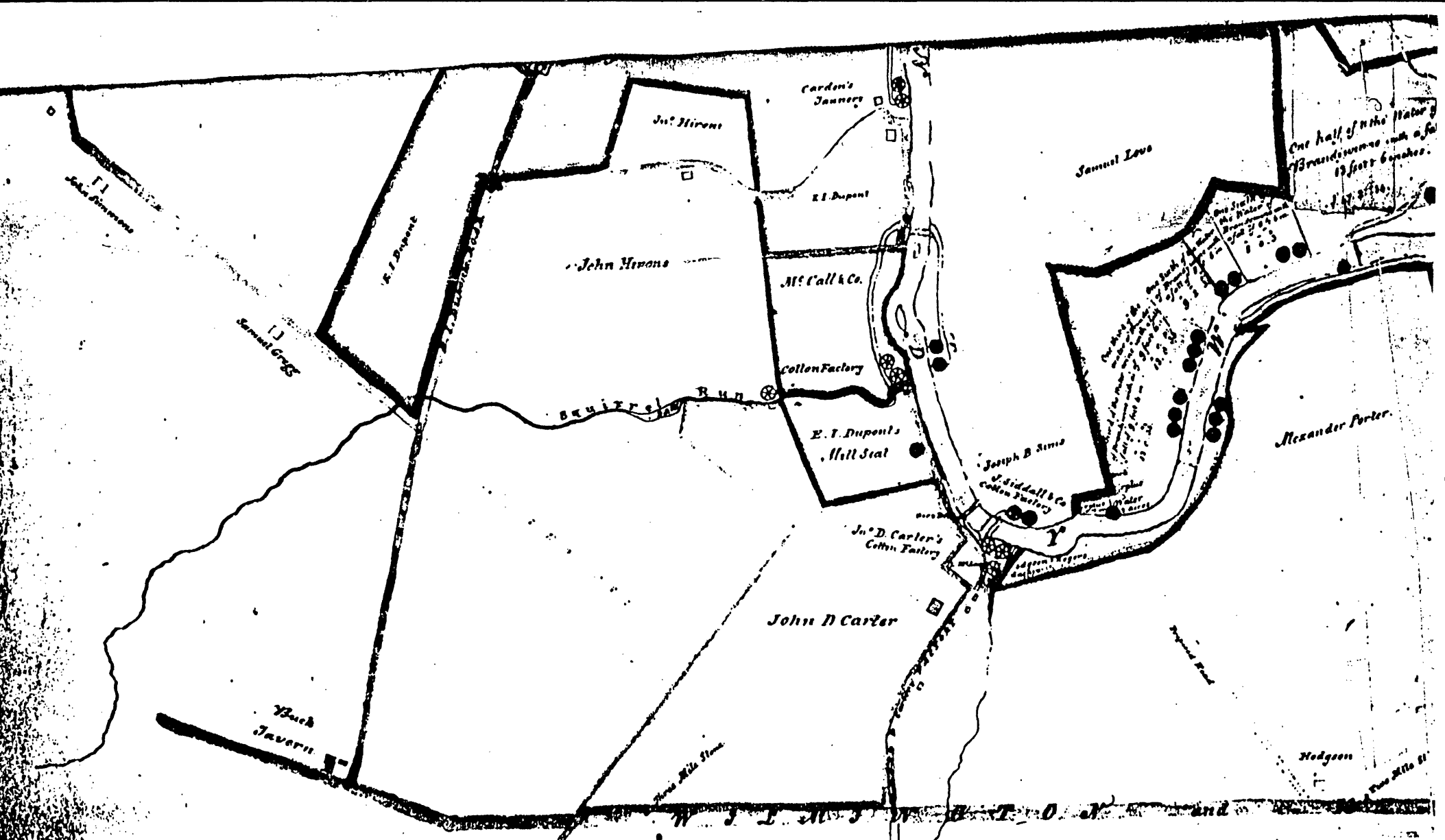
H. Clay P.O.

Hennett Road  
Sta.

TURNPIKE

TOLL GATE

13

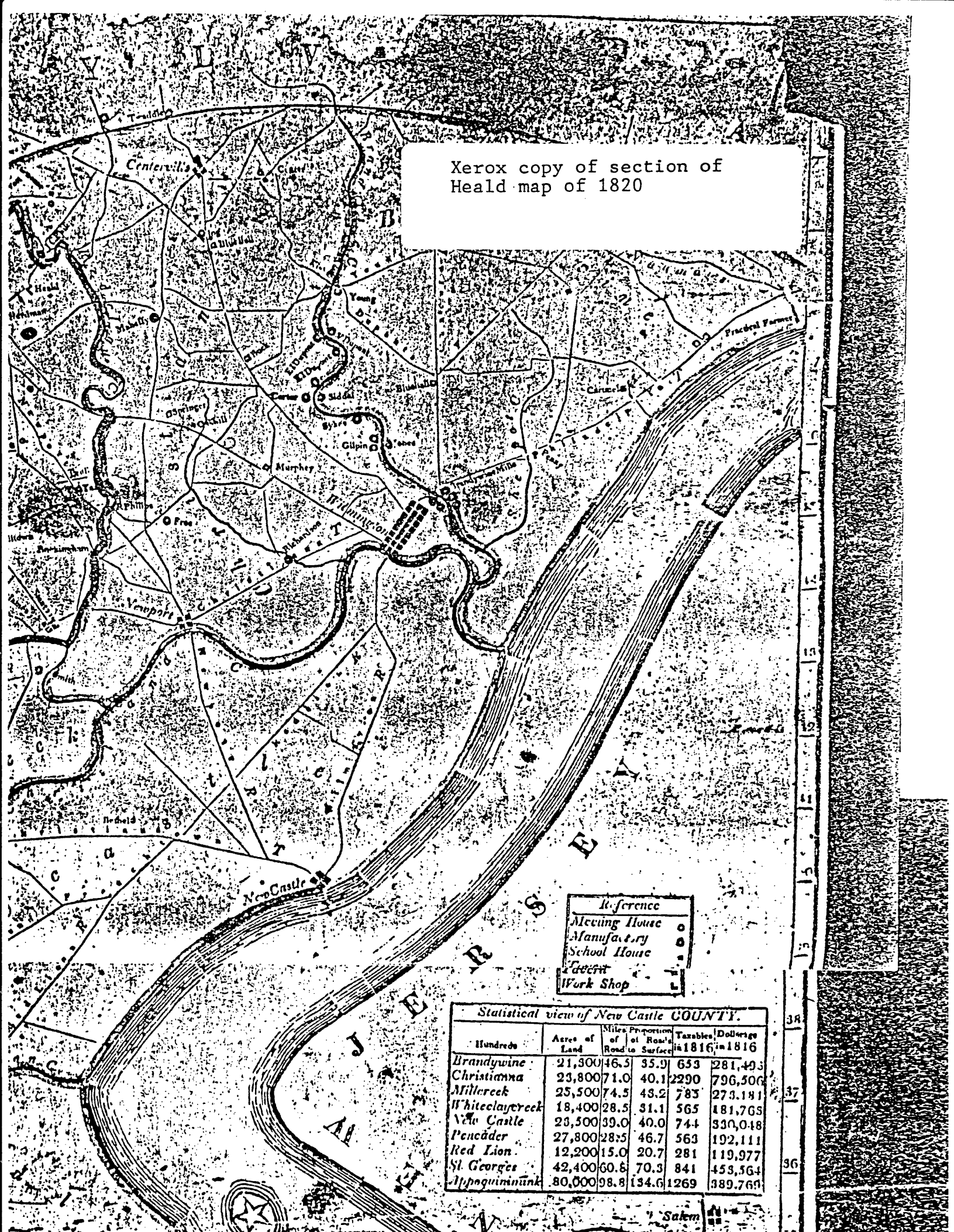


Map of mill sites along the Brandywine, c. 1820



Xerox copy of Price and Rea map of 1849

Xerox copy of section of  
Heald map of 1820



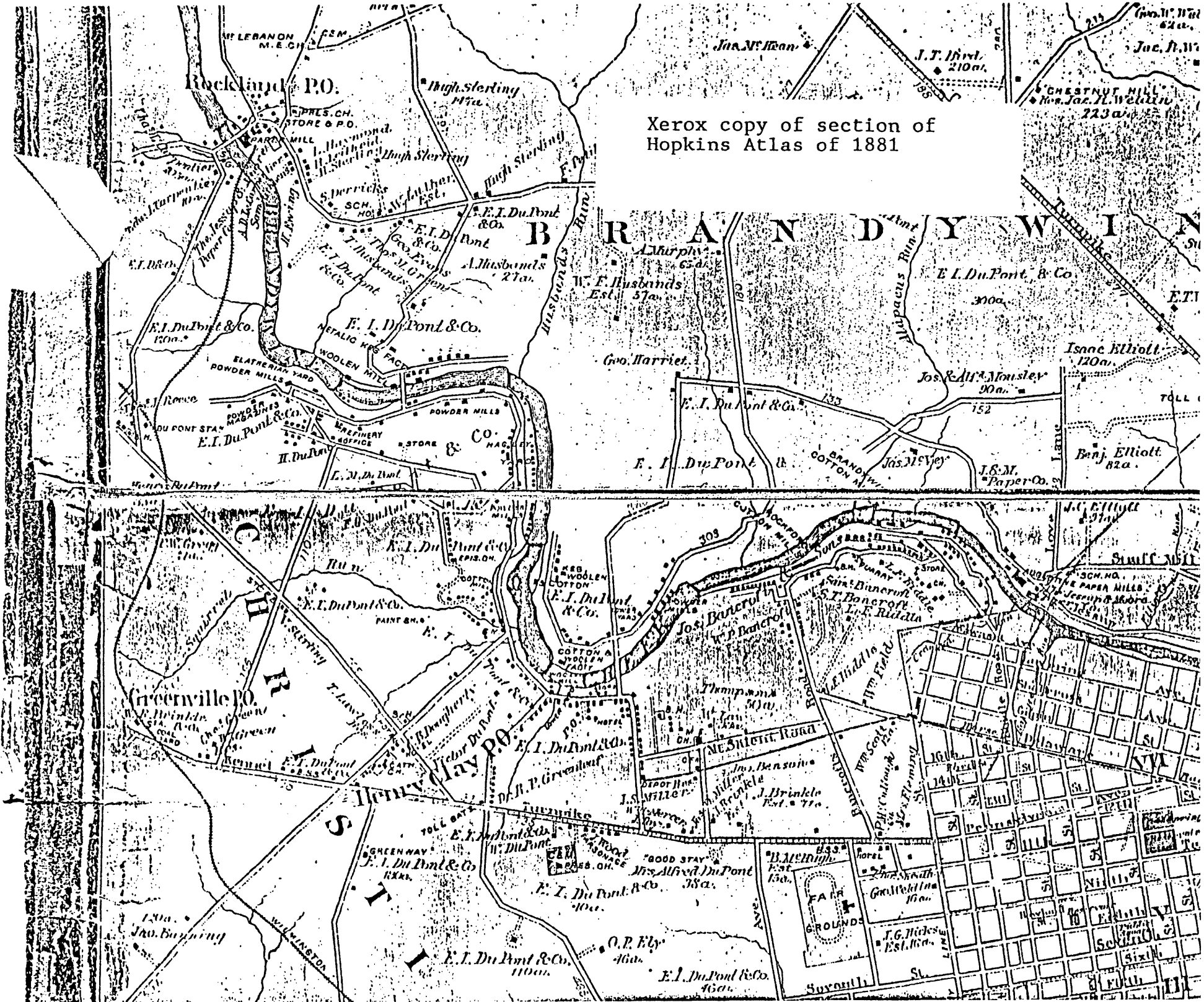
Reference  
 Meeting House  
 Manufactory  
 School House  
 Tavern  
 Work Shop

Statistical view of New Castle COUNTY.

Hundreds	Acres of Land	Miles Proportion of Road to Surface	Taxables in 1816	Dollars in 1816	
Brandywine	21,300	46.3	653	281,493	
Christianna	23,800	71.0	2290	796,506	
Millcreek	25,500	74.5	43.2	783	273,181
Whiteclaycreek	18,400	28.5	31.1	565	181,765
New Castle	23,500	39.0	40.0	744	330,048
Pencader	27,800	28.5	46.7	563	192,111
Red Lion	12,200	15.0	20.7	281	119,977
St. Georges	42,400	60.8	70.3	841	453,564
Appoquinimink	80,000	98.8	134.6	1269	389,769

Salem

Xerox copy of section of  
Hopkins Atlas of 1881





# BRANDYWINE

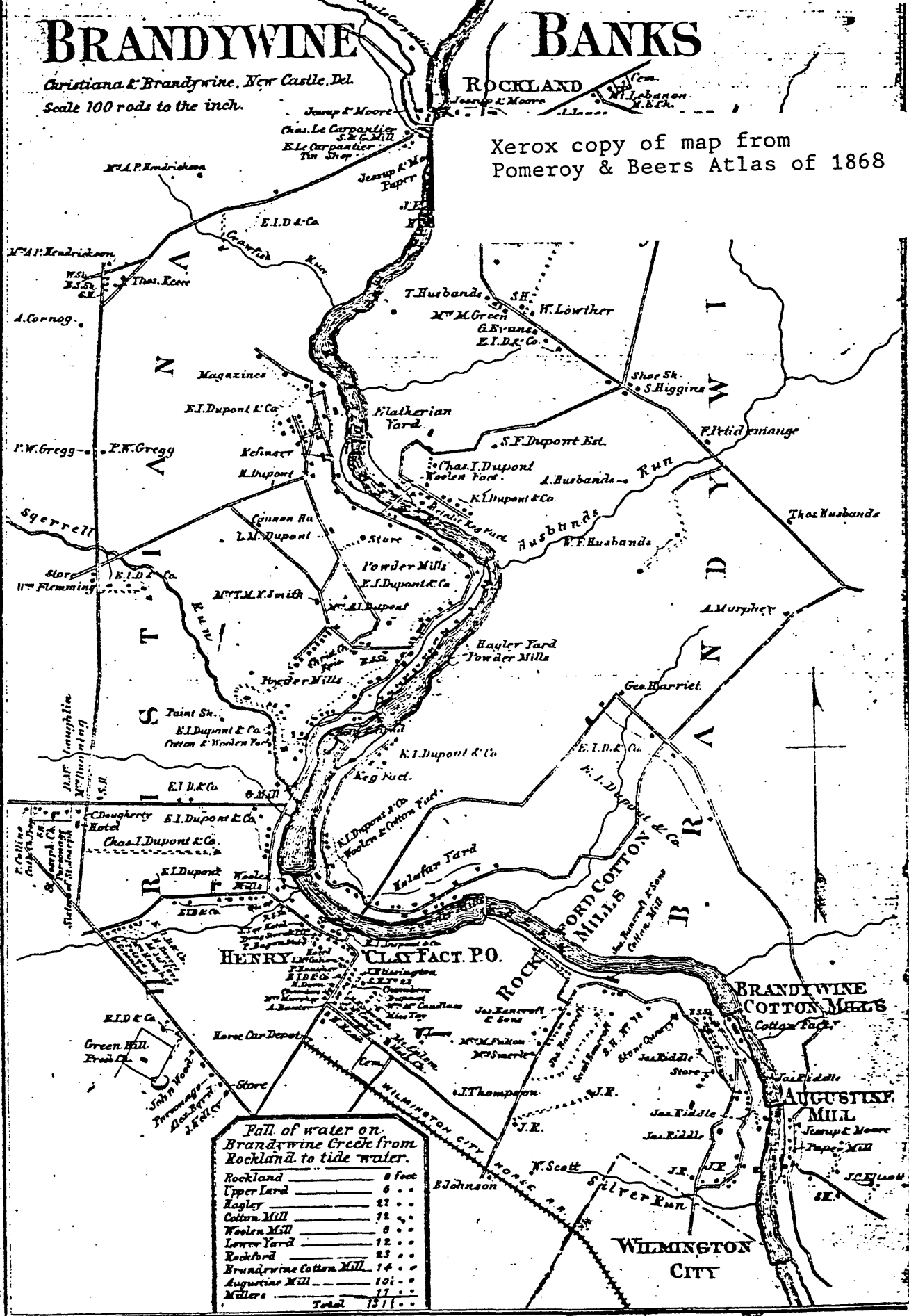
# BANKS

Christiana & Brandywine, New Castle, Del.

Scale 100 rods to the inch.

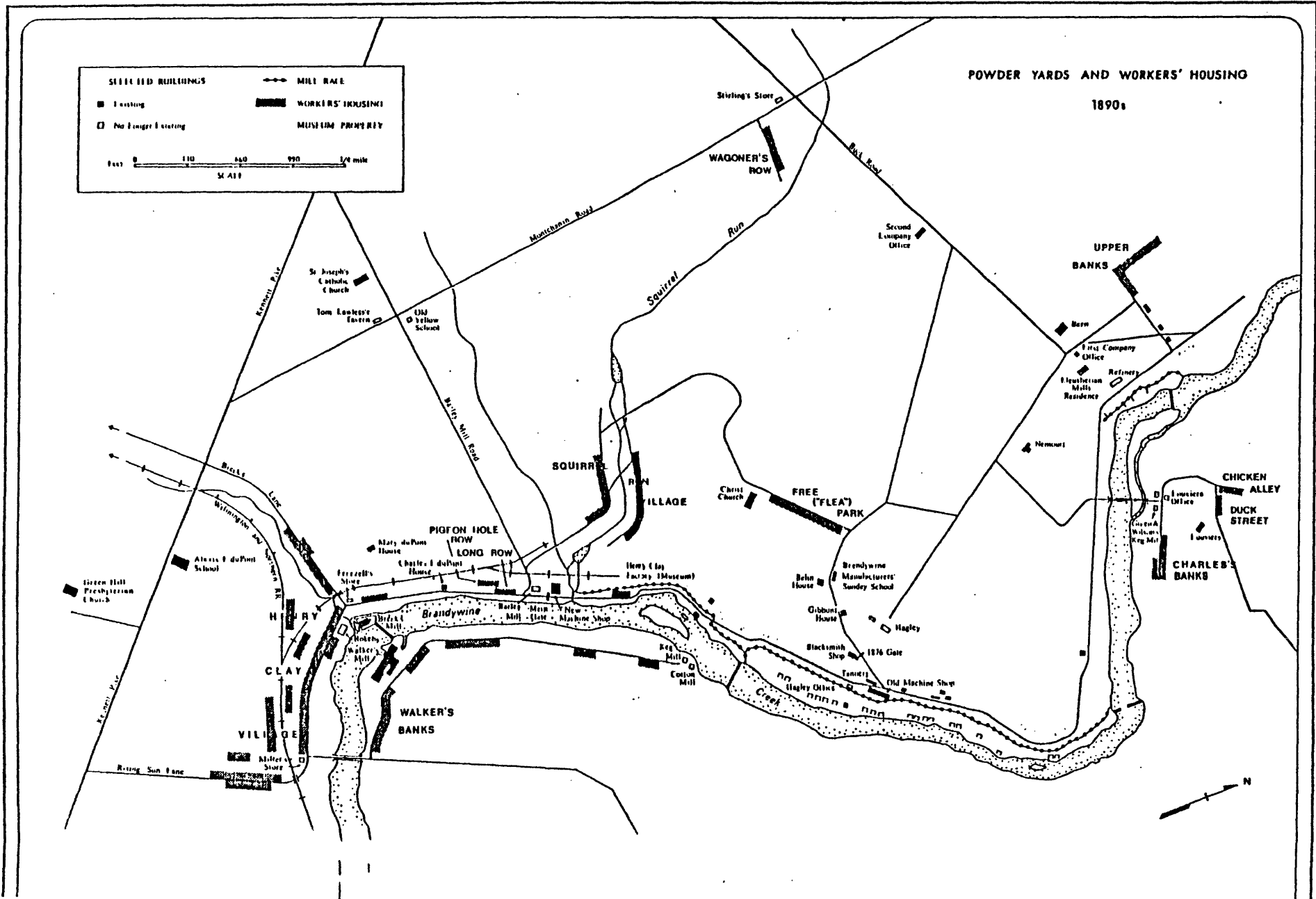
ROCKLAND

Xerox copy of map from  
Pomeroy & Beers Atlas of 1868



Fall of water on  
Brandywine Creek from  
Rockland to tide water.

Rockland	8 feet
Upper Yard	6 ..
Hagley	22 ..
Cotton Mill	12 ..
Woolen Mill	6 ..
Lower Yard	12 ..
Rockford	23 ..
Brandywine Cotton Mill	14 ..
Augustine Mill	101 ..
Millers	11 ..
<b>Total</b>	<b>171 ..</b>



Brecks Mill Area  
1"=800'

N

39°46'30"N

HOLY ISLAND

WATER TOWER DR.

THOMAS

MARTIN DR.

ROBERT LA.

THOMAS DR.

ROBERT

THOMAS

READING

259

KENT

AUGUSTA

STUART

CECIL

BERKLEY

PIKE

9

267

CEM.

RD.

141

141

BARLEY MILL RD.

52

260

BRECKS

LA.

100

CITY

BRANDYWINE

DUPONT SCHOOL

39°46'00"N

75°35'00"W

ROCKFORD  
75°34'30"W

BRANDON

DUPONT

HOPETON

WESTOVER

52

CEM.

CEMETERY

200

RISING SUN

MONT

TOWER

VERNON

MONY

SALEM

PENNSYLVANIA

CEM.

LA.

18th

17th

16th

19th BRINGGLE

AVE.

WILLARD

DELAWARE

ST.

ST.

ST.

ST.

ST.

ST.

ST.

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GREEN HILL MUNICIPAL GOLF CLUB

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