

**REPORT OF THE PHASE I/II ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
EVALUATION AND DATA RECOVERY OF 1803 AND
1805 NORTH MARKET STREETS
BRANDYWINE VILLAGE (7NC-B-62)
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE**

prepared for

The Wilmington Senior Center
1901 North Market Street
Wilmington, De 19802

by

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wounded men from the battle, and on 16 September by the Mirbach regiment (Kipping and Smith 1974:32-34; Retzer and Londahl-Smidt 1998:3). The British established their hospital in Wilmington and constructed earthworks and redoubts west and north of the town (Lincoln 1937:94-95). The occupation force consisted of over 2,200 men, a number nearly double the population of the town at the time (Lincoln 1937:96). British and Hessian forces departed from Wilmington in mid-October, having occupied the town for about one month. Upon their departure they destroyed their redoubts and closed the hospital.

American troops re-occupied the town in late December 1777 when Brigadier General Smallwood with his Continental brigade composed of Maryland and Delaware soldiers were ordered to take up winter quarters in the town (Ward 1941:256-261). Smallwood's force spent the winter of 1777-78 in Wilmington as an outpost garrison to the main army at Valley Forge and suffered many of the same supply shortages experienced by the Valley Forge encampment (Bodle 2002:208-209). The troops in Wilmington remained as a garrison for nearly six months until early June 1778 when they were recalled to join the main army (Bodle 2002: 239).

In 1781 Washington's army and its French allies headed south to besiege British troops at Yorktown, Virginia. Due to their strategic location on the main road south, Wilmington and Brandywine Village were again involved in the War. The town's involvement was much shorter during this campaign, although American and French troops did bivouac on the outskirts of the community (Rice et al. 1972). During the winter of 1781-82 a French military formation, Lazun's Legion, was cantoned in Wilmington (Selig 2003:114-139). *

The effects of nearly seven years of warfare and the social and economic upheavals associated with war strongly affected the general character of the town and surrounding region, resulting in property damage, interruption of commerce, deterioration of overland and water transportation, destruction of agricultural crops and livestock, and diminished grain yields (Farris 1970:26; Warden 1998:18).

The surrounding region remained predominantly agricultural during this period. However, a decline in wheat prices and increased competition for good land throughout the region was accompanied in the area by a decline in the fertility of agricultural lands. Wheat was still the dominant crop produced, but poor farming methods, erosion, and soil exhaustion from over a century of farming contributed to the economic woes of Delaware farmers. Out-migrations of frustrated farmers for newly opened western lands created a labor shortage that made cultivation of exhausted and marginal lands less profitable. In the Delaware Piedmont, a period of reorientation and reorganization of the agricultural landscape occurred, as less productive and worn-out farms were abandoned and consolidated into the larger holdings of wealthier farmers (Herman 1987).

While agriculture was in a state of decline and fluctuation, commerce and manufacturing flourished, particularly in the Piedmont region. Between 1790 and 1810 commerce prospered as never before (Welsh 1956). After the Revolution the region saw relatively rapid industrial and urban growth, and the loss of agricultural jobs was partly offset by the development of new sources of industrial and commercial income and employment (De Cunzo and Catts 1990:59).

By the beginning of the nineteenth century, Wilmington could boast a community of 585 dwellings (Rogers and Easter 1960:25). The economic base for Wilmington shifted from shipping and commerce, which was focused along the Christina River, to manufacturing, focused on the Brandywine Creek. The shift was due to the city's intensive involvement in the wheat trade, and

the development of water-powered mills along the Brandywine (Figure 3). The harnessing of the Brandywine's water power created major textile, gunpowder, flour, and paper mills during the 1790s and 1800s, resulting in one of the most economically successful regions in the United States of the time (Hoffecker 1974; Klein and Garrow 1986:49).

The Brandywine Village of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century has been described as "ambiguous" because it occupied lands on both banks of the Brandywine River. Lands on the south bank of the River, which were officially part of Wilmington, were sometimes lumped with the "unincorporated village on the north side of the bridge" (Hoffecker 1974:55). Although the exact physical boundaries of Brandywine Village were not always clear, descriptions of its busy inhabitants paint a clear image of a vibrant and industrious community straddling both shores of the Brandywine River at the northern edge of Wilmington. Fifteen mill seats were created along the Brandywine by the start of the nineteenth century. Water power harnessed from the Brandywine was used not only for grist, saw, and fulling mills, but also for paper, powder, and textiles (Heite 1992:11).

By 1815 the population of Brandywine Village was approximately 300 inhabitants. One hundred and thirteen heads of household were enumerated with the portion of the village situated on the north side accounting for 65 houses. The village was composed of primarily coopers and millers, along with carpenters, millwrights, blacksmiths, watermen, shipbuilders, laborers, and shoemakers. During this period the inhabitants of Brandywine Village focused principally on residential and manufacturing activities. Retailing played a very small role, since most people in the village and in Wilmington shopped at the markets on Market Street and Second Street (Catts et al. 2001; Cooper 1992; Hoffecker 1974: 55-56).

The establishment of the Wilmington and Great Valley (W&GV) Turnpike in 1811 was a major local and regional event. Having its southern terminus in Brandywine Village, the pike was placed along the old roadbed of the Concord Road and was constructed during a period in U.S. history when turnpike building was booming. The petition for the W&GV Turnpike, signed by 190 citizens, noted that

Among the roads which form the intercourse with the State of Pennsylvania, no one has been more neglected, or is capable of higher improvement, at reduced expences (sic), than the Concord road, leading from Wilmington towards West Chester, intersecting the line of the Turnpike road laid out from Philadelphia to New London crossroads (New Castle County Road Petition 1810).

The petition exudes a level of exuberance and anticipation that was in keeping with the intense spirit of community and development of the new nation. One Delaware historian has described the period from the end of the American Revolution to the War of 1812 as the time when Wilmington and the surrounding region had "its most cosmopolitan society, an intellectual and civic-minded era along with growing scientific interests and new impetus both to manufacturing and to shipping" (Eckman et al. 1938:271).

Census records for Brandywine Hundred, where Brandywine Village is located, indicate that the population of the project area rose steadily between 1800 and 1830, from 2,183 to 3,221 total inhabitants, an increase of approximately 67 percent. This increase was due in large measure to the proximity of the industrial and commercial center of Wilmington and the Brandywine River valley (De Cunzo and Catts 1990:54-57).

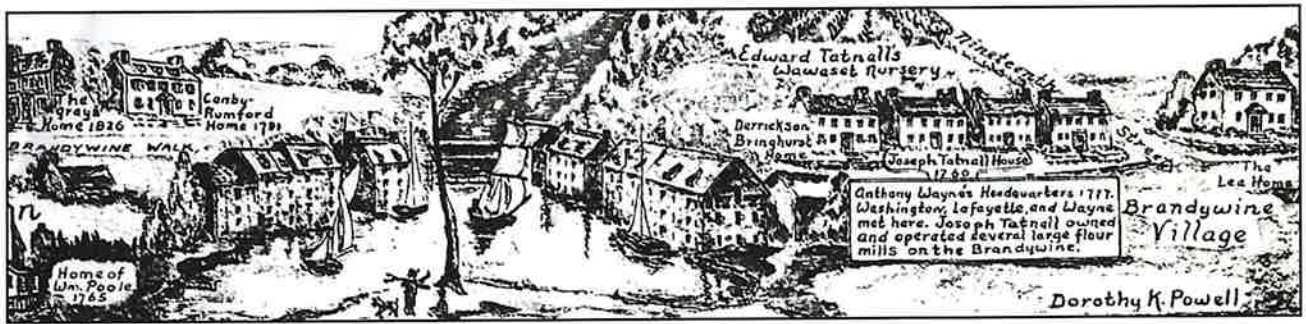


Figure 3. Brandywine Village as depicted in an oil painting c. 1820 (at top) by Bass Otis (Otis c. 1820) and, below, in a drawing of the Brandywine Watershed (Powell 1958). Note Joseph Tatnall's house in the row of houses fronting North Market Street.

3.2.4 1830-1880 (*The Industrial Phase*)

In the fifty years encompassed by this period, Wilmington gained prominence as the economic center of the state of Delaware. This period of Wilmington's history began with the coming of the railroad (1837) and closed with the tremendous growth and rise to prominence of the city's four main industrial enterprises: shipbuilding, railcar manufacturing, carriage making, and leather manufacturing. Other associated industries included machine, engine, iron, and tool works. The arrival of the railroad made the banks of the Christina River attractive locations for these industries, because it provided a significant improvement in the original land/water connection that had originally served as the focus of Wilmington's earlier economic prosperity. Ironically, then, the placement of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad through the core of the city helped to revitalize the Christina waterfront (Klein and Garrow 1984:49-50).

The economic crises of the early decades of the nineteenth century contributed to an agricultural revolution in Delaware, and farmers in the area began to diversify their production. Developments in industrialization, urbanization, and transportation significantly affected the project area (De Cunzo and Garcia 1992:25). By the middle of the nineteenth century, the approximately three-and-a-half miles of the Brandywine Valley between Brandywine Village and Rockland operated over a dozen factories and mills, including paper mills, cotton mills, woolen mills, powder factories, keg factories, grist and saw mills. The valley was also home for thousands of industrial workers and their families. Above the valley, in the uplands, family-owned farms supplied these industrial centers with livestock for transportation, wood for fuel and construction, stone for buildings, and grains, orchard products, and meat for food (Heite 1992:8).

The completion of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, & Baltimore Railroad to Wilmington in 1837 linked not only the city with urban centers to the north and south, but also provided Wilmington's hinterland, including the project area, with both sources for raw materials and markets for finished products (De Cunzo and Catts 1990:73). By the middle of the nineteenth century there were fourteen steam or water-powered cotton and woolen mills around Wilmington, and one contemporary remarked that "the manufactures of Delaware are more extensive than its commerce" (Myers 1849:40). The manufacturing centers along the Brandywine Valley contributed greatly to the dominance of industry, and the combination of a large labor pool, a good transportation system, a controlled power source, and access to raw materials allowed Piedmont industry to grow and prosper (De Cunzo and Catts 1990:73).

Farmsteads in Delaware at this time averaged a little over 200 acres, but those in the Piedmont were generally about 100 acres in size, and by the start of the period most farmers had between 60 and 70 percent of their acreage improved. In New Castle County, farmland accounted for nearly 90 percent of the total available land in the county. Between 1830 and 1880 both the total number of farms and the number of acres of land in cultivation grew, indicating that land previously considered agriculturally marginal, such as drained marshland, was brought under cultivation (De Cunzo and Garcia 1992:26). Piedmont farms during this period were intensively cultivated, with emphasis on dairying and feeder cattle, supplemented by wheat and market truck farming. Farms tended to be family-operated, with relatively little hired farm labor. By the middle decades of the century, the development of labor-saving farm machinery and the spread of mechanization aided farmers in increasing output and profiting from their relatively small holdings (De Cunzo and Garcia 1992:64).

Between 1830 and 1880, the population of Wilmington grew from 6,600 to 42,000 inhabitants, clear demographic evidence of the growth of industry in the city and the needs of an industrial

labor force (Goodwin 1986:104-113). The region immediately surrounding the city was still largely rural and agricultural. Brandywine Village saw considerable growth after the establishment of the Lammot Cotton Mill, or Eagle Mill, in 1855. The mill itself employed 235 people, and the population of the village increased to nearly 900 inhabitants by 1857. The population increase also brought with it a building boom of sorts, and worker housing was built along what is now 22nd Street (Hoffecker 1974:61-62). Brandywine Village continued to flourish as a separate community until it was finally incorporated into Wilmington as that city's Ninth Ward in 1869 (Hoffecker 1974: 55, 69). After that time, the village was counted in censuses as part of Wilmington, and ceased to maintain a separate identity.

3.2.5 1880-1940 (*Urban Growth Phase*)

During this period Wilmington's population more than doubled, reaching 110,000 by 1920. The area containing the community of Brandywine Village, the Ninth Ward, grew from 2,272 inhabitants in 1870 to over 18,000 fifty years later in 1920 (Hoffecker 1974:71). Factory labor was the dominant occupation of the former Brandywine Village's inhabitants and by the turn-of-the-century the city's economic base shifted from the manufactories, carriage works, and railcar factories along the Christina Riverfront to the new office structures erected between Ninth and Eleventh streets. During the early years of this period, the large landholders in Brandywine Village, including the Tatnalls, subdivided their lands into a grid system that reflected Wilmington's gridded streets (Hoffecker 1974:72). Initial development of the Ninth Ward was slow until the arrival of street cars which hastened residential development. In 1892 the development of a neighborhood along the new Baynard Boulevard became the focus of early twentieth century housing, further pulling residential and commercial activities from the area immediately north of Market Street Bridge (Hoffecker 1974:74).

"By the beginning of the twentieth century, Brandywine Village had lost much of its identity as a distinctive community. The old stone residences built by eighteenth-century millers on a country stream were now surrounded by the brick row houses and shops of a city" (Hoffecker 1974:75).

3.3 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF 1803 AND 1805 NORTH MARKET STREETS

There is a striking similarity in the row of houses fronting North Market Street beginning with the house at 1801, continuing to its neighbors to the east, 1803, 1805, and ending with the house on the corner at 1807 (Figure 3 bottom). The four houses are built of Brandywine granite and all are five bays wide with a central doorway, two stories with a third story attic (Warren 1965:109-114). The interior plans are the same, a central stairhall with two rooms on either side, in usual Delaware fashion, one room deep. The first house in this row was 1801 built c.1770 by James Marshall. Joseph Tatnall built 1803 and 1807, the second one on the corner in the year 1803 where it is said he intended to move but never did, giving it to his son Edward. The fourth and latest house is 1805, built by Joseph's son Edward c.1849. As noted by Warren (1965:114), the houses are devoid of architectural ornamentation and considering the wealth of the Tatnalls, they are stark in their simplicity and anything but pretentious. He further suggested that the use of stone in the construction of these houses, rather than brick, might have been a practical use of the rock outcroppings on the north side of the Brandywine that were removed in building the millrace.

3.3.1 1803 North Market Street

Some time in the five years between his marriage in 1765 and 1770 a house, later known as 1803 North Market Street, was constructed by Joseph Tatnall along the western edge of the Village near the Brandywine River. At the same time Tatnall took over the mill, race construction operations, and water rights on the north bank from James Marshall (Hoffecker 1974: 87; Wright 1908). Tatnall and the other millers in the village were immensely successful in their merchant milling and “farmers up through Pennsylvania, even as far as Lancaster and Dauphin counties, sent their grain to these mills to be ground, and long lines of large white-covered wagons, sometimes as many as thirty, would block the streets for squares, waiting for hours at a time to unload” (Wright 1908).

For a brief time in September 1777 the Joseph Tatnall house is reported to have served as a “headquarters for General Anthony Wayne and others on Washington’s staff” (Hoffecker 1974:87). According to a family descendant who was in turn quoting from Sara Tatnall’s diary, General Wayne and “other prominent officers were quartered at the Tatnall House” (Wright 1908). Washington and Lafayette with their staffs met daily at the home to “hear reports and give orders” and it was at this time that the Tatnall family was quartered in the upper floors of the house (Wright 1908). When the British occupied Wilmington following the Battle of Brandywine the house reportedly served as quarters for British officers (Hoffecker 1974: 87; Wright 1908).

By 1797 Joseph Tatnall’s taxable properties included 34.5 acres, 28.5 of which were improved. On his home property on Market Street he had a “good Stone House, two Wagon Houses and Stables” all valued at \$276. In addition, Tatnall owned seven other properties, including two merchant mills valued at \$2400, and four tenant houses (Tax Assessment 1797). Less than a decade later, Tatnall’s holdings had increased to 38 total acres, 30 of which were improved. Tenant holdings had increased to ten additional properties, including mills, dwellings, and stables (Tax Assessment 1803-04).

Joseph Tatnall was one of the most successful merchant millers in Brandywine Village. At the time of his death in 1813 his estate was valued at \$239,796.25 when it was divided among his children including Sara, Margaret, Esther, and Edward (Hoffecker 1974: 35). Tatnall’s personal property was valued in his estate inventory at over \$3,732 and included, in addition to household items, two hogs, four horses, two cows, one yoke of oxen, one chaise, one carriage, one cart, one “chaise sled,” three tons of “old hay,” two barracks of wheat, and “the time of a Black Boy who has four years to serve” (Joseph Tatnall Inventory, Appendix IV).

The stone house at 1803 North Market Street remained in the family for a few more generations. His second wife, Sara Rodman Paxson Tatnall, was able to remain in the house “for as long as she cared to live there,” but moved a few years later to Bucks County, Pennsylvania (Hoffecker 1974: 87). By 1816, Joseph’s son Edward inherited the property. Tatnall’s holdings in Brandywine Hundred totaled 90 acres, 52 of which were improved. The house at 1803 North Market Street was valued at \$810, and the “two merchant mills and cooper shops” were enumerated at \$6,000 (Tax Assessment 1816). For a few years (1824 to 1827) the house was rented to John Bancroft, father of Joseph Bancroft, the founder of one of Wilmington’s more prominent textile firms (Wilson 1962).

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house. The inventory provides some suggestions of lot usage, mentioning the “contents of Green House,” as well as cider in bottles, barrels of apples, and livestock including one horse, a strawberry heifer and calf, a spotted cow, and a red cow and calf. Modes of transportation included a sleigh, a Rockaway wagon, one carriage, and one horse cart. Tatnall may have been fencing his property at the time of his death, since his inventory listed 80 dressed posts, 62 dressed rails, and a “lot of fence boards.” Overall, Edward Tatnall’s estate was valued at \$9,919.76 (Edward Tatnall Inventory, Appendix IV).

The 1860 Census records the Joseph (II) Tatnall household as consisting of Joseph (miller and farmer) his wife, Sarah, their nine children, and three domestic servants (Hoffecker 1974: 87-88). By 1868 the property at 1803 North Market was a rectangular lot extending to Preston (now Tatnall) Street to the north (Figure 4). The configuration of the house included a small frame addition on the west gable end. No outbuildings were depicted in 1868. Eight years later, at the time of the National Centennial, the property map depicted two outbuildings on the northern half of the lot; one of these was situated immediately on Tatnall Street, while the other, smaller structure was located along the western property line (Figure 5).

Family ownership finally ended with the death of Joseph Tatnall (II) in 1895 (Hoffecker 1974: 87). By the turn of the century when *Baist's Property Atlas of the City of Wilmington* was published (Figure 6) the Tatnall estate property configuration had remained unchanged for nearly forty years. A single frame outbuilding was situated along the western lot line in 1901, and the building along Tatnall Street was no longer extant.

1803 North Market Street stood vacant for a short period after the death of Joseph Tatnall, when it was purchased by James J. Kelly circa 1910. By the late 1920s the rear section of the property had been subdivided and a duplex structure built at 1802/04 Tatnall Street. Two one-story frame and brick buildings associated with the Tatnall Street dwellings were present along the eastern side of the lot (Figure 7).

James J. Kelly resided at the house until his death in 1940, when the property was sold to Francis H. Kelly, no relation to the former owner (Wilson 1962). In the early 1960s a plan was announced by real estate broker James B. Shelnut for the razing of 1801, 1803, and 1805 North Market Streets to make way for high-rise apartments and other commercial structures. Local preservationists responded by forming Old Brandywine Village, Inc. (OBV) a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation of the significant historical structures within Brandywine Village. Within a few months the group had successfully purchased several historic properties including 1801 North Market Street (the Lea-Derrickson House), and had staved off the destruction of the other two homes (Hoffecker 1974). In the mid-1960s architectural renovations and even archeological investigations were undertaken at the Lea Derrickson House (Catts and De Cunzo 1993:178).

A second threat to 1803 North Market Street arose in August of 1969, when the owner of the property, Francis Kelly, announced that the property, along with 1805 North Market, was up for sale to potential commercial developers (Wilson 1969). At that time 1803 North Market Street contained a ground floor apartment occupied by Kelly and his wife, six other apartments, including a “spring house apartment” (Drews 1969). Displaying a remarkable ability to raise funds, OBV was able to purchase both properties in early 1970, with the help of a Parisian baroness, a great-granddaughter of Joseph Tatnall (Wilson 1970). Following the purchase OBV undertook renovations in the mid-1970s and then conveyed the property to the Wilmington

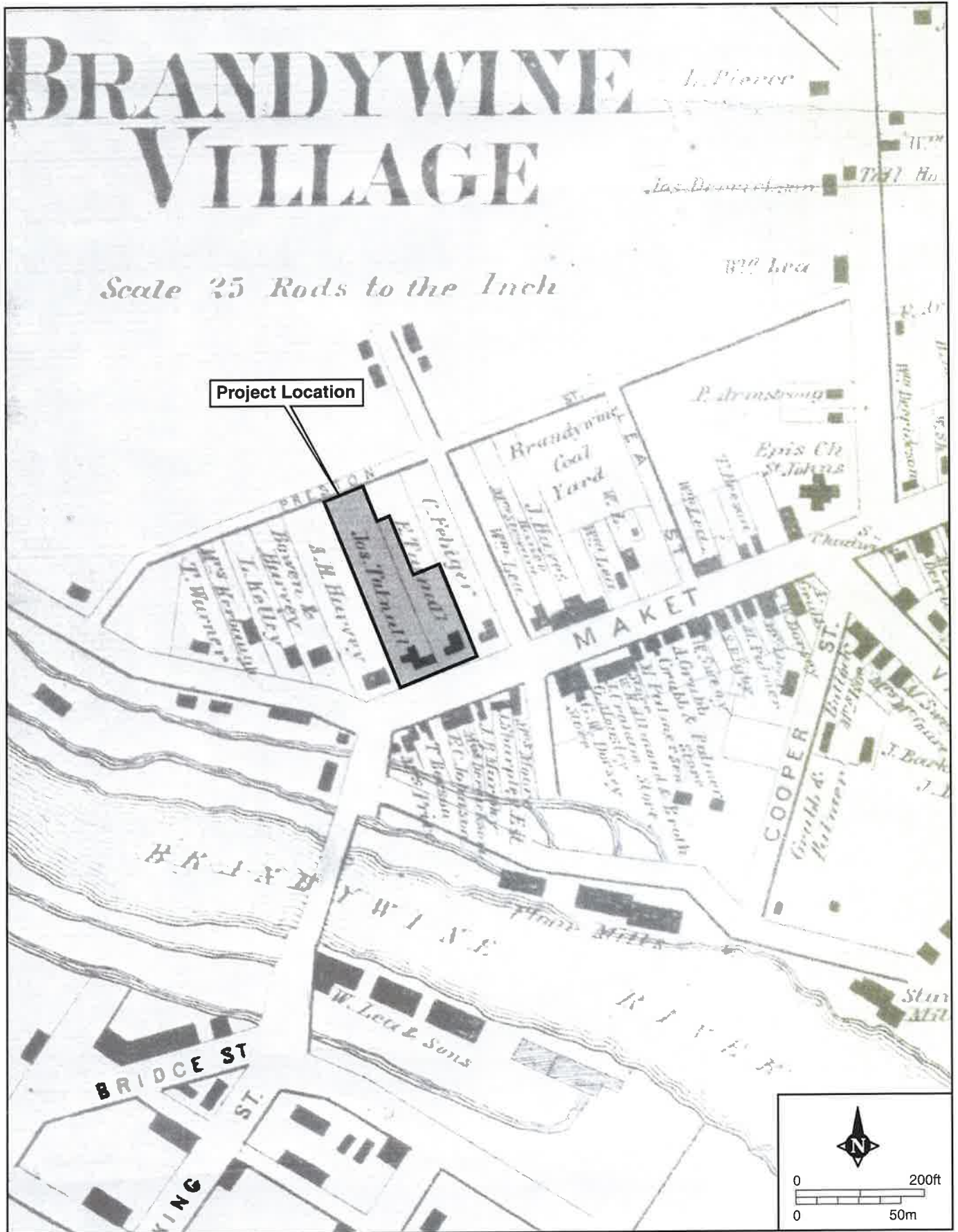


Figure 4. Detail of Beer's Atlas (1868) showing project location.

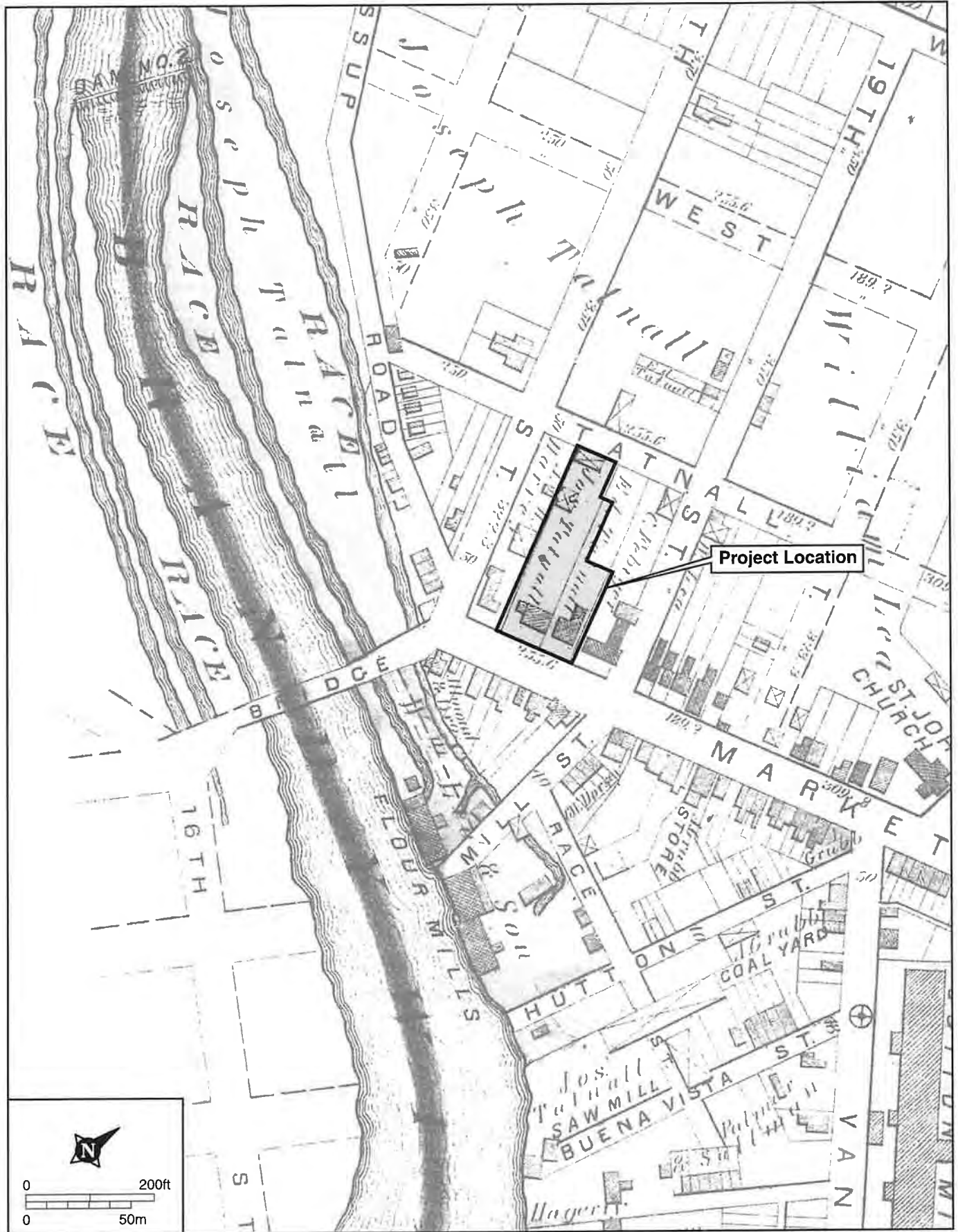


Figure 5. Detail of *Atlas of Wilmington* (1876) showing project location.

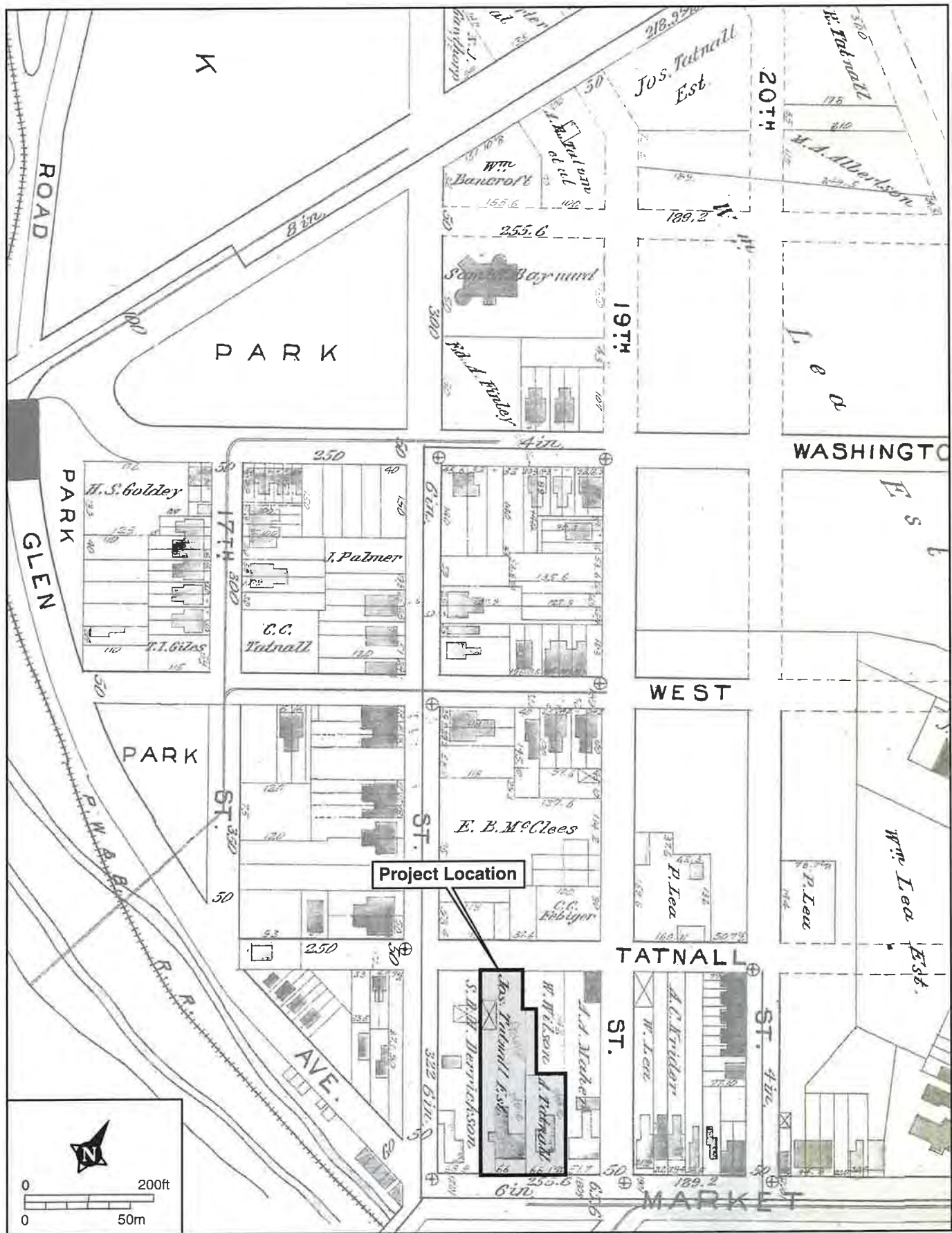


Figure 6. Detail of Baist's Property Atlas of the City of Wilmington (1901) showing project location.

Senior Center (Chase n.d.; Hoffecker 1974:83). By the mid-1980s the property was identified on an insurance plat as an “historical” building, and a substantial springhouse addition was present (Figure 8).

3.3.2 1805 North Market Street

Joseph Tatnall’s son, Edward, built the home at 1805 North Market Street circa 1850 (the will of Edward Tatnall suggests that the house was present by 1849). Before the house was built, one member of the family, Horace Tatnall, recalled that his grandmother said the land where the house was eventually built had been used for a flower garden attached to 1803 North Market Street (Wilson 1962). Edward’s son, Henry Lea Tatnall and his wife, Caroline Gibbons, resided on the property until they moved from Brandywine Village to his wife’s family house in 1869 (Hoffecker 1974: 88-89). Ownership was then transferred to Henry’s brother Edward (II) Tatnall who maintained ownership until his death in 1898 (Hoffecker 1974: 89).

Historic maps of the property shed little light on the appearance and use of the rear yard at 1805 North Market Street. The map of Brandywine Village published in *Beers’ Atlas of the State of Delaware* (1868), shows no outbuildings at all on the property, as does the *City Atlas of Wilmington* (Hopkins 1876) published eight years later (Figures 4 and 5). Both maps do indicate that the rectangular-shaped property at 1805 North Market Street extended from Market Street to Tatnall Street.

A detailed physical description during the late nineteenth century of the property including the rear yard was recorded by Edward’s (II) daughter, Mary (Appendix III). Her account of 1805 North Market Street describes the lower terrace as being formally planted. The right side of a brick walk, presumably leading from the rear doorway located on the north side of the house, was planted with “flower beds laid out in geometric patterns, each edged with a narrow box border kept neatly trimmed to a certain height” (Tatnall 1952:143). Mary recalled that “on the left side [of the yard] was a large round bed, fully 25 feet in diameter full of lilies-of-the-valley; and in the middle a very large and handsome magnolia tree” (Tatnall 1952: 143). Located on the third terrace, some 200 feet behind the house was the privy described as “a nice brick structure with a lattice around it overgrown by a beautiful trumpet vine” (Tatnall 1952: 144). The distance Mary Tatnall recalls would place the privy near Tatnall Street, clearly a mistake because as her account continues “Back of these buildings the vegetable garden and the croquet ground and strawberry bed and fruit trees ran back to the next street” (Tatnall 1952:144).

After the death of Edward (II) Tatnall in 1898 the property was subdivided into two lots. By the time of the publication of *Baist’s Property Atlas for the City of Wilmington* (1901), an “A. Tatnall” was shown as the occupant of the property, and the rear half extending to Tatnall Street was in the ownership of a “W. Wilson.” (Figure 6). The house apparently served for a time as the rectory for St. John’s Episcopal Church until it was purchased by Neal B. Kelly in 1910 (Wilson 1962). Kelly apparently modified the house after his purchase. By 1927 a two-story frame addition had been constructed at the northwest corner and a three-story frame addition was on the north end of the house; this latter addition included a fire escape (Figure 7). A series of brick garages had also been constructed in the area that previously contained the terraced gardens, and a duplex had been built on the Tatnall Street side of the property.

Francis Kelly inherited both 1805 and 1803 North Market Streets from his father in 1940 (Wilson 1962). Kelly used the building at 1805 North Market as an apartment building (Drews 1969). By

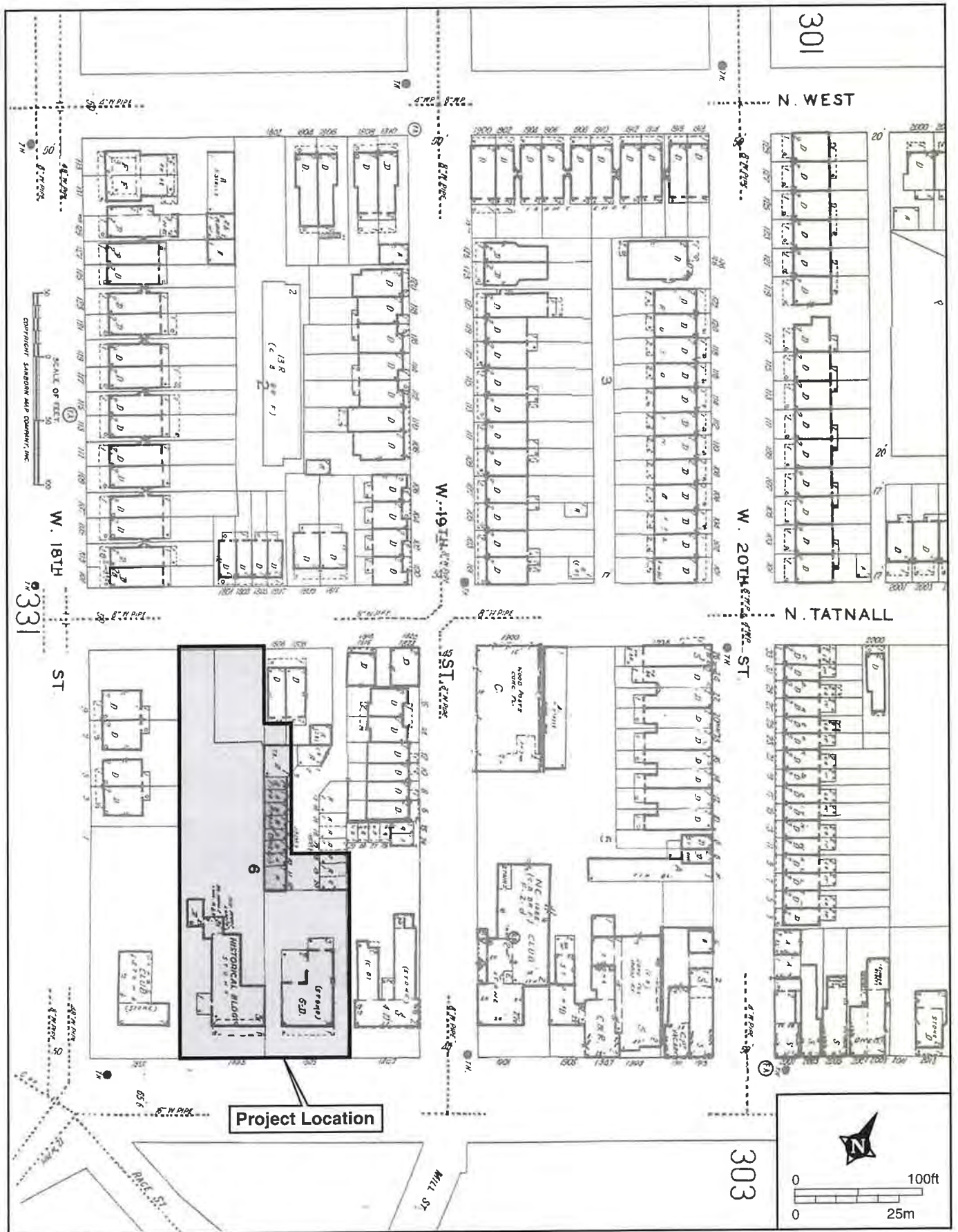


Figure 8. Detail of Sanborn 1965 map showing project location.

the time that he sold the land to the preservation organization, Old Brandywine Village, Inc. (OBV) the configuration and use had changed little since the late 1920s. The house contained nine apartments and the former terraced gardens were the site of twenty-one garages (Figure 8). These outbuildings were still extant as late as 1984. OBV purchased the house and property and undertook restoration work in the late 1970s, when the current occupant, The Wilmington Senior Center, acquired the property.

4.0 RESULTS OF PHASE I/II FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

The area surveyed included not only the rear yard presently covered with lawn, but also those sections currently capped by concrete walkways, pads, and drain lines. The employed archeological field strategy was three-tiered beginning with the GPR survey which sought to identify subsurface anomalies present within the rear yard surface of the 1803 and 1805 North Market Street lots. Within the area that was GPR surveyed, a number of linear and circular anomalies were identified. Further exploration in the portion of the project area currently covered by lawn was conducted with a series of nine measured units and eight smaller 50 cm diameter shovel tests (Figure 9). This sampling strategy provided information on the limits of intact yard surfaces and helped to further explore and classify some of the anomalies identified by the GPR. For discussion purposes, the project area was broken into three areas based upon the location and current condition within the rear yard.

4.1 AREA 1: FILLED AND GRADED SECTION ADJACENT TO TATNALL STREET

Area 1 represents the largest portion of the rear yard that is scheduled to be disturbed from the proposed work. This area encompasses approximately 1230 m² (0.30 ac.) extending south from Tatnall Street approximately 45 m (148.75 ft.) and continuing a maximum of 23 feet into the 1805 North Market Street lot from the western edge of 1803 North Market Street lot. The current field conditions within this portion of the project area consist of graded fill comprised of a gravel surface within the 1803 North Market Street lot (the majority of the area) and a poured concrete surface within 1805 North Market Street. The engineering plan indicates that final grade will be approximately 0.31 m (1 ft.) beneath the current grade in most areas. Although no GPR work was performed within this area, the stratigraphic evidence and depth of fill indicated by a bank cut along the western edge of the 1805 North Market Street lot and a shovel test near the southeastern corner of this same section suggest that the current construction plans would not impact any cultural resources within this portion of the project area.

4.1.1 West Wall Bank Cut and Shovel Test 1

Both profiles indicate that this portion of the project area has been extensively filled and graded. The bank along the western edge of 1803 North Market Street was cleaned in order to document the nature of fill deposits within this portion of the project area; the stratigraphic profile indicates that at least 85 cm of fill is present within this area (Figure 10). This depth corresponds to the vertical height of the bank and extends to the limits of archeological investigation. Stratigraphy in this section of the project area consisted of a dense fill consisting of yellowish red (5YR 5/8) silty clay loam mottled with strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) silty clay loam, approximately 45 cm in depth. Underlying this was a secondary fill deposit composed of very dark grayish brown (2.5Y 3/2) silt loam to loam with numerous brick fragments inclusions. At the base of the wall profile, from approximately 83 to 85 cmbgs, was the final recorded fill layer composed of strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) silty clay loam mottled with brown (10YR 4/3) silt loam.

4.1.2 Shovel Test 1

Within STU 1, excavation could not exceed 26 cm in depth due to the compact nature of the soil (or fill material), which contained high concentrations of gravel, cinder and ash. An intact natural horizon was not reached suggesting that this area has been heavily modified resulting in its

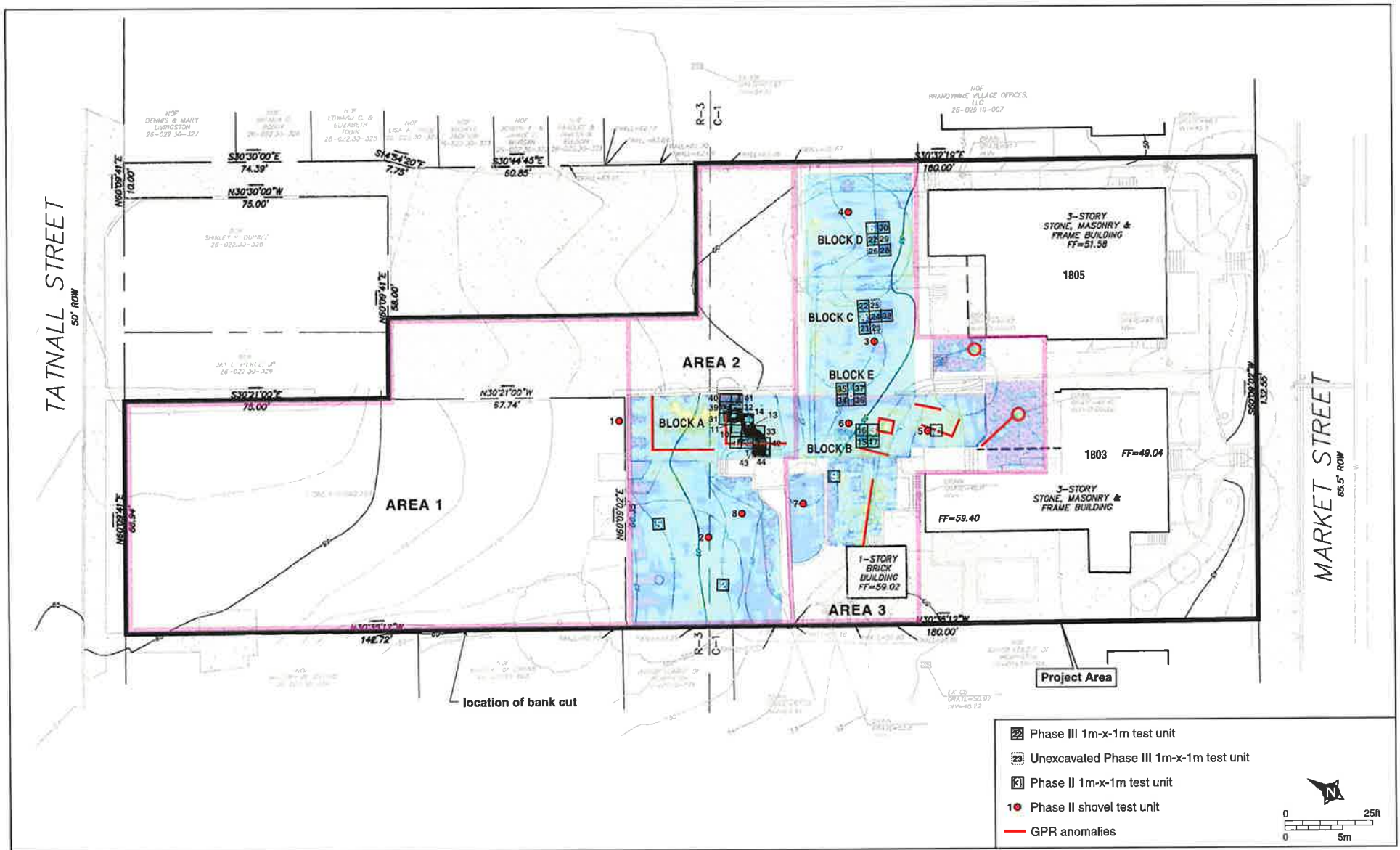
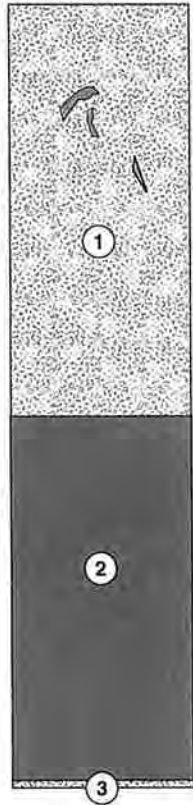


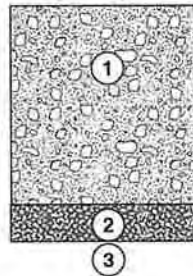
Figure 9. Project area, showing existing field conditions, tested areas, shovel test units, and excavation units (from Apex Engineering, Inc. 2004).

Area 1 Bank Cut



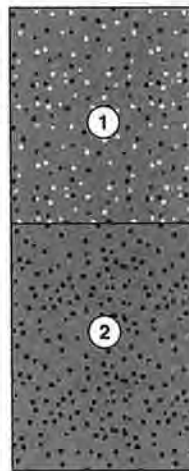
- 1** 5YR 5/8 yellowish red mottled with 7.5YR 5/8 strong brown silty clay loam with plastic fragments; fill
- 2** 2.5Y 3/2 very dark grayish brown silt loam to loam with brick fragment; fill
- 3** 7.5YR 5/6 strong brown silty clay loam mottled with 10YR 4/2 brown silt loam; fill

STU 1



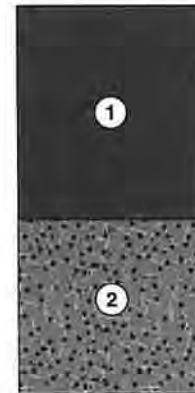
- 1** 10YR 4/2 dark grayish brown very gravelly loamy sand; fill
- 2** 5Y 4/1 dark gray cinder and ash; fill
- 3** impenetrable

STU 2



- 1** 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown mottled with 10YR 4/3 brown silt loam: Ap1-horizon
- 2** 10YR 4/4 dark yellowish brown silt loam; Ap-2 horizon

STU 4



- 1** 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown silt loam; Ap-horizon
- 2** 5YR 4/6 yellowish red silty clay mottled with 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown silt loam; electrical utility trench fill

STU 7



- 1** 10YR 3/1 very dark gray silt loam; Ap1-horizon
- 2** 10YR 4/2 dark grayish brown silt loam; Ap2-horizon
- 3** 10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silt loam; B-horizon



Figure 10. Representative soil profiles: Area 1 bank cut; STU 1, 2, 4, and 7.

current elevation grade. The depth of fill within the tested portion far exceeds the depth of disturbance by the proposed construction.

4.2 AREA 2: UPPER TERRACE

The upper terrace corresponds to the raised lawn surface within the central section of the 1803 North Market Street lot and a portion of the concrete pad enclosed by a chain link fence and concrete wall within 1805 North Market Street (Plate 4). This area, which accounts for approximately 623 m² (0.15 ac.), extends south from Area 1 approximately 15.5 m (51 ft.) to the southern edge of the chain link fence enclosure and has a maximum width of 40.2 m (132 ft.) or the approximate width of both 1803 and 1805 North Market Street. The concrete area was the site of a series of garage buildings present by the second decade of the twentieth century.

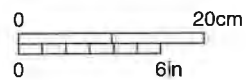
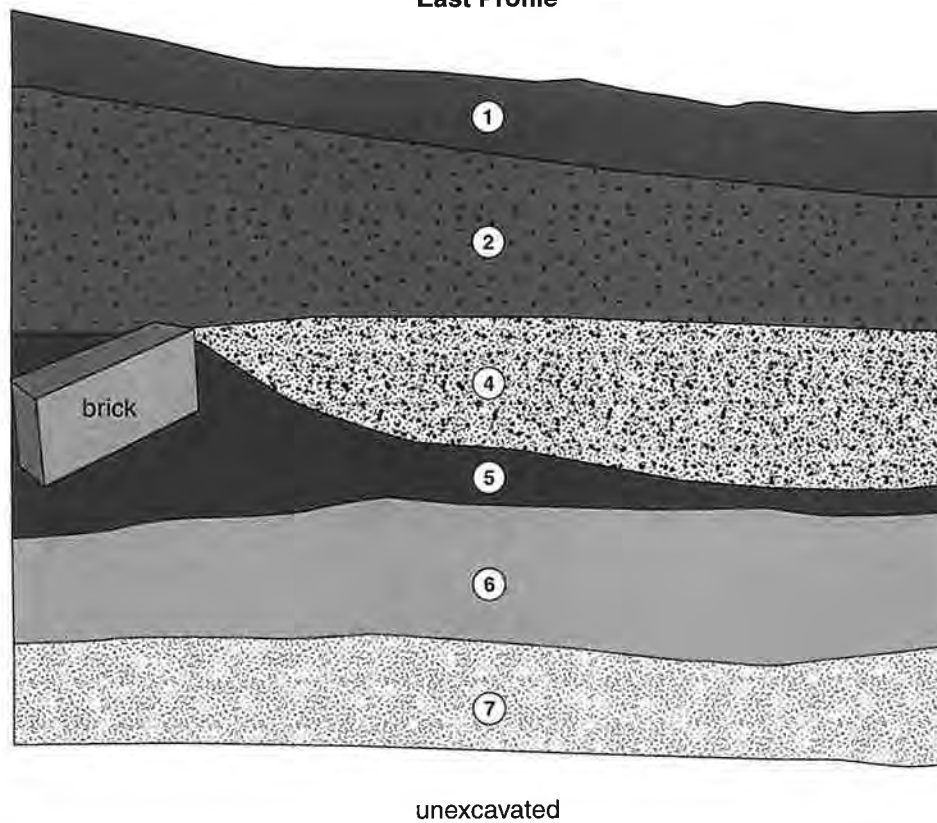
4.2.1 GPR Study

On the upper terrace, two sets of two linear anomalies intersecting at right angles were observed (Figure 9). These anomalies were positive relief features occurring at less than 50 cm below ground surface. The anomaly set to the northwest exhibited a vertical extent up to at least 1 m in depth but this is uncertain due to the attenuation of the signal within the anomaly. The other anomaly on the terrace did not have a vertical extent as great as the first. Both these anomalies were oriented with the property lines and other landscape features (walls, stairs, walks, etc.) observed at the surface.

4.2.2 Excavation Unit 1

EU 1 was placed on the upper terrace behind 1803 North Market Street approximately 3.66 m (12.0 ft.) from the 1803/1805 North Market Street lot line in order to further examine the L-shaped anomaly identified by the GPR survey (Figure 9). Encountered at the surface of the unit was the modern topsoil consisting of very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) silt loam that ranged in thickness from approximately 8 to 15 cm. Beneath this upper horizon were four discrete fill layers interpreted as historic landscaping/terracing deposits, corresponding to Levels 2 through 5 (Figure 11). Level 2 consisted of very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) silt loam mottled 15 percent with yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silt loam. Thickness ranged from 11 to 19 cm. Underlying this layer was a relatively thin 0.5 to 10.5 cm layer of white (5Y 8/1) sand (representing decomposing mortar). This layer was present only within the southwestern quadrant of the unit. Once removed, the surrounding fill deposit consisted of very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) silt loam with a 50 percent mottle of yellowish red (5YR 4/6) silty clay loam. Excavated with this 3 to 19 cm thick fill deposit was a thin lens of black (10YR 2/1) ash in the southwestern quadrant. The base landscaping fill layer, designated as level 5, consisted of very dark gray (10YR 3/1) silt loam containing a high concentration of loose brick along the northern edge of the unit. Also present within the central portion of this layer was a shallow north to south orientated depression, designated as Feature 1. This linear trench may represent an erosion induced feature and may be the north-south orientated linear anomaly that was identified during the GPR survey. The base fill layer was highly variable in thickness, ranging from 1 cm in the southeast corner to over 25 cm in the northwest corner. Once removed, the intact historic Ap-horizon or plowzone was identified by the presence of an abrupt lower boundary at the base of the layer. This historic ground surface is capped by approximately 44.5 to 66.5 cm of historic landscaping fill deposits. Approximately 10 cm thick, this lower topsoil consists of brown (10YR 4/3) heavy silt loam and directly overlay the intact subsoil or B-horizon. Two features were identified in the subsoil, one of which appears to

**Excavation Unit 1
East Profile**



- 1 10YR 3/2 very dark brown silty loam; Ap1-horizon (circa 1878-1967)
- 2 10YR 3/2 very dark brown silty loam with 15% mottling of 10YR 5/6 silty loam; fill (circa 1856-1960)
- 4 5YR 4/6 light reddish brown silty clay loam with 50% mottling of 10YR 3/2 silty loam; fill (circa 1856-1960)
- 5 10YR 3/1 very dark gray silty loam; fill
- 6 10YR 4/3 brown heavy silty loam; Ap-2 horizon (circa 1781-1837)
- 7 10YR 5/6 yellowish brown silty clay loam; B-horizon

Figure 11. East profile of Excavation Unit 1 showing stratigraphic profile of upper terrace.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: DELAWARE
 COUNTY: NEW CASTLE
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY NUMBER: 71.210.0001
 DATE: 2/24/71

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME:
 COMMON: Brandywine Village ^{Historic District} (now a part of Wilmington, Delaware)
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Bokton (early Swedish homes) c.1640/ Brandywine c.1670-town separate

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: East boundary, Tatnall Street
 South boundary Brandywine Creek, Other bound. irreg. see map
 CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington
 STATE: Delaware CODE: 07 COUNTY: NEW CASTLE CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION
 CATEGORY (Check One): District Building Site Structure Object
 OWNERSHIP: Public Private Both Majority Private
 Public Acquisition: In Process Being Considered for park land along Brandywine Creek
 STATUS: Occupied Unoccupied Preservation work in progress
 ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes: Restricted Unrestricted No
 PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate): Agricultural Government Park Transportation Comments Village or urban character
 Commercial Industrial Private Residence Other (Specify)
 Educational Military Religious
 Entertainment Museum Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNER'S NAME: Multi-ownership & 3 Market St. Old Brandywine Village, Inc. owns 8 properties stone houses, the Academy, and (Private) small house opposite small park, playground on Creek shore, a stone double house in S.E. corner. (See map)
 STREET AND NUMBER: O.B.V. Stewart
 CITY OR TOWN: Dupont Bldg. STATE: Delaware CODE: 07

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Municipal Bldg. Recorder of Deeds City Planning Office Register of Wills
 STREET AND NUMBER: 11 th and King Streets
 CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 07

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: 1. Hist. Amer. Bldg. Survey Del. 1966 Heritage Bldgs. areas in New Castle 3. 1967 Study of Alterna Plan Design Pol
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1934 1-2 Federal State Count 2-3 Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress 2- Gr. Wilm. Devel. Council 3-Wallace, McHarg Roberts, and Todd
 STREET AND NUMBER: 701 Shipley Street 1740 Cherry St.
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D.C. Wilmington, Del. Phila. Pa. CODE: 07

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: DELAWARE COUNTY: NEW CASTLE ENTRY NUMBER: 71.210.0001 DATE: 2/24/71 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Brandywine Village was the original location of a group of flour mills, the homes of prosperous millers, mill workers, shop keepers and artisans. In general, the development of the small town was accomplished in the last quarter of the 18th century. At first the town was a separate entity on the north side of the Brandywine Creek, but soon became a part of earlier Wilmington, then developing on the south bank of the stream.

The Brandywine Creek flows approximately west to east for the area involved in the town and forms the south boundary. The total area of thirty acres reaches northeast from the creek in an irregular fashion. All of the mill and mill race sites are included, as are all the historic homes, large and small, and a small school house. Two mid-century churches are also included in this historic district.

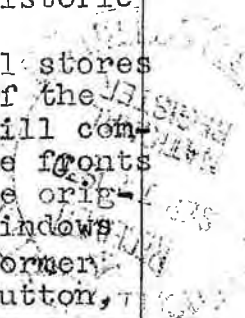
The crossing of the creek, which has always been a problem due to the rocky stream-bed and the steep banks, is now accomplished by two modern bridges. These supplant three early wooden bridges, a still earlier ford, and a ferry. The creek was navigable at this point for the small sailing boats which served the mills. There were mills on both sides of the creek, but none of them survive in its original form. There are, however, continuous sections of exposed foundations which line both sides of the stream, some supporting later structures.

Market Street, the old toll road to Philadelphia from Wilmington and points south of the village, has always been the main street. Here developed the row of sturdy houses built of local Brandywine granite by the mill owners of the period. Six still remain in good condition while one is covered by a late store front. All are of good integrity of design, and although changes have been made, the character of the changes is, in the main, quite obvious and leaves little or no doubt of the original form and detail. For example, later additions of porches and shed dormers fail to obscure the original simple dignity of two stories of stone with a classic moulded cornice and a sloped roof paralleling the street.

Two of the seven houses have been restored, one serving as the headquarters of the Junior League of Wilmington, and the other owned and occupied by the Wilmington Senior Center. The whole row is placed high off the street level and back a generous dimension from the retaining walls at the line of the sidewalk. Of the seven houses mentioned above, three are owned by Old Brandywine Village, Inc., a private organization with strong historic and preservation interests and ideals.

The opposite side of Market Street is lined with small stores and other commercial activities housed within the walls of the old shops and homes of the less affluent members of the mill community, some of brick and some of frame construction. Store fronts and signs of the last century have, in general, obscured the original buildings. However, in many instances, second story windows and pitched roofs above the first stories attest to the former character of the row. Further houses of later date line Hutton,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate) <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century			
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Political <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE <p>In 1637 the earliest settler reached the land which later became Brandywine Village. This was Captain Jacob Vandever who took his small ship up the small stream, now the Brandywine Creek. Accompanied by his wife, he had sailed directly from Holland. Previously, in 1631, he had made an earlier trip to the New World and left a brother in New Amsterdam, who was a member of the Dutch East India Company and who prospered in Manhattan.</p> <p>Shortly after his landing, it was discovered that his ship was leaky and unseaworthy. With the consent of a friendly Indian chief, Vandever and his crew laid claim to the landing place and built what was the first house in Brandywine Hundred. The first land patent was granted to Jacob Vandever in 1669 under the Duke of York and confirmed by re-survey in 1684-85. At that time the amount of land mentioned was 535 acres. The original log-hewn house and the brick one which followed have disappeared. Farm life prevailed on the whole Vandever Tract up to the time of the development of the flour milling industry.</p> <p>Members of prominent families in the Village and surrounding areas gradually became involved in flour mill building and operation included the Marshalls in 1757, the Tatnalls and Leas in the 1770's. It was members of these families who built the stone houses on Market Street. They came into the period of their greatest prosperity in the Revolution when, after the Battle of the Brandywine in 1777, Joseph Tatnall became the chief supplier of flour for the Continental Army. The association was the start of a friendship with Generals George Washington, Lafayette, and Anthony Wayne, which grew and outlasted the war period.</p> <p>In 1788 Oliver Evans, a local inventor, persuaded Joseph Tatnall and his partner, Lea, to install in their mill in the Village his idea of a mechanized mill system which proved very successful and was the first of its kind.</p> <p>The Brandywine Academy was built in 1798 following a successful subscription of funds. The land was given by John Dickinson, the "Pen Man of the Revolution", and John Welsh. Dickinson had large property holdings in Brandywine Village, inherited by his daughter at his death in 1808/</p> <p>The Academy served as a school for about 75 years, and also</p>			



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

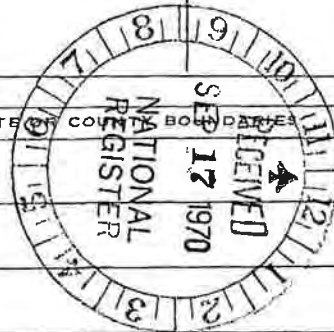
Delaware, A Guide to the First State-1938 by Fed. Writers Proj. W.P.A.
 History of Delaware by Scharf - 1888
 Historic Houses and Buildings Of Delaware by Eberlein -1962
 Original Settlements On The Delaware by Ferris - 1846
 Delaware History-- Delaware Historical Society
 Three Centuries Under Four Flags by Lincoln -1937
 Map by Amos Brinton --Old Brandywine Village, Inc. File
 Early Architecture of Delaware by George F. Bennett -1932

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	39 ° 45 ' 04 "	75 ° 32 ' 45 "		0	0	
NE	39 ° 45 ' 13 "	75 ° 32 ' 25 "				
SE	39 ° 44 ' 58 "	75 ° 32 ' 14 "				
SW	39 ° 44 ' 49 "	75 ° 32 ' 34 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 30 ACRES

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Albert Kruse, F.A.I.A., State Preservation Coordinator

ORGANIZATION: Delaware Chapter, American Institute of Architects
 DATE: July 26, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
 123 Edgewood Road, Alapocas

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington, Delaware
 STATE: Delaware
 CODE: 07

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name: Leon deValinger, Jr.
 Title: State Archivist & State Liaison Officer
 Date: July 29, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

FEB 24 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST:
William J. Montague
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: DEC 30 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.2.10.0001	2/25/71

Old Brandywine Village (Continuation Sheet) Description

(Number all entries)

Vandever, Buena Vista, and Race Streets and are of great value as supplementary, if not primary, interest to the community.

At the north end of the row of large houses on Market Street, at the corner of Concord Ave., St. John's Episcopal Church was built in 1857 and consecrated in 1858. The church has been greatly expanded from a simple parish church to become the Cathedral Church of St. John. The first building was designed by John Notman of Philadelphia, who was a leading designer in the Gothic tradition of that time. The Notman plan was a simple cruciform type with a tall tower surmounted by a slender spire. Brandywine granite was used for all walls and the roof is of slate. The expanded group which is now the Cathedral Church is well arranged and allows the original design to hold its place in the complete composition. The use of the local granite makes the church compatible with the old houses.

North on Market St. on the east side stands the Brandywine Methodist Episcopal Church, also built in 1857. The present building is a very simple rectangular brick structure. The exterior is stuccoed and the surface is scored to simulate stone coursing. The roof is low-pitched, pedimented on the entrance or street front. Since the auditorium is on the second floor, the high arched windows with tinted glass express this use in contrast with the much lower windows on the first floor which houses church offices and the Sunday School. The architectural style follows the work of Benjamin Latrobe, William Strickland and Ammi B. Young who worked in Wilmington and nearby New Castle, and were doubtless an influence in the design of this building.

On Vandever Ave., just east of the intersection with Market St. stands the Brandywine Academy, founded in 1798, as attested by the oval date stone over the entrance. It is a two story building of stone with a generous attic surmounted by an octagonal cupola with bell, on a low square base. It housed a class room on each floor and also served as a meeting place for the village activities.

Brandywine granite again plays its part in making Brandywine Village an integral architectural composition. The Academy is owned by Old Brandywine Village, Inc., and has been restored by this organization. The first floor, as restored, portrays a classroom of the early 1800's, and the second floor is the meeting room for the Caesar Rodney Chapter of the D.A.R., whose members serve as guides in the schoolroom. It is used as a museum visited regularly by Delaware elementary school pupils studying Delaware history, and others.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

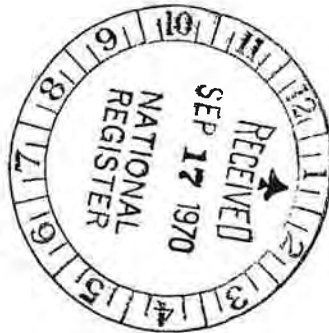
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FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

Old Brandywine Village- significance

housed the founding groups and original worshipers of the two churches founded in the Village; St. John's Episcopal and the Brandywine Methodists. From 1915 to 1943 the building was used as a branch of the Wilmington Institute Free Library. The Academy was founded as a private school and became a part of the Wilmington Public School system.

In 1824 General Lafayette re-visited Brandywine Village in a tour of the Eastern part of the states, so familiar to him in the war. The Village held a triumphant parade, crowds cheered and waved flags. The Academy bell was rung and the General visited with the Tatnalls and other friends of the war days.



LAT. 39°45'04" N
LONG. 75°32'45" W

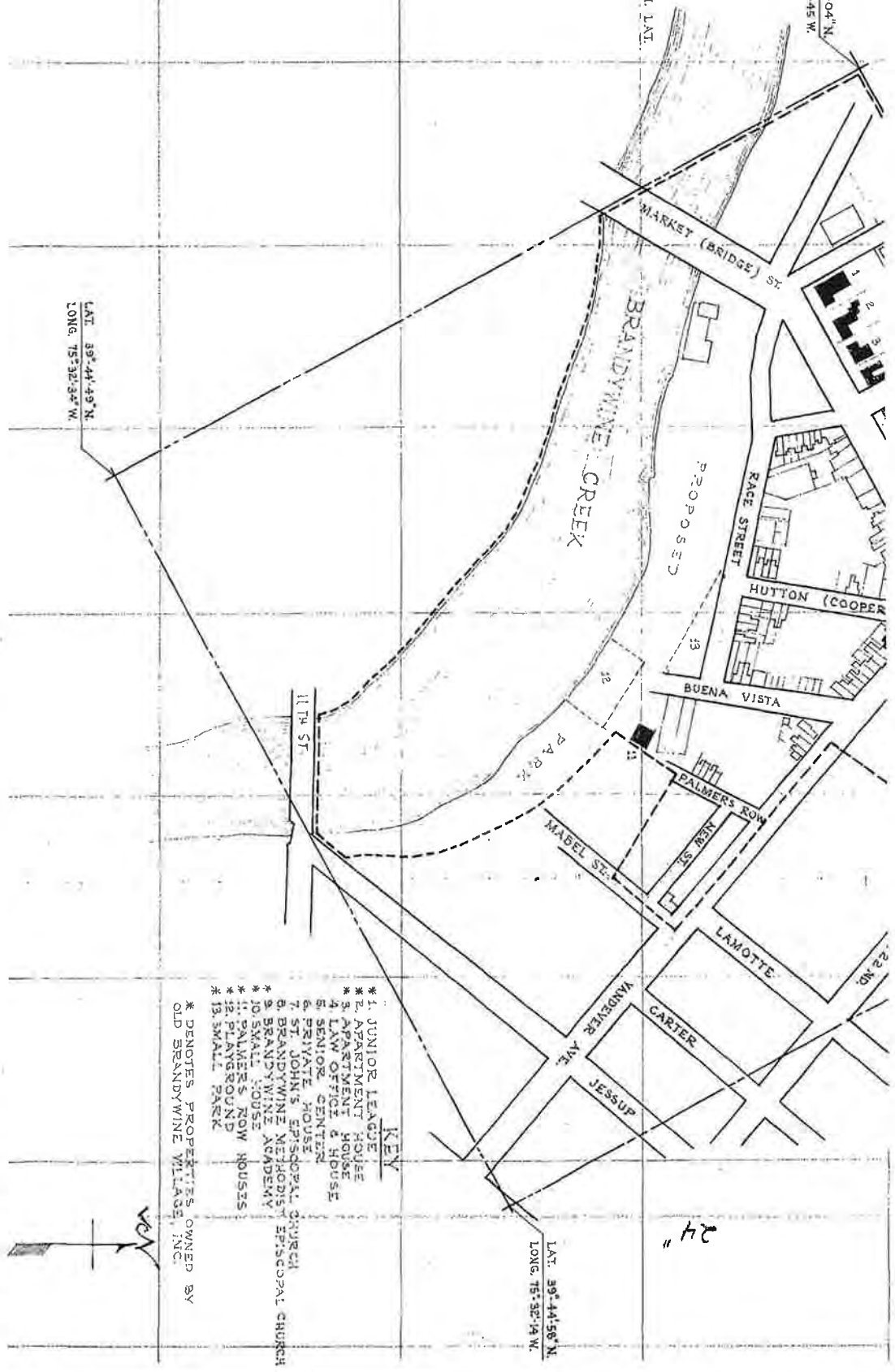
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OLD BRANDYWINE VILLAGE

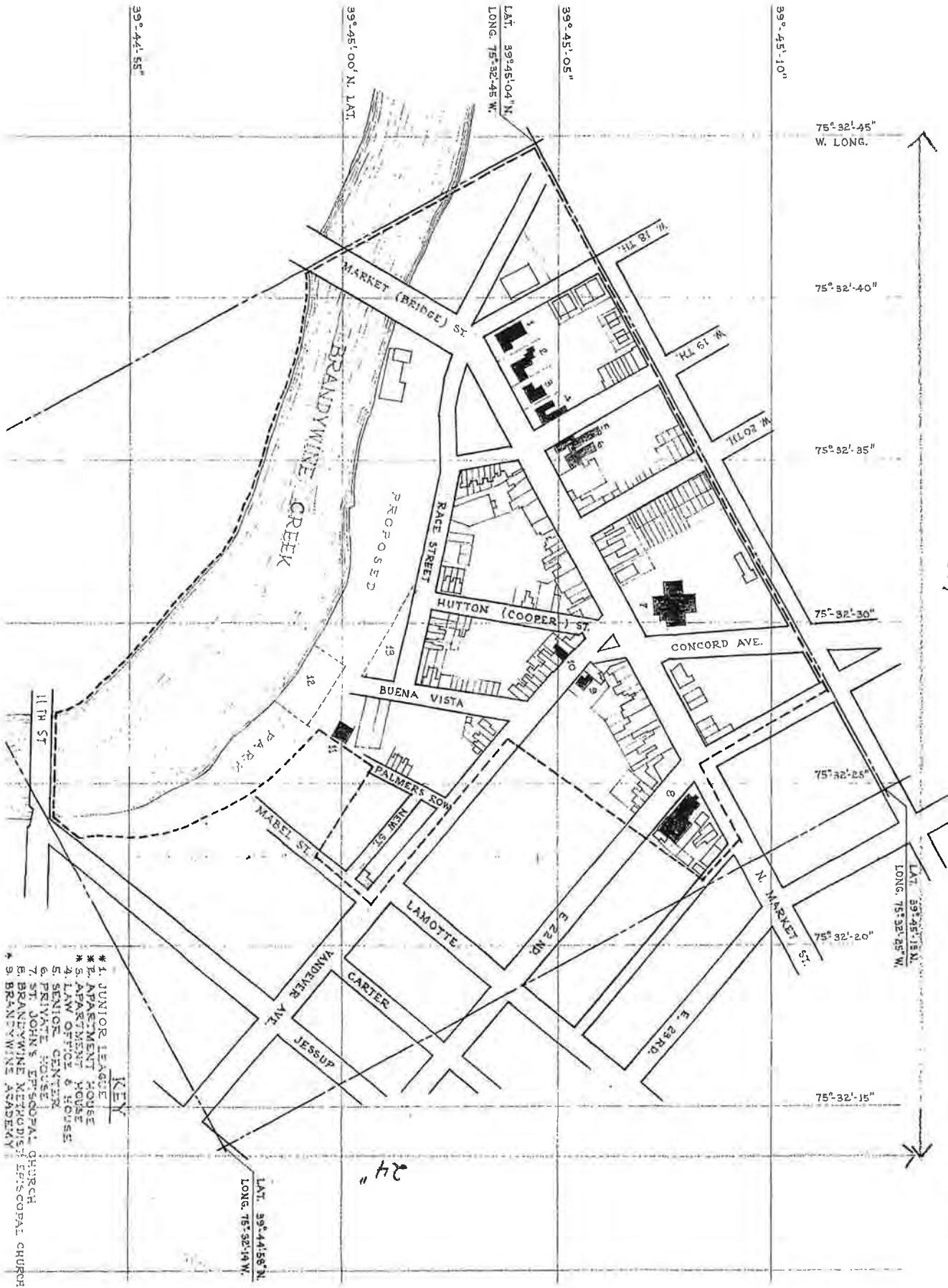
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

- KEY**
- *1 JUNIOR LEAGUE
 - *2 APARTMENT HOUSE
 - *3 APARTMENT HOUSE
 - *4 LAW OFFICE & HOUSE
 - *5 SENIOR CENTER
 - *6 PRIVATE HOUSE
 - *7 ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 - *8 BRANDYWINE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 - *9 BRANDYWINE ACADEMY
 - *10 SMALL HOUSE
 - *11 PALMERS ROW HOUSES
 - *12 PLAYGROUND
 - *13 SMALL PARK
- * DENOTES PROPERTIES OWNED BY OLD BRANDYWINE VILLAGE, INC.



SCALE

7-23-70



24"

24"



JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



(<https://allthingsliberty.com>)

/ January 25, 2017

ROLLING ON THE RIVER: DELAWARE IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

by Kim Burdick(<https://allthingsliberty.com/author/kim-burdick/>)



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price drop

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Under English rule, trading vessels sailed back and forth from the Delaware River and Bay to Philadelphia, New York, the British Isles, Southern Europe, Madeira, and the West Indies. Raw materials were sent to England for manufacture, traded with non-British entities, and the proceeds spent on British-made goods. Daily runs between Cape Henlopen, New Castle and Philadelphia were key to the prosperity of what would become the State of Delaware.

Following the French and Indian War, reaction to British attempts to tax and regulate trade was so negative that Parliament repealed all but the tax on tea. The Tea Act quickly backfired. When news came in September 1773, that the tea ship *Polly* was on its way, it was obvious that the first Americans to meet her would be Delaware River pilots. They, along with Captain Ayres of the *Polly*, were warned not to bring that ship upriver. A handbill read, in part:

What think you, Captain, of a Halter around your Neck—ten Gallons of liquid Tar decanted on your Pate—with the Feathers of a dozen wild Geese laid over that to enliven your Appearance? Only think seriously of this—and fly to the Place from whence you came—fly without Hesitation—without the Formality of a Protest—and above all, Captain Ayres, let us advise you to fly without the wild Geese Feathers. [1](#_edn1).

Despite the threats, the *Polly* was intercepted south of Philadelphia. On Christmas Day, nearly seven hundred chests of tea ordered by the Quaker firm of James & Drinker were formally refused. The ship was stocked with fresh provisions and water, and Captain Ayres sent to “convey the tea back to its old rotting-place in Leadenhall Street.”



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When Parliament shut the Port of Boston, it seemed likely that Philadelphia might also be punished. On July 6, 1774, worried Delawareans met at the New Castle Courthouse, with Sussex Countians meeting separately in Lewes on July 23. Thomas McKean attended both meetings, reminding Delawareans that the Intolerable Acts prohibited farmers from ferrying their own wool, “though the rivers, waters, havens, etc. are given to us by our Charters.” On August 1, delegates from all three counties met in New Castle. Caesar Rodney, Thomas McKean, and George Read, “or any two of them,” were appointed to meet with “the sister Colonies ... in order that all may unite in promoting and endeavoring to attain the rights of the Colonies as British subjects.” [2](#_edn2).

That September, fifty-five delegates representing every colony but Georgia met in Philadelphia. Paul Revere rode into town on the 17th to present Massachusetts' statement, the Suffolk Resolves, suggesting that the colonies form their own military, refuse to pay British taxes, cut off trade with Britain and its colonies in the West Indies, and create their own government. The delegates agreed, appointing twenty-four members to create a list of American rights and grievances, devise redress, or secure Britain's acquiescence.

When London learned of the formation of this Continental Congress, a forty-four-gun British frigate began patrolling the Delaware River and Bay, interrupting commerce, collecting intelligence, and chasing smugglers.

A Second Continental Congress met on May 10, 1775. George Read, Caesar Rodney and Thomas McKean once again represented the Lower Three Counties. John Dickinson served as a Pennsylvania delegate. Although it was agreed that a Continental Army was needed, an Olive Branch Petition was drafted and approved. When this peace missive arrived in England, the King refused to read it, officially declaring the colonies to be in a state of rebellion. [3](# edn3).

Fear escalated. Henry Fisher of Lewes was asked to establish thirteen alarm posts following the river from Cape Henlopen, Mispillion River, Murderkill River, Bombay Hook, Port Penn, and further north to Philadelphia. The lower alarm posts were equipped with small boats and cannon.

In December, Esek Hopkins of Rhode Island was appointed commander-in-chief of the newly-created Continental Navy comprised of seven ships: two 24-gun frigates, the *Alfred* and the *Columbus*; two 14-gun brigs, the *Andrea Doria*, and the *Cabot*; and three schooners, the *Hornet*, the *Wasp*, and the *Fly*. Because the river was frozen, Hopkins' fleet had to wait in Philadelphia until February 11, 1776. Fearful that the Continental Naval Committee was "taking the Bread from their mouths," the Delaware River pilots asked Henry Fisher to be their spokesman. In response, the Naval Committee approved ten Delaware River pilots to serve as "scouts of the waterway" to send dispatches of enemy activity along the coast to Philadelphia throughout the war. [4](# edn4).

On March 27, Henry Fisher sent word that the British ship *Roebuck* and a tender had entered the mouth of the Delaware Bay. The Philadelphia committee immediately ordered four row galleys to report to the *Lexington* under command of Capt. John Barry, to "exert their utmost endeavors to take or destroy all such vessels of the enemy as they might find in the Delaware." Captain Lawrence with the *Salamander* and Captain Hause with the guard boat *Eagle* were sent to Lewes. The *Eagle* and supplies were to be placed at Henry Fisher's disposal.

Soldiers under Col. John Haslet were also deployed to Lewes. On April 7, one of the *Roebuck's* tenders attacked an American merchant ship. Gunfire from the Delaware Continental Regiment and cannonfire from the merchant ship helped check the *Roebuck*. Haslet reported to George Read that he had the *Roebuck's* third lieutenant and three soldiers in custody. They had been taken from a tender about four in the morning after "the helmsman fell asleep [and] Providence steered the boat ashore." [5](# edn5).

THE 100 BEST AMERICAN REVOLUTION BOOKS OF ALL TIME

(<https://allthingsliberty.com/2017/03/100-best-american-revolution-books-time/>)

The pension records of Samuel Lockwood, a volunteer in the Delaware militia, describe the events:

At Lewestown, Sussex County, state of Delaware, early in the beginning of the year 1776, served under Capt. David Hall, afterwards Colonel Hall ... alternatively guarding at the lighthouse which was on Cape Henlopen (about the distance of one mile from Lewestown) and working on the fort at Lewestown ... This whole year was occupied by the company to which he belonged by guarding at the lighthouse and working as aforesaid, always taking their muskets, etc., with them. And whenever they heard two cannons (which was the signal), they laid by their laboring tools, seized their arms, and repaired to the point where there was danger apprehended and again, when the alarm was over, returned to their work unless the time for their relief had arrived. [6](# edn6).

The *Roebuck* and the *Liverpool* began moving north. On May 8, 1776, thirteen row galleys and the Continental schooner *Wasp* attacked them below Chester, Pennsylvania. The exchange of fire lasted nearly four hours. At dusk, the *Roebuck* ran aground and the *Liverpool* was forced to anchor until the firing stopped. The next day, the *Roebuck* floated off the sand bar and the American row galleys resumed attack. Firing constantly, the *Roebuck* and *Liverpool* were chased six miles back down the river to New Castle, where they moored for the night. William Barry, an American prisoner on the *Roebuck*, reported that there were

many shots betwixt the wind and water: some went quite through, some in her quarter, and was much raked fore and aft ... one man was killed by a shot ... Six were much hurt and burned by an eighteen-pound cartridge of powder taking fire, among whom was an acting lieutenant, and several were hurt by splinters. [7](# edn7).

George Read wrote Caesar Rodney pleading for more powder and lead for the troops at Lewes.

On June 15, 1776, within sight of British war ships prowling the river, thirty Delawareans met in the New Castle courthouse. The men squabbled about the need for the change in government recommended by the Continental Congress and with each other about a proposal to create their own independent state. A state composed of only three counties, all bordered by the Delaware River, seemed both stupid and dangerous, and Rodney, McKean, Read, and all other colonial leaders would be accused of treason against Britain if America lost the war. Eventually, it was decided that the Lower Three Counties of Pennsylvania would be free not only from Britain, but also from governance by the Penn family.

Caesar Rodney was now Delaware's highest ranking officer, and although due to be at the Continental Congress, William Adair, a resident of Sussex County, noted in his diary, "June 19-20, Colonel Rodney came to try Tories with 1,000 men viz Colonel Haslet's Battalion, also a fair representation of riflemen to reduce a Tory insurrection here. Witnesses examined for four days. Tories ordered to bring in their arms and ammunition." On June 23-25, Adair wrote, "Robinson, Manlove and Ingram fled to Somerset, are raising an insurrection at Snow Hill." [8](# edn8).

On July 1, Thomas McKean angrily paid for a rider to hasten from Philadelphia to find Rodney. Delaware's vote on the Declaration of Independence was tied; Thomas McKean voting for, and George Read voting against. A second and final vote would be taken the next day. Caesar Rodney wrote to his brother that he arrived in Philadelphia "in time Enough to give my Voice in the matter of Independence." [9](# edn9).

Delaware was now asked to supply 600 men for a Flying Camp of militia units from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. They were assigned to guard the vulnerable coastline, protect the Continental Army's supply lines, suppress roving bands of Tories and act as a ready reserve when George Washington's army need reinforcement. 460 Delawareans were recruited. Their term expired on December 1, 1776. Two weeks later, Caesar Rodney's brother, Thomas, and thirty-five Kent Countians left Dover to join Washington and his men in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. In his diary, Thomas Rodney described Washington's crossing of the Delaware:

Our light Infantry Battalion (composed of the Dover company and four companies of Philadelphia militia under Captain George Henry) were embarked in boats to cover the landing of the Brigade. When we reached

the Jersey shore we were obliged to land on the ice, 150 yards from the shore. The River was also very full of floating ice and the wind was blowing very hard, and the night was very dark and cold, and we had great difficulty in crossing but the night was very favorable to the enterprise ... about 12 o'clock the remainder of my company came in, and in the evening, we heard of General Washington's success at Trenton and that he had captured 900 Hessians. [10](# edn10).

During the crossing, Delaware Regiment 's Col. John Haslet fell into the icy river. He survived, marched ten miles through the wintry blasts to fight the Hessian troops garrisoned in Trenton, then was killed on January 3 at the battle of Princeton.

Wartime activity in the Delaware River and Bay continued. A message was received from Jacob Bennett that he had been taken by a British ship of war south of Cape Henlopen and saw a local boat arrive carrying livestock for the British. On January 27, 1777, the General Assembly resumed session in New Castle. Orders for arresting Loyalists Boas Manlove and Thomas Robinson, Esquires, were read and laid on the table. In March, after evading several arrests, Manlove, Robinson, and colleague John F. Smyth, fled to the British ship *Preston*.

In Philadelphia, the Continental Congress ordered a survey of the Pennsylvania side of the river, noting places where the enemy might land. This was to extend "down the river as far as Christina Creek." Construction of forts at Billingsport and Red Bank, New Jersey, and Fort Mifflin on Mud Island, and installation of underwater obstacles called *chevaux-de-frises*, began while Britain's *Liverpool* and *Roebuck* continued to patrol.

In April, 1777, the Continental Congress advised Delawareans to prepare for an attack. New Castle's location on the river caused the Delaware Assembly to move inland to Dover. On April 10, British men-of-war appeared in the bay where an encounter took place between the British ships *Roebuck* and *Perseus*, and an American ship, *Morris*. On June 4, Sussex County resident William Adair noted in his diary, "Roebuck blew off her guns in ye road, 2 ships came up the Bay" and again on the 9th, "The ships blew off their guns today." In July Adair added, "Tories have robbed ten cattle in Mr. Kollock's vessel, clothing, houses at Indian River." [11](# edn11).

On July 21, 1777, two hundred and sixty-one British ships arrived in the Delaware Bay. A British inventory listed "twenty-seven battalions of British and eight of foreigners; one regiment of light dragoons; a detachment of Artillery, consisting of british riflemen, the Queen's rangers and four comp. of Pioneers." [12](# edn12). Their goal was to capture the rebel capital of Philadelphia. After learning from *Roebuck's* Capt. Andrew Snape Hammond about the *chevaux-de-frises* installed below Philadelphia, the ships turned south, rounding the Delmarva Peninsula to head north into the Chesapeake. These ships arrived at Head of Elk on August 25 and proceeded to land British troops.

Almost simultaneously, George Washington led 11,000 American soldiers down Philadelphia Pike into Wilmington. Washington wrote to John Hancock and William Livingston from Quaker Hill, "How far the Enemy have it in view to extend themselves in a Line from Bay to Bay, I cannot determine; but the idea has taken pace with many ... It is another Effort to seduce the people to give up their rights and to encourage our soldiery to desert." [13](# edn13).

Following the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, British Gen. William Howe dispatched the 71st Regiment (Frazer's Highlanders) and some Hessians under the command of Col. Johann von Loos down Concord Pike into Wilmington. Howe's purpose was to use Wilmington as a point of rendezvous with the British fleet. On October 5 news came from Lewes that "36 sail of the enemy ships went past this town up the Bay, and this evening 47 more were seen from the Light house standing in for the Cape, they have anchored in our road." On October 23, the British ship *Augusta* caught fire near Fort Mifflin and exploded, the blast causing bottles to rattle in Wilmington.

The winter of Valley Forge followed. Under Brig. Gen. William Smallwood's command, Delaware and Maryland soldiers garrisoned Wilmington, serving as a buffer between the American supply depots at Head of Elk and the British in Philadelphia. In March, George Washington at Valley Forge received good news from Captain John Barry:

Port Penn, March 9, 1778

Dear General

Tis with the Greatest Satisfaction Imaginable I inform You of Capturing Two Ships & a Schooner of the Enemy. The two ships were Transports from Rhode Island Loaded with forage One Mounting Six Four Pounders with fourteen hands Each the Schooner is in the Engineering Department Mounting Eight Double fortified four Pounders & twelve four Pound howitz Properly fitted in Every Particular & Manned with thirty-three men... the schooner is unloaded but have not as Yet the Manifest of the Cargo But are a Number of Engineering Tools on Board.

... By the Bearer Mr John Chilton have Sent You a Cheese Together with a Jar of Pickled Oysters which Crave Your Acceptance. should have Remitted the Particulars Together with the Letters & Dispatch for General De hester Before But a fleet of the Enemys Small Vessels appearing in Sight Obliged me to Burn One of the Ships & am afraid the Other will share the same fate after Discharging her But am Determined to hold the Schooner at all Events. Inclosed You have the Articles of the Schooners Capitulation as we Sent a flag on Board her. After Boarding the two Ships & am Sir with Due Respect Your Excellencies Most Obedient Humbl. Servt

John Barry[14](# edn14).

The following day, Smallwood wrote to George Washington from Wilmington:

Our People were attacked at 2OClk off Pt Pen by a 20 Gun Ship & an Armed Sloop which it was supposed were convoying the Remainder of the Forage Fleet—I have received Intelligence that many of the Enemy are out of Philada above their Lines towards German Town but the Intelligence is not to be depended on. W.S.

N.B. one of the Lieutenants gives an Account of 100 Transports being ordered 'round to Delaware abt the middle of this Month &c. [15](# edn15).

That spring, Captain Snape Hamond ordered the *Pearl*, stationed between Chester and Reedy Point, to destroy all rebel boats found in Delaware's creeks. George Read reported that "a considerable body of the Enemy, supposed to be 700, landed this morning about Liston's Highlands and were on the march up the Thoroughfare Neck." The British ship *Camilla* proceeded to patrol between Reedy Island and Bombay Hook, removing the rebel boat *Fame* out of a creek just above Reedy Point. The commander of Delaware's continental regiment, Charles Pope, wrote to Caesar Rodney from Duck Creek that "30—or 40 marines landed & took off some cattle etc., & returned ... at eight o'clock this morning. The fleet consisting of about 35 sail weighed and stood Down the Bay." [16](# edn16). From Lewes, it was reported that a "fleet of 40 Sail" was seen going up the Bay and that "English burn the 2 last vessels ashore, ye woods burn. John Whiltbanck, Loyalist, Went with Negroes to ye English." [17](# edn17).

Because New Castle was dangerously close to the river, the Delaware Assembly once again met in Dover. Caesar Rodney was elected President of Delaware. In the spring of 1778, Caesar Rodney wrote:

We are constantly alarmed in this place by the enemy and refugees. And seldom has a day passed but some man in this and the neighbouring counties is taken off by the villains. So, that men near the Bay who I know to

be hearty in the Cause, dare neither act nor speak lest they should be taken away and their houses plundered.
[18](# edn18).

On May 4, a delegation from the British government that had been sent to attempt reconciliation was sailing past New Castle, where they waited for an armed sloop to take them to Philadelphia. One noted, "as we passed ... [we] were insulted by a party of riflemen who fired several shots at us, which, though striking at too great a distance to occasion the least alarm, yet manifested the malevolence as well as rashness of their intentions." [19](# edn19)

By June, nearly 300 British merchant ships and transports were anchored along Delaware's coastline. Many loyalist families, hoping to find sanctuary, left with these ships when the British evacuated Philadelphia. On July 11, Caesar Rodney noted that the enemy had entirely left the Delaware River, and that Admiral d'Estaing's large French fleet was patrolling the Delaware coastline.[20](# edn20)

Things remained relatively peaceful in Delaware until summer of 1781, when thousands of soldiers, horses, cattle and baggage trains crossed New Castle County, following Philadelphia Pike to the Wilmington riverfront, then Maryland Avenue through Newport and Stanton to Old Stanton-Christiana Road. Turning west at Christiana, they followed Old Baltimore Pike into Maryland. Their destination was Yorktown, Virginia.

After Yorktown fell the war was effectively over, but there was military action in the Delaware Bay when British Capt. Josiah Rodgers of the *General Monk* ordered the American ship *Hyder Ally* to surrender(<https://allthingsliberty.com/2016/06/joshua-barney-victory-delaware-bay/>). On April 8, 1782, American naval Lt. Joshua Barney replied with a broadside of grape, canister and round shot, killing some sailors and marines. He ordered his ship to port and unleashed another round of shot. The boats were so close that the enemies' shouted commands were heard. The quick-thinking Barney then gave his sailors quiet directions while in a loud voice ordering them to do something else. As he had apparently intended, the two vessels collided and their riggings became entangled. The Americans fastened the *General Monk* to their ship to prevent her breaking loose and fired broadside. After less than thirty minutes of close-quarters combat, the Americans captured both the *General Monk* and the *Charming Molly*. [21](# edn21).

Further upstate, constable Robert Appleton's house was plundered by Loyalists who took him captive, hauling him to Bombay Hook. Joined by six more men, the Loyalists demanded he preach a Methodist sermon. When he refused, he was whipped, forced to destroy official papers, and made to promise that he would never serve papers on Tories again. Serving another warrant a few weeks later, Appleton was again captured and beaten. [22](# edn22)

While these things were taking place, soldiers continued passing through the state, all needing food, clothing, and supplies. Among those headed north that summer was the duc de Lauzun, returning to America from France. The whole trip had been an unpleasant adventure:

We arrived off the coast of America, at the mouth of the Delaware ... at daybreak we sighted an English squadron of seven men of war bearing down upon us under full canvas. We were forced to raise anchor and enter the river without pilots ... M. de la Touche sailed two leagues farther up the channel, then seeing that no hope remained, decided to put ashore the packages from the court, the money, and passengers. We were put ashore about a league from the nearest habitation, without having brought away so much as a shirt a piece. I was still in a fever, I could barely stand, and I should never have been able to reach a house had it not been for a powerful negro who gave me his arm... the French and American doctors were agreed in their opinion that I must die before the end of the autumn... Then M. de Rochambeau sent one of his aides-de-camp with letters for the Chevalier de la Luzerne, and wrote bidding me do everything in my power to come to camp... I mounted a horse and rode to camp, death being no worse on the road than in Philadelphia.[23](# edn23)

On April 11, 1783, the Continental Congress declared the cessation of arms against Great Britain. In New Castle, a peace celebration was held along the banks of the finally quiet river.

[1](# ednref1). Broadside printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* (Philadelphia), December 7, 1773.

[2](# ednref2). John Coleman, *Thomas McKean: Forgotten Leader of the Revolution* (Rockaway, NJ: American Faculty Press, 1975), 113-114.

[3](# ednref3). <http://www.san.beck.org/13-4-AmericanResistance1763-75.html>(<http://www.san.beck.org/13-4-AmericanResistance1763-75.html>). See also <http://www.hobart.k12.in.us/gemedia/amrev/revwar/olivebra.htm>(<http://www.hobart.k12.in.us/gemedia/amrev/revwar/olivebra.htm>).

[4](# ednref4). Tim McGrath, *Give Me a Fast Ship: The Continental Navy and America's Revolution at Sea* (New York: NAL Caliber Penguin Random House, 2015), 38-39. See also the Fisher papers at Historical Society of Delaware.

[5](# ednref5). J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Delaware, 1609-1888* (Philadelphia: I. J. Richards and Company, 1888), 1:227.

[6](# ednref6). Samuel Lockwood, reprinted in John C. Dann, *Revolution Remembered: Eyewitness Accounts of the War for Independence* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980), 166-167.

[7](# ednref7). John W. Jackson, *The Pennsylvania Navy, 1775-1781: Defense of the Delaware* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1974), 51.

[8](# ednref8). Harold Hancock, "Revolutionary War Diary of William Adair," *Delaware History*, Volume 13 (1968-1969), 154-170.

[9](# ednref9). George Ryden, ed., *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney, 1756-1784* (Philadelphia: Historical Society of Delaware, 1933), Letter no. 87.

[10](# ednref10). Thomas Rodney, *Diary of Captain Thomas Rodney, 1776-1777* (Wilmington: Historical Society of Delaware, 1888. On-demand reprint by Kessinger Publication), 12-24.

[11](# ednref11). Hancock, "Revolutionary War Diary of William Adair," 160.

[12](# ednref12). Robert Francis Seyboldt, *Contemporary British Accounts of Sir General Howe's Military Operations in 1777* (American Antiquarian Society, April 1930), 74.

[13](# ednref13). Philander Chase and Edward G. Lengel, eds., *Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series* (Charlottesville, University of Virginia, 1994), 11:112.

[14](# ednref14). John Barry to George Washington, March 9, 1778, National Archives, Founders Online, <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-14-02-0080>(<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-14-02-0080>).

[15](# ednref15) William Smallwood to George Washington, March 9-10, 1778, National Archives, Founders Online, <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-14-02-0089>(<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-14-02-0089>).

[16](# ednref16) Ryden, *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney*, Letter no. 247.

[17](# ednref17) Hancock, "Revolutionary War Diary of William Adair," 164.

[18](# ednref18) Caesar Rodney to Thomas McKean, Dover, March 9, 1778. McKean Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

[19](# ednref19) George James Howard, Earl of Carlisle, *Manuscripts of Earl of Carlisle* (London: Eyre and Spottiswood, 1897).

[20](# ednref20) Ryden, *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney*, Letter no.273.

[21](# ednref21) Mary Chase Barney, *A Biographical Memoir of the Late Commodore Joshua Barney* (Boston, Gray and Bowen, 1832), 114.

[22](# ednref22) Ray Raphael, *People's History of the American Revolution* (New York: HarperCollins. 2002), 147.

[23](# ednref23) Armand Louis de Gontaut Biron, Duc de Lauzun, *Memoirs of Lauzun*, translated by C.K. Scott Moncrieff (New York, NY, Brentanos, 1928), 214-21.

The Marshalls soon recognized that their capital resources were inadequate to complete their ambitious plan. In 1770 they transferred the project to Joseph Tatnall, a relative with more considerable means who was destined to be one of the most important millers ever to operate along the Brandywine. Joseph Tatnall was the son of Edward Tatnall, who had come to America in 1725 with his mother, Ann Tatnall. Edward married Elizabeth Pennock, the daughter of Irish Quakers. Among their children were Joseph and Mary Tatnall, who married William Marshall, thus making Joseph Tatnall and Marshall brothers-in-law. Tatnall sold his shares in mills on the south side to raise the funds with which he pushed the north race to completion. By 1772 four mills were grinding at the tidewater on the north bank. Tatnall owned two of these and had an interest in the third.¹⁰ His principal partner was Thomas Lea, who married Tatnall's daughter Sarah. Another of his daughters, Margaret, married James Price, who was also an investor in the merchant mills. With the completion of the bridge and the north race, a new residential community began to develop on the north bank. Joseph Tatnall bought land there from Tobias Vandever and was among the first to build a home in this little hamlet that was soon to be known as Brandywine Village. The house, now 1803 Market Street, was constructed of Brandywine granite probably taken from the excavations for the north race. Next door James Marshall built a similar house, now 1801 Market Street, which later became the home of Thomas Lea.

The merchant millers were concerned with shipping as well as with the production of power and the grinding of grain. Beginning with Oliver Canby, millers bought both river sloops and shares in ocean vessels. Several millers owned shares in the brig *Nancy*, which made a number of voyages to the West Indies and Portugal with cargoes of flour and barrel staves in the years just before the Revolution. The *Nancy* returned carrying rum, sugar, molasses, coffee, and chocolate, items sold by commission merchants in Philadelphia on behalf of the brig's owners.¹¹ Like other eighteenth-century merchants, the Brandywine millers were represented by agents called factors who resided in the port cities with which they had trade connections. It was the factor's job to dispose of the incoming cargo at the best possible price and to



Joseph Tatnall (1740-1813).
From J. T. Scharf,
History of Delaware, 1888.

select the cargo and destination for the ship's voyage. Through these business relationships the merchants and millers on the Christina and the Brandywine were connected with the greater network of British imperial and other world markets.

The Revolutionary War caused a lengthy interruption in these mercantile patterns. When the war began the British stationed the man-of-war H.M.S. *Roebuck* in Delaware Bay to prevent Philadelphia and Wilmington merchants from carrying on overseas trade. Cut off from outside markets, the merchant millers were challenged by the task of distributing flour to the American army and people in a highly inflationary economy.

In its early stages the war was concentrated in Boston and then New York. It was not until the summer of 1777 that the British invaded Delaware and Pennsylvania, when a force of 17,000 commanded by General Sir William Howe sailed from its base

in Manhattan to the Chesapeake Bay and thence to the Elk River in Maryland. There the soldiers disembarked and began an overland march to Philadelphia. General Washington, eager to recoup his army's losses in the battles of Long Island and White Plains the previous year, shadowed the British movements, intent on attacking the enemy at some vulnerable place before Howe could reach his objective. On September 10 the Americans positioned themselves along the Brandywine about ten miles north of Wilmington at Chadds Ford, where Howe's forces would cross the river.

In the tense days that preceded the battle, Washington stationed his troops in the vicinity of Wilmington. General Anthony Wayne made his headquarters in the Joseph Tatnall house, and Washington and his staff attended meetings there.¹² It was probably at this time that Washington and Lafayette first met Joseph Tatnall. They seldom ever visited the region again without paying their respects to this Quaker miller, who is said to have promised the Virginia general, "I cannot fight for thee, but I can and will feed thee." Washington, recognizing the military significance of the mills, ordered the "runners" or upper millstones removed and carted to hiding places in Chester County where they would be safe from the British.

Noise of the battle at Chadds Ford carried downriver and was audible at Brandywine Village, where the residents of Wilmington and the Village waited anxiously for some sign of the outcome. Refugees from the battlefield limped into town with tales of the American defeat, soon followed by a contingent from Howe's army sent to occupy Wilmington and to secure whatever wheat and flour were stored there. The Tatnall house then became the lodgings for several British officers, who according to family tradition allowed the Tatnalls only one sleeping room on the ground floor but were otherwise polite and considerate.¹³

No doubt recalling the American attacks on British outposts at Princeton and Trenton the previous winter, the King's troops did not remain long in Wilmington, and in December 1777 the town was reclaimed by an American unit commanded by General William Smallwood. Washington ordered Smallwood to restore one of the mills to provide wheat for the army but cautioned him to supervise the operation closely and to be on the alert for British

raids.¹⁴ In the spring of 1778 Howe abandoned Philadelphia and marched overland back to New York, thus ending the only interval in the war in which the mills and the village were the object of contention. For the remainder of the conflict the Brandywine millers provided flour to local inhabitants and contracted with Robert Morris, the premier merchant of Philadelphia, to supply the American army.

In the postwar period the Brandywine mills reached the peak of their importance. Obstacles to the free flow of trade that had marked the war years disappeared; the millers purchased grain from a wide area including Maryland, Delaware, Southern New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Brandywine superfine was the most sought-after flour in the American market. In addition to these trade advantages the millers had leashed the Brandywine by the most efficient means known in the late eighteenth century, and they were among the first to adopt Oliver Evans' improved system for the operation of gristmills.

Oliver Evans, a mechanic and inventor from Newport, Delaware, developed his milling improvements in the 1780s. Evans'

Oliver Evans (1755-1819).
Engraving by W. G. Jackman.



before demolition, 1801 Market has fireplaces on either end and extensive interior wood paneling.

When the Marshalls proved unable to complete the race because of insufficient capital, James sold his house to Samuel Morton, another merchant miller, who in turn sold the property to Thomas Lea; the date is not known, but it may have coincided with Lea's marriage to Joseph Tatnall's daughter Sarah in 1785. Lea built another house, now 1901 Market Street, in 1801 but did not sell his first house until 1819, when his mill burned and he had need of ready capital in order to rebuild.

In the mid-1830s Jacob Derickson, the other man whose name has become attached to the house, bought the property. A well-to-do millwright in the Village, he bought the property as a wedding gift for his daughter Martha at the time of her marriage to Amor Hollingsworth Harvey, an executive in a Wilmington steam engine firm.⁹ He died in the house in 1887, just as demolition of the wooden covered bridge was about to commence; in order to accommodate the funeral procession, the flooring of the old bridge was left intact until the hearse had crossed, and then workmen immediately fell to ripping up the boards.¹⁰ Harvey left no sons, but his daughter, Sarah Derickson Harvey, married her cousin Jacob Derickson, and through her the house remained in the family until the time of its sale to O.B.V., Inc., in 1963.

The Thomas Shipley house, 16th and French streets, Wilmington, Delaware, in 1932. Photograph by Frank R. Zebley.



The Joseph Tatnall House, 1803 Market Street

This house, undoubtedly the most interesting in the Village from a historical point of view, was constructed ca. 1770¹¹ for Joseph Tatnall when he took over the mill and race construction operations on the north bank. It has undergone numerous remodelings since its original construction. Tatnall's descendants added a railing on the roof and a more elaborate doorframe, probably in the 1840s, in the regency style that was then popular. At the turn of the century more extensive changes were made. A Queen Anne porch was attached to the front of the house, the dormer windows were replaced by additions on both front and back that greatly enlarged the third floor, and an extension was put on the rear.

Tatnall lived in the house for over forty years. Before the Battle of the Brandywine, the house served as a headquarters for General Anthony Wayne and others on Washington's staff, and following the battle it was a dormitory for British officers during the Brandywine campaign in 1777. Both Washington and Lafayette were guests there on several occasions. In 1824, on a tour of the United States, General Lafayette made a point of stopping at the Tatnall house to inquire about the family. Washington also recalled Tatnall's hospitality during the war and called upon him there when he was President. Quaker austerity did not prevent Joseph Tatnall from furnishing his home in style. An inventory of his estate lists considerable furniture, including highboys, featherbeds, and a mahogany clock valued at \$60. He also owned several rugs, considerable amounts of china and linens, and a carriage worth \$100.¹²

After Tatnall's death in 1813 his second wife, Sara Rodman Paxson Tatnall, remained in the house for several years before moving to Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The next owner, Edward Tatnall, Joseph's son, leased the property to Joseph Bancroft in the mid-1820s for three years; Bancroft had just migrated from England and was then managing a cotton mill at Rockland prior to the formation of his own textile firm in 1831. In 1841 Edward's son Joseph, who married Sarah Richardson, moved into the house and lived there until his death in 1895.¹³ It was this second Joseph Tatnall who modernized the house by adding the balustrade and other regency features. The 1860 census, which listed Joseph