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United States Department of the interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Pyle, Joshua, House and Wagon Barn

other names/site number Missimer, Warren P., House; N-476

2. Location

street & number 2603 Foulk Road NA not for publication

city or town Wilmington, Brandywine Hundred vicinity

state Delaware code DE county New Castle code 003 zip code 19810

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature] DESHPO Date 7/23/93
Signature of certifying official/Title

DE Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews

9/13/93


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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 3 Page 1

Joshua Pyle House and Wagon Barn

In my opinion, the Joshua Pyle House and Wagon Barn
 meet/ do not meet the National Register
criteria.


Dennis E. Greenhouse
County Executive
New Castle County
Delaware

3/17/92
Date

Pyle House
Name of Property

New Castle Co., DE
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Agriculture: Outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Domestic: Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Double Pile Bank House

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone

Stucco

roof Asphalt Shingle

other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1840

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Pyle House
Name of Property

New Castle Co., DE
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.42 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>457140</u>	<u>4408670</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Valerie Cesna, Anne Wilson / Historic Preservation Planners

organization New Castle County Department of Planning date January 1992

street & number 2701 Capitol Trail telephone 302-366-7780

city or town Newark state Delaware zip code 19711

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name See Continuation Sheet.

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Joshua Pyle House is located on the west side of Foulk Road in Brandywine Hundred, approximately three tenths of a mile south of the Delaware-Pennsylvania State Line. The topography of the surrounding area is characteristic of this Piedmont Region in general: minor streams draining a landscape of gentle hills. Throughout the region the elevation rises steadily to the north. The topography is an important aspect of this property, as both the Pyle House and its adjacent Wagon Barn were designed to take advantage of the hillside site. Both buildings have exterior, ground level, access to functional basement rooms. Built in 1840, the house is a stone, two-story, center hall, double pile plan with its original basement kitchen intact. The slope of the hill creates the appearance of a full raised basement on the facade, while at the rear the first floor is at ground level. The wagon barn is a bi-level, stone building with the wagon entrance at ground level facing Foulk Road, and exterior access to the second story on the opposite, uphill side.

Dwelling House

The front of the house is oriented to the south, and its east endwall toward Foulk Road. Measuring thirty-eight feet by thirty feet, it is a two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed building constructed of stone. A circa 1900 porch extends across part of the facade and continues around the east endwall. On the rear wall a mid-twentieth century, one story, concrete block addition covers the center bay. The exterior walls are stuccoed and whitewashed. The stucco appears to be the original wall treatment, because in a couple of areas where it has worn off it is obvious that the masonry was not meant to be exposed. In particular, the west gable has a very awkward transition between the stone wall and the brick chimney that was intended to be concealed. In another location a brick is used to fill an odd crevice in the stonework.

The facade (south elevation) has a symmetrical, three bay, center door arrangement. The door has a single window in its upper half and two recessed flat panels below. Its rectangular transom is divided into quarters by wooden tracery that also has a rounded diamond shape inserted into each quarter. The door surround is composed of a broad, fluted molding with unadorned cornerblocks. All windows are six-over-six sash with frames that are mortised and pegged at the corners and with heavy wood sills. A narrow molding is applied to the outer edge of the frames. The shutters have been removed and are in storage awaiting repair. Raised and molded two-panel shutters had been on the first floor windows and louvered

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shutters on the second floor. The shutter hardware is still in place, including the iron pintles and tiebacks. The tiebacks are long wrought iron hooks with a spiral finish that was created by twisting the shanks.

The basement level of the facade is at ground level due to the position of the house on a hill. There are two exterior doors for separate access to each of the two basement rooms. The eastern door, which leads to the original kitchen, is the same style of recessed panel door as the main door, except it has a six-light window in its top half instead of a single pane. The western door, which leads to an unfinished room, is a batten door made with beaded, tongue and groove boards. Between the batten door and the west end of the wall is a small, three-light, casement window. The foundations and floor of the first story porch create a sheltered entrance for the basement doors.

The fenestration of the west endwall is symmetrical. Each of the four levels has two windows placed very close to the center of the wall. Two rectangular, three-light, casement windows light the partially exposed basement level. One of these windows retains its original wooden grille. The square bars of the grille are set horizontally and each bar is tilted so the corners face out. The first and second stories both have two, six-over-six sash windows that are exactly in line with the basement windows. The attic gable is pierced by a joined pair of four-over-four sash windows.

The fenestration of the east endwall is similar to that on the west endwall except that the first floor, south window has been replaced with a door and transom. The basement level is almost fully exposed on this elevation, so instead of the narrow casement windows this wall has two, full size, six-over-six sash windows that are located near the corners of the wall.

The rear (north) elevation is three bays wide with the middle bays on both floors spaced slightly off center. The second floor, center window is also placed slightly lower than the other two second floor windows in order to provide the proper height for a stair landing on the interior. All windows are the same style of six-over-six sash found on the other elevations. The first floor, center bay, which contains the original rear door, is concealed by a small, stuccoed concrete block addition that serves as an unheated storage room. The basement on this side of the house is completely below ground level.

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The existing circa 1900 porch, built by Warren P. Missimer, is a replacement. Originally, there was a partial facade porch. The existing porch covers all three bays of the facade, but does not extend completely to the west corner. At the east end the porch continues around the corner and covers the full length of the east endwall. The two stone foundation walls, extending perpendicularly from the facade were probably built to support the earlier porch. The foundation for the east endwall section of the porch is a row of metal posts. The hipped roof, which is continuous from front to side, is covered with standing seam metal. Deterioration of the exposed wooden elements necessitated their replacement in 1989. The chamfered wood posts with jigsaw brackets have been replaced with plain square posts and the square baluster railing has been replaced with a turned baluster railing. The tongue and groove flooring was replaced in kind.

The gable roof of the house is edged by a box cornice with a beaded bevel molding and its flush verges are outlined with two rows of beaded board. Asphalt shingle is the covering. Two pedimented dormers with six-over-six sash windows are symmetrically placed on the front roof slope and one is placed slightly off center on the rear slope. The dormers are original features. At each endwall is a pair of interior brick chimneys joined by a parapet. Both are stuccoed and whitewashed, and have three courses of corbeled brick at the base to provide a demarkation with the wall below. The east parapet has a semi-circular depression into which a wooden plaque bearing the date 1840 has been inserted.

The interior of the house is laid out on a center hall, double pile plan on its first floor, second floor, and attic levels. The basement is partitioned into two rooms, one containing the original kitchen. Judging from the two pairs of chimneys on the exterior, one would expect all rooms in the house to be heated. However, only the basement kitchen and the front rooms on the first and second floors were heated originally. The kitchen and the two first floor front rooms are equipped with fireplaces. The two second floor front rooms were heated with stoves, but retained the appearance of fireplaces through the use of decorative surrounds and mantel shelves on the chimney blocks where the stoves were connected. The rear rooms and the attic were originally unheated, as there are no fireplaces and not even the signs of a stove chimney ever having been in place. It appears that the rear stack in each set of parapet chimneys was only built to provide design symmetry on the exterior, since those rear stacks exist only at

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roof level.

Upon entering the front door, the staircase is located at the right rear of the central hall. The staircase rises ten treads in a straight run to a landing, then rises two treads in the opposite direction to the second floor. It is an open string with two turned balusters per tread and a slender, columnar newel post. The side of the staircase is adorned with four vertical panels.

The decorative trim on the first floor is consistent in the hall and in all four rooms. All windows have rounded reveals, a simple wooden sill, and a molded apron. The baseboards are eight inches high and have an applied quirk-ogee-bead molding. The four-panel doors have raised panels with an applied ogee molding on both sides of the door. Surrounding the doors is a mitred molding that is composed of a broad fillet at the outer edge, a broad ogee, and a bead on the inner edge. At floor level the door surrounds are set off from the baseboard by small plinths. The floors are tongue and groove, random width oak. On this floor and throughout the house the walls are finished with cut lath and plaster.

The first floor, front, east room has a fireplace with a brick hearth centered on the endwall. Between the fireplace and the front corner is a built-in, floor to ceiling cupboard. A simple vernacular Federal style surround decorates the fireplace. The opening is outlined with a reeded molding, butt jointed at the corners. Its side pieces are treated like pilasters with a plinth at the base, but no capital. The frieze has plain endblocks that are wedge-shaped in section and above them is a board shelf with rounded corners. The cupboard has three doors: a top and bottom set that each have two vertical panels, and an additional upper door, half as wide as the other two, and located above the mantel shelf. The cupboard shelves have beaded nosings. This room also has a built-in corner cupboard that was added at a later date. It appears to be made from reused materials. The face of the cupboard is covered with beaded, tongue and groove boards set on the diagonal. The two doors appear to be borrowed from two different pieces of furniture, as the lower door has two raised and molded panels, and the upper one has a mitred arch opening that is glazed.

The first floor, front, west room has an arrangement that mirrors the other front room. Its original fireplace has been covered with brick veneer, but the adjacent built-in cupboard is intact. In 1983, when repairs were being made to the fireplace a

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small board was found with four names penciled on it: Jacob Lampbleugh, Robert Pyle, Eli C. Messick, and W.S. Downir. An additional feature in this room is the wide doorway to the rear room. It is fitted with two hinged, four-panel doors that are executed in the same style as the other first floor doors.

The first floor, rear, west room retains all of its original trim. Scratched onto one of the windowpanes on the west wall is the name Robert L. Pyle. Unlike the two front rooms, there is no fireplace or built-in furniture.

The first floor, rear, east room now serves as the kitchen. Except for the addition of modern kitchen cabinets and appliances, the room retains its original features. The flooring, doors, windows, and trim are intact.

The second floor plan is the same as the first, except for an additional small room at the front of the hall that is now used as a bathroom. The two front chambers have stove chimneys while the two rear rooms do not. The trim is similar, but a little plainer than what is found on the first floor. Instead of oak flooring, a narrower pine board is used. Baseboards are the same, however. Four-panel doors are the same, except the applied molding is found only on the side facing the hall rather than on both sides. The molding used for the door surrounds and window aprons is plainer. It is composed of two flat bands with a bead on the lower edge.

The stove chimney in the second floor, front, east chamber has a vernacular Federal style fireplace surround. A flat molding composed of three broad fillets outlines the opening. The corners are finished with butt joints which gives the side moldings the appearance of pilasters, especially with the plinths at the bases. Above the opening is a plain frieze with simple endblocks and a board shelf with rounded corners. Between the fireplace and the front corner is a closet that is about one foot deep. Its door has four panels like the others in the house, but no applied moldings on either side. A bead-edged board with a row of iron hooks screwed onto it is attached to the back wall of the closet.

The second floor, front west chamber is the mirror image of the east chamber. The Federal style surround on the stove chimney is slightly smaller, but the moldings used to make it are a little more complex than those in the east chamber.

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The two second floor, rear chambers have no chimneys or closets. Both retain all of their original woodwork. Even though a modern bathtub, sink, and toilet have been added to the small room at the front of the hall, all of the woodwork remains intact there also.

The design of the staircase is continuous to the attic level, displaying the same style of baluster, handrail, and newel post as the first and second floor sections. From the second floor, the staircase rises eight treads to a landing, then rises three treads in the opposite direction to the attic floor. A twentieth century enclosure was added above the second floor, but it did not harm the original features.

Like the lower levels, the attic is laid out on a center hall, double pile plan. The hall and all four rooms are fully finished, but none of the rooms are heated.

A dormer lights the attic hall from the rear elevation. The two front rooms are each lit by a dormer on the front elevation and a small four-over-four sash window on the endwall.

The only direct lighting for the two rear rooms is the four-over-four endwall window. Both rear rooms also have a six-light casement window in the partition wall to the hall, which permits indirect lighting from the hall dormer.

Throughout the attic all walls and ceilings are plastered. The four-panel doors are the same style found on the first and second stories. However, there are no applied moldings and simple latch pulls are used instead of knobs. The door surrounds are a simple beveled molding with a beaded inner edge and mitred corners. All four rooms have a four inch baseboard with a beaded top edge. The hall baseboards are the same type as the lower floors around the staircase, but at the other end of the hall the beaded, four inch baseboards are used.

The two front attic rooms both have a chimney running diagonally across the endwall. The east room has a broad chimney that probably contains one flue for the first and second floor fireplace and stove and a separate flue for the large kitchen fireplace. The chimney in the west room is only half as wide.

The roof is built with common rafters that are mortised and

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pegged at the ridge. It is further supported by half-dovetailed collar beams.

Access to the basement is provided by two exterior doors on the front elevation or by a staircase below the center hall. The staircase descends from the first floor in a five tread straight run, then terminates in a five tread corner winder. The lower door enclosing the staircase is a beaded batten door with its original iron latch.

A stone partition wall divides the basement into two rooms of unequal size. Occupying the eastern third is the original kitchen. The west room is unfinished.

The kitchen is fully finished with a brick floor and plastered walls and ceiling. A large brick fireplace and adjacent bake oven are located on the endwall. The fireplace opening is formed by a brick flat arch and is adorned with a wooden mantel shelf supported by two simple, carved brackets. Traces of the original dark green paint are still visible on the shelf, and traces of whitewash cling to the brick. The iron bake oven door has been removed. Because this end of the basement is situated at the lowest point in the hill, both the front wall and the endwall of the kitchen are fully above ground level. This permits an exterior door on the front and a full size, six-over-six sash window on either side of the fireplace.

A beaded batten door in the partition wall leads to the larger, unfinished room. One side of the door retains its original dark green paint, and a rock slab is used for a threshold. The dirt floor in this room was dug slightly deeper than the floor level in the kitchen, and it slopes down slightly from back to front. The exposed joists are vertical sawn and mortised into a hewn summer beam. A solid stone chimney support is located on the endwall. Due to the slope of the hill the endwall is only partially exposed on the exterior. This only allows for small, rectangular casement windows for light and ventilation.

Wagon Barn (Contributing Building)

The Wagon Barn is located between the east endwall of the dwelling house and the west side of Foulk Road. It is a bi-level building, banked into a small hill that has the edge of the road as its low point, then rises to the north and west. This hill gives the appearance of each side of the building being a different

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height. The Wagon Barn appears to be contemporary with the circa 1840 dwelling due to the similarity of materials and construction techniques.

Measuring twenty-two feet by thirty feet, the Wagon Barn is a gable-roofed building that is stone on three sides and frame on the endwall facing the road. Stucco and whitewash cover the exterior stonework while the frame wall is sided with whitewashed vertical boards. The masonry is uncoursed rubble fieldstone and the frame wall is a mortised post and rail system with hewn posts and sawn rails.

The frame endwall was originally the wagon entrance. The original, side-hinged doors have been replaced with a sliding garage door. However, fragments of the iron hinges remain embedded in the stone reveals. The upper level of the frame wall is pierced by two, nine-light casement windows.

In plan, the building has one room on each of its two levels, with exterior access from opposite sides of the building. Primary access to the lower level wagon storage area is through a door on the east endwall that opens onto the shoulder of Foulk Road. The upper level, which may have functioned as some type of shop, is accessed from the opposite endwall on the uphill side. A flight of stairs in the northwest corner once provided interior passage between the two levels, but the staircase has been removed, leaving a shadow to mark the location.

The interior of the lower level is one open room with a dirt floor. The ceiling joists are logs hewn on the top and bottom. A flight of stairs has been removed from the northwest corner as evidenced by a scar along the stone wall and a framed opening in the joists above. Another door is provided on the south wall. It is a simple batten door with a hewn lintel. Two small wall pockets are located on the south and west walls.

The upper level is accessed from the west where the building appears to be only one story high. Five wooden stairs lead to a batten door that is hung on wrought iron strap hinges. On either side of the door is a three-over-six sash window. The interior walls are stuccoed.

The common rafter, gable roof is mortised and pegged at the ridge, and is supported with half-dovetailed collar beams. Both

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the rafters and collars are marked with Roman numerals. A new roof, including new rafters, has recently been built over the old one. However, this treatment is not obvious from the outside and did not disturb the original construction on the inside.

The Wagon Barn is a contributing element of this nomination.

Stone Wall (Non-Contributing Structure)

A low Stone Wall outlines the yard on the south and east sides of the house (see exhibit labeled, "Record Major Subdivision Plan, Armstrong Lane"). The wall is two to three feet high, and constructed of local fieldstone with a parged surface and a concrete cap. The length of wall on the south side of the house extends about 100 feet, then makes a 125 degree turn to the north and runs about 25 feet to the edge of the driveway. A small part of this 25 foot section crosses the east property line and extends into the right-of-way. The ten foot wide driveway creates an opening in the wall, which then continues another 25 feet and attaches to the southeast corner of the Wagon Barn.

The only available clue to the age of the wall is its appearance in a photograph that is thought to have been taken in the 1930's. The date of construction is unknown. Due to the lack of information, the wall is being counted as a non-contributing element of this nomination. However, if more information becomes available the wall's significance to the property should be re-evaluated.

Springhouse (Not included within the boundary)

A Springhouse that was originally part of the Pyle property lies outside of the existing legal parcel, and is not included as an element of this nomination. It is located approximately 100 feet southwest of the dwelling house (see exhibit labeled, "Record Major Subdivision Plan, Armstrong Lane"). Although the Springhouse appears to be contemporary with the 1840 dwelling house, alterations to the exterior and removal of all interior features have left the building with little integrity. The owner has received approval to create a four lot residential subdivision that will cause the Springhouse to be demolished.

The Springhouse is a 1 1/2 story, gable-roofed building constructed of uncoursed rubble fieldstone. A large section of the northeast endwall has been repaired with concrete block, and the entire exterior has been stuccoed. The roof structure has been

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replaced; a small gable dormer was installed circa 1990. Each endwall has a large, louvered vent (not original) in the gable. Smaller, original vents are located at the base of the building, one on each wall. Access to the inside is through a door on the southeast elevation. The interior has been gutted, but a few details suggest how it was originally fitted. The lower level apparently functioned as the Springhouse; it has a brick floor that is covered with several inches of water and walls with traces of whitewash. The only feature in the upper level is the remains of a small, corner fireplace.

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The Joshua Pyle House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C and the theme Architecture. Constructed circa 1840, it is an excellent example of a stone bank house. The Joshua Pyle House is banked into a hill so that the building is three stories on the facade and two stories on the rear. The bank house is a building form constructed in the northern Delaware/southern Pennsylvania Piedmont region during the first half of the nineteenth century. The basement kitchen exemplifies another regional building tradition that survives with a high degree of integrity. Due to the rarity and high level of integrity, the circa 1840 stone Wagon Barn not only contributes to the significance of the property, but may also qualify for individual listing in the National Register under Criterion C.

In constructing a stone house, the builders of the Joshua Pyle House took advantage of the plentiful native field and quarry stone of the Piedmont region. Despite the suitability of stone as a building material, stone construction did not become commonplace until the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. During this period, a shift in building practices occurred. Prior to this time, the majority of the dwellings were constructed of log or plank. During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century rebuilding period, stone and other more permanent building materials gradually replaced the log and other less permanent materials of the early settlement period.

The shift to stone construction in the Piedmont region is evident in comparative tax assessment data for nearby Mill Creek Hundred for 1798 and 1816. In 1798, 57.6% of the dwellings whose construction material was recorded had been built of logs while 18.6% had been constructed of stone. By 1816, the percentage of stone buildings had increased to 38.1% and the percentage of log buildings had decreased to 28.7% (Jicha and Siders, 1985). Unfortunately, similar comparative data is not available for Brandywine Hundred, but the 1816 tax assessment records provide evidence of its participation in the rebuilding trend. In 1816, 49.0% of the dwellings in Brandywine Hundred (excluding Brandywine Village) had been constructed with stone while 25.0% of the dwellings had been constructed with logs.

In the Piedmont region, many houses are sited on hillsides by necessity. Bank houses take particular advantage of the hilly terrain by creating basement rooms that can be accessed at the

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ground level. The circa 1825 Chambers House (N-6770, NR) in White Clay Creek Hundred and the circa 1816 William Little House (N-10, 248) in Mill Creek Hundred are two other surviving examples of stone, bank houses built in the early nineteenth century in northern Delaware's Piedmont region.

The inclusion of a basement kitchen within a bank house seems to be a most efficient use of space. Ongoing field investigations reveal that houses with basement kitchens tend to be located within about thirty miles of Philadelphia. The circa 1800 Penny-Shaw House (N-158), the circa 1805 William Montgomery House (N-252, NR) and the circa 1825 Chambers House (N-6770, NR) are other surviving examples of houses with basement kitchens. The basement kitchen of the Joshua Pyle House exhibits a high level of its original integrity, however. The large brick fireplace and the original bake oven have been retained as well as the six-over-six sash windows on the east wall. The original panel and glass door still opens to the facade on the ground level.

The Joshua Pyle House has kept the integrity of its original floorplan to an extraordinary degree. The double-pile, center-hall plan on the first, second and attic levels has been preserved. Even the conversion of the northeast room on the first floor into a kitchen did not alter the basic first floor plan. Similarly, on the second floor, a modern bathroom has been installed in the small room above the hall without disturbing the original floorplan.

On the interior, the trim is typical of Delaware vernacular buildings of the mid-nineteenth century. Such interior finish items as the flooring, baseboards, mantels, doors, door and window surrounds, cupboards, closets, and staircase have been extraordinarily well preserved on the first, second and attic levels. A distinction is made between the less formal rooms on the second floor and attic and the more formal rooms on the first floor by the use of trim. For example, pine rather than oak flooring was used on the second floor, and the molding used on the second floor window and door surrounds is simpler. Decorative applied molding can be found on only one side of the second floor doors. The practice of using subtle variations in trim to distinguish the less formal and private spaces from the more formal and public spaces is typical in houses of the period. In the attic, the original roofing system has been preserved. The use of half-dovetailed, collar beams to provide additional support to the common rafter system is somewhat unusual in this region, though not unknown.

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The exterior of the Joshua Pyle House has also been preserved to a remarkable degree. The most noticeable exterior alteration was the replacement of the original facade porch with the circa 1900 wrap-around porch by Warren P. Missimer. Although the exposed wooden elements such as the chamfered wood posts, jigsaw brackets, square balusters and tongue and groove wood flooring, were recently replaced, the style of the wood replacement materials are also in keeping with the historic character of the house.

Despite these minor changes, the original exterior appearance is virtually unaltered. The retention of the stucco covering on the exterior walls helps to maintain the original appearance of the building. The original fenestration pattern and the original windows have also survived. Despite the removal of the original paneled and louvered shutters for repair, the shutter hardware remains in place so they can be re-hung. The original doors, including the batten door and the glass and recessed paneled door on the basement level, and the recessed paneled and glass center-bay door also help maintain the original character of the house. The retention of the center-bay door with its fluted surround and unique tracery in its transom effectively preserves the traditional formal entrance to the house.

The wagon barn draws attention to the functions of the property beyond the immediate domestic sphere. Few nineteenth century dwellings functioned in isolation. Typically, a complex of outbuildings supported the activities of the house and farm. Due to suburban development, the barn on the Pyle property no longer remains, but the wagon barn is a reminder of the property's original rural context.

Although once a common type of outbuilding, very few wagon barns survive in New Castle County. Other known examples have been converted to residential and office uses and lost their characteristic features (See: Penny-Shaw House, N-158; and Abner Cloud House, N-5283). Due to the rarity of the building type, and its excellent state of preservation, the wagon barn could also be recognized as individually eligible for the National Register. Its adaptive reuse as a garage continues the historic function of vehicle storage. This compatible change in use caused only one alteration: replacement of the original lower level hinged doors with a modern pull-down garage door. Most of the other exterior and interior features remain in place. In this densely suburbanized region of the piedmont where so few outbuildings of

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any kind remain, this well-preserved wagon barn is an important survival.

Summary of Documentary History

Both documentary and physical evidence substantiate the 1840 construction date shown on the wood plaque in the east gable of the house. In 1828, Joshua Pyle inherited forty-seven acres and eighty-six perches from Joseph Wier, or Weer, his father-in-law (N.C.C. Probate Records: Joseph Wier). According to the 1828 tax assessment records for Brandywine Hundred, Joseph Wier owned a log house and stone barn on forty-six acres. The total value of his real and personal property at that time was \$1,332.00. On July 16, 1838, Joshua Pyle purchased an additional fifteen acres for \$541.37 from John Foulke or Foulk along Foulk Road (N.C.C. Deeds: A/5/426). Certain interior trim elements such as the baseboards, doors, the window and door surrounds, mantels and the exterior stucco covering suggest a mid-nineteenth century construction date. Therefore it seems probable that Joshua Pyle constructed his house shortly after his fifteen acre purchase from John Foulke in 1838.

Joseph Wier had purchased the forty-seven acre property from Samuel Jordan on March 23, 1811 (N.C.C. Deeds: O/3/40). The chain of title could not be traced further since previous deed references could not be found. Tax assessment records provide some information about the buildings on the property from 1811 to 1828 when Joseph Wier owned it. On the 1816 tax assessment list, Joseph Wier owned forty-seven acres valued at \$292.00. The buildings on the property were described as "middling", but their material was not specified. According to the 1822 tax assessment records, Joseph Wier owned a tavern on the forty-seven acre property, but again the building's material is not mentioned. The previously mentioned 1828 tax assessment list is more descriptive, since it lists Joseph Wier as owning a log house and a stone barn.

The deed description indicates that the fifteen acre parcel purchased by Joshua Pyle from John Foulke in 1838 was located to the south of Joshua Pyle's other lands along Foulk Road. John Foulke inherited, "all that mansion farm in Brandywine Hundred where I now reside ..." from his father John Foulke in 1830. (N.C.C. Wills: S/1/348). The 1828 tax assessment records show that John Foulke, the father, owned a stone house, log tenement and log barn on one hundred and three acres in that year. The total value of his land and buildings was \$2,472.00 in 1828. According to the

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1822 tax records, John Foulke owned two buildings on one hundred acres, but the material is not specified. The 1816 tax assessment records indicate that John Foulke owned one hundred acres with "good improvements" listed under buildings, but the kind or number of buildings is not specified. John Foulke inherited the property including, a "... dwelling house and plantation containing 100 acres ..." from his grandfather, John Foulke in 1816 (N.C.C. Wills: R/1/354). The 1803-1804 tax assessment records describe John Foulke, the grandfather's property as follows: "a stone house, log barn, log granary and old sawmill," on 109 acres. On the 1849 Rea and Price map, J. Foulke is shown as the owner of a property on the west side of Foulke Road south of the Joshua Pyle House. The John Foulke House (N-476) is still standing in the northwest corner of the intersection of Foulke and Naaman's Road.

According to the U.S. population census records, Joshua Pyle identified farming as his occupation in 1850. Joshua Pyle (60 years) and his wife, Susan (61 years) resided with Esther Pyle (25 years), Rebecca Pyle (23 years) and Priscilla Pyle (82 years) in that year. In his 1866 will, Esther and Rebecca are identified as his daughters; Priscilla Pyle may have been his mother. Robert Pyle (ten years) resided with the nearby Owen and Maggie Zebley family during the 1850 Census. Robert Pyle's name is scratched into the window glass in the northwest parlor and on a board found in the southwest parlor fireplace in 1983.

The Census Bureau evaluated Pyle's real estate at \$5,000.00 in 1850. The 1861 tax assessment records for Brandywine Hundred verify Pyle's ownership of a stone house and barn on sixty acres and valued his real estate at \$3,600.00. Earlier on May 21, 1857, Joshua Pyle sold the forty-seven acre parcel of his property to Joseph Pyle (relationship unknown) for \$1,000.00 (N.C.C. Deeds: 2/6/415). On the same day, the property was transferred back to Joshua Pyle for \$1,000.00 (N.C.C. Deeds: A/7/32). The reason for this dual transaction is unknown.

The 1870 Census Bureau records indicate that the eight-year old Joshua Pyle resided with the six member William McClintock family in that year. According to the Census records, Pyle was listed as a retired farmer and the value of the real and personal estate was listed under Pyle's name, indicating that the McClintocks were boarders and that Joshua Pyle was still living in his own house. Apparently, the McClintocks were unrelated to Pyle, since they were not listed as heirs in his will.

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Joshua Pyle died soon after the 1870 Census and designated in his will that his real and personal estate be sold to provide cash legacies for his four surviving children (Priscilla Habersett, Esther Paynter, Rebecca Nicholson and Robert S. Pyle) and several grandchildren (N.C.C. Wills: B/2/379). On April 1, 1873, Lot Cloud, Executor of Joshua Pyle's estate, sold his sixty-three acre parcel to John B. McCay for \$9,130.00 (N.C.C. Deeds: 7/9/1).

The early history of the Joshua Pyle house is also closely related to the nearby Chester-Bethel Methodist Church. The 1811, 1857 and 1873 deeds for the Joseph Wier portion of the property describe a forty-seven acre parcel "exclusive of the meeting-house lot." The meetinghouse referred to is the 1799 Stone Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church. In its early years, the church was also known as Cloud's Chapel (Scharf: 911). According to Scharf, a small log church was built in 1780 on William Cloud's property, "near the state line." Robert and Adam Cloud, William Cloud's sons, were early Methodist ministers. William Cloud, apparently, was a descendant of the earlier Robert Cloud who surveyed and purchased 100 acres in the vicinity of the later Joshua Pyle House and the church in 1702. The outlines of this survey are shown on the "Early Grants and Patents of Bethel," (See Exhibit: From Clinton Searl Papers). On the same map, Robert and Joseph Pyle are shown as early eighteenth century neighbors on land which straddled the Pennsylvania/Delaware border to the north and west of the Robert Cloud parcel.

Later in 1873, J.B. McCay purchased the Joshua Pyle property and deeded two acres to the Chester-Bethel Methodists (N.C.C. Deeds: A/10/181). Shortly thereafter, a new church which is still standing was built (N-440). In subsequent deeds, the remaining fifty-seven acre parcel was transferred except for the lot granted to the Trustees of the Bethel M.E. Church in 1873.

John B. McCay died intestate around 1889. As a result of an Orphan's Court judgment in March of 1889, the property was assigned to his son, John B. McCay. The son, John B. McCay sold an "undivided moiety or one-half part" to his sister Emma McCay on July 5, 1889 (N.C.C. Deeds: T/14/7). Shortly thereafter, on March 15, 1890, John and Emma McCay sold the fifty-seven acre property to William P. Martine for \$5,500.00 (N.C.C. Deeds: Y/14/564). William P. Martine lived there for only five years selling the fifty-seven acre parcel to Warren P. Missimer for \$5,500.00 on February 2, 1885 (N.C.C. Deeds: S/16/273). Warren P. Missimer died on April 23,

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1937 and willed the property to his widow Beulah M. Missimer, and his two daughters Bertha E. Trimble and Ruth W. Talley. According to his will, the property was to be divided between the three women in three equal shares. (N.C.C. Deeds: A/41/146). Beulah Missimer and Bertha E. Trimble (also a widow) sold their shares of the property to Herbert and Ruth Talley for \$5,000 on February 3, 1938 (N.C.C. Deeds: V/40//334). This deed also refers to a small parcel of land containing a two-story frame house which was devised by Warren Missimer's will to his widow, Beulah Missimer. The 1881 Hopkins and the 1893 Baist maps indicate two structures on the former Joshua Pyle property on the west side of Foulk Road, south of the church. Apparently, the two-story frame house referred to in the 1930's deeds and indicated on the late nineteenth century maps was subsequently demolished.

On June 28, 1938, Herbert and Ruth Talley sold the fifty-seven acre parcel to Pauline C. Godfrey for five dollars (N.C.C. Deeds: A/41/146). On the same day, Pauline Godfrey sold the property back to the Talleys for five dollars. The reason for this pair of transactions is unknown (N.C.C. Deeds: A/41/150). Herbert and Ruth Talley remained on the property until January 14, 1969 when they sold the Joshua Pyle House on 2.169 acres to Robert W. and Patsy H. Armstrong for \$30,000.00 (N.C.C. Deeds: W/81/397). Between 1938 and 1967, parcels from the original fifty-seven acre farm had been sold off to various subdivisions such as Northminster.

Robert and Patsy Armstrong resided there until May 4, 1988 when the property was sold to Meadowglenn, Inc. for \$212,500.00 (N.C.C. Deeds: 695/297). Meadowglenn, Inc., in turn, subdivided the property into a five-parcel subdivision called "Armstrong Lane." According to this subdivision plan, the Joshua Pyle House and Wagon Barn were set aside on a 0.42 acre parcel. On November 29, 1989, Meadowglenn, Inc. sold the 0.42 parcel on which the Joshua Pyle House and Wagon Barn stand to Steven W. and Cynthia Gray. According to this deed and the subdivision plan for Armstrong Lane (Microfilm #10017), the address is to be changed from 2603 Foulke Road to #1 Armstrong Lane when the subdivision is complete (N.C.C. Deeds: 961/0228). Steven W. and Cynthia W. Gray have resided in and preserved the Joshua Pyle House since 1989.

Comprehensive Planning

In reference to the Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan, this nomination for the Joshua Pyle House and Wagon Barn expands the available information on the historic

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context for the Piedmont Zone during the 1830-1880 period under the theme Architecture.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the Joshua Pyle House and Wagon Barn are shown on the attached map titled, "New Castle County Tax Parcel Map, Revised 10-16-90". Parcel number 06-014.00-101, which contains 0.42 acre, is included in its entirety. In addition, a portion of the Foulk Road right-of-way is included. The section of right-of-way to be included within the National Register boundary lies between the east Boundary of parcel number 06-014.00-101 and the west curb of Foulk Road (State Road 261). Measuring from the southeast corner of the wagon barn, there is a distance of four feet to the east parcel boundary and an additional 19 feet to the curb for a total measurement of 23 feet from corner to curb.

Boundary Justification

The legal parcel contains all of the contributing resources, including the dwelling house, wagon barn, and a stone wall. The 19 foot wide right-of-way is included within the boundary because it is a part of the original Pyle property that constitutes the primary vista toward the historic complex. Recognizing the right-of-way as an element of the property will preserve the historic relationship of both buildings to the road, and also protect the wagon barn, which now has only four feet of private property on its southeast corner.

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Joshua Pyle House and Wagon Barn

Property Owners

House and Wagon Barn

Steven W. and Cynthia N. Gray
2603 Foulk Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19810

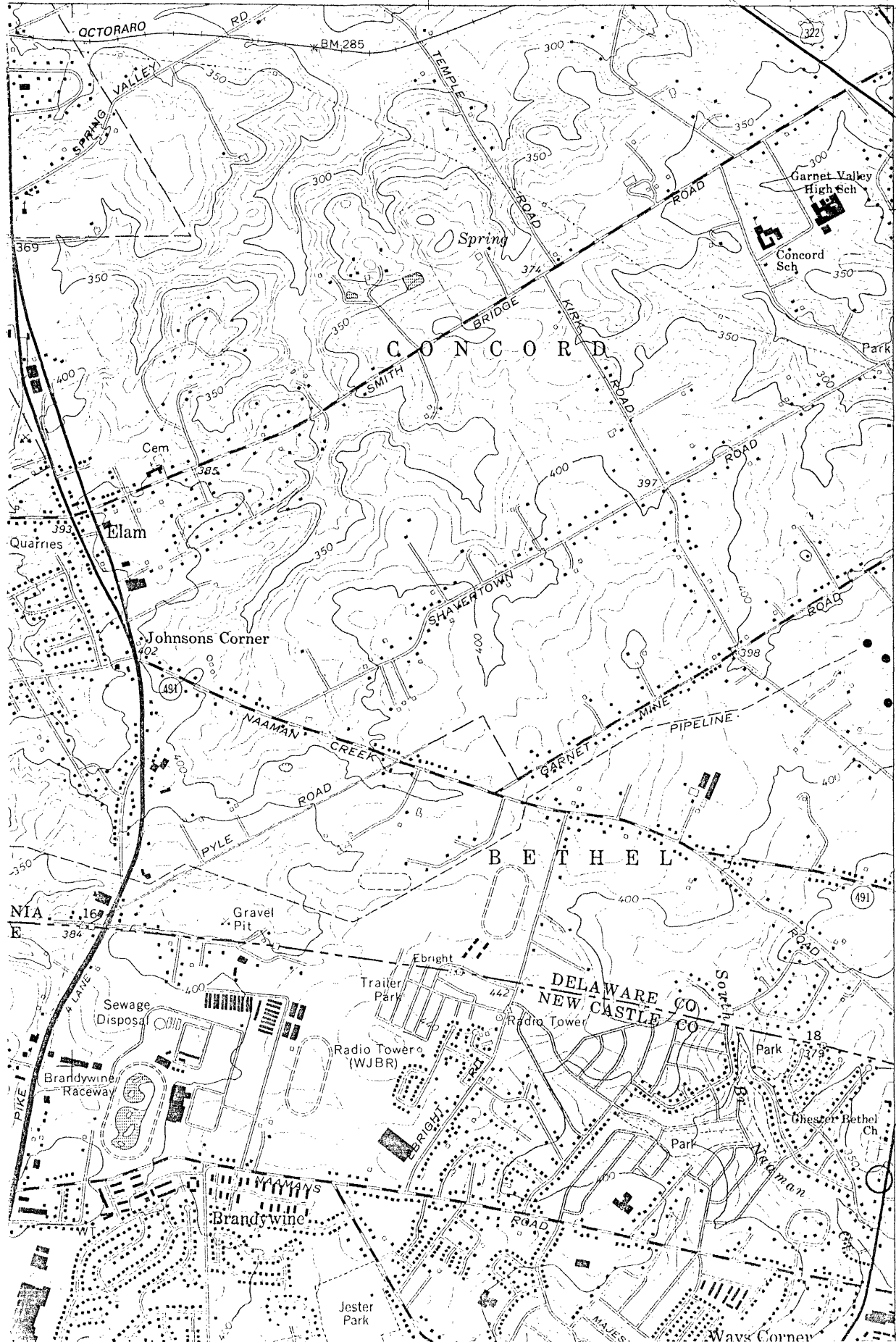
Foulk Road Right-of Way

Kermit H. Justice
Secretary of Transportation
Delaware Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 778
Dover, Delaware 19903

WILMINGTON NORTH QUADRANGLE
 DELAWARE - PENNSYLVANIA
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5963 IV NW
 (MEDIAL)

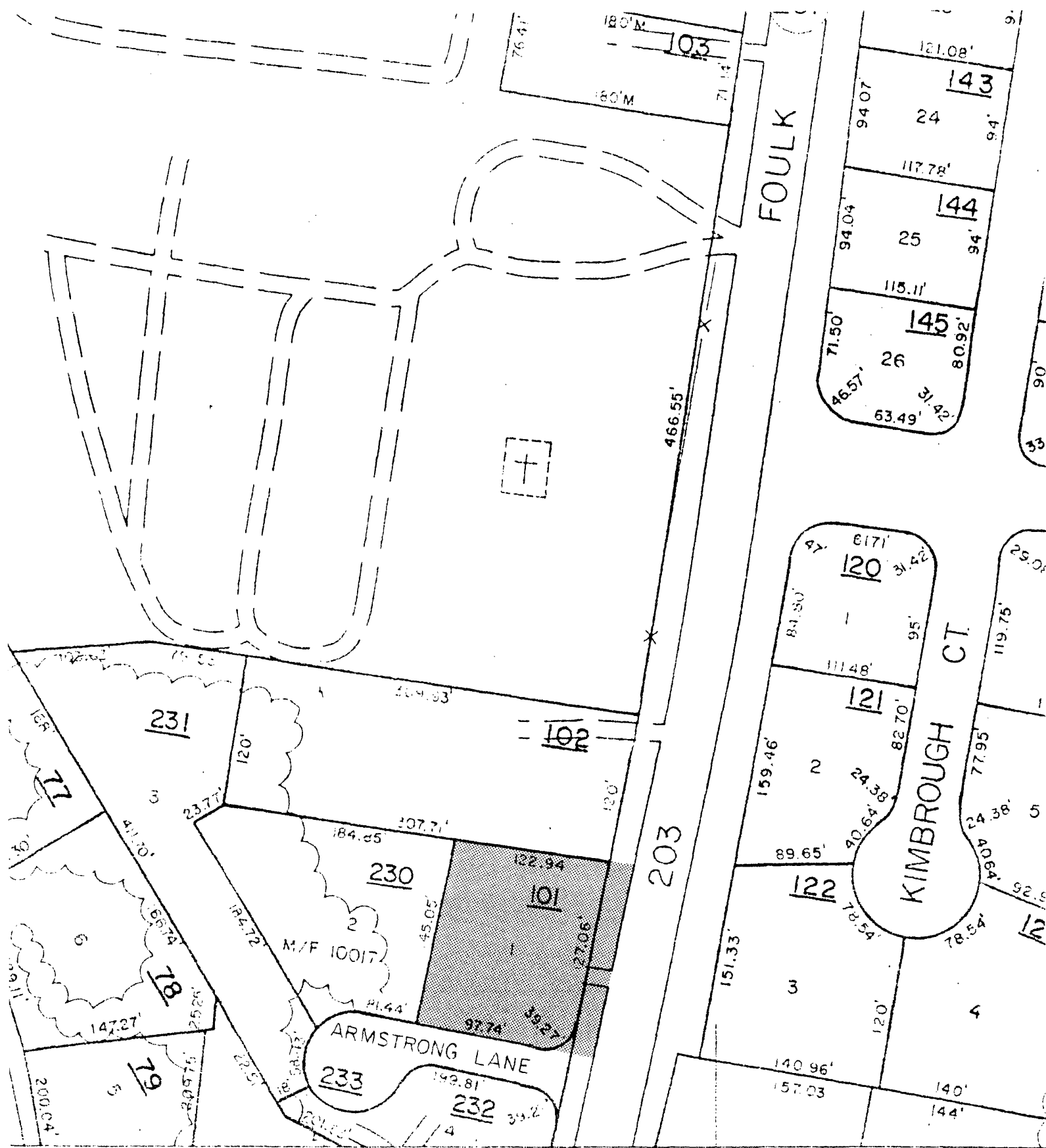
32°30" 454 470 000 FEET (DEL.) WEST CHESTER 9 MI. 1.3 MI. TO U.S. 1 457 75°30' 39°52'30"



1.6 MI. TO PA. 261
 CHESTER 8 MI.
 4413
 680 000 FEET
 (DEL.)

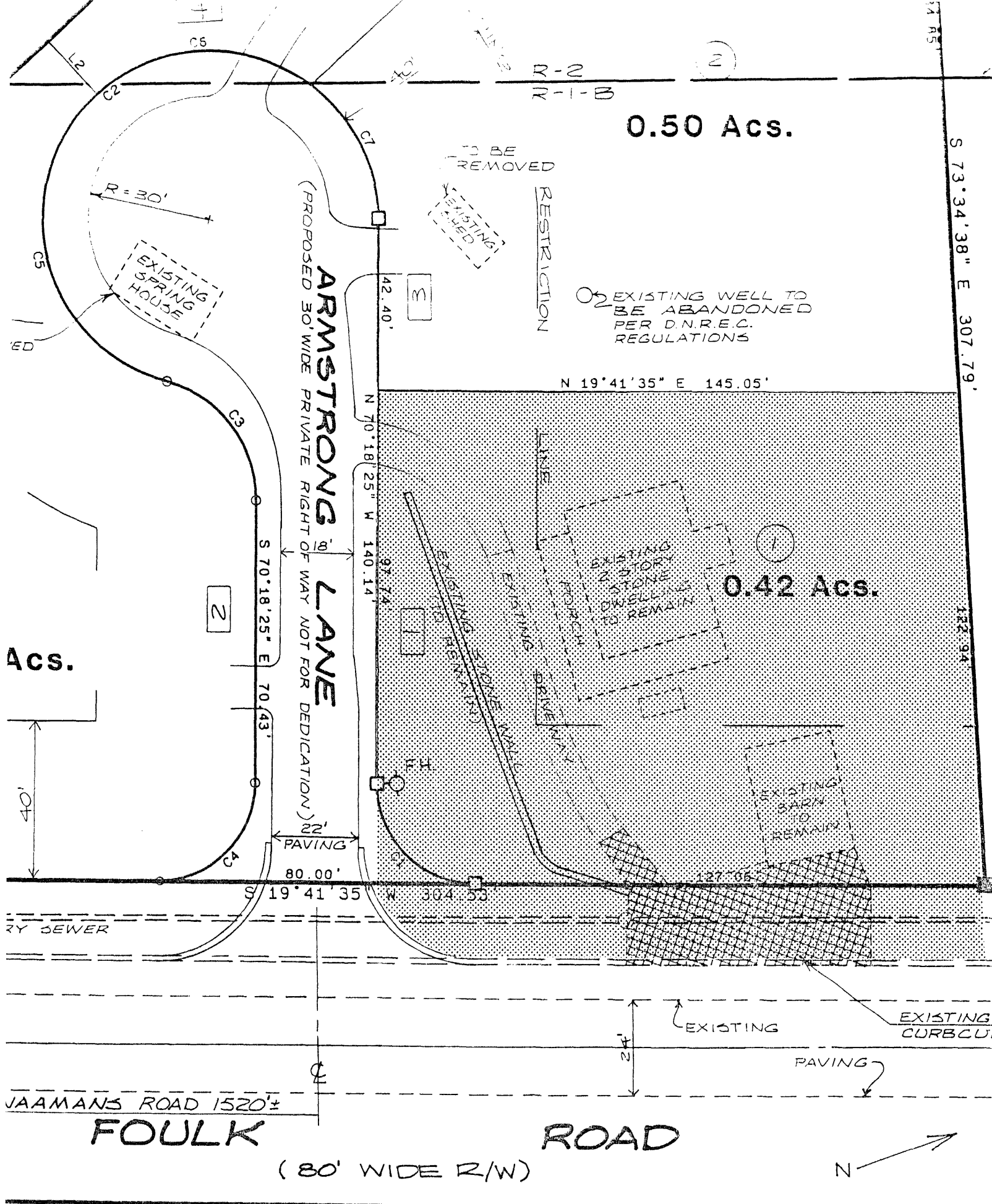
THE JOSHUA PYLE HOUSE
 (N-476)
 WILMINGTON NORTH
 QUADRANGLE
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES
 SCALE - 1:24000
 1967 PHOTO REVISED
 1987
 18/457140/4408670

4 MI. TO U.S. 13
 4411
 4 MI. TO U.S. 13
 50'
 CHELSEA, PA. 3 MI. (261)



JOSHUA PYLE HOUSE AND WAGON BARN, N-476
 New Castle County Tax Parcel Map
 Revised 10-16-90
 Parcel Number 06-014.00-101
 1 inch = 100 feet





Record Major Subdivision Plan, ARMSTRONG LANE. New Castle County Recorder of Deeds; Microfilm No. 10017.
 Scale: 1 inch = 30 feet

SANDERSON 210A.
PAT. JAN. 17. 1749

Manor of Rockland
Francis Harrison 200A.
SUR. 8 MO. 1. 1686
Pat. Feb. 11. 1740

John Gibbons J.
JOHN GIBBONS
L. & R. 50
Joseph

ROBERT PYLE 212A.
SUR. SEPT. 20. 1712 PAT. OCT. 29. 1712

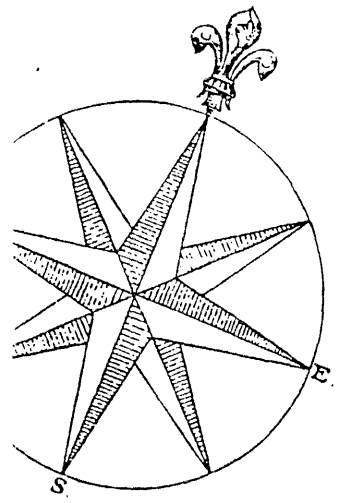
ROBERT SOI
L. & R. 250A. OC
Daniel

NEWCASTLE

JOSEPH PYLE 50A.
SUR. JAN. 30. 1720-1
PAT. DEC. 16. 1728

JOHN GIBBONS SR. 200A. SUR. 3 MO. 27. 1703
PAT. JUNE 15. 1703

ROBERT
Part



Robert 400 A.
SUR. DEC. 29. 1702
Cloud 100A.

Robert Benj. Moulder 166A.
SUR. 8 MO. 28. 1683
Brown 166 A. Resur. 1703

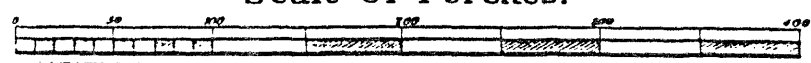
Thomas Talley
ISAAC WARNER

George Gristle

William KENNEDY
JOHN KENNEDY
SUR. DEC. 29. 1702

PATRICK KELLY 100A.
SUR. DEC. 29. 1702

Scale of Perches.



Section of "EARLY GRANTS AND PATENTS"
Map of Bethel Township, Delaware County (formerly Chester County), PA.
From Clinton N. Searl Papers

