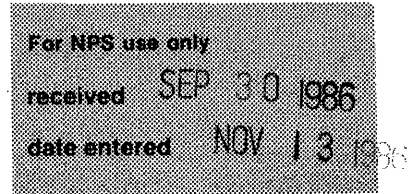


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N-195

Property Name: J. Stinsen Farm

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The J. Stinsen Farm, at 750 Corner Ketch Road, is located on the northeast side of Corner Ketch Road (Road 524) approximately 0.5 mile northwest of its junction with Paper Mill Road (Route 72). The area immediately surrounding the property has been developed as a residential subdivision known as Corner Ketch Farm. The site boundaries coincide with Parcel Number 08-029.40-003, which contains 2.15 acres. The boundaries are delineated on the attached map titled, New Castle County Property Tax Map, 1985.

UTM Reference: 18/437350/4399400

Owners: Richard and Alice Burke
750 Corner Ketch Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

Description:

The J. Stinsen Farm contains three contributing buildings: a circa 1810 stone and frame bank barn, an early nineteenth century stuccoed masonry house with a circa 1900 addition, and a late nineteenth century, frame implement shed. The stable wall of the barn faces southwest, toward the road. The house lies south of the barn with the facade of the original structure oriented to the barn and the facade of the addition oriented to the road.

The bi-level barn has a frame upper level, sided with board and batten, over a stone lower level constructed with uncoursed fieldstone and cornered with large fieldstone quoins. A straw shed of first period construction was removed from the southwest elevation. There is a bridge house with a projecting gable on the northeast elevation. This bridge house spans a gap between the ramp and the barn. Expansion of the barn occurred on the northeast elevation next to the bridge house since the road precluded additions on the southwest elevation. A shed-roofed addition was built on both sides of the bridge house. These additions were extended along the ramp creating an aisle-like approach.

The upper level plan is tripartite in design; it is three bays long by two bays deep of roughly equal dimensions. Large double doors on the bridge house lead into the center bay driveway and threshing floor. The inner bents have threshing floor walls approximately four feet high with horizontal board siding. There is a stair on the northeast side of the door.

The principal timbers: posts, plates and girts, are hewn; and secondary timbers: rafters, struts and studs are vertical sawn. The inner bent scheme is very similar to

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the William Morgan (N-326) and J. Eastburn (N-4011) barns, but the roofing system is very different. The inner bents are identical and have outer flared posts with the girt framed over the plate. There is a lower tie beam seated into the posts, supported by a central short post from the floor which is flanked by three studs on each side for the horizontal board siding. Between the upper girt and lower tie are two posts with braced rails extending to the outer posts. The outer bents have three posts with two sets of rails, the lower set braced, and they have post-to-girt braces. The roofing system is principal rafter with collar ties, one of two such examples in the hundred. There are six pairs of principal rafters, one pair per long wall post. At the bent intersection, the rafter feet are bird-mouthed into the girt. Two common rafters are between each pair of principal rafters. Mortises in the common rafters indicate there may have been wind braces.

The flooring system consists of longitudinal face-hewn log joists carried on two central transverse girders. The girders are supported by four posts each, which also define the center aisle. The upper level center bay is elevated about one foot by two transverse hewn beams to which the inner bent posts are joined. Many of these timbers are re-used. Chamfered beams with mortises indicate they are from an early frame dwelling.

The original lower level plan is discernable from extant framing, posts and entrances. There is a transverse center aisle as described above. There is also a longitudinal aisle along the ramp long wall entered via a door on the southwest gable end. It appears that there were at least two box stalls in the southwest gable end, and probably the same in the northeast gable end. The extant posts are joined into a sill on a small stone foundation. The floor is dirt. Beneath the bridge house there was ample room for storage and passage of wagons. There is no entrance into the stables from this area.

The house appears to have been constructed early in the nineteenth century at about the same time the barn was constructed. It is a two story, gable-roofed, stuccoed stone building with symmetrical, three bay, center door spacing on both the facade and rear elevations. The windows are six-over-six sash with louvered shutters on the first floor and paneled shutters on the second floor. A molded box cornice defines the gable roofline and a stuccoed, interior end chimney rises through the northeast endwall. Both the facade and rear are sheltered by shed-roofed porches with chamfered post supports. This section of the house was originally located much closer to the road. However, around 1900 the house was moved several feet back so that an addition could be built on the southwest endwall, presenting a new facade to the street. The addition is a two-and-a-half story, stuccoed frame, Queen Anne style structure with a cross-gable roof. Each of its three endwalls have wooden fishscale shingles in the gable and a bay window below. A large, shed-roofed porch supported by Tuscan columns on brick piers extends across the southwest facade and northwest side.

The implement shed is a frame building on a stone foundation. It is sheathed with board and batten siding, and its shallowly pitched gable roof is cantilevered over the open side of the building to provide additional shelter.

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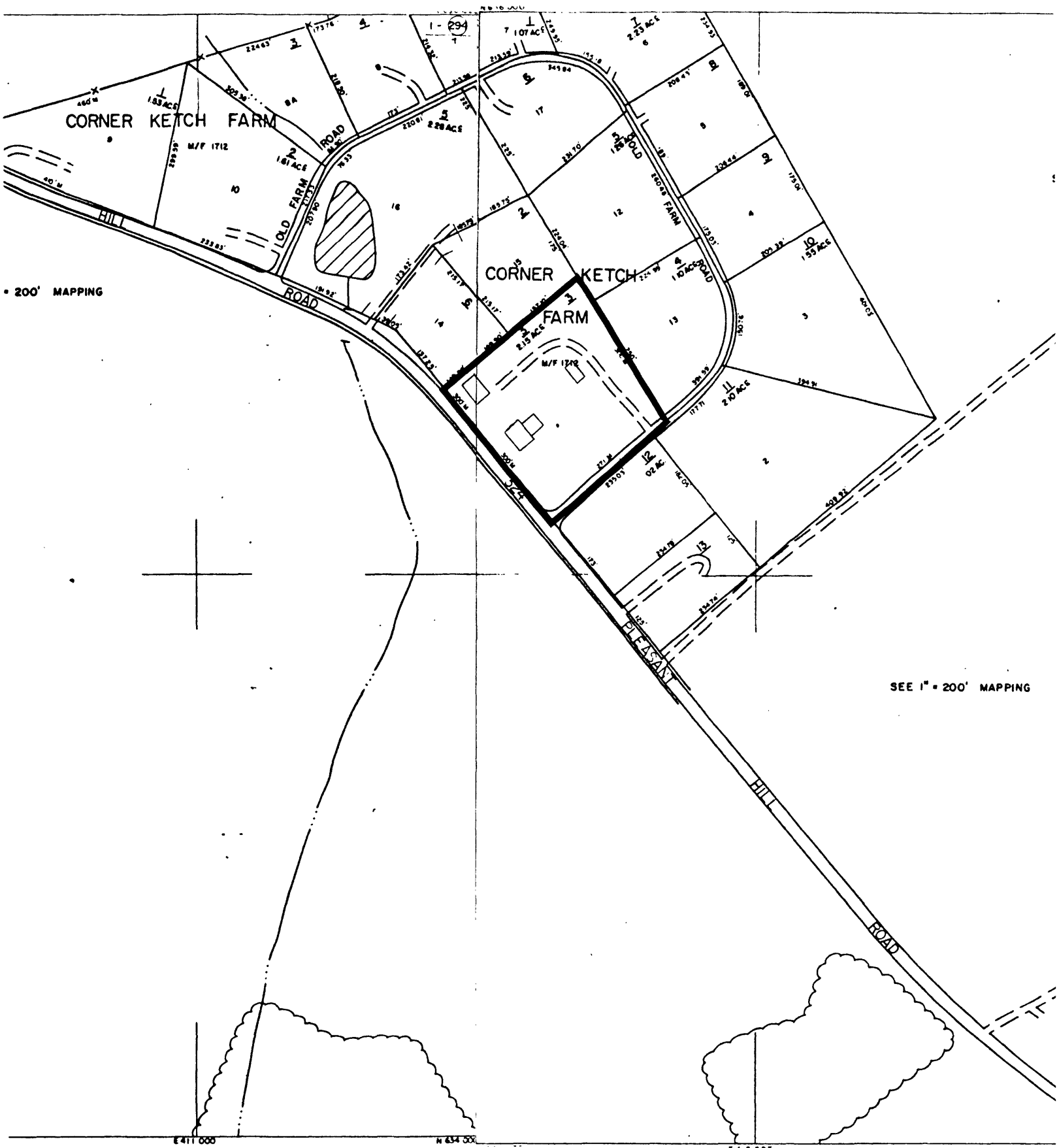
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Significance:

The J. Stinsen Farm is significant under Criterion A as a manifestation of the social and economic changes that precipitated the rebuilding period in early nineteenth century Mill Creek Hundred, and under Criterion C as an example of early nineteenth century construction methods and styles. The barn is a symbol of the emerging class of prosperous farmers who erected new buildings as an expression of their social and economic status. The J. Stinsen barn is important because its peculiar framing scheme of the collared principal rafter roof. This was an archaic form by the early nineteenth century and can be seen in local eighteenth century dwellings as well as in the circa 1760 William Phillips barn. The straw shed of the Stinsen barn seems to have been original construction rather than an addition as indicated by the seamless northwest extension wall. If so, then this indicates an early cognizance of the importance of sheltering hay, grain and straw, and signals an acceptance of the straw shed as an integral part of the barn form. The house exhibits the regional preference for two story, symmetrical Georgian forms and stone construction. Its circa 1900 Queen Anne style addition reoriented the facade from the farmyard to the road, but it also retained the original house in its plan.

Local tradition asserts that Stinsen was a pig farmer and butcher. This would fit in with the tendency of nineteenth century farmers in Mill Creek Hundred to intensively use the land through dairy and livestock farming.



CORNER KETCH FARM

CORNER KETCH FARM

• 200' MAPPING

SEE 1" = 200' MAPPING

N-195 J. Stinsen Farm
New Castle County Property Tax Map, 1985
Parcel Number 08-029.40-003