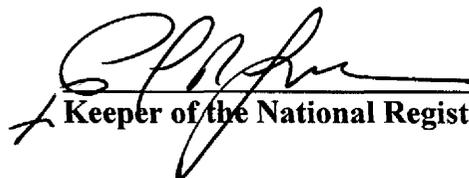




United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Philip Reading Tannery, in New Castle County, Delaware, reference number 78000897, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 4/26/1978, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 6, 1979, Part II, Vol.44, No. 26 (Book 2), page 7444. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.



Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

9/2/2004
Date

damaged by fire,
July 4, 1993;
demolished July 31,
1993

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1. NAME

HISTORIC PHILIP READING TANNERY
AND/OR COMMON GREEN'S BARN

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 201 East Main Street
CITY, TOWN Middletown VICINITY OF One
STATE Delaware CODE 10 COUNTY New Castle CODE 002

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME John C. Green
STREET & NUMBER 201 East Main Street
CITY, TOWN Middletown VICINITY OF Delaware STATE Delaware

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorder of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER Public Building, Rodney Square
CITY, TOWN Wilmington STATE Delaware

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO O.A.H.P.

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of Delaware Historic Sites and Buildings, N-3891
DATE 1977
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Hall of Records
CITY, TOWN Dover STATE Delaware

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Philip Reading Tannery is a brick two-story structure, 106 feet long and 30 feet wide. The long axis runs east-west. It stands in a farmyard adjacent to the Fedding Estates subdivision. To the southeast, on the site of Philip Reading's dwelling house, is a Tastee-Frenz store. Cattle are housed in the tannery building and the newer barns nearby.

The tannery building itself is divided into three parts. The west end, with a fireplace chimney on the gable wall, was probably the currying shop. At the center of the building is a passage, which originally had two pair of double doors on each side. The eastern section, originally the bark house, is ventilated by slits in the walls. At the east end of the south wall is a patch, indicating the former existence of a wing, 36 feet wide. Extending southward from the southwest corner is a brick wing, now a garage, 20 feet square. A more recent lean-to wing has been added to the west wall.

There are four original window openings on the west wall. The east wall has two doors at grade and a loft door in the gable. On each side wall, the western carriage door has been bricked in. Some of the other original openings have been altered, but the alterations are clearly evident. Some original sash, window and door frames survive.

According to an Orphans Court evaluation, dated 1801, the tannery stood on a three-acre lot with a two-story log tenement covered with weatherboard. There was also a brick building, one story high, roofed with cedar, 106 feet long, including under one roof a tan house, currying shop, bark house, and carriage house. There were 37 vats in the tanyard.

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO O.A.H.P.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1790-1800 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Philip Reading Tannery is a rare surviving eighteenth-century industrial building. Although it has been converted into a cow barn, the major original features remain. It is the only known eighteenth-century Delaware tannery building still standing. This is one of the few eighteenth-century tanneries in America.

Because there has been no major subsequent construction on the site, archaeological evidence probably is well preserved. A description, written in 1801, indicates that there were 37 tan vats on the three-acre site; the sites of these vats probably are now covered by driveways and barns adjoining the building.

The site was part of the extensive Andrew Peterson estate, which the Orphans Court divided among his heirs in 1742. Andrew's spinster daughter, Mary, received 205 acres, described as unimproved property.

The Peterson estate division established the outlines of the Middletown settlement. Andrew's children developed their properties around the crossroad at the center of the tract, and further subdivided it into lots. A map drawn about 1799 indicates that a sizeable community existed by that time.

Philip Reading, Jr., a grandson of Andrew Peterson, was in the tannery business as early as 1780. Ten years later, he bought the three-acre tannery site from his Aunt Mary. After his death in 1797, the Orphans Court administered the property for his minor children.

One of the heirs, the third Philip Reading, bought the tannery from the estate in 1813. Upon his death, his mother again became the owner of the tannery. It is not known when the tanning operation ceased. Both Philip Reading III and his mother lived in Wilmington, and thus could not have been the active managers.

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO O.A.H.P.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

New Castle County Orphans Court, Book C, pp. 12-15; Book J, p. 105.
 New Castle County Court of Common Pleas, Case 190, May term 1791, Reading vs. Gibb's Administrator.
 New Castle County Deed Book I-2, p. 174.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Two Latitude: 35° 42' 44"
 UTM REFERENCES Longitude: 75° 44' 27"

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site nominated includes the large brick building and that part of the tannery property that is not covered by modern residential or industrial buildings. About half of the original three-acre tannery lot is included, together with a parcel to the east that may be expected to contain evidence related to the Mary Peterson house. The property nominated is bounded on the west by Catherine Street, on the north and south by lots, and on the east by farmland.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Edward F. Heite, Historic Registrar
 ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs DATE: March 1977
 STREET & NUMBER: Hall of Records TELEPHONE: (302) 678-5314
 CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:
 NATIONAL X STATE _____ LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

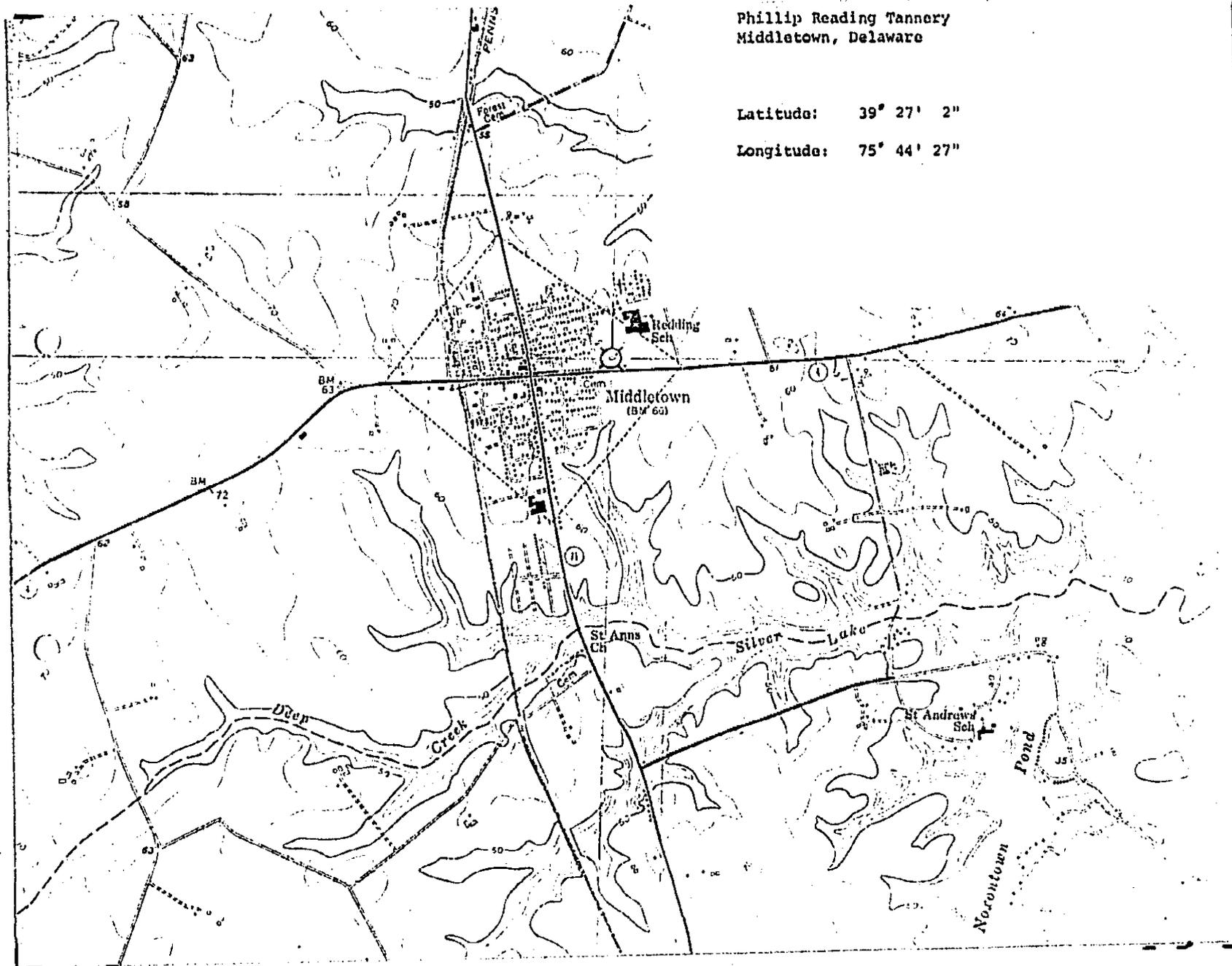
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE: Lauren [Signature] DATE: 10/25/77
 TITLE: Director, Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE _____
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: _____ DATE _____
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Phillip Reading Tannery
Middletown, Delaware

Latitude: 39° 27' 2"

Longitude: 75° 44' 27"



DELAWARE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS



DRAWN BY efh DATE 3.77 SCALE 1"=100'
FILE N 3891 TITLE sketch plan

Catherine St.

Redding Estates
Subdivision

School
Yard

520' ±

Philip Reading Tannery Site

Farm
Land

150' ±

200'
±

530' ±

Richard
Green
Res.

(site of house of
Mary Peterson)

John Green
Residence

Tastee Freez

MAIN ST.



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE DELAWARE

Date Entered APR 26 1978

Name

Location

Reading, Philip, Tannery

Middletown
New Castle County

Also Notified

Hon. William V. Roth, Jr.
Hon. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Hon. Thomas B. Evans, Jr.

DIV. OF HISTORICAL
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

MAY 4 9 09 AM '78

DIR _____ ASO _____

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION