

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Brook Ramble

other name/site number: James Crawford House, CRS# N-101

2. Location

street & number: County Roads 458 and 459

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Townsend, Appoquinimink Hundred

vicinity: X

state: DE county: New Castle

code: 003

zip code: 19734

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Dwellings of the Rural Elite in Central Delaware, 1770-1830 +/-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 4 Page 2

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Brook Ramble, N-101

In my opinion, the property  meets/  does not meet  
the National Register criteria.

Dennis E. Greenhouse

Dennis Greenhouse  
County Executive  
New Castle County  
Delaware

7/4/87

Date

=====  
4. State/Federal Agency Certification  
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  X  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  X  meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

*David R. [Signature]*

7/24/92

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====  
5. National Park Service Certification  
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the  
National Register
- removed from the National Register

*Patrick Andrews*

9/11/92

\_\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic: Domestic Sub: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current : Domestic Sub: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification:

Early Republic/Federal  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation Brick roof Asphalt  
walls Brick, wood other Wood  
weatherboard

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

Brook Ramble is located in Appoquinimink Hundred, New Castle County, northeast of Townsend and east of the junction of routes 458 and 459. A dwelling, a tenant house, a granary, a stable, a silo, a meat house, a privy, and two storage buildings are located on a 10.5 acre parcel of farmland. Situated on the Levels, an agriculturally rich area of Delaware, the property is surrounded by cultivated farmland and part of Jonas' Branch of Wiggins Mill Pond.

Built circa 1810, Brook Ramble stands as a two-and-a-half story, three-bay, brick building approximately 28' x 33' with a 27' x 17' original service wing. The main block of the dwelling is built on a double-pile, side-passage plan, with an interior double chimney at the western gable end and a slate roof. It is one of two federal-period farm houses still standing on the Levels. To the west stand the late nineteenth-century granary, stable, meat house, privy, tenant house, and storage buildings, which are non-contributing elements to the historic context of the nomination.

The front or south elevation is laid in flemish bond over a common bond foundation and is accented by a single-course moulded brick quarter-round watertable, a four-course belt course, and flat arches with cut stone keystones over the windows. Of note is the broken-frieze paneled entry

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
Social History  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1810-1830 +/-

Significant Dates : \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

X See continuation sheet.

Brook Ramble is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A because it represents the changes in the landscape due to the emergence of a new class of farmers in the federal period (1770-1830) and under Criterion C as a type or method of construction that represents the late Georgian/Federal vernacular styles popular among Delaware's rural elite during the 1770-1830 +/- period. The houses of the rural elite as a functional type relate to the following historic context in the Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan: Upper Peninsula Zone; 1770-1830 +/-; agriculture, settlement patterns and demographic change, and architecture, engineering, and decorative arts.

Beginning in the third quarter of the eighteenth century, a self-described class of agriculturalists arose who were less actively engaged in the physical practice of farming and more heavily involved in the administration and management of agricultural estates. They purchased land in towns and in the countryside as investments, often renting out the land to tenants or transferring operations to individual farm managers. By 1850, the result was a dominant class of farmers who did not cultivate the soil but recorded and regulated the annual cycle of planting and harvest through ledgers and daybooks.

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9. Major Bibliographical References  
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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

N/A preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

N/A previously listed in the National Register

N/A previously determined eligible by the National Register

N/A designated a National Historic Landmark

N/A recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

N/A recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

X State historic preservation office

\_ Other state agency

\_ Federal agency

\_ Local government

X University

\_ Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

=====  
10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreage of Property: Approximately 10.5 acres

JTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A    18 437055    4361365    B    18 437015    4361550

C    18 436650    4361450    D    18 436840    4361280

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: X See attached map.

The boundary of Brook Ramble is shown on the accompanying tax parcel map (tax parcel 14.11.25) and outlined in bold black lines. The nominated property is a roughly rectangular 500 by 1000 foot plot fronting County Road 459 east of its Junction with County Road 458 and containing 10.5 acres. Beginning at a point east and opposite of the intersection of routes 458 and 459, proceed south-southeast along Road 459 for approximately 500 feet. The parcel is completed by proceeding west to the starting point along the

Boundary Justification: X See continuation sheet.

The boundary includes the farmhouse, outbuildings and farmyard that have been historically associated with Brook Ramble, and that maintain historic integrity. The parcel includes all of the existing house and farm lot.

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11. Form Prepared By  
=====

Name/Title: Bernard L. Herman, Rebecca J. Siders and Max Van Balgooy

Organization: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering

Street & Number: University of Delaware Telephone: (302) 451-8097

City or Town: Newark State: DE ZIP: 19716

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page # 2

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composed of pilasters framing a round-arched architrave enclosing a six-light fanlight and six-panel door. The gabled dormers, finished with round-arched upper sash, echo the doorway motif. In the three-bay, side-entry fenestration of the main block, the windows are glazed, 12-over-12 light sash. The exterior surfaces of the service wing and the secondary walls of the main block are laid in common bond with no decorative attention given to door and window openings.

The front entry opens to a broad stair passage with an open-string elliptical staircase in the rear. An opposing rear entry and cellar door were sealed with the insertion of a bathroom in the mid to late twentieth century.

The two rooms on the west may be entered from the passage as well as through a connecting door (later widened) between them. The room on the south (the parlor) is trimmed with a moulded cornice, chair rail, and baseboard, as well as crossetted window casements. The central fireplace in the west wall features fluted Doric pilasters supporting an ogee moulded cornice and shelf.

The dining room to the north is trimmed with a moulded chair rail and baseboard. The central fireplace in the west wall is sheathed in wood paneling with a plaster overmantle. The opening features a crossetted surround supporting a moulded cornice and shelf. To the north of the fireplace, the cupboard is fitted with paneled doors and shelves.

The second floor of the main block has a entry, three chambers, and a passage leading to the wing.<sup>1</sup> Two chambers survive with original window trim and fireplace mantels, while the third was turned into a bathroom. The stairway continues to the third floor, which has a single room finished in plaster.

The original kitchen wing contains a single room with an open hearth in the west gable end. A door and a window are in both front and rear walls, although the rear door was later sealed, and a doorway connects the wing to the rear parlor. A enclosed winder stair in the southeast corner leads to the second floor, which contains an entry and two chambers. The west chamber features an early nineteenth-century fireplace and built-in cupboards. A doorway cut in the mid-nineteenth century leads to the second floor of the main block. The original kitchen wing was expanded in the early twentieth century with the addition of a one-story frame building to the west.

The cellar is entered from the outside through a modern bulkhead door at the southwest corner of the main block. It is divided by brick walls into three rooms on the same plan as the first floor. A window cut into the wall shared by the rooms underneath the parlors has an original wooden horizontal bar and evidence of two other bars. The room underneath the passage lacks a ceiling below the stair and was the site of an original



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page # 3

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interior stair connecting the passage and the cellar.

Contributing Structures

dwelling

Noncontributing Structures

granary  
stable  
meat house  
privy  
tenant house  
storage buildings

The noncontributing buildings are significant to the theme of agriculture for the 1880-1940 period but since that falls out of the theme of this multiproperty submission, these buildings must therefore be labelled noncontributing.

Footnotes

1. is defined according to the Builder's Dictionary (1734) as "a Door, Gate, Passage, Etc. through which we arrive at any place."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page # 2

James Crawford, the builder of Brook Ramble, was a member of the self-described class of gentleman farmers or agriculturalists. In 1790, he inherited a portion of his father's land.<sup>1</sup> In 1804, he held 337 acres of land with a total assessment of \$2940.<sup>2</sup> By 1816, he had acquired 636 acres, including 300 improved acres with a new brick dwelling, a tenant house, outbuildings, and ten slaves. His total assets of \$14,250 placed him in the top decile of the taxable population in Appoquinimink Hundred.<sup>3</sup>

His household inventory, recorded at his death in 1839, demonstrates that he was not solely interested in farming.<sup>4</sup> The presence of a walnut dining table, card tables, a ten-plate stove, window curtains, sofa, and a \$10 parlor carpet reveals his social interests, whereas his \$15 desk and bookcase symbolize his business pursuits.

Brook Ramble, Crawford's home, provided the most visible sign of his wealth and social station. The two-and-a-half story house containing nearly 2800 square feet is among the largest rural houses built in Delaware during the federal period. The elaborate entry, elliptical stair, and moulded trim made it obvious to visitors that he could furnish his home in a costly manner.

More significantly, the construction of a brick house with a stair-passage linked Crawford with a particular community. During the federal period, the rural elite turned their attentions from cultivating the soil to building new houses and outbuildings. Significant portions of farm income were invested in these new buildings, especially during the mid-nineteenth century. As capital expenditures, the new houses increased the property value of the farms. But the expenditures on brick, plank, and paint were also a testimony of the owner's status, symbolizing economic and social success.

At this time, the majority of dwellings were of log or frame construction; a significantly lesser number were made of brick. The 1816 tax assessment for St. Georges Hundred reveals that only 5 percent of the taxable population owned brick houses. Ownership of brick houses was directly associated with wealth and prosperity. Of the owners of brick houses, 90 percent possessed more than a hundred acres of land; 93 percent were among the richest 20 percent of the population.

Stair-passage plan dwellings, which first appeared locally in the second quarter of the eighteenth century, had come into general acceptance among the most affluent members of the society after the Revolution. The presence of a substantial interior passage physically distanced rooms and functioned to control and direct movement through the house. Rooms were no longer separated just by walls, but also by space, reflecting the owner's ability to afford specialized rooms and the luxury of privacy.

Although the presence of a stair-passage did not expand domestic activity

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   8   Page #   3  

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to more than one or two rooms, it did redefine the former common room or hall with a more specific use and furnishing scheme, such as a dining room. This form, however, remained the property of the wealthy and was not adopted by other income groups. James Crawford's choice of housing was not dictated simply by current architectural fashions, but by his desires to be recognized as a member of Delaware's rural elite in the Upper Peninsula Zone.

Unfortunately, personal mismanagement caused Crawford to lose his estate in the late 1820s, and it was sold at auction to William Rothwell.<sup>5</sup> Rothwell allowed Crawford to live in the house until his death in 1839. The property returned to the Crawford family in the mid-nineteenth century when it was purchased piecemeal by his grandson, James V. Crawford.<sup>6</sup> It remained in the Crawford family's possession until the early twentieth century.

Brook Ramble has integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association.

Attachment A contains relevant historic and present day maps: Rea & Price's 1849 Map of the State of Delaware, Beers' 1868 Map of the State of Delaware, Hopkins' 1881 Map of New Castle County, present-day highway maps for New Castle and Kent counties.

Footnotes

1. NCRW, will of John Crawford, Book N, p. 98 (1790).
2. NCTA, Appoquinimink Hundred, 1804.
3. NCTA, Appoquinimink Hundred, 1816. Statistical analysis by the Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware.
4. NCPR, inventory of James Crawford, 1839.
5. NCRD, Book U, Volume 5, p. 371 (1847); Scharf, 1888, 1002; NCTA, Appoquinimink Hundred, 1828.
6. NCOC; Book A, Volume 2, p. 510 (1850); Book A, Volume 2, p. 527 (1850), Division of Lands, Book B, p. 198 (1850); Scharf, 1888, 1002-3.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page # 2

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Primary Sources

- KCCC. Kent County Court of Chancery, Dover, Delaware.
- KCOC. Kent County Orphans Court Records, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.
- K CPR. Kent County Probate Records, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.
- KCRD. Kent County Recorder of Deeds, Dover, Delaware.
- KCTA. Kent County Tax Assessments, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.
- NCOC. New Castle County Orphans Court Records, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.
- NCPR. New Castle County Probate Records, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.
- NCRD. New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Wilmington, Delaware.
- NCRW. New Castle County Recorder of Wills, Wilmington, Delaware.
- NCTA. New Castle County Tax Assessments, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.

Secondary Sources

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- Bordley, J. B. 1801. Essays and Notes on Husbandry and Rural Affairs. Philadelphia: Budd and Bartram for Thomas Dobson.
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- Cunnington, C. Willett, and Cunnington, Phillis. 1964. Handbook of English Costume in the 18th Century. London: Faber and Faber.
- Delaware Register. 1838. "Rural Life." The Delaware Register and Farmers' Magazine (April) 1:3, p. 195-198.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page # 3  
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Herman, Bernard L. 1987. Architecture and Rural Life in Central Delaware, 1700-1900. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press.

Munroe, John. 1979. History of Delaware. Newark, DE: University of Delaware Press.

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Scharf, Thomas J. 1888. History of Delaware, 1609-1888. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards & Company.

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Sweeney, John. 1959. Grandeur on the Appoquinimink: The House of William Corbit at Odessa, Delaware. Newark, DE: University of Delaware Press.

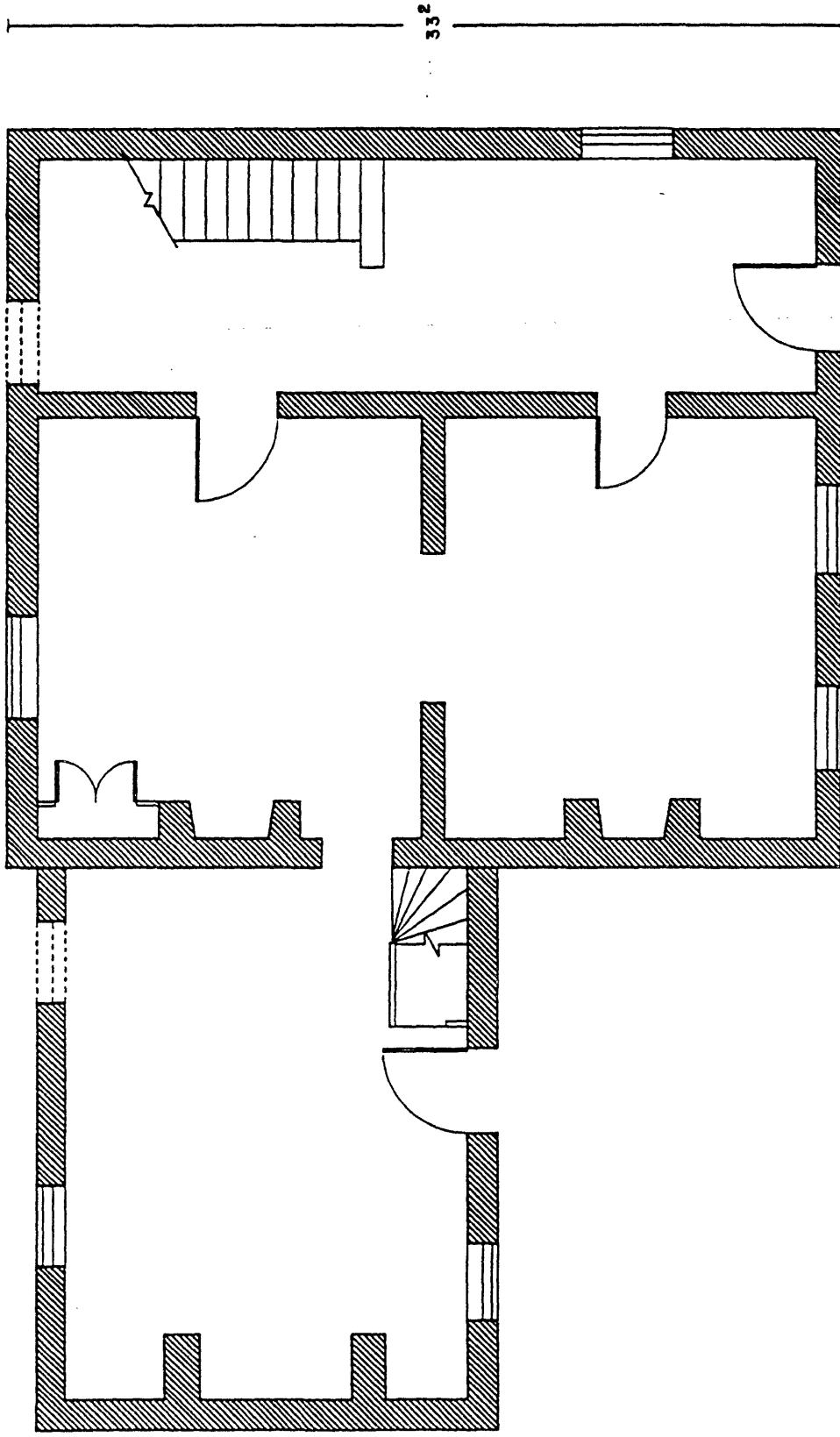
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page # 2

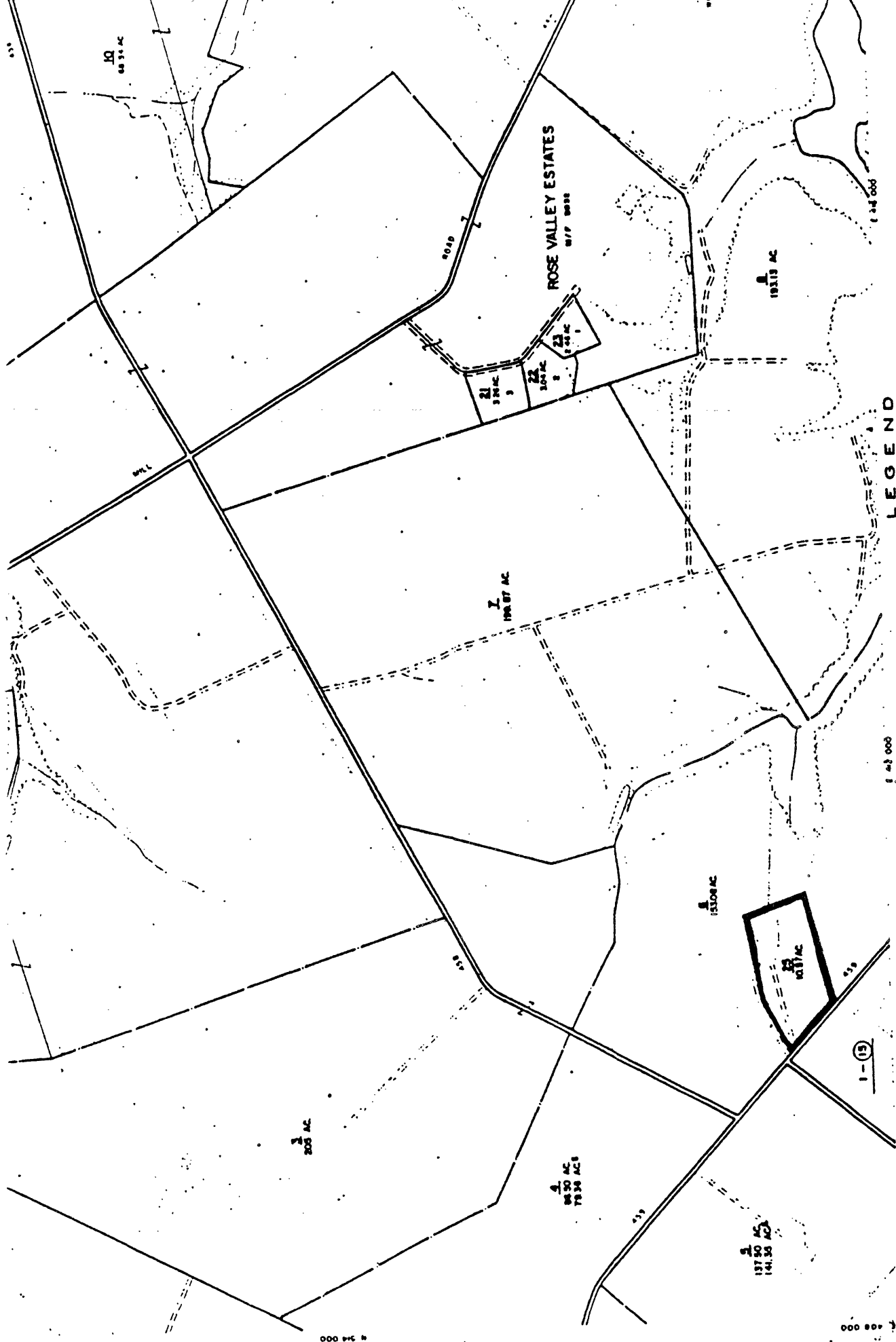
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existing legal property line. The boundary of the property is delineated  
by a polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference  
points:

A	18	437055	4361365	B	18	437015	4361550
C	18	436650	4361450	D	18	436840	4361280



BROOK RAMBLE  
 TOWNSEND VICINITY, NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE





### LEGEND

(Symbol: Dashed line)	ARTERIAL HIGHWAY	(Symbol: Dashed line)	STATE LINE
(Symbol: Solid line)	U.S. HIGHWAY	(Symbol: Dashed line)	COUNTY LINE
(Symbol: Dotted line)	LEGISLATIVE ROUTE NO.	(Symbol: Dashed line)	WATERED LINE
(Symbol: Dashed line)	ROAD, PAVED	(Symbol: Dashed line)	COMPOSITE LIMITS
(Symbol: Dashed line)	ROAD, UNPAVED	(Symbol: Dashed line)	BRIDGE
(Symbol: Dashed line)	TRAIL	(Symbol: Dashed line)	STREAM
(Symbol: Dashed line)	R/W ROAD	(Symbol: Dashed line)	ROAD
(Symbol: Dashed line)	RAILROAD	(Symbol: Dashed line)	FIELD LINE
(Symbol: Dashed line)		(Symbol: Dashed line)	

(Symbol: Solid line)	PARCEL OUTLINE	(Symbol: Dashed line)	CEMETERY
(Symbol: Dashed line)	INTERIOR PARCEL LINE	(Symbol: Dashed line)	CHURCH
(Symbol: Dashed line)	PARCEL HOOK	(Symbol: Dashed line)	SCHOOL
(Symbol: Dashed line)	PARCEL NUMBER	(Symbol: Dashed line)	WOODED AREA
(Symbol: Dashed line)	TOTAL ASSESSED ACREAGE	(Symbol: Dashed line)	PENNY
(Symbol: Dashed line)	TOTAL CALCULATED ACREAGE	(Symbol: Dashed line)	MARCH
(Symbol: Dashed line)	PARCEL & CONTROL MAP NO.	(Symbol: Dashed line)	BENCH MARK
(Symbol: Dashed line)	SUBDIVISION LOT NO.	(Symbol: Dashed line)	BLOCK/SECTION

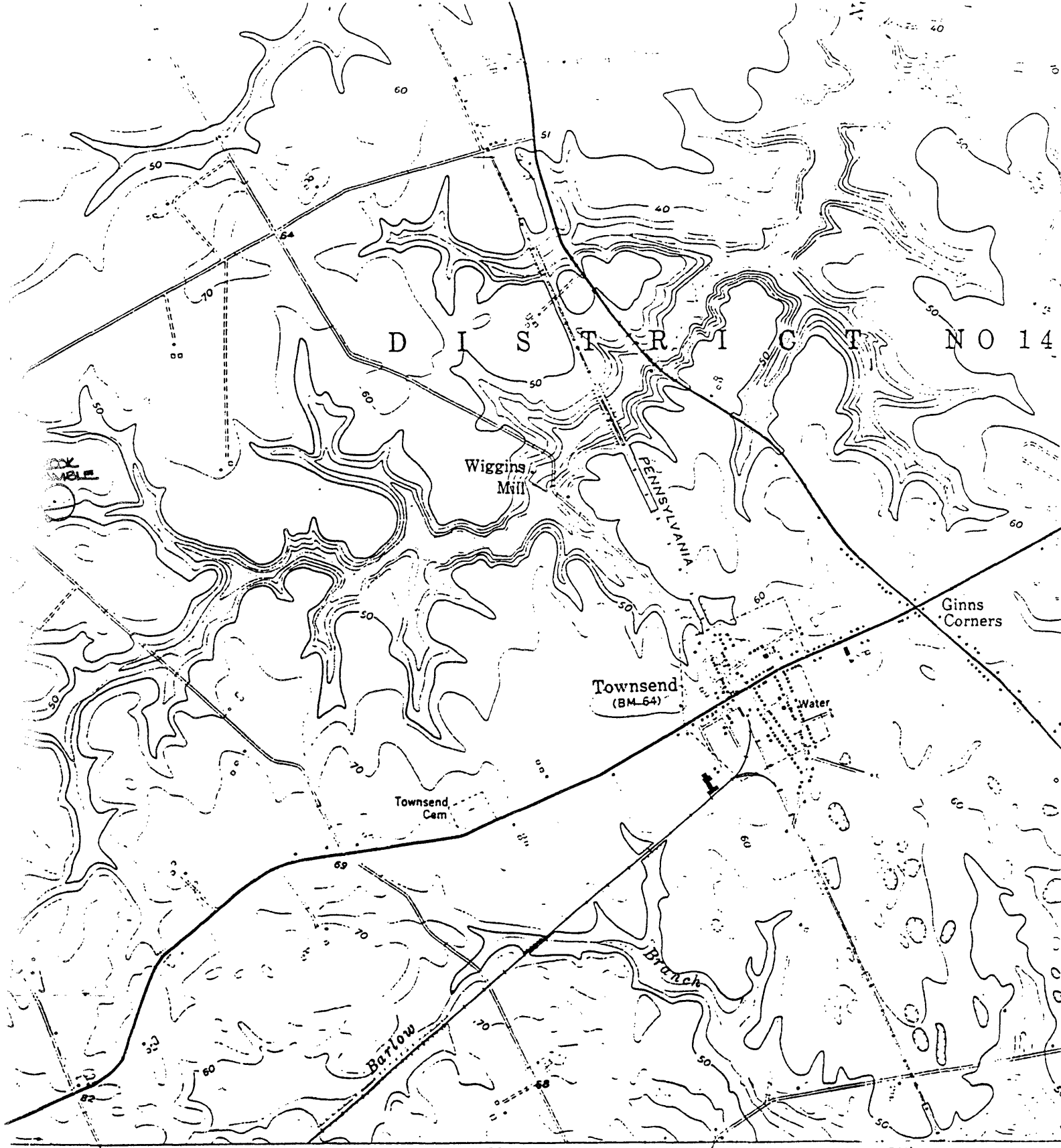
  

MAP LOCATION			
5	6	7	
10	11	12	
14	15	16	

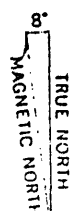
## BROOK RAMBLE TAX PARCEL 14.11.21

THIS MAP OR PORTION OF IT MAY NOT  
 BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN  
 ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS  
 WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMIS-  
 SION OF THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY  
 COMMISSIONERS.



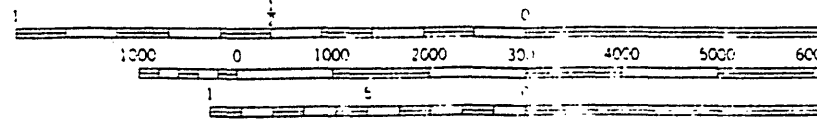


the Geological Survey  
**UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**  
**SCALE: 1:24000**  
 aerial photographs  
 1:62,500 scale map of  
 original map by  
 1953  
 datum  
 date system

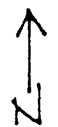


APPROXIMATE MEAN

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARD