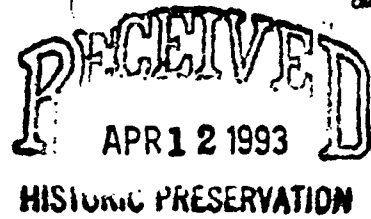


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name RittenhouseTown Historic District  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

USE THIS COPY  
FOR DUPLICATING

2. Location

street & number 206 - 210 Lincoln Drive N/A not for publication  
city, town Philadelphia N/A vicinity  
state Pennsylvania code PA county Philadelphia code 101 zip code 19144

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>7</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>8</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 8

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  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. \_\_\_\_\_
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
INDUSTRY: manufacturing facilities  
DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE: animal facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL  
GEORGIAN  
FEDERAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone  
walls stucco, stone  
roof wood shake  
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Rittenhouse Town commonly stylized as RittenhouseTown, is the industrial community that grew up around William Rittenhouse's paper mills. Two mills were constructed within the village before 1703, the first in 1690 and its replacement by 1703. These early dates establish the site as the location of the first paper mills in British North America. RittenhouseTown is located in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park, a property listed on the National Register, in a picturesque, steep valley created by the Monoshone Creek (a.k.a. Paper Mill Run) which served as the community source of water, both for powering the industrial machinery and for residential use. The eastern end of the site is marked by the confluence of two small streams which join to form the Monoshone. Maps dating from as early as the 1760s, establish this area of the district to be the site of the first mills (Figure 6). The village also contains seven buildings constructed between 1690 and ca.1830 which are representative of the change from late Medieval to Colonial/Federal design. Six houses and a barn, each originally built with local field stone and a gable roof, survive to document the domestic core of the village.

The village began with the mill on a twenty acre parcel; with later purchases of adjacent tracts of land by members of the Rittenhouse family, the holdings grew to encompass hundreds of acres contiguous to the original site. By the 1880s, over forty buildings were associated with the village (Figure 12). Like most pioneer industrial locations, the mills and associated service buildings have long since been demolished. The construction of Lincoln Drive which destroyed a portion of the south end of the site has also altered the character of the setting. However, preliminary archaeological investigations have verified areas of potential significance including the foundations of an early mill, built in the center of the present village, possibly before 1736.<sup>1</sup> Excavations have also located evidence of former buildings and areas of high potential. These preliminary investigations have also concluded that additional excavation will provide more precise dating of the construction dates, information on the relative socioeconomic status of the former inhabitants and technological data pertaining to the paper making.<sup>2</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 7 Page 2

---

By analyzing these findings and the numerous historic maps and photographs, the configurations of the eighteenth and nineteenth community can be reconstructed. It is known that the houses were clustered around the mills and other utilitarian buildings forming a typical, functionally planned community (Figure 7). These clusters of buildings were lined up along the creek and eventually stretched for a mile or more. This was likely in response to the steep hill sides as well as to the need to be close to the mill operations.

The seven surviving buildings are organized on either side of the creek and are positioned along a dirt road which runs through the village. Each structure is oriented toward the south and is constructed of local stone with a gable roof. The roof of 206 was originally a steep gable but was changed to a low-pitched roof typical to the 1820s through 1830s, Federal vocabulary.<sup>3</sup> The six houses and barn were erected between 1690 and ca.1830, at which time most of the significant additions and alterations had been accomplished. Subsequent porch and shed additions, modernizations and sympathetic restorations have not dramatically affected the integrity of the buildings, for sufficient original fabric survives in all buildings to establish the domestic character of the village.

The boundaries are defined to include the original twenty acre parcel leased by William Rittenhouse and his partners with an additional small plot which was purchased in the first half of the eighteenth century on which buildings 210 and 210a are located. The Rittenhouse family was responsible for the major early additions and alterations to these buildings. In addition, the district includes a small portion of the late nineteenth century industrial village, the remains of which survive largely below ground. It also contains the sites of the first paper mills as well as the houses and barn occupied by those responsible for building and managing the papermaking operation up to the nineteenth century switch to manufacturing cotton and other products.

### 207A Lincoln Drive

207A Lincoln Drive, generally considered the earliest surviving building of the community, was built directly across the stream from an early mill, possibly in the 1690s. Constructed of pointed, local rubble stone, the building is characterized by its steep roof and sparse fenestration with heavy, mortised-and-tenoned frames and case-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 7 Page 3

---

ment sash supported on wrought iron strap hinges. The south-facing entrance is marked by a simple batten door with flanking window below the projecting roof rafters and joists. The west wall is penetrated by a single casement lighting the ground floor and a smaller one in the gable, while the north wall contains one centered window. A reconstructed stucco-covered bake oven is located beneath a lean-to shed to the east. The oven is connected to the main fireplace by an original stone lintel supported by bricks in the east wall. The north wall was built at the water's edge and is reinforced by large stone buttresses. This wall is penetrated by a single casement window. Rising above the shingle-covered roof is a brick chimney.

Simple whitewashed walls with deeply set windows, random width flooring, and exposed roof joists express the utilitarian character of the interior. Located along the east wall and spanning the entire width of the building is a raised hearth fireplace of immense proportions. The massive oak lintel, supported by two brick piers, shows considerable deflection under the load of the masonry above. To the south are the bake oven opening and an unusual recessed smoke chamber. The built-in stone supports for holding lug poles are intact. A shallow basement occupying the entire footprint of the building is accessed by a trap door (Photos 2, 3).

The original function of 207A has not been determined; it is likely either a settlement house or a utilitarian building. This simple building fits a pattern of German settlement houses and may be the house where Nicholas Rittenhouse's son William was born in 1691. It was not uncommon for pioneers to erect simple structures in which to establish a foot hold in the wilderness. These buildings were often converted to utilitarian out-buildings once the main family house was erected. This process can be seen in many Pennsylvania German farms and settlements, such as on the Kauffman, Israel Bertolet and Fisher farms of the Oley Valley, Berks Co.<sup>4</sup> The German built towns of Harmony, New Harmony and Economy, Pennsylvania, all began with simple log structures which were converted to utilitarian use upon the completion of the family house.<sup>5</sup> It is also documented that members of the Rittenhouse family lived on the site in the 1690s, for William's birth records list Roxborough township as the place of his birth and the only land owned by the family in this township was the property associated with the milling activities.<sup>6</sup>

On the other hand, the building may have originally been erected for utilitarian purposes such as a kitchen. The immense size of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 7 Page 4

---

fireplace certainly suggests that cooking was a significant part of the activity which occurred in the building. The scale, design and features such as the tiny casement windows and fireplace link this building to late seventeenth or early eighteenth century construction practice and suggest that it may be one of the earliest extant structure built by the Rittenhouse family.

### 207 Lincoln Drive

207 Lincoln Drive was built in 1707 as indicated by the east gable date stone. Positioned on the south side of the stream, slightly west of 207A, the William Rittenhouse house was constructed of rubble masonry in two phases. To the east is the dated older section, its extremely steep gable is penetrated only by a tiny casement at ground level and a larger, double-hung window lighting the attic. The building is oriented to the south with a centrally located door flanked by small casements at grade and larger ones above. The building type is unusual in that the utilitarian basement contains the cooking fireplace and is above grade, responding to and partially built into a bank to provide easier access to the main living areas above. This arrangement still required the use of three large stone steps to reach the threshold of the main living areas of the house. A reconstructed hood, supported on sturdy timbers set into original pockets in the masonry, shields the entry. Additional pockets to either side of the door presumably mark the location of railings or some other entrance features. The north elevation is a full two stories in height; divided by a reconstructed pent roof, the ground level contains a door and flanking casement window while the upper floor is lit by two casement windows. An infilled doorway is clearly visible above the pent. This feature may have provided access to an earlier balcony, a not uncommon architectural element in parts of southern Germany in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (Photos 4, 5).

The western portion of the building has traditionally been dated to ca.1714. Although supporting documentation has yet to be found, this is entirely plausible. Stylistic and construction similarities with the earlier section show a continuity characteristic of the passage of only a very few years between original construction and addition. Most notable is the continued use of "lamb's tongue" chamfered frames and casement sash for the ground floor windows. The large, single-hung sash windows of the upper floors are Georgian features, available

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 7 Page 5

---

in Philadelphia as early as the first decade of the eighteenth century, but not generally utilized in the German community until well into the 1730s. Their presence presumably marks a mid-century modernization. Regardless of their date, the sliding sash are of interest as an early example of the gradual lessening of the hold of European traditions on immigrants.

The less steeply pitched roof adjoins the earlier building and incorporates the west gable wall. This arrangement created a centered chimney that allowed for the use of a through-the-wall heating stove, hallmark features of German domestic architecture. The west gable is punctured by casements in the attic and the ground floor and a large, single-hung sash window serving the main floor and centered in the wall. The south elevation also has a casement below a sliding sash window. A door that has been positioned a few feet above grade suggests missing stairs or a bridge to the adjacent hill. The function and date of this feature has not been established.

The interior is divided into three rooms on each floor. The ground floor to the east is a room six feet wide and separated from the central kitchen area by a masonry partition. The "Kuche," the traditional all purpose work room and kitchen occupies the central area and to the west is the "Stube," or formal living area. The focal points of these austere, plastered and whitewashed spaces are the raised stone hearth, restored elliptically arched fireplace in the kitchen, and the reconstructed masonry stove of the living area. With lug pole and trammel supports, recessed smoke chamber, and stove openings in the back wall, the fireplace contains well preserved features of an early cooking\heating system. The most unusual feature of the house is without doubt the low, broad windows. Out-swinging double casements with thick muntins holding ancient crown glass are deeply set into heavy post and lintel frames. The window jambs and center post are shaped in a decorative stop chamfer known as a "lamb's tongue" because of its characteristic shape. The second or main floor is divided into a living space and sleeping chambers known as "Kammers" (Figure 1). The two main spaces are separated by the central wall and winder stair. Each room displays refined paneled and beaded woodwork and expertly finished ironwork. The decorative chamfering of the ceiling joists and small casements in the eastern rooms contrast with the smoothed plaster and large sliding sash windows to the west. The area between the ceiling joists is infilled with plaster which is slightly recessed from the undersides of the joists. This stroh-lehm (mud-straw) is keyed to paling strips (split lath) which are set into

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 7 Page 7

---

north side of the roof ridge, is the projecting masonry mass of the chimney.

The composition and trim of the two and one half story east wing closely follows that of the main block. It is composed in three registers of double-hung, six-over-six windows. The westernmost register contains the entrance on the ground story with a second story door above it, providing access to the porch roof. Capping the addition is a Classically detailed, Greek Revival style box cornice and an asphalt shingled gable roof running east-west like that of the main block.

The remaining elevations correspond closely to the main ones. The west gable end of the main block is likewise of stuccoed rubble construction and is fenestrated with a single, six-over-six window on each story. Removal of a section of stucco on the west wall has revealed that it was originally a steeply pitched gable, conforming to the pattern of the early eighteenth century building on the site (Figure 3). The gable end of the east addition is of stuccoed masonry construction, and is dominated by its exterior chimney, which is constructed of rubble schist. On each story there is a window to either side of the chimney, with six-over-six sliding sash. The third story windows are smaller, with one-over-one casement windows forced toward the chimney by the angle of the roof. A single set of early paneled shutters is still in place on the southern second-story window (Photos 11, 12).

The north elevation consists of the rear of the main block and the east wing. In front of the main block extends a two-story addition of light, utilitarian, wood construction, entered through doors at the east and west ends. The addition consists of a wood frame sided with asphalt shingles on the first story and with horizontal wood boards on the second and is capped with a low-pitched shed roof. This wing is fenestrated only on the second story with a double-hung window and a loft-type door. The third story of the main block is relieved by two doors opening onto the shed roof of the wood addition. The north elevation of the east wing is fenestrated by two windows on the first story and a single window on the second story.

The plan of the house is complex, and reflects the convoluted building history of its major additions. A cellar runs under the entire building. The basement partitions consist of the arched support of the chimney breast and hearth of the centered fireplace of the original

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 7 Page 6

V notches cut in the joists and functioned as insulation between the floors. The attic is reached by a winder stair built around a center post. Original flooring, rafters, and collar beams survive (Photos 6, 7, 8, and 9).

207 is an example of one of the rarest types of Pennsylvania German houses, known as the bank house. The distinguishing characteristics are its construction into an earthen bank and the placement of the main cooking fireplace in the basement.<sup>7</sup> Similar examples such as the Schaeffer, Spangler, Ley and Knabb-Bieber houses have been traced to their European origins.<sup>8</sup> It is also of interest that with the erection of the western addition, the plan generally conforms to the more typical, centered chimney, three-room house type.

**206 Lincoln Drive**

The so-called Abraham Rittenhouse House is part of the eighteenth century settlement at RittenhouseTown. As it now stands, it is a three story, Federal style building with a two and one half story wing extending to the east, sited roughly fifty yards to the north of the Monoshone Creek. Built of stuccoed rubble stone it was constructed in at least four building campaigns ranging from the first half of the eighteenth century to the early twentieth century.<sup>9</sup>

The main elevation facing the creek to the south is a regular composition, articulated in four registers of roughly evenly-spaced windows. A wooden porch extends across the first story of the main block and eastern wing; it is supported on a raised rubble foundation, partially infilled with concrete. This is capped by squared and chamfered wooden posts carrying the roof. At the west end of the elevation is a low, bulkhead-type entrance to the cellar, upon which are mounted wooden doors (Photo 10).

The first story of the west block, like the upper stories, contains four openings, with the main entrance placed in the second opening from the west. The entrance is a modern, paneled door set in a rectangular surround. Typically, windows are double-hung, six-over-six sliding sash, also set in rectangular surrounds with concealed wooden lintels and wooden sills. The larger sash of the first story are nine-over-nine. Surmounting the facade is a simple, wooden box cornice, capped by a low pitched gable roof with the ridge running east-west and sheathed in standing seam metal. Above the roof, on the



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 7 Page 8

west section and the original western foundation wall the west section into which a door was cut to provide access to the cellar of the east wing. The first story consists of two major spaces, the kitchen, extending across the house's west end, and the living room, taking up the rest of the main block. Between these two spaces-- from north to south-- is the massive bulk of the original central chimney, the winder stair, and the small passage connecting the kitchen to the living room (Photo 13). This two-room plan presumably reflects the original form of the building, to which were added the later wings, the wooden shed all along the north elevation and the wing to the east (Figure 2). The east wing contains a stair hall to the west, running parallel to the end wall of the main block, and a second living room to the east (Photo 14).

The second story plan is similar. The main block consists of a small room to the west (above the kitchen) and a larger room to the east (above the living room). Across the rear wall, in the north frame addition, runs a corridor connecting a bathroom to the west, closet in the middle, and a utility room to the east. The east block contains two rooms arranged to the east of the stair hall. The third floor plan is slightly different, again consisting of a small chamber to the east, while the west room is partitioned into two chambers, one to the north and one to the south. The third story of the east wing is an unfinished, low-ceilinged attic (Photo 15).

Comparative analysis with other documented buildings establishes the early part of 206 to be an example of a pre-1750s, centered chimney, German house type. The distinguishing characteristics are the steep roof, internal chimney positioned approximately one third in from the gable wall, two doors opening onto the kitchen and openings for a five-plate stove in the back of the fireplace.<sup>10</sup> The most frequently found examples in the typology are those with a three-room plan, however, this seems to relate to the size of the building and needs of the builder, for smaller structures such as the Shelter house, Emmaus Pennsylvania, ca.1734 and the Israel Bertolet house in Oley, ca.1740 are two room plans. The original plan of 206 has not been determined conclusively, but plan is only one of a number of features useful in determining cultural origin. Variations in the number of rooms are common; the Christian Herr House near Lancaster, 1719 has four rooms on the first floor. It is the presence of a number of very specific features which establish cultural continuity.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 7 Page 9

---

## 209 Lincoln Drive

209, the largest extant house, was likely built by Jacob Rittenhouse in the late 1750s or 1760s. This building is a transitional house type documenting the gradual change from a European plan to a more English-inspired plan. Built of stuccoed rubble stone, the main, south-facing elevation is in three registers, with the entry to the side, while the exceptionally deep gable walls contain two widely spaced windows on each floor. The roof is moderately steep with a large internal brick chimney projecting from the ridge. The chimney is not centered, but rather is placed closer to the gable at the opposite side from the stair. A gabled dormer with single-hung, six-over-six sash rises above the roof at the central register. A one and one-half story rear ell projects from the rear. The floor plan is unusual in that the central chimney plan usually utilizes a winder stair located next to the chimney mass to access the upper floors. Here, the winder is replaced by a straight run stair located in the side hall. While some of the earliest trim is intact, the mantels, balustrade, and some doors and surrounds are products of an upgrading to Federal design around the first quarter of the nineteenth century (Photos 16, 18, and 19).

## 208 Lincoln Drive

208 Lincoln Drive is a four register, two and one-half story, stucco over stone house, possibly built by Abraham Rittenhouse in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. In typical vernacular Federal fashion, the house is designed with a low-pitched roof, symmetrical fenestration, and gable end chimneys. The windows are six-over-six, single-hung sash with simple, molded surrounds with wooden sills. The ground story retains paneled shutters and a bracketed gable hood above the door. To the rear, a two-story, stone, shed addition and wood frame garage have been added (Photos 16, 17).

The interior retains much of its original fabric; simple Federal style mantels, paneled and beaded doors within ogee trim and beaded base-board grace simple plastered walls.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Rittenhouse Town Historic District

Section number 7 Page 10

---

**210 Lincoln Drive**

210 Lincoln Drive represents at least two and possibly three or more building phases. It is a five register, two and one-half story, stucco over rubble stone building with a moderately steep roof. The facade's ground floor is symmetrical with two windows to either side of the central door. The second floor has regularized fenestration to one side and a single, smaller window off center to the other. A dormer with six-over-six, double-hung sash projects from the roof above the central register. Two chimneys rise above the roof, one built into the east gable, the other approximately one third of the length of the building in from the west. The gable walls are sparsely fenestrated, containing only windows lighting the attic and ground floors. The irregular pattern of fenestration marking the earlier build is more pronounced on the rear elevation. An original casement and later six-over-six windows penetrate the wall surface.

The center hall plan was created when three registers were added to the original two register building. The earlier, west portion is a simple rectangle divided into two rooms by a wall, one half of which is a large masonry fireplace, the other, a vertical board partition. The fireplace mass is built in the shape of a triangle with one surface parallel to the outside wall and the partition intersecting the apex. This creates a corner fireplace in each room. Much of the original fabric, including casement windows, is preserved. The hall and room to the east retain doors, trim, and mantels from the early nineteenth century (Photo 20).

**210A Lincoln Drive**

210A Lincoln Drive is a two-story, bank barn with additions to the east and to the north. The property history shows that the barn is part of the farm complex of 210. It is a typical, two register, rubble stone utilitarian structure which underwent extensive rehabilitation by the WPA in the 1930s. The foundations and most of the masonry walls appear to date from the late eighteenth century while the wood structure and siding are twentieth century (Photo 21).

Though the physical evidence of 208, 209 and 210 Lincoln Drive has not been thoroughly evaluated, preliminary investigation and documentary evidence of deeds and maps indicate that these additional buildings were an integral part of the site.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 7 Page 11

---

The increasing size of the buildings indicates both the dropping costs of construction and the ever-increasing prosperity of the operation. Thus it can be assumed that these represented buildings of the third and fourth generations of the family, some of whom would have taken over and altered the older houses, while the others would have constructed their own residences. These also would have begun small and been extended as family growth and prosperity warranted.

Presumably 209 was begun for a member of the third generation and was later extended at the beginning of the nineteenth century, perhaps at the time that it was deeded to members of the next generation. 210 also shows evidence of multiple builds, which pushed it from an asymmetrical house with an internal chimney towards its center-hall Georgian character. This building is outside of the original twenty acre Rittenhouse tract and is possibly the earliest structure within the site. Surviving casement windows, asymmetrical fenestration, steep original roof line, and a corner fireplace link this building to the earliest settlement, possibly of Swedish origin and thus pre-dating the Rittenhouse occupation. Presently it is stylistically similar to 208, and probably represents the maturation of the fourth generation. The last of the buildings, 208, is qualitatively different from the others for it appears to be a single build, in the manner and proportion of Federal houses of the early nineteenth century and constructed with gable end fireplaces typical in English Philadelphia.

The site has been transformed from its nineteenth century complexion by the demolition of over thirty buildings, the construction of Lincoln Drive and the gradual reforestation of the valley. However, seven buildings survive to document RittenhouseTown's diverse architectural heritage. The buildings have retained sufficient integrity of structure and materials, important features and details to define their individual character. The over all forms and floor plans can be related to other documented buildings and along with primary documentation and archaeology can be of value in establishing construction periods and cultural characteristics. Building 207A has been re-roofed, painted and partially restored by the reconstructions of the bake oven, and replacement of flooring in 1976 by the Fairmount Park Commission. The original walls and casement windows, roofing structure, and fireplace clearly define the building as an important early structure and one of the first buildings on the site. 207 has similarly been reroofed, painted and partially restored in 1976. Reconstructed features include the pent roof and door hood to the south, kitchen floor, and arched wall of the fireplace as well as the heating

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 7 Page 12

---

stove in the west room. A modern kitchen and bath have been inserted with little alteration to original fabric. Finish work has included some replastering and painting. Even with these changes, the important features survive to clearly establish the building type, age and obvious significance of the building. The steep masonry walls penetrated by casement windows, interior wood and iron work, basement fireplace with stove openings and chamfered joists with stroh-lehm insulation establish this building as an important early building type recalling Medieval European tradition.

206 has been subject to significant alterations, however, the major alterations and additions date from before the mid-nineteenth century and within the sites period of significance. The changes are accretions which generally were added onto an existing building without destroying the earlier fabric. Although the arch of the fireplace and bake oven were reconstructed prior to the nation's bicentennial and the roof rafters have been removed, the essential features of the two room variation of the most widely recognized pre-1750s German-American house type survive. The masonry walls forming a steeply pitched roof, the original plan, central fireplace with jamb stove openings, flooring and joists, splayed openings and excellent paneled woodwork hardware and winder stair exist within what outwardly appears to be a Federal style building. The change to a Federal design was accomplished by changing the steep roof to a low-pitched one, probably by 1830. The two and one-half story east wing and the porches to the north and south were probably added between 1860 and 1870 and the external chimney to the far east is likely twentieth century.

208 and 209 retain a high degree of integrity, although some features are covered by modern materials. Floor plans, stairs, windows, trim and fireplaces and mantles survive in a good state of preservation.

210 is more difficult to assess because it has not been studied to the extent of either 206 or 207. Significant early fabric and unusual features such as an internal triangular fireplace survive. The larger portions of the building appear to have been completed in two phases, the latest of which, as determined by stylistic evidence, could date from as early as the 1780s. To these sections, a small frame addition to the east and a porch to the south were added.

210A retains its original masonry walls, but was otherwise substantially rebuilt in the 1930s. New framing, roofing and doors are apparent.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D    NHL Criteria 1, 2

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Science

NHL Themes: XII.Business

XIII.Science

Period of Significance

1690-1850

Significant Dates

1690

1732

Cultural Affiliation

German

Significant Person

Rittenhouse, David

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

As a significant industrial community and as the home of David Rittenhouse, RittenhouseTown meets criteria A and B and warrants being designated a National Historic Landmark District.

RittenhouseTown is among the most important industrial communities spanning the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The site is the core of an industrial village that included over forty industrial, agricultural, institutional and domestic structures. The Rittenhouse family owned and operated at least seven paper, grist and cotton mills in the vicinity thereby establishing their prominence in the midst of colonial Pennsylvania's most industrialized region.

RittenhouseTown is also the site of the first paper mill in British North America where the first American manufacture of paper took place. On paper produced here were printed many of the colonies' important early documents, and later those of the growing nation.<sup>11</sup> RittenhouseTown paper with the WR watermark was one of the first exports of Philadelphia, and may truly be said to have begun Philadelphia's rise to its preeminent role as the manufacturing center of the nation.<sup>12</sup> During the history of the community, members attained prominence in the city, the commonwealth, and the nation. Most notable was David Rittenhouse (1732-1796), astronomer, mechanic, mathematician, and first director of the United States Mint, who was born on the site. Building 207 is the only surviving building associated with Rittenhouses productive life, all others having been demolished.

RittenhouseTown grew up around the paper mill of William Rittenhouse (1644-1708), a native of the picturesque town of Monschau, in Broich, near the Dutch-German border. He moved to Holland, where he married Gertrude Vorsters, and established himself in the paper industry. In 1687 or 1688, Rittenhouse arrived in Philadelphia, having stopped in New York on his way.<sup>13</sup> It is generally assumed that Rittenhouse in-

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 8 Page 2

---

tended to establish a paper mill from the outset, and had already established contacts with Quaker entrepreneurs Samuel Carpenter and William Bradford. In 1690, Rittenhouse and partners Robert Turner, Thomas Tresse and Bradford leased a twenty acre tract of land from Carpenter (Figure 4). Bradford, an important early printer who settled first in Philadelphia and later in New York described the progress of his enterprise in a letter to a friend in London in the fall of 1690, "Samuel Carpenter and I are building a paper mill about a mile from thy mills at Skulkill and we hope we shall have paper within less than four months."<sup>14</sup>

Although Bradford was a printer, his role in the making of paper was presumably advisory and hortatory; it was Rittenhouse who knew the requirements of the paper-making process, particularly those of site, building type, and technology. He certainly helped choose the location where a sufficient flow and drop (head) of the Monoshone Creek, a tributary of the Wissahickon, would drive the water wheel, in turn driving the trip hammers that transformed rags into pulp.<sup>15</sup> It was there on the banks of the Monoshone, in 1690, that the first paper mill in the American colonies was erected, establishing for the Rittenhouse Family a monopoly that would continue until well into the next century.

The first evidence that the mill was actually constructed and producing paper is found in a poem written by Richard Frame and printed in 1692 by William Bradford. It reads in part:

"Which is, at least, in Length one Mile and More  
Where Lives High - German People, and Low - Dutch,  
Whose Trade in weaving Linnin Cloth is much,  
There grows the Flax, as also you may know,  
That from the same they do divide the Tow;  
Their Trade fits well within this Habitation,  
We find Convenience for their Occupation.  
One Trade brings in employment for another,  
So that we may suppose each Trade a Brother;  
From Linnin Rags good Paper doth derive,  
The first Trade keeps the second Trade alive:  
Without the first the second cannot be,  
Therefore since these two can so well agree,  
Convenience doth approve to place them nigh,  
One in German - Town doth stand,  
So that the Flax, which first springs from the Land,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 8 Page 3

---

First Flax, then Yarn, and then they must begin,  
To weave the same, which they took pains to spin.  
Also, when on our backs it is well worn,  
Some of the same remains Ragged and Torn;  
Then of those Rags our Paper it is made,  
Which in process of time doth waste and fade:  
So what comes from the Earth, appeareth plain,  
The same in Time returns to Earth again."<sup>16</sup>

Shortly after, the mill was also mentioned in a poem written in 1696 by Judge John Holmes.

"Here dwelt a printer and I find  
That he can both print books and bind;  
He wants not paper, ink nor skill  
He's owner of a paper mill.  
The paper mill is here hard by  
And makes good paper frequently,  
But the printer, as I here tell,  
Is gone unto New York to dwell.  
No doubt but he will lay up bags  
If he can get food store of rags.  
Kind friend, when thy old shift is rent  
Let it to th' paper mill be sent."<sup>17</sup>

The first mill was destroyed by a flood within about ten years. There are no descriptions or exact dates of this event, however, William Barton, writing in 1813, concluded that the mill had been destroyed by 1701. He based the timing of the event on a now-lost letter by William Penn soliciting aid for the rebuilding of the mill, possibly written in 1701 during his second visit to Pennsylvania.<sup>18</sup> The new mill was operating by June 13th, 1703 when Bradford wrote to Rittenhouse requesting an order for pasteboard and also stating that some writing paper had been delivered.<sup>19</sup> Claus Rittenhouse's reply on July 12 further confirms the destruction and rebuilding of the mill and provides information regarding the salvaged materials which were reused on the new mill.<sup>20</sup> An original copy of a lease between Rittenhouse and Carpenter has recently surfaced and shows that in 1706 William possessed full ownership of the land and mill, having gained all four shares as a direct consequence of the financial difficulties brought about by the destruction of the first mill.<sup>21</sup> This lease is the only primary legal document which describes the original partner-



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 8 Page 4

---

ship and the mill. Within two years William died intestate and through the laws of primogeniture his eldest son Nichlaus (Claus) inherited the property. Claus carried on the paper making operation until his death in 1734 at which time he bequeathed to his son William, "that piece or parcel of Land Situate in the Said Roxborough Township and Joining North Easterly to German Town Line containing Twenty Acres of Land (which I purchased of Samuel Carpenter) Together with the papermill, Buildings & Appurtenances, thereunto belonging."<sup>22</sup>

The Rittenhouses maintained an absolute monopoly of paper manufacture in the colonies up until about 1710 when William De Wees built a mill further up the Wissahickon.<sup>23</sup> For another generation they produced the highest quality and greatest quantity of paper in the colonies, retaining a virtual monopoly in the industry. By 1730 the construction of other mills put an end to the exclusive hold on the market that the Rittenhouses had enjoyed for almost forty years. In 1729, Thomas Willcox erected a paper mill on Chester Creek twenty miles southwest of Philadelphia, William Bradford set up a mill in Elizabeth New Jersey and Daniel Henschman was planning the first paper mill in New England.<sup>24</sup>

Shortly after the death of Nicholas in 1734, his son William, hereafter referred to as William(2), built a third paper mill on the site. Green concludes that, "It was probably built sometime after the death of Claus in 1734, since his will mentioned only one mill on the property. It may have been built in 1736 by the second William Rittenhouse in partnership with his main customer, Andrew Bradford, since at that time they borrowed L100 at 6% for seven years from on George Jones, according to a debt bond in the Price papers. This was a substantial sum on the order needed for a new building. For comparison, in 1706 the second mill was valued for tax purposes at L40, according to a receipt in the Price papers, and in 1734 a fourth part of that mill and its land was valued at L80."<sup>25</sup> It is likely that this is the "lower mill" indicated on the 1764 Lehman survey which shows a mill across the creek from what is believed to be building 207 (Figures 5, 6). This mill survived until 1891 when it was demolished as part of the creation of Fairmount Park. It was photographed in 1889 by Thomas B. Shoemaker (Figure 13), and is possibly the building which is currently being investigated archaeologically.<sup>26</sup>

Claus had acquired a fifty acre parcel before 1734 and to this William(2) added ninety acres to the southeast and thirty-five acres to the northwest in 1741. Together with the original twenty acre tract,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 8 Page 5

Williams holdings contained a tract of contiguous land of over two hundred acres. Prior to William's death in 1774, Lehman updated his earlier survey to show the recent division of Rittenhouses land among his sons. This survey shows at least two mills (presumably the second and third paper mills) and several houses on the original twenty acre tract and two grist mills on the newly acquired land along the Wissahickon (Figure 7). An additional paper mill built at the mouth of Paper Mill Run is thought to have been erected by William's son Jacob some time after 1772. It is not known whether documents describing this mill are referring to a modernization of an earlier mill or the building of a new one, but considering its location at the mouth of the creek and the fact that a water color sketch made in 1816 by the English artist Joshua Watson depicts a building quite different than the 1889 photograph, it seems plausible that a fourth paper mill was erected. In addition to paper mills, The Rittenhouse family erected numerous other industrial structures on their vast holdings along the creek. Among them were the William Rittenhouse Mill (1746), The Henry Rittenhouse Grist Mill (1751), the William Rittenhouse Grist Mill, (before 1760), the second William Rittenhouse Grist Mill (before 1772), and the Nicholas Rittenhouse-Vanderen Mill (1772), (Figure 7).<sup>27</sup>

Jacob continued the manufacture of paper until his death in 1811. His sons Samuel and Enoch maintained the operations until sometime after Samuel's death in 1821 when it is thought that Enoch converted the mill to a cotton factory. After this time, the mills were leased out to both outsiders and relatives, the paper making business being carried on by the family while the others pursued other milling operations such as grain processing and cloth manufacture. It is not known precisely when paper making was abandoned at the site, but by the 1850s the mills were converted to other uses.

Examination of various maps and surveys clearly demonstrates that RittenhouseTown had the greatest concentration of industrial and domestic structures which had existed along the Monoshone and Wissahickon creeks well into the nineteenth century. (See figures 7-11). The village was the center of activity for dozens of manufacturing operations and many hundreds of mill workers and their families. The surviving buildings are representative of the domestic structures of the community between the 1690s right to the beginning of the communities decline in the 1860s.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 8 Page 6

---

Before the acquisition of large parcels of land, when the settlement included only the second mill and a very few homes for the family, David Rittenhouse, the future scientist, was born. The documentation of his birth on April 8, 1732 in building 207 can be traced to his close friend and biographer, William Barton, who in 1813 recorded his life and accomplishments.<sup>28</sup> The achievements of David Rittenhouse might best be summed up by the writings of his contemporaries. Friend and advocate Benjamin Rush, eulogized him in 1796 before a crowd of over six hundred of the leading citizens of the new nation by stating "Rittenhouse, though born to the plow, early demonstrated a remarkable genius in mathematics which permitted him to absorb all the advances of science by applying himself, unaided, to a small collection of books. When he turned to clock making, he produced the finest orrery, or mechanical planetarium, yet conceived. He displayed brilliance in his observations of Venus and in succeeding astronomical work. He applied his unusual depth of knowledge to the determination of several state boundaries and the establishment of the United States Mint. He was equally remarkable for the breadth of his interests, which included facility in French, German, Dutch literature as well as in poetry, music, theology, and politics."<sup>29</sup> Rush's testimony was not the exaggerated effort of a friend but the synopsis of a great man's life.

Very little is known about his early years, particularly those first years spent at Rittenhousetown. Until a few years after David's birth, his father Matthias, had lived his entire life working in the family mills and living in crowded homes with his brothers and their families. Barton has stated that David was frail and in the interest of his son's health, Matthias sought to move out of the restricted industrial environment of the mills into the open country side. Having received a small inheritance and realizing that the controlling interest of the mills would go to his older brother William(2) he set about establishing a life for himself twenty miles to the northeast at the Norriton farm. As a young man and with little or no training, David became an accomplished clockmaker. By 1750, at the age of eighteen years, he was able to carve out a living in a small shop on his fathers farm. His skills and abilities with things mechanical grew rapidly and by 1756 he had branched out into the manufacture of telescopes and survey equipment, achieving distinction throughout the colonies. In 1763, he was called to duty by the Governor's secretary Richard Peters and the Pennsylvania State legislature to use his skills in astronomy to determine the states boundaries with Maryland and later Virginia (West Virginia). So undeniably precise were his measurements, that little question of accuracy arose when Rittenhouse

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 8 Page 7

---

was involved. Standard regional time, tide tables and all matters reliant on calculations and observations of the heavenly planets eventually used his figures in order to establish standardized practice in the middle colonies.<sup>30</sup>

His crowning achievement in clockmaking concerned the famous Drexel clock built with the most precise and sophisticated movements conceived up to 1767. This clock is generally considered the finest time piece constructed in colonial or federal America. He did not idle in fanfare, for his thoughts had already been consumed by a project of the highest order, a mechanical planetaria called an orrery. Models had been constructed in England and on the continent but with compromises in accuracy and relative scale. Rittenhouse sought to create an instrument of such precision that it would plot the movements of all known planets and their moons for centuries to come. In order to achieve this degree of accuracy, the relative distances of the planets had to be calculated, so that when in 1769 the international scientific community joined together to observe and plot the transit of Venus in order to calculate the distance, in miles, from the earth to the sun, Rittenhouse was at the forefront of the North American investigation. His efforts in the observations of the planetary eclipse and the building of the orrery led to orders for his instruments; the first was to go to Princeton College and the other to the College of Pennsylvania now known as the University of Pennsylvania where this remains a prized possession. Enthusiasm for Rittenhouse's genius spread even to London where the Proprietor commented "the orrery is what I could not have imagined could be executed in Pennsylvania."<sup>31</sup>

In 1770 David Rittenhouse left Norriton and moved to Seventh and Mulberry streets in Philadelphia. Here he could achieve financial independence as well as satisfy his intellectual curiosity in the company of his peers. He occupied himself as an officer of the Philosophical Society where he became president in 1791 and in attending to public-minded business such as the surveys of the borders with New York and along the Delaware River to New Castle. His skills led to the assignment of Regulator of Party Walls, Buildings and Pattition Fences in the City of Philadelphia<sup>32</sup> and even to reestablishing the common standards of measurements.<sup>33</sup>

As with most colonists, the Revolution wrought great change to Rittenhouse's activities. He was appointed to the Committee of Safety to direct defense measures throughout the middle states and on March 2,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 8 Page 8

---

1776 in a special election, was voted to fill Benjamin Franklin's term in the Pennsylvania Assembly after Franklin resigned to devote his energies as a delegate to the Continental Congress. On July 8 he was elected a member of the Convention to give Pennsylvania a new constitution and thereby refuting the control of the Crown. He ultimately chaired the committee for the Declaration of Rights.<sup>34</sup> During the War, Rittenhouse served as Treasurer of the Commonwealth, was on the Board of War and continued his activities on the Committee of Safety.

Unlike many who had risen to the leadership of the Revolution, Rittenhouse weathered the political and economic crisis with his reputation unscathed and was held with respect from Constitutionals and Republicans alike. After the war he attempted to retire back to the scientific life. In those later years, he received considerable academic distinction including trustee of Pennsylvania's University, and continued in his scientific work including the building of the vernier compass and Rittenhouse stove, an improvement of his friend Franklin stove. His greatest political achievement began in 1792, when his friend and President, George Washington, persuaded him to accept the task of establishing the first mint of the United States. As its first Director, Rittenhouse was responsible for developing and producing the first American currency of the new nation.

His accomplishments and reputation were on the international order and like Benjamin Franklin before him, he was elected to the Royal Society of London in 1795. In many ways he succeeded Franklin as America's ambassador of science and truly was among the top intellects of his day. He died in 1796, with his wife Hanna at his side in his Mulberry Street home in Philadelphia, having achieved unusual distinction in science, politics and the service of his country. The homes at Norriton in Montgomery Co. and in Philadelphia have long been demolished leaving his birth place at RittenhouseTown as the sole physical monument to his extraordinary life.

As David Rittenhouse had prospered in his life in and around Philadelphia so to had his family that remained along the banks of the Monocshone. Throughout the later part of the eighteenth and well into the nineteenth century, the Rittenhouse family added mills and other manufacturing facilities and service buildings to their holdings, remaining close to their original settlement. Because of the continuing association with the family, the area was given the name of RittenhouseTown, a name which continued to be used until the end of the last decade of the nineteenth century (Figures 9, 10, and 11).<sup>35</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 8 Page 9

---

In 1891, the property was sold to the Fairmount Park Commission, which began the gradual dismantling of the complex, which included over forty structures including six mills, a church, a school, and a fire company (Figure 12). Save for the earliest buildings which were preserved as relics of the Rittenhouse era. At that time, the site became a picturesque addition to the park, reminding those walking along the banks of the Monoshone tributary to the Wissahickon of the primitive life and great men who shaped America in earlier times. That association and the considerable efforts of the Rittenhouse family to save the birth place of David Rittenhouse, led to the preservation of these structures into the twentieth century. Later, its relative isolation preserved the complex from destruction as new industrial processes replaced the old water-power technology. The site has always inspired a sense of history through its associations with one of the great early American industrial families and has become a recognized source of pride for the family, the city and the nation. Earnest efforts to preserve the buildings and landscape began prior to the nation's bicentennial celebration and continue through the efforts of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park Commission and especially through the Friends of Historic RittenhouseTown, a nonprofit organization sponsoring research, archaeology and preservation at the site.

As with the vast majority of early industrial communities like Bethlehem, Old Economy and the Ephrata Cloister, most of the utilitarian structures have long vanished from sight, remaining only in historic documents and below-ground artifacts. There are other significant sites such as Cornwall Iron Furnace, Hopewell Village and Saugus Iron Works in Massachusetts which represent important aspects of our industrial heritage, but all of these sites relate specifically to the iron industry and do not include the domestic community or industrial diversity represented at RittenhouseTown. Cornwall preserves significant furnaces and a forge from the nineteenth century while Hopewell embodies the industrial and domestic life surrounding a late eighteenth/early nineteenth century rural iron making plantation. Saugus interprets the seventeenth century iron making process through its reconstructed structures and archaeological displays. The paper making industry is also represented by the Crane and Co. Mill and Rag House in Massachusetts but this site is also very specific and covers only the nineteenth century interpretation.

On the other hand, RittenhouseTown preserves the site of one of the nation's most important early industrial communities. Significant in the manufacture of paper and cotton and the milling of grain, the site

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 8 Page 10

---

is representative of the early transformation from the agricultural economy to a diversified industrial one. The buildings, landscape, head and tail races, mill pond sites and other archaeological features offer one of the best examples in the nation of the evolution of the industrial community from the seventeenth to the twentieth century.

As a significant industrial community and as the home of David Rittenhouse, RittenhouseTown meets criteria A and B and warrants being designated a National Historic Landmark District.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 8 Page 11

---

Notes:

- (1) Excavations are presently being conducted by SJS Archaeology, Inc. of Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. No report has yet been issued.
- (2) John Milner Associates, A Preliminary Master Plan Study of Historic RittenhouseTown, authorized by the Fairmount Park Commission (Philadelphia: 1988):52.
- (3) Clio Group, Inc., The Abraham Rittenhouse Home in RittenhouseTown; Historic Structures Report, submitted to the Fairmount Park Commission and the Friends of Historic RittenhouseTown, (Philadelphia: 1989):13.
- (4) Edwin Brumbaugh, "Colonial Architecture of the Pennsylvania Germans," Pennsylvania German Society XLI, (1933).
- (5) Clio Group, Inc., "Introduction to Harmonist Architecture" Old Economy Village, Historic Structures Report Volume I, (Philadelphia: 1988).
- (6) Milner, p. 31.
- (7) Robert C. Bucher, "The Continental Log House," Pennsylvania Folklife 12, no. 4 (Summer, 1962):16. Also see Amos Long, Jr., "Bank (Multi-Level) Structures In Rural Pennsylvania," Pennsylvania Folklife XX, no. 2 (Winter 1970-71):31.
- (8) Richard Weiss, Häuser und Landschaften der Schweiz, (Zurich: Eugen Rentsch verlag) 1946.
- (9) Clio Group, Inc., Abraham Rittenhouse Home, HSR:7.
- (10) See Brumbaugh, and Bucher. Also see Henry Glassie, "A Central Chimney Continental Log House," Pennsylvania Folklife XVIII, no. 2 (Winter 1968-1969):37.
- (11) The basic source of life of William Rittenhouse is Milton Rubincam, "William Rittenhouse: America's Pioneer Paper-Manufacturer and Mennonite Minister," Pennsylvania German Society 58, (1959):1-89. The pioneering study of the Rittenhouse family, which has not been substantially revised by modern scholarship, remains Horatio Gates Jones, Histori-



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 8 Page 12

---

cal Sketch of the Rittenhouse Paper Mill; the first Erected in America, A.D. 1690," Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography 20 (1896):315-333. For a recent history of RittenhouseTown, see John Milner Associates, above. Also see Harry Tinkcom, Margaret Tinkcom, and Grant Miles Simon, Historic Germantown (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1955).

(12) Jones, 315-333.

(13) Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker, The Settlement of German-town (Philadelphia: Campbell, 1899):162.

(14) Letters and an Abstract of Letters, published by the London Quakers in 1691 to encourage emigration to Pennsylvania. Letters dated August to December, 1690. Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

(15) John Fanning Watson identifies Garret Rittenhouse as the builder of the RittenhouseTown Mill; John Fanning Watson, Annals of Philadelphia, edited and revised by Willis P. Hazard. 3 vols. (Philadelphia: Edwin S. Stuart) 1946.

(16) "The only known copy of this little pamphlet is at the Library Company of Philadelphia. It is the first poem printed in the middle colonies, and appropriately enough it is printed on Rittenhouse paper." As quoted in a pamphlet prepared for the 300th anniversary of papermaking in America, written by James Green, curator of printed books, Library Company of Philadelphia.

(17) Also quoted in Green. An original copy has not been located, however, it was published by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1847.

(18) William Barton, Memoirs of the Life of David Rittenhouse (Philadelphia: 1813). Also see Green.

(19) Price collection of Rittenhouse documents on loan to the Library Company of Philadelphia.

(20) Jones, 315-333.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 8 Page 13

---

(21)1706 lease on loan to the Library Company of Philadelphia, by an anonymous donor.

(22)Price collection.

(23)Douglas MacFarlan, "The Wissahickon Mills," Part One. 1947. Manuscript in Collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania:71-72.

(24)David Hunter, Papermaking in Pioneer America (1952):11.

(25)Green.

(26)SJS, preliminary conclusions as related in a telephone conversation, September 17, 1990.

(27)MacFarlan.

(28)Barton, 90-94.

(29)Brooke Hindle, David Rittenhouse (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1964):7.

(30)Hindle, 91-92.

(31)Barton, 204.

(32)Minutes of the Common Council of Philadelphia, 1704 to 1776, Philadelphia, 18470,795.

(33)Hindle, 104.

(34)Pennsylvania House Journals (1782):65, 66, 68, 69.

(35)John McIlhenney, RittenhouseTown, Past and Present Fairmount Park Commission, unpublished report (1984).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 9 Page 2

---

Bibliography: (continued)

1772 Survey, "Draught of Divisions of Land of William Rittenhousen," (February 29, 1772) by Christian Lehman; copied by Robert Hinckley (May 13, 1874).

HABS-PA. 16. Set of seven measured drawings of the Nicholas Rittenhouse House and the so-called Workshop. Dated December 31, 1934 - July 17, 1935. Supervising architect E. Perot Bissell.

Map, "Plan of Property Between Wissahickon and Park Boundary . . . to be included in Fairmount Park; 1888," approved by Fairmount Park Chief Engineer, Thayer, 1898 [Collection Fairmount Park Commission].

Map, "Plan of Two Lots of Ground in Rittenhouse Town, 21st Ward," John Levering, Surveyor, August 2, 1860 [Collection Fairmount Park Commission].

"Plan of the Township of Roxborough." Philadelphia: M. Dripps, 1848.

SJS Archaeology, Inc. of Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. Telephone conversation with the Principal Archaeologist. September 17, 1990.

Books and Manuscripts:

Böckler, Georg Andreas. Theatrum Machinarum Novum, Das ist: Neuvermehrter Schauplatz der Mechanischen Künsten. Nuremberg: Fürst, 1673.

Barton, William. Memoirs of the Life of David Rittenhouse. Philadelphia, 1813.

Brumbaugh, Edwin. "Colonial Architecture of the Pennsylvania Germans." Pennsylvania German Society. XLI (1933).

Bucher, Robert C. "The Continental Log House." Pennsylvania Folklife. 12, no. 4 (Summer 1962).

Cassel, Daniel K. Genea-Biographical History of the Rittenhouse Family. I Philadelphia, 1893.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Primary Documents:

1706 Lease on Loan to the Library Company of Philadelphia, by an anonymous donor.

1764 Survey, Lehman Papers; Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Box 1, Folder 28, "Roxborough."

1764 Survey of Isaac Rittenhausen property, Christian Lehman; Lehman Papers Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Box 1, Folder 28, "Roxborough."

See continuation sheet

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 # PA16
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Library Company, Philadelphia, PA, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Phila., PA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 84 acres

UTM References

A 18 | 483840 | 4431080  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 18 | 483210 | 4430250

B 18 | 484060 | 4430810  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 18 | 482980 | 4430540

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning from point A at the corner of Wissahickon Avenue and Kingsley Street, south southeast approximately 1800' to point B at the corner of Wissahickon Avenue and Rittenhouse Street, thence southwest approximately 3500' to point C just west southwest of Henry Avenue,

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This encompasses the original 20 acre Rittenhouse tract, and the surviving buildings of the historic RittenhouseTown village, and the site of many of the former mills.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Timothy M. Noble  
 organization Clio Group, Inc. date 10-16-90, revised 11-18-91  
 street & number 3512 Lancaster Avenue telephone (215) 386-6276  
 city or town Philadelphia state Pennsylvania zip code 19104

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 10 Page 2

---

Verbal Boundary Description: (continued)

hence north northwest approximately 2000' to point D, thence east northeast approximately 3500' to point A and the place of beginning.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 9 Page 3

---

Bibliography: (continued)

Clio Group, Inc. "Introduction to Harmonist Architecture." Old Economy Village, Historic Structures Report. Vol. 1. Philadelphia, 1988.

Clio Group, Inc. The Abraham Rittenhouse Home in RittenhouseTown; Historic Structures Report. Submitted to the Fairmount Park Commission and the Friends of Historic RittenhouseTown. Philadelphia, 1989.

Falckner, Daniel. Curieuse Nachrichten aus Pensilvania. 1702.

Gilly, David. Handbuch der Land-Bau-Kunst. Berlin: Vieweg, 1797-1811.

Glassie, Henry. "A Central Chimney Continental Log House." Pennsylvania Folklife. XVIII no. 2 (Winter 1968-1969).

Green, James. Curator of Printed Books, Library Company of Philadelphia. Pamphlet prepared for the 300th anniversary of papermaking in America.

Grubb, N. B. The Mennonite Church of Germantown. Philadelphia, 1906.

Hindle, Brooke. David Rittenhouse. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1964.

Hohberg, Wolf Helmhard von. Georgica Curiosa. Oder: Das auf alle in Teutschland üblich Land- und Haus-Wirthschafften gerichtete Adelige Land- und Feld-Lebens Anderer Theil. Nuremberg: Endter, 1687.

Hunter, David. Papermaking in Pioneer America. 1952.

John Milner Associates. A Preliminary Master Plan Study of Historic RittenhouseTown. Authorized by the Fairmount Park Commission. Philadelphia, 1988.

Jones, Horatio Gates. "Historical Sketch of the Rittenhouse Paper Mill; the First Erected in America, A. D. 1690." Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography. 20 (1896): 315-333.

Learned, Marion Dexter. The Life of Francis Daniel Pastorius, the Founder of Germantown. Philadelphia: William J. Campbell, 1908.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number   9   Page   4  

---

Bibliography: (continued)

Letters and an Abstract, published by the London Quakers in 1691 to encourage emigration to Pennsylvania. Letters dated August to December 1690. Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

MacFarlan, Douglas. "The Wissahickon Mills." Part One. 1947. Manuscript in Collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Mercer, Henry C. The Bible in Iron, revised edition. Doylestown: Bucks County Historical Society, 1961.

Minutes of the Common Council of Philadelphia, 1704 to 1776, Philadelphia, 18470,795.

Pastorius, Francis Daniel. Beschreibung von Pennsylvanien. Philadelphia, originally published 1700; facsimile 1884.

Pennsylvania House Journals, 1782: 65, 66, 68, 69.

Pennypacker, Samuel W. The Settlement of Germantown and the Beginning of German Emigration to North America. Philadelphia: Campbell, 1899.

Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide June 3; December 30, 1914.

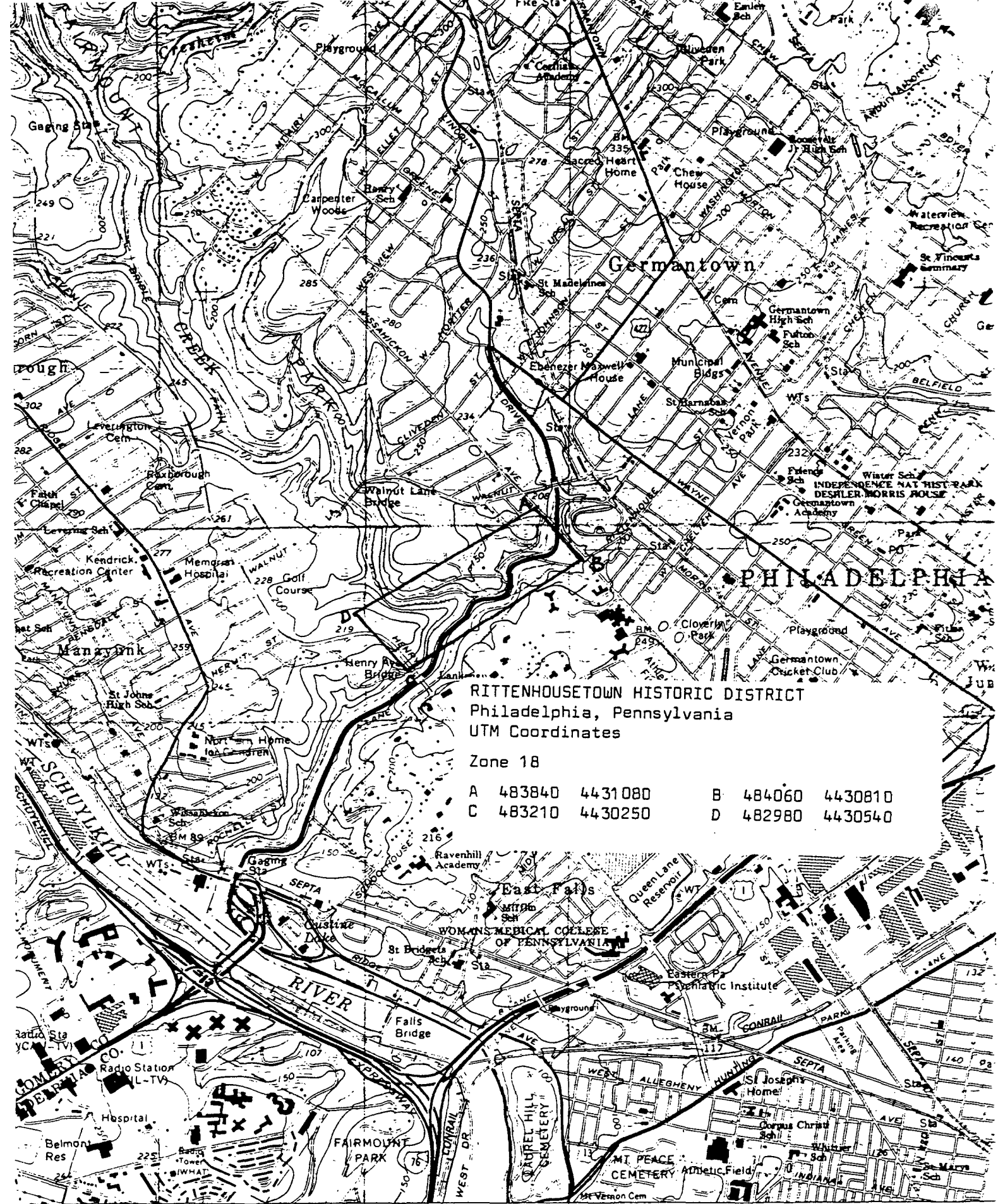
Price Collection of Rittenhouse documents on loan to the Library Company of Philadelphia.

Rubincam, Milton. "William Rittenhouse: America's Pioneer Paper-Manufacturer and Mennonite Minister." Pennsylvania German Society 58(1959): 1- 89.

Sachse, Julius F. Quaint Old Germantown: a Series of Sixty Former Landmarks of Germantown . . . by John Richards. Philadelphia, 1913.

Tinckom, Harry, Margaret Tinckom and Grant Miles Simon. Historic Germantown. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1955.

Watson, John Fanning. Annals of Philadelphia. Edited and revised by Willis P. Hazard. 3 vols. Philadelphia: Edwin S. Stuart, 1898.



RITTENHOUSTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
 UTM Coordinates

Zone 18

A	483840	4431080	B	484060	4430810
C	483210	4430250	D	482980	4430540

1000 FEET      482    12°30'      23 MI TO US 30      (PHILADELPHIA) 5963 1 NW      485      10'    485

SCALE 1:24000

1 MILE

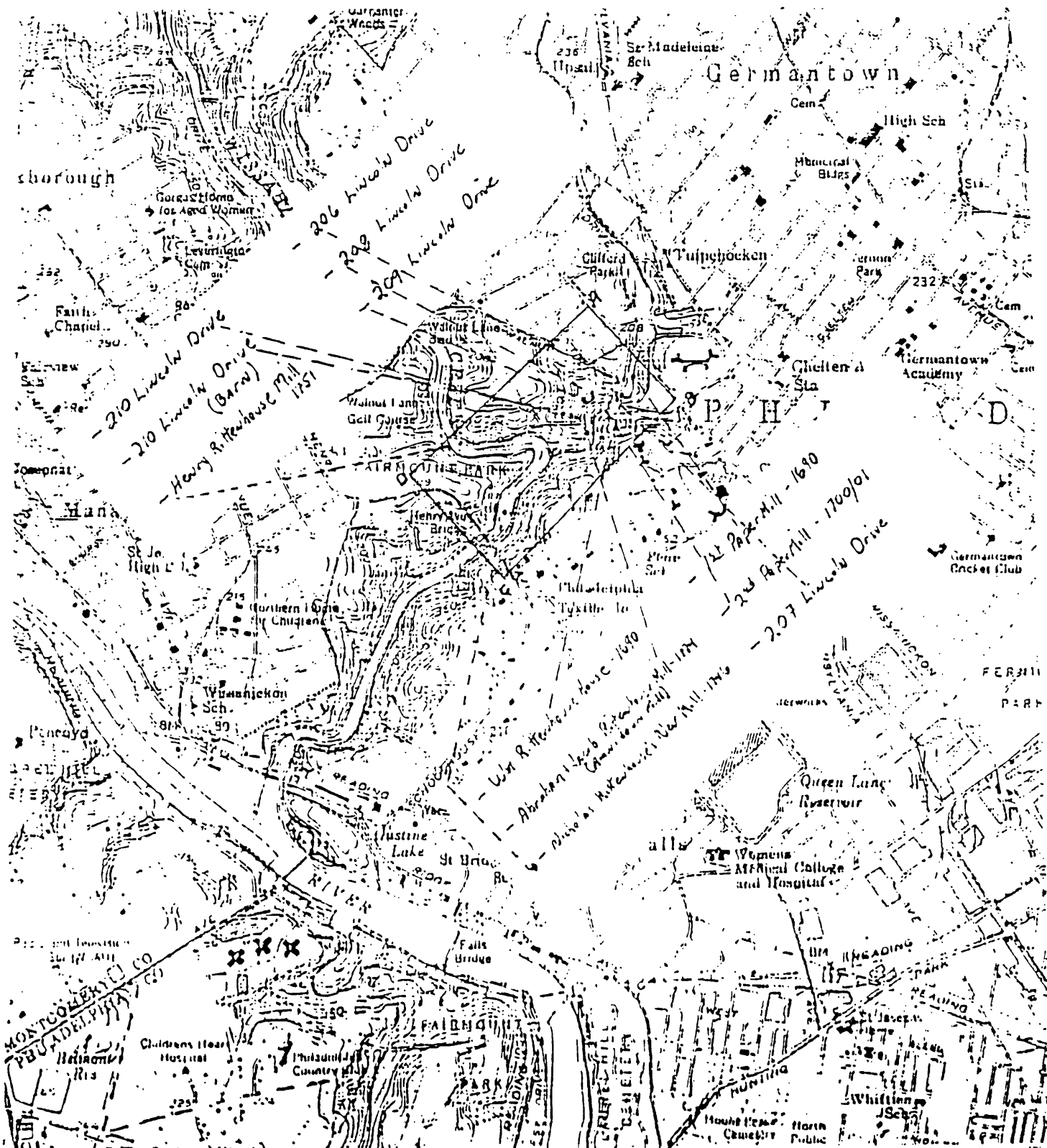


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number 10 Page 3



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

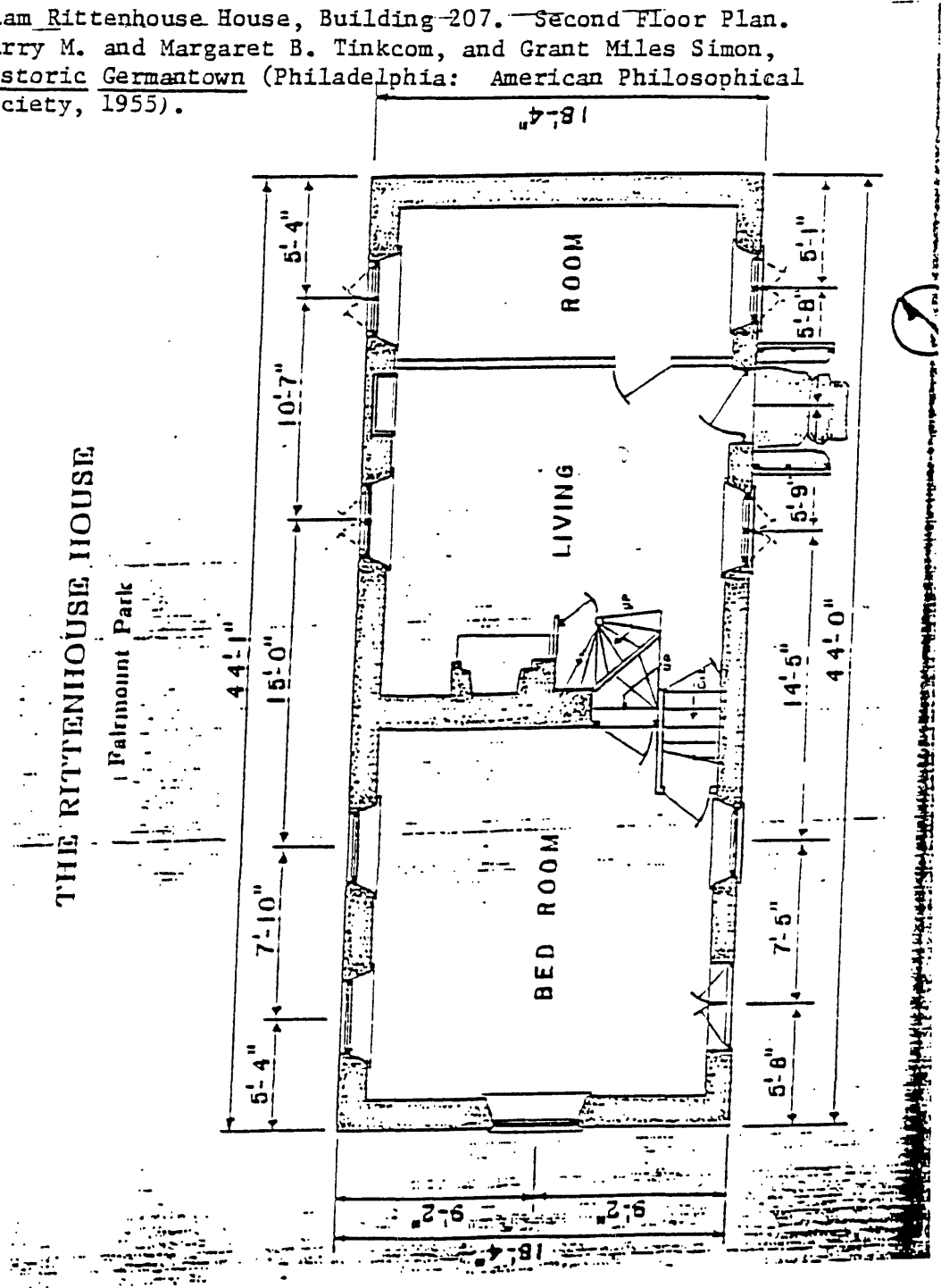
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

FIGURE 1

William Rittenhouse House, Building 207. Second Floor Plan.  
Harry M. and Margaret B. Tinkcom, and Grant Miles Simon,  
Historic Germantown (Philadelphia: American Philosophical  
Society, 1955).



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

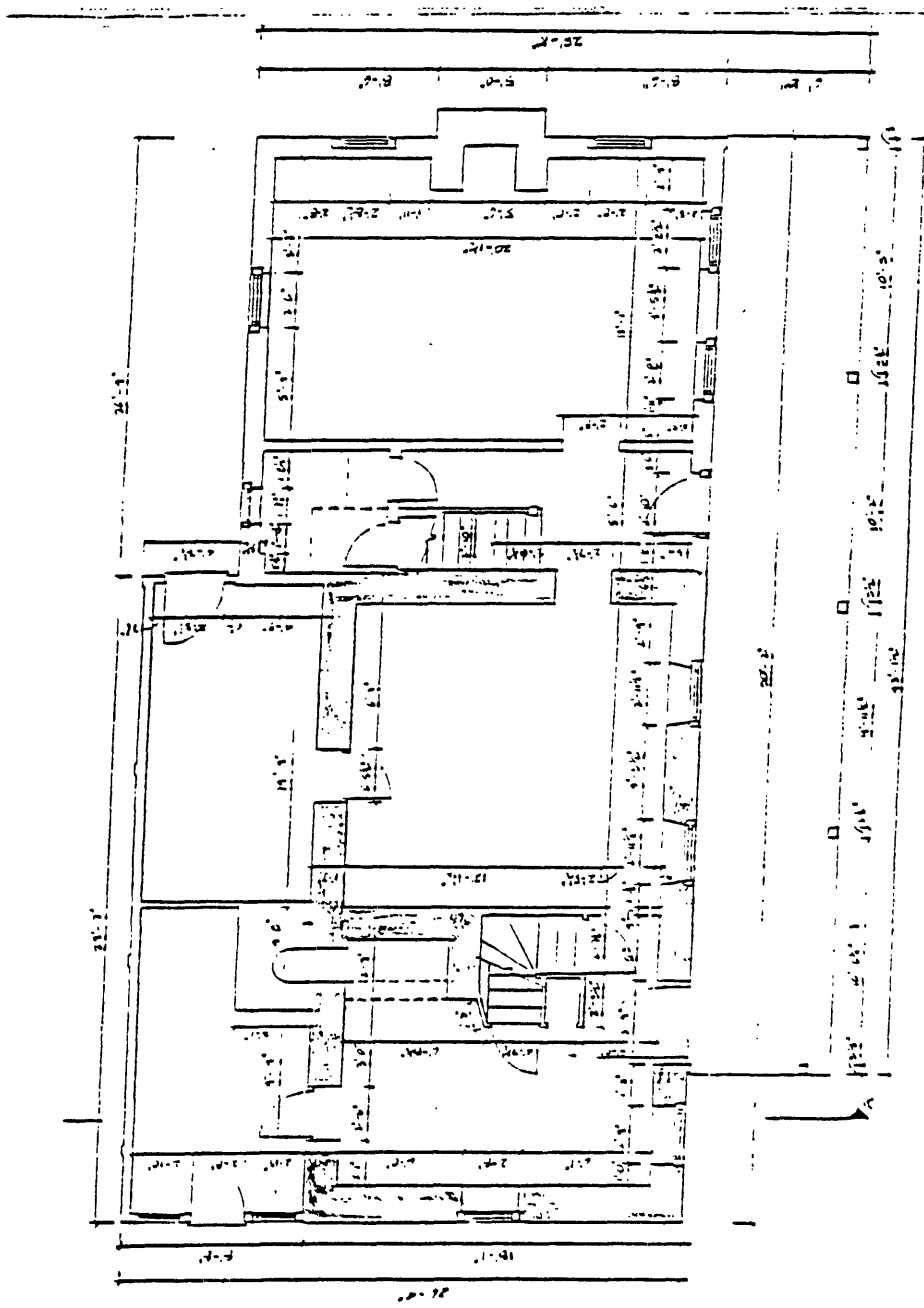
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

FIGURE 2

Building 206, First Floor Plan  
Marianna Thomas Architects



	<p>RITTENHOUSETOWN PHILA., PA FIRST FLOOR PLAN</p> <p>Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"</p> <p>DATE: 10-1-88</p> <p>BY: M.T.</p>	<p>A-1</p>
--	--	------------

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

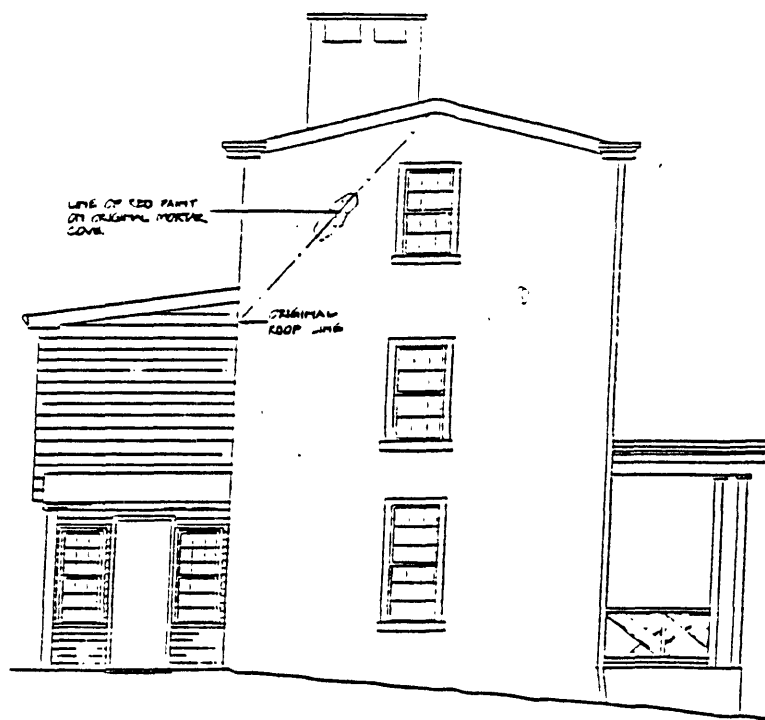
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

FIGURE 3

Building 206, West Elevation  
Marianna Thomas Architects



<p>PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD</p> <p>MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS</p>	<p>RITTENHOUSTOWN PHILA., PA WEST ELEVATION</p>	<p>PROJECT NO.</p> <p>DATE 07/15/97</p> <p>BY MTH</p>	<p>A-3</p>
--	---	---	------------

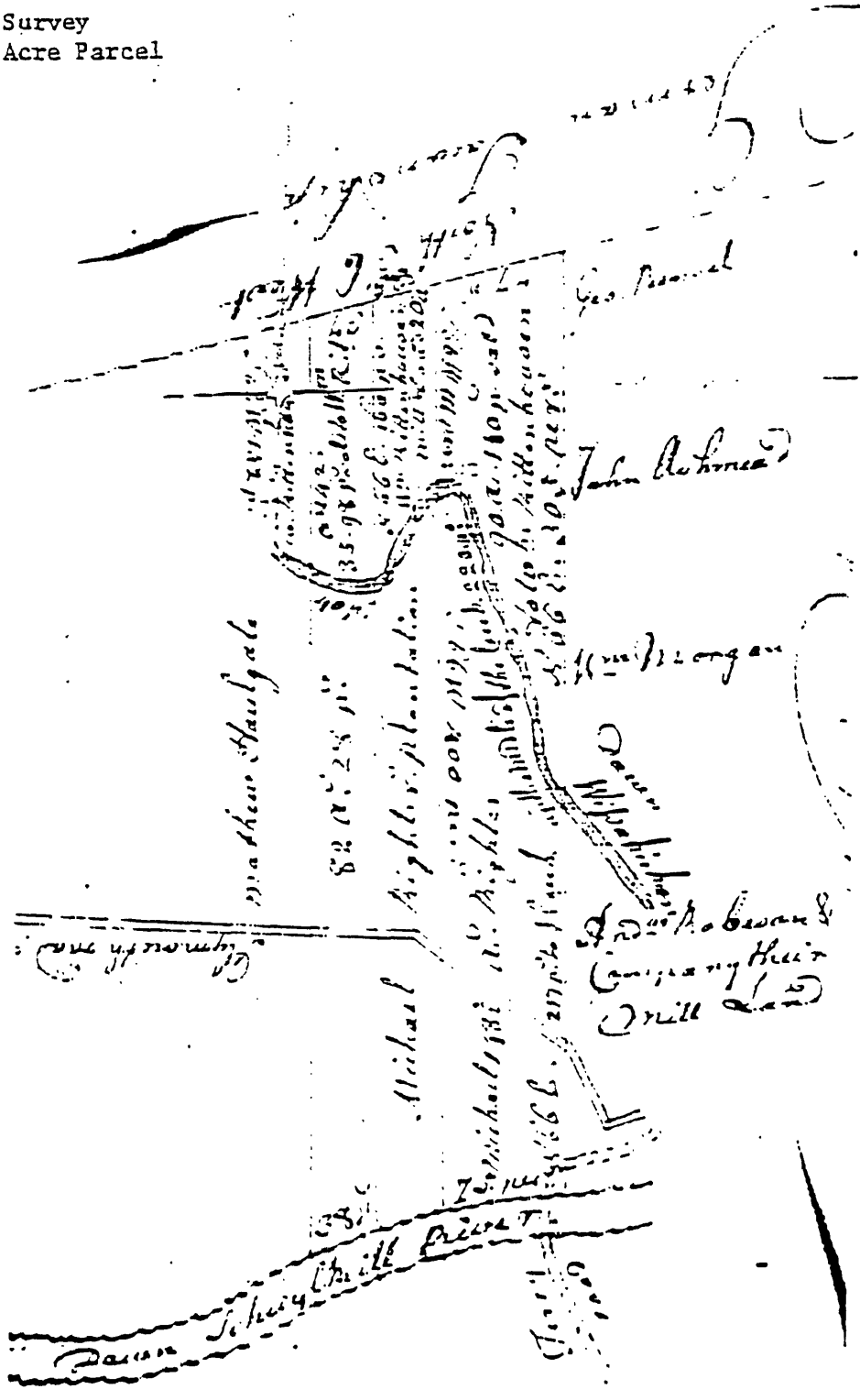
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

FIGURE 4  
1740 Lehman Survey  
Original 20 Acre Parcel



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

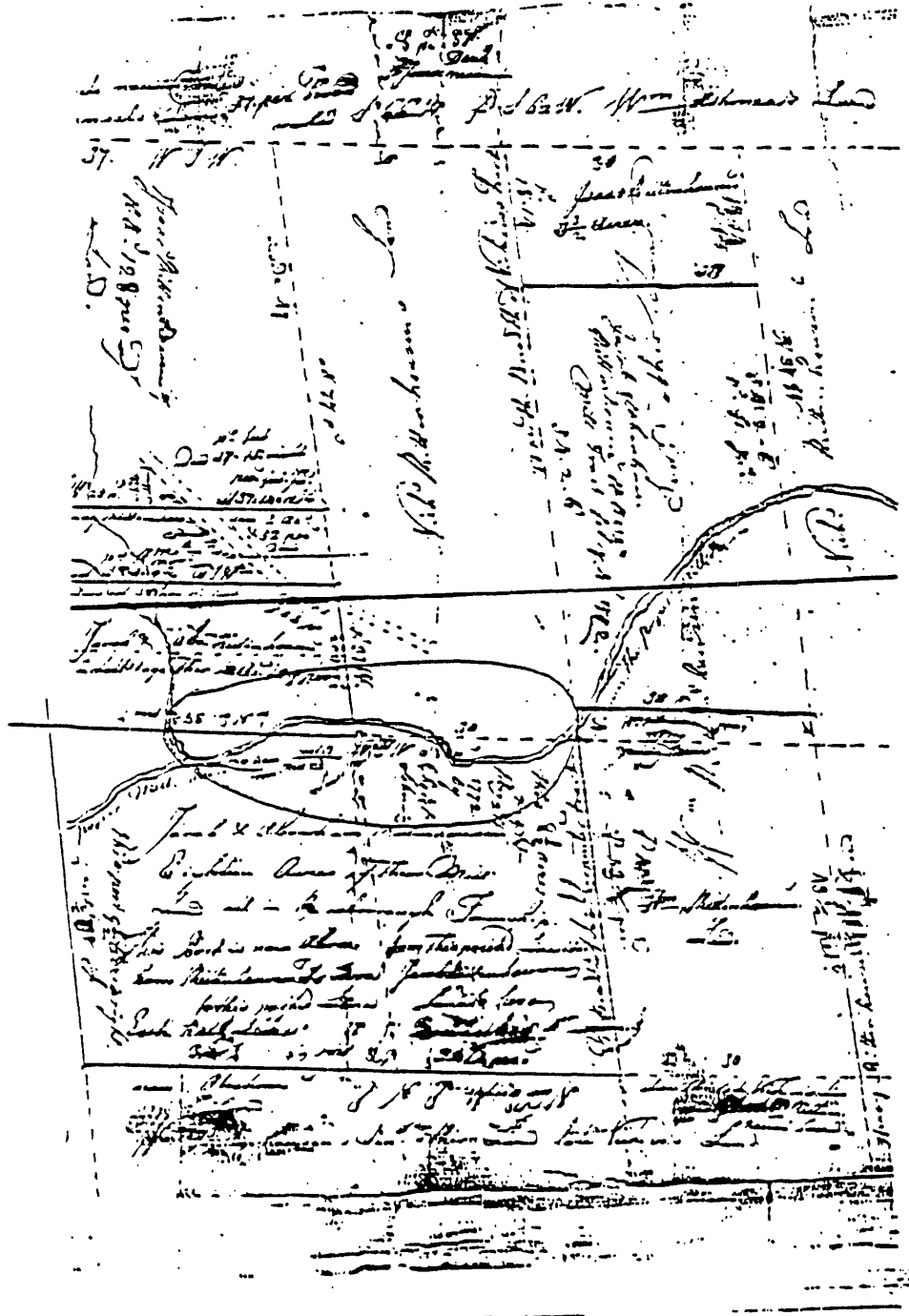
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

FIGURE 5

1764 Lehman Survey



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

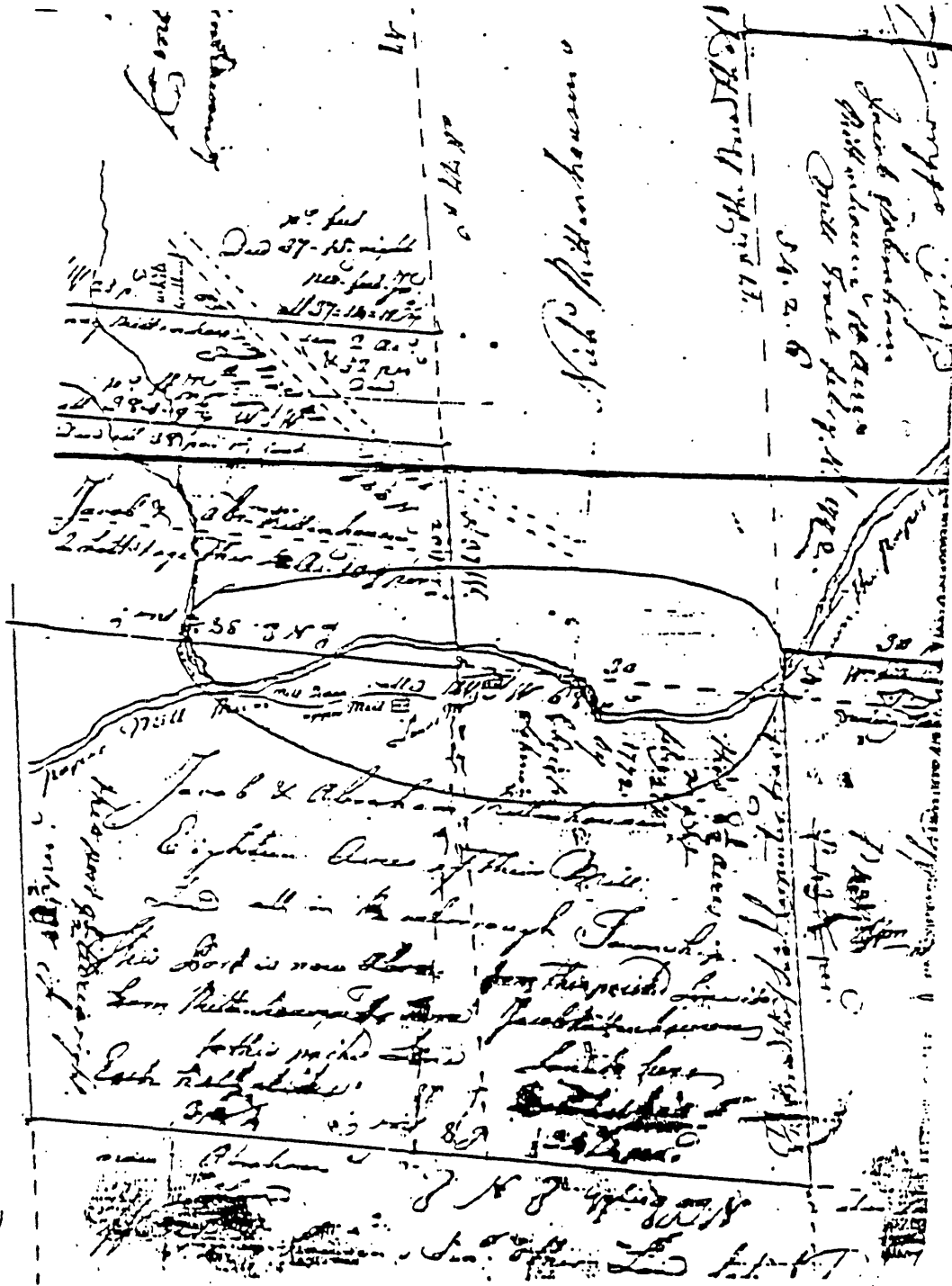
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

FIGURE 6

Detail of Upper and Lower Mills



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

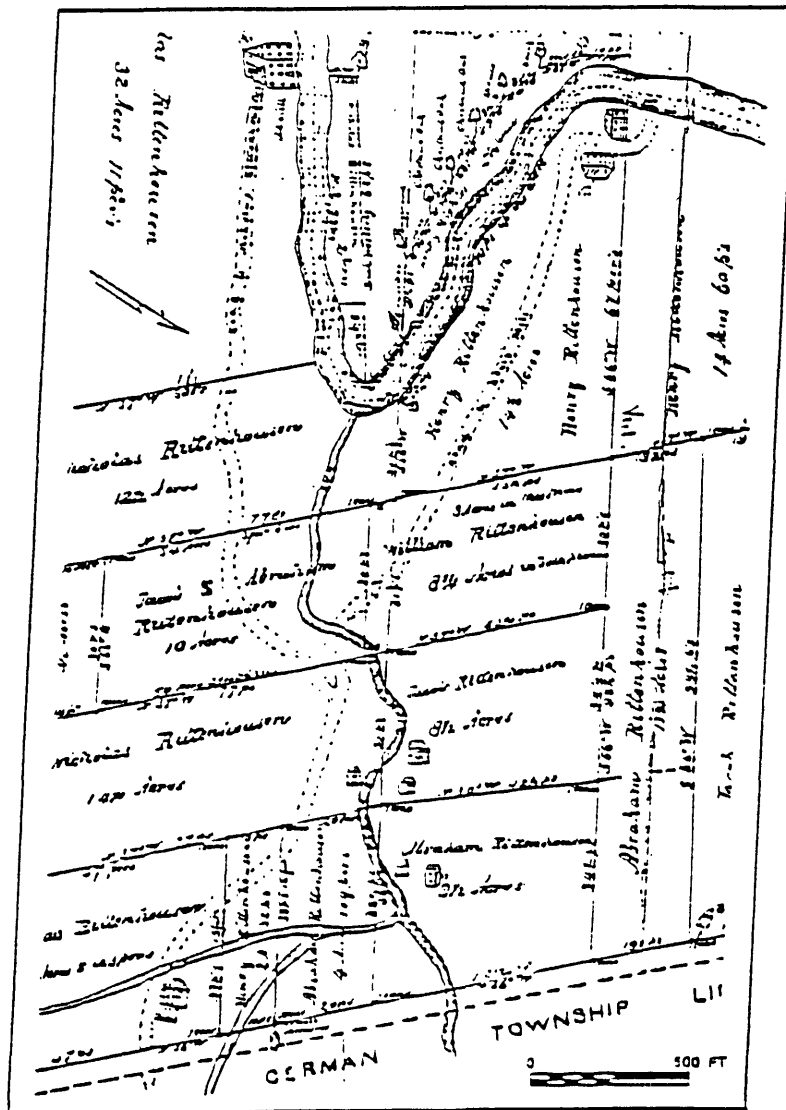
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

FIGURE 7

1772 Lehman Survey  
Relative Location of Houses and Mills





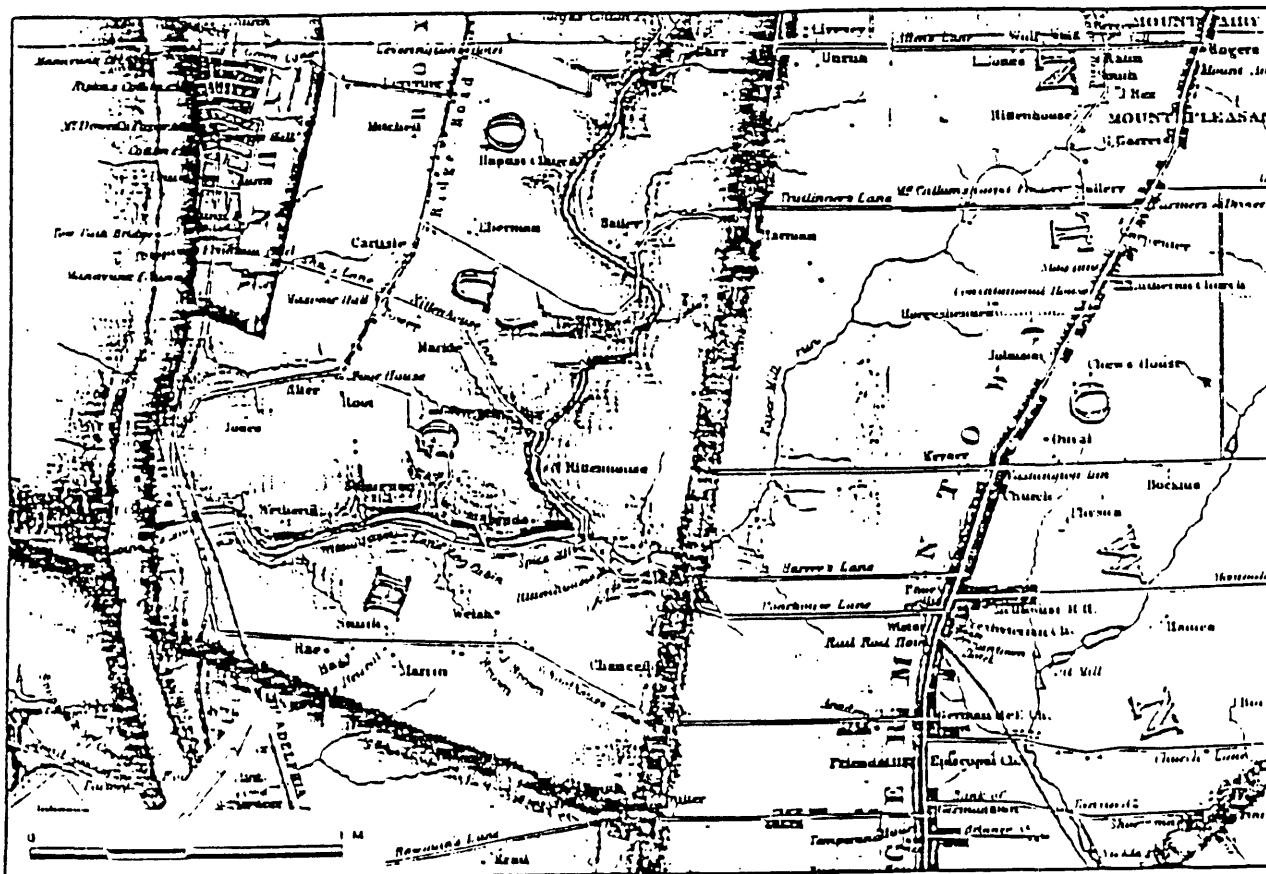
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

FIGURE 8



Charles Ellet, Jr., A Map of the County of Philadelphia (1839)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

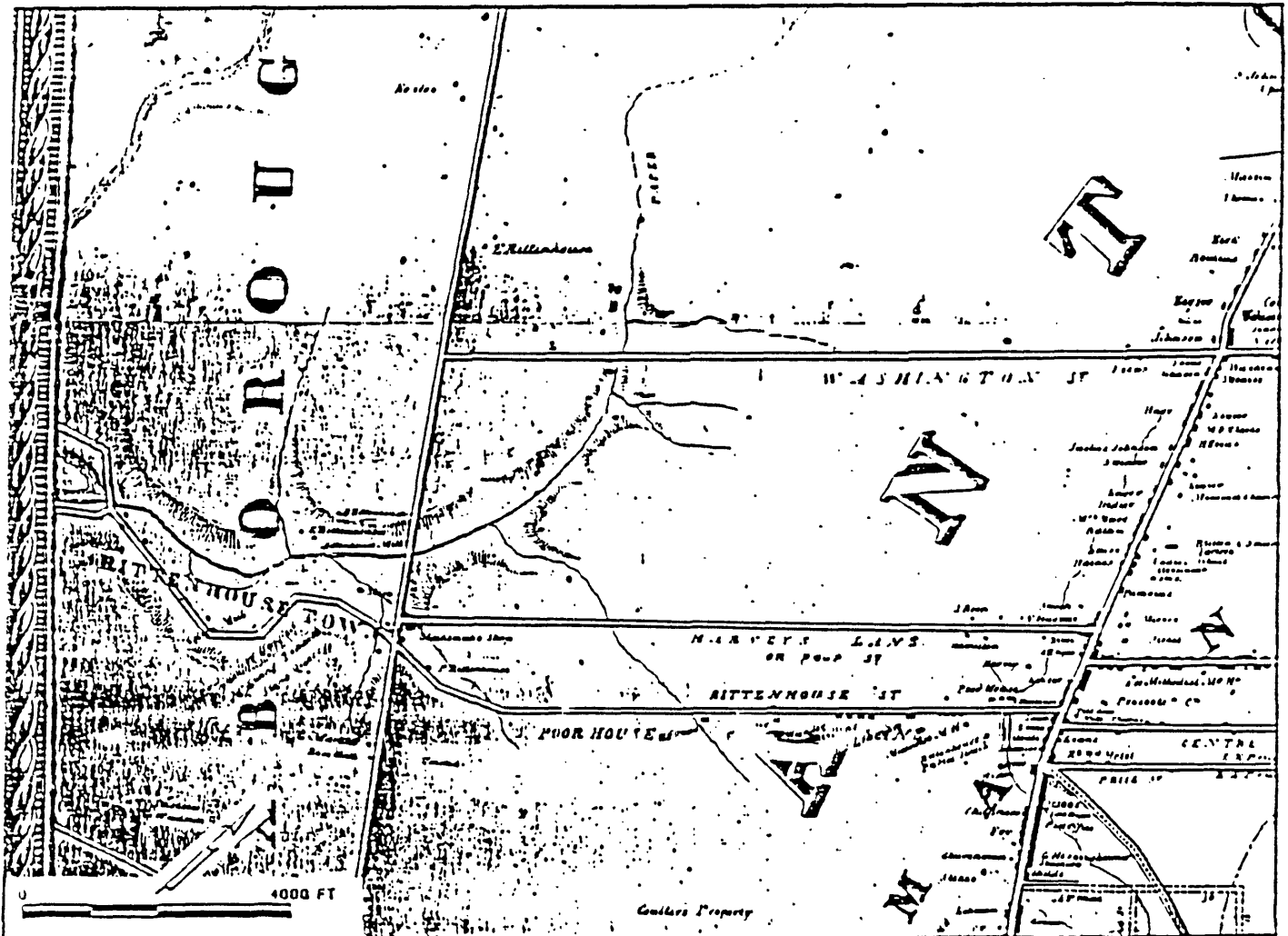
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

FIGURE 9

Note Designation as "Rittenhouse Town"



J. C. Sidney, Map of the Township of Germantown (1848)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

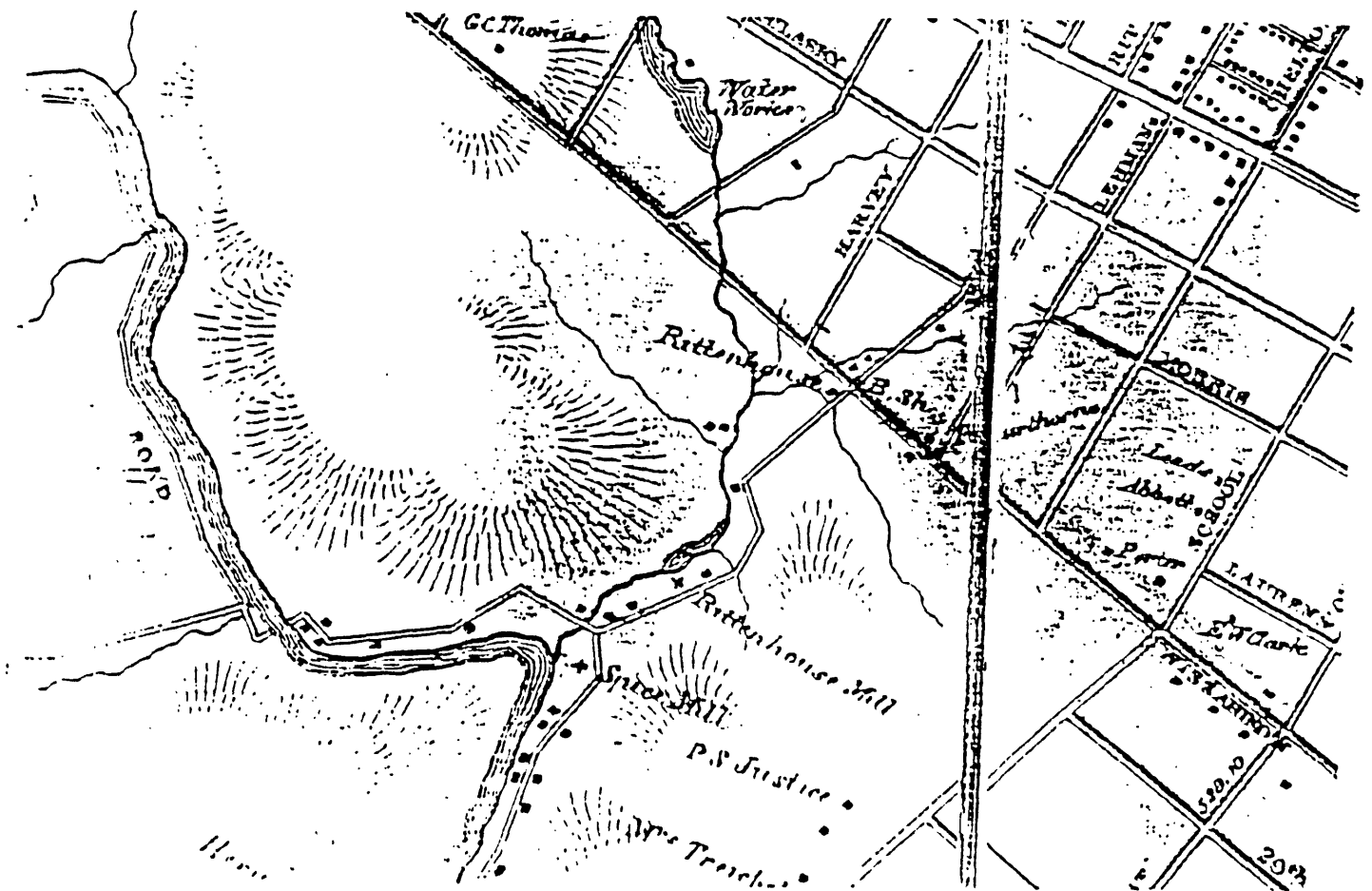
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

FIGURE 10

1863 Smedley Atlas



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

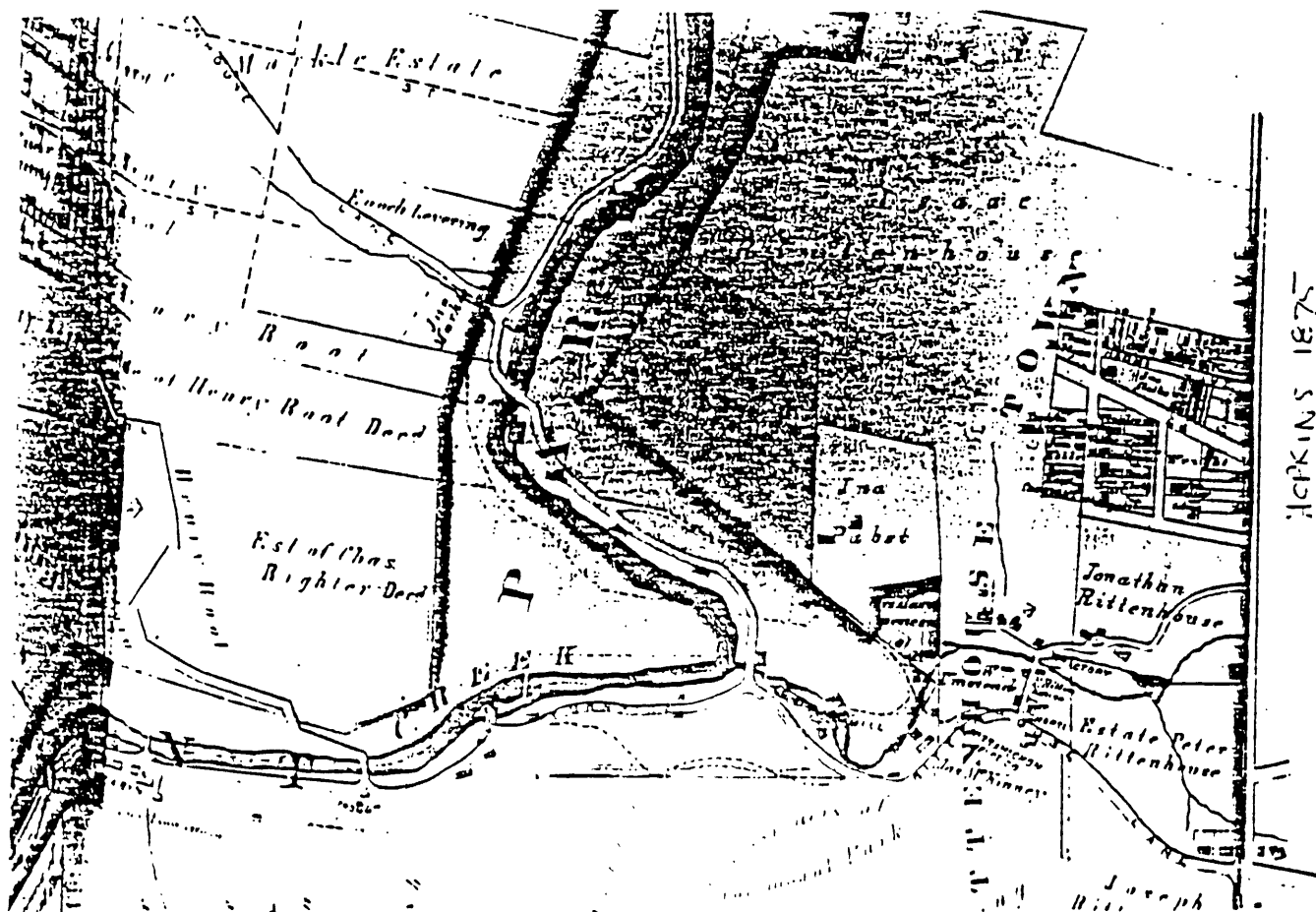
RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

FIGURE 11

1875 Hopkins Atlas

Note Designation as "Rittenhouse Town"



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

RittenhouseTown Historic District

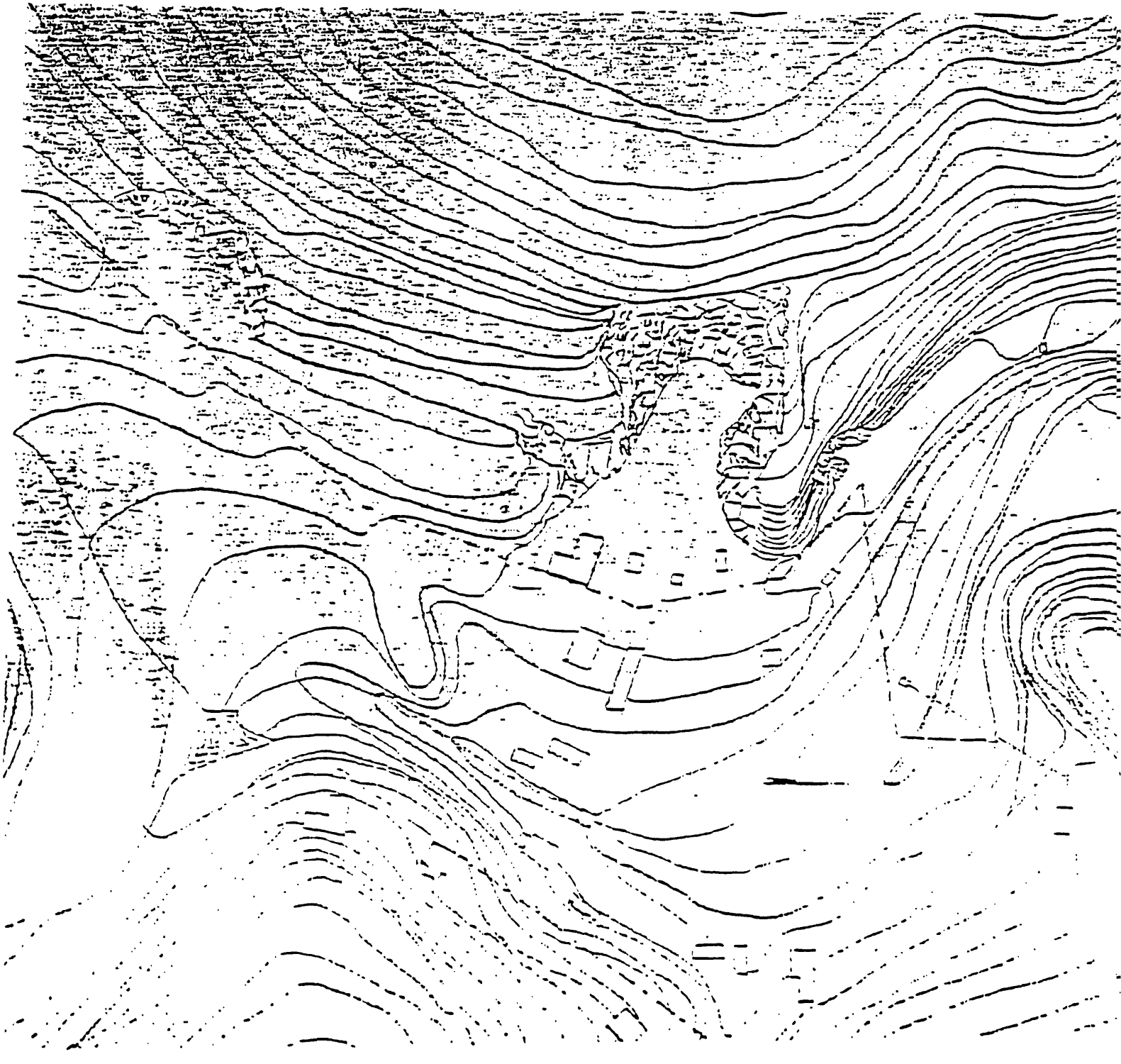
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

---

FIGURE 12

1880 Topographic Map by Fairmount Park

Located in Fairmount Park Commission Office, Philadelphia, PA



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

RittenhouseTown Historic District

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

FIGURE 13

1889 Thomas H. Shoemaker Photograph  
Negative located in Library of Congress

