

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase and Additional Information)

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Rosemont-Ringoes Road (County Route 604), Zentek Road not for publication

city or town Delaware Township vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Hunterdon code 019 zip code 08557

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Keith Boyer — Ass't Commissioner 12/16/15
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
NJ DEP

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	<u>Don DeWitt</u> Signature of the Keeper	<u>2/8/16</u> Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____	_____	_____

Headquarters Boundary Increase

Hunterdon, NJ

5. Classification

<p>Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public-local</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public-State</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal</p>	<p>Category of Property (Check only one box)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> building(s)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> site</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> structure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> object</p>	<p>Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">Contributing</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">Noncontributing</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: right;">buildings</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1 _____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: right;">sites</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2 _____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: right;">structures</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: right;">objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">3 _____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> </tr> </table>		Contributing	Noncontributing			_____	_____	buildings		1 _____	_____	sites		2 _____	_____	structures		_____	_____	objects		3 _____	_____	Total
	Contributing	Noncontributing																								
	_____	_____	buildings																							
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	2 _____	_____	structures																							
	_____	_____	objects																							
	3 _____	_____	Total																							
<p>Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)</p> <p>_____ N/A _____</p>		<p>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register</p> <p>_____ 12 _____</p>																								

6. Function or Use

<p>Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)</p> <p>_____ INDUSTRY / manufacturing facility _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)</p> <p>_____ DOMESTIC / secondary structure _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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7. Description

<p>Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)</p> <p>_____ NO STYLE _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Materials (Enter categories from instructions)</p> <p>foundation _____</p> <p>walls _____ EARTH _____</p> <p style="padding-left: 100px;">_____ STONE _____</p> <p>roof _____</p> <p>other _____ CONCRETE _____</p> <p>_____</p>
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Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Headquarters Boundary Increase

Name of Property

Hunterdon, NJ

County and State

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1851 - 1929

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

NOT APPLICABLE

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 5.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18			
	Zone	Easting	Northing	
2				

3				
	Zone	Easting	Northing	
4				

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis Bertland, Janice Armstrong

organization Dennis Bertland Associates date October 2015

street & number P.O. Box 315 telephone 609-397-3380

city or town Stockton state NJ zip code 08559

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase
Hunterdon County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary Paragraph

The Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase encompasses resources that relate to the industrial development of the crossroads mill hamlet of Headquarters during its 1735-1929 period of significance. The currently New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places listed Headquarters Historic District is a cluster of 18th and 19th century buildings at the intersection of Rosemont-Ringoes and Zentek Roads, where the water-power of Caponockons Creek, one of the many small tributaries of the Third Neshanic River, was utilized for a grist mill as early as the 1730s. The hamlet developed around the mill seat during the 18th and 19th centuries as a modest center providing limited industrial and commercial services for the surrounding agricultural community. The historic district retains the physical character and integrity that it possessed when listed on the New Jersey and National Registers in 2011. Located along the creek just upstream from the currently listed historic district, the boundary increase includes portions of the Headquarter mill's hydrosystem – a milldam and pond – along with a stone retaining wall (which possibly provided partial support for an elevated raceway or flume) that extends into the historic district and was previously unidentified. The millpond and associated stream and wetlands occupy most of the approximately 5.5-acre boundary increase, which is surrounded by a mix of open and wooded land with scattered dwellings.

Summary Description

Three contributing resources are associated with the Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase: the milldam (inventory #1, a structure), the millpond (inventory #1, a site) and the retaining wall (inventory #2, a structure). No non-contributing resources are present. The dam is located at the southeast corner of the boundary increase, and the pond currently extends approximately 200 yards behind it (photo #s 1 & 5–9). Historic maps document that there was a millpond at the present location by 1851 and that the present configuration of the milldam and pond was extant by 1888 (Figures 2 and 8).¹ The berm-like dam is of earth and stone construction dating at least as early as the mid 19th century, but may be earlier or later in part, and incorporates two 20th-century poured-concrete spillways (photo #s 1–3, 5 & 9). The dam is approximately 200 feet long, eight feet wide across the top and fifteen feet high above the creek at the main spillway; a large section of early random-coursed, dry-laid stonework is visible to the east of the main spillway on the downstream face of the dam (photo #s 2 & 3). The main spillway, located near the east end of the dam and discharging directly into the creek, is about twenty feet wide and rises about fifteen feet above the creek. It features two cast-iron drainpipes, one near the top protruding about two feet from its downstream face and the other, several feet in length, at

¹ Samuel C. Cornell, Map of Hunterdon County, 1851; "A Topographical Map of the Vicinity of Flemington, Atlas Sheet No. 5," George H. Cook, State Geologist, and C. C. Vermeule, Topographer, *Geological Survey of New Jersey*, State of New Jersey, 1888.

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creek level (photo #2). The downstream face of the main spillway exhibits the imprint of the wooden planks employed to form the concrete, a construction method common before the widespread of use of plywood beginning in the mid 20th century.² Although its exact date is unknown, the main spillway most likely is a reconstruction of an earlier feature, possibly undertaken in association with an early 20th-century attempt to reuse the waterpower in lieu of the steam engine installed when the mill was rebuilt in 1877.³ The smooth concrete finish of the spillway's sidewalls on top of the dam is typical of more modern work (photo #5), and they are probably contemporary with the second smaller spillway, which exhibits a similar concrete finish. The second spillway is located near the west end of the dam and discharges into the stream channel running along the west side of the millpond (photo #s 8 & 9). It dates to the late 20th century and was installed to relieve pressure on the main spillway in times of high water.⁴ Within the boundary increase, water is diverted from the stream channel into the pond by means a small intake located between the pond and stream about 400 feet northwest of the second spillway. Consisting of a cast-iron pipe set in concrete above a stone base, it likely is an early/mid 20th-century reworking of an earlier feature.

The second resource associated with the boundary increase is a random-coursed, dry-laid stone retaining wall (inventory #2, photo #s 2 & 3). Abutting the east end of the dam about dozen feet east of the main spillway, it extends for a distance of approximately 150 feet along the edge of the low bluff or hill on the north side of the creek bottom following a direct, topographically level course towards the grist mill on the east side of Zentek Road (Figure 5). Nearly all of the retaining wall, which represents a previously unidentified resource, is located within the existing district. The upper edge of the wall is several feet below the top of the dam and fairly even, except where the stone has fallen away, and its height varies from approximately five to ten feet. While the wall may have served no other purpose than to prevent hillside erosion from blocking the stream, its configuration and orientation relative to the dam and the mill suggest the possibility that it may have provided partial support for an elevated raceway or flume. How much farther east the wall extended towards the mill, if at all, is not evident, but since the hillside eventually drops off toward Zentek Road, any timber flume eventually would have required piers for support, as was the case at other local mills.⁵

In addition to the dam and pond, the boundary increase includes a marshy wetland at its northwest corner, which expands and contracts as the pond's water level fluctuates seasonally. Except along its southwestern edge where a grassy meadow with scattered trees borders the millpond and stream, the perimeter of the bounda-

² Richa Wilson, Intermountain Regional Architectural Historian Kathleen Snodgrass, Project Leader, *Facilities Tech Tips Early 20th-Century Building Materials*, pp. 6 & 7.

³ The gristmill was rebuilt in 1877 by John Carroll, then owner of the property, who supplemented the unreliable waterpower with steam-powered machinery for his grain and saw milling operations. A 1913 attempt to use the mill to produce cattle feed the found "that the millpond did not provide sufficient water to operate the mill on a daily basis," and by 1929 the mill had ceased operations [Headquarters Historic District National Register Nomination, pp. 7-3, 7-4, 7-6, 814 & 816].

⁴ Information supplied by current owner of the property, Roger Byrom.

⁵ James Drummond, *Images of America Delaware Township*, pp. 38, 119 & 120.

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Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase
Hunterdon County, NJ

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ry increase is wooded, most thickly along its northeastern side, which follows a continuation of the bluff demarcating the creek's flood plain (photo #s 5-7). The boundary increase is surrounded by a mix of open fields and woodlands with scattered 18th and 19th century farmsteads and low density, mid/late 20th-century residential development, the most visually prominent of which are the mid-20th century dwelling with extensive lawns and two detached garages adjoining it on the southwest (photo #s 7 & 10) and the c. 2000 house and garage on the hill to the northwest, a non-contributing resource in the currently listed Headquarters Historic District (photo #8; HHD inventory #7).

The dam and pond are in good condition and well maintained, although the retaining wall's condition is only fair. Despite minor alterations to the dam and pond, the boundary increase retains its essential integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and possesses the ability to reflect its historic character as an integral element of the industrial development of the Headquarters Historic District during its period of significance.

Inventory

In the following inventory, resources are identified by a number that locates them on the accompanying boundary increase map and are categorized as either "contributing" or "non-contributing" to the significance of the boundary increase. Sources used for dating purposes include Samuel Cornell's *Map of Hunterdon County* (1851); S.N. Beer's *Map of Philadelphia and Vicinity*, (1860); F. W. Beer's *Atlas of Hunterdon County* (1873); Cook and Vermeule, *Geological Survey of New Jersey*, (1888); and Pugh and Down's *Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, (1902), along with information supplied by the current property owner, Roger Byrom.

1 416 Rosemont-Ringoes Road (County Route 604)
Contributing

Block 40/Lot 7

Photo #s 1-3 & 4-9

Milldam. Of earth and stone construction, the dam is approximately 200 feet long and eight feet wide at the top. A large section of the dam's original random-coursed, dry-laid stonework is visible at its east end, where the dam abuts a low bluff which constructs the creek's flood plain. The dam has two spillways of poured concrete construction, both about twenty feet wide, near its east and west ends. The main spillway to the east rises about fifteen feet above the creek into which it directly discharges and incorporates two cast-iron drain pipes of unknown function, one near the top protruding about two feet from the face of the dam and the other, several feet long, at creek level. The downstream face of the main spillway exhibits the imprint of the planks used for its construction form; the concrete sidewalls on the top of the dam exhibit, typical of modern work. The second smaller west spillway, whose concrete resembles that of the main spillway's sidewalls, is

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Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase
Hunterdon County, NJ

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located about 125 feet to the west; its purpose is to relieve pressure on the main spillway in times of high water. Water is diverted from the stream channel into the pond by means a small intake located between the pond and stream about 400 feet northwest of the second spillway and consisting of a cast-iron pipe set in concrete above a stone base.

Millpond. The currently watered area of the millpond is approximately 1.3 acres. An additional “wetlands” area of approximately 4 acres is located within the Boundary Increase to the northwest of the currently watered acreage.

Additional Description: none

Style: none

Date/history: dam and pond, mid-19th century, perhaps earlier in part; main spillway and pond intake, early/mid 20th century, late 20th century modifications; smaller spillway, late 20th century [owner’s information]. The Headquarters’ millpond is documented at by four historic maps: Samuel Cornell’s *Map of Hunterdon County* (1851), F. W. Beer’s *Atlas of Hunterdon County* (1873); Cook and Vermeule, *Geological Survey of New Jersey*, (1888); and Pugh and Down’s *Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, (1902). The depiction on the 1888 and 1902 maps most closely resembles the current configuration, evidence that the dam and pond as exist today had been established by that time. Information about the provenance of the smaller spillway and pond intake provide by the current owner.

Additional Resources: none

2 **7 Zentek Road.**
Contributing

Block 40/Lots 4 & 7

Photo #s 3 & 4

Random-coursed, dry-laid stone **retaining wall** which abuts the dam about dozen feet east of the east spillway and extends for a distance of approximately about 150 feet along the edge of the hill on the north side of the creek bottom along a direct course towards the grist mill on the east side of Zentek Road. Its upper edge is several feet below the top of the dam and, except where the stone has fallen away, fairly level.

Date/history: 19th century; While its original purpose is unknown, the wall’s configuration relative to the dam and the mill suggests that it may have supported a raceway or wooden flume. How much farther to the east the wall extended, if at all, is not evident, and the topography in this area, which drops off toward Zentek Road, would have required

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Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase
Hunterdon County, NJ

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a flume to have been supported by piers, as was the case at other local mills (An early photograph of the nearby Sergeant Mill documents a flume supported by wooden posts; James Drummond, *Images of America Delaware Township*, page 120).

Additional Description: none

Style: none

Additional Resources: none

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Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase
Hunterdon County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 1

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Paragraph

The National Register nomination for the currently listed Headquarters Historic District identified significance under Criteria A and C in the areas of settlement, architecture, and industry, with a period of significance of circa 1735 to 1929. The Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase, which formed part of the Headquarters mill property until the middle of the 20th century, possesses significance under Criterion A in the area of industry for the period circa 1851-1929. Its industrial significance stems from the presence of resources that formed an integral part of the historic district's industrial development and add to the district's character as a distinguishable entity: portions of the Headquarters mill's hydrosystem – the milldam and millpond – that were not included in the original historic district nomination due to an owner objection, along with an adjoining stone retaining wall (which possibly provided partial support for an elevated raceway or flume) that extends into the historic district and was previously unidentified. The Headquarters mill is located on one of the many small and unnamed tributaries of the Third Neshanic River, which flows east toward the Raritan River. The mill undoubtedly had a hydrosystem when first established circa 1735 and, given the topography and the origin of this particular tributary (referenced in some documents as Caponockons Creek) approximately one-half mile upstream from the mill, a water impoundment would have been required, however, an 1851 map provides the earliest documentation of the milldam and pond here, giving the beginning date for the boundary increase's period of significance. The boundary increase's period of significance ends in 1929, by which year the Headquarters mill had ceased operation.¹ Although Criterion D is not claimed, the boundary increase may also include archaeological resources not as yet discovered relating to the area's industrial development and/or 18th and 19th century material culture.

Industrial Significance - Additional Documentation

The industrial significance of the Headquarters Historic District stems from its mill complex, particularly the gristmill, which embodies the small-scale manufactories that once proliferated around the region and the efforts of their owners to adapt to changing technology, but which eventually could not compete with operations possessing better transportation connections and sources of power. One of Delaware Township's oldest communities, Headquarters coalesced around a water-powered gristmill erected at an early date on a small tributary of the Third Neshanic River. The date 1735, inscribed on a stone incorporated into the building, has long been accepted by local historians as the date of the mill's establishment, making it one of Hunterdon County's earliest known mills. In 1765 there were two mills at Headquarters, which by the early 1800s had developed into a diversified manufacturing operation, including the production of flour (and presumably other ground grains), plaster, whiskey and pork and accommodating both

¹ The mill incorporates a 1735 date stone that has been interpreted as a document of the mill's establishment. Samuel C. Cornell, Map of Hunterdon County, 1851; Headquarters Historic District National Register nomination, pp. 8-1, 8-3 & 8-16.

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custom and commercial business.² Thereafter, however, the manufacturing at Headquarters, isolated from both canals and turnpikes and served by relatively small waterpower, declined markedly, and by the mid-19th century, the distillery had been abandoned and the gristmill was operating only a few months each year doing custom work for local farmers.³ While little could be done to change the community's isolated location, efforts were made to update and expand manufacturing operations in the 1870s. The stone mill was enlarged and rebuilt in 1877, and steam-powered machinery installed to run the gristmill and adjacent sawmill.⁴ The 1880 industrial census documents a dramatic increase in the mill's production, but by 1900 operations had again declined. An attempt was made in 1913 to employ the mill to grind cattle feed, utilizing the old waterpower in place of the steam engine, but failed when it was found the hydrosystem did not provide sufficient water to operate the mill on a daily basis.⁵ By 1929 the mill was idle.⁶

By the middle of the 18th century, "along with other Middle Colonies, New Jersey had earned renown as a great producer of wheat, and these grain yields were tied into a vast transatlantic trade."⁷ Once their subsistence needs were met, Hunterdon County farmers sought to market their surplus crops and other agricultural products. By the mid-1700s, wheat had become the region's preeminent market crop, much of which, as grain or flour, was shipped along with other agricultural products, as Peter Kalm observed on his 1750 visit to Trenton, "either down the Delaware river to Philadelphia or down other rivers to New York."⁸ Wheat's regional importance as a crop lessened in the late 1700s as the loss of soil fertility and disease negatively affected yields, and farmers turned to other grains like corn and rye.⁹

Newspaper advertisements provide evidence that land in the Middle Delaware Valley was valued during the 18th century for its suitability for growing wheat, as well as its accessibility to markets, and that wheat was widely grown throughout northwestern New Jersey, although less commonly north of the terminal glacial moraine.¹⁰ A 1751 advertisement placed in a New York newspaper for the sale of a 600-acre tract along the Delaware River in northwestern Hunterdon County noted that it contained:

200 Acres of Low-land, mostly cleared, ... extraordinary good for either Grazing or raising wheat, ... and a small Stream before the Door sufficient to turn a small Mill.¹¹

² Nelson, William, ed. *Documents Relating to the Revolutionary History of the State of New Jersey, Extracts From American Newspapers Relating to New Jersey*, Vol. V, 1762-1765. p. 549-50; *The Fredonian*, May 5, 1820.

³ United States Census, Schedules of Population and Industry, Delaware Township, 1850, 1860 & 1870.

⁴ A date stone commemorates the mill's reconstruction in 1877. United States Census, Schedule of Industry, Delaware Township, 1880; ⁴ James P. Snell, (ed.), *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey*, p. 376.

⁵ Charles Jurgensen, "Headquarters-Delaware Township," p. 1.

⁶ Edgar T. Bush, "Headquarters," *The Hunterdon Democrat*, November 7, 1929.

⁷ Paul G. E. Clemens and Peter Wacker. *Land Use in Early New Jersey A Historical Geography* pp. 141-142.

⁸ Adolph B. Benson (ed. and trans.), *Peter Kalm's Travels in North American: The English Version of 1770*, II, pp. 634-635.

⁹ Clemens and Wacker, pp. 145-148.

¹⁰ Clemens and Wacker, pp. 143 & 144.

¹¹ "To Be Sold," *The N. Y. Gazette Revised in the Weekly Post Boy*, April 15, 1751, as quoted in Nelson, *Newspaper Extracts*, III, 1751-1755, page 68.

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As settlement along the Middle Delaware increased and more land was cleared and placed in agricultural production during the 18th-century, grain mills were built at the region's abundant waterpower sites to meet both local needs and commercial production. North of Trenton, which had acquired its first gristmill in 1679-80, Hopewell Township had two by 1722.¹² In the same year, Thomas Quick acquired a two-acre lot on a small Delaware tributary in the New Jersey Minisinks "to erect gristmill on the same."¹³ In 1737, a property along the Musconetcong River was advertised as "6 miles from the Place where a new Grist-mill is going to be erected by Samuel Green," (who had relocated there from Amwell Township) and Casper Shafer, another pioneer settler of northwestern New Jersey, built a gristmill on the Paulins Kill in the early 1740s.¹⁴ There was a gristmill at the mouth of Wickecheoke Creek owned by Daniel Howell by 1733, and a pair known as the Prime Hope Mills on the Delaware at Coryells Ferry belonging to Benjamin Smith by the late 1740s.¹⁵ By 1740 or so, mills were becoming more common in New Jersey, and between 1740 and 1780 more than one hundred mills were advertised for sale.¹⁶ Gristmills proliferated along the Delaware and its tributaries during the second half of the 18th century, and by 1832, according to tax assessors' returns, Hunterdon County had eighty gristmills.¹⁷ In 1840, the county reportedly had fifty-seven gristmills in operation and seven flouring mills (larger mills specializing in commercial flour production).¹⁸ By 1912, operating mills in the state had declined markedly.¹⁹

While many of the region's gristmills were modest enterprises primarily doing custom work for local farmers, some number conducted larger operations focused on commercial flour production, acquiring grain from farmers or other dealers and shipping flour directly to urban markets. Valentine Bidleman, who established a mill at the mouth of Lopatcong Creek near Phillipsburg before the Revolutionary War, evidently was one of those proprietors who devoted themselves to commercial milling. Bidleman purportedly:

did not care to do custom-work, for he was busy making flour for shipment down river, so that the neighboring settlers, with a mill at their very door, had to make a journey of four miles or more to get their grists ground.²⁰

The 1818 estate inventory of Bidleman's son Henry, who carried on the operation of his father's mill at the Lopatcong's mouth, provides evidence of the family's commercial operations and includes two entries

¹² New Jersey Tax Ratables, Hopewell Township, 1722.

¹³ Colonial Conveyances, West Jersey Deeds, Book DD, page 116.

¹⁴ Nelson, *Newspaper Extracts*, I, 1700-39, page 494, as quoted in Wacker, *Musconetcong Valley*, page 118; Johnson, *Memoires & Reminiscences*, pp. 129 & 130.

¹⁵ New Jersey Wills, 90J and 370J.

¹⁶ Harry B. Weiss and Robert J. Sim, *The Early Grist and Flouring Mills of New Jersey*, Trenton: New Jersey Agricultural Society, 1956, p. 13.

¹⁷ Thomas Gordon, *Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey*, page 71.

¹⁸ Hubert Schmidt, *Rural Hunterdon*, page 213.

¹⁹ Weiss and Sim, p. 20.

²⁰ Snell, *Sussex and Warren Counties*, page 680.

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for barrels of “superfine flour” (totaling 157 barrels) “in hands of J & T Ridgway,” a Philadelphia “flour and grain commission business.”²¹

However, many mills engaged in both aspects of the business. A “Stone Grist-mill” near Flemington advertised for sale by George Reading in 1762, was described as having “two Pair of Stones” and being “in good order for Country or Merchant Work,” with a location touted for both supply and market access:

[I]t stands on the South Branch of Raritan River, a never failing Stream, in the Center of a plentiful wheat country, where any Quantity might be bought reasonable; it is 25 Miles from Trenton, the same Distance from New Brunswick, and 12 miles from Delaware river, which is navigable great Part of the Year to Philadelphia; it being conveniently situated for New York or Philadelphia Markets, and a good Place for Trade; there having been a Store kept for a Number of Years past.²²

Among other grains grown throughout the Middle Delaware Valley, corn gained prominence as wheat production declined after the Revolutionary War. An 1831 advertisement for the sale of the mill property at Prallsville extolled its facilities for processing not only wheat, but corn and buckwheat as well.²³ Distilleries proliferated throughout the region during early 19th century, making whisky and gin from corn and rye for the New York and Philadelphia markets, and entrepreneurial mill owners like the Bidlemans established distilleries at their mills in Phillipsburg and Bloomsbury.²⁴ Henry Bidleman’s mill complex at the mouth of Lopatcong Creek featured a large distillery “capable of working about 40 bushels grain per day,” and his 1818 estate inventory included six barrels of gin in the possession of Philadelphia merchants, J. & T. Ridgway, and “607 ditto sent to New York.”²⁵ When the real estate of Henry’s brother George was advertised for sale in 1818 and 1820, his Bloomsbury property encompassed “a large stone distillery, forty by fifty feet, now in operation,” and his Phillipsburg property incorporated “a large distill-

²¹ NJ Wills, 1628S; Stephen Noyes Winslow, *Biographies of Successful Philadelphia Merchants*, page 53. According to Winslow’s 1864 work, brothers Thomas and Jacob Ridgway formed a partnership in 1816 and “entered into the flour and commission grain business ... under the firm of J & T Ridgway, which they conducted successfully.

²² “To be sold at public Vendue ... George Reading,” *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, October 2, 1766, as quoted in Nelson, *Newspaper Extracts*, VI, 1766-1767, pp. 215-218. The mill formed part of a 320-acre farm (of which 180 acres were cleared), whose other improvements included “a new brick Shop ... with a counting-room [and] cellar,” presumably the venue for the store, along with agricultural outbuildings, main house with “Brick Kitchen and Store-room adjoining,” and “several convenient Houses, for the Miller, Cooper, etc.”

²³ “Executors’ Sale of Valuable Property ... Isaac G. Farlee, Sam’l D. Stryker, Executors, Prallsville, N. J. October 26, 1831,” *The Hunterdon Gazette*, October 26, 1831. Prall’s “large stone Grist and Merchant mill [featured] two water-wheels and three runs of stones, with a patent kiln for draying corn, rolling Skreen for wheat, hulling stones for buckwheat, and a hopper boy and packing machine for Flour.

²⁴ Clements and Wacker, page 210; Hubert Schmidt, *Rural Hunterdon*, pp. 230-31; Snell, *Hunterdon and Somerset Counties*, page 511.

²⁵ “To Be Let ... Abm. Bidleman, Isaac Chipman, guardians, Jan. 3, 1819,” *The Easton Centinel*, January 8, 1819; New Jersey Wills, 1628S; Winslow, page 53.

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ery calculated for manufacturing 120 gallons of Gin every 24 hours.”²⁶ The industrial schedule of the 1820 United States Census enumerated five distilleries in Greenwich Township (including the two belonging to the late Bidleman brothers) whose production of gin and whiskey, excluding the smallest, ranged from 16,700 gallons to 27,000 gallons of spirits a year. As a sideline, the distilleries all fattened hogs on the slops left from the distilling process. Four of the five distilleries identified their markets as Philadelphia and New York.²⁷

While not all New Jersey mills were operated by waterpower, the state’s topography and numerous streams led to a preponderance of water-powered mills. While almost nothing is known about the original Headquarters mill, which presumably was erected by Samuel Green or his son-in-law John Opdyke, to whom he conveyed the 540-acre tract encompassing the mill seat around 1737, the pioneer mill reputedly was rebuilt in 1754, and when the property was advertised for sale in 1765 its improvements included “two Overshot Grist-mills, supplied by Water from living Springs.”²⁸ More powerful than undershot millwheels (turned by water striking their blades at the bottom), overshot wheels (turned by water striking their blades at the top) required an impoundment of water at some elevation from the mill, as well as a raceway and/or flume to convey the water from the pond to the mill. Despite the greater costs, where topography and water supply permitted, overshot mills with the requisite hydrosystem were a popular choice, providing greater and more assured power sources than the alternative. A number of other overshot mills can be documented in early Amwell Township (which encompassed Headquarters until Delaware Township was founded in 1838) including the Dawlis and Sandbrook mills, both powered by small tributaries of the Third Neshanic River, and the mills established by John Opdyke and/or his sons on the Wickecheoke Creek.²⁹ Caponockons Creek, which rises less than one half mile west of Headquarters, is fed by springs, and given the topography at Headquarters, the impoundment for the water of the “living Springs” mentioned in the 1765 advertisement presumably was located at or near the site of the present milldam and pond.

By the early 1800s Headquarters’ two water-powered mills accommodated several industrial operations. According to an 1820 newspaper advertisement, the property’s improvements included:

A two story Stone House, 45 by 32 feet with a cellar and kitchen under the whole. One Grist and Plaster Mill 3 stories high with one pair of Burr and one pair of country stones. A stone dwelling house for the miller, a pork house 2 stories, a smoke house, and milk house, all of stone, a frame barn and large hovel

²⁶ “Sale of Real Estate of Geo. Bidleman, Esq. dec’d.” *The Easton Centinel* August 31, 1818; “Valuable Real Estate For Sale ... estate of George Bidleman, deceased, September 18, 1820,” *Sussex Register*, October 2, 1820.

²⁷ United States Census, Account of Manufacturers, New Jersey, Sussex County, Greenwich Township, 1820.

²⁸ Nelson, William, ed. *Documents Relating to the Revolutionary History of the State of New Jersey, Extracts From American Newspapers Relating to New Jersey*, Vol. V, 1762-1765. p. 549-50.

²⁹ HABS, NJ451; East Amwell Bicentennial Committee (comp.), *A History of East Amwell 1700-1800*, pp. 69, 70 & 104; James Drummond, *Images of America Delaware Township*, pp. 38, 119 & 120.

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Another Mill and Distillery built of stone, about 150 yards below the mill above described, 3 stories high, 65 by 30 feet, to which is attached two stills and one boiler, this mill has but one pair of stones; cider works and hog pens are favorably constructed, also cisterns for cider, and hogsheads for the purpose of distilling grain, the water wheel and machinery are but a few years old.³⁰

Some years later, however, the distillery was abandoned, and by the mid-19th century, the gristmill was operating at a much-reduced scale. In 1850, the Headquarters gristmill did custom work valued at only \$600; in 1860 the mill was idle for four months of the year and its production was worth only \$300. By way of comparison, William Hoppock's mill at Prallsville, one of Delaware Township's four operating grist mills in 1850, did custom work valued at \$1,000, and in 1860, Green Sergeant's mill two miles west of Headquarters did custom work valued at \$9,400 that year. In 1870, the value of the Headquarters mill's production increased to \$1,300 in custom work during twelve months of operation, but still remained in last place among the township's four gristmills, its production worth little more than 25% of the top-producing Hoppock mill.³¹ In contrast to these small-scale custom operations, two mills at Frenchtown, located about fifteen miles northwest of Headquarters and served by the Belvidere Delaware Railroad, were engaged in commercial flour production valued, in 1870, at over \$11,000.³²

Milling operations at the Headquarters mill were expanded markedly in the 1870s. Then-owner John Carrell reconstructed the mill in 1877 (as documented by a date stone inscribed, "Rebuilt 1877/ J.A.C."). Supplementing the unreliable waterpower, he installed steam machinery to run the gristmill and an adjacent sawmill, a new enterprise. The 1880 industrial census reports a dramatic increase in mill activity, even though Carrell operated the sawmill on a half-time basis. He used two circular saws driven by a 30-horsepower steam engine and used mostly his own logs. His son Joseph operated the gristmill, ten months fulltime and two months halftime, and had \$8,000 capital invested in it. The mill was equipped with three run of stones with a 50-bushel maximum capacity. There was also a grain elevator. The young Carrell utilized a 28 horsepower Eureka Turbine, and turned out \$13,000 in products for the year, commercial production exceeding that of the Frenchtown mills ten years earlier. The 1881 Hunterdon county history reported that Headquarters had a "steam saw- and grist-mill" and noted that the mill "does a fair amount of business."³³ According the 1894 state geologist's report on water supply, the grist mill had a "fall" of 26 feet and its utilized horse power was 36 net and 50 gross, placing it among the smaller of the region's water-powered mill³⁴

The 1900 census listed Joseph Carrell's occupation as farmer, an indication that by the turn of the century the mill business had become a sideline.³⁵ In 1908, C.W. Larison, M.D., addressing the annual meeting of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, gave a philosophical context to the decline of the hamlets like Headquarters:

³⁰ *The Fredonian*, May 5, 1820.

³¹ United States Census, Products of Industry, Delaware Township, 1850, 1860 & 1870.

³² United States Census, Products of Industry, Borough of Frenchtown, 1870.

³³ Snell, *Hunterdon County*, pp. 376 & 386.

³⁴ Vermeule, page 33.

³⁵ Edgar T. Bush, "Headquarters," *The Hunterdon Democrat*, November 7, 1929.

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So much for mills and their accessories and so much for environing [sic] institutions necessary to a developing young settlement which has survived its turn and passed away or else is still serving the purpose for which it was built growing less useful as time passing and is slowly but surely gliding into the inevitable in which all things begin, endure for a while and then end.³⁶

Efforts to operate the mill continued into the 20th century. In 1913, Christian Jurgensen endeavored to use the mill to grind corn into cattle feed. Evidently eschewing the steam engine, he attempted to use waterpower but found that the millpond did not provide sufficient water to operate the mill on a daily basis.³⁷ The mill finally ceased operations by 1929, and, sometime thereafter, the millpond was subdivided from the Headquarters property and a house built between the pond and Rosemont Ringoes Road.³⁸

Historical Overview - Additional Documentation

European settlement in the Amwell Valley began early in the 18th century when large tracts of land were acquired by typically absentee landlords under New Jersey's system of proprietary land holding. These tracts were usually divided into smaller parcels, which were then either developed as plantations or further subdivided for sale to agriculturists. The currently New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places listed Headquarters Historic District encompasses a small portion of what was originally a parcel of 540 acres ("Lot #2") that formed part of the 150,000-acre "Lotting Purchase" acquired for the West Jersey Proprietors from its Native American owners in 1702.³⁹ In 1712 John Ladd procured the 540-acre tract, at that time located in Amwell Township, which had been chartered four years earlier.⁴⁰ Sometime thereafter, the Ladd tract evidently became the property of Samuel Green, a West Jersey surveyor and pioneer settler of Amwell Township, presumably of English descent, who acquired extensive landholdings throughout northwestern New Jersey during the early 1700s, including several tracts in the vicinity of what became Headquarters.⁴¹ The wealthy Green was a prominent figure in Amwell Township, and beginning as early as 1721 held at different times such public offices as Township Clerk, Assessor, Collector, Justice of the Peace and County Freeholder.⁴² Although no contemporary deed has been found, that Green conveyed the Ladd tract in whole or part to his son-in-law John Opdycke is established by a 1775 deed from Opdycke to his son Thomas for property at Headquarters, which described the parcel as "all that part of his old farm and plantation given to him the said John Opdycke by Samuel Green."⁴³ The

³⁶ Quoted in "Headquarters-Delaware Township," p. 2.

³⁷ "Headquarters-Delaware Township," p. 1.

³⁸ Edgar T. Bush, "Headquarters," *The Hunterdon Democrat*, November 7, 1929.

³⁹ D. Stanton Hammond, "Hunterdon County, New Jersey." Map Series # 4, Sheet F. Genealogical Society of New Jersey, 1965.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.* Burlington Book A, p. 128.

⁴¹ Hammond; Charles Wilson Opdyke, *The Op Dyck Genealogy, Containing the Opdyck-Opdycke-Opdyke-Updike American Descendants of the Wesel and Holland Families*, pp. 215 & 216; West Jersey Deeds, Book AM, page 296.

⁴² Opdyke, p. 215.

⁴³ West Jersey Deeds, Book AM, p. 296.

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conveyance from Green to Opdycke most likely occurred around 1737, by which year John Opdycke had married Green's daughter Margaret and around the time that Green relocated to the frontier of European settlement in what is now Warren County, where he died in 1760.⁴⁴ While 1735, the date carved on a stone in the foundation of the extant mill, may well be the year in which the first mill was erected there, whether Green or Opdycke was responsible for first developing the water power remains unknown.⁴⁵

Like his father-in-law, John Opdycke (1710-1777) was a large landowner and held several public offices and also engaged in industrial, agricultural and mercantile pursuits, purportedly developing several mill and farm properties and establishing a store at Headquarters, which remained a locus of activity throughout much of his life. A 1737 mortgage provides the earliest documentation of his ownership of land in Amwell Township, a 456-acre tract of land located "on a branch of the Delaware called Tokhonetkong," and over the next several decades he acquired considerable property in northwestern New Jersey.⁴⁶ John Opdycke, was the eldest son of Albert Opdycke, a Hopewell Township resident of Dutch descent, and John and his wife Margaret (1711-1775) had at least nine children, four sons and five daughters.⁴⁷ Opdycke made considerable improvements to his property at Headquarters during the middle decades of the 18th century, including the construction of several substantial stone buildings. According to one of his descendants interviewed in the late 19th century:

He first built and lived in the stone house on his farm which now belongs to Mrs. Samuel Higgins, near Headquarters. He built "Whitehall," also "Headquarters House" where he kept a store, and a mill close by. He [also] laid out the Opdycke graveyard at Headquarters and he and his family are buried there.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ Opdyke, pp, 214 - 217 & 224. As John and Mary Opdycke's oldest known child was born in 1738, they presumably were married in 1737, if not earlier. Samuel Green evidently moved north to the region of Hope around this time, where in 1738 he was selected as one of four electors representing Greenwich Township in an election for Representatives to the General Assembly from Hunterdon County. Green's third daughter, Ann, married John Opdycke's brother, Joshua. Note: Although spelled variously by different members of the family, Opdycke is the spelling used throughout this narrative.

⁴⁵ Presuming that the 1735 date is correct, the Headquarters mill was one of the neighborhood's earliest mills. The earliest known mill in Amwell Township was one near what is now Ringoes, built around 1727 by William Dawlis [Hubert G. Schmidt, *Rural Hunterdon: An Agricultural History*, p. 212]

⁴⁶ Hunterdon County Loan Office Records, 1737-45, Book II, page 76. Opdycke's £40 loan on 456 acres had a last recorded payment in 1752. Opdycke's brother-in-law Benjamin Severns (who married another daughter of Samuel Green) mortgaged 439 acres adjoining Opdycke's land on the west, and his loan was discharged in 1753 [Ibid, Book II, page 75]. The location of the adjoining tracts is unclear, although their location on "a branch of the Delaware" seemly precludes Headquarters which lies within the headwaters of the Raritan River.

⁴⁷ Opdyke, p, 224. According to the family genealogy, the Opdycke children were Elizabeth (1735-1836), who married John Arnwine of Headquarters; Sarah (b. 1741), who married John Buchannan, also of Headquarters; George (1743-1795) of Milltown, who married Sophia Baker; Catherine (b. 1745), who married Abraham Larew, of Everittstown; Mary (b, 1747), who married Agesilaus Gordon, of Sergeantsville; Samuel (1749-1801) of Sergeantsville, who married Susannah Robeson; and Margare (1751-1820), who married John Besson of Flemington; John (1753-1773), unmarried; and Thomas (1756-1805) of Locktown, who wife was named Anna. .

⁴⁸ Opdyke, p. 218. The informant also related that "John kept store nearly all his life, and his daughter Elizabeth (my husband's grandmother) was sometimes his head clerk."

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Of these, only Headquarters House is located within the currently listed historic district. The 1750s appears to have been the peak years of his building activity. The gristmill bears a 1754 date stone, and Headquarters House has one inscribed "1758."⁴⁹ According to family history, he built three other grist mills in the area, one for each of his adult sons, and a stone house adjoining the site of one of these mills, located on Wickecheoke Creek just west of Sergeantsville, has a crudely carved date stone inscribed "'M/I O 1754" for the initials of John and Margaret Opdycke and construction date of the house.⁵⁰ Opdycke appears on the 1738 Amwell Township voter list and thereafter held a number of public offices, Township Constable in 1744, County Freeholder in 1750, and a Justice of the Peace in 1755.⁵¹

Within a few years of building Headquarters House, John Opdycke evidently divested himself of his mill property. By 1765, a tract of 148 acres including the mill seat and land to the northwest had become the property of Joseph Howell, seized and sold at court-ordered sheriff sale to satisfy a defaulted debt. The May 1, 1765 newspaper notice of the auction, scheduled for the following July 2, provides a detailed description of the property and its substantial improvements (which included two grist mills, as well as Headquarters House), along with Howell's household goods and livestock:

Trenton, May 1, 1765. By Virtue of a Write of Fieri Facias to me directed, will be exposed to Sale at Public Vendue to the highest Bidder, on Tuesday the 2d of July next, between the Hours of 12 and 5 of the Clock, on the Premises, 148 Acres of Land situated in Amwell, noted for the best Wheat Land in the Province, bounded by Lands of John Opdike, Richard Kitchen, and others, be it more or less, on which is a large Stone House, two Stories high, four Rooms on a Floor, a large Entry through the House, with Cellars underneath the whole; also two Overshot Grist-mills, supplied by Water from living Springs, a good Barn, Stable, Cow house, Milk-house, a fine young Orchard, an excellent Piece of Clover Meadow in front of the Dwelling-house, which may be watered by the Water from the Mills in the driest Seasons; there is also a Frame House on the said Lands. Also to be sold the same Day, Feather Beds and Furniture, Chests of Drawers, Tables, Chairs, Pewter, Iron Pots, Trammels, Candlesticks, two Horses, two Mares, two Cows an sundry other Things too tedious to mention here, late the Property, and now in Possession of Joseph Howell, seized and taken in Execution at the suit of Thomas Pryon, Jun. and to be sold by Samuel Tucker, Sheriff.⁵²

A 1768 mortgage and a 1787 deed document that the Howell property was located at Headquarters and that Benjamin Tyson became its next owner. In 1768, Tyson mortgaged three tracts of land in Amwell Township to a Philadelphia merchant for a period of one year, and while the mortgage makes no mention of a mill or how Tyson acquired the property, the boundary description for a 116-acre tract sold by Tyson in 1787 corresponds to those of two of the mortgaged lots. Furthermore, the 1787 deed notes that the 116-acre tract form part of the 148-acre tract owned by Joseph Howell conveyed to Tyson by the county sher-

⁴⁹Headquarters House has also been called "Mansion House" in various accounts.

⁵⁰Opdyke, p. 218. Covered Bridge Historic District NJ/National Register nomination, page 7-2; Opdyke, page 262; Marfy Goodspeed, "Headquarters (Grover)," unpublished manuscript, 2007, p. 1.

⁵¹Opdyke, p. 218.

⁵²Nelson, William, ed. *Documents Relating to the Revolutionary History of the State of New Jersey, Extracts From American Newspapers Relating to New Jersey*, Vol. V, 1762-1765. p. 549-50.

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iff.⁵³ The north boundary of the third mortgaged lot bordered lands of Henry Kitchen, who the 1787 deed indicates owned land lying directly north of the mill and Headquarters House.⁵⁴ Tyson evidently assumed operation of the mills, and the 1770 road return of the Sandbrook-Headquarters Road indicates that the hamlet was known as Tyson's Mill by that year.⁵⁵ Court records show Tyson was frequently sued for debt between 1775 and 1796.⁵⁶ In 1776, he again mortgaged the same three parcels, discharging the debt in June 1, 1790.⁵⁷ Although he was forced to sell some of his land holdings, including the 116 acres lying west of the mill in 1787, Tyson retained possession of the mill until 1790.⁵⁸

In March 1775, John Opdycke's wife, Margaret, died and was evidently the first burial in the family cemetery located a short distance east of his original farmhouse about a half mile south of the historic district, where he may have returned to live after selling the mill property. Only five months later Opdycke conveyed 267 acres south of the main road, including his farmhouse and the family graveyard, to his youngest son, nineteen-year-old Thomas, for "5 shillings proclamation and also for and in consideration of the Love and Tender Regard towards his said son."⁵⁹

Although Thomas Opdycke acquired his father's 267-acre homestead farm in 1775, he likely did not live there immediately, since he was not included in the Amwell Township tax ratables for 1779. Benjamin Tyson appears on the role that year, taxed for 148 acres along with a gristmill and a sawmill. The next year, Amwell property was assessed in January and June, and by June 1780 young Opdycke was taxed for 125 acres.⁶⁰ According to the Opdycke genealogy, Thomas Opdycke was known to also have property several miles northwest of Headquarters. It is not clear on which property he paid tax.⁶¹ Over the next few years his taxable property fluctuated, at times only 25 acres, but by 1789 he was taxed for 257 acres. By 1789, Tyson had reduced his land holdings and was paying taxes on only 38 acres and a mill, suggesting that only one mill was in operation.

Tyson's long-running legal and financial problems evidently continued, and in April 1790 his mill property was seized by the sheriff who sold the 26-acre mill lot and a small meadow lot to Thomas Opdycke and his wife Anna for "payment, discharge & satisfactions of the Executors."⁶² At the same time, Elizabeth Tyson conveyed her dower rights to the Opdyckes for five shillings. Also on the same day, in what was a complicated series of transactions, Opdycke sold 107.25 acres of his farmstead to Tyson for

⁵³ Hunterdon County Mortgages, Book 1, page 208; West Jersey Deeds, Book AO, page 345.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.* & Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 7, p. 257.

⁵⁵ Hunterdon County Road Returns, Book 1, p. 65.

⁵⁶ Marfy Goodspeed, "Headquarters Farm," unpublished manuscript, undated, p. 4.

⁵⁷ HC Mortgages, Book 1, p. 252.

⁵⁸ Goodspeed, "Headquarters Farm," p. 4; West Jersey Deeds, Book AO, page 345.

⁵⁹ West Jersey Deeds, Book AM, page 296. Thomas Opdycke is claimed to have owned and occupied a stone house and mill near Locktown. Opdyke, p. 264.

⁶⁰ Amwell Twp. Tax Ratables, 1780, etc.

⁶¹ Opdyke, p. 264.

⁶² Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 1, p. 405.

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£410.⁶³ Tyson immediately mortgaged the 107.25 acres to John Prall for £167, and Opdycke mortgaged the mill for £300. Less than three years later, on May 6, 1793, Opdycke sold the 26-acre mill lot and another 46.25 acres of his remaining acreage to the south of the main road, which apparently encompassed the site of White Hall, for £1,106 to George Holcombe, an Amwell merchant.⁶⁴

George Holcombe or Holcomb (1770-1845) probably was the son of Samuel Holcombe and a great grandson of John Holcombe, who owned property near Lambertville as early as 1704.⁶⁵ The two lots that he acquired from Thomas Opdycke may have been twenty-three-year old Holcombe's first real estate acquisition.⁶⁶ Tax records are missing between 1790 and 1801; however, in 1802 Holcombe was listed with 76 acres and a gristmill. Interestingly, Thomas Opdycke was taxed that year for 112 acres, a gristmill and a sawmill, apparently property several miles from Headquarters that he acquired in 1801.⁶⁷ There was no mention of mills in 1803, when Holcombe was taxed for only 46 acres.⁶⁸ But that same year he purchased 122 acres north of his mill lot, the property earlier owned by Henry Kitchen, for \$1,433.33.⁶⁹ As evidence of his increasing success as an entrepreneur, during the first decade of the 19th century Holcombe also purchased properties in Sussex, Morris, Somerset, Middlesex and Burlington Counties, and was described in deeds as a "merchant of Amwell."⁷⁰ And in 1804, he acted as banker to Benjamin Tyson, who, still financially troubled, mortgaged his 107-acre farm to the seemingly financially secure Holcombe for \$735.⁷¹ Tyson died intestate in 1807 and to discharge his debts, his 95-acre farm (the former John and Thomas Opdycke property) was sold in 1808 to Nathaniel Higgins, with a reserve of a small burying ground (no doubt the Opdycke family cemetery).⁷²

By 1812, Holcombe had moved to New Brunswick, where he established another store.⁷³ But within only a few years, he had returned to Amwell, his apparent good fortune ended. On October 17,

⁶³ HC Deeds, Book 1, p. 403.

⁶⁴ HC Deeds, Book 23, p. 91. The irregular 46.25-acre lot extended south from the road and appears to have encompassed the site of the White Hall.

⁶⁵ More than one deed associated with Headquarters refers to "George Holcombe Jun.," making it difficult to be certain about the identity of the subject George Holcombe. George, son of Samuel, had an uncle named George as well as two younger cousins. However, he is the most logical candidate based on dates of birth and death.

⁶⁶ Goodspeed, "Headquarters Farm," p. 5.

⁶⁷ Amwell Township Tax Ratables, 1802; Opdycke Genealogy, p. 264. In 1801 Thomas Opdycke sold 248 acres in Amwell adjoining Wickecheoke Creek to Elisha "Rettinghouse." That same year he purchased 112 acres in Amwell on Wickecheoke Creek from Rittenhouse. This property, which he owned until his death in 1816, was evidently the stone house and mills located about a mile north of his brother Samuel's mill several miles west of Headquarters.

⁶⁸ Amwell Township Tax Ratables, 1803.

⁶⁹ HC Deeds, Book 7, p. 257.

⁷⁰ Goodspeed, "Headquarters Farm," p. 5.

⁷¹ Goodspeed, "Headquarters Farm," p. 10, footnote.

⁷² HC Deeds, Book 14, p. 516. It is not clear what happened to the missing twelve acres from Tyson's original purchase from Thomas Opdycke in 1793.

⁷³ *Trenton Federalist*, September 4, 1812. A daybook kept by the John and Elias Conover beginning in April 1814 suggests that they had taken over from Chambers & Hart by that date. However, that assumption is questioned by an 1816 accounting of Holcombe's properties that mentions "the plantation Mills distillery etc called Headquarters in the Township of Amwell . . . in the tenure of Chambers & Hart, Merchants, of William Lake, and of the Defendant [Holcombe]." [Goodspeed, "Headquarters

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1815, George Holcombe, “late of the City of New Brunswick but now of the Township of Amwell, Merchant,” was obliged to assign all real estate and personal property to a group of friends and relatives—Samuel Holcomb Jr. of New Brunswick, Daniel La Tourette a merchant of Somerville, Nathaniel Saxton, Esq., of Lebanon and Alburus King of Amwell—for “diverse goods and valuable consideration and \$1,000.”⁷⁴ The new owners decided to liquidate Holcomb’s former Hunterdon landholding, advertising their sale early the following year at five different auctions, the second of which was to be held:

on Thursday the 7th day of March next, at 2 o'clock, P. M. at the house of George Holcomb at Headquarters, [and to include] the valuable FARM, Store houses. Mills and Distillery, etc. at Head-quarters.⁷⁵

Around this time, the partnership of “Chambers & Hart, Merchants” conducted the Headquarters store, and William Lake, a third tenant on the property, may have operated the mills, distillery or farm.⁷⁶ While the outcome of the auction is unknown, title to the Headquarters property evidently passed to the “President, Directors, and Company of the State Bank at New Brunswick” on December 26, 1816.⁷⁷ By November of 1817, Holcombe had been confined to a debtors’ prison in New York City, although as late as 1818 his former property was still referred to as “George Holcombe’s Mill.”⁷⁸

In January and May 1820, Headquarters once again was advertised for sale. The advertisement, which directed interested parties to apply at the State Bank in New Brunswick, gives a detailed description of the property:

Valuable Property FOR SALE, For which State Bank Stock at par, will Be received in payment.

That valuable property in the township of Amwell, in the county of Hunterdon, about 3 miles from Ringo’s and 4 from the Delaware river, well known by the name of Head-Quarters.

Farm,” p. 5-6.] In February of that year, a “Public Notice” appeared: “The subscribers intending to break up business this spring, offer for sale at *reduced prices* their stock of goods, comprising an assortment of *Dry Goods and Groceries, Hardware, Crockery, etc. etc.* As they are desirous of closing business as fast as possible, persons wishing to purchase may do well calling CHAMBERS & HART. All persons indebted to them are requested to make payment, by the first day of April. Amwell, Feb. 5th. 1816.” [*Trenton Federalist*, February 2, 1816.]

⁷⁴ HC Deeds, Book 24, p. 458.

⁷⁵ “Sale of Real Estate,” *Trenton Federalist*, 2/2/1816.

⁷⁶ An 1816 accounting of Holcombe’s properties includes “the plantation Mills distillery etc called Headquarters in the Township of Amwell . . . in the tenure of Chambers & Hart, Merchants, of William Lake, and of the Defendant [Holcombe].” [Goodspeed, “Headquarters Farm,” p. 5-6]. In February of that year, concurrent with the advertisement of the former Holcomb property for sale, Chambers & Hart placed the following “Public Notice:” “The subscribers intending to break up business this spring, offer for sale at *reduced prices* their stock of goods, comprising an assortment of *Dry Goods and Groceries, Hardware, Crockery, etc. etc.* As they are desirous of closing business as fast as possible, persons wishing to purchase may do well calling CHAMBERS & HART. All persons indebted to them are requested to make payment, by the first day of April. Amwell, Feb. 5th. 1816.” [*Trenton Federalist*, February 2, 1816.]

⁷⁷ Deed in Nathaniel Saxton Papers, as quoted in Goodspeed, “Headquarters Farm,” p. 5.

⁷⁸ Goodspeed, “Headquarters Farm,” page 6; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 28, page 650. Holcombe died childless in 1845 at the New Brunswick home of his nephew, Judge Theophilus Holcombe, having been blind for several years. Correspondence regarding Holcombe is included in the Nathaniel Saxton Papers at the Hunterdon County Historical Society.

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ALSO, the WHITE HALL property adjoining thereto, the whole contains about 200 acres. This property is susceptible of accommodating a merchant, a miller, a distiller, and a farrier [or farmer]. It has been a place of extensive mercantile business and is pleasantly abundant in a healthy, wealthy, and popular part of the country.

A two story Stone House, 45 by 32 feet with a cellar and kitchen under the whole. One Grist and Plaster Mill 3 stories high with one pair of Burr and one pair of country stones. A stone dwelling house for the miller, a pork house 2 stories, a smoke house, and milk house, all of stone, a frame barn and large hovel, to which may be added about 50 acres of land as farming one division.

A two story Stone House, 26 by 36 with a stone building adjoining of 32 feet in length, a stone pork & smoke house, a good framed barn, to this may be added about 40 acres of land, 25 (35?) of which are woodland on the residue of which is an orchard of 400 apple trees in full bearing.

Another Mill and Distillery built of stone, about 150 yards below the mill above described, 3 stories high, 65 by 30 feet, to which is attached two stills and one boiler, this mill has but one pair of stones; cider works and hog pens are favorably constructed, also cisterns for cider, and hogsheads for the purpose of distilling grain, the water wheel and machinery are but a few years old.

About 100 acres are set apart as a farm, of which about 25 are covered with wood, the buildings are wood and indifferent.⁷⁹

The first stone house mentioned in the advertisement is probably the Headquarters House, and the Grist and Plaster Mill is the surviving mill. The stone mill and distillery undoubtedly was the stone ruin just northeast of the house and extant mill. It is a little unclear from the phrasing, but White Hall—the purported tavern—is probably the second stone house described in the advertisement.⁸⁰ The property described in the advertisement seems to comprise the 26-acre mill lot and the 46.25-acre lot south of the road that Holcombe purchased from Thomas Opdycke in 1793, and the 122 acres he purchased in 1803. Altogether, it was an impressive property and it had been updated a few years earlier with a new water wheel and machinery. It also is significant that this extensive advertisement makes no mention of a tavern; if the property had once included a tavern, it must have been discontinued by that time.

The entire property was acquired by three New Brunswick residents, Samuel Holcomb, Charles Smith and John Bray, who in 1818 sold it to two brothers, John and Elias Conover [formerly Covenhoven], who evidently had been renting the premises for some time.⁸¹ The Covenhoven family resided in the neighborhood at least as early as 1780, as documented by an advertisement dating to that year: “To Be

⁷⁹ *The Fredonian*, May 5, 1820.

⁸⁰ A sample search of tavern licenses found no petitions that could be specifically related to “White Hall.” However, an 1812 tavern license granted to Captain Abner Hart includes as signers John L. Chambers and Philip Hart. It is possible that these are the Chambers and Hart who were operating Holcombe’s store at that time. If that were the case, it would be logical that his tavern would be located nearby. [New Jersey Tavern Licenses, 1812]

⁸¹ A daybook kept by the John and Elias Conover beginning in April 1814 suggests that they had taken over from Chambers & Hart by that date. However, that assumption is questioned by an 1816 accounting of Holcombe’s properties that mentions “the plantation Mills distillery etc called Headquarters in the Township of Amwell . . . in the tenure of Chambers & Hart, Merchants, of William Lake, and of the Defendant [Holcombe].” [Goodspeed, “Headquarters Farm,” p. 5-6].

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Sold, A Young Negro Wench, about 15 years old. – Apply to John Covenhoven near Tyson’s Mills in Amwell.”⁸² Having acquired other land in the vicinity in 1825, in 1828 the brothers paid \$7,500 for the Headquarters property with its “mills, dwelling houses, [and] distillery.”⁸³ The 189.88-acre tract included the two lots conveyed by Thomas Opdycke to Holcombe in 1793 plus the 122 acres north of the mill that Holcombe acquired in 1803 from William Maxwell.⁸⁴

An advertisement from 1830 describes the general store business conducted by the Conovers that offered a wide range of products:

Head Quarters Store. The subscribers have just received a complete assortment of DRY GOODS, Groceries, Crockery, Stone and Earthen Ware – a full assortment of Leather and Shoes, &c. Also, a handsome stock of Iron and Steel of all the various sizes, hollow ware and Cutlery. A general assortment of Foreign and Domestic Liquors. Flour, Feed and Plaster, on hand at all time – all which they will sell on the most reasonable terms, for Cash, or in exchange for Country Produce, for which they will give the highest price. N.B. – 2000 Chesnut [sic] Rails on hand for sale, of the first quality. Head Quarters, April 14, 1830⁸⁵

Evidently the store was a profitable business, and, in 1834, the Conover brothers invested \$3,240 to purchase from David Lair three lots, south of the main road, totaling 98 acres.⁸⁶ The brothers placed a rental advertisement in 1837:

FOR RENT: A Dwelling House and Blacksmith Shop. Also a Dwelling House suitable for a shoemaker. Apply to J. & E. Conover. Head Quarters, Feb. 8, 1837.⁸⁷

That same year, the Conovers acquired three nearby lots, the deed for which conveyance refers to Headquarters as a “village,” although it was apparently not yet sizable enough to be mentioned in Thomas Gordon’s 1834 *Gazetteer of New Jersey*.⁸⁸

Throughout the 19th century, Headquarters experienced only limited development. The Centre Bridge over the Delaware at what is now Stockton opened in 1814. Previously serviced by ferry, the improved link to Pennsylvania fueled development in Sergeantsville, located at a crossroads along the direct

⁸² Nelson, William, ed. *Documents Relating to the Revolutionary History of the State of New Jersey, Vol. IV. Extracts From American Newspapers Relating to New Jersey, Nov. 1, 1779 – Sept. 30, 1780*, p. 437. John and Elias evidently were sons of the John Covenhoven who purchased the 116 acres lying northwest of the mill from Benjamin Tyson in 1787 [West Jersey Deeds, Book AO, page 345 and Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 29, page 1].

⁸³ HC Deeds, Book 44, p. 299.

⁸⁴ HC Deeds, Book 7, p. 252.

⁸⁵ Quoted in Goodspeed, 2007, p. 2.

⁸⁶ HC Deeds, Book 57, p. 467.

⁸⁷ *Hunterdon Gazette* quoted in Goodspeed, 2007, p. 1.

⁸⁸ Egbert T. Bush, “‘Headquarters’ Has Two Buildings of Historic Interest,” *Hunterdon County Democrat*, November 7, 1929. The Conovers also acquired lots in 1828 and 1836 from Israel Poulson, the Dunkard (German Baptist) preacher who lived on the farm south of the road.

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route to the bridge from Flemington.⁸⁹ Headquarters' location only a mile from Sergeantsville inhibited future growth in the mill hamlet. In addition to the blacksmithy and shoemaker opportunities described in the Conovers' advertisement, there was also a tailor shop there by 1835.⁹⁰ Despite this activity, the hamlet appears to have begun losing the battle to Sergeantsville during the 1840s. According to Barber and Howell's 1844 history:

Sergeantsville...contains a store, tavern, and a few mechanics; a neat Methodist church, lately erected of stone, and stuccoed; and about a dozen dwellings. Head Quarters, 6 miles from Flemington, contains a store, 2 grist mills and 8 dwellings.⁹¹

There was no mention of a tavern at Headquarters, further evidence of its discontinuation. A notice in a February 1844 newspaper reports that an unspecified store in "Head Quarters" would be closing:

A Public Sale: Will be held at Head Quarters, Delaware Township, on next Wednesday, 6th March, of Store Goods, 2 horses, four wagons, 4 setts Harness, Sled and Sleigh, 3 Stoves, and fixtures of the store. Sale positive to close the concern. Liberal credit given. Sale to commence at 9 o'clock, A.M. Feb 28, 1844, A. W. Rose.⁹²

Nevertheless, commercial enterprise in the hamlet, in the form of a general store, would continue to persist into the 20th century. In May 1844 another newspaper notice listed "Conovers' Store, Head Quarters" as a place to receive wool to be conveyed to a spinning mill elsewhere.⁹³ In 1847, the hamlet could boast a doctor in the neighborhood when Doctor Justus Lessey moved to a house on the main road.⁹⁴ The two Conover brothers dissolved their partnership in 1849, with Elias reportedly choosing to continue the business.⁹⁵ The 1850 census reveals something about the variety of occupations represented in the hamlet at that time. Farmers included: Elias Conover, who was listed as owning no real estate; William Moore and his son, William; Richard Sheppherd; and John Green. William Swearer, age 25, was listed as a shoemaker; Manuel Green, also 25, was a blacksmith, as were both his 19-year old brother, John, and a boarder names Charles Woodruff. The 52-year old Richard Horn was a cooper. John Conover, 56, listed himself as a merchant, and, with \$15,000 of real estate, was the wealthiest in the group.⁹⁶ An 1851 county map identifies a gristmill, Conover's Store, a cooper shop, and about a dozen houses. The map also includes a notation, "Symptoms of Copper and Iron," in the vicinity of the gristmill, although nothing evidently ever came from these signs.⁹⁷

⁸⁹ Frank T. Dale, *Bridges over the Delaware River A History of Crossings*, p. 14.

⁹⁰ Goodspeed, 2007, p. 6.

⁹¹ John W. Barber and Henry Howe, *Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey*, p. 246

⁹² Quoted in Goodspeed, 2007, p. 6.

⁹³ *Hunterdon Gazette*, quoted in Goodspeed, 2007, p. 6.

⁹⁴ HC Deeds, Book 87, p. 412.

⁹⁵ Goodspeed, "Headquarters Farm," p. 6. The 1850 census identified John Conover as a merchant, suggesting that it was he, not Elias, who continued the business.

⁹⁶ United States Census, Delaware Township, 1850.

⁹⁷ Samuel C. Cornell, *Map of Hunterdon County*, 1851.

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The year 1854 witnessed the death of John Conover and the unexpected disclosure that he had secretly mortgaged the mill property. His verbal will in April of that year bequeathed “all the property personal and real” to his brother Elias. However, in order to pay John’s debts, the mill property was sold at a sheriff’s sale in 1855, where Elias paid \$7,800 to purchase it. Census data for 1860 indicates that the Headquarters gristmill was being operated by William Greenman, age 53, who was a member of Elias Conover’s household. Greenman had \$1,000 of capital invested in the mill; he employed one hand earning \$22 per month; and he manufactured products valued at \$300. The mill was idle four months during the year. In contrast, Green Sergeant’s mill two miles west of Headquarters did custom work valued at \$9,400 that year. Not only was the Headquarters mill declining in business, the Conover store had evidently closed. An 1860 map indicates the hamlet’s store had moved to the south side of the main road, to a building that has not survived.⁹⁸ The map shows little growth in the hamlet over the previous ten years. In addition to the gristmill and store, the map notes only two other businesses in Headquarters, Manuel Green’s blacksmithy and a wheelwright shop. The number of dwellings remained about the same.

Elias Conover’s business problems increased and, in 1861, his property was sold at a sheriff’s sale to John A. Carrell, a prosperous farmer and great-grandson of John Opdycke, who already owned a nearby farm just north of Headquarters.⁹⁹ Census information from 1860 indicates Carrell was 50 years old, living with his wife, Amy, and his nine children. His real estate was valued at an impressive \$29,000 and he had personal possessions worth \$2,535. Carrell continued to operate the gristmill. Ten years later he employed one hand, possibly his son Joseph, and produced \$1,300 in custom work during twelve months of operation.¹⁰⁰ That year, Carrell, who reported real estate valued at \$25,450, was living with his wife and his five oldest children. His son Joseph, who was 26 in 1870, was head of a household that included his 24-year old brother and three of his sisters. Development continued to stagnate in the farming hamlet, and 1870 industrial census data lists only the Green blacksmithy in addition to the gristmill.

The 1873 county atlas indicates that John Carrell had acquired additional properties within the hamlet, at least some of which he leased out. He rented one dwelling on the main road to a shoemaker and then converted part of the building into a store, which continued in business under several different proprietors well into the 20th century.¹⁰¹ Carrell reconstructed his mill in 1877 according to a date stone inscribed, “Rebuilt 1877/ J.A.C.” Supplementing the unreliable waterpower, he installed steam machinery to run the gristmill and an adjacent sawmill. The 1880 industrial census reports a dramatic increase in mill activity, even though Carrell operated the sawmill on a half-time basis. He used two circular saws driven by a 30-horsepower steam engine and used mostly his own logs. His son Joseph operated the gristmill, ten months fulltime and two months haltime, and had \$8,000 capital invested in it. The mill was equipped with three run of stones with a 50-bushel maximum capacity. There was also a grain elevator. The young Carrell utilized a 28 horsepower Eureka Turbine, and turned out \$13,000 in products for the year. Joseph

⁹⁸ S.N. Beers, *Map of Philadelphia and Trenton Vicinity*, Philadelphia: C.K. Stone & A. Pomeroy, 1860; United States Census for Delaware Township, 1860.

⁹⁹ Bush, “Headquarters.”

¹⁰⁰ United States Census, *Products of Industry*, Delaware Township, 1870.

¹⁰¹ Bush, “Headquarters.”

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now lived with his wife, Mary, and a young daughter. In his 1881 county history, Snell reported that Headquarters consisted of:

a store, steam saw- and grist-mill, shoe-shop, blacksmith-and wagon-shop of Manuel Green and about a dozen dwellings. The principal part of the property, including old Headquarters, is now owned by John A. Carroll [sic].¹⁰²

Snell noted also that the mill “does a fair amount of business.”¹⁰³ A post office was established in the hamlet in 1887, and the community was officially renamed “Grover,” presumably after then President Grover Cleveland.¹⁰⁴

It is remarkable that Carrell was able to reassemble much of the property that had been sold off from his great-grandfather John Opdycke’s original tract. The enterprising Carrell continued to develop his business pursuits and also built a stone storehouse north of the mansion.¹⁰⁵ He died in 1895 and was later remembered as:

. . . a successful farmer, owning much property and understanding how to make the business pay. In his later years [Carrell] was noted for raising champion hogs. Those far-famed animals were the crowning glory of his agricultural achievements.¹⁰⁶

Carrell’s will bequeathed each of his nine children an equal part of his estate. Seven real estate transactions in March 1897 disposed of the estate, with much of the property sold to various members of the family.¹⁰⁷ His son Joseph purchased 31.24 acres comprising the mill, the “mansion house” and the storehouse. Joseph’s brother John purchased the adjoining property to the north, with rights to access and use the water in the headrace on the mill property. According to a 1901 report, Joseph Carrell remodeled the house; however the accompanying photograph shows minimal apparent exterior changes when compared to a photograph taken c. 1889, with the exception of the removal of the pent roof at the gable end.¹⁰⁸ Also visible in the 1901 photograph is what appears to be a tall metal flue at the west end of the mill, where the steam engine was evidently located.

The 1900 census listed Joseph Carrell’s occupation as farmer, an indication that by the turn of the century the mill business had become a sideline as his interests evidently turned toward raising champion hogs.¹⁰⁹ The Grover post office closed in 1905 but the local general store, relocated to the north side of the

¹⁰² Snell, p. 376.

¹⁰³ Snell, p. 386.

¹⁰⁴ John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr., *New Jersey Postal History*, p. 76.

¹⁰⁵ Bush, “Headquarters.” The date 1888 given for the storehouse in the original Headquarters Historic District National Register nomination is in error based on the stone embedded in the building’s south wall inscribed “J. A. C. / 1868.”

¹⁰⁶ Bush, “Headquarters.”

¹⁰⁷ HC Deeds, Book 247, p. 678; Book 247, p. 680; Book 247, p. 695; Book 248, p. 4; Book 248, p. 6; Book 248, p. 12; Book 248, p. 67.

¹⁰⁸ J. J. Hoppock, “Washington’s Headquarters, July, 1777,” *The Democrat-Advisor*, October 31, 1901; Opdyke, p. 218.

¹⁰⁹ Bush, “Headquarters.”

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road, continued to operate until 1958.¹¹⁰ Although commercial activity continued to stagnate, the population remained relatively stable. A county map from 1902 shows the hamlet, still known at that time as Grover, with the same basic configuration.¹¹¹

In 1908, C.W. Larison, M.D., addressing the annual meeting of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, gave a philosophical context to the decline of the hamlet, like that of other similar communities throughout the county:

So much for mills and their accessories and so much for environing [sic] institutions necessary to a developing young settlement which has survived its turn and passed away or else is still serving the purpose for which it was built growing less useful as time passing and is slowly but surely gliding into the inevitable in which all things begin, endure for a while and then end.¹¹²

Efforts to operate the mill continued into the 20th century. In 1913, Christian Jurgensen endeavored to use the mill to grind corn into cattle feed. Evidently eschewing the steam engine, he attempted to use water-power but found that the millpond did not provide sufficient water to operate the mill on a daily basis.¹¹³ By 1929 the mill was idle.¹¹⁴ The old White Hall tavern had been torn down a few years earlier.¹¹⁵ Only the corner store remained as a community focal point.

Headquarters was named an “historic area” by a resolution of the Delaware Township Committee, which effectively:

. . . put the final touch on a successful campaign by Headquarters area residents to stop a planned major widening of county route 604 through the village. . . . The group got the Freeholders to agree last week to make the rebuilt road through Headquarters 20 feet wide instead of the originally planned 24 feet.¹¹⁶

While not a local historic district protected by municipal ordinance, Headquarters has retained its rural, agricultural character throughout the remainder of the 20th century, and in recent decades village properties have been rehabilitated and their historic character has been well maintained. Although some development has encroached, particularly from the northwest, cutting off several scattered 19th century dwellings from the historic crossroads cluster, the district’s historic landscape has survived largely intact. The significance and integrity of the Headquarters Mill Historic District will be substantially enhanced with the addition of the millpond and dam that comprise the Headquarters Mill Historic District Boundary Increase.

¹¹⁰ *Hunterdon County Democrat*, November 11, 1999.

¹¹¹ Pugh & Downing, Civil Engineers, *Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, 1902. The map does not depict several buildings that existed after 1902, such as the old tavern; perhaps they were vacant at the time.

¹¹² Quoted in “Headquarters-Delaware Township,” p. 2.

¹¹³ “Headquarters-Delaware Township,” p. 1.

¹¹⁴ Bush, “Headquarters.”

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.* The stones from the old tavern were reportedly used for a construction project elsewhere on the owners’ property.

¹¹⁶ “Headquarters Is Now ‘Historic’” clipping from an unidentified 1981 newspaper.

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LATITUDE/LONGITUDE COORINATES

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. 40°26'28.5"N | 74°55'32.6"W |
| 2. 40°26'28.8"N | 74°55'27.4"W |
| 3. 40°26'36.0"N | 74°55'30.8"W |
| 4. 40°26'34.7"N | 74°55'39.3"W |
| 5. 40°26'33.4"N | 74°55'39.1"W |
| 6. 40°26'32.1"N | 74°55'33.6"W |

NARRATIVE BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase is delineated on the attached map entitled "Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase Site Location and Boundary Map," and is verbally described in the following paragraphs. A survey map entitled "Headquarters Mill Pond Minor Boundary Adjustment," prepared by Cornerstone Land Surveying and dated August 10, 2015, was used as the base map.

The boundary of the Boundary Increase begins in Delaware Township at the northwest corner of Block 40, Lot 5, also the southeast corner of block 40, lot 4, a point in the west boundary line of the Headquarters Historic District and runs west along the north side of block 40, lot 6 to the northwest corner of that lot, also a southeast corner of Block 40, Lot 7. The Increase boundary proceeds west across block 40, lot 7 along at straight-line continuation of the north side of block 40, lot 6 to a point in the subdivision line dividing the northeastern portion of block 40, lot 7 (the mill pond and dam) from the remainder of block 40, lot 7 (the southwestern portion that includes a house and two outbuildings) as delineated on the "Headquarters Mill Pond Minor Boundary Adjustment" map. From that last-mentioned point, the Increase boundary proceeds north and west along the several course of the division line between the two portions of block 40, lot 7 to the west line that lot. From there the Increase boundary runs north along the west side of lot 7 to that lot's northwest corner. It then runs east and south and the north and east sides of lot 7 to the northwest corner of block 40, lot 4, also the northeast corner of the boundary of the Headquarters Historic District boundary. From that point the Increase boundary proceeds south along the Historic District boundary and the west side of block 40, lot 4 to the southeast corner of that lot and the northwest corner of block 40, lot 5, the place of beginning.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase
Hunterdon County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 2

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase are delineated to include the integral elements of the hydrosystem associated the Headquarters mill that were not included in the original district, located on the northeastern half of block 40, lot 7, while excluding non-contributing resources around it. To that purpose the Boundary Increase boundary follows the proposed subdivision line of block 40, lot 7, which separates the northeastern half of lot 7 with the mill pond and dam from the southwestern half of the lot with the mid 20th-century house and outbuilding (which date outside the historic district's period of significance), except for a short section of the south line of the Boundary Increase, which follows a line of convenience across the northeastern half of the lot to exclude a mid 20th-century garage.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase
Hunterdon County, NJ

Section number Photos Page 1

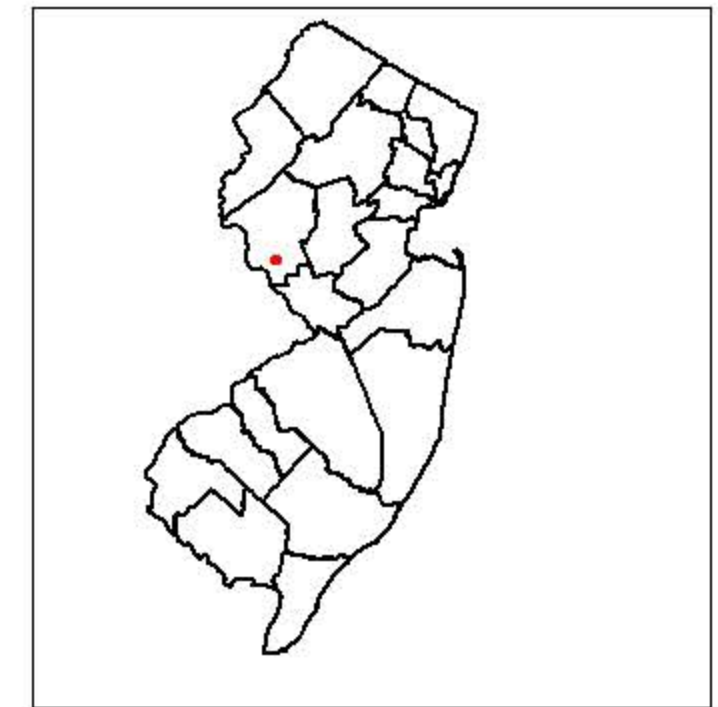
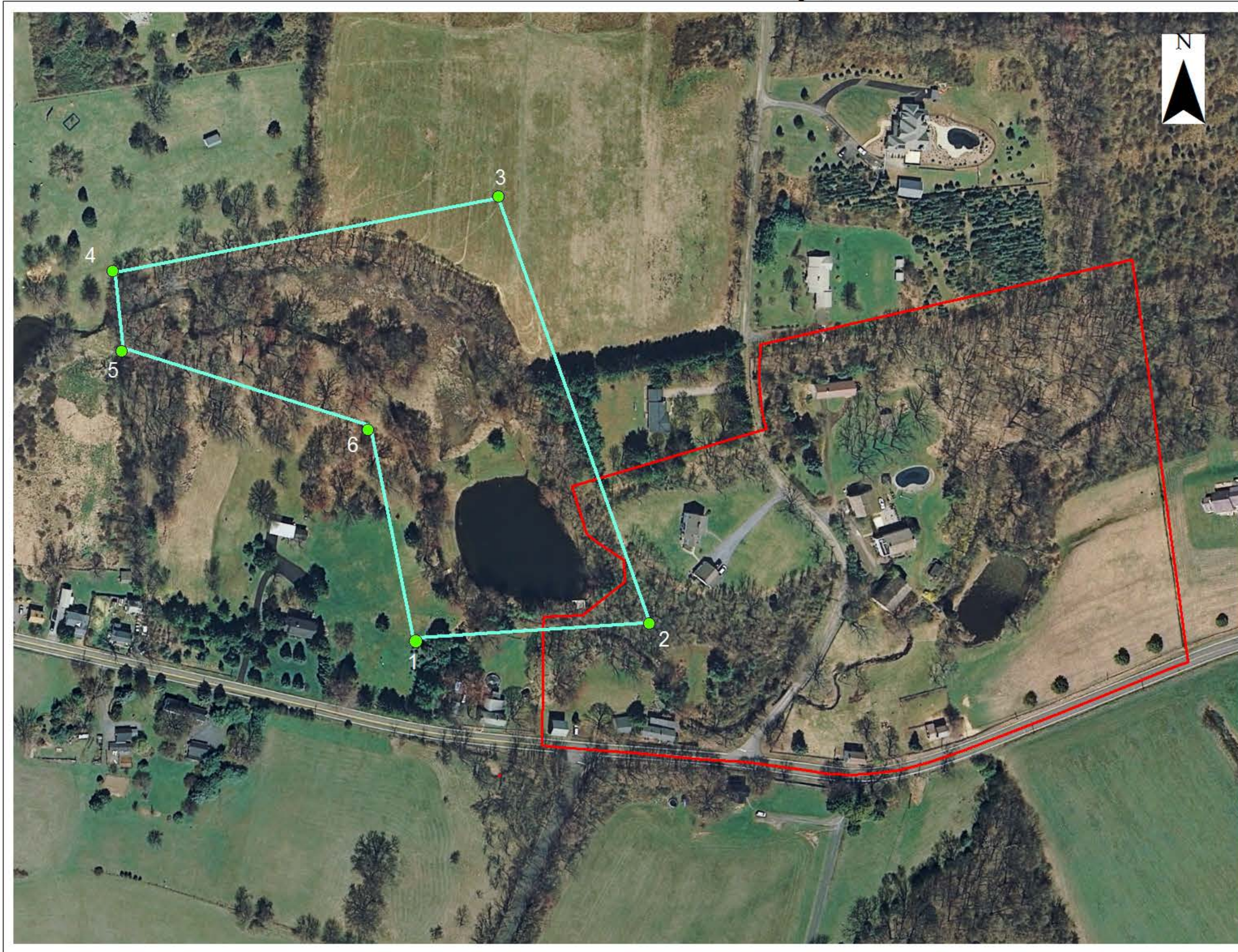
PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION

The following information is the same for all photographs submitted with the nomination:

Name: Headquarters Historic District
Location: Delaware Township, NJ
Photographer: Dennis Bertland
Date: April 2015
Negative Repository: Dennis Bertland Associates

PHOTO #	INVENTORY #	DIRECTION OF VIEW
1	1	Southeast, pond, dam & main spillway
2	1	Northwest, dam & main spillway
3	1 & 2	Northwest, dam, main spillway & retaining wall
4	2	Northwest, retaining wall
5	1	Northwest, pond from main spillway
6	1	North, pond from east end of dam
7	1	Northwest, across pond towards adjoining house
8	1	Northeast, across pond towards Headquarters HD
9	1	Southeast, stream, pond, & dam/spillways
10		Northeast, garage south of boundary increase

Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase Hunderton County, NJ



UTMs

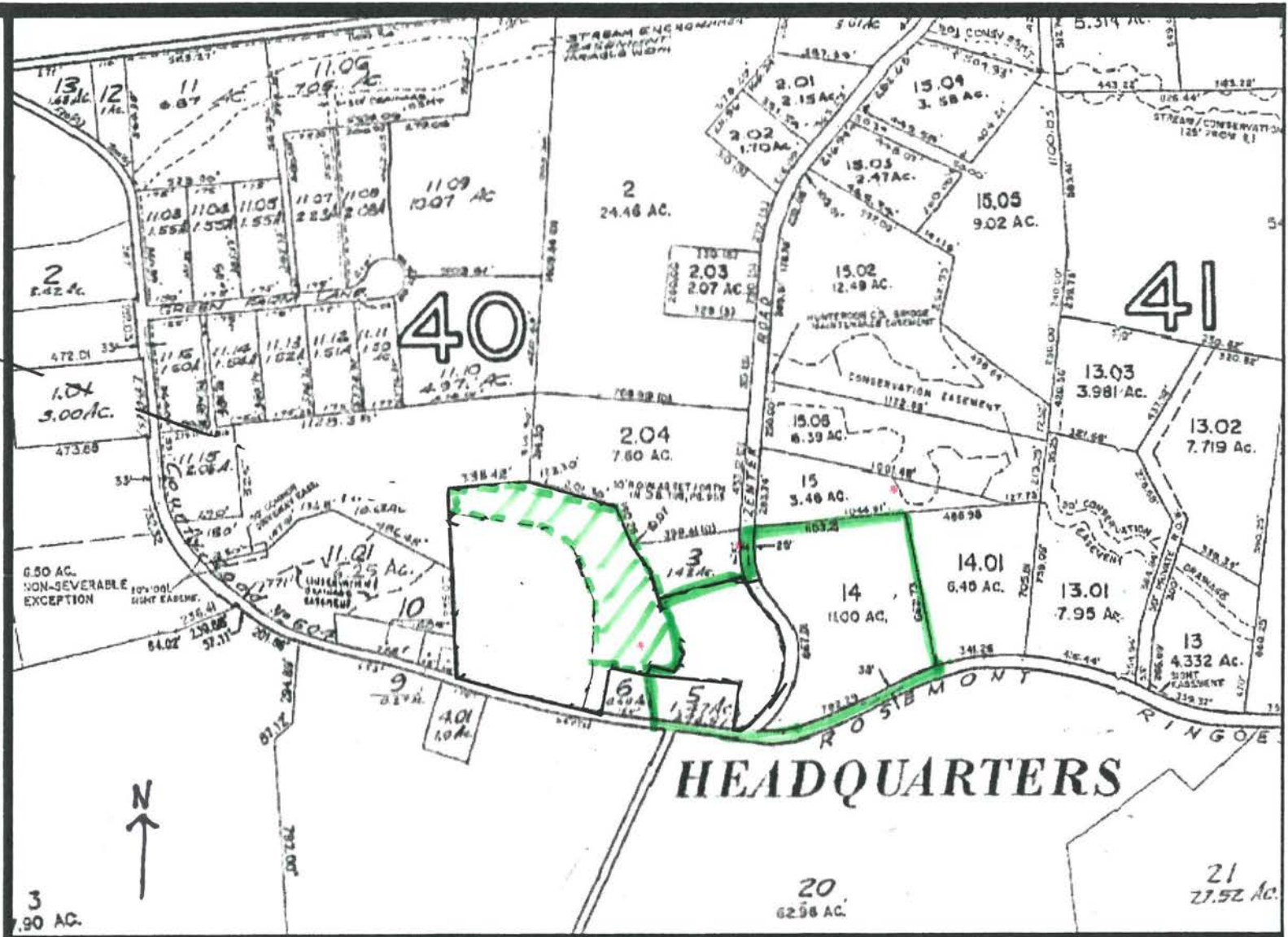
- 1 - 40°26'28.5"N 74°55'32.6"W
- 2 - 40°26'28.8"N 74°55'27.4"W
- 3 - 40°26'36.0"N 74°55'30.8"W
- 4 - 40°26'34.7"N 74°55'39.3"W
- 5 - 40°26'33.4"N 74°55'39.1"W
- 6 - 40°26'32.1"N 74°55'33.6"W

0.1

Miles

Legend

-  Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase
-  Headquarter Historic District



Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase
 Hunterdon County, NJ

- Headquarters HD Boundary
- - - - - Headquarters HD Boundary Increase



APPROVED BY THE DELAWARE TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD

DATE: _____

BY: _____
CHAIRMAN

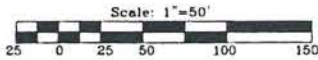
Headquarters Historic District Boundary Increase Hunterdon County, NJ Site Location and Photo Identification Map

- Contributing Site #
- Photo # and Direction of View

- Headquarters HD Boundary
- Headquarters HD Boundary Increase

ZONING DISTRICT A-1
INFORMATION FOR SINGLE FAMILY DETACHED USE
MINIMUM SIZE OF TRACT: 3.0 ACRES
MINIMUM LOT AREA: 3.0 ACRES
MINIMUM LOT WIDTH: 250 FEET
MINIMUM LOT DEPTH: 400 FEET
PRINCIPAL BLDG. MINIMUM YARD SETBACKS:
FRONT: 50 FEET
SIDE: 50 FEET
REAR: 100 FEET
ACCESSORY BUILDING MINIMUM YARD SETBACKS:
< 500 SQ. FT.: 10 FEET
> 500 SQ. FT. - 900 SQ. FT.: 50 FEET

CURVE	RADIUS	ARC LENGTH	CHORD LENGTH	CHORD BEARING	DELTA ANGLE
C1	74.83'	48.12'	47.23'	S 15°37'22" E	35°57'29"
C2	230.00'	158.06'	154.97'	S 22°32'37" W	39°22'29"

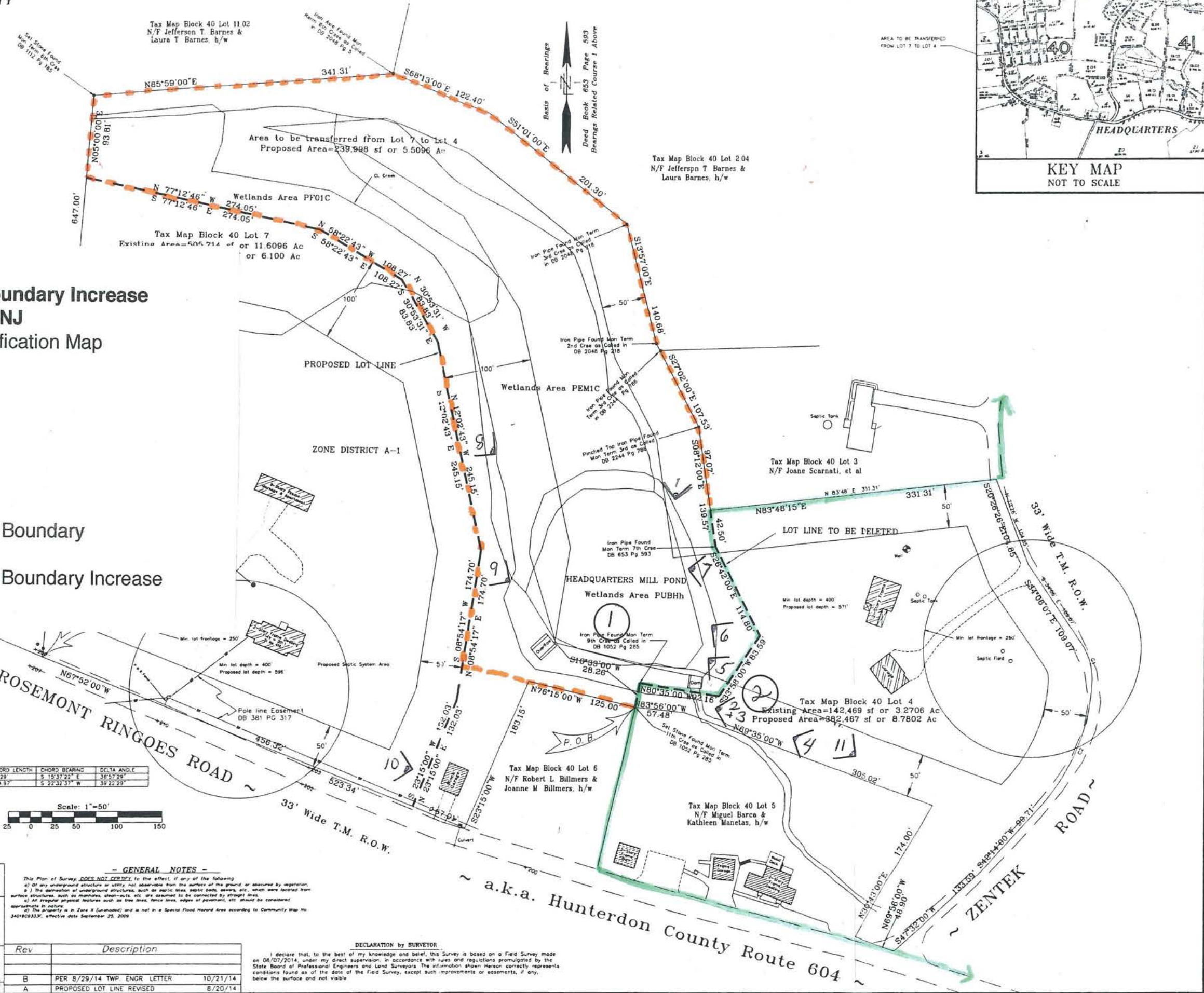


OWNER & APPLICANT:
MR. ROGER BYROM
HEADQUARTERS FARM
6 ZENTEK ROAD
HEADQUARTERS, NEW JERSEY 08559-1508

DESIGNED BY CLS	DRAWN BY NL	CHECKED BY CLS	HEADQUARTERS MILL POND MINOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT		
APPROVED CLS		REVISIONS NO. DATE			
CYNTHIA LYNNE SKORIAK		A 8/28/14 B 10/21/14	BLOCK 40, LOT 7 BLOCK 40, LOT 3 DELAWARE TOWNSHIP		
			HUNTERDON COUNTY NEW JERSEY		
			CORNERSTONE LAND SURVEYING POST OFFICE BOX 146		
			DURHAM PENNSYLVANIA 18039		
			NJ CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION NO.		
SCALE 1" = 50'	DATE AUGUST 10, 2015	DRAWING NO. 1180-1	SHEET NO. 1 OF 1		

GENERAL NOTES
- This Plan of Survey DOES NOT CERTIFY to the effect, if any, of the following:
a) Of any underground structure or utility not observable from the surface of the ground, or obscured by vegetation.
b) The determination of underground structures, such as septic lines, septic tanks, etc., which were located from surface structures, such as manholes, clean-outs, etc. are assumed to be connected by straight lines.
c) All irregular physical features such as tree lines, fence lines, edges of pavement, etc. should be considered approximate in nature.
d) The property is in Zone II (Unshaded) and is not in a Special Flood Hazard Area according to Community Map No. 340100333K, effective date September 25, 2009.

DECLARATION BY SURVEYOR
I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, this Survey is based on a Field Survey made on 08/07/2014, under my direct supervision, in accordance with laws and regulations promulgated by the State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. The information shown hereon correctly represents conditions found as of the date of the Field Survey, except such improvements or easements, if any, below the surface and not visible.



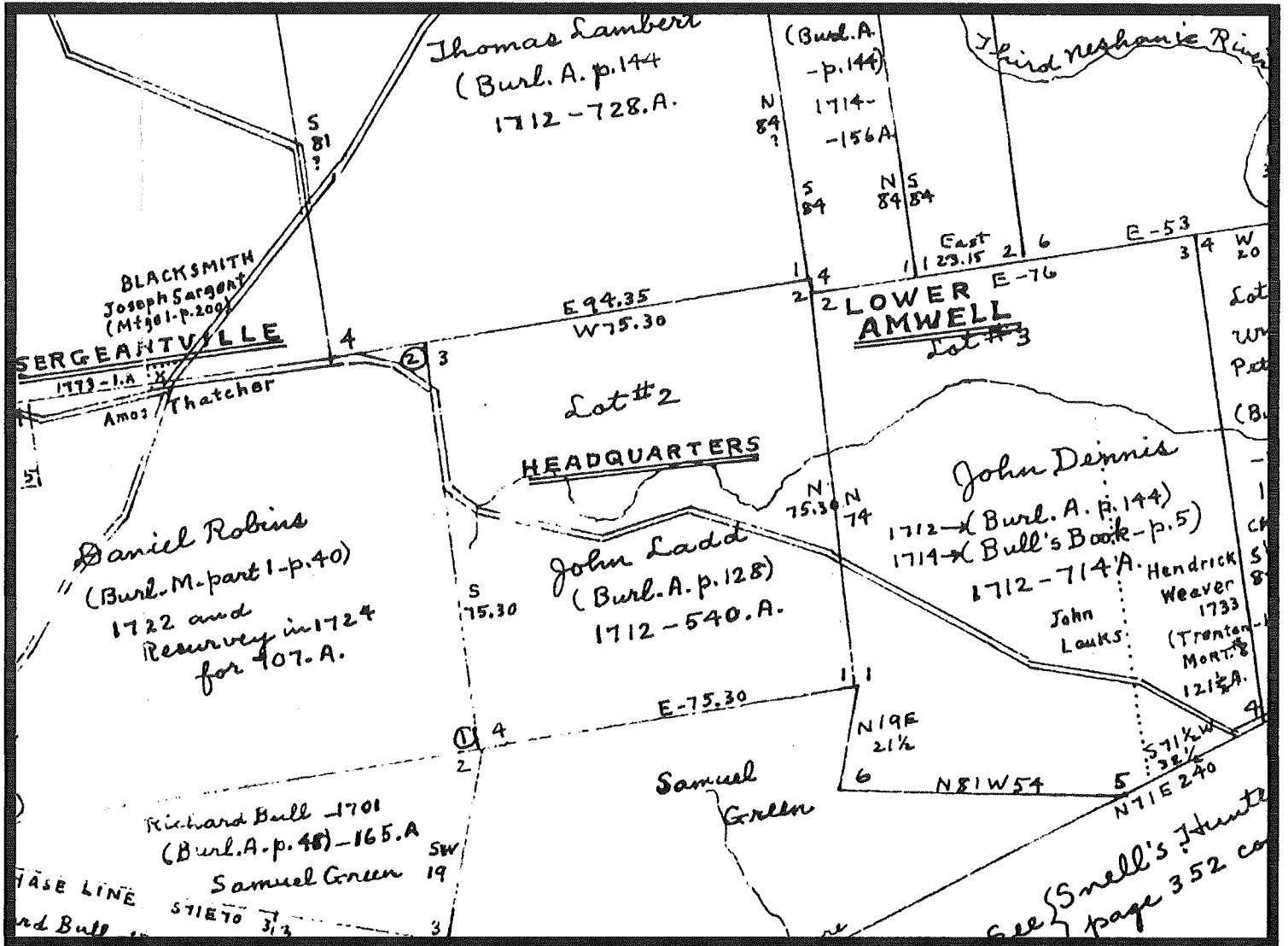


Figure 1. Hammond, D. Stanton. "Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Sheet C, Map Series #4." Genealogical Society of New Jersey, 1965.



Figure 2. Cornell, Samuel C. *Map of Hunterdon County*. 1851.

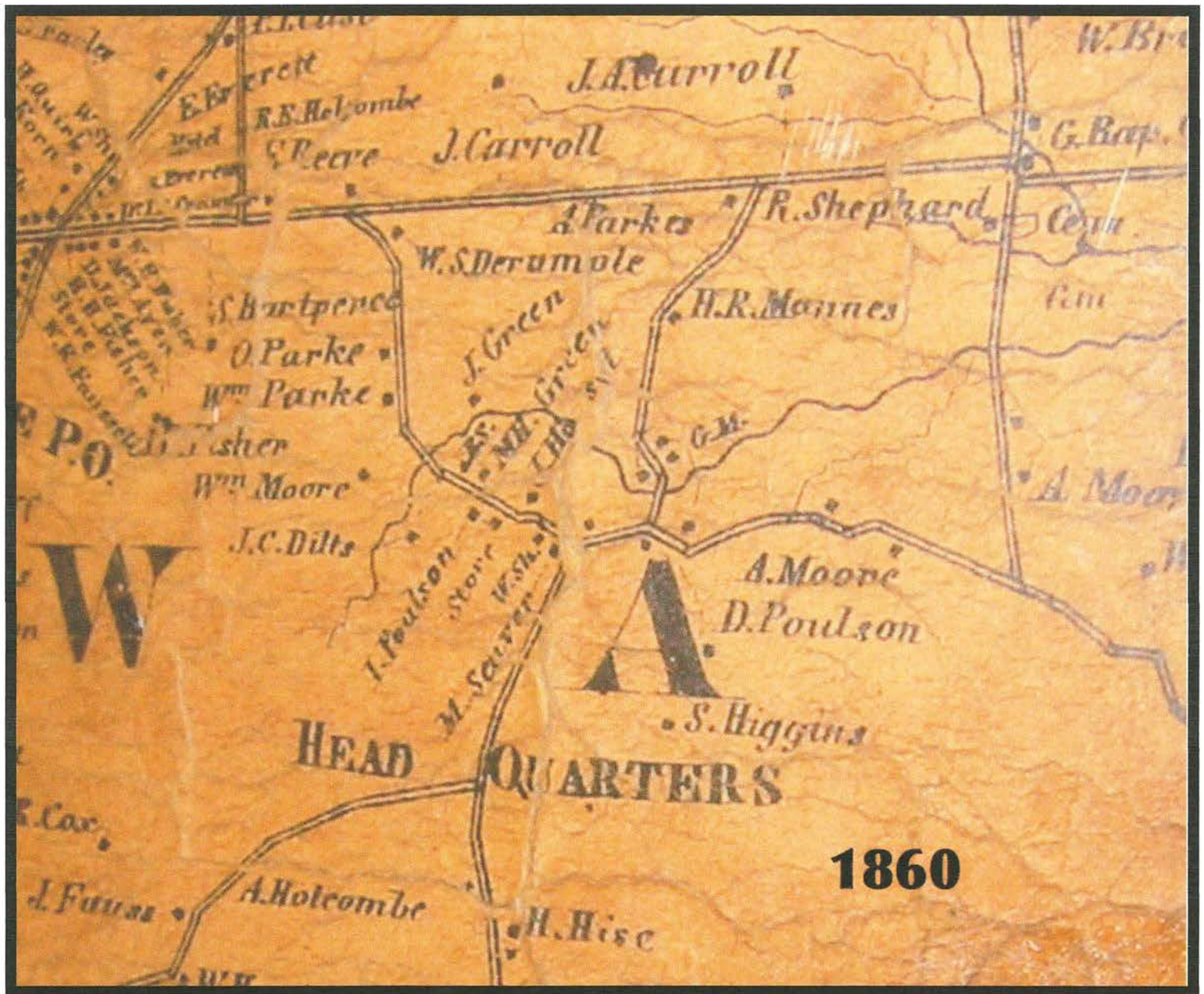


Figure 3. Beers, S.N. *Map of Philadelphia and Trenton Vicinity*. Philadelphia: C.K. Stone & A. Pomeroy, 1860.



Figure 4. Beers, F.W. *Atlas of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*. 1873.

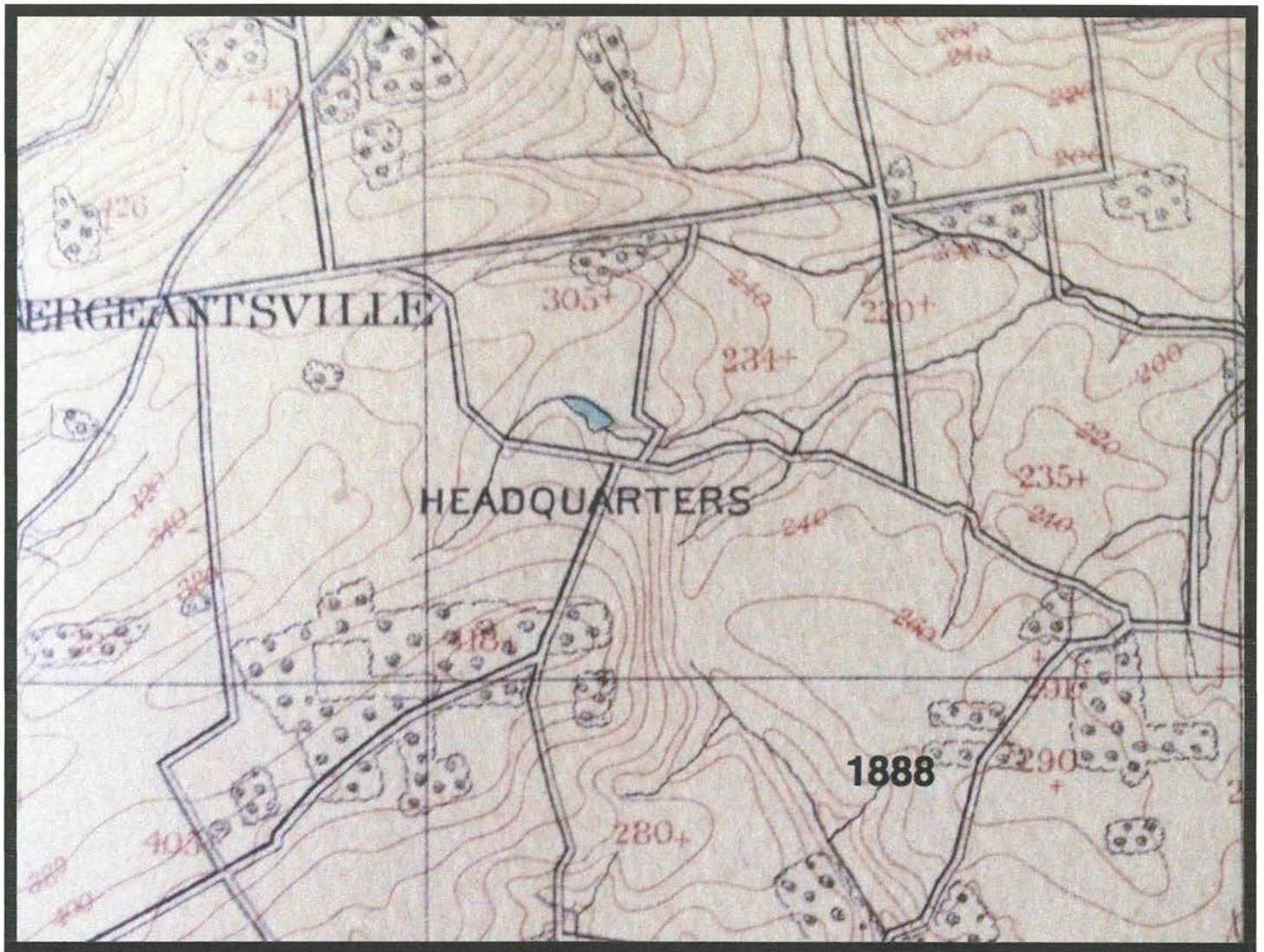


Figure 5. “A Topographic Map of the Vicinity of Flemington, Atlas Sheet No. 5,” George H. Cook, State Geologist, and C.C. Vermeule, Topographer, *Geological Survey of New Jersey*, State of New Jersey, 1888.

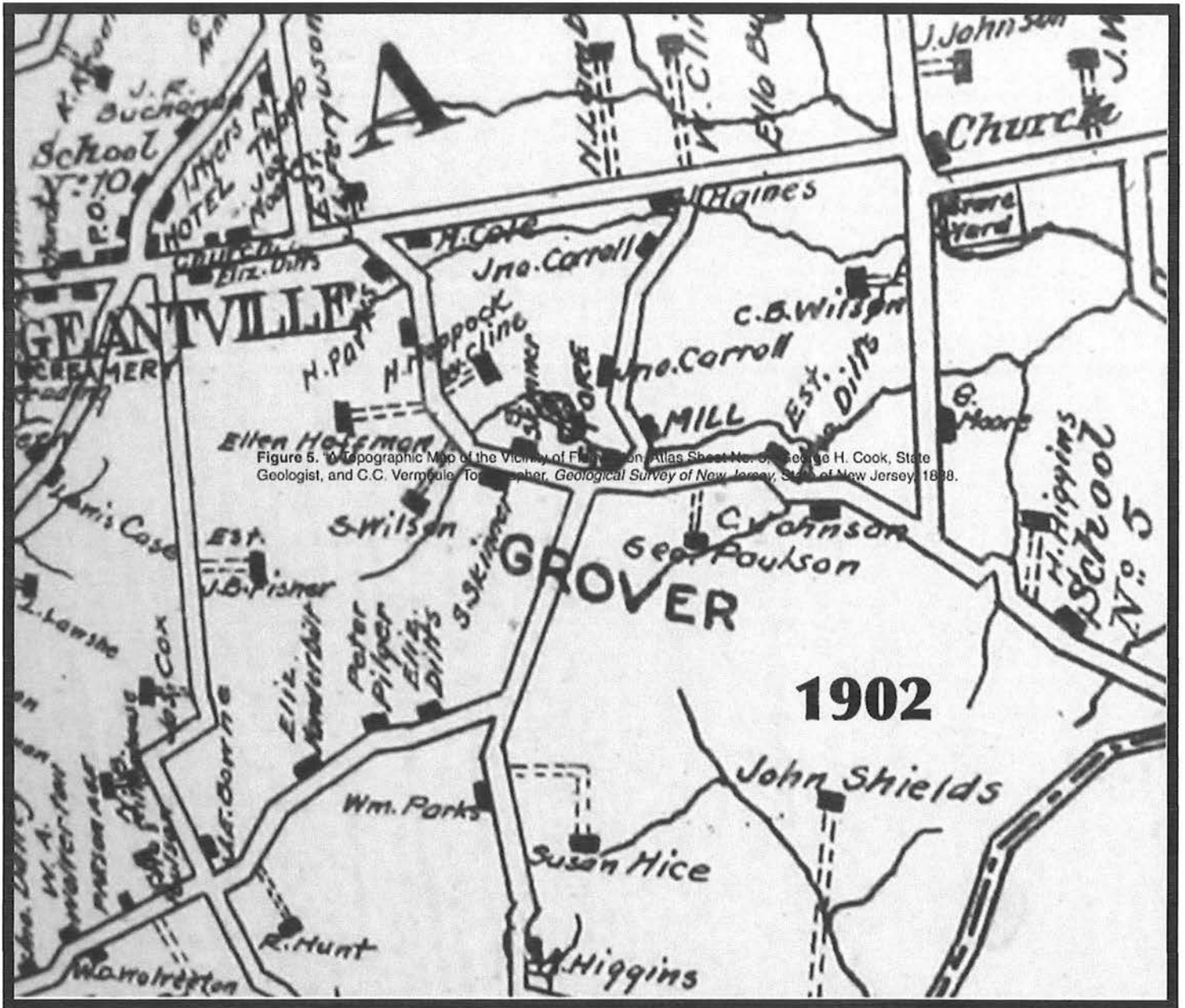


Figure 6. Pugh & Downing, Civil Engineers. *Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*. Philadelphia: Hicks, 1902.



Figure 7. Headquarters Mills, South view, circa 1900.























National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.



Project # 15-2002
HPO-I2015-399

RECEIVED 2280

OCT - 2 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

State of New Jersey

MAIL CODE 501-04B

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

TEL. (609) 984-0176 FAX (609) 984-0578

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

September 28, 2015

Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase), Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey.

This nomination has received unanimous approval from the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. All procedures were followed in accordance with regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Daniel D. Saunders, Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail code 501-04B, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420, or call him at (609) 633-2397.

Sincerely,

Rich Boornazian
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

RECEIVED 2280

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OCT - 2 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Rosemont-Ringoes Road (County Route 604), Zentek Road not for publication

city or town Delaware Township vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Hunterdon code 019 zip code 08557

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Rich Brown Asst. Commissioner 9/28/15
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

NJ DEP
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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:) _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW JERSEY, Hunterdon

DATE RECEIVED: 10/02/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/28/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/12/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/17/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000798

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 11/17/15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Return
REVIEWER W. J. ... DISCIPLINE H. J. ...
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 11/17/15

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Comments
Evaluation/Return Sheet**

Property Name: Headquarters H.D. Boundary Increase

Property Location: Hunterdon Co., NJ

Reference Number: 15000798

Date of Return: 11/17/15

Nomination Summary: The boundary increase for the Headquarters Historic District includes approximately 5.5 acres of the mill's hydro-system--a milldam and pond, and a stone retaining wall. These resources contribute to the period of significance of 1851-1929 and to the area of significance of industry.

Issues: The nomination is being returned for technical issues. Amended registration forms should clearly indicate items that are affected by the proposed change and geographical data should include only information related to the area being added.

While the boundary increase includes two structures and one site—these resources support Criterion A under industry. The nomination form indicated Criterion C. Please correct.

Count the milldam and the wall as contributing structures; the millpond as a contributing site.

In Section 8, it is unclear whether the information presented is amending the original nomination with new contextual information or repeating what was in the original nomination. If additional contextual information is presented, then the historic name in Section 1 should also include "Additional Documentation" along with "Boundary Increase." In Section 8, provide a heading for information that is now revised and updated.

Provide either UTM's or Decimal Degrees only for the area being added.

Please e-mail me at Lisa_Deline@nps.gov if you have any questions.



Project # 15-2002
HPO-L2015-083

Resub

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DEC 24 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

State of New Jersey

MAIL CODE 501-04B

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

TEL. (609) 984-0176 FAX (609) 984-0578

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

December 11, 2015

Lisa Deline
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Deline:

The New Jersey Historic Preservation Office is re-submitting the National Register nomination for the Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation), in Hunterdon County, New Jersey—National Register reference number 15000798, for National Register consideration. The nomination was previously submitted as the Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase) and was returned for technical issues. All changes have been made in compliance with your recommendations.

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact Bob Craig by email at bob.craig@dep.state.nj.us or by phone at (609) 984-0541.

Sincerely,

Rich Boornazian
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase)

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW JERSEY, Hunterdon

DATE RECEIVED: 12/24/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/08/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000798

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/8/16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

additional documented accepted!

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER USA Delme

DISCIPLINE H.A.

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 2/8/16

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N