

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JAN 24 1985
date entered FEB 21 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name William Tally House

historic William Tally House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1813 Foulk Road not for publication

city, town Wilmington vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Delaware code county New Castle code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Foulk Road Medical Center

street & number 1805 Foulk Road

city, town Wilmington vicinity of state Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New Castle County Registry of Deeds

street & number 800 French Street

city, town Wilmington state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Cultural Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June 17, 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records New Castle Co. Dept. of Planning

city, town Newark state Delaware

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William Talley House stands about 200 feet back from the northwest corner of the intersection of Foulk Road and Silverside Road in Brandywine Hundred. Trees and other buildings make the house (A) invisible to motorists on Foulk Road.

The main section of the house is the historically and architecturally significant section. It is two and a half stories high, and cedar shingles cover its steep pitch gable roof. Two rectangular inside end brick chimneys covered with stucco project through the gable peak.

This section of the house is a one room deep rectangular shape built of uncoursed fieldstone. The facade is four bays wide with four windows on the second floor. The two central bays on the first floor contain doors and the exterior bays contain windows. All facade windows are six over six double hung sash. Panelled shutters enclose the first floor windows; the second floor windows have louvered blinds. All shutters and blinds are held in place with iron S-shaped shutter holders.

A small one-story entrance porch with a shed roof supported by square wooden posts covers the two central bays. Neither the porch nor the present entrance doors are original to the house. The doors were a part of the 1940s alteration and have glass in the upper half. Up until that time there were heavy oak doors in the openings. Those doors were removed and subsequently burned in a 1967 barn fire. However, the door frames are not the same size, have different types of thresholds, and different trim. The door to the south appears to be later than the other.

The only windows in the north and south ends of the house are two small ones in each gable peak. A shed roof addition with a large shed roof dormer extends at the north end of the house. The first floor of this addition is covered with stucco and the second floor is covered with cedar shakes. A one story passageway connects this addition to the well house. The well house (age uncertain) is a one story rectangular building covered with German siding. It has a cedar shingled gable roof.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1770 **Builder/Architect** William Talley (Builder)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The main section of the William Talley House is a stone farmhouse built about 1770. As a one room deep, two room wide house it embodies and retains the distinctive architectural characteristics and construction methods of the late 18th century Pennsylvania and Northern Delaware farmhouse. It is therefore architecturally significant under Criterion C. William Talley was a member of one of the families which purchased Brandywine Hundred land in the 17th century. He and his descendants lived in the house and made their living from the land around it. Subsequently, other farmers purchased the property and eventually sold off lots leaving the present house and outbuildings. This reduction of a large agricultural property to its present house and lot is typical of many former farms. The excellent condition of the William Talley house and barn within its setting is a tangible reminder of events which have made a contribution to the broad patterns of history. This also makes it significant under Criterion A.

The William Talley House today has several additions, but the main section of the house was built about 1770 or shortly after Talley married Dinah Stilley. This William Talley was a fifth generation descendant of a man by the same name who acquired large tracts of land in Brandywine Hundred. In 1683 William Penn received a grant for all the land which eventually became the State of Delaware. Penn called most of his land in Brandywine Hundred by the name Rockland Manor. The first William Talley arrived in America in about 1686 and soon purchased a large tract in Rockland Manor. Within a decade he purchased another large tract in the same area. This purchase made him a substantial land owner.

When the younger William Talley married Dinah Stilley in 1768, he acquired from his father the land on which the present house stands. Family records as well as later transactions indicate that William Talley built the house even though he did not live there for the rest of his life. Tradition says that this William Talley cut white oak for a living; logic is on the side of this tradition since the earlier generations of the family had owned a saw mill and because the woodlands of 18th century Brandywine Hundred

9. Major Bibliographical References

Talley, George A. A History of the Talley Family on the Delaware.
Philadelphia. 1899
New Castle County Deed Records.
New Castle County Will Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.36

Quadrangle name. Wilmington North

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

UMT References

A

1	18	4	5	5	85	10	4	14	06	4	90
Zone		Easting				Northing					

B

Zone		Easting				Northing					

C

Zone		Easting				Northing					

D

Zone		Easting				Northing					

E

Zone		Easting				Northing					

F

Zone		Easting				Northing					

G

Zone		Easting				Northing					

H

Zone		Easting				Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

The William Talley House is on a 2.36 acre which is Parcel 06-054.00-044 on the New Castle County Planning Map. Most of the lot is a square piece of land set back about 250 feet from the northwest corner of the intersection of Foulk and

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Priscilla M. Thompson

organization The History Store

date November 6, 1984

street & number 418 North Union St.

telephone (302) 654-1727

city or town Wilmington

state Delaware

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

John R. Ken

title Dir. Div. of Historical & Cult. Affairs

date 2 Jan 85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

2-21-85

Delores Bryan
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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From the rear of the house the addition has the profile of a New England saltbox or lean-to house. This completely modern addition with an outside chimney was built in the 1960s. At the side of this addition and at the rear of the south end of the main stone house is a shed roofed addition of the 1940s which is now a sun porch. It is covered with cedar shakes.

The first floor of the main house is now one large room. Until the 1940s a non-supporting wall divided his in two. A moulded wooden chair rail surrounds the room and the baseboards are narrow with a simple bead for a cap. A plain architrave trim surrounds the windows which have deep wooden sills. Directly opposite the north entrance door is the original back door to the house which has a well worn granite sill. The floors are oak and appear to be quite old or original.

There is a fireplace at each end of the room. The one at the south end has a rectangular opening framed by incised pilasters, a frieze with a band carved to match the pilasters, and a moulded mantel shelf. Cupboards with panelled doors, iron H hinges and latches flank the fireplace. The fireplace at the other end of the room has a rectangular opening framed by very plain pilasters and a simple mantel shelf. A panelled door to the right of the fireplace covers the former woodbox to create a closet. A tightly winding staircase rises to the second floor and descends to the basement at the left of this fireplace.

The stone basement is now one large room. Until the 1960s there was a stone wall dividing it in two, but this was not a supporting wall. There are basement windows along the front and back of the house, an exit to the outdoors at the south end, and arched fireplace bases at both north and south ends. Many joists have been replaced.

The room arrangement on the second floor of this old section of the house is unusual. At the top of the winding staircase there is a small hallway which goes along the back wall of the house to the room at the south end. The room at the north end is in front of the hallway and has windows looking through the facade of the house. A closet has been added to the north bedroom, but otherwise much of the detail appears to be original. There is a simple chair

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rail in both rooms which is similar to that on the first floor. Baseboards, window frames, and other details are also similar to those on the first floor. Both rooms have fireplaces. These are similar to the ones on the first floor in that the mantel in the south room is more elaborate than the one in the north room. The floors are long leaf pine; much seems original with a few replacement sections.

The winding staircase continues to the third floor attic which is now one open space. Insulation and wallboard cover the rafters. The poplar floor has never been refinished and appears to be original.

The additions to the rear and north of the house contain a dining room, kitchen, powder room, and sun porch on the first floor. The second floor addition contains bedrooms and bathrooms.

The barn (B) stands in the south west corner of the property. It is a Pennsylvania type bank barn of uncoursed stone which goes all the way to the peak of the roof. It is almost square in shape with a carriage ramp and entrance at the east side of the front. There are arched entrances to the lower level which probably once contained animal stalls. Nearly all the wooden interior and roof structure burned in a fire in 1967. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Paschall, who owned the house at the time, hired Amish builders from Pennsylvania to rebuild it to match the original. The construction crew actually used the old method of assembling the roof frame on the ground and then raising it to the top of the barn. The barn has a wooden floor, part of the replacement, which is at the level of the carriage entrance. Until about 1960 there was a long carriage shed along the west side of the barn. Its stone foundation remains.

The Garage (C) and utility building (D) appear to have old foundations and have incorporated some old materials. However, they were rebuilt in the renovation of the 1940s and are non-contributing structures.

The lot on which the house stands is about two acres and contains many old trees and other plantings as well as a lawn. Although it is close to the commercial development along Foulk and Silverside Roads, it is shielded from that development by very high hedges.

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probably produced a more valuable product than its rocky soil.

William and Dinah Talley had a large family, and the need for more space may have entered into the decision to sell the house to Captain William Glover in 1795. The deed for the transaction calls William Talley a yeoman, the word the English had used to denote the class of land-holding or free-born farmers who were not of the gentry. The Talleys obviously considered themselves to be of that class in America. The immigrant generation of the Talley family had come from England; they do not appear to have been Quakers, and by mid 18th century they attended Old Swedes Church and other Protestant churches.

Captain William Glover, a mariner from Philadelphia, purchased from William Talley a 135 acre piece of land "together with all and singular the houses, outhouses, buildings, improvements, hereditaments, and appurtenances."² Glover does not appear in the 1800 census of Brandywine Hundred, nor is his will recorded in New Castle County; it is possible that he never lived in the house.

In 1803 Glover sold the property to his son-in-law George Clark. Clark wrote his will in 1811 and referred to the mansion house and plantation on which he then resided. The will also stated that four of Clark's children, George, William, Priscilla, and Letitia were to receive the 135 acres which he had purchased from Glover and to which he also referred as his residence. These four of Clark's children were also tenants in common on this land which indicates that they received title to it before their father's death. The two daughters, Priscilla and Letitia, married Lewis S. Talley and John Talley who were sons of the William Talley who had built the house. Thus the house went from Talley to Glover to Clark and back to Talley.³

In 1816, after George Clark's death, the New Castle County Tax Assessment listed his estate as being 100 acres of land improved with one stone dwelling, barn and stable, plus 50 acres of woodland. Three years later, in 1819 Letitia Clark Talley and her husband John sold the

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share of the house which she had inherited to her sister Priscilla and her husband Lewis S. Talley. In the meantime, William Talley, the builder, had purchased an additional 300 acres in Brandywine Hundred where he built a new house for himself.

In 1819 Priscilla and Lewis S. Talley became the owners of the house which his father had built and 60 acres of land surrounding it. Lewis S. Talley, son of William and Dinah Talley, was born June 8, 1794 and was a travelling Methodist minister. After receiving an injury in a fall he stayed at home, farmed, and became a local minister. Lewis and his wife had a large family in their house at what eventually became known as Talley's Corners. One of their children was Gen. William Cooper Talley who served in the Civil War and eventually published the Delaware County Democrat in Chester, Pennsylvania.

The 1830 Census listed Lewis S. Talley of Brandywine Hundred as having six children. Lewis S. Talley died at the age of 43 in 1847 and was buried in Bethel Cemetery in Brandywine Hundred. In his will he left his house and land to his wife Priscilla with the proviso that she pass it on to their children. Talley was not an extremely rich man at the time he died, but he owned a substantial piece of land. His personal property also had sufficient value that his will specified which pieces of furniture went to which children, all of whom also received some cash.

A few years after Lewis S. Talley's death his heirs sold the house and land to Lewis Zebley. Zebley was about forty years old at the time of the purchase and he farmed the property for nearly ten years. In 1860 the Census listed Zebley as a farmer with real estate worth \$6000 and personal property worth \$1000. He lived on his Brandywine Hundred farm, the William Talley House, with his wife and ten children whose ages went from two to twenty.

Lewis Zebley was a native of Brandywine Hundred who was a carpenter before he became a farmer. Zebley's obituary stated that he had built many of the finest houses and barns in Brandywine Hundred. When he sold the William

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Talley House he opened a lumber business in Wilmington. Zebley ran for several political offices, served as a collector of taxes, Levy Court Commissioner, member of the Board of Education, and member of the Street and Sewer Commission.

In 1868 Lewis Zebley sold the William Talley house to Malachi Barlow. Tenant farmers lived in the house during Barlow's ownership of it. When Barlow died in 1899 his home was on French Street in Wilmington. His will requested that his 69 acre farm or plantation in Brandywine Hundred be sold. Joseph Clark purchased the William Talley House from the estate for \$2850. He lived there and farmed the land until his death in 1937.

Clark operated a pig farm and also did wood cutting. Upon his death, Joseph Clark's property went to his son William and his daughter Carrie. There were 68 acres of land for which the fair market value was placed at \$10,000 and a large inventory of farm equipment. William Clark operated the farm until the 1940s, and gradually sold off the land. He sold the house to Vaile and Frederica Cosler.

When the Coslers purchased the property, they made two small additions to the house which was still in nearly its original state: the main stone house plus a wooden lean-to addition. Until the 1940s the house had never had electricity. Subsequent additions made by the last owners enlarged the house, but made no substantial alterations to the main stone house.

It is difficult to know just when the stone barn which now stands to the south west of the house was built. It is not large, and one half of its front is taken up by a carriage entrance. There are several doors to the lower level which contained animal stalls.

In 1967 all wooden portions of the barn were destroyed by fire leaving only the stone. The wooden sections and roof were then rebuilt by Amish men from Pennsylvania to match the original. This rebuilding returned the barn to the form it had been in before the fire, but it

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is impossible to know what changes might have occurred before that time. In its present form it seems large enough to handle only carriages on the upper level and a few animals on the lower level. It is a bank barn in that it is built into a bank. However, it has no forebay. Lewis Zebley, who occupied the house in mid nineteenth century built many barns in Brandywine Hundred, and barns are mentioned in 1816 tax assessment of George Clark's estate. It is difficult to know which occupant of the house built this barn.

It appears that the agricultural activities here were typical of many farms in Brandywine Hundred before the late 19th century. William Talley and his son Lewis cut lumber which could be taken to the Delaware River by sledge in the winter. They probably also had some livestock and gardens. Early Pennsylvania farmers (and those in northern New Castle County would have been similar) have a reputation for being better farmers than they actually were. Their average per acre production was low, they did not have enough enclosed livestock to use manure extensively, and they did not rotate crops. However, they often owned large tracts of land and substantial houses.

The Talleys, as pioneer families in Brandywine Hundred, multiplied in number and in land holdings over the years. By 1868 the Pomeroy and Beers Atlas showed over twenty Talley families in Brandywine Hundred as well as such settlements as Talleys' Corners and Talleyville. Today, the Wilmington telephone directory lists more than a column of Talleys.

Foulk Road, where the William Talley house stands, is now a busy highway lined with commercial and residential developments. It is a very old road named for John Foulk, an early settler in Brandywine Hundred. Foulk married a Talley, and for more than two centuries members of the two families have lived in the area settled by their ancestors. The William Talley House and barn stand as tangible reminders of early European settlement in Brandywine Hundred.

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Architecturally, there are questions for which we do not have positive answers. The main stone house is substantially in its original state. With its two entrance doors, four rooms, chimneys at each end, one staircase in a corner next to the fireplace, and four windows on the second floor, it neatly fits the description of the "I" house. However, the two doors are of different sizes and are surrounded by panelling of different styles and ages. While this indicates that the south end of the house may have been an addition, it is difficult to substantiate. There is no conclusive evidence of a break in the facade stonework; The partition which once divided the large first floor room was not a supporting wall; the attic floor has no seam in the center. It seems more likely that one door led to a kitchen and the other to a another room with the sleeping chambers above. The north end of the house has a very simple mantel and trim on both first and second floor while the mantel and trim is more detailed on both floors at the south end of the house. There was once a stone dividing wall in the basement, but according to previous owners it was not a supporting wall.

Consideration of the financial status and spatial needs of the owners of the house suggests that they required all four rooms of the original main house. Perhaps Lewis S. Talley or Lewis Zebley made the south end of the house a bit fancier than it had been before. The moulding style suggest that the south doorway might have been cut later to replace a window, perhaps for Lewis S. Talley's widow or when Malachi Barlow used the house for tenant farmers.

The second floor plan is unusual and yet it is difficult to find any but the obvious alterations such as new closets. The inconsistencies in the house probably add to its significance and may in the future answer questions about its history. In the meantime, the William Talley House and barn stand in a surprisingly tranquil setting shielded from the nearby busy highway.

1. George A. Talley. A History of the Talley Family on the Delaware (Philadelphia, 1899) p. 14

2. New Castle County Deed record O-2, page 42, March 24, 1794

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3. New Castle County Will Record Q-1, page 478, 1811
4. Deed REcord X-3, page 97, New Castle County, March 24, 1819
5. New Castle County Will record U-1, p. 482 and 174
6. Morning News, March 9, 1885, p. 1
7. New Castle County Will Record L-2, p. 187 and Folder 7937
8. Conversation with Charles Paschall, previous owner of the house based on his earlier conversations with members of the Talley family.
9. Robert E. Huke and John W. Sommer. A field Guide to the Folk Architecture of the Northeastern United States p.53

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Morning News, March 9, 1885, p. 1

Huke, Robert E, and Sommer, John W. A Field Guide to the Folk Architecture of the Northeastern United States no date. p. 53

1816 New Castle County Tax Records

Historical Society of Delaware Geneological Records

U.S. Census Records 1830, 1850, 1860

Conversation with Charles and Barbara Paschall who owned the house from 1958 to 1954

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Silverside Road. The south side of the square is parallel to Silverside Road and the east side is parallel to Foulk Road. Access to the property is through a 100' foot wide and 200' long driveway from Foulk Road.



LEGEND

BASE MAP PREPARED BY
 L ROBERT KIMBALL
 Consulting Engineers
 EBENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

MAP LOCATION

42	43	44
53	54	55
66	67	68

Property Map
 New Castle County, Delaware

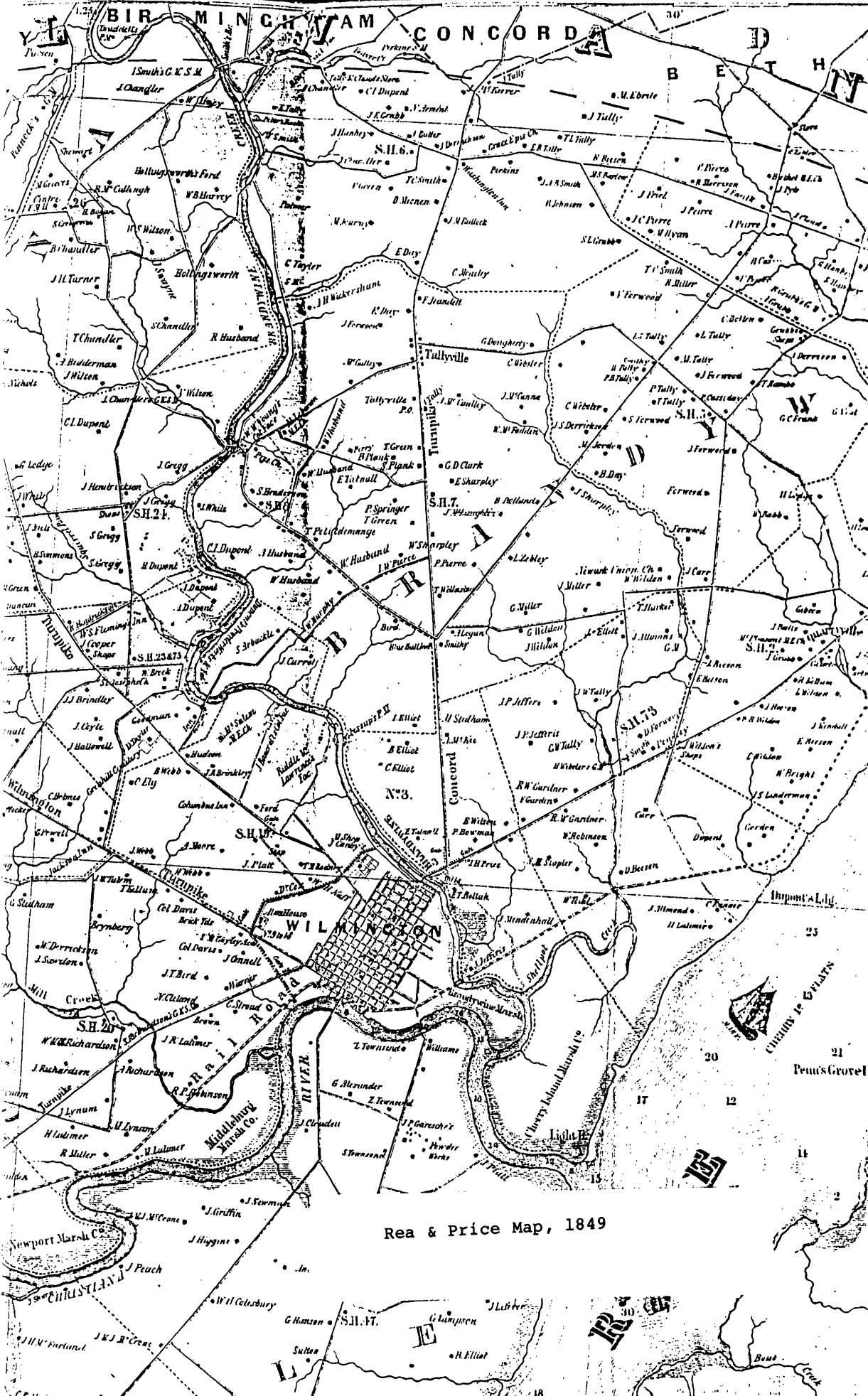
THIS MAP IN WHOLE OR IN PART MAY NOT
 BE REPRODUCED IN ANY FORM OR BY
 ANY MEANS WITHOUT WRITTEN PER-
 MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FI-
 NANCE OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY.



Pomeroy & Beers Atlas, 1868

BRANDYWINE

New Castle Co. Del.
 Scale 7 1/2 Inches to the Mile



Rea & Price Map, 1849