

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

56-1635

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Twin Bridges Rural Historic District

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by Creek Rd., Bullock Rd., the east property line of the Beverly Farm estate, the east and south property lines of the Big Bend estate, the Brandywine Creek, the south and west property lines of Hill Girt Farm estate, and Cossart, Fairville, and Stabler Roads

City or town: Pennsbury and Chadds Ford Townships State: PA County: Chester and Delaware

Not for Publication: NA Vicinity: NA

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: ___ national ___ statewide X local Applicable National Register Criteria: X A ___ B X C ___ D

<u>Andrea J. McDonald</u>	<u>8/2/2017</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official/Title:	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Patricia Andrews 9/18/2017
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private

Public – Local

Public – State

Public – Federal

Category of Property (Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

District

Site

Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>90</u>	<u>14</u>	buildings
<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>17</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>115</u>	<u>17</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 7

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Agriculture/Subsistence: Animal Facility

Agriculture/Subsistence: Agricultural Field

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Industry/Processing/Extraction: Manufacturing Facility

Transportation: Rail-Related

Transportation: Road-Related

Current Functions

Agriculture/Subsistence: Animal Facility

Agriculture/Subsistence: Agricultural Field

Domestic: Single Dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

Colonial Revival

Dutch Colonial Revival

Greek Revival

Second Empire

Italianate

Federal

No Style

Materials

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Walls: Stone, Brick, Wood, Stucco

Structural Systems: Masonry, Frame

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Twin Bridges Rural Historic District is located in Pennsbury Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania and Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania within the Lower Brandywine Creek Valley. It encompasses 139 resources (115 contributing, 17 non-contributing, and 7 previously listed) on 1,862.64 acres of rolling countryside on both sides of the Brandywine Creek and South Creek Road (S.R. 3101) from Bullock Road in Chadds Ford Township and Stabler Road in Pennsbury Township, south to the Pennsylvania/Delaware border, west to Fairville Road in Pennsbury Township and east to the western boundaries of the suburban developments located on Carriage Path, Ringfield Road, and High Ridge Road in Chadds Ford Township (Figure 1: Site Plan). The district is partly bordered on the north by the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark. The rural landscape within this district features a mix of woodlands (Photo 1), open meadows (Photo 2), cultivated fields (Photo 3), pastures (Photo 4), and clusters of agricultural buildings (Photo 5) enclosed by wood fences, hedgerows, or stone walls (Photo 6); and clusters of residential buildings surrounded by gardens and manicured lawns (Photo 7). The district is anchored by four extensive country estates: Bissell Estate, Hill Girt Farm, Big Bend Estate, and Beverly Farm. The linear Bissell Estate is in the northwest corner of the district; the sprawling Hill Girt Farm is to its immediate east and south and occupies most of the middle of the district; across the Brandywine is the spacious Big Bend Estate to the southeast; and the compact Beverly Farm to the northeast (Figure 4: Historic Country Estates). A portion of the Big Bend estate known as the Twaddell Mill and House property was listed in the National Register in 1973. The estates began developing in 1914 when earlier 18th and 19th century domestic and agricultural resources and land features were adapted by new owners moving into the area and consolidating existing farms. The majority of the buildings within the district pre-date 1950. The estates are delineated by stone walls (Photo 8), tree-lined roadways (Photo 9), and pastoral view sheds (Photo 10) with the main houses

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accessed by long drives (Photo 11 and Photo 12). The still-active Wilmington and Northern Railroad (W&NRR) (Photo 13) runs along the western side of the Brandywine through the center of the district, and the prominent Chester County Bridge No. 83 (Photo 14, commonly known as Pyles Twin Bridge) links the western and eastern sides of the district. Both structures are contributing. The backbone of the district is the Brandywine Creek, which flows quietly through the district's approximate center, lending it a distinctive quality of tranquility (Photo 16). The district retains all aspects of integrity. There have been limited changes to relatively few buildings and structures. Some of the estates have experienced land subdivisions, but the appearance of the landscape has not changed. The continuity of the landscape is encouraged by extensive conservation easements in place across the district. The district continues to present a cohesive collection of early to mid-20th century country estates.

The district's buildings are an eclectic mix of sturdy stone, brick, frame, and stuccoed vernacular farmhouses (Photo 17 and Photo 18), mid to late Victorian houses (Photo 19), early to mid-20th century houses (Photo 20), traditional barns (Photo 21 and Photo 22), and domestic and agricultural outbuildings (Photo 23 and Photo 24). The district's overall appearance illustrates the use of 18th and early to mid-19th century building stock and landscapes by the Bissells, Haskells, and Holladays as a basis to create their respective early-20th century country estates. For the most part, the houses are double-pile buildings, three to five bays wide, and two to three stories tall. In addition to the houses, barns, and other domestic and agricultural outbuildings, the district includes recreational resources (Photo 25), mill races (Photo 26), farm ponds (Photo 27), and rail and road-related transportation resources (Photo 28).

Access to Tax Parcel #64-5-39.11 and Tax Parcel #64-5-39.7 (both part of the Bissell Estate) was denied during this nomination effort; therefore, details regarding the resources located on these two tax parcels are limited or not available. The resource counts for these two parcels are based on Chester County Tax Assessment Office information, aerial photographs, and information from one of the descendants of George Bissell. The locations of all the properties are indicated on the Site Plan (Figure 1). As more information becomes available regarding changes to these parcels, the Resource Count and Inventory may need to be updated.

Narrative Description *Please refer to the Inventory and Figure 5: Contributing and Noncontributing Resources for detailed descriptions of the individual resources and their locations, and to Figure 4: Historic Country Estates, for the locations of the country estates and other properties described below.*

The Bissell Estate is located in the northwest corner of the district in Pennsbury Township, Chester County, more or less on high ground to the west and north of Hill Girt Farm, to the south and east of the Walker and Stern Farms, and bordered on the west by Stockford Road and on the south by Cossart Road. It was created between 1914 and 1935 by George P. Bissell and his son Alfred E. Bissell. George was a partner in the Wilmington banking firm of Laird, Bissell, and Meads; he put together all or part of six adjoining contiguous farms and his son Alfred then created one single country estate property whose principal reason for being was recreational entertainment, notably beagle hunting. All of the properties together became part of one single operating unit – the Bissell Estate. Once they were consolidated, they did not function individually, but, instead, as one whole unit. Today, the former Bissell Estate includes twenty-one contributing and four non-contributing resources which are grouped in the following ways:

- Four resources more or less grouped together on the former John McCann Farm,
- Nine resources scattered throughout the former Joseph Seal Farm,
- Twelve resources strung out along both sides of Stockford Road from its intersection with Cossart Road to the entrance to the estate's "Tea House".

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George Bissell started acquiring land for the creation of what became the Bissell estate in 1914 with the acquisition of the John McCann Farm; c.1929, he finished acquiring land when he bought the Patrick Kelly Property. His son Alfred then created the Bissell estate to have a place where he could pursue his interest in beagle hunting, where his pack of beagles could be raised, horses and beagles could be housed, and beagle hunts could occur with plenty of space for the horses and hounds to run and plenty of cover for the rabbits. When Bissell acquired the McCann Farm, it consisted of a c.1820 stone and frame farmhouse and barn, among other resources and was located along Cossart Road, immediately west of the Job Pyle Farm (now part of Hill Girt Farm). Today, the former McCann Farm consists of the original contributing farmhouse (Resource #03a) with a new addition on it, the non-contributing barn, now turned into a residence (Resource #03b), a contributing outbuilding (Resource #03c) near the barn/residence, and a new, non-contributing "U"-shaped house (Resource #03d) north of the original house over the crest of a hill. When George Bissell acquired this farm, it was, presumably, a working agricultural farm. The agricultural fields became pastures and meadows to provide plenty of room for the Bissell beagles to run, woods for cover for the prey, and grain and hay fields to provide fodder and bedding for his animals. Generally, these pastures, meadows, and fields were divided by fences and tree lines. For the most part, the landscape has not changed since Alfred Bissell completed the establishment of the Bissell Estate.

In 1919, George Bissell acquired the Joseph Seal Farm, which became the centerpiece of the Bissell Estate, literally being located in the center of the estate and due west of the McCann Farm, southwest of the Cloud Farm, and northeast of the Martin Farm. When George acquired this farm, it consisted of the Joseph Seal Farmhouse and Barn and two spring houses. By the early to mid-1930s, the Seal Farmhouse had disappeared and the Seal Barn was in ruins. Circa 1930, Alfred Bissell built a Colonial Revival bank-house (Resource #05), known as "Hunting Hill", which was designed by local architect James Thompson. Circa 1935, Alfred built a guest house near the site of the Seal Farmhouse and not far from the Seal Barn ruins. This house was designed by local architect Robert Raley and became known as the "Tea House" (Resource #07a). Today, the former Seal Farm consists of the contributing Hunting Hill (Resource #05) located southeast of the Laird House, off Cossart Road, as well as the contributing Tea House (Resource #07a), the contributing barn ruin (Resource #07b), two contributing springhouses (Resources #07c and #07d), the non-contributing Laird House (Resource #06a), and a non-contributing garage (Resource #06b) all of which are located on high ground overlooking the former McCann Farm to the east. Also included on the former Seal Farm are a contributing Colonial Revival gatehouse (Resource #08a) and contributing garage (Resource #08b) located on Stockford Road at the entrance to the driveway to the Tea House (Resource #07a). As happened with the McCann Farm, the Seal Farm became part of the larger Bissell Estate with pastures and meadows to provide plenty of room for his beagles to run, woods for cover for the prey, and grain and hay fields to provide fodder and bedding for his animals. Generally, these pastures, meadows, and fields were divided by fences and tree lines. For the most part, the landscape has not changed since Alfred Bissell completed the establishment of the Bissell Estate.

In 1929, George Bissell acquired the Joseph Martin Farm which was located southwest of the Seal Farm and east and across Stockford Road from the Patrick Kelly Property. At the time he acquired this farm, it consisted of the c.1850 Joseph Martin Farmhouse (Resource #10a) and Barn (Resource #10b). Today, this farm consists of the contributing c.1850 Joseph Martin Farmhouse (Resource #10a), which may have been used as the kennel master's house, and contributing Barn (Resource #10b; Photo 22); a contributing c.1930 dog kennel (Resource #10d) which is located on the east side of Stockford Road just north of the Martin Farmhouse; a contributing c.1930 Colonial Revival House (Resource #09a) located just south of the Joseph Martin Barn on Stockford Road; and a contributing c.1935 dog cemetery (Resource #10e) located just north of the kennel. As happened with the McCann Farm, the Martin Farm

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became part of the larger Bissell Estate with pastures and meadows to provide plenty of room for his beagles to run, woods for cover for the prey, and grain and hay fields to provide fodder and bedding for his animals. Generally, these pastures, meadows, and fields were divided by fences and tree lines. For the most part, the landscape has not changed since Alfred Bissell completed the establishment of the Bissell Estate.

Sometime between 1914 and 1929, George Bissell also acquired the former Patrick Kelly Property, which was located in the southwest corner of the estate, due west and across Stockford Road from the Martin Farm. The property included a frame c.1870 Gothic Revival house (Resource #11). Alfred Bissell subdivided the part of this property along Stockford Road and between c.1930 and c.1935 built four Colonial Revival tenant houses (Resource #12, Resource #13, Resource #14, and Resource #15), all located on the west side of Stockford Road (Photo 30). Today, all of these resources are extant and are considered to be contributing resources. This property had probably not been in agricultural use at the time that George Bissell acquired it and its use during the Bissell tenancy seems to have been ancillary to the main focus of the estate which was beagle hunting, being the location of tenant houses for the estate's laborers. The house lots were delineated with hedge or fence rows. For the most part, the landscape has not changed since Alfred Bissell completed the establishment of the Bissell Estate.

Also between 1914 and 1929, in order to add more open space to his estate, George Bissell acquired the western part of the Harlan Cloud Farm located north and east of the Seal Farm and the southern portion of the Lewis Stern Farm located north of the Kelly Property. No buildings were included in these acquisitions and as happened on the other farms, the agricultural fields became pastures and meadows to provide plenty of room for his beagles to run, woods for cover for the prey, and grain and hay fields to provide fodder and bedding for his animals. Generally, these pastures, meadows, and fields were divided by hedge and fence rows. For the most part, the landscape has not changed since Bissell established his estate.

By the time Alfred Bissell completed the creation of the Bissell Estate c.1938, it featured twenty-two resources including nine pre-existing resources and thirteen new resources constructed between c.1930 and c.1935 and designed for the most part in the Colonial Revival architectural style to complement the early to mid-19th century folk architecture of the existing resources. For the most part, these resources were grouped in the following ways:

- Three resources more or less grouped together on the former John McCann Farm,
- Seven resources scattered throughout the former Joseph Seal Farm,
- Twelve resources strung out along both sides of Stockford Road from its intersection with Cossart Road to the entrance to the estate's main house.

The twenty-two resources included Hunting Hill, the Tea House, a kennel master's house, a dog kennel and cemetery, three pre-1880 farmhouses, and two pre-1860 barns as well as tenant houses and other outbuildings needed to complete Alfred Bissell's vision of his property as a conservative interpretation of the Country Place type of American Country Estate whose emphasis was on beagle hunting and its attendant cultural and social mores. The most relevant resources and landscape features that emphasized Alfred's vision for his property and characteristics specifically of this type of American Country Estate were Hunting Hill, the Tea House, the kennel master's house, and the dog kennel and cemetery located more or less in the center of the estate and their relation to each other, as well as the planned park-like landscaping around Hunting Hill and the Tea House and the over-all planned open space of the rest of the estate with its meadows, pastures, woodlands, and open fields. The Bissell Estate was originally created as a gentleman's "Country Place" country estate emphasizing beagle hunting, which, today, is reinforced by the presence of one barn that was used for horses, a dog kennel, a kennel master's house, tenant houses for the grooms and other laborers needed on the estate, and pastures,

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meadows, and woods for beagle hunting. The importance of the beagles to the family is demonstrated by the presence of a pet cemetery, which includes stone markers inscribed with dog names, dates, and sentiments at each grave.

Today, the Bissell Estate has been subdivided into twenty-one tax parcels and includes twenty-five resources (twenty-one contributing, four non-contributing). Very few changes have been made to them or the estate. While all of the pre-1950 resources are extant, ownership of some of the resources has changed. The following seventeen resources were legally subdivided from the Bissell holdings and are no longer owned by the Bissell family: Resource #03a, Resource #03b, Resource #03c, Resource #03d (originally part of the John McCann Farm), Resource #06a, Resource #06b, Resource #07a, Resource #07b, Resource #07c, Resource #07d, Resource #08a, Resource #08b (originally part of the Joseph Seal Farm), Resource #11, Resource #12, Resource #13, Resource #14, and Resource #15 (originally part of the Patrick Kelly Property). The remaining eight resources (originally part of the Joseph Seal and Joseph Martin Farms) are still owned by members of the Bissell family. These subdivisions, however, are not obvious on the landscape. Visually, the estate exhibits the same appearance it had in the mid-20th century. Another change that has occurred to the overall estate has been to its use. The estate was originally created as a Country Place country estate emphasizing beagle hunting, as demonstrated by the presence of the dog kennel (Resource #10d). Today, the estate has developed into a cluster of small country houses, some of which are used on an occasional basis (for example, as week-end retreats), others are used as permanent residences.

Very few changes have been made to the estate's individual resources. In the mid to late 1950s, an addition consisting of more bedrooms was made to the Tea House (Resource #07a) on the former Joseph Seal Farm which changed its focus from being a guest house to being the Alfred Bissells' retirement home. In addition, the Joseph Martin Farmhouse (Resource #10a) has had small additions made to it, the dog kennel (Resource #10d) and dog cemetery (Resource #10e) are no longer in active use, and nine of the resources have been clad in part or in whole with aluminum siding. The barn (Resource #03b) on the former John McCann Farm has been rehabilitated into a residence and is now considered to be a non-contributing building. Circa 2010, Tax Parcel #64-6-2.1 was subdivided and a new, stuccoed U-shaped house (Resource #03d) was erected on a new parcel located north of the McCann Farmhouse (Resource #03a), in the northeast corner of the estate. This resource is non-contributing. However, these changes do not detract from the integrity of the Bissell Estate's individual resources, the overall landscape of the Bissell Estate, or the district itself. because the changes are unobtrusive – without close inspection, the changes are not apparent at all, especially the property subdivisions which can not be discerned on the landscape.

Hill Girt Farm is located in the center of the district in Pennsbury Township, Chester County, partially on the flood plain of the Brandywine Creek and partially on undulating land that rises to the west and north of the farm (from whence the estate gets its name – Hill Girt). It is bordered to the west by the Bissell Estate, to the north by Stabler Road, to the east by the Brandywine, and to the south by the Pennsylvania/Delaware state line. Beverly Farm is located across the Brandywine to its east and northeast with the Big Bend Estate across the Brandywine to its southeast. It was created between 1916 and 1930 by Harry G. Haskell, a DuPont vice-president, who acquired seven contiguous farms to create one single country estate property whose main reason for being was the pursuit of the advancement of the most modern agricultural practices and state-of-the-art domestic comfort. All of the properties together became part of one single operating unit – Hill Girt Farm – and functioned as a single unit. Today, the core of Hill Girt Farm includes thirty-two contributing and two non-contributing resources, which are grouped in the following clusters:

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- Thirty-three resources more or less grouped together in the southeast corner of the estate, along both sides of South Creek Road at its intersection with Cossart Road,
- One resource along South Creek Road between the above cluster and Pyles Twin Bridge,
- One resource northwest of the main house on a hill overlooking the main house.

In 1916, Haskell started acquiring land for the creation of his estate with the purchase of the Job Pyle Farm, which became the centerpiece of his estate, and he finished the creation of his estate in 1930 with the acquisition of the James Osbourne Farm and Eli Seal Farm. He created his estate to advance modern agricultural practices and to enjoy state-of-the-art domestic comforts. His estate had plenty of room for cultivated fields and livestock pasturage offset by landscaped woodlands (Photo 31), greenhouses, farm ponds (Photo 27), and open spaces. When Haskell acquired the Pyle Farm, it consisted of a c.1820 Federal stone farmhouse, a c.1850 stone barn, a c.1810 building that appears to have been a mill, at least two tenant houses, and several outbuildings. The farm was located along South Creek Road from its crossing of Brandywine Creek to its intersection with Cossart Road immediately east of the Bissell Estate. Today, the former Job Pyle Farm consists of the contributing embellished main house (Resource #16a; Photo 32); the contributing enlarged double-decker barn, now with two silos (one contributing and one non-contributing) and an enclosed bridge (Resource #22a, Resource #22b, and Resource #22c; Photo 33); a contributing stable (Resource #22d, Photo 34); the contributing former mill building that was renovated into a barn with attached stables and sheds (Resource #22e, Photo 35); a contributing barn with attached stables (Resource #22f, Photo 36); a contributing hay barn with an attached wagon shed (Resource #23b); a contributing farm pond dam (Resource #21b) with an attached contributing pavilion (Resource #21c) and a contributing greenhouse complex (Resource #21d); a contributing single-span, stone-arched bridge (Resource #21e; Photo 28) over a tributary of the Brandywine; a contributing water tower (Resource #21f); a contributing water tank (Resource #21g); a contributing in-ground swimming pool (Resource #16f) with a contributing pool house (Resource #16e; Photo 25) that features a miniature water wheel with its own contributing mill race (Resource #16h; Photo 26) and sluice gate (Resource #16g); a contributing tennis court (Resource #17e) with a contributing cantilevered canopied viewing pavilion (Resource #17d; Photo 37); and various tenant houses and outbuildings. These resources are located, for the most part, on relatively flat land adjacent to the western flood plain of the Brandywine Creek, with the main house and barns, and some of the tenant houses overlooking the Creek. When Haskell acquired this farm, it was a working farm which he improved and embellished throughout the Period of Significance and beyond, adding new barns and stables and expanding the extant barns to accommodate a dairy herd, horses, chickens, and other livestock; adding a greenhouse complex for fresh vegetables and flowers; and improving the water supply system to the farm. At the same time, his improvement campaign included the addition of all the modern domestic amenities expected of a gentleman's country estate. These improvements included the addition of a Colonial Revival back ell and front porch to the Pyle farmhouse, which became the main house (Resource #01.01a; Photo 32) for Hill Girt Farm, as well as extensive remodellings and additions to the other domestic buildings on the farm, including tenant houses, and various domestic outbuildings. Generally, the pastures, fields, and woodlands were delineated by fences, tree lines, and hedgerows while the whole was enclosed in stone walls (Photo 6 and Photo 8). For the most part, the landscape has not changed since Haskell established his estate.

At the same time that Haskell was improving the former Job Pyle Farm, he was also adding to his real estate holdings in order to expand Hill Girt Farm. For the most part, the following farms were acquired more for their land and less for their built resources, which were maintained, but not improved. In 1926, Haskell acquired the E. H. Clyde Farm, located along Stabler Road and which abutted the Bissell Estate on its south side and the Pyle Farm on its east side, and which at the time included a Late

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Victorian c.1880 house (Resource #04a); a c.1850 stone barn (Resource #04b); a frame c.1820 farmhouse (Resource #02a); and a stone c.1820 spring house (Resource #02c) as well as various outbuildings constructed between 1850 and 1920. Haskell's improvements to this farm were focused on the land. Today, all of these resources are extant and are considered to be contributing resources plus, c.2000, a non-contributing frame garage was added to the property. As he did with the Pyle Farm, he took a working farm and made improvements to the land and delineated the pastures, fields, and woodlands with fences, tree lines, and hedgerows. For the most part, the landscape has not changed since Haskell established his estate.

In 1930, Haskell acquired the Daisy Property, located along Fairville Road at its intersection with Stabler Road and which abutted the Bissell Estate on its south side and the Clyde Farm on its east side and which included, at the time, a stone c.1820 farmhouse (Resource #05.01a) and a stone c.1822 barn (Resource #05.01c) as well as one outbuilding. This property may have been acquired to act as a tenant's house; no known improvements were made to it by Haskell. Today, all of these resources are extant and are considered to be contributing resources (Photo 38). Circa 1990, the farm was subdivided and a non-contributing cement block house (Resource #31) was constructed on the newly formed vacant lot. Circa 2010, an outbuilding (Resource #30d) was constructed just south of the house, it is considered non-contributing. For the most part, except for the addition of the new outbuilding and house, the landscape has not changed since Haskell established his estate.

By 1930, Haskell had also acquired the James Osbourne Farm and the Eli Seal Farm. The James Osbourne Farm was located south of the Bissell Estate and the Pyle Farm across Cossart Road and included a stone c.1800 house (Resource #07). Haskell's improvements to this farm were focused on the land. Today, the house with a c.1995 addition is still extant and is considered to be a contributing resource. As he did with the Pyle Farm, he took a working farm and made improvements to the land and delineated the pastures, fields, and woodlands with fences, tree lines, and hedgerows. For the most part, the landscape has not changed since Haskell established his estate.

The Eli Seal Farm was located south of the Osbourne Farm on the west side of South Creek Road and included a stone c.1870 Italianate house (Resource #06.01a; Photo 39); a frame c.1870 barn (Resource #06.01b; Photo 21); and a frame c.1915 tenant house (Resource #06.01e) as well as two outbuildings constructed between 1870 and 1900. These resources were located on the east side of South Creek Road, south of its intersection with Cossart Road. Haskell's improvements included the construction of two stucco-over-stone, Colonial Revival tenant houses (Photo 40) that share a courtyard (Resource #24 and Resource #25a) and a frame carriage shed (Resource #25b). These resources were built c.1935 and were located on the south side of Cossart Road, nearly opposite the back entrance to the former Job Pyle Farm. Today, all of these resources are extant and are considered to be contributing resources. As he did with the Pyle Farm, he took a working farm and made improvements to the land and delineated the pastures, fields, and woodlands with fences, tree lines, and hedgerows. For the most part, except for the addition of the above-named resources, the landscape has not changed since Haskell established his estate.

In addition, in 1928, Haskell bought Locust Knoll Farm and in 1929, he bought the Twaddell Mill Property in what was then Birmingham (now Chadds Ford) Township, Delaware County. Both these properties were located directly across the Brandywine from the Pyle Farm. Haskell is not known to have made any improvements to these two properties and eventually they became part of a mid-20th century country estate; therefore, they will be dealt with separately (see Big Bend Estate below).

Haskell's assembled estate eventually featured fifty-nine resources including thirty-one pre-existing resources and twenty-eight new resources constructed between c.1920 and c.1940 and designed for the most part to complement the mid-18th to mid-19th century folk architecture of the existing resources. For the most part these resources were grouped in the following ways:

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- Thirty resources more or less grouped together in the southeast corner of the estate, along both sides of S. Creek Road and Cossart Road near their intersection,
- One resource along South Creek Road north of the main house,
- One resource northwest of the main house,
- Five resources more or less grouped together on the former Eli Seal Farm,
- Seven resources more or less grouped together on the former Clyde Farm,
- Three resources more or less grouped together on the former Daisy Property,
- One resource on the former Osbourne Farm,
- Three resources grouped together on the former Locust Knoll Farm,
- Eight resources more or less grouped together on the former Twaddell Mill Property.

The fifty-nine resources included Hill Girt Farm's main house; four barns with accompanying silos, stables, and sheds; a farm pond dam with an attached pavilion and greenhouse complex; a water tower and water tank; an in-ground swimming pool with its pool house that featured a miniature working water wheel with its own mill race and sluice gate; a tennis court with a cantilevered canopied viewing pavilion; and various tenant houses and outbuildings needed to complete Haskell's vision of his property as a Country Place type of American Country Estate whose emphasis was on the pursuit of the advancement of the most modern agricultural practices and on gracious country living. The most relevant resources and landscape features that emphasized Haskell's vision for his property and the characteristics of this type of American Country Estate were the main house for Hill Girt Farm, the barns, sheds, stables, and other agricultural outbuildings and their relation to each other and to the tenant houses which were used by the laborers needed to insure the success of the farming operations, as well as the planned landscaping around the house and satellite tenant houses and the pattern of woodlands, and cultivated fields, meadows and pastures for livestock. Hill Girt Farm was originally created as a gentleman's "Country Place" estate emphasizing the advancement of the most modern agricultural practices coupled with gracious country living which, today, is reinforced by the presence of four barns and their accoutrements, including silos, stables, and sheds, a greenhouse complex, a farm pond and water system, tenant houses for various farm laborers, and woodlands and cultivated fields, pastures, meadows. At the same time, the importance of leisure time to Haskell's vision of his estate is emphasized by the presence of the in-ground swimming pool and pool house/folly and the tennis court and viewing pavilion.

Today, Hill Girt Farm is subdivided into twenty-six tax parcels (the Big Bend Estate properties and resources are not included in this count, please see the description of the Big Bend Estate below) and includes fifty-six individual resources (fifty-one contributing, five non-contributing). While changes have been made to the estate, it still appears very much as it did in the mid-20th century. Since 1947, the Haskells have acquired one more property and divested themselves of all or part of four properties. First, the Haskells acquired the stone, c.1890 Colonial Revival Cossart Passenger Train Station (Resource #01.09a; Photo 41); the frame c.1890 Cossart Freight Depot (Resource #01.09b; Photo 42); and the stone c.1920 Cossart loading dock (Resource #01.09c) from the Wilmington and Northern Railroad after Cossart Train Station was decommissioned. Second, the Haskells sold the following nineteen resources: Resource #25, Resource #26a, Resource #26b, Resource #27a (Photo 39), Resource #27b (Photo 21), Resource #27c, Resource #27d, Resource #27e (originally part of the Eli Seal Farm), Resource #28a, Resource #28c, Resource #29a, Resource #29b, Resource #29c, Resource #29d, Resource #29e (originally part of the Clyde Farm), Resource #30a, Resource #30b (Photo 38), Resource #30c (originally part of the Daisy Property), and Resource #32 (originally part of the Osbourne Farm). In addition, after the Clyde Farm resources were sold by the Haskells, a frame garage (Resource 28b) was constructed

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c.2000 near the Clyde Farmhouse. This resource is non-contributing. Also, after the Daisy Property was sold by the Haskell's, an outbuilding (Resource #30d) was erected south of the Daisy Farmhouse c.2010 and a four-acre lot was carved out of the Daisy Property and a cement block dwelling (Resource #31) was erected on the lot c.1990. These two resources are non-contributing. The remaining thirty-six resources (the Job Pyle Farm and Cossart Train Station Property) are still owned by the Haskell family. These subdivisions, however, are not apparent on the landscape. Visually, Hill Girt Farm exhibits the same appearance it had in the mid-20th century. The landscape of the Farm has changed very little, although the types of farming pursued have changed and not all the buildings and structures are as actively used. At least three of the subdivided properties are still used for agriculture, as horse farms, while the remaining properties are small country houses which are either used on an occasional basis or as permanent residences. A few changes have been made to the estate's resources. The 1850 tenant house has been allowed to fall into ruin (Resource #22f), as has the stone loading dock behind the Cossart train station (Resource #24c). The frame Cossart freight depot (Resource #24b) and part of the greenhouse complex (Resource #21d) are now vacant. The mill race (Resource #16h) and its sluice gate (Resource #16g), and the waterwheel attached to the pool house (Resource #16e) have fallen into disuse. One of the tenant houses (Resource #17a) has been clad in aluminum siding. In addition, there are two resources that are non-contributing. They are an aluminum-sided ranch house (Resource #18) built c.1960. While it is located in the cluster of tenant houses along South Creek Road, architecturally, it is not in keeping with the character of Hill Girt Farm. A metal silo was built next to the main barn c.1980; it is non-contributing because of its age. None of these changes, however, detract from the overall integrity of Hill Girt Farm's individual resources, the overall landscape of Hill Girt Farm, or the district. Hill Girt Farm was created as a working gentleman's farm, and is still a working farm today.

The still active **Wilmington and Northern Railroad (W&NRR)** tracks (Photo 13) and sidings (Resource #33), which were laid out c.1866, divide the district in half, running more or less parallel and between South Creek Road and the Brandywine Creek for most of its journey through the district. It also wanders partly through Hill Girt Farm. The associated Cossart Train Station and other resources are described above within the Hill Girt Farm section. The passenger and freight stations likely played an important role in the operation of the estates early in their development. **Pyles Twin Bridge** (Resource #34; Photo 14) was built in 1925 to convey South Creek Road over the Brandywine Creek and the W&NRR tracks. It is located in the middle of the district and is not directly associated with any of the estates within the district. The elegant but deteriorating bridge is a six-span, 482-foot long, reinforced concrete arch bridge (BMS #23-3101-0010-0000; SHPO Key #092304). The bridge is a contributing resource within the district and has been a focal point along the picturesque Brandywine Creek.

Big Bend Estate is in the southeast corner of the district in Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County, due east of Hill Girt Farm across the Brandywine Creek and south of Beverly Farm (see its description below) on rolling countryside in a large oxbow of the Brandywine known as "the Big Bend" (hence the estate's name). Two of the properties that make up the estate were acquired by Harry G. Haskell in the late 1920s and were for a time part of the Hill Girt Farm. In 1928, Haskell bought Locust Knoll Farm, which was adjacent to and south of Beverly Farm, and in 1929, he bought the Twaddell Mill Property, which was adjacent to and south of Locust Knoll Farm. Haskell bought these two properties to add land to his acreage, not necessarily to add more built resources, and to protect his view shed.

At the time that Haskell acquired Locust Knoll Farm, it included a stucco c.1872 Second Empire farmhouse (Resource #35a); a stucco c.1872 summer kitchen (Resource #35b); and a frame c.1925 garage (Resource #35c). At the time that Haskell acquired the Twaddell Mill Property, it included a vacant stone and brick c.1750 mill building (Resource #36a), a stone c.1750 bank millhouse (Resource

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#36b); a stone c.1750 root cellar (Resource #36g); a stone c.1800 tenant house (Resource #36d); a stucco and stone c.1750 spring house (Resource #36e); a stone c.1750 icehouse (Resource #36f); a stone c.1820 barn (Resource #36c) with a frame addition added in the late 19th century; and a frame c.1900 privy (Resource #36h). The Haskells appear to have made no major improvements to either of these properties; instead, they maintained the Locust Knoll Farm resources but allowed the resources on the Twaddell Mill Property to fall into disrepair, to the point that the vacant mill building (Resource #36a) and ice house (Resource #36f) were in ruinous states by the time the Haskell family sold the property.

By 1968, George ("Frolic") Weymouth, artist, conservationist, DuPont descendent, and key founder of the Brandywine Conservancy, had acquired the Twaddell Mill Property, donating one of the first conservation easements in the district to the Brandywine Conservancy in February, 1969. This initiated Weymouth's acquisition of his Big Bend Estate, which ultimately included the southern half of Locust Knoll, including all of its resources; and the northwest section of the Kitts Farm (land only), for the dual purpose of conserving the open space and raising and training carriage horses. The Twaddell Mill property and much of the land of Locust Knoll was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The historic resources identified in 1973, therefore, are not part of the new resource count for this nomination, but they are in keeping with the character and themes for the Twin Bridges district. The Twaddell Mill property's more recent resources, despite their compatible character, are included as non-contributing resources, as they were constructed post-1973. Today, the Big Bend Estate includes sixteen individual resources: four contributing resources, seven resources already listed on the National Register, and five non-contributing resources which are grouped together in the following ways:

- Five resources grouped together on Locust Knoll Farm (Photo 43),
- Nine resources, including the Main House, grouped together on the Twaddell Mill Property overlooking the Brandywine,
- Two resources clustered together and located on the Twaddell Mill Property on a rise above the Main House.

Frolic Weymouth restored the historic resources that were on the two properties when he first acquired them. The only changes that he made to the resources are small additions to the contributing mill house (Resource #36b; Photo 44), the contributing mill tenant house (Resource #36d; Photo 17), the contributing Locust Knoll Farmhouse (Resource #35a; Photo 19), and the contributing Locust Knoll summer kitchen (Resource #35b). At the same time, he stabilized what was left of the contributing mill ruin (Resource #36a). In addition, he added five resources, all of which are non-contributing. Two of them are located at Locust Knoll: a frame c.1975 indoor swimming pool (Resource #35d) and a stucco horse barn with an attached double silo (Resource #35e) also built c.1975. The other three are located on the Twaddell Mill Property: a frame c.1980 garden folly (Resource #36i), a stone and brick chapel also built c.1980 (Resource #36j; Photo 45), and a stone, brick, and metal free-standing gate also built c.1980 (Resource #36k; Photo 46). None of these changes, however, detract from the overall integrity of these individual resources, the overall landscape of the Big Bend Estate, or the district.

Beverly Farm is located in the northeast corner of the district in Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County, on rolling countryside north of the Big Bend Estate and east, across the Brandywine, from Hill Girt Farm. It was created between 1916 and 1930 by Charles B. Holladay, a member of the DuPont Company, who acquired all or part of four contiguous farms in order to create one single country property whose purpose was the pursuit of the modern agricultural practices and gracious country living. All of the properties became part of one single operating unit – Beverly Farm. As with the other estates, once the properties were consolidated they did not function individually, but, instead, functioned as a

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whole. Today, the former Beverly Farm includes thirty-five individual resources; thirty-three contributing and two non-contributing which are grouped in the following ways:

- Twenty-three resources more or less grouped on the former John Barney Farm with five of these resources clustered together on South Creek Road (Photo 47),
- Nine resources more or less grouped on the former Garrett Farm,
- Two resources grouped together on lower Rocky Hill Road in the southwest corner of the former Garrett Farm (Photo 48),
- One resource located in the southeast corner of the former Garrett Farm.

Holladay started acquiring land for the creation of his estate in 1916 with the acquisition of the John Barney Farm, which became the center piece of his estate; circa 1930 he finished the creation of his estate when he acquired the Robert and George Bullock Farms. He created his estate in order to enjoy gracious country living, including establishing a model farm. His estate had plenty of room for grain fields, orchards, vegetable beds, and livestock pasturage offset by landscaped gardens, greenhouses, park-like open spaces, and woodlands. When Holladay acquired the John Barney Farm, it featured a c.1854 brick farmhouse, a c.1860 stuccoed tenant house; and a c.1855 stone and frame barn, among other resources. It was located along South Creek Road just before it crossed the Brandywine, immediately east of the Job Pyle Farm across the Brandywine and north of the Garrett Farm. Today, the former John Barney Farm includes the contributing brick Georgian Revival Main House (Resource #37a; Photo 49); a contributing matching brick satellite outbuilding (Resource #37b); the contributing stucco Barney tenant house (Resource #37k); the contributing stone and frame barn (Resource #37d) with an attached terra cotta tile silo (Photo 50); a contributing glass and metal greenhouse (Resource #37c); a contributing stucco and frame Dutch Colonial Revival tenant house (Resource #37i); a contributing stucco Georgian Revival gate house (Resource #37m); a contributing frame Dutch Colonial Revival tenant house (Resource #38a); a contributing frame and stone Colonial Revival tenant house (Resource #40a), and various outbuildings, both agricultural and domestic. These resources are located on flat to rolling countryside that is part of and adjacent to the eastern flood plain of the Brandywine Creek, with the Main House located on a rise overlooking the Brandywine Valley south towards the Big Bend (Photo 51). When Holladay acquired this farm, it was a working farm which he improved and embellished through the 1930s. He greatly enlarged and Georgian Revivalized the Barney Farmhouse which became his Main House; he enlarged the extant barn and added various agricultural outbuildings to accommodate a dairy herd, horses, chickens and other livestock; he added a greenhouse for fresh flowers and vegetables; and he added tenant houses and other domestic outbuildings to house everyone from farm laborers to chauffeurs to the farm manager. Generally, the pastures, fields, and woodlands were delineated by fences, tree lines, and hedgerows. For the most part, the landscape has not changed since Holladay established his estate.

While Holladay was making his improvements to the former Barney Farm, he was also adding to his real estate holdings in order to expand Beverly Farm. In 1928, Holladay acquired the former Garrett Farm, which abutted the Barney Farm on its north side, Locust Knoll Farm on its south side, and Hill Girt Farm on its west side; and included a c.1830 stucco farmhouse; a c.1850 stucco and stone tenant house; a c.1850 frame barn; a c.1880 stucco and stone tenant house; and a c.1880 frame and stone carriage house. This farm was incorporated into the overall plan for Holladay's estate with the resources being used as tenant houses and auxiliary agricultural and domestic outbuildings. Today, the former Garrett Farm includes the contributing c.1830 stucco farmhouse with an addition (Resource #44); the contributing c.1850 stucco and stone tenant house with a frame addition (Resource #43a); the contributing c.1850 frame barn with frame and stucco additions (Resource #43b); the contributing c.1880 stucco, stone, and aluminum sided tenant house with frame additions (Resource #41a); and a contributing c.1930 frame and

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concrete Dutch Colonial Revival bank tenant house with a frame addition (Resource #42a); as well as various agricultural and domestic outbuildings. As he did with the Barney Farm, Holladay took a working farm and made improvements to the land and the resource, delineating the pastures, fields, and woodlands with fences, tree lines, and hedgerows, and adding tenant houses and agricultural and domestic outbuildings. For the most part, the landscape has not changed since Holladay established his estate.

Between 1916 and c.1930, in order to add more pasturage and grain fields to his estate, Holladay acquired the western portions of two contiguous working farms: the Robert Bullock Farm and the George Bullock Farm. These two farms adjoined the former Barney and Garrett Farms on the east. No buildings were included in these acquisitions. Holladay's improvements were focused on the land where he made improvements to the fields and woods and delineated the pastures, fields, and woodlands with fences, tree lines, and hedgerows. For the most part, the landscape has not changed since Holladay established his estate.

By the time Holladay had completed the creation of his estate c.1930, Beverly Farm featured thirty resources including thirteen pre-existing resources and seventeen new resources built between c.1920 and c.1930 and designed for the most part in the Georgian, Colonial Revival, or Dutch Colonial Revival architectural styles to complement the mid to late 19th century folk architecture of the existing resources. For the most part, these resources were grouped in the following ways:

- Twenty-one resources more or less grouped on the former John Barney Farm with three of these resources clustered together on South Creek Road,
- Seven resources more or less grouped on the former Garrett Farm,
- Two resources grouped together on lower Rocky Hill Road in the southwest corner of the former Garrett Farm.

These resources included the Beverly Farm Main House (Photo 49), two barns, a greenhouse, a chauffer's house (Photo 52), and a gatehouse, as well as such ancillary buildings as tenant houses and various agricultural and domestic outbuildings needed to complete Holladay's vision of his estate as a conservative interpretation of the Stately Home type of American Country Estate whose emphasis was on the gracious live-style associated with great country houses. The most relevant resources and landscape features that emphasized Holladay's vision for his property and the characteristics specifically of this type of American Country Estate were the Georgian Revival Main House (Photo 49) and its matching outbuilding located in the midst of extensive lawns on a rise overlooking the estate's attendant buildings (Photo 53); the greenhouse, main barn complex (Photo 5 and Photo 50), chauffer's house and attached garage (Photo 52), and Georgian Revival gate house and Colonial and Dutch Colonial Revival tenant houses (Photo 20), all painted in a uniform color scheme of yellow with white trim to complement the mellow brick of the main house. All of these resources were judiciously located below and around the main house within the estate's planned landscaping which included park-like gardens and lawns (Photo 53) and a pleasing pattern of cultivated fields, livestock pastures, orchards, and woodlands (Photo 51). Beverly Farm was created as a gentleman's Stately Home country estate emphasizing both the gracious live-style of great country houses as well as state-of-the-art agriculture which today is reinforced by the presence of the Main House and its accompanying outbuilding, chauffer's house and attached garage, greenhouse, gatehouse, and two barns and their accoutrements including silos, chicken coops, and other outbuildings. The importance of creating the ambience of a Stately Home to Holladay is emphasized by the presence of a uniform color scheme of yellow and white to complement the mellow brick of the main house and its satellite.

Today, Beverly Farm has been subdivided into nine tax parcels and includes thirty-five individual resources (thirty-three contributing, two non-contributing). Very few changes have been

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made to them or the landscape of the estate. Ownership of the estate changed in 1947 when Beverly Farm was sold out of the Holladay family, with the new owners following in the Holladays' footsteps. Today, the core of Beverly Farm, which includes the main house and barn plus twenty-one other resources, encompasses all of the resources on the former Barney Farm as well as some of the land originally acquired by Holladay from the former Robert Bullock, George Bullock and Garrett Farms. The core is now owned by the Draper family. The following twelve resources, all located on the former Garrett Farm, were legally subdivided from Beverly Farm's core: Resource #41a, Resource #41b, Resource #42a, Resource #42b, Resource #42c, Resource #42d, Resource #42e, Resource #43a, Resource #43b, Resource #43c, Resource #44, and Resource #45. These subdivisions, however, are not obvious on the landscape. Visually, the estate exhibits the same appearance it had in the mid-20th century.

The estate was originally created as a Stately Home type of country estate with the emphasis on both the social and cultural great country house as well as state-of-the-art agriculture, as demonstrated by a main house (Resource #37a) with its appendages and a main barn complex (Resource #37d). Today, the core of Beverly Farm is a horse farm and the properties located on the former Garrett Farm now function as small country houses, some of which are used on an occasional basis (for example, as week-end retreats), others are used as permanent residences. A few changes have been made to the estate's individual resources. A small frame outbuilding on the former Barney Farm (Resource #37h) has been partially clad in aluminum siding. The c.1920 Colonial Revival Tenant House (Resource #40a) located on the former Barney Farm has had a porte cochere, garden room, greenhouse, and frame additions made to it; in addition, the frame portions of the house have been reclad in aluminum siding as has its garage (Resource #40d) and its two outbuildings (Resource #40e and 40f). The frame addition on the c.1880 tenant house (Resource #41a) on the former Garrett Farm has been reclad in aluminum siding. The c.1930 Dutch Colonial Revival tenant house (Resource #42a) on the former Garrett Farm has had a frame addition added to it and has been reclad in logs and board and batten siding. The c.1850 Garrett Barn (Resource #43b) has had a stucco addition made to it. In addition, five later resources have been constructed on the property. They are a c.1950 swimming pool (Resource #40c) and a frame and aluminum-sided pool house (Resource #40b); a c.1950 concrete block and frame domestic outbuilding (Resource #42b); a c.1950 concrete block agricultural outbuilding (Resource #42c, now vacant); and a c.2000 stone-faced and stuccoed Neo-Colonial Revival house with an attached garage (Resource #45). Additions to the individual resources do not detract from their integrity as they have been executed with sensitivity to the character of the individual resources.

In addition to the four large estates, two smaller country properties are also within the district. The former **Preston Walker Farm** is located on Stockford Road in the northwest corner of the district, bounded on the east by Stockford Road (part of the Bissell Estate is across Stockford Road), on the south and west by another part of the Bissell Estate, and on the north by Fairville Road. It is situated on a small hill that rises between Stockford and Fairville Roads. This property included two resources during formation of the estate landscape: a small stone c.1775 house (Resource #01a, known as the Preston Walker Tenant House) and a small double-decker c.1820 stone barn with a ramp and bridge (Resource #01b; Photo 29). The Preston Walker Tenant House sat on Stockford Road facing east with the north-facing barn up the hill just west of it. Today, the property includes three contributing resources and very few changes have been made to them. A large stone and frame house (Resource #01c) was built c.1950 on the crown of the hill in the middle of the property west and south of the Walker Tenant House and the barn.

The second country property is a small lot that was carved out of the former **Lewis Stern Farm** and is located off the southwest corner of the Walker Farm, bounded on the east by Stockford Road, on the

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south by part of the Bissell Estate, and on the west and north by the Walker Farm. This property included one resource, a frame Colonial Revival house (Resource #02) built c.1920. The house was positioned in the middle of the lot and faced Stockford Road on the east. Today, the property includes the abovementioned resource which has had two recent changes made to it. First, c.2000 additions were made to the house, essentially doubling it in size and partially obscuring it. And second, possibly at the same time, the entire house was reclad in aluminum siding. The house is now considered to be non-contributing. Nevertheless, it does not detract from the overall integrity of the district.

Integrity

Despite some changes, the district easily retains all aspects of integrity. The estates have experienced some subdivisions, but the overall appearance of the landscape owners remains intact. Many of the subdivisions were made for younger members of the estate families, or were sold to parties who wanted to establish country residences on a smaller scale. These subdivisions range in size from one-half acre to forty-five acres. The district retains its appearance as a cohesive landscape conveying the aesthetics and intent of the original owners who endeavored to create the gracious lifestyle of American Country Estate living. Some houses have had additions made to them and a few of the resources have been clad in aluminum siding. Only two resources have been so altered that they are now considered non-contributing resources. New construction and major alterations are limited, and have been sited and/or designed in such a way as to be relatively unobtrusive and to have minimal impact on the district's overall appearance. The main houses, barns, stables, farmhouses, tenant houses, and other resources associated with these country estates are extant and overall retain all aspects of integrity. While some of the auxiliary and tenant houses have been subdivided from these estates, their relationships to the other buildings on their respective estates remains apparent. The area in and immediately surrounding the district remains rural in character with the Brandywine Creek and its tributaries flowing through a landscape of lowland pastures, open fields, lush woodlands, winding roads, and rolling hills that continue to play a key role in the landscape and character of the district. The **setting** remains intact.

The **designs** of the estates have not been compromised by the few additions and changes to the individual resources nor by the subdivision of some of the estates' lands. The landscape design achieved by consolidating and adapting fields and pastures for non-traditional agricultural or pleasure purposes remains intact. Nor has the design of the district been compromised by the changes in ownership or function from expansive gentlemen country estates to smaller working farms and smaller country houses and retreats, as the appearance of the resources and landscapes has not changed.

The **materials** of the individual resources have changed very little. The only change to the materials used in the district has been the minimal use of aluminum siding, which does not have a negative impact on the overall appearance of the district nor detract from the ability to see and understand the intended design or earlier **workmanship** of either the individual resources or the district as a whole. Recent additions and the limited new construction respects the prior workmanship of the extant resources and were intended to honor the designs of the extant resources and blend into the larger landscape.

The district retains the **feeling** of an early to mid-20th century enclave of country estates. The district is able, despite minor changes, additions, and new construction, to bespeak the period in American history when the very wealthy strove, with great success, to emulate their European peers in gracious country living. The district retains its **association** with the American Country Estate Movement. The Bissell Estate, Hill Girt Farm (and the Big Bend Estate), and Beverly Farm have retained their ability to evoke their association with this movement, both individually and collectively.

The district easily conveys its significance as an important example of 20th century country estate enclave, illustrating the values, mores, and aesthetics of the social class who created the landscape in keeping with the American Country Estate Movement.

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

Social History

Architecture

Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1914-c.1970

Significant Dates

1914, 1930, 1916, 1947, 1929

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Significant Person

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Raley, Robert L., architect

Thompson, James, architect

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary Paragraph

The Twin Bridges Rural Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A for its important association with the American Country Estate Movement and for Criterion C for Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The district exhibits a cohesive collection of architectural resources, landscape features, and viewsheds that exemplify the properties created during the American Country Estate Movement when wealthy Americans were emulating the English aristocratic life style of refined country living. The Period of Significance begins in 1914 with the acquisition of the first farm that grew into the Bissell Estate, and ends c.1970, as the property owners' land use ethics and ideals that were part of the movement continued into the latter 20th century and continue to shape the landscape today. Resources that pre-date 1914 were adapted and incorporated into the estates and their environment and help convey the significance of the district. Although the estates incorporate and integrate building stock from earlier periods in the history of the Brandywine Valley, the significant, defining activity is the early to mid-20th century transformation and reorganization of the lands and the buildings into large country estates.

Narrative Statement of Significance *Please refer to the accompanying Figure 4: Historic Country Estates for the locations of the country estates and other properties referenced below.*

The Twin Bridges Rural Historic District reflects the trend for wealthy Americans in the mid-19th through the mid-20th centuries (c.1870 to c.1950) to emulate the European, especially English, aristocratic life style of refined country living. The district is an enclave of early to mid-20th century country estates that embody the distinctive design characteristics of the American country estate aesthetic as defined by the American Country Estate Movement. The main houses, barns, stables, farmhouses, tenant houses, guest houses, and other buildings that were associated with these country estates are still extant. In addition, the main design elements of the estates, including stone walls, fences, designed landscapes, driveways, and recreational facilities and their relationships to the main houses, barns, stables, farmhouses, tenant houses, guest houses, and other buildings are still extant.

This trend to create country estates based on European, especially English, models was most popular along the East Coast of the United States, with the Vanderbilts, the Roosevelts, and the DuPonts, among others, enthusiastically creating, in many cases, more than one country estate. Examples of these estates include Biltmore outside Ashville, North Carolina, Sagamore Hill near Oyster Bay, New York, and Nemours outside Wilmington, Delaware. The district is located approximately ten miles north of

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Wilmington and more or less north and east of what is sometimes termed “DuPont Country” because of its large concentration of DuPont country estates, including, besides Nemours, Winterthur and Longwood Gardens. The DuPonts began building or enlarging existing houses as early as the 1870s, but their most well-known country estates were not established until the early to mid-1900s. George and Alfred Bissell, Harry Haskell, and Charles Holladay and their families took advantage of this atmosphere of country estate creation, and established their own, more modest but still highly successful country estates. All four men were prominent in the social and commercial life of Wilmington, with Haskell and Holladay having direct ties to the DuPont Company. As the American trendsetters of the time emulated the English (and sometimes other European) aristocracy, so did the less wealthy or more conservative minded of this country emulate the very wealthy of this country. The result was the creation of a wide range of country estates; everything from the monumental created by the trendsetters such as the DuPonts to the more modest country estates created by the less wealthy such as the Bissells, Haskells, and Holladays.

There were two models and twelve characteristics of the American country estate aesthetic. The models were defined by Mark Alan Hewitt in his *The Architect & the American Country House 1890-1940*. He labelled the first model as the Stately Home, which emulated the great aristocratic English country estates to the last detail (Hewitt, p. 125). This strategy was epitomized by the DuPonts in the Brandywine Valley (Lidz, *Houses and Gardens in the Brandywine*). Owners of estates built along these lines tore down existing buildings or remodeled them extensively to create an architecturally whole unit, with all the buildings on the property from the main house to the barns, tenant houses, and lowly outbuildings complying with the same design aesthetic. The chosen style might be French Chateau, English Vernacular, or Georgian Revival, but every building on the estate adhered to it, as did the design of the landscape.

The second model, known, according to Hewitt, as the Country Place, was based on the House and Garden Movement (Hewitt, p. 153). It was the model that was most popular in southeastern Pennsylvania as epitomized by Delchester Farms and the Atwater Kent Estate in Willistown Township, Chester County (Dorchester, Okehocking Indian Land Grant Historic District Nomination), which are located approximately sixteen miles northeast of the district. Owners of estates created along these lines upgraded and refined an existing farm, utilizing the existing farmhouse and enlarging it in such a way as to show off the refined and cultured taste of the owner, while retaining a strong visual link to the practical farming roots of the estate. In both versions, country estates were surrounded by smaller farms and land holdings that created a rustic, pastoral setting which enhanced the overall design and aesthetic effect of the country estates.

The country estates in this district illustrate variations of the two models of the country estate aesthetic. Beverly Farm was the closest to the Stately Home model. It was created by pulling together several farms with an equal emphasis on both the cultural and agricultural aspects of the country estate. It exhibited an impressive main house with matching gate house, tenant houses, and domestic outbuildings as well as a small but comprehensive collection of agricultural buildings. The main house at Beverly Farm transformed an existing brick vernacular farmhouse, which fortuitously had been placed on a rise above the surrounding farm fields and pastures, into a Georgian Revival mansion house. The domestic outbuildings were then designed or remodeled in complimentary Georgian Revival or Colonial Revival manner and painted a uniform yellow with white trim to compliment the mellow red brick of the manor house. The landscaping also emulated a Georgian Revival aesthetic with a long, curving driveway leading past a small picturesque Georgian Revival gate house through a parkland and around and past the impressive Georgian Revival manor house to the barn complex. The lay-out of the driveway allowed for picturesque glimpses of the manor house as one approached it through the landscaped park land and extensive lawns.

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Both the Bissell Estate and Hill Girt Farm followed the Country Place model. The Bissell Estate appears to have been a conservative version of the Country Place model. It was created by pulling together several farms with the emphasis on beagle hunting and its attendant cultural and social mores. Its main house was based on a modest traditional architectural design aesthetic. It featured matching guest and workers' houses newly constructed for the estate while retaining the other existing farmhouses as tenant or guest houses, all set in a planned park-like landscape with surrounding open fields, meadows, and woodlands designed for beagle hunting.

While Hill Girt Farm was the most elaborate of the estates with its English-style stone walls, complex barn groupings, and its picturesque mill folly, it followed the Country Place model in that its emphasis was on experimental farming and open space conservation, with the domestic buildings taking a secondary role. The east boundary of Hill Girt Farm eventually extended along the west side of the Brandywine from Stabler Road south almost to the Delaware State Line; all this land was put to agricultural use. The farm had four large barn complexes and a greenhouse complex, and nine tenant or farm houses. At the same time, Hill Girt Farm, like Beverly Farm, had a long winding driveway that led to the main house. However, instead of leading past a matching gate house and through parkland as Beverly Farm's drive did, it led past horse pastures and three of the four barn complexes before moving on directly to the main house, thus showcasing the agricultural pursuits of the estate which were of primary importance to the estate. In this case, the main house at Hill Girt Farm, which was a recognizably early 19th-century farmhouse with Colonial Revival additions and embellishments that had been added to create a model country estate house, played a secondary role to the agricultural resources and was one of the few concessions on the estate to the social and cultural aesthetic of the American Country Estate as was typical of country estates based on the Country Place model.

According to Karen Sisson Marshall in "The American Country House in the Greater Brandywine Valley: A Love Affair with the Land", regardless of the country house model, the wealth of the estate owner, or the size of his country estate, all American country estates constructed during this time period (c.1870 to c.1950) tended to share twelve "core characteristics" (Marshall, p. 122). These characteristics can be divided into two types, 1) design or aesthetic characteristics and 2) social or cultural characteristics (which will be discussed below). Not all estates evinced all these characteristics, but more often six to eight. The design and aesthetic characteristics evinced by the estates in this district are:

- 1) A large main house located on extensive grounds that were greater in scale than the scale of the house;
- 2) An estate created for pleasure and to be aesthetically pleasing by, among other things, utilizing the natural beauty and view sheds of the surrounding countryside;
- 3) The incorporation of the main residence, gardens, parkland, driveways, and domestic outbuildings with barns, agricultural outbuildings, open, well-tended fields, forests, groves of trees, and water features in an artistic expression of both individually designed elements and an overall designed plan;
- 4) Buildings and structures that embodied state-of-the-art comfort features for man and beast, and artistic and cultural refinement for master and visitors (Marshall, ps. 122-123).

The estates in the district illustrate these design characteristics. The main houses are located on extensive grounds that were greater in scale than the houses themselves. The main house on Beverly Farm had been placed on a rise above the surrounding, extensive farm fields, pastures, and woodlands. In enlarging and remodelling the main house, Charles Holladay created the illusion that it was the crown jewel overlooking an extensive expanse of well-planned and well-tended acreage to the Brandywine. The main house at Hill Girt Farm had been located on a rise overlooking the original farm. Harry Haskell, in adding extensive lands around the original Pyle Farm, created the illusion that his enlarged and enhanced

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main house was the center of a country estate in the manner of great English country houses. The main house on the Bissell Estate is a little unusual in that it was located on a rise surrounded by woodland which in turn was surrounded by landscaped parkland, fields, and meadows judiciously placed to create a perfect beagle hunting countryside.

The estates were created for pleasure and to be aesthetically pleasing by, among other things, utilizing the natural beauty and view sheds of the surrounding countryside. They all featured horse stables, with the Bissell Estate including a dog kennel for beagle hunting. Fields, meadows, and woodlands were created not only for agricultural purposes (as in the case of Hill Girt Farm), but also to open up view sheds of the Brandywine Creek, its valley, and surrounding hills. They all incorporated the main residence, gardens, parkland, driveways, and domestic outbuildings with barns, agricultural outbuildings, open, well-tended fields, forests, groves of trees, and water features in an artistic expression of both individually designed elements and an overall designed plan.

Beverly Farm incorporated an impressive Georgian Revival mansion house with matching gate house, tenant houses, and domestic outbuildings into a landscape that emulated the Georgian Revival aesthetic with a long, winding driveway leading past the small picturesque Georgian Revival gate house through a parkland and around and past the impressive manor house. The lay-out of the driveway allowed for picturesque glimpses of the manor house as one approached it through the landscaped parkland and extensive lawns. Once arrived at the main house, views of the Brandywine and its valley could be enjoyed. Hill Girt Farm incorporated a large Colonial Revivalized Federal main house into a landscape defined by English-style stone walls and that included complex barn groupings, an elaborate greenhouse and water system feature, and picturesque recreational resources, with tenant and farmhouses dotted throughout the estate. Its elaborate driveway system showcased the main house, and the pastures, tenant houses, and barns along the way. Once arrived at the main house, just as at Beverly Farm, views of the Brandywine and its valley could be enjoyed. The Bissell Estate appears to have incorporated a traditionally designed main house with matching guest and workers' houses and pre-existing farmhouses and agricultural buildings into a planned park-like landscape that included open fields, meadows, and woodlands designed for beagle hunting. Its extensive driveway system afforded glimpses of the open spaces of the estate, dotted with farmhouses and barns; once arrived at the main house, views of the Brandywine Valley watershed could be enjoyed.

The estates embodied some state-of-the-art comfort features for man and beast, and artistic and cultural refinement for master and visitors. Hill Girt Farm added to its farm buildings to accommodate improved agricultural practices and it featured well-designed swimming pool and tennis court complexes, which were situated in pleasing, landscaped settings. Beverly Farm featured stabling and barns for the comfort of their horses, as well as greenhouses and extensive lawns for the pleasure of the owners and their guests. The Bissell Estate featured a state-of-the-art kennel for their dogs and a well-designed and landscaped guest house.

The social or cultural characteristics, as defined by Karen Sisson Marshall in her "The American Country House in the Greater Brandywine Valley: A Love Affair with the Land" (ps. 122-123), evinced by the estates in this district are:

- 1) The goal of keeping up with state-of-the-art agricultural advancements;
- 2) A "back-to-nature" aesthetic which was manifested by the inclusion of riding stables, swimming pools, tennis courts, extensive gardens, pleasure walks, bridle paths, and terraces in the lay-outs of these estates;
- 3) The realization that a country estate conferred social rank and status as well as provided a potential annual income from its agricultural pursuits;
- 4) "[C]ore values reflecting elite social, political, and economic cultural expression[s]".

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Hill Girt Farm and Beverly Farm were concerned with state-of-the-art agricultural advancements or model farming. Hill Girt Farm especially evinced an attempt by its owners to keep up with state-of-the-art agricultural advancements. It featured extensive barn complexes including a large dairy barn, an extensive horse barn and stabling, and a large general barn, probably used for farm produce storage and processing, as well as a greenhouse complex tied to the farm pond to take advantage of this source of water. Beverly Farm reflects a more modest attempt at model farming. It featured a barn complex, chicken coop, and animal shelters and sheds as well as a green house.

All the estates evinced a “back-to-nature” aesthetic. Beverly Farm featured extensive gardens, riding stables, bridle paths, and terraces. Hill Girt Farm featured riding stables, bridle paths, a swimming pool complex, and a tennis court complex. And the Bissell Estate featured stables, a dog kennel, extensive lawns, and a landscape designed specifically for beagle hunting.

It is difficult to document whether social rank and status were conferred on the owners of the estates because of their social standing prior to their ownership or because of their estate ownership. Before he established Hill Girt Farm, Harry Haskell was a Vice-president of DuPont, a title which certainly conferred its own social rank and status. He also understood that his estate would produce an annual income from its agricultural pursuits by carefully creating a country estate focused on extensive farming and sound, modern agricultural practices as witnessed by the continued commercial success of Hill Girt Farm long after his death. The Holladays, by the time of the auction of Beverly Farm in 1947, had attained a status commensurate with Haskell’s, as shown by the auction brochure descriptions of the estate’s buildings and the estate as a whole. George Bissell was already a well-respected banker in Wilmington, Delaware, when he helped his son Alfred to establish his (Alfred’s) estate. Alfred’s social status probably was enhanced by his country estate ownership but probably was not conferred by his ownership but by the fact that he was George’s son.

The estates embodied values that reflect the elite social, political, and economic cultural expression of the Brandywine Valley region. All three estates feature aesthetically pleasing but unostentatious houses set in planned landscapes that incorporated agricultural fields and pastures, landscaped gardens and lawns, and meadows, woods, and topographic features such as creeks, hills, and dales left in their natural state. These houses and their settings represent the values of the times including, but not limited to, a renewed and growing respect for the natural world; a work ethic based on self-sufficiency; a belief in modern technology and science and their ability to make the world a better, more comfortable place to live; and the acquisition and use of cultural and social knowledge. The values continued to be reflected in the latter 20th century when property owners began placing conservation easements on their land to protect their properties from future development. In early 1969, George “Frolic” Weymouth was the first donor of a conservation easement to the Brandywine Conservancy, of which he was a principal founder in 1967. His efforts inspired two other Twin Bridges estate families, the Haskells (Hill Girt) and Drapers (the second owners of Beverly Farm) to donate conservation easements on portions of their lands as well, ensuring that the landscapes they developed and prized would be protected. They were at the cutting edge of a new trend in land conservation, one well in keeping with the values exhibited in the American Country Estate movement.

History

The Brandywine Creek Valley has been an agricultural, commercial, and transportation center from the onset of European occupation in this region. During the 17th century, the Swedes, the Dutch, and the English traveled inland via the creek to trade with the resident Native Americans. The area was exploited by English and American farmers and rural industrialists during the 18th and 19th centuries, and was located within the northernmost reaches of the DuPonts’ industrial empire in the latter part of the 19th century. As Wilmington, Delaware, grew and expanded, the Brandywine Valley was gradually

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transformed into a mosaic of working farms and country estates, the latter inspired by interest in English country estates and enabled by a school of architecture and landscape design pioneered by Andrew Jackson Downing and his followers. This trend in land development continued through the end of the Second World War, and with few alterations it influences land use to the present day. The properties within the Twin Bridges Rural Historic District illustrate this developmental history.

After the English gained hegemony over the area in 1664, they established a permanent settlement at what is now Wilmington, Delaware. As the English became entrenched in the Delaware Valley, the Brandywine provided a navigable link inland and a strong and steady source of water power for economic development. Mills of all kinds began to appear along this important tributary to the Delaware River. William Twaddell's 18th and 19th century industrial endeavors illustrate the importance of the creek as a source of motive power. Circa 1779, William Twaddell of Philadelphia acquired approximately 212 acres of land at a location known locally as "the Big Bend" in Birmingham Township (now Chadds Ford Township), and established a paper mill seat on the property. Twaddell endeavored to utilize the Brandywine's water power to its maximum efficiency, operating an iron forge from 1780 through 1807, as well as, according to the 1823 tax assessment records, grist, saw, and powder mills (PHMC 1972). The paper mill operated well into the 19th century.

Brandywine Creek also provided rich alluvial soils which early settlers, especially English Quakers, took full advantage of. Over one to two generations they generally established prosperous farms averaging 150 to 200 acres each. As an outgrowth of this agricultural prosperity, grist and saw mills were established along the Brandywine to process grain, and to lumber the extensive timberlands of the region. One such rural industry was established by Job Pyle on his farm in Pennsbury Township. In 1810, Pyle acquired 218 acres of land abutting the west bank of the Brandywine (Chester County Deed Book D3, p. 121), and established a saw mill and a grist mill along a tributary to the Brandywine Creek, west of Creek Road. These mills operated throughout the 19th century.

The transformation of the Brandywine Valley's rural landscape began with the activities of the DuPonts, who arrived in Delaware at the turn of the 19th century. Eleuthere Irenee DuPont de Nemours, a French Huguenot and a refugee from the excesses of the French Revolution, fled Paris in 1799 and arrived in Delaware in 1800 after first disembarking in Rhode Island. DuPont and his family established residency near Wilmington, hoping to establish a community of French émigrés. A chemist and industrialist who began his career as an assistant to Antoine Lavoisier, DuPont located his home and his business, Eleutherian Mills, along the Brandywine near Wilmington. The manufacture of gunpowder, of a quality surpassing other similar American manufacturers, became the cornerstone of E. I. DuPont de Nemours and Company, which grew and expanded to become one of the world's largest and most successful chemical companies. DuPont's ventures also helped make Wilmington a burgeoning nucleus of commercial and industrial development. By the mid-19th century, the DuPonts had established themselves as the cultural, social, and political leaders of Wilmington and the lower Brandywine Valley.

Wilmington thrived during America's first Industrial Revolution, and entered its greatest period of growth and expansion with the onset of the Civil War and America's second Industrial Revolution. Wilmington-based industries supplied the Union war effort with gunpowder, ships, railroad cars, and numerous other manufactured goods. The prosperity and expansion of the city's industrial base initiated a cycle of development and expansion that saw the outward movement of residential areas away from the city center and into formerly rural areas. The first such cycle of development and expansion began in 1864, and repeated itself around the time of the First World War and following the Second World War.

One result of these cycles was that Wilmington's residential district expanded into the Brandywine Valley, encroaching on the valley's mill seats and farms. Many of the earliest farms, including those owned by the DuPonts, became engulfed in the expanding urban center. The DuPonts and others, including DuPont executives such as H. G. Haskell, responded by pushing farther north,

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acquiring additional properties along the Brandywine. The DuPonts were among the first to establish country seats in the lower Brandywine Valley, just north of Wilmington's expanding industrial center.

The DuPont family acquired holdings along Brandywine Creek, exploiting to the fullest extent the Creek's water power as well as the rich soil and mineral resources of the region. The area encompassed by the district is located in the northernmost reach of the DuPonts' industrial empire. In the 1870s, the DuPonts acquired the 212-acre Twaddell property at Brandywine Creek's Big Bend (Delaware County Deed Book A3, p. 582). This acreage included the Twaddell Paper Mill and Millhouse, the acquisition of which added to the DuPonts' industrial holdings.

As the Industrial Revolution progressed, wealthy Americans began to look to England and Europe for ways to express their growing affluence, social and cultural influence, and political power. One mode of expression was to emulate the European country house social set, especially as epitomized by the English aristocracy. Wealthy Americans exposed themselves to European culture by embarking on the "Grand Tour" of Europe. Initially a custom of the European elite that originated during the middle of the 17th century, the Grand Tour had become primarily associated with the English aristocracy and landed gentry during the 18th century. In its 18th-century manifestation, the Grand Tour was an educational rite of passage that exposed young English men to the history, culture, and antiquities of the European mainland. The Tour had a more or less standard itinerary that took its followers through Paris, Geneva, Turin, Milan, Florence, Padua, Bologna, Venice, Rome, Berlin, Dresden, Vienna, Potsdam, Holland, and Flanders. By mid-century, the Tour also included Athens and other destinations in Greece. The dynamics of the Grand Tour changed significantly by the middle of the 19th century as overseas and overland travel became more efficient and more affordable. It was at this time that wealthy American youths began to adopt the tradition of the Grand Tour. By the end of the 19th century, the Grand Tour had become a largely American phenomenon for both young gentlemen and young ladies.

Americans who had taken the Grand Tour returned with a wealth of ideas about refined and cultured living, and sought to set about implementing those ideas. American architects, builders, and engineers took full advantage of the increased interest in European and English architecture, culture, and art, as well as the life-style of the English aristocracy; they began extolling the virtues of country living and country houses in books, pamphlets, and magazine and newspaper articles. These men included architect and landscape designer Andrew Jackson Downing, whose seminal and highly influential 1842 publication, *Cottage Residences* (co-written with Alexander J. Davis), popularized the idea of aesthetically pleasing country residences that blended into their surrounding landscape.

Inspired by the manor houses they had visited on their Grand Tours and guided by the architectural and landscape design concepts of Downing and Davis and their contemporaries and successors, wealthy Americans established country estates that emulated the great English country houses and tended to share twelve "core characteristics" (Marshall, p. 122). These characteristics included, among other things, the idea that the country estate was the primary residence of the owners with the main house located on extensive grounds that were greater in scale than the scale of the house. The entire estate was created for pleasure and to be aesthetically pleasing by, among other things, utilizing the natural beauty and view sheds of the surrounding countryside. The estate incorporated the main residence, gardens, parkland, driveways, and domestic outbuildings with barns, agricultural outbuildings, open, well-tended fields, forests, groves of trees, and water features in an artistic expression of both individually designed elements and an overall designed plan. The buildings and structures located on the estate embodied state-of-the-art comfort features for man and beast, and artistic and cultural refinement for master and visitors. State-of-the-art agricultural advancement was one of the goals of many country estates (Ibid, ps. 122-123), especially those that fell under the category of "Country Place" (Hewitt, p. 153), as was a "back-to-nature" aesthetic which was manifested by the inclusion of riding stables, swimming pools, tennis courts, extensive gardens, pleasure walks, bridle paths, and terraces in the lay-

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outs of the country estates. At the same time, wealthy Americans realized that a country estate conferred social rank and status as well as providing a potential annual income from its agricultural pursuits (Marshall, ps. 122-123). Finally, country estates embodied “core values reflecting elite social, political, and economic cultural expression[s] (Ibid, p. 123).” These cultural expressions continued to be interpreted with each generation of country estate ownership and can be grouped into two broad categories or models: the Stately Home and the Country Place (Hewitt, ps. 125 & 153).

As the Brandywine Valley experienced increasing prosperity, the country house aesthetic gradually spread north along the Brandywine until, by the First World War, country estates were being established along the Brandywine in southern Pennsylvania as well as northern Delaware. As part of that aesthetic, some members of the Brandywine Valley’s upper class followed the tradition of wealthy landowners of naming their properties. Within the boundaries of what would become the Twin Bridges Rural Historic District, two properties bore names. Howard E. Seal’s 115-acre parcel was named “Locust Knoll” (which it is still known as today), and George H. Barney’s 140-acre parcel was named “Brandywine View”. After the latter property was acquired by Charles B. Holladay in 1916, it would become part of Holladay’s country estate that he originally christened “Wyndham” but finally settled on “Beverly Farm”.

The Twin Bridges estates all began to take shape in the years just preceding the entrance of the United States into World War I, as Wilmington underwent its second cycle of development and expansion. By the mid-1930s, these estates had collectively brought together all or part of nineteen 19th-century farms. Figure 4: Map of Historic Country Estates shows the limits of these three estates at their peak.

In 1914, George P. Bissell, a partner in the Wilmington banking firm of Laird, Bissell and Meads, acquired a 115.25-acre tract in Pennsbury Township from John and Joanna McDonnell (Chester County Deed Book R14, p. 136). This farm appears on Breou’s 1883 Map of Pennsbury Township as the John McCanne [sic] farm. In 1919, Bissell added the 70-acre former Joseph Seal farm in a transaction with Frank P. and Ella Mc.M. Fling (Chester County Deed Book O15, p. 154). In 1924, he added two acres from the Harlan Cloud property (Chester County Deed Book R16, p. 161) and in 1929, Bissell acquired the former 50-acre Joseph Martin farm in a transaction with Albert and Ruth A. S. Walker (Chester County Deed Book B18, p. 72). At some point between 1914 and 1929, he also acquired the 15-acre Patrick Kelly property and approximately 50 acres of the John Craig farm. By 1930, then, Bissell had assembled an estate consisting of approximately 303 acres.

Two other families soon followed suit. In 1916, Harry G. Haskell, a Vice-president of the DuPont Company, acquired the 218-acre former Job Pyle farm in a transaction with Harry and Alice T. Pyle (Chester County Deed Book A15, p. 187). He continued to acquire neighboring farms. In 1926, Haskell added the 122-acre former E. H. Clyde farm in a transaction with Daniel and Elizabeth E. Cauffield (Chester County Deed Book Y16, p. 464) and in 1930, Haskell acquired the eight-acre Daisy property from Elizabeth E. Cauffield et al (Chester County Deed Book E18, p. 354). Between 1916 and 1930, he also acquired the 150-acre Eli Seal Farm and the 172-acre James Osbourne Farm. These five holdings were combined to create Hill Girt Farm, an estate that encompassed approximately 670 acres in Pennsbury Township. In 1928, the Haskells moved across the Creek and acquired the 115-acre Locust Knoll property (Delaware County Deed Book 853, p. 237), then a modest country residence of the Seal family which they had acquired from William Twaddell in 1844 (Delaware County Deed Book W, p. 385). The following year, the Haskells acquired the 212-acre Twaddell Mill Property (Delaware County Deed Book 757, p. 394) bringing the total acreage for Hill Girt Farm to approximately 997 acres.

Beginning in 1916 with the acquisition of the 140-acre John B. Barney farm (Delaware County Deed Book 398, p. 370), Charles B. Holladay, a member of the DuPont Company, established his estate, originally known as Wyndham, but eventually called Beverly Farm. Beverly Farm eventually

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encompassed approximately 300 acres in Birmingham Township, Delaware County and was located on all or parts of the John B. Barney Farm, the Emmor Garrett Farm, the George Bullock Farm, and the Robert Bullock Farm. Holladay's estate was located south of Bullock Road and east of Creek Road and the Brandywine Creek.

This section of the Brandywine Valley became a country estate enclave for two interrelated reasons. First, it was close to the DuPonts' industrial seats of power, falling within that part of the Valley affected by Wilmington's successive waves of development and expansion. The DuPonts' presence in the area of the district began with Henry, Clementine, Lammot, and Eugene DuPont's acquisition of the Twaddell Mill Property in 1870 (Delaware County Deed Book A3, p. 582); the DuPonts held this property until 1910, when Alexis DuPont sold it to Pusey P. Taylor (Delaware County Deed Book F13, p. 581). In the late 1920s, Harry Haskell bought the property to protect Hill Girt Farm's view sheds, by which time the mill had been vacated. By 1950, the other resources had also been abandoned and left to deteriorate. However, in the 1970s, a descendent of the DuPonts, George Weymouth, bought the property, rescued it from total destruction, and created his Big Bend Estate in the best tradition of the great American country estates of the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century, complete with landscaped gardens, barns, a tenant house, and a guest house (Lidz, ps. 9 & 24-25).

Second, the area benefitted from the continual development of a transportation infrastructure that established links to Wilmington and Philadelphia. Originally, the transportation system in the area consisted of roads and, by the mid-1800s, bridges. An unusual combination of two tandem wooden covered bridges carried Creek Road across the Brandywine. Those bridges were known locally as "Twin Bridges." They gave their name to the area, used to this day by local residents, even long after the twin bridges were replaced by the current concrete arch bridge (Photo 15), known as Pyles Twin Bridge (1925). For the working farms, the improved infrastructure provided an outlet for produce and raw materials, and access to goods and services not otherwise available to the farming community. For parties who sought to relocate permanently or seasonally from Wilmington, the infrastructure provided access to lands in the Brandywine Valley. Until the end of the Civil War, the village of Fairville, located west of the district and between Kennett Square and Wilmington at the crossroads of Kennett Pike (S.R. 0052) and Fairville Road, served as a local marketing center and gateway to the Brandywine Valley. Fairville maintained a post office from 1859 through 1949. After 1866, the construction of rail networks diminished the role of Fairville as a marketing center. The construction of the Philadelphia & Baltimore Central Railroad drew commerce north to Mendenhall and the construction of the Wilmington & Reading Railroad (later renamed the Wilmington and Northern Railroad) provided a direct rail link between Wilmington and points north through the Brandywine Valley. Chadds Ford, where these two lines intersected, became a major rail hub; smaller stations south of Chadds Ford included Brookfield, a short distance north of Pyles Twin Bridge and no longer standing, and Pyle's Station, which railroad executive Henry A. DuPont would rename as Cossart Station in 1891. This station also served as a post office from 1890 to 1934. If the advent of the railroads brought Fairville's economy to a tipping point, the arrival of Philip DuPont, one of Alexis I. DuPont's sons who established a small country estate at Fairville in 1900, marked a second point of transition for Fairville and for this section of the Brandywine Valley in general. It was at this point that Fairville began to transform into a bedroom community for Wilmington. This trend would continue, and by the time of the World War I era expansion of Wilmington country estates similar to that of Philip DuPont would be established in the vicinity of Fairville and Twin Bridges.

The centerpiece for each of these newly assembled estates was the main house, the residence of the new owner. The main house was created using one of two strategies. The owner either renovated the existing farmhouse and made additions to create a proper country estate house, or chose a building site (sometimes occupied by a pre-existing house that was subsequently torn down) that would be suitable for showing off a grand manor house that was built in any one of the architectural styles popular at the time.

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The main house (Resource #16a) at Harry G. Haskell's Hill Girt Farm exemplifies the former strategy (Photo 32); it is a simple Federal style farmhouse with Colonial Revival embellishments added to it after the property was acquired in 1916. The main house (Resource #37a) at Beverly Farm (Photo 49) is also an example of the former strategy. It started as a simple brick farmhouse and was enlarged and remodelled into a large, eleven-room, brick Georgian Revival mansion perched on a rise above its surrounding farm land and reached by a long winding driveway that afforded various views of the house as one approached it. On the other hand, the Bissell Estate's main house (Resource #05) is a more modest version of the latter strategy. It is a modest Colonial Revival house, sited on high ground surrounded by woodlands that are in turn surrounded by pastures, meadows, and woodlands.

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Twin Bridges Rural Historic District
Name of Property

Chester and Delaware Counties, PA
County and State

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Chester County Deed Books, 1925-2013 (from Book "A16" on), Chester County Recorder of Deeds Office. Microfilm.

Twin Bridges Rural Historic District
Name of Property

Chester and Delaware Counties, PA
County and State

Chester County Historical Society Library, West Chester, PA

“Map of Pennsbury Township”. c.1847

“Map of Township of Birmingham Showing Early Grants and Patents”

Delaware County Courthouse, Media, PA

Delaware County Deed Books, 1789-2009, Delaware County Recorder of Deeds Office. Microfilm.

Delaware County Historical Society Library, Delaware County National Bank Building, Chester City, PA

Photographic Materials File.

Township of Pennsbury, Chadds Ford, PA

Wise Preservation Planning. “2009 Pennsbury Township Historic Resource Inventory and Survey”. Pennsbury, PA: Pennsbury Township, 2009.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register (Twadell's Mill & House, 1973)

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: 1,862.64 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

1. Latitude: 75°37'41.57.347"W

Longitude: 39°49'57.459"N

2. Latitude: 75°37'41.57.347"W

Longitude: 39°51'48.049"N

3. Latitude: 75°34'22.973"W

Longitude: 39°51'48.049"N

4. Latitude: 75°34'22.973"W

Longitude: 39°49'57.459"N

Twin Bridges Rural Historic District
Name of Property

Chester and Delaware Counties, PA
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Twin Bridges Rural Historic District is shown on the accompanying map labelled "Figure 1: Site Plan" and is based on the historic boundaries of the Preston Walker Property, Lewis Stern Property, Bissell Estate, and Hill Girt Farm in Pennsbury Township, Chester County; and Hill Girt Farm and Beverly Farm in Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County, as delineated by the metes and bounds described in the appropriate deeds.

Boundary Justification

The Twin Bridges Rural Historic District boundary encompasses the main houses, barns, tenant houses, guest houses, stables, meadows, woods, gardens and other buildings, structures, and sites historically associated with the Bissell Estate, Hill Girt Farm, and Beverly Farm, as well as two adjacent rural properties that convey, enhance and contribute to the overall significance and integrity of the district. The properties located along the west side of Fairville Road and on the south side of Cossart Road at its intersection with Fairville and Stockford Roads were not included in the district because they were not directly associated with any of the estates located within the district boundaries and they did not, in their own right, function as one or more country estates as defined by the American Country Estate Movement.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jane E. Dorchester, Architectural Historian, with Brandywine Conservancy staff and PA SHPO
organization: for the Brandywine Conservancy
street & number: 19 S. Church Street, #2B
city or town: West Chester state: PA zip code: 19382
e-mail: jeditorhspv@verizon.net telephone: 610-431-3737 date: July 26, 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
 - A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 - **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photography Log

Name of Property: Twin Bridges Rural Historic District
City or Vicinity: Pennsbury and Chadds Ford Townships
County: Chester and Delaware Counties State: PA
Photographers: Randolph Harris & Jane E. Dorchester
Photo Dates: 05/23/2008, 07/22/2008, 07/30/2008, (Harris), 01/30/2015 (Dorchester)
Location of Original Images: Office of Preparer

Twin Bridges Rural Historic District
Name of Property

Chester and Delaware Counties, PA
County and State

Photo #	Description, including direction Camera Facing
01	Example of woodlands found in district, view from Big Bend drive, facing northwest (Harris, 7/2008)
02	Example of open meadows found in district, view from Big Bend drive, facing southwest (Harris, 7/2008)
03	Example of cultivated fields found in district, Hill Girt Farm, facing west (Harris, 7/2008)
04	Example of pastures found in district, Hill Girt Farm, facing north (Harris, 7/2008)
05	Cluster of agricultural buildings, Beverly Farm, facing north (Harris, 7/2008)
06	Example of stone walls (South Creek Road) found in district, facing northeast (Harris, 7/2008)
07	Big Bend Main House surrounded by its gardens and lawn, facing northwest (Harris, 7/2008)
08	Example of stone walls (South Creek Road) found in district, facing south (Harris, 7/2008)
09	Tree-lined Stabler Road, facing southeast (Harris, 7/2008)
10	Example of the rural view-sheds found in the district, view from Big Bend driveway, facing west (Harris, 7/2008)
11	Long drive to Hill Girt Farm's Main House, facing northwest (Harris, 7/2008)
12	Long drive into one of Beverly Farm's tenant houses, facing northeast (Harris, 7/2008)
13	Wilmington and Northern Railroad tracks with freight train, facing south (Harris, 7/2008)
14	Pyles Twin Bridge, facing northwest (Harris, 7/2008)
15	Pyles Twin Bridge plaque, facing southeast (Harris, 5/2008)
16	Brandywine Creek along Rocky Hill Road, facing northwest (Harris, 7/2008)
17	Example of vernacular farmhouses (Big Bend guest house) found in district, facing south (Dorchester, 1/2015)
18	Example of vernacular farmhouses (Hill Girt Farm tenant house) found in district, facing west (Harris, 7/2008)
19	Example of Victorian houses (Locust Knoll Farmhouse) found in district, facing north (Harris, 7/2008)
20	Example of mid-20th century houses (Beverly Farm Tenant House) found in district, facing south (Harris, 7/2008)
21	Example of local barns (Eli Seal Barn/former Hill Girt Farm) found in district, facing north (Dorchester, 1/2015)
22	Example of local barns (Joseph Martin Barn/Bissell Estate) found in district, facing east (Dorchester, 1/2015)
23	Example of domestic outbuildings (Hill Girt Farm garage/shed complex) found in district, facing west (Harris, 7/2008)
24	Example of agricultural outbuildings (Beverly Farm chicken coop) found in district, facing south (Harris, 7/2008)
25	Example of recreational buildings (Hill Girt Farm pool house) found in district, facing southeast (Harris, 7/2008)
26	Hill Girt Farm mill race to pool house's water wheel, facing southwest (Harris, 7/2008)
27	Hill Girt Farm pond, facing west (Harris, 7/2008)
28	Hill Girt Farm stone arch driveway bridge, facing west (Harris, 7/2008)
29	Walker Preston Tenant House, Stockford Road, facing northwest (Harris, 5/2008)
30	Row of Colonial Revival tenant houses, former Bissell Estate, Stockford Road, facing

Twin Bridges Rural Historic District
Name of Property

Chester and Delaware Counties, PA
County and State

	southwest (Dorchester, 1/2015)
31	Cultivated fields offset by woodlands, Hill Girt Farm, facing southwest (Harris, 7/2008)
32	Hill Girt Farm Main House, facing north (Harris, 7/2008)
33	Double decker barn with two silos, Hill Girt Farm, facing northwest (Harris, 7/2008)
34	Stable, Hill Girt Farm, facing northwest (Harris, 7/2008)
35	Mill building renovated into barn, Hill Girt Farm, facing northeast (Harris, 7/2008)
36	Barn with stables, Hill Girt Farm, facing northeast (Harris, 7/2008)
37	Cantilevered canopied tennis viewing pavilion, Hill Girt Farm, facing west (Harris, 7/2008)
38	Daisy Property, former Hill Girt Farm, Fairville Road at Stabler Road intersection, facing southwest (Dorchester, 1/2015)
39	Eli Seal Farmhouse, former Hill Girt Farm, South Creek Road, facing west (Dorchester, 1/2015)
40	One of two tenant houses that share a courtyard, former Hill Girt Farm, Cossart Road, facing southwest (Dorchester, 1/2015)
41	Cossart Train Station (passenger), Hill Girt Farm, South Creek Road, facing northeast (Harris, 7/2008)
42	Cossart Train Station (freight), Hill Girt Farm, South Creek Road, facing southeast (Harris, 7/2008)
43	Locust Knoll Farm, Big Bend Estate, facing northeast (Dorchester, 1/2015)
44	Big Bend Main House with root cellar, facing northeast (Harris, 7/2008)
45	Chapel, Big Bend Estate, facing south (one of few non-contributing resources, due to recent age) (Dorchester, 1/2015)
46	Chapel gates, Big Bend Estate, facing south (Dorchester, 1/2015)
47	Three of the five resources located along South Creek Road, Beverly Farm, facing north (Dorchester, 1/2015)
48	Garrett tenant house along Rocky Hill Road, former Beverly Farm, facing northwest (Harris, 7/2008)
49	Beverly Farm Main House, facing north (Harris, 7/2008)
50	Beverly Farm barn with terra cotta tile silo, facing northwest (Harris, 7/2008)
51	View from the front of Beverly Farm Main House, facing southeast (Harris, 7/2008)
52	Chauffer's House with attached garage, Beverly Farm, facing northwest (Harris, 7/2008)
53	Beverly Farm's park-like gardens and lawns, facing northeast (Harris, 7/2008)

Appropriateness of Photos was confirmed during SHPO staff visit to the district.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

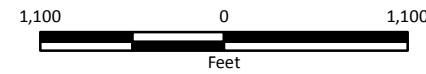
Figure 1: Site Plan
Twin Bridges Historic District

Pennsbury Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania and Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania



Legend

- Railroads
- Roads
- Streams
- Proposed Historic District
- Tax parcels
- Municipal boundaries



Data Sources: Base data from Chester County GIS Department and Delaware County GIS Department, 12/2013.
Date created: November 13, 2014

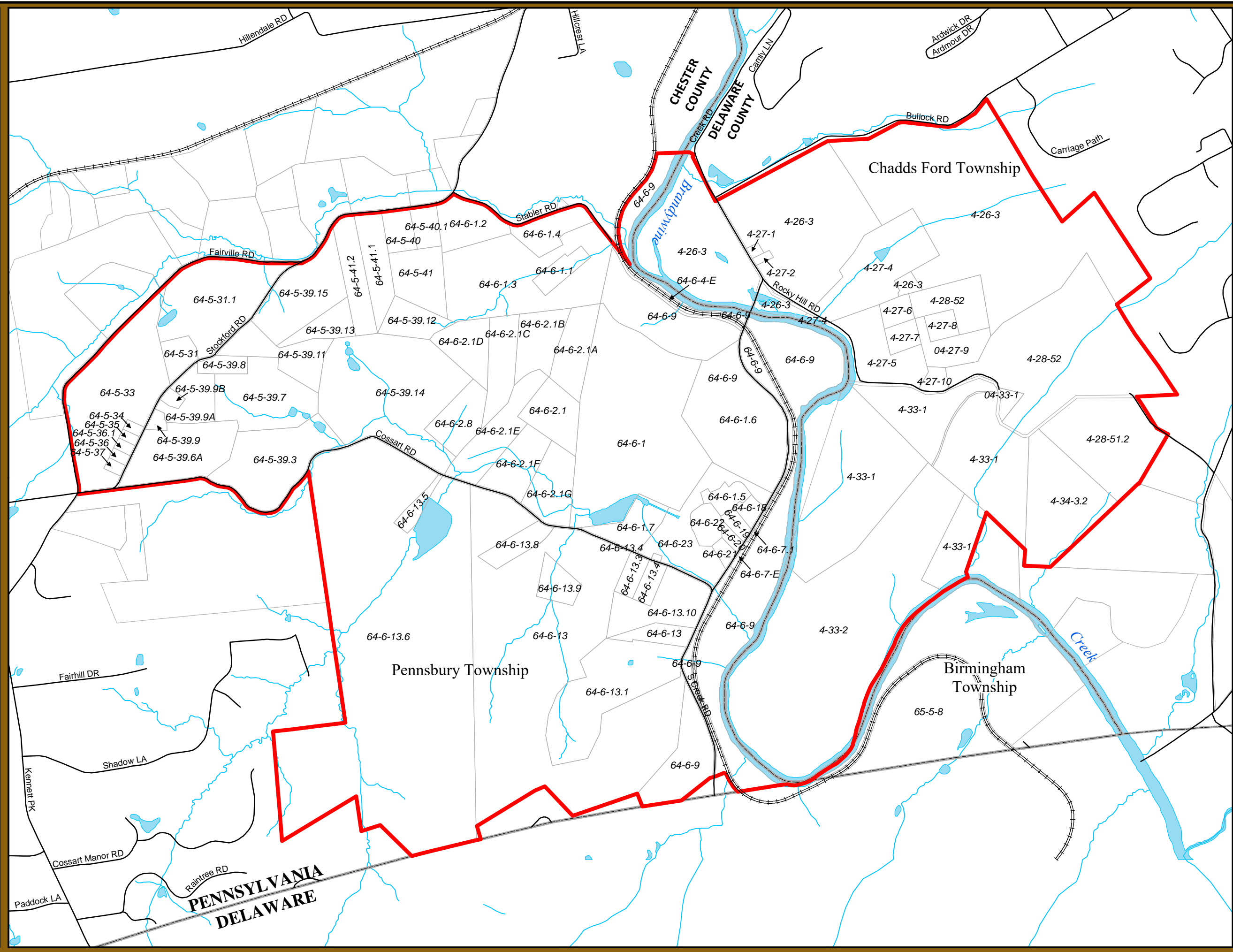






Figure 2:
USGS Location Map
Twin Bridges Historic District

Pennsbury Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania and
 Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania



Legend

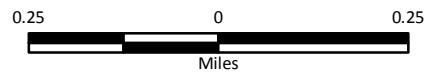
-  Streams
-  Bodies of water
-  Proposed Historic District
-  Municipal boundaries

39°51'48.049"N 75°37'57.347"W

39°51'48.049"N 75°34'22.973"W

39°49'57.459"N 75°37'57.347"W

39°49'57.459"N 75°34'22.973"W



Data Sources: Base data from Chester County GIS Department and Delaware County GIS Department, 12/2013. USGS Quadrangle Map (7.5 minute quad, NAD 1983) from ESRI, 2016.

Date created: November 13, 2014
 Last revised: July 12, 2017

USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, National Elevation Dataset, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; U.S. Census Bureau - TIGER/Line; HERE Road Data

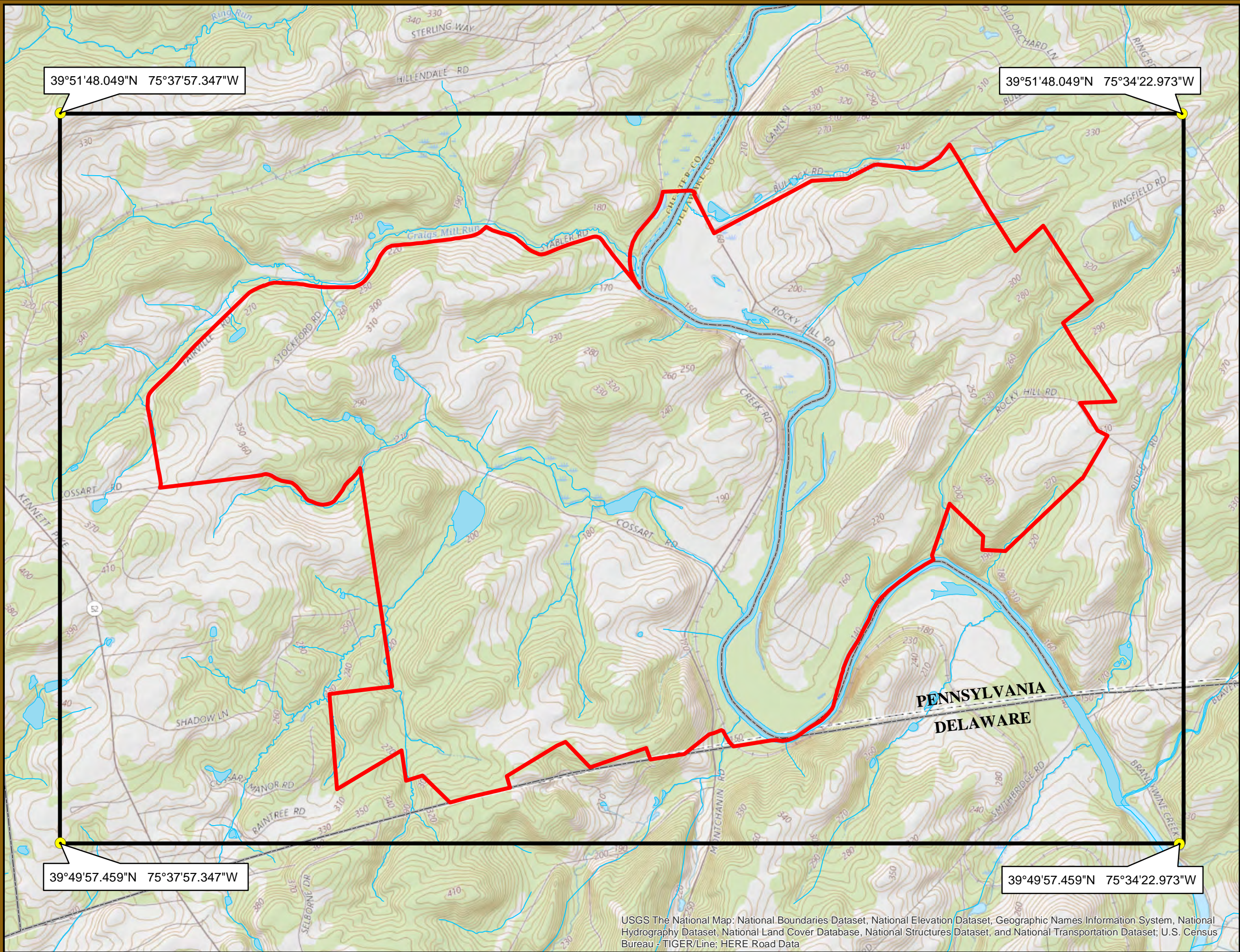


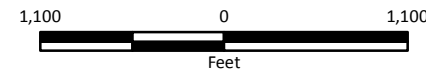
Figure 3:
Photograph Key
Twin Bridges Historic District

Pennsbury Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania and
 Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania



Legend

- Existing Individual National Register Resources
- Contributing Individual Resources
- ▲ Noncontributing Individual Resources
- Photograph locations
- Contributing Properties
- ▨ Existing National Register Property
- Railroads
- Roads
- ▭ Proposed Historic District
- ▭ Municipal boundaries
- ▭ Tax parcels
- Bodies of water
- Streams



Data Sources: Base data from Chester County GIS Department and Delaware County GIS Department, 12/2013.
 Date created: July 19, 2016
 Last revised: July 14, 2017

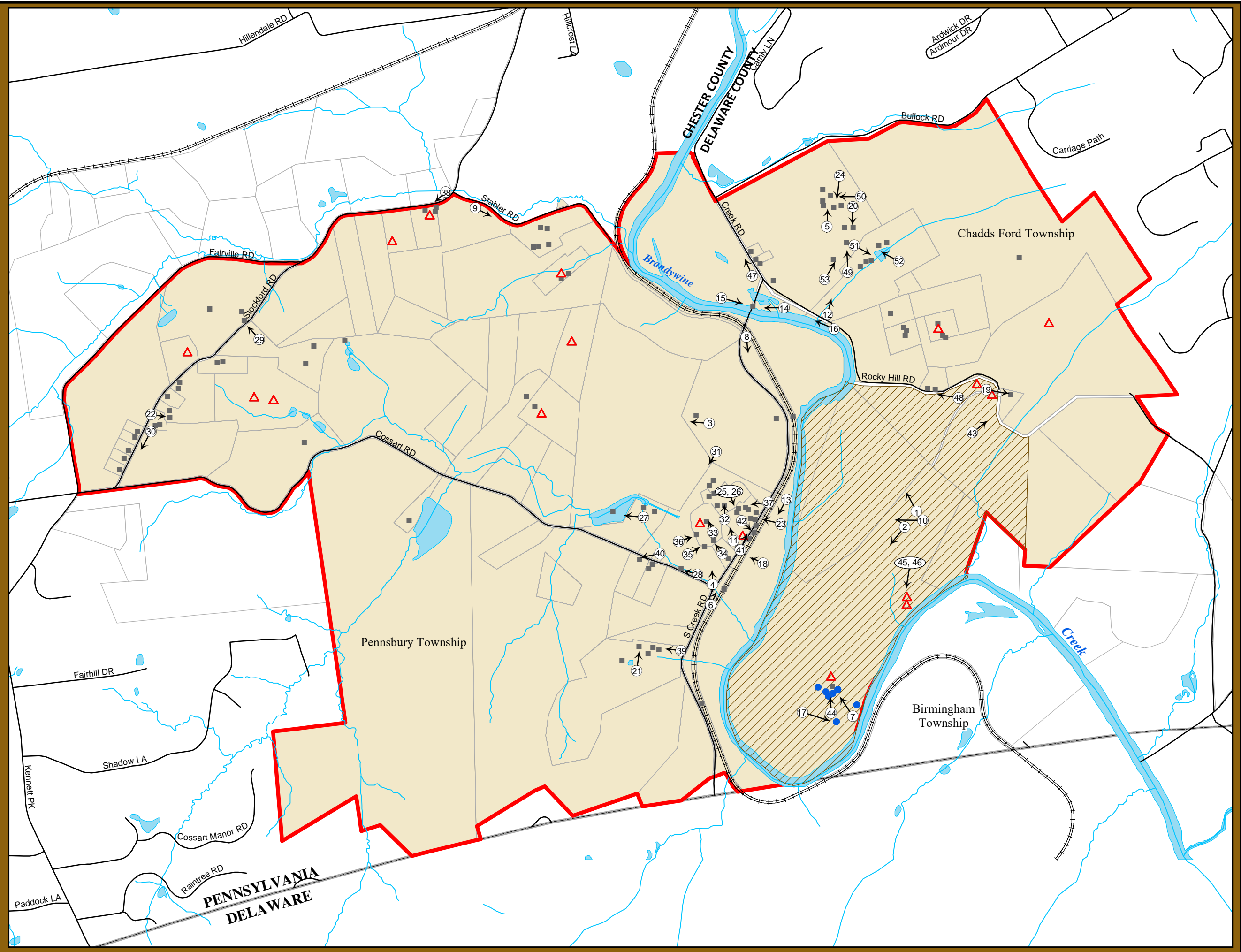
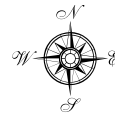


Figure 4:
Historic Country Estates
Twin Bridges Historic District

Pennsbury Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania and
 Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania

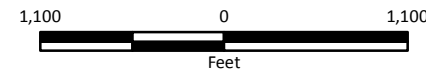


Legend

- Proposed Historic District
- Railroads
- Roads
- Municipal boundaries
- Bodies of water
- Streams

Historic country estates

- Bissell
- Beverly Farm
- Hill Girt
- Hill Girt/Big Bend
- Big Bend
- Not part of any estate



Data Sources: Base data from Chester County GIS Department and Delaware County GIS Department, 12/2013.

Date created: July 15, 2016
 Last revised: July 12, 2017

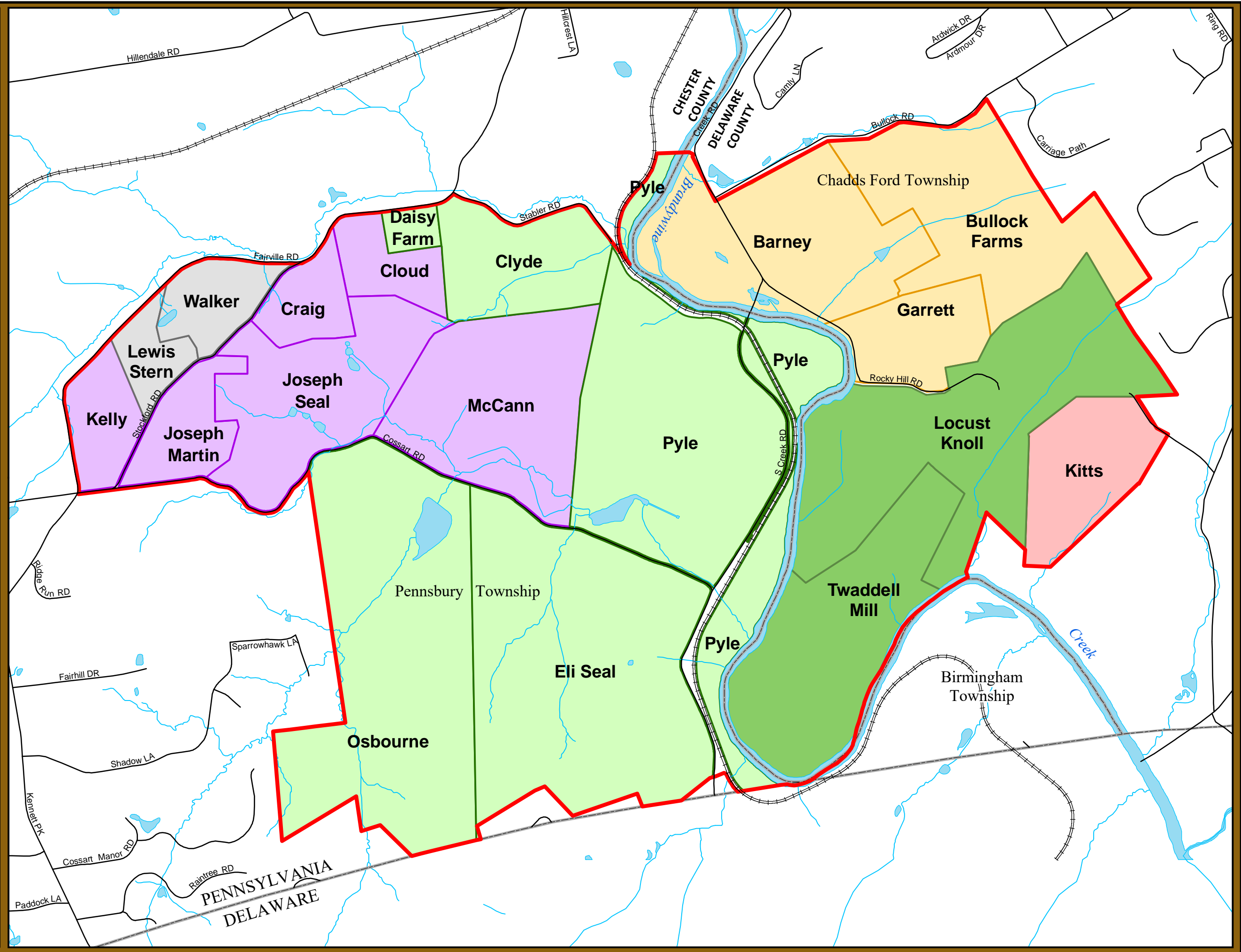
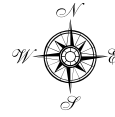


Figure 5: Contributing & Noncontributing Resources

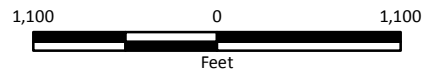
Twin Bridges Historic District

Pennsbury Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania and
Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania



Legend

- Existing Individual National Register Resources
- Contributing Individual Resources
- ▲ Noncontributing Individual Resources
- Contributing Properties
- Existing National Register Property
- Railroads
- Roads
- Proposed Historic District
- Municipal boundaries
- Tax parcels
- Bodies of water
- Streams



Data Sources: Base data from Chester County GIS Department and Delaware County GIS Department, 12/2013.

Date created: July 19, 2016
Last revised: July 14, 2017

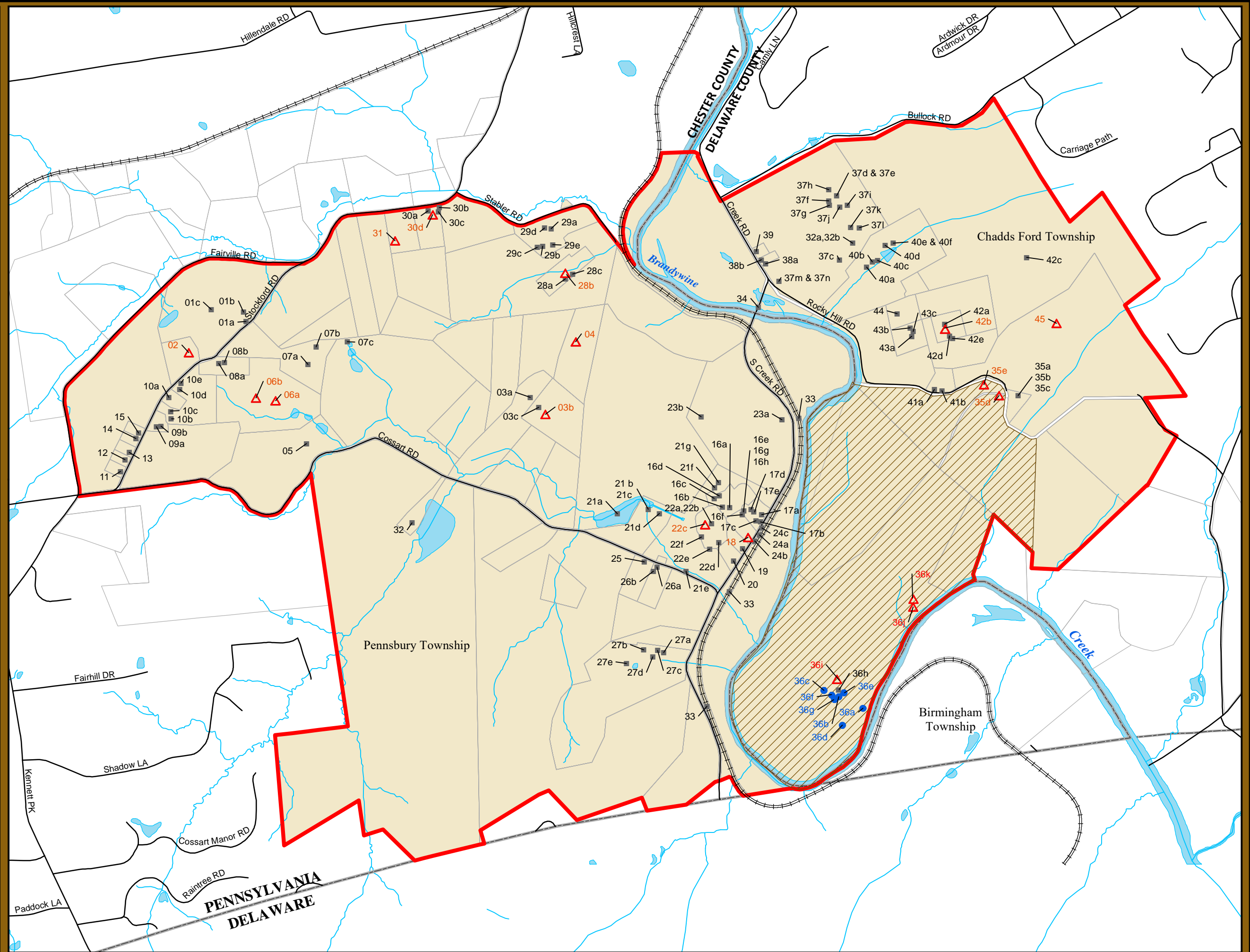







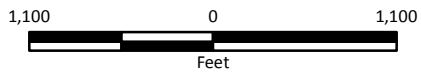
Figure 6:
2015 Aerial Photograph
Twin Bridges Historic District

Pennsbury Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania and
 Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania



Legend

-  Railroads
-  Roads
-  Proposed Historic District
-  Municipal boundaries
-  Streams



Data Sources: Base data from Chester County GIS Department and Delaware County GIS Department, 12/2013.
 Aerial photograph from USDA, 2015.

Date created: July 14, 2017







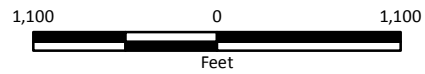
Figure 7:
1937 Aerial Photograph
Twin Bridges Historic District

Pennsbury Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania and
Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania



Legend

-  Railroads
-  Proposed Historic District
-  Municipal boundaries
-  Streams



Data Sources: Base data from Chester County GIS Department and Delaware County GIS Department, 12/2013.
Aerial photograph from USDA, 9/1937.

Date created: July 14, 2017



All house numbers, street addresses, and street names are from the respective County Tax Assessment Databases. The inventory is organized by estate, with resources historically associated with certain estates and earlier farms grouped together. (See Figure 4 for historic estate and farm boundaries; Figure 5 for resource locations.)

Resource No.	Name	Tax Parcel #	Hse#	Street	Function Historic	Function Current	Materials	Style	Date	Resource Type	Rsrce Cnt	C/ NC	Comments
	Individual Properties	Chester Co., Pennsbury Twp											
	Preston Walker Farm												
01a	Tenant House	64-5-31.1	1151	Stockford Rd.	Domestic	Vacant	Stone	No Style	c.1775	Building	1	C	Preston Walker Tenant House
01b	Barn				Agri	Agri	Stone	Dornbusch Type L	c.1820	Building	1	C	Double-decker barn w/ramp & bridge
01c	House				Domestic	Domestic	Stone/Frame	Col Revival	c.1950	Building	1	C	H-shaped, multi-bay, Main House
02	Lewis Stern Farm	64-5-31		Stockford Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum	Col Revival	c.1920	Building	1	NC	House, has large c.2000 addition
33	W&N Rail Road	64-6-7		S. Creek Rd.	Transport	Transport	Steel	No Style	c.1866	Structure	1	C	RR Alignment, Tracks & Sidings
34	Pyles Twin Bridge			S. Creek Rd. over Brandywine Creek	Transport	Transport	Reinforced Concrete	Arch Bridge	1925	Structure	1	C	Chester County Bridge No. 83; 6 span, 482' long; SHPO Key #092304
	Bissell Estate	Chester Co., Pennsbury Twp.											
	John McCann Farm												
03a	House	64-6-2.1	201	Cossart Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stone/Frame	No Style	c.1820	Building	1	C	John McCann Farmhouse
03b	Barn/House				Agri	Domestic	Stone/Frame	No Style	c.1820	Building	1	NC	Barn being turned into Residence
03c	Outbuilding				Domestic	Vacant	Stucco/Stone	No Style	c.1820	Building	1	C	Outbuilding
04	House	64-6-2.1A	217	Cossart Rd.	N/A	Domestic	Stucco	No Style	c.2010	Building	1	NC	U-Shaped House
	Joseph Seal Farm												
05	Hunting Hill House	64-5-39.3	701	Cossart Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stucco/Brick	Col Revival	c.1930	Building	1	C	Bank-house; "Hunting Hill"
06a	Laird House Bldg 1	64-5-39.7	1202	Stockford Rd.	N/A	Domestic			c.1980	Building	1	NC	Laird House - No Access*
06b	Laird House Bldg 2				N/A	Domestic			c.1980	Building	1	NC	Laird House - No Access*

07a	Tea House	64-5-39.11	1198	Stockford Rd.	Domestic	Domestic			c.1935	Building	1	C	"Tea House" - No Access*
07b	Barn Ruin				Agri	Vacant			No Date	Building	1	C	Partial Barn Ruin - No Access*
07c	Springhouse				Domestic	Domestic			No Date	Building	1	C	Springhouse - No Access*
07d	Springhouse	64-5-39.14	1198	Stockford Rd.	Domestic	Domestic			No Date	Building	1	C	Springhouse - No Access*
08a	Gatehouse	64-5-39.8	1200	Stockford Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum	Col Revival	c.1930	Building	1	C	Gatehouse
08b	Garage			Stockford Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stucco	No Style	c.1930	Building	1	C	Garage
	Joseph Martin Farm												
09a	House	64-5-39.9	1300	Stockford Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum	Col Revival	c.1930	Building	1	C	May be Kit House
09b	Outbuilding				Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum	No Style	c.1930	Building	1	C	Outbuilding/Shed
10a	Kennel Master's House	64-5-39.9B	1250	Stockford Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum	No Style	c.1850	Building	1	C	Joseph Martin House; may be former Kennel Master's House
10b	Barn	64-5-39.9A	1250	Stockford Rd.	Agri	Agri	Stone/Frame	Dornbusch Type L Barn	c.1850	Building	1	C	Double Decker barn w/enclosed ramp bridge
10c	Outbuilding				Agri	Agri	Stucco	No Style	c.1930	Building	1	C	Outbuilding/Shed
10d	Dog Kennel				Agri	Vacant	Brick	Col Revival	c.1930	Building	1	C	C-shaped Dog Kennel
10e	Bissell Family Pet Cemetery				Funerary	Funerary		No Style	c.1935	Site	1	C	Family Pet Cemetery; picket fence and gravestones
	Patrick Kelly Property												
11	House	64-5-37	1407	Stockford Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum	Gothic Revival	c.1870	Building	1	C	Patrick Kelly House w/attached garage
12	Tenant House	64-5-36	1405	Stockford Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum	Col Revival	c.1930	Building	1	C	Tenant house w/attached garage
13	Tenant House	64-5-36.1	1403	Stockford Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum	Col Revival	c.1930	Building	1	C	Tenant house w/attached garage
14	Tenant House	64-5-35	1401	Stockford Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum	Cape Cod	c.1935	Building	1	C	Tenant House w/attached garage
15	Tenant House	64-5-34	1399	Stockford Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum	Col Revival	c.1930	Building	1	C	Tenant House
	Hill Girt Farm	Chester Co., Pennsbury Twp.											Stone wall marks estate along Creek Rd; fencing along Cossart Rd
	Job Pyle Farm												
16a	Main House	64-6-1.5	4311	S. Creek Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stone	Federal	c.1820	Building	1	C	Hill Girt Main House

16b	Outbuilding				Domestic	Domestic	Stone/Frame	No Style	c.1820	Building	1	C	Outbuilding
16c	Chicken House				Agri	Agri	Frame	No Style	c.1920	Building	1	C	Chicken House
16d	Shed				Domestic	Vacant	Stone	No Style	c.1820	Building	1	C	Shed
16e	Pool House				Recreation	Recreation	Stone	No Style	c.1920	Building	1	C	Mill Folly / Pool House
16f	Swimming Pool				Recreation	Recreation	Stone	No Style	c.1920	Structure	1	C	Swimming Pool
16g	Sluice Gate	64-6-1.5	4311	S. Creek Rd.	Recreation	Vacant	Concrete/ Metal	No Style	c.1920	Structure	1	C	Mill Folly Sluice Gate
16h	Mill Race				Recreation	Vacant	Earth	No Style	c.1920	Structure	1	C	Mill Folly Race
17a	Tenant House	64-6-18	4313	S. Creek Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum	No Style	c.1930	Building	1	C	Tenant House
17b	Garage				Agri	Agri	Stone	No Style	c.1920	Building	1	C	Garage/Shed complex
17c	Tenant House				Domestic	Domestic	Stone	No Style	c.1940	Building	1	C	A-frame Tenant House
17d	Tennis Court Pavilion				Recreation	Vacant	Metal/ Concrete	No Style	c.1935	Building	1	C	Tennis Court Viewing Pavilion
17e	Tennis Court				Recreation	Recreation	Other: Clay	No Style	c.1925	Site	1	C	Tennis Court
18	Tenant House	64-6-19	4307	S. Creek Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum	No Style	c.1960	Building	1	NC	Ranch/Tenant House
19	Tenant House	64-6-20	4305	S. Creek Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stucco/Stone	Col Revival	c.1920	Building	1	C	Tenant House
20	Tenant House	64-6-21	4301	S. Creek Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Log/Stone	No Style	c.1770	Building	1	C	Tenant House
21a	Farm Pond	64-6-1	4301	S. Creek Rd.	Agri	Agri			c.1925	Site	1	C	Farm Pond
21b	Pond Dam	64-6-1.7	4301	S. Creek Rd.	Agri	Agri	Stone	No Style	c.1925	Structure	1	C	Farm Pond Dam
21c	Pond Pavilion				Landscape	Landscape	Stone	No Style	c.1925	Building	1	C	Farm Pond Dam Pavilion
21d	Greenhouse				Agri	Agri	Stone/Steel/ Glass	No Style	c.1925	Structure	1	C	Greenhouse Complex
21e	Bridge	64-6-23	4301	S. Creek Rd.	Transport	Transport	Stone	Single Arch	c.1925	Structure	1	C	Estate Drive Bridge
21f	Water Tower				Agri	Agri	Metal	No Style	c.1925	Structure	1	C	Water Tower
21g	Water Tank				Agri	Agri	Metal	No Style	c.1940	Structure	1	C	Water Tank
22a	North (Main) Barn	64-6-22	4301	S. Creek Rd.	Agri	Agri	Stone/Frame	Dornbusch Type L Barn	c.1850	Building	1	C	North (Main) Barn; Double Decker Barn
22b	South Silo				Agri	Agri	Metal	No Style	c.1930	Structure	1	C	South Silo
22c	North Silo				N/A	Agri	Metal	No Style	c.1980	Structure	1	NC	North Silo
22d	Stable				Agri	Agri	Stone	No Style	c.1920	Building	1	C	Stable
22e	South Barn				Industry	Agri	Stone	No Style	c.1810	Building	1	C	South Barn w/ Attached Silo Originally may have been Mill
22f	West Barn				Agri	Agri	Stone	No Style	c.1920	Building	1	C	West Barn
23a	Tenant House Ruin	64-6-1.6	4401	S. Creek Rd.	Domestic	Ruin	Stone	No Style	c.1850	Site	1	C	Tenant House Ruin

23b	Hay Barn				Agri	Agri	Frame/Metal	No Style	c.1935	Building	1 C	Hay Barn w/Attached Wagon Shed
	Cossart Station RR Resources											Tracks & Siding see page 1
24a	Cossart Train Station	64-6-7.1	4301	S. Creek Rd.	Transport	Domestic	Stone	Col Revival	c.1890	Building	1 C	Former Passenger Station
24b	Freight Depot				Transport	Vacant	Frame	No Style	c.1890	Building	1 C	Former Freight Depot; poor condition
24c	Loading Dock				Transport	Ruin	Stone	No Style	c.1920	Site	1 C	Loading Dock Ruin
	Eli Seal Farm											
25	Tenant House	64-6-13.3	102	Cossart Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stucco/Stone	Col Revival	c.1920	Building	1 C	shares courtyard w/adjacent tenant house
26a	Tenant House	64-6-13.4	100	Cossart Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stucco/Stone	Col Revival	c.1920	Building	1 C	shares courtyard w/adjacent tenant house
26b	Carriage Shed				Domestic	Domestic	Frame	No Style	c.1920	Building	1 C	Carriage Shed
27a	House	64-6-13.1	4323	S. Creek Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stone	Italianate	c.1870	Building	1 C	Eli Seal House
27b	Barn				Agri	Agri	Frame	No Style	c.1870	Building	1 C	Barn
27c	Shed				Domestic	Domestic	Frame	No Style	c.1900	Building	1 C	Shed/Garage
27d	Wagon Shed				Agri	Agri	Frame/Stucco/Stone	No Style	c.1870	Building	1 C	Wagon Shed
27e	Tenant house				Domestic	Domestic	Frame	No Style	c.1915	Building	1 C	Tenant House
	Clyde Farm											
28a	House	64-6-1.1	190	Stabler Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Frame	No Style	c.1820	Building	1 C	Farmhouse
28b	Garage				N/A	Domestic	Frame	No Style	c.2000	Building	1 NC	Garage
28c	Springhouse Ruin				Domestic	Ruin	Stone	No Style	c.1820	Site	1 C	Spring House
29a	House	64-6-1.4	160	Stabler Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stone	Victorian	c.1880	Building	1 C	Clyde House
29b	Barn				Agri	Agri	Stone	No Style	c.1850	Building	1 C	Double Decker Barn
29c	Corncrib				Agri	Agri	Frame	No Style	c.1850	Structure	1 C	Corncrib
29d	Shed				Domestic	Vacant	Stone/CementBlock	No Style	c.1880	Building	1 C	Shed
29e	Stable/Office Ruin				Agri	Ruin	Cement Block	No Style	c.1920	Site	1 C	Stable/Office
	Daisy Farm											
30a	House	64-5-40.1	820	Fairville Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stone	No Style	c.1820	Building	1 C	Daisy Farmhouse
30b	Wagon Shed/House				Agri	Domestic	Frame	No Style	c.1825	Building	1 C	Wagon Shed now Dwelling
30c	Barn/Garage	64-5-40.1	820	Fairville Rd.	Agri	Domestic	Stone	No Style	c.1822	Building	1 C	Barn now Garage

30d	Outbuilding				N/A	Domestic		No Style	c.2010	Building	1	NC	Outbuilding
31	House	64-5-40	824	Fairville Rd.	N/A	Domestic	Stone/Cement Block	No Style	c.1984	Building	1	NC	House
32	Osbourne Farm	64-6-13.5	200	Cossart Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stone	No Style	c.1800	Building	1	C	Farmhouse w/ c.1995 addition
(33 & 34)	RR & Bridge	<i>see page 1</i>											
Big Bend Estate/ Formerly part of Hill Girt Farm; Delaware Co., Chadds Ford Twp.													
	Locust Knoll Farm												
35a	Locust Knoll House	04-33-001.000	87	Rocky Hill Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stucco/Frame	2nd Empire	c.1872	Building	1	C	Locust Knoll house w/Additions
35b	Summer kitchen				Domestic	Domestic	Stucco/Frame	No Style	c.1872	Building	1	C	Summer Kitchen
35c	Garage	04-33-001.000	86	Rocky Hill Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Frame	No Style	c.1925	Building	1	C	Garage
35d	Swimming Pool				N/A	Recreation	Frame	Col Revival	c.1975	Building	1	NC	Indoor Swim Pool
35e	Barn	04-33-001.000	76	Rocky Hill Rd.	N/A	Agri	Stucco	No Style	c.1975	Building	1	NC	Horse Barn w/ attached double Silo
	Twaddell's Mill & House**												SHPO Key #000696; listed in the NR 1973
36a	Mill Ruin	04-33-002.000	4	Rocky Hill Rd.	Industry	Ruin	Stone/Brick	No Style	c.1750	Site	1	NR	Grist Mill
36b	Miller's House				Domestic	Domestic	Stone	No Style	c.1750	Building	1	NR	Miller's House w/stone & glass cold frame attached
36c	Barn				Agri	Agri	Stone/Frame	Dornbusch Type H variation	c.1820	Building	1	NR	Barn w/one outshed & attached wagon shed
36d	Tenant House				Domestic	Domestic	Stone/Frame	No Style	c.1800	Building	1	NR	Tenant/Guest House w/small frame addition
36e	Spring House				Domestic	Domestic	Stucco/Stone	No Style	c.1750	Structure	1	NR	Spring House possibly rebuilt c.1975
36f	Ice House				Domestic	Ruin	Stone	No Style	c.1750	Site	1	NR	Ice House
36g	Root Cellar				Domestic	Domestic	Stone	No Style	c.1780	Structure	1	NR	Root Cellar
36h	Privy				Domestic	Domestic	Frame	No Style	c.1900	Building	1	C	Privy; not identified in 1973 NR Listing
36i	Garden Folly				N/A	Landscape	Frame	No Style	c.1980	Structure	1	NC	Garden Folly
36j	Chapel				N/A	Religion	Stone/Brick	No Style	c.1980	Building	1	NC	Chapel
36k	Gate				N/A	Landscape	Metal	No Style	c.1980	Structure	1	NC	Free-standing Gate

	Beverly Farm Estate	Delaware Co., Chadds Ford Twp.											
	John Barney Farm												
37a	Beverly Farm Main House	04-26-003.000	5 S. Creek Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Brick	Georgian Revival	c.1920	Building	1	C	Beverly Farm Main House	
37b	Outbuilding			Domestic	Domestic	Brick	Georgian Revival	c.1920	Building	1	C	Outbuilding	
37c	Greenhouse	04-26-003.000	5 S. Creek Rd.	Agri	Agri	Glass/Metal	No Style	c.1920	Structure	1	C	Greenhouse	
37d	Barn			Agri	Agri	Stone/Frame	No Style	c.1850	Building	1	C	Barn w/Silo, Stable, Enclosed Ramp & Offshed w/additions	
37e	Wagon Shed			Agri	Agri	Frame	No Style	c.1850	Building	1	C	Wagon Shed	
37f	Corncrib			Agri	Agri	Frame	No Style	c.1850	Structure	1	C	Corncrib	
37g	Shed			Agri	Agri	Frame	No Style	c.1900	Building	1	C	Animal Shed	
37h	Outbuilding			Agri	Agri	Frame	No Style	c.1900	Building	1	C	Outbuilding	
37i	Tenant House	04-26-003.000	12 S. Creek Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stucco/Aluminum	Dutch Col Revival	c.1920	Building	1	C	Tenant House	
37j	Chicken Coop			Agri	Agri	Frame	No Style	c.1900	Building	1	C	Chicken Coop	
37k	Chauffer's House	04-26-003.000	9 S. Creek Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stucco	No Style	c.1850	Building	1	C	Chauffer's House w/attached garage	
37L	Garage	04-26-003.000	8 S. Creek Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stucco	Georgian Revival	c.1920	Building	1	C	Garage	
37m	Gatehouse	04-26-003.000	1 S. Creek Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stucco	Georgian Revival	c.1920	Building	1	C	Gatehouse	
37n	Outbuilding			Domestic	Domestic	Stucco	Georgian Revival	c.1920	Building	1	C	Outbuilding	
38a	Tenant House	04-27-002.000	89 S. Creek Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Frame	Dutch Col Revival	c.1920	Building	1	C	Tenant House	
38b	Spring house			Domestic	Domestic	Stone	No Style	c.1850	Structure	1	C	Spring house	
39	Garage	04-27-001.000	89 S. Creek Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Frame	No Style	c.1920	Building	1	C	Garage	
40a	Tenant House	04-27-004.000	41 Rocky Hill Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum/Stone	Col Revival	c.1920	Building	1	C	Tenant House w/Port Cochere; attached Garden Room & Greenhouse	
40b	Poolhouse			Recreation	Recreation	Aluminum	Col Revival	c.1950	Structure	1	C	Poolhouse	
40c	Pool			Recreation	Recreation	Concrete	Col Revival	c.1950	Structure	1	C	Pool	
40d	Garage			Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum/Stone	Col Revival	c.1920	Building	1	C	Garage w/Apartment	

40e	Shed				Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum	No Style	c.1920	Building	1	C	Shed
40f	Shed	04-27-004.000	41	Rocky Hill Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Aluminum/Stone	No Style	c.1920	Building	1	C	Shed
Garrett Farm													
41a	Tenant House	04-27-010.000	74	Rocky Hill Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stucco/Stone/Aluminum	No Style	c.1880	Building	1	C	Tenant House w/Frame Additions
41b	Carriage House				Domestic	Domestic	Frame/Stone	No Style	c.1880	Building	1	C	Carriage House
42a	House	04-27-008.000	74	Rocky Hill Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Log/Frame/Concrete	Dutch Col Revival	c.1930	Building	1	C	House w/Late 20th century Frame Addition
42b	Garage				Domestic	Domestic	Concrete/Frame	No Style	c.1950	Building	1	NC	Shed-roofed Garage
42c	Water Tank				Domestic	Vacant	Concrete	No Style	c.1940	Building	1	C	Water Tank
42d	Horse Shed				Agri	Agri	Frame	No Style	c.1950	Building	1	C	Horse Shed
42e	Horse Shed				Agri	Agri	Frame	No Style	c.1950	Building	1	C	Horse Shed
43a	Tenant House	04-27-007.000	52	Rocky Hill Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stucco/Stone	No Style	c.1850	Building	1	C	Garrett Tenant House w/Frame Addition
43b	Barn				Agri	Agri	Frame	No Style	c.1850	Building	1	C	Barn w/Frame & Stucco Additions
43c	Garage				Domestic	Domestic	Frame/Cement	No Style	c.1925	Building	1	C	Garage
44	House	04-27-006.000	52	Rocky Hill Rd.	Domestic	Domestic	Stucco	No Style	c.1830	Building	1	C	Garrett House w/Addition
45	House	04-28-052.000	70	Rocky Hill Rd.	N/A	Domestic	Stone/Stucco	Neo-Col Revival	c.2000	Building	1	NC	House w/Attached Garage
46	Twin Bridges Landscape	All	N/A	N/A	Landscape	Landscape	N/A	N/A	1914 - c.1970	Site	1	C	The landscape of the overall district, intentionally manipulated during formation of estates, is counted as a contributing site.
<p>All house numbers, street addresses, and street names are from the respective County Tax Assessment Databases. The inventory is organized by estate, with resources historically associated with certain estates grouped together. (See Figure 4 for historic estate/earlier farm boundaries; Figure 5 for resource locations.)</p> <p>*This inventory may need to be updated when additional information becomes available, as some resources were not accessible at the time of survey.</p> <p>**Twaddell's Mill & House resources previously identified and listed in the National Register (1973) are not included in the Contributing Resource Count of this nomination, but convey the Twin Bridges district's themes. Post-1973 resources that post-date both periods of significance are counted as NC resources.</p>													













431













The
41 Springhouse





PYLES TWIN BRIDGE

BUILT 1925

CHESTER COUNTY BRIDGE No. 83

HARRISS A. BUTLER

DAVID M. COLLIER

LEWIS A. KLEY

COUNTY CONTROLLER

W. GOULSON REECE

OLIVER A. BALDWIN

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CHIEF CLERK

HARRY W. ELLIS

W. W. MAC ELREE

1925

SOLICITOR































SPEED
LIMIT
25



































40

POSTED













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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Twin Bridges Rural Historic District

Multiple Name:

State & County: PENNSYLVANIA, Chester

Date Received:
8/3/2017

Date of Pending List:
9/1/2017

Date of 16th Day:
9/18/2017

Date of 45th Day:
9/18/2017

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100001635

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept

Return

Reject

9/18/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept, National Register Criteria A and C.

Reviewer Patrick Andrus

Patrick Andrus

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2218

Date

9/18/2017

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

PENNSBURY TOWNSHIP
Board of Supervisors
Chester County, Pennsylvania



September 19, 2016

April E. Frantz
National Register Reviewer
Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
400 North Street, 2nd floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Twin Bridges Rural Historic District

Dear Ms. Frantz:

Pennsbury Township is in support of the nomination of the Twin Bridges Rural National Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.

This district covers over 2000 acres of privately owned property along the Brandywine Creek in both Pennsbury Township, Chester County and Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County. This property is unique in character and includes many extant 18th, 19th and early 20th century structures some of which are located on four estates: the Bissell Estate, Hill Girt Farm, the Beverly Estate and Big Bend. Nearly all the properties are subject to a conservation easement held by the Brandywine Conservancy in Chadds Ford, PA. These easements are in perpetuity and the Conservancy is legally bound to enforce them ensuring the preservation of beautiful landscapes that have been captured in the art of many well-known artists; the Wyeth family and Howard Pyle to name a few.

We look forward to hearing from your office as to the result of the October 4, 2016 hearing on this nomination. We hope you agree that this district is worthy of being included on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Howley

Pennsbury Township Manager

Cc: Pennsbury Board of Supervisors



Monday, October 5, 2016

Ms. April E. Frantz
National Register Reviewer/Eastern Region
PA State Historic Preservation Office
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
afrantz@pa.gov

Dear Ms. Frantz:

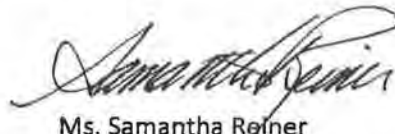
Please accept this letter as written support for the formal nomination of the "Twin Bridges Rural Historic District" for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

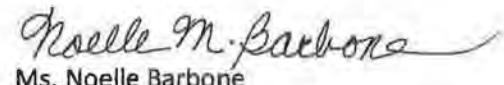
Twin Bridges, the historic bridge south of the U.S. Route 1 (Baltimore Pike) crossing over the Brandywine Creek, connects Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County with Pennsbury Township, Chester County. This bridge and this area have historical significance for both Counties. We endorse the "American Country Estate" theme that has been proposed, and it is our understanding that this district has already been "determined eligible" for listing by PHMC in the context of earlier Section 106 review on the part of PennDOT.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment, and we thank you and your Board for your consideration of including this historic district on the National Register. Please feel free to contact us with any questions. We strongly support its admission.

Respectfully,


Mr. Frank Murphy
Chairman
Chadds Ford Township
Board of Supervisors


Ms. Samantha Reiner
Vice Chair
Chadds Ford Township
Board of Supervisors


Ms. Noelle Barbone
Supervisor
Chadds Ford Township
Board of Supervisors

10 RING ROAD
CHADDS FORD, PA 19317-9101

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THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS

Terence Farrell
Kathi Cozzone
Michelle Kichline

Brian N. O'Leary, AICP
Executive Director

PLANNING COMMISSION

Government Services Center, Suite 270
601 Westtown Road
P. O. Box 2747
West Chester, PA 19380-0990
(610) 344-6285 Fax (610) 344-6515

October 17, 2016

Ms. Andrea L. MacDonald
Preservation Services Division Manager
PHMC Historic Preservation Office
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

RE: Letter of Support: Twin Bridges Historic District

Dear Ms. MacDonald;

I am so pleased that the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board has approved the Twin Bridges Historic District in southern Chester and Delaware Counties, PA for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. It has been Chester County's great good fortune to have two 20th century nationally significant districts nominated over the past two years. The historic breadth and depth of our county is captured by these extraordinarily different nominations: Carver Court's design by renowned architects for World War II African American steel worker housing and the Twin Bridges Historic District designed by wealthy industrialists during the first half of the century emulating the century's old country house traditions of English aristocracy.

In 2002 I wrote my graduate thesis on this subject, "The American Country House in the Brandywine Valley," and it was with great pleasure that I read Jane Dorchester's nomination and careful examination and interpretation of the five country estates that form this district. My study of the English and American country house began as a result of my work to understand and explain the park-like beauty and extensive open space of northern New Castle County, Delaware and southern Chester County, Pennsylvania. The thesis contended that the country house was the defining feature of this landscape and largely responsible for its existence. Utilizing twelve country house characteristics established through historic research, GIS mapping, and road surveys, a Brandywine country house was identified for the greater Brandywine Valley. It was clear that country houses, or estates, shared a common vocabulary of centuries' old country house traditions and landscape components reinterpreted to suit regional architectural and cultural patterns. The study, however, was a windshield survey and there was no time to focus on individual properties. What this nomination accomplishes is to further define the context for the country estates found in the Brandywine Valley and to provide clear standards and guidelines to assess significance and integrity for individual properties. The nomination states:

The Brandywine Creek Valley has been an agricultural, commercial, and transportation center from the onset of European occupation in this region..... As Wilmington, Delaware grew and expanded, the Brandywine Valley was gradually transformed into a mosaic of working farms and country estates, the latter inspired by interest in English country estates and enabled by a school of architecture and landscape design pioneered by Andrew Jackson Downing and his followers. This trend in land development continued through the end of the Second World War, and with few alterations it influences land use to the present day.

With this history and the careful application of country house characteristics as a property type, this nomination provides a thorough review of what makes this district significant. It also provides clear, thoughtful and thoroughly researched criteria for analyzing the significance of the remaining country estates in northern Delaware and South Chester County. As my research indicated, there are a remarkable number of these properties due to the establishment of the earliest estate by French aristocrats (the du Pont family) in the European tradition and then emulated by the wealthy industrialists both within and outside of the family from 1804 until the period that this nomination covers.

What is also very important about this nomination is the inclusion of the Hill Girt/Big Bend estate that was established by George "Frolic" Weymouth. I interviewed Mr. Weymouth several times during my research and he provided me with invaluable clarification for many of the property characteristics that I was developing. He was one of those unusual people who although a member of the community that I was studying, he was able to take a step back to analyze and convey the essential philosophy and design intent of his own estate and those of his neighbors.

I sincerely hope the Keeper of the National Register will recognize this significant landscape and context and establish Twin Bridges as a National Register Historic District both as a unique historic district and a standard for the documentation of future country house districts in the greater Brandywine Valley.

Sincerely,



Karen S. Marshall
Heritage Preservation Coordinator

Cc: S. Elks
J. Snook

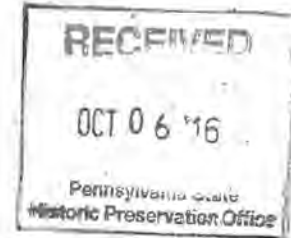


Chadds Ford Historical Society

1736 Creek Road • P.O. Box 27 • Chadds Ford, PA 19317 • 610-388-7376 www.chaddsfordhistory.org

September 26, 2016

April E. Frantz
National Register Reviewer
Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
400 North Street, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120



Dear Ms. Frantz,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Chadds Ford Historical Society, I am writing to express the Society's support for the nomination of the Twin Bridges Rural National Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.

We agree that the Twin Bridges Rural National Historic District is eligible for inclusion in the National Register based on its association with the American Country Estate Movement (Criterion A) during the first half of the twentieth century. The district includes a large number of well-preserved historic resources that retain the integrity of their architecture, landscape and viewshed. Together the resources in the Twin Bridges Rural National Historic District represent a significant collection that represents the American Country Estate Movement – particularly as it was practiced in the Brandywine Valley by consolidating smaller farms into larger parcels and transforming the landscape and built environment into true American Country Estates.

Inclusion of the Twin Bridges Rural National Historic District in the National Register provides the proper recognition for these resources, will assist with their preservation and help improve the public understanding of these properties and this region.

Thank you for your considering the Twin Bridges Rural National Historic District for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Michael Connolly
Executive Director



Ford B. Draper, Jr., Spokesperson
Friends of Twin Bridges
5 Rocky Hill Road
Chadds Ford, PA 19317



September 14, 2016

Ms. April E. Frantz
National Register Reviewer/Eastern Region
PA State Historic Preservation Office
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Dear Ms. Frantz:

I am both the spokesperson for the "Friends of Twin Bridges" as well as a significant landowner with my wife and grown sons within the proposed Twin Bridges Rural Historic District on the Delaware County side of the Brandywine in Chadds Ford Township. My family bought the original Beverly Farm parcel described in the formal nomination from the Holladay's in 1947 and we have maintained it as a "country estate" ever since. This letter of support speaks for ourselves but very importantly also for the membership of the Friends of Twin Bridges.

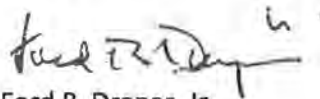
The Friends of Twin Bridges is an informal group of virtually all the landowners within the proposed District, many abutting owners, and other historically and conservationally concerned local residents. Our primary purpose and role has been to seek to constructively influence plans by PennDOT to replace the historic bridge over the Brandywine so as to protect the unique rural character of our area, including the bounds of the proposed District which is integral to this character, and to support efforts to list the proposed District on the National Register of Historic Places. To that end, we have raised by subscription from the Friends of Twin Bridges substantial funds to cover the consulting costs necessary to formally nominate the District. In addition, we have worked hand in glove with the Brandywine Conservancy for many of years to further the objectives described above, as well as other conservation oriented goals for the benefit of our area. I am honored to be Spokesperson for such a committed group.

Personally, as well as on our members' behalf, this letter is to convey our combined strong support for the formal nomination of this District for listing on the National Register, understanding that the District already has been "determined eligible" for listing by PHMC. We endorse the "American country estate" theme that has been proposed, noting its unique character in our region, with some of the original estate owners' families still controlling portions of the District. We also draw to your attention the many 18th, 19th, and early 20th structures on many of our properties, and the special Brandywine Valley landscape which we have collectively nurtured for many years.

In that vein, we believe it is particularly noteworthy that nearly all of the properties within the proposed rural historic district (and others nearby) are protected by conservation easements held by the Brandywine Conservancy, of which several of our members were founders and on which Board others continue to serve. Over a number of years, many local landowners – including Friends of Twin Bridges members – have voluntarily donated such easements to the Conservancy, indicative of our collective commitment to the preservation of this scenic and historical landscape.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment as you consider the nomination of this unique rural historic district to the National Register. We strongly support its admission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ford B. Draper, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ford B. Draper, Jr.
Representing my family
and speaking for the
Friends of Twin Bridges

Francis I. duPont
478 Ridge Road
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Sept. 24, 2016

Mrs. April E. Frantz
National Register Reviewer / Eastern Region
PA State Historic Preservation Office
400 North St.
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120-0093

Dear Mrs. Frantz,

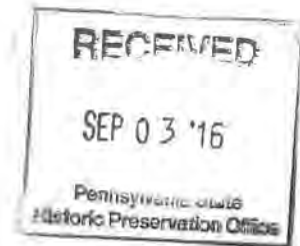
As a nearby property owner and frequent user of Twin Bridge, I fully support the effort undertaken by the Neighbors & Brandywine River Museum & Conservancy.

As a neighbor of my cousin Frolic Weymouth and a founder of this great organization I enthusiastically support this effort and extend my personal thanks to you for your good work on behalf of the "Neighbors & Friends of Twin Bridges"

Most sincerely yours
Francis I. duPont

IRÉNÉE du P. MAY
4 Frog Pond Road
Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania 19317

September 29, 2016



Ms. April E. Frantz
National Register Reviewer/Eastern Region
PA State Historic Preservation Office
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Dear Ms Frantz:

I am writing this letter to add my enthusiastic support to Mr. Ford B. Draper's establishment of the "friends of Twin Bridges." I have lived on or close to the Brandywine River for most of my eighty years and am happy to help sustain the "Rural Historic" appearance as long as possible.

Your continued assistance to this effort is much appreciated by all of us "River Rats". With enthusiastic support for this project, I am.

Sincerely yours,

Irénée du P. May

IDM/lsm

cc: Mr. Ford B. Draper

STEPHEN E. BARRAR, MEMBER
160TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
18 EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202160
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2160
PHONE: (717) 783-3038
FAX: (717) 787-7604

DISTRICT OFFICE:
ONE BEAVER VALLEY ROAD, SUITE 100
CHADDS FORD, PA 19317
PHONE: (610) 358-5925
FAX: (610) 358-5933



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES:

MAJORITY CHAIRMAN, VETERANS AFFAIRS
& EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

CONSUMER AFFAIRS
JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & FINANCE

E-MAIL: parep160@aol.com
WEBSITE: www.stevebarrar.com

September 26, 2016

Ms. April E. Frantz
National Register Reviewer, Eastern Region
PA Historic Preservation Office
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093



Dear Ms. Frantz,

I am honored to express my support as the Pennsylvania State Representative who represents the 160th legislative district and Friends of Twin Bridges. As you are aware, Friends of Twin Bridges has requested to preserve 2000+ acres surrounding the concrete Twin Bridge over the Brandywine River.

Recently, the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission determined the 2000+ acres were eligible for the National Register list as a "Rural Historical District". The historical preservation of this land will have no negative impact on affected landowners and will enrich the historical value of the land.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any further questions at 610-358-5925 or parep160@aol.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen E. Barrar".

STEPHEN E. BARRAR
State Representative
160th legislative District

SEB/rls

CC: Ford Draper, Jr., mail



Hildacy Farm Preserve
1031 Palmers Mill Road
Media, PA 19063

tel: 610-353-5587
fax: 610-353-0517

info@natlands.org
natlands.org

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Peter R. Williamson
Conservation Services

September 28, 2016

April E. Frantz
National Register Reviewer/Eastern Region
PA State Historic Preservation Office
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093



Dear Ms. Frantz:

Natural Lands Trust of Media, PA, is a regional land trust in Pennsylvania and nearby New Jersey, protecting over 45,000 acres of land in perpetuity. We would like to convey our support for the formal nomination of the "Twin Bridges Rural Historic District for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. We understand that the proposed district already had been "determined eligible" for listing by PHMC in the context of earlier Section 106 review on the part of PennDOT.

We hold conservation easements and own preserves within the vicinity of the proposed district, including in the adjacent Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark. We are very familiar with the area and supportive of the "American country estate" theme that has been proposed in the nomination by Jane Dorchester on behalf of our sister land trust, the Brandywine Conservancy. We draw your attention to the proposed district's unique character in our region and the beautiful historical landscape which it so wonderfully characterizes.

We work often in cooperation with the Brandywine Conservancy and believe that it is noteworthy that nearly all of the properties within the proposed rural historic district are subject to conservation easements that Brandywine holds. Many landowners within the district have voluntarily donated those easements, indicative of their commitment to the preservation of this scenic and historical landscape. And of course, Brandywine Conservancy, as we also are, is bound in perpetuity to enforcement of the historical landscape preservation objectives that the conservation easements comprise.



PA: The official registration and financial information of Natural Lands Trust, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. NJ: Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation and the percentage of contributions received by the charity during the last reporting period that were dedicated to the charitable purpose may be obtained from the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey by calling 973-504-6215 and is available on the Internet at www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov. Registration with the Attorney General does not imply endorsement.



Thank you for the opportunity to comment as you and your Board consider inclusion of this rural historic district on the National Register.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Williamson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter Williamson
Vice President, Conservation Services
Natural Lands Trust



September 29, 2016

April E. Frantz
National Register Reviewer/Eastern Region
PA State Historic Preservation Office
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Dear Ms. Frantz:

The North American Land Trust, with headquarters in Chadds Ford, PA and holding some 100,000 acres of conservation easements across the country, would like to convey our support for the formal nomination of the Twin Bridges Rural Historic District for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. We understand that the proposed district, literally located in our own backyard, already had been "determined eligible" for listing by PHMC. We support the "American country estate" theme that has been proposed, noting its unique character in our region, and also draw your attention to the many extant 18th, 19th and early 20th century structures and the compelling and still intact landscape context which characterize the proposed district.

We believe that it is particularly noteworthy that nearly all of the properties within the proposed rural historic district are subject to conservation easements held by our fellow land trust, the Brandywine Conservancy. Over a number of years, many landowners have voluntarily donated those easements to the Conservancy, indicative of their collective commitment to the preservation of this scenic and historical landscape. And equally noteworthy is the fact that the Conservancy, as we also are, is bound in perpetuity to enforcement of the historical landscape preservation objectives embedded in the conservation easement documentation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment as you and your Board consider the proposed nomination of this rural historic district to the National Register.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Thor Johnson".

Stephen Thor Johnson, President
North American Land Trust



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION



July 31, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Program
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street NW Mail Stop 7228
Washington DC 20240

Re: NR nomination discs

Dear Mr. Loether:

The following nomination forms are being submitted electronically per the "Guidance on How to Submit a Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places on Disk Summary (5/06/2013)":

- Memorial Presbyterian Church, Luzerne County
- Twin Bridges Rural Historic District, Chester and Delaware counties

The enclosed discs contain the true and correct copies of the nominations for the Memorial Presbyterian Church and the Twin Bridges Rural Historic District. The proposed actions are for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions regarding the nominations please contact David Maher at 717-783-9918.

Sincerely,

David Maher
National Register section
Preservation Services