

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>New Jersey</b>
COUNTY: <b>Somerset</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>JUN 10 1975</b>

### 1. NAME

COMMON: <b>Bridgepoint Historic District</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC:

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Bridgepoint and Dead Tree Roads</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Rocky Hill vicinity Montgomery Township</b>		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: <b>5th</b>	
STATE: <b>New Jersey</b>	CODE: <b>34</b>	COUNTY: <b>Somerset</b>	CODE: <b>035</b>

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

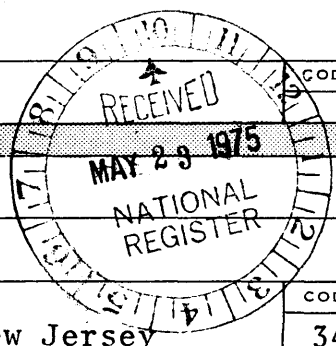
CATEGORY <small>(Check One)</small>	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE <small>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</small>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <small>(Specify)</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: <b>Multiple</b>	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE: <b>New Jersey</b>
	CODE: <b>34</b>

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Somerset County Courthouse</b>	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Somerville</b>	STATE: <b>New Jersey</b>
	CODE: <b>34</b>



### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory</b>	
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>1971-72</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection</b>	
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Box 1420</b>	
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Trenton</b>	STATE: <b>New Jersey</b>
	CODE: <b>34</b>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: <b>New Jersey</b>
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DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bracing up against busy Route 206 as it does, Bridgepoint Historic District presents a remarkably intact picture of life in agricultural New Jersey from 1750-1850.

It is difficult to say which began first in Bridgepoint -- farming or the milling operation. Both the miller's cottage, which dates from the 2nd quarter of the 18th century, and the John Van Dike, Jr. house which is of approximately the same date are the earliest references to settlement.

Whatever the case, farms and mills complemented each other well and formed a relatively self-sufficient community in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Within the district there are nearly 25 structures (8 dwellings) most of which are outbuildings connected to the several farms.

The buildings are:

Miller's cottage (Dwight Fickes). Bridgepoint Road, Just east of stone bridge, ca 1730. 1 1/2 story clapboard building. Dutch/Flemish style architecture. Two sections. Unit nearest pond has a square form with a steep pitch gable roof. Three bays, side entrance. Two modern dormers. Second unit was constructed later, but still may be 18th century. This unit is also clapboard, but has a lower roof and is longer than the first unit.

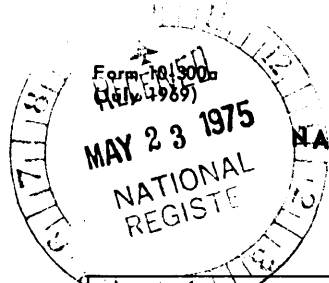
Grist mill (Jack Stahl). Bridgepoint Road, across the street from the Miller's cottage. Early to mid-19th century. Probably constructed in the 2nd quarter of the 19th century using the foundation and framing of an earlier grist mill. The present mill is a 3 story clapboard building on the side of the dam (two stories at the road). Mill used a waterwheel and has an overshoot. Recently converted into a private residence incorporating much of the mill works into the living space.

Stone Bridge. Bridgepoint Road, over the No-Pike Brook, ca. 1820's. Triple arched stone bridge built of random fieldstone. Repaired in 1850's. Modern resurfacing of roadbed.

Barn/General Store (Dwight Fickes). Bridgepoint Road, adjacent to Miller's cottage, first quarter 19th century. Appears as a barn on the sketch of the Road Commissioner made in 1826. One story. Vertical board siding. Flourished as a general store in the 1850's. Presently used as a garage and workshop.

Cattle barns (Richard Schmidt). 2nd quarter 19th century. Originally two separate barns joined together to form an L-shape. Larger barn was weatherboard, two stories, stone foundation with an

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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7. Description (cont'd.)

open barnyard on the first floor. The smaller shed was 2 stories with vertical boards and also had a protective barnyard on the first floor. Presently, these two barns have been converted into a modern residence using most of the original frame of the buildings, but changing the exterior to project a modern appearance. The barns, however, still maintain their original form.

John Van Dike, Jr. Farmstead (William Johnson), ca. 1740. Large working farm, Pre-Revolutionary house is a 1 1/2 story, 5 bay, center through hall structure with colonial proportions. Stone foundation. Presently covered with asbestos shingles. Windows are 6/6 sash. Dormers. Modern front porch. Several outbuildings are in the rear of the house including a possibly late 18th century Dutch-style barn. Family cemetery also within the 70 acres plus.

Roelif Van Dike Farmstead (R.L. Goodyear). Bridgepoint Road, ca. 1740-60. Exterior form is typical mid-18th century. Clapboard with a high stone foundation, 1 1/2 stories with knee-wall windows in the upper level. Paired gable end chimneys at one end, probably originally on both gable ends. Center hall, 2 rooms front and back on each side. Lean-to one story kitchen wing added on the gable end. 6/6 windows, louvered shutters. Doorway is Greek Revival style, as are numerous interior features.

Opie Farm (Real Estate Devel. ). Bridgepoint Road, ca. 1815, Mid-19th century. House probably does not date earlier than 1815 in its oldest section - a rectangular block two rooms deep with a gable roof. A Victorian addition with gable to the road appears to be third quarter 19th century. A number of 19th century barns and other outbuildings are within the property.

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7. Description (cont'd.)

Stephen Voorhees Farm (R. Williams). Bridgepoint Road, 1st quarter 19th century. Two unit clapboard structure. Main section is a 2 story building (roof raised in 19th century), five bays, center through hall. Paired gable end chimneys. Stone foundation. Smaller unit, attached to the gable end of the main unit, is 4 bays 1 1/2 stories with knee wall windows on the upper level. Stone foundation. Single chimney on southernmost gable end. Victorian porch and 20th century leantos enclose most of the first floor of this unit. Numerous 19th and early 20th century outbuildings, including an early 20th century windmill water pump.

Encroachments. Twentieth century development has affected Bridgepoint very little. Of the eight structures in the district which are presently used as dwellings only one is modern. Four of the dwellings are 19th century and three are 19th century -- two of these being the mill and cattle barns which were recently adapted into homes.

The numerous outbuildings appear mostly mid-19th century and in some cases earlier. One outbuilding, an early corn crib, was moved from its original site (from within the township) to its present location south of the mill and serves as a garage.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Ca. 1730-1850**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric            | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic               | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce    | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bridgepoint, historically, has left its mark on the state, not in the number of notable men it has produced, but because it represents a modest typical New Jersey farm community of the period 1750-1850.

Commerce. The earliest documented evidence of a mill at Bridgepoint is in a deed dated 1761. At that time it was apparently owned by Garret Williamson. Most likely the mill existed about a generation prior to 1761. The mill served as an important center of business and trade for the 18th century, and later 19th century, Bridgepoint area farmers.

In the 19th century the Opie Brothers operated this mill and a saw mill (the ruins of which may be downstream) from approximately 1800-1850.

It appears that in about the mid-19th century the grist mill was rebuilt, probably using parts of the 18th century mill, to accomodate more modern techniques of milling. This grist mill and dam are the ones in existence presently and, although the structure was recently adapted to a household, much of the 19th century machinery was retained.

Agriculture. New Jersey, one of the most highly industrialized states in the country, has been known, officially and unofficially, as the garden state as early as the 17th century when the Dutch and Swedes formed settlements in New Jersey.

The modest and relatively prosperous farms of the 18th century further enhanced this image as settlers were thereby encouraged to settle further inland.

Few of these mid-18th century farms exist in modern New Jersey, Bridgepoint District being one of them.

Bridgepoint clearly exhibits numerous characteristics of the Dutch agricultural community as it existed in the mid-18th century: the modest Dutch influenced colonial farm-house, the nearby miller's cottage, the Dutch form outbuildings, and the level sprawling cultivated fields.

The earliest settlement in Bridgepoint was by the Van Dike Family. The first Van Dike came to Somerset County in 1710 when he bought a 9,000 acre tract of land from Proprietor Peter Sonmans.

Part of the second generation of Van Dike's, John and Roelif, settled on large farms in Bridgepoint. They were

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Road Books, Somerset County Records Room (B-134, B-301, F-635)  
 Menzies, Elizabeth. Millstone Valley. (pp. 87-89)  
Somerset County Historical Quarterly. Volume 6 (p. 189)  
 Volume 8 (p. 160)  
 Deeds. Middlesex County. (Book 2, p. 264)  
 New Jersey Archives. Abstract of Wills. Volume 4, (p. 447)  
 Brecknell, Ursula. Montgomery Township: An Historic Community, 1702-1972. 1972. (pp. frontspiece, 15, 17, 51-53, 56)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 225

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Terry Karschner, Historian - Curator

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Section, DEP DATE: 08/16/74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>David J. Bardin</u></p> <p>Title <u>Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection</u></p> <p>Date <u>May 8, 1975</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert W. ...</u>          Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>6/10/75</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>W. ...</u>          Keeper of the National Register</p> <p>Date <u>JUN 9 1975</u></p>

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STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Somerset	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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(Number all entries)

Bridgepoint Historic District  
Montgomery Township  
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8. Significance (cont'd.)

prominent citizens of the area and of the county and probably encouraged additional settlement.

Since the Millstone River was quite close, Bridgepoint was a relatively prosperous village for nearly 100 years. The rail-road era, however, completely by-passed Bridgepoint and consequently further development of this rural community was minimal. Of course, the farms still were farmed and the mill continued grinding grains (until the 2nd quarter of the 20th century), but the small farm/village was relatively ignored by 20th century urban-suburban development.

Architecture. Architecturally, Bridgepoint is an ideal study of 18th and 19th century building styles and techniques in rural Somerset County, New Jersey. The 18th century structures indicate an attempt to comply with the ongoing Georgian style of the period, albeit a restrained form influenced by Dutch ancestry and traditions. The early 19th century structures are typical of vernacular of the period in rural New Jersey.



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Bridgepoint Historic District  
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Somerset County 035  
New Jersey 34

10. Geographical Data (continued)

Beginning at the intersection of Dead Tree Run Road and Mill Pond Road proceed S. along the Mill Pond Stream (Back Brook Run) to the N. property line of the housing development at Partridge Run. Thence, proceed W. along the property line to Bridgepoint Road and follow this road S. to the S. property line of the development. Thence, proceed E. 750', S. 1300', and N.W. 800' back to Bridgepoint Road. Thence, proceed N. along Bridgepoint Road 400' and 750' W. Thence, proceed parallel to Bridgepoint to a point 750' W. of the intersection of Bridgepoint and Dead Tree Run Road on Bridgepoint Road. Thence, proceed NNW to Back Brook Run. Thence, proceed along the N. bank of the stream to the point of beginning.

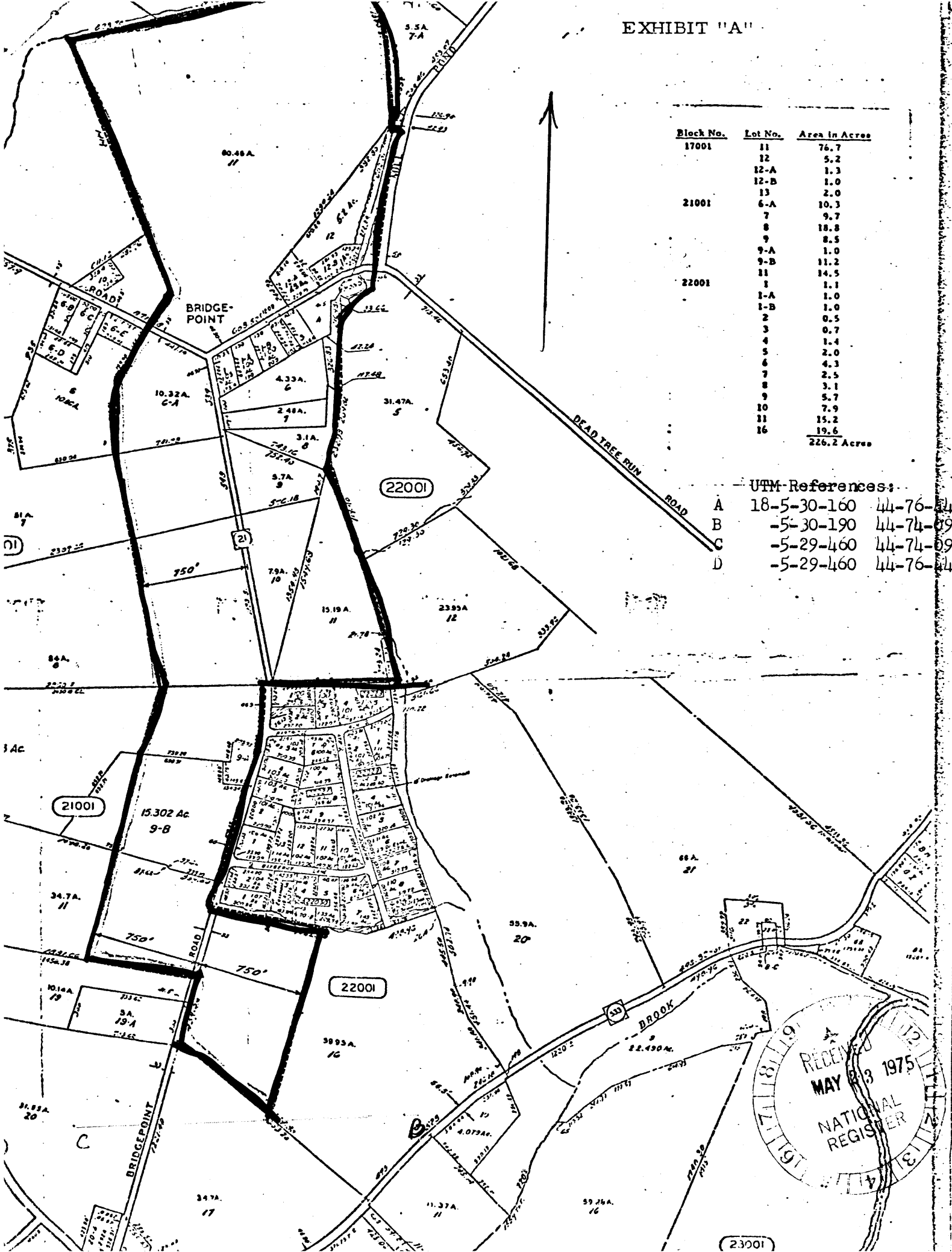
UTM References:

- A. 18-5-30-160 44-76-440
  - B. 18-5-30-190 44-74-090
  - C. 18-5-29-460 44-74-090 100
  - D. 18-5-29-460 44-76-460
- UTM OK  
HL





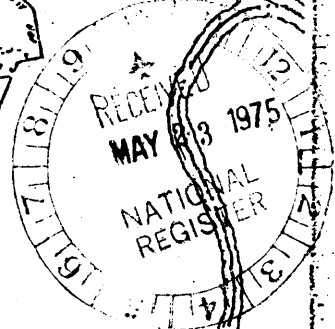
EXHIBIT "A"



Block No.	Lot No.	Area in Acres
17001	11	76.7
	12	5.2
	12-A	1.3
	12-B	1.0
21001	13	2.0
	6-A	10.3
	7	9.7
	8	18.8
	9	8.5
	9-A	1.0
	9-B	11.2
22001	11	14.5
	1	1.1
	1-A	1.0
	1-B	1.0
	2	0.5
	3	0.7
	4	1.4
	5	2.0
	6	4.3
	7	2.5
	8	3.1
	9	5.7
	10	7.9
	11	15.2
	16	19.6

UTM-References:

A	18-5-30-160	44-76-410
B	-5-30-190	44-74-090
C	-5-29-460	44-74-090
D	-5-29-460	44-76-410



(23001)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	MAY 23 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 10 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Bridgepoint Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Montgomery Township — VICINITY OF COUNTY Somerset STATE New Jersey

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE Township Tax Map

SCALE 1:8400

DATE 1975

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES