

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Pennsylvania
COUNTY:
Delaware
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Brandywine Battlefield Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Brandywine Battlefield (Park)

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

U.S. Highway 1

CITY OR TOWN:

Chadd's Ford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Pa. #5

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY:

Delaware

CODE

45

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<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:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

STREET AND NUMBER:

and Multiple Owners

CITY OR TOWN:

Delaware &amp; Chester Counties

STATE:

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Chester County Courthouse/Delaware County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

Market and High Streets/Front and South Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

West Chester/ Media

STATE:

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

"Historic Sites Survey Report on Brandywine Battlefield Site"

DATE OF SURVEY: 6/10/38



Federal



State



County



Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

National Historic Landmarks File

STREET AND NUMBER:

1100 L. Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

D.C.

CODE

11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
Pennsylvania
COUNTY:
Delaware
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

At the time of the Battle of Brandywine, the roughly seven thousand acres which comprise the landmark site were primarily woodlands which had been converted in part to farmland. The area was fairly populous, with a number of small hamlets each containing a tavern, a house or two, a "shoo", or store, and perhaps a mill. These included Dilworthtown, then Dilworth, and Chadds Ford. Birminghamtown, a similar center, near the Meetinghouse, has passed into oblivion. The majority of the farmhouses were wooden, of which many no longer exist. However, several of the more substantial stone houses still stand, including;

1. Birmingham Friends Meetinghouse, 1767, Birmingham Road
2. Daniel Davis House and Barn, 1740, Birmingham and Street Roads
3. Brinton's Mill, 1719, Route 100, at Brinton's Bridge
4. Barns-Brinton House, c. 1726, E of Hamorton on Route 1
5. Pennsbury (Lancaster) Inn, Route 1 at Hickory Hill Road
6. Building contained within the Dilworthtown Historic District, Dilworthtown
7. Springdale Farm, 1748, NE of Mendenhall on Hillendale Road
8. William Harvey House, Brinton's Bridge Road, N of Route 1
9. John Chadd House, pre-1725, Route 100
10. 1704 House, 1/4 mile S. of Dilworthtown on Route 202
11. Chadds Ford Historic district, Route 1 and Route 100
12. Gilpin Homestead (Howe's Head-quarters) 1754, Harvey Road
13. Ring House reconstruction (Washington's Head-quarters), pre-1750, Brandywine Battlefield Park
14. Gideon Gilpin House, pre-1745, (Lafayette's Quarters), Brandywine Battlefield Park

There have been many structures added since 1777, but the bulk of the land is still in farmland and woodland (although less heavily wooded). An electric power line that parallels the creek just north of Chadds Ford is one notable intrusion.

The state maintains a 50 acre park on Route 1, which contains a reconstruction of Washington's headquarters, and a restoration of a farmhouse and outbuildings, where Lafayette was quartered the night before the battle.

BOUNDARIES

Beginning at the north-west corner of the intersection of U.S. Route 1 and State Route 202, proceed North along the western curb of Route 202 to its intersection with Street Road, then west along the northern curb of Street Road to its intersection with the western bank of Brandywine Creek, thence south along the western bank approximately one and a half miles, thence south-west in a straight line for one mile to Route 1, thence west along the northern curb approximately 3,000 yards, thence north in a straight line paralleling the Old Kennett Meetinghouse for

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian    ☐ 16th Century    ☒ 18th Century    ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century    ☐ 17th Century    ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) September 11, 1777

## 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/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry            | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention           | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777, was the only major clash between Washington's Continentals and the British forces under Lord Howe during the campaign which resulted in the capture of Philadelphia, the American capital. Although the battle was an American defeat, the Continentals demonstrated a newly-won ability to withstand the determined attack of British regulars, even while sustaining heavy losses.

Having sailed up the Chesapeake Bay from New York, to attack Philadelphia from the south, Howe confronted a firmly-entrenched American army on the eastern bank of the Brandywine Creek, at Chadds Ford, Pa. Howe employed a flanking maneuver which caught the Americans unaware, due to faulty and contradictory intelligence reports; and then having them off-balance, made a frontal attack on Washington's weakened center line. Washington was enabled by the fall of night to successfully retreat to Chester, after an afternoon of some of the fiercest fighting of the Revolution. Today the rolling farmland along the Brandywine has not been greatly changed from the woods and farm land over which the battle raged. Much of the land is still open, and an abundance of 18th century stone houses remain.

In the spring and much of the summer of 1777, Washington and Howe had engaged in fruitless maneuvers in New Jersey. At last, in mid-August, Howe moved to New York where he embarked most of his army (18,000 men) to initiate an offensive campaign to take Philadelphia, via the Chesapeake Bay. Washington countered with a southward move, where he waited first in Wilmington and then Chadds Ford for Howe's advance. By September 10, he was in position on the eastern bank of the Brandywine, centered around Chadds Ford. He deployed his forces (11,000 men) in two portions; one under his personal command on either side of the Baltimore Pike, which crossed the creek at Chadds Ford (here, on the eastern heights, Proctor emplaced his artillery), and the other portion, under General Sullivan, upstream, to intercept any crossings made above Chadds Ford. Howe arrived in Kennett on the 10th, and on the morning of the 11th, he put his plan into action, sending a force under General Knyphausen down the Baltimore Pike towards Chadds Ford. The Hessian troops encountered sharp resistance, especially at the Kennett Meetinghouse, but pushed on until they gained the western

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Benson J. Lossing, The Pictorial Fieldbook of the Revolution 2 vols. (New York, 1860) II.  
 Willard M. Wallace, Appeal to Arms-A Military History of the American Revolution (New York, 1951)  
 Christopher Ward, The War of the Revolution, 2 vol. (New York, 1952) I.

# 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			
UTM REFERENCES		Degrees Minutes Seconds			Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	
A	18/450660/4418800			D	18/450080/4412000			
B	18/453100/4416490			E	18/444480/4413380			
C	18/453210/4414460			F	18/447230/4417950			
Zone eastings and northings								
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6100								
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES								
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE					
Pennsylvania	42	Chester	29					
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE					
Pennsylvania	42	Delaware	45					
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE					
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE					

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Richard E. Greenwood, Survey Historian	
ORGANIZATION	DATE		
Historic Sites Survey	12/20/74		
STREET AND NUMBER:			
1100 L. Street, N.W.			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE	
Washington	D.C.	11	

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name	Landmark
Title	Designated: Jan. 20, 1961
Date	Boundary Certified: George F. ...
	date May 25/1977

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/28/78

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

250' thence 290' to the southern curb of Route 1 then east along the southern curb approximately 3 miles to its intersection with the sixth road to the right, thence south along the eastern curb approximately <sup>one</sup>~~2~~ miles, thence south-west on Hillendale Road's eastern curb, then at its intersection with the first to the left, proceed east across Brandywine Creek to the intersection of State Route 100 and the north branch of Bullock Road thence along the northern curb of Bullock Road to its intersection with Ring Road to the northern curb of Route 1, thence east to enclose the land over which the crucial action of the engagement was waged, not pre-engagement maneuvers.

The boundary includes many features--buildings, improved highways, etc.--which do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark but as an assembly, not sufficiently intrusive to warrant further delimitation of the boundary.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

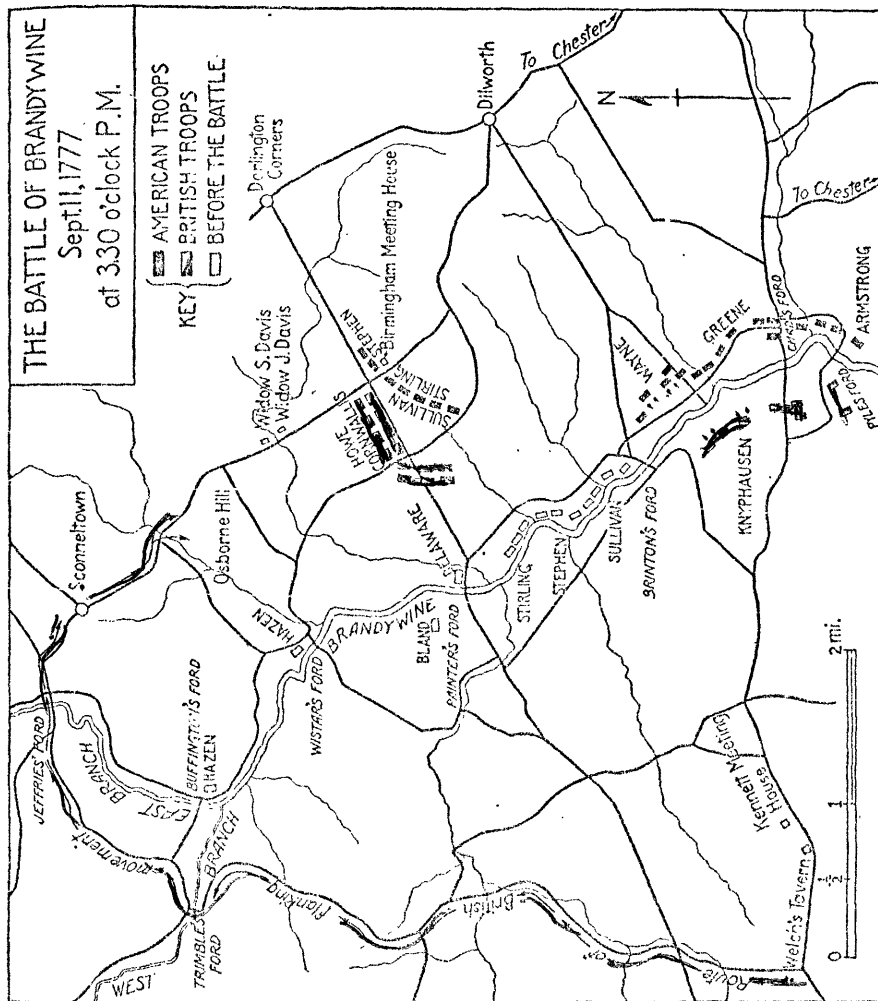
STATE	
Pennsylvania	
COUNTY	
Chester	
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(Number all entries) 8. Significance second page

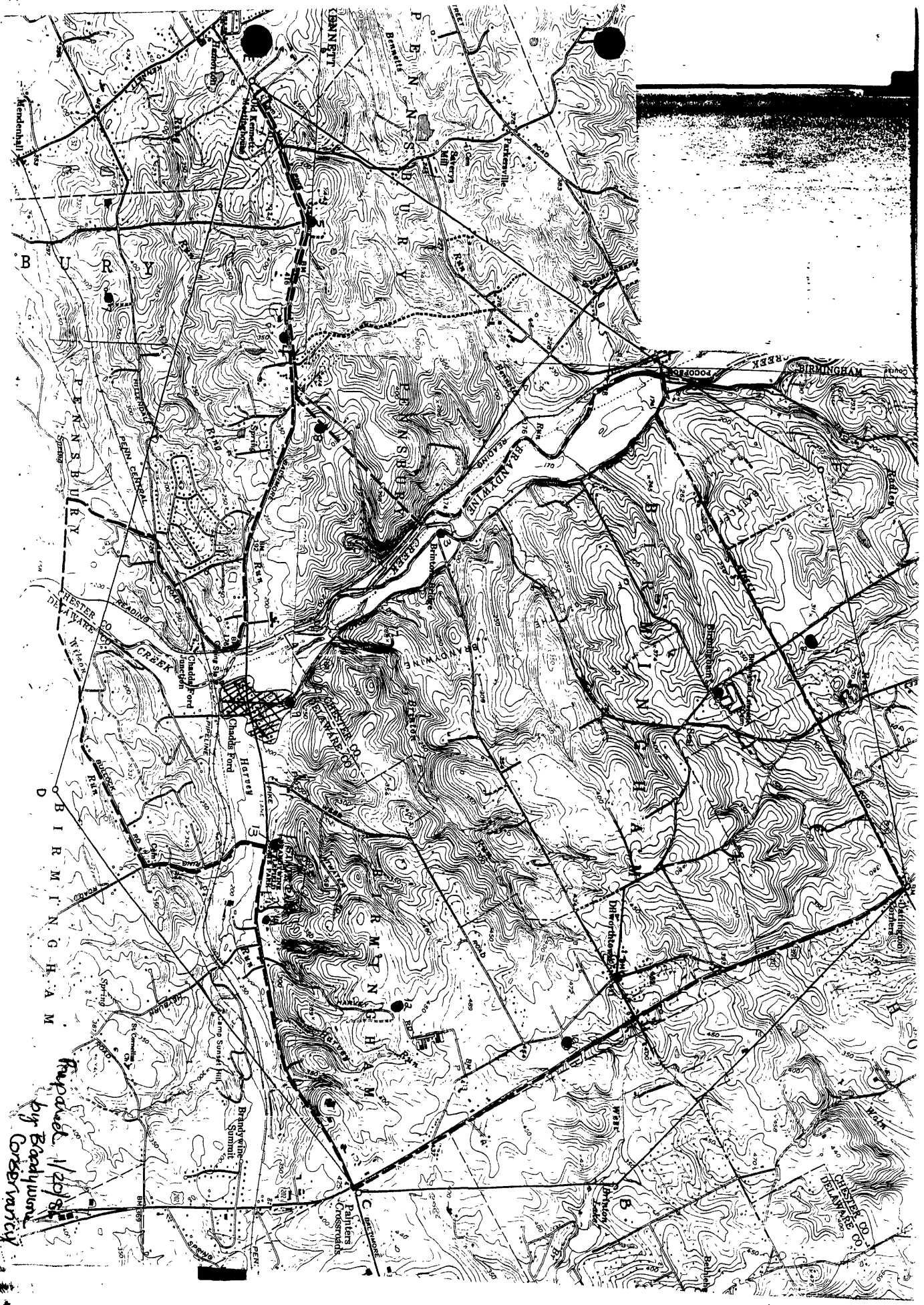
bank of the Brandywine Creek. Here no effort was made to ford, but their heavy artillery and small arms fire kept the main body of the American army occupied in this diversionary feint. Meanwhile Howe directed Cornwallis to march twelve miles north with the rest of the army, (10 thousand) where he crossed at Jeffris Ford, well above Sullivan's position. Washington's intelligence reported this flanking movement early in the day, but this report was contradicted by a later one from Sullivan's scouts. When the attack was confirmed, Washington rushed Greene to the north to bolster Sullivan's hastily reformed line. Cornwallis, directing his troops from Osborne Hill, attacked Sullivan along Street Road, and here on the heights around the Birmingham Meetinghouse, the heaviest fighting raged. Just as Greene arrived, Sullivan's line broke, and Greene put up a stiff delaying action to cover the retreat. Meanwhile, at Chadds Ford, Knyphausen, seeing the depletion of the American forces by troop movements to the north, and hearing the sound of the battle in the north, chose to attack across the ford. These troops under General Wayne were being slowly forced to retire, when they were attacked on their unprotected flank from the north, and were put to rout. Nightfall ended the battle, with the Americans retreating to Chester, defeated, but still intact, and the British camping near the battleground, only 30 miles and 14 days from Philadelphia.

at 3.30 o'clock P.M.

KEY {   
 AMERICAN TROOPS   
 BRITISH TROOPS   
 BEFORE THE BATTLE



L-6



Map made 1/20/81  
by Bradyman  
Conservancy