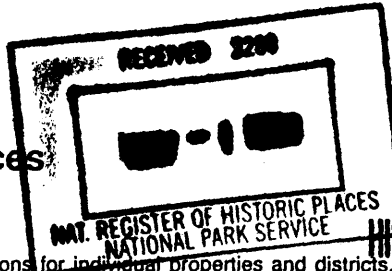


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

1. Name of Property

historic name AYRES' FARM

other names/site number KNUTH FARM

2. Location

street & number 25 COOPER ROAD

N/A not for publication

city or town DENVILLE TOWNSHIP

vicinity

state NEW JERSEY

code 034

county MORRIS

code 027

zip code 07834

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources /DSHPO

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

5/29/98

AYRES FARM
(KNUTH FARM)

Name of Property

MORRIS COUNTY, NJ

County and State

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	
9	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
10	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC Single dwelling
Secondary structure

AGRICULTURE Agricultural field
Animal facility
Outbuildings

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC Single dwelling
Secondary structure

AGRICULTURE Agricultural field
Animal facility
Outbuildings

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID - 19th CENTURY

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation GRANITE

walls WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

AYRES FARM
(~~KNUTH FARM~~)
Name of Property

MORRIS COUNTY, NJ
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations N /A
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

AGRICULTURE 1803 - 1936

Significant Dates

N /A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N /A

Cultural Affiliation

N /A

Architect/Builder

N /A

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N /A

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Denville Historical Society

AYRES FARM
(KNUTH FARM)
Name of Property

MORRIS COUNTY, NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 51.8 Mendham NJ Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	5 4 1 4 8 0	4 5 2 4 2 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 8	5 4 1 5 6 0	4 5 2 4 2 6 0

3	1 8	5 4 1 9 2 0	4 5 2 3 9 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 8	5 4 2 1 4 0	4 5 2 3 4 8 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cynthia Hinson
 organization for the Denville Historical Society date October 1, 1994
 street & number 12 Powell Court telephone (609) 371-9469
 city or town Hightstown state NJ zip code 08520

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Township of Denville
 street & number 1 St. Mary's Place telephone (201) 625-8324
 city or town Denville state NJ zip code 07834

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

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

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Ayers Farm (Knuth Farm)
Denville, Morris County, New Jersey

DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Site

The Ayres/Knuth Farm is located at the juncture of Cooper Road and Route 10, in Denville, New Jersey. Comprised of 51.8 acres, approximately half of which are under cultivation, the farm complex includes the main house and nine outbuildings. The property reaches its highest elevation at the center, and the terrain rolls gradually down to farmland at the north and wetlands to the south. Here, along a small stream, are located a stone spring house and the ruins of a nineteenth century dam. On the south side of the stream are the stone foundations of the Ayres' family distillery, and to the west are the remains of a trout pond constructed during the early twentieth century. (Photograph 1) Hundreds of rounded "pudding" stones dot this uncleared portion of the property, left behind by the terminal moraine of the Wisconsin Glacier which passed through this section of the county.

The complex of buildings is positioned at the approximate center of the acreage, with the farmhouse placed only a short distance off of Cooper Road. Located directly behind the main residence is a one and a half story tenant house, and a short distance to the south is the outhouse. (Photograph 2) North of the farm-house is a semi-circular drive, grouped around which are a garage, a barn, a corn crib and a carriage house. (Photograph 3) Behind these are located two frame chicken coops, and a small stone smokehouse. Directly to the north of the barn, a high stone ramp and stone foundations are all that remain of the original banked barn, which burned in 1936. (Photograph 4)

The Farmhouse (circa 1855) (Photographs 5 & 6)

The main residence, which was constructed in the mid-1850's, is L-shaped in plan, composed of a primary three-story block situated perpendicularly to the road and a two story wing appended to the southwest side. An early photograph also shows what appears to be a one-and-a-half-story frame extension adjoining the east, or street side, of the house. Judging from a painting that was executed in about 1905, this gabled extension was quite substantial in size, and it may have been the original Ayres farmhouse,

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Ayers Farm (Knuth Farm)
Denville, Morris County, New Jersey

constructed in the opening years of the 19th century. This portion of the house is believed to have been removed when Cooper Road was widened during the 1920's.

The two remaining sections of the house appear to be contemporaneous, and they are both of frame construction on a rubble stone foundation. The original horizontal lapped siding remains intact beneath peeling asphalt shingles that were applied earlier in this century. The main block is completed with gable end returns, and the eaves and raking cornice are marked by a simple crown moulding. Penetrating the center of the gabled roof is an original brick chimney; a heavy stone chimney was added to the south wing during the 1920's. Asphalt shingles cover the roof of the primary block, while the flat roof of the wing is tarred and graveled. A one-story, shed-roofed porch, with simple, square-section posts and balusters, shelters the street side of the house.

The rigid symmetry of the Federal and Greek Revival Styles was not observed during the construction of the Knuth House, and window placement appears to have been dictated more by necessity than architectural convention. At the first and second stories, the windows are 6/6, double-hung units; at the ground level, the fenestration is a combination of 6/1 units and paired, 6-light casements. While the glazing and muntins remain virtually intact, the prominent drip caps which highlighted the top of each window, were either removed or covered by the 20th century shingles. Operable louvered shutters remain on several of the front windows, but others have been removed.

Three entrances serve the front of the house, one in each of the north and south elevations, providing access to both the front and the back of the main entry hall, and a third door which opens onto the parlor level of the south wing. Each door is of a different configuration; the most prominent of the three, the south door, is a four panel unit, with a two-light transom above. The two remaining doors are of six-panel configuration; the one to the north is made up of three sets of double panels, while the door on the west elevation consists of two sets of three panels each.

Having suffered few changes to either its form or fabric over the years, the interior of the Knuth House might be described as pristine. The only indoor plumbing consists of a sink in the kitchen; bathrooms and central heating equipment were never installed, therefore, the initial floor plan has survived. A

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Ayers Farm (Knuth Farm)
Denville, Morris County, New Jersey

few surface mounted electrical outlets dot the walls at the ground and first floors, and three ceiling mounted light fixtures have been installed; the upper floor, however, was never electrified, and the plastered surfaces remain entirely intact.

As was customary, the ground floor spaces were reserved for the day-to-day, utilitarian operations, with five rooms dedicated to the household chores. Throughout the 19th century, the keeping room was located in the main block of the house. During the early 20th century, however, the room in the south wing, originally the pump room, was converted into a kitchen, and the cooking stove, with wood piled high around it, still remains in place. (Photograph 7) At the east end, running the width of the house, is a narrow room with white-washed stone walls, which was originally part of the half-cellar of the now-demolished wing. Located on the north side is a small area with stone walls and floor, which may have originally functioned as a buttery.

At the parlor level, extending from the front to the back of the house on the east side, is the main hall. The remainder of the first floor is divided into four rooms, plus an additional room located in the south wing. At the second floor, four bedrooms correspond in size and shape to the public rooms below. A doorway, located in the east wall of the hall, originally connected the second floor hallway with the wing to the east that has since been demolished.

With the exception of two rooms at the ground level, the original pine floorboards remain intact throughout the house. The kitchen floor is covered with 1930's-vintage linoleum, and replacement oak flooring has been installed over the earlier boards in the original keeping room. At the upper levels, the floors have survived in remarkably good condition, and only at the ground level, where the wood is close to grade, has the original material suffered. In the ground floor rooms, beaded board wainscoting topped with a heavy dado rail lines the walls, and beaded board cupboards, complete with acorn-tipped, cast iron hooks, are located in two rooms. Although cracked and damaged in two areas due to water infiltration, the original plaster walls and ceilings remain in place. The walls and ceiling of the spacious attic are also finished with plaster, indicating that this area may have been used to accommodate hired help. The plastered ceiling exhibits penciled graffiti from 1897, shortly after the house had left the Ayres' ownership.

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Ayers Farm (Knuth Farm)
Denville, Morris County, New Jersey

Throughout the building, most of the original trim has survived. The 10" high baseboards at the first and second levels are capped with a reverse ogee moulding, while the less ornate baseboards at the ground floor are topped with a simple bead. Surrounding the doors and windows are wide architraves, marked with a quirked reverse ogee with a bevel and bead; below each window is a beaded apron. Although stoves were used exclusively to heat the house, highlighting the chimney breasts are simple, but well-proportioned, mantelpieces and shelves. (Photograph 8)

Utilitarian board and batten doors with cast iron latches serve the ground floor rooms and each closet. Connecting the main level rooms, however, are four-panel doors highlighted with reverse ogee moulding. Each of these doors is hung on cast butt hinges and retains its original black rim lock with white porcelain knob. Currently, these doors are painted, with the exception of the interior face of the attic door, which exhibits a vernacular approximation of "faux bois" graining.

Designed to impress the entering visitor, the main hall is one of the most elaborate areas of the house, with its open stringer stair, turned balusters and heavy mahogany newel and handrail. The location of the hall at the side of the house was no doubt dictated by the existence of the former east wing; essentially, this building was configured in a center hall plan until the demolition of the extension to the east.

The Ayres/Knuth House is not a high-style mansion; it is simply a very well-preserved, vernacular farmhouse, constructed in the mid-1850's. An extremely large percentage of the original fabric has survived intact, and no discernible changes have been made to the floor plan. Most of the material remains in excellent condition, although several years of neglect have begun to take their toll.

The Tenant House (circa 1875)

Located a short distance behind the main residence is the front gabled tenant house, which appears to have been constructed in the 1870's, during a period of strong growth and prosperity. (Photograph 9) This two story frame structure rests on a rubble stone foundation; it is finished on three elevations

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Ayers Farm (Knuth Farm)
Denville, Morris County, New Jersey

with unpainted, horizontal lapped boards, 8-1/2" to weather, and on the north face with board and batten siding. A small interior brick chimney is located at the rear, next to a boarded-up door frame. The fenestration consists of 6/6 double-hung sash and the roof is covered with recently-applied asphalt shingles.

The original boxy appearance of this structure has been slightly modified by the addition of a small storage room which projects from the front and occupies the north half of the facade; the south half is completed with a single-story shed roof supported on chamfered posts. An exterior door located at the upper level of the facade currently opens onto this roof, indicating the existence of an earlier second story porch or stair landing. Approached from steps at the back of the house is a two-room cellar, the stone walls of which are covered with numerous coats of whitewash.

At the first floor, a small entry vestibule is located immediately inside the front door; this contains a generous winder stair which leads to the rooms on the second level. The remaining interior space on both floors is divided into three rooms. Throughout this building, the finishes are similar to those employed at the lower level of the main house, and are strictly utilitarian. Beaded board wainscoting capped with a prominent dado rail covers the lower half of the walls, the top portions of which are plastered. Beaded board and batten doors separate each space, and the walls in several spaces are completed with beaded board clothing racks. Like the main house, this small building was never plumbed or electrified.

The Outhouse (circa 1930)

Located approximately 70 feet south of the house is the four-seater privy that was in use until Frank Knuth died in 1990. This small building dates to the early part of this century, and according to one family member, was constructed with materials from an earlier outhouse that it replaced. The foundation is of random rubble stone, the gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the exterior is clad with well-weathered, lapped horizontal siding. Beaded boards, painted white, line the interior walls, and a fixed, four-light window is located in the south elevation.

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Ayers Farm (Knuth Farm)
Denville, Morris County, New Jersey

The Smoke House (circa 1825)

Approximately thirty yards to the northwest of the main house is a small stone smoke house.(Photograph 10) One of the oldest buildings on the property, it dates from the early 19th century. It is roughly seven feet square and is constructed of semi-dressed fieldstones laid in a bed of friable lime mortar. An unpainted board and batten door is located on the east elevation, and the low-pitched gable roof is currently comprised of rotting rafters covered with plywood.

Chicken Coops (circa 1885)

Two chicken coops, both dating from the third quarter of the 19th century, are located on the farm.(Photograph 11) The first, which is situated near the smoke house, is a one story, frame structure constructed on a low random rubble foundation. It is clad with unpainted horizontal lapped siding and capped with an asphalt-shingled gable roof. The siding at the east end exhibits some slight charring, evidence that the building was in its present location during the fire of 1936. The glazing in the three large 6/6 windows on the south elevation has been replaced with chicken wire. The building is comprised of two sections and the front half is currently used for storage. The rear portion of the structure is divided horizontally by a low wooden ceiling and, in the lower section, a roost runs along the north wall to a small opening at grade.

The second chicken coop, located to the north of the first, is more sophisticated and appears to have been built at a slightly later period. Approximately 10' by 20', this single-story frame building is also clad with unpainted horizontal lapped siding, and has an asphalt shingle roof. The siding on the east elevation is extremely charred, as this building was located only a few feet from the burned barn. The three large windows on the south side have little original glazing intact, and chicken wire has been inserted on the inside face of these, as well as in the two 6-light windows on the north side. The original roosts remain on the interior, with a narrow passageway along the north side for use in collecting the eggs.

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Ayers Farm (Knuth Farm)
Denville, Morris County, New Jersey

The Garage (circa 1925)

Located to the north of the farmhouse, on the semi-circular driveway, is the garage, a squarish, single-story building which dates from the 1920's. This simple structure rests on a 2'-0" stone foundation which has been covered with a thick coat of cement stucco. Two wooden garage doors are located in the east gable end and 1/1 windows light the unpartitioned, unfinished interior. Horizontal lapped siding covers each elevation. Charred roof rafters and wood lintels, particularly those located on the north side of this small building, attest to a construction date prior to 1936.

The Barn (Former Icehouse/Office) (constructed circa 1885, relocated 1936)

After the barn burned in 1936, it quickly became necessary to replace that structure in order to provide shelter for the remaining livestock. The Knuth's depressed financial situation, however, required the adaptation of an existing building, rather than the construction of an entirely new structure. As one of the largest buildings on the property, the ice house, which was previously located a short distance to the southwest of the farmhouse, was chosen to replace the barn. (Photograph 12)

After the barn site was cleared, the large, side gable ice house, originally constructed during the 1880's, was moved and reconstructed on a new stone foundation. The front half of the building which is currently used for storage, was originally designed as an office. It is entered through a six-panel door which is flanked by 2/2 double-hung windows at both the upper and lower floors. A smaller room to the west is entered through a six-panel door hung on acorn-tipped hinges. The interior walls of both rooms are covered with vertical beaded board wainscoting to the dado rail, with horizontal boards above.

The rear half of this building was originally designed and constructed to serve as an icehouse. Rather than exhibiting exposed framing, the interior walls of this section of this building are comprised of horizontal tongue-and-groove pine boards. This finish enabled the cavities between the joists to be filled with sawdust which acted as insulation, thereby extending the life of the

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Ayers Farm (Knuth Farm)
Denville, Morris County, New Jersey

ice stored within. During the early years of the 20th century, this area functioned as a creamery. Milk was stored here and cream was churned into butter, for use on the farm and for sale locally. Since being relocated, however, the building has served as a barn. Two wood-floored horse stalls, separated by decorative cast iron dividers which appear to have been salvaged from the previous barn, are located on the south; cows were housed on the north side which is finished with a concrete floor. Hay and grain stored at the upper level was made accessible by the presence of wide, Dutch-type doors in the west elevation.

The upper floors are currently used for storage. The west end of the building contains numerous crates and boxes, while the east end is used to store hay.

Carriage House/Barn (circa 1850)

A short distance to the north of the former icehouse is a corn crib constructed during the 1980s. (Photograph 13) Nearby, enclosing the north side of the circular drive and located perpendicularly to the street is a three-bay carriage house/barn which is one of the oldest buildings on the site. A tall stone foundation laid with a friable lime/clay mortar supports the side gabled building which is clad with vertical board and batten siding.

Unlike many of the other structures on the site which were left unfinished, this building shows evidence of having once been painted red. The exterior siding, particularly at the south and west sides, is slightly charred, a reminder of the fire of '36.

The easternmost vehicle bay is separated from the two western bays by a framed partition, and the remnants of a blacksmith's forge are located at the northeast corner of this area. A small stair at the middle of the building leads to the second level hay mow.

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Ayers Farm (Knuth Farm)
Denville, Morris County, New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 9

STATEMENT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The 38-acre Ayres/Knuth Farm is the physical embodiment of the evolution and development of New Jersey agriculture from the 19th through the 20th centuries. Continuously under cultivation since 1803, this farm exemplifies the significant phases of New Jersey agriculture from early 19th century subsistence farming, to the agricultural changes wrought during the second half of the century by expanding transportation systems and increased westward migration following the Land Act of 1862. During the early 20th century the property underwent further evolution when it was acquired by German immigrants, and, like so many New Jersey farms located near urban centers, was transformed into a family-run truck farming operation.

The Ayres/Knuth Farm derives its architectural significance from the number and quality of the buildings which remain on the site. This farm complex, which has undergone only minor changes since the late 19th century, is one of the last surviving examples of the agrarian landscape of buildings and fields that in 1850 occupied over 84% of the acreage in Morris County. The family residence is a prime example of rural vernacular housing, exemplifying the quality of "manifest utility" that A. J. Downing considered to be so desirable in farmhouses of the period. This is believed to be the county's sole surviving farm with a significant number of original outbuildings extant.⁽¹⁾ Clustered around the main dwelling are a tenant house, an outhouse, an icehouse and five additional outbuildings, all but one of which were constructed during the second half of the 19th century, as the farm became increasingly more productive and prosperous.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Village of Franklin

Although no longer discernible as a distinct village, during the 18th and 19th Centuries the area known as Franklin was a small, but autonomous, community. Now a part of Denville Township, Franklin was originally located in the southwest portion of Rockaway Township, and throughout its history has maintained strong commercial and religious ties to that community.

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Ayers Farm (Knuth Farm)
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In 1759 Obadiah Lum, perhaps with financial backing from Colonel Jacob Ford, purchased 180 acres in Franklin and constructed the first forge and saw mill in the vicinity. Additional forges and mills quickly sprang up throughout the area, and by the time of the Revolutionary War Franklin Hill was an established settlement of at least 20 families.⁽²⁾ The existence of the Franklin School, known to have been in operation by 1812, lends further credence to the notion of this as a separate community. Of those families inhabiting the Franklin Hill area during the 19th century, the most prominent names were Cooper, Hill, Smith, Garrigus and Ayres.⁽³⁾

By 1816, however, each of the numerous small forges had ceased operation, forced out of business from competition by larger operations in Boonton, Rockaway and Dover.⁽⁴⁾ During the 19th century, therefore, Franklin was transformed into one of the primary agricultural regions of the township. This was due in part to the quality of the soil, a sandy loam that was ideal for general farm crops, and was also attributable to the proximity of numerous towns of relative size such as Morristown and Dover which provided ready markets for the sale of crops.

THE AYRES FAMILY

Daniel Ayres

Although he was not the earliest recorded owner, Daniel Ayres was the first to settle and build upon this property. Born in Woodbridge, New Jersey, on May 29, 1778, Daniel was the grandson of Irish immigrants who reached this country during the first half of the 18th century. His father Robert left Woodbridge at an early age, and traveled to Rockaway, where he met and married Anna, a daughter of General Joseph Jackson, the township's founder and most prominent citizen. Of the eight children born of their union, only Daniel appears to have remained in the area.

Daniel's first wife and the father of his five eldest children, Hannah, was the daughter of David Garrigus, an ironmaster of the Franklin Forge and a

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Ayers Farm (Knuth Farm)
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prominent local citizen and landowner. The first deed specifically describing the Ayres-Knuth property dates from May 10, 1803, when David Garrigus conveyed 105 acres to Daniel Ayres, his son-in-law. Although the size of the farm changed throughout the years, this core of the property was to remain in the Ayres family for nearly a century. When Daniel took possession of the acreage, his wife was pregnant for the first time, a situation which no doubt prompted the sale. The imminent arrival of an infant made shelter a necessity; the form and location of their housing is uncertain, however, as the current farmhouse dates to a later period.

In his youth Daniel was trained as a shoemaker, a skill on which he relied, particularly in the early years of his marriage, as an additional source of income. With time, however, his agricultural endeavors met with success and he is listed in the census of 1850 as a farmer with property valued at \$2500, which indicates that his operation had grown beyond mere subsistence farming. Of Daniel's private life little is known, beyond the fact that he, like many of his neighbors, was an active member of the Rockaway Presbyterian Church, where he sang in the choir. After the death of his first wife, Daniel married her cousin Mary Garrigus, with whom he fathered two sons.

The Ayres/Knuth Farm and New Jersey Agriculture, 1800-1850

There is no concrete information about Daniel's farming operation. Some speculation as to the type of farming in which he was engaged is possible however, based on the agricultural census of 1860, which was compiled only four years after Daniel's death. Although some changes had probably been made by his son during this period, to a large extent the basic picture must still reflect Daniel's experience and farming methods.

This information indicates that in 1860 the farm consisted of nearly 300 acres, one-sixth of which were under cultivation. The elder Ayres practiced a mixed husbandry, with an emphasis on the cultivation of grains, particularly oats and Indian corn, and to a lesser degree buckwheat, rye and wheat. During 1859 the Ayres' raised 22 sheep, which provided 93 pounds of wool for sale. Dairying was also carried on in a small way; six milch cows produced an annual yield of 500 pounds of butter, which was undoubtedly churned on the site. Poultry played little or no role on Daniel's farm, and their two swine must

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have been raised solely for use by the family. The excess fruit from the small family orchard was sold for additional income, along with 50 pounds of honey.⁽⁵⁾

In many aspects Daniel's operation was a miniature version of the larger state-wide agricultural picture. During the first half of the 19th century, agriculture in New Jersey experienced a strong growth and resurgence. This was due in part to substantial advances in farming practices achieved through educational publications and agricultural societies and fairs, and was in part attributable to the introduction of new farm equipment which was an outgrowth of the Industrial Revolution.⁽⁶⁾ As steel replaced the wooden plow, horses supplanted oxen as the power source and fertilizers replenished sour soil, the state's agricultural output, which had been in decline, began to grow, and the number of small subsistence farms steadily decreased. At the middle of the 19th century cattle and sheep continued to be raised profitably, and grains and grasses, which had established New Jersey's reputation as the breadbasket of the Colonies, were the primary crops.

Within a decade after Daniel's death, however, agriculture in New Jersey would undergo significant changes, due primarily to competition from large farms in the newly-settled western states. William, Daniel's son and heir, would be required to make numerous changes in his farming methods in order to retain his land and continue a profitable operation.

William Ayres

Born on November 15, 1824, the elder son of Daniel's second marriage, William appears to have been possessed of a restless nature and great curiosity. At the age of thirteen he left school at the Lyceum Hall in Morristown in order to begin work on the family farm.⁽⁷⁾ Quickly realizing that agriculture provided limited opportunities for financial reward, William shortly thereafter began burning charcoal, which he carted to Newark, New York and Brooklyn, in order to earn additional income. On the return trips, his cart would be filled with hundreds of clams or several bushels of oysters, a portion of which he sold along the way; the remainder were shared with neighbors, who repaid the

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gesture on their subsequent trips east.⁽⁸⁾

Eager for adventure, in 1848 at the age of 24, William left New Jersey and journeyed west. The following year, after traveling as far as Minnesota, the young man purchased a share in a farm and saw mill located in Illinois. Upon returning to New Jersey to settle his affairs, William found that his fathers' health had deteriorated, and as a result, he was persuaded to remain in Rockaway to take charge of the family's affairs. The census of 1850, taken shortly after his return, records William's occupation as "farmer" with property valued at \$250. It was not until his father's death six years later that he would take complete charge of the operation, and begin to see his personal fortunes rise.

Four years after his return, William married Phebe Smith of Rockaway and the following year George, the first of their eight children, was born. Following the death of his father in 1856, William immediately assumed the increased responsibilities inherent in farm ownership. His family grew quickly and his mother, Mary, continued to live with her son until her death in 1875. It is highly likely, based on both the family history and the architectural evidence, that the current house was built during this period, once the former dwelling became too small to accommodate the expanding family and their domestic help.

Throughout his life William maintained a lively interest in a variety of pursuits. He continuously increased the acreage of his farm, and at one time owned over 500 acres. From his uncleared acreage William cut timber and he sold wood and railroad ties to the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company, and to the Erie Railroad in Paterson. He engaged in general farming and dairying, sold grain and hay, and made continual improvements to his property, including the construction of numerous outbuildings, most of which are still standing. In his later years he pursued the cultivation of fruit on an extensive scale, and in conjunction with his son George, operated a water-powered cider mill along the stream at the foot of the property.

After over half a century of farming, in 1896 at the age of 72, William retired from the land to a large new home that he had built for Phebe and himself. The property entered a period of transition and was sold numerous times during the following decade, before ultimately being acquired by the Knuth family in 1906.

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The Ayres/Knuth Farm and New Jersey Agriculture, 1850-1900

Throughout the second half of the 19th century, William's farming operations accurately reflected the trends that were developing in New Jersey agriculture at large. In the years prior to the Civil War, the agriculture of the region entered a period of transition and for the next several decades farming throughout the northeast was heavily influenced by intense competition from the west, unprecedented and massive urban migration and the severe economic depression of 1873-1879. The farmers who survived generally possessed better land, but they also employed superior agricultural methods. Rapidly-growing urban areas provided the key to survival for some, particularly for progressive farmers who actively sought new markets and willingly made changes in their farming practices.⁽⁹⁾

As had his father before him, William Ayres practiced a mixed husbandry, and because he possessed flexibility and a willingness to experiment, his profits grew during this transitional period. Throughout a career that spanned over half a century, this enterprising man continuously expanded the size of his holdings, and steadily increased his revenue. By 1880, despite having suffered through nearly a decade of economic depression, William's 400-acre farm was valued at \$17,400, an increase of 500% over a thirty year time span.

William Ayres' farming practices were generally in accordance with those of the majority of New Jersey farmers of the period. During the early years of the 19th century sheep were raised for wool and mutton, and cattle were grown for beef. By the 1850's, however, with the expansion of the railroad, large numbers of sheep and beef cattle were being transported into New Jersey from the west, and the market declined rapidly, forcing significant changes in livestock production.⁽¹⁰⁾ During the transitional period from 1850 to 1880, New Jersey saw a 50% decrease in her sheep population. This trend is reflected on the Ayres' farm, where in 1860, shortly after assuming control of the operation, William owned 22 sheep. Ten years later the size of his flock was reduced to 9 and by 1880, he raised no sheep at all. In response to the changing situation, savvy farmers throughout the state shifted their focus to dairying, poultry and vegetable farming. William Ayres was one of these.

Since colonial times dairying has been practiced in a limited way

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throughout most of the state by farmers who customarily kept a few cows, producing milk for their own consumption and churning butter for sale locally. But after the middle of the century, as the market changed many of Morris County's farmers turned to dairying as their primary form of husbandry. In addition, technological advances and the growth of the railroad influenced the industry, particularly with regard to the end product. During the 1850's, farm-churned butter was the primary dairy product, but by the end of the century, raw milk was more often sold to local creameries or sent by rail to urban markets.

As William Ayres moved away from raising sheep, he slowly increased the size of his dairy herd, although he never concentrated solely on this one form of husbandry, as did so many of his Morris County neighbors. In 1860 William had 6 milch cows, and by 1880 the size of his herd had doubled. Other state-wide changes are also borne out on the Ayres/Knuth Farm, where in 1860, the dairying operation yielded 500 pounds of butter for sale. In 1880, the farm produced 3000 gallons of milk, in addition to 300 pounds of butter.

Poultry, which earlier in the century had played little role in commercial farming, began to gain stature throughout the agricultural community during the last quarter of the century. This was largely due to the efforts of the New Jersey Poultry Society which was formed in 1877 in order to promote interest and encourage improvements in poultry farming, and whose aims were accomplished by disseminating information and holding exhibitions. Toward the end of the century the growth of the poultry industry was boosted by the development of incubators and brooders. Increased demand from New York City encouraged the developing industry as well. New York, essentially a white-egg market, paid a premium for the light colored eggs of Leghorns which were raised in New Jersey over the brown eggs from the western states.⁽¹¹⁾

The New Jersey farmer's growing investment in poultry-keeping is also reflected at the Ayres/Knuth Farm. Although William did not pursue poultry farming on a large scale, in the last quarter of the century chickens did make an appearance on the farm. By 1880 William possessed 200 chickens and reported the sale of 1500 eggs, when in previous years he had claimed no poultry in the agricultural census. The presence on the farm of two chicken coops dating from the last quarter of the 19th century attests to his continuing interest in poultry husbandry.

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Throughout the 18th and early 19th Centuries grains such as wheat, oats, corn, buckwheat and rye had been the economic mainstay of the New Jersey farmer. With the passage of the Homestead Act in 1862, which opened western states with an almost limitless capacity to produce grains on virgin soil, eastern farmers found that they could no longer compete. Wheat production, which in New Jersey had increased due to improved soil fertility, reached its peak in 1870, and declined rapidly thereafter.⁽¹²⁾

Along with other New Jersey farmers, William too began to curtail his production of cereal grains, and by 1880 he no longer had any acreage planted in wheat. His production of corn and buckwheat in 1880 was half that of 1860, also mirroring a statewide trend. Although the farm produced 200 bushels of oats in both 1860 and 1880, a high percentage of this was undoubtedly used as feed in the later years for his increasingly large herds of livestock, particularly horses.

Unlike many local farmers who pursued poultry husbandry or dairying to the exclusion of all other interests, William consistently opted for diversification. Throughout the years, however, he maintained an avid interest in fruit cultivation, and even after "retiring", he continued to raise apples. Like so many farmers of the period, Daniel Ayers had established a small family orchard and the agricultural census for 1860 reports the sale of \$30 worth of orchard produce during the previous year. It is believed that this orchard was located directly behind and to the west of the house, where a few apple trees still stand. During his later years on the farm, William substantially increased the acreage devoted to fruit trees; he was particularly interested in the cultivation of apples, peaches and pears. In 1880 he reported 16 acres planted with 400 trees and the total revenue from orchard products during 1879 was given as \$200.

In conjunction with fruit cultivation, during the late 1860's William constructed a cider mill along a small stream at the foot of the property, near what is present-day Route 10. Although local tradition refers to this as the "Billy Ayres" distillery, the census of 1880 describes George Ayres, then 24 years old, as a distiller. Numerous additional sources also attribute this business to George; it is therefore likely that William started the operation, but turned it over to his eldest son once he reached adulthood. At the time, this and one other were the only two distilleries in operation in the township.

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George, unfortunately, died at an early age in 1893, shortly before his father retired from the farm, and it seems that the distillery, in operation for twenty-five years, died with him. The stone foundations of the buildings remain in evidence at the southern tip of the property, along with the stone dam which stopped the stream and provided the power necessary to grind and press the fruit.

By the 1860's the size of his operation was such that William found it necessary to employ full-time hired hands and a housekeeper. At a time when the average farmer paid \$214 for wages including board, William reported an annual expenditure of \$625. The census of 1870 indicates that William engaged two laborers of German extraction, who had recently immigrated from Austria and Saxony. His male laborers were housed in the small dwelling located behind the main residence; however, because the attic level of the farmhouse is finished with plastered walls and ceiling, it is speculated that the housekeeper, who appears to have been employed only while the children were small, was boarded with the family.

Due to the constant migration following the Civil War of sons and daughters from rural areas into the urban centers, New Jersey farmers, like William, frequently found it necessary to hire foreign-born laborers. Although most of the immigrants who found work in New Jersey were thrifty and hard-working and settled permanently in their communities, many farmers mourned the passing of the industrious American-born hired hand in contrast to the "rawest and most uncouth of Irish and Germans" then available, and the more xenophobic contributors to farming periodicals encouraged constant supervision of this new breed of hired hand.⁽¹³⁾

This wary attitude, combined with the increasing notions of family privacy that began to grow during the post-war period, resulted in farm hands, both native and foreign-born, being boarded more frequently in separate buildings, rather than with the farmer and his family. The construction of the Ayres' tenant house during the third quarter of the century must have satisfied the family's need for privacy, while its location only a few feet behind the main house, ensured that William could maintain a sharp eye on his laborers.

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Summary

Not being one to "join" or socialize, William Ayres did not achieve notable social status in Rockaway, and although he was a member of the Presbyterian Church there, he did not attend frequently. Instead, William appears to have been content to remain in Franklin and pursue his own interests. In the nearly fifty years that he retained control of the farm, by relying on quick wits and hard work, William was consistently able to provide a comfortable living for himself and his family.

The farm left the Ayres family after William's retirement in 1896 and changed hands numerous times during the following decade. It was first conveyed to Robert E. Westcott on June 1, 1896; then to Monroe Howell on October 29, 1900; next to Addie L. Reynolds on January 31, 1901; then to E. Fitzhugh Crane on August 13, 1902; then to Phoebe A. Crane on February 8, 1904; and finally to John and Margaret Bowers on August 8, 1905. As none of these are local names, it is believed that the farm was repeatedly purchased for investment purposes by owners who were not interested in settling on the property. On June 4, 1906, the farm was finally purchased by Martin and Anna Knuth, whose descendants retained the property until it was purchased by the Township of Denville in 1995.

THE KNUTH FAMILY

German Immigration to 1900

By the first Federal Census of 1790, of all the states only Pennsylvania had a more ethnically diverse population than New Jersey. At that time, those of English ancestry were in the minority and comprised only 47% of the state's population.⁽¹⁴⁾ Although there have been Germans in North America since the 17th century, they did not begin to arrive in great numbers until about 1820. Immigration from that country surpassed all others in the years from 1850 to 1885, during which time approximately 4 million Germans reached the United States.⁽¹⁵⁾ The year 1882 saw the peak, when 250,630 persons arrived not only in New York City, but also in the ports of New Orleans, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Boston.

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German emigration during the 19th century falls into two phases. The majority of the immigrants during the early decades came from the southern and southwestern sections of the country, areas that were suffering from a rapid increase in population due to the period of political stability following the Napoleonic Wars. Many of these immigrants were agricultural laborers and small farmers whose fortunes were adversely affected by the region's inheritance laws, which dictated the equal division of family property among all surviving children. They came in search of cheap land that was plentiful in the United States, and although many Germans continued on to the abundant lands in the west, a few remained on farms in New Jersey.⁽¹⁶⁾ A great number of these people were poor, but seldom were they reduced to the levels of poverty experienced by the victims of the Irish famine; many, in fact, possessed enough capital to purchase a parcel of land, or to establish a small business upon their arrival.⁽¹⁷⁾

The migrations during the later years of the century were largely comprised of peasants and unemployed industrial workers, primarily from the eastern part of the country, who were attracted by the demand for cheap labor in the years following the Civil War. This group tended to settle in the Mid-Atlantic region and throughout the upper Midwestern states, in or near to industrialized, urban centers.⁽¹⁸⁾

Throughout the period from 1820 to 1920, the migrations also brought many Catholics to this country. Religious intolerance toward non-Protestants was on the rise throughout Germany, with the result that approximately one-third of the total immigrants from that country were Catholic.⁽¹⁹⁾

By 1900 New Jersey's German-born population registered over 120,000, surpassing the Irish by a wide margin as the most numerous of the state's nationalities. This did not hold true in Rockaway however, and in 1895 Germans comprised only slightly more than one percent of the township's total population. Several of these immigrants found work as laborers for William Ayres, and in 1906, a German couple, the Knuths, purchased the property and farmed the land for the next eight-five years.

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Martin and Anna Knuth

Martin and Anna Knuth emigrated to the United States from West Prussia in 1882, at the peak of the immigration movement. Their reasons for leaving Germany, although partly economic, were primarily religious. Invariably described by all who knew them as an extremely devout family, the Knuths were unwavering supporters of the Catholic faith. Successive generations maintained strong ties to the church, and throughout the years, the Catholic Church played a prominent role in the Knuth's lives. Frank leased a plot of land to St. Francis Health Resort in Denville, and sold ten acres of his property to the Diocese of Paterson for a school that was never built. Family history claims that the only time Sue left the farm during her ninety-four years was to visit the nunnery at Convent Station, and many believe that she remained single because it was her lifelong wish to become a nun.

The Knuths resided in Morris County for twenty years before purchasing the Ayres' property in 1906. Robinson's map of 1887 indicates that their first farm was located in the Union Hill section of Rockaway, a few miles to the west of Franklin. Because the first farm was located at a higher elevation and was less productive due to the rocky terrain, the Knuth's fortunes were greatly improved through their purchase of the Ayres' place. When Martin and Anna acquired the new farm, they had five children; Hattie (b. 1892), Sue (b. 1897), twins Martin, Jr. and Andrew (b. 1898), and Frank (b. 1903). A sixth child, Jacob, who arrived in 1906, was the only child to be born in Franklin.

The Knuths hailed from a long line of farmers and were not novices when it came to agricultural practices. In addition to being knowledgeable, they were thrifty and extremely hard-working, a combination of traits which enabled the family to earn a comfortable living in Franklin. The years between 1906 and 1936 were generally prosperous ones for the Knuths, and the mortgage was paid off before 1915. This period is fondly recalled by the older members of the family who remember visiting the farm as small children.

Martin Knuth died in March of 1935, and shortly thereafter tragedy struck the farm. Under the mistaken impression that it was an unnecessary expense, Anna Knuth had allowed the insurance on the property to lapse. During a summer electrical storm in August 1936, lightning struck the barn, and the dry, heavy timber framing caught fire immediately. Destroyed were over 100 tons of

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hay and a large quantity of rye and barley, in addition to a passenger car, a truck and a cow that was killed instantly. Firemen fought the blaze all night, and periodically throughout the following days as the smoldering hay continued to catch fire. The losses were estimated at \$50,000; the barn alone, described in a local newspaper account as one of the largest in the state, was valued at \$35,000.⁽²⁰⁾

Following the fire, attempts were made by Mrs. Knuth and the three children who remained at home to start again. Of immediate concern was a building to replace the barn. Because money was not available for new construction, the existing ice house, which at the time was being used as a buttery, was relocated to the barn site. The rear of the building was fitted out with stalls for the horses and cattle, while the front and second level sufficed for general storage and a hay mow.

By this time however, Anna Knuth was in her seventies, the fire had destroyed their barn, their crop and a large portion of their farming equipment, and the economic depression of the 1930s continued. The Knuths were never able to recover from this disaster, and in the following years, the farm, which had been well-managed and productive for over 130 years, ceased to be more than a subsistence-level operation. Anna lived here until her death in 1950, when her children, Frank and Sue Knuth, assumed operation of the farm.

The Ayres/Knuth Farm and New Jersey Agriculture, 1900-1940

Agriculture in New Jersey during the early years of the 20th century was profoundly, and adversely, affected by increased urban growth. Following the turn of the century, as cities and suburbs claimed a steadily larger percentage of the state's acreage, the number of farms began to decrease. In Morris County alone the number of farms declined from a high of 2554 in 1880 to only 1128 in 1930. The total county-wide acreage devoted to farming dropped from 84% in 1860 to 32% in 1930. That number has since decreased to just over 10% of the total acreage, with only 32,243 farmland-assessed acres remaining in Morris County. Of that total, Denville Township claims only about 650 acres of farmland.⁽²¹⁾

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Technological advances, particularly the invention of the internal combustion engine, heavily influenced farming during the early 20th century. These changes included the introduction of the tractor, which replaced horses in the fields, and the auto truck which superseded the railroad for delivering produce to market. Electricity reached New Jersey households during this period, and by January of 1935 over 51% of the state's farms had been supplied with power and lights.⁽²²⁾

Continuing a trend begun in the late 19th century, the state's agricultural picture was divided into three main areas: dairying, poultrying and truck and fruit farming. Many of New Jersey's farmers were not content to put all of their labor and resources into one venture and a large number continued to practice a mixed husbandry. For the average farmer possessing limited means, this was the safest course, as specialized branches often left a portion of the year devoid of income. In 1930, of Morris County farmers with holdings of 50 to 99 acres, 31% were involved in general or self-sufficiency farming. Thirty percent were devoted exclusively to dairying, 14% were poultry farmers, and 9% grew truck crops. The remaining 16% were engaged in various pursuits such as fruit cultivation or horse farming.⁽²³⁾

Although there was a decrease in the number of acres devoted to their cultivation, farmers throughout the state continued to grow grains, corn being the most popular of these. Both sweet and white potatoes were a significant crop for New Jersey farmers during the first quarter of the century and the most lucrative truck crops at that time were tomatoes, strawberries, string beans, asparagus, peppers and cabbage.

Martin Knuth is reported to have been an extremely progressive, hard-working man who was not afraid to experiment and take chances in order to provide a decent living for his family. As had William Ayres, Martin continued to raise a variety of items on the farm. The property is invariably described by those who remember it as "a true farm, with pigs, chickens, cows, horses--- everything a farm is supposed to have".⁽²⁴⁾

During the early years of the Knuth's tenure theirs was largely a truck farming operation, and they grew a variety of vegetables to supply the ever-increasing population of the state. At times, their harvest was trucked to

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Newark, however there were also numerous local markets for their produce. Vegetables were taken by wagon to Dover where they were sold to the George Richards Company, potatoes were sold to the Wayside Inn in Denville, and the large Polish population in Rockaway bought corn, tomatoes and additional truck crops for canning. Hay was grown extensively, as well as grains such as buckwheat and rye, which were taken to Bartley to be ground at the grist mill.

Unlike William Ayres, the Knuths did not actively pursue the cultivation of fruit trees, although they harvested and sold the apples and peaches until the existing orchards were no longer productive. Like their predecessor, and as part of their German heritage, the Knuth's were interested in brewing. Rather than reestablishing the mill by the stream, the carriage house harbored a distilling operation during the Prohibition years, and family members recall vast quantities of beer and brandy on the premises, as well as bottles of elderberry and dandelion wine.

Water was originally provided to the house from a driven well that was located with a windmill at the crest of the property. This was replaced during World War I by a hydraulic ram system that was in operation for over three-quarters of a century. This engineering feat and the story surrounding it are two of the most interesting aspects of the Knuth history.

An itinerant German man who was given employment on the farm during the last two years of the war, was responsible for the design and installation of the Rife ram system. The hydraulic pump, which was located in the stone spring house at the foot of the property, utilized the flowing water of the stream as the power source to continuously pump small amounts of water to the crest of the property, where it was stored in a 5000 gallon cistern. Upon demand, water then flowed downhill to the house and outbuildings, and the well-designed system was still operable until the early 1990s.

The ingenuous laborer who devised and installed this equipment was described as extremely intelligent; he designed and constructed other items for the Knuth's using the forge that was located in the carriage house. He was "odd" and kept to himself, however, and spent every Sunday walking for miles around the county. When he disappeared abruptly at the end of the war, the rumor naturally spread that the man had been a German spy.

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In the later years, following the precedent set by his father, Frank grew a variety of products including corn and hay. He delivered produce to the local markets and grocery stores, and eggs were sold to the neighbors. A cow was butchered each year to provide the pair with meat. Frank, although not very successful as a farmer, was an excellent hunter, and he sold furs for additional income. To supplement his income, he worked for twenty years as a maintenance man at the local psychiatric hospital. Sue grew and canned vegetables, and was well-known for her extensive flower garden; descendants of those flowers continue to bloom each spring. Despite the setbacks suffered during the 1930's, through their combined efforts and with the help of numerous relatives and neighbors, Frank and Sue were able to remain on the farm until their deaths.

The brother and sister, neither of whom ever married, occupied the lower two floors of the house and lived frugally, without many amenities or luxuries. In over half a century of their occupation, no significant changes were made to the interior of the farmhouse. The building was not electrified until the 1960's, and then only the lower floors received lighting and power. Indoor plumbing was never installed; until their deaths in the early 1990's, the outhouse was still in use. Described as entirely devoted to one another, Frank and Sue both lived into their nineties, and died within weeks of each other.

The two-hundred year old farm has been purchased by the Township of Denville, with financial help from the Morris County Green Acres Fund. Of the approximately 52 acres of the original Ayres/Knuth farm that are now owned by the Township, 13.6 acres have been allocated for use as recreational fields. Currently two soccer fields are located at the northern end of the property, at the corner of Cooper and Franklin Roads, and a 2.3 acre has been set aside for future use as a baseball field.

The site has been rented for a number of years to a young farmer who is interested in remaining on the property. The Township proposes to continue this arrangement and to develop the farmed acreage and buildings into a working historical/agricultural complex. To that end, the mayor has appointed a committee to study alternatives and develop a viable proposal.

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4. D'Angelo, p. 33.
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7. Lewis, pp. 792-795.
8. Ibid, p. 409.
9. McMurry, p. 94.
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12. Pitt, p. 208.
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16. Ibid.
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18. Glazier and Philby, p. xiii.
19. Wright, p. 56.
20. *Denville Herald*, August 27, 1936.
21. Luke, p. 73.
22. New Jersey Museum of Agriculture, farm life exhibit, May 1994.
23. Pitt and Hoagland, p. 126.
24. Mr. Eddie Knuth, telephone interview, June 18, 1994.

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United States Department of the Interior
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Ayres Farm (Knuth Farm)
Denville, Morris County, New Jersey

Boundary Description

The Ayres/Knuth Farm includes all of Block 20003, Lot 1 and contains 51.8 acres. The property is bounded by Cooper Road to the north, Franklin road to the west and is protected from Route 10 by a row of trees at the southern boundary of the property.

Boundary Justification

The site consists of the triangular block of land bounded by Cooper Road, Franklin Road and New Jersey Route 10, with the following parcels removed; Block 20003, Lot 1.01 and Block 21203, Lot , both of which are zoned Office/Campus. The entire 51.8 acre parcel is owned by the Township of Denville.

Approximately 16 acres of the site, located at the northern corner of the property near the junction of Franklin and Cooper Roads, have been set aside for recreational use, including two soccer fields and a proposed softball field. This acreage is included in the nomination as it is lightly developed, does not include lighting or permanent support facilities, and does not pose a visual threat to the farm property. The remaining acreage continues to be farmed or contains protected wetlands.

UTM References (cont.)

5 - 18 / 541560 / 4523700

6 - 18 / 541600 / 4523760

7 - 18 / 541480 / 4523860

8 - 18 / 541460 / 4523900

9 - 18 / 541260 / 4524060

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National Park Service

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Ayers Farm (Knuth Farm)
Denville, Morris County, New Jersey

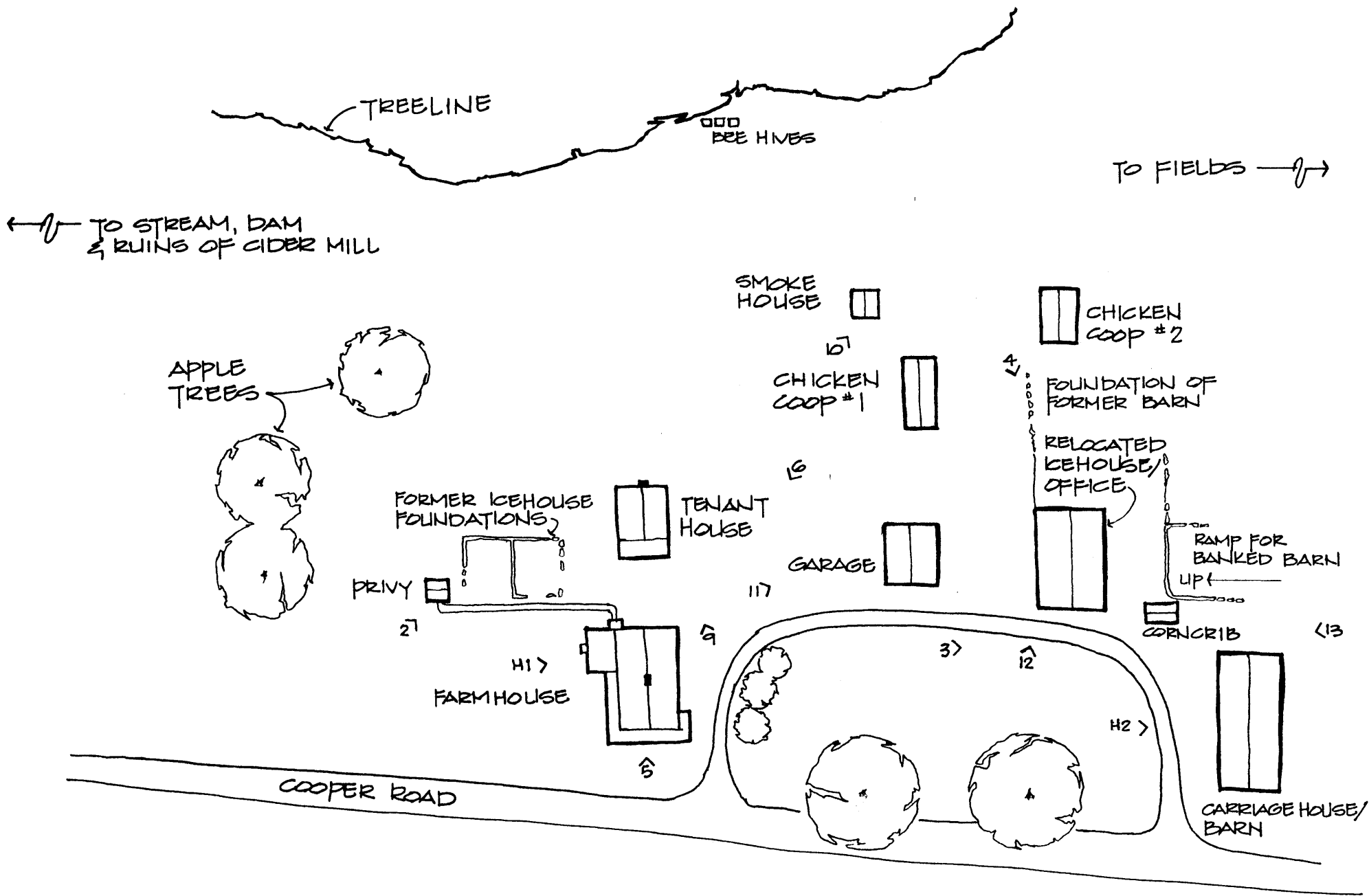
Photographs

Unless otherwise noted, photographs were taken by Cynthia Hinson in April and June, 1994. Unless otherwise noted, negatives are on location at the Denville Historical Society, Diamond Springs Road, Denville, NJ 07834. Refer to plans for views.

1. Stone walls of cider mill with dam in background.
2. Outhouse, foundations of icehouse and tenant house. Photographed by Mr. Donald Darsch, 18 Mt. Arlington Road, Denville, NJ. 07834. Negative is in his possession.
3. Former icehouse on left with carriage house on right.
4. Rear of icehouse with stone foundation wall of former barn.
5. Cooper Road (east) elevation of main house.
6. West and north elevations of main house and tenant house.
7. Kitchen of main house.
8. Parlor of main house.
9. Facade of tenant house.
10. Stone smoke house.
11. View of outbuildings facing north. Chicken coops to left, stone foundations of former barn, garage and relocated icehouse.
12. Relocated icehouse/barn. Photographed by Mr. Donald Darsch, 18 Mt. Arlington Road, Denville, NJ. 07834. Negative is in his possession.
13. View of farm facing south. Rear of carriage house to left, main house and outhouse in distance, icehouse and corn crib to right.

Historic Photographs

- H1. South elevation of Ayers' farmhouse. Standing are Phoebe and William Ayers, with son Lawrence, who was born in the house in 1863. Note wing at right that is no longer standing. Photograph probably taken prior to 1868.
- H2. Carriage house/barn. Holding reins is Lawrence Ayers. Seated are his sisters Hattie and Mary. Man standing by wagon is Ike Eagles and in distance is William Ayers, father of the children and builder of the house. Photograph probably taken in late 1870's.



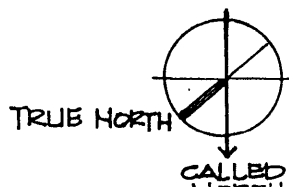
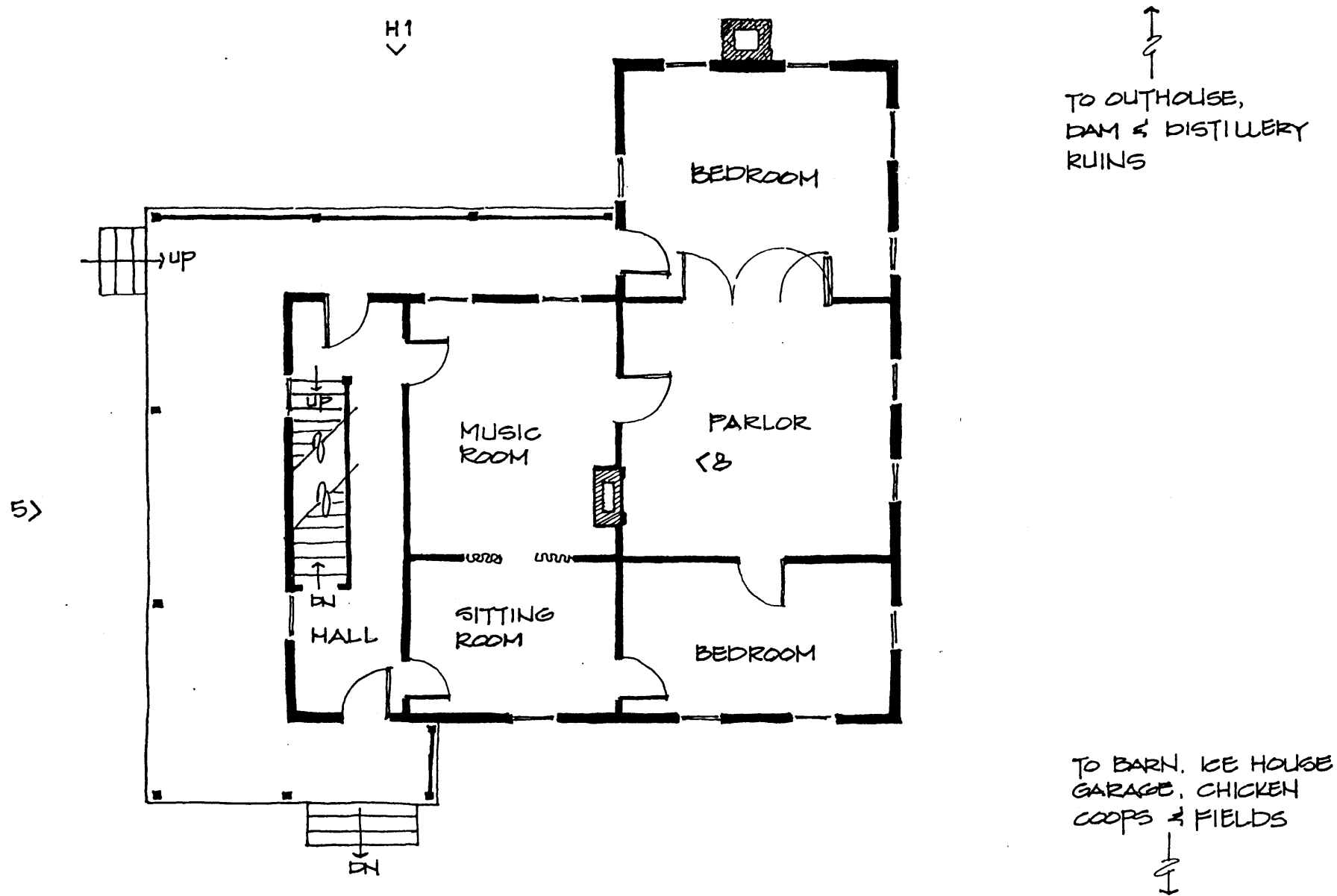
PARTIAL KNUTH FARM SITE PLAN

NOT TO SCALE

Ayres Farm (Knuth Farm), Denville Township, Morris County, New Jersey

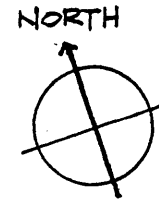


Ayres Farm (Knuth Farm), Denville Township, Morris County, New Jersey



KNUTH FARMHOUSE
SCHEMATIC FIRST FLOOR PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

Ayres Farm (Knuth Farm), Denville Township
Morris County, New Jersey



KNUTH FARM SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 200'

