

PH0363481

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 3 1976
DATE ENTERED SEP 28 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

**

HISTORIC

Brindley Farm

AND/OR COMMON

Crooked Billet

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Intersection of Barley Mill Rd. & Kennett Pike

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

New Castle

CODE

002

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Jean du Pont McConnell

STREET & NUMBER

Crooked Billett, Kennett Pike

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Public Building

STREET & NUMBER

Rodney Square

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Delaware Historic Sites and Buildings, N-529

DATE

1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Registrar's Office; Division of Historical and Cultural
Affairs, Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The subject property is an irregular tract, containing 28.34 acres, at the southeast corner of the intersection of Kennett Pike and Barley Mill Road, near Wilmington. Although the property is completely surrounded by suburban development, it retains its rural character. The house, carriage house, and barn, remain as reminders of an earlier period.

Crooked Billet is a five-bay, stone, two-and-a-half-story, eighteenth-century structure, with later rear wings and a modern side porch. A modern portico covers the central front door. The house was extensively remodelled during the present century, but the basic features of the original tavern have survived in the main (front) section of the house.

There are two major outbuildings on the tract: a large bank barn and a carriage house. The carriage house, now a garage, is two stories high, of stone, with two brick-arched bays. It contains a datestone of 1807. The barn is frame, covered with composition siding, and consists of three main wings. The elevated main wing is entered through a large pair of double doors; extending to the rear on either side are smaller wings. The ground floor of the main wing is a stone foundation; the smaller wings have stone foundations covered with stucco. These basements contain the stalls for horses..

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Crooked Billet property is the last, surviving farm property in a sprawling suburban district. With its barn, carriage house, and pastures, it retains its rural character on a relatively small tract. It is one of the few surviving eighteenth-century Delaware tavern buildings, and a rare surviving example of early rock construction.

An inn or tavern, called Crooked Billet, is mentioned in a deed to this property dated 1792. Since 1750, only two families have owned it. The five-bay, main stone section is the oldest part of the house. A carriage house, also built of stone, is dated 1807. Other wings and outbuildings have been added by more recent occupants, but the original structure retains much of its earlier appearance.

Since 1864, the property has belonged to the du Ponts. In that year, the Brindley family sold approximately 180 acres to Henry, Lamot, and Eleuthere du Pont, partners in the nearby powder mills. In 1882, Henry du Pont, the senior partner in the firm, acquired full title. His son, William, lived there but did not receive the property until Henry du Pont's death seven years later.

William du Pont began his service with the family firm at the age of 17, in 1878, managing "the farm," which amounted to thous ands of acres surrounding the Brandywine powder mills. In 1880, he became secretary of a new subsidiary, Repauno Chemical Company, which manufactured dynamite at a plant near Gibbstown, New Jersey. High explosives were relatively new and untested; Lamot du Pont, the president of Repauno, died in 1882 when an experimental device exploded. Shortly thereafter, William du Pont became president of both Repauno and the Hercules Powder Company, which operated a similar plant in Ohio. He moved the companies' offices from Philadelphia to Wilmington; eventually, they became a part of the larger DuPont Company that was incorporated in 1902. His granddaughter, Mrs. Jean du Pont McConnell, has occupied the house for approximately twenty-five years.

The property was originally patented to Adam Stedham in 1684. After passing through several hands, the central tract of 80 acres passed to Thomas Ogle, a blacksmith, in 1750. He died on February 19, 1777, but the estate was not settled until 1791, after his minor children came of age. His widow married James Brindley,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blaine T. Phillips, manuscript history of title to Crooked Billet, 1974, in Historic Preservation Section files, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 28.34

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	449480	4402480	B	184	449480	4401950
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	18	448910	4401950	D	18	448910	4402480
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is surrounded on all sides by streets. On the northeast, boundary is Kennett Pike; on the northwest it is Barley Mill Road. Subdivision streets bound the property on the southeast and southwest, where it adjoins the Westover Hills development

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Edward F. Heite, Historic Registrar

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

DATE

October 1974

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Records

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

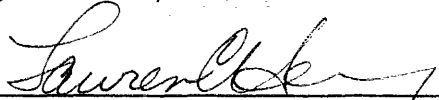
STATE x

LOCAL

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

NAME:

Lawrence C. Henry



TITLE:

Director, Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

2/27/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

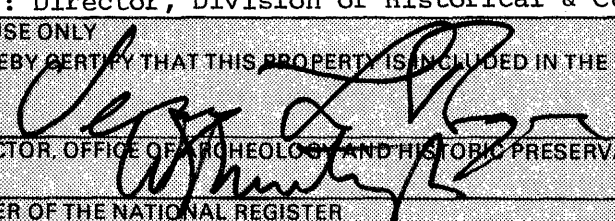
9/28/96

ATTEST:

DATE

9/27/76

Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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an innholder, who bought the Crooked Billet Inn through a straw man from the estate in 1792. About the same time, Brindley acquired other tracts to accumulate an 180-acre farm, which his family finally sold in 1864. The two-story, stone carriage house is said to have been built by the Brindleys in 1801. This building stands near the old trace of Barley Mill Road (since replaced by Del. 141), which formerly ran alongside the inn, where the present Crooked Billet driveway runs.