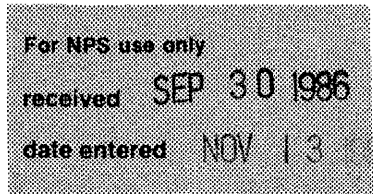


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N-1098

Property Name: J. McIntyre Farm

Locations and Verbal Boundary Description:

The J. McIntyre Farm is located on the west side of Limestone Road (Route 7) approximately 0.3 miles north of its intersection with Valley Road (Road 294). The nominated site occupies the eastern third of Parcel Number 08-011.00-011, roughly 50 acres. The western boundary of the site coincides with a fence line that is approximately 525 yards west of the driveway entrance on Limestone Road. The northern, eastern, and southern site boundaries coincide with the boundaries of the legal parcel. The site boundaries are delineated on the attached map titled, New Castle County Property Tax Map, 1985.

<u>UTM References:</u>	A. 18/438310/4403300	F. 18/437840/4402860
	B. 18/438430/4403040	G. 18/437970/4403340
	C. 18/438420/4403020	H. 18/438060/4403400
	D. 18/438500/4402860	I. 18/438110/4403310
	E. 18/437920/4402810	J. 18/438230/4403360

Owner: Alletta Laird Downs  
933 Center Road  
Wilmington, Delaware 19807

Description:

The J. McIntyre Farm contains five contributing buildings and two non-contributing buildings. The contributing buildings are: a brick house with frame Gothic Revival style additions, a circa 1830 stone bank barn, and three late nineteenth century outbuildings: a braced frame corn crib, a braced frame machine shed, and a two story granary covered with corrugated metal siding. The non-contributing buildings are a circa 1950 large, frame, one story utility building, and a frame and concrete block garage.

The house is a two story, three bay, brick building with an added central cross gable, and a frame wing extending from its west endwall. A datestone on the front of the brick wing reads: S.H.H. 1717, H.H.D 1894. The 1717 date refers to Simon Hadley's original settlement of the property, and the 1894 date refers to H. Dennison's additions to the house. Because the exterior of the brick section is stuccoed and no internal structural details are visible, it is impossible to determine if any part of the brick wing is a survival from 1717. The brick wing has the symmetrical, three bay, center door configuration that is characteristic of nineteenth century building. Its windows are two-over-two sash with plain surrounds and lug sills. Paneled first floor shutters and louvered second floor shutters have been removed. The gable roofline of the frame wing runs perpendicular to the brick wing. Two pointed arch windows and a gable apron

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fill the gables of the frame wing, as well as the east gable and central crossgable of the brick wing.

The circa 1830 J. McIntyre barn is stone with a frame front wall. It has evidence of a cantilevered fore bay, and a late nineteenth century or early twentieth century gable-roofed straw shed. The walls are constructed of large, dark fieldstones with large, rectangular quoins, and in places is covered with a pebbled stucco. Slatted ventilation windows with fully cut nails help date the barn to the 1830's. There is a two story, shed-roofed addition on the west side of the straw shed. On the south side of the straw shed is a modern pole shed. Attached to the east gable end is a one story, block milk house.

The upper level is divided into three bays of roughly equal dimensions: 13 by 20 feet. The west bay has a loft, formerly with log joists, with a beaded board interior.

Principal timbers are hewn: posts, plates and girts; and secondary timbers are vertical sawn: rafters, studs, braces and rails. The framing of the J. McIntyre barn is somewhat different from other barns. The outer posts are flared and notched but the notch is three feet below the post head so that the girt is much lower than the plate. Four feet below the girt is another tie beam. There are two studs between them. Between the lower tie and the floor are five studs as nailing surfaces for the horizontal board threshing floor wall. The west bent is incomplete but appears to have had a large cambered beam as indicated by a large mortise with two pins in the door post. West of this is the loft and enclosed area. There is evidence for a cantilevered forebay with the presence of mortises on the frame wall posts and the cantilevered log joists.

The roofing system consists of bridled common rafters with neither principal rafters nor purlins.

The flooring system consists of transverse, face-hewn log joists seated on the ramp long wall and supported in the center and end by longitudinal girders. The logs cantilever about five feet from the end girder. Upper level inner bents are framed into square hewn timbers. The lower level center bay, as defined by those two timbers, exhibit two peculiarities. For a space of about six feet between the ramp wall and girder, the log joists are cut out indicating a space used for some other purpose, perhaps as a root cellar. The lower level center bay also features battens trenched into the joists covering the cracks between the threshing floor boards.

There is little indication of the original plan on the lower level except a scant portion of the stable wall which indicates brick arched doorways.

Significance:

The J. McIntyre site is significant under Criterion A because it represents the two major rebuilding periods in nineteenth century Mill Creek Hundred, and is significant

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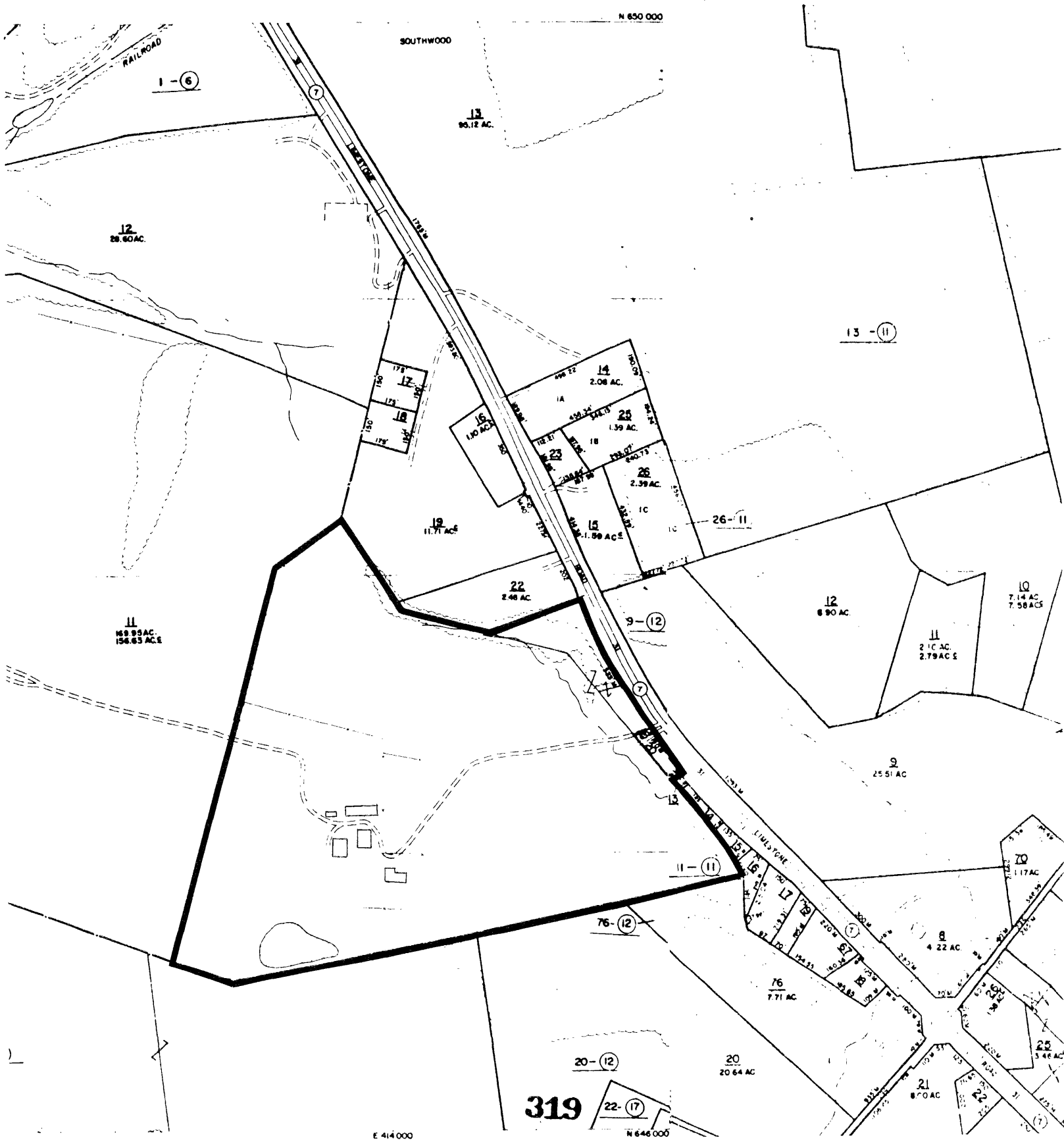
under Criterion C as a well-preserved complex of agricultural buildings illustrating designs and modifications that depart from the norm.

The first rebuilding occurred during the first few decades of the nineteenth century which were characterized by rapid population growth, an expansion of industry, particularly mills, and the rapid rise in the value of land. A new social consciousness arose which manifested itself in architecture. In order to express this new exuberance of material wealth and social status, the architectural landscape was transformed from impermanent log buildings to durable stone buildings. This was as much an expression of pride as it was a pragmatic and functional decision.

In the latter decades of the nineteenth century, a second rebuilding occurred. This time to express the new Victorian style with elements of Gothic Revival and Queen Anne styles. The dwelling was remodeled and an antiquarian footnote in the form of a datestone was added in the center gable. Usually, dwellings were modified by adding a simple rear wing and perhaps a Victorian porch, a crossgable or a bracketed cornice. The McIntyre House is unusual in that the added wing created an asymmetrical plan. The barn was also expanded, but for functional reasons rather than for reasons of style.

The significance of the J. McIntyre barn lies in its framing scheme, which is somewhat different than the rest of the barns in the hundred, with its unusual posts, common rafter roof and cantilevered forebay. These differences underscore the varied nature of barn framing in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The evidence for a cambered beam and the companion beam, tie this barn in with the similarly framed Morgan (N-326) and Eastburn (N-4011) barns. The post form is not totally unique, there being an identical one in the T. M. Walker barn on Little Baltimore Road (N-327), and in the eighteenth century W. Phillips barn (N-4085). A similar post is in the J. McDaniel barn (N-10,099). The additions are an indication of the strength of the dairy industry in the late nineteenth century as, like almost every other barn in Mill Creek Hundred, the McIntyre barn was expanded with a straw shed to accommodate more hay in the upper level and more stabling for cattle in the lower level.

The setting of the J. McIntyre Farm is almost pristine. Situated up a long lane on a hill away from the congestion of Limestone Road and the development endemic to northern New Castle Castle, the buildings, hay fields and hedges, together re-create a landscape from the nineteenth century.



N-1098 J. McIntire Farm  
 New Castle County Property Tax Map, 1985  
 Parcel Number 08-011.00-011