

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 9 1975
DATE ENTERED AUG 19 1975

**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 RECKLESSTOWN
AND/OR COMMON VILLAGE OF CHESTERFIELD

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER along the Crosswicks-Chesterfield-Georgetown-Chesterfield and Bordentown-Chesterfield-Jacobstown-Chesterfield Roads

CITY, TOWN Chesterfield VICINITY OF COUNTY 4
STATE New Jersey CODE 34 COUNTY Burlington CODE 005

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple ownership
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Burlington County Clerk, Burlington County Court House
STREET & NUMBER Mount Holly, New Jersey

CITY, TOWN STATE Rancocas Road
Mount Holly New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE New Jersey Historic Sites Survey #687.Y

DATE 1972 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Sites Office

CITY, TOWN STATE Trenton New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 village of Chesterfield is located in the eastern portion of Chesterfield Township, medially north-south, in Burlington County, New Jersey between the villages of Crosswicks and Sykesville. The center of the village is at the intersection of the Crosswicks-Chesterfield--Georgetown-Chesterfield Roads, which run approximately north-south, and the Bordentown-Chesterfield--Jacobstown-Chesterfield Roads (County Route 528) which run approximately northwest to southeast.

If one wanted to go to Crosswicks and started at the north-east corner of this main intersection, he (she) would probably start from the Chesterfield House (23). This is a 2-1/2 story building with a main central rectangular block and symmetrical wings. The foundation is of stone, the walls of English clapboard, and it has a 5 bay porch. The windows upstairs are 6/6; the windows downstairs are 9/6. There are shutters on the downstairs windows and the roof is gabled. The central rectangular portion of the building is the oldest section and has a heavy plank door. It is purported that this section was built around 1710. Since then there have been at least five additions with the west wing added about 1774 and the east wing added shortly thereafter. Circa 1710.

Travelling north along the Crosswicks-Chesterfield Road, on the east side, is the Baptist Church (18). This is a one story rectangular building with English clapboard walls and pilasters at the corners in front. The porch entrance is recessed and has Greek Doric columns. In the center of the front entrance there had been a double door, each side having five panels, but now they have been modernized with glass panels. The windows on the sides are stained glass and the roof is gabled. Circa 1848.

A short distance further north, on the same side, is the Rulon house (14). This is a two story white shingled building of Early Georgian period. Previously, this building had been a butcher shop and a slaughter house. Circa 1876.

Further north, on this eastern side of the road, is the Bullock mansion (8) that was built by Anthony Bullock around 1876. The architecture is Victorian. It is 3 stories high with a tower atop. This rectangular shaped building has

(see cont. sheets)

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13 bays with arches that are arcaded and bracketed cornice with moulding. There is an eight paneled door in the front entrance and the windows have Gothic sash. Some of the windows are 6/6, some are 4/4, but most are 1/1. It has a hip roof. Inside, a spiral staircase extends 3 floors to the tower. Each room has carved marble mantles, some with clusters of grapes, and two ceilings on the first floor have painted scenes in gold leaf. Circa 1876. This is the northern extent of the district.

If another traveller wanted to go to Georgetown he would probably start at the Chesterfield General Store (38). This is a two story, English clapboard building built by William Pierce in 1846. Previously, on this site, was another general store, but it was moved to its present location (35) in 1846, and Pierce built the present store.

Further along the Georgetown-Chesterfield Road, on the opposite side of the street, is one of the Forsythe houses (42). This is a 2-1/2 story English clapboard house. This had been a wheelright and blacksmith shop for over half a century and is considered by some to be one of the oldest houses in the village. The interior of the house still has corner cupboards and a cooking fireplace. The building is found on a map of 1875.

Across the street, and a few doors down, is the Pitman house (44). This is another two story English clapboard house built in the vernacular architecture. However, it is unique that it has a double end chimney on the north side. It has a sandstone foundation and random width clapboards. Inside is a deep fireplace for cooking. The present kitchen once housed the local library.

Across the street, and set back from the road, is the Phares house (46). This house is one of the three buildings in the vicinity with an "H" chimney. It is 2-1/2 stories high, with a square core and a one story wing in back.

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The foundation is of stucco covering brick (or stone) and the walls are also stucco. There is a porch on three sides with 15 bays and the porch trim has plain open slats. The doorway has sunburst fan lights and side lights. The windows are all 6/6 with those on the second floor louvered. The roof is gabled with dormers and trimmed with ornamental edging along the edge of the roof around the entire house. Circa 1849.

The fifth house, on the opposite side of the street, is the Stillwell house (51). This is a 2-1/2 story "L" shaped house with English clapboard siding. The foundation is of stone. There are one inside and two exterior chimneys. Around this house are five modernized doors and windows that are 6/6, 9/6, and 9/1 which have shutters that are either blind or louvered. The roof is gabled and covered with slate. This house is difficult to date but is very early in parts. It is close to the first grist mill that was built in 1701 and was the home of the miller. Within is an open beam ceiling of hand hewn timbers. Circa 1876. This is the southern extent of the village.

On a trip to Jacobstown, starting in the center of the village on the southeast corner of the intersection is the Kessler house (24). This is a 2-1/2 story red brick house with an "H" chimney. The building is "L" shaped with a brick foundation. There is a one bay porch in front and a one bay porch on the side, both having ornamental moulding. The doorway has a sunburst window with fan light and side lights. All windows are 6/6 without shutters. The roof is gabled with two dormers in front. A gazebo is in the back yard. Original portions of the house are also thought to be pre-Revolutionary and may have been erected by the same mason who did the other two houses with "H" chimneys (1 & 46). Circa 1849.

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Further down the road toward Jacobstown are the Higgins house (35), the Rulon house (36) and the Peppler house (37) all on the southwest side of the road, alongside each other. The Higgins house (35) is a two story shingled house. This used to be the general store where the present one is now located (38) but was moved in 1846. Circa 1846. The Rulon house (36), next door, is another 2-1/2 story English clapboard. It has the original front door (Circa 1820) and has hand hewn clapboards of cedar. Circa 1847. The last house is the Peppler house (37). This is a two story English clapboard house with a single bay porch and an inside end chimney in a gabled roof. The house was built of pine brought by boat from the Carolinas up the Delaware to Bordentown around the turn of the 19th century. William Peppler settled here and operated a mill on the Sykesville Road and Black's Creek. Circa 1835.

As the town grew and settled, it did so along these three roads. For the traveller who wanted to go to Bordentown along the Bordentown-Chesterfield Road, he was soon out of the village. Nevertheless, the one structure along this road that is unique to the area is the Chesterfield Township Municipal Building (21). This is a one story building with stucco over brick walls and a hip roof. The foundation is brick covered with concrete and the building is square with wings. The doors on the three sides are modernized and the windows are 6/2 and 6/6. The building has a concrete cornerstone, 1915. From March, 1915 to June, 1940 it served as a schoolhouse. It now serves as the Municipal Building for the entire Township.

As an overview, most of the homes are of the vernacular architecture with an occasional deviation. The building materials were generally clapboard with foundations of stone and the sizes and heights of the houses did not differ very much. Thus, indications are that, although this village grew and expanded over along period of time, new building materials, styles, and concepts did not, except for

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the more affluent. In this respect the community was isolated. The village in its present state consists of 14 intrusions of the 49 buildings.

The area surrounding the district is farmland. The boundary on the north, on the Crosswicks-Chesterfield Road, was set to exclude 8 new buildings that constitute the major intrusion in the area. The other boundaries were set according to the natural limits of the village.

G. Edwin Brumbaugh, F.A.I.A., an authority on early American architecture, stated that "The Township is an education in the cumulative effect of harmonious early American architecture: an example worthy of study by town planners to achieve similar character, repose, and dignity...My experience has shown conclusively that an astonishing number of Americans, including, surprisingly, many young people, value and cherish just these things. Any effort directed toward their preservation will be increasingly appreciated in the years ahead. Also, it is good public service to recognize this." (Chesterfield Township Tercentenary Committee, Chesterfield Township Heritage, Burlington County, N.J., 1964, p.241.)

INVENTORY OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF CHESTERFIELD.

The houses are named after the first recorded owner and dates listed as referenced by the "Chesterfield Township Tercentenary Committee" publication, 1964. The architecture of the homes is of the vernacular unless specified otherwise. See reference map 1 for the locations of the buildings.

8. BULLOCK mansion: 3 story white stucco, with tower, Victorian architecture, 1876.
9. Intrusion: Shadyrest Bible Conference, 1 story stucco.
10. Intrusion: Chesterfield Township Elementary School, 1 story brick.
11. Intrusion: stone rancher.
12. Intrusion: stucco rancher.
13. RIDGWAY house: 2 story, 3 bay front porch. English clapboard, restored, circa 1890.

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14. RULON house: 2 story white shingle. Early Georgian architecture, circa 1876.
15. SAMUEL L. JOHNSON house: 2 story, English clapboard, metal roof, altered, circa 1876.
16. Intrusion: Bank of Mid-Jersey Branch Office.
17. GILBERT house: 2 story, 3 bay porch, English clapboard, circa 1876. Presently the Baptist Church Rectory.
18. BAPTIST CHURCH: 1 story rectangular, English clapboard with pilasters at corners. Greek Doric columns. 1848.
19. CLAYTON house: 3 story, English clapboard, gabled roof. 3 bay front porch. Once Baptist Church rectory.
20. Intrusion: Chesterfield Hose Company. Formed by local citizens, 1940.
21. MUNICIPAL BUILDING: 1 story with basement, stucco walls hip roof, altered. Used as school March 1915 - June 1940. 1915.
22. DORAN house: 2 story clapboard, 3 bay porch, Gothic Revival, circa 1876.
23. CHESTERFIRLD HOUSE: 2-1/2 story English clapboard with 5 bay porch. Holloway first owner circa 1710, altered, 1774.
24. KESSLER house: 2-1/2 story red brick, "H" chimney with gazebo in yard. circa 1849.
25. Intrusion: 1 story rancher.
26. Intrusion: 1 story store with gas pumps.
27. Intrusion: 1 story rancher.
28. Intrusion: 1 story rancher.

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29. Intrusion: 1 story beauty parlor.
30. TANTUM HOUSE: 2 story English clapboard, circa 1876.
31. GILBERT house: 2 story shingle, 2 end chimneys, circa 1859.
32. JEWELL house: 2 story English clapboard, circa 1876.
33. IVINS house: 2 story English clapboard, 2 front entrances, 3 chimneys, 6 bay front porch, circa 1849.
34. TROTH house: 2 story shingle, circa 1849.
35. HIGGINS house: 2 story shingle and siding, 1846.
36. RULON house: 2 story English clapboard, circa 1847.
37. PEPPLER house: 2 story clapboard, single bay porch, inside end chimney, circa 1835.
38. GENERAL STORE: 2-1/2 story clapboard, 3 bay porch. Built by William Pierce in 1846 on site of Higgins' general store. 1846.
39. SATTERTHWAIT house: 2 story, white shingle, circa 1876.
40. SATTERTHWAIT house: 2 story, aluminum siding, altered, C. 1849.
41. FORSYTHE house: 2 story English clapboard, circa 1876.
42. FORSYTHE house: 2-1/2 story English clapboard, circa 1875.
43. ENGLISH house: 2 story, aluminum siding, circa 1876.
44. PITMAN house: 2 story English clapboard, double end chimney, altered, circa 1876.
45. Intrusion: stone rancher.
46. PHARES house: 2-1/2 story stucco, "H" chimney, porch on 3 sides with 15 bays, circa 1849.
47. Intrusion: Cape Cod.
48. Intrusion: 1 story rancher.

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49. Intrusion: 1 story rancher.
50. Intrusion: 2 story Colonial.
51. STILLWELL house: 2-1/2 story English clapboard, dormer, 2 chimneys, altered. Circa 1876.
52. PIERCE house: 2 story, aluminum siding, altered. Circa 1842.
53. CARR house: 2 story English clapboard, circa 1849.
54. GOLDEN house: 2 story English clapboard, circa 1849.
55. Intrusion: 1 story rancher.
56. TAYLOR house: 2-1/2 story, sluminum siding with dormer, altered. Circa 1849.

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES _____ BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

History and Overview

The Township of Chesterfield was settled in 1677 and the original charter of patent is dated January 10, 1712.

Originally, Chesterfield Township was bordered by the Delaware River (west), Crosswicks Creek (north), Upper Freehold Township (east) and Springfield and Mansfield Townships (south). In 1849 the land to the west was incorporated and became the borough of Bordentown. The industry at that time in the township included blacksmiths, wheelwrights, a brick and tile factory, a distillery, sawmills and flour mills. The main enterprise then was agriculture, and still is.

The village of Chesterfield (Recklesstown) is part of Chesterfield Township and is located 12 miles NE of Mt. Holly, 5 miles SE of Bordentown and 11 miles from Trenton. The post office was established in Recklesstown in 1830 and closed in 1925. In 1834 it contained a tavern, a store and 10 or 12 dwellings. At that time Bordentown and Recklesstown were the only two post towns and only villages in the township. In 1677 John Wright immigrated from England and settled on land near Recklesstown and Pepler's Mill. He later became a member of the Assembly of West Jersey (1682) and was a signer of the "Concessions and Agreements of the Proprietors, Freeholders, and Inhabitants of the Province of West Jersey in America" which had been drafted by the colonists in March, 1677. (The mill property was eventually bought by Joseph Reckless in 1712 and was called the "Recklesstown Mill".) It was located on a tributary of Black's Creek which borders the village on the south. The creek is found on an 1882 map, however the stream was named in a 1753 survey as the "Joseph Reckless Saw Mill Stream".

The original name of the village was Recklesstown, named after Joseph Reckless. It has been claimed elsewhere that the town was named after Anthony Reckless, but this is

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see cont. sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM OK um 9-10-75

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 200

UTM REFERENCES

C	A	18	530310	4439670	B	18	531180.0	4444010.0	
		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	E	18	530510	44440910	A	18	53068.0	44440910	
		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Begin at intersection of Blacks Creek and Georgetown-Chesterfield Rd. Proceed West along creek 500'. Thence proceed North parallel to Georgetown-Chesterfield Rd. to Bordentown Chesterfield Rd. (rte. 528). Thence proceed NW along Rte. 528 to unimproved dirt road. Thence proceed along dirt rd. to intersection of Crosswicks-Chesterfield Rd. Thence N along Crosswicks-Chesterfield Rd. 1000'. Thence proceed E 400 ft. Thence proceed S parallel to Crosswicks-Chesterfield Rd. Thence proceed parallel to rte. 528 at a (see cont. sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Dr. and Mrs. John Winters, Jr. / revisions Historic Sites Section

ORGANIZATION Chesterfield Bicentennial Comm. DATE April, 1975

STREET & NUMBER Municipal Buidling / Box 1420 TELEPHONE 609-292-2023

CITY OR TOWN Chesterfield / Trenton STATE N.J.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE 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.

SIGNATURE David J. Bordin

TITLE Comm., Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE May 8, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>8/19/75</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>AUG 18 1975</u>
ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u>	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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probably erroneous since Anthony Reckless was the grandson of Joseph Reckless and a contemporary of the Revolution. He died in 1817. Road returns of 1785 refer to the village as Recklesstown. Anthony, who was born in the early 1760's was in his twenties when the road returns indicated the name of the village.

Joseph Reckless also received land in the Chesterfield locale from his father, Samuel Reckless of Nottingham Shire, England. His first home was on the east side of the Georgetown-Chesterfield Road, just opposite the present location of Newbold's Lane. The house burned down in the twentieth century.

During the Revolution, the grandsons of J. Reckless, who were also residents of the village, participated actively in the war. Robert, who was 19 when the war started, was a soldier in Captian Shreve's Burlington Light Horse Brigade. In a skirmish with the Tories and Pine Robbers at Cedar Bridge, who were commanded by Joseph Bacon, Robert was mortally wounded on Dec. 27, 1782. Anthony, who was 17 when the war started, joined the sappers and miners Continental Army as an officer (Lieutenant) and rose to the grade of Captain, serving throughout the war. Both Robert and Anthony were considered war heroes. Anthony died in 1817 and, in commemoration of the death of a notable person, the then Attorney General of New Jersey, Aaron D. Woodruff, wrote Anthony's obituary.

The name of "Recklesstown" remained until 1888. During the 1880's, Anthony Bullock served as a U.S. Congressman and was from Recklesstown. One source states that a Colonel Stone from Pennsylvania convinced Anthony Bullock to change the name of the town. After all, what kind of a ridiculous name of a town is that for a Congressman to live in? He was so ridiculed for coming from a town of this name, rather than move, he had the name of the village changed to "Chesterfield". The original letter from Washington, D.C. changing the name was dated May 17, 1888.

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According to one source, the Recklesstown Tavern was opened by William O'Brian (O'Breen) in 1748, although another source dates it prior to 1710. Numerous town meetings were held here. During the Revolution this tavern was owned by John Wilkinson and Charles Ford. During this period there is no record of anything unusual occurring at this tavern, only the usual "tippling" and probably some rather unique town meetings. This tavern is located on the NE corner of the intersection of the two main thoroughfares that go through the center of town.

In the approximate center of this intersection in the middle of the road, is a Buttonwood tree. This tree has been there for more than a century. Legend has it that a James Lippincott, who was involved in the planting of the tree, was enamored by a Mrs. Hamilton. During the planting, it was traditional to place a full flask of whiskey beneath the tree. Maybe this was to add to the "spirit" of the ceremony. Nevertheless, at some time during the planting, James Lippincott received word that Mrs. Hamilton had been murdered. Upon receiving the news and verifying the story, Lippincott summarily drank the contents of the flask and threw the "dead soldier" among the roots of the young tree. It is not known whether the empty flask is still under the tree. However, whether there or not, the Buttonwood tree is alive and flourishing in Recklesstown.

Throughout the early years of this village few census are available. In 1875 the population of the township was 1,520 and in 1876 the commercial establishments in Recklesstown were a general store, a lumber mill, a carriage manufacturer, an inn, a tailor, a blacksmith, and two millers. In 1883 the population of the village was 150 and a shoe shop was added to the town's commercial enterprises. Also listed was the Baptist Church and the post office.

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From this small community came a signer of "The Concessions" (Wright), a Congressman (Bullock), two Revolutionary War heroes (Robert and Anthony Reckless), the founder (Jospeh Reckless), and an inventor (Charles Newbold, who will be discussed later).

AGRICULTURE

In 1834, the surrounding environs of Recklesstown were referred to as being located in a very fertile county of sandy loam. It is "Composed of rolling land, highly cultivated, particularly in rye, wheat, oats and hay". (12,p.441)
In 1883 the people were mostly agricultural and the farmers were described as enterprising, thrifty, proud of their occupations, having good fences and spacious farm buildings which are rarely excelled. Notably, the quality of the heavy-weight hogs was superior.

One of the more enterprising persons from this locale was Charles Newbold (1764-1835). A road bearing the same name was in Recklesstown. In 1797, Charles Newbold invented a new and radically different plow for farming. It was a one piece cast iron plow which was a vast improvement over the then idiosyncratically designed contrivances which were constructed by individuals from available curved sticks. Between 1790 and 1796 Charles Newbold designed the plow and it was patented in 1797. It was cast by Benjamin Jones at the Hanover Furnace in Browns Mills. The farmers in the area did not accept this new invention because it was felt that the cast iron in the plow would poison the soil and cause weeds to grow. By the time the idea of a one-piece cast iron plow was accepted, there were many other competitors who produced similar plows. As a result, the venture was a financial failure costing Newbold about \$30,000. Newbold used the plow several times for its intended purpose successfully. Then a farmer used it to plow an orchard and the tip broke. That was the end of that plow. It is now located at the State Agricultural Society of New York's Museum at Albany. Although Newbold's plow was not a financial success, it was the forerunner of the soon popular plow that was to be used by farmers throughout

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the nation. Honor was bestowed upon Newbold by the praise of a prominent agriculturist and reported in the writings of Thomas Jefferson.

There were two grist mills in Recklesstown where flour was made. One was at the southern extreme of the village, near the Stillwell house, and the other was at the southeastern portion of the village, on the Peppler property. Both were on Black's Creek. As for the southern gristmill, which was the first gristmill in Chesterfield Township, Henry Beck, in partnership with Joseph Scattergood, operated the mill on Black's Creek in 1701. In April, 1702, Henry Beck conveyed his portion of the partnership to Joseph Scattergood. Joseph Reckless then bought the mill in 1712. The original mill was purportedly built on the opposite side of the road near the stream. What it was opposite to is not clear. However, a map of 1876 shows the mill on the same side of the road as the house. This is the mill that was known as the "Recklesstown Mill" on the "Joseph Reckless Saw Mill Stream".

The other mill was located at the intersection of the Sykesville Road and Black's Creek, on the outskirts of Recklesstown. Robert Chapman, in 1695, bought the land on both sides of the creek. In 1737 he conveyed the mill property to his son William who operated the gristmill until 1749 when it was conveyed to William Chapman II and Joseph Reckless. Thus, Joseph Reckless had investments in both mills, which clarifies to some extent, the confusion as to who conveyed what to whom. It was called Chapman's mill in 1762 and on a 1770 survey. Anthony Bullock owned this mill in 1873. His manager was Charles E. Wallace, for whom the mill is now named. The mill was operated by steam power. Here blends of flour were made from wheat and wheat from the midwest. On July 5, 1884, the mill dam was washed out by a storm.

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TRANSPORTATION

Newbold's Lane, in the village of Chesterfield, was the first road from Recklesstown to Black Horse (Chesterfield to Columbus). Only a few homes remain on this lane which has now become green pastures. This road was abandoned when the Crosswicks-Bordentown Pike was built in 1783. The New Egypt-Bordentown Pike (Rt. 528) was started through Recklesstown in 1802 and opened in 1806. It joined the Crosswicks-Bordentown Pike built earlier. The toll on the roads was one-cent per mile, except for those going to church or to the gristmills. A toll house was erected on the new Bordentown Pike in 1806 but was moved to Old York Road, another portion of the turnpike network, because commuters drove around the toll in order to avoid paying. The toll house and Pike have since disappeared, but it still serves the community as County Road Route 528.

These roads were an intergral part of the New Jersey transportation network. As indicated on a map of New Jersey (1834), the main route to Barnegat, Little Egg Harbor, and the Jersey coast from the north and the locale was through Bordentown, Recklesstown, Fooltown (Georgetown), Penny Hill, Mary Ann Forge, Mt. Misery and Old Half Way. At Cedar Bridge, this road met another highway from Burlington that went through Mt. Holly and Ong's Hat. Thus, the modern Pikes through Recklesstown expedited travel from the western part of the state to the eastern part.

These roads also served those travellers going from Philadelphia to New York and back. This trip was a long five day haul over deep, rough, and often mired roads. The animals that

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pulled the vehicles that travelled these roads, as well as the travellers, needed many "watering holes" during their trips. As a result, many tavern and inns lined the main routes to oblige these commuters, and there were many of them in Chesterfield Township. One of the most notable was the tavern in Recklesstown, called the Recklesstown Tavern. It was probably built before 1710 and has a heavy plank door in front. Since then its features have been altered with at least five additions to the building. With the opening of the Pikes, business probably flourished there. A wing was added in 1774 and another shortly thereafter. Although the main traffic has long since been rerouted around Recklesstown and the edifice has been altered, the main business of the tavern, remains as it always has been.

Religion

In 1839, Misses Margaret Burtis and Magaret Keen who were from Philadelphia, visited Recklesstown. They found that it lacked the religious activities they were accustomed to in Philadelphia. The only locally established religious group was the Quakers who met at the Friends Meetings House in Crosswicks. These women orgainzed Sunday School meetings in an old schoolhouse in the outskirts of Recklesstown. On regular visits to Recklesstown, they would bring a student from the Baptist school in Philadelphia. The first student was Thomas D. Anderson, who was later noted in New York City.

In 1847 a movement was started to build a Baptist Church in Recklesstown. The present one was built at a cost of \$1,600 and was 34 by 46 feet. It was dedicated in 1848. In the beginning, services were conducted by the pastor of the Jacobstown Church every other week. It has been thought by some that the Recklesstown Baptist Church was fostered by the Bordentown Baptist Church, but it was, in actuality, sponsored by the Jacobstown congregation.

A move was started in 1871 to become independent of the Jacobstown congregation. At that time there were 43 members. This was accomplished in two weeks. They then joined the Trenton Association and two years later had their own pastor.

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In 1888-1889 the Recklesstown Baptist Church built a parsonage on land that was donated by Anthony Bullock. Almost from its inception, the members were baptized at Stillwell's Mill (Reckless Mill). Apparently this mill served several useful purposes.

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Recklesstown Historic District
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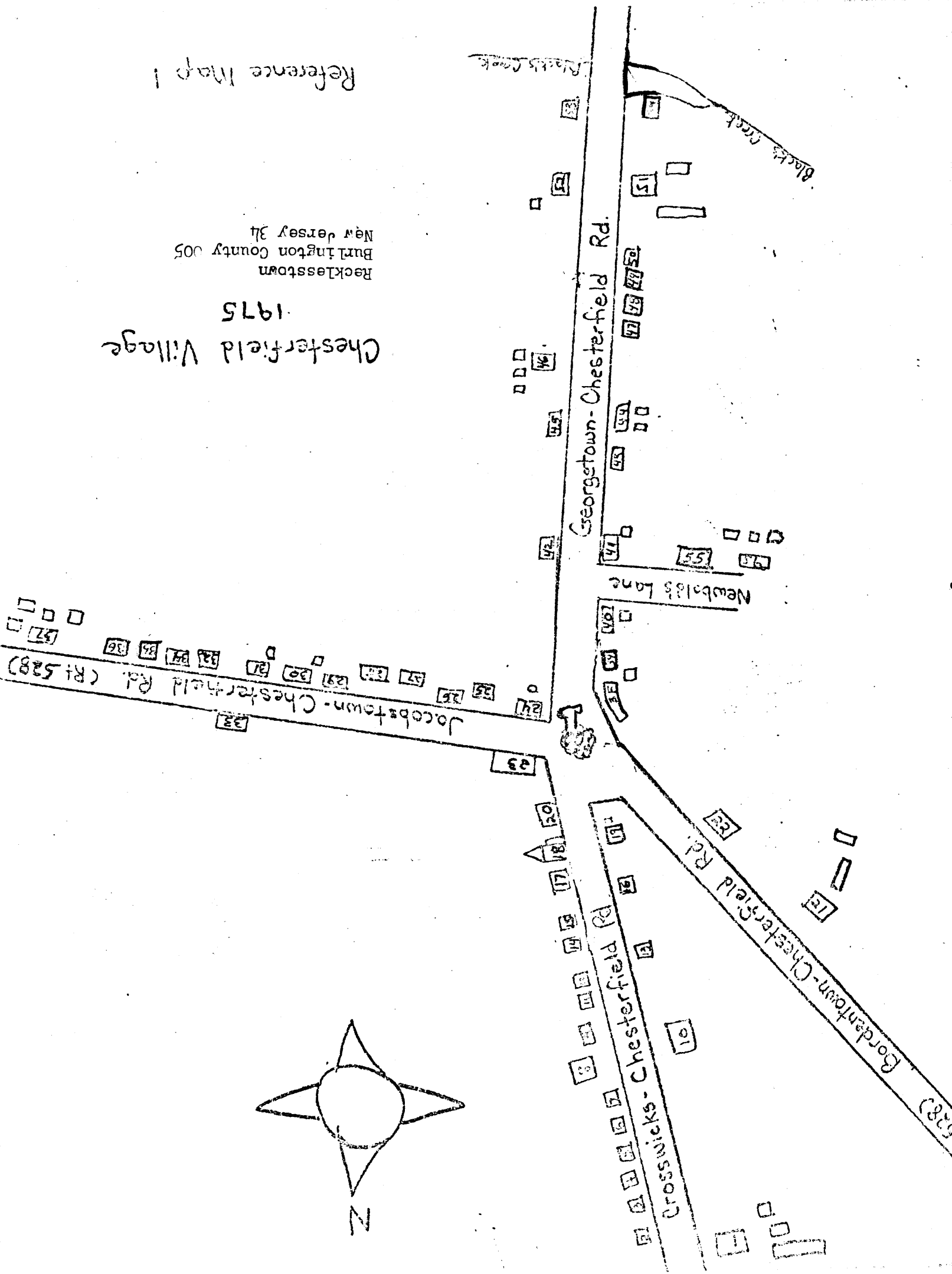
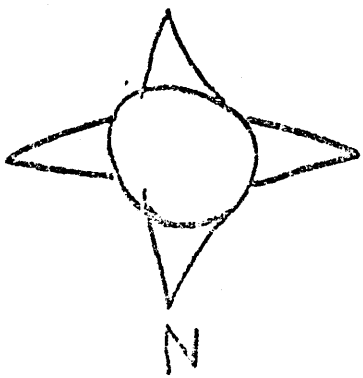
distance of 400' from the road, to a distance 3100' from the intersection of Rte. 528 and Georgetown-Chesterfield Rd. Thence proceed South perpendicular to Route 528 800 feet. Thence proceed west parallel to Rte. 528 and along an unimproved dirt road to a point 300 ft. from Georgetown Chesterfield Rd. Thence go South parallel to Georgetown-Chesterfield Rd. to Black's Creek. Proceed West along creek to point of beginning.

Reference Map 1

Chesterfield Village

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

NAME

HISTORIC Recklesstown

AND/OR COMMON Village of Chesterfield

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Chesterfield VICINITY OF COUNTY Burlington STATE New Jersey

3 MAP REFERENCE

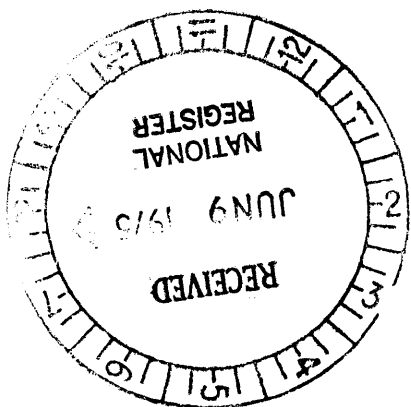
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SCALE none DATE 1975

REQUIREMENTS

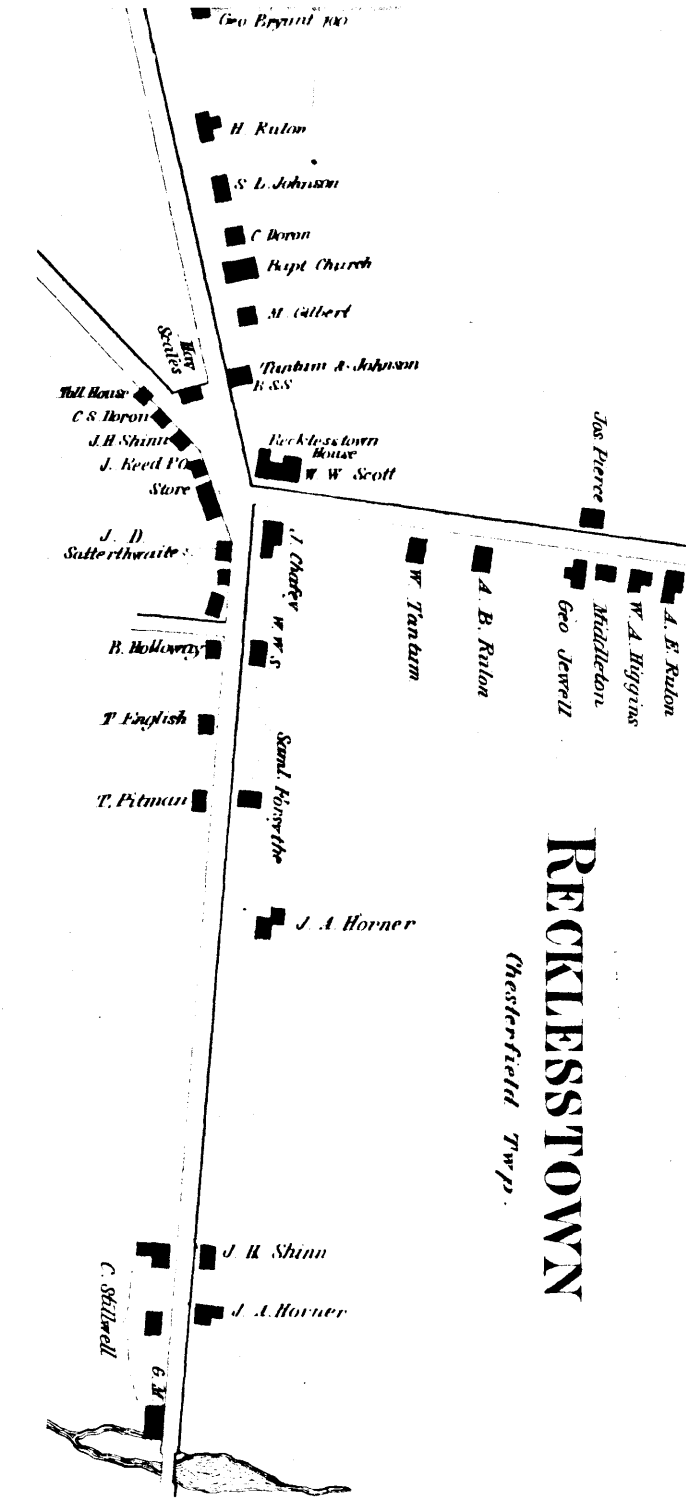
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1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

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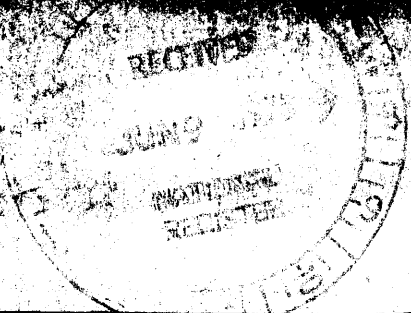


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 Hill to Yorkshire
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 intersection of Rou
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 Holly-Medford Line
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RECKLESS TOWN
 Chesterfield Twp.

Red Lion



Reference Map 2

1876 (7) (3)

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Recklesstown

AND/OR COMMON Village of Chesterfield

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Chesterfield VICINITY OF COUNTY Burlington STATE N.J.

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Combination Atlas Map of Burlington County, New Jersey

SCALE unknown DATE 1876

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES