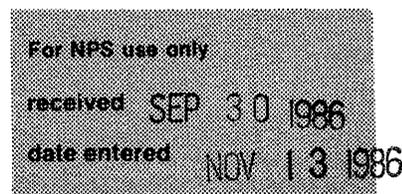


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Property Name: Bartley-Tweed Farm

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The Bartley-Tweed Farm is located on Foxden Road (Road 325), adjacent to the east side of Middle Run and approximately 0.3 miles west of Polly Drummond Road (Road 324). The house and a carriage house/granary are located on the north side of the road in Parcel Number 08-042.00-006, which contains 4.55 acres. The barn is located on the south side of the road in Parcel Number 08-042.00-027, which contains 2.00 acres. A section of Foxden Road which runs between the two parcels is also included in the site. The boundaries are delineated on the attached map titled, New Castle County Property Tax Map, 1985.

UTM Reference: 18/438610/4396740

Owners: Reed and Hilda Williams
51 Foxden Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

Alan W. Zimble
507 Blackgates Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19803

Description:

The Bartley-Tweed Farm contains three contributing buildings, one non-contributing structure, and two non-contributing buildings. The three contributing buildings are: a stone and brick house dating initially to the end of the eighteenth century, a circa 1835 frame barn, and a late nineteenth century frame carriage house/granary. The non-contributing structure is a metal silo that was erected in 1954. The two non-contributing buildings are frame sheds, also dating to the 1950's.

The house was built in two periods. The original section is an 18 foot by 18 foot two story, one-room-plan, stone building that dates to the eighteenth century. Attached to its east endwall is a circa 1825, two story, brick structure with Federal style detailing on the interior.

The exterior of the stone wing is stuccoed on its rear elevation and west endwall. The facade has a brick veneer that appears to have been added at the same time the brick wing was built. The gable roof is so shallowly pitched that from a distance it appears to be flat. Its two-bay facade is evenly spaced, having two-over-two sash windows on the first floor and six-over-six sash on the second floor. The facade entrance contains an unusual six-panel door that alternates a horizontal panel with two vertical panels, a horizontal and two vertical. The interior has a winding staircase in its southeast

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corner, but there is no indication of where the hearth was located. The window reveals are rounded, and one first floor window has a drawer built in under the sill. The basement is stone-lined and unusually deep. Four stone steps descend to a lower level which has an arched opening in its wall that leads to an intact stone-lined well.

The brick wing dominates the original stone section, for it is nearly twice as wide and significantly taller than the original. It has a symmetrical three-bay, center door facade with two-over-two sash windows and a raised and molded eight-panel door with a three-light transom. A rebuilt, brick interior end chimney is located at either end of the gable ridgeline. The interior is arranged around a center, straight run, closed string staircase with square balusters. On the first floor, both rooms have endwall fireplaces and molded window surrounds with bullseye cornerblocks. The east parlor is the fancier of the two with its circular, molded plaster ceiling medallion and its Federal style mantel with carved fans, urns, and double pilasters. The stone-lined basement has a brick relieving arch at the two chimney locations. The attic is finished with plaster and enhanced by beaded baseboards and window sills.

The circa 1835 barn is a bi-level, frame barn on a stone lower level with a frame, straw shed addition. Next to the barn is a metal silo. The barn is sided with asbestos shingle over board and batten. A slight ramp leads to the center bay double doors which hang on rollers. The upper level plan is three bays long by three bays deep. The shed-roofed straw shed extends another 12 feet and has an off-center winnowing door in the long wall. There is a stair on the southeast side of the double doors. The barn is framed entirely with vertical sawn timbers. The bent scheme is four posts with rails framed in the center bay. The posts are flared and notched with the girt framed over the plate. The roofing system consists of common rafters over principal purlins supported by straight purlin struts emanating from the girt. The lower level walls are uncoursed, light brown fieldstone with larger fieldstone quoins. There is a door on each side of the ramp, facing the road. One door leads into the silo. Another door is in the center of the northwest gable endwall. The lower level plan has been altered through the years, although it appears that the northwest side was a separate stable area. The flooring system consists of lateral, top-hewn log joists in the northwest section, while the southeast section has face-sawn log joists laid longitudinally.

The carriage house/granary is a frame, rectangular building with a gable roof, and is sided with asbestos shingles over vertical board. The granary is situated parallel to the sloping Fox Den Road. Access to the basement level is through the open southeast long wall of the basement. The upper level is entered through double doors on rollers in the gable end. This level is open except for a corn crib situated along the northeast long wall, and stairs leading to the loft. The loft had been used for grain storage as indicated by the tongue and groove wainscot, and holes in the floor for gravity chutes. The granary is braced frame with circular sawn timbers.

Significance:

The Bartley-Tweed Farm is significant under Criterion A as an important element of the early rebuilding period in Mill Creek Hundred and for its associations with the

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development of a local industrial operation; and under Criterion C as it contains well-preserved examples of the one-room-plan house type, a vernacular variation of the Federal style, and a traditional bank barn.

The Bartley-Tweed Farm is significant because it represents the three building periods in Mill Creek Hundred and their transitions from one period into another. This site is also significant because of its association with an early mill (non-extant) that was used variously throughout the course of the nineteenth century. The mill explains the presence of vertically sawn principals in the barn, as in other barns associated with mills, such as the J. McDaniels Farm (N-10,099) and the W. Phillips and Brother site (N-240, NR).

The stone portion of the house is late eighteenth century and when new, was part of an architectural landscape dominated by log buildings. Rather than representing the eighteenth century, the stone house should probably be associated with the rebuilding period of the early nineteenth century as an early manifestation of that transformation. The capital earned from the mill would have permitted the Bartley's to express their prosperity and social status through their architecture.

The early nineteenth century rebuilding in Mill Creek Hundred is also expressed through the circa 1835 barn. The barn is a transitional building representing both archaic and progressive framing methods. The former is represented by the use of the notched and flared post with the tie beam lapped dovetail assembly, a joint so useful and efficient that it was used up to the late nineteenth century in England. Progressive framing methods are evident from the regularized four post bent, and the straight purlin strut (as opposed to being notched and flared like the posts).

The second rebuilding of the nineteenth century is, once again, manifested early on the Bartley-Tweed dwelling. Adding a brick hall-parlor plan building to the original stone one-room-plan dwelling reveals the trend of retention of older dwellings in the late nineteenth century rebuilding. This early manifestation probably represents, once again, the wealth generated by the mill. The formal trim of the new section represents increased interest in using architecture as a means of an expressing social and financial status. The older stone section was faced in brick to match the addition, and re-roofed to complete the transformation. This, again, would be typical in the years to follow in Mill Creek Hundred, of the tendency to alter rather than to replace dwellings when rebuilding.

A straw shed was added to the barn sometime in the late nineteenth century as indicated by the large diagonal posts. This addition represents the need for extra space as farmers increased fodder yields and as dairying continued to be the principal agricultural practice.

Documentary evidence of the house first appears in the 1798 tax assessment for the John Bartley estate. It lists a stone house and kitchen, a log barn, and a log house as property improvements. Early deeds also contain a discussion of water rights to operate a mill. The 1816 tax assessment for Robert Crawford, Jr., the next owner, lists a saw

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mill, a tanyard, a tan house, and a curing shop as well as the stone house and a stone and frame stable. James Dixon, the owner from 1834 to 1837, operated a plaster mill; and John Tweed, the owner from 1837 to 1866, operated a bark mill.

The Bartley-Tweed site is significant because it offers an important perspective on the history of Mill Creek Hundred. Industrial capital from the mill permitted the owners to express early, an architectural statement regarding their social status and, perhaps, served as an example to others as the proper way to articulate such a statement.



N-258 Bartley-Tweed Farm
New Castle County Property Tax Map, 1985
Parcel Numbers 08-042.00-026
08-042.00-027