

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received SEP 30 1986  
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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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N-10,271

Property Name: David Eastburn Farm

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The David Eastburn Farm is located on the northeast side of Corner Ketch Road (Road 324) approximately 0.3 mile southeast of its intersection with Wilmington-Landenberg Road (Road 290). The nominated site is situated in the western portion of Parcel Number 08-029.00-005, containing roughly 32 acres. The northwest boundary of the site runs parallel to Corner Ketch Road, 300 yards to the northeast. The other boundaries coincide with those of the legal parcel. The site boundaries are delineated on the attached map titled, New Castle County Property Tax Map, 1985.

UTM References: A. 18/437330/4399640  
B. 18/437220/4399520  
C. 18/436980/4399580  
D. 18/436590/4399910  
E. 18/436880/4399980

Owner: Harry E. Eastburn  
Box 7  
Mt. Cuba  
Yorklyn, Delaware 19736

Description:

The David Eastburn Farm contains a circa 1825 frame barn, a circa 1850 stone dwelling, a stone tenant house (N-10,151) possibly dating to the eighteenth century, and five outbuildings. Altogether there are eight contributing buildings on this site.

The main house was constructed around 1850. It is a three story, double pile, stuccoed stone building with a pyramidal roof that is crowned by a flat-roofed belvedere. The facade has a symmetrical, four bay arrangement with two center doors. The doorways have paneled reveals, two-light rectangular transoms, and four-panel doors. Six-over-six sash windows light the first and second floors, while the upper story has three-over-three sash eyebrow windows. A two bay, shed-roofed porch with four square columns shelters the two facade entrances. A two story, hip-roofed service wing extends from the rear.

The tenant house is a one-and-a-half story, four bay, gable-roofed stone building that is set into the side of a hill. Access can be gained through either the high side or the low side, but the main entrance is on the lower, south side. The doorway has a paneled reveal, a batten door, and a plain surround. A couple of the original first floor, three-over-six sash windows remain. The upper story windows are smaller, containing two-over-two sash. The gable roof is covered with tin, and is edged by a

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plain box cornice. A large, stone, off-center interior end chimney is located at the west endwall.

The barn is a bi-level, stone building with frame gables, a frame bridge house and a frame front wall. On the northeast gable end, a two bay frame addition was built and incorporated under the gable roof. A gable-roofed straw shed was added for each section. The fieldstone walls are uncoursed and finished with a pebbled stucco. The walls were built with a mixture of stone including a distinctive, local, black fieldstone, pockets of which are found on this farm. The walls are cornered with dressed, black fieldstone quoins. The frame sections are sided with vertical board.

The barn is entered via a steep artificial ramp through large double doors in the bridge house situated in front of the barn center bay. The upper level floor plan is tripartite in form and consists of a slightly raised center bay driveway flanked by hay mows. On the southwest side of the door is a stair to the lower level, and on the northeast side is a hay drop. The northeast gable end addition is open to the lower level for hay storage, but at one time had its own entrance to the upper level.

The bridge house has an off center driveway with a smaller corn crib bay on the northeast side, and three large grain bins on the southwest side.

The straw shed was expanded three or four times in the nineteenth century. Short, flared posts indicate that one of the earlier sheds was a smaller, single pitch addition, either original with the barn or added shortly after the barn was built. After the barn gable end addition was built, the straw shed was expanded and constructed with a gable roof at each section.

The bent scheme consists of four posts with interconnecting rails defining the height of the threshing floor wall. Principal members are hewn and secondary timbers are vertical sawn. The end posts are flared and notched. The girt is joined to the post a little differently compared to other barns with flared posts. Here the girt is framed under the plate, unlike the traditional English tie beam lap-dovetail assembly which frames the plate beneath the girt or tie beam. This reversed assembly was probably used because it was easier to place the plate over top of the inner girts and then lap the end girts on the gable end walls. Also, this would have allowed the builders to raise the bent as a single unit, if they so chose. Generally, buildings with flared posts were raised piece by piece.

The roofing scheme and end bents are the same since the end bents consisted of the roof truss on the truncated gable endwalls. The roofing system consists of bridled common rafters on principal purlins supported by braced, angular struts emanating from the girts.

The flooring system consists of transverse, plank replacement joists with intermittent square hewn log joists supported by large longitudinal girders. In the northeast gable-roofed addition, the joists are set longitudinally.

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The original lower level floor plan is still evident despite the modernization that was required by a working farm. The upper level frame front wall indicates that the lower level previously had a recessed stable wall. From extant partitions in the lower level, it appears that the stable wall was recessed about ten feet. A center partition wall divides the lower level into two sections which served as the horse stable and the cattle stable. The horse stable was in the southwest side, where there are two gable end doors which permitted easy egress. Expansion of the barn occurred in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and included enclosing the northeastern portions of the lower level additions as extra space for a larger dairy herd.

Associated with the house and barn are a complex of late nineteenth and twentieth century agricultural buildings. Included in this group are: a small, gable-roofed dairy; a braced frame implement shed with an attached, reworked gable-roofed building; and a single-pitch-roofed poultry shed.

Two more buildings are more significant. The first is a gable front, slightly banked crib barn with a gable roof and vertical board siding. This plan consists of a central drive flanked by corn cribs. One side bay corn crib is over a root cellar used to store turnips and beets at the turn of the century. The crib barn is of braced frame construction with vertical sawn timbers. Attached to it is a gable-roofed, braced frame addition. The second building is a two story, gable-roofed, braced frame stable on a stone foundation.

Significance:

The David Eastburn Farm site is significant under Criterion A as a representation of the rebuilding periods in Mill Creek Hundred during the nineteenth century, and as an example of the effect of local industrial and agricultural prosperity on the architectural landscape. Even today, the site is unusual as a working farm with an array of agricultural buildings, used in both traditional and modern ways, in an area which is rapidly being suburbanized. The farm is also significant under Criterion C for the array of stylistic types and construction methods employed.

The Eastburn site is primarily associated with the Eastburn and Jeanes families who had a substantial business in limestone fertilizer for most of the nineteenth century. The limestone kiln operation began in 1816, just south of this site, along Pike Creek (NR District). Also in 1816, David Eastburn and Abel Jeanes purchased the farm site and divided the land in 1818. David Eastburn built the present dwelling between 1846 and 1861, just after the expansion of the lime kiln operation. This house apparently replaced an earlier brick dwelling which was listed in the 1804 (Mary Black, widow) and the 1816 (Eastburn and Jeanes) tax assessment records. The bank barn replaced a log barn, also mentioned in the tax assessments, in the 1820's. The construction of the main dwelling circa 1850 is slightly out of sync with the rebuilding periods of early and late nineteenth century, however, the reason, means and interpretation are still the same. This imposing house with its belvedere was an obvious statement about the social and financial status of its owner.

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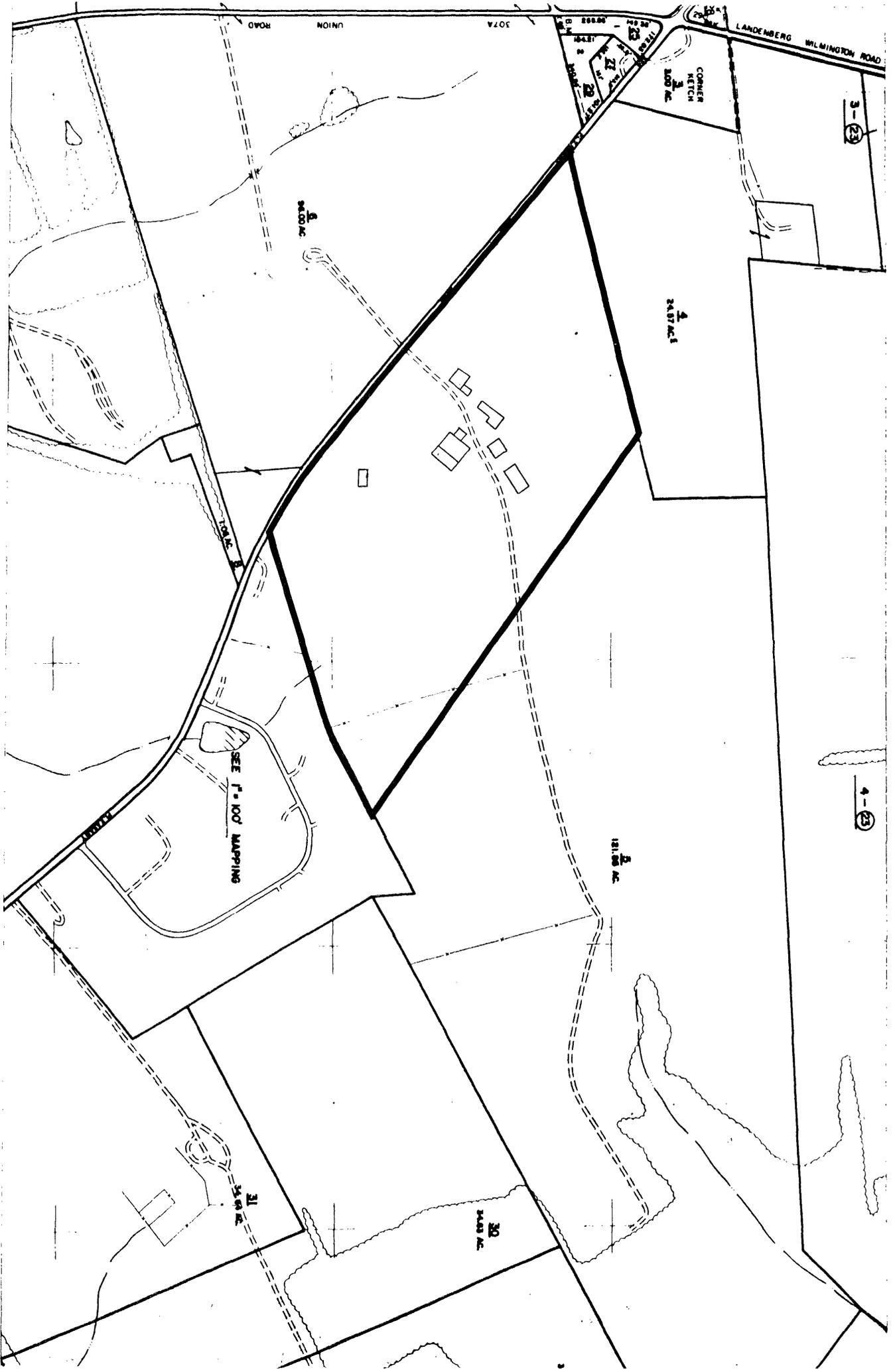
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Another dwelling associated with this property is the D. Eastburn tenant dwelling (N-10,151). It seems to be a product of the late eighteenth century as indicated by plan and materials. However, there is no mention of this building in primary documents. A definite date cannot be ascertained until more reliable documentation is done.

The bank barn also represents the early rebuilding period. As the replacement of a log barn, the stone barn was a part of the transformation of the architectural landscape from one of log buildings to one of stone buildings. The barn also represents the specialization in dairying that occurred as land values rocketed and demographic pressures increased. The infrastructure of the barn reveals the development of the standardized four post bent. Framing methods also illustrate this standardization. The way in which the flared post was used was a traditional and was another of the variations being tried in Mill Creek Hundred before the development of the slot headed post in the mid-nineteenth century.

The David Eastburn farm site is significant as an illustration of the growth and development of Mill Creek Hundred during the periods of rebuilding, and as a symbol of the new emerging social and economic order.



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New Castle County Property Tax Map, 1985  
Parcel Number 08-029.00-005