

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

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

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Item number 7

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N-4011

Property Name: J. Eastburn Barn

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The J. Eastburn Barn is located on the southeast side of Pleasant Hill Road (Road 301) approximately 0.4 mile southwest of its junction with Corner Ketch Road. This site occupies a section of Parcel Number 08-035.00-016 that is defined by the following features: the southeast side of Pleasant Hill Road, the treeline northeast of the barn, and the stream and pond that lie south of the barn. The boundaries are delineated on the attached map titled, New Castle County Property Tax Map, 1985, and encompass approximately 7.5 acres.

UTM Reference: 18/437290/4398440

Owner: Estate of Samuel Hallock duPont
c/o Richard S. duPont
P.O. Box 3998
Greenville, Delaware 19807

Description:

The barn is the only contributing building on this site; there are no other buildings within the boundary.

The J. Eastburn Barn is a bi-level, stone structure with a frame front wall and a recessed stable wall. The walls on three sides are constructed of light-colored fieldstone with large, roughly dressed, rectangular fieldstone quoins. The frame wall has been re-sided with board and batten, probably causing the removal of a winnowing door. The barn measures 37 feet by 52 feet. It stands in its original form with very few alterations or additions. One exterior addition is the shed roof on the southeast long wall, which was added in the 1930's to shelter sheep.

The upper level plan is tripartite with 18 by 36 foot hay mows on either side of a 12 by 36 foot center driveway and threshing floor, which is entered via large double doors hung on strap hinges. There is a staircase to the lower level on the northeast side of the door, and a hay drop on the southwest side.

The principal timbers (girts, plates, posts, purlins) are hewn and the secondary timbers (braces, rails, studs, struts) are vertical-sawn.

The framing system is nearly identical to that in the 1809 William Morgan Barn (N-326), which suggests an equally early construction date. Flared posts carry the plates, and girts overlap the plates. Bridled rafters rest on principal purlins which are supported by braced, diagonal, flared struts emanating from the girts. Each bent

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has two principal horizontal timbers, between which are two posts with braced rails to the outer posts. The northeast bent has a cambered beam which is elevated six feet off the ground and is supported by two short posts. Three feet to the northeast is a companion beam with several short posts and studs to receive horizontal board for the threshing floor wall. Boards extend from the higher cambered beam to the lower beam, delineating a sheltered area and forming a pitched surface to facilitate the movement of hay, which was thrown from the center bay. The southwest inner bent is almost identical to the cambered beam bent except the lower tie beam is straight, and has posts, studs, and horizontal boards forming the other threshing floor wall. The end bents are formed by the roof truss, which consists of the girt, struts, and purlin, with the girt supported by stones which protrude from the gable wall.

The flooring system consists of face-hewn log joists supported in the middle by a longitudinal 56 foot, 13 inch by 11 inch girder; and which are supported on the southeast end by another girder which lies on the turned-in endwalls and two round stone columns. Beside this girder is another timber which serves as the sill for the frame wall. In this sill are mortises for joists no longer extant, replaced fairly early by log joists.

The original lower level plan is not immediately evident. Partitions have been removed; however, it is possible to speculate on the plan from extant entranceways. The stable wall is recessed three feet from the endwall, although this is not evident from the upper level. There appears to have been a large center driveway, as indicated by the central double doors. Other doorways suggest entrances into stalling or lateral aisles. The northeast gable end, either wholly or in part, was probably the horse stable since horses were kept apart from other stock and frequently had their own entrance, similar to the solitary northeast gable end door on this barn.

The farmyard is partially enclosed with a fieldstone wall which extends 126 feet from the barn and, on the northeast side, is ten feet high. This wall appears to have been built in the 1930's when the shed-roofed sheep enclosure was built.

Significance:

The J. Eastburn Barn is significant under Criterion C as a very well preserved example of an early barn type. The Eastburn Barn is nearly identical to the 1809 William Morgan Barn (N-326), which is located approximately one-and-a-half miles to the north at Corner Ketch. The two barns are so similar that it is tempting to assume they were constructed by the same builder. The cambered beam bent scheme that they have in common, may be a variation of an English barn type.

This farm was one of many that belonged to the Eastburn family during the nineteenth century. The Eastburns operated a local lime-making industry which they started in 1816 (N-194 Eastburn-Jeanes Lime Kilns Historic District, NR 1977). The Eastburns had timber rights, or owned outright, several farms in the area, of which this is one. The growth of the Eastburn's lime industry was one element of the general expansion of local industry in the piedmont region during the first half of the

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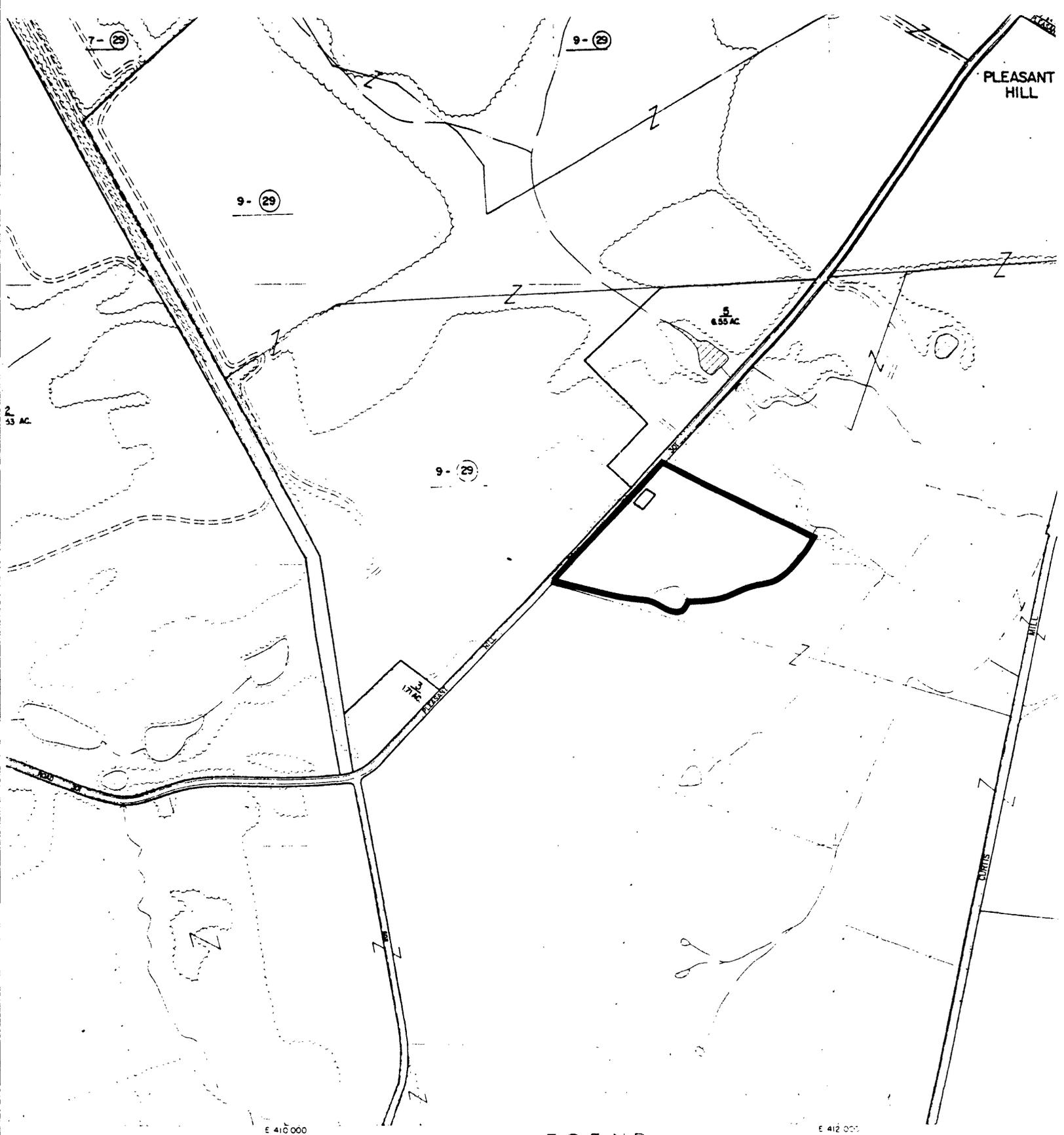
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nineteenth century. The Eastburn-Jeanes lime kilns supplied a demand for organic fertilizers needed by local farmers. Lime, in particular, was advocated by progressive agriculturists of the period.

The J. Eastburn Barn, then, can be seen as a symbol of the transformation of rural society into an industrialized society, and as a symbol of an efficient and progressive agricultural order.



1" = 100'
N-4011 J. Eastburn Barn
New Castle County Property Tax Map, 1985
Parcel Number 08-035.00-016