

**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-10,099

Property Name: J. McDaniel Farm

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The J. McDaniel Farm is located on the northwest side of Paper Mill Road (Route 72) almost 0.2 mile east of its intersection with Pike Creek Road (Road 295). The land on which the house and barn are situated is in the process of being subdivided for a housing development. The development plan shows the barn and house being retained in the plan on lot numbers 19 and 20, respectively. Those two lots have been chosen as the site boundaries, which are delineated on the attached map titled, Record Major Subdivision Plan for Meadowdale, February 26, 1986. The site boundaries encompass 1.34 acres.

UTM Reference: 18/438610/4399930

Owner: Meadowdale Development Corporation
1605 Ayre Street
Newport, Delaware 19804

Description:

The J. McDaniel Farm includes a dated 1826 stone house, a circa 1826 frame barn, and a braced frame outbuilding, now serving as a garage. In all, there are three contributing buildings.

The House is a two story, five bay, gable-roofed building with stuccoed fieldstone walls. An 1826 datestone is located in the west gable. The facade originally had a five bay, center door arrangement, however, a two story, frame, bay window has been added over the eastern two bays. The doorway has a six-light fanlight and a molded architrave. The windows are six-over-six sash with paneled shutters on the first floor and louvered shutters on the second floor. A shed-roofed porch with four square posts extends across the western three bays of the facade. The gable roof is pierced by two segmental dormers on the facade elevation. A brick, interior end chimney rises through each endwall. On the east endwall is a two story, frame lean-to.

The J. McDaniel barn is a large, tri-level building with a frame upper level and a stone lower level. It also has a bridge house, an added straw shed on the southwest elevation, and a two level, shed-roofed wagon shed on the southeast gable end. A shed-roofed cow house was appended to the southwest elevation in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

Entrance to the upper level is via an earthen ramp which stops short of the barn wall. Spanning the gap is a bridge house with double doors. The bridge house consists of a central drive flanked by corn cribs. The main part of the barn is tripartite in

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form and is three bays long and three bays deep. The central drive is raised, with sunken hay mows on either side, and continues into the straw shed which has a center gable to accommodate the driveway. Next to the southeast inner bent is a stairway to the middle level beneath the driveway.

The middle level has extant partitions revealing the diverse uses of this area. On the northeast wall is a door to the area beneath the ramp where wagons could be loaded and unloaded. Along the southeast side is a door to the southeast hay mow, a stair to the upper level, a stair to the lower level, and a corn crib. On the northwest side are bins for grain, two small stalls, and access to the northwest hay mow.

The lower level plan is intact but of a later period, mainly from the early twentieth century. The general layout was dictated by the three doorways in the southwest long wall and the three doorways in the southeast gable endwall. The northwest gable endwall has five windows. These appear to have been cross aisles meeting in the center, although presently there is a lateral partition wall down the center, evidently for dividing the horses from the cattle. In the northwest end there are ten cattle stalls with self-watering cups, and in the southeast end are three stout horse stalls with iron bar tops.

The southeast addition has two levels and is accessible through double doors on the upper level. As with similar additions in the hundred, this was used for wagon and implement storage, with a corn crib along one long wall.

The framing scheme consists of vertically sawn timbers, principal and secondary, framed in four post bents with rails and braces. The corner posts are flared and notched with the girt framed over the plate. The four interior posts are unique in Mill Creek Hundred but similar to the posts in the J. McIntyre barn (N-1098). These posts are tapered and the plate is seated on top of the post and double pinned. Approximately six inches below the post head, a large notch is cut out for the girt. The bridge house plates also fit into that notch on top of the girt on the northeast wall, but on the southwest posts the gap is conspicuous. The interior bents have high outer rails and a cambered, or arched, center rail, each with two studs as nailing surfaces for the horizontal board threshing floor walls.

The gable roof consists of bridled common rafters over principal purlins which are supported by flared and notched struts braced to the purlin and girt.

The raised driveway is supported by thick, short posts which are notched to carry the cross girders as well as tenoned on top for the bent sill.

The flooring scheme consists of lateral, sawn joists over longitudinal girders which are supported by small and large posts that also define the aisles. The straw shed has plank joists that are mortised and tenoned into the sills. Additional joists were placed on top of these joists with their ends supported over the sills. The tenoned joists may indicate an earlier straw shed addition supplanted by the current gable one.

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Significance:

The J. McDaniels site is significant under Criterion A because of its association with the early nineteenth century rebuilding of Mill Creek Hundred, and is significant under Criterion C because the buildings on the site are well preserved regional types.

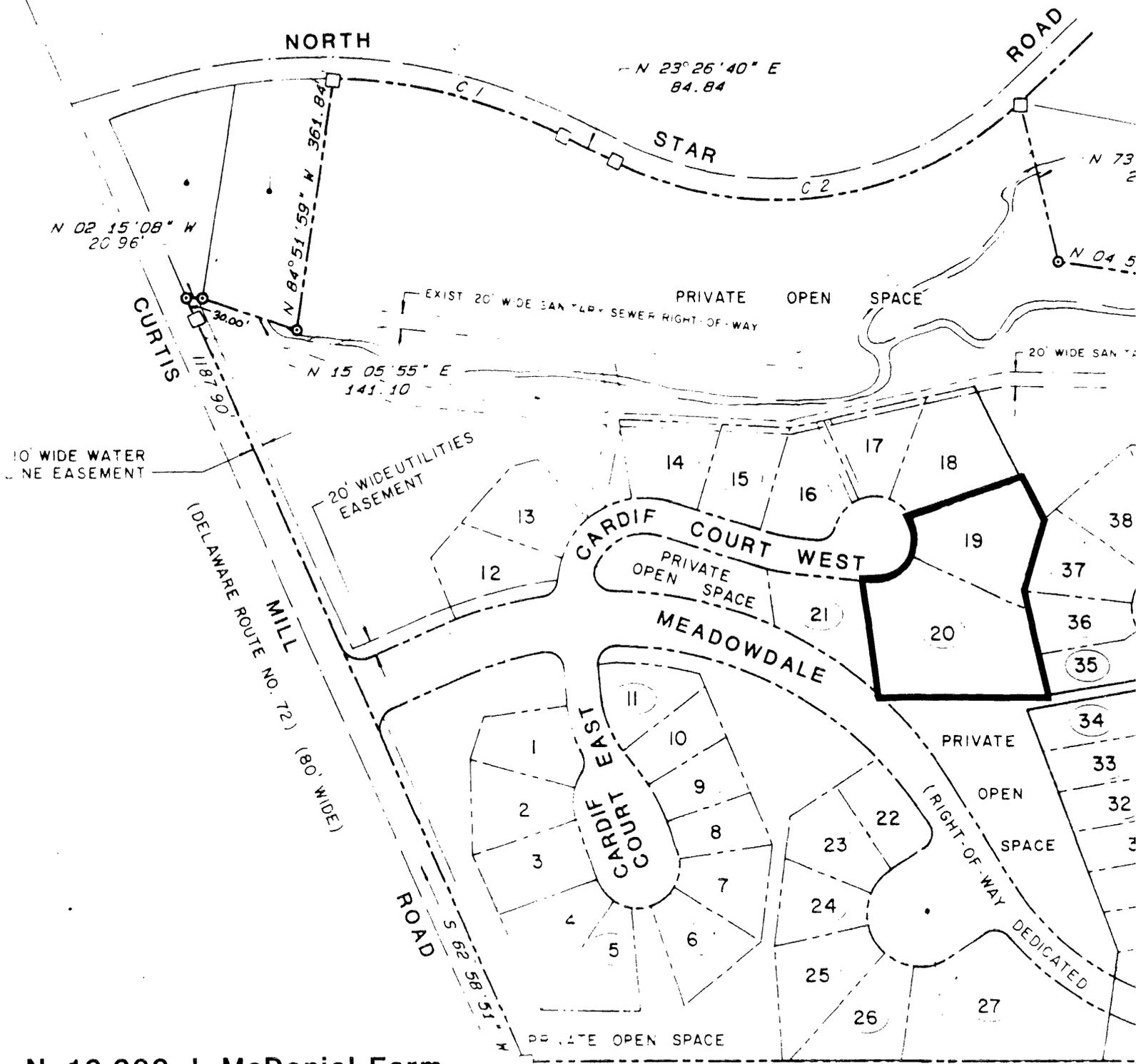
The J. McDaniels site is representative of the early nineteenth century period of economic growth and prosperity. Being associated with an extant, early nineteenth century mill (N-210), it represents the milling industries which took root along the many streams of Mill Creek Hundred. The local, industrial and agricultural base fueled an architectural rebuilding which transformed a landscape dominated by log buildings to a landscape dominated by stone buildings.

The J. McDaniels stone house is dated 1826 and the frame barn is roughly contemporary. These substantial and imposing buildings were built on a rise with high visibility from the road and were as much a statement of the social status of the owner, as of his financial success. The ability of J. McDaniels to house his family, beasts and crops was clear for all to see.

The barn in particular looms over the rise. Intact, except for the ubiquitous alteration of the lower level during the early twentieth century, the McDaniels barn retains the original plan beneath the driveway revealing the multiple use of the area for grain, tack and storage. The barn framing shows a continued reliance on the flared post and purlin strut, as well as a variant post type. Vertical sawn principal and secondary timbers were probably from McDaniels saw and grist mill. Sawn principals such as posts, plates and purlins are only seen in barns associated with mills up until the late nineteenth century.

N. O. F.
- NANCY WEISS
(D.R. 132-0114 / ZONING DISTRICT: R-2)

N. O. F.
- GUY C. CAMBRE JR. & WIFE
(ZONING DISTRICT: R-2)



N-10,099 J. McDaniel Farm
Record Major Subdivision Plan
for Meadowdale, Feb. 26, 1986
Lot Numbers 19 and 20

WHITEHAVEN COURT
SHEET NO. 2 OF 4