

43242

84.11.20.01  
NADB 43242

ASSESSMENT OF STRUCTURE FOR NATIONAL  
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: 9 BARLEY MILL ROAD,  
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

FHWA  
KFS/HPG c.1  
9 BARLEY MILL ROAD

ASSESSMENT OF STRUCTURE  
FOR NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY

9 BARLEY MILL ROAD  
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

The structure at 9 Barley Mill Road has been drastically altered within the past five years. Its cultural landscape has been drastically altered within the past 100 years, with the introduction of Route 141 to the south of the original path of Barley Mill Road, the elimination of the two, equally large, accompanying structures that sat to the east of the house, and the introduction of new (1989) structures immediately to the west and north of the house. Accordingly, it is not eligible under criterion C, either as individually eligible or as a contributing element to a district.

The statements of significance for the nearby historic districts, Henry Clay Village and Brandywine Powder Mills, are structured such that they could not include the small, unrelated dwelling at 9 Barley Mill Road. Specifically, the Powder Mills District includes "much of the 185 acre Eleutherian Mills Landmark District of 1966, and the Brandywine Manufacturer's Sunday School Register building of 1970, with the Hagley Foundation's subsequent acquisition of approximately 45 acres containing significant structures and sites"; Henry Clay Village is specifically limited to "the residences and other buildings which were part of an early nineteenth century industrial village along the Brandywine River... mixed with a few mill-owners residences."

(Copies of those statements are attached.)

Note must be made that the original boundaries of the Henry Clay Village Historic District set in 1970 in a nomination by Eleanor Webster of the Tri County Conservancy of the Brandywine were reduced by the nomination submitted by the History Store in 1986/87, actually moving the boundary further away (south) from the 9 Barley Mill house in question. Since the Henry Clay Historic Village district boundaries were reduced to include only the best representations of a 19th century industrial village, this precludes the possibility of including the structure as a contributing element to that existing district. Likewise, with the statement of significance for the Powder Mills district dealing only with structures having direct, recognizable bearing on the milling industry, inclusion in this existing district is also precluded.

Final analysis - based on the evidence found, the structure is not eligible for the National Register, either individually or by inclusion into an existing district. Additionally, with the new housing in the area drastically changing the cultural landscape, expansion of existing or creation of a new district is not suggested.

## SAMUEL HALLOCK DUPONT

The first individual holder of the property in the 20th century, S. Hallock duPont was a member of Delaware notable family, but certainly not its most notable. A biography in a 3 volume 1941 History of Delaware published by Lewes Publishing Company spoke of Hallock as "primarily interested in agriculture." A photocopy of the pages with his biography is attached.

Passing mention is made of Hallock in a later work by Gerard Colby, duPont Dynasty: Behind the Nylon Curtain. This mention is considerably less favorable, referring to Hallock's rather eccentric tendencies.

"But the family, cushioned by its featherbed of golden fleece, always managed to move on to bigger and better diversions from boredom. Samuel Hallock duPont, son of Pierre's brother William Kemble duPont, continued to prowls his estate, Henry Clay, hunting stray cats with his rifle, or practiced knife throwing at his other estate, appropriately named Squirrel Run. Sam's antics seemed harmless enough until one day he began using his wife as a target for his knife-throwing hobby. She left that night, complaining of knives and of Sam's many bathroom mirrors, securing a quick divorce. Sam, undaunted, later entered into marriage again and a surprisingly calmer life." p. 279

The only other mentions of Samuel in this volume speak to his contributions of money to the American Liberty League in the early 1930s (p. 356), and his association (by reference in the list of which family members were involved with which corporations) with the Europa Corporation, and the Kreighoff Gun Company of Miami, Florida. (pp. 593-94.)

Most volumes consulted in the University of Delaware library contained no mention of S. Hallock at all, and he was not cross-referenced in the University's DelCAT system (as were the "major" duPonts).

**With S. Hallock's lack of notoriety, his association with this particular property does not give sufficient reason to pursue nomination as an individually eligible structure. Additionally, since there is no direct correlation between the property and the duPont Company other than a time of ownership in the late 19th century, there is not sufficient rational to say that the structure fits into the broad patterns of our history. Accordingly, eligibility under both Criteria A and B may be dismissed.**

DEED REFERENCES  
9 BARLEY MILL ROAD, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Deed Book 0381 - 0003  
Present Owners M/M Edward & Elizabeth White  
Purchased parcel on 5/30/86 from

-----  
Richard DuPont who received it by will from his mother Virginia (who died in 1983);

-----  
Virginia duPont received it from her husband Samuel Hallock duPont by will when he died 10/3/74;

-----  
Deed Book P Vol 34, Pg 520  
Samuel Hallock duPont bought the property from Rokeby Realty Co.  
1/13/1927

-----  
Deed Book V 30, Pg 455  
Rokeby Realty bought the land from E.I.duPont Nemours  
12/29/1921

-----  
M. Vol 21, Pg 1  
E.I.duPont Nemours bought the land from E.I.duPont Nemours, N.J.  
7/27/1907

-----  
Q 19, Pg 1  
E.I.duPont Nemours, N.J. received land from E.I.duPont Co. (Delaware)  
8/1/1903

-----  
(This is where the search clouded a bit without doing an actual plotting of parcels;  
however...)

-----  
U Vol 16, Pg 162  
E.I duPont Co. received land from a number of individual duPonts (8). It appeared that Charles duPont owned the parcel in question. (This is certainly reasonable based on examination of two of the maps from 1850 and 1889 which show Charles I. duPont owned a great deal of land both north and south of Barley Mill Road.)

4/14/1895

-----  
13 CUD, Pg 458  
Charles duPont receives this parcel from James Goodman

4/12/1850

## EXAMINATION OF MAPS

Constants used in examining maps were the watercourses, particularly the Brandywine and a small one, Squirrel Run. Squirrel Run seems to have always served to separate this parcel from what was happening on the powder mill property. A smaller watercourse, marked "Thundergust Run" appears on later maps to the south of Squirrel Run.

Maps examined (mostly at Hagley) included:

- 1703-1738 "Period of general resurvey and of purchase, tenure and bequest by John Gregg"
- 1797 Sketch map of existing structures on the grounds by the Brandwine
- 1683-1702 Period of Pioneer Patentees, Purchasers, Planters and Renters within Area
- 1767-1802  
Period of Tenure, and Sale by Samuel Gregg's son, John Gregg, and the purchase of his dwelling house and 51 3/4 acres of his plantation and of 11 3/4 acres of Samuel Gregg's plantation by Eleuthere Irene duPont de Nemours in 1802
- 1802 Neilds abstracts, showing plot of lands on Brandywine Creek showing original 25 tracts deeded to E.I.duPont.  
Parcel in question is not listed as one of the 25.
- 1850 DuPont Powder Mills and Homes by Paul E. duPont as they appeared in the time of Alexis I duPont, c. 1850.  
Map shows buildings, but house in question is not shown.
- 1868 Pomeroy & Beers Atlas  
Map shows the house, and its companion to the east.
- 1889 Map of the E.I.duPont De Nemours & Co. Brandywine Properties drawn by Robert Frazier.  
Shows the house in question on a parcel under the name of William Murphey (immediately adjacent to a Charles I. duPont property). Another, larger structure sits to its east.
- 1893 Baist Atlas  
Shows the property in question, along with two other structures of equal or larger footprint, still within the same parcel lines, and still south of Squirrel Run, and also south of a smaller creek, or run of water (Thundergust Run on a later map).
- 1983 Historic District Map by Robert Howard of Hagley Museum  
Shows the parcel in question without showing structure way west of the boundary identified for the historic district (which does not include the Hall of Records for the duPont Company). The small watercourse mentioned above is marked as Thundergust Run; a structure marked as S.H.duPont Mansion is considerably north of the parcel and structure in question.