## BACKGROUND RESEARCH RESULTS

Background research was intended to aid in the temporal identification of the occupation, document the history of land use of the property, and to help identify the occupants and their activities through time. A chain of title for the Glatz property appears in Table 1. The surname Glatz was spelled in two different ways during the 19th century: Glatz and Glatts, both of which were interchangable. We have chosen to use the former when referring to the site and occupant. The property size was 7 or 7 1/2 acres from the late 18th century up to 1847, when the parcel was decreased to 4 and 1/2 acres. In the 19th century, the average size for a working cash crop farm along this road was over 100 acres. Thus, the Glatz property size was too small to produce anything more than subsistence crops. Archival research revealed that the occupants of the site were mainly craftsmen or artisans and used the property to produce food for their own personal consumption. Tax assessments for Mill Creek Hundred for the 1790s suggest that a dwelling house was first placed on the property toward the end of that decade. The Mill Creek Hundred assessment of 1798 lists John Fitzsimmons as being assessed for 7 acres of land valued at $35, a log house, $10 worth of livestock, $10 worth of personal property, $134.66 worth of personal tax, and a total value of real estate and personal property of $179.66. Fitzsimmons also appeared two years earlier in the assessment of 1796 and at that time was assessed for a total worth of two pounds. A conversion factor of $48 per pound has been calculated for an analysis of White Clay Creek Hundred tax data (Coleman et al. 1983:Appendix III) and that figure is used

TABLE 1

CHAIN OF TITLE FOR GLATZ PROPERTY

| Transaction | New Castle County Deed Reference | Date | Acreage |
|---|---|---|---|
| William Addy to John Fitzsimmons, Sr. | ------ | 6-9-1785 | 7a |
| William Addy to John Fitzsimmons, Sr. | ------ | 8-13-1796 | 20p |
| John Fitzsimmons, Sr. to John Fitzsimmons, Jr. | S-3-378 | 1-7-1817 | 7a, 20p |
| John Fitzsimmons, Jr. to Robert Walker | ------ | 1818 | 7a, 20p |
| Robert Walker to John Morrell | Z-3-18 | 3-2-1821 | 7a, 20p |
| Joseph Derrickson to John Morrell | ------ | ? | 5a |
| John Morrell to Samuel Walker | ------ | 3-24-1830 | ? |
| Samuel Walker to Bernard Glatts | Q-4-526 | 4-3-1833 | 7a |
| Robert Walker, Admin. of B. Glatts to Rebecca Walker | U-5-234 | 2-4-1847 | 41/2a |

**Key**

a = acres
p = perches

here as well. This indicates that Fitzsimmons' net worth nearly doubled from 1796 to 1798 (from $96 to just under $180). The construction of a house on unimproved land often greatly increases the assessed value of that land and it is likely that is the case here. Therefore, it can be tentatively concluded that Fitzsimmons erected a dwelling house sometime between 1796 and 1798.

The U.S. Census of 1800 and 1810 listed Fitzsimmons as the head of a household which contained five other people, probably his wife and children. In 1817, John Fitzsimmons, Sr. sold the 7 acre, 70 perch parcel to his son, John Fitzsimmons, Jr. for $400 (New Castle County Deed [NCCD] S-3-378). That deed made reference to two earlier transactions by which Fitzsimmons Senior had acquired the property. On June 9, 1785, Fitzsimmons had purchased a 7-acre parcel from William Addy for an undisclosed amount and on August 13, 1796, he had purchased a 70-perch parcel from the same man, again for an undisclosed amount. However, no specific deed book references were given for these transactions and William Addy was listed in neither the grantee nor the grantor indexes. Thus, the title chain could be taken no further back into the 18th century.

In 1818, John Fitzsimmons. Jr. apparently sold the property to Robert Walker (from a reference in a later NCCD Z-3-18). Walker appears in the U.S. Census of 1820, where two members of his 7-member household were listed as being employed in the category of "agriculture". At that time, none of the household are listed under the employment headings "commerce" and "manufacturing." Walker sold it to John Morrell in 1821 (NCCD Z-

3-18). Morrell was listed as a cordwainer (shoemaker), and held the property for nine years before he sold it to Samuel Walker. In 1833 the property was purchased by Bernard Glatz, also a cordwainer (NCCD Q-4-526), for $525.00 and he is listed in the 1840 census along with his wife and 4 children. Mulligan (1984) in his study of Lynn, Massachusetts shoemakers, indicates that shoemaking was a family art, and that wives, sons, and daughters all took part in the business, the children often at an early age. This does not seem to have been the case with Glatz's family. The census lists one member of the household as being engaged in manufacture and trade (presumably Mr. Glatz himself), and this may have been a difference in the industry between New England and the middle Atlantic. The Mill Creek Hundred tax assessments for the years 1837 and 1838 list Bernard Glatz as a cordwainer and shoemaker's tools and supplies are listed in his probate inventory of 1842 (Appendix I). Bernard Glatz died intestate that year and his belongings included household items, one cow, two pigs, a dearborn and harness, one bay mare, wheat in the ground, and a lot of grass. Also included in the inventory were "a Lot of Lasts, Shoemakers tools and Benches, a Lot of Leather upper and sole, a Lot of Scraps of Leather, Barrel and Vinegar, Keg and Vinegar, Two Meat Tubs, Two Tubs, Lot of Tubs". These items had a combined assessed value of $9.62 out of a total of $170.62 for all goods and chattels of his estate. There is no record of where Glatz the shoemaker sold his goods or whether he exchanged them for cash or barter or both, although Simler (1986) notes that tenant craftsmen in Chester County, Pa. were important

factors in the economy. Hazen (1837:72) offers a brief description of some of the business practices of the country shoemaker

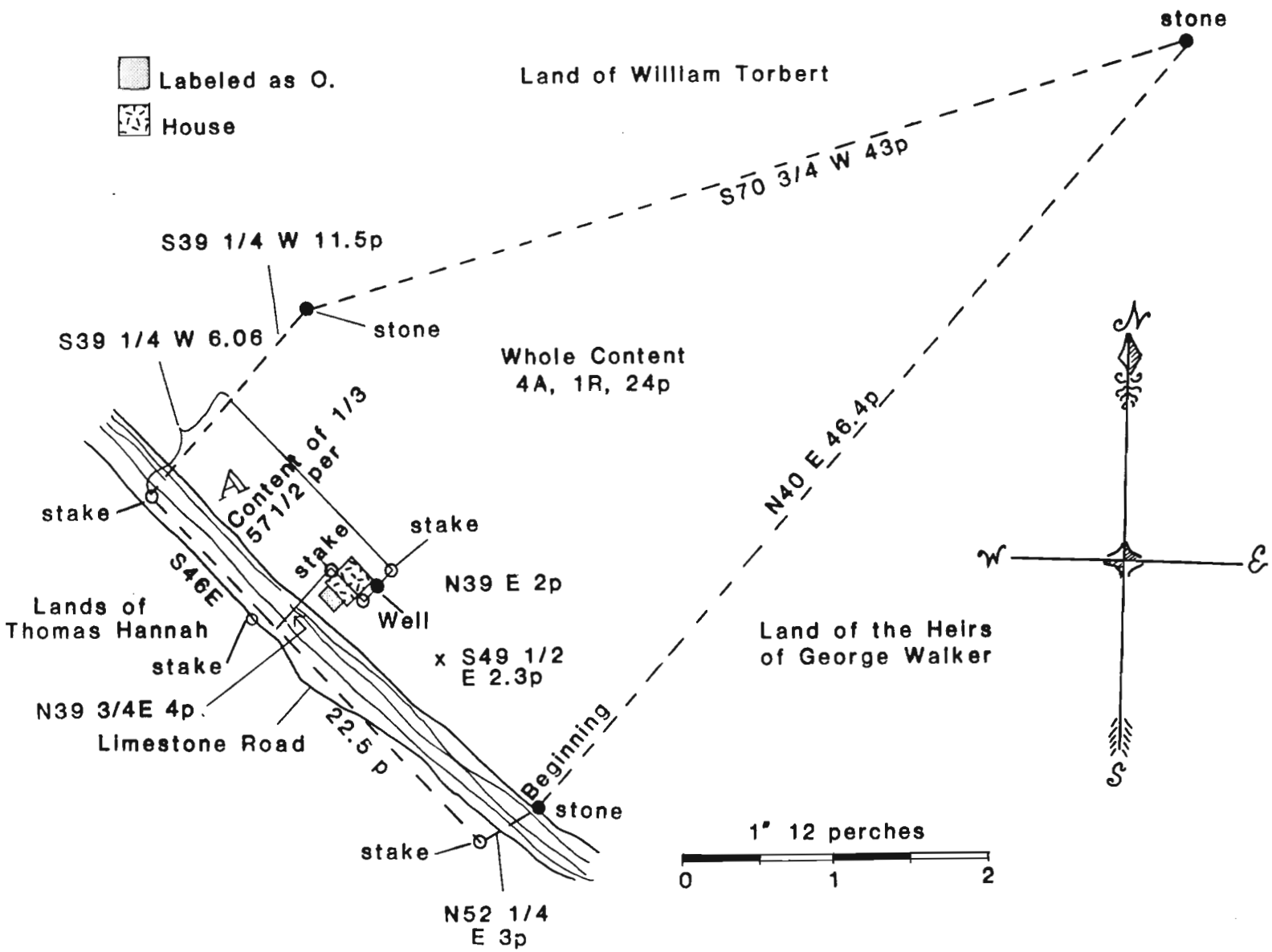
> "It is no uncommon thing in the country, for the farmers to purchase leather, and employ the shoemaker to make it up; and this is done, in most cases, on their own premises. The shoemaker employed this way, removes from house to house, changing his location whenever he has completely served a whole family in his vocation. In such cases, he is said, by the trade, to be whipping the cat. The set of tools, with which he operates, is called his kit.
>
> The shoemaker usually buys his leather from the tanner and currier; and procures his tools, tacks, and various other articles of a similar nature, at the finding stores. In some cases, the shoemaker, with little or no capital, gets his materials from the leather-cutter, who makes it a business to supply them ready cut to the proper size and shape. There are, however, but few leather-cutters in our country; but in England, this branch of trade is one of considerable importance, and is frequently connected with that of the leather-dresser".

Bernard Glatz's probate records indicate that his real estate was sold to Rebecca Walker for $350 at public auction on March 21, 1846. The auction was held at the nearby Mermaid Tavern, where Walker was the innkeeper. As part of the terms of sale, Rebecca Glatz, Bernard's widow, was given part of the dwelling to serve as her residence. She was also given one-half use of the well, and 57.5 perches of land out of the total parcel (Figure 2). Rebecca Glatz apparently did not stay in the house for very long, for her name does not appear in the 1850 Census of Delaware for Mill Creek Hundred. None of her children appear in the census lists either, so it is likely that the family had moved out of the hundred by that date.

The Walker family apparently owned the property for the remainder of the 19th century, for numerous local atlases and

FIGURE 2

# Division of Bernard Glatz' Property after his Death in 1842



maps (Figures 3, 4, and 5) label the house as belonging to Rebecca Walker and/or her daughter, Rebecca Walker Brown (Rea and Price 1849, Beers 1868, and Baist 1893). The Walkers' total land holdings are given as 118 acres on Baist's (1893) Atlas, so it had apparently been incorporated into their larger holdings by that date. More information about the Walkers can be gathered from the Census of Delaware for the years 1850 through 1880, 1900, and 1910. The census of 1850 lists the 65-year-old Rebecca Walker as head of household and eleven other people contained within the household. It is likely that this list includes people living at the Mermaid Tavern, which Rebecca Walker owned and operated, and that a tenant probably a craftsman, was living at the former Glatz residence. Included in the Mermaid Tavern group were 2 carpenters and a blacksmith. The Census of 1860 lists Rebecca Walker's occupation as an innkeeper and the 40-year old Jerome Walker as a farmer. Also listed are a machinist, a carpenter, a laborer, and a student of medicine among the eleven members of the household. The remaining censuses show a dwindling household and the census for 1900 lists only the 74-year old Elizabeth Walker, her 63-year old niece Julia, and a boarder, Harry O. Brown. None of these people are listed in the 1910 Census.

According to an informant, the 81-year old Mrs. Sarah P. Evans, the house was demolished and the well filled in by her father around 1912 or 1913. Mrs. Evans, who was interviewed in 1985, had no personal recollection of the structure or any outbuildings associated with it.

FIGURE 3

# Detail of Limestone Road from Rea and Price "Map of New Castle County, Delaware"(1849)

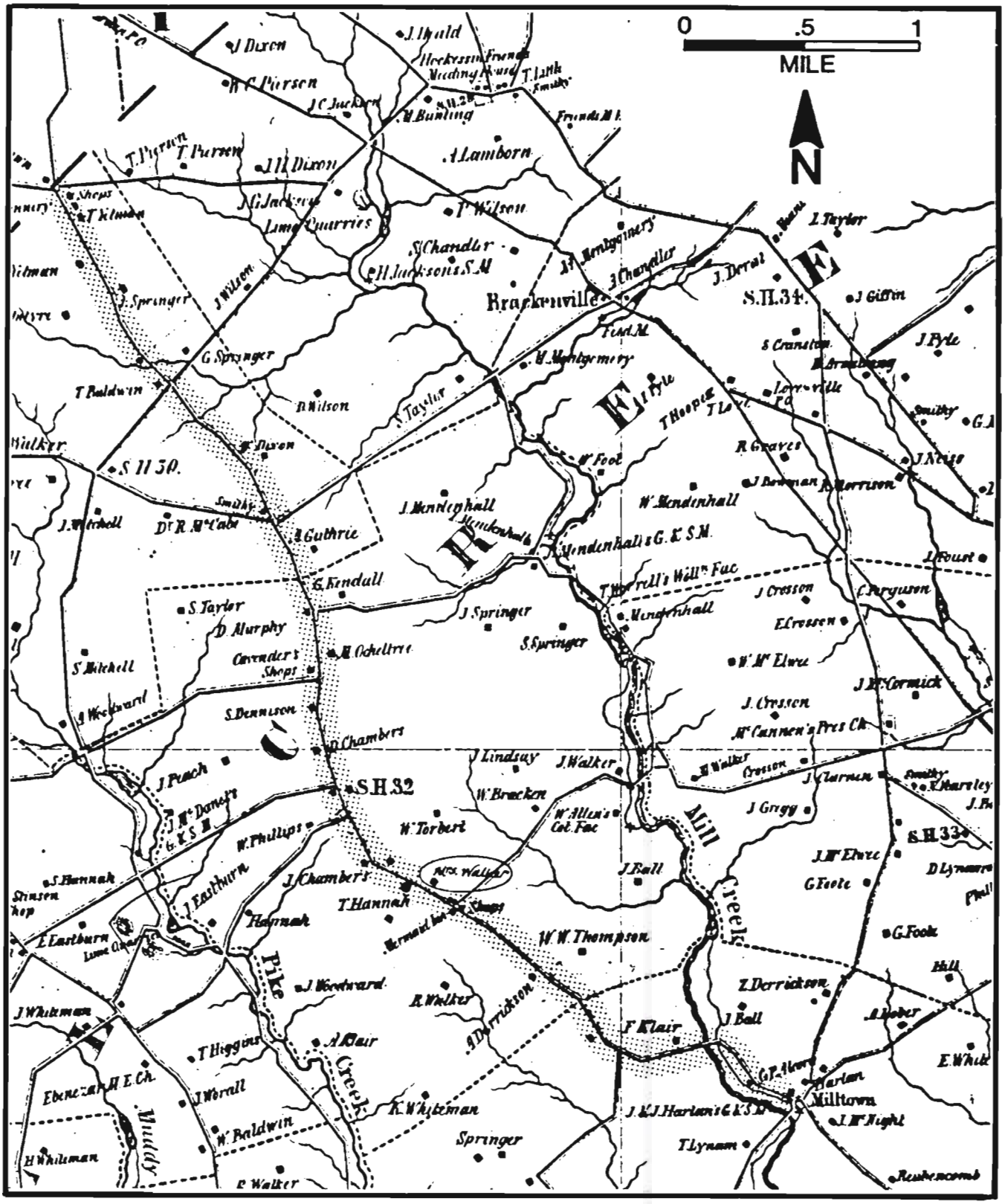


FIGURE 4

Detail of Limestone Road from D.G. Beer's "Atlas of the State of Delaware" (1868)

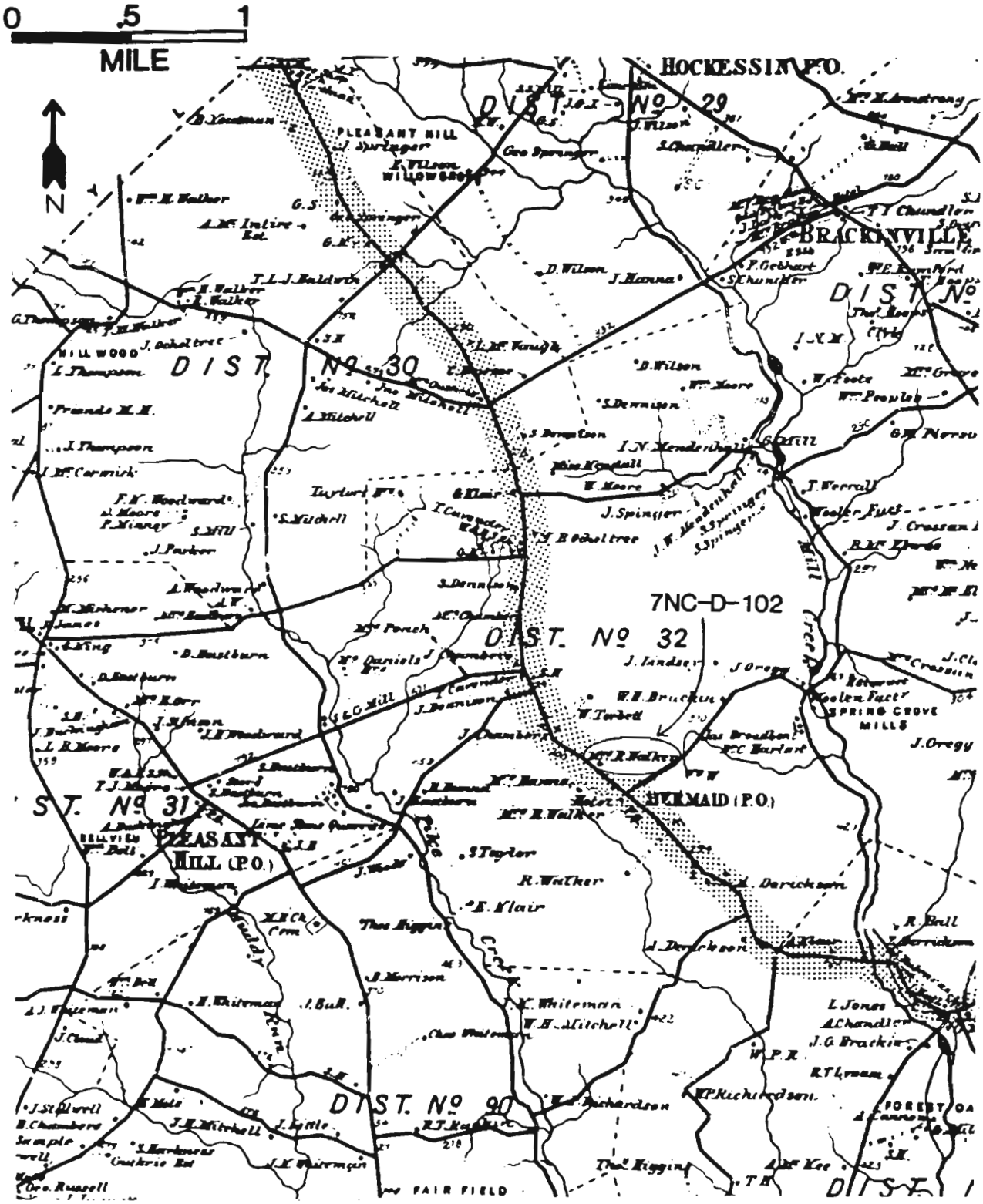
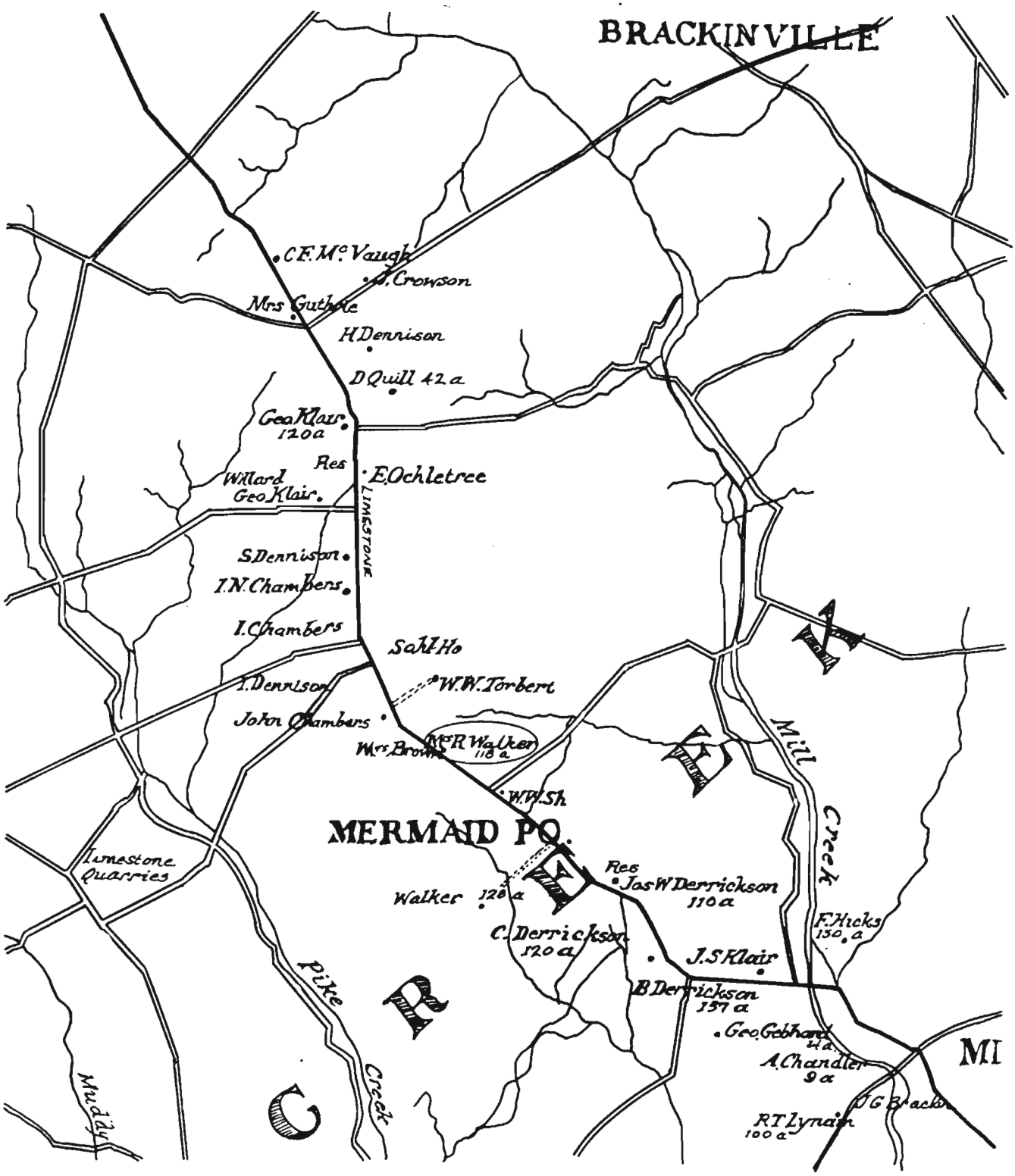


FIGURE 5

# Detail of Limestone Road from G.W. Baist's "Atlas of New Castle County" (1893)



Tax assessments for the period 1785 to 1853 for Mill Creek Hundred provide perhaps the most important historic data for the earlier occupation of the property. The significant information for Glatz's property can be summarized into three major areas: 1) property values for the Hundred for the 68-year period, 2) the occupants' employment, and 3) notations on the presence of structures. Information is provided for 34 years of the 68-year period and the quantity of the data varies with each entry. Assessed valuation for each ratable is always given, and other notations were variously made for the size of the property in acres, structures on the property, and the value of real estate, livestock, and slaves owned. The assessed valuation provides a relative measure of the wealth of the inhabitants of the Hundred at any given time. Since the Glatz property size stayed consistent from 1785 to 1847, the assessed value for each successive owner through time was tabulated and impressionistically compared with other residents in the Hundred.

In almost all cases, the owner of the 7 1/2 acre parcel ranked in the bottom half of all ratables, usually about the 20th or 30th percentile. This information is valuable because when combined with other information on personal holdings, including land, livestock, slave ownership, wagons and carriages, crops, and household goods as derived archaeologically or through written records, the researchers may be able to discern what assets were most important to the individual owner, and what assets were used by the local society as measures of individual wealth and status (Main 1973; Coleman et al. 1983:212). When compared with other properties within the region that have been

analyzed in a similar fashion, patterns of socio-economic status begin to emerge.

Also notable is that none of the assessments ever mention more than one structure (the dwelling) on the property, which indicates that any space required for a stable or the storage of farm equipment or carriages would have to have been rented from a neighbor. There was a large barn associated with the Mermaid Tavern at this time (Catts et al. 1986:78) and it is probable that Glatz rented part of the barn for his needs.

Glatz's workshop or cordwainer's shop was probably associated directly with his dwelling as Mulligan (1984:238) indicates was common prior to 1850 for shoemaking families in Lynn, Massachusetts. The shoe shop, called a "ten-footer", was a structure about twelve feet square and was usually located in the yard of the cordwainer's home. Glatz's property in 1842 (Figure 2) shows a small addition on the front (Limestone Road) side of the house. This structure may represent the location of the "ten-footer".

Bernard Glatz's inventory of 1842 can be compared with the tax assessments for Mill Creek Hundred for the years 1834, 1837, and 1841. For all years he ranked in about the 30th to 50th percentile of all ratables in the Hundred. His inventory lists all of his personal property and its estimated value. The total value of his personal property (excluding real estate) is $170.62. Nearly 1/3 of this is contained in "one bay mare, saddle and briddle [sic]" worth $50.00. Other more valuable items include one cow ($12.00), three beds, bedsteads and bedding

worth a combined $22.00, a dearborn ($6.00), two pigs ($5.00), and a bureau and contents ($6.00). The average value of all items listed in the inventory is $3.00 per item, although 35 of the 57 items have a value of $1.25 or less. It is interesting to note that various kitchen items, including ceramics, are poorly described and valued quite low. "A lot of Kitchen Ware" is valued at $1.00, "A lot of Tin Ware in Kitchen" at $0.25, and an entire "Contents of Cupboard" at $5.00.

The inventory is implicitly organized by interior house room and exterior belongings, which were probably kept in a rented barn, shed, or stable on nearby property. No outbuildings were ever listed in any of the tax assessments for the property, so it is likely that none existed. Three interior rooms and a garret, or attic room, are listed in the inventory, and the contents of each room give clues to the activities carried on within it. In Appendix I, items 1 to 9 are apparently contained in Room #1, which is probably a bedroom. Items 10-28 were located in Room #2 and include articles found in a kitchen, a living room, a nursery, and a bedroom. It may have been the largest room in the house and may have functioned as a place where all four specialized activities were carried out. Room #3 contained bedding, a drawer of clothes, carpeting, a cardtable and shoemaker's tools and equipment, and apparently functioned as a workshop and as a bedroom, while the garret contained only bedding and bedclothes and probably functioned solely as a bedroom.