



Appendix B

Historic Property Documentation & Context

This Appendix provides 1777-era property information for historic resources/properties in this project based on deed research undertaken by Chester County Archives. Historic properties included are derived from 2013 Plan historic resource information plus property research for this project that resulted in additional 1777-era historic properties being identified. Numbers listed before a property address or parcel number refer to 'ID numbers' in the 2013 Plan and/or Chapter 4 tables; a "N" in the ID number indicates the historic property was identified through this project/is "newly identified" since the 2013 Plan. Parcel numbers in Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County have a different format than those for Chester County municipalities due to how Delaware County and Chester County denote parcel numbers. Present-day municipal name is in parentheses after 1777-era property owner name and any common historic name for the property is shown in ' '. When included the term 'site' in a property name indicates the historic structure is likely no longer extant. Where it is known if the 1777-era property owner claimed property damages¹ related to the battle, Plunder, Depredation and/or Suffering is indicated. As a fundamental element of the three phased battlefield strategic landscapes project, 1777-era property and road maps were developed by Chester County Archives and are included in this Appendix; interactive versions of those maps are found on Chester County Archives website. Note that 1777-era municipal boundaries differ from today's municipal boundaries and those changes can be seen on the interactive maps; for example the 1777-era Birmingham Township map includes today's Chadds Ford Township while the northern portion of today's Birmingham Township was part of 1777-era East Bradford Township. Property lines in 1883 Breou's Maps, deed research, and original road papers were all used to create the 1777-era mapping. This Appendix also provides a brief historic context of each municipality in the project area.

Chadds Ford Area Combat, Fords, & American Encampment Landscapes

Hannah Gilpin Bennett, 'Biddlebrook Farm' (wife of James) (Chadds Ford) (Plundered)
4.02: 478 Webb Road (Parcel 04000031601 or 04-05-028))

Hannah Gilpin Bennett inherited this 173-acre tract from her father Isaac Gilpin in 1745 when still a minor (Deed Book A-3 pg. 386). Hannah was a birthright Quaker and married James Bennett at the Birmingham Preparative Meeting. Hannah lived in Pennsbury Township with her husband James in 1777. The property was leased by John Henderson. In 1783 the property contained one dwelling house and two outbuildings.

¹ Research included Sufferings, Plunder claims, and Depredation claims known at the time of this plan, which varied per community. It is not known if this variation is because no Sufferings or Claims occurred in a community, or instead if records are privately held by individual families or have been lost. Plunder claims comprise individuals identified as 'plundered' in the state tax assessment compiled following the events of September 1777. The local tax assessment took place in late fall and early winter of 1777 and was then returned to the County Assessor's by January 5, 1778. Individuals who were plundered had their taxes forgiven or abated. (Chester County Tax Records, S-1a). Depredation claims comprise a register compiled in November 1782 that contains accounts of property of Chester County residents seized or (not as frequently) destroyed, without compensation, by the Crown Forces, aided by 'adherents' (Pennsylvania Tories), during their march toward and occupation of Philadelphia, from the fall of 1777 until June 1778. Most of the accounts are for damages that occurred during Crown Force marches through Chester County in mid-September 1777. Township and borough tax assessors, acting upon the orders of the County Commissioners, collected these accounts in their respective municipalities. Sufferings were recorded by Quakers at meetinghouses as part of the Quaker Testimony of Peace and a way to document their property losses.

Dr. George Gilpin, 'Howe's Headquarters' (Chadds Ford) (plundered) (Depredation)

4.04: 198 Harvey Road (Parcel 04000014001 or 04-09-039)

Dr. George Gilpin inherited this 214-acre tract of land from his father George Gilpin Sr. in 1773 (W&A #2807). George was a birthright Quaker and a member of the Concord Monthly Meeting. He was disowned in 1775 for moving without a certificate and for taking up arms and “training in a military way.” He moved to Wilmington, Delaware where he died in May 1777. The estate remained in the hands of his executors until his brother Isaac Gilpin came of age. This property was likely leased in 1777 and for many years thereafter. George Gilpin Sr.’s widow removed to the Chester Monthly Meeting in 1774 and Isaac moved to Wilmington. It is uncertain who was seated on this tract in 1777* In 1798 this property contained a two-story brick house 18 by 32, a stone springhouse 10 by 22, a frame kitchen 15 by 20, and a stone wash house 14 by 18.

Elizabeth Chads, 'John Chads House & Springhouse' (Chadds Ford) (Plundered)

4.06: 1736 W Creek Road (Parcel 04000008800)

Elizabeth Chads, widow of John Chads, inherited a life interest in this 40-acre tract in 1760. Upon her death in 1790, the property reverted to the estate of Joseph Davis, John Chads' cousin. Elizabeth, nee Richardson, was a birthright Quaker and married her husband John Chads under the Goshen Monthly Meeting in 1729. In 1783 her property contained one dwelling house and one outbuilding. In 1798 the property contained one stone dwelling house 18 by 28 and a stone springhouse 17 by 17.

Gideon Gilpin, 'Lafayette's Headquarters' (Chadds Ford) (Plundered) (Depredation)

4.07: 1491 Baltimore Pike (Parcel 04000004500 or 04-14-006)

Gideon Gilpin, a yeoman, purchased this tract of land, comprised of several tract lots, from his father Joseph Gilpin in 1764 (Deed Book T pg. 149). Gideon was a birthright Quaker and a member of the Concord Monthly Meeting. In 1783 this property contained two dwelling houses and one outbuilding. In 1798 this property contained one two story stone dwelling house 18 by 30, one stone springhouse 10 by 12, one “old” frame kitchen 16 by 20, and one stone wash house 16 by 20.

Benjamin Ring, 'Washington's Headquarters' (Chadds Ford) (Plundered) (Depredation)

4.07: 1491 Baltimore Pike (Parcel 04000004500 or 04-14-006)

Benjamin Ring, a fuller, acquired these three tracts of land containing approximately 176 acres at an unknown date in an unrecorded transaction Delaware County Deed Book H pg. 436). By 1765 Benjamin Ring Jr. had erected a fulling mill on this property and by 1767 a sawmill was added. Benjamin Ring was a birthright Quaker and married Rachel James at the New Garden Meetinghouse in 1758. In 1798 the property contained a two-story stone dwelling 22 by 28, and a stone kitchen 16 by 32.

William Harvey (Chadds Ford) (Plundered) (Depredation)

4.11: 600 Webb Road (Parcel 04000031300)

William Harvey, a yeoman, purchased this 151-acre tract from Joseph Gibbons in 1764 (Deed Book Z pg. 145). William was a birthright Quaker and a member of the Concord Monthly Meeting. In 1783 his property contained one dwelling house and two outbuildings.

Joseph Davis (Chadds Ford) (Plundered)

4.12: 1609 Baltimore Pike (Parcel 04000005100)

Joseph Davis, a yeoman, inherited this approximately 400-acre tract from his cousin John Chads in 1760 (W&A #1910). A tavern was established on this parcel by John Chads by 1736 and continued in operation under Joseph Davis. After initially leasing the tavern property, Davis acquired the license to operate the Sign of the Three Compass in 1772 and was the tavern keeper here until 1777. By August 1778 the tavern had been discontinued as “Joseph Davis declined keeping Tavern” according to Gideon Gilpin who established a new tavern further down the Nottingham Road (Tavern Petitions Vol. 27 pg. 125). Joseph Davis was a Quaker and was received by the Concord Monthly Meeting from the

New Garden Monthly Meeting in 1772, when he moved his family to settle on the tavern property. In 1783 his property contained two dwelling houses and one outbuilding. In 1798 the remaining property (to the west of Creek Road) owned by Joseph Davis contained a two-story log dwelling 18 by 22, a log kitchen 12 by 16, a frame and cellared barn 18 by 30, a frame stable 10 by 10, a log and stone still house 18 by 20, and a log copper's shop 12 by 14. He had sold a 269-acre tract (to the east of Creek Road) to Micajah Speakman in 1786. On the Speakman property, in 1798, stood a two-story brick dwelling house 18 by 27, an "old" brick kitchen 18 by 18, an "old" stone wash house 15 by 15, a stone spring house 12 by 12,

-The tavern in 1777 was a two-story brick building that was located to the east of the intersection of Creek Road and Baltimore Pike. A 1783 advertisement confirms that Joseph Davis sold the tavern tract to Micajah Speakman: "there are on the said premises, a large brick house, a barn, stable, and other buildings, with a garden and orchard; about 60 acres low ground, one half of which is meadow, about 100 acres of woodland, the rest arable land; it is a place very convenient for public business, a tavern having been kept there for many years ..." PA Gazette, November 11, 1783.

Nathaniel Ring (Chadds Ford) (Plundered)

4.20N: 325 Ring Road (Parcel 04000023700)

Nathaniel Ring, a joiner, inherited these two tracts (70-acre and 67-acre) from his father Benjamin Ring Sr. in 1767 (W&A #2396). Nathaniel Ring was not a Quaker and when he married Hannah Brinton (a Quaker) in 1767, she was disowned by the Kennett Monthly Meeting. In 1783 this property contained two dwelling houses and one outbuilding.

Israel Pemberton (John Thatcher) (Chadds Ford) (Plundered) (Quaker Suffering)

4.22N: 8 Atwater Road (Parcel 04000000146)

Israel Pemberton, of Philadelphia, purchased this 53-acre tract at an unknown date (OCD – Israel Pemberton, 1780). Israel was a prominent Quaker merchant and speculated heavily in land in Chester County. After his death in 1779, the property was inherited by his granddaughter Mary Pemberton who married George Fox. This tract was leased by John Thatcher and his wife Margaret in 1777. John was a cordwainer and a member of the Concord Monthly Meeting. In 1783 this property contained One dwelling house and one outbuilding. In 1794 an account of suffering was submitted by members of the Concord Monthly Meeting to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting on behalf of John and Margaret Thatcher. The suffering states that they "lived in a comfortable way on a small rented Farm, but in the 9th Month of said year, being the time of the Battle of Brandywine, his Habitation being in the midst of the engagement, and his House a Hospital for the Wounded, himself and Family being fled for safety ... he lost most of his Property, consisting of Cows, Sheep, Swine, Wheat, Rye, Indian Corn, Flax, Potatoes, Hay, Houshold Furniture, Farmers Utensals, Wearing Apparel, Shoemakers Tools, Leather, Shoes, etc amounting in the whole of upwards of £150, exclusive of the Distruction of his Fences, and the Loss of a Crop of Wheat then to have been put in the Ground." In 1798 the property contained one log dwelling house 18 by 20, one "old" log barn 12 by 20, and one workshop.

Isaac Gilpin (Chadds Ford) (Plundered) (Depredation)

4.23N: 33 Heyburn Road (Parcel 04000014700)

Isaac Gilpin, a hatter, inherited this 140-acre tract of land from his father George Gilpin Sr. in 1773 while still a minor (W&A #2807). His father, George Sr., established a saw mill on this parcel that ceased to operate after George's death. Isaac likely never took formal possession of this tract. He inherited his father's mansion tract after this brother Dr. George Gilpin died in May 1777 while still in his minority. Isaac was a birthright Quaker. Christian Starkey was likely a tenant on this property in 1777. There is evidence that Christian was plundered. It is uncertain who leased the land in 1777 since Christian is taxed only as an inmate.*

** (Both Dr. George and Isaac Gilpin's tracts were being leased in 1777. It is likely that both Gideon Gilpin and Israel Gilpin were leasing portions of each tract. It cannot be determined which tracts were in whose possession at the time. Israel submitted a large depredation claim but was identified as only an inmate in 1778 suggesting that he only leased a dwelling house and Gideon's taxed land increased after George Sr.'s death but was reduced once Israel is also taxed for land (in 1780), which was the same quantity of acres that George Sr.'s was last taxed for. Further research is needed.)*

Hannah Gilpin Bennett (wife of James) & Elizabeth Painter Pusey (wife of John) (Chadds Ford) (plundered)

4.24N: 111-125 Oakland Road (Parcel 04000020202) (early building does not appear to be standing)

Mary Painter Gilpin and Elizabeth Painter inherited this 110-acre tract from her father Samuel Painter in 1755 (W&A #1583). Mary Gilpin died leaving only a daughter, Hannah Gilpin Bennett, to inherit her interest in the tract. Both Hannah Gilpin Bennett and Elizabeth Painter were birthright Quakers and were originally members of the Birmingham Preparative Meeting. Both the Bennett family and the Pusey family did not live in Birmingham Township in 1777. The likely tenant on this property in 1777 was Amos House, a chair maker. Amos was not a Quaker when he married his wife Joanna Townsend (a member of the Birmingham Preparative Meeting) in 1765. In 1783 this property contained one dwelling house and two outbuildings. In 1798 the property contained a two-story brick dwelling house 20 by 33, a brick kitchen 18 by 20, and a stone springhouse 12 by 14. (Owned by Joshua Smith.)

Ann Painter Chamberlain (Chadds Ford) (Plundered) (Depredation) (Quaker Suffering)

4.25N: Oakland Road (No original buildings appear to be standing on this parcel)

Ann Painter Chamberlain, wife of Robert, inherited this 100-acre tract from her father Samuel Painter in 1755 (W&A #1583). Ann was a Quaker and a member of the Concord Monthly Meeting. In 1783 this property contained four dwelling houses and one outbuilding.

Samuel Painter Site (son of John) (Chadds Ford) (plundered)

4.26N: 1244 Baltimore Pike (Parcel 04000001500) (early building no longer standing)

Samuel Painter inherited this 300-acre tract from his father John Painter in 1765 (W&A #2219). Samuel was a birthright Quaker but was likely disowned before 1777. In 1783 the property contained three dwelling houses and four outbuildings. In 1798 the property contained a brick two story dwelling house 18 by 32, a stone kitchen 18 by 18, a stone shed 8 by 18, a two-story stone springhouse 16 by 17 and an “old” stone cheese house 12 by 15.

Obadiah Bonsall (Chadds Ford)

4.27N: 105 Keepsake Lane (Parcel 04000015200)

Obadiah Bonsall, a yeoman, purchased this 100-acre tract from the estate of Providence Scott in 1756 (Delaware County Deed Book C pg. 194). Obadiah was a birthright Quaker and acknowledged marrying Rebecca Scott (daughter of Providence) out of meeting in 1742. In 1783 this property contained one dwelling house and two outbuildings. In 1798 the property contained an “old” one and a half story log swelling house, a log kitchen 12 by 18, and a stone springhouse 10 by 10. (Owned by George Heyburn.)

Ralph Pyle (Chadds Ford)

4.28N: 166 Heyburn Road (Parcel 04000016102)

Ralph Pyle, son of William Pyle, inherited this 200-acre tract from his grandfather Ralph Pyle Sr. of Concord Township in 1741 while still a minor (W&A #746). Ralph Pyle Sr. was a member of the Anglican faith and there is no evidence that his grandson, Ralph Jr. belonged to the Society of Friends. Ralph did not reside on this property and in 1777 it was leased by William Mason. In 1783 the property contained one dwelling house and one outbuilding.

Thomas Bullock (Chadds Ford)

4.29N: 126 Ridge Road (Parcel 04000021500)

This tract has an incomplete title and requires further research. Thomas Bullock, a blacksmith, was seated on this 50-acre tract by 1771. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax suggests that the owner is actually Isaac Bullock with Thomas Bullock as tenant. Thomas was not a member of the Society of Friends. In 1783 this property contained one dwelling house and two outbuildings. In 1798 the property contained one log dwelling 18 by 24 and one “old” log barn 15 by 30.

William Smith (Chadds Ford)

4.30N: 25 Ridings Way (Parcel 04000023345) (Historic building no longer standing)

William Smith, a yeoman from Concord Township, acquired this 141-acre tract before 1766 (Deed Book O pg. 283). Because of the common name, it is not clear if William was or was not a member of the Society of Friends. In 1783 this property contained no improvements. In 1798 this property contained a two-story log house 21 by 24, a log kitchen 12 by 19, and a stone springhouse 10 by 12.

Ruth Chalfant Frame (Chadds Ford)

4.31N: 1 Top of the Oaks (Parcel 04000016499)

Ruth Chalfant Frame, wife of Robert Frame, inherited this 100-acre tract (part of a 200-acre tract she inherited jointly with her sister Mary Chalfant Shields) from her father Robert Chalfant in 1767 (W&A #2351). Ruth and her husband Robert Frame were members of the Brandywine Baptist Church. In 1783 this property contained two dwelling houses and one outbuilding.

James Russell (Chadds Ford)

4.32N: 338A Smithbridge Road (Parcel 04000027702)

This tract has an incomplete title and requires further research. James Russell, a weaver, acquired this 100-acre tract of land by 1768 and was taxed on it until 1791. James was not a member of the Society of Friends. He was likely a Presbyterian, but further research is needed to confirm this. In 1783 this property contained one dwelling house and one outbuilding. (This property was likely Mary Chalfant Shields half of her father Robert Chalfant's estate that she inherited in 1767 - W&A #2351).

John Gordon Site (Chadds Ford)

4.33N: 251 Ridge Road (Parcel 04000022100) (No early dwelling appears to remain on this tract)

This tract has an incomplete title and requires further research. John Gordon, a tanner, acquired this tract, composed of two pieces (50-acre and 30-acre) by 1768 and appears taxed on it until 1789. John was not a member of the Society of Friends. James was not a member of the Society of Friends. He was likely a Presbyterian, but further research is needed to confirm this. In 1783 this property contained one dwelling house and one outbuilding.

Elizabeth Sawyer (now in New Castle County, DE)

4.34N: 810 Beaver Valley Road (Parcel 0600200003)

Elizabeth Sawyer, a widow from Philadelphia, purchased this 63-acre tract from John Hannum on August 7, 1777 (Deed Book Z pg. 183). Elizabeth never resided on this property which was always leased during her ownership. It is unknown who resided on this parcel in 1777. In 1783 the property contained one dwelling house (Peter Hatton, owner). In 1798 the property contained a two-story brick dwelling house 24 (14?) by 30, a stone kitchen 10 by 12, a stone cellared barn 24 by 26, and a stone wheelwright shop 14 by 20. (Owned by Peter Hatton.)

Mark Willcox (Chadds Ford)

4.35N: 1465 Smithbridge Road (Parcel 04000027400)

Mark Willcox, a paper worker from Concord Township, purchased these two tracts containing 175 acres from Oliver Russell in May 1777 (Deed Book Y pg. 408). Mark was the son of Thomas Willcox who established a paper mill (Ivy Mills) in Concord Township. He was a member of the Roman Catholic faith. In 1777 Mark served as the County Assessor and it was noted in the Commissioner's minutes that he neglected his office but "It is said he is with Gen. Hows Army in Philadelphia as a prisoner" (Commissioners Minutes 1777-1782 pg. 29). Mark resided on his paper mill tract in Concord Township in 1777, not on this parcel. Tax records suggests that the tract was in the tenure of Peter McMurrey. In 1783 the property contained one dwelling house and one outbuilding (John Valentine, tenant).

Thomas Hannum (Chadds Ford) (Plundered) (Depredation)

4.36N: 420 Ring Road (Parcel 04000026101)

Thomas Hannum, a yeoman, acquired this 169-acre tract from the settlement of his father, Robert Hannum's estate in 1766 (Deed Book X pg. 16, 128). Thomas was a birthright Quaker but married his wife Sarah Bonsall out of meeting in 1757. In 1782 when the parcel was subdivided and sold, at least two dwelling houses existed on the property.

Rachel Warson (Wasson) (Chadds Ford)

4.37N: 397 Ridge Road (Parcel 04000023100)

Rachel Warson, a widow, purchased this 50-acre tract circa 1776 in an unrecorded transaction. She likely purchased it directly from Robert Mercer who took out a mortgage on the property in 1771 (Deed Book Q pg. 464). Rachel was the widow of Matthew Warson who died in 1773 and left her with three minor children. Very little biographical information can be found on this family. Her family were not members of the Society of Friends. Rachel died circa 1786 and the property descended to her son Henry Warson who retained it until his death when it was finally sold in 1830 (Delaware County Deed Book R pg. 697). In 1783 the property contained one dwelling house and one outbuilding. In 1798 the property contained one log dwelling house 18 by 24 and one frame cellared barn 22 by 30.

Edward Simonson (Chadds Ford) (Plundered)

4.38N: 225-265 Ridge Road (Parcel 04000022200)

4.38bN: 138 Rocky Hill Road (Parcel 04000026702)

Edward Simonson, a yeoman, purchased this 100-acre from his father Francis Simonson in 1767 (Mortgage Book B pg. 55). Edward was not a member of the Society of Friends. (Several members of the Simonson family were members of the Brandywine Baptist Church, though Edward's name does not appear in their incomplete records.) In 1783 this property contained two dwelling houses and one outbuilding.

Joseph Strode (Chadds Ford)

4.39N: 1498-1400 Smithbridge Road (Parcels 04000006800, 04000027299, 04000027300) (Likely no buildings in 1777)

Joseph Strode, millwright, purchased this unimproved 49-acre tract from John Nicklin in 1773 (Delaware County Deed Book B pg. 155). Joseph and his wife Catharine Strode were not members of the Society of Friends. This property was owned by Thomas Gibson in 1783 but being leased to unknown tenant, therefore what existed on this parcel in 1777 is not known. By 1848 no improvements were still standing on this tract.

James Smith (Chadds Ford)

4.40N: 100-148 Rocky Hill Road (Parcels 04000026901, 04000026902, 04000026903, 04000026904)

James Smith inherited this 109-acre in 1748 from his father Thomas Smith (W&A #1119). Very little biographical information can be found on James Smith, though it does not appear that he was a member of the Society of Friends. His surname and proximity to the Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church may suggest that he was Presbyterian. In 1783 this property contained one dwelling house and one outbuilding. In 1798 the property contained a two-story stone dwelling house 22 by 28, and a stone kitchen 12 by 14.

Thomas Gibson (Chadds Ford/New Castle County, DE)

4.41N: Ridge Ave (Parcel 04000006800; 04000023200; 04000023300; 04000023301; 04000023302; 04000023304; 04000023305; 04000027000; 04000027299; 04000027300; 04000027301; 04000027302) (The main dwelling house in this parcel is likely in New Castle County, DE since the shift in the boundary line. They were near the mill which in 1777 was just over the line in DE.)

Thomas Gibson, a Miller from New Castle County, inherited this property composed of several tracts from his father John Gibson in 1754. A grist and sawmill operated on the part of the tract located in New Castle County, Delaware. In 1777, this part of the tract was likely being leased by Joseph Strode, a millwright. Thomas Gibson was a birthright Quaker and a member of the Concord Monthly Meeting where he married Hannah Ring in 1751.

James Hannum (Chadds Ford)

4.42N: Rocky Hill Road (Parcel 04000026801)

James Hannum, a yeoman, purchased this 201-acre tract from Harry Gordon Esq. in 1775 (Deed Book V pg. 145). James was a birthright Quaker and married his first wife, Jane Chandler, at the Centre Particular Meeting (New Castle County) in 1774. By 1778 the meeting noted that he took the Oath of Allegiance to the new government, paying a substitute fine, and accepting local office. He was disowned in 1779 for marrying his second wife Mary out of meeting. In 1783 this property contained two dwelling houses, two outbuildings, a grist and sawmill, and a tannery (Owned by William Twaddle who added the industrial improvements after 1779). In 1798 the property contained a one and a half story “old” log dwelling house, an “old” stone kitchen, a log “Room” 21 by 22, a stone springhouse 12 by 14, an “old” frame and log barn 20 by 60, a frame stable 12 by 36, a log house 14 by 16, a forge and an “old” sawmill.

-In a 1773 advertisement the property is described as having “a seat for a grist-mill, and now is erected a saw-mill and mill-house; also, at a distance from same, a good dwelling-house and kitchen, with gardens and a draw well at the door, a large frame barn and stables, with post and rail yards for cattle ... the Brandywine lands being so well known throughout the province, and in the heart of a fine country, eight miles from the Borough of Wilmington, convenient to places of worship.” PA Gazette, July 28, 1773.

Robert McAlhose (Chadds Ford) (plundered)

4.43N: 80-82 Rocky Hill Road (Parcel 04000026600)

Robert McAlhose, a yeoman, purchased this 58-acre tract from John Pyle in 1766 (Deed Book S pg. 520). Robert was likely a Presbyterian and a member of the Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church which was located on 81 perches on the southern part of this tract (it was an exception added to both the neighboring Pyle tract and this one). In 1783 this property contained one dwelling house and one outbuilding. In 1798 this property contained one two story stone dwelling house 26 by 32 and one frame cellared barn 27 by 33.

John Pyle (Chadds Ford)

4.44N: 41 Rocky Hill Road (Parcel ID 04000026300) (or near this location if not on this parcel)

John Pyle, a tanner, inherited this 200-acre tract from his father William Pyle in 1746 (Deed Book W pg. 17). John was not a birthright Quaker, his parents William and Elizabeth (Betty) Chads Pyle, were disowned for marrying out of meeting in 1724. In 1783 the property contained one dwelling, one outbuilding, and a tan yard (owned or in the tenancy of Eli Woodward). In 1798 the property contained one brick dwelling house 21 by 27, a stone kitchen 15 by 19, a frame barn 24 by 50, a stone dwelling house 23 by 60 “near falling,” an “old” log house 16 by 18, and a “bad” log house 14 by 16.

-In 1798 the property likely included what was once the property of the Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church, having reverted back to the original owner after the congregation left. The “near falling” stone building may have been the original meetinghouse.

William Simonson (Chadds Ford)

4.45N: 397 Ridge Road (Parcel 04000023100)

William Simonson, a yeoman, acquired these two tracts (35-ace and 15-acre) by 1767 (Deed Book P pg. 81). William and his wife Martha were members of the Brandywine Baptist Church. In 1783 this property contained one dwelling house and one outbuilding. In 1798 this property contained one log dwelling house 18 by 30, one log kitchen 13 by 18, and one log springhouse 8 by 10.

Joseph Dilworth (Chadds Ford) (Plundered) (Depredation)

4:46N: 240 Brintons Bridge Road (Parcel 04000035701) (Early buildings are likely gone)

Joseph Dilworth purchased this 20-acre tract along with an adjoining 34-acre tract in Thornbury Township from the estate of Samuel Bettle in 1771 (Deed Book R pg. 556). Joseph was a tanner by trade, a birth-right Quaker, and a member of the Birmingham Preparative Meeting. In 1783 his property (seated by his brother-in-law John Parry)

contained one dwelling house and two outbuildings. (1798 US Direct Tax – Log House 20 by 23, Stone Kitchen 18 by 25, Old Log Barn 20 by 40, Old Stable 10 by 15, Log and Stone Tan House – owned by Caleb Brinton, leased by Joseph Griffith)

-The buildings on this parcel are likely gone. They existed directly off of Wilmington Pike or Brintons Bridge Road. See description of the existing buildings in 1798, the main dwelling was log.

-In a 1782 advertisement, the property is described as having “a compleat dwelling-house, with a never failing spring at the door, a tan-yard in good repair, sufficient to tan between 5 and 600 hides, with the vats and working utensils in good repair, besides a large quantity of bark, and a stock of good leather. The premises is fit to accommodate a private gentleman, or a man inclined to follow the tanning business, that trade having followed at the place above 40 years ...” PA Gazette, February 6, 1782.

Issac Taylor Esq. (Pennsbury & Pocopson)

64.01: 2073 Parkersville Road (UPI 64-1-6)

Isaac Taylor Esq., the son of Benjamin and Sarah Taylor, was a yeoman and member of the Kennett Monthly Meeting. He received this 250-acre tract of land from his father in 1755 (Deed Book C-2 pg. 64). By 1771 he had erected a sawmill on Pocopson Creek and expanded the operation in 1775 to include a grist mill. Following his pacifist beliefs, Isaac was fined for refusing to serve as local tax assessor in 1778. The 250-acre tract remained in Isaac’s possession until his death in 1813 when he willed it to his son Isaac.

Benjamin Temple, ‘Meadow House?’ (Pennsbury)

64.05: 2630 Brintons Bridge Road (UPI 64-1-22)

Benjamin Temple was born in 1745/46 to William, an English immigrant, and Hannah Taylor Temple. He was a member of Kennett monthly meeting, by whom he was disowned in the 1760s. It is not clear whether he was permitted reentry. Benjamin married Hannah Jones and had children John, James, Jane, Hannah, Joseph, Elizabeth, and William. He acquired several tracts from his father in 1771 (Deed Book S-2 pg 395), of which this was one.

Joseph Way (Pennsbury)

64.09: 2299 Brintons Bridge Road (UPI 64-1-29.1) ‘Huey Tenant House’

64.19: 2153 Brintons Bridge Road (UPI 64-3-44.1) ‘Huey Farm’

64.20: 2001 Brintons Bridge Road (UPI 64-3-64.3) ‘Mary Lewis Farm’

64.21: 2005 Brintons Bridge Road (UPI 64-3-64.4) ‘Mary Lewis Famr’

Joseph Way, born ca. 1737, was the son of Jacob and Sarah Hannum Way. He married Prudence Larkin and had children Phiniah, Benjamin, Jacob, Sarah, Joseph, Esther, Susanna, John Prudence, Larkin, and Joel. The family attended Kennett monthly meeting. Joseph died in 1815 and is buried at Kennett meeting. Joseph purchased the southern portion of this plantation (50 acres) in 1761 and then inherited the remaining 150 acres, on which his father lived, in January 1777.

Thomas Temple (Pennsbury)

64.31: 2400 Brintons Bridge Road (UPI 64-1-28)

Thomas Temple was born in 1725 to William, an English immigrant, and Hannah Taylor Temple and died in Pennsbury ca. 1808. He was a member of Kennett monthly meeting. Thomas married Jane Brinton and they had the following known children: Caleb, Samuel, Edward, Joseph, Thomas, and Jane. He purchased 190 acres from his father in 1758. It should be noted that there was a house on this tract as early as 1716 (see recital in Y2,203).

Thomas Chandler (Pennsbury)

64.33N: 701 Smithbridge Road (UPI 65-5-8)

Thomas Chandler, son of William Chandler, inherited this 168-acre tract from his uncle Thomas Chandler in 1761 (Deed Book E-3 pg. 178). Thomas, a yeoman, was a Quaker who married Hannah Wilson under the Kennett Monthly Meeting in 1749.

George Dickey (Pennsbury)

64.34N: Possible 2 Fairhill Drive (Possible UPI 64-5-72.3) or 612 Kennett Pike (UPI 64-5-72.15)

George Dickey, an innkeeper, purchased this 100-acre tract from Joseph Millenger in 1766 (Deed Book P pg. 548). George was not a Quaker. Adam Seeds, a wheelwright, leased this property in 1777.

Benjamin Walker (Pennsbury)

64.35N: Possible 17 Fairhill Drive (Possible UPI 64-5-72.9) or 4 Fairhill Drive (UPI 64-5-72.4)

Benjamin Walker, a carpenter, purchased this 100-acre tract from Joseph West in 1774 (Deed Book B-3 pg. 357). There is no evidence that Benjamin was a Quaker.

Thomas Harry (Pennsbury)

64.36N: 1528 Fairville Road (UPI 64-5-71.2)

Thomas Harry, a yeoman, purchased this 128-acre tract from a sheriff's sale in 1768 (Deed Book N-4 pg. 194). Thomas was a Quaker and a member of the Kennett Monthly Meeting where he married his wife Rachel Way in 1769.

Edward Pennington (Pennsbury)

64.37N: 4185 S. Creek Road (UPI 64-6-13.1)

Edward Pennington, of Philadelphia, purchased this 220-acre tract of land from Thomas Gibson in April 1777 (Deed Book E-2 pg. 111). Edward was a prominent Quaker merchant and sugar baker in Philadelphia and purchased several tracts of land in Chester County in the 1770s. He did not settle on this property and the deed does not include the word message suggesting that it was unimproved.

Thomas Gibson (Pennsbury)

64.38N: 4303 S. Creek Road (UPI 64-6-21)

Thomas Gibson, a miller from West Marlborough Township, purchased a 300-acre tract from the heirs of George Harlan in 1764 of which this tract was a part (R pg. 193). The southern portion was sold to Edward Pennington in April 1777. Thomas Gibson was a birthright Quaker and a member of the Concord Monthly Meeting where he married Hannah Ring in 1751. He was likely living on his mill property in New Castle County, Delaware in 1777.

George Brown Farm Site (Pennsbury) (Depredation)

64.39N: Hill Spring Road (location may be UPI 64-5-?) (Original dwelling is clearly no longer standing, part of a 20th century subdivision)

George Brown, a millwright, purchased this 150-acre tract from James Harlan in 1762 (Deed Book I-2 pg. 381). George married Susannah Harlan in 1757. Susannah was a member of the Kennett Monthly Meeting but was disowned for marrying George who was not of her faith. In 1786 they sold the tract to Stephen Loague (Deed Book C-2 pg. 343).

Samuel Grubb (Pennsbury)

64.40N: Possible 201 Cossart Road (UPI 64-6-2.1E, 64-6-2.1, or 64-6-2.1G)

Samuel Grubb died ca. 1777-1778 and left this 135-acre tract to his sisters, Mary, Rachel, and Rebecca. Undocumented sources cite Samuel's death as having occurred in 1778, suggesting that he was the occupier at the time of the battle (Deed Book R-3 pg. 431). The siblings were children of Quakers Samuel Grubb Sr. and Rebecca Hewes.

Isaac Miller (Pennsbury)

64.41N: Possible 700 Fairville Road (Possible UPI 64-4-20.9) (No obvious location for the main dwelling)

Isaac Miller, born 1727 to Joseph and Ann Gilpin Miller, married Hannah Temple in 1750 and had the following known children: Ann (m. Brinton), Isaac, Sarah, Joseph, John, William, Thomas, Caleb, Lydia (m. Johnson), and Hannah (m. Clayton). The family attended New Garden Monthly Meeting and transferred to Kennett Monthly Meeting in 1773 when Isaac purchased a 208-acre tract of land from Benjamin Mendenhall (no message, see Deed Book E-2 pg. 207).

John Heald (Pennsbury)

64.42N: Possible 1451 Fairville Road (UPI 64-5-29) (No obvious location for the main dwelling)

John Heald was born ca. 1722 to John and Martha Fodden (?) Heald. He married Elizabeth Yearsley of Philadelphia, and they had the following known children: Isaac, Sarah (m. McFarlan), Lydia (m. Morrow), Hannah (m. Howell). John inherited 200 acres from his father in 1740 (see will #719) and nearly all of (he willed 190 acres to son Isaac- see will #4769) it stayed in his possession until his death ca. 1800.

William West Farm Site (Formerly identified as the Amos House) (Pennsbury)

64.43N: 750 Kennett Pike (Possible UPI 64-5-76)

The original dwelling that was standing in 1777, was to the south of the border in Delaware. The address above is the location of the primary dwelling built in 1792, which replaced the old one. The original house is likely long gone.

The original tract of 166 acres, which straddles the Chester County/New Castle County border, has an incomplete title. James House, who did not reside on this tract, directed the executors of his estate to sell the property in 1759. In an unrecorded transaction, the tract was acquired by Nathaniel Ring, a tavern keeper who resided in New Garden Township. Nathaniel died still possessed of this tract in 1766. His widow, Elizabeth Ring, sold the tract as part of his estate around 1770 in an unrecorded deed. A series of unrecorded transactions follow leaving an uncertain title. William West likely acquired the tract by 1775 and lived on the tract until it was sold to George Sterne circa 1781. No biographical information can be found for William West. The main dwelling was located on the Delaware side of the tract. Further research is necessary.

(Amos House property description – 5 Raintree Road (UPI 64-5-82)

Amos House inherited this 132-acre tract from his father James House in 1756 (W&A #1619). Amos was a Quaker and a member of the Kennett Monthly Meeting. He married three times, first to Sarah Townsend, then to the widow Martha (née Edwards) Fisher, and last to Mary Swayne.)

George Gordan or Scott Property Farm Site (Pennsbury) (Depredation)

64.44N: 400 Cossart Rd (UPI 64-6-13.6) (Now part of a much larger tract. Only road access to this tract was through Delaware at least through the 19th century.)

The original tract of 132 acres, which straddles the Chester County/New Castle County border, has an incomplete title. John Scott, a member of the Brandywine Baptist Church, originally held title to this tract until his death in 1727 (W&A 234). In his will, John left a life interest to his young wife Margaret and after her death it descended to his children. Margaret remarried John Garrett and moved to Christiana Hundred, Delaware. The tract was leased to various tenants until her death at an unknown date. The tract descended to her two daughters with John Scott, Margaret who married James Mundell and Sara who married William Brackin. It is likely that soon after their inheritance Margaret and Sara sold the property in an unrecorded transaction. Fragmentary evidence suggests that Joseph Bonsall acquired title to the property in 1771, selling the tract to Michael Lightbody by 1774 in an unrecorded transaction. Michael sold the property after 1776 and it is unclear who was seated on this tract in 1777. Balser Conrad Sulser or Selser, who submitted a depredation claim, may have been a tenant on the tract. Further research is necessary.

Birmingham Road Area Combat & Osbourne Hill Landscapes

Jesse Graves. 'Battlefield Farm' (Birmingham) (Depredation) (Plundered)

65.01: 1025 Meetinghouse Road (UPI 65-4-6.2)

Jesse Graves, yeoman, of Lower Merion Township purchased 184 acres from David Brinton in March 1776 (Deed Book V pg. 236). He immediately took out a mortgage on the property (Mortgage Book B pg. 32). Graves, his wife Elizabeth Lloyd, and their three children Susannah, Jehu, and Tacy were members of the neighboring Birmingham Meetinghouse. A fourth child, Hannah, was born between 1776 and 1783. In 1783 this property contained one dwelling house and one outbuilding. In 1782, Jesse Graves reported extensive damages caused by the British Army in September 1777 including,

3 horses, 1 cow, 10 sheep, 6 hogs, 80 dozens of wheat, 6 acres of Indian corn, 4 acres of buckwheat, 20 dozens of oats, 3/4 acre of potatoes, flax, 2 tonnes hay, 2 hives of bees, gears for 2 horses, 2 Saddles, 1 pair of boots, 1 great coat, 1 pair of buckskin breeches, 8 blankets, 6 pair of sheets, 2 bolsters, 4 pillows, 10 pillow cases, 1 double coverlid, 2 pairs of window curtains, nearly a set of bed curtains all callico, 10 shirts (4 of them fine), 7 shirts (3 of them fine), 3 Linen petticoats, 1 callimines, 4 coarse, 1 drugget, 4 callico short gowns, 1 linen short gown, 4 coarse white aprons, 2 coarse aprons checkt, 3 white fine aprons, 1 checkt white apron, 2 lawn handkerchiefs, 2 kenting handkerchiefs, 2 camblett, 1 barsalonia, 1 silk (?), 3 hollon (?), 11 women capes, 1 pair of stays, 1 pair of silk mittons, 1 pair of leather mittons, 1 bonnett, 1 large worked pocket book with Sundry, 2 table cloths, 8 napkins, 4 towels, 3 pair of trousers, 12 pair of men & women stockings, 2 coarse boy shirts, 9 children shirts & shifts, 1 pair of locket buttons, 1 pair of silver locket buttons, 2 gallico gowns, 2 drugget petticoats, 2 linen petticoats, 3 short gowns, 2 linen short gowns, 6 small white aprons, 2 pair of small trousers, 5 pair of stockings, 2 half satin bonnets, 1 bundle of check stript white linen drugget and silk worsted remnants, 1 bundle of baby cloths, 1 silk & cotton jacket, 1 linen jacket, 5 handkerchiefs, 1 pair of gloves, 2 tea kettles, 1 Japaned canister, 16 effice Mile, 1 brass kettle, 2 coffee potts, 1 iron pot, 1 dozen hard mettle spoons, 7 pewter spoons, 1 tin quart, 3 tin pints, 4 milk pans, 5 earthen potts, 9 earthen Dishes, 3 delf bowls, 3 chockolet bowls, 2 Cream jugs, Mustered pot, Pepper box, Skimming dish sadle candlestick, 5 knives & forks, 2000 rail burnt & destroyed, 100 pounds of lard, 10 pounds of beef & bacon, 20 gallons of soap.

-In a 1776 advertisement, David Brinton the former owner, describes the buildings on the property: "... a good log dwelling-house, two story high, and a kitchen adjoining; also a good frame barn, and stables." PA Gazette, Feb 7, 1776.

Samuel Painter (son of Samuel Sr.) & James Painter (Birmingham)

65.05: 1075 Creek Road (UPI 65-3-7.1) -Samuel Painter's Fulling Mill/Miller's house site

65.27: 1130 Samuel Lane UPI 65-3H-52) -Samuel Painter's Dwelling House site (structure may no longer be standing but existed near this site)

65.31: 1090 Country Club Road (UPI 65-3D-74) -James Painter's Dwelling House

Samuel Painter Jr., a fuller, acquired this tract in two pieces. In 1749 he purchased a 118-acre tract of land along the Bradford/Birmingham Road from the estate of John Collier. He inherited another 220-acre tract from his father Samuel Painter Sr. upon his death in 1755 (W&A #1583). His son James Painter (a farmer) was seated on the 118-acre tract in 1777, though James would not acquire legal title until his father's death in 1801. Samuel O established a fulling mill on the 220-acre tract by 1772. Samuel and James were both birthright Quakers and members of the Birmingham Preparative Meeting. In 1783 Samuel Painter's property contained two dwelling houses and four outbuildings and James Painter's property contained one dwelling house and two outbuildings. In 1799 James Painter's property consisted of a good brick house with a stone kitchen and a "pretty good" stone barn. The fulling mill tract contained a good stone house, a good frame barn and a fulling mill. Samuel Painter's property contained a good stone house, a frame barn, and several "pretty good" outhouses.

James Carter (Birmingham)

65.07: 1081 Country Club Road (UPI 65-3D-70)

James Carter, a yeoman, inherited these two tracts (68-acre and 66-acre) from his father John Carter in 1776 (W&A #2572). James was a birthright Quaker and a member of the Birmingham Preparative Meeting. In 1783 his property contained two dwelling houses and two outbuildings. In 1799 the buildings on this property consisted of a good stone house and good stone barn. (Owned by John Forsythe.)

William Jones (Birmingham)

65.08: 1140 W. Street Road (UPI 65-3-14)

65.08b: 1203 Candy Lane (UPI 65-4-10.5)

William Jones, a yeoman and tavern keeper, purchased this property in two tracts. The first piece, upon which the tavern was established, consisted of 57 acres and was purchased from James Townsend around the year 1737 in an unrecorded deed (W&A #4030). The second tract of 220 acres was purchased from the estate of James Townsend in 1746 (Deed Book S-2 pg. 414). William first petitioned for a tavern in 1742 and ran it without interruption until 1776. William was a birth-right Quaker but married his wife Mary Brinton out of meeting in 1739. In 1783 the tavern tract contained two dwelling houses and three outbuildings, and the remaining part of the 220-acre tract contained two dwelling houses and one outbuilding. In an unusual move, the tax assessor made a point to state that this parcel was “not” plundered.

-Jones Tavern Tract (First Purchase)

1203 Candy Lane (UPI 65-4-10.5)

The tavern structure is almost certainly gone but stood near this site, just down from the intersection of 926 and Birmingham Road. The oldest building still standing on Jones’s tavern tract is at UPI 65-4-10.2 and was likely built after the tavern stopped operating around 1777. The tavern petitions make clear that the tavern was located on Street Road and not on Birmingham Road or on the intersection.

-Townsend Tract (Second Purchase)

1140 W. Street Road (UPI 65-3-14)

This is likely on or near the site of Townsend’s original dwelling, not 1215 Creek Road. This is also likely where William’s son Thomas Jones lived in 1777.

Caleb Dilworth – Lydia Dilworth, ‘Charles Davis Farm?’ (Birmingham) (Plundered) (Quaker Suffering)

65.16: 351 Knolls Road (UPI 65-4-304)

In 1769 Caleb Dilworth, a yeoman, inherited this property containing 141 acres from his father James Dilworth Sr. (W&A #2508). Caleb was a birthright Quaker who acknowledged to the meeting that he had paid tax to support the war and mentioned that “some time before the battle of Brandywine his grandfather’s team being pressed into the continental service he had gone along to take care of the horses.” What disciplinary action was taken against him is unknown, but Caleb remained in good standing with the meeting and was allowed to marry Ann Rankin at the Goshen Meeting in 1790. Caleb’s mother Lydia Dilworth was still in possession of this property since Caleb was still in his minority in 1777. In 1783 Caleb’s property contained one dwelling house and two outbuildings.

Daniel Davis (Birmingham)

65.17: 1175 Birmingham Road (UPI 65-4-4.3)

Daniel Davis, a yeoman, inherited this 166-acre tract from his father John Davis in 1720 while still a minor, who entailed it to the “heirs of his body” (W&A #85). The property would eventually come into the possession of his grandson, Aaron Davis, after his death in 1778. Daniel was a birthright Quaker who married his wife Mary Dutton in 1728 within the Concord Monthly Meeting. In 1783 the property contained one dwelling house and two outbuildings. In 1799 the buildings on this property consisted of a “poor” log house and “poor” log barn.

Benjamin Powell Grist & Saw Mill (Birmingham)

65.04: 705 Creek Road (UPI 65-3-5.2) Miller's House

65.20: 711 Creek Road (UPI 65-3-5.1A)

65.23: 1315 Lenape Road (Possible UPI 65-3-5.3)

65.23b: (Possible UPI 65-4-89.1)

Benjamin Powell, a yeoman from Newtown Township, purchased this 26-acre tract with a grist and saw mill from Joel Baily on January 1, 1777. Benjamin was a Quaker and a member of the Chester Monthly Meeting when he married his wife Hannah Davies of Haverford in 1769. In 1783 the property contained one dwelling house, two outbuildings, and a saw and grist mill. In 1799 the property contained one good stone house, a small frame barn, a pretty good stone merchant mill, a sawmill. (Owned by Nathan Schofield.)

-The miller's house was likely near this location. By the 19th century there were multiple dwellings around this mill and intersection that I cannot narrow down its location.

Edward Brinton Grist & Sawmill tracts, 'Brinton's Mill' (Birmingham) (Plundered)

65.18: 1330 Creek Road (UPI 65-5-1)

Edward Brinton purchased these two tracts containing a total of 546 acres in 1746 from Nicholas Fredd (Deed Book T pg. 71). Soon after this purchase, Edward established a grist and sawmill on the property. Edward was a yeoman and identified as a "gentleman" in the 1746 transaction. Edward was a birth-right Quaker and a member of the Birmingham Preparative Meeting until he was disowned in 1760. In his will, written in 1779, Edward devised the mill with 20 acres to his grandson Amos Brinton, and subdivided the rest of his large holdings among the rest of his grandchildren. In 1783 the combined tracts bequeathed to his grandchildren contained five dwelling houses, three outbuildings, and a grist and sawmill.

-In addition, Edward Brinton had five dwelling houses most of which were on his additional acreage to the east of the mill tract. The following site may be one location: 706 Brintons Bridge Road (UPI 65-4-89.1)

Caleb Brinton (Birmingham) (Plundered) (Depredation)

65.21: 1501 Creek Road (UPI 65-5-5.3, seems to be the same as 1509)

65.22: 1479 Creek Road (Possible UPI 65-5-5.7) (or Roundelay Lane?)

65.24: 1509 Creek Road (Possible UPI 65-5-5.6)

Caleb Brinton, a yeoman, purchased this property in three tract. The first (unimproved) tract containing 147-acres was purchased from Isaac Harvey in 1755 (Deed K-3 pg. 302). The second tract containing 123-acres, which included a message, was purchased in 1762, also from Harvey (Deed Book B-2 pg. 269). As part of that purchase, Caleb acquired a fourth part interest in a 5-acre mill tract (with message) that lay within the boundaries of the two adjoining tracts. There is no evidence that the mill continued to operate once Caleb Brinton took ownership, by 1765 no mill is taxed on the property. Caleb was a birthright Quaker but disowned for marrying out in 1772. He would eventually be restored to membership in 1807. In 1783 the property (270 acres) contained three dwellings and two outbuildings.

William Seal (Birmingham)

65.26: 1180 Meetinghouse Road (UPI 65-3-16)

65.26b: 1175 Meetinghouse Road (UPI 65-3-11)

William Seal, a yeoman, purchased this 175-acre tract from his brother Joseph Seal in 1746. Upon his death in 1769, William left this property to be divided equally among his nine children. It remained in the hands of his heirs until 1782 when the other heirs sold their interest to their brother William Seal Jr (Deed Book D-2 pg. 8). The property remained in the hands of his widow Rachel after William's death. Rachel married second, Isaac Miller who was taxed on the property in 1778. Both Rachel and her first husband, William Seal, were Quakers and members of the Birmingham Preparative Meeting. In 1783 this property contained two dwelling houses and two outbuildings.

James Dilworth Jr. ‘Dilworth Farm’ (Birmingham) (Plundered) Depredation)

65.30: 1386 Birmingham Road (UPI 65-4-62.1A)

In 1769 James Dilworth Jr. inherited this property as part of a 33 acre tract of land from his father James Dilworth Sr. (W&A #2508). James Jr. was a minor at the time of his father’s death and he did not take possession of the property until 1772. Born into a Quaker family, James Jr. was a member of the Birmingham Preparative Meeting until June 11, 1777 when he was disowned for committing fornication. One month later on July 24, 1777, James took the Oath of Allegiance to the new government signaling his support for the Revolutionary cause. By 1783 he had joined the local militia, setting him further apart from his Quaker neighbors. During the events of September 1777, James property was plundered. In 1782 James Jr. claimed that the British had taken one and half tons of clover hay, one hog, three pigs and one “Mans saddle took by a Brittish officer.” After the war, James continued to live on this property until 1829 when he moved just over the county line and settled on a larger tract of land in Delaware County. James died in 1833 and willed the now 31 acres to his son Thomas Dilworth (Delaware County Wills #813). Thomas Dilworth was a farmer and remained on this tract after his father left the county in 1829. In 1837 Thomas made major improvements to the property, increasing the value of his buildings from \$50 to \$600. It was likely in that year that the stone house and barn were built. He continued to live there until his death in 1873 when Thomas willed the property to his son Joseph Dilworth (W&A #17290).

In 1783 James Jr.’s 33 acres contained three dwelling houses and two outbuildings. One of the outbuildings was likely a blacksmith shop. James Jr. was a trained blacksmith and the location of this shop was likely at the intersection of Birmingham Road and Old Wilmington Pike. During most of his tenure it appears that James rented or leased one of the dwellings and the shop to other blacksmiths, eventually leasing it to his son James 3rd, also a blacksmith, by 1820. Later tax records suggest that the houses and outbuildings were not substantial in nature and of little value. Most were likely small log or frame structures. The value of James Jr. main dwelling house between 1802 and 1829 ranged from \$50 to \$25, noticeably lower than his neighbors. The exact location of his dwelling cannot be determined. However it was clearly not at the intersection of the roads mentioned above. In 1824 James Jr. had sold one dwelling house and lot at the intersection to Joseph Morris (Deed Book W-3 pg 434). The value of James Jr.’s dwelling did not change after this sale suggesting that he remained in his original dwelling. He also sold an additional unimproved lot near the intersection in 1818 (Deed Book P-3 pg 222). These two properties likely contain the two acres leased during James’s ownership. His main dwelling, therefore, had to be away from the intersection and may very well have been on the site of the house built by his son Thomas Dilworth.

Birmingham Lafayette Cemetery (Birmingham)

65.33: 1237 Birmingham Road (UPI 65-4-11-E)

This 20-acre area is adjacent to the old graveyard at Birmingham Friends. It includes monuments to Maj. Gen. Lafayette and Col. Joseph McClellan who served under Brig. Gen. Wayne.

Birmingham Friends Meetinghouse (Birmingham) (Plundered)

65.34: 1245 Birmingham Road (UPI 65-4-12-E)

This meeting was established in 1690, shortly after William Penn founded Pennsylvania. Friends worshipped in the cabin of William Brinton until the first meetinghouse, a log structure, was completed in 1722. A log school was built in 1756. A cemetery surrounded by a stone wall was built which still stands. The Battle raged around the meetinghouse. In the days before the Battle, Americans used it as a hospital. During the Battle, Americans used the cemetery wall as breastworks against the Gen. Howe’s flanking action. After the Battle, the British used it as a hospital. Casualties from both sides are buried in a common grave in the Lafayette Birmingham cemetery.

Charles Dilworth, ‘“James” Dilworth House’ (Birmingham) (Plundered) (Depredation)

65.37: 1391 Old Wilmington Pike (UPI 65-4-66)

Like his brothers, Charles Dilworth inherited this tract of 64 acres from his father James Dilworth Sr. in 1769 (W&A #2508). Located on the intersection of the Birmingham and Wilmington Roads, Charles established a tavern on taking formal possession of the property which he named the Sign of the Pennsylvania Farmer. A birthright Quaker and

member of the Birmingham Preparative Meeting, Charles was eventually disowned in 1778 for being involved in military matters and taking the “test” or oath of the new government. In 1783 Charles’s property contained three dwelling houses and one out building.

Thomas Marshall was likely a tenant on this property or that of his brother James Dilworth Jr. in 1777. In 1794 he submitted an account of suffering to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. He claimed to be living at Dilworthtown and Charles and James Dilworth’s property are the only ones of the Dilworth properties that contained multiple dwellings.

Abraham Darlington (Birmingham) (Plundered)

65.39: 1120 Wylie Road (UPI 65-4-36)

65.40: 1042 Wylie Road (Possible UPI 65-4-38.3)

Abraham Darlington Jr., a yeoman, inherited this property from his father Abraham Darlington Sr. in 1776 (W&A #2991). A birth-right Quaker, Abraham married his wife Mary Nicklin at Old Swedes Church (Delaware) in 1769 contrary to Friends practices. However, Abraham Jr. maintained his membership with the Birmingham Preparative Meeting until his death in 1799. In 1783 the property contained two dwelling houses and two outbuildings.

Amos Davis (Birmingham)

65.41: 1045 Birmingham Road (UPI 65-2-2.1)

65.41b: 1046 Birmingham Road (UPI 65-3-6)

Amos Davis, a sawyer, inherited this 200-acre tract with a saw mill from his father John Davis after his death circa 1770 (Deed Book Y pg. 30). Amos Davis and his wife Eleanor do not appear in the local Quaker record suggesting that they were not members of the Society of Friends. In 1783 the property contained two dwelling houses, two outbuildings and a saw mill. In 1799 the buildings on this property consisted of a “pretty good” stone house, old log house, large stone barn, one or more out houses and “an old wore out sawmill.” (Owned by Joshua Sharpless.)

John Pennock (Birmingham)

65.43N: 1099 Wylie Road (UPI 65-4-389)

John Pennock inherited this 112-acre property from his father Nathaniel Pennock in 1774 (W&A #2851). John’s father Nathaniel Pennock lived in West Marlborough but married his wife Ann Bennett at the Birmingham Preparative Meeting in 1743 and acquired the Birmingham property at an unknown date. Though John’s father Nathaniel was a Quaker, John was no longer a member when his wife, Eleanor Pusey was disowned for marrying him in 1772. John lived first in West Marlborough Township eventually buying property in New London where he died in 1780. It was not until 1781 that his widow Eleanor Pennock took possession of the property. It is uncertain who or if anyone resided on this property in 1777. John Pennock’s estate account suggests that Eleanor had a house and barn built on this property after his death in 1780 (W&A #3343). In 1783 the property contained one house and one outbuilding.

John Bennett (Birmingham)(Depredation)

65.44N: 1336 Fieldpoint Dr. (UPI 65-4-42)

John Bennett inherited this 209-acre tract of land from his father John Bennett Sr. in 1747. John was a yeoman, a birth-right Quaker, and a member of the Birmingham Preparative Meeting. In 1783 his property contained one dwelling house and two outbuildings.

Isaac Davis, ‘Davis/Darlington Farm’ (Thornbury) (Depredation)

66.01: 1254 Thornbury Road (UPI 66-3-2)

Isaac Davis, a yeoman, inherited this 157-acre tract from his father John Davis in 1720 while still a minor (W&A #85/Deed Book K pg. 247). Isaac was not a member of the Society of Friends. In 1783 this property contained one dwelling house and one outbuilding.

John Woodward (Thornbury) (Quaker Suffering)

66.03N: Brandywine at Thornbury open space south of W. Street Road/west of Bridlewood Blvd (No extant historic buildings)

John Woodward inherited this property from his grandfather Henry Nayle in 1726 while still a minor (W&A #246). John was a yeoman, a birth-right Quaker, and a member of the Birmingham Preparative Meeting. His main dwelling house was located on the Thornbury Township portion of the property. In 1783 the property contained one dwelling house and three outbuildings. Woodward also had property in Birmingham.

George Brinton (Thornbury) (Plundered) (Depredation)

Thornbury at Brandywine development south of W Street Road/west of Wilmington Pike

George Brinton, a yeoman, purchased this 200-acre tract from Richard Eavenson in 1774 (Deed Book E-7 pg. 591). George, son of Joseph Brinton, was a birthright Quaker but married his wife Christiana Hill out of meeting in 1760 and was disowned. It is uncertain if the buildings on this tract were being leased in 1777. George was seated on his tract located in Thornbury, Delaware County but was taxed for this additional acreage after his purchase in 1774. In 1783, on a total of 547 acres, George was taxed for five dwelling houses and five outbuildings. However, it should be noted that there is no way to determine if one or all his properties were plundered.

'Squire' Thomas Cheyney Esq. (Thornbury)

1255 Cheyney Thornton Road. (preserved land & springhouse as Township Farm Park) (Near UPI 66-2-41.4)

Thomas Cheyney, a yeoman, acquired this 150-acre tract by partition made with his brothers out of his father John Cheyney's estate in 1760 (Deed Book W pg. 157). Cheyney was not a Quaker and began serving as a justice of the peace in 1777. In 1783 this property contained three dwelling houses and two outbuildings.

James Huey (Westtown)

67.03N: 950 S. New Street (UPI 67-4-2)

When William Huey of Westtown died around 1754, he left his "plantation purchased of Mordecai Maddock containing 125 acres" to his wife Gennette until his son James came of age (Will & Admin # 1541). By the time his mother Gennette Huey died around 1767, James Huey, yeoman, was already in possession of this property. He mortgaged the property in 1769 (Deed Book Q pg. 137). The 1783 tax assessment identified a dwelling house.

William Hunt (Westtown)

67.04N: 1119 S. New Street (UPI 67-4-134)

William Hunt received two adjoining properties from his parents Joseph and Mary Hunt in 1753 and 1758 (Deed Book P pg. 533). William Hunt married Sarah Fred in 1753, and later he married Susannah Yearsely in 1774. Hunt attended the Birmingham Meetinghouse. His brother John Hunt also resided in Westtown Township. William was taxed for a dwelling house in 1783.

Samuel Osborne (Westtown)

67.05N: 1023 S. New Street (UPI 67-4-28.43)

Samuel Osborne, yeoman, received a 180-acre tract of land from John Selkeld in 1731 (Deed Book L-2 pg. 269). He purchased a second nineteen-acre tract adjacent to his larger property from Isaac Hawey in 1747 (Deed Book I-2 pg. 282). Osborne operated a malt house from his 180-acre tract. He married Phebe Yearsley in May 1777—they were members of the Birmingham Meetinghouse. His son, Peter Osborne, likely resided on the property in 1777. Peter was taxed for the 180 acres and a dwelling house in Westtown Township in the 1783 tax assessment. Samuel Osborne was identified as an "infirm" inmate (married or widowed man, older than twenty-one, with no taxable property).

William Jones Sr. (Westtown)

67.06N: post-1777 historic ‘Quarry House’ at corner of S New Street/W Street Road and Quarry on S New St
William Jones Sr. of Birmingham Township, yeoman, purchased 44 acres of land in Westtown in 1747. This 44-acre plot of improved land was near his Birmingham Township property. His son William Jones Jr. resided on a separate 100 acres in Westtown likely as a tenant. William Jones Sr. and his wife Mary Brinton were members of the Birmingham Meetinghouse. There was no dwelling house on the 44-acre property in the 1783 tax assessment.

Richard Strode (Westtown)

67.07N: 951 S. New Street (historic barn extent, reused for residence)

Richard Strode, yeoman of East Bradford Township, received this 70-acre property from John Strode in 1772 in an unrecorded deed (mentioned in Deed Book O-2 pg. 530). Strode was taxed for these 70 acres between 1772-1785 and there was likely no dwelling house on the property. The 1783 tax assessment for Westtown Township indicated no dwelling house on the property. Strode was a member of the East Bradford Monthly Meeting.

Other Historic Properties

These historic properties are outside of the Phase 3 study area, within the study area with an unknown location, or having no discernable historic building or property remaining.

Thomas Meter (Birmingham)

Possibly near 1107 Meetinghouse Road (Possibly near UPI 65-4-393) (In 1883 no extant buildings are shown on his original 132-acre tract)

Thomas Meter, a tailor from Falls Township, Bucks County, purchased this 132-acre tract from William Dilworth in 1776 (Deed Book A-2 pg. 346). Thomas was a Quaker and was received by the Birmingham Preparative Meeting from the Falls Monthly Meeting along with his wife Sarah in 1776. In 1783 the property (in the tenancy of Abram Dicks) contained one dwelling house and two outbuildings.

-In a 1781 advertisement, Meter describes the following buildings being located on the property: “a two story stone dwelling-house, with a squared log kitchen adjoining, and a small stone house, with several other convenient stone buildings near the dwelling-house, a stone spring-house, also, a frame barn, 46 feet by 30 ... a never failing stream of water running through the barn-yard, the same runs near the dwelling-house ...” PA Gazette August 22, 1781.

Hannah Fisher (Pennsbury)

1615 East Street Road (UPI 64-3-4.1F)

Hannah Fisher was born ca. 1770 to Robert and Martha Edwards Fisher. In his 1774 will, Robert left a messuage/tenement and 2 tracts of land to his daughter Hannah. Hannah’s mother remarried Amos House in 1778 and they lived in Newlin. Hannah married John Pim in 1788 and, although they don’t appear to have occupied it, the Pennsbury property remained in the family until her husband, by then widowed and remarried, sold the property in 1811. Hannah was a member of Kennett and then Bradford monthly meetings.

Jeremiah Cloud (Pennsbury)

64.03: 1265 Parkersville Road (UPI 64-3-8)

64.14: 1325 Parkersville Road (UPI 64-3-12.1)

Jeremiah Cloud of East Marlborough Township purchased this 100-acre tract of land from John Fairlamb, Sheriff as the estate of Robert Thatcher in 1763 (Deed Book W pg. 367). Jeremiah never resided on this tract and leased it during his ownership. In 1782 he sold the tract to John Taylor, a tanner from Pennsbury. Tax records suggest that John leased this tract as early as 1771. John was a Quaker and a member of the Kennett Monthly Meeting.

Robert Green (Chadds Ford)

Unknown location

Robert Green Sr., a yeoman, acquired this 150-acre tract on the death of his parents Thomas and Sarah Green. His father Thomas Green died intestate c.1712 when Robert was still a minor. By 1771 a sawmill had been erected on Beaver Creek, likely by his son Robert Green Jr. Robert was a Quaker and a member of the Concord Monthly Meeting. In 1783 this property contained one dwelling house, one outbuilding, and a sawmill.

Nathan Yarnall Jr. (Chadds Ford)

Unknown location. (historic building unlikely still standing. Area built up around Wilmington Pike.)

Nathan Yarnall Jr., a yeoman, purchased this 180-acre tract from Nicholas Newlin in 1764 (Deed Book A-2 pg. 510). Nathan was a member of the Concord Monthly Meeting where he married Phebe Scholfield in 1763. In 1783 this property contained one dwelling house and two outbuildings (Abram Dicks, tenant). In 1798 the property contained a two-story stone dwelling house 21 by 30, an “old” log kitchen 18 by 24, and a stone springhouse 12 by 14. (Owned by Thomas Speakman).

Micajah Speakman Site (Chadds Ford)

1751 Wilmington Pike (Parcel 04000034500) (Historic building no longer standing. Strip mall)

Micajah Speakman, a blacksmith, purchased this 70-acre tract from Nicholas Newlin in 1754 (Deed Book B-2 pg. 96). Micajah was a Quaker and married his neighbor’s widow, Phebe Scholfield Yarnall in 1782 under the Concord Monthly Meeting. This tract appears to have been leased beginning in 1767 and was in possession of an unknown tenant in 1777 (possibly William Boyd). In 1798 the property contained one log dwelling house 21 by 28 and a frame barn 20 by 22. (Leased by Jeremiah Weaver.)

Edward & Joseph Brinton Esq.. ‘Brinton 1704 House’ (Chadds Ford)

21 Oakland Road (Parcel 04000020400)

Edward & Joseph Brinton Esq. purchased this 200-acre tract from their father William Brinton in February 1750 (Delaware County Deed Book F pg. 315). Within two years of the purchase Joseph Esq., who had served several terms in the Pennsylvania Assembly) died leaving his moiety (half interest) to his heirs with the stipulation that his brother Edward was to sell his portion of the estate. Edward died before following through on this stipulation and the property remained in the hands of both their heirs until 1800 when it was finally subdivided. Edward’s son George Brinton was seated here in 1777. Like his father, George was a birth-right Quaker and a member of the Birmingham Preparative Meeting. In 1783 the property contained two dwelling houses and one out building. There is evidence that this property, in the tenancy of George Brinton (son of Edward), was plundered.

Mary Norris (Westtown)

In 1750, Joseph Parker received half of the original one-thousand-acre tract conveyed to Richard Collett by William Penn in 1681 (Deed Book E pg. 180). Parker—who resided in the Borough of Chester—died intestate in 1766 leaving his only daughter Mary Parker Norris to inherit the 500 acres in Westtown Township. Norris was taxed for 400-475 acres between 1767 until she was crossed out in 1789. Mary Norris—a widow who resided in Philadelphia—sold the 500-acre property to her son Joseph Parker Norris in 1788 (Deed Book C-2 pg. 310). There was no dwelling house identified on the property in neither the 1783 tax assessment nor the 1788 deed.

Thomas Taylor (Westtown) (Depredation) (Plundered)

1190 Blenheim Road (UPI 67-4M-43.1)

Thomas Taylor inherited 150 acres from his father John Taylor in 1764 (Will & Admin #2147). In the spring of 1782, Thomas Taylor—now identified as Esquire—died. In November of 1782, Taylor’s mother Phebe reported considerable damage caused by the British Army to her son’s property in September 1777. She reported the British plundered a gray mare, a brown horse, one riding saddle, twenty-nine geese, one red heifer, two cover aids, one pewter tea pot, one warming pan, eight shirts, one camlet gown, one pair of fine linen sheets & pillows, one pair of shoes & silver buckles, six silver tea spoons, sundry caps & handk, fourteen pairs of stockings, one set of home-spun curtains, one Holton

apron, one pair of thread mittens, one cambric apron, and three fine linen sheets. The property included a dwelling house in the 1783 tax assessment.

John Brown (Westtown) (Plundered)

1542 Wickerton Drive (UPI 67-2H-52)

John Brown, yeoman, purchased 126 acres and a dwelling house in April 1776 (Deed Book T pg. 464). In August 1778, he submitted and was granted a tavern petition for a public house situated on the road leading from the Borough of Chester to the Valley. A dwelling house was identified on the property in the 1776 deed as well as the 1783 tax assessment. The 1778 Westtown tax assessment indicated John Brown's property was plundered by the British Army.

Caleb James (Westtown) (Depredation)

1120 South Chester Road (UPI 67-3-125.40)

Caleb James inherited 170 acres from his grandfather Aaron James's estate at an unknown date. Caleb James, his wife Mary Marshall, and their children were members of the Chester Monthly Meeting until 1775 when they transferred to the Goshen Monthly Meeting. This was likely the time Caleb James came into possession of the 170 acres because he was first taxed in Westtown Township for 170 acres in 1776. In 1782, James reported property taken by the British Army in September 1777 including two mares, oats, and one pewter quart.

John Hunt (Westtown) (Depredation) (Plundered)

1014 South Concord Road (UPI 67-4-46)

John Hunt received 252 acres from his parents Joseph and Mary Hunt in 1758 (Deed Book L pg. 512). His brother William Hunt also resided in Westtown Township. In August 1768, John Hunt was disowned by the Birmingham Meetinghouse. In 1782, John Hunt submitted a depredation claim for the loss of a seven-year-old brown mare taken by the British Army in 1777. He was taxed for a dwelling house in the 1783 tax assessment.

Joseph Curtain (Westtown)

118 Piper Lane (UPI 67-4-9.15)

Joseph Curtain, yeoman, received this 30-acre tract in 1770 from Samuel Osborn, Thomas Taylor, and Joseph Pierce in an unrecorded deed. The 1778 tax (S-1a pg. 157) identified Curtain as a single man. He sold the property to George Faucet in 1781 (Deed Book Q-2 pg. 152).

Thomas Darlington (Westtown)

409 Oakbourne Road (UPI 67-4C-8)

Thomas Darlington, a yeoman Quaker from East Bradford, purchased this unimproved 54-acre tract in 1769 (Deed Book P pg. 499). He sold the tract, still unimproved, to his son Abraham Darlington in 1788 (Deed Book D-2 pg. 177).

John Davis (Westtown)

959 S. Matlack Street (UPI: 67-4-74) (original location of dwelling uncertain)

John Davis, a yeoman, purchased this 119-acre tract in 1769 from a sheriff's sale (Deed Book R pg. 174). In 1783 the property contained one dwelling house and one outbuilding.

Jacob Yearsley Sr. (Westtown)

Jacob Yearsley Sr. of Westtown Township, yeoman, died intestate in 1761, and his 100-acre plantation in the said township passed between his wife Susanna and 6 children until 1787 when his son Jacob Yearsley Jr. sold 50 acres to his brother-in-law Thomas Howell, wife of Hannah Yearsley (Deed Book D-2 pg. 57). Jacob Yearsley Jr. sold the remaining part of his father's plantation to Abel Otley in 1788 (Deed Book D-2 pg. 260). There is no evidence of a dwelling house on the property in 1777. Yearsley was taxed for 90 acres in 1783 and no buildings.

William Jones Jr. (Westtown)

(UPI 67-2-80.3a or 67-2r-65)

William Jones Sr. of Birmingham Township, yeoman, purchased 100 acres of land and a dwelling house in Westtown in 1770 from Jacob James (Deed Book E-2 pg. 304). His son William Jones Jr. likely resided on the 100-acre property until his death in November 1778 after which Jones Jr.'s wife, Mary, resided on the property until 1783. In that year, Mary Jones—widow of William Jones Jr.—was taxed for 100 acres and a dwelling house. William Jones Sr. died in 1789, and his administrators sold the 100-acre tract and a dwelling house in Westtown to Joseph Hickman (Deed Book E-2 pg. 307) in 1790.

George Brinton (Thornbury Twp., Delaware County) (Plundered) (Depredation)

105 Cherry Farm Road (Parcel 44-00-00060-00) (Near this location, much development, may not still exist)

George Brinton, a yeoman, inherited this 210-acre tract, plus two small adjoining parcels from his father Joseph Brinton in 1752 (W&A #1413). George was a birthright Quaker but married his wife Christiana Hill out of meeting in 1760 and was disowned. George was seated on this tract in 1777 but was taxed for his additional acreage located in Thornbury, Chester County. In 1783, on a total of 547 acres, George was taxed for five dwelling houses and five outbuildings. However, it should be noted that there is no way to determine if one or all of his properties were plundered.

Joseph Dilworth (Thornbury Twp., Delaware County) (Plundered) (Depredation)

268-286 Dilworthtown Road (No improvements on this parcel, see Chadds Ford Joseph Dilworth)

Joseph Dilworth purchased this 34-acre tract along with an adjoining 20-acre tract in 1777 Birmingham Township (today Chadds Ford Township) from the estate of Samuel Bettle in 1771 (Deed Book R pg. 556). Joseph was a tanner by trade, a birth-right Quaker, and a member of the Birmingham Preparative Meeting. In 1783 his property (seated by his brother-in-law John Parry) contained one dwelling house and two outbuildings. The buildings were likely located on his Birmingham tract.

Jacob Vernon (Thornbury Twp., Delaware County) (Plundered)

740 Tanguy Road (Parcel 44-00-00336-00) (Part of Cheyney University, uncertain where the original house would have stood on the larger tract.)

Jacob Vernon, a yeoman, acquired this 128-acre tract (part of a 450-acre tract purchased by his father) in several transactions after his father Jacob Vernon Sr.'s death in 1755 (Deed Book Z pg. 99). Jacob was not a birthright Quaker, his father being disowned for marrying out of meeting in 1730. Jacob married Sarah Frazer, the sister of Persifor Frazer. In 1783, his property contained three dwelling houses and one outbuilding.

Persifor Frazer Esq. (Thornbury Twp., Delaware County) (Plundered)

(Parcel 44-00-00258-17)

Persifor Frazer Esq. acquired this 110-acre from his brother-in-law Isaac Taylor around the year 1770 (Deed Book R pg. 136/OCD – John Taylor Jr. 1765). He also acquired the adjoining 58-acre through his wife Mary Taylor's inheritance in her father John Taylor Jr.'s estate. Persifor was of Scots-Irish heritage and married his wife Mary Taylor (a Quaker) at the Middletown Presbyterian Church. In 1783 this property contained three dwelling houses and one outbuilding.

John Peirce (Thornton Tract, Thornbury Twp., Delaware County)

378 Glen Mills Road (Parcel 44-00-00142-00)

John Peirce (son of Caleb Sr.), a yeoman, acquired this 100-acre tract in an unrecorded transaction before 1765. It adjoined a 65-acre tract located in Concord Township also acquired in an unrecorded transaction.* The combined tract was referred to as the "home plantation" in John's will probated in 1796. The main dwelling house was located in Concord Township where John resided during his ownership. John was a birthright Quaker but was disowned by the Concord Monthly Meeting when he married Sarah Taylor (widow) out of meeting in 1762. John left his land to his son John Peirce Jr. in 1762 but gave his daughter Mary Peirce (wife of John James) a life interest in the 100-acre tract. When John Jr. died his estate was divided by the Orphans' Court and the survey completed in 1818 indicates that the larger estate only contained two dwelling houses, the main dwelling house located in Concord Township and a

dwelling house located on the portion of the estate still under Mary Peirce James's life interest at the intersection of present day Thornton Road and Glen Mills Road. Tax records indicate that John and Mary lived on this tract intermittently in the early 1780s. By 1783, however, John and Mary Peirce James moved to a 103-acre tract recently purchased by John Peirce Sr. from Ezekiel Leonard in April 1786. It was on this tract that a tavern was briefly established by John James in May 1786 but was discontinued by the following year (Parcel ID 44-00-00019-00 – just off of Cheyney Road, near the intersection with the old road bed). Because this parcel was continually leased from John Peirce Sr.'s ownerships, through his son John Peirce Jr.'s, there is no way to determine with any accuracy, through public sources, who was seated on this property in 1777.* In 1783 the tract contained one dwelling house and in the 1798 US Direct Tax the building was described as a two story log dwelling, 40 feet by 20, "old & much Decayed."

* (John Peirce likely acquired these tracts from his father Caleb Sr. in an unrecorded deed. John's brother, Caleb Peirce Jr., acquired his 307-acre tract of land from their father, Caleb Sr., in 1758 in an unrecorded deed and the taxes indicate that John likely received his tract in the same decade. However, with an absence of any direct primary evidence, there is currently no way to state this with certainty. George Gray may very well have leased this dwelling house and 30/35 acres of surrounding land in 1777 since it was a similar acreage to the land John James was taxed for when he was likely leasing this tract. However the acreage and nature of this property (the amount of land taxed as part of the lease seemed to fluctuate with each lessee) does not lend itself to an accurate analysis.)

Caleb Peirce Jr. (Thornton, Thornbury Twp., Delaware County)

367-377 Glen Mills Road (Parcels 44-00-00147-00 through 44-00-00155-00)

Caleb Peirce Jr. (son of Caleb Sr.), a yeoman, purchased this 307-acre tract from his father Caleb Peirce Sr. in 1758 (Delaware County Deed Book I pg. 71). Caleb was a birthright Quaker and a member of the Concord Monthly Meeting. In 1783 this property contained four dwelling houses and two outbuildings. The main dwelling house was likely on/or near Parcel ID 44-00-00364-00. Caleb Peirce Jr. sold a 10-acre parcel in 1793 to his son Joseph Peirce. This tract was located in present day Thornton Village to the north of John Peirce's tract (Parcel ID's 44-00-00150-00 through 44-00-00155-00). Joseph also purchased an additional 57-acre tract from the original 307-acre tract from his father Caleb Jr (Parcel ID 44-00-00135-00). By 1798 Joseph Peirce had a frame barn (14 by 20), a log stable (14 by 14), a stone smith shop (14 by 20), a stone kitchen (14 by 19), a stone shed (15 by 18, 19 by 33) and one stone dwelling house (19 by 33). Unfortunately, because his property included both tracts, it is not possible to place the locations of these buildings on the 10-acre Thornton parcel. In 1799 Joseph Peirce sold both tracts to Joseph Moore who established a store. The logical location of the store and blacksmith's shop would be at an intersection but further research is necessary to determine this. However, when the tracts were sold to Joseph Peirce in 1793, the word message was not included. This suggests that Joseph likely built the buildings during his ownership.

William Pyle (Thornbury Twp., Delaware County)

(Uncertain location of main dwelling)

William Pyle, a gentleman and birthright Quaker, inherited this 225-acre tract from his father William Pyle Sr. in 1735 (Delaware County Deed Book A pg. 247). For most of his ownership, William leased much of his land. In many tax years he is only taxed for his house and lot and in 1783 he is taxed as an inmate with an occupation of shopkeeper. This may suggest that he operated a store somewhere on his property. In 1798, his nephew Richard Mercer owned the property which contained one stone kitchen 20 by 21, one "old" stone dwelling house 21 by 24, one frame barn 20 by 50, one log stable 10 by 12, and two log tenant houses, 18 by 20, 14 by 18.

Israel Pyle & Jacob Pyle (Thornbury Twp., Delaware County)

346 Thornton Road (Parcel 44000006800)

When John Pyle died in 1752 he left his 165-acre tract of land to his son Ebenezer Pyle after the death or remarriage of his widow Susannah. In addition, he gave his son Jacob Pyle a life interest in a 15-acre tract "where he now lives" out of the northeast corner of 165-acre tract. Ebenezer Pyle died the same year as his father and under further provisions of the will the land descended equally to John Pyle's remaining sons: Jacob Pyle, Stephen Pyle and Israel Pyle.

Israel Pyle, a weaver, inherited the eastern part of his father’s estate, a 63-acre tract that abutted his brother Jacob’s 15-acre tract (Deed Book V pg. 110). Israel was a birthright Quaker who was disowned for marrying out in 1760. In 1783 the 63-acre tract was not in Israel Pyle’s tenure, having been exposed to sheriff’s sale in 1782 and remained unpurchased until 1783 when it was finally sold to John Peirce (Deed Book X pg. 305). The sheriff’s advertisement in the Pennsylvania Gazette does not include the word message in the sales notice.

Jacob Pyle, also a weaver and birthright Quaker, died circa 1784. The 15-acre tract reverted to the ownership of his brothers, Stephen and Israel Pyle and to Jacob’s surviving children, each acquiring a third interest in the tract. In 1785 Israel Pyle, released his third interest in the 15 acres to Jacob Pyle (2nd) of Aston Township whose relationship to Israel or the first Jacob Pyle is not stated (Deed Book Z pg. 343). The 15 acres was eventually subdivide into three 5-acre lots. The lot acquired by Jacob Pyle (2nd) was located at the intersection of Thornton and Glen Mills Road. In the 1783 tax assessment no dwelling houses or buildings are listed on the three new parcels originating from Jacob Pyle’s original 15 acres. In 1791 Jacob Pyle (2nd) sold the 5-acre tract to Caleb Pyle who’s identified as having a log house 14 by 16 and a log shop 10 by 12 in the 1798 US Direct Tax (Delaware County Deed Book A pg. 289). The remaining 10 acres was eventually released by the remaining heirs to Stephen Pyle, and contained one log dwelling house 18 by 22 in 1798.

Historic Context

Brandywine Valley Historic Context

More so than many places in the American colonies, Chester County farms enjoyed fertile soil, moderate climate and access to nearby markets. Here the early, primarily Quaker, settlers quickly realized the quality of the rich soils, and that Brandywine Creek, with its many tributaries and considerable slope, could power numerous mills. To the north, settlers found added resources of a limestone valley (Chester County’s Great Valley), iron ore, and more powerful creeks to sustain ironworks and mills. Within 30 years of original settlement, increased demand and population led to building a second iron forge (c.1717 in Coventry) and additional mills in the County. By the 1790s, the Creek powered over 70 mills and over 130 at the height of use.

The Brandywine Creek’s east and west branches join to form its main stem at the ‘Forks of the Brandywine’ in East Bradford, with the west branch considered the ‘parent’ of the main stem. West Branch Brandywine Creek Multiple Resources and Thematic National Register Area was completed as part of a planning effort, which led to the successful designation of the lower Creek as part of the state Scenic River system, the focus of which is to support water quality and flow and protect pastoral scenic and historic characteristics including historic mill dams. The Thematic Area denotes the Creek’s significance as the ‘heart’ of the Brandywine Valley and focus of regional identity historically and today. For Lenni-Lenape Indians, the Creek was a source of food. For colonial (and 19th century) settlers, the Creek provided fertile soil for agriculture and hydropower for milling. In modern times, the Creek provides drinking water and recreation. The Thematic Area melds historic resources, landscapes, and natural resources, particularly the Creek. In the Two Column Strategic Landscape, the Red Clay Creek plays a more decisive role in the development of the region but it is still within the larger Brandywine Creek watershed.

Flour, wheat, corn, pork, beef, flaxseed, butter, and iron after 1750, were all important products produced in Chester County and surrounding counties, and were exported from Philadelphia to as far away as China. Although farms in the Brandywine Valley produced a wide variety of products, it was still a relatively modest yield overall. Physical clearing of land required rigorous manual labor and took a long while. By the time of the battle the region had been settled for 80 years, yet most farms still had uncleared lands. Fallow lands, woodlots, and meadows took up a relatively large proportion of cleared land. Livestock were few and usually found their own forage, roaming unfenced. Orchards and vegetable and herb gardens, as family food sources, rounded out the typical farmstead land-use pattern. More prosperous farms were located on the many creek tributaries, which would also power mills and serve as centers for trade before villages developed starting at the turn of the century.

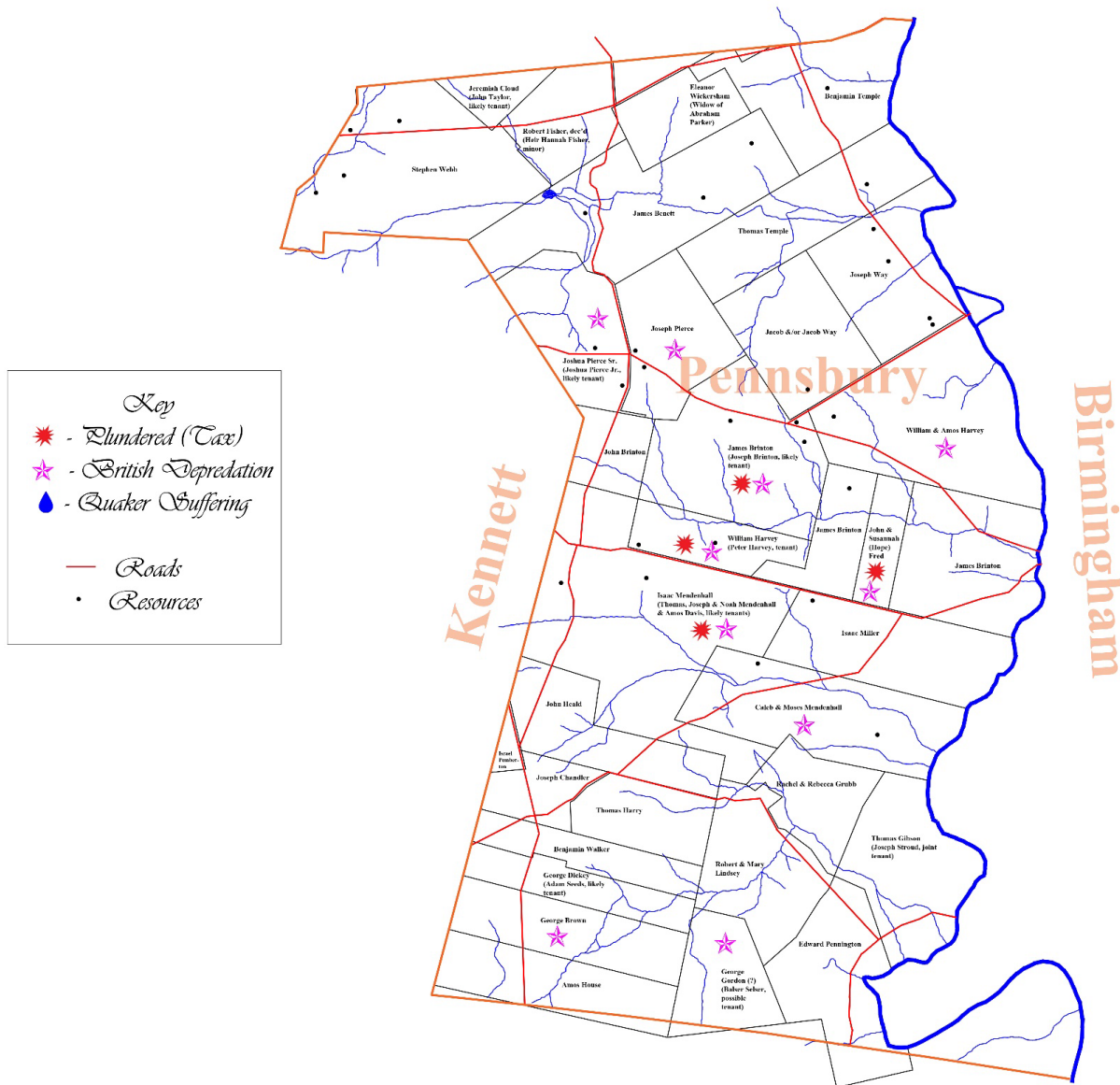
William Penn's surveyors charted lands in Chester County in the late 1600s and many land patents were granted by the early 1700s. At the time of the battle, the majority of property owners in the Brandywine Valley were Quaker. A key tenant of Quaker faith was testimonies or descriptions of faithful actions. The Peace Testimony (the majority of Quakers practiced) were actions to promote peace and refrain from participation in war. These actions were documented by individuals as 'sufferings' and recorded at their Meetinghouses as testimonies of good conscience. Likewise, non-Quaker property owners filed depredation claims against the Crown and/or plunder claims 'deductions' on their state tax assessment, indicating they had experienced losses from battle actions. Due to their nature, depredations generally include more detailed information than plunders or sufferings. Sufferings and claims by landowners were researched for this plan to provide a broad understanding of 'on the ground goings on' that occurred, level of support or lack thereof both armies experienced, and the impact of the battle on the civilian community. Sufferings and claims are key information for this plan as, when mapped as to their location of occurrence, they reveal places where troops were present. This information, combined with understanding the battle-era road network, location of properties and owners, and first-person accounts and histories, is critical for Chapter 3's analysis and helping to identify the path of the British flank.

Pennsbury Township Historic Context

When William Penn organized Chester County in 1682, Pennsbury was part of Kennett Township. Pennsbury was established in 1770. From its inception, Pennsbury was an important link to the less developed west. Pennsbury Township began as part of Kennett Township which was one of the original Townships from the grant to William Penn. The first surveys of the Township were made about 1686, but few people actually lived here until 1700. The area along the west bank of the Brandywine River was the earliest settled. This populated portion was broken off in 1770 to form Pennsbury Township. Pennsbury grew from 595 persons in 1790 to 933 in 1849. Toward the end of this early growth period the northern portion of the Township separated to form Pocopson Township.

An early settler, John Chad, established a ferry service and opened a public house along the Brandywine Creek. Three main roads traversed the prosperous community. The Great Road to Nottingham was the main artery from Philadelphia to Baltimore. Marlborough Street Road was a main road through the valley also running east and west. Travelers to New Castle used the Doe Run-Wilmington Road, now known as the Kennett Pike. The Mendenhall's were one of the first families to settle on the western bank of the Brandywine. Three brothers Benjamin, John and Moses received a grant of approximately 2,000 acres from William Penn in 1684. Springdale Farm, also known as Elwood Mendenhall Farm built in 1748, was inhabited by the Mendenhall Family until two years ago. By 1714, Quaker Farmer John Hope had amassed 700 acres on the Great Nottingham Road in Pennsbury Township. He built several buildings on his property which still stand. William Harvey, a maulster, emigrated from England purchased 300 acres from Joseph and Hannah Gilpin in August 1715 and built a stone two story banked house in that period. This is the earliest of the five remaining Harvey family houses built in Chester County. He was a member of Concord Meeting. His son William was a trustee of Kennett meeting. Much of the Darlington farm from 1757 now stands in Pocopson but was in Pennsbury in the 1700s. Previous owners of the 327-acre farm were Francis Smith and James Bennett.

In September of 1777, General George Washington was encamped in Chadds Ford, guarded by the surrounding hills of rolling Pennsbury Township. Crown Force troops under the command of General Knyphausen situated themselves on the Pennsbury side of the Brandywine and engaged Washington's army. Following the war, the population grew from 595 persons in 1790 to 933 in 1840. Three villages grew and became centers of activity: Fairville, Parkersville and Chadds Ford Junction. Farming was a major occupation as was the commerce from mills. Today Pennsbury Township still preserves its secluded beauty and historic lands, but the population rise has been dramatic. Many 18th century homes and barns from this revolutionary period are still extant in Pennsbury Township. Pennsbury's natural beauty has been captured by many of its resident artists. A neighbor, Andrew Wyeth, has painted many scenes from Pennsbury, one being the famous "Tenant Farmer," a painting of the Barns-Brinton House. The house now owned by the Chadds Ford Historical Society, opened as a tavern in 1714.



Chadds Ford Township Historic Context

The 8.72 square miles that is Chadds Ford is in the southwest corner of Delaware County. Delaware County was originally part of Chester County until its creation in 1789. Prior to 1996, the township was identified as Birmingham, but the name was changed to differentiate it from Chester County’s Birmingham Township, just across the county line. At the time of the Battle of Brandywine in 1777, the area currently identified as Chadds Ford Township was part of Chester County’s Birmingham Township.

Francis Chadsey is the first ‘Chad’ associated with the crossing of Brandywine Creek identified as Chadds Ford. Chadsey emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1685 and bought 500 acres in 1696 from Daniel Smith. Smith purchased the tract from William Penn. Smith died intestate. Chadsey could not take possession of the land until 1702. One of his most visible improvements on the land was a mill with associated mill race and mill pond. Chadsey married Grace Stanfield in 1695 and they had six children prior to his 1713 death.

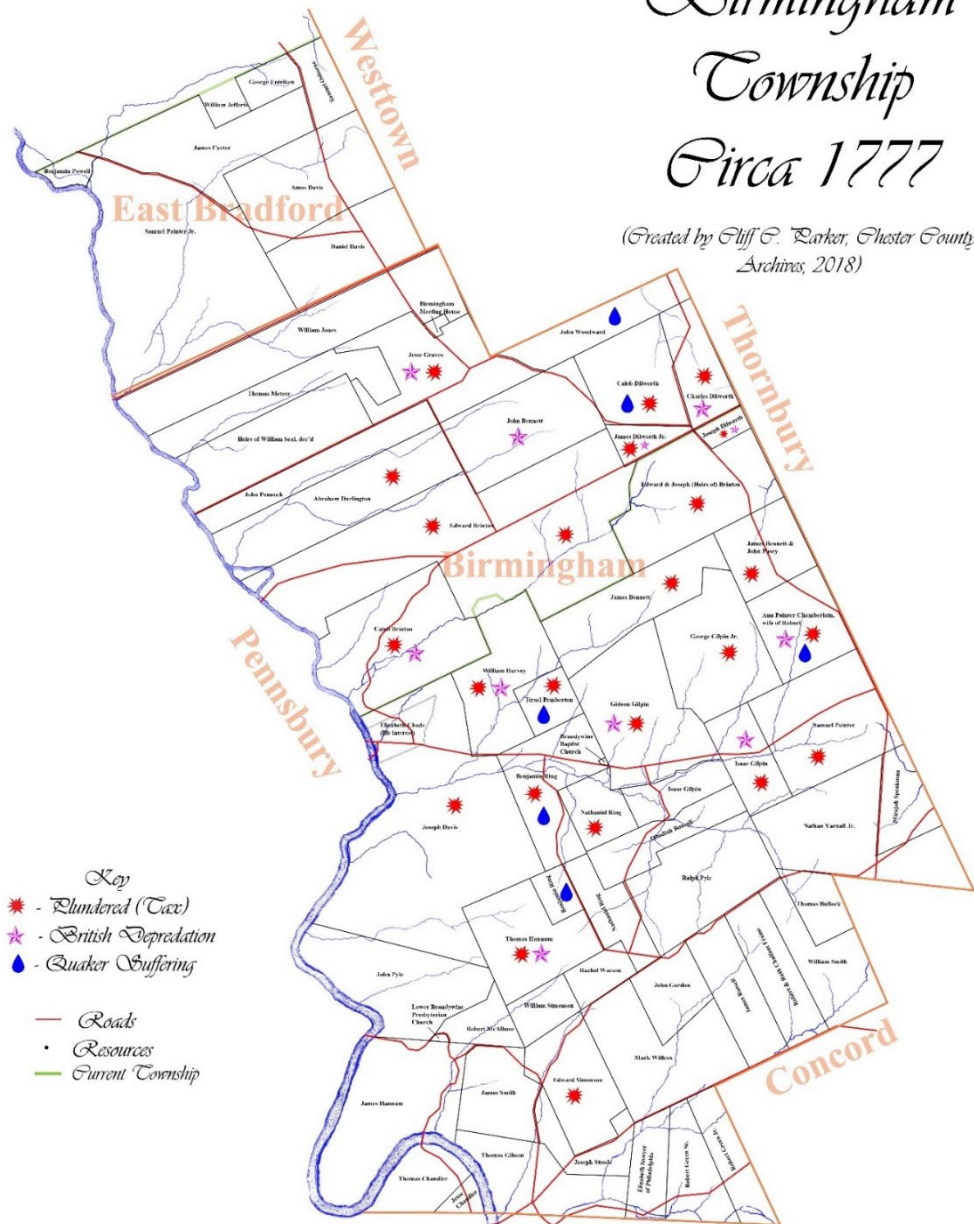
In 1714, Chadsey’s widow Grace married Guyen Stevenson. In 1717, Guyen sold his wife’s half interest in the mill to settle debts. Chadsey’s oldest son, John inherited the property and the other half interest in the mill in 1717 when he came of age. Upon the death of Grace in 1727, John received full interest in the mill.

Birmingham Township Historic Context

Chester County is one of the three original counties established by William Penn in 1682. Birmingham Township is the oldest in Chester County, established in 1684 when William Brinton secured two patents from William Penn. The township's name comes from William Brinton for he came to the colony of Pennsylvania from Birmingham, England. In 1686 the settlement organized into a municipal district, of 6.4 miles, with the naming of John Bennett as constable. As with William Brinton, the earliest residents were English Quaker immigrants. A meetinghouse was established in the home of William Brinton. In 1721, Elizabeth Webb, widow of Richard Webb, provided an acre of land for the construction of a permanent meetinghouse. A log structure was built in 1722 and a burial ground was established adjacent to the meetinghouse. In 1763, the log structure was replaced with the current stone structure. A log structure that served as a community school was built close to the meetinghouse in 1756. Most residents of the township belonged to the Birmingham Friends Meeting.

Birmingham Township Circa 1777

(Created by Cliff E. Parker, Chester County Archives, 2018)



Scale 100 Perches to an Inch
(Green's Farm Maps of Chester County used as a base in the creation of this map)

Southwest of the meetinghouse, the village of Dilworthtown coalesced into the principal commercial center of the township including a blacksmith, wheelwright, tavern, barrel maker, general store, and cheese maker.

Brandywine Creek and its tributaries are a defining geographic feature of the township. Several important crossings of the Brandywine, identified as fords, provided access east and west through the township. These include two at Chadd's Ford, Brinton's Ford, Painter's Ford, and Wistar's Ford. Although agriculture was the prominent driver of the township's early economy, the established waterways in the township provided economic opportunities for the construction of mills. In the 1790 census, the population of the township was 221 residents.

Thornbury Township Historic Context

The 3.87 square miles that is Thornbury Township is in the southeast corner of Chester County. The township shares a common border with Thornbury Township, Delaware County. Both Thornbury Townships were originally a single entity. Delaware County was originally part of Chester County until its creation in 1789. At the time of the Battle of Brandywine in 1777, the area currently identified as Thornbury Township in both counties was a single township.

Thornbury Township was established in 1687 when Hugh Durborrow was appointed as constable. One of the township's first residents was George Pearce whose wife was from Thornbury, England; the township was named due to her association.

Thornbury Township Circa 1777

(Created by Cliff S. Parker, Chester County Archives, 2020)



Westtown Township Historic Context

Westtown Township was established in 1685, a year after Birmingham. This makes Westtown the second oldest township in Chester County. The township is approximately 8.6 square miles and retains its original boundaries. It's named by its relative location to Easttown Township. The earliest settlers were English Quakers and much of the economy was driven by agriculture. Among the first to settle in Westtown were Benjamin and Ann Hickman (Buffington). They had seven children and some of their descendants still live in the township today. Another prominent early family was Daniel and Jane Hoopes (Worrilow). Married in 1696, they settled into the southeast corner of the township where they raised eight sons and nine daughters. Daniel was elected to the Pennsylvania Assembly and in 1700 was Westtown's first constable.

Westtown Township

Circa 1777

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