

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Delaware	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71542.0031	DATE 5/27/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Gilpin Homestead

AND/OR HISTORIC:
General Howe's Headquarters

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Harvey Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Chadds Ford

STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Delaware	CODE 045
-----------------------	------------	---------------------	-------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Anthony A. and Kathryn G. Frances

STREET AND NUMBER:
Harvey Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Chadds Ford

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
------------------------	------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Delaware County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Front and South Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Media

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
------------------------	------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970
 Federal State County Local

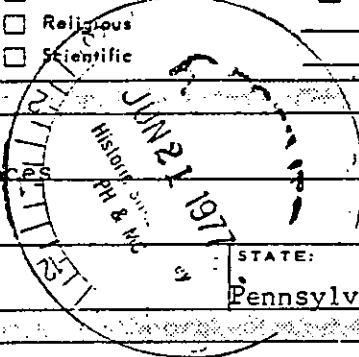
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN:
Harrisburg

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
------------------------	------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Delaware
ENTRY NUMBER: 71542.0031
DATE: 5/27/71
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

There are no known views of the house when it was built, or when General Howe occupied it. The Gilpin family records, the Lossing sketch, and a series of photographs from the 1890's to the present document some of the innumerable changes the owners of the Gilpin Homestead have made.

ORIGINAL PORTION -- Contains the 1754 datestone. It contains two basement rooms, two first-floor rooms, two bedrooms, and the attic. Basement beams and walls, including candle niches, are original. Because the east wall of the original portion is only 12 inches thick, while the other three are 18 inches thick, and because of a protrusion in the basement wall, the 1754 portion was built against an existing structure--presumably the adobe brick and log structure built by Joseph Gilpin in the early 1700's. Thus, portions of the basement walls and fireplace bases could predate 1754. On the first floor, hardwood flooring installed by Evans Harvey covers the original flooring. Bloodstains from British wounded traditionally are in the original planks of the front room which also contains the original panelling and cupboards above the fireplace. Floors in the two bedrooms and in the attic are original, as is the fireplace panelling in the master bedroom. This panelling and the wood frame of a transom could predate 1754, and may have been used from the Joseph Gilpin structure.

FIRST ADDITION-- Now The middle of the house, contains two basement rooms, and attic addition with plaster covering the floor, and what originally were two rooms on both the first and second floors. Although the original walls and a window of the south rooms still exist, the north room walls and fireplaces were torn out when the third addition was made. Evans Harvey made further alterations in 1897, but the basic structure is still apparent. The date this portion was built cannot be ascertained definitely, but it is presumed to be around 1811. At that time the house is described on tax records as "mansion house." It was definitely built before 1827 for it is described in Isaac Gilpin's will. The bedroom floors are still original, as are basement walls and beams, which contain meat hooks and many stains. One basement room ceiling is composed of random boards topped by mortar, topped by original flooring, topped by hardwood flooring.

SECOND ADDITION -- Had to have been added between the date of Lossing's drawing and 1859, when Vincent Gilpin acquired the farm for his son, Edward, because it is a matter of record that all Edward added was what appears to be an enclosed second-floor porch on the southeast corner (it was added as a bathroom). This addition to the east end was only half the width of the house. The basement was placed on the ground; the first floor of the wing enlarged the kitchen. There is a hug fireplace at the east end. The second floor contains one bedroom, leading off the back stairway, and the attic is continued. There is one enclosed area in the attic which was evidently used for drying fruits, vegetables, and herbs.

The date of the porch on the south side is not known, but by appearance and photos it was added between 1870 and 1897, when Elias Baker owned the house.

The present structure encompasses the original house, two additions,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11/11/12
12/13/14/15
RECEIVED
3 1914

X

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Delaware	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71545.0031	DATE 5/27/71

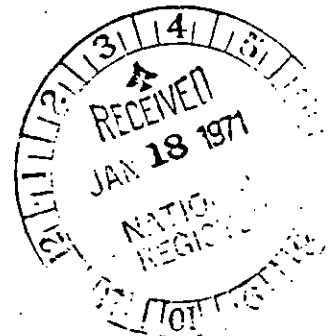
(Number all entries)

7. Description (Cont.)

and a double-attached garage. The latter was attached in 1949 to the east end of the house. The entire structure is stuccoed and painted white.

The original portion is brick; the two additions are stone.

On the grounds also are the stone walls of the barn built in 1860, a carriage house-barn, a small barn which once stood near the house, and a springhouse, used in the early part of the century as a milk-collecting point for the area and a creamery-cheese house. It is now a four-room tenant house.



SIGNIFICANCE

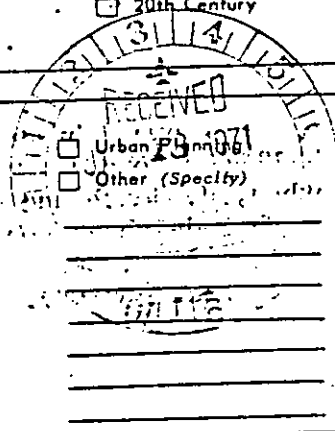
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian;	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation		



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

General Sir William Howe used the house as his headquarter from late afternoon, September 11, until the morning of September 16, 1777, after the Battle of the Brandywine. It was in the center of the final line of battle. From this house, he dispersed troops into Wilmington and other surrounding areas; it was here that he received Dr. Benjamin Rush, who came in answer to Howe's appeal to Washington to send American doctors to help treat American wounded. By tradition, Howe occupied the northwest bedroom. According to Mrs. Mary Harvey Burns, who grew up in the house, local citizens were incensed when her father placed hardwood floors over the original floors in the first-floor front room because in so doing, he covered blood-stains still apparent from British wounded.

The house is marked by a bronze historic plaque erected in 1915 by the Delaware County Historical Society, the Chester County Historical Society, and the Pennsylvania Historical Commission.

The house is architecturally significant because it contains a wealth of eighteenth and nineteenth century construction procedures and reflects the many alterations made in adapting a building one generation constructed to the needs of another. It is a prototype of a Pennsylvania farmhouse.

It is the homestead of the Gilpins, a Quaker Family which has produced a scholar, scientist, governor, inventors, U. S. Attorney General and legislators. The house stands on ground on which a dwelling has stood ever since Joseph Gilpin, in the late 1690's, moved his family from a cave into a log cabin.

Among the better known descendants of Joseph Gilpin, who first settled in Birmingham Township, are:

Thomas Gilpin, his grandson. A scholar, Thomas was a close friend of Benjamin Franklin. He was a large landowner in Philadelphia and Wilmington. He designed the first bridge across the Schuylkill. In addition, Thomas was a zoologist and charter member of the American Philosophical Society.

Joshua and Thomas, Thomas's sons, manufactured paper on the Brandywine above the gorge in Wilmington as early as 1787. In 1816 they patented a machine which produced a continuous

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Pennsylvania	
COUNTY	
Delaware	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
715.42.0031	5/37/71

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Cont.)

roll of paper.

George, brother of Thomas, was a Colonel in Washington's Army and was a pall bearer at Washington's funeral.

Henry Dilworth, 1826-1832, edited the Atlantic Souvenir. He was the author numerous books on the law as well as the editor of James Madison's Papers. In 1840 he was appointed Attorney General of the United States.

Vincent (died 1968) was the author of The Commodore's Story, A History of the Biscayne Bay Area of Florida. He was extremely interested in the history of the family homestead. Much of this report is a compilation of his notes about the family and its home.

Finally, the Gilpin Homestead was noted for its fine apples. Bertha Gilpin of Wilmington wrote to Vincent inbetween 1925 and 1950 that, "Two apples of considerable note were originated on the farm from seeds brought from England. They were the Carthouse and Greyhouse, which long held a prominent place in our orchards, but are now largely superceded by others."



MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bacon, Margaret H. The Quiet Rebel. New York: Basic Books, Inc., 1969.
 The Brandywine Story. (n.p.) The Brandywine Battlefield Park Commission, September 11, 1952.
 Canby, Henry Seidel. The Brandywine. New York: Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., 1945. (Book owned by Judy Murtagh (Mrs. David); Talley Place, Heyburn Road, Chadds Ford.)
 Futhey, J. Smith and Cope, Gilbert, History of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Louis H. Evens, 1881, pp. 111, 236, 302.
 Gilpin, Isaac. Gilpin Journal, unpublished manuscript, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

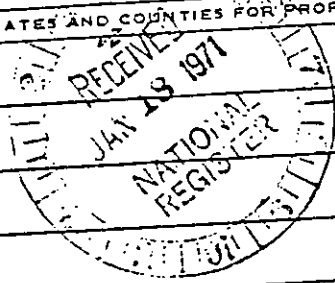
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	• • •	• • •	39°	53'	01"	75°	33'	51"
NE	• • •	• • •						
SE	• • •	• • •						
SW	• • •	• • •						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OR NOMINATED PROPERTY: **6 Acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:			
STATE:			
STATE:			
STATE:			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Eleanor M. Webster, Consultant DATE: April 6, 1970

ORGANIZATION: Tri-County Conservancy of the Brandywine

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 121 STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

CITY OR TOWN: Chadds Ford

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: T. K. Stebbins

Title: Executive Director

Date: September 16, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

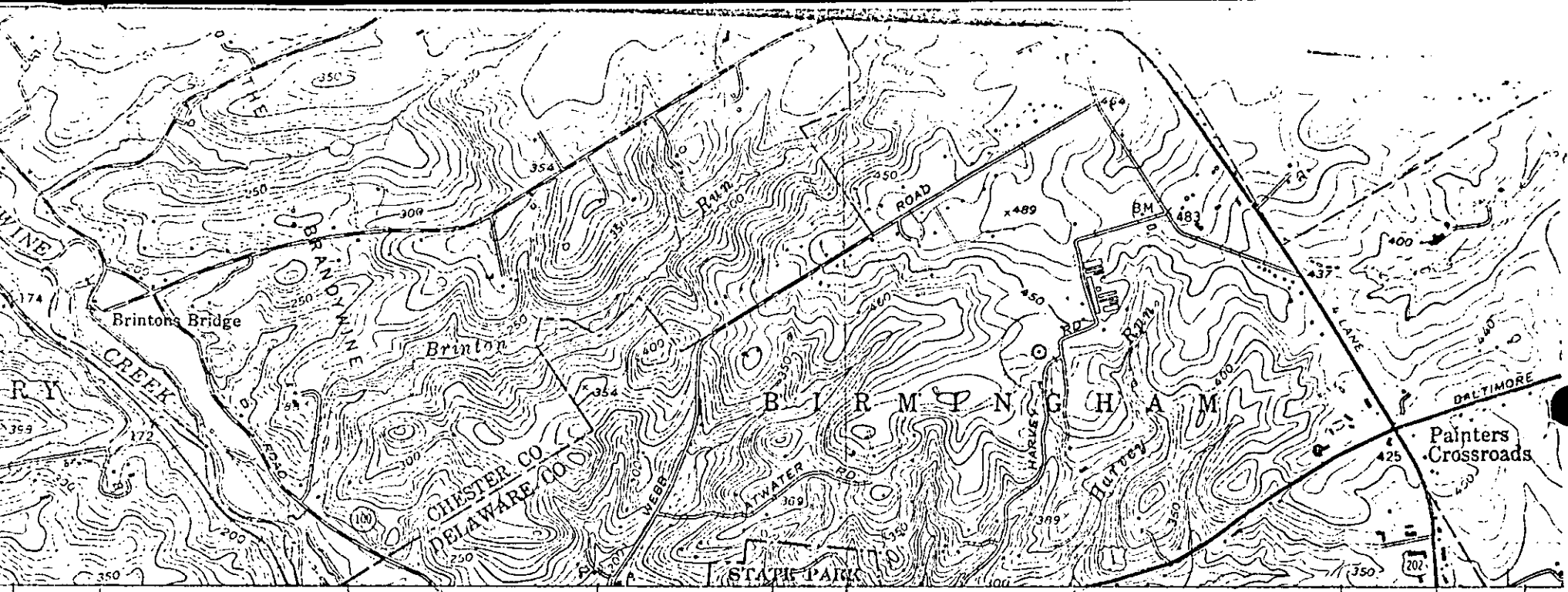
Ernest A. Dammery
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAY 27 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST: William J. Gault
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: APR 19 1971



ed by the Geological Survey

Pennsylvania Dept. of Highways

s by photogrammetric
n 1950. Field check 1954

American datum
sylvania coordinate system,

Mercator grid ticks,

only landmark buildings are shown

ed in cooperation with
rom aerial photographs
ot field checked

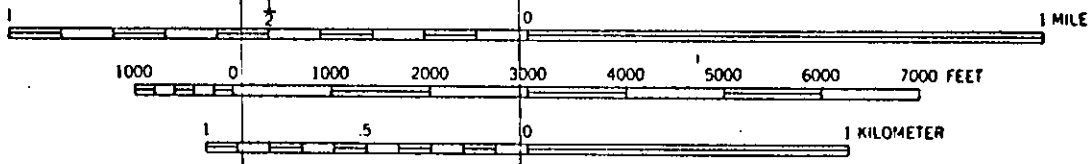
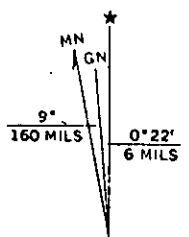
f urban areas

CHADDS FORD 0.2 MI.

CHADDS FORD 1.7 MI. (WILMINGTON NORTH)
KENNETT SQUARE 8.6 MI. 5863 1 SE

32'30"
BRANDYWINE SL
WILMINGTON, DE

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

UTM GRID AND 1968 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WEST CHESTER