

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Chester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Dilworthtown Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Intersection Chester County Roads #15199 and #15087

CITY OR TOWN:
Dilworthtown

STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Chester	CODE 029
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Various owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Chester County Courthouse Delaware County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
10 North High Street Front and South Streets

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
West Chester Media Pennsylvania 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:
William Penn Memorial Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Harrisburg Pennsylvania 42

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania
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(Check One)

CONDITION

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dilworthtown is a small Chester County hamlet that has remained relatively unchanged since the beginning of the twentieth century. It is composed of the Dilworth House, an early eighteenth century log cabin, two early nineteenth century stone houses, two stone tenant houses, a store, a lyceum, and a few other late nineteenth and early twentieth century structures including a church.

Dilworth House: This red brick Flemish bond 2½ story structure (see Photo #1) was built in 1758 as the residence of blacksmith, James Dilworth. The house had typical eighteenth century features such as gable end cornices, pent eave on all four elevations, raised stoop with built in wooden benches, 12 over 12 sash windows, and four bay front.

The first floor plan consisted of a large kitchen with walk-in cooking fireplace composed of three separate brick bake ovens; three smaller rooms each with a fireplace; and a central hallway. There were five rooms (four with fireplace) on the second floor and a hallway. Although the original paneled fireplace faces have been removed, most of the other original interior woodwork has remained intact.

From the last quarter of the eighteenth century, the building served as a tavern, popularly known as the Dilworthtown Inn. A small one story stone kitchen addition to the rear, ca. 1770, and a larger 2½ story, 2 bay brick addition to the east, ca. 1800, have substantially increased the size of the original building to its present six bay front.

Another stone house (Photo #2) was constructed on the north side of Brinton's Bridge road in 1820. It is a 2½ story field stone building with a six bay front and a three chimneyed roof. There is a separate 1½ story stone structure adjoining the house on the east. The date stone is located between the first and second windows on the left in the second story (see Photo #2). The porch is a later addition. The original six over six sash windows, window frames, and other woodwork remains, but much of the house has deteriorated.

Dilworthtown Lyceum (Photo #3), or meeting hall, was built in the mid-nineteenth century. This wood frame building still stands, but is in exceedingly poor condition. It is a two-story structure built over the old blacksmith's shop. The meeting room was on the second floor, and a section containing apartments formed the east wing of the building. The first floor below the meeting room served as a carriage shop and store.

(continued)

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7. Description (continued)

Dilworthtown Store (Photo #4) was built in three sections (with the section on the far right being the oldest) and completed in 1858. It was built of field stone and, according to old (late nineteenth century) photographs, was stuccoed and whitewashed. The stucco has been removed from the sides, but remains on the front facade. After completion, the structure had a seven-bay front with three dormers being added at a later date. There are three chimneys, with the chimney of the three bay middle section being noticeably reduced from its original size. The basement entrance has been boarded shut, porch stone replaced, and the old porch posts replaced by Victorian styled ones. The windows were shuttered, but have been removed from the second floor windows.

Two tenant houses (Photo #5) built in the mid-nineteenth century are located on the south side of Brinton's Bridge Road. The building on the left (see photo) is a two story structure with semi-dressed field stone covered with stucco. The window openings have been enlarged. To the right is a larger 2½ semi-dressed field stone house with stuccoed sides and back. Both houses are three bayed with a single chimney on the small building and two chimneys, one at each end of the roof, on the larger house. Both structures serve as private residences and have undergone many alterations.

The oldest original building in Dilworthtown is a two-story log cabin most likely built in the early eighteenth century, though local legend dates the house at 1686. The cabin has been altered considerably: wood siding has been placed over the log exterior several times, and now the upper half of the cabin is further covered with shingling. The cabin is currently used for storage purposes and is rapidly deteriorating. The east end of the building can be seen behind the Lyceum in photograph #3.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 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"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the French and Indian War, tires for the wagons of Braddock's ill-fated expedition were made at Dilworth's blacksmith shop. In the American Revolution, the town and surrounding area was the scene of the most vigorous fighting of the Battle of the Brandywine, September 11, 1777. As a consequence, Dilworthtown was severely damaged not by the actual fighting, but by marauding British troops.

Situated at an important crossroads, Dilworthtown served as a community center with its tavern and blacksmith shop in the eighteenth century. With the addition of a post office, store, and lyceum (meeting hall) in the nineteenth century, its importance as a community center continued.

The focal point of Dilworthtown is Dilworth house which is historically and architecturally one of the most significant structures in the Delaware Valley. But the village itself is significant in that it has remained relatively unchanged and its simple way of life unhurried for the past 150 years.

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Pennsylvania	
COUNTY	
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(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References (con't)

Chester County Historical Society:

"A Register of Damages Sustained by the Inhabitants of the County of Chester in Pennsylvania from the Troops and Adherents of the King of Great Britain during the War agreeable to an Act of General Assembly Passed September 21, 1762.

Birmingham Township Miscellaneous File.
Brinton, John H. - Diary: September 1855 - January 1872.
Chester County Tax Records, 1715 - 1850.
Daily Local News, West Chester, Pennsylvania.
Eawley, Benjamin: Diary.

SECONDARY SOURCES:

- Atlas of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Safe Harbor (Pa.).
A. R. Witmer, 1873.
- Boatner, Mark Mayo III. Encyclopedia of the American Revolution. New York: David McKay Co., 1966.
- Brou's - Official Series of Farm Maps: Chester County,
Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: W. W. Kirk & Company, 1883.
- Futhey, J. Smith & Gilbert Cope. History of Chester County.
Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881.
- Garner, Winfield S. (ed.) Biographical & Portrait Cyclopaedia of Chester County, Pennsylvania, Comprising an Historical Sketch of the County. Philadelphia: J. M. Gusham, 1893.
- Heathcote, Charles W. (ed.) A History of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Harrisburg National Historical Association, 1932.
- Lossing, B. J., Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution. 2 Vols. New York: Harper Brothers, 1852, (Vol. II).
- National Highway Association. Identification of Marches on and About the Brandywine Battlefield.
- Smith, George. History of Delaware County from the Discovery of the Territory Included Within Its Limits to the Present Time. Philadelphia: Henry B. Ashmead, 1862.
- Taylor, James Bayard. Visit to the Battle-Ground of Brandywine, August 6, 1840. West Chester: Bureau of Historical Research
The Brandywine Story: 1777-1952. Brandywine Battlefield Park Commission, September 11, 1952.
- Ward, Christopher L. The Delaware Continentals. Wilmington: Historical Society of Delaware, 1941.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

PRIMARY SOURCES:

Chester County Court House:

Deed Books
Orphan Court Records
Will Books
Docket Books

Delaware County Court House:

Deed Books
Orphan Court Records
Will Books

Docket Books

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	39°	53' 44"	75° 34' 12.4"
NE	39°	53' 44"	75° 33' 58"
SE	39°	53' 34"	75° 33' 58"
SW	39°	53' 34"	75° 34' 12.4"

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
LATITUDE		LONGITUDE	
Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
0			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 15 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission DATE: August, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: S. K. [Signature]
State Liaison Officer

Title: Executive Director
Pa. Historical and Museum Commission

Date: 1/24/72

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

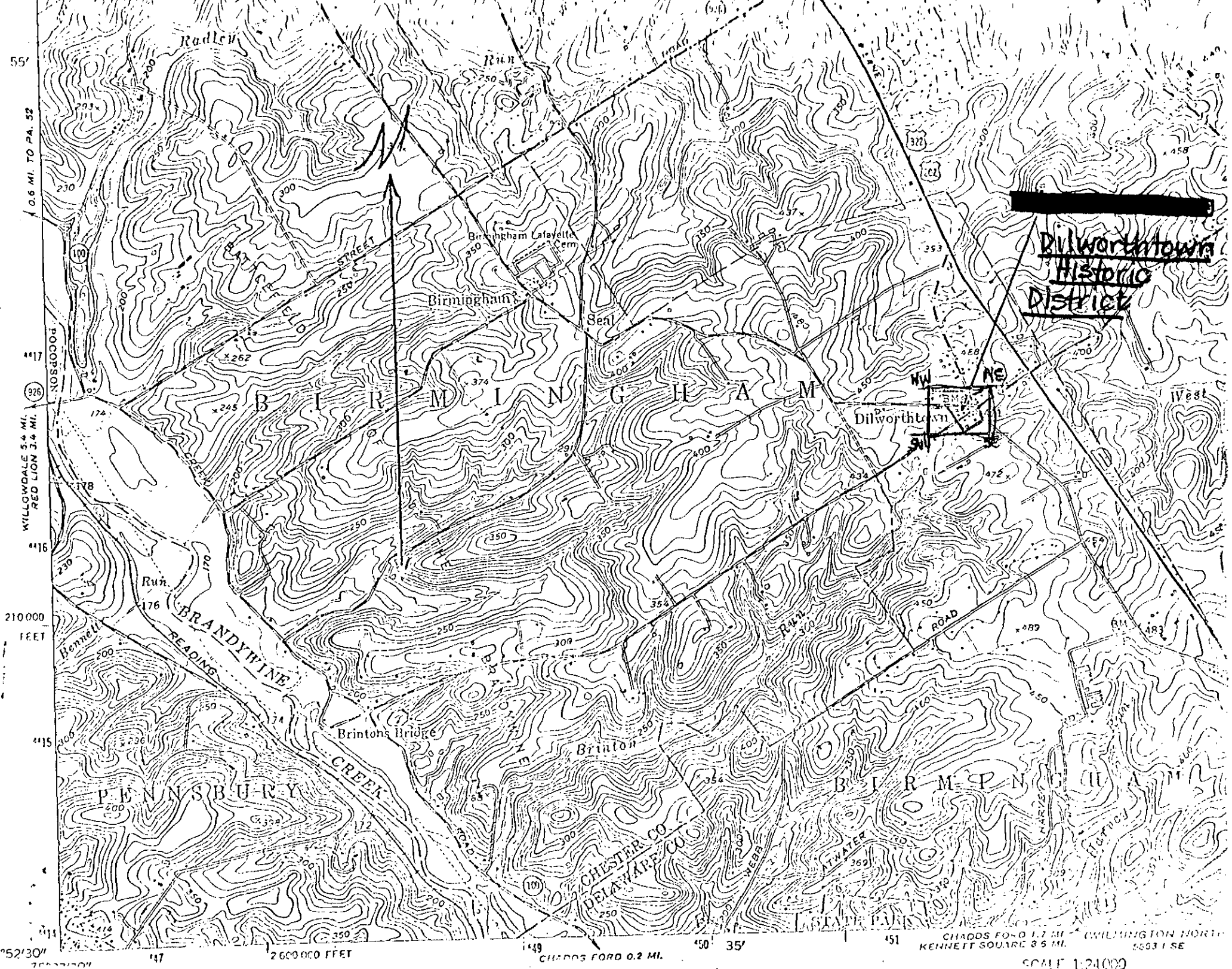
Date: _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



55' 0.6 MI. TO PA. 52
117
116
210000 FEET
115
114
52'30"

**Dilworthtown
Historic
District**

Radley

Run

Birmingham Lafayette Cerm

Birmingham

Seal

B I R M I N G H A M

Dilworthtown

West

Run

BRANDYWINE

PENNSBURY

Brintons Bridge

Brinton

CHESTER CO.
DELAWARE CO.

B I R M I N G H A M

CHADDS FORD 0.2 MI.
CHADDS FORD 1.7 MI.
KENNETT SQUARE 3.5 MI.
WILMINGTON NORTH
5563 1 SE

SCALE 1:24000