

Unionville Quad  
49-1 Indian Deep  
Newlin Twp.

CORINNE  
WATER  
SEWAGE

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026  
 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120

7. Local survey organization  
 Brandywine Conservancy

8. property owners name and address  
 Jean B. Paul and Norman Roberts  
 Indian Deep Farm  
 R D #4  
 West Chester, PA 19380

9. tax parcel number / other number  
 49-2-85

10. U.T.M. zone easting  
 18 41410200  
 northing  
 414119151710

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)  
 Chester County Historic Sites Survey

usgs sheet: Unionville

12. classification  
 site ( ) structure ( ) object ( )  
 building   
 in N.R. district yes ( ) no ( )

13. date(s) (how determined)

15. style, design or folk type  
 43-PennPlan core

19. original use  
 020201,020300

14. period  
 1780-1820 (04)

20. present use  
 020201,020300

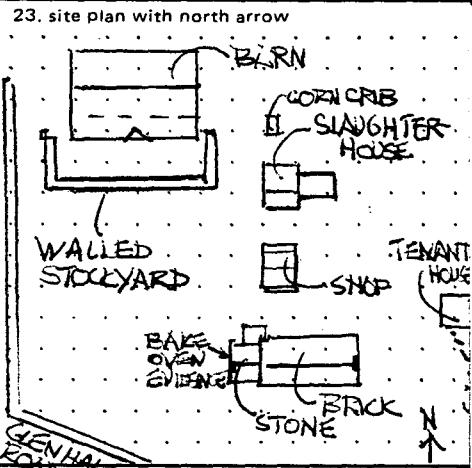
16. architect or engineer

17. contractor or builder

18. primary building mat./construction  
 02-stone/03-brick

21. condition good

22. integrity good



24. photo notation  
 PC: Emily Hart  
 PD: 12/1984  
 PV: South elevation

25. file/location  
 Brandywine Conservancy

26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings)  
 Indian Deep Farm is found at the intersection of two seldom-traveled roads near the north bank of the West Branch Brandywine River. Occupying more than 130 acres, the farm complex itself is contained on less than 8 acres and includes a stone and brick main house; a frame tenant house; a shop; a slaughterhouse; a stone and frame barn; a corn crib; and other miscellaneous non-contributing outbuildings. Although the farm has existed since the mid-1700s, most of the buildings date from the early to mid 19th century.  
 The main house is of considerable interest. It consists of a stone core and brick major wing. The stone core is 2 stories, 2 bays wide, with a gable roof and end chimney. Slightly recessed from the main block, it was the original kitchen and retains its cooking fireplace and evidence of a bake oven on the gable end. It has a closet stairway and nine-over-nine and six-over-six windows with rounded reveals, as does the brick section.  
 The main block of the farmhouse is now brick, although up until the 1830s it was

27. history, significance and/or background  
 Indian Deep Farm is primarily important as an agricultural complex which was established at this location in the 1750s, and still flourishes today. In 1978, Chester County's Commissioners honored it as a "Century Farm." Indian Deep also is historically associated with other major themes of the Scenic River Corridor, i.e., settlement, Indian Hannah, and Quaker families and Quaker conscience.  
 Like all other land in Newlin Township, Indian Deep Farm sits on a tract (cont.)

28. sources of information  
 Chester County Historical Society-Clipping File: Newlin, "lands," Surname File, "Buffington," Meredith," "Lamborn."

29. prepared by:  
 M.L. Wolf

(over)

30. date  
 12/84

1. County Chester  
 2. municipality Newlin Township  
 3. street address or specific location Glenhall and Groundhog College Roads  
 4. survey code 029-49-  
 5. present name Indian Deep Farm  
 6. other name (historic name if any)

(continue on back if necessary)

(continue on back if necessary)

(continue on back if necessary)

cont.

ame" (no doubt log). It is 5 bays wide, double pile, and has a gable roof with an attractive double brick cornice. The 2 main entrances on the facade are asymmetrically arranged. Shutters over these doors date from the 1940s, as does the dormer on the kitchen section. Despite a fire inside in the 1940s, the exterior walls, cornice, shutters, window openings, and door openings are original.

The farm complex is found to the rear of the house. It displays a unity of materials and style, largely as a result of improvements made in the 1870s. The barn was in place by 1830, probably much earlier. It is banked with stone north wall, half-stone gable ends, and a frame south wall. The stockyard is stone-walled and features a pitched top ledge. In 1830 it was described as a 40 by 55-foot stone, double-floor barn. A large frame forebay with a peculiar "wall dormer" was added in 1877 by Robert B. Lamborn, inscribed with the date of his improvements. About the same time he rebuilt the shop and added a slaughterhouse. The shop is built around a central stone foundation 4 feet high. Shed-roof extensions form off the side walls. At various times, the shop housed a blacksmith shop, laundry, and woodshed. Adjacent to the shop is the slaughterhouse, compatible in size, scale, and materials to the shop. It retains its original hooks and iron tracks for hanging carcasses. Animal pens are attached. A single corn crib is nearby, has oak slats, and is believed to be quite old. The tenant house is frame, 1 1/2 stories, and built on a stone foundation over a spring. It has a plain gable roof, horizontal siding, and small end chimneys.

Some fine old trees and shrubs are found on Indian Deep Farm, including boxwood and Norway spruce trees.

The boundaries for Indian Deep Farm are drawn to include only the historic farm complex -- main house, great barn, tenant house, slaughterhouse, corncrib, and shop. A few non-contributing outbuildings also are included within the boundary, as described on the continuation sheet.

7 cont:

which can be traced back to Nathaniel Newlin who obtained the 7100 acres which would become Newlin Township from the Free Society of Traders in 1724. Humphry Marshall obtained 300 acres of this tract in 1732, and in 1759 he and his wife, Sarah, sold to Thomas Buffington 100 acres and a "messuage or tenement."

It was probably Thomas Buffington who established a farm here in the mid 18th century. The farm stayed in the Buffington family until 1830, descending after Thomas's death in 1796 to his son Joshua who by then was living there.

Along with Mordecai Hayes, Caleb Harlan, and Samuel Marshall of the Scenic River Corridor, Joshua Buffington contributed to the support of Indian Hannah, Chester County's last Lenni-Lenape Indian. Thirty-three local families were party to an agreement to provide for her care in the last years of her life.

After Joshua's death in 1826, the administrator of his estate for the widow and seven children -- his son Joshua -- advertised the farm for sale. Several notices of sale from 1826 to 1830 (now in the collections of the Chester County Historical Society) give many details about the property at that time. Joshua Buffington, Sr. had had horses, cows, sheep, a plow, feeding cattle and lots of farm equipment. His household furniture included beds, chests, bedding, tables, chairs, a looking glass and all the usual items. In 1830 the buildings were described as a "frame house," springhouse, 40- by 55- foot double floor stone barn, a "stone waggon House," "corn crib," and "tenant house." The frame house was no doubt log. By 1855 it was "a commodious brick house nearly new."

William and Lydia Smith bought the farm (then 189 acres) in 1830 and sold it to James Meredith in 1838. The farm descended by will to Isaac Meredith. While in his ownership, the farm -- by then called Indian Deep Farm -- was a stop on the underground railroad.

cont.)

3. cont'd. Futhey and Cope. History of Chester County (1881), p.427.

4. Smedley, R.C. History of the Underground Railroad (1883), p.301.

EVALUATOR(S)

#27 cont:

According to R.C. Smedley in History of the Underground Railroad (1883), the home of Isaac and Thamazine Meredith in Newlin was on the main route of "underground travel," from Wilmington through Kennett, East Marlborough, Pocopson, Newlin, and East Fallowfield Townships and Downingtown, to "Chief agents" John Vickers in Lionville and Esther Lewis in West Vincent. During the same period, neighbors Mordecai and Esther Hayes (Hayes Homestead) also harbored slaves in their home.

By 1855 Isaac and Thamazine Meredith were ready to give up farming and advertised "Indian Deep Farm" for sale. An ad from the Village Record noted a stone kitchen was attached to the new brick house and the barn had an overshoot. The Merediths advertised the farm for sale off and on for nearly 10 years. In 1860 an ad stated that the grounds were arranged in the "modern style" and planted with shade and ornamental trees and that the farm had been a dairy for the last three years. In 1864 the farm was finally sold to Robert B. Lamborn, a relative.

Robert B. Lamborn (1817-1906) was from a local (West Bradford Township) family, but he had moved to Dauphine County where he operated Ellendale Forge. The purchase of Indian Deep Farm marked his return to Chester County. He lived at Indian Deep Farm until his death in 1906 with his wife Ellen, son Frank, and three grandsons.

Robert B. Lamborn appears to have been a man of considerable talents and energy. In addition to farming, he developed a small recreational facility in his meadow along the Brandywine, much like was done in Birmingham Township downstream, first in Birmingham Park and later at Lenape Park. Lamborn erected a dancing pavilion with attached dressing rooms and provided boats to attract picnic and bathing parties. It was advertised in 1886 as "Lamborn Park" along the Wilmington and Northern Railroad.

Indian Deep Farm passed to relatives of Lamborn in 1923, the Roberts, and is still in that family's ownership. The Roberts have maintained the farm as it was during its peak years under Robert Lamborn. It is one of the most charming and picturesque agricultural complexes within the Brandywine corridor, if not all of Chester County. Indian Deep Farm's designation as a "Century Farm" signifies its importance to a country duly proud of its agricultural heritage.

#### Indian Deep Farm: Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the intersection of Brandywine Creek Road where it meets Groundhog College Road;

Hence northerly along the roadbed of Groundhog College Road a distance of approximately 350 feet to a point;

Thence easterly approximately 500 feet to a point;

Thence southerly in a direction parallel to Groundhog College Road approximately 900 feet to a point in the road bed of Brandywine Creek Road;

Thence along Brandywine Creek Road approximately 700 feet to the point of beginning;  
Containing approximately 7½ acres.