

Oakdale

3883 1 NW
(UNIONVILLE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WILMINGTON
NORTH

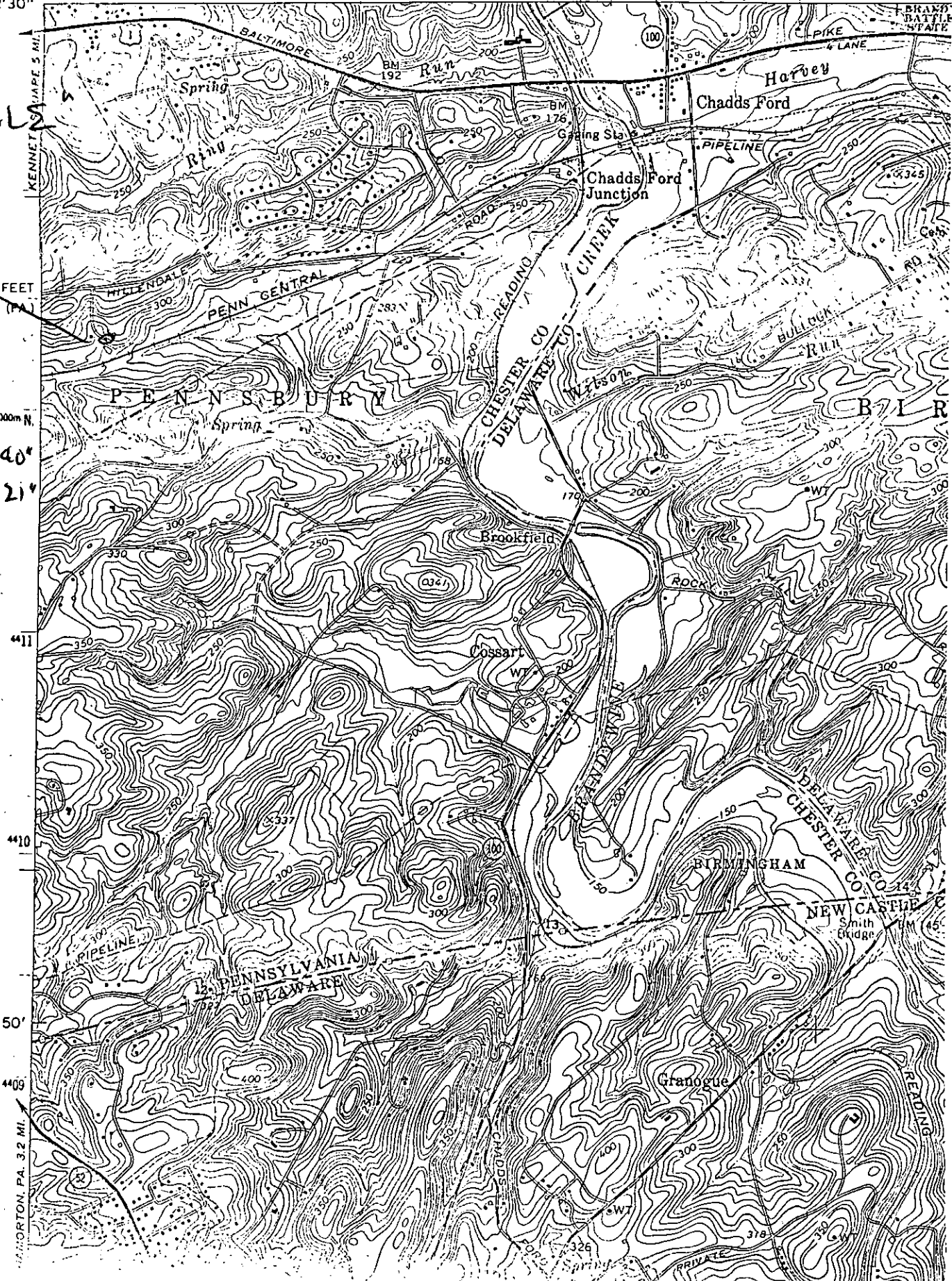
75° 37' 30" 447000m E : 2 600 000 (FEET (PA.) 449 LENAPE 4.8 MI. 450 35'

OAKDALE

200 000 FEET
(PA.)

4412000m N

Lat: 39° 51' 40"
Long: 75° 37' 21"



WILMINGTON, PA. 3.2 MI.

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission 3/1969
 Register of Historic Sites & Landmarks
Please Type or Print

Official Use Only

NUMBER: _____ COUNTY: _____

TYPE OF PROPERTY: _____

I. NAME

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY:
 Oakdale

OTHER:
 Isaac Mendenhall Estate

II. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Hillendale Road

CITY OR TOWN: Chadds Ford COUNTY: Chester

III. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>			OWNERSHIP			STATUS		ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC	
District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition:	Occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes:
Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process	Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted
Object	<input type="checkbox"/>			Both	<input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered	Preservation Work in Progress	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted
									No
									<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More if Applicable)*

Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	Museum	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religious	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>(Comment below)</i>	
Educational	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Additional Comments: This house is similar to the one Ellwood Mendenhall built to the west of this farm.

IV. OWNERSHIP

NAME:
 J.R.L. Johnson

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Hillendale Road

CITY OR TOWN: Chadds Ford COUNTY: Chester

V. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
 Chester County Courthouse, Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
 High and Market Streets

CITY OR TOWN: West Chester COUNTY: Chester

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

VI. (A) REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

None

DATE OF SURVEY: FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

(B) MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Books, Pamphlets, Theses, Research Projects, etc. See Instruction Sheet.)

PRIMARY SOURCES:

Chester County Courthouse. Will Books: Vol. 10, p. 425; Vol. 16, p. 91.

SECONDARY SOURCES:

Bi-Centennial of Old Kennett Monthly Meetinghouse: 1710-1910. Philadelphia: Walter H. Jenks, 1910.

Breou's Official Series of Farm Maps: Chester County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: W.W. Kirk & Co., 1883.

Futhey, J. Smith and Gilbert Cope. History of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Louis B. Everts, 1881.

Heathcote, Charles W. History of Chester County, Pennsylvania. West Chester: Temple Press, 1926.

Mendenhall, William and Edward Mendenhall. History, Correspondence, and Pedigrees of the Mendenhalls of England and the United States Relative to Their Common Origin and Ancestry ... Cincinnati: Moore, Wilbach and Baldwin, 1865.

Smedley, R.C. History of the Underground Railroad in Chester and Neighboring Counties of Pennsylvania. Lancaster: Office of the Journal, 1883.

(Cont'd)

VII. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LARGE PROPERTY—OVER TEN ACRES

SMALL PROPERTY—LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

O
R

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			O R	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		39°	51'	40"	75°	37'	21"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

LIST ALL COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING COUNTY BOUNDARIES

Notice on the use of maps: Please pinpoint property on the largest scale map possible (e.g., a township map is preferable to a county map, which in turn is better than a State map). Please try to find a map that uses the grid coordinate system and includes a notation as to scale. State geodetic maps are preferable when obtainable, but county, township, or local road maps are also acceptable.

VI. (B) MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

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.

Thompson, W.W. Chester County and Its People. Chicago: The Union History Co., 1898.

Two Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Concord Monthly Meeting: 1686-1911. Privately published, 1911.

VIII. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	EXCELLENT <input type="checkbox"/>	GOOD <input type="checkbox"/>	(Check one)		FAIR <input type="checkbox"/>	DETERIORATED <input type="checkbox"/>	RUINS <input type="checkbox"/>	UNEXPOSED <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check one)		(Check one)		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	ORIGINAL SITE <input type="checkbox"/>		
	ALTERED <input type="checkbox"/>	UNALTERED <input type="checkbox"/>						

VIII. (A) EARLY APPEARANCE (Old prints, old photos, photos of paintings and prints):

Note: Early views are most important since they often show a property before drastic changes were made. Please seek out any old photos, prints or photos of paintings, or prints that show the property. Place these in chronological order and comment upon the date of each view if possible.

Photographs Numbers 1 and 2 show the house in the 1890's when Aaron and Hettie Mendenhall owned it. Aaron was the son of Isaac who built the main section of the house.

During the 1870's a porch was on the north. It ran the complete length of the house, and was removed during the 1930's.

The house is similar to "Springdale," the house on the next farm to the west. Ellwood Mendenhall built "Springdale" in 1836. "Oakdale" was not built until four years later and there are definite changes in the house although the proportions and the floor plan were the same. The major changes made in the similar floor plan which are evident at Oakdale are:

- (1) A bay window protrudes on the south side of the diningroom.
- (2) The roof of the eighteenth century portion was raised to accommodate a third story. The date stone of "Oakdale" is located in the third story. (See Photograph Number 3). In this region the date stone is found ordinarily on the west rather than on the east elevation.

VIII. (B) PRESENT APPEARANCE:

Note: Please include exterior, interior and detailed views when possible. Any measured drawings or sketches of interesting details are also helpful.

The present ^{exterior} appearance of the house is much as it was. However, during the twentieth century changes have been made. In the 1930's the porch on the north elevation was removed. The chimneys were re-pointed. A terrace was added on the south elevation, and a door placed in the middle of the bay window. The porch over the hall door was removed, and the window in the eighteenth century portion of the house enlarged. Also, two dormers were added on the south side.

In the interior the northwest and southwest rooms on the first floor were made into a single large ~~room~~ ^{room}. Some of the hardware was replaced with eighteenth century style reproductions.

When the present owners acquired the property in the 1950's they added a screen porch on the east side.

IX. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (check one or more as applicable):

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century Specific Date(s) (if known) 1840

AREAS:

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion and/or	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>UNDERGROUND</u>	
Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>RAILROAD, CIVIL</u>	
Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WAR AND BLACK</u>	
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social - Humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>HISTORY</u>	
Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theatre	<input type="checkbox"/>		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Including Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Note: One may wish to attach here appraisals by noteworthy local historians or other interested parties who have knowledge of the property.

The Mendenhalls were one of the first English families to settle on the western banks of the Brandywine Creek. Three brothers, Benjamin, John, and Moses bought approximately 2000 acres from William Penn in 1684. As the family grew, they subdivided the tract of land. Oakdale Farm remained in the Mendenhall family from 1684 to the mid 1920's.

Isaac and Dinah Mendenhall, who built the house in 1840, were leading abolitionists. They were among the friends who established the Society of Progressive Friends at Longwood in 1853 as a result of Kennett Meetings Failure to respond to the abolition cause. Their farm was the first stop north of the Delaware line on the underground railroad and they frequently gave shelter to fugitives from the south. John G. Whittier, who knew the Mendenhalls through their anti-slavery endeavours, wrote to them in 1881 saying:

"I knew you in the brave old anti-slavery days and have never forgotten you. Whenever and wherever the cause of freedom needed aid and countenance you were sure to found with the noble band of Chester County men and women to whose mental culture, moral stamina, and generous self-sacrifice I can bear emphatic testimony."

An interesting feature at Oakdale Farm is the carefully concealed room in the old carriage house. Isaac Mendenhall constructed a square room between the walk-in fireplace and the west wall. The fleeing slaves entered the hideaway through the loft. Chinks in the exterior stonework allowed air to reach them.

(Con't)

The house at Oakdale Farm is a good example of the simple, but spacious, homes of prosperous south-eastern Pennsylvania Friends. Its proportions, and detail reflect the pragmatism of the rural people it served, in contrast to the more ornate houses which were being constructed during the same era. It is good country architecture.

X. FORM PREPARED BY:

NAME AND TITLE:

Eleanor M. Webster, Consultant

ORGANIZATION:

Tri-County Conservancy of the Brandywine

DATE:

June 20

STREET AND NUMBER:

Box 141

CITY OR TOWN:

Chadds Ford

STATE:

Pa.

XI. PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORM TO:

Keeper
 Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites & Landmarks
 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
 Box 1026
 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108