

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

HPB #07-1181 5/16/11 version.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Headquarters Historic District  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number Rosemont-Ringoes Road (County Route 604), Zentek Road  not for publication  
city or town Delaware Township  vicinity  
state New Jersey code NJ county Hunterdon code 019 zip code 08557

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally.  See continuation sheet for additional comments.  
Signature of certifying official/Title [Signature] Date 5/24/11  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet for additional comments.  
Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 7-14-11

**Headquarters Historic District**

Name of Property

**Hunterdon, NJ**

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>		sites
<u>3</u>		structures
<u>1</u>		objects
<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC / single dwelling
- DOMESTIC / secondary structure
- INDUSTRY / manufacturing facility
- AGRICULTURE / agricultural outbuilding
- AGRICULTURE / storage
- COMMERCE / department store

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC / single dwelling
- DOMESTIC / secondary structure
- AGRICULTURE / agricultural outbuilding
- AGRICULTURE / storage

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- NO STYLE
- GEORGIAN
- COLONIAL REVIVAL

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE
- walls STONE
- WOOD
- roof ASPHALT
- other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Continuation Sheet**Headquarters Historic District  
Hunterdon County, NJSection number   7   Page   1  **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

Headquarters, a crossroads mill hamlet whose name stems from traditional Revolutionary War associations, is located in the Amwell Valley of southern Hunterdon County, a portion of New Jersey's Piedmont geographical province characterized by rolling, mostly open farmland. The Headquarters Historic District encompasses a cluster of stone and frame 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings at the intersection of County Route 604 and Zentek Road, where a small tributary of the Neshanic River, known as Caponockons Creek, provides a waterpower site that was utilized at an early date and gave the settlement its focal point. The district is surrounded by a mix of farmland with scattered 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads and low density, modern residential development, along with a few modest 19<sup>th</sup> century dwellings straggling to the west along Route 604, which are isolated from the district's historic center by modern development and have been excluded.

The hamlet of Headquarters developed around an early 18<sup>th</sup> century mill seat and evolved during the 19<sup>th</sup> century into a modest center for the surrounding agricultural community providing limited industrial and commercial services. The district's resources reflect that history. Set back some distance from the main road (County Route 604, which runs east/west) stand two impressive stone buildings that constitute the district's most important resources: the grist mill, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century reconstruction of the smaller earlier mill and the mill proprietor's house, a mid-18<sup>th</sup> century Georgian dwelling (inventory #s 1 & 3, photo #1). Complementing these resources are two modest frame 19<sup>th</sup>-century dwellings, one of which has a general store appendage (inventory #s 2 & 6, photo #s 6 & 11), and a late 19<sup>th</sup> century stone storehouse (inventory #1, photo #4), along with several outbuildings and the ruins of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century distillery (inventory #4, photo #10). Other important character-defining features of the district are its landscape setting, which continues to reflect agricultural activity, and its road network which conforms to the original 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> century pattern. The siting and orientation of dwellings reflects traditional patterns. The mill proprietor's house is sited to face south, an orientation characteristic of the region's early rural architecture which maximized exposure to natural light. The 19<sup>th</sup>-century houses face the road with short setbacks reflecting a siting pattern typical of the region's 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century villages. There is a general lack of formal landscaping in the district, in keeping with the rural nature of the community.

The hamlet's roads provide for internal circulation as well as external connections north to the county seat at Flemington, east to Ringoes from where roads led east and south to the market towns of New Brunswick and Trenton, and south and west to the Delaware River at Lambertville and Stockton, where agricultural products could be shipped down river to Trenton and Philadelphia. The main east-west road through the settlement connects Headquarters with two nearby communities, the earlier settlement of Ringoes about three miles to the east and the 19<sup>th</sup>

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century village of Sergeantsville, a mile to the west. While no records relating to its origins survive, the east/west road probably came into use early in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and certainly was well established by the 1770s, as indicated by a 1770 road survey and 1773 mortgage.<sup>1</sup> These documents describe the road as connecting "Tyson's Mill," as Headquarters was then known, with other places, clearly demonstrating the importance of good road access for early mills. Exactly when Zentek Road was open also is unknown, but it certainly was extant by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, increasing the connection of the mill to surrounding farms.<sup>2</sup> Improved and somewhat straightened over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century, Route 604 is an asphalt-paved, two-lane road with painted lane delineation and minimal shoulders. One-lane Zentek Road follows its original alignment and is paved with crushed stone. Neither road has sidewalks and signage is minimal.

The construction methods and building types present within the district (based on the evidence of surviving examples) are representative of the region's 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>- century rural architecture, which reflects a variety of folk traditions transformed by the process of acculturation as well as typically subtle formal stylistic influences tempered by a pronounced rural conservatism.. While once containing working mills, a distillery, artisan shops, a tavern, stores and post office, Headquarters today is entirely residential and agricultural. District buildings are either stone or frame construction, are predominantly gable roofed, and are mostly of moderate size and simple design. The majority of the buildings are in good condition with significant features and detailing intact, and very few are seriously deteriorated or neglected. Most have been altered over time with minor additions and modern exterior materials.

Within the district, there are a total of seven contributing buildings; three contributing structures (segments of Route 604 and Zentek Road, inventory site #s 8 & 9) and an 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century road bridge (inventory #5); one contributing object, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century hitching post (inventory #3); and one contributing site, the distillery ruins (inventory #4). There are also five non-contributing buildings, one of which is a dwelling built c. 2000 (inventory #7); the remainder are garages and agricultural outbuildings of mid/20<sup>th</sup> century date.

The district's three early dwellings are traditional two-story, gable-roofed houses with single-and double-pile plans, regular facades of four or five bays, and interior gable-end chimneys. Two of them (inventory #s 2 and 6, photo #s 6 & 11) are modest frame, four-bay, I-types

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<sup>1</sup> Hunterdon County Road Returns, Book 1, p. 65; Hunterdon County Mortgages, Book 1, p. 200. The 1770 survey was for a new for a new road just east of Headquarters mill, then known as Tyson's Mill, began in the "great road leading from Benjamin Tyson's Mill to John Ringoes," present-day Route 604, and ended in the "middle of the great road leading by said [Samuel] Kitchen's mill, at what is now the village of Sand Book a few miles to the north. The 1773 mortgage for property at what is now Sergeantsville, describes it as bordering the "Great Road from Tyson's Mill to Opdycke's Mill," Route 604.

<sup>2</sup> Samuel C. Cornell, *Map of Hunterdon County*, 1851.

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that date c. 1800-40. The third is the stone, five-bay, center-hall-plan dwelling (inventory #1; photo #s 1 & 2), traditionally known as Headquarters House. The latter, the district's most impressive dwelling, is thought to have been built by mill-owner John Opdycke in 1758 (the year is painted on a plaque in the west gable) and replaced his earlier homestead, located about a half mile south of the district. In contrast to the coursed rubble stone utilized for its secondary facades and other district stone buildings, Headquarters House is distinguished by a random ashlar south front with carefully dressed corner quoins and splayed window lintels. Historic photographs and physical evidence establish that the house originally had gable-end pent roofs, a distinctive feature associated with the early domestic architecture of the Delaware Valley, and features a bank cellar with kitchen. The two I-type dwellings exhibit little in the way of decorative detailing, demonstrating limited influence from the architectural fashions common in rural northwestern New Jersey during the late 18<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. In contrast to them, Headquarters House (inventory # 1; photo # 2), with its symmetrical façade, center-hall plan and Roman ovolo molded woodwork, typifies the small number of Georgian style houses built by people of means throughout the region in the 1700s.

The district contains two early outbuildings: a stone, two-story, partially embanked out kitchen (inventory #1, photo #3) that probably incorporated work or living space as well as kitchen facilities and a frame, gable-roofed wagon house of 19<sup>th</sup>-century date (inventory #2, photo #s 5 & 7). One other resource is evocative of the horse-drawn era, a stone hitching post surviving in front of the grist mill (site #3). Road-related resources include the Zentek Road bridge (inventory #5, photo #s 8 & 11 ) which features 19<sup>th</sup>-century, stone abutments, and a 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete-slab road deck, and the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century road network (inventory #8).

The district also contains several industrial and commercial resources. The imposing mill (inventory #3, photo #s 1, 8 & 9) is the one intact industrial resource within the district. The partially embanked 3½-story stone mill, the result of several campaigns of construction, has not operated since around 1930, but has been well-preserved and retains much of its works. The original 1735 mill evidently was rebuilt or replaced in 1754 and rebuilt again in 1877, when it was enlarged on the north and east sides, as evidenced by a series of stone quoins on the east gable end about twelve feet from the northeast corner. The quoins do not extend to the present eaves, suggesting that the mill was heightened as well. What would have been the north wall of the 1754 mill is also evident from a break or joint in the first-floor joists aligned with the quoins. The wheel pit extends the full width of the west gable end, and water probably originally entered underground at the west end of the north side and exited at the west end of the south wall. An arch on the south side was probably a later tailrace exit. A considerable portion of the mill works survives intact. A small stone appendage at the west gable end, no longer extant, once housed a steam-powered engine, installed to replace the turbine (itself a replacement of an earlier water-wheel) in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Also found at Headquarters Farm are a stone, two-story store-

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house with a low-pitched gable roof erected in 1888 (inventory #1, photo #4) and the stone ruins of a mill/distillery (inventory #4, photo #10) which dates to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps earlier. The frame gable-end extension of one district house (site #6, photo #11) housed a shoe shop and later a store during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Except for the ruinous mill/distillery, resources generally are in good condition and well maintained. The district still possesses the ability to reflect its historical and architectural significance, retaining its essential integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The noncontributing buildings within in the district include one frame dwelling with Colonial detailing erected c. 2000 (inventory #7, photo #1), and a number of non contributing secondary buildings on contributing properties. These are mainly garages and agricultural outbuildings and structures. Overall, the noncontributing buildings and structures do not detract from the ability of the district to convey a feeling of a mill hamlet and agricultural community during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

In the following inventory, each principal structure and site is identified by a number that locates it on the accompanying district map. All primary entries are categorized as either "contributing" or "non-contributing" to the significance of the district. All outbuildings included in the inventory are identified as either contributing or non-contributing with the designation (C) or (NC). Sources used for dating purposes include Samuel Cornell's *Map of Hunterdon County* (1851); S.N. Beer's *Map of Philadelphia and Vicinity*, (1860); F. W. Beer's *Atlas of Hunterdon County* (1873); and Pugh and Down's *Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, (1902). References are included where appropriate to the 1983 Delaware Township Historic Sites survey (denoted by either "HQ" or "DTHS").

## INVENTORY

- 1 **6 Zentek Road.** "Headquarters House" (HQ 1) A stone, five-bay, two-story double pile **dwelling** with gable end chimneys; bank cellar partially above grade on the front; frame west gable-end lean-to; and a frame one-story west appendage.

**Style:** Vernacular Georgian with Victorian embellishments

**Date:** 1758, painted on the west gable date plaque. 1851: Conover's; 1860: no name; 1873: J. Carrell; 1902: no name.

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**Additional Description:** Exterior features a random ashlar south face, a box cornice with returns that is carried on the raking eaves (evidently rebuilt, evidence of west gable pent roof), 1/1 (replacements) and 12/8 sash windows with architrave trim, segmental arched window lintels on the 1<sup>st</sup> story (flat-topped on the front) a central south entry with transom, paneled recess, double French doors and splayed lintel (reworked), and an off center entry with segmental lintels on the 3-bay north side.

**History:** John Opdycke is said to have been the first settler at what would become known as Headquarters and built a mill there in 1735. The house, traditionally known as the Mansion House, presumably was erected by him in 1758. A local tradition (no longer given credence by historians) holds that Washington or members of his army stopped at the place during the Revolutionary War, giving the hamlet its name. [Snell, pp. 375 & 386]

**Outbuildings:** (1) Stone two-story, partially embanked **out kitchen** with west gable-end chimney, overhanging eaves and irregularly placed sash windows, early 19<sup>th</sup> century; the building was originally stucco and probably incorporated living quarters (C); (2) To the north stands a large stone, two-story **storehouse** (originally stucco) with a low-pitched, gable roof, boxed overhanging eaves, 6/6 sash windows, batten-door entries, a small frame appendage and date stone inscribed "J.A.C./1888;" (C); (3) small partially embanked frame and masonry equipment **building**, 20<sup>th</sup> century (NC); (4) large frame **barn**, late 20<sup>th</sup> century, (NC); (5) small frame **barn/shed**, late 20<sup>th</sup> century (NC).

**Contributing** Block 41/Lot 14 Photo #s 1,2 3& 4

- 2 **Rosemont-Ringoes Road** (HQ 2) Frame, four-bay, I-type **dwelling** with gable end chimneys.

**Style:** None

**Date:** c. 1800-1840. 1851: J. Poulson; 1860: no name; 1873: J. Carrell; 1902: not shown.

**Additional Description:** Dwelling has clapboard siding, box cornices, overhanging raking eaves (later), 6/6 sash windows with plain trim and an inner bay entry with modern glass and panel door and a small shed hood.

**Outbuildings:** To the east stands a frame gable roofed **wagon house**, 19<sup>th</sup> century. (C).

**Contributing** Block 41/Lot 14 Photo #s 5, 6 & 7

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- 3 **6 Zentek Road.** Random coursed rubblestone, three-and-a-half story, gable-roofed grist-mill with an embanked ground story, three-bay sides and gable-end, overhanging eaves, 6/6 sash windows and batten-door entries on three sides.

**Date:** first mill on site constructed 1735; current building was constructed in 1754 and rebuilt in 1877 by John A. Carrell, according to date stones. 1851: Conover's; 1860: no name; 1873: J. Carrell; 1902: no name. A stone carved with the date "1735" is set in the lower south corner on the east gable end. Near the peak of the west gable are two date stones, the upper one inscribed "B/1754," and the lower one "RB 1877/ J. A. C."

**Additional Description:** Originally covered with stucco, the mill was built in several campaigns. The original 1735 mill evidently was rebuilt or replaced in 1754 and rebuilt in 1877 (incorporating 18<sup>th</sup> century perimeter walls and floor joists), at which time it was enlarged on the north sides, as evidenced by a series of stone quoins on the east gable end about twelve feet from the northeast corner. The quoins do not extend to the present eaves, suggesting that the mill was heightened as well. What would have been the north wall of the 1754 mill, also is evident from a break or joint in the in the first-floor joists aligned with the quoins. The wheel pit extends the full width of the west gable end, and water probably originally entered underground at the west end of the north side and exited at the west end of the south wall. An arch on the south side was probably a later tailrace exit. A considerable portion of the mill works survives intact. A small stone appendage at the end, no longer extant, housed a steam powered engine, installed to replace the turbine (itself a replacement of an earlier waterwheel) in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Additional Resources:** (1) stone hitching post, 19<sup>th</sup> century (C).

**Contributing** Block 41/Lot 14 Photo #s 8 & 9

- 4 **6 Zentek Road.** Located about 150 yards east of the gristmill (see #3 above) is a mill/distillery site. It encompasses stone ruins of a large rectangular structure, including portions of foundations and wall. One surviving corner at least two stories in height.

**Date/additional information:** late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century. This undoubtedly is the second mill/distillery building referenced in an 1820 newspaper advertisement for the sale of the property:

Another Mill and Distillery built of stone, about 150 yards below the mill above described, 3 stories high, 65 by 30 feet, to which is attached two stills and one boiler, this mill has but one pair of stones; cider works and hog pens are favora-



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bly constructed, also cisterns for cider, and hogsheads for the purpose of distilling grain, the water wheel and machinery are but a few years old [*The Fredonian*, May 5, 1820].

**Contributing**                      Block 41/Lot 14                      Photo #10

5      **Zentek Road.** Concrete deck **bridge** on early stone abutments.

**Date:** Mid/late 20<sup>th</sup> century with 19<sup>th</sup> century stone abutments.

**Contributing**

6      **402 Rosemont-Ringoes Road (HQ 5)** Frame **dwelling** consisting of a four-bay I-type main block with gable end chimneys and a slightly lower two-bay, east wing, originally used for a store, with a gable roof that replaced a shallow shed roof, which sloped downward to the east as depicted in an early 20<sup>th</sup> century photograph.

**Style:** None with modern Colonial Revival embellishment

**Date/History:** c. 1800-1840, east wing probably later. 1851: no name; 1860: no name; 1873: no name; 1902: store. In 1929, local historian Egbert T. Bush provided the following background on the dwelling:

The present store property was sold by the Covenhovens to Joseph Housel to whom it was only a residence. Joseph Carrell bought it of the Housel estate in 1872, and rented it to Theodore Denson, who used part of the house as a shoe-maker shop. Carrell later enlarged the part used as a shop and changed it into a storehouse. The store has since been kept by Rutan Heath, James Buchanan, William H. Brewer, A.J. Dalrymple and . . . by Bert B. German, who purchased the property of Carrell in 1929. [Bush, p. 273]

**Additional Description:** Among the exterior features are clapboard siding, boxed overhanging eaves, 6/6 sash windows with plain trim and panel shutters (modern), and main block and east wing entries with glass and panel doors and shed-roofed stoops.

**Outbuildings:** Frame **garage**. 20<sup>th</sup> century (NC)

**Contributing**                      Block 40/Lot 5                      Photo #11



**8 Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria considerations**

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

**Period of Significance**

1735 – 1929

**Significant Dates**

1735

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

NOT APPLICABLE

**Architect/Builder**

UNKNOWN

**Headquarters Historic District**

Name of Property

**Hunterdon, NJ**

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of property approximately 17 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	506360	4476685
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	18	506390	4476820

3	18	506675	4476910
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	18	506700	4476730

 See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Ann Parsekian, Dennis Bertland, Janice Armstrongorganization Dennis Bertland Associates date December 2010street & number P.O. Box 315 telephone 609-397-3380city or town Stockton state NJ zip code 08559**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street &amp; number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## NARRATIVE SIGNIFICANCE

### *Summary*

The Headquarters Historic District, originally known as Tyson's Mills after an early proprietor and subsequently called Headquarters after a reputed Revolutionary War encampment, exemplifies the small agglomerate settlements that developed in the region during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries to serve the dispersed agricultural community and then became increasingly isolated as they were bypassed by area transportation improvements, inhibiting further growth. The district's architectural significance derives from its assemblage of modest early stone and frame dwellings whose construction, form, detailing and spatial organization are representative of the rural region's domestic architecture during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The district's industrial significance stems from its mill complex, particularly the grist mill, which embodies the small-scale manufactories that once proliferated around the region but which eventually could not compete with operations possessing better transportation connections. In addition, the sites of a second mill/distillery, along with the environs of extant buildings, may yield significant information about 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century material culture. The period of significance begins with the earliest known date associated with the mill, 1735, and ends with the year around which it ceased operation, 1929. The hamlet possesses significance under Criteria A and C in the areas of settlement, architecture, and industry, with a period of significance of circa 1735 to 1929.

One of Delaware Township's oldest communities, Headquarters coalesced around a gristmill erected on a small tributary of the Neshanic River at an early date. A stone incorporated into the building, inscribed 1735, is the earliest evidence of the mill's existence and has long been accepted by local historians as the date of its establishment. A tavern and a general store are claimed by some sources to have been operating there by the time of the Revolutionary War. The purported tavern, a stone building known as White Hall (which stood on the south side of the crossroads and was torn down in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century) purportedly served as a rallying point for local militia men and, in conjunction with the nearby mill and the miller's house, ostensibly became the focus of an encampment of the American army as it passed across New Jersey, both of which are undocumented local traditions that apparently gave the community its name. As an assemblage, the mill, dwellings and stores of the Headquarters Historic District are significant as an agricultural service community, originally shaped by New Jersey's proprietary system of land survey and distribution, which was settled and developed by a mix of agriculturists of mainly Dutch, British and German descent. The mill complex operated during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, but by 1929 the last mill was idled, ending the era of industrial activity and concluding the period of significance. The district's buildings, roads, and fields preserve a record of the early settlement and subsequent development of the cultural landscape.

Settlement patterns at Headquarters, as elsewhere in New Jersey, showed effects of the land allotment schemes of the West New Jersey Proprietors as carried out by their surveyors and local agents. Surviving roads and lot lines in the district still echo portions of the original survey. In contrast to some mill settlements in the region, Headquarters was not on a major route, a fact that contributed to the hamlet's

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limited development as a commercial center. Also important to the settlement context is the organization of buildings and structures within the landscape of dispersed farmsteads. By the middle of the 19th century, Headquarters appears to have attained its zenith, reaching its present size and configuration, with most dwellings and farmsteads scattered along the main road, east and west of the crossroads cluster where the mill complex and store provided a focal point. In 1844, Barber and Howe noted that the hamlet then contained "a store, 2 grist mills and 8 dwellings;" the tavern evidently having closed by then. The 1851 Cornell map identifies a gristmill, a store, a cooper shop, a shoe shop, a doctor and about a dozen additional houses. On the 1860 Lake and Beers map appear the gristmill, a store (in a different location), a wheelwright shop, a blacksmithy and about the same number of dwellings. Although not marked on the map, the shoe shop was still in operation. Little change evidently occurred in the next several decades. In 1881, Snell's county history description of the stable hamlet reported "a store, steam saw and grist mill, shoe-shop, blacksmith and wagon shop of Manuel Green and that about a dozen dwellings" were located there. While a short-lived post office with the name of "Grover" was established there in 1887 (during Grover Cleveland's first presidential term), Headquarters had become a stagnant backwater by the early 20th century like most of the region's isolated hamlets and villages. The 1902 Pugh and Downing map identifies only two commercial enterprises, the mill and a store, which had moved again, along with the same number of dwellings as depicted on maps decades earlier. Today, all of Headquarters' commercial and industrial activities have long since ceased, leaving it an entirely residential community with agricultural uses maintained on the farmsteads.

Although in recent decades there has been some low-density development in around the community, its distance from population centers has allowed Headquarters to remain relatively undisturbed and, as a consequence, much of its 19th-century rural character has survived intact, at least in the crossroads cluster which encompasses the district. A majority of the district's resources date to the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The distinctive historical character of the district results from the survival of these buildings and their juxtaposition with the surrounding countryside. The district's buildings collectively possess architectural significance. Their form, construction, decorative embellishment and siting provide a representative illustration of the rural region's essentially vernacular architecture in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, especially its traditional stone construction. Of particular note is Headquarters House (inventory #1, photo #2), which is distinguished by the random ashlar stonework and splayed stone window and door lintels of its principal facade. With its symmetrical fenestration and double-pile center-hall plan, the dwelling also typifies the small number of Georgian style houses built by people of means throughout the region in the 1700s. The adjoining mill (inventory #3, photo #s 1, 8 & 9), erected in 1735, replaced or enlarged in 1754 and enlarged again in 1877, illustrates the evolution of small-scaled water-powered industries in the region and the efforts of their owners to adapt to changing technology.

***Historical Overview***

European settlement in the Amwell Valley began early in the 18<sup>th</sup> century when large tracts of land were acquired by typically absentee landlords under New Jersey's system of proprietary land holding. These tracts were usually divided into smaller parcels, which were then either developed as plantations or further subdivided for sale to agriculturists. The Headquarters District encompasses a small portion of

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what was originally a parcel of 540 acres ("Lot #2") that formed part of the 150,000-acre "Lotting Purchase" acquired for the West Jersey Proprietors from its Native American owners in 1702.<sup>1</sup> In 1712 John Ladd procured the 540-acre tract, at that time located in Amwell Township, which had been chartered four years earlier.<sup>2</sup> Sometime thereafter, the Ladd tract evidently became the property of Samuel Green, a West Jersey surveyor and pioneer settler of Amwell Township presumably of English descent, who acquired extensive landholdings throughout northwestern New Jersey during the early 1700s, including several tracts in the vicinity of what became Headquarters.<sup>3</sup> The wealthy Green was a prominent figure in Amwell Township, and beginning as early as 1721 held at different times such public offices as Township Clerk, Assessor, Collector, Justice of the Peace and County Freeholder.<sup>4</sup> Although no contemporary deed has been found, that Green conveyed the Ladd tract in whole or part to his son-in-law John Opdycke is established by a 1775 deed from Opdycke to his son Thomas for property at Headquarters, which described the parcel as "all that part of his old farm and plantation given to him the said John Opdycke by Samuel Green."<sup>5</sup> The conveyance from Green to Opdycke most likely occurred around 1737, by which year John Opdycke had married Green's daughter Margaret and around the time that Green relocated to the frontier of European settlement in what is now Warren County where he died in 1760.<sup>6</sup> While 1735, the date carved on a stone in the foundation of the extant mill, may well be the year in which the first mill was erected there, whether Green or Opdycke was responsible for first developing the water power remains unknown.<sup>7</sup>

Like his father-in-law, John Opdycke (1710-1777) was a large landowner and held several public offices, engaged as well in industrial, agricultural and mercantile pursuits, purportedly developing several mill and farm properties and establishing a store at Headquarters, which remained a locus of activity throughout much of his life. A 1737 mortgage provides the earliest documentation of his ownership of land in Amwell Township, a 456-acre tract of land located "on a branch of the Delaware called Tokhokonetkong," and over the next several decades he acquired considerable property in northwestern

<sup>1</sup> D. Stanton Hammond, "Hunterdon County, New Jersey," Map Series # 4, Sheet F. Genealogical Society of New Jersey, 1965.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. Burlington Book A, p. 128.

<sup>3</sup> Hammond; Charles Wilson Opdyke, *The Op Dyck Genealogy. Containing the Opdyck-Opdycke-Opdyke-Updike American Descendants of the Wesel and Holland Families*, pp. 215 & 216; West Jersey Deeds, Book AM, page 296.

<sup>4</sup> Opdyke, p. 215.

<sup>5</sup> West Jersey Deeds, Book AM, p. 296.

<sup>6</sup> Opdyke, pp. 214 - 217 & 224. As John and Mary Opdycke's oldest known child was born in 1738, they presumably were married in 1737, if not earlier. Samuel Green evidently moved north to the region of Hope around this time, where in 1738 he was selected as one of four electors representing Greenwich Township in an election for Representatives to the General Assembly from Hunterdon County. Green's third daughter, Ann, married John Opdycke's brother, Joshua. Note: Although spelled variously by different members of the family, Opdycke is the spelling used throughout this narrative.

<sup>7</sup> Presuming that the 1735 date is correct, the Headquarters mill was one of the neighborhood's earliest mills. The earliest known mill in Amwell Township was one near what is now Ringoes, built around 1727 by William Dawlis [Hubert G. Schmidt, *Rural Hunterdon: An Agricultural History*, p. 212]

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New Jersey.<sup>8</sup> John Opdycke, was the eldest son of Albert Opdycke, a Hopewell Township resident of Dutch descent, and John and his wife Margaret (1711–1775) had at least nine children, four sons and five daughters.<sup>9</sup> Opdycke made considerable improvements to his property at Headquarters during the middle decades of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, including the construction of several substantial stone buildings. According to one of his descendants interviewed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century:

He first built and lived in the stone house on his farm which now belongs to Mrs. Samuel Higgins, near Headquarters. He built "Whitehall," also "Headquarters House" where he kept a store, and a mill close by. He [also] laid out the Opdycke graveyard at Headquarters and he and his family are buried there.<sup>10</sup>

Of these, only Headquarters House is located within the district. The 1750s appears to have been the peak years of his building activity. The gristmill (inventory #3) bears a 1754 date stone, and Headquarters House (inventory #1) has one inscribed "1758."<sup>11</sup> According to family history, he built three other grist mills in the area, one for each of his adult sons, and a stone house adjoining the site of one of these mills, located on Wickecheoke Creek just west of Sergeantsville, has a crudely carved date stone inscribed "'M/I O 1754" for the initials of Margaret and John Opdycke and construction date of the house.<sup>12</sup> Opdycke appears on the 1738 Amwell Township voter list and thereafter held a number of public offices, Township Constable in 1744, County Freeholder in 1750, and a Justice of the Peace in 1755.<sup>13</sup>

Within a few years of building Headquarters House, John Opdycke evidently divested himself of his mill property. By 1765, a tract of 148 acres including the mill seat and land to the northwest had become the property of Joseph Howell, seized and sold at court-ordered sheriff sale to satisfy a defaulted debt. The May 1, 1765 newspaper notice of the auction, scheduled for the following July 2, provides a detailed description of the property and its substantial improvements (which included two grist mills, as well as Headquarters House), along with Howell's household goods and livestock:

<sup>8</sup> Hunterdon County Loan Office Records, 1737-45, Book II, page 76. Opdycke's £40 loan on 456 acres had a last recorded payment in 1752. Opdycke's brother-in-law Benjamin Severns (who married another daughter of Samuel Green) mortgaged 439 acres adjoining Opdycke's land on the west, and his loan was discharged in 1753 [Ibid, Book II, page 75]. The location of the adjoining tracts is unclear, although their location on "a branch of the Delaware" seemly precludes Headquarters which lies within the headwaters of the Raritan River.

<sup>9</sup> Opdyke, p. 224. According to the family genealogy, the Opdycke children were Elizabeth (1735-1836), who married John Arnwine of Headquarters; Sarah (b. 1741), who married John Buchannan, also of Headquarters; George (1743-1795) of Milltown, who married Sophia Baker; Catherine (b. 1745), who married Abraham Larew, of Everittstown; Mary (b. 1747), who married Agesilaus Gordon, of Sergeantsville; Samuel (1749-1801) of Sergeantsville, who married Susannah Robeson; and Margaret (1751-1820), who married John Besson of Flemington; John (1753-1773), unmarried; and Thomas (1756-1805) of Locktown, whose wife was named Anna.

<sup>10</sup> Opdyke, p. 218. The informant also related that "John kept store nearly all his life, and his daughter Elizabeth (my husband's grandmother) was sometimes his head clerk."

<sup>11</sup> Headquarters House has also been called "Mansion House" in various accounts.

<sup>12</sup> Opdyke, p. 218. Covered Bridge Historic District NJ/National Register nomination, page 7-2; Opdyke, page 262; Marfy Goodspeed, "Headquarters (Grover)," unpublished manuscript, 2007, p. 1.

<sup>13</sup> Opdyke, p. 218.



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Trenton, May 1, 1765. By Virtue of a Write of Fieri Facias to me directed, will be exposed to Sale at Public Vendue to the highest Bidder, on Tuesday the 2d of July next, between the Hours of 12 and 5 of the Clock, on the Premises, 148 Acres of Land situated in Amwell, noted for the best Wheat Land in the Province, bounded by Lands of John Opdike, Richard Kitchen, and others, be it more or less, on which is a large Stone House, two Stories high, four Rooms on a Floor, a large Entry through the House, with Cellars underneath the whole; also two Overshot Grist-mills, supplied by Water from living Springs, a good Barn, Stable, Cow house, Milk-house, a fine young Orchard, an excellent Piece of Clover Meadow in front of the Dwelling-house, which may be watered by the Water from the Mills in the driest Seasons; there is also a Frame House on the said Lands. Also to be sold the same Day, Feather Beds and Furniture, Chests of Drawers, Tables, Chairs, Pewter, Iron Pots, Trammels, Candlesticks, two Horses, two Mares, two Cows an sundry other Things too tedious to mention here, late the Property, and now in Possession of Joseph Howell, seized and taken in Execution at the suit of Thomas Pryn, Jun. and to be sold by Samuel Tucker, Sheriff.<sup>14</sup>

A 1768 mortgage and a 1787 deed document that the Howell property was located at Headquarters and that Benjamin Tyson became its next owner. In 1768, Tyson mortgaged three tracts of land in Amwell Township to a Philadelphia merchant for a period of one year, and while the mortgage makes no mention of a mill or how Tyson acquired the property, the boundary description for a 116-acre tract sold by Tyson in 1787 corresponds to those of two of the mortgaged lots. Furthermore, the 1787 deed notes that the 116-acre tract form part of the 148-acre tract owned by Joseph conveyed to Tyson by the county sheriff.<sup>15</sup> The north boundary of the third mortgaged lot bordered lands of Henry Kitchen who the 1787 deed indicates owned land lying directly north of the mill and Headquarters House.<sup>16</sup> Tyson evidently assumed operation of the mills, and the 1770 road return of the Sandbrook-Headquarters Road indicates that the hamlet was known as Tyson's Mill by that year.<sup>17</sup> Court records show Tyson was frequently sued for debt between 1775 and 1796.<sup>18</sup> In 1776, he again mortgaged the same three parcels, discharging the debt in June 1, 1790.<sup>19</sup> Although he was forced to sell some of his land holdings, including the 116 acres lying west of the mill in 1787, Tyson retained possession of the mill until 1790.<sup>20</sup>

In March 1775, John Opdycke's wife, Margaret, died and was evidently the first burial in the family cemetery located a short distance east of his original farmhouse about a half mile south of the district, where he may have returned to live after selling the mill property. Only five months later Opdycke conveyed 267 acres south of the main road, including his farmhouse and the family graveyard, to his youngest

<sup>14</sup> Nelson, William, ed. *Documents Relating to the Revolutionary History of the State of New Jersey, Extracts From American Newspapers Relating to New Jersey*, Vol. V, 1762-1765. p. 549-50

<sup>15</sup> Hunterdon County Mortgages, Book 1, page 208; West Jersey Deeds, Book AO, page 345.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid. & Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 7, p. 257.

<sup>17</sup> Hunterdon County Road Returns, Book 1, p. 65.

<sup>18</sup> Marfy Goodspeed, "Headquarters Farm," unpublished manuscript, undated, p. 4.

<sup>19</sup> HC Mortgages, Book 1, p. 252.

<sup>20</sup> Goodspeed, "Headquarters Farm," p. 4; West Jersey Deeds, Book AO, page 345.

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son, nineteen-year-old Thomas, for "5 shillings proclamation and also for and in consideration of the Love and Tender Regard towards his said son."<sup>21</sup>

According to local traditions, first recorded in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Headquarters has Revolutionary War associations, which gave the settlement its name. During July 1777, General Washington purportedly briefly headquartered either at the house next to the mill, which was then owned by Benjamin Tyson, or the tavern on the other side of the main road. Although the name Headquarters was used as early as 1816, the first written account of the traditions appears in Snell's 1881 county history, which reported "Washington made the old stone house, still standing on the corner of the road, his headquarters for a few days during the Revolution."<sup>22</sup> In an 1889 account of the incident, an Opdyke descendant who heard the story from John Opdycke's daughter, Elizabeth, identified the house by the mill as Washington's Headquarters:

the house, in which [John Opdycke] lived and kept store, was occupied by General Washington in the Revolution, and on that account the village is named "Headquarters" and the house has born that name over 100 years. I obtained much information from my husband's mother, who was a daughter of John's daughter Elizabeth. She was a remarkable woman, truthful and reliable, often visited our house for months; never forgot anything she had heard or seen, and was very fond of relating stories of old times. She died Feb. 13, 1864, aged 94 years and 14 days. She remembered seeing General Washington seated with her grandfather under a shed before a stone pork house in the yard of her grandfather's house. She was eight years old, and Washington gave her a penny to bring him a drink of water from the spring, and her father treated to spirits.<sup>23</sup>

Actually, John Opdycke did not own the Headquarters House at the time, having sold the property years earlier, and he died in August 1777, a month after the alleged encampment. In an attempt to corroborate these traditions, the author of the Opdycke genealogy referenced an 1851 county map that denoted an area several miles south of Headquarters as the site of "Washington's encampment," but he was unable to locate a published account of Washington's presence in the neighborhood.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>21</sup> West Jersey Deeds, Book AM, page 296. Thomas Opdycke is claimed to have owned and occupied a stone house and mill near Locktown. Opdyke, p. 264.

<sup>22</sup> James P. Snell, (ed.), *History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey*, p. 375.

<sup>23</sup> Opdyke, p. 219. The account of General Washington's visit is based upon an early recollection by the wife of John Opdycke's great grandson who was herself Opdycke's great grandniece and was eight years old at the time of the purported visit.

<sup>24</sup> "Washington's encampment" is designated on Cornell's 1851 map with a flag planted at a spot about three miles south of Headquarters, just west of the village of Mount Airy, adjoining "S. Holcombs grist mill" on Alexsucken Creek. This Samuel Holcomb appears to have been son of Samuel Holcombe, who settled near Mount Airy by the time of the Revolution and was a brother of Richard Holcombe who hosted Washington. Samuel Junior had both a brother and a son named George, the son likely was the George Holcombe who acquired the Headquarters property in the late 1700s [Snell, pp. 267 & 344]. Samuel Holcombe's property was just off the Old York Road only a few miles from Lambertville and thus a more like place for troops crossing the Delaware at Corell's Ferry (whether with Washington or otherwise) to have camped than Headquarters. Perhaps George Holcombe adopted the name because of his family's association with the Revolutionary War.

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Another version of these purported events appears in a 1901 newspaper article by J. M. Hoppock, whose family had long resided in the neighborhood:

This mansion, [Headquarters House, now owned by] Mr. John Carrell, was for a short time occupied by the Commander-in-Chief, General George Washington, as his headquarters in the month of July, 1777, this being the time a portion of his army was encamped on the farm upon which the buildings are situated. A part of the army made a three days' encampment at this place, the other portions encamping on the farms of H. M. Holcombe and Nathaniel Shepherd, near Sand Brook.

On breaking camp at these points, the division on the Holcombe farm left the Township by way of the Trenton road, on their march to the defense of Philadelphia, striking the Delaware at Trenton; the division on the Shepherd farm went by way of the road leading from Flemington to Stockton, then known as Howell's Ferry. This road at that time was known as the "old Indian trail," leading from the Raritan to the Delaware. The part of the army on the Carrell property passed by way of Mount Airy, from that place taking the old York road to Lambertville then called Coryell's Ferry.

Numerous incidents in reference to the army during its stop at this point are still kept in memory by tradition. This part of the State at that time was, of course, but thinly populated, but the people, almost to a man, were in hearty sympathy with the patriotic cause. Numerous recruits were added to their numbers while remaining here. The citizens did all that lay in their power to relieve the sufferings of the soldiers, gratuitously furnishing food and clothing, and in many other ways administering to their wants.<sup>25</sup>

In another article, Hoppock maintained that the "White Hall Tavern" had served as a meeting place for the local militia during the Revolutionary War:

This old building, erected in 1758 at Head Quarters, now Grover, standing on the corner of the road on the farm at present owned by Smith Skinner, was, between the dates given above [1775-1781], used as a recruiting station. As shown by papers in possession of the writer, Captain David Jones, of the Continental line, was the recruiting officer, and at this point, when the alarm was given that the then hated minions of King George had made a landing at Paulus Hook (Jersey City) or Amboy, would assemble the patriotic old citizen-soldiery, armed with the flint-locks, home-made bullets and powder horns, and from thence hasten to the front to assist the great Washington in beating back the invaders.<sup>26</sup>

While troops of the American Army did march through the Amwell Valley and General Washington is known to have stayed at the residence of Richard Holcombe in what is now Lambertville, nothing in the published accounts of Revolutionary War reviewed for this project provides any ties to Headquarters that

<sup>25</sup> J. M. Hoppock, "Washington's Headquarters, July, 1777," *Democrat-Advisor*, 10/31/1901.

<sup>26</sup> J. M. Hoppock, "The White Hall Recruiting Station, 1775-1781," *Democrat-Advisor*, 10/24/1901. In a yet another article, Hoppock quotes directly from these papers, receipts by Captains Jones, (a militia officer living nearby), one of which was dated August 21, 1776 [J. M. Hoppock, "Home of Captain Jones," *Democrat-Advisor*, 7/3/1905]. None of the papers referenced by Hoppock have been located.

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can be documented.<sup>27</sup> Further research would be needed to establish if there is any truth to these accounts of Headquarters' Revolutionary War association. Regardless of their accuracy, the name Headquarters was in use as early as 1816, not long after the Revolutionary War, and if the name had nothing to do with General Washington or the Continental Army, perhaps Headquarters was a meeting place for the local militia during or after the war.<sup>28</sup>

Although Thomas Opdycke acquired his father's 267-acre homestead farm in 1775, he likely did not live there immediately, since he was not included in the Amwell Township tax ratables for 1779. Benjamin Tyson appears on the role that year, taxed for 148 acres along with a gristmill and a sawmill. The next year, Amwell property was assessed in January and June, and by June 1780 young Opdycke was taxed for 125 acres.<sup>29</sup> According to the Opdycke genealogy, Thomas Opdycke was known to have also property several miles northwest of Headquarters. It is not clear on which property he paid tax.<sup>30</sup> Over the next few years his taxable property fluctuated, at times only 25 acres, but by 1789 he was taxed for 257 acres. By 1789, Tyson had reduced his land holdings and was paying taxes on only 38 acres and a mill, suggesting that only one mill was in operation.

Tyson's long-running legal and financial problems evidently continued, and in April 1790 his mill property was seized by the sheriff who sold the 26-acre mill lot and a small meadow lot to Thomas Opdycke and his wife Anna for "payment, discharge & satisfactions of the Executors."<sup>31</sup> At the same time, Elizabeth Tyson conveyed her dower rights to the Opdyckes for five shillings. Also on the same day, in what was a complicated series of transactions, Opdycke sold 107.25 acres of his farmstead to Tyson for

<sup>27</sup> Several sources describe activities of the Continental Army in the vicinity. A letter dated "Corell's Ferry [Lambertville] June 15, 1777" from Benedict Arnold to General Mifflin mentions that "Gen Sullivan has gone to Flemington Town, twelve miles from this [Corell's Ferry]. The troops, that arrive here, are immediately sent after him." [NJ Archives, Newspaper extracts, 1777, pp. 398-99] Arnold wrote the next day from Corell's Ferry to General Washington stating "Gen Sullivan is at Flemington with 1000 continental troops, Jersey militia, and 1000 men I have sent him from this place half continental, the other militia." [printed in Snell, p. 272] In June 1778 Continental army troops crossed the Delaware at Coryell's Ferry into NJ and Washington stayed at the house of Richard Holcombe there on June 22 [Snell, p. 273]. Snell includes several of Washington's letters as well as a quote from "General Greene's Memoir" stating: "On the 21st they crossed the Delaware, of happy omen, at Coryell's Ferry, Green marking out the route and order of march and places of encampment, - a duty that kept him more than half the time in the saddle."

<sup>28</sup> An 1816 catalog of George Holcombe's properties included "the plantation Mills distillery etc called Headquarters in the Township of Amwell. . ." [Nathaniel Saxton Papers, quoted in Goodspeed, 1985, p. 5] Further confirmation of the use of Headquarters as the place name comes from an 1816 advertisement for a sale of George Holcombe's property, "on Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March next, at 2 o'clock, P. M. at the house of George Holcomb at Headquarters, the valuable FARM, Store houses, Mills and Distillery, etc. at Head-quarters." ["Sale of Real Estate," *Trenton Federalist*, February 2, 1816.]"

<sup>29</sup> Amwell Twp. Tax Ratables, 1780, etc.

<sup>30</sup> Opdycke, p. 264.

<sup>31</sup> Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 1, p. 405.

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£410.<sup>32</sup> Tyson immediately mortgaged the 107.25 acres to John Prall for £167, and Opdycke mortgaged the mill for £300. Less than three years later, on May 6, 1793, Opdycke sold the 26-acre mill lot and another 46.25 acres of his remaining acreage to the south of the main road, which apparently encompassed the site of White Hall, for £1,106 to George Holcombe, an Amwell merchant.<sup>33</sup>

George Holcombe or Holcomb (1770-1845) probably was the son of Samuel Holcombe and a great grandson of John Holcombe, who owned property near Lambertville as early as 1704.<sup>34</sup> The two lots that lot he acquired from Thomas Opdycke may have been twenty-three-year old Holcombe's first real estate acquisition.<sup>35</sup> Tax records are missing between 1790 and 1801; however, in 1802 Holcombe was listed with 76 acres and a gristmill. Interestingly, Thomas Opdycke was taxed that year for 112 acres, a gristmill and a sawmill, apparently property several miles from Headquarters that he acquired in 1801.<sup>36</sup> There was no mention of mills in 1803, when Holcombe was taxed for only 46 acres.<sup>37</sup> But that same year he purchased 122 acres north of his mill lot, the property earlier owned by Henry Kitchen, for \$1,433.33.<sup>38</sup> As evidence of his increasing success as an entrepreneur, during the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Holcombe also purchased properties in Sussex, Morris, Somerset, Middlesex and Burlington Counties, and was described in deeds as a "merchant of Amwell."<sup>39</sup> And in 1804, he acted as banker to Benjamin Tyson, who, still financially troubled, mortgaged his 107-acre farm to the seemingly financially secure Holcombe for \$735.<sup>40</sup> Tyson died intestate in 1807 and to discharge his debts, his 95-acre farm (the former John and Thomas Opdycke property) was sold in 1808 to Nathaniel Higgins, with a reserve of a small burying ground (no doubt the family cemetery).<sup>41</sup>

<sup>32</sup> HC Deeds, Book 1, p. 403.

<sup>33</sup> HC Deeds, Book 23, p. 91. The irregular 46.25-acre lot extended south from the road and appears to have encompassed the site of the White Hall.

<sup>34</sup> More than one deed associated with Headquarters refers to "George Holcombe Jun.," making it difficult to be certain about the identity of the subject George Holcombe. George, son of Samuel, had an uncle named George as well as two younger cousins. However, he is the most logical candidate based on dates of birth and death.

<sup>35</sup> Goodspeed, "Headquarters Farm," p. 5.

<sup>36</sup> Amwell Township Tax Ratables, 1802; Opdycke Genealogy, p. 264. In 1801 Thomas Opdycke sold 248 acres in Amwell adjoining Wickecheoke Creek to Elisha "Rettinghouse." That same year he purchased 112 acres in Amwell on Wickecheoke Creek from Rittenhouse. This property, which he owned until his death in 1816, was evidently the stone house and mills located about a mile north of his brother Samuel's mill several miles west of Headquarters.

<sup>37</sup> Amwell Township Tax Ratables, 1803.

<sup>38</sup> HC Deeds, Book 7, p. 257.

<sup>39</sup> Goodspeed, "Headquarters Farm," p. 5.

<sup>40</sup> Goodspeed, "Headquarters Farm," p. 10, footnote.

<sup>41</sup> HC Deeds, Book 14, p. 516. It is not clear what happened to the missing twelve acres from Tyson's original purchase from Thomas Opdycke in 1793.

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By 1812, Holcombe had moved to New Brunswick, where he established another store.<sup>42</sup> But within only a few years, he had returned to Amwell, his apparent good fortune ended. On October 17, 1815, George Holcombe, “late of the City of New Brunswick but now of the Township of Amwell, Merchant,” was obliged to assign all real estate and personal property to a group of friends and relatives—Samuel Holcomb Jr. of New Brunswick, Daniel La Tourette a merchant of Somerville, Nathaniel Saxton, Esq., of Lebanon and Alburtus King of Amwell—for “diverse goods and valuable consideration and \$1,000.”<sup>43</sup> The new owners decided to liquidate Holcomb’s former Hunterdon landholding, advertising their sale early the following year at five different auctions, the second of which was to be held

on Thursday the 7th day of March next, at 2 o'clock, P. M. at the house of George Holcomb at Headquarters, [and to include] the valuable FARM, Store houses. Mills and Distillery, etc. at Head-quarters.<sup>44</sup>

Around this time, the partnership of “Chambers & Hart, Merchants” conducted the Headquarters store, and William Lake, a third tenant on the property, may have operated the mills, distillery or farm.<sup>45</sup> While the outcome of the auction is unknown, title to the Headquarters property evidently passed to the “President, Directors, and Company of the State Bank at New Brunswick” on December 26, 1816.<sup>46</sup> By November of 1817, Holcombe had been confined to a debtors’ prison in New York City, although as late as 1818 his former property was still referred to as “George Holcombe’s Mill.”<sup>47</sup>

<sup>42</sup> *Trenton Federalist*, September 4, 1812. A daybook kept by the John and Elias Conover beginning in April 1814 suggests that they had taken over from Chambers & Hart by that date. However, that assumption is questioned by an 1816 accounting of Holcombe’s properties that mentions “the plantation Mills distillery etc called Headquarters in the Township of Amwell . . . in the tenure of Chambers & Hart, Merchants, of William Lake, and of the Defendant [Holcombe].” [Goodspeed, “Headquarters Farm,” p. 5-6.] In February of that year, a “Public Notice” appeared: “The subscribers intending to break up business this spring, offer for sale at *reduced prices* their stock of goods, comprising an assortment of *Dry Goods and Groceries, Hardware, Crockery, etc. etc.* As they are desirous of closing business as fast as possible, persons wishing to purchase may do well calling CHAMBERS & HART. All persons indebted to them are requested to make payment, by the first day of April. Amwell, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. 1816.” [*Trenton Federalist*, February 2, 1816.]

<sup>43</sup> HC Deeds, Book 24, p. 458.

<sup>44</sup> “Sale of Real Estate,” *Trenton Federalist*, 2/2/1816.

<sup>45</sup> An 1816 accounting of Holcombe’s properties includes “the plantation Mills distillery etc called Headquarters in the Township of Amwell . . . in the tenure of Chambers & Hart, Merchants, of William Lake, and of the Defendant [Holcombe].” [Goodspeed, “Headquarters Farm,” p. 5-6]. In February of that year, concurrent with the advertisement of the former Holcomb property for sale, Chambers & Hart placed the following “Public Notice:” “The subscribers intending to break up business this spring, offer for sale at *reduced prices* their stock of goods, comprising an assortment of *Dry Goods and Groceries, Hardware, Crockery, etc. etc.* As they are desirous of closing business as fast as possible, persons wishing to purchase may do well calling CHAMBERS & HART. All persons indebted to them are requested to make payment, by the first day of April. Amwell, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. 1816.” [*Trenton Federalist*, February 2, 1816.]

<sup>46</sup> Deed in Nathaniel Saxton Papers, as quoted in Goodspeed, “Headquarters Farm,” p. 5.

<sup>47</sup> Goodspeed, “Headquarters Farm,” page 6; Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 28, page 650. Holcombe died childless in 1845 at the New Brunswick home of his nephew, Judge Theophilus Holcombe, having been blind for sev-

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In January and May 1820, Headquarters once again was advertised for sale. The advertisement, which directed interested parties to apply at the State Bank in New Brunswick, gives a detailed description of the property:

Valuable Property FOR SALE, For which State Bank Stock at par, will Be received in payment.

That valuable property in the township of Amwell, in the county of Hunterdon, about 3 miles from Ringo's and 4 from the Delaware river, well known by the name of Head-Quarters.

ALSO, the WHITE HALL property adjoining thereto, the whole contains about 200 acres. This property is susceptible of accommodating a merchant, a miller, a distiller, and a farrier [or farmer]. It has been a place of extensive mercantile business and is pleasantly abundant in a healthy, wealthy, and popular part of the country.

A two story Stone House, 45 by 32 feet with a cellar and kitchen under the whole. One Grist and Plaster Mill 3 stories high with one pair of Burr and one pair of country stones. A stone dwelling house for the miller, a pork house 2 stories, a smoke house, and milk house, all of stone, a frame barn and large hovel, to which may be added about 50 acres of land as farming one division.

A two story Stone House, 26 by 36 with a stone building adjoining of 32 feet in length, a stone pork & smoke house, a good framed barn, to this may be added about 40 acres of land, 25 (35?) of which are woodland on the residue of which is an orchard of 400 apple trees in full bearing.

Another Mill and Distillery built of stone, about 150 yards below the mill above described, 3 stories high, 65 by 30 feet, to which is attached two stills and one boiler, this mill has but one pair of stones; cider works and hog pens are favorably constructed, also cisterns for cider, and hogsheads for the purpose of distilling grain, the water wheel and machinery are but a few years old.

About 100 acres are set apart as a farm, of which about 25 are covered with wood, the buildings are wood and indifferent.<sup>48</sup>

The first stone house mentioned in the advertisement is probably the Headquarters House (inventory #1) and the Grist and Plaster Mill is the surviving mill (inventory #3). According to the description, nearby is another mill as well as a distillery, undoubtedly the stone ruins at inventory #4.<sup>49</sup> It is a little unclear from the phrasing, but White Hall—the purported tavern—is probably the second stone house described in the advertisement.<sup>50</sup> The property described in the advertisement seems to comprise the 26-acre mill lot and

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eral years. Correspondence regarding Holcombe is included in the Nathaniel Saxton Papers at the Hunterdon County Historical Society.

<sup>48</sup> *The Fredonian*, May 5, 1820.

<sup>49</sup> In 1908, local historian C. W. Larison reported that the distillery had once “supplied swill enough for 1000 hogs and refuse enough to feed 500 steers.” [Quoted in “Headquarters – Delaware Township,” unpublished manuscript]

<sup>50</sup> A sample search of tavern licenses found no petitions that could be specifically related to “White Hall.” However, an 1812 tavern license granted to Captain Abner Hart includes as signers John L. Chambers and Philip Hart.

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the 46.25-acre lot south of the road that Holcombe purchased from Thomas Opdycke in 1793, and the 122 acres he purchased in 1803. Altogether, it was an impressive property and it had been updated a few years earlier with a new water wheel and machinery. It also is significant that this extensive advertisement makes no mention of a tavern; if the property had once included a tavern, it must have been discontinued by that time.

The entire property was acquired by three New Brunswick residents, Samuel Holcomb, Charles Smith and John Bray, who in 1818 sold it to two brothers, John and Elias Conover [formerly Covenhoven], who evidently had been renting the premises for some time.<sup>51</sup> The Covenhoven family resided in the neighborhood at least as early as 1780, as documented by an advertisement dating to that year: "To Be Sold, A Young Negro Wench, about 15 years old. – Apply to John Covenhoven near Tyson's Mills in Amwell."<sup>52</sup> Having acquired other land in the vicinity in 1825, in 1828 the brothers paid \$7,500 for the Headquarters property with its "mills, dwelling houses, [and] distillery."<sup>53</sup> The 189.88-acre tract included the two lots conveyed by Thomas Opdycke to Holcombe in 1793 plus the 122 acres north of the mill that Holcombe acquired in 1803 from William Maxwell.<sup>54</sup>

An advertisement from 1830 describes the general store business conducted by the Conovers that offered a wide range of products:

Head Quarters Store. The subscribers have just received a complete assortment of DRY GOODS, Groceries, Crockery, Stone and Earthen Ware – a full assortment of Leather and Shoes, &c. Also, a handsome stock of Iron and Steel of all the various sizes, hollow ware and Cutlery. A general assortment of Foreign and Domestic Liquors. Flour, Feed and Plaster, on hand at all time – all which they will sell on the most reasonable terms, for Cash, or in exchange for Country Produce, for which they will give the highest price. N.B. – 2000 Chesnut [sic] Rails on hand for sale, of the first quality. Head Quarters, April 14, 1830<sup>55</sup>

It is possible that these are the Chambers and Hart who were operating Holcombe's store at that time. If that were the case, it would be logical that his tavern would be located nearby. [New Jersey Tavern Licenses, 1812]

<sup>51</sup> A daybook kept by the John and Elias Conover beginning in April 1814 suggests that they had taken over from Chambers & Hart by that date. However, that assumption is questioned by an 1816 accounting of Holcombe's properties that mentions "the plantation Mills distillery etc called Headquarters in the Township of Amwell . . . in the tenure of Chambers & Hart, Merchants, of William Lake, and of the Defendant [Holcombe]." [Goodspeed, "Headquarters Farm," p. 5-6].

<sup>52</sup> Nelson, William, ed. *Documents Relating to the Revolutionary History of the State of New Jersey, Vol. IV: Extracts From American Newspapers Relating to New Jersey, Nov. 1, 1779 – Sept. 30, 1780*, p. 437. John and Elias evidently were sons of the John Covenhoven who purchased the 116 acres lying northwest of the mill from Benjamin Tyson in 1787 [West Jersey Deeds, Book AO, page 345 and Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 29, page 1].

<sup>53</sup> HC Deeds, Book 44, p. 299.

<sup>54</sup> HC Deeds, Book 7, p. 252.

<sup>55</sup> Quoted in Goodspeed, 2007, p. 2.



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Evidently the store was a profitable business, and, in 1834, the Conover brothers invested \$3,240 to purchase three lots from David Lair, totaling 98 acres south of the main road.<sup>56</sup> The brothers placed a rental advertisement in 1837:

FOR RENT: A Dwelling House and Blacksmith Shop. Also a Dwelling House suitable for a shoemaker. Apply to J. & E. Conover. Head Quarters, Feb. 8, 1837.<sup>57</sup>

That same year, the Conovers acquired three nearby lots, the deed for which conveyance refers to Headquarters as a "village," although it was apparently not yet sizable enough to be mentioned in Thomas Gordon's 1834 *Gazetteer of New Jersey*.<sup>58</sup>

Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Headquarters experienced only limited development. The Centre Bridge over the Delaware at what is now Stockton opened in 1814. Previously serviced by ferry, the improved link to Pennsylvania fueled development in Sergeantsville, located at a crossroads along the direct route to the bridge from Flemington.<sup>59</sup> Headquarters' location only a mile from Sergeantsville inhibited future growth in the mill hamlet. In addition to the blacksmithy and shoemaker opportunities described in the Conovers' advertisement, there was also a tailor shop there by 1835.<sup>60</sup> Despite this activity, the hamlet appears to have begun losing the battle to Sergeantsville during the 1840s. According to Barber and Howell's 1844 history:

Sergeantsville...contains a store, tavern, and a few mechanics; a neat Methodist church, lately erected of stone, and stuccoed; and about a dozen dwellings. Head Quarters, 6 miles from Flemington, contains a store, 2 grist mills and 8 dwellings.<sup>61</sup>

There was no mention of a tavern at Headquarters, further evidence of its discontinuation. A notice in a February 1844 newspaper reports that an unspecified store in "Head Quarters" would be closing:

A Public Sale: Will be held at Head Quarters, Delaware Township, on next Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, of Store Goods, 2 horses, four wagons, 4 sets Harness, Sled and Sleigh, 3 Stoves, and fixtures of the store. Sale positive to close the concern. Liberal credit given. Sale to commence at 9 o'clock, A.M. Feb 28, 1844, A. W. Rose.<sup>62</sup>

Nevertheless, commercial enterprise in the hamlet, in the form of a general store, would continue to persist into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In May 1844 another newspaper notice listed "Conovers' Store, Head

<sup>56</sup> HC Deeds, Book 57, p. 467.

<sup>57</sup> *Hunterdon Gazette* quoted in Goodspeed, 2007, p. 1.

<sup>58</sup> Egbert T. Bush, "'Headquarters' Has Two Buildings of Historic Interest," *Hunterdon County Democrat*, November 7, 1929. The Conovers also acquired lots in 1828 and 1836 from Israel Poulson, the Dunkard (German Baptist) preacher who lived on the farm south of the road.

<sup>59</sup> Frank T. Dale, *Bridges over the Delaware River A History of Crossings*, p. 14.

<sup>60</sup> Goodspeed, 2007, p. 6.

<sup>61</sup> John W. Barber and Henry Howe, *Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey*, p. 246

<sup>62</sup> Quoted in Goodspeed, 2007, p. 6.

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Quarters” as a place to receive wool to be conveyed to a spinning mill elsewhere.<sup>63</sup> In 1847, the hamlet could boast a doctor in the neighborhood when Doctor Justus Lessey moved to a house on the main road.<sup>64</sup> The two Conover brothers dissolved their partnership in 1849, with Elias reportedly choosing to continue the business.<sup>65</sup> The 1850 census reveals something about the variety of occupations represented in the hamlet at that time. Farmers included: Elias Conover, who was listed as owning no real estate; William Moore and his son, William; Richard Sheppherd; and John Green. William Swearer, age 25, was listed as a shoemaker; Manuel Green, also 25, was a blacksmith, as were both his 19-year old brother, John, and a boarder names Charles Woodruff. The 52-year old Richard Horn was a cooper. John Conover, 56, listed himself as a merchant, and, with \$15,000 of real estate, was the wealthiest in the group.<sup>66</sup> An 1851 county map identifies a gristmill, Conover’s Store, a cooper shop, and about a dozen houses. The map also includes a notation, “Symptoms of Copper and Iron,” in the vicinity of the gristmill, although nothing evidently ever came from these signs.<sup>67</sup>

The year 1854 witnessed the death of John Conover and the unexpected disclosure that he had secretly mortgaged the mill property. His verbal will in April of that year bequeathed “all the property personal and real” to his brother Elias. However, in order to pay John’s debts, the mill property was sold at a sheriff’s sale in 1855, where Elias paid \$7,800 to purchase it. Census data for 1860 indicates that the Headquarters gristmill was being operated by William Greenman, age 53, who was a member of Elias Conover’s household. Greenman had \$1,000 of capital invested in the mill; he employed one hand earning \$22 per month; and he manufactured products valued at \$300. The mill was idle four months during the year. In contrast, Green Sergeant’s mill two miles west of Headquarters did custom work valued at \$9,400 that year. Not only was the mill declining in business, the Conover store had evidently closed. An 1860 map indicates the hamlet’s store had moved to the south side of the main road, to a building that has not survived.<sup>68</sup> The map shows little growth in the hamlet over the previous ten years. In addition to the gristmill and store, the map notes only two other businesses in Headquarters, Manuel Green’s blacksmithy and a wheelwright shop. The number of dwellings remained about the same.

Elias Conover’s business problems increased and, in 1861, his property was sold at a sheriff’s sale to John A. Carrell, a prosperous farmer and great-grandson of John Opdycke, who already owned a nearby farm just north of Headquarters.<sup>69</sup> Census information from 1860 indicates Carrell was 50 years old, living with his wife, Amy, and his nine children. His real estate was valued at an impressive \$29,000 and he had personal possessions worth \$2,535. Carrell continued to operate the gristmill. Ten years later he em-

<sup>63</sup> *Hunterdon Gazette*, quoted in Goodspeed, 2007, p. 6.

<sup>64</sup> HC Deeds, Book 87, p. 412.

<sup>65</sup> Goodspeed, “Headquarters Farm,” p. 6. The 1850 census identified John Conover as a merchant, suggesting that it was he, not Elias, who continued the business.

<sup>66</sup> United States Census, Delaware Township, 1850.

<sup>67</sup> Samuel C. Cornell, *Map of Hunterdon County*, 1851.

<sup>68</sup> S.N. Beers, *Map of Philadelphia and Trenton Vicinity*, Philadelphia: C.K. Stone & A. Pomeroy, 1860; United States Census for Delaware Township, 1860.

<sup>69</sup> Bush, “Headquarters.”

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ployed one hand, possibly his son Joseph, and produced \$1,300 in custom work during twelve months of operation.<sup>70</sup> That year, Carrell, who reported real estate valued at \$25,450, was living with his wife and his five oldest children. His son Joseph, who was 26 in 1870, was head of a household that included his 24-year old brother and three of his sisters. Development continued to stagnate in the farming hamlet, and 1870 industrial census data lists only the Green blacksmithy in addition to the gristmill.

The 1873 county atlas indicates that John Carrell had acquired additional properties within the hamlet, at least some of which he leased out. He rented one dwelling on the main road to a shoemaker and then converted part of the building into a store, which continued in business under several different proprietors well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century (inventory #6).<sup>71</sup> Carrell reconstructed his mill in 1877 according to a date stone inscribed, "Rebuilt 1877/ J.A.C." Supplementing the unreliable waterpower, he installed steam machinery to run the gristmill and an adjacent sawmill. The 1880 industrial census reports a dramatic increase in mill activity, even though Carrell operated the sawmill on a half-time basis. He used two circular saws driven by steam powered by a 30-horsepower engine and used mostly his own logs. His son Joseph operated the gristmill, ten months fulltime and two months halftime, and had \$8,000 capital invested in it. The mill was equipped with three run of stones with 50-bushel maximum capacity. There was also a grain elevator. The young Carrell utilized a 28 horsepower Eureka Turbine, and turned out \$13,000 in products for the year. Joseph now lived with his wife, Mary, and a young daughter. In his 1881 county history, Snell reported that Headquarters consisted of

a store, steam saw- and grist-mill, shoe-shop, blacksmith-and wagon-shop of Manuel Green and about a dozen dwellings. The principal part of the property, including old Headquarters, is now owned by John A. Carroll [sic].<sup>72</sup>

Snell noted also that the mill "does a fair amount of business."<sup>73</sup> A post office was established in the hamlet in 1887, and the community was officially renamed "Grover," presumably after then President Grover Cleveland.<sup>74</sup>

It is remarkable that Carrell was able to reassemble much of the property that had been sold off from his great-grandfather John Opdycke's original tract. The enterprising Carrell continued to develop his business pursuits and, in 1888, built a stone storehouse north of the mansion.<sup>75</sup> He died in 1895 and was later remembered as:

... a successful farmer, owning much property and understanding how to make the business pay. In his later years [Carrell] was noted for raising champion hogs. Those far-famed animals were the crowning glory of his agricultural achievements.<sup>76</sup>

<sup>70</sup> United States Census, Products of Industry, Delaware Township, 1870.

<sup>71</sup> Bush, "Headquarters."

<sup>72</sup> Snell, p. 376.

<sup>73</sup> Snell, p. 386.

<sup>74</sup> John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr., *New Jersey Postal History*, p. 76.

<sup>75</sup> Bush, "Headquarters."

<sup>76</sup> Bush, "Headquarters."

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Carrell's will bequeathed each of his nine children an equal part of his estate. Seven real estate transactions in March 1897 disposed of the estate, with much of the property sold to various members of the family.<sup>77</sup> His son Joseph purchased 31.24 acres comprising the mill, the "mansion house" and the storehouse. Joseph's brother John purchased the adjoining property to the north, with rights to access and use the water in the headrace on the mill property. According to a 1901 report, Joseph Carrell remodeled the house; however the accompanying photograph shows minimal apparent exterior changes when compared to a photograph taken c. 1889, with the exception of the removal of the pent roof at the gable end.<sup>78</sup> Also visible in the 1901 photograph is what appears to be a tall metal flue at the west end of the mill, where the steam engine was evidently located.

The 1900 census listed Joseph Carroll's occupation as farmer, an indication that by the turn of the century the mill business had become a sideline as his interests evidently turned toward raising champion hogs.<sup>79</sup> The Grover post office closed in 1905 but the local general store, relocated to the north side of the road, continued to operate until 1958.<sup>80</sup> Although commercial activity continued to stagnate, the population remained relatively stable. A county map from 1902 shows that the hamlet, still known at that time as Grover, with the same basic configuration.<sup>81</sup>

In 1908, C.W. Larison, M.D., addressing the annual meeting of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, gave a philosophical context to the decline of the hamlet, like that of other similar communities throughout the county:

So much for mills and their accessories and so much for environing [sic] institutions necessary to a developing young settlement which has survived its turn and passed away or else is still serving the purpose for which it was built growing less useful as time passing and is slowly but surely gliding into the inevitable in which all things begin, endure for a while and then end.<sup>82</sup>

Efforts to operate the mill continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1913, Christian Jurgensen endeavored to use the mill to grind corn into cattle feed. Evidently eschewing the steam engine, he attempted to use water-power but found that the millpond did not provide sufficient water to operate the mill on a daily basis.<sup>83</sup>

<sup>77</sup> HC Deeds, Book 247, p. 678; Book 247, p. 680; Book 247, p. 695; Book 248, p. 4; Book 248, p. 6; Book 248, p. 12; Book 248, p. 67.

<sup>78</sup> J. J. Hoppock, "Washington's Headquarters, July, 1777," *The Democrat-Advisor*, October 31, 1901; Opdyke, p. 218.

<sup>79</sup> Bush, "Headquarters."

<sup>80</sup> *Hunterdon County Democrat*, November 11, 1999.

<sup>81</sup> Pugh & Downing, Civil Engineers, *Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, 1902. The map does not depict several buildings that existed after 1902, such as the old tavern; perhaps they were vacant at the time.

<sup>82</sup> Quoted in "Headquarters-Delaware Township," p. 2.

<sup>83</sup> "Headquarters-Delaware Township," p. 1.

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By 1929 the mill was idle.<sup>84</sup> The old White Hall tavern had been torn down a few years earlier.<sup>85</sup> Only the corner store remained as a community focal point.

Headquarters was named an "historic area" by resolution of the Delaware Township Committee, which effectively

. . . put the final touch on a successful campaign by Headquarters area residents to stop a planned major widening of county route 604 through the village. . . . The group got the Freeholders to agree last week to make the rebuilt road through Headquarters 20 feet wide instead of the originally planned 24 feet.<sup>86</sup>

While not a local historic district protected by ordinance, Headquarters retained its rural, agricultural character throughout the remainder of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and in recent decades village properties have been improved and well maintained. Although some development has encroached, particularly from northwest, cutting off several scattered 19<sup>th</sup> century dwellings from the historic crossroads cluster, the district's historic landscape survives largely intact.

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<sup>84</sup> Bush, "Headquarters."

<sup>85</sup> Ibid. The stones from the old tavern were reportedly used for a construction project elsewhere on the owners' property.

<sup>86</sup> "Headquarters Is Now 'Historic'" clipping from an unidentified 1981 newspaper.

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New Jersey Archives, Trenton, NJ

Amwell Township Tax Ratables, 1780, 1784, 1786, 1789, 1802, 1803.  
Hunterdon County Tavern Licenses  
New Jersey Wills

United States Census

Population Schedules, Amwell Township, 1840  
Population Schedules, Delaware Township, 1850-1870  
Industrial Schedules, Delaware Township, 1860-80



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Headquarters Historic District  
Hunterdon County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 1

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### NARRATIVE BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Headquarters Historic District is delineated on the attached map entitled "Headquarters Historic District Site Location and Boundary Map," and is verbally described in the following paragraphs. The site and boundary map is based on current municipal tax maps from the Township of Delaware.

The boundary of the district begins in Delaware Township on the north side of County Route 604 (Rosemont-Ringoes Road) at the southwest corner of Block 40, Lot 5 and runs north along west side of that lot to the northwest corner of that lot, also the southwest corner of Block 40, Lot 4. The boundary proceeds north and east along the west and north sides of lot 4 to the northeast corner of lot 4 on the west side of Zentek Road, from which point it crosses the road on a straight line continuation of the north side of block 40, lot 4 intersects the east side of Zentek Road, also the west side of block 41, lot 14. From there it proceeds north along the east side of Zentek Road and the west side of block 41, lot 14, to the northwest corner of that lot. The boundary next runs east and south along the north and east sides of lot 14 to the southeast corner of that lot on the north side of Route 604. From there it proceeds south along a straight line continuation of the east side of block 41, lot 14 to the middle of Route 604. The boundary then runs west along the middle of Route 604 through the Zentek Road intersection to a point where a straight line continuation of the west side of block 40, lot 5 would intersect the road's mid line, and turning north, following that straight line continuation to the southwest corner of block 40, lot 5 and the place of beginning.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Headquarters Historic District are delineated to include to the greatest extent possible the architectural and historical resources of the district, with the fewest non-contributing resources in and around it. In general terms its boundaries include contributing resources that comprise the crossroads mill hamlet which constitutes the historic core of the settlement. While some resources relating to the hamlet's 19<sup>th</sup>-century development are located to the west of the crossroads cluster, they have been excluded because of their scattered distribution interspersed with modern development and separation from the district by the same.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Headquarters Historic District  
Hunterdon County, NJ

Section number Photos Page 1

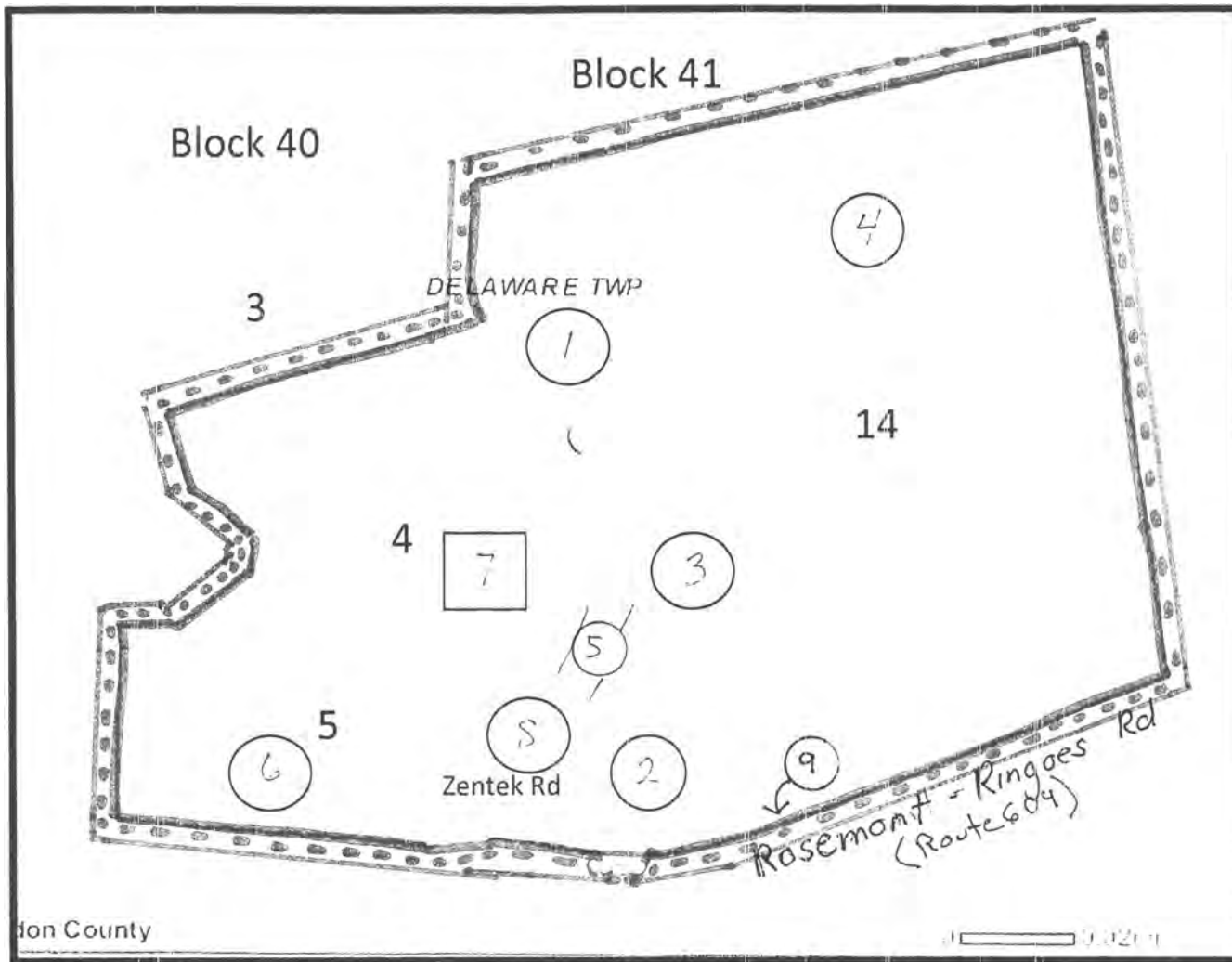
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## PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION

The following information is the same for all photographs submitted with the nomination:

**Name:** Headquarters Historic District  
**Location:** Delaware Township, NJ  
**Photographer:** Ann Parsekian  
**Date:** January-March 2007  
**Negative Repository:** Dennis Bertland Associates

PHOTO #	SITE #	VIEW
1	1	North
2	1	Northeast
3	1	Southeast
4	1	Southeast
5	2	South
6	2	East
7	2	Northeast
8	3	Northeast
9	3	South
10	4	Southwest
11	6	Northeast
12	8	Northeast view along Zentek Road



**HEADQUARTERS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
SITE LOCATION & BOUNDARY MAP**

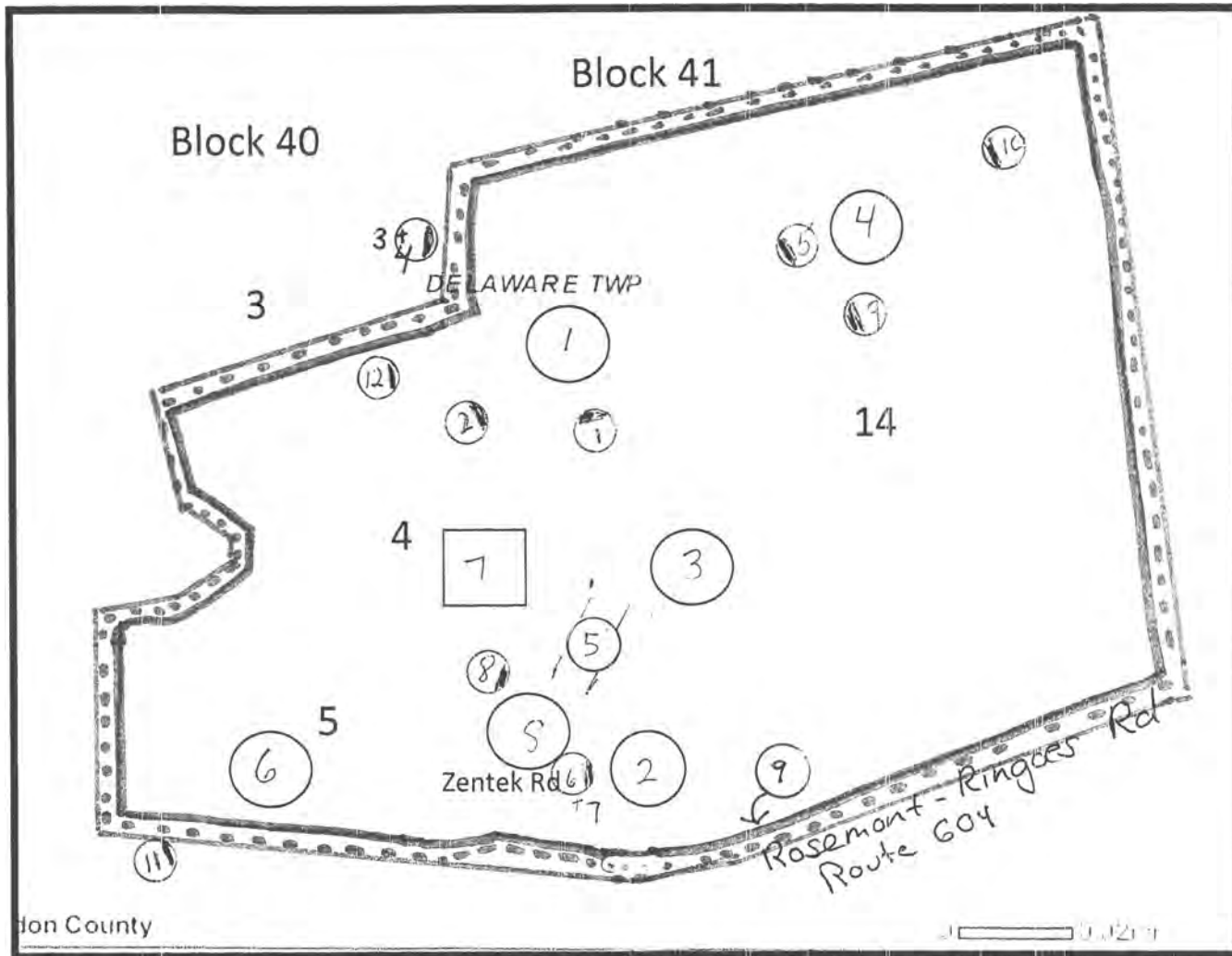
DISTRICT BOUNDARY

INVENTORY SITE #s

CONTRIBUTING (2)


NON-CONTRIBUTING (3)

HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

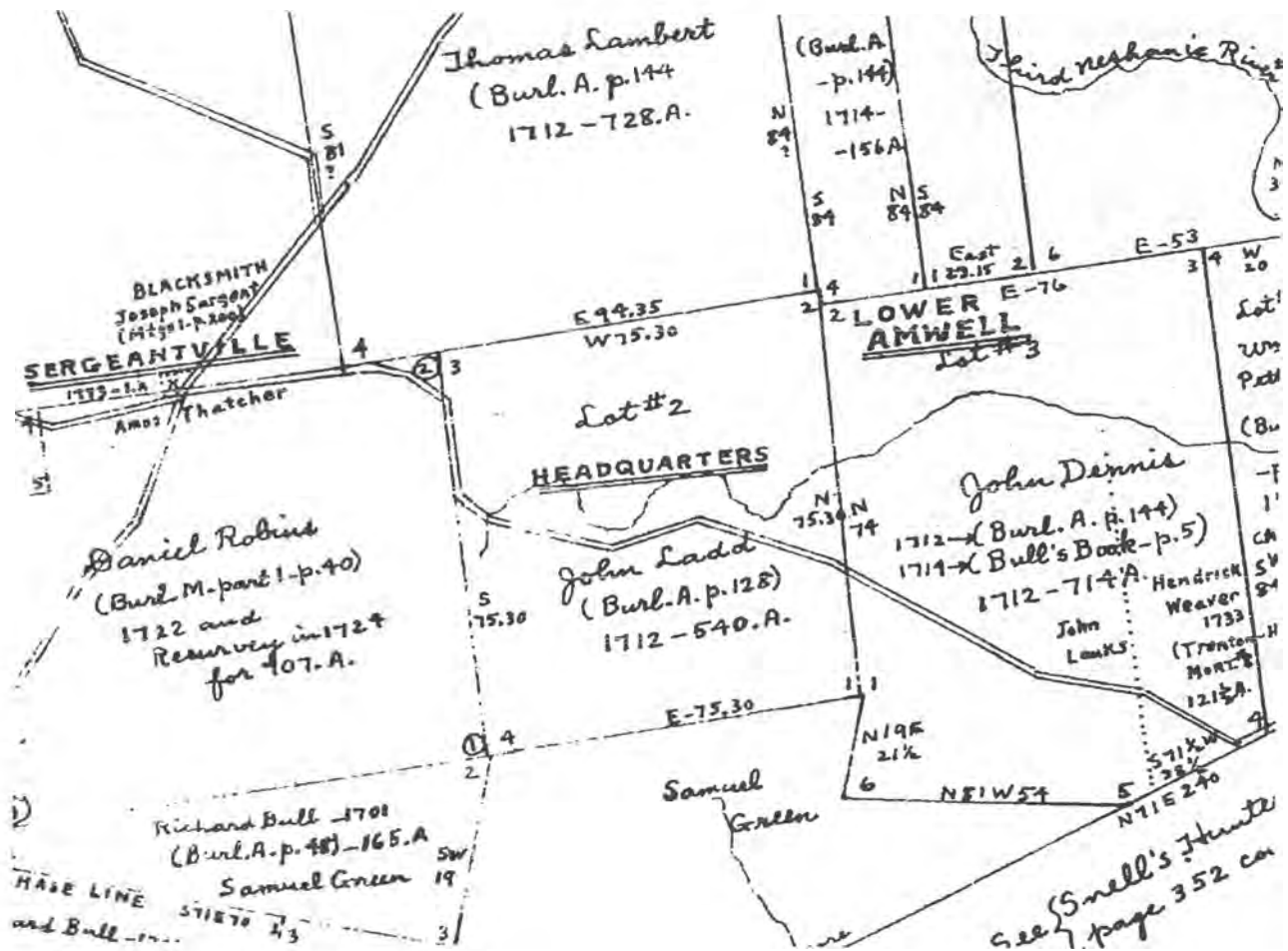


HEADQUARTERS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 Photograph Identification

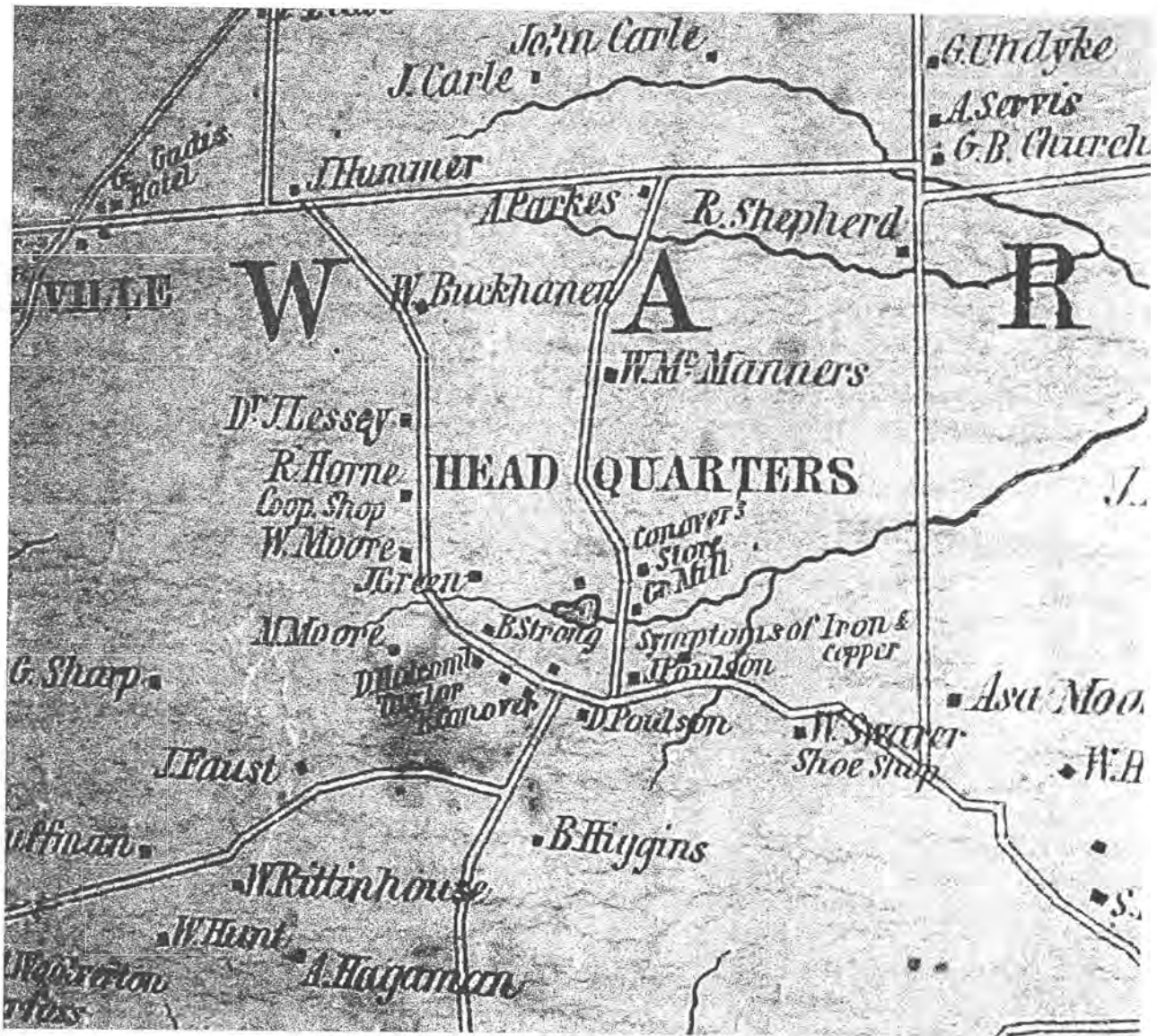
DISTRICT BOUNDARY —————

Direction of View 

HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

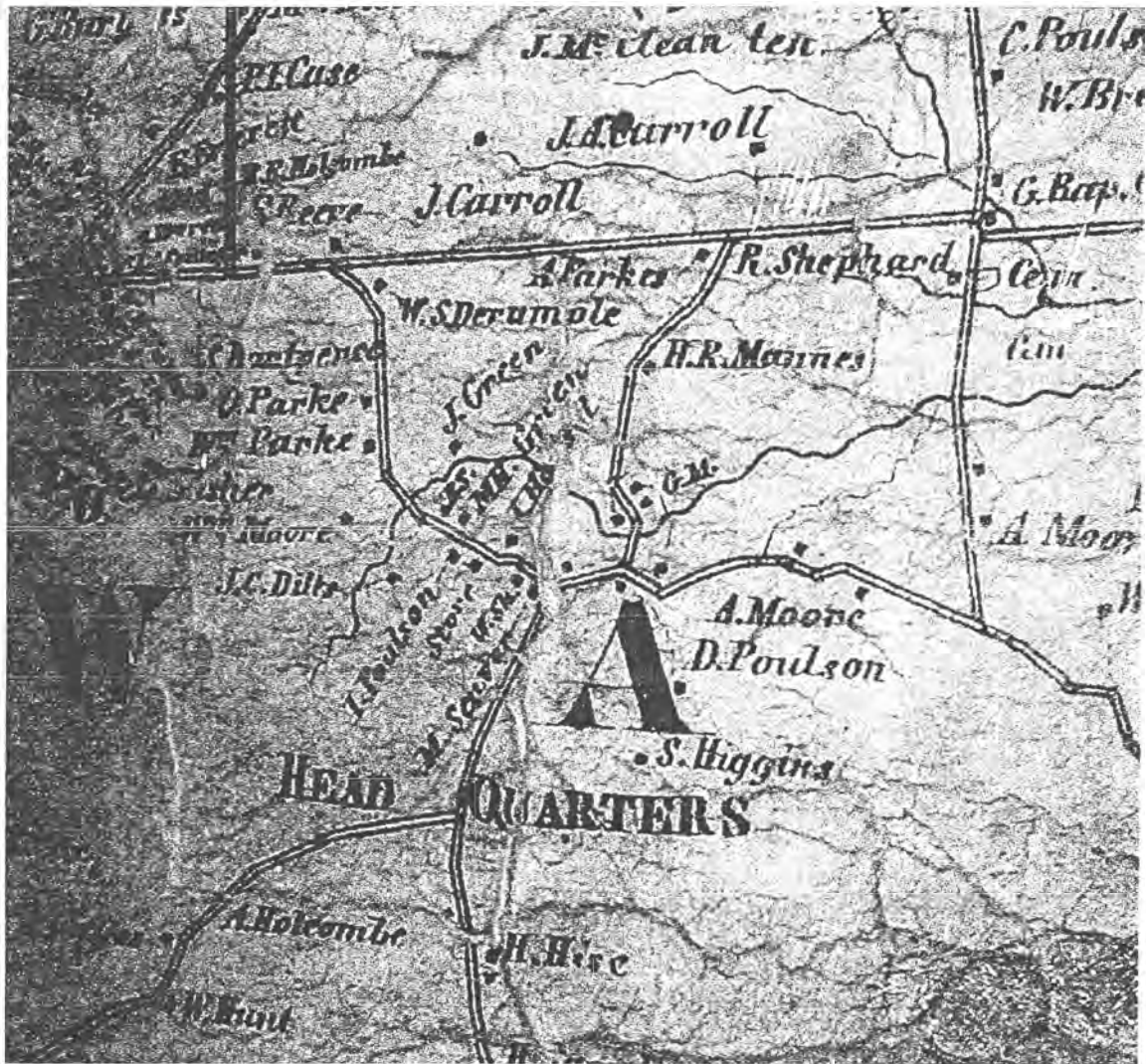


Detail of Headquarters Vicinity  
 D. Stanton Hammond, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Sheet C, Map Series #4



Detail of Map of Headquarters  
 Samuel C. Cornell, Map of Hunterdon County, 1851.

Headquarters Historic District  
 Hunterdon County, New Jersey



Detail of Map of Headquarters  
S.N. Beers, Map of Philadelphia and Trenton Vicinity, 1860.

Headquarters Historic District  
Hunterdon County, New Jersey

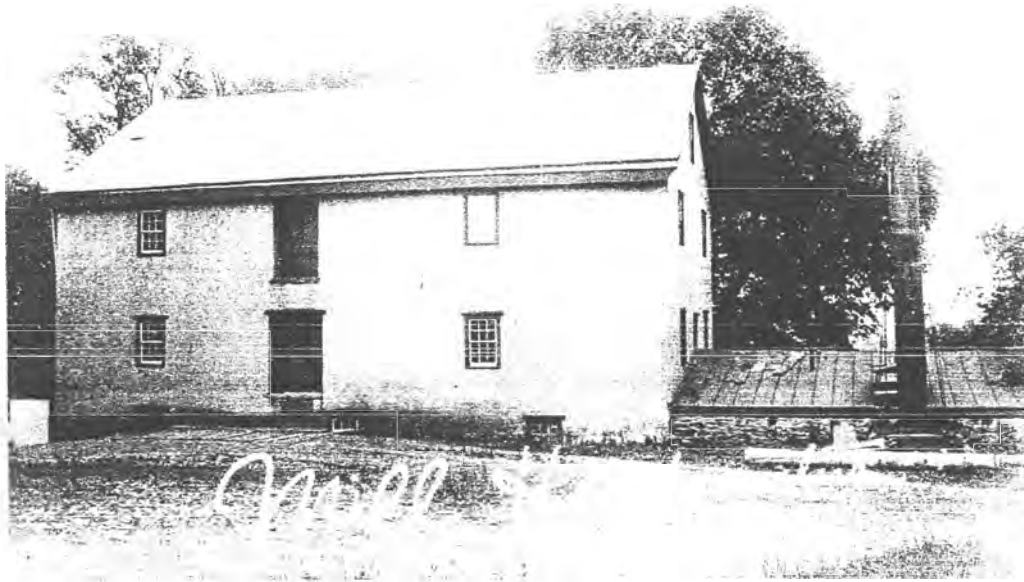


Detail of Map of Headquarters  
 F.W. Beers, Atlas of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, 1873.

Headquarters Historic District  
 Hunterdon County, New Jersey







Headquarters Grist Mill, late 19th century, southeast view.



House of John Opdycke, 1738; Headquarters of Gen. Washington

Headquarters House, c. 1889, northeast view.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY HEADQUARTERS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW JERSEY, Hunterdon

DATE RECEIVED: 6/03/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/24/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/11/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/19/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000447

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 7.14.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





















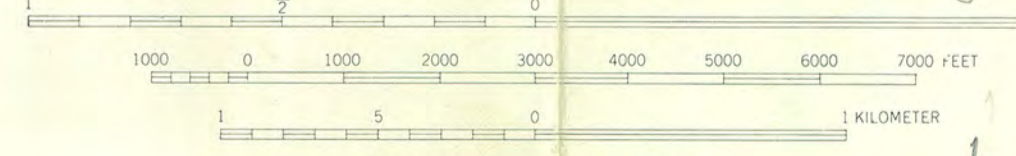
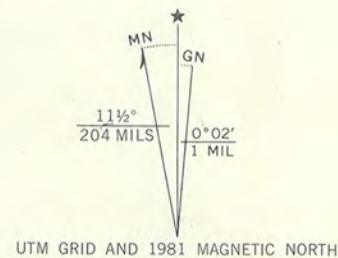








Mapped by the Defense Mapping Agency  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by NOS/NOAA, New Jersey Geodetic Survey, Pennsylvania  
Railroad, and SCS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1942. Field checked 1943  
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1954  
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grids based on New Jersey  
coordinate system and Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone  
100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, Zone 18,  
shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum. To place on the  
predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection  
lines 2 meters south and 32 meters west as shown by  
dashed lines  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Headquarters HD Hunterdon Co., NJ

Zone = 18  
Eastings

1. 506360
2. 506390
3. 506675
4. 506700

Northings  
447685  
447620  
447690  
447670

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
State Route	

STOCKTON, N. J. - PA.  
N4022.5-W7452.5/7.5

1954  
PHOTOREVISED 1981  
DMA 6064 IV NW-SERIES V822

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey  
from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other sources.  
This information not field checked. Map edited 1981  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas





HPO E2011-204  
Proj. #07-1181-5

State of New Jersey

MAIL CODE 501-03A

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

TEL. (609) 292-3541 FAX (609) 984-0836



BOB MARTIN  
Commissioner

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO  
Lt. Governor

May 25, 2011

Paul Loether, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

I am pleased to submit the nomination for the Headquarters Historic District, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, for National Register consideration.

This nomination has received majority approval from the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. All procedures were followed in accordance with regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Daniel D. Saunders, Acting Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail code 501-04B, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420, or call him at (609) 633-2397.

Sincerely,

Amy Cradic  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer