

Charles I. duPont House  
Henry Clay, New Castle County  
Delaware

HABS No. Del- 66 ✓

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3.

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Delaware

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Weston H. Blake, District Officer  
909 West Street, Wilmington, Delaware

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CHARLES I. duPONT HOUSE  
Henry Clay, New Castle County, Delaware.

Owner: Heirs of T. C. duPont.

Date of Erection: 1823 for Charles I. duPont.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two and a half.

Materials of Construction: Masonry, random rubble, shingle roof, frame porch and out buildings.

Other Existing Records: Office Recorder of Deeds and Register of Wills, New Castle County, Wilmington, Delaware.

Additional Data: This is a good example of the simple, but attractive and suitable houses. Made from the local stone, they harmonize with their surroundings. This is a twin house and its substantial/unobtrusiveness make it a suitable model for operatives dwellings.

Laussat R. Rogers.

Approved

Victor H. Stahl  
District Officer.

3/10/37 TTW

Addendum to  
Charles I. DuPont House  
Main Street, Henry Clay Village  
Wilmington  
New Castle County  
Delaware

HABS No. DE-66

Original HABS address given as Henry Clay Road

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

ADDENDUM TO  
CHARLES I. DU PONT HOUSE  
162 Main Street  
Wilmington  
New Castle County  
Delaware

HABS No. DE-66

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CHARLES I. du PONT HOUSE

This report is an addendum to a one page report previously transmitted to the Library of Congress in 1937.

Location: 162 Main Street, Wilmington, New Castle County, Delaware

USGS Wilmington North, Del. - PA Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
18.450320.4402400

Significance: The Charles I. du Pont House is directly associated with the industries of Henry Clay Village, a nineteenth century industrial village, and is a good example of nineteenth century residential architecture that housed both a mill owner and later mill operatives. The Charles I. du Pont House is a contributing resource within the Henry Clay Village Historic District.

Description: The two and one-half-story building fronts the southwest side of Main Street (also called Henry Clay Road) within Henry Clay Village. The house is four-bays wide and is constructed of random-laid fieldstone. Two substantial frame sections, connected to the south gable end of the stone section, have since been demolished. A single-story connecting shed extends from the building's north gable end and connects with a modern one and one-half story, rectangular plan, addition. Both the connecting shed and the addition have board and batten siding and gabled roofs. The building's composite-shingle gabled roof roughly parallels Main Street and contains two gable roofed dormers in each of its roof slopes.

A single-story porch with a shed-roof extends across the east (front) facade and is supported by simple wood posts. The former grade surrounding the house required four steps from the ground onto the porch. The porch currently (1996) is at grade and no longer retains steps or skirting along its north side. A board railing, comprised of two evenly-spaced horizontal bands, extends across the north facade and connects to the porch supports. A balustrade comprised of square-post balusters formerly extended between porch posts. A gable roofed hood projects over a secondary entrance located in the building's south gable end.

The building's primary entrance is located in the east facade near its southeast corner. Window openings are rectangular and contain multiple-light, double-hung wood sash. The first story includes both six-over-nine and ten-over-twelve-light sash, while the second story contains six-over-six sash. Wood shutters flank window openings on the first two stories. Each of the four dormers contain ten-over-ten double-hung wood sash. At one time the dormers contained paired two-over-two double-hung sash. Interior brick chimneys are centered in the east and west roof slopes. A plaster-filled roundel is centered in the second story of the east facade. The roundel is framed in brick and contains the information "C. I. D. 1823," suggesting the house was constructed for Charles I. du Pont in 1823.

History: The Charles I. du Pont House was constructed in 1823 for Charles I. du Pont and is located along Main Street in Henry Clay Village. The village developed during the early nineteenth century along the banks of Brandywine Creek in the vicinity of Brecks Mill, Rokeby Mill, and Henry Clay Mill (formerly Duplanty, McCall, and Company). The DuPont Powder Mills were located immediately north and Walkers Mill was located on the east side of Brandywine Creek opposite Brecks Mill. Prior to 1840 residents commonly referred to the area as Rising

Sun. Henry Clay Village takes its name from former senator and secretary of state Henry Clay who visited the area numerous times and advocated policies protecting American industries.

Charles I. du Pont assisted with the operation of Victor du Pont's Louviers Woolen Mill and after 1839 expanded the business by purchasing both Rokeby Mill and Brecks Mill. Many sources report that C. I. du Pont lived in this house between 1823 and 1837. At this date he reportedly moved across Brandywine Creek and into "Louviers," his mother's home. Other sources suggest he and his wife moved directly into Louviers following their marriage in 1824.

By the middle of the nineteenth century the house had been converted into a duplex and rented to members of the local work force. The house resembles typical workers' housing within Henry Clay Village, with the principal exception that this house is slightly larger than the norm. By the 1850s C. I. du Pont transferred the property to the E. I. du Pont Company; however, the mills located within Henry Clay Village continued to be leased to private individuals for a number of years. S. Hallock du Pont purchased the house and additional property following the close of the DuPont Powder Mills in 1921. Sometime after 1937 the house was converted back to a single-family dwelling and more recently housed private offices. Subsequent renovations have changed dormer windows, constructed an addition, and filled a second entrance located in the main facade that dated from the period the house functioned as a duplex. Proposed roadway plans call for the construction of a new bridge crossing the Brandywine Creek between the existing bridge and the Charles I. du Pont House.

Sources:

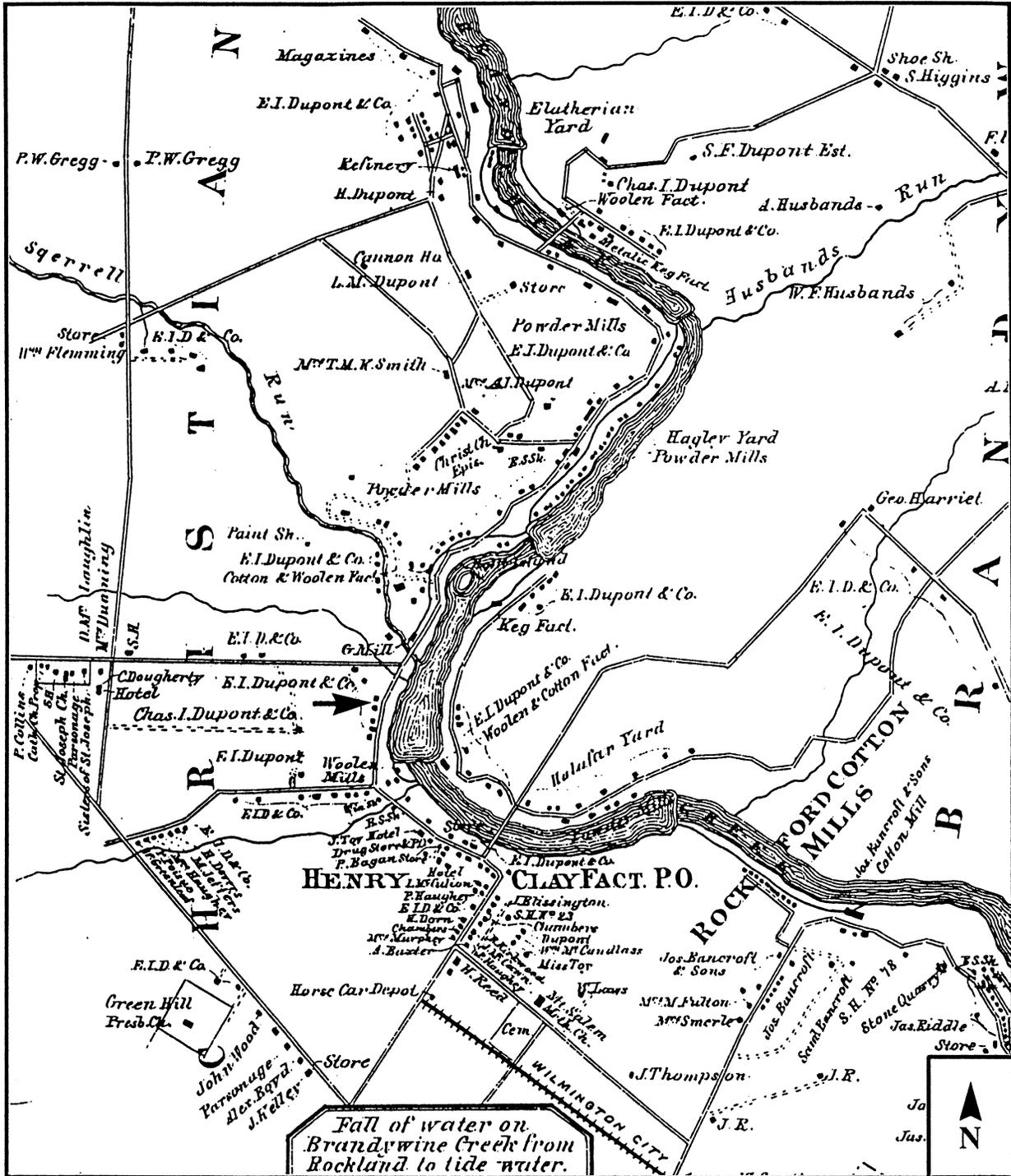
Hagley Museum. "Interpretive Manual For Hagley Museum's Model Railroad Diorama," 1995.

History Store. "Henry Clay Village Historic District," *National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, 1986.

Porter, Glenn. *The Workers World at Hagley*. Wilmington, Del.: Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, 1981.

Historian:

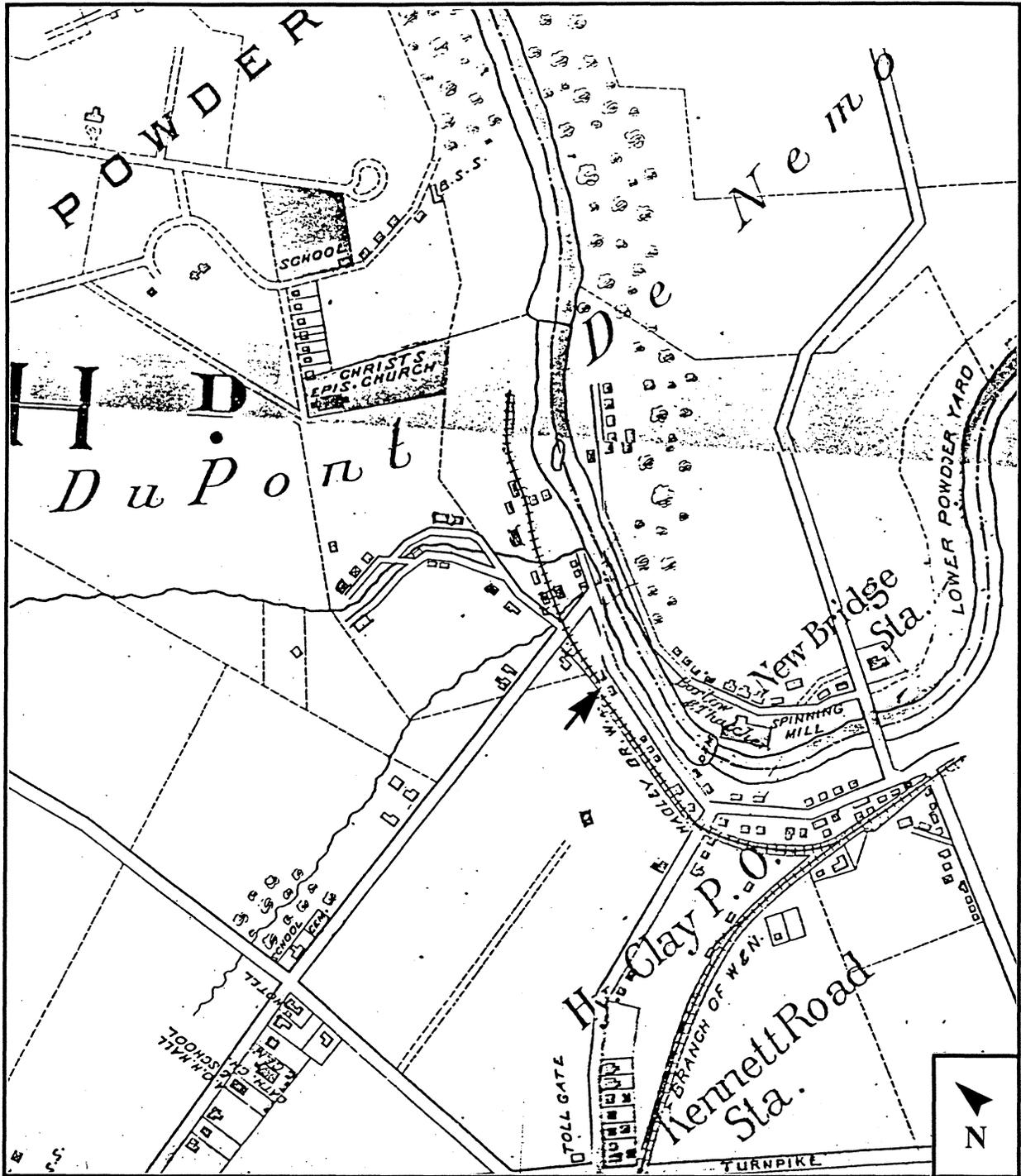
Glenn A. Ceponis  
KFS Cultural Resource Group  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
March 1996



View of Charles I. du Pont House and Henry Clay Village vicinity, ca. 1868.

Scale: 1 inch = 1390 feet

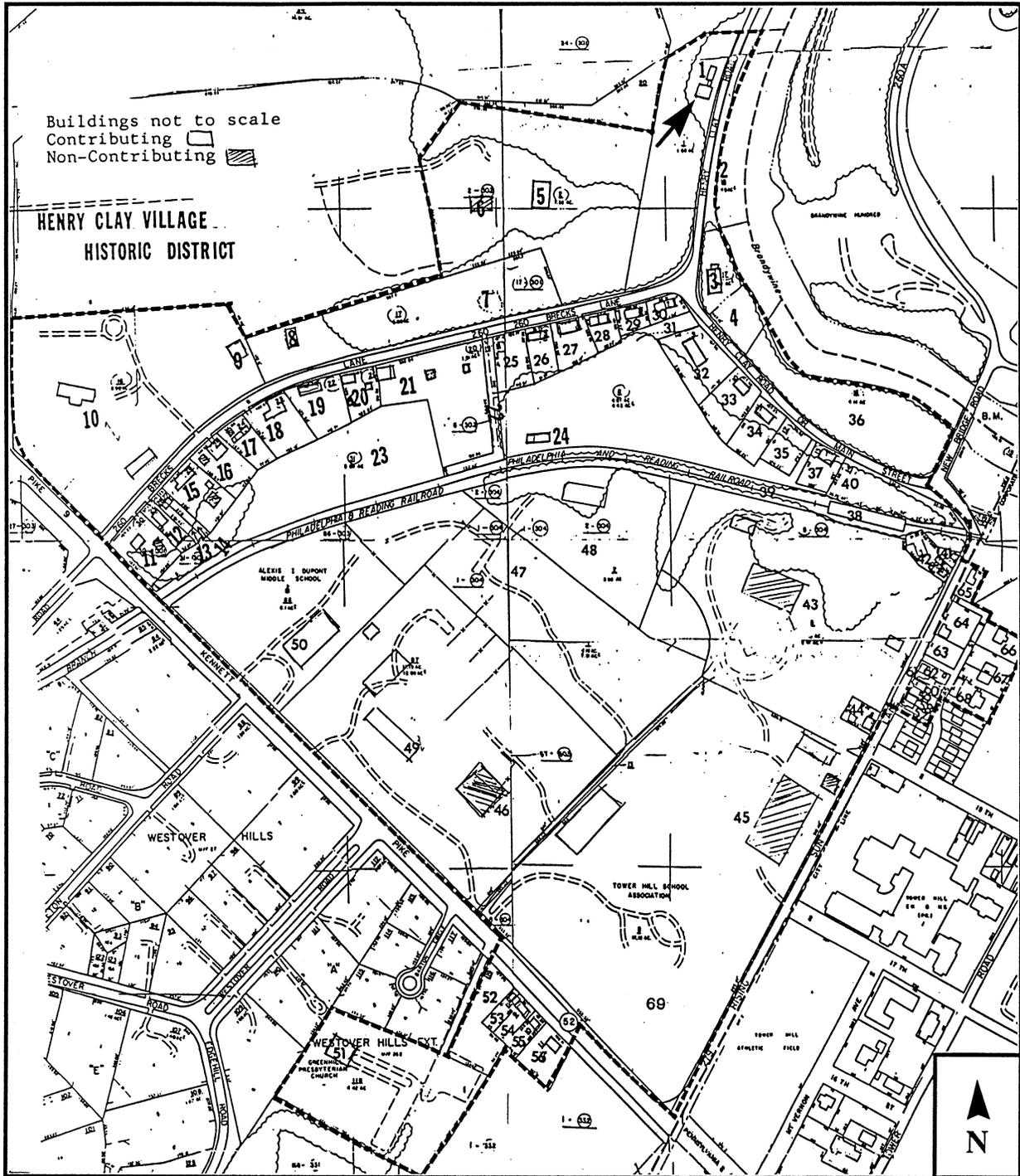
Source: D. G. Beers. *Atlas of Delaware* (Phila.: Pomeroy & Beers, 1868).



View of Charles I. Du Pont House and vicinity, ca. 1893.

Scale: 1 inch = approx. 740 feet

Source: G. W. Baist. *Atlas of New Castle County* (Phila.: G. W. Baist, 1893).



Henry Clay Village Historic District

Not to Scale

Source: Priscilla M. Thompson. "Henry Clay Village Historic District," *National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, 1986.