

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hannah Gutherie House and Farmstead

and/or common Mrs. Gutherie's

2. Location

street & number NW corner, Limestone and Little Baltimore Roads not for publication

city, town Hockessin

vicinity of

~~Congressional district~~

state Delaware

code

county New Castle

code

3. Classification

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Category</b>                                 | <b>Ownership</b>                            | <b>Status</b>   | <b>Present Use</b>                              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                   | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial             | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress             | <input type="checkbox"/> educational            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment          | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted              | <input type="checkbox"/> government             | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                           | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

4. Owner of Property

name Edward J. Williams

street & number Little Baltimore Road

city, town Hockessin

vicinity of

state DE

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New Castle Co. Recorder of Deeds

street & number 800 French St.

city, town Wilmington

state DE

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Architectural Investigation of the Route 7 North Corridor, New Castle Co., Delaware has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1986  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Del. Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, CRS #N-9580 Del. Department of Transportation

city, town Dover

state DE

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## 7. Description

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|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

This property is a farmstead consisting of a dwelling, barn, garage, and assortment of sheds. It is located on the northwest corner of the Limestone Road-Little Baltimore Road intersection, with the principal structures located on slightly elevated ground near Limestone Road. The land falling gradually to the west includes pasture, fallow field and barnyard areas dotted with metal corncribs, feeding troughs and large concrete and/or metal sheds.

The farmhouse is an L-plan structure built in two phases. The first phase (ca. 1860) is a two-story, side-gable, single-pile block of stuccoed fieldstone constructed on a fieldstone basement. The symmetrical, three-bay facade, oriented to the south, has a center entrance with two-light transom and a shed-roofed screened porch across two of the bays, and wooden cornices with crude "modillions." The west wall has no openings, but the east end has two small square windows at attic level, two sash windows at second story level, and an entrance and window at first story level. This entry is framed with an applied architrave with triangular pediment and fluted pilasters. Both gable ends terminate in interior chimney stacks, and have eaves flush with the walls. Window openings have timber lintels and sills, and are fitted with 6/6 double hung sash in very narrow frames.

The second phase of the construction (from the later 19th century) is a two-story, single pile ell of stuccoed brick on a fieldstone foundation. The east wall has two-bays, with two 6/6 windows on each story that are not exactly lined up with those of the stone section. The ell has a gable roof with box cornice and eaves slightly projecting over the north wall to encompass an interior gable-end chimney. Fenestration of the north wall is asymmetrical, and includes both 6/6 and 2/2 sash.

Subsequent to completion of the ell, a shed-roofed enclosed rear entry unit was added along the west side. Other features which do not appear to have been part of the first two construction phases include the front porch and the "pseudoclassical" modillion cornice and east entry architrave.

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The outbuildings in the complex appear to date from the late-19th and early-20th centuries to the very recent past. Chief among them is a bank barn, set close to Limestone Road with an earthen ramp and center-aisle entry on the east side. The barn, clad with synthetic shingling, is framed with circular-sawed timber bents with mortise and tenon joining, on a high fieldstone foundation. The T-plan of the gable roofs encompasses an extended forbay/hay shed supported on fieldstone piers that has been further extended through addition of another gabled unit, thereby creating a large cattle shed beneath the barn's superstructure. The shed area has been still further enlarged by construction of a range of lean-to units along the south side. Other structures on the farmstead include a timber-framed garage with board-and-batten siding, fieldstone foundation and corrugated metal roof; a corrugated metal machine shed; and, to the northwest of the barn a silage pit and several wood, metal, and cement-block animal sheds and troughs. The principal structures in the complex are the house and barn. Contributing to the character of the complex are the garage and farmyard sheds, excepting the modern metal-clad structures.

## 8. Significance

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> theater             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   |  |

Specific dates ca. 1860

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hannah Guthrie farmstead is significant under Criterion C for its ability to portray forms of construction important in the architectural history of the area. The dwelling is a clear example of I-house construction, a form that dominates the vernacular building tradition of the Delaware Valley Culture Region in which it is located, here expressed in the stuccoed fieldstone characteristic of many surviving 18th and 19th century houses in northern New Castle County. The associated bank barn is also characteristic of agricultural architecture in northern Delaware, both in its basic form and in the expansive stabling area and hay shed associated with the increase in dairying in the area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (see Jicha and Cesna, 1986). The Guthrie complex is also one of only two properties that still convey, through retention and continued use of its structures, the agricultural character and practices that once dominated life and work along Limestone Road.

The land on which the farmstead is located was purchased in 1792 by Alexander Guthrie, whose home plantation lay on the east side of Limestone Road to the south (N.C. Co. Deeds, M7/421). Guthrie's lands passed to his son, also named Alexander, in 1810 (N.C. Co. Wills, Q1/413). The 1849 Rea and Price map of Delaware shows a "smithy" at the northwest corner of Limestone and Little Baltimore Roads. However, Guthrie does not appear among smiths listed in the 1850 industrial census of Mill Creek Hundred, and neither his will nor inventory contain any references to a smithy, shops, or metalworking tools. At the time of Alexander Guthrie's death in 1860, this property appears to have been simply part of his farm holdings. In his will, he granted "all that part...on the westerly side of Limestone Road and on the northerly side of the road to Brackenville" to his wife, Hannah, plus \$2000 "for purpose of erecting a homestead and appurtenances on the land" in lieu of a dower (N.C. Co. Wills, X1/367).

Original construction of the house on this property can thus be reasonably dated to the early 1860s when it would have been home to Hannah Guthrie and her minor son, Alexander. The latter sub-

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sequently inherited the property, but may not have resided here as an adult, as at the time he sold the property (to James and Sarah Faulkner) in 1918, he was living in Hockessin (N.C. Co. Deeds, V27/442). The farm remained in active use, however, as evidenced by the barn and garage that appear to be of late-19th or early-20th century origins, and by the subsequent expansion of the barn for dairying. The property remained in the Faulkner family until 1938, when it was sold to Joseph and Paul Mitchell, who included it among their own family's dairy farm holdings (N.C. Co. Deeds, U40/216). It continues to be used for agricultural purposes today under the ownership of Edward Williams, who acquired it in 1976.

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Jicha, Hubert F. and Valerie Cesna. National Register Nomination for Agricultural Buildings and Complexes in Mill Creek Hundred, 1800-1840, (1986), on file at Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Dover, Del.

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Hannah Gutherie Farmstead (CRS #N-9580): The property included in this nomination occupies a portion of parcel #08-018.00-016, and consists of approximately seven acres. Although still used for dairying, the Gutherie farmstead achieves significance for its architectural characteristics; thus, only a portion of the present total acreage is included. The boundary along Limestone Road corresponds to that of the legal parcel, as does the boundary along Little Baltimore Road for a distance of approximately 500 feet. The nominated property encompasses all contributing architectural features of the farmstead and the principal activity areas associated with the farmstead complex, including a portion of pasture and feedlot, as well as yard plantings consisting chiefly of a few scattered shade trees and shrubs. The depth of the included property preserves the notable fall in the topography from east to west that offers an excellent view of a still-rural landscape west of Limestone Road. No elements contributing to the significance of the resource are excluded by the boundaries as delineated.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

New Castle Co. Deeds and Wills (see Specific Citations in Text), Hall of Records, Dover, DE.

Map of New Castle County, Delaware, from original surveys. Samuel Rea and Jacob Price. Philadelphia: Smith & Wister, 1849. See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 7

Quadrangle name Kenneth Square, PA-DEL

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

|   |      |             |               |   |      |             |               |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| A | 1 8  | 4 3 9 2 9 0 | 4 4 0 2 1 0 0 | B | 1 8  | 4 3 9 4 0 0 | 4 4 0 1 8 8 0 |
|   | Zone | Easting     | Northing      |   | Zone | Easting     | Northing      |
| C | 1 8  | 4 3 9 3 0 0 | 4 4 0 1 8 9 0 | D | 1 8  | 4 3 9 2 2 0 | 4 4 0 2 0 7 0 |
| E |      |             |               | F |      |             |               |
| G |      |             |               | H |      |             |               |

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary of the Hannah Guthrie House and Farmstead is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Figure 2, Site Boundary, Hannah Guthrie House and Farmstead." See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| state | code | county | code |

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title M. H. Bowers, Architectural Historian

organization Louis Berger & Assoc.

date 1 April 86

street & number 100 Halsted St.

telephone 201-678-1960

city or town East Orange

state NJ

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

For NPS use only:  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

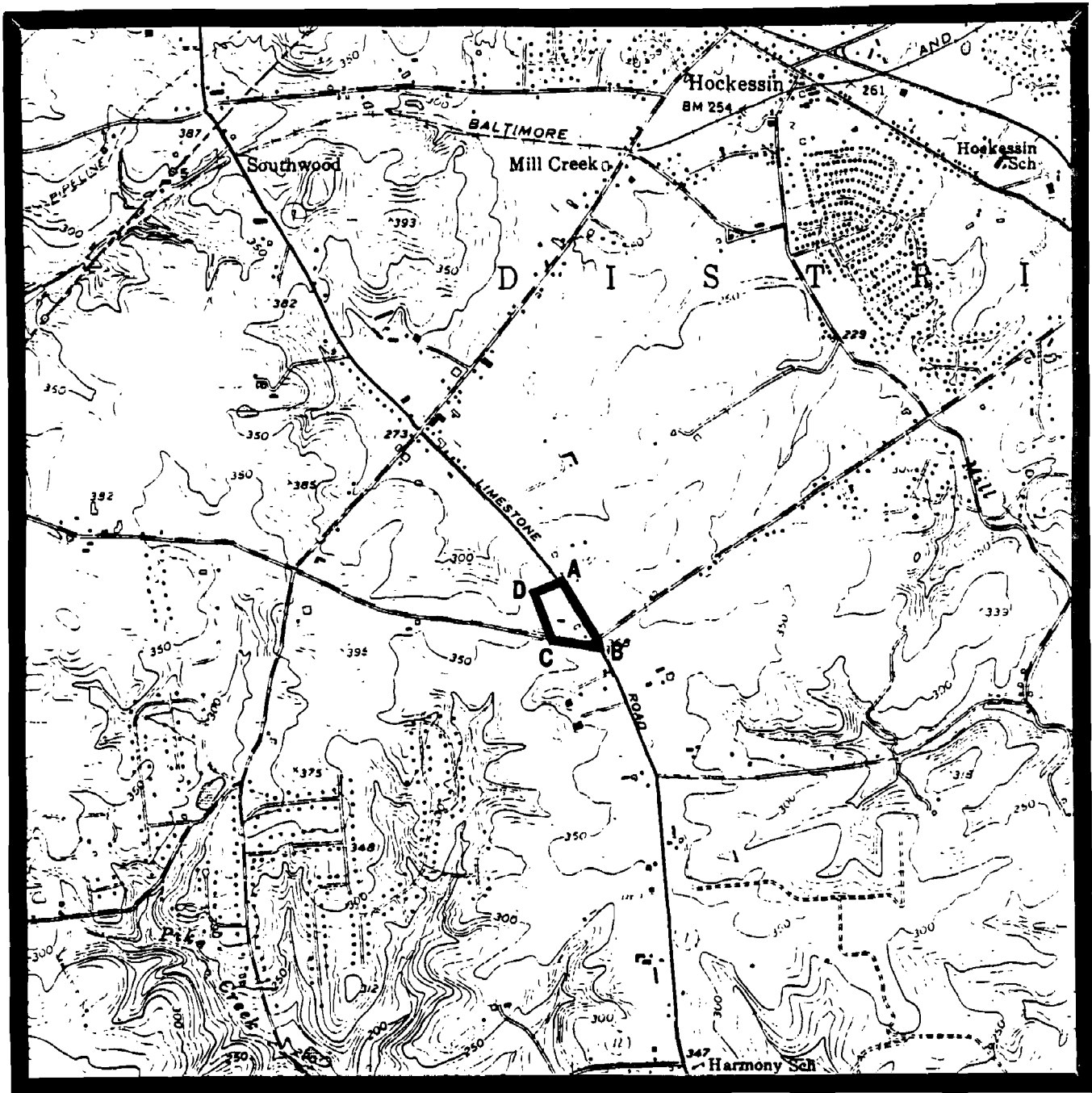
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration





**FIGURE 1:**  
**Hannah Guthrie Farmstead,**  
**Limestone Road**

**New Castle Co., DE**

**UTM: A - 18/439290 4402100**

**B - 19/439400 4401880**

**C - 18/439300 4401890**

**D - 18/439200 440207**

**SOURCE:**

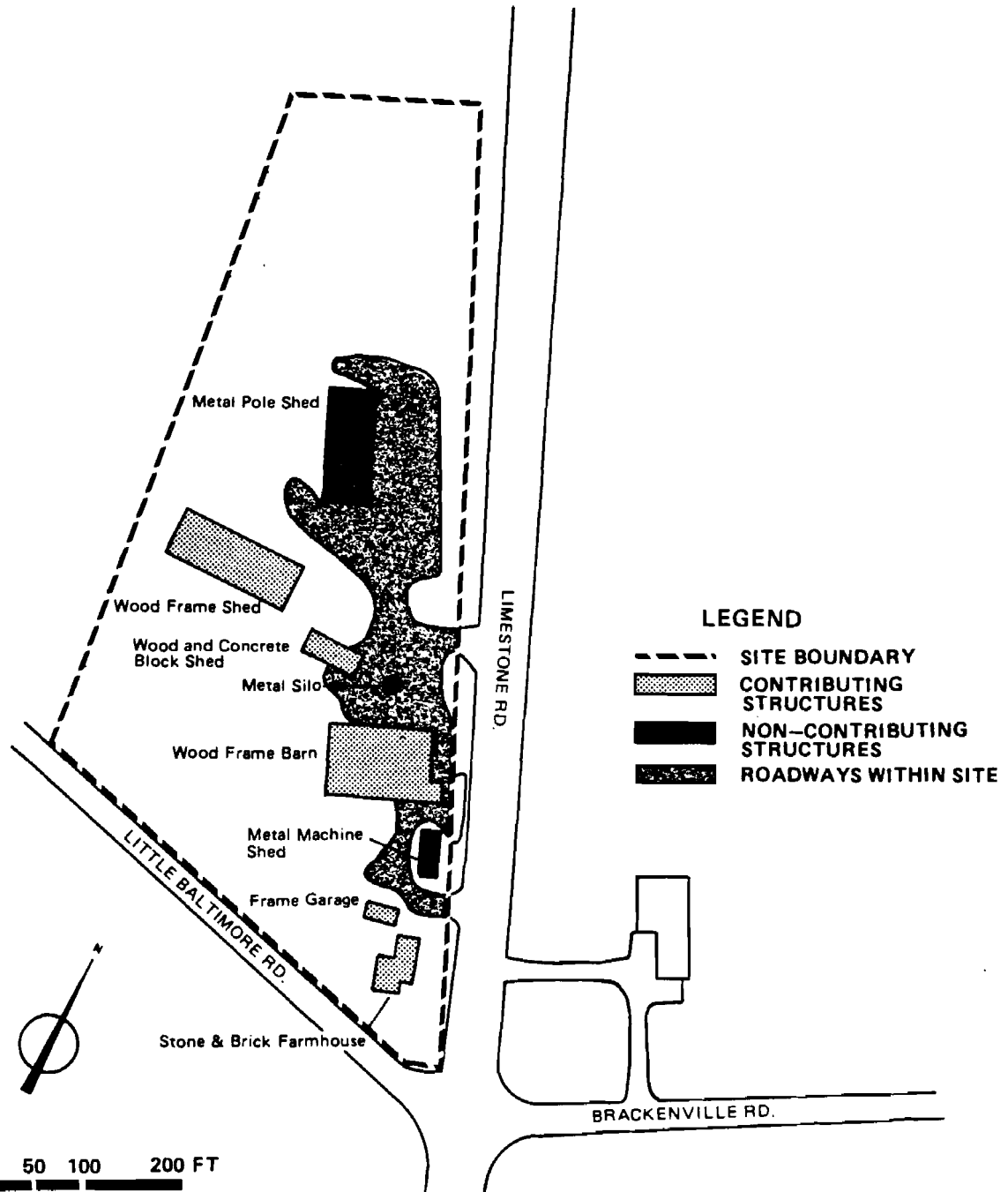
**USGS Kennet Square Quadrangle**

**Pennsylvania-Delaware**

**7.5 minute series**



**FIGURE 2**  
**Site Boundary, Hannah Gutherie House & Farmstead**  
**Limestone Road & Little Baltimore Road**  
**New Castle Co., Delaware**









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