

# Historic House Study

## The Early History of 19 Reeder Road

New Hope, PA



Prepared by  
Heritage Conservancy

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# The Early History of 19 Reeder Road New Hope, PA

## Introduction

The following information attempts to uncover the history of a house located at what is currently known as 19 Reeder Road in Solebury Township, Bucks County. The history is more complex than the typical old Bucks County stone farm house for two reasons. One is the fact that architectural investigation of the house reveals that it was constructed in two major phases. While this is not all that unusual, this house is different in that the original section of the house was dramatically altered when the "new" addition was constructed. Therefore there is little architectural detail available to study in order to determine the construction date of the original house.

Secondly, the house has a unique land history. It is part of a large tract which was held in trust for a library for one hundred years. The lack of a typical ownership pattern has added to the difficulty in unraveling the property's history.

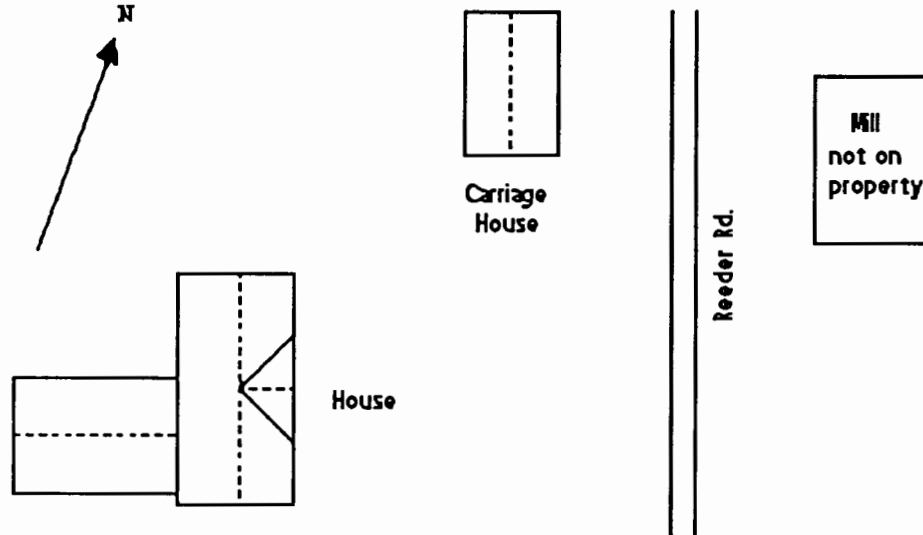
## Architectural Notes

The house at 19 Reeder Road in Solebury Township is an historic stone structure built in two distinct sections in the shape of an "L". The building is covered with stucco except on the primary elevation where the stone has been exposed. This stone is rubble with irregular quoins. This suggests that the house was designed to be covered in stucco; a common practice of the mid nineteenth century.

The primary elevation of the main section of the house faces northeasterly towards Reeder Road. This facade is highlighted by a gracious central entranceway with double doors surmounted by a rectangular transom. The doorway is flanked by large window-doors. The second floor has three  $\frac{6}{6}$  sash windows vertically ranked above the first floor openings. The most distinctive element on the facade is a large, central cross gable with round arch  $\frac{4}{4}$  gable window. The regularity of the visible stonework beneath the cross gable at its junction with the regular wall suggests that the cross gable was contemporary with the remainder of the wall. This feature is most commonly associated with houses constructed in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. It represents a vernacular (folk style) form of the Victorian Gothic style.

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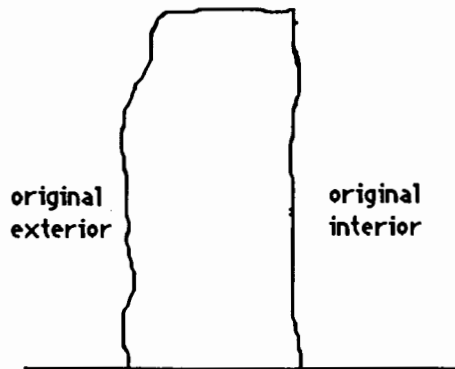
Site Plan:



Attached to the rear of the main section of the house is what has traditionally been the kitchen wing of the structure. The method of construction of the foundation walls in which the original exterior side (which was originally built against the earth and not designed to be seen) is much less uniform than the original basement side indicates that this section actually pre-dates the main section.

There is also a brick carriage house on the property. It is significant because within it is located a name and date: "J. Coltn. 1882".

Basement wall cross section:

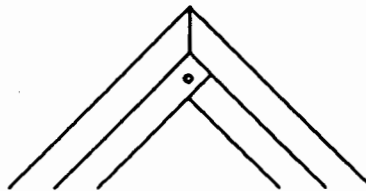


The presence of a former cooking fireplace support in the basement of this section suggests that this was the original section of the house as

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well. The attic reveals that the original pegged rafters are topped by newer rafters in order to raise the roof to a level more compatible with the main section. The walls of this section were raised with several courses of brick as well. Close inspection of the southeast facade of this section reveals the presence of the original central entrance door which has since been converted into a window.

Roof construction detail:



## History

The original grant for the land upon which the subject structure now stands was made by William Penn to James Logan on November 3, 1701. The purchase was for 500 acres, but a subsequent survey made it very nearly 600 acres. It was confirmed to Logan on September 12, 1735<sup>1</sup>. The centerpiece and key to the property was the Aquetong or Great Spring. James Logan divided the tract into two pieces. He sold approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  to Jonathan Ingham and the remainder to Jacob Dean (Ingham's brother-in-law). In both cases, he did not sell the property outright in fee simple; he sold them with a perpetual ground rent to be paid to him annually during his life time, and then to be paid to the Logonian Library Company. James Logan had an interesting career. While he did much to promote Pennsylvania, he did not mind promoting his own interest at the same time. As one recent article states: "Chief Justice James Logan had been dismissed as provincial secretary by William Penn's sons. The Penn brothers discovered that Logan had benefited more from Land Office affairs than they had..."<sup>2</sup>.

The subject property was part of a tract of what was described as 396 acres and 120 square perches of land [160 square perches = 1 acre] sold to Jonathan Ingham on May 1, 1747. At the time of the sale, James

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<sup>1</sup> Eastburn Reeder, Early Settlers of Solebury Township, Bucks County, Pa. Second Edition, Bucks County Historical Society, 1971, page 16.

<sup>2</sup> *Pennsylvania Heritage*, Summer 1996, p. 15

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Logan was described as a "gentleman" living at Stenton, in Philadelphia. Ingham was a Solebury resident and a "fuller" by trade. The deed included a provision by which Ingham and his heirs would have the land subject to their paying "the yearly rent or sum of 21 pounds sterling in English money, or in foreign good coin, silver or gold, equivalent to the same on the first day of March in every year for and during the full term of seven years...and yielding and paying unto the said James Logan, his heirs and assigns, from and after the expiration of the said seven years, during the full term of 100 years then next ensuing, the yearly rent or sum of 25 pounds sterling, money aforesaid, on the first day of March, yearly....And after the expiration of the said last mentioned term which will be in the year 1860, said tract of land, with the improvements, to be valued by four impartial men, to be chosen by the heirs and assigns of James Logan, and the executors, administrators and assigns of Jonathan Ingham and by how much the true value of the said land and improvements, shall in the estimation of the said four persons exceed the rent herein reserved, one full half or moiety of such excess shall be added to the said rent herein reserved, and from that time become a new rent, and shall be yearly rendered and duly paid, to the heirs or assigns of said James Logan, by the executors, administrators or assigns of the said Jonathan Ingham on the first day of March, yearly, forever, and in the like manner, like proceedings shall be renewed at the expiration of every term of 121 years hereafter."

Being involved in the Durham Iron Works and other operations, Logan also added that he reserve one half of all ore of copper or lead, found on the land.<sup>3</sup> In his will, dated November 25, 1749, James Logan, stated that he had intended that the ground rent on the Solebury Township land be used for his library in Philadelphia, but had been too ill to execute the deed. On March 25, 1760, his heirs released and confirmed the ground rent to Israel Pemberton, William Allen, Richard Peters and Benjamin Franklin, trustees of the Logonian Library<sup>4</sup>. The ground rent was not extinguished until May 25, 1923 when the library received a total of \$13,500 from the various "owners" of the properties which were once part of the Logan property.

As part of the valuation of the property which occurred when the lease ran out in 1860 the property was surveyed. Located in the

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<sup>3</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 14, page 408.

<sup>4</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 39 page 206. The library was annexed to the Library Company of Philadelphia in 1792.

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library of the Bucks County Historical Society Library is a large draft entitled "Plan Of Two Tracts Of Land In Solesbury [sic] Bucks Co. Penna. Subject to Ground Rent To Loganian Library Surveyed October 1860 by Samuel Croasdale." The plan indicates that the property under study was part of lot #18 which was occupied by Richard Ely. On the site of the current house, the plan shows what was labeled the mill and the mill house on the south side of the Head Race (away from the current Route 202). Reeder Road was not laid out at the time, but it appears that the mill on the draft is the mill on the opposite side of the current road. To the north of the race is house labeled "Farm House". This appears to represent the large house now part of the Elliston property.

The Logan lease was unique in Bucks County. As one nineteenth century historian noted:

**The Logan Lease**, -- The deed of James Logan to Jonathan Ingham, the elder, made May 1st, 1747, contains some curious provisions. It provides for the payment by the latter to the former of an annual rent of £21 sterling in foreign good coined silver or gold on the 1st day of March for the full term of 7 years, after that time the annual rent is increased to £25 sterling for the term of 100 years, expiring with the year 1860, when a new valuation was to be made by four disinterested men chosen by the parties interested at periods of every 121 years thereafter forever. The valuation of 1860 raised the rent from £25, or about \$100 annual rent on about 400 acres of land, to \$80 per acre, which amounts to nearly \$800, or 8 times the old rent. The rent is now operating very hard upon property holders, and will tend to prevent improvements upon the land for all time to come.<sup>5</sup>

### **The Ingham Family**

The Ingham family was one of the township's most prominent. Jonathan Ingham transferred title to the entire tract of land to his son

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<sup>5</sup> "Solebury And New Hope - Interesting Statistical Facts - When Solebury Was Settled, And How It Has Thriven." Historical Address Read By William Reeder At The Solebury Reunion. Printed in the Bucks County Intelligencer, September 25, 1878.

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Jonathan Ingham, Jr. on April 1, 1784<sup>6</sup>. In that year, the Bucks County Transcript notes that Jonathan Ingham (it is not clear whether it was father or son) was taxed for 461 acres of land upon which there were three houses and five out houses (probably out buildings, i.e. barns) occupied by eighteen white inhabitants.

Jonathan Ingham, Jr. died owning the subject property on October 1, 1793. The property remained in his estate for the remainder of the decade. Upon the petition of his widow Anna Ingham and her children to the Bucks County Orphans' Court dated November 5, 1800, the property was ordered viewed by a jury to see if it could be fairly partitioned among Ingham's heirs. On February 5, 1801 (1800 in document), the court reported that the jury concluded that the property could not be partitioned without damaging its value. The property was noted as consisting of three tracts of land. One tract of 396 acres and 120 square perches, one of 42-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> acres, and the third one containing 23 acres and 30 square perches of land. The property was appraised at \$4250 and confirmed to Jonathan Ingham, Jr.'s eldest son Samuel D. Ingham (with Samuel D. Ingham giving bonds to the other heirs for their shares of the value of the land) <sup>7</sup>.

Jonathan Ingham, served as a Bucks County Judge and a member of the Colonial Assembly in 1753-55 and 1759. He married Deborah Bye and their son, Dr. Jonathan Ingham, was born in 1744. Dr. Jonathan Ingham was a practicing physician in addition to his operating the family farm and milling business. Although he did not enter the military during the Revolution like his brother, Jonas, who became an officer in the local militia, family tradition relates that he was active in the hospitals established when Washington's troops encamped on the property prior to the Battle of Trenton. He communicated the death of a young British officer, a prisoner whom he attended, to George Washington in the style of an elegy which included:

"Ah gentle reader, as thou drawest near,  
To read th' inscription on this humble stone,  
Drop o'er the grave a sympathizing tear  
And make a stranger's hapless case thine own."<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 27, page 551.

<sup>7</sup> Bucks County Orphans' Court Docket 2, pages 446 and 457.

<sup>8</sup> Arthur Edwin Bye History of the Bye Family 1956.

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Dr. Jonathan Ingham's life ended tragically at age forty-nine in consequence of his coming to the aid of those stricken during the 1793 Yellow Fever epidemic in Philadelphia. Ingham went to the city and ministered to the sick. After the epidemic was under control he returned home, and immediately came down with the fever. He sought to find relief at Schooley's Mountain Springs in New Jersey. Family accounts describe how the ferryman at Coryell's Ferry would not allow him to cross, and how the wagon carrying him had to ford the river. They were refused admission to all houses along the way, and Dr. Ingham died by the roadside in his wagon about a mile west of Clinton, New Jersey.

Jonas Ingham joined the Continental Army as a Second Lieutenant, fifth company, fourth battalion of Bucks county and afterwards was made captain of the fourth battalion. He was severely wounded in the Battle of Germantown. After the Revolution Jonas moved to Sullivan County where he became a representative in Congress.

Samuel D. Ingham was one of the most important political figures in Bucks County history. He served in the Pennsylvania Legislature from 1805 to 1807; in Congress from 1812 to 1829; three years Secretary of the Commonwealth, and Secretary of the Treasury under Andrew Jackson. He died at Trenton in 1860.

It is impossible to determine if the current house existed during this period. There are two mid eighteenth century stone houses on the former Ingham property. One house "Inghamdale" is shown in A Treasury of Early American Homes by Richard Pratt, McGraw-Hill, 1949 as well as in Bucks County by Aaron Siskind. This is the house on the southerly side of York Road at the intersection of Reeder Road.

The other house on the former Ingham property is located on the northerly side of York Road, opposite the large Ingham Spring lake. This house was owned by Budd Shulberg, author and playwright. Shulberg came to the area when playwright Moss Hart, who owned a farm a short distance to the west, invited him for a weekend visit. Shulberg had heard that Bucks County was "a suburb of Hollywood where writers, directors and actors retired to vegetate and to hide out from story conferences and kleig lights." [Bucks County Traveler Magazine, March 1953]. Shulberg wrote several novels including What Makes Sammy Run and The Disenchanted.



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**The Ely Family**

Soon after the division of the property, Samuel D. Ingham and wife, and Anna Ingham sold 84 acres and 10 square perches of land directly related to the subject property to Hugh Ely. The deed was dated April 4, 1803.<sup>9</sup> The deed contained the liberty to raise a dam two feet.<sup>10</sup> Hugh Ely, was an extremely wealthy man. At the time of his death, he not only owned this property, but another farm in Solebury where he resided, the Prime Hope Mills in New Jersey, and land at 5th and Walnut Street in Philadelphia. The estate settlement also makes mention of taxes on what was called the "Jersey lot" and rent of an oil mill. His inventory indicates he had stocks, bonds, and promissory notes worth over \$90,000. By comparison, his household goods (including his library and "linen not made up") were valued at \$1500; his stock and utensils on his home farm were valued at \$1850, stock and utensils on his "other farm" were valued at \$300. The inventory ends with the entry of \$450 found in a drawer after the other items were enumerated.

Hugh Ely wrote his will on May 11, 1821. He devised the subject property, along with other adjoining land, to his daughter, Elizabeth E. Randolph. The land was described as the land bought of Samuel D. Ingham and the adjoining tract bought of Thomas Paxson. She also received a tract bought of his brother John Ely, adjoining lands of Josiah Shaw and Mordecai Pearson and ground rent for the Philadelphia property. His son Elias Ely received the property where Hugh Ely resided (which had been the property of his father-in-law Oliver Paxson) adjoining lands of John Pidcock and Thomas Cooper. Hugh Ely had formed joint partnerships with other prominent New Hope entrepreneurs. His will devised his half ownership of a property in Amwell, New Jersey, jointly owned with William Maris; and a property in Pike County, jointly owned with Lewis S. Coryell, to his son Elias Ely, as well.

On April 15, 1831, Richard Randolph and his wife Elizabeth E. Randolph conveyed the property to Elias Ely and Oliver Parry as trustees<sup>11</sup>. The property was described as two tracts: one containing a

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<sup>9</sup> Samuel D. Ingham retained the majority of the property until March 27, 1849 when he sold 309 acres to Horatio Nelson Beaumont. Bucks County Deed Book 79, page 302.

<sup>10</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 41, page 261.

<sup>11</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 55, page 769.

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mill and farm, and the other a chestnut [wood] lot. The trustees were to sell the land after the death of Richard and Elizabeth Randolph and Ruth Ely. The proceeds were to be divided among the children of Elias Ely (two fourths), the children of Benjamin and Jane Parry (one fourth) and the children of Thomas and Hanameel Paxson (one fourth).

Elizabeth Randolph died in 1831, and Richard Randolph in 1863. By this time Elias Ely, one of the trustees, had died as well. Oliver Parry, surviving trustee, sold the property to Eastburn Reeder and John Simpson Betts for \$12,400 on April 4, 1864<sup>12</sup>. The deed notes that there was a house and flour mill on the property at that time. The property consisted of more than the 84 acres and 10 square perches of land directly related to this property. The sale included two other tracts Ely had bought from Samuel D. Ingham at the same time, containing 23 acres and 34 square perches, and 42 acres and 120 square perches, respectively. It also included a tract of 51 acres and 20 square perches purchased from Thomas Paxson on April 1, 1817 and a 84 square perch lot bought from David Kitchen on November 13, 1814. The mill and farm property had been appraised at \$12,441.80 (and the chestnut wood lot at \$1947.00).

The history of the property is directly associated with the exploitation of the excellent water power provided by the Aquetong Creek. As historian William Eastburn noted in his discussion of Solebury and New Hope: Our water powers are both numerous and excellent...The Aquetong furnishes our best water power. The water flows from a bed of limestone, at the foot of Ingham's hill, in volume sufficient to turn a mill. The spring has been dammed, and a large lake formed just below has been devoted for a few years past to the breeding of trout and salmon by the late J. B. Thompson and his partners. Below the trout pond is the paper mill of A. J. Beaumont; next below is the grist and merchant mill of Thomas Pool (formerly J. S. Betts), and the next below that is the mill of J. B. Stroud.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 124, page 273.

<sup>13</sup> "Solebury And New Hope - Interesting Statistical Facts - When Solebury Was Settled, And How It Has Thriven." Historical Address Read By William Reeder At The Solebury Reunion. Printed in the Bucks County Intelligencer, September 25, 1878.

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**Redistribution Of The Land**

Over the next half century, the former Logan lands were subdivided, sold, re-combined, subdivided again and sold in a different configuration.

Eastburn Reeder and John Simpson Betts divided the property on March 30, 1865. John Simpson Betts gave Eastburn Reeder five separate tracts<sup>14</sup> and Eastburn Reeder released his half interest in several tracts to Betts<sup>15</sup>. On December 19, 1868, Reeder sold John S. Betts and additional small lot of 99 square perches of land (0.61875 acre)<sup>16</sup>. In the deed from Reeder to Betts, Reeder Road is noted in the deed as the new road. Betts sold 16 acres and 133 perches of the land he initially received from Eastburn, as well as the small lot, to Alfred H. Worthington and Thomas T. Pool on April 2, 1877 for \$14,000<sup>17</sup>. A year later, Worthington conveyed his half interest in the property to Pool<sup>18</sup>. Pool acquired the nearby paper mill and 38 acres and 50.5 perches of land from Andrew J. Beaumont on April 30, 1886<sup>19</sup>. He sold off 15 acres and 115 perches of the paper mill tract to Richard Mattison on December 21, 1893<sup>20</sup>. Thomas T. Pool died in possession of the remaining land. The tragic circumstances of his death were reported in the *Newtown Enterprise* newspaper:

**KILLED IN HIS MILL.**

Thomas T. Pool, proprietor of the Great Spring Paper Mill and the Ingham Spring Flour and Grist Mill, in Solebury township, near New Hope, was instantly killed in the paper mill shortly before seven o'clock on Wednesday morning. The accident was not witnessed by any one, but it is thought that while Mr. Pool was engaged in oiling some of the machinery his coat was caught by a large belt that drives a series of pulleys running under one and over another. The machinery is driven by a forty-horse power engine, and the pulleys make 250 revolutions in a

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<sup>14</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 129, page 269.

<sup>15</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 130, page 439.

<sup>16</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 145, page 354.

<sup>17</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 181, page 197.

<sup>18</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 104, page 613.

<sup>19</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 221, page 39.

<sup>20</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 261, page 654.

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minute, and at this speed Mr. Pool was whirled about a shaft driven by these pulleys. Some men employed about the mill hurried to the rescue. They found the body so tightly wedged between pulleys as to stop the machinery. It was found necessary to cut off the coat and vest, and remove one of the pulleys before the body could be removed. The upper part of the body and the head were horribly mangled. The deceased leaves a wife and two children. He was one of the best known millers of the county, and the flour manufactured at his mill had a wide sale. He had been in the business for twenty-six years, and had been proprietor of the Ingham Spring Flour and Grist Mill since 1876. The paper mill had been operated by him for the past nine years. The funeral takes place this Saturday morning. Internment at Richboro.

Newtown Enterprise  
May 25, 1895.

On July 11, 1895, S. Albert Pool, administrator of the estate of Thomas T. Pool, presented a petition to the Bucks County Orphans Court requesting a order to sell the property at public sale for the payment of debts. The order was granted, and the property was sold at public sale. Prior to the sale S. Albert Pool placed the following advertisement in the July 11, 1895 edition of the *Bucks County Intelligencer* newspaper:

**Orphans' Court Sale of the Valuable Real  
Estate of Thom. S. Pool, Deceased.**

WILL, be sold at Public Sale, on FRIDAY, the SECOND day of AUGUST, A. D. 1895, the REAL ESTATE of the said deceased in Solebury township and New Hope borough, Bucks county, as follows:

NO. 1 - Two tracts containing together about SEVENTEEN and One-Half ACRES in Solebury township. The improvements consist of a Four Story Brick Roller Mill, 40 x 40 ft., fitted up with all the latest improved machinery, A1 rolls, Wolf & Hamaker bolting system and all in good running order -- capacity 60 barrels in 24 hours. Power is furnished by two 18-inch Alcott turbine water wheels, 21 feet fall. There is also a 20 horse engine that can be used with the water wheels or alone. A Two story Stone Dwelling House, 24 x 40, with an addition back, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ , feet, porticos front and side. Two story brick wagon house, 22 x 30; frame barn

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18 x 29, with hay house and shed and wagon shed and other out-buildings. A two story frame tenant house 16 x 30 with portico front. These buildings are all in excellent condition. A productive apple orchard and good meadow are a part of the premises. The property is within 200 yards of Reeder station on the Northeast extension of the P. & R. Railroad, and fronts on an excellent turnpike road leading from New Hope to Doylestown. The mill is admirably located, and fitted for continuing a large business heretofore done there, being in a good section of the country and easily reached.

NO. 2 - A tract of TWENTY-TWO ACRES and ninety-five perches in Solebury township within a half-mile of Reeder station and fronting on the turnpike. The improvements consist of a paper mill situated on the Great Spring stream, one of the best water powers in the State. The mill is a two story stone and frame building 33 x 55 feet with a frame addition 24 x 35 feet, and a boiler [?] house 10 x 40 feet contains all necessary machinery for the manufacture of tissue [?] paper. The power consists of one Alcott turbine water wheel and two engines. The capacity of the mill is from 2500 to 3000 pounds per day. The water comes from the famous Ingham Spring, distant not over 100 or 200 yards. The water is always clear and admirably adapted in quality and quantity for the paper business, which Mr. Pool was profitably carrying on.

NO. 3 - A LOT in New Hope borough, on Delaware street, with two story Frame House, 14 x 22 feet.

NO. 4 - A LOT in New Hope borough, with a frame barn thereon 22 x 36, feet, located on Main street, Tracts Nos. 3 and 4 will be sold on the premises in New Hope at 9 o'clock a.m., and tracts Nos. 1 and 2 on No. 1 at 10.30 o'clock, a.m.

ALSO, on the same day, at 2 o'clock p. M. On tract No. 1 the following PERSONAL PROPERTY of the said deceased: 2 mules, 2 cow, 6 hogs, 3 shoats, lot of chickens, 3 sets double harness, 1 set single harness, 2 scrapes of xxx [?], two 2-horse wagons, 1 no-top wagon, 1 jagger wagon, one carriage, sleigh, 2 bob sleds, swill cart, wheelbarrow, step ladders, corn sheller, feed roll, bags, trucks, measures [?], shovels, sweeps, 3 sets of strains [?], grind stone, lanterns, office fixtures, barrels, tools, creamery, refrigerator, butter tools, mowing machine, horse rake, harrow, one good machine for making binders' [?] boards, a pair of calenders [?], good as new, costing originally \$700 [?]; large lot of second-hand machinery, consisting of pulleys, hangers, &c.; lot of steam pipe, lot of junk iron, and many other articles.

S. ALBERT POOL, Administrator

July 11, 95

ELIAS EASTBURN, Auct.

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The purchaser of the property at the auction was the widow, Jane E. Pool. A further problem occurred when S. Albert Pool died on December 2, 1895, between the time of the public sale and the execution of the deed. When this happened, Jane E. Pool was appointed administratrix of his estate. This resulted in her being the buyer and seller of her late husband's property. In order to mitigate the appearance of a conflict of interest, she reported to the Orphans Court that she transferred her bid to Edward T. Slack. She then requested confirmation of the sale, which was granted. A deed for three tracts of land (the 16 acres and 133 perch tract and the 99 perch lot from Betts and Worthington and 22 acres and 105.5 perches of the Beaumont tract) was executed to Slack on January 27, 1896<sup>21</sup>. Slack was merely a "straw man" to clear the title. He sold the land back to Jane E. Pool on the same day<sup>22</sup>. Pool quickly began subdividing the land. She sold the first two tracts to Harry L. Fries just two months later<sup>23</sup>. The larger of the two tracts includes the property under study and included the grist mill across Reeder Road. The small lot was on the opposite side of Reeder Road at its intersection with the current Route 202.

Harry L. Fries only owned the property for a short period of time when the sheriff foreclosed on the property. On October 12, 1898, sheriff Irwin Aaron sold to John W. Balderston<sup>24</sup>. Less than two years later, Balderston sold the property to a Philadelphia company, William H. Lorimer & Sons. The deed was dated June 2, 1900<sup>25</sup>. The company also purchased the nearby paper mill and 22.51 acres of land. After selling the paper mill on a one acre lot, the company transferred title to the remaining three tracts to Walter A. Lorimer as trustee on December 7, 1903<sup>26</sup>. Lorimer then transferred ownership to the Great Spring Manufacturing Company on February 20, 1908<sup>27</sup>.

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<sup>21</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 272, page 571.

<sup>22</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 272, page 581.

<sup>23</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 274, page 130.

<sup>24</sup> Bucks County Sheriff's Deed Book 1, page 479.

<sup>25</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 294, page 559.

<sup>26</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 319, page 431.

<sup>27</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 339, page 349.

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**Recent History**

On June 21, 1943, the company sold the two lots directly related to the house under study (then described as 16.759 acres and 0.751 acres, respectively) to John Johnson<sup>28</sup>.

John Johnson retained ownership of the property on the westerly side of Reeder Road for the rest of his life. After his death, the Bucks County Orphans Court awarded ownership to Kenneth D. Johnson on October 17, 1980<sup>29</sup>. At that time the property totaled 11.48 acres of land. Kenneth D. Johnson then subdivided the property. A plan dated November 6, 1980 was filed with the Bucks County Recorder of Deeds<sup>30</sup>. The house was situated on Lot #1 which totaled 8.889 acres. Kenneth D. Johnson sold Lot # 1 to Kenneth Grant on June 3, 1987<sup>31</sup>. Less than seven week later, Grant conveyed the 8.889 acres to Equitable Ventures, Inc. of Philadelphia<sup>32</sup>. The company only held title for a little over six months. On January 12, 1988, it was sold to Thomas H. And Diane S. O'diorne<sup>33</sup>. On May 6, 1996, they sold the property to the present owners, Jeffrey A. and ~~Jeanne A. Robertson~~<sup>34</sup>.

*Jeanne A. Robinson*

**Conclusion**

While the above research gives a lot of facts about the property, it does not provide specific answers to the two key questions: "When was the house originally constructed?" and "When was the second addition built?". There is evidence to indicate at least the time frame of the second question. The architectural style of the addition is in keeping with the 1860 date of when the 100 year lease for the property ended. It would make sense that major alterations and improvements to the property would not occur until after the reassessment of the property made as part of the original lease agreement. The fact that only the rear, original, portion of the house appears on the 1860 land draft supports this theory. It is possible that the addition was not made for

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<sup>28</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 722, page 266.

<sup>29</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 2401, page 618.

<sup>30</sup> Bucks County Plan Book 206, page 31.

<sup>31</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 2753, page 456.

<sup>32</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 2762, page 932.

<sup>33</sup> Bucks County Deed Book 2797, page 1197.

<sup>34</sup> Bucks County Land Record Book 1222, page 2330.

**The Early History of  
19 Reeder Road  
New Hope, PA**

some time afterwards. The carriage house was constructed by 1882 according to the date found therein. It is unclear if this was the date of construction; or merely when "J. Coltn." had some time on his hands. It is possible that the house was built at that time as well.

Since there were three houses on the property as early as 1784 (the earliest tax list which notes houses) it is possible that the older section of the current house dates from that period; however, it is impossible to verify it at this point.



N 40° E 346.65

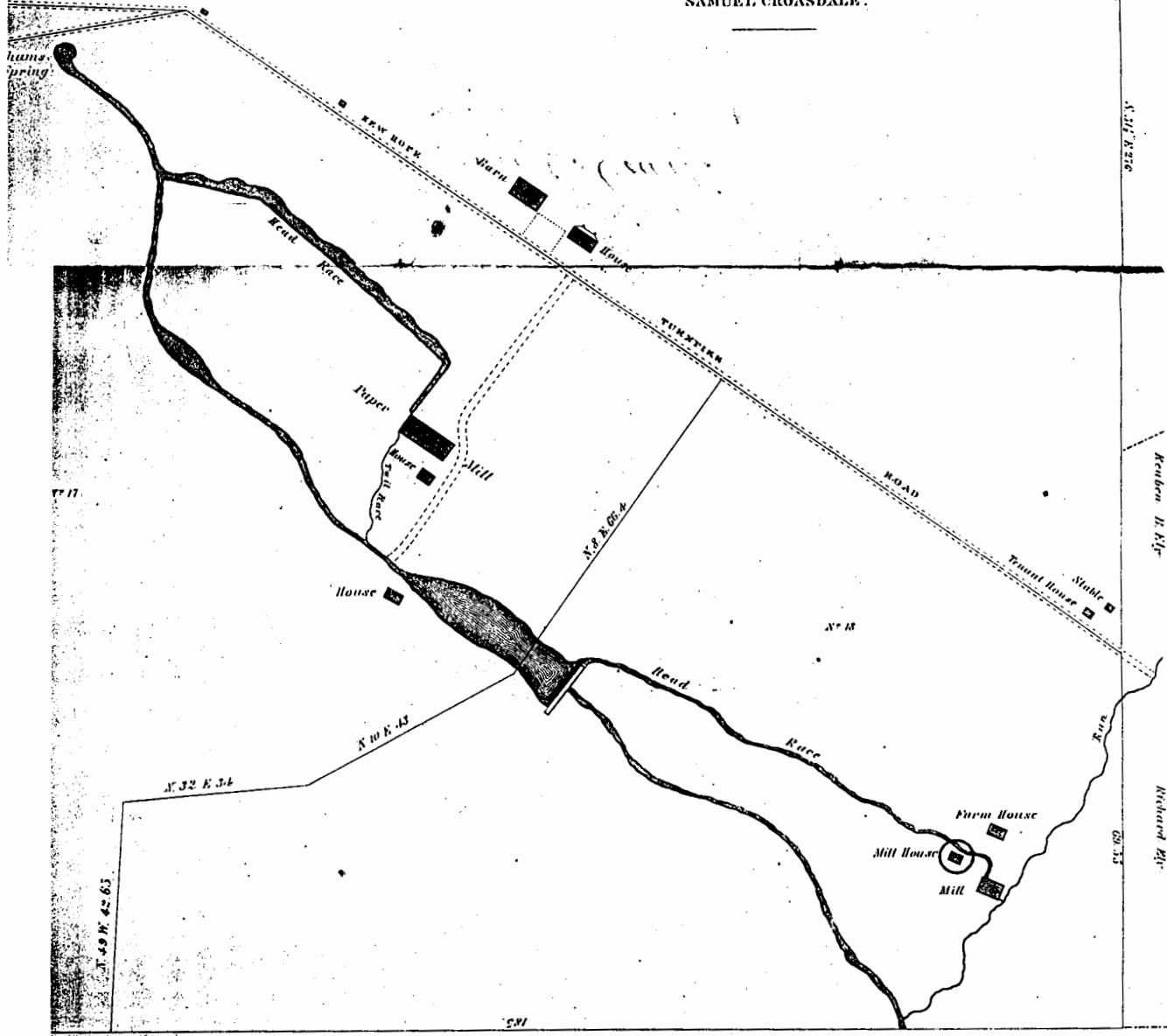
Thomas Ely

234

John Parsons

PLAN OF  
 TWO TRACTS OF LAND  
 IN  
**SOLESBURY TOWNSHIP**  
 BUCKS CO PENNA  
 Subject to Ground Rent  
 TO  
**LOGANIAN LIBRARY**

Surveyed October 1860  
 by  
 SAMUEL CROASDALE.



N 17

N 49° W 82.63

S 9° 01' E 20.78' S

Richard Ely

Eastburn Reeder

296.43

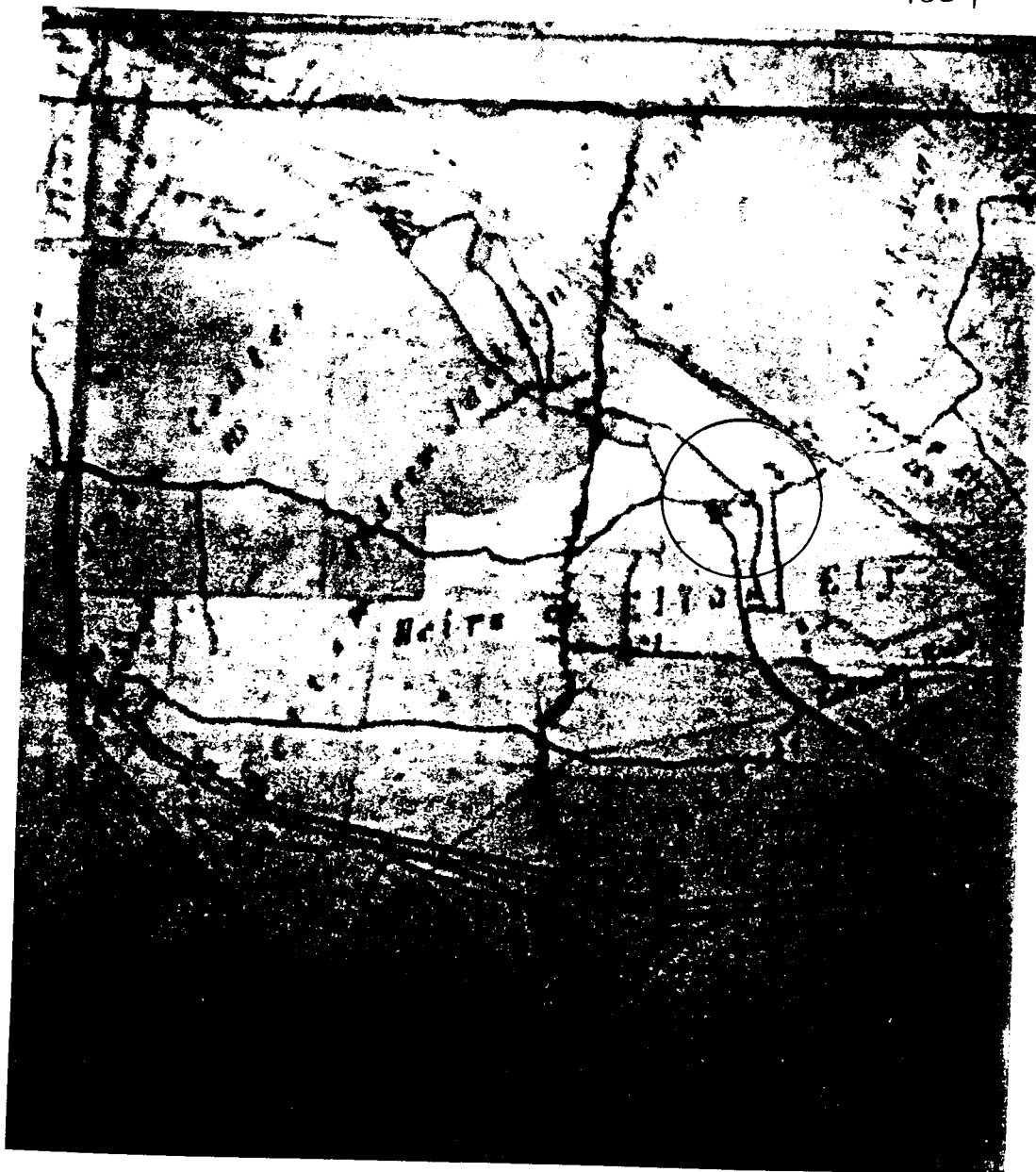
S 71° E 276

Richard H. Rip

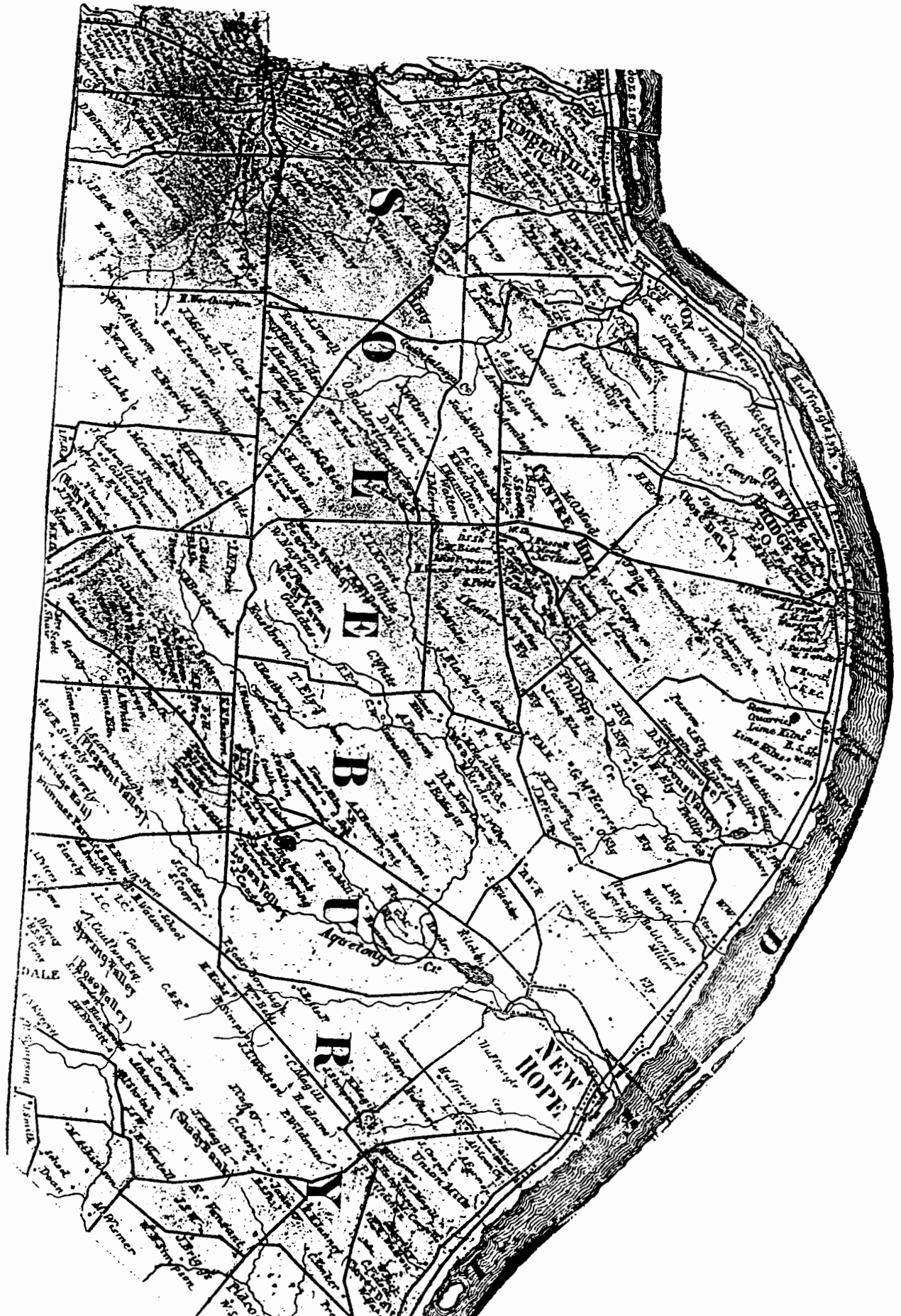
Richard Rip

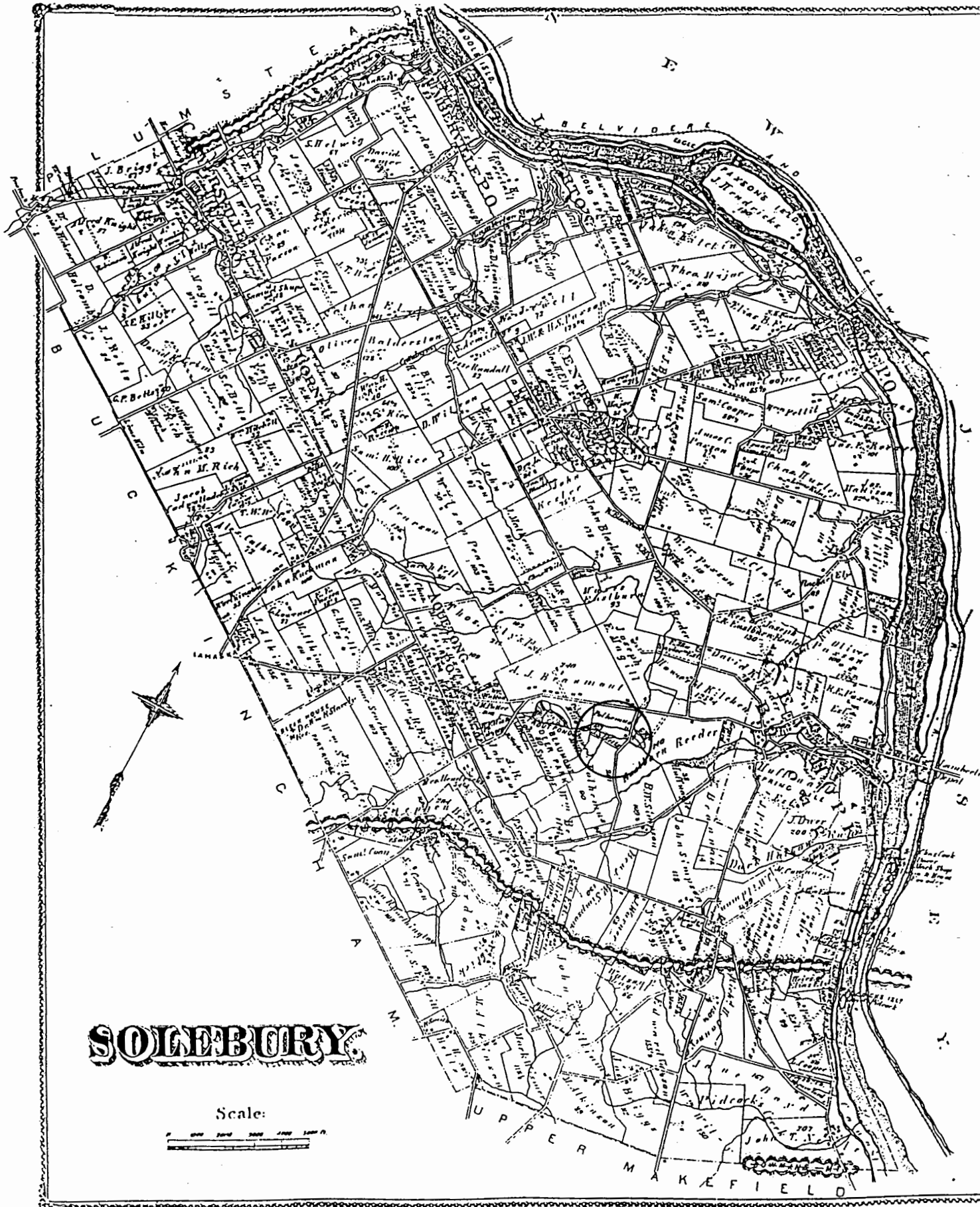
68.33

1859



portion of Map of Vicinity of Phila.  
1860 Lake & Beers





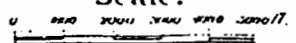
# SOLEBURY

Scale:  
0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 ft.



# SOLEBURY

Scale:





subscribed a Notary Public for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
personally appeared the above named George W. Johnson and Bullock  
Johnson himself and in due form of law acknowledged the above  
Indenture to be their act and deed and declared the  
same might be recorded as such. Witness my hand and notarial  
seal the day and year aforesaid

J. H. Jeffries  
Notary Public



172 Chestnut St Philadelphia

My Commission Expires Jan 1st 1907

Recorded Feb 1 1903

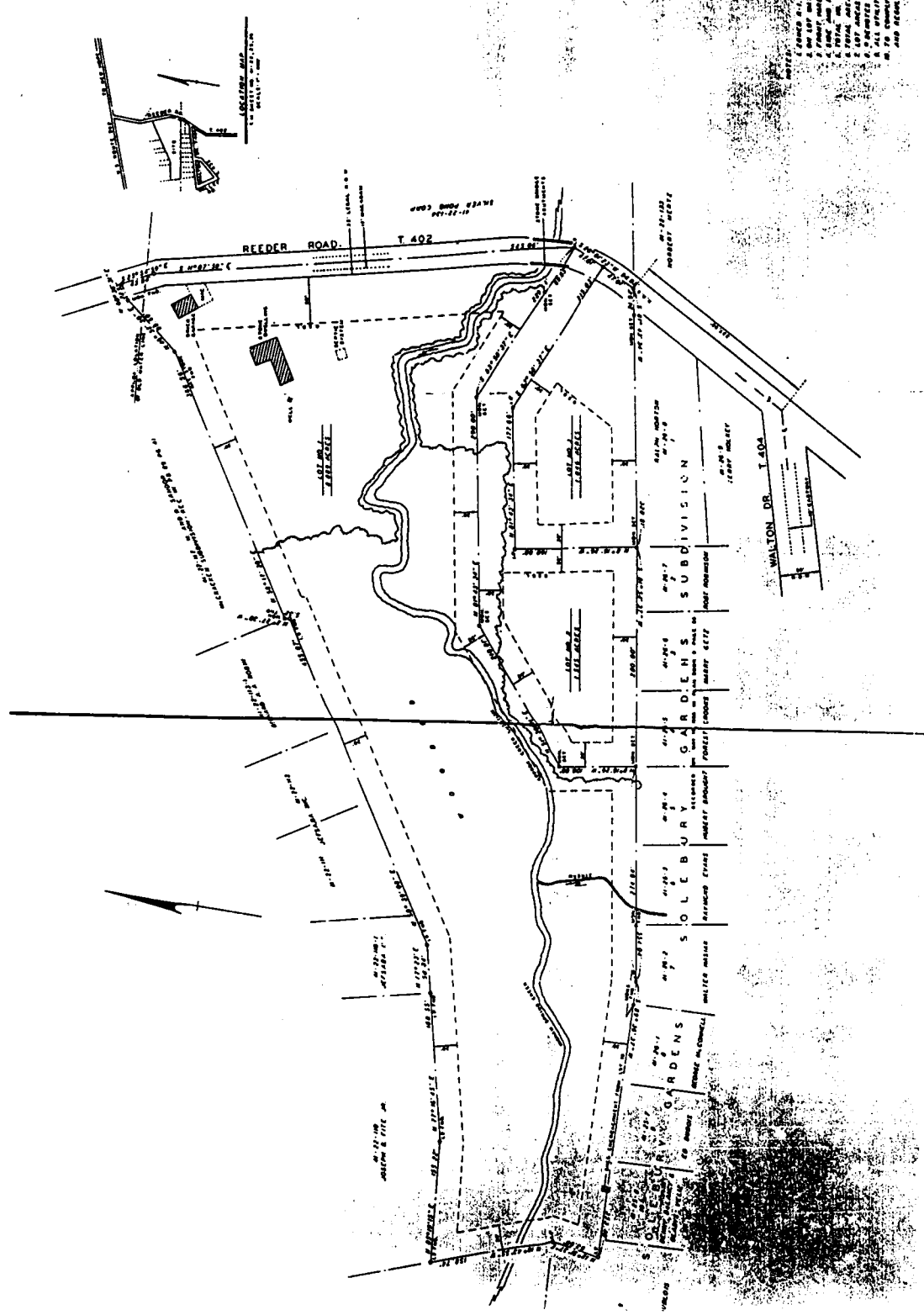
Deed  
Wm H. Lorimer  
his Son  
Company  
To  
Wm H. Lorimer  
Trustee

This Indenture made the Seventh day of December in the year of our  
Lord one thousand nine hundred and three (1903) Between The William  
H. Lorimer Son Company a corporation duly incorporated under  
laws of the State of Pennsylvania having its principal place of business  
in the City of Philadelphia hereafter called the grantor part  
one part and Walter A. Lorimer trustee of the said said company  
called the grantee of the other part. Witnesseth That the  
Grantor for and in consideration of the sum of Five thousand  
dollar lawful money of the United States of America and that  
and truly paid by the said grantee at and before the sealing and  
delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged  
that the grantee bargained and sold aliened conveyed released and confirmed  
and by these presents doth grant bargain sell alien convey release and  
confirm unto the said Grantee his heirs and assigns All The following  
described real estate situate in the Township of Solebury County of  
Berks and State of Pennsylvania bounded and described as follows  
to wit: To wit: That certain Messuage Tenement Mill and  
Tract of Land Beginning at a point in the centre of the New Road a  
corner of lands of George W. Beaumont and Eastburn Reeder thence by  
said Eastburn Reeder's land South sixty six degrees forty four min-  
utes East seven hundred and fifty six and nine tenths feet to a corner  
stone and still by the same South thirty nine degrees five by one min-  
utes West five hundred and ninety three and nine tenths feet to a corner  
in line of George W. Beaumont's land thence along the same and crossing  
said New Road South eighty three degrees forty one minutes West  
ten hundred and twenty three and nine tenths feet to a corner stone  
thence still by the same South eighty seven degrees twenty six minutes  
West three hundred and fifty three and forty three hundredths feet  
to a corner and still by the same North ten degrees fifty minutes East  
sixty three and thirty by hundredths feet to a corner of land formerly  
of Harry J. Pison thence by the same and crossing a Mill Dam  
North South ten degrees twenty six minutes West one hundred and

fifty eight and four tenths feet to corner on the North side of a-  
foresaid Mill Dam and in line of George H. Beaumont's land thence  
along the North side of said Mill Dam and land of aforesaid North  
eighty seven degrees fifty three minutes East one hundred and sixty  
and fifteen hundred the feet to corner and still by the same North  
seventy seven degrees twenty one minutes East two hundred and  
seven and five tenths feet to corner at the head of the tail race thence  
the Northwest side of said race North fifty eight degrees fifty four  
minutes East eight hundred and eighty five and four tenths feet to a  
stone and still by the same North forty seven degrees nineteen  
minutes East eight and eight tenths feet to a stone near the West  
aforesaid new Road thence by the aforesaid George H. Beaumont's  
and crossing said new Road North thirty four degrees fifty  
seven and fifty nine hundredths feet to the centre of  
slump and still by the same North forty five degrees  
West One hundred and four and ninety four hundredths feet  
beginning containing Seven and seven hundred and  
thence and the Area No 2. Beginning at a point in the  
New Road and in line of land of Earlburn Resides thence  
in a North land North seven degrees East Sixteen  
and twenty five hundredths feet to a point in the  
Lakesha and New Hope Turnpike and over the centre of  
the bridge over Aqueduct Creek thence along said centre line of  
Lakesha and New Hope Turnpike South twenty three degrees West  
one hundred and fifty one and sixty five hundredths feet to corner  
of George H. Beaumont's land thence by the same South fifty one degrees  
twenty five minutes East twenty seven and thirty nine hundredths feet  
to corner in the centre line of the new Road thence along the same South  
six degrees nine minutes West five hundred and thirty two and eighty  
five hundredths feet to the place of beginning containing seven hundred  
and fifty one thousand three hundred and thirty one  
and three quarters acres of land being the same which John W. Bald  
and Emma D. his wife by their deed dated the 12th day of June  
A.D. 1900 and recorded in Doylestown in Dec. Book No 294 page 559  
were granted and confirmed unto the said the William H. Lorimer  
Sons Company its successors and assigns in fee. Together as to the  
abovesentenced two tracts with all the privileges of damming the water  
and use of the ground above the dam beyond or out of the bounds of the  
heretofore described land as is granted by deed from Samuel D.  
Ingham and wife to Anna Ingham dated April 1st 1803 and re-  
corded in Dec. Book No 41 page 261 &c and as the same is recited  
in a certain deed from James E. Pool to Henry J. Packer his heirs and

1980

BCC



1. ALL LOTS ARE TO BE  
 2. THE LOT AREA AND BE  
 3. PROPERTY MAPS AND  
 4. THE TOTAL AREA OF THE  
 5. TOTAL AREA OF THE  
 6. LOT AREA AS SHOWN  
 7. ALL LOTS ARE TO BE  
 8. THE TOTAL AREA OF ALL  
 9. AND REGULATIONS OF