

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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.

historic name Brookdale Farm Historic District

other names/site number Thompson Park

2. Location

street & number 805 Newman Springs Road not for publication

city or town Middletown Township vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Monmouth code 025 zip code 07738

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 _____ Date _____

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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____ _____ _____	_____	_____

Brookdale Farm Historic District
Name of Property

Monmouth, New Jersey
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	19	16	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0	objects
		20	16	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)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
AGRICULTURE/animal facility	RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation
RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility	GOVERNMENT/government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
LATE 19 th AND EARLY 20 th CEN. REV./Colonial Revival	foundation STONE & CONCRETE
	walls WOOD
OTHER/Agricultural-Equine	BRICK
	roof ASPHALT
	other METAL
	STUCCO

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

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.)

- [x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
[x] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
[x] 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.
[x] 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1786-1932

Significant Dates

1786, 1872, 1889
1895, 1915, 1930

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

David Dunham Withers, Harry Payne Whitney, James G. Rowe

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Carrère and Hastings
Delano and Aldrich

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 #

Primary location of additional data

- [] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[x] Other

Name of repository:

Monmouth County Park System

Brookdale Farm Historic District
Name of Property

Monmouth, New Jersey
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 228

UTM References (see appended Map 1a-d)
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

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 Clifford Zink

organization _____ Date December 18, 2018

street & number 54 Aiken Avenue Telephone 609-439-7700

city or town Princeton state New Jersey zip code 08540

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 Monmouth County Park System (attn: Gail Hunton)

street & number Thompson Park, 805 Newman Springs Road telephone 732-842-4000

city or town Lincroft state New Jersey zip code 07738

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

Brookdale Farm Historic District
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary Paragraph

The 228-acre Brookdale Farm Historic District is part of the 667-acre Thompson Park owned and operated for public use by the Monmouth County Park System. The Historic District contains buildings and features from three periods: the 18th century settlement of the site to 1872, the Brookdale Farm breeding, training, and stabling facility from 1872 to 1968, and its use as a public park since 1969. The remarkably preserved stud farm facility dominates the site with two major residences plus a third house, stables of varying sizes, a vestigial horse track, and several support buildings that originally served farm staff and maintenance functions. All the historic buildings have been preserved and adapted for current use by the Park System. The site includes ten buildings and structures erected by the Park System mostly away from the core historic area for recreational use and for park maintenance. The overall landscape reflects the site's historic development as an equine landscape with the grouping and relationship of buildings, the continuing use of original entrance and farm lanes, the preservation of specially-landscaped areas, and the conservation of fields and other open spaces that once served as paddocks, farm fields, or lawns. Parking areas have been installed away from the historic buildings except where required for specific access.

Narrative Description

The Monmouth County Park System surveyed Brookdale Farm in 1981 as part of the Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory (HSI 1331-88), which identified it as eligible for the National Register. The Brookdale Farm Historic District (Map 1) comprises the core of Brookdale Farm, a Thoroughbred stud farm established by David Dunham Withers in 1872 and expanded by him to 838 acres in 1889. (Map 2) The Historic District's 228 acres include the 215-acre bequest by Geraldine L. Thompson in 1969 to Monmouth County to create Thompson Park, plus 13 acres of the adjacent Marlu Farm acquired by the County in 1985. With other acquisitions, Thompson Park now comprises 667 acres. (Map 3) Thirty-six buildings and one historic landscape feature are numbered below within the periods of their construction and listed in a chart at the end of this section. Construction and renovations that can be attributed to Withers, the Thompsons, or the Whitneys are noted below, while others are referred to as occurring during the Brookdale Stable period, 1872-1932. Construction and renovations by the Monmouth County Park System after 1968 are noted as MCPS. All the roofs have asphalt shingles unless otherwise noted.

The Site

The Brookdale Farm Historic District retains many equine landscape features from its historic use as a stud farm and working farm, including open and forested areas, original clusters of historic buildings, and most of the original circulation system. The addition of some new circulation, parking, and maintenance facilities for the site's use for public open space and recreation has carefully respected the original features, and 23 historic buildings from the period of significance have been rehabilitated for current use or preserved for future rehabilitation.

The center of the 2,915-foot frontage on Newman Springs retains Brookdale's two original entrances with planted trees and lawn providing intermittent views of the reconstructed Thompson Mansion that now serves as the Thompson Park Visitor Center. The eastern portion and the far western portion of the frontage remain open

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with managed meadows where there were formerly farm fields. West of the west entrance, the Park System dredged the Thompson's duck pond to retain it as a landscape feature, and cleared invasives and planted native species in the wooded wetlands and along the watercourses that feed and drain it.

The original east lane leads to the Visitor Center and to its east the Park System's Headquarters in the former Dr. William P. Thompson Jr., house. The original west service lane (Photo 0.1) leads to the farm complex (P0.2 & P0.3) that now houses Park System operations. The Park System has preserved the landscape in front of the Visitor Center as a lawn with planted trees and shrubs in keeping with the historic landscaping of the Thompsons. The Park's tree inventory on the front lawn, along the original lanes, and around the farm complex includes over 90 trees dating from the Thompson era, and some of them possibly earlier. The native species include ash, maple, oak, elm, black walnut, black cherry, poplar, and red cedar, and rarer or exotic species include horse chestnut, white fir, balsam fir, European larch, eastern cottonwood, and Norway spruce.

South of the Visitor Center and southwest of the farm complex, former paddocks and farm fields from the Withers and Thompson eras are defined by tree lines and hedgerows and remain open as lawn and managed meadows. The southeastern border remains natural woodlands as it was during the Thompson era. The southwest portion of the Historic District is dominated by the former one-mile Training Track – the site's largest historic landscape feature that now serves as a Park trail. (P0.5 & 0.6)

The stud farm/park operations area (P0.4) is dominated by the large Training Stable south of the farm/service lane, and has former stables, employee buildings, and garages north of the lane along with some recent park service buildings to the west. The site contains 35 structures (see chart at end of this section): 20 of them are labeled on the 1932 Brookdale Farm Map (H63), five others predate Thompson Park, and ten were erected by the Park System after 1969. The site includes gravel lanes and expansive lawn areas, and a wide variety of mature and recently planted trees, shrubs, and hedges, and woodland along the reservoir and around the former Track. The site also includes paved roads and parking areas, gravel lanes, fences, signage, and lighting installed by the Park System for the site's public use and maintenance. MCPS has rehabilitated several of the buildings in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, and the dates are noted below.

The Key structures are those with architectural integrity 1) dating to the site's formative development, 1786-1872, as the Lloyd Farm (with possible modifications during the subsequent Conover ownership), and 2) those associated with the Brookdale Stable, 1872-1932. Contributing buildings are those that add to the historical and architectural significance of the Historic District 1786-1968. Non-contributing buildings are those 1) with little or no historical significance or architectural integrity, and 2) those erected after 1969 by the Monmouth County Park System, with the exception of the reconstructed Thompson House/Visitor Center, which is a Contributing building as noted below. The Park System's numbers are included for each building.

Lloyd/Conover Farm 1786-1872

1. Thomas Lloyd House/Trainer's Dwelling/Acquisition & Design Office #506 – Key

Thomas Lloyd built the two-story east section as a five-bay, center-hall Georgian house in 1786, as inscribed on a foundation date stone. (P1.1 & 1.2) In a Colonial Revival renovation and expansion in 1914, Harry Whitney

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added a gabled portico with four square columns on the front; a one-story porch (later enclosed) on the east side; a small one-story, shed roof section on the rear (P1.3); and a two-story, four-bay, gabled west section stepped back from the 1786 façade, with a gabled northwest extension. The renovation included new windows and siding, replacing the original twin end wall chimneys with a single exterior chimney on the east side, and a unifying dentil cornice along the eaves and on the gable ends. The front door has an original five-light transom above an original Dutch door that was altered with four glass panes in place of the original panels in the upper part.

The 1786 section retains its original center hall, stairway, and pegged handrail (P1.4). Other parts of the floor plan have been altered, but the first floor southwest room on the west side of the hall has an original arch-top corner cupboard with glass upper doors and butterfly shelves above paneled doors. (P1.5) A large room on the east side of the hall has a Colonial Revival fireplace and mantle. (P1.6) MCPS rehabilitated the Lloyd House in 2009-2010.

2. Lloyd Barn 1/Garage Storage #512e – Key

The two Lloyd Barns are located perpendicular to each other in a barnyard arrangement associated with the site's 18th Century development. The one-and-a-half story, three-bay Lloyd Barn 1 (P2.1) appears to have been built in the late 18th Century and likely had wide double doors on the front and rear opening to the central bay. When the Ten Mare Barn was built attached to it around 1883, the Lloyd Barn 1 was renovated with similar details, including wide clapboard siding, single board and batten doors on strap hinges with transom windows, awning windows above the reach of horses, and hayloft doors. The Lloyd Barn 1 transoms and awning windows on the front and rear have four-light sash.

The barn has a traditional English box frame with hand-hewn and pegged posts and beams (P2.2). The central bay was originally open to the roof, and the upper portions of the side bays likely served as hay mows with the hay supported on tree poles. Brookdale Stable renovations included installing tongue and groove planks on the walls and wood bars on the windows to protect the horses, and a full second floor framed with wide dimensional lumber (P2.3). The timber framing has been patched and reinforced by MCPS in several areas. The original gable and siding is visible from the Ten Mare Barn loft (P2.4 & 2.5), and the hand-hewn rafters (P2.6) appear to date from the original construction in the late 18th Century. MCPS rehabbed this barn in 2011-2012 based on its historical significance.

3. Lloyd Barn 2/Graphics Office #511 – Key

Lloyd Barn 2 (P3.1 & 3.2) also appears to date from the 18th Century, as evidenced by some visible hand-hewn framing members (P3.3) and by its hand-hewn rafters (P3.4). Brookdale Stable's conversion of the barn to "Help's Quarters" (1932 Map) included clapboard siding, randomly-placed six-over-six windows, front and rear doors with shed roofs supported on brackets, and a shed-roof addition with a porch on the south. The addition has a south-facing door and paired six-over-six windows. The interior has finished walls and strip flooring, and some of these features may date from Geraldine Thompson's upgrading of buildings for use by Fort Monmouth soldiers during World War Two, and others from more recent MCPS upgrades. MCPS rehabbed this barn in 2004.

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4. Wagon House/Outdoor Adventures Office #508 – Contributing

The Wagon House is a one-and-a-half story, wood-framed building with a gable roof over the center portion and shed roofs over the side portions. (P4.1) The façade has a full porch with turned columns and an asymmetrical placement of three doors and four six-over-six windows on the first story. The half story three similar windows, and there are two brick chimneys.

The hand hewn, matched rafters (P4.2) indicate that the central section was erected in the Lloyd Farm period as a small barn or a carriage house. During the Brookdale era the building was repurposed as “Office and Help’s Quarters” (1932 Map) and expanded with the shed-roof side sections. The first floor has a hallway leading to three rooms, and a stairway to a large room on the second story. The interior renovations date from a combination of the Brookdale Stable, Thompson, and MCPS periods.

Brookdale Farm Withers 1872-1892

5. Training Stable/Storage #520 – Key

Measuring 64 feet by 296 feet, the two-story, forty-stall Training Stable is the largest and most significant building on Brookdale Farm, and one of the largest stable buildings erected in the “golden age” of Thoroughbred racing in New Jersey. (P5.1-5.3) The only known building that rivals it in size and age is the Bell Barn at Rancocas Farm. (H18) The Training Stable was built in several sections. David Dunham Withers erected the eastern section sometime around 1879 with ten “loose box” stalls on either side of a service “alley” and an open-sided bay on the east end. Within a short period of time, Withers erected the similar west section with an open-sided west bay. Each section has a gabled cupola with eight-light sash in the center of its ridge. Prior to 1906, the Thompsons or Harry Whitney covered the space between the east and west sections and added shed roofs along the sides (H39 & 40), and enclosed the outside of the north shed with sash windows above plank walls with cross-bucks (H41 & 5.4); and 3). At a later time, the south shed was enclosed like the north shed, and the central cupola was added.

The Training Stable has wide clapboard siding similar to that on the Ten Mare Barn and other early Brookdale buildings. The gable ends of the Training Stable have roof extensions supported by brackets, two three-light windows on the first story, second story doors and large hay-loading double doors at the top (all with strap hinges), and tilted six-light sash under the extensions. On the ground story, the east end has the original sash and cross-buck panel enclosure on the north shed, and a replacement garage door on the south shed. The west has the opposite shed ends. The central bay of each shed has replacement garage doors. The original variation the upper and shed roofs (H39-41) was obscured in a reroofing with asphalt shingles.

The floor plan of the Training Stable is open under the shed roofs of the north and south sides, has passages on the ends and in the center and “alleys” in the middle between the rows of stalls, creating a complete perimeter “walk” or “ambulatory” around the interior of the barn (H42). Interior features are remarkably intact from the original construction c1880, with many exhibiting the stabling of Thoroughbred racehorses in the late 19th Century, and others the refined timber-framed construction of the period. The siding, doors, windows, trim, and

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hardware are original with the exceptions of some repairs and missing components. (P5.5) The split doors have board and batten construction, with horizontal boards on the inside of the lower portion and a diagonal brace on the upper portion. (P5.6 & 5.7) Most of the doors have their original Tee hinges, latches, and keepers. The windows have three disappearing components for different weather conditions — iron bars, louvered shutters, and four-lite sash. Along the stall walls, the ground has multiple rows of wooden blocks and the “loose box” stalls have brick floors to enable traction for the horses. The box stalls are lined with tongue and groove planks and have high widows opening to the central alley. (P5.8) The doors and planking appear to be southern yellow pine. Withers’ reportedly had connections in the south to obtain the large quantities of such lumber that he needed.

The central passage has the original wide clapboards of the east and west sections, and ceiling planks from the subsequent covering of the space prior to 1906. (P5.9) The north and south alleys between the stalls have wood floors, tongue and groove planks, and a pair of three-lite sliding sash for each of the stalls. (P5.10) The north section has iron brackets supporting girders that butt into posts that extend to tie beams on the second story. Also in the north section, a stairway that looks like it could be original leads through a second floor opening framed with heavy timbers and capped with original post and rail protection around the edge. (P5.11 & 5.12) The posts have chamfered sides and rounded tops, and some of the rails are let into slots in the posts for easy removal when needed. The second story doors with strap hinges on the north and south sides were originally hung on the exterior, as on the Ten Mare Barn, but when the shed roofs were added the pintles were reversed to hang the doors on the interior.

The east hayloft has several feed bins made of planks between the posts and exterior walls. (P5.13) The bins have angled tops and the outer ends of some of the bins are square to their long sides, while others have triangular ends that required moving the original posts towards the center. The bins have flap doors and all the interior surfaces are lined with sheet metal.

On the east section, the second story end walls and gables have door openings at the second floor level and larger door opening above up to the ridge. (P4.14 & 5.15) On the east end the lower opening has a braced board and batten door, and the upper opening has a pair of braced board and batten doors with triangular sections at the top that fold down to facilitate the loading of hay via a hay fork track along the ridge beam. The upper doors and the hayfork track may have been installed subsequent to the original construction. The doors are missing on the west end. Both ends have tilted six-lite sash on each side of the upper openings. The original construction of the facing ends of the east and west sections and the subsequent covering of the former open area in between is clearly visible on the second floor. (P5.16) A ladder on top of the upper doorsill on the east section leads to the central cupola above. The east end of the west section has a single door opening at the second floor level, while the west end has upper and lower doors and tilted six-lie sash (P5.3) similar to the east end of the east section (P5.1).

In the east section, the interior posts are continuous to full-length upper tie beams tenoned and braced to outer posts. In the west section the lower tie beams are also continuous and the interior posts are separate on each story. In both sections, the roof rafters are supported midway by purlins that are connected with scarf joints and supported by perpendicular struts braced to the purlins. (P5.17 & 5.18) Since the purlin struts do not sit on the tie beams directly above the interior posts, the carpenters added short timbers between the tie beams and the top

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of the posts to relieve the off-center stress on the tie beams. On the east section the ends of the short timbers are partially angled, while on the west section they are fully angled. The similarities and subtle differences in the materials, framing, and finishing of the east and west sections suggest that they were built by the same carpenters within a relatively short period of time.

6. Ten Mare Barn/Garage Storage #512w – Key

David Withers likely built this two-story, gable roof stable in 1883, as the *Red Bank Register* reported in June that he was erecting “a breeding-stable” that would be “the most complete establishment of its kind in the State.” Built attached to Lloyd Barn 1, the Ten Mare Barn has full 1-inch by 10-inch clapboard siding, board and batten loft doors, and high awning-type windows in the stable areas, like other Brookdale Stable buildings. (P6.1 & 6.2) The front of the building had open bays on the first floor in 1906 (H10), but whether they were open when the building was erected in 1883 is unknown. Sometime after about 1960, 11 garage doors were installed on the formerly open bays, and a sunburst-pattern panel was installed in the former semicircular opening above the central bay. (P6.3)

The first floor has eleven bays delineated by columns down the center, and a stairway has been added in the northwest corner. (P6.4) The barn originally had ten broodmare “loose box” stalls — five on each side of the central bay — in the rear half of the first floor. (P6.5) At approximately 13 feet by 15 feet, the stalls were larger than others at Brookdale Stable to accommodate a mare and her foal. To protect the mares, the first floor walls were covered with tongue and groove planks and the windows have wooden bars, both features similar to those in the attached Lloyd Barn 2. The central bay is partially open to the loft above, initially to facilitate the loading and serving of hay. The loft is continuous with ten tie beams supporting struts braced to purlin plates supporting the rafters midway. (P6.6)

7. Training Track/Park Trail – Contributing

The outline of the one-mile track built by David Withers (H43) on the south side of Brookdale Farm is clearly visible from above (P0.5 & 0.6). The track was lined originally with trimmed privet hedge but now trees and shrubs have grown up along a narrow sand and gravel path that follows the original hedgerow. (P7.1 & 7.2) The northeastern portion of the track infield remains open space with mowed areas and a football field. The southwestern portion of the track infield is now partially wooded wetlands with small meadow areas.

8. Yearling Barn 1/Theatre Barn #519 – Key

David Withers likely built Yearling Barns 1 & 2 in 1884 as the *Red Bank Register* reported that spring on the building of “two new stables, each 55x110 feet in size,” and these measurements match both of the single-story Yearling Barns. Both have the wide clapboard typical of the original Brookdale Stable construction, plus overhanging eaves and gable extensions. The long sides of the barns have central openings with garage doors and transom sash above, six high 20-lite pivoting windows, and upper board and batten doors near each end. (P8.1 & 8.2) The central openings originally had board and batten doors. The ends have five four-lite awning windows and a four-lite round window under the peak, and the southeast end also has three large grouped

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windows below the round window. On Yearling Barn 1, the 16-lite lower sash on the grouped windows appear to be original, while the six-lite upper sash are replacements.

On the interior, both Yearling Barns have tongue and groove planks covering all the walls. (P8.3) The Barns were designed with five loose box stalls at each end, and the large open area in between for exercising the yearlings. To provide the open exercise area, the Barns have eight clear-span roof trusses, discussed below under Yearling Barn 2. Both Barns have joists and flooring on the tie beams of the four northwestern trusses, and Yearling Barn 1 has its five original box stalls at each end, with a platform above them with grain bins. (P8.4) The stalls have split doors with double planking on the bottom part (vertical on the outside and diagonal on the interior), and vertical slats on the top part. (P8.5) The partitions between the stalls have horizontal tongue and groove planks on the lower portion and vertical slats above. (P8.6) Both Barns originally had dirt floors but no have concrete.

9. Yearling Barn 2/Activity Barn #550 – Key

Yearling Barn 2 (P9.1 & 9.2) was built 55 feet wide by 110 feet long almost identical to Yearling Barn 1. Both now have garage doors in place of the original double board and batten doors in the center of each side, and Yearling Barn 2 also now has two additional personnel doors on the southwest side and one on the northeast side. Yearling Barn 2 does not have the upper board and batten doors that provide access to the end platforms in Yearling Barn 1.

The most distinctive features of the Yearling barns are their eight queen post, timber trusses with pairs of vertical iron rods supporting continuous 55-foot long tie beams. (P9.3 & 9.4) The trusses are braced to posts within the walls by diagonal planks on each side of the tie beams. The trusses support two purlins on each side of the roof. The vertical upper purlin is carried on the top ends of the trusses, and the canted lower purlins are reinforced with struts braced at the bottom by transverse beams held vertical by the iron bars. This type of 19th Century truss is typically associated with factory, church, and public buildings requiring wide, clear spans, and not with barns. The 55-foot long tie beams are particularly noteworthy as simply transporting timbers of that length to the site would have been a major undertaking. Master timber framing carpenters would have also been necessary to make and erect the trusses. Along with the Training Stable, the Brookdale Farm Yearling Barns represent the special requirements of Thoroughbred breeding and training, and thus should be considered as exceptional and perhaps unique examples of late 19th Century equine architecture.

In Yearling Barn 2, the loose box stalls at the ends have been removed, but the original overhead platform is extant at the northwest end and the original triangular platforms and grain bins are extant at the southeast end. Both Yearling Barns have foot slats in the walls adjacent to the platforms to provide access to them. MCPS rehabilitated this barn in 1995.

10. Two-Stall Stable/Administrative Office Storage #538 – Key

The gable roof, Two-Stall Stable has split doors at either end of the west side that lead to two loose box stalls, and two high, four-lite windows on the east side. (P10.1-10.2) The partition between the stalls has an opening on its west end. The Stable has similar wide clapboard, board and batten doors and hardware, and tongue and

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groove interior planking similar to those in the Training Stable, Ten Mare Barn, and Yearling Barns, and thus appears to have been built by David Withers as part of the original development of Brookdale Stable, although its original location on the farm has not been determined to date. The Two-Stall Stable is not shown in its present location on either the 1911 Survey or the 1932 Map, but does appear on a 1940 aerial and thus must have been moved after 1932 to serve as an ancillary structure to the Dr. William P. Thompson House.

Brookdale Farm Thompson/Whitney 1893-1969

11. Pump House-Reservoir/Carpenter Shop-Sign Shop #524 – Key

Either Lewis Thompson or Harry Whitney built this hipped-roof, brick building after 1911, apparently to replace a former pump house and water tower at the same location. (P11.1-11.4) The building exhibits commercial-quality construction with corbeled brick courses over recessed panels in between projecting corners, and semicircular brick arches over the openings. The overhangs are supported by angled rafter ends.

The one-story Pump House has six-lite casement windows with semicircular transoms on the north, east, and south sides. The south side has a wood-framed addition with a shed roof, and the easternmost window has been converted to a door. The west side has a modern garage door opening and an adjacent single door. The half-story Reservoir has two semicircular windows at the ground level on its north side and three on its east and west sides, and a hipped roof monitor with louvers on the ridge. On the Reservoir's west side, a gable roof entrance with traditional plank garage doors with cross bucks on the bottom and eight-lite sash above was likely added at a later date. On the interior, both sections have exposed brick walls. The Pump House has a matched-board ceiling and has been altered slightly to include a lavatory. (P11.5) The Reservoir has been altered with a finished ceiling and a floor at ground level. (P11.6)

The Pump House-Reservoir is distinguished on Brookdale Farm for its commercial brick construction and its historic role in supplying the extensive amount of water required to support the occupancy of the Thompson House, the agricultural operation, the Thoroughbred breeding and training of 100-plus horses, and the residency of a 50-plus staff.

12. School & Office/Sites Project Office #510 – Contributing

This one-story building was built prior to 1911 apparently as the office of the Brookdale Farm manager. It has an overhanging gable roof, a full-width porch on the south side, and a shed roof section on the north side. (P12.1) The façade is symmetrical with large, paired six-over-six windows on either side of a central door. These double-hung windows are larger than those on other farm buildings on the property and may have been installed to maximize the building's use as a school. The sides of the main section have pairs of similar windows, and the shed section has a door on its west side. The interior of the main section is divided into two rooms, and the finishing includes a matched-board ceiling. (P12.2) In the early 20th Century the building also served as a school for teenagers living and working on the farm, most of whom were black.

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13. Garage/Maintenance Auto Shop #503 – Non-Contributing

The oldest, southeastern portion of this one-story building was apparently erected by Lewis Thompson before 1911 to serve as an automobile garage, as he was an early adopter of automobiles. The building has undergone multiple alterations including large roll-up garage doors but retains a remnant early metal cornice on the gabled façade. (P13.1)

14. Garage/Maintenance #504 – Non-Contributing

Part of this one-story building was erected freestanding before 1932, but with several alterations and additions it is now integrated with #13, and has shed roof extensions on its west side. (P14.1)

15. Shop/Maintenance Small Engine #505 – Non-Contributing

This one-story building with a long rectangular plan and a low-pitched, gable roof is noted as a “Shop” on the 1932 Map. The building is now attached to #15 and has been altered several times, and now has four roll-up garage doors and a personnel door on the south façade, along with 12 four-lite sash overhead. (P15.1)

16. Dwelling & Office/Ranger Residence #502 – Contributing

This two-story Bungalow-style house was likely built by Lewis Thompson for his farm manager after Harry Whitney hired James Rowe to be his trainer in 1911 and Rowe moved into the Lloyd House. The house is dominated by its broad roof that extends over its front porch, with pent roofs on the side emphasizing its triangular gable. The first story has stucco and the second story wood shingles, and there are brick chimneys on the northeast side and on the rear. The house has single and paired six-over-six windows and the front dormer has a grouping of four. (P16.1)

17. Hose House/Garbage Shed #535 – Contributing

This small brick building with an overhanging hip roof was likely built as part of the water supply infrastructure associated with the Pump House/Reservoir. The 1932 Map shows similar Hose Houses in other locations on the Farm and underground water lines to them. The Hose Houses would have held linen hoses for use during fires. The building has a pair of matched-board doors outlined with stile and rail boards. (P17.1 & 17.2)

18. Garage & Dwelling/Acquisition and Design Annex #507 – Contributing

The two-story, gabled roof building was built prior to 1932 as a garage with dwelling quarters overhead, as noted on the 1932 Map. The exterior is stuccoed, and the façade on the first story has four garage doors and a door to a stairway, and five six-over-one windows on the second story. The sides have two similar windows on each story and one in the gable above. Portions of the interior have pressed tin ceiling. (P18.1)

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19. Shed/Lumber Shed #513 – Non-Contributing

This long, narrow shed with a gable roof has sliding doors apparently added after 1969. (P19.1)

20. Five-Stall Stable/Lumber Storage #514 – Contributing

The one-story, gable-roof building was built before 1932, with a taller and deeper west section with three split doors on the façade, and a smaller east section with two split doors and a lower ridge. (P20.1) The roof overhangs the façade, and the exterior has wood shingles. The board and batten doors were made with matched boards but have hinges and latches similar to those in the Training Stable. (P20.2)

21. Mash House/Construction & Repair Office #521 – Contributing

Erected before 1932, this building has a symmetrical exterior with stuccoed tile walls, a two-story center section, and one-story wings, and dormer windows, all with hipped roofs. (P21.1) The façade has a door with a gabled portico and two windows on the first story and five similar windows on the second story of the center section, and a door and two windows on each wing. All the windows have six-over-one double-hung sash.

On the 1932 Map, the building is noted as a Mash House, where feed grain would have been prepared for the horses, and purposely near a corn crib that is no longer extant. Sometime after 1932 the Mash House interior was finished for use as a farm dwelling or office with tin ceilings in the first floor rooms and old wallpaper visible in some areas. (P21.2)

22. Construction & Repair Storage #526 – Non-Contributing

This one-story, concrete block building has a hipped roof and a rear shed addition. The façade has a door close to the east side, and there is a brick chimney on the west side. The 1932 Map shows a Blacksmith Shop in this location, but this building appears to be a later construction.

23. Dr. William P. Thompson Residence/Administrative Offices #531 – Contributing

Commissioned by Dr. William P. Thompson, the prominent New York Architects Delano and Aldrich designed his one-story Colonial Revival house with an elongated plan as a summer residence south east of the 1896 Thompson House. On the façade, the central pavilion has two windows and a gabled portico, which was added later, recessed connecting sections with three windows each, projecting wings with gables and two windows, and hipped roof additions. (P23.1) After the house was completed in 1930, Dr. Thompson added a Colonial Revival office wing on the southeast corner. (P23.2) The MCPS converted the building to its Administrative Office, and added a compatibly-styled wing to the rear of the original house in the 1980's.

24. Administrative Offices Garage #532 – Non-Contributing

This gable roof building shows signs of alteration and may have been moved to this location as it does not appear on the 1932 Map. The roof projects on the gables and eaves, and the façade has two regular garage doors

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and one tall garage door, plus two six-lite awning windows near the east side. (P24.1) The vertical board siding on the façade has approximately six-inch wide boards by the garage doors and narrower boards by the windows. The other sides have clapboards. On the interior the roof is framed with king post trusses but the materials and construction are later than those of the significant barns on the farm. (P24.2) The building appears on the 1940 aerial, and thus was moved or constructed at this location as an ancillary building to the William Thompson Residence.

25. Ski Hut #525 – Non-Contributing

A building of this size in this location near the northwest corner of Yearling Barn 1 is shown on a 1969 aerial but not on a 1954 aerial map, so it was likely built by a Brookdale Farm tenant between those dates. It has a single story and an overhanging gable roof and clapboard siding. (P25.1 & 25.2)

26. Recreation Barn #523 – Non-Contributing

The one-story, gable roof building first appears on the 1954 aerial. The exterior was built to resemble other barns on the Farm with clapboard siding, gable extensions, and overhanging eaves with angled rafter ends. (P26.1) The east entrance has a door and two three-lite awning windows on the first story and a larger six-lite window on the gable. The south side has two similar awning windows towards the west end, and a more recently installed garage door near the center. The north side has four three-lite awning windows, and the west side has upper and lower board and batten doors in the center and a three-lite awning window on each side. The interior has stalls and partitions constructed with a mélange of materials and components, including doors and planks from older structures probably elsewhere on the farm. (P26.2)

Thompson Park 1969-Present

27. Saw Building #578 – Non-Contributing

This small, one-story, gabled-roof building was built to match details on the adjacent Reservoir entrance, including clapboard siding and garage doors on the north and south sides with cross-buck lower sections and eight-lite glass panels above. No structure is shown in this location on a 1969 aerial map, so it was either moved here or built afterwards. (See P11.3 & 11.4)

28. Vending Building #577 – Non-Contributing

This small gabled-roof building with clapboard siding and a pair of sliding doors on the south side was erected by the MCPS south of the Ten Mare Barn in 1995. (P28.1)

29. Storage Building #579 – Non-Contributing

MCPS erected this small gabled-roof building with plywood siding and a pair of doors on the front in the woods near the southeast corner of the Training Track in 1995. (P29.1)

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30. Sand Storage Building #580 – Non-Contributing

This modern semi-circular building was erected north of the Brookdale Stable complex by MCPS in 2004. (P30.1)

31. Central Supply Warehouse #581 – Non-Contributing

This modern Butler-type building with a gable roof was erected north of the Brookdale Stable complex by MCPS in 2006. (P31.1)

32. Visitor Center (Reconstructed Thompson House) #501 – Contributing

The New York architects Carrère and Hastings designed an extensive remodeling and expansion of David Withers' 1870s house for William Thompson in 1896. As the *Red Bank Register* noted, "nearly in the shape of a cross. Large wings will be added to the present house in each direction." The house was 150 feet wide by 85 feet deep, with a piazza "across the center of the projecting front...with fluted columns with carved capitals that will reach to the top of the house to support the roof. Two other piazzas of semi-circular shape will be at the ends of the house." The resulting three-story house, with a reception hall and grand staircase, and large rooms with fine paneling and woodwork, became the Thompson Park Visitor Center in 1970.¹

Following the 2006 fire that destroyed the landmark building, the Park System decided to reconstruct the Visitor Center because of its central place in the historical landscape and the local community's memory, and to honor the legacy of Geraldine Thompson's bequest to Monmouth County. With a \$10 million fire insurance claim, the Park System hired Ford Farewell Mills & Gatsch Architects of Princeton, who had been the architects for the Visitor Center's recently completed rehabilitation, to develop a reconstruction strategy with the Park System to salvage architectural elements for replication, and to prepare reconstruction plans. Completed in 2009 on the exact same location, the main block replicates the original design and construction in almost every detail, including the T-shaped plan with the monumental columned portico and semi-circular piazzas at each end. (P32.1 & 32.2)

Examples of replicated details – which were custom fabricated from salvaged elements in the original building – include the glazed and paneled front door with leaded tracery sidelights; French doors with pronounced cornices on the first story; large 8/8 sash windows on the second story of the main section; a central tripartite window on the second story of the façade; pediment dormers, and standing-seam metal roofs. The only elements of the original building that survived intact and could be re-used were the brick chimneys, which were carefully braced, removed and reinstalled for the reconstruction. With minor revisions to accommodate public use and code requirements, the original first and second floor plans of the main block were largely replicated. Interior features such as the grand staircase, interior trim, doors, and the oak and walnut paneling were also reproduced from salvaged elements. The two story rear wing of the Visitor Center, originally a service wing with the kitchen below and small servants' rooms above, was redesigned to accommodate the needs and code

¹ "Improvements at Col. Thompson's," *Red Bank Register*, October 23, 1895; "250 Gallons Per Minute," *Red Bank Register*, October 16, 1895.

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requirements of a modern public building such as fire stairs, an elevator, and restrooms; a large room for public programs on the second floor overlooks the broad landscape of Thompson Park.

The Visitor Center is a Contributing building because of 1) its association with the Thompsons and the prominent architects Carrère and Hastings; 2) its commanding location and presence on Brookdale Farm; and 3) its replication of the original Colonial Revival design.

33. Old Orchard Picnic Shelter #583 – Non-Contributing

This modern open shelter with exposed posts and a clear span gable roof was erected near a loop trail in the south section of the Historic District in 2011. (P33.1)

34. Garbage Shed #516 – Non-Contributing

MCPS erected this concrete block, shed-roof shed northwest of the #12 School & Office. It has a wooden top with latticework and an off-center door on the façade. (P34.1)

35. Storage Shed #536 – Non-Contributing

West of the #16 Dwelling & Office, MCPS built this small storage building with a gable roof, plywood siding, two small windows on the sides, and a door on one the gable end. (P35.1)

36. Gazebo #540 – Non-Contributing

This open hexagonal gazebo was constructed by the MCPS and is located adjacent to a trail south of the Visitor Center. (P36.1)

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NRN	MCPS	1932	Date	Historic Name/"1932 Map"	Current Name	Status
LLOYD & CONOVER FARM						
1	506	37	1786	Lloyd House/"Trainger's Dwg"	Acquisition & Design Office	Key
2	512e	31	c.1786	Lloyd Barn 1/"Barn"	Garage Storage	Key
3	511	34	c.1786	Lloyd Barn 2/"Help's Qtrs"	Graphics Office	Contributing
4	508	40	c.1800	Wagon House/"Office & Help's Qtrs"	Outdoor Adventures Office	Contributing
BROOKDALE FARM WITHERS						
5	520	44	c.1800	"Training Stable"	40-Stall Horse Barn (Storage)	Key
6	512w	30	1883	"Ten Mare Barn"	11-Bay Garage Storage	Key
7	-	-	c.1880	"Training Track"	One-Mile Trail	Contributing
8	519	27	1884	"Yearling Barn" (1)	Theatre Barn	Key
9	550	29	1884	"Yearling Barn" (2)	Activity Barn	Key
10	538	-	1880s?	Two-Stall Stable	Administration Office Storage	Key
BROOKDALE FARM THOMPSON/WHITNEY						
11	524	46	c.1912	"Pump House/Reservoir"	Carpenter Shop/Sign Shop	Key
12	510	33	pre 1911	"School & Office"	Sites Project Office	Contributing
13	503	73	pre 1911	"Garage"	Maintenance/Auto Shop	Non-Contributing
14	505	70	pre 1932	"Garage"	Maintenance	Non-Contributing
15	504	72	pre 1932	"Shop"	Maintenance/Small Engine	Non-Contributing
16	502	73A	pre 1932	"Dwelling & Office"	Ranger Residence	Contributing
17	535	34	pre 1932	"Hose House"	Garbage Shed	Contributing
18	507	41	pre 1932	"Garage & Dwelling"	Acquisition & Design Annex	Contributing
19	513	-	pre 1932	"Shed"	Lumber Shed	Contributing
20	514	-	post 1932	Five-Stall Stable	Lumber Storage	Contributing
21	521	45	pre 1932	"Mash House"	Old Construction & Repair Office	Contributing
22	526	36	post 1932?	"Blacksmith Shop"?	Construction & Repair Storage	Non-Contributing
23	531	-	1929	Dr. William Thompson House	Administrative Offices	Contributing
24	532	-	post 1932	-	Administrative Offices Garage	Non-Contributing
25	525	-	post 1954	?	Ski Hut	Non-Contributing
26	523	-	post 1940	-	Recreation Barn	Non-Contributing
THOMPSON PARK						
27	578	-	post 1969	-	Saw Building	Non-Contributing
28	577	-	1995	-	Vending Building	Non-Contributing
29	579	-	2001	-	Storage Building	Non-Contributing
30	580	-	2004	-	Sand Storage Building	Non-Contributing
31	581	-	2006	-	Central Supply Warehouse	Non-Contributing
32	501	-	2009	Thompson Mansion	Visitor Center (Reconstructed)	Contributing
33	583	-	2011	-	Old Orchard Picnic Shelter	Non-Contributing
34	516	-	?	-	Garbage Shed	Non-Contributing
35	536	-	?	-	Storage Shed	Non-Contributing
36	540	-	?	-	Gazebo	Non-Contributing

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Brookdale Farm Historic District is significant on a statewide level in the areas of Entertainment and Recreation for its contributions to the “Golden Age” of Thoroughbred racing and breeding in America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is significant in the area of Agriculture for its breeding of Thoroughbred horses that won numerous local, regional, and national races and for its historic equine landscape. It is significant in the area of Architecture for its well-preserved examples of equine architecture from the 1870s and 1880s. Brookdale Farm is eligible under Criterion A for its contributions to Thoroughbred racing from 1872-1932; under Criterion B for its association with three of the most important turfmen during that period; and under Criterion C for its equine barns and stables that represent the design, materials, and construction during the 1870-1880s for Thoroughbred racing and breeding facilities in the northeast. The extent of Brookdale Farm’s national significance under all three Criteria may become apparent should a national historic context of Thoroughbred Stud Farms be adequately developed.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Brookdale Farm Historic District is eligible under Criterion A for its significant contributions, 1872-1932, to the “Golden Age” of Thoroughbred racing and breeding in America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. *The New York Times* noted in 1904 that Brookdale Farm “was the oldest and most famous breeding farm in New Jersey,” and its greatest contributions to the sport lie ahead with the breeding and/or training of ten championship horses in the National Racing Museum Hall of Fame, most notably *Regret*, *Equipoise*, and *Top Flight*.

Brookdale Farm is eligible under Criterion B for three prominent turfmen who made significant contributions to the development of Thoroughbred racing in America, and for whom Brookdale Farm is illustrative of their important achievements in Thoroughbred racing.

1) David Dunham Withers was a businessman who devoted the last three decades of his life to Thoroughbred racing. He played a major role in developing Jerome Park in the Bronx in the late 1860s and in developing Monmouth Park in the years 1878-1892 into one of the three top racetracks in the Northeast. Called the “Solon of the Turf,” Withers was widely recognized as America’s leading expert on the rules of Thoroughbred racing. He established, operated, and expanded Brookdale Farm over two decades – 1872-1972.

2) Harry Payne Whitney (National Racing Museum Hall of Fame and Pillar of the Turf), a financier and “noted sportsman...devoted much energy to horse racing and to the government of the American turf. His Thoroughbreds at one time and another won all the important purses offered on American courses.” He operated the Brookdale Stable from 1904-1930, and bred 192 stakes winners, a record that stood for 50 years. He won ten races in the Triple Crown series, including the 1915 Kentucky Derby with *Regret*, the first filly to win that race. He was “the

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leading breeder in earnings, individually or in tandem with his son, 11 times, and also topped the list of leading owners eight times.”¹

3) James G. Rowe (National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame), “America’s greatest trainer,” trained Harry Payne Whitney’s horses at Brookdale, including 11 champions.

Brookdale Farm is eligible under Criterion C as the best preserved stud farm from the formative era of Thoroughbred Racing in New Jersey. The stud farm facility is remarkably intact with 20 historic buildings and features including unique and significant equine architecture from the 1870s and 1880s. The Brookdale Farm equine landscape also includes historic estate areas, circulation lanes, and open space that formerly served as paddocks and fields associated with its operation as a stud farm.

As noted, Brookdale Farm may also have national significance in all three criteria because of its broad contributions to the development of the “turf,” its associations with nationally prominent turfmen, and the representative quality and characteristics of its equine architecture and landscape from its historical period.

Site History

The earliest European-American history of the land along the north bank of the Swimming River that eventually became Brookdale Farm dates to 1665, when twelve Englishmen from Long Island received the “Monmouth Patent” for land in present-day Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean Counties that they acquired from Lenni Lenape Native Americans after the English conquest of New Amsterdam in 1664. Early settlers among the proprietors owned land that eventually became part of Withers’ Brookdale Farm include Thomas Leeds, John Johnston, Daniel Tilton, Obadiah Holmes and James Grover, Sr.²

Thomas Lloyd Farm – 18th Century Foundations

The development of the Brookdale Farm site dates back to the 18th settlement of the land north of Hop Brook in the southwest end of Middletown. In 1708, Thomas Shepherd Sr. and his wife Deborah acquired several parcels of land in this area of Middletown from the above owners, including 200 acres from James Grover Jr., Deborah’s grandfather. Thomas Shepherd Jr. and his wife Sarah Dennis Shepherd acquired land from his father, and in 1774 they sold 200 acres to Thomas Lloyd and his wife Clemence Shepherd Lloyd, their daughter, for 750£. This parcel, bounded by the “Church Farm” to the east, Hop Brook to the south, Borden’s Brook to the west and Hendrick Bennet’s Land to the north and east, appears to be the core of the later Lloyd Farm that eventually became Brookdale Farm.

Middletown Township listed Thomas Lloyd as a taxpayer in 1761, possibly as he and his wife were already living on her parents’ 200-acre parcel but had not yet acquired title to it. The 1793 Middletown Township tax

¹ Malone, Dumas, Editor, “Harry Payne Whitney,” *Dictionary of American Biography*, New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, Volume 20, 1936; National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame - <https://www.racingmuseum.org/hall-of-fame/harry-payne-whitney>

² The deed research, supplementary research, and GIS for this nomination (excepts Maps 1 – 1d) were undertaken by Kristen Norbut, Historic Preservation Specialist, Monmouth County Park System.

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assessment for Thomas Lloyd appears to be the first definitive record of the occupation of the Brookdale Farm site. The assessment itemizes ratables of 320 acres of improved land, 7 horses and 18 cows over three years of age, 2 male slaves fit for work between the ages of 16 and 50 (by New Jersey slave taxation law, younger and older males slaves and all female slaves were not assessed), 1 pleasure sly, 1 dog, a tan yard, and a ½ share of a boat. Lloyd's assessment was in the top 10% of Middletown taxpayers.³

The rare surviving 1798 Federal Direct Tax for Middletown assessed Thomas Lloyd for 316 acres valued at \$4,100, a two-story wood dwelling house measuring 32 x 47 feet with 24 windows plus an outkitchen along with two acres for a total of \$1,650, a second one-story wood dwelling house occupied by a cooper and measuring 20 x 24 feet with three windows with an outkitchen and two acres for a total of \$270. Lloyd appears to have built his house (P1.1-1.6) in 1786, as inscribed on a date stone. It was the largest house by square footage listed for Middletown Township in 1798. The Federal Direct Tax also assessed two slaves but noted four additional slaves in Lloyd's possession that were exempt through the New Jersey Slave Taxation Law.

The high value of the Lloyd Farm, including the largest house in Middletown, attested to its propitious site, with level terrain, fertile soils, water sources, mild climate, and its proximity to Middletown Point, where ships connected it to New York markets. These conditions also favored horse breeding, and "in Leedsville, Middletown, Holmdel, and Colts Neck, flatland was converted to private racetracks and racing became the premiere sport."⁴

Thomas Lloyd died in 1812 and was buried at Christ Church in Shrewsbury. The value of his personal estate totaled \$43,103 (including \$39,430 in credits due to him), and his inventory included "contents of bark house and tan yard." The 1815 Middletown Tax assessment for his widow Clemence Lloyd listed 300 acres and 2 tan yards. Lloyd bequeathed his land to his four surviving sons, all as executors. With the large amount of money due to their father's estate, the brothers apparently had problems meeting the estate's obligations and those of their mother, who died in 1819. The eldest Lloyd son, John, and his wife Mary mortgaged the eastern one third of the Thomas Lloyd's land in 1818 for \$432. This parcel eventually became known as the Roberts Farm and later became part of Brookdale.⁵

The other two-thirds of the Thomas Lloyd Farm, totaling 519 acres, was sold at a sheriff's sale in 1821 to Joseph Van Mater, a Lloyd brother-in-law. Gilbert Van Mater acquired the parcel through a judgment in 1842, and sold it two years later to Joseph Conover for \$12,000. Joseph Conover's son, Samuel Ely Conover, was a breeder of Thoroughbred horses and lived on the farm, possibly converting barns into stables or building new ones. Joseph Conover sold 200 acres with the Lloyd homestead to Michael and Sarah Taylor in 1869 for \$35,098. The almost tripling in value in 25 years from 1844 suggests some significant improvements during the Conover tenure. The 200-acre Taylor Farm was the first parcel of land acquired in 1872 by David Dunham Withers to establish his Brookdale Stable, and it constitutes most of the Brookdale Farm Historic District.⁶

³ Salter, Edwin, *A History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties*, Bayonne, New Jersey: Gardner & Sons, 1890, 38.

⁴ *Triangle of Land: A History of the Site and the Founding of Brookdale Community College*, Lincroft, New Jersey: Brookdale Community College, 1978, 25.

⁵ Brookdale Farm Leonard Tract Summary, Kristen Norbut, 2018.

⁶ Brookdale Farm Taylor Tract Summary, Kristen Norbut, 2018.

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David Dunham Withers – Founding of Brookdale Farm 1872 - 1892

In 1872, David Dunham Withers (H1) acquired the 200-acre Lloyd-Conover Farm for \$26,500. Withers was a wealthy businessman living in New York racing Thoroughbred horses and interested in breeding them as well. He was born in 1821 in Greenwich Village in favorable circumstances, as his father Reuben Withers was president of the Bank of the State of New York, and his maternal grandfather David Dunham was a prominent merchant. As an 1892 obituary of D. D. Withers notes, “Young, energetic, and shrewd, he saw many opportunities for making money, and taking advantage of them, accumulated wealth at a rapid rate.”⁷

Around 1843, 21-year-old David Dunham Withers moved to New Orleans to conduct business for the trading and shipping house Howland and Aspinwall. In the second quarter of the 19th century steamboats made cotton grown by slaves on Mississippi plantations highly profitable. As L.H. Weeks noted in *The American Turf* in 1898, “In the Southern city Withers soon set up independently, becoming a large dealer in cotton and farming properties and buying and selling plantations in Louisiana and Mississippi.”⁸

In 1847, Withers bought contiguous Mississippi River plantations in Wilkinson County, Mississippi, near Fort Adams, about 20 miles west of Woodville, about 40 miles south of Natchez, and about 150 miles north of New Orleans. (H2) He purchased Loch Levin Plantation, Lochdale Plantation, Artonish Plantation, the Pandelly Lands (later called Pandella), and the Pitcher Lands from “the northeastern commercial firm of Brown Bros. & Co....The 1847 deed listed 79 slaves at Artonish and 96 slaves at Pandelly, Loch Levin, and the Pitcher Lands, along with all the horses, mules, cattle, farming utensils and plantation supplies.” In a 1937 Works Progress Administration Slave Narrative, James Lucas, age 104, and a former slave owned by Withers, recalled.⁹

My fust white folks...owned a heap o land and five hundred slaves. Dare was Artonish, Lochdale en Loch Leven, all three dem big plantations was along de Mississippi ribber in Wilkinson County...Dey is all 'long together.¹⁰

Four masters owned James Lucas in his lifetime. William and Lucinda Davis Stamp, who lived on Artonish Plantation, were the first. Lucinda was the sister of Jefferson Davis, who spent part of his youth at Poplar Grove, his family's plantation in Woodville. Jefferson Davis appears to have been Lucas' second owner and proprietor of the three Mississippi River plantations, and Withers was the third. As Lucas recalled of Withers,

I was a house servant an' de ober-seer dasn't hit me a lick. Marster done lay de law down he wazn' eber to punish me. D. D. Withers was my young marster an' he was a little man but ebervy body stept when he cum 'round... He was frum de nawth an' he didn' have no wife. Marsters wid out wives was de debble...wives made a big diffe'ence. Dey was kind an' went 'bout amongst de niggers lookin after 'em. Dey give out food, an' close an' shoes an' doctored de little babies."

⁷ “David Dunham Withers,” *The Illustrated American*, March 12, 1892, 151.

⁸ L. H. Weeks, *The American Turf*, 1898, 133.

⁹ “Cultural Resources Survey of Palmetto and Coochie Revetments, Mississippi River, M-326 To M315,” U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, 1993, 36.

¹⁰ <http://msgw.org/slaves/lucas-xslave.htm>

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Through his cotton trading and ownership of the Mississippi River plantations, Withers made at least part, and likely a substantial part, of his fortune through the labor of slaves. He got involved in politics and in 1856 ran in a highly contested election for the Louisiana Senate from New Orleans Parish. By 1860, the North-South slavery conflict was weighing heavily on him. He was elected as a Louisiana delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Charleston, but in March, a month before the Convention, "Withers sold his river plantations to John Kingsbury Elgee, an Alexandria, Louisiana, attorney and judge...the total number of slaves for all five properties had grown to 515." Amidst the slavery controversy, it took a second Democratic Convention in June to nominate Stephen Douglas for President.¹¹

As South Carolina seceded that December, Withers' dilemma intensified. He had likely already known Jefferson Davis for several years when in January 1861, Mississippi Governor John Pettus appointed Davis as major general of the Army of Mississippi. A month later, the Confederate States Constitutional Convention in Montgomery, Alabama, elected Davis as President of the Confederacy. "When the Civil War broke out," as L. H. Weeks noted, Withers "gave his allegiance to the South, although his father was for the North, his long residence in the former section, begun at a youthful and impressionable age, having made him thoroughly Southern in sympathies and opinions."¹²

"At the breaking out of the war" Withers' 1892 obituary noted, "he had heavy business interests in the North as well as in the South, and, not desiring to take the part of either side of the struggle, he went abroad, and lived for the greater part of the time in Paris, until the end of the Rebellion." He sold Southern investments including the three Natchez plantations, on which he held a mortgage of \$600,000 (about \$25 million in 2018), which gives an idea of the antebellum value of cotton plantations. In France and England during the war he attended horse races and visited with owners and breeders. Returning to New York in 1866, he bought *Vespucius*, "one of the best horses he ever owned. From the date of purchase of this animal up to his death he devoted most of his time to racing." He also spent time and effort in lawsuits in the South seeking money owed to him, including about half of the Natchez mortgage, and he made more southern investments, including a one-half million dollar stake in the New Orleans Gas Company.¹³

Withers developed his strong interest in horse racing during his two decades in New Orleans conducting business and socializing with plantation owners and southern horseman. The long tradition of horse breeding and racing among wealthy landowners in the South, and in several northern states as well, reaches back to the British Isles, where aristocratic horsemen in the 17th Century imported fast Arabian stallions to breed with their "foundation mares." Their goal was to develop a breed of horses for "flat racing" on level "turf," and the breed came to be known as "Thoroughbred."

Around 1750, aristocratic horsemen founded the Jockey Club in London to develop rules for racing, but it also served as an "exclusive high society social club...sharing some of the functions as a gentleman's club such as high-level socializing." The root of "jockey" is said to derive from "the late medieval word for 'horseman,' pronounced 'yachey,' and spelt Eachaidhe in Gaelic." In 1776, the Jockey Club established the first of the five

¹¹ "Cultural Resources Survey of Palmetto and Coochie Revetments," op. cit., 36.

¹² Weeks, op. cit., 133.

¹³ "David Dunham Withers," *The Illustrated American*, March 12, 1892, 151.

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British Classic Races for three-year olds that are still considered the pinnacle of Thoroughbred racing in Britain. The sport came to be known as the “Turf,” and practitioners as “Turfmen.”¹⁴

English settlers brought horses and racing to the New World, and records from the 1660s document racing on a “Newmarket” course on Long Island’s Hempstead Plain not far from today’s Belmont Park. Other documents recorded a “Middletown Cup” race near Red Bank in 1699. In the middle of the 18th Century races were noted at Mt. Holly, Philadelphia, and Paulus Hook (Jersey City). Horse breeding and racing was even more popular in Virginia and other southern colonies, and a racecourse was laid out in Louisville in 1789. In New Jersey, the Morris family in Morristown and the Stocktons in Princeton both maintained Thoroughbred “nurseries” and imported English stallions to sire the “Morris Stud” and “Morven Stud” lines of “blooded horses.”

Race tracks established in the first half of the 19th Century spurred more interest in racing: Union Course opened in Queens in 1821, a track for harness racing opened in Freehold (now Freehold Raceway – the oldest operating race track in the U.S.), Beacon Course opened in Camden in 1834, Metairie Race Course in New Orleans in 1838, and a racetrack at Saratoga Springs in New York in 1847.

New Yorker Richard Ten Broeck, who came from a wealthy Albany family and had attended West Point with Robert E. Lee, acquired the Metairie Race Course in 1848 with other turfmen. In 1851, Ten Broeck refurbished the Metairie grandstand with “special stands and parlors for the ladies, making the track a popular venue for all...and one of the south’s leading tracks.” (H3). The Metairie Jockey Club became “the heart of anti-bellum social life in New Orleans,” and as a member Withers would have keenly observed Ten Broeck’s development of the Metairie Race Track into a prime racing venue. Facilities for spectators at these early courses were scant, as at Union or rudimentary. Beacon Course closed after its lightweight grandstand collapsed in 1845.¹⁵

In New Jersey, the Stocktons’ English Thoroughbred, *Trustee*, sired *Fashion*, a filly born in 1837 in Madison that was trained and raced by Samuel Laird in Colts Neck, not far from the future Brookdale Farm. At Union Course on Long Island in 1842, *Fashion* famously set a record winning a huge stake of \$20,000 (about \$1 million in 2018) in two heats of a four-mile, north-south match race against the “invincible” *Boston*, an outstanding stallion from Virginia. In 1845, *Fashion* lost another closely watched North-South match race at Union Course against the formidable filly *Peytona*, but then beat her two weeks later in Camden. Racing historians put the attendance at the Union Course match races at 70,000, which seems quite high but even a fraction of that highlights the popularity of racing before the Civil War.

With racing and breeding in the South constrained by the War, elite horsemen in the North had new impetus, and wartime prosperity, to improve existing tracks and build new ones. After sponsoring Thoroughbred races in Saratoga in 1862, former boxing champion John Morrissey established the Saratoga Association for the Improvement of the Breed with backing from Cornelius Vanderbilt and other elite New Yorkers. In 1863, the Passaic County Agricultural Society sponsored meets on a Riverside Racetrack in Paterson, and the following year staked the “Jersey Derby,” the first sweepstakes derby race for three-year olds in the U.S. The Paterson and

¹⁴ <https://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/>

¹⁵ <http://websitesneworleans.com/neworleansmaps/id124.html>;

https://www.nola.com/175years/index.ssf/2011/08/1860_metairie_race_course_was.html.

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Saratoga meets attracted wealthy financier horsemen like Leonard W. Jerome and August Belmont, who each drove “four-in-hand” carriages with friends on board to the spring and autumn races in Paterson.

Leonard Jerome was a New York lawyer and stock speculator known as the “King of Wall Street”. (His oldest daughter Jeanette later married Lord Randolph Churchill and they named their first son Winston.) To foster Thoroughbred racing closer to home, Jerome in 1865 led the organization of the American Jockey Club with financier August Belmont, James Gordon Bennett, publisher of *The New York Herald*, D. D. Withers, and other turfmen who together capitalized it with \$750,000. They spent \$250,000 acquiring the 230-acre Bathgate stud farm near Fordham Village and another \$280,000 building a racetrack with a 450 feet long two-tier, 8,000-seat grandstand plus a year-round clubhouse with a dining hall, a ballroom, and sleeping quarters. (H4) They named the magnificent track Jerome Park in honor of its leading proponent.

Jerome Park opened in September 1866 with General Ulysses Grant, a noted horseman, as the guest of honor and newspapers estimated the crowd at 25,000. American Jockey Club co-founder Judge A.C. Monson, who served as executor for D. D. Withers’ estate after his death in 1892, recalled in 1897 that “Social leaders were thick in the gathering, and the enjoyment was general.” At the spring meeting in 1867, August Belmont established the Belmont Stakes Race, which is run annually today at Belmont Park as the final Triple Crown Race. Judge Monson’s recollection provides a view of elite New York racing in the early postwar years.¹⁶

What prettier site was there in the universe than Jerome Park on race day in the spring! Over green grass ladies trailed the skirts of fashion, and the coaches on the lawn were as bright as paint and varnish could make them. The lunch parties on the lawn added to the picturesqueness of the scene, and the popping of corks enlivened the spirit of conversation. Then there was the excitement of the multitude over hard-fought finishes...What delightful times we had in the club-house. After the races, the big room would be cleared and dancing would begin and be kept up until 10 o’clock. The best people were enrolled as club members and at these informal dances the brightest side of social New York was presented. By George, they were great days!¹⁷

Judge Monson, Belmont, and Withers served on the American Jockey Club’s board of governors, elected at the first meeting. As Monson wrote,

Mr. Withers and Mr. Belmont frequently locked horns over programme conditions. Mr. Withers was the best authority on racing rules that I ever knew. He gave much thought to the subject and was really the Admiral Rous of America. [Admiral Henry John Rous, 1795-1877, was a British MP, a leading horse racing authority, and author of *On the Laws and Practice of Horse Racing*.] He was prominently identified with racing at New Orleans before the war, and was a student of racing in England during the war. He improved his opportunities to acquire practical knowledge and was a master of the subject. Mr. Withers was also a student of the science of breeding and the success that he achieved in this field showed that he had studied to some purpose...

A great deal of history was made at Jerome Park. The popularity of racing in the United States, which gave tremendous impetus to the breeding industry, dates after the war, from the birth of the American

¹⁶ “The Turf Recollections of Judge Monson,” *Turf, Field & Farm*, Vol. LXIV, No. 22, May 28, 1897, 834.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 835.

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Jockey Club. We placed the standard high, and the tone of racing everywhere improved. It was not until the commercial element reached out for control that the turf began to lose prestige.

Among the rich New Yorkers who became enthralled with Jerome Park's "racing spirit" and the grand life in its baronial clubhouse were Pierre Lorillard IV, born in 1833, and his brother George Lyndes Lorillard, born in 1840. P. Lorillard and Company, established in New York by their great grandfather Pierre Abraham Lorillard in 1760, was America's oldest and largest tobacco business processing tobacco for snuff, pipes, and cigars. The excitement of racing and the appeal of socializing and sharing turf knowledge and experiences with prominent American and English turfmen inspired the Lorillard brothers to immerse themselves and vast amounts of their fortunes in breeding and racing. Like D. D. Withers, both Lorillards would be among the most conspicuous turfmen of their lifetimes.

In their gentlemanly pursuit of Thoroughbred racing glory, American Jockey Club members barred gambling and alcohol at Jerome Park and designed accommodations and non-racing activities to appeal to women spectators, and the large number of finely dressed women who attended races contributed much to the high status of racing. Betting largely took place out of sight in auction pools that favored wealthy betters. Not to be left out, however, some race attendees saw opportunities for expanding betting and profiting from it.

To advance his racing interests, Withers partnered in 1869 with John F. Purdy, a wine merchant, gentleman jockey (racing for pleasure rather than purse), and Vice President of the Saratoga Racing Association. They hired the noted Jeter Walden to train their horses, including *Tasmania*, which won the Ladies Stakes at Jerome Park, and *Vespucius*, which won the Annual Stakes.

The notable success of the Saratoga and Jerome Park racetracks soon stimulated new racing and breeding activities in New Jersey that would lure D. D. Withers to the state. The beach town of Long Branch, named for the eastern branch of the Shrewsbury River running by it, had been a summer destination dating back to the late 18th Century, particularly among Philadelphians. Steamer service down the Shrewsbury connected Long Branch to New York in 1830; one observer called the steamer trip "in itself an exhilarating recreation." In his 1834 *Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey*, Thomas Gordon wrote:¹⁸

Long Branch, well known and much frequented sea-bathing place, on the Atlantic ocean, 75 miles from Philadelphia, and 45 from New York...The inducements to the invalid, the idle, and the hunters of pleasure, to spend a portion of the hot season here, are many. Good accommodations, obliging hosts, a clean and high shore, with a gently shelving beach, a fine prospect seaward, enlivened by the countless vessels passing to and from New York, excellent fishing on the banks, 3 or 4 miles at sea, good gunning, and the great attraction of all watering places, much, and changing and fashionable company. During the season, a regular line of stages runs from Philadelphia, and a steamboat from New York, to the boarding houses here, of which there are several...Many respectable farmers also receive boarders, who, in the quiet of rural life, enjoy in comfort and ease, their season of relaxation, perhaps more fully than those at the public hotels.

¹⁸ Gordon, Thomas F. *A Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey*, Trenton, New Jersey: Daniel Fenton, 1834, 170.

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On the eve on the Civil War in 1860, the Raritan and Delaware Bay Railroad completed its first section from Port Monmouth on the Bay through Red Bank to Eatontown with a branch line eastward through what later became Oceanport to Long Branch. After the Civil War Long Branch expanded notably with the opening of new hotels like the 1200-room Continental Hotel in 1866. General Ulysses S. Grant started summering with his family in Long Branch as the guest of Philadelphia publisher George S. Childs in 1867, and that year the N.J. Legislature incorporated Long Branch as a borough. The New York and Long Branch Railroad opened in 1868, and after Grant was elected President that November, Childs, New York sugar merchant Moses Taylor, and Chicago sleeping car manufacturer George Pullman bought a “summer cottage” on the beach that they let President Grant use for the rest of his life. An accomplished horseman, Grant prominently drove his carriage down Ocean Avenue for morning exercise.

President Grant’s “summer White House” naturally attracted more visitors and entrepreneurs to Long Branch. In 1869, John Chamberlain, a former riverboat gambler who had helped John Morrissey develop gaming and horse racing at Saratoga, opened a gaming house in Long Branch with an idea to bring Thoroughbred racing to “the Branch” with a “proprietary track.” He and a fellow investor bought the 120-acre Hulick Farm, three miles to the west in Oceanport, that already had a half-mile Standardbred or trotting track. Chamberlain planned to profit through admissions, concessions, and fees from bookmakers and from telegraph companies that transmitted race results to “poolhouses” in New York where betters placed their wagers. His timing was excellent.

Chamberlain organized the Long Branch and Seashore Improvement Association in early 1870 with \$100,000 (\$3 million in 2018) in capital from investors including tobacco merchant Pierre Lorillard, financier Jay Gould, and New York politician, William “Boss” Tweed. The Association built the first “Monmouth Park” next to the Long Branch line of the Raritan and Delaware Bay Railroad. (H5 & H6) Its one-mile, eighty-foot wide, track extended nearly to the Eatontown-Long Branch Turnpike (today’s Broadway). A stop 100 yards from the track gate provided rail access for horse owners and trainers, and for racing enthusiasts from Long Branch, New York and Philadelphia. Steamers also provided access from New York down the South Shrewsbury River to docks in Oceanport within walking distance to the racetrack.

Thoroughbred owners and breeders welcomed the new racing opportunity on the northern New Jersey coast, and with racing luck possibly made some money to defray some of their expenses, and in rare cases made a lot of money. “In the Northern states,” *The New York Times* reported at the beginning of 1870, “the turf has attained a higher degree of popularity than it ever before enjoyed, and it is patronized and supported by men of the highest social position, intellect and wealth...Owners of racing stock have a chance of securing a remunerative return for the capital invested in their stables in the purses and stakes they may win, in addition to the pleasure they derive from the indulgence in ‘the sport of Kings.’”¹⁹

While racing provided elite Thoroughbred owners with a noble, exciting, and manly preoccupation spiced with speculation, middle class and workingmen patronized the tracks specifically for the thrills of the contests and the wagers, and fees on the latter provided most of the money for the overall enterprise.

¹⁹ “The American Turf,” *The New York Times*, January 3, 1870, 3.

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In April 1870, Purdy and Withers nominated *Vespucius* for the two-miles-and-a-half Monmouth Stakes to be run on the opening day of Monmouth Park on July 30. Purdy's interest in racing was primarily to serve as an agent for Thoroughbred buyers, but Withers had grander ambitions as a racer and breeder and they decided to go their separate ways. Withers entered *Vespucius* in a three-mile race with a \$1,000 purse for all ages at Saratoga that July, and the four-year-old colt placed second in a "desperate struggle" with the favored horse. At Jerome Park, Withers raced his three-year-old colt *Milesian* and his two-year-old filly *Corona*, but both finished out of the money. His best move that year was importing *King Ernest*, who would go on to sire "many speedy representatives on the turf."²⁰

To attract Thoroughbred owners and thousands of patrons to the opening of Monmouth Park on July 30, the Long Branch and Seashore Improvement Association had spent \$40,000 building a majestic 400-foot long, 6,000-seat grandstand capped by three pavilions with Mansard roofs decorated with ornamental slate. (H7) Behind the Grandstand, the Association built stables for 150 horses. *The New York Times* reported enthusiastically on the opening of the racetrack:²¹

For years the want of a race-course has been experienced at the rapidly increasing sea-side resort of Long Branch, whose myriads of fashionable visitors unanimously expressed their conviction that to make it the most attractive and delightful of watering-places, a race-course and racing, properly and decorously managed, was the only desideratum...

A more gloriously delightful day for the thorough enjoyment of the exciting contests of the turf, so happily termed 'the sport of kings,' could not have been desired for the inauguration of the magnificent Monmouth Park Race-course," an institution of pleasurable, social and public enjoyment.

The New York Times called Monmouth Park "the finest, fastest and safest race-course that Americans boast the possession of," and lauded "the admirable construction of the course, with its eighty feet in width, ample enough to start the largest field of horses, and the elegant and artistic architecture and beautiful scenery spread out in panoramic view before the visitors."²²

Leonard Jerome, August Belmont and other turfmen entered over 140 horses in flat and steeplechase races for Monmouth Park's inaugural five-day meeting. The racing enthralled the crowd, and by the third day the "visitors" numbered over 10,000, with many viewing from their "'turn-outs' of all kinds and patterns, from the prancing six-in-hand to the unpretentious countryman's conveyance; the handsome landau and the venerable 'one-horse shay' stood side by side within the vast inclosure." (H8) "New Jersey is essentially a race-loving State...which gave the American turf the world-renowned racer *Fashion*," *The New York Times* noted, "and great and unequalled has been the success of Monmouth Park in its inaugural meeting."

The five-day meeting brought out "the most famous turfmen, the most distinguished politicians (in their own estimation), the nobbiest nabobs, the heaviest betters, the gayest cavaliers, and the prettiest women in the land...The 'turf' may now be considered an established institution at Long Branch...and an agreeable diversion

²⁰ *The Illustrated American*, op. cit., 151.

²¹ "Racing at the Branch," *The New York Times*, July 31, 1870, 1.

²² "Long Branch Races," *The New York Times*, August 3, 1870.

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from the monotonous surf bathing flirtation and gormandizing of that seaside retreat. The farmers of Monmouth County are also delighted with the change, and think they see in the new and exciting sport what they have often heard but never before believed — an incentive to the more thorough breeding of horse flesh.”²³

Withers ran his two-year-old filly *Corona* in a one-mile race in the fall Jerome Park meeting, but she came in last. That year August Belmont topped the list of “lucky” owners, winning \$34,755 (about \$1 million in 2018). Withers made the list among others winning between \$1,000 and \$2000. By the start of 1871 season, Withers had notably expanded his “stable,” although its location is unknown. For races at the spring meeting at Jerome Park, he nominated five horses, including his imported colts *King Ernest* and *Blenkiron*, and fillies *Conceit* and *Miss Nelly*.

For Monmouth Park’s second racing season that summer, Chamberlain planted hundreds of trees to give the horses some shade and built more stables and a depot at the railroad for visitors and owners, and he successfully marketed the racetrack for training horses. Among the race horses that trained at Monmouth Park that year were three-year-old *Harry Basset* in the stable of Colonel David McDaniel of Princeton, who had paid \$315 for him and had recently refused \$25,000 (about \$700,000 in 2018), and the four-year-old *Longfellow* in the stable of John Harper of Kentucky. As the two stallions enjoyed “their comfortable quarters in their cottage stables by the sea,” little did anyone know that they would soon make history in legendary North-South match races.²⁴

On July 4th, the opening day of Monmouth Park’s second season, *Harry Bassett* pleased McDaniel by winning the \$1,500, one-and-a-half mile dash, Jersey Derby Stakes. On the next day Harper’s *Longfellow* ran off with the \$1,500, two-miles-and-a-half Monmouth Cup, and Harper, who had also received an offer of \$25,000 for him, was now “less disposed to sell him than ever.” The separate victories whetted everyone’s appetite for a match race between the two great stallions. *The New York Times* lauded Monmouth Park’s great success:²⁵

Long Branch long ago established the reputation of being one of the most fascinating, because it is one of the most charming, Summer resorts to be found on the Atlantic shore...But it was not until the devotees of the turf went deftly to work, and with an enthusiasm in every way worthy of their cause, established Monmouth Park, making that place a thing of beauty, and, it is to be hoped, a joy forever – it was not until this was done, that Long Branch placed itself in the first rank of American watering-places.

At the opening of Monmouth Park’s second meeting that year on August 1, D. D. Withers ran three-year-old *Miss Nelly* in a \$600 Mile Dash for all ages and she placed fifth. The next day he entered an unnamed brown filly – Withers had a habit annoying to many of holding off on naming his young horses until they proved themselves – in the \$500 Thespian Stakes, a mile-and-three-quarters dash for two-year-old colts and fillies, and she lost by a neck to a filly from Kentucky. For the \$500 “selling race” for horses of all ages, at the end of which the winning horse would be sold for \$1,500, he registered *Miss Nelly* but withdrew her before the start. Withers had attended previous Monmouth Park meetings, but competing at its second meeting that summer no doubt furthered his view of Monmouth County as a racing Mecca.

²³ “Sports Out of Doors,” *The New York Times*, August 7, 1870, 8.

²⁴ “Turf Prospects,” *The New York Times*, March 20, 1871.

²⁵ “Long Branch Races,” *The New York Times*, July 8, 1871, 8.

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Not everyone was pleased with racing at Monmouth Park. Chamberlain's running of auction pools and some unreliable bookmakers bothered some race attendees and Long Branch residents and visitors who abhorred gambling of any kind. Chamberlain's reputation also suffered as his associates Jay Gould and William "Boss" Tweed became entangled in financial manipulation and corruption. These problems foreshadowed bigger troubles ahead for Chamberlain that ultimately opened opportunities for more reputable horsemen.

Despite the misgivings of some observers, a *New York Times* reporter that summer attributed the exceptional growth in Thoroughbred racing in the northeast to the exhilaration of watching a "running horse."²⁶

Little more than ten years ago, there was in this part of the country no such thing as a track devoted exclusively to racing...Trotting matches were the passion of the hour...Today all that has changed. The trotting track is deserted...Trotting, indeed, as a spectacle may be said to have fallen into comparative disrepute, and fashion and popularity alike have declared in favor of its long-neglected rival. The reasons for this revolution in public taste are sufficiently obvious. Regarded purely as a spectacle, a race is at once more exciting and more attractive than a trot. The far greater speed of the running horse, and the enhanced grace of his movements in the natural gait, combine to this result...The slowest race horse, it must be remembered, is faster than express trains are commonly run with us...

In every instant of the race, from the uncertainty of the start, through all its wavering fortunes to the breathless excitement of the finish, there is an excitement which hardly any similar contest can parallel. The emotion is all the more intense for being concentrated. Almost as soon as begun the struggle is over. There is a lightening-like rush, a kaleidoscope flash of blended colors and shifting steed, a hoarse shout, and within a few seconds all is over. But to the lover of the sport, these few seconds are moments of exhilaration.

Withers enjoyed more moments of exhilaration that season. At Saratoga he raced an unnamed two-year-old colt and his three-year-old filly *Mimi* sped from last place in the home stretch to place fourth. At the Jerome Park fall meeting, *Mimi* again placed fourth in a race, but his three-year-old bay filly *Elsie* "took the lead from the start" in the mile-and-three-quarters Hunter Stakes, and "passed under the string winner of the race by a length and a half." August Belmont again led Thoroughbred owners with winnings over \$35,000, and Withers again was among many owners winning between \$1,000 and \$2,000.²⁷

Pleased with his early racing success, Withers notably increased his participation and investment in racing in 1872. On April 25, the American Jockey Club announced handicap weights for two of his colts — 3-year-old *Blenkiron* and six-year-old *Vespucius* — for the Jerome Park meeting that spring. The next day Withers purchased the 200.56-acre Taylor Farm on Leedsville Road (later renamed Holmdel Road and afterwards Newman Springs Road) in Middletown from Michael and Jane Taylor for \$36,500 (about \$1 million in 2018). By comparison, the average daily wage at this time was around \$2.45 per day, or \$735 (about \$21,600) annually for a six-day week. Thus it would take almost 50 years of a workingman's annual wages to buy the Taylor Farm. The property was previously the Thomas Lloyd Farm with Lloyd's 1786 house plus 18th and 19th century outbuildings, and it included much of the land within the 228-acre Brookdale Farm Historic District. (Map 2)

²⁶ "Our Race Horses," *The New York Times*, August 18, 1871, 4.

²⁷ "The Races, Second Day of the Fall Meeting at Jerome Park," *The New York Times*, October 11, 1871, 2.

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Three days later on April 28, *The New York Times* reported that turfmen had sent a total of 110 horses to Jerome Park to train for its spring meeting. "Mr. D.D. Withers' stable arrived last week," the notice read, "under the charge of Frank Midgely. The string consists of nine horses." Withers may have been stabling his horses adjacent to Monmouth Park, as a year later *The New York Times* reported that "Wither's...training stables are just opposite the grand entrance on the Oceanport Road." That summer, his "nominations," or registering, of several horses with the American Jockey Club for races to be run at Jerome Park and at Saratoga in 1873 for foals of 1871, and in 1874 for foals of 1872 highlighted his breeding and racing ambitions.²⁸

That July, all "turf" eyes were on the much-heralded North-South "race that has been the talk of the country for months," between *Longfellow* from New Orleans and *Harry Basset* from Princeton in the two-and-a-half mile, \$1,500 Monmouth Cup. Some 30,000 spectators, most from New York, flooded Monmouth Park, where "the excitement and enthusiasm swayed the vast multitude," and *Longfellow's* "stables boys were dancing with delight" watching him best *Harry Bassett* by 200 yards and be "crowned king of the turf."²⁹

Withers didn't enter horses in the July 1872 Monmouth Park meeting but at the Saratoga meeting that August, his three-year-old filly *Mimi* ran second in a mile and an eighth Free Handicap for all ages, and his four-year-old "fine filly" *Elsie*, "the trim looking daughter" of *Leamington* and *Babta*, won a four-mile \$500 sweepstakes in a "walk over." *Elsie* also ran a commendable second in a three-quarter mile dash against the great Harry Bassett. At the fall Jerome Park meeting Withers entered horses in several races and *Mimi* placed second in a \$500 mile-and-three-quarters dash, *Elsie* placed second in a one-mile dash, and an unnamed Wither's horse placed second in a three quarter-mile dash. An end-of-year recap of the Jerome Park, Saratoga, and Monmouth Park meetings, cited *Elsie's* four-mile August victory as the only win for D.D. Withers' stable.³⁰

Pierre Lorillard imported his first Thoroughbreds from England in 1871, and, enticed like Withers by the success of Monmouth Park, he decided to establish his own racing stable in New Jersey. In 1872, he bought a 200-acre farm in Jobstown in Burlington County. The location was accessible by train about seventy miles south of Manhattan and thirty miles north of Philadelphia, and its slightly milder climate would enable a longer period of outdoor training. For the next 14 years Lorillard's Rancocas Stud Farm and Withers' Brookdale Stud Farm would compete on racetracks and in the outfitting of their stables, as "neither of these sportsmen spared cost or energy in efforts to outdo the other at the race course." With his larger fortune, outsize personality, and grander vision, Lorillard would dominate, but the two turfmen built the most prominent Thoroughbred stud farms in New Jersey, and their successors would continue their rivalry.³¹

In contrast to Lorillard's flamboyant lifestyle, Withers lived quietly out of the limelight. He never married and at this point in his life he was devoting most of his efforts and his fortune to breeding and racing Thoroughbreds. He raced his horses regularly at Monmouth Park, Jerome Park, and Saratoga. At the 1873 spring meeting at Jerome Park, he introduced his imported colt *Stonehenge*. *The New York Times* reported that

²⁸ "The Turf," *The New York Times*, April 28, 1872, 7; "Monmouth Park, A Visit to the Stables," *The New York Times*, June 25, 1873, 8.

²⁹ "The Great Race," *The New York Times*, July 3, 1872, 5.

³⁰ "Jerome Park," *The New York Times*, September 28, 1872, 4; "The Racing," *The New York Times*, October 3, 1872, 10.

³¹ Cole, Peter and Ronald C. Weyer, *The Thoroughbred Horse of New Jersey*, Newark, New Jersey: New Jersey Historical Society, 1960.

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many turfmen preferred Saratoga or Monmouth Park over Jerome Park because of the latter's "curiously shaped track, since invariably some of the fastest horses come together and make things lively." Nevertheless, he chose Jerome Park in 1874 to inaugurate the Withers Stakes, which has run almost continuously since then and is now a mile and one sixteenth race for three-year olds at Aqueduct Racetrack every February with a purse of \$250,000.³²

In June 1874, *The New York Times* reported that *Stonehenge* was in training outside Monmouth Park. "Withers' horses are in the vicinity, but do not train within the precincts of the Park." Instead, he trained them at his aforementioned stable across Oceanport Road from the Park entrance. Meanwhile, he was rapidly converting the Taylor Farm to a stud farm that he soon called Brookdale Farm. The name, the *Red Bank Register* later noted "doubtless was derived from Yellow Brook, which bounds the farm on one side, and from the dales of the rolling country."³³

Brookdale Farm fit in with the comfortably with Monmouth County's long history of horse breeding and training, which the *Monmouth Inquirer* highlighted that year.

The county is famous in turf history as the home of the Van Mater's, Holmes's, Schenck's, Laird's, and Lloyd's...It was here that on these classic grounds that Old Honesty, by Expedition, first made her appearance; Lettery, Katy-did, Monmouth Eclipse, Tormentor, Tempest and Leopold—trained and run by Joseph H Van Mater. It was also in this county that Samuel Laird trained the celebrated Mingo, Clara Howard, Shark, Henry Archy, Charles, and the great Fashion...It was here that the great Fashion received her grand preparation for the great match with Boston.³⁴

After visiting Charles Laird's well-known stable, with its prominent training track, and other stables in the vicinity, the reporter noted:

We drove to the Brookdale Stud, the property of Mr. D. D. Withers, whom we found at home. After a hearty welcome, we inspected the horses in training for the season—eight in number, all in fine blooming condition, and a better or finer looking lot would be difficult to find. They are in charge of Mr. F. Midgely, who is a careful, painstaking man, but has been unfortunate in having several very fine, promising imported colts break down when just in condition to run.

Withers became interested in English racing stock during his time in England, and reflecting his preference for English Thoroughbreds, two of his four fillies in training were imported, as were all four of his colts.

Now exercising, *Stonehenge*, imported bay colt...a fine, large, well-developed four year old...*Macaroon*, chestnut colt, 3 years old...one of the finest and most promising colts that ever crossed the ocean: he is almost faultless in form, and possesses great substance with plenty of bone and high finish. In action he is grand and without an accident, He will make his mark upon the turf.

³² "Monmouth Park, A Visit to the Stables," *The New York Times*, June 25, 1873, 8.

³³ "C. V. Whitney to Leave Brookdale Farm," *Red Bank Register*, July 5, 1933; Brookdale Farm McGee Tract Summary, Kristen Norbut, 2018.

³⁴ "Horse Training in Monmouth County," *Monmouth Inquirer*, April 2, 1874.

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Withers had four brood mares – *Elsie*, *Mimi*, and two imported mares that he never raced but purchased “upon the *Blenkiron* theory—that he would rather own the sister of the winner of the Oaks, as a brood mare, than the winner himself.” In its April 1875 annual “review of the racing stables in our immediate vicinity” *The New York Times* noted the limited results of Withers breeding efforts at “The Brookdale Stable.”

Mr. D. D. Withers has experienced the fact that men cannot command success however much they deserve it. He has invested largely in imported stock, but the returns have thus far been inadequate to remunerate Mr. Withers, even for the expense of training. His deferred hopes, however, may be unexpectedly realized, for he does not lack confidence in his purchases abroad whatever the turf may think of them...But nothing succeeds like perseverance and there is still hope for the Brookdale establishment.³⁵

In its next annual review in 1876, *The Times* finally noted some progress at the Brookdale Stable. “Mr. D. D. Withers has imported many colts and fillies at great expense, but up to last year was unsuccessful. *Athlete* finally won a race and thus broke the ice. There is a fair promise for the Brookdale establishment this year, although it will be represented by four animals only.” Again, three of the four colts and fillies racing for Brookdale were imported by Withers.³⁶

When the *Monmouth Inquirer* visited the Brookdale Stud in 1874, the reporter also highlighted Withers’ progress in building its first class facilities.

Mr. W. is engaged in improving his place, having finished a very handsome dwelling upon a commanding site, and really magnificent stables, with 16 box stalls, large and roomy, and with the best of ventilation. He has another stable with four large roomy foaling stalls, all in close proximity to the quarters of the employees. He has also laid out and completed a very fine training track, and has, in addition, a covered circle one-eighth of a mile in circuit, covered with tanbark to exercise upon in bad and cold weather. In fact, nothing which can add to the comfort and convenience of the animals and the successful training of them has been neglected.³⁷

Withers’ building campaign included not only new structures but also renovating some Lloyd-Taylor buildings for his purposes. His “really magnificent stables” may refer to the first part of his new Training Stable (P5.1-5.2, 5.5-5.8, & 5.10-5.17), which actually has 20 box stalls rather than the 16 that the reporter noted. The stable with “four large roomy foaling stalls” may refer to the Lloyd Barn 1 (P2.1-2.3), which has evidence of stalls in each corner. “Quarters for his employees” likely refers to adapting the Lloyd House (P1.1-1.6) and possibly Lloyd Barn 2 (P3.1-3.3) and the Wagon House (4.1-4.2) for his growing staff of trainers, exercisers, grooms, and farmhands. Withers’ “covered circle” was later noted as “a covered track for training horses, six laps to the mile.” Unlike the typical oval covered track that Pierre Lorillard built at Rancocas (See H17), Withers’ was octagonal.³⁸ (See H44)

³⁵ “The Turf,” *The New York Times*, April 17, 1875, 3.

³⁶ “The Turf: Good Horses in Training,” *The New York Times*, April 17, 1876, 5.

³⁷ “Horse Training in Monmouth County,” *Monmouth Inquirer*, April 2, 1874.

³⁸ “Whitney’s Stable in Jersey,” *Red Bank Register*, May 14, 1904.

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Withers' primary residence was "a suite of apartments at the Brevoort House," a fashionable hotel built in 1854 on Fifth Avenue at 8th Street in New York City, where he had many investments, including in the East River Ferry Company, in which he served as president. He had a reputation as being austere—his racing colors were 'all black'—and at Brookdale he built a two-story, stucco house in a restrained version of the Italianate Style prevalent in the 1870s. (H9) It had a hipped-roof Palladian form with attic dormers on at least three sides, three bays on the façade and two on the sides, a plain porch across the front, and a rear extension. As one of his employees noted in 1892:

Mr. Withers loved his home very much, and enjoyed his visit from Saturday to Monday on the farm; always divided the time between his horses and his books; had written much on the horse and race-course, and formed the plan of the great new track here (Monmouth Park) in his own house; was always a very busy man; two and three o'clock in the morning would often find him up and writing on the racing rules or on other matters connected with the turf—indeed, he worked too hard.³⁹

While his house may have been modest, he enjoyed entertaining turfmen from the North and the South at Brookdale, where they consulted turf books in his extensive library and engaged in lively debates about rules, breeding, training, the Jockey Club, and other turf matters, as one guest recalled in 1898:

What famous, gay and brilliant meetings have been held at this same library in the piping days of the black silk jacket. Editor Hurlburt (William Henry Hurlburt of the influential *New York World*) and Mr. Sam Ward (a prominent poet and politician), Wade Hampton (a Confederate General and South Carolina Governor and Senator), Beauregard (the famous Confederate General), rather grizzled, but as erect and polite as in the old Fort Sumter days; Duncan Kenner (a Louisiana delegate to the Confederate Congress and one of the largest breeders in the South), who revived old New Orleans recollections; August Belmont; John F. Purday, silver-voiced but bright as gold on racing questions; Judge Monson, austere and authoritative; J.G.K. Lawrence (racing Partner of George Lorillard), with whom the old gentleman (Withers) quarreled, but respected most profoundly.⁴⁰

That same guest described Withers at home and his focused devotion to racing and breeding:

It was in the library at Brookdale that the sage would buckle down at his desk after his guests had retired to sleep and frame his stake conditions, enter his foals on 'the foal list,' and mate his mares by aid of tables showing the percentage of *Touchstone*, *Partisan*, and *Birdcatcher* blood. Here also he framed the Rules of Racing, codifying the latest English rules into an amended digest to suit American conditions. Midnight oil burned low, for it was in the 'wee sma' hours,' when he sought his couch, but if there was a trial of Juvenile or Criterion candidates set down for the next morning none rose earlier than he.

Withers' library, which at the time of his death contained more than 2,000 books, no doubt included English and American books on breeding, stable design, stable management, training, diseases, and veterinary practices. His years in the south and in England and France also acquainted him with numerous breeders and racers and their stud farms and practices. Absorbing all that plus the experience of breeders and trainers sizing up, mating, and training horses though observation and intuition, Withers developed his own ideas on percentages of

³⁹ *The Illustrated American*, op. cit., 151.

⁴⁰ Weeks, op. cit., 134.

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lineage, akin to counting numbers in his prime business days. Some turfmen considered his ideas eccentric and no doubt the cause of his often-mediocre results.

Undeterred by his lack of success, Withers continued investing heavily in Brookdale Farm. In 1876, he purchased a 123-acre farm northwest of Brookdale from Jerome and Catherine McGee for \$18,000 (about \$589,000 in 2018). The McGees had bought the slightly larger parcel of 125-acres five years earlier through a sheriff's sale from William Conover and Rulief Smock for \$15,500. Conover and Smock had acquired the 125-acres in 1870 through a will conveying 175 acres valued at \$20,000 from Peter S. Smock. An 1852 deed from David Baird and Wife to Rulief Smock conveyed the 125 acres as part of 132-acre parcel for \$12,000. The Bairds had acquired the 132 acres just one year earlier from Elias Hubbard and Wife for \$2,000, suggesting that the Bairds had made a substantial improvement to the property by the time they sold it to Rulief Smock. The Hubbards had acquired the 132 acres from Jacobus Hubbard and his three brothers in 1820 for \$5,508 as part of a 198-acre parcel. With the acquisition of the McGee Farm, Brookdale Farm now comprised 323 acres. (Map 2)

In its April 1, 1877 review of the upcoming racing season, *The New York Times* again highlighted his prominent position and perseverance:

Mr. D.D. Withers, one of the Governors of the American Jockey Club, is a staunch supporter of the turf, and has used the large means at his disposal in importing stock from England. He has spent quite a fortune in this way, but thus far his efforts, in a racing point of view, have not been crowned with success, as in 1875 his winnings only amount to \$735, and last year his only reward was the insignificant sum of \$200. It is evident, however, that his enterprise will soon bear its proper fruit. He is now breeding extensively from his young imported stallion King Ernest, by the famous Rothschild stallion, King Tom...At the Brookdale farm Mr. Withers has 10 head in training under the care of Bernard Riley, who is yet to make a reputation for himself.⁴¹

While other breeders often employed proven trainers, Withers relied on trainers who followed his dictum. Brookdale's showing in 1877 was again middling, with its fillies and colts usually finishing near the bottom and in the money only a few times in lesser races. Withers himself was busy that year planning a new future for Monmouth Park. Attendance had slipped as John Chamberlain's shady business dealings with William Boss Tweed, Jay Gould, and others caught up to him, saddling the racetrack with an aura of corruption. With Chamberlain skimming away revenues, shareholders in his Long Branch and Seashore Improvement Association and creditors foreclosed on the property.

In contrast to the seediness hanging over Monmouth Park that summer, *The New York Times* heralded Saratoga as "The Turf Center of America...The meetings here have most certainly furnished the most brilliant series of events ever witnessed in this country, and have been witnessed by the very best class of people...Day after day, the grandstand has been the resort of people eminent in literature, the arts, and the politics of the country," and of course the most prominent turfmen.⁴²

⁴¹ "The Racing Season of 1877," *The New York Times*, April 1, 1877, 10.

⁴² "The Turf Center of America," *The New York Times*, August 25, 1877, 2.

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With his cultivated reputation of integrity and fair dealing, Withers resolved to revitalize Monmouth Park along with other “gentlemen interested in legitimate sports.” The claims totaled \$56,659 (about \$2.1 million in 2018) against the property, which was said to have cost the Improvement Association \$250,000 (about \$9 million) to build and outfit. At the auction in April 1878, Withers, “leaning luxuriously back in his chair,” led the bidding to win the property for \$9,655 (about \$361,000). “Mr. Withers announced at the sale that he had bought the property for a number of gentlemen, most of whom are members of the Executive Committee of the American Jockey Club...Messrs. Pierre Lorillard, George Lorillard, George Peabody Wetmore, August Belmont, D.D. Withers, and any others these may associate with them.” The investors formed the Monmouth Park Association to operate the track and elected George Lorillard as president. Lorillard reigned over the New York turf. His 800-acre stud and training estate near Great River, Long Island, was considered one of the finest in America, and that year he led American turfmen with winnings of \$67,875 (about \$2.5 million).⁴³

By this time Withers was considered “the Solon of the track”—comparing him to one of the seven wise men of ancient Greece who fought against political and moral decline—and “the preeminent racing authority in America” for his leading role in writing the “Rules of Racing.” Some, however, “considered him arbitrary and stubborn and called him ‘the autocrat of the American turf’ in part because he preferred English racing ideas over American customs.”⁴⁴

The Monmouth Park Association extended tracks to bring visitors closer to the grand stand and built a three-quarter track for young horses within the original larger track. The reopening of the race track was heralded a new beginning as “the gentlemen who now control the management of Monmouth Park have the confidence of the public.” The management enabled auction and pari-mutual betting and the first meeting was “splendid,” “auspicious.” On the first day of the meeting Withers entered his two-year-old filly *Belinda* in the half-mile Hopeful Stakes with a purse of \$1,650 on the new inside track. George Lorillard’s filly *Idler* “won the race handily,” while *Belinda* came in eighth. In a \$1,000 race a few days later for three-year olds, Wither’s filly *Invermore* placed fifth. Wither’s racing luck had not yet changed.⁴⁵

Later in 1878, the recently-established *Red Bank Register* reported that “Mr. D. D. Withers has very much improved his property, known as the Brookdale farm, by graveling all the lanes and drives.’ With Monmouth Park’s renewal, Withers again set about expanding Brookdale. In February 1879, he bought 79.95 acres for \$12,500 from Rulief and Harriet Smock northwest of his 1876 purchase, the McGee Farm. (Map 2) The Smock’s land had been owned by Smock family members going back to 1712, when Johannes Smock acquired 230 acres for 800£ from John Bowne, who had acquired 235 acres the same year for 612£ from Benjamin Borden, who had acquired land in 1677 from the proprietors of the Monmouth Patent.⁴⁶

Withers was also expanding his breeding and training facilities, and he likely oversaw the design and construction carefully with his builders. In the earliest known documentation of building at Brookdale Farm, the *Red Bank Register* that spring reported that “Mr. D. D. Withers’ barn is nearly completed, and does credit to his

⁴³ “The Monmouth Park Race-Course,” *The New York Times*, March 14, 1878, 8.

⁴⁴ Riess, Steven A., *The Sport of Kings and The Kings of Crime*, Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 2011, 105.

⁴⁵ “The Long Branch Races,” *The New York Times*, April 24, 1878, 2.

⁴⁶ “Monmouth County Notes,” *Red Bank Register*, December 12, 1878, 1; Brookdale Farm Smock Tract Summary, Kristin Norbut, 2018.

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builders: it is a great improvement to the Brookdale farm.” The great improvement was his huge two-story Training Stable (P5.1-5.18) that he built in two sections—the northern section first with ten “loose boxes” on either side of a central alley, and the almost identical southern section shortly thereafter. Subtle design differences in the materials, framing, and finishing indicate separate but closely timed builds for the two sections.⁴⁷

The layout of the Training Stable reflected new ideas in practical horse management to maximize the care and performance of horses by providing each one with “a healthful abode.” In Western Europe and America horses were traditionally tethered in narrow stalls open at the rear. The loose box, originally recommended to be eighteen feet square, provided some freedom of movement for the horse and ample space for grooming and feeding. Withers made his loose boxes in the Training Stable twelve feet square and nearly 13 feet high. In the outer corner of each box, a two-part door could provide ventilation while also enabling the social inhabitant to observe other horses and the activities outside. For additional ventilation each box also has a window adjacent to the door and high windows on the opposite wall. The outside windows were fitted with drop down wooden sash, shutters, and iron grills. The central alley facilitated the delivery of straw, hay and grain from the second story to each box.⁴⁸

Withers originally built each section of the Training Stable with a passage on one end that was open to the sides on the first story—the northern end on the north section and the southern end on the south section. That spring while Withers was completing his Training Stable, *The New York Times* reported on his improved results in the 1878 season:

No stable in the country is more prolific in surprises than the Brookdale establishment of Mr. D. D. Withers. Last year the stable created a sensation on two important occasions, which upset the calculations of leading turfmen and the shrewdest turf speculators. Mr. Withers has imported largely from the English studs, and though his progress has been slow it has been sure, and last year he stood fifth on the list of winning owners in the eastern circuit, with \$8,850 to his credit, with but a small string of horses. This year Mr. Withers has a dozen animals of high lineage in training for the campaign.⁴⁹

Brookdale’s 1879 campaign proved disappointing, as *The New York Times* highlighted in early 1880. “Although largely interested in the turf, and breeding extensively, Mr. D. D. Withers has not met with great success. His colors, ‘all black,’ have a moderate following, and the surprises which his horses occasionally achieve make a commotion in the betting ring, and the effect is something akin to a thunder-clap from a clear sky.” While Brookdale was “the most important stud farm in New Jersey after Rancocas (Pierre Lorillard’s stable in Jobstown)...with a magnificent lot of brood mares on the place,” the problem was “Mr. Withers’ peculiar theories of training which conflict with the practice of the professional trainer, whose practice has inculcated the belief that former triumphs in his art are precedents worth following...The Brookdale string for the coming season consists of 20 head, the largest portion being young stock, mostly bred on the farm.” For Withers, no

⁴⁷ “Leedsville,” *Red Bank Register*, June 12, 1879.

⁴⁸ Mayhew, Edward, *The Illustrated Horse Management*, Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1864, 298.

⁴⁹ “Coming Racing Events,” *The New York Times*, March 31, 1879.

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expense at Brookdale seemed too large. Early that season the *Red Bank Register* reported that “Three car-loads of ice have arrived from Maine for Mr. D. D. Withers, near Leedsville.”⁵⁰

The 1880 Agricultural Census contains details on Withers’ farming activities but does not convey the full extent of his stud farm and training facilities and operation. His holdings are listed as 392 improved acres and 8 unimproved, with values of \$48,000 (about \$1.6 million in 2018) in land, fences and buildings, \$1,480 in farming implements and machinery, and \$11,700 in livestock. Since Withers paid \$36,500 for the 200-acre Taylor tract in 1872 and \$18,000 for the 123-acre McGee tract, totaling \$48,500 for 323, the Census values appear to not include some of his extensive improvements, and the 68-acre discrepancy suggests that he might have been leasing land.⁵¹

The reported labor, presumably farm production only, was \$1,425 in 1879 on wages and board for 1,300 weeks of labor, which amounts to \$1.10 per week, or \$4.40 per month. These figures seem low, as the U.S. Department of Agriculture listed 1879 average wage rates as \$10.43 per month with board and \$16.42 without.

1879 production details in the 1880 Agricultural Census appear more accurate—Hay, 100 acres mown, 152 tons; Indian Corn, 44 acres, 2,000 bushels; Oats, 6 acres, 180 bushels; Rye, 44 acres, 621 bushels; Wheat, 20 acres, 250 bushels; Potatoes (Irish), 2 acres, 837 bushels; Butter, 600lbs; Market Gardens produce sold, \$574; total value of all farm productions, \$4,900 (about \$164,000 in 2018). Withers was thus producing much, but probably not all, of the feed and bedding he needed for his horses plus food for his help. The Census listed on hand as of June 1, 1880: 14 milch cows, 3 others; 11 calves dropped, 11 slaughtered; 43 Swine; 207 Poultry; 82 horses of all ages. There is no mention of foals and the reported \$11,700 (about \$393,000) in livestock does not appear to include the full value of Withers’ racehorses, stallions, and broodmares.

By 1880, Withers’ breeding efforts were earning more respect. “The importation of English thorough-bred stallions,” *The New York Times* reported, “has been the means of placing the American thorough-bred to the front, and the gentlemen who have contributed so liberally in money toward the pleasing result are deserving the recognition bestowed by the racing public. One of these importers and breeders is Mr. D. D. Withers, the proprietor of the Brookdale Stud Farm, in the vicinity of Red Bank, N.J.” As proof of his recognition, one turfman offered Withers \$10,000 (about \$319,000 in 2018) in 1881 for a two-year-old unnamed colt that he bred from his imported stallion *Stonehenge*. That season, only eight Brookdale horses carried “the all black of the stable,” but they accumulated a respectable \$9,115 (about \$290,000) in winnings. It’s 1882 string of “21 head” included “a fine lot of youngsters.” That year, Withers was happy that he hadn’t sold his now three-year-old unnamed colt from *Stonehenge*, as he placed second in the Withers Stakes at Jerome Park. Brookdale’s other results that year were mediocre.⁵²

While racing only occasionally paid off, yearlings could be sold every year to help pay the costly operation of a stud farm. To produce more youngsters, Withers expanded his broodmare facilities, as the *Red Bank Register* reported in June of 1883. “D. D. Withers will erect a breeding-stable on his Brookdale farm, near Holmdel, this

⁵⁰ “The Brookdale Stable,” *The New York Times*, April 4, 1880; “Red Bank and Vicinity,” *Red Bank Register*, March 11, 1880, 1.

⁵¹ U.S. Agricultural Census, Middletown, Monmouth County, New Jersey, 1880.

⁵² “The Brookdale Stable,” *The New York Times*, April 4, 1880 and May 7, 1882.

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summer. When finished the stable will be the most complete establishment of the kind in the State.” This article likely refers to the extant two-story Ten Mare Barn. (H10) (P6.1-6.6) Its south façade had ten open bays on the first story with the center one crowned with an open semicircle. Ten loose boxes were aligned on the rear wall — five one either side of a central bay mostly open to the second story for loading and distributing straw, hay and feed. While the Training Stable box stalls originally opened directly to the outdoors, the covered front portion of the Ten Mare Barn provided extra protection for the mares and their foals during inclement weather. Because a mare and her foal needed more room during a birth and for a time thereafter, the boxes measured nearly 13 feet by about 15 feet, about thirty percent larger than those in the Training Stable. That summer, the *Red Bank Register* highlighted the risks in horse breeding:⁵³

Death of a Promising Colt — Last week one of the most promising colts in the stables of D. D. Withers died from colic. The colt was a full brother to *Buckstone*, and was entered for many of the important events of next year. The colt was two years old, and was on the farm at Leedsville when it died.⁵⁴

To accommodate his production ambitions, Withers built two Yearling Barns west of the Training Stable in 1884, as the *Red Bank Register* reported that April:

Brookdale Farm near Holmdel, the training place of D.D. Withers, is now a scene of activity. The horses of the Withers stables which are entered for races this summer are undergoing their preparatory training. Kinglike, Duplex and others are exercised everyday. The Withers farm is one of the largest in the country, and is devoted wholly to the raising and training of race-horses. There are two tracks on the place, one a mile track and the other one-seventh of a mile, the latter track is enclosed, and is used as a training track in very cold and wet weather.

Upwards of ninety horses are now on the place, all of which are race-horses of good pedigree. Five stallions and a considerable number of broodmare are also kept. This spring fifteen colts were foaled on the farm. A large number of men and boys are employed to care for the animals and the whole establishment is under the direction of Barney Reilly, the well-known horseman. Under his care and training the Withers colors came under the wire first at a number of races held in different parts of the country.

Two new stables, each 55x110 feet in size, are to be built on the place in the spring, and a number of other minor improvements are to be made. No part of the estate is used for farming purposes, all the supplies for the farm being purchased. The total expenses of conducting the farm amounts to over \$30,000 per year.⁵⁵ (about \$1 million in 2018)

Withers' two new Yearling Barns, as they came to be called, were a major innovation on Brookdale Farm. (H11) (P8.1-8.6; P9.1-9.4) He built them, and shortly thereafter a third adjacent to them, with a large open area for exercising the yearlings and five loose boxes on each end to house them. To provide the central open space, the builders erected 55-foot long trusses akin to those used in factories, churches, and other buildings requiring a wide clear span. An undocumented reference states that “the timbers and the labor for the barns were brought

⁵³ “Town Topics,” *Red Bank Register*, June 27, 1883, 2.

⁵⁴ “Death of a Promising Colt,” *Red Bank Register*, September 19, 1883, 1.

⁵⁵ “Matters at Brookdale Farm,” *Red Bank Register*, April 16, 1884.

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north by D. D. Withers,” which could be true for the Yearling Barns or others that Withers built because of his connections in the south and because of the size and length of the timbers. The two extant Yearling Barns, which are currently known as the Theatre Barn and the Activity Barn attest to the scale and innovation of Withers’ stud farm.⁵⁶

While Withers was building his big new barns, his horses were enhancing Brookdale’s reputation at Monmouth Park. “Mr. Withers Has His Day,” *The New York Times* reported. “The Brookdale stable was in great favor, and won the first three races.” His four-year-old colt *Buckstone* by his stallion *Stonehenge* “came away” to beat Pierre Lorillard’s *Pinafore*, raised on his Rancocas Stud Farm, by two lengths. In the second race, “great excitement was intensified as Mr. Withers’ unnamed colt came rushing up to the rails, being admirably ridden by young Meaton (the jockey). The colt under the vigorous riding of the boy, came to the front in the last hundred yards.” Withers had bred his two-year-old colt from *Mimi*, one of his earliest horses, and winning the Omnibus Stakes that day her unnamed colt “surprised the knowing ones and brought dismay to the betting ring, the mutual dividends being the largest of the meeting.” (H12) In the third race, as another horse “was dangerously close and making a rush for the lead,” Withers’ jockey Donahue riding his four-year-old colt *Kinglike* “jostled against him and knocked him against the fence. Then Donahue applied the whip vigorously and *Kinglike* responding gamely kept at the front and won the race by a length.” Withers’ success was finally validating his breeding and training practices.⁵⁷

Amidst his improved racing results, Withers had to fend off growing opposition to the betting at Monmouth Park by religious conservatives in the County and State, and despite his reputation he reportedly sought to influence public policy. Both he and the Lorillard brothers were known for “hiring only those workmen for their farms and the track who pledged to vote correctly on election day” to ensure support for racing. His reputation suffered a bit when a New York State assemblyman accused him of offering a bribe to resist efforts to lower the fares of the East River Ferry Company, of which Withers was the president.⁵⁸

Withers proceeded undaunted with his ambitious plans for Monmouth Park and Brookdale Farm. In early 1885, he bought a 50-acre adjacent parcel to build a new depot for track patrons. That September, the *Red Bank Register* reported, “There are 45 outbuildings and five dwellings on D. D. Withers’ stock farm,” and in Middletown news in early November, “D. D. Withers is the largest taxpayer in this township.” In 1886, Withers expanded Brookdale Farm with two acquisitions. On the southeast side of Brookdale he purchased 32/100s of an acre from Richard and Jane Oliver. Directly east of Brookdale he purchased 234 acres for \$14,500 (about \$513,000 in 2018) from Sarah Leonard and four others. (Map 2) They bought the farm the previous year from Daniel and Martha Roberts for a higher price of \$15,675. The Roberts had owned the property since 1868 and it was commonly known as the Roberts Farm.⁵⁹

The Roberts’ 234 acres had originally been part of the aforementioned Thomas Lloyd Farm, bequeathed by Thomas to his four surviving sons in 1812. As noted, the eldest Lloyd son, John, and his wife Mary mortgaged

⁵⁶ Elizabeth Thompson Babcock to Dr. Ervin Harlacher, December 8, 1971.

⁵⁷ “Mr. Withers Has His Day,” *The New York Times*, July 10, 1884.

⁵⁸ Riess, op. cit., 106.

⁵⁹ “In and Out of Town,” *Red Bank Register*, September 16, 1885; “News From Middletown,” *Red Bank Register*, November 4, 1885; Brookdale Farm Leonard Tract Summary, Kristen Norbut, 2018.

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part of the Lloyd Farm in 1818 for \$432, and after three transfers of that mortgage, the last transferee, Phineas Munday, acquired 250 acres of the Lloyd Farm in 1829. Munday sold the 250-acre parcel the next day for \$2,500 to Thomas Lloyd's daughter Sarah, who sold it in 1850 to her nephew, Charles S. Lloyd, and her nephew-in-law Aaron Longstreet for \$1,500. Thirteen individuals including another Thomas Lloyd sold 234 acres of the parcel in 1867 for \$3,000 to Daniel and Martha Field, who sold it to the Roberts in 1868 for \$17,512, suggesting the Fields made substantial improvements during their brief tenure.

That November, the *Red Bank Register* reported that "D. D. Withers is building a fish pond" with a dam on the Roberts Farm, and in January 1887, that "D.D. Withers is about building a large racing stable on the Roberts farm. The plans have been prepared, and its is estimated to require the labor of twenty men a year to complete." In May 1887, it reported that "D. D. Withers is building a half-mile track" on the Roberts Farm, and in June 1888 that, "David D. Withers is building a fine house on his Roberts property at Leedsville," close to Holmdel Road (formerly Leedsville Road and later named Newman Springs Road). In 1889, Withers erected more "extensive frame buildings," "chiefly stables for his racing stock," on the same property.⁶⁰ (H13 & H14)

The house and track that Withers built on his Roberts parcel are no longer extant but the timber framing of several barns or stables he erected there are extant within repurposed buildings at Brookdale Community College. The timber framing in the College buildings resembles that of the Training Stable and Yearling Barns in the Brookdale Farm Historic District.

While Withers spent large sums acquiring 883 acres, building substantial structures, and operating a stud farm with typically around 100 horses, Pierre Lorillard (H15) at Rancocas surpassed him on every count. Like the grandstand that Withers would later build at Monmouth Park, and like his house at Brookdale, Withers' barns had "no such elaboration of details" as could be found at Jerome Park, or at Rancocas. "Mr. Withers had everything very good and substantial but essentially plain...All the arrangements are made in an admirably practical fashion."⁶¹

Lorillard accumulated 1,500 acres, and his stable facilities included a circular "Racing Stable" (H16); a half-mile "ring barn" Training Stable with a covered track and two sections of loose boxes (H17); a mile-and-a-quarter race track; a brick stallion barn; a "mammoth" "glass barn" – 350-feet long by 250-feet wide – for weanlings that contained a large exercise area under a glass roof for "turning out" the weanlings in winter; a "bell barn" with an elaborate cupola housing a large bell (H18); a bath house for rheumatic horses; plus kennels for hunting dogs, a greenhouse for growing fruits and vegetables, and a game preserve (H16). Of Lorillard's stock, one visitor noted that "The stud consists of eighty brood-mares, eight stallions, forty-eight horses in training, including yearlings, forty-four weanlings, plus a large number of half-breeds and horses for general use."⁶²

⁶⁰ "An Artificial Fish Pond," *Red Bank Register*, November 24, 1886; "Leedsville News," *Red Bank Register*, January 26, 1887; "Leedsville News," *Red Bank Register*, May 11, 1887; *Red Bank Register*, June 13, 1888; "Stables for Racing Stock," *Red Bank Register*, July 18, 1888.

Red Bank Register, July 20, 1889.

⁶¹ Francis Trevelyan, "The American Turf – The Race Courses of the East," *Outing*, May 1892, No.2, 129-140.

⁶² Vosburgh, W. S., *Cherry and Black: The Career of Mr. Pierre Lorillard on the Turf*, Privately Printed, 1916, 81.

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Lorillard decorated several of his farm buildings with multi-colored, semi-octagonal slate, scalloped bargeboards, and sculpted rafter ends. His yellow brick mansion, which he greatly expanded from the original owner's farmhouse, contained elaborate Victorian decorations and expanded from the original owner's farmhouse, contained elaborate Victorian decorations and numerous paintings of his horses. He kept a wine cellar reported to contain up to \$20,000 (about \$700,000 in 2018) of fine wines, and employed a French chef to prepare three meals a day for him and his guests from the farm's produce and stock. In contrast to Withers' penchant for not naming his young race horses until they proved themselves and his austere black on black colors, Lorillard was known for his lively names, like those of his champions *Parole* (NRM Hall of Fame) and *Iroquois*, the latter the first American horse to win the English Derby, and his distinguished cherry and black silks. As a poet of the era opined:

The "Silks and the Satins"
Most famed on the track—
To wear them all jockeys aspire—
The jacket of Withers,
Of shimmering "Black";
The "Red and Blue" banner of Dwyer;
The "Maroon with Red Sash,"
The "White with Blue Spots,"
Of Belmont and Keene share in glory;
Haggin's "Orange and Blue,"
Cassatt's "Tricolor," too,
Are famous in deed and in story.

But whatever the hue—
Orange, green, red, or blue—
With the lads of the pigskin, so merry,
There's no colors named, no jacket more famed,
Than the Lorillard jacket of "Cherry."⁶³

Despite his turf successes, Lorillard tired of racing after his brother George died prematurely in 1886. Lorillard put his Rancocas racing stock at auction, and D. D. Withers bought his prized stallion *Mortimer*. Withers had his greatest racing triumph on July 30, 1887, in an exciting mile-and-a-quarter Raritan Stakes for three-year-olds at Monmouth Park. The Brooklyn Dwyer Brothers' "invincible" colt *Hanover*, son of the legendary *Hindoo*, had won 18 straight races, three as a two-year-old and 15 that year, and was favored 15 to 1, while Withers' chestnut colt *Laggard*, which he bred from his stallion *Uncas*, was wagered 1 to 10. Earlier when Withers had finally bought *Uncas* from Lorillard after many entreaties, he proclaimed, "Well, I've got the horse I've been after all my life. There is the best stallion in America."⁶⁴

⁶³ *Ibid.*, 10.

⁶⁴ *The Illustrated American*, op. cit., 152.

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Some people at Monmouth Park that day claimed that *Hanover* had been raced too much, but shortly after the start Withers' jockey "McCarthy kept *Laggard* so close to *Hanover* that the two looked as if they were running in double harness...going around the turn...*Laggard* dropped behind *Hanover* a length...McCarthy gave *Laggard* his head for an instant, and the colt shot by *Hanover*...As they entered the stretch...McCarthy turned in his saddle and smiled back...while he lifted the son of *Uncas* faster and faster, and when he went under the wire *Hanover* was three lengths away."⁶⁵

Having bred *Laggard*, Withers was especially pleased with his victory. However, he likely did not share in any of the 10 to 1 payout on *Laggard's* win, as he had a reputation of not betting on horses after he started racing his own. "Previous to 1870 he did stake money on the results of certain results," an observer noted, "but after that date, until his death, he never made a bet for himself, though he would sometimes put up twenty dollars or so on an event, and if he won, divide the money among the men and boys connected with his stable."⁶⁶

Thanks to *Laggard* and several other Withers horses, Brookdale Farm compiled \$33,000 (about \$1.1 million in 2018) in winnings that year, and the following year \$37,000. Withers' breeding and training ideas were finally paying off for his stable. A short time later, sadly, his 30-year-old trainer, Thomas Henrichen, who had started at Brookdale Farm as a stable boy at the age of 15, died of tuberculosis at his house on the Farm, leaving his widow with four children.⁶⁷

Withers balanced his focus on Brookdale with managing his investments and new business opportunities. In March 1888, he co-founded the New York and New Jersey Power Company "for the purpose of manufacturing, selling and renting boilers and machinery for obtaining power for heat and refrigeration." That April, he completed his sixth and final addition to Brookdale with his purchase of 187.73 acres for \$12,672 from the Ministers and Christ Church, Middletown. (Map 2) The Church property was part of a 1739 bequest by William Leeds, whose ancestor acquired land from East Jersey Proprietor Richard Stout and subsequently purchased "the Indian rights to the land from a council of ten Indian chiefs." With the Church Farm parcel, Brookdale Farm encompassed 833 acres.⁶⁸

In the summer of 1888, Withers built a half-mile track on his property, and had another fine showing at Monmouth Park. In a race for three-year olds his unnamed colt beat one of Pierre Lorillard's remaining horses, which was favored to win, by a neck. "Mr. Withers' colt," *The New York Times* noted, "upset the calculations of the best of the talented ones, by going out and winning the race in the cleverest sort of style, getting the trifle best of a remarkably good send off and keeping with the leaders throughout." In the Lassie Stakes for two-year olds, Withers' chestnut filly *Auricoma* beat August Belmont's favored filly "by a half dozen lengths." Withers' laurels were marred, however, when several horses fell and a jockey got seriously injured "in the farce known as a steeplechase." "It is singular, *The New York Times* opined about the dangerous steeplechase races, "that the Monmouth Park Association or Mr. Withers—and the terms are synonymous—should be determined to keep up

⁶⁵ "No Longer The Unbeaten: Laggard Defeats The Great Hanover," *The New York Times*, July 31, 1887.

⁶⁶ *The Illustrated American*, op. cit., 152.

⁶⁷ "Obituary, Thomas Henrichen," *Red Bank Register*, June 5, 1889.

⁶⁸ "A New Power Company," *The New York Times*, March 29, 1888.

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this break-neck swindling sort of miscalled racing and run the risk of killing both jockeys and horses every race day.”⁶⁹

Spurred on by his successes and the increasing crowds at Monmouth Park, Withers announced plans in 1888 to build a new Monmouth Park. “For years it had been the dream of Mr. Withers’ life,” an observer noted, “to build the largest and most perfect race course in the world...and soon after work was commenced on a great tract near Little Silver,” just a short distance for the existing track. Noting “the vast extent of Mr. Withers’ plans” on the 650-acre site, *The New York Times* reported,⁷⁰

To carry them out in detail will require an expenditure approaching about a million dollars. With a straight track of 1 3/8 miles, a circular track of 1 3/4 miles, and an exercising track of a mile, it will certainly be the best equipped course in this country, and almost a counterpart of the famous Newmarket Heath...

The grandstand will be different from anything in this country, being built high in the air, with a seating capacity for 10,000 people, all of which will be able to see the entire race over the straight track.⁷¹

The plans also called for “an immense betting pavilion in the rear of the grandstand.” “The jockey club managers are in a peculiar state of worriment,” *The New York Times* noted, “the result of a fear the Legislature would do something to change the law relating to racing.” Conservative Christians in the state were vehemently opposed to gambling of any sort and were pressing the Legislature for action. Withers pressed ahead, despite the opposition. He had taken many risks in his life, and this was just one more that he and his fellow Association members could overcome for their grand vision. As *The New York Times* noted, “The Monmouth people intend to do their share toward revolutionizing racing in America.”⁷²

With construction underway on the new Monmouth Park in the summer of 1889, more controversy and grumbling erupted at the old track. Under the headline “Queer Racing at Monmouth Park,” *The New York Times* blamed the management scathingly for ignoring “strange running,” “flagrant pulling,” and “in-and-out running” by “queer racing stables” apparently fixing the outcomes of races.

He knows he cannot afford to do that.⁷³ Unless a radical change is made at Monmouth what is facetiously termed “Monmouth Park form” in racing circles will become even more of a laughing stock, a delusion, and a snare than it is today...

It is money, money, money, all the time at Monmouth as elsewhere, and in this continual striving for gain the racing associations, one and all, great and small, are forgetting that a little something is due the public which enjoys racing as a sport, supports it, and enables the clubs to earn the enormous dividends they do on their almost universally greatly watered stock...

⁶⁹ “Two Races for Brookdale,” *The New York Times*, July 18, 1888, 3.

⁷⁰ *The Illustrated American*, op. cit. 152.

⁷¹ “Two Races for Brookdale,” *The New York Times*, July 18, 1888, 3.

⁷² *Ibid.*, 3; “A New Track at Monmouth,” *The New York Times*, January 20, 1889.

⁷³ “Queer Racing At Monmouth,” *The New York Times*, July 14, 1889.

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The public is sensitive. It likes to know what these honorable gentlemen who own horses are doing, and why their horses are not run to win. They have a right to this information from the racing associations which ask them to gamble on the races, and promises to protect them from being swindled in their gaming operations. They have a right to this protection just as they have a right to a pack of cards that are not marked ones...

Why in the world doesn't the Monmouth Park Association insist upon shuffling the cards and throwing out the marked ones is what a greatly wondering and bewildered public wants to know. Mr. Withers owes it to his patrons to find out. He also owes it to the public to make the judges absolute in their power instead of mere creatures working in accordance with a certain financial policy of a money-making association...

If Monmouth doesn't do something soon, the Association will not need any new track to race over, and can cut its present track up into farming lands. A policy with honest racing as its chief feature instead of the almighty dollar is very badly needed, and if Mr. Withers could hear the race goers talk he wouldn't hesitate long about adopting and enforcing it. If he doesn't Monmouth will sink to the level of the Saratoga and New-Orleans racing associations. He

The public pressure continued to grow, and a month later Withers and the treasurer of the Monmouth Park Association were arrested at the old track for keeping a "disorderly house" under a long-ignored New Jersey law against betting.

Despite all the controversy, the construction of the grand new Monmouth Park inspired, among others, Pierre Lorillard. After a four-year hiatus, he reactivated his Rancocas Stable and Stud in 1890 with the best broodmares and stallions that he could buy.

Withers and other turfmen pressed Legislators to pass a Race Track Bill authorizing pool betting 55 days a year. Racing opponents, notably Newark churches and its YMCA, heavily lobbied Governor Leon Abbett with petitions and personal appeals about "the demoralizing effect of the rack track on the youth of the state." After "one of the managers" of Monmouth Park let him know that they would work to defeat his efforts to run for the Senate if he didn't sign the bill, the incensed Governor, already sympathetic to the betting opponents, pocket vetoed the bill on June 21. This was a huge blow to Withers and his associates because betting would now be fully controlled by bookmakers and New York betting houses.⁷⁴

Ten days later on May 30, "D. D. Withers was seen to smile after the third race was run. It was at a mile, for three-year olds, and was one of the historic races of the American turf—the Withers, named in honor of the master of Brookdale." Withers had inaugurated the Withers Stakes at Jerome Park in 1874 and in 1890 it was run at Morris Park for the first time. Withers' unnamed colt from his stallion *King Ernest* "cleverly won" the close race in one minute, 41 seconds, a "very fast time for the track. The victory was so extremely satisfactory for Mr. Withers that he at once christened his colt King Eric."⁷⁵

⁷⁴ "Against the Bookmakers," *The New York Times*, June 18, 1890; "Couldn't Bulldoze Gov. Abbett," *The New York Times*, June 25, 1890.

⁷⁵ "A Red Letter Racing Day," *The New York Times*, May 31, 1890, 3.

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Withers welcomed more good news as *The New York Times* praised the new Monmouth Park as “The Finest Running Race Course Ever Constructed.”⁷⁶

It is simply impossible to tell in print what this grand work of Mr. Withers, the crowning effort of his career as a racing man is like. Massively magnificent, superbly appointed in every way, imposing in each detail, and perfect as a spot for crucial tests of great racers, it is a monument to D. D. Withers which will make him remembered gratefully by every race goer for decades to come. The architectural and engineering triumphs are his alone, for he planned every detail after years of study as to the needs not only of race goers, but of horse owners. To him alone, therefore is all the credit to do. That's so much could have been accomplished and 10 short months seems impossible to such as remember the two old farms whose hundreds of acres were used in the construction...

Adjectives fail utterly in an attempt to tell of this track of magnificent distances, of agreeable surprises at every turn, and unparalleled excellences for the purposes for which it was built. It is probably without a peer in the world. It certainly has nothing like an equal or a rival in America.

The new Monmouth Park included five tracks (H19), an “enormous cantilevered grandstand of iron” measuring 700 feet by 110 feet for comfortably seating 10,000 people (H20), a 400-foot long clubhouse with a porte cochère entrance and a 300 feet by 50 feet dining hall, ninety-six box stalls, “commodious” jockey quarters isolated from “touts and tipsters,” and a 350 feet by 175 feet betting ring where bookmakers would be set to continue ignoring the old anti-betting law. “The only criticism that can be made,” said a visitor to Mr. Withers “is that it is too enormous.” “But it was not built for today,” said the Master of Brookdale, “but for all time.”

Twenty-five thousand people attended the opening of Monmouth Park on the Fourth of July, as Withers bathed in the glory of his accomplishment. (H21) His three-year-old colt *Sluggard* placed second in a one-mile third race, and his two-year-old filly *Orangeuse* won the next three-quarters-of-a-mile Independence Stakes. “The expected raid on the makers of the odds” came after the fifth race, when a man from Peter DeLacy's New York poolroom — where horse race betters placed their wagers on Monmouth Park races in betting “pools” — served papers on 68 of the 75 bookmakers at the Park and a county detective arrested them. DeLacy was retaliating against the Monmouth Park Association's prohibition against telegraphing racing results in order to favor betting at the track. One by one the arrested bookmakers appeared before a judge who held court in a nearby room, posted \$100 in bail, and then “resumed business.” “Few people knew of the trouble” as the next three races were run. DeLacy had “worked hard to rouse the clergymen of New Jersey into raising a strong protest against the Governor signing the betting bill.” The magnificence of the new park juxtaposed with the arrest of bookmakers highlighted the hubris of Withers and his fellow members of the Monmouth Park Racing Association in building the new Monmouth Park despite the opposition.⁷⁷

On the second day of racing, the Monmouth County detective, again prompted by the DeLacy's man, arrested 75 bookmakers plus the president of the Association, Withers—the treasurer, and the general manager, all of whom posted \$100 in bail. Seeing the negative impact of the arrests on attendance and local businesses,

⁷⁶ “The New Monmouth Park,” *The New York Times*, June 30, 1890, 2.

⁷⁷ “Racing Topics,” *The New York Sportsman*, July 5, 1890, 1.

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Monmouth County officials soon stopped heeding the agitator's admonitions to enforce the anti-betting law and left the bookmakers unmolested. The damage, however, had been done to Withers' and the Park's reputation. During the 26-day Monmouth meeting that summer of 1890 (H22), 381 horses ran in 179 races and split winnings of \$659,000 (about \$22.7 million in 2018). Of the 83 owners, Withers' earnings of \$33,100 (about \$1.1 million) were the fifth highest, just under August Belmont's. In November, Belmont a founding member of the New York Jockey Club and the Monmouth Park Association and one of the most notable and successful turfmen of his time, died at the age of 77 from pneumonia he contracted after officiating as a judge at a horse show at Madison Square Garden. J. Pierpont Morgan, Grover Cleveland, and D.D Withers were among the pallbearers. Shortly after Belmont's death his executors auctioned off the horses in his famous Belmont Stable.

Difficulties for Withers and his fellow Monmouth Park associates mounted as Monmouth County grand juries, urged on by betting opponents, indicted jockeys for allegedly holding back their horses. In early January 1891, a jury in Elizabeth convicted members of the New Jersey Jockey Club for permitting bookmaking at their track in Linden. A few weeks later, a Passaic County jury "surprised" five Clifton racetrack officials with convictions for repeatedly violating the anti-betting law by keeping a "disorderly house" and the judge sentenced them to one year in jail. Both the Linden and Clifton tracks shut down.

By affirming the anti-betting statute, "The gambling convictions terrified Withers about the future of New Jersey racing." He lobbied the legislature to permit betting limited to the times when Monmouth Park and other racetracks held meetings. The Pennsylvania and New Jersey Central Railroads supported the effort to maintain their revenues from track goers and turfmen transporting their horses. "Withers was so confident of the outcome that he advertised a summer meet with \$250,000 (about \$8.6 million in 2018) in added money and purses."⁷⁸

In February, an assemblyman from Monmouth County, "acting on Withers' behalf, "introduced a package of four bills to authorize local governments to license racetracks for up to five years." Racing opponents submitted a petition signed by 17,000 women urging legislators to vote against any bills authorizing racing in the state. The opponents held meetings and rallies with prominent anti-gambling speakers, and the *Daily True American* of Trenton termed the proposal of giving local officials the ability to issue racing licenses "dangerous," as they would not be able to resist the "venal solicitation by interests which need only spend a small percentage of their illicit gains to create a very large corruption fund. The whole business has degenerated into a public nuisance, which ought no more to be licensed than prostitution or house breaking."⁷⁹

Citing the "degradation of Long Branch" by disreputable gamblers, the *Daily True American* praised opponents of racing as "the best element of our people—the mothers and wives who see their homes endangered, the businessmen, who see society disorganized; the clergy who see the moral anguish and misery in their midst." Republican legislators, in "deference to the expressed sentiments of religious people of the State," voted down the bills, indicating that Monmouth Park would have to close. "Leading businessmen," *The New York Times* reported, "in Red Bank and Long Branch feel very badly about it."⁸⁰

⁷⁸ Riess, op. cit., 117.

⁷⁹ Riess, op. cit., 117-118.

⁸⁰ Riess, op. cit., 118; "Monmouth Park Closed," *The New York Times*, March 22, 1891.

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Despite the betting ban and the opposition, Withers persevered with his improvements at Monmouth Park and preparations for the 1891 meeting in hopes that area businessmen would prevail on the politicians to authorize limited betting. He resurfaced tracks, replanted lawns, installed new flower beds, drilled two new artesian wells, and built a 500-foot long shed for 120 “equipages of those attending the races,” a 500-foot long yearling stable with 132 loose boxes, a yearling training track, and a cottage for yearling trainers. On the bank of the river he erected “a fine hotel opposite the track for the accommodation of racing men and followers of the turf.” While “Mr. Withers’ plans for the possession of the finest racetrack in the world were practically complete,” he hedged his bets by taking “an option to lease for the upcoming season the recently closed Jerome Park.” Finally recognizing the supremacy of the betting opponents, Withers transferred the Monmouth Park Association’s 1891 racing schedule to Jerome Park and closed his glistening one-year-old racetrack.⁸¹

Withers had more to feel very badly about that June, when his prized aging horse “*Mortemer*, the imported French-bred stallion, was shot at Mr. Withers Brookdale farm,” Queen Victoria had reportedly wanted *Mortemer* for the Royal Stable, but Pierre Lorillard had secured him for \$25,000. “A handsome chestnut, standing 16 ½ hands and considered one of the best horses on the continent,” had won 26 races out of 48 starts and had sired a number of champions in his 26 years. Withers had bought him for \$5,000 in 1886 when Lorillard sold off his Rancocas stud. In addition, a “splendid Thoroughbred broodmare” who broke her leg was also put down at Brookdale, and “another highly valued mare was lost with the foal while foaling.”⁸²

A week later Withers finally had some good news. “David Dunham Withers, the Admiral Rous of the American Turf, Master of Brookdale, President of the Board of Control, and Treasurer of the Monmouth Park Association,” *The New York Times* reported, “has finally won a race. His horses haven’t been seen much this year, as he saves them for his own meeting. But yesterday he sent the *Mortemer* filly *Castalia* to the post to run for the Ladies Stakes,” a 1,400-yard race for three-year-olds that she won in a close finish. A month later, *Mortemer*’s two-year-old chestnut fillies *Crochet* and an unnamed one, ran first and second in the \$1,500 Lassie Stakes at Jerome Park. “The victories of the Withers Stables are always popular ones, even if the owner of the stable is one of the weirdest of men,” *The New York Times* noted along with his fair racing, “for it is known that his horses are always out to win, and that when they are backed, a player is going to get a good honest run for his money.” Withers, however, was disappointed as he hoped his unnamed filly would win the race.⁸³

In August, Wither’s two-year-old, brown unnamed colt by *Uncas* won the three-quarter mile, \$1,500 Red Bank Stakes, in which the first three horses “finished only necks apart,” and Withers’ unnamed colt from *Uproar*, was “but a half length further back.” In “the closing table” of results that year for horses five years and older,” *The New York Times* noted, “As the most successful breeder of these horses, Mr. Withers holds the place of honor, he having sent out four—*Major Domo*, *Cynosure*, *Fan King*, and *Salisbury*—from his famous Brookdale Stud.” While Withers savored his horses’ victories, the overall attendance at the Monmouth Park Racing Association’s events that he had transferred to Jerome Park that summer proved disappointing.⁸⁴

⁸¹ “Improvements At Monmouth,” *The New York Times*, April 23, 1891, 1; “End of Monmouth Park,” *The New York Times*, March 3, 1897.

⁸² “Horses Lost by D. D. Withers,” *Red Bank Register*, June 3, 1891; “A Famous Stallion Dead,” *The New York Times*, May 28, 1891, 12.

⁸³ “A Great Colt, St. Florian,” *The New York Times*, June 6, 1891; “Withers Won The Lassie,” *The New York Times*, July 17, 1891, 8.

⁸⁴ “A Stake for Mr. Withers,” *The New York Times*, August 5, 1891, 8; “Great Winners Last Year,” *The New York Times*, January 10, 1892, 15.

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To address the problems on the racetracks, Withers, Lorillard, August Belmont Jr. and other turfmen established the Racing Control Board in 1891 and elected Withers president. By November, Withers must have been slowing down as he relinquished the presidency to “the lottery magnate, John Morris.” As the Board was set to argue rules about betting and entering horses in races, *The New York Times* noted “Mr. Withers is a peculiarly stubborn person, who objects to having his vagaries interfered with or criticized, but he really has the best interests of the turf at heart, and if any of his associates would dare to point out to him the fact that he would be doing everyone connected with racing a favor if he would spend a few minutes of his valuable time in giving names to his horses, he could probably be induced to do so.”⁸⁵

On February 4, 1892, in a meeting with the Governor and track officials around the State regarding a compromise betting bill, “the consensus was that prestigious Monmouth deserved help in resuming operations because it would enhance the prestige of the turf, benefit all racing interests, and assist local hotel keepers, who had lost heavily when the track closed in 1891.”⁸⁶

For Withers, the effort was too late. On February 13, he died in his suite at the Brevoort Hotel, having recently turned 72. (H23) The stress of constructing the new Monmouth Park for the 1890 meetings, and shutting it down in 1891 after he and his fellow Monmouth Park Association investors had spent \$1.3 million (about \$45 million in 2018) building the “magnificent” Park, no doubt exacted a heavy toll on his health. Reporting on “The Status of the American Turf” two months after his death, the London publication *Outing* noted:

Mr. D. D. Withers...besides having effectively demonstrating his right to the title of “Mentor of the American Turf,” was the highest ideal of a true sportsman this country and perhaps any other has ever produced...

As the owner of an extensive stable, as a large breeder, as the founder of the finest race course in America, and perhaps in the world, as an able indefatigable administrator of turf law, he has conferred endless obligations on our racing community...

Moneymaking was a very subsidiary matter in his racing. He raced for the same reason that he devoted a large share of his time to turf management—because he loved the sport for itself, not for the money that is in it.⁸⁷

After noting that Withers’ reliance on his own breeding and training ideas had been slow to produce winners, *Outing* cited 1888 as the best year for his “all black,” with ten of the 12 two-year olds that Withers started winning a total of \$73,265 (about \$2.5 million in 2018). His unnamed colt *Faverdale* led the pack with winnings of \$21,340 (about \$735,000). In his last year of racing in 1891, Withers started 19 of his horses and several were winners, as noted above, but none were in major stakes races and their winnings totaled only \$22,455 (about \$773,000).

⁸⁵ “Racing News And Notions,” *The New York Times*, November 9, 1891, 2.

⁸⁶ Riess, op. cit., 121.

⁸⁷ “The Status of the American Turf,” *Outing*, April, 1892, 35.

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After Withers' death, it was clear why he didn't race for the money, as the *Red Bank Register* reported that his estate "is believed to be about \$4,000,000" (about \$140 million). Withers' 1878 will appointed his friend Judge Alonzo C. Monson as executor to divide his estate into five equal trusts for five of his six siblings and their children. It directed Judge Monson to sell Brookdale Farm and plantations that he still owned in Mississippi, the latter suggesting that he was still making money in the cotton business.⁸⁸

To maximize the value of Withers' racing stock, Judge Monson arranged the auction of "the entire Brookdale Stable of race horses" just six weeks after Withers' death. "The selected stock," the auction prospectus noted, "comprises twenty-four horses, of which seven are three-year olds and the remainder two-year olds... The colts and fillies are in active training and can be ready for racing at all the Spring meetings." Withers bred almost all of them from his prized stallions, *Uncas*, *Mortemer*, *Stonehenge*, and *King Ernest*, who he imported in 1870, and several with his prized broodmares *Mimi* and *Wyandotte*. The 24 "horses in training" fetched \$83,750 (about \$2.9 million in 2018). Judge Monson also sold 25 yearlings and two stallions for \$25,370 (about \$885,000 in 2018).⁸⁹

At the time of the auction, the future of Brookdale remained uncertain. "Until a fair price for the place is offered," *The New York Times* noted, "it will be managed by Judge Monson, who will preserve the full breeding stud, and will sell off the yearlings annually... The stud will be thrown open to the public, a privilege not enjoyed by the public during Mr. Withers' lifetime. The stallions in the stud are *Uncas*, *Ventilator*, *Stonehenge*, *Macaroon*, *Centaur*, *Kinglike*, imp. (imported) *Eothen*, and imp. *Stalwart*." Withers had purchased, imported, or bred the horses in his stable, and had raced many of them and had had multi-year relationships with most — *Stonehenge* since 1871 and *Macaroon* since 1872. "His hobby was to reach the highest point of breeding," an obituary noted. "Every Thoroughbred that he raced in recent years was bred by himself. His theories about breeding had not brought about any grand results when he died; but had he lived a few years longer... his ideas of conducting a breeding farm might have proved superior to those of others." Withers had only started breeding at the age of 52, and thus had only twenty years to pursue his goal.⁹⁰

Withers also had long relationships with many of the hands at Brookdale, where, "he supported a large establishment," one noted. "Indeed, his people will scarcely ever find such another kind, good employer. His people are grieved to the heart for the loss of their kind and good friend... He was very much pleased with the completion of Monmouth Park's great racecourse. All his aims were of the grandest." The shuttering of his greatest accomplishment — the magnificent 1890 Monmouth Park — must have been particularly hard on him.⁹¹

That spring and summer, Judge Monson sold Brookdale hay five times for a total of \$1,466, plus he sold Wine and Liquors in Withers' cellar for \$1,976. In September, local appraisers Rulief Smock and James Laird inventoried Withers' personal estate still at Brookdale, including Seven Stallions (\$7,000); Fifty-five Broodmares (\$27,500); One Yearling Filly (\$250); and Thirty Two Foals (\$6,400); Six Farm Horses, 20 Mules,

⁸⁸ "Mr. Withers' Will, *The New York Times*, February 24, 1892.

⁸⁹ "Sale of Brookdale Stable," *The New York Times*, March 17, 1892, 9; Inventory of David D. Withers, Monmouth County, September 17, 1892.

⁹⁰ "Sale of Brookdale Stable," *The New York Times*, March 17, 1892, 9; *The Illustrated American*, op. cit., 151.

⁹¹ *The Illustrated American*, op. cit., 152.

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19 Cows, 17 Heifers, 2 Calves, 1 Bull, 9 Brood Sows, 50 Pigs, 1 Boar, Poultry Farm Wagons, Cultivators, Mowers, Harness, Farming implements, Bedsteads Bedding, Kitchen Utensils in Farm House (\$4,000); Furniture, Household effects, Bric-a-Brac, Kitchen Utensils etc. in dwelling House at Brookdale Farm and Wearing Apparel (\$2,500); Carriages, Wagons, Harness, Two Horses (old) (\$400); Library, about 2,000 Volumes (\$2,000).⁹²

With cash from the auctions and sales, Withers' personal estate at Brookdale totaled \$163,723. (about \$5,716,000 in 2018) The \$150,270 (about \$5.1 million) total value of his remaining Thoroughbred stock represented nearly 92 percent of his personal estate at Brookdale. The number of mules, cows, etc., shows Brookdale to be a fully working farm beyond its Thoroughbred breeding and training. The Inventory suggests that Withers' lived fairly simply at Brookdale, as the value of his household items was barely above the values of his wine cellar and his library, his only apparent extravagances. "At his home in Brookdale," an obituary noted, "there are books which show that he was fond of works of art. The books on racing and breeding which he possessed are invaluable, as it took years of research to collect them. When he was abroad during the Civil War he collected many valuable books. Not a few of them, which were in French, he had translated into English."⁹³

The *Spirit of The Times* noted "the crushing nature of the blow that fell on the American turf when David Dunham Withers died...can scarcely be appreciated to the full at first. The name of 'Mentor of the American Turf,' which was bestowed on him, partly, no doubt, in joke, was truer than many a name given in all serious intent. What such men as Lord George Bentinck and Admiral Rous were to the English turf, Mr. Withers was to the American turf, and more." With the death of "the Sage of Brookdale," an obituary noted, "the American turf has lost its most honored patron, and a sportsman who did more than any in his generation to elevate its tone. A man strictly honorable in all his dealings, he raced not for money, but out of pure love for the sport." Withers death marked the end of the formative years of Brookdale Farm.⁹⁴

Withers' death also triggered a changing of the guard at Monmouth Park, as most of his associates there wanted to move on. Shortly after his death, the Legislature passed a bill allowing local magistrates, who typically supported racing and betting, to handle complaints. With this encouragement and in anticipation of more enabling legislation to come, a new group of turfmen and investors reformed the Monmouth Park Racing Association and acquired Monmouth Park. After Grover Cleveland was elected Governor and Democrats took over the Legislature that fall, it passed a racetrack licensing bill in early 1893, and the Monmouth Park Racing Association scheduled racing meetings for that summer.

The Thompson Era – 1893 -1968

Encouraged by the reopening of Monmouth Park (H24), Colonel William Payne Thompson, "the head of the lead trust," bought Brookdale Farm in June 1893, not "for himself but for his two sons, Lew and William Payne Thompson, Jr., who for a number of years have taken a more or less active interest in racing matters. For some

⁹² "David D. Withers Inventory," September 17, 1892, Monmouth County Surrogates Office.

⁹³ *The Illustrated American*, op. cit., 153.

⁹⁴ *The Illustrated American*, op. cit., 153, 151.

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time past they have been quietly buying up desirable yearlings, and together with those of the Withers stable that were included in the purchase of Brookdale, will give them a formidable string of horses. It is said that the Thompsons will continue the use of the Withers colors, all black.”⁹⁵

Although Col. Thompson entered the world of New York turfmen many years after Withers, they almost certainly knew each other and Col. Thompson likely visited Brookdale as a guest of Withers. Col. Thompson has been noted as a founder of the Monmouth Park Jockey Club, and as part of the group that took over the Park after Withers’ death. Thompson was eager to expand his turf involvement and Brookdale was the perfect place for his ambitions when he bought it for \$185,000 (about \$6,458,000 in 2018), not including the horses and personal property on the farm that he also bought.

Col. Thompson was born in Wheeling in Virginia in 1837. After attending Jefferson College, he opened a law practice at age 20 in Fairmount, now West Virginia. Although opposed to secession, he became a Colonel of the Ninth Virginia Cavalry Fairmount Group and served at Bull Run and other battles, and was present at the Confederate surrender at Appomattox. He married Mary Moffett of a distinguished Virginia family, edited a newspaper and then joined his brother-in-law’s Camden Consolidated Oil Company in Parkersburg, West Virginia. They sold the Company in 1876 to John D. Rockefeller’s Standard Oil Company, where Col. Thompson became a vice president. He was transferred to New York in 1887 and a few years later assumed control of the National Lead Trust, which later became the National Lead Company.

Col. Thompson and his wife Mary Evelyn (H25) had three children, Lewis Steenrod Thompson II born in 1865 and named after his uncle who had died in the Civil War at the age of 18, Elizabeth Steenrod Thompson, 1868, and William Payne Thompson, Jr., 1870. Col. Thompson sent Lewis to boarding schools in Virginia and the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington. After completing courses at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1888, he spent two years traveling around the world. He unfortunately contracted tuberculosis and typhoid, and afterwards his “doctors advised ‘the outdoor life’ as the necessary means to his survival.”⁹⁶

The 1893 Monmouth Park meeting suffered from poor management and the shady reputations of some of the new owners, and racing opponents and newspapers mounted even more opposition to betting than before. Pierre Lorillard, whose stable of “a very ordinary lot of horses” had a mediocre showing the previous year, put his Rancocas Stock up for sale on the advice of his doctors, but there were few takers.⁹⁷

The Thompsons’ ambitions for racing at Monmouth Park deflated in January 1894 when the N.J. Supreme Court declared the Legislature’s 1893 racing laws unconstitutional. The Monmouth Park Racing Association stopped paying taxes on the property and collapsed, leaving a mortgage of \$460,000, (about \$16.5 million in 2018). D. D. Withers’ estate held \$384,000 (about \$13.8 million) of the mortgage, and to protect his investment in the Park, Judge Monson, Withers’ executor, and Withers’ nephew, Augustus Carson, bought it in early 1895 in four auction lots for a total of \$73,500 (about \$2.6 million). The lots contained 654 acres with the old and

⁹⁵ “Brookdale Farm Sold,” *Red Bank Register*, January 25, 1893.

⁹⁶ *Triangle of Land*, op. cit., 188.

⁹⁷ “Racing News And Gossip,” *The New York Times*, 1893.

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new tracks, the cantilevered iron grandstand, the clubhouse, stables, sheds, paddocks, the 160-room hotel on a tributary of the Shrewsbury River, and several residences.

“One of the finest racetracks in America,” *The New York Times* called Monmouth Park. “It was designed by the late D. D. Withers, who built it. He aimed to have the greatest racing track in the world, and the track was his ideal.” The Withers’ interests bought Monmouth Park to recoup as much of his substantial investment in it as they could, but they also harbored hopes, as “The property is very valuable,” *The New York Times* noted, to any one who can hold it until there is a change in the racing laws in the State.” Monson and Withers’ nephew gave up in 1897 and put the property up for auction.⁹⁸

Despite the shuttering of Monmouth Park, Col. Thompson continued pursuing his Thoroughbred racing ambitions in New York. In February 1894, he co-founded the Jockey Club to serve as the Registry for Thoroughbreds along with 26 other prominent turfmen, including Phillip Dwyer, August Belmont Jr., William Kissam Vanderbilt, William Collins Whitney, and James R. Keene. Belmont, Keene, and Thompson served as Founding Stewards along with four others. Now sporting the red and green Thompson colors, the Colonel’s jockeys won for Brookdale that summer with *Golden Rod*, a colt bred by Withers, and another colt named *Sage* in honor of the Sage of Brookdale. In April 1895, Colonel’s two-year-old filly *One I Love*, won five consecutive races. After *Requital* won the Belmont Futurity Stakes at Sheepshead Bay Racetrack that year, Col. Thompson purchased the two-year-old colt for Brookdale. That year, Col. Thompson auctioned “Brookdale Stud Thoroughbred Yearlings,” most of them gets from D. D. Withers’ prized stallions. (H26)

Col. Thompson also pursued other ambitions for his family. Withers had developed and operated Brookdale as a stud farm he visited mostly on weekends with friends or alone. Col. Thompson, who was 56 when he bought Brookdale, immediately set out to also make it a country estate for his growing family and a model farm. An 1895 *Red Bank Register* article highlighted the range and quality of Brookdale’s new productivity.

Col. W. P. Thompson, owner of Withers training farm, has been notified that he has received first premiums of cash offered by the state for the best yield of crops, quality and well as quantity being taken into consideration. The farm is one of the best in the state and under the direction of H.V. Howe, the superintendent, the yields have been very large. Mr. Thompson received first premium on the best five acres of field corn, best five acres of clover hay, best acre of carrots, best acre of mangel wozzels [beets], and best quarter acre of parsnips. He also received second premium on five acres of timothy hay and one acre of winter cabbage...Col. Thompson received at the state fair [in Trenton] the first premiums on 25 pounds of dairy butter in crock or tub, and on best five pounds of granulated butter; and he received second premium on five pounds of butter in prints or rolls. The premiums amounted to \$155.⁹⁹

By 1895, Col. Thompson’s “very great improvements at his place” included “remodeling his racing stables” and “erecting some new buildings.” “Part of the work underway,” the *Red Bank Register* reported, “is the putting up of some 700 feet of new sheds,” which likely includes the shed additions on either side of Withers’ two Training Stables and the covering of the area between them. That fall, with great difficulty Col. Thompson also drilled a 4 1/2-inch wide artesian well 700-feet deep to insure an adequate water supply. Steam pumps “were

⁹⁸ “Monmouth Track Sold,” *The New York Times*, March 22, 1895, 3.

⁹⁹ “Many First Premiums,” *Red Bank Register*, March 3, 1895.

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kept continuously at work ten hours a day, with no perceptible diminution in the volume of water"—250 gallons per minute—"a larger supply of water than any other artesian well in Monmouth County."¹⁰⁰

To transform Withers' 1870s "cottage," Col. Thompson commissioned the young architecture firm of Carrère and Hastings of New York City. John Mervin Carrère and Thomas Hastings met while studying at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Carrère was born in 1858 in Rio de Janeiro and also studied in Switzerland. After graduating in Paris in 1882, he joined the notable firm of McKim, Mead and White in New York. Hastings was born in New York and had also studied at Columbia, and after graduating in Paris in 1884 he also joined McKim, Mead and White. Two years later the young architects established their own partnership. With their European training they initially focused on elaborate ornamentation, but their work gradually became more classical with French Baroque and American Georgian influences.¹⁰¹

For the Thompsons, Carrère and Hastings designed a Colonial Revival manor (H27 & H28) that the *Red Bank Register* described, "will be nearly in the shape of a cross. Large wings will be added to the present house in each direction." The new floor plan was 150 feet by 85 feet deep, with an 85 feet long piazza "across the center the projecting front...with fluted columns with carved capitals that will reach to the top of the house to support the roof....Two other piazzas of semi-circular shape will be at the ends of the house." The plans included a 15-foot by 47-foot reception hall, a drawing room, library, billiard room, dining room and kitchen on the first floor, three suites of rooms plus seven other bedrooms on the second floor, and nine servants' rooms on the third floor. "The house will have six bathrooms...fitted with Roman bathtubs." The *Red Bank Register* estimated Col. Thompson's cost of turning Withers' cottage into a country manor at \$35,000 (about \$910,000 in 2018).¹⁰² With construction underway in January 1896, Col. Thompson made "a prospecting trip" for his National Lead Company to West Virginia, where he contracted a severe cold. A few days after returning to New York he died of pneumonia at the age of 58.

That winter, 23-year-old Geraldine Livingston Morgan, who suffered from tuberculosis like Lewis Thompson, was visiting friends of her mother in Colorado Springs to recover in its high and dry climate. (H29) Born in upstate New York in 1872, Geraldine's father and grandfather were prominent sea captains, and her Livingston ancestors included William Livingston, Governor of New Jersey 1776-1790, and Geraldine Livingston, who was prominent in New York State charities. The Livingstons lived near Hyde Park in the vicinity of the Vanderbilts and Roosevelts, and young Geraldine became friends with Eleanor Roosevelt. After her father died when she was 14, Geraldine Morgan attended a convent school in Tours, France. In Colorado Springs, she met Elizabeth Thompson Preston, who, as Elizabeth "Betty" Thompson Babcock recalled in 1982, sent a telegram to her 30-year-old brother Lewis Steenrod Thompson: "Have just met the girl you should marry. Come at once." Lewis and Geraldine (H30) married that June in Staatsburg-on-Hudson, New York, and afterwards they moved into the newly completed Thompson mansion at Brookdale Farm.¹⁰³

¹⁰⁰ "Improvements at Col. Thompson's," *Red Bank Register*, October 23, 1895; "250 Gallons Per Minute," *Red Bank Register*, October 16, 1895.

¹⁰¹ "Alterations to House of L.S. Thompson," *Architectural Record*, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 1910.

¹⁰² "Brookdale's Improvements," *Red Bank Register*, January 22, 1896.

¹⁰³ Elizabeth Thompson Babcock to James Truncer, August 30, 1982, 5.

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The Thompson house soon overflowed with children. Lewis and Geraldine in the fall of 1897 brought his orphaned 12-year-old cousin Anne Thompson from Parkersburg, West Virginia, to live with them at Brookdale Farm. In 1897, Geraldine gave birth to their first child, William Payne Thompson III. After Lewis's sister Elizabeth died in childbirth in 1899, her husband brought their four children, aged one week to five years, from Colorado Springs to live with Lewis and Geraldine at Brookdale. They had three more children of their own: Elizabeth in 1900, Geraldine in 1902, and Lewis Steenrod in 1904. The Thompsons had transformed Brookdale Farm from the businesslike ownership and weekend residence of the austere founder D. D. Withers to a family estate with a grand mansion bustling with children and a large domestic staff. (H31) As Betty Babcock wrote in 1982, "To the child I was, Brookdale was paradise...the fields, woods, brook, wooded ravine, and all the animals."¹⁰⁴

Lewis and William Thompson initially pursued their father's plans for breeding and training winning horses. Before his death, Col. Thompson had hired James G. Rowe Sr. (National Racing Museum [NRM] Hall of Fame), the noted trainer who had won numerous races for the Dwyer Brothers, including many by the legendary *Hindoo* (NRM Hall of Fame), and also for August Belmont, to manage Brookdale Stable. Rowe had started his career as a jockey and famously rode *Harry Basset* (NRM Hall of Fame) to win the Saratoga Cup in the 1872 match race against *Longfellow* (NRM Hall of Fame), and under his supervision the Brookdale filly *L'Alouette* won \$40,000 in the Belmont Futurity Stakes, the highest-purse race in America, in 1897. That year, New York State Supreme Court declared the 1895 Percy-Gray Act enabling racing under the auspices of the New York State Racing Commission constitutional, ushering in "a glorious decade of racing" in New York — from 1897 to 1907.¹⁰⁵

Despite their decent racing success and the expert stewardship of James Rowe, the Thompson brothers gradually lost interest in running the Brookdale Stable. Besides his breeding and training of *L'Alouette* and other horses for them, the brothers' agreement with Rowe allowed him to train his own horses at Brookdale, and he took possession of a promising colt, a son of *Juvenal*, born in 1897. Rowe turned the colt into a gelding for training and named him *Chacornac*, after a noted French astronomer who died in 1873. *Chacornac* exhibited "splendid speed" for Rowe in winning his first race at Saratoga in mid-August 1899. A week later the "comparatively poor trainer" entered his two-year old in the Belmont Futurity, but two days before the race sold him to James R. Keene for \$25,000 (about \$861,000 in 2018).

Keene, who was "famous for the wonderful manner in which he so often cornered the Wall Street market on some stock," was born in London in 1836, and after immigrating at the age of 14 with his family he made his first fortune in mining in California and Nevada. After losing nearly all his money in Chicago grain trading, he made another fortune in associations with J. P. Morgan and William Rockefeller. Keene started investing in and breeding Thoroughbreds in the 1870s, and in 1881 his horse *Foxhall* was the first American horse to win the Grand Prix de France, and in the 1890 he turned Castleton Farm in Kentucky into one of the premiere stud farms in America.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁴ Elizabeth Thompson Babcock to James Truncer, June 29, 1982, 6.

¹⁰⁵ Riess, op. cit., 235.

¹⁰⁶ "Chacornac Takes the Big Futurity," *The New York Times*, August 27, 1899, 3.

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Rowe had trained for Keene at Castleton before going to work for Col. Thompson, so Keene was comfortable investing in the Brookdale-bred *Chacornac* after the colt had only raced once before in the 1899 Futurity. His shrewd bet paid off as *Chacornac* won \$31,000 by a neck, giving him a free horse plus \$6,000. “Aside from the pecuniary advantage,” *The New York Times* noted, “*Chacornac*’s victory brought his new owner the medal of honor that every sportsman likes to quaff—the knowledge that he owns a good race horse, and the honor of having captured the richest two-year old prize in the world with him.”

When asked to describe the enjoyment of owning a great Thoroughbred, Keene said it wasn’t the money the horse could earn in races or at stud. “It is the fact,” he said, in words that would have resonated with D. D. Withers and many other great breeders, “that he is a wonderful work of nature, a fine, high-spirited, perhaps gentle and intelligent, animal that is a little superior to all others of his time, and whose courage is tested by races he runs and the results that follow...My horses have always been a great comfort to me all my life.”¹⁰⁷

Chacornac was the third Futurity winner in five years bred at Brookdale. From the Futurity purse, the Thompson brothers received \$2,000 for breeding *Chacornac*, but Brookdale’s notable breeding record wasn’t enough to hold their interest. William sold his share of Brookdale to his older brother, Lewis, and “moved off the farm and out of New Jersey” in 1899. With full possession of Brookdale, Lewis and Geraldine Thompson added to William Thompson’s original landscaping around and especially in front of their house with numerous specimen bushes, shrubs, and trees.

Lewis Thompson’s primary interest was hunting and shooting, and sometimes he took Geraldine as well. (H32) He filled their Brookdale mansion with hunting trophies inside and out. (H26) As his daughter Betty Babcock later recalled, “A child had to run the gauntlet of the stairway to the second floor...the walls were covered with stuffed antelope heads...The full length of the hall there were bears, gleaming teeth to where a tail might be all the way down, glassy eyes, white teeth, pink gums and those raised heads could trip a small child. If you looked at the walls it was almost as terrifying, one stuffed head after another, so close to each other beside, above and below, a small child could, and did feel, all the wild animals of the West would either run over her or eat her up.”¹⁰⁸

James R. Keene at Brookdale – 1899 - 1904

Preoccupied with his hunting, Lewis leased Brookdale’s horse breeding and training facilities to James Keene, who “sent his Castleton Stud youngsters to Rowe to train,” and to race under Keene’s white and blue polka dot colors. (H33) Among the notable winners that Rowe trained for Keene at Brookdale were *Commando* (NRM Hall of Fame), who won the 1901 Belmont Stakes and a total of seven out of nine races in his two-year racing career, and *Sysonby* (NRM Hall of Fame), who was foaled at Castleton in 1902 and won 14 races and lost only one in his two-year racing career.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁷ Bowen, Edward L., “James R. Keene,” *Legacies of the Turf: A Century of great Thoroughbred Breeders, Volume 1*, Eclipse Press: 2003, 23.

¹⁰⁸ Elizabeth Thompson Babcock to James Truncer, June 29, 1982, 1.

¹⁰⁹ *Triangle of Land*, op. cit., 38; Deubler, Cindy, “Brookdale Memories,” *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, September 1913, 22-33.

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In June 1901, Pierre Lorillard caught a cold while attending races in Ascot, England, and after returning home about two weeks later he died in New York at the age of 69. Much to the consternation of his wife and children, he left his huge Rancocas Farm to his mistress, Lillian Barns. She had shown great interest in Rancocas, had served as his hostess there, and vowed to continue its breeding operations, stating that that was why Lorillard had left it to her.

That same year, William Collins Whitney (NRM Hall of Fame and Exemplar of Racing) led a group of investors to buy the Saratoga Race Course, which had declined under poor management, and they invested \$500,000 (about \$17 million in 2018) in upgrading it. Whitney was born in 1841 in Conway, Massachusetts, to descendants of Pilgrims, and after graduating from Yale he married the sister of his roommate, Oliver Hazard Payne, who later became treasurer of the Standard Oil Company. After studying law at Harvard, Whitney entered politics and served as corporate council of New York and later modernized Navy operations as Secretary of the Navy under President Grover Cleveland, who praised Whitney's "forceful efficiency." In business, that efficiency generated a fortune in banking, coal, real estate, and other ventures.

Whitney became interested in Thoroughbred racing through his association with August Belmont, Jr., and he established his Whitney Stable at on his 490-acre estate in Westbury, Long Island. In 1898, he engaged George A. Freeman to design an 800-foot long, 84-box Tudor Revival stable and other estate buildings, and in 1902 McKim, Mead and White completed a Tudor Revival mansion on the estate, which also had bridal paths and a one-mile racetrack.¹¹⁰

Through his friendship with polo champion Thomas Hitchcock, Whitney acquired Joye Cottage in Aiken, South Carolina, and expanded it into a winter sporting estate, with a track, stables and a squash court, that became a center of the Aiken Winter Colony of rich northerners. Whitney's property holdings eventually comprised ten residences and some 36,000 acres, including a stud farm near Goshen, New York, and a rented farm, La Belle Stud, near Yarnellton, Kentucky. As Henry Adams observed about Whitney, people "no longer knew what most to envy, his horses or his houses."¹¹¹

The Whitneys – 1904 - 1932

Keene and Whitney had business and racing connections (H33), and under his trainer, John R. Rogers (NRM Hall of Fame), William Collins Whitney's horses were soon competing successfully with Keene's. In 1901, Keene sent 30 of his two-year-old Brookdale horses to England with his trainer James Rowe to race over the winter. Whitney was very interested in Brookdale, but since Keene had the lease, Whitney rented the 1,000-acre Woodburn Stud Farm, breeder of the famous stallion *Lexington*, in Spring Station near Lexington. In February 1904, Whitney contracted appendicitis and died at the age of 62, leaving an estate estimated at \$23 million (about \$733 million in 2018). Three months after his father's death, with Keene by then ready to move his stable elsewhere, Harry Payne Whitney (NRM Hall of Fame and Exemplar of Racing) concluded an agreement

¹¹⁰ <http://www.oldlongisland.com/search?q=the+manse>

¹¹¹ Mary Fesak, "Twentieth-Century Thoroughbred Training Landscapes of Aiken and Camden, South Carolina," Master's Thesis, 1918; Katharine C. Mooney, *Race Horse Men*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2014, 218.

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with Lewis Thompson to lease Brookdale Farm, which commenced its greatest breeding and racing period. As *The New York Times* reported:

Mr. Whitney is to take possession of the portion needed for a breeding farm in September. Col. Thompson's heirs will retain possession of the countryseat and the farm attached, while the paddocks, pastureland, and training quarters will be occupied by Mr. Whitney's stock. The training quarters at present are rented by James R. Keene, who will retain possession until September...

It was stated that Mr. Whitney would probably transfer to Brookdale the Thoroughbred stallions and mares that the late William C. Whitney collected as his breeding establishment, and kept on his rented farm, La Belle Stud, near Yarnellton, Kentucky. The stud at present comprises the two successful scallions, Hamburg and Meddler, and about 100 picked mares. It long has been the late Mr. Whitney's hope that he could find a suitable place near New York for the continuance of his breeding ventures, and he at one time negotiated for the lease or purchase of Brookdale, but never completed the transaction.

The younger Mr. Whitney, in securing a farm near New York, is following out the plan formulated by his father, and by so doing will affect an important saving in his management of the estate, as he will thus centralize the breeding and training establishments, which his father conducted on a lavish scale, with expensive grounds, owned or rented, in Kentucky, South Carolina, and at the Whitney country home at Westbury, Long Island. Brookdale is the oldest and most famous breeding farm in New Jersey, and was founded by the late D. D. Withers, who bred many celebrated horses there.¹¹²

Harry Payne Whitney was born in 1872 and was graduated like his father from Yale, where he earned a law degree and was a member of Skull and Bones. In 1896, he married Gertrude Vanderbilt, the daughter of Cornelius Vanderbilt II and great granddaughter of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt. Whitney was an expert horseman in his own right and a champion polo player, an interest he acquired from his father, William Collins Whitney, who helped organize American polo in the 1870s. (H34) Harry organized and captained an American polo team that defeated England's in 1909. Gertrude, born in 1875, was an accomplished sculptor and art collector, and when the Metropolitan Museum of Art later declined her offer to donate 700 art works because it didn't collect American art, she established the Whitney Museum in New York.

Harry Whitney's lease of the Brookdale Stable in 1904 initiated its greatest Thoroughbred racing era. That October, he arranged the auction of his father's stock at Madison Square Garden. The sale netted \$463,650 (about \$14.8 million in 2018), and "Harry Payne Whitney was the principal, purchasing 16 mares and two stallions—including the great *Hamburg* (NRM Hall of Fame) for \$70,000 (about \$2.2 million) and *Meddler* — to begin his own remarkable foray into Thoroughbred racing."¹¹³

Whitney also bought *Artful* (NRM Hall of Fame), a two-year-old daughter of *Hamburg* that beat James Keene's undefeated *Sysonby* by five lengths in the \$42,130 1904 Futurity. *Artful* continued winning in 1905 under John Roger's training at Brookdale and was the greatest of the 23 stakes winners bred by William C. Whitney. Thanks in large part to *Artful* (H35), *Hamburg* was rated the leading sire in America in 1905. At Brookdale, Rogers also trained two other horses bred by William C. Whitney that won the Belmont Stakes—*Tanya* (H35),

¹¹² "Brookdale For Mr. Whitney," *The New York Times*, May 11, 1904, 7.

¹¹³ <https://www.racingmuseum.org/hall-of-fame/william-collins-whitney>

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a daughter of *Meddler* who was only the second filly to win the Belmont, in 1905, and *Burgomaster* (H36), son of *Hamburg* who won in 1906 and was the 1906 Horse of the Year.

The 1905 State Population Census provides a view of residents and employees at Brookdale in the first full year of the Whitney lease. Besides the Thompson family, the household in “the big house” included seven others: a “family maid” and a “valet” from England; a “family cook,” “kitchen maid,” and “parlor maid” from Ireland; a Scottish “house maid;” and a Swedish “family waitress.” A “gardener” living with his wife supervised the lawns and roads. The “farm superintendent” and his family had three Irish servants listed as “waitress,” “farm laborer,” and “family cook,” plus a “farm laborer” from Russia and two from New Jersey.

The 1905 Census recorded 25 employees engaged with “Race Horses” in Whitney’s stable. Five were white: the foreman and a “New Jersey” man, and three boys aged 15, 13, and 5, the last from California listed as “Exercising race horses.” 19 stable employees were black: a “cook” from South Carolina and 19 men or boys ages 12 to 32 from New York, New Jersey, Washington D.C., Virginia, South Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee. An undated photograph of Brookdale stable hands (H37) depicts 20 black men and boys in their best outfits, including several in riding boots and in stable sweaters likely in the Whitney Colors of Eton blue and brown.

The fact that four out of five employees taking care of Harry Whitney’s horses at Brookdale Farm in 1905 were black reflects the long tradition of African American men involved in caring for, training, and racing horses that dates back to the earliest Colonial era, when slaves took care of their masters’ horses and often knew more about them than their owners. “Africans had a well-deserved reputation for equine expertise in the Atlantic world. The people of North African and the Middle East were world famous for their horses, and trans-Saharan caravans brought their animals and equestrian practices to West Africa, just as trade with Europeans brought to Britain the Arabian foundation sires of the Thoroughbred.”¹¹⁴

Before and after the Civil War, black grooms, trainers, and jockeys achieved rare levels of success and respect from white horse owners and turf enthusiasts, and some notably acquired fame and wealth, like Edward Dudley Brown (NRM Hall of Fame). Born a slave in Kentucky in 1850, Brown went to work at the age of seven for Robert Alexander at his Woodburn Stud Farm in Midway, Kentucky, and rode his way up to become one of the leading jockeys of his time, winning 53 documented races including the third Kentucky Derby and the Belmont Stakes. Along the way he accumulated wealth and fame as a breeder, trainer, and trader.¹¹⁵

Brown trained two Kentucky Derby winners, including in 1896 *Ben Brush*, who he had sold to William Dwyer for \$25,000 (about \$909,000 in 2018). In 1897, Brown hired 12-year-old Marshall Lilly, the son of a black horseman who worked for a prominent Kentucky breeder, as a helper. On a horse-selling trip to New York with Brown in 1901, Lilly was hired by James Keene’s trainer James Rowe to work as a groom at Brookdale, where he became the top exerciser. After Keene’s stable left Brookdale, Lilly won acknowledgement exercising

¹¹⁴ Mooney, C. Katherine, *Race Horse Men*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 7.

¹¹⁵ <https://www.racingmuseum.org/hall-of-fame/edward-d-brown>

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Keene's undefeated *Colin* (NMR Hall of Fame), trained by Rowe, who later called Lilly "the finest judge of pace that he ever saw and would be a great jockey were he not too heavy."¹¹⁶ (H38)

The extent of employment of black jockeys by D. D. Withers, Pierre Lorillard, the Thompsons, James Keene, and the Whitneys is unknown, but black hands were long prevalent at Brookdale. In the early 1900s, pushback from white jockeys and the growth of Jim Crow sentiments about the inferiority of blacks relegated black horsemen to background positions. As a 1907 *Washington Post* headline noted, "Negro Rider On Wane; White Jockeys Superior Intelligence Supersedes; Black Boys Once Had A Trust; Only Two Darkies of Note Are Now Successfully Competing On American Tracks; Whereas Years Ago They Were More Conspicuous In Numbers And Were Equal To Their White Rivals." While Lilly had left Brookdale with Rowe in 1901, they would both return.¹¹⁷

In 1906, the locally prominent Red Bank photographer Charles Foxwell created an album of photographs of Brookdale Farm, likely for Lewis Thompson but also probably for Harry Whitney as well. Foxwell's handsome photographs provide the first extensive photo-documentation of Brookdale, including portrait images of Whitney's notable horses *Hamburg*, *Artful* and *Tanya* (H35), and *Burgomaster* (H36), paddocks, the Thompson Mansion (H27 & 28), and the Training Stable. D. D. Withers built the 40-stall Training Stable in two sections around 1877, and Col. William Thompson appears to have added covered walks on either side visible in the Foxwell's photographs of the east side. (H39) The north view (H40) at the top left depicts the top of a water tower with a tank that D. D. Withers built (H9) but is no longer extant.

A view of the west side of the Training Stable (H41) (P5.2-5.4) shows the windowed enclosure of the western walk that Harry Whitney likely installed first on that side and subsequently on the east side. (P5.1) The resulting configuration creating an "ambulatory" around the inside of the Training Stable, resembling a recommended stable plan (H42) in an 1867 treatise on breeding and training race horses in the northeast that noted:

By having this walk sheltered from storms we never miss the advantage of having the horses exercised, no matter how bad the weather is; and in this northern latitude, by having it well littered with straw, we can gain a month in preparing the horses, equalizing our chances in the spring races with those living further south.¹¹⁸

While his trainer John Rogers died in 1907, Harry Whitney kept building his Brookdale Stable. In 1908 he bought seven-year-old *Broomstick* (NRM Hall of Fame), son of Edward Brown's *Ben Brush*, to stand at Brookdale, Whitney also bought *Broomstick's* yearling son *Whisk Broom II* (NRM Hall of Fame), but when the Hart-Agnew anti-gambling law passed in New York in 1908, he sent the yearling and other horses to England with his trainer A. Jack Joyner. After James Keene sent his horses to England in 1910 and released James Rowe, Whitney brought him back to Brookdale in 1911, and Rowe brought Marshall Lilly along as his exerciser. Whitney asked the farm manager to vacate his residence—the Thomas Lloyd House—so Rowe could

¹¹⁶ <http://colinsghost.org/2017/09/marshall-lilly-race-horse-man.html>

¹¹⁷ <http://colinsghost.org/2017/03/raleigh-colston-jr-the-last-african-american-trainer-of-an-era-1911.html>

¹¹⁸ Simpson, Joseph Cairn, *Horse portraiture: embracing breeding, rearing, and training trotters, with their management in the stable and on the track, and preparation for races*, New York: G. E. Woodward, c1867, 131.

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live there. Lewis Thompson or Harry Whitney erected a new dwelling (P16) to the north of the stud facilities for the farm manager.

In 1911, Lewis Thompson commissioned a property survey of Brookdale that provides the earliest known mapped documentation of its facilities. The "Map of Brookdale Farm" (H43) shows 617.49 acres in Middletown and 139.3 acres in Holmdel, for a total of 756.89 acres, somewhat less than the 833 acres reportedly accumulated by D. D. Withers. The 1911 Map does not name the facilities but shows their extent, with the Thompson House and the core of the breeding and training facilities in the center on the former Lloyd/Taylor parcel, the secondary training facilities on the east on the former Roberts Farm, and the locus of the farm operation on the west on the former McGee parcel.

The core section (H44) includes an octagonal "enclosed track or galloping shed" built with locust and chestnut and asbestos roofing. This is likely the "covered circle one-eighth of a mile in circuit" noted above that Withers built before 1874, but its curious octagonal shape does not conform to the more typical and extant oval training track (H17) that Pierre Lorillard built on his Rancocas Farm, and the extant one that Helen Hay Whitney built around 1930 on Greentree Stud Farm, now the Christian Brothers Academy, across Newman Springs Road. (H45&H46) The 1911 Map shows the one-mile track with a viewing stand that Harry Whitney likely built (H47) in place of the enclosed track. The east section of the Map shows the extensive stables and paddocks, and a half-mile track on what is now Brookdale Community College, which as noted has converted some of Withers' stables to educational uses, including a stable on the Roberts Farm portion of Brookdale photographed by Charles Foxwell in 1905.¹¹⁹ (H48)

Most of the breeding and training facilities shown on the 1911 Map were built by D. D. Withers. Col. Thompson, as noted above, built sheds and other structures, and Harry Whitney made some improvements, but the actual extent of their building is unclear. The 1911 Map may have been produced in conjunction with \$10,000 in improvements that Harry Whitney made at Brookdale in 1911. The improvements, as reported by the *Red Bank Register*, included remodeling and enlarging the barn built by Rulief Smock on the west section, and moving barns to that section, though which barns were moved is unknown.¹²⁰

Whitney's investment seemed untimely as the failure in 1911 of a New York bill to shield horse owners from the 1908 Hart-Agnew anti-gambling law led to the closing of all racetracks in the state. However, after the New York Supreme Court ruled in 1913 that Hart-Agnew only applied to bookmakers, the New York area racetracks quickly reopened.

Harry Whitney had kept up his training at Brookdale, and 1913 proved to be a great year for his stable. His two-year-old colt *Pennant* won the Futurity at Sheepshead Bay, and three days later Whitney bought the stallion *Peter Pan* (NRM Hall of Fame), *Pennant's* sire, from the stable auction of James Keene, who died earlier that year. Whitney's *Prince Eugene* won the Belmont Stakes, a record eighth Belmont win for Rowe. Whitney had sent Marshall Lilly to England to exercise his horses there, and in 1913 he brought him and *Whisk Broom II* back to America. The now six-year-old stallion won four races, including "a great performance" in the

¹¹⁹ "Fire At Brookdale," *Red Bank Register*, March 20, 1918.

¹²⁰ "Farm Being Improved," *Red Bank Register*, July 5, 1911.

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Suburban at Belmont Park while carrying 27 more pounds than the runner-up. Whitney finished 1913 as the leading owner in the country with \$55,000 (about \$1.4 million in 2018) in winnings, and Rowe was the leading trainer with \$45,900 (about \$1.2 million). Brookdale's 1913 racing feats, Thoroughbred historian Nelson Dunstan later noted, were "harbingers of a Whitney era that had no counterpart on the American turf."¹²¹

Whitney retired *Whisk Broom II* to Brookdale to stand, along with his sire, *Broomstick*, who a year earlier Whitney bred with his broodmare *Jersey Lightning*, a descendant of *Riley*, winner of the 1890 Kentucky Derby, and his sire the great *Longfellow*. When *Jersey Lightning* foaled a chestnut filly, Whitney "was hoping for a colt," according to racing lore, "and thus 'regretted' getting a filly." Whitney named her *Regret*, but she soon turned him around.¹²²

Rowe started training *Regret* with Lilly exercising her in 1913, and in 1914 she became the first of only four horses ever to sweep all three of Saratoga's annual races for two-year olds. Noting his older brother's great success in breeding and training in Monmouth County, William Payne Whitney, four years younger, and his wife Helen Hay Whitney bought three farms across Newman Springs Road from Brookdale Farm in 1914 for their Greentree Stables, named after their estate in Wheatley Hills, Long Island. They reportedly engaged James Rowe to train their horses as well as Harry's. Under the close management of the Whitney brothers, the Brookdale and Greentree stables operated cooperatively for the next 18 years.

At the 41st Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs in May, 1915, racing against 15 horses, mostly colts, *Regret* got a fast start and led into the last eighth, when she drew away until her jockey, Joe Notter, eased her up as she won by two lengths. (H49 & H50) *Regret*'s popular performance as the first filly to win the event, the president of Churchill Downs said, "made the Kentucky Derby an American institution." Joe Notter won again that year for Harry Whitney riding *Regret*'s full brother *Thunderer* to win the Belmont Futurity.¹²³

Regret (H51) won nine of her 11 starts in her racing career—a sweet affirmation of Harry Whitney's and his father's breeding and James Rowe's training (H52), and Marshall Lilly's exercising. "*Regret* was a totally homegrown filly for Whitney, and rewarded his faith in his selection of bloodstock. Not only had the breeder purchased her sire, *Broomstick*, and her grandsire *Hamburg*, but also her granddam *Daisy F.*, another out of his father's dispersal." *Broomstick* was the top-rated stallion in 1913, 1914, and 1915, and he stood at Brookdale until the age of 28 in 1929, when Whitney retired him to his Kentucky stable. By 1930, *Broomstick*'s get had won a total of 1,698 races with a value of \$2,382,246 (about \$35.7 million in 2018). He died in 1931 at the age of 30. *Broomstick*'s son *Whisk Broom II* in 1926 sired the filly *Swing On*, who foaled the legendary *Seabiscuit* (NRM Hall of Fame) at Clairborne Farm in Kentucky in 1933.¹²⁴

In November 1915, *The Thoroughbred Record* reported the horse population at Brookdale Stables at 67 broodmares, 29 weanlings, 38 yearlings, and 36 racehorses in training, a total of 170 horses. The U.S. Census that year recorded that ten of Brookdale's young black "horsemen" ages 10 to 16 were also school children at

¹²¹ Dunstan, Nelson, *The Thoroughbred in New Jersey: His Days and Deeds*. James Loftus, Editor. Camden, New Jersey: Garden State Racing Association, 1944, 32.

¹²² Deubler, Cindy, "Brookdale Memories," *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, September 2013, 31.

¹²³ <https://www.racingmuseum.org/hall-of-fame/regret>

¹²⁴ Deubler, op. cit., 30.

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the “Brookdale Private” school that Harry Whitney set up in the middle of the main operation area. (H52) (P12.1-12.2)

After one of Whitney’s stable boys died in Geraldine Thompson’s arms, as her daughter Elizabeth Thompson Babcock recalled in 1982, “The next morning for the first and only time I woke to the raised voices of my parents. My father said, ‘Honey, you cannot interfere. They are Harry Whitney’s employees. Dearest Lew, they are also children of God and I shall interfere.’ And she did. All the boys were checked for tuberculosis and she insisted the Trainer hire at Mr. Whitney’s expense a teacher for two hours every afternoon so the boys could learn to read.” As the *Register* noted about the school in 1915,¹²⁵

It is a school different from any other in Monmouth County...It is attended by fourteen colored boys ranging from fourteen to seventeen years. The boys are employed as exercisers for Mr. Whitney’s racehorses. Their works consists primarily in riding horses being trained for races... Most of the boys are orphans and only a few of them had ever been to school before Mr. Whitney provided this means of giving them an education. All of them are very eager to learn...

For a time Mr. Whitney got the boys to attend the village school, but this plan did not work satisfactorily. On account of their work some of the boys had to leave before school was over. For this as well as other reasons the plan of sending the boys to the Village school did not pan out. Mr. Whitney was anxious that the boys should have an education, so he hit upon the plan of having them taught on the farm...

Most of the boys are under sized, for only small chaps are wanted as exercisers, but the character of their work shows that though they like physical stature in mental capacity they measure up to the usual school boy standard.¹²⁶

After the U.S. entered the Great War in April 1917, Harry Whitney moved his breeding operations to Kentucky, but James Rowe kept training Whitney’s horses at Brookdale. By 1919, Lilly Barns Livingston (the former mistress of Pierre Lorillard who had married for a second time in 1906) decided that she could no longer support her modest breeding success at Rancocas and decided to sell it and take her best horses to Canada. After much speculation about who would take over the famed Rancocas Farm, Harry Ford Sinclair bought it and reignited the Brookdale-Rancocas rivalry that D. D. Withers and Pierre Lorillard had waged in the 1870s and 1880s. Sinclair was born in 1876 near Wheeling, West Virginia, and was trained as a pharmacist like his father but got into banking in Kansas, and made a fortune consolidating 11 oil companies into Sinclair Oil in 1916.

The Brookdale-Rancocas rivalry encompassed the owners, the trainers, and their horses. Sinclair’s highly successful trainer, Samuel Clay Hildreth (NRM Hall of Fame), was William Collins Whitney’s first trainer in 1898-1900, and was considered second only to James Rowe. Hildreth was born in Independence, Missouri, in 1866, and had trained for owners in England and France, and had won back-to-back Belmont Stakes for August Belmont, Jr., in 1916-1917. Hildreth also owned and trained his own winning horses, and was the leading owner 1909-1911. Sinclair bought Hildreth’s stable and brought him along with it to Rancocas. Lorillard had made Rancocas “the most solidly built stud farm obtainable,” and Sinclair’s additions made it “the most modern and

¹²⁵ Elizabeth Thompson Babcock to James Truncer, June 29, 1982, 9.

¹²⁶ “Unusual School, This,” *Red Bank Register*, March 3, 1915.

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complete Thoroughbred establishment in North America.” Hildreth lived in a cottage at Rancocas and later called his time there “the most contented days of my life.”¹²⁷

The Brookdale-Rancocas competition in the ensuing 1920s was pretty impressive. Whitney was the leading owner in 1920 with \$270,000 in earnings, and Sinclair was the leading owner in 1923 with \$263,000, and in 1924 with \$239,000. In 1926 Whitney reclaimed the title with \$407,000 (about \$5.8 million in 2018) in 1926 and retained it in 1927 with \$308,000. Sinclair and Hildreth’s Rancocas victories included three Belmont winners—*Grey Lag* (NRM Hall of Fame) in 1921, *Zev* (NRM Hall of Fame) in 1923, and *Mad Play* in 1924. Whitney’s and Rowe’s Brookdale victories included *Broomstick’s* get *Broomspun* winning the Preakness in 1921, *Whiskery* the Kentucky Derby in 1927, *Bostonian* the Preakness in 1927 and *Victorian*, *Whiskery’s* brother, the Preakness in 1928.

Besides training for Harry Whitney at Brookdale, James Rowe Sr., also trained for William Payne and Helen Whitney at Greentree Stables across the road. William Payne Whitney established Greentree Farm in Lexington, Kentucky, as the “breeding arm” of his turf operation, and thereafter used Greentree Stables primarily for training. Payne died suddenly at the age of 52 after playing tennis at his Long Island estate in 1927. Besides his inheritance from his father, he had inherited \$65 million from Col. Oliver Hazard Payne, a cofounder of Standard Oil and his wife’s uncle, and with investments in tobacco and Singer Sewing Machine, his estate was estimated to be over \$100 million (about \$1.4 billion 2018). Helen Whitney, who was a poet and author of children’s books, had a strong interest in horses and took over the management of Greentree Stable, with help from her son, John “Jock” Hay Whitney (NRM Hall of Fame), who was an accomplished polo player like Harry Whitney and became a prominent turfman in his own right, and her daughter, Joan Whitney Payson, who later was the primary founder and president of the New York Mets.

By 1929, James Rowe had been in the turf business for 61 years, and had trained Harry Whitney’s horses for 18 years, and the Greentree Whitney horses for part of that time. (H52) A recollection of one of his assistant trainers gives an idea of Rowe working at Brookdale:

Rowe was a tough taskmaster. He neither spared himself or his helpers. Up before light every day of the year, no matter what the weather might be, he always had his help up and doing. When an ailing horse required his personal attention, he would stay with it indefinitely.

He got used to sleeping in box stalls when he was a stable boy and budding jockey back in the ’70s. He found it just as easy to make himself comfortable in a box stall after he turned 70, when there was need of his presence at the stable, as he had when he was a kid. But exacting as he was, his help all loved and respected him. No man ever got more willing service out of hands of all sorts.

And no man ever had about him men of more intelligence. He employed no dumbbells. Once a man won a place in his organization he kept it because he deserved it. He made it plain to all that handling high-spirited Thoroughbreds was a delicate matter that required diligent as well as intelligent attention.¹²⁸

¹²⁷ Dunstan, op. cit., 36.

¹²⁸ <https://www.racingmuseum.org/hall-of-fame/james-g-rowe-sr>

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At the Saratoga meet in August 1929, Rowe became ill and died two weeks later at the age of 72. “No other horseman,” the *Red Bank Register* noted, “has placed his employer at the head of the list of money-winning owners as many times as Mr. Rowe. He won the distinction four times with the late James R. Keene and more than a dozen times for Mr. Whitney. He won more than three million dollars (about \$44 million in 2018) with racers under his charge and in 1907 established the greatest money-winning record up to that time of \$407,000 (about 11.7 million), which was beaten by Sam Hildreth during Zev’s reign,” from Harry Sinclair’s Rancocas Farm.¹²⁹

James Rowe brought much fame and good will to Brookdale, and his time there was its golden era of racing. Two months after Rowe’s death, Sam Hildreth died at the age of 63, leaving an estate worth more than \$1 million (about \$14.6 million in 2018). In their remarkable careers, Rowe trained eight Belmont winners, and Hildreth seven. Rowe was the leading trainer in winnings three times, and Hildreth nine times. Hildreth had trained for leading owners in winnings six times to Rowe’s 11. Hildreth and Rowe were both inducted into the National Racing Museum’s Hall of Fame as part of its inaugural class of 1955. There were closely matched in their racing accomplishments, but Rowe’s plaque there simply reads, “America’s greatest trainer.”

Recalling the 1920s, Thoroughbred historian Dunstan wrote in 1944, “Those were bright years, indeed for the Whitney horses. Rancocas was to display its greatest strength also, and as we look back, we marvel that those two farms in New Jersey could be the mediums of so much Thoroughbred greatness...New Jersey housed two of the greatest stables in the land. Not only had the state been the foaling place of many champions, but the wintering place of many more who emerged in the spring fit and ready to do battle from the very start.” For Whitney and Sinclair “New Jersey was the ideal location...They wanted their horses at a nearby point where they could see and be with them...Those interested in the horse could see two of the most powerful strings in America being trained in New Jersey, only an hour or so from the heart of New York City.”¹³⁰

After Rowe’s death, his son James Rowe, Jr. (H55), known as Jimmy, became Harry Whitney’s interim trainer. In the 1930 U.S. Census of the “Thompson Estate on Holmdel Road,” Jimmy Rowe’s household included his wife and two stepdaughters, two servants, two nurses, a cook and 11 black teenage “boarders” from New Jersey and other states listed as “none” for occupation but most certainly employed as stable boys, grooms, and exercisers—a total of 23 people in the expanded Lloyd House. Marshall Lilly was documented as “horseman-estate,” and his wife as “Teacher-private school,” possibly the Brookdale School, and their household included three black “horsemen” including one from Cuba, a “stud groom-estate,” and a chauffer from Massachusetts. The farm superintendent lived with his wife and brother in law, while a farm laborer lived in a building with 11 boarders listed as “janitor-private home,” “exercise boy-horses,” “caretaker-horses,” “racehorse man-estate,” “jockey,” “horseman,” and “laborer.” The Census also listed a farm operator and two farm laborers, a “gardener-estate,” a “valet-private estate,” and a “horse trainer-estate” with his wife and “horseman” son. In all, the 1930 Census documented 54 people living and working at Brookdale Farm, not including the Thompson’s live in help in the mansion.

¹²⁹ “Mr. Whitney’s New Trainer,” *Red Bank Register*, September 24, 1930.

¹³⁰ Dunstan, op. cit., 38, 45.

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In his last years Harry Whitney bred two promising yearlings in Kentucky that he sent to Brookdale—*Equipoise* in 1929, and *Top Flight* in 1930 (Both NRM Hall of Fame). *Equipoise*, trained by Freddy Hopkins, won six key races for Whitney in 1930, including the Pimlico and Futurity. In October 1930, Whitney contracted a cold, and like Col. Thompson in 1896, died shortly thereafter of pneumonia. He was 58. Having inherited about \$10 million, he left an estate estimated at \$69 million (about \$1.03 billion in 2018).

Harry Whitney's only son, Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney, who was born at the Westbury estate in 1899 and known as Sonny, took over his father's stable. Sonny Whitney hired Thomas J. Healey (NRM Hall of Fame) as trainer in January 1930, and Jimmy Rowe went to work for Helen Hay Whitney at Greentree Stables, where he trained the three-year-old bay colt *Twenty Grand*, bred by Helen Whitney and a great grandson of *Broomstick*. *Twenty Grand* won the Kentucky Derby and the Belmont that year, but sadly Rowe Jr. died of a heart attack that October at the age of 41. A week later the *Associated Press* reported that Marshall Lilly, rated at the turf's outstanding exercise rider, was promoted to the position of assistant trainer of Mrs. Hay Whitney's Greentree stable." Having proved himself exercising numerous champions for Edward Brown, James Keene, and the Whitneys, Lilly was finally receiving recognition of his mastery of Thoroughbreds.¹³¹ (H56)

Thomas J. Healey was a worthy successor to James Rowe at Brookdale. Born in 1866 on his father's dairy farm "just a few acres of fallow land south of Jerome Park, in Fordham," Healey started his turf career around the age of 15 working at Morris Park and worked his way up to be a celebrated trainer. As *The New York Times* noted when Sonny Whitney hired Healey,¹³²

That youngster of the '80s is in 1930 a stalwart six-footer of almost 60 who has behind him a remarkable horse training career and before him what seems to be further glory, despite the greatness of his past achievements...Healey is known as a trainer who has a remarkably small number of Thoroughbreds go wrong and as one who trains a horse to run over a distance of ground...the high place he has won for himself is due mainly to his constant study of horses and conditions governing them.

Healey trained winning horses for August Belmont II, Walter J. Salmon, and, over three decades for Richard T. Wilson, the President of the Saratoga Association and "one of the outstanding figures on the American turf." For these clients Healey won four Preakness victories, a record at that time, and one Belmont. For Sonny Whitney, Healey took command of "a string of almost 100 horses" bred by Harry Whitney, including the promising colts *Equipoise* and *Top Flight*.

Major changes were also afoot at Rancocas Farm in Jobstown. After the stock market crash in 1929, Harry Sinclair shifted his attention from his breeding and racing to focus on his business affairs. His filly *Ladana* won the Adirondack Stakes at Saratoga in 1930, but when she was poisoned at the track in 1931, the racing stewards charged him with negligence for not protecting her from infamous "spongers," who impaired horses just before a race by shoving sponges up their nostrils. After the stewards barred him from Saratoga, Sinclair put his 200-plus stable, except for *Zev* and *Grey Lag*, on the block in 1931, bringing the notable Sinclair era at Rancocas to an end.

¹³¹ <http://colinsghost.org/2017/09/marshall-lilly-race-horse-man.html>

¹³² "Player of the Game, Thomas J. Healey—H.P. Whitney's New Trainer," *The New York Times*, February 7, 1930.

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With the Great Depression underway, Geraldine Thompson (H57) used Brookdale to help raise money for social service programs. In the summer of 1931, she hosted her childhood and lifelong friend Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, N.J. Governor Morgan Larson, and 700 other guests at a benefit for the Monmouth County Organization for Social Services (MCOSS), which she co-founded in 1912. Eleanor “often mentioned Geraldine in her newspaper columns,” and Geraldine often solicited Eleanor’s help in other local efforts, like opening a health center for the Visiting Nurses Association in Red Bank.¹³³ (H58) At another event for MCOSS in 1931, Geraldine convinced Sonny Whitney to open his Brookdale Stable and Helen Whitney to open her Greentree Stable to the public for the first time. The *Red Bank Register* noted that the two “Race Horse Farms” opposite each other “are as modern as the most up-to-date establishments in the country,” and that “a water plant on Brookdale supplies both places.”¹³⁴

For the more than 500 visitors to the Brookdale open house, Sonny’s three-year-old stallion *Equipoise* — aka the “Brown Bullet of Brookdale” — was the big attraction, and with good reason as in 1932 under Tom Healey’s training (H59 & H60) he won ten races under the Whitney colors and continued racing into his seventh year, accumulating career winnings of \$338,000 (about \$6.2 million in 2018), the second highest at that time. Also under Healey’s training, Sonny’s filly *Top Flight* had beaten colts in the 1931 Belmont and Futurity races, and in 1932 she finished her racing career winning 12 of 16 starts with total earnings of \$275,000 (about \$5 million), a record for fillies. Like James G. Rowe, Thomas Healey’s great training accomplishments would be recognized by the National Racing Museum as a Hall of Fame inductee in its inaugural class of 1955.

The Whitney’s racing success over nearly three decades at Brookdale was so famous that it inspired Cole Porter, to include in his song “You’re The Top” in his 1934 musical *Anything Goes*, the lines, “You’re the top! You’re the Tower of Babel! You’re the top! You’re the Whitney Stable!”

To celebrate two of Harry Whitney’s greatest breeds, it appears that Sonny Whitney commissioned the noted equine artist Franklin B. Voss to memorialize *Equipoise* and *Top Flight* in paintings. (H61 & H62) They were also the last great horses associated with Brookdale, as Sonny decided to move his horses to his breeding farm in Lexington, Kentucky, after the 1932 season. A *Red Bank Register* editorial termed the announcement “a matter of genuine regret...these famous racing stables have for many years been an institution in this neighborhood. Many of the most famous horses in America have been stabled and put through their training paces at Brookdale Farm.” A later *Red Bank Register* article noted:¹³⁵

Thus Brookdale, which has seen in succession the all black silks of David Dunham Withers, the green-red sleeves and cap of the Thompsons, the pale, blue-white dots of James R. Keene, and the Eton blue jacket and brown cap made famous by three generations of Whitneys, will become a racing memory for the first time in three quarters of a century.¹³⁶

The Whitney’s lease of Brookdale, which ran for 28 years, reportedly included a \$1 annual rental payment and Whitney’s maintenance of all the breeding and training facilities and payment of the taxes and insurance on

¹³³ “Geraldine M. Thompson Dies,” *The New York Times*, September 10, 1967, 82.

¹³⁴ “Race Horse Farms Open To The Public,” *Red Bank Register*, July 29, 1931.

¹³⁵ “Removal of Brookdale Stables Matter of Genuine Regret,” *Red Bank Register*, July 20, 1932.

¹³⁶ “C. V. Whitney to Leave Brookdale Farm,” *Red Bank Register*, July 5, 1933.

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them. It appears to have been a good deal for Whitney as the Thompsons derived no rental income for the extensive facilities and land that Col. Thompson had purchased, but Whitney spent considerable sums running and maintaining Brookdale. Wilfred Mullin, Brookdale's accountant, recalled that, "In the 1920s, we had a revolving fund, just to show how much the Whitney's put into Brookdale. We had a bank account of \$25,000. You'd pay the bills, the help, and what not. You'd send the statement to New York...The Whitneys would send you a check to cover the \$25,000 (about \$358,000 in 2018) you'd use each month."¹³⁷

Harry Whitney maintained "the barns, pastures, paddocks, and stacks in pristine condition and made improvements such as enclosing the massive training barn to allow indoor training." As noted, William Collins Whitney appears to have added the shed roofs and the center roof to D. D. Withers' Training Stable, and Harry appears to have added the enclosing walls with upper windows in two stages. The quality of their construction and expansions, and the high level of maintenance by Withers and the Whitneys, enabled the preservation of many of the structures by Monmouth County in Thompson Park and by Brookdale Community College.¹³⁸

The end of the Whitney lease in 1932 marked the end of 60 years of remarkable Thoroughbred breeding and training at Brookdale since D. D. Withers established it in 1872. During that time Brookdale operated as a Thoroughbred village, with the owners living in the Thompson Mansion with servants, workers and spouses living in multiple houses, men and boys caring for, training, and breeding horses, raising chickens and cattle and dairy cows, growing hay, crops and vegetables for the equine and human inhabitants, and eventually having its own major water supply and its own school. Brookdale's "horsemen" bred, foaled, nursed, fed, groomed, broke, exercised, trained, raced, and buried an unknown total of horses but certainly into the thousands. Many Brookdale horses became champion racers, and many more produced champion descendants.

Along the way stable boys turned into grooms, some became exercisers and respected trainers like Marshall Lilly, and some possibly jockeys as well. If Lilly had been born earlier, he could have become a great jockey. In a 1975 interview, Lilly recalled his hiring by the great trainer James Rowe in 1901, and another stable hand warning him, "You'd be crazy to go to work for that man, he is the toughest man on the race track." "As long as he pays me," Lilly replied, "I'll work for him." Lilly's love of horses and his skill and persistence took him a long way at a time when blacks had few opportunities. He died in November 1975, aged nearly 91.¹³⁹

Besides raising horses and men, Brookdale was also a melting pot, with white men and black "horsemen" and farm hands from New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, WaIndiana, and immigrant help from Canada, Cuba, England, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, and Russia.

In 1932, Lewis Thompson commissioned a survey of Brookdale Farm by Johnson & Higgins of New York. (H63 & H64) The survey identifies the uses of the buildings and structures and has notations akin to a fire insurance map of the period, and thus was likely prompted by the expiration of the Whitney lease, which made the Thompsons responsible for insuring the breeding and training facilities. In the 21 years since the 1911 Map of Brookdale, the Thompsons and Harry Payne Whitney had erected many new buildings and expanded others,

¹³⁷ *Triangle of Land*, op. cit., 43.

¹³⁸ Deubler, op. cit., 31.

¹³⁹ <http://colinsghost.org/2017/09/marshall-lilly-race-horse-man.html>

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and had installed an extensive water system. Photographs of the 1930s also show the landscape around the mansion to be dense with large specimen trees and shrubs that had been planted decades before.

The most notable addition was a “colonial frame bungalow having twelve rooms and four bedrooms...175x26 feet by with a wing 48x22 feet...six main bedrooms, large dining room and living room, kitchen pantry and servants’ quarters.” The house featured “large open hearths” in the bedrooms, dining, and living rooms, “large exposed oak ceiling beams” in the living room, “antique doors and mantelpieces” in several rooms, and an exterior “finished with large colonial rived shingles.” The Thompsons’ son, Dr. William Thompson, who was on the staff of the Presbyterian Hospital in New York, commissioned the noted New York architects Delano and Aldrich to design his “bungalow” (P23.1-23.2) east of his parents’ house in 1930. Around their house, the Thompsons had also built a Swimming Pool on the north lawn, a Green House, Tennis Court, and Dog Kennel on the southeast side, and a Tool House/Root Cellar on the east.¹⁴⁰

Photographs of D. D. Withers House (H9) and Training Stable (H40) show the top of what appears to be a water tower south west of the house. That tower was removed at some point, and the 1932 Survey shows that either the Thompsons or Whitney built a brick Reservoir and Filter House and expanded a previous Pump House northwest of the Training Stable. (P11.1-11.6) The new water infrastructure included two 10,000-gallon pressurized underground tanks, underground water lines to the McGee area and the Roberts/Leonard homestead area, and three small brick Hose Houses. East of the Training Stable the 1932 Survey shows an expanded Mash House and a new Blacksmith Shop and Corn Crib. D. D. Withers octagonal “enclosed track or galloping shed” was destroyed by fire in 1918, and the Survey shows an open oval track installed in that location. The one-mile track on the south of the property now had a Judges Stand and an adjacent Cooling Shed.

By the Lloyd homestead area, new buildings included two Sheds, a Garage/Dwelling, and a Dining-Kitchen/Quarters. The previously expanded Lloyd House was labeled Trainer’s Dwelling, where Brookdale’s great trainer James Rowe lived, and the old farm office was labeled School and Office. A former carriage house northeast of the Lloyd House, was now labeled a Garage, and new structures included another Garage, a Kennel, a Shop, a Storage building, and a Dwelling/Office. These latter buildings were likely erected by the Thompsons as support facilities for their residency on the farm, and they may have erected the Dwelling/Office for their farm manager after James Rowe came to occupy the former Lloyd house in 1911.

At the former McGee homestead area at the west end of Brookdale Farm, the 1932 Survey shows that two Mare Barns were expanded and new structures included a Garage and Mash House, Corn Cribs, Wagon Shed, and a Storage building. At the former Roberts Farm homestead area on the east end, there was a new Tool Shed, Cow Shed, Hay Shelter, and Corn Crib, these likely built by the Thompsons, and a Training Track to the east that was noted as “Not Used.” To the south, Withers’ stable and paddock area (now part of Brookdale Community College) there was a new Tool House and Garage. Several buildings on the 1911 Survey that do not appear on the 1932 Survey may have been moved, as some documents mention the moving of barns. The presence of six former or new buildings designated “Garage” reflects the prevalence of automobiles and trucks on Brookdale Farm by 1932.

¹⁴⁰ “New Home in Lincroft,” *Red Bank Register*, December 18, 1929.

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Geraldine Thompson – Pioneer Activist in Health Care and Juvenile Justice

Geraldine Thompson was raised with a sense of civic responsibility and a passion for social reform. Dedicating herself to help the needy and those with physical and mental handicaps, she worked to reform the early primitive health and welfare programs within the state and county. Her efforts resembled those of some other women of similar background who took up the challenge of social reform, including Eleanor Roosevelt, with whom she formed a lifelong friendship.

Amidst the Great Depression's hardships, Geraldine Thompson's philanthropy and civic engagement gained increasing prominence. In 1931, Rutgers University conferred on her an honorary Master of Philanthropy degree, the first woman to be so honored. In a profile subtitled "Student of life in the Fields of Public and Social Reform," the New Jersey Health and Sanitary Association in its November 1935 issue of *Health Progress* cited her memberships on the State Board of Control of Institutions and Agencies — which she had helped establish, the Advisory Committee on Employment Problems, the New Jersey Tuberculosis League, and the New Jersey Conference of Social Work. With her memberships, the profile noted, this "unusual woman...takes a dynamic intelligence that makes her a vital factor in the program of each of these organizations."¹⁴¹

The 1935 profile also highlighted what came to be one of Mrs. Thompson's greatest achievements — her co-founding in 1912 of the Monmouth County Organization for Social Services, which is now the Visiting Nurse Association of Central New Jersey. Under her leadership as president, MCOSS grew into a State-sanctioned agency "novel in its authority and facilities for services," including county authority for parole, Old Age pensions, and admissions to state and county institutions. The agency provided well baby and bedside care, school nursing, and general welfare services, and it ran tuberculosis and mental hygiene clinics. Mrs. Thompson continued serving as MCOSS president until in 1952. Along with Lewis Thompson, Geraldine Thompson "lobbied vigorously to get the State to establish Allenwood Sanatorium," the Monmouth County's first tuberculosis hospital, and she served as its president from its opening in 1920 until 1950. An associate noted:¹⁴²

Mrs. Thompson possesses such a marvelous combination of characteristics: ability, interest, enthusiasm, human understanding to a remarkable degree, kindness, and a tolerance for human weakness. She has the happy faculty of enjoying a difficult situation end of bringing to its solution a trained mind that knows not how to be petty...

She stimulates her associates to further effort and bears even more than her share of the toil necessary for its fulfillment; she modestly gives most of the credit to others, for partnership in enterprise is a reality, not a name, with her...

It is a joy and a privilege to work with such a woman.¹⁴³

¹⁴¹ "Brookdale Woman To Receive Award," *Red Bank Register*, November 14, 1935.

¹⁴² Freedman, Estelle, B., *Maternal Justice, Miriam Van Waters and the Female Reform Tradition*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996, 63.

¹⁴³ "Brookdale Woman To Receive Award," op. cit.

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The Health and Sanitary Association at its November 1935 meeting in Asbury Park recognized Mrs. Thompson with a “token of esteem” for her accomplishments in advancing hygiene, sanitation, health, and welfare, noting, “New Jersey is a better place because she is here.” Along with her charitable and welfare activities, she had been involved in Republican politics since 1917. At a time when few women participated on this level, she attended every Republican National Convention from 1920 to 1952, and in 1923 she became the first woman from New Jersey to be elected to the Republican National Committee. Mrs. Thompson saw political activism as the best way to pursue her humanitarian goals to help the less fortunate.

As her activities were broadening, Lewis Thompson only spent part of his time at Brookdale. Known for his marksmanship, the “millionaire sportsman... was a big game hunter, spending from November to April hunting at Sunny Hill, May fishing off the Florida Keys, June and July salmon fishing in Canada, and the fall duck hunting at Montauk point and long point on Lake Erie. He kept a “pack of 50 hunting dogs” and numerous trophies and ribbons at Sunny Hill, and “a fine collection of skins and heads of many animals shot by he and Mrs. Thompson graced his Brookdale home” inside and out until a fire destroyed them in 1915. Like Geraldine, Lewis had been active in Republican politics and had served as a delegate to the 1904 Republican National Convention. When he turned 70 he started feeling ill and a year later in 1936 he died “of heart trouble” at Sunny Hill, his 12,000-acre game preserve in Thomasville, Georgia, near Tallahassee, Florida.¹⁴⁴

With Lewis Thompson away for long periods, his wife had long assumed management of their home portion of Brookdale not leased by Harry Whitney, and after Sonny Whitney moved his stable to Kentucky, she assumed management of that part as well. Without the Whitney lease, and with less money available after Lewis Thompson’s estate was distributed, Geraldine Thompson “turned every structure used by Whitney employees into self-contained small apartments,” and after Pearl Harbor she made them available to soldiers from Fort Monmouth. Her superintendent and four or five men maintained Brookdale, including the mile and an eighth track, where she used to run with her dogs. The superintendent rented out stalls in the stables to horse owners who also had use of the pastures and the track. “My Mamma,” recalled Betty Babcock, “could never break even, but she cut the cost of keeping Brookdale to the bone.”¹⁴⁵

In 1943, she decided to sell “the farm end” of Brookdale — the western portion extending into Holmdel that contained livestock pastures, orchards, and fields for grain and vegetables — to Maurice Pollak, a dairy farmer who kept “sixty head of Thoroughbred Jersey cattle” on his Marlu Farm in West Long Branch. The 200-acre parcel had “5,000 feet on Newman Springs Road... two houses, three large barns built by the late Mr. Withers for his Thoroughbred racers, and several additional buildings.” (H65 & H66) As Elizabeth Thompson Babcock later recalled, “I don’t think my mother could have borne to sell an inch of Brookdale to anyone but Mr. Pollak. She liked him very much, had great respect for him, and knew that he intended to use the land for a dairy farm.” Pollak moved his Marlu Farm dairy operation there.¹⁴⁶

In the 1940s, a new era of horse racing opened in New Jersey with a new generation of turfmen. Twenty-two other states including New York had legalized pari-mutual betting and were collecting revenue from it, and

¹⁴⁴ “L. S. Thompson Dies Of Heart Trouble In South,” *Red Bank Register*, March 26, 1936.

¹⁴⁵ Elizabeth Thompson Babcock to James Truncer, August 30, 1982, 19.

¹⁴⁶ “200 Acres in Old Withers Racing Farm Bought in New Jersey for Dairy Use,” *The New York Times*, November 7, 1943.

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New Jerseyans approved a referendum in 1939 allowing the State to establish racing rules. With high hopes for reopening Monmouth Park, Monmouth County voters approved the referendum with the largest plurality in the state.

Maurice J. O'Leary, a Monmouth Beach resident, executive of a ship repair firm, and aspiring turfman, leased 200 acres of Brookdale Stud facilities from Geraldine Thompson in 1941 and started building a string of Thoroughbreds that he called the Mimosa Stock Farm.

Racing proponents in South Jersey opened Garden State Park in Cherry Hill in 1942 despite the U.S. entry into the Second World War, and on the July 18 opening day, "thousands walked from Camden to be there. The track was deep in mud, but a great cheer rolled over the grounds as the field for the first race paraded to the post."¹⁴⁷

Garden State Park's early success and the prospects for a new Monmouth Park further encouraged turfmen to invest in stud facilities in New Jersey. William G. Helis, a Greek-immigrant oil millionaire based in New Orleans, purchased Rancocas Farm from Harry Sinclair in 1943. The 1,300-acre stud farm contained 52 buildings from the Lorillard and Sinclair periods, plus 90 miles of fencing around lush paddocks, and Lorillard's one-and-five-eighths mile track, still one of the largest anywhere. Helis spent over \$1 million (About \$14.5 million in 2018) on horses, and renamed Rancocas as the Helis Stock Farm.

Across the road from Brookdale at Greentree Farm (H45 & H46), Helen Whitney and her trainer, John M. Gavin, had achieved some notable success with several racers later inducted into the Hall of Fame. After Helen's death in 1944, her son John "Jock" Whitney and his wife Joan, accomplished breeders in their own right, continued operating Greentree Farm until it was sold in 1957 to the Christian Brothers Academy.

For a new Monmouth Park, Amory Haskell, a leading proponent of the 1939 racing referendum, Reeve Schley, Joseph M. Roebing, and four other turfmen formed the Monmouth Park Jockey Club and built a one-mile track, grandstand, and clubhouse in Oceanport along the Shrewsbury River just about a mile from the 1870 and 1890 Monmouth Park racetracks. (H19) Opening day June 19, 1946, attracted 18,000 attendees, and soon "Monmouth Park returned to a level of glory and prestige that had only been a memory."¹⁴⁸

By 1948, Maurice O'Leary at Brookdale Farm, "by careful breeding and culling," had developed a string of 90 horses in his Mimosa Stable. Of his 27 mares, 22 had "foals at foot" that spring. He had 18 yearlings from Brookdale boarding at Cedar Brook Farm near Spring Lake. George Cochrane, a manager with 25 years of experience including several years at Kentucky's famed Calumet Farm, ran Mimosa Stable for O'Leary with a staff of ten, and Edward Regan was the trainer. They sent 15 racers to Monmouth Park and New York tracks that year. Another Monmouth County breeder, Mrs. Albert Roberts at her Renegade Farm in nearby Tinton Falls, sent her smaller string of racers to "winter rest quarters at Brookdale." Thus thanks to the reopening of Monmouth Park, Brookdale Farm had another run Thoroughbred activity.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁷ Dunstan, op. cit., 88.

¹⁴⁸ <http://www.monmouthpark.com/history.aspx?id=149>

¹⁴⁹ "Mimosa Farm Builds Impressive String of Racers at Lincroft's Brookdale Farm," *Asbury Park Press*, May 23, 1948.

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Also reflecting the new Monmouth Park, William Helis increased Rancocas Farm to over 2,000 acres. After his death in 1950, his son William G. Helis Jr., continued breeding horses at Rancocas that “won numerous races at East Coast tracks in the 1950’s.” After William Jr.’s death in 1970, his heirs switched to cattle raising, and Helis descendants continue to operate Helis Stock Farm today.¹⁵⁰

To Geraldine Thompson, Brookdale was more than a stud farm, and she was developing her own ideas about its future, and about her legacy. She had a longtime interest in land conservation. She had inherited 323 acres of woods on the Hudson River in Staatsburgh near where she grew up, and in 1934 she decided to donate the land as a natural area to New York State in honor of her sister, Margaret Lewis Norrie. Years later, she was a leading proponent of preserving Ocean County shore land as Island Beach State Park.

In 1938, Thompson also encouraged her distant cousin, Gladys Livingston Mills Phipps, whose father-in-law, Henry Phipps Jr., was a business associate of Andrew Carnegie, to donate to New York State the adjacent 190-acre estate of her parents, Ogden Mills & Ruth Livingston Mills. The property included the Mill’s 65-room Beaux Arts mansion designed by Stanford White and completed in 1896, the same year as the Thompson House at Brookdale. The contiguous Margaret Lewis Norrie State Park and Ogden Mills & Ruth Livingston Mills Memorial State Park with the Mills Mansion now preserve over 1,100 acres of woods, designed landscapes, and historic structures on the Hudson. In the early 1950s, Geraldine Thompson lobbied the State to purchase 2,964-acres of shoreland from the estate of Henry Phipps Jr., and in 1953 it became Island Beach State Park.

At an Asbury Park gathering of 200 people celebrating her 80th birthday in August 1952, she conveyed her deep love of nature that she acquired growing up in the Hudson Valley and living at Brookdale over more than five decades. “We’ve got to live with nature,” she said. “The children have to feel the ground beneath them and go out in the woods and see the trees and the birds.” Two years later, she established and helped fund a Natural Science Center for Young People at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, to provide “children an opportunity to study nature life in the field.”¹⁵¹

After living with African American servants for her whole life, and having experienced so many young black “horsemen” at Brookdale and having pressured Harry Whitney to start a school for them (H54), Geraldine Thompson wanted “to promote better opportunities for deserving colored students.” In 1952, she established a Colored Scholarship Committee and announced two scholarships she funded (H67), one at Cornell in the name of General Eisenhower.¹⁵²

With hearing problems at the age of 82, she resigned from the State Board of Control of Institutions and Agencies in 1954 after having served on it in four decades. In 1959, Monmouth College conferred on her an honorary Doctor of Letters degree, “citing her lifelong and continuing devotion to the betterment of society.”¹⁵³

¹⁵⁰ “W. G. Helis, 70, Oil Producer in Louisiana,” *The New York Times*, August 8, 1988.

¹⁵¹ *Triangle of Land*, 2005, op. cit. 59; “Geraldine M. Thompson Dies,” *The New York Times*, September 10, 1967, 82.

¹⁵² “Form Colored Scholarship Committee,” *Red Bank Register*, October 30, 1952.

¹⁵³ *Triangle of Land*, 2005, op. cit. 59.

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That year, representatives of Rutgers University and a Quaker group expressed interest in buying Brookdale Farm. Mrs. Thompson had long harbored hopes that one of her sons would move to Brookdale. Dr. William Thompson and his family had enjoyed their summer house on the farm, but had remained living in New York. After he died in 1948 at the age of 52 and her daughter Geraldine (“Puss”) died in 1949 at the age of 46, she gave the Church Farm portion of Brookdale to her oldest son, Lewis Steenrod Thompson III, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force and known as “Pinky,” in hope that he would eventually move to Brookdale to keep it in the family. Her hopes were diminished when he informed her that he would retire to his wife’s family’s plantation in Georgia.

By 1960, Geraldine Thompson had lived at Brookdale for 64 years, had raised her family there, and had always loved its fields and forested areas, and had fond memories of its Thoroughbred days. Over the years, she had developed a strong relationship with Joseph Irwin, the Director of the Monmouth County Board of Freeholders from 1952 to 1974, and she observed with keen interest his efforts and that of others to establish a county park system and open the first County Park — Shark River Park — in 1960. On a *New York Times* clipping about her 88th birthday on March 2 that year, she wrote: “40 acres to county Park and Recreation Department for children of Lincroft. Brookdale 225 acres including 17 buildings to county of Monmouth as park and wildlife preserve.” That same year, she donated 40 acres next to Lincroft Elementary School to Middletown for a playground and public park, and it became the municipal Thompson Park.¹⁵⁴

In the fall of 1962, Mrs. Thompson invited Joseph Irwin to Brookdale to discuss her intentions for its future. “I would like nothing better,” she said afterwards, “than to know that Brookdale in the future would be an open place for children and for animals because they have a place here, too. I would want it to be under the control of the county and open to all.” “Brookdale Farm,” Joe Irwin wrote to her, “has probably the greatest potential for County Park development of any lands in the county. We are most gratified that you are giving this matter serious consideration. The park department and Board of Freeholders recognize a critical need for the preservation of a county park area in the northern part of the county, which is growing more rapidly than any other. We have been investigating a number of sites none of which have the outstanding potential of Brookdale farm.”¹⁵⁵

When her son Lewis S. Thompson, Jr., died in 1965 at the age of 61, it was also the demise of any hopes she still harbored for a Thompson to take over Brookdale Farm. He was the third of her four children to predecease her. “Beautiful Brookdale,” her only surviving child, Betty Babcock, later wrote, “was a solace to her broken heart.” Two years later on September 9, 1967, she died at the age of 95 in her big Brookdale house, where she had lived for 71 years. (H68) Though she had lost three children, she was survived by 12 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.¹⁵⁶

Her determination to preserve the landscapes and history of Brookdale Farm created her lasting legacy. (H69 & H70) In her will, she bequeathed the 215-acre central core of Brookdale (H71) “together with all the buildings

¹⁵⁴ Ibid., 59.

¹⁵⁵ Zink, Clifford, *The First Fifty Years: The Monmouth County Park System*, Lincroft, New Jersey: Monmouth County park System, 2010, 7.

¹⁵⁶ Elizabeth Thompson Babcock to James Truncer, August 30, 1982, 20.

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and improvements thereon...to the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Monmouth County...to be used in perpetuity solely for park purposes.” Her donation included “her magnificent residence, large barns and stables, paddocks, several houses and maintenance buildings.” She also generously provided a year of additional employment to her staff, including “two aged black gentlemen,” to ease their transition and the County’s preparations. The Freeholders named the Monmouth County Park System’s fifth park, Thompson Park, in recognition of her generosity and public service.¹⁵⁷

Monmouth County – Thompson Park

With suburban development rapidly consuming Monmouth County farmland and open space, Geraldine Thompson’s donation of Brookdale Farm inspired other County landowners to preserve their land, thereby contributing significantly to the development of one of the finest county park systems in New Jersey. In 1969, Helen Hermann donated 35 acres of her Baysholm Farm and Elizabeth Durand donated 90 acres of her farm, both in Freehold Township. Four years later, she donated an additional 36 acres. In 1973, Genevieve Hubbard Tatum donated 73 acres of her Indian Springs Farm in Middletown to establish Tatum Park, the Huber Family donated 119 acres to establish Huber Woods Park in Middletown in 1974, and in 1985 Ed and Joanne Mullin donated their historic Walnford House and Mill along with 36 acres in Upper Freehold to establish Historic Walnford. Like Geraldine Thompson, Park System Secretary-Director James Truncer noted, these “donors had a deep concern for open space and wanted to see their lands preserved and not subdivided and developed.”¹⁵⁸

In 1968, Monmouth County purchased the 220.8-acre eastern portion of Brookdale Farm that Geraldine Thompson had given to her youngest son, Lewis S. Thompson, Jr., from his estate for \$700,000. The County Freeholders established Brookdale Community College on the site, and in respecting the history of Brookdale Farm, the College adapted several of D. D. Withers’ historic barns for academic use. In 1985, the Park System added to Thompson Park by acquiring the 334-acre Marlu Farm on the west side of the Park that Geraldine Thompson had sold in 1943 to Maurice Pollak for a dairy farm. Pollack had added to the farm over the years from his original 200-acre purchase. The Park System that year also acquired the adjacent 118-acre Cheeca Farm along Longbridge Road, bringing Thompson Park to its present 667 acres.

Since establishing Thompson Park in 1968, the Park System has preserved and adapted Brookdale Farm’s important historic buildings and features for park uses. It adapted the Thompson mansion for its Visitor Center, and the 1786 Thomas Lloyd House and Dr. William Thompson’s 1929 house for administrative offices. Two buildings that once housed farm workers continue in residential use, and others now serve as offices or training facilities. Former barns and stables and other farm buildings are now used for recreational activities, maintenance, and storage. The former Training Track now serves as a walking and jogging trail. The Park System has also preserved the historic landscape by maintaining original trees and shrubs around and in front of the Thompson House, and by planting new ones in keeping with the type and spirit of the Thompsons’ original plantings. The Park System has removed a few buildings in poor condition and not associated with Brookdale

¹⁵⁷ Elizabeth Thompson Babcock to James Truncer, August 30, 1982, 26.

¹⁵⁸ Zink, op. cit., 15.

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Farm's turf history, and it has added a few structures for visitors' use and for park maintenance away from the core buildings.

In February 2006, a roofing contractor accidentally started a fire that destroyed the 1896 Thompson House. During their occupancy, the Thompsons had rebuilt parts of the house damaged by fire on two occasions. To preserve the legacy of Geraldine Thomson and the history of Brookdale Farm, the Park System rebuilt the Thompson house (P32.1-32.2) on its original site using previous building plans and reopened it in 2009 with an extensive exhibit on Brookdale Farm. The exterior closely replicates the original design, and on the interior the first floor plan and center hall are largely the same as well. Today, the rebuilt Thompson House continues as the centerpiece of Thompson Park and a monument to the rich history of Brookdale Farm.

The Brookdale Farm Historic District preserves the core buildings of Brookdale Farm from "the Golden Age of racing and breeding in New Jersey — the late nineteenth century and the opening decades of the twentieth." In his two decades of developing Brookdale Farm, 1872 to 1892, David Dunham Withers created first class facilities for a Thoroughbred stock farm, exceeded in New Jersey only by Pierre Lorillard's Rancocas Farm. During their 28-year tenancy, 1904 to 1932, Harry Payne Whitney and his trainer James Rowe and his son Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney made Brookdale Farm the highest winning Thoroughbred stable in America. In their 75-years of ownership, 1893 to 1968, Col. William Thompson and his son Lewis Thompson significantly improved the property, while Geraldine Thompson preserved its beautiful landscape, historic buildings, and rich history. For the last five decades, the Monmouth County Park System has preserved Brookdale Farm's open spaces and historic structures for public use and enjoyment, and has interpreted its history for current and future generations.¹⁵⁹

¹⁵⁹ Cole, Peter and Ronald C. Weyer, *The Thoroughbred Horse of New Jersey*, Newark, New Jersey: New Jersey Historical Society, 1960.

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Middletown Township Tax Assessments – 1761, 1793

Monmouth County Deeds

Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory, 1981, HSI 1331-88.

REPOSITORIES

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10. Geographic Data (cont.):

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See Map 1a through Map 1d – The northeast Boundary is 2,915 feet along Newman Springs Road, the east borders Brookdale Community College, the south borders the northern branch of the Swimming River Reservoir, and the west follows the 1969 Brookdale Farm Survey (H71) plus two farm lanes noted below.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries follow the 1969 survey (H71) of the donation 215 acres of Brookdale Farm to Monmouth County, with the addition of 13 contiguous acres of former Brookdale Farm land, northwest of the donation, that the County acquired in 1985. The 13 acres are part of the district to include number 9. Yearling Barn 2 and historic farmland frontage on Newman Springs Road. For the 13 acres, the south boundary follows the northwest route of a former farm lane, the west boundary follows the northeast route of a former farm lane, and the north boundary follows Newman Springs Road.

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Continuation Sheet

Brookdale Farm Historic District
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number photos Page 1

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Brookdale Farm Historic District

City or Vicinity: Lincroft

County: Monmouth State: NJ

Photographers: Clifford Zink, Berge Parigian, Kristen Norbut

Date Photographed: 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 0.1 Brookdale Farm, view south, B. Parigian.tif
- 0.2 Brookdale Farm, view northwest, B. Parigian.tif
- 0.3 Brookdale Farm, view northeast, B. Parigian.tif
- 0.4 Brookdale Farm, Operations Area, view southwest, B. Parigian.tif
- 0.5 Brookdale Farm, view south, B. Parigian.tif
- 0.6 Brookdale Farm, view northeast, B. Parigian.tif
- 1.1 Lloyd House - Acquisition & Design Office, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 1.2 Lloyd House - Acquisition & Design Office, view northeast, C.W. Zink.tif
- 1.3 Lloyd House - Acquisition & Design Office, view south, C.W. Zink.tif
- 1.4 Lloyd House - Acquisition & Design Office, Stair, view northwest, C.W. Zink.tif
- 1.5 Lloyd House - Acquisition & Design Office, Cupboard, view east, C.W. Zink.tif
- 1.6 Lloyd House - Acquisition & Design Office, Fireplace, view east, C.W. Zink.tif
- 2.1 Lloyd Barn 1 - Garage Storage, view northwest, C.W. Zink.tif
- 2.2 Lloyd Barn 1 - Garage Storage, view northwest, C.W. Zink.tif
- 2.3 Lloyd Barn 1 - Garage Storage, view northeast, C.W. Zink.tif
- 2.4 Lloyd Barn 1 - Garage Storage, view northeast, C.W. Zink.tif
- 2.5 Lloyd Barn 1 - Garage Storage, view southeast, C.W. Zink.tif
- 2.6 Lloyd Barn 1 - Garage Storage, view northeast, C.W. Zink.tif
- 3.1 Lloyd Barn 2 - Graphics Building, view north, B. Parigian.tif
- 3.2 Lloyd Barn 2 - Graphics Building, view west, B. Parigian.tif
- 3.3 Lloyd Barn 2 - Graphics, Building, C.W. Zink.tif

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Brookdale Farm Historic District
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number photos Page 2

- 3.4 Lloyd Barn 2 - Graphics Building, view west. C.W. Zink.tif
- 4.1 Wagon House - Outdoor Adventure Office, view north, C.W. Zink.tif
- 4.2 Wagon House - Outdoor Adventure Office, view south, C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.1 Training Stable, view southwest, B. Parigian.tif
- 5.2 Training Stable, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.3 Training Stable, view northeast, B. Parigian.tif
- 5.4 Training Stable, view north, C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.5 Training Stable, South Walk, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.6 Training Stable, South Walk, view north, C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.7 Training Stable, South Walk, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.8 Training Stable, South Walk Loose Box, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.9 Training Stable, Center Passage, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.10 Training Stable, North Alley, view north, C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.11 Training Stable, North Alley, view southwest, C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.12 Training Stable, North Loft, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.13 Training Stable, North Loft, view south, C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.14 Training Stable, North Loft, view north. C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.15 Training Stable, Loft Center, view north east, C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.16 Training Stable, Loft Center, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.17 Training Stable. North Loft, view southwest, C.W. Zink.tif
- 5.18 Training Stable, South Loft, view southwest, C.W. Zink.tif
- 6.1 Ten Mare Barn - Garage Storage & Lloyd Barn 1, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 6.2 Ten Mare Barn - Garage Storage, view northeast, B. Parigian.tif
- 6.3 Ten Mare Barn - Garage Storage, view north, B. Parigian.tif
- 6.4 Ten Mare Barn - Garage Storage, view north, C.W. Zink.tif
- 6.5 Ten Mare Barn - Garage Storage, view north, C.W. Zink.tif
- 6.6 Ten Mare Barn - Garage Storage, view northeast, C.W. Zink.tif
- 7.1 Training Track, view southeast, C.W. Zink.tif
- 7.2 Training Track, view northwest, C.W. Zink.tif
- 8.1 Yearling Barn 1 - Theatre Barn, view west. B. Parigian.tif
- 8.2 Yearling Barn 1 - Theatre Barn, view east, C.W. Zink.tif
- 8.3 Yearling Barn 1 - Theatre Barn, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 8.4 Yearling Barn 1 - Theatre Barn, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 8.5 Yearling Barn 1 - Theatre Barn, view north, C.W. Zink.tif
- 8.6 Yearling Barn 1 - Theatre Barn, view north, C.W. Zink.tif
- 9.1 Yearling Barn 2 - Activity Barn, view west, B. Parigian.tif
- 9.2 Yearling Barn 2 - Activity Barn, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 9.3 Yearling Barn 2 - Activity Barn, view northwest, B. Parigian.tif
- 9.4 Yearling Barn 2 - Activity Barn, view northwest, B. Parigian.tif
- 10.1 Two-Stall Stable, Administration Storage, view east, C.W. Zink.tif
- 10.2 Two Stall Stable, Administration Storage, view south, C.W. Zink.tif
- 11.1 Pump House & Reservoir - Carpenter & Sign Shops, view east, B. Parigian.tif
- 11.2 Pump House & Reservoir - Carpenter & Sign Shops, view south, B. Parigian.tif

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

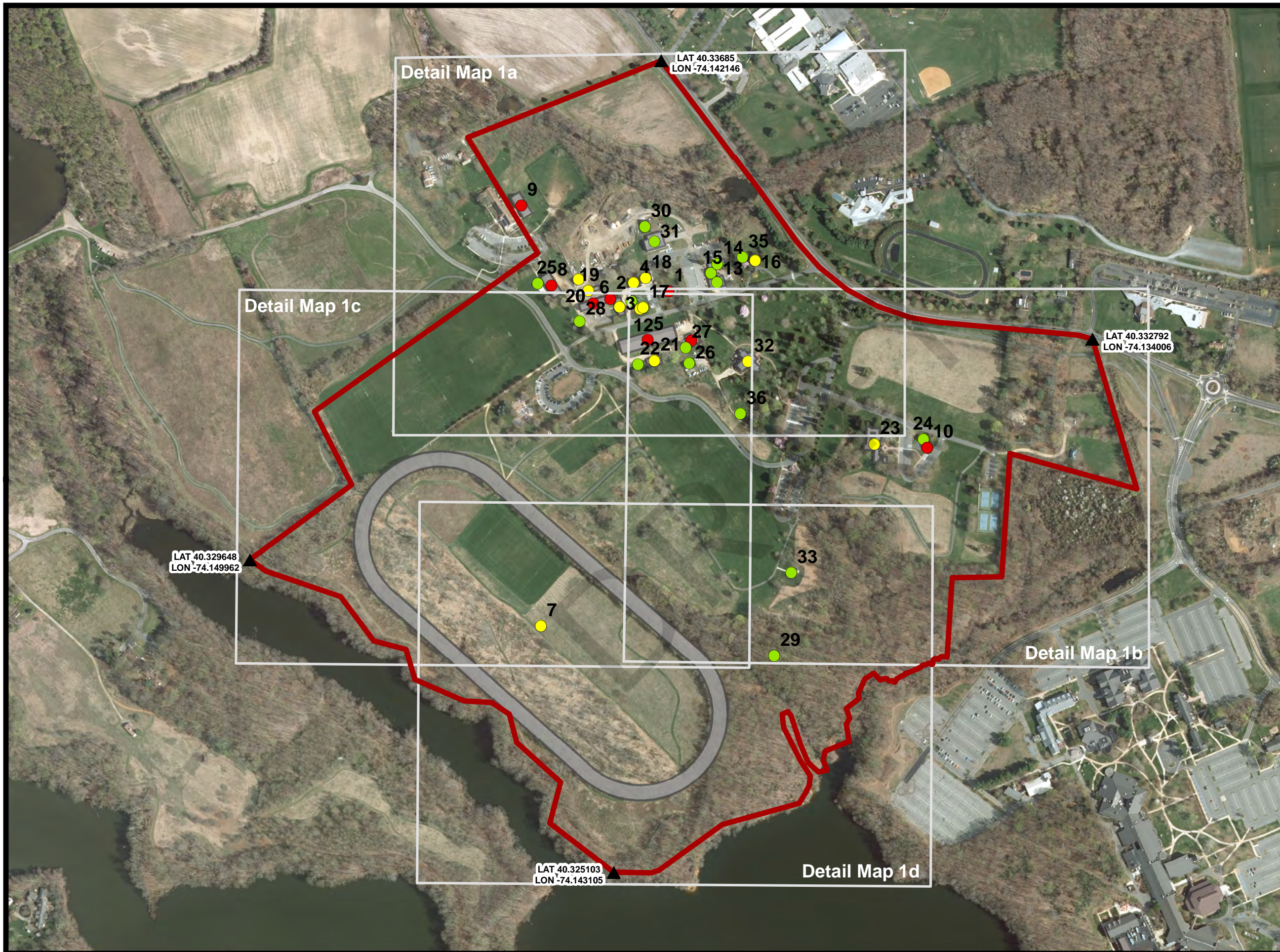
National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Brookdale Farm Historic District
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number photos Page 3

- 11.3 Pump House & Reservoir - Carpenter & Sign Shops, view northeast, B. Parigian.tif
- 11.4 Saw Building & Pump House, View North, C.W. Zink.tif
- 11.5 Pump House - Carpenter Shop, view east, C.W. Zink.tif
- 11.6 Reservoir - Sign Shop, view south, C.W. Zink.tif
- 12.1 School & Office - Sites Project Office, view north, C.W. Zink.tif
- 12.2 School & Office - Sites Pr0ject Office, view south, C.W. Zink.tif
- 13.1 Garage - Maintenance Shop, view north, C.W. Zink.tif
- 14.1 Garage - Maintenance, view north, C.W. Zink.tif
- 15.1 Shop - Maintenance, K. Norbut.tif
- 16.1 Dwelling & Office - R anger's Residence, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 17.1 Hose House - Garbage Shed, view south, C.W. Zink.tif
- 17.2 Hose House - Garbage Shed, view south, C.W. Zink.tif
- 18.1 Garage & Dwelling - Acquisition & Design Annex, view north, C.W. Zink.tif
- 19.1 Shed - Lumber Shed, view north west, K. Norbut.tif
- 20.1 Five-Stall Stable - Lumber Storage, view north, C.W. Zink.tif
- 20.2 Five-Stall Stable - Lumber Storage, view northwest, C.W. Zink.tif
- 21.1 Mash House - Construction & Repair Office, view south, B. Parigian.tif
- 21.2 Mash House - Construction & Repair Office, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 21.3 Mash House - Construction & Repair Office, view east, C.W. Zink.tif
- 22.1 Construction & Repair Storage, view east, C.W. Zink.tif
- 23.1 Or. Thompson House - Administration Office, view southwest, C.W. Zink.tif
- 23.2 Or. Thompson House - Administration Office, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 24.1 Administration Garage & Two-Stall Stable, view north, C.W. Zink.tif
- 24.2 Administration Garage & Two-Stall Stable, view east, C.W. Zink.tif
- 25.1 Ski Hut, view north, C.W. Zink.tif
- 25.2 Ski Hut & Yearling Barn 1, view northeast, B. Parigian.tif
- 26.1. Recreation Barn, view northwest, C.W. Zink.tif
- 26.2 Recreation Barn, view west, K. Norbut.tif
- 28.1. Vending Building, view north, K. Norbut.tif
- 29.1 Storage Building, view west, K. Norbut.tif
- 30.1 Sand Storage Building, view south, K. Norbut.tif
- 31.1 Central Supply Warehouse, view west, C.W. Zink.tif
- 32.1 Thompson House - Visitor Center, view southwest, B. Parigian.tif
- 32.2 Thompson House - Visitor Center, view southeast, C.W. Zink.tif
- 33.1 Old Orchard Picnic Shelter, view north, K. Norbut.tif
- 34.1 Garbage Shed, view east, K. Norbut.tif
- 35.1 Storage Shed, view west, K. Norbut.tif
- 36.1 Gazebo, view north, K. Norbut.tif



Key Map

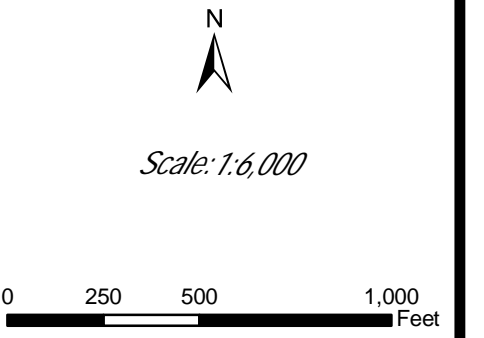
Brookdale Farm Historic District

New Jersey and National Registers Nomination
 805 Newman Spring Road
 Middletown Township,
 Monmouth County, New Jersey

Boundary and Tax Map

Legend

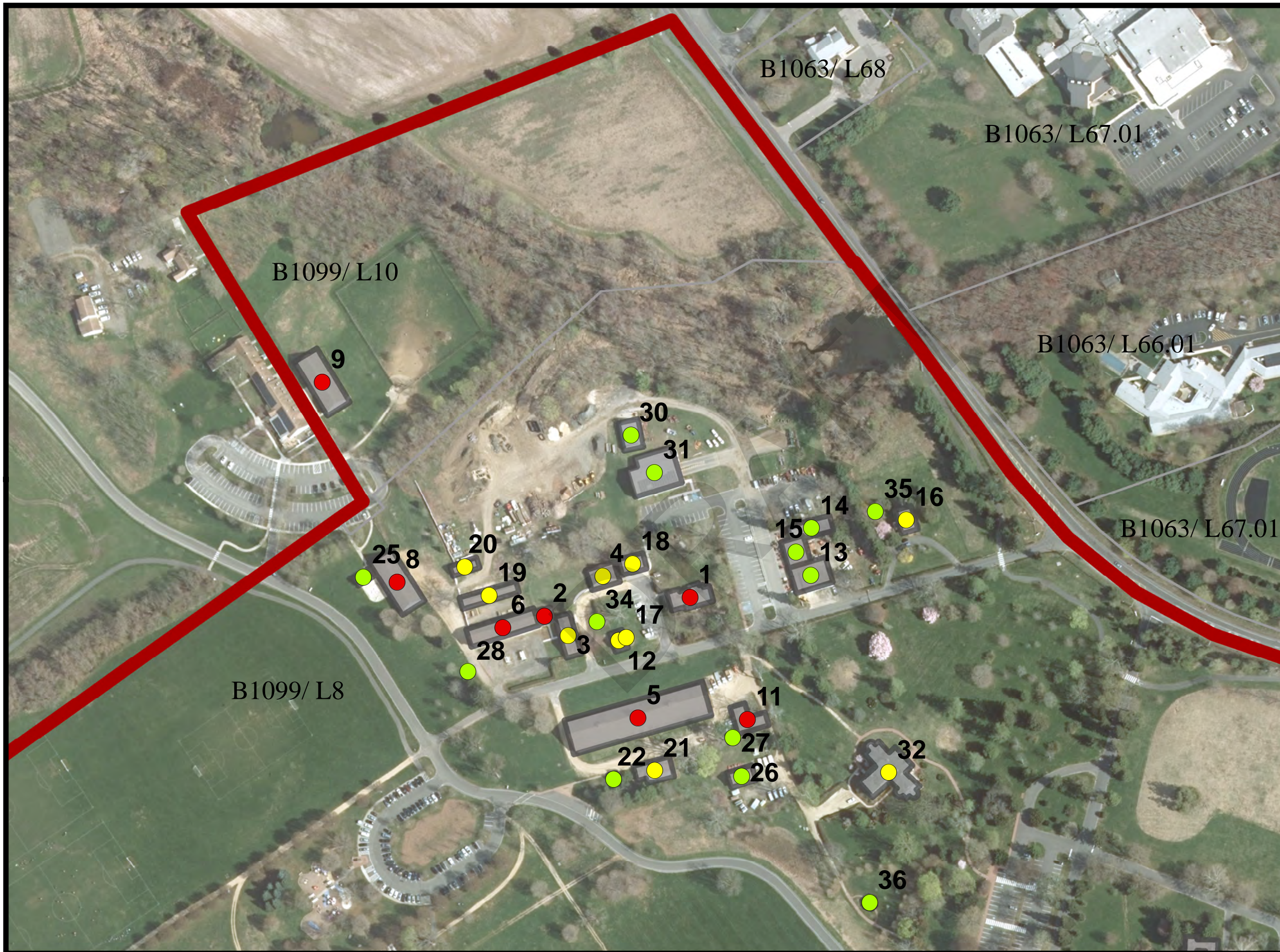
- Brookdale Farm H.D.
- Detail Map
- Coordinates
- Contributing
- Key-contributing
- Non-contributing
- Buildings and Structures



228.5 Acres

BFHD OVERVIEW

*NJDEP, Historic Preservation Office
 December 2018*



Map 1a

Brookdale Farm Historic District

New Jersey and National
Registers Nomination
805 Newman Spring Road
Middletown Township,
Monmouth County, New Jersey

Boundary and Tax Map

Legend

Historic District Status

- Contributing
- Key-contributing
- Non-contributing
- Buildings and Structures
- Brookdale Farm H.D.
- Parcels Data (Block and Lot)



Scale: 1:2,400



228.5 Acres

BFHD Detail
1 of 4

*NJDEP, Historic Preservation Office
December 2018*



Map 1b

Brookdale Farm Historic District

New Jersey and National
Registers Nomination
805 Newman Spring Road
Middletown Township,
Monmouth County, New Jersey

Boundary and Tax Map

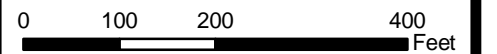
Legend

Historic District Status

- Contributing
- Key-contributing
- Non-contributing
- Buildings and Structures
- Brookdale Farm H.D.
- Parcels Data (Block and Lot)



Scale: 1:2,400



228.5 Acres

BFHD Detail
2 of 4

*NJDEP, Historic Preservation Office
December 2018*



Map 1c

Brookdale Farm Historic District

New Jersey and National
Registers Nomination
805 Newman Spring Road
Middletown Township,
Monmouth County, New Jersey

Boundary and Tax Map

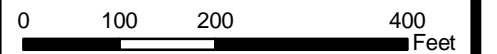
Legend

Historic District Status

- Contributing
- Key-contributing
- Non-contributing
- Buildings and Structures
- Brookdale Farm H.D.
- Parcels Data (Block and Lot)



Scale: 1:2,400



228.5 Acres

BFHD Detail
3 of 4

*NJDEP, Historic Preservation Office
December 2018*

Map 1d







Brookdale Farm Historic District

New Jersey and National
Registers Nomination
805 Newman Spring Road
Middletown Township,
Monmouth County, New Jersey

Boundary and Tax Map

Legend

Historic District Status

-  Contributing
-  Key-contributing
-  Non-contributing
-  Buildings and Structures
-  Brookdale Farm H.D.
-  Parcels Data (Block and Lot)



Scale: 1:2,400



228.5 Acres

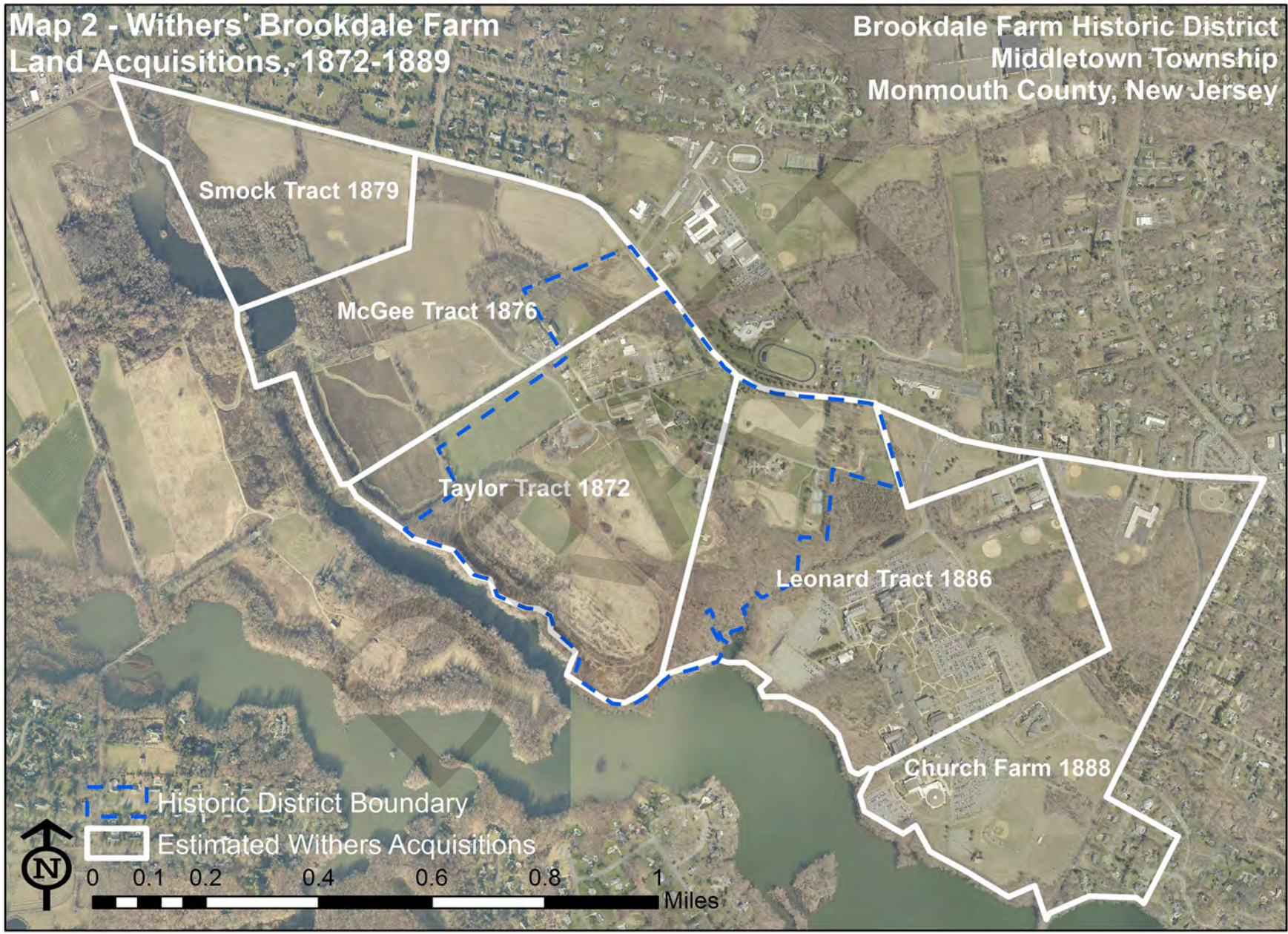
BFHD Detail
4 of 4

*NJDEP, Historic Preservation Office
December 2018*



**Map 2 - Withers' Brookdale Farm
Land Acquisitions, 1872-1889**

**Brookdale Farm Historic District
Middletown Township
Monmouth County, New Jersey**



Map 3 - Historic District in Thompson Park

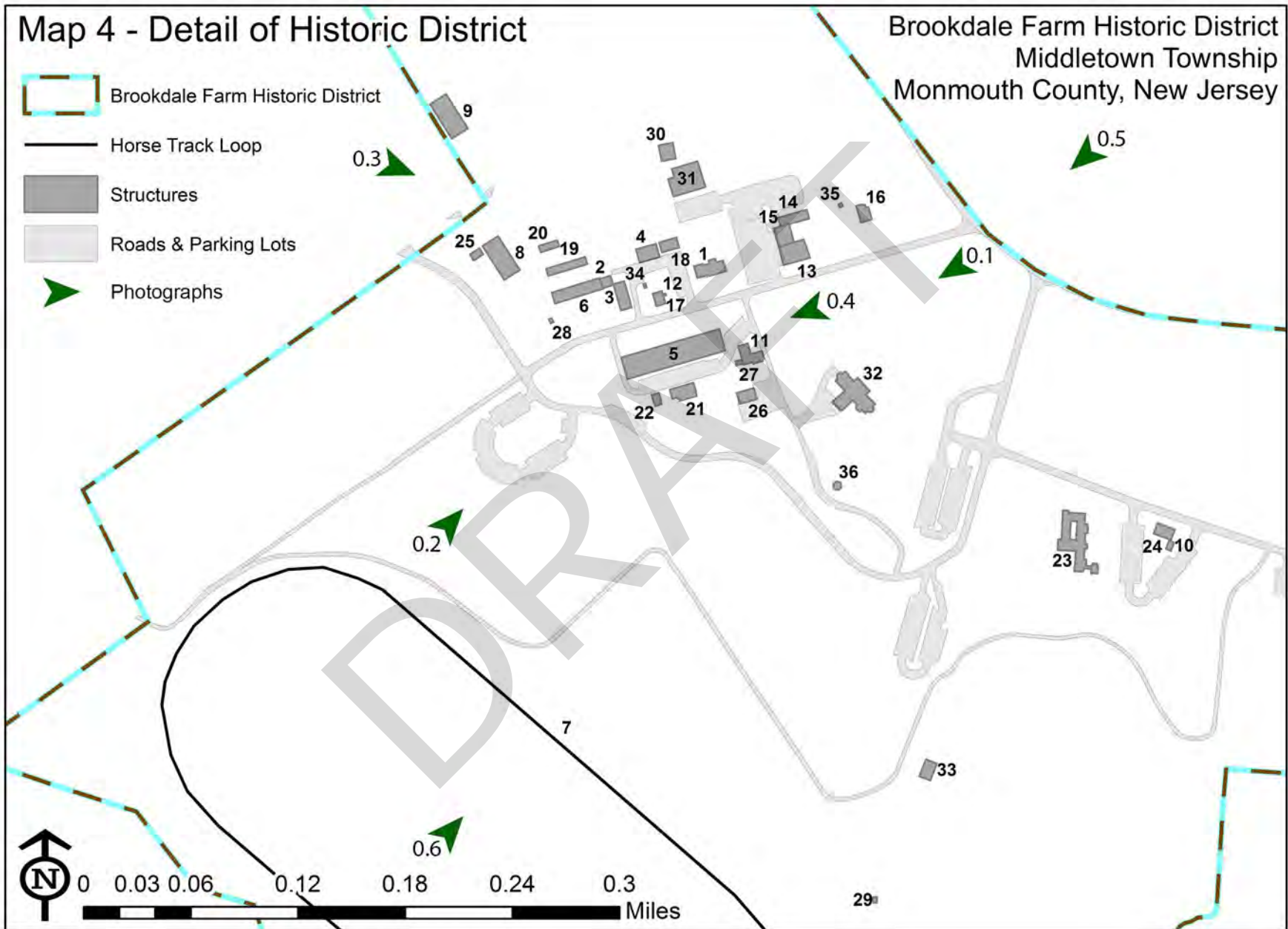
Brookdale Farm Historic District
Middletown Township
Monmouth County, New Jersey



Map 4 - Detail of Historic District

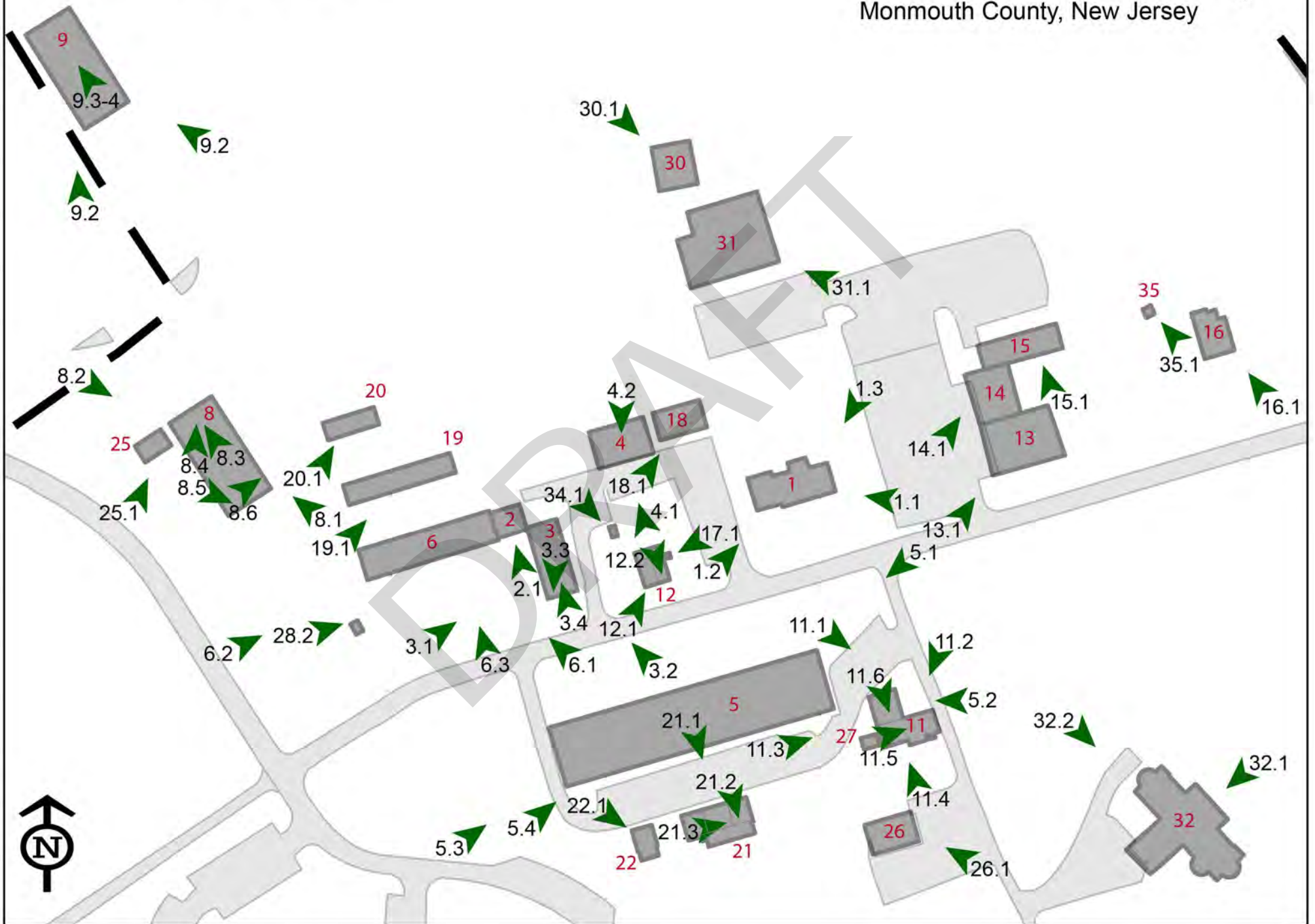
Brookdale Farm Historic District
Middletown Township
Monmouth County, New Jersey

-  Brookdale Farm Historic District
-  Horse Track Loop
-  Structures
-  Roads & Parking Lots
-  Photographs



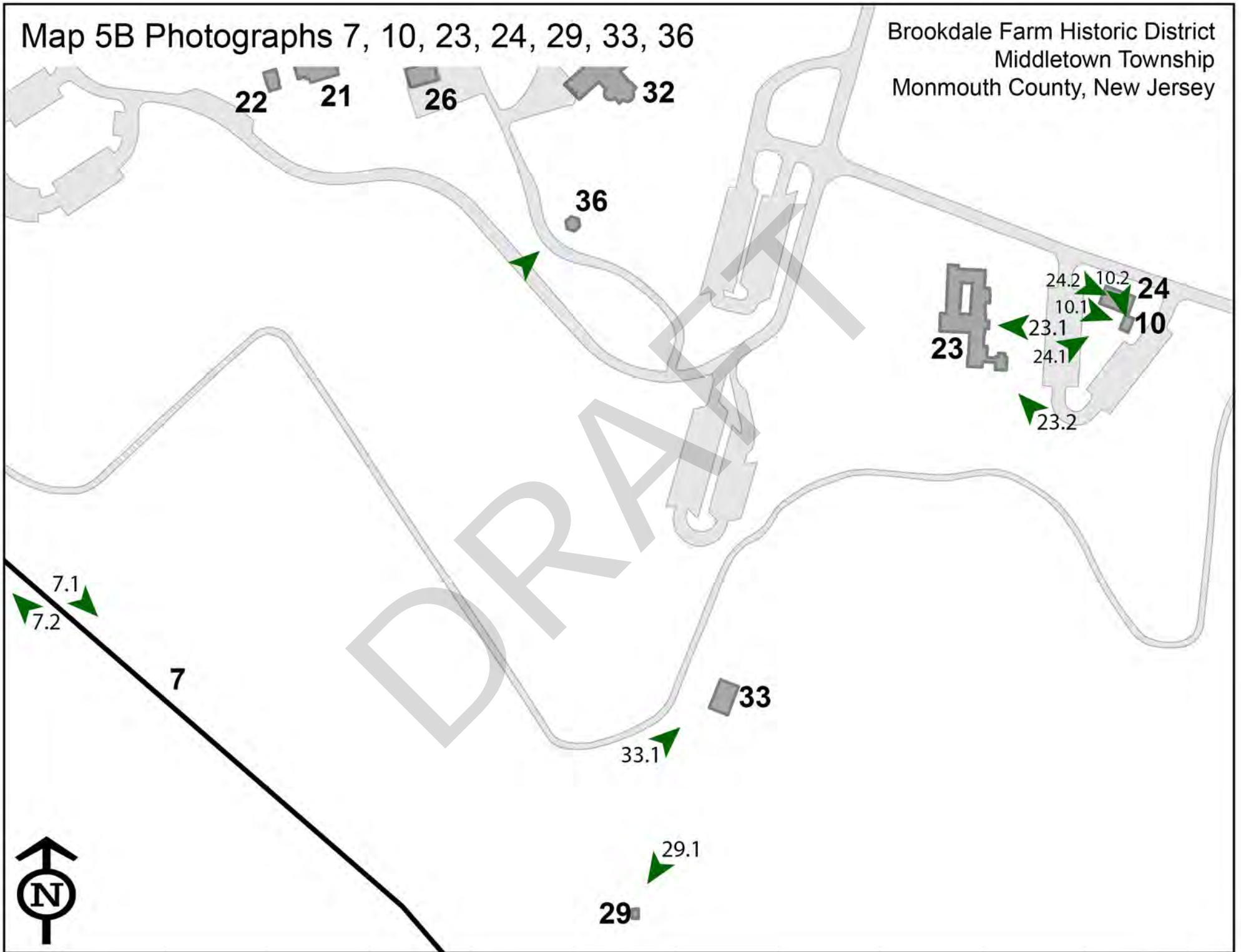
Map 5A Photographs

Brookdale Farm Historic District
Middletown Township
Monmouth County, New Jersey



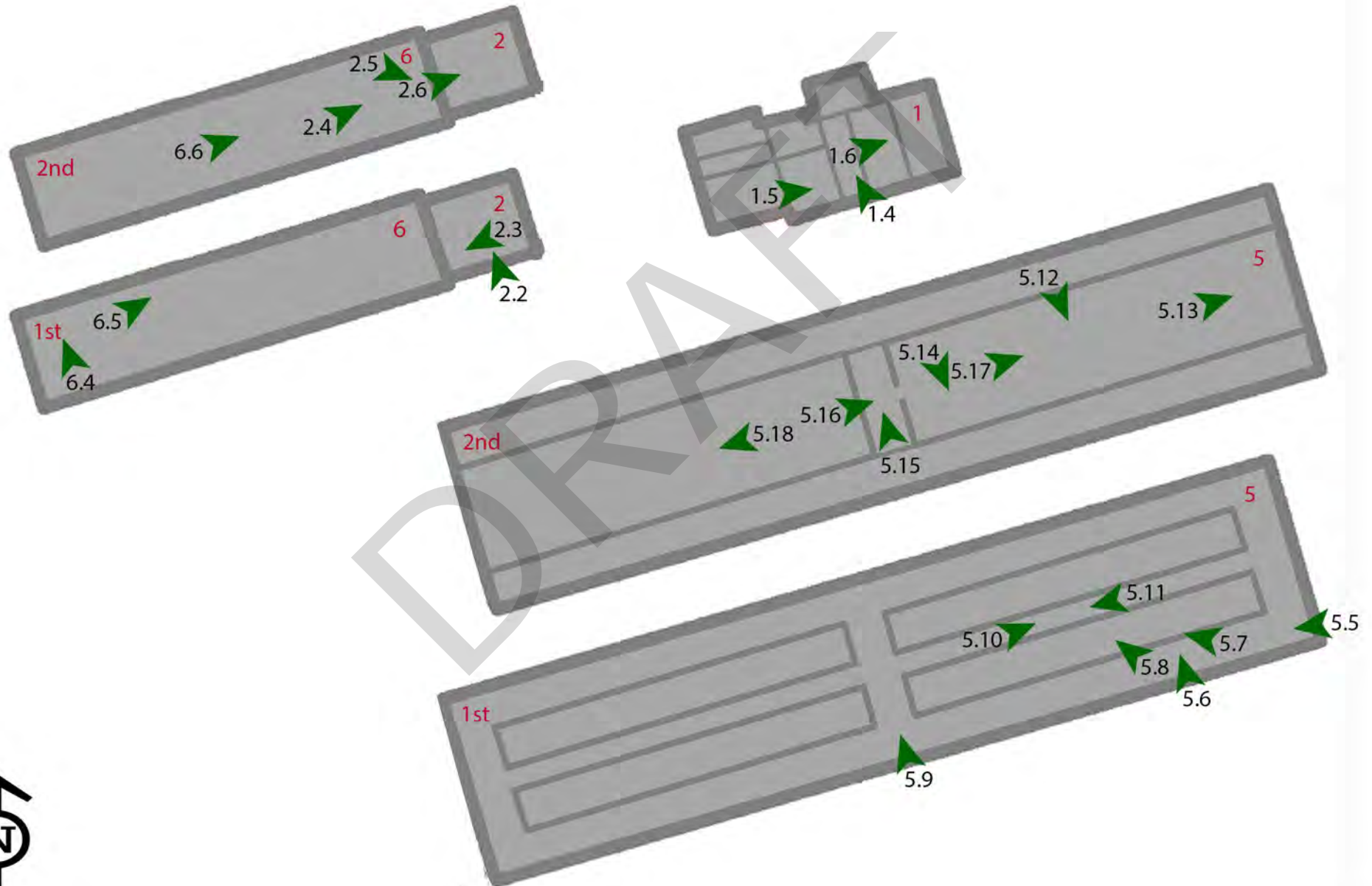
Map 5B Photographs 7, 10, 23, 24, 29, 33, 36

Brookdale Farm Historic District
Middletown Township
Monmouth County, New Jersey



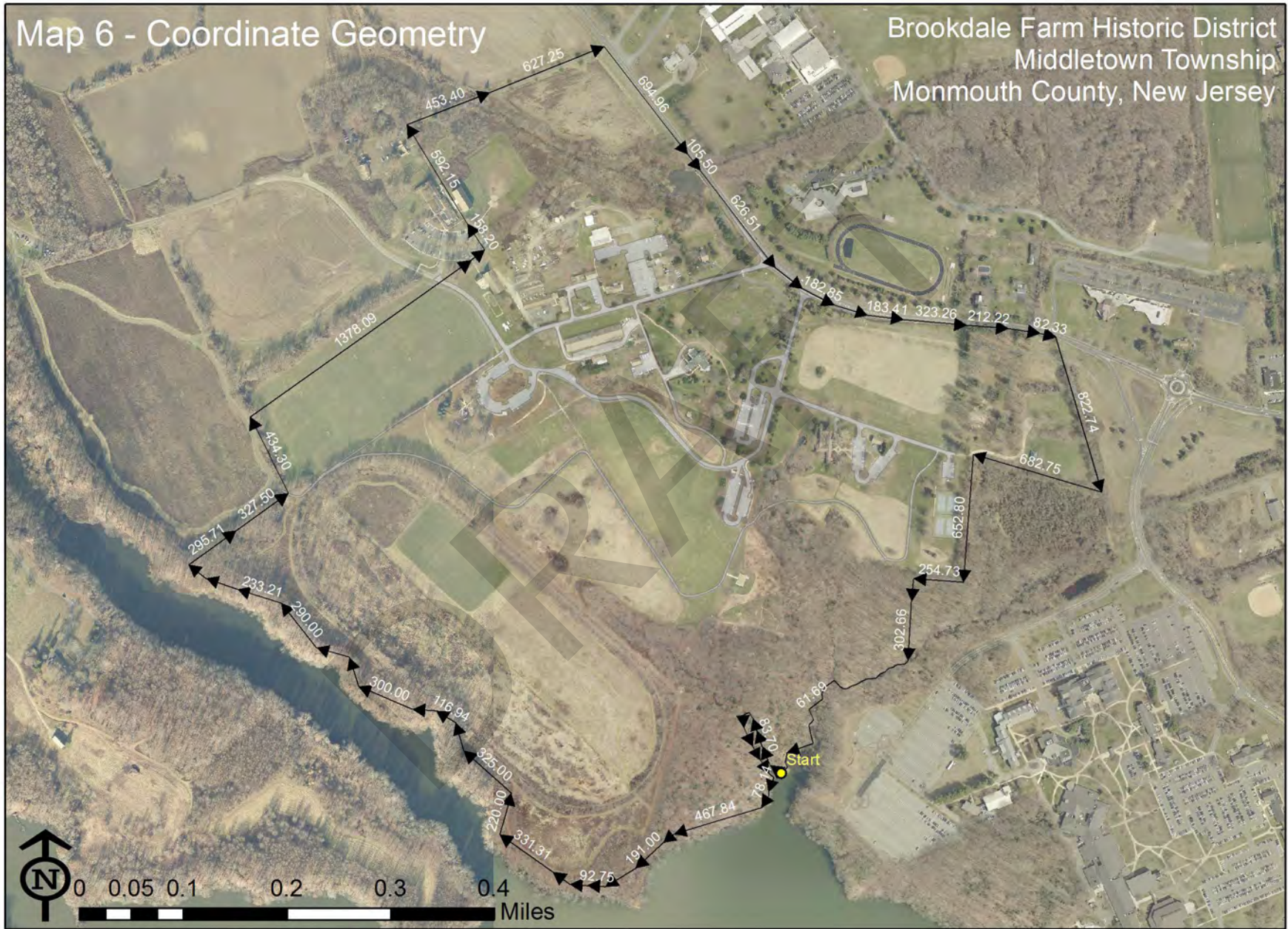
Map 5C Photographs - 1, 2, 5, & 6 Interiors

Brookdale Farm Historic District
Middletown Township
Monmouth County, New Jersey



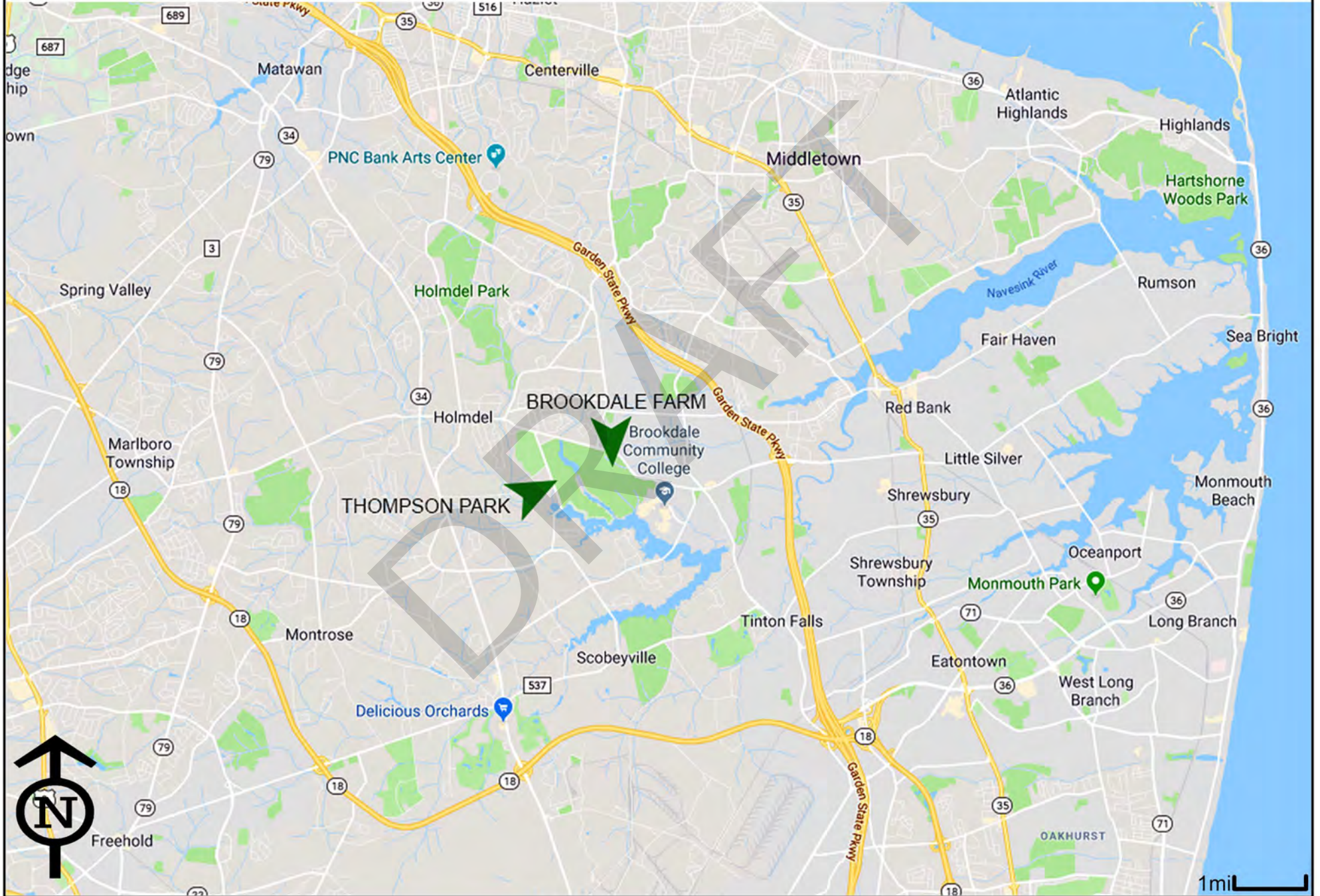
Map 6 - Coordinate Geometry

Brookdale Farm Historic District
Middletown Township
Monmouth County, New Jersey

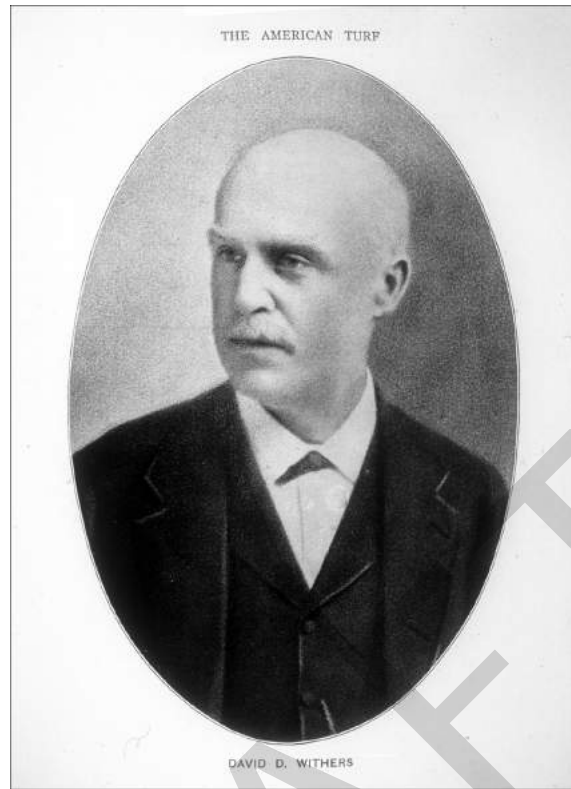


Map 7 Brookdale Farm in Thompson Park

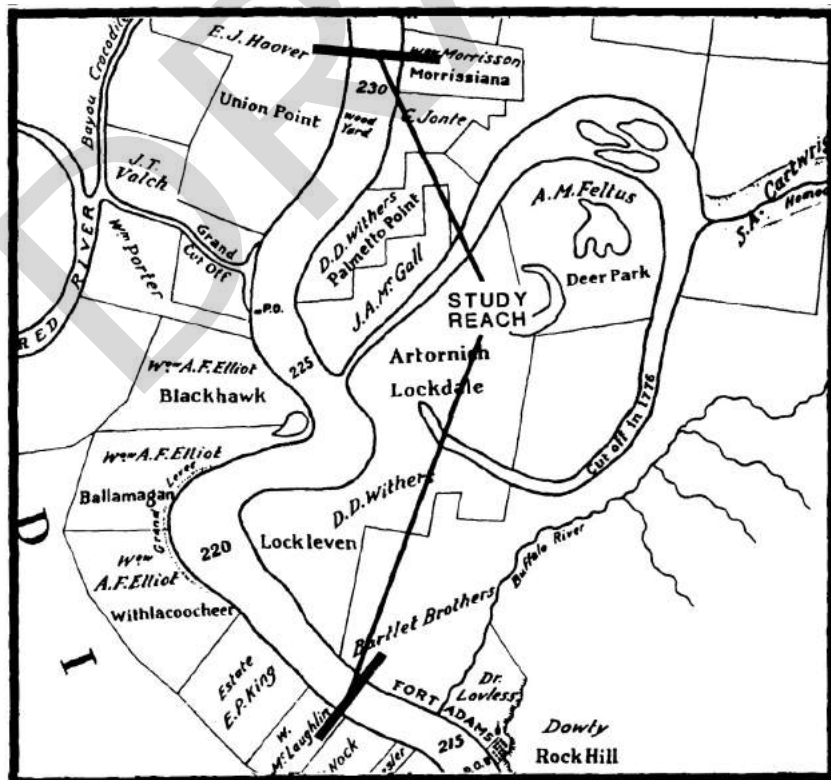
Brookdale Farm Historic District
Middletown Township
Monmouth County, New Jersey



NJ_Monmouth County_Brookdale Farm Historic District_Historic Photographs

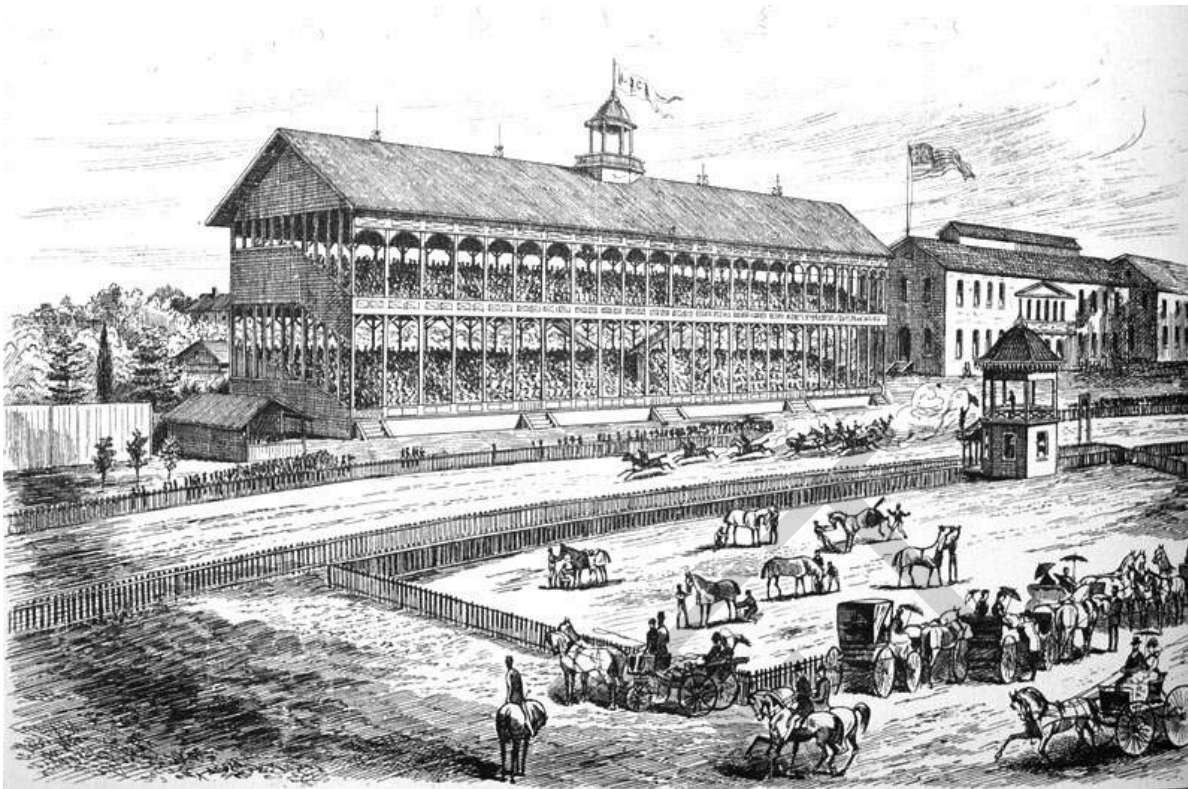


H1. David Dunham Withers, c1890, The American Turf, 1897.tif



H2. D. D. Withers' Mississippi Plantations, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.tif

NJ_Monmouth County_Brookdale Farm Historic District_Historic Photographs



H3. Metairie Race Course, New Orleans, c1845.tif



H4. The False Start - Jerome Park, 1868, Library of Congress.tif

NJ_Monmouth County_Brookdale Farm Historic District_Historic Photographs



H5. Monmouth Park, Monmouth County Atlas, 1873.tif



H6. Monmouth Park Entrance, 1870.tif

NJ_Monmouth County_Brookdale Farm Historic District_Historic Photographs



H7. Summer Meeting at Long Branch, Monmouth Park, c1870, Library of Congress.tif



H8. The Race at Monmouth Park, Long Branch, c1872, N.Y. Public Library.tif



H9. D. D. Withers House at Brookdale, Illustrated American, March 12, 1892, Hathi Trust.tif



H10. Ten Mare Barn, 1906 MCPS.tif

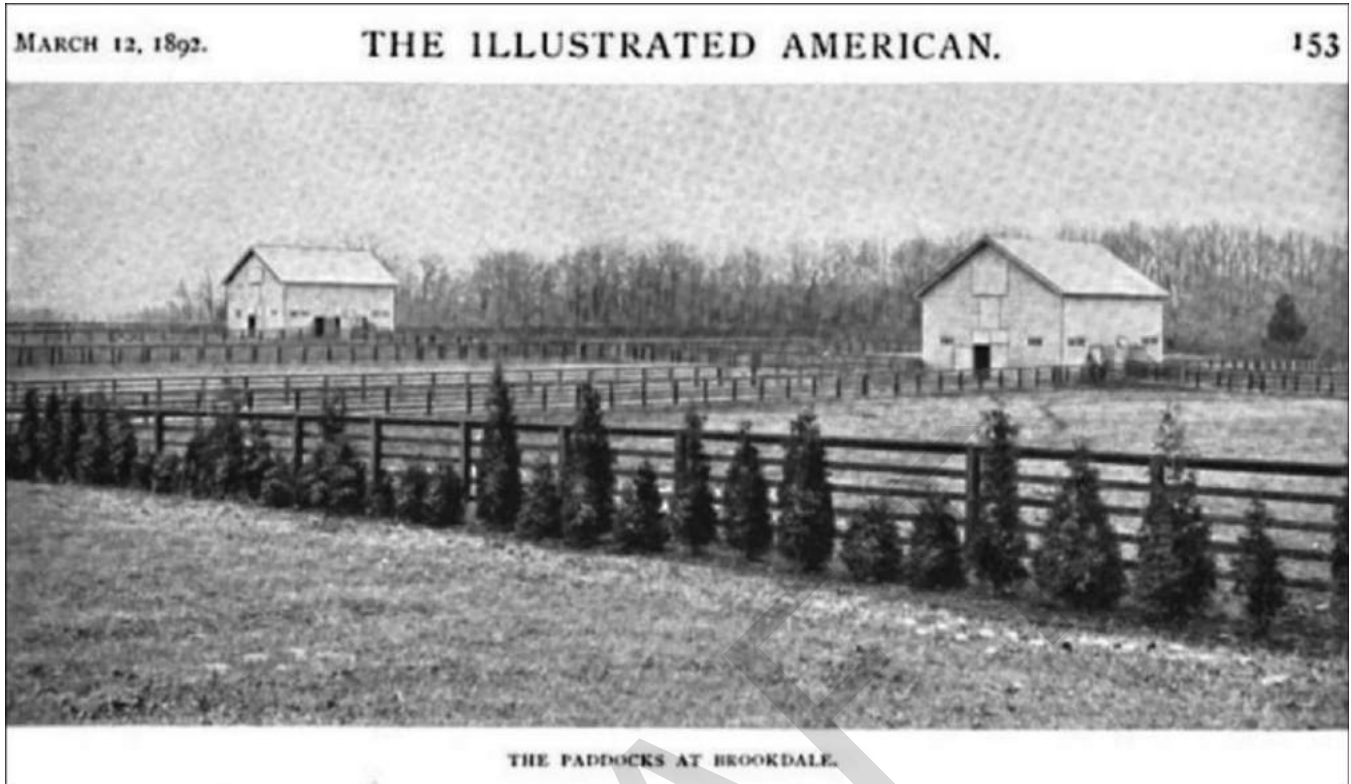
NJ_Monmouth County_Brookdale Farm Historic District_Historic Photographs



H11. Withers' Mimi Colt, N.Y. Sportsman, August 23, 1894.tif



H12. Yearling Stable, Brookdale Farm, c1905, MCPS.tif



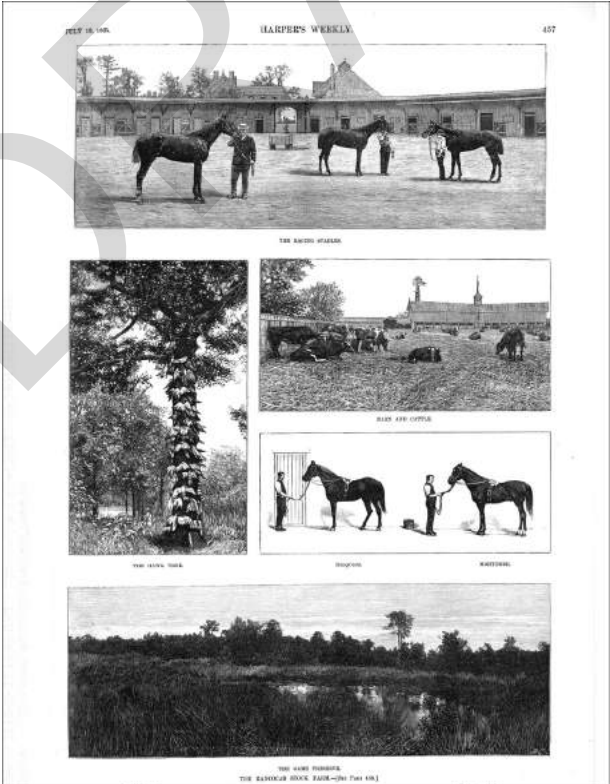
H13. The Paddocks at Brookdale, Illustrated American 3.12.1892 Hathi.tif



H14. Brookdale Farm Stable, c1970, Brookdale Community College.tif



H15. Pierre Lorillard, c1890, N.Y. Public Library.tif

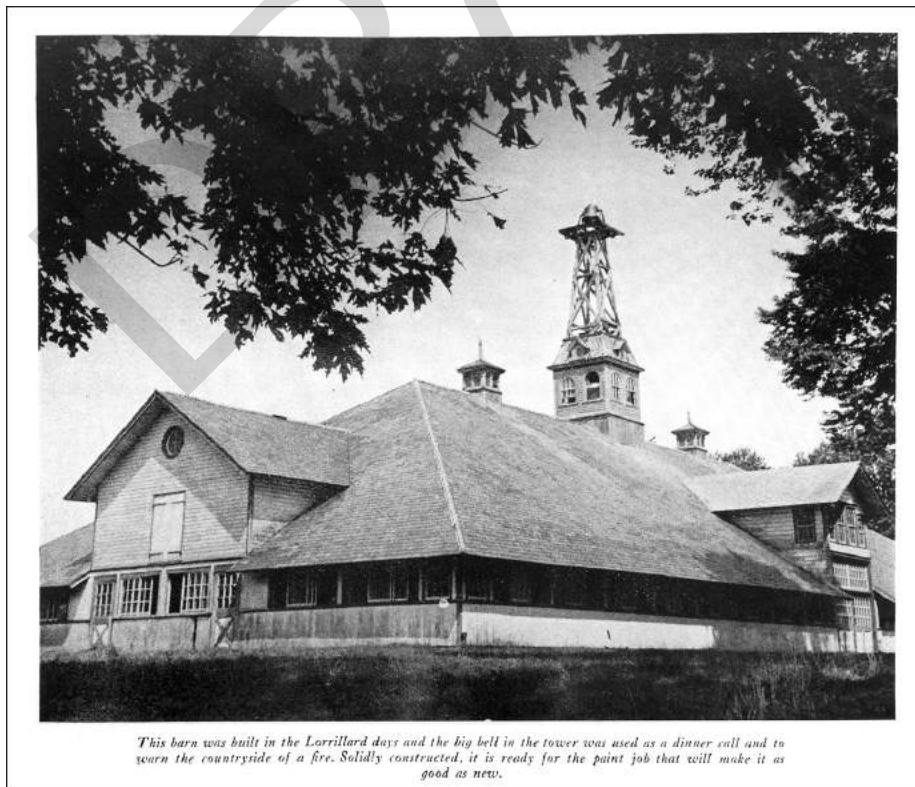


H16. Rancocas Farm, Harpers Weekly, July 18.1885.tif

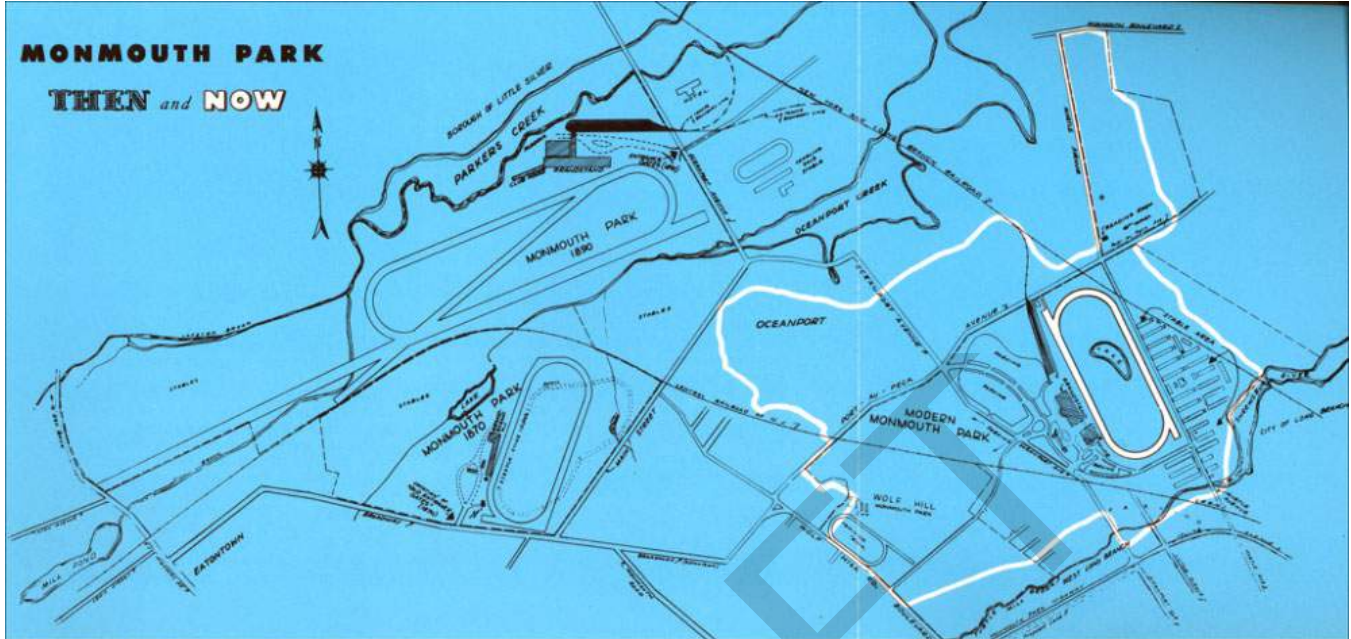
NJ_Monmouth County_Brookdale Farm Historic District_Historic Photographs



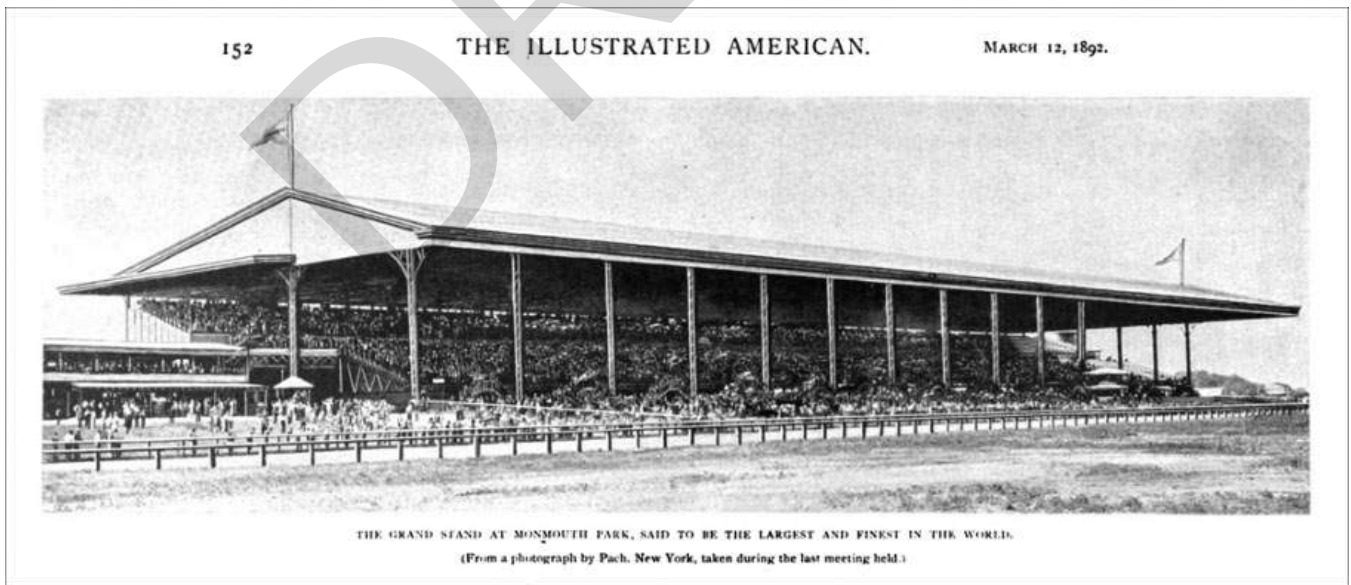
H17. Helis Stock Farm Training Stable, 1956, Helis Stock Farm.tif



H18. Helis Stock Farm Bell Barn, 1956, Helis Stock Farm.tif



H19. Monmouth Park, Then & Now, c1950, MCPS.tif



H20. 1890 Monmouth Park, The Illustrated American, March 12, 1892, Hathi Trust.tif



H21. D. D. Withers, N.Y. Sportsman, July 5, 1890, MCPS.tif



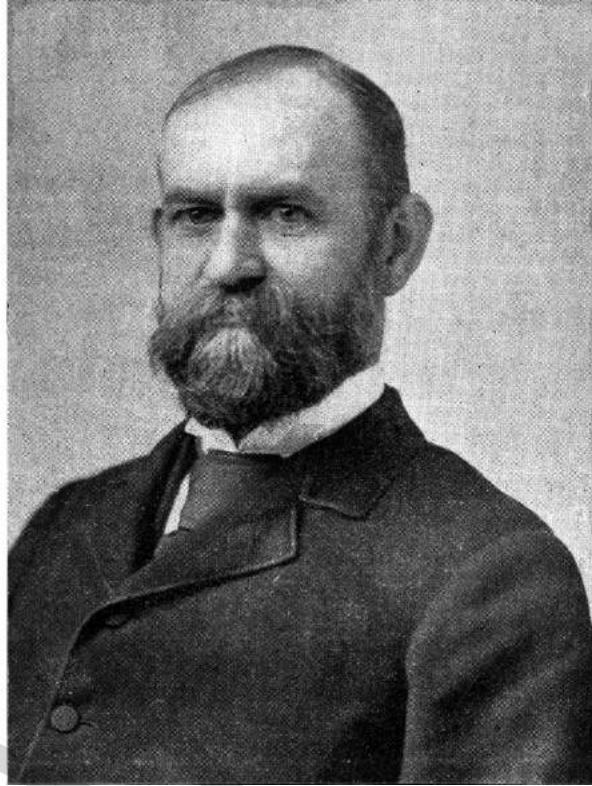
H22. Monmouth Park Association Official Programme, July 5, 1890.tif



H23. D. D. Withers, The Illustrated American, March 12.1892, Hathi Trust.tif



H24. Monmouth Park Races, 1893, Monmouth Park.tif



H25. Evelyn & William Payne Thompson, c1890, MCPS.tif

CATALOGUE
— OF THE —
BROOKDALE STUD
THOROUGHBRED YEARLINGS,
THE PROPERTY OF
COL. W. P. THOMPSON & SONS,
RED BANKS, N. J.
TO BE
Sold By Auction, Without Reserve,
Alternating with the Silver Brook Stud Yearlings,
— AT THE —
EASTON COMPANY'S SALE PADDOCKS,
Sheepshead Bay, N. Y.,
Opposite Main Entrance to Sheepshead Bay Race Track.
— ON —
SATURDAY, JUNE 29, AND MONDAY, JULY 2, 1895
Beginning Each Day at 12 noon.
WM. EASTON, Auctioneer,
92cc 1129 Broadway, New York City.
THOMAS A. DRAKE, 26 & 27 WALL STREET, NEW YORK.

1034 *The Spirit of the Times*, July 15

**THE
BROOKDALE STUD
YEARLINGS,**
PROPERTY OF
COL. WM. P. THOMPSON & SONS,
WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION BY
Tattersalls, of New York, Limited,
IN THE SADDLING PADDOCK OF THE
MONMOUTH PARK RACE COURSE,
Beginning at 12 O'clock Noon,
On Saturday, July 22, 1893,
TOGETHER WITH THE
SILVER BROOK YEARLINGS,
THE PROPERTY OF
MR. LUCIEN O. APPLEBY.
THEY INCLUDE THE GET OF
Imp. **EOTHEN, FAVERDALE, Imp. KING ERNEST,**
KINCLIKE, Imp. MACAROOON, Imp. STALWART,
Imp. STONEHENGE, UNCAS, VENTILATOR,
SENSATION, Imp. ST. BLAISE, TURCO,
PONTIAC and TRISTAN.

Among the number are near relatives to
MAJOR DOMO, GREGORY, STONENELL, CHARLIE POST,
ADAMANT, CATARACT, KING FAN, CHEPTAIN,
AIRPLANT, ST. MICHAEL, BIBLELOT, CHEMISE,
EL TRINIDAD, AIRSHAFT, SORCERER, SURPLUS,
CROCHET, PLENTY, BROOKDALE, QUEEN FAN, LIZZIE T. ROSE, SOHO,
FAN KING, AIRTIGHT, INVERWICK, HOPELESS, KITTY H. BASKER,
BASS VIOL, PLAINIE, FARVENUE, FUNKA, PANATIO, BOULOTTE,
PUUSE, BELHIDE, RENEGADE, ANARCHY, CASSAE, KING
VOLF, MORDOTE, CONROSS, OLIVA, ORATOR, OSCOLA,
ST. OMER, MIDGET, CONTEST, ETC., ETC., ETC.

FOR CATALOGUES ADDRESS
WM. EASTON, - Managing Director.
Tattersalls (of New York), Limited, 7th Ave. and 55th St., N. Y.

H26. Brookdale Stud Auctions, W. P. Thompson, 1895, MCPS.tif



H27. Thompson House, Architectural Record, 1910, MCPS.tif



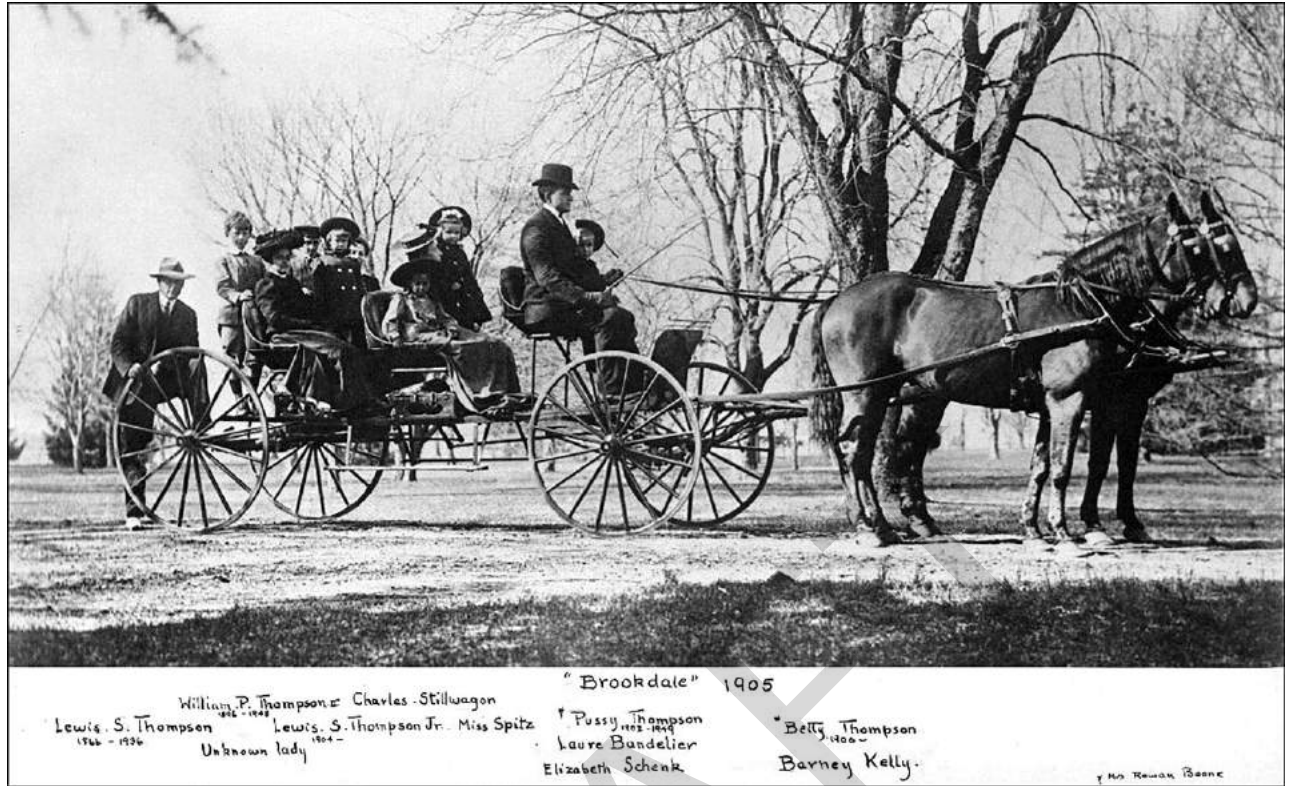
H28. Thompson House, 1906, MCPS.tif



H29. Geraldine Thompson, c1895, MCPS.tif



H30. Lewis S. & Geraldine L. Thompson, MCPS.tif



H31. Lewis Thompson & Family at Brookdale, 1905, MCPS.tif

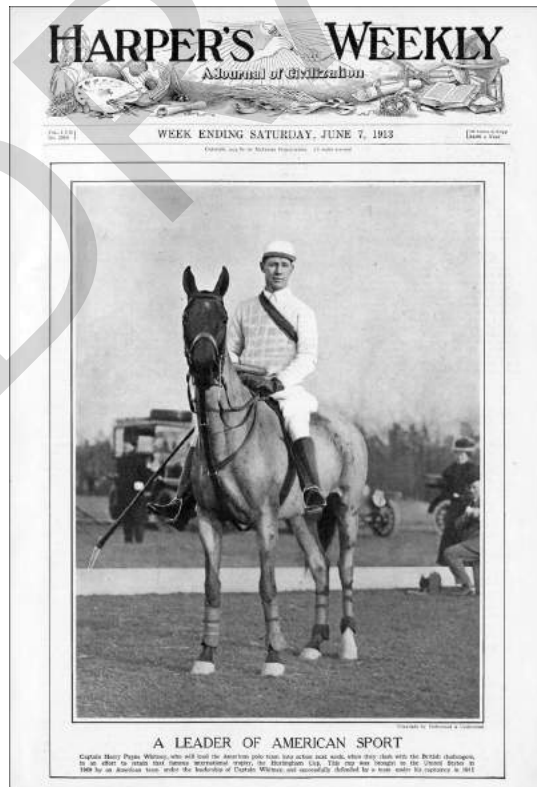


H32. Geraldine Thompson & Lewis Thompson Hunting, MCPS.tif

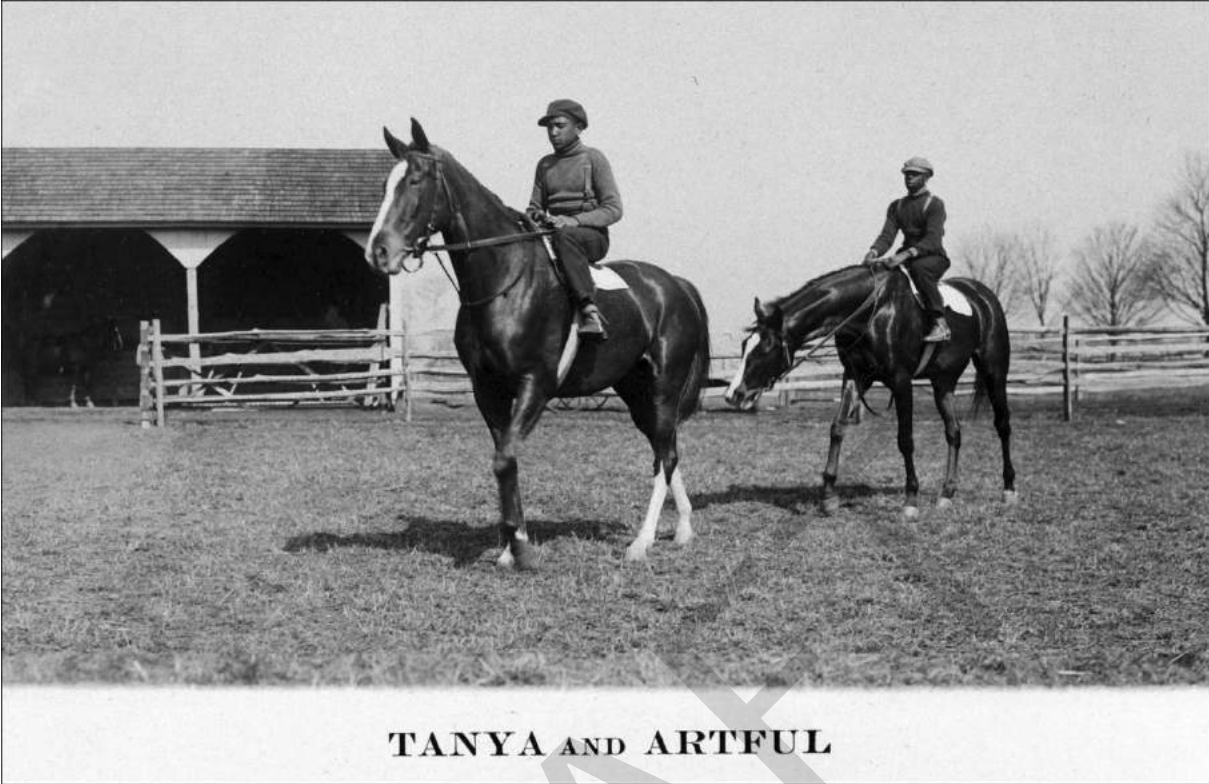
NJ_Monmouth County_Brookdale Farm Historic District_Historic Photographs



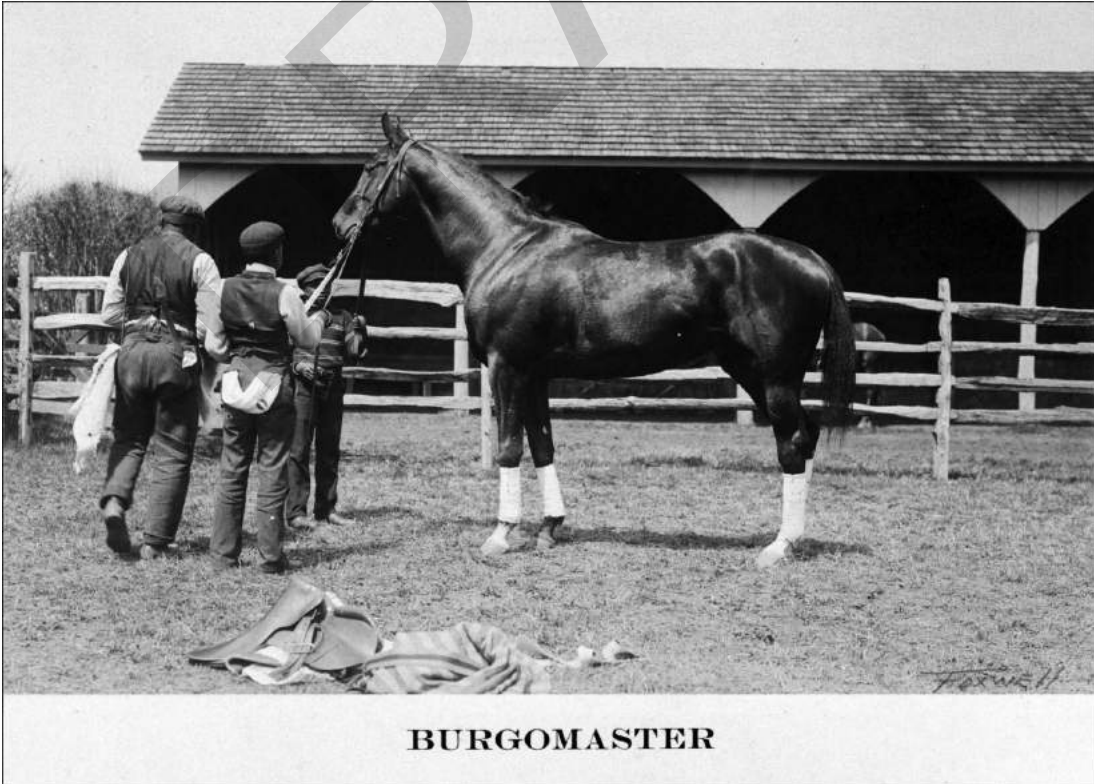
H33. Harry Payne Whitney & James Robert Keene, MCPS.tif



H34. Polo Captain Harry Payne Whitney, Harper's Weekly June 7, 1910, Univ. of Michigan.tif



H35. Tanya & Artful, Brookdale Farm, 1906, MCPS.tif



H36. Burgomaster, Brookdale Farm, 1906, MCPS.tif



H37. Brookdale Stable Hands, c1910, MCPS.tif



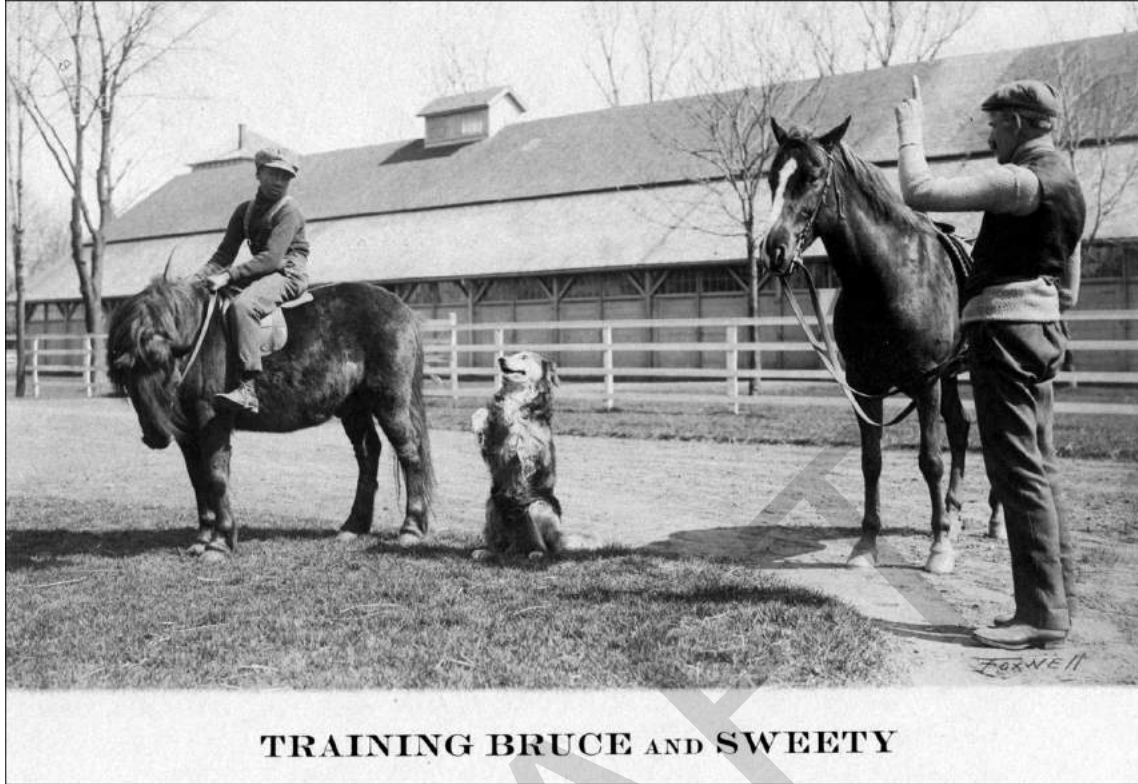
H38. Marshall Lilly with James R. Keene's Colin, c1904, MCPS.tif



H39. Cooling Out, Training Stable, Brookdale Farm, 1906, MCPS.tif

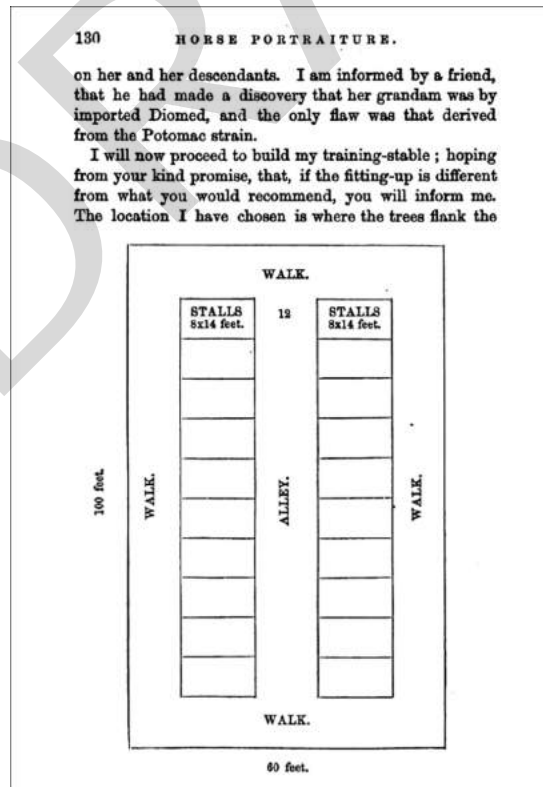


H40. Training Stable east side, Brookdale Farm, 1906, MCPS.tif



TRAINING BRUCE AND SWEETY

H41. Training Stable west side, Brookdale Farm, 1906, MCPS.tif



H42. Stable Plan, Horse Portraiture, 1867, Hathi Trust.tif

NJ_Monmouth County_Brookdale Farm Historic District_Historic Photographs



H43. Brookdale Farm, Property of L. S. Thompson, 1911, MCPS.tif

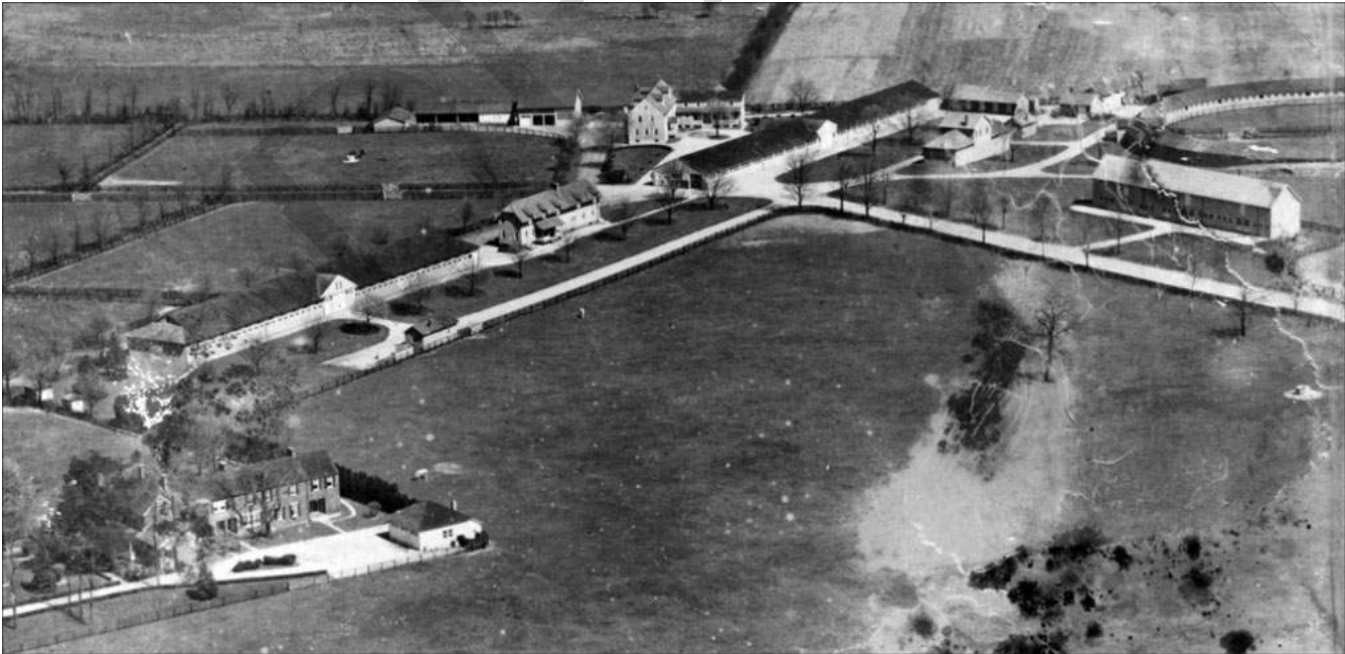


H44. Brookdale Farm, Property of L. S. Thompson, 1911, detail, MCPS rd.tif

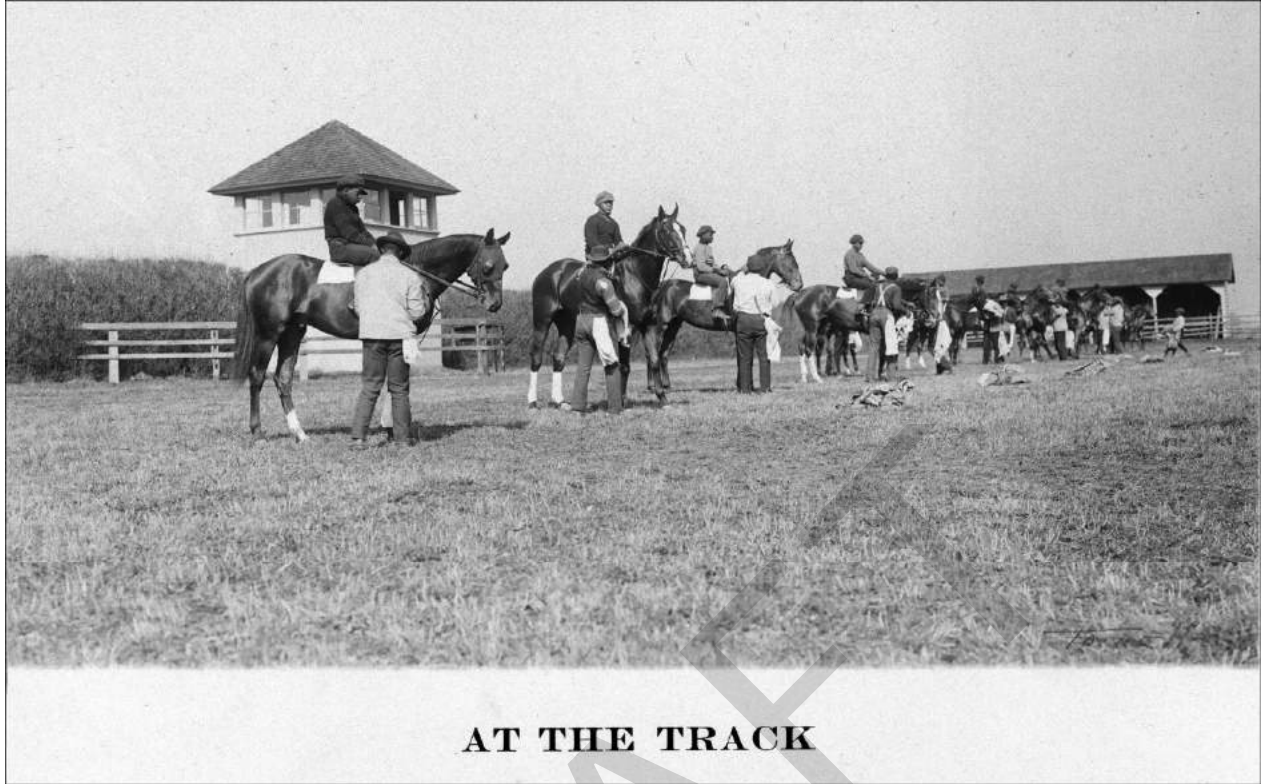
NJ_Monmouth County_Brookdale Farm Historic District_Historic Photographs



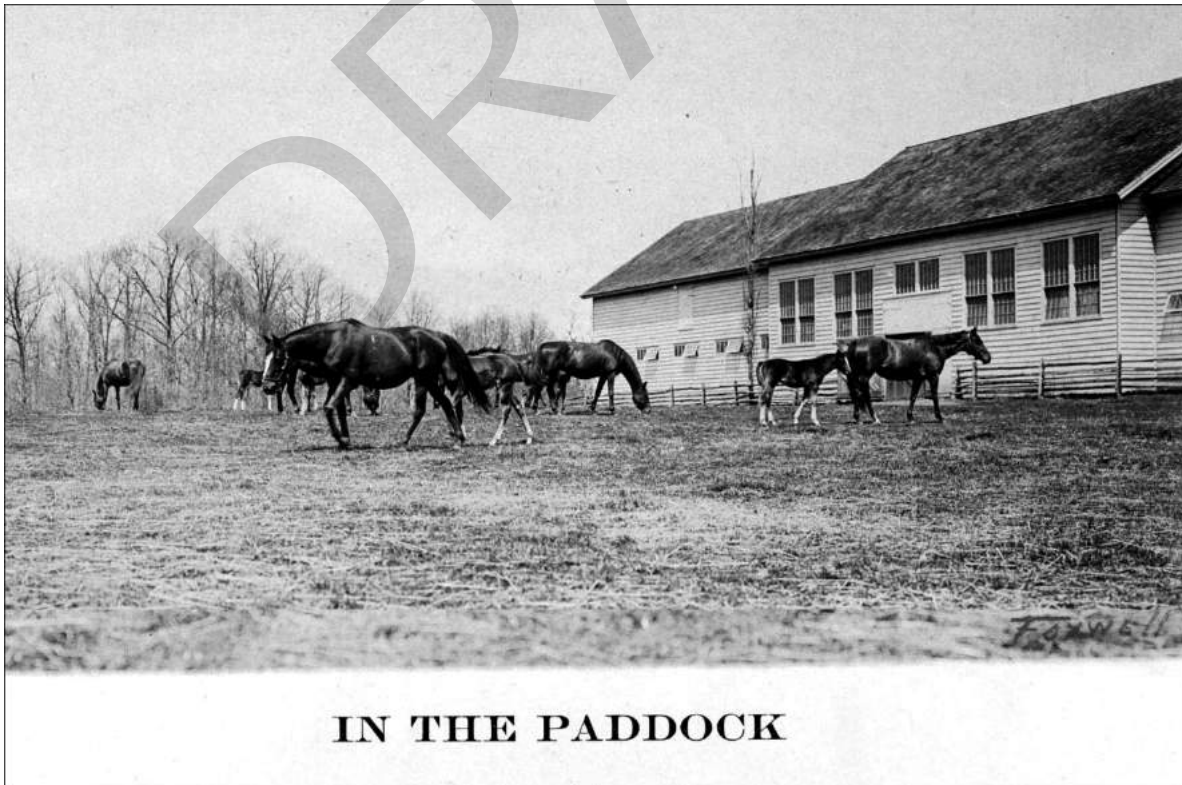
H45. Greentree Farm, Newman Springs Road, Middletown, Dorn, MCPS.tif



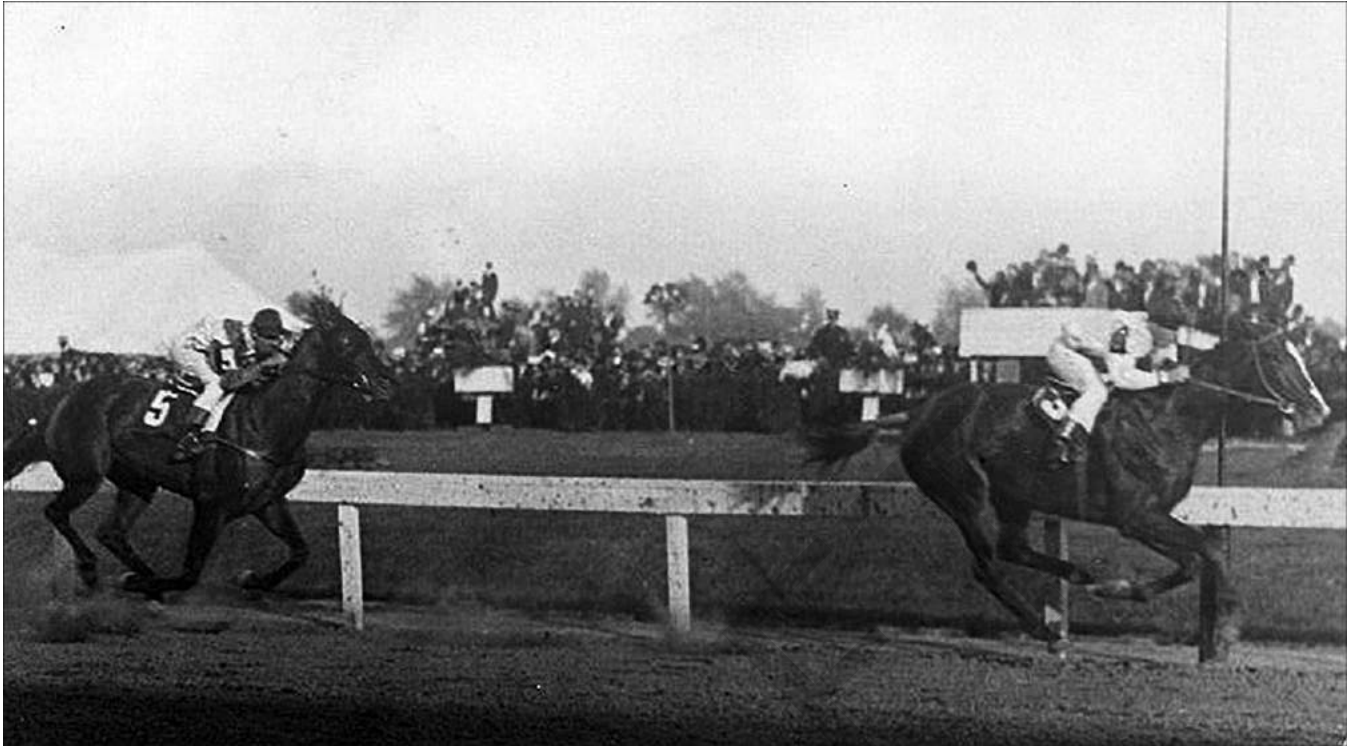
H46. Greentree Farm, 1947, Monmouth County Archives.tif



H47. One-Mile Track, Brookdale Farm, 1906, MCPS.tif



H48. Stable on east part of Brookdale Farm, 1906, MCPS.tif



H49. Regret Winning 1915 Kentucky Derby, MCPS.tif



H50. James Rowe Sr. & Joe Notter for Regret, 1915 Kentucky Derby, MCPS.tif



H51. Regret, Winner of 1915 Kentucky Derby, MCPS.tif



H52. James Rowe & Harry Whitney with Regret, 1915 Kentucky Derby, WIK.tif



H53. Marshall Lilly exercising James R. Keene's Colin, MCPS.tif



H54. Brookdale Farm Office-School, MCPS.tif

NJ_Monmouth County_Brookdale Farm Historic District_Historic Photographs



H55. Jimmy Rowe & James Rowe Sr., MCPS.tif



H56. Moses Gable, Marshall Lilly, & Jack Whitney, c1935, MCPS.tif



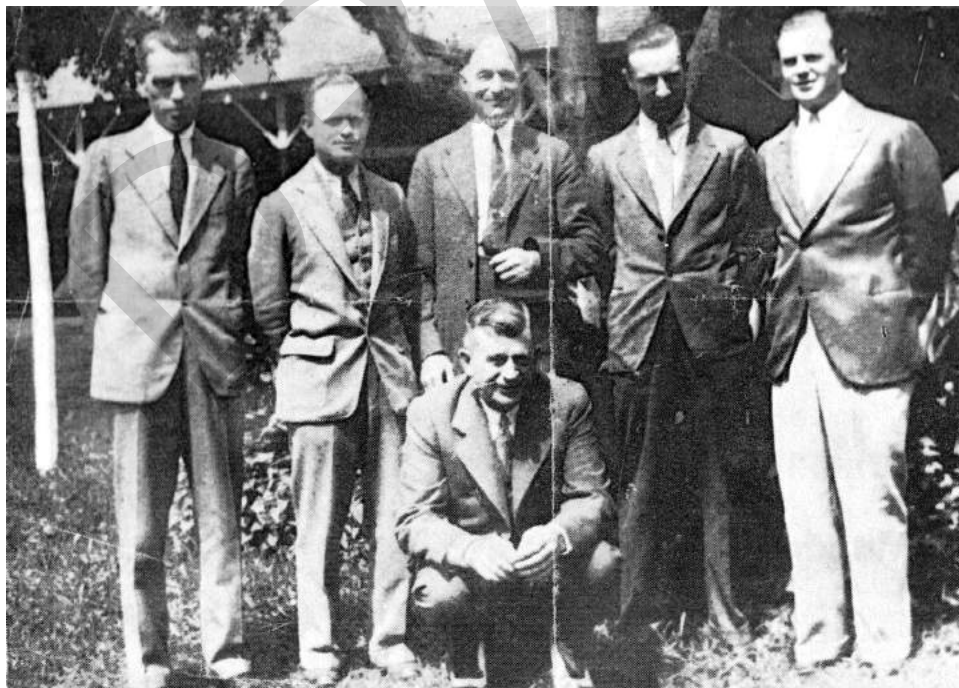
H57. Geraldine Thompson at Brookdale Farm, MCPS.tif



H58. Eleanor Roosevelt & Geraldine Thompson, Visiting Nurses Assoc., 1949, MCPS.tif



H59. Thomas J. Healey with Equipoise, MCPS.tif



The staff of the Whitney Stable in 1931 included, from the left, Wilfred Mullin, agent; Duval A. Headley, apprentice trainer, now a prominent breeder; John Lambert, steeplechase trainer; Freddie Hopkins and Jack Healey, assistant trainers. Head trainer Thomas J. Healey is shown kneeling.

H60. Thomas J. Healey & Whitney Stables Staff, c1932, MCPS.tif

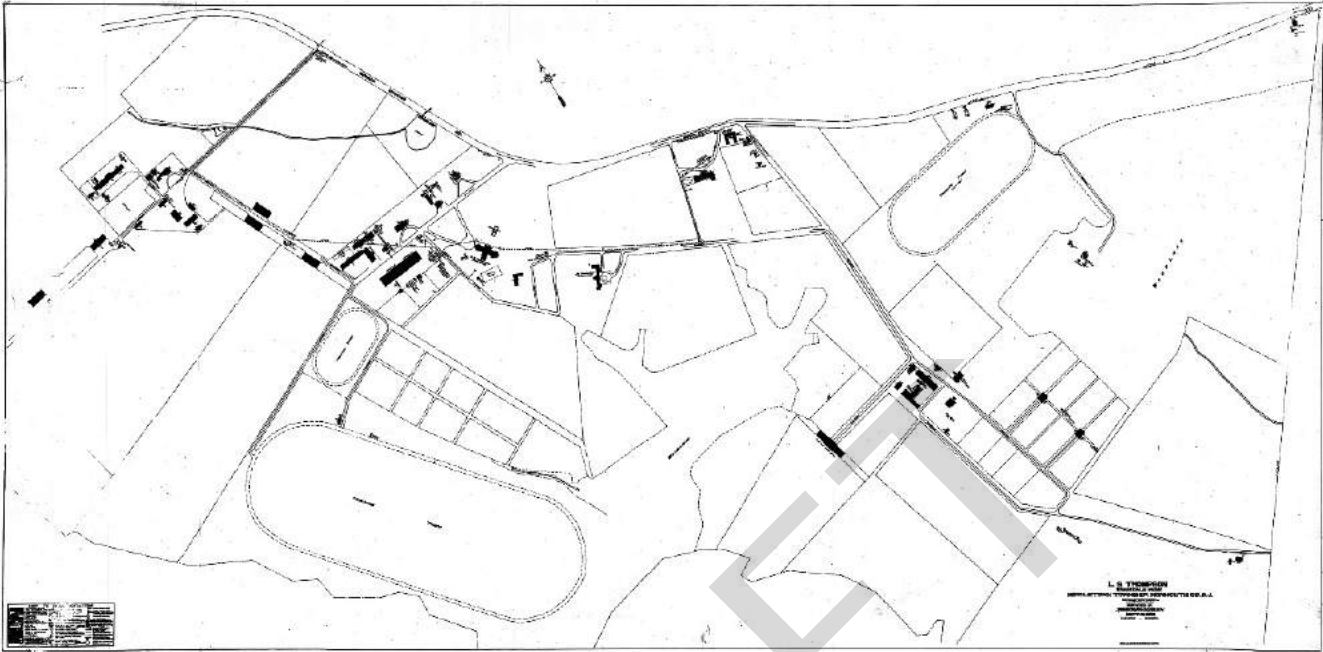
NJ_Monmouth County_Brookdale Farm Historic District_Historic Photographs



H61. Equipoise, Franklin B. Voss, 1934, Clark Art Institute.tif



H62. Top Flight, Franklin B. Voss, 1934, Clark Art Institute.tif



H63. Brookdale Farm Insurance Map, 1932, MCPS.tif



H64. Brookdale Farm Insurance Map, 1932, detail, MCPS.tif

NJ_Monmouth County_Brookdale Farm Historic District_Historic Photographs



H65. Marlu Farm , c1960, MCPS.tif



H66. Marlu Farm, c1955, MCPS.tif



H67. Geraldine Thompson Colored Scholarship Committee, 10.30.52 Red Bank Register.tif



H68. Geraldine Thompson, 1957, MCPS.tif

NJ_Monmouth County_Brookdale Farm Historic District_Historic Photographs

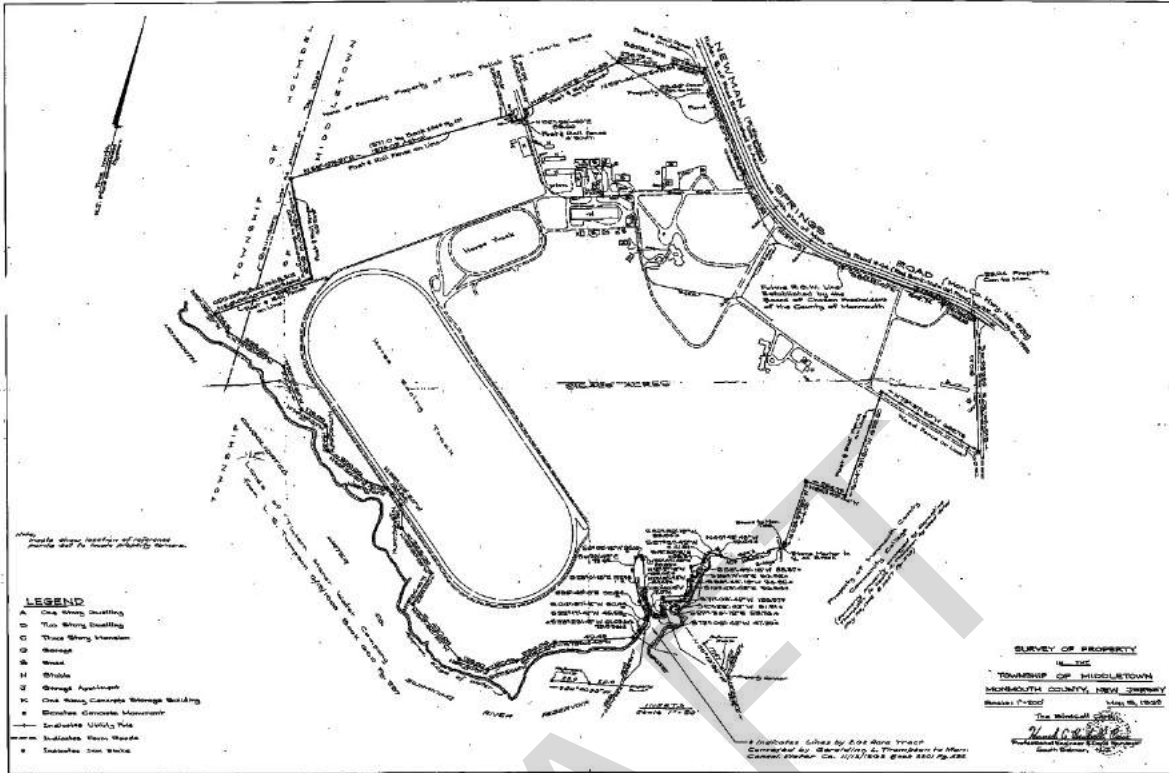


H69. Thompson Park, 1974, Monmouth County Archives.tif



H70. Thompson Park, 1969, Monmouth County Archives.tif

NJ_Monmouth County_Brookdale Farm Historic District_Historic Photographs



H71. Thompson Park Survey, 1969, MCPS.tif



0.1 Brookdale Farm, view south, B. Parigian.tif



0.2 Brookdale Farm, view northwest, B. Parigian.tif



0.3 Brookdale Farm, view northeast, B. Parigian.tif



0.4 Brookdale Farm, Operations Area, view southwest, B. Parigian.tif



0.5 Brookdale Farm, view south, B. Parigian.tif



0.6 Brookdale Farm, view northeast, B. Parigian.tif



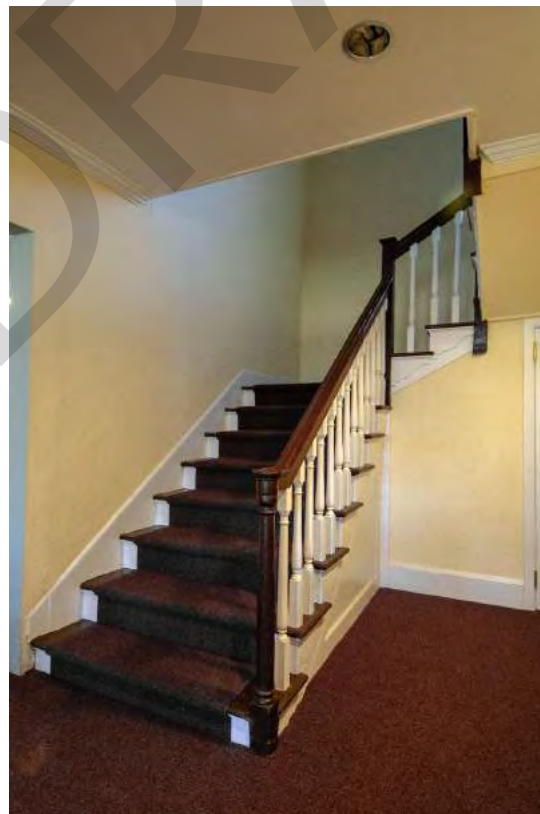
1.1 Lloyd House - Acquisition & Design Office, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



1.2 Lloyd House - Acquisition & Design Office, view northeast, C.W. Zink.tif



1.3 Lloyd House - Acquisition & Design Office, view south, C.W. Zink.tif



1.4 Lloyd House - Acquisition & Design Office, Stair, view northwest, C.W. Zink.tif



1.5 Lloyd House - Acquisition & Design Office, Cupboard, view east, C.W. Zink.tif



1.6 Lloyd House - Acquisition & Design Office, Fireplace, view east, C.W. Zink.tif



2.1 Lloyd Barn 1 - Garage Storage, view northwest, C.W. Zink.tif



2.2 Lloyd Barn 1 - Garage Storage, view northwest, C.W. Zink.tif



2.3 Lloyd Barn 1 - Garage Storage, view northeast, C.W. Zink.tif



2.4 Lloyd Barn 1 - Garage Storage, view northeast, C.W. Zink.tif



2.5 Lloyd Barn 1 - Garage Storage, view southeast, C.W. Zink.tif



2.6 Lloyd Barn 1 - Garage Storage, view northeast, C.W. Zink.tif



3.1 Lloyd Barn 2 - Graphics Building, view north, B. Parigian.tif



3.2 Lloyd Barn 2 - Graphics Building, view west, B. Parigian.tif



3.3 Lloyd Barn 2 - Graphics, Building, C.W. Zink.tif



3.4 Lloyd Barn 2 - Graphics Building, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



4.1 Wagon House - Outdoor Adventure Office, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



4.2 Wagon House - Outdoor Adventure Office, view south, C.W. Zink.tif



5.1 Training Stable, view southwest, B. Parigian.tif



5.2 Training Stable_view west, C.W. Zink.tif



5.3 Training Stable, view northeast, B. Parigian.tif



5.4 Training Stable, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



5.5 Training Stable, South Walk, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



5.6 Training Stable, South Walk, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



5.7 Training Stable, South Walk, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



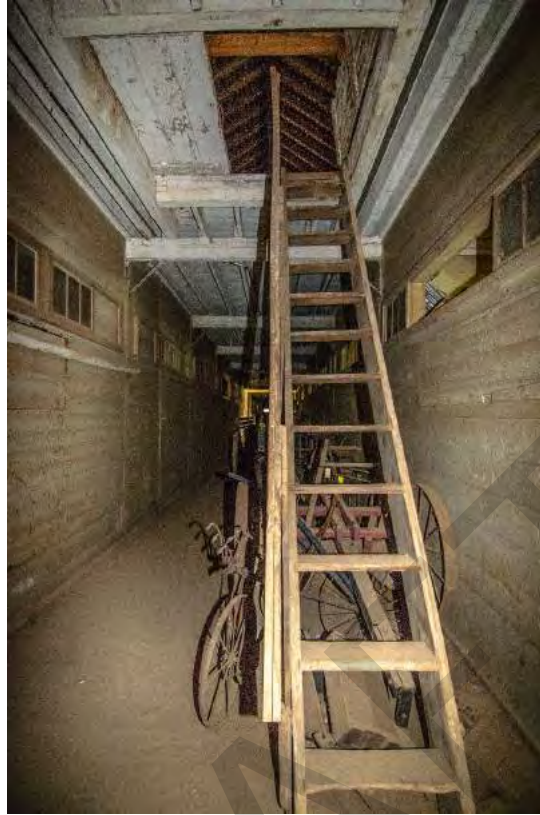
5.8 Training Stable, South Walk Loose Box, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



5.9 Training Stable, Center Passage, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



5.10 Training Stable, North Alley, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



5.11 Training Stable, North Alley, view southwest, C.W. Zink.tif



5.12 Training Stable, North Loft, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



5.13 Training Stable, North Loft, view south, C.W. Zink.tif



5.14 Training Stable, North Loft, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



5.15 Training Stable, Loft Center, view north east, C.W. Zink.tif



5.16 Training Stable, Loft Center, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



5.17 Training Stable. North Loft, view south west, C.W. Zink.tif



5.18 Training Stable, South Loft, view southwest, C.W. Zink.tif



6.1 Ten Mare Barn - Garage Storage & Lloyd Barn 1, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



6.2 Ten Mare Barn - Garage Storage, view northeas, B. Parigian.tif



6.3 Ten Mare Barn - Garage Storage, view north, B. Parigian.tif



6.4 Ten Mare Barn - Garage Storage, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



6.5 Ten Mare Barn - Garage Storage, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



6.6 Ten Mare Barn - Garage Storage, view northeast, C.W. Zink.tif



7.1 Training Track, view southeast, C.W. Zink.tif



7.2 Training Track, view northwest, C.W. Zink.tif



8.1 Yearling Barn 1 - Theatre Barn, view west, B. Parigian.tif



8.2 Yearling Barn 1 - Theatre Barn, view east, C.W. Zink.tif



8.3 Yearling Barn 1 - Theatre Barn, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



8.4 Yearling Barn 1 - Theatre Barn, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



8.5 Yearling Barn 1 - Theatre Barn, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



8.6 Yearling Barn 1 - Theatre Barn, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



9.1 Yearling Barn 2- Activity Barn, view west, B. Parigian.tif



9.2 Yearling Barn 2 - Activity Barn, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



9.3 Yearling Barn 2 - Activity Barn, view northwest, B. Parigian.tif



9.4 Yearling Barn 2 - Activity Barn, view northwest, B. Parigian.tif



10.1 Two-Stall Stable, Administration Storage, view east, C.W. Zink.tif



10.2 Two Stall Stable, Administration Storage, view south, C.W. Zink.tif



11.1 Pump House & Reservoir - Construction & Sign Shops, view east, B. Parigian.tif



11.2 Pump House & Reservoir - Construction & Sign Shops, view south, B. Parigian.tif



11.3 Pump House & Reservoir - Construction & Sign Shops, view northeast, B. Parigian.tif



11.4 Saw Building & Pump House, View North, C.W. Zink.tif



11.5 Pump House - Carpenter Shop, view east, C.W. Zink.tif



11.6 Reservoir - Sign Shop, view south, C.W. Zink.tif



12.1 School & Office - Sites Project Office, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



12.2 School & Office - Sites Project Office, view south, C.W. Zink.tif



13.1 Garage - Maintenance Shop, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



14.1 Garage - Maintenance, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



15.1 Shop - Maintenance, K. Norbut.tif



16.1 Dwelling & Office - Ranger's Residence, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



17.1 Hose House - Garbage Shed, view south, C.W. Zink.tif



17.2 Hose House - Garbage Shed, view south, C.W. Zink.tif



18.1 Garage & Dwelling - Acquisition & Design Annex, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



19.1 Shed - Lumber Shed, view north west, K. Norbut.tif



20.1 Five-Stall Stable - Lumber Storage, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



20.2 Five-Stall Stable - Lumber Storage, view northwest, C.W. Zink.tif



21.1 Mash House - Construction & Repair Office, view south, B. Parigian.tif



21.2 Mash House - Construction & Repair Office, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



21.3 Mash House - Construction & Repair Office, view east, C.W. Zink.tif



22.1 Construction & Repair Storage, view east, C.W. Zink.tif



23.1 Dr. Thompson House - Administration Office, view southwest, C.W. Zink.tif



23.2 Dr. Thompson House - Administration Office, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



24.1 Administration Garage & Two-Stall Stable, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



24.2 Administration Garage & Two-Stall Stable, view east, C.W. Zink.tif



25.1 Ski Hut, view north, C.W. Zink.tif



25.2 Ski Hut & Yearling Barn 1, view northeast, B. Parigian.tif



26.1. Recreation Barn, view northwest, C.W. Zink.tif



26.2 Recreation Barn, view west, K. Norbut.tif



28.1. Vending Building, view north, K. Norbut.tif



29.1 Storage Building, view west, K. Norbut.tif



30.1 Sand Storage Building, view south, K. Norbut.tif



31.1 Central Supply Warehouse, view west, C.W. Zink.tif



32.1 Thompson House - Visitor Center, view southwest, B. Parigian.tif



32.2 Thompson House - Visitor Center, view south east, C.W. Zink.tif



33.1 Old Orchard Picnic Shelter, view north, K. Norbut.tif



34.1 Garbage Shed, view east, K. Norbut.tif



35.1 Storage Shed, view west, K. Norbut.tif



36.1 Gazebo, view north, K. Norbut.tif