

HISTORIC ASPECTS OF CREBILLY FARM

Prepared by the
Westtown Twp. Historical Commission for the
Westtown Twp. Planning Commission
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BATTLE OF BRANDWINE

SEPT. 11, 1777

- LARGEST LAND BATTLE OF THE REVOLUTION; 30,000 SOLDIERS PARTICIPATED
- ONLY BATTLE WHERE COMMANDERS OF BOTH NATION'S ARMIES WERE IN SIGHT OF EACH OTHER
- CONTINENTALS PROVED THEY HAD COURAGE TO STAND UP TO BEST BRITISH TROOPS
- WASHINGTON LEARNED VALUABLE LESSONS ABOUT RECONNAISSANCE, INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND USE OF CAVALRY
- BRITISH LEARNED THEY COULD OCCUPY PIECES OF GROUND BUT COULD NOT EASILY CAPTURE OR DESTROY THE CONTINENTAL FORCES

BRITISH FLANK ATTACK DECISIVE

- HOWE AND CORNWALLIS MARCH 9,000 MEN AROUND WASHINGTON'S RIGHT FLANK.
- MARCH IS NOT DETECTED IN TIME; CONTINENTALS FORCED TO RAPIDLY SHIFT FORCES.
- AT 4PM, HOWE ATTACKS FROM OSBORNE HILL IN A LINE EXTENDING 1,500 FEET EAST OF BIRMINGHAM ROAD.
- HESSIAN JAEGERs, NUMBERING ABOUT 300, UNDER COL. LUDWIG VON WURMB, ARE ON THE EXTREME LEFT FLANK AS THE ATTACK MOVES FORWARD.



Lt. Col. Colonel Ludwig von Wurmb

Commanded the Hessian Jaegers, led by Captain Johann Ewald, who advanced against Continental skirmishers posted near present intersection of W. Street Rd. and S.New St.

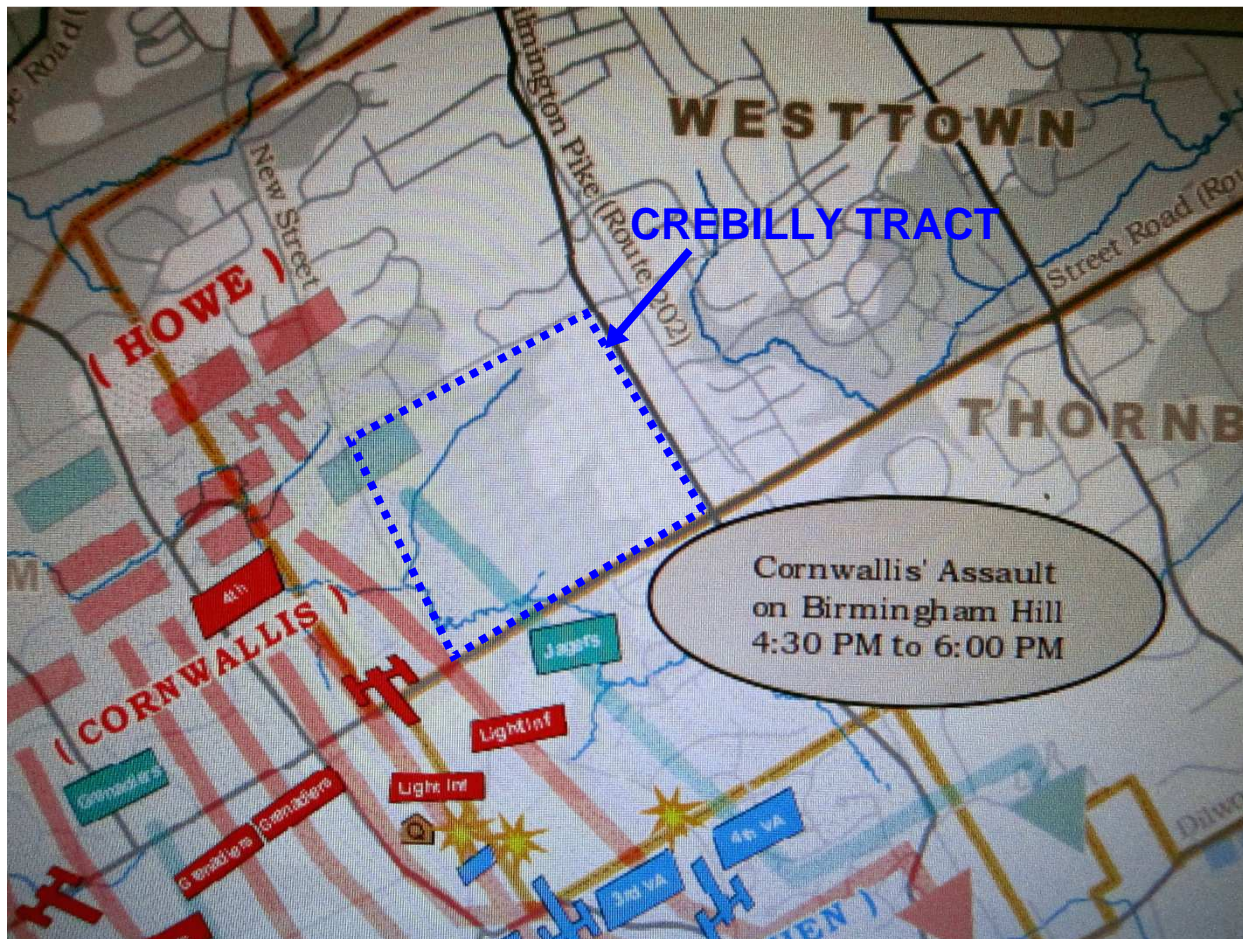
COL. VON WURMB'S BATTLE REPORT

- “I SAW THAT THE ENEMY WANTED TO FORM FOR US ON A BARE HILL, SO I HAD THEM GREETED BY OUR TWO AMUSETTES, AND THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF GENERAL HOWE’S (PARTICIPATION). WE DROVE THE ENEMY FROM THIS HILL AND THEY POSITIONED THEMSELVES IN A WOOD FROM WHICH WE DISLODGED THEM AND THEN A SECOND WOODS WHERE WE FOUND OURSELVES 150 PACES FROM THEIR LINE WHICH WAS ON A HEIGHT IN THE WOODS AND WE WERE AT THE BOTTOM ALSO IN A WOODS, BETWEEN US WAS AN OPEN FIELD.”
- Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Assoc., Inc.



Hessian soldier firing an amusette (light cannon mounted on a swivel that could fire a large ball) at Battle of Brandywine.

Painting by Pamela Patrick White



Map showing Jaeger advance across portion of today's Crebilly Tract (along east side of S. New St.)

Source: Western Heritage Mapping, under sponsorship of National Park Service and American Battlefield Protection Program.



WESTTOWN INN

PRESENT STRUCTURE WAS BUILT IN 1823,
REPLACING A LOG TAVERN BUILT IN 1803

WESTTOWN INN'S COLORFUL HISTORY

- TWO STORY STRUCTURE OF SERPENTINE (GREEN HUED) STONE QUARRIED A HALF MILE TO THE WEST
- THE INN WAS A POPULAR STOPPING PLACE FOR DROVERS DRIVING STOCK TO THE MARKETS IN PHILA. AND WILMINGTON.
- IT WAS THE ANCHOR STRUCTURE OF DARLINGTON'S CORNER, THE ONLY REAL VILLAGE THAT WESTTOWN EVER HAD.
- IN ADDITION TO THE WESTTOWN INN, THERE WAS A BLACKSMITH SHOP, A WHEELWRIGHT SHOP, THE THORNBURY POST OFFICE, A GENERAL STORE, A MANUFACTURER OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, A BARBER, AND SEVERAL RESIDENCES.
- THE INN WAS THE SCENE OF POLITICAL RALLIES, BEING OWNED BY A WHIG PARTY SUPPORTER OF HENRY CLAY AND, LATER, ABRAHAM LINCOLN

THE INN TODAY

- THE INN WAS CONVERTED TO A PRIVATE RESIDENCE IN 1908.
- THE INTERIOR HAS BEEN MODERNIZED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS BUT THE EXTERIOR REMAINS MUCH AS IT LOOKED WHEN IT WAS BUILT.
- IN SEPT. 2015, THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION – IN A LETTER TO PENNDOT – STATED:

“WESTTOWN INN IS ELIGIBLE FOR LISTING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, UNDER CRITERION C IN THE AREA OF ARCHITECTURE. THE PROPERTY IS LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT AS AN IMPORTANT EXAMPLE OF CHESTER COUNTY COLONIAL-ERA STYLE AND THE REGIONAL USE OF SERPENTINE STONE, AND IT RETAINS INTEGRITY SUFFICIENT TO REFLECT THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE, THE C. 1823 CONSTRUCTION.”



1129 S. NEW ST

SERPENTINE STONE HOUSE, DATE STONE FOR 1803. MUCH OF THE ORIGINAL FLOOR PLAN IS BELIEVED TO BE INTACT AS ARE EXTERIOR FAÇADE AND CHIMNEYS.



19 W. STREET ROAD

TWO STORY FRAME HOUSE. STRUCTURE APPEARS AT THIS LOCATION IN 1873 WITMER ATLAS AS "JOSEPH BRINTON'S STORE." A 1883 MAP INDICATES A WHEELWRIGHT SHOP ALSO AT THIS LOCATION. CURRENTLY UNOCCUPIED.



TENANT HOUSE, WILMINGTON PIKE

TWO STORY FRAME HOUSE, STONE OUTBUILDING. 1873 WITMER ATLAS SHOWS A STRUCTURE HERE, OWNED BY M. BRANNON. CURRENTLY UNOCCUPIED.



BARN BY POND ALONG STREET ROAD

1883 BREOUS ATLAS SHOWS A BARN AND OTHER STRUCTURES ON THE JOHN McCLURE PROPERTY AT THIS LOCATION.



SPRINGHOUSE/CHAPEL

SPRINGHOUSE SHOWS AT THIS LOCATION IN 1883 BREOUS ATLAS. SPRINGHOUSE ROOF WAS DESTROYED BY A FALLEN TREE IN 2005 AND REBUILT AS A PRIVATE CHAPEL. WEDDINGS AND FUNERAL HAVE BEEN HELD HERE IN RECENT YEARS.



OTHER STRUCTURES

THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER STRUCTURES, VISIBLE FROM PLEASANT GROVE ROAD, FOR WHICH HISTORICAL INFORMATION HAS NOT BEEN GATHERED. THE 1873 WITMER ATLAS SHOWS A NUMBER OF STRUCTURES AT THIS LOCATION ON THE DAVID McCLURE FARM.