

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received **SEP 30 1982**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Young, William, House

and/or common

2. Location

E of Rockland on R. 228

street & number Road 228 NA
not for publication

city, town Rockland *Del.* vicinity of congressional district One

state Delaware code 10 county New Castle code 003

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Woodlawn Trustees, c/o Newlin E. Wood, Jr., Executive Vice-President

street & number 2201 W. 11th St.

city, town Wilmington NA vicinity of state Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Public Building

street & number Rodney Square

city, town Wilmington state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N-551, Delaware Cultural Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1962, 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

city, town Dover state Delaware

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Standing alone facing west toward Rockland, and surrounded on three sides by a raised terrace with a stone wall, the William Young House is an imposing structure with a high degree of architectural integrity. Measuring 50' by 34', with a 26' by 28' kitchen ell to the north, the house is five bays, two stories, with a hipped roof plus a full cellar and a full attic. The exterior is masonry; presently it is whitewashed, although there is evidence that it was originally intended to be stuccoed. The front and rear facades are the same, each with a center door with a fan light and three-pane over panel side lights.

The entries are of a c.1815 design and include a simple architrave with impost and keystone. The porch over the west door has been removed revealing evidence that confirms the absence of any such porch roof when the house was constructed, or during its early years. The east porch with square columns and pilasters is of twentieth century construction. Two large six-over-nine light windows flank the entries. Beneath these windows are six light cellar windows; above, including directly above the door, are the second floor. All first and second story windows have a simple architrave with an ovolo band at the edge.

The eve has a cornice with simple bedmolding, fascia, and crown, and a pole gutter leading to downspouts at each corner of the building. There are two clapboard dormers, one above the second and one above the fourth bays. The mutins of the upper sash of the windows have a Gothic tracery pattern. The dormer faces have short pilasters at the sides of the windows and a keystone centered in the architrave. The wood-shingled roof is topped with bedmolding at the edge of a flat, metal-covered widow's walk measuring 11' by 26'. The original railing is no longer extant. Centered at the north and south edges of the widow's walk are the large brick chimneys, each with four flues; above the roof level, these chimneys were rebuilt in 1930. The south facade has two bays. The north, likewise with two bays, has extending from it at the cellar level a kitchen ell, above which is what was once a garrett servants' quarters and serves presently as a laundry area. The entry to the kitchen is through double-batten doors on the east side.

The main hall is off center, favoring the bottom flight of stairs on the north side. The wide grand staircase, constructed c. 1815, begins in the middle of the hall along the north wall with a straight run and, halfway up, winds around to the opposite wall. The simple oval railing and stair skirt form an elliptical curve which is continued to the third floor. To the north of the east entry a coat closet was constructed in the twentieth century. Doors from the main halls lead to the four rooms, each with a fireplace centered in the wall shared with the adjacent room. On the first floor three of the four rooms are original and complete. The fireplace surrounds of the east rooms are the more elaborate; both consist of an architrave at the edge of the plaster surround. The mantel

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of the northeast room is supported by a blank center panel and pilasters at the side. In the southwest room the panel and two small panels at the sides are reeded. The fireplace stands into the southeast room with shallow closets set into the sides. In the northeast room the fireplace is flush with the wall with closets on both sides. The fireplace in the southwest room is flush with the wall and the fireplace surround with simple architrave and a mantel supported by a cornice of bedmolding, fascia, and crown molding is typical of the other surrounds in the house. The northwest room was converted into a kitchen. All of the first floor windows have interior, three leaf panel shutters which are divided into upper and lower sections.

The second floor is similar in plan to the first, with three of the four rooms remaining in their original condition. The fireplace surrounds are the same as those in the first floor southwest room. To the right of each fireplace is a closet. The southwest room has been converted into two bathrooms and a dressing room.

The third floor has a small hall at the top of the stair and four rooms, two of which are original in form, having plaster applied to the rafters and being separated by a frame wall. The third room is now a small bedroom, built in the twentieth century, and the fourth is a bathroom.

The cellar is accessed from the kitchen ell and from a flight of stairs descending under the main stairs. It remains as it originally was built with four rooms. The room at the bottom of the stair, which also leads to the kitchen ell, had a cooking fireplace in which the crane remains intact. The other three rooms remain unfinished. The kitchen ell, with brick floor, has a cooking fireplace and a separate oven with a beehive dome.

Justification of Boundaries

The boundaries of the nominated property correspond to two of the contiguous parcels of land owned by the Woodlawn Trustees, the two on which the house is approximately centered. These boundaries were chosen not only because they are readily referenced but because they provide the current visual setting--the terraced house grounds--in which the house can be visually comprehended and understood. Adjacent suburban residential development, which is screened by trees, and the golf course, which is separated from the Young house by road 228, are not relevant to the nomination and are not included.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1802 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William Young House is architecturally significant as a fine example of the late High Georgian style in Northern Delaware, built at the beginning of the 19th century at medium scale and in a somewhat rustic uncoursed local stone. Its historical significance lies in the use of a hilltop site and a homely but moderately pretentious style to express the status of mill owner William Young; hence, in the preservation of one facet of the early industrial life of the Brandywine Valley. Young's house stood a mile away from his paper mill in Rockland, which was listed as a National Register Historic District in 1972. The house is described in that nomination, and was until recently assumed to be listed as part of the district. However, it stands far outside the boundaries, and because of intervening development the boundaries cannot reasonably be extended to include it. The house is therefore nominated herein as an individual site, significant under National Register criteria C and A: it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period and method of construction, and it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

The architectural distinction and state of preservation of the recently restored Young house make it an excellent example of Delaware's essentially conservative approach to the Georgian and other styles. For example, the massing and plan are closely comparable to those of the Corbit-Sharp house in Odessa (N.R. 1967). But Daniel Corbit's house was built a full quarter century earlier, and is itself a solid and rich, rather than a precocious, example of 1770s style. Similarly, a near comparison for the somewhat inconsistent Federal style elements of the Young house--its slender stair, and more particularly its side-lighted doors--is found at neighboring Lower Louviers (N.R. 1972). This early Du Pont mansion is described as early Federal in the Delaware context, but it is dated 1811, and that is not an early date for the Federal style.

If the Young house illustrates the general conservatism of Delaware architecture, where styles root slowly and are slow to decline, it also preserves in its forms a building history particular to itself, and a particular species of cultural expression. The architect of the recent restoration believes on the basis of physical and historical evidence that the curious conjunction of styles--a body reminiscent of a house built a generation earlier, a doorway closely resembling an Asher Benjamin plate published in the 'teens--may reflect an unusually long building campaign, perhaps a decade or so in length. In any case, the greater simplicity of the house, as compared to the others mentioned here, makes an appealing statement of moderate ostentation. The rustic uncoursed surface and the double-pile plan links it to a rural building tradition which we associate with Pennsylvania and which in Delaware is confined to the northern Piedmont fringe. But though the house is clearly not a mansion on

9. Major Bibliographical References

Rockland Historic District, National Register nomination form, 1972; on file at Delaware Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1.1 acre

Quadrangle name Wilmington North

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A

1	8	4	5	1	6	2	0	4	4	0	4	8	8	5
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property consists of the Young house itself and its immediate grounds. The grounds are confined to parcels 13 and 14, Brandywine Hundred property map #88. The acreages of these parcels are .53 and .57 acres, for a total of 1.1 acres bounded by a roughly rectangular figure fronting on road 228.

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

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jay Shoemaker, AIA (112 Columbia Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081)
Patricia Wright, Historian

organization Bureau of Archaeology & Hist. Pres. date 3/29/82

street & number Old State House, The Green telephone (302) 736-5685

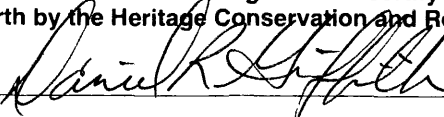
city or town Dover state Delaware

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification


The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy/State Historic Preservation Officer date Sept. 27, 1982

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the
	National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>10/29/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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the order of elegance of Louviers or the Corbit house, it is just as clearly not a farmhouse. William Young required a gentrified hipped roof--a rarity in Delaware--rather than meat-and-potatoes gables. The interior woodwork is refined rather than sturdy. The siting and orientation of the house also articulate an elevated status. As observed in the Rockland District nomination, the proximity of the mansion house to the mill bespeaks a relationship more intimate than the modern one of absentee corporate ownership. On the other hand, the removal to the hilltop site suggests considerably more aloofness in the owner-worker relationship than is apparent in the location of two earlier owners' houses in Rockland village itself, or in the cheek-by-jowl relationship of Daniel Corbit's mansion house and tanyard in Odessa. A certain aloofness is also suggested by the placement of the curving stair in the Young house central hall. It opens toward what now appears to be the rear door: toward the east, away from the road, and away from the mill.

As described in the original nomination, Rockland is one of the earliest and longest functioning mill sites on the Brandywine River. Commercial milling operations are documented there as early as 1724, and a variety of mills were in place by the time William Young established his Delaware Paper Company in 1795. Young had emigrated from Scotland in 1784 and become a Philadelphia bookseller. He was still a member of the Philadelphia City Council in 1800, so he was an absentee owner during at least part of the time he owned the mill on the Brandywine. The building of this mansion house is believed to have commenced in 1802, and as noted above, may have continued over an extended period of time. A fire destroyed the paper mill in 1814; Young thereafter concentrated on cotton and woolen goods. The business employed as many as 300 people at its height, but gradually declined, and was sold by the U.S. Marshall in 1849.

Level of Significance

The level of significance checked in item 12 is local. The significance of the William Young house--both its architectural significance as a good example of late Delaware Georgian, and its historical significance as one response to the owner/worker relationship in the water-powered milling industry in northern Delaware--takes its principal meaning from comparison with local examples--that is, other Georgian houses, and other mill-owners' houses, in New Castle County.