

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

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Item number N-6757

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INVENTORY FORM: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

5. A. Property Name: (Thomas) Phillips Mill Complex (N-6757)
708 and 712 Nottingham Road
Newark, Delaware

B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The Thomas Phillips Mill Complex is located on the north side of Nottingham Road approximately .1 mile west of its junction with Delrem Drive. The complex is situated on two parcels that contain a total of 5.67 acres. The two parcels have a combined frontage of approximately 668 feet along Nottingham Road and an approximate maximum depth of 380 feet. The eastern and northeastern edges of the nominated area are bounded by the Christina River (1982 New Castle County Property Tax Maps; Map Number 9-13, Parcels 42 and 43).

UTM Reference: 18/433310/4393580

U.S.G.S. Quadrangle: Newark West, Md.-Del.-Pa.

C. Owner: David E. Lamb
708 and 712 Nottingham Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

D. Property Description:

The Thomas Phillips Mill Complex is composed of a late eighteenth century mill owner's house, a circa mid-nineteenth century miller's house, and a grist mill that was initially constructed in 1795. The large rectangular stone and frame mill is separated from the miller's house to the southeast by only a very short distance. The Thomas Phillips residence overlooks both of these structures from a slight rise to the west. The Phillips residence and the mill retain a high degree of structural integrity, however, the miller's house is included in this nomination since the primary importance of this site concerns the inter-relationship of these three buildings and the integrity of their setting.

The Thomas Phillips Mill—The mill was built in two phases that are clearly discernable in the building's structure. The dimensions of the original 1795 block are evidenced by a seam in the stonework that is edged by large structural quoins. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, the dimensions of the building were extended in stone and frame, and one-and-a-half stories were also added in frame. As it stands today, the mill is a banked, two-and-a-half story, gable-roofed building that is constructed of uncoursed rubble fieldstone at its basement and first floor levels, and of weatherboarded frame at its second story and attic levels. Windows and

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doors are randomly placed. Six-over-nine sash windows light the first and second floors, while the attic is pierced by six-over-six sash. Two deeply set Dutch doors, appearing to be original, provide access to the building, one at each endwall. The iron overshot waterwheel is enclosed in a board and batten lean-to at the western end of the northwest elevation. The original mill machinery was replaced in 1885, and it was about this same time that the iron waterwheel was installed, replacing the previous wooden one. The mill machinery has been dismantled and is being stored in the upper story of the mill.

The Thomas Phillips Residence—This dwelling is a late nineteenth century, two-and-a-half story, double pile, stuccoed fieldstone structure with a later frame rear ell. The main block presents a symmetrical five bay, center door facade with a gable roof and two brick interior end chimneys. Its standing seam metal roof is pierced by three pedimented dormers on the facade and two on the rear. In addition, a cyma recta box cornice with partial returns emphasizes the roofline. The facade door is set in a paneled recess with a two-light transom, however, the door itself is a modern replacement. Twelve-over-twelve sash windows light the first floor, while eight-over-twelve sash light the second floor. Two, four-light casements pierce each gable. The stuccoed finish on the exterior walls is scored and whitewashed to resemble ashlar.

The rear ell, which is located at the eastern end of the rear wall, is two stories tall, but its roofline is much lower than that of the main block. This weatherboarded, two bay, frame addition has an interior end chimney, and a frame lean-to on its west elevation. Its six-over-six sash windows have molded surrounds. A flat-roofed, one bay porch with two square columns and a turned baluster railing shelters the door on its east elevation.

Also on the property is a shed, a garage, and a barn. The shed is a small one story, one bay, gable-roofed, frame building that is sheathed with German siding. It is located approximately three feet behind the kitchen wing of the house. The two story garage is also frame with German siding. The barn is a board and batten clad frame structure resting on a banked stone foundation.

The Miller's House—This dwelling appears to have been built during the middle of the nineteenth century as a two story, three bay structure. It was enlarged later in the century by the addition of a two story wing at the rear that is nearly as large as the original section.

Three of the facade windows have been blocked, leaving only the door and the two western windows on the main wall of the original structure. The transom-

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topped door is sheltered by a one bay, hip-roofed porch that is supported by two square columns. This section of the house has a gable roof with a box cornice, and an interior brick chimney at each endwall.

The rear addition is a gable-roofed structure that is joined to the main block by a hipped roof cross section. A two story bay window extends from the rear of this wing, and its western gable is clad with wooden shingles.

Both sections of the house have been stuccoed and scored to resemble ashlar.

E. Justification of Boundaries:

The boundaries of the nominated area are set at the property lines of two adjoining parcels that contain all of the significant resources associated with this mill complex.

F. Significance:

The Thomas Phillips Mill Complex is significant as an eighteenth and nineteenth century mill operation surviving in its original context. The importance of waterpower cannot be overestimated in the history of the White Clay Creek Hundred vicinity, as many mills were located along both the White Clay and Christiana Creeks. This group of buildings is being nominated to the National Register on the basis of criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Built shortly after 1795 by Thomas Phillips, this rubble stone grist mill was in continuous operation as a family-owned business until the twentieth century. By 1849 the operation was known as W. Robertson's Saw and Grist Mill. The property changed hands again, for it is known that by 1868 the place was run by C. McLaughlin as a grist mill. McLaughlin continued at the mill until at least 1881. The mill remained a profitable venture, for in 1885 the original machinery was replaced, including the wooden waterwheel which was exchanged for an iron one. Significantly, the waterwheel is still in position along the disused race, and the dismantled machinery is stored in the upper story of the mill.

Because of the nature of the watershed, which is characterized by numerous streams cutting through a gently rolling landscape, northern New Castle County was especially suited for mill industries. Many small-scale, family-run mills were situated in this part of the state during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, such as the Graves Mill Historic District (NR 1979), an eighteenth century saw mill, and the Fell Historic District (NR 1983), a nineteenth

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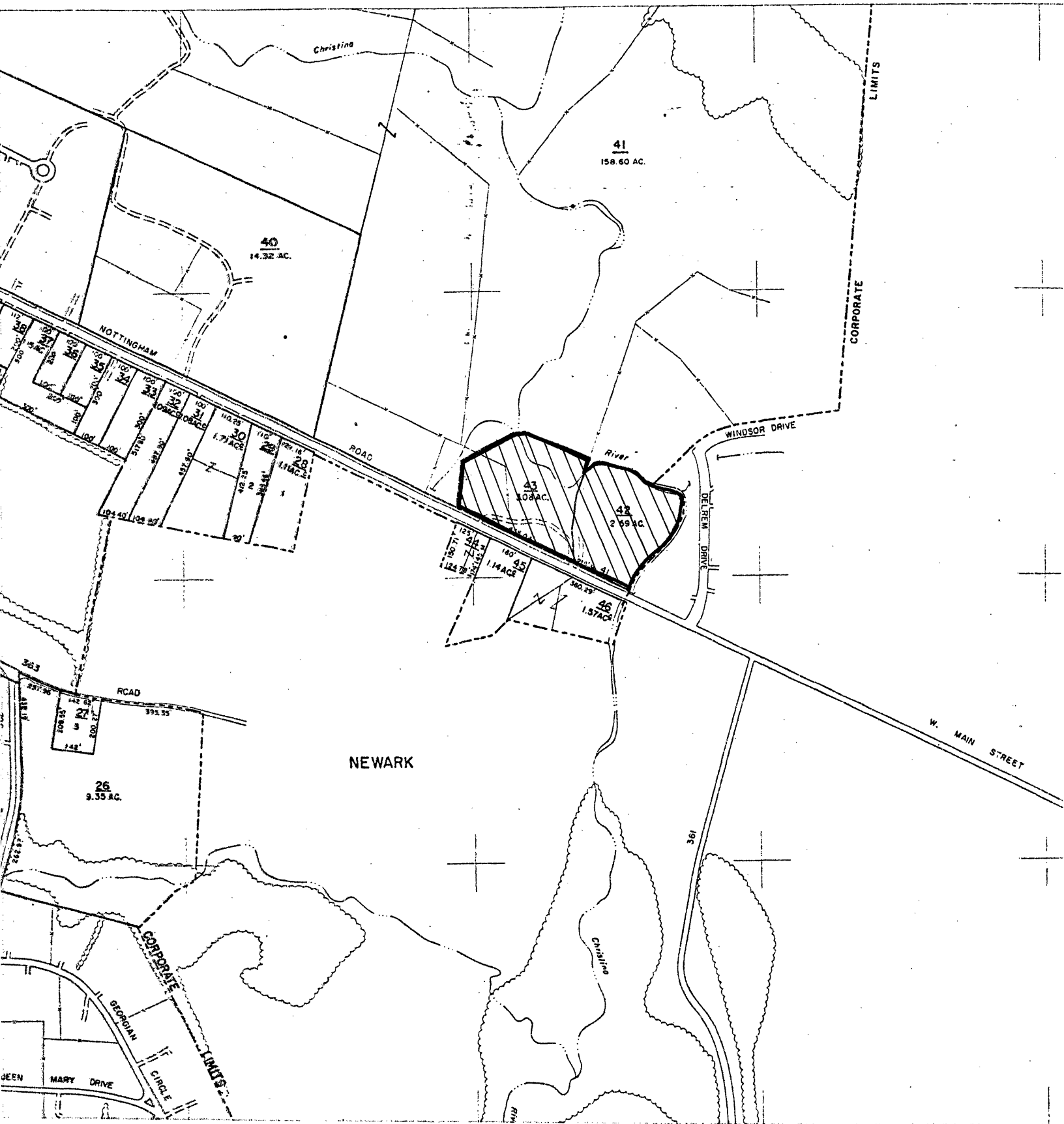
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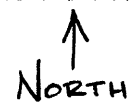
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century spice mill. Contemporary with both of these operations, the Thomas Phillips Mill Complex retains important stylistic, structural, and industrial materials from two major periods, and it continues to possess the integrity of its site.



SKETCH MAP



5. Thomas Phillips Mill Complex (N-6757)
 New Castle County Property
 Tax Map, 1982
 Map No. 9-13, Parcels 42 and 43
 Scale 1 inch = 400 feet