

PH0001414

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 1	1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Lower Louviers and Chicken Alley

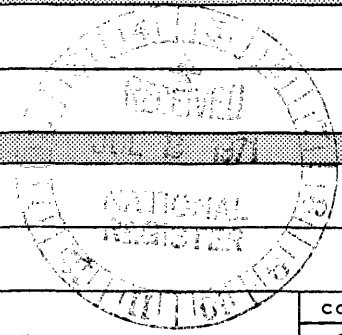
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Louviers and Duck Street

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
#1 Black Gates Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Wilmington vic (N)

STATE Delaware	CODE 19803	COUNTY: New Castle	CODE 10	COUNTY: New Castle	CODE 003
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
W. W. Laird

STREET AND NUMBER:
#1 Black Gates Road

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington	STATE: Delaware	CODE: 19803	CODE: 10
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
New Castle County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rodney Square

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington	STATE: Delaware	CODE: 10
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Junior League Historic Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1962-1964** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historical Society of Delaware

STREET AND NUMBER:
509 Market Street

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington	STATE: Delaware	CODE: 10
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lower Louviers is a stuccoed stone house that is approached from the north side. This side has two stories with a five bay facade. The three center bays project slightly from the main body of the house which is capped by a gabled pediment having a circular window centered above the entrance door. On either side of this door are two semi-circular blind niches with semi-circular arched heads. Originally a bronze Venus and Adonis stood here. Above these are two round topped casement windows of identical proportions. On top of the main door is an elliptical transom with radiating muntins and on either side of the door are side lights with curved intersecting muntins.

The three storied garden facade faces south over a steep wooded bank to the Brandywine. The central bay is a 45° projection. The narrow two story portico conforms to the shape of the facade. There is a handsome Chinese style railing. Surmounting the portico is a paneled balustrade following the full length of the facade. The reconstruction of this porch in 1935 was based on the two columns which remain of the original. These have ionic caps with fluted blocks under the caps and square columns below. Behind the portico is a 45° bay which forms one side of a central parlour. Either side of the casement door on the angled sides are single casement sash. The end gables of the original house have lunettes.

Originally the dining room was on the northwest end of the house with the kitchen in the basement which is partly above grade on the garden side. In 1935 a kitchen wing was added to the other end of the house plus a gated wall and garage. Both kitchen and garage imitate the style of the Black Gates Houses at the entrance to the property. The house was not too modified in the 1935 change. The east chimney, one of the two original chimneys that opened on to the central parlor, was removed to insert an elevator. The chimneys were of brick and independent of the house in an entirely self-supporting manner. The entrance hall is essentially the same with a handsome stair rising from the right of the entrance. The stair brackets are of cast lead in light scroll design. The newel and corner balusters are of metal, resembling wood turnings. The second floor plan approximates the ground. The third floor was enlarged in 1935 by a shed dormer on the south side that is almost invisible.

None of the original woolen mills still stand, nor does the row of six frame dwelling houses that sat further back in the woods, originally known as "Chicken Alley." Charles Bank, another row of workers' houses is gone. But "Duck Street," now called "Chicken Alley," still stands close to Lower Louviers, showing the close proximity of the mill owner's home to that of his workers. This row of stuccoed stone homes are now two private dwellings, with recent addition on the west end. The five porched doorways still stand showing the entrances of the original houses. The long even roof of the 19th century is now raised in the center indicating where the original house stood when the land was bought in 1802 from Pierre Bauduy.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

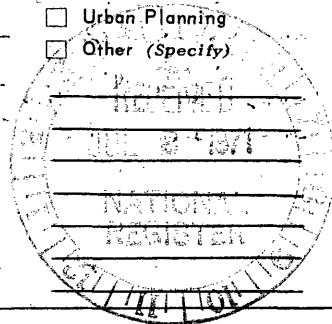
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1811** **1935**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lower Louviers is significant as a handsome example of early federal architecture and as one of the first houses built for the duPont family on the Brandywine. Although there are no longer the Louviers Woolen Mills which were once nearby, Chicken Alley stands as it did, an excellent example of the 19th century workers' row house. The close proximity of workers' and owner's homes to the mills can be seen here as in other mill areas of the early 19th century Brandywine. Louviers is also indicative of that period's rise and fall in the textile industry. Stimulated by larger markets and more technical skills fifteen woolen mills were built in Delaware between 1809 and 1825. But lack of raw materials, skilled labor, high tariffs, and the natural disasters of floods and fires brought failure. All of these mills were closed by 1835, except two. The duPont Woolen Mill was one of these two. Only the financial help of the successful powder works across the river saved the duPont textile interests. Henry and Alfred duPont assumed Charles' debts in 1856 and the mills became used for manufacture of metal powder kegs in 1865, first to Lessees then by the Du Pont Company in 1885. The explosion of 1890 caused such destruction that many buildings were razed. All that is left of the original industrial complex is the owner's home, "Lower Louviers," and the former workers' row "Chicken Alley."

There was support and participation from the beginning from the powder side of the family, Eleuthere Irene duPont, to the textile branch of Victor. Their father, Pierre Samuel, introduced merino rams to the United States in 1801. The young textile industry suffered from lack of raw materials especially that needed to produce fine quality wool. Don Pedro, the famous ram imported from Spain in 1805, assured the duPonts the best flock in the country. E. I. duPont envisioned an industrial community that could produce cloth and leather as well as gunpowder. He also wanted to provide a livelihood for his brother Victor who had had business failure as well as persuade Victor to live nearby. A partnership was formed between the two brothers and Bauduy and Duplanty to form a woolen factory. This was called Louviers, after a wool yarn center in France between Rouen and Paris. Some two hundred acres of land had been bought from Bauduy on the east bank in 1802. The buildings were built here between 1808 and 1811. Victor and his family moved into Lower

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PRIMARY SOURCES

American Watchman, March 30, 1810, page 2.
 Ibid., December 7, 1813, page e.
 duPont, Charles I., Letter Books, Accession 501, Eleutherian Mills, Hagley Library, Greenville, Delaware.
 duPont, Mme. Victor, "Our Transplantation to America," typed copy of a manuscript written in 1826-1833, Eleutherian Mills, Hagley Library, Greenville, Delaware.

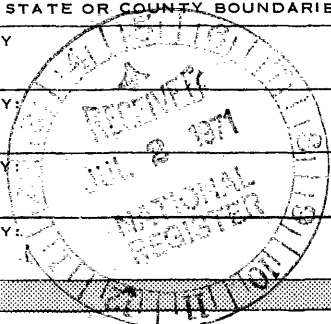
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	39° 47' 17"	75° 34' 45"		" "	" "	
NE	39° 47' 05"	75° 34' 02"		" "	" "	
SE	39° 46' 50"	75° 34' 09"		" "	" "	
SW	39° 47' 02"	75° 34' 53"		" "	" "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **51 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Eleanor M. Webster, Consultant to the**

ORGANIZATION: **Tri-County Conservancy** DATE: **August 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Post Office Box 141**

CITY OR TOWN: **Chadds Ford** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Dean Milkin*
 Title: **Historic Registrar, State Liaison Officer**
 Date: **June 28, 1971**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Cornwell
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
FEB 1 1972

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: **Jan. 12, 1972**

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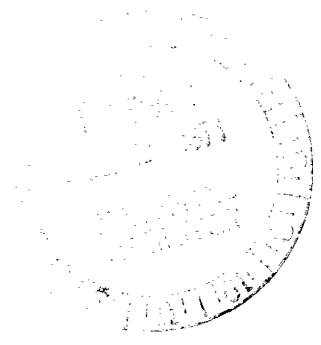
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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd.)

Louviers in 1811 and Victor's son, Charles, began working in the mills in 1813. When the original partnership failed, Charles entered with his father to run the Mills in 1815. Most of the management was in Charles' hands as Victor was more preoccupied with politics, becoming among other things, a State Senator. This became complete on Victor's death in 1827.

E. I. duPont oversaw the building of Victor's house. Family tradition says that the plans were submitted to Thomas Jefferson who commented with approval on the south portico and the use of natural gravity to supply the house with water from a nearby spring. The colonnaded south side does have a Southern tone, probably influenced by Victor's stay as Consul from France in the 1790's in Charleston, South Carolina. The house still stands much as it did when Victor and his family moved in. Admiral Samuel Francis duPont lived there before he moved "up the hill" to Upper Louviers. Charles, of course, ran the mills from there and later it was the home of Eugene duPont, Sr., the fourth head of the family powder works. Still later it was the home of H. Belin duPont, brother of three of the Du Pont Company's heads-- Pierre S., Irene, and Lamot duPont. For awhile Louviers was abandoned and boarded up until W. W. Laird, a member of the duPont family took over the house in 1935. But essentially the house was kept the same observant of a family heritage.



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (cont'd.)

PRIMARY SOURCES

duPont, Mme. Victor, Transcripts of her letters to Mme. Ganigaults, No. 85-100 and No. 101-118, Eleutherian Mills, Hagley Library, Greenville, Delaware.

McLane, L., "Report on Manufactures," 2 vols., House Document 308, 22nd Congress, 1st Session, Washington, D.C., 1833.

Strebb, R. L. (compiler), "Statistics Relating to E. I. duPont de Nemours & Company," years 1802-1899, 2 vols., 1946.

MAPS AND SURVEYS

Pomeroy and Beers, "Brandywine Banks," Philadelphia, 1868. A copy of this map with details of the mills and other buildings can be found at the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library, Greenville, Delaware, under Map File No. D-6.

Survey of the Brandywine Mill Sites c. 1822, in the rare-book room at the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library, Greenville, Delaware.

New Castle County Regional Planning Commission, "Historic Buildings and Areas, A Comprehensive Development Plan Background Study," County Engineering Building, Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington, Delaware, September 1967.

SECONDARY SOURCES--PUBLISHED

Carr, Wm. H. A., The duPonts of Delaware, Dodd, Mead & Co., N.Y., 1964.

duPont, Bessie Gardner, Life of E. I. duPont, University of Delaware Press, Newark, Delaware, 1930.

duPont, Bessie Gardner, Lives of Victorine and Josephine duPont, University of Delaware Press, Dover, Delaware, 1930.

Eberlein, H. D. and Hubbard, C.V.D., Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware, Public Archives Commission, Dover, Delaware, 1962.

Eckman, Jeannette, et. al., Delaware, A Guide to the First State, Federal Writers' Project of the Work's Progress Administration, Viking, New York, 1938.

Cole, Arthur Harrison, The American Wool Manufacturer, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1926.

Henry, Allan, The Life of Alexis Irene duPont, vol. II, Wm. F. Fell Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1945.

Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Delaware, 1609-1888, 2 vols., Richards & Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1888.

Vail, R. W. G., The American Sketchbooks of Charles Alexander Lesueur, 1816-1837, Davis Press, Worcester, Mass., 1938.

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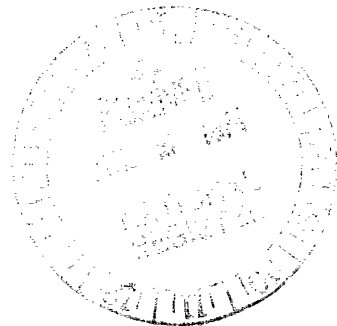
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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Cont'd.)

SECONDARY SOURCES--UNPUBLISHED

1. E. I. duPont's Properties, Kane Files, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library, Vol. IV.
2. Gibson, George H., "The Delaware Woolen Industry," Eleutherian Mills, Hagley Foundation research report, Greenville, Del., 1963.
3. Hancock, Harold, "The Industrial Worker Along the Brandywine, 1800-1840." Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation research report, Greenville, Delaware, 1956.
4. Hartman, Thomas B., "The duPont Woolen Venture, 1807-1856," Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation research report, Greenville, Delaware, 1955.



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(Number all entries) Lower Louviers and Chicken Alley - Description - 2

Boundary Description

Beginning at a monument at the end of a stone wall near the South corner of the property of St. Joseph Paper Company ("Upper Louviers"), N 36° 23' 10" E, 18.00 feet to a drill hole in the top of the wall. Thence N 45° 32' 30" W, 990.47 feet to a stone monument passing through two stone monuments and an X-marked rock. Thence N 22° 43' 10" E, 307.71 feet to a stone monument, and N 67° 39' 10" W, 1292.92 feet to a concrete monument in a bridge abutment on the Eastern bank of Brandywine Creek, passing through two concrete monuments and a spike in a macadan road. Thence 143.65 feet further on the same line to the centerline of Brandywine Creek, thence downstream as follows: S 0° 26' 30" W, 398.48 feet; S 23° 04' 30" W, 110.38 feet; South 379.86 feet; S 55° 14' 30" E, 410.26 feet; S 56° 30' 40" E, 406.99 feet; S 58° 11' 10" E, 648.93 feet; S 64° 49' 30" E, 247.84 feet; thence to a point S 37° 08' 00" W, 535.92 feet from the beginning monument. Thence about 540 feet along the centerline of the Brandywine to a point S 1° 33' 50" W, 516.88 feet from the previous point. Thence S 69° 32' 15" E, 98.99 feet to an X-marked rock, thence 441.01 feet along the same line, passing through a concrete monument to a drill hole in the top of a stone wall. Thence N 20° 27' 45" E, 651.20 feet to a concrete monument, thence N 37° 37' 10" W, 392.75 feet to a stone monument, and then N 36° 26' 50" W, 262.95 feet to the place of beginning.

