

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 30 1977
DATE ENTERED	AUG 3 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Augustine Paper Mill

AND/OR COMMON

Container Corporation of America, Paper Mill Division (*Old Wilmington Plant*)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

At the end of North Brandywine Park Drive

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

New Castle

CODE

002

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Container Corporation of America

STREET & NUMBER

1 First National Plaza

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

IL

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Public Building

STREET & NUMBER

Rodney Square

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

DE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (See Continuation Sheet)**

TITLE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey N-3645

DATE

1975

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs, Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

DE 19901

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Augustine Paper Mills, now the Container Corporation of America's Wilmington paper mill, is located on the east side of the Brandywine River at the end of North Brandywine Park Drive. This paper milling complex was once part of a chain of mills using the Brandywine for power. The complex is situated in the river-bottom of the Brandywine. It is contained in the relatively narrow strip of land between the river and a steep slope. Because there was so little land, the complex is built tightly and the modern additions made to the nineteenth-century mill structures are abutted to the early building. At the north end of the complex the race is still present and flowing. A more modern channel cut under the mill allows the Brandywine's water to fill two large pools to the south of the mill buildings. These are used in processing paper. To the east is the railroad line.

There are seven of the nineteenth-century mill buildings still on the property. They are all built of stone quarried nearby. The oldest mill building (No. 7) is the farthest north in the complex. It is situated with its gable end to the river. The race enters the mill through an arched opening with a brick surround in the side of this structure. This three-story mill is constructed of randomly-laid stone with walls three feet thick. The windows in the building have brick surrounds and segmentally-arched heads. The sash, where present, have twelve-over-twelve lights. Many of the window openings have been blocked off. The interior of this structure has been reframed in steel to support the brick arch system of each ceiling on the first three levels. The fourth level remains relatively intact. The exposed iron truss system here is quite unusual in form. It supports a slate roof. At the peak are several clerestory windows. The floor is covered with slabs of shale. At the east end of this room is a large opening. The wooden door frame, with its elliptical fanlight, is still in the opening. The double doors are gone. Because of the way the mill is built into the hill, this door is just one flight up from the ground. Stone walls enclose the forty-foot square area. Within the iron truss work is a wooden pulley system.

The remainder of the major buildings which date to the nineteenth century (Nos. 4, 5 & 6) are located to the south of the main mill (No. 7). They have two levels. In the basement, the foundation walls are five feet thick. The same brick arch support system is present. The open truss work of their main levels allows for light from the clerestory windows, located at the peak of the roofs. Their slate roofs have been replaced by corrugated iron. The south end of these buildings has been broken through for another addition.

A few support buildings remain on the site from the nineteenth century (Nos. 9, 19, 20 & 21). All are built of stone and all of them, like the major buildings, have corbelled brick cornices. In some cases the brick forms a cap below the roof on the table end. The boiler house (Nos. 19, 20 & 21) has flat brick, segmentally-arched hood moulds over each of the twelve-over-twelve light sash windows.

Because of the topography, the mill is rather isolated. The parkland ends at its south gate. To the east, and to the west on the far side of the Brandywine, are very steep hills with dense foliage. To the north, across the creek, is part of what was once the Bancroft Mills.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Though not the first of its kind in the vicinity of Wilmington, the paper manufacturing company formed in 1843 by the partnership of Jessup and Moore came to dominate the Brandywine River paper industry by the time of the Civil War. Augustine Mill, the nucleus of the Jessup and Moore operations, is of great interest to the history of the Delaware paper industry as it is one of the few which continues to produce paper. The several remaining buildings of the Augustine Mills, while adapted to modern manufacturing requirements, retain much of their original architectural features.

In 1845 Augustus E. Jessup of Westfield, Massachusetts, and his son-in-law, Bloomfield H. Moore of Philadelphia, purchased the Augustine Mill which was originally built to manufacture snuff and had later been converted to a flour mill. The partners adapted the mill for paper manufacture, using the most modern equipment then available. The refurbished mill was one of the largest and most complete paper mills to be found in the United States. In 1860 Jessup and Moore acquired the Young Mill, located several miles upstream at Rockland. A fire in 1869 gutted this mill, but by August of 1869 it was back in full operation, this time equipped with the latest machinery to produce paper from wood and straw pulp.

Moore was quite prominent in Philadelphia society and was a staunch supporter of the federal government during the Civil War. He was an originator of the Union Club of Philadelphia, which later became the Union League of America.

The company reorganized on December 1, 1878, to form the Jessup and Moore Paper Company. In 1881 this new corporation founded the Delaware Mills which, in addition to the Augustine and Rockland Mills, established an extensive paper making facility along the Christiana River, just outside the city limits of Wilmington. Delaware Mills established for itself a prestigious position in the paper industry. The Augustine Mills employed over 100 workers who daily produced 36,000 pounds of the finest lithograph, map, and slate paper.

By 1942, the Container Corporation of America bought out the Delaware Mills and assumed management of the Augustine Mill. The Container Corporation has modernized the site and its structures. Nevertheless, there remains of the Augustine Mill, several distinctive nineteenth-century buildings. These are structures of native stone with brick detailing, some of which retain the original iron truss structural system. In form and style, they recall a time when similar mills lined the Brandywine and sent their products throughout the world.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Beers, D. G. Atlas of the State of Delaware. Philadelphia: Pomery & Beers, 1868.
- Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware: 1609-1888. 2 vols. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards & Co., 1888; reprint ed., Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press, 1972.
- Thomas, Selma, ed. Delaware: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites. United States Department of the Interior, 1975.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY About 9-1/2 acres E 18/452270/4401460

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 8	4 5 2 3 1 0	4 4 0 1 4 5 0	B	1 1 8	4 5 2 3 1 0	4 4 0 1 1 1 8 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 1 8	4 5 2 2 6 0	4 4 0 1 1 6 0	D	1 1 8	4 5 2 2 2 2	4 4 0 1 2 5 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area is bounded by the middle of Brandywine Creek on the west, the centerline of the Augstine Cut-Off Bridge on the south, a company delivery road on the east, and an arbitrary line drawn 150' from the building on the north.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joan M. Norton, Architectural Historian and Dean E. Nelson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

DATE

October 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Records, P.O. Box 1401

TELEPHONE

(302) 678-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Dover

STATE

DE 19901

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

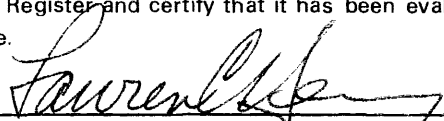
NATIONAL

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



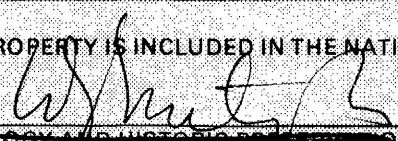
TITLE Director, Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

12/14/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER



DATE

8/3/78

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/1/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Augustine Paper Mill  
Industrial Site  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

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Historic American Engineering Record Inventory

1974

Federal

Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.