

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 16 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 29 1976

**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 *WMA*
~~Walnford Historic District~~
AND/OR COMMON
Waln's Mill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *5 of Allentown office 539*
~~Walnford Road, R. D. #1~~ -- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN *Allentown* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
~~Upper Freehold Township~~ VICINITY OF *Fourth*
STATE *New Jersey* COUNTY *Monmouth* CODE *025*

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME *Edward K. and Joanne H. Mullen*
STREET & NUMBER
Walnford, R.D. #1
CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE
Allentown New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Monmouth County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Court House
CITY, TOWN STATE
Freehold New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE *Natural Resources Inventory Report*
Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey (see cont. sheet)
DATE *1974* -- FEDERAL -- STATE -- COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS *Upper Freehold Environmental Commission*
CITY, TOWN STATE
Imlaystown New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION ATAO

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I THE DISTRICT Driving down a country road towards Crosswicks Creek one first sees a grist mill on the left just before the bridge over the creek. By taking a left on the road by the Grist Mill one sees Walns Mill, Walnford, and its dependencies. The 3 1/2 story grist mill is on the right of the entrance road and a carriage shed and smoke house are on the left. The white late Georgian style house commands a lovely view overlooking Crosswicks Creek (which is about 75 to 100 feet wide) and the dam. The dirt road beyond the house leads into the Walnford complex with its many outbuildings. The area around Walnford is rural and consists of about fifty acres, with heavily wooded sections, some pastures, and farm land.

The buildings in the complex are:

II THE HOUSE Except for Victorian brackets under the eaves which were added in the mid-19th Century, the house (C.1773) remains virtually unspoiled. The 2 1/2 story clapboard dwelling consists of five bays with a one story porch extending the length of the front of the house. The massive Dutch door has a tramson window above it and is flanked by two windows on each side with twelve window panes and shutters. The second story has five windows symetrically placed over the first floor windows and door.

The bracketed porch with slender Doric columns is a Victorian replacement. However, structural evidence reveals that the house was originally built with a proch. This is indicated by an examination of the cellar beneath the porch which extends forward from the house and has surface windows with ornate cast iron grills. These windows are placed in the cut and dressed sandstone foundation. The clapboard on the front of the house underneath the porch is flush, whereas the rest of the clapboard on this white house is beaded.

The roof has a medium gable and is covered with slate shingles that were probably replaced about sixty years ago. On the gable ends there are returned cornices and there are two windows on the attic level. Looking at the house there are two chimneys on the left side and one on the right. A very tall chimney rises from the kitchen wing that is adjacent to the house on the right. This 1 1/2 story recessed wing has clapboard siding and a wood shingled

(see continuations sheet)

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roof. All apparent evidence indicates that the kitchen wing was built at the same time as the house in 1773. However, there is some thought that parts of this wing date from an earlier building.

Upon entering the front door one is in a commondious hall (32'3"1. x 11'10" w.) which extends from the front of the house to the back. The hall, two parlors, and dining room have multiple moldings around the ceilings and chair rails on the walls. There are oaken floors throughout the house and all are in excellent condition. To the left of the hall is the front parlor (19'5" l. x 19' w.). The fireplace with its original Atsion fireback has simple and well-defined bevelled panelling which extends to the ceiling. Beneath the double moldings there is another row of molding from the fireplace to the corners.

Also to the left of the center hall is the back parlor (17'1. x 13'4"w.) Two built-in cupboards with a shell motif flank the marble mantle piece whcih is of a later date. The cupboards are not original to the house and appear to have been made in Monmouth County in the mid-18th Century. The panelling around the fireplace and extending the height of the room is similar to that in the front parlor but smaller in scale. This fireplace as well as two in the bedrooms upstairs, have Durham firebacks which were cast at the Durham Furnace in Pennsylvania.

To the right of the hall is the dining room (19'3" l. x 15'w.). It also has a marble mantelpiece which is a later replacement. The fireplace wall contains more well-executed panelling. The fireback appears to be of Pennsylvania Dutch provenance and has a date of 1758. The pantry (17'2" l. x 13'5" w.) was behind the dining room and is presently used as the kitchen.

From both the dining room and kitchen one can enter the old kitchen with its original exposed beams and large dimensions (21'9" l. x 21'5" w.). The present fireplace was probably rebuilt in the late 18th or early 19th Century as there are remains of an earlier fireplace behind the present one. The fireplace is 11'4 long and has a cooking oven with an ash compartment below.

Behind the old kitchen is a summer kitchen which was most likely added on at the turn of this century.

The upstairs is reached by a half-turn staircase with a landing. The staircase with turned balusters and string brackets is original and has good proportions with simple carving. There are four

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goodsized bedrooms with single moldings and chair-rails. The attic or garret presently contains a large storage areas and two small bedrooms. The two bedrooms were once an "Outer Garrett" with "2 beds and bolsters" as stated in the inventory made at Nicholas Waln's death in 1848. The rafters in the roof are pegged and appear to be the original construction.

From a staircase off the original kitchen wing or from one of the bedrooms upstairs in the main house one enters the garret over the kitchen wing, which presently has two smaller bedrooms. The present bathroom was a bedroom. These rooms were probably utilized by the servants.

III THE MILL Of the numerous outbuildings in the district the grist mill is of the most interest. It is on a millrace by the Creek. ~~The Monmouth County Map of 1851 shows a grist and saw mill at Waln's Mill.~~ Only the remains of the foundation of the saw mill are extant and can be seen across the Creek from the present grist mill. The present three story frame and clapboard mill is the third one to be build on this site and has green clapboard siding with white trim. The first one burned down in 1822. This is verified by a stone in the foundation which says "NW 1822" (Nicholas Waln), when the second mill was begun.

There was another fire in 1871 which destroyed the second grist mill. The present mill was then built utilizing some of the old foundation of cut sandstone and was in operation through World War I. The last commodity ground there was feed for animals.

The interior is in excellent condition with oak walls that are mortised and tenoned. When the mill was built there was attention given to detail as witnessed in the chamfered posts. To the right of the entry is the manager's room which could date from an earlier period as it has timber framing with brick nogging, whereas the rest of the present mill is of frame construction.

The machinery for the operation of the mill is in pristine condition. The shoots, pulleys, mill stones, together with sifters, shellers, and bolting mills, remain. The wooden wheel for operating the mill can be seen and the later turbine is underwater. There are stalls on the third floor of the mill where the farmers in the area stored their grains until they were processed.

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- IV OUTBUILDINGS The other dependencies illustrate the varied activities that were carried on at a farm complex like Walnford through the years. As new technology was applied, many of these outbuildings became outdated and were used for more modern purposes. Also, many of these outbuildings utilize old construction material from other buildings in the complex so it is sometimes difficult to determine the exact date of a structure from external evidence.
- (1) Across the road from the grist mill is the carriage shed. Since much of the siding has been replaced it is difficult to pinpoint the exact age of this structure, but it appears to be late 19th Century. The horses feed bin is still there.
 - (2) A short distance away is the smokehouse, which is believed to date from the late 18th Century, although the siding has been replaced in some sections. Waln's ledgers have his recipe for curing gammon and have records of his shipping gammons to Spain and Protugal.
 - (3) An ell connected to the back of the main house is presently the caretaker's kitchen. However, this one story clapboard structure was originally the cheese house, before it was moved and attached between the main house and caretaker's house.
 - (4) The caretaker's house was likewise moved and greatly altered. Parts of this 2 story white clapboard house are from an earlier barn.
 - (5) The ice house is to the right of the kitchen wing and has a louvered cupola for ventilation. This white clapboarded structure has a brick foundation. The interior woodwork with circular sawn timber marks indicates the Civil War period but it is entirely feasible that the woodwork was replaced at that time. Of particular interest is the fact that the ice house was insulated by charcoal, which is still in evidence.
 - (6) Behind the caretaker's house is the old privy, which is now used for the storage of garden equipment. This building is a conglomeration as one plank door appears to be 1860's and another panelled door has hinges which are indicative of the late 18th Century.
 - (7) The coal shed of green clapboard with white trim is now used for storage and appears to be of the late 19th or early 20th Century.

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- (8) The weatherboarded horse stable has a pedimented cupola on top with a weathervane in the form of a deer. This building is in the middle of the outbuildings and comprises two stories. The ground floor is divided between storage area and horse stalls. There are four tie stalls connected by nicely divided arches. There are some beaded wall boards on this floor. The hay loft is above. Attached to the horses stable is the carport which was added in the early 20th Century.
- (9) Next to the horse stable is the artesian well building. Dating from the early 20th Century, this small octagon shaped structure is rather fanciful. It has brown shingles and white trim and there was originally a windmill over it.
- (10) Behind the horse stable and artesian well is the immense cow barn with weathered siding and white trim. Dating from the early 20th Century, the interior contains dairy equipment. There are manure removers on moveable tracks, milking stanchions, and feed bins. The feed was thrown down into the bins from the loft above. There was a dairy operation here until about World War II.
- (11) To the right of the horse stable and well building is the wagon shed with a lean-to on the back. The weathered siding runs horizontally on the front side and vertically on the other sides and two front doors. The wood in this structure has been reworked on numerous occasions but there is visible some remaining 18th Century peg construction.
- (12) Behind the shed is the lofty water tower with a finial on top. The weathered siding is beaded.
- (13) To the right of the shed is the green corn crib with white trim. This could date from the early 1830's because of the early framing which is mortised and tenoned. Perhaps this is the corn crib that was mentioned in the inventory made upon Nicholas Waln's demise in 1848.
- (14) The last of the outbuildings is the small carpenter's shed. With beaded siding, this structure dates from the late 1800's.

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From this description it is readily apparent that the Walnford district comprises a varied and interesting assortment of outbuildings, typical of a sizeable agricultural enterprise. A Northern plantation, if you will.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES C. 1773 house; 1871, Grist Mill BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Agricultural and Commerce

The Walnford complex is most interesting in that it relates an economic history through its extant buildings and records, has Revolutionary War ties, and was built and owned by a family with a noteworthy lineage, that prospered in Philadelphia and its environs and fostered political and religious interests in the new world.

Agricultural complexes like Walnford were important to the development of the Garden State, New Jersey. With fertile soil and accessibility to the major posts like Philadelphia by wagon or water or both, these farm enterprises prospered. Here is a contemporary description of one of these agricultural complexes.

"Richard Brown's new mill was in Upper Freehold Township in Crosswicks Creek in New Jersey not far from Bordentown. The stone mill measuring 55' by 26' with a 12' lean-to housed 2 pairs of stone, 3 bolting cloths, and a hoisting jack, all driven by water power; also a scale, a wire for cleaning wheat and numerous other utensils. A fulling mill and dye house, with a large furnace and press screw, a saw mill and a cooperage completed the layout on a large farm of 180 acres. Although water transportation was excellent, local farmers usually sold their wheat to Brown for a penny a bushel less than to mills nearer the Delaware." (Carl Bridenbaugh, The Colonial Craftsman [Chicago: University of Chicago Press] p. 60)

Richard Waln, a prosperous Philadelphia merchant, was to purchase these mills, and 171 acres for 1,850 pounds sterling in 1772. It seems logical for Richard Waln to have bought these mills which complemented his merchant business. His goods were shipped to such diverse ports as the West Indies, Nova Scotia, England, and Portugal as well as to Charlestown and Georgetown in South Carolina. Wheat, rye, and corn were the principal commodities that he handled together with such basic items as combs, thread, and calico. Richard Waln was most likely interested in owning his own mills so that he could have more control over when and what commodities should be processed and shipped depending on supply and demand factors.

There is the following entry in his Journal showing partial payment for his new plantation:

(See continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Papers

Waln Family Papers, 1759-1891 At the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Phil., Pa.

Deeds, Indentures and Inventory

(see continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 50

3 corners A, B, C

UTM REFERENCES

C	X	18	537	270	44	42	810	A	X	18	537	2980	44	42	810	house
		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
B	X	18	537	490	44	42	1410	D	X	18	537	5170	44	42	610	
		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of Walnford-Davis Station Road and Hill Rd, proceed NW along Hill Rd. 658'. Thence E along property line 1692" to Shadow Run Stream. Thence 1280' to a point on the stream. Thence proceed S 596' to Walnford-Davis Station Rd. Thence proceed W 704' to bend in road. Then SW 496' to next bend. Thence proceed S 690'. Thence proceed WSW 1269' to Hill Road. Thence proceed N along Hill Rd. to the point of beginning.

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 Mrs. Sibyl Groff and the Mullen family : revisions, Historic Sites Staff

ORGANIZATION Department of ENV. Protection DATE March, 1975
 STREET & NUMBER Box 1420 TELEPHONE (609) 292-2023
 CITY OR TOWN Trenton STATE New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL XX
XX

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.

SIGNATURE *Daniel J. Bunker* DATE May 8, 1975
 TITLE Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Tom Hunt DATE 6/29/76
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST *Charles A. ...* DATE 6-23-76
 CLERK OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Philadelphia October 27, 1772

Plantation at Upper Freehold brought of Rich. Brown
to cash pd James & Drinker in part of their
Mortgage - - - - - 500
Cash paid for a horse - - 12
My old Horse I value at - 15
pd a Prefs plate for fulling mill - - 3-16.10
to General Merchandise for
1 yd Irish linen 25 yds a 3
A present to R. Brown's wife 3.15.

Total 534.11

However, the deed granting the property to Richard Waln from Richard Brown is dated October 5, 1772.

Operation of the mills continued after his purchase in October, 1772, as witnessed by an existing Wheat Book (11/13/72-1774); Account Book (1772-1986) for the sale of wheat, rye and corn; Ledger B (11/10/72 commences separate Walnford account and continues through 11/13/73); and Bills for Mill (1773-1815).

Waln commenced building a house in early 1773. An account of the time comments that "the creek furnished good mill sites and was afterwards, known as Walnford. Richard Waln.....built a large and commondious mansion." (Franklin Ellis, History of Monmouth County [Philadelphia: R.T. Prck & Co. 1885] p. 419).

Entries in his Ledger mention Waln's purchases in connection with the building of the house. On March 4, 1773, he brought "6 dozen cupboard locks, 18 1/2 dozen hinges and 13 dozen lathes." Further entries show the purchase of 5/4 noards, glass, stones, bricks, nails and the payment of wages for cutting logs. Curiously, there are numerous entries of quarts or rum, which perhaps supplemented the workers' wages.

An analysis of Waln's ledger starting in June of 1774 clearly illustrates that there were numerous household items being bought such as "rice, a cupboard sugar, nutmeg, molasses, pots, bowls, a jug mug, butter, thimble and thread." Also at this time Waln's ledgers are marked Walnford.

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Joseph, the eldest son moved to Philadelphia in March of 1789 to become a commodity trader. There exists a quantity of letters from Joseph to his father giving daily reports of the world and local commodity markets. Such commodities that were quoted were corn, rye, pork, ham, wheat and superfine flours. Having a pulse on the world and local commodity markets, Joseph was able to tell his father when to mill the various commodities depending on the going prices and current demand. Joseph also acted as an employment agent for his father as noted in a letter of May 1, 1791 - "the miller has been here and he wants to hear from thee about the house he is to live in."

Richard Waln bought only the best fittings for his mill and even sent to England for his Burr stones. The letter of February 26, 1786, to his business associate in London reads:

...it is to get a certain Thomas Green about 5 miles from London to make upon his honor a pair of the best Burr mill stones 4 feet 4 in. Diameter - the Runner rather heavy as my stream is strong; as our wheat is hard - a close stone of even Temper is best - the Importance of good Mill stones is such that a Miller may with them make a fortune and with bad ones work all his life for nothing."
(R. Waln Letter Book 1766-1794)

To illustrate the volume of commodities that were being processed at Walnford records show that cooper bills for barrels averaged 150 barrels per month for the year 1788. Some of these barrels were destined for "Amboix, Philadelphia, Trentown and Brunswick.

Waln also expanded the farm's products by selling smoked hams or gammons. His recipe for curing gammons is one of his ledgers. These hams were even sold in Lisbon, Portugal. On April 12, 1789, a letter was dispatched to John Bulkeley & Son in Lisbon saying:

"My son to consider to your house a quantity of hams of my own curing."
(R. Waln's letter book 1766-1794). On June 6 he received a letter back stating that 38 casks of ham had been received in Portugal.

An interesting facet of Richard Waln's personality is his great interest in the abolition of slavery after the Revolutionary War. He was violently opposed to slavery and wrote several letters on this cause to his "Respected Friend", Elias Boudinot (earlier President of the First Continental Congress) in 1790 who was in Congress, then sitting in New York.

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In fact it justifiably can be said that the reach Richard Waln's mind extended far beyond his New Jersey & State. In another letter to Elias Boudinot on March 18, 1794, Waln writes about the future exhaustion of "every species on oak within twenty years" and then shows how oak byproducts are so important to international trade in that oak casks are used for "the ardent spirits of the West Indies... and the pickled fish of Nova Scotia". He goes on to say "I wish to see America make the lead in a confederation of all the lessor Powers against them (the great Powers of Europe) - another advantage might result from such a union - a protection of Trade from depredations of the great Powers of Europe when they go to war - by withholding general consent such Articles the privation of which would be most felt." (R. Waln Letter Book 1766-1794).

GENEALOGY

Nicholas Waln (1650-1721), a Quaker from Yorkshire sailed over on the ship. Welcome with William Penn, Lord Proprietary of Pennsylvania. The ship landed in new Castle, Delaware River, Territories of Pennsylvania on October 27, 1682. Nicholas Waln is reputed to have been a "Friend and counselor of William Penn." (Jordan, J.W. Colonial Families p. 200). Nicholas had a pioneering spirit which he demonstrated when he led a group of colonists to the north of Philadelphia along the Neshaminy River where they settled. Later, he moved closer to Philadelphia. He was active in politics being a member of the Assembly for many years and in religion where he worked for the Quaker cause. Nicholas Waln demonstrated the leadership abilities and devotion to his church and country that would inspire his descendants to take an active role in the development of this nation. As a result, the names of Pemberton, Wharton, Waln, etc., are, to most Philadelphians at least, as "Household words"... (Henry D. Biddle, Extracts From the Journal of Elizabeth Drinker, [Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Co., 1881] p. 5).

Nicholas Waln's 3rd child and first son Richard (1678-1756) was born in Yorkshire, before the family immigrated to America. Although he was "not as active as his father in public affairs" he was keenly alive to developing conditions"... (Frank W. Leach, Genealogies of Old Philadelphia Families [Philadelphia: The Sunday North American, 1911] p. 108).

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Richard, in turn, named his first son, Richard (1737-1809) and his second son, Nicholas (1742-1813). The latter was to become a very well known lawyer and preacher. Richard was to pursue a mercantile career and is reported to have "acquired considerable wealth." It was he who built Walnford (as he named it) and his descendants were to live at Walnford for nearly 200 years.

In 1760 Richard married Elizabeth Armitt, daughter of a cabinetmaker and of a prominent Burlington (N.J.) family. They has 7 children, the last being Jacob Shoemaker, who was born at Walmford in 1776.

Richard was to carry on his mercantile business from Walnford after the family moved there in 1773. The grist, saw, and fulling mills and the smoke house contributed to his business interests in Philadelphia.

About 1790 he moved back to that city, spending only brief periods at Walnford. His son Nicholas then took over the operations at Walnford. His oldest son, Joseph, moved to Philadelphia in 1789 where he commenced commodity trading. His youngest son, Jacob, like his father, also pursued a mercantile career. He was to become "one of Philadelphia's most prominent and prosperous merchants." (J.W. Jordan, Colonial Families of Philadelphia [New York-Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1911] p. 210). Like his ancestors he was active in public affairs serving on the City Council and later was a Member of the Legislature from Philadelphia. His son also was head of the well known merchant company S. Morris Waln & Co.

Nicholas Waln inherited Walnford from his father upon the latter's demise in Philadelphia in 1809. This has been stated in Richard Waln's Last Will and Testament dated June 23, 1801, which was recorded at the register's office in Philadelphia. Nicholas continued to carry on the family's agricultural interests.

Upon Nicholas Waln's wife death in 1848 Walnford was inherited by his daughter, Sarah Waln Hendrickson. At her death in 1907 there were "162 acres, on which, beside the family mansion, were a grist mill and several tenement houses." (J.W. Jordan, op. cit. p. 212). Sarah was the Postmistress as witnessed by letter addressed to her in January and February 1855. (The Monmouth County Map of 1851 has a notation "P.M." for Post Mistress.) Sarah lived until she was 91 and in her later years had failing health. For back wages she left Walnford on December 22, 1907 to one of her workers, a Negro, Johnny

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Wilson. The indenture (dated November 9, 1907) granting the property to Wilson for one dollar is on file at the Monmouth County Courthouse. Wilson later disposed of the house and contents to Richard Waln Meirs, whose grandfather was Sarah's brother. Richard Waln Meirs (1866-1917) was a highly successful business man, being an officer or director of many public utilities, bank, railroad, and coal companies. Meirs was responsible for many of the modern improvements to Walnford, and many of the existing buildings were adaptively used.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR TIES

Richard Waln being of English extraction and of the Quaker faith, was not a supporter of the colonies' war for independence. As early as 1768 he could see the clouds of war gathering and wrote to one of his English business associates "I have nothing to add but my ardent wishes that the conduct of his Majesty's Ministers and the New Parliament may be such as not to occasion the British Empire to be dismembered". (R. Waln Letter Book 1766-1794 - Letter dated Philadelphia, July 6, 1768).

When war did break out he was classified as a Tory since he refused to bear arms. The Journal of Elizabeth Brinker provides insight on what happened to Richard Waln at that time:

October 22, 1777 - "Richard Waln is taken up, and sent to New York. He had his choice of 3 things, wither to go to jail, take ye Test, or go within ye Elglish lines. Ye latter was chosen". (Henry D. Biddle, Extracts From the Journal of Elizabeth Drinker, Philadelphia J.B. Lippincott Co., 1881, p. 109).

It is not known where or exactly when Richard Waln was detained by the Colonial Forces. However, he did visit the Drinkers, for any entry in her journal on November 28 simply states that "...Richard Waln called". (Op cit. p. 109).

On December 11 of the same year Mrs. Drinker's Journal recorded that: "Near 10 o'clock this evening who should come in but Rich. Waln - he came from New York in a vessel with a number of others. He's hearty and well". It appears that he stayed on Philadelphia for some months as the Journal makes mention of him visiting the Drinkers on numerous occasions. Finally on June 17 "Richard Waln took leave of us today," being a short time after the British Forces withdrew from Philadelphia. The Journal leads one to believe that he returned to Walnford where he was to remain for the duration of the War.

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However, though he was a pacifist, his involvement with the Revolutionary War did not cease. Numerous accounts tell of how the Hessian General Wilhelm von Knyphausen ate at Walnford while his troops were repairing the bridge over Crosswick Creek that had been destroyed by the Colonial soldiers, who were trying to impede the British drive across New Jersey. This preceded the Battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778.

SUMMARY

The main house and outbuildings at Walnford afford us an extant, and almost unique, view of an important agricultural and commercial enterprise in New Jersey during the 18th and 19th Centuries. These buildings and the many documents that illustrates the business acumen and intellectual pursuits of the Walns stand as living testimony to economic development in central New Jersey during the first one hundred years to the United States. Together, the buildings and documents allow a more complete appreciation of the patrimony of our society.

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Historic Sites Section
Department of Environmental Protection
Box 1420
Trenton, New Jersey