Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
Delaware	
COUNTY:	
New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	· 1972

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The England House stands on a steep incline above White Clay Creek, north of Newark. Family heritage claims (contrary to Eberlein and Hubbard) that the oldest part of the house is the larger upper level; the smaller lower level having been added later for the miller. This lower level does have features of greater age—the doors, for example. The present owner claims that these doors were moved from the upper to the lower level as improvements were made in the Mill owner's part. There are signs that these two levels were separate living areas, no passageway being present originally on the second floor. The upper level, which makes up the main living quarters, bears the date 1747 on the North chimney.

Pent eaves are a feature of the house running along the front of both levels. The portico is a recent addition. At one time the pent eaves went around the north gable end, but they have been turned into a porch, as have those on the east side of the upper level. The joists that once supported the pent eaves on the east side of the lower level project now uncovered. The lower gable end has tapered barge boards. The walls are stepped back at the first floor level by a molded brick water table. The upper level's walls are laid in Flemish bond using a brick that is larger than normal. The headers are black glazed. The lower level is Flemish bond with smaller size brick and the headers are not glazed. On both levels on the exterior wall appear small recesses where headers have been omitted. These happen at random. The roof is now slate. It was the first replacement of the original hand-riven shingles.

There was much alteration to the upper part of the house in the 1930's. A whole chimney was removed to make place for a stairway next to the entrance door. A kitchen was added along with enclosed porches. Upstairs bedrooms were rearranged and a bathroom installed. A passageway was put into the lower level at this time. Despite changes the house does have features of note. There are old doors with handsome hinges. One door is an old Dutch door. are in the lower level as is the old fireplace. The Dutch oven that once was attached to the northeast corner of the house and open into the back of the fireplace has been removed. The enclosed winding stairs of this lower level have not changed. In the living room the corner cubboard over the fireplace is original according to the present owner. Summer beams run from each end wall of each level. The upper level measures approximately 33' x 32' and the lower level about 29' x 19'. The house has had changes, but it maintains its integrity in its overall structure, interior proportions and details, and its handsome flemish bond exterior.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Ap	ppropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	🔀 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known) \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check	one or More as Appropriat	te)	
Abor iginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic		losophy	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
	☐ Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
☐ Communications	☐ Military	☐ Theater	
Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The England House is a handsome example of an 18th century Millowner's home. Although there is discussion as to which wing is older (see #7--description) both parts represent colonial construction. The house has been in only two families since it was built.

John England, a Quaker from Staffordshire, England, came in 1723 to America as part owner of the Principio Furnace, Cecil County, Maryland. In 1726 he bought a six hundred (600) acre tract of land on White Clay Creek at the mouth of Muddy Run. In buying this land and other parcels it was said that he hoped to find iron ore for his mills. He lived part of the time on the east side of Muddy Run on land purchased from Toby Leech, where he built a dwelling house and a grist mill, since known as England's Mill. It is not known when, but before 1734 when he died leaving the property to his brother, Joseph England, the estate consisted of 400 acres. Joseph became a friend and active member of West Nottingham Meeting. Scharf says that he built the present house in 1747 and the mill nearby was rebuilt.

In 1748 he left the mill property to his son Joseph who died in 1791, leaving it to Joseph III whose sister, Sarah, married Robert Kirkwood of Revolutionary fame. Joseph III was in the State Legislature between 1800-1828 when he died. The house remained in the England name until 1839 when it was sold to David Eastburn. It is still in the Eastburn family. The mill left the Eastburn family in the 19th century and has had many different owners.

9. MAJOR	MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES											
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evalua	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					May a commade						
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE
Delaware
COUNTY
New Castle
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER DATE
. PFB & 3 1972

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A. PRIMARY SOURCES

Deeds, Registry of, New Castle County Courthouse, G Vol., page 33.

Delaware Gazette, May 2, 1828.

Pennsylvania Gazette, March 29, 1759.

B. SECONDARY SOURCES

Conrad, Henry C., <u>History of the State of Delaware</u>, 3 vols., privately published, Wilmington, Delaware, 1908.

Cooch, Francis A., <u>Little Known History of Newark</u>, <u>Delaware and Its Environs</u>, Press of Kells, Newark, <u>Delaware 1936</u>.

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

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MacDonald, Betty Harrington, <u>Historic Landmarks</u>, Delaware State Society Daughters of American Colonists, Intelligencer Printing Co., Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1963.

Scharf, John Thomas, <u>History of Delaware</u>, 1609-1888, 2 Vols., Philadelphia, L. J. Richards and Co., 1888.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Delaware	
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FOR NPS USE ONLY	Υ
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 3	3 1972

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Α.

Historic American Building Survey

DATE:

1941----Federal

DEPOSITORY: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

TITLE: В.

Delaware Heritage Buildings and Areas in

New Castle County

DATE:

1967

DEPOSITORY: Greater Wilmington Development Council

TITLE: c.

Historical Buildings and Areas

DATE:

1967

DEPOSITORY:

New Castle County Regional Planning Commission

County Engineering Building Robert Kirkwood Highway Wilmington, Delaware

OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 10/31/84

For NPS use only

6 1983

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places received JU. **Inventory—Nomination Form** date entered

See instruction Type all entries				ister Forms		F Man Source of		
1. Nam	e							
historic	England Hou	se and M	ill (An	Amendment)	·		
and/or common	Red Mill Fa	ırm						
2. Loca	ation							
street & number	81 Red Mil	1 Road,					_ not for public	ation
city, town	Newark y	`C.,	<u> </u>	icinity of	congressional	lietriet-		
state	Delaware	code	10	county	New Castl	.e	code	002
3. Clas	sificati	on						
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4. Own	er of P	roper	ty					
name	Dr. and Mi	s. Richa	cd T. Fi	e1d				
street & number	81 Red Mil	1 Road						
city, town	Newark		NA V	icinity of		state	Delaware	
5. Loca	ation of	Lega	l Des	criptic	on			
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, et	c. New Ca	astle Co	unty Recor	der of Deeds			
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7. Description

Condition excellent _X_ good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unalteredX altered	Check one _x_ original s moved	date	
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The brick England House on Red Mill Road stands on a steep incline above the White Clay Creek. This eighteenth century mill owner's house is composed of two well-defined sections; a three-bay northern section and a lower four-bay southern section are both laid in Flemish bond and rise from a rubble foundation to two stories with a gableroofed attic. The England House was listed in the National Register in 1972. The three-section, two-story with attached shed, frame mill building is sheathed with vertical board siding. The mill is located at the foot of an incline immediately south of the mill owner's house. The amended area is an adjoining parcel that contains the mill, a portion of the mill race, the mill dam and a wooden shed. In 1972, construction began on the realignment of the Red Mill Road. The resultant roadway bypasses the Red Mill Farm to the west and within the last several years, the bridges over the White Clay Creek were removed. As a result, the house and mill have become increasingly isolated. While this isolation has helped maintain a high degree of integrity, the need for surveillance, particularly of the fragile mill building, has increased. The house has had changes, but it maintains its integrity in its overall structure, interior proportions and details, and its handsome Flemish bond exterior. The 1974 Historic American Engineering Record inventory noted the deteriorating condition of the mill including a badly leaning wall. This situation has not been reversed; however, the mill is generally sound and could be restored.

The present owner believes (contrary to Eberlein and Hubbard) that the oldest part of the house is the larger upper level (the northern end); the lower level (the southern end) having been added later for the miller. This lower level does have features of greater age—the doors, for example. The present owner believes that these doors were moved from the upper to the lower level as improvements were made in the mill owner's part. There are signs that these two levels were separate living areas, no passageway being present originally on the second floor. The upper level, which makes up the main living quarters, bears the date 1747 on the north chimney.

Pent eaves are a feature of the house running along the front of both levels. The portico is a recent addition. At one time the pent eaves went around the north gable end, but they have been turned into a porch. The joists that once supported the pent eaves on the east side of the lower level project now uncovered. The lower gable end has tapered barge boards. The walls are stepped back at the first floor level by a molded brick water table. The upper level's walls are laid in Flemish bond using a brick that is larger than normal. The headers are black glazed. Particularly noteworthy is the decorative arrangement of glazed headers in the pedimented gable of the north end wall where they are laid in zigzag and lozenge patterns. The pedimented gable of the south end wall was originally decorated in this manner; however, in recent years these patterns were disturbed in the course of rebuilding the chimney and replacing deteriorated masonry in that area. The lower level is Flemish bond with smaller size brick and the headers are not glazed. On both levels on the exterior wall appear small recesses where headers have been omitted. These sockets were probably provided as points of anchorage for wooden scaffolds employed during construction. The roof is now slate. It was the first replacement of the original hand-riven shingles.

There was much alteration to the upper part of the house in the 1930's. A whole chimney was removed to make place for a stairway next to the entrance door. A kitchen was added along with enclosed porches. Upstairs bedrooms were rearranged and a bathroom installed.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C	heck and justify below		
prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599	archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture	community planning conservation economics	landscape architecture law literature	science
<u>X</u> 1700–1799 <u>X</u> 1800–1899	architecture art commerce	engineering exploration/settlement	music philosophy	social/ humanitarian theater
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Specific dates 1747 (House), 1789 (Mill) Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The England House is a handsome example of an eighteenth century mill owner's home. I was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 on the basis of its outstanding architectural qualities. Although there is discussion as to which wing is older (see description), both parts represent colonial construction. The house has been in only three families since it was built. Together with the England Mill, it survives as an important component of an early industrial complex. The England Mill is among the earliest and best preserved of all extant mill structures in New Castle County. The England House and Mill provide perhaps the best opportunity to study an early industrial complex of this type in New Castle County. Therefore, they are significant under Criterion C for National Register eligibility as they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction.

Only three eighteenth century braced frame construction mills have survived in New Castle County. One of these, the 1790 Greenbank Mill (NR 1973) was largely rebuilt after a recent fire. The Noxontown Mill (NR 1973) was erected about 1735 and is in good condition. Like the 1789 England Mill, each of the above mills is associated with a two-and-a-half story dwelling house constructed in the eighteenth century. The 1783 Robert Phillips House at Greenbank is a five-bay, double pile stone structure. Thomas Noxon's 1740 brick dwelling is a four-bay, single pile structure with attached two-bay, single pile frame addition. The England House constructed in 1747 has a three-bay facade adjoined by a four-bay section. While the Noxon House is closest in date to the England House, it lacks the sophistication of the England House seen, for instance, in the fine glazed header Flemish bond brickwork of the facade. The Noxon House interior has also been significantly altered. The Phillips House is clearly a statement of the late eighteenth century with interior and exterior refinements indicative of that period. This along with its stone construction sets it apart from the England and Noxon Houses, both products of the first half of the eighteenth century.

John England, a Quaker from Staffordshire, England, came in 1723 to America as part owner of the Principio Furnace, Cecil County, Maryland. In 1726 he bought a six hundred (600) acre tract of land on White Clay Creek at the mouth of Muddy Run. In buying this land and other parcels it was said that he hoped to find iron ore for his mills. He lived part of the time on the east side of Muddy Run on land purchased from Toby Leech, where he built a dwelling house and a grist mill, since known as England's Mill. It is not known when, but before 1734 when he died leaving the property to his two sons, Allen and Joseph, the estate consisted of 400 acres. In 1741 Joseph England, brother of John England, acquired the mill and farm. Joseph became a friend and active member of West Nottingham Meeting. Scharf's History of Delaware states that he built the present house in 1747 and the mill nearby was rebuilt.

In 1747 he left the mill property to his son Joseph who died in 1791, leaving it to Joseph III whose sister, Sarah, married Robert Kirkwood of Revolutionary fame. Joseph III was in the State Legislature between 1800-1828 when he died. The house remained in

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

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United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Item number 7 Page 1

ENGLAND HOUSE AND MILL

A passageway was put into the lower level at this time. In 1972, a frame two-and-a-half story gable-roofed rear ell was added at the southern end of the 1747 section of the house. Despite changes the house does have features of note. There are old doors with handsome hinges. One door is an old Dutch-type door. These are in the lower level as is the old fireplace. The Dutch oven that once was attached to the northeast corner of the house and opened into the back of the fireplace has been removed. The enclosed winding stairs of this lower level have not changed. In the living room the cupboard over the fireplace is original. Summer beams run from each end wall of each level. The upper level measures approximately 33' x 32' and the lower level about 29' x 19'.

The mill is composed of three distinct sections. A fieldstone in the foundation of the original section is inscribed "I+E 1789." This part of the building rises two stories to a gable roof covered with corrugated sheet metal; flaring rafter ends are exposed. The walls are sheathed with beveled tongue and groove boards arranged vertically and fastened with hand-wrought nails. The window frames seem to be of a nineteenth century type. Six-over-six sash, which may also have been nineteenth century material, has recently been replaced with modern two-over-two windows. Some of the door hinges and latches are hand-wrought and appear to be original.

The interior timbers are original. The largest framing members are hand hewn and smaller elements have vertical saw marks. The summer beam measures 40' x 14" x $10\frac{1}{2}$ " and is supported along its length by square posts finished with chamfered edges that flare to a cyma about four inches before meeting the summer beam. While some of the floor boards on the first level have been repaired or replaced, those on the second story are mostly original.

Adjoining this building over the mill race to the east is a later two-story, gable roof frame addition supported by fieldstone piers. Somewhat taller than the original mill, this section is also built of heavy timbers secured with pegs. The exterior sheathing is for the most part circular sawn lumber, with an occasional vertical saw cut board. All exterior siding is fastened with cut nails and there is no wrought hardware in this addition. The flooring on both levels is composed of relatively modern three-inch wide boards. The rafters are lapped and pegged. The roof is corrugated sheet metal.

Attached to the west end of the original mill is a one-story shed roof addition. It is supported by fieldstone piers and was built of reused timbers late in the nineteenth century. Vertical board siding is fastened to these timbers with cut nails. One end of this addition was partitioned-off and used as an office. A small chimney, recently removed, rose through the asphalt shingle roof from this office. A door from the office opens into the mill behind a sliding wooden door on the Red Mill Road side of the building. A secondary entrance, now the primary one, is provided by two sliding wooden doors on the west end of the shed roof addition.

NPS Form 10-900-a

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. IG/31/84



Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

ENGLAND HOUSE AND MILL

The England gristmill is especially notable for the quality of its surviving machinery, particularly since the mill has not been operated for the last twenty years. With the exception of the runner and bed stone housing and the stone hoist or crane, the machinery including most gears and shafts seems to be late nineteenth or early twentieth century replacements. All elevators, bolting machines and husking machines were made and secured in place with machine made screws and cut nails. The iron stone hoist is obviously hand made and possibly original. The bolting machines are late nineteenth century and are particularly interesting. One of these bears the label of the manufacturer, Aug. Wolf and Co., Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. The top portion of the label shows a running wolf from whose mouth trails a pennant identifying Wolf and Hamaker as mill furnishers. Below that the label provides directions for the operation of the machine. All of the bolting machines are stamped with the manufacturer's name and location and seem to be a set. The largest of these is stamped "The Wolf and Hamaker Bolt Pat. June 12, 1888."

Also included in the nominated area is a frame shed located immediately north of the mill. Its structural framework is sheathed with vertical boards and secured with cut nails. Asphalt shingles cover the gable roof. A notable feature is the hardware of the sliding door. The hand wrought twisted latch hook is not unusual; however, the door handle, which is also hand wrought, is formed in the shape of a snake.

Justification of Boundaries

The boundaries of the nominated property were set at the boundaries of the two adjoining legal parcels on which the England House and Mill stand. Contained within the nominated area are all of the significant resources related to the history of the mill site. A late nineteenth century outbuilding and residence, the home of the mill owner during that period, were not included because of extensive interior and exterior modifications.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

1

ENGLAND HOUSE AND MILL

the England name until 1839 when it was sold to David Eastburn. The house remained in the Eastburn family until 1972 when it was acquired by the present owner. The mill left the Eastburn family in the nineteenth century and has had many different owners. Scharf states that the mill remained in the Eastburn family until 1872, when it was sold to Oliver and Charles Allen. They operated the mill for two years producing their "Oakwood 196 Extra" flour, then sold it to Edward Wilson, who conveyed it to Thomas W. Jones. A year after refitting the mill with rollers, Jones sold the mill to David R. and Bessie Eastburn who in 1925 sold it to Frank H. Buckingham. The Buckingham family operated the mill, grinding corn, oats and wheat, until about 1960. The present owner acquired it in 1973.

The Joseph England House and Mill represent important and, in the case of the mill, rare surviving elements of a vital early industry. As a set they effectively remind us of the profound importance of this successful application of engineering, architecture and site planning to the industrial history of New Castle County.

Level of Significance

The level of significance claimed for the England House and Mill is State. While mill structures were constructed with considerable frequency beginning in the seventeenth century, few examples have survived to remind us of the statewide importance of this early industry. Eighteenth century braced frame mill structures represent an even rarer survival. The England House and Mill comprise perhaps the best surviving mill complex in New Castle County and therefore should be considered important to the history of the State of Delaware.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page

1

ENGLAND HOUSE AND MILL

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