

PH0021733

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUL 16 1973	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Strand Millas and Rock Spring
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

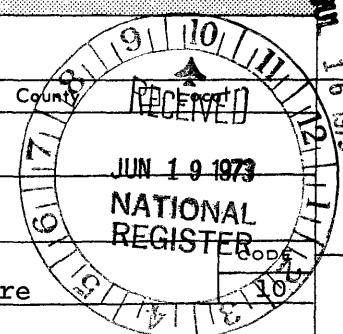
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Between Rockland and Montchanin <i>to rd. 100</i>			
CITY OR TOWN: Montchanin			
STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: New Castle	CODE 003

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Finch and Mrs. J. Avery Draper			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Montchanin	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Public Building			
STREET AND NUMBER: Rodney Square			
CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey of Delaware Historic Sites and Buildings			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972		<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Hall of Records			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Dover	STATE: Delaware	CODE	DATE



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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

The Strand Millas house, residence of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Finch, is built of quarried stone, 2½ stories high, with additions. The original (west) part of the house bears a datestone marked "1701" in the west gable. This portion originally contained three rooms(see sketches). At a later date, probably in the 1760's, another room on each floor was added to the east end. In the addition is a large cooking fireplace with a beehive oven, which has been restored.

During the present century, dormers were added to light the attic; two original rooms in the first story were joined to make the present living room; casement windows were installed; a sunporch was added to the west, and two outbuildings were connected to the main house. The current owners have reinstalled sash windows, restored the cooking fireplace, and removed the sunporch.

ROCK SPRING

The Rock Spring, across the road, probably provided food storage and water for the Greggs of Strand Millas. The spring flows from beneath an overhanging rock into a manmade pool, which is enclosed in a springhouse. The adjacent dwelling is said by some to have been built in the 1680's, but it was extensively remodelled during the nineteenth century.

A description of the nominated district follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the Montchanin-Rockland road and the lane leading to the residence of Mrs. Avery Draper. Thence up Mrs. Draper's lane in a generally northwesterly direction about 450 feet; thence due west about 900 feet to the extension of Soda House Road(private); thence down Soda House Road, crossing the public road, in a generally southeasterly

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)

1701(main) c.1760's(addition)

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/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | <u>Local history &</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>folklore</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Strand Millas house, with its 1701 datestone, is a unique survival from the first generation of Penn's Quaker colony in Delaware. Its dimensions and its original floor plan follows the design suggested by Penn in his prospectus for new settlers. The house is therefore an important early prototype for the "Quaker" or "William Penn" style of building.

William Gregg and his two sons, John and Richard, patented several large tracts in Rockland Manor on the Brandywine in 1685 and 1686. William patented the tract on which the Strand Millas house stands; Richard patented two tracts, collectively called Strand Millas, to the east and north of William's; and John patented a tract north of the present village of Rockland (see sketch map). Upon William's death, his land was divided between his sons.

The first portion of the Strand Millas house was built, probably by John, in 1701. John's son Samuel eventually became the owner. During Samuel's time, the Strand Millas name came to encompass the present house and a much larger territory than his uncle's original 200 acres. For more than two centuries, the Greggs owned this property and several other farms on the Brandywine and Red Clay Creek. Strand Millas, the mansion farm, was the last of the Gregg farms to be sold out of the family.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

New Castle Warrants and Surveys, G² #86, V¹ #43, and G² #87, Hall of Records.
 Manuscript land records, Eleutherian Mills and Winterthur libraries.
 Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware. Philadelphia: L.J. Richards & Co., 1888.

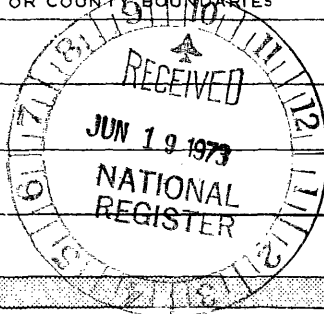
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39°	47	39"	75°	35	10"	°	'	"
NE	39°	47	39"	75°	34	54"	°	'	"
SE	39°	47	25"	75°	34	54"	°	'	"
SW	39°	47	25"	75°	35	10"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **12.76 (Finch tract); about 40 total**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Joan Norton and Edward Heite
 ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs DATE: 3/26/73
 STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records
 CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: Grover A. Biddle
 Title: Asst. Sec. of State, (Acting Director)
~~Historic Preservation Officer~~

Date: June 14, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/16/73

ATTEST:
W. Mintz
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 7 10 73

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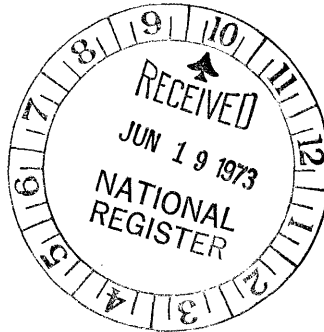
(Continuation Sheet)

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7. DESCRIPTION (continued)--

direction to a grade crossing on the Rockland Branch of The Reading Railroad; thence along the Rockland Branch about 900 feet to an unmarked point; and thence due north to the first-mentioned intersection.



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(Continuation Sheet)

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)---

During more than two centuries on the Brandywine, the Greggs were pioneers in milling and later in scientific agriculture. Members of this large family owned mill seats at Strand Millas, at Rockland, and at Hagley.

The name Strand Millas may have been given to the property in anticipation of its industrial potential; the name is derived from an industrial town near Belfast, Ireland.

The duPont family, who operated their explosives plant on a former Gregg mill seat downstream, eventually bought most of the Gregg holdings. Part of the Winterthur gardens are situated on the inland half of Richard Gregg's Strand Millas tract.

