

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 16 1978
DATE ENTERED	9

**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 GRAVES MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER E of Yorklyn via Way Rd.

Way Road

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Yorklyn via Greenville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

One

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Delaware

10

New Castle

002

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME J. Simpson Dean, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds, City/County Building

STREET & NUMBER

8th & French Streets

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey; N-5005

DATE

1978

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED

DATE _____

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Graves Mill Historic District is situated approximately one-half mile north of Delaware Route 82 on Way Road and Burris Run, near Ashland, and includes part of an early land grant in Christiana Hundred. The district includes seven structures, a dam, and a raceway associated with Graves Mill. The northern boundary of the nomination includes a small lane leading to the northernmost structure of the district and the edge of a woods that terminates on the north side of Burris Run. The eastern boundary includes a section of Way Road and the base of a ridge that runs along the eastern side of Burris Run. The southern boundary includes a section of Way Road and the southern ends of the house and barn nearest the mill. The western boundary is essentially the raceway that leads to the mill. The seven structures associated with the district are the Samuel Graves Mill, the Hayes Graves House and barn, the David Graves House and barn, and two houses associated with William Armstrong. Also included within the district are the remains of a dam and raceway associated with the mill.

The Samuel Graves Mill (N-5005.1), probably one of the earliest and most important structures of the group, is situated directly west of Burris Run and faces the east side of Way Road. The mill is a one-story banked building of wood frame and stone construction. The building is thirty-seven feet wide by forty feet long and contains one set of large double doors. Structurally, the building is composed of hewn and straight-sawn husk framing with pegged mortise and tenon joints. The building has a gable roof of wood shingles resting on pegged common rafters that sit on a true plate. The exterior walls of the mill are straight-sawn wood weatherboards, and the interior walls are composed of wrought-cut horizontal boards. The mill has one room with a small enclosure in the southeast corner containing a small brick stove chimney stack. Two wooden sets of stairs are situated adjacent to the south; one leading to a partial loft and the other leading to the basement. The main floor of the mill contains five irregularly spaced, six-over-six paned, sliding sash windows.

The basement and foundation of the mill is constructed of uncoursed rubble fieldstone. Within the basement lie a few remains of the works of the mill. Running widthwise at the center of the basement is a stone-walled pit, approximately twenty-five feet long, ten feet wide, and seven feet deep. The pit leads to a stone-arched sluiceway at the base of the east wall of the mill. Straddling the pit is a set of heavy planks that supported the axle rods of the millworks. On the north side of the pit rests a wooden belt wheel two feet wide and three feet in diameter. Above the wheel is a wooden lever approximately fifteen feet long. Most of the basement floor is missing, except for a small wooden portion in the northeast corner of the mill. The framing of the basement is pegged and heavier than that of the first floor. There are three large window openings on the east wall, facing the run, and two larger door openings in the north wall.

The main floor of the mill contains a twelve-foot addition to its front, probably built during the mid-nineteenth century. The addition rests on two brick piers set into the side of the bank. The interior wall framing of the addition is exposed and the floorboards make a distinct break with those of the original portion of the mill. The roof and exterior walls of the mill are continuous with the addition, indicating that they

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were probably constructed at the time of the addition. At the rear of the main floor is a small circular saw with a blade one foot in diameter, resting in a three-foot-tall shaft that leads to the basement of the mill.

The Hayes Graves House (N-5005.2) is a mid-nineteenth-century structure, located on the east side of Way Road approximately twenty-five yards south of the mill. The house is a two-story, three-bay, banked building of wood frame and stone construction. It is presently occupied and in good condition. The house has a gable roof with flush eaves and wood shingles. The exterior walls are composed of straight-sawn weatherboards. The facade of the house, facing the road, has a center door and two evenly-spaced, six-over-six paned, sliding sash windows. The front facade also has a small porch roof and patio directly in front of the center door. The basement of the house is stone and has been stuccoed and whitewashed. A small one-story banked barn (N-5005.3) is located on the west side of Way Road, opposite the Samuel Graves Mill. It is of wood frame construction with a stone basement, open on its east end. The frame is straight-sawn and is both nailed and mortise and tenoned. The exterior walls are constructed with straight-sawn vertical wood boards connected with exterior vertical, planed, wood nailers. The barn has a gable roof with wood shingles and lays on a network of common rafters that are pegged at the top and lay on a true plate. The rafter ends appear to have been purposely exposed and are trimmed. At the north-west corner of the barn is a large opening for a set of double doors. Only a part of one of the doors remains, but all the hinges for the doors are intact. Slightly above the girts of the gable end walls an interior joint is exposed between uneven lower wallboards and even upper boards. A noteworthy feature in the basement is a round fieldstone pillar, supporting the northeast corner of the barn. This feature is common in the northern Delaware and southeastern Pennsylvania area.

Directly north of Graves Mill, approximately one hundred yards, lies a ruinous small house (N-5005.4) associated with William Armstrong. The house is set back off Way Road about twenty yards, and is on the opposite side of Burris Run from the mill. The building consists of an original early-nineteenth-century stone structure built in the two-room Penn Plan, and two additions; one stone and one frame. The original structure covers an area of twenty by twenty-four feet. The two-story stone addition is attached to the southeast corner of the house. The one-story frame addition has one small room and an enclosed porch. Two stone retaining walls extend from the southeast corner of the house against the side of a hill, on which the back side of the house rests. One wall stands intact and provides access to the second story entrance of the stone addition. The other wall has deteriorated and crumbled into a pile of stones.

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The original stone structure is constructed of uncoursed rubble masonry with a clay-based mortar, and is heavily whitewashed. The structure is three stories high and includes a finished attic. The roof has a common rafter system with the rafters lying directly on the stone walls. Collar beams have been nailed across the rafters to provide a ceiling for the third story. The house has a three-bay facade with a center door and two large windows. The original walls are twenty inches thick, except for the south wall which is thirty inches thick. The first floor area is divided into two rooms by a post and stud frame partition. The ceiling joists were originally exposed and whitewashed but were plastered over and papered. In the rear room of the house a post and stud frame was inserted, probably in the nineteenth century, which allowed the walls to be plastered and the ceiling to be lowered. Each room has molding around the ceiling and beaded baseboard. The front room has a small winding staircase in its southwest corner with a small shelf closet adjacent and under it. A brick interior end chimney on the west wall has been bricked in and has exposed stove holes.

The original section of the house has a front porch covered by a pent roof with wood shingles similar to the main roof. The porch is supported by posts and mortised and tenoned rails. Three iron braces connected to the front wall support the second-story porch floor of beaded boards. The first-story cement patio has posts mounted on twentieth-century iron supports.

The stone addition was probably built shortly after the original house was constructed and served as a storage area. It is constructed of uncoursed rubble masonry and is heavily whitewashed. It is two stories high, with the first story set back into the hill. A wood stepladder connects the two stories of the stone addition. The roof of the addition, considerably deteriorated at present, was a low-pitched gable roof with a common rafter system.

The enclosed frame porch, connecting the stone addition and the original structure has three posts and stud walls and a plank floor, supported by a stone foundation. The fourth wall is shared with the original structure and is whitewashed. The exterior walls of the frame porch are covered with vertical boards, except for the west wall which is bargeboard. The addition has three small windows and a corrugated tin shed roof.

Another house (N-5005.5) associated with William Armstrong is located on the west side of Way Road opposite the small Penn Plan house. It is presently unoccupied and also in ruinous condition. The structure is a two-story, two-bay, one-room-plan house constructed with uncoursed rubble, with a clay mortar. Structural quoining is evident

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and a ridge of mortar under the second story windows indicate that there may have been a porch on the front facade. The house has a side door with one window, each having heavy wooden lintels. The front door is located a few feet above the ground, also indicating a front porch. The wooden gable roof has a common rafter system that rests on board false plates. The roof is made of wood shingles and has a boxed cornice. There is one brick interior end chimney that has been bricked in, with stove holes evident. The first floor interior has beaded baseboards, with a built-in floor-to-ceiling cabinet next to the fireplace. The existing evidence indicates that the house was constructed some time after its counterpart across Way Road, during the mid-nineteenth century.

Approximately three hundred yards northwest of the one-room Armstrong house stands the David Graves House (N-5005.6) probably the earliest structure in the district. The Graves House originally stood as a two-story, one-room-plan structure. It had two pent eaves, indicated by a ridge running above the first floor and one above the second floor, and by exposed joist ends on each floor. The walls are uncoursed rubble with quoins at the northeast and southeast corners. The medium pitched gable roof is framed in a common rafter system with mortice and tenon pegged joists in the original section. On the exterior, the plain boxed cornice has a return at the gable end. As mentioned above, this probably was a pent eave originally. The original chimney stack sits in the southeast corner of the block. The eastern facade has two bays. The windows in the south gable end are aligned vertically. The first floor window on the eastern facade has a six-over-nine pane sliding sash window. A small window on the western side has two three-over-three windows side-by-side; they open on a hinge. All other windows are six-over-six pane. All the windows, including those in the newer sections, have plain wooden trim. No original doors survive. Within the house, there is an exposed beam ceiling. The baseboards are beaded, as are the interior window surrounds. Sometime, probably in the early nineteenth century, the northern wing was added. The later wing has an asymmetrical window arrangement but, however, can be loosely termed a four-bay facade: It has two windows on the second floor and two missing windows on the first floor. The walls of the wing are more evenly finished than those of the original block and are stuccoed over. There are no windows on the north gable end. Another difference in the wing is the absence of a boxed cornice. The rafters are nailed rather than pegged, as in the older block. A porch runs the length of the addition. It is supported by massive stone pillars. The porch seems to date from a final period of building in which a shed was added to a kitchen wing, off the rear of the original block. Consistent with the character of the historic district is a large barn (N-5005.8) and carriage house, adjacent to the David Graves House. The structure features balloon framing, which places it late in the nineteenth or early in the twentieth century.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Approximately two hundred yards south of the David Graves House stands the remains of a dam (N-5005.7) on Burris Run. All that remains of the dam, which was originally about twenty-five yards wide, is two small sections of a stone wall built into the side of the bank on either side of the run. Running southeast from the dam along the side of a ridge toward Graves Mill is a long, packed-earth raceway. The raceway is about four hundred and fifty yards long and is overgrown with brush and small trees. The raceway was about five feet deep and fifteen feet wide. It ends at the edge of Way Road, near the northwest corner of the Hayes Graves Barn.

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In 1840, Thomas and Eli Graves advertised their land and sawmill for sale and eventually sold it to William Martin in 1841. William Martin had previously been superintendent of one of E. I. duPont's sheep-raising farms. Martin did not hold onto the mill for long and sold it to Harvey Phillips in 1844. ~~Phillips kept the mill for a longer time period, but eventually sold it to Harvey Phillips in 1844.~~ Phillips kept the mill for a longer time period but eventually sold it to Hayes Graves in 1859.

Under the direction of Hayes Graves, the mill became one of the most active sawmills in the Red Clay area. The circular saw, a European invention not adopted in the United States until after 1815, appears never to have become common in the small custom sawmills along the Red Clay. Although most of the exterior wallboards of the mill were cut with the earlier straight-sawing process, the present exterior walls and addition were probably added on some time after Hayes Graves acquired the mill. According to the present owner of the mill, staves were made at the mill and were sold to the DuPont Company during the Civil War. By 1870, the mill was still producing between \$150 and \$275 worth of lumber each month. The mill was owned and operated by Richard Hayes as late as 1908. The mill race and dam appear on maps in 1849 and 1868. In 1856 the land north of Burris Run, including the David Graves House and the two houses on Way Road, were sold to Thomas Kinsey. In 1858, a small portion of land, including the small house east of Way Road, was sold to Alexander McCoy.

Overall, the structures within the district are good examples of industrial, agrarian, and domestic architecture in rural northern Delaware. The primary significance of the Graves Mill Historic District is that, even in its decay, it presents the physical documentation of the vital first stage of industrial development in northern New Castle County.

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 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 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 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

The Graves Mill Historic District is significant for its associations with the development of industry in the Red Clay Creek Valley and northern Delaware, and the view it offers of the development of a small-site industrial community. The Graves Mill Historic District reflects the earliest type of family-run industrial operation to move into the Red Clay Creek Valley and illustrates the typical late-eighteenth-century building practice and design in northern New Castle County, Delaware.

The land encompassed by the district was settled by the Graves family, who were of English descent and came to Christiana Hundred in 1691. Samuel Graves settled on a farm near Ashland in 1704. Samuel willed his land to his sons John and Jonathan, with John receiving the land upon which the mill would eventually be built. In 1772, John willed his land to his son Samuel. The exact date of the construction of the mill is not known, but an early indication is given in 1793 when Samuel was given the right to use all the water from a dam across Burroughs Run, from his uncle Jonathan Graves. Jonathan Graves bought the land north of the run from David Graves in 1792, including a house. David Graves, therefore, appears to be the original owner of the house north of the dam and run. The Graves Sawmill was one of the earliest mill sites in the Red Clay Valley. The earliest graphic representation of the mill is found on a map engraved by Francis Shallus in 1801. The map shows eight mills on the Red Clay and its tributaries. Only three mills appear north of Stanton, including one near Yorklyn, Graves Mill, and one near Mt. Cuba. In 1811 Samuel Graves, by his will, ordered his land disposed of at public sale. Thomas and Eli Graves, his sons, were appointed executors. The mill was not sold, however, until several years later. In 1815, a traveler in the area stated that Burroughs Run had several sawmills and one grist mill on its banks.

In the meantime, Jonathan Graves sold one hundred acres of land north of the mill, including the David Graves House, to William Armstrong in 1824. The Armstrong family also settled in Christiana Hundred during the late-seventeenth century. The Armstrongs owned land directly north of the Graves land and were neighbors of the Graves family for many years. Both Samuel Graves and John Armstrong served as teamsters during the American Revolution. The two houses north of the mill on Way Road were probably built sometime after the Armstrongs acquired the land. The house on the east side of the road appeared on a map in 1849. In 1868, both houses appeared on a map and were owned by Thomas Kinsey.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Manufactures Census of 1870 for New Castle County. Delaware State Archives, Dover, Del.
Rea & Price Map of New Castle County, Delaware, 1849. Delaware State Archives, Dover, Del.
Francis Shallus Map of Delaware, 1801. Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, Del.
American Watchman (Wilmington, Del.), February 17, 1813.
Biographical and Genealogical History of the State of Delaware. (Chambersburg, Pa.: 1899).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 51 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Kennett Square

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 | 44,45,6,0 | 4,40,60,7,0

B 1,8 | 44,46,4,7 | 4,40,63,1,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,3 | 44,50,3,0 | 4,40,63,4,0

D 1,8 | 44,52,0,0 | 4,40,61,8,0

E 1,8 | 44,47,3,0 | 4,40,57,3,0

F 1,8 | 44,45,8,5 | 4,40,58,6,0

G | |

H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jonathan B. Andress

ORGANIZATION

American Studies Program, Department of History

DATE

12-13-78

STREET & NUMBER

University of Delaware

TELEPHONE

738-8431

CITY OR TOWN

Newark

STATE

Delaware

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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.

Deputy

/ STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Handwritten Signature]

TITLE Chief, Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

DATE

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

[Handwritten Signature]

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12-19-79

ATTEST: *[Handwritten Signature]*

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 12/18/79

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Delaware Gazette. (Wilmington, Delaware). December 1, 1840.
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Conrad, Henry C. History of the State of Delaware. Vol. 2 Wilmington, 1908.
Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware. Philadelphia, 1888.
Beer's Atlas 1868. Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware
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The district is bounded as follows: Beginning at a point on the north side of Way Road on the east side of its junction with an unpaved lane leading to the David Graves House and thence counterclockwise along an arc with a radius of 340 meters centered on a ruined two-story stone house located north of Way Road and east of Burris Run until it intersects a line 50 meters south of and parallel to the meanders of Burris Run and thence to the southeast along this line until it intersects a line 100 meters north of and parallel to the meanders of Way Road and thence along this line to the southwest until it intersects a line 25 meters south of the Hayes Graves House and thence along this line to the southeast until it intersects a line 100 meters south of and parallel to the meanders of Way Road and thence along this line til it intersects an arc with a radius of 50 meters centered on a ruined three story stone house south of Way Road and east of Burris and thence along this arc counterclockwise until it intersects the north edge of Way Road and thence along this line to the northeast to the point of beginning.

Justification: The district bounds are determined principally by lines of sight roughly corresponding to the ridges of hills that surround the buildings contained in the district.

GRAVES MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT (N-5005) Sketch Map (Not to Scale)

- 1. Samuel Graves Mill Also (N-314)
- 2. Hayes Graves House Also (N-4009)
- 3. bank barn
- 4. ruined house Also (N-313)
- 5. ruined house Also (N-1112)
- 6. David Graves House Also (N-1111)
- 7. dam site
- 8. balloon frame barn/carriage house

