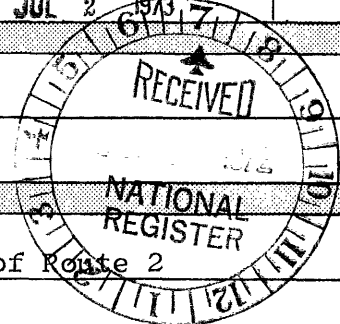


PH0001350

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 2 1973



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Greenbank Mill <sup>Historic Area</sup> and Mill owner's House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Greenbank Mill Road, near Route 41, north of Route 2

CITY OR TOWN:  
Marshallton

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: New Castle CODE: 003

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	awaiting restoration	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1301 Orange Street

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington 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:  
Historic American Buildings Survey, number Del-164

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE:

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER: 1350

DATE: JUL 2 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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 Greenbank Mill stands on its original foundation, even though much of the wooden superstructure was replaced after a recent fire. The first story, in the stone foundation, contains some old mill machinery that escaped the fire. The stone wing, built in 1812, has since been removed.

Even though the frame structure has been largely rebuilt, it is a faithful restoration of the 1790 mill, as it appeared when Oliver Evans' machinery was installed.

The main mill building measures 50' by 39', and stands 2½ stories high. A shed-roofed porch at the northeast corner provides access from the road. A small office wing, one story high with a loft, has been added on the north of the main block. The restored roof, like the original, is covered with wooden shingles. A simple box cornice surrounds the structure.

Nearby, on the opposite side of Greenbank Road, stands the Philips House, a stone structure with a datestone marked "1783." The house is 2½ stories high, with a gable roof pierced by two segmental-arched dormers. The main structure is a side-hall, double-pile house with a five-bay frontage. On the south end of the facade, the main door opens into the stair hall; on the north end, another entry opens into the dining room, which may have been added, although it is integral with the main block. Some detailing survives in the house, but the interior largely reflects several generations of change and occupation. Across the east frontage of the house is a long verandah, which apparently is a modern replacement or addition. In the yard of the house is a bank barn with a stone foundation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**1. SIGNIFICANCE**

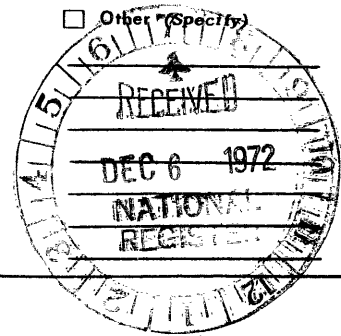
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) circa 1790

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Greenbank Mill, on Red Clay Creek, has sheltered varied enterprises during its long history. Depending on the market, the mills here produced flour or woolen products, or carriage parts.

"Southern Land" on Red Clay Creek, was patented to John Anderson (or Stalcop) in October 1677. Thomas Bird later acquired part of the tract, and it was from his son, Empson, that Robert Philips bought the property in 1773. Until 1790, Philips operated the old log mill that had stood on the property for many years; when this structure became inadequate, he built the present frame structure nearby.

Greenbank won a place in the history of American manufacturing when Oliver Evans, a native of nearby Newport, installed his automatic mill machinery in the 1790 building. The work of this Delaware inventor revolutionized milling in America.

An anecdote frequently told about Greenbank relates that Evans invited several millers to study his machinery in operation. They arrived to find the mill running unattended; Evans was making hay in the adjoining field. The millers were impressed but taken aback; one of them called the machinery "a set of rattle traps."

By the second decade of the nineteenth century, grain milling shifted almost entirely to the larger mills on the banks of the Brandywine, where seagoing ships could load directly from the mills. The Philips family then converted the Greenbank property to take advantage of another expanding market. Deteriorating relations with Britain had closed off the supply of English woolen goods; this condition offered American woolen products a protected market.

The Philips' developed a flock of Merino sheep, which was established by February 1811, when they advertised for a shepherd. The boom in wool created a shortage of skilled workmen; in January 1811, the Delaware legislature had passed a law exempting workmen in water-powered mills fashioning "woollen yarn, woollen cloth," and certain other products, from "militia fines and forfeitures."

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pursell, Carroll W. Two Mills on Red Clay Creek in the 19th Century.  
 Wilmington: Historic Red Clay Valley, 1964.  
 Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware, 1609-1888. 2 vols.  
 Philadelphia: L.J. Richards and Company, 1888.  
 Storck, John, and Teague, Walter Dorwin. Flour for Men's Bread.  
 Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1952.

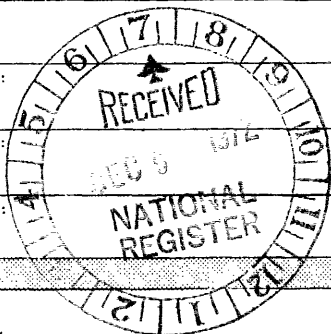
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	39 <sup>o</sup>	44'	24"	75 <sup>o</sup>	37'	59"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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:  
Miss Rosemary Troy and Mr. Graydon Wood

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: June 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 E. Berkeley Tompkins  
Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins

Title Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Date Nov. 21, 1972

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

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

Date 7/2/73

ATTEST:  
W. Smith  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 6 19 73

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Delaware	
COUNTY	
New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUL 2	1973

(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)---

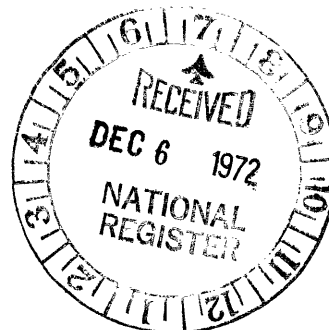
During the same period, new facilities became necessary; a stone mill building was erected next to the old mill in 1812, and named "Madison Factory" in honor of the President.

The end of the woolen boom coincided with the signing of a peace with Britain. British goods appeared on the American market once again, and the Philips family began to liquidate its investments in wool. They continued in the business until 1819, when the property was seized by the sheriff.

By 1830, John C. Philips, son of Robert, had bought in the property and had satisfied his father's creditors. Under John's sons, William G. and Isaac D. Philips, Greenbank entered its third period. In 1852, they undertook the manufacture of wheel spokes and wood bentware. The company of William G. Philips and Brother advertised carriage parts, wheels, and wooden forks. Following the Civil War, Wilmington became a carriage manufacturing center, and the Philips company rode the crest of a new tide; the company displayed a line of wood products at the Industrial Fair of 1874 in Wilmington.

This venture ended much as the woolen business had. The sheriff closed the factory in 1879 because of a debt that amounted to fifteen or twenty thousand dollars. By this time, the firm was known as J.P. Wells and Company, but John P. Wells went to Baltimore, ostensibly to attend a funeral, and never returned. William G. Philips was left with a ruined business to rebuild.

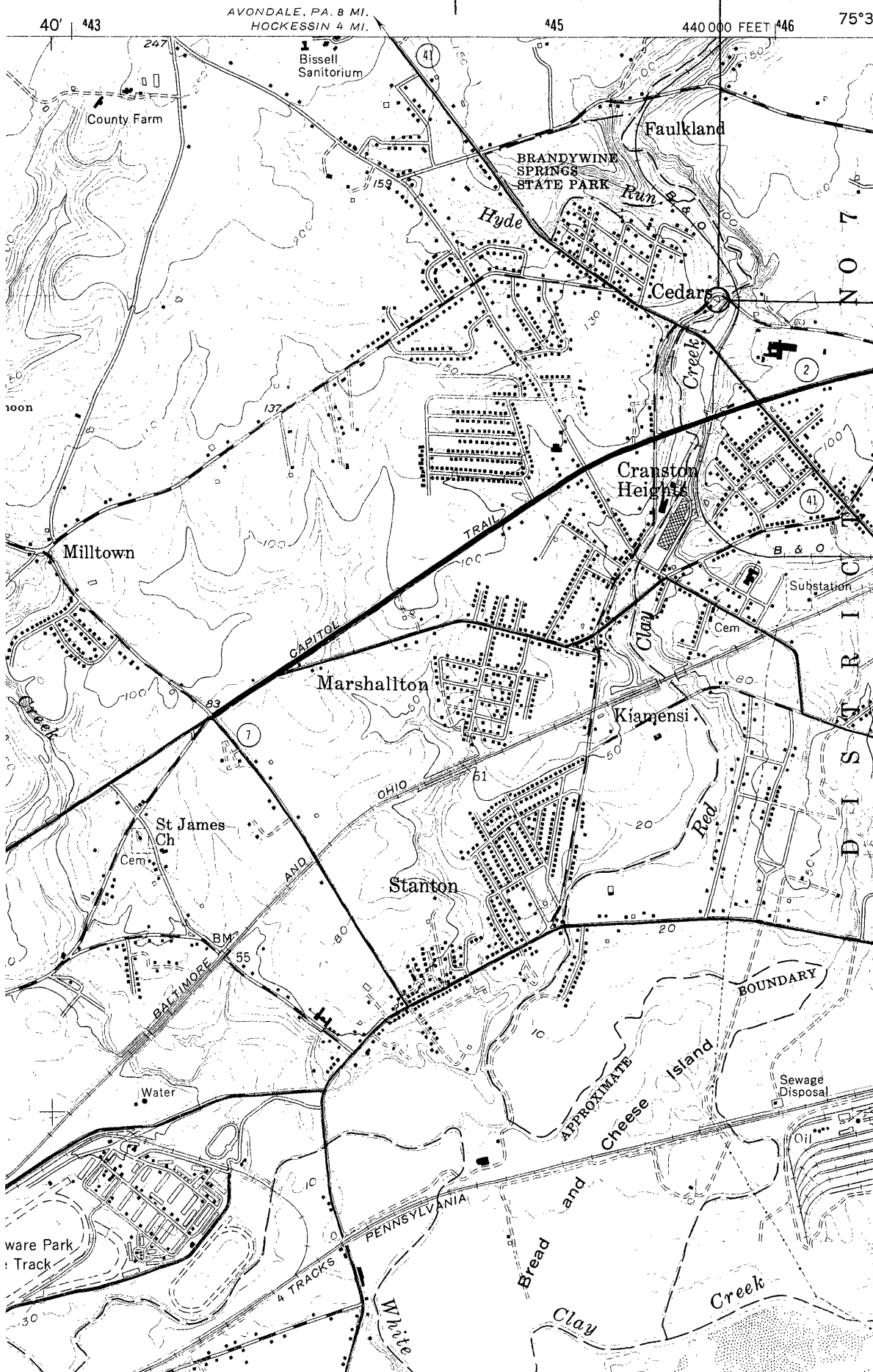
Philips continued to operate the gristmill at Greenbank as a small-volume custom mill, but after his death it passed out of the family. As a custom mill, Greenbank continued in business until a few years ago, when it became the property of Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc. It was awaiting restoration when vandals set fire to it, causing heavy damage that has largely been repaired.



NEWARK EAST QUADRANGLE  
DELAWARE—NEW CASTLE CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NW/4 WILMINGTON 15' QUADRANGLE

10 31' 59"

5863 1 SE  
(WILMINGTON NORTH)

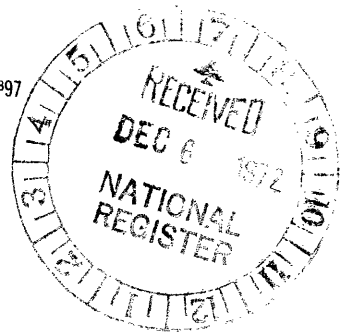


GREENBANK MILL

39° 44' 24"

ELSMERE 1.9 MI.  
WILMINGTON (CITY HALL) 4.8 MI.  
NEWPORT 1.5 MI.  
NEW CASTLE 6.1 MI.

630 000  
FEET



4397

4396

42' 30"

4395

N O 7  
D I S T R I C T