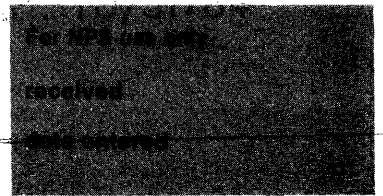


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

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1. Property Name: THE MILL HOUSE

Location & Verbal Boundary Description:

The Mill House is located at 414 N. W. Front Street on the south side of the street. Its northwest property corner is 52 feet east of the southeast corner of N. W. Front Street and Maple Street. It sits on a lot 139.5 feet long, with its northwest Front Street boundary being 31.5 feet long and its rear property line being 36 feet long. It is bounded on the east and west by occupied house lots. It occupies .105 acres.

Present Owner: Leonard & Jane L. Elfreth, c/o Chalet Du Soleil, Pocono Manor, PA 18349 - (obtained 12/8/81 at Kent County Board of Assessments).

Property Description:

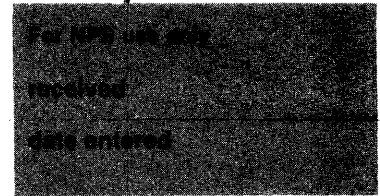
The Mill House is a late-eighteenth century Georgian-style brick house with a frame rear wing. The original block is a side-hall, 3-bay, double-pile, 2-story building with a tin gable roof. The facade is laid in Flemish bond with unglazed headers, while the other three walls are done in common bond. The original interior gable end chimney has been converted into a T-shaped chimney stack with the addition of a brick section to the exterior face. The first floor windows have stone lintels with rusticated wooden keystones. The front door is recessed to the interior and has a transom over it. It has panelled soffits and jambs and the transom light has irregular-shaped lights. The porch and bench arrangements are recent additions, replacing a full porch that had been added in the nineteenth century. The rear wing is of frame construction and is a full two stories in height. The original weatherboard is now covered with asbestos siding.

The Mill House has had a long association with Milford's industrial interests. It is located not far from the Milford Mills complex, as well as tanneries and bark mills. By 1859, the house was owned by the Causey family; first by Governor Peter F. Causey and later by his son Peter F. Causey, Jr. The family had extensive real estate holdings in the area in farmland, processing plants, and in town lots. This particular house never served as a family residence, but rather functioned as a rental property for the family, perhaps going to a valued employee at one of the family mills. The Causey family held the property until 1902, when it was sold at sheriff's sale to satisfy a debt to the National Bank of Smyrna.

From then on, the house has served as both a private residence and as a rental property. For a time it was occupied by George Hynson, a local newspaper man and author of the state song, "Our Delaware," as well as an 1899 history of the town of Milford.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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THE MILL HOUSE CONTINUED

Property Significance:

The Mill House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places on the basis of Criterion C, in that it embodies the distinctive characteristics and is the last remaining example of an unaltered early brick, two-thirds Georgian plan residence in Milford. In its construction details it is a smaller version of the Parson Thorne Mansion, located across the street, and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Thorne Mansion served as an obvious guide to the Mill House with duplicated features, including window detail such as a heavy rusticated wooden keystone and interior woodwork.

Although the historical associations are not sufficient to cite additional criteria, of secondary interest is the strong connection with the Causey family, particularly Governor Peter F. Causey and his son, Peter F. Causey, Jr. They owned the house as an investment, not as a residence, but judging from the various articles published during the nineteenth century, this was a very typical pattern of ownership with a small number of large landholders and numerous tenants, particularly near the various industrial complexes in town.

K-170 The Mill House

