

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0292125 DATA SHEET

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DEC 30 1977

DATE ENTERED

MAY 22 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

JOSEPH DEAN &amp; SON WOOLEN MILL

AND/OR COMMON

NVF Company, Newark Fibre Plant

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Race Street *Northdale St.*

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Newark

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_ VICINITY OF

One

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

New Castle

CODE

002

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

\_\_ DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
\_\_ STRUCTURE  
\_\_ SITE  
\_\_ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

\_\_ PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE

\_\_ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

\_\_ IN PROCESS  
\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED  
\_\_ UNOCCUPIED  
\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
\_\_ YES: RESTRICTED  
\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_ AGRICULTURE  
\_\_ COMMERCIAL  
\_\_ EDUCATIONAL  
\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT  
\_\_ GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
\_\_ MILITARY  
\_\_ MUSEUM  
\_\_ PARK  
\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
\_\_ RELIGIOUS  
\_\_ SCIENTIFIC  
\_\_ TRANSPORTATION  
\_\_ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

N.V.F. Company

STREET &amp; NUMBER

P. O. Box 68

CITY, TOWN

Yorklyn

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware 19736

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Public Building

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Rodney Square

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey, N-1082

DATE

1975

\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Historical &amp; Cultural Affairs

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware 19901

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Joseph Dean and Son Woolen Mill, now the Newark Fibre Mill of the NVF Company, is situated along White Clay Creek to the north of Newark's central business district.

The race, which originally powered the Dean Woolen Mill, flows beneath the NVF Paper Mill, an adjacent but much-altered mill building. The fibre mill, the successor to the Joseph Dean Mill, lies to the east of the paper mill. It stretches out for some distance along White Clay Creek. This nomination is concerned with the west end of the fibre mill complex. Several nineteenth-century structures are found here, including the original stone structures of the Joseph Dean Mill. Nine structures are included within the nominated area. Only two of these are considered modern intrusions.

A grassy depressed area between Race Street and the creek clearly marks the former path of the race, which served as power for this mill. It enters the oldest mill structure (Building No. 1) through an arched opening on the building's west end. The four-story stone structure has twelve-over-twelve light sash, set into segmentally-arched frames. A corbelled brick cornice caps the wall; the roof is flat. It is approximately 200' x 62' and has a brick fifth story over half its length. Abutted to this is a 100' x 112' structure, which seems to date to about the same period. It is also of stone, and is four stories with a brick cornice and flat roof. Here, the windows have elliptical frames with double twelve-over-twelve sash. The interior structure of both buildings is the same. Twelve-by-twelve chamfered posts support a summer beam formed from four or five 3 x 12's bolted together. The joists consist of three 3 x 12's bolted together. In some places, steel has been added to reinforce stress points. The two-and-a-half-foot-thick walls have splayed window openings.

Stretching out further along the river and abutted to the stone section are two frame additions (Nos. 3 and 4). These two sections are separated by a brick wall. Their construction clearly indicates different construction dates. They total 425' in length and are about 112' wide. The exterior of these one-story structures is sheathed in vertical board siding, some of which has been replaced by plywood. A Waddell "A" truss, a late nineteenth-century version of the King Post truss, supports the gable roof. It is constructed of heavy wooden timbers and supported by 6x12 wooden posts. A clerestory breaks the roof along its entire peak. The sash in this section are set in large square frames.

The topography of the site is such that the building to the south of the mills (Building No. 6) is built into the hill which slopes down to the creek. An alleyway separates the structures. From this passageway access can be gained to the first level of the structure. The ceiling is a brick barrel vault system, with iron tie rods. The structure is of stone, 225' x 59'. The exposed truss work for the gable roof is of iron. A clerestory breaks the peak of the roof along its entire length. The windows have twelve-over-twelve light sash set into square frames. Along the south side of the building is a railroad track indicating that the building was used for shipping. It is still used for that purpose. At the east end of the building a covered walkway

# 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 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 checked="" 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		

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## SPECIFIC DATES

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joseph Dean and Son Woolen Mill, now operated as the Newark Fibre Mill of the NVF Company, is one of Delaware's earliest and largest cloth mills. The mill complex is a significant reminder of a long-established industrial presence along the rivers and streams of northern Delaware. Largely because of the care taken by the present owners of the complex to retain the features of the nineteenth-century structures therein, the mill also possesses unusual architectural significance.

In 1845, Joseph Dean purchased a grist mill on the banks of White Clay Creek near Newark and converted it into a woolen mill for the production of woolen yarns and Kentucky jeans. He also built a dye house, warehouse, and workers' houses. Born in England, Dean came to the United States in 1811 and secured employment in a Philadelphia woolen mill. He quickly learned the business and operated his own mill in Philadelphia for nine years, until a need for increased water power led him to Newark.

In 1847 Joseph Dean formed a partnership with his son William, and in 1853 they enlarged their production capacity considerably by building an additional mill to make kersey and satinette. Financial difficulties arising from the depression of 1857 closed the mills for a year. When Joseph Dean died in 1861, William Dean took as a partner, John Pilling, an experienced mill superintendent.

During the Civil War, the company expanded rapidly as a result of federal military contracts. The Newark mills were enlarged and two more mills were built near Stanton, Delaware. In addition, the company opened three mills in Pennsylvania and two more in Maryland. The firm had the capacity to produce 500,000 yards of kersey and 400,000 blankets annually in its Delaware mills.

In order to raise additional capital to modernize their mills, Dean and Pilling dissolved their partnership in 1881 and formed a joint stock company with a capitalization of \$200,000, at fifty dollars a share. The new corporation, Dean Woolen Company, became active in July 28, 1882, with John Pilling as president and William Dean as secretary and treasurer. The new machinery went into operation in October 1882.

On Christmas Day, 1886, the Dean Woolen mills were gutted by fire and never reopened. William Dean died the following year.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beers, D. G. Atlas of the State of Delaware. Philadelphia: Pomery & Beers, 1868.  
 Gibson, George H. "Fullers, Carders and Manufacturers of Woolen Goods in Delaware."  
Delaware History 12 (April 1966): 25-53.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ . "The Delaware Woolen Industry." Delaware History 12 (May 1966):  
 83-120.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY About 8 acres

E: 18/435950/4393360

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	4,3,6	2,6,0	4,3	9,3	4,0,0	B	1,8	4,3,6	2,4,0	4,3	9,3	3,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C	1,8	4,3,6	0,0,0	4,3	9,3	2,0,0	D	1,8	4,3,5	9,5,0	4,3	9,3	3,0,0

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area is bounded by White Clay Creek on the north; Deandale Street and a line drawn directly north from the foot of this street towards the creek, on the west; the fence and boundary line of the NVF Company property on the south, and an arbitrary line drawn north along the west end of Building No. 12, then east between Building No. 12 and Building No. 4, then north along the end of Building No. 4 on the east.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joan M. Norton, Architectural Historian; Dean E. Nelson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

October 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Records

TELEPHONE

(302) 678-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware 19901

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

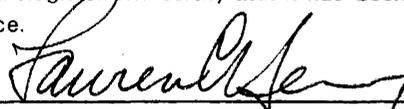
NATIONAL

STATE

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

Director, Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

12/14/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST

*Laurence M. ...*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
*Laurence M. ...*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5-22-78

DATE

5-12-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Joseph Dean and Son Woolen Mill  
Industrial Complex

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Historic American Engineering Record Inventory

1974

Federal

Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.

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provides access to an upper floor of the mill. On the east side of the walkway is another structure (No. 5) which is architecturally of the same period.

On the crest of the hill is a warehouse (No. 10) which was originally a stable. This stuccoed stone structure has brick around its arched openings at each end of the building. Upper level openings indicate a loft. The windows have six-over-six light sashes. Also on the crest of the hill are two modern structures, one sheathed in corrugated iron (No. 8) and the other stuccoed (No. 11). They have no intrinsic value to the nominated area.

The NVF Company mill is located to the north of the densely populated residential and commercial area south of Cleveland Avenue and to the south of an agricultural area across the creek.

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National Vulcanized Fibre (NVF) acquired the property some time later, and was able to rehabilitate much of the burned-out portions of the woolen mill and to adapt the mill buildings to their manufacturing requirements. NVF still produces specialized fabrics in the original Joseph Dean buildings.

The seven oldest buildings of the complex possess architectural significance, as they still retain their late nineteenth-century structural systems and exterior fenestration. The structural systems include thick load-bearing exterior stone walls, heavy timber floor and beam construction and, where gable roofs were used, Waddell "A" truss systems. The segmentally-arched brick window and door surrounds and brick cornices clearly define these simple architectural elements of the rather massive industrial buildings.

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Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware: 1609-1888. 2 vols. Philadelphia:  
L. J. Richards & Co., 1888; reprint ed., Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat  
Press, 1972.

Thomas, Selma, ed. Delaware: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and  
Industrial Sites. United States Department of the Interior, 1975.