

**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
91.12.10.0017	12/13/91

1. NAME

COMMON:
(Upper Louviers and Black Gates)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
*** Louviers**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
#10 Black Gates Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Wilmington

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 checked="" 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:
Saint Jo Paper Company

STREET AND NUMBER:
803 Florida National Bank Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Jacksonville** STATE: **Florida** CODE: _____

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
New Castle County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rodney Square

CITY OR TOWN: **Wilmington** STATE: **Delaware** CODE: **10**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historical Buildings and Areas

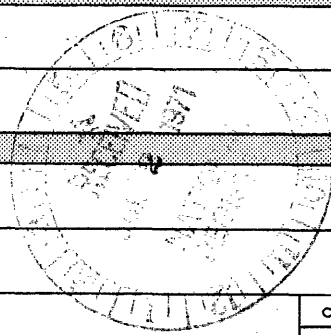
DATE OF SURVEY: **1967** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
New Castle County Regional Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Kirkwood Highway

CITY OR TOWN: **Wilmington** STATE: **Delaware** CODE: **10**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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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
	(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.

Upper Louviers has a well proportioned facade with a correctly detailed Doric portico of the early Greek Revival period surmounted by a fine wrought iron railing. It also has well proportioned rooms with decorative plaster ceilings and marble mantels with ceiling high mirrors on both first and second floor.

The original house was 35' long and 31'8" wide. Of heavy stone walls it had two rooms upstairs and two down with stairhall on both floors. The first floor ceilings are 10' high; second floor are 9' high. The entrance was on the present garden side of the house. Quite a bit of the interior woodwork still remains. The paneling of this period is more delicate than the later work. The height of the rooms, the panelled window enbrasures indicate a house of more importance than the "cottage" that was reputed to be there.

The first addition was either in 1833 or before. The original gable roof was flattened at this time and the windows elongated to French doors in "the two parlors"--now the entrance and living room. Two stories were added where are now the dining room and back hall.

These changes would have been done at the time Mrs. Victor duPont moved from Lower Louviers with her daughter Amelia.

The second addition in 1837 shown on the drawing of Alfred Victor duPont probably was done for Admiral Samuel Francis and Sophie duPont who moved up from Lower Louviers at this time. The addition was the present two story kitchen wing added behind the former "two kitchens" incorporating a formal dining room which the house lacked. More striking, however, were the alterations made at this time to create the present beautifully proportioned facade with Greek Revival porch. The enlarged main block of the house now measured 51' long by the same 31'8" width. A third floor was added with a flatter gable roof.

The third addition came after 1837 when the Admiral added two half octagons one story high with a conservatory thus arriving at a study and a pantry. For the first time, stone was not used. The walls are 8" thick brick stuccoed over like the rest. The cast iron kitchen porch of grapevine design with pagoda roof was probably put in during the Admiral's lifetime. He died in 1865; his widow Sophie living there until her death in 1888.

The fourth addition came after 1901 when Alicia Bradford lived there first as the wife of George Amory Maddox, then as the second wife of Alfred I. duPont. A laundry was added at this time, and a second and third floor over the Admiral's study, the conservatory, and the pantry. These additions were of frame with stucco on metal lath, it being light enough to be supported on the 8" brick walls. These rooms were used for nursery needs. The outside stucco was painted Mediterranean pink at this time. On the original house have been found traces of orange yellow, probably the original color. The photos of the Admiral's time indicate whitewash with dark green shutters. The iron railing is the most important contribution at this time, carrying out the idea from the early sketch by Alfred Victor in a more elegant manner. The two lions of the entrance porch were put there by Alfred I. duPont as well as the box bushes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



6. SIGNIFICANCE

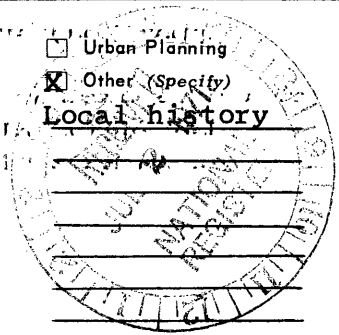
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input 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)

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/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Local history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" 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 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

Upper Louviers, like Lower Louviers, was an early and important house in the lives of the duPont family. It is still cherished today for its fine Greek Revival architecture and its elegant charm reminiscent of the French origins of the family. It is notable as the home of Admiral Samuel Francis duPont of Civil War fame for whom Dupont Circle is named in Washington.

When Eleuthere Irenee duPont bought the land on the west bank of the Brandywine from Pierre Bauduy there was a house where Upper Louviers now stands. When the Victor duPont children started to marry and live with their families in Lower Louviers, Mrs. Victor moved to the "cottage up the hill" with her daughter Amelia and granddaughter Gabrielle. After her death in 1837, Admiral Samuel Francis duPont moved in with his wife Sophie, the daughter of Eleuthere Irenee duPont. He lived here until his death in 1865; his widow continuing there until her death in 1888. After a lapse the next duPont inhabitant was Mrs. Maddox, great-granddaughter of Eleuthere Irenee duPont and second wife of Alfred I. duPont. The family of Francis I. duPont has been in Upper Louviers since 1918.

The only buildings of the Louviers complex to be listed on the Historic American Buildings survey are the gate houses at the entrance, known as Black Gates. They are a fine example of gate houses of the early 1800's. It is not known exactly when they were built, but they must have been there when Charles' wife, Dorcas VanDyke duPont, died in 1838, because according to a family tale the gates were then painted black in accordance with Charles' deep mourning. Others say that they are called Black because they led to the black powder yards. This seems a bit out of the way as the powder yards were across the river. However, an iron bridge was built to replace a wooden one in 1877 and this joins Louviers to the powder yards. It is said to be the oldest bridge of this type in the United States.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carr, William, H.A., The duPonts of Delaware, Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, 1964.

duPont, Bessie Gardner, The Lives of Victor and Josephine duPont, University of Delaware Press, Newark, Delaware, 1930.

duPont, Alfred Victor, 1798-1856, Sketches for adjustments apparently for Upper Louviers Winterthur Manuscripts, photo file F40-1, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library, Greenville, Delaware.

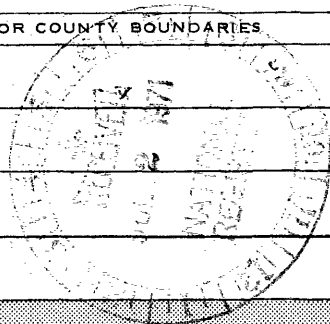
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		39° 47' 08"	75° 34' 20"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **9.9**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Eleanor M. Webster, Consultant to the**

ORGANIZATION: **Tri-County Conservancy** DATE: **August 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Post Office Box 141**

CITY OR TOWN: **Chadds Ford** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE:

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: *Rae Shikier*

Title: Historic Registrar, State Liaison Officer

Date: June 29, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connelly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: DEC 13 1971

ATTEST:

William H. Stutz
Keeper of The National Register

Date: DEC 3 1971

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(Continuation Sheet)

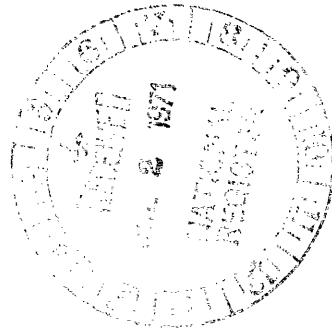
STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle	
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(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION (cont'd.)

The fifth addition was in 1936 during the time Francis I. duPont lived there. At this time the octagonal room was created from the Admiral's study. With ornamental plaster ceiling and cornices over carved French doors it is the most elegant room of the house.

Louviers stands along the lane that is a continuation of Black Gates Road, some 1700 feet after passing through the Black Gates. The twin gate houses here on the West side of Rockland Road are a handsome design in vogue in the early 1800's. They are stone, but not stuccoed. They are square in plan, 18' x 18' each. Their facades on Rockland Road have rounded top windows in an arched reveal edged in brick. The small clapboard service wings in the back are Victorian additions. Both gate houses and gate posts are white-washed. The wood caps and trim are painted green despite the fact they are known as Black Gates.



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9. Major Bibliographical References (cont'd.)

Eberlein, H. D. and Hubbard, C.V.D., Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware, Public Archives Commission, Dover, Delaware, 1962.

Henry, Allan J., The Life of Alexis Irene duPont, Vol. II, William F. Fell Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1945.

Historic American Building Survey, National Park Service, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 1941.

Geneology of the duPont Family, 3 volumes, privately published.

Vail, R. W. G., The American Sketchbooks of Charles Alexander Lesuer, 1816-1837, Davis Press, Worchester, Mass., 1938.

