

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **DEC 30 1977**  
DATE ENTERED **MAY 22 1978**

**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 **Chipman's Mill**

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*E of Laurel on SR 465*

On Road 465, 750 feet east of its intersection with Rd. <sup>479</sup> NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

**Laurel**

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**One**

STATE

**Delaware**

CODE  
**10**

COUNTY

**Sussex**

CODE  
**003**

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME **Mrs. Emma Jean Givens and Mr. James W. Lowe**

STREET & NUMBER

**R.D. #1, Box 273**

CITY, TOWN

**Laurel,**

VICINITY OF

STATE

**DE**

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

**Sussex County Court House**

STREET & NUMBER

**The Circle**

CITY, TOWN

**Georgetown,**

STATE

**DE**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

**Delaware Cultural Resources Survey**

**S-400**

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

**Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs**

CITY, TOWN

**Dover**

STATE

**DE 19901**

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>Early 20th</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		century.

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

Located on the mill pond of the same name, Chipman's Mill is on Road 465 about two-and-a-half miles east of Laurel. The mill has deteriorated but the equipment, including stones, stone casings, hopper and turbine, are still in place or stored within the structure.

Chipman's Mill is composed of two separate structures, one of which was moved to the site in this century from an old mill nearby. The oldest structure on the site is the one-story east end of the mill. This section covers the millrace and houses the turbines and millstones. One of the most interesting features of the milling equipment within this structure is the large wooden crane which lifted the top stone. The structural system of this section of the mill has been changed several times; however, some of the framing shows evidence of mortise and tenon joints. Virtually all of the original exterior sheathing of the building is gone. Evidence indicates that it was clapboard. Lapped siding now covers this section. Abutted to the west end is a two-story structure with a shed-roofed wing. This was moved to the site. It is sheathed in shiplap siding. Across the rear of the entire mill, several shed-roofed additions have been made. A tin roof is presently found on the entire structure. On the older section, it covers wood shingles.

The mill is currently threatened by several sources. First, the structure is situated on the turn of a road, and several cars have run into it causing considerable damage to its northeast corner. Second, when the race is in full operation, water overflows into the area under the mill resulting in rather severe erosion. Third, the building has been neglected since the mill ceased operation. The present owners hope to solve these problems and to restore the mill.

Around the mill is a low-density, residential area. Across the dam is Old Christ Church, a National Register property which dates to 1772. The church and mill serve as landmarks for the area.

# 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 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 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	1884	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Chipman's Mill survives as one of the few remaining Delaware grist mills powered solely by water. Small mills of this type existed during the nineteenth century with predictable regularity on virtually every stream throughout Sussex County, yet very few remain today except as archaeological sites.

Though in a somewhat deteriorated condition, both the structure and water turbine grinding apparatus have been little altered since 1884, when Joseph Chipman first built the mill.

The map of Broad Creek Hundred, which appears in Beers Atlas of Delaware (1868), indicates the presence of a sawmill and wool carding machinery in the immediate vicinity of Chipman's Mill, but gives no indication of the presence of a grist mill at that time. It is possible that the present grist mill rests on the site of these earlier operations.

The mill continued to function within the social and economic framework of the surrounding rural agricultural community until the late 1940's, when it fell into disuse.

