

United States Department of the Interior
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Section 3 Page 1

Coch's Bridge Historic District
Amendment
name of property
New Castle County, Delaware
county and State

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



Signature of certifying official

September 23, 1999
Date

Delaware State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

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Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>26</u>	<u>12</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>17</u>	<u>21</u>	structures
<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	objects
<u>50</u>	<u>36</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 10

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

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Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Industry</u>	Sub: <u>Waterworks</u>
<u>Industry</u>	<u>Manufacturing Facility</u>
<u>Defense</u>	<u>Battlesite</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>Agricultural Outbuilding</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Industry</u>	Sub: <u>Waterworks</u>
<u>Industry</u>	<u>Manufacturing Facility</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>Agricultural Outbuilding</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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Physical Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival
Colonial
Other

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
roof asphalt
walls weatherboard
stucco
other wood porches

The complex of historic structures and sites at and around Cooch's Bridge includes the houses, mills, mill races, dams, bridges, and sites associated with more than two and a half centuries of industrial development. The industrial sites here, and the roads that served them, undoubtedly were important in Washington's decision to fight a holding action on the Christina on September 3, 1777 at Cooch's Bridge.

The historic site stretches from William Cooch's upper dam at the northwest corner of the district to the tailrace of Dayett's Mill to the southeast (as amended) and to the George Baynard House to the southwest (as amended), and includes the sites of the first Cooch mill and of Sir William Keith's abortive ironmaking venture. William Cooch's mill of 1792, and the pre-Revolutionary Cooch mansion still stand in a much-altered condition. A raceway from the dams on the Christina and on Purgatory Swamp still provides the power for Dayett's Mill. The Dayett House, and the Armstrong House or Baynard Hall on the opposite bank of the Christina, are both 19-century residences built by members of the Cooch family. On a line roughly between Baynard Hall and the Dayett house, the old ford crosses the Christina; here the American troops made their stand as the British advanced up the road from Aiken's Tavern.

The Cooch House, in its present form, is a stuccoed brick structure, 3 -stories high with a low gable roof and a full-width portico. Baynard Hall, to the south, is a stuccoed brick Greek Revival structure with a small portico on the east frontage. The Dayett House, also of stuccoed brick, features a mansard roof and a recently-added portico. The Dayett Mill is 3

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1/2-stories high, of brick, with a mansard roof; it contains roller-mill machinery that can be operated by water or electricity. A railroad siding serves the mill. The foundations of the William Cooch mill are now surmounted by a modern barn. Thomas Cooch's mill site is located at the end of the millrace, just northeast of the Cooch House. The earlier mill dam, located about 400 yards north of Cooch's Bridge, carried water by millrace to the mill burned by the British Army retreat just north of Cooch's Bridge. The mill dam may be seen as an earthen bank near the Purgatory Swamp dam. On the west bank of the Christina situated in the northwest corner of the district, is the foundation of what may have been Keith's iron foundry. (Note: Five archaeological resources were found in the district. An archaeological study was not included in this nomination re-evaluation, and therefore, these resources are categorized as "Not Evaluated" in the inventory list).

Amendment

The amended district boundary incorporates additional resources associated with the industrial and historical significance of Cooch's Bridge. As the body of water passing through Purgatory Dam and hence, feeding the millraces, Purgatory Swamp is included in the district. The mid-19th century Cooch/Dayett tenant house, along Rt. 72 south of Old Baltimore Pike, historically part of the Cooch/Dayett Mill tract, is also a contributing element to the district. This 2 1/2-story, 4-register L-shaped frame house was originally built as a 3-register house, then expanded with an addition. In keeping with the historical associations of the Revolutionary War period and the Cooch family is the George Baynard House on Cooch's Bridge Road. Built on a rubblestone foundation, the house dates back to a mid-18th century log section, clapboarded, and a series of 19th and 20th-century additions, the most significant of which appears to have been built at mid-century when George Baynard, a cousin of the Cooch family, owned the property. That addition doubled the size of the house to its present configuration, while early 20th-century renovations provided the Colonial Revival cornice, porch, and pedimented dormer. In conjunction with the house are a mid-19th century barn and various dependencies.

The only deletion from the district in the revised boundary is the tail of the Christina Creek once it passes to the east of Rt. 72 and the properties associated with the Cooch/Dayett mill. This land is not directly associated with the mill complex or the water power system. In addition, changes to the landscape have impacted on the integrity of this area with regards to the

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district's period of significance.

Inventory

Cooch Residential Property

1. Monolithic granite obelisk with four iron cannons resting upon concrete bases. Revolutionary War monument honoring the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, erected by the Patriotic Societies and Citizens of the State of Delaware, September 3, 1901. Inscription revised by Historic Markers Commission 1931.(C)
2. Wood entry gates- second quarter of 19th century, erected by William Cooch, pair of square posts with recessed panels trimmed with molding, pyramidal caps, latticework gates and side gates.(C)
3. Cooch House - c.1760 by Colonel Thomas Cooch, with major early 19th -century Greek Revival alterations and additions. 3-story, 3-register gabled house with rear wing, brick masonry with scored stucco. East facade - piazza with fluted Doric columns and plain entablature, side door, Greek Revival 2-panel door with 4-light transom, sash 6/6 double hung, first floor paneled shutters, second and third floors louvered venetians, bracketed cornice. South facade - center entrance with mid-Victorian paneled and glazed door, 4-light transom, plain Doric portico, sash, all floors, 6/6 double hung, paneled shutter first floor, louvered venetians second and third, rear wing 2-story, 4-register, two entrances, dining room entrance with Stick Style doorhood with brackets and patterned slate roof, second door to kitchen - both doors mid-Victorian glazed and paneled, 6/6 double hung sash, paneled shutters first floor, louvered venetians at second; bracketed cornice same as front, 1-story wing on rear along north elevation. North facade - same detailing and fenestration as other elevations. Interior end chimneys to front, chimney center of ridge to rear wing, interior end chimney of rear wing, all stuccoed. Slate roof on front and rear sections.(C)
4. Carriage House - c.1870 (third quarter of 19th century), 2-story, board and batten frame building on stone foundation. Shed overhang shelters sliding wooden doors of beaded matchboard. Carpenter Gothic bargeboard, gabled roof with asphalt.(C)
5. Granary - c.1870, possibly earlier portion as evidenced by hand hewn

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beams. 2 1/2-story, gable-fronted, board and batten frame structure on stone foundation, later extended at front and converted to wagon barn. Front has sliding matchboard doors, 6/6 double hung windows at second floor and attic. Side elevations have ventilated openings at first floor that continue on rear elevation which has sliding matchboard doors; loft door at second floor. Shake gabled roof. Interior - second floor front workshops. Peg construction, dove cote east elevation.(C)

- 6. Smokehouse/Springhouse - late-18th century, 1 1/2-story stone building, stuccoed. Gabled front with wooden stoop to vertical board door, ventilating slit above. Second entrance into lower level on east elevation: vertical board door with strap hinges, 2-light window and second slit on north elevation. West elevation fenestrated. Shake roof, exposed rafters. According to Cooch family tradition, this structure was built in the early colonial period as a blockhouse as protection from marauding Indians; the slits in the upper gable ends of the north and south facades were used as gunports.(C)
- 7. Ice House - early-19th century, 1-story building of stone construction. South elevation has clapboarded gabled end, vertical board door with strap hinges. Second, smaller door on north elevation which has vertical board and batten siding. Shake roof with ventilator.(C)
- 8. Shed - early-19th century, last used as chicken shed, adapted from earlier outbuilding. Stone foundation, board and batten siding, ventilated slat gable and hand-hewn beams. 6/6 double hung sash and vertical board door with strap hinges on south elevation. Shake gabled roof.(C)
- 9. Shed - early-19th century, 1-story frame construction, shake roof, hand hewn beams, corner posts, and braces, later roof. Sliding 6-light sash. Dutch doors.(C)
- 10. Privy - mid-1930s, built by Works Progress Administration, vertical board siding, concrete base, shed roof.(C)
- 11. Ruins of outbuilding - foundations and ruins of two barns and circular brick foundation, possibly former corn silo. (Archeological potential not evaluated)
- 12. Modern house - 1971, 1 1/2-stories, frame construction, aluminum sided. Asphalt gabled roof.(N)

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- 13. Modern metal grapevine fence.(N)
 - 14. Spring box and well for hydraulic ram. c.1860.(C)

Woods and Waterways of Cooch Property and Old Cooch's Bridge Road above Old Baltimore Pike

- 15. First mill site.(Archeological potential not evaluated)
- 16. Earthworks and remains of early-18th-century mill race.(C)
- 17. Early 1700s dam site.(Archeological potential not evaluated)
- 18. Possible ruins of early-18th-century iron foundry. (Archeological potential not evaluated)
- 19. 1792 dam - modernized, concrete and stone.(C)
- 20. Rack - new wood and original stone piers.(C)
- 21. Mill race - upper portion built in 1792 to carry water to Cooch's Mill; the lower portion was extended in 1822 to carry water to the Cooch-Dayett Mill built that same year.(C)
- 22. Wire fence.(N)
- 23. c.1937 wood bridge and rail.(C)
- 24. Concrete bridge and pipe rail.(N)
- 25. Concrete and rubble sluice gate and remains of rack.(C)
- 26. 1792 stone and concrete dam over Purgatory Run.(C)
- 27. Steel lift gate, stone wall, and concrete overflow pipe clad in steel.
(C)
- 28. Modern steel and steel rope fence.(N)
- 29. Concrete bridge and pipe rail.(N)

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 30. "Retreat Road" - paved.(N)
31. Bridge No. 332 - Pencader Hundred Levy Court, New Castle County, Delaware, 1926. Cast concrete, paneled walls and coping.(C)
32. Modern post and rail and post and wire fences.(N)
- Old Baltimore Pike**
33. Cooch's Bridge No. 336 - Built 1922 over Christina Creek. South section along Old Cooch's Bridge Road built 1912 by Lutten Bridge Co., York, Pa.(C)
34. 934 Old Baltimore Pike - late-19th century, 2 1/2-story, 3-register L-shaped house, stone foundation, frame construction, vinyl siding. Central entrance with modern pent, 4-panel door and transom. 6/6 double hung sash, metal paneled shutters at first floor, louvered at second floor. One interior end chimney, stuccoed; one new exterior end chimney. Cornice panned with aluminum. Asphalt gabled roof. Rear ell addition with modern porch, 6/6 double hung sash, interior end chimney, stuccoed. Flush paneled doors open from rear porch into wing and into rear elevation of main volume.(C)
35. Shed/garage - c.1910, board and batten, shed roofed front with hinged garage doors, lean-to shed addition.(C)
36. Stable - modern 1-story frame stable, shed roof.(N)
37. Modern split rail fence.(N)
38. Mill ruin/warehouse - 1792 stone foundation of Cooch's Mill with third quarter of the 20th century concrete masonry unit building. 1 1/2 -stories, matchboard sliding doors and single door on main (north) elevation. East elevation - 6-light basement window, three 6/6 double hung windows. West elevation - ventilated openings, 6-light sash above. Rear (south) elevation - off-center matchboard sliding door, three 6/6 double hung windows above. Corrugated metal gabled roof.(C)_
39. Metal guard rail.(N)

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40. Modern concrete post and lintel bridge.(N)

Dayett Mill

41. Metal entry gate.(N)

42. Gravel road.(N)

43. Stone embankment.(C)_

44. Helicopter pad.(N)

45. Modern metal shed.(N)

46. Outhouse - small frame structure near helicopter pad. Shed roof.(C)

47. Railroad spur.(C)

48. Mill - 1822; rebuilt 1917 and 1932. 3 1/2-story, 3-register mansarded brick mill on stone foundation. Originally two and one-half stories with gabled roof. Mansard built 1932. North elevation is 2 1/2 registers; off-center entrance with double paneled doors. 2/2 double hung sash, jack-arch brick lintels, replacement 2/2 double hung sash in windows of gabled dormers. Tarpaper roofing on mansard, paneled metal roofing on top. Molded box cornice. Metal chute to the east leads to corrugated metal clad grain storage bin with stone base and cupola. c.1945, 1-story stuccoed masonry L-shaped addition to the west with Colonial Revival frontispiece; metal casement sash; terra-cotta coping at parapet. Side elevation of addition has four registers of metal casement sash with brick sills, metal awning. South and east elevations of mill have first floor of stone, brick above, 2/2 double hung sash. Cross-braced Dutch doors with segmental- arched brick lintels on south elevation. Tailrace runs between mill and addition. 1-story gabled brick addition on stone base to the south. Chute from attic floor of south elevation leads to c.1920 corrugated metal clad grain storage bin, concrete base; topped by cupola. c.1950, wood-sided silo with octagonal roof and dormer connected to east chute by corrugated metal addition. Silo moved from barn c.1930.(C)

49. Warehouse - c.1920, building of concrete masonry unit construction,

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asphalt shingled gable, matchboard sliding door. Shed addition to south, concrete base, board and batten siding, sliding doors 6/6 double hung sash. 2/2 double hung sash at first floor of south elevation. Mid-20th century concrete masonry unit, 1-story addition sliding door porch with concrete base and plain square posts; flat roof, cupola. Wood clad store entrance to the north. Garage entrances to east.(C)

- 50. Flag pole.(N)
- 51. Bridge - concrete with wood post rail.(N)
- 52. Horizon Helicopters Warehouse - third quarter of 20th century, gabled frame building on concrete base.(N)
- 53. Modern plank fence.(N)
- 54. Shed 1 - (Cyclone Dist., Inc.) - early-20th century, 1-story gabled structure with German wood siding, 6/6 double hung window, glazed and paneled door, shed addition with Colonial picture window. Moved to this site. Site on concrete masonry unit piers. Asphalt roof.(N)
- 55. Shed 5 - c.1986, large square industrial warehouse building, unstained vertical tongue and groove siding; flat roof with plain metal coping. Three large industrial loading deck doors on east elevation. Concrete masonry unit base.(N)
- 56. Stall - frame and corrugated metal house stall.(N)
- 57. Shed 2 - early-20th century, board and batten; on grade, moved to this site. Display bay window. Shake roof.(N)
- 58. Garage - c.1950, 1-story concrete masonry unit building with garage doors, now fronted by sliding wood door. Corrugated metal roof. Addition to the east, one-story, commercial display windows, board and batten, shed roof.(N)
- 59. Shed 3 - early-20th century, 1-story, board and batten on concrete foundation. Moved to this site. East elevation - vertical board and glazed door with strap hinges. Rectangular display bay window with shed roof. Sliding door opening on south elevation. North elevation - new stone-clad ground floor with sliding doors. Loft doors above. West

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elevation not fenestrated. Paneled metal roof.(N)

60. Shed 4 - early-20th century, board and batten building moved to this site. New stone foundation, partially enclosed shed porch, projecting Colonial display window, Dutch doors, sliding garage doors on south elevation.(N)

61. Rack.(C)

62. Stone retaining wall and steps.(C)

63. Railroad tracks - c.1871, Newark & Delaware City Line.(C)

Dayett House

64. Concrete posts, c.1940.(C)

65. Main house - c.1830 with Victorian (third quarter of 19th century) and c.1976 alterations and additions. 2 1/2-story T-shaped Greek Revival mansarded house, 3-register front "T" with 2-story c.1965 portico composed of Doric columns and plain pediment with aluminum-sided tympanum. Central entrance with paneled door, sidelights, pilasters, and blind fanlight. 1/1 double hung sash in front "T". Cross wing mansarded, 2/2 double hung sash. Rear elevation - Victorianized with 2-story projecting shingled bays and Victorian porch. Exterior end chimney to west; interior chimney off-center in rear wing; Victorian porch on east elevation. Stucco corbeled brick cornice, gabled dormers, asphalt roof.(C)

66. Shed - 19th century, reclad with German vinyl siding. Cornice panned with aluminum. Vertical board doors. 6/6 double hung sash. Shed side wing, cupola, shake gabled roof.(C)

67. Garage - c.1920, 4-stall garage, reclad with German vinyl siding, concrete pad. Modern doors. Asphalt shingled gabled roof.(C)

68. Barn - c.1881, T-shaped gabled barn with banked stone-walled entrance into north wing, brick base with 6/6 double hung windows, asbestos shingled. Gambrel roofed brick addition (third quarter of 19th century) to south, 9-light sash, board and batten gambreled end wall with double hung 8/8 and 6/6 sash. Flush board double leaf and Dutch doors.

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Paneled metal roof throughout. Modern shed additions to either side of north wing. (C)

- 69. Modern split rail fence.(N)
- 70. Modern chain link fence.(N)

Cooch Tenant House (Route 72)

- 71. House - mid-19th century, 2 1/2-story, 4-register L-shaped house, rubblestone foundation, vinyl siding over frame. Originally three registers wide, 1-register addition. Windows modern 1/1 double hung with snap-in muntins to resemble 6/6. Interior end chimneys along north facade and rear, interior chimney along ridge between 3 and 1-register increments. Shed addition to rear wing.(C)
- 72. Shed - c.1920, cast concrete, matchboard siding in gabled end and sliding door. Paneled metal roof.(C)
- 73. Modern chain link fence.(N)

George Baynard House

- 74. Gate post - 1920s, concrete posts, paneled; pyramidal caps. Wooden slat fence.(C)
- 75. Hedgerow - contemporary with Colonial Revival alterations/additions.(C)
- 76. House - mid-18th century, with early and mid-19th-century and early-20th century additions. 2 1/2-stories, frame on stone foundation. Built in various stages. 18th-century 2-register clapboarded section over original log structure; central entrance, fronted by enclosed 1920s porch with 6/6 double hung sash. First and second floor sash 6/6 double hung. Originally interior end chimney centered between 18th and mid--19th-century sections. Off-center entrance into 2 1/2-story, 2-register addition, German wood siding under 1920s porch, plain clapboarding above. 6/6 double hung sash, interior end chimney. Louvered shutters on all four second floor windows. Molded box cornice across entire facade likely added in 1920s Colonial Revival remodeling. Two 4-light casement sash in garret of east elevation. German wood- sided garage addition to east. Rear elevation extends four registers wide, 6/6

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double hung windows, paneled shutters at first floor, louvered at second floor. 1920s porch supported by square Tuscan columns added to western-most bay; pedimented dormer with paired 6/6 double hung sash above. Asphalt gabled roof.(C)

- 77. Machinery shed - early-20th century, frame and pole construction. Partial concrete pad, matchboard siding, tarpapered shed roof.(C)
- 78. Shed - early-20th century, board and batten, tarpapered shed roof, 6-light windows on east elevation.(C)
- 79. Corn crib - mid-19th century, frame gabled structure sitting on concrete masonry unit. Paneled door in gabled end. Tarpapered roof.(C)
- 80. Barn - mid-19th century, board and batten gabled barn with shed wing to south and mid-20th-century concrete masonry unit and frame cattle shed addition to wing. Barn converted to dairy use c.1920 and raised onto new concrete foundation, original girders resting on steel jackposts. 12-light glazing on original barn, vertical board door with strap hinges. 1920s roof on barn, corrugated metal roofing. c.1920 1-story dairy across front of barn, German wood siding, concrete pad, 1/1 double hung windows with 12-light storms, louvered shutters. Open shed addition on front of barn next to dairy. Concrete silo.(C)
- 81. Animal shed - First half of 20th century, frame shed with 6-light sash, metal shed roof.(C)

Old Cooch's Bridge Road below Old Baltimore Pike

- 82. Modern metal post and wire fence.(N)
- 83. Concrete bridge #347, c.1940.(N)
- 84. Concrete bridge #946, c.1940, possibly built over older stone structure, metal guard rail.(N)
- 85. "Battle Road" - paved.(C)

Artillery Park

- 86. Artillery Park - historic site from Revolutionary War battle.(C)

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Baynard Hall

- 87. Stone bridge - rubblestone parapets.(C)
- 88. Baynard Hall - built 1842, 3-story, 3-register Greek Revival house constructed of brick with scored stucco, stone foundation. Piazza composed of six fluted Doric columns with plain full entablature. Central entrance with paneled door and 4-light transom. 6/6 double hung sash, paneled shutters at first floor, louvered shutters at second floor. Third story 2/2 double hung windows. Box cornice, interior end chimneys, stuccoed with brick caps. North side elevation - three registers of 6/6 double hung sash at first floor, two registers of 6/6 double hung sash at second and third floors. c.1920 1 1/2-story addition towards rear of south elevation, stucco over masonry, 6/6 double hung sash, porch with square Tuscan columns facing rear. Forward part of south elevation original 6/6 double hung sash. Rear elevation continues fenestration and detailing of front with exception of portico composed of modern aluminum fluted Doric columns, Doric pilasters, and full entablature. Central hall plan, kitchen in basement.(C)
- 89. Garage - c.1950, concrete masonry unit construction, clapboarded gable, two bays, asphalt roof.(N)
- 90. Shed - Second quarter of 20th century, frame construction, clap boarded, 6-light window, shed roof.(C)
- 91. Bank barn and ruins.(Archeological potential not evaluated)

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Total Resources:

	C	N	Archaeological Potential Not Evaluated
Buildings	26	12	0
Sites	2	0	5
Structures	17	21	0
Objects	5	3	0
Totals	50	36	5

(C)- Contributing
(N)- Noncontributing

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Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- Military History
- Industrial History
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance 1722-1940

Significant Dates
1777
1791-92
1838
1894
1832-33

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Cooch's Bridge is the site of the third iron furnace erected in British America, and of the only Revolutionary battle fought on Delaware soil. It is also the location of a sophisticated system of millraces which since the early eighteenth century, has powered the mills along the Christina. Because of these associations with industrial and military history, the district is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A.

The land around Cooch's Bridge was near the eastern boundary of the Welsh Tract, a 30,000-acre grant to a group of Welsh immigrants who settled in western New Castle County during the first decade of the 18th-century. Some of these settlers were millwrights, millers, and ironworkers who soon established mills and forges along the branches of the several creeks in the vicinity. Of these creeks, the Christina offered the best head of water for industry; since it flowed through the ore-rich Iron Hill region, the

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Christina River was an ideal power source for ironworking. At least two blast furnaces were established at the foot of Iron Hill, and several forges are known to have operated nearby.

Sir William Keith, the Governor of Pennsylvania and The Three Lower Counties began buying land on the Christina in 1722, with the intention of establishing an iron plantation to be known as Keithsborough. There were already dams and mills on the land he bought; there may have been bloomery forges in operation on the property as well. Keith gave up his plan for an iron plantation in 1726, when he sold the mill seats to John England, the iron master at Principio in Maryland, who had recently emigrated from Tanworth, Staffordshire. England and his heirs owned the property until they sold it, in several parcels, to Thomas Cooch after his arrival from England in 1746.

By the time Thomas Cooch arrived on the scene, iron manufacture at Iron Hill had virtually ceased; Cooch was a miller who bought up the better mill seats for development. He was a captain in the French and Indian War and colonel of the Lower Regiment of the Delaware militia. He was an aggressive businessman who chose the best properties and worked at every aspect of their development. On the eve of the Revolution, he had persuaded the County Court to rebuild the bridge at his mill, but the war interrupted his plans and left his mill and bridge in ashes.

After the British army landed on the Elk River in August 1777, General Washington sent a body of picked troops to fight a holding action at Cooch's Bridge while his army entrenched along Red Clay Creek near Stanton. On September 3, 1777, Howe left Head of Elk and Knyphausen moved from Buck Tavern (now Summit) with plans to meet at Aiken's Tavern (Glasgow), near the Continental position, and march on from there. The first shot was fired about a half-mile north of Aiken's and skirmishing continued for two miles beyond Cooch's Bridge as the American forces retreated. A letter from Lieutenant Colonel van Wurmb to General von Jungkenn relates the heroic stand that took place at Cooch's Bridge.

After the enemy had shot themselves out of ammunition the fight was carried on with the sword, they being finally put to flight. But they immediately made a stand again, and we drove them away a second time, when they took post beyond the Christina Creek at Cooch's Bridge.

The British tried to cut off the American retreat; had it not been for their inability to penetrate Purgatory Swamp, they might have succeeded.

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It has been claimed that the Stars and Stripes were first unfurled in battle here. The flag had been adopted by Congress, June 14, 1777, and was carried in a parade in Philadelphia in August when Washington moved the American Army to Delaware; however, the militia were still using state or regimental banners. The troops at Cooch's Bridge were a special light infantry brigade drawn from seventy regiments. Since colors are important in a battle, and since only the national flag would be meaningful to all of the regiment it is entirely possible that it was carried.

During the battle, the British burned Cooch's Mill and took possession of his house, as a headquarters for General Cornwallis. The grist mill was not rebuilt until the property passed to Thomas Cooch's grandson, William, in 1788. This mill, built in 1792, just east of the bridge was destroyed by fire in the late 1950s. A modern building now stands on its foundation. In 1822, William Cooch, built the present Dayett's Mill and extended the mill races to that mill. According to Edward W. Cooch, Jr., William Cooch also expanded the Cooch House prior to his death in 1837. He added the third floor, the back wing and the large veranda on the east side. He also moved the present south entrance porch from the east side. The land passed in 1870 to Levi G. Cooch, who conveyed it to Joseph and William Cooch in the same year. Their mill company, known as the Cooch Brothers, used the 3 1/2-story brick building which still stands. It was run entirely by water power from the Christina until it was remodeled in 1884. John W. Dayett bought Cooch's Mill in 1894 and added all the latest improvements. Twice gutted by fire, in 1916 and 1932-33, the Dayett Mill was restored each time and is still in operation. In the 1932-33 restoration, the mansard roof was added and the mill was retrofitted with machinery from a c.1890 mill in York, Pennsylvania. The mill continues to use water power from William Cooch's 1792 dam on the Christina and from a smaller dam on Purgatory Swamp.

The Cooch Mansion is still in the possession of the Cooch family. The present owner, Edward W. Cooch, Jr., is the seventh generation to occupy the house.

In keeping with the Cooch family's association with the district and the period of significance is the George Baynard House. Located along Cooch's Bridge Road, this house's origins pre-date the Revolutionary War battle which took place nearby. By 1739, the year in which Joshua Wild sold his 150 acres of woodland to Benjamin Elder, a messuage or tenement stood on the property. This may have been the log structure that still exists within the building. In 1797 the property passed from Elder's heirs to Neil McNeal who may have

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been responsible for the enlargement of the original or subsequent log building into a two-story structure. The property was then sold to James Kennedy in 1822 and from his heirs to George Baynard in 1852. Baynard, son of Eliza Baynard of Baynard Hall, was also a cousin of the Cooch family. Still appearing as the owner on the 1868 atlas, Baynard likely built the substantial 2-story clapboarded addition that dates from the mid-19th century.

Also connected with the Cooch family and its milling industry is the tenant house located along Rt. 72, near the Dayett Mill. Historically, this property was part of the larger parcel that includes the Dayett Mill. The 2.25-acre lot was sold separately by the Dayett's in 1949, prior to which the tenant house itself was listed on the deeds as one of the buildings on the mill property.

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COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Zone: Piedmont
Periods: 1630-1730+/-: Exploration and Frontier Settlement
1730-1770+/-: Intensified Durable Occupation
1770-1830+/-: Early Industrialization
1830-1880+/-: Industrialization and Early Urbanization
1880-1940+/-: Urbanization and Early Suburbanization
Themes: Manufacturing
Settlement Patterns and Demographic Change
Architecture, Engineering and Decorative Arts
Government
Major Families, Individuals and Events
Property Type: Mixed Function District

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Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # Del-57
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Bibliographical References

Cooch, Edward W. The Battle of Cooch's Bridge. Cooch's Bridge (DE): Author, 1940.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware, 1690-1888. Philadelphia: L.J. Richards & Co., 1899.

Biographical and Genealogical History of the State of Delaware. Chambersburg (PA): J.M. Runk & Co., 1899.

Cooch, Francis A. Little Known History of Newark, Delaware and Its Environs. Newark (DE): The Press of Kells, 1936.

Herman, Bernard L. Architecture and Rural Life in Central Delaware, 1700-1900. Knoxville, TN: The University of Tennessee Press, 1984.

Interview with Mr. Michael James Arpino, April 7, 1987.

Interview with Mr. Edward W. Cooch, Jr., March 18, 1987.

Interview with Mr. Edward F. Heite, March 18, 1987.

Interview with Mr. Reynor A. Johnson, July 10, 1987.

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Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 168 acres

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) right-of-way at the southwest corner of the intersection of Old Baltimore Pike and the westerly right-of-way of Route 72, the Cooch's Bridge Historic District boundary extends south along Route 72, the district boundary extends south along the westerly right-of-way line of Route 72 (the eastern property line of New Castle County Tax Parcels [NCCTP] 11 014.00 045 and 11 014.00 080), terminating at the point where the southerly side of the Christina Creek meets the westerly side of Route 72 (this point is 1,750 feet from the point of the beginning).

The district boundary then turns west at a 90° angle, and extends a distance of 275 feet to intersect with the westerly side of the Conrail right-of-way. The district boundary then turns southwesterly and runs a distance of 100 feet more or less; thence continuing in a southwesterly and westerly direction, parallel to, and 100 feet distant from, the southerly bank of the Christina Creek 1200 feet more or less until it intersects with the northwesterly boundary of NCCTP 11 014.00 043 at a point located 100 feet southwest of the intersection of the boundary of NCCTP 11 014.00 043 with the southwesterly boundary line of NCCTP 11 014.00 044. Then, the district boundary extends southwesterly along the easterly property line following the 50 foot topographic contour line of the United States Geological Survey 1:24000 Quadrangle Map of NCCTP 11 014.00 043 a distance of 250 feet, more or less; thence through land now of Delmarva Power (NCCTP 11 014.00 043) continuing in a southerly direction following the 50 foot topographic contour line behind the George Baynard House on NCCTP 11 014.00 042.

The district boundary then follows the southerly edge of NCCTP 11 014.00 042 to its intersection of the right-of-way with Old Cooch's Bridge Road (the Battle Road). The district boundary crosses the Old Cooch's Bridge Road and continues north, along the westerly right-of-way line of Old Cooch's Bridge Road, to its point of intersection with the southern property line of NCCTP 11 014.10 002 being the common boundary line of a minor subdivision of the Cannonshire development. The district boundary follows this parcel boundary north 83 degrees 41 minutes west 221.55 feet to a point; thence south 06

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degrees 19 minutes east 62 feet to a point, thence, along the southerly property line of lot 39 of Cannonshire development, north 78 degrees 11 minutes east 72.16 feet to a point; thence still along lot 39, south 54 degrees 11 minutes west crossing a 30 feet wide drainage easement 135.95 feet to a point, a corner for lots 40 and 56 of Cannonshire development; thence along the easterly boundary line of lot 56 of Cannonshire development north 45 degrees west 99.93 feet to a point; thence crossing a ten-foot wide drainage easement and following the southeasterly boundary line of Cannonshire development lots 57, 58 and part of 59, (said boundary line being the northwesterly boundary of the private open space of said development), north 2 degrees and west 296.08 feet to a point; thence still following the common boundary line of lots 59, 60, 61 and 62 and the private open space 446.01 feet to a point on the southerly side of the Old Baltimore Pike, a corner for lot 62 and the private open space at a point located 719.78 feet from the intersection of the center line of Old Cooch's Bridge Road and the Old Baltimore Pike. The district boundary then crosses Old Baltimore Pike, continuing the northwesterly direction, (a projection of the easterly common boundary of the development of Cannonshire and the private open space thereof, NCCTP 11010.00 009)), north 32 degrees 17 minutes west, through the lands now of Edward W. Cooch, Jr., approximately 2,600 feet more or less to its intersection with the present right-of-way of the State Route 896/I-95 (Delaware Turnpike) interchange, the present common property line now of the State of Delaware and that of Edward W. Cooch, Jr.

The district boundary then follows the present easterly right-of-way line of the Route 896/I-95 interchange approximately 400 feet to the northeast to a point; thence turning to the right and continuing easterly 450 feet more or less along the present common property line of Edward W. Cooch, Jr. and the State of Delaware, until it intersects with the eastern side of the Old Cooch's Bridge Road. The boundary continues south along the easterly right-of-way line of Old Cooch's Bridge Road, being east of the mill race that parallels it, to the intersection with Purgatory Swamp. The district boundary jogs northeast to follow the edge of the swamp to a point. At this location point the district boundary os 475 feet due west of the Conrail westerly right of way line, and 750 feet south of the I-95 right-of-way. The district boundary, then continues south, along the southeasterly edge of the said swamp, and intersects again with the easterly right-of-way of Old Cooch's Bridge Road; thence following the easterly right of way of Old Cooch's Bridge Road southward to the northerly side of a bridge on the Old Cooch's Bridge Road crossing the millrace; and thence following the northerly side of the old millrace, and in an easterly direction to a point where the

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millrace crosses the Old Baltimore Pike. The district boundary then crosses the Old Baltimore Pike, and extends easterly along the north proeprty line of NCCTP 11 014.00 044 and 11 014.00 045 to the intersection of the DelDOT southeasterly right-of-way of Old Baltimore Pike and the westerly right-of-way of Route 72, the point of the beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Cooch's Bridge Historic District is decreased by this amendment by approximately forty acres. The acreage excluded from the nomination does not include any contributing resources from the period of significance. The boundary decrease is necessary because the original boundary included part of an interchange of I-95 and Delaware 896 that was constructed before the nomination was submitted in 1972. The USGS quad map that served as the base map for the nomination at that time did not reflect the newly constructed interstate highway and included the right-of-way in error. Also, Delaware Department of Transportation right-of-way, consisting of vacant land at the southwest corner of the intersection of Old Baltimore Pike and Route 72 was excluded from the boundary. The historic district boundary is increased at the northeast corner to include more of Purgatory Swamp upstream from the dam.

The revised boundary for the Cooch's Bridge Historic District reflects the principal areas of significance addressed by the original 1972 nomination for which a verbal boundary description and justification were not provided. This boundary includes all resources related to the areas of significance set forth in the original nomination, industrial and military. As defined, the boundary includes the dams, mills, millraces, and waterways of industrial importance, and includes the battleground, artillery park, battle road and retreat road of Delaware's only Revolutionary War era battlefield.

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	436340	4388560	E	18	436970	4387020
B	18	436840	4388440	F	18	436860	4387050
C	18	437280	4388050	G	18	436640	4387510
D	18	437460	4387540	H	18	436180	4388410

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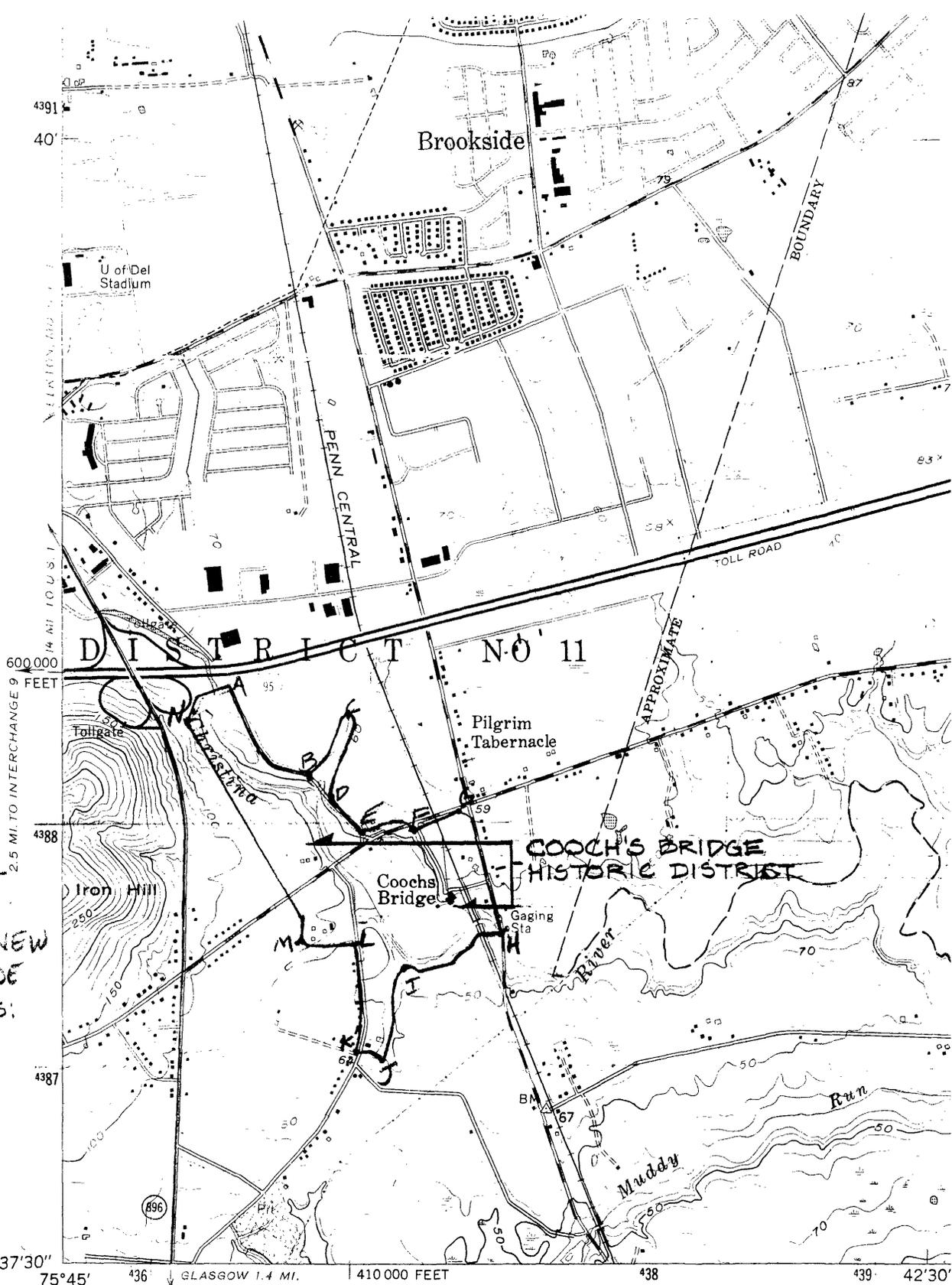
Form Prepared By:

name/title: Original: Edward F. Heite, Joan M. Norton, Rosemary Troy
Revisions: Carol A. Benenson, Mark Bower

organization: Original: Delaware State Historic Preservation Office
Revisions: Kise, Franks and Straw, Inc.

date: Original: 10/17/1972
Revisions: 9/14/1990

street: DESHPO, 15 The Green, Dover, DE 19901
Phone (302) 739-5685
KFS, 219 N. Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone (215) 561-1050



**COOCH'S BRIDGE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
AMENDMENT**

NEWARK VICINITY, NEW
CASTLE COUNTY, DE

UTM REFERENCES:

- A. 18/436340/
4388560
- B. 18/436840/
4388440
- C. 18/437280/
4388050
- D. 18/437460/
4387540
- E. 18/436970/
4387020
- F. 18/436860/
4387050
- G. 18/436640/
4387510
- H. 18/436120/
4388410

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5863 III SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Delaware Geodetic Survey

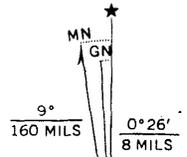
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1951. Field check 1953

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Delaware coordinate system

Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks;
zone 18, shown in blue

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1970 This information not field checked.



UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET