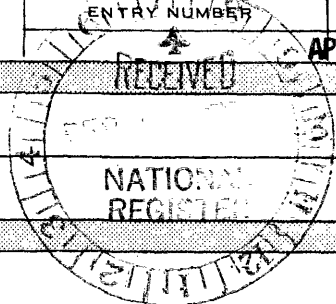


PH0001201

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 13 1976



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Mordington

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Douglass House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Canterbury Road near McCauley's Pond

CITY OR TOWN:  
Near Frederica

STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: Kent	CODE 001
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. Harry Lundy

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Mordington, Canterbury Road

CITY OR TOWN: Milford	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Kent County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
The Green

CITY OR TOWN: Dover	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey, #Del.-6

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.	CODE
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

APR 13 1976

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

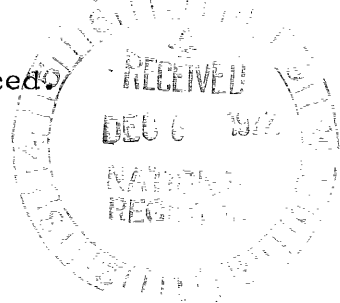
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mordington, built at the end of the eighteenth century, is one of Kent County's outstanding examples of Georgian architecture. Its double-pile plan, unusual for Delaware at this time, is just one of its distinctions. Oriented south, Mordington overlooks McCauley's Pond, at the headwaters of Murderkill River, the two-and-a-half-story brick house block is extended by a lower frame and brick wing to the east. This wing, once only eighteen feet long, has now been rebuilt and extended to fifty feet. The Flemish-bond brick exterior of the main house block has been subject to few changes since its erection.

The two main doorways have been removed to the Henry Francis duPont Winterthur Museum. The front door has been replaced by one from a house in Berlin, Maryland which is not as fine as the original.

Wooden keystones in splayed brick lintels surmount each of the twelve-over-twelve windows. A three-brick-wide belt course surrounds the house, but there is no evidence of any watertable. The denticulated box cornice is found on the north and south facades; its architrave and frieze details also mark the roof line on the gable ends, breaking at each chimney. The west chimney is enclosed within the brick wall and serves six corner fireplaces. The other end chimney, partially exposed beyond the brick wall, serves a fireplace in the wing.

The original wing has been recently replaced.



S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

The interior of the three-bay main block is almost entirely new. During its restoration an attempt was made to regain its original detailing while at the same time providing for those conveniences necessary to a home. In the 1930's all of the wainscoting, cornice-work and the main stairway were removed to Winterthur. These features have now been copied and reinstalled in the house. The fireplace of the southwest room holds the only original woodwork, which is marked by a dog-eared bolection moulding surmounted by an unornamented frieze flanked by moulded corner blocks and by a simple cornice. Another fireplace, which has been rebuilt, displays fluted flanking pilasters and a reeded center block. The wainscot, and the interior cornice work, which resemble that of the exterior, are found to be the same throughout the house.

Only one original brick outbuilding remains next to the house. This structure has always been assumed to be a smokehouse, although there is no trace of smoke-blackening on the interior.

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

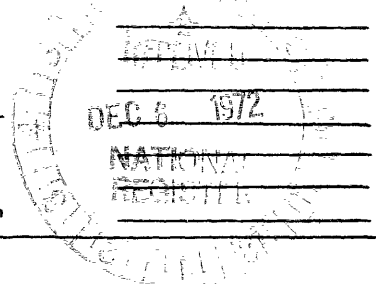
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<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

Situated in Milford Hundred, Mordington represents the life-style of a very prosperous eighteenth-century mill owner in Delaware.

In 1785 James Douglass bought fourteen and a half acres of land and cripple (wet lands) on Brown's Branch of Murderkill Creek from William Frazier. This adjoined property at the mill pond dam, which Douglass had bought earlier. It is believed that a frame dwelling was already on the property when Douglass bought it. A family descendent, the late Clayton Douglass Buck, believed that the brick house was built by James Douglass' son Walter. The name "Mordington" is said to be taken from the Scottish title of an ancestor who was created Baron Mordington of Clyde by King Charles I.

The Douglass family built mills at the mill pond dam; by 1822 Walter Douglass had increased his holdings there to more than five hundred acres. It is noted in family documents that the mill seat was used for smelting bog iron. Walter Douglass and his brother William were also involved in several other ironworks in Sussex County particularly the Deep Creek Furnace at the head of the Nanticoke. It is probable that they used the Mordington mill seat to power a bloomery forge, as well as for grinding grain. Certain sources indicate the presence of two water wheels and three pairs of stones in the gristmill. The remains of the stones are found around the house.

Walter Douglass' widow Harriet Middleton Douglass sold her dower rights in Mordington to Charles Kimmey in 1828. The property passed through several other owners before being deeded in 1848 to Joseph O. McColley who gave his name to the mill pond. At this point the Mordington Mills included a gristmill, a sawmill and a bark-mill. Only traces of these remain today.

There is not only history but folklore involved with the house. One of these legends concerns a slave girl who haunts the house, having jumped to her death from an upper floor after being unjustly punished. Another legend concerns a man who came home drunk one night and led his horse up the stairs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"Mordington" - pamphlet privately published.  
 Eberlein, Harold Donaldson and Hubbard, Cortlandt, V.D. Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware. Dover: Public Archives Commission, 1963.  
 Macdonald, Betty Harrington. Historic Landmarks of Delaware and the Eastern Shore. Edited by Jeannette Eckman: n.p.: Delaware State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1963.

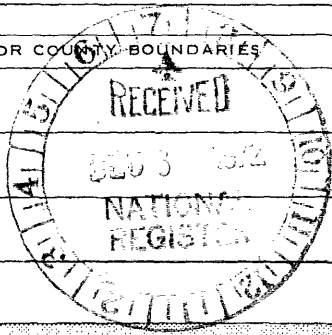
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39°	58'	07"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		75°	29'	39"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Joan M. Norton, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

**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 Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins

Title Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Date 11-27-72

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

Robert W. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

APR 15 1972

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Robert W. Utley  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 4/11/93

5862 1/2 SE  
(WYOMING)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Milford Quadrangle 7.5 minute series  
1954

75°30' 39°00' FREDERICA 1.7 MI. 458000m.E. 459 DOVER 13 MI. FREDERICA 0.6 MI. 460 27'30"

D I S T R I C T N O 8

4316000m.N.

North  
↑

MORDINGTON 8.7 MI. TO U.S. 12

4314

75029'39" W

Mordington

39°58'07"

4313

McCauley Pond

DEC 6 1972

57'30"

4312

4311

