

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

Delaware
COUNTY:
New Castle
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON	Hagley
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Jacob Broom House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Montchanin, 1 mile northeast of Wilmington			
STATE:	CODE:	COUNTY:	CODE:
Delaware	19710	New Castle	

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:	Mrs. Henry H. Silliman, Jr.
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:
Montchanin	Delaware
	CODE: 19710

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:	Office of Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County Building
STREET AND NUMBER:	
Eleventh and King Streets	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:
Wilmington	Delaware
	CODE: 19801

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County	<input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE  
COUNTY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

The house Jacob Broom built in 1795 about a quarter-mile west of the Brandywine still comprises part of the mansion called Hagley\* in the opulent Wilmington suburb of Montchanin. It is the last extant structure significantly associated with Broom. In 1802, Broom sold his Brandywine property, including this house, to E. I. du Pont, founder of the du Pont chemical empire in the State of Delaware, and it has been in the du Pont family ever since. The Broom section, four bays and two-and-one-half stories, now comprises the left-hand portion of the house including the main entrance. During the 19th century, a large wing was added on the north side, and photographs taken towards the end of that century show the house with ornate decorations and gaudy embellishments on the dormers of the Broom section. Though the latter could still be easily identified, it was virtually submerged in these adaptations to contemporary taste. Subsequently, the adornments and the entire left-hand wing were removed, and a substantial wing added on the south side. This was clearly designed to harmonize with the original structure, and, while the overall aspect of the house is unmistakably elegant, the style remains the plain vernacular of Jacob Broom's initial concept.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

\*Although a brass plaque at the main gate bears the inscription "Hagley," the present owners of the house desire that it be referred to by its historic name, the Jacob Broom House, rather than as Hagley.

8. 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            |                                       |

SPECIAL VALUES (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                      |   |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural   | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Production     | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious, Phi-      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Aspects  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                       |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Human-        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                       |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Jacob Broom was one of Delaware's leading entrepreneurs of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, being especially active in real estate, construction, and commerce. He was also a pioneer industrialist in the Wilmington area, establishing the first mill on the Brandywine in 1795. In addition, Broom participated in local and State politics, and as a member of the five-man Delaware contingent which attended the Philadelphia Convention of 1787 and signed the Federal Constitution. The only extant building associated with Broom now comprises one wing of a mansion in the Wilmington suburb of Montchanin. The original four-bay dormered house that Broom built in the 1790s is easily identifiable and still embodies the main entrance. A large wing added on the right adheres to the motif of the part built by Broom. The house serves as a private residence and is not open to the public.

Biography

Jacob Broom, according to William Pierce of Georgia, was "a plain good Man, with some abilities, but nothing to render him conspicuous." Taking a cue, Carl Van Doren calls him "the inconspicuous Jacob Broom;" Broom indeed holds the dubious distinction of being the only signer of the Constitution omitted from the Dictionary of American Biography. Biographical data is not difficult to come by, however, for both the Historical Society of Delaware and the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library are in possession of substantial collections of documentary material pertaining to his career.

Broom was born in Wilmington in 1752, the son of a well-to-do farmer. He received formal training as a surveyor and conveyer of title, and at the age of 20 established himself in business. By the 1780s he was devoting himself largely to dealing in real estate, not only in Delaware but in neighboring States as well. He also engaged in a great variety of business ventures, including construction, foreign commerce, retail trade, and the repair of mill machinery. In addition, he was interested in many internal improvements projects, toll roads, canals, and bridges.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Robert, Charles Beard and the Constitution (Princeton, 1956)

Campbell, William W., "Life and Character of Jacob Broom,"  
Historical and Biographical Papers of the State of Delaware,  
V (1909).

Drescher, Nuala M., "Jacob Broom: A Biographical Sketch"  
(Hagley Museum Ms., 1959).

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 ' 10 "	75 ° 34 ' 44 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Robert C. Post, Survey Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of History, Office of Archeology and  
Historic Preservation, National Park Service**      DATE: **7/9/73**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1100 L Street, N.S.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **D.C.**      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 \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **27**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (page 1)

Jacob Broom House

In 1795 Broom established the first cotton mill in the Wilmington region, which he moved to a site on the Brandywine later that same year. On the riverbank above this mill, he built a "mansion house" in which he lived for several years. In 1802 he sold all his Brandywine property and the improvements thereon to Eleuthere Irene<sup>e</sup> du Pont. We have it on the authority of Norman B. Wilkenson, Senior Research Associate at the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library and the foremost scholar on Broom and on the Genesis of industrialization on the Brandywine, that Broom's "mansion house" is the last extant property significantly associated with him. A Wilmington house at Third and Shipley and his downtown machine shop are now demolished.

It is perhaps because Broom's contemporary reputation was largely established as an investor and builder that historians have paid so little heed to his political career. Granted, he was never a major figure in this realm, but his attendance at the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention scarcely marked his sole venture into politics. In 1776, at the age of 24, he was elected a Burgess of the Borough of Wilmington. He was re-elected four times as Chief Burgess, and subsequently filled numerous other local offices. He also served several terms in the State House of Representatives. When the legislature selected the five-man Delaware delegation to the Constitutional Convention, Broom was one of the three chosen from New Castle County.

Broom played no significant role in drafting the Constitution; apparently he rarely spoke out, and then usually only to second a previous motion. Occasionally he seems to have been confused, since, as Robert Brown has pointed out, he supported the Constitution itself while at the same time voicing approval of the ideas of men who openly opposed it such as Luther Martin. At one point, however, when the delegates appeared stalemated, he did take the floor to insist that "the convention must produce some results, if only by a bare majority." Having played his one role on the national scene in 1787, Broom served in the State Legislature until 1796, and thereafter restricted himself to local posts only. Broom would scarcely qualify as a nationally significant figure had he not signed the Constitution. Nevertheless, there is certainly nothing inaccurate in assessing him, as Nuala Drescher has done, as "an astute man, a community-spirited citizen who served well both his own interests and those of the public."

7

22

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. Bibliographical References (page 1)      Jacob Broom House

Farrand, Max, The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 (4 vols.,  
New Haven, 1911-1937).

Munroe, John A., Federalist Delaware (New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1954).

Van Doren, Carl, The Great Rehearsal: The Story of the Making and  
Ratifying of the Constitution of the United States  
(New York, 1948).