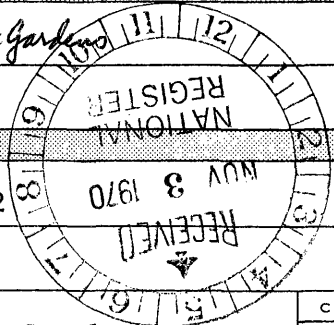


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.2.10.0002	DATE 2/24/71



1. NAME

COMMON: The (Henry Francis du Pont) Winterthur Museum & Gardens

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Six miles northwest of Wilmington on Route 52

CITY OR TOWN: Winterthur

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: New Castle CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Gardens</u>
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Inc

STREET AND NUMBER: (none)

CITY OR TOWN: Winterthur STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: New Castle County Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: Public Building

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: 71.2.10.0002

DATE: 2/24/71

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Winterthur, since early in the nineteenth century, has been an entity composed of a country house, handsome gardens, native woods, and fertile farm land. This interrelationship of land and buildings, all tended carefully over the years, has produced the Winterthur that today stands in what may some day be the last open space in northern Delaware.

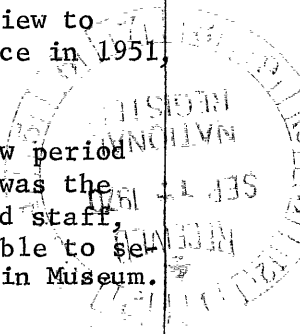
The property was acquired in 1837 by James Antoine and Evelina Gabrielle du Pont Bidermann, the daughter of Eleuthère and Irénée du Pont, founder of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company. Their purchase totaled 450 acres on which they built a home in 1839. This was the original house at Winterthur, which was named for the Swiss city in which Mr. Bidermann's family had lived. Mr. and Mrs. Bidermann preserved the virgin growth in the woods, farmed the fields, and built a sunken garden adjacent to their house.

Winterthur was purchased in 1866 by Henry du Pont from his nephew James I. Bidermann, who had inherited the estate from his parents. General du Pont added to his land until there were 1,135 acres on which crops were grown and stock raised. Even though busy as president of the Du Pont Company, the General was a dedicated farmer, spending large sums on improving the soil and experimenting with new agricultural processes. General du Pont probably never lived at Winterthur, but his son Henry Algernon took up residence there in 1875 following his marriage the previous year. Before moving in, however, he had the family home enlarged and remodeled, the first change in the structure since it was built. Again in 1884 Colonel du Pont added to the building, and after inheriting the property in 1889 made further changes in 1902. He also continued to acquire land, and by the time of his death in 1927 Winterthur had grown to 2,400 acres. Colonel du Pont was responsible for the initial expansion of the Winterthur gardens. Beginning in 1902 he and his son Henry Francis developed new areas, such as the March Bank, the Pinetum, and the Azalea Woods, and built new greenhouses and a sunken garden. Around 1893 Colonel du Pont acquired the nucleus of the Holstein-Friesian dairy herd which was to become world famous.

Henry Francis du Pont inherited Winterthur in 1927, and began almost immediately to transform his home into a museum of the American decorative arts. For some years he had been collecting woodwork from houses built along the eastern seaboard of this country between the seventeenth and early nineteenth centuries. These interiors he installed in his family home and in a large wing which he added in 1930, and furnished them with antiques contemporary in date with the woodwork. Eventually the Winterthur house grew to over one hundred period rooms with many special display areas. In 1930 Mr. du Pont established a nonprofit educational foundation with a view to its operating his home one day as a museum. This transfer took place in 1951, and The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum was opened.

The building has continued to grow since becoming a museum, with new period rooms and additions to the building. Most important of the latter was the section opened in 1959 which contained office space for the enlarged staff, and a series of period rooms for school children and visitors not able to secure appointments within the limited complement of guests in the Main Museum.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century ? | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century ? | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) late 17th to early 19th centuries

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | | <u>Decorative Arts</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>&</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Botanical Gardens</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum contains a great collection of the American decorative arts spanning the two hundred years from the seventeenth century to the early nineteenth century. In a large country house surrounded by gardens of striking beauty are examples of domestic architecture, furniture, textiles, silver, pewter, ceramics, paintings, and prints shown in almost two hundred period rooms and special displays.

Winterthur is a tribute to the early American artisan and to our country's tradition of craftsmanship in architecture and the household arts. The collection contains approximately 30,000 objects, ranging from the smallest accessory to impressive case pieces and building façades, which exhibit the skill of those who fashioned useful products of refinement and beauty for the early American and his home. The domestic interiors include drawing rooms, parlors, dining rooms, bedrooms, each complete to the finest detail. There are also simulated outdoor settings.

All of the furniture, silver, and pewter at Winterthur, with rare exceptions, was made in colonial America or during the first years of the young Republic. Such household articles as rugs, lighting fixtures, and porcelains which were imported rather than made in this country in early days are of foreign origin but contemporary in date with the Museum rooms in which they are seen.

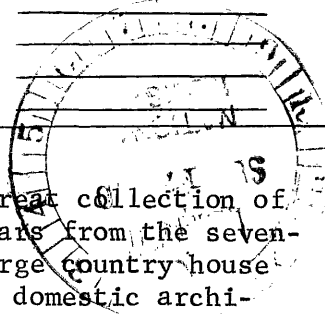
The Winterthur Gardens, which surround the Museum, complement in size and variety the furnishings within the building. In over sixty acres of naturalized plantings are virgin woodlands, flowering trees and shrubs, and smaller blossoms skillfully arranged to present great bursts of color and striking vistas.

Winterthur is best known for its azaleas, which were first planted in 1917 and now have reached great height. The rolling countryside lends itself to spectacular drifts of daffodils, while the canopy of tall trees in the Azalea Woods filters the sunlight as it plays on the delicate blossoms.

In developing the Gardens to their present size and beauty, Mr. du Pont combined vision, patience, and an artist's sense of color with his vast horticultural knowledge. He planned the Gardens himself, studied them, and worked continuously to achieve harmonious blendings of color and tone.

Although the Gardens were laid out with meticulous care and are the product of a truly creative effort, they appear as natural growth among the native

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Winterthur Illustrated, by John A. H. Sweeney, The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 1963.
Winterthur in Bloom, by Harold Bruce, The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 1968.
Winterthur Portfolio I, Richardson, Morse, Naeve, editors, The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 1964.
American Furniture: Queen Anne and Chippendale Periods, by Joseph Downs, Macmillan, 1952.
American Furniture: The Federal Period, by Charles F. Montgomery, Viking, 1966.

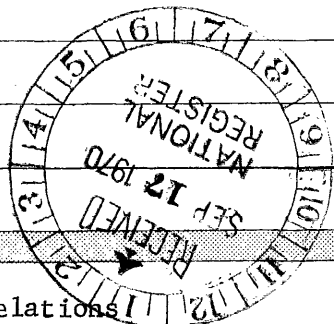
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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°	48'	53"	75°	48'	53"			
NE	39°	48'	34"	75°	35'	00"			
SE	39°	47'	28"	75°	35'	33"			
SW	39°	47'	47"	75°	36'	36"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 962

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Dorothy W. Greer, Head, Office of Public Relations

ORGANIZATION: The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum DATE: March 23, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: (none)

CITY OR TOWN: Winterthur STATE: Delaware 19735 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: Leon deValinger, Jr.
 Title: State Archivist & State Liaison Officer
 Date: July 29, 1970

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

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

FEB 24 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:
William J. Montoge
 Keeper of The National Register
 NOV 27 1970
 Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Delaware	
COUNTY	
New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
91.2.10.0002	2/24/71

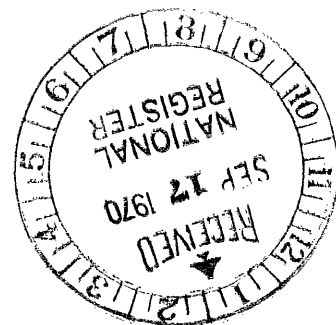
(Number all entries)

7. Description

From 1952 to 1968 the Winterthur Gardens, although privately owned by Mr. du Pont, were opened for a special tour in the spring at the same time a selection of period rooms in the Museum could be seen without the usual appointment. Over the years Mr. du Pont expanded the plantings until today there are more than sixty acres in the display gardens containing almost every tree, shrub, and flower that will grow in Delaware. An Autumn garden tour was added in 1966.

When Mr. du Pont died in 1969, all of his personal real estate at Winterthur--the gardens, farm, and attendant buildings--were inherited by The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Inc. The total acreage is now 962, Mr. du Pont having disposed of land at the perimeter of the estate to such organizations as the Methodist Country House, the Wilmington Country Club, and the Delaware Museum of Natural History as future protection to the Museum and Gardens.

The Museum administration has continued to open the Gardens in the spring, but the dairy herd was dispersed according to the terms of Mr. du Pont's will. The Museum administration also continues to maintain the home (now the Museum)-gardens-farm-and-woodland relationship which was essential to Mr. du Pont's plan of developing around his home a garden to complement the collection of American decorative arts within the building, and surrounding the whole with open fields and woods which are an integral part of the over-all concept to give perspective to the gardens and insure against the intrusion of highways and developments.



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
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(Number all entries)
8. Significance

trees and shrubs which have been preserved. Color and form are the hallmarks of the Winterthur Gardens.

The open fields that extend beyond the Gardens form a background for the colorful blossoms and add to the feeling of spaciousness. They also serve as a buffer against the encroachment of suburbia.

