

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0011118

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 16 1976
DATE ENTERED	

**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

Brandywine Village Historic Distric (Amended)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Along the Brandywine, between the Market
Street Bridge & the 14th Street Bridge; south to 16th Street
and north to Tatnall Street, 22nd St. NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Wilmington VICINITY OF One CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Delaware CODE 10 COUNTY New Castle CODE 002

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Public Building

STREET & NUMBER Rodney Square

CITY, TOWN STATE Wilmington Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey 9-1
Del - 11
Del - 30, 31, 32, 33, 34

DATE 1934 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN STATE Washington, D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Brandywine Village was the original location of a group of flour mills, the homes of prosperous millers, mill workers, shop keepers and artisans. In general, the development of the small town was accomplished in the last quarter of the 18th century. At first the town was a separate entity on the north side of the Brandywine Creek, but soon became a part of earlier Wilmington, then developing on the south bank of the stream.

The Brandywine Creek flows approximately west to east for the area involved in the town and forms the south boundary. The total area of thirty acres reaches northeast from the creek in an irregular fashion. All of the mill and mill race sites are included as are all the historic homes, large and small, and a small schoolhouse. Two mid-century churches are also included in this historic district.

The crossing of the creek, which has always been a problem due to the rocky streambed and the steep banks, is now accomplished by two modern bridges. These supplant three early wooden bridges, a still earlier ford, and a ferry. The creek was navigable at this point for the small sailing boats which served the mills. There were mills on both sides of the creek, but none of them survive in its original form. There are, however, continuous sections of exposed foundations which line both sides of the stream, some supporting later structures.

Market Street, the old toll road to Philadelphia from Wilmington and points south of the village, has always been the main street. Here developed the row of sturdy houses built of local Brandywine granite by the mill owners of the period. Six still remain in good condition while one is covered by a late store front. All are of good integrity of design, and although changes have been made, the character of the changes is, in the main quite obvious and leaves little or no doubt of the original form and detail. For example later additions of porches and shed dormers fail to obscure the original simple dignity of two stories of stone with a classic moulded cornice and a sloped roof paralleling the street.

Two of the seven houses have been fully restored, one serving as the headquarters of the Junior League of Wilmington, and the other owned and occupied by the Wilmington Senior Center. Three more houses are in the process of being restored. The whole row is placed high off the street level and back a generous dimension from the retaining walls at the line of the sidewalk. Of the seven houses mentioned above, five are owned by Old Brandywine Village, Inc., a private organization with strong historic and preservation interests and ideals.

The opposite side of Market Street is lined with small stores and other commercial activities housed within the walls of the old shops and homes of the less affluent members of the mill community, some of brick and some of frame construction. Store fronts and signs of the last century have, in general, obscured the original buildings. However in many instances, second story windows and pitched roofs above the first stories attest to the former character of the row. Further houses of later date line Hutton, Vandever, Buena Vista, and Race Streets and are of great value as supplementary, if not primary, interest to the community.

At the north end of the row of large houses on Market Street, at the corner of Concord Avenue, St. John's Episcopal Church was built in 1857 and consecrated in 1858.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION
—1400-1499	XARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE
—1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	XEDUCATION	XMILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X1700-1799	—ART	XENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER
X1800-1899	XCOMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION
X1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	XINDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1637 the earliest settler reached the land which later became Brandywine Village. This was Captain Jacob Vandever who took his small ship up the small stream, now the Brandywine Creek. Accompanied by his wife, he had sailed directly from Holland. Previously, in 1631, he had made an earlier trip to the New World and left a brother in New Amsterdam, who was a member of the Dutch East India Company and who prospered in Manhattan.

Shortly after his landing, it was discovered that his ship was leaky and unseaworthy. With the consent of a friendly Indian chief, Vandever and his crew laid claim to the landing place and built what was the first house in Brandywine Hundred. The first land patent was granted to Jacob Vandever in 1669 under the Duke of York and confirmed by re-survey in 1684-85. At that time the amount of land mentioned was 535 acres. The original log-hewn house and the brick one which followed have disappeared. Farm life prevailed on the whole Vandever Tract up to the time of the development of the flour milling industry.

The flour milling industry greatly influenced the early development of Wilmington. The borough's location at the mouth of the Brandywine kept it from being an agricultural community. In 1742, Oliver Canby, a Quaker from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, came to Wilmington and realized the great potential of the creek that flowed nearby. Within fifteen years he had set up the first mill of consequence near the head of navigation at the northeast end of Orange Street. Next, Thomas Shipley and several others had a three-mile race dug and by 1762 had completed two of four mills along the south bank between the terminations of French and Market Streets. However, the era of the mills' real importance began in 1770. In that year Joseph Tatnall, Delaware's first great industrialist, had a mill race dug along the north bank, a feat which to that time had been considered impossible. Between 1770 and 1820, the number of mills increased from eight to fourteen. As early as 1774, a thriving trade was being carried on with the West Indies. In 1788, Oliver Evans, a local inventor, persuaded Joseph Tatnall and his partner, Lea, to install his mechanical milling system in their mill. The first of its kind, it proved very successful. Wilmington fast became one of the most important and prosperous milling centers in the country.

The owners of the mills were Quakers: they championed abolition, care of the poor, penal reform, internal improvements, and were loyal patriots. As the Revolution commenced, Joseph Tatnall wrote George Washington: "I cannot fight for thee, but I can and will feed thee." His ledger shows large amounts of flour consigned to Robert Morris, financier of the Revolution. The association was the start of a friendship with Generals George Washington, Lafayette, and Anthony Wayne, which grew and outlasted the war period. Washington considered the Brandywine mills very important. As the British approached, he ordered the top stones, or "runners," to be removed to render the mills unuseable.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eckman, Jeannette et al. Delaware: A Guide to the First State. 2nd ed. New York: Hastings' House, 1955.

Scharf, J. Thomas. A History of Delaware, 1609-1888. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards and Company, 1888.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 33 acres

UTM REFERENCES

E. 18/453380/4399890

D. 18/453690/4399720

C. 18/453775/4399720

B. 18/453810/4399990

A

1	8	4	5	3	8	0	5	4	4	0	0	2	3	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

H

1	8	4	5	3	7	7	5	4	4	0	0	2	6	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

G

1	8	4	5	3	6	5	5	4	4	0	0	3	3	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

F

1	8	4	5	3	2	5	0	4	4	0	0	0	9	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

On the north side of the Brandywine, all of the original district boundaries are to be retained. On the south side of the Brandywine the boundary is to be amended to include that area on the south bank of the Brandywine between the Market Street Bridge and the Fourteenth Street Bridge which is north of 16th Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Albert Kruse, F.A.I.A. and Joan M. Norton, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Delaware Chapter, A.I.A. and Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Hall of Records

(302) 678-5314

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dover,

Delaware

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Lauren [Signature]

TITLE Director, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

DATE 7/12/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

[Signature]

DATE

10/28/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

10/18/26

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 2

Title: Historic American Engineering Record
(Wilmington South 18.453450.4399880)

Date: 1975 Federal

Depository: Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

Title: Delaware Heritage Buildings and Areas in New Castle County

Date: 1966 Local

Depository: Greater Wilmington Development Council
701 Shipley Street
Wilmington, Delaware

Title: Study of Alternate Plan and Design Policies

Date: 1967 Local

Depository: Wallace, McHarg, Roberts and Todd
1740 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Title: Survey of Delaware's Historic Sites and Buildings N-332, N-428

Date: 1970, 1975 State

Depository: Historic Preservation Section
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
Hall of Records
Dover, Delaware 19901

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The church has been greatly expanded from a simple parish church to become the Cathedral Church of St. John. The first building was designed by John Notman of Philadelphia, who was a leading designer in the Gothic tradition of that time. The Notman plan was a simple cruciform type with a tall tower surmounted by a slender spire. Brandywine granite was used for all walls and the roof is of slate. The expanded group which is now the Cathedral Church is well arranged and allows the original design to hold its place in the complete composition. The use of the local granite makes the church compatible with the old houses.

North on Market Street on the east side stands the Brandywine Methodist Episcopal Church, also built in 1857. The present building is a very simple rectangular brick structure. The exterior is stuccoed and the surface is scored to simulate stone coursing. The roof is low-pitched, pedimented on the entrance or street front. Since the auditorium is on the second floor, the high arched windows with tinted glass express this use in contrast with the much lower windows on the first floor which houses church offices and the Sunday School. The architectural style follows the work of Benjamin Latrobe, William Strickland and Ammi B. Young who worked in Wilmington and nearby New Castle, and were doubtless an influence in the design of this building.

On Vandever Avenue, just east of the intersection with Market Street stands the Brandywine Academy, founded in 1798, as attested by the oval date stone over the entrance. It is a two story building of stone with a generous attic surmounted by an octagonal cupola with bell, on a low square base. It housed a classroom on each floor and also served as a meeting place for the village activities. Brandywine granite again plays its part in making Brandywine Village an integral architectural composition. The Academy is owned by Old Brandywine Village, Inc., and has been restored by this organization. The first floor, as restored, portrays a classroom of the early 1800's, and the second floor is the meeting room for the Caesar Rodney Chapter of the D.A.R., whose members serve as guides in the schoolroom. It is used as a museum visited regularly by Delaware elementary school pupils studying Delaware history, and others.

Little remains above ground of the once-prosperous Brandywine flour mills located below the Market Street bridge in Wilmington. Nineteenth-century views of the river provide an interesting panorama of what eighteenth- and early nineteenth century travelers had called handsome, extraordinary, charming, superior or particularly pleasing structures. Constructed out of the gray granite, common to that area of the Brandywine, with gambrel or peaked roofs, the fourteen mill structures were located in closely-set rows on each side of the river. Each set of mills shared a common mill race, although they were not united by common ownership. In 1820, at the height of their prosperity, there were six owners of the mills.

By 1880, the mills on the south side of the Brandywine stopped grinding. This became the property of the City of Wilmington. In 1902, the Water Department who controlled the property installed two Holly vertical, three-cylinder triple-expansion steam pumping engines. One has been removed but the second, still in place and in

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excellent condition, is housed in the original pump house. The straight classic lines of the buildings reflect their construction in the early twentieth century.

The north side of the stream holds what remains of the early mill buildings. A recent industrial archaeology project revealed that two fires destroyed almost all of the mill structures fronting on the river. The foundations of four of the structures remain, as well as parts of the walls of the job mill and corn mill and the entire warehouse structure. The stone sections of the modern Sayer laundry building are parts of the original mills. The Sanborn map of 1884 shows two warehouses and an office building standing behind the mills; these are still standing in a fair state of repair.

The warehouse structures pre-date the mills and the office building. They are of brick, the one with arched windows and doorways set in inset panels and corbelled dentils. However, here the windows are square with heavy stone lintels. The office is also of brick, with segmental-arched windows of irregular sizes. A projection on the north wall houses paired windows. The cornice is boxed with dentils and the chimney has an interesting touch of the medieval.

Both of the mill races survive and are easily visible as they flow through Brandywine Park. On the south side, the race still serves the Wilmington Water Works.

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Those sent to carry out the orders found the stones too hard to move and so carried off the "spinnels, rines and ironnale heads [sic]." Washington, who also was a mill owner, knew that this action would not incapacitate the mills and ordered, once again, that the stones be dismantled and carried away. Only one of the mills was returned to use before the end of the Revolution.

In 1824 General Lafayette re-visited Brandywine Village in a tour of the eastern part of the states, so familiar to him in the war. The Village held a triumphant parade, crowds cheered and waved flags. The Academy bell was rung and the General visited with the Tatnalls and other friends of the war days.

Many foreign travellers who visited the United States after the Revolution often commented on the mills along the Brandywine. In 1782, Comte de Segur found it "a place of considerable commercial activity" and Elkanah Watson stopped here in 1784 "to examine the most extensive flouring mills on the continent.": Moreau de St. Mery, in 1794, described Wilmington and its mills as "magnificent." They had, however, reached their zenith by 1820; thereafter, the river Brandywine was associated more with the powder than the flour milling industry.

The milling industry had brought great prosperity to the Quakers who owned the mills along the Brandywine. They built fine homes of Brandywine granite on the hill overlooking the river. This row of houses forms one of the finest rows of structures using this material. At the crest of the hill is the Cathedral of St. John. This church, also built of Brandywine granite in the Gothic revival style, was designed by John Notman, a Philadelphia architect of some renown. There were many rows of mill workers houses as this was very much an industrial village. The well-designed mill structures along the Brandywine formed an early industrial complex. Then in the 1850's a large cotton factory was established here. Both of these industrial areas provide the excellent possibility for industrial archeology. In fact the Village, being quite compact until late in the nineteenth century, would provide an excellent historical archeology study.

One of the finest public buildings in the village constructed of Brandywine granite is the Academy. The Brandywine Academy was built in 1798 following a successful subscription of funds. The land was given by John Dickinson, the "Pen Man of the Revolution," and John Welsh. Dickinson had large property holdings in Brandywine Village, inherited by his daughter at his death in 1808.

The Academy served as a school for about 75 years, and also housed the founding groups and original worshipers of the two churches founded in the Village; St. John's Episcopal and the Brandywine Methodists. From 1915 to 1943 the building was used as a branch of the Wilmington Institute Free Library. The Academy was founded as a private school and became a part of the Wilmington Public School system.

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Eberlein, Harold Donaldson and Hubbard, Cortlandt V.D. Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware. Dover: Public Archives Commission, 1963.

Ferris, Benjamin. A History of the Original Settlements on the Delaware... Wilmington: Wilson and Heald, 1846.

Delaware History. Wilmington: Historical Society of Delaware, 1946.

Bennett, George Fletcher. Early Architecture of Delaware. New York: Bonanea Books, 1932.

Welsh, Peter C. "Brandywine: An Early Flour - Milling Center." Smithsonian Report for 1959. Washington, D. C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1960. (p. 677-686)

Welsh, Peter C. The Brandywine Mills, 1742-1815. M. A. Thesis, University of Delaware, Unpublished, 1956.

Mayer, Anne E. Industrial Archeology Project, Lea Mills, Wilmington, Delaware. Unpublished paper, 1970.

Brinton, Amos. Map of Brandywine Village. Filed at Old Brandywine Village, Inc.

Welsh, Peter C. "The Brandywine Mills: A Chronicle of an Industry, 1762-1816" Delaware History, Vol. 7 (March, 1966), p. 17-36.

Hoffecker, Carol E. Brandywine Village, The Story of a Milling Community. Wilmington: Old Brandywine Village, Inc. 1974.