

**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	DATE
	FEB 1 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Walker's Mill and Walker's Bank

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Simsville, Siddall's Mill, and "Big White Mill"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Bank of Brandywine at Rising Sun Lane Bridge

CITY OR TOWN:
Wilmington

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

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Museum Storage Exhibits Construction

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER:
Greenville

CITY OR TOWN: **Greenville** STATE: **Delaware** CODE: **10**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
New Castle County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rodney Square

CITY OR TOWN: **Wilmington** STATE: **Delaware** CODE: **10**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1936** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington, D.C.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington, D.C.** STATE: CODE:

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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

Walker's Mill is a large rectangular building of whitewash stone on the East bank of Brandywine Creek situated next to the dam that also served Breck's Mill. It is two and one-half stories high and built in a T-shape with the main structure masonry approximately 100 feet by 225 feet. There is a handsome tower on the South end. The lower part of this tower is stone with a pent eave. The upper part is of brick topped by a cupola that originally supported a bell. This cupola has a curved arched head and a railing of square wood parts. A hipped roof supports the weather vane. The brick part of the tower has bullseye windows in each of the four sides. Half lunettes flank the tower in the gable end of the main building. A wide lunette window with rectangular muntins is in the North gable end of the main building as well. This end originally had three windows in each floor. The center window in the first floor appears to have been replaced. The West or river elevation consists of a long series of rectangular windows equally spaced. Those of the second floor being in line with those of the first. Both the height of the windows and location of the sill above the floor varies greatly. This was probably due to the original placement of machinery. A large brick archway allowed the water of the race to flow into the Brandywine. Numerous sheds and other buildings are on the East side of the main building.

Walker's Mill originally had a water wheel to turn the spinning machines used for cotton. In 1840-1844, water turbines were installed to replace the water wheel. In 1848, a fire destroyed much of the mill but it was soon rebuilt. It was called "The White Mill" around 1859 and may have been stuccoed white at that time. Today, the interior has been modified for the needs of building models and exhibits for the Eleutherian Mills Foundation.

Walker's Bank has changed little since it was built to house Mill workers in 1813. Rectangular in plan, it measures 44' x 75' and has four homes, although in 1825 there were six. It is a stone building that is now whitewashed although it used to have a light blue color, visible in spots on the East side where the whitewash has worn away. There are two stories with dormered attic on the East facade and three stories with dormers on the river on the West facade. A one story wooden porch is continuous on each long facade. The East porch is divided into four units each containing a door and a six light over nine light double hung wood sash. The doors are set in deep wood paneled reveals. Vertical wood sheathed partitions with a shelf separate the porch between units. Five square wood columns support the shed roof. The second floor has eight windows in a six over six light double hung arrangement. The attic floor has two dormers front and back with six over six sash and two small square sash on each end. The West facade resembles the East with the added story.

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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) 1813-1815

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Industrial</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>architecture</u> |
| <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

Walker's Mill is one of the handsomest examples of industrial architecture in the area. It represents an important era of industrial growth for Northern Delaware and the United States. Walker's Bank is the most authentic remaining workers' homes that remains today on the banks of the Brandywine. The long row of houses is unspoiled. These houses in close proximity to the mill on the banks of the flowing water, the source of power, represent a pure early 19th century industrial scene.

Walker's Mill ran the longest of all the Brandywine manufacturers on the DuPont property. It was used largely for cotton spinning. Joseph E. Sims built the mill between 1813 and 1815 having purchased the land in 1813 from Peter Bauduy, then an associate of E. I. duPont. The bank of houses that now remains of the several blocks of workers' homes was also built at this time. Walker's Mill as Breck's Mill that shared the same dam and water rights was built at a time when growing industry responded to the needs of a large domestic market cut off from European supplies by the 1812 war. It is an example of the use of new technical skills that could harness the full river's power and the change from small family mills to large industrial factories employing many workers. It was on the top story of Walker's Mill that the first Brandywine Manufacturers' Sunday School was held in 1816. Significant in the early awareness of the workers' needs, especially in the textile industry where many children were hired, the Sunday School gave the only hours of reading, writing, and "ciphering" that many employees would ever have. A son of the well-known artist, Charles Willson Peale, was an apprentice here at this time.

Walker's Mill suffered the hazards of the other textile mills in the early 19th century--shifting tariffs, unstable markets, fires, and floods. It passed through many hands until it was sold at a sheriff's sale to Alfred duPont who improved the building and rented it. One of his lessees was Joseph Walker for whom the mill is named and who operated longer than any other predecessor. Looms were introduced in 1848 after the mill was badly damaged and rebuilt by Alexis I. duPont, and the mill became a textile factory rather

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Primary Sources

- American Watchman, January 6, 1813, page 4, column 4.
- Ibid., March 22, 1815, page 3, column 4.
- Ibid., February 7, 1818, page 1, column 2.
- Ibid., September 9, 1823, page 3, column 4.
- Ibid., April 28, 1826, page 3, column 4.
- Ibid., July 7, 1826, page 1, column 1.

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	0	'	"	0	'	"	39	46	14
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	75	34	44
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9.0

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Eleanor M. Webster

ORGANIZATION: **Tri-County Conservancy of the Brandywine** DATE: **August 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 141

CITY OR TOWN: **Chadds Ford** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: **19317**

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 Rea Wilkie
Title Historic Registrar,

Date June 30, 1971

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

Ewert A. Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

FEB 1 1972
Date _____

ATTEST:
William H. ...
Keeper of The National Register
Date **JAN 20 1972**

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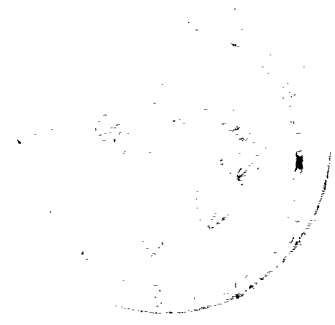
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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd.)

than just a spinning mill. It was again rebuilt in 1881 after fires. At this time Barlow and Thatcher remodeled the machinery for fine yarns and operated the mills until 1897. From 1902 the Hodgson Brothers, worsted spinners, used the mill until 1936. The following two years other tenants handled decorative upholstery fabrics. It was then used by the DuPont Company Experimental Station and in 1956 became part of the Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, used for storage and the preparation of exhibits for their museum.



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9. Major Bibliographical References (cont'd.)

Delaware Gazette, October 25, 1817, page 4, col. 2.

Ibid., February 26, 1822, page 3, col. 2.

Ibid., May 30, 1826.

Documents relative to the Manufacturers in the United States, collected and transmitted to the House of Representatives, in compliance with a Resolution of January 19, 1832, by the Secretary of the Treasury. (2 vols., Washington, D.C., 1833) II, 701, 800.

Du Pont, Alfred. Deeds 1829-1841; Hilton Property. Du Pont Company Museum Collection, Safe Compartment I (1).

Du Pont, Alfred. Lease for Renting Cotton Mill at Simsville to A. W. Adams & Co., January 9, 1844. Du Pont Company Museum Collection, Safe Compartment I (1).

Peale, C. W., to Rembrandt Peale, Baltimore, July 31, 1814. Calendar to C. W. Peale letter books, American Philosophical Society, Letter book XIII, 26-31.

Maps and Surveys

Map credited to E. I. du Pont, "Initial Plan of the Mills" c. 1822, Rare Book Room, Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Library, Greenville, Del.

Hagley Property Survey.

New Castle County Regional Planning Commission.

Secondary Sources

Bennett, George Fletcher. Early Architecture of Delaware. Historical Press, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware, 1932.

Canby, Henry Seidel. The Brandywine. Farrar & Rinehart, N.Y., 1941.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware, 1609-1888. 2 vols., Richards & Co., Philadelphia, 1888.

Welsh, Peter C., Brandywine and Early Flour Milling Center. Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C., pub. 4416, pp. 677-686.

Zebley, Frank R. Along the Brandywine. Wilmington, Delaware, 1940.

Unpublished Sources

Boatman, Roy M. "The Brandywine Cotton Industry, 1795-1865". Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation research report, Greenville, Del.

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9. Major Bibliographical References (cont'd.)

Gibson, George H., "The Delaware Woolen Industry", Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation research report, Greenville, Delaware.

Hancock, Harold B., "The Industrial Worker Along the Brandywine, 1800-1840", Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation research report, Greenville, Delaware, 1956.

Welsh, Peter C., "The Brandywine Mills", Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation research report, Greenville, Delaware, 1956.

