

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 21 1979
DATE ENTERED *Amended 7/29/79*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME *Greenbank Historic Area*

HISTORIC

Greenbank Mill and Mill Owner's House (Amended)

AND/OR COMMON

The Greenbank Historic Area (Amended)

2 LOCATION *N of jct. of DC 41 and RR 2*

STREET & NUMBER

Greenbank Mill Road and Route 41 north of junction of Rt. 41 and Rt. 2

CITY, TOWN

Marshallton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

New Castle

CODE

002

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Mill

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Ownership - See continuation sheet

awaiting restoration

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City/County Building

STREET & NUMBER

800 French Street

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington, Delaware

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey, N-191, N-273

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

CITY, TOWN

Dover,

STATE

Delaware 19901

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

The Greenbank Historic Area, as amended, consists of two distinct areas separated by a modern intrusion. The area originally nominated includes the remnants of the mill and the mill race, the mill owner's stone dwelling built in 1790's, and sundry out-buildings. The newly added parcel includes the mid-nineteenth-century mill owner's house. This property sits on a hill overlooking Greenbank Road, on the far side of the Newport Gap Pike. From this vantage the mill owner could survey most of the mill area, the latter having expanded greatly in the fifty years since the first home associated with the milling complex was built. The three structures named above are all that remains of this prominent milling complex.

The mill structure stands on its original foundation. Much of the wooden super-structure was replaced after a recent fire. Some of the original mill machinery which was housed in the foundation escaped the fire and is still intact. Even though the frame structure has been largely rebuilt, it is a faithful restoration of the 1790 mill. A stone wing, built in 1812, has been removed due to its deteriorated condition.

The mill building today measures 50' by 39' and stands two-and-a-half stories high. A small office wing, one story high with a loft, has been added on the south side. A shed-roofed porch at the northeast corner has collapsed within the past few years. The roof is covered with wood shingles; the walls are sheathed in clapboard and German siding. A simple box cornice surrounds the structure.

Behind the mill on the same side of Greenbank Road stands the Robert Philips House, a stone structure with a date stone marked "1783". The house is two-and-a-half stories high with a gable roof pierced by two segmentally-arched dormers on the facade and two gable-roofed dormers on the rear. Two chimneys break the peak of the roof. The main structure has a five-bay facade and a double-pile plan. On the south end of the facade, the main door opens into a stair hall; on the north end, another entry opens into a dining room. A box cornice ties together the facade, as does the Victorian porch with its turned posts and saw-toothed detailing. Some interior detailing survives; however, it largely reflects several generations of change and occupation.

Nearby stands a nineteenth-century bank barn with a stone foundation, as well as several other nineteenth and twentieth-century sheds.

The mid-nineteenth-century mill owner's house, the W. G. Philips House, which is located a short distance down Greenbank Road from the mill, is a frame structure with clapboard siding and pilasters at each corner. The front section has a three-bay facade and is two stories high. Directly behind this is a three-story section of almost equal length. Each section is one room deep. A hip roof is found on the three-story section, while the roof of the two-story section slopes up from three sides; the cornice on each section is bracketed. The windows contain four-over-four sash on the first floor and two-over-two sash on the second floor. All of the windows are shuttered. The porch has been replaced; however, the door surround with its sidelights and transom are still intact. Recent changes to the exterior include a modern wing found on one side and a wooden fire escape added to the rear. The

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Greenbank Mill, on Red Clay Creek, has sheltered varied enterprises during its long history. Depending on the market, the mills here produced flour, woolen products, or carriage parts.

"Southern Land" on Red Clay Creek, was patented to John Anderson (alias Stalcop) in October 1677. Thomas Bird later acquired part of the tract, and it was from his son, Empson, that Robert Philips bought the property in 1773. Until 1790, Philips operated the old log mill that had stood on the property for many years. When this structure became inadequate, he built the present frame structure nearby.

Greenbank won a place in the history of American manufacturing when Oliver Evans, a native of nearby Newport, installed his automatic mill machinery in the 1790 building. The work of this Delaware inventor revolutionized milling in America. An anecdote frequently told about Greenbank relates that Evans invited several millers to study his machinery in operation. They arrived to find the mill running unattended; Evans was making hay in the adjoining field. The millers were impressed but taken aback; one of them called the machinery "a set of rattle traps."

By the second decade of the nineteenth century, grain milling shifted almost entirely to the larger mills on the banks of the Brandywine, where seagoing ships would load directly from the mills. The Philips family then converted the Greenbank property to take advantage of another expanding market. Deteriorating relations with Britain had closed off the supply of English woolen goods; this condition offered American woolen products a protected market.

The Philips' developed a flock of Merino sheep which was established by February 1811 when they advertised for a shepherd. The boom in wool created a shortage of skilled workmen so in January 1811, the Delaware legislature passed a law exempting workmen in water-powered mills fashioning woolen yard, woolen cloth and certain other products, from "militia fines and forfeitures." During the same period, new facilities became necessary; a stone mill building was erected next to the old mill in 1812, and named "Madison Factory" in honor of the President.

The end of the woolen boom coincided with the signing of a peace with Britain. British goods appeared on the American market once again, and the Philips family began to liquidate its investments in wool; they continued in the business until 1819, when the property was seized by the sheriff.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Pursell, Carroll W. Two Mills on Red Clay Creek in the 19th Century. Wilmington: Historic Red Clay Valley, 1964.
- Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware, 1609-1888. 2 vols. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards and Company, 1888.
- Storck, John and Teague, Walter Dorwin, Flour For Men's Bread. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1952.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Originally, approximately 5½ acres. Amended by the addition of acreage of nominated property of a separate, less than 1-acre parcel.

QUADRANGLE NAME Newark East

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| A | 1,8 | 4,4,5,7,8,5 | 4,3,9,9,0,6,0 | B | 1,8 | 4,4,5,8,5,0 | 4,3,9,8,9,2,0 |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | 1,8 | 4,4,5,8,1,0 | 4,3,9,8,8,6,0 | D | 1,8 | 4,4,5,7,2,0 | 4,3,9,8,8,6,0 |
| E | 1,8 | 4,4,5,6,7,5 | 4,3,9,9,0,0,0 | F | 1,8 | 4,4,5,5,5,0 | 4,3,9,8,7,6,5 |
| G | | | | H | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Original nominated area: The bounded area begins at the point where Greenbank Road intersects the center of the main run of Red Clay Creek and proceeds

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Miss Rosemary Troy & Mr. Graydon Wood (Amended Joan N. Larrivee)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, June 1972 (amended April, 1979)

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Hall of Records

(302) 678-5314

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dover,

Delaware 19901

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

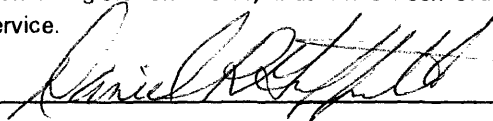
STATE

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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

Acting Director/Deputy State Historic Pres. Officer

DATE

5/15/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| FOR HCRS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | MAY 21 1979 |
| DATE ENTERED | <i>Secondary agreement</i> <i>1/24/79</i> |

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

interior has been extensively remodelled to allow for the creation of two apartments on the second floor and complete living quarters for the owner on the first floor.

The setting of the nineteenth-century miller's house has no doubt changed very little, but its vista certainly has been altered. Newport Gap Pike is a busy roadway. On the knoll between it and the mill and older miller's house is a modern church. In the area below, where once were other mill buildings, is now a park and open space. The mill and stone miller's house have witnessed similar changes. Above them on the hill are two large modern structures which are blocked by the foliage.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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| RECEIVED | MAY 21 1979 |
| DATE ENTERED | <i>[Handwritten signature]</i> |

Greenbank Mill and Mill Owner's House (Amended)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

OWNER OF PROPERTY

Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc.
P.O. Box 1374
Wilmington, Delaware 19899

Mr. Brock J. Vinton
501 Greenbank Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19898

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Arms
2300 Greenbank Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19808

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED

MAY 1 1979

Quincy House appraised 2 Feb 79

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

northeasterly with the center of the run of the creek until it intersects the southwest right-of-way of the Wilmington and Western Railroad and then with this right-of-way northwesterly until it intersects the west side of the mill race for the Greenbank Mill and then on an imaginary line westerly until it intersects the eastern right-of-way for the drive of the Brandywine Springs Nursing and Convalescent Home and then with the aforesaid right-of-way as it curves around until it meets Greenbank Road and then with the northern right-of-way of Greenbank Road until it intersects the center of the main run of Red Clay Creek and point of beginning.

Newly nominated area: The bounded area begins at the center of the drive on Newport and Gap Pike and follows the stone wall on the northeast and southeast sides of the property until it reaches the center of the drive on Greenbank Road and then follows the center of the drive in a northwesterly direction forming an arc ten feet from the rear of the house at its nearest point until it intersects the center of the drive from Newport and Gap Pike. The northern building at the rear of the property, where it protrudes into the bounded area, is an intrusion.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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| |
|--|
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| DATE ENTERED <i>Amended boundary</i> <i>6/24/79</i> |

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

By 1830, John C. Philips, nephew of Robert, had bought the property and satisfied his uncle's creditors. Under John's sons, William G. and Isaac D. Philips, Greenbank entered its third period. In 1852, they undertook the manufacture of wheel spokes and wood bentware. The company of William G. Philips and Brother advertised carriage parts, wheels, and wooden forks. Following the Civil War, Wilmington became a carriage manufacturing center, and the Philips Company rode the crest of a new tide; the company displayed a line of wood products at the Industrial Fair of 1874 in Wilmington. This venture ended much as the woolen business had. The sheriff closed the factory in 1879 because of a debt that amounted to fifteen or twenty thousand dollars. Isaac D. Philips who had bought out his brother in 1876, was left with a ruined business to rebuilt.

Philips continued to operate the gristmill at Greenbank as a small volume custom mill, but after his death it passed out of the family. As a custom mill, Greenbank continued in business until a few years ago when it became the property of Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc. It was awaiting restoration when vandals set fire to it, causing heavy damage that has largely been repaired.


Near the mill is one of the miller's houses associated with the Greenbank Complex. This stone structure, typical of others of its period, was built in the latter eighteenth century by Robert Philips. The Philips family owned and operated the milling complex throughout the majority of the nineteenth century. About the middle of the century, another member of the family built the other miller's house associated with the complex. Known as the W. G. Philips House, it is a frame structure in the Italianate style and is located a short distance from the mill on a rise of land.


The two miller's houses, the mill and the remnants of the race, are all that remain of a once prosperous milling complex which was located on both sides of Greenbank Road to the south of Red Clay Creek. A church set on the rise between them is the only modern intrusion into the area. However, lack of clear evidence as to the extent of the area has curtailed the nominated area to only the abovementioned structures. The restoration of the mill is proceeding under county auspices. The two houses are in private ownership.

Justification for Amended boundary: The nominated areas are separate and distinct. The previously nominated parcel included the mill and the eighteenth-century miller's house, the Robert Philips House, and several outbuildings. The additional area is being nominated because it contains the nineteenth-century miller's house, the W. G. Philips House. These are the only remaining vestiges of the milling complex. When the property was first nominated, the nineteenth-century house was not recognized as being a part of the complex.

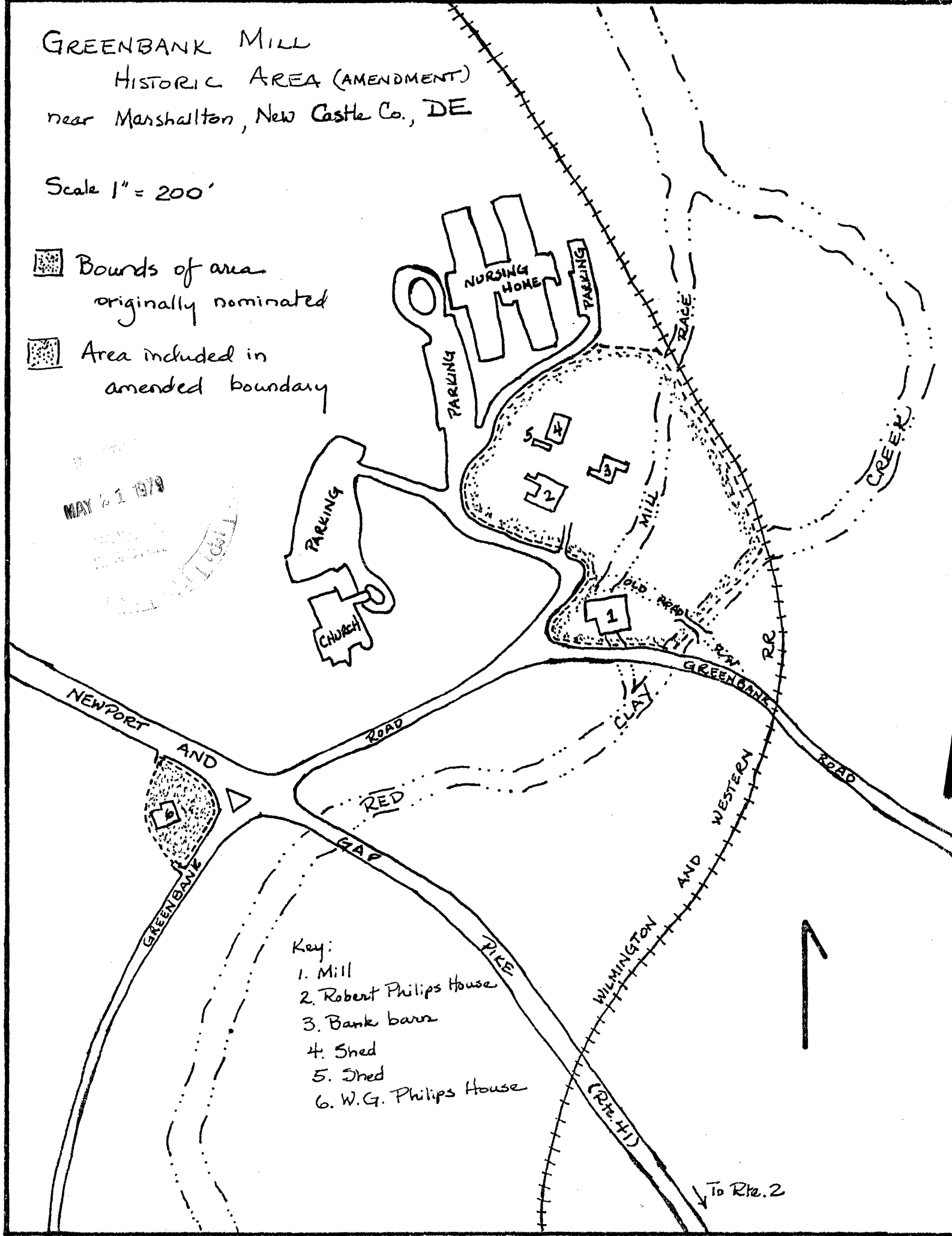
GREENBANK MILL
 HISTORIC AREA (AMENDMENT)
 near Marshallton, New Castle Co., DE

Scale 1" = 200'

 Bounds of area originally nominated

 Area included in amended boundary

MAY 21 1979



- Key:
1. Mill
 2. Robert Philips House
 3. Bank barn
 4. Shed
 5. Shed
 6. W.G. Philips House