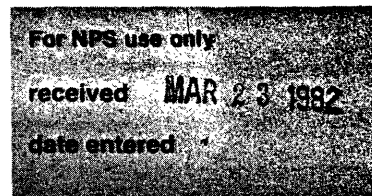


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 25

14. (N-5581):

A. Property Name: Meteer Store House

B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description: Located at 325 Paper Mill Road, the property being nominated includes the building and immediate premises only. The structure stands on a parcel of land containing 1.63 acres, fronting 260 feet on Paper Mill road and with a depth of 170 feet (Property Tax Map, City of Newark, no. 8, lot 15).

C. Owner: Martha E. Coverdale, 45 Oak Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971

D. Property Description:

The Meteer Store House is a one story rectangular structure built of uncoursed stone rubble. A stone marker located at the north gable end of this building is inscribed "T.M. 1808". The building originally had a single entrance in the south facade at the lower grade level; access to the second floor was obtained from an interior stair. The building is presently used as a garage and a set of more recent double doors are located at the ground level of the north facade.

E. Historical Background:

The Meteer Store house was constructed by Thomas Meteer in 1808 and was part of a paper manufacturing complex referred to as "Meteer's Mill." Meteer and his descendants apparently operated the mill until the 1840s when the property was purchased by the Curtis brothers and developed as the site of the Curtis Paper Mill (south of this structure). The Meteer Store House is currently used as a garage for the adjacent dwelling.

F. Significance:

The Meteer Store house has undergone little change since its construction in 1808 and remains as evidence of Newark's early industrial development. This structure originally part of a paper mill operation, represents an industrial enterprise which has played a significant and continuous role in Newark's economic and social history.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received JAN 12 1983  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page

27

14. (N-5581):

A. Property Name: Meteer Storehouse

B. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: Located at 325 Paper Mill Road, the Meteer Storehouse is situated between that road and White Clay Creek. This nomination includes the storehouse and the property on which it stands. The lot has a frontage of 260 feet on Paper Mill Road and a depth of 420 feet on its northern boundary (Property Tax Map, City of Newark, No. 8, Lot No. 15). Acreage (approx. 1.5 acres).

C. Owner: Martha E. Coverdale, 45 Oak Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971

D. Property Description:

The Meteer Storehouse is a stone, one-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed building set into the side of a slight hill. Its walls are constructed of uncoursed rubble fieldstone with emphasized structural quoining. A stone marker inscribed "T.M. 1808" is set into the north gable. The building is entered at the lower grade level on the south endwall through a single door. Two sash windows light the building - one on the south and one on the east elevation. A pair of garage doors have been installed on the north elevation, as the building has been used as a garage since the 1920's.

Also on the property, northeast of the storehouse, is a late-nineteenth-century, frame, two-story dwelling with a stone rear wing. Because the stone wing has been stuccoed and quite altered, it has not been determined if there is any early relationship between it and the storehouse.

South of the Meteer Storehouse is the Curtis Paper Mill Complex, whose brick buildings date to the 1880's.

E. Historical Background:

Thomas Meteer bought this tract of land on White Clay Creek in 1789 and constructed a paper mill on it, known as Milford Mill, soon after. The mill became a joint venture, for in 1804 it was owned by "John Armstrong, Thomas Meteer and Company." Meteer died in 1812, and the mill property and water rights passed to his sons Samuel and William. The mill was not maintained under their ownership, for when George B. and Solomon Minot Curtis, paper manufacturers from Newton, Massachusetts, bought the mill and water rights in 1848, they found that they had to rebuild nearly all of the mill building except for the waterwheel and the paper machines. This small storehouse survived, however. The Curtis Brothers manufactured a fine quality rag paper and, because of their success, were able to rebuild and enlarge the mill late in the nineteenth century.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet    Meteer Storehouse    Item number 8    Page 28

F. Significance: The Meteer Storehouse fulfills National Register selection Criterion A in revealing an important stage in the development of industry in Newark, and it fulfills Criterion C in illustrating early nineteenth century construction methods. The Meteer Storehouse is significant to Newark as the site of early industrial operations.

Since, the early part of the eighteenth century up to the present day, the banks of White Clay Creek surrounding the Meteer Mill have fostered industry. As the earliest existing mill related building (1808) in this vicinity, the Meteer Storehouse verifies Newark's claim as the location of early industry. It was the presence of the Meteer Paper Mill that attracted the Curtis Brothers, whose subsequent paper mill has been one of the most successful and the longest continuously operating industry in Newark. Although this one building cannot represent the entire Meteer Paper Mill Complex, which has been destroyed, it does establish the setting and characteristics of the Mill buildings that dotted the creeks of northern Delaware during this early period of the state's industrial history.

The rubble fieldstone used to construct this storehouse is a material plentiful in the northern Delaware hills. Although the stone was left unfinished, the quality of construction in this building reveals the high level of craftsmanship available at that time. Of particular note are the almost perfectly flat wall surfaces, the sharp corners emphasized by larger quoin stones, and the finely carved platestone.

G. Bibliographical References:

Francis A. Cooch, Little Known History of Newark, Delaware and its Environs (Newark, Delaware: The Press of Kells, 1936), pp. 20-23.

J. Thomas Scharf, History of Delaware 1609-1888 (Philadelphia: L. J. Richards and Co., 1888), p. 926.

