

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Delaware	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Twaddell's Mill & House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Great Bend of the Brandywine or Big Bend

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rock Hill Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Chadds Ford

STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Delaware	CODE 045
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
George A. and Ann Weymouth

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rocky Hill Road

CITY OR TOWN: Chadds Ford	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Delaware County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
Front and South Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Media	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: **1970** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The early exterior appearance of the house at the Great Bend of the Brandywine was essentially the same as it is today. Its owners have restored it carefully making every effort to be historically accurate.

There were additional outbuildings around the house which are no longer standing. The most important of these is the mill which was located along the Brandywine southeast of the house. Its foundations, and part of its walls remain. The rootcellar, ice house and springhouse are still extant. The barn, which was built later than the house, remains also. A mid-eighteenth century house, which was the tenant house for the main house, is located about 100 yards southwest of the building.

The house is a stone bank house. Two and one half stories on the north, three and one half stories on the south, or river side. Changes in the type of stone and mortar in the basement indicate that the house was built on the site of an older building whose walls were incorporated into the present structure. It is five bays across on the north and south elevations. There are 2 windows on the first and second story, and two in the attic on the east elevation, and a door leading from the basement outside. The west elevation is different. There is a door on the north corner of the first floor, a window on the south corner of the second story, and 2 attic windows. One of the exterior openings have been altered.

Originally there was a bakeoven on the west side of the house south of the door. It has been removed, but it is still possible to see where it was.

The floor plan for the first and second floors was the simple large center hall with two rooms on either side. Each room had a fireplace on the outside end. The rooms are large, well proportioned and very light.

The house was unoccupied for approximately twenty-five years. During this time it deteriorated rapidly. Fortunately, there was sufficient evidence to permit the Weymouths to restore it accurately.

Present Appearance

The house at the Great Bend has been restored carefully. Mr. Weymouth was his own architect.

The staircase leading from the first story to the ground on the south side of the house is conjectural. There was insufficient evidence for the Weymouths to determine what had been there.

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7. Description (con't)

Present Appearance

In the interior, the kitchen and dining room are in the basement or ground floor. The first floor consists of four rooms and a central hallway. On the second floor the floor plan has been altered slightly to permit the installations of bathrooms. The attic was converted into bedrooms as well as storage space.

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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <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

The house at the Great Bend of the Brandywine has been the subject of much discussion among architectural scholars. It is a fascinating mixture of mid-eighteenth century building techniques coupled with what would have been the most modern architectural ideas in 1810-20. There is little possibility that the house was remodelled in that period, so in all probability it dates from the early nineteenth century. Still, there is no historical evidence among the papers of William Twaddell which indicate that he built the house. He was the owner at the turn of the century.

The most logical owner to have built the house was Harry Gordon, a Scottish officer in the Royal Engineers who served as Braddocks engineer in 1754. Gordon married a Philadelphia woman and bought the farm along the Brandywine as a summer residence. Eventually, he rose to the rank of Major General. He had extensive land holdings throughout America, as well as in Aberdeenshire and Granacke. His eclectic tastes which are evident in his correspondence, make him an obvious choice as the person who commissioned the house to be built. However, none of his papers mentions building the house, and he was sufficiently meticulous in his professional life to make it doubtful that he built the house and failed to keep a record of it. Gordon owned the property from 1763-1775.

William Twaddell bought the Great Bend in 1779 and held it until his death in 1827. He was a prosperous land owner who operated a sawmill along the Brandywine. Immediately after acquiring the property. In 1780 he began an iron forge, but by 1807 he found that he was too far from the source of good raw materials. The iron forge became a powder works. The 1823 tax lists indicate that William Twaddell owned and operated grist, saw and powder mills on his plantation. He was sufficiently prosperous to have built the house.

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8. Significance (con't)

In addition to the outstanding architectural details of the house, the Great Bend was the site of an important Indian Village, Queonemeysing. According to C. A. Weslager, an authority on the history of the Brandywine area, there is no historical proof that this was the name of the village, although he agrees there are a number of Indian sites in the vicinity of the Big Bend.

The Big Bend is significant, first because William Twaddell's house is an exceptional building. It is totally unlike any other house within the region. Its proportions and detail are outstanding. Secondly, it is archaeologically important because of the Indian settlements.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE.

Chester County Court House: Deed Book, S: Vol. 13, p. 516;
 V, p. 145. Will Book, 3, p. 362.
 Chester County Historical Society:
 Birmingham Township (Del.) Miscellaneous Manuscripts
 Tax Assessment Lists, 1779-1839. Birmingham Township,
 Chester County and Birmingham Township, Delaware County.
 Delaware County Court House; Deed Book, R, p. 342
 Will Book, W-11 #3, p. 362

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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° 51' 05"	75° 35' 51"			
NE	39° 51' 05"	75° 34' 56"			
SE	39° 50' 15"	75° 35' 51"			
SW	39° 50' 15"	75° 34' 50"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 120 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY:

NAME AND TITLE: Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission DATE: June 28, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 72

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: [Signature]
 State Liaison Officer

Title: Deputy Executive Director, Pa.
 Historical & Museum Commission

Date: 6/11/72

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Historical Society of Pennsylvania:

Draft of a Tract of Land Situated in Birmingham Township, Delaware County Belonging to Lorenzo Twaddell, Containing Two Hundred and Twelve Acres, Strict Measure. Surveyed by William McCullough 1 June 1858.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania:

Cadwallader Collection. Harry Gordon to Benjamin Rush, 28 December 1799.

Benjamin Rush, Affidavit Re: Harry Gordon. 23 May 1810.

William Twaddell, Affidavit Re: Harry Gordon, 1810

Attested Will of Major Harry Gordon. April, 1776.

Autograph Collection. Harry Gordon to John Baynton 21 May 1767.

Miscellaneous Papers Re: Settling Estate of Col. Harry Gordon.

Philadelphia Office of the Recorder of Deeds. Deed Book, A Vol. 4, 205.

Secondary Sources:

Ashmead, Henry G. A History of Delaware County.

Canby, Henry Seidel. The Brandywine. New York: Farrar & Rinehart, 1941.

Cleveland, Arabella. "The Big Bend" unpublished miscellaneous n. d.

Evans, Mikell. William Twaddell and His Mills. unpublished miscellaneous 14 May 1956.

Futhey, J. Smith & Gilbert Cope. History of Chester County, Pennsylvania Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881.

MacElree, Wilmer W. Around the Boundaries of Chester County.

Skelton, Constance Oliver and John Malcolm Bulloch. Gordons Under Arms: A Biographical Muster Roll of Officers Named Gordon in the Navies and Armies of Britain, Europe, America, and in the Jacobite Uprisings. Aberdeen: The New Spalding Club, 1912.

Smith, Benjamin H. Atlas of Delaware County. Philadelphia: 1880.

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9. Major Bibliographical Reference (con't)

Smith, George. History of Delaware County from the Discovery of the Territory Included Within Its Limits to the Present Time. Philadelphia: Henry B. Ashmead, 1862.

Twaddell, Albert William. A Brief History of the Twaddell Family. unpublished miscellaneous n. d.

Zebley, Frank R. Along the Brandywine. Wilmington: W. N. Cann 1940.

(8) MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES - Con't.

PRIMARY SOURCES - Con't.

Autograph Collection. Harry Gordon to John Baynton 21 May 1767.

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Twaddell, Albert William. A Brief History of the Twaddell Family.
unpublished miscellaneous n.d.

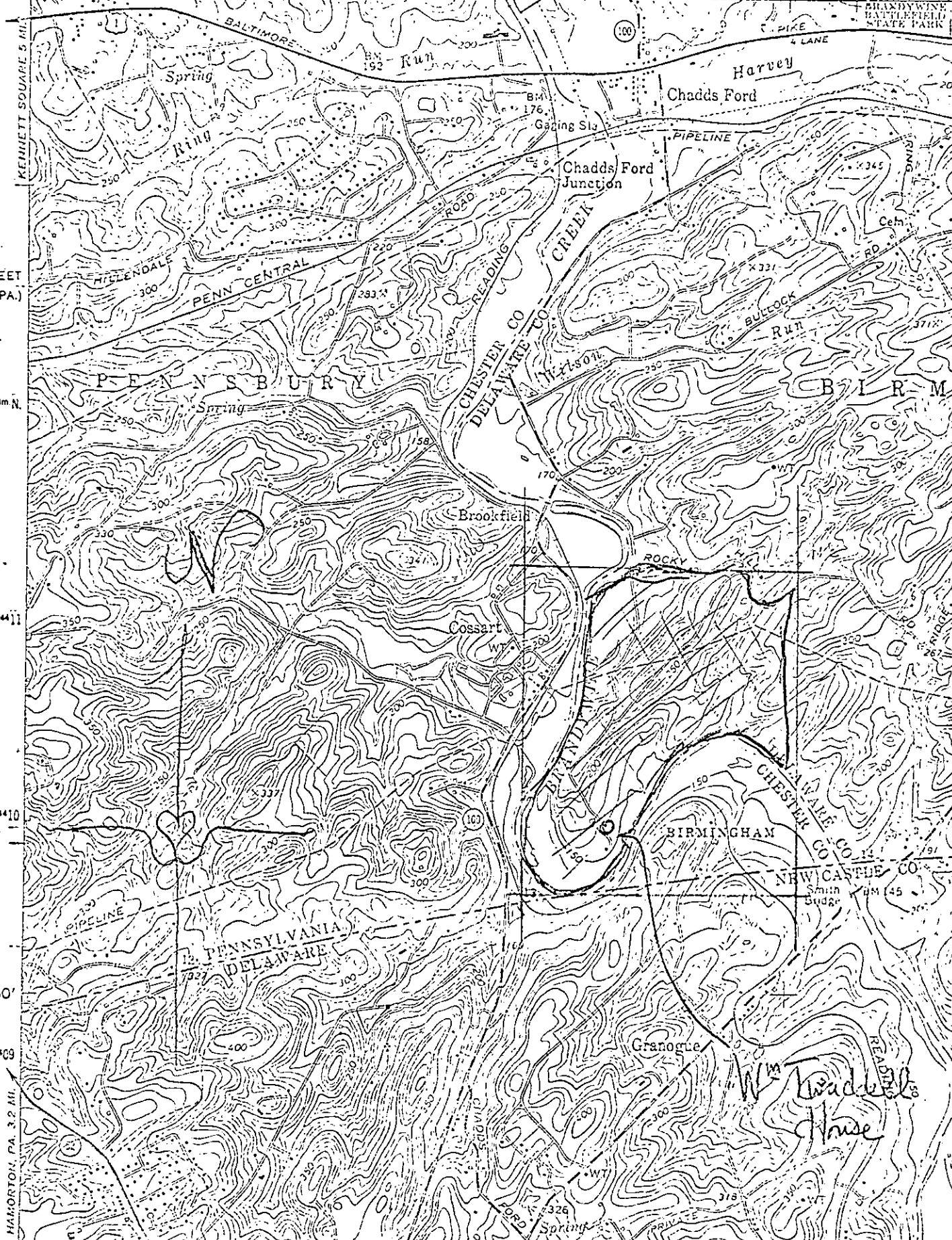
Zebley, Frank R. Along the Brandywine. Wilmington: W.N. Cann 1940.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Quad
15 35

WILMINGTON
NORTH
1936-54
1967

75° 37' 30" 447000m E 12 600 000 FEET (PA.) 49 LENAPE 4.8 MI. 50 35



5931 NW
UNIONVILLE

200 000 FEET
(PA.)

39 51 05

39 50 15

HAMORTON PA. 3.2 MI.

W. W. Trudette
House