

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only
received _____
date entered _____

1. Name

historic BRIDGE MILL FARM or BRIDGE MILL CREAMERY

and/or common The Marshall Farm

2. Location

street & number Marshall Road Little Washington/Lyndell Road N/A not for publication

city, town East Brandywine Twp. N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Chester code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Horace D. Stellwagon

street & number Marshall Road, R.D.

city, town Downingtown N/A vicinity of E. Brandywine Twp state PA 19335

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chester County Courthouse

street & number High Street

city, town West Chester state Pennsylvania 19380

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Site Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records CCHS and PHMC

city, town West Chester and Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

9. Major Bibliographical References

Courthouse Deed Book T-3-67-166; G-4-69; V-4-286; U-158; Y-57, 378; U-58, 104. Orphans Court records and Wills of Harrison and Marshall families; Geneology records at Chester County Historical Society. Chester County Historical Society - township files, tax records, Census-1850, business house files; conversations with last member of Marshall family - aged 92.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 9 acres

Quadrangle name Wagontown

Quadrangle scale 1" = 2000'

UTM References

A

1	8	4	3	5	2	8	0	4	4	3	4	2	0	0
Zone	Easting						Northing							

B

1	8	4	3	5	1	9	0	4	4	3	3	8	4	0
Zone	Easting						Northing							

C

1	8	4	3	5	1	4	0	4	4	3	4	0	8	0
Zone	Easting						Northing							

D

1	8	4	3	5	1	9	0	4	4	3	4	2	0	0
Zone	Easting						Northing							

E

Zone	Easting						Northing							

F

Zone	Easting						Northing							

G

Zone	Easting						Northing							

H

Zone	Easting						Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point in Little Washington Road ab. 150' NE of Dilworth Road and traveling several courses and distances along Little Washington Rd. to the south abutment of a stone bridge; thence continuing east of the bridge to Lyndel Rd.; thence SW along said road to intersection with Marshall (see continuation sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust/Horace Stellwagon & Estelle Cremers

organization above

date April 28, 1982

street & number Box 360, RD #2

telephone 215-469-0150

city or town Pottstown

state Pennsylvania

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

title Larry E. Tise
State Historic Preservation Officer

date

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>n/a</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on the northwest side of Culbertson Run and along Marshall Road in rural Chester County, the Bridge Mill Farm Complex includes a mill, a house and barn, a carriage barn, a woodshed, outbuildings, a garden, and a cistern.

The Mill

Sitting at the edge of a narrow, damp meadow and against a rising bank, the mill was the core of the farm from the late 18th century and into the 20th century. It was originally a 1½ story stone structure and was expanded in the 19th century to three stories of stone and wood. After a fire in 1912, it became a 1½ story building once again. The mill is today a 1½ story stucco over stone building.

The mill was powered by water drawn through a short race to a holding pond. From the pond, its headrace continued through two more gate valves to a final catch basin a few yards from the mill. The water then entered an 18" underground penstock which originally emptied over a wooden water wheel, and later over a turbine that replaced the wheel and a turbine. A short tailrace carried the water to Culbertson Run. (See Diagram and Detail of hydro-power system.) The pond, mortared-in pipes, and valves are still very much intact. The races need only to be cleared of underbrush and young growth.

The Farmhouse

The farmhouse is an 1842 rebuilding of an earlier house and spring house. It appears that a spring house, probably one floor stood in front of, and to the north side of the original one room stack house. Soon after purchasing the Bridge Mill property, Samuel Harrison used the two buildings to form the core for a complete rebuilding.

The 1842 house is a five bay bank dwelling facing south. The building is three stories on the south side and four stories on the east side where the basement is exposed. A very low gable roof reflects the influence of the Italianate style, and a wrap-around porch with well articulated posts and decorative trim crosses the front and the east side. The west side, however, retains the floor level of the earlier house and is one step higher than the hall and east side. The east side uses rounded reveals, the west side employs straight edge reveals.

A glass walled solarium encloses half of the front porch. The solarium was built in 1842 and is unique in that it is double paned glass from floor to ceiling including the door. The sash is made to receive glass on two sides with an air space between an early thermopane.

Barn

The barn is a stone structure with three levels inside - a stable, a grain storage floor, and the barn floor. It stands north of the house and on the same ground level. Construction is pegged and numbered. A machinery shed/corn crib is attached at the northwest corner. There is a root and potato cellar beneath the shed.

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Outhouse

The 1842 outhouse is about 40 paces behind the dwelling and features Italianate styling. Oval shaped, it has a flat cornice with modillion trim, is plastered inside and outside and is equipped with four seats, two adult size and two children's size.

Carriage Barn

The carriage barn is a two story stone/frame structure that was built c. 1890 by William D. Marshall. It is a Victorian edifice with a pointed cupola and has an excellently finished second floor wooden interior that is fitted with drying racks for seeds and grains.

Cistern

An 8' deep cistern is located at the top of the hill west of the farmhouse. Water was pumped to the cistern from the mill and dispersed by gravity flow to almost every building on the farm. This water was used for all purposes except drinking. Water from a spring north of the barn was piped to the house for drinking water.

While some restoration work on the mill ponds, mill race, and buildings is proposed by the current owner, the property is today essentially the same as it was in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The ambiance of the mill and farm complex is that of an industrious 19th century rural setting typified by a gracious lifestyle.

Bridge

A prominent feature in the complex is a 1903, double arched stone bridge. Four rows of brick form the bridge's two arches and add a touch of style. Four foot slabs of finished stone grace the top of the structure - and a triangular buttress enhances the foot of the central pier. The bridge arches catch water from Culbertson Run and Bridge Mill trailrace. One of a vanishing type, the bridge is endangered by natural deterioration, vandals, and possible replacement by a steel or concrete substitute.

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 checked="" 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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1842 **Builder/Architect** John Culbertson, Samuel Harrison, Wm. D. Marshall

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Bridge Mill Farm represents a rare opportunity to view two centuries of Agrarian evolution (in southeastern Pennsylvania). Established as a self-sufficient family run farmstead, the complex was part of a region of small farms which provided goods to both their local communities as well as Philadelphia. Throughout the 19th century Bridge Mill was able to adapt to the changing times both commercially and technologically, yet remained essentially unchanged. With 20th century innovations in transportation and farming techniques, many southeastern Pennsylvania farms similar to Bridge Mills have been replaced by shopping malls, apartment complexes and residential developments. Fortunately, Bridge Mill Farm has been able to avoid such a fate and still offers a rare insight into our past.

In Pennsylvania small, self-sufficient farms played an essential role in the economic and social development of the state. Once prevalent in the southeastern counties, farmsteads like Bridge Mills provided basic goods to local residents as well as foodstuffs necessary for the continued growth of Philadelphia. In the past half-century the number of these farm complexes has steadily dwindled. Fortunately, Bridge Mills, with its main structure and auxiliary buildings intact, still offers an excellent example of an early Pennsylvania farmstead and mill. Additionally, the improvements that have been made at the complex during the past two centuries provide an insight into the evolution of farm technology in Pennsylvania.

From the day Major John Culberstone returned home from the Revolutionary War to work his 130 acre Patent in Chester County until the day the Marshall family sold the acreage in 1980, the Bridge Mill property provided almost all the needs of the farm family that operated it, and, served the surrounding community as well. As early as 1790 a sawmill and fulling mill operated at the site where the current mill now stands. In about 1800 the building was converted into a woolen factory. The woolen factory was closed in 1853 at a time when larger centralized textile factories made small mills obsolete. After re-establishing a saw and a clover mill, the business was expanded in the 1880's to include a steam powered creamery. The creamery sent daily shipments of its "Yellow Rose" butter by train to Philadelphia. The ice used to pack the butter was cut from the mill pond during the winter, levered by tools which are still at the mill, transported through the millrace, and stored in an ice house then on the property.

The creamery was supplied by local farmers who could produce 50 to 200 pounds of milk per day. The farmers brought their cream to the mill and after returned home with grain or seed ground at the mill. The need to reach the Bridge Mill Creamery every day created a demand for a new more reliable bridge across Culbertsome Run. In 1903, 45 men from the area signed a petition which led to the construction of a stone double arch bridge. The bridge is still in use today. The mill burned in 1912, but was rebuilt and operated solely as a creamery until about 1920.

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Aside from its intrinsic value, Bridge Mill Farm also exemplifies numerous innovations employed by the mill operators. Native ingenuity powered the farm from the beginning. Maneuvering water out of the flood plains into dams, over a wooden water wheel (later a turbine) by belts, engines and pipes and into a cistern almost 40 feet above the stream, then leveraging it into a maze of piping for use around the property, the farm is a reflection of man productively using his environment. The use of double paned window walls in the solarium, steam radiators (installed in 1901), and the manufacture of acetylene gas on the premise further illustiate progressive modifications used on the farm around the turn of the century.

As family farms disappear each year, it becomes imperative to mark and preserve those examples, like Bridge Mills, where independence and initiative remain. Bridge Mills Farms is a place where the fabric of life during earlier times has been preserved and can be retained for posterity.