

## Resource 12

Name: French Army Camp 1a

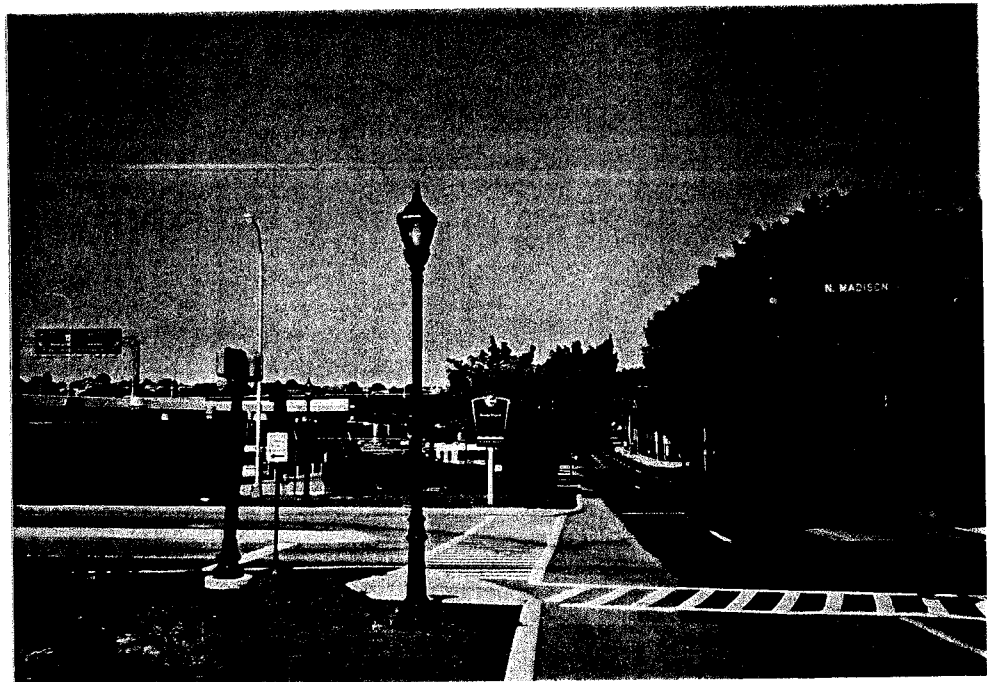
Location: between Justison and Adams Streets on a line with Second Street  
Wilmington, Delaware

Historical significance: Coming from Chester, Pennsylvania, the First Division of the French Army, more than 2,000 officers and men up to 1,000 horses and oxen, camped on this site on 6/7 September 1781.

Recommendation: The site is not marked in relation to the W3R. Proper identification of the site could be undertaken by the State of Delaware, the county or a local historical society, or a fraternal community group such as the DAR, SAR, Society of the Cincinnati, or by the Souvenir Français.

Sources: The campsite is clearly identified in the series of encampment maps drawn by Louis-Alexandre Berthier and reproduced in Rice and Brown, *American Campaigns*, Vol. 2, Map 75.

**RESOURCE 12**

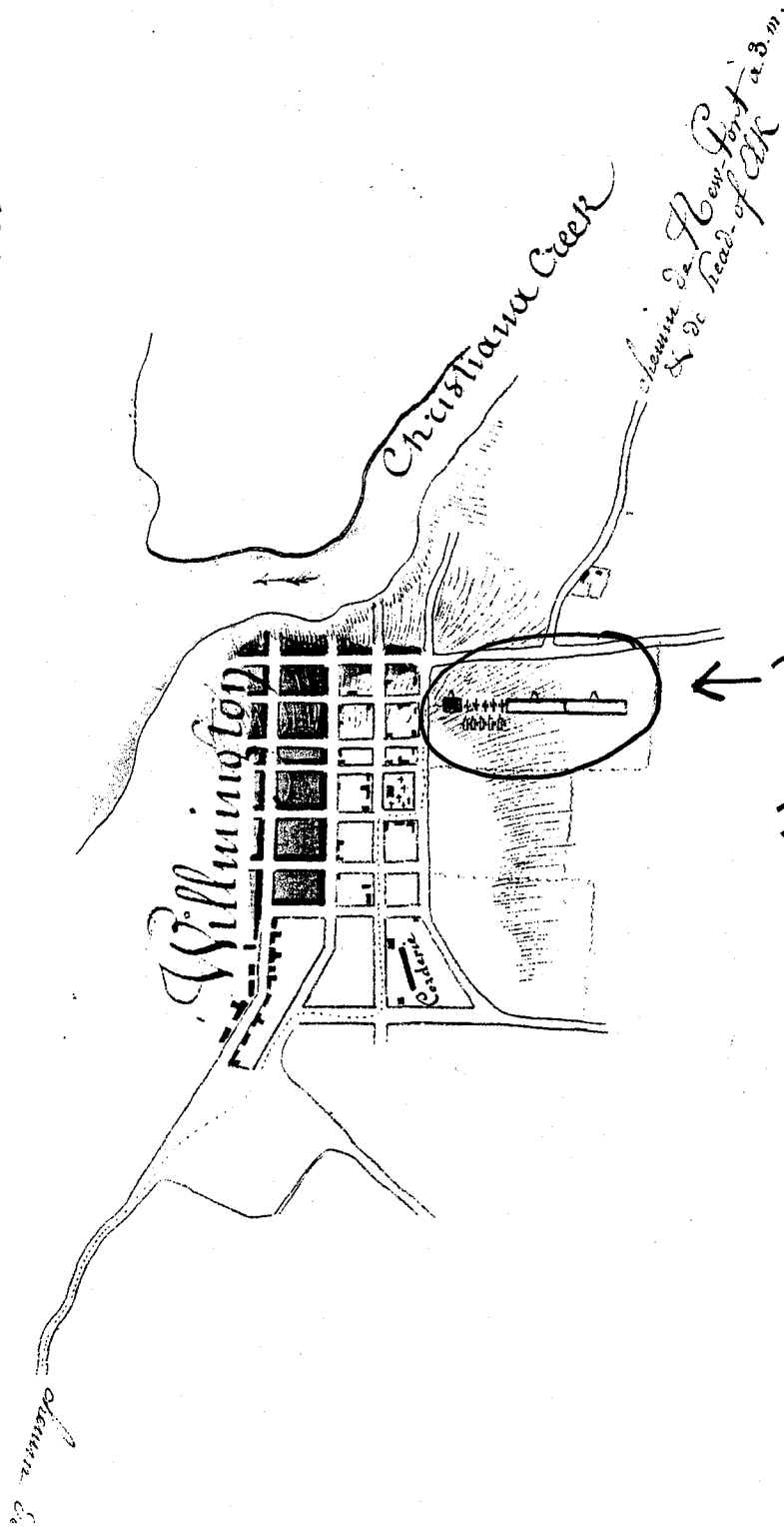


**Name: French Army Camp 1a**

**Location: between Justison and Adams Streets on a line with Second Street  
Wilmington, Delaware**

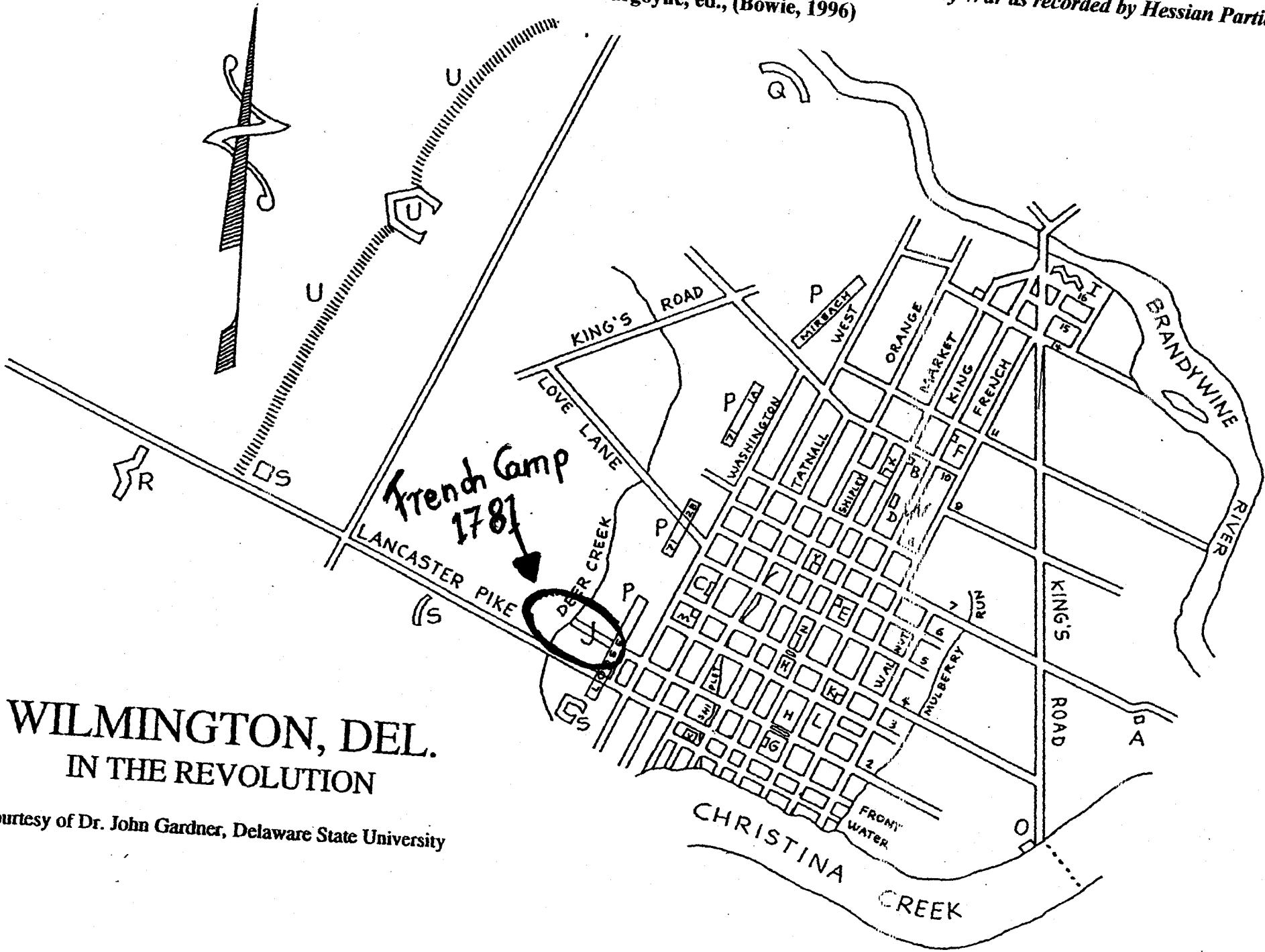
29<sup>e</sup> Camp à *Wilmington* le 6. Septembre, 11. miles  $\frac{1}{2}$  de *Chester*.  
1781

Delaware-River



Howard C. Rice, Jr., and Anne S.K. Brown, eds., *The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783* 2 vols., (Princeton and Providence, 1972) vol. 2.

*Enemy Views. The American Revolutionary War as recorded by Hessian Participants Bruce E. Burgoyne, ed., (Bowie, 1996)*



# WILMINGTON, DEL. IN THE REVOLUTION

Courtesy of Dr. John Gardner, Delaware State University

### Resource 13

Name: Mordecai Woodward Ropewalk and Houses

Location: 701-703 West Street  
Wilmington, Delaware

Historical significance: Mordecai Woodward's Ropewalk, the *corderie*, is clearly indicated as a notable landmark on the encampment map drawn by Berthier for the 6/7 September encampment of the First Division of Rochambeau's army.

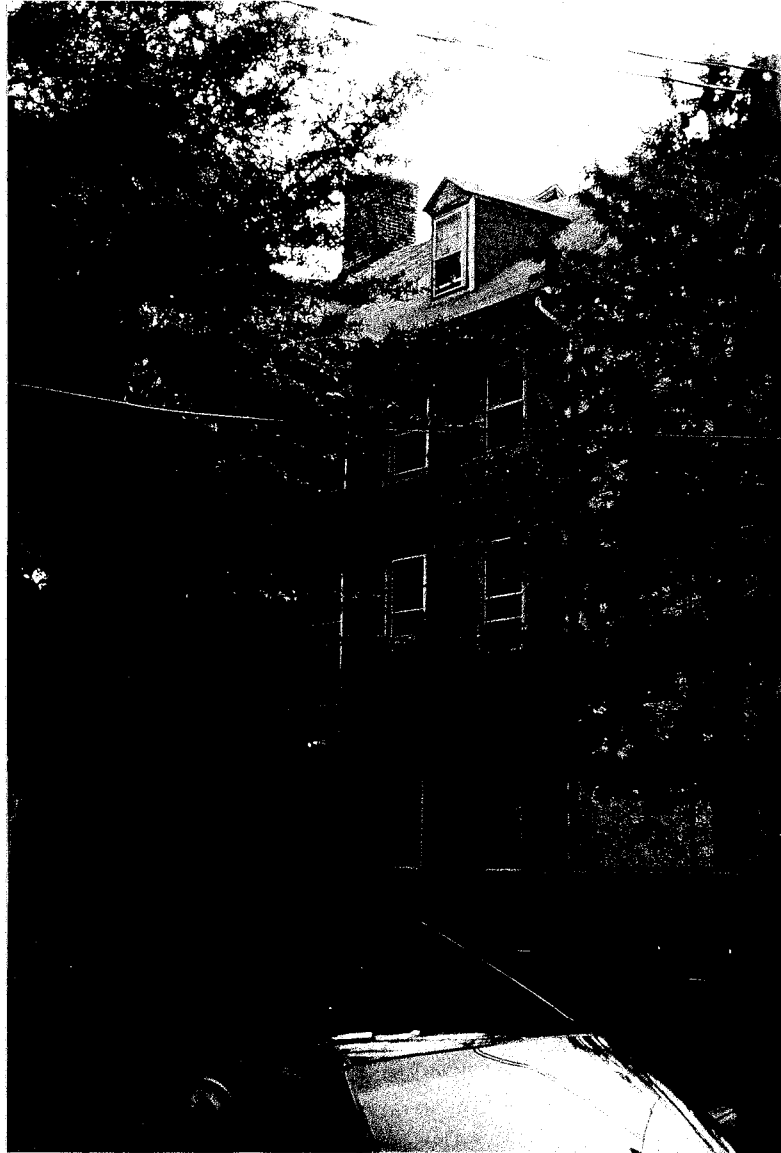
Mordecai Woodward. Woodward had bought the property from his father Joseph in 1769; after his death in the summer of 1795, John Dauphin bought the land on 19 March 1796.

Recommendation: The site is not marked in relation to the W3R. Proper identification of the site could be undertaken by the State Delaware, the county or a local historical society, or a fraternal community group such as the DAR, SAR, Society of the Cincinnati, or by the Souvenir Français.

Sources: Historical Society of Delaware and The Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, *A Survey of Selected Historical Houses and Areas within the West Center Urban Renewal Project (Scheduled for Razing by the Urban Renewal Commission)* (np, nd) vol. 1, pp. 5-7 with a description of the Woodward houses on 701-703 West Street.

The ropewalk (*corderie*) is clearly identified in the series of encampment maps drawn by Louis-Alexandre Berthier and reproduced in Rice and Brown, *American Campaigns*, Vol. 2, Map 75.

**RESOURCE 13**

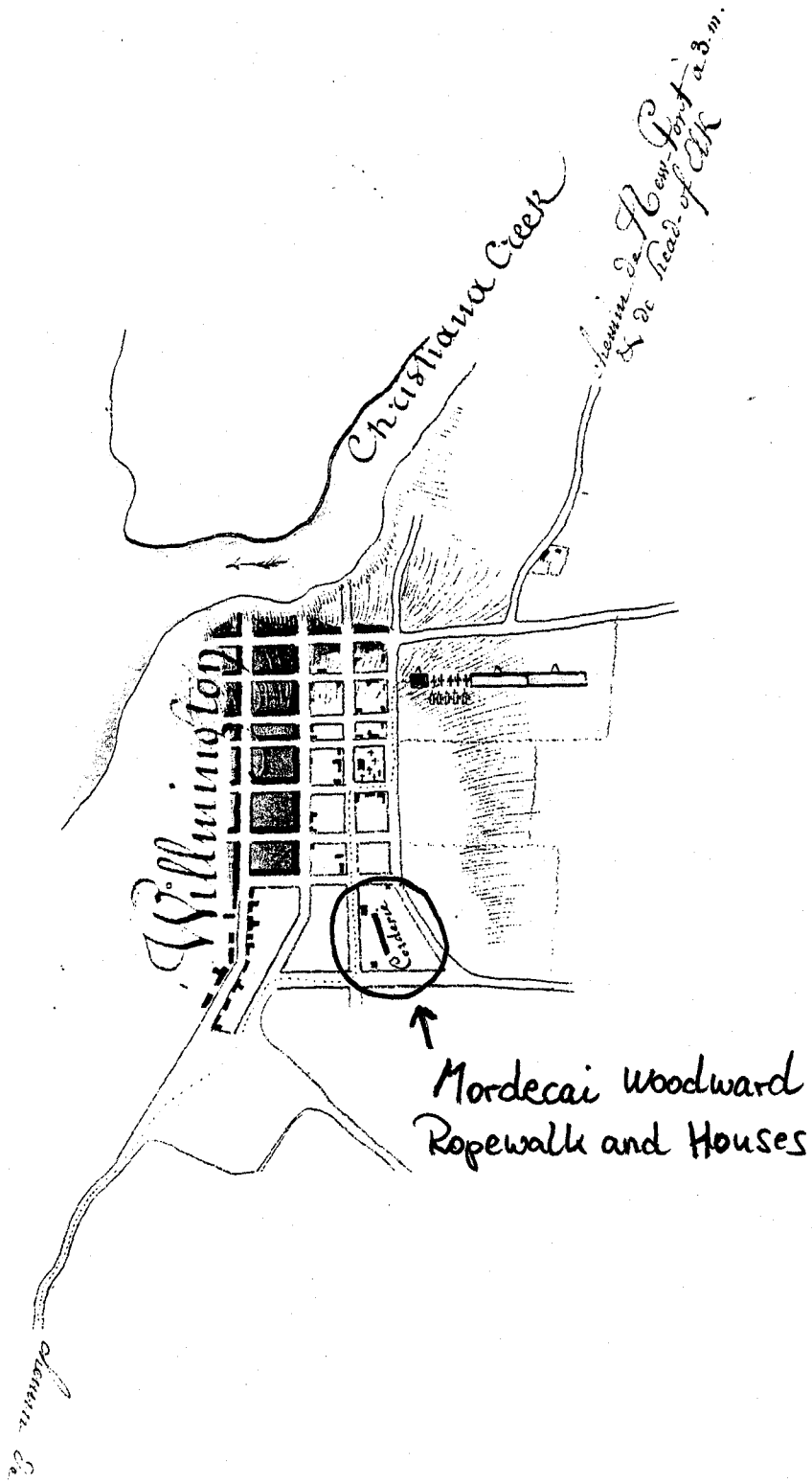


**Name: Mordecai Woodward Ropewalk and Houses**

**Location: 701-703 West Street  
Wilmington, Delaware**

29. Camp à Wilmington le 6. Septembre; 11. milles 1/2 de Chester.

Delaware-River



Howard C. Rice, Jr., and Anne S.K. Brown, eds., *The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783* 2 vols., (Princeton and Providence, 1972) vol. 2.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Woodward Houses

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 701-703 West Street

CITY/TOWN Wilmington

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
one

STATE Delaware

VICINITY OF  
CODE  
10

COUNTY New Castle  
CODE  
002

**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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Messrs. John Price and Geno Iubatti

STREET & NUMBER 701 West Street

CITY/TOWN Wilmington

VICINITY OF

STATE Delaware  
19801

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTERED OFFICE, ETC. City/County Building

STREET NUMBER 200 French Street

CITY/TOWN Wilmington,

STATE Delaware  
19801

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Delaware Cultural Resource Survey H-1458

DATE September, 1973 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Hall of Records

CITY/TOWN Dover

STATE Delaware  
19901



## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Woodward Houses are located at 701-703 West Street in a mid- to late-nineteenth-century neighborhood of mostly brick row houses in Wilmington, Delaware.

The 3 1/2-story house at 701 is built entirely of quarried granite. A gable roof with two gable-roofed dormers and a box cornice with bed molding surmounts this structure with an L-shaped, side-hall plan. Double-hung windows, 9-over-9 on the first floor and 6-over-6 on the second and third floor, make up the 3-bay facade. A short staircase with a decorative wrought iron balustrade leads up to the front entrance, which is recessed by raised paneling and enframed by a simple classical frontispiece, probably added about 1840. A transom rests above the front door which has 6-raised panels. The reverse side of this door is beaded batten held in place by HL hinges.

The main hallway contains all of its original details including baseboard, chair rail, and raised 6-paneled doors. Also located in this hallway is a Federally-styled, open-string staircase with a paneled base, turned balusters, ramped hand rail, and an attenuated turned newel. The chair rail, which continues from the hallway up the staircase, is also ramped and "supported" by engaged newels.

A raised-paneled door leads from the hallway to the parlor. The architectural detail in this room dates from the Federal Period (c. 1780-1820). Wide architraves encase the windows and door. A paneled wainscoting with reeded molding beneath the chair rail surrounds the room. The mantel, situated on the chimney breast of the west wall, came from a late-eighteenth-century house on Front and Market Streets in Wilmington.

The rear parlor, or dining room, maintains its Georgian character. Although the period cabinet doors and the fireplace surround were added in the twentieth century, most of the paneled wall, the chair rail, baseboards, and the French doors are original.

The kitchen, located at the end of the hallway, contains the original large walk-in fireplace with a Dutch oven door and crane hooks still intact. A horizontal indentation in the brickwork above was probably an area used for powder horn drying. Except for the exposed hand-hewn beams and the random-width, pinewood floors, the architectural detail in this room is not original. A small room with an exit to the back yard is located behind the kitchen.

The second floor of the house contains two bedrooms, a sitting room, and a modern bathroom. Except for the bathroom, these areas retain their eighteenth-century qualities. The front bedroom, the largest room in the house, has a fireplace with a Georgian architrave and a simple early-nineteenth-century mantel. The central bedroom also contains a fireplace with a similar architrave set in a raised-paneled wall with two closets. The authentic chair rail and baseboard molding surrounds this room.

There are two rooms in both the third floor and attic. The architectural components in these rooms consist of simple baseboards, architraves, and raised 6-paneled doors.

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO O.A.H.P.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Although 701 and 703 West Street appear to be identical, 703 is 3 feet shorter in both length and width than 701. The main section of the house at 703 is built of stone, faced with pebble-dash stucco; the rear ell is built of brick. A gable roof with one gable-roofed dormer and a box cornice with bed molding meets the front but not the rear roofline of the gable of 701. The facade of 703 is 3-bays wide, consisting of double-hung, 6-over-6 windows. The staircase, balustrade, and front entrance to 703 are without difference to those at 701, except that the reverse side of the front door is not beaded-batten.

The interior of the house at 703 was altered in the mid-nineteenth century and then in the 1930's to accommodate apartment dwellings. The only surviving eighteenth-century architectural details in the main hallway are the ramped chair rail and the paneled base of the staircase, which was remodeled about 1930.

The entrance to the first floor apartment is located at the end of the hallway; it leads directly into the dining room just past the entrance to the parlor on the right. The former entrance to the large parlor was located in the hallway to the right of the main entrance. Now filled with modern paneling, the entrance was defined by elliptically-arched simple wooden molding.

The parlor, which was probably enlarged in the mid-eighteenth century, contains a classically-styled wooden mantel decorated around the fireplace with blue and white tiles, believed to be English Minton tiles, which date from about 1860-70. The baseboards, window and door architraves consist of simple wooden molding.

One wall of the dining room contains a wooden, mid-nineteenth-century mantelpiece and wall cabinet. Some eighteenth-century window architraves remain in this room. The remainder of the molding in this room dates from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

A modern kitchen, bathroom, and two small rooms are located beyond the dining room.

The second floor contains two apartments, one of which appears to have an eighteenth-century fireplace and surround. The doors and moldings in these areas date from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The third and fourth floors are another apartment. Most of the original eighteenth-century woodwork remains in these sections.

The attached Woodward Houses stand alone on the odd side of the 700 block of West Street with a parking lot to the north and a low-story laundry center to the south.

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO OAHF.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS-GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)			
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION					

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Woodward Houses are significant as the only known, extant, eighteenth-century stone houses of a side-hall plan in the City of Wilmington, Delaware. They are excellent examples of the Georgian style of architecture which was prominent in Wilmington during this period.

According to the Delaware historian, Jeannette Eckman, 701 and 703 West Street were constructed in 1745 and 1760 respectively. A map drawn by a French military cartographer in 1781, and featured in The American Campaign of Rochambeau's Army, 1780-83, pictures what appears to be these houses with a "corderie", or ropemaking operation, behind them. The Federal Period interior architectural detail indicates that part of the interior of 701 was probably altered between the years 1780-1820.

Originally located on 65 acres of ground, known as South Shallcross Marsh, the Woodward Houses fronted West Street which was laid in the year 1739-40. Joseph Woodward, a Quaker ropemaker from West Chester, Pennsylvania, purchased the property around 1745. He probably built the houses when he established his ropemaking business on the same grounds. In 1769, when he sold the property to his son, Mordecai, the deed mentions a ropewalk which was used in the production of sailing ship rigging. As ropemakers, the Woodward family played an important role in Wilmington's shipbuilding industry of the eighteenth century.

When Mordecai Woodward died in 1795, John Dauphin, a French immigrant, purchased the property consisting of 8 1/2 acres of land, a stone dwelling, a covered ropewalk, and a frame for the preservation of hemp. Around the turn of the century, James Ashton Bayard took ownership. He was a member of the prominent Bayard family of Delaware, Maryland, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His father, Joseph H. Bayard, the elder, was one of the negotiators for the settlement of the War of 1812. He, himself, was an eminent Delaware attorney who served in Congress as Senator for nearly 20 years. In 1885 he, and his wife Ann Frances, sold the property to another notable Wilmington family - the Edward Tatnall family. The Tatnall family was important in the business community of Wilmington and the Village of Brandywine.

There is a legend associated with the Woodward Houses. It is written that the house at 703 contains a hearthstone which was a section of the platform where Thomas Jefferson stood to read the Declaration of Independence to the people of Philadelphia.

FORM AS SUPPLIED TO CARB

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Most of Wilmington's eighteenth-century houses were destroyed during the development of Wilmington in the mid-nineteenth-century development. Because of their location, the Woodward houses were not incorporated into the city proper until about the same time. This might explain how they survived destruction. Almost all of the remaining structures of the eighteenth century were razed by the Urban Renewal Program of 1950-70. Therefore, the Woodward Houses have become rare examples of Georgian architecture in Wilmington, Delaware.

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO O.A.H.P.

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Deed records from the Recorder of Deeds Office, City/County Building, 800 French Street  
 Wilmington, Delaware.  
 Eckman, Jeannette. Delaware - A Guide to the First State (New York, 1955)  
 The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army 1780-85 Vol. II (Princeton, N.J.,  
 1972)

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Wilmington South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 451216120 43923100

B         

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is a rectangular lot 130' by 55', bounded on the north by a parking lot, on the south by a modern commercial building, on the east by West Street, and on the west by another parking lot.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME TITLE

John Atten, Historic Preservation Intern/ Dr. John Price, owner

ORGANIZATION

City of Wilmington, Department of Planning

DATE

Nov. 1972

STREET & NUMBER

French Street - City/County Building

TELEPHONE

(302) 571-4147

CITY OF STATE

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware 19502

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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 *[Signature]*

TITLE Acting Director, Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE 1/29/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

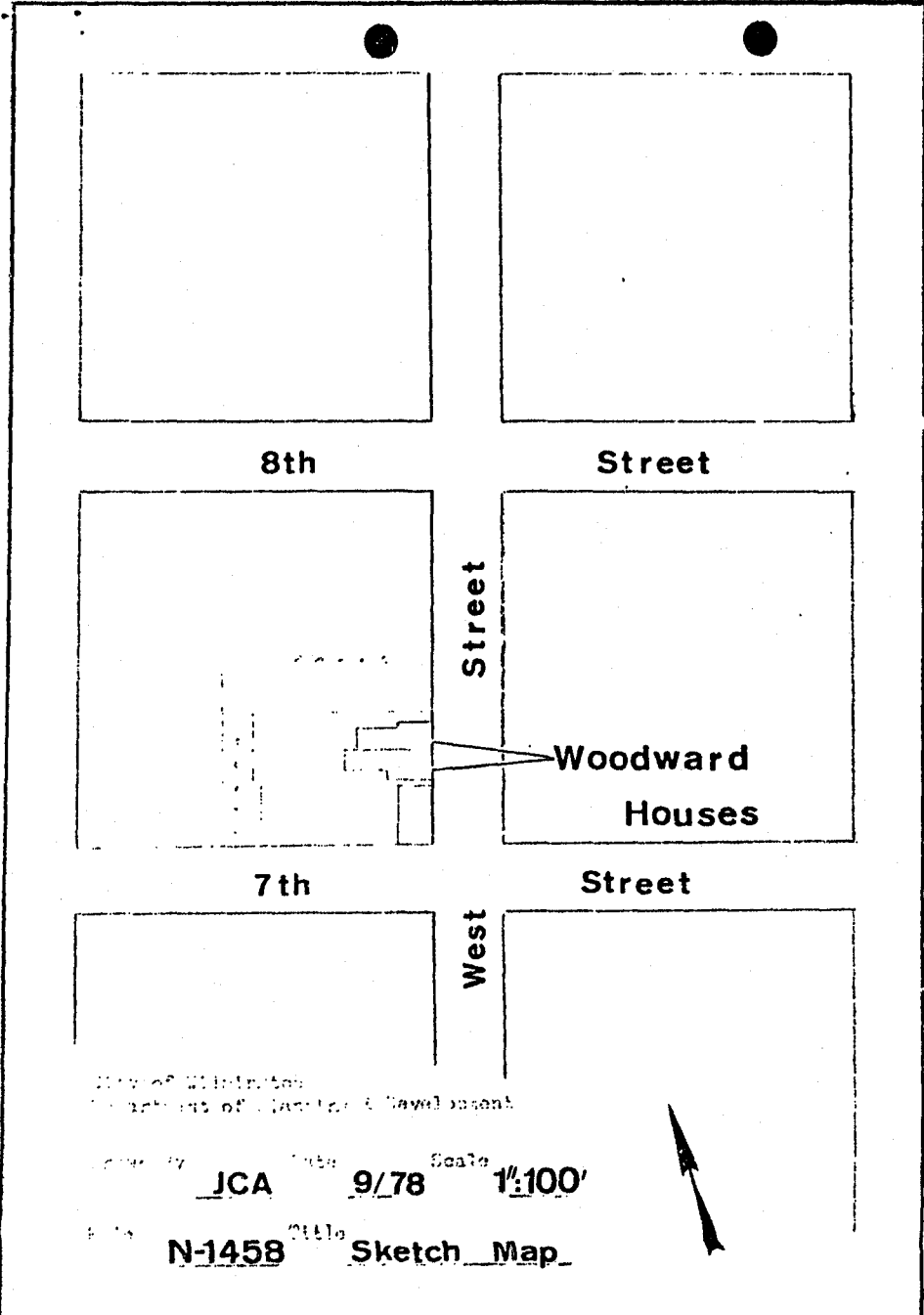
DATE

ATTEST

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO OAH

GPO 921-803



FORM AS SUBMITTED TO OAHB

1163  
H67

A SURVEY  
OF  
SELECTED HISTORICAL HOUSES AND AREAS LOCATED WITHIN THE WEST CENTER  
URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT  
[SCHEDULED FOR RAZING BY THE URBAN RENEWAL COMMISSION]  
OF  
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED  
BY  
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE  
IN  
CONJUNCTION WITH  
THE DELAWARE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ANTIQUITIES

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| DALE FIELDS       | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR   |
| GLADYS M. COGLAN  | MANUSCRIPT LIBRARIAN |
| CARYL AIMEE PROUD | RESEARCH ASSISTANT   |
| RUTH T. PEOPLES   | RESEARCH ASSISTANT   |

THE DELAWARE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ANTIQUITIES

- |                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| W. EMERSON WILSON | HISTORIAN |
| ALBERT KRUSE      | ARCHITECT |

Mordecai Woodward, who built these houses, was a rope maker by trade and conducted his business on the land surrounding the houses. The houses are good representatives of a type of house built during the latter part of the eighteenth century in or near the town of Wilmington and as such merit preservation. The integrity of design is good as is their structural condition, and therefore, they are of good educational value. The surrounding neighborhood is fair as is their importance to it. This type of house gives character to an area and should be preserved.

These houses stand on land that was glebe land of Trinity Church and were subject to the payment of quit rent. They date from between 1769, when Mordecai Woodward bought the property from his father, Joseph, and August 18, 1795, when the administrators had to sell the property in order to satisfy the debts against it.

The Woodward family came from the area around West Chester, Pennsylvania. Joseph Woodward and his wife, Rachel, were attracted, as were other members of the Society of Friends, to the Wilmington area probably through the efforts of the Shipley family. As Joseph owned a considerable amount of property in the area, it has not been possible to pinpoint his place of residence. However, the property on West Street contained a rope walk in 1769 when it was sold to Mordecai.

Mordecai Woodward continued the rope manufactory as is shown in the inventory of his estate made in the year 1795, when his death occurred. As he died intestate, letters of administration were granted to Edward Gilpin and John Ferris. The inventories compiled by the administrators and the appraisers, Caleb Seal and Edward Hewes, are in the posses-



sion of The Historical Society of Delaware and are interesting not only from the contents of each room, but also in that they list the arrangement of the rooms of the house. The first floor consisted of a back chamber and a front room; the second floor has a large front chamber, a small front chamber and a back chamber; the third floor has the same room arrangement as the second floor. It is not possible to tell from the inventory if the kitchen was part of the house or not. At the end of the inventories, it is listed as a kitchen with a kitchen chamber, together with a cellar, beehive, hog pen and an entry to the downstairs.

John Dauphin, a French immigrant, purchased the property on March 19, 1796, and it is described as consisting of eight and one half acres, with two stone dwelling houses, a covered rope walk, and a frame house for the preservation of hemp. At his death on the 25th of June, 1796, Jane Dauphin, his wife, inherited the property and continued the manufacture of rope as is shown in the 1814 Directory which lists Frederick Dauphin, her son, as a rope maker.

In 1822, Jane Dauphin sold the property, including the two houses and the rope walk, to Dr. Thomas Shivers, Jr. in settlement of her debts to him. In 1832, the property was sold in settlement of debts to Thomas Shivers, Sr. at a sheriff's sale.

James Asheton Bayard, purchased all the land for \$6,025.00. Bayard was a member of a family prominent socially in Maryland, Delaware, and Philadelphia. His father, James A., the elder, served in Congress and as one of the negotiators for the settlement of the War of 1812. He, himself, was a prominent Delaware attorney and served in Congress as a Senator for nearly twenty years. It is highly likely that he

bought the property as an investment, rather than a dwelling.

In 1835, he and his wife, Ann Francis, sold the property to a member of another prominent Wilmington family, Edward Tatnall, in a division of three lots. The first contained the houses which at present are 701-703 West Street.

The Tatnall family was prominent in the business community of Wilmington and the village of Brandywine.

## Resource 14

Name: "Tavern at the Sign of the Ship" Marker

Location: South-East Corner of Third and Market Streets  
Wilmington, Delaware

Historical significance: The "Tavern at the Sign of the Ship" was one of the few sites specifically pointed out to Rochambeau's soldiers as the place where Lafayette had been treated after he had been wounded during the Battle of Brandywine.

Owned by Patrick O'Flinn, a Revolutionary War soldier, it was later known as the "Happy Retreat." Following Lafayette's visit in October 1824, it was renamed the "LaFayette Hotel." Anna T. Lincoln, *Wilmington Delaware. Three Centuries under Four Flags, 1609-1937* (Rutlan, VT, 1937), pp. 132 and 198. Washington stayed at the tavern as well.

Recommendation: The site is not marked in relation to the W3R. Proper identification of the site could be undertaken by the State of Delaware, the county or a local historical society, or a fraternal community group such as the DAR, SAR, Society of the Cincinnati, or by the Souvenir Français.

Sources: Mary Sam Ward, *Inns and Taverns in Delaware (1800-1850)* MA Thesis, U of DE, 1968)

Dedication of the Marker: 1932

Medium: metal

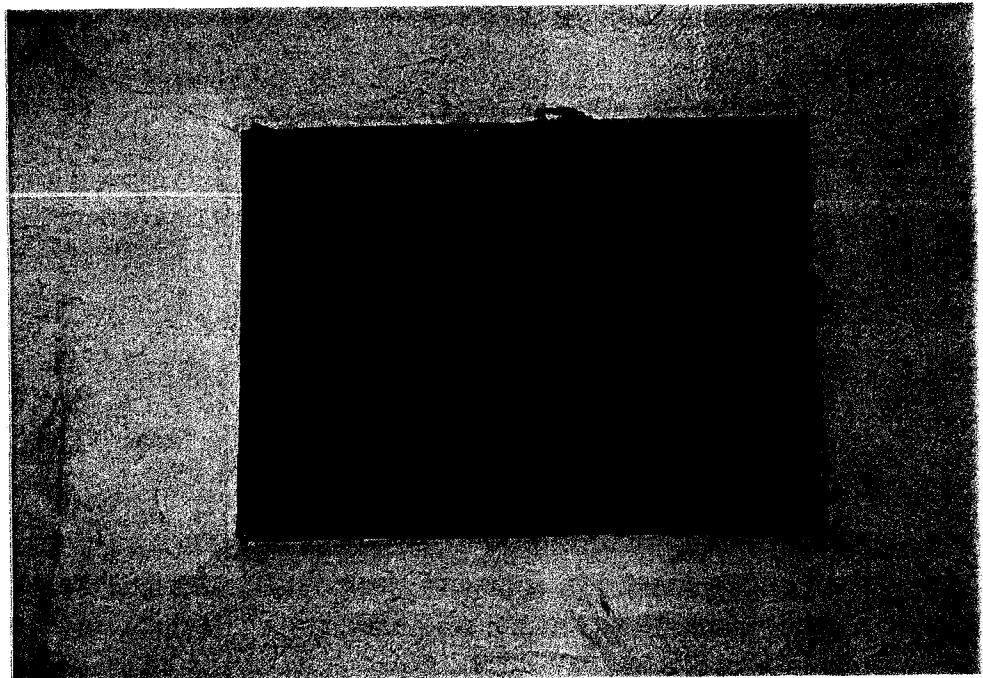
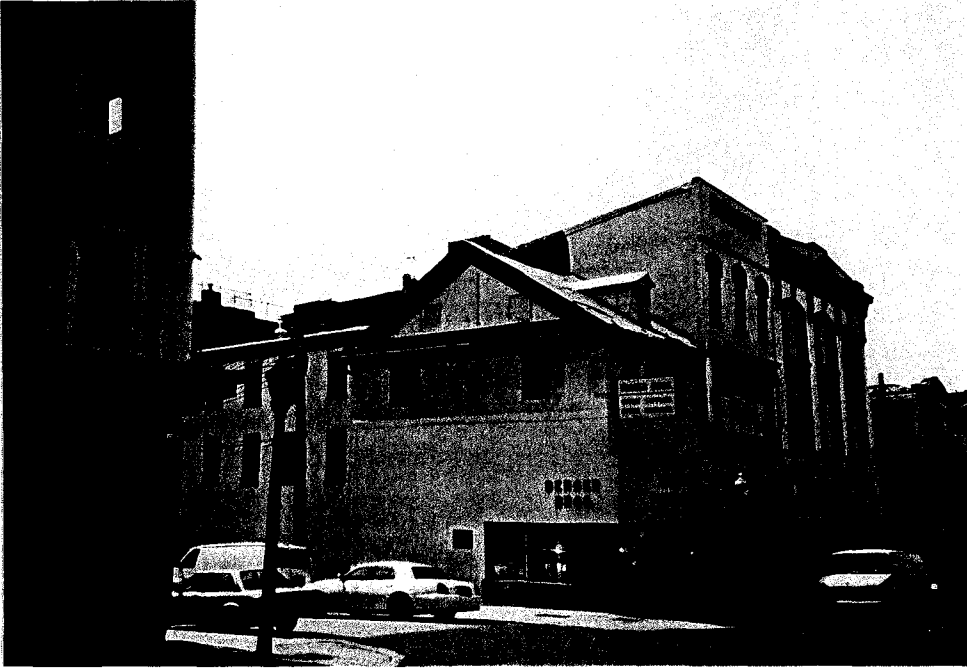
Dimensions: 30 inches wide, 22 inches high

Type: plaque with raised lettering and the seal of the State of Delaware at the top

Inscription: || SIGN OF THE SHIP TAVERN || SITE OF THE FAMOUS TAVERN OF  
REVOLUTIONARY || DAYS, KNOWN AS "THE SIGN OF THE SHIP." JOHN ||  
MARSHALL WAS THEN INNKEEPER. OFFICERS || OF CONTINENTAL ARMY  
WERE QUARTERED HERE || WASHINGTON, LAFAYETTE, AARON BURR || AND  
COMMODORE PERRY WERE AMONG || ITS DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.||  
CAPTAIN PATRICK O'FLINN, OFFICER OF || AMERICAN REVOLUTION, WAS  
PROPRIETOR || 1791 TO 1818 || HISTORIC MARKER COMMISSION - 1932 ||

The plaque shows strong sign of wear and is in need of maintenance.

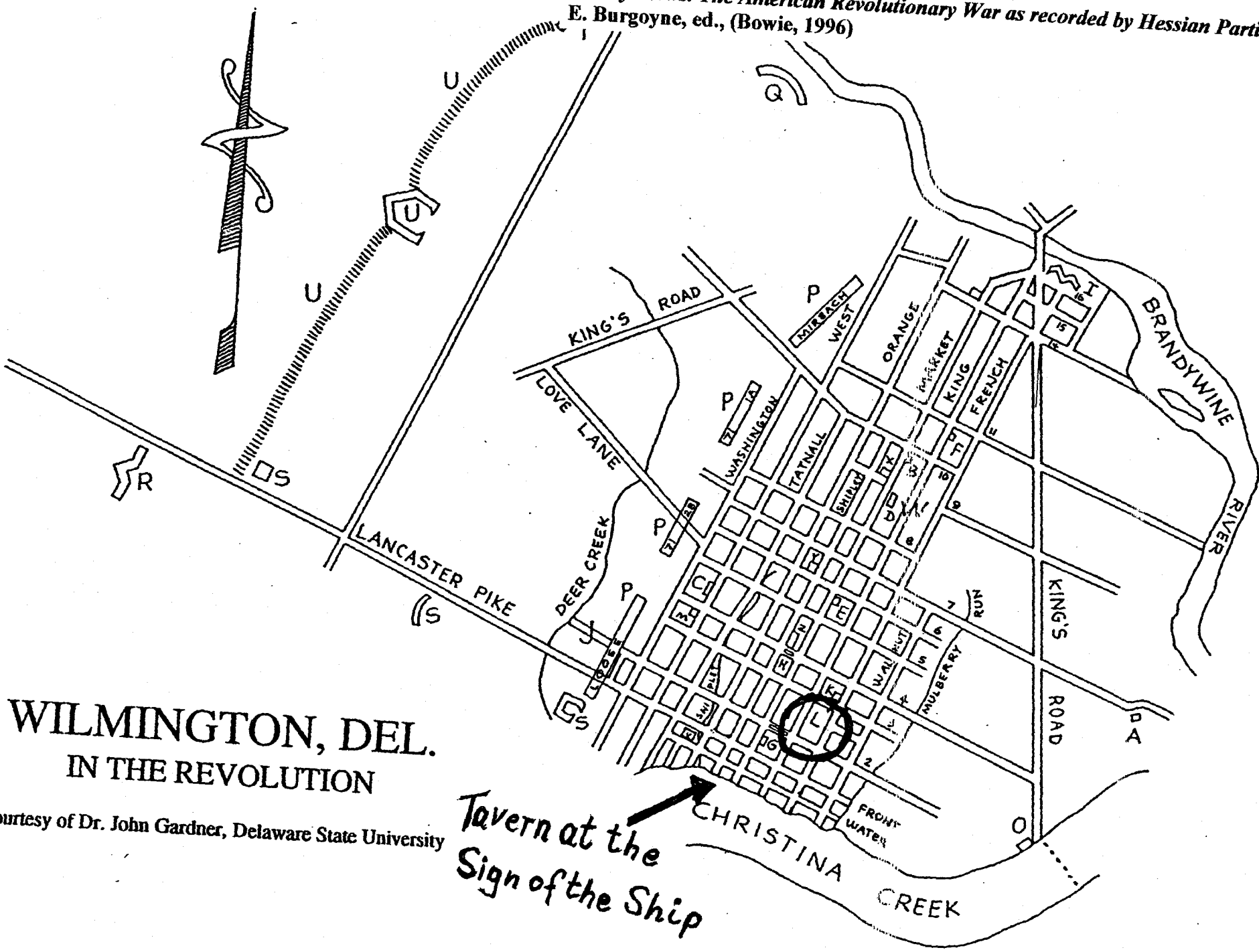
**RESOURCE 14**



**Name: "Tavern at the Sign of the Ship" Marker**

**Location: South-east corner of Third and Market Streets  
Wilmington, Delaware**

*Enemy Views. The American Revolutionary War as recorded by Hessian Participants Bruce E. Burgoyne, ed., (Bowie, 1996)*



**WILMINGTON, DEL.  
IN THE REVOLUTION**

Courtesy of Dr. John Gardner, Delaware State University

*Tavern at the  
Sign of the Ship*

## Resource 15

Name: Rochambeau Headquarters

Location: 606 Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware

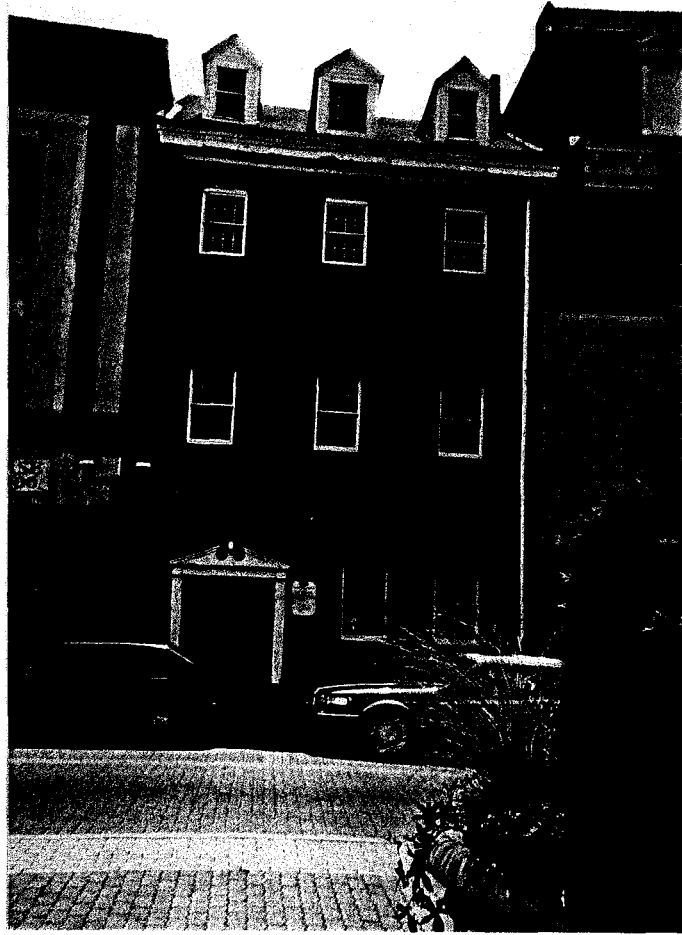
Historical significance: Rochambeau, who was traveling with his First Division, spent the night of 6/7 September 1781 in this house. Known today as the Louis McLane House, it was owned in 1781 by Judge Gunning Bedford Jr.

The evidence is circumstantial; it is unknown where any other French officers stayed.

Recommendation: The site is not marked in relation to the W3R. Proper identification of the site could be undertaken by the State of Delaware, the county or a local historical society, or a fraternal community group such as the DAR, SAR, Society of the Cincinnati, or by the Souvenir Français.

Sources: Map drawn by Dr. John Gardner map accompanying in his foreword to *Enemy Views. The American Revolutionary War as recorded by Hessian Participants* Bruce E. Burgoyne, ed., (Bowie, 1996), and personal communication from Dr. John Gardner and Dr. Barbara Benson of the Historical Society of Delaware.

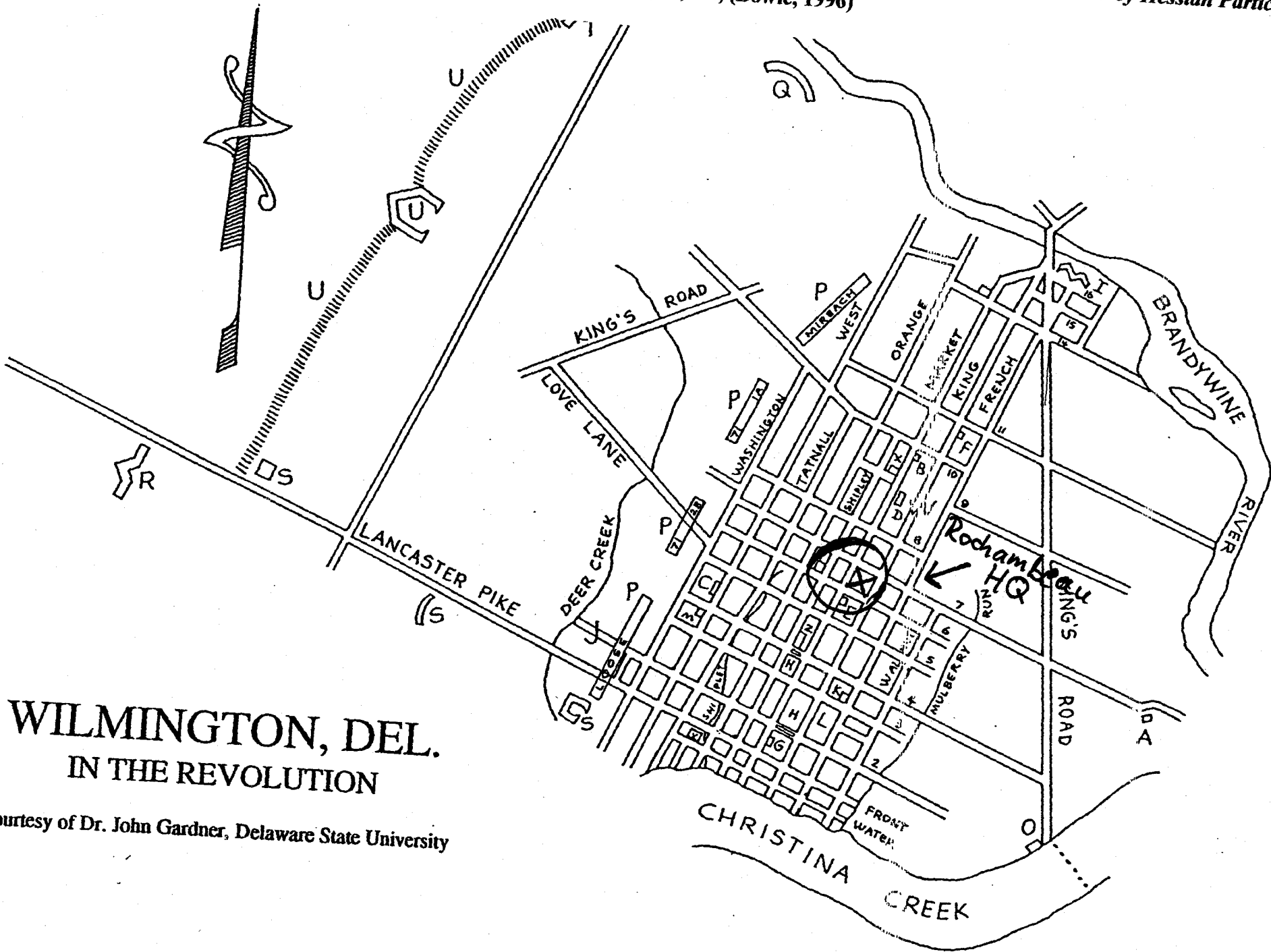
**RESOURCE 15**



**Name: Rochambeau Headquarters**

**Location: 606 Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware**

*Enemy Views. The American Revolutionary War as recorded by Hessian Participants Bruce E. Burgoyne, ed., (Bowie, 1996)*



**WILMINGTON, DEL.**  
**IN THE REVOLUTION**

Courtesy of Dr. John Gardner, Delaware State University



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

N-156

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Louis McLane House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Louis McLane House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
606 Market Street

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 type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Oscar D. Tanenbaum & Samuel Wachtel

STREET AND NUMBER:  
606 Market Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Wilmington

STATE:  
Delaware

CODE:  
10

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Public Building

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Rodney Square

CITY OR TOWN:  
Wilmington

STATE:  
Delaware

CODE:  
10

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check <i>Two or More as Appropriate</i> )			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" 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 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			
<p>This town house on the east side of Market Street in Wilmington was built by a well-to-do merchant and industrialist, Rumford Dawes, during the middle years of the eighteenth century. It was occupied by Judge Gunning Bedford, Jr. before he moved to his country seat, Lombardy, in 1792. Bedford was a member of the Continental Congress in 1783 and Attorney General of Delaware in 1784. He also served as a member of the Delaware General Assembly. At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, he threatened that Delaware might ally itself with a foreign power unless the small states received equal representation. However, the most famous owner of the house at 606 Market was Louis McLane.</p> <p>Louis McLane was born at Smyrna in 1784, the son of Allen McLane, a famous Revolutionary War officer. He was, however, to surpass his father's fame in the political field. As a rising young attorney McLane moved into the house on Market Street in 1815, the year in which he became president of the Wilmington branch of the Farmers Bank. In 1817, he became a member of the United States House of Representatives, where he served until 1827. Although a Federalist in a Republican Congress, he was from 1823 to 1827 chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. From 1827 to 1829, he was United States Senator. He resigned when President Jackson appointed him minister to England and it was perhaps in this position that he best served his country, creating there a great feeling of good will and high esteem for the United States. He returned to serve as Secretary of the Treasury from 1831-3 and Secretary of State in 1833-4. His great desire to become a judge was never fulfilled, for he retired from public life in 1834 because of political pressure in Washington.</p> <p>After his resignation from Jackson's Cabinet in 1834, McLane moved from Delaware to become president of the Morris Canal and Banking Company in New Jersey. He was President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from 1837 to 1848, except for 1845-1846, when he took leave to return to England to serve as minister and to negotiate the Cession of Oregon. He died at Baltimore in 1857.</p>			

Form 10-300a  
(July 1967)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)---

Martin Van Buren, Stephen Van Rensselaer, and other public figures of the period, visited here frequently. The McLane children born here included Robert McLane, congressman, Governor of Maryland and U.S. Minister to China and France; Louis McLane, Jr., President of Wells Fargo Express Company and one of the originators of the Pony Express; Allan McLane, later President of the Panama Pacific steamship line; and Lydia McLane, later the wife of General Joseph Eggleston Johnston, C.S.A.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Biographical and Geneological History of the State of Delaware.  
 Chambersburg (Pa.): J. M. Runk & Co., 1899,  
Art Work of Wilmington, Delaware. Chicago: W. K. Parish Pub. Co.,  
 1893.  
 McLane, Catherine M. Biography of Louis McLane. Unpublished.

**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	44	32
NE	• • •	• • •	75	33	02
SE	• • •	• • •			
SW	• • •	• • •			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Under 1/2 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Joan M. Norton, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: 10/13/72

STREET AND NUMBER: Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs</u></p> <p>Date <u>11-27-72</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</u></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Keeper of The National Register</u></p> <p>Date _____</p>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-201  
July 1967

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

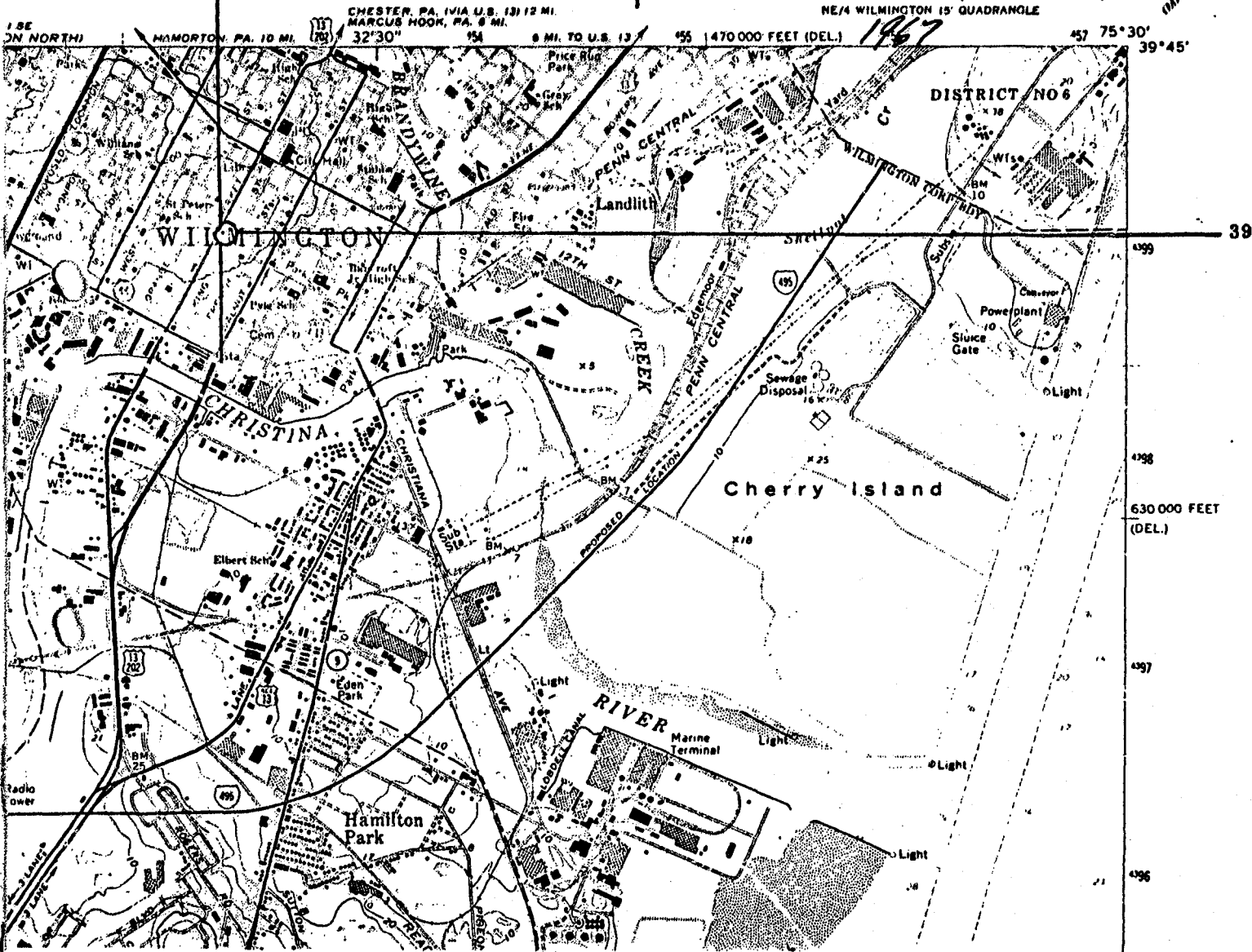
<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Louis McLane House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Louis McLane House			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 606 Mark <del>1</del> Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington			
STATE: Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: New Castle	CODE 003
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: USGS Map, Wilmington South Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1967			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

WILMINGTON SOUTH QUADRANGLE  
DELAWARE-NEW JERSEY  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE/4 WILMINGTON 15' QUADRANGLE

75° 33' 02"  
McLane  
House

583 1/2 SW  
MARCUS HOOK



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Louis McLane House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Louis McLane House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 606 Market Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington			
STATE: Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: New Castle	5996 003
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:			
DATE OF PHOTO:			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Photostat from <u>Art Work of Wilmington</u> - Louis McLane House, 1893 (4th from right)			



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE  
NEWARK, DELAWARE  
19711

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
127 MEMORIAL HALL  
PHONE: 302-738-2371

July 11, 1972

HISTORIC REGISTRARS  
OFFICE

JUL 13 1972

RECEIVED

Mr. Edward Heite  
Hall of Records  
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Ned:

Please consider for listing on the National Register of Historical Sites the building at 606 Market Street in Wilmington. This building was built by the well-to-do Wilmington merchant Rumford Dawes in the 18th century as his home. After the Revolution it was occupied by one of the leading French families that took refuge in Wilmington from the Haitian revolutions, and it also became the town house of Gunning Bedford, Jr., probably before he moved to "Lombardy" on the Concord Pike. In 1813, Louis McLane bought the house from Rumford Dawes' heirs and brought his bride here. It was then one of the handsomest houses in Wilmington, and something of its beauty may be seen by anyone standing across the street and looking at the facade above the street floor store front.

In this house McLane lived while he made his political reputation, as Congressman (winning more elections to the House than any other Delawarean), Senator, Minister to England, Secretary of the Treasury, and Secretary of State. For a time while he resided here he was the most powerful (by which I mean most influential) man in the United States, except for his friend President Andrew Jackson. At this house he was visited by prominent Congressmen and Senators, cabinet members and diplomats, vice presidents and future presidents.

Sincerely yours,

  
John A. Munroe

JAM/jcg

## Resource 16

Name: French Army Camp 2a

Location: near Stanton Shopping Center on DE SR 4  
Newport, Delaware

Historical significance: Coming from Chester, Pennsylvania, the Second Division of the French Army, more than 2,000 officers and men up to 1,000 horses and oxen, marched through Wilmington and camped on this site on 6/7 September 1781.

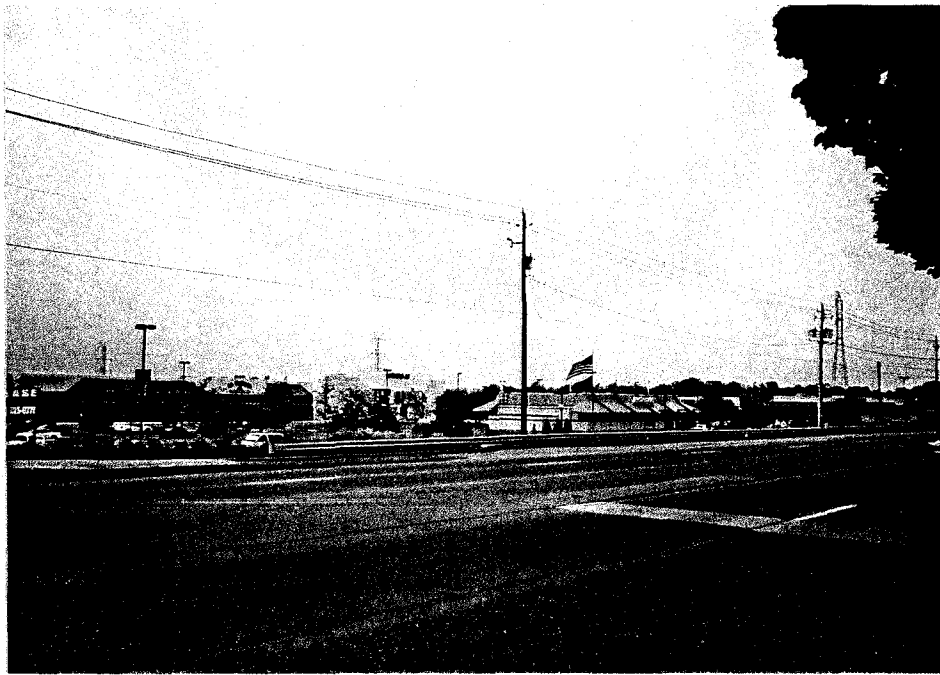
Recommendation: The site is not marked in relation to the W3R. Proper identification of the site could be undertaken by the State of Delaware, the county or a local historical society, or a fraternal community group such as the DAR, SAR, Society of the Cincinnati, or by the Souvenir Français.

Sources: The campsite is not identified in the series of encampment maps drawn by Louis-Alexandre Berthier and reproduced in Rice and Brown, *American Campaigns*, Vol. II. The location of the campsite is almost identical with that of Camp 25 of the return march on 29/30 and 30/31 August 1782. See Rice and Brown, *American Campaigns*, Vol. II, map 135. For the location of the campsite in 1781 see also Rice and Brown, *American Campaigns* Vol. 2, p. 80.

Ella W. Johnson, *Story of Newport, a square little town in the state of Delaware* (Wilmington, 1963).

Note: see **Resource 21**.

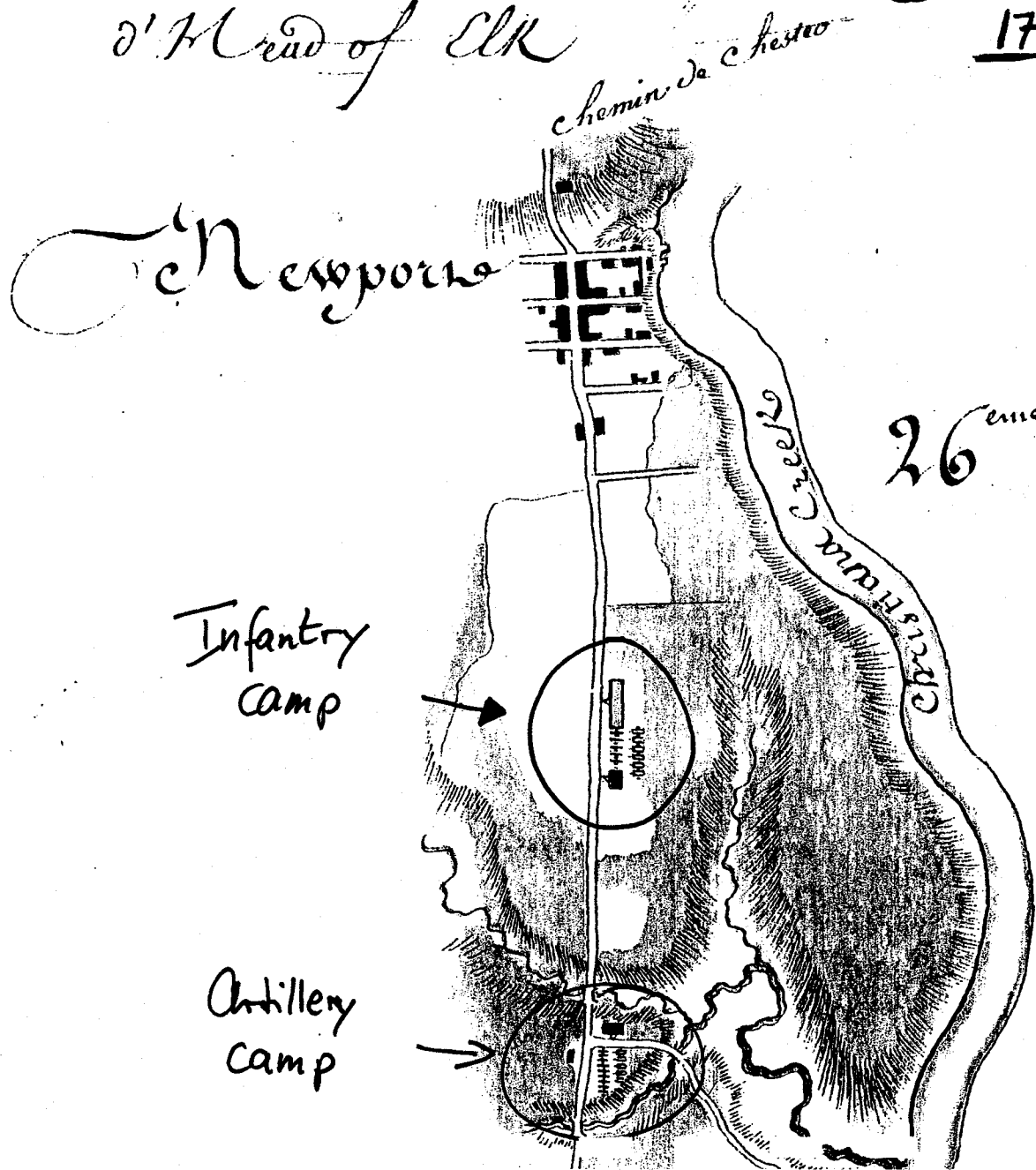
**RESOURCE 16**



**Name: French Army Camp 2a**

**Location: near Stanton Shopping Center on DE SR 4  
Newport, Delaware**

25<sup>eme</sup> Camp à Newport le 29 Clous 16 Miles  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 d'Head of Elk 1782



26<sup>eme</sup> Camp à Chester le 30  
 15 Miles de New

Howard C. Rice, Jr., and Anne S. K. Brown, eds.,  
*The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army,*  
 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783  
 2 vols., (Princeton and Providence, 1972), vol. 2.

in De Philadelphia

## Resource 17

Name: French Army Camp 2b

Location: Vicinity of Honeysuckle Drive  
Newport, Delaware

Historical significance: Coming from Chester, Pennsylvania, the Second Division of the French Army, more than 2,000 officers and men up to 1,000 horses and oxen, marched through Wilmington to Newport. The artillery camped on this site on 6/7 September 1781.

Recommendation: The site is not marked in relation to the W3R. Proper identification of the site could be undertaken by the State of Delaware, the county or a local historical society, or a fraternal community group such as the DAR, SAR, Society of the Cincinnati, or by the Souvenir Français.

Sources: The campsite is not identified in the series of encampment maps drawn by Louis-Alexandre Berthier and reproduced in Rice and Brown, *American Campaigns*, Vol. II. The location of the campsite is almost identical with that of Camp 25 of the return march on 29/30 and 30/31 August 1782. See Rice and Brown, *American Campaigns*, Vol. II, map 135. For the location of the campsite in 1781 see also Rice and Brown, *American Campaigns* Vol. 2, p. 80.

Ella W. Johnson, *Story of Newport, a square little town in the state of Delaware* (Wilmington, 1963).

Note: see **Resource 22**.

**RESOURCE 17**



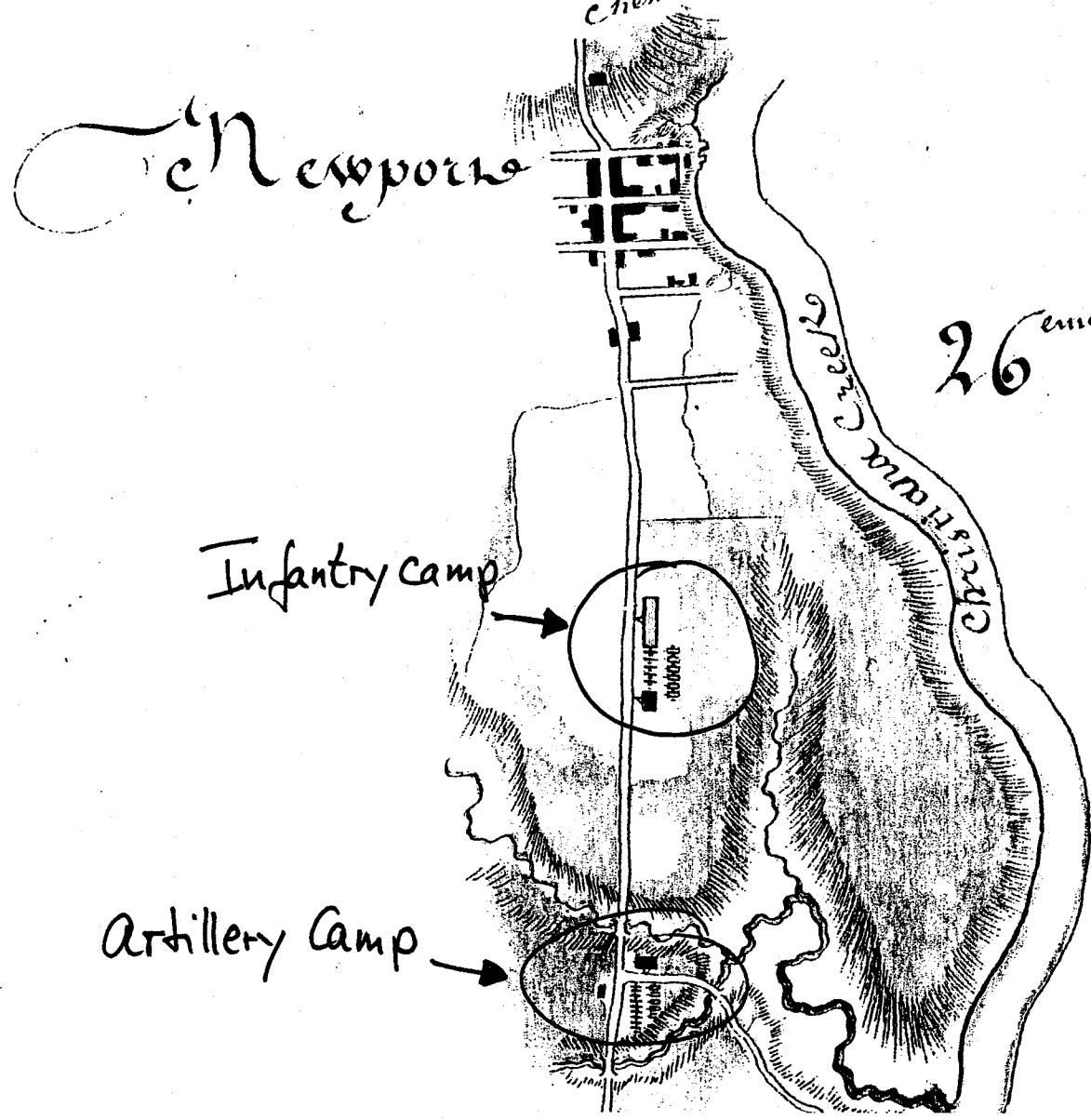
**Name: French Army Camp 2b**

**Location: Vicinity of Honeysuckle Drive  
Newport, Delaware**

25<sup>eme</sup> Camp a Newport le 29 Clous 16 Miles 1782

à l'Head of Elk

Note: This map shows the Campsites for 1782. The campsites in the fall of 1781 were at almost the same location.



26<sup>eme</sup> Camp à Chester le 30 à 15 Miles de Newport

Howard C. Rice, Jr., and Anne S. K. Brown, eds.,  
*The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783*  
2 vols., (Princeton and Providence, 1972), vol. 2.

in De. Philadelphia

**RESOURCE 18**



**Name: Continental Army Camp 2**

**Location: Baltimore Pike  
Christiana, Delaware**



## Resource 18

Name: Continental Army Camp 2

Location: Baltimore Pike  
Christiana, Delaware

**Historical significance:** Following the victory at Yorktown, the Continental Army departed from Yorktown in early November. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> New York Regiments, which had left Yorktown on Sunday, 4 November, camped at Christina Bridge on Friday, 30 November 1781. The following day, 1 December 1781, they crossed Delaware and camped at Marcus Hook in Pennsylvania, on their way to winter quarters in Pompton, NJ.

It is more than likely that other units of the Continental Army camped at Christiana Bridge as well on their march north, viz. the Rhode Island Regiment, which spent the winter 1781/82 in Philadelphia. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Artillery, the Sappers, Miners, and Artificers lived in barracks in nearby Burlington, NJ. The two New Jersey regiments wintered in Morristown, NJ, Moses Hazen's Canadian Regiment was quartered in Lancaster, PA. Of the forces that had marched to Yorktown in August 1781, only the Light Infantry returned to the Hudson and wintered in Continental Village, NY, but they did not stop in Delaware.

**Recommendation:** The site is not marked in relation to the W3R. Proper identification of the site could be undertaken by the State of Delaware, the county or a local historical society, or a fraternal community group such as the DAR, SAR, Society of the Cincinnati, or by the Souvenir Français.

Unlike for the march to Yorktown, however, only the Orderly Book for the 2<sup>nd</sup> New York Regiment has survived, and further research is necessary to determine possible encampments of Continental Army troops in Delaware in November 1781.

Sources: Almon W. Lauber, ed., *Orderly Books of the Fourth New York Regiment, 1778-1780. The Second New York Regiment, 1780-1783, by Samuel Tallmadge and Others.* (Albany, 1932).; the return march is recorded on pp. 765-768, the encampment in Christiana on p. 767.

## Resource 19

Name: Continental Army Hospital

Location: Wilmington Academy (Wilmington Opera House)  
818 North Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware

Historical significance: The Wilmington Academy which stood at the site now occupied by the Opera House, had been established in 1773 between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets and Market and King Streets in Wilmington. Throughout the Revolutionary War the building was used by all sides as a hospital. It closed in 1802.

For its use as a hospital by Continental Army troops in 1780, and the ensuing damage see the Meeting Minutes of 16 October 1780:

The Trustees taking into Consideration the present State of the School House, rendered unfit for the Reception of Scholars by the great Damages it has receiv'd from being made a public Hospital & for Barracks a considerable Time during the present War, which Damages on a reasonable Estimation amount to near five Hundred Pounds & no immediate Prospect of receiving any public compensation; it is resolved that in such Case rather than leave the Community deprived of the Advantages which may be reasonably expected from opening the School again under able Masters that each Trustee shall in his vicinity solicit Subscription for repairing the House and opening the School against the ensuing Spring ....”

in: Schools, Wilmington Academy, Folder 4, HSD.

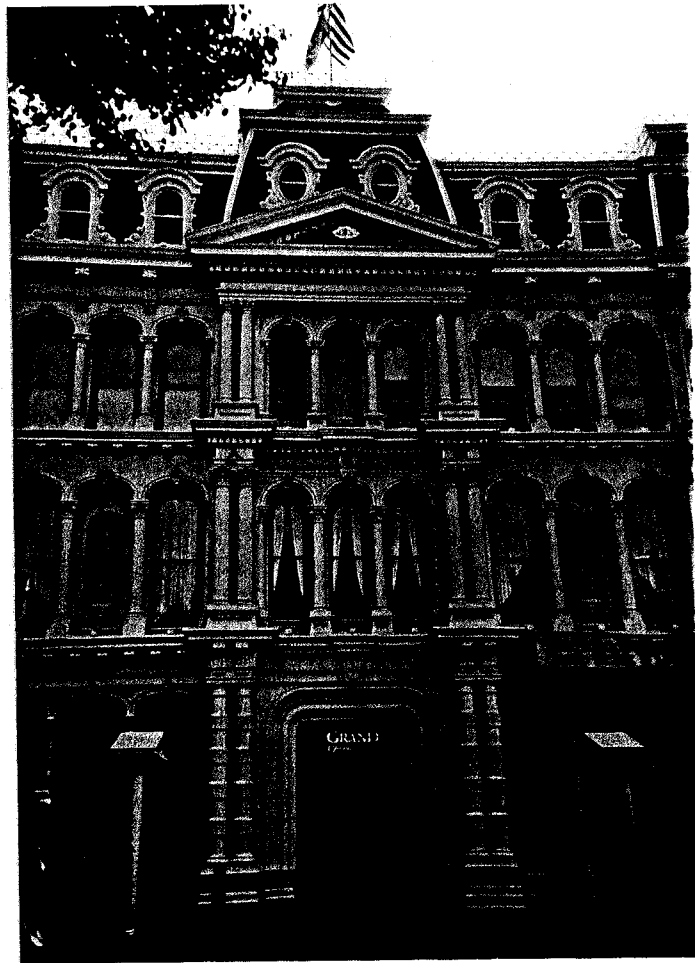
In 1792, the Academy was compensated for its losses.

Recommendation: The site is not marked in relation to the W3R. Proper identification of the site could be undertaken by the State of Delaware, the county or a local historical society, or a fraternal community group such as the DAR, SAR, Society of the Cincinnati, or by the Souvenir Français.

Sources: E. Miriam Lewis, "The Minutes of the Wilmington Academy, 1777-1802." *Delaware History* Vol.3 No. 4 (September 1949), pp. 181-226.

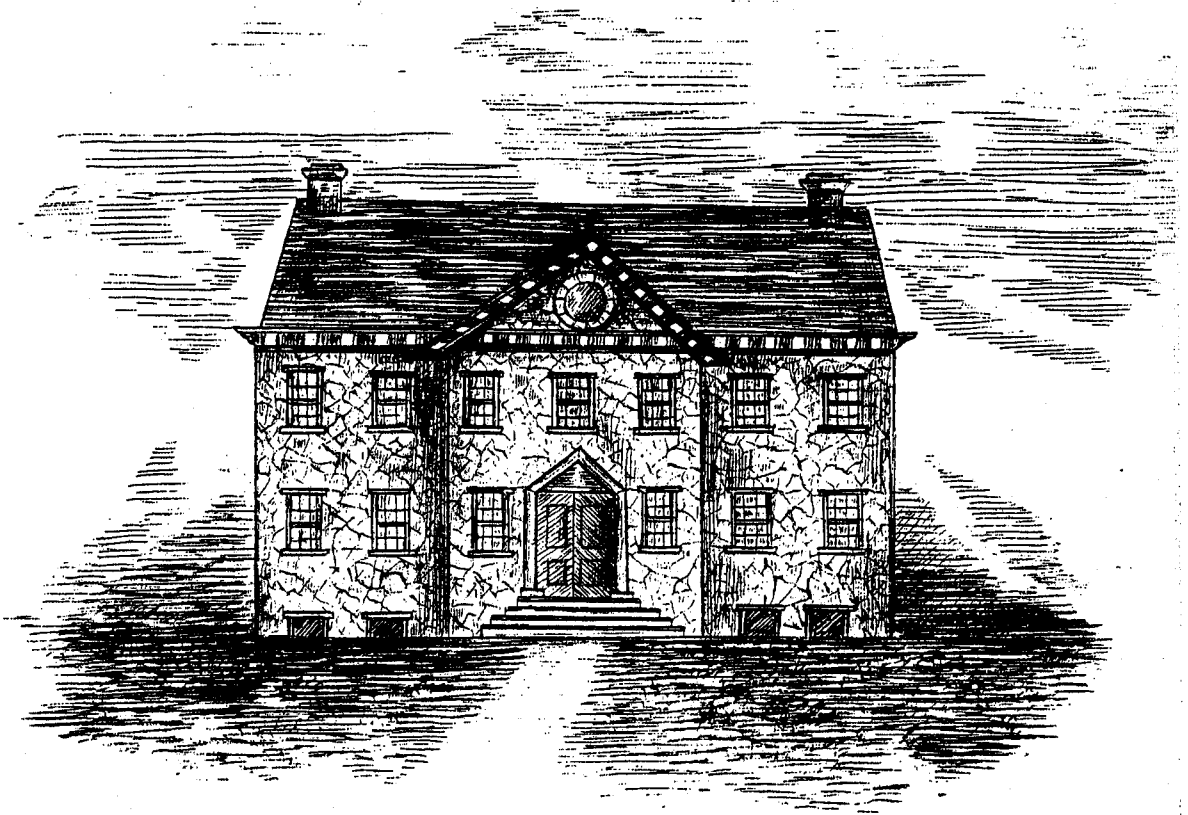
Note: In 1782/83 it served as HQ for Lauzun's Legion. See **Resource 26**.

**RESOURCE 19**



**Name: Continental Army Hospital**

**Location: Wilmington Academy (Wilmington Opera House)  
818 North Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware**



*The old "Wilmington Academy", Founded 1775.*

*Size 2 1/2 in wide  
2 1/2 in high*

**Historical Society of Delaware  
Schools, Wilmington Academy  
Folder 4**

# SECOND CONGRESS

OF THE

## UNITED STATES:

At the First Session, begun and held at the City of PHILADELPHIA, in the State of Pennsylvania, on Monday the twenty-fourth of October, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one.

*An ACT to compensate the Corporation of Trustees of the Public Grammar-School and Academy of Wilmington in the State of Delaware, for the occupation of, and damages done to the said School, during the late war.*

**B**E it enacted by the SENATE and HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That as an indemnification to the corporation of Trustees of the public grammar-school and academy of Wilmington in the state of Delaware, for the use and occupation of the said school, and the damages done to the same by the troops of the United States, during the late war, there be granted to the said corporation of Trustees, a reasonable compensation, payable out of any unappropriated money in the treasury of the United States, which compensation shall be ascertained by the accounting officers of the treasury.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

JOHN ADAMS, *Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.*

APPROVED, April thirteenth, 1792.

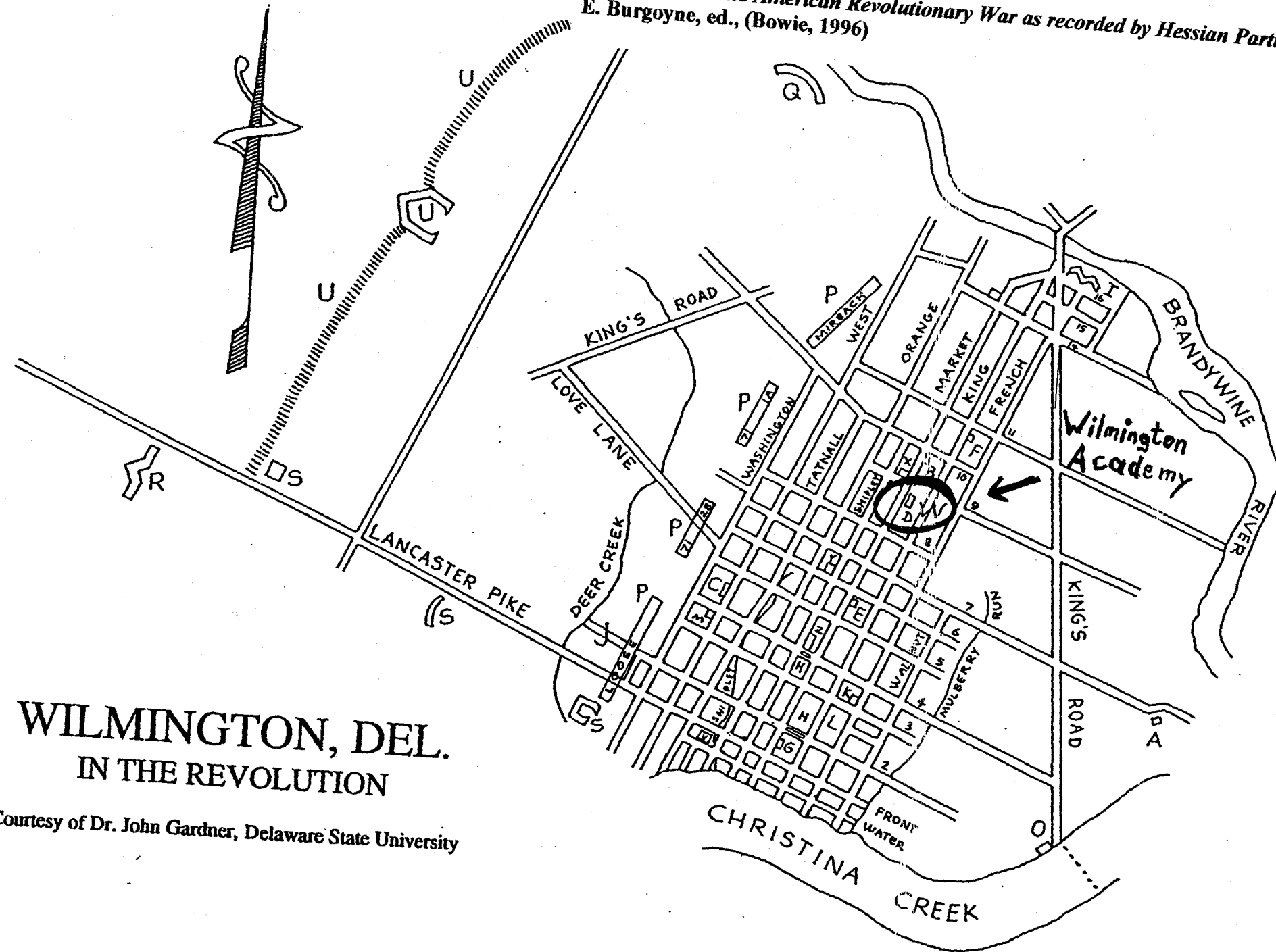
G<sup>o</sup>. WASHINGTON, *President of the United States.*

DEPOSITED among the Rolls in the office of the Secretary of State.

 Secretary of State.

This copy may not be altered or reproduced  
in any form without written permission of the  
Historical Society of Delaware

*Enemy Views. The American Revolutionary War as recorded by Hessian Participants Bruce E. Burgoyne, ed., (Bowie, 1996)*



# WILMINGTON, DEL. IN THE REVOLUTION

Courtesy of Dr. John Gardner, Delaware State University

STATE: Delaware  
 COUNTY: New Castle  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:  
The Masonic Hall and Grand Theater  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:  
The Masonic Temple and Grand Opera House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
818 North Market Street  
 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 type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify): Masonic meetings theater, shops, offices & meeting rooms

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Masonic Hall Company of Wilmington  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
818 North Market Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Registry of Deeds, Public Building  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
11th and King Streets  
 CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
 DATE OF SURVEY: \_\_\_\_\_  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

*Site of Wilmington Assembly*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
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 type="checkbox"/> Industry		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>The University of Delaware is today the principal institution of higher learning in the State. Although it has held this position for a half-century or more, the institution's earlier history was marked by a series of crises that sometimes threatened its very existence.</p> <p>Old College, and the subsidiary structures that surround it, stand as reminders of the struggles and sacrifices that produced the present institution. Although the old Delaware College buildings still are an integral part of the University complex, the center of activity has moved to the new campus buildings farther to the south.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Old College</u></p> <p>Old College has dominated the hill above Main Street since 1833, but Delaware College had its beginnings nearly a century earlier. Francis Alison, pastor of the New London Church in Chester County, Pennsylvania, began the school in a small way in his home.</p> <p>The Presbyterian Synod of Philadelphia had planned to open a seminary in 1739, but the war with Spain interfered with fund-raising efforts. As an alternative, the Synod adopted Alison's school as its own in 1743. Nine years later, Alison left to become professor of moral philosophy at Philadelphia Academy. After a brief stay in Maryland, the school was transferred to Newark in 1764. Thomas and Richard Penn, the proprietors, granted the academy a charter two years later. Contributions solicited from the Penns and from others in England, including Lord North and Samuel Johnson, enabled the trustees to start an endowment fund.</p> <p>The Revolution and subsequent unsettled conditions forced the school to close from 1777 to 1780 and again from 1796 to 1799. Shortly after the school was revived, the trustees began to plan for its expansion into a college. In 1818, they were authorized to raise money through a lottery and in 1821 through a tax on stage lines and steamboats. In 1833, New Ark College was chartered, and construction of the present Old College was begun. The academy trustees, searching for an architect, settled on a design by Charles Bulfinch of Boston, the Architect of the Capitol. The trustees'</p>			



## Resource 20

Name: Golden Fleece Tavern

Location: Corner of State Street and the Dover Green  
Dover, Delaware

Historical significance: On 22 June 1782, the Golden Fleece Tavern was the site of the official celebrations for the birth of the dauphin of France.

Recommendation: The site is not marked in relation to the W3R. Proper identification of the site could be undertaken by the State of Delaware, the county or a local historical society, or a fraternal community group such as the DAR, SAR, Society of the Cincinnati, or by the Souvenir Français.

Sources: James B. Jackson, *The Golden Fleece Tavern. The Birthplace of the First State* (Dover, 1987), with a description of the celebration on pp. 31-33. Mary Sam Ward, *Inns and Taverns in Delaware (1800-1850)* MA Thesis, U of DE, 1968).

Note: French officers from the *l'Aigle* and *la Gloire* also stayed at the Golden Fleece during the night of 14/15 September 1781.

Since the text of the marker does not contribute to the W3R in DE project, it is not reproduced here.

**RESOURCE 20**



**Name: Golden Fleece Tavern**

**Location: Corner of State Street and the Dover Green  
Dover, Delaware**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1394 See also R-209

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

FOR N. USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Dover, Brother's Portion

AND/OR COMMON Dover Green Historic District

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Between North, South, and East Streets  
and Governors Avenue

CITY, TOWN Dover

STATE Delaware

VICINITY OF CODE 10

COUNTY Kent

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT One

CODE 001

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>PRESENT USE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME State, County, City Governments, and Private Owners

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Court House

STREET & NUMBER The Green

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Survey of Delaware Historic Sites and Buildings  
(See Description for Numbers)

DATE

1973-1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dover Green Historic District contains most of the inhabited part of eighteenth-century Dover. Reflecting Dover's continuing role as county seat and state capital, the district contains a related group of public buildings, open squares, churches, commercial buildings, office buildings, and residences from all periods during the past two-and-a-half centuries. Since Dover is the capital and county seat, its architecture has always been somewhat more pretentious and stylish than the architecture of surrounding towns.

The district is centered around the Green, established as the Court House Square in 1722. Around this square are preserved, in active use, buildings that illustrate all periods of Dover's history. On the edges of the district are two other eighteenth-century public squares that were laid out to accommodate an Anglican church and a Presbyterian meeting house, respectively. All the buildings in the district continue in active use, many for their original purposes. More than fifty buildings in the district can be termed "historic" in the context of this nomination. The numbers in parentheses refer to the list below and map 3, attached. Shading on the map indicates previous National Register entries.

#### South of the Green:

The block of State Street between South Street and Water Street contains four eighteenth-century structures. They are the John Banning House (1), Christ Church (4), Christ Church Rectory (41), and 508 South State Street (42). The Banning House and the Rectory are brick houses, two rooms deep, built during the decade of the Revolution. The Banning House is four bays wide, while the Rectory has five bays. They each were built originally to contain both a shop and a residence. The Banning House has been stuccoed, but its brickwork is Flemish bond, as is the brickwork of the Rectory. Christ Church, already on the National Register, is one of the oldest structures in the district. 508 South State Street is one of the few surviving, frame, eighteenth-century houses in the district. The land on which it stands was owned by Caesar Rodney, signer of the Declaration of Independence, who may have built the house. It is a five-bay, clapboard structure with a gambrel roof, one room deep. The other structures in this block were built during the nineteenth century, except the modern highway yard buildings. The Vaughn Law Office (3) reflects a modified form of the Cottage Gothic style, with a central pedimented cross gable. The small houses on the west side of State Street between the highway yard and 508 are two-story frame buildings (42), typical of the average Dover homes built during the second half of the nineteenth century. They stand on the sites of rental houses owned by Bertles Schee before 1768.

The buildings on the block between Water Street and the Green are predominantly eighteenth-century in style. The Bradford-Loockerman House, the King Dougall House and Store House, and the LeFevre House are the earliest structures in this block.

The Bradford-Loockerman House (5), already on the National Register, was built in two sections. The original five-bay, brick portion, dating to around 1747, is Georgian in detail. The later nineteenth-century addition on the south is frame. The garden to the south and east of the house was created during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries on land that has been owned by the Loockerman family and

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

their descendents for two centuries. A small, gambrel-roofed frame house that once stood in the garden has been moved to a site on Water Street.

The LeFevre House (40) was built early in the eighteenth century. It is a five-bay, two-story, stuccoed brick house with original panelling and some original hardware. A small office wing, typical of the eighteenth century in Delaware, extends the facade to the north. Victorian trim has been added to the exterior.

Also in this block is the Eagle Tavern (6), previously nominated to the National Register, which shares a party wall with the Bradford-Loockerman House. Built before 1793, it has Flemish-bond brickwork, which has been covered by ashlar stucco, wooden lintels, and a portico. The interior was altered in the nineteenth century and then Georgianized in the twentieth century. Some interior panelling survives.

Another structure of note in this block is the McDowell-Collins Store House (34) which is an early nineteenth-century, frame structure used both as a store and as an office during the nineteenth century. It has been reduced in width to three bays and is covered by many of its original clapboards.

The remaining structures in this block, while not built during the eighteenth century, reflect the style of the period. The only modern intrusions in the block are the Schmittinger and Rodriguez Law Office (36) which was built recently in the eighteenth-century revival style, the Allee Building (33) on the corner of the Green and State Street, the Georgian-revival Hopkins House (35) next to the McDowell-Collins store, and 420 South State Street.

North of the Green:

The block between the Green and North Street is lined by nineteenth-century commercial buildings. On the northeast corner of the Green and State Street stands the Flemish-bond Parke Building (16), a remnant of the Capitol Hotel built around 1835 on the site of a much earlier tavern that had been operated by the Battell and Cummins families. The hotel was partly dismantled about fifty years ago to make a garden for the Ridgely property on the Green next door. Extending along the east side of State Street to North Street is a row of nineteenth-century office and commercial buildings (17) on the former tavern property. At North Street, a vest-pocket park has replaced the Hinkle store building, a large, brick, nineteenth-century structure that stood on the site of the former tavern stables. The intervening structures gradually replaced the row of small houses and shops that had lined the tavern yard. The one twentieth-century building on the block, a small optometrist's office, replaced a plank house that was said to have been moved from the old jail lot across State Street.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

The west side of this block of State Street contains the best- reserved row of Victorian commercial buildings (18) in Dover. The most ornate of these is the Central Law Building at 312 South State Street, with its 1888 date stone. Built during Delaware's peach prosperity period, it is brick with yellow and black terracotta ornaments. Four more brick commercial buildings complete the group. All are three stories high, retaining most of their Victorian exterior trim.

The Green:

The Green, historically and architecturally, is the best-known part of the district. The open square, originally a town market ground, has been a landscaped park since 1846. State Street bisects it, and a roadway outlines its perimeter. During the eighteenth century, the square was surrounded by both brick and frame structures. Few of these early buildings have survived in their original form. Many were remodelled and embellished and some have been torn down and replaced. The eighteenth-century structures that remain in their original state are the Small Frame House, the Old State House, the Parke-Ridgely House, row of three houses (18-22 The Green), and the Terry, Terry, and Jackson Law Office.

The Small Frame House (8) is the oldest documented frame structure on the Green, built before 1793. It is a two-bay, one-and-a-half-story frame house with a pitched roof broken by two shed-roofed dormers. It is typical of the small frame structures that lined the Green during the eighteenth century. The only other intact early frame structure on the Green is the Terry, Terry, and Jackson Law Office (31), built after 1790 in the Federal style. It is a three-bay, clapboard structure with a pitched roof broken by arched dormers. The frontispiece of the main doorway contains a fanlight and arched pediment.

The Parke-Ridgely House (15) is the earliest documented house on the Green. A portion of it dates to around 1728. It has been enlarged and remodelled, but much of its eighteenth-century exterior and interior detail remains. Glazed headers embellish the Flemish-bond brickwork. The main part of the house is five bays, while the office wing to the north is two bays. This office has been raised from a single-story wing to two stories and is now covered by the rebuilt main roof. Extensive additions have been added to the rear.

The row of three houses (18-22 The Green) are of brick, Federal in style, built late in the eighteenth century. The Rodney House (25) incorporates an eighteenth-century structure within its walls, but the present structure is essentially the result of a rebuilding around 1812. The Old State House (11) at the east end of the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

Green was built between 1788 and 1792. Although greatly altered through its long history, it is now being restored to its original appearance; it is already registered.

Around the middle of the nineteenth century, the Green changed in appearance and function from a market square to a landscaped park. In like manner, many of the houses on the Green were either remodelled in the latest styles or torn down and replaced by structures of contemporary styles.

The Dr. James Sykes House (9) in the southeast corner of the Green was originally built between 1812 and 1815. During the 1850's it was completely remodelled in the Italianate style. The roof was raised to add a third floor. Pressed brick was added to the facade, and marble to the fireplaces; elaborate plasterwork embellished the ceilings. A new stone frontispiece was added to the front door.

Likewise, the Joshua Fisher House in the southwest corner of the Green was remodelled in the same style at the same time as the Sykes House. Around 1790 Fisher built a brick house on the lot. In the 1850's Joseph P. Comegys remodelled and virtually replaced it with the present house. The interior is Italianate, with high ceilings, graceful elaborate stairway, a Greek entrance hall, marble fireplace surrounds, and elaborate ceiling plasterwork. This house also has a stone frontispiece. The Italianate style is also evident in other structures on the Green including the Henry Stout House (20), 10 The Green (21), the Kirk Building (13), and the Hope Building (14).

During the 1850's a bank, a church, and a public office building were built on the Green. The former Baptist Church (29), now the Century Club, on the south side of the Green is Greek Revival, with its Palladian window, keystone lintels, and classic doorway, finished in 1852. The old Farmers Bank Building (26) and the old County Building (12) reflect similar styles. Both are built of brick in the Italianate idiom.

The pressed brick facade of the bank is laid in mechanical bond and is embellished with a moulded brick border below the bracketed cornice. The three-bay facade is delineated by brick pilasters. Raised brick surrounds embellish the triple arched windows on the first floor and the double arched windows on the second floor. The frontispiece of the arched doorway opening repeats the detailing in the brickwork and cornice. A moulded brick water table marks the basement level. On the south side of the building, a wide veranda with decorative wooden scrollwork and turnings gives access to a frame wing of the main structure. Originally, this wing served as living quarters for a bank officer.

The old County Building is faced entirely in pressed brick laid in mechanical bond. Raised brick pilasters delineate each bay on the front and sides of the building. A raised brick belt course and moulded brick water table mark the first

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

and second floors. Below the cornice is a raised brick border and above each of the double segmentally-arched windows are radiating voussoirs. The center bay of the facade is marked by a cross-gable and pierced by a triple arched window. The pedimented frontispiece of the door echoes in detail the decorative brickwork. The building, which once faced the Green, was moved within this century and rotated on a 90° angle so that it now fronts on Court Street.

During the transformation of the Green, in 1873, the Old State House (11) was greatly altered to conform to the new styles. Soon thereafter, the present Kent County Court House (7) was built in the latest style, but it has since been remodelled in the Georgian style.

The Second Empire style is exemplified by the Captain James P. Wilds House (27) at the west end of the Green. This frame house has a high mansard roof, rusticated siding, dormer windows, and porch; it has changed little since it was built. The First National Bank (19), an older Flemish-bond building, received a mansard roof and ornate lintels at about the same time. It stands on the first Dover jail site.

The Cottage Gothic style is evident in 16 The Green (22); the original eighteenth-century frame house was embellished with cross-gables, scroll trim, and vertical battened siding on the front, while the sides and rear retained clapboard siding.

On the site of the eighteenth-century Chew Mansion stands the 1912 Supreme Court Building (10), a former wing of the State House now being remodelled to become a free-standing structure.

North Street, Governors Avenue, and Water Street:

Three streets on the boundaries of the district have historically been occupied by rental housing, stable yards, servants' quarters, and such light industries as blacksmith shops, granaries, and, later, garages and laundries. These areas today continue in this function. North Street has always been the "back yard" for the Green on the south and for the Lookerman Street commercial district on the north. Today it affords rear access for several Green properties, contains a few nineteenth-century frame rental houses, and such subsidiary facilities as parking lots.

Governors Avenue, formerly High Street, was originally only four blocks long, but was extended late in the nineteenth century to become a main crosstown thoroughfare parallel to State Street.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 6

During the eighteenth century, the properties on the east side of Governors Avenue were backs of the Green and King Street properties. During the nineteenth century, frame houses were built along the street, largely for rental. At least two houses were moved from other parts of town. Inhabitants of the blocks behind the Green were largely white, working-class. Business places have always been interspersed among the houses along this street. North of Water Street, a majority of the original nineteenth-century houses still stand, mixed with business establishments. In this area also is found Meeting House Square, site of the Delaware State Museum, a National Register property outside the district.

The present course of South Street is a short distance south of its eighteenth-century location. The street's present location is on higher ground than the original planned site, which would have been in the bed of Meeting House Branch. The valley of the Branch, now largely occupied by the Division of Highways yard, was Dover's first industrial district. The branch was once dammed to provide power. A sawm a basket factory, tanyards, and other industries were built along the branch. Archaeological remains probably survive under the fill, since modern grade is much higher than the original and foundations are shallow. Upstream, Meeting house Branch was polluted by gas plant waste, which gave it the nickname of "Tar Ditch." Effluvia from the tar and the tanyard eventually caused an indignant citizen to buy and fill in the tan pits and caused the town fathers to reroute the branch through a sewer. Elm Terrace, a modern residential street on the approximate original route of South Street east of State, is built over fill dumped in former tan pits. The west end of Elm Terrace stands on fill over the original swampy tract laid out for a church square on the 1717 plan. The east end of Elm Terrace lies over a part of the valley of Meeting House Branch that is thought to have been a dock. The archaeological remains of the dock are probably covered by fill.

Water Street west of State Street contained at least one small house during the eighteenth century. A few still survive as a neat black residential block between State Street and Governors Avenue. On the 1717 plan, Water Street should have been Long Street, the 150'-wide avenue to the river. At King Street, a square was originally planned but abandoned when the Green was laid out in 1722. On the rear of the 200-acre townsite, Eden Hill, a National Register property, was built as a visual termination for the west end of Water Street. West of the present Penn-Central tracks, this original street is now an unused avenue of trees leading to the front of the house.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 7

DOVER GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

1. John Banning House, Old Academy K-218 (529 South State Street), 1770's house and shop, brick, Georgian.
2. 509 South State Street K-375, 19th century, frame.
3. Vaughn Law Office K-376 (507 South State Street), 19th century, frame, Cottage Gothic.
4. Christ Church K-106 (South State and Water streets), early-18th-century, brick church, Georgian, National Register of Historic Places.
5. Bradford-Loockerman House K-104 (419 South State Street), ca. 1747, brick, Georgian, National Register of Historic Places.
6. Eagle Tavern, Murphey House K-377 (417 South State Street), before 1791, brick tavern house, Georgian, nominated to National Register of Historic Places.
7. Kent County Court House K-296 (South State Street and the Green), 1875, brick, neo-Georgian.
8. Small Frame House K-217 (49 The Green), before 1791, frame.
9. Dr. James Sykes House K-226 (45 The Green), 1812-1815 and remodelled 1850's, brick, Federal and Italianate.
10. Supreme Court Building, Site of Chew Mansion K-323 (East end of the Green), 20th century, brick, neo-Georgian.
11. Old State House K-115 (East end of the Green), 1790, brick, Georgian.
12. Old County Building, Welfare Building K-363 (Court Street), 1858, brick, Italianate.
13. Hope Building K-366 (21 The Green), 1850's, brick, Italianate.
14. Kirk Building K-224 (15 The Green), 1858, brick, Italianate.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 8

DOVER GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

15. Parke-Ridgely House K-206 (9 The Green), c. 1728, brick, vernacular.
16. Parke Building, Capitol Hotel K-212 (3 The Green), 1830's, brick, Italianate.
17. 321-301 South State Street K-212, 19th century, brick, Italianate.
18. 300-312 South State Street K-367, 19th century, brick row.
19. First National Bank Building K-367 (4 The Green), 19th century, brick, Second Empire.
20. Henry Stout House K-368 (8 The Green), 19th century, brick, Italianate.
21. 10 The Green K-315, 19th century, brick Italianate.
22. 16 The Green K-369, 18th century, frame, Cottage Gothic embellishments added 19th century.
23. Row of three houses K-210 (18-22 The Green), 18th century, brick Federal, with later additions and alterations.
24. 24 The Green K-370, early 19th century, brick, Federal.
25. Rodney House, Watson House K-215 (26 The Green), late 18th century, brick, Federal.
26. Old Farmers' Bank Building K-225 (30 The Green), 1850's, brick, Italianate.
27. Captain James P. Wilds House, Site of Manlove Homestead K-211 (34 The Green), 1870's, frame, Second Empire.
28. Joshua Fisher House K-220 (36 The Green), 1790, brick, remodelled extensively 1850's, Italianate.
29. Baptist Church, Dover Century Club K-214 (The Green), 1852, brick, Greek revival.
30. 46 The Green K-371, 19th century, frame.
31. Terry, Terry, and Jackson Law Office K-223 (48 The Green), 18th century, frame, Federal.

Form No. 10-300a  
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 9

DOVER GREEN HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

32. 54 The Green K-372, 19th century, brick, Federal.
33. Allee Building K-373 (South State Street and the Green), 20th century, brick, neo-Georgian.
34. McDowell-Collins Store House K-345 (408 South State Street), 19th century, frame.
35. 410 South State Street K-378, 19th century, brick.
36. Schmittinger and Rodriguez Law Office K-379 (414 South State Street), 20th century, brick, neo-Georgian.
37. 420 South State Street K-380, 20th century, brick, neo-Georgian.
38. King Dougall Store House K-381 (424 South State Street), 18th century, brick.
39. King Dougall House K-365 (426 South State Street), 18th century, brick.
40. LeFevre House K-232 (436 South State Street), 18th century, brick, Georgian.
41. Christ Church Rectory K-219 (502 South State Street), 18th century, brick, Georgian.
42. 508, 512, 516-518 South State Street K-231 and K-382, 18th and 19th centuries, frame.
43. Industrial Complex
44. Row of 19th-century houses on South Governors Avenue.
45. 19th century North Street structures.

## B SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dover Green Historic District has retained its original character since it was laid out in 1722. Although individual buildings have been replaced or altered, land-use has remained constant, and new buildings have been compatible with existing construction.

#### Government:

In 1683, William Penn first introduced the idea of a town to be called Dover as the court town for Kent. The scheme for broad parks and avenues in Dover was similar to Penn's contemporary plan for Philadelphia. The county bought 200 acres of a tract called Brothers Portion in 1694 and erected a court house shortly thereafter. Streets, squares, and lots were laid out in 1717, but there is record of only one lot sold at that time. In 1722, a new court house was built on the highest part of town. A new court house square, now called the Green, was established there.

Two other squares, Church Square and Meeting House Square, also appeared on the 1717 plan. Like the original 1717 Court House Square, the Church Square was found to be unsatisfactory; around 1734, its location also was shifted to higher ground. Long Street, originally planned at 150 feet wide, was narrowed to 60 feet. Even though the plan was altered and simplified, it remained the rigid gridiron that was to characterize American towns thereafter.

The old court house was sold in 1723 to John Lindsay, who established a tavern there. After the tavern complex burned in the 1860's, Kent County reacquired part of the site, where the present court house was built in 1875.

A scheme to replace the 1722 court house was interrupted by the Revolution. In 1777, the British threat to New Castle caused the capital to be moved to Dover. In 1788, the proposed new court house was begun, but now it was to serve both the state and the county. Until the county vacated its interest in 1873, the State House served both levels of government, and after 1829, also served as town hall. In 1856, the county built a new Italianate office building, designed by Alonzo Reynolds, next to the State House. Moved to a site a short distance away, this structure is now the Welfare Building. The court house of 1875 was originally a three-story building, now reduced to two stories and heavily remodelled in the neo-Georgian taste.

Public offices now occupy other buildings on the Green that were built as business or residential structures. However, these structures have retained their earlier outward appearance.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Architectural:

Around 1849, the character of the Public Square changed radically. Formal plantings and grass transformed the market square into a formal park. The weekly markets moved out of the district, and continue today on a private lot at the west end of South Street.

Soon thereafter, most of the buildings on the Green were replaced or altered. The result of this rebuilding was the mid-Victorian architecture that characterizes the Green.

A public building, a bank, a commercial building, and a church built during this period still stand on the Green, virtually unaltered.

The Farmers Bank in the 1850's replaced its former quarters with a large brick building on the west side of the square. The county building and its near neighbor, the Kirk Building, were built at this time. A Baptist church and several new residences also were built on the square during the period. Several other houses were rebuilt, practically from the ground up.

Another period of prosperity, twenty years later, saw three mansard roofs built on the Green, reflecting the Second Empire style. Two of these mansards, on the State House and the First National Bank, were parts of massive modernizations. The third crowns the Wilds mansion, which replaced the old Manlove homestead next to the Farmers Bank.

For the ornate styles of the Victorian architecture, the block of State Street between the Green and North Street offers several examples, notably the Central Law Building of 1888, a skilled example of embellished and colored brickwork.

During the twentieth century, three examples of the prevailing Georgian-revival style have appeared: the remodelled court house, the wings of the State House, and the Allee Building at 44 The Green. The Allee Building is a copy of the house in Philadelphia where the Declaration of Independence was drafted.

Social/Humanitarian:

As the center of county and state affairs, the old heart of Dover has witnessed the presence of nationally-known figures. The Reverend Charles Inglis, who was at Dover from 1759 to 1764, later became first Bishop of Nova Scotia. His wife and infant child are buried in Christ Church graveyard. Francis Asbury, one of the first Methodist bishops, preached at the court house and took Holy Communion at Christ Church from his friend Samuel Magaw, the rector. Magaw and his Presbyterian colleague, John Miller, were instrumental in preventing bloodshed between Tory and Continental militia during the uprising of June 1776, Black Monday. Asbury's colleague, Richard Whatcoat, died on the Green at the home of Richard Bassett, where the old Farmers Bank building now stands.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

Mount Vernon owes its survival in great measure to Mrs. Joseph P. Comegys, who looked after the property while Ann Pamela Cunningham, Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, was isolated behind Confederate lines. Her daughter, Harriet Comegys, served as regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union between 1909 and 1929. Their house is the Joshua Fisher House at 36 The Green.

Mabel Lloyd Ridgely, who lived in the Parke-Ridgely House, was instrumental in the preservation and the 1912 restoration of the Old State House. Throughout her life she led efforts for the preservation of Dover's heritage. She was the founder of the Friends of Old Dover, the local historical society which works for the preservation of Dover Green and surrounding area. Mrs. Ridgely was a member of the Public Archives Commission for more than a half-century; she was largely responsible for shaping Delaware's official policy toward historical matters.

Education:

One of the best-known educators to live in the district was Judge Willard Hall, acclaimed the founder of Delaware's free school system. His house, the former Eagle Tavern, stands a block from the John Banning house, which served as Dover's academy and later as a free public school.

Political:

John M. Clayton was the most famous statesman to live in the district. He lived for a time in the now-demolished Chew Mansion; he is said to have had his first office in the Dr. James Sykes House. He died at the home of George Truitt Fisher, known as the Joshua Fisher House, and is buried at Meeting House Square. Clayton is best known for his role in framing the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, which paved the way for an American canal across Panama.

Caesar Rodney, whose famous ride to Philadelphia in July of 1776 put Delaware on record for independence, lived in a house at the corner of the Green and Bank Lane that survives in part within a later structure.

Lincoln's proposal for compensated emancipation, a last vain attempt to avoid war, was carried to Delaware slaveholders by George P. Fisher, a resident of the Green. Fisher was unsuccessful, but Lincoln appointed him Chief Justice of the District of Columbia as compensation for a faithful service in which he suffered considerable abuse. Fisher is also known for his recollections, a valuable source document in Dover history.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

Richard Bassett, a signer of the Constitution, lived in a house where the Old Farmers Bank now stands. He also owned the LeFevre House at State and Water streets, the only Delaware house still standing that is associated with him.

Historical Archaeology:

Since land-use records in the Dover Green district are virtually complete, the district lends itself to study by social historians. Since the seventeenth century, new construction in the district has continued on a small scale, unlike other established eastern urban centers where sites have been obliterated by subsequent large buildings. This combination of scale, documentation, and continuity marks the heart of Dover as an ideal research laboratory for historical archaeology. In connection with the Old State House restoration, important archaeological research has already begun. If parts of the Division of Highways property ever are cleared, the industrial sites there should be found. Since Meeting House Branch has been filled in stages since the eighteenth century, the entire southern end of the district must be regarded as a potential archaeological site.

Because of the deep fill and shallow footings, the industrial sites probably remain undisturbed by later intrusions. At least two tanyards, a sawmill, a basket factory, and other water-powered mills have stood here. Below State Street, Meeting House Branch was navigable; the dock area is therefore still subject to archaeological interpretation.

Commerce:

Always in the eighteenth century, taverns surrounded the centers of government. Three such taverns are known to have operated in the district. The Sign of King George (later the Sign of George Washington and then Liberty Hall) stood on the present site of the Kent County Court House. The John Bell family ran the tavern throughout most of the eighteenth century. During the nineteenth century, the tavern complex became a hotel run by William C. Fountain until it burned down in the 1860's. Shortly afterwards, Kent County purchased the property for the present court house.

French Battell's tavern was located on the site of the present Parke Building or Capitol Hotel lot. Here people stayed while the county courts were in session and when the legislature met in Dover. A room in this tavern served as the temporary council chamber before the State House was built. During the nineteenth century, this establishment was completely rebuilt to become the Capitol Hotel.

The Eagle Tavern, or Murphey House, was originally built as a tavern house by the John Bell family, who operated Liberty Hall at the north end of the same lot. John Freeman, husband of Nice Bell, was the first Dover postmaster; it is possible that the Eagle Tavern was the first post office in Dover.



Form No 10-300a  
(Rev 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

There is no record of the place where the Delaware Convention ratified the Constitution on December 7, 1787. The event probably occurred in one of the taverns.

Landscape Architecture:

The Dover Green is an important specimen of the Victorian ideal of a formal town square. Elsewhere in the district, gardens of several periods reflect changing concepts in landscape gardening. The Ridgely and Bradford boxwood mazes were laid out early in the present century, expressing a generation's idea of the "colonial" style. Between the Dr. James Sykes House and the Supreme Court Building is a much older remnant of a boxwood garden. Elm Terrace, a residential street laid out just after the First World War, was Dover's first departure from the gridiron plan, having been laid out on a curve along the bank of Tar Ditch by a trained architect who was conscious of the newest ideas of suburban design.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Beers, D. G., Atlas of the State of Delaware, Philadelphia, 1868.  
 Byles, A. D., Map of Kent County, Delaware, Philadelphia, 1859.  
 deValinger, Leon, Jr., ed., A Calendar of Ridgely Papers, 3 vols. Dover, 1948.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 50.0459  
 UTM REFERENCES

E 1 1 8 | 4 5 5 8 | 4 1 0 | 4 3 3 3 | 8 8 0  
 F 1 8 4 5 4 6 0 0 4 3 3 3 5 4 0

A 1 1 8 | 4 5 4 4 | 4 1 0 | 4 3 3 4 | 0 6 0 | B 1 1 8 | 4 5 4 7 | 1 8 0 | 4 3 3 4 | 1 8 0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C 1 1 8 | 4 5 4 9 | 0 0 0 | 4 3 3 3 | 8 0 0 | D 1 1 8 | 4 5 5 0 | 0 0 0 | 4 3 3 3 | 6 8 0

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The district is bounded on the west by the center line of Governors Avenue; on the north by the center line of North Street; on the east by the center line of Federal Street, the center line of East Street, and by a line continuing the center line of East Street to its intersection with an eastward extension of the center line of South Street; and on the south by the center line of South Street and its eastward projection to a point where it intersects with the southward projection of the center line of East Street.

**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 Susanne N. Fox, Research Archivist;  
Edward F. Heite, Historic Registrar.  
 ORGANIZATION Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs DATE January 1976  
 STREET & NUMBER Hall of Records TELEPHONE 302-678-5314  
 CITY OR TOWN Dover STATE Delaware

**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 Lawrence P. [Signature] DATE 4/23/76  
 TITLE Director, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**  
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 892-493

Form No. 10-300a  
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Fisher, Judge George Purnell, "Recollections of Dover in 1824," Papers of the Historical Society of Delaware, LV, 1909, 6-27, in Historical and Biographical Papers, V.

Fox, Susanne N., Lot 35, ms., Historic Preservation Section, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

Fox, Susanne N., McDowell-Collins Store House, ms., Historic Preservation Section, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

Fox, Susanne N., The John Bullen House, ms., Historic Preservation Section, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

Scharf, J. Thomas, A History of Delaware 1509-1888, Philadelphia, 1888.

Schwartz, Sally, Final Report, ms., Historic Preservation Section, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

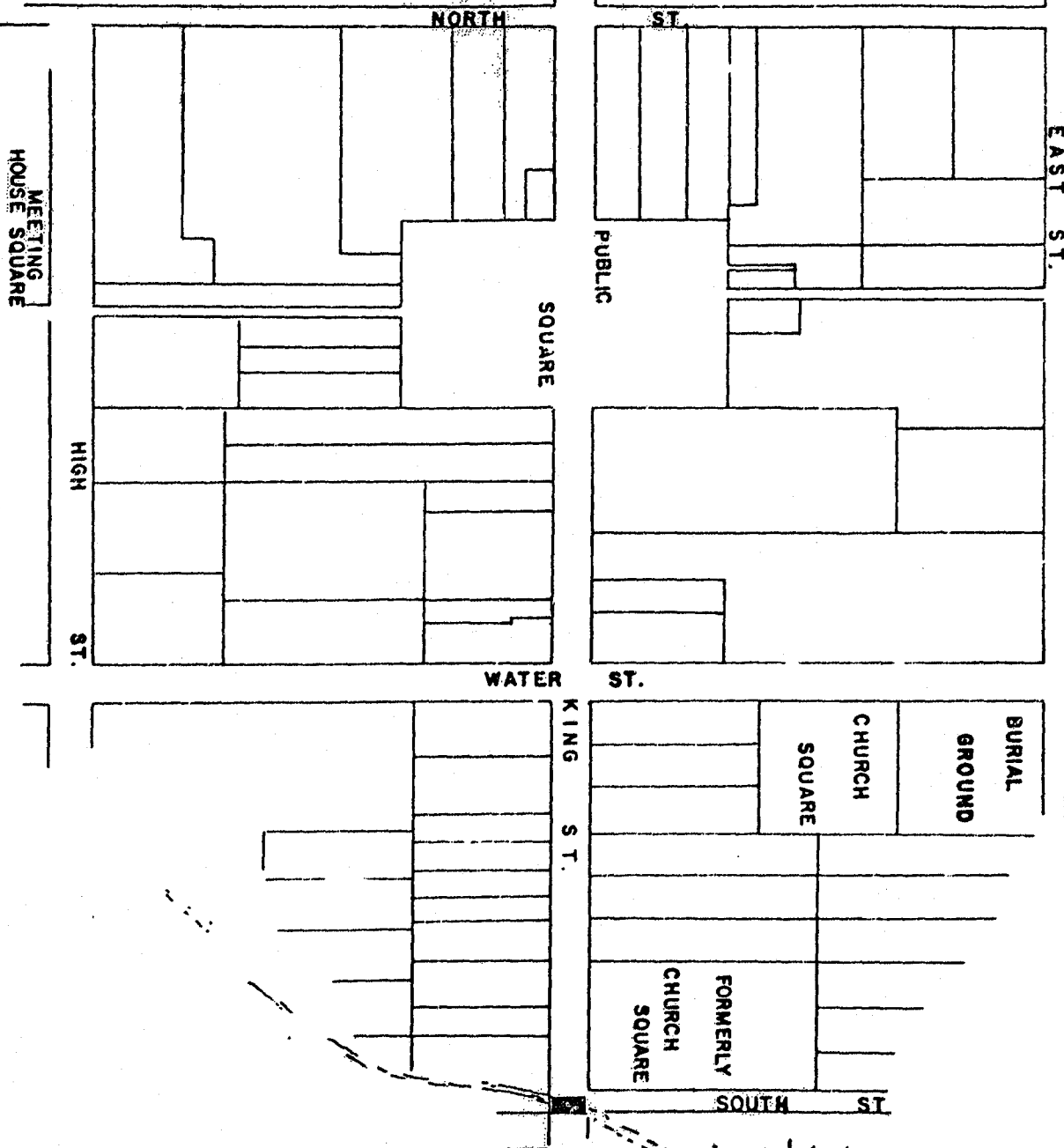
Kent County, Deeds, Wills, Inventories, Orphans Court, and Court of Common Pleas.

Wilson, Emerson, Forgotten Heroes of Delaware, Cambridge, 1969.

Wise, Cara L., Date and Status in Eighteenth-Century Delaware: An Archaeologist's View, paper presented at the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Delaware Academy of Science, November 6, 1975, Newark, Delaware.

MAP I

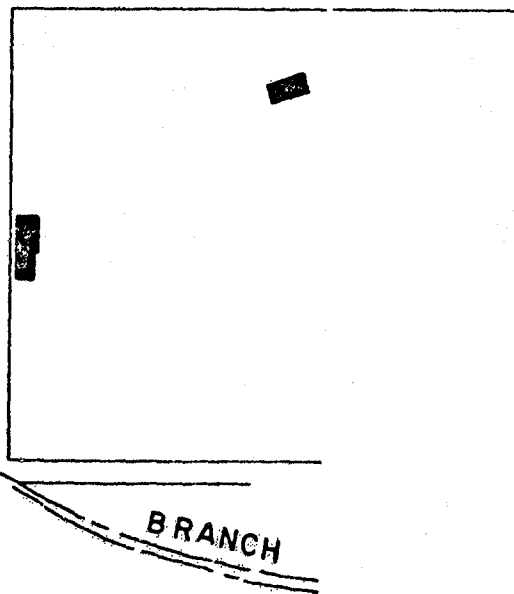
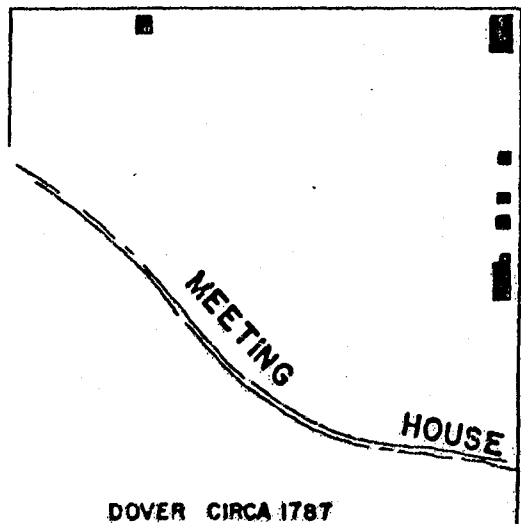
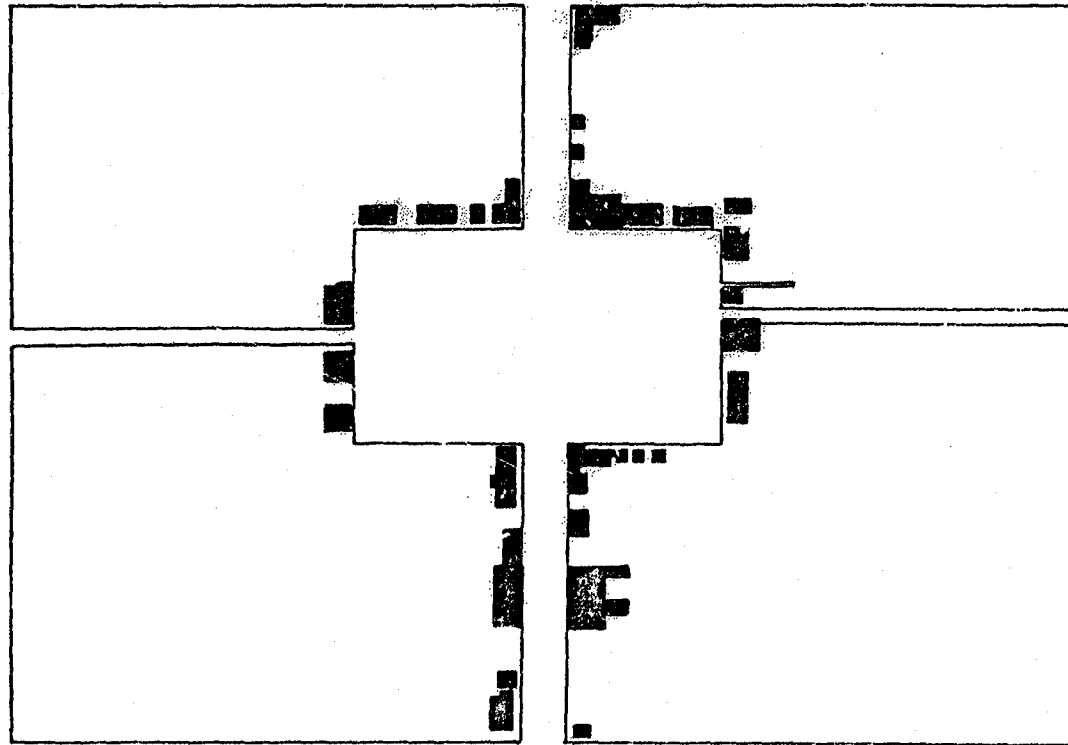
DOVER GREEN DISTRICT

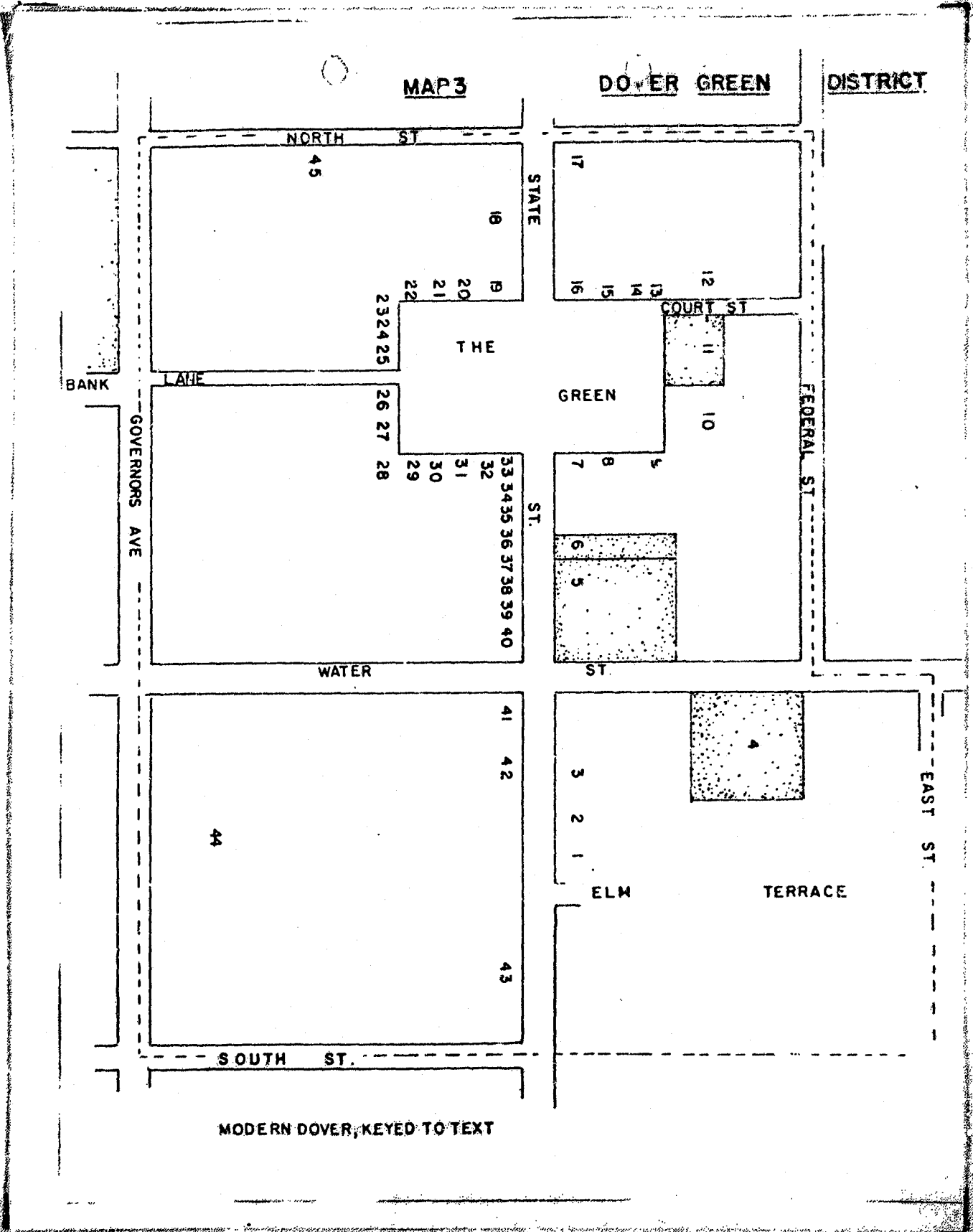


DOVER CIRCA 1787

MAP 2

DOVER GREEN DISTRICT





## Resource 21

Name: French Army Camp 3a

Location: near Stanton Shopping Center on DE SR 4  
Newport, Delaware

Historical significance: Coming from Elkton, Maryland, the First Division of the French Army, more than 2,000 officers and men up to 1,000 horses and oxen, camped on this site on 29/30 August 1782. The Second Division camped here the following night of 30/31 August 1782.

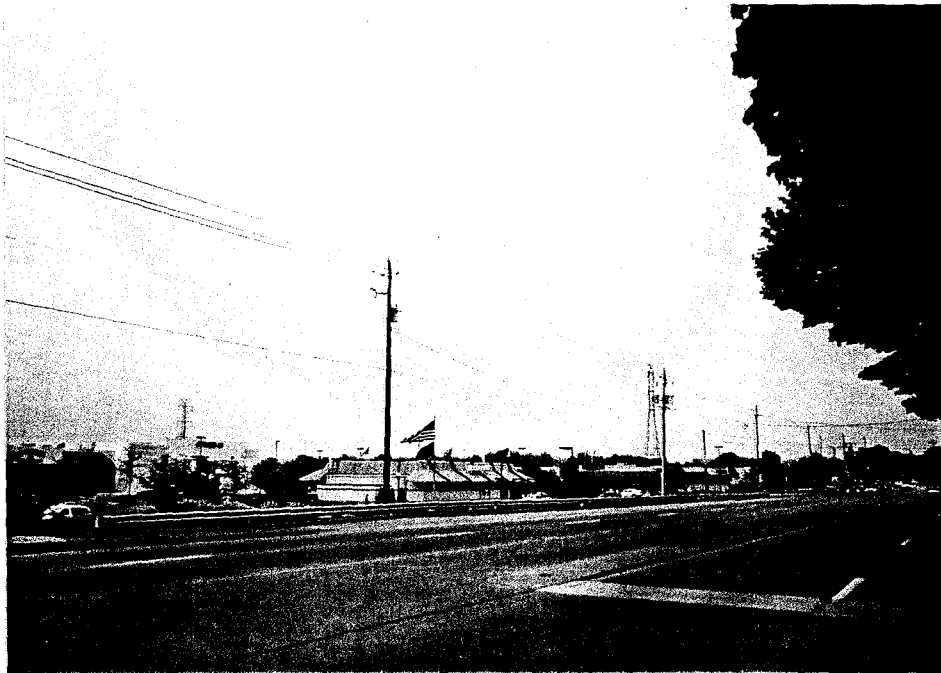
Recommendation: The site is not marked in relation to the W3R. Proper identification of the site could be undertaken by the State of Delaware, the county or a local historical society, or a fraternal community group such as the DAR, SAR, Society of the Cincinnati, or by the Souvenir Français.

Sources: The campsite is identified in the series of encampment maps drawn by Louis-Alexandre Berthier and reproduced in Rice and Brown, *American Campaigns*, Vol. 2, Map 135.

Ella W. Johnson, *Story of Newport, a square little town in the state of Delaware* (Wilmington, 1963).

Note: see **Resource 16**.

**RESOURCE 21**



**Name: French Army Camp 3a**

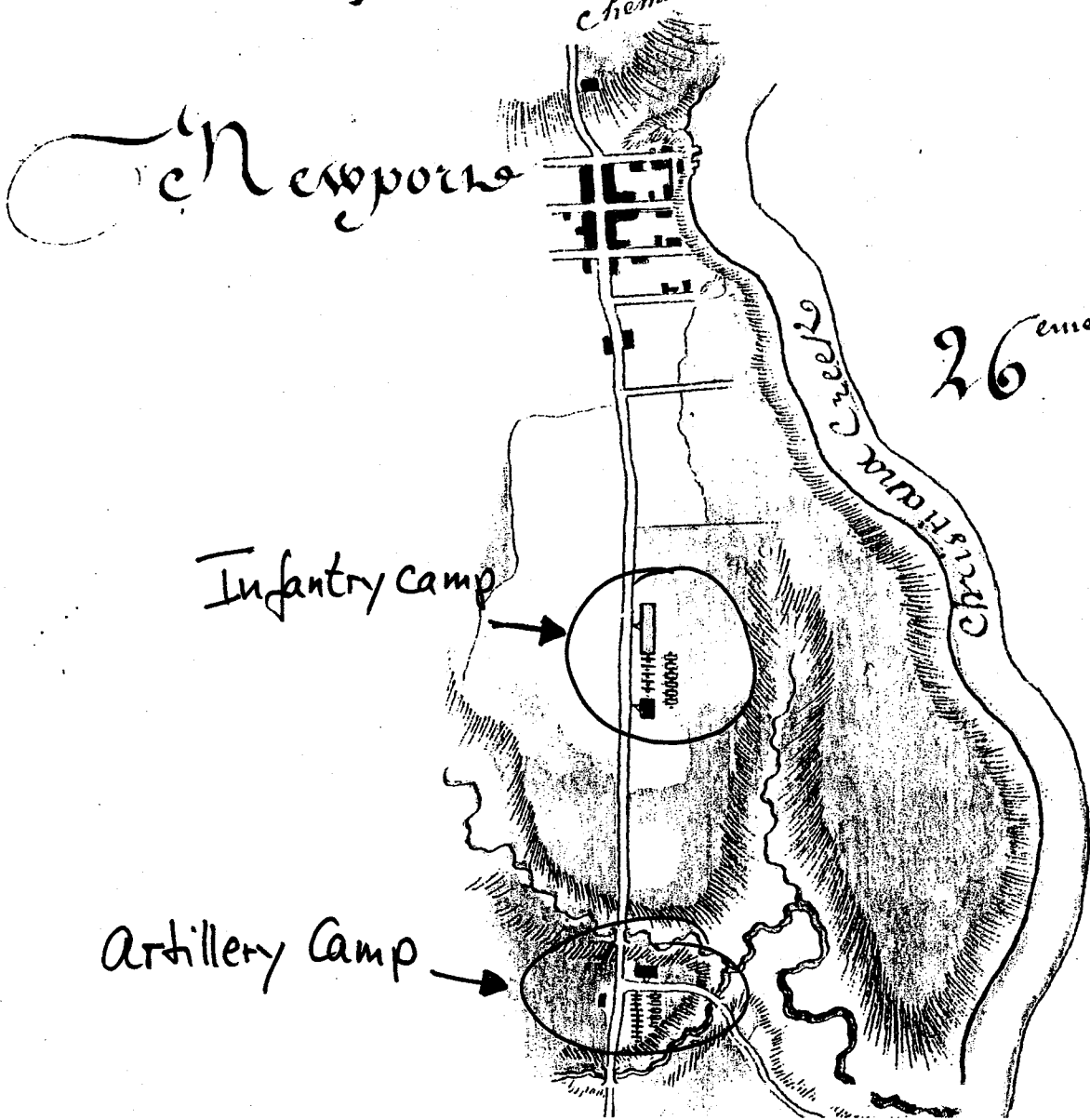
**Location: near Stanton Shopping Center on DE SR 4  
Newport, Delaware**



25<sup>eme</sup> Camp a Newport le 29 Clous. 16 Miles 1782

à l'Head of Elk

Note: This map shows the Campsites for 1782. The campsites in the fall of 1781 were at almost the same location.



26<sup>eme</sup> Camp à Chester le 30 à 15 Miles de New

Howard C. Rice, Jr., and Anne S. K. Brown, eds.,  
*The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783*  
 2 vols., (Princeton and Providence, 1972), vol. 2.

in De. Philadelphia

## Resource 22

Name: French Army Camp 3b

Location: Vicinity of Honeysuckle Drive  
Newport, Delaware

Historical significance: Coming from Elkton, Maryland, the artillery of the First Division of the French Army camped on this site on 29/30 August 1782. The artillery of the Second Division camped here the following night of 30/31 August 1782.

Recommendation: The site is not marked in relation to the W3R. Proper identification of the site could be undertaken by the State of Delaware, the county or a local historical society, or a fraternal community group such as the DAR, SAR, Society of the Cincinnati, or by the Souvenir Français.

Sources: The campsite is identified in the series of encampment maps drawn by Louis-Alexandre Berthier and reproduced in Rice and Brown, *American Campaigns*, Vol. 2, Map 135.

Ella W. Johnson, *Story of Newport, a square little town in the state of Delaware* (Wilmington, 1963).

Note: see **Resource 17**.

**RESOURCE 22**

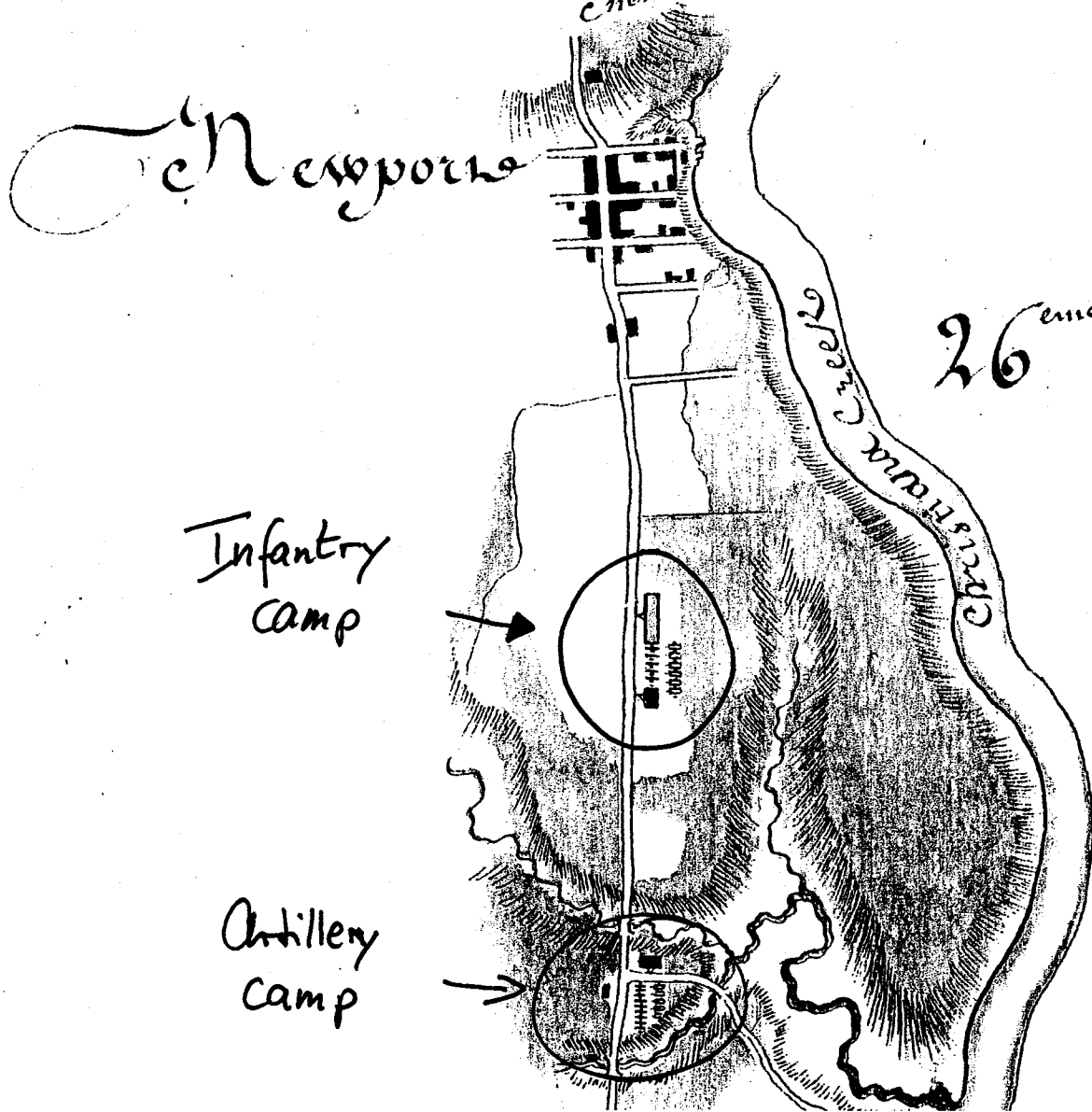


**Name: French Army Camp 3b**

**Location: Vicinity of Honeysuckle Drive  
Newport, Delaware**

25<sup>eme</sup> Camp à Newport le 29 Oubon 16 Miles  $\frac{1}{2}$   
à l'Head of Elk

1782



26<sup>eme</sup> Camp à Chester le 30 à  
15 Miles de New

Howard C. Rice, Jr., and Anne S. K. Brown, eds.,  
*The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army,*  
1780, 1781, 1782, 1783  
2 vols., (Princeton and Providence, 1972), vol. 2.

in De Philadelphia

## Resource 23

Name: Cantwell's Bridge/Brick Tavern Site

Location: Historic Houses of Odessa  
Corner of Main and Second Streets  
Odessa, Delaware

Historical significance: Coming from "Duck Creek," modern-day Smyrna, where they had spent the night of 15/16 September 1782, baron de Vioménil and his party had lunch at Cantwell's Bridge, modern-day Odessa. Expenses for lunch were 90 livres.

Cantwell's Bridge had 17 households and 149 inhabitants in 1780. The town changed its name to Odessa in 1855.

Recommendation: The site is not marked in relation to the W3R. Proper identification of the site could be undertaken by the State of Delaware, the county or a local historical society, or a fraternal community group such as the DAR, SAR, Society of the Cincinnati, or by the Souvenir Français.

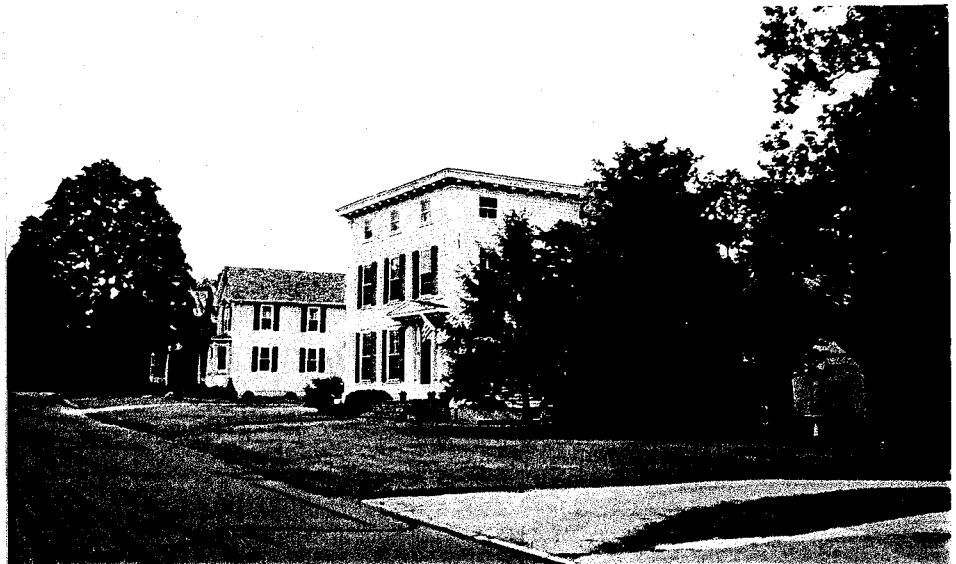
Source: The identification of the tavern site is based on J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Delaware 1609-1888* (Philadelphia, 1888), p. 1011:

The first hotel stood on the brink of the hill near the residence of Shoemaker. It was a one-story frame building with a hip roof, and was about forty feet square. It was last used as a hotel in 1825, and was torn down about twenty years ago. In 1797 a license for an inn in the village of Cantwell's Bridge was granted to Mary Calhoun, who had kept the hotel for some time. Some of the early proprietors were Morton Hutchinson, Capt. Wm. Brady in 1815, Wm. P. Cochran, Amelia Cooke, Daniel Hains and James Henry, the last proprietor. The house was owned by Morton Hutchinson till 1820, when he sold it to Wm. Polk.

A personal communication from Mr. Steven Pulinka of the Historic Houses of Odessa further clarifies this point"

Scharf "describes an area on the corner of Front and Main Streets, near a location where there is an incongruous 18th century smoke house and an early barn - but no inn. The Taylor house is believed to be located on the original spot and is an 1850's victorian. It was at the top of the hill, below which was the bridge and port of Cantwell's Bridge. In 1782, Cantwell's was a notable inland port of about 300 people; the Appoquinimink River was from the Delaware Bay, as far as Noxontown Pond; and could link up with the Bohemia River, in the Chesapeake by a short portage along Herman's Cartroad to Cantwell's."

**RESOURCE 23**



**Name: Cantwell's Bridge/Brick Tavern Site**

**Location: Historic Homes of Odessa  
Corner of Main and Second Streets  
Odessa, Delaware**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Odessa Historic District - An Amendment

and/or common

2. Location

street & number NA NA not for publication

city, town Odessa NA vicinity of

state Delaware code 10 county New Castle code 002

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (See owners list)

street & number NA

city, town NA NA vicinity of state Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New Castle County Recorder of Deeds

street & number City/County Building 800 French Street

city, town Wilmington state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Delaware Cultural Resource  
title Survey (N-126) has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981 federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
Old State House, The Green

city, town Dover state Delaware

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 Odessa Historic District is situated in the southeastern portion of St. Georges Hundred, 23 miles south of Wilmington and 23 miles north of Dover on U.S. Route 13. The district as amended comprises 95 architecturally or historically significant buildings within an area totaling approximately 61 acres. The area originally nominated includes 41 buildings in a rectangularly-shared area bounded roughly by Appoquinimink Creek on the southeast, High Street on the northeast, 4th Street on the northwest and Main Street (State Road 299) on the southwest. The newly added area includes 54 buildings located west of the original district along or immediately adjacent to Main, High, 5th and 6th (U.S. Route 13) Streets. Except for modern residential and commercial development to the south, Odessa is still largely surrounded by the open fields, meadows, wetlands and forests that characterized its nineteenth century setting. Dating from the mid-eighteenth century to the early twentieth century, the district's buildings represent varied styles including Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Gothic, and Bungalow. A number of vernacular buildings are also represented. Of the 95 buildings included in the district, 80 percent are frame and 20 percent are brick. Primarily residential in character, the district contains three commercial structures, three churches, one school administration building and three house museums. Twelve non-contributing major buildings (12.6%) have been included in the district. While many of the district's buildings have been altered, particularly by the addition of rear wings and occasionally with the enclosure of a porch, they retain the essential physical features that enable them to convey their architectural character. As a group, these buildings provide a consistent image of the town during its historical development.

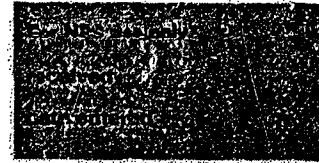
In the latter half of the eighteenth century, settlement was concentrated on the south side of Main Street in close proximity to the Appoquinimink Creek at the town's eastern edge. In 1821, the area north of Main Street was laid out in a simple grid pattern. Subsequent development occurred along the two principal streets - Main and High. With few exceptions, principally those facing 6th and Front Streets, most of the district's buildings face the two main streets. The majority of these buildings were constructed between 1840 and 1870, though the district itself encompasses buildings as early as 1700-25 and as late as 1925.

Examination of historical maps, particularly the 1849 Rea and Price Map of New Castle County and Beer's 1868 Atlas of the State of Delaware, reveals that the area within the historic district has changed very little since mid-nineteenth century. Two factors have caused the most significant changes to the historic area since that time. One of these, the construction of the DuPont Highway (U.S. Route 13; Fifth and Sixth Streets) through the western portion of the town in the 1920's has contributed to building deterioration, especially along Sixth Street. At the intersection of Fifth Street and Main it has resulted in the loss of building stock south of Main Street, in the vicinity of a modern State Police barracks. Another factor that has affected the character of the district is the restoration work undertaken in the 1930's and later. While this process has resulted in the preservation of a number of remarkable eighteenth and early nineteenth century buildings and inspired much of the preservation work throughout the town, it has also resulted in the removal or destruction of several buildings within the restoration areas on Main Street near the Appoquinimink Creek and on High Street at its intersection with Second Street. In 1962 an early eighteenth century, gambrel-roofed frame dwelling was moved from Taylor's Bridge and restored



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

ODESSA HISTORIC DISTRICT N-126

DESCRIPTION

on a lot at the southeast corner of Second and High Streets (.60). In addition, a gambrel-roofed, brick residence (.50) was constructed in 1955 adjacent to the Brick Hotel (.49) using materials left over after restoration of other properties in Odessa. A modern post office and fire company have also provided intrusive elements within the historic district.

Odessa's architectural development includes several significant building periods expressed through various styles dating from 1700-1725 into the first three decades of the twentieth century. Contributing structures are defined as all pre-1933 buildings that possess sufficient integrity so that their scale, massing, fenestration, and detailing convey the character of their particular period of significance. Major structures possess a very high degree of integrity. Even though a number of other buildings that contribute to the district have been altered somewhat by the accumulation of rear wings, the enclosure of a porch, the replacement of windows or the addition of modern siding, they are significant in that they possess the essential form and style of their period and are important to the overall sense of time and place.

Although several of the earliest residential buildings in the Odessa Historic District are of frame construction (see .117), including examples that combine plank with more common structural systems (see .2, .8, .10, and .61), the majority of the surviving eighteenth century buildings were constructed between 1769 and 1775 and are brick (see .1, .3, .3A, .4, .5, .6 and .11). These tend to be two-and-a-half story, Georgian structures, with four or five bay facades and gable roofs. A notable exception is the hipped-roof "Corbit-Sharp House" (see .3).

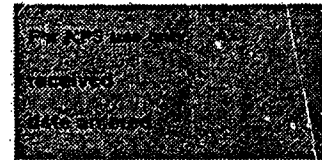
Federal style buildings are brick or frame, two-and-a-half story, gable-roofed, five bay dwellings with entrances topped by a fanlight (.49) or rectangular transom (see .15 or .46).

Greek Revival residential buildings continue the essential form of the federal period. They are two-and-a-half story three or five bay, gabled-roofed, frame dwellings with moulded box cornices, transom and sidelight entrances and classical porticoes (see .37, .45, .96). A moulded hood may be substituted for a portico (.80).

Several variations of the Italianate style are encountered within the historic district. One continues the same two-and-a-half story, gabled-roofed, three or five bay dwelling type seen elsewhere in the district with Federal or Greek Revival decorative detailing. The distinctive decorative feature of the Italianate buildings is the bracketed roofline of the main block (.81) and occasionally of a portico (.71). Italianate dwellings of this type may also be constructed with brick (.17). Another variation of the frame Italianate building is an L-shaped, corner lot dwelling with gable ends facing the street and a bracketed porch covering the angle of the L (.87). Also within the district may be found the squarish, low-hipped roof, two or two-and-a-half story dwelling traditionally associated with the Italianate style.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

ODESSA HISTORIC DISTRICT N-126

DESCRIPTION

Bracketed friezes, transom and sidelight door surrounds and eyebrow windows distinguish this mode. It can be constructed in frame with a minimum of architectural detailing (.57, .65) or may be built of brick and elaborately decorated with large scroll brackets to emphasize the broad overhanging eave, belt courses, stone or cast iron window lintels and sills, ornate porches sheltering transom and sidelight doorways with a cross-topped surround or a moulded hood with carved brackets (see .47, .95). A very fine commercial adaptation of the Italianate style is the bank building at the corner of Second and Main Streets (.48). It is common throughout the district to encounter buildings combining Greek Revival and Italianate features (.95).

The Gothic Revival is represented by only a few residential examples. They are generally two-and-a-half story, gable-roofed frame dwellings that may have a central cross-gable, pointed arch attic windows, ornate porches and additional decorative detailing provided by bargeboard trim, pendants and a central finial at each gable peak (see .10, .16, .43 and .86).

The Bungalow appears in the 1920's. Examples are one or one-and-a-half story, gable-roofed or cross-gabled frame dwellings with enclosed full facade porches (see .13, .23).

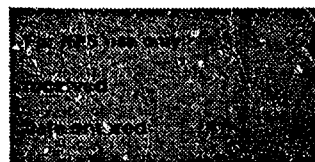
The three religious buildings included within the district reflect styles indicative of the period in which they were erected. The earliest, dating from 1781, is Georgian (.25). An 1851-52 church is in the Greek Revival style (.70) and the most recent built 1881 is Gothic (.24).

By 1860, building within the area of the historic district was largely complete. Exceptions include the block bounded by Fourth Street, High Street, Fifth Street and Warren's Alley as well as the area north of Main Street, west of Sixth Street. Buildings in this area continue the vernacular tradition of a two-and-a-half story, gable-roofed, two or three bay, single-pile plan with rear addition and full-facade porch. Most were erected in the 1830's (see .22, .29, .78, .88, .89, .90, .91).

Odessa's principal street, Main Street, presents a diverse array of architectural styles and building functions. While essentially residential, building uses along this broad, tree-lined thoroughfare include all three of the district's commercial buildings, two religious buildings, a school district administration building and three house museums. A modern church, State Police barracks and volunteer fire company are not included in this discussion because of their non-contributory nature but are noted to acknowledge the effect of their varied functions on the character of the streetscape. Along Main Street are located the majority of the district's brick buildings, which also comprise a collection of the earliest buildings within the district. East of Fourth Street, in the initial settlement area and in the area most affected by the process of restoration are notable examples of eighteenth century Georgian design.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 4

ODESSA HISTORIC DISTRICT N-126

DESCRIPTION

These include the 1772 Corbit-Sharp House and the late eighteenth century Wilson-Warner House (.3 and .4). Also located on the south side of Main Street in this same area are three examples of plank or log construction dating from the eighteenth century or early nineteenth centuries. These are the Loven House (.2), the Starr-Lore House (.8) and the R. Metts or Ennis House (.10). Each is characterized by the elaboration of the basic plank or log core by an additive frame element. In the case of the R. Metts House, the plank component is consequently obscured by the reorientation to a center-hall plan, the application of German siding and the introduction of a cross-gable as well as other Gothic-style exterior ornamental devices.

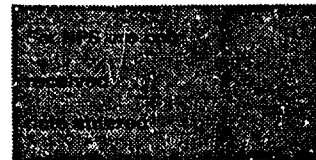
Across Main Street, east of Fourth Street, there exists a mixture of architectural types and styles. This area was platted in 1821 with subsequent building reflective of current architectural styles. In the section between Front and Second Streets, the Federal period Brick Hotel (.49) is flanked by a non-contributing modern, Colonial Revival brick dwelling (.50). Between Second and Third Streets there are examples of the Federal style, such as the circa-1824 brick Davis House and Store (.46); an example of the transition from the Federal to Greek Revival styles as seen in the 1840, frame Odd Corners (.45); and Italianate structures like the John Zelefro Crouch House constructed in 1854 (.47) or the Samuel Sloan designed 1853, New Castle National Bank of Odessa (.48). The latter is one of only three commercial buildings included within the district.

With the exception of the 1844 Academy building on the northeast corner of Fourth and Main Streets, the five buildings on Main Street between Third and Fourth Streets are residential, though originally they may have been built for a non-residential purpose. An example is the Redmen's Hall (.42), built as a fraternal lodge. These buildings are predominately frame, though the Academy is brick and the Mrs. M. Townsend House (.41) is nogged with brick and stone. The frame buildings between Fourth and Fifth (U.S. Route 13) Streets on the north side of Main were built between 1840 and 1860 and follow a two-and-a-half story, gable-roofed, side-hall plan that occurs with some frequency in that portion of the district west of Fourth Street. Across Main Street only one dwelling, a circa 1925 bungalow, has been included within the district boundary. It is flanked by a modern church and a modern State Police barracks.

The south side of Main between Fifth and Sixth Streets (U.S. Route 13) consists of four dwellings of markedly different character constructed between 1840 and 1880. J. H. Cannon House (.15) is a circa 1840-1850 two-and-a-half story, five-bay, center-hall, gable-roofed frame dwelling with segmental arched dormers. Immediately west is the circa 1860 "W. Briscoe House" (.16), an L-shaped, frame dwelling with Gothic detailing. It is flanked on the west by the circa 1847 M. Gremminger House (.17), a two-and-a-half story, five-bay, center-hall, gable-roofed brick dwelling with an Italianate bracketed cornice. On the corner lot is a late nineteenth century, two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed frame dwelling (.18).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 5

ODESSA HISTORIC DISTRICT N-126

DESCRIPTION

Two of the district's three commercial buildings dominate the north side of Main Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets. These are the circa 1855, brick Aspril's Blacksmith Shop (.34) and the frame Lynch's Market constructed in the late nineteenth century (.30).

West of Sixth Street on both the north and south side of Main Street there are a number of mid-to-late nineteenth century, two-and-a-half story, gable-roofed, frame dwellings. The mixture of building types and styles, that characterize much of the Main Street portion of the district is evident here as well. Forming the western terminus of the district is the Heller House (.117) a plank dwelling erected in the third quarter of the eighteenth century with a nineteenth century frame addition. Immediately east is the circa 1781 brick Appoquinimink Friends Meeting House (.25) and the brick, Gothic-style Zoar M. E. Church constructed in 1881 (.24).

The dwellings along Sixth Street between Main and Osborne Streets date between 1845 and 1900. Most are two-and-a-half story, three, four or five-bay, single-pile, frame, gable-roofed structures. An exception is the Italianate, three-bay hipped-roofed masonry dwelling on the southeast corner of Sixth and Osborne Streets (.112).

High Street, whose tree-lined five blocks parallel Main Street on the north, is almost exclusively residential. Brick construction is encountered only twice, with one of those examples being a church. The south side of High Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets is dominated by the notable Greek Revival Old St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church (.70), a two-story, temple form structure constructed in 1851-52. To the west is the circa 1860 Italianate Methodist Parsonage (.71).

Opposite this block are five dwellings erected in the third quarter of the nineteenth century that vary in form and style from the three-story, hipped-roof, Italianate/Greek Revival J. Appleton House (.82) to the one-and-a-half story, gable-roofed dwelling at 501 1/2 High Street (.85) and includes the elaborate, cross-gabled, two-and-a-half story dwelling with ornate veranda on the corner of High and Sixth Streets (.86). To the rear of this property is a circa 1870, board-and-batten, gable-roofed carriage shed with cupola (.110). Contributing buildings on the south side of High Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets include three, two-and-a-half story, three-bay, gable-roofed frame dwellings erected during the mid-to-late nineteenth century. A mid-nineteenth century, hipped-roof, Italianate dwelling (.65) was moved to its present location from a site on Main Street. The opposite side of the street includes five frame dwellings erected circa 1870 to 1880 and are generally characterized as two-and-a-half story, gable-roofed structures. The earliest structure on this block appears to be the circa 1850 Townsend House (.92).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 6

ODESSA HISTORIC DISTRICT N-126

DESCRIPTION

With the exception of the early twentieth century dwelling at the northeast corner of Fourth and High Streets (.93), the dwellings located between Fourth and Third Streets are indicative of the buildings erected by the mercantile class that prospered in the first half of the nineteenth century. These include the circa 1845 Polk House (.94), the ornate circa 1850 Greek Revival/Italianate Cyrus Polk House (.95) and the 1846, Greek Revival William Polk House (.96). The Tatman House (.62), a circa 1845 Federal period dwelling on the south side of High Street is the sole structure on that block. The circa 1845 Enos House is the only structure situated on the south side of High Street between Third and Second Streets.

The north side of High Street from Third to Front Streets includes a modern, brick library and two modern dwellings that do not contribute to the district. These structures are flanked on the west by a circa 1905 frame dwelling and on the east by four mid-nineteenth century, two-and-a-half story frame dwellings. The earliest is the circa 1845 J. George House (.102). The Collins-Sharp House (.60) is an early eighteenth century plank and frame dwelling moved to this site from the Taylor's Bridge area.

The Front Street streetscape is composed of a diverse group of frame dwellings that includes the circa 1850 R. G. Hayes House (.57), a three-story, three-bay, single-pile, side-hall plan Italianate dwelling with bracketed cornice and pilasters accenting the facade. A brick barn and brick outbuilding distinguish this property.

Three buildings within the district are individually listed in the National Register:

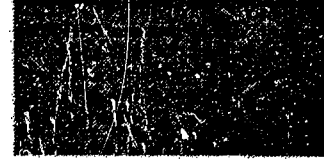
- 1) Corbit-Sharp House (NR 1967) (NHL,.3)
- 2) Appoquinimink Friends Meeting House (NR 1977) (.25)
- 3) Old Salem Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church (NR 1982) (.70)

Justification of Boundaries

In 1969, the town of Odessa adopted a zoning ordinance creating a four-block historic district. The National Register Historic District created in 1971 established boundaries that coincided with these legislated district boundaries. In recent years, the town's historically zoned area was expanded to include the entire town. The new boundaries recognized the historic expansion of the town westward and northward from its eastern terminus near the Appoquinimink Creek. It was not possible to include every property in the town within the amended National Register Historic District boundaries. Whenever possible, intrusive elements, such as the modern

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 7

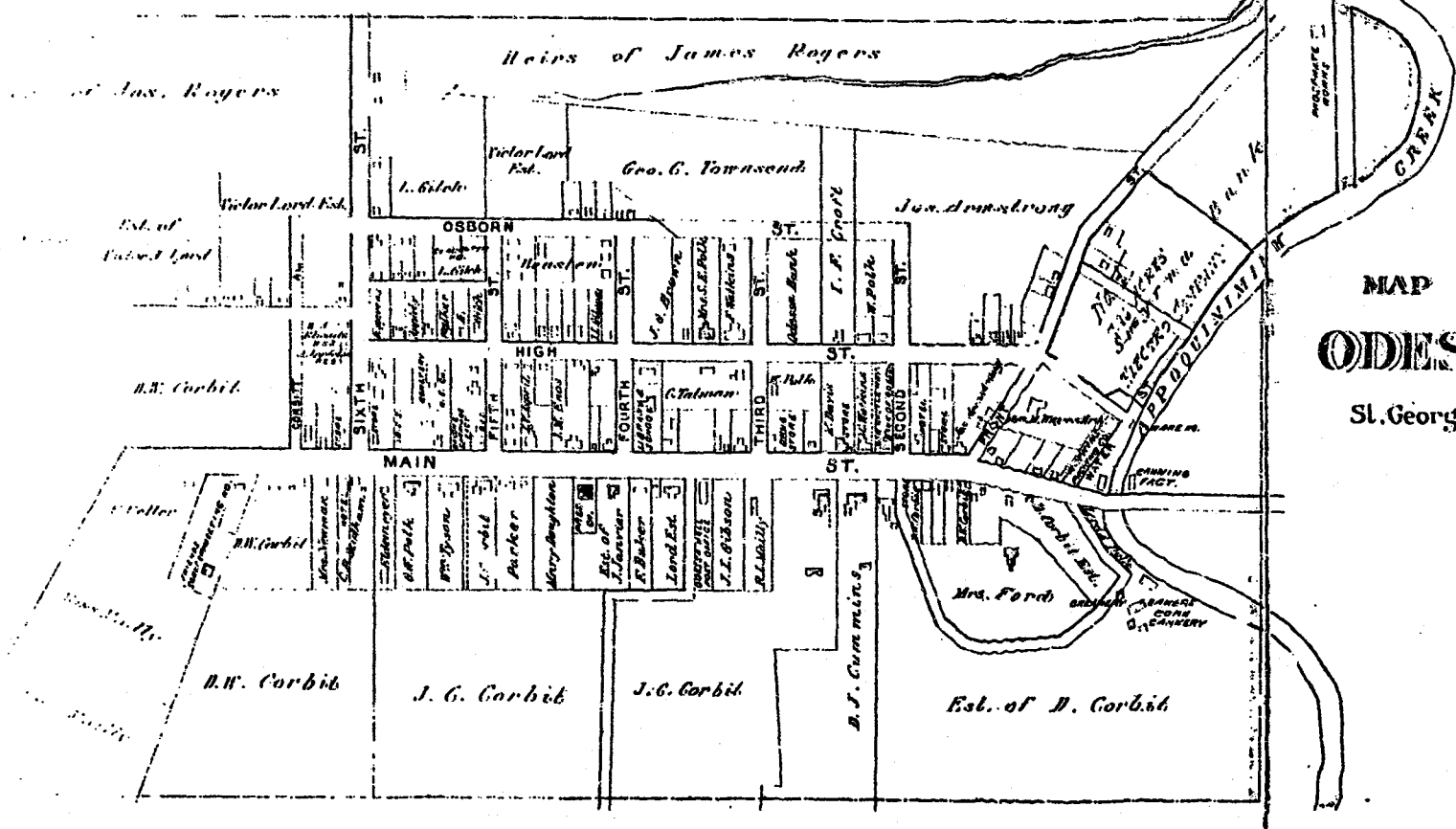
ODESSA HISTORIC DISTRICT N-126

DESCRIPTION

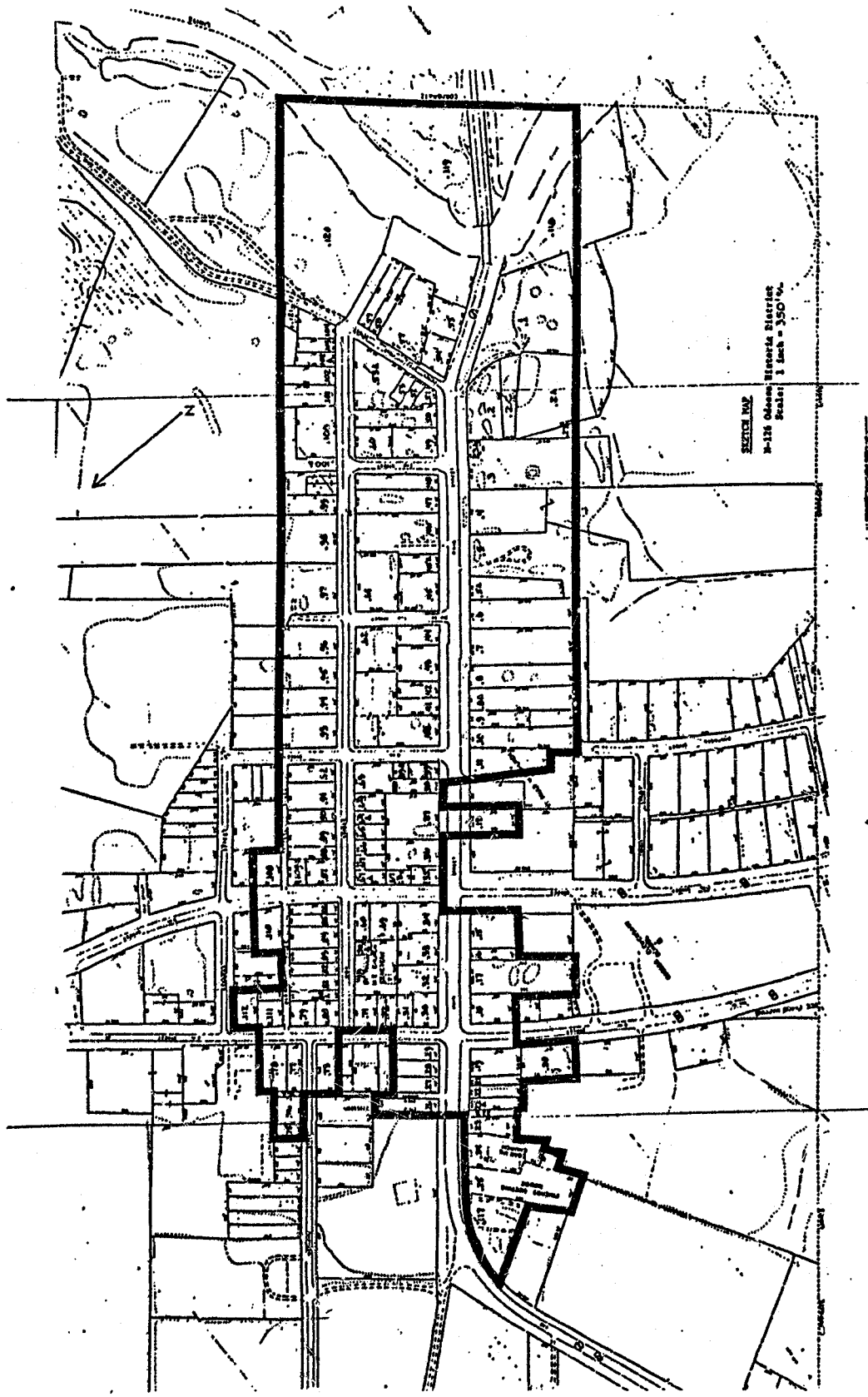
State Police barracks and a one block portion of Route 13 (Sixth Street) south of Main Street, were excluded from the district by drawing boundary lines around these properties. When doing so would have created unnecessarily awkward boundaries, especially where intrusive elements created only a slight gap in an otherwise continuous streetscape of contributing buildings, intrusive elements were included within the district boundaries. The amended boundaries generally followed property lines. These property lines, deteriorated buildings and the existing district's boundary dictated the appropriate northern boundary. The western boundary was similarly established. The southern boundary line follows rear property lines, except where diverted to avoid major intrusive elements, and the previously established district boundary. The eastern boundary is a straight line drawn to intersect the northern and southern boundary lines. In summary, district boundaries were drawn to include all eligible resources and to minimize inclusion of intrusive buildings or areas. Most standing structures located within the town limits of Odessa have been included in the amended historic district.

07/18/2002 DE STATE HIST PRESERVATION OFFICE

Baist, G. Wm. Atlas of New  
Castle County, Delaware,  
Philadelphia: G. Wm. Baist,  
1893.



MAP OF  
**ODESSA**  
St. Georges Id.





## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	X architecture	education	military	social
X 1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
X 1800-1899	X commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater
X 1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates N/A

Builder/Architect

N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Odessa Historic District is significant to the architectural and commercial history of the State of Delaware as tangible evidence of Odessa's emergence during the course of the nineteenth century as an important shipping and trading center. Odessa's many well-preserved buildings document over two hundred years of architectural and historical development and include some of the finest extant examples of eighteenth and nineteenth century residential architecture in the state. For that reason, the Odessa Historic District is significant under Criterion C, and as the focal point of a burgeoning agricultural economy in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, it is significant under Criterion A.

In 1663, Alexander DeHinijossa, Vice-Director of New Amstel, settled on a tract of land in what is now Odessa. In 1664, his estate was granted to Captain Edmund Cantwell, sheriff of New Castle County. His son, Richard, inherited his father's estate in 1698 and was granted permission to erect a toll bridge over the Appoquinimink Creek in 1731. The settlement in the vicinity of this bridge, an area originally known by its Indian name, Appoquinimie (or Appoquinimin), became known as Cantwell's Bridge. Portions of several dwellings may have been constructed during this period. The Loven House (.2), the Starr-Lore House (.8) and the Mrs. R. Metts House (.10) are each partially built of hewn planks, an uncommon construction detail.

In 1762, the "Kings Road" was laid out to pass through Cantwell's Bridge. This road provided Cantwell's Bridge was a link to the more populated north. The seventeenth century cartroad connecting Bohemia Manor in Cecil County, Maryland, with Cantwell's Bridge placed the village on a vital portage path between the Chesapeake and Delaware. Its location on the Appoquinimink Creek which flows into the Delaware, gave the village direct water access. Thus, Cantwell's Bridge was strategically located with all the elements necessary to stimulate development.

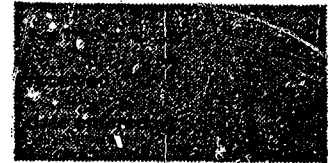
In 1765, William Corbit purchased a tract of land near the Creek and established a tannery. Corbit prospered and between 1772 and 1774 built a brick dwelling distinguished for its architecture and handsome interiors. Today known as the Corbit-Sharp House (.3), this outstanding example of Georgian architecture was restored by H. Rodney Sharp who purchased it in 1938. Another fine example of Georgian architecture is the Wilson-Warner House (.4), preserved by Mrs. Mary Corbit Warner, who acquired it in 1901. Although built in the economic center of a busy agricultural area, these dwellings bear a remarkable resemblance to the great pre-Revolutionary houses of urban Philadelphia. They are now operated by the Henry Francis duPont Winterthur Museum. Both are evidence of the prosperity and commercial importance of Cantwell's Bridge in the latter part of the eighteenth century.

10-10-1960  
1960

10-10-1960  
1960

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

ODESSA HISTORIC DISTRICT N-126

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

By 1817, the town had grown to about 30 residences located on the south side of Main Street and in 1821 Cantwell's Bridge was surveyed and platted as a town. One of the first buildings to be constructed on the newly laid out area north of Main Street was the 1822 Federal-style Brick Hotel (.49) which was restored by Mr. Sharp in the 1950's and given to the Winterthur Museum.

Farmers from the surrounding countryside brought their produce to the granaries and docks to be shipped by shallop down the Appoquinimink to the Delaware River, and from there to coastal or foreign ports. By 1825, there were six large granaries which shipped thousands of bushels of grain annually. Cantwell's Bridge had become a trading depot of considerable importance.

In the 1830's, after a period of commercial decline brought on by the exhaustion of agricultural land in the vicinity, trade steadily increased with the application of commercial fertilizers to worn-out soil and the advent of peach culture.

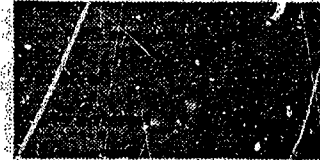
Emblematic of this period of prosperity are the many fine buildings erected along tree-lined Main and High Streets. These include the late Federal-style Tatman House (.62) and Enos House (.61), both erected circa 1845. Greek Revival influenced buildings include the circa 1846 William Polk House (.96) with its denticulated porch with parapet, 1840 Odd Corners (.45) and the outstanding Old St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church (.70) constructed in 1851-2 from plans by Philadelphia architect, Samuel Sloan. Also attributed to Sloan is the elaborate Italianate dwelling erected by Cyrus Polk around 1850. The Cyrus Polk House is one of three important dwellings erected by the Polk family, the leading wheat merchants of the period (see .94, circa 1845). Sloan also designed the Italianate-style 1853 New Castle National Bank of Odessa (.48) which conceivably inspired the construction of the handsome 1854 Italianate John Zelefro Crouch House next to it at 203 Main Street (.47). Other fine examples of the Italianate style occur throughout the district and include the R. G. Hayes House (.57); the M. Greminger House, circa 1847 (.17); S. M. Enos House, circa 1850 (.81); the former Methodist Parsonage (.71) and 404 High Street, circa 1850 (.65).

By the middle of the nineteenth century the town had become an important grain-shipping port and in 1855, aspiring to the fame of the Russian seaport on the Black Sea, changed its name to Odessa.

When the railroad came to Delaware, a route four miles west of Odessa through Middletown was chosen and farmers began shipping their products by rail. With less business for the shallops on the Appoquinimink and the nearby granaries, Odessa began to decline as a commercial center. By 1888, there was only one grain ship in operation. "The Yellows," a viral disease that decimated the peach crop in the 1890's, exacerbated this decline by diminishing a profitable export. With Odessa's dominance as a shipping port ended, it became largely residential.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

ODESSA HISTORIC DISTRICT - N-126

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Buildings reflecting this later building period include the ornate Gothic-styled residence at the corner of Fifth and High Streets (.36) and the block of circa 1880, two-story, gable-roofed frame dwellings on High Street between Fifth and Fourth Streets (.88 through .91). The handful of early twentieth century dwellings included within the district (see .13) are final evidence of Odessa's evolution as a quiet residential community.

## Resource 24

Name: Christiana Tavern

Location: Christiana Historic District  
Christiana, Delaware

Historical significance: Coming from Cantwell's Bridge, baron de Viomenil and his party by dinner and lodging from 15 to 16 September in Christiana. Including drink for the militia, the bill ran to 150 livres, almost nine months wages for a common soldier.

While some officers may have slept in the Shannon Hotel (**Resource 25**), the party was too large to have stayed in one inn only and some of the officers must have stayed in the Christiana Tavern.

Recommendation: The site is not marked in relation to the W3R. Proper identification of the site could be undertaken by the State of Delaware, the county or a local historical society, or a fraternal community group such as the DAR, SAR, Society of the Cincinnati, or by the Souvenir Français.

Sources: Fonds Vioménil

Note: see **Resource 10** and **Resource 11**.

**RESOURCE 24**



**Name: Christiana Tavern**

**Location: Christiana Historic District  
Christiana, Delaware**

## Resource 25

Name: Shannon Hotel

Location: Christiana Historic District  
Christiana, Delaware

Historical significance: Coming from Cantwell's Bridge, baron de Viomenil and his party by dinner and lodging from 15 to 16 September in Christiana. Including drink for the militia, the bill ran to 150 livres, almost nine months wages for a common soldier.

While some officers may have slept in the Christiana Tavern (**Resource 24**), the party was too large to have stayed in one inn only and some of the officers must have stayed in the Shannon Hotel. Contemporaries considered the Shannon Hotel the better place to stay in in Christiana.

In his "Minutes of Occurrences," Washington's private secretary Trumbull recorded that "At evening proceeds to Wilmington. 6. (September 1781) Breakfast at Christiana Bridge, where our boats, stores &c. are brought from Delaware Water through the Christiana Creek, debarked and carried across by land about 12 miles to the head of Elk." Trumbull does not record in which of Christiana's taverns the group breakfasted. Washington wrote a letter to Robert Morris from Christiana on 6 September 1781. Jonathan Trumbull, "Minutes of Occurrences respecting the Seige of and Capture of York in Virginia." *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society* vol. 14 (April 1876), p. 332.

The tavern was however most likely the Shannon Hotel.

Recommendation: The site is not marked in relation to the W3R. Proper identification of the site could be undertaken by the State of Delaware, the county or a local historical society, or a fraternal community group such as the DAR, SAR, Society of the Cincinnati, or by the Souvenir Français.

The Shannon Hotel is a most valuable resource for the history of the Revolutionary War in Delaware that is in dire need of repair, restoration, and preservation.

Sources: Fonds Vioménil.

Note: see **Resource 10** and **Resource 11**.

**RESOURCE 25**



**Name: Shannon Hotel**

**Location: Christiana Historic District  
Christiana, Delaware**

## Resource 26

Name: Lauzun's Legion Headquarters

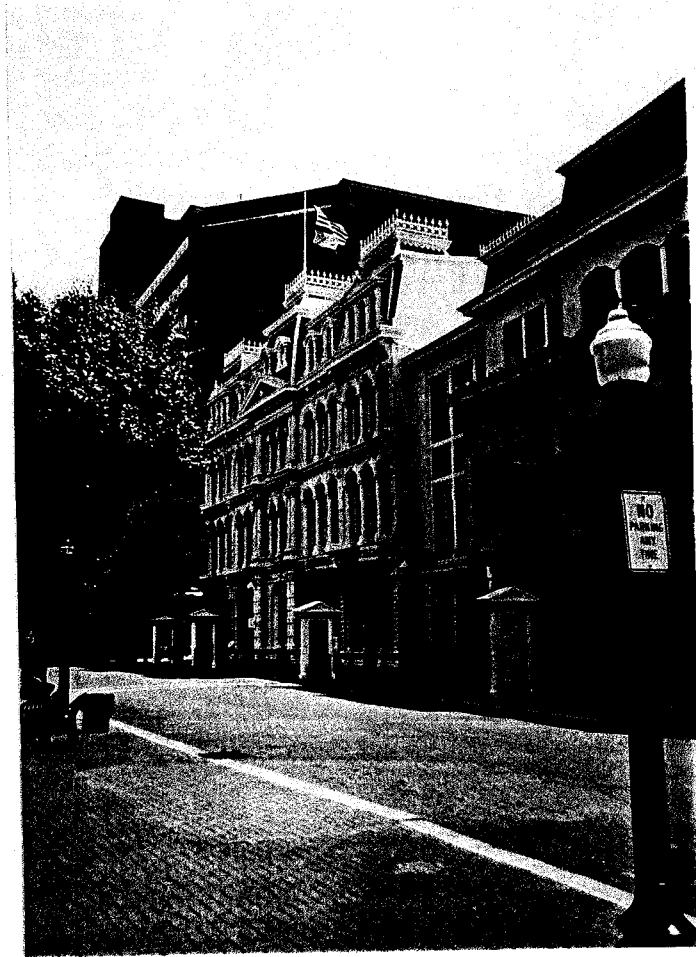
Location: Wilmington Academy (Wilmington Opera House)  
818 North Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware

Historical significance: During its winter quarters in Wilmington 1782/83, the Wilmington Academy served as barracks for the enlisted men in Lauzun's Legion. The officers were lodged with private citizens.

Note: for all other information see **Resource 19**.



**RESOURCE 26**



**Name: Lauzun's Legion Headquarters**

**Location: Wilmington Academy (Wilmington Opera House)  
818 North Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware**

## Resource 27

Name: French Stables Site

Location: between Eight and King and King and French Streets  
Wilmington, Delaware

Historical significance: When Lauzun's Legion went into winter quarters in Wilmington, it brought more than 280 horses with it. For them, French Quarter Master Collot built "Stables ... at the expence of his Majesty ... upon a lot entirely separate from the College and assigned for the said purpose by the Magistrates of the town." The land where they were located on was called "Grove Hill."

Recommendation: The site is not marked in relation to the W3R. Proper identification of the site could be undertaken by the State of Delaware, the county or a local historical society, or a fraternal community group such as the DAR, SAR, Society of the Cincinnati, or by the Souvenir Français.

Sources: Deposition by Collot on 16 May 1783 in Coxe Papers, Tench Coxe Section, Incoming Correspondence, Box 12, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Historical Society of Delaware, Joshua Gilpin, Delaware Land Papers, vol. 1.

**RESOURCE 27**



**Name: French Stables Site**

**Location: between Eight and King and King and French Streets  
Wilmington, Delaware**

## Resource 28

Name: Grave of Dr. Joseph Eugene Philip Capelle

Location: Old Swedes Cemetery  
South-east corner of Seventh and Church Streets  
Wilmington, Delaware

Historical significance: Capelle was the assistant MD for Lauzun's Legion. He is the only officer of whom we know where he lodged and who remained behind in Wilmington when the Legion departed in May 1783.

On 24 December 1782, Samuel Canby as recorded in his diary. "We have a Doctor quartered with us (a Low Dutch Man his name Joseph Eugene Philip Capelle)." Samuel Canby's house stood at Fourteenth and Market Streets.

On 8 November 1783, Capelle married Mary Isabella Pearce at Old Swedes.  
Capelle died on 5 November 1796. He is buried in Plot 1038, Old Swedes Cemetery.

Establishment of grave marker: unknown

Medium: granite with white marble insert

Dimensions of insert: 24 x 16 inches

Dimensions of granite slab: 3 x 6 feet

The text on the white insert is illegible.

Inscription in granite slab: || JOSEPH EUGENE CAPELLE M.D. || DIED NOVEMBER 5, 1796 || AGED 39 YRS. || A NATIVE OF COUTRAY FLANDERS, HE CAME || TO AMERICA, SURGEON TO THE FRENCH ARMY || COMMANDED BY LAFAYETTE || AN EMINENTLY USEFUL CITIZEN || BELOVED AND REGRETTEED BY ALL ||

Recommendation: The grave site is already marked. The text on the marble gravestone should be corrected or amended by the DESSAR.

Sources: Samuel Canby Diary November 1779 to December 1796, entry for 24 December 1783. Photostat Historical Society of Delaware, from the original at Yale University.

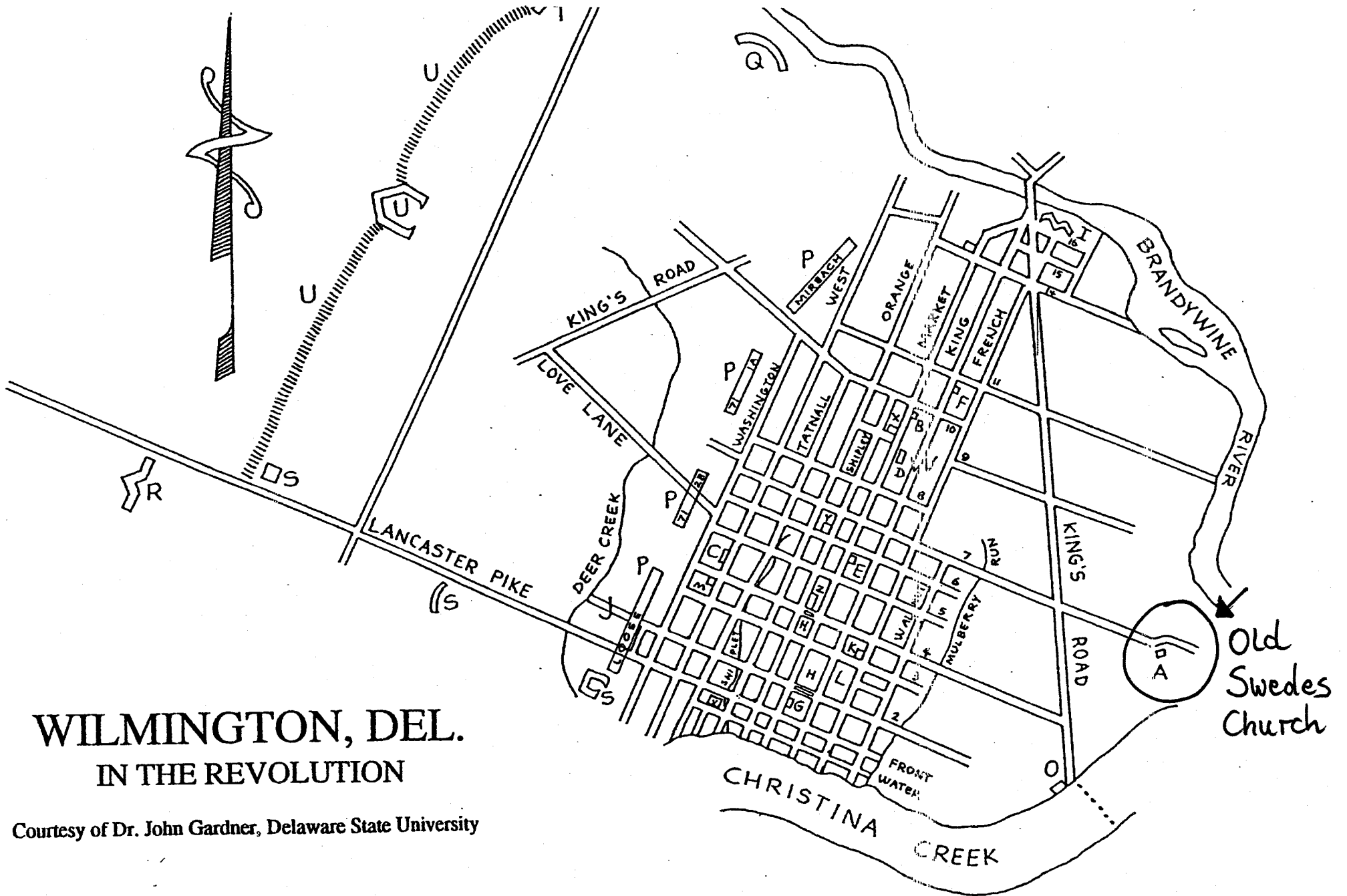
**RESOURCE 28**



**Name: Grave of Dr. Joseph Eugene Philip Capelle**

**Location: Old Swedes Cemetery  
South-east corner of Seventh and Church Streets  
Wilmington, Delaware**

*Enemy Views. The American Revolutionary War as recorded by Hessian Participants Bruce E. Burgoyne, ed., (Bowie, 1996)*



# WILMINGTON, DEL. IN THE REVOLUTION

Courtesy of Dr. John Gardner, Delaware State University