

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1935	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1840 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gassaway Watkins House is significant as a representative mid-19th century architectural form and as a marker of the state's transportation history, and therefore appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. This frame house and its diminutive wing appear to have been built together circa 1840 as a 2 1/2-story side hall double pile house with a 2-story gabled kitchen wing. This identical plan was used for the National Register-listed Starl House (N-1492), although that dwelling was constructed of brick. Both houses exhibit strikingly similar Greek Revival interior finishes, suggesting the work of the same carpenter. In the Gassaway Watkins House, these features--stair, moldings, doors, windows, and mantels-- are remarkably well-preserved, thereby contributing to its architectural merit.

Gassaway Watkins, merchant and farmer, was a man closely tied with the Village of McDonough, having lived approximately forty years of his life there as one of the community's prominent citizens and having married Miss Hester McDonough, a cousin of Commodore McDonough. Of Welsh ancestry, Watkins was raised on a farm one mile north of McDonough. As an adult he resided on farms in Delaware and Maryland until 1838 when he moved to McDonough to run a store in addition to his farms. According to deed records, Watkins acquired what was a 16-acre tract for his home from John McConaughy on April 2, 1840. Until his death in 1877, Watkins operated his store, located across McDonough or Reedy Island Road from his house. He was involved in affairs beyond his farms and store as well. In 1848 President Polk appointed him collector of the Port at Port Penn. Watkins was also a member of the Levy Court of New Castle and in 1874 was elected County Treasurer.

The house continues to be used as a residence although it no longer stands at its precise original location. In the early 1930s, Delaware's major north-south thoroughfare, Dupont Highway, was widened towards the east to create additional traffic lanes. At that time, the Gassaway Watkins House as well as numerous other buildings along the highway were moved easterly and placed upon modern 1930s foundations, typically of rusticated cast stone or concrete masonry unit construction. The Gassaway Watkins House stands as a reminder of this major development in the state's transportation history. Because of this association, the building's period of significance extends into the early 1930s.

GO86:17:46

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.72

Quadrangle name Middletown

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	4	4	4	1	2	0	4	3	7	1	2	4	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheet

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 Carol A. Benenson, M.S.

organization KKFS, Inc.

date December 1986

street & number 1316 Arch Street

telephone 215-561-1050

city or town Philadelphia

state PA

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only

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

date _____

Keeper of the National Register _____

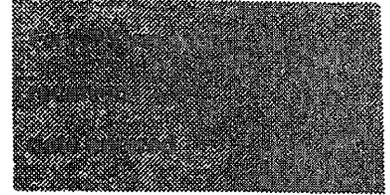
Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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



Continuation sheet Gassaway Watkins House Item number 9 Page 2

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historical and Biographical Encyclopedia of Delaware. Wilmington,
DE: Aldine Publishing and Engraving Company, 1882. p. 350.

Hopkins, G. M. Co. Map of New Castle County, Delaware.
Philadelphia: 1881.

Pomeroy and Beers. Atlas of the State of Delaware. Philadelphia:
1868.

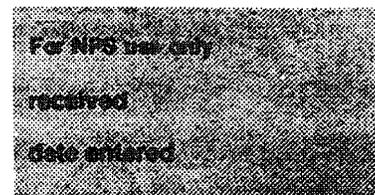
Rea, Samuel and Jacob Price. Map of New Castle County, from
Original Survey. Philadelphia: Smith and Wister, 1849.

Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County. Wilmington, DE.

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National Park Service

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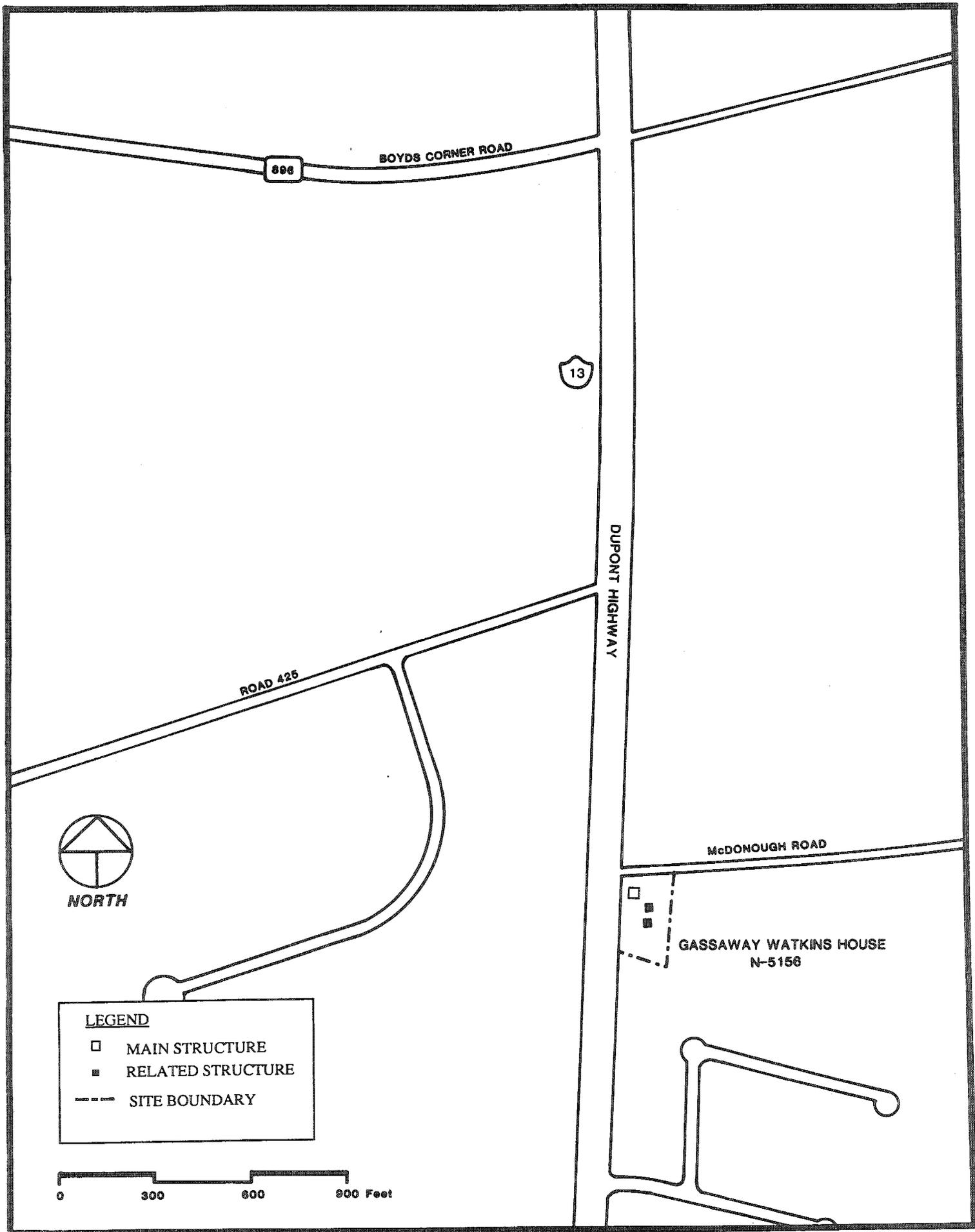


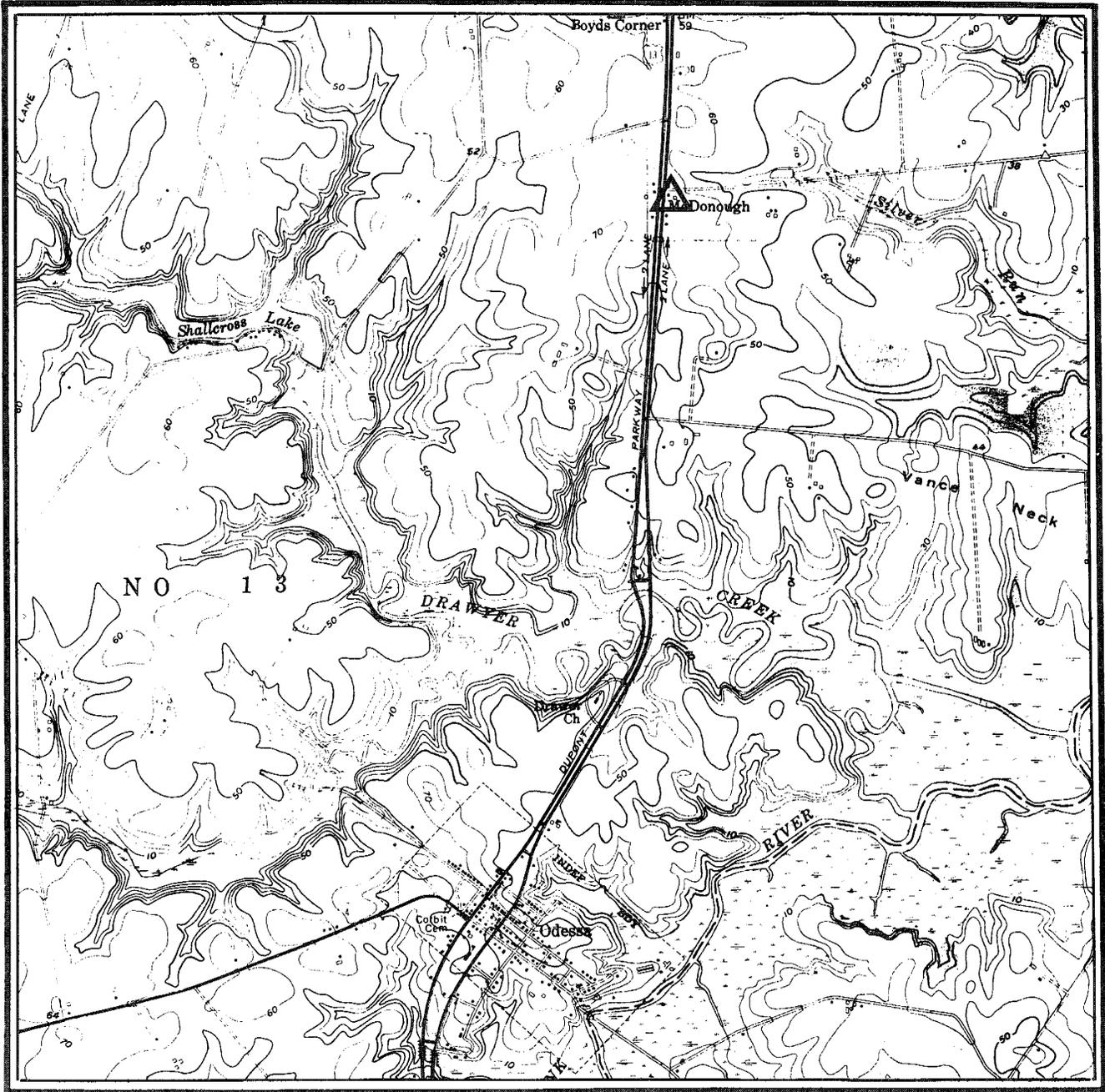
Continuation sheet Gassaway Watkins House Item number 10 Page 2

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point on the south side of McDonough Road (Rd. 423) located 300 feet east of the intersection of the centerline of Dupont Highway and McDonough Road, being the northeast point of beginning for the proposed historic boundary; thence, south 400 feet; thence, northwest 220 feet to the eastern right of way line of Dupont Highway; thence, north along said right of way 325 feet to the northwest corner of the property at the intersection of Dupont Highway and McDonough Road, and thence, east 225 feet to the point of beginning.

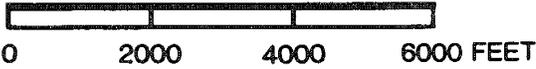
The proposed boundary encompasses the house and the 1.72-acre site that remains from the original 16-acre tract. The boundary provides sufficient acreage to preserve the house.



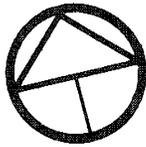


△ GASSAWAY WATKINS HOUSE (N-5156)

DuPont Parkway (Rt. 13)
 New Castle Co., Del.
 UTM: 18.444120.4371240



SOURCE:
 USGS MIDDLETOWN QUADRANGLE
 Delaware
 7.5 Minute Series



NORTH



Fig. 2-19. Gassaway Watkins House (N-5156), Main (west) and north side elevations.



Fig. 2-20. Gassaway Watkins House (N-5156), Main (west) and south side elevations.



Fig. 2-21. Gassaway Watkins House (N5156), Rear (east) elevation.

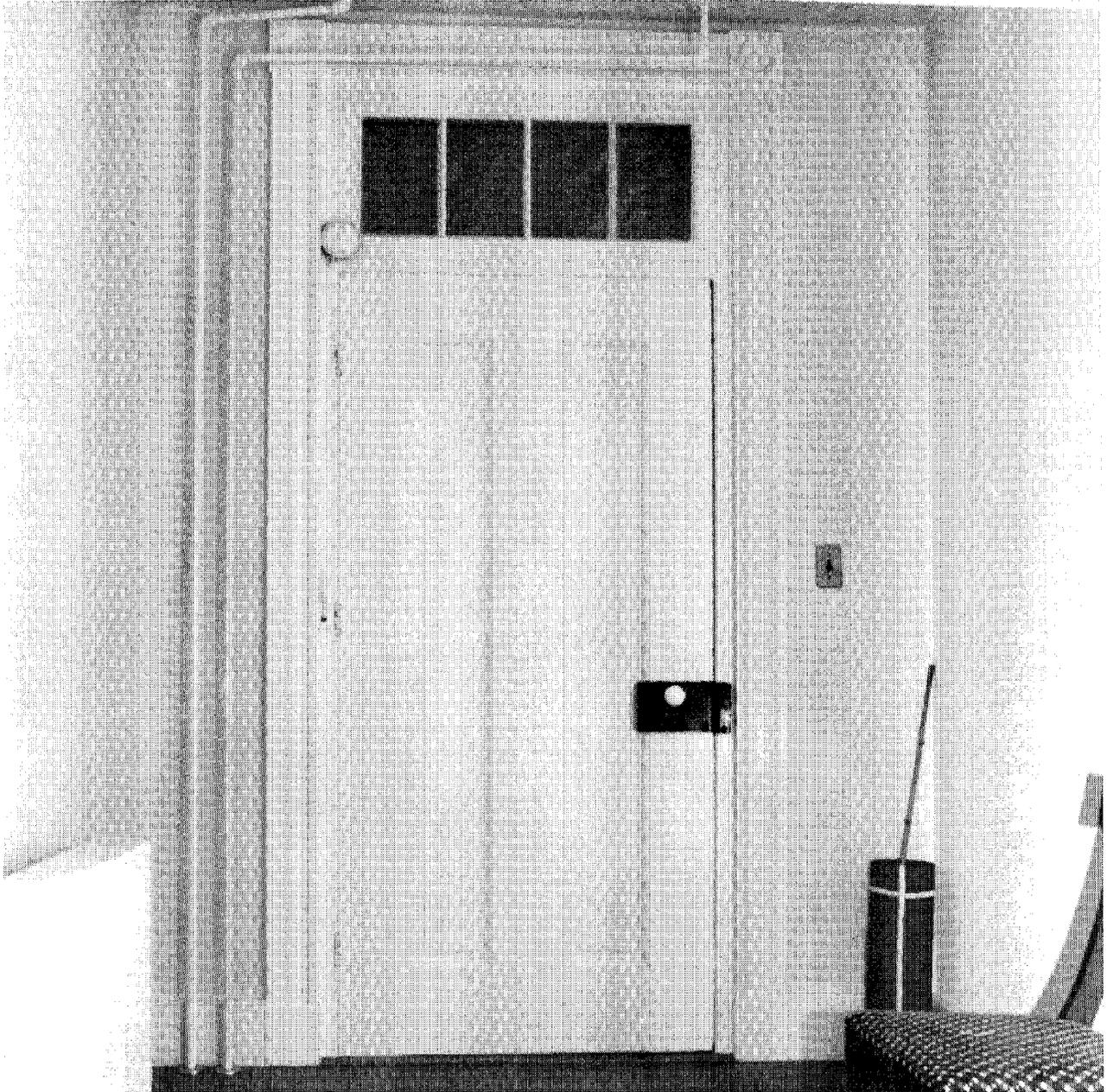


Fig. 2-22. Gassaway Watkins House (N-5156), Detail of Greek Revival door.

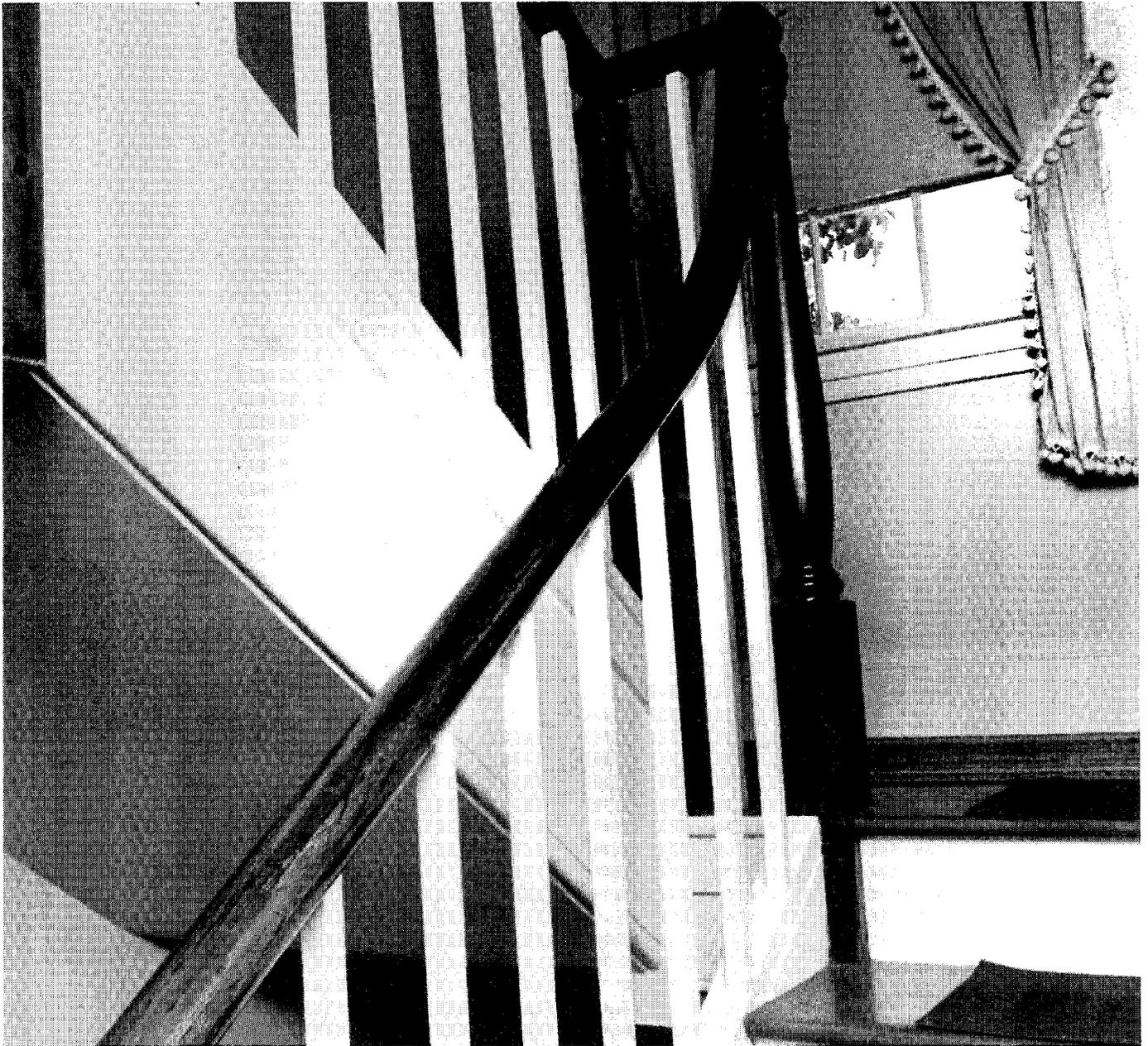


Fig. 2-23. Gassaway Watkins House (N-5156), Detail of stair.

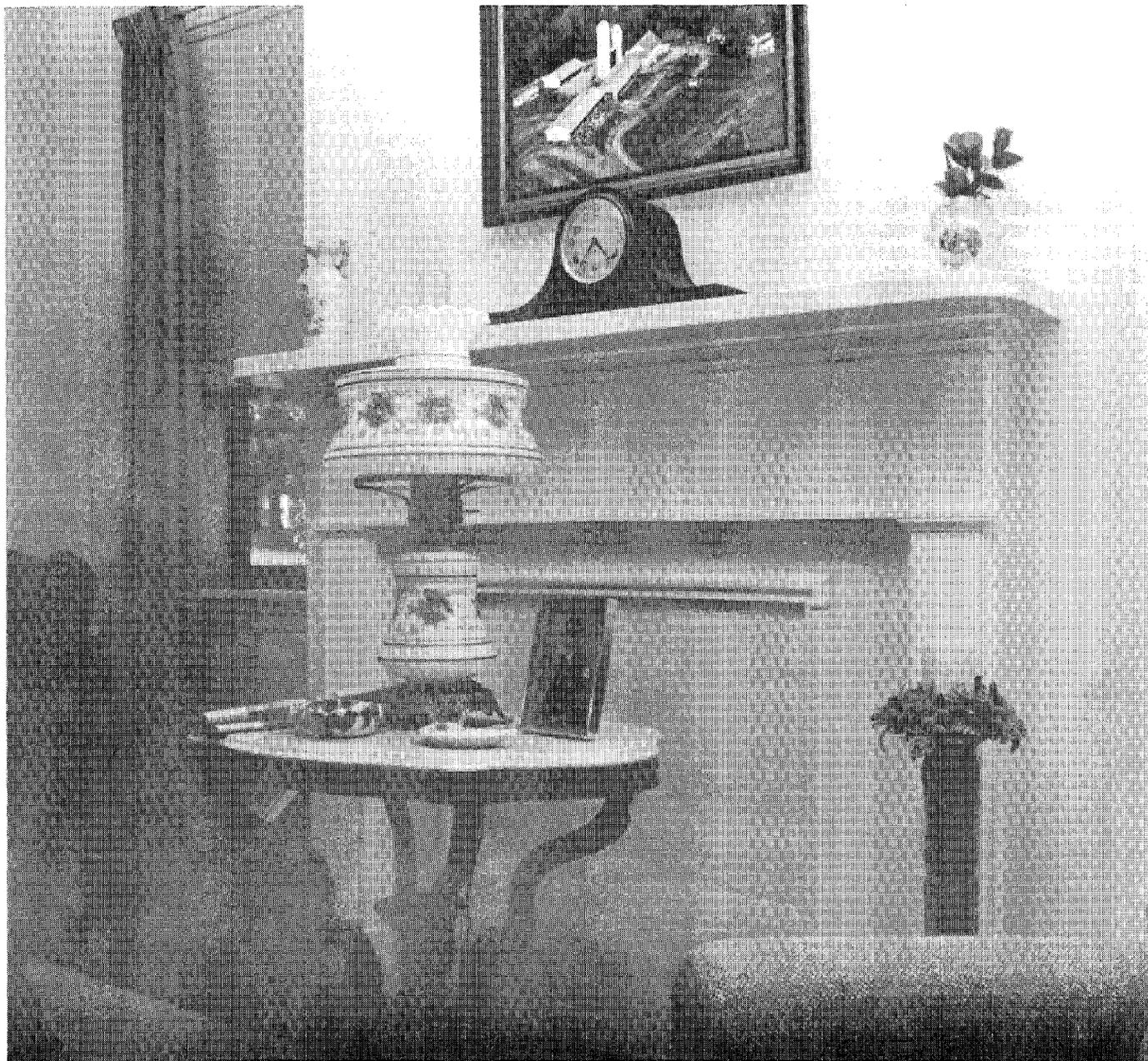


Fig. 2-24. Gassaway Watkins House (N-5156), Mantel in front parlor.

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National Park Service

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date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Dale's Corner Schoolhouse

and or common McDonough's Corner Schoolhouse

2. Location

east side of Dupont Highway, south of intersection of
street & number McDonough Road (Rd. 423)

not for publication

city, town St. Georges Hundred X vicinity of McDonough's Corner

state Delaware code county New Castle code

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property

name Charles and Mildred McGinnes

street & number R.D. 3, Box 326

city, town Middletown vicinity of state Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 800 French Street

city, town Wilmington state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Delaware Cultural Resource Survey N-5207 has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date federal X state county local

depository for survey records Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

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 type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date c. 1930

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The schoolhouse at McDonough's Corner is a 20x20 one-story, one-room schoolhouse. Constructed of frame, it sits upon a concrete masonry unit foundation that was built for the schoolhouse when it was moved to this site in the 1930s. The building is clad with asbestos shingles over its frame siding. The main facade features a central modern pressed wood 6-panel door and flanking 1/1 double hung (replacement sash) windows with wood surrounds, sills, and lipped lintels. 6/6 double hung windows fenestrate the side and rear elevations. The rear facade has its own central entrance with a 5-paneled, 4-light exterior door, and a 3-paneled interior door. A central chimney pierces the hipped roof which is sheathed with standing seam metal and set off by a heavily molded box cornice.

In plan, the interior retains one partition wall from its conversion to a dwelling. Most of the walls are covered with drywall and finished with flat baseboards. The southeast section of the building displays remnants of the early schoolhouse interior: horizontal beaded wainscotting, molded baseboards, ceiling molding, and corner shelf. Windows and doors have original molded surrounds. Floors are of original narrow wood planks.

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National Park Service

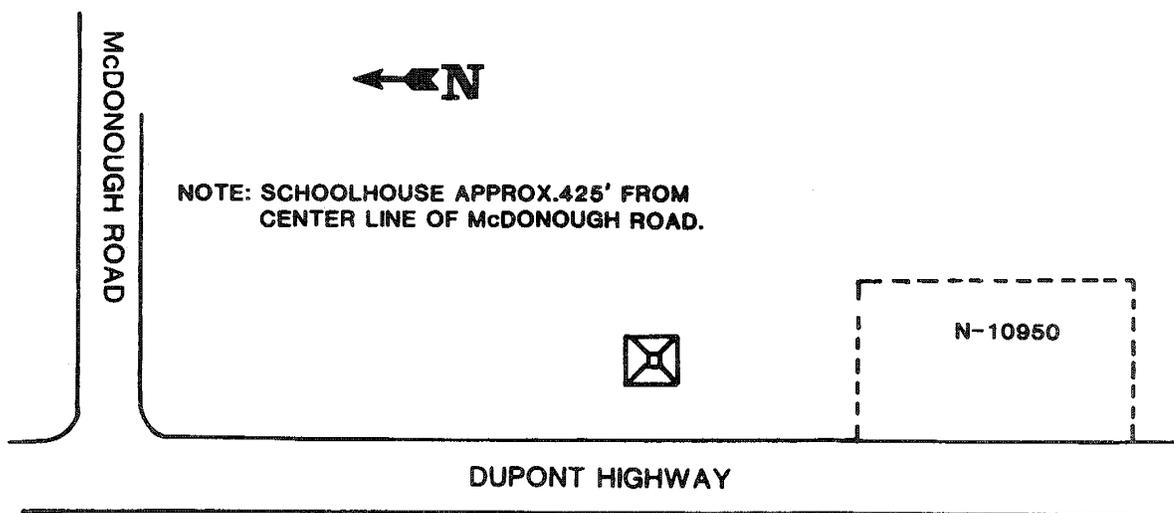
National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered _____

Continuation sheet McDonough's Corner Schoolhouse item number

7

Page 2



NOT TO SCALE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1919	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1845 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Dale's Corner Schoolhouse, often referred to as the McDonough Schoolhouse, is significant as a rare survivor of the mid-19th-century square, one-room schoolhouse in Delaware and therefore appears eligible for the National Register under Criterion A and C. Assigned number 86 within the Free School System's numbering of districts, Dale's Corner Schoolhouse is situated at McDonough's Corner at the approximate location of the original McDonough Schoolhouse No. 62. The school was moved to this site circa 1930 from its original location on McDonough's Road (Rd. 423) at Geraldsville or Dale's Corner. This schoolhouse was one of 341 schoolhouses built between 1832 and 1882, a wave of construction that resulted from the 1829 Free School Law of Delaware which defined school districts and recognized each school as a corporation authorized to acquire buildings and grounds(1).

Square in shape, the Dale's Corner school was smaller than the more typical rectangular one-room schoolhouses. This school and one exhibited at the Delaware Agricultural Museum currently are the only known survivors of this form in the State. In 1910 Dale's Corner Schoolhouse accommodated 19 pupils from a six-square-mile district area. The 20x20 building sat on a 1/4-acre site and was valued at \$200.00. Inside, the schoolhouse contained ten "old" style desks that provided a seating capacity of 20, 93 square feet of blackboard space, and ten maps and charts(2). By June of 1919, the student population had dropped to 11(3); at that time, school No. 86, as well as McDonough School No. 62, was consolidated with the Odessa School District, which in 1969 was reorganized into the Appoquinimink District(4). Because the building's historic use as a schoolhouse ended in 1919, that year provides a logical terminus for its period of significance.

Dale's Corner Schoolhouse appears to have remained at its original site until circa 1930 when it was moved to the northbound side of Dupont Highway for use as a residence. Subsequently, the building had most of its residential partitions removed for conversion to a storage facility.

FOOTNOTES

- (1) J.H. Groves, "Free Schools of Delaware", Historical and Biographical Encyclopedia of Delaware (Wilmington, DE: Aldine Publishing and engraving Company, 1882), page 78.
- (2) Report of the State Board of Education of Delaware, December 20, 1910, page 26.

United States Department of the Interior
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received
date entered

Continuation sheet McDonough's Corner Schoolhouse Item number 8/9 Page 2/2

8. CONTINUED

- (3) Annual Reports of the State Board of Education and the Commissioners of Education of Delaware for two years, 1917-18 and 1918-19, pages 41-42.
- (4) Roger C. Mowrey, Delaware School District Organization and Boundaries (Dover, DE: Delaware State Department of Public Instruction, 1974), page 8.

G086:16:45

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Annual Reports of the State Board of Education and of the Commissioners of Education of Delaware for Two Years, 1917-18 and 1918-19 pp 91-92.

Groves, J.H. "Free Schools of Delaware." Historical and Biographical Encyclopedia of Delaware. Wilmington, DE: Aldine Publishing and Engraving Company, 1882.

Interview with Charles McGinnis, Owner, August 14, 1986.

Mowrey, Roger C. Delaware School District Organization and Boundaries. Dover, DE: Delaware State Department of Public Instruction, 1974.

Mueller, A.H. State of Delaware and Parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland, Philadelphia: 1919.

Rea, Samuel and Jacob Price Map of New Castle County from Original Survey, Philadelphia: Smith and Wister, 1849.

Report of the State Board of Education of Delaware, December 20, 1910.

Unpublished files of the Delaware State Department of Public Instruction, Townsend Building, Dover, DE.

G086:16:48

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Middletown

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	4	4	4	1	0	0	4	3	7	1	1	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheet

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 Carol A. Benenson, M.S.

organization KKFS, Inc.

date December 1986

street & number 1316 Arch Street

telephone 215-561-1050

city or town Philadelphia

state PA

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only

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

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

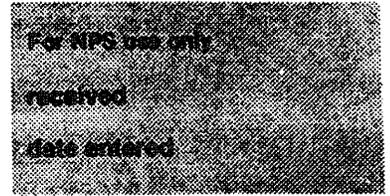
Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet McDonough's Corner Schoolhouse Form number 10

Page 2

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point located 390 feet south of the intersection of the center lines of Dupont Highway and McDonough Road (Rd. 423) and 150 feet east of the center line of Dupont Highway; thence, extending south 50 feet; thence, at 90° extending west 100 feet to the easterly right of way of Dupont Highway; thence, at 90° extending north 50 feet along said right of way; and thence, at 90° extending east 100 feet to the northeast point of beginning.

The proposed boundary represents the 50x100 foot parcel that has been transferred as its own entity since 1911; this small tract contains the schoolhouse which has been detached from its historic setting for over fifty years.