

APPENDIX A  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORMS

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

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date entered

## 1. Name

historic McKennan-Klair House

and/or common Armor Property

## 2. Location

street & number 3401 Limestone Road not for publication

city, town Wilmington X vicinity of congressional district

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Merritt K. Armor

street & number 3401 Limestone Road

city, town Wilmington X vicinity of state Delaware 19808

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 800 French St.

city, town Wilmington state Delaware

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Architectural Investigation of the Route 7 North Corridor, New Castle Co., Delaware has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date 1986 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Del. Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, Dover CRS# N-1250 Del. Dept. Transportation, Dover

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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		

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The McKennan-Klair house is a brick and fieldstone dwelling built in at least two early construction phases, with additional expansion occurring in the mid-20th century. The house is set well back from the north edge of Limestone Road on a spacious lot that falls gradually toward the east. The house is oriented to face south, with the roof ridge parallel to the direction of the slope, with the result that the cellar at the east end is at grade level.

The overall form of the dwelling is that of an elongated I-house, two stories (with cellar) high and one room deep, with a short kitchen wing to the rear. The asbestos-shingled roof has a narrow box cornice and two pedimented dormers symmetrically arranged on the front slope. Window treatment is generally consistent throughout, featuring 6/9 double hung sash windows on the first story, and 6/6 on basement and second stories. The basement and first story windows have paneled wooden shutters. The oldest section, reputed but not confirmed to date from the 1720's, comprises the west end of the structure. It is built of brick covered with stucco, and features a shallow pentroof above the second story windows on the west gable end. The section's L-shaped plan suggests a traditional two-room, hall-parlor arrangement, but with the kitchen in a wing to the rear of the "hall." The three-bay facade of this section is in general symmetrically organized around a center entrance with four-light transom and paneled reveals, opening into the "parlor." The symmetry is inexact due to the pair of side-by-side windows to the right of the entrance.

The interior of this section is plainly finished with simple moldings and plain, plastered window reveals. A fireplace located in the west wall of the "hall" has been filled in and covered. In the northwest corner of the kitchen, supported on a brick arch in the cellar, is a second fireplace. The fireplace opening is slightly arched, and measures approximately 3-1/4 feet high and 5 feet wide. Its most singular feature is its smoothly curving front. Along the east wall of the kitchen is a simple, enclosed stair.

The eastern, fieldstone, section, was built in 1818 according to a date stone high in the gable end, which has flush eaves and two small attic windows. The form of this section can be described as a "2/3 Georgian I," consisting of a stair hall with a single room to one side. The three-bay facade features an entry with four-

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light transom and paneled reveals, to left of center. The walk-in basement is entered at the east end, where a large cooking fireplace, about 4-1/2 feet high and 6 feet wide with a heavy timber lintel slightly cambered at the bottom, is located immediately to the right of the entry.

The upper floors of this section are carefully finished with details derived from Federal influence. On the first floor, panels of very narrow, shallow reeding ornament the deep parlor window reveals, the rear doorway jambs, and the apron below the stairs. Architraves have simple, but strongly-articulated, moldings and unmolded, square corner blocks. The fireplace mantel is designed as a broad entablature supported by pairs of attenuated, reeded, engaged colonnettes. The ends of the entablature, above the colonnettes, are slightly advanced and each bears a reeded oval medallion. At the center is another slightly advanced section displaying a reeded fan. Below the mantel shelf is a narrow reeded band in a herringbone pattern. The fireplace opening is edged with a narrow molding with recessed bulls-eye corner blocks.

The main stair features a very slender columnar newel, square balusters, and a simple railing shaped as a 3/4-round molding. The second floor bedroom has plastered window reveals, six-panel doors with iron latches, in simple architrave moldings, and a fireplace mantel with reeded pilasters.

Two 20th-century additions occur at the rear. A small lean-to extension was made to the kitchen wing in 1954, and a larger one-room unit, on a concrete foundation with large expanses of glazing, was built behind the stone section in 1974. These elements, however, have not compromised the overall integrity of the building's historical form. A shed-roofed porch, with chamfered wood posts on stone bases, extends across four bays of the facade. This feature is likely of late 19th-century derivation.

Also on the property are a small frame woodshed with lean-to roof, and two late 19th-century wooden shed or shop structures with vertical board siding and front gable orientation, that have been remodeled and enlarged for storage space. These structures can be considered contributing elements in the complex, but are not of individual importance. Most noteworthy, apart from the dwelling, is a gable-roofed, stone springhouse located on a small creek that runs behind the house.

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Most of the agricultural activities associated with the property took place on the opposite side of Limestone Road, where a large, stone bank barn, with a 1823 date stone, was extant until the late 1970s when it was removed for a housing development.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1720?; 1818 Builder/Architect Frederick Klair (1818)

### Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The McKennan-Klair house is significant under Criterion C as embodying distinctive characteristics of rural domestic architecture in northwest New Castle County, essentially grounded in folk-vernacular tradition. Use of local fieldstone locates the house precisely in this Piedmont region of northwestern Delaware, while the I-house form (both pre-Georgian and Georgianized) places it fully within the English-influenced Delaware Valley architectural tradition. The cellar kitchen with gable-end entry adds another distinctively regional note, that of the Swiss/German bank house. That this feature exists in the same section as the Federal finishes of the floors above is a noteworthy juxtaposition of fashion and tradition.

Local tradition attributes the earliest portion of the house to John Ball, a blacksmith who acquired the property in 1706 (see Table 10, Summary of Deed Transactions of the Armor Property, in Catts et al. 1986, p. 146). The first documented mention of a house on the property is found in the Mill Creek Hundred tax list for 1804, in which a brick house and frame barn valued at \$400 are noted. At this time the property was owned by the Reverend William McKennan, who had acquired it in 1756. McKennan, a Scotch-Irish immigrant, was pastor of the Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church from 1758 until his death in 1809. The following year, McKennan's heirs sold 130 acres to Frederick Klair of Plymouth Township, Montgomery County, PA. Klair appears to have made many improvements to the property, as it was valued for tax purposes at \$4,100 in 1816. Two years later he had expanded the house by building the finely-appointed stone addition on the east end, and by 1823 had completed a substantial stone bank barn on the south side of Limestone Road. The Farm remained in the Klair family through the rest of the 19th-century. Although large portions have been sold over the years, the house and its associated structures remain in the hands of a Klair descendant.

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McKenna-Klair Property (CRS #N-1250): The McKenna-Klair house and outbuildings are significant for architectural reasons and are no longer part of a working farm. The main agricultural complex with barn was located across the road and is no longer extant; major land areas once associated with the farm have been sold for development purposes. Thus, the property included in this nomination occupies only a portion of parcel #08-037.00-037 and encompasses approximately six acres. The nominated property includes the farmhouse, the two frame outbuildings to the northwest, the woodshed, and the springhouse. It also includes the historic domestic activity areas of the farmstead, the creek, on which the spring is located, that runs north of the building complex, and the principal plantings, which include several stands of conifers, shade trees in and around the complex, and the informally-placed trees and shrubs that mark the entrance to the property. The boundaries therefore encompass all structural and landscape features that contribute materially to the property's importance as an architectural resource.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Catts, Wade, Mark P. Shaffer and Jay F. Custer  
Phase I & II Archaeological Investigations of the Route 7 north  
corridor, Milltown to Pennsylvania State Line, New Castle County,  
Delaware. DelDOT Archaeological Series No. 47.

Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Dover, CRS File No.

N-1250

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property APPROX. 6

Quadrangle name Newark East, DEL.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 1, 8 4, 4, 20, 0, 0 4, 3, 98, 2, 30  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the McKennan-Klair House property is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Figure 2, Site Boundary, McKennan-Klair House." See continuation sheet.

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

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title M.H. Bowers, Architectural Historian

organization Louis Berger & Assoc. date 1 April 86

street & number 100 Halsted St. telephone 201-678-1960

city or town East Orange state NJ

## 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

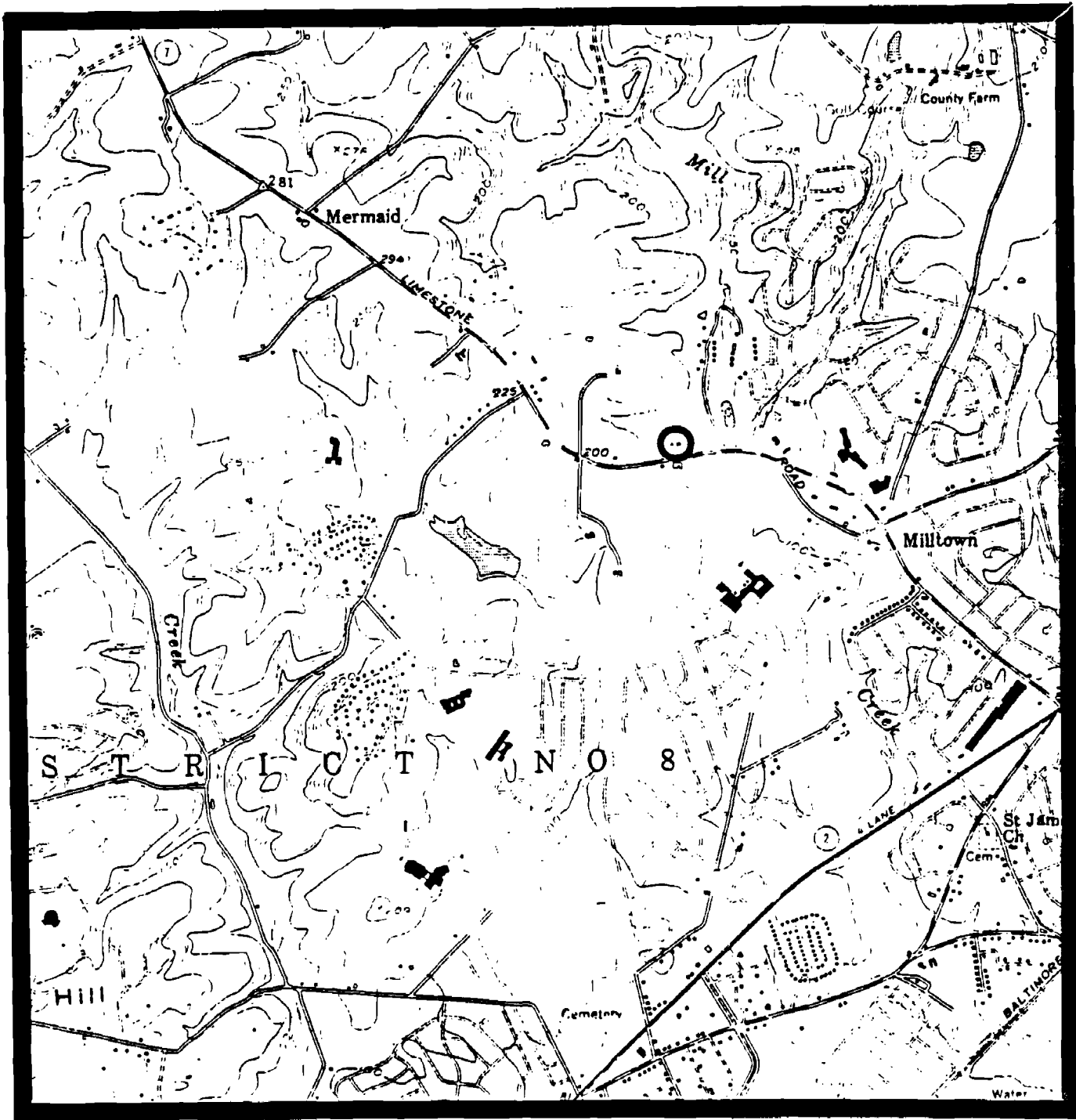
title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Keeper of the National Register  
Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration





**FIGURE 1:**  
 McKennan-Klair House,  
 Limestone Road,  
 New Castle Co., DE  
 UTM: 18/442000 4398230

SOURCE:  
 USGS Newark East Quadrangle  
 Delaware-New Castle Co.  
 7.5 minute series

0 1000 2000 3000 FEET



**FIGURE 2**  
**Site Boundary, McKennan - Klair House**  
**Limestone Road, New Castle Co. Delaware**

**STRUCTURES**

- LEGEND**
-  SITE BOUNDARY
  -  CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES
  -  ROADWAYS WITHIN SITE

0 50 100 200 FT