

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

1. Name

historic Samuel Dennison House

and/or common F.G. Dennison House

2. Location

street & number Limestone Road (Box 170) not for publication

city, town Hockessin 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 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 John A. Malloy

street & number Box 170 Limestone Road

city, town Hockessin X vicinity of state DE

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 DE

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1986 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Del. Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, CRS #N-1090 Del. Department of Transportation

city, town Dover state DE

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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		

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Samuel Dennison house is situated on a lot of less than one acre on the west side of Limestone Road. The house is set some 130 feet back from the current roadway, with the former roadway location marked by the remains of a stone wall approximately 50 feet in front of the house. The yard is dotted with mature shade trees, and a low hedge is set along the porch foundation. A driveway extends from the road, passing the south side of the house to terminate in an irregular arrangement of modern and pre-World War II sheds and storage structures under different ownership.

The house, built in 1876 according to a date stone in the south gable, is a 2-1/2 story structure on a full basement constructed of local fieldstone, with side-gable orientation and an L-shaped plan. The exterior is stuccoed, except on the facade. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the aluminum-covered box cornice has partial returns at each of the three gable ends. The west and south gable ends feature stuccoed interior chimneys with corbelled caps. An exterior cinder block chimney on the north end appears to be a replacement.

Fenestration is very regular, arranged as 5 over 5 on the facade and 2 over 2 on the ell and side elevations. Windows have 2/2 double hung sash in narrow molded surrounds with drip shelves and timber lug sills. At attic level in each gable end are pairs of small fixed-light sash.

The centered main entry has paneled reveals, a flat, glazed transom panel and three-light sidelights, plus narrow pilasters with half-round moldings terminating in simple brackets. The door itself has four strongly-articulated panels, the upper two with round-arched tops. Other entries, with plain architrave moldings, are located on the south side of the ell and on the rear of the main block.

Alterations to the exterior consist chiefly of removal of shutters (stored in the cellar), a screened front veranda with paneled concrete pedestals, chamfered wood posts with molded caps, and tongue-in-groove flooring and ceiling; and a series of lean-to frame units clad variously in wood and asphalt shingling, that extend south off the end of the rear ell.

The interior plan of the main block is of the "Georgian I" type, with one room to either side of a center stairhall. Feature include deep, rounded window reveals, simple wood mantels framing

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

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

For NPS use only

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

stove flues, quarter-turn staircase with turned balusters and newel post; and tall doors with four vertical panels in simple molded frames (some surmounted by moveable glazed transom panels). In the cellar can be seen sturdy chamfered posts supporting the floor beams, and also the brick corbels, high in the walls, that support the gable-end chimney stacks. A sub-basement at the west end of the ell contains a vaulted well chamber, the opening of which has been partly filled in.

Few significant alterations have occurred in the interior. Bathrooms have been modernized, and the south front room has been partitioned to create a combination kitchen-dining area. On the second floor, two bedrooms in the north end of the main block have been remodeled as a single large room, but the interior trim remains intact.

## 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 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      1876      Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Samuel Dennison house is significant under Criterion C as embodying distinctive characteristics of 19th century rural domestic architecture in Mill Creek Hundred and northern New Castle County. Built in 1876, the house preserves a specific sense of place in the material of construction and its I-house-with-ell configuration, both of which are features characteristic of 19th century vernacular building in the region. As with much vernacular construction, a sense of time is conveyed chiefly through details, such as machine-turned stair elements, chimneys (though traditionally located inside the gable end) designed for stoves or coal grates, rather than fireplaces, and the Victorianized Greek-Revival style entrance treatment. As at least the second dwelling on the Dennison farm, the house conveys both the prosperity of its builder, Samuel Dennison, and the architectural tradition in which he and his family lived and worked in 19th century northern Delaware.

The land on which this house is situated was part of a 96-acre tract purchased by Robert Dennison in 1824 from Richard Chambers of White Clay Hundred (N.C. Co. Deeds, D4/60). Robert Dennison died intestate in 1852; the farm was sold to pay his debts, but was brought back into family ownership by Samuel, one of Robert's three sons (N.C. Co. Deeds, K6/86). Samuel and his wife, Elizabeth, resided on the farm, which at the time of their acquisition included a log house and frame barn (Mill Creek Hundred Tax Assessments, 1852). Under their ownership, the present farmhouse was erected in 1876, the event commemorated in the gable-end date stone bearing their initials. In 1894 Samuel Dennison sold the farm to a son, John W. Dennison (as he had previously sold another farm to another son, Robert), but probably remained on the home farm until his death, which occurred within the next six years (N.C. Co. Deeds, L16/382). At the time of John W. Dennison's death (1901) the farm supported a dairy operation in addition to producing wheat, corn and hay. In his will, John Dennison requested that his heirs "remain on the home farm" until the younger son, Horace, reached his majority (N.C. Co. Wills, X2/171; inventory of John W. Dennison, filed Nov. 14, 1901). In 1907, the older son, Frank G. Dennison, took possession of the farm, on which he established a poultry facility and a farm machinery business subsequently inherited by his sons Frank, Jr.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

and Howard, respectively, in 1955 (N.C. Co. Deeds, K21/233; N.C. Co. Register of Wills, File #34608). The property was sold out of the family in 1977, and the house, on its small lot, acquired by the current owner in 1978.

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 10

Page 1

Samuel Dennison House (CRS #N-1090): The boundaries of the property included in this nomination conform to those of the legal parcel, #08-024.00-25, which contains less than one acre. The Dennison house is significant for its architectural characteristics. The parcel on which it is sited is all that remains of what was once a working farm, but from which tracts both from around the house and from across the road (where the barn and other agricultural structures were located) have been sold over the years for non-agricultural purposes. The existing legal front lot line, partly marked by remains of a stone wall, corresponds to that of the mid-1920's when Limestone Road was first paved. Within the boundaries of the property are located the farmhouse and yard foundation plantings consisting of mature shade trees and a small hedge below the front porch. The boundaries encompass all structural and landscape features that contribute materially to the property's importance as an architectural resource.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

New Castle County Deeds, Wills, Inventories (Specific References in Text);  
Hall of Records, Dover, Del.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Kennett Square, PA-DEL

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title M. H. Bowers

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.

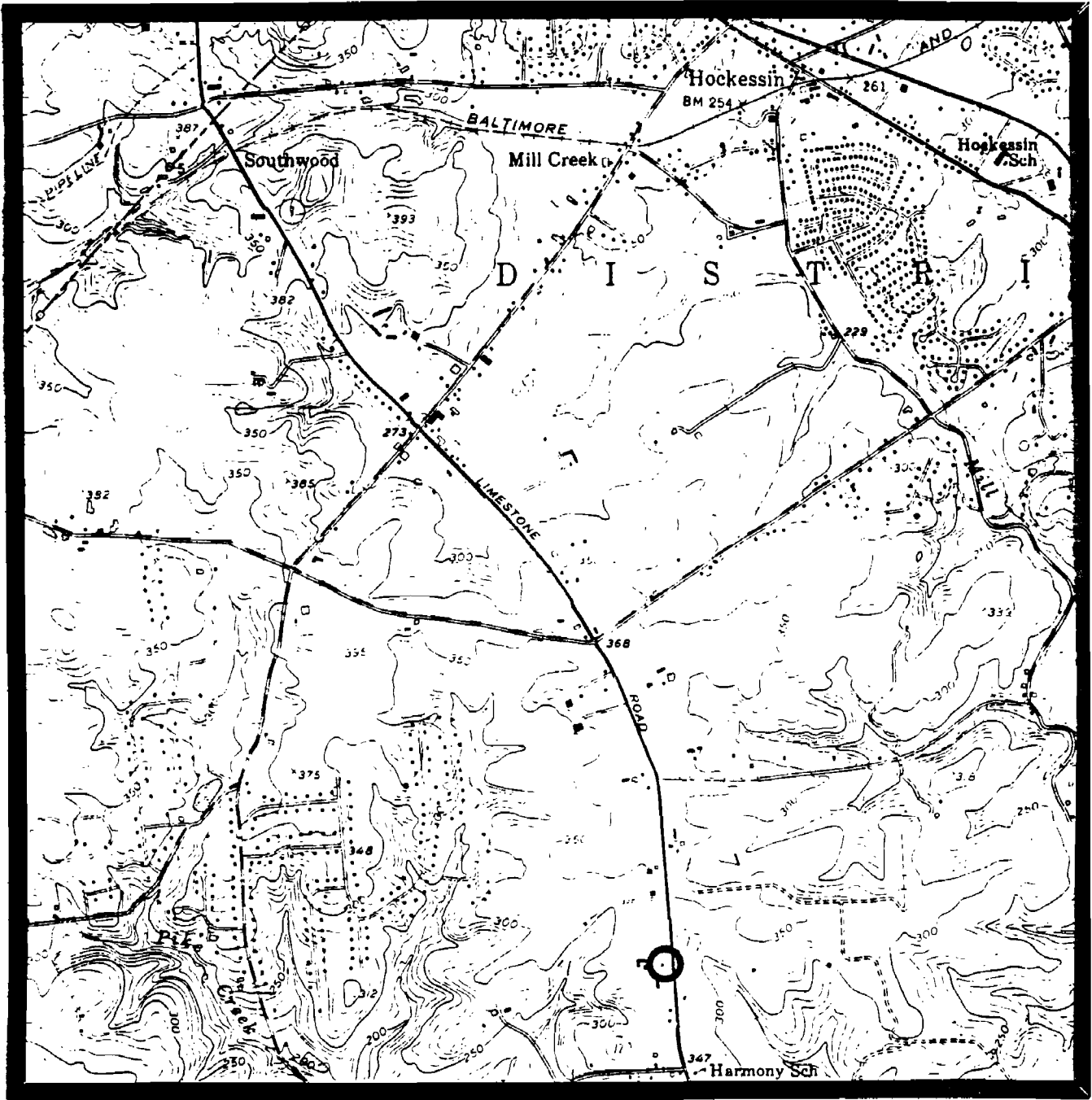
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

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

For NPS use only:  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register  
Attest: \_\_\_\_\_-155- date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration



**FIGURE 1:**  
**Samuel Dennison House**  
**Limestone Road**  
**New Castle Co., DE**  
**UTM: 18/439700 4400510**

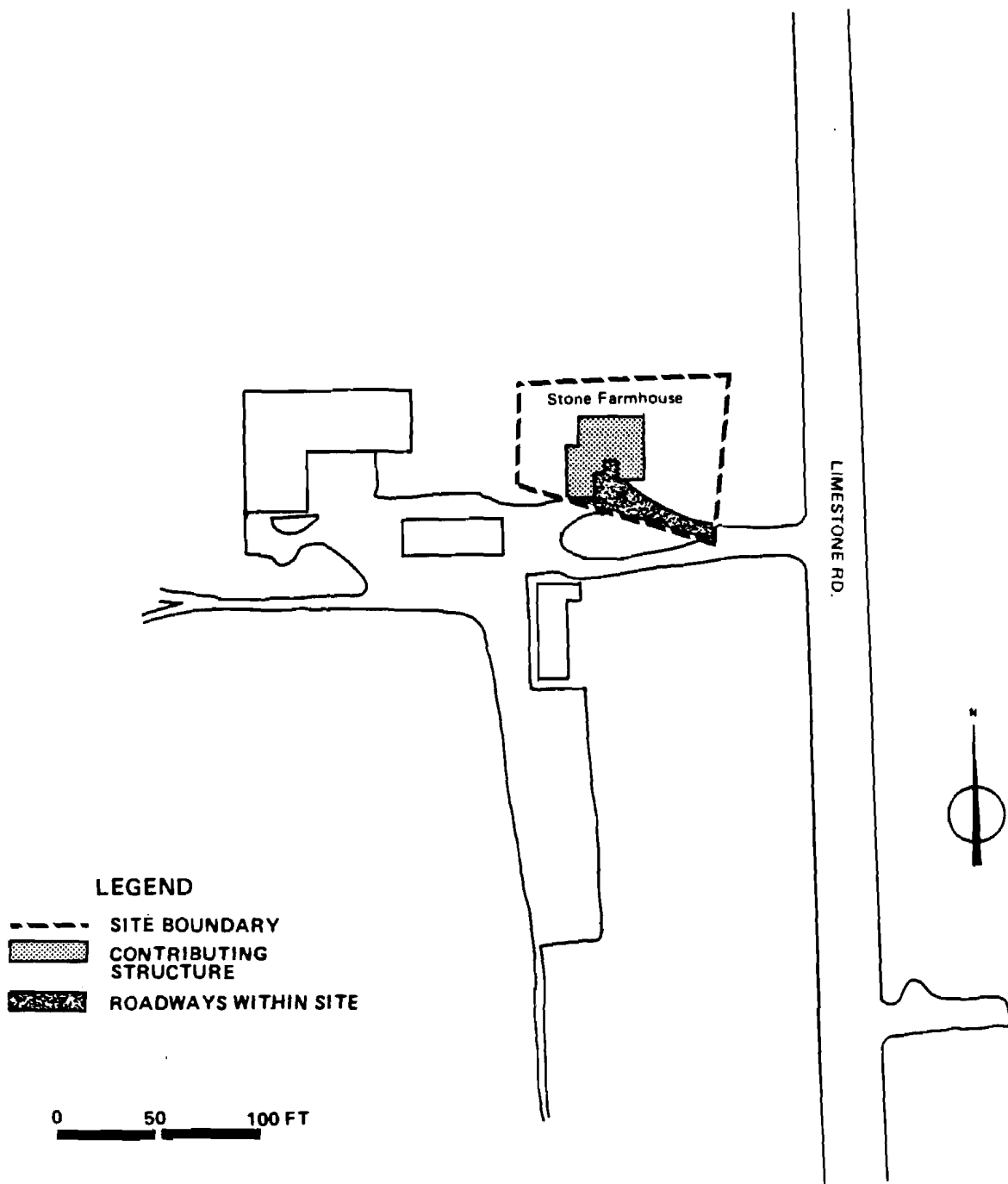


**SOURCE:**  
 USGS Kennett Square Quadrangle  
 Pennsylvania-Delaware  
 7.5 minute series





**FIGURE 2**  
**Site Boundary, Samuel Dennison House**  
**Limestone Road, New Castle Co. Delaware**





-159-

