000 1217
001 N01
002 034
003
004
005 Superior Court
006 New Castle County
140 Naturalization Records, Declarations of Intent or First Papers
200 1832
210 1906
220
240 2.37 cubic feet
241 7 volumes
261 Recorded declarations of intent for those wishing to be naturalized. These declarations were also referred to as "first papers."
270 The record shows date; name and nationality of petitioner; signatures of petitioner, prothonotary and witnesses, and document number. In 1906, a federal act created the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization "to provide for a uniform rule for the naturalization of aliens throughout the United States". New Castle County no longer recorded these records, unlike Kent and Sussex counties.
Prior to 1811, declarations also can be found in deed records. Immigrants appeared before the prothonotary and swore that they wished to renounce citizenship in their native country and become citizens of the United States. This first step was called a declaration of intent. Volume #7 (1906) contains a new form which required more information (*i.e.*, occupation, physical description, place of birth, name of ship, *etc*.) However, this volume contains only seven entries.
Early volumes have very few entries, one a year or every several years.
See also Naturalization manuscript series RG 1217-N01-035.
290 First Papers, dated, volume number, and number of series.
310 Film only for earliest two volumes (1832-1858).
329 WORK STATUS
____needs sorting
____needs unfolding
___needs foldering/reboxing
___other: _____

ARCHIVIST:
___review for identification/ further determination
___processing
___determine origin/purpose
___other:_____

330 Entries arranged chronologically by date of term thereunder numerically by case number.
331 Indexed within, alphabetical by name of petitioner, except volume 1858-1888.
332 Form printed with writing.
350 2 rolls 35mm. Film includes two volumes (1832-1847, 1847-1858) with The Historical Society of Delaware(HSD), that were loaned for this filming.
360 Fair/poor; acid damage; rust damage; storage damage; dirt damage.
390 See Naturalizations electronic finding aid in RR or on Web. NB: HSD items are not included in this finding aid.
420
430 WPA Guide p. 129, #298.
990 11/26/1986
995 April 28, 1987; November 17, 1988; August 22, 1989; October 7, 1993; September 1, 1995; April 22, 1996; August 1, 1996; May 25, 2004
bhh/ps