

DOVER

DELAWARE

The Capital City of the First State



Kent County Court House

Issued by

DOVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Dover, Delaware

FOREWORD

This is a booklet of "brass tacks" information for busy executives. It is condensed to give only the high spots and beauty in and around the City of Dover; also, the manufacturing and distributing opportunities which will enable you to visualize the actual trade conditions in this rich and growing country. Opportunities here for particular types of industry will be outlined in detail in an exhaustive survey to executives who make inquiry to the Chamber of Commerce. Dover invites you to come and see for yourself. You will receive a cordial welcome from people, hospitable by nature and training.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Dover, the capital of the State of Delaware, is a busy legislative and industrial center whose history dates back to 1683, when William Penn ordered the town laid out. It is located half-way between the north and south boundaries of the State. In 1699, according to history, permission was received from Philadelphia for the formal erection of the town to be called Dover. In that year a court house was erected on the ground now occupied by the Kent County Court House. In 1717 the Dover Green was laid out, and which, even until today, remains practically unchanged. In 1722 the old court house was abandoned and converted into the Old King George Tavern, and the new court house, located on the site of the present court house, was built. Although alterations and additions have been made to this old building, it remains practically the same as it was more than two hundred years ago, and is today the oldest state house in the country. Its walls are adorned with rare paintings of Delaware's famous sons and the principal epochs of Delaware's history.

There are many other old colonial buildings in Dover, in addition to the State House. The Ridgely home, built in 1728; the Loockerman House, built in 1746; the old home of Caesar Rodney, still in a good state of preservation; are all monuments to the builders of the colonial period.

GOVERNMENT

Dover operates under a modified City Manager form of government. The legislative functions are vested in a Mayor and Council, who serve without pay, while the administrative details are under the direction of a paid City Manager. Under this plan, the City is managed efficiently and economically without political disturbance. The City is in splendid financial condition. Its bonded indebtedness carries a low interest charge, and is in the form of serial bonds, a portion of which has to be paid each year. The tax rate is \$1.00 per \$100 and the assessment of real estate is based on one-half valuation.

Dover owns and operates the utilities of the city. The water and electric light departments are under the Mayor and Council, and are supervised by the City Manager. The electric plant is a modern steam turbo-generating plant and has a total capacity of 5,000 kilowatts. The rates compare favorably with those of the largest privately owned utilities, and the service is dependable.

The water supply comes from artesian wells and is ample under all conditions. The water is pure and wholesome, and no treatment is necessary.

The city is sewered completely and the sewage disposed of in a modern treatment plant.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Dover is a trading center for approximately 30,000. Its importance in this respect is evidenced by the presence of a number of nationally operated chain stores and flourishing independent merchants. The stores are modern and carry complete stocks of merchandise. Dover is an important center in the milk industry of the State. It is the home of two nationally known industries: Richardson & Robbins Company, the largest packer of poultry products in the world, and the International Latex Corporation, which enjoys a wide distribution of "latex" products, in addition to several smaller plants. Two modern and well equipped cold storage warehouses provide facili-

ties for the fruit growers of the surrounding territory, and also for the freezing of fruits and vegetables. The industrial life of the community is stable as wages are comparatively high and labor troubles unknown.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Dover boasts of three splendid banks, well managed and sound financially. The First National Bank is a National Bank and the Farmers Bank and Delaware Trust Company operate under State charters. Deposits in the banks, according to the report of the Delaware State Banking Commission, amount to over 32 million dollars. The surplus, undivided profits and reserves total over three and one-half million dollars, and the total assets exceed \$35,000,000.

Dover also has two building and loan associations, which enjoy a long record of uninterrupted progress.

CHURCHES

In the development of Dover as a thriving city of business and industry, the spiritual side of the community has not been overlooked. Dover is the city of many churches, some of them having unusually beautiful and commodious edifices. They are presided over by well-informed and forceful ministers, who are actively engaged in promoting every good enterprise that looks to the betterment of the city.

SCHOOLS

A modern combined Grade and High School takes care of the educational needs of the community. The school offers, in addition to the academic course, courses in agriculture, manual training, art, music, and an up-to-date business course. It possesses ample facilities for athletic activities, and provisions are made for the development of the body as well as the mind of the student. Social activities of the school and student body are numerous.

The educational needs of the colored population are taken care of by the Booker T. Washington

School, one of the finest schools for colored children in the country.

Wesley Junior College, the only institution of its kind on the Eastern Shore, is also located in Dover.

Situated on the outskirts of the city, is the State College for Colored Students.

An hour's ride from Dover, at Newark, is the University of Delaware, a co-educational institution. This university is rated among the best in the country.

INSTITUTIONS

The Kent General Hospital, a community enterprise containing 50 beds, is one of the best equipped hospitals in lower Delaware. It serves not only Dover, but the entire county as well, and is partly maintained by income from endowments and public subscriptions.

The Elizabeth W. Murphey School, Inc., is a unique institution, located here and given to the community by the late Sanford S. Murphey. It is for the use, without charge, of children whose parents are not able to give them proper advantages, and its policy is to endeavor to give its children every parental advantage, even to the extent of a college education. The school is heavily endowed and the board of directors is composed of the leading citizens of the community. No indigent or unfortunate family of the county, therefore, need fear for the welfare of its children.

AGRICULTURAL

Dover is situated in the center of a fertile agricultural section of the State, where the land is practically level, and the soil is of a sandy loam character which is very responsive to modern farming practices for growing all kinds of crops.

Throughout the area surrounding Dover are numerous commercial apple and peach orchards and grape vineyards, in addition to the many farms that are adapted to the growing of grain crops and tomatoes. This section also offers ex-

RECREATION

Dover's hotels, restaurants, and tea-houses are noted for serving the famous Eastern Shore dishes.

The city has two theatres. The Capitol Theatre is the last word in modern theatre construction. The Temple Theatre, a smaller moving picture house, is under the same management.

The Mapledale Country Club, located about one mile west of Dover, has proven to be quite a factor in the social life of the community. The attractive club house and fine golf course is a center of attraction.

Silver Lake, located near the city, is a famous fishing place, well stocked with bass and other fresh-water fish. Little Creek and Bowers Beach, to the east, and on the Delaware Bay, are well known to the people of Delaware and other states, who indulge in fishing and crabbing. Oysters are in abundance at these resorts, and the towns have achieved great fame because of the fishing and oyster industries.

The Bays and Inlets near Dover are the home of the Canvas-back Ducks and the stopping places of Mallard, Blue and Green-winged Teal and other ducks. Quail and rabbits are numerous, and fox hunting and coon hunting are favorite sports.

TRANSPORTATION

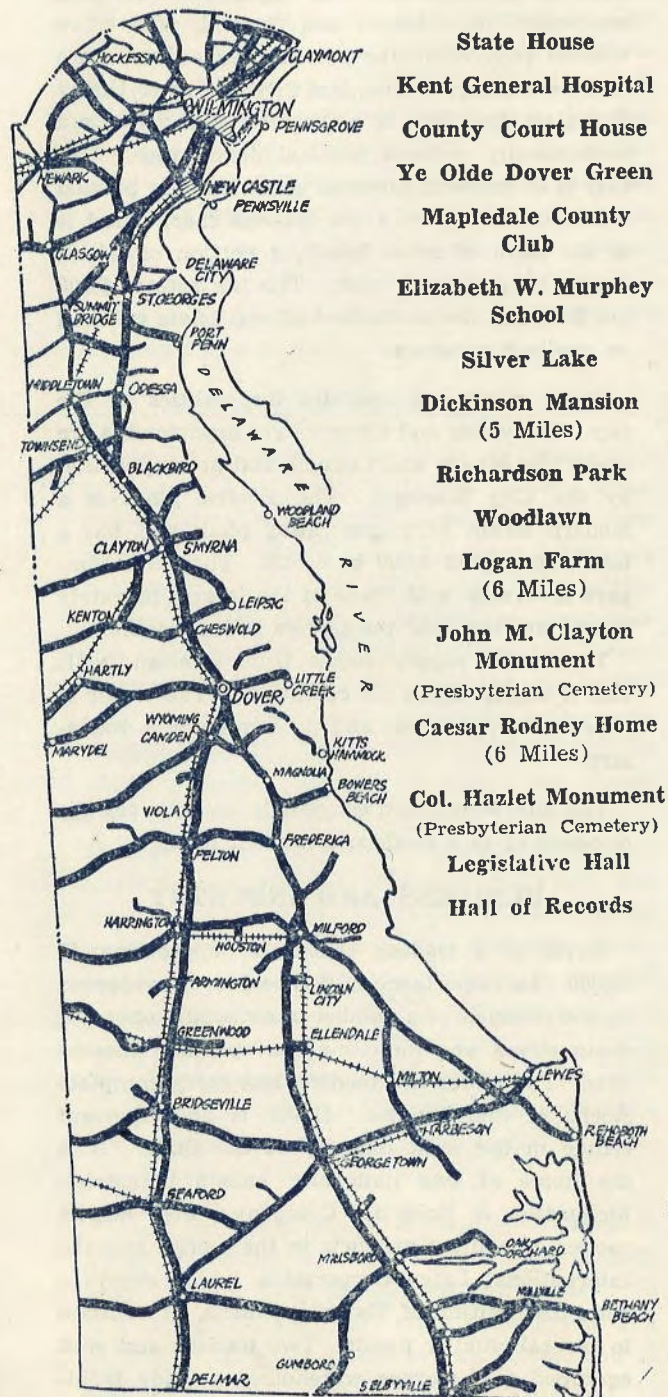
Dover is on the main line of the Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, with splendid passenger and freight service. Several bus lines supplement this service, operating between Wilmington and all points south.

Daily motor truck freight service is also available, covering practically the entire Peninsula, and making overnight deliveries as far north as New York City.

The City is on the most direct route connecting the North Atlantic States with Florida and the South. It is connected in all directions with a network of paved highways, and is within twenty-four hours of one-half of the population of the United States.

There are three Airports available for light planes within walking distance of the city limits.

POINTS OF INTEREST



- State House
- Kent General Hospital
- County Court House
- Ye Olde Dover Green
- Mapledale County Club
- Elizabeth W. Murphey School
- Silver Lake
- Dickinson Mansion (5 Miles)
- Richardson Park
- Woodlawn
- Logan Farm (6 Miles)
- John M. Clayton Monument (Presbyterian Cemetery)
- Caesar Rodney Home (6 Miles)
- Col. Hazlet Monument (Presbyterian Cemetery)
- Legislative Hall
- Hall of Records