

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

John Dickinson House

AND/OR COMMON

John Dickinson House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5 miles south of Dover via U.S. 113 and .3 miles east of U.S. 113 on
Kitts Hummock Road.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Kitts Hummock

☒

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

Kent

CODE

1

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☒ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL/TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME State of Delaware, administered by Delaware State Museum, Mr. Henry Draper,
Milton, Delaware.

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN

Dover

VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1936

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress, Division of Prints and Photographs

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

District of Columbia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built between 1739 and 1754, the John Dickinson house is an excellent restored example of an Early Georgian mansion. The house illustrates what may be called the "telescope type of planning," in which a series of smaller wings are added to the main house at later dates. The main house here was erected by Judge Samuel Dickinson in 1739-1740, on a 13,000 acre plantation tract. The mansion is a five bay, two-story structure, built of brick in Flemish bond, with black glazed headers. There is a wide central hall with a parlor to the east and two smaller rooms, each with an angle fireplace to the west, or left. The cellar of the main house, which is raised almost to ground level and is well-lighted, originally contained a large storage room to the east, a wine cellar under the front door, and a scullery and kitchen at the west end. To the west, two lower wings step down from the main house on the same axis. The first of these wings was added in 1752 and contained a dining room with a bedroom above. The smallest and westernmost wing was added in 1754. This whitewashed section housed the kitchen and the quarters of the household slaves above it, and is fronted with a brick-columned arcade.

The mansion faces directly south and though well-lighted, has only three windows on the north side, in order to conserve heat in the winter. The main house, as it was built by Judge Dickinson, was three full stories in height, over a raised basement, and had a hipped roof. The first floor windows, which are unusually tall, still reflect the original design that was proper for such a Georgian three-story house.

In 1804 a ~~disastrous~~ fire occurred, which left little of the house standing, except the four walls. John Dickinson supervised the repair of the house, through an extensive correspondence from his home in Wilmington. The original hip roof was replaced with a gable roof, and the mansion was lowered to two stories. The interior of the repaired house was substantial but plain, unlike the expensively decorated and carved woodwork of the original. The repair of the house along simple lines was natural in view of the fact that Dickinson now made his home in Wilmington, and apparently intended the house for tenant use.

In 1952, the National Society of Colonial Dames of America raised \$25,000 which was presented to the State of Delaware to preserve the Dickinson House, when its destruction appeared imminent. The State matched the gift and purchased the house and a 13-acre tract around it. Architectural, archeological and historical research was performed under the direction of the Delaware Public Archives Commission, and with the assistance of an Advisory Committee, restoration was carried out. The restoration of the house was based on Dickinson's correspondence and written instructions of the 1804-1806 period. Materials of the original structure were reused when possible, and the house has been refurnished with pieces formerly owned by the Dickinson family.

There are no surface remains of the outbuildings and slave quarters which once were a part of the plantation, and no archeological work has been done in this area. There are slight vestiges of the long lane which ran from the house south to the landing on St. Jones River, and it is reported that along this lane is the site of the slave burying ground. A formal boxwood garden has been laid out directly in front of the main house, and to the west of the house is a large kitchen garden. Both gardens are enclosed by picket fences. To the east of the house is a log outbuilding, which was recently moved to the site and is not historic.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The land to the east and south of the Dickinson house is presently under cultivation, and is reminiscent of the plantation days. U.S. Route 113 runs along the western boundary of the property and the Bay Road extends along the northern boundary.

105 1 3 7 93

5742 000 235 35

4

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
(1732-1808)		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES (1732-1808) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"John Dickinson has been aptly termed the 'Penman of the Revolution.' In the literature of that struggle, his position is as pre-eminent as Washington in war, Franklin in diplomacy, and Morris in finance."¹

His internationally famous Letters From a Farmer in Pennsylvania (1767) and the subsequent Letters to the King provided calm analysis of the strained relations between England and the colonies from an economic and legal standpoint. Following the Revolution, Dickinson remained an active political leader and proved one of the prime movers in the Constitutional Congress of 1787 and in the ratification of the Constitution.

The Dickinson house, located five miles south of Dover, Delaware, where it is believed he wrote the famous Letters, was built in 1740 by the author's father. It is a fine example of Delaware plantation architecture, and has been restored to its early appearance by the State of Delaware, and it is presently open to the public.

Biography

John Dickinson was born in Talbot County, Maryland in 1732, and moved with his family to Kent County, Delaware in 1724. His father, Samuel Dickinson, was a rich planter and later a judge, who in 1740 purchased a 13,000 acre plantation on St. Jones Creek, and there erected his fine brick mansion.

In this house young Dickinson grew up as a rich planter's son enjoying the life of a country aristocrat. He was privately tutored by a young Irishman, William Killen, who later became the first Chancellor of Delaware. In 1750 John left home for Philadelphia to study law, and from there he traveled to London to continue his studies at the Middle Temple.

Dickinson returned to Philadelphia after completing his studies, where he began a successful law practice. He frequently returned to his father's house when his public affairs permitted.

1. Paul L. Ford, The Writings of John Dickinson, Historical Society of Pennsylvania Memoirs, XIV (Philadelphia, 1895) preface.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Delaware (The American Guide Series) (New York, 1938).

Paul L. Ford,, The Writings of John Dickinson, Historical Society of Pennsylvania Memoirs, XIV (Philadelphia, 1895).

C. J. Stille, The Life and Times of John Dickinson, 1732-1808, Historical Society of Pennsylvania Memoirs XIII (Philadelphia, 1891).

Moses Tyler, The Literary History of the American Revolution, 1763-1783, 2 vols. (New York, 1897). I.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 13

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 4,6,1,12,0 4,3,2,8,2,4,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 1,8 4,6,1,2,8,0 4,3,2,8,1,8,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,8 4,6,1,3,0,0 4,3,2,7,9,0,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D 1,8 4,6,1,1,3,0 4,3,2,7,9,0,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at the inter section of Kitt Hummock Road and the abandoned dirt road, proceed south along the eastern curb of the dirt road 1000' to a point, thence east for approximately 500' to a point, thence north for approximately 750' back to Kitt Hummock Road, thence northwest along the southern curb of Kitt Hummock Road to the point of origin.

(See sketch map)

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

Richard E. Greenwood, Historian, Landmark Review Task Force

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

3/12/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW

TELEPHONE

523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Landmark

Designated: JAN. 20, 1961

Boundary Certified: date 8/2/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE 8/10/77

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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John Dickinson House, Delaware

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE (1)

Biography (continued)

When trouble with England was made acute by the Townshend Acts of 1767, he wrote his Letters to a Farmer in Pennsylvania (Delaware was then in the Three Lower Counties of Pennsylvania) which brought him fame in America and abroad. These pamphlets, as well as his subsequent Letters to the King were an appeal to reason to avert or postpone a break with England. Unlike Patrick Henry's incendiary speeches, Dickinson's patriotism took the form of a calm analysis of the problem from a legal and economic standpoint. His thesis was that England would enjoy a more profitable trade with the Colonies if she did not labor them with taxes.

This unfulfilled hope for reconciliation cost him popularity when, in July 1776, as a delegate from Pennsylvania, he absented himself from the vote on Richard Henry Lee's resolution for independence, voted against the Declaration of Independence, and then declined to sign that document. The Colonies, he felt, would not stand much chance of winning the war without strong allies or a strong central government to hold the Colonies together. Nonetheless when the war began he was one of the few members of the Continental Congress to take up arms.

In 1781-2 Dickinson's prestige was sufficiently restored for him to serve as President of Delaware, after which he resigned to become President of Pennsylvania.

Dickinson's passion for justice and order in government reached its flower in the Constitutional Congress of 1787, where his counsel halted fruitless bickering and clarified many problems. After the Constitution was finally drawn up he campaigned for its adoption by the States with pamphlets signed, "Fabius," and had the satisfaction of seeing Delaware ratify it first.

Dickinson spent his last years in Wilmington, Delaware, where he died in 1808.

Property **Dickinson, John, House**

State **DELAWARE** Working Number **NHL**

**BOUNDARY DEFINITION
RECEIVED** *4.12.76*

TECHNICAL *21+M incorrect, too much area enclosed*

CONTROL

Photos _____

Maps _____

HISTORIAN

No photos of intrusions. Boundaries seem reasonable.

*OK
B. Growen
2/7/77*

*560 acres nominated are that part of
Dickinson's estate still being cultivated. State bought 13 acres, yet
is listed as owner of nominated acreage*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*LEBOWITZ
2.16.77*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

Federal Register Entry _____

Re-submit _____

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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Revised Boundary Description

John Dickinson Mansion

National Historic Landmark

Beginning at the intersection of County Route 68 with a lane leading to the John Dickinson Mansion east along County Route 68 approximately .6 mile, from thence due south to the St. Jones River, thence west along the historic course of the St. Jones River to an unnamed creek, thence north along the creek and the west side of the lane leading to the John Dickinson Mansion to the point of beginning.

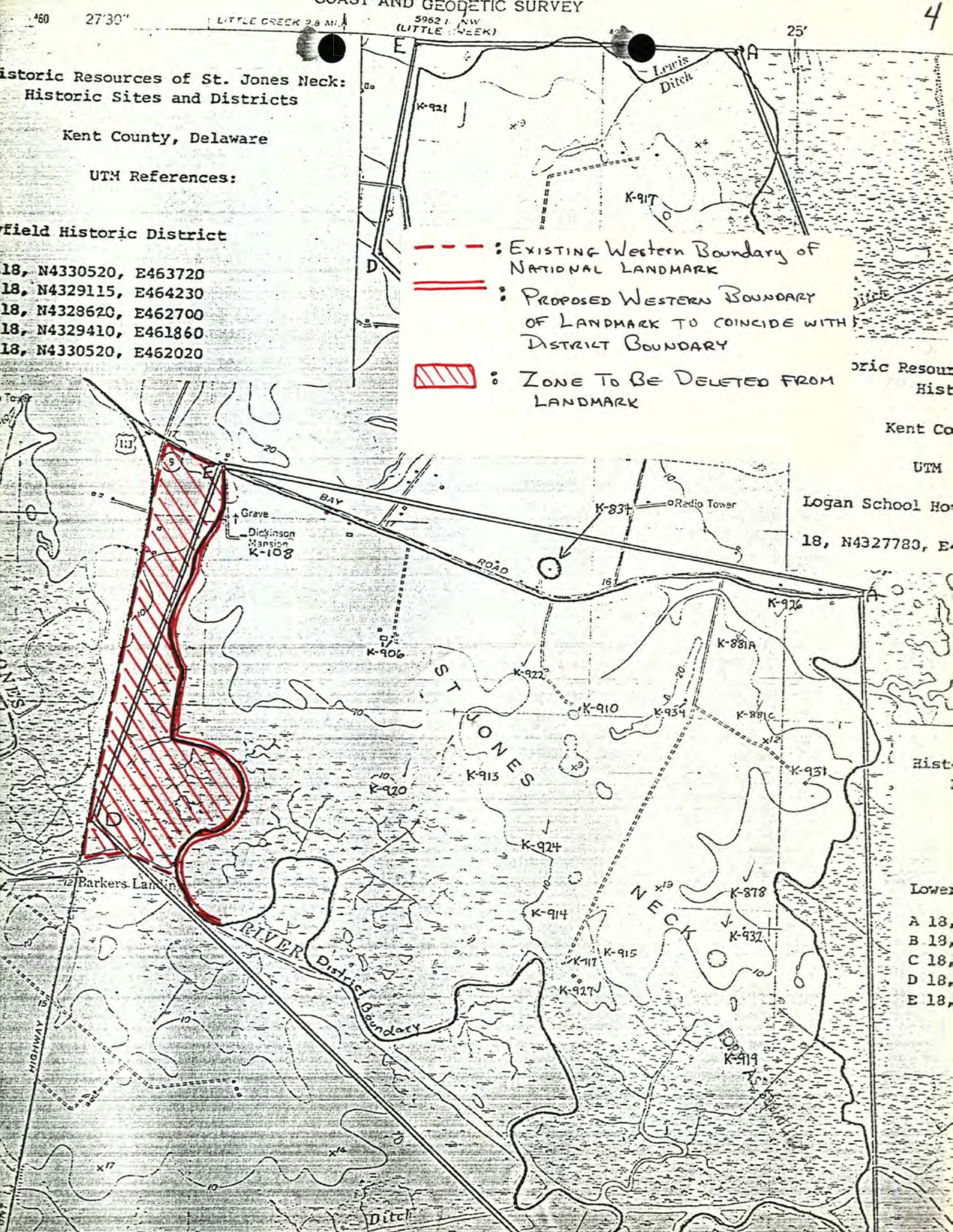
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION
DICKINSON MANSION NATIONAL LANDMARK

Cara L. Wise
Historical Archaeologist



It has been proposed that the boundary of the Dickinson Mansion National Landmark be revised to conform to the boundaries of the St. Jones Neck Historic District, which includes the Dickinson Mansion itself but which does not include all the area described for the National Landmark. The boundaries for the St. Jones Neck Historic District were chosen to include intact architectural and archaeological evidence of the historic development of St. Jones Neck using existing natural and visual boundaries wherever possible.

With respect to the Dickinson Mansion, the woods along the unnamed creek used as the western boundary of the district and the trees planted along the lane to the Mansion provide a visual and physical terminus to the property. The fields to the west of this creek contain no historic period occupations, so far as can be determined by surface survey, nor is there any documentary evidence that such an occupation should be expected. Based on our knowledge of archaeological sites of the same period, all the archaeological remains associated with the structure can be expected to be found east of the creek within 150 ft. of the house. The woods along the creek also serve to screen the Mansion from Rt. 113, which is the western boundary of the Landmark. The plantation aspect of the Landmark's significance is adequately expressed by the land east and south of the structure.



Historic Resources of St. Jones Neck:
Historic Sites and Districts

Kent County, Delaware

UTM References:

Field Historic District

- 18, N4330520, E463720
- 18, N4329115, E464230
- 18, N4328620, E462700
- 18, N4329410, E461860
- 18, N4330520, E462020

- : EXISTING Western Boundary of NATIONAL LANDMARK
- == : PROPOSED Western Boundary OF LANDMARK TO COINCIDE WITH DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- [Hatched Box] : ZONE TO BE DELETED FROM LANDMARK

Historic Resource
Historic

Kent Co

UTM

Logan School Ho

18, N4327780, E462020

Historic

Lower

- A 18,
- B 18,
- C 18,
- D 18,
- E 18,





John Dickinson House, Dover, Delaware

3750

3750

John Dickinson House, 1739-54
South (Front) Elevation and West End,
near Dover, Del.

N.P.S. Photo, 1967

(28)



3749

3749

John Dickinson House, 1739-54
South (Front) Elevation and East End,
near Dover, Del.

N.P.S. Photo, 1967



DE 3

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

os dickin, eps

6-2

②

PHOTOGRAPH FOR
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
by JACK E. BOUCHER, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

PERSPECTIVE CORRECTION
WITHIN ONE DEGREE

DATE _____

7-75

dae: 10-15-66

DEL.: DOVER VIC. JOHN DICKENSON HOUSE
Kent Co.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Dickinson House

AND/OR COMMON

John Dickinson House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Kitts Hummock X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Kent

STATE Delaware

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

National Park Service

DATE OF PHOTO 1967

NEGATIVE FILED AT n. r.

Confirmed by Richard E. Greenwood

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

NATION HISTORIC LANDMARK
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC John Dickinson House

AND/OR COMMON John Dickinson House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Kitts Hummock

☒ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Kent

STATE Delaware

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S. Map, Frederica Quadrangle
(7.5' Series)

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1956

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



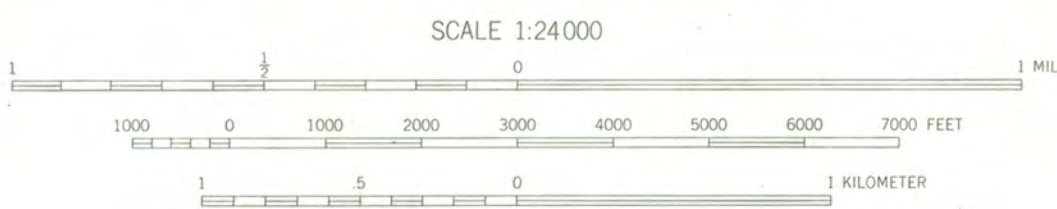
Maped by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USC&GS and USGS
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1946. Topography by planetable surveys 1946. Revised
by USGS 1956

Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 1218 (1955)

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Delaware coordinate system
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

UTM GRID AND 1956 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4.8 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

FREDERICA, DEL.
SW 1/4 BOWERS 15' QUADRANGLE
N3900—W7522 5/7.5

1956

AMS 5962 III SW—SERIES V832



The John Dickinson House
USGS 15' Series
Frederica Quadrangle
Near Dover, Delaware

UTM References

A 18, N:4328000, E:462000
B 18, N:4325590, E:462000
C 18, N:4326385, E:460460
D 18, N:4328260, E:461070

SCALE 1:24,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
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ROAD CLASSIFICATION

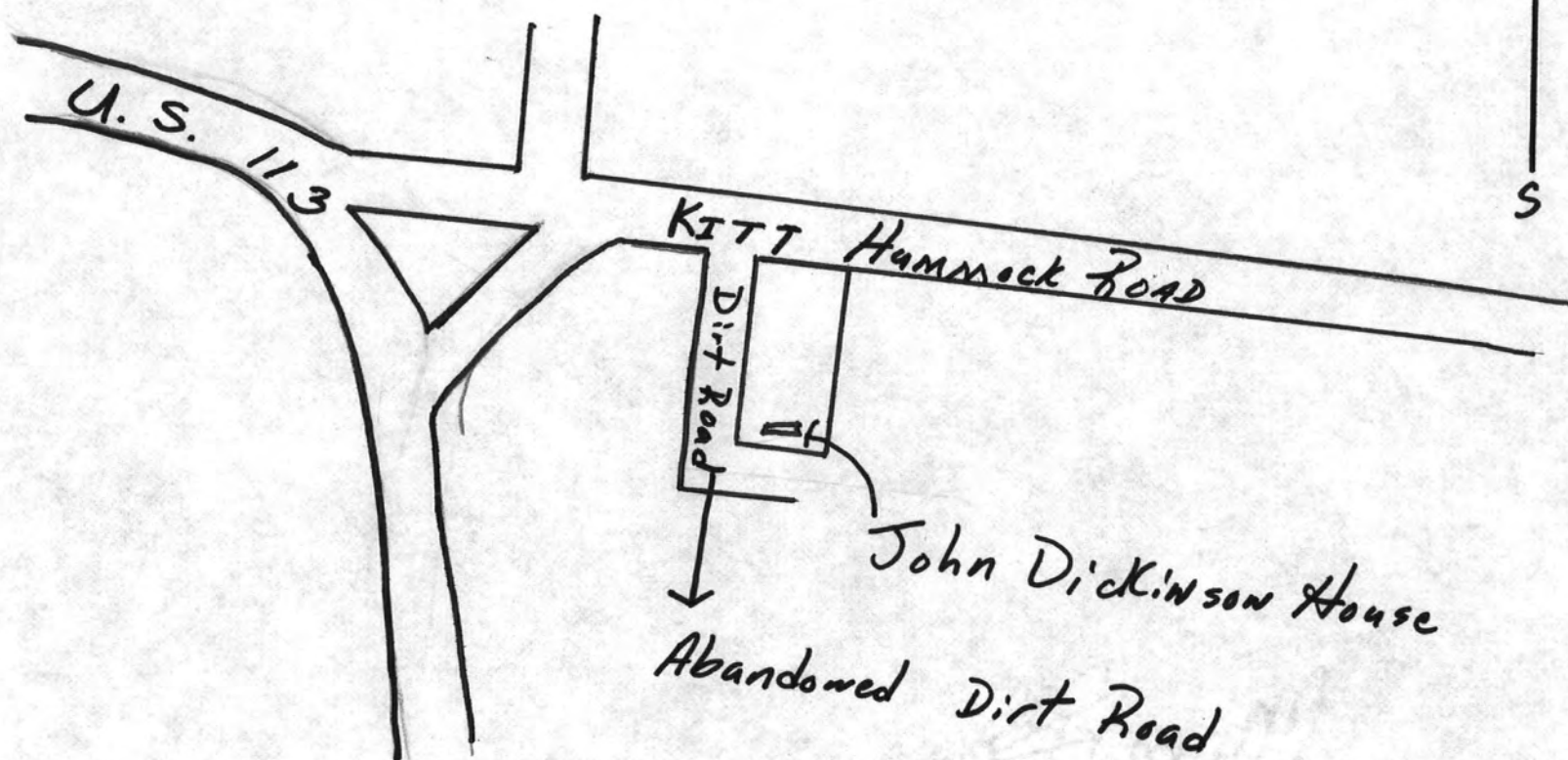
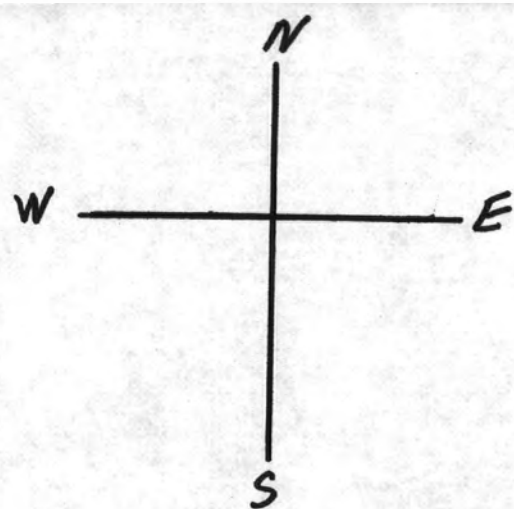
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

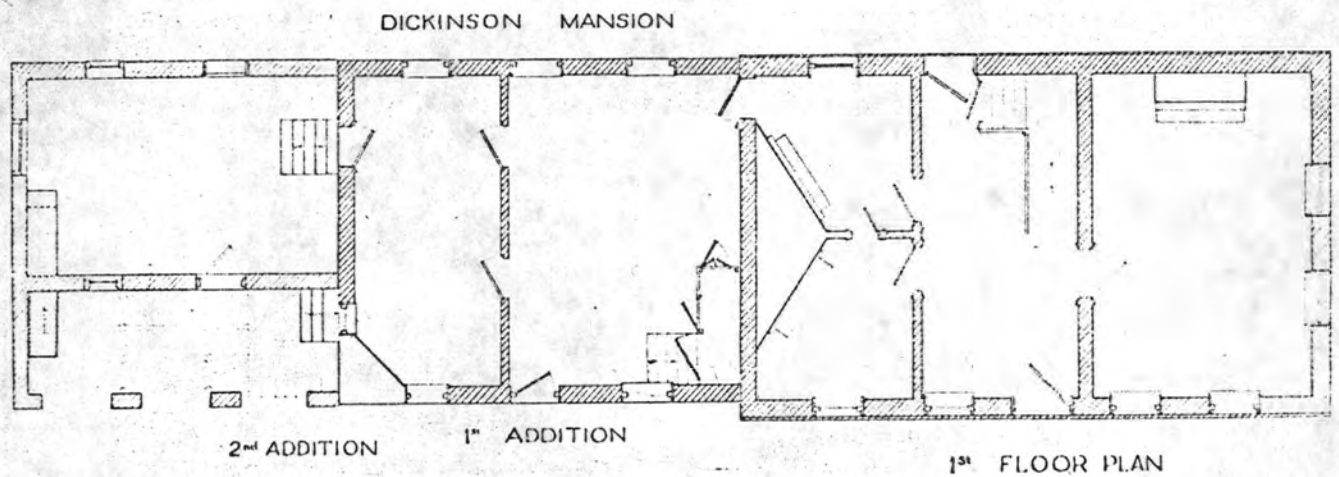
FREDERICA, DEL.
SW 1/4 BOWERS 15' QUADRANGLE
N3900—W7522.5/7.5

1956

AMS 5962 III SW—SERIES V832







First floor plans of the John Dickinson Mansion for the original 1740 part and the wings of 1752 and 1754.

From Harold D. Eberlein and Cortlandt
V. D. Hubbard, Historic Houses and Buildings
of Delaware (Wilmington, Del., 1963), 76.

IRS. HENRY RIDGELY, PRESIDENT
GEORGE M. FISHER, VICE-PRESIDENT
JAMES E. GOSLEE, SECRETARY
MRS. EDWARD W. COOCH
DONALD R. MORTON
MRS. JAMES M. TUNNELL



STATE OF DELAWARE
PUBLIC ARCHIVES COMMISSION
DOVER

Leon de Vallager, Jr.
STATE ARCHIVIST

Survey
John Dickinson
House

January 4, 1950

Honorable J. Allen Frear
U. S. Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Frear:

During the course of years many people coming to Dover inquire of the location of the John Dickinson House; and, after some of them have seen it, they express surprise that the home of so prominent an early patriot of our Country has not been preserved as an historic shrine. We explain that, as there is no Society for the Preservation of Antiquities in our State and further that as the State is only now establishing a State Museum in Dover, aid from these sources could not be obtained for this purpose. We have been so impressed by the sincere wishes of people to see this mansion preserved that we have attempted to interest a group of private citizens in the State to undertake purchase and preservation of the House. These efforts, however, were unsuccessful as it would apparently require more funds than could be raised for this purpose.

As John Dickinson was born in Maryland, raised in Delaware, held prominent offices in this State as well as in

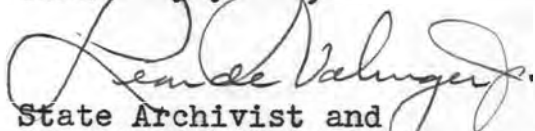
Honorable J. Allen Frear

-2-

January 4, 1950

Pennsylvania, and through his writings contributed largely to the independence and growth of our Country, it is thought by many citizens that his mansion near Dover should be preserved as a national shrine. It is for that reason that on behalf of many interested people I am asking you to intercede for us with the National Park Service. In this folder is a sketch of John Dickinson prepared by Dr. John H. Powell, his official biographer, as well as a map showing the location of the House and some photographs showing its present site. We will be pleased to do all we can to assist with furtherance of this project and we hope that the National Park Service will recognize the importance of this historic house and add it to the historic sites under its custody.

Cordially yours,



State Archivist and
Director-Delaware State Museum

LdeV:csa

C
O
P
Y

UNITED STATES SENATE
Washington, D. C.

27 January 1950

The Honorable Oscar L. Chapman
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have just forwarded to the Director of the National Park Service a letter and other documents having to do with a proposal to preserve the John Dickinson House in Kent County, Delaware, as a national monument. Dickinson, as you well know, was one of the great men of the Revolution.

As the "Penman of the Revolution" his eminence was recognized not only in Delaware and Pennsylvania, but throughout the Colonies. Later by the use of his influence and his pen he did much to have the Constitution of our young Nation successfully adopted. He held high offices in Delaware as well as in Pennsylvania and today hundreds of graduates of Dickinson College, which was named in his honor, revere his memory and would be particularly interested in seeing his home preserved as a national shrine.

I want to point out in particular that of the many historic sites throughout the country which have been preserved by the National Park Service, no attention or recognition has been given to those of Delaware. A decision to preserve the John Dickinson House by the National Park Service will be looked upon with great favor by the people of my State. I earnestly trust that you will agree with me in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) J. Allen Frear, Jr.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

H. S. Cash
In reply refer to:
L58 WASO

Lurvey
Del.
FEB - 2 1950

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Senator Frear:

We have received your letter of January 27th, enclosing a letter and brochure from Mr. Leon de Vallinger, State Archivist of Delaware, in regard to the possibility of the preservation of the John Dickinson House in Kent County, Delaware, as a national historical area.

We are pleased to learn of your interest, and that of Mr. de Vallinger, in the preservation of the interesting structure associated with John Dickinson.

In the absence of Mr. Ronald F. Lee, Chief Historian of the National Park Service, who is away from the city on official business for several days, we will not be in a position immediately to undertake preliminary consideration of this proposal, but we shall endeavor within ten days to write you further in regard to the proposal.

Your interest in writing to us, and in bringing Mr. de Vallinger's data to our attention, is appreciated, and we shall communicate further with you at an early date in regard to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY

A. E. Demaray
Acting Director

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One
Lands Division
History Division
Mr. Young (detached)

With copy of Sen.
Frear's ltr of 1/27
" " " "
" " " "

RWYoung-fnd

C O P Y

UNITED STATES SENATE

Washington, D. C.

27 January 1950

Mr. Newton B. Drury, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Drury:

I am enclosing for your attention an illustrated brochure and a letter to me from the State Archivist and Director, Delaware State Museum of the State of Delaware, Mr. Leon de Valinger, Jr. Its contents are self-explanatory and are being forwarded to you at the suggestion of Mr. Ronald F. Lee, the Chief Historian of the National Park Service.

I am intensely interested in having the National Park Service preserve the John Dickinson House as a historic shrine. The enclosed information about Dickinson was prepared by Dr. John R. Powell, his official biographer.

A number of people are very much interested in anything connected with John Dickinson as he was one of the great men of the Revolution. As the "Penman of the Resolution" his eminence was recognized not only in Delaware and Pennsylvania but throughout the Colonies. Later by the use of his influence and his pen he did much to have the Constitution of our young Nation successfully adopted. He held high offices in Delaware as well as Pennsylvania and today hundreds of graduates of Dickinson College, which was named in his honor, revere his memory and would be particularly interested in seeing his home preserved as a national shrine.

The John Dickinson house, where he was raised as a boy and spent much of his time while in Dover, is very conveniently located on the Kitts-Hummock Road (State Route 9) just a few hundred feet off U. S. 113 southeast of Dover. This location is very convenient for tourists visiting Delaware or to the increased number of motorists using the Ocean Highway going, or coming from the North, to Florida. In addition to being easily accessible, the house is an excellent example of the large brick mansion type of Kent County, Delaware, which is rapidly disappearing.

After examining the list of sites under the custody of the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service, it is my feeling that the John Dickinson house certainly deserves inclusion in such a list. I believe also that of the many historic sites throughout

the country, which have been preserved by the National Park Service, no attention or recognition has been given to those of Delaware. If you desire, I will be happy to discuss this matter further with you.

For your information, I have also written the Secretary of the Interior asking his consideration in the matter of preserving the John Dickinson house.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. Allen Freear, Jr.

Enclosure



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
L58 WASO

PRS 362

FEB - 7 1950

*Survey
Delaware*

My dear Senator Frear:

I have received your letter of January 27 concerning your interest in the preservation of the John Dickinson House in Kent County, Delaware, as a national monument.

I am asking Director Newton B. Drury of the National Park Service of this Department to give consideration to this proposal. You should hear from him regarding it within ten days.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) C. GIRARD DAVIDSON

Acting Secretary of the Interior

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One (By NPS) with copy of Mr. Frear's
History Division — letter of January 27.
Lands Division "
Mr. Young "

RWYoung:bb



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

W. C. C.
In reply refer to:
LSS WAGO

25, D. C.

Survey
MAR 13 1950

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Senator Frear:

In Director Newton B. Drury's absence, we have received your letter of March 6 and have arranged for Mr. de Valinger to appear before the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments at 2 o'clock on April 18, in Room 3015 Interior Building, with reference to the proposed preservation of the John Dickinson House in Kent County, Delaware.

If Mr. de Valinger will send us five copies of his report well in advance of the meeting, we shall send them to the members of the Subcommittee on Historical Problems so that they will be familiar with the project before the meeting.

We appreciate your active interest in historical conservation.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) A. E. DEMARAY

A. E. Demaray
Acting Director

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One, (with a copy of
Land Planning Division (Sen. Frear's letter
✓ History Division of 3/6/50

HEKahler:lc

UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

6 March 1950

Mr. Newton B. Drury, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Drury:

I have received your letter of March 3, with further reference to the proposed preservation of the John Dickinson House. It would be appreciated if you could confirm the April 18th date for the meeting of the Board, as I have already communicated with Mr. de Valinger, and he will be happy to come to Washington to appear before the committee.

I agree with you that it is a desirable policy to encourage the states to preserve historic sites whenever possible. Unfortunately, an organization to carry out such an undertaking in Delaware does not exist. Further, in our state, we do not have a National Shrine up to the present time.

You may be interested to know that a number of reputable citizens in the state are taking an increased interest in the John Dickinson House and are hopeful that favorable action may be forthcoming. I should like to assure you again of my great interest in this project and of my desire to be of whatever aid I can in furthering its acceptance by the National Park Service.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) J. Allen Frear, Jr.

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In **100** refer to:
L58 WASO

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 30, 1950

Memorandum:

To: Chief Historian
From: Chief Architect
Subject: John Dickinson House, Dover, Delaware.

We have very little information on the above structure, which, I understand, is scheduled for consideration as a National Historic Site at the April meeting of the Advisory Board.

In the Historic American Building Survey the district officer for Delaware had given it a low priority and recommended photographing only. It is described as a typical mid-eighteenth century dwelling of the manor type, with two early-nineteenth century additions.

There are no outstanding architectural characteristics or even well preserved features which would justify its designation as of National significance.

This structure should be placed in the category for preservation and operation by the local government or by some historical organization interested in exhibiting the house to the public.

Dick Sutton

Dick Sutton
Chief Architect

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Project Manager

April 25, 1950

Resident Architect

Visit to John Dickinson House

1. I was invited to accompany Mr. Harold D. Eberlein and Dr. Riley on a visit to the Dickinson House in the country near Dover, Delaware Sunday, April 23rd. Dr. Riley had to decline because of other pressing duties but I went along. Mr. Ralph Erskine accompanied us.
2. We took lunch with Mrs. Henry Ridgely at Dover and visited the Dickinson house with Mr. Leon deValinger, Jr., State Archivist. Afterwards we visited the Archives building and saw some very interesting items.
3. The Dickinson house is a two-story gable-end house with two brick additions at one end. The front is of Flemish bond with glazed headers; the rear of English bond. One end is entirely plastered, the other largely concealed by additions. The original main cornice is missing and it seemed likely that the roof was converted from a hipped type to the present gabled type. There is a certain amount of old woodwork in the house; it appeared to be rather late in period. Mr. deValinger mentioned that there had been a fire about 1790. Perhaps most of the interior dates from that time.
4. The trip was not proposed to me as an official one but I was careful not to make any commitments. When asked my opinion of the house I merely remarked that there seemed to be quite a few changes from the original condition.

Charles E. Peterson
Resident Architect

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
158 WASO

Survey

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

MAY - 8 1950

My dear Senator Frear:

I have received your letters of April 19 and April 27 concerning the conclusion reached by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, at its recent meeting, in regard to the preservation of the John Dickinson House near Dover, Delaware, as a national historical area.

I have also read with interest the resolution adopted by the Dickinson Club of Delaware enclosed with your letter of April 27 and have been informed that Mr. Kelly, your Administrative Assistant, as well as Mr. Leon DeValinger, State Archivist of Delaware, made an effective presentation regarding the Dickinson House during their appearance before the Advisory Board on April 18. Dr. Waldo G. Leland, retiring Chairman of the Board, has also asked me to convey to you the Board's appreciation for your thoughtfulness in asking Messrs. Kelly and DeValinger to present your views and those of the several groups of citizens at Dover concerning the John Dickinson House.

The resolution adopted by the Advisory Board regarding the Dickinson House is now before Secretary Chapman and as soon as he gives his approval, I shall be glad to advise you.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) A. E. DEMARAY

A. E. Demaray
Acting Director

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One
Mr. Wirth
Recreational Planning Division
History Division ✓
Mr. Young (detached)



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

7.H. File
In reply refer to:
L.S. JASO

Mr. Young

Lurvey

JUN - 2 1950

Mr. Max Terry, Secretary
State Park Commission
State of Delaware
Dover, Delaware

Dear Mr. Terry:

Your letter of May 23 to Mr. Charles A. Richey concerning the possibility that the John Dickinson House, near Dover, Delaware, could be preserved as a part of the National Park System, has been referred to my Office for consideration and reply.

Mr. Richey advises me that he appreciated the opportunity of meeting and working with you in recent years in regard to the State park program of Delaware. We also appreciate your expression of interest to him concerning the need for the preservation of the John Dickinson House. As you perhaps know, through arrangements made by Senator J. Allen Frear, Jr., the opportunity was afforded on April 18 for Mr. Leon DeValinger, State Archivist of Delaware, to appear before the Subcommittee on Historical Problems of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments in support of the proposal for the Federal Government to assist with the preservation of this structure. Following Mr. DeValinger's helpful presentation, the Subcommittee recommended the following resolution, which the Board adopted on April 19, and which Secretary Chapman has approved:

"Resolved, that the Advisory Board fully recognizes the historical importance of John Dickinson. It has carefully considered the position of the structure near Dover among the several other homes of Dickinson -- his birthplace in Maryland, his residence in Philadelphia, and in Wilmington, no longer existing. After deliberation the Board does not feel it can consider his house near Dover (his boyhood home, and occasional later residence) to be of national significance, either in relation to his career, or for its own architectural merit. It commends to the State of Delaware the desirability of organization, both public and private, for the preservation of this and other ancient monuments that have high significance for the State and people of Delaware."

In these circumstances, we regret that the National Park Service will not be able to participate actively in the preservation of the John Dickinson House, except in an advisory capacity. During recent years, in fact, the Service has been recommending more and more that local governmental agencies or private historical associations care for the majority of historic sites, such as the Dickinson House, which are a definite part of our historical heritage, but the care of which it would never be possible for the Federal Government to assume. Because of the increasing number of historic sites in jeopardy during recent years, the magnitude of the responsibility involved in their care, and the heavy financial burden already imposed upon the Federal Government in the maintenance of historical areas now a part of the National Park System, the Service has been unable to consider the assumption of any new areas unless they are of outstanding national historical significance. In the case of many of the valuable historic sites in jeopardy, local agencies have found means to save them, and we should, therefore, like to endorse the Advisory Board's suggestion and urge that the leadership in the movement to preserve the Dickinson House be undertaken by your Commission, which might find it possible to interest a private organization, such as the Friends of Old Dover, in this proposal.

We regret that the Service cannot be more encouraging in regard to the preservation of the John Dickinson House, and we sincerely trust that the old structure may be saved through the good offices of your Commission and the concerted effort of the local community.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) CONRAD L. WIRTH

Conrad L. Wirth
Assistant Director

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One (2)
Assistant Director Wirth
Land Planning Division
Recreational Planning Division
History Division ✓
Mr. Young (detached)

RWYoung:bas

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in reply refer to:
L58 WASOUNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

PRS 1393

JUN - 5 1950

Survey

My dear Senator Frear:

I have received your letter of May 11 concerning the resolution adopted by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments at its recent meeting in regard to the proposal to preserve the John Dickinson House near Dover, Delaware, as a national historical area.

I appreciate your deep interest in the preservation of this structure and have been advised that through your arrangements were made for Mr. Kelly, your Administrative Assistant, and Mr. Leon DeValinger, State Archivist of Delaware, to appear before the Advisory Board's Subcommittee on Historical Problems on April 18 in support of the proposal to save the Dickinson House. I have been informed that the presentation of these gentlemen was very helpful to the Advisory Board in its deliberations regarding the significance of this structure. After consideration by the Subcommittee, it recommended the following resolution, which the Board adopted on April 19 and which upon recommendation of the Director of the National Park Service, I have subsequently approved:

"Resolved, that the Advisory Board fully recognizes the historical importance of John Dickinson. It has carefully considered the position of the structure near Dover among the several other homes of Dickinson -- his birthplace in Maryland, his residence in Philadelphia, and in Wilmington, no longer existing. After deliberation the Board does not feel it can consider his house near Dover (his boyhood home, and occasional later residence) to be of national significance, either in relation to his career, or for its own architectural merit. It commends to the State of Delaware the desirability of organization, both public and private, for the preservation of this and other ancient monuments that have high significance for the State and people of Delaware."

There is a growing number of worthwhile preservation projects which it has not been possible for the National Park Service to assist except in an advisory capacity. The pressures of the building boom, the rapid growth of population, and the spread of commercial and industrial developments have jeopardized the preservation of many interesting historic landmarks, particularly in recent years. In the past 18 months,

the National Park Service has been asked to consider 114 separate preservation projects, including 28 in the form of proposed legislation. Because of the magnitude of these proposals, and the heavy financial burden already imposed upon the Federal Government in the maintenance and development of areas already a part of the National Park System, it has been particularly difficult to assume new obligations.

During recent years, the National Park Service has been recommending more and more that local governmental agencies or private associations care for many of these sites, which are of definite significance as a part of our historical heritage, but the care of which it would be very unlikely that the Federal Government could possibly assume. In many of these cases, local agencies have found ways and means to assume the responsibility for the preservation of the sites. I should, therefore, like to endorse the Advisory Board's suggestion and urge that the preservation of the Dickinson House be undertaken by State or local governmental agencies, or by private historical associations, such as the Friends of Old Dover. Should it prove practicable to interest any such agencies or associations in this project, the National Park Service will be glad to make available to appropriate representatives their advisory services, insofar as funds will permit.

I regret that I cannot be more encouraging about active Federal participation in the saving of the John Dickinson House, and I want to thank you for the personal time and effort that you have devoted to bringing this proposal to my attention and for presenting it to the Advisory Board for its consideration. I do hope that the interesting old structure may be preserved through community effort.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) OSCAR L. CHAPMAN

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One (2) w/copy of Senator Frear's letter of 5/11/50 (By NPS)

Assistant Director Wirth	"	"	"	"	"
Recreational Planning Division	"	"	"	"	"
History Division ✓	"	"	"	"	"
Mr. Young (detached)	"	"	"	"	"

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UNITED STATES SENATE

Washington, D.C.

11 May 1950 km

Honorable Oscar L. Chapman
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Interior Building
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The Acting Director of the National Park Service advises me that a resolution adopted by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, with reference to the John Dickinson House in Delaware, is now awaiting your approval.

I am not aware of what recommendation the Committee made, but I assure you that the preservation of the John Dickinson House is one of my staunchest objectives. Popular support for the restoration of this House is widespread, and I am desirous of doing everything possible to secure its approval by the Department of the Interior. I am in hopes that your careful judgment will lead you to the same conclusions which I hold. As you know, Delaware has no national shrine whatsoever at the present time.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. Allen Frear, Jr.



TO SECRETARY
JUL 21 1950
FOR SIGNATURE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
L58 WASO

AUG - 3 1950

Survey

My dear Senator Frear:

I have received your letter of June 6 in regard to the John Dickinson House near Dover, Delaware, expressing your disappointment concerning the fact that this project has not been approved. Since the receipt of your letter, Director Drury and other members of the Department have discussed the matter with Mr. Kelly of your office, and I have requested that no action be taken on my letter of June 5 to you until further consideration can be given to this matter.

In view of your letter, at my request the National Park Service of this Department has reviewed the material available in its records relating to parks, historic sites, and buildings in your State. It is the preliminary view of the National Park Service, in which I concur, that perhaps the most interesting and important group of historic sites and buildings in Delaware is that situated in the town of New Castle, which represent a long and significant history, having been successively under the flags of Sweden, Holland, Great Britain and the United States. The pride and skillful cooperation of the citizens of this community and Delaware have resulted in the preservation of a substantial number of historic and architectural monuments in New Castle closely grouped in a compact unit around Green and Market Squares.

This Department has not promoted national historic sites in such situations because we do not wish to encroach on local autonomy, but rather are inclined to encourage local preservation efforts. It has been our belief that efforts to establish Federal areas in such locations might be construed as interference in local affairs. Nevertheless, it is our present opinion that if Delaware is to have a unit in the National Park System, some appropriate property in the heart of historic New Castle would be the most suitable location in the State. We are aware that the citizens of New Castle and of Delaware generally, are effectively carrying forward a program of preservation there, and it is our belief that if they and you should so desire, a plan for Federal recognition of this outstanding program might be worked out. We have in mind the establishment of a national historic site under the Act of August 21, 1935, (Public Law 292-74th Congress). In this event,

the people of the community would continue to carry on as they are now doing, but under a cooperative agreement with the Federal Government. This agreement would provide that such buildings and sites as are named therein shall continue to be protected, and in consequence, would be recognized by the Federal Government as of national historic importance.

It is the frank opinion of the National Park Service that the New Castle project would be more appropriate than the acquisition, preservation, and rehabilitation of the John Dickinson House, and that the benefits to the State of Delaware would be greater in connection with the former proposal than with the latter. New Castle is already a tourist attraction. Federal recognition would make it even more so.

I would greatly appreciate your reactions to the suggestions in this letter. It appears to me that the next step might well be for the National Park Service to conduct investigations of historic site possibilities at New Castle and also, of course, make a further study of the John Dickinson House to determine whether or not additional information should be presented to our Advisory Board on it.

Sincerely yours,

SGD.) OSCAR L. CHAPMAN

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One (by NPS)
Assistant Director Wirth " "
Land Planning Division " "
History Division " "
Mr. Young (detached) " "



SECRETARY
JUL 26 1950
FOR SIGNATURE

PRS 1641

In reply refer to:
LS SO

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Survey

AUG - 3 1950

My dear Mr. Connolly:

As requested in your communication of June 13, I am sending you, enclosed, a draft of a letter for your signature to the Honorable J. Allen Frear, Jr., in reply to his letter of June 12 to the President, urging the preservation of the John Dickinson House near Dover, Delaware, as an historic site under the control of the Federal Government. Also enclosed is Senator Frear's letter.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) OSCAR L. CHAPMAN

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Matthew J. Connolly
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosures 2

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One (2) (By NPS) with copy of Mr. Connolly's communication of 6/13/50 and Sen. Frear's ltr. of 6/12/50

Assistant Director Wirth	"	"	"	"
Recreational Planning Div.	"	"	"	"
History Div. ✓	"	"	"	"
Mr. Young (detached)	"	"	"	"

RWYoung:bes

My dear Senator Frear:

Your letter of June 12 concerning the preservation of the John Dickinson House near Dover, Delaware, as an historic site under the control of the Federal Government, has been discussed with the Department of the Interior.

That Department advises that it is appreciative of your great interest in the establishment of a national historical area in Delaware and has explored such possibilities in a preliminary way. I am informed that Secretary Chapman is writing to you at some length in regard to these matters.

I am sure that Secretary Chapman will offer a satisfactory proposal concerning the conservation of historic sites of national importance in Delaware. Your interest in bringing these matters to my attention is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew J. Connelly
Secretary to the President

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

UNITED STATES SENATE
Washington, D.C.

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12 June 1960 kw

Dear Mr. President:

It is with some reluctance, but with a feeling of considerable urgency that I address you on a subject of pressing interest to the people of Delaware.

Sometime ago I communicated with the National Park Service asking that it give consideration to the preservation of a historical mansion as a National Shrine. The structure is the John Dickinson House near Dover, and was the home of the great Revolutionary figure. A history of the John Dickinson Mansion, together with the compelling reasons for seeking its restoration, was presented to the National Park Service by appropriate representatives from my state some weeks ago. Prior to that, a large and distinguished group of Delawareans, headed by His Excellency Governor Elbert N. Carvel, had communicated with me soliciting support for the project. However, in answer to a recent telephone inquiry to Secretary Chapman, I was advised by letter that the proposal had been rejected.

Delaware, Mr. President, has no National Shrine whatsoever. As the First State of the Union, and one steeped in historical tradition, I feel most strongly that it merits recognition of this type. I am most hesitant to inform the scores of persons who have communicated with me that there is to be no opportunity for the establishment of the John Dickinson House as an adjunct of the National Park Service. I am, therefore, asking your assistance to see if some way cannot be found to have the Federal Government make recognition of the John Dickinson House possible.

Respectfully:

/s/ J. Allen Frear, Jr.

The President
The White House

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 13, 1950

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MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

With the return of the attached letter which the President has received from Honorable J. Allen Frear, Jr., will you please let us have a draft of reply to the Senator.

/s/

Matthew J. Connelly
Secretary to the President



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
L58 WASO

SEP 22 1950

Survey

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region One
From: Assistant Director Wirth
Subject: Field investigation of the John Dickinson House, Dover, Del.

The enclosed correspondence is self-explanatory. It is requested that you arrange to have a field investigation made of the John Dickinson House at Dover, Delaware. It is hoped that this investigation can be completed prior to the next meeting of the Advisory Board which is now scheduled to be held in Washington on November 2-3.

It is suggested that the person or persons making this investigation call first on Mr. De Valenger, State Archivist of Delaware, who will be able to put our representatives in touch with all persons whom they should see while conducting this study. Please let this Office know as soon as this study is scheduled so that Senator Frear's office may be advised.

(SGD) CONRAD L. WIRTH

Assistant Director

In duplicate

Attachments 2

Copy to: History Division ✓

RFLee-fmd



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
L58 WASO

PRS 2322

SEP 28 1950

My dear Senator Frear:

I have received your letter of September 14 in which you request that further consideration be given to the possibility of preserving and restoring the John Dickinson House at Dover, Delaware, through the National Park Service.

In view of your renewed expression of interest, I have requested the National Park Service to arrange to have its representatives visit the John Dickinson House within the next two months, to explore fully all aspects of the proposal. You will be advised well in advance of the dates of the proposed visit so that all interested persons will have an opportunity to discuss the project fully with the representatives of the National Park Service. Following the completion of this study, the project will be thoroughly reviewed by officials of the Service and the Department.

Sincerely yours,

SGD.) OSCAR L. CHAPMAN

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One, with copy of Sen.
Frear's ltr of 9/14/50 (by NPS)
✓ History Division " " " " (by NPS)
Mr. Young (detached) " " " " (by NPS)

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UNITED STATES SENATE

14 September 1950

The Honorable Oscar L. Chapman
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Secretary Chapman:

Following receipt of your August 3rd letter regarding my interest in the establishment by the National Park Service of an historic shrine in my state, I discussed the matter in detail with a number of interested persons, many of whom are distinguished and honored citizens of the First State. It was agreed that, though the establishment of a site in the community of New Castle would be highly desirable, the consensus of opinion still favors the restoration and preservation of the John Dickinson House.

My reasons for seeking recognition of this project are set forth in earlier communications, including an illustrated brochure which is now in the hands of the Director of the National Park Service. Since receiving your letter, I have assembled statistics showing the number of projects and the cost to the Federal Government of maintaining them throughout the United States. This information convinces me more than ever that Delaware rightfully deserves fully appropriate recognition of this type.

Perhaps it would be desirable for me to forward to you the names of some of the many persons from Delaware and other states who have communicated with me urging that the John Dickinson mansion be preserved. This list is immediately available if you desire.

It is my feeling that additional consideration be given by the National Park Service on the feasibility of taking over the John Dickinson House and preserving it in a manner consistent with its historic value.

I will be happy to receive your added views as soon as convenient.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) J. ALLEN FREAR, JR.



Transmit to:
WASO

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OCT - 6 1950

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Senator Frear:

Arrangements have been made for Regional Historian Roy E. Appleman, whose office is at 900 North Lombardy Street, Richmond 20, Virginia, to make a field examination of the John Dickinson House. He plans to call on Mr. de Valinger while he is in Dover.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) NEWTON B. DRURY

Newton B. Drury
Director

Copy to: Assistant Director Wirth
History Division ✓

HEKahler:bes

in reply refer to:
LBS WARD

25, D. C.

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Senator Frear:

In Director Newton B. Drury's absence, we have received your letter of March 6 and have arranged for Mr. de Valinger to appear before the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments at 2 o'clock on April 10, in Room 3013 Interior Building, with reference to the proposed preservation of the John Dickinson House in Kent County, Delaware.

If Mr. de Valinger will send us five copies of his report well in advance of the meeting, we shall send them to the members of the Subcommittee on Historical Problems so that they will be familiar with the project before the meeting.

We appreciate your active interest in historical conservation.

Sincerely yours,

A. E. Demaray
Acting Director

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One, (with a copy of
Land Planning Division (Sen. Frear's letter
History Division (of 3/6/50

HEKahler:lc



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
L58 WABO

OCT - 6 1950

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region One
From: Acting Assistant Director Franke
Subject: Field Investigation of the John Dickinson House,
Dover, Delaware

Attached is our letter to Mr. de Valinger and the information we have available on the John Dickinson House. Incidentally, Charles E. Peterson mentioned that he was familiar with the John Dickinson House and you may wish to get his comments with regard to the architectural importance of the structure. We have checked and find that there are no HABS drawings of the House.

If Mr. Appleman can be present at the Board meeting when this site is considered we believe it will be helpful to the Board members in their deliberations. Consideration of this site has been put on the tentative agenda for the morning of November 3.

We shall appreciate the return of the materials that are attached.

/s/ PAUL R. FRANKE

Acting Assistant Director

In duplicate

Attachments 2

Copy to: History Division

HEKahler:bes

RECEIVED
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
OCT 12 AM 10 07

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION ONE
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

L58 WASO

October 11, 1950

Memorandum

To: The Director
From: Regional Historian
Subject: Field Investigation of the John Dickinson House

I appreciate receiving the material from your files relating to the John Dickinson House near Dover, Delaware, which was forwarded by Acting Assistant Director Franke's memorandum of October 6.

As requested, the material is being returned to you.

Roy E. Appleman
Regional Historian

Attachments-3

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Independence National Historical Park Project
Old Custom House
420 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

October 12, 1950

Mr. Roy E. Appleman
Regional Historian
National Park Service
900 N. Lombardy Street
Richmond 20, Virginia

Dear Roy:

Reference is made to your letter of October 9,
regarding the Dickinson House. Fortunately I made a memoran-
dum of that trip and a couple of copies are enclosed.

When we left Philadelphia I didn't know that the
Park Service was involved. However, I gave out nothing that
would encourage that project.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Charles E. Peterson
Resident Architect

encls.

cc: Chief of Plans & Construction

L58 WA 50
Barnes

Wh. Young
H. File
John Dickinson House

Delaware

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Project Manager

April 25, 1950

Resident Architect

Visit to John Dickinson House

1. I was invited to accompany Mr. Harold D. Eberlein and Dr. Riley on a visit to the Dickinson House in the country near Dover, Delaware Sunday, April 23rd. Dr. Riley had to decline because of other pressing duties but I went along. Mr. Ralph Erskine accompanied us.
2. We took lunch with Mrs. Henry Ridgely at Dover and visited the Dickinson house with Mr. Leon deValinger, Jr., State Archivist. Afterwards we visited the Archives building and saw some very interesting items.
3. The Dickinson house is a two-story gable-end house with two brick additions at one end. The front is of Flemish bond with glazed headers; the rear of English bond. One end is entirely plastered, the other largely concealed by additions. The original main cornice is missing and it seemed likely that the roof was converted from a hipped type to the present gabled type. There is a certain amount of old woodwork in the house; it appeared to be rather late in period. Mr. deValinger mentioned that there had been a fire about 1790. Perhaps most of the interior dates from that time.
4. The trip was not proposed to me as an official one but I was careful not to make any commitments. When asked my opinion of the house I merely remarked that there seemed to be quite a few changes from the original condition.

Charles E. Peterson
Resident Architect

C
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

reply refer to:
LSS WAGO

October 12, 1950

Mr. Leon de Valinger, Jr.
State Archivist of Delaware
Dover, Delaware

Dear Mr. de Valinger:

In the absence of Assistant Chief Historian Herbert E. Kahler, who is on a field trip to the West Coast, I am replying to your letter of October 7 regarding Regional Historian Roy E. Appleman's investigation of the John Dickinson House near Dover.

We have been in touch with Mr. Appleman by long distance telephone and we understand that he plans to see you on Monday, October 23. We trust that this will be satisfactory to you and want to thank you for your interest in the preservation of the Dickinson House and for your kind helpfulness which will greatly facilitate Mr. Appleman's investigations and studies.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) CHARLES W. PORTER III

Charles W. Porter, III
Acting Chief Historian

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One (2)
History Division ✓
Mr. Young (detached)

CWPorter:mr



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
L59 WASO

October 13, 1950

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region One
From: Acting Chief Historian Porter
Subject: Historic Site Survey - Report on John Dickinson House

We have received Regional Historian Appleman's memorandum of October 10 asking how many copies of the report on the John Dickinson House will be required for the use of the Advisory Board at its forthcoming meeting on November 2-3.

In view of the importance which the John Dickinson House proposal has assumed as a result of the keen personal interest of Senator Frear, we believe that all of the Board members will want to be fully informed on this subject. Therefore, if time will permit, it will be appreciated if you will mimeograph about 15 copies of the report which will permit each Board member to receive one copy and allow four copies for the use of the Director's Office and the History Division. As much of the correspondence on this subject has been handled at the Secretarial level, it is possible that the Secretary's Office may want a copy of the report.

If there should not be time enough to mimeograph the report, we should like to have five typed copies, with illustrations, in order that the matter may at least be brought before the subcommittee of the board which handles historical problems.

(SGD) CHARLES W. PORTER III
Acting Chief Historian

In duplicate

Copy to: Mr. Wirth
History Division ✓
Mr. Young (detached)

CWPorter:mr



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Indeply refer to:
LSC, PASO

PRS 2501

OCT 13 1950

My dear Mr. Kelly:

Your letter of October 5 advising us that Senator Frear or his representative would like to be present during the proposed investigation of the John Dickinson House near Dover, Delaware, by the National Park Service historian assigned to this work has been received.

The National Park Service of this Department will be glad to cooperate with Senator Frear in this regard. We understand that the historian who is to make the proposed study is Regional Historian Roy E. Appleman, of Region One of the National Park Service, the office of which is located at 200 N. Lombardy Street, Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Appleman has already been notified by telephone of Senator Frear's personal interest as described in your letter of October 5. He plans to be at the office of Mr. Leon de Valinger, State Archivist of Delaware, in Dover, on October 23, and will be pleased to meet with Senator Frear or his representative at that time, if it is convenient.

As indicated by the attached copy of Mr. Leon de Valinger's letter of October 7, Monday, October 23 was the earliest practicable date that could be arranged for the historical investigation. If it should be possible for Senator Frear or his representative to meet with Mr. Appleman at that time, it will be agreeable to us for you to write or telegraph Mr. Appleman direct at the address in Richmond, Virginia mentioned above, or, if you prefer, you can notify us of your plans and we will then advise Mr. Appleman.

Your interest in the preservation of the John Dickinson House and in the historical conservation work of the National Park Service is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) DALE E. DOTY

Acting Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Robert F. Kelly
Administrative Assistant
to Senator Frear
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One (By NPS) (2) with copy of Mr. Kelly's letter dated 10/5/50

SECRET
OCT 12 1950
FOR SIGNATURE

Copy to: Mr. Wirth (By NPS) w/copy of Mr. Kelly's letter dated 10/5/50
History Division
Regional Director, Region One (2)

CWP:Porter:mr

J. Allen Frear, Jr.
Delaware

UNITED STATES SENATE
Washington, D. C.

5 October 1950 kw

C
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Y

The Honorable Oscar L. Chapman
Secretary of Interior
Department of Interior
Interior Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Secretary Chapman:

Senator Frear has been informed by telephone of the receipt of your letter of September 28, in which you advised him that additional consideration is to be given to the preservation of the John Dickinson House in Delaware, as a National Shrine. The Senator was very happy to have this information and is hopeful that favorable results will be forthcoming following the visit to the site by representatives of the National Park Service.

Incidentally, the Senator would like to be present personally, or have his representative on hand, when the National Park people come to Delaware. I am sure he will be pleased to lend his assistance in the making of necessary arrangements.

Sincerely yours,

/SGD/ Robert F. Kelly
Administrative Assistant
to Senator Frear

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION ONE
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

In reply refer to:
RFO RASo

October 31, 1950

Memorandum

To: The Director
From: Regional Historian
Subject: John Dickinson House, Historic Site Survey Report

There are attached thirteen copies of my Historic Site Survey Report on the John Dickinson House, Kent County, Delaware. This report has been prepared in accordance with Assistant Director Wirth's memorandum of September 22. The report was desired in connection with the meeting of the Advisory Board, which is to be held in Washington, November 2-3.

Five copies of the report are complete with text, photographs, and map; six copies lack the photographs; and two copies lack both photographs and map. I did not think it necessary to provide all copies with the photographs.

As requested, I shall be in your office November 3 on or about eleven o'clock.

Regional Historian

Attachments-13

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Region One
Richmond 20, Virginia

THE JOHN DICKINSON HOUSE

Kent County, Delaware

Historic Sites Survey Report

by Roy E. Appleman

October 31, 1950

REGISTERED NATIONAL
HISTORIC LANDMARKS

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THE JOHN DICKINSON HOUSE

Kent County, Delaware

Historic Sites Survey Report

by Roy E. Appleman
October 31, 1950

I visited the John Dickinson House on Sunday afternoon, October 22, and again the next day, October 23. On October 23, I was accompanied by Mr. Leon de Valinger, Jr., Delaware State Architect, at which time we saw the interior of the house. Later in the day, we had luncheon with Mrs. Henry Ridgely at her home in Dover and discussed the house and what might be done with it. Mr. Kelly, administrative assistance to Senator Frear, called from Washington and advised me of Senator Frear's interest in the house. The comments made in the body of the report below are based upon information obtained by personal inspection of the house and grounds and various printed sources consulted on John Dickinson's career.

Name of Site: John Dickinson House, sometimes called Kingston-Upon-Hull.

Location: Kent County, Delaware, 5½ miles southeast of Dover and a few hundred yards off U. S. Highway 113 just beyond intersection of U. S. Highway 113 with Delaware State Route 9 (The Kitts-Hummock). The house is reached from the hardsurfaced state road by a dirt lane, 3/10 mile long. The house is located on the flat coastal plain that characterizes this part of Delaware.

John Dickinson House: The original house was built by Samuel Dickinson, father of John, in 1740. The front of the main, east wing is of Flemish bond with glazed headers brickwork. The rear of this main wing is of English bond. The original, main cornice is missing, and the east end wall is entirely plastered over with a concrete plaster. The west gable end has been repaired in common bond. The middle wing has both Flemish and common bond brickwork. The west end wing is of common bond.

The building was photographed, but not measured, in the Historic American Buildings Survey of the 1930's. Mr. de Valinger,

who was a civilian advisor for the Historic American Buildings Survey in Delaware at the time, explained to me that practically all of the architects in the state were in and around Wilmington, that the Survey had very little money for travel, and that, accordingly, very little measuring of houses was done down state, including the Dover area.

The house appears to have no special architectural merit. Photographs attached to this report show the main features of the present structure.

Grounds and Outbuildings Surrounding the House: Large cornfields now completely surround the John Dickinson House. There are no formal grounds to the house as the fields encroach immediately on the house, barn, and outbuilding group. There is a picket fence enclosing a small yard at the front and west side of the house. I counted ten outbuildings to the east of the house and three to the west, making thirteen in all. Those to the east include a large barn, a corn crib, a vehicle shed, a storage building, outside privy, a concrete milk house, and another small concrete structure of undetermined use. The buildings to the west of the house are a little farther away and include one vehicle shed and two small wood shacks. The barn held a considerable quantity of baled hay. A few pieces of farm equipment lay scattered around the yard.

I understand from conversation with the tenant farmer that there is still evidence of the large slave burial ground to the south of the house near Jones' Creek. It has been stated that about 400 plantation slaves are buried here. This burial ground is several hundred yards, perhaps $1/3$ to $1/2$ a mile, from the house, and is near a long lane, part of which is still in use as a farm lane leading from the house southward to an old landing on Jones' Creek. There is no remaining evidence of the slave quarters, although they must have been extensive at one time, nor was I able to determine their location.

Owner: The present owner of the John Dickinson House and surrounding grounds is Mr. H. Carlton Draper of Milton, Delaware. I was informed by Mr. de Valinger that Mr. Draper purchased the house in the autumn of last year, presumably September or October, 1949. Mr. Draper bought the property for the land acreage and was not interested in the house. He is engaged in

the canning business, is a business man, and will not consider giving the house to an organization, but he will sell it at a reasonable price. He wants to realize enough from the sale to build a three-bedroom farm tenant house and to move the barn and certain farm outbuildings.

Value of House: Mr. Draper bought the house last year from a Mr. Moore. A Judge Terry had become interested in the old Dickinson house and had formulated tentative plans for the purchase of the house and several surrounding acres for the purpose of restoring and living in the house. He had carried on negotiations with Mr. Moore for the purpose of obtaining an estimate of cost in acquiring ten acres of ground and the house. Mr. Moore quoted him a figure of \$15,500 for the house and ten acres of land. This figure was based on a cost of \$175 an acre for the land (\$1,500), \$10,000 to build a three-room tenant house to take the place of the Dickinson house in housing a farm tenant, and the remainder for the purpose of removing or building new farm outbuildings at the new tenant house (\$4,000). This figure was quoted to Judge Terry by Mr. Moore in June, 1949. The cost of building a new tenant house and of moving some of the outbuildings might be greater now; and accordingly, Mr. Draper, if he used the same basis for arriving at a sale price, might reach a somewhat higher figure. Upon the basis of this information, it appears that the house with five to ten acres of surrounding land will cost at least \$15,000 to \$16,000.

Present Condition of House: The John Dickinson House is composed of three wings all in line from east to west. The main wing is at the east end and appears to be the only part that is original. The two smaller wings on the west, stepping down in size from the east wing (much like the St. George Tucker House at Williamsburg) are 19th century construction, I should judge, from the appearance of the brickwork. The end wall of the smallest wing has partially fallen down as the result of bulldozer operations for a road around the house last year. The removal of earth near the west end of the house weakened the foundation there to the point that it gave way. The remaining part of the west, end wall is pulling away from the side walls and is braced by three heavy poles and braced timbers.

In general, the house has a dilapidated and deserted appearance. The two 19th century wings have been whitewashed at some time in the past; and the back side of the main, or original, part of the house has been whitewashed one or more

times. The east end of the main part of the house is completely plastered over with a form of concrete plaster. I do not know what is the condition of the brickwork underneath it. All the chimneys have been repaired and patched. A clearly marked line of rebuilt brickwork shows on the west wall of the main part of the house. Many of the lights in the windows are gone. The little porch at the main part of the house is obviously not original and is in a dilapidated condition. The steps are gone, and the ceiling has fallen down. The platform was covered with rubbish.

The interior of the house was inspected very briefly owing to an appointment with Mrs. Ridgely. There is a full basement underneath the main wing of the house. It appears to be dry. The ceiling beams appear to be reasonably sound, although there was evidence, I thought, of termite and post beetle infestation. The brick foundation walls, as seen from the basement, have lost practically all of their mortar and need repointing badly. I did not notice any sag in the floors. The flooring appears to be of 19th century, or later, construction. The interior woodwork is very simple and without much decoration and is covered with several coats of paint. I understand from Mr. de Valinger there was a fire in the house in the 1790's. He told me he has seen correspondence from John Dickinson to the carpenter doing repair work in the house after the fire in which Dickinson instructed the carpenter that the woodwork need not be as decorative or as expensively carved as the original. The reason for this instruction is obvious, since Mr. Dickinson was then living, and had been for a number of years, at Wilmington, Delaware. His house was occupied by a tenant farmer; and he, apparently, never expected to live there again himself. Since practically all of the woodwork in the house has the same simple pattern, I infer that all of it is replacement, and not the original. This matter, however, will have to be studied carefully by an architect to determine the point. Most of the doors in the main wing may be original. There are only three or four pieces of old hardware of the doors. Most of it has been removed, including the lock and fixture on the main entrance door.

Mice were running around underneath our feet the whole time we were in the house. The big east end room on the main floor serves as a storage place for oats.

The middle wing of the present structure is occupied by a farmer tenant and his son, who appeared to be about 12 years old. The place was in a disordered and untidy condition.

The main part of the house, which I assume to be the original part, has a wide hallway running across the width of the structure, with a large square, or nearly square, room on the east. There are two small, odd-shaped rooms on the west side of the hallway with a large angle chimney in the west end of the original wing. Upstairs the hallway is smaller. The large east end room is similar to the one on the main floor, with two small rooms on the west side similar to those directly below. One small additional room upstairs takes up part of what is hallway space on the main floor. There is a stairway to the attic, which is floored. The roof appears to be in reasonably good condition. I noticed only one slight leak after a night and day of very heavy rain.

The main part of the house, if my assumption is correct that only the east, large wing is original, does not appear to have a formal dining room. It is possible, of course, that the fire in the 1790's destroyed an original wing and that there was a dining room and a kitchen where the present west wings are located. Research into old insurance records and other documents will have to be made to determine more about the extent of the original house. Certainly if there is ever to be a restoration, historical, archeological, and architectural study would have to be carried on preliminary to such work. The main wing, which appears to be original, does not seem to satisfy all the needs of a country mansion of the period.

Background of the Movement to Preserve the Dickinson House: From Mr. de Valinger and Mrs. Ridgely, I learned the following facts about efforts made in past years to preserve the Dickinson house:

Over a period of several years, the Daughters of the American Revolution and other patriotic groups and individuals interested in preserving the Dickinson house have tried to raise the money to buy the property and to restore it, but have failed in this purpose. The historical societies in Delaware, apparently, have very little financial resources. The State has not seen fit to undertake the project. Efforts

have been made to interest the Du Pont family, but Mr. Harry Du Pont, according to Mr. de Valinger who has talked with him on this and related subjects, is not willing to give any money for the purpose. As related above, Judge Terry, up until a year or so ago, had planned to restore the house and to live in it. Coming down to the present then, the people in Delaware who are interested in saving the Dickinson house think they have exhausted all means of accomplishing their purpose, save appealing to the Federal Government. That they have now done. Mr. de Valinger pointed out that this is the first time the people of Delaware have appealed to the Federal Government for help in a historical preservation problem.

I gained the impression from conversations with Mr. de Valinger and Mrs. Ridgely that if the Federal Government can assist financially in the acquisition and restoration of the house, the state of Delaware would be glad to assume maintenance and operation of the house for public visitation thereafter.

RESIDENCES OF JOHN DICKINSON

In considering the claims of the Dickinson house to memorialization, it is important to determine the periods and length of time John Dickinson lived in the house and what, if any, notable events transpired there. The following summary is intended to locate John Dickinson during the main periods of his life. From this it will then be possible to evaluate the importance of the house in Kent County, Delaware, as a residence of John Dickinson.^{1/}

1659 - Walter Dickinson, the first ancestor in America of John Dickinson, came to Talbot County, Maryland, from the Eastern Shore of Virginia and established himself on a plantation called "Crosia-dore."

^{1/} This summary is based upon Charles J. Stille, The Life and Times of John Dickinson, Historical Society of Pennsylvania Memoirs, XIII, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1891.

- 1732 - John Dickinson was born at "Crosia-dore," November 8, 1732, the second son of Samuel Dickinson (grandson of the first proprietor of the estate) and Mary Cadwalader.
- 1740 - Samuel Dickinson moved to Kent County, Delaware, and established himself on a 1,300 acre plantation. Here he built the house now called the "John Dickinson House."
- 1750 - John Dickinson began the study of law with John Roland in Philadelphia.
- 1753 - John Dickinson went to London as a student in law at Middle Temple.
- 1757 - John Dickinson returned to Philadelphia and began the practice of law there.
- 1760 - In October Dickinson was elected a member of the Delaware Assembly. (He was still in Philadelphia at this time as far as I can find out. Up to the time of the Revolution, Delaware had the same Governor as Pennsylvania, but a different assembly. There appears to have been an extensive interchange of officials between Pennsylvania and Delaware at this time.) Dickinson became the speaker of the Delaware Assembly.
- 1762 - Dickinson elected a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly from Philadelphia. He held the seat, apparently, until 1765, losing it then as a result of opposing in 1764 a change in the proprietor government of Pennsylvania. He did not regain a seat in the Pennsylvania Assembly until 1770.
- 1771 - Again a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly.
- 1774 - October 17, Dickinson chosen a delegate to the first Continental Congress. (He had just been elected a member of the Assembly in October to fill a vacancy.) The first Continental Congress adjourned October 26. Hence it appears that Dickinson was a member of the first Continental Congress for about nine days.
- 1776 - Left Philadelphia, apparently, some time during the first half of July and was with the Pennsylvania militia troops

at Elizabethtown, New Jersey. On the 12th of July, he wrote a letter stating that he was then in New Jersey. On September 26, 1776, the convention chose Roberdeau as Brigadier General of the militia, superseding Dickinson. Dickinson thereupon resigned. He was not elected a member of the new state convention, which gathered July 2 to frame a new state constitution. The convention was revolutionary. Dickinson, as will be brought out later, was not in sympathy with the purposes of the convention.

- 1776 - In November Dickinson was chosen a member from Philadelphia of the new state assembly. Dickinson considered its activities illegal, and he proposed a course of action for it which would legalize it. This was not accepted by the assembly. Dickinson then said he would not sit in the assembly, but would retire to another state where his services would be better appreciated. (He meant to go to Delaware.) The latter part of November, he was elected by Delaware as one of its delegates to the Continental Congress, but he declined to serve without giving a reason.

On December 11 Dickinson removed with his family from Philadelphia to the farm near Dover, Delaware. He moved from Philadelphia, apparently, upon receiving information that the British Army was approaching Philadelphia.

- 1779 - January 18 Dickinson was chosen a delegate to Congress from Delaware. He took his seat in Congress at Philadelphia on May 23 and served there until the autumn of that year when he resigned his seat to return to his farm in Delaware.
- 1781 - Dickinson elected a member of the Supreme Executive Council of Delaware and shortly thereafter was chosen its President or Governor.
- 1782 - Dickinson was elected a member of the State Executive Council for Pennsylvania from the county of Philadelphia; and in November of the same year he was chosen by the legislature as the President of the council. This was comparable to being governor of the state. Dickinson, apparently, returned to Philadelphia some time in October, 1782.
- 1785 - Dickinson returned to Delaware.

1786 - Dickinson was a commissioner from Delaware to the Annapolis Convention. He was chosen President of this convention and made the report to Congress, recommending that a convention be called the next year for the framing of a new constitution.

1787 - Dickinson took a seat in the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia as a delegate from Delaware.

1786-1808 - The volume on Delaware in the American Guide Series, page 272, carries the statement that when John Dickinson's term as Governor of Pennsylvania expired in 1785 he "came home and built the largest private house in Wilmington at the northwest corner of Eighth and Market Streets." It would appear from this that Dickinson moved into this house when completed, which, apparently, was in 1785 or shortly thereafter. He lived in this house until his death in 1808.

From the foregoing it appears that John Dickinson lived in the Dickinson house near Dover, Delaware, for a total of about 15 or 16 years: 10 years between 1740 and 1750; about $2\frac{1}{2}$ years from December 11, 1776, to May 17, 1779, and a few months near the end of the year; and 2 years, 9 months from 1780 through October, 1782. He may have lived there a period in 1785-1786 while his new house in Wilmington was being built. I have not been able to ascertain any facts on this point.

The longest consecutive period John Dickinson lived in the house near Dover was for 10 years of his youth between 8 to 18 years of age. I gather that he did not return to Delaware later in his life until he ran into political difficulties in Pennsylvania arising out of opposition to signing the Declaration of Independence. As a result of this action, he became extremely unpopular with the Revolutionary Party, which was in control of Congress after mid-1776. The longest and most important part of his political career was identified with Pennsylvania; and during this time, he lived in Philadelphia.

It is undoubtedly true that Dickinson returned to the place near Dover frequently on matters of farm business, but as to how extensive this was, I have no reliable information. Dr. John H. Powell of Philadelphia, who is now at work on a two-volume life of John Dickinson, has written on this point that nearly every year

John Dickinson spent some time in his mansion house in Kent and devoted much time to administration of large farm holdings in the region.

It may be well at this point to state that the town house occupied by John Dickinson in Philadelphia before the Revolution was on Chestnut Street below Seventh. Apparently, he moved into this house in 1774 and remained there until July, 1776. It has long since disappeared.

John Dickinson married Mary Norris, daughter of Isaac Norris, speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly, in 1770. After his marriage, he settled at his father-in-law's estate, "Fairhill," which was one of the grand landed estates in and about Philadelphia. This mansion was burned by the British in 1778 when they evacuated Philadelphia.

The birthplace of John Dickinson, "Crosia-dore," Maryland, was still standing in 1940, according to Maryland, a volume of the American Guide Series.

Dickinson's big town house, built in 1785, in Wilmington was torn down; and on the site, a public library was erected in 1860. The present public library at Wilmington is at another site.

MAIN EVENTS IN JOHN DICKINSON'S CAREER

John Dickinson was 8 years old when his father, Samuel, established himself on the plantation in Kent County near Dover, Delaware, and became a judge and a man of some prominence. Here John grew up a rich planter's son and was taught by private tutor. In 1750, when he was 18, he went to Philadelphia to study law. After three years there, he went to London where he studied law at Middle Temple. He returned to Philadelphia in 1757 and began the practice of law. His career, henceforth until the Declaration of Independence in 1776, was almost entirely identified with Pennsylvania. It was in Pennsylvania that he gained his fame as a leader in the movement for colonial rights.

The Stamp Act Congress, New York, 1765:

Dickinson at first achieved prominence in the colonies by his part in the Stamp Act Congress, which was held in the fall

of 1765. This Congress was called by the House of Representatives of Massachusetts and was intended to organize opposition to the Stamp Act recently passed by the British Parliament. The Stamp Act Congress met in the city hall, New York City, and was composed of twenty-seven delegates representing nine of the thirteen colonies. Dickinson was a member of the Pennsylvania delegation. There were eleven days of violent debate upon the opinions to be expressed in the resolutions that would be drafted and sent to Parliament. John Dickinson prepared two of the papers of the Congress: The Declaration of Rights and The Petition to the King. In these papers, Dickinson set forth the inherent right of trial by jury and stated that the Stamp Act tended to subvert the rights of the colonies. He held that taxing the colonies without their consent violated the ancient rights of Englishmen. One discerning critic of the period has stated that: "In whatever light we may view them, these papers of the Stamp Act Congress [Dickinson's two papers] are masterly and impressive pieces of political statement,—learned, wise, firm, temperate, conservative, even reverent,—as far removed from truculence as from fear."¹

The Stamp Act was repealed February 22, 1766, after the Rockingham Ministry came to office. The repeal of the Stamp Act was undoubtedly influenced by the various papers produced by the Stamp Act Congress and, also, by a notable pamphlet which appeared in Philadelphia, December, 1765, entitled "The Late Regulations Respecting the British Colonies on the Continent of America Considered in a Letter from A Gentleman in Philadelphia to his Friend in London." This pamphlet was written by John Dickinson and was republished immediately in London where it was widely read. This pamphlet established Dickinson's reputation as a political writer.

A Song for American Freedom:

It is interesting to note that in the pamphleteering and political writings of the period, Dickinson wrote verses for a song which had wide vogue in the colonial period and championed the cause of colonial rights. In May, 1768, customs commissioners in Massachusetts seized John Hancock's sloop, "Liberty," on the

¹/ Moses Coit Tyler, The Literary History of the American Revolution, I, 113-114.

charge that Hancock was importing goods without payment of duty. This gave colonial patriots an excuse for further agitation. Dickinson, upon learning of the seizure, wrote verses to David Garrick's tune, "Hearts of Oak" and called his piece "A Song for American Freedom." He sent this to James Otis in Massachusetts, who had it published in the Boston Gazette, July 18, 1768. For many years thereafter "The Liberty Song," as it was called, was the most popular ditty of its kind in the colonies. The verses themselves are very poor, having little literary quality.

The Letters of a Pennsylvania Farmer:

Of all John Dickinson's writings, perhaps the most famous and the most important were The Letters of a Pennsylvania Farmer. These letters were written as a result of the Townshend Acts, which were enacted by the British Parliament in 1767. These were acts sponsored by Charles Townshend, Chancellor of the Exchequer, intended to raise imperial revenue in the colonies by imposing duties on many commodities which were imported, such as tea, glass, paints, and many other items.

In the previous dispute over colonial rights, the colonies had admitted that Parliament might levy external taxes, but that it might not collect internal taxes. This was the main dispute in the Stamp Act affair two years earlier. Dickinson began the publication of his famous series of letters in The Pennsylvania Chronicle, December 2, 1767. The last of the twelve letters appeared in the Chronicle, February 15, 1768. These letters had the title, "Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies." They were soon given a short title of "Farmer's Letters." They were published without the author's name, but they were immediately recognized as the work of John Dickinson. The letters were written by a man who was thoroughly aroused by the British attack on colonial rights, but who was entirely intent upon composing the difficulties with the mother country rather than increasing the difficulties. These letters appeared at a time when there was no guiding hand to direct the controversy in the colonies that was increasing daily. Dickinson believed in the traditions of English liberty. He believed that all Englishmen had the right of pointing out grievances and of then seeking a remedy. He wrote as a "judicious counselor." His first letter began: "I am a farmer, settled, after a variety of fortunes, near the banks of the river Delaware,

in the province of Pennsylvania."1/ In these letters, Dickinson began by discussing the acts of Parliament, which abrogated the legislative assembly of New York because it had refused to comply with the Quartering Act. Dickinson argued that the Quartering Act was in effect a tax upon the colonies for the expense that accrued in complying with it. His purpose was "to convince the people of these colonies, that they are, at this moment, exposed to the most eminent dangers; and to persuade them, immediately, vigorously, and unanimously, to exert themselves, in the most firm but most peaceable manner, for obtaining relief."2/

At another point in the letters, he wrote: "Let these truths be indelibly impressed on our minds; that we cannot be happy without being free; that we cannot be free, without being secure in our property; that we cannot be secure in our property, if, without our consent, others may, as by right, take it away; that taxes imposed on us by parliament, do thus take it away."3/ At the same time, Dickinson was opposed to any thought of colonial independence.

Dickinson's arguments had a certain amount of inconsistency in them, as has been pointed out so well by one noted American historian, Edward Channing, in his History of the United States. In theory, Dickinson argued that Parliament had some undefined power in the regulation of Empire matters; but whenever the government undertook to enforce this power, Dickinson made out that such an exercise was "in the nature of levying a tax." In theory, he did not object to the levying of a customs duty, but he did object to the collection of them.

Dickinson was a devoted friend of England; but at the same time, he was an American patriot. His writings were admired on both sides of the ocean for their temperate tone and elegant

1/ Paul Leicester Ford, The Writings of John Dickinson, Historical Society of Pennsylvania Memoirs, XIV, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1895

2/ Tyler, I, 235

3/ Ibid, 236

expression. In the colonies Dickinson might be said to occupy a position similar to that of Edmund Burke in England.

The Letters of a Pennsylvania Farmer were almost immediately reproduced in all the twenty-five newspapers then published in America. There are only four known exceptions. Within four weeks after the last letter had made its appearance, they were all collected and issued as a pamphlet. At least eight different editions were published in various parts of the colonies. Two editions of the pamphlet were published the same year (1768) in London and one edition in Dublin. Each of these foreign editions carried a preface written by Benjamin Franklin. The next year, 1769, a French version was published in Amsterdam and was widely read on the continent of Europe.^{1/}

Dickinson was widely talked of in the salons of Paris, and the "farmer" was likened to Cicero. Voltaire in France gave notice and applause to the "Farmer's Letters." In Paris, Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia heard a company at Mirabeau's house discussing Dickinson's letters along with Diderot's writings.^{2/}

Dickinson's conception of the true relationship of the colonies to England can best be given in his own words: "Let us behave," he said, "like dutiful children, who have received unmerited blows from a beloved parent." The outstanding student of the political writings of the Revolutionary period says that in Europe Dickinson achieved by the "letters" "literary renown surpassing that of any other American, excepting Benjamin Franklin." This same student appraised the letters of the Pennsylvania farmer thus: "No other serious political essays of the Revolutionary era quite equaled the 'Farmer's Letters' in literary merit, including in that term the merit of substance as well as of form, and, excepting the political essays of Thomas Paine, which did not begin to appear until nine years later, none equaled the 'Farmer's Letters' in immediate celebrity, and in direct power upon events."^{3/}

^{1/} Tyler, I, 237

^{2/} Evarts Boutwell Greene, The Revolutionary Generation, 89.

^{3/} Tyler, I, 236

Political Career Up to the First Continental Congress:

It will be well to pause here and trace briefly Dickinson's political career in Pennsylvania up to the calling of the Continental Congress. We have noted earlier that Dickinson began the practice of law in Philadelphia in 1757 after finishing his studies at Middle Temple in London. His first public office and the beginning of his political career came in 1760 when he was chosen a member of the Delaware Assembly. In 1762 he transferred to the Pennsylvania Assembly, and he served there until 1765. Dickinson lost his seat in the Pennsylvania Assembly due to his strong opposition in 1764 to the movement that was afoot to change the form of the proprietary government. He did not regain a seat in the Pennsylvania Assembly until 1770, which he held then until 1776 when the colonial government of Pennsylvania expired.

The First Continental Congress

The First Continental Congress met at Philadelphia, September 5, 1774. John Dickinson was not one of the original members of the Pennsylvania delegation to the Congress. Joseph Galloway, who had long been hostile to Dickinson's views, prevented him from being chosen originally as a delegate. Dickinson took his seat October 17, 1774, nine days before the first Congress adjourned, October 26. In this short period of time before the First Continental Congress adjourned, however, Dickinson had written two of the most memorable papers adopted by the First Continental Congress. The First Continental Congress issued five state papers. Of these Dickinson wrote two. He was the only member of the Congress to be the author of more than one of the official papers of this Congress.

The Congress was in secret session until October 25. The original committee named by the Congress to prepare a petition to the King was composed of five men: Richard Henry Lee, John Adams, John Rutledge, Johnson, and Henry. Dickinson was added to this original committee on October 21. The committee reported a draft on October 24, and it was considered on October 25. This draft, prepared by Richard Henry Lee, did not meet acceptance, and John Dickinson was given the task of rewriting it. This he did, and it was his draft of the paper entitled "Petition to the King's Most Excellent Majesty" that was adopted by the first Continental Congress. Dickinson also wrote the

paper entitled "Address to the People of Canada." The Petition to the King was the most memorable paper drafted by the First Continental Congress. It was Dickinson's work as a draftsman of state documents and his previous writings, such as, The Letters of a Pennsylvania Farmer, that earned for him the title, "Penman of the Revolution."

The Second Continental Congress and the Articles of Confederation:

Dickinson was a delegate from Pennsylvania to the Second Continental Congress, which met in Philadelphia, May, 1775. He took an active part in the debates of this Congress which led up to the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the final separation of the colonies from England. Before discussing the part he played in this great event, it will be well to digress for a moment to note Dickinson's connection with the Articles of Confederation, the basis for the form of government adopted by the colonies for the latter years of the war and the intervening period before the adoption of the constitution of the United States.

Upon receiving Richard Henry Lee's motion, June 7, 1776, for independence, Congress, on July 11, appointed a committee to consider a form of confederacy for the colonies. John Dickinson was chairman of this committee. In July Dickinson reported for the committee a draft of the Articles of Confederation. There was little interest in this document at the time. Dickinson was in great disfavor because of his stand on the Declaration of Independence and the Continental Congress was overwhelmed with more pressing matters concerned with fighting the war. Parts of this draft of the Articles of Confederation were debated from time to time. One feature of the articles proposed that each state have one vote. Benjamin Franklin strongly opposed this. Finally on November 15, 1777, sixteen months after Dickinson's first draft was reported to the Congress, Congress approved a draft and sent it to the states for ratification. All the states had to ratify it before it could go into effect. The Articles became law, March 1, 1781, after the several small states had ratified, following a settlement of the western lands problem. Dickinson's original draft was, of course, considerably modified.

The Fight for the Declaration of Independence:

Dickinson opposed the Declaration of Independence. He stuck to his principles on this matter to the bitter end, and it cost him popularity in the Revolutionary Congress and in the colonies generally. It forced him from the Continental Congress and into semi-retirement for many years.

Dickinson's stand, in some respects, is hard to reconcile with some of his activities at the outbreak of the war because he favored resorting to arms to obtain redress for the grievances of the colonies. For instance, on July 8, 1775, he was the author of the Second Continental Congress' paper entitled "Declaration of the Causes of Our Taking Up Arms," in which he said that the colonists were "resolved to die free men rather than to live as slaves."^{1/}

Throughout all the deliberations of the Continental Congress, however, it was clear that Dickinson did not favor separation of the colonies from England. This finally led to extreme bitterness between him and leaders of the Revolutionary party, such as John Adams of Massachusetts. As an instance of this feeling, it may be worthwhile to relate an incident touched off by a speech by Sullivan, who favored separation of the colonies from the mother country. After the speech by Sullivan, Dickinson is said to have rushed out of Independence Hall in a passion and met Adams in the State House yard. According to Adams' account, Dickinson cried out to him: "What is the reason that you New England men oppose our measures of reconciliation. There now is Sullivan in a long harangue following you in a determined opposition to our petition to the King! Look ye!--if you don't concur with us in our pacific system, I and a number of us will break off from you in New England, and we will carry on the opposition by ourselves in our own way."^{2/} After this exchange, Adams went to his lodgings and wrote some letters. Apparently, he was somewhat stirred up by what Dickinson had just said to him for in one of his letters, he said, referring to Dickinson: "A certain great fortune and piddling genius, whose fame has been trumpeted so loudly, has given a silly cast to our whole doings. We are between hawk and buzzard."^{3/}

The whole matter came to a head when Richard Henry Lee, on June 7, 1776, introduced his set of resolutions for the independence of the colonies. Dickinson at once opposed these resolutions on the ground that there was no chance for independence until first a stable government had been organized among the colonies and a foreign alliance obtained. Dickinson's opposition and that of a few more men who thought like him was sufficiently strong to postpone consideration of the Lee resolutions until July 1. The first of Lee's resolutions, the one for independence,

^{1/} Stille, 162

^{2/} Ibid, 159

^{3/} Ibid, 159

came up for debate on that day. There is no record of the debate extant, but letters written by contemporaries indicate that John Adams took a leading part for approval of the resolution. John Dickinson was the leader of the opposition. The vote on the resolution was postponed until the next day, July 2. As things stood on July 1, Delaware was divided on the question of independence; Pennsylvania was against it; Dickinson, Robert Morris, and James Wilson out-voting Franklin and Morton. South Carolina and New York had not given definite instructions to their delegates. Only nine states were in favor of the resolution for independence on July 1.

By the next day affairs had been so contrived that twelve colonies voted for the resolution. Only New York remained silent. South Carolina's instructions were construed by the delegates as sufficient authority to vote for independence. Dickinson and Morris were induced to stay away from the hall, and Wilson changed his vote for independence, giving the necessary three out of five of Pennsylvania's delegates. Of Delaware's delegates, Caesar Rodney had been called away from the Congress on June 22 to Sussex County, Delaware, in connection with a threatened Loyalist uprising. At the time the resolutions were being considered, he had just returned to his home in Kent County, Delaware. There he received an express message from Thomas McKean, the other Delaware delegate who was in favor of the resolution. McKean urged Rodney to hurry to Philadelphia to cast a vote in favor of Lee's resolutions. Rodney rode 80 miles on horseback, arriving late in the afternoon of July 2 in time to cast the deciding vote for Delaware in favor of independence. The Delaware vote was McKean and Rodney for the resolution and Read against.^{1/}

Early in July, New York authorized its members to agree to the Declaration of Independence. On August 2, 1776, the members then present signed the Declaration. Dickinson neither voted for, nor did he sign, the Declaration.

As a result of his stand on independence, Dickinson lost his position of a leader in the colonial movement which he had held for twelve years, ever since the Stamp Act Congress. The historian Hildreth in commenting on Dickinson's action in not voting for the Declaration says it was the "noblest proof of moral courage ever shown by a public man in the history of the country."

^{1/} Channing, III; 201, 202; Dictionary of American Biography, XVI, 81-82 (Centenary Edition).

Dickinson had been chairman of the Philadelphia Committee of Correspondence and had urged the raising of a military force. The Pennsylvania Assembly passed a law for this purpose, June 30, 1775, authorizing the raising of five battalions in Philadelphia. The first battalion of militia raised in Philadelphia elected Dickinson its colonel. Three battalions, under the command of Dickinson, were made ready to march to the relief of New York in February, 1776, when it was thought that that city was to be attacked. In July, 1776, after the vote on the Declaration of Independence was taken, Dickinson went to join the Pennsylvania militia then at Elizabethtown, New Jersey, with the rank of Brigadier General. But his military career was of short duration. On September 26, the Pennsylvania Convention chose Roberdeau to succeed Dickinson. Dickinson then resigned.

On July 20 when the new state convention met to frame a new state constitution, Dickinson was not elected a member. In November Dickinson was chosen a member of the new state assembly from Philadelphia, but he considered the new assembly illegal; and when his policies were not accepted, he resigned his seat and announced his decision to retire to Delaware. Dickinson did, in fact, remove his family to his farm near Dover, Delaware, on December 11, on the eve of the British occupation of Philadelphia. Thus, it will be seen that the events which led to the Declaration of Independence brought retirement to John Dickinson. He had fallen out of step with the times.

The Years Between the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutional Convention:

Apparently Dickinson lived on his farm near Dover from December, 1776, until May, 1779. On May 23, 1779, he was returned to the Congress as a delegate from Delaware. He carried with him to Congress on this occasion the ratification of the Articles of Confederation by the state of Delaware, dated February 3, 1779. This helped to make Dickinson somewhat persona grata in Congress once again. He remained in Congress until the fall when he resigned his seat and returned once again to Delaware.

As stated earlier, Dickinson in the next five years served two years as Governor of the state of Delaware and three years as Governor of Pennsylvania.

An important event occurred in 1783 while Dickinson was Governor of Pennsylvania, or as it was called then, President of the Executive Council. On June 20, 1783, about eighty Pennsylvania militia troops of the Continental Army from Lancaster arrived in Philadelphia and demanded their pay. They were joined

by some veterans of the Continental Army. The next day, June 21, they staged a disorderly demonstration in front of Independence Hall where Congress was sitting, and threatened that body. Dickinson, who was President of the Pennsylvania Council, when asked by Congress to disperse the rioters, said he could do nothing; that he only had a small body of militia at his disposal, and he doubted they would act unless the troops guilty of the disorder committed some outrage on person or property. That night Congress adjourned; and three days later it left Philadelphia and fled to Princeton. The Continental Congress never again returned to Philadelphia.^{1/} If Dickinson had taken a firmer stand and restored order, it is quite likely that Congress would have continued to sit in Philadelphia throughout the remainder of the war.

At about this time Dickinson College was founded at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1783. Initially established as a Presbyterian school, it was transferred to the Methodists in 1883. This college was named after John Dickinson. Many of the books he inherited through his wife from the old Logan Library are now in the college. A special room containing these rare books is called the "Dickinson Room."

The Annapolis Convention:

In September, 1786, representatives of five states met at Annapolis, Maryland, to consider commercial regulations affecting their respective states. The Articles of Confederation failed dismally to control relations of the states in this respect. John Dickinson, a delegate from Delaware, was chosen President of this convention. In February, 1787, he presented to Congress the recommendations of the Annapolis Convention, which he had a leading part in formulating; namely, that a new convention be called in May to be attended by delegates from all the colonies for the purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation and adopting a new constitution.

Constitutional Convention of 1787:

In accordance with the recommendations of the Annapolis Convention of 1786, Congress issued a call for a convention of

^{1/} The Continental Congress, upon leaving Philadelphia, stayed in Princeton until November, 1783, but next sat in Annapolis, Maryland, to June 1784; was then in Trenton, New Jersey, from November to December, 1784, and was in New York City, January, 1785, through October 21, 1788.

delegates from all the colonies to meet in Philadelphia in May, 1787, for the purpose of framing a new instrument of government.

Dickinson, as one of five delegates from Delaware, took a leading part in the debates of the Constitutional Convention. The best and most complete record of the debates in the convention is found in Madison's notes, since published. From these and other sources, we know pretty well the viewpoint taken by Dickinson on the great issues before the convention. He represented a small state; and accordingly, he was one of the leaders of the small-state group. He proposed that the executive be removable on request of a majority of the legislatures of the individual states. Madison strongly opposed him on this point; and when a vote was taken, Delaware stood alone.

Dickinson argued that the states should have equal votes in at least one branch of the national legislature. He believed that the states had to be retained as a check on the central government. He proposed that senators be elected by state legislatures so they would be intimately connected with the state governments. He also thought this method of election would assure that distinguished persons would be chosen as senators. He looked upon the Senate as comparable to the British House of Lords, and he felt that a higher type of person would be selected in this manner than if elected by the people.

Dickinson argued that the vote in the states should be restricted to freeholders—those who had a stake in the country. He said they were the "best guardians of liberty" and that they would resist "dangerous influence of those multitudes without property and without principal, with which our Country like all others, will in time abound." Franklin strongly opposed this viewpoint, claiming that it would "debase the spirit of common people." Upon a vote on this matter in the convention, the states voted unanimously on the proposal of the Committee of Detail, which was that any person might vote that was qualified to vote in a given state for the most numerous branch of the state legislature. In other words, the Constitutional Convention refused to set up any property qualifications for voters as Dickinson had urged.^{1/}

Dickinson was a member of the committee that worked out a compromise on the slavery issue. He opposed the extension of slavery, and he insisted that the Federal Government have the power to prohibit the importation of slaves.

^{1/} Carl Van Doren, The Great Rehearsal, gives a summary of Dickinson's views on these and other matters; 58, 59, 67, 85, 142, 143.

Throughout the debates on the form of government, it was apparent that Dickinson was in that minority group which believed that a limited monarchy of the English type was the best form of government. Madison, in his notes, records Dickinson's viewpoint in these words: "A limited Monarchy he considered as one of the best governments in the world. It was not certain that the same blessings were derivable from any other form. It was certain that equal blessings had never yet been derived from any of the republican form. A limited monarchy, however, was out of the question."1/

Work on the Constitution was finally finished; and on September 15, a Saturday, the constitution was ordered to be engrossed. On Sunday, September 16, the Constitution was engrossed by an unknown penman on four pages of parchment. The next day, Monday, September 17, 1787, the engrossed document was read and signed by all members present, excepting Randolph and Mason from Virginia and Gerry of Massachusetts.2/ Read, one of the Delaware delegates signed for Dickinson, who had left for home on the 15th because of illness.

Dickinson was not a member of Congress later, nor did he ever hold any Federal office after the adoption of the Constitution. Apparently, until his death in 1808, he belonged to the anti-Federalist party, or the Jeffersonians.3/

Dickinson exerted himself in championing the new Constitution and did much to assure its adoption by the state of Delaware. In this cause, he wrote nine letters signed "Fabius," which appeared in the newspapers of the day. These letters, while of not the same calibre as those written by Madison, Jay, and Hamilton and known to posterity as "The Federalist," nevertheless, were potent arguments for the adoption of the new Constitution.

DICKINSON'S POLITICAL PRINCIPLES

Something of Dickinson's political principles has already appeared in what has been said. Professor Moses Coit

1/ Charles A. Beard, Economical Interpretation of the Constitution, 195, citing Farrand Records, I, 86.

2/ Van Doren, 167, 175

3/ Stille, 278

Tyler, student of the period, said of Dickinson that his actions were throughout in accordance with certain fundamental principles; that these were:

"first, that it was the ancient and manly method of loyal Englishmen, in cases of extreme danger, to make demand for political rights with arms in their hands, and even embodied in military array against the king's troops; and, secondly, that every citizen, having said and done his best to secure the prevalence of his own view, was bound to submit himself to the decision of the community to which he belonged, and help to carry it out. Indeed, no other American who finally supported the American Revolution in its ultimate issue—that of secession from the empire—exhibited, from first to last, a more perfect familiarity, or a more perfect sympathy, with the great historic precedents set by the English people in the management of fundamental controversies between subjects and their sovereign."1/

Dr. John H. Powell, who is currently at work on a two-volume life of Dickinson, has written that Dickinson's writings up to the time of the Declaration of Independence expressed a basic syllogism of government; that "No man can be happy unless he is free, no many can be free unless he has control over his own property, men cannot control their property unless they control the taxing power of the government; therefore, no man can be free when he is taxed without his own consent, by representatives of his own election."2/

Mr. Stille, Dickinson's biographer, described him as "an English Constitutional Whig," who believed the English monarchy was the best government man had contrived, but that opposition to usurpation by the king and Parliament were proper courses of conduct of all good Englishmen.

1/ Tyler, II, 27-28

2/ Powell, two-page typescript sketch of John Dickinson for Delaware State Archivist, de Valinger.

APPRAISAL OF DICKINSON

Dickinson has frequently been referred to as "the Penman of the American Revolution." Tyler, in his work, has an entire chapter (Volume 2, Chapter 25) entitled "John Dickinson as Penman of the American Revolution." Tyler characterizes Dickinson as "a man of powerful and cultivated intellect, with all his interests and all his tastes on the side of order, conservatism, and peace."^{1/} In another place, he wrote:

"Just as the politico-literary influence of James Otis was, upon the whole, predominant in America from 1764 until 1767, so, from the latter date until some months after the outbreak of hostilities in 1775, was the politico-literary influence of John Dickinson predominant here. Moreover, as he succeeded to James Otis in the development of Revolutionary thought, so was he, at last succeeded by Thomas Paine, who held sway among us, as the chief writer of political essays, from the early part of 1776 until the close of the Revolution itself."^{2/}

Paul Leicester Ford, who edited the writings of John Dickinson in 1895 for the Pennsylvania Historical Society, in his preface, wrote:

"John Dickinson has been aptly termed the 'Penman of the Revolution.' In the literature of that struggle, his position is as pre-eminent as Washington in war, Franklin in diplomacy, and Morris in finance."^{3/}

Dickinson's biographer, Stille, wrote:

"From the year 1760 until his term of office as President of the Supreme Executive Council [Pennsylvania] expired

^{1/} Tyler, I, 235

^{2/} Ibid, II, 32

^{3/} Ford, Preface, Writings of John Dickinson

in 1783, Mr. Dickinson was probably the most conspicuous person in the Service of the State."1/

Dr. Powell, who is now engaged on a biography of Dickinson, recently said of Dickinson that it was not lack of patriotism but a disagreement with his associates as to the logical sequence of actions that was responsible for Dickinson's reluctance to support the movement for independence. It was premature, he [Dickinson] though, if it preceded the establishment of unity among the colonies and the safeguarding of personal freedoms.2/

Upon Dickinson's death, Thomas Jefferson, then President of the United States, wrote of him:

"A more estimable man or truer patriot could not have left us. Among the first of the advocates for the rights of his countrymen when assailed by Great Britain, he continued to the last the orthodox advocate of the true principles of our new government, and his name will be consecrated in history as one of the great worthies of the Revolution."3/

Earlier Jefferson had declared Dickinson's "Farmer's Letters" as "ignis fatuus, misleading us from true principles."4/

Charles Beard, in his famous work on An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution, characterized Dickinson as a very cautious man who was seriously discredited with the patriot party during the Revolution as it was rumored he had advised his brother against accepting payment of debts in paper, which he thought was sure to depreciate.5/

1/ Stille, Preface

2/ Mississippi Valley Historical Revi., Vol. XXXVII, No. 2, Sept., 1950; 266

3/ Stille, 236-7

4/ Tyler, II, 33

5/ Beard, 88

Edward Rutledge, who in June, 1776, agreed with Dickinson in opposition to the plan for independence, nevertheless, said of him that the "vice of all his productions, to a considerable degree" was "the vice of refining too much."1/

John Adams, as the leader of the patriot party urging independence, was possibly Dickinson's most severe critic. We have seen earlier that Adams called Dickinson "a piddling genius," who for a whole year prior to the Declaration of Independence had given "a silly cast to our whole doings." In April, 1777, Adams wrote to James Warren of Plymouth, Massachusetts, saying of Dickinson:

"The Farmer turns out to be the man that I have seen him to be these two years. He is in total neglect and disgrace here. I am sorry for it, because of the forward part he took in the beginning of the controversy. But there is certainly such a thing as falling away in politics, if there is none in grace."2/

At another time Adams wrote of Dickinson:

"I have always imputed the loss of Charleston, and of the brave officers and men who fell there, and the loss of a hero more worth than all the town, to Mr. Dickinson's petition [first petition] to the king, and the loss of Quebec and Montgomery to his subsequent unceasing, though, finally unavailing, efforts against independence."3/

It occurred to me it would be interesting to see how much space was given in the Dictionary of American Biography to John Dickinson as compared with some of his contemporaries. The amount of space given in the Dictionary of American Biography may be taken as a rough, rule-of-thumb of the opinion held by modern scholars as to the place of the individual in American history.

1/ Tyler, II, 33

2/ Ibid, 34

3/ Stille, 160

The columns of space given to Dickinson and a number of his contemporaries are as follows:

John Dickinson	3-1/3	columns
Benjamin Franklin	25	"
Thomas Jefferson	37	"
George Washington	36	"
James Wilson	8-1/2	"
James Madison	19-1/2	"
John Adams	18-1/2	"
Samuel Adams	12	"
Alexander Hamilton	18	"
Edmund Randolph	4	"
James Otis	9	"
Caesar Rodney	3-1/3	"
George Read	4	"
Thomas McKean	5-1/4	"

It is seen from this tabulation that Caesar Rodney, George Read, and Thomas McKean, the three other delegates from Delaware at the Continental Congress who voted for the Declaration of Independence, receive as much, or more, space than John Dickinson. Compared with Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Adams, it is seen that Dickinson receives minor treatment in the Dictionary of American Biography.

I think it may fairly be said that Dickinson was among the foremost leaders in the American colonies who formulated and guided colonial opposition to the acts of the British Parliament. When colonial opposition reached its logical climax in the move for independence, he lost his leadership. There were certain inconsistencies in his character, it seems to me, although, of course, it can be argued logically that he was consistent with his principles throughout. Dickinson sank into relative insignificance and went into retirement virtually throughout the period of the Revolution. He played a very minor role in military and state matters during this crucial period. It is because of his opposition to the Declaration of Independence and his subsequent retirement from public life during most of the war period, that Dickinson lost what might have been a really great name in American history.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Dickinson occupies a place in American history worthy of commemoration. The acts for which Americans should remember him were almost entirely associated with the ten years prior to the Declaration of Independence. He lived in Philadelphia virtually the whole of this period, and this part of his career was associated with Pennsylvania. It was as a leader arousing American opposition to the acts of the British Parliament for which Dickinson best deserves to be remembered. The question follows: How and where should his memory be commemorated in this connection?
- 2) (a) Federal Hall, New York City, has already been set aside for preservation as a national historic site and plans are being developed for its use as an interpretive center relating to the pre-Revolution and Revolutionary periods. The Stamp Act Congress of 1765, in which Dickinson took a leading part, was held in the old city hall on the very site where Federal Hall now stands. In the exhibits that will eventually be placed in Federal Hall relating to the Stamp Act Congress, Dickinson can receive prominent mention.

(b) Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia has been authorized by the Congress and money has been appropriated for land acquisition. This project, when completed, will commemorate the great events associated with the two Continental Congresses, the Revolution, and establishment of American independence. It may be assumed that in the final development of this major historical park, proper attention will be given to the events leading up to the securing of independence by the American colonies. John Dickinson should receive prominent mention in this story.
- 3) I cannot see that any special significance attaches to the John Dickinson House in Kent County near Dover, Delaware, or that there is any important connection between this house and those parts of Dickinson's career which entitle him to historical recognition. I think Dickinson can be properly commemorated in the development of Federal Hall in New York City and Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. He, along with other leaders of the times, should be given

appropriate attention at these two places. I believe such treatment is sufficient for a proper commemoration of John Dickinson in American History.

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Regional Historian

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- John H. Powell, "The Issue of Independence," Forty-third Annual Meeting of Mississippi Valley Historical Association, Oklahoma City, Okla., April 20, 1950, summarized in Mississippi Valley Historical Review, Vol. XXXVII, No. 2, Sept., 1950.
- The Encyclopedia Americana (30 volumes), New York, Chicago, Americana Corporation, 1949.
- Delaware: A Guide to the First State, American Guide Series, Federal Writers Project, Viking Press, New York, 1938.





TO SECRETARY
MAR 6 - 1951
FOR SIGNATURE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

PARKS

In reply refer to:
L 58 WASO

PRS No. 17

MAR 15 1951

Lurvey

My dear Senator Frear:

I have received your letter of February 21, inquiring as to the possibility of the establishment of the John Dickinson House, near Dover, Delaware, as a national historical area.

I am glad to have your further expression of interest in the preservation of this old structure. As indicated in your letter, the present emergency period may not be a propitious time in some respects to advance certain kinds of new Federal projects. I regret to advise that this appears to be true in regard to the John Dickinson House near Dover, since the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, at its meeting on April 19, 1950, was unable to approve that area for inclusion in the National Park System, as a national historic site. Further investigations of the structure that were completed by the National Park Service during the fall of 1950, at your request, appear to confirm the viewpoint of the Advisory Board.

I am advised, however, that there are other important historic sites in the State of Delaware which would offer better prospects as possible national historical areas. Even though the present emergency might preclude early financial support from the Federal Government, I shall be glad to have such possibilities investigated to determine all the facts and to prepare for the future. It may also be possible for representatives of the National Park Service to give advisory assistance to the people at Dover in regard to the preservation of the John Dickinson House through efforts within the state.

I appreciate your writing to me in regard to your continued interest in the preservation of the John Dickinson House. Should you wish to have some of the other possibilities, to which I have referred, considered, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) OSCAR L. CHAPMAN.

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One (2) w/c Sen. Frear's ltr of 2/21/51
Assistant Director Wirth
History Division
Mr. Young (detached)
RWYoung:RFLee:hc

UNITED STATES SENATE

Washington, D. C.

C
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21 February 1951 kw

The Honorable Oscar L. Chapman
Secretary of Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Secretary Chapman:

You will recall our correspondence concerning the proposed restoration of the John Dickinson House as a national shrine. In view of the Defense Program and the probable reduction of funds for non-defense purposes, I am wondering if any further attention is like to be given this matter.

Even if approval of the project could be granted with the promise that the actual work could not begin until some future date, such a decision would be gratifying to Delaware, since, as you know, we have no national shrine whatsoever.

I will appreciate your comments when convenient.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. ALLEN FREAR, Jr.



reply refer to:
WASO

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

*John Dickenson
House
Survey
Delaware*

MAR 27 1951

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Senator Frear:

Secretary Chapman has asked me to reply to your letter of March 16 concerning Federal recognition of an appropriate historical area in the State of Delaware.

We shall be pleased to receive a communication from you at your convenience regarding the particular site or sites which you have in mind.

We want to assure you that this Service will do all it can to assist in the designation and preservation of sites in Delaware that are nationally significant.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) A. E. DEMARAY

A. E. Demaray
Associate Director

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One (2) with copy of Senator Frear's letter of 3/16/51

Mr. Wirth
History Division
Mr. Young (detached)

RWYoung:HEKahler:bes

C
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UNITED STATES SENATE
Washington, D.C.

16 March 1951

The Honorable Oscar L. Chapman
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Secretary Chapman:

I have your letter of March 15 regarding my interest in establishing the John Dickinson House as a national shrine in Delaware. It is, of course, regrettable to me that the Department has been unable to accede to this request. I feel it highly necessary to continue my efforts toward the establishment of an appropriate historical area in my State.

If the John Dickinson House is beyond all further consideration, I will shortly communicate with you regarding the possible selection of some other site. Several have been proposed to me in recent months.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. Allen Frear, Jr.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
L58 WASO

PRS 1553

TO SECRETARY
OCT 24 1951
FOR SIGNATURE

NOV - 6 1951

Survey

My dear Senator Frear:

We have received your letter of October 16 asking for further consideration of the proposal to designate the John Dickinson House near Dover, Delaware, as a national historic site.

As you know, the construction program of the National Park Service of this Department is virtually at a standstill in consequence of the present emergency. It is even necessary for the Service to defer maintenance and rehabilitation of important historic structures already included in the National Park System. However, in view of your interest in the preservation of the John Dickinson House, I shall be glad to ask the Director of the National Park Service to make a study of the extent to which it would be possible to assist the people of Dover and other local patriotic groups who might undertake the restoration and preservation of the building.

While the National Park Service would be unable to contribute directly to the cost of the project because there are no funds available for that purpose, the advisory assistance of the Service staff in restoration and preservation policies and techniques would be very valuable because of its long experience in such matters.

We appreciate your interest in the preservation of the John Dickinson House and hope that local groups may be able to save it with such advisory assistance as the National Park Service may be able to give in these critical times.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) OSCAR L. CHAPMAN.

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One (by NPS)

Asst. Director Lee

Mr. Wirth

History Division ✓

Design & Constr.

" " Each with copy of
" " Sen. Frear's ltr
" " of 10/16/51

C
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UNITED STATES SENATE

Washington, D.C.

16 October 1951 ke

The Honorable Oscar L. Chapman
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Secretary Chapman:

You will recall our earlier correspondence pertaining to the possible preservation of the John Dickinson House in Dover, Delaware as a National Shrine. An exchange of views and an investigation of this matter has been carried on with the National Park Service, and I am wondering at this time whether it would be possible to have the matter further considered. While an extensive appropriation for such a project would undoubtedly not be desirable at the present time because of our defense outlays, I am hopeful that perhaps a further study can be instituted with a view to establishing an indication on the part of the government for eventual restoration.

Let me emphasize again that we are without any National Shrine whatsoever in Delaware. This is an important and significant situation for a great many reasons.

I would appreciate hearing from you when convenient.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. Allen Frear, Jr.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
L53 WASO

Survey

NOV 16 1951

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park Project
From: Assistant Director Lee
Subject: Further investigation of John Dickinson House, Dover, Delaware

Over the past year and a half, we have received urgent requests from Senator J. Allen Frear, Jr. and his constituents to designate the John Dickinson House, near Dover, Delaware, as a national historic site.

At the 22nd meeting of the Advisory Board, Mr. Leon de Valinger, Archivist for the State of Delaware, Dover, Delaware, appeared before the Board and presented the case. The Board was unable to give a favorable recommendation on this matter and the attached copy of letter of June 5, 1950 contains the resolution of the Board. But Senator Frear has shown continued interest in having the house preserved. The attached copy of our letter of November 6, 1951 to him indicates that this Service is unable to assist in a financial way, but we have again indicated a desire to be helpful by rendering advisory assistance.

Dr. Edward M. Riley is the Park Service historian nearest to Dover, Delaware, and we suggest that he get in touch with Mr. de Valinger to examine the Dickinson House and offer such suggestions as he can on its preservation and restoration. Perhaps he can call Mr. de Valinger's attention to the widespread interest of State and local societies in historical preservation and urge him to organize such a group to take on the responsibility of preserving this structure.

He may raise the issue of having at least one Park Service area within the State of Delaware. The Advisory Board does not recommend sites on the basis of geographical distribution, in fact, there are States such as Vermont, New Hampshire, Kansas and Indiana which have no National Park Service areas within their boundaries.

While we do not believe the John Dickinson House deserves national recognition, we are interested in encouraging State and local organizations to participate to an ever-increasing degree in the preservation of historic sites and buildings.

We are attaching a copy of Mr. Roy Appleman's report on the John Dickinson House. We believed that Mr. Charles E. Peterson is familiar with

this house and may be able to supply additional data. He may be interested in joining Dr. Riley in calling upon Mr. de Valinger.

We shall appreciate receiving a report so that we can keep Senator Frear advised.

(SGD.) RONALD F. LEE
Assistant Director

Enclosures 3

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One
History Division (2) ✓

HEKahler-fmd

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington 25, D. C.

PRS 1393

JUNE 5 1950

My dear Senator Frear:

I have received your letter of May 11 concerning the resolution adopted by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments at its recent meeting in regard to the proposal to preserve the John Dickinson House near Dover, Delaware, as a national historical area.

I appreciate your deep interest in the preservation of this structure and have been advised that through you arrangements were made for Mr. Kelly, your Administrative Assistant, and Mr. Leon de Valinger, State Archivist of Delaware, to appear before the Advisory Board's Subcommittee on Historical Problems on April 18 in support of the proposal to save the Dickinson House. I have been informed that the presentation of these gentlemen was very helpful to the Advisory Board in its deliberations regarding the significance of this structure. After consideration by the Subcommittee, it recommended the following resolution, which the Board adopted on April 19 and which upon recommendation of the Director of the National Park Service, I have subsequently approved:

"Resolved, that the Advisory Board fully recognizes the historical importance of John Dickinson. It has carefully considered the position of the structure near Dover among the several other homes of Dickinson -- his birthplace in Maryland, his residence in Philadelphia, and in Wilmington, no longer existing. After deliberation the Board does not feel it can consider his house near Dover (his boyhood home, and occasional later residence) to be of national significance, either in relation to his career, or for its own architectural merit. It commends to the State of Delaware the desirability of organization, both public and private, for the preservation of this and other ancient monuments that have high significance for the State and people of Delaware."

There is a growing number of worthwhile preservation projects which it has not been possible for the National Park Service to assist except in an advisory capacity. The pressures of the building boom, the rapid growth of population, and the spread of commercial and industrial developments have jeopardized the preservation of many interesting historic landmarks, particularly in recent years. In the past 18 months, the National Park Service has been asked to consider 114 separate preservation projects, including 28 in the form of proposed legislation. Because of the magnitude

of these proposals, and the heavy financial burden already imposed upon the Federal Government in the maintenance and development of areas already a part of the National Park System, it has been particularly difficult to assume new obligations.

During recent years, the National Park Service has been recommending more and more that local governmental agencies or private associations care for many of these sites, which are of definite significance as a part of our historical heritage, but the care of which it would be very unlikely that the Federal Government could possibly assume. In many of these cases, local agencies have found ways and means to assume the responsibility for the preservation of the sites. I should, therefore, like to endorse the Advisory Board's suggestion and urge that the preservation of the Dickinson House be undertaken by State or local governmental agencies, or by private historical associations, such as the Friends of Old Dover. Should it prove practicable to interest any such agencies or associations in this project, the National Park Service will be glad to make available to appropriate representatives their advisory services, insofar as funds will permit.

I regret that I cannot be more encouraging about active Federal participation in the saving of the John Dickinson House, and I want to thank you for the personal time and effort that you have devoted to bringing this proposal to my attention and for presenting it to the Advisory Board for its consideration. I do hope that the interesting old structure may be preserved through community effort.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) OSCAR L. CHAPMAN

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

RECEIVED
Chief Clerk's Office
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Superintendent
Historian
1951 DEC 3 AM 11 51
Independence
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Survey
L58W450

November 30, 1951

Further Investigation of John Dickinson House, Dover, Delaware

In accordance with the suggestion made in Assistant Director Lee's memorandum of November 16, I telephoned Mr. Leon DeValinger, State Archivist for Delaware, and made an appointment for 11 A.M., Tuesday, December 4. I shall examine the Dickinson House and will discuss its preservation and restoration with Mr. DeValinger. I shall keep in mind the excellent suggestions made by Mr. Lee in his memorandum, and will encourage in every possible way an effort to organize a state or local group to assume the responsibility of preserving the Dickinson House.

Following my visit to the Dickinson House, I shall submit a detailed memorandum on the results of the visit.

cc: Director ✓

Edward M. Riley
Historian

EMR/op

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Worth, Mr. Keller ~~WCC~~

FROM : R. F. Lee

SUBJECT:

DATE:

Dec 6 1944
Keller
Survey

Riley phoned from Philadelphia to report that he visited Dover, Delaware last Tuesday and discussed the John Dickinson House, in which Sen. Frear is interested, with de Valinger the State Archivist. A report will be in ~~the~~ very soon. It looks like the Colonial Dames will buy it as a local project.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

NOV 30 1951

Lurvey

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Senator Frear:

We have received, by reference from Secretary Chapman, your letter of November 21 regarding your interest, and that of private groups, in the preservation of the John Dickinson House near Dover, Delaware.

In line with the suggestion in your letter, we have already asked the Superintendent of the Independence National Historical Park Project, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to have Dr. Edward M. Riley, an historian on his staff, call on Mr. Leon De Valinger, Jr., State Archivist of Delaware, at Dover, for the purpose of discussing with him and with interested groups the question of restoring and preserving the Dickinson House. If Dr. Riley has not already been to Dover in this connection, he will undoubtedly go in the near future.

We are pleased that private citizens in the Dover area are interested in the preservation of the Dickinson House, and trust that a workable plan for preserving the building for public use may be devised.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) Hillary A. Tolson

Hillary A. Tolson
Acting Director

Copy to: Supt., Independence NHP
Regional Director, Region One
History Division ✓

All w/c of Sen. Frear's ltr
dtd 11/21/51

CWPorter:bb

UNITED STATES SENATE

21 November 1951

The Honorable Oscar L. Chapman
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Secretary Chapman:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of November 6 with further reference to the status of the John Dickinson House near Dover, Delaware, which I originally hoped could be restored as a National Historic Site.

Since it appears presently impossible to establish this mansion as a Federal shrine, I feel that much could be served by the advisory assistance of the National Park Service staff, which you have offered for the purposes of making a study of the extent to which it would be possible to assist private citizens in preserving the structure.

I am informed that a private group is actively undertaking consideration of the possibility of maintaining the site and for that reason, early consultation between the Park Service representatives and the members of the private group in Delaware, seems to me highly desirable.

May I suggest that the Director of Park Service communicate directly with Mr. Leon De Valinger, Jr., the State Archivist of Dover, Delaware, who is assisting the private committee in its discussions of possible restoration procedures.

I shall look forward to hearing from you further as soon as convenient.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) J. Allen Frear, Jr.

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Y

Superintendent

December 7, 1951

Park Historian

Investigation of John Dickinson House, Dover, Delaware

As requested in Assistant Director Lee's memorandum of November 16, and as reported in my memorandum of November 30, I met Mr. Leon de Valinger, Archivist for the State of Delaware, at his office on Tuesday morning. Mr. Peterson was unable to accompany me to Dover because of other pressing duties. He visited the Dickinson House on April 23, 1950, however, and made an examination of the property. A copy of his report is attached for transmission to the Director.

After a brief talk with Mr. de Valinger, we drove to the Dickinson House and inspected it. Unfortunately, the tenant was not available and it was impossible to get inside the building. The exterior of the building is in substantially the same condition as reported by Mr. Appleman in October 1950. The west wall of the west wing, which was damaged by a bulldozer, is supported by braced timbers, but this is not sufficient to hold the wall in place. There are definite indications that the timbers are slipping and the wall is in danger of collapsing. If this occurs it is probable that the end building will be demolished. The brickwork of the main part of the building, which appears to be the original part of the house supposedly erected by John Dickinson's father about 1740, is in fair condition. The lower courses of brickwork near the ground level are badly in need of repointing, but there was little dampness visible in the cellar. There is also a bad break in the brickwork beneath one of the second story windows on the north side of the building.

In my discussions with Mr. de Valinger and Mrs. Ridgely, I obtained the following information on the recent developments in the movement to preserve the Dickinson House:

The Historic Activities Committee of the Dover Chapter of the Colonial Dames and certain other private individuals have shown a distinct interest in purchasing the house and a small plot of land. The Colonial Dames have fulfilled their pledges toward the maintenance of Gunstan Hall in Virginia and are interested in undertaking the Dickinson House project. Mr. de Valinger felt that it might be possible for the group to obtain an option on the property early next year.

Mr. H. Carlton Draper of Milton, Delaware, the present owner, has told Mr. de Valinger that he would sell the house and approximately nine

acres of ground, that is, a strip lying between the house and the main highway to the north and a small area south of the house, for \$15,500, the same figure he quoted in 1949. This figure was based on the cost of \$175 an acre for the land, \$10,000 to build a tenant house to take the place of the Dickinson House, and the remainder (\$4000) for removing or building new farm outbuildings at the new tenant house.

The plans of the group as outlined by Mr. de Valinger are:

(1) Stabilize the house. Along this line, they propose replacing missing window panes or boarding windows up, repairing all leaks in the roof, repairing bad brickwork, and perhaps constructing a new foundation under the west wall of the west wing and rebuilding the damaged wall. In connection with the last part of the stabilization program, Mr. Draper has offered to pay for the repairs to the west wall and add the cost to the sum quoted for the purchase of the property. Mr. de Valinger asked my advice on the matter but I was unable to give him a definite answer since there is no information regarding the age of the wing. He believes that the two additions to the main house were probably built in the 1790's after a fire, but this is largely an assumption. I did point out that the wing could serve to house a caretaker.

The problems facing the committee, it seems to me, are more architectural than historical in nature. Since the present plans call for a stabilization program to preserve the structure, it would be advisable for an architect to advise the committee. Mr. Peterson suggests that a local architect, such as Albert Kruse of Wilmington, Delaware, be consulted. The committee, however, may not have sufficient funds to pay an architect's fee. Since it is probable that the wall will not stand through the winter, advice should be given them in the near future.

(2) After the structure has been stabilized, the committee will either turn it over to the State of Delaware to restore the building for a governor's mansion, or they will undertake a progressive restoration program. In other words, they will restore the building in stages as funds are available.

The needs of the committee are obvious. Their most pressing need is for architectural or structural advice on the preservation of the building and planning advice on the land to be purchased. The other need is for a definitive historical study of the house. I outlined for Mr. de Valinger a research program and he felt that it would be possible for the committee to carry it out. Mr. de Valinger has collected some information from the Dickinson Collection in the State Archives and will probably be able to obtain other materials in the County Records. He mentioned the fact that much information regarding

the house can probably be found in the Logan Collection in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, but as this collection contains over 12,000 items and has no catalog, its study would be a major undertaking. It is possible for this office to locate easily any insurance policies which may have been issued on the house. This research would require little time since my staff is thoroughly familiar with the various insurance records of the Philadelphia companies. If this meets with your approval, we shall endeavor to find insurance records on the building.

Encouragement was given Mr. de Valinger and Mrs. Ridgely in every possible way without obligating the Park Service to any definite program of assistance. The correspondence, enclosed by Mr. Lee, between the Secretary of the Interior and Senator Frear is not too clear in regard to the relationship of the National Park Service to the committee interested in the preservation of the Dickinson House. Mr. de Valinger stated that he and Senator Frear interpreted the letters from Secretary Chapman to mean that the National Park Service would undertake a survey of the property. He felt that the National Park Service had not been too cooperative and that they had not received or had no knowledge of any report prepared by Mr. Appleman. I feel that a copy of Mr. Appleman's excellent report should be sent to Mr. de Valinger for the use of any group which will undertake the preservation of the structure. It would also be most helpful if the Washington Office would define more clearly the relationship between the National Park Service and the preservation group. It was difficult to discuss the matter with much satisfaction because of this lack of a policy statement concerning the relationship. I advised them as much as possible, encouraged them wherever, but was unable to tell them definitely what the National Park Service would do. Mr. de Valinger feels that if they can state that the National Park Service is advising them in regard to the preservation of the Dickinson House, that it would be possible for the movement to be a success.

The foregoing is a full report on the present status of the movement for the preservation of the Dickinson House. It is hoped that the Washington Office will clarify our relationship with the movement, so that future conferences with Mr. de Valinger will be more satisfactory.

Edward M. Riley
Park Historian

cc: Director
Mr. Peterson ✓

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Independence National Historical Park Project
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Old Custom House
420 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

December 13, 1951

Memorandum

To: Assistant Director Lee
From: Superintendent, Independence National Historical
Park Project
Subject: Investigation of John Dickinson House near Dover,
Delaware

Attached is a proposed draft of a letter from Secretary Chapman to Senator Frear, prepared by Dr. Riley, which explains more clearly the type of assistance which will be possible for this Park to give in the preservation of the John Dickinson House. It is hoped that this draft will be of assistance to you.

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Peterson ✓

D.K.
R.P.

Draft of letter to Senator Frear re: John Dickinson House

As mentioned in my letter of November 6, I have discussed with the Director of the National Park Service the question of the extent to which it will be possible for that Bureau to assist the group or groups interested in undertaking the restoration and preservation of the John Dickinson House near Dover, Delaware. Although the National Park Service does not believe that the house deserves national recognition, they are interested in encouraging a local organization in undertaking its preservation. Because no funds are available for the purpose, however, the National Park Service will be unable to contribute directly to the cost and must confine its assistance to general advice regarding restoration and preservation policies and techniques.

The nearest area of the National Park Service to Dover is the Independence National Historical Park Project in Philadelphia. Even in this case, however, the Dickinson House is more than 125 miles from downtown Philadelphia and requires nearly a full day's round trip in traffic.

We have consulted the Resident Architect, Mr. Charles E. Peterson, and the Park Historian, Dr. Edward M. Riley, regarding the type of assistance they may be able to give. Both of these gentlemen are willing to advise the group in a general way. Their long experience in the restoration and preservation of historic buildings and their knowledge would be most valuable. They have visited the Dickinson House with Mr. de Valinger and are acquainted with its condition. Because of the very heavy program of work being carried by them in connection with the development of the Independence National Historical Park Project, it will not be possible for them to carry out or supervise detail work in connection with the preservation of the Dickinson House.

We feel that it would be advantageous for the group to employ a local architect to plan and direct the preservation work as soon as the property has been purchased. Mr. Peterson will be glad to nominate an architect and consult with him as much as possible. The first step should be a set of measured drawings of existing conditions and one of the first decisions should be as to whether or not a custodian will maintain living quarters in the building.

The historical research phase of the program does not appear to be as urgent as the architectural work. Dr. Riley has offered to examine the records of the various insurance companies in Philadelphia in an effort to find early insurance surveys. One such policy is mentioned in the Dickinson papers in the Delaware State Archives. He will also be glad to advise the historian of the group but he cannot do the actual research. He will also be able to consult with the group

D.K.
R.P.

on interpretive plans when that point in the development of the area is reached.

Oscar L. Chapman

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Independence National Historical Park Project
Old Custom House
420 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

Dick H

December 17, 1951

Mr. Leon de Valinger, Archivist
State of Delaware
Dover, Delaware

Dear Mr. de Valinger:

Enclosed are copies of the various insurance policies issued by the Insurance Company of North America to John Dickinson. I have been unable to locate any insurance surveys or detailed descriptions of the Dickinson House in the records of the company, but I shall continue the search.

In regard to the repairs to the wing of the Dickinson House, I feel that you must first determine whether a caretaker will live in the house. If the house proper is to be a house museum, then the two additions will certainly be needed as living quarters for the caretaker. From the meager information available, it appears that the damaged wing may have been added subsequent to Dickinson's ownership, since the insurance record mentions only one addition. The justification for repairing the wing, therefore, would have to be on the basis of living accommodations rather than history.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your hospitality and courtesy. I hope that you will be able to visit our project in Philadelphia in the very near future. With best regards to you and Mrs. Ridgely, I am

Sincerely,

Edward M. Riley
Historian

Enclosure

cc: Assistant Director Lee (w/encl.)
Mr. Peterson (w/encl.) ✓

EMR/cp

Policies Issued to John Dickinson by the Insurance Company of North America.

1803

Decem. 29 JOHN DICKINSON, of the Borough of Wilmington in the State of
3088 Delaware, Esquire - For Insurance of One Thousand Dollars on a
one story frame house, situate in Jones Neck, Dover Hundred, Kent
county and State of Delaware, to the Northeastward of the road
from Dover to the Bayside - formerly in the tenure of Isiah Wharton,
lately in the tenure of William Canday and now in the tenure of
Sophia Canday Adminis. and Thos. Canday Adminis. of the said
William Canday's Estate.

For three years

Drs 1,000: 1 ply for 3 yrs. . . . \$30.00

Dedr. 1/3 of a years Prem. as abatim 3.33

Add Policy 27.67

Decem.29 JOHN DICKINSON of the Borough of Wilmington in the State of
3089 Delaware, Esqr. - For Insurance of One Thousand Dollars on a one
story framed dwelling house situate in Jones Neck, Dover Hundred,
Kent County and State of Delaware to the South westward of the road
from Dover to the Bayside - formerly in the tenure of Jenkins Murphy
and Charles Murphy, but now in the tenure of Samuel Moore -

For three years

Drs 1,000: 1 ply for 3 yrs..... \$30.00

Dedr. abatement of 1/3 of a years prem. 3.33

\$26.67

Add Policy 1.00

\$27.67

1863

Decem. 29

3090

JOHN DICKINSON of the Borough of Wilmington in the State of Delaware, Esqr. For Insurance of Three Thousand Dollars on a Two Story Brick Dwelling House and a One Story Brick addition to it which addition is 30 feet in length & 25 feet in breadth, situate in Jones's Neck, Dover Hundred, Kent County, and State of Delaware, to the Southwestward of the road from Dover to the Bayside - formerly in the tenure of John Emory afterwards in the tenure of Joseph Kinney and now in the tenure of Elizabeth Kinney Adminr. & James Kinney adminis. of the said Joseph Kinney's Estate.

For three years

Drs. 3,000:60 cents for 3 years . . . \$54.

Dedr. abatement of 1/3 of a years Prem. . . . 6.
48.

Add Policy 1.
\$49.

.....

Decem. 29

3091

JOHN DICKINSON of the Borough of Wilmington in the State of Delaware, Esquire - - For Insurance of One Thousand Dollars on a Two Story Stone Dwelling House, situate in Brandywine Hundred, County of New Castle and State of Delaware, about two miles and an half from Wilmington aforesaid, on the Eastern side of Concord Road, and near the junction of that road and Faulks Road formerly in the Tenure of William Little but now in the tenure of Daniel Chapman.

For three years

Drs. 1,000:50 cents for 3 years . . . \$15.

Dedr. 1/3 of a years Premium as abatement. . . . 1.67
\$13.33

Add policy 1.00
\$14.33

1803

Decem. 29

3092

JOHN DICKINSON of the Borough of Wilmington, in the State of Delaware, Esqr. - For Insurance of Two Thousand Dollars on a Two Story Stone Dwelling House, situate on the Northern side of the Philadelphia Road, in Brandywine Hundred and County of New Castle in the State of Delaware, about a quarter of a mile from the village at Brandywine Bridge formerly in the tenure of Charles Henry Wharton, but now in the tenure of John Wethered.

For three years

Drs. 2,000: 3/4 p.ct for 3 yrs. . . . \$45.

Dedr. 1/3 of a years prem 5.

\$40.

Add Policy 1.

\$41.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
L58 WASO-H

DEC 20 1951

Lurvey

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence National Historical
Park Project

From: Assistant Director Lee

Subject: Draft of Letter Concerning John Dickinson House

We have received your memorandum of December 13 enclosing a draft of a letter from the Secretary to Senator Frear concerning recent developments at the John Dickinson House at Dover, Delaware. This material was very helpful and you will receive in the near future copies of correspondence addressed to Senator Frear and Mr. de Valinger.

(SGD) Ronald E. Lee

Assistant Director

Copy to: History Division ✓
Regional Director, Region One
RWYoung:bb

C
O
P
Y

Ref: L58 WASO

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Independence National Historical Park Project
Old Custom House
420 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

December 13, 1951

Memorandum

To: Assistant Director Lee

From: Superintendent, Independence National Historical
Park Project

Subject: Investigation of John Dickinson House near Dover,
Delaware

Attached is a proposed draft of a letter from Secretary Chapman to Senator Frear, prepared by Dr. Riley, which explains more clearly the type of assistance which will be possible for this Park to give in the preservation of the John Dickinson House. It is hoped that this draft will be of assistance to you.

/s/ M. O. Anderson
M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

Enclosure

C
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Y

Draft of letter to Senator Frear re: John Dickinson House

As mentioned in my letter of November 6, I have discussed with the Director of the National Park Service the question of the extent to which it will be possible for that Bureau to assist the group or groups interested in undertaking the restoration and preservation of the John Dickinson House near Dover, Delaware. Although the National Park Service does not believe that the house deserves national recognition, they are interested in encouraging a local organization in undertaking its preservation. Because no funds are available for the purpose, however, the National Park Service will be unable to contribute directly to the cost and must confine its assistance to general advice regarding restoration and preservation policies and techniques.

The nearest area of the National Park Service to Dover is the Independence National Historical Park Project in Philadelphia. Even in this case, however, the Dickinson House is more than 125 miles from downtown Philadelphia and requires nearly a full day's round trip in traffic.

We have consulted the Resident Architect, Mr. Charles E. Peterson, and the Park Historian, Dr. Edward M. Riley, regarding the type of assistance they may be able to give. Both of these gentlemen are willing to advise the group in a general way. Their long experience in the restoration and preservation of historic buildings and their knowledge would be most valuable. They have visited the Dickinson House with Mr. de Valinger and are acquainted with its condition. Because of the very heavy program of work being carried by them in connection with the development of the Independence National Historical Park Project, it will not be possible for them to carry out or supervise detail work in connection with the preservation of the Dickinson House.

We feel that it would be advantageous for the group to employ a local architect to plan and direct the preservation work as soon as the property has been purchased. Mr. Peterson will be glad to nominate an architect and consult with him as much as possible. The first step should be a set of measured drawings of existing conditions and one of the first decisions should be as to whether or not a custodian will maintain living quarters in the building.

The historical research phase of the program does not appear to be as urgent as the architectural work. Dr. Riley has offered to examine the records of the various insurance companies in Philadelphia in an effort to find early insurance surveys. One such policy is mentioned in the Dickinson papers in the Delaware State Archives. He will also be glad to advise the historian of the group but he cannot do the actual research. He will also be able to consult with the group on interpretive plans when that point in the development of the area is reached.

Oscar L. Chapman



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
L58 WASO-H

Survey

DEC 20 1951

Mr. Leon de Valinger, Jr.
State Archivist of Delaware
Dover, Delaware

Dear Mr. de Valinger:

We have recently been informed of the pleasant and profitable conference that Dr. Edward M. Riley, of this Service held with you on December 4, in regard to the preservation problems at the Dickinson House property, near Dover, Delaware.

Dr. Riley reports that the most pressing needs that were outlined by you and the Historic Activities Committee of the Dover Chapter of the Colonial Dames are for architectural and planning advice at this interesting structure. Dr. Riley also stated that he had discussed with you an essential research program in regard to this site, which you indicated that through your assistance the Committee could probably accomplish, together with some slight assistance from Dr. Riley in regard to research on the insurance history of the property.

It was greatly encouraging for us to learn that, through your leadership and that of the Committee, there now appears a distinct prospect that an organized movement under private sponsorship will undertake the restoration and preservation of this property. In order that you may have a definite statement of the interest of this Service in the furtherance of this private movement, we are glad to say that the National Park Service will undertake, within the limits of its available funds, to give you and the Committee general architectural and planning advice. When you and the Committee need such consultative advice, it is suggested that you communicate with Mr. Elbert Cox, Regional Director of our Region One Office, 900 North Lombardy Street, Richmond 20, Virginia. In addition, we believe it would be very helpful if the Committee would employ an architect who could give day to day supervision to the project, which the Service is unable to do. At Dr. Riley's suggestion we are also enclosing for your information and that of the Committee two copies of Historian Appelman's historical survey report regarding this property.

Please feel free to communicate with Mr. Cox or this Office in regard to the problem of the restoration and preservation program at the John Dickinson House, as we are greatly interested in the proposals to save this structure and want to give you any further assistance that is within our power to do so.

Sincerely yours,

(SCD.) RONALD F. LEE

Ronald F. Lee
Assistant Director

Enclosures 2

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One (2)
Supt., Independence N.H.P.P.
Assistant Director Lee
Design and Construction Div.
History Division ✓

RWYoung:HEKahler:bb



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
L58 WASO-H

DEC 20 1951

Survey

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Senator Frear:

In accordance with Assistant Director Tolson's letter of November 30 to you regarding the John Dickinson House, near Dover, Delaware, I am pleased to report that Dr. Edward M. Riley, of this Service, conferred with Mr. Leon de Valinger on December 4, in regard to the preservation problems at this structure.

Following a conference at Mr. de Valinger's office in Dover, an examination of the structure and property was made by Messrs. Riley and de Valinger. Dr. Riley learned from Mr. de Valinger that the Historic Activities Committee of the Dover Chapter of the Colonial Dames and certain other private individuals have recently shown a distinct interest in purchasing the house and a small tract of land at the site with a view of undertaking under private sponsorship a modest and progressive program of restoration and preservation. Dr. Riley found that the most urgent needs of this Committee and its private supporters are for architectural and planning advice in connection with the project. Dr. Riley discussed with Mr. de Valinger an outline for an essential historical research program, which Mr. de Valinger felt the Committee would be in a position to undertake under his direction. Historian Appleman, of this Service, has prepared a historical survey study of the John Dickinson property of which we shall be pleased to forward copies to Mr. de Valinger for his use and for the use of the Committee.

Secretary Chapman in his letter of November 6 to you regarding the Dickinson House, suggested that the advisory assistance of this Service in regard to restoration and preservation policies and techniques would be available within the limits of existing appropriations in connection with private efforts to save and preserve the Dickinson House. I want you to know that this Service is willing to give such assistance as is within its power in advising Mr. de Valinger and the local groups with general architectural and planning problems at the Dickinson House property, and I am advising Mr. de Valinger of my views on this matter. When he and the Committee

need such consultative advice, we are suggesting that he communicate with Mr. Elbert Cox, Regional Director of our Region One Office, 900 North Lombardy Street, Richmond 20, Virginia. In addition, we believe it would be very helpful if the Committee would employ an architect who could give day to day supervision to the project, which the Service is unable to do.

It is greatly encouraging to learn that, through Mr. de Valinger's interest and leadership and that of the local Committee, there is a distinct prospect this interesting structure may be saved.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) CONRAD L. WIRTH

Conrad L. Wirth
Director

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One (2)
Supt., Independence N.H.P.P.
Assistant Director Lee
Design and Construction Div.
History Division ✓

RWYoung:HEKahler:bb



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
L58 WASO-H

JAN - 3 1952

Survey

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region One
From: Assistant Director Lee
Subject: John Dickinson House, Dover, Delaware

The attached copy of a self-explanatory letter from Leon de Valinger, Jr., State Archivist of Delaware, regarding the John Dickinson House near Dover Delaware, will be of interest to you.

(SGD.) RONALD F. LEE

Assistant Director

Attachment

In duplicate

Copy to: Superintendent, Independence Hall N.H.P.P.

History Division ✓

CWPorter:bb

C
O
P
Y

STATE OF DELAWARE
Public Archives Commission
Dover

December 27, 1951

Mr. Ronald F. Lee
Assistant Director
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Reference:
L58 WASO-H

Dear Mr. Lee:

Thank you for your letter of December 20 and the two copies of Mr. Appleman's excellent report on the John Dickinson House. We are pleased to have this fine report.

We were especially pleased to learn from the third paragraph of your letter that the National Park Service will undertake, within the limits of its available funds, to give the Committee general architectural and planning advice. We can assure you that this help will be much appreciated and, as soon as our plans are formulated better, I am sure that Mrs. Charles Lee Reese, Jr., Chairman of the Historical Activities Committee of the Delaware Society of the Colonial Dames, will communicate with Mr. Cox as requested by you.

As you undoubtedly know, Dr. Riley has recently sent us some information he gleaned from the files of the Insurance Company of North America. Although this did not contain any information that was startling, it was helpful in supplementing what we had. We are indeed obliged to Dr. Riley for surveying the site of the Dickinson House and for his interest in developing this further information for us.

Cordially yours,

/s/ Leon de Valinger, Jr.
State Archivist

LdeV:csa



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

July 25, 1952

MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Director, Region One
From: Superintendent, Independence NHPP
Subject: John Dickinson House, Dover, Delaware

Reference is made to your memorandum of July 22 requesting our architectural advice on the John Dickinson House.

Mr. Peterson has made an appointment with Mr. de Valinger at Dover for July 29.

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

CEP:jah

July 30, 1952

Dear Mr. deValinger:

Herewith are some comments on the Dickinson House at St. Jones Creek, Kent County, Delaware, made as the result of our joint inspection on July 30.

1. The documents you have recently located relative to the fire of 1804 are very valuable in understanding the structure as it now exists. It is quite clear that the upper part of the house built by Judge Samuel Dickinson about 1735 -- with its "peaks" front and back and the third floor rooms with garret above -- was of a distinctly different character. The informally arranged openings in the rear, set in English bond brick walls are definitely pre-Georgian in feeling. The old roof lines seen in the attic of Addition No. 1 are also remains of earlier structures not readily understandable.

2. As I believe you suggested, the most practicable date for restoration is the 1805 period after the fire. The house as it now stands has been little changed since that time. The interior trim is almost complete for that period. It seems quite evident from Dickinson's letter of April 4, 1804, that the house had been completely gutted during the fire.

3. It seems certain that there is not room in the old house for quarters for a custodian and public comfort station facilities too. For that reason I would pull off Addition No. 2, even though it has a certain picturesqueness. It is so far gone that it cannot be stabilized without considerable expense.

4. As to new buildings: They could be conjectural restorations of old structures now gone. As you point out, in an old but undated document, Dickinson had 25 negroes. That indicates a large farm layout with quite a few outbuildings. If the grounds were systematically trenched, foundations would probably prove the locations of these buildings, which could be reconstructed. Perhaps it would be better in the end to build them in a frankly modern style at a decent distance from the old house, especially since there seems to be no old farm groups to study for precedent.

5. In any case, I would (a) carefully pull off the two porches and cut down the nearby weeds so as to allow an unimpeded view; (b) prime paint all old woodwork now weathering fast; and (c) prepare a careful set of measured drawings as the basis for the restoration studies. A full set of the latter should be made - not only for the guidance of the mechanics but for the approval of the various parties concerned with the promotion. The drawings would show clearly the proposed work on paper so as to avoid misunderstandings which could otherwise develop.

6. The present main cornice, front and rear, is a later replacement and out of character. A new one should be designed, using precedent from nearby houses of the period - in case old photographs or other data are not found. It would seem worth while to conduct an extensive campaign to locate such material.

7. It takes a great deal of time to really study an old building and to understand it. The above recommendations should be evaluated, knowing that the writer has seen the house only twice (very briefly at that)

and is not familiar with Delaware architecture.

Sincerely yours,

Charles E. Peterson
Resident Architect

[NPS]

Memo to S

From RA

Subj: Restoration of Dickinson House at St Jones Creek
Kent County, Delaware

Yesterday with architect Lipari I drove down to Dover and the Dickinson House, leaving at 9:45^{am} and returning at 9:45^{pm} (via New Castle).

I prepared a letter with comments to her delValinger which he read (and seemed to approve) while I was there (copy attached).

It seems that Senator Ives is tired of voting appropriations for National Parks when Delaware doesn't have one. ~~so~~ Because the Federal ownership of the Dickinson House was turned down, he wants a complete master plan for development as our contribution.

Such a plan would require a lot of work in this department - probably more than

we have spent ^{so far} on any one building except
Ind - Hall itself. ~~If we have to make~~

This is especially true since it takes two hours
each way to drive by the fastest route.

If we have to make the measured drawings
the only thing I can see is to set up a summer
camp there next year. One team could, ^{probably} do the
operation in about four weeks.

CRP/RA

Dear Mr. DeValinger

Herewith are some comments on the
Dickinson House at St. Jones^{Jones} Creek, Kent County,
Delaware ~~after~~ made as the result of our
joint inspection on July 30. #

1. The ~~old~~ documents you have recently
located relative to the fire of 1804 are very
valuable in understanding the structure as it now
~~stands~~^{exists}. It is quite clear that the ^{upper part of the} house
built by Judge Samuel Dickinson about 1735-
with its "peaks" ^{front} ~~front~~ and ^{back} ~~back~~ and the third floor
rooms with garret above - was of a distinctly
different character. ~~that the English bond wall on~~
~~the sides and rear and the informally arranged~~
~~openings~~ ~~are~~ in the rear set in English bond
brick walls are, ^{definitely} ~~very~~ Georgian in ^{feeling} ~~character~~. The
old roof lines seen in the attic of Addition No 1
are ^{also} ~~remains~~ of earlier structures not readily
understandable.

2. As I believe you suggested, the most
practicable date for restoration is the 1805 period after the fire
~~rebuilding~~ ~~since~~ The house as it now stands
has been little changed since that time. The
interior trim is almost complete for that period.
and it can be made attractive enough

It seems quite evident from Dickinson's letter of April 4, 1854 that the house had ~~been~~ ^{was} completely gutted ~~of original woodwork~~ during the fire.

3. It seems ^{certain} ~~obvious~~ that, ^{there is not room in the old house for} quarters for a custodian and ^{public} comfort station facilities, ^{too} ~~see~~.

~~too~~ For that reason I would pull off ~~it~~

Addition No. 2, even though it ~~is~~ has ~~some~~ a certain picturesqueness. It is so far gone that it ~~a ruin and~~ cannot be stabilized without ~~a~~ considerable expense.

4. As to ~~the~~ new buildings: they ^{could} ~~would~~ be conjectural

restorations of old structures now gone. As

you point out in an ^{old but} undated document, Dickinson

had 25 negroes, ~~and~~ that indicates a

large farm layout with quite a few outbuildings.

If the grounds were systematically trenched foundations ^{it} would probably have the locations of these buildings, which could be ^{reconstructed} ~~estimated~~ conjecturally. Perhaps it would be better in the end to build them in a frankly modern style at a decent distance from the old house, especially since there seem to be no old farm houses to study for precedent.

5. In any case, I could ^(A) carefully pull off the two porches and cut down the nearby weeds so as to allow an unimpeded view (B) prime paint all old woodwork now weathering ^{fast and} ~~badly~~ (C) prepare a careful set of measured drawings as the basis for the restoration ^{studies} ~~drawings~~. A full set of the latter should be made - not only for the guidance of the ^{mechanics} ~~builders~~, but for the ^{with the foundation} ~~approval~~ of the various parties concerned. ^{the drawings} They would show clearly the husband work on paper so as to avoid misunderstandings which ~~can otherwise arise~~ ^{could} ~~arise~~ otherwise develop.

6. —

7. It takes a great deal of time to really study an old building, and ^{to} ~~the~~ understand it. The above ^{recommendations} should be evaluated knowing that the writer has seen the house ^{only} ~~once~~ (very briefly at that) and is not familiar with Delaware architecture.

~~cc Mr. [unclear]~~
R

CRB
RA

(3)

~~Insert~~ The present main cornice, faint and near is
a later replacement and out of character. A new one

6. ~~Certain missing features such as the~~

~~main cornice and the shingles~~ should be
using precedent

designed, ¹ from nearby houses of the period -

in case old photographs or other data is

not found. It would be ^{new} ~~be~~ worth while to
¹

conduct an intensive campaign to locate

such material.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Superintendent, Independence NHPP DATE: July 30, 1952

FROM : Resident Architect

SUBJECT: Restoration of Dickinson House at St. Jones Creek,
Kent County, Delaware

Yesterday, with Architect Lipari, I drove down to Dover and the Dickinson House, leaving at 9:45 a.m. and returning at 9:45 p.m. (via New Castle).

I prepared a letter with comments to Mr. de Valinger which he read (and seemed to approve) while I was there (copy attached).

It seems that Senator Frear is tired of voting appropriations for National Parks when Delaware doesn't have one. Because the Federal ownership of the Dickinson House was turned down, he wants a complete master plan for development as our contribution.

Such a plan would require a lot of work in this department - probably more than we have spent so far on any one building except Independence Hall itself. This is especially true since it takes two hours each way to drive by the fastest route.

If we have to make the measured drawings, the only thing I can see is to set up a summer camp there next year. One team could probably do the operation in about four weeks.

Charles E. Peterson
Resident Architect

cc: Regional Director, I

Independence National Historical Park Project
Old Custom House - 421 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

August 5, 1952

Mr. Leon de Valinger, Jr.
State Archivist of Delaware
Dover, Delaware

Dear Mr. de Valinger:

We recently were requested by our Regional Office to have our Mr. Charles E. Peterson, Resident Architect, get in touch with you in response to a request which you had addressed to Mr. Elbert Cox, Regional Director, Richmond, Virginia, on July 14 for advisory assistance in connection with the Dickinson House at St. Jones Creek, Kent County, Delaware.

As Mr. Peterson no doubt informed you at the time he and Mr. Lipari of this office visited and consulted with you on July 30, he has now departed for an extended European visit. Before he departed, he brought to my attention the draft of a set of recommendations which he indicated had been reviewed with you on July 30. These recommendation and suggestions which were reported to have been considered and discussed between yourself and Mr. Peterson are noted as follows:

1. The documents you have recently located relative to the fire of 1804 are very valuable in understanding the structure as it now exists. It is quite clear that the upper part of the house built by Judge Samuel Dickinson about 1735 -- with its "peaks" front and back and the third floor rooms with garret above -- was of a distinctly different character. The informally arranged openings in the rear, set in English bond brick walls are definitely pre-Georgian in feeling. The old roof lines seen in the attic of Addition No. 1 are also remains of earlier structures not readily understandable.

2. As I believe you suggested, the most practicable date for restoration is the 1805 period after the fire. The house as it now stands has been little changed since that time. The interior trim is almost complete for that period. It seems quite evident from Dickinson's letter of April 4, 1804, that the house had been completely gutted during the fire.

3. It seems certain that there is not room in the old house for quarters for a custodian and public comfort station facilities too. For that reason I would pull off Addition No. 2, even though it has a certain picturesqueness. It is so far gone that it cannot be stabilized without considerable expense.

4. As to new buildings: They could be conjectural restorations of old structures now gone. As you point out, in an old but undated document, Dickinson had 25 negroes. That indicates a large farm layout with quite a few outbuildings. If the grounds were systematically trenched, foundations would probably prove the locations of these buildings, which could be reconstructed. Perhaps it would be better in the end to build them in a frankly modern style at a decent distance from the old house, especially since there seems to be no old farm groups to study for precedent.

5. In any case, I would (a) carefully pull off the two porches and cut down the nearby weeds so as to allow an unimpeded view; (b) prime paint all old woodwork now weathering fast; and (c) prepare a careful set of measured drawings as the basis for the restoration studies. A full set of the latter should be made - not only for the guidance of the mechanics but for the approval of the various parties concerned with the promotion. The drawings would show clearly the proposed work on paper so as to avoid misunderstandings which could otherwise develop.

6. The present main cornice, front and rear, is a later replacement and out of character. A new one should be designed, using precedent from nearby houses of the period - in case old photographs or other data are not found. It would seem worth while to conduct an extensive campaign to locate such material.

7. It takes a great deal of time to really study an old building and to understand it. The above recommendations should be evaluated, knowing that the writer has seen the house only twice (very briefly at that) and is not familiar with Delaware architecture.

As has been previously suggested to Senator Frear and yourself by representatives of the National Park Service, it is believed that efforts by you to arrange for the employment of a local architect to carry out restoration work on the house would be the logical procedure to follow. While Mr. Peterson and possibly other members of our staff would be happy to assist with occasional consultation and advice, the pressure of their duties here prevents them from being able to consider spending time in connection with actual on site supervision or carrying out of the plans which he might be of assistance in helping you develop.

Mr. Peterson expects to return about the middle of September and if his advisory services are desired subsequent to that date, it would be appreciated if you would get in touch with us.

Very truly yours

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

cc: Regional Director, I
C. E. Peterson

MOA:LK

August 13, 1952
L-58

Mr. Elbert Cox
Regional Director
National Park Service
Region One
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Mr. Cox:

In accordance with your letter of July 22, Mr. Charles E. Peterson, Resident Architect of your Philadelphia office, came to Dover on July 30, in company with Mr. Lipari, and spent the afternoon with me at the John Dickinson Mansion. We are indeed grateful for the excellent suggestions he gave us for making the building weather-tight preparatory to closing it in for the winter. These suggestions were reiterated in Mr. M. O. Anderson's letter of August 5, of which you have undoubtedly received a copy. We have transmitted these suggestions to our Advisory Committee and we are prepared to put them into effect.

Despite these valued suggestions and Mr. Peterson's willingness to cooperate, we were disappointed to learn that that was apparently all the Philadelphia office understood it was to do for us. It was our understanding in view of Senator Frear's conversation with Secretary Chapman and his letter offering assistance, that the National Park Service would be in a position not to make expenditures on the restoration of the John Dickinson Mansion, but to give us guidance and any other assistance within its means. We realize that Mr. Peterson would be unable to give day to day supervision of the work and we are not asking that of him or any other employee of the National Park Service. What we do desire and hope you can give us is a master plan for the proper restoration of this historic house and suggestions for its proper administration as an historic site by our Commission. We realize this would require the making of measured drawings by employees of your staff, but it was our understanding that this, together with concrete suggestions and specifications, was contained in Secretary Chapman's offer. If I am correct in my assumptions, will you please verify them and also indicate when we may expect employees of your department to begin preparation of such a master plan for us.

We have nearly completed the historical research on this house, so that this would not have to be undertaken by any of the members of your staff.

Cordially yours,

S/ Leon de Valinger Jr.

State Archivist

LdeV-mb

cc: Senator Frear
Mr. M. O. Anderson

AUG 25 1952

Levy

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region One
From: Director
Subject: John Dickinson House, Dover, Delaware

Following receipt of your memorandum of August 15 on the above subject, we have made a careful study of our files and commitments made by this office regarding advisory assistance to be given in connection with the restoration of the John Dickinson House in Dover, Delaware.

There is no reference in any of our correspondence on this subject to promising more than advisory service by Service personnel. Since the inactivation of the Historic American Buildings Survey, which was financed largely through W.P.A., and to a small extent with a PWA project, the Service has no available personnel with which to measure old buildings of historic interest. Mr. Peterson estimated that a measuring squad would require about four weeks to make measured drawings of the Dickinson House. It would take practically all the architectural talent of Region One to make up such a squad, and the abandonment for a month of all your regular work to make their services available. Salaries and per diem would amount to several thousand dollars. The legality of spending such a sum on a non-Federal project could certainly be questioned, even assuming that otherwise you could undertake the work.

It seems to this office that the visits to the site of Messrs. Riley, Lopari, Peterson, etc., and the probability that subsequent visits will follow if the restoration project is undertaken, constitute considerable assistance to Mr. de Valinger and his group. It is a fast two-hour drive each way from Philadelphia to Dover, and Service representatives certainly cannot be expected to take charge of any day-to-day work at the site. The local group simply must secure the services of a local architect, whom we shall be glad to continue to advise.

We trust that you are able to explain this situation to Mr. Leon de Valinger and that the restoration of the Dickinson House may go forward on a cooperative basis in which our assistance is strictly limited to advice and consultation.

(1567) Conrad L. Wirth

WJC:CWP:EFH
Copy to: History Division ✓

Director
Design & Construction Div.

NOV 25 1952

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region One

From: Director

Subject: Advisory Assistance of National Park Service in Restoration
of John Dickinson House

Senator Frear of Delaware has again requested the National Park Service to extend as much advisory assistance as we can to the State of Delaware in connection with the restoration of the John Dickinson house near Dover, Delaware, which is now in progress.

At the recent meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Chief Historian Kahler had an opportunity to discuss the Dickinson House with Mr. de Valinger, the State Archivist of Delaware. Mr. de Valinger, independent of Senator Frear's request, asked for additional advisory assistance.

It is the desire of this Office that you arrange to extend additional advisory assistance to this project at least to the following extent:

1. Have prints made of sample drawings from one or more master plans for historical areas which may be presented to Mr. de Valinger to give him some conception of how to go about preparing a master plan for the John Dickinson house property. Mr. de Valinger was present during a discussion of master plans at the National Trust meeting and expressed considerable interest in securing this kind of assistance.
2. Arrange to have someone from the Region One staff go by the John Dickinson house and spend at least a half a day giving additional advisory assistance on certain problems now under study, one of which is how to plan adapting the heating system to the requirements of an historic house restoration.

It is desired that you contact Mr. de Valinger sometime within the next two weeks and make specific arrangements as to the person who will go by to see him and the time when the visit will be paid. In this connection, Mr. Kahler arranged for Mr. de Valinger to talk with Mr. Charles Peterson during the National Trust meetings, but Mr. Peterson has been so deeply involved in the problems of the Independence project since the loss of his assistants up there, that it did not seem possible to work out arrangements for him to pay another visit to the John Dickinson house. This matter was discussed with Mr. Hodge Hanson while he was in the Office here this week, and he is familiar with the discussions between Mr. Kahler and Mr. de Valinger.

Senator Frear's office has indicated that they are getting directly in touch with Mr. de Valinger and will advise him that the National Park Service will get in touch with him during the next two or three weeks to make arrangements for the visit.

(SGD) Conrad L. Wirth

Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Mr. Wirth
Mr. R. F. Lee
✓ Mr. Kahler
Mr. Kenner

RFLee:kt

Independence National Historical Park Project
Old Custom House
120 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

December 5, 1952

Mr. Edward S. Zimmer
Assistant Regional Director
National Park Service
900 No. Lombardy Street
Richmond 20, Virginia

Dear Ed:

I have the carbon of your letter of December 3 to Mr. de Valinger. Referring to your note, be assured that I will give Dan all the help I can if he comes on the 17th.

The restoration problems at the Dickinson house are simpler than in most cases, for the house is pretty much the same as it was restored just after the fire of 1804.

Regards,

Charles E. Peterson
Resident Architect

cc: Chief Architect

CEP:LK



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION ONE
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

December 9, 1952

Mr. Leon de Valinger, Jr.
State Archivist of Delaware
Dover, Delaware

My dear Mr. de Valinger:

This is to advise you that Mr. Daniel Breslin, architect of this office, will arrive at your office in Dover on the morning of December 18 to confer with you and your architect on the restoration of the John Dickinson House.

I am sure you will find Mr. Breslin both capable and helpful and we sincerely hope that the limited time which we are able to spare from our own program of work will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED)

E. M. Lisle
Assistant Regional Director

Copy to: ☒ Charles E. Peterson

NAME	IN'L
O'Brien	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anderson	<i>MOA</i>
Riley	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peterson	
Lukens	
Gibson	
McCullough	
Kurjack	
File	

In reply refer to:
L58 WASO-H

TO SECRETARY
DEC 9 1952
FOR SIGNATURE

DEC 11 1952

My dear Senator Frear:

I appreciate your concern for the proper restoration of the John Dickinson House, expressed in your letter of November 26, and have asked that the National Park Service give as much advisory assistance as its limited staff and funds will allow.

It is my understanding that the Service is taking steps to provide additional technical and professional help and that a representative will soon call upon Mr. Leon de Valinger, State Archivist of Delaware, to advise on present problems and on the long-range plans for the area.

The Service is interested in the preservation and restoration of historic places such as the John Dickinson House and will gladly give all the help it can in the valuable work that the Colonial Dames and the State of Delaware are carrying forward. Unfortunately, the Service has only a small amount of funds and it cannot give more than limited assistance.

For my own part, I want to thank you for your letter of November 26 and to express the hope that you will meet with every success in this important historical conservation project in which you are now engaged.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) JOEL D. WOLFSOHN

Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Copy to: History Division w/c of Sen. Frear's ltr of 11/26
CWPorter-EFH Design & Construc. Division, ditto
 Rec. Planning Division ditto
 Regional Director, Region One ditto (2)

UNITED STATES SENATE

WASHINGTON

26 November 1952 kw

The Honorable Oscar L. Chapman
Secretary of the Interior
Interior Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Secretary Chapman:

You will recall our earlier correspondence concerning efforts on my part to obtain advisory assistance from the National Park Service in the restoration of the John Dickinson Mansion in Delaware.

The restoration project has been undertaken by the state, but we urgently require high level advice which the National Park Service can undoubtedly provide.

Several days ago, my office talked informally with Mr. Roland Lee of the National Park Service and it appears that a regional representative of the service will be in Delaware shortly. I hope very much that he can render us helpful assistance, and to that end I will greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Quite frankly, I am hopeful of obtaining as much assistance as possible while your tenure as Secretary remains. I believe this to be especially desirable since you are thoroughly acquainted with the matter and thus in a better position to move ahead to the fullest possible extent.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. ALLEN FREAR, JR.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION ONE
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

File reference:
L 58 WASO-LE

December 29, 1952

Memorandum

To: The Director
From: Assistant Regional Director, Region One
Subject: Advisory Assistance of National Park Service in Restoration of John Dickinson House

Reference is made to your memorandum of November 25, subject as above. In this connection we forward a copy of Architect Breslin's report on his recent visit at the John Dickinson Mansion in Dover, Delaware. It was evidently a very profitable occasion.

(SIGNED)

Daniel J. Tobin
Assistant Regional Director

Attachment

The Regional Director

December 19, 1952

Architect Breslin

Visit to the John Dickinson Mansion, Dover, Delaware

On December 18, 1952, the writer visited the John Dickinson Mansion, five miles southeast of Dover, Delaware, in company with Mr. Leon de Valinger, Jr., State Archivist for Delaware, as requested by memorandum from the Director, dated November 25, 1952.

I was delighted to see the way the restoration of this historic house is progressing under the direction of Mr. de Valinger and his advisory board. As the house is in very good condition, very little replacement of missing members and architectural details will be necessary; consequently, most of my visit was spent in going into various technical restoration methods.

Mr. de Valinger had a great many questions to ask concerning the best methods of heating an historic house. In anticipation of this, I had sample prints of the heating layouts for the Ford Mansion and the Hawkes House with me which I used to illustrate my suggestions for solving their problem. Mr. de Valinger seemed to be pleased with all of this and stated that he felt better able to deal with the heating contractors when they arrive at that phase of the restoration.

From this we went on to such things as pointing up brick work; removing white wash from the water-table; locating electric outlets; location of proposed comfort station; best method of interpreting the house to visitors; burglar and fire protection; cleaning woodwork and scraping for original paint samples on the interior trim; preservation of iron objects; best location for a parking area; special use permits for their surplus land; and all the thousand and one other questions that arise during a restoration.

I tried to answer all of these questions by citing the methods used by the National Park Service. Those that I was in doubt about, i.e., the best methods for preserving iron objects, I have, since my return to the Regional Office, procured the correct answers from the proper sources and forwarded same to him with other items from our files that I felt would be most helpful.

Mr. de Valinger and his advisory board have unearthed a great mass of documentary material pertaining to the rebuilding of this house after the fire of 1804, which is simplifying their job to a large extent. It

appears to me if they continue to approach their problems with the forethought and care that they have exerted in the past, there is no reason why their restoration project can fail to be a great success.

Daniel J. Breslin
Architect

Copy to: The Director

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The John Dickinson Mansion
Branch of the Delaware State Museum

June 9,, 1960

Mr. Ronald F. Lee
Regional Director
United States Dept. of the Interior
National Park Service
Region Five Office
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Lee:

Recently I discussed with you informally the procedure for having the John Dickinson Mansion, near Dover designated as a National Historic Site. We wish to have this letter considered as our formal application for such a designation and ask that you please consider it and forward it to the National Office.

The John Dickinson Mansion is wholly owned by the State of Delaware and administered by it. In the acquisition of the property we were greatly assisted by the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Delaware and many other organizations and individuals in both the restoration and the furnishings.

We are enclosing publications which will provide you with the historical background regarding the importance of the John Dickinson Mansion and his part as one of the

-over-

Mr. Ronald F. Lee

-2-

June 9, 1960

founders of our Country. If we can provide you with any further information please do not hesitate to communicate with us. Copies of this letter are being sent to Senators J. Allen Frear and John J. Williams as we believe they will be interest in having this historic mansion designated as a National Historic Site. Thanking you for your consideration, I am,

Cordially yours,

Leon de Valinger

Director

LdeV-jb

cc: Senator Frear
Senator Williams
Enclosures

June 16,,1960

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Chief Historian

Subject: John Dickinson House, Dover, Delaware

Today, the Secretary asked the status of the John Dickinson House and was informed that it would be considered under Theme X, The War for Independence, which is scheduled for completion August 1. He was thinking in terms of a Registered National Historic Landmark and not as a unit in the National Park System. I believe Mr. De Valinger has spoken to you as he has to me about getting some form of recognition.

(SGD) HERBERT E. KAHLER

Chief Historian

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One

Mr. Tolson

Mr. Littleton ✓

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Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

June 20, 1960

Mr. Leon de Valinger, Jr., Director
John Dickinson Mansion
P. O. Box 710
Dover, Delaware

Dear Mr. de Valinger:

Thank you for your letter of June 9. We shall consider it as your formal application for official designation as a National Historic Site.

You will recall that I mentioned, during our recent discussion, that the National Park Service is conducting the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings as an important aspect of its MISSION 66 program. Theme X of the Survey, "The War for Independence", into which the John Dickinson House would naturally fall, is being studied now by our Regional Historic Sites Survey Historian, and, I have given him the publications you so kindly sent me. His report on that theme is due to be finished this summer; it will then go to Washington to be considered by the National Park Service Advisory Board, which is meeting early in the fall.

At the moment I believe we have sufficient information on the John Dickinson House needed for the Survey report. Please be assured that your request will receive the fullest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s'/Ronald F. Lee
Regional Director

Copy to: Director w/copy of incoming

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Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

June 20, 1960

Hon. John J. Williams
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Williams:

This is in reply to your letter of June 16 regarding the possible designation of the John Dickinson Mansion, near Dover, Delaware, as a National Historic Site.

As you no doubt are aware, the National Park Service is now conducting the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings as a very important phase of its MISSION 66 program. The John Dickinson House falls naturally into Theme X of the Survey which embraces those sites and structures associated with the War for Independence. This theme is now under study by our Regional Historic Sites Survey Historian, and we expect the report on it will be completed this summer in time for the National Park Service Advisory Board to pass on it when the Board meets early in the fall.

Mr. Leon de Valinger has written to us, also, requesting that the Dickinson House be designated a National Historic Site; a copy of our reply to him is attached. You may be assured that Mr. de Valinger's request will be given fullest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Ronald F. Lee
Regional Director

Enclosure

Copy to: Director



The John Dickinson Mansion

Branch of the Delaware State Museum

Post Office
Dover

June 21, 1960

Dr. Ronald F. Lee
Regional Director
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

Ref: 158

Dear Dr. Lee:

Thank you for your letter of June 20th stating that ours of June 9th will be considered a formal application for official designation as a National Historic Site. We are pleased to learn that John Dickinson falls into Theme X of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings and that our request will be given the fullest consideration. We hope we will be successful in receiving the requested designation.

Cordially yours,

Director

LdeV-jb

L58

Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

July 1, 1960

*Thompson
Keller had initialed
the orig.*

7/6/60.

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: John Dickinson Mansion, Delaware

With reference to the postscript in Secretary Seaton's letter of June 24 to Senator J. Allen Frear, attached are copies of Mr. DeValinger's letter of June 9 which is the formal application and our reply of June 20. Also attached is a copy of Mr. DeValinger's letter of June 21.

(Sgd) J. Carlisle Crouch

Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachments

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June 24, 1960

L58-IBH
PARKS

Dear Senator Frear:

I appreciate your letter of June 14 and your conversation over the telephone on June 16, suggesting that the John Dickinson Mansion, in Kent County, Delaware, be designated as a national historic site. We shall be glad to give careful consideration to your proposal and to the formal application which you state has been submitted by Mr. Leon DeValinger, State Archivist of Delaware.

The John Dickinson Mansion was studied by us in 1950, and we are currently bringing our information up-to-date in connection with the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings. That part of the survey dealing with the War for Independence is scheduled for completion during August of this year. The sites covered by that part of the survey, including the John Dickinson Mansion, will then be presented to the Consulting Committee of the National Survey and to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, to determine which of them are worthy of national recognition under the authority of the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666).

The next meeting of the Advisory Board will be held next September. As soon as the results of the meeting are known, we shall be glad to write you further regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ Fred A. Seaton

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. J. Allen Frear, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Copy to: Asst. Secy., PLM
Regional Director, Region Five. With copy of incoming.
Mr. DeValinger's formal application cannot be found here. Please advise if it was sent to your Office. If so, please send us a copy.
Mr. Diederich. With copy of incoming
Branch of History. With copy of incoming

CWPorter:HAT:cbw 6-22-60



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

For Release JANUARY 20, 1961

SECRETARY SEATON RECOMMENDS ADDITIONAL SITES FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK STATUS

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton has recommended an additional 51 sites as being eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status, it was announced today.

The sites possessing exceptional historic and archeological value are described in three new "theme studies" in the National Park Service series which eventually will cover all the major periods of human history in the United States. The three studies are: Prehistoric Hunters and Gatherers; The War for Independence; and a sub-theme under Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries, entitled: Overland Migrations West of the Mississippi River.

The Registry of National Historic Landmarks was approved by Secretary Seaton and established by the National Park Service in October 1960. Eleven theme studies covering the English, French, and Spanish Exploration and Settlement; the Development of the English Colonies, 1700-1775; The Advance of the Frontier, 1763-1830; Political and Military Affairs, 1783-1830; The Civil War, 1861-1865; and four sub-themes under Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries, entitled: The Santa Fe Trail; the Cattlemen's Empire; Military and Indian Affairs; and The Texas Revolution and the War with Mexico, 1820-1853, were announced.

A total of 324 sites have been recommended, with 213 declared eligible for Landmark status and the remainder already in the National Park System or having received Federal recognition.

National Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth said that the Registry of National Historic Landmarks is designed to recognize and endorse the preservation and protection of structures and sites now administered by States, other public agencies, or historical societies, and to encourage private owners of historic landmarks to maintain them.

The Registry is an outgrowth of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings program of the National Park Service. This program was authorized by the Historic Sites Act of 1935, which provided for a "survey of historic and archeological sites, buildings, and objects for the purpose of determining which possess exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States."

Administrators of sites found eligible for Landmark status may apply to the National Park Service for such recognition and will receive a certificate. Arrangements are also being made to make available a suitable marker.

Descriptive summaries of the sites in the presently announced theme studies are attached. A list of themes under study is also attached. Additional studies will be announced from time to time. The various theme studies may be published later for public distribution. Only reading copies are currently available.

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Prehistoric Hunters and Gatherers

The Advisory Board has recognized 20 sites as having exceptional value. Nineteen of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks. They are:

1. Iyatayet, Alaska. One of the earliest sites yet found in Alaska. This is the type site for the Norton Culture which flourished from 500 B.C. to A.D. 300.
2. Ipiutak, Alaska. A large spectacular Paleo-Eskimo site with house remains and elaborate burials.
3. Double Adobe, Arizona. The first site where the early and distinctive Cochise Culture was recognized. It contained evidence of food gathering peoples who lived in the area about 5,700 B.C.
4. Ventana Cave, Arizona. Contained a deep stratified deposit showing human use during a period of about 5,000 years, ending in historical times.
5. Lindenmeier Site, Colorado. The first recognized and investigated Folsom camp site in the United States. A recent radiocarbon date places the Folsom occupation at this site at over 10,000 years ago.
6. Stallings Island, Georgia. Probably the most famous shell heap site in the deep Southeast, this site gave a knowledge of prehistoric Indians from the Archaic pre-pottery people through those who made the earliest pottery in the southeastern states.
7. Modoc Rockshelter, Illinois. A deep, stratified Archaic site. This is one of the oldest Archaic sites east of the Mississippi. Earliest occupation began around 8,000 B.C. Work here yielded clear indication of an Archaic occupation in the East as early as the early hunters of the West.
8. Graham Cave, Missouri. The first site to provide radiocarbon dates for an Archaic occupation in the time range previously considered typical of the Paleo-Indian stage. It presented the first association of fluted projectile points with spear points of Archaic type. The earliest occupation occurred around 9,700 years ago.

9. Signal Butte, Nebraska. This was the first Plains Middle Prehistoric site to be described. It provided much of the data necessary for determining the cultural sequence of the Northern Plains. The earliest occupation seems to have begun around 2,500 B.C.

10. Leonard Rock Shelter, Nevada. This stratified site provided evidence for three periods of prehistoric occupation in the Great Basin, the first beginning about 7,000 B.C.

11. Sandia Cave, New Mexico. This was the type site for Sandia points and was one of the first sites to provide evidence of man's occupation of North America at a time earlier than that of Folsom bison hunters.

12. Anderson Basin (Blackwater Draw), New Mexico. A well preserved section of a locality famous for its important archeological and paleontological remains, this site has yielded Folsom points and the earlier Clovis type of human weapons in association with a variety of extinct mammal remains.

13. Folsom, New Mexico. Here scientists first made their dramatic find of man's weapons unquestionably associated with the bones of an extinct species of the bison. This evidence profoundly modified scientific thought about the antiquity of man in America.

14. Lamoka, New York. This is the type site of the Lamoka culture. It provided part of the basis for the initial definition of the Archaic stage in the Eastern United States.

15. Fort Rock Cave, Oregon. This cave yielded the famous Fort Rock sandals which are the oldest dated artifacts in the New World. It also indicated that Indians occupied Central Oregon at the time of the Newberry eruption of Mount Mazama.

16. Plainview, Texas. This is the type station for Plainview points. Excavations here demonstrated an association of the Plainview point with bones of an extinct bison species.

17. Danger Cave, Utah. Danger Cave is the most important of the Great Basin finds. It led to the formulation of the "Desert Culture" concept, and showed that early peoples of the Great Basin lived in an entirely different environment from that of the High Plains Paleo-Indian hunters. It indicated that weaving was known in America prior to 7,000 B.C.

18. Oconto Site, Wisconsin. This was a site where implements of the "Old Copper" Culture were found in association with human burials. It provided what appears to be an accurate date for the Old Copper Culture, and places this occupation of the Western Great Lakes region at roughly 6,000 to 7,000 years ago.

19. Horner Site, Wyoming. This is the type station for the Cody Complex which includes Scottsbluff and Eden points and the distinctive Cody knife. Radiocarbon dates indicate a period of occupation about 5,000 B.C.

In addition, one site recognized as having exceptional value has been accepted by the Secretary of the Interior as a donation from the National Geographic Society. This site is Russell Cave, Alabama.

The War for Independence

In the study of the War for Independence, thirty-two sites have been recognized as possessing exceptional value. Twenty-two of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks. They are as follows:

1. The Webb House, Wethersfield, Connecticut. This fine Colonial structure, built in 1752 by Joseph Webb, was the scene of the historic May, 1781, conference between Gen. George Washington and Count de Rochambeau, Commander of the American military forces in Newport, Rhode Island. The result was an agreement by which the French and American Allies marched south to cooperate with Admiral de Grasse's French fleet, to oppose and surround Lord Cornwallis, the British Commander in Virginia. The meeting may not have produced specific plans for the victorious Yorktown Campaign, but it laid the ground work leading to Cornwallis' defeat. Owned by the Connecticut Society, Colonial Dames of America, and open to the public.
2. The John Dickinson House, near Dover, Delaware. The restored Dickinson House is the surviving structure most eminently associated with the great writer so aptly termed the "Penman of the Revolution." In the patriotic literature of that struggle, Dickinson was as pre-eminent as was Washington in war, Franklin in diplomacy and Morris in finance. With the help of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, the State of Delaware restored the Dickinson House in 1952, and it is now exhibited to the public by the Delaware State Museum.
3. Bunker Hill Monument, Boston, Massachusetts. The famed Bunker Hill Monument, situated on Breed's Hill, commemorates the first full-scale action, on June 17, 1775, between American militia and British troops. The battle was a repulse for the raw American Army, but as a costly victory, it convinced the British Command that defeating the rebellious Colonists would not be easy. The courage of the American defenders at Bunker Hill has become a classic in American military history. The monument is owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and administered by the Metropolitan Commission of Boston.

4. Old North (Christ Episcopal) Church, Boston, Massachusetts. From the belfry of this church on the night of April 18, 1775, lanterns notified patriots on the opposite shore of the Charles River that British troops were beginning their march to Lexington and Concord, where they were engaged next day with the Minute Men in the opening skirmish of the American Revolution. Boston's oldest surviving church, this structure is one of the nation's most cherished landmarks, both historically and architecturally. Old North Church is owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and is open to the public.

5. Paul Revere House, Boston, Massachusetts. Although extensively restored, this colonial structure retains its original framework and, in addition to its significance as the home of the Revolutionary patriot, is important as downtown Boston's only surviving 17th century dwelling. Through its back door, Revere probably passed for his famous ride on the night of April 18, 1775, to warn the patriots in Lexington and Concord. The structure is owned and exhibited to the public by the Paul Revere Memorial Association.

6. Lexington Green, Lexington, Massachusetts. Here on the morning of April 19, 1775, occurred the short but momentous skirmish between the Minute Men and the British forces from Boston that initiated the armed struggle for American independence. Lexington Green is owned by the Town of Lexington, Massachusetts.

7. Buckman Tavern, Lexington, Massachusetts. Located on the east side of Lexington Green, the Buckman Tavern is the oldest of the Lexington inns and is the one most intimately associated with the famed opening struggle of the American Revolution. Owned by the Town of Lexington, it is leased to the Lexington Historical Society, which exhibits the building to the public.

8. Wright's Tavern, Concord, Massachusetts. A landmark more memorable and significant than is sometimes realized today is Wright's Tavern at the center of the Town of Concord. Built in 1747, it was the scene, within a few hours on April 19, 1775, of meetings by both Minute Men and British Redcoats. It was also associated in October 17, 1774, with the meeting of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, which gathered in the adjacent meeting house of the First Parish to prepare the way for the Revolution in Massachusetts. Wright's Tavern is owned by the Society of the First Parish, in Concord.

9. Monmouth Battlefield, near Freehold, New Jersey. The Battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778, marked the combat debut of the American Army after the hard winter's training at Valley Forge. Washington failed at Monmouth to stop British movement across New Jersey after these forces left Philadelphia. But this last major battle in the north demonstrated that a new American Army, able to engage the British forces on equal terms, had been forged. The major scene of the battle, northwest of Freehold, New Jersey, retains much of its original character and is now largely privately-owned farm land.

10. Princeton Battlefield State Park, Princeton, New Jersey. Washington's victory at Princeton on January 3, 1777, had a generally encouraging effect on the American Revolution at a time when the spirits of the American people were at a very low ebb. This victory, coming so soon after Washington's Christmas night defeat of the British at Trenton in 1776, brightened the American cause and strengthened Washington's army. A New Jersey State Park on the southern edge of Princeton preserves the scene of the heaviest fighting on the Princeton Battlefield. State owned.

11. Washington Crossing State Parks, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Washington's crossing of the Delaware on Christmas night 1776, for the brilliant raid on Trenton, was a crucial episode in the struggle for independence. By this daring act he carried the war to the enemy and gave the new nation and his often-defeated army a taste of victory at the war's lowest ebb. On the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware, the well-maintained State Park of approximately 500 acres preserves the site of the embarkation of Washington's main force. On the New Jersey side of the river is a 372-acre State Park preserving the scene of the landing above Trenton.

12. Bennington Battlefield State Park, New York. The American militia's victory at the Battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777, was a significant contribution to the defeat of Burgoyne's British Army at Saratoga, two months later. The 208-acre Bennington Battlefield Park includes the center of heaviest fighting on the high ground overlooking the little village of Walloomsac and affords a wide view of the battle terrain. The Park is administered by the New York State Education Department, Albany, N. Y.

13. Morris-Jumel Mansion, New York City. In addition to its distinction as the only important pre-Revolutionary house still standing in Manhattan, the Morris-Jumel Mansion is the major surviving landmark of the Battle of Harlem Heights, September 16, 1776. One major result of the battle was the restoration of the

offensive spirit of the American Army, after a succession of defeats and retreats. The Jumel House was Washington's headquarters from September 14 to October 18, 1776. The house was saved from demolition in 1903 when the City of New York purchased the property and by special legislation gave its care to the Washington Headquarters Association of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

14. Stony Point Battlefield Reservation, New York. By the action at Stony Point, July 16, 1779, Gen. George Washington asserted his grip on the Hudson and especially on West Point, "the key to the Continent." The Battle of Stony Point was the last major military action in the northern theater of war during the Revolution. This property, owned by the State of New York, is administered by State Conservation Department in cooperation with the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society.

15. The Gundelo Philadelphia, New York. The United States Gundelo Philadelphia is the only surviving gunboat built and manned by American forces during the Revolutionary War. Further, it is one of the 15 small craft with which Benedict Arnold fought 29 British vessels in the battle off Valcour Island, Lake Champlain, October 11, 1776. The year of grace won by the building of Arnold's "fleet" and the battle off Valcour Island paved the way for the decisive American victory at Saratoga the following year. Privately owned, the vessel is now located on the west shore of Lake Champlain, on New York Route 22, in Essex County, N. Y.

16. Valcour Bay, New York. Benedict Arnold's daring fleet action off Valcour Island, in Lake Champlain, on October 11, 1776, had a far-reaching effect on the outcome of the War for American Independence. Although the Americans were defeated on the lake, their very presence and stubborn fighting proved to be a strategic victory. British invasion of the northern colonies was delayed while a fleet was built to engage Arnold's small flotilla. By the time the lake had been cleared of American vessels, the season was too far advanced to carry out the projected British movement to Albany. The site is marked by a small monument on the mainland about five miles south of Plattsburgh, N. Y., in view of the island. This was erected in 1928 by the New York State Education Department and the Saranac Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

17. Washington's Headquarters, Newburgh, New York. None of Washington's military headquarters during the War for Independence is of greater historical significance than the Hasbrouck House at Newburgh. Arriving at Newburgh on April 1, 1782, the Commander-in-Chief remained at the Hasbrouck House, save for occasional enforced absences, until August 19, 1783. This was a longer period than Washington spent at any other headquarters. Aside from its intimate association with Washington, the Hasbrouck House has the distinction of being the first historic site preserved by a state. The state obtained the property in 1850 for non-payment of debt. It is administered by the New York State Education Department, Albany.

18. Brandywine Battlefield Park, Pennsylvania. The Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777, was the only major clash of the two main armies during the campaign which resulted in the British capture of Philadelphia. Although defeated, Washington extricated his force in good order, and the Continentals demonstrated their ability to withstand the determined attack of British regulars. Brandywine Battlefield Park comprises 50 acres of rolling ground overlooking the main battle areas to the north and west. Owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Park is administered by Brandywine Battlefield Park Commission.

19. Chew House (Cliveden), Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This fine Georgian home is the most important surviving landmark of the hard-fought battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777. In that action, Washington's Army narrowly missed winning a significant victory over a large contingent of the British Army guarding the northwestern approaches to newly-occupied Philadelphia. It also proved to be a major influence in the consummation of the alliance with France that spelled final victory for the new American nation. The house is privately owned and is not open to the public except on special occasions.

20. Valley Forge State Park, Pennsylvania. No name in American history conveys more of suffering, sacrifice and triumph than Valley Forge. The bitter winter of 1777-1778 endured here by Washington's ragged, hungry troops saw the emergence of a real American Army, risen from the wreckage of the defeated force which staggered into the camp on December 19, 1777. The military training and discipline imposed at Valley Forge created a force which from that time on would meet its professional enemy on equal terms and at last defeat him. Owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Park is administered by the Valley Forge Park Commission.

21. Camden Battlefield, South Carolina. The Battle of Camden, August 16, 1780, was the climax to a series of disasters which began with the fall of Charleston to Clinton's British army in May. Though a tactical defeat for the Americans, it brought Nathanael Greene to the American command. The Daughters of the American Revolution own 2 acres of the battlefield located 5 miles north of Camden, S. C., and the rest is owned by various private citizens.

22. St. John's Episcopal Church, Virginia. In St. John's Church on March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry delivered the stirring "Liberty or Death" speech which sounded a clarion call for his fellow Virginians. There, in the third great speech of his career, the spellbinding orator of the War for Independence attained a measure of undying fame. The church has been altered several times since 1772. The Church and southern half of cemetery is owned by the congregation of St. John's Episcopal Church; the northern half of cemetery, by the city of Richmond.

In addition, 10 sites are represented and interpreted in the National Park System as follows:

1. Cowpens Battlefield Site, South Carolina
2. Guilford Courthouse National Historical Park, North Carolina
3. Independence National Historical Park, Pennsylvania
4. Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina
5. Minute Man National Historical Park Project, Massachusetts
6. Moore's Creek National Military Park, South Carolina
7. Morristown National Historical Park, New Jersey
8. Saratoga National Historical Park, New York
9. Statue of Liberty National Monument, New York
10. Yorktown Battlefield, Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia.

Overland Migrations West of the Mississippi River

In the study of Overland Migrations West of the Mississippi River, 16 sites have been recognized as having exceptional value in illustrating and commemorating the history of the United States. Nine of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks. They are as follows:

1. Emigration Canyon (at point of the Pioneer Monument), Utah. Brigham Young and his Mormon followers arrived at the Salt Lake Valley in 1847 by way of Emigration Canyon. Here at the mouth of the Canyon, now the east edge of Salt Lake City, there is a fine panoramic view of the land that was to be their home.. It is perhaps the best place to commemorate the long, history-making migration of the sect. Owned by the State of Utah.
2. Nauvoo, Illinois. The place from which the great Mormon migration westward to Utah began in 1846 following mob violence and persecution of the sect. By 1842 more than 10,000 Mormons had settled in Nauvoo, and it soon became the largest city in Illinois. Many of the structures originally built by and associated with the Mormon leaders of that time survive. Some of them are preserved by the Reorganized Church, others by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City, and still others are privately owned.
3. Robidoux Pass, Nebraska. A significant landmark and campsite on the old Oregon and California Trail. The great migrations of the 1840's passed through it, and from its crest the westbound travelers had their first view of Laramie Peak, which most of them considered to be the Rocky Mountains.
4. Independence Rock, Wyoming. This huge rock-mass, rising like a monster out of the sagebrush plain near the Sweetwater River, became known as "the great registry of the desert" because of the large number of names and dates carved, painted, or written on it. It was one of the best known landmarks on the Oregon and California Trail.
5. South Pass, Wyoming. This was the long looked for crossing of the Continental Divide on the Oregon and California Trail, and as such was one of the great landmarks on the Trail. It also is the easiest passage of the Rocky Mountains, and was famous in the days of transcontinental animal-drawn transportation.

6. Donner Camp, California. Site of the snowbound winter camp of the Donner Party, 1847-1848, in which tragedy struck this California-bound party of 89 people. Only 45 survived the ordeal, one of the worst episodes of overland migration. In a sense, it epitomizes the hardships and dangers encountered by those who made the overland crossings in those days.

7. Sutter's Fort, California. The Fort and settlement established by John A. Sutter in 1839 on the Sacramento River which became the objective of nearly all westbound emigrants to California from the United States by way of the central and northern routes. Sutter was a generous benefactor to the emigrants and his Fort and assistance proved an invaluable aid in the American settlement of California. Sutter's Fort has been restored and is now a State Historical Monument.

8. Warner's Ranch, California. This ranch, 75 miles northeast of San Diego, established by Jonathan T. Warner, an American citizen from Connecticut was a famous place on the southern emigrant and wagon road into California. It was the first place the traveler could find shelter and food after enduring the hardships of the desert crossing, and almost everyone traveling by this route stopped there. Owned by the San Diego Water Company and leased to private ranchers.

9. Fort Hall, Idaho. Established by Nathaniel Wyeth in 1834 and one of most famous of all landmarks and stopping places on the Oregon and California Trail. The Oregon and California Trails, westbound, separated at Fort Hall. The Fort was associated importantly with the fur trade, the overland migrations to Oregon and California, and the transportation and supply network to the Inland Empire and the gold mines of Montana. Located in the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and under the jurisdiction of the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The National Park Service presently administers several federally owned areas associated with Overland Migrations West of the Mississippi River. The seven established areas in the National Park System are the following:

1. Death Valley National Monument, California
2. Fort Laramie National Monument, Wyoming
3. Fort Union National Monument, New Mexico
4. Fort Vancouver National Monument, Washington
5. Lassen Volcanic National Park, California
6. Scotts Bluff National Monument, Nebraska
7. Whitman National Monument, Washington

Letter February 3, 1961, (with application forms) to owner of John Dickinson Mansion, Delaware notifying him of eligibility of Landmark Status, signed by Acting Director Scoyen.

Owner: Hon Elbert N. Carvel, Governor of Delaware, Dover, Delaware.

2:3:61

Letters also sent to: Sen. John J. Williams, 1-20-61
Sen. J. Caleb Boggs, 1-20-61
Cong. Harris B. McDowell, Jr., 1-20-61



The John Dickinson Mansion

Branch of the Delaware State Museum

Post Office Box 710
Dover, Delaware

February 7, 1961

Secretary Of The Interior
Department of The Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We have recently been advised that the John Dickinson Mansion has been evaluated by The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings and approved for registration as a National Historic Landmark. We are indeed gratified to learn that the John Dickinson Mansion has qualified for this certification.

We are pleased to comply with the provisions for such National Historic Landmark status and we wish to apply for a certificate attesting to that fact and for a marker mentioned in the letter from your office. Thanking you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Samuel H. Valinger
Director

LdeV-jb

FEB 16 1961

158-IBH

Mr. Leon de Valinger, Jr.
Director
The John Dickinson Mansion
Post Office Box 710
Dover, Delaware

Dear Mr. de Valinger:

Mr. Wirth has asked us to reply to your letter of February 7 to the Secretary of the Interior. We wish to thank you for your expression of interest in the classification of the John Dickinson Mansion.

Official notification of the Mansion's eligibility for the Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate was made in our letter of February 3 to Governor Carvel. The forms necessary for certificate application accompanied this letter. Since you are concerned with the administration of the John Dickinson Mansion, we assume the forms will be turned over to you.

It is a pleasure to be able to accord Registered National Historic Landmark status to the John Dickinson Mansion and we share with you the satisfaction in knowing that this important part of our Nation's heritage is being well preserved.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

Daniel B. Beard
Chief, Division of Interpretation

Copy to: ✓ Mr. Littleton

WMLogan:bfr 2/14/61

✓



MAR 1 1961

The John Dickinson Mansion

Branch of the Delaware State Museum

Post Office Box 710
Dover, Delaware

February 28, 1961

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

In compliance with the instructions contained in the letter of Mr. E. T. Sawyer of February 3rd to Governor Elbert N. Carvel we have filled in the forms and herewith make formal application for a certificate designating the John Dickinson Mansion as a Registered National Historic Landmark. We are very much pleased to receive this designation and look forward to receiving the certificate and markers.

We are having an Annual Meeting with additional ceremonies at the Mansion on Monday, May 1st. It would be quite helpful if we could display the certificate at that time. Thanking you for consideration of this request, I am,

Cordially yours,

Director

LdeV-jb
Enclosures

Telephone
Area code 302
734 9439

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

As the owner (or owners) of John Dickinson Mansion located ~~XX~~ near
(name of site)

Dover

Kent

Delaware

(City)

(County)

(State)

(I,we) hereby make formal application for a certificate designating this historic property as a Registered National Historic Landmark.

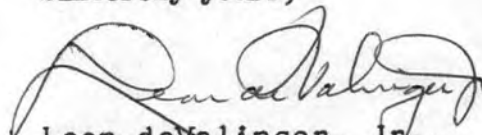
1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as having exceptional value and worthy of Registered National Historic Landmark status (I,we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and to the best of (my,our) ability, the historical integrity of this important part of the national cultural heritage.

2. Toward this end, (I,we) agree to continue to use the property only for purposes compatible with its historical character.

3. (I,we) also agree to permit an annual visit to the property by a representative of the National Park Service, as a basis for continuing Landmark status.

4. If for any reason the three conditions mentioned above cannot continue to be met, it is agreed that the Registered National Historic Landmark status shall cease and that until Landmark status is restored by the Secretary of the Interior, the Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate will not be displayed.

Sincerely yours,


Leon deValinger, Jr.,
Director

Sent to Region V 4/11/61

L58-IBH

April 14, 1961

Mr. Leon de Valinger
State Archivist
Dover, Delaware

Dear Leon:

I have checked with regard to the certificate for the John Dickinson House and find we have already sent it to Regional Director Lee's office in Philadelphia so you should receive it in plenty of time for the May 1 ceremonies.

I have also checked on the status of your marker and find the order has been placed with the Lorton Industries, but find they will not have it cast for us and shipped to you by May 1.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) HERBERT E. KAHLE

Herbert E. Kahle
Chief Historian

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Five
Branch of History

HEK:ad



The John Dickinson Mansion

Branch of the Delaware State Museum

Post Office Box 710
Dover, Delaware

April 16, 1961

Mr. Herbert E. Kahler
Chief Historian
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington 25, D. C.

L58-1BH

Dear Herb:

It was certainly a pleasure to see you at Charleston and I appreciate very much your letter of April 14th telling me that the certificate for the John Dickinson Mansion has already been sent to the office of Mr. Ronald Lee, Regional Director at Philadelphia. As you point out, we should receive it in plenty of time for our May 1st ceremonies. As the marker will not be ready for that occasion it will not inconvenience us as the certificate will be on hand and the presentation ceremony by our Governor can be planned around it. The marker will be welcome when it is ready. I am indeed obliged to you for following up this material for us so promptly.

Sincerely yours, →

Director

LdeV-jb

de Valinger

L58-IBH

April 24, 1961

*John Dickinson, Delaware
+ reg 5-*

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Acting Chief Historian

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Landmark Certificate for John Dickinson Mansion

Attached is a copy of a letter from Mr. de Valinger, Director of the John Dickinson Mansion, Delaware.

Mr. Littleton talked briefly to Dr. Nelligan about the date of May 1, and we are pleased to note that you have taken care of the matter of presenting the certificate.

/S/ CHARLES W. PORTER III

Acting Chief Historian

Attachment

Copy to: Mr. Littleton ✓

JOLittleton:mg



The John Dickinson Mansion

Branch of the Delaware State Museum

458

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
MAY 4 1961		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REG. DIRECTOR		
<input type="checkbox"/> ASST. REG. DIR.		
<input type="checkbox"/> OPERATIONS		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INTERPRETATION	9/2	
<input type="checkbox"/> ADM.		
<input type="checkbox"/> REC. RES. PLAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> RANGER ACT'S		

Post Office Box 710
Dover, Delaware

May 3, 1961

Telephone
734-9439

Dr. Murray H. Nelligan
Regional Chief of Interpretation
National Park Service
Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Nelligan:

It was indeed a pleasure to meet you and Mrs. Nelligan at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of The John Dickinson Mansion, Inc. on May 1st. We appreciate very much your cooperation in coming to Dover to make the presentation of the Certificate from the National Park Service to our Commission through the Governor and President of The Friends of The John Dickinson Mansion, Inc. Your presence added considerable to the importance of this presentation and we are indeed obliged to you for taking time from your many activities to be with us.

We were very sorry that the rainy weather prevented the dancing and the outdoor exercises planned in conjunction with it. I also regretted that you and Mrs. Nelligan had to return to Philadelphia without supper and the candlelight tour of

Dr. Murray H. Nelligan

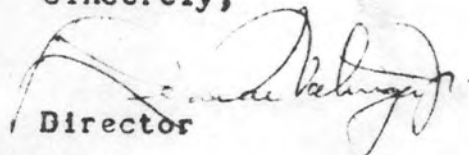
-2-

May 3, 1961

the Mansion. It was indeed attractive especially with the eighteenth century musicians in costume. I hope you will both take advantage of the rain check I offered and come to lunch some day soon and let me guide you through and tell of our problems and the splendid assistance we received from the National Park Service in the early days of the restoration. Your presence obviously inspired our Governor to make the public pronouncement that he is backing our project to save the Old State House. We have been trying to get this project underway for several years now, but at last it seems to be in motion. I sincerely hope we will be successful.

Looking forward to seeing you again soon,
I am,

Sincerely,



Director

LdeV-jb

**Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.**

L58

May 11, 1961

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director

**Subject: Presentation of Certificate for Dickinson Mansion, Dover,
Delaware to Governor Elbert N. Carvel**

Monday, May 1, Regional Chief of Interpretation M. H. Nelligan presented the Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate for the John Dickinson Mansion, Dover, Delaware to Governor Elbert N. Carvel at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the John Dickinson Mansion, Inc. The ceremony went off very well, and (as you will note in the attached copy of the letter from Dr. Leon de Valinger, Director, State Archives) apparently gave Governor Carvel the opportunity to launch a rehabilitation and restoration project for the "Old State House" at Dover.

We anticipate that this practice will prove equally and mutually beneficial in the future to both the National Park Service and the many organizations and individuals working in the interest of historic conservation.

(Sgd.) Ronald F. Lee

Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachment

JAN 29 1964

Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pa., 19106

LS8-CHAH

JAN 27 1964

CHA
Mr. Littleton
ew
1/30

Mr. Leon deValinger, Jr.
Director
Delaware State Museum
Dover, Delaware

Dear Mr. deValinger:

It is the National Park Service's desire that the relationship between the owners of the sites or buildings in the Registry of National Historic Landmarks and itself will be mutually beneficial. Needless to say, we especially hope that this will be true concerning the Delaware State Museum.

As you will recall, the agreement between your organization and the National Park Service establishing the John Dickinson Mansion a Registered National Historic Landmark provides for a biennial visit to the Mansion by a National Park Service representative. Since the Registered National Historic Landmark certificate was presented to the Mansion on May 1, 1961, we would like to ask if our representative could visit the Landmark during February.

We look forward to this opportunity to further our association with the Delaware State Museum.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Ronald F. Lee

Ronald F. Lee
Regional Director

cc:
Director ✓

FEB 19 1964

FEB 19 1 05 PM '64

Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Penna. 19106

L58-CHAH

February 18, 1964

RHA
Mr. Littleton

sent
2/20

Mr. L. deValinger, Jr., Director
The John Dickinson Mansion
Branch of the Delaware State Museum
Dover, Delaware

Dear Mr. deValinger:

It was a great pleasure to talk with you on February 17. I shall look forward to meeting you between 10:00 AM and 10:30 AM, March 5, and visiting the John Dickinson Mansion. As I mentioned on the telephone, it will also be most interesting to see the old capitol while in Dover.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

S. Sydney Bradford
Historic Sites Historian

cc:
Director w/c inc. ✓

February 6, 1964

*J. Dickinson House
x Fairbanks House*

Dear Sidney,

Here is the correspondence on the marker for the Fairbanks House. We shipped the marker May 25, 1962. A copy of the letter was sent to the Regional Office. On June 15 we received a letter telling us that the marker had been received. I do not know whether you received a copy of this last letter or not. Fairbanks House marker was also listed on a dittoed list of markers shipped to sites in each Region, dated July 25, 1962. This list was sent to all Regions. *x to this*

file → For the John Dickinson House, our card system shows that the marker was sent to Dr. Leon de Valinger, Jr., as requested by your Office. I do not find a copy of our usual shipment letter to the owner, nor a reply from him. Our card shows that the plaque was shipped to De Valinger on June 12, 1961. This was also given on our dittoed list mentioned above. I checked General Files, but did not find a copy of the letter. One reason, it is two or three years ago, and also files was looking for their file on Delaware. It may be that we never sent the letter which would have been very unusual. However, I checked my travel for June 1961 and found that I was away from the Office for most of the month. The marker would have then been shipped out by Dr. Logan. Also his secretary who is no longer with us would have done the recording on our card index.

Since I did not uncover the correspondence, I got a little worried, thinking that perhaps we had made a blunder, so I called the Mansion and the receptionist told me that they had received the plaque in 1961, and that it was mounted on the Mansion proper. No doubt when you or Dr. Nelligan visit there this month, you will see it. Too, as badly as they wanted the certificate, I'm sure you would have had complaints if they had not received it.

Sincerely yours,

John O. Littleton

Enclosure



The John Dickinson Mansion

Branch of the Delaware State Museum

February 7, 1964

Dr. Ronald F. Lee
Regional Director
National Park Service
Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Ref.-L58-CHAN

NORTHEAST REGION FEB 10 1964		Initial and Date
Reg. Director		
Asst. to Reg. Dir.		
Admin. Coord.		
Asst. Reg. Dir. Adm.		
Finance & Gen.		
Personnel		
Ext. Affs.		
Post Office Box 711 Dover, Delaware		
History & Arch.		
Natural History		
Oper. & Maint.		
Visitor Services		
Asst. Reg. Dir.-Rp		
N. P. & Rec. Area Pl.		
Land. Serv.		
Lands & Water		

Dear Dr. Lee:

I have been away a good bit recently and only now have the opportunity to reply to your letter of January 27th. We will be pleased to have a representative from the National Park Service visit the John Dickinson Mansion. You and your associates are welcome at anytime and of course they may visit during February to comply with the terms of the Registry of National Historic Landmarks. We shall look forward to a visit from someone from the National Park Service shortly.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald F. Lee
Director

LdeV-jb

MAR 11 1964

Kahler
M. L. L. L. L.

Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

L58-CHAH

MAR 6 1964

don
3/11

Mr. Leon deValinger, Jr.
Director
Delaware State Museum
Dover, Delaware

Dear Mr. deValinger:

It was a great pleasure to meet and talk with you yesterday. My only regret is that I arrived a day too soon, thus upsetting your schedule for the day.

Both the John Dickinson Mansion and the State Museum impressed me a great deal. You and your staff certainly have done a wonderful job, which any visitor cannot help but realize when visiting either site.

Captain Calahan gave me a stimulating tour of the Museum and Dover, and I shall write to him to express my appreciation. In addition, I would like to ask if you would forward the enclosed note to Mrs. Pardee, whom I would also like to thank for her courtesy.

The materials that you requested are enclosed. I am happy to say that some copies of the leaflet on the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings could be included with the pamphlet concerning the Registry of National Historic Landmarks. The instructions for the maintenance of the plaque, I hope, will be useful.

Again, let me express my appreciation for the cooperation of you and your staff.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

S. Sydney Bradford
Historic Sites Historian

Enclosures 21

cc:
Director

MAR 23 8 09 AM '64

Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

L58-CHAN

March 19, 1964

OHA

MAR 23 1964

own Littleton
3/23

Mr. Leon de Valinger, Jr.
State Archivist
State of Delaware
Public Archives Commission
Dover, Delaware

Dear Mr. de Valinger:

Thank you for your letter of March 16.

The materials that you sent on the John Dickinson Mansion, the Sign of the Buck Tavern, and the Fisher House will be very helpful additions to our files. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

The book, Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware, will also be very useful. You should receive payment for it in the near future.

Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd.) S. Sydney Bradford

S. Sydney Bradford
Survey Historian

cc:

Director, w/copy of incoming

DAVID F. ANDERSON, President
HENRY P. MANNION, II, Vice President
MRS. VERNON B. DERRICKSON, Secretary
MRS. EDWARD W. COOCH
MRS. CHESTER T. DICKERSON
EDWIN P. MESSICK



STATE OF DELAWARE
PUBLIC ARCHIVES COMMISSION
DOVER

Leon deValinger, Jr.
State Archivist

NORTHEAST	
Leon E. Golshan Assistant State Archivist	
MAR 17 1964	
Reg. Director	
Asst. to RD(PA)	
Program Coord.	
Asst. Reg. Dir-Adm	
Finance & Prop.	
Personnel	
Safety	
Asst. Reg. Dir-Civ	
History & Arch.	
Natural History	
Oper. & Maint.	
Range Services	
Asst. Reg. Dir-Rp	
N. P. & R. Area P.	
Plan. Serv.	
Land & Water	

March 16, 1964

Dr. S. Sydney Bradford,
Historic Sites Historian, Northeast Region,
National Park Service, Department of the Interior,
1143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (19106)

Dear Doctor Bradford:

It was our pleasure to have you visit and inspect the John Dickinson Mansion and view other points of interest in Dover recently. In response to your request we are sending under separate cover several photographs of the John Dickinson Mansion, the Sign of the Buck Tavern and the Fisher House.

Under separate cover we are also forwarding one copy of Historic Houses And Buildings Of Delaware, by Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard. The package is marked for your attention and the billing is made out to the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

If we can be of further service, please call on us.

Cordially yours,

Leon deValinger, Jr.
State Archivist



The John Dickinson Mansion

Branch of the Delaware State Museum

March 25, 1964

Dr. S. Sydney Bradford
Historic Sites Historian
National Park Service
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Penna. 19106

REF: L58-CHAN

Dear Dr. Bradford:

I find that I have been remiss in acknowledging your cordial letter of March 6th, with which you kindly sent us a supply of the leaflet on the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings and also the Registry of National Historic Landmarks. A portion of these have been given to Mrs. Paradee for judicious distribution at the John Dickinson Mansion.

We enjoyed your visit to Dover and we are looking forward to your trips from time to time. We also appreciate your kindness in sending us the information regarding the treatment of the plaque.

Sincerely yours,

Rena Kalinga
Director

LdeV-mb

NORTHEAST REGION		Initial and Date
MAR 26 1964		
Reg. Director		
Asst. Dir.:		
Adm. Serv.		
Ext. Aff.		
Files & Com.		
Gen. Inv.		
Ident.		
Int. Aff.		
Lab.		
Plan. & Insp.		
Spec. Inv.		
Training		
Public Aff.		
Post Office Box 710		
Dover, Delaware		
Natural History		
Oper. & Maint.		
Ranger Station		
Adm. Reg. Dir. Rm.		
N. P. & Rec. Area Pl.		
Plan. Serv.		
Lands & Water		

F. E. MASLAND, JR.
CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA 17013

January 14, 1970

Dear Howard:

I presume it is in order for me to say welcome back. If I don't say it now I won't have another opportunity before the end of February.

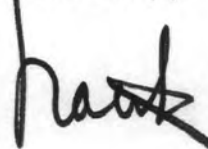
I don't know to whom this note should be addressed. I have been looking through the National Register of Historic Places for 1969.

Search as I would, I cannot find any record of the John Dickinson Home having received landmark recognition and yet I am sure it did.

? Yes?
I note Missouri's State Capitol has been accorded landmark recognition. There may be others. It occurs to me that the Pennsylvania State Capitol quite possibly merits recognition to a degree equal to that which resulted in Missouri being recognized.

no
NR

Sincerely,



Mr. Howard Stagner
Assistant Director
National Park Service
Dept of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

H. J. Sheely 1/26/70

H34-HH

January 26, 1970

Mr. F. E. Masland, Jr.

Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013

Dear Frank:

Howard Stagner has asked us to check into the questions you asked about listings in the National Register of Historic Places.

You are quite right about the John Dickinson Home. It was recognized as a National Historic Landmark in the theme study on the Revolution. The announcement was made in a press release dated January 20, 1961, and the presentation was in April 1961. The Dickinson Home is listed on page 47 of the National Register. The indication of the fact that it has been accorded recognition as a Landmark is in the initials NHL just below the description.

The Missouri State Capitol is entered in the National Register as a result of the nomination by the State Liaison Officer for Missouri. It has not been recognized as a National Historic Landmark. As you know, the National Register includes both the Landmarks and the results of the surveys by the States. I am enclosing a leaflet that discusses the ways of being placed on the National Register. The Pennsylvania State Capitol can, of course, similarly be nominated by the Pennsylvania State Survey. Pennsylvania has not yet been especially active in making National Register nominations. This may well be speeded up as the Preservation Act becomes better funded and more assistance can be given to the State surveys.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Robert M. Utley

Robert M. Utley
Chief Historian

Enclosure

cc:

Regional Director, Northeast Region w/c inc.

DAS-Mr. Stagner w/c inc.

T-Mr. Butterfield w/c inc.

HHS-Mr. Sheely w/c inc.

HJSheely:mc 1/26/70

HP-Delaware-John Dickinson House



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
Hall of Records
Dover, Delaware 19901

DR. E. BERKELEY TOMPKINS
DIRECTOR

012
February 12, 1973

Mr. Ron Greenberg
Publications Section
National Register of
Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

(2)

Dear Mr. Greenberg:

In response to your notice in the National Register newsletter, we have three suggestions for rewording the titles of some of our entries.

2. ✓ In Kent County, the "Dickinson (John) House" should be designated as the John Dickinson Mansion.

✓ In New Castle County, the "Blockhouse and Robinson House" is more commonly called Naaman's, or the Robinson House.

In Kent County, the "Eight-Square Schoolhouse" is known in our promotional literature as the Octagonal Schoolhouse.

You have the best available photographs of our properties in your files. I suggest that you look in the Register files for the following properties: Grand Opera House; Barratt's Chapel; Governor's House; Town Point; Christ Church, Broad Creek; and Fort Delaware.

Sincerely,

E. Berkeley Tompkins

E. Berkeley Tompkins, Director
Division of Historical and
Cultural Affairs
State Liaison Officer for
the National Register



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
Hall of Records
Dover, Delaware 19901

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX

August 2, 1973

(4)

Mr. Ron Greenberg
Editor
National Register of Historic
Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Greenberg:

In response to your notice of July 30th, we have some changes to be made in the listings for Delaware's National Register properties.

Kent County

"Cowgill vicinity" is locally known as Cowgill's Corners, after the family that owned nearby property.

"State House" should be two words, and not "Statehouse" as appears in the current (February 28th) Federal Register listing.

The "Dickinson, John, House" should properly be called the "John Dickinson Mansion". This change is particularly important, since the property is operated with the assistance of a corporate body known as the Friends of the John Dickinson Mansion. There is another property nearby that was occupied by John Dickinson, and could also be known as the John Dickinson House; the term "Mansion" will alleviate confusion.

The Bradford House in Dover should be called the "Bradford-Loockerman House" to avoid confusion with other houses owned by the Bradford family.

New Castle County

The "Blockhouse and Robinson House" at Claymont should be called simply the "Robinson House," since some historians have cast doubt on the authenticity of the blockhouse.

Sincerely,

James D. McNair, II
Assistant Director

Greer

H. J. Sheely 8/1/73

AUG 6 1973

1134-PHH

Memorandum

To: Director, Northeast Region
From: Chief Historian
Subject: Receipt of National Historic Landmark Biennial Inspection Reports

We are pleased to acknowledge the receipt of biennial inspection reports for the following national historic landmarks:

Aspendale, Delaware
Corbit-Sharp House, Delaware
John Dickinson House, Delaware
Fort Christina, Delaware
Holy Trinity Church, Delaware
Institute of Pennsylvania
Hospital, Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Hospital, Pennsylvania
Walnut Street Theatre, Pennsylvania

Your continued cooperation in keeping us informed of further developments regarding landmarks in your Region, including changes of ownership and any potential threats to their integrity or existence, will be greatly appreciated.

(Sgd.) A. R. Mortensen

A. R. Mortensen

PHH-HJ Sheely:kr 8/1/73
bcc: LI

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PHHS

Matherly
9/26/79

620

SEP 26 1979

Mr. Lawrence C. Henry
Director, Division of Historical
and Cultural Affairs
State Historic Preservation Officer
Hall of Records
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Mr. Henry:

Your letter of September 11, 1979, to William Lebovich requesting revision of the national historic landmark boundary for the John Dickinson Mansion has been forwarded to the Historic Sites Survey for evaluation and reply.

We have checked our file on the Dickinson Mansion and find that the parcel which you suggest be removed from the landmark is not currently a part of it. The boundary for the Dickinson landmark, approved on August 10, 1977, consists of the 13-acre parcel described in the enclosed nomination form. We can find no record of the larger boundary described in your letter; however, we assume that it represents a draft proposal that was subsequently redefined. It would also appear that through an oversight on our part ~~your~~ office was never notified of the approved boundary.

We apologize for any difficulties this situation may have caused. Should you have any further questions regarding the Dickinson Mansion designation, please contact our staff architectural historian, Polly Matherly, at (202) 343-6404.

Sincerely,

/s/ Horace J. Sheely, Jr.

Horace J. Sheely
Acting Chief, Historic Sites
Survey Division

Enclosure

bcc: Director's Reading File
NERO, Regional Director, HCRS-Philadelphia, Pa., Attn: Mr. Gene Peluso
w/c of inc.)
HSS-Reading File)
HSS-Matherly) HP - Delaware - John Dickinson Mansion
FHR:P Matherly:mc:9/26/79: 343-6404 BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HSS



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
HALL OF RECORDS • DOVER • 19901
(302) 678-5314

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

September 11, 1979

Mr. William Lebovitch
Acting Chief; Registration Branch
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243



Dear Mr. Lebovitch, *Bill*

By this letter and enclosures the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office is hereby requesting a reevaluation of the western boundary of the John Dickinson House National Historic Landmark. Based on our recent survey of the historic resources of St. Jones Neck, we do not feel that the current western boundary is justifiable or defensible. Specifically, this issue has come to light in several compliance cases where a "taking" of the extreme western portion of the current landmark tract is proposed. While we often take a strong position on the protection and enhancement of cultural resources, we do not feel the current boundary is defensible. Therefore, based on the justification outlined in the enclosures we request your reevaluation of the boundary. Enclosed is 1) Boundary justification for the new boundary, 2) Sections from the multiple resource nomination on St. Jones Neck dealing with the Historic District of which the Dickinson Mansion is a part, 3) A copy of the existing Landmark nomination map and boundary description, 4) A map of the Lower St. Jones Neck Historic District and its relationship to the Landmark boundary, 5) A suggested "boundary description" for the proposed change and 6) the appropriate U.S.G.S. Quad with the proposed revisions incorporated.

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel R. Griffith, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer at (302) 678-5314.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence C. Henry
Lawrence C. Henry
Director/State Historic
Preservation Officer

Enclosures

Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

L58-CHAH

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director

Subject: Registered National Historic Landmarks: Biennial
Visit to the John Dickinson Mansion, Delaware

Two copies of Historic Sites Historian Bradford's biennial visit report for the John Dickinson Mansion, Dover, Delaware, are enclosed.

Enclosures 2

REGISTRY OF NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

BI-ENNIAL VISIT REPORT

John Dickinson Mansion

Date: March 5, 1964

Visited by: S.S. Bradford

1. Location: Five miles S.E. of Dover, three miles east of U.S. Route 113
on Kitts Hummock Road, Kent County, Delaware.

2. Theme: X, War for Independence

3. Owner:

a. 1961 - State of Delaware, administered by Delaware State Museum,
Dover; Leon deValinger, Jr., Director.

b. Present: ☒ Same

☐ New

4. Use

a. 1961: Historic house museum.

b. Present: ☒ Same

☐ Changed as follows:

REGISTRY OF NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

BI-ENNIAL VISIT REPORT

John Dickinson Mansion

5. Physical condition

a. 1961: Excellent

b. Present: ☒ Excellent; ☐ Good; ☐ Fair; ☐ Poor

Comments:

The house is maintained in excellent fashion. As the house is in an isolated situation, a night watchman is employed.

6. Special Problems:

Two questions arose concerning the Landmark plaque, which is in the cellar, next to the sales desk. First, many visitors read the plaque and ask if the Federal government has assumed responsibility for maintaining the building. It was suggested that the attendant explain the significance of the designation as a Landmark, stressing that there was no Federal financial or administrative responsibility involved. Copies of the leaflets on the Survey and Registry are to be sent for the use of those on duty at the mansion. Second, a request was made for information concerning the maintenance of the plaque. Instructions for the plaque's care will also be sent.

7. Suggestions offered to the owner:

✓ Director 2

S. Sydney Bradford
S. Sydney Bradford
Historic Sites Historian

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

The John Dickinson House - Delaware

John Dickinson has been aptly termed the "Piermain of the Revolution." In the literature of that struggle, his position is as pre-eminent as Washington in war, Franklin in diplomacy and Morris in finance. The restored Dickinson House near Dover, Delaware, is the surviving structure most intimately associated with the great writer of the Revolutionary period. The plantation house on Delaware's flat coastal plain was built in 1740 by Judge Samuel Dickinson when John was eight years old, and there the boy lived until 1750, when he went to Philadelphia and began the study of law. Dickinson lived in the house at various times after 1750, although his role in public life kept him in Philadelphia and elsewhere most of the time. He was living in Wilmington in 1804 when fire gutted the old mansion, and over the next two years closely supervised the repair of the dwelling. The recent restoration of the house was based on Dickinson's correspondence and written instructions during the period between 1804 and 1806 when the repairs were completed.

The brick mansion, its Flemish-bond front facing south, is one of the most interesting architectural examples of a plantation house of the region. In 1952, the National Society of Colonial Dames of America raised \$25,000 which was presented to the State of Delaware to preserve the Dickinson House, when its destruction appeared imminent. The State matched this donation with a similar amount and the house and a tract of ground around it were acquired. Architectural, archeological and historical research was accomplished under the direction of the Delaware Public Archives Commission, and with the assistance of an Advisory Committee, restoration was carried out by means of state funds and private gifts. Owned by the State of Delaware, the Dickinson House is administered by the Delaware State Museum and is exhibited to the public.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Delaware	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. Theme X, The War for Independence	4. APPROX. ACREAGE
3. NAME(S) OF SITE The John Dickinson House		
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Kent County, five miles southeast of Dover, three miles east of U.S. Route 113 on		
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) Kitts Hummock Road State of Delaware, administered by Delaware State Museum, Dover		
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)		

"John Dickinson has been aptly termed the 'Penman of the Revolution'. In the literature of that struggle, his position is as pre-eminent as Washington in war, Franklin in diplomacy and Morris in finance."*

At the time of Dickinson's death, Thomas Jefferson, then president of the United States, wrote.

A more estimable man or truer patriot could not have left us. Among the first of the advocates for the rights of his countrymen when assailed by Great Britain, he continued to the last the orthodox advocate of the true principles of our new government, and his name will be consecrated in history as one of the great worthies of the Revolution.**

The restored Dickinson House near Dover, Delaware, is the surviving structure most intimately associated with the great writer of the Revolutionary period. The plantation house on Delaware's flat coastal plain was built in 1740 by Judge Samuel Dickinson when John was eight years old, and there the boy lived until 1750 when he went to Philadelphia and began the study of law. Dickinson lived in the house at various times after 1750, although his role in public life kept him in Philadelphia and elsewhere most of the time. He was living

*Paul L. Ford, The Writings of John Dickinson, Historical Society of Pennsylvania Memoirs, XIV (Philadelphia, 1895), Preface.

**C. J. Stille, The Life and Times of John Dickinson, 1732-1808, Historical Society of Pennsylvania Memoirs, XIII (Philadelphia, 1891), 236-237.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)
Paul L. Ford, The Writings of John Dickinson, Historical Society of Pennsylvania Memoirs, XIV (Philadelphia, 1895), Preface; C. J. Stille, The Life and Times of John Dickinson, 1732-1808, Historical Society of Pennsylvania Memoirs, XIII (Philadelphia, 1891); Moses C. Tyler, The Literary History of the American Revolution, 1763-1783, 2 vols., (New York, 1897), I.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)
Roy E. Appleman, "The John Dickinson House, Kent County, Delaware," (Ms. Historic Sites Survey Report, National Park Service, October, 1950); Memorandum of Daniel Breslin, Architect, National Park Service, to Regional Director, Region One,

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Very good	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Historic House	13. DATE OF VISIT 4/19/60
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>C. E. Shedd, Jr.</i>		15. TITLE C. E. Shedd, Jr. Historic Sites Historian	16. DATE 8/1/60

*DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
Delaware	The John Dickinson House

7. Importance and Description (cont'd)

in Wilmington in 1804 when fire gutted the old mansion, and over the next two years closely supervised the repair of the dwelling. The recent restoration of the house was based on Dickinson's correspondence and written instructions during the period between 1804 and 1806 when the repairs were completed. From that time on the house was occupied by tenants and Dickinson, who died in 1808, never again made it his home.

The brick mansion, its Flemish bond front facing south, is one of the most interesting architectural examples of a plantation house of the region. All around it stretch cultivated fields, giving it an air of authenticity as a plantation home - which it once was. The original dwelling was a two-story brick, with hip roof. A story and a half was added shortly before the fire of 1804 which left little of the house save its four walls. In correcting the fire damage, a gable roof was added to the mansion and a small brick kitchen wing built at its west end. The interior of the repaired house was substantial but plain, unlike the expensively decorated and carved woodwork of the original. The repair of the house along simple lines was natural in view of the fact that Dickinson now made his home in Wilmington and apparently intended the house for tenant use. In 1952, the National Society of Colonial Dames of America raised \$25,000 which was presented to the State of Delaware to preserve the Dickinson House, when its destruction appeared imminent. The state matched this donation with a similar amount and the house and a tract of ground around it were acquired. Architectural, archeological and historical research was accomplished under the direction of the Delaware Public Archives Commission, and with the assistance of an Advisory Committee, restoration was carried out by means of state funds and private gifts. In the course of restoration, materials of the original mansion, when found in good condition, were reused. The house has been restored and furnished as faithfully as possible to the period when Dickinson last knew it. In the course of restoration the National Park Service offered advisory assistance to the State of Delaware. A furnishing committee has furnished the mansion with items once owned by the Dickinson family or which are typical of the region. A garden adjacent to the house, is being recreated with the help of a number of garden clubs and by private donations. The house was formally opened to the public on May 2, 1956.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
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STATE Delaware	NAME(S) OF SITE The John Dickinson House
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9. Reports and Studies (Cont'd)

National Park Service, December 19, 1952; 'The Home of John Dickinson, 'Perman of the Revolution', Information Leaflet (n.p., n.d.); Historic American Buildings Survey, (one photo, 1936).

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

REPORT ON ANNUAL VISIT
TO
JOHN DICKINSON MANSION

Theme **X, War for Independence**

Date of Visit: **May 1, 1961**

Visited by: **Murray H. Nelligan**

Condition: **Excellent. Gardens partially restored. Adequate parking which, as garden develops, will be well-screened from the house.**

Operation:

Special Problems:

Suggestions offered:

✓ **Director (2)**

Murray H. Nelligan

Sgd.
Murray H. Nelligan
Regional Chief of Interpretation

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Delaware	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XX Architecture (Colonial); X War for Independence
3. NAME(S) OF SITE John Dickinson Home	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 5 acres
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) 5 mi. so. of Dover via U.S. 113 and .3 miles east of U.S. 113 on Kitts Hummock Road, Kent County.	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) State of Delaware, administered by Delaware State Museum.	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

Built between 1739 and 1754, this house is an excellent restored example of an Early Georgian residence. The dwelling was also the home of John Dickinson, the "Penman of the Revolution."

This house illustrates what may be called the "telescope type of planning," in which a series of smaller wings are added to the main house at later dates. Judge Samuel Dickinson, the father of John, erected the main house in 1739-40. This mansion is a five-bay, two-story structure and is built of Flemish bond with black glazed headers. There is a wide central hall with a large parlor to the east and two smaller rooms, each with an angle fireplace, to the left or west. The cellar of the main house, which is almost of ground level and well lighted, originally contained a large storage room to the east, a wine cellar under the front door, and scullery and kitchen at the west end. To the west two lower wings step down from the main house on the same axis. The first of these wings was added in 1752 and contained a dining room with a bedroom above. The smallest and westernmost wing was added in 1754. With whitewashed walls and a brick-columned ~~corridor~~ ^{porch}, this section contained a kitchen and quarters for household slaves above it.

The mansion faces directly south and though well-lighted, has only three windows on the north side. This arrangement was planned to conserve heat in the winter. The main house, as Judge Dickinson built it, was three full stories in height over a high basement, and had a hipped roof. The first floor windows, which are unusually tall, still reflect the original design that was proper for such a Georgian three-story house.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

See page 3.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, IIAB, etc.)

None

10. PHOTOGRAPHS 3747-50 ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Excellent (Restored)	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Historic House Museum	13. DATE OF VISIT Apr. 25, 1967
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Charles W. Snell</i> Charles W. Snell	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE May 10, 1967	

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
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Page 2.

STATE Delaware	NAME(S) OF SITE John Dickinson Home
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8. Continued:

In 1804 a disastrous fire occurred, which partially destroyed and badly damaged the fine original interior woodwork and paneling. When John Dickinson repaired the damage, he reduced the main house to its present two stories and covered it with a gabled roof. The original interior woodwork was also replaced in 1806 by substantial but plain material that was in keeping with its intended use as a tenant house.

Condition

The National Society of Colonial Dames of America presented \$25,000 to the State of Delaware in 1952 to preserve the Dickinson House, when it was threatened with destruction. The State matched this donation with a similar amount, and the house and surrounding tract were acquired, the necessary research accomplished and it was restored to its appearance as Dickinson last knew it, by means of State funds and private gifts. The reconstruction was based on Dickinson's correspondence and written instructions during the period 1804-06. Materials of the original structure were reused when found in good condition. The garden has also been reconstructed. The house is open to visitors from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The structure is closed on Mondays.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
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Page 3.

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
Delaware	John Dickinson Home

8. Bibliographical References.

James G. VanDerPool, "Historical Development of Architecture in the U.S.A., 1632-1912," (N.P.S. typescript, 1966), 54; Dorothy and Richard Pratt, A Guide to Early American Homes--South (New York, 1956), 50-51; Harold D. Eberlein and Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard, Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware (Wilmington, Del, 1963), 73-77; Delaware--A Guide to the First State (American Guide Series) (New York, 1955), 395-398.



John Dickinson House, 1739-54 South (Front)
and East end

On Kitts Hummock Road, Kent County

Delaware

April 5, 1967

Charles W. Snell
Western Region Neg. 3749



John Dickinson House, 1739-54--South (Front)
and West End

On Kitts Hummock Road, Kent Cty

Delaware

April 5, 1967

Charles W. Snell
Western Region Neg. 3750



John Dickinson House, 1739-1754 North Side (rear)
and West End

So. of Dover, Hummock Road, Delaware

April 5, 1967

Charles W. Snell
Western Region Neg. 3747



John Dickinson House, 1739-54--North Side (rear)
and east end
Kent County
Kitts Hummock Road, Delaware

April 5, 1967

Charles W. Snell
Western Region Neg. 3748

WHS A File



The John Dickinson House, near Dover, Delaware

National Park Service Photograph, 1960

77485

HSS-614

NHL

The John Dickinson House, near Dover, Delaware

National Park Service Photograph, 1960

37422



11. Detail of front and gable end at main end of building, and brick construction of front middle wing.



12. State historical marker on State Highway No. 9, near the John Dickinson House.

c 1930 1/3



1. John Dickinson House and farm buildings in middle distance as viewed from State Highway No. 9 — the Kitts Hummocks Road. (All photographs were taken by Roy E. Appleman. They were, of necessity, made on Sunday afternoon, October 22, with a heavy overcast — shortly before an all-night rain began. As a result the pictures are not as clear as they would have been under better conditions.)



2. Front view of the John Dickinson House, which faces south.



3. Another view of the front of the John Dickinson House showing gable ends of two wings and other details of construction. Front of main wing is Flemish bond, back is English bond, gable end of main wing partly rebuilt with common bond; front of middle wing is Flemish bond (but does not match main wing), back is of common bond; west end wing is of common bond. The several pictures illustrate these features.



4. Front of south face of main wing which stands at east end of house. Brick work Flemish bond with glazed headers. This part of the house is original, I presume. Porch is a late addition.



5. The back (or north) face of the John Dickinson House. The brickwork of the main wing at the left (east) is of English bond in contrast to Flemish bond at the front. The east end is entirely covered with a concrete plaster of relatively recent date. The entire backside of the house has been white-washed one or more times in the past. Note the entire absence of windows to the east of the doorway in the main part of the building.



6. View of east end of house looking west along front elevation.



7. View looking east shows part of end and back walls of west wing gone. The end wall has pulled away from chimney and is braced by the three poles seen in the picture. The collapse of the brickwork was caused last year by grading operations with a bulldozer in making a road around the house. Foundation at this point apparently was disturbed enough to cause the collapse of the wall.



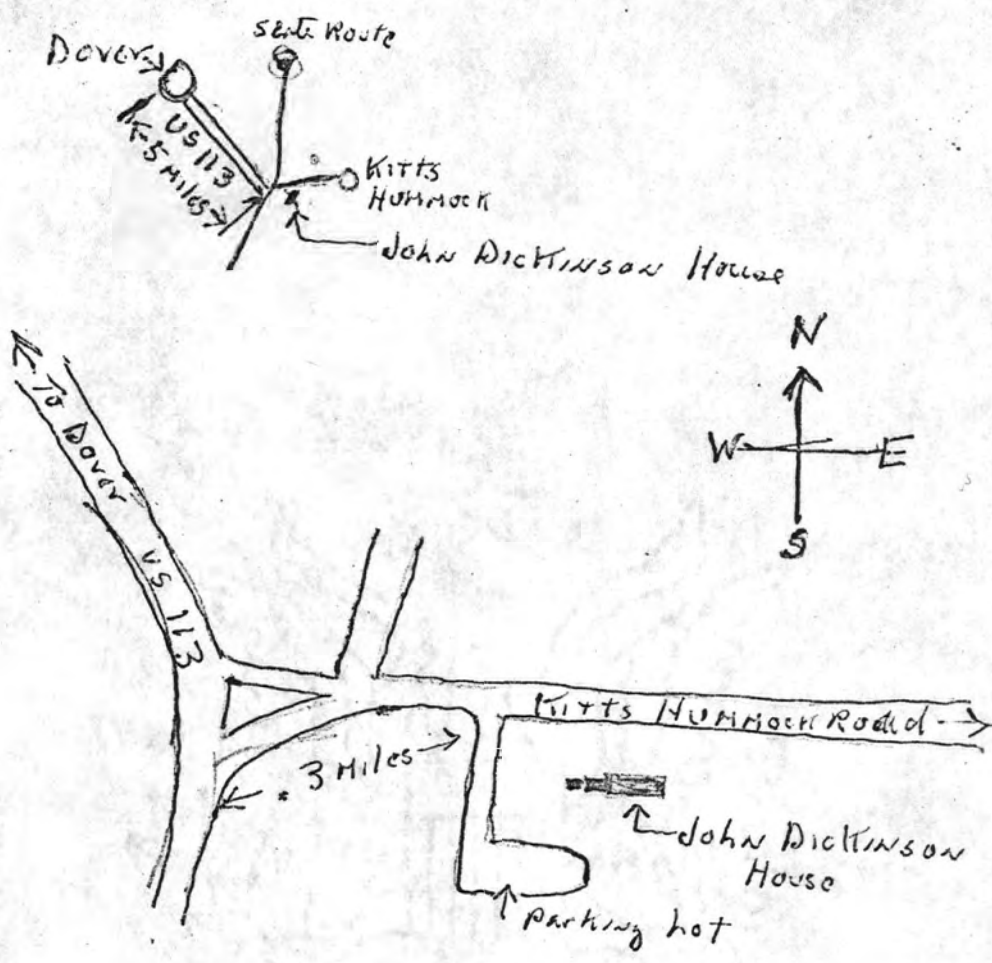
8. View looking east from the western end of the building showing front facade and gable ends.



9. View looking west from yard in front of house to three outbuildings beyond the house.



10. View looking east from yard in front of house showing the barn and several of the main outbuildings. Several more outbuildings at this end of the house are not visible in the picture, including two concrete-block buildings behind the house to the left of the barn.



Location Map for
John Dickinson House,
near Dover, Kent County,
Delaware

REGISTRY OF NATIONAL HISTORIC
AND NATURAL LANDMARKS

REPORT OF BIENNIAL VISIT TO

John Dickinson House

Date of visit June 6, 1973

Visited by <u>Douglas Warnock*</u>	<u>Assistance Superintendent</u>	<u>Independence NHP</u>
(name)	(title)	(office)
Received by <u>Mrs. Pardee</u>	<u>Receptionist</u>	<u>John Dickinson House</u>
(name)	(title)	(office)

Condition*

John Dickinson House is in good condition. The old log cabin to the rear of the House has been badly neglected. The floors are unsafe and the whole structure is leaning. The inside appears as an old cluttered shed. A pile of broken limbs and other debris to the right of the cabin adds to the general delapidated look of the immediate area.

Operation**

The House is operated through funds appropriated by the state of Delaware. Donations are received but are too insignificant to run the House. Average visitation is 10,000 to 12,000 people per year.

*Accompanied by David Dutcher, Historian, Independence NHP
Richard Helman, Intake Trainee, Independence NHP
Kent Taylor, Intake Trainee, Independence NHP

*Grounds, structure/s, furnishings

**Note any changes in ownership, sponsoring organizations, operating staff, use, location of plaque and certificate, etc.

Special Problems

The location of Dickinson House is near Dover Air Force Base. Sonic booms from aircraft using that base have damaged ceilings in the house.

Suggestions Offered

The log cabin should be stabilized and scheduled for preservation treatment.

David C. Dutcher

(signed)

6.13.73

(date)

REGISTRY OF NATIONAL HISTORIC
AND NATURAL LANDMARKS

REPORT OF BIENNIAL VISIT TO

JOHN DICKINSON MANSION

Date of visit 6/15/71

Visited by Chester L. Brooks, Superintendent, Independence NHP
(name) (title) (office)
Received by Emmet T. Calahan, Director, Div. of Historical Dept. of State
(name) and Cultural Affairs, State of Delaware
(title) (office)

Condition*

House excellent - Garden delightful

Operation**

Paid Guides - all tours guided
No charges at state installations

*Grounds, structure/s, furnishings
**Note any changes in ownership, sponsoring organizations, operating staff,
use, location of plaque and certificate, etc.

Special Problems

None

Suggestions Offered

None

Chester L. Brooks
(signed)

Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK STATUS REPORT: 1978

I. General Background

1. Official Landmark name: JOHN DICKINSON HOUSE

Address: KITTS HUMMOCK ROAD
DOVER, DELAWARE

2. Name, address, phone number of the Landmark owner:

STATE OF DELAWARE
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
HALL OF RECORDS, DOVER, DEL 19901

3. Name, title, address, and phone number of person responsible for the management of the Landmark: (If same as person in number 2, write 'same').

LAWRENCE C. HENRY, DIRECTOR 302-678-5314
SAME

4. Name, title, address and phone number of additional person(s) contacted about this landmark:

JOAN NORTON, ARCH. HISTORIAN
HALL OF RECORDS, DOVER, DEL 19901
302-678-5314

5. Name, region and phone number of HCRS official preparing report:

JOHN M. PAYLESS
NEPO
FEDERAL BLDG, 600 ARCH ST PHILA, PENNA.
215-597-7311

6. Date of this report: 6/20/78

II. Condition and Maintenance of Buildings, Sites and Historic Districts
(If Landmark is visited, provide photographs (or slides) of serious problems or possible threats)

1. Architectural or Engineering Features

a. What is the general physical condition? excellent ☒ good
needs repairs (explain)

b. Are there any obvious structural problems or water related problems?

no ☒ yes (describe) INTERIOR PAINT PEELING
MOISTURE IN WALLS

c. Are there planned future building alterations or new construction?

no yes (explain)

d. Are there historic interior furnishings present? ☒ yes no
Are they well cared for? ☒ yes no (explain)

Will they be retained? ☒ yes no (explain)

e. Is there historic machinery or equipment present? yes ☒ no
Is it well cared for? yes no (explain)

Will it be retained? yes no (explain)

2. Environmental, Battlefield, Natural and Archeological Features

- a. What is the general condition of the site? ☒ excellent ☐ good
☐ needs repairs (explain)
- b. Are there visible archeological ruins, remains or artifacts? ☐ yes ☒ no
Are they well cared for? ☐ yes ☐ no (explain)
- c. Has there been recent site disturbance, digging, or construction?
☒ no ☐ yes (explain)
- d. Are there plans for future site work or construction?
☐ no ☒ yes (explain)

CONSTRUCTION OF SUPPORT
BUILDINGS (SAOP FOR MAIN CREW)

3. Historic District Features

- N/A
- a. What is the general physical condition of the buildings, roadways, and other historic features of the district? ☐ excellent ☐ good
☐ needs repair (explain)
- b. In general, what is the level of construction activity in the district?
☐ high construction activity ☐ moderate ☐ low
- c. Is there a local design review board, historic district commission, or other governmental body which reviews construction activity in the district? ☐ yes ☐ no

III. Building, Site, or Historic District Integrity

1. Are there any conditions on the lands adjacent to the Landmark that might result in serious impairment, diminishment, or destruction of Landmark resources, character, and/or significance? ☒ no ☐ yes (explain)
2. Has there been an introduction of visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that are out of character with the property and its setting?
☐ no ☒ yes (explain) DOVER AIR FORCE BASE
FLIGHT PATTERN OVER STRUCTURE
3. Are there any potential threats (i.e., highways, adjacent construction, zoning changes, etc.) likely to occur in the future? ☒ no ☐ yes (explain)
4. Is there any urgency regarding any of the threats? ☒ no ☐ yes (explain)

5. Does the owner show interest in the long term preservation of the landmark?
☐ no ☒ yes (explain)

IV. Supplementary Information

1. Does the Landmark have a plaque? ☒ yes ☐ no
Is it displayed? ☐ yes ☐ no
2. Has an agreement form been submitted? ☐ yes ☐ no
If no, does the owner wish to sign an agreement with HCRS? ☐ yes ☐ no

V. Comments

SKETCH OF JOHN DICKINSON
by
Dr. John H. Powell

SKETCH OF JOHN DICKINSON

by
Dr. John H. Powell

John Dickinson was by temperament a thinker. Yet the circumstances of his life obliged him to enter the hurly-burly of politics and fight for the principles he believed in. He became a man of action in public affairs whose peculiar ability was to persuade people that public problems might be solved by reason, by high-purpose, by taking thought. To three men we owe most of the philosophy of our Revolutionary period, and most of that system of the federal distribution of powers which ensured us a government under law: to John Dickinson, to John Adams, to James Wilson. By commemorating the lives of these men, we reaffirm our present faith in the ideal of the free man in the free state for which they contended.

Dickinson was the most effective writer for the American cause before independence. In his Letters From a Farmer and in a dozen other books, in the Stamp Act Congress, in the First Continental Congress, in legislature and in committees of correspondence, he expressed again and again that basic syllogism of government to which he was dedicated: no man can be happy unless he is free, no man can be free unless he has control over his own property, men cannot control their property unless they control the taxing power of the government; therefore, no man can be free when he is taxed without his own consent, by representatives of his own election.

"For who are a free people?" Dickinson asked in his Farmer. "Not those, over whom government is reasonably and equitably exercised, but those, who live under a government so constitutionally checked and controuled, that proper provision is made against its being otherwise exercised."

Yet, he always insisted, revolution was not the only solution. Americans could be free within the British Empire, if the federal structure he proposed were adopted. In 1775, still hopeful of reconciliation, Dickinson wrote the Second Petition to the King, the so-called "Olive Branch Petition," in a last attempt to preserve the political unity of the Anglo-American peoples.

Independence he deemed unnecessary and unwise, at the time of its proposal. He voted against it. But once Congress adopted it, Dickinson placed himself at the head of his regiment and marched off to defend the American cause.

He wrote our first national constitution, The Articles of Confederation. He served in Congress, and lent his prestige to the reform of the executive departments of the government. As "president" (governor), first of Delaware, then of Pennsylvania, he was a leader in the moral and political revolution that corrected the excesses and abuses of the first state governments. He was a major figure in the Constitutional Convention of 1787, secured the immediate ratification of the new constitution by Delaware, later by Pennsylvania. He helped write the new constitution of Delaware in the 1790's, and closed his long, busy life as an elder statesman in retirement at Wilmington, busy with many charities and with the administration of his huge landed estate.

Born in 1732, the same year as Washington, he lived till 1808, a scholarly, affable man, gentle and quiet, respected for his prodigious abilities, his integrity, his efficiency as an administrator, loved for his pleasing person and his generous understanding. John Dickinson was one of the great Americans of his great era, the perfection of an American ideal.

Now the house on St. Jones River was not his birthplace, but it was his boyhood home, built by his father around 1740, inherited by John Dickinson, and regarded by him always as his residence. Nearly every year he spent some time in his "mansion house in Kent," and devoted endless hours each week to the administration of his great farm holdings in the region. It is properly referred to as the home of John Dickinson.

It is a handsome house, full of atmosphere, with the air of the golden age. Gazing at its fine brick work, climbing its noble staircase, wandering through its numerous rooms, one can apprehend the kind of life Judge Dickinson built, and his son John Dickinson lived there. It is an expression in architecture of the society that produced The Penman of the American Revolution. It helps to explain that ideal of which he was the expression.

To save, restore, and administer this house, is a task we of this generation should gladly assume, as part of our consciousness of what we can learn and profit by, from the past of our own land.



View of the John Dickinson House
from the northwest showing
deterioration of the smallest
wing, said to have been part of
the slave quarters.



View of the John Dickinson House
from the southwest.





View of the John Dickinson House
from the southeast.

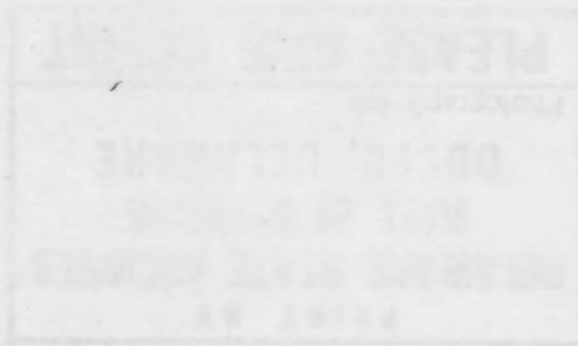


exhibit being planned. Col. Clarence M. Dillon of Wilmington has presented for our costume collection his full-dress Delaware National Guard uniform. He was for a long time an active officer in Delaware military affairs.

Other articles recently presented to the Museum include: an oil painting of the Delaware State Seal, probably displayed at the Centennial Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, given by Mrs. Thomas F. Bayard of Wilmington; a black-enameled souvenir tray attractively decorated with a view of the Delaware Memorial Bridge, by the American Bridge Division of U. S. Steel Company; and a photograph of the Lakeview Hook and Ladder, formerly used in Delaware, presented by the North America Company, Philadelphia. We are once more indebted to Mr. Herbert W. Guest of Chadds Ford, Penna., for his interest in adding to our collection several cooper's crozes and an early wooden wagon jack. Three carpenter's braces of different styles and a small drawknife, exhibited among the Woodworking Tools, were kindly loaned by Mr. Walter T. Massey of Dover.

In addition, the Museum acquired by purchase a good collection of carpenters and cabinetmakers tools from Miss Martha Godwin of Felton, which had been used by her grandfather, who operated a shop there many years ago. Other purchased accessions were: a flaxbreak; biscuit beater; two lace nightcaps; a butter mold; a flax wheel; a loom shuttle; and a Hepplewhite style walnut side table.

TOURS

Tours, if desired, by groups from schools or other organizations may be arranged by communicating with the Curator, Mr. Kenneth M. Wilson.

MUSEUM HOURS

The Museum, located at 316 S. Governors Avenue (on U. S. Route 13), is open daily, Tuesday through Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

DELAWARE STATE MUSEUM NEWS

Vol. 1 No. 3

April 1952

WOODWORKING TOOLS

An exhibit devoted to early woodworking tools which were utilized by several industries prominent in Delaware's earlier history has just been completed and opened in the Museum's Number 2 Building. The exhibit calls attention to the important role played by Delaware in these industries, and at the same time emphasizes the rapid change that has occurred in industry in the last half-century. It also serves to provide information of once-important industries no longer extant as well as to preserve these relics of the past.

The tools in this exhibit are divided into four categories: Coopers Tools; Shinglemakers Tools; Pumpmakers Tools; and Carpenters and Joiners Tools.

Among the Coopers Tools are two long wooden jointer planes. One of these is set up in its normal working position, to show the unique manner in which this unusually large plane was used; while the second is displayed to show the opposite side of this type of plane. In addition to such other tools used by the cooper as the hand adze, croze and drawknife, there is an enlarged illustration of a sixteenth century German woodcut which shows a long jointer plane and other tools then in use and indicates that these tools remained virtually unchanged until the end of the nineteenth century.

The Shinglemakers Tools are but small reminders of a once important and thriving Delaware industry, which has now become virtually non-existent. Riven shingles and clapboards comprised a large part of this State's earliest exports, and the industry continued to be a source of economic income until about 1865. These products were fashioned with but a few simple tools, the bolting frow; riving frow; deadle or maul; the drawknife; and the shingle "hoss"; all of which form part of the present display. In addition to these tools, the exhibit is supplemented by several drawings, an historical sketch, and examples of raw materials and finished shingles.

A set of Pumpmakers Tools provides an interesting and illuminating insight into a highly-specialized craft which was, until relatively recent times, much in demand, but which has now passed into oblivion. Pump augers for drilling long, straight holes; pumpmaker's twisted reamers; and boxed-end, funnel-shaped reamers for enlarging these holes, together with accessories such as a pump-tree gauge; valve-setter; a twelve-foot extension shank; and an L-shaped crank for turning it, form the nucleus of this exhibit. A focal point of the display is a T-section of wooden water pipe, taken from the Wilmington streets, which was bored by tools such as those exhibited.

One of the highlights of the Carpenters and Joiners Tools section is the display of some fifty planes of the type used by these craftsmen from colonial times to the end of the nineteenth century. Included are representative examples from the three categories of planes used by the carpenter-- leveling, fitting, and moulding planes. A selection of fitting and moulding planes has been arranged to provide visitors a clear view of their construction and shapes. Each plane thus displayed is accompanied by a sample cut of wood made by the plane, thus illustrating the function each performed. A variety of saws; axes; braces; augers; and chisels, as well as numerous tools and instruments used for measuring and marking, surround a work bench upon which is mounted an early carpenter's vise. A boring mill, the forerunner of the modern drill press, provides another point of interest within the exhibit.

IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES TO COSTUME EXHIBIT

Since the last issue of our *Museum News*, the exhibit of eighteenth century ladies costumes and accessories, entitled A BELLE OF 18TH CENTURY DOVER, has undergone certain renovations and changes intended to display more effectively these fine costumes. A ceiling has been constructed to convert the display case into a closed room, and direct lighting sufficient to fully illuminate the costumes to their best advantage has been installed. Four additional dresses have been hung on the back wall of the room to supplement those already displayed on mannequins. A Hepplewhite table recently acquired by the Museum has replaced the Chippendale chest of drawers as an accessory in the exhibit.

SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBIT OF DELAWARE PRINTS

The Second Annual Exhibit of Delaware Prints, sponsored by the Museum, will open Dover Day, May 3, and remain on exhibition in the Museum's Number 2 Building through May 31. The exhibit will present a collection of photographs depicting the habits and characteristics of Delaware people and the State's varied scenery. Awards will be made to entrants whose photographs are selected as having exceptional merit.

RECENT GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Through the generosity of interested persons, the Museum has continued to add a number of interesting and valuable accessions to its collections, largely through gifts and loans. An agricultural implements exhibit, to be opened early in May, is assured of an appropriate background by a gift from Mr. Charles T. David, of Dover R. D. 4, of a sufficient quantity of weathered barn boards for this purpose. The Simpler Lumber and Coal Company of Felton, Delaware kindly presented a quantity of rough-cut boards, which served as the background for the Wood-working Tools Exhibit. Miss Florence G. Lurty, of Smyrna, presented a quantity of varied objects dating from the nineteenth century. Among her other gifts were a small brass powder horn; an iron husking peg and pruning knife which will form part of the Agricultural Exhibit; a pair of spectacles; two straight razors; an embroidered cigar case; two fans; several pieces of handmade linen neckwear; and a bead loom, with examples of bead lace made upon it.

A blacksmith's leather bellows, an example of which the Museum was very desirous of obtaining to use as part of a blacksmith's forge contemplated as a future exhibit, was presented by Mr. E. Stuart Outten, of Dover. Through the courtesy of Mr. James Humes, of Milford, additional blacksmith's tools and equipment, as well as the old shop sign, were contributed by Mr. Louis Chorman, who until recently operated a forge in Milford. An attractive and instructive knot board, prepared and contributed by the Plymouth Cordage Company of Plymouth, Mass., and several running lights, a compass-in-Gimbals and other ship appurtenances from the Delaware-New Jersey Ferry Company, presented by the State Highway Department through Col. W. A. McWilliams, will greatly enhance the maritime

NEWS RELEASE

The boyhood home and later country estate of John Dickinson, "Penman of the Revolution", was formally accepted on Constitution Day, September 17. In a meeting arranged by the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Governor Elbert N. Carvel received a deed of gift from the Historical Activities Committee of the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Delaware through its Chairman, Mrs. Charles L. Reese, Jr., and then transferred the title to Mrs. Henry Ridgely, President of the Public Archives Commission. Practically all of the patriotic, historical and preservation societies in the State participated in this formal presentation and the dinner meeting which followed when the principal address was given by the Honorable James M. Tunnell, Jr., Justice of the State Supreme Court. At this same meeting, announcement was made of the formation of the Friends of the John Dickinson Mansion Society, Inc., a group consisting of all donors and those interested in the restoration, maintenance and extension of public interest in the John Dickinson Mansion.

The sum of \$25,000 raised by the Colonial Dames enables the State to purchase the property and make preliminary restoration. This work is going forward; and, when the Mansion has been restored and furnished as an historic house, it will be administered by the Delaware State Museum, a division of the Public Archives Commission.

In the work of restoration and furnishing to be carried forward by the Public Archives Commission, it will be aided by an Advisory Committee comprising: Mrs. J. Wheeler Campbell; Mrs. Lammot du Pont Copeland; Mr. H. F. du Pont; Mrs. J. Allen Frear, Jr.; Dr. John A. Munroe; Mrs. C. L. Reese; and Mr. H. Rodney Sharp. Anyone having information from early photographs, sketches, diaries or personal recollections as well as furniture, fixtures or hardware are requested to please communicate with Leon deValinger, Jr., Director, Delaware State Museum; 316 S. Governors Avenue; Dover, Delaware.

HSP / Logan 185 / Dickinson M^h Vol I Box III
(Loss Ms)

[Draft in the
hand of Dickinson
probably to Insurance
Company of North America.
L. deV., Jr.]

Jones Neck 19th of the 4th Month 1804

Respected Friend

Thy letter of the 13th was received yesterday evening and it now becomes my painful employment to refute the great mistakes of the person who was sent over to view the ruins. I understand this to be his statement "that the House was only 40 feet by 22 from east to west and very slightly built; that the joists of the first and 2^d floors were only 8 by 3 inches; that the joists of the Garret were 3 by 4 scantling, and no work done in the Garret; that the small Rooms were not more than 10 feet square; that the Roof had never been shingled since the House was built; that the window shutters and Doors were very slightly made; that many of the sash lights were stopped with wood in place of glass; and that all the window sashes and shutters and Doors both inside and outside are scared, many of which appear as if they were never painted."

I now proceed to Reality. The House is 45 feet and 1 Inch in length and 26 feet and 4 Inches in Depth. These dimensions were verified by the Depositions of ... already transmitted by Me to the office and this week I have had the Measurement repeated in my presence, and I averr the size to be what I have mentioned. The person who viewed for the Company took a very hasty look as I thought at the Ruins, and made no measurements.

So far was the House from being lightly built that I am confident it was the strongest built private House in the State.

The walls were 18 inches to the Water Table, and then what is called a 14 inch wall was carried up not only to the square, but to the very top of the Peaks in front and back, which the Viewer took notice of and said it "was not usual now to carry up walls so thick."

The same regard to strength was observed in constructing the floors. The first floor was double laid of poplar and oak as is proved by the Depositions.

As to the objection of the first and second floor joists being only 8 by 3 inches, it is founded on an error. The joists of the first floor are 8 by 4 nearly if not quite, as appears by a piece taken out of the wall. But, if these joists had been only 8 by 3, they would have been more than sufficient for this Reason. These joists were [?]ashed from the South, that is from the Front of the House and from the North that is from the Back of the House to a vastly large girder, that stretched with proper supporters the whole length of the House from East to West. The size of this girder is ascertained by the open places in the Eastern and Western walls that received its ends. Of course the joists of the first floor had only half the depth of the inside of the House, exposed between 11 and 12 feet to run to this girder. On this point further observation is needless.

As to the joists of the second floor, I had their size ascertained ... by the holes into which they run, and sent the information to the Office before the receipt of thy letter. But these joists were found to be 10 inches by 3 or 4 inches, I forget which.

With respect to the Garret, the statement made to the Company was uniformly erroneous as in the preceeding parts. I am sure the Comp[any do not] believe that in building a House where so many notes appear of attention to solidity, the joists of the Garret floor, that were to span upwards of 26 feet and the whole breadth of the building were "only 3 by 4 scantling." Reason rejects the insinuation: And a particular examination proves its contradiction to fact. The Carpenters before mentioned have 2 days ago on a very exact observation of the Ruins discovered from the distances between the remains of plastering in the 2d story and the remains of plastering in the Garret, that the joists of the Garret were 8 inches deep. The breadth they could not determine. An account of their proceeding was also sent to David Evans, who will lay it before the Company.

The assertion that "there was no work done in the Garret", is totally wrong, if the word "Garret" includes all of the building above the second story. The Peaks of the walls in the Front and Back of the House were so high as to afford space for two rooms above the 2d story, one a handsome square room without any slope in its sides, and the other room a long narrow one, both of them plastered, with three doors and ... windows. Above these two rooms was what might perhaps be more properly be called the Garret. For these particulars I beg leave to referr to the Depositions. They are all perfectly well known to my Brother.

The Allegation, that "the small Rooms were only 10 feet square" is contradicted directly by the Depositions, and by the

actual size of the House, which being upwards of 45 feet long, will, after allowing for the large parlour and large Chamber in the eastern part of the House, and for the Hall in the middle part, as set forth in the Depositions, leave ample space for the two small parlours and the Chambers over them as mentioned in the Depositions.

The suggestion that "the House has never been shingled since it was built", is rash and unkind. A new and substantial Roof was put upon the whole House in 1778, and it has been since once if not oftener all painted over.

once it was ordered that the house be

kept as was upon the whole house in 1738, and it has been since
since it was built, it has been and is now a new and improved

the suggestion that the house has never been enlarged
beyond the chambers over them as mentioned in the depositions.
taken in the depositions, leave ample space for the two small
beds of the house, and for the hall in the middle part, as well
as for the large parlour and large chamber in the eastern
part of the house, which being upwards of 40 feet long, will

25x30
160
The addition

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
FIELD NOTE BOOK

Building John Dickinson House
City or Vicinity St. Jones Neck - Kitts-Hummock Road.
County and State Off. U.S. 13 - 5 miles from Dover.
Kent County, Delaware.

HABS Survey No. _____

July 29, 1952.

Dickinson House Hardware, at.
Delaware State Museum.

1. Shutter Strap Hinge (10 in number)
19½" long
Hand wrought Iron.
2. Shutter fastening bar. (2 in number)
18¾" long.
Hand wrought Iron.
4. Strap Door Hinge. (1 in number)
22½" long.
Hand wrought Iron.
5. Brass Door Knocker. (Privately owned)
Plain
6. Brass Box Lock (Front Door).

CR

Take ² H front porches / Paint woodwork
Cut down weeds (make mess drugs)

Had 25 slaves (no date) 9 of which
were located elsewhere

de V = House built c 1734-6 By Judge Samuel Dickinson

lived at St Jones Creek Mansion
after fire of 1804?

{ English bond
Peaks

John Dickinson House, Del.

Owner:

Carlton Draper

acq. in Oct 1949

occupied by a tenant farmer

Price:

would exchange for
a house for his tenant
farmer

Acquire:

House, access,
plot of land in
front.

Restoration Project: a

complete rest. req -
occupied by tenant
farmers

Small wing beginning
to collapse

Kimball - Is this Dickinson's
only home? What
if birthplace?
Mr. De Valinger says
only 15' House
standing.

Blegen - To be maintained has a
hist. house museum?

Lee - To what degree house altered?
Burned early 1790's - not
compl. rest.

Balfon - Just only 1 of Dickinson's
home? Yek - boyhood
home

Public Archives Council
has acq. 1 hist. Church
- no state parks program



Governor E. N. Carvel of Delaware accepts
Landmark Certificate from Dr. Murray H.
Nelligan for John Dickinson Mansion, 5/1/61.





*The Home of
John Dickinson
"Penman of the Revolution"*

V1970

*Has been used in his
sketch - use in note*

The Penman of the Revolution



John Dickinson was born November 2, 1732 at "Crosiadore", the estate of his parents, Samuel and Mary (Cadwalader) Dickinson, in Talbot County, Maryland. Shortly afterward his father acquired large tracts of land in Kent County, Delaware where he built a mansion and moved his family in January of 1740. Here John and his younger brother Philemon were raised until 1750, when John went to Philadelphia to read law with John Mo-land, Esquire. Then he studied at the Middle Temple in London until 1757, when he returned to Philadelphia where he began practicing his profession. Soon he developed an interest in politics which he expressed in pamphlets, the chief medium of that time. His election to the Delaware General Assembly in 1760 was followed by election to the Pennsylvania Assembly from Philadelphia in 1762 and 1764. The next year he was a delegate from that State to the Colonial Congress. On October 19, 1765 he prepared for that body, *The Declaration Of Rights Adopted By The Stamp Act Congress*. From then on he wrote practically all of the important documents of the American Congress up to the Declaration of Independence. These justly earned for him the title of "Penman of the Revolution." His famous *Letters Of A Farmer In Pennsylvania* written in 1768 and his *A Song For American Freedom* of the same year contributed greatly toward showing colonists their rights as free men and helping to solidify public opinion in the colonies. When the petitions of Congress to the Crown, which Dickinson had drafted, failed to effect a reconciliation the revolutionary faction introduced Lee's resolution for a complete separation. As this was opposed to the thinking of John Dickinson and his associates that there should be a general confederation of all American colonies under a constitution with continental control before resorting to armed force to gain independence, he absented himself from Congress and refrained from signing the Declaration of Independence.

Within a week of the proclaiming of Independence he marched as a colonel at the head of his Philadelphia brigade against the enemy which threatened to invade New York and New Jersey. Next he rendered valuable military service in Delaware until 1778, when as delegate in Congress from that state he resumed his role as "The Penman of the Revolution" by drafting the Articles of Confederation. In 1781, following his term in Congress, he was elected to the position of president (governor) of the Delaware State. He served ably in this high office until 1782 when he resigned to accept the Presidency of the State of Pennsylvania, a position he held until he resigned in 1785 to return to Delaware.

The year 1786 saw him at the head of Delaware's delegation to the Annapolis Convention, of which he was elected chairman. In this capacity he prepared the report recommending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia the next year. There with his colleagues from Delaware he was active in preserving the rights of the small states. His chief contribution was the advocating of equal representation in the Senate for all states. After the Constitution was drafted and submitted to the states, Dickinson by addresses and a series of stirring letters, after the style of his famous "Farmer's Letters" but now signed "Fabius" urged the hasty ratification of the new Federal Constitution. Delaware's honor of being the first state to ratify the new Constitution on December 7, 1787 may be attributed in part to the work of Dickinson. Then in 1791-1792 he was the leading figure in the State Constitutional Convention in which he prepared a strong frame of government which served Delaware for many years. He maintained an active interest in political affairs and continued a voluminous correspondence with friends and statesmen at his home in Wilmington until his death on February 14, 1808. There he was buried in the Friends Meeting Yard at Fourth and West Streets.

The Mansion

The large strongly constructed brick dwelling, laid in Flemish bond, was built by Judge Samuel Dickinson to face to the south and to connect by a lane through his broad fields with the landing on the nearby St. Jones River, which provided easy access by water to Wilmington and Philadelphia. As the needs of his household

grew and the inadequacies of the cellar kitchen were felt, additions were made with the dining room wing of 1752 and the kitchen addition of 1754. Meanwhile the barns, sheds, slave-quarters and other out-buildings were added as the gardens matured and the fields were cleared and cultivated.



A view in the parlor showing John Dickinson's bracket clock

There were no major changes in the mansion until 1804, when a disastrous fire weakened the roof and destroyed much of the interior woodwork. This damage was repaired by John Dickinson but in a simpler manner than his father had built. Since that time and until it was acquired for preservation it has been inhabited by tenants for the Dickinsons, the Logans and subsequent owners. This venerable old dwelling is more than a fine example of lower Delaware eighteenth century plantation architecture; it is an historic site giving an insight to the way of living of one of the great founders of our Country. Decay and neglect of recent years were menacing this historic house so that it might be irreparably damaged and lost to posterity. Recognizing its historic value the Historic Activities Committee of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Delaware raised the sum of \$25,000 which was presented to the State of Delaware on Constitution Day, September 17, 1952 to purchase the mansion and a suitable plot of ground. Following archaeological, architectural and historical research, the

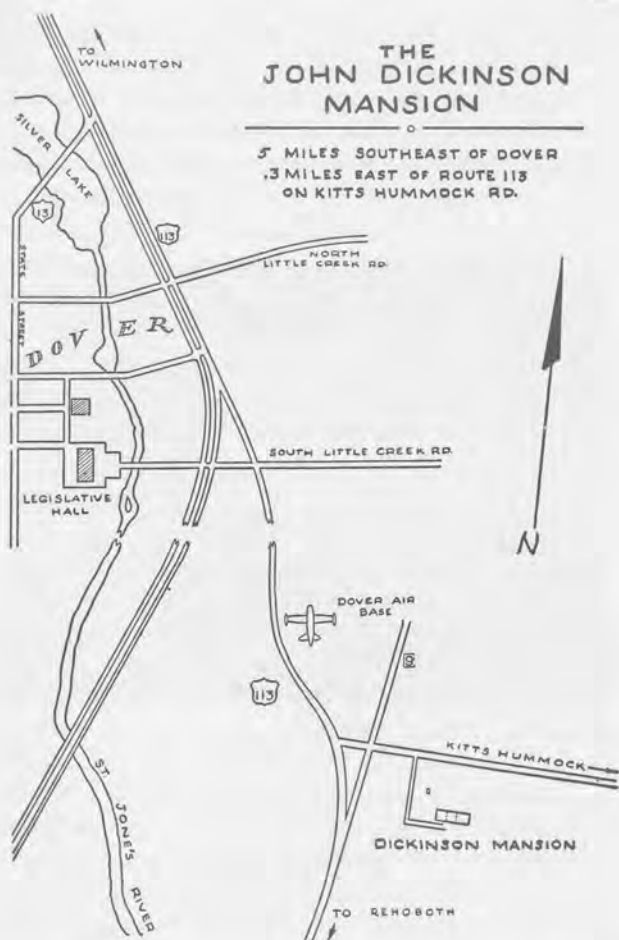
Public Archives Commission with the valued assistance of an Advisory Committee, carried forward the restoration with State appropriations and private gifts.

A separate Furnishing Committee, reflecting the taste of the Dickinson family, guided the furnishing of the mansion with antiques once owned by the family or typical of the Southeastern Pennsylvania-Delaware area. These furnishings of individual pieces or of whole rooms were provided by womens clubs, patriot, civic and historical organizations and by private gifts or State purchase. The gardens are being re-created through the help of a number of the garden clubs of the State and by private donations. The mansion was formally opened on May 2, 1956.



The John Dickinson Mansion 1740

Kingston - upon - Hull ⁱⁿ chd of
HABS



Hours: The Dickinson Mansion is open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays 10:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.; Sundays 1:00 P. M. to 5:00 P. M. Closed Mondays, and the following holidays: Easter, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

Admission: There is no admission charge.

Guides: All visitors are escorted through the Mansion.

Groups: Schools or other organizations are welcomed but must make advance reservations to be accommodated with guide service. Requests for appointments should be made to The John Dickinson Mansion, P. O. Box 796, Dover, Delaware, or by telephone to Dover 734-9439. The John Dickinson Mansion is administered by the Delaware State Museum. For further information please communicate with Leon DeValinger, Jr., Director.



The
John Dickinson
Mansion



THE JOHN DICKINSON MANSION

By LEON DEVALINGER, JR.
Delaware State Archivist

JOHN DICKINSON, the eldest child of Samuel and Mary (Cadwallader) Dickinson, was born November 2, 1732, at their estate "Crosia-doré" in Talbot County, Maryland. Here he lived until January of 1740 when his father, Samuel Dickinson, moved his family to Kent County, Delaware, where he had purchased large tracts of land for his plantation. Included among his landholdings were the tracts "Town Point," "Kingston upon Hull," "Burton's Delight," "Mulberry Swamp," and part of "Poplar Neck." It was upon a part of "Kingston upon Hull" that Samuel Dickinson built the brick mansion where he resided while First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Kent County, and where he reared his family. It was here also where he was buried following his death on July 6, 1760.

Dickinson's Boyhood Home

Here too his sons, John and Philemon, were carefully educated by William Killen, a young Irish tutor who later became Chief Justice and the first Chancellor of Delaware. In 1750, when John Dickinson was eighteen years old, he went to Philadelphia where his father had arranged for him to read law in the office of John Moland, Esquire, the King's attorney in the Province of

Pennsylvania. His studies continued there until 1753 when Judge Dickinson permitted him to go to London where he studied law at the Middle Temple. There he continued his studies until 1757, when he returned to Philadelphia and began the practice of his profession. He undoubtedly visited his parents in Kent County and maintained his contacts there, for in October of 1760 he was elected a member of the Assembly from that county.

Two years later he was elected a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly from the City of Philadelphia where he married on July 19, 1770, Mary Norris, the daughter of Isaac Norris of "Fairhill." Although he continued to see his old friends George Read, Thomas McKean, and Caesar Rodney from the Three Lower Counties in the Stamp Act Congress, the First and Second Continental Congresses, where he helped represent Pennsylvania, his interests and residence were in the State until 1776. In this year he continued his advocacy of a general confederation of all American colonies under a constitution with continental control before resorting to armed force to gain independence. Having failed in his political struggle with John Adams and his faction to achieve this, Dickinson absented himself from Congress and refrained from signing the Declaration of Independence.

Within a week of the Declaration of Independence he marched to Elizabethtown at the head of his regiment of Pennsylvania militia against the enemy who were invading the State of New Jersey. Later that year when his regiment's period of enlistment expired, he returned

to Philadelphia. On December 10, 1776, when he knew that Congress would adjourn to some other place and when it was generally believed that the British would capture Philadelphia, he decided to move his wife and family to his farm in Kent County. At the end of the six-day carriage trip, Dickinson stated: "On the sixteenth of December, I arrived at my house in Kent, where my tenant spared me two rooms; and I was enough employed in procuring necessities for those I carried with me."

Dickinson A Brigadier General

Apparently their stay at the mansion in Kent was extended through most of the next year, for early in 1777 he enlisted as a private in Captain Stephen Lewis's Company of Delaware militia and served "... with my musket upon my shoulder during the whole tour of duty performed that summer by the militia of that State, when the British army landed at the Head of Elk, and was advancing towards this city [Philadelphia]." Following this he went about the State collecting arms and ammunition to help supply the militia. In recognition of his efforts, Delaware in October, 1777, commissioned him a brigadier general of the militia. The following year he was back at his old role as "Penman of Revolution" when he drafted the Articles of Confederation and signed as a delegate from Delaware.

It is not known how long Dickinson and his family remained at the mansion near Dover, but apparently they had returned to Philadelphia before August of 1778 as a child was born to them there at that time. In all probability his

visits to Kent County were limited to annual inspection trips of his thirteen-hundred-acre plantation until August of 1781. At that time a party of sixteen Tories from New York landed from a whaleboat in the vicinity of Kitts Hummock and marched inland to the Dickinson Mansion. They frightened his slaves and stole the silver, a large quantity of his wife's clothes, all of his meat supply, and other provisions; and, although they did not destroy his library, they marched away with one of his slaves after greatly disturbing the whole countryside.

Dickinson Returns to Mansion

Dickinson hastened from his home near Philadelphia to determine the loss and set his affairs in order. What he thought would be a short trip turned into a sojourn of sixteen months. While staying at his estate to correct the losses by pillage the smokehouse was resupplied with meat, undeveloped fields were grubbed and cleared, a road to a neighbor was straightened, a domestic problem of his tenant was solved, and the majority of his slaves were manumitted.

Although he made plans early in the fall of 1781 to return to his home and family in Philadelphia, his old friend George Read persuaded him to stand for election as a member of the Council from New Castle County in place of Samuel Patterson. He was elected on the first of October and took his seat on the twentieth of that month when the Assembly and the Council met in Dover. In this body he worked assiduously, drafting bills which would correct a number of the weaknesses in the State's governmental

structure. Toward the closing days of the session at the end of October, he wrote to his wife of his approaching return to Philadelphia and she replied urging him to come home at the first opportunity. She also wrote regarding the safe-keeping of their possessions at the mansion in this manner:

"If thy fr[ien]d [William] Killen would Lend thee a room in his House, or Dr. [Charles] Ridgely, and thee would have our things packd and placed in it for a little while, wd it not be best; there is a great deal of China queens ware & Pewter, that was I there I would try to secure, and that Large bed could not be purchased for £50. ye Glasses are valuable so is ye Kitchen furniture, & flat Irons & innumerable things."

One of the last and most important duties of that legislative session was the selection of a new president or governor. The two houses met together on November 6, 1781, when Dickinson was declared elected despite his protests, by a vote of twenty-five to one: the one vote obviously being his own. The next day he wrote to his wife of the news of his unanimous election and of his attempts to avoid acceptance of this office. It meant, of course, that he would not return to "Fairhill" and that they would take up their residence in Delaware.

Through the remainder of 1781 and most of 1782, until he resigned to accept the Presidency of the State of Pennsylvania, he resided at this mansion.

In 1786, John Dickinson was living in Wil-

mington and from there he journeyed with other delegates from this state to the capital of Maryland to attend the Annapolis Convention. That meeting, of which Dickinson was chosen chairman, did not accomplish its intended purpose but it did pave the way for the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia the next year. Delaware's delegates of John Dickinson; George Reed; Jacob Broom; Gunning Bedford, Jr.; and Richard Bassett went instructed to Philadelphia not to surrender any of the state's rights of representation. Each of these delegates represented Delaware well in the Convention but that is another story.

Dickinson at Constitutional Convention

Dickinson was especially active in advocating equal representation in the Senate for all states. His advocacy of this and the support it received from the Delaware delegates and the other small states is largely responsible for our having two Senators in the Congress today.

After the Constitutional Convention had completed its work, and the delegates had signed this great document, Dickinson with the other members from Delaware returned home and began working to acquaint the citizens of Delaware with the provisions of the Constitution. As he had drafted the Articles of Confederation, no one was in a better position than he to recognize the weaknesses of that frame of government. By addresses and his writings, for which he was noted, he urged the public in a series of stirring letters signed "*Fabius*" to hasten in the ratification of the new Federal Constitution.

The fact that Delaware was the first state to ratify on December 7, 1787 is not accidental. Our delegates, who attended the Annapolis Convention and the Constitutional Convention, knew of the need of a new frame of Federal government and they had carefully instructed the citizens of Delaware in the desirability and necessity of this newer, stronger system of government. In this Dickinson was a leader. This was his last great public act on a national scale. In 1791 and 1792 he was again to lead the people of Delaware in drafting a Constitution which replaced the early stop-gap frame of government adopted in 1776.

Following his term of office as Chief Executive of the State of Pennsylvania, he returned to Delaware and took up residence in Wilmington, where he lived for a while in houses which he rented until about 1800 when he built a mansion at Eighth and Market Streets, the site which was later occupied by the Wilmington Institute Free Library. He was, in the meantime, continuing his visits to his boyhood home to inspect the plantation and care for its many needs.

In 1804 a disastrous fire swept the old mansion house with the result that not much remained but the four walls. In his correspondence with the Insurance Company of North America, Dickinson pointed out that it was the most substantially built house in the state, having brick walls eighteen inches thick at the watertable and fourteen inches thick from there on up. As he apparently intended that the mansion should thenceforth be used only by the tenants, he decided to replace the interior woodwork in a plain

substantial manner. His correspondence reveals that this work was completed in 1806, and much of the information for the present restoration of the mansion was gleaned from his instructions and correspondence of that period. During much of the two-year period when the fire damage was being corrected, he was living either with friends in the neighborhood or at the mansion.

He died in 1808 at his home in Wilmington, where he was buried in the Friends Meeting yard at Fourth and West Streets.

Restoration

A careful study is being made of historic materials as well as the building itself before undertaking the full restoration. Those materials of the original mansion which are found to be in good condition will be re-used in the restoration. An effort will be made to restore and re-furnish the mansion as faithfully as possible of the period when John Dickinson last knew it. Some of the old hardware, missing from the mansion, has been kindly presented for its restoration and other old hardware we hope to obtain by gift or purchase.

The history of this historic house is being developed by Public Archives Commission research. However, it is believed additional information can be added from early photographs, sketches, diaries, or from personal recollections of tenants who have lived in it. Such data will be welcomed by Leon deValinger, Jr., Director of The Delaware State Museum, 316 South Governors Avenue, Dover, Delaware. (Telephone: Dover 4297).

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*Persons interested in John Dickinson and his mansion
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THE JOHN DICKINSON MANSION

5 MILES SOUTHEAST OF DOVER
.3 MILES EAST OF ROUTE 113
ON KITTS HUMMOCK RD.

