

PH0021555

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUL 2 1973	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

Darley House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

The Wren's Nest, The Chimneys

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Northwest corner Darley Road and Philadelphia Pike

CITY OR TOWN:

Claymont

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY:

New Castle

CODE

003



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ Public
☒ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☐ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☒ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☒ Private Residence
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific

- ☐ Transportation
☐ Other (Specify)

Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Dr. George Boines

STREET AND NUMBER:

413 North Broom Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Wilmington

STATE:

Delaware

CODE

10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Public Building

STREET AND NUMBER:

Rodney Square

CITY OR TOWN:

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

A List of Delaware Heritage Buildings and Areas in New Castle County

DATE OF SURVEY:

1963

- ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☒ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Greater Wilmington Development Council

STREET AND NUMBER:

300 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1320

CITY OR TOWN:

Wilmington

STATE:

Delaware

CODE

10

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

JUL 2 1973
ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Darley House, also known as the Wren's Nest, stands at the corner of Route 13 (Philadelphia Pike) and Darley Road, in Claymont. The front of the property is protected from the highway by large trees, which obscure the facade. The facade is symmetrically arranged. The principal door, in the center bay, is flanked by sidelights and crowned by a rectangular transom; an ornate portico, with large brackets and acorn pendants, covers the entry. The general outline of the house is rather standard, 2½ stories high, three bays wide, with three dormers across the front. In detail, however, the Darley House is a rich architectural creation.

Even though some of the details have been removed, and the house sheathed in composition shingles, the structure has retained its original overall appearance. A scrollwork bargeboard, triple chimney pots, Moorish interior doorway arches, and original stone mantels, survive to provide a very clear picture of Darley's personal taste.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian
☐ 15th Century

☐ 16th Century
☐ 17th Century

☐ 18th Century
☒ 19th Century
☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☐ Architecture☒ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☐ Political☐ Religion/Philosophy☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Humanitarian☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the middle years of the nineteenth century, the words, "illustrated by Darley" on the title page of a book almost guaranteed a successful edition. Felix Octavius Carr Darley worked during a period when an increased demand for moderately-priced books caused publishers to search for faster, less expensive, methods of reproduction, and for artists who could work with the new media.

Felix Darley was born in Philadelphia in 1822, the son of John and Eleanora Westray Darley, both of whom had been on the comedy stage in England. He may have sketched on the banks of the Delaware as a boy, but his parents wanted him to enter a business career. Only after selling several sketches in 1842 did he devote his full time to art as a profession.

In that year, Darley sold a few street sketches to his friend Edgar Allan Poe, editor of the Saturday Museum. Poe planned to publish his own magazine, the Stylus, and in 1843 signed a contract with Darley as illustrator. The magazine never materialized, but Darley did two sketches for "The Gold Bug."

Darley became associated with the firm of Carey and Hart in 1845; during the next three years, this company published his first major work, The Library of Humorous American Works, in eighteen

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bolton, Theodore. "The Book Illustrations of Felix Octavius Carr Darley." Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society. v. 61 (April-October 1951) (Wilmington) Journal Every Evening. July 28, 1943, p. 13.
Pitz, Henry. The Brandywine Tradition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1969
New Castle County Deed Book K, Vol. 5, p. 148.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0			0			39	48	17
NE	0			0			75	27	16
SE	0			0					
SW	0			0					

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Under one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Miss Rosemary Troy, Mr. Graydon Wood, and Mr. Vincent Rogers

ORGANIZATION
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

DATE
July 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN:
Dover

STATE
Delaware

CODE
10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name E. Berkeley Tompkins
Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins

Title Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Date 11-27-72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/2/73

ATTEST:
W. Huntz
Keeper of The National Register

Date 6-25-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUL 8 1973	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

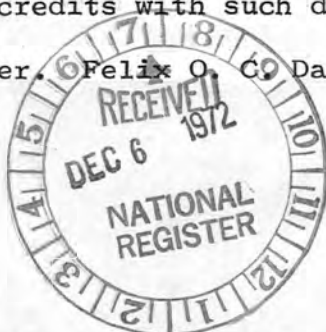
paper-covered volumes. Darley's talent for capturing American scenes probably inspired Washington Irving's publisher to retain him as illustrator for the Sketch Book and Rip Van Winkle. Darley's work for Irving cemented his reputation by linking his name with that of a favorite author. After Darley executed the wood blocks for Irving's Knickerbocker History of New York, Irving remarked that

Jarvis tried but failed to embody my conception of Diedrich Knickerbocker; Leslie also. Darley hit it in the Illustrated History of New York. My idea was that he should carry the air of one profoundly impressed with the truth of his own history.

Darley also engraved on wood for Dickens, Cooper, Stowe, and Longfellow.

In 1859, Felix Darley married Jane Colborn, through whom he probably met Ralph Waldo Emerson and other literary Bostonians who were Jane's friends. The couple settled in Delaware, on property that had been bought seventeen years earlier by John Clarendon Darley, the artist's brother.

His popularity never subsided, although in his later years he shared title-page credits with such developing illustrators as Howard Pyle and Winslow Homer. Felix O. C. Darley died at Wren's Nest in March 1888.



NAME OF PROPERTY

Darley House, Delaware3/29/93

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below.

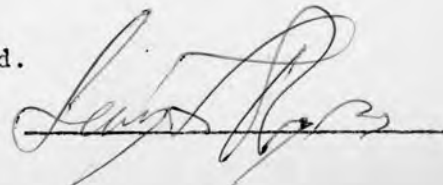
RECEIVED APR 2 1973

1. Name. _____
2. Location. _____
3. Classification. _____
4. Owner of Property. _____
5. Location of Legal Description. _____
6. Representation in Existing Surveys. _____
7. Description. _____
8. Statement of Significance. _____
9. Bibliography. _____
10. Geographical Data.
 - a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates. _____
 - b. Acreage. _____
11. Form Prepared By. _____
12. Certification. _____
- Photographic Coverage. _____
- ☒ Map Coverage. Please supply a map with a border so that long. & lat. may be checked.
- Other. _____

Clarification or correction of the above items must be made prior to the initiation of our professional review. Correction of these technical errors does not necessarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy the National Register criteria in full.

Thank you for your attention to the above items checked.

SIGNED:



PROPERTY

Darley House

STATE

Del.

Ref #73000508

Working number

12.6.72.1858

TECH REVIEW

Photos

1

Maps

1

NEW CASTLE CO.

REVIEW

~~Long & lat can't be checked on map.~~

OK

HISTORIAN

good name.

Accept - AMI
3/21/73Accept
3-23-73
C. Shult

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

Accept
EH
3/23/73

BRANCH CHIEF

OK
6/22/73

EDITORIAL REVIEW

KEEPER

OK
6/25

National Register write-up

3-4-74

Federal Register entry

8-7-73

Acknowledge

12/6/72

Send-back

3-29-73

Re-submit

6.19.73

Register no.

JUL 2 1973



NPS Number 7.2.73

Title: Darley House

Loc. New Castle Co., Delaware ①
Front view from the
east

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Darley House, front view from the east.
Graydon Wood, Aug. '72.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

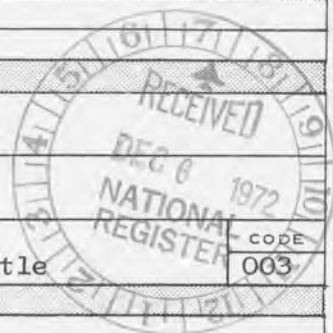
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JH 2	DATE 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Darley House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: The Wren's Nest, The Chimneys			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Northwest corner Darley Road and Philadelphia Pike			
CITY OR TOWN: Claymont			
STATE: Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: New Castle	CODE 003
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Graydon Wood			
DATE OF PHOTO: August 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Registrar's Office, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Front view from the east.			





New Castle, Delaware

(The Wren's Nest, The Chimneys)
Darley House, detail: front door.

Graydon Wood Aug. '72.



4.5 MI. TO U.S. 202

5863 1 SE
(WILMINGTON NORTH)

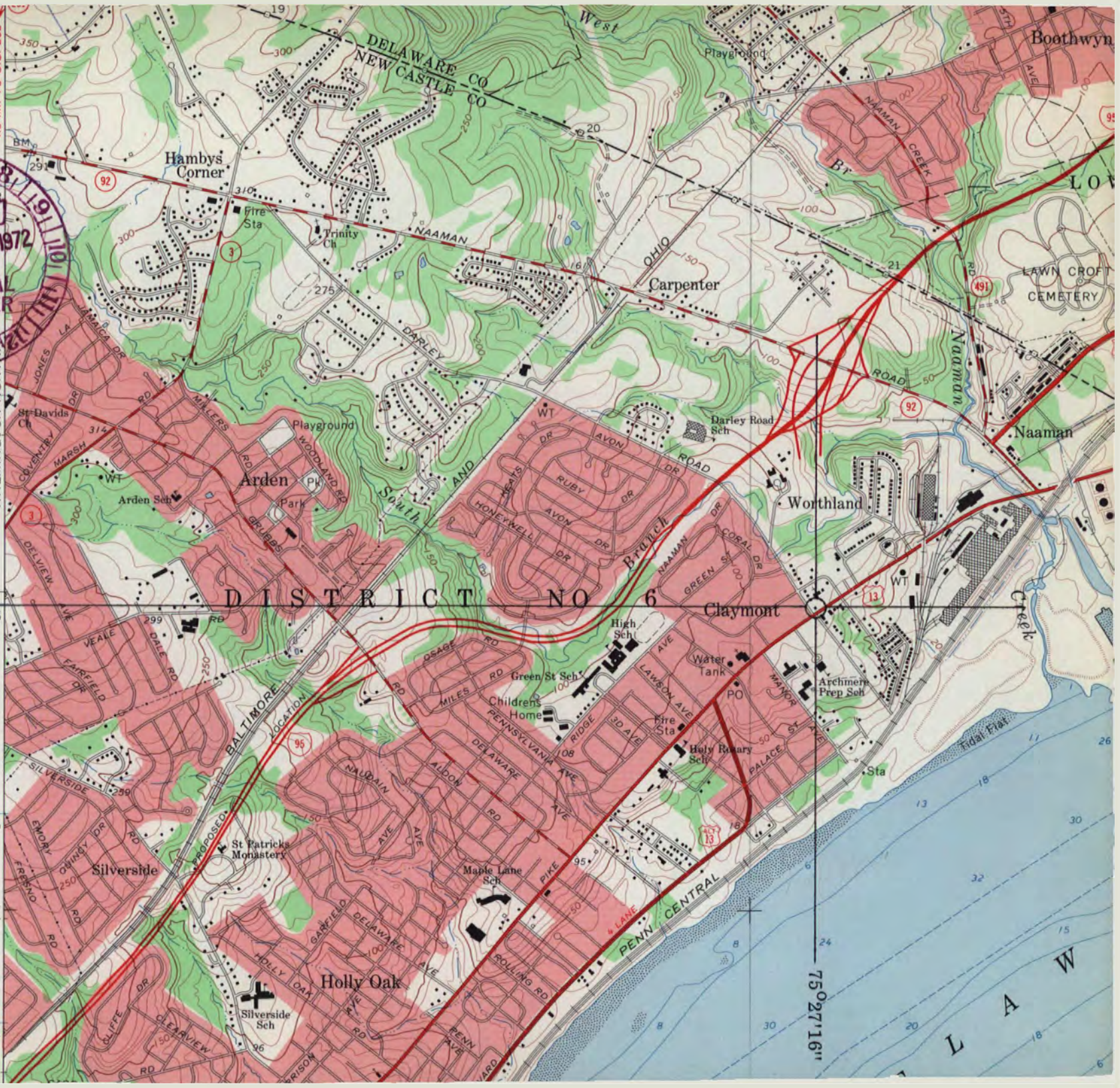
39°48'17"

F. O. C. Darley House

United States Geological
Survey Topographic Map
Marcus Hook Pa. -N.J.-Del.
1967

47'30"

4404



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

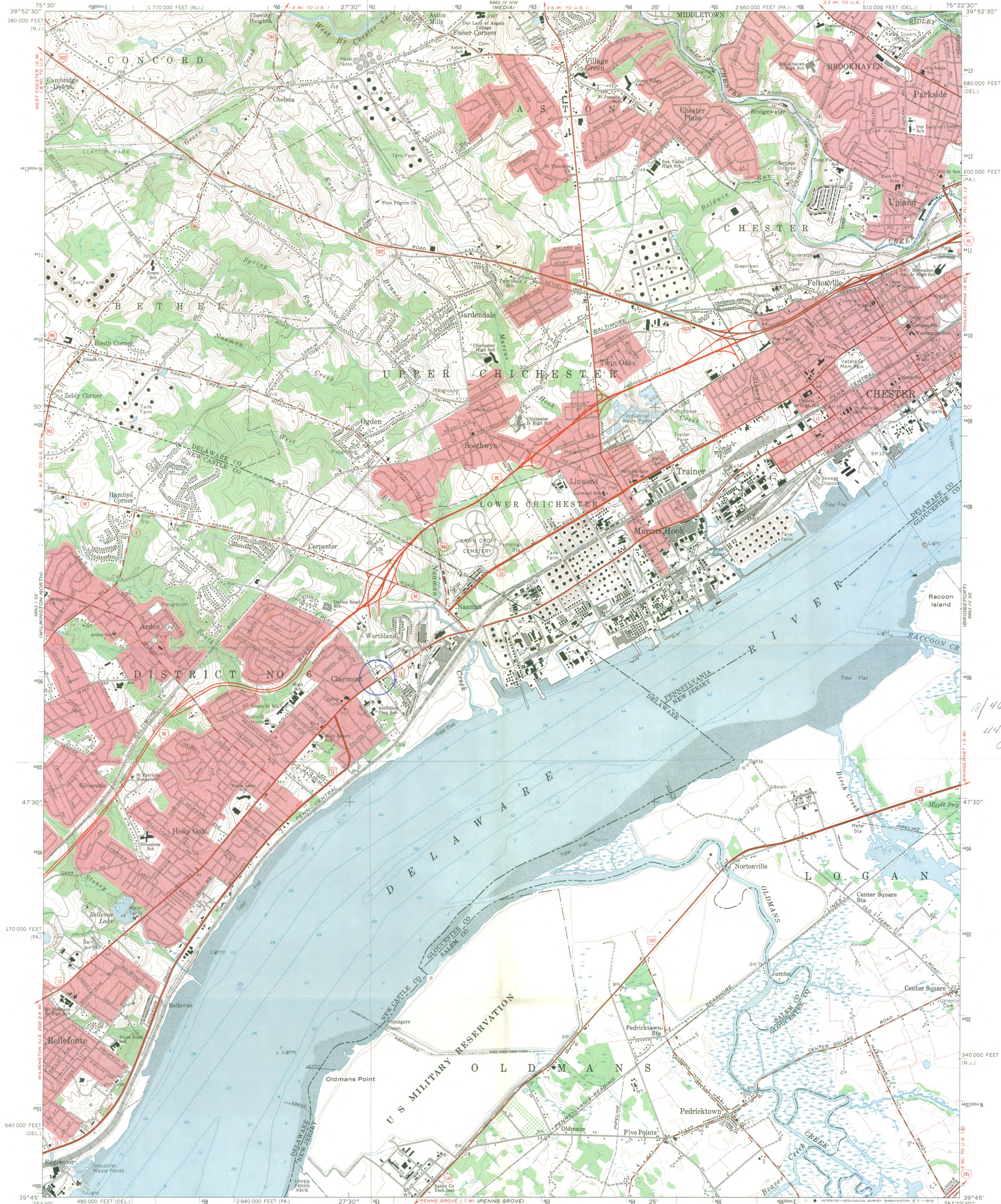
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUL 2 1973	DATE

1. NAME			
COMMON: Darley House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: The Wren's Nest, The Chimneys			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Northwest corner Darley Road and Philadelphia Pike			
CITY OR TOWN: Claymont			
STATE: Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: New Castle	CODE 003
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: USGS Map, Marcus Hook Pa.-N.J.-Del., 7.5 minute series			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1967			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

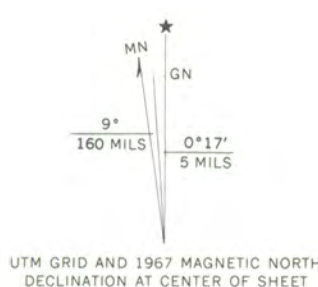


SEE INSTRUCTIONS



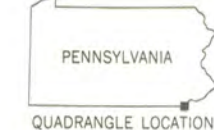
18/461 090
4405 970
W

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and New Jersey Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1939. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1967
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 295 (1967)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone,
New Jersey coordinate system, and Delaware coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicate areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



SCALE 1:24 000
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER

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 5.6 FEET



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

MARCUS HOOK, PA.—N.J.—DEL.
SW/4 CHESTER 15' QUADRANGLE
N3945—W7522.5/7.5

1967

AMS 5963 IV SW—SERIES V831



ND 1967 MAGNETIC NORTH
ON AT CENTER OF SHEET

0°17'
5 MILS

SCALE 1:24 000

1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 5 0 1 KILOMETER

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 5.6 FEET

PENNS GROVE 1.7 MI. (PENNS GROVE)
6 MI. TO INT. 295

5963 III NW

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

MARCUS HOOK, PA. — N. J. — DEL

SW/4 CHESTER 15' QUADRANGLE
N3945—W7522.5/7.5

1967

AMS 5963 IV SW—SERIES V831

RECEIVED

MAY 30 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER



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

November 27, 1972

DR. E. BERKELEY TOMPKINS
DIRECTOR

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic
Places
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Bill:

Please find enclosed nominations for the following
properties:

Darley House
Mordington
Draper-Adkins House
Louis McLane House
Hazzard House
Eden Hill
Greenlawn
Barratt Hall
Lindale House
Minquadale Home for Aged Men
Old Stone Tavern
Cooch's Bridge Historic District
Greenbank Mill and Mill Owner's House
Christ Church, Milford
Coffee Run Mission Site
Noxontown
Andrew Fisher House
Naudain (Arnold S.) House



This adds to the very large number of Delaware
nominations which your office has on hand. I would certainly
appreciate anything which might be done to expedite placement
of some of these properties on the Register.

Most sincerely,

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

EBT/sjp

Encl.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTERSTATE DELAWAREDate Entered Jul 2 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Noxontown	Middletown vicinity New Castle County
Hazzard House	Milton Sussex County
Highball Signal	Delmar Sussex County
Cannon's (Woodland) Ferry	Woodland Sussex County
<u>Darley House</u>	Claymont New Castle County
Old Stone Tavern	Little Creek Kent County

Also Notified

Hon. William V. Roth
 Hon. Joseph R. Biden
 Hon. Pierre S. du Pont, IV
 Director, Northeast Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
 Mr. Grover A. Biddle, Acting Director
 Division of Historical and Cultural
 Affairs
 Department of State
 Dover, Delaware 19901

PHR MMOTT: pcl 7/6/73