



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Amstel House, in New Castle County, Delaware, reference number 77000386, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 5/12/1977, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 7, 1978, Part II, Vol.43, No. 26, page 5184. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.


Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

9/8/2008
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

N-1306

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

FOR NIP USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Dr. Finney House

AND/OR COMMON

AMSTEL HOUSE (Preferred Name)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Northwest corner of Delaware and
Fourth Streets

CITY, TOWN

New Castle

VICINITY OF
CODE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

STATE

Delaware

10

COUNTY

New Castle

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

New Castle Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

New Castle

VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Recorder of Deeds for New Castle County

STREET & NUMBER

Public Building, Rodney Square

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey, #9-3

DATE

1934

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D. C.

STATE

71 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The five-bay facade of the Amstel House fronts on Fourth Street and is embellished with a moulded brick water table and a protruding two-brick belt course. What is supposed to have been an earlier house fronting on Delaware Street now forms a wing of the main house. The detailing of the water table and belt course on the main facade continue along Delaware Street, though the belt course is at a lower level on the wing. Both are laid in Flemish bond.

The main facade is found in the gable end of the house, an unusual characteristic for town houses in Delaware. The broad gable is pedimented with cove cornices marking the roofline and the gable. Three windows pierce the gable and there is a dormer on the south side of the shingled roof. The windows of the first floor are surmounted by segmental brick arches, as are those of the basement. If there are arches over the second story windows, they are hidden by the cornice. The sashes are double-hung with nine-over-nine lights.

The frontispiece of the main doorway is classical in detail, with engaged pilasters and a broken pediment. The deep-set door has a fanlight surmounted by a keystone.

The center hall in the front part of the house is flanked by one room on each floor. In the parlor on the north or garden side is a panelled endwall. The large fireplace has a simple dog-eared surround and a dog-eared overmantel but no shelf. There is a deep relief to the panels flanking the fireplace and to those embellishing the butterfly cupboards on either end of the room. There are no windows on this side of the house. In the rear of the room, a French door provides access to the garden. A dentil cornice and a chair rail accent the room. On the south, the chimney is built against the wing of the house and there are windows along Delaware Street.

A kitchen and pantry are found in what is supposed to be the original section of the house. The fireplace against the west wall of the kitchen encompasses almost the entire endwall. This wing has six-over-nine light windows surmounted by segmental brick arches on the south wall and flat brick arches on the north wall. The hallway joining the two sections of the house is contained in a stuccoed addition where the two sections join.

The house today, as originally, stands on a single-family residential street. Since the eighteenth century, the spaces between houses have been filled by the addition of newer houses.

18 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The exact construction date of the Amstel House has not been determined, but it certainly is the oldest of the large town houses that were built in New Castle during the late colonial and early federal periods. It was the home of Dr. John Finney who bought the property in 1738 and may have built the present house before his death in 1774. His son, John Finney, Jr., lived in Pennsylvania and rented the house to Nicholas Van Dyke, who lived there until 1785.

Van Dyke was President of the Delaware State, as the governors were styled at that time. His daughter, Ann, was married in the house at a ceremony attended by General Washington.

After Governor Van Dyke moved out of the house, his daughter and her new husband, Kensey Johns, took up residence there until their house at Third and Delaware streets was completed. Johns was later Chancellor of Delaware and a principal in the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

Since 1929, Amstel House has been a museum.

9) MAP OR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Albert Kruse and others, Historical survey of New Castle, filed in New Castle Public Library.

Higgins, Anthony, Editor. New Castle on the Delaware. New Castle: New Castle Historical Society, 1973.

10) GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY One-half

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	4, 5, 1	4, 6, 0	4, 3	8, 9	9, 6, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING				
C				D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on the south by Delaware Street, on the east by Fourth Street. The lot is rectangular, 86 feet wide along Delaware Street.

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

Edward F. Heite, Historic Registrar

ORGANIZATION

Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

February 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Records

TELEPHONE

302-678-4564

CITY OR TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

12) STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS.

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Laurence Cole

TITLE

Director, Div. of Hist & Cultural Affairs

DATE

3/17/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

10 301
10 74

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Dr. Finney House

AND/OR COMMON

Amstel House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN New Castle

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

New Castle

STATE

Delaware

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

United States Geological Survey
Wilmington South Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24000

DATE

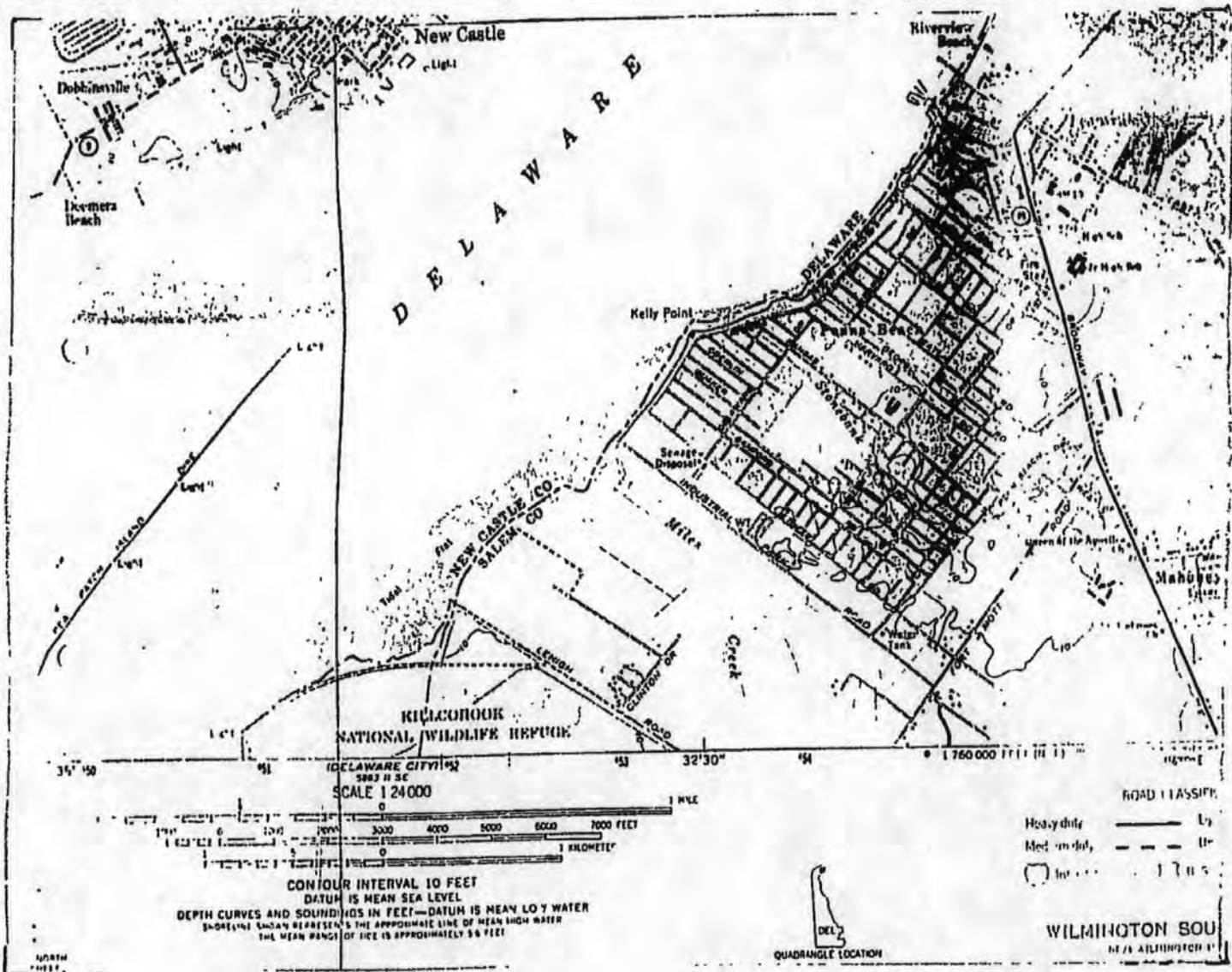
1967

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1 PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2 NORTH ARROW
- 3 CITY REFERENCES

INT: 2494-72



DELAWARE CITY 52
 5803 N 5C
 SCALE 1:24000

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
 SHORELINE LOCATED HEREIN IS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 56 FEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy duty ———— U
 Med. duty - - - - - M
 Light duty L

WILMINGTON SOUTH
 NEAR WILMINGTON



DUPLICATE

Ref # 77000386

WASO Form - 177
("R" June 1984)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Amstel House
New Castle Co., DE

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: _____
Action: ACCEPT _____
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
----------	---------------------------------	----------------------	-------------

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed |

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____

date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 25 1976

DATE ENTERED MAY 12 1977

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Dr. Finney House

AND/OR COMMON

Amstel House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

New Castle

____VICINITY OF

COUNTY

New Castle

STATE

Delaware

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Delaware State Archives

DATE OF PHOTO

April 30, 1959

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Hall of Records

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

Music Room

PHOTO NO



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 25 1976

DATE ENTERED MAY 12 1977

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Dr. Finney House

AND/OR COMMON

Amstel House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN New Castle

—VICINITY OF New Castle COUNTY

Delaware STATE

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Delaware State Archives

DATE OF PHOTO 7/30/62

NEGATIVE FILED AT

1 Hall of Records

4 IDENTIFICATION

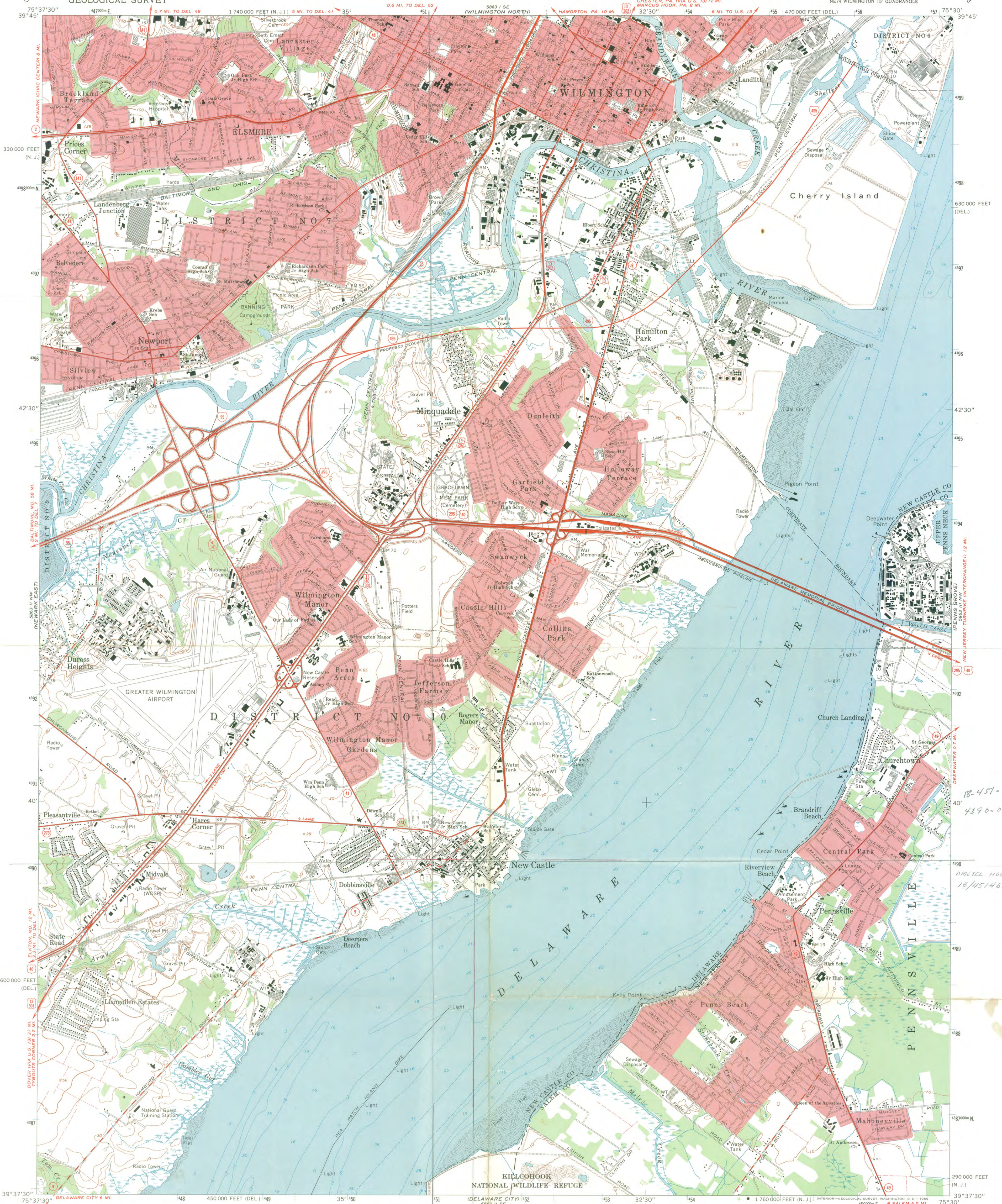
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

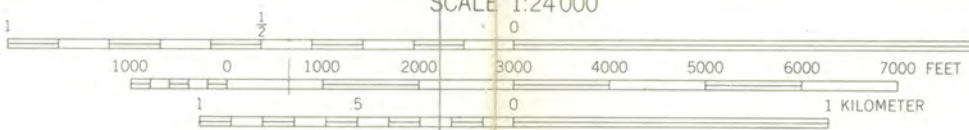
View of the house from the southeast

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WILMINGTON SOUTH QUADRANGLE
DELAWARE-NEW JERSEY
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 WILMINGTON 15' QUADRANGLE



Mapped by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1946
Topography by planimetric surveys 1946. Field checked 1948
Revised by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1967
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 294 (1966)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection; 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Delaware and New Jersey coordinate systems
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 indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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

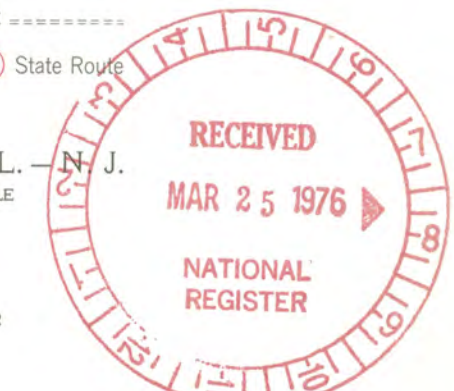
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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

WILMINGTON SOUTH, DEL. - N. J.
NE/4 WILMINGTON 15' QUADRANGLE
N3937.5-W7530.7.5

1967
AMS 5863 II NE—SERIES V832

Amstel House
DE
C. New Castle



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE DELAWARE

Date Entered MAY 12 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Amstel House	New Castle New Castle County

Also Notified

Hon. William V. Roth, Jr.
Hon. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Hon. Thomas B. Evans, Jr.

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Amstel House

(Resource Name)

77000386

(Reference Number[s])

09/23/86

(Date form completed)

New Castle

(County)

Delaware

(State)

Lisa Madison

(Completed by)

STATUS:

1. MISSING 2. REMOVED/ DEMOLISHED 3. NHL 4. TR 5. MRA 6. OVER-SIZED 7. NPS - UNDOCUMENTED 8. DOE - OWNER OBJECTION 9. RESTRICTED

EXPLANATION:

1. Missing Status: Entire Folder (); Nomination (); Map(s) (); Photos ()
Available on: Microfiche (); Optical Disk ()

2. _____
(Cause for removal)

_____/_____/_____
(Date Removed)

3. _____
(NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name)

_____/_____/_____
(Date Designated)

4. _____
(If multi-state/county TR, state/county where filed and location)

(TR or MRA Name)

5. _____
(If multi-state/county MRA, state/county where filed and location)

6. _____
(Location of oversize file)

7. _____
(Current source of partial documentation)

_____/_____/_____
(Target Date)

COMMENTS: _____
(Where found, or source of replacement)

_____/_____/_____
(Date Found/Replaced)