

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Delaware	
COUNTY:	Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	FEB 10 1975	

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Bethel Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Lewisville, Lewis' Wharf

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
North of Broad Creek, 4/10 mile west of Laurel

CITY OR TOWN:  
Congressional District

Bethel One

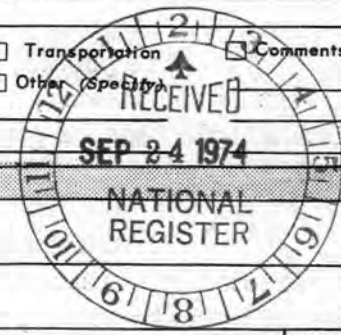
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Delaware	10	Sussex	005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Multiple Ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Bethel STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Sussex County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
The Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Building Survey, Del. 150-151

DATE OF SURVEY: 1960  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Delaware
COUNTY:	Sussex
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	FEB 10 1975
FOR NPS USE ONLY	

7. DESCRIPTION

DATA SHEET

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The town of Bethel is situated in a primarily agricultural section of Sussex County. It stands on the northern bank of Broad Creek, which served as a stimulus for the town's financial success. Incorporated within the town's limits, primarily along the main street, are a number of significant domestic structures.

Several of these clapboard houses were erected by mariners during Bethel's prosperous shipbuilding years. They are characterized by the same meticulous construction techniques that were employed by the village's skilled ship carpenters in their sailing vessels. Four houses can be cited as typical examples of the town's vernacular architecture.

The tow Ship-Carpenter Houses (S-198), fronting Bethel's Main Street, were erected before 1868 on adjoining lots by two sea captains, John Quillen and John Owens. Each house consists of a low, one-story-and-attic section with an adjoining rear wing and a taller story-and-a-half addition. The facades are complemented by simple bow cornices and contemporary pedimented dormers. The interiors of these two dwellings exhibit the quality of workmanship that was characteristic of Lewisville's skilled craftsmen.

The paneled interior end walls contain fireplaces with finely constructed mantels and a steep, winding, enclosed stairway. Wide floor boards and beaded joists complement the paneling. Each residence is enclosed by a narrow picket fence.

The Moore House (S-265), located at the corner of Main and Vine Sts., was erected by Captain Thomas Moore about 1868. This dwelling, like several other village structures, was designed as a story-and-attic dwelling with a two-and-a-half-story addition. The Moore House features a Victorian cross-gable adorned with gingerbread trim. Adjoining this is a one-story kitchen wing with rear additions. The facade features a double entrance and louvered shutters.

As Lewisville's prosperity increased, variations in its vernacular architectural style emerged. Two Italianate cottages were erected in the village during the 1870's. The "4 R's Farm" (S-271), which best exemplifies the style, stands on Vine Street. The facade of this square, three-bay, two-story clapboard dwelling features a modillion cornice, louvered shutters and an entrance portico.

The <sup>Victorian</sup> Victorian era was represented in Lewisville by large nineteenth century houses with spacious verandahs, gingerbread trim, and ornate cut-shingle sheathing.

The interiors of many Bethel residences have been extensively altered. The preservation of their original exteriors has, however, provided visual evidence of this small community's conception of nineteenth century American folk architecture as first inspired by a rugged seafaring life and later by agricultural pursuits.

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 10 1975

(Number all entries) 7. Description, cont'd.

The area nominated is congruent with the incorporated town limits, as delineated in the 1968 Delaware Department of Highway and Transportation map of Bethel, as revised in 1972. The village is bounded on the south by Broad Creek, and on the other sides by lines.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bethel is a small, well-preserved shipbuilding and trading community of the nineteenth century. Wooden sailing vessels were constructed by Bethel's skilled ship carpenters until early in this century. The most significant class of Bethel craft were the Chesapeake sailing rams, which originated from this Broad Creek port.

The town of Bethel was formerly known as both Lewis' Wharf and Lewisville. The site was originally part of five hundred acres granted by the province of Maryland to James Caldwell in 1728. Settlement of this area was inhibited by the continuous boundary disputes between Maryland and the Penn family.

In 1795, Kendal Major Lewis, the founder of Bethel, acquired much of James Caldwell's original grant as well as a smaller tract on Broad Creek, known as Mitchell's Harbor. Here he established a landing that grew to become a prosperous trading center. In the 1840's, Lewis' Wharf developed into a thriving community known as Lewisville.

Within the next twenty years, Lewisville was to become an important shipbuilding center. The extensive forests along the Nanticoke provided abundant supplies of virgin pine, oak and cypress.

In 1869, Jonathan Moore of Lewisville established the most important marine railway on the peninsula south of Wilmington. John M. C. Moore, superintendent of Lewisville's Marine Railway Company, originated the well-known Chesapeake sailing ram. This class of sailing vessel was designed as an economical, flat-bottom, three masted schooner; its operation required only a small crew. Rams were used for coastal freight primarily on the Chesapeake Bay.

Between 1871 and 1918, as many as thirty rams were built in Lewisville shipyards.

In 1880, when the village applied for a post office, its name was changed to Bethel, since another Lewisville, Delaware, post office already existed.

WL

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sussex County Deeds

Marvil, James, M.D., Sailing Rams. Ann Arbor: Edwards Brothers, Inc., 1961.  
 Eberlein, Harold D. and Hubbard, Cortiantd V.D. Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware. Dover, Delaware: Public Archives Commission, 1963.  
Beer's Atlas of Delaware. Philadelphia: Pomeroy & Beers, 1868.  
 Conrad, Henry C. History of the State of Delaware. Wilmington: By the Author, 1908.  
 Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware, 1609-1888. Philadelphia: L.J. Richards & Co., 1888.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 34' 38"	75° 37' 55"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38° 34' 38"	75° 36' 45"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	38° 33' 49"	75° 36' 45"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	38° 33' 44"	75° 37' 55"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 55

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



NO LOTUM CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Madeline Dunn, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs DATE: 3/13/74

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: Dr. Ronald M. Finch

Title: Director, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Date: 9/18/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

AK Morley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/10/75

ATTEST:

W. Hunter  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 2-6-75

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 10 1975

(Number all entries) 8. Statement of Significance

Several of Lewisville's leaders served the state as members of its legislature, including Kendal Major Lewis who was four times elected as a state representative and twice as a state senator between 1827 and 1834; John M. C. Moore who served as a state representative in 1894 and 1896; and William T. Moore who was also a state senator.

The town of Bethel has grown very little since the commercial shipyards closed in 1918. Although the shipyards and the drawbridge no longer exist, the town retains a large number of houses that were built during Lewisville's seafaring days.



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Delaware	
COUNTY	
Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 10	1975

(Number all entries) 9. Major Bibliographical References

Hutchinson, Henry H. "Collected Notes on Bethel, (Formerly Lewisville) Del."  
The Archeolog. XXI (March, 1969), No. 1.



PROPERTY Bethel Historic District STATE Delaware

WORKING NUMBER 9.24.74.1473

TECH REVIEW  
PHOTOS 7  
MAPS 1

CONTROL REVIEW #10 Area is missing, hat incorrect.

cm  
9.30.  
74

HISTORIAN No mention of commercial structures, intrusions or archeological potential of former shipyards - Return W.R. Luce 10/29/74

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN #8 is incomplete. From this form it is impossible to delineate the district. These houses deserve a fuller discussion. Return Jelovich 10/2/74

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Return  
Calk  
11/4/74

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back 11.14.74

Federal Register entry \_\_\_\_\_

Re-submit 11.29.74

Entered \_\_\_\_\_

FEB 10 1975

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

1. Name. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Location. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Classification. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Owner of Property. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Location of Legal Description. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Representation in Existing Surveys. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Description. Please enlarge to include commercial structures and intrusions. Is the shipbuilding area included in the nomination? If so does it contain archeological potential?
8. Statement of Significance. Please discuss architectural and commercial significance.
9. Bibliography. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Geographical Data. 30 acs
  - a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates. Longitude (or Latitude) appears to be off by about \_\_\_\_\_ Please check.
  - b. Acreage. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Form Prepared By. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Certification. \_\_\_\_\_

Photographic Coverage. more general views of District would help us conceive of relation between streets and buildings. Also include photos of commercial structures.

Map Coverage. Part of the map appears to be missing. Please send the other part.

Other. a map (handdrawn) would give us an idea of number of buildings, roads, involved and ~~then~~ we would be better able to conceive of relation to water.

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: Charles Atteridge

PROPERTY Bethel Historic District STATE Del 2nd Central  
 WORKING NUMBER 9.24.74.1473 Sheet 75000574  
 TECH REVIEW PHOTOS 7  
 MAPS 1 **Sussex Co.**

CONTROL REVIEW cm  
12.9  
74

HISTORIAN *I disagree - Finch has answered questions on commercial structures and archeology, but without better sketch map impossible to tell how much of town is covered - if desired I'll call* Return w. Review 12/13/74

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN *I guess Finch is right, but I think Ray is right* Call Heite ~~Call~~ LeBovier 12-12-74

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF Accept Cole 1/14/75

BRANCH CHIEF Okay King 1.31.75

KEEPER Wm 2/6/75

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
 Federal Register entry 44-75 Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_  
4-1-75 Entered \_\_\_\_\_ **FEB 10 1975**



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 Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 10 1975	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: 4 R's Farm  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Vine Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bethel

STATE: Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: Sussex	CODE
--------------------	------------	-------------------	------



3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Madeline -E. Dunn  
DATE OF PHOTO: August 1973  
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Registrar's Office  
Hall of Records Dover, Delaware

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  
Three-quarter view of the village's finest Italianate residence.



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

Sussex

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FEB 10 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Streetscape featuring Insley House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Bethel

STATE:

Delaware

CODE

COUNTY:

10

Sussex

CODE

005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Madeline -E. Dunn

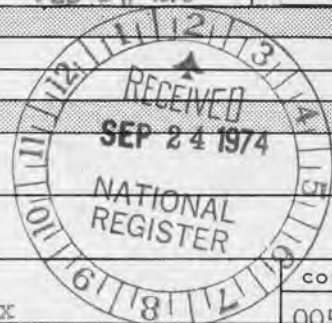
DATE OF PHOTO: August 1973

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Registrar's Office  
Hall of Records Dover, Delaware

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Streetscape of Main Street going eastward.  
Background shows Ship Carpenter's Houses, and interesting  
victorian trim, on veranda of Insley House.





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

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

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 10 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Moore House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

Main and Vine Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Bethel

STATE:

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY:

Sussex

CODE

005

**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT: Madeline -E. Dunn

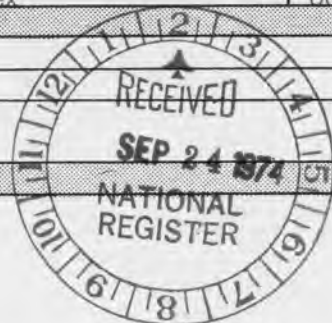
DATE OF PHOTO: August 1973

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Registrar's Office  
Hall of Records Dover, Del.

**4. IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Three-quarter view of Moore House .





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 Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER FEB 10 1975	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: William's House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Main Street and West

CITY OR TOWN:

Bethel

STATE:

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY:

Sussex

CODE

005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Madeline -E. Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO: August 1973

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Registrar's Office  
Hall of Records Dover, Delaware

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Facade view.





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	
Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 10 1975	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Ship Carpenters Houses			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Bethel			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Delaware	10	Sussex	005
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Madeline -E. Dunn			
DATE OF PHOTO: August 1973			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Registrar's Office Hall of Records Dover, Delaware			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
West View - Main Street			





Bethel Historic District (Ship Carpenter), Sussex County, Bethel, Delaware  
House  
Library of Congress

34703

Del

3-Beth

1-2

HAR

Reproduced from the collection of the Library of Congress

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DE 3



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	
Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 10 1975	

1. NAME

COMMON: Ship Carpenters House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Bethel

STATE:

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY:

Sussex

CODE

005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Madeline -E. Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO: August 1973

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Registrar's Office  
Hall of Records Dover, Delaware

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Parlor Interior



SEE INSTRUCTIONS



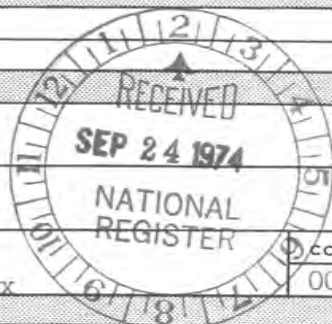
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER FEB 10 1973	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Streetscape			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: West Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Bethel			
STATE: Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: Sussex	CODE 005
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Madeline -E. Durn			
DATE OF PHOTO: August 1973			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Registrar's Office Hall of Records Dover, Delaware			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Streetscape illustrates one of the unique fence designs found within the district.			





DE 1

Bethel Historic District (Robins House), Sussex County, Bethel.

HABS. (Library of Congress)

Delaware

DE 7

7

7

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34703  
DC  
2-Beth  
2-1

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

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

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 72B 10 1975	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Bethel Historic District			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Lewisville, Lewis' wharf			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: North of Broad Creek, 4/10 mile west of Laurel			
CITY OR TOWN: Bethel			
STATE: Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: Sussex	CODE 005
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: United States Geological Survey, Laurel Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1956			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER FEB 10 1975	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Bethel Historic District  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Lewisville, Lewis' Wharf

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
North of Broad Creek, 4/10 mile west of Laurel

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bethel

STATE:  
Delaware

CODE  
10

COUNTY:  
Sussex

CODE  
005

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:  
United States Geological Survey Sharptown Quadrangle 1955

SCALE: 1:24,000

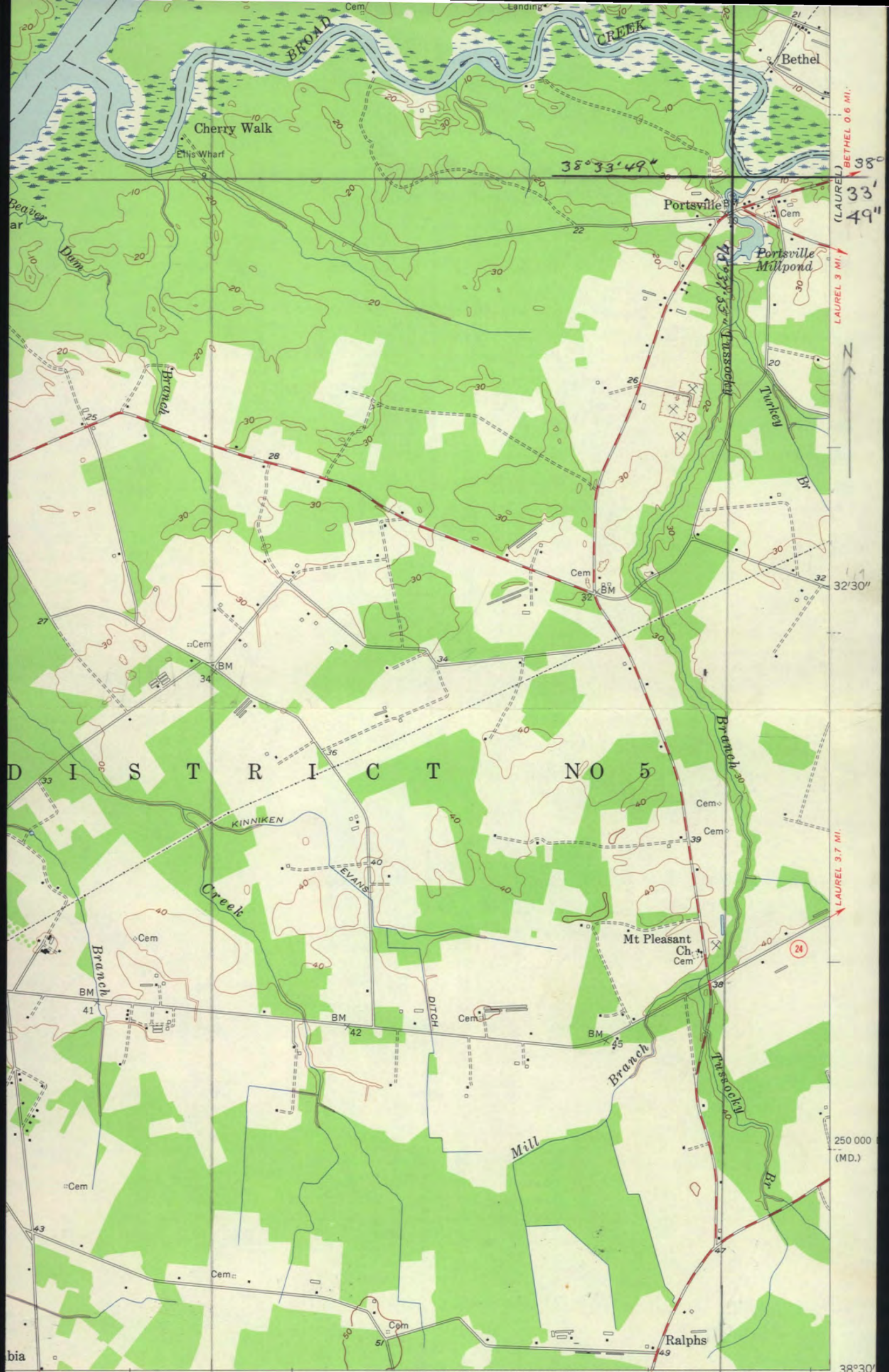
DATE: 1955

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

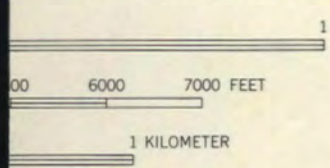
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.





BETHEL 0.6 MI.  
 38° 33' 49"  
 LAUREL 3 MI.  
 32' 30"  
 LAUREL 3.7 MI.  
 250 000 (MD.)  
 38° 30'

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1987-NS  
 MR 5125 1:190 000 FEET (MD.)  
 5.4 MI. TO U.S. 50 SALISBURY, MD. 12 MI.  
 5.2 MI. TO U.S. 50 SALISBURY, MD. 12 MI.  
 75° 37' 55"



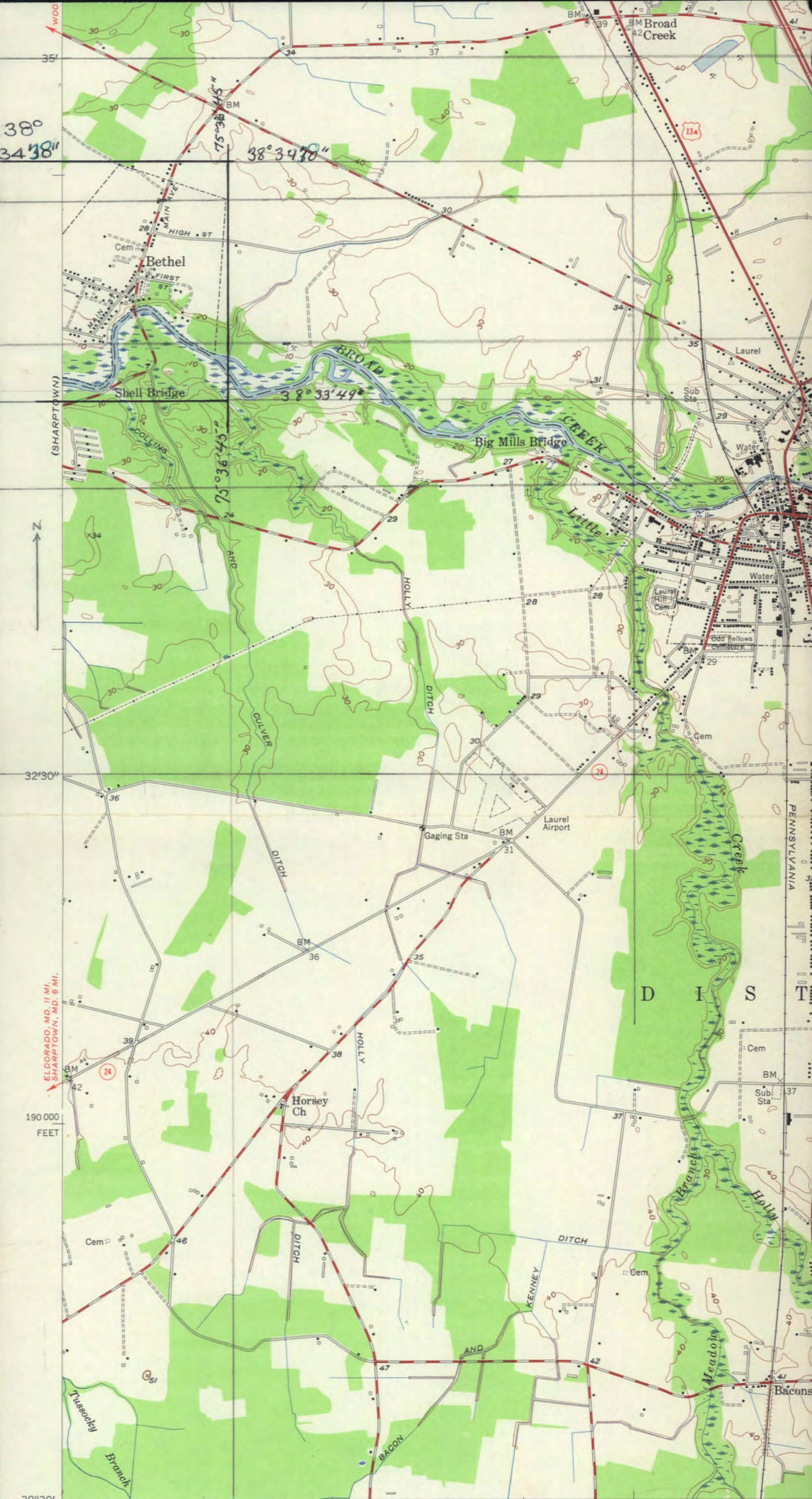
ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
 Heavy-duty ————  
 Medium-duty ————  
 Light-duty ————  
 Unimproved dirt - - - -  
 U. S. Route (red outline)  
 State Route (red circle)



SHARPTOWN, DEL.—MD.  
 SW/4 SEAFORD 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N 3830—W 7537.5/7.5

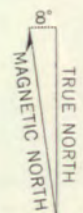
STANDARDS  
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
 AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1955

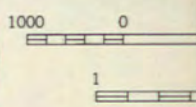


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and USC&GS  
 Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
 taken 1954. Topography by planetable surveys 1955  
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Delaware coordinate system

Laurel Quadrangle, Delaware 1956



APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 1955



THIS MAP  
 FOR SALE BY  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING



STATE OF DELAWARE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
Hall of Records  
Dover, Delaware 19901  
19 November 1974

DR. RONALD M. FINCH  
DIRECTOR

Mr. Charles A. Herrington  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240



Dear Mr. Herrington:

I return herewith the nomination for Bethel, with comments on the points raised in your communication of November 14.

#### 7. Description

There are no modern commercial structures in the town. One older store, in a frame building, is closed. The post office and the surviving store are in older buildings. The entire wharf area, where the shipyards were located, is included in the historic district. Because of dredging and construction of the new bridge, archaeological potential is doubtful. The bridge may be called an intrusion.

#### 8. Significance

I believe that the nomination adequately discusses the significance of Bethel as the home of the Chesapeake sailing rams, and as a major trading center for the area during the nineteenth century. Its architectural significance is apparent in the fact that the nineteenth-century dwellings have survived virtually intact. In the description, we discussed the ship carpenter houses and several others from Bethel's shipbuilding days.

#### 10. Geographical Data

You questioned the acreage. We used the acreage supplied by official sources, which is 55.

#### Photographic Coverage

The enclosed seven photographs include all the buildings discussed in the nomination, as well as their adjacent neighbors. I believe that every street in town is covered. Since Bethel is a dispersed community, it would be impossible to improve on this coverage without photographing every house. In your guidelines you ask for only a few general streetscapes

#### Map Coverage

Nothing in the district was omitted from the map.

Mr. Herrington

Page 2

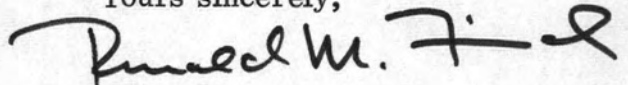
November 19, 1974

Other

There is no need for a hand-drawn map, since all the buildings in town appear on the USGS map.

I hope that these comments will help you to pass the nomination; we feel that Bethel is one of the most important historic districts in Delaware, since it is unique in many respects. The architecture of the two shipcarpenter houses is particularly well known among architectural historians.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald M. Finch", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ronald M. Finch

Historic Preservation Officer

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE     DELAWARE

Date Entered     FEB 10 1975

Name

Location

**Bethel Historic District**

**Bethel Vicinity  
Sussex County**

Also Notified

Hon. William V. Roth, Jr.  
Hon. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
Hon. Pierre S. DuPont, IV

Regional Director, North-Atlantic  
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Honorable Robert H. Reed  
Secretary of State of Delaware  
Acting Director, Division of  
Historic and Cultural Affairs  
Hall of Records  
Dover, Delaware 19901

PR     MMott/bsh     2/10/75

# FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

1. TYPE OF ACTION

PREAPPLICATION

APPLICATION

(Mark appropriate box)

NOTIFICATION OF INTENT (Opt)

REPORT OF FEDERAL ACTION

2. APPLICANT'S APPLICATION

Leave Blank

3. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER

a. NUMBER

b. DATE Year month day  
19 77 06 02

4. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE NUMBER

76061503

b. DATE Year month day  
ASSIGNED 1976 08 11

SECTION I - APPLICANT/RECIPIENT DATA

4. LEGAL APPLICANT/RECIPIENT

a. Applicant Name : State of DE., Department of State

b. Organization Unit : Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs

c. Street/P.O. Box : Hall of Records

d. City : Dover e. County : Kent

f. State : Delaware g. ZIP Code: 19901

h. Contact Person (Name & telephone No.) : Lawrence C. Henry (302) 678-5314

5. FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO.  
516-000-279

6. PROGRAM (From Federal Catalog)

a. NUMBER 1 5 • 9 0 4

b. TITLE  
Historic Preservation

7. TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT

Matching Grant-in-aid for Pleasants' property development project; stream bank stabilization. Letter of initiation; specifications.

Bethel Historic District; Pleasants Property Sussex County

Source of non-federal match: private funds of Mr. William V. Pleasants

8. TYPE OF APPLICANT/RECIPIENT

A-State H-Community Action Agency  
B-Interstate I-Higher Educational Institution  
C-Substate J-Indian Tribe  
D-District K-Other (Specify):  
E-City  
F-School District  
G-Special Purpose District

Enter appropriate letter  A

9. TYPE OF ASSISTANCE

A-Basic Grant D-Insurance  
B-Supplemental Grant E-Other  
C-Loan

Enter appropriate letter(s)  A  B

10. AREA OF PROJECT IMPACT (Names of cities, counties, States, etc.)

Bethel, Delaware

11. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITING

500

12. TYPE OF APPLICATION

A-New C-Revision E-Augmentation  
B-Renewal D-Continuation

Enter appropriate letter  A

13. PROPOSED FUNDING

a. FEDERAL	\$ 1500.00
b. APPLICANT	1500.00
c. STATE	.00
d. LOCAL	.00
e. OTHER	.00
f. TOTAL	\$ 3000.00

14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:

a. APPLICANT	One
b. PROJECT	One
16. PROJECT START DATE Year month day	19 see #34
17. PROJECT DURATION	36 Months
18. ESTIMATED DATE TO BE SUBMITTED TO FEDERAL AGENCY	Year month day 19 77 06 02

15. TYPE OF CHANGE (For 12c or 12e)

A-Increase Dollars F-Other (Specify):  
B-Decrease Dollars  
C-Increase Duration  
D-Decrease Duration  
E-Cancellation

Enter appropriate letter(s)

19. EXISTING FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER  
10-77-00066-00

20. FEDERAL AGENCY TO RECEIVE REQUEST (Name, City, State, ZIP code)  
National Park Service, O.A.H.P., Washington, D.C. 20240

21. REMARKS ADDED

Yes  No

SECTION II - CERTIFICATION

22. THE APPLICANT CERTIFIES THAT

a. To the best of my knowledge and belief, data in this preapplication/application are true and correct, the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant and the applicant will comply with the attached assurances if the assistance is approved.

b. If required by OMB Circular A-95 this application was submitted, pursuant to instructions therein, to appropriate clearinghouses and all responses are attached:

(1) Delaware State Clearinghouse

(2)

(3)

No response attached

23. CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE

a. TYPED NAME AND TITLE  
Lawrence C. Henry  
State Historic Preservation Officer

b. SIGNATURE  
*Lawrence C. Henry*

c. DATE SIGNED  
Year month day  
19 77 06 02

SECTION III - FEDERAL AGENCY ACTION

24. AGENCY NAME  
Department of the Interior

25. APPLICATION RECEIVED  
Year month day  
19 77 07 05

26. ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT  
National Park Service

27. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
Grants Administration Div.

28. FEDERAL APPLICATION IDENTIFICATION

29. ADDRESS  
18th and C Streets NW, Washington, D.C. 20240

30. FEDERAL GRANT IDENTIFICATION  
10-77-00066-00

31. ACTION TAKEN

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. AWARDED
<input type="checkbox"/> b. REJECTED
<input type="checkbox"/> c. RETURNED FOR AMENDMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> d. DEFERRED
<input type="checkbox"/> e. WITHDRAWN

32. FUNDING

a. FEDERAL	\$ 1500.00
b. APPLICANT	1500.00
c. STATE	.00
d. LOCAL	.00
e. OTHER	.00
f. TOTAL	\$ 3000.00

33. ACTION DATE Year month day  
19 77 08 05

34. STARTING DATE Year month day  
19 77 08 05

35. CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Name and telephone number)  
Stephen D. Newman  
202 523-5472

36. ENDING DATE Year month day  
19 80 08 04

37. REMARKS ADDED

Yes  No

38. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 ACTION

a. In taking above action, any comments received from clearinghouses were considered. If agency response is due under provisions of Part 1, OMB Circular A-95, it has been or is being made.

b. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 OFFICIAL (Name and telephone no.)  
same as #35

JUL 22 1977

10-77-00066-00

KP

5M

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Bethel Historic District (1)  
 2 OTHER NAMES: Lewisville; Lewis Wharf (1st sep.)  
 3 date of entry: 2-10-75  
 4 county code: 005

5 LOCATION street & number: 0.4 mi. W of Laurel  
 city / town: Bethel  
 vicinity of: DE  
 state: DE  
 county: Sussex  
 6 NPS REGION: Mid-Atlantic

7 OWNER:  PRIVATE  STATE  MUNICIPAL  COUNTY  MULTIPLE  FEDERAL (agency name)  
 public/private: HABS.  
 8 ADMINISTRATOR:

9 EXISTING SURVEYS:  HABS  HAER  NHL  
 10 FUNDED?  YES  NO  
 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 1st  
 12 SOURCE of NOMINATION:  STATE  FEDERAL  
 if state who prepared form?  
 13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?  YES NAME:  NO  
 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?  YES NAME:  NO  
 15 ACREAGE: 55  
 LOCAL  PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

16 CONDITION:  deteriorated  altered  original site  
 excellent  ruins  unaltered  moved  
 good  unexposed  reconstructed  unknown  
 fair  unexcavated  excavated  
 17 features:  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  
 NOT INTACT-0  
 UNKNOWN-4  UNKNOWN-5  
 NOT APPLICABLE-7  NOT APPLICABLE-8  
 NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS:  YES - Restricted  YES - Unrestricted  No Access  Unknown  
 19 ADAPTIVE USE:  YES  NO  
 20 SAVED?  YES  
 21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?  yes  no

22 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
 ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2  COMMERCE-6  
 ARCHEOLOGY - historic-1  COMMUNICATIONS-7  EXPLORATION-12  
 AGRICULTURE-3  CONSERVATION-8  HEALTH-27  
 ARCHITECTURE-4  ECONOMICS-9  INDUSTRY-13  
 ART-5  EDUCATION-10  INVENTION-14  
 ENGINEERING-11  LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15  POLITICS / GOVT.-21  
 ENTERTAINMENT-26  LAW-16  RECREATION-28  
 EXPLORATION-12  LITERATURE-17  RELIGION-22  
 MILITARY-18  SCIENCE-23  SETTLEMENT-29  
 MUSIC-19  SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24  URBAN PLANNING-31  
 PHILOSOPHY-20  TRANSPORTATION-25  OTHER (SPECIFY)  
 23 CLAIMS: explain  
 'first'   
 'oldest'   
 'only'

24 functions: WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: Commercial / Residential  
 CURRENTLY: ditto  
 25 dates of initial construction: 1840s - 1918  
 major alterations:  
 historic events:  
 26 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

28 architectural style(s): Greek revival / Italianate / Eastlake  
 27 architect:  
 29 master builder:  
 30 engineer:  
 31 landscape architect / garden designer:  
 32 interior decorator:  
 33 artist:  
 34 artisan:  
 35 builder / contractor:

36 NAMES give role & date  
 PERSONAL: John M.C. Moore - superintendent of Marine railway Co. - originated Chesapeake sailing ram.  
 EVENTS:  
 INSTITUTIONAL:

37 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP: Mixed-use village district of some 100 primarily frame, clapboarded, 1 1/2 - 2 1/2-story, gabled dwellings; notable are the Insley house with spindle work Eastlake porch, the Captain Thomas Moore House, and the two ship carpenter houses. Examples of Greek Revival, Italianate and Eastlake.  
 19th C shipbuilding & trading community; famous flat-bottomed Chesapeake Bay sailing ram invented and built here until 1918; retains 19th C. character.