

Bridgeville Historical Society

102 S. William Street, P. O. Box 306, Bridgeville, DE 19933

August 2014



General Store on Railroad Avenue

After the Delaware Railroad reached Bridgeville in 1856, commerce began shifting from the eastern end of Market Street to the area next to the depot on Railroad Avenue.

One such general store on the present site of Ralph and Paul Adams, Inc. (RAPA) has had many owners.

THAWLEY'S -190?-1919

One of the first owners, and perhaps the builder of that store, was John C. Thawley. His 1919 obituary states that he had been in the grocery business for ten years. The 1906-07 Delaware State Directory lists him as owner of a confectionery-cigar store in Bridgeville so it could have been for longer.



Thawley's store about 1910

B. P. Jones and Co. - Early 1920s

The next known owner of this store was Bradford P. Jones and a description is provided by "Old Timer," Koder Collison. "As one stepped off the veranda of the hotel and headed north along Railroad Avenue, he would come to an unusual store. It appeared to be a grocery, or general store, but was really more. It boasted a soda fountain and tobacco stand as well as a number of tables in the rear where one could get a sandwich or plate of baked beans. There had been previous owners, but in the early 'twenties,' its sign proclaimed "B. P. Jones, prop."

B. P. Jones and Co. in the early 20s.



Lewis & Anderson - Mid 1920s

There is an ad in the 1925 Bridgeville High School newspaper for Lewis and Anderson - Cigars - Tobacco - Groceries - Produce. More research is needed to learn the names of those owners. The photo below shows the store as it looked in the mid 1920s.



Photo courtesy of the Laurel Historical Society - Waller Collection

Charles Jackson - 1940s

Charles Jackson was the store's owner when Leroy Truitt took the photo below of a fire on April 23, 1943.



From the editor...

As BHS members sort through the papers and photographs in our collection, questions arise as to the subjects of those archives and the history behind each item.

Older members and Bridgeville residents are consulted and online research is done. Still, much more information is needed.

If you have any information or memories of this particular store and any others in the Bridgeville area that you can share with the Society, we would appreciate hearing from you

Bridgeville Historical Society

2014-15 Officers

President Howard E. Hardesty
1st V. President Alice D. Min
2nd V. President . . Phyllis A. Jones
Secretary Gerri L. Coble
Treasurer Sharon Hawk

Directors

Eleanor Bennett Charles Hawk
Marie Hitchens Byron Lewis
Joan Morton Bill Nennstiehl

Newsletter editor - Kay Sue Hardesty

Next Meeting

Wed, Sept. 10

St. Mary's Parish House - N. William St.

Covered-dish Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Our guest speaker, Kendal Jones, will share his postcard collection with a slide show presentation.

Christmas Party

Friday, December 12, 2014

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Heritage Shores Club House
Hot hors d'oeuvres - cash bar
\$15.00 per member



Presentations will be made to individuals for service to the Society

More information later

In Memoriam

Paul Byron Horsey (1922 - 2014)

Welcome New Members

Larry Curlett
James Money maker
Schuyler G. Anderson
Florence James
Robert Messick

Auction - Social

Our 36th annual Auction-Social is just a couple of weeks away. Eleanor Bennett along with Sally and Dickie Ray are organizing this major fund raiser being held on **Saturday, September 6**, at the Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Company's banquet hall on Market St.

The social hour starts at **6:00 p.m.** with hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, and light beverages, followed by the auction at **7:00 p.m.** Auctioneer Frank McCraghan is ready to auction many nice items to the highest bidders.

The proceeds from this event help to maintain our museum, park, and collection of historic items. Tickets are **\$20** each which includes a bid card. We need your continued support, so mail in those reservations ASAP.



School desk, needlepoint items by Charlotte Cannon, paintings, etc.

If you need more information or have an auction item to be picked up, please call (302)841-1550 or (302) 337-8595.

Museum & Park Matters



(L-R) Byron C. Lewis, Charlie Towers, and Pres. Hardesty install new sign on May 6.

A new sign has been placed in Cahall Park to list the "Rules and Regulations" and hours that the park will be open. The sign should serve as a reminder for all who visit to respect the park and neighbors.

Summer Social & Sign Re-dedication at Sudler House

The Society had its second summer social on May 18, at the historic Sudler House on North Main Street. The event was hosted by Sylvia and Richard Calhoun with forty members and guests in attendance.



The refreshments were delicious and the weather was delightful. Guests were able to tour the house and all the surrounding out-buildings that make up the historic complex.



(L-R) Larry and Ruth Skala, Ann Sieger, and Phyllis and Wayne Sterling

Entertainment was provided by Emma Scott playing her violin, accompanied by her brother, Gray Scott, on the classical guitar.



Our sincere thanks to the Calhouns for hosting this event and providing the refreshments for this summer gathering for the Society's members.



A ceremony to re-dedicate the historic marker for Sudler House was held during the afternoon festivities.

Kate Fair, the Historical Markers Coordinator at the Delaware Public Archives, explained the reasons for the new historic marker.

The original 1976 marker had deteriorated and many letters were missing. Historian John Williamson had discovered an incorrect name in the original text, so a new marker was in order. The corrected text was done by Mr. Williamson and Thurman W. Adams.

The new one is made of cast aluminum and should last much longer. Following OSHA guidelines, the marker had to be at least seven feet above ground level and mounted on a crashworthy post that would "break away" should it be hit.

The complete text is on the back page.

SUDLER HOUSE

Attawattoquin

A patent for 1200 acres called Attawattoquin, upon which the house and outbuildings stand, was granted in 1684 by Charles Calvert, 3rd Baron Baltimore, 2nd Proprietor and 6th and 9th Proprietary Governor of Maryland, to Christopher Nutter, a government agent and Native American interpreter from Maryland. Attawattoquin is an Algonquin Indian word meaning "Village in the clearing of the woods [trees] by the river." A log cabin was the first dwelling erected on the property and was situated in the front yard of the present-day house. As the oldest known domestic structure in Bridgeville, the earliest portion of the house was standing by 1730, along with a springhouse, icehouse, barns and stables. When the Mason-Dixon Line survey was completed in 1767, a new patent for Attawattoquin was granted by William Penn's sons, as Proprietors of the Province of Pennsylvania and the Lower Counties (Delaware). The property was transferred to John Jessop, a descendant of Nutter's. Jessop, along with Freeborn Garrettson, was commissioned as a circuit rider by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, and Francis Asbury, the first Bishop of the Methodist-Episcopal Church in North America, to spread the Methodist-Episcopal Gospel in Canada. Together with Daniel Baker and William Morgan, Jessop and Garrettson became the foremost American circuit riders of the 18th century. Before leaving for Canada, Jessop sold the property to Dr. John Carey, Bridgeville's first physician who, in 1833, sold the property to its namesake Dr. John Ralston Sudler (1797-1871). In 1974, Sudler House was named to the National Register of Historic Places and in 1976, was entered into the Historic American Building Survey Registry as part of a special Bicentennial project honoring the original thirteen states.

Delaware Public Archives – 2014

SC-71



Bridgeville Historical Society

P. O. Box 306

Bridgeville, DE 19933

Dates to Remember

Sept. 6 - Auction-Social

Bridgeville Vol. Fire Hall

Social at 6:00 p.m. Auction 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 7 - Museum Open

Sun. - 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Sept. 10 - BHS meeting

Kendal Jones, speaker

Covered-dish 6:00 p.m.

Oct. 5 - Museum Open

Sun.-12:00-3:00 p.m.

Oct. 11 - Apple Scrapple Festival

Sat. Museum open 9-3 p.m.

Nov. 2 - Museum Open

Sun. - 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

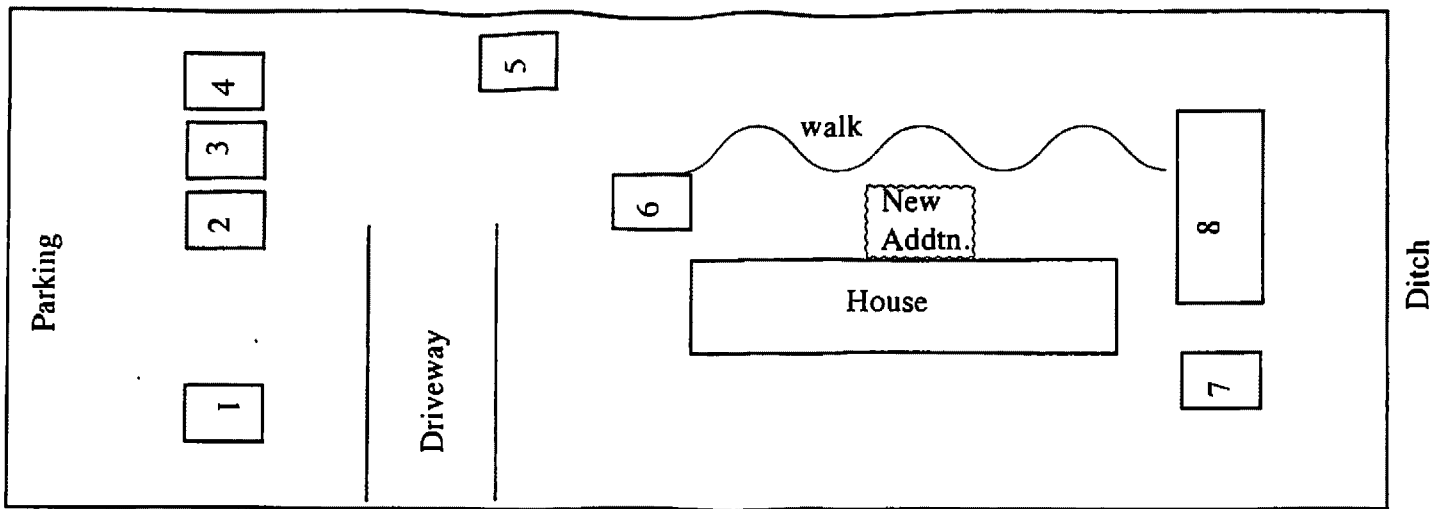
Nov. 12 - BHS Meeting

Dec. 6 - "Christmas in Bridgeville"

Sat. 9:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Dec. 12 - Christmas Social-

Heritage Shores -6-9 p.m.



The Sudler Property

North Main Street
Bridgeville, Delaware

1. General Store - believed to have been constructed on the Lynch property in Roxana prior to the Civil War. Barry Lynch's great grandfather- a union veteran - opened it to serve the neighborhood. A gift from Barry Lynch, Diana Huntington, Norman Lynch and Shirley Collins.

2. & 3. Cedar log corncribs moved from Richard Calhoun's grandfather's farm near Indian River. The Asher Lingo farm was heired by Richard, his sister, Frances, and brother, Frank.

4. Privy - formerly used as a "Milk House" on the Lynch Farm at Roxana. Since we already had a spring house which served the same purpose, (storage of perishable foods) we decided it would make an elegant outhouse. Close in age to the Store building. Gift of the Lynch Family.

5. Smoke House - A gift of the Kenneth McDowell Family from this area. Originally used to store and cure meats.

6. Spring House (Milk House) - The foundation was all that remained, but we rebuilt it based on other historic buildings. The original trough allowed cool water from the adjacent well to circulate around the eggs, milk and other foods to keep them cool and safe to eat.

7. The Ice House - This is original to the site. We reroofed it and made minor repairs. It is built into the ground 10 feet deep and was used to store ice blocks cut from the nearby tributary of the Nanticoke (i.e. a ditch).

8. The Sweet Potato House - Sweet potatoes cannot be stored in a root cellar because they spoil if frozen. Therefore, a heated room or house was required to keep them edible. This one was large with 2 chimneys and stoves at each end and bins were constructed to keep the potatoes clearly designated by the grower/owner. Eight different families in the Cokesbury area used this one. It was located across from Cokesbury Church and was originally the Arthur Messick property. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hunsberger who purchased the property gave us this building.

9. The Sudler House - The earliest part is dated 1750. We have been told Lord Calvert's Ambassador to the local Indian tribes from the Delaware River to the Chesapeake Bay may have been the owner of what was a very nice house for the time. During restoration we discovered the larger part was moved in reportedly between 1820 and 1840. The corner fireplace in the original part is unique in Western Sussex County. We added a second story addition to accommodate a modern kitchen, powder room, master suite (on the first floor) and additional bedroom and bath upstairs.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DR. JOHN R. SUDLER HOUSE

HABS No. DE-184

HABS
DEL,
3-BRINI,
1-

Location: East side of North Main Street (U.S. Route 13A), just north of Bridgeville Branch, Bridgeville, Sussex County, Delaware.

Latitude 38° 44'50" Longitude 75° 35'58"

Present Owner/
Occupant: Thurman W. Adams

Present Use: Residence

Significance: The Sudler House, the oldest known house in Bridgeville, bears the name of Dr. John R. Sudler, a successful physician and farmer, who purchased the property in 1833. The original three-bay, hall-and-parlor section of this shingled house was constructed about 1750. Its floor plan, featuring an exterior end chimney and an interior corner chimney, is very unusual in North West Fork Hundred. The house was enlarged during the Federal period to its present six-bay facade. Its fine interior decorative features include a delicately carved wooden swag cornice in a second-story bedroom and a panelled staircase. The only known brick ice house in the hundred is located on the property.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Mid-eighteenth century. Documentation has shown that the house was standing by 1776, when John Jessop had his land surveyed.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Sussex County.

1776: July 2, 1776 in Survey Book J2 #21, page 212. In accordance with a Proprietors warrant, dated February 23, 1776, a 50-acre plot of land was surveyed by Rhoads Shankland. This survey mentions John Jessop's dwelling house as being in a plot of his land known as Jessop's Meadow.

After the death of John Jessop, the property came into the ownership of his son William Jessop, a preacher.

1793: Bond of Conveyance, December 5, 1793 in Deed Book A-B #25, pages 259-260.

William Jessop
to
Daniel & Trusten L. Polk

William Jessop was bound to Daniel and Trusten L. Polk for 1,000 on condition that he convey a part of the Attowattocoquin tract called Jessop's Place. The property contained 400 acres.

1808: Deed October 8, 1808, recorded on the same date in Deed Book A-E #28, pages 82-85.

William Jessop's Administrator
to
Trusten L. Polk's & Daniel Polk's Heirs

This deed mentions the bond from the year 1793 and says that William Jessop died intestate before he conveyed the lands to Daniel and Trusten Polk. Thus all his property came under the control of his administrator, William Lowber. Trusten Polk then died intestate in 1796 leaving his widow and five children to survive him. Daniel Polk died in 1797 intestate leaving his five children to survive him. William Lowber in 1806 petitioned the Court of Common Pleas asking permission to convey the land in accordance with the Bond of Conveyance and an Act of Assembly. This was granted on April 23, 1806, and William sold the property for \$1 to the Polk heirs. One part went to Daniel Polk, son of Daniel. The other part went to the five children of Trusten Polk subject to right of dower of his widow as tenants in common. One of the children was Sirah Polk who married Doctor John Carey.

1833: Deed April 11, 1833 recorded on the same date in Deed Book 43, pages 219-221.

William N. Polk & Wesley Smith & Others
to
John R. Sudler

298-1/2 acres Price: \$2,784

In accordance with the will of Doctor John Carey, January 1832, his executors William N. Polk, Wesley Smith, and John Richards and his widow Jane Carey sold his property. Doctor John R. Sudler bought the property, which consisted of two lots, one of which included Doctor Carey's mansion farm. The house remained in the possession of Dr. Sudler and his descendants until 1971.

In the Delaware Archives, there is an insurance policy which describes the Sudler House in the year 1866. Dr. Sudler had taken out the policy with the Kent County Mutual Insurance Company and it describes his house as a two-story, frame dwelling and barn.

1971: Deed December 23, 1971, recorded in Book 678, page 801.

Lilian & Prospere S. Virden & Others
to
Thurman W. Adams

2.715 acres Price \$35,000

This deed conveys the dwelling house and other buildings on the east side of U.S. 13-A leading northward from Bridgeville.

4. Original plans and construction: As built in the mid-eighteenth century, the house was probably two rooms, one story. On the south end, there was an exterior chimney, and in the other room, a corner fireplace--a highly unusual feature.
5. Alterations and additions: Around 1800, the house was roughly tripled in size. The three-bay addition on the north was made, consisting of a stairhall and parlor, with an interior end chimney. This addition was two stories, and a second story was added to the original section of the house. The two rooms over the original portion have no fireplaces.

In the twentieth century, the rear wing replaced an earlier kitchen wing. Other alterations were probably the Palladian doorway and the south chimney, which appears to have been rebuilt.

B. Historic Events and Personages:

Dr. John R. Sudler, for whom the house was later named, acquired the house in 1833. He was born in 1797 in the town of Milford, Delaware, where his father was a practicing physician. Having received his medical training from the University of Pennsylvania, the younger Dr. Sudler established an extensive practice of medicine in Bridgeville, Delaware, which he maintained for fifty years. Like the previous owners of the property, he also engaged in agricultural pursuits and won recognition as a pioneer in the raising of peaches and strawberries. Besides his active career as a physician and

farmer, he also served a term in the state legislature. On April 3, 1870, at the age of 73, Dr. John R. Sudler died at his residence in Bridgeville.

Prepared by: James Stewart
Project Historian
Delaware Division of Historical
and Cultural Affairs
1975

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This eighteenth-century vernacular farmhouse has an unusual floor plan, with a corner chimney.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all Dimensions: Approximately 56'-3" (six-bay front) x 18'-6", two stories. The two-story rear wing measures approximately 18'-3" x 13'-0", and a one-story room on the southeast corner was a screened porch at the time of recording, but was enclosed after 1975.
2. Foundations: Brick, with concrete block under the north end.
3. Walls: Frame walls with wood shingles, weathered naturally.
4. Structural system, framing: Wood framing walls and second-floor roof rafters.
5. Porches: There is a covered porch on the east (rear) facade with a brick floor, gable roof, scalloped frieze, and two turned wood posts each side of the porch, one at the front and one at the rear. There is a wide wood board rail each side between the columns. The wood plank ceiling is arched and the gable end has horizontal planks. There is one brick step.

There is a gabled hood over a brick stoop on the north door of the rear wing, with scalloped frieze and shingled gable end.

There is a large brick stoop, with a rowlock edge course around the perimeter, at the main entrance on the west. It is uncovered.

There is a concrete block bulkhead with wood doors on the east side of the house, north of the rear porch, leading to a crawl space.

6. Chimneys: The exterior chimney on the south end has shoulders between the first-floor windows. It appears to have been rebuilt because the bricks are in stretcher bond. The interior chimney on the north end is exposed and stuccoed at the first-floor level, on the exterior. There is a brick chimney near the center of the house towards the rear and a projecting plastered chimney on the southeast at the gable of the rear wing.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The entrance near the center on the west facade is in the Palladian style, with four-light sidelights and a fanlight above the door only. The door has six panels. The two doors on the rear are also paneled.

b. Windows and shutters: The first-floor windows have nine-over-six-light single-hung sashes and the second-floor windows have six-over-six-light single-hung sashes. There are louvered shutters on the north and east windows, second floor, and east and south, first floor. The window surround and shutters are painted green.

8. Roof:

a. Shape: Gable roofs over the main house, rear wing, and one-story wing are covered with asphalt shingles. A hip-roof addition is on the rear of the wing and is also covered with asphalt shingles.

b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed cornices have metal gutters with downspouts. There is a simple rake board.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

a. First Floor: The main entrance leads to a stair hall. There is one room north of the stair hall and two rooms south. There are fireplaces in the far end walls and in the northeast corner of the middle room. East of the south room in an addition.

b. Second floor: The second-floor rooms are in the same location as the rooms on the first floor, except the stair hall is wider and the north room smaller. Only the north bedroom has a fireplace. There is a bathroom in the west part of the stair hall.

c. Attic: The unfinished attic has a wood floor.

2. Stairways: The main stairway is an open-well, open-string stair, with one landing. There is a decorative wood scroll trim on the string at each tread and wood paneling enclosing the area under the stairway. There is a very simple wood handrail and small square balusters.

The rear stair is open-well, closed-string, open-rise with simple wood handrail and one landing.

The enclosed stairway to the attic is a winder with vertical wood paneling enclosing a small closet underneath.

3. Floorings: There is varnished wide plank flooring on all floors. Linoleum covers the rear stair hall, first and second floors, and utility room. Asphalt tile covers the rear bath, second floor.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings are painted plaster. There is a chair rail in the center hall, first and second floors, with the wainscot panel below painted gold. In the parlor and dining room are simple cornice moldings. The center bedroom has a chair rail. The south bedroom has a small plaster garland cornice. The ceilings in the north and center bedrooms have exposed wood beams with cove moldings at the ceiling and frieze boards around the room. The beams have quirked edges. In the second-floor center hall and bathroom are exposed beams and wood ceilings.
5. Doorways and doors: Wooden doors with raised panels on both sides are in the parlor and south bedroom. Other doors have raised panels one side. There are some vertical plank doors on the second floor. All door openings are low and have wood surrounds. In the parlor and stair hall, surrounds have plinth blocks with an ogee curve. The dining room door trim has simple small plinth blocks. There is a wide paneled jamb between dining room and center hall.
6. Fireplaces: The fireplace in the parlor is brick with a rowlock arch opening. There is a large wood surround and mantel. The brick hearth is edged with a rowlock and sloped wood flooring, mitred at corners. Cupboards on each side of the fireplace have round-arched openings and paneled wood doors below.

The dining room fireplace is brick with a rowlock arch opening, brick hearth and heavy wood surround and mantel. Surround has pilaster effect on sides.

The fireplace in the kitchen is brick with a rowlock-arched opening, wood surround with pilaster effect on sides and wood mantel. The wide wood board around the brick hearth is mitred on the corners.

The simple plaster fireplace, painted slate gray, in the north bedroom has a brick hearth, wood surround and mantel.

7. Hardware: There are porcelain knobs, brass knobs and wrought thumb latches on doors. On the door to the dining room are wrought-iron strap hinges. The doorbell is a porcelain knob on the outside connected through a pulley to a bell mounted on the interior trim.
8. Mechanical Equipment:
 - a. Heating: Heating is hot water baseboard heat.
 - b. Plumbing: Modern plumbing fixtures except a roll rim bathtub with claw feet and a porcelain enamel pedestal lavatory in the front bathroom.
 - c. Electricity: A wall light is in each bedroom and a hanging chandelier is in the dining room, all reproductions. A hanging candle holder with glass chimney is in the center hall.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces west on a large site about 30 yards east of the street. Cultivated land surrounds the house on three sides. A few small houses are across the street. There is a flagpole to the southwest in the front yard. The house sits on the north edge of a small town on the business route to the city. A small creek is approximately 100 yards to the south of the house.
2. Landscape: Many large trees surround the large site. The grassy lawn slopes to the creek. A boxwood-lined gravel walk leads from the street to the main entrance. A gravel drive leads up from the street to the rear and forms a large circle. A gravel walk leads from the drive to the front entrance and a brick walk leads from the drive to the rear entrance. A gravel walk leads from the circle to the rear entrance. Large boxwood surround a brick terrace on the southeast of the house, approximately 50 feet from the house.
3. Outbuildings: There is a brick ice house approximately 25 yards to the south. It has a brick basketweave floor and a gable roof, which has been replaced. The earth is mounded up around the exterior walls, which are corbelled on the interior. There is a garage and storage shed northeast of the house. It has wood shingle siding, gable roof with asphalt shingles and double

hinged wood doors. The storage shed has two clerestory windows on a pent roof with a pent roof open shed on the south. Outbuildings are in good condition.

Prepared by: John P. White
Project Supervisor
Historic American Buildings Survey
August 1975

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Primary and Unpublished Sources:

Deed Books: Sussex County Court House, Georgetown, Delaware; Dorchester County Court House, Centerville, Maryland; Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Survey Books: Sussex County Court House.

Orphans Court Books: Sussex County Court House.

Assessment Books: Sussex County Court House.

Kent County Mutual Insurance Company records: Delaware Archives, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

B. Secondary Sources:

Beers, D. G. Atlas of the State of Delaware. Philadelphia: Pomeroy and Beers, 1868.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware 1609-1888. 2 vols. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards and Company, 1888.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, State of Delaware. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, the project was completed during the summer of 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey Field Office, Dover, Delaware by John P. White (Assistant Professor, Texas Tech University), Project Supervisor; James Stewart (University of Delaware), Sally Schwartz (Harvard University), Project Historian; Charles B. Tonetti (Syracuse University), Architect; Student Assistant Architects, Scott Barnard (University of Pennsylvania), Frederick K. Read (University of Notre Dame), and Mark T. Wellen (Texas Tech University). The written data were edited by Alison K. Hoagland, Historian, in the HABS office in January 1983.

ADDENDUM TO
DR. JOHN R. SUDLER HOUSE
North Main Street
Bridgeville
Sussex County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-184

HABS
DEL,
3-BRIVI,
1-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013

Dr. John R. Sudler House
North Main Street
Bridgeville
Sussex County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-184

HABS
DEL,
3-BRVI,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

MEASURED DRAWINGS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

PH0080962

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: DELAWARE
 COUNTY: Sussex
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: DEC 31 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Sudler House
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

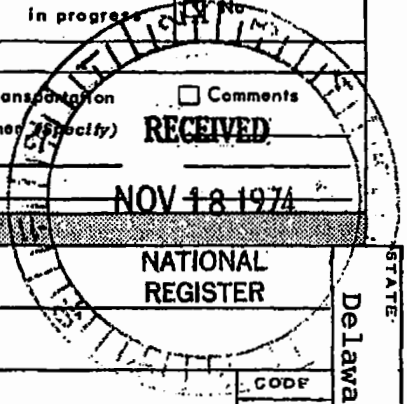
STREET AND NUMBER: North Main Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Bridgeville CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
 STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: Sussex CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted

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 type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input 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: Thurman W. Adams
 STREET AND NUMBER: North Main Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Bridgeville 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:
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

STATE: Delaware
 COUNTY: Sussex
 ENTRY NUMBER: DEC 31 1974
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 DATE:

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sudler House is a six-bay, two-story cypress-shingle, sheathed dwelling house situated on the northern bank of Bridge Branch, in North West Fork Hundred. The original three-bay section, erected about 1750, was enlarged during the Federal period.

In keeping with the local building tradition, the house is only one room deep but, unlike any other residence in the immediate area. it has an unusual floor plan.

The plan of this particular house is unique for the Hundred, because it originally included one exterior end chimney and an interior corner chimney. The Federal period addition, which is composed of a stairhall and parlor, has an interior center end chimney with an exposed exterior base.

The exterior of this dwelling features a simple box cornice with molded trim and louvered blinds. An elliptical fanlight, flanked by sidelights, marks the Federal period entrance. Abutting the structure at the rear is a small, modern ell.

The simple elegance of the Sudler House is suggested by its fine interior decorative features. The unusual curved plinth blocks at the base of the door jambs are only found occasionally in Sussex's finest period houses.

The gracefully designed staircase with square balusters has an unusual double carved bracket trim and panelled base, rarely found in North West Fork Hundred.

Unique for the area, however, is the delicately carved wooden swag cornice which adorns the walls of a second story bedroom.

The original pine mantels, which were once marbelized, have flat molded trim, panelled friezes and pilasters.

The remains of an ice house, near the bank of Bridge Branch, offers architectural evidence for one of the original out-buildings. The exceptionally large structure is the only brick ice house which has been located in the Hundred.

As a significant example of Sussex County's vernacular architecture, the Sudler House incorporates architectural influences from both the Maryland and Virginia provinces.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

c. 1750

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Local history</u> |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sudler House is architecturally significant, for it is the only frame dwelling in North West Fork Hundred known to contain a corner end chimney. Its conservative design, proportions and elegant interior enable the Sudler House to be considered an excellent example of local vernacular architecture.

It is also the oldest known domestic structure in the town of Bridgeville, which was recognized as the "heart of the greatest fruit and berry growing section of the Peninsula" during the nineteenth-century.

The original hall and parlor section of the Sudler House was erected about 1750 on a tract of land called Attowattocoquin, which was originally part of Dorchester County, Maryland. This tract was part of ten thousand acres granted to Cacilius Stevens, of London, on September 22, 1658. In 1684, Cacilius' son, Colonel William Stevens, assigned 1200 acres of the original Attowattocoquin tract to Christopher Nutter of Somerset County, Maryland. Eventually, the Nutter family became one of the largest land holding families in the region.

By 1776, the boundary line between the province of Maryland and the three lower counties on the Delaware had been firmly established. John Jessop, a planter of the county, petitioned Governor John Penn for a resurvey of his part of the Attowattocoquin tract at the head of the Nanticoke River on March 6, 1776. He received a grant of confirmation for the tract, together with the vacant land contiguous thereto, for which he agreed to pay the rate of five pound sterling for every hundred acres with interest and the yearly quit rent of one penny sterling per acre. The resurvey was returned to the secretary's office on July 2, 1776. It began at a part of the Attowattocoquin tract known as Jessop's Meadow, on the north side of Bridge Branch and included Jessop's dwelling house (now known as the Sudler House). By 1779, John Jessop and his wife Eliner (Brown) had accumulated more than six hundred acres of land in North West Fork Hundred and, by 1780, had become one of the principal wheat growers of the area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES M-12, p. 71, 184, 185, 318

Sussex County Deeds - P. #15, pg. 210; A-B #25, pg. 259; Survey Book A, pg. 311; Warrant and Survey Book B #53; #152, pg. 107; #626 pg. 713; #629, pg. 161; #678, pg. 801.

Patent Book - T #19, pg. 140
 Sussex County Chancery Court - R #7
 Orphans Court (Uncatalogued) September 5, 1787; I-1, pg. 357.
 Sussex County Wills, N-13, pg. 160; N-32, pg. 355; N-44, pg. 417; N-55, pg. 475.
 Kent Co. Mutual Insurance Company Papers - #1974, dated 1866.

Dorchester County Deed Book #27, pg. 161, #2, pg. 56.

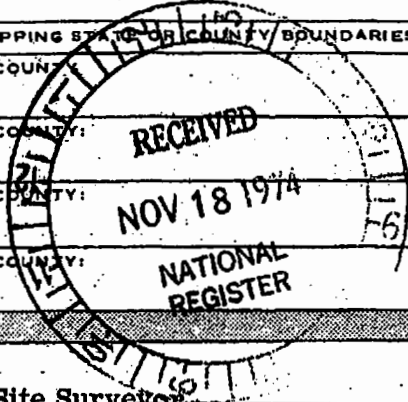
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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°	44'	50"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	75°	35'	58"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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 UTM USE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Madeline-Elizabeth Dunn, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION: Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: October 30, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Date: 12/31/74

Title: Historic Preservation Officer ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11/13/74 Date: 12.31.74

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

DEC 31 1974

(Number all entries)

(Significance: page 2)

Dr. John R. Sudler, for whom the house was later named, acquired the house and property in 1833. He was born in 1797 in the town of Milford, where his father was a practicing physician. Having received his medical training from the University of Pennsylvania, John R. took up residence in Bridgeville. Here he established an extensive practice of medicine, which he maintained for fifty years. Like the previous owners of the property, Dr. Sudler also engaged in agricultural pursuits and won recognition as a pioneer in the raising of peaches and strawberries. Besides his active career as a physician and farmer, he also served a one-year term in the state legislature. On April 3, 1870, at the age of 73, Dr. John R. Sudler died at his residence in Bridgeville. From 1833 until 1971, a period of 138 years, Dr. John R. Sudler and his descendants continued to own and maintain the Sudler House as a private dwelling.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

(HICKMAN)

75°37'30"
38°45'

SCOTTS CORNER 3.4 MI

FARRINGTON 3.7 MI
GREENWOOD 4 MI

36'

38°44'50"

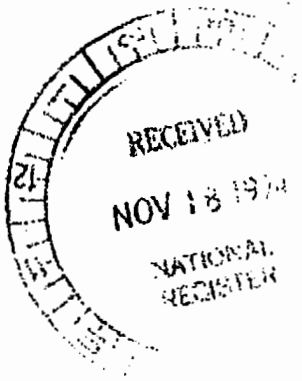
SUDLER
HOUSE

Bridgville

Bridgville
(BM 47)

40' Branch

SEAFORD EAST
1955 U.S.G.S
7.5 MIN. SERIES

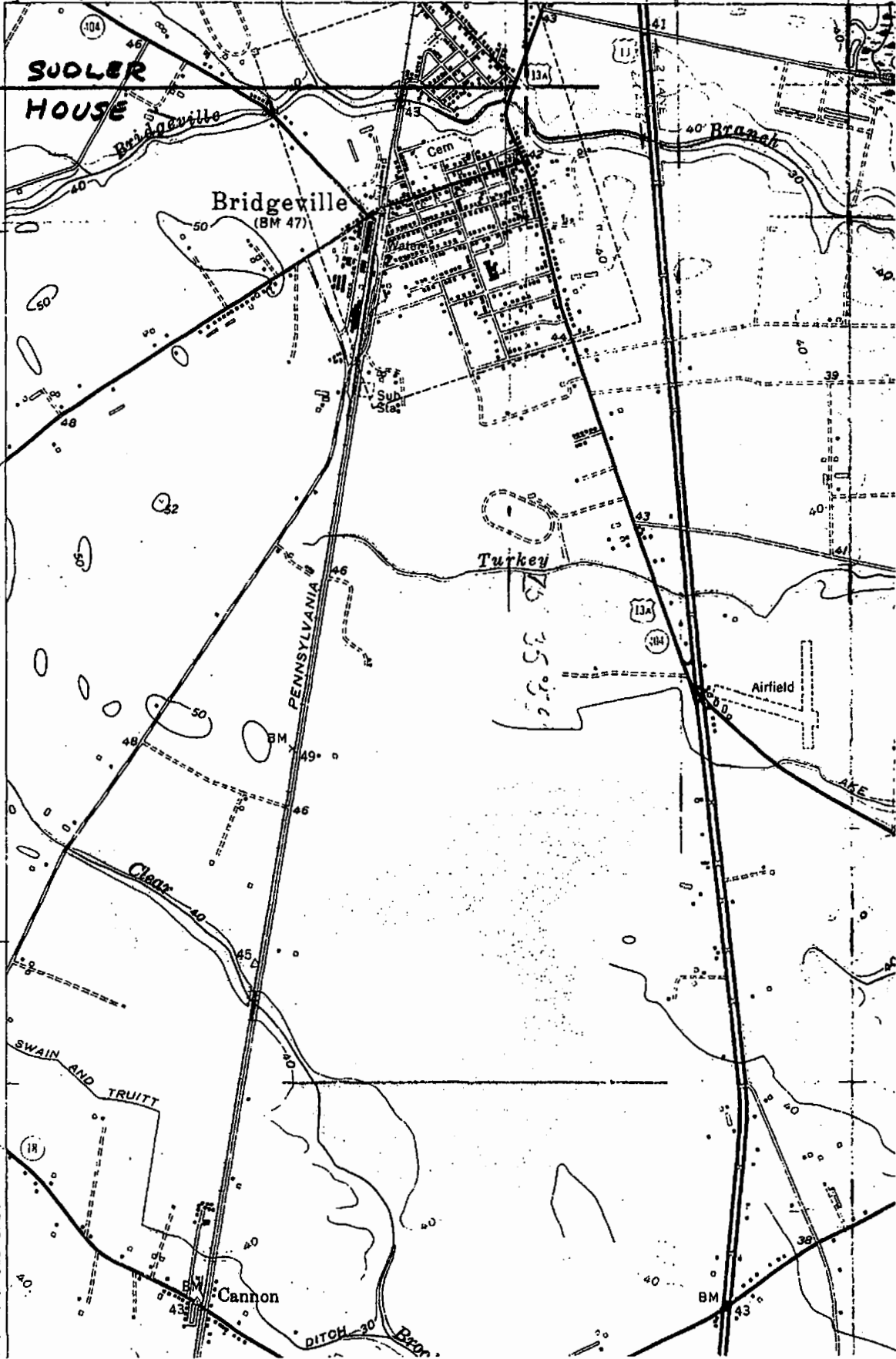


42'30"

SWAIN AND TRUITT

Cannon

DITCH 30'



75°35'58"

TURKEY
75°35'58"

Airfield

LAKE

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Delaware	
COUNTY	
Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries) Major Bibliographical References 2

DEC 9 1974

Sussex County Warrants and Survey
Book C - page 174

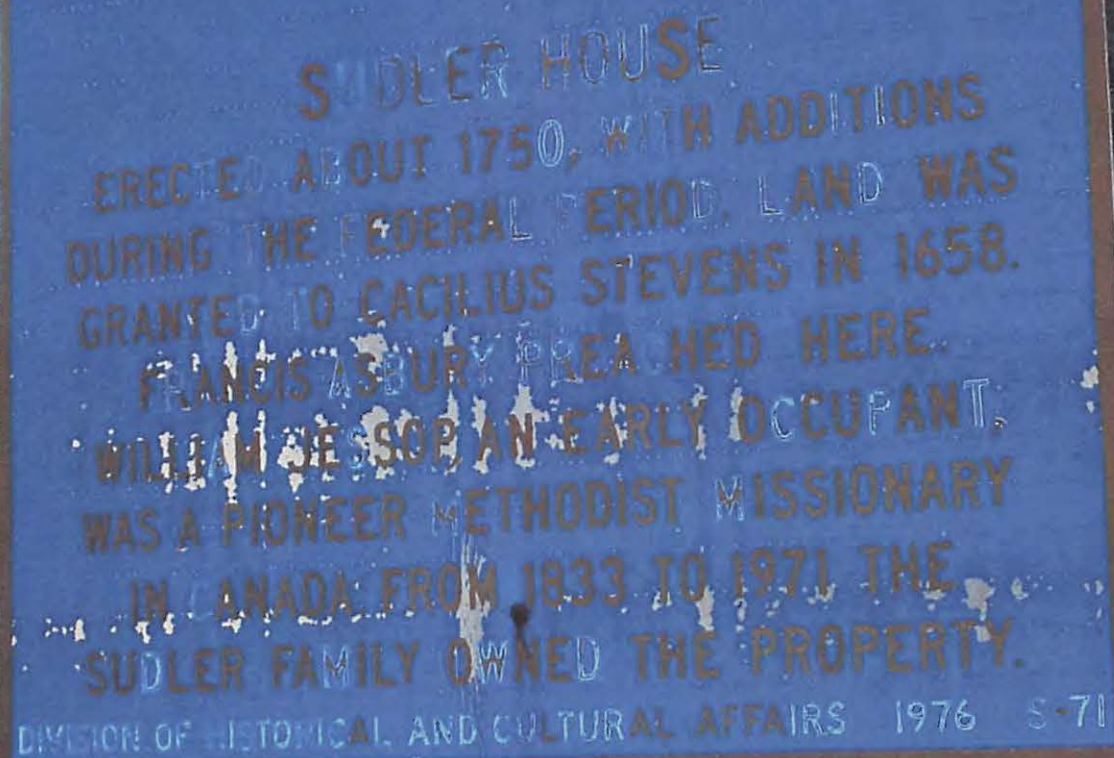
Sussex County Road Book - 1855

Sussex County Chancery Court - R #26

Beers Atlas - 1868

Kent County Mutual Insurance Company
Policy number - 1298



A blue historical marker with a decorative top and a small diamond-shaped plaque at the very top. The text is in white, uppercase letters. The marker is mounted on two wooden posts. In the background, there is a two-story house with a porch and several trees.

SUDLER HOUSE
ERECTED ABOUT 1750, WITH ADDITIONS
DURING THE FEDERAL PERIOD. LAND WAS
GRANTED TO CACILIUS STEVENS IN 1658.
FRANCIS ASBURY PREACHED HERE.
WILLIAM WESSOP, AN EARLY OCCUPANT,
WAS A PIONEER METHODIST MISSIONARY
IN CANADA FROM 1833 TO 1871. THE
SUDLER FAMILY OWNED THE PROPERTY.
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS 1976 S-71



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
	DEC 31 1974

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S

1. NAME

COMMON: Sudler House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Bridgeville

STATE: Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: Sussex	CODE 005
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Madeline -E. Dunn

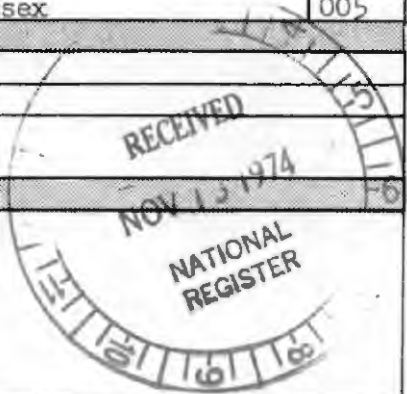
DATE OF PHOTO: August 1973

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

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Three-quarter view of facade.

1087





**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
DEC 31 1974	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Sudler House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Bridgeville

STATE:

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY:

Sussex

CODE

005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Madeline -E. Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO: August 1973

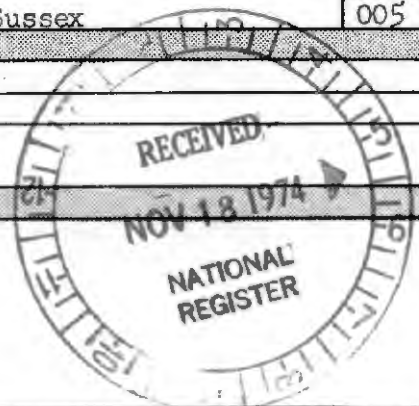
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Registrar's Office
Hall of Records - Dover, Delaware

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Three-quarter view of rear facade.

2087





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	
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	DEC 31 1974

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1. NAME

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CITY OR TOWN:

Bridgeville

STATE:

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY:

Sussex

CODE

005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Madeline -E. Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO: August 1973

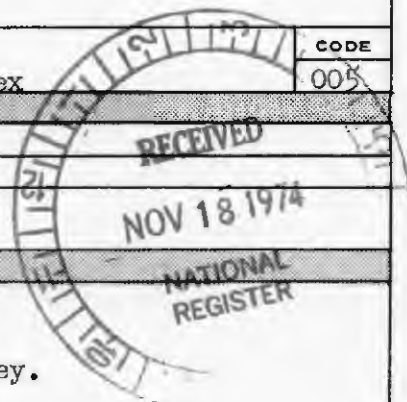
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Registrar's Office
Hall of Records - Dover, Delaware.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exposed exterior base of center end chimney.

#397





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

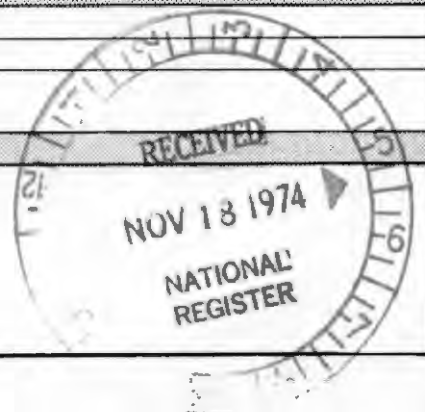
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER DEC 31 1974	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Sudler House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: North Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Bridgeville			
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. Interior corner chimney.			

407





**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
DEC 31 1974	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Sudler House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Bridgeville

STATE:

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY:

Sussex

CODE

005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Madeline -E. Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO: August 1973

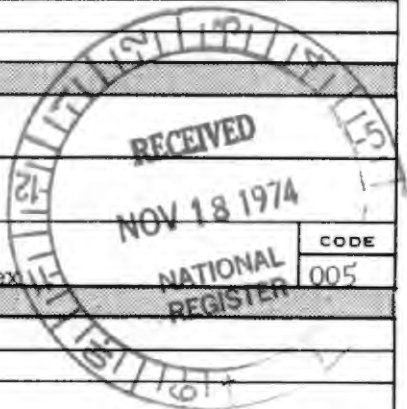
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Registrar's Office
Hall of Records - Dover, Delaware

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

The original pine parlor mantel with flat molded trim,
panelled friezes and pilasters.

#587





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
	DEC 31 1974

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1. NAME

COMMON: Sudler House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

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CITY OR TOWN:
Bridgeville

STATE: Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: Sussex	CODE 005
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

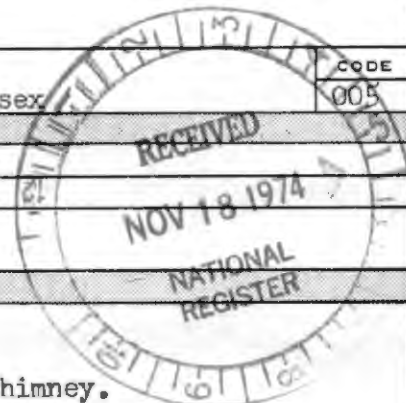
PHOTO CREDIT: Madeline - E. Dunn
DATE OF PHOTO: August 1973
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Registrar's Office
Hall of Records - Dover, Delaware

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

South gable end with exterior end chimney.

607





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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STATE Delaware	
COUNTY	
Sussex	
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CITY OR TOWN:
Bridgeville

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.

Three-quarter facade view showing Federal period entrance.

#2077

