

PH00018559

**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
	JUN 4 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Sussex County Court House and The Circle

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
The Circle

CITY OR TOWN:
Georgetown

STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: Sussex	CODE 005
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Sussex County Council

STREET AND NUMBER:
Sussex County Court House

CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Sussex County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
The Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

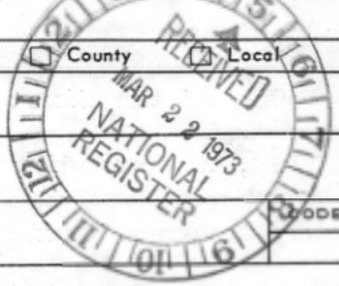
TITLE OF SURVEY:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

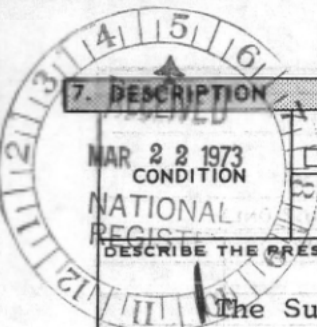
STATE:
COUNTY:
EN



None	
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:



FOR NPS USE ONLY	
COUNTRY NUMBER	DATE



7. DESCRIPTION

(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)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sussex County Court House is a two-story brick structure with a brick tower over the entrance hall. Alterations in 1914 and 1970 have considerably embellished the original design.

When William Strickland completed the original structure in 1840, it featured a squat entrance tower surmounted by an undersized cupola. Strickland had predicted in 1837 that the building would be unattractive without some decoration, but the building committee insisted upon economy. Some of the design's deficiencies were corrected in 1914, when the tower was enlarged and columns were added to the front, in keeping with Strickland's original proposal. The 1970 renovations gave the building a decidedly more Georgian appearance than the architect had intended, but are nonetheless consistent with the general lines of the structure.

The Circle, or town square, on which the courthouse is situated, is an example of baroque town planning. Georgetown was laid out in 1791 and 1792 in the form of a circle, with streets radiating outward from a public green. Around the circular green were to be built the courthouse, public buildings, taverns, and other structures necessary for a county seat. This plan was followed remarkably well as the town developed along the radiating streets. The circular green has been preserved, even though modern traffic is forced to drive inconveniently around

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

its perimeter.

One of the first buildings on the circle was the frame courthouse of 1793, now standing on a side street. Other early buildings included banks, taverns, offices and private residences around the edge of the green.

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

(Continuation Sheet)

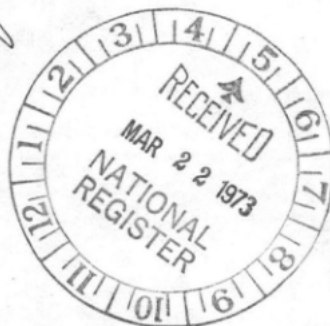
STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 4	1973

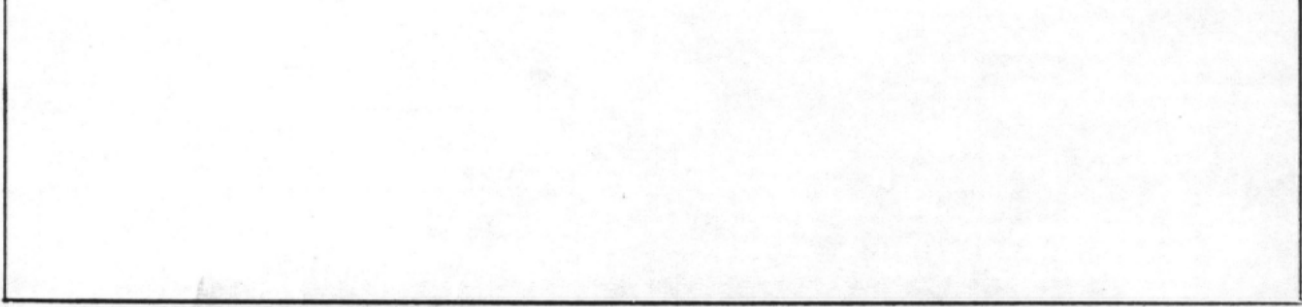
(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)---

Strickland's courthouse of 1837-1840 faces the circle on the original site of the 1793 building. Among the original features that still can be seen in the facade are the Flemish-bond brickwork, the main entrance door with sidelights but no transom; the three-part window with its iron balcony for the court crier, and the stub of Strickland's original tower, now incorporated in the modern tower.

Georgian embellishments, added in the present century, include an elaborate cupola, with balustrades and brick pilasters, a pedimented portico with two-story fluted columns, and a very large swinging lantern over the main doorway.





SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input 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) 1837-1840

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" 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 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Even though the architect was dissatisfied with its drab red-brick exterior, the Sussex County Court House is an important specimen of the designs created by William Strickland, one of America's first professionally-trained native architects. In 1837, Strickland was engaged by the Sussex County Levy Court to design a new courthouse, for which he was paid \$60.

Strickland probably accepted such a small fee because of the business setbacks he had suffered, and because he was already in Sussex County, supervising the construction of a breakwater at Lewes.

The circle on which the courthouse stands is a well-preserved example of baroque town planning; roads from various parts of the county converge here in an orderly, radiating pattern. The town limits likewise describe a circle.





[Faint, illegible text and markings, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eberlein, Harold Donaldson, and Hubbard, Cortlandt van Dyke. Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware. Dover: Public Archives Commission, 1963.

Gilchrist, Agnes Addison. William Strickland / Architect and Engineer 1788-1854. New York: DaCapo Press, 1969.

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	° ' "	° ' "		39° 41' 24"	75° 23' 07"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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

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



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Edward F. Heite, Historic Registrar

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: 10/13/72

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:

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

Robert Van Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

National State Local

Name E. Berkeley Tompkins
Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins

Title Director, Div. of Historical
and Cultural Affairs

Date 3-12-73

Date 6/4/73

ATTEST:
A. Bradford
Acting keeper of The National Register

Date 5/30/73

PROPERTY *Sussex County Court House and* STATE *Del.*

WORKING NUMBER *the Parcel 3.22.73.2586*

Sussex
73009534

7/20/73

TECH REVIEW
Photos _____
Maps _____

CONTROL REVIEW *later in the record*

CM
4-24
73

HISTORIAN *No political significance is given. 5-22-73*
I would also be inclined to
ask for more details on alterations
Return to [unclear] shall

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
EH
5/16/73

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

accept
cap
5-24-73

BRANCH CHIEF

OK
5/29/73

KEEPER

OK
5/30/73

National Register write-up _____

Federal Register entry 8-7-73

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered JUN 4 1973





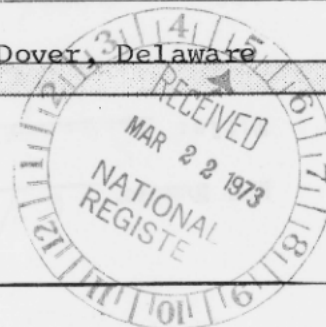
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUN 4 1973	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: <u>Sussex County Court House</u>			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>The Circle</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Georgetown</u>			
STATE: <u>Delaware</u>	CODE <u>10</u>	COUNTY: <u>Sussex</u>	CODE <u>005</u>
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: <u>Edward F. Heite</u>			
DATE OF PHOTO: <u>August 1972</u>			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: <u>Historic Registrar's Office, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware</u>			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. <u>West facade, from the Circle.</u>			





Photograph of the entrance to the building at the corner of the street and the building at the corner of the street.



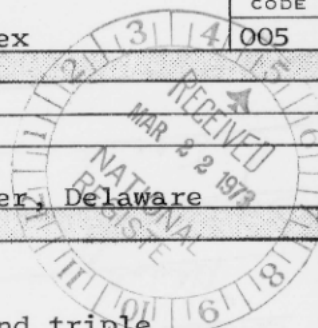
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUN 4 1973	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Sussex County Court House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: The Circle			
CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown			
STATE: Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: Sussex	CODE 005
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Edward F. Heite			
DATE OF PHOTO: August 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Registrar's Office, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Entrance, showing Strickland's original doorway and triple window.			



**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	DATE
	JUN 4 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: <u>Sussex County Court House</u>			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>The Circle</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Georgetown</u>			
STATE: <u>Delaware</u>	CODE <u>10</u>	COUNTY: <u>Sussex</u>	CODE <u>005</u>
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: <u>USGS Map, Georgetown Quadrangle, 7.5' series</u>			
SCALE: <u>1:24000</u>			
DATE: <u>1954</u>			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



GEORGETOWN QUADRANGLE
DELAWARE—SUSSEX CO. 1954
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 MILLSBORO 15' QUADRANGLE

(MILTON)

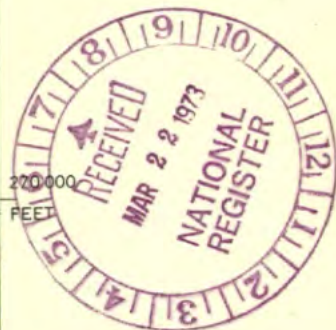
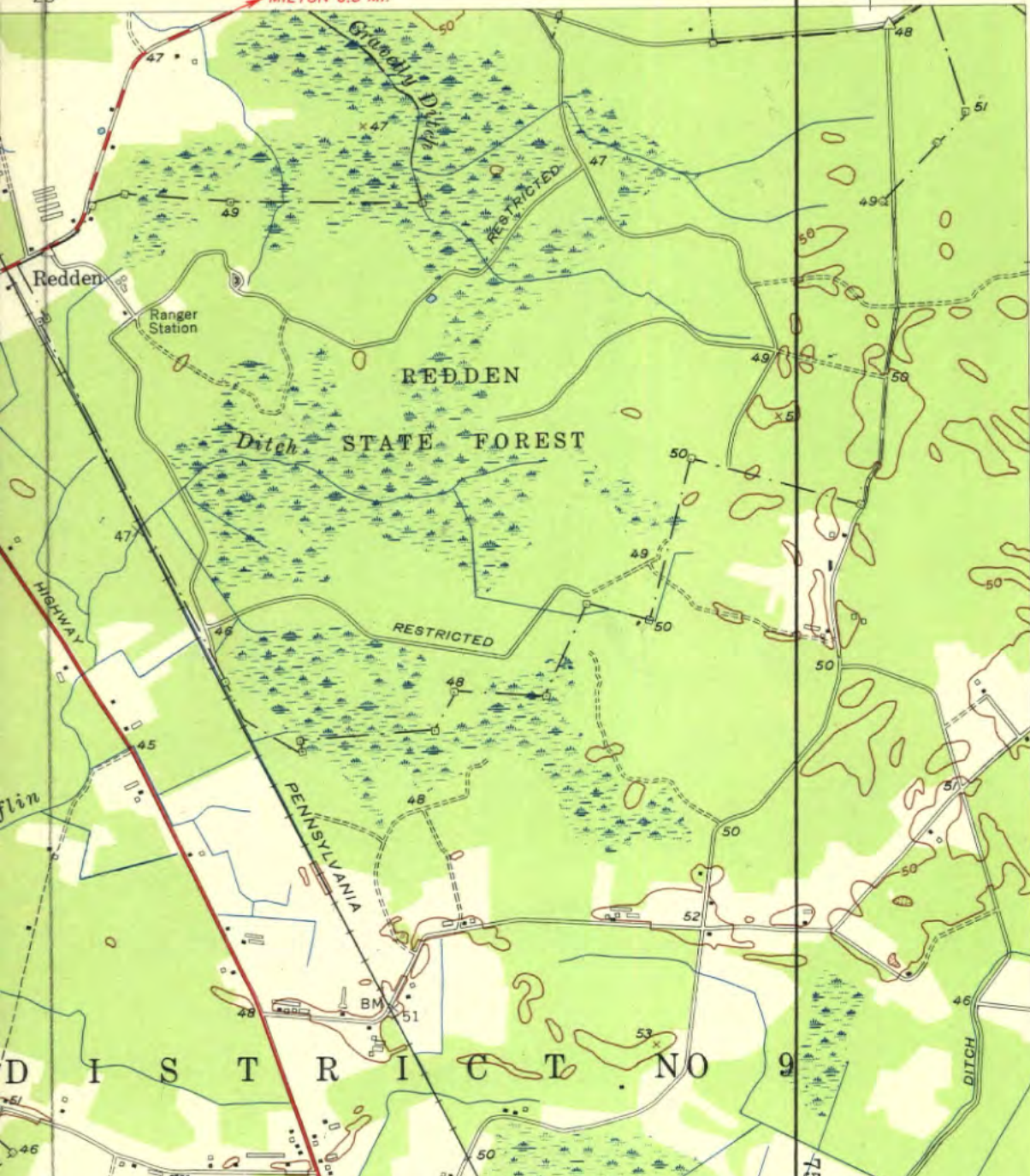
26'

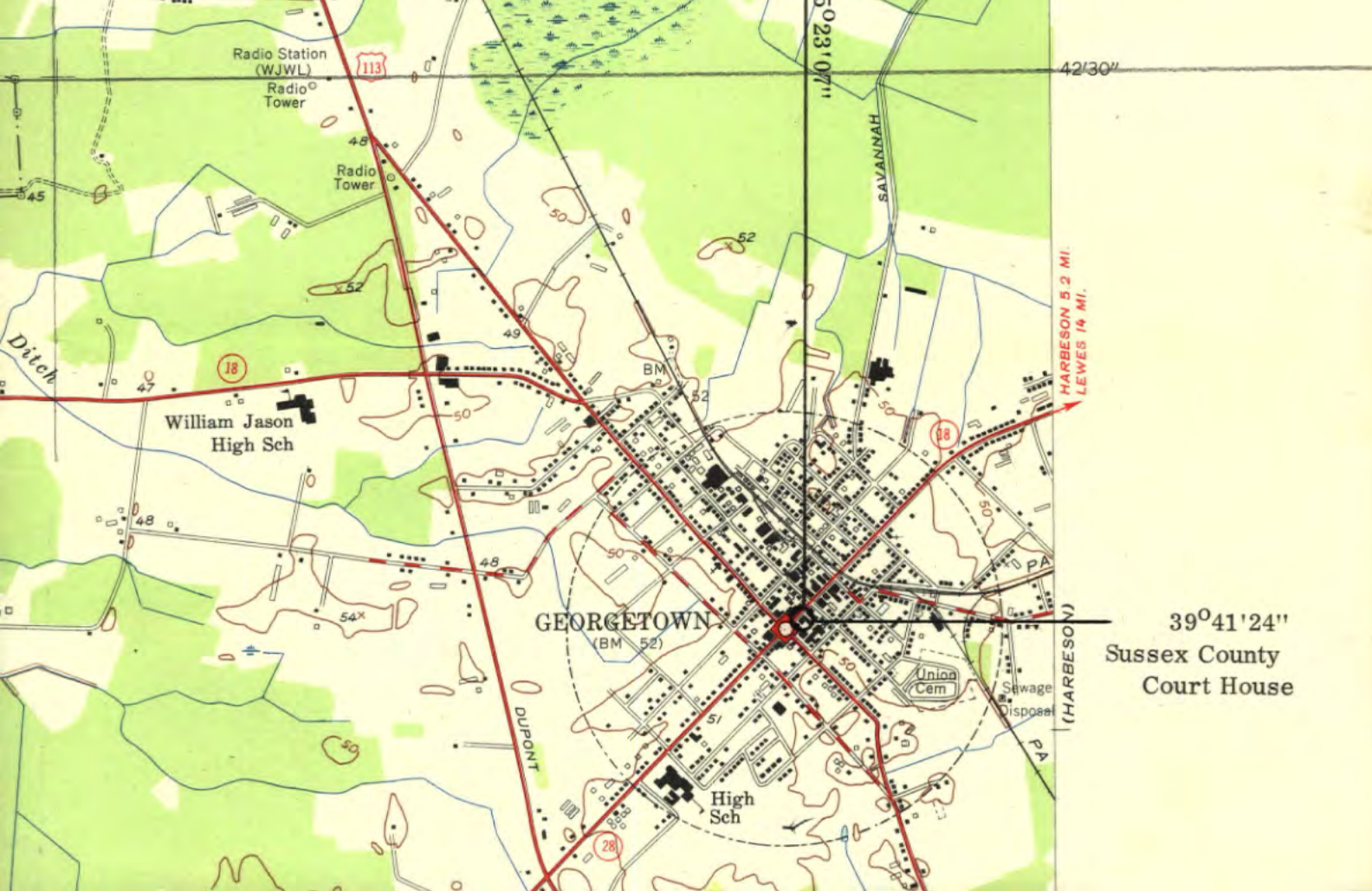
MILTON 6.5 MI.

510 000 FEET

75°22'30"

38°45'





GEORGETOWN

(BM 52)

39°41'24"

Sussex County
Court House

HARBESON 5.2 MI.
LEWES 14 MI.

(HARBESON)

Radio Station
(WJWL)
Radio
Tower

Radio
Tower

William Jason
High Sch

High
Sch

Union
Cem

Sewage
Disposal

50°23'07"

42°30"

SAVANNAH

DUPONT

PA

PA

Ditch

54x

18

88

28

47

48

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50

52

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
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ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE DELAWARE

Date Entered JUN 4 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Loddell Estate, Minquadale Home	Wilmington New Castle
Old College Historic District	Newark New Castle
Reed, Jehu, House	Little Heaven Kent
Williams House, Woodlawn	Odessa vicinity New Castle
 Sussex County Court House and The Circle	Georgetown Sussex

Also Notified

Hon. J.R. Biden
Hon. William V. Roth, Jr.
Hon. Pierre S. du Pont, IV

Director, Northeast Region

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

(PHR NRowland:jcc 6/13/73