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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	FOR NPS USE ONLY	2 - 4 - 2	
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Judge's house and law office occupy a block on the original town plot of Georgetown (drawn up in 1791) bounded by West Market Street on the southeast, North Alley (closed for more than a century) on the southwest, Laurel Street on the northwest, and North Front Street on the northeast. The section of Georgetown in which the property is located contains some of the earliest surviving structures in the town.

The original structure built by Justice Peter Robinson shortly after 1800 appears to have been a single-pile side hall plan, two-and-a-half story Federal style house with a single-pile, two-bay wing on the southwest end and a single-pile, one-story, threebay wing running out from the rear of the main section of the house. The original siding, still visible on the outside of the kitchen wing and in a small portion of the first floor rear wall of the house, was wide, horizontal water millsawn beaded weatherboard. Remnants of this same type of siding are also found in other structures of the same vintage and quality in Sussex County, Delaware.

By the time of Justice Robinson's death in the early 1830's, court records indicate that the one story wing on the southwest end of the house had been raised to a full two-and-a-half stories, in a five-bay, center hall stye. While this main section of the house appears from the street to be a symmetrical late Federal house with some Greek Revival detailing, the rear of the house is not entirely symmetrical. It is possible from a close examination of the rear of the main section to detect where the original one story or one-and-a-half story wing was raised to a full two stories, probably during the 1820's.

The structure has undergone other alterations during its history. Most changes were made during the mid-19th century, though certain modern alterations have been made as well. In the early 1840's, Judge Edward Wooten, Justice Robinson's son-in-law and the second owner of the house, carried out an extensive remodelling of the interior in Greek Revival style. Hand-hewn cypress shingles, a characteristic siding material of 19th century lower Delaware architecture, were applied to the exterior of the main five-bay section of the house. The small law office on the property is also shingled in the same material. Judge Wooten also added one-story, one-bay Greek Revival flat-roofed porches to the house and the law office.

While the kitchen, located at the rear of the rear wing, underwent an unfortunate major alteration in the 1950's in which all the original paneling was removed, the dining room, situated between the kitchen and the main section, is largely original. It possesses many original details including wide pine floorboards, chair-rail mouldings, four-paneled doors, and door and window trim. The dining room also retains its original arched corner cupboard. Two attic rooms over the kitchen and dining room were rendered inaccessible by the removal of an enclosed kitchen stairway in the 1950's, except through two small, four-pane gable end windows on the northwest gable end of the rear wing. The original kitchen fireplace, said to have been seven feet wide, was also closed in during the 1950's. The exterior end chimney is a rare (by lower Delaware standards) stuccoed brick chimney nine feet wide at the base with a water table and sloped weatherings. The chimney has an arched brick hood. The arched hoods are repeated in the two interior end chimneys in the main section of the house.

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FHR-8-300A (11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

The Judge's (House and Law Office)

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE	
DESCRIPTION (Continued)	7	1	

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The exterior of the rear wing is largely original with original siding, window trim, and heavy beaded plank outer doors bolted to inner paneled doors. An "L" shaped porch extends along the full length of the rear wing and across the central bay of the main house. The section of the porch at the rear of the main house displays mortise and tenon construction. That running along the side of the rear wing appears later and may have been reconstructed during the early 20th century. The porch in its present design appears in a photo of the house taken in 1900.

The roofs of both wings and the main section of the house are covered with modern asphalt shingles over earlier wooden shake shingles. Both front and rear slopes of the gable roof of the main section contain three symmetrically-placed federal style dormers with classical curved pedimented roofs and six-over-six sash windows. The gable ends contain small six-light casement windows at each side of the interior end chimneys. The windows are shuttered with board-and-batten shutters.

Perhaps the most visible of Judge Wooten's exterior renovations is a one-story gable-roofed addition extending out from the northeast gable end of the main section. This one-bay wing, which was apparently used as a study through much of the history of the house, contains Greek Revival window trim, and a fireplace surround in the same style. The fireplace ties into the chimney running up through the main section. Another fireplace in the parlor at the northeast end of the main section opens into the same chimney as does a third fireplace in the northeast end bedroom on the second floor which has been enclosed. Judge Wooten installed ornate Greek Revival mantelpieces of gray King-of-Prussia marble around the two first floor fireplaces in the main section of the house. Both have Ionic columns supporting the mantelpiece. The baseboards, symmetrical window trim, doorways, and other features of the main section date from Judge Wooten's renovation. The stairway rising from the central hallway to a landing and then to the second floor hallway is Greek Revival in design with simple turned balusters and a ramped railing where the rail meets the landing and econd floor hallway posts.

The front doors of both the house and the law office are six-paneled. The doorway of the main house has sidelights and a four-light transom. An ornamental brass knocker on the door is engraved with the arms of the Lords Baltimore. The device was inherited from the ancestral home of General Jesse Green, a descendent of the Calvert family. The doorways leading onto the rear porch from the central hall of the main section are three-paneled on the interior and planked with beaded planks on the exterior. These double doors and the doors leading to the porch from the kitchen and dining room in the rear wing appear to be original.

The attic of the main section is partially finished with plaster walls and simple wood plank floors and baseboards. A crawl space above the attic gives access

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HR-8-300A

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

The Judge's (House and Law Office)

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE	
DESCRIPTION (Continued)	7	2	

to the ridge of the roof, where it is possible to see the original morticed and tenoned beams on the northeast or older end.

Two second floor six-over-six double hung sash windows fierce the southwest gable end, which also contains two attic level six-light casements. Only one window appears in the northeast gable end, also at the second floor window level at the front corner of the house. The northeast end also contains the two attic level windows and a first floor window at the front corner. It is probable that both of these windows were cut into the wall during the 1840 renovation.

Among the more interesting features of the second floor of the house are a pair of wrought iron and brass carpenter's locks on doors of adjoining bedrooms on the second floor. Although the two rooms, at the southwest end, were originally a single larger bedchamber, a dividing wall was put in during Judge Wooten's renovation. An original single fireplace was converted into two smaller corner fireplaces. The lock on the rear bedroom door bears a brass seal emblazoned with the arms of Great Britain and the notation that the lock was manufactured during the reign of King William IV. The front bedroom door lock seal is emblazoned with an American eagle.

Neither the house nor the law office have basements and both sit on brick foundations. While the exterior of the small gable roofed law office is relatively unaltered, the building has had a modern one-story wing added to the rear. The interior of the original two-bay one-story office was extensively altered during the 1950's and now possesses virtually no original details.

The grounds also include a small gable-roofed cypress shingled milk house, and a small two-bay one room plan house with modern additions which might originally have served as a servant's quarters or summer kitchen. While it contains much original exterior trim on the front facing North Front Street, the structure has been extensively altered inside and out. Although included in the site being nominated, the structure is not considered important to the nomination because of the major alterations it has undergone within the past two decades.

Also located on the site is a fine old boxwood garden which appears to date from the mid-19th century.

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Justice Peter Robinson

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Circa 1810

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The Judge's house and law office, on West Market Street, one block southwest of Georgetown's Public Square and Circle, are significant as the home and office of a long line of Delaware judges, government officials, and political leaders. The house is architecturally significance as one of the better preserved 19th century houses in Georgetown, the county seat of Sussex County, Delaware. The law office, though substantially altered, is significant as the last remaining 19th century law office in Georgetown. It is perhaps equally significant that the structure has been used as nothing but a law office since the date of its construction in about 1809 except for several years during the 1960's when it served as the county Red Cross headquarters.

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Delaware - A Guide to the First State; Jeannette Eckman, Wm. H. Conner, eds. New York; 1938, 1948; Hastings H.	
16 Miles from Anywhere - A History of Georgetown, Del.; W.	
Georgetown: 1976; published by Georgetown Bicentennial	
Sussex County Courthouse public records. Interviews with	
Robinson conducted in August and Sept., 1978, by Dick C	
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FHR-8-300A (11/78) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

The Judge's (House and Law Office)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

75 Degrees 23 Minutes 17 Seconds Longitude

38 Degrees 41 Minutes 21 Seconds Latitude

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundaries of the site being nominated begin at the western corner of West Market Street and North Front Street. The line runs with West Market Street in a southwesterly direction for 252 feet to South Lane and thence in a northwesterly direction with South Lane for a distance of 155 feet. The Line turns northeast 90 degrees and runs northeast for a distance of 252 feet. At the intersection of the northeasterly line with North Front Street, the line turns 90 degrees southeast and runs in a southeasterly direction with North Front Street 155 feet to the point of beginning. The nominated area is a rectangle of 252 feet by 155 feet and contains 39,060 square feet.

Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978 Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: The Judge's (S-103) from West Market Street

Photograph Number: 1 of 16



Location: Georgetown, Delaware

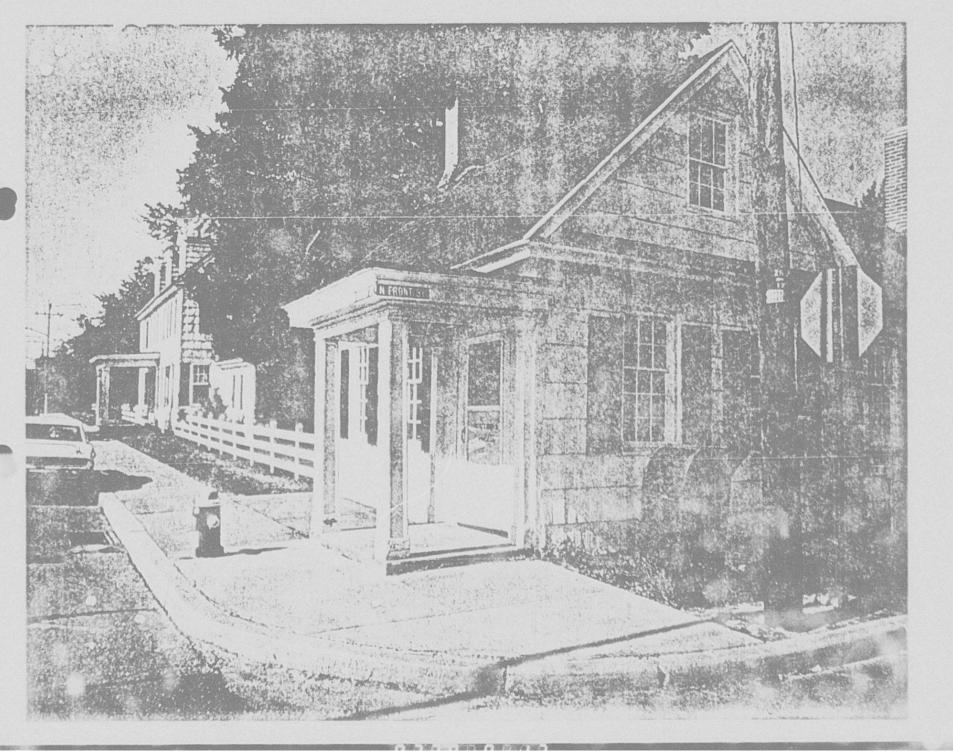
Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978 Location of Nerative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: The Judge's Law Office at right and house at left.

Photograph Number: 2 of 16

Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978 Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: Close-up of Law Office

Photograph Number: 3 of 16



Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978 Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: View of northeast end of house showing 1840's wing in foreground.

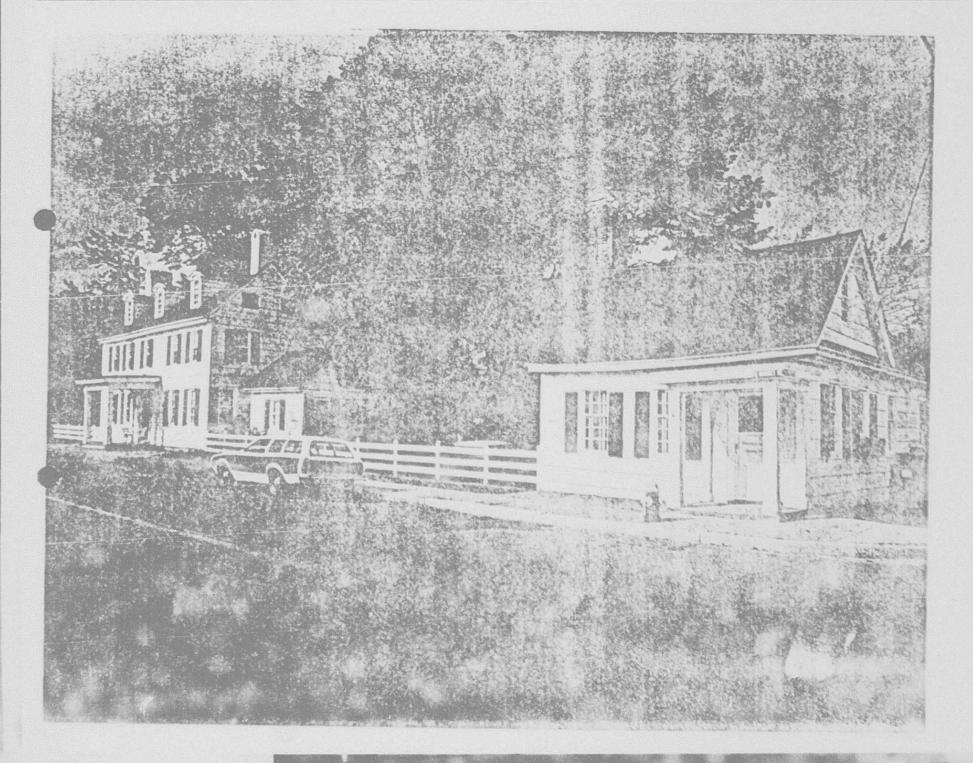
Photograph Number: 4 of 16

Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978 Location of Norative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: The Judge's Law Office at right and house at left.

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Photograph Number: 2 of 16



Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978 Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: Close-up of Law Office

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Photograph Number: 3 of 16

Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978 Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: View of northeast end of house showing 1840's wing in foreground.

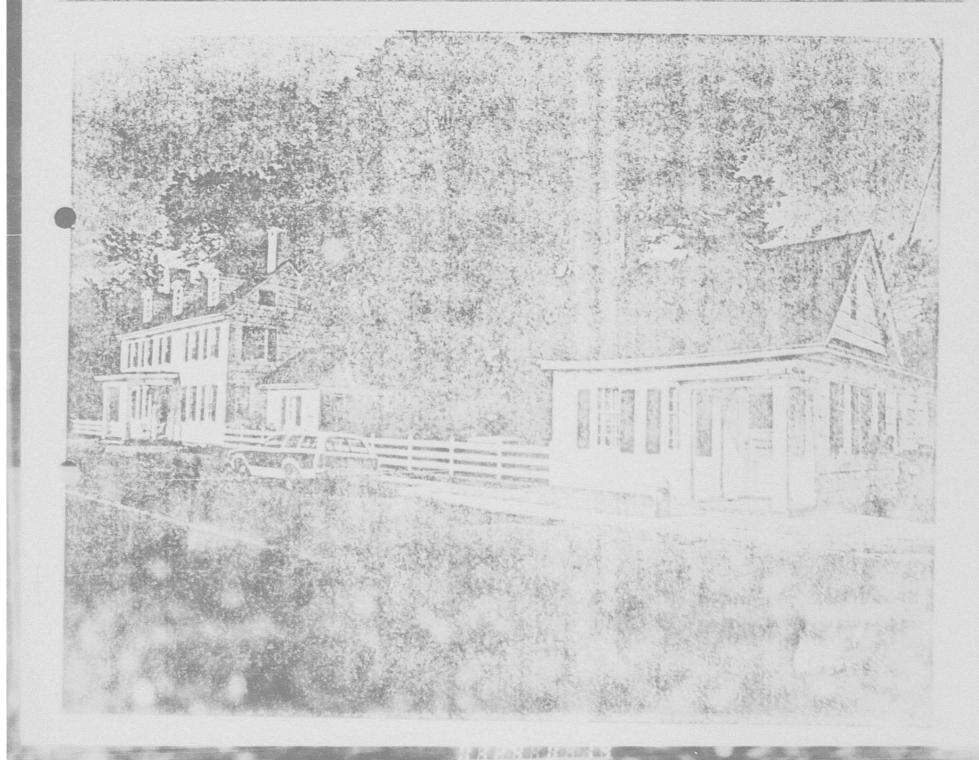
Photograph Number: 4 of 16

Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978 Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: The Judge's Law Office at right and house at left.

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Photograph Number: 2 of 16



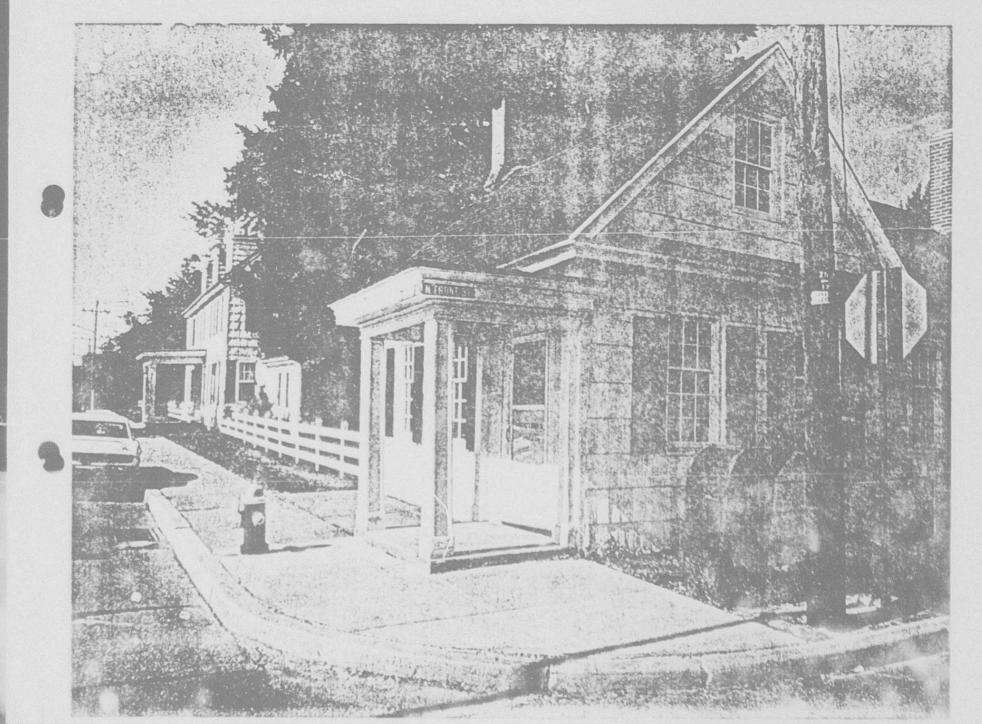
Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978 Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: Close-up of Law Office

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Photograph Number: 3 of 16



Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter

Date: September, 1978

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: View of northeast end of house showing 1840's wing in foreground.

Photograph Number: 4 of 16



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Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978 Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: The Judge's from the rear.

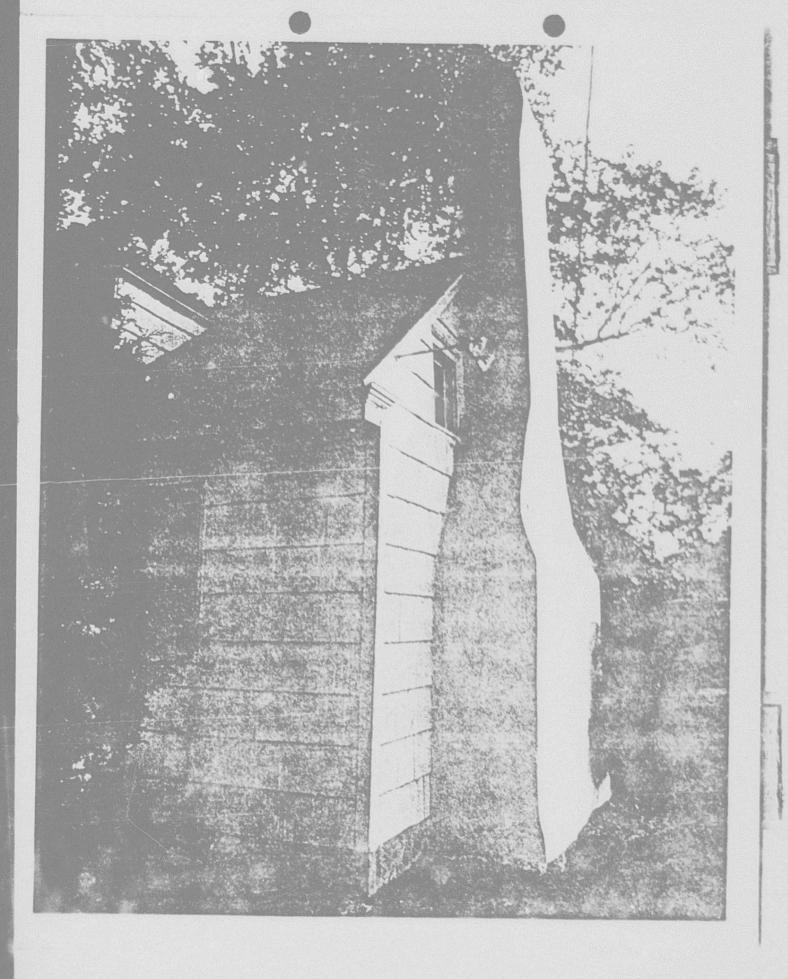
Photograph Number: 5 of 16



Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978 Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: View of kitchen chimney.

Photograph Number: 6 of 16



Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978 Location of Nogative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Descriction: Small shingled shed to rear of main house.

Photograph Number: 7 of 16



Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978

Location of Negative:Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: Small cottage at rear of property from North Front Street.

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Photograph Number: 8 of 16



Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter

Date: September, 1978 Location of Nogative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: Detail of back porch construction showing wide horizontal beaded weatherboard siding at left and cypress shingles at right.

Photograph Number: 9 of 16

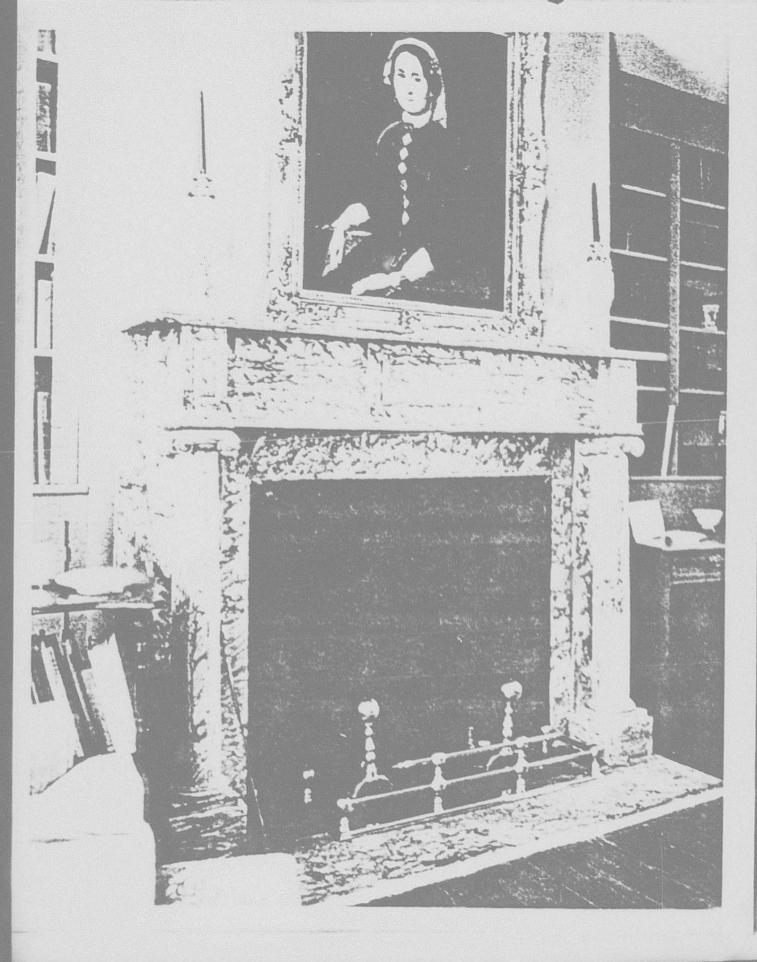


Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978 Location of Negative:Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: Library mantle piece dating from 1840's.

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Photograph Number: 10 of 16



Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs B/ASHP, HAll of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: View of parlor showing marble fireplace surround. Door to 1840's wing is at left.

Photograph Number: 11 of 16



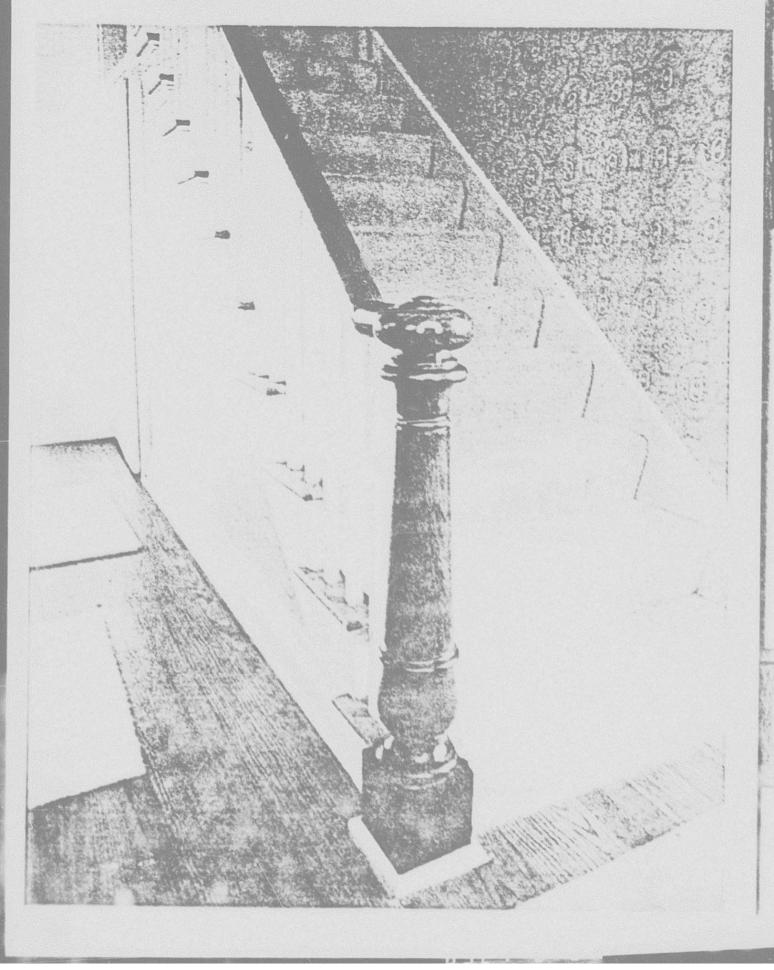
Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978

Location of Netative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: Stair balustrade in central hallway.

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Photograph Number: 12 of 16



Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter

Date: September, 1978

Location of Nc., tive: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: Dining room with original corner cupboard. Parlor is through door at left.

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Photograph Number: 13 of 16

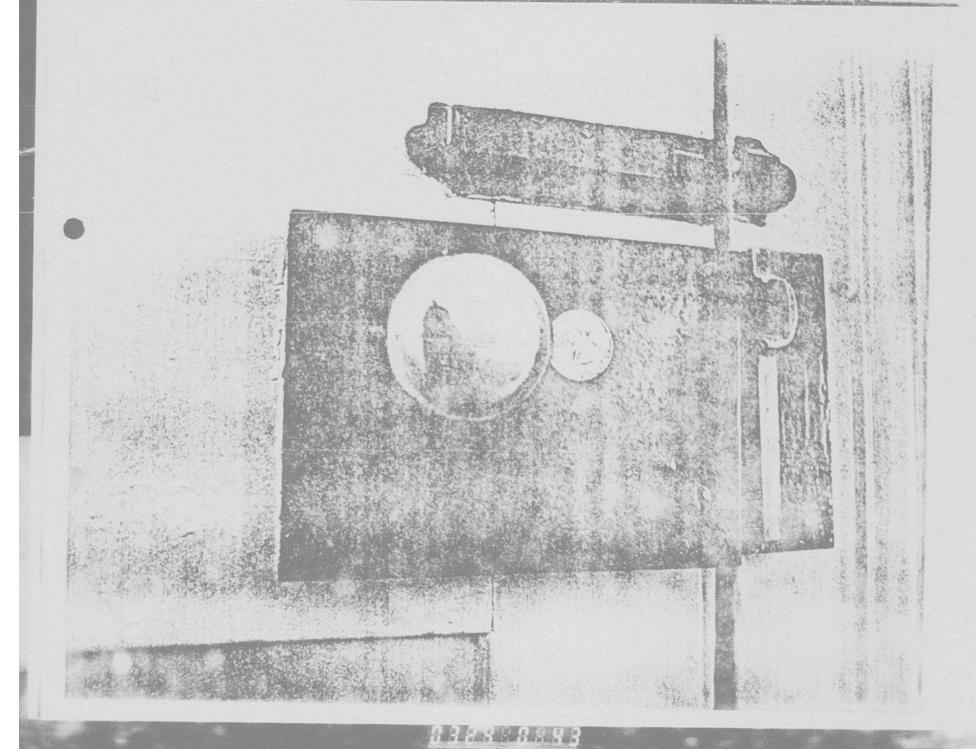


Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: Carpenter lock on second floor bedroom door, with American eagle seal.

Photograph Number:14 of 16



Location: Georgetown, Delaware

Photographer: Richard Carter Date: September, 1978

Location of Negative: Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: View of sidewall of law office showing hand-split cypress shingles at right and sawn cedar shingles

Photograph Number: 15 of 16



Location: Georgetown, Delaware

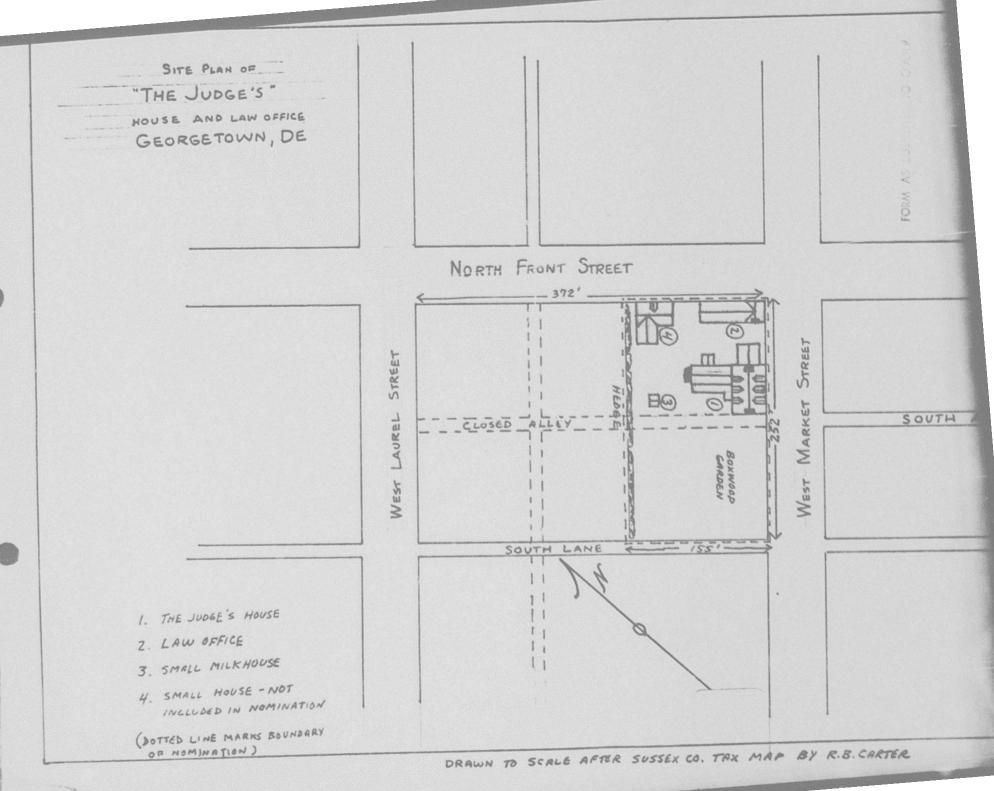
Photographer: Richard Carter Date:September, 1978

Location of Negative:Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs, B/A&HP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901 Description: Judge's House and Office in 1840 Orphan's Court Book.

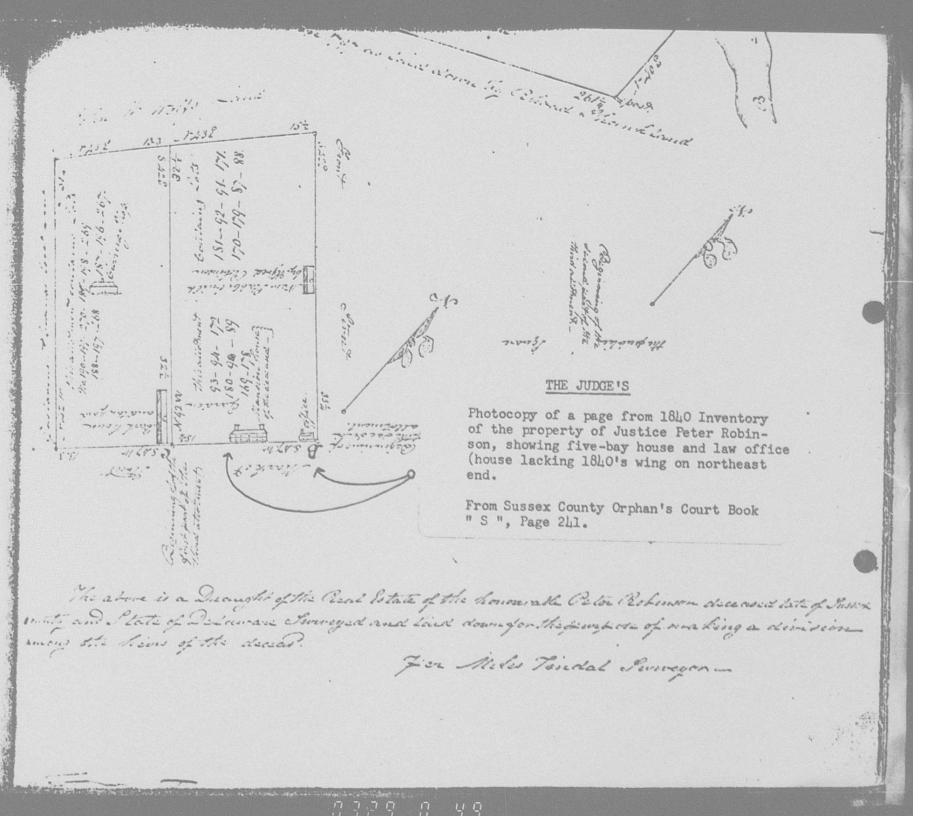
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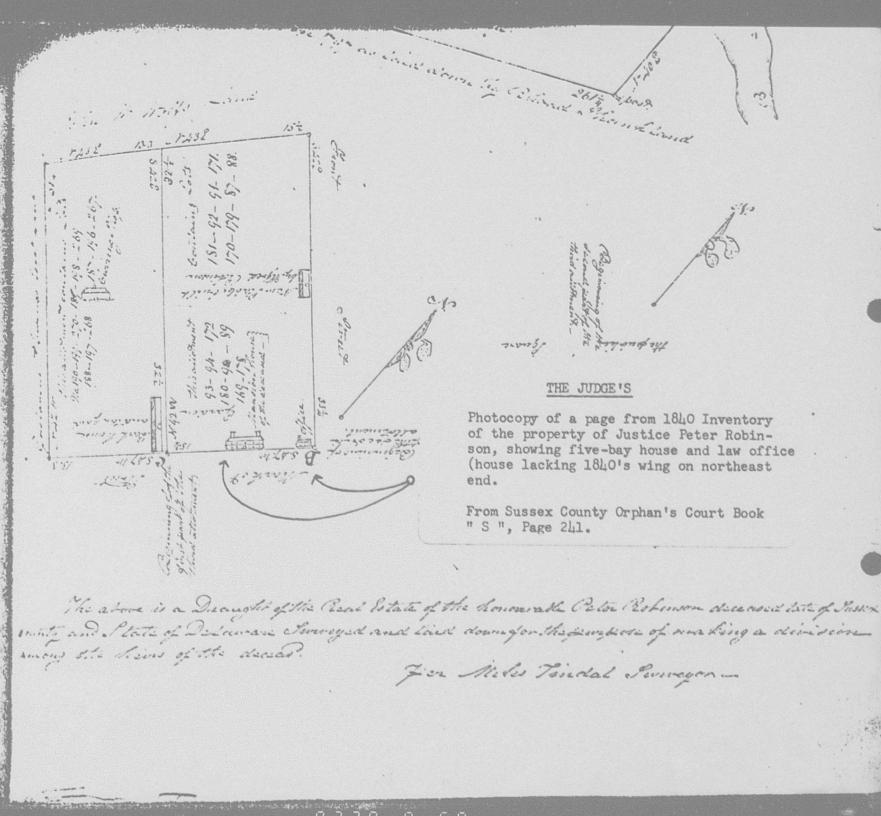
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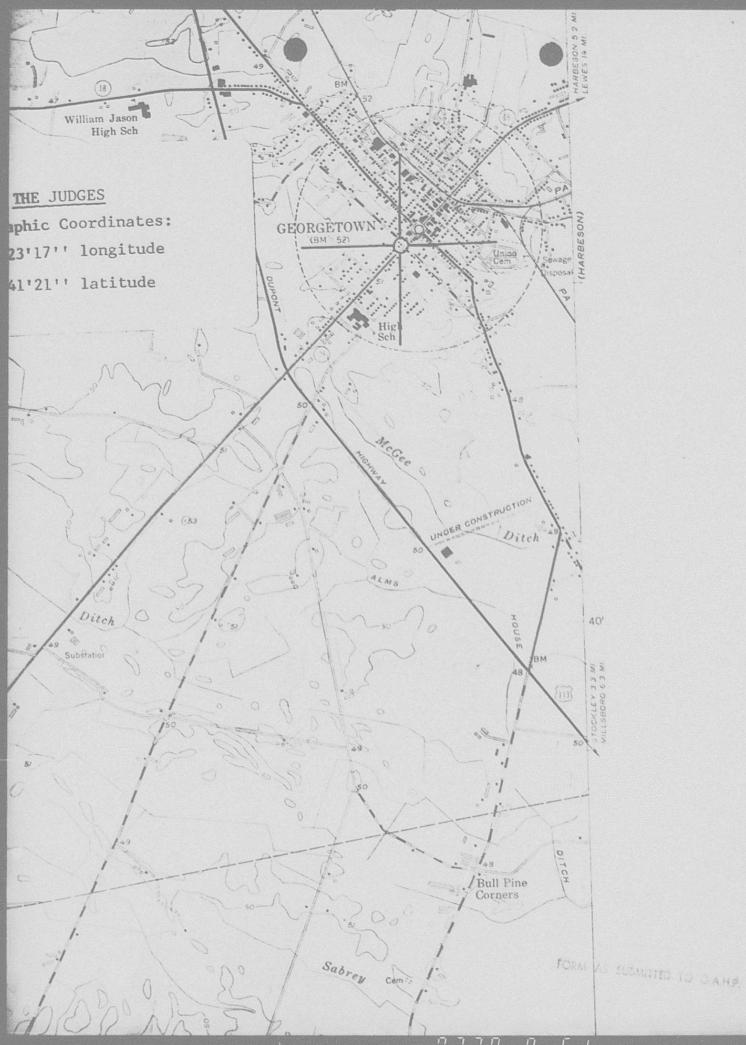
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	Written Contact(date) 9/25/7		
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PROGRESS FORM This form must be kept current by the employee who performs the function listed.

 DELAWARE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURA	L AFFAIRS
Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation	

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	Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation Hall of Records Dover, Delaware 19901 (302) 678-5314
	NOTICE TO PLANNING AND
	REVIEW AGENCIES OF ACTIVITY RE
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
	rmation and consideration, we report that pursuant to the National ervation Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-665) as administered by this office:
PROPER	TY NAME: THE JUDGE'S (House and Law Office)
Ľ	OCATION: 100 and 104 West Market Street
will nomi at	Georgetown, Delaware be considered by the State Review Board for its eligibility for nation to the National Register at a meeting on Oct. 26, 1978 the Redden Forest Lodge
	judged eligible for nomination to the National Register by the State ew Board at its meeting of
has	been nominated to the National Register.
was on	added to the National Register by the Department of the Interior
Additional inf	ormation and copies of nominations are available from our office.
	Or from Dick Carter, Sussex County Historical PreservationPlanner Sussex County Planning and Zoning Office, The Courthouse Georgetown, Delaware (856-7701 Ext. 304)
Distribution:	
XStat	e A-95 Clearinghouse
	Castle County Department of Planning
	County Planning Office
X Suss and/	ex County Department of Planning and Zoning or
DOCUMENT 20-06	/78/06/7

Mr. Raley seconded the motion. For action on the motion see Vote II. The motion carried.

Mr. Henry then explained the National Register and its associated programs. He also pointed out the uniqueness of this meeting in that all of the nominations (except one) being considered were presented and prepared by a County Preservation Planner, a result of the preservation planner program assisted by federal historic preservation funds administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

Mr. Carter then presented the first of his nominations, <u>The Redden</u> <u>Forest Lodge.</u> Mr. Carter's slide presentation included a description of the area to be nominated, the Lodge, the Forester's House and stable. It was also noted that the nomination included the original furniture contained within the Lodge. Mr. Raley noted the remarkable state of maintenance of the building as maintained by the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Homsey then moved that the State Review Board for Historic Preservation declare the Redden Forest Lodge, Forester's House and Stable eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and that the staff of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs be instructed to nominate it thereto. Dr. Orr seconded the motion. For action on the motion see Vote III. The motion carried.

The Historic Resources of Georgetown, a series of 5 individual nominations, was presented next by Mr. Carter.

The Judge's, built in 1809 by Justice Peter Robinson, was the first nomination considered. Mr. Carter noted that the 1845 date in the nomination referring to the wing should be 1833. Mrs. Wyrick suggested changing the reference to read, "2nd quarter of the 19th century". Mr. Homsey questioned the components of the nomination. Mr. Carter replied that the nomination included the law office, Judge's House, the boxwoods and the small milk house. Mrs. Wyrick suggested that the reference to Diamond Jim Brady be deleted. Mr. Raley suggested mention be made of the fact that much moving of buildings occurred in Sussex County at this time. Mr. Henry explained that a building which has been moved is still eligible for listing in the National Register as long as its environmental context is not radically changed. Mr. Raley then moved that the State Review Board for Historic Preservation declare The Judge's eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and that the staff of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs be instructed to nominate it thereto. Mr. Homsey seconded the motion. For action on the motion see Vote IV. The motion carried.

The Richards Mansion was the second nomination presented by Mr. Carter relating to the Historic Resources of Georgetown. Following the audiovisual presentation of this mansard-style mansion, Miss Downing called for comments from the audience. Jim Fuqua and Henley Graves spoke of

- 2 -

OFFICE OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION PLANNER



OLD COURTHOUSE SOUTH BEDFORD ST. GEORGETOWN. DELAWARE 302-856-7701

September 24, 1978

Mrs. Mary Houston Robinson The Judge's 104 West Market Street Georgetown, Delaware 19947

Dear Mrs. Robinson:

While we've discussed several times my plans to present The Judge's House and Law Office for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, I'm only now getting around to doing so. This letter, then, is to inform you officially that your property will be considered for nomination to the National Register by the Delaware State Review Board for Historic Preservation at their meeting on October 26, 1978, at Redden Forest Lodge. I'll let you know the precise time of the meeting sometime within the next week or so.

I will be giving you a call within the next few days to set up an appointment to come talk with you about the history of the house and to photograph certain interior and exterior architectural features of it. I think you're already aware of most of the ramifications of listing in the National Register but I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have when I see you.

Sincerely yours,

Aik fato

Dick Carter Historical Preservation Planner

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File: HPE 5.00 The Judge's (House and Law Office)

January 15, 1979

Mrs. Mary Houston Robinson The Judge's 104 West Market Street Georgetown, Delaware 19947

Dear Mrs. Robinson:

I am pleased to officially inform you that on October 26, 1978, the Delaware State Review Board approved the nomination of the Judge's (House and Law Office) to the National Register of Historic Places (P.L. 89-665). The nomination will be forwarded to the Department of the Interior for final review. It normally takes three to six months for the review process.

Thank you for your interest in our program.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel R. Griffith Acting Director/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DRG/b1





STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS HALL OF RECORDS * DOVER * 19901 (302) 678-5314

BUREAU OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

September 19, 1979

Mr. Charles Herrington Acting Keeper of the National Register Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Department of the Interior Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Mr. Herrington:

I enclose forms nominating the following properties to the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1. St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- 2. The Brick Hotel
- 3. The Judge's
- 4. The Stella Pepper Gyles House
- 5. The Gardiner Wright Mansion
- 6. Redden Forest Buildings
- 7. Early Sussex County Coastal Plantations

If you have any questions regarding these nominations, please call Dean E. Nelson, staff Historian, at the above number.

Sincerely yours, Daniel R. Griffith

Chief; Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Enclosures

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DELAWARE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Hall of Records Dover, DE 19901 678-5314

September 19, 1979 NOTICE TO PLANNING AND REVIEW AGENCIES OF ACTIVITY RE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

For your information and consideration we report that pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-665) as administered by this office:

PROPERTY NAME: The Judge's

LOCATION: Georgetown, Delaware

will be considered by the State Review Board for its eligibility for nomination to the National Register at a meeting on at

X was judged eligible for nomination to the National Register by the State Review Board at its meeting of October 26, 1978 .

X has been nominated to the National Register.

was added to the National Register by the U.S. Department of Interior on

Additional information and copies of nominations are available from our office.

Distribution:

- X State A-95 Clearinghouse
- WILMAPCO
- New Castle County Department of Planning
- Kent County Planning Office
- X Sussex County Department of Planning and Zoning
- and/or

DOCUMENT 20-06/78/06/7

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Judge's house and law office occupy a block on the original town plot of Georgetown (drawn up in 1791) bounded by West Market Street on the southeast, North Alley (closed for more than a century) on the southwest, Laurel Street on the northwest, and North Front Street on the northeast. The section of Georgetown in which the property is located contains some of the earliest surviving structures in the town.

The original structure built by Justic Peter Robinson shortly after 1800 appears to have been a single-pile side hall plan, two-and-a-half story Federal style house with a single-pile, two-bay wing on the southwest end and a single-pile, one-story, three-bay wing running out from the rear of the main section of the house. The original siding, still visible on the outside of the kitchen wing and in a small portion of the first floor rear wall of the house, was wide, horizontal water millsawn beaded clapboard. Remnants of this same type of siding are also found in other structures of the same vintage and quality in Sussex County, Delaware

By the time of Justice Robinson's death in the early 1830's, court records indicate that the one story wing on the southwest end of the house had been raised to a full two-and-a-half stories, in a five-bay, center hall style. While this main section of the house appears from the street to be a symmetrical late Federal house with some Greek Revival detailing, the rear of the house is not entirely symmetrical. It is possible from a close examination of the rear of the main section to detect where the original one story or one-and-a-half story wing was raised to a full two stories, probably during the 1820's.

The structure has undergone other alterations during its history. Most changes were made during the mid-19th century, though certain modern alterations have been made as well. In the early 1840's, Judge Edward Wooten, Justice Robinson's son-inlaw and the second owner of the house, carried out an extensive remodelling of the interior in Greek Mevival style. Hand-hewn cypress shingles, a characteristic siding material of 19th century lower Delaware architecture, were applied to the exterior of the main five-bay section of the house. The small law office on the property is also shingled in the same material. Judge Wooten also added one-story, one-bay Greek Revival flat-roofed porches to the house and the law office.

While the kitchen, located at the rear of the rear wing, underwent an unfortunate major alteration in the 1950's in which all the original paneling was removed, the dining room, situated between the kitchen and the main section, is largely original. It possesses many original details including wide pine floorboarus, chair-rail mouldings, four-paneled doors, and door and window trim. The dining room also retains its original arched corner cupboard. Two attic rooms over the kitchen and dining room were rendered inaccessible by the removal of an enclosed kitchen stairway in the 1950's, except through two small, four-pane gable end windows on the northwest gable end of the rear wing. The original kitchen fireplace, said to have been seven feet wide, was also closed in during the 1950's. The exterior end chimney is a rare (by lower Delaware standards) stuccoed brick chimney nine feet wide at the base with a water table and sloped weatherings. The chimney has an arched brick hood. The arched codes are repeated in the two interior and chimneys in the main ection of the holse.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Judge's house and law office, on West Market Street, one block southwest of Georgetown's Public Square and Circle, are significant as the home and office of a long line of Delaware judges, government officials, and political leaders. The house is architecturally significant as one of the better preserved 19th century houses in Georgetown, the county seat of Sussex County, Delaware. The law office, though substantially altered, is significant as the last remaining 19th century law office in Georgetown. It is perhaps equally significant that the structure has been used as nothing but a law office since the date of its construction in about 1809 except for several years during the 1960's when it served as the county Red Cross headquarters.

Justice Peter Robinson, who is credited with building the mansion and office during the first decade of the 19th century, was the son of Thomas Robinson, the state's most powerful and notorious Loyalist leader during the American Revolution. Justice Robinson was also the nephew of an earlier Judge Peter Robinson. The eld r Judge Robinson, brother of the Loyalist, is believed to have built the house by some local historians before his death in 1801, but the architectural features of the house and most historical opinion seem to indicate that it was built by the nephew after the death of his uncle.

Justice Peter Robinson II was the leader of the Federalist Farty in Sussex County at a time when Federalists had overwhelming support in lower Delaware. He served three terms as Delaware Secretary of State before his death in 1836. Robinson was the father of three children, Thomas Robinson II, Delaware's Congressmen during the late 1830's; Alfred F. Robinson, Delaware Secretary of State during the 1850's and father of Chief Justice Alfred F. Robinson; and Mary Robinson, who married Edward Wooten in 1833. The Wootens purchased the house from Mrs. Robinson's brothers and renovated it in the Greek hevival style in about 1840. Wooten was himself made associate Justice for Sussex County during the 1840's and held the position for 40 years, living in the house and using the office throughout his term.

The Wooten's renovations changed the appearance of the house from one of purely fee all design to one of prodominantly Greek Revival design, although it ontinued to possess many federal touches. After their death in the late 19th century, the house was inherited by their granddaughter, Mary Wooten of Laurel, who married Judge David Marvel, who also lived in the house and occupies the office during his years as Resident Judge of Sussex County. From 1909 to 1920, Judge Henry C. Conrad, Judge Marvel's successor, rented the house from the Marvels. While living in the house Judge Conrad complete a three-volume history of the State of Delaware. He later went on to become an early Delaware State Archivist.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGR	APHICAL REFERENC	ES	
Wm. H. Conner, <u>16 Miles from Any</u> Georgetown: 1 Sussex County Cour	eds. New York: 1938, 1 where - A History of Geor 975; published by Georget	annette Eckman, Anthony Hig 948; Hastings House Publish getown, Del.; William J. W own Bicentennial Committee. nterviews with Mrs. Mary Ho 1978, by Dick Carter.	lers. lade.
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NAME TITLE	er, Sussex County Histori	cal Preservation Planner	
OPCANIZATION	. Flanning and Zoning Der	DATE	26, 1978
STREET & NUMBER The Court		TELEPHONE	356-7701
CITY OR TOWN Georgetow		STATE Delaware	
	PRESERVATION OF	FICER CERTIFICATION	
NATIONAL	STATE X	LOCAL	
As the designated State Historic hereby nominate this property to criteria and procedures set forth 1 putySTATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION 0	or inclusion in the National Register a by the National Park Service	istoric Preservation Act of 1966 (Public and certify that it has been evaluated ac	Law 89 665). 1 cording to the
	f Archaeology & Historic	Preservation DATE Sept. 1	1, 1979
FOR NES USE ONLY	S PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE M		
		DATE	
KEEPER OF THE NATION	AL REGISTER	DATE	
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION			
			And a statement of the statement of

FHR-8-300A (11/78) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

The Judge's (House and Law Office)

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Con	tinued) 8	1	

The late J. Thomas Robinson, the son of Alfred P. Robinson, and his wife, who with her children is the present owner, inherited the house in the 1960's from Judge Marvel's daughter, Ann Burton Marvel duPont. Mr. Robinson was the great-grandson of the builder.

Each successive judge who has occupied the house has used the one-room law office at the corner of the property. Several other lawyers have occupied the office in recent years.

No other property in the county has had such a long association with so many members of the judiciary, and government and political leaders. Although the law office has been substantially altered in recent years, it continues to possess much of its original outside appearance and, as the last early law office, is significant to the legal history of lower Delaware.

The present owner, Mrs. Mary Houston Robinson, states that the house contains one portion of an early Robinson family country house, another portion of which was moved 12 miles to Lewes more than a century ago and attached to the Col. David Hall House (also listed in the National Register). This is quite possible since, because of Sussex County's extremely flat geography, the moving of structures from one point to another had assumed epidemic proportions by the mid-19th century.

In the case of the Judge's, most of the alterations to the original structure, with the exceptions of those carried out to the kitchen and the interior of the law office in modern times, have actually enhanced the property's architectural signifance in the sense that each successive style displays some of the finest remaining examples of local craftsmanship. Portions of the mid-19th century landscaping, including a large boxwood garden dating from the period of Judge Wooten's residency, still survive, lending to the overall integrity of the site.



United States Department of the Interior HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Chris Therral Delaporte

is pleased to inform you that the historic property listed on the enclosed sheet has been nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer responsible for your State's implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, P.L. 89-665 (80 Stat. 915), as amended. It has accordingly been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for your information and convenience.

Enclosures

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ENTR	IES	IN	THE	NATIC	NAL	REGIST	EF
	STA	TE	DEL	AWARE			
Date	Ent		b.d	NOV	13	1979	

Name

Location

Gyles, Stella Pepper, House

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Judge's House and Law Office

Brick Hotel

Georgetown vicinity Sussex County

Georgetown Sussex County

Georgetown Sussex County

Georgetown Sussex County

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Also Notified

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

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For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

DELAWARE DIVISION OF HIST CAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation Hall of Records Dover, Delaware 19901 (302) 678-5314 November 26, 1979

NOTICE TO PLANNING AND REVIEW AGENCIES OF ACTIVITY RE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

For your information and consideration, we report that pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-665) as administered by this office:

PROPERTY NAME: The Judge's

LOCATION: Georgetown, Delaware

will be considered by the State Review Board for its eligibility for nomination to the National Register at a meeting on at

was judged eligible for nomination to the National Register by the State Review Board at its meeting of

has been nominated to the National Register.

X was added to the National Register by the Department of the Interior on November 13, 1979

Additional Information and copies of nominations are available from our office.

Distribution:

X State A-95 Clearinghouse

WILMAPCO

New Castle County Department of Planning

Kent County Planning Office

X Sussex County Department of Planning and Zoning and/or

DOCUMENT 20-06/78/06/7

November 26, 1979

Mrs. Mary Houston Robinson, Robert H. Robinson, Thomas Robinson Mary Catherine Robinson 100 and 104 West Market Street Georgetown, Delaware 19947

Dear Mrs. Robinson:

I am pleased to inform you that on November 13, 1979, the Judge's (Nouse & Law Office) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This action was taken by the United States Department of the Interior in response to our nomination of the property.

By this action, the Judge's (Homse & Law Office) is recognized as possessing unusual significance to the history of Georgetown. Beyond the recognition itself, inclusion in the National Register assures that this office will review all federal projects to determine any effect they may have on the property. Further, all National Register sites are eligible for federal historic preservation grants-in-aid administered by this office. Application forms for these grants are provided annually and we encourage you to consider this useful program.

We will soon be preparing a certificate attesting to the National Register status of the property. If you would like to receive this certificate, please contact Dean E. Nelson of our staff so that we can make arrangements for its presentation.

The State of Delaware shares the pride we hope you feel as a result of this recognition.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel R. Griffith Chief; Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

Enclosures