III. PROPERTIES DOCUMENTED IN 1989-90

New Castle County

Site Name: Crossan House

Location: 1591 Pulaski Highway (U. S. Route 40)
Bear Vicinity
New Castle Hundred

Date of Fieldwork: June/July, December 1989

Threat: Demolition by development company for new construction

Type of Documentation: Partial Intensive--4" x 5" black and white photographs, scaled and detailed field notes, data sheet, cultural resource survey form. Dendrochronology samples were taken from the house during the demolition.

Significance: The Crossan House is an important example of the domestic architecture built by New Castle County's rural elite population of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It is significant because it retains nearly all of its original interior finish, including mantels, baseboards, and chair rails.
CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY LOCUS IDENTIFICATION FORM

DELAWARE BUREAU OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
HALL OF RECORDS
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901
(302) 736 - 5685

FORM CRS-3
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

CRS #: 12,400
Quad: NEWARK EAST
SPO map #: 06-07-33
Hundred: New Castle
DOCUMENT: 20-06/78/04/7
TAX PARCEL: 10-043.10-323

1. NAME OF LOCUS: Crossman House (Besiere)

2. STREET LOCATION: 1591 Polaski Highway (US Route 40)
   Wellington Woods Subdivision

3. OWNER'S NAME: ____________________________ TEL. # ______________
   ADDRESS: ______________________________________________________

4. TYPE OF LOCUS: a) structure  b) district  c) archaeological site d) other

5. SURROUNDINGS OF LOCUS: (check more than one if necessary)
   a) fallow field  b) cultivated field  c) woodland
   d) scattered buildings  e) densely built up  f) other

6. THREATS TO LOCUS: (check more than one if necessary)
   a) none known  b) zoning  c) roads  d) developers
   e) deterioration  f) other

7. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER SURVEYS:
   TITLE: LABS RECORDATION IN PROGRESS #
   CENTER FOR HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE #
   ____________________________

8. YOUR NAME: Valerie Cesna TEL. # ______________
   YOUR ADDRESS: N.C. Co. Dept. of Planning
   ORGANIZATION (if any)________________________________________ DATE: 7-28-89

USE BLACK INK ONLY
6. **SKETCH MAP**

Please indicate position of locus in relation to geographical landmarks such as streams and roads.

9. **COMMENTS:**

Consider the following:

a) relationship to setting  
b) associated traditions or stories  
c) noteworthy features  
d) comparison with others in area

---

10. **Comprehensive Planning:**

a. Time Period(s) 1770 - 1830  
b. Cultural Concept **LANDSCAPE, ECONOMIC**  

c. **Evaluation:**  
   a) Settlement & Development  
   b) Cultural Historic & Ethnic Issues  
   c) Built Environment  
   d) Material Culture  
   e) not eligible

Survey: Name/Title

BAHP: Name/Title

Date
1. ADDRESS OF STRUCTURE: 

1591 Plunkett Highway (U.S. Route 40)

2. DESCRIBE THE STRUCTURE AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE:

   a) Overall shape: Ell
      stories: 2
      wings: 2-storied, frame, single roof
      rear addition

   b) Structural system: Brick Masonry

   c) Foundation materials: Covered basement stone

   d) Exterior walls: Brick - facade: Flemish bond - sides: 2 1/2 common bond
      color(s): Red

   e) Roof: shape: Asymmetrical
      materials: Shake, asphalt shingles
      cornice: Molding box (lumbar brick) 1/2 bed molding
      dormers: None
      chimney location(s): 2 brick interior end
      also: 20th c. cupola with weathervane at center ridge line

   f) Windows: spacing: Symmetrical
      type: 1st fl: 9/9 sash - 2nd fl: 4/9 sash
      trim: Molding wooden surround pinned at corners
      shutters: Removed from 1st floor (molded pins remain)
      no evidence of shutters on 2nd floor

   g) Door: spacing: Center bay
      type: Raised panels (U)
      trim: Molding reveal

   h) Porches: location(s): Facade - - scars on brick wall indicate
      the removal of a porch that extended across 5 bays
      materials: Wood
      supports: None
      trim: None

   i) Interior details (if accessible):
      Unaltered from first period - on 1st floor mantels are intact and flanked by built-in cupboards with 3 tiers, of butterfly
      use black ink only
      shelves: Molding cornice, molded baseboards

   USE BLACK INK ONLY
3. **CONDITION:**
   - good [ ]
   - deteriorated [ ]
   **remains:**

4. **INTEGRITY:**
   - a) original site [ ]
   - b) moved [ ]
   - c) if moved, when and from where
     ______________________________
   - d) list major alterations and dates (if known)
     ______________________________

5. **DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION:** 1780's

6. **ARCHITECT/BUILDER:**

7. **RELATED OUTBUILDINGS:**
   - a) barn [ ]
   - b) carriage house [ ]
   - c) garage [ ]
   - d) privy [ ]
   - e) shed [ ]
   - f) greenhouse [ ]
   - g) shop [ ]
   - h) gardens [ ]
   - i) icehouse [ ]
   - j) springhouse [ ]
   - k) other [ ]
   **describe:**
   ______________________________

8. **BRIEFLY DISCUSS THE ORIGINAL AND SUBSEQUENT USES OF THE STRUCTURE. NOTE ANY ASSOCIATIONS WITH HISTORIC EVENTS OR PERSONS:**

   **See:**
   [1816 Tax Assessment lists Abraham Short as owning]
   "12 ½ acres improved with 1 large brick dwelling, small wooden barn + sheds + 80 [Lett] woodland & swamp."

9. **Primary References: (include location of reference).**
   - 1849 Price map: J. Short
   - 1865 Atlas: E. Crossan
   - 1861 Hopkins Map: Eli Crossan 1861
   - Power's Map 1893: Eli Crossan 1901

10. **Surveyor:** [ ]
    **Date of Form:** 7-24-89

**USE BLACK INK ONLY**