

Documentation of Threatened Buildings

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Site Name: Dawkins-Marim House
CRS Number: N - 128
HABS Number: DE - 000

Location: 1847 Clayton-Delany Road
Blackbird Hundred
New Castle County, Delaware

Date of Field Work: October 1998

Type of Documentation: Level II: Partial Intensive
Annotated field notes (3 sheets)
Measured drawings (3 – AutoCAD Format)
4” X 5” black-and-white photos (7)
Architectural Data Sheet

Threat: The exterior siding was removed from the log portion of the house several years ago and the exposure of the logs to the elements has resulted in serious deterioration. Alterations to the interior partition wall, as well as the removal of the logs in the east gable end have contributed to the deterioration of the structure.

Significance: The Dawkins-Marim House is part of a 174-acre farm that was owned by members of the locally prominent Blackiston and Marim families. Despite its many alterations, this log dwelling remains a rare surviving example of the log construction typical of eighteenth and nineteenth-century housing in this area of central Delaware.

Description: The Dawkins-Marim House is composed of two major sections. The earliest portion is a one-and-one-half story, three-bay, log dwelling with a gable roof, which likely dates to the early nineteenth century. The interior of the log section is 16.5 feet deep and 19 feet wide. The second section is two-and-one-half stories, two bays wide, built of frame construction with a gable roof in the late nineteenth century. The interior dimensions of the frame section is also

16.5 feet deep but is 15 feet wide.

Each section has an interior gable-end chimney. The roof of the log section is covered with corrugated metal and the walls sit partially on the soil and partially on a fieldstone wall. The elevations of the log section were originally covered with wood siding that has been removed, leaving the structure exposed. The frame section rests on brick piers and the roof is covered with panels of corrugated sheet metal. The second floor of the frame section has been covered with plywood sheets, concealing the windows on that floor.

The exposed south or front elevation of the log section clearly shows the construction of this section of the house. The logs are V-notched at the southwest corner. The chinks between the logs are filled with mortar and stone rubble. The south elevation is twelve logs high and has a door located centrally in the elevation. To the left of the door there is a two-light window; three boards cover the lower half of the window. There is evidence of either a door or a window opening to the right of the door near the former southeast corner of the building. The ends of the second floor joists are exposed on the exterior. The spaces between the joists are filled with separate pieces of log. The joists are located nine logs up from the ground.

The roof rafters are birds-mouthed over the top log of the walls. There are shims set to fill the space between the top wall log and the bottom of the roof rafter, creating a level eave line. The ends of the logs creating the single interior partition are visible on the exterior of the building between the door and the closed opening at the southeast corner. A later dormer is centrally located on the roof of the south elevation with a six-over-six-light sash window. The south elevation of the frame section has two four-light single sash windows evenly spaced in the elevation. This pattern is repeated on the second floor but these windows are currently covered with plywood.

The west elevation of the log section is ten logs high. There is vertical board siding on the gable end, which has been covered with plywood. The foundation of the chimney is visible at the bottom of the elevation and is built partially of brick and partially of concrete block.

The north elevation of the log section has a new porch roof covering the first floor. The ends of the logs making up the interior partition are exposed on this elevation also and an entrance door is centered on the main room. Two windows are located to the left of the door,

one on either side of the interior partition wall. The window at the northeast corner is located directly opposite a closed-up opening in the south elevation. The only feature on the north elevation of the frame section is the door in the northeastern half of the elevation. This doorway is two steps above grade. The second floor openings have been covered with plywood.

The east elevation of the frame section has no openings.

On the interior the first floor of the log section is divided into two spaces. The door in the south elevation opens into the main room, which measures approximately 17 by 15 feet, with a brick fireplace against the west wall. The partition wall is seven logs high from the floor to the ceiling. The first four logs are still in place, as is the top one at the ceiling level, but the fifth and sixth logs were removed. The log across the door opening has been notched to increase the vertical clearance of that opening. Currently the logs that form the walls and ceiling joists are fully exposed. All are hewn and were likely once covered with lath and plaster or whitewash.

There is a smaller room to the east of the partition wall, measuring 17 by 7.5 feet. This space has an opening in the ceiling against the east wall where a stair was once located. The original stair has been removed and there is a hatch in the opening that allows access to the second floor of both the log and the frame sections. The original east wall of the log section was removed when the frame addition was built. The current wall is shared with the frame section.

Like the first floor, the second floor of the log section is also divided into two spaces, a larger main room and a narrow stair hall. In this narrow hall, measuring 16.5 feet by 4.5 feet, there are two doors. The door in the east wall provides access to the second floor of the frame addition, which is two steps higher than the floor level of the log section. The door in the west wall provides access into the main room on the second floor of the log section. This room, measuring 19 feet by 16.5 feet, is approximately one-and-a-half inches higher than the floor level in the stair hall. A chimney located against the west wall is flanked by two six-over-six-light windows. The walls and ceiling are covered with lath and plaster.

The first floor of the frame section has been completely renovated, leaving no indication of the original configuration. It is currently a one-room plan, measuring 15 by 17 feet, entered through a door in the north elevation. A large opening, currently covered with corrugated plastic, is located in the west wall and connected the log and frame section at one point, although

probably in a smaller configuration such as a door.

The second floor of the frame section is divided into three spaces, an entry and two chambers. The entry space, measuring 7 by 6 feet, is located in the northwest corner of the second floor and contains a winder stair to the attic floor with a closet below. There is a window adjacent to the stair door in the north elevation. A door directly across from the entry door opens into a small chamber, measuring 9 by 7 feet, in the northeast corner of the house. This room has one window located in the northern wall. The third room, measuring 15 feet by 9.5 feet, is located in the southern half of the building and stretches the width of the frame section. The chimney is located in the northeast corner of this room with a stove-pipe opening; two windows are located in the southern wall. All walls are covered with lath and plaster.

The attic of the frame section is reached by the stair in the northwest corner. The roof consists of eight pairs of rafters that are butt-joined and the original wood shingles are in place below the current roof material. Two small casement windows flank the chimney on the east wall.

History: The property currently owned by William and Anna Dawkins was known as the Blackiston farm when it was purchased by Thomas Marim in 1834. Thomas Marim was one of five children and the eldest son of John Marim, a member of the Whig Party and one of the earliest settlers of Kent County.

Thomas Marim was born in 1795 in Little Creek Hundred and was educated at a Friends school. In 1818 he married Elizabeth Blackiston, the daughter of Benjamin and Alemia Blackiston. It is likely that Thomas purchased the Blackiston farm from his father-in-law in 1834 in what was then Appoquinimink Hundred. Thomas Marim farmed this land for forty years, until his death in 1874.

In 1836 Thomas Marim owned 375 acres, on which stood two log houses, a kitchen, a barn, and two out-houses. He was also the owner of one male and one female slave. By 1861 the property had shrunk to 161 acres with a frame dwelling and a frame barn. Taken in conjunction with the physical evidence in the building, this suggests that the log dwelling was constructed prior to 1836, possibly pre-dating Marim's purchase, and that the frame addition

may have been constructed as early as 1860.

Between 1818 and 1839 Thomas Marim fathered 11 children, six daughters and five sons. Only Richard Semans Marim, the third son of Thomas and Elizabeth, outlived his parents and inherited the property after his father's death in 1874. Richard Marim sold the property, which then contained 198 acres, in 1878 to Charles Ross for \$900. The property changed hands nearly ten more times before William Dawkins purchased the 174-acre farm in 1961.

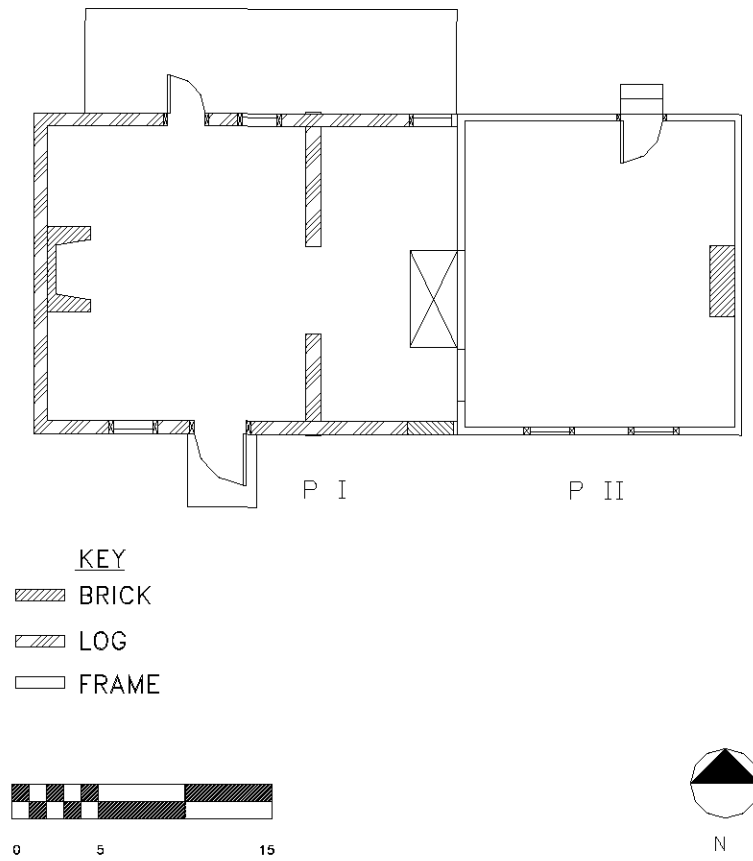
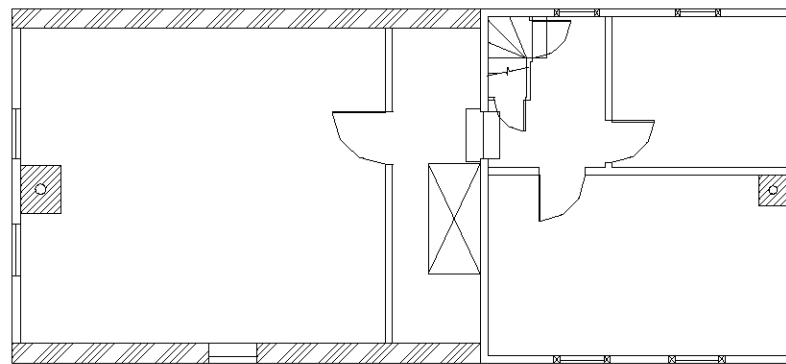



Figure 1: Dawkins-Marim House, first floor plan.




P I

P II

KEY

 BRICK

 LOG

 FRAME



0 5 15



N

Figure 2: Dawkins-Marim House, second floor plan.

MID-ATLANTIC HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY
INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Dawkins–Marim House
1847 Clayton-Delany Road
Blackbird Hundred
New Castle County, Delaware

CRS # N-128

Photographer: David L. Ames

October 1998

- | | |
|---------|---|
| N-128-1 | Perspective of south and west elevations looking northwest |
| N-128-2 | Detail of log construction on south elevation looking north |
| N-128-3 | Perspective of north elevation looking southwest |
| N-128-4 | Detail of north elevation looking southwest |
| N-128-5 | Detail of log construction on north elevation looking south |
| N-128-6 | Interior, first floor, Period I section: view of west and north walls looking northwest |
| N-128-7 | Interior, first floor, Period I: view of north wall looking north |



Figure 3: Dawkins-Marim House, perspective of south and west elevations, looking northwest.



Figure 4: Dawkins-Marim House, detail of log construction on south elevation, looking north.



Figure 5: Dawkins-Marim House, perspective of north elevation, looking southwest.



Figure 6: Dawkins-Marim House, detail of north elevation, looking southwest.



Figure 7: Dawkins-Marim House, detail of log construction on north elevation, looking south.



Figure 8: Dawkins-Marim House, interior, first floor of Period I section, view of west and north walls looking northwest.



Figure 9: Dawkins-Marim House, interior, first floor of Period I section, view of north wall looking north.

Site Name:	Diamond Chemical Building
CRS Number:	N 5264.57 - 63
HABS Number:	DE-000

Location:	Southwest corner of East Second and North Market Streets Wilmington, Delaware
Date of Field Work:	March-April 1999
Type of Documentation:	Level I: Basic 4" X 5" black-and-white photos (11) Architectural Data Sheet

Threat: The Diamond Chemical Block has been vacant for a number of years. During that time a fire damaged the roof and part of the interior, resulting in later water damage to major sections of the building. The current owners of the block have applied to the City of Wilmington for a demolition permit.

Significance: The group of buildings in the Diamond Chemical Block represent a cross-section of typical retail buildings which trace the history of the central business district in the City of Wilmington from the late eighteenth century through the early twentieth century. The block stands as one of the few remaining intact historic streetscapes in the downtown area. These buildings are reminders of a city block once rich with small retail stores.

Description and History: The nine buildings which occupy the Diamond Chemical Block at the southwest corner of North Market and East Second streets used to be part of a much larger block that stretched from east to west between North King and North Market streets, and north to south between East Second and East Front streets. A Sanborn fire insurance map for 1884 shows 50 properties within this block, including eight tenements later called Mills Court. The tenements were accessed off East Front Street.

Neglect and serious water damage have made a thorough physical survey of the block impossible; adaptive reuse as a warehouse for the Diamond Chemical Company has erased much of the historic fabric in the buildings. Only 8 East Second Street remains reasonably intact, with its pressed metal ceiling on the first floor indicating its earlier use as a saloon. This establishment, known as the Tremont House, was owned and operated by Charles Rex. The 1884 Sanborn map lists the lot at 8 East Second Street as the location for a new brick dwelling,

making it the only building in the block for which a precise date of construction can be determined.

The 1884 Sanborn map also shows a drugstore, a liquor store, a sail loft, a cigar manufacturer, and five saloons on the block, as well as a multitude of stores left nameless. Tracing the Sanborn maps up to 1951, certain retail ventures remain a permanent fixture on the block whereas others come and go, replaced by restaurants and offices. One of these permanent fixtures was a wholesale drugstore at the corner of East Second and North Market streets whose location migrated back and forth between 128 and 124 Market Street over the years.

The Wilmington Street Directories between 1881 and 1898 provide an even clearer picture of the retailers who occupied the nine buildings that now make up the Diamond Chemical Block. In 1881 a drugstore run by N.B. Danforth was present at 128 Market Street. Elizabeth J. McIntire operated a dry goods store out of 126 Market Street, while her husband James, a butcher, ran stall # 39 at the Public Market. John Davis was a merchant tailor and occupied 124 Market Street. George W. Quinn was listed as a cutter and occupied 122 Market Street. This property was also already owned by one of his ancestors in 1867, William H. Quinn, a tailor. For East Second Street the only proprietor listed was Richard Booth, who was selling cigars at 4 East Second Street. These establishments remained unchanged until 1883-84 when John V. Christy began selling sold cigars and tobacco in a neighboring shop at 2 East Second Street. In 1884 the merchant tailor, David Moore, set up shop at 6 East Second Street. It was at this time that a new foundation was laid for a brick dwelling at 8 East Second Street.

In 1885 the Tremont House Tavern opened its doors at 8 East Second Street, with Charles Rex as the proprietor. Also at this time 120 Market Street became the home of Star Clothing Hall, which was run by Wolf R. Walter, a resident of Philadelphia. James McIntire was listed as a collector for the Wilmington Beef Company, and N.B. Danforth as a wholesale and retail druggist.

In 1887 Mary Pizor opened a shop for ladies suits at 120 Market Street and John Christy, at 2 East Second Street, shared his building with a Chinese laundry run by Loo Ham - or Ham Loo. 6 East Second became a barber shop run by Henry Gebhert, who earlier (1883-84) owned a barber shop at 200 Market Street. Elizabeth McIntire returned to selling dry goods and her

husband now owned a store at 44 Second Street.

Between 1888 and 1889 there were few changes except that George Quinn shared 122 Market Street with Henson Henry, who was operating a shooting gallery on the premises, and Condon & McCarthy opened up a shoe store at 120 Market Street. In 1889 the cigar store at 4 East Second Street was no longer operated by Richard Booth but by Robert Schuyler.

From 1890 to 1893 a molder by the name of John Dumbar shared 124 Market Street with Walter Davis, the merchant tailor. H.F. Bourden & Bro. ran a cigar store out of 4 East Second Street. They also owned a store at 125 Shipley. In 1894 Max Podolsky began making hats at 6 East Second Street, and Mary Michaels was taking in boarders at 124 Market Street. Meyer Davidow opened up a pawnbroker shop at 126 East Market Street, which had been vacant since 1892.

In the city directory for 1898, only N.B. Danforth remained from the earliest residents. Most properties had changed hands. 120 Market Street was occupied by Patrick Plunkett and his wife Mary A., but no profession was listed for him. At 122 Market Street Major A. Smith operated a restaurant; N.B. Danforth was still a druggist but was now located at 124 Market Street. Minnie Harris lived at 126 Market Street and operated a pawn shop at 121 Market Street. Florencio McCall owned a cigar (segar) shop at 128 Market Street. On East Second Street Edward Moore was selling cigars at number 4, and Max Podolsky was still making hats at number 6. John Rex was selling liquor out of 8 East Second Street.

Unfortunately the history of the deeds for the buildings on the corner of Market and East Second Streets are not as easily traced as the businesses listed in the Wilmington Directories. This is mainly due to the inconsistency with which house numbers were used, and that it was common for buyers to purchase several unidentified lots at the same time. It has therefore been difficult to trace individual ownership history of all of the buildings. Many of the occupants and proprietors listed in the city directories were actually renters and it is diversity of the thriving retail community nearly 200 years old that provides significance for this block.

MID-ATLANTIC HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY**INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS**

Diamond Chemical Company
Southeast corner of East Second and North Market Streets
City of Wilmington
New Castle County, Delaware

CRS # N-5264.57-63

Photographer: David L. Ames

March 1999

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| N-5264.57-63-1 | Perspective of northeast and southeast elevations of block, looking west along Second Street from King to Market Street |
| N-5264.57-63-2 | Perspective of northeast and southeast elevations of Bernie's Tavern |
| N-5264.57-63-3 | Partial view of northeast elevation on Second Street, looking southwest |
| N-5264.57-63-4 | Partial view of northeast elevation on Second Street, looking southwest |
| N-5264.57-63-5 | Partial view of northeast elevation on Second Street, looking southwest |
| N-5264.57-63-6 | Detail of northeast elevation on Second Street, looking south |
| N-5264.57-63-7 | Perspective of northeast and northwest elevations of block, looking southeast from the corner of Second and Market streets |
| N-5264.57-63-8 | View of northwest elevation of three buildings facing Market Street, looking southeast |
| N-5264.57-63-9 | View of northwest and southwest elevations of the block, looking northeast from the rear of the block |
| N-5264.57-63-10 | Detail of northwest and southwest elevations, looking east |
| N-5264.57-63-11 | Perspective of southeast and southwest elevations, looking north from the rear of the block |



Figure 11: Diamond Chemical Block, perspective of northeast and southeast elevations of block, looking west along Second Street from King to Market streets.



Figure 12: Diamond Chemical Block, perspective of northeast and southeast elevations of Bernie's Tavern.



Figure 13: Diamond Chemical Block, partial view of northeast elevation on Second Street, looking southwest.



Figure 14: Diamond Chemical Block, partial view of northeast elevation of Second Street, looking southwest.



Figure 15: Diamond Chemical Block, partial view of northeast elevation on Second Street, looking southwest.



Figure 16: Diamond Chemical Block, detail of northeast elevation on Second Street, looking south.



Figure 17: Diamond Chemical, perspective of northeast and northwest elevations of the block, looking south.



Figure 18: Diamond Chemical Block, view of northwest elevation of three buildings facing Market Street, looking southeast.



Figure 19: Diamond Chemical Block, view of northwest and southwest elevations of block, looking northeast from the rear of the block.



Figure 20: Diamond Chemical Block, detail of northwest and southwest elevations, looking east.



Figure 21: Diamond Chemical Block, perspective of southeast and southwest elevations, looking north from the rear of the block.

Site Name: Walker-Reynolds Stable

CRS Number: N-00000

HABS Number: DE-000

Location: Saw Mill Branch Road
Appoquinimink Hundred
New Castle County, Delaware

Date of Field Work: November 1998

Type of Documentation: Level II: Partial Intensive
Annotated field notes (4 sheets)
Measured drawings (1 AutoCAD format)
35 mm color slides (3)
Architectural Data Sheet

Threat: The stable has been vacant and unused for many years. Neglect and exposure to the elements have resulted in extreme deterioration and partial collapse of the roof and the adjoining barn.

Significance: Although plank or log was a common method of construction for both dwellings and agricultural outbuildings in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, few examples of outbuildings built with this system survive in Delaware today. The Walker-Reynolds Stable, although seriously deteriorated, provides an excellent example of log building technology as it was applied to outbuildings.

Description: The Walker-Reynolds Stable is located on the south side of Saw Mill Branch Road, as part of a small farm complex that also includes a two-story dwelling, milk house, and a collapsed barn. The stable is a small, nearly square building, measuring 22 by 20 feet. Originally it stood one-and-a-half stories high with a gabled roof, but in the twentieth century the roof was raised several feet reconfigured as a shed roof. The current roofing material is corrugated metal. The exterior of the building is covered with vertical board siding which is still extant on the north and west elevations. The door and window openings on the stable have been

extensively altered over time.

The stable is constructed with planks that are hewn on two sides with the bark remaining on the tops and bottoms. V-notches in the planks provide the joinery at the corners of the building; the planks are trimmed to create a flat surface beneath the siding. Ceiling joists run east to west; these appear to have been reused from another building, since some are planed and finished with a beaded edge while others are rough-hewn with bark remaining in places. The planks continue for about three feet above the ceiling height; above the top log is a frame construction to support the later roof.

The stable is divided into two sections on the ground floor, by a half height partition wall that runs east to west and appears to be of a later construction than the main part of the stable. Two doors in the west elevation lead into these separate sections. The southern section has a door centrally located in the south wall and what appears to be a window opening in the east wall next to the dividing partition.

The door opening into the north section leads into a small space blocked off by a partition wall. The exterior logs on the west wall of this space are white washed. Large holes drilled in these logs at mid-height probably held pegs used to hang equipment. Beyond the storage space, there is one large space with a door in the east wall leading in to the frame barn, and a blocked window in the north wall.

History: The Walker-Reynolds Stable is located on a parcel of land that belonged to the Walker family through the first half of the nineteenth century and the Staats family for much of the second half. Isaac Walker began acquiring land in Appoquinimink Hundred circa 1810 and by the time of his death in 1845, he owned almost 700 acres, divided into five properties. Walker left no will specifying how his property should be divided among his nine children, so the New Castle County Orphans Court oversaw the survey and partition of the real estate among the heirs.

One of the five properties was called the “Home Farm,” likely indicating that it was the property occupied by Walker and his family. When this property was divided, the log dwelling went with one part while the outbuildings went with the other. Walker’s son, Isaac, received 84 acres of the “Home Farm,” while another son, John, acquired the remaining 92 acres of the farm.

Between 1845 and 1860, these two parcels changed hands several times, always within the Walker family; in 1860 James Staats purchased the full 177 acres known as the “Home Farm” from Martin and Maria Walker.

Like Isaac Walker, Sr., Staats owned multiple farm properties in St. Georges and Appoquinimink hundreds, which he then rented to tenant farmers or worked with a system of resident farm managers and hired laborers. When Staats died in 1870, his real estate passed to his wife and three children; the Walker farm remained in their hands until it was sold in 1917.

The log stable was most likely constructed during Walker’s ownership. His probate inventory lists both horses and mules, draft animals that required greater care and protection from the elements than did oxen. Orphans Court documents describe a log house and outbuildings on the farm, without any further detail about the outbuildings. Thus, the stable may date to this period of occupation, or may have been moved to the location at a later date to associate with the house presently on the site. Physical evidence in the stable would support a construction date anytime between 1820 and 1860.

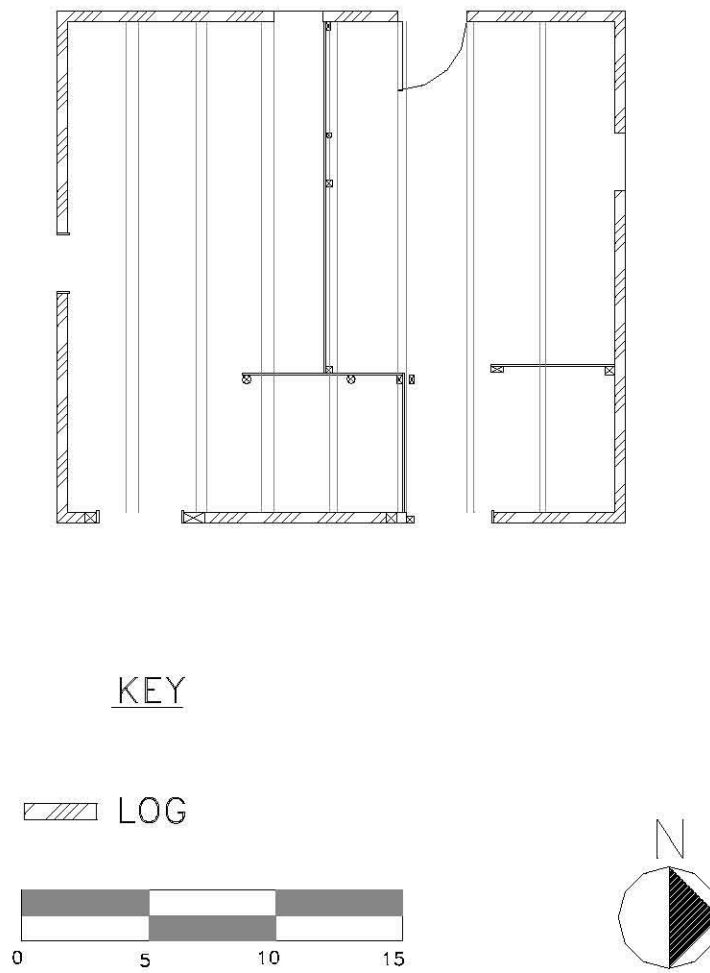


Figure 22: Walker-Reynolds Stable, first floor plan.

MID-ATLANTIC HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY
INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Walker-Reynolds Stable
Saw Mill Branch Road
Appoquinimink Hundred
New Castle County, Delaware

CRS # N-00000

Photographer: Rebecca J. Sheppard

November 1998

N-00000-1 Perspective of the north and east elevations, looking southwest

N-00000-2 Interior detail of the plank joinery in the northwest corner

N-00000-3 Interior view of the intermediate interior wall and exterior walls



Figure 23: Walker-Reynolds Stable, perspective of the north and east elevations, looking southwest.



Figure 24: Walker-Reynolds Stable, interior detail of the plank joinery in the northwest corner.

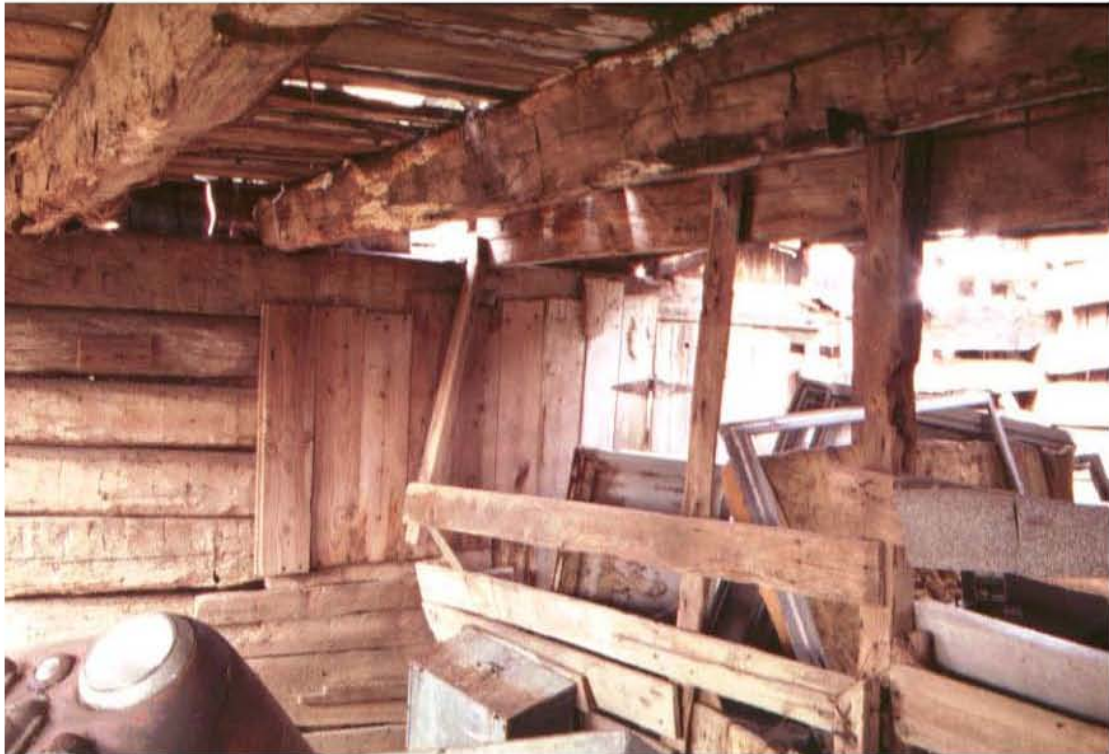


Figure 25: Walker-Reynolds Stable, interior view of the partition wall and west wall, looking northwest.

Site Name: Henry Whiteman House

CRS Number: N-261
HABS Number: DE-000

Location: Smith Mill Road
Corner Ketch vicinity
Mill Creek Hundred
New Castle County, Delaware

Date of Fieldwork: July 1998

Type of Documentation: Level II: partial intensive
annotated field notes (3 sheets)
pencil drawings (3 sheets)
ink-on-mylar drawings (1 sheet)
35 mm black and white photos (15)
architectural data sheet

Threat: A single-family housing development is being constructed on the farm property. Initial plans called for demolition of the house. Negotiations between Preservation Delaware Inc, the New Castle County Historic Preservation Review Board, and the developers resulted in a compromise that will preserve the dwelling at another location.

Significance: The Whiteman House is a two-story stone dwelling from the early nineteenth century. Typical of the houses that once dotted the landscape of Mill Creek Hundred, it is now a rare survival due to development pressures.

Description: The Henry Whiteman House is now part of the Middle Run Crossing subdivision in Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. Located at 210 Smith Mill Road, the house stands east of Paper Mill Road, approximately 1.25 miles north of Milford Crossroads.

The Whiteman House is located on a hilly site, approximately 100 feet north of Smith Mill Road. Densely wooded areas and agricultural fields were once predominant in the area, and are still visible on the west side of Paper Mill Road. The land immediately surrounding the house is currently in the final phase of development for a single-family home subdivision. The lot directly west of the house has been designated as open space for the subdivision, leaving the

view of the property from Paper Mill Road basically unaltered. Presently the Whiteman House is accessed from Smith Mill Road, although the original farm lane no longer exists due to extensive construction and regrading of the land surrounding the house. The house sits on a flatter portion of the land that extends westward to Paper Mill Road, while the terrain behind the house slopes gently down to the east. Recent construction prompted severe regrading of the ground directly abutting the east elevation of the house, resulting in a steep grade directly behind the house. Built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the two-and-a-half story, five-bay, stone, gable-roofed dwelling is rectangular in shape, measuring 18 by 42 feet. Two interior gable-end brick chimneys rise through the north and south gables. A row of trees, approximately 30 yards east of the dwelling and running north-south, line the front of the property from the northeast portion of the property down to Smith Mill Road. No outbuildings remain on the property.

The dwelling is composed of a two-and-a-half story main block, with a twentieth-century two-story, single-bay addition centered on the east elevation. On the first floor, there is a square concrete-pad entranceway on the west elevation, an open porch and addition on the east elevation, and a bulkhead cellar entrance on the south elevation. The main block has a gabled, wood shingle roof. The east addition has a wood shingle shed roof. A wood shingle half-hip roof covers the porch on the east elevation. The main block of the house is rubble fieldstone covered with stucco painted white. Some of the stucco and paint has deteriorated, revealing the quartz stone underneath.

The west elevation is the principal, or front, elevation. The first floor contains five unevenly-spaced openings. A square concrete-pad indicates the main entrance, which is the second of the five openings from the north. The doorway is set in to the stone wall, leaving about a one-and-a-half foot threshold, which has been paneled both overhead and on the sides. All other openings on the elevation are two-over-two-light double-hung sash windows. A scar under the second window from the south suggests that this opening was originally a door, later filled in and converted to a window. Three symmetrically spaced windows on the second floor align with the first, third, and fifth openings on the first floor; they are also two-over-two-light double-hung sash windows, like the majority of the windows throughout the house. A boxed

cornice runs the length of the front of the house.

The north elevation contains two openings. Because the house is located on a slight slope, part of the cellar level is exposed on the north gable end and contains one opening in the western side – a small rectangular window – to air and light the cellar. The first and second floors on the north elevation contain no openings. The attic story contains one opening in the eastern portion of the gable – a four-pane casement window. The attic story also contains the outline of a date-stone in the center of the gable, although no writing is legible.

The east elevation contains four bays, three on the main block and one on the addition. The second opening from the south is a door. The other openings are two-over-two-light double-hung sash windows. A scar in the wall indicates the possibility of a fifth opening on the first floor, between the current third and fourth openings from the south. The twentieth-century, single-bay, 4 x 6¹ foot addition is masonry on the first floor with a centrally placed two-over-two-light double-hung sash window. A half-hip-roofed porch shields the first floor and rests on six stone supports that are not tied into the house. Concrete stairs at both the north and south end of the porch provide access. The southernmost portion of the porch extends further out to the east and has a concrete slab surface, whereas the remainder of the porch floor is frame. The second story contains three symmetrically placed windows directly over the first floor window openings. The addition is 6² x 7² feet and is frame on the second floor. It is slightly offset to the north and cantilevers over the first floor level. It has a centrally placed two-over-two-light double-hung sash window and a shed roof.

The south elevation has three openings. The cellar's exterior bulkhead entrance is located on the eastern portion of the cellar level. The first floor contains a two-over-two-light double-hung sash window on the southern side. The second story contains no openings. The attic story has one opening, a four-pane casement window located on the western side of the gable.

The paneled threshold at the main entrance on the west elevation opens into a 19 by 15 foot room. There is a scar in the floor directly inside the entrance – possibly the location of a heater grate. A walled-in fireplace is centered on the north wall, flanked on the west by a cabinet and on the east by a closet. The window on the south side of the entrance lights the straight-run,

open-string staircase in the southeast corner that runs along the south wall and leads to the upper story. This stair appears to be a twentieth-century replacement. A scar in the ceiling of this room, running parallel to the current stair, suggests that an earlier partition wall was removed. The original stair may have been located against this wall. This configuration is supported by the location of the door through the rear (east) wall into the bathroom addition. This would have originally been the exterior door at the rear of the stair passage. The two-and-a-half inch plank wood flooring runs east-west in this room and is a twentieth-century addition.

A door in the south wall, at the base of the stair, leads into the kitchen. The west wall of the kitchen contains two windows. The southernmost window is similar to the other windows in the house. The while the northern window is slightly wider and less splayed; this evidence is consistent with the exterior scar indicating an earlier exterior door. The south wall contains one window in the eastern corner, which sits slightly lower than the rest of the windows. The east wall contains two openings – a window on the southern side and a paneled door that serves as the rear exterior door to the house. The north wall has a set-in area in the northeast corner that contains the opening to the cellar on the west and the opening to the addition on the east. The kitchen is heavily reworked with late-twentieth century materials; the twentieth-century addition is a 4 foot by 6 foot bathroom.

On the second floor, a 10 foot by 3 foot hallway along the east wall separates the space into two main rooms, one each at the south and north ends, while a small central room houses the stairs to the attic. The entrance to the twentieth-century bathroom addition on the east is at the head of the stairway. The second floor has variable width plank flooring. A door at the north end of the hallway opens into the 15 foot by 15 foot north room. A single window is centered on the west wall. A centrally placed blocked-in fireplace is on the north wall, flanked by a twentieth- century closet on the west and an older closet on the east. The earlier closet has an unusually high doorway. The fireplace surround was removed and is in storage; it is a simple Federal style surround with fluted pilasters and an empty panel in the center that might have originally contained a painted scene. The fireplace surround is topped by a molded cornice which undulates over the pilasters and the central panel. A centrally placed window on the east wall overlooks the first floor porch. Roughly 3 feet north of the south wall is a scar in the

flooring that extends 10 feet from the west wall into the room is then connects to the partition wall. This scar corresponds to the scar in the ceiling of the room below on the first floor and again suggests a change in the location of the original partition wall and the stair.

The ten foot by eleven-and-a-half foot central room is accessed from the hall and has a centrally placed window on the west wall. This window lights the narrow, straight-run closed stair leading to the attic that is located in the northeast corner of the room. A scar four feet from the south wall runs the length of the room east-west and across the hallway to the east wall of the house. Nail marks on either side of this seam indicate an earlier partition wall. A door at the southern end of the hall opens into the 10 foot by 15 foot south room. A window on the east wall overlooks the first floor porch. The south wall contains a centrally placed chimney stack; a scar in the southwest corner of this room indicates changes to the chimney. The west wall contains a window. A closet is located in the northwest corner of the room.

The attic is accessed from the central room on the second floor. The straight stair opens into the center of the attic. The east and west walls have a two-and-a-half foot stone knee wall. A stone based chimney with a brick top is centered in the north gable end. A small window flanks the east side. The south gable end contains a brick chimney and a window on the west side. Jagged irregular stone around the stack indicates a former stone chimney that was replaced by the current brick one. The regularly spaced rafters (19 inches on center) are regular in dimension and are marked with roman numerals. The east rafters rest on the west ones, and some of them are pegged. Plywood covers the original floor, but a hole in the east knee wall reveals that the floor joists extend beyond the wall and carry the rafters.

The cellar is an open rectangular plan that corresponds with the main block of the house. Stucco covers the stone walls and the floor is concrete. Three symmetrically spaced windows line the east wall and open into the space under the first floor porch and addition. A relieving arch for the north gable end fireplace is flanked on the west by a small window. The south wall contains the centrally placed chimney, which provides part of the wall for the bulkhead entranceway in the southeast corner. A candlebox is located in this wall to light the entrance. Four regularly spaced log posts, two on either side of the center access from the kitchen, support a 4 inch square summer beam running north-south. The summer beam was cut to allow for the

central stair.

Although the interior plan of the dwelling has been altered, the lack of any clear seams in the stone suggests one period of construction for the main block, probably in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Decorative molding on some of the doors and windows, particularly in the north room on the first floor, suggests a hierarchy of finish to identify the “best” room. The baseboard molding is consistent throughout the house and is ogee cap quarter round on the floor. The scars in the north rooms on both floors suggest that the original plan was a central hall with the stair on the north side of the hall. The relocation of the stair and the removal of the north hallway wall probably occurred in the early twentieth century. The two-story bathroom addition is the most recent change made to the house and was probably done in the early to mid twentieth century.

History: The Whiteman family first came to Mill Creek Hundred in 1799, when Jacob Whiteman, Senior, purchased a large tract of land from Thomas Rice. By 1804, Jacob constructed a log house and a frame barn on the 196-acre property. The 1816 tax assessment for the property lists the house as being constructed of stone. This improvement coincides with the trend towards stone construction that occurred in Mill Creek Hundred between 1798 and 1820.

Prior to his death in 1826, Jacob Whiteman sold 98 acres to his son Henry. According to the 1828 tax assessment, Henry Whiteman built a stone house and a frame barn on the property during his first two years of ownership. Henry and his wife, Anna, had six children while living in Mill Creek Hundred. When he died in 1855, Henry left the 98-acre farm to his son George. In 1850 and 1860, the farm primarily produced Indian corn and oats, but also raised smaller crops of wheat and potatoes. At this time Henry had improved 82 of his 96 acres, increasing the value of the property to \$8000.

George Whiteman occupied the farm for at least five years, but by 1864, the farm passed into the hands of George’s brother, Henry. It was in this year that he in turn gave the farm to their brother Andrew Jackson Whiteman. Probate records show that the farm primarily cultivated grain crops, such as wheat and oats. Likewise, potatoes and Indian corn were also grown. The family maintained a small number of steers and milk cows to supplement their

farming activities. Other smaller crops included hay and clover seed.

In 1930, Samuel Hallock du Pont, with the aid of the Equitable Trust Company, acquired the property as part of a larger 36-parcel purchase, most of which were in Mill Creek Hundred. When the land was sold the deed described it as the property formerly owned by the Whitemans, though it is not clear whether the Whiteman family sold the property themselves, or if it had left their hands at an earlier date. Members of the du Pont family lived on some of the new properties, while others were leased out or demolished. It was likely during this period that the dwelling was modernized with the bathroom additions and the change in the stair location.

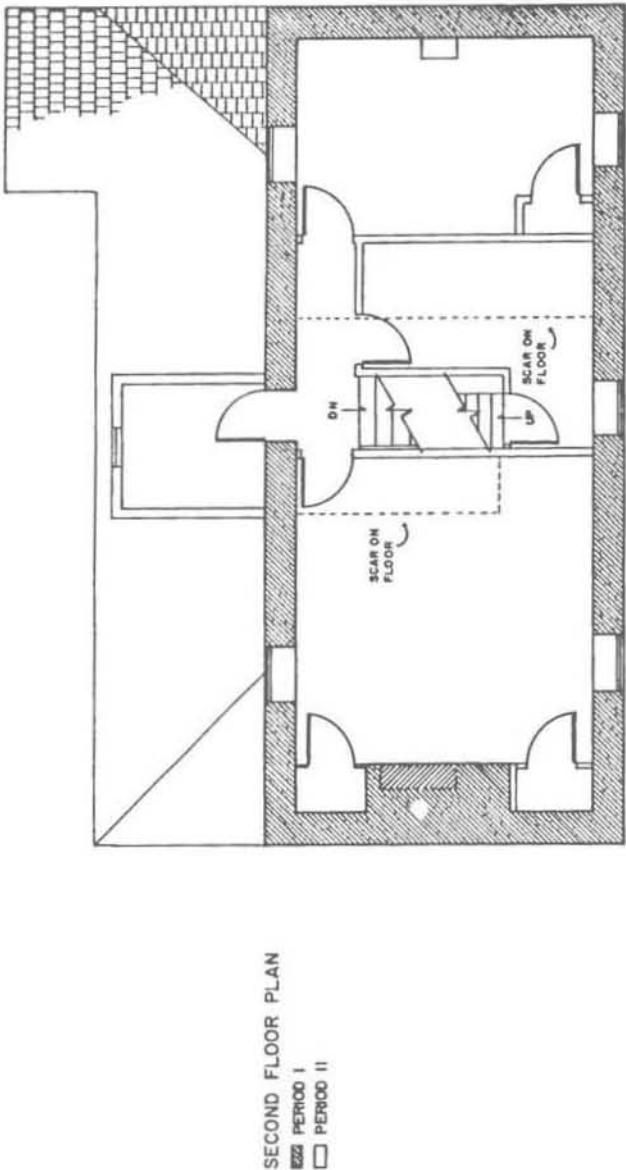


Figure 27: Whiteman House, second floor plan.

MID-ATLANTIC HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY
INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Henry Whiteman House
Smith Mill Road
Corner Ketch vicinity
Mill Creek Hundred
New Castle County, Delaware

CRS # N-261

Photographer: Rebecca J. Sheppard

July 1998

- | | |
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| N-261-1 | Perspective of the north and west elevations, looking southeast |
| N-261-2 | Environmental view of the north and east elevations, looking southwest |
| N-261-3 | View of the east elevation looking west |
| N-261-4 | Environmental view of the south and east elevations looking northwest |
| N-261-5 | First floor: view of the west wall, partition wall and stair in the north room, looking southwest |
| N-261-6 | First floor: detail of the stair newel and door surround against the partition wall in the north room, looking southeast |
| N-261-7 | First floor: detail of the west wall windows in the south room, looking west |
| N-261-8 | First floor: detail of the door in the east wall of the west room, looking east |
| N-261-9 | Second floor: view from north room down passage along east side of the house, looking south |
| N-261-10 | Second floor: view of north wall in north room with removed fireplace surround, looking north |
| N-261-11 | View of removed fireplace surround from second floor north room |
| N-261-12 | Detail of molding on fireplace surround from second floor north room |

- | | |
|----------|---|
| N-261-13 | Second floor: detail of west wall window in north room, looking northwest |
| N-261-14 | Second floor: view of stair to attic in center room, looking north |
| N-261-15 | Attic: view of west and north wall, looking northwest |



Figure 28: Whiteman House, perspective of the north and west elevations, looking southeast.



Figure 29: Whiteman House, environmental view of the north and east elevations, looking southwest.



Figure 30: Whiteman House, view of the east elevation looking west.



Figure 31: Whiteman House, environmental view of the north and east elevations, looking northwest.



Figure 32: Whiteman House, first floor: view of the west wall, partition wall, and stair in the north room, looking southwest.



Figure 33: Whiteman House, first floor: detail of the stair newel and door surround against the partition wall in the north room, looking southeast.



Figure 34: Whiteman Farm, first floor: detail of the west wall windows in the south room looking west.



Figure 35: Whiteman House, first floor: detail of the door in the east wall of the west room, looking east.



Figure 36: Whiteman House, second floor: view from north room down passage along east side of the house, looking south.



Figure 37: Whiteman House, second floor: view of north wall in north room with fireplace surround, looking north.



Figure 38: Whiteman House, view of removed fireplace surround from second floor north room.



Figure 39: Whiteman House, detail of molding on fireplace surround from second floor north room.



Figure 40: Whiteman House, second floor: detail of west wall in north room, looking northwest.



Figure 41: Whiteman House, second floor: view of stair to attic in center room, looking north.



Figure 42: Whiteman House, attic: view of west and north wall, looking northwest.