I. Introduction

1601 and 1605 Naamans Road

These two houses are significant as examples of the early twentieth century practice of subdividing parcels at the edge of farms to provide housing for family members or for speculative building. 1605 was built between 1927 and 1930 and 1601 was constructed circa 1940, as part of a series of lots broken out by William Hanby and his wife Daisy.

History

William and Daisy Hanby married in 1896. Ten years later, they purchased 33 acres on the north side of Naamans Road where William plied his trade as a butcher. The couple raised seven children (William L., Evan, Leighton, Margaret, Ida, J. Rodney, and Jesse). By 1925, their three eldest sons, William, Evan, and Leighton, had all married and had found employment outside the family business; William worked as a spinner at a textile mills in Claymont while his brothers worked as carpenters. William and Daisy sold each of the three sons a small parcel on which to build a home for their families. Youngest son Jesse, along with married daughters Margaret and Ida and their families still lived with William and Daisy in 1930.

William L. Hanby and his wife Elsie married in 1925 and purchased their parcel (which would become 1605 Naamans Road) in April 1927. Although William was the eldest of the three brothers, he was the last to marry. By 1927, his brother Leighton...
already occupied the parcel to the west with his family and Evan’s family lived furthest west. By 1930, the three brothers occupied dwellings in a row along Naamans Road.

In 1934, William and Daisy Hanby sold a fourth parcel, to the east of William and Elsie, to Samuel and Katie Kliszcz for $9500. An aerial photograph taken in 1937 indicates that the present house, now known as 1601 Naamans Road, did not yet exist.

**Description**

The two dwellings, with their detached garages, are excellent examples of the bungalow style with some Craftsman detailing. Both retain a high level of integrity in terms of the surviving exterior materials and form. There are some striking similarities between the two dwellings, as well as some significant differences, suggesting that they may have had a common builder but were designed with different families in mind.

Both dwellings exhibit the classic bungalow characteristics: one or one and a half stories in height, wide porches with roofs incorporated into the roofline of the whole house, and dormer windows to light the upper floor. The presence of detached garages that match the dwellings in style marks the rise of the automobile in the 1920s and 30s. 1601 is built of brick while 1605 is built of stone, but the stone foundation of 1601 matches that used for 1605. Additionally, both houses are built so that their living rooms contain a fireplace on one exterior wall; these two walls are positioned so that they face each other. Small fixed windows on each side of the two chimneys lit the living rooms, but preserved the privacy of the families.

1601 seems to have been designed with a larger family in mind than 1605. The first floor contained a living room, dining room, and kitchen, along with two bedrooms and a third space at the rear that provided a bathroom and utility room; the upper floor
offered four small bedrooms, one of which was later converted to a bathroom. Although 1601 is larger than 1605, with more rooms on the first floor and additional bedrooms on the upper floor, it has simpler trim and woodwork on the interior. 1605 is much simpler in plan, offering a living room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, and a bathroom on the first floor, with the upper floor limited to an unfinished attic space. The house boasts a built-in cabinet in the kitchen (placed next to the door into the dining room), more detailed woodwork around windows and doors, and hardwood floors that define the dining room, entry, and living room spaces. The fireplace in this house features a surround of the same stonework used on the exterior walls, providing a distinct focal point to the room.