

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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N-105

Property Name: Fields Heirs (1868)

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The Fields House is located on the west side of route 71, 200 feet west of the roadway and .2 miles south of the junction of 71 and business 896. The house and outbuildings are surrounded by cultivated fields and the town of Middletown is clearly visible to the east. The nominated parcel includes 3 acres containing the house and contributing outbuildings.

Owner: Prinz Von Croy  
c/o Colonial I&M Co.  
Dover, Delaware  
19901

Description:

The Fields House is a two-and-a-half story, five bay by two bay center-hall plan residence with a one-and-a-half story rear addition forming an L-shaped house. The exterior walls are weatherboard under asbestos siding. The foundation is rubble stone with a full basement running under the main block of the house.

The gabled roofs of both the main block and addition are covered with tin. The main block houses brick interior gable end chimneys with corbelled caps while the addition houses two interior brick chimneys of two different styles indicating the two periods of construction. The addition has a total of four dormers, three on the south side and one on the north side, each with returning eaves and six over six sash. The cornice is boxed with no decorative trim.

The windows are six over six sash with wood surrounds. The attic is lit with four-light gable end windows flanking the endwall chimneys. The center front entrance is a single leaf door surrounded by a single pane transom and four pane side-lights. There is a shed portice on the south facade of the addition.

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In 1980 the roof was re-roofed. In the process, the two dormers on the east side of the roof were removed. The tops of these dormers were segmental arches. Also removed were five bay front porch which featured classical columns, a decorative cornice and pilasters on the facade of the house. Evidence of the porch can still be seen on the east facade of the house as one of the pilasters was left in place and brick foundation still exists.

On the interior are mid-nineteenth-century mantels, woodwork and stairs. From interior photographs one can see that the fireplace in the south room is bricked over with a stove in front. The fireplace in the north room was boarded up. The woodwork on the mantels and around the doors is fluted wood with corner blocks.

A large number of outbuildings accompany this farmhouse. All are situated to the north and west of the farmhouse, forming a courtyard area. These buildings include a drive through granary directly north of the house. Connecting the granary to the cross gable gambrel roof barn is an equipment shed. Directly west of the farmhouse is a row of equipment sheds, some open and others enclosed, apparently having been built in stages. Within the courtyard are the remnants of a windmill, a concrete block milk house and another small, one-story, frame structure with vertical planking, corrugated tin roof, and four-pane windows flanking a center doorway. The gambrel roof barn, windmill, concrete milk house, and equipment sheds are listed as noncontributing elements.

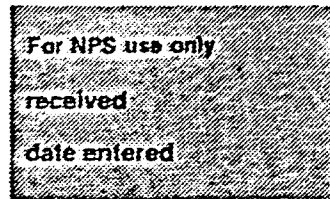
Historical Background and Significance:

Little is known about the Fields House other than that in 1868 the farm was in the hands of an estate, and that in later years was in the ownership of C.G. Ash and contained 382 acres. The paucity of information in this case is particularly significant. As the rebuilding cycle progressed many landholders acquiring new farms simply turned over the existing houses to farm managers as their personal residences. Ash's absence from any of the later agricultural census returns indicate that an unknown tenant and not the owner occupied and ran this farm adjacent to the most fertile and productive lands in St. Georges Hundred.

Architecturally, the dwelling exhibits the formal traits characteristic of the rebuilding period. Central stair-passage, secondary entries, service ells,

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and a clear progression from the front of the house to the rear in terms of both domestic life and social interaction are hallmarks of this local building tradition.

Nomination by Bert Jicha, Trish Bensinger, and William Macintire