# Table of Contents

New Castle County

- Huguenot House
- Liston House
- Hart House
- Old Brick Hotel
- Clearfield Farm
- Fairview
- David Wilson House
- Corbit House
- Appoquinimink Meeting House
- Old Drawyers Church
- Naudain House
- Noxon House and Mill
- Old St. Anne's Church
- Cochran Grange
- Monterey
- Macdonough House
- Sutton House
- Linden Hall
- Damascus
- Lexington
- Mansion Farm
- Buena Vista
- Lewden House
- Read House
- Springer House At Stanton
- Cooch House
John England House ..........................................
Chestnut Hill Farm ...........................................
Welsh Tract Baptist Meeting ...............................  
Old College .................................................
Purnell Hall ................................................
Elliott Hall ................................................
Ashland Mills ..............................................
Dunleith ......................................................
Grantham House ...........................................
The Buttonwoods ...........................................
Monks Barns ................................................
Old Eves Place .............................................
Old Town Hall ...............................................  
Old Arsenal .................................................
Gemmill House ..............................................
Gilpin House ...............................................  
Delaware House ...........................................
Old Jefferson Hotel .......................................  
Old Farmers' Bank ...........................................
Aull House ...................................................
Immanuel Parish House ....................................
Spread Eagle Hotel ........................................
The Deemer House .........................................
Stonum .......................................................  
Garrett House ...............................................  
Boyce House ...............................................  
Tatnall - Byrnes House ...................................
Galloway House ............................................
Parkin - Myers House
Norwood
Rockwell
Woodstock
Buck or Carson's Tavern
St. James's Church
John Stalcop Log House
Fleming's Landing
Lackford Hall

New Castle and Wilmington
Amstel House
Senator VanDyke House
Kensey Johns Van Dyke House
Kensey Johns House
Kensey Johns, Junior House
Old Dutch House
Rodney House
Booth House
"William Penn" House
Colby House
Gunning Bedford House
McIntire House
Van Leuvenigh House
Read House
Presbyterian Church
Immanuel Church
Glebe House
The Hermitage
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old Court House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Academy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boothhurst</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eden Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swanwyck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glynrich</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alrichs House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Hook Farm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banning House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Swedes Church (Holy Trinity)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends Meeting House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Town Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old First Presbyterian Church</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank of Delaware</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware Academy of Medicine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derrickson - Bringham House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tatnall Houses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleutherian Mills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strand Millas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louviers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lombardy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naaman's</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS
NEW CASTLE COUNTY
2. Door to kitchen room, and stair in early addition.
3. Fireplace and paneling in "Great Room" of the 1711 part of house.
At Taylor's Bridge, in Blackbird Hundred

Elias Naudain, the progenitor of the family in America, came to the Three Lower Counties very early in the eighteenth century, about 1708, in all likelihood. His father, Elias Naudain, was a Huguenot, born at Nantes in 1655, who had fled to England about the time the Edict of Nantes was revoked.

Elias, the émigré, whether born in France, or in London after the flight from Nantes, was made a denizen (naturalised as a British subject) in 1703, when he was about eighteen or nineteen. His certificate of denization, attested before Thomas Lawrence, a London notary public, was recorded in New Castle, June 12, 1720.

This London certificate of 1703 says that Elias Naudain, "tho born beyond the seas, is made her Majesty's liege subject" and is given all the rights of subjects as well as the privilege of purchasing land in any of her dominions.

Soon after his arrival in the Three Lower Counties on Delaware, Elias acquired extensive land-holdings in Appoquinimink and neighbouring Hundreds. He entered at once into the life of the community and, in 1715, is recorded as being one of the elders at Old Drawyers Church.

In 1711 he built at Taylor's Bridge the house that is generally known as the "Huguenot House," though it seems likely that the first built part may have been started somewhat earlier. This house still belongs to Elias Naudain's descendants, though for a long time past it has been occupied by tenant-farmers.
The house faces north and has two full floors and a very low attic. It is built of brick, laid in Flemish-bond, and the water-table is topped with moulded bricks. There was once a pent-house extending entirely across the north and south fronts of the house (the traces of which are plainly visible); there was, therefore no belt course.

A line of division in the brickwork of the north front shows clearly in the illustration and indicates the extent of the western or first-built part of the house. This line occurs at the west end of the present hood above the house-door.

This first structure consisted of two full floors in what is now the main block of the house, and a one-storey-and-attic wing. Just exactly what was the original extent of the wing it is impossible to say, because of successive alterations and enlargements that have obliterated many of the original lines. The brickwork in the north front of the wing shows where the original masonry has been pulled out irregularly at different times, and replaced by later brickwork until nearly all of the western end is practically modern masonry.

Indoors, one treads on surer ground. Evidence, intact, shows that the plan was basically the "Resurrection Manor" plan, with slight variations. The "great room" (extending the whole depth of the house from north to south) is lighted on the north by the one window on the ground floor west of the door-hood. There is a corresponding window at the south end of the "great room."

On the west wall is the capacious fireplace; to the south of it a deep cupboard with panelled doors; to the north, the
winding stair, closed off by a door, to the bedrooms above. Between the fireplace and the stair, a door, with one step down, opens into the "added" room. This "added" room, co-eval with the "great room", was doubtless a roomy kitchen. It probably had a separate stair to the attic overhead.

The whole west wall of the "great room" is encased in admirable paneling; cupboard with its doors, chimney-breast, over-door to "added" room, and door and doorway to stair, vigorous bolection moldings adding their fitting accent to the composition. Around the whole room is a wooden cornice with excellent moldings. From the punctilious way in which the "great room" was finished it seems evident that an addition was intended.

That addition was soon to follow. The extent of the addition appears in the illustration; all that is eastward of the present door-hood and the sharp line of division showing in the brick masonry. The house-door and two windows are in the ground floor of the addition, and three equidistant windows in the upper storey.

Inside, a door opposite the fireplace of the first-built "great room" opens into a wide hall that extends the full depth of the house. At one end of it is an open stair of three straight runs ascending to the upper floor, with newels, handrails and turned-baluster spindles. At the righthand side is the south door, not in line however with the wide house-door at the north end of the hall. It is one of the earliest open stairs, if not indeed the earliest, in any of the old houses in Delaware.

The arched double door on the east side of the hall opens into a truly great room, far larger than in any house of comparable date in Delaware. Excepting the hall, it takes up the
Lister House at Lister Point. Built 1789. Raided by Pirates 1747.
whole ground floor of the addition, in breadth, the full depth of the house, in length extending to the east end of the structure.

Its woodwork corresponds with the manner of the arched doorway in the hall. A wooden cornice, the same as that above the arched doorway, extends around all four walls. Panelled window seats are beneath its four windows; two on the north, and two on the south sides.

The entire fireplace wall at the east end is handsomely panelled in the same vigorous fashion. All things considered, it is as handsome a room as one could find in any American house of approximately the same period. The panelling and other woodwork closely resemble the same features at Hope Lodge, in the Whitemarsh Valley, built some years later. When this room was planned, did not Elias Naudain have in mind some of the things he had seen in England as a young man? Unfortunately, for the purposes of tenant-farmer occupancy, this noble room has been cut in two by a partition across the middle.

Without fully coinciding with recognised Georgian usage, the "Huguenot House" strongly savours of Queen Anne-Early Georgian character. It is, beyond all question, one of the most significant of the early houses of Delaware.

LISTON HOUSE
Near Taylor's Bridge

At the dead end of a long winding road from Taylor's Bridge to Liston Point is the Liston House, built by Edmund Liston in 1739.
His father, Morris Liston, had come into Delaware before 1680 and
had purchased 1200 acres from the Indians. A patent for this tract
he had got from the Penn Government in 1702.

The gambrel-roofed brick house Edmund Liston built is small,
but it is a good example of pre-Georgian domestic architecture,
one-storey-and-attic in height, with a lower frame wing at one side.
The masonry is of excellent quality, laid in Flemish-bond with
black headers. The panelled chimneys, with the necking at their
tops, hark back to an almost Elizabethan precedent.

The pre-Georgian plan of the main or brick part of the house
is obviously of the same derivation as that of White Meadow Farm,
of the Ridgely and Loockerman houses in Dover, and of others in
Kent and Sussex Counties; the essential basic element being one
large oblong room, with a fireplace and a stair winding up beside
it to the bedrooms above and any added rooms on the ground floor,
opening from the original one main room. At the Liston house, the
one large room of the ground floor is almost square instead of ob-
long. The interior of the house has been much altered.

During the French and Indian War the Liston house was thrust
into the limelight of Colonial history by an incident that happened
on July 12, 1747. To quote a deposition recorded in the Colonial
Archives of Pennsylvania,

"Edmund Liston, of Apoquinimink Hundred, in the County
of Newcastle, Yeoman, being one of the People called
Quakers, on his solemn Affirmation declares and affirms,
that on Sunday the twelfth Day of this Instant, July,
about one o'Clock in the afternoon, a Company of For-
eigners, which the Affirmant believes to be Spaniards,
to the number of Nineteen, came ashore in an open Boat
from a Pilot Boat riding at Anchor in the River Dela-
ware over against the Affirmant's House, which is
Situate about four Miles above Bombay Hook and about half a Mile from the Banks of the said River Delaware, and as the Affirmant was afterwards told by his Daughter, as soon as they landed some of them ran to the Place where his Daughter and a Negro Girl happen'd to be getting Crabbs, seized the Negro Girl, tyed her, and put her into the Boat. This Affirmant further Declares that the said Foreigners came Directly to him, this Affirmant, arm'd with Gunns, Cutlashes, & Pistols and telling him they belong'd to a Spanish Privateer not far off, they demanded his Negroes, Money, and the Keys of his Drawers, & having got some Keys from him they proceeded to ruffle & plunder his House, & took out of it several sorts of wearing Apparall, Bedding, Cloaths, & Furniture, & tying them in separate Bundles they carried them to the Shore, & afterwards put them on board the open Boat; they likewise took a Negro Woman and two little Negro Children, one of [them] a sucking Child, and then clapping their Pistols to this Affirmant's Breast they compelled him to go with them to the next Plantation, belonging to James Hart, at the distance of about half a Mile.

(Signed) Edmund E L Liston

Governour Thomas, Governour of both the Province of Pennsylvania and of the Three Lower Counties, being then in England, his duties devolved upon the Council. The Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly not then being in session, the Councillors put the matter before the Speaker and several members of Assembly who were in Philadelphia.

The Speaker and Assemblymen would do nothing, and intimated that persons who lived in such exposed places must expect molestation.

At that time the policy of the Pennsylvania Assembly was dictated by the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. James Logan, too unwell to attend Yearly Meeting himself, wrote the Meeting a letter pointing out the grave danger, the likelihood of the pirates attacking Philadelphia, and the urgent necessity of
taking immediate measures to clear the river of pirates and privateers.

The Meeting sidetracked Logan's letter in a committee; the committee decided that as the letter dealt only with military and financial matters, it was not fitting to be read before the Meeting! Logan then published the letter, but it failed to budge the then political "bosses."

When the Assembly met they took the attitude that the river was long and very difficult for strangers to navigate; Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas, on the south, were between Pennsylvania and the Spaniards; New Jersey, on the east, was between Pennsylvania and the ocean; New York and New England, on the north, were between Pennsylvania and the French. Why should Pennsylvania worry? With this pusillanimous answer, the pig-headed Pennsylvania Assembly refused to lift a finger for defensive measures, against which they were "principled"!

Fortunately, Benjamin Franklin, and those who thought as he did, promptly organised the Associators and built the Association Battery as a measure of protection until aid could be sent from England to rid the river of pirates.

H A R T H O U S E

Liston Point

On same road as the Liston House

The Hart House, built in 1725, like its near neighbour, the Liston House, is of brick, laid in Flemish-bond. It is a small two-storey-and-attic structure with gabled roof, and is three bays wide.

Between the ground floor and the upper storey is a belt
course, stepped at the corners. Above the windows are segmental arches in the brickwork. Over the door is a straight transom of five lights or panes. In other words, though small, so far as the exterior is concerned the house has all the earmarks of a carefully designed Early-Georgian structure.

Inside, the Early-Georgian character of the house stops. The plan is definitely pre-Georgian and is a slight variation from the "one oblong room, fire-place and winding-stair" arrangement explained in the text dealing with White Meadow Farm and several other early eighteenth-century houses.

Both the Hart House and the Liston House, though their story is inseparably connected by the pirate raid of 1747, are noteworthy examples of the substantial, well-devised, brick-built homes of prosperous yeoman farmers in the first half of the eighteenth century. As a matter of fact, they are quite as large as some of the early manor houses of Maryland.

The deposition of James Hart, who lived in the house at the time of the pirate raid, adds some further details of the foray than those recited by Edmund Liston in his statement.

Say James Hart:

"... about three of the Clock in the Afternoon, several People who this Deponent took to be Spaniards, to the number of fifteen, and one Man with a laced Hat, who this Deponent took to be an Englishman (being much fairer than the rest) came Arm'd ... together with Edmund Liston ... who they had forced along with them; ... this Deponent seeing them coming at some distance shut up and bolted his Doors and got his Gun in readiness lest they should prove to be Enemies; ... ."

They came directly up and surrounded the house, and some of them pursued a "Negroe girl belonging to this Deponent," which
chase Hart "perceived thr'o a Window."

At that point, he related:

"one of the said Company called out to this Deponent in good English to surrender or that they would set fire to his House, and several Bullets were fired into the Room where this Deponent, his Wife and Children were, that one of the Bullets wounded his Wife in the Hip, & she bled very much, whereupon this Deponent thought fit to surrender and accordingly opened the Doors of his House."

Thereupon the Spaniards seized Hart, bound his hands, and started to plunder the house. They "took away the above mentioned Negroe," almost all of Hart's clothing, "a pair of Gold Buttons, & several other things" to the value of about £70.

When they had done plundering his house, the pirates forced Hart "away with them to Edmund Liston's Plantation." The rest of the story, and its sequel in Pennsylvania, can be found in the account of the Liston house.

The allusion to the man with a "laced Hat" who spoke "in good English," together with data recorded elsewhere in official documents, leave little doubt that on more than one occasion the pirates and privateers there was precious little difference between them, were aided in their deprivations by disloyal and traitorous inhabitants of the country.

OLD BRICK HOTEL, Later BRICK STORE
Near Brick Store Landing, on a bend of Duck Creek

Near a bend of Duck Creek (for many years cut off from the main channel), and at the end of a lane into a farm, stands a gaunt derelict brick structure. High up on the south gable-end
is the date "1767" in black glazed headers. The farmers in the
neighbourhood now know this building only as "The Granary."

As you approach from the west, what at first glance seems
to be an unusually high stone foundation for the ground floor
is really the upper part of a lower floor, whose full height and
proportions appear only after descending the slope toward the
marsh land on the east.

This now forsaken building, forgotten by all save local
farmers and trappers, was once the old Brick Hotel, for years
the social and business headquarters of the region. Dances used
to be held there and it was the scene of much local gaiety. It
was later known as the Brick Store. The nearby landing, until
about 1820, was a shipping point of first importance for southern
New Castle County. The wharves, where grain vessels formerly
tied up for loading, have rotted and fallen into the marsh. What
was once a main channel, with ten feet of water at ebb tide, is
now silted up and become a part of the marsh.

The old Brick Hotel is 50 feet long and 25 feet in depth.
The ground floor of the building, entered only from the creek
or east side, once held the "noisy barroom and busy kitchen" of
the hotel. From the kitchen a narrow stair ascended to the
dining-room on the floor above.

To enter this upper floor from the west, a flight of steps,
high enough to top what looks like the exceptionally high stone
foundation, leads up to a central doorway. Once inside, it be-
comes evident that the hotel, in its hey-day, was a place of con-
siderable elegance. The public rooms were panelled on the fire-
place walls and there are still many other traces of erstwhile
refinements.
Clearfield Rec. West Park
The attic, now empty except for "muskrat-trapping equipment," was once divided into bedrooms. The ceiling has gone and there is now an unbroken view, through the loft above, to the roof timbers. Tradition says this loft, lighted only by a pair of small round openings at each side of both end chimneys, was a dungeon for kidnapped slaves and, later on, a hiding-place for slaves being spirited North by the Underground Railroad.

All the brickwork of this abandoned hostelry is good. The wall of the long west front is laid in Flemish-bond with glazed black headers and, as a piece of fine eighteenth-century brick masonry, will stand favourable comparison with any to be found in the old Middle Colonies.

The old Brick Hotel is a forlorn witness to the great economic change wrought since the railroad and motors supplanted the waterborne shipment of the State's agricultural wealth.

CLEARFIELD FARM

Just north of Duck Creek (at north edge of Smyrna), on du Pont Highway, is junction with a paved side road marked "Fleming's Landing." East on this 1.2 miles to junction with another road. Right on this 0.3 mile is Clearfield Farm (L).

The house at Clearfield Farm is a four-bay, two-storey- and-attic brick structure painted white, with frame additions at northwest side and rear. Like other Delaware houses of its type, its appearance is deceptive; there is much more space within than is at first apparent from outside.

The interior has been much altered since the house was built about 1755. The cellar, which remains unchanged, is noteworthy. The foundation walls and the heavy supporting arches for the
fireplaces and chimneys above are of admirable stone masonry. At
the south end, and extending beyond the walls of the house, is
a slave dungeon, closed with an iron grating. At the top of this
vaulted dungeon is a circular opening, through which air and day-
light entered. Food and water were let down through this out-
doors opening.

In September, 1754, a warrant for a tract of 1008 acres in
Blackbird Hundred (then a part of Appoquinimink Hundred) close
to the north side of Duck Creek, was granted to Isaac Norris, of
Philadelphia, and Isaac England, of New Castle County. This tract
was called New Bristol. It was evidently this tract Captain David
Clark owned in 1755, which he also called New Bristol. 

When he acquired the New Bristol tract in 1755, or very soon
thereafter, Captain Clark built his house not far from the navig-
gable and busy waters of Duck Creek.

Through three generations the Clarks gave a good account of
themselves in the military annals of the Three Lower Counties on
Delaware. Captain David did his share of duty in the Delaware
militia, at sundry calls for military action or readiness, until
after the middle of the eighteenth century, notwithstanding
chronic Quaker opposition thereto.

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, the Clarks were
ardent patriots. Captain William Clark, the son of Captain David,
raised and led a company. He fought in the bitterly-contested
Battle of Monmouth and there lost half his men. At the death of
his father, Captain William succeeded to the possession of Clear-
field Farm.
Fairview, West side and Southwest front.

Designed by Robert May
Colonel John Clark, the son of Captain William, was the next owner of Clearfield Farm. He was a Colonel in the State Militia, Sheriff of New Castle County, 1775-1779, State Treasurer, 1794-1799 and, a staunch Federalist, became the twentieth Governor of Delaware, succeeding Daniel Rodney in that office. He served his full term from 1817 to 1820. He died in 1821.

Governor Clark's only daughter became the wife of Pennell Corbit, of Odessa, thereby adding one more thread to the intricate web of family relationships spread over so much of Delaware.

FAIR VIEW

Just beyond eastern end of Odessa, on road to Taylor's Bridge

In the years immediately preceding the Revolutionary War, the grain-shipping and leather tannery centre of Cantwell's Bridge, now the town of Odessa, was blessed with an outburst of activity in the building of good houses in the Middle Georgian manner.

It was the direct result of intelligent collaboration between comfortably-circumstanced owners on one side, and an exceptionally capable master-builder or architect, call him whichever you will, on the other.

Robert May was the second party in this fortunate co-operation. He and his qualifications have been treated at length in John S. A. H. Sweeney's, Grandeur on the Appoquinimink. May did all his work before the emergence of the professional architect as a factor in the story of American building. The achievements of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, his contemporaries and immediate successors were
still far in the future. The convincing chronicle of May's performances, recited in Grandeur on the Appoquinimink, what he did both in Odessa and elsewhere, is surely enough to warrant him the title of architect without any beating around the bush.

This house, Fairview, although it is on the other side of the Appoquinimink Creek and a little way beyond the eastern side of Odessa, is nevertheless an inseparable part of the Odessa picture. It was built in 1773 under Robert May's guidance.

Fairview is an especially satisfying example of the two-storey-and-attic, five-bay house, with kitchen wing at the rear. Its outward simplicity is combined with a discriminating elegance that appears in the mouldedills and frames of the windows; the panelling of the shutters; the well-detailed cornice; the five-brick belt cornice with three recessed courses; and the well adjusted detail and proportions of the portico. The brickwork of the front is laid in Flemish-bond; the ends are laid in Liverpool bond.

The woodwork and panelling of the interior are admirable. It is in every way elegant, but without being over-elaborated, in keeping with the dignified simplicity of the exterior. The interior of the rear wing is finished with the same punctilious nicety observable elsewhere.

Fairview, standing on a high knoll with a broad view southwards across the Appoquinimink marsh lands, was built for Captain (afterwards Major) James Moore, who served during the Revolutionary War and was an original member and, at one time Treasurer, of the Society of the Cincinnati. The Moore family
lived in Fairview until 1928. Mr. and Mrs. George F. Kelly then became the occupants and live there now.

DAVID WILSON HOUSE

Near east end of Main Street, Odessa

The David Wilson House, at Odessa, of course belongs to the "two-storey-and-attic, five-bay with central hall" species of the late Middle-Georgian genus, that is, speaking from the bald physical point of view and counting only the fundamental characteristics that furnish the "bones" of the structure.

But the Wilson House is much more than a dull "species" specimen. Along with its next-door neighbour, the Corbit house, and several others in different parts of the State, it is a shining example of architectural opportunity wisely employed, an opportunity to build a really fine house, and an opportunity too often rejected in some other manifestations of Delawarean Georgian building.

The Wilson and Corbit houses are examples of what might have been, had the several builders of disappointing houses had a different outlook, not inhibited by "principles" of austerity, or what they fancied the promptings of a "devinely-ordered functionalism."

When general consent had recognised the "two-storey-and-attic, five-bay with central hall" species of Georgian house as a logical, convenient and desirable piece of the machinery of living, there were not a few other Delawareans just as financially able to build well as were David Wilson or William Corbit. But,
unfortunately, they were aesthetically blind or else "principled" against the idle vanities of fashion.

David Wilson, William Corbit, George Read, Nicholas Van Dyke, Jr., and some others, Heaven be praised! had a different point of view and left an architectural heritage of inestimable value and satisfaction to posterity; likewise an unfailing source of proper pride to the State of Delaware.

David Wilson's house was ready for him about the time he married his second wife, William Corbit's sister Mary, in 1769.

Mary Corbit testified against by the Women Friends" of Duck Creek Meeting, August 26, 1769, for marrying "a man not of our Society and with the assistance of a priest." David Wilson, it is plain, was not a Quaker.

Robert May, who was to play such an essential role in the building of the Corbit house, apparently acted in the same capacity for the Wilson house. His success with the Wilson house doubtless encouraged Corbit to trust his ability and judgement.

With the convincing dignity and the serene elegance, "elegant neatness" in Quaker phrase, of the Wilson house so fully visible in the illustration, there is no occasion to comment on the details further than to mention that the lintols above the windows are of dressed stone and not the wooden substitutes so often dictated by the long-time difficulty of getting suitable stone in Delaware. The craftsmanship of the modillioned cornice, too, should not be overlooked.

The interior woodwork and panelling are what one would expect from the promise of the façade. The stair and the panelled hall deserve special mention.
The house is now open to the public as the Mary Corbit Warner Museum. It is also the repository of the Corbit Library, a public library established by Dr. James P. Corbit in 1856 and kept at the old Odessa Public School until 1924, when it was moved across the street to its present quarters in the Wilson House.

David Wilson, an alert, up-and-coming young man, came from Sussex County and opened a general store at Cantwell's Bridge, as Odessa was then called, about 1760. He saw the commercial possibilities of the situation at a bend of the Appoquinimink Creek. The Appoquinimink was readily navigable for shallops of moderate draught even farther upstream than Cantwell's Bridge.

With his store on the small hill at a bend of the creek and a wharf at the foot of the rise, the situation was ideal for the establishment of a prosperous shipping and importing business. Cantwell's Bridge was already a grain-shipping port, but there was a promising field for growth.

Wilson's venture prospered from the first. His energy and industry in a short time brought his vision to realisation. It was mainly through his foresight and enterprise that Cantwell's Bridge became one of the chief grain-shipping centres of Delaware, ranking with such places as Newport and Christiana Bridge in the quantity of grain and milled products loaded at their wharves.

To Cantwell's Bridge came the farmers' waggons filled with wheat, oats, barley and corn to be loaded on the shallops for shipment to Philadelphia. Hides and muskrat pelts, too, often had their place in the shipments.

On their return trips from the city the shallops brought
1. Corbit House, East Front
2. Corbit House, Parlour
cargoes of manufactured goods and other supplies needed by the farmers. All these goods and other commodities were dispensed from Wilson's general store, where they were in steady demand by the farmers in all the neighbouring district.

David Wilson's regular customers were the farm folk throughout St. George's Hundred, north of the Appoquinimink, and also from Appoquinimink Hundred, south of the Creek. More distant customers, too, even from as far west as Maryland, found it desirable to trade at the general store.

Wilson's successful promotion of Cantwell's Bridge as a lively commercial centre no doubt had its effect upon Corbit's determination in 1767 to establish his tan-yard there. Both Corbit and Wilson, it should be remembered, had substantial landholdings at and near Cantwell's Bridge.

David Wilson, as already noted, was not a Quaker and was not inhibited by any qualms about "devinely-ordered functionalism." Nevertheless, he had married a Quakeress and, in 1780, gave the Quakers of Odessa their little Meeting House, Appoquinimink Meeting, at the west end of the village.

CORBIT HOUSE Odessa (formerly Cantwell's Bridge)
East end of Main Street, Odessa

The Corbit house in Odessa, a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick structure of Georgian type, with a central hall, is at the east end of Odessa's main street. It stands on a bluff overlooking Cantwell's bridge, the marshes, and the fields beyond the windings of the Appoquinimink. Atop the hipped roof, and above the tops of the dormers, is a railed deck between the chimneys. Both
the belt course and the lintols over the windows are of dressed stone. This is worth noting since most Georgian houses in Kent County and southward used wooden lintols, painted white to simulate marble, because of the difficulty of getting marble or other suitable stone. The lower two-storey-and-attic kitchen wing at the south is a slightly later addition to the main block of the house.

Such enumeration of the chief physical characteristics of structure would fully answer for a number of other Delaware houses built in the middle or latter part of the eighteenth century, especially if accompanied by a good illustration. It would in no wise suffice for the Corbit house, any more than a human skeleton would be enough to convey a truthful idea of a well-shapen human figure in all its subtle symmetry and comeliness.

Two Georgian houses in Delaware stand forth in surpassing excellence. One is the Corbit house. The other is the Read house in New Castle. Beyond all question they mark the climax of achievement in the domestic architecture of Delaware. No finer instances, indeed, of the Georgian manner are to be found in the old area of the Middle Colonies. Both of them can hold their own in comparison with contemporary work in England.

With the wise leisure that often attended house-building in the eighteenth century, the Corbit house was started in 1772 and finished in 1774. It was built by William Corbit, aided and abetted by the enigmatic Robert May.

William Corbit was the grandson of Daniel Corbit, who settled in New Castle County about 1717. The family had prospered and acquired considerable land and substantial means. Born in 1745,
when he was twenty years old William Corbit went to Philadelphia to learn the tanner’s trade. Two years later, in the summer of 1767, he came back to Cantwell’s Bridge and established his tannery.

As a tanner, and also by investing in farm lands, he amassed a goodly fortune. Through his two years' residence in Philadelphia and his subsequent close connections with the city, he had acquired urban habits and urban tastes, as well as an interested acquaintance with the best of Philadelphia architecture. Therefore, when he was ready to build his house, he had developed a sophisticated sense of discriminating choice and probably indicated his preferences with intelligence.

The enigmatic Robert May, the exact determination of whose professional or trade status has proved so baffling, was certainly responsible for all the architectural amenities, graces and refinements that give the house so much of its beauty and charm, if he was not, indeed, responsible for the entire design.

The exquisite woodwork throughout the interior, and the admirable external graces, from the "Chinese lattis" of the roof-deck railing, and the dormer framing, to the windows and doorway, would lose half their value had the structural proportions of the house been less truly balanced. Since the hand of an amateur is nowhere discernible, it seems only just to recognize Robert May as the responsible architect, while entitle him what you will, and William Corbit as the understanding patron.

William Corbit was a young man, only about thirty, when his house was finished in 1774. He lived till 1818.
ample time to appreciate the beauty of his dwelling. When he withdrew from active business, he became interested in politics. Although many Delaware Quakers at that time were reluctant to take any part in government, Corbit was a candidate for the State Senate in 1807. He was not elected. He was a Federalist although, it seems, not very strict or insistent in his views for, at one time, he created a sensation by voicing approbation of Thomas Jefferson.

After William Corbit's death, his youngest son, Daniel succeeded him in the ownership of the house. He gave up the tannery when tanbark gave out and turned his attention to the land, adding farm after farm to his estate. "It was a real joy to him," it was said, "to take a poor, untidy farm and by clearing, draining, building, hedging and fertilising, make it beautiful." His farm practice was an wholesome stimulus to Delaware agriculture as well as a source of wealth to himself.

The last member of the Corbit family to live in the house was Daniel Wheeler Corbit, "Mr. Dan", as he was popularly called, who died in 1922. In 1938 the property was sold to H. Rodney Sharp who punctiliously restored it, furnished the house with admirable eighteenth-century furniture, and preserved it as a small private museum. In 1958 Mr. Sharp presented the Corbit House to the Winterthur Corporation to maintain as a house museum and to develop an educational programme centred around it." The Corbit House will thus afford future generations a picture of Delaware life in the eighteenth century."
Approximate Meeting House, Odessa
Some years ago Mr. Sharp had already created a fine, appropriate garden south of the house. Now that all the neighbouring buildings have been restored and some additional landscaping carried out, the house "has a setting in keeping with it dignity and importance".

* Footnote:

In his book Grandeur on the Appoquinimink: the House of William Corbit at Odessa, Delaware, John A. H. Sweeney has fully treated the family history and relationships of William Corbit; he has also traced his business career and commercial connections.

Along with this personal, biographical study of the builder of one of the two finest houses in Delaware, Mr. Sweeney has considered every stage in the evolution of the house from start to finish. In doing so, he has unearthed a store of hitherto unknown material about Robert May, to whose genius must be ascribed the creation of the Corbit House.

Mr. Sweeney's book is a highly valuable contribution (1) to the records of eighteenth-century social history in Delaware and likewise (2) to the history of domestic architecture in America.

APPOQUINIMINK MEETING HOUSE

David Wilson built the little brick Odessa Meeting House in 1780, as testified by the inconspicuous marble tablet above the doorway. It is probably the smallest Meeting House ever built, for it measures only about 12 feet by 12 feet.

In the division between the Orthodox and Hicksite Friends in 1828, the Odessa Meeting House fell to the Hicksites, and the Orthodox Friends attended meeting elsewhere. There were very few Hicksites in Odessa and, at last, they were represented by only one old gentleman, John Alston.
1. Old Drawyers Church, East Front
2. Old Drawyers Church, Interior
Every First Day he would walk up the street, unlock the Meeting House door, go in and hold a "meeting" all by himself. After sitting for a while in meditation, he would come out, lock the door and go home.

After his death, about 1880, the Meeting house was closed for a long time. It is now open again on Sunday mornings for worship.

The Hicksites at Odessa were ardent Abolitionists and used the little Meeting House as a station of the Underground Railroad. They hid runaway slaves from Delaware, Maryland and Virginia in the Meeting House loft, and fed them there until it seemed safe to send them on their way North.

OLD DRAWYERS CHURCH
Near Odessa

On west side of Route 13, about a mile north of Odessa

Old Drawyers Church, on an abrupt rise above the waters of Drawyers Creek, is a highly significant structure both historically and architecturally.

The seventeenth-century beginnings of Old Drawyers' story are wrapped in the mists of uncertainty. A former pastor and historian of the church said "the field of this congregation began to be settled about 1671, and at various points and rapidly settled." He also wrote that "the Drawyers congregation was probably gathered by the Reverend Nathaniel Taylor, long previous to 1700."

We get away from all conjecture in 1708. In that year, the Presbytery at Philadelphia, in response to a letter from"some
persons about Apoquinimy", directed the Reverend John Wilson, then the Minister at New Castle, to preach "once a month on a week day" to the "persons about Apoquinimy" who had written seeking pastoral ministrations. In 1709, the Reverend John Wilson was directed to add to the programme a sermon "once a quarter on Sunday."

In May, 1711, the land on which Old Drawyers stands was bought and, shortly thereafter, the first church building, a frame structure, was erected so that the second Presbyterian congregation in Delaware had a fixed place of worship. This wooden church was enlarged in 1736, and probably later also. Inspiration proceeding from the Old Drawyers congregation eventually formed Presbyterian congregations at Odessa, St. George's, Port Penn and Middletown.

The old wooden church was at first called "Apoquinimy." Then it became "Drawyers", taking its name from the Creek on whose banks it stood. When at last the church was incorporated, it was entitled "The First Presbyterian Church in St. George's Hundred."

Old Drawyers reached its greatest strength during the pastorate of Dr. Thomas Read, 1768 to 1798. Thereafter the congregation declined, moved to Odessa, and finally was dissolved by the Presbytery. Weekly services were discontinued in 1861. The church building and the ground on which it stands now belong to the Presbytery of New Castle. Incidentally, it was Dr. Thomas Read who drew maps that were of great service to Washington's army and enabled the Americans to avoid engaging the advancing British troops until the Battle of the Brandywine.
By arrangement with the New Castle Presbytery, the "Friends of Old Drawyers", a society chiefly composed of descendants of members of the Colonial congregation, care for both the Church building and the burial ground surrounding it. The "Friends of Old Drawyers" also arrange for the Annual Service on the first Sunday in June.

It was during the pastorate of Dr. Thomas Read that the present building of Old Drawyers was erected in 1773. It is unquestionably one of the finest buildings of the Georgian Age in Delaware; one of the finest Georgian ecclesiastical structures, indeed, in the whole country. It combines both the vigour and the grace characteristic of the best examples of the Middle Georgian manner.

The several elements contributory to the virility and elegance of the entire composition may be thus enumerated: First of all, there is the admirable quality of the brickwork, laid in Flemish-bond, with belt course extending around all four walls, and a moulded capping to the water-table. The bricks were burned nearby on the farm of Robert Meldrum, a member of the congregation.

Next, there is the symmetry of the five-bay east front, with its two tiers of windows, and the central main doorway emphasised by engaged columns and a pediment. Each one of the upper tier of these well-proportioned windows has twenty-four panes and is forty-four inches wide. The four segmental-arched windows of the lower tier are of greater height and have each twenty-eight panes. The segmental arching seems to have been a favoured ecclesiastical touch of the period of windows of
Christ Church, Broad Creek Hundred.

The several windows on the west wall, at each side of the
pulpit, which is directly opposite the main east door, are
large round-arched openings. The window openings on the north
and south walls are rectangular.

The fenestration of Old Drawyers, while apparently simple,
is in reality subtle and carefully calculated. Its propriety of
scale is an essential element in the integrity of the entire design
of the church. After closely examining the windows of the east
front, one can readily visualise what would have been the effect
had the nine openings been filled with large Victorian panes!
Stained glass would have been equally incongruous.

The cornice, continued across the north and south gable ends
penthouse-wise, conveys a sense of unity and coherence to the
whole mass of the structure.

The architectural excellence of Old Drawyers is attributable
to the ability of Robert May. His qualifications and the success
of his work have already been mentioned in connection with the
Wilson and Corbit houses in Odessa. His skillful
sophistication is completely concealed at Old Drawyers by the
all-pervading atmosphere of serene simplicity.

The interior of Old Drawyers is what one might reasonably
expect after looking at the exterior. Although some changes were
made to the gated box pews about 1833, the eighteenth-century
character of the internal arrangements has been well preserved.
All the woodwork is painted white. The slaves' gallery extends
around the north, east and south walls. Against the west wall,
Naward House, on Middletown Road, between Middletown and Blackbird Westford
opposite the main door, is the high pulpit with its double stairs. Above it is a canopied sounding-board surmounted by a golden dove. There is no provision for seating a choir, but in front of and below the lofty pulpit is the precentor's box where "sat the precentor with his tuning-fork to give the key for hymns sung without musical accompaniment."

A leaflet, issued by the "Friends of Old Drawyers" for one year's Annual Services, aptly notes how all these features "re-create an atmosphere in which we again become aware of the dignity, the reverence and the moving beauty of the simple services which were conducted in such surroundings so long ago."

The Society known as the "Friends of Old Drawyers", to which any interested and respectable person is eligible, "organised for the care and preservation of the building and cemetery of the ancient corporation known as 'The First Presbyterian Church in St. George's Hundred' " performs a worthy task which may well excite emulation to kindred undertakings for historic Delaware buildings in other places.

NAUDAIN HOUSE  Appoquinimink Hundred New Castle County
East side of Route 896, south of Middletown

But a short distance to the south of old St. Anne's Church, on the east side of Route 896, an eighteenth-century brick house stands back from the road, approached by what was once an avenue of stately trees.

It is a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic house, with a lower two-storey wing at the south end on axis with the main block. The main body of the structure, one room deep, has a hipped roof, an
unusual feature in this part of Delaware.

The whole place is in the dilapidated condition that usually comes from long years of occupancy by tenant-farmers. In spite of its present dejected appearance, however, it is quite unmistakeably an important plantation house built, and at one time lived in, by a landholder of considerable estate.

This plantation house presumably was built before 1750, if we may judge from certain Queen Anne-Early Georgian characteristics visible on the exterior. The straight, small-paned transoms over the central house-door and the door of the wing; the flattened segmental arches above the ground-floor windows; the vigorous belt course between the lower and upper floors; the plain box cornice; and the dimensions of the window-openings all point to an early date. The narrowness and height of the window penetrations of the upper floor are especially convincing, rather than those of the ground floor, in the present mutilated aspect of the façade.

The excellent Flemish-bond brickwork of the walls is hidden under a coat of stucco applied in the early nineteenth century. The stucco was ruled with lines to simulate ashlar stone masonry. Most of this ruling with lines has disappeared with the lapse of years, but some of it is still quite visible at the corner of the wing. This "ashlarising" of stucco was much in fashion about 1820.

The interior originally had good Georgian panelling and other woodwork. Some of it remains, but much of it was replaced by the less virile type of woodwork in fashion at the time the exterior walls were coated with stucco.
Elias Naudain, the progenitor of the family in Delaware, who built the "Huguenot House" on his plantation at Taylor's Bridge, had other extensive land holdings, especially in Appoquinimink Hundred. His sons likewise, and their descendants, continued to acquire desirable farm lands.

Which one of the Naudains built the hipped-roof plantation house on the rise south of Middletown seems uncertain but, in 1845, we know that John M. Naudain was living there. In the will of Arnold S. Naudain, dated February 27, 1845, he leaves "to children Ann I. Short, John M. Naudain & Mary E. Naudain my farm where John M. Naudain now resides, lying on the east side of the state road leading from Middletown to Blackbird." In the same document the testator leaves to "my wife, the Farm on the west side of the state road ... where I built a house and now reside." A. Snow Naudain and Elias S. Naudain were named as executors.

Arnold S. Naudain, son of Andrew Naudain, was born at Snowland in 1790. After being graduated at Princeton, he studied medicine and, for a time, practiced as a physician. He soon entered into public life and was a member of the Delaware State Assembly in 1823-1837. In 1825 he was Speaker in the House of Representatives in the State Assembly. From 1830 to 1836 he was a United States Senator from Delaware. From 1841 to 1845 he was Collector of the Port of Wilmington. His son, John M. Naudain, was a Representative for New Castle County in the Delaware State Assembly.

Just how long the Naudains continued to live in the hipped-roof house and maintain it as it deserved seems uncertain. Since
the end of their occupancy and care, one of the most architecturally-significant houses in New Castle County has gradually fallen to its present forlorn state.

Noxon House and Mill

Noxontown Pond

Route 896, near Middletown

The date-stone on the gable end of the Noxon house, at Noxontown Pond, is inscribed "Thomas Noxon 1740."

It is a two-storey-and-attic substantially built brick dwelling of four bays frontage, with a lower one-storey kitchen wing. The exterior is whitewashed. The interior has been much altered so that it is impossible to determine the original plan as it was when the house was built. The alterations have been in a thoroughgoing way, leaving practically no visible traces of earlier arrangement. Little of the original interior woodwork remains.

The Noxon family settled in Appoquinimink Hundred early in the eighteenth century. In 1676 Joseph Chew conveyed to Johannes de Haes 400 acres, called "Walnut Landing," on Appoquinimink Creek. This land was later conveyed to the Noxons.

Thomas Noxon acquired other land in the neighbourhood also and played an active part in developing the country by means of the mills he built and operated. Likewise, he evidently had his place in the civil and administrative life of the neighbourhood for he is named in the list of Prothonotaries appointed in 1742.

A number of years before he built the house in 1740, Thomas Noxon had built and operated the nearby mill. In 1736 he had built
the second mill about a mile northwest of the older mill. These mills formed the nucleus of a settlement that came to be called Noxontown, which gave its name to Noxontown Pond.

The oldest Noxontown Mill stood on a branch of the Appoquinimink Creek and was built very early in the eighteenth century. Ships ran up the Creek and were laden at the mill door with flour, meal, grain, lumber and other products of the surrounding region. Appoquinimink Creek was then a navigable stream all the way to Noxontown Pond, some two miles farther upstream than Cantwell's Bridge (Odessa) which a little later became the head of navigation.

Thomas Noxon died in 1743 and left his house and mills to his son Benjamin, and his remaining estate to his other children. Near the house were a bake-house, a brew-house, and a malt-house. The house, along with the mill building and all the other dependencies, presented the appearance of an established settlement. Business at the mill brought people there, often from a distance. Noxon's Mill and plantation became a natural and convenient meeting-place.

So it was, not only in the rest of Delaware but also in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and elsewhere in early days. Business at the mill brought the farmers from the surrounding neighbourhood. It was a self-evident spot for the social intercourse denied them on isolated farms in a newly-settled region. Soon came one or two houses, occupied by craftsmen, blacksmiths, coopers and the like, who catered to the needs of the mill's patrons. Next came a church. Such was the nucleus about which many a town in the old Colonies grew up. The mill was the seed
1. Old St. Anne's Church, Middletown, East end and South side

2. Old St. Anne's Church, Middletown, Interior
from which the town sprouted.

It is not surprising, therefore, that at an early date a fair was set up at Noxontown. This fair was an annual occurrence and lasted for several days. Home products were exhibited and there were goods imported from England. Many persons from a long distance attended and fair-time was a season of high festivity. Because of the livestock brought thither for sale or to exhibit, the place came to be nick-named Oxontown.

A little way down the slope from the Noxon House is the old mill at the edge of Noxontown Pond. Nearby is an historical marker set up to commemorate the encampment of troops there early in the Revolutionary War.

In September, 1777, Brigadier-General Caesar Rodney hastened to collect all the militia he could in Kent and New Castle Counties. With his corps of Delaware Militia he encamped for a time on Noxon's farm just prior to the Battle of the Brandywine.

From Rodney's letters at this time "there seems to have been considerable reluctance in the militia, particularly in New Castle County, to come to the front." Now that the enemy was so near, "the 'noble ardour' has died out from a white heat to a very dull glow." However, Rodney had about 400 men with him at the Noxon-town encampment.

OLD ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

Old St. Anne's Church, Middletown, one of the most esteemed church buildings in Delaware, was built in 1768, on the site of a much earlier wooden church. It is about a mile south of the town itself.
St. Anne's is one of the parishes established by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. While it is almost certain that the Reverend George Keith came in 1703 to look the field over for the Venerable Society, the first documentary record is dated September 1, 1704. It reads:

"Whereas Richard Cantwell and William Dyre with several others, inhabitants upon and near Appoquinimink Creek in the County of New Castle have requested us [the Commissioners of Property] that we would grant them a convenient piece of ground for erecting a Chapel for the use and behalf of themselves and the other members of the Church of England, These are to authorise and require them to survey and lay out for the use aforesaid, in the place by them designed, for erecting the said Chapel, on the left hand of the Queen's Road below the said creek, the quantity of ten acres of land that is vacant, and make return unto the General Surveyor's office in Philadelphia."

On this grant of land, the next year (1705), they built a small wooden church that for more than sixty years was the spiritual home of the Church of England folk for many miles round. After the church was built, three years passed before the parish had a parson of its own. For occasional services the parishioners of St. Anne's had to depend upon visits from the clergy at Dover, New Castle or one of the parishes across the Maryland border.

At last, in 1708, the Venerable Society sent the Reverend Thomas Jenkins, a young priest recently ordained in the Welsh diocese of St. David's. The young parson laboured diligently but he could not cope with an unlooked-for enemy, the mosquito that bred in the marshlands of the Appoquinimink. In July, 1709, to the grief of his people, he "died of a calenture caused by musketoes", which means malaria.

Middle Delaware seems to have been as badly mosquito-plagued
as South Jersey. A fellow Anglican priest wrote:

"Poor Brother Jenkins at Apoquinimy was baited to death by mosquitoes and blood-thirsty Gal Knippers, which would not let him rest night nor till he got a fever, came to Philadelphia, and died immediately. These places must be served by itinerants, and it is hardly possible for anybody to abide there, that is not born there, till he is mosquito proof."

Mr. Jenkins's successor at St. Anne's did not arrive till three years later and in 1713 removed to the cure of Radnor and Oxford in Pennsylvania. From 1726 to 1735 the Reverend Alexander Campbell, the Reverend Walter Hackett and the Reverend John Pugh were successive incumbents. All the rest of the time until 1746 St. Anne's parish was without a Rector and had to get along with the occasional ministrations of visiting missionaries.

At last, in 1746, came the Reverend Philip Reading, a graduate of University College, Oxford, who served the parish faithfully for thirty years, labouring not only amongst his own flock but extending his missionary efforts throughout the neighbouring countryside.

During his rectoryship the present church was built in 1768. Mr. Reading's charge of the parish ceased in the troublous days of the Revolutionary War. He felt himself bound by his ordination oath to use the Prayer Book of the Church of England in its entirety, including prayers for the King. This led to a situation that made the continuance of church services impossible.

Parson Reading died in 1778, much beloved and deeply lamented by his former parishioners. He was buried just outside the south door of the church. After the War the Reverend Joseph Couden became Rector of St. Anne's and Mr. Reading's son was active in the affairs of the parish.
Cochrane Sump, west of Montebello, Northwest
In 1847 the church was Victorianised conformably to the taste of the day.

In 1866 began consideration of building a new church in the growing community of Middletown, one mile to the north of the old church. This new church was not built until 1872. After that, the old church was used only for occasional services.

In 1952 began the work of restoration and, since then, both within and outside, St. Anne's fabric has been conscientiously and completely restored to its pristine condition.

Amongst the parish treasures is a fragment of an altar cloth, given by Queen Anne, and said to have been embroidered by her own hands. There are also a silver chalice and paten, given the church in 1759; likewise a silver beaker, made before 1723 by Johannes Nys the early Philadelphia silversmith.

**COCHRAN GRANGE**

U.S. Route 301 going West from Middletown

Cochran Grange, just a short distance west of Middletown was built in 1842. The house is an architectural composite, illustrative of that merging of types that so often occurred in the mid-nineteenth century. Basically, the brick structure is of the five-bay Georgian type with central hall that had become, by the middle of the nineteenth century, the popularly accepted pattern for the dwellings of well-to-do Delawareans who lived on and directed their large farms, instead of turning them over to tenant-farmers.

Here and there occur touches reminiscent of the Regency manner as, for instance, in the four-centred arch of the doorway. The
portico, with columns of two-storey height, is an adaptation from the Greek Revival. There are no evidences of the capricious Victorianisation that was spreading over the country like a blight at that period, but the glass-enclosed observatory atop the roof foreshadows the oncoming vogue of the "Italian Villa" style.

Altogether, the composition is eloquent of substantial dignity and comfort, and the architect, whoever he may have been, had no cause to regret the character of his creation.

Cochran Grange was the home of John P. Cochran, forty-third Governor of the State of Delaware (1875-1879). He was the first Governor in thirty years to be chosen from New Castle County; the last occupant of the office from New Castle County had been Thomas Stockton, elected in 1844. The Cochran family were of Scots-Irish descent and had originally settled in Maryland. Thence they came into Delaware from Cecil County. When the boundary between Delaware and Maryland was eventually settled, it turned out that part of Ephraim Augustine Herman's Bohemia Manor, which Lord Baltimore had granted him, was actually in Delaware. When the Cochran family came into Delaware they acquired extensive land-holdings and goodly part of the Bohemia Manor lands in St. George's Hundred came into their possession.

Governor Cochran was born in Appoquinimink Hundred in 1809. From the time of his birth, almost his whole life was spent on a farm. Possessed of strong common sense, along with energy and industry, he added considerably to his land-holdings and became recognised as the leading farmer and fruit-grower in a part of the country famous for its intelligent husbandry. His efforts and example contributed materially to the revival and advancement
of Delaware agriculture and orchardry.

To revert to the glass-enclosed observatory on top of the house, it is a reminder of a phase of country life in Delaware that has permanently passed away. Anthony Higgins has pertinently pointed out that:

"in this house and others like it," the glass-enclosed observatory was "a symbol and expression of wealth. Nothing in Delaware agriculture before or since has quite matched the spectacle of well-groomed ladies and gentlemen taking their ease in the observatories on top of their fine houses, watching their Negroes at work in the broad grain fields and peach orchards, or merely enjoying the view in the pride of possession."
Monterey, East front. Wires at night brought from Maryland.
MONTEREY

New Castle County

On du Pont Parkway at bottom of south ramp to bridge over ship canal.

Travelling south on the du Pont Parkway, at St. George's you cross the high bridge over the ship canal. Directly at the foot of the ramp, as you come down from the bridge, at the left a narrow gravelled lane runs due east and ascends a slight rise. From the start of the lane, neither house nor plantation buildings are visible. Passing between broad, well-tilled fields on both sides of the road, you at last see ahead of you large barns and silos and, at one side, set in a grove of trees, the house facing east.

Built in the second half of the eighteenth century, Monterey is a Georgian brick structure of three-bay width and two rooms deep. It seems a small house for so large a plantation but, being of two-room depth, it is actually more spacious than some of the apparently larger five-bay dwellings that are only one room deep.

Throughout Delaware one is often surprised at the seemingly limited quarters with which so many of the wealthy planters with extensive land-holdings were content. Was this an extension of Maryland tradition? At any rate, we must remember that household servants often had nearby quarters outside the master's dwelling, or else were put to sleep in small and ill-lighted attics, or in other "cubbyhole" spaces. Also, that families and their visitors had a way of "doubling up" that would nowadays be thought intolerable.

There was originally some kind of kitchen wing where the present three-bay gambrel-roofed extension now stands.
The main body of the house was evidently "improved" at one time by the addition of a Victorian verandah, to accommodate whose roof, about three feet were cut off from each end of the belt course. The marks on the masonry of the house front tell the whole story. The bricks of the main front are laid in Flemish-bond, but the headers are neither black nor glazed.

The key-block lintels are non-functional; they are of wood applied over the brickwork in what came to be the conventional manner in southern Delaware, where marble or cut stone for lintols was at one time almost impossible to come by.

The gambrel-roofed extension came from Maryland. It is much older than the body to which it has been added, dating as it does from the latter years of the seventeenth century or the beginning of the eighteenth. It affords an illuminating base of comparison in tracing the story of brick masonry in the Colonies. The contrast between the Flemish-bond masonry of the Maryland addition, with its black glazed headers, and the Flemish-bond brickwork of the main house, where headers and stretchers are all the same, is striking.

Some years ago the present owner of Monterey rescued the old Maryland house and brought it to Delaware and re-erected it to replace a pre-existing wing on the main house. The woodwork in the main house is good, but the woodwork and panelling in the old Maryland house are far finer and very beautiful. In re-erecting the Maryland addition, the necking and capping of the chimney have been carefully preserved.
Macedonough house. East Front
MACDONOUGH HOUSE

Historical Marker in front of the house.

The Macdonough house, the birthplace of Commodore Macdonough, is at Macdonough, (formerly The Trap), on the west side of Route 13. The Trap, a triangular-shaped piece of land, is just a little to the north of Drawyer's Creek.

Standing close to the road, the house is a plain two-and-a-half-storey structure, part brick and part frame, painted white. It is typical in pattern of the homes of the smaller Delaware planters about the second quarter of the eighteenth century. Close by the house is the family burial plot.

The house has suffered badly from "improvements" by Greek Revivalists early in the nineteenth century, and still further from recent modernisation which has demolished the great kitchen fireplace and massive chimney to accommodate an imposing array of up-to-the-minute gadgetry.

The Macdonoughs were Scots-Irish. Thomas Macdonough, the Commodore's great-grandfather, was born in Scotland but, like many another Scot of his politically-troubulous day, he migrated to Ireland where he settled on the Liffey, in County Kildare. He had several children, two of whom, John and James, came to America about 1730. John went to Long Island. James settled in St. George's Hundred at The Trap. He lived to a green old age, dying about 1802.

Thomas, the son of James and father of the Commodore, was born in 1747 at The Trap. He became a physician and was in active practice until the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. On March 22, 1776, the Continental Congress commissioned him Major of the Delaware
Regiment, of which Dr. John Haslet of Dover, and Gunning Bedford were respectively Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel.

On its way northward, the Delaware Regiment spent the 4th of July, 1776, in New Castle. In his Journal Enoch Anderson says:

"We took out of the Court House all the insignia of monarchy — all the baubles of royalty, and made a pile of them before the Court House, and set fire to them and burnt them to ashes. A merry day we made of it."

At the Battle of Long Island the Delaware Regiment and Smallwood's Maryland Regiment were brigaded together. Major Macdonough was in command of the Delaware Regiment, for both Colonel Haslet and Lieutenant-Colonel Bedford were sitting on a court-martial in New York City at the very hour of the British attack. That he met the responsibility with competence and acquitted himself with credit is evident from the letter he afterwards received from General Washington thanking him for the admirable behaviour of the troops under his command. He also bore himself commendably at White Plains and the Battles of Trenton and Princeton.

Returning to Delaware upon the reorganisation of the Delaware troops, Dr. Macdonough resumed his medical practice. In 1788 he was appointed 3rd Justice of the Court of Common Pleas; in 1791, 2nd Justice of the Court of Common Pleas and the Orphan's Court; and in 1792, Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, in which capacity he served until his death in 1795.

Thomas Macdonough, son of the Doctor, the lad who, in years to come, would be hailed as the Hero of Lake Champlain, was born at The Trap, December 31, 1783. At the instance of U. S. Senator Henry Latimer, in 1800, under President Adams, he received an appointment as midshipman when he was seventeen. In
the expedition against the Tripolitan pirates he served under
Decatur whose esteem and friendship he won. For his gallant ser­
VICES in the bombardment of Tripoli, August 3, 1804, he was pro­
moted to the rank of Lieutenant.

At the beginning of the War of 1812 he was ordered to join
the frigate Constellation as First Lieutenant. President Madison
later ordered him to take command of the vessels on Lake Champlain.
On September 11, 1814, the engagement on Lake Champlain [Battle of
Plattsburgh] took place, in which Macdonough achieved his great
victory. This was the turning point in the war. It had an im­
portant effect on the negotiations for peace then being carried
on between the American Commissioners and the British Government.

A deeply pious man, especially in a crises, Macdonough made
his men kneel down and pray before the engagement. His letter re­
porting the battle to the Secretary of the Navy was this:

"Sir:
The Almighty has been pleased to grant us a signal
victory on Lake Champlain in the capture of one frigate,
one Brig, and two sloops of war of the enemy."

By his victory on Lake Champlain, Macdonough won a place in
the hearts and esteem of his countrymen second to none then living.
Congress gave him a gold medal and promoted him to the rank of
Post Captain (really Commodore), then the highest rank in the Navy.
Delaware, by resolution of the General Assembly, had his portrait
painted and gave him a silver service. Both New York and Vermont
gave him valuable grants of land.

Of the two great naval victories in the War of 1812, Lake
Erie and Lake Champlain, the former has too often monopolised
popular plaudits at the expense of the latter. Although Lake Erie
antedated Lake Champlain and ushered in a significant change in the
Sutton house, St. George's, Southfront and east side, with Victorian 'embellishments'
fortunes of war, it was the victory at Lake Champlain that com-
pleted the change and clinched the outcome. The essential differ-
ence between the two victories was that "Perry won because he used
his superiority and Macdonough because he overcame the enemy's
superiority."

It is a curious thing that posterity is never allowed to forget
that Commodore Perry was born in Rhode Island. By some mischance
of fate comparatively few people realise that Commodore Macdonough
was born in Delaware.

S U T T O N H O U S E

In north part of village, east of bridge

St. George's, on the banks of the present Delaware and Chesape-
ake Canal, is on the southern border of Red Lion Hundred. A

St. George's village, beside what was then St. George's Creek,
had a quiet settlement early in the eighteenth century. Very
little is known about this first attempt. Some of the first sett-
lers seem to have been Welsh, who came from the Welsh Tract in
Pencader Hundred, the neighbouring Hundred on the west.

By 1730 a village was laid out near a mill dam across the
headwaters of St. George's Creek, and the presence of a mill
nearly always attracted residents near it. By 1735 there was a
tavern to accommodate such travellers as chanced that way. In
1762, when the King's Highway was officially surveyed through
St. George's, guests at the tavern were complaining of the noise
made by the ducks on the millpond and creek marshes. The opening
of the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal in 1829 failed to disturb
permanently the peaceful quiet of the place, which had been in-
corporated as a town in 1825. To-day, with all the stream of
traffic passing overhead on the high bridge of the du Pont Parkway, St. George's seems to be immune from excitement and retains its ancient unruffled composure.

The Sutton house, the only structure of any particular architectural interest in St. George's, seems an embodiment of the prevailing tranquillity. It is a two-storey-and-attic brick building of three bays, with a lower wing at the rear. This wing incorporates what is left of the older portion of the house.

John Sutton, who is said to have settled in St. George's before 1750, at some time well before the end of the eighteenth century built a house where the rear wing of the present house now stands. John Sutton is described as a "merchant, grain-buyer and local financier."

When the original house became a part of the kitchen-wing for the present dwelling, the reconstruction was so far-reaching and so thorough that it takes a sharp eye to detect what remains of the earlier building. It would be easy to overlook the few evidences that remain.

The Sutton house, as it stands today, was built somewhere about 1810 or 1815. It is an excellent example of the "simplified Regency" or Federal manner then popular and much used for city houses, though not neglected for rural use. This "simplified Regency" mode was an evolutionary stage between the later Middle-Georgian and the more studied grace of the Graeco-Roman, Regence or Federal manner as interpreted by Latrobe, Mills and their contemporaries. The Late Georgian or Neo-Classic "gingerbread" style, as exploited by the would-be imitators of the Brothers Adam, never
had any vogue in Delaware.

While "simplified Regency" left off most of the Classic embellishments associated with Georgian design, it retained arched doorways, refinement of well-disposed mouldings, just proportions (especially in the dimensions of rooms), and enough general interest of detail to avoid any charge of stark austerity. Brickwork was usually laid in running-bond; Flemish-bond was getting a little old-fashioned.

The proportions of the Sutton house are generous in every respect. The arched doorway opens into a hall wide enough to convey an impression of amplitude on entering. At the far end of the hall is the stair, with treads broad enough and risers low enough to ensure comfort in ascent; altogether unlike the later Victorian stair, when both architects and housebuilders seem to have lost all capacity for proper stair planning.

To the right of the entrance door is a large parlour whose just proportions, windows big enough to admit abundant light, ceilings high enough to avoid any feeling of being cramped, carry a sense of easy comfort. The wide doorway, for folding doors, at the back of the parlour opens into another room of like dimensions.

The Sutton house in every way is a favourable example of its type. It falls between the robust elegance of Georgian design and the delicate sophistication of the fully matured Regency manner. And, of course, it escapes the insanities of most of the domestic Greek-Revival performances that were soon to follow. It is reticent, but not austere. Therein lies its appeal.
Dr. James N. Sutton, a descendant of John Sutton, the house has always been occupied by the Sutton family. He was the State Treasurer from 1851 to 1853. He showed a laudable concern in the regeneration of Delaware agriculture when he imported the first commercial lime and built a lime-kiln.

L I N D E N H I L L

On du Pont Highway, about 8.1 m. South of Wilmington (R) before reaching St. George's

Linden Hill, a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick house, with a long kitchen wing at right angles to the main block, is set back from the road by a long avenue of trees. Still adhering to what might be called a "simplified Georgian" tradition in plan and exterior treatment, the interior woodwork, mantels and other details savour of a restrained contemporary Greek Revival quality. Anthony Madison Higgins, a son of Jesse Higgins of Damascus, built Linden Hill in 1836.

Anthony Madison Higgins was one of the leaders in the revival of Delaware agriculture. In 1833 he had bought the worn-out farm land, on which Linden Hill stands, and had spread it with marl and lime. By 1850 he had made the farm highly productive and profitable. Linden Hill farm had become an outstanding example of what scientific farming could accomplish.

He married Sarah C. Corbit, daughter of Pennell Corbit, and had four sons and a daughter, Mary C., who married Daniel W. Corbit, of Odessa. In 1861 he was a member of the State Legislature, but cared little for political honours; his chief interest lay in agriculture.
He wrote for the Department of Agriculture a number of treatises upon farming and the maintenance of soil fertility. These contributions to agricultural literature were of great value in the campaign to induce the farmers of Delaware to apply scientific methods to the cultivation of their fields and orchards.

Anthony Madison Higgins's son Anthony (1840-1912) was born at Linden Hill. This younger Anthony, notwithstanding his grandfather's outspoken aversion to the legal profession, became a lawyer and a very able one. From 1889 to 1895 he was a United States Senator; J. Edward Addicks had been his arch-foe in the candidacy for a Senatorship from Delaware.

In the celebrated case of *Neal vs. Delaware*, argued before the United States Supreme Court in 1880, Higgins was counsel for the defence. The decision set a precedent establishing the right of a Negro accused of a crime to a trial by a "jury of his peers." The Neal case was later cited by Chief Justice Hughes in an important Supreme Court ruling.

Higgins was appointed by the Delaware Court to defend William Neal, a Negro accused of rape by a white woman. In a former slave State, it was taken for granted that the defence would be merely perfunctory, but at the trial Higgins made the startling request that the indictment be quashed because no Negroes had been called for the jury. The motion was denied; Neal was sentenced to be hanged.

When they thought the case closed, Delawareans were again amazed; Higgins carried an appeal to the United States Supreme Court, which reversed the lower court's ruling and remanded
the case for a new trial.

Higgins now found himself bitterly assailed for "trying to save the life of a 'worthless nigger'".

At the second trial, in 1881, Negroes were summoned for jury duty; all were challenged by the State, but they had been officially brought into the court room and a precedent had been set.

At his second trial, Neal was acquitted. To guard against lynching, after the trial and acquittal he was spirited from the Court House and out of the State.

Linden Hill, like many another old Delaware home, is no longer occupied by any of the family who built it and lived there for many years. In this case, the occupants now are tenant-farmers. Fortunately, they are careful and orderly, and no damage has befallen the fabric of the building. Linden Hill is still typical of the homes of prosperous New Castle County farmers of the mid-nineteenth century, when they themselves lived on their lands.

**DAMASCUS**

Red Lion Hundred

On du Pont Highway, about 7½ m. South of Wilmington (R), before reaching St. George's Damascus, a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick house, built about 1790, was the home of Jesse Higgins. He was one of the four sons of Lawrence Higgins, who came hither from Belfast in 1750, acquired land lying along the present Delaware and Chesapeake Canal, married Susan Wilson, and established the Higgins family as vigorous, useful and often militant residents of Red Lion Hundred.
Lawrence Higgins was a stout patriot and, as a purchasing agent for the Continental Army, it is said he "exhausted both purse and credit" in the American cause. His son, Jesse Higgins, born in 1763, spent his early life at "Damascus, a mill-site on the Dragon Creek," a stream that flows through marshes and empties into the Delaware River. He married the niece of George Read, the "Signer" and, after her early death, married Mary Witherspoon, daughter of Thomas Witherspoon of Middletown, treasurer of Old Drawyers Church.

In 1788, when he was a member of the State Legislature, Jesse Higgins secured the passage of an Act for dyking and draining about 3000 acres of land, marsh and cripple, in Red Lion and St. George's Hundreds. This resulted in the formation of a large extent of very fertile farming land. It was on one of these reclaimed tracts that some of the earliest peach crops were grown, from which Delaware farmers reaped rich profits.

In settling the estate of Dr. Bluyter Bouchelle, his wife's grandfather, Jesse Higgins became necessarily involved in litigation. From that experience he conceived a strong antagonism to the legal profession. He declared that "an honest man could not be a good lawyer."

Then he wrote a pamphlet entitled "Sampson Against the Philistines," to prove, amongst other things, that all law-suits and other business differences between men could be settled by arbitration. That would be a remedy at once cheaper, surer and quicker.

A number of lawyers, scandalised at this outburst, tried to
suppress the pamphlet by buying up the edition, but it found wide circulation when it was promptly reprinted in the Aurora. The Aurora was then being published in Washington, D.C. by William Duane, and Duane was delighted to annoy conservative Federalists in behalf of a warm Jeffersonian Democrat.

As a leader of the Jeffersonian Democrats of his day, Jesse Higgins engaged in a noted debate, at Glasgow Crossroads nearby, with James A. Bayard, the most famous Federalist in Delaware. As the two men took turns on the rostrum, the crowd of thousands gathered for the contest, loudly cheered their respective champions.

Damascus is now but a sorry reminder of a once fine and dignified place. Converted into shabby apartments and a roadside beer joint, it is a veritable architectural Ichabod.

LEXINGTON Red Lion Hundred
Route 9, after crossing Red Lion Creek going south.
About 3 miles from Delaware City.

On the River Road near Delaware City, Major Reybold, the "Peach King" of Delaware, built himself a house in the early 1840's. This country-seat, as befitted a wealthy magnate, conformed in every way to what were considered the proprieties of fashion.

Lexington was demolished but nearby Chelsea is of precisely the same type.
the upper storey low and lighted by small windows directly overshadowed by a projecting cornice. The width is divided into three bays, with broad wall spaces at each side of the three tall second-storey windows that create the external division. The central window is of double width, evidently an adaptation from the "Wyatt" window of an earlier period.

The brickwork is in the precise running-bond of the mid-nineteenth century and the bricks themselves are of the hard, aggressive hue that characterised so much of the brickwork of that day.

There is a large wing or extension at the rear or east side of the main block. At the south side, set back a little from the three-bay front, is another small, low one-storey wing.

Extending across the middle of the front is a wide and deep glassed-in, one-storey portico supported by columns of the boxlike, angular type derived from the decadence of the domestic-Greek-Revival taste.

Inside, the rooms on both sides of the central hall are spacious, with ceilings of sufficient height. The woodwork is simple in pattern but well-executed, and its design accords with the rest of the house. The mantels are of the Victorian white or veined marble taste.

The house faces west toward the entrance from the road. Had it been faced east, there would have been a perennially agreeable view towards the nearby expanse of the Delaware River. Everything about the place, both inside and out, recalls the era of antimacassars, overstuffed sofas and armchairs and, one might add, Dresden china spittoons.

Henry Clay, so the story goes, gave the place its name in
1847 when Senator John Middleton Clayton took him there to see Major Reybold's great peach orchards. After a dinner, attended by other Whig leaders as well as by most of Reybold's sons and daughters, they were taken on an inspection tour through the orchards and two baskets of choice peaches were picked for Clay. Later, Major Reybold asked Mr. Clay to name his estate with its new house. Thereupon Mr. Clay is said to have answered: "Major, your beautiful house and the countryside remind me of Ashland, my own home near Lexington. I therefore suggest, sir, that you name your estate 'Lexington'.”

Philip Reybold was a man who started from less than scratch, did exceeding well by himself and likewise contributed to the prosperity of the State. Born in Philadelphia in 1783, he was an orphan at ten. In 1810, when he was about twenty-seven, he came to Red Lion Hundred and started farming with a partner. The partner defaulted and the farm went at sheriff's sale, with all Reybold's savings gone up in smoke.

Nothing daunted, he rented the same farm and by hard work, raising sheep and pressing oil from the castor oil beans he had begun to raise as an experiment, he was soon able to buy the farm back again.

During the construction of the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal, Reybold was an excavating contractor. He made another tidy profit by supplying beef and bread to the army of labourers working on the canal. He also derived a profit from brick-making, using the clay deposits on his land. He bought one run-down farm after another, restored their fertility by spreading the land with the
Chelsea. West Front
marl he excavated along the canal, and specialised in raising grain and beef cattle.

In 1835 Reybold took up peach-raising and by 1845 he and his five sons had 117,000 peach trees in bearing in his various orchards. The fruit he shipped to Philadelphia and New York on his own steamboats. He spread the fame of Delaware peaches throughout the United States. It is said that he made more money than any Delaware farmer ever before or since. While doing so he set an example in the improvement of Delaware agriculture and likewise augmented the State's prosperity.

Lexington has been razed and is now but a memory. But it set the contemporary architectural pattern for the neighborhood. That mid-nineteenth-century pattern is well exemplified by Chelsea, on the River Road (Route 9) just outside Delaware City and close to the vast plant of the Tidewater Oil Company, an industry that has rejuvenated Delaware City's prosperity after its successive frustrations.

Chelsea

On River Road (Route 9) a little to the northwest of Delaware City

On the east side of the River Road, just a little to the northwest of Delaware City, an high thick hedge almost hides Chelsea, an house built in the early 1840's by T. Jefferson Clark. Its character coincides with the general pattern of current architectural expression embodied in Lexington.

Penetrating a narrow opening in the hedge, a narrow driveway leads through a small park of lofty, wide-spreading trees to a square brick structure of the somewhat severe aspect much admired
at the time of its erection. The architect had possibly been looking at pictures of the "Italian Villa" manner of design, of the plainer sort. He was certainly imbued with the determined purpose of conventional "correctness"; to be quite "correct" was more important than to take advantage of the natural site or to show originality of interpretation.

Early Victorian "correctness" prescribed that an imposing country seat should face the road or, at least, the direct line of approach; put its "best foot forward" and impress the approaching visitor. At Chelsea the house faces west towards the road with, at best, a commonplace outlook. Had it been faced east, there would have been a perennially agreeable view over the nearby expanse of the marshes and the breadth of the Delaware River. So much for being "correct"!

The house is three storeys high, with an almost flat roof, the upper storey low and lighted by small windows directly overshadowed by a projecting cornice. The width is divided into three bays, with broad wall spaces at each side of the three tall second-storey windows that create the external division. The central window is of double width, evidently an adaptation from the "Wyatt" window of an earlier period.

The brickwork is in the precise running-bond of the mid-nineteenth century and the bricks themselves are of the hard, aggressive hue that characterised so much of the brickwork of that day, when it had become unfashionable to have white mortar joints.

There is a large wing or extension at the rear or east side of the main block. At the south side, set a little back from the three-bay front, is another small, low one-storey wing. Extending across the middle of the front is a wide and deep
Mansion Farm. North front and east end
glassed-in one-storey portico supported by columns of the box-like, angular type derived from the decadence of the domestic-Greek-Revival taste.

Inside, the rooms on both sides of the central hall are spacious, with ceilings of sufficient height. The woodwork is simple in pattern but well-executed, and its design accords with the rest of the house. The mantels are of the Victorian white or veined marble taste.

As a dwelling, Chelsea can be described as physically comfortable, but a sacrifice to "correctness" in the matter of aesthetic possibilities. The omnipresent compliance with contemporary "correctness", both inside and out, recalls the era of antimacassars, overstuffed sofas and armchairs and, one might add, Dresden china spittoons.

MANSION FARM
New Castle County
West side of River Road, at Hamburg Lane, south of New Castle

On the west side of the River Road, several miles south of New Castle, just beyond the rifle range and west of the entrance to Hamburg Lane, is an eighteenth-century brick plantation house known as Mansion Farm.

The main part of the house, facing southeast, Colonel Alexander Porter built in 1750. His initials and the date appear in black headers in the gable and chimney-base of the southwest wall. The definitely dated part of the structure, which is the only part that appears in the illustration, is really the culmination of a course of building that began many years earlier. Behind the northeast end of the 1750 part of the house is a long wing, stretching southward, which consists of two antecedent brick structures erected at separate dates.
The earlier is the farthest from the present main house. So far as it is possible to judge after repeated changes and adaptations in the passage of years, this little dwelling followed the "Resurrection Manor" plan; one main room, with fireplace and winding stair to the bedroom or bedrooms above.

The second building that connects the first small structure with the present main house, seems to have repeated the arrangement of the first, with a little additional space. In these two joined structures, that now make the rear wing of the 1750 part, what little remains of the original woodwork is good and worthy of consideration.

The five-bay 1750 part of the house is definitely Early Georgian in tone; witness the straight, small-paned transom above the double door, the segmental arches above openings in the brickwork, the penthouse across the whole front, the coved cornice, and the chimney-top neckings and mouldings. The brickwork of the front is laid in Flemish-bond; Liverpool bond is used for the end walls.

The specific date, 1750, is another plain evidence that by the middle of the eighteenth century the Georgian principle of symmetrical plan, with central hall and stair, had won general acceptance in house-building, although for some years afterwards houses were occasionally built with a pre-Georgian arrangement adapted from the old elemental "great room" with "added" rooms scheme, along with Georgian woodwork and other features of Georgian origin.

Inside the house the woodwork is excellent. Dados, window-seats, cornices and the stair are all in vigorous Early Georgian
Buena Vista. East Front. Extension at left a recent addition
manner. The overmantel panelling and the china cupboards are especially fine.

Colonel Porter was one of the Deputies from New Castle County to the first Constitutional Convention of the State, which met at New Castle, August 27, 1776, and on the ensuing 20th of September promulgated Delaware's first State Constitution.

In 1786, along with Gunning Bedford, Jacob Broom and others from New Castle County, Colonel Porter was a member of the State House of Representatives. In 1787, 1788 and 1794 he served again in the same capacity.

In 1790, together with Nicholas Van Dyke, Richard Cantwell, George Read, Thomas McKean and several other New Castle County worthies, he was a State Senator; and again, in 1796, he sat in the State Senate.

BUENA VISTA
New Castle County

On west side of Route 13, a little more than a mile south of junction of Route 13 and 40

Buena Vista, named for the Battle of Buena Vista in the Mexican War, is the country home John Middleton Clayton built for himself just before the middle of the nineteenth century. The house was finished in 1846-47. As President Taylor's friend and Secretary of State, it was natural that Clayton should name his house Buena Vista. Quite apart from that connection, the name is appropriate. Standing on a rise a few miles to the southwest of New Castle, the house overlooks a broad expanse of farmland stretching away towards the Delaware River. It has truly a
Good View to look upon.

John Middleton Clayton's brilliant record of achievements, both in the field of National service and also as a devoted public servant of his native State, is too well known to need any rehearsal here. But it will not be amiss to recall one facet of his many-sided activities that the general public too often ignores or wholly forgets—his role as a scientific farmer.

When Delaware agriculture was badly in the doldrums, and many a farmer was hard put to it to eke out a bare living, Clayton was one of the most active and persistent promoters of land conservation and improvement of farming practice. And he did not confine his activities to talk:

With his customary thoroughness when he tackled a problem, he not only studied and mastered the practicable methods of effecting the much-needed reform, and helped to disseminate the knowledge of them, but he also put them into actual practice on his own land at Buena Vista. Much of his land there, when he acquired it, was exhausted and unproductive.

Approached by a long avenue of tall trees, and set amid fields of exemplary tilth, Buena Vista to-day is an eloquent memorial of John Middleton Clayton's far-reaching service to the State of Delaware as a farmer.

The house "farmer" Clayton built on his farm is a five-bay, two-storey brick structure. The pitch of the roof slopes, both front and back, has been so flattened that attic area is but a low air chamber over the rooms of the upper floor.
house embodies features and methods of construction that no master-builder of the day, no matter how capable he might have been, would have attempted, even if he had known about them.

Had a master-builder, guided by customary Delaware usage, built Buena Vista, we may be sure the gable-end walls would have had cornices and eaves; that the front likewise would have had a cornice and eaves; and that the dimensions and placing of the windows would have been quite different. To connect the pair of end chimneys by a balustrade, instead of a brick curtain wall, was likewise a departure from the generally-accepted local precedent.

To whom, then, shall we ascribe the end walls carried up beyond the gable-roof line as low parapets, capped with marble and ending in corbelled kneelers; the Hellenic-looking frontone rising behind the cornice of the front; or the generously-designed windows? And the meticulously-correct fluted Doric columns of the verandah?

When Buena Vista was built, it was a period of change and experiment. The Greek-Revival enthusiasm had lost somewhat of its first impact. It was being closely followed by two fresh enthusiasms that were making strong appeals to popular imagination, one for Gothic precedent, the other for the so-called "Italian Villa" manner. Conservative architectural judgement seemed to be at a discount.

Record is lacking anent the name of the architect who designed Buena Vista. That such record will some time turn up, perhaps in a totally unexpected place, is a thing to be hoped for. Meanwhile, a conjecture is worth considering.
On the basis of analogy with their known work in other places, there were three architects in active practice at the time, any one of whom might have furnished the design: William Strickland, John Haviland and Thomas Ustick Walter. Strickland, from 1844 onward was so fully engaged in Nashville that he can scarcely be considered as a possibility.

Both Haviland and Walter were men of scholarly outlook and mature experience. Both had used Greek precedent intelligently in their work and had distinguished between what was fitting for public structures and what was suitable for domestic use. In designing Buena Vista, either one or the other of them, or possibly some third but equally judicious designer, produced a sane and reasonable composition characterised by a definitely Greek flavour.

Buena Vista, in short, as originally finished, affords an admirable and satisfying instance of the Greek-Revival inspiration understandingly interpreted and discreetly adjusted to the requirements of domestic habitation.

The long wing to the west of the main block, left side of illustration, is a much later addition. As originally finished for John Middleton Clayton, the house consisted of the five-bay block with its six Doric-columned verandah, and the service wing or extension at the rear or north.

Its general aspect is straightforward and emphatic. Along with its sturdy air of massive reserve, it combines great dignity with an accompanying appropriate grace. Another discernible attribute is the hospitable atmosphere it diffuses.
Lowden House, near Christiana Bridge, Southwest Front.
As a Senator, John Middleton Clayton had gained a reputation in Washington as a genial host at whose house the Senatorial celebrities and Government officials were prone to gather. During his residence at the Read House in New Castle, while Buena Vista was a-building, his former Washington associates often paid him visits, and in the Read House garden the spot is still pointed out where they played quoits.

It was but natural, then, that when Clayton moved into his new house, the visits of statesmen should continue at Buena Vista. Perhaps the most noted of these many eminent visitors was Henry Clay, who was a guest at Buena Vista in 1847. When Clay arrived at New Castle he was mobbed by crowds of admirers in an almost riotous ovation from which Clayton at last rescued him and bore him off to the peaceful atmosphere of Buena Vista. It was during this visit that Clayton took Henry Clay on a tour of inspection, amongst other places to Lexington, the home of Major Reybold.

The present owner and occupant of Buena Vista is John Middleton Clayton's great-nephew, the Honourable Clayton Douglass Buck, Governor of Delaware from 1929 to 1937 and U.S. Senator 1943 to 1949.

L E W D E N H O U S E Christiana Bridge

In 1669 a patent was issued for a tract along the winding Christina River "on y South syde of Swarte Nutten island being a hook of land called Bellye." This was opposite the Newport of to-day. In the late seventeenth century, or very early in the eighteenth, the progenitor of the Lewden family bought the island and Bellye.

In 1736 John Lewden built a substantial brick house on the
island and the place became known as Lewden's Island. This house was demolished and part of it was re-erected in Middletown. Lewden's property extended up the river to Christiana Bridge and that part got the name "Fishing Place."

John Lewden died in 1744, leaving house and lands to his two sons, John and Josiah, both of whom had large families. In 1770 John built a large brick house at Christiana Bridge, in which he lived till his death. The house was considerably enlarged in 1815, presumably to accommodate the store that was one item in the Lewden's varied commercial undertakings.

The Lewden house, as it stands to-day, is a comely, dignified five-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick Georgian structure, with a lower brick extension at the rear. The Flemish-bond brickwork and the generous-sized windows are especially praiseworthy. In short, it is a convincing example of the Quaker version of the Georgian manner.

The eighteenth-century Quakers, in their architectural expressions, chose the seemly and utilitarian, but without the little amenities and graces that were elsewhere contemporary. They were functionalists.

By the end of the eighteenth century, long before that, the English-speaking world had arrived at what was commonly accepted as an ideal and satisfying type of domestic domicile, conducive to comfort and convenience. The Quakers approved and employed such fundamental Georgian factors as plan, dimensions of rooms and methods of structure but, in the late eighteenth century when the cult of austerity was prevalent, they
were prone to dispense with such structural non-essentials as fanlights, pediments, engaged columns, ornate pilasters, belt courses between lower and upper storeys, and elaborately-detailed and highly decorative cornices. The engaged columns and entablature of the doorway seem to date from the 1815 enlargement. Query, did the builder finish off with the little "shed roof" because a pediment would encroach on the upstairs window, or were the clients "convinced" against pediments?

This preference for exterior plainness, however, did not prevent them from having much excellent panelling inside their houses. In this matter they accepted the mode of the period without cavil although, of course, they forbore such elaboration in carved woodwork as might be found in some of the Annapolis houses or at China Hall in Pennsylvania.

Jeremiah, the son of the John Lewden who built the house at Christiana Bridge, lived there next. Dying in 1840, he left the homestead to his sons, Josiah and John, who continued to occupy the old house, with about 250 acres of land, until 1900.

As farmers, tanners, storekeepers, ship-owners and traders, successive generations of Lewdens dominated the economic life of Christiana for more than 175 years. Their ships, sailing from Christiana (the head of the Christina's navigation), carried grain, calf-skin, side-sole, sheep belt, other leather commodities and flour to Philadelphia and the West Indies. The firm of Lewden and Duhamel had an office and warehouse in Cap François on the island of Santo Domingo when the town was burned and pillaged during the slave uprising. Many of the French plantation owners,
forced to flee during this rebellion, came to Wilmington on Lewden-chartered ships.

The Lewdens were originally Quakers, members of the New Castle Meeting. As the number of Friends increased in the neighbourhood of Christiana, meetings were held in the Lewden house before the Meeting House at Stanton was built.

After the death of the last two Lewden brothers, the property which had been in the family for two centuries, changed hands. The house fell upon evil days. The tenant family used the living-room as a chicken coop and desecrated the house and its garden in many other ways. Successively occupied by "poor" families, the house became shabbier and shabbier. It was called "Johnny-Tumble-Down's House" because of its woeful condition.

Finally, the present owners and occupants, who had a deep feeling for the historic house and neglected property, took possession. In their hands, the house has been thoroughly repaired and restored and is once more an unblemished example of Delaware's domestic architecture in the Colonial period.

The Lewden house is also a visible reminder of a significant chapter of Delaware's social and economic history, an history that may have its lessons for posterity if posterity is wise enough to heed.

Just at the north side of the Christiana Bridge, and but a stone's throw from the Lewden house is an Historical Marker. It reads:

LAFAYETTE

General Lafayette enroute to Virginia, to command expedition against Benedict Arnold, landed 1500 troops here, with
READ HOUSE

Hard by the Bridge at Christiana is an empty old brick house so thickly covered by vines that it is well nigh impossible to distinguish any individual characteristics, save that the original structure seems to have been enlarged by an early addition. This was the first Delaware home of George Read, the "Signer".

George Read, the "Signer," was the son of John Read, son of a well-to-do English family resident in Dublin. Born in 1688, John Read migrated to Maryland and became a planter in Cecil County. When well past forty, he married Mary Howell, daughter of a prosperous planter in the Welsh Tract of Delaware, twenty-three years his junior.

George Read, the eldest child of this union, was born in Cecil County in 1733. Soon afterwards the Reads removed to New Castle County and established themselves at Christiana. In his Life and Correspondence of George Read, his grandson W. T. Read, says the Christiana plantation was a farm:

"of one hundred and eighty acres, with a spacious brick house, and barn, and other buildings and conveniences adjacent to Christiana Bridge, with a storehouse and wharf used as a landing, from which an extensive trade was long carried on with Philadelphia and other places."

At an early age George Read was sent to the Reverend Francis Allison's school at New London. Charles Thomson, destined to become Secretary to the Continental Congress, was a fellow-pupil. George seems to have been a diligent student. Years afterward, his sister, Mrs. Gunning Bedford, related that "when his candle was taken from him at bedtime, he studied his grammar-lesson by fire-light."
At fifteen he was taken from school and put to study law in Philadelphia in the office of John Moland, one of the chief legal celebrities of the day. There young Read formed a life-long friendship with John Dickinson, who also was being trained in the law by Mr. Moland.

Admitted to the Bar in June, 1753, George Read settled himself in New Castle early in 1754 and commenced the practice of law. In 1763 he succeeded John Ross as District-Attorney for the "Three Lower Counties on Delaware." Also, in 1763 he married the daughter of the Reverend George Ross, Rector of Immanuel Church.

In October, 1765, he took his seat in the General Assembly of Delaware as a member from New Castle County.

In 1769 he notes that his mother at Christiana opposes Gunning Bedford's suit for the hand of his sister Polly. George and Mrs. Read favoured the match and Polly Read and Gunning Bedford were soon afterwards married at the Reads' house in New Castle.

On August 1, 1774, at a meeting of the Delaware Assembly in New Castle, along with Caesar Rodney and Thomas McKean, George Read was chosen a Delegate to the General Congress to meet in Philadelphia September 5, 1774.

George Read's record in the Continental Congress and afterwards are too well known to call for notice in this place. It is, however, pertinent to say something about his house in New Castle.

It was on the east side of the Strand, close to the water's edge, and commanded a fine view up and down the river. W. T. Read says his grandfather's house;

"was an old-fashioned brick structure, looking very
comfortable, but with no pretensions to elegance. [A characteristic attitude towards Georgian architecture in 1870! It contained a spacious hall, on one side of which was a large parlour or drawing-room, on the other Mr. Read's office, behind it the dining-room of sufficient size, and in its rear a large kitchen . . . . The garden was kept with great care, for Mrs. Read had both fondness and taste for horticulture, and was proud of her profusion of flowers . . . . Here Mr. Read resided for many years in the style of the colonial gentry and "maintained a state and etiquette which have long disappeared."

Mrs. Read survived her husband four years and continued to live there until her death in 1802. This house was burned in the disastrous fire of 1824, and its ruins were afterwards removed. Not a trace of it is left.

Inscription on George Read's gravestone in

Immanuel Churchyard

Born September 18th, 1734
Died September 21st, 1798
Member of the Congress of the Revolution, the Convention that framed the Constitution of the United States, and of the first Senate under it; Judge of Admiralty, President and Chief Justice of Delaware and a Signer of the Declaration of Independence"

SPRINGER HOUSE AT STANTON New Castle County

On Old Baltimore Road opposite right-angle junction with Route 7 to Hockessin

Stanton, one of the oldest villages in Mill Creek Hundred, had grist mills and saw mills in the latter part of the seventeenth century. It is on the old road to Baltimore and the South, and about three miles north of Christiana and the head
of navigation on the Christina River.

The once reposeful air of the old village has vanished before the invasion of ultra modern house-building developments and the obliteration of the old lines of communication by straightened concrete highways and by-passes. It is becoming almost as puzzling to trace the course of the old roads in northern Delaware as it is to follow the exact lines of the old Roman roads in modern England.

The Springer house stands at the southeast corner of the Old Baltimore Road (a prolongation of Maryland Avenue in Wilmington) and the junction with the road coming in at a right angle (Route 7) from Hockessin. It is a striking reminder of Stanton's aspect as it once was.

It is a two-storey-and-attic dwelling of five-bay width and two-room depth, and is built of the native dark grey stone, sometimes described as "Brandywine Granite." The rubble masonry of admirable quality bears witness to the preference for stone as a building material in that part of New Castle County.

Built after the middle of the eighteenth century, it typifies the Quaker insistence upon exterior plainness and might be cited as a good example of "Quaker Georgian." Stanton was largely a Quaker community when the house was built and the Stanton Meeting House was nearby on the opposite side of the Old Baltimore Road.

Nothing could be plainer or more forthright than the exterior of the Springer house. The only visible concession to architectural amenity is the simple moulding beneath the plain, and utilitarian,
Cock house, Cock's Bridge, Southeast front
The box cornice. The portico and penthouse are recent additions to the front. It is worth noting that the stone masons observed sound local precedent by creating quoins at the corners, using well-selected large blocks for the purpose.

The interior has been so mauled, altered and generally maltreated that only by a vigorous exercise of imagination can one think of it as ever having had any affinity with Georgian symmetrical arrangement.

About 1797 Peter Springer was keeping a tavern in the house, it is said, and he doubtless did a prosperous business. Being directly on the main road to the South, there were the comings and goings of a constant succession of travellers. But besides this steady traffic north and south, there were the many waggoners driving their heavy-laden wains to Christiana and Newport. It was the hey-day of the shipping business on the Christina River, and from both Christiana and Newport great quantities of grain and flour, carted from "up-country", were shipped by shallop to Wilmington or Philadelphia or more distant ports.

COOCH HOUSE  Cooch's Bridge
On road from Christiana to Elkton, near Iron Hill

The Cooch house, at Cooch's Bridge over the Christina River, was built there because of an earlier grist mill and saw mill established at this spot about 1702 by one of the Welsh colonists in Pencader Hundred.

In 1746 Thomas Cooch came from England to settle in the Welsh Tract at the foot of Iron Hill. His land holdings were extensive, and although the original tract has been repeatedly subdivided
amongst heirs, and the heirs of heirs, a sizable acreage still remains attached to the house Thomas Cooch built beside the Christina in 1760.

As an important feature of his estate, Thomas Cooch conducted the mill profitably until it was burned by the British in 1777. It was then rebuilt on another site and continued in active operation as long as the village of Christiana was a busy shipping port for grain and flour from the surrounding region.

In August, 1777, when the British Army landed at the Head of Elk, it was apparently Howe's intention to march to Philadelphia through Stanton, Newport and Wilmington. The road over Cooch's Bridge through Christiana was the most direct and feasible route from the Head of Elk to his objective.

Washington, sensing Howe's purpose and hoping to delay the British advance until he himself could gain a battle-ground more favourable to his now scattered and inferior forces, decided to attack at Cooch's Bridge.

Cooch's house and the bridge directly in front of it became the focal point of Washington's action to delay Howe's advance at the least cost to the Continental Army. With terrain unfavourable for an engagement and the inevitable bottleneck cause by the narrow bridge of the Christina, a handful of attackers could cause endless confusion.

On September 3, 1777, the Battle of Cooch's Bridge was fought. That same day General Washington wrote to the President of Congress,

"This morning the enemy came out with considerable force and three pieces of artillery against our light corps, and after some pretty smart skirmishing, obliged them to retreat, being far superior in numbers. They advanced about two miles this side of Iron Hill, and then withdrew to that place. Our parties now lay at White
Clay Creek, except the advanced pickets which are at Christiana Bridge."

Although in actual fighting the Battle of Cooch's Bridge was little more than a skirmish, it was noteworthy for two things: it checked Howe's advance on Philadelphia, and it was the first time the American flag was in battle.

The Journals of Congress for June 14, 1777, say:

"Resolved, That the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

The flag General Washington displayed at Cambridge, January 2, 1776, had the thirteen red and white stripes, but the canton showed the combined crosses of St. George and St. Andrew on a blue field. The Congressional Flag, officially declared only a few months before the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, was borne in the first armed engagement since the action of Congress.

At the approach of the British Army, Thomas Cooch, who was nearing eighty years of age, and his family took refuge in Pennsylvania. Lord Cornwallis, after burning the mill, made the Cooch house his headquarters, and stabled his horses in the front living-room.

Before leaving, Thomas Cooch had buried his silver in the orchard. When he returned after the departure of his unwelcome guests, he found the chest with the silver safe and sound. That was pleasant. What was not so pleasant was to find the floor of the best room battered and scarred by horses' hooves.

Thomas Cooch was highly esteemed in the community. He was both a Justice of the Peace and a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

The house that he built in 1760 was a two-storey-and-attic
John England house, Southwest front. Larger part (at left) built 1749; lower part (at right) house occupied by John England 5. 1720.
three-bay brick structure on a gentle rise above the Christina. It faces east and has a two-storey wing extending westward at the back. The brick walls are now stuccoed and painted yellow.

In the course of its two hundred years the dwelling has undergone many radical changes. A third storey was added to the main part of the house just after the War Between the States. What is now the side verandah was added about the same time and the columns were cut from old ship masts. The present front verandah is the work of an itinerant carpenter of nearly the same date.

Inside, some of the original woodwork remains, but there have been so many Victorian alterations, both indoors and outside, that the eighteenth-century character of the original building is lost.

Beside the gateway a conspicuous monument reminds the passer-by that this spot is the Site of the Only Military Fight of the Revolution on Delaware Soil. Around the base of the boulder that forms the body of the monument are four cannon. The bronze tablet affixed to the boulder reads:

"American Light Infantry and Cavalry under General William Maxwell encountered advance Guard of British and Hessian Troops under Generals Howe, Cornwallis, and Knyphausen in this Vicinity, September 3, 1777. American Troops were Expert Marksmen chosen by General Washington from the several Brigades of his Army then encamped near Wilmington.

Only Battle of Revolution on Delaware Soil and claimed to have been the first in which the Stars and Stripes were carried."

JOHN ENGLAND HOUSE Near Newark

In 1723 John England came from Staffordshire to manage
the Principio Furnace, in Cecil County, Maryland, in the ownership of which it is said he had an interest. The Principio Forge, established in 1718 at the head of the Chesapeake, was not far from Iron Hill, just a little to the southwest of Newark. Although the furnace depended mainly on bog ore, it occasionally drew its supply from Iron Hill. But the known presence of iron in that neighbourhood created wide interest and inspired a number of attempts at development.

Sir William Keith, while he was Governor, with characteristic optimism about the future of the iron industry, acquired considerable acreage along the Christina and on White Clay Creek. The records show that he bought 1,160 acres in Pencader, Mill Creek and Christiana Hundreds. He is said also to have built a small furnace on the Christina about 1722, getting his ore from Iron Hill. This venture came to an abrupt end with his removal from office and his following clandestine flight to England.

At the disposal of Keith's holdings, John England bought a tract on the White Clay Creek, perhaps in hope of finding ore on the property. Whether the older part of the house was already there or whether John England himself built it is uncertain. Within the next few years he built a grist mill at the foot of the slope on which the house stands.

John England died in 1734 and his brother Joseph came down from Pennsylvania, took over the property and ran the mill.

In 1741, John England's legal heirs, his two sons in England, conveyed the 400-acre estate to their uncle Joseph. Joseph added the larger part of the house in 1747, as indicated by the
date-stone in the gable of the north end. He was an active member of the West Nottingham Meeting and, like most grist mill owners of the period, was a person of weight in his community. His grandson, the third Joseph England, was active in New Castle County affairs and served in the Legislature from 1800 to 1828; he died while a member of the State Senate in 1828.

The England family kept possession of the place until 1839. Since then members of the Eastburn family have occupied the house.

The mill, widely known as "England's Mill" or as "The Old Red Mill", was a valuable asset. For more than two centuries it ground a great quantity of fine flour for export from the grain grown in the country round about. Latterly its business became reduced to grinding feed for the local trade. The mill seems to have been the feature that inspired most of the neighbourhood regard for the place.

In the course of more than two hundred and thirty-odd years the house has undergone much alteration both inside and out. At the far end of the older part, on its high stone foundation, required by the sharp slope, there was once a very large Dutch oven, also built up on a high foundation. Though the oven was removed long ago, the traces on the stone and brick exterior masonry plainly indicate its shape and dimensions.

Within, the fireplace to which it was joined is of exceptional breadth and extends across practically the whole end of the building. At some of the old grist mills there were outdoor bake-ovens where the millers baked ships' bread, for which there was a good market in the days of sailing ships, when mills along
the Christina and Brandywine exported great quantities of flour and grain. From the size of the fireplace, and of the erstwhile Dutch oven attached to it, one wonders whether the millers at England's Mill ever added the baking of ships' bread to their labours.

The old kitchen, with its enormous fireplace, bears other marks of its early date in battened "Dutch" half-doors, hardware of the period, and a few remnants of panelling in the manner of the 1720's.

By 1747, prosperity enabled Joseph England to make the large addition with its handsome brickwork laid in Flemish-bond with glazed black headers. The uninterrupted penthouse extended across the front, the end, and the rear of the house. The present small entrance portico, with columns and pediment, and the large screened porch at the gable end, mark fairly recent alterations. Indoors, many changes and modernisations have taken place, but some of the original fine woodwork remains.

The John England house still faithfully represents eighteenth-century building ideals and manner of life. For that, if for no other reason, it would merit high esteem. But, over and above that, it is the visible reminder of a worthy man who diligently fostered the beginnings of Delaware's industrial life. Also, in lesser degree, it recalls the memory of Sir William Keith, Governour of the "Three Lower Counties" as well as of the Province of Pennsyl-vania, some of whose dreams of development, had they ever been pursued to their logical fruition, might have been of profit both to himself and to his contemporaries.
1. Chestnut Hill Farm. Two back buildings at right
the original house and addition, as they appeared
in 1934. Courtesy of Honourable Hugh M. Morris

2. Chestnut Hill Farm. Southwest front and
gable end of part built c. 1800
CHESTNUT HILL FARM

On Polly Drummond Hill road, north of State Road 2

Just above the White Clay Creek Presbyterian Church and its surrounding burying-ground, Chestnut Hill Farm is on the road winding up to Polly Drummond Hill.

Like many others in Mill Creek Hundred, the house is built of grey fieldstone. Stone was the most favoured building material in Mill Creek Hundred and, at one time, there were more stone houses there than dwellings built of brick or of any other material.

Chestnut Hill farmhouse, as it stands to-day, embodies structures of three different dates, along with a kitchen wing of comparatively recent construction. The oldest, and northernmost, portion was built early in the eighteenth century or, quite possibly, in the latter part of the seventeenth.

It was a one-storey-and-attic dwelling of the simplest type, one large room with a great fireplace, and one or two bedrooms in the attic above it. It was a late Mediaeval type that the earliest colonists brought with them from England. It was a type that called for no architect nor experienced master-builder. It was the kind of thing the colonists could build for themselves and manage to live in until they could get their farms really going and then build more commodious quarters.

There are numerous examples of it scattered through Chester and Delaware Counties and Bucks in Pennsylvania. Occasionally a rudimentary dwelling of this sort has remained just as it was when first built. More usually it has become a wing to a later-built and larger structure.
An admirable instance of it is the frame seventeenth-century part of the Gilpin house (La Fayette Headquarters) at Chadd's Ford. The half-timber and weatherboarded original became a wing of the more commodious stone additions.

At Chestnut Hill Farm, the oldest part of the house has undergone sundry alterations through the years, but its clearly traceable pristine form is very close to the "Resurrection Manor" plan that came up from Maryland through Sussex and Kent. Under the urge of imperative necessity, it embodied a natural pioneering instinct to reproduce in a new land what the colonists knew at home in England as the simplest and easiest-built type of small farm dwelling, the labourer's cottage. Not a few of these seventeenth-century labourers' cottages are still in use in England.

The middle part of Chestnut Hill farmhouse, built about the middle of the eighteenth century, was the logical outgrowth from the first part and afforded more generous living accommodations. But it was built and very substantially, according to local rustic precedent.

By the time the southernmost part of the house was built, about the beginning of the nineteenth century, Georgian principles of symmetrical arrangement had won general acceptance. This part is a two-storey-and-attic, five-bay structure with central hall and stair, and one room deep. It is an agreeable and seemly Georgian creation of restrained design, but with enough of the customary architectural graces to ensure an atmosphere of genial comfort.

The genesis of Chestnut Hill farmhouse, through more than
two centuries, affords a valuable note to the story of the cultural life of New Castle County.

Chestnut Hill Farm was the home of Andrew Gray, the father of Andrew Caldwell Gray and grandfather of George Gray, whose public records are too well known to need present comment. Born in Kent County, as a young man Andrew Gray lived there in the landed estates inherited from his maternal grandfather, Andrew Caldwell. He married Rebecca Rodgers, the sister of Commodores John and George Rodgers.

In 1808 he left Kent County and came to live at Chestnut Hill Farm. Whether he built the Georgian part of the house, or whether it was already standing when he came, it is not quite certain, but it seems likely that he was the builder.

In 1816, 1820, 1823 and 1825 he was a member of the State General Assembly from New Castle County and, in 1818, he was a State Senator for New Castle County. But political and legislative activities were by no means his ruling interests. He was far more congenially concerned with scholarly and philosophical pursuits. He was a capable classicist and spent much time with his books, in study and in writing.

After his death, Chestnut Hill Farm passed through the vicissitudes of different ownerships and occupancies. The house finally fell into a sorry plight of disrepair, as may be seen by the illustration, from a picture taken in 1934.

The present owner and occupant is the Honorable Hugh M. Morris, sometime United States District Judge for the U. S. District of Delaware (1919-1934). In 1934, when he came to live at Chestnut
Hill Farm, he repaired all the damage of preceding years, and has since then maintained the house in a condition befitting its history as a significant landmark.

**Welsh Tract Baptist Meeting**

In Pencader Hundred at the foot of Iron Hill, near Cooch's Bridge, is the Welsh Tract Baptist Meeting. The original log meeting-house was built in 1706. The present brick structure was built in 1746.

Standing on a rise above the Christina, the Meeting is a small one-storey building with a jerkin-head roof, the jerkin-head slants truncating the gable at each end, a feature not common in the roof architecture of the old Colonies. The front of the Meeting facing the road (pierced by two doorways) is stuccoed and painted white. In one of the side walls is a bricked-up hole, made by a British cannon ball fired at the Continental soldiers retreating from the Battle of Cooch's Bridge. The severely plain interior has been re-seated with nineteenth-century pews.

Tradition has it that the bricks were brought from England to New Castle and transported thence on muleback. It is a picturesque story but, in this connection, it must be borne in mind that in 1746 excellent bricks were made in the immediate neighbourhood; shipping space was much too valuable for cargoes of manufactured goods to leave room for bricks, even as ballast; and that the cost of shipment plus the cost of carriage by mule-back from New Castle would have been prohibitive.
A low whitewashed stone wall surrounds the burial ground, in the centre of which the Meeting stands. Great oaks, centuries old, cast their shade about the place. Across the road from the Meeting are the old whitewashed stone cottage of the sexton, and the carriage-sheds of a bygone day in which the congregation once left their horses and carriages during service time, now, their automobiles.

The name "Pencader," borne by the Hundred in which the Welsh Tract Baptist Meeting stands, means a very high point of land and seems to have been given with reference to the elevation of nearby Iron Hill.

The Welsh settlers who peopled the Welsh Tract came chiefly from Pembrokeshire and Caermarthenshire and built their homes on the 3000 acres granted them by William Penn, October 15, 1701. Coming from the iron-working part of South Wales, as most of them did, it is said they were attracted by the rich supply of ore long known to exist in the beds of Iron Hill.

Before leaving Wales in 1701, they organised their congregation and came over with the Reverend Thomas Griffith as their minister. For a time after their arrival in America they lived on the Welsh Barony in Pennsylvania. They came into Delaware in 1703.

On coming into the Three Lower Counties they at once established their farmsteads on the tract already surveyed to them, "behind the town of New Castle, northward and southward, beginning to the westward seven miles from New Castle and extending upward and downward as there should be room by regular straight lines as near as may be."
The Welsh people of the Tract contributed a stable and valuable element to Delaware's population. As hardy and industrious pioneers they prospered and were easily assimilated in the social composition of their day. Their numerous descendants are now to be found in every part of the State.

At the Welsh Tract Baptist Meeting the preaching continued to be in Welsh until about 1800. To the congregation there can be traced the foundation of nearly all other Baptist organisations in the State.

OLD COLLEGE
Newark
Main Street, Newark

Old College, on Main Street in Newark, faces south overlooking the campus, and is surrounded by noble old lime (linden) trees. Built in 1834, with funds raised by a lottery, for half a century it was the only college building and, for a time, served for academic as well as collegiate instruction. It is now used chiefly as a social centre for the students and faculty of the University of Delaware.

In September, 1834, it opened its doors as Newark College, with the Reverend Eliphalet Wheeler Gilbert, D.D. as President. In 1843 the name was changed to Delaware College and so remained until Delaware State College became the Delaware State University. The building is now known simply as Old College.

When Old College was first built, it was a plain three-storey cruciform brick structure, with a Greek temple portico in front of the two upper storeys, the podium accounting for the height of the lower storey. It was one of the important early Greek-Revival
Purnell Hall, Newark, Southwest front
public buildings in America. Judging from old pictures, it presented a dignified and pleasing appearance consistent in scale and in the character of its several parts with the purpose for which it was intended.

In 1902, north and south wings were added. They had temple fronts corresponding with the design of the original main front. At that time the portico friezes were perfectly plain and the columns were round cylinder-like supports, stuccoed.

In 1917, when the interior was completely renovated, the Victorian bell-cot atop the central portico was removed, the friezes were correctly embellished with triglyphs, and fluted Doric columns replaced the unprepossessing cylinders. A broad granite ramp, in two well-calculated flights of steps, ascends from the ground level to the central portico.

P U R N E L L H A L L
Main Street, east of Old College, Newark

Purnell Hall, on Main Street east of Old College, is so called for Dr. William H. Purnell, President of Delaware College from 1870 to 1885. It is now the property of the University of Delaware and is used for several of the University's executive offices.

At one time it was used as a fraternity house, then as a general library, and after that it housed the departments of English and History. The much later wing with the Greek-Revival portico, on the east side of the house, was a dentist's office.

Purnell Hall was once known as the John Watson Evans house
Elliott Hall, Newark, Southwest Front
from a former occupant. John Watson Evans was a member of the State Legislature in the first half of the nineteenth century. The house was built some time during the "20's" or early "30's".

A two-storey-and-attic brick structure of three-bay width, it is two rooms deep, with a two-storey brick wing at the rear. The house is of generous width and amplitude of scale and is an exceptionally fine example of the simplified Regency or Federal manner.

The brickwork is lain in Flemish-bond. The carefully calculated arch of the doorway is worth noting. At the ends of the straight lintols are square blocks with circles, a device, it should be remembered, belonging to the Regency or Federal manner and frequently employed long before the domestic-Greek-Revivalists appropriated it.

The doorway, with its narrow side-lights and its graceful traceried fanlight, is well-studied and exceptionally handsome. The design of the dormer-tops is unusual and highly pleasing.

ELLIO T HALL

Main Street, Newark

Elliott Hall, on Main Street in Newark just east of Purnell Hall, is also used by the University of Delaware as part of its property. It is called Elliott Hall for former owners and occupants. It is one of the oldest houses in Newark.

From early times members of the Elliott family, sprung of English and Swedish stock, were active in the life of New Castle County. They gave a good account of themselves in both the Revolutionary War and in the War of 1812, and were esteemed by their contemporaries.

Pen caled Hundred

Welch Tract Baptist Meeting, Built 1746
Elliott Hall was built about 1770 perhaps a little earlier. It is a two-storey-and-attic brick structure of four bays in width and is two rooms deep. The two-bay addition at the east end, built of different-hued brick, is of recent construction. The portico at the house-door is a product of nineteenth-century domestic Greek-Revivalism.

The sturdy brickwork of the walls is laid in Flemish-bond. A belt course across the front, between the ground floor and the upper storey, is of a type much favoured in Delaware, three bricks wide, with the central course recessed.

The cornice, carried across the end walls in the manner of a penthouse, suggests the nearness of Chester County in Pennsylvania, where the practice is common amongst the old stone farm-houses of the Welsh colonists, not only in Chester but in the neighbouring Pennsylvania counties also, whose architectural precedent derived from the stone hendres of rural Wales (of Pencoyd, at Bala, and other early houses in the Welsh Barony).

ASHLAND MILLS New Castle County
On hill above Red Clay Creek

In the rolling hill country of northern New Castle County, the Red Clay Creek winds about between the feet of sharp slopes that are sometimes almost precipitous. At Ashland, on a knoll near the top of one of these steep rises, stands a brick house built by the Greggs in the fore part of the eighteenth century.

In 1684, under the Penn régime, the Manor of Staning was set off as a portion for Penn's son and daughter, William
Penn, junior, and Letitia. This Manor of Staning was partly in Pennsylvania and partly in New Castle County.

James Logan, as Penn's representative, was empowered to grant warrants to purchasers of land in the Manor and, on August 17, 1702, he deeded the tract on which the house stands to John Gregg for £ 40. 0. 0.

On April 10, 1730, John Gregg and Elizabeth, his wife, for "love and affection and five shillings" deeded the property to William Gregg, their son. The Greggs had a grist mill and a stone mill house, near it, at the bottom of the hill on the Red Clay Creek. These were standing as early as 1715. In 1737 the brick house on the hill was built by "William and M. Gregg."

In the west gable, between two small attic windows, is a terracotta panel with a pediment top and flanked by fluted pilasters. On the field of the panel are the raised letters G W M (the initials of the builder and his wife) displayed in the customary way — the first letter of the husband's Christian name, at the left; the first letter of the wife's Christian name, at the right; and the first letter of the couple's surname, at a higher level, in the middle. Beneath the letters is the date, 1737.

The punctilious manner in which the original ownership and date are visibly recorded is indicative of the thought and care bestowed on the whole structure. The brickwork is an exceptionally fine example of Flemish-bond masonry with black headers. The window openings, faced with rubbed brick, give a pleasant bit of colour contrast, derived from Queen Anne - Early Georgian
precedent. A single course of moulded or bevelled bricks tops the water-table.

That William Gregg was architecturally-conscious and appreciative is evident from the house he built. He was also abreast of his time in the current trend of thought and impulses, for his five-bay and central hall dwelling was one of the first houses in northern Delaware to show the acceptance of Georgian principles.

With the small-paned transom above the central house-door, the segmental arches over the cellar windows in the high base, and the dimensions of the window penetrations, the flavour of the house is distinctly Early-Georgian.

The box cornice carried across the gable ends and the pent-house, at one time carried around all four walls, hark back to late seventeenth-century usage in England, a characteristic retained in many of the early stone houses in southeastern Pennsylvania.

By no means the least arresting feature of the Gregg house is the stone portion at the rear of the main structure. There is no record of just when it was built, but it is unquestionably much older than the rest of the house.

As a one-storey-and-attic dwelling, the ground floor consisted of one large room with a great fireplace at one end, indicated by the position of the chimney. At one side of the fireplace a closed stair wound up to the bedroom, or bedrooms, in the attic. In other words, it followed the late Mediaeval precedent that served the early colonists in their first building ventures, a method instanced in many cases already referred to.
The large dormer is a modern addition. In its place there may, or may not, have been a small "shed-roof" dormer. Lines in the stone masonry of the fireplace end show plainly where the pitch of one roof slope has been altered to make an addition to accommodate a big Dutch oven. The Dutch oven was later removed, but the masonry shows where it was.

In the passage of years the Gregg house has lost its original woodwork and has undergone so many other changes and repairs, chiefly interior, that much of its pristine quality has been sadly obscured. Nevertheless, it still retains a definite charm. Structurally sound, it could be a substantial and rewarding base for thorough-going restoration. Completely restored, it would be not only an invaluable architectural document but also an eloquent index to the cultural life of a period highly significant in American history.

D U N L E I T H New Castle New Castle County
West of River Road between New Castle and Wilmington; surrounded by a modern housing development west of Eden Park and east of Swanwick, and stands back some distance from River Road.

A large house designed in the "Italian Villa Style" by John Notman and built in 1847 for William H. Rogers.

G R A N T H A M H O U S E New Castle County
South of New Castle

Large brick house built about 1750. Measured before 1941 by Historic American Buildings Survey and documented.
THE BUTTONWOODS
South of New Castle

Farmhouse brick, with large and unusual barn. About middle of eighteenth century.

MONK BARNs
South of New Castle

Photographed and documented before 1941 by Historic American Buildings Survey. At that time property of Francis Janvier.

OLD EYES PLACE
Between New Castle and Wilmington on river front

At one time a prosperous farmstead. Now in the midst of the Lukens Steel Company property.

OLD TOWN HALL
Northwest Cor. Delaware & Second Streets

A square three-storey brick building with hipped roof, square railed deck and cupola. Built in 1823. Arcade through middle of ground floor to connect with former market at rear.

OLD ARSENAL
On Green, between Delaware and Harmony Streets

Long, narrow two-storey-and-attic brick structure, with cupola. Built by United States Government in 1809. Much altered and added to through the years. Has served various uses. Was a public schoolhouse from 1852 to 1930.
GEMMILL HOUSE  
No. 18, Third Street, New Castle

A three-storey-and-attic brick house, with shuttered doorway, built about 1801. Peter Crowding, the contractor who built it. Good interior woodwork.

GILPIN HOUSE  
210 Delaware Street, New Castle

A two-storey-and-attic brick house; one of New Castle's oldest buildings. Was probably an inn from the beginning. Remodeling for shops has obliterated old arch through centre, leading to stables in rear. For many years the stopping place of judges and lawyers.

DELAWARE HOUSE  
210 Delaware Street, New Castle

Once the residence and hotel of John Crow, prominent citizen during the Revolutionary period. Earliest inn-keeper not known, but in 1769 Robert France bought the place and freely entertained so many missionaries that he got into trouble with other inn-keepers.

OLD JEFFERSON HOTEL  
S.E. Cor., Delaware Street and the Strand, New Castle

Large three-storey-and-attic brick building painted white. Besides being an hotel, it was the office and centre of a general supply and shipping business in the early nineteenth century. The Great Fire of 1824 started on the northeast side of this
building and swept up the river side of the Strand destroying all before it. The building is now turned into apartments.

OLD FARMERS' BANK

No. 4, The Strand, New Castle

A square, flat-roofed two-storey brick building, with brownstone quoins and facings, built in 1845 on the "Burnt Lot," the former site of Co. John French's house, destroyed by fire in 1724. Bank building used as private dwelling since 1851.

AULL HOUSES

Nos. 49 & 51, and 53 & 55, east side of Strand, New Castle

Survivors of the Great Fire of 1824. Number 49 and 51, built about 1750, are of frame construction with flush boarding. Numbers 53 and 55, built about 1775, are of brick, with a stone belt course. Architecturally of considerable interest.

IMMANUEL PARISH HOUSE

S.W. Cor., Harmony Street and the Strand, New Castle

A brick three-storey-and-attic building, with a railed deck on peak of roof, built about 1801 by the contractor Peter Crowding. Intended for both an hotel and private dwelling. Used mostly as a dwelling until given to Immanuel Church.

SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL

West side of 2nd Street, north of Harmony Street, New Castle

Two-storey-and-attic brick building, with one-storey verandah on two sides. Now stuccoed and turned into apartments. Was popular as an inn in the early nineteenth century.
**THE DEEMER HOUSE**

N.W. Cor., 6th & South Streets, New Castle

A large Victorian house of brick, stuccoed; built in the early 1850's. Exhibits all the eccentric characteristics of the Victorian Era, carried out with precise and meticulous care.

**STONUM**

Southwest of New Castle, on river.

Old farmhouse on tract of land called Stonum (Stoneham) southwest of New Castle that belonged to George Read, the Signer, before 1769.

**GARRETT HOUSE**

At Hockessin

On hillside opposite snuff mill.

Early nineteenth century incorporating a much earlier house, but the whole much altered and modernised.

**BOYCE HOUSE**

On Route 7, on the bank of White Clay Creek, between Stanton and Christiana.

Large two-storey-and-attic five-bay brick house, with belt course and water table, built before 1775. Excellent Georgian brickwork. September 6, 1777, the American officers were ordered to meet there. In ruined condition. Historical Marker beside house.
TATNALL-BYRNES HOUSE

North side of Old Baltimore Road or Main Street of Stanton, opposite junction of road to Hockessin, at end of Old Mill Road (marked "Dead End").

Gambrel-roofed brick house, marked 1750 in brick headers on end wall. Original brick structure excellent, and some good woodwork remaining. Much altered, inside and outside, and enlarged with frame addition.

GALLOWAY HOUSE

West side of Johns Street, south of Market, in Newport.

A little gambrel-roofed brick house, built about 1730. Now covered with an imitation-stone composition.

PARKIN-MYEYERS HOUSE

Southeast corner of Market and Johns Streets in Newport.

Early Georgian brick house, c. 1740. Penthouse removed; rest of fine panelling. Once an admirable structure; now in deplorable state.

NORWOOD

Richardson Park, Wilmington. Cor. Matthes and Maryland Avenues

Large stuccoed three-storey house, with flat roof. Built c. 1856 - 1860. Simplified and conservative "Italian Villa" inspiration.

ROCKWELL

Richardson Park, Wilmington. 407 Winston Ave.

Five-bay, two-storey-and-attic house with central hall; two
rooms deep. Built c. 1813. Good curved-top dormers.

**WOODSTOCK**
New Castle County
102 Middleboro Road, Richardson Park, Wilmington

Three-bay, two-storey-and-attic stone house, with two-bay wing on axis with main body. In good condition. Railed deck on roof. Wing probably before middle of eighteenth century.

**DR. DAVID STEWART HOUSE**
In Port Penn, on south side of Presbyterian Church.

A substantial brick house built about 1750, or perhaps a little earlier. Home of seven successive Doctors David Stewart. Excellent brickwork in Flemish-bond with black headers. Said to have been hit by cannon-ball from British man-of-war during invasion of river in 1813.

**BUCK or CARSON'S TAVERN**
New Castle County
At Summit Bridge on Route 896, now on Government Canal Reservation. Historical Marker before house.

Two-storey-and-attic, five-bay brick house with central hall. Good arched dormer windows. Washington stopped there several times in travelling from Head of Elk to New Castle. Baron Knyphausen made the tavern his headquarters, September 2, 1777.

**ST. JAMES' CHURCH**
Marshallton

Present stone church (stuccoed), built in 1820, stands in large stone-walled churchyard. Box pews on ground floor, un-
painted pews in gallery. First church building, a wooden struc-
ture, built in 1717 on the ten acres given by James Robinson.

JOHN STALCOP LOG HOUSE
At Price's Corner, on east side of Route 2.

Built in latter part of seventeenth century. Much mutilated
and in bad condition. Given by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey C. Penniman, as a memorial
to his mother who saved it from destruction, to the Delaware State Museum. Re-created
at Port Christina Monument, where the log house was first introduced in North America
by the Swedes who settled there in 1628.

FLEMING'S LANDING

Fleming house, two-storey-and-attic, built c. 1830. By
bank of Duck Creek. In good condition.

LACKFORD HALL New Castle County
West side of Route 13, on high land overlooking
Drawyers Creek, on the south.

Late eighteenth-century two-storey-and-attic, five-bay
Georgian brick house, added to an earlier brick dwelling based
on the "Resurrection Manor" plan. The Georgian later part of
the house has particularly good woodwork and panelling.