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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS
KENT COUNTY
TOWN POINT

Southeast of Dover for five miles on U. S. Route 113 to Kitts Hummock Road. East on Kitts Hummock Road three miles on the right.

About a mile west of Kitt's Hummock, a long dirt lane runs south from the paved road. Part of the way, as it passes through a dense growth of trees and bushes, it is practically impassable in wet weather. At the end of this lane, and near the mouth of St. Jones Creek, is a derelict old house in a sorry state of decay, surrounded by a thicket of briars, brambles and weeds. The ground floor is brick; the upper storey frame.

The house, as originally built, was unquestionably a one-storey-and-attic structure, the slope of the roof beginning directly above the ground-floor walls. The frame upper structure was an "improvement" blown up in the early nineteenth century, as its remains plainly show and looks like a badly swelled head.

The brickwork, Flemish-bond with black headers, is as fine as any in Delaware, as fine, indeed, as any to be found in all the region embraced in the old Middle Colonies. The brick walls are still sound. As there was no upper storey, only the roof over the attic, and hence no place for a belt course, the builders contrived a bit of refinement by stepping the water-table at the corners with its topping of moulded bricks.

The interior and the upper storey are ruinous. Through the years the house has been so maltreated that one can only conjecture what its successive interior arrangements may have been. All that can now be said with certainty is that the
brick structure was built at two separate dates, (probably very close together) on the evidence of division lines in the masonry. Also, that the ground-floor plan of the original structure was the same as at Resurrection Manor or at White Meadow Farm.

This house was the first seat of government in Kent County, under the Duke of York's Government. In 1680 it was the dwelling of Edward Pack, an early magistrate, who here held the first courts of St. Jones County, as Kent County was then called.

Not many years later, Pack sold "all the land, dwelling-house and tobacco-house" to William Darvall for 1200 pounds of tobacco. This must have been after 1687, for in 1687 Darvall is recorded as a member of Council for Sussex County. Darvall also, like Pack, was a magistrate or Justice of the Peace, and after he bought the place from Pack he performed his magisterial duties under the Penn Government.

Apart from his function as a magistrate, Darvall drew a yearly stipend of "40 in current money" to run a ferry from his house to the opposite side of St. Jones Creek, with the understanding also that he employ a man to keep a tavern, dispense "all liquors at retail" and "dispose of all manner of trade whatsoever."
The State House at Dover as it appeared in 1873

(The picture in the brother frame for further view.)
The State House in Dover is the visible result of an evolution, an evolution of conditions and incidents going back to the time when the Three Lower Counties were under the Duke of York's Government. And the end is not yet. In this Year of Grace, 1969, a programme of restorations and planned development is in progress.

From 1680 to 1690 the old house at Town Point was the seat of government in Kent County. In 1690, the seat of Kent County administration was moved to James Maxwell's tavern, on a portion of Berry's Range on the east side of St. Jones Creek, near the eastern edge of present-day Dover.

In August, 1694, there was trouble. The Kent County Justices of the Peace sent word to the Lieutenant-Governour and Council, in Philadelphia, that:

"att the time when their Last Courts of quart'r Sessions & common pleas should have been held according to their last adjournment, the sd Geo Martin and Daniel Jones appeared att the place appointed & wer willing to hold court, but Jno Curtes, another of the justices, wold not sett, & Jno Betts, another justice, sent word by a Constable that hee wold never sitt there, meaning at James Maxwell's, att the Head of St. Jones's, wherfor they look on ye' commissions as void; And there being several actions of moment depending, they request the Lt. GoV to give new commissions."

The Lieutenant-Governour, after consulting the Council, replied that "his Excellencye's commissions are in force, notwithstanding the said Justice's neglect," ordered them to "hold their courts accordingly," and directed that the provincial Judges in their next circuit:

"doe Inspect and Inquire into the disorders in the County of Kent, in reference to the time & places
of holding their Courts, & to see what may be
the most proper place in the sd Countie to hold
their Courts in, for the most universall care of
the sd Countie, and make report to the Lt Govr
and Council."

The provincial Judges, after consulting with the magistrates,
and jury and others, unanimously agreed that the County Courts
should be "held on some part of ye land belonging to Wm Southerby."
Two hundred acres of the said land were purchased in November, 1694
for £25.0.0. and conveyed to the County of Kent, February 4, 1695.

In 1697 a Court House was built on the spot where the present
Court House stands, at the southeast corner of South State Street
and The Green, but the Town of Dover itself had not yet been laid
out.

In May, 1699, the inhabitants of Kent County petitioned the
Council at Philadelphia, asking that the "land on which the Court
House stands" be erected into a township ... with a common or
market place, with streets and public buildings; that a fair
might be held twice a year; and that the place be called "Canter-
bury." The petition was granted, June 20, 1699, except for the
name, which was declared to be "Dover."

And all this pother and confusion about a meeting-place
for the Kent County Courts would never have taken place had
Penn's warrant of August, 1683, been promptly heeded, a
warrant bidding the surveyor of "ye counties of Kent and Sussex
to lay out in ye land appointed for ye town of Dover in ye county
of Kent" a sufficient plot, with provision for "ye Court House
and Prison."

Penn's warrant, it is true, contained no order regarding the
exact location of the Town of Dover. This may, to some extent,
explain the delay. It seems likely, however, that the known intention and efforts to create a town at Town Point had something to do with the postponement of carrying out Penn's order.

It was not until 1717 that definite action was taken to lay out the town. By Act of the General Assembly of the Three Lower Counties three Commissioners were appointed to "lay out into lots the two hundred acre tract adjoining the court house in Kent County," and the survey was to be completed by March 10, 1718. The Commissioners saw to it that Penn's Instructions anent the Court House and the long street were observed. The King's Road from Philadelphia to Lewes went through the plot, past the Court House, and has continued to be the main street (South State Street) of Dover.

In 1722, the lot "whereon the old Court House [of 1697] now stands" was sold and the King George Inn subsequently took its place. It was then that a new and larger Court House was built where the State House now stands.

This second Court House, of 1722, served all during the Revolutionary period and became the State House as well in 1777, when Dover was made the State Capital.

By 1787 the facilities of the old Court House built in 1722 were no longer adequate for the needs of both the County Courts and the Legislature. In December, 1787, the Levy Court of Kent County authorised Charles Ridgely, Eleazer McComb and Nehemiah Tilton, who were the Commissioners appointed to erect a new building, "to pull down the old Court House and use the hard bricks for the foundation of the new building as there was not
sufficient money for a stone foundation." Thus the present Old State House has its "roots," so to speak, in the Court House of 1722.

Lack of sufficient appropriated funds delayed the completion of the building and it finally took the proceeds of a deferred lottery to have the new State House ready for occupancy in 1792. Even then, workmen were still engaged in finishing parts of the interior.

It is reported that in May of that year, Sheriff John Clayton, by order of the Levy Court, entered the Assembly Chamber with drawn sword and demanded its surrender to the workmen. The General Assembly thereupon adjourned in a huff to Hale's tavern at Duck Creek Cross Roads and passed a resolution to make Duck Creek Cross Roads thenceforward the State Capital! The State Senate took a calmer view of the matter, the wounded dignity of the assemblymen was soothed, and since November, 1792, the State Legislature has met in the State House.

The designers of the State House evidently derived some of their inspiration from looking at the State House (Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, and the old Court House in New Castle. They produced a handsome late Middle-Georgian structure with enough Palladian amenities to contribute dignity and interest, and to ensure desirable accent. The Flemish-bond brickwork of the front and the Liverpool-bond brickwork of the sides are beyond criticism. The marble topping of the water-table, and the carefully cut lintels above the windows are evidence of a determination to have all details unexceptionable.
The State House remained a structure of grace and dignity until in 1873, during Governor Ponder's administration, it fell a victim to Victorian ignorance and ill-taste. The "Improvements" to which it was subjected included a mansard roof, "in the worst French taste"; a box-like cupola to replace the belfry tower, the bell, which had rung in Independence in 1776, and had announced all public meetings, was put in the State Library; a coat of French grey paint on the brick walls; and a coat of dark chocolate brown paint to cover the white marble lintols, other items of white marble, the doorway, the Palladian window, and the window frames.

The drastic changes inside the building were equally ignorant and hideous.

When Governor Miller came into office in the early years of the twentieth century, the Federal Government repaid the State of Delaware the money borrowed during the Mexican War, with accrued interest. Thereupon, some of the "forward-looking" legislators set out "to tear down this old building which has seen its best days, and build a nice, new CEMENT building on the west side of The Green"!

At this critical juncture the Colonial Dames sought the Governor's permission to have a survey of the State House made, with a view to restoration. Arthur L. Tilton, of New York, of the firm then designing libraries for Andrew Carnegie, made the survey and reported that complete restoration was perfectly feasible. The Colonial Dames then petitioned the Governor to have the State House restored.
The Legislature at first was furious. They insisted a new cement building should be put up and the old building demolished. In the bitter battle for preservation the Colonial Dames finally won out. The Legislature later consented to engage Mr. Tilton for the restoration.

Mr. Tilton was anxious to save another venerable building, the home of Chief-Justice Samuel Chew, father of Chief-Justice Benjamin Chew of Pennsylvania, which stood where the State Law Library now stands. This idea did not please the cement-minded members of the Legislature and they told the Colonial Dames:

"If you don't stop talking about saving this old building, we will not consent to any of this restoration. However, if you will consent to destroy the Chew property, we will allow the Old State House to be restored."

This was the best deal they could make, and the Colonial Dames consented, though reluctantly.

The interior of the State House, in sharp contrast with its handsome Georgian exterior is still a debased jumble of abominations devised by the nineteenth-century "improvers," quite in keeping with and dependent upon the be-columned "excrescence" on the south end of the original building.

With the new State Government buildings in the Georgian manner, suitably disposed in the ample open area east of The Green, and with the growing public consciousness of architectural fitness, is it too much to hope that plans to restore the interior of the State House, bringing it once more into conformity with the exterior, may be carried out?

The State House is one of the oldest State buildings on the Atlantic seaboard and for that reason alone deserves respectful
Christ Church, Dover, west end and south side. Especially fine brickwork laid in Flemish bond, with black headers.
and patriotic consideration. Over and beyond that, it is a public monument of grace and dignity in which not only the people of Dover but every citizen of the State of Delaware may feel proper pride.

CHRIST CHURCH, DOVER
South State Street and Water Streets.

Christ Church in Dover is the oldest and most important Episcopal church in Kent County.

The records of the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts show that, in 1703, there was sent a memorial to the Bishop of London, signed by twenty-two Inhabitants of Dover, representing the increase of sin and crime and the consequent great want of a Minister of the Gospel.

This petition for a parson was followed in 1704 by a memorial stating that they had subscribed £55. 17. 0. for the Minister's subsistence.

In 1704, also, Colonel Robert French contributed a glebe of 110 acres on St. Jones River. Colonel French, though a Scot, was a Church of England man and one of the founders of Immanuel Church at New Castle.

At last, in 1705, arrived the Reverend Thomas Crawford to be the missionary not only for Dover but for the whole of Kent County. While living at Dover, he married the daughter of Arthur Medstone (or Meston); the daughter born of this union became the mother of Caesar Rodney.

In 1711 Mr. Crawford returned to England, "leaving no very good name behind him," it is said, "and apparently having done
the church no very great good." He did, however, report to the S.P.G.: "Our church is near finished. It is all glazed and almost full of pews." The first church was a little wooden structure.

The next incumbent was a misfit, equally unacceptable to Church people and to the Dissenters in the neighbourhood, and had to be removed. How the S.P.G. ever came to engage him is somewhat of a mystery.

For a long time after this there was no regular parson and the Dover congregation had to get along as best it could with the occasional ministrations of whatever missionaries could come to their aid at irregular intervals. In 1722 there was a wail "We have since 1711 been wholly destitute."

Notwithstanding repeated petitions and appeals, it was not until 1773, twenty-two years since Mr. Crawford's departure, that another missionary was sent to Dover. Then the Reverend George Frazer, the newly-arrived parson of the Dover Parish, reported that "they have begun a subscription to build a new brick church at Dover, and have subscribed about £100 ... the former church being an old boarded house, so ruinous that it is not fit to be repaired." In 1734 he reported: "the new brick church at Dover is begun. The walls are finished, and if the undertaker had not died, it would have been covered in before winter."

In 1740, the Reverend Arthur Usher, Mr. Frazer's successor, writes that at his first arrival, "there was a new brick church begun, which is now finished."
Then in 1742, he notes that: "the church at Dover is not yet finished, but I hope it will not be long before it will be."

In the next few years something must have gone very much agley with the brick structure for, in November, 1750, the Reverend Hugh Neill reports "Dover Church is in a miserable condition. It looks more like a refuge for Wild Beasts than a House dedicated to ye service of God." After that, we hear little more about the church building and its condition for a number of years.

In 1758 the Reverend Charles Inglis became Rector of Christ Church and proved a most acceptable, conscientious and efficient pastor. During the six years of his incumbency the parish flourished and the congregation increased in numbers and vitality. In 1764 Mr. Inglis married Mary Vining. He removed in 1766 to Trinity Parish in New York City, greatly regretted in spite of his strongly pro-British sentiments.

Mr. Inglis was followed, in 1767, by the Reverend Samuel Magaw who, politically, was the other side up with care. After some years he became Rector of St. Paul's Church, in Philadelphia, a notoriously Whig parish.

During the Revolutionary War, and for a number of years afterwards, Christ Church, along with many other parishes, suffered a good deal of obloquy from ardent Whigs. To them the Church of England was anathema and the Episcopal Church, its child, came in for the hostility directed at the parent.

For the whole first half of the nineteenth century, in fact, a good many parishes were in a more or less somnolent con-
dition. Before the War Between the States, Bishop Lee pictured Christ Church in a rueful plight.

Then came a marked awakening. The household of the church was set in order. After extensive alterations made in 1859 that "entirely changed the internal appearance of the church, and somewhat the external also," Christ Church was consecrated on Ascension Day, 1860. Later alterations have changed it still more.

Before the alterations of 1859, Christ Church remained pretty much as it was during the second half of the eighteenth century. The main entrance was in the middle of the south side. Over the door was a gallery which extended along the whole south side of the interior. This gallery was lighted by a window in the east end of the church; the stair to it was at the west end. Against the north wall, opposite the south door, was the high pulpit, with the reading desk and clerk's desk below it, while overhead the sounding-board was suspended by a heavy iron rod. The altar, beneath the window at the east end, was merely railed off. The high pews were in blocks and were floored; the aisles were paved with brick. In other words, the whole arrangement was that usually found in the Colonial churches of the eighteenth century.

The chancel was not added at the east end till 1887. There have been various changes since then, but the old church, in its walled churchyard, surrounded by the graves of many of Dover's most beloved and honoured citizens, still preserves the indelible dignity and sincerity bestowed by its eighteenth-century sponsors.
OLD ACADEMY
South State Street and Elm Terrace

John Banning, saddler, on June 10th, 1766, bought of the Dover Commissioners a lot on King Street (now State) extending to South Street and eastward to East Street. Soon afterwards he built thereon a dwelling.

Born in 1739, John Banning was about twenty-seven when he bought the lot on State Street. Subsequent to his first purchase, he acquired thirteen lots "south and east of the Rev. Charles Inglis." These were close to the land on which Christ Church stands.

In the dwelling he built on the first-purchased lot, John Banning also kept a store. This store-dwelling structure of the mid-eighteenth century is now known as the Old Academy. George Purnell Fisher, in his Recollections of Dover in 1824, written in 1896 for his granddaughter, Mrs. Henry Ridgely, says:

"Next comes the Old Academy ... I have heard that it was built by John Banning, the maternal grandfather of Edward Ridgely, for a store and dwelling. It certainly was used as a store, for it had the old hooks and other store fixtures in the cellar where were kept hung up, hams, shoulders, middlings, and the old time loaves of sugar and numerous other articles of trade."

During the Revolutionary War John Banning was active in public affairs. In 1775 he was a member of the Boston Relief Committee and also a member of the Committee of Correspondence. He had evidently built up a substantial mercantile business for his name appears repeatedly in the commissary accounts in the war years. For a time he was a member of the State Legislature, and he was a Justice of the Peace for Kent County.
He died in 1791 at the age of fifty-two, leaving a substantial estate.

John A. Banning, the son of John Banning, was an infant at the time of his father's death. Upon the settlement of his father's estate in 1805, he received the State Street dwelling and store as part of his share.

In January, 1810, in response to a petition to the Delaware General Assembly for the establishment of an Academy at Dover, the State Legislature passed an Act to Incorporate Dover Academy and authorised the trustees to raise the sum of $10,000 by lottery to provide the necessary funds. The trustees named were Thomas Clayton, Andrew Naudain, Peter Caverly, Cornelius B. Comegys, Richard Cooper, James Harper, John Fisher, Willard Hall (subsequently the father of the Public School system of Delaware), James Sykes, William McClyment, Nathaniel Smithers, and Henry M. Ridgely.

In March, 1816, John A. Banning and his wife sold to Henry M. Ridgely, John Clarke and Willard Hall certain lots in Dover, along with a "large brick house and messuage" which had been John Banning's residence and place of business. While nothing in the deed so states, a reasonable inference is that the purchasers wanted the building, at least in part, for school purposes, since both Mr. Ridgely and Mr. Hall were among the trustees, authorized by legislation in 1810, to raise funds for an Academy at Dover. It is, therefore, logical to conclude that Dover Academy forthwith began to function and occupied the Old Academy, or at least a part of it, for school purposes till some
years after the passage of the Free School Law in 1829.

By February 6, 1824, John Clarke had died. On that date his administrator, together with Henry M. Ridgely, Willard Hall and their wives, sold the house and about three quarters of an acre to the Trustees of Dover Academy.

A restriction in the 1824 deed indicates several of the uses to which the building was put at that time. One clause reads:

"... and also, sold and granted to certain persons upon Trust for the Lodge of Free Masons in Dover a room on the second floor or storey of the said house, to wit, the north room on said storey, being that immediately over or above the room now occupied as a school room with a right of passage to and from said room."

In 1832 the house was still in use as a private school. In that year a portion of it was assigned to the public school. This arrangement continued for a number of years, but there is some uncertainty as to exactly when the schools vacated the building.

By 1863 the house was in possession of the Odd Fellows, who rented their quarters there from 1863 to 1865 for temporary public school use, pending the completion of a new schoolhouse.

The Old Academy has also a connection with the religious life of Dover. Before a Roman Catholic Church was built, Father Edward Ignatius Taylor celebrated the first mass in the Old Academy on May 8, 1870.

After serving a diversity of purposes in more than two hundred years, the Old Academy no longer figures in any public capacity. For a long time past its function has been purely residential.
1. Tidesley house, on The Green, South Front.

2. Tidesley house, Dover. Library, the original "great room" of the house, with fireplace and winding stair beside it.

3. Tidesley house, Dover. The Parlour, the "added" room adjoining Library.

4. Was there not a picture of the dining room, and another of the Garden?
Substantially built of brick to begin with, the Old Academy is now a stuccoed structure, painted a light yellow. On a high base, it is of two-storey-and-attic height, but has no dormers. It is two full rooms deep. The front, which has a plain box cornice, has four full-sized windows on the upper floor; on the lower floor there are two somewhat smaller windows at the north and south end of the front and, between them, two separate narrow doors close together.

This arrangement suggests alterations that must have been made in all the years of varied occupancies. The varied uses and occupancies, with successive alterations and adaptations, render it pointless to discuss what may have been the original plan.

The building is devoid of distinguishing architectural characteristics that would invite attention or merit praise. Yet it has a reassuring air of unassuming, comfortable, kindly dignity, like a genial, somewhat stout, and elderly dowager.

RIDGELY HOUSE  Dover
The Green, north side, east of State Street

The Ridgely house, facing the Green in Dover, was built in 1728. It is a two-storey-and-attic brick structure, originally of four-bay width. An addition in 1767 at the west end made a frontage six bays wide. The rear wing was added in 1764. The brickwork of the south front, facing the Green, is laid in Flemish-bond with black headers. The west and east walls are stuccoed over the brick.
In the original structure, the rooms have admirable panelling and other woodwork characteristic of the period.

The plan of the house, as first built, is the pre-Georgian plan that came into southern Delaware from Virginia and Maryland. It corresponds exactly with the plan of an early house at St. Mary's City, a natural precedent for the Southern builder to follow. The plan also coincides in fundamental features with the plan of Resurrection Manor, in St. Mary's County, Maryland, and likewise with the plan of the original part of White Meadow Farm, in Sussex County. The said fundamental features being one large oblong room with a fireplace, besides which a winding stair (usually closed off by a door above the lower steps) ascended to the several bedrooms above. Additions to this plan might consist of one or, oftentimes, two adjacent rooms opening off from the one original oblong room.

In many instances, as at the Ridgely house, the rooms adjoining the oblong nucleus were built at the outset. The library or sitting-room at the Ridgely house represents the oblong nucleus; the present parlour and the dining-room open from it respectively at the east end and the west side.

Thomas Parke, who built the house, was apparently of the Parke and Custis Virginia connection. He was High Sheriff of Kent County from 1758 to 1760. His son, Colonel John Parke, of Revolutionary repute, was educated at Oxford and wrote a volume of verse entitled *The Lyric Works of Horace translated into English to which are added a Number of Original Poems. By a Native of America*. The book is now a rare item sought by collectors.
The Ridgelys of Delaware descend from Nicholas Greenberry Ridgely, born at Annapolis in 1694. He was the grandson of Colonel Henry Ridgely, who came from England in 1659 and founded the Ridgely family in Maryland.

Nicholas Greenberry Ridgely was the son of Henry Ridgely and Katherine Greenberry, daughter of Governour Nicholas Greenberry. In 1711 when he was but seventeen, Nicholas married Sarah Worthington, a daughter of Colonel John Worthington. Ten years later he was a widower, all his children were dead, and his mother had remarried. Under the weight of his bereavements and the changed atmosphere of his paternal home, he left Maryland and came into Delaware.

In 1723 he was living near New Castle, where he married Ann French, who lived only a few years and left him with several motherless daughters. About 1735 he was living at Salem, New Jersey. There, in 1736, he married a widow with two small children; Mary, the widow of Captain Benjamin Vining and daughter of Judge Hugh Middleton. Not long afterwards, with his new family, including his own infant son, Charles Greenberry, Nicholas settled in Dover.

Thence onward Nicholas took an active part in politics. Soon after his arrival in Dover he became a Justice of the Supreme Court of the Three Lower Counties and continued in that office until his death in 1755. In 1745, Caesar Rodney, still a minor, chose Nicholas Ridgely to be his guardian.

Having bought land west of Dover, in 1749 Nicholas Ridgely built and moved into the brick plantation house thereon. This
was Eden Hill, the plantation Charles Greenberry Ridgely inherited from his father.

The foregoing explanatory interlude has been necessary because the stories of the House on The Green and of Eden Hill are so inseparably associated and because the people who have lived in them have been so identified with the public life of Delaware through a long period of years. Also, houses cannot be dissociated from the people who lived in them.

Charles Greenberry Ridgely studied medicine in Philadelphia under Dr. Phineas Bond. In 1758 he returned to Dover to practice. He married Mary Wynkoop, of Philadelphia, in June, 1761. At the death of his mother in December of the same year, he came into possession of Eden Hill.

Finding it inconvenient to practise from Eden Hill, in 1767 Dr. Ridgely moved into the old Parke dwelling on The Green and shortly afterwards bought it from Thomas Parke's estate. It was at this time that the western addition was made, affording the Doctor suitable office rooms, on the ground floor, away from the rest of the house.

Dr. Ridgely was active in political life. In 1765, before he moved into the house on The Green, he had been elected to the General Assembly and continued to serve in most sessions to the end of his life. In 1767, he urged the passage of a bill "to prohibit the importation of slaves into this government." From 1769 to 1779 he was the Treasurer of Kent County. Just before the Revolution he was Chairman of the Kent County Committee of Correspondence. And he was a member of the Constitutional Convention that framed the Delaware Constitution of 1776.
In 1772, his wife, Mary Wynkoop, died, leaving him to cope with the rearing of five young children. Of this perplexity he was relieved in 1774, when he married Ann Moore, the daughter of Judge William Moore and the Lady Williamina, of Moore Hall in the Welsh Barony of Pennsylvania. Ann was the younger sister-in-law of his old preceptor, Dr. Phineas Bond.

This marriage greatly increased an already wide family connection and also kept the family at Dover in closer touch with Philadelphia. The house on The Green became more and more a cherished destination for the many Ridgely relatives and their friends. The hospitality there dispensed extended to the numerous men in public life with whom Dr. Ridgely came into almost daily contact.

Dr. Ridgely died in November, 1785. He had not spared himself in his practice. It involved riding on indifferent roads in all weathers and at all hours and, in addition, he had given much of his energy to the service of his Country and State. His arduous life ended when he was only forty-seven.

After the Doctor's death, Mrs. Ridgely moved to Eden Hill, which had been left to her for life. She had always loved the country and was fully capable of managing the plantation. It pleased her to be able to direct farm operations on the spot.

From 1767, when Dr. Ridgely had moved into the house on The Green, Eden Hill had been in the care of a tenant-farmer. The immediate family contacts with the place had been in the frequent visits they made from town. Eden Hill was only about a mile from The Green. When Mrs. Ridgely moved to Eden Hill, the house
on The Green was rented. It was not again occupied by any of the family until Dr. Abraham Ridgely rented it from 1794 to 1799.

The next member of the family to live there was Henry Moore Ridgely, the son of Dr. Charles Ridgely and Ann Moore. In 1803, as a rising young lawyer of twenty-four, he married Sarah Banning and brought his bride to live in the house where he was born.

When only twenty-eight, he was elected President of the newly-founded Farmers' Bank of the State of Delaware and continued to hold that office until his death, forty years later. His abilities as a lawyer were highly esteemed and he stood at the top of the legal profession.

His services in public life were many. He was repeatedly elected to the State Legislature. As a leading Federalist, he was elected to the United States Congress in 1811 and 1813, but declined nomination in 1815.

He was thrice Secretary of State in Delaware. In this capacity he set the files of that office in order and arranged the scattered records of the State. He asked to be made a Levy Court Commissioner in order to put the County papers in shape. This same service he also performed in his trusteeship for the County Almshouse.

In 1827 Henry Moore Ridgely was elected to the United States Senate to fill the unexpired term of Senator Nicholas Van Dyke, who had died in March, 1826.

In 1830, Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely died and Eden Hill went to the heir, Henry Moore Ridgely's thirteen-year-old son Henry. After that, Henry Moore Ridgely gave much of his time and attention to farming.
In 1841 the house on The Green was the scene of an unusual incident. It cannot be better told than in Mrs. Henry Ridgely's words:

"During this winter a speaker came to Dover, Lucretia Mott, who arrived from the north via Smyrna with a small party of Quakers. She had spoken there on Abolition. The hearers were infuriated and the men of her party were tarred and feathered. This news reached Dover Green before the lady herself arrived; Senator Ridgely heard of the outrage and decided that Dover should not be disgraced by similar behavior. When the Abolitionists reached Dover, he met them and with his sons escorted them to his house on the Green. Ann Ridgely was the hostess. Lucretia Mott was to speak from the steps of the Court House directly opposite the Ridgely house. When it was time for the speech, Mr. Ridgely and several other gentlemen escorted the party to the Court House steps. It is said they carried guns. When the meeting was over they retraced their way through a mob collected on the Green. They entered the house with its low doorstep and went into the parlor, where a window gave onto the street without.

As the crowd had gathered around the window and there were murmurs from outside, one of the guests suggested that the shutters should be closed. Henry Ridgely forbade this. He said that no one was afraid. A fire burned brightly on the hearth in the little parlor and Lucretia Mott was asked to sit near it while the family, Ann and two of her suitors included, gathered near to listen to the fascinating talker's anecdotes. Miss Mott was an animated speaker. At one point in her tale she arose from her chair to make an emphatic gesture and stepped forward, without realizing she had done so. Then, intending to resume her chair, to her surprise and to the dismay of her hearers she sat instead upon the floor.

Charles duPont ran and tenderly picked her up. Another young man in the party burst into a rude laugh and hid his face in his handkerchief. Both these men had asked Ann's hand in marriage, but
1. Lockerman House, State Street, Dover, West Front. Pediment and doorway pilasters a later addition to straight-truncated door.

2. Lockerman House. Hall containing winding stair with three straight runs. Woodwork coeval with house.

3. Lockerman House, Parlor. Paneling and elaborate woodwork, a later embellishment.

(Was there not another upstairs picture?)
Charles duPont was the son of Charles I. duPont who had married Dorcas Montgomery Van Dyke, Senator Van Dyke's daughter.

The house on The Green eventually descended to Henry Ridgely, the grandson of Henry Moore Ridgely.

**LOOCKERMAN HOUSE**

East side of South State Street, Dover.

The Loockerman house, on the east side of State Street, in Dover, was built by or for Vincent Loockerman in 1742, when he was twenty years old. His father, Nicholas Loockerman (a descendant of the Gouvert Loockerman who had played an active part in the early public life of New Amsterdam) had already built a substantial brick plantation house on land now occupied by the Delaware State College for Colored Students. The plantation house where Nicholas Loockerman lived is now converted into a girls' dormitory and is called Loockerman Hall.

The Loockerman house in Dover has never passed out of the family and has descended to the present owners by inheritance. It is a two-storey-and-attic, five-bay structure of brick, now stuccoed. The door, and the small-paned transom above it are original; the doorway, with pilasters and pediment, is a later addition.

The original part of the house is two rooms deep and the pre-Georgian plan is an adaptation of the late-Medieval plan already discussed in connection with the Ridgely house on The Green, and also in connection with White Meadow Farm in Sussex.
In other words, the square hall into which the house-door opens has at one side a winding stair of three short, straight flights, with rectangular landings. Although there is no fireplace, the two "added" rooms open from the hall. The doorway of one is to the right of the house-door on entering; the arched doorway to the other is directly opposite. Both these rooms have fireplaces. The remaining ground-floor room opens into the two rooms just mentioned. To the southeast, a large frame wing of later date has greatly increased the size of the original house.

To the east or rear of the house is an old box garden of noteworthy beauty. Like a good many of the gardens of Dover, it is invisible from the street. It is so much a part of the picture that it is impossible to dissociate it from the actual fabric of the house.

The woodwork and panelling throughout the house are Georgian and representative of the best craftsmanship of the period. In the large room east of the hall, two exceptionally fine china cupboards flank the fireplace. In this room, the elaborate and handsome woodwork of a more sophisticated and later Georgian pattern has replaced the earlier woodwork. In the hall, the woodwork is coeval with the building of the house. The room immediately above the large room has panelling of the earlier date, and the fireplace is faced with blue and white Dutch tiles.

With its Georgian woodwork and its pre-Georgian plan, the Loockerman house, like not a few others in Kent and Sussex, and some in New Castle County also, indicates a prevalent conservatism,
slow to yield to the Georgian fundamental regularity of plan, embodying open stairs of straight flights, in a hall.

Vincent Loockerman played his part in the public life of his day.

In 1776 there were many Loyalists in Kent and Sussex and there was much public opposition to the clamour for independence. The resolution of Congress on May 15, 1776, brought matters to a head. The ardent Whigs instructed their five representatives in the Delaware General Assembly to demand the Assembly's compliance with the resolution of Congress; in case of refusal, they were to withdraw and thus dissolve the House. The five representatives were Caesar Rodney, William Killen, John Haslet, Thomas Rodney and Vincent Loockerman.

In 1777 Vincent Loockerman lent £750 to buy clothing for the Delaware Regiment. In 1784 he was a State Senator from Kent County.

For some years during the Revolutionary War there was great hostility towards the Methodists, who were looked upon as Tories. One violent outburst against them occurred in Dover, in 1778, when the Reverend Freeborn Garrettson attempted to preach from the steps it would seem, of the Banning house that afterward became the Academy. A chronicler of the event wrote:

"He began his labours in Dover amid a storm of opposition. Hardly had he dismounted from his horse when the mob gathered crying "He's a Tory, hang him, hang him, '... while others shouted in his defence. Hundreds of clamorous voices resounded around him ... 'I was in a fair way to be torn in pieces," says Garrettson."
1. Woodburn, King's Highway, Dover, North Front

2. Woodburn, Dover, Parlour, with exceptionally fine panelling.
Some cooler heads prevailed and quieted the mob, and Garrettson delivered his sermon with great effect. In fact, he succeeded in converting some of the ringleaders.

The outcome of it all was that a Methodist church was eventually established in Dover, its first building erected in 1782. Richard Bassett, afterwards Governor of the State, paid half the cost of construction.

Another generous helper, who gave the lot of ground at the northwest corner of North and Queen Streets, was Vincent Loockerman. He was ready to help the Methodists, but he belonged to the congregation of Christ Church. He is buried in Christ Church burying ground and the inscription on his gravestone says "he was in communion with the Church of England and to his death continued a member of that society."

WOODBURN

The King's Highway, Dover.

A metal plaque attached to the southwest corner of Woodburn's walls records the fact that the house stands on part of a 3000 acre tract that William Penn granted to John Hillyard in 1683; also, that Charles Hillyard, great-grandson of the grantee, built the house in 1790 and lived there with his wife, Mary, the daughter of William Killen, the first Chancellor of Delaware.

The tablet likewise states that the house is said to have been the scene of one of the notorious Patty Cannon's last slave-stealing raids. George Townsend's Entailed Hat gives the whole story in great detail and vividly. Whether the raid actually
took place, or whether it was all a figment of Townsend's fertile imagination is not certain. If there was indeed such a raid, it is by no means certain that Woodburn was the house at which it occurred.

Besides the raid story there were current for many years accounts of ghostly visitants who appeared at one time or another to the discomfiture of guests in the house, but never did anything malevolent.

Before he built Woodburn, Charles Hillyard had bought from the Chews the house Chief-Justice Samuel Chew had built on the outskirts of Dover about 1739. This house, it is said, Charles Hillyard presented to the builder of Woodburn as a reward for his work. However that may be, the builder of Woodburn created for Charles Hillyard one of the finest Middle-Georgian houses in Delaware.

Both the exterior and the interior of this three-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick house convey an unusual sense of amplitude and stability. The proportions are particularly generous and the absence of dormers contributes an air of staunch solidity to the entire mass of the structure.

The brickwork of the north and south fronts is laid in Flemish-bond; the walls of the ends are in Liverpool bond, a common eighteenth-century manner of combination. The belt course is five bricks in width without any central recess. This detail adds to the robust quality of the walls. The water-table is topped by two courses of moulded bricks instead of the more usual single course.
The lintols above the windows are of cut stone. The twenty-four-pane windows themselves, and their spacing, indicate the spaciousness of the interiors they light.

The verandah with fluted columns, extending across the whole south front, is an addition of a much later date than the house itself.

The plan of Woodburn is very simple, a wide hall at the west end flanking a large parlour (facing north) and an equally large dining-room (facing south). This plan is repeated on the upper floor. One cannot help wondering whether the lower two-storey kitchen wing, attached to the east end of the main block, may not have been an earlier building (as in so many comparable cases), and whether, had it not been there, the main block of the house might not have been made five bays wide. The kitchen wing has undergone too many changes to form any opinion regarding date.

The exceptional breadth of the hall is one of the most striking features of the whole composition. It is really a long room extending from the north door to the south door, with the stair in three runs winding upward at the south end. To all intents and purposes it is a big living-room. It is worth noting that the very wide north door is made in two halves, upper and lower, a rather rare feature in old Delaware houses.

The woodwork throughout the house has always quite deservedly been a source of pride to the owners of Woodburn. It is robust in design, abundant in quantity, and of the highest quality.

Despite the date of Woodburn, the design is distinctly Middle Georgian with a strong bias towards dog-ears. The
beautifully-executed cornices are of wood. Fine panelling is not confined to chimney-breasts or to whole room-ends; it is seen in the window seats and in the dados around all the walls in parlour, dining-room and hall. In the parlour, the importance of the room is signalised by pediments over all door openings, the only approach to a later vogue.

Woodburn is an eloquent instance of the essential vitality inherent in the Georgian manner and, at the same time, of the field it opens for an original expression of individuality.

BERRY'S RANGE (Also called MAPLEWOOD)

At Dover: East side of Route 113 and opposite Latex plant.

In the late seventeenth century a 1000-acre tract along the east side of St. Jones Creek, opposite Dover, was patented to William Berry and was called Berry's Range. On June 4, 1741, 274 acres of this tract came into the possession of Samuel Chew, then of Dover.

Samuel Chew, "Dr. Samuel Chew of Maidstone," as he was often called, came from Maidstone, the Chew family place in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Mrs. Chew had died in 1734 and Samuel Chew, at Maidstone, had devoted much of his attention to the education of his son Benjamin, then a lad of twelve.

Although he seems to have had a previous connection with Kent County, Dr. Chew removed to Dover in the autumn of 1738 or the spring of 1739, and early in 1739 became Prothonotary of
Kent County. He lived in a fine house at the southeast corner of The Green where the State Law Library now stands.

Dr. Chew had frequently been consulted in legal matters pertaining to the chronic boundary disputes between Maryland, on the one hand, and Delaware and Pennsylvania on the other, and was constantly in communication with the leading men in Pennsylvania's Provincial Government. Hence it was the wish of the Penns that he should be a member of the Provincial Councils in both Delaware and Pennsylvania. Before the pleasure of the Penns was known in this matter, Governor Thomas had already appointed Dr. Chew Chief-Justice for the Lower Counties.

In this capacity, in 1741, he delivered a charge to the Delaware Grand Jury that had far-reaching effects upon the conduct of the Government, and also raised a terrible hubbub amongst the Quakers. They had already severely censured the Chief-Justice because his daughter Elizabeth had married Colonel Edward Tilghman "out of meeting." This censure, and the Chief-Justice's charge to the Grand Jury, caused the complete estrangement of the Chews from the Quaker fold.

The Quakers of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland had been protesting vigorously against any aid to the Mother Country in her war with Spain and the hostilities that would, in all likelihood, ensue with France. They were set against taking any measure for self-defense, even in event of invasion.

In view of the exposed position of New Castle and, indeed, of the whole Delaware shore, Chief-Justice Chew pointed out to the Grand Jury the necessity of defensive measures, first
reasoning that "the laws of God and nature could not be in conflict, and discriminating between vengeance and defence."

Continuing, he said:

"Perhaps some may think it strange, that I, who have been educated amongst, and have always professed myself to be of the Society of the people called Quakers, should in this public manner declare myself so opposite to their sentiments in point of defense. I would have such to believe, that the love of my country, the love of mankind in general, but above all, the love of truth, is of greater concernment to me, than what is called uniformity, or the being so attached to any particular party in religion, as to espouse, or seem to espouse, any of the errors of it. That of the unlawfulness of self-defense to Christians, is, to me, a most capital error; not only dangerous to society in general, as I have already said, and inconsistent with the very nature of civil communities; but more particularly, of extreme danger to ourselves at this critical conjuncture."

To emphasise the urgent need of action, the Chief-Justice pointed out,

"The province of Pennsylvania, and these counties, are in the very centre of his Majesty's colonies in America. The French are settled within a few days march of our frontiers to the northwest of us. The ocean bounds us to the eastward, and will admit the landing of any number of men, almost everywhere. In case, seeing we are so much exposed on each side, and of all his Majesty's colonies in America, are the only ones that are without troops, without arms, and without ammunition; And all this owing to an opposition in our several Assemblies, made by people whose religious persuasion leads them to condemn the use of arms in general."

In spite of the pacifist opposition, the Delaware Assembly enacted a Militia Law. The Pennsylvania Assembly remained mulishly obdurate and would not. To pillory the political manoeuvres of the Pennsylvania obstructionists, the Chief-
Justice went on,

"Our Governor ... warmly recommended this thing [military provision] to the Assemblies of both governments [Delaware and Pennsylvania]; and has been expressly answered by one of them [Pennsylvania], 'that all defense was, according to the religious persuasion of the majority of their House unlawful.' ... The being really principled against the lawfulness of self-defense" continued the Chief-Justice, "is, in itself, innocent, as proceeding from an ill-formed judgement, and only shows the unfitness of those who are so principled to be employed in legislation. But when such persons, by plotting and management, procure themselves to be chosen to the Legislature, at a critical time, merely to keep out and tie up the hands of others, whose religious principles leave them at liberty to provide for the defense of their country, in case of a foreign invasion; it amounts to a negative persecution, and becomes highly blamable." [Italics supplied]

The result of this outspoken arraignment of Quaker political methods in Pennsylvania was that the Duck Creek Monthly Meeting first demanded that Chief-Justice Chew retract his charges. When he refused to do so, they expelled him. In his next charge to the Grand Jury, the Chief-Justice delivered a counterblast to the Monthly Meeting's fulminations that made the Quakers squirm even more than his previous pronouncements. However unpalatable the dose, he told them a few plain truths they richly deserved to hear.

About 1736 young Benjamin had been put to read law in the office of the great Andrew Hamilton in Philadelphia, and there continued until Hamilton's death in August, 1741. He then came home to keep on with his law studies in his father's office, and also to assist the Chief-Justice in whatever ways he could, so that during this altercation between his father and the Quakers he was in Dover.
It was about this time that the house at Berry's Range was a-building, a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic Georgian main block of brick, with brick extension at the rear. There was a handsome fanlight above the house-door and the interior woodwork was in good mid-Georgian manner. A clumsy two-storey portico and pediment, added by Greek-Revival period "improvers," and other "modernisations" have destroyed the original aspect. Hemmed in, as it now is by an up-to-date building "development," it has only its fine trees and a semi-circle of old box as reminders of its erstwhile appearance.

In 1743 Benjamin Chew went to London and was admitted a student in the Middle Temple, October 27th, just about a month before he turned twenty-one. Of nearly the same age, William Blackstone (of Commentaries fame) was his fellow-Middle Templar. Chief-Justice Chew died in 1743 and was buried at Berry's Range in a walled plot on the farm. According to Dover tradition, death did not keep the Chief-Justice quiet. His ghost haunted The Green and people were so terrified that they took to staying home of nights, "to the dismay of the tavern-keepers and shopkeepers." Finally, to lay the uneasy spirit, a funeral procession of townspeople moved across The Green on a sunny day to a grave dug beneath an old poplar tree. While a bell tolled, a clergyman read the burial service, "consigning the spirit of Samuel Chew to everlasting peace and rest."

At his father's death Benjamin Chew left London and got back to Dover in 1744. He was admitted to practise in the lower courts of Delaware and Pennsylvania and, in 1746, was admitted to practise at the Bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.
In June, 1747, he married his cousin, Mary Galloway, of West River, Maryland, and continued to make his home at Dover. In 1750 he became a member of the Lower Counties Assembly and, in 1751, was assigned the important task of collecting and editing the Delaware laws. He was one of the Commissioners to settle the long-standing boundary dispute with Maryland.

Concern with the Boundary Commission, and appointment as one of the Secretaries to the Albany Congress in 1754 took him more and more to Philadelphia and made it advisable for him to have a home there as well as in Dover; he accordingly took a house on Front Street near Dock Creek, established himself there, and for many years was a citizen of both commonwealths, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

He succeeded Tench Francis as Attorney-General in 1755, a post he held until 1769. In 1755, too, he became a member of the Provincial Council, along with Alderman John Mifflin and Dr. Thomas Cadwalader. As a Councillor, Gouvernour John Penn leaned heavily upon him for advice and Mr. Chew's weight in the Council from this time onward was a potent force in the Provincial Government.

In 1756 Benjamin Chew was Speaker of the Assembly of the Lower Counties. In 1770 he was Prothonotary of Kent County. Subsequently, as his presence was increasingly required in Philadelphia, he found it expedient to make his permanent residence in Pennsylvania. In 1774 he became Chief-Justice there.

When he finally gave up residence at Dover, Benjamin Chew sold Berry's Range to Charles Hilliard, reserving from sale
York Seat, South East. Frame part of early date. Stone three-bay addition at right made in 1825
only the Chew burial plot where his father was buried. This walled plot has now disappeared. Charles Hilliard afterwards built Woodburn. It is said that after Woodburn, with its fine interior woodwork, was finished, Charles Hilliard paid the architect-builder for his services by the gift of the house at Berry's Range.

How, when and why the Chew house, at the southeast corner of The Green in Dover, was demolished is told in the Story of the State House.}

York Seat, about four miles from Dover, is on the west side of the road (Route 9) from the village of Little Creek to Leipsic, just north of the junction with the road to Dover (Route 8).

The land at York Seat is part of the York tract warranted to William Stevens in April, 1676, under the Duke of York's Government. A large portion of this land at a later date came into the possession of the Emerson family.

The gambrel-roofed frame part of the house at York Seat is much older than the larger stone part and dates from about the middle of the eighteenth century. It is inseparably associated with the memory of an exceptional woman of the early nineteenth century, Ann Bell, the daughter of John Bell.

At seventeen she married Jonathan Emerson, heir to about 800 acres of the original York tract on Little Creek Neck, deemed one of the best tracts of land in Kent County. His
early death left Ann with five children, a son and four daughters, and the York Seat farm as her dower. In 1814 she was married again. Her second spouse, Manlove Hayes, was a twice-married widower with children.

The eldest son of this second marriage, Manlove Hayes, has given us in his Reminiscences an insight into the family life at York Seat. His mother, to begin with, was highly educated, well-read, a good linguist, a deft needlewoman, and thoroughly versed in all the arts of housekeeping. She had capably managed the dower farm, trained her servants, looked to the rearing of her children, and taken a conspicuous part in all the women's activities of the Society of Friends. Her descendants still speak with pride of skillful needlework. Under the impulse of the popular silk-culture venture, she raised silkworms and made silk.

Now, at thirty-seven, she took on the responsibilities of an additional family. How she managed to stow a husband and four sets of children in the little old gambrel-roofed house is a mystery, but she did. Some of the children, of course, were away at school, but there were times when they were all there more or less. At the times of Quaker gatherings, Manlove Hayes says,

"It was sometimes difficult to accommodate all our visitors, and at night, the children were put to sleep on improvised couches in any spare room or corner. These inconveniences, however, were all taken in good humour, and the evenings were generally enjoyed by the young people, who made it an occasion of innocent amusement."
Relief to this congestion came at last in 1825, when a substantial addition was built, "of stone, the first farmhouse of that material in the county, the enlarged accommodation being greatly needed."

In the many years of occupancy by tenant-farmers, all manner of things have happened to the interior of the old gambrel-roofed part of the house so that its first plan is badly obscured. What parts of the original woodwork remain, show good mid-eighteenth-century characteristics.

As to the addition, the most striking feature of it is that it is built of stone. Few old structures in Kent County are built of stone. There is no place in the county where stone could be quarried and, where stone buildings occur, they are near navigable water where shipping could bring the stone in ballast.

By 1825, when the three-bay, two-storey-and-attic enlargement took place, "simplified Regency" usage was well established in public consciousness. Hence the stepped brick cornice crowning the stone walls. The enlargement extends backward the full depth of the older building. The pedimented portico is co-eval with the addition.

The interior woodwork in the enlargement savours of the late eighteenth-century manner. This was to be expected from the conservatism of local house-carpenters and builders who, as a rule, were slow to adopt new fashions.

When he was about nineteen, a chance meeting in Philadelphia with the architect, William Strickland, seems to have determined Manlove Hayes to become a civil engineer. Strickland had been
chief engineer of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad. From 1836 young Hayes worked as an engineer in Virginia, Tennessee and Arkansas, returning to Kent County in 1840.

Having decided against the law as a career, when he was then just twenty-three, he turned his energies to farming, assisting his father at York Seat and likewise entering wholeheartedly into measures for improving Delaware agriculture. In this he was greatly encouraged by his half-brother, Dr. Gouverneur Emerson, who was then farming his 600 acres adjoining York Seat.

Thenceforward Hayes's tireless activities embraced farming, water transportation, politics and railroading, in all of which he made highly creditable records. At his death, in 1910, he had been for 45 years a Director, and for 40 years Secretary and Treasurer of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad.

The record of his life of public service in many fields is part of Delaware State history and needs no detailed rehearsal here.

It is worth remembering that York Seat was the birthplace, and later the property of one who did valiant and effectual service in the rejuvenation of Delaware agriculture.

"EIGHT - SQUARE" SCHOOLHOUSE  
Cowgill's Corner, About 4½ miles south of Leipsic, Route 9 to Little Creek.

The little "Eight-Square" Schoolhouse at Cowgill's Corner on the road from Leipsic to Little Creek, was built in 1836 as a
district public school. If not the first one opened in Delaware under the free-school law, it was certainly one of the earliest.

It is built of undressed stone, stuccoed and whitewashed. This one-storey structure is a perfect octagon in plan with eight sides of equal dimensions. There is a window in the centre of each side, except the side reserved for the entrance.

The steep-pitched roof is eight-sided, and just beneath the eaves there is a neatly-adjusted stepped brick cornice, the one attempt at architectural amenity in this exceeding simple structure.

The arrangement inside this one big octagonal schoolroom was unusual. Both boys and girls came here to learn and recite their lessons. Whether the Quaker custom of separating men and women in their places in meeting-houses suggested separating the boys and girls in the schoolroom it would be hard to say.

In the seating arrangement of the "Eight-Square" Schoolhouse, the desks were placed in two circles. The outer circle of desks, facing the wall, was for the boys; the inner circle, facing the centre of the room, was for the girls.

Through the persistent efforts of Judge Willard Hall and of Charles Marim, a member of the State General Assembly who lived at Cherbourg, southeast of Dover, the Legislature passed the Free School Law in 1829.

Manlove Hayes was then living at York Seat, not far away on the Leipsic - Little Creek road, and was most eager to get a school built nearby, no doubt partly because of his numerous children and step-children.
At any rate, the schoolhouse was built not far from York Seat, and it is possible that he himself designed the eight-sided building. Like the 1825 addition to York Seat, the "Eight-Square" Schoolhouse is built of stone and has a stepped brick cornice. And Manlove Hayes was a capable engineer; the inference is natural.

When the schoolhouse was finished, a large group of people gathered to hear Charles Marim, Manlove Hayes's stepson-in-law, give the dedication address. The building continued to be used as a school until the early 1900's. Since then it has been used occasionally as a community meeting place.

The "Eight-Square" Schoolhouse, apart from the appeal of its architectural naïveté, is a significant evidence of the cultural life of the period when it was built.

OLD STONE TAVERN, LITTLE CREEK

On east side of the main street, Village of Little Creek

This two-storey-and-attic, five-bay house with central hall is generally known as the Old Stone Tavern or, sometimes, as the Bell House. It is one of the few stone structures in Kent County.

Standing, as it does, in the village of Little Creek, it is quite evident that the material for its walls came to Little Creek landing as ballast on grain shallops, when they returned with cargoes of manufactured goods that were lighter and much less bulky than the shipments of grain and flour they had previously carried away to Wilmington or to Philadelphia.
We know the house was standing before 1768, for in that year the then owner and occupant mentions it in a deed to her son and refers to it as the "tavern house." As a matter of fact, from all physical indications the house was apparently built about the middle of the eighteenth century, possibly a little bit earlier. It was natural the house should have done duty as a tavern for it was large enough and it stood on the road that runs northward from Little Creek Landing to the "Fast Landing" (now Leipsic), and inland to the Dover "Landing" on St. Jones River.

The house, unfortunately, has suffered the addition of a Victorian verandah enframing the doorway, and likewise the replacement of the original glazing in most of the windows by big-paned Victorian sashes; one of the surest and easiest ways of wrecking the aesthetic values of any Georgian structure.

The one remnant of architectural amenity left, after the ruthless "modernisation" manhandling of the exterior, is the carefully devised stepped-brick cornice, of the same sort as noted at York Seat and at the "Eight-Square" Schoolhouse at Cowgill's Corner, farther up the road to Leipsic. It is not unlikely that the brick cornice atop the walls of the Old Stone Tavern may have been the local precedent for the same thing at both York Seat and the octagonal schoolhouse.

The interior of the Old Stone Tavern has fared rather better than the exterior. Although in several rooms mantels of a pattern much favoured about 1800 have replaced the earlier chimney-breast woodwork of about 1750, enough of the original woodwork and panelling remains to prove that the builders of the house had a

2. John Dickinson House. First addition as a new kitchen soon changed into dining-room, and another kitchen built.

3. John Dickinson House. Parlour. Judge Samuel Dickinson is said sometimes to have held court within this room.
due regard for the architectural decencies of the period.

Robert and Mary Bell, from the North of Ireland, after being for a time in Elizabeth, New Jersey, came with their seven children to Little Creek. They, it seems, started the tavern-business in the stone house. One of the pretty daughters became the wife of James Sykes, one of the Committee of Public Safety and a member of the Continental Congress. Another daughter was married to the Reverend Samuel Magaw, Rector of Christ Church in Dover.

Henry Bell, that one of the "seven Children" to whom his mother had deeded the stone house, was still living there with his wife in 1793. The last Bell to own it was John Bell, who died insolvent in 1840. The Hayes family, old friends and connections of the Bells, then bought the Old Stone House.

**DICKINSON HOUSE**

About 5 miles south of Dover, Route 113, east 1/3 mile on Kitts Hummock Road.

The Dickinson House, built by Judge Samuel Dickinson and completed by the year 1740, is a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic Middle Georgian brick building with wide central hall, and two lower wings to the westward, stepping down from the main house on the same axis. What afterwards became the dining-room was first added as a kitchen, in 1752, when the shortcomings of the cellar kitchen in the main house grew increasingly inconvenient. The little westernmost wing, with whitewashed walls and brick-columned arcade, was added in 1754 for a kitchen, with quarters above for some of the household slaves. It was then that the
first-added wing became the dining-room. There was a bedroom above it, reached by a cupboard stair.

The house faces directly south and, though well lighted everywhere, has very few windows on the north side. This arrangement was planned to conserve warmth in winter. The brickwork, laid in Flemish-bond with black glazed headers, is a praise-worthy example of masonry, of a period when brick masonry in the Colonies was at its best.

The house was placed, and the whole plantation planned, to connect readily with a lane through the fields to a landing on the nearby St. Jones River. This assured easy access by water to New Castle, Wilmington and Philadelphia.

Samuel Dickinson, who came up from Maryland in 1734 and became a Judge in Kent County, bought large tracts of land in what is now East Dover Hundred. On one tract of 1300 acres he built one of the first plantation houses in Delaware, with its nearby slave-quarters, barns, sheds and other outlying dependencies. The master's dwelling house on this plantation was finished in time for the family to move into it in January, 1740. Tradition has it that Judge Dickinson sometimes used the great parlour for his Court Room, as he had been appointed a Judge of the Kent County Court of Common Pleas.

The house, as Judge Dickinson built it, was three full storeys in height on a high basement, and had a hipped roof. It was a far more imposing structure than the main body of the house as it stands to-day. Incidentally, not a few houses of three full storeys, with hipped roof, on a high basement at that period, both in the South and in England, had the kitchen in the
high basement. It should be noted that the windows in the lower floor are unusually tall, four panes wide and eight panes high. This was quite consistent with the full three-storeys-and-hipped-roof pattern of the house.

In 1804 a disastrous fire occurred. John Dickinson was then an old man and was living in the house he had built in Wilmington. When he repaired the damage, he put the house in its present form.

The fine interior woodwork and panelling, placed when the house was first built, were badly damaged and mostly destroyed at the time of the fire. The replacement at the time was of far simpler description than the original work. Since the restoration of the house, woodwork of the erstwhile high quality has been installed.

The cellar, as originally planned, almost at ground level and well lighted, contained a large storage room under the great parlour, a wine cellar under the front door, and scullery and kitchen beneath the two rooms to the left of the front door on entering. These two rooms, across the central hall from the great parlour, have angle fireplaces, their flues opening into the same chimney.

John Dickinson, the son of Samuel and Mary (Cadwalader) Dickinson, was born November 2, 1732, at Croxiadoré, a family estate in Talbot County, Maryland. When the Dickinisons moved into their new Kent County plantation house, John was eight years old. There John and his younger brother, Philemon, spent their boyhood. Their tutor, who lived in the house, was a young
Irishman, William Killen. In years to come, he would be the first Chancellor of the Delaware State, from 1792 to 1801.

In 1750, when he was eighteen years old, John Dickinson went to Philadelphia to read law with John Moland, one of the foremost and ablest lawyers of that day. After a period of diligent application under the eye of John Moland, he went to London to pursue his study of the law at the Middle Temple. There he stayed until 1757, when he returned to America and started in active practice of his profession.

John's letters from London to his Mother and Father contain many an allusion to the home plantation and his love for it. He mentions with affection the

"peaceful Plains, the dear House, and all the sweet domestick Pleasures I have enjoy'd; Cheerful Days, quiet Nights, delightful Converse ..."

Writing to his Mother, October 29th, 1754, he says:

"I shoud be glad to know how the Building goes on; [evidently the second kitchen addition] or what Hedging is making. My Honoured Father usd to talk of it, & I am very fond of it, since I have been in England: If all the Grounds about our House were enclosed with Hedges, it is not possible to conceive how beautiful they woud look."

On January 22nd, 1755, he writes:

"I shoud be extremely glad to know how this Winter time agrees with you ... & hope that the new Kitchen was finished before the cold Weather set in ...."

On his return to America, John Dickinson soon developed a keen interest in politics and put forth his arguments in a number of pamphlets. They offered the best means of influencing
public opinion at that period. His pamphlets or public letters from the first commanded wide attention and had a pronounced effect in forming popular sentiment.

In 1760 Dickinson was elected to the Delaware General Assembly. In 1762 and 1764 he was one of the delegates representing Philadelphia in the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly. The next year he was a Pennsylvania delegate to the Colonial Congress and, on October 19th, drew up for that body's adoption The Declaration of Rights Adopted by the Stamp Act Congress. Thence onward he wrote nearly all the important documents of the Continental Congress preceding the Declaration of Independence. Hence his soubriquet "Penman of the Revolution."

His Letters Of A Farmer In Pennsylvania, written in 1768, and his Song For American Freedom, in the same year also, contributed in great measure towards forming and firmly fixing public opinion in the Colonies. "When the petitions of Congress to the Crown, [which Dickinson had draughted], failed to effect a reconciliation, the revolutionary faction introduced Lee's resolution for a complete separation."

John Dickinson opposed the Declaration of Independence because he felt strongly that the differences with the Mother Country could be composed without resort to arms. Furthermore, he believed "there should be a general confederation of all American Colonies under a constitution, with continental control," before resorting to any armed intervention.

In accordance with his convictions, he "absented himself from Congress and refrained from signing the Declaration of
Independence." Nevertheless, the action once taken, loyalty to his country and his fellow-countrymen impelled him to take up arms in the American cause. Within a week after Independence had been proclaimed John Dickinson marched as colonel of a Philadelphia brigade against British troops threatening to invade New York and New Jersey. He also rendered useful military service in Delaware until 1778. In 1778, as a Delaware delegate in the Continental Congress, he draughted the Articles of Confederation.

In August, 1781, at the direction of the Board of Associated Loyalists in New York, a well-armed party of sixteen marauders landed from whaleboats near the mouth of St. Jones River, marched to the Dickinson plantation house and terrorised the Negro servants.

"For two hours they systematically looted the house. Chests of silver, all the plate except a few teaspoons, Mrs. Dickinson's clothing, Dickinson's too, and a great quantity of linen, 'all your Bottled wine ---- two barrels of Cherry bounce ---- your whole stock of Salted Meat, and your Negro Man Isaac...'"

The loot they carried to Kitts Hummock and made off.

Dickinson, who had been attending Congress in Philadelphia, came down at once to restore order on the plantation. While thus busied, he was chosen President of The Delaware State. This office he resigned in 1782 to become President of the State of Pennsylvania, an office he held until 1785, when he resigned to return to Delaware.

No matter how busy with his political duties in either Delaware or Pennsylvania, to the end of his life the plantation on St. Jones River always remained the true centre of his interest
and affection. In 1781, he freed all his slaves and gave them all paid employment on the plantation.

In later years it is difficult to determine it is impossible to say at just exactly what times John Dickinson lived on the plantation. His engrossing professional and political duties kept him almost continuously on the go between Delaware and Philadelphia, leaving him little time for an uninterrupted residence anywhere. After his marriage with Mary Norris he spent a good deal of time at Fair Hill; his coach, with the Dickinson arms on the door panels, was a familiar a sight in Philadelphia streets as were the coaches of the Chews, the Walns or the Bickleys. In the intervals, when public responsibilities did not require his presence outside of Delaware, we may be sure he found his plantation a welcome haven of peace. After the fire of 1804 the plantation house was occupied by tenant farmers.

In 1786 Dickinson headed Delaware's delegation to the Annapolis Convention, of which he was elected chairman. As chairman, he wrote the report urging the call of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787. At the Constitutional Convention he vigorously maintained the rights of the smaller States and insisted on an equal representation in the Senate for all States.

When the Constitution was afterwards submitted to the States for ratification, John Dickinson was instrumental in securing Delaware's prompt action thereon. Delaware's honour of being the first State to ratify the new Constitution may be ascribed in great measure to Dickinson's exertions.
In 1791-92 Dickinson was in the forefront at the State Constitutional Convention where he drew up a strong frame of government that served Delaware for many years afterward.

Throughout his life Dickinson kept up his active interest in political matters and carried on a voluminous correspondence with statesmen and friends from his home in Wilmington. He died February 14, 1808, and was buried in Friends' Meeting Yard, at Fourth and West Streets, Wilmington. His wife, Mary Norris, survived him.

The Dickinson House is more than a fine example of lower Delaware eighteenth-century plantation architecture; it is a historic place giving an insight to the way of living of one of the great founders of our Country. Recognising the historic value of the house, and to redeem it from the neglect of past years, the Historic Activities Committee of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Delaware raised the sum of $25,000. This was presented to the State of Delaware on Constitution Day, September 17, 1952, for the purpose of buying the house and a suitable plot of ground. Following architectural and historical research, the Public Archives Commission, with the assistance of an Advisory Committee, carried forward the restoration with State appropriations and private gifts. The garden, destroyed during the years of farmer-tenancy, has been recreated.
Peter Lowber house at Frederica. Built c. 1750
before the town was laid out. Excellent brickwork.
In 1847, an old gentleman of the Lowber family, in giving family data to one of a younger generation, recorded that Matthew Lowber came from Amsterdam and settled in Maryland in the seventeenth century. He married the daughter of an English family that had settled in Maryland about the same time.

Matthew Lowber's son Peter was the progenitor of the family in Delaware. He came into the Three Lower Counties either under the Duke of York's Government or else very early in the Penn régime. He married into an affluent family and, between his own resources and those of his spouse and her kin, he became possessed of extensive land-holdings in Kent County.

As the old gentleman narrator put it, Peter:

"accumulated as much property as dub'd him a Very Rich Man in his day and place; or as they then said a Warm Man; and from his disposition to rule, was call'd King; and being Rich and Hospitable, much court and deference was paid him."

The said Peter had four sons, Michael, Matthew, Peter and Daniel and three daughters.

The names Peter and Matthew keep recurring with confusing frequency, but as near as we can conjecture, it was either Peter the son, or Peter a grandson of the first Peter, according to Scharf, he died in 1698, who turns up in a survey record of 1730, in Murder Kill Hundred in Kent County.

In 1730, Peter Lowber had land surveyed for him called "Addition to Caben Ridge Situate in Murther Kill Hundred in the County of Kent." In 1752, another survey for 300 acres mentions
Peter Lowber's "dwelling plantation called Caben Ridge in the Forest of Murther Creek Hundred."

Putting two and two together, it would appear that the house on Peter Lowber's "dwelling plantation called Caben Ridge in the Forest of Murther Creek Hundred" is the Lowber house in Frederica. The house was evidently built about 1750 or a little earlier. Also, it was built before Frederica was laid out in town lots; the town was not plotted in lots and streets until 1770. That the Lowber house ante-dated any town layout is perfectly patent. It is placed without relation to any street and it faces more or less down the middle of a fairly wide street. When the street reaches the house, it has to make a considerable arc curve to get around the east end of the building before getting back to its straight course.

Peter Lowber's plantation house "in the Forest of Murther Creek Hundred" is a significant document in the story of Delaware's domestic architecture. Its approximately definite date helps to fix the period at which Georgian precedent had won popular approbation, and when those intending to build themselves substantial and commodious dwellings looked to the ordered symmetry of the Georgian manner for guidance.

In spite of the inconsiderate treatment given it by Victorian and post-Victorian "improvers", the still-visible characteristics of the Lowber house at Frederica are worthy of note. Segmental arches above windows, and the dimensions of the windows themselves (best studied on the upper floor), indicate Early Georgian usage.
The one-room depth of the house is a Delaware characteristic, already noted elsewhere. On the unpainted east end, one can still see the vigorous Flemish-bond brickwork with black glazed headers and picture how the whole house looked before it was mutilated. The steep pitch of the roof is an indication of early date.

The interior, now reft of most of its woodwork, originally had its full complement of excellent panelling.

JEHUR Reed House Near Frederica

The Jeth Reed house is of historic import on two separate counts.

It was the home of a great agricultural benefactor whose diligent policies in soil enrichment and scientific farming played no small part in fostering the State's prosperity from peach and apple orchards.

In the second place, the epitomizes the species of architectural transformation, that has befallen so many houses, not only in Delaware but elsewhere in the older States.

By 1830 farming had fallen into decay. Abundant crops had been raised on naturally productive land, but nothing had been returned to the soil. The soil was exhausted. In the early 1830's, The Plow, a farm magazine, printed the account of a visit to Delaware, wherein the writer was shocked by "the tottering farmhouses, starved cattle, worthless, exhausted land, and dilapidated fences."
Obviously, something had to be done. Men like Jehu Reed, John Middleton Clayton, Judge Causey, Anthony M. Higgins and others supplied a much-needed impetus to scientific farming. By their example as farmers, and by organising agricultural societies, they spread the adoption of intelligent farm and orchard practice throughout the State.

Jehu Reed prospered and grew rich by the sale of peaches and young grafted peach trees. In the silk-production enthusiasm that they swayed popular imagination, he raised silkworms, feeding them on his own mulberry trees. From this venture, too, he made a profit. The War Between the States boomed the price of everything he raised and greatly increased his wealth.

In 1868, affluence prompted him to a programme of renovation on his farm. After rebuilding his extensive barns, stables and other dependencies, he turned his attention to the house he lived in.

Built in 1771, it was a dignified five-bay, two-and-a-half-storey Georgian brick dwelling. Yielding to the Victorianising mania then prevalent, Reed went the limit. The old window-frames with small-paned sashes gave way to sashes with large panes; no quicker way to annihilate the character of an old house! An ornate verandah overshadowed the house-door. A square, heavy third storey replaced the former attic. On its almost flat roof was a befrilled observatory whence Reed could survey his farms and orchards. All the external woodwork displayed the fantastic, aggressive details of the current style.

The old brickwork is visible in the ends of the house, mute evidence of what the house once was.
On a side road to the east of Route 113

South of Barratt's Chapel and about a mile north of Frederica, a side road to the east of Route 113 leads to the Barratt house on the banks of the Murderkill.

It is a two-storey-and-attic, three-bay brick structure with central hall and stair. At the east side is a frame kitchen wing. The house faces north. It is one of the early dwellings in that category where the elemental "Resurrection Manor" plan has been set aside in favour of a very unpretentious form of Georgian symmetry. Built about the middle of the eighteenth century, its flavour strongly suggests Early-Georgian vigorous simplicity.

Both front and back, and on the ends, the brickwork is laid in Flemish-bond and is of admirable quality. An unusual feature is the belt course, three bricks in width, with the middle course flush and composed of black headers. The belt course extends around all walls.

At the west end, two small windows on the ground floor (at each side of the chimney), two more on the upper storey, and two very small openings in the attic, are bricked up. There is also a bricked-up doorway to the cellar. All these bricked-up openings have segmental arches. The segmental arches appear over the window and door openings in the other walls.

The small bricked-up windows on the west wall opened into cupboards on each side of the fireplace, possibly powder-closets in the upper storey, enclosed by the panelling that continued flush with the chimney-breast panelling from wall to wall.
Barratt's Chapel, near Frederica, 1730. Called the "Cradle of Methodism."
The plan is the simplest Georgian plan possible, with a central hall with stair ascending in two runs of reverse direction, with landing half-way up; south door opposite north door; and one room at each side of hall, the house being one room deep. The plan is repeated in the upper storey.

In the parlour, to the right of the house-door, the fireplace is in the middle of the west wall. In the dining-room, to the left of the front door, the fireplace is canted across the northeast corner so that the doorway to the kitchen wing does not disturb the symmetrical balance of the room.

Although the house has suffered many Victorian mutilations, over and above the tawdry verandah tacked onto the north front, there is still intact fine panelling and other good woodwork.

Philip Barratt and his brother Roger, born in Cecil County, Maryland, settled in Kent County at some time prior to 1755. Philip's political career and the part he played in establishing Delaware Methodism are noted in the account of Barratt's Chapel.

Besides farming his tract of 600 acres, Philip Barratt engaged in the shipping trade of the Murderkill close to his house. He owned two sloops, the Friendship and the Dolphin. In these he shipped corn, pork, bark and staves to Philadelphia.

BARRATT'S CHAPEL Near Frederica

Barratt's Chapel, near Frederica, venerated by all American Methodists, is regarded as the "Cradle of Methodism" because the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was there first administered in
America to Methodist communicants by authorised Methodist ministers, and because Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke first met there, November 10, 1784, and arranged the preliminaries for organising the Methodist Episcopal Church in America.

The Chapel, almost square (42 feet by 48 feet), is a brick building, plain as a pipestem and without any architectural pretensions. The interior has been much changed and the old high pulpit has disappeared, but the bench on which Asbury and Coke sat is carefully preserved as a cherished memento.

Philip Barratt, who gave the land for the Chapel and its adjoining burying ground, was one of the first converts to Methodism and was a devoted friend to Francis Asbury. Appointed High Sheriff of Kent County by Governor John Penn in 1775, he was elected Sheriff in 1776 and served in that capacity during the Revolutionary War, during which he rendered most efficient services in aid of the struggling Colonies.

The Reverend Freeborn Garretson seems to have given the first strong impulse to Methodism in Delaware. In 1778, Philip Barratt and some others were so affected by his preaching that they formed themselves into a Methodist society, meeting at their own houses. They soon felt the need of more room for their meetings and, in 1780, Barratt and his father-in-law started to build the Chapel.

On August 17, 1780, Philip Barratt deeded the land for the Chapel to eight of his fellow-Methodists as trustees "to the intent and express purpose of building thereon a preaching house or chapel." It was also stipulated that the preacher who should use the pulpit of the said preaching house "should use no other
(1) Mordington, south front and older frame wing at right of brick structure.

(2) Mordington, present dining-room is the "great room" of original frame house, with fireplace and closed winding stair.
doctrine than is contained in the Rev. John Wesley's notes on the New Testament and Four Volumes of Sermons."

Because of Wesley's utterances in England deprecating the uprising in America, there was a time during the Revolutionary War when the Methodists were hounded as Tories. It is said that in 1778, when Asbury was staying at the home of Judge White (Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Kent County), a band of truculent men appealed at the door and asked the Judge if he wanted them "to ride the preacher out of the State on a rail." "Thank you, gentlemen," said the Judge, "but I think I can attend to him." The Judge himself was badly hectored by the Whigs because he was a Methodist.

It was at this time that Barratt's official position as Sheriff and a member of the State Legislature, and his recognised services to the American cause, enabled him to befriend Asbury and other Methodists and shield them from persecution.

MORDINGTON

Near Milford

On side road between Canterbury and Milford, beside McColley's Millpond.

Mordington, on a side road between Canterbury and Milford, is one of the most noteworthy plantation houses of southern Delaware. As most people think of Mordington, it is an exceptionally fine Georgian brick house of three-bay width and two rooms deep. In height it is of the two-storey-and-attic type. Such, indeed, is the brick part of the house, built in 1777.

What people usually fail to take into account is the lower frame wing at the east side. This, too, is an important part of
the structure, and no consideration of Mordington would be complete without it.

Several factors contribute to the distinction of the brick part of the exterior. The excellence of the masonry, laid in Flemish-bond, and the belt-course, three bricks in width, carried around the whole structure, are pleasing features. The generous-sized windows, of twenty-four panes, on both floors; the panelled shutters on the lower floor; and the white lintols with fluted key-blocks all combine to give the house an agreeably wide-awake and lively aspect. The lintols and key-blocks are of wood, painted white to simulate marble. This use of wooden lintols and key-blocks, as explained elsewhere, was occasioned by the often-times impossibility of procuring cut stone or marble in southern Delaware for this purpose. The absence of dormers makes for the serenity of the composition and stresses the horizontal accent of the building. And by no means the least of the distinctive features is the rich and beautifully detailed cornice.

The interior woodwork and panelling are of a quality consistent with the character of the exterior. The stair in the wide hall is not original. It is a replica of the original stair which was taken some years ago by a museum. In the two large rooms on the west side of the hall, the woodwork and the panelling on the chimney-breasts of the corner fireplaces are original.

The plan of the brick part of the house is perfectly regular and the same as is usually found in a three-bay Georgian structure, with the hall and stair at one side of the two large rooms.
The one-storey-and-attic frame wing on the east side of Mordington is inconspicuous but important. It is obviously an older building than the brick main block of the house, and the plan of the brick part would have been different if the frame structure had not already been there to make use of.

The plan of the frame part is an adaptation or development of the late-Medieval plan discussed elsewhere. What is now the dining-room was the "great" room with generous-sized fireplace and the stair winding up beside it. The woodwork also indicates the greater age of this less conspicuous part of Mordington.

The site of Mordington is unusually attractive and one can readily understand why the Douglass family chose to build their plantation house on this spot nearby their grist mill at the dam. Set amidst lofty trees, the house stands on a high knoll overlooking the placid expanse of what is marked on the maps as McColley's Millpond, on a branch of the Murderkill.

Allusion to the Murderkill suggests a word of explanation regarding a name of sinister sound. It actually means Murder Creek and has been so called since the days of Swedish rule. It is so noted on the map made by the Swedish engineer, Peter Lindeström, in 1654-56. The name was given because of the fate that befell some Dutch traders in 1648. Gerrit Van Sweeringen told how the traders invited some Indians aboard their sloop and, becoming drunk and off their guard, were murdered by them.

"soe that place was christined with their blood and to this day called ye Murderers' kill, that is Murders Creeke."
Parson Thorne house, North Milford. South front, much "Victorianized" but retaining its three-part division as built by Parson Thorne.
It is gratifying to know that Mordington is carefully maintained in good condition, by appreciative owners who live there.

PARSON THORNE HOUSE
501, W. Front Street, North Milford.

The Parson Thorne house at North Milford is a late Middle-Georgian five-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick structure with central hall. At each side is a lower, one-storey-and-attic wing, joined to the main block of the house by a covered way. The lintols above the windows are of wood, painted white to simulate marble. This was quite usual, as already noted, in Kent and Sussex, where it was difficult to get marble or suitable stone of any kind.

The foregoing would describe the exterior as it was when built, about 1785. It was then a really fine house, and it brought into southern Delaware a fresh conception in domestic architecture, in the Palladian three-part composition, with either smaller detached buildings, or else lower wings connected by loggias or enclosed passages with the main house, forming altogether a balanced, symmetrical group.

This dignified scheme, of which there are so many striking examples in both Maryland and Virginia, had hitherto been unused in Delaware. It was quite natural that Parson Thorne, who had come up from the Eastern Shore of Virginia, should cling to a type with which he was familiar when he set out to build himself a really worthwhile dwelling.
Now, unfortunately, the house is a monument to insanity, or the total lack of aesthetic perception, on the part of the Victorian "improvers" who got to work on it in the nineteenth century. The roofs of the wings were raised (as appears from the brickwork) and sharp-peaked gables, matching the angular horror above the central bay of the main house, broke the hitherto reposeful lines of the roofs. The "improvers" were trying to make the original horizontal emphasis of the building vertical. The eighteenth-century glazing was replaced by Victorian sashes with big panes, as approved by the enlightened taste of the period, and a very ugly verandah obscured the handsome doorway. One suspects that the hanging arches between house and wings date from this age of "beautification."

Inside some dog-eared doorways and panelling remain, but much the same sort of vandalism has held sway as we see outside. The only consolation is that no serious structural changes have been made.

And yet, in spite of all the "uglification," the old house still exudes a certain quiet charm which one cannot fail to sense. It reminds one of a very shabby old gentleman, though he may be clothed in rags and tatters.

About 1773, the Reverend Sydenham Thorne, a Church of England priest, came up from the Eastern Shore of Virginia to take charge of Christ Church, Mispillion, a little chapel established in 1704 or 1705 by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. The little chapel, about three miles west of Milford, was locally known as "The Savannah Church" because of the nearby Savannah Swamp.
When Parson Thorne first arrived on the scene, according to all accounts, he was as poor as the proverbial "church mouse." His days of poverty ended, however, when he married a rich widow. It was after this conjugal influx of financial prosperity that he built his house on part of a 300-acre tract adjoining the land of John Oliver, one of his parishioners. The two men joined forces in a plan to lay out and start a new town on Oliver's land.

The upshot of it all was that North Milford was laid out and developed; two acres were given in the new town to "Christ Church, Mispillion" which became Christ Church, Milford, (replacing the old "Savannah" chapel) of which Parson Thorne became Rector. And North Milford (Old Milford) rapidly grew into a busy milling centre.

Parson Thorne is described as a co-founder of Milford, a planter, mill-owner, and builder. In spite of his "political and religious principles of unconcealed loyalty to the King and to the Church of England," he was undoubtedly one of the most popular and influential men in Kent County.
Baynard, north front. House covered with jacket of face-masonry.


3. Present Kitchen, formerly "fire-room" of c. 1735 part.

4. Parlour, with elaborate woodwork, of c. 1785 part.

5. Detail of panelling in parlour dado.


There are also two sheets of drawings.
7. First floor plan
8. Second floor plan
BAYNARD

Route 14 to Burrsville, Maryland; short by-road back into Delaware, to house land?

John Baynard (who died about 1708) and his son Thomas were Quakers of substantial means, who came into Kent County in the early days of the Penn regime. When Thomas, or his heir, built the first part of the house, somewhere about 1735, according to tradition, he built at a spot now almost on the Maryland line. Tradition also says the second or northern part of the house was added about 1785.

There was due regard to such architectural elegance as was compatible with Quaker principles, namely, exterior plain, devoid of any embellishment; interior with exceptionally handsome panelling and other woodwork.

To reach the house now, whatever may have been the approach at an earlier day, one takes Route 14 from Harrington, crosses the State Line into Maryland at Burrsville, and then gets back into Delaware by a little side road. Thence, after about a mile, a long lane leads to the house.

It is a two-storey-and-attic four-bay structure facing north, with the remains of a detached kitchen connected with the c. 1735 portion by a covered way. The exterior is sheathed with horizontally-laid overlapping and moulded weatherboards. This feature of construction, however, is invisible thanks to a major misfortune, a coating of mustard-coloured fake-masonry from top to bottom which completely conceals the wooden exterior.
The fine surrounding trees somewhat mitigate the forlorn looks of Baynard, but it is all too evident that for a long time past owners have not lived there and apparently taken any interest in the condition and aspect of the house. Fortunately, the house itself is structurally sound.

Of the rectangular area within the four walls, the parlour and the hall take up the whole north or front (c. 1785) part of the house. In the rectangular, almost square hall at the northeast corner, one of the finest stairs in Delaware ascends by successive, continuous flights from the ground floor to the attic.

The parlour, accounting for the rest of the north front, has exceptionally fine panelling and woodwork. Flanking the chimney-breast are flued pilasters, from floor to cornice. Curiously enough, the oblong panel directly over the fireplace is framed with dog-ears at the top but has none at the bottom. Beyond the chimney-breast, in the northwest corner is a well-fashioned china-cupboard with coved top. The dado is topped by a moulded chairrail, but the spaces beneath the windows are panelled, the panelling flanked by narrow fluted pilasters extending from the skirting to the bottom of the window cills, while the rest of the space between skirting and chairrail is merely plastered in the manner of the day, an unusual treatment that helps to stress decorative values where the wall structure is not thick enough to admit of panelled window seats. The deep wooden cornice is vigorously moulded and has a "wall-of-Troy" course instead of dentils. It is
gratifying to find the tenant appreciative and taking an intelligent interest in the fine woodwork throughout the house.

The dining-room (now the kitchen) and a bedroom fill the south (c. 1735) part of the structure's rectangular area; dining-room back of parlour, bedroom back of stair hall. Woodwork in both rooms is excellent. The closed stair winding up at one corner of the dining-room now kitchen (making two stairs in one moderate-sized house), indicates that the plan was derived from the traditional pattern explained elsewhere, the "great room," closed stair, and "added" rooms.

Upstairs, the bedrooms, also well-panelled, have diminutive fireplaces and the panelling there has been designed to fit them appropriately into the scheme.

At one time there was a detached frame kitchen, reached by a covered passage from the dining-room. The great fireplace and the big brick chimney have tumbled down; the brick chimney (at left of picture) is of modern contrivance. The verandah is modern. Original covered way to kitchen shows on plan.

In the detached kitchen the great fireplace and the big brick chimney have tumbled down, leaving one side of the roof hanging unsupported. There is excellent brickwork at the two sides of the kitchen fireplace-end. The rest of the kitchen exterior is covered with overlapping moulded weatherboards over half-timber construction.

The weatherboard walls of the detached kitchen, indeed, supplied the evidence to determine the wall structure of the
c. 1735 part of the house, only one small section of which escaped the jacket of "smear-masonry" sheets. The still invisible actual walls of the c. 1785 part of the house are probably of the same construction as the earlier part.
Pleasanton Abbey. South front and rear frame wing. Interior woodwork especially good.

Built c. 1750.
Amongst the old houses of Delaware, Baynard is by no means alone in its present forlorn plight. Many seemly eighteenth-century houses, both Georgian and pre-Georgian in derivation, built by prosperous owners and lived-in by them, have eventually been turned over to tenants when the owners and former occupants have succumbed to the lure of living in towns and cities.

All that is needed to restore these near-derelicts to their pristine dignity and charm is a little well-considered rejuvenation. When this has been done, the houses so rescued have become centres of attraction and interest to visitors, and have proved comfortable dwellings to their occupants.

Such houses as Belmont Hall or Aspendale, which have always been occupied by the owners, or the Ridgely and Loockerman houses in Dover, to name no others, give convincing evidence of how much continuous tenure by the owners can mean.

Pleasanton Abbey, about three miles south of Leipsic, on the west side of Route 9, is a brick two-storey-and-attic, five-bay structure, with central hall and stair. It was built about 1750, when Georgian methods of building were winning general acceptance by those who seriously considered architectural amenity in their dwellings.
The house faces east and, like so many other Delaware houses of the Georgian era, is one room deep, a feature that ensured airiness in warm weather. At the south end is a one-storey frame kitchen wing.

That the builder of Pleasanton Abbey duly appreciated elegance is evident from the fine brickwork of the façade. Not only is the carefully laid Flemish-bond an exemplary piece of brick masonry, but the belt course of moulded bricks and the moulded bricks topping the water-table are noteworthy.

The lintols and key-blocks above the door and the 24-paned windows serve no structural purpose and are merely in conformity with contemporary architectural usage. They are made of wood, fastened to the underlying brickwork, and painted white to simulate marble. As noted elsewhere, there was great difficulty for many years in getting cut stone in lower Delaware and lintols that otherwise would ordinarily be fashioned of stone or marble, and be integral parts of the masonry, were perforce made of wood.

The brickwork on the ends and rear of Pleasanton Abbey is laid in Liverpool-bond. The use of Flemish-bond for the front of a building and of Liverpool-bond for the sides and rear was a quite common practice.

The "stoop" or "stoep", benches on the top step at each side of the house-door, was an agreeable feature of many old Delaware houses. In front of the house is the much-favoured row of four trees, a manner of planting found throughout the lower counties.

Inside Pleasanton Abbey the woodwork and panelling are notably good, as one would expect after examining the refinements of the
Tyn Head Court. South Front before wing as left was demolished.
exterior. The whole structure is, in short, a plantation house indicative of the tastes and habits of a cultured owner who lived on his land and did not leave his home to the tender mercies of a tenant farmer.

At the time of the Revolutionary War, like many other Delawareans of consequence in both Kent and Sussex Counties, Henry Stevens, the builder of Pleasanton Abbey, was a convinced Loyalist. Although he took no active part in the conflict, the ardent Whigs of the neighbourhood regarded him with suspicion and watched him closely. They believed he was harbouring other and more militant "Tories" in his house.

One night, so the story goes, he and his French wife were entertaining some pro-British friends. When a servant came in and announced the arrival of a Whig searching party, Stevens was at a loss to think of some way to protect his guests. Only one place occurred to him where the searching party were unlikely to look. That was up the chimney. He thereupon persuaded his friends to climb up into the chimney. When the searching party got in, they looked in every place except up the chimney. Not finding their quarry, they left. Then the sooty "Tories" came down again in safety.

TYN HEAD COURT :: WETHERED COURT

Kent County

Side road west from Route 9, south of village of Little Creek.

Just south of the village of Little Creek, a side road from Route 9 branches off to the west and leads to Dover. A little way along on the south side of this road is Tyn Head Court.
Prior to 1680, under the Duke of York's Government, Griffith Jones and John Glover took up the 650-acre tract called Tyn Head Court. It is on Little Creek Neck and is in East Dover Hundred.

Anent the purchase of Indian rights to the land, it is recorded that Christian, the Indian, alias Peticowewan, "lord and owner of all the land between St. Jones's and Duck Creeks", in 1681 sold to John Glover his "Ryalltes fishing, fowling, hawking, hunting" rights in "Tenhead Courtt", containing 570 acres.

After Penn's Government, in 1682, succeeded the Government of the Duke of York, one of the original patentees, Griffith Jones, was evidently a person of some note and figured in the governmental affairs of the Three Lower Counties. As a member of the Governor's Council, he represented Kent County in 1687, 1688, 1689 and 1690, and again in 1695 and 1697. The other patentee, John Glover, was a member of the Assembly for Kent County in 1684.

By subsequent land transfers, adjustments and re-surveys the Tyn Head tract of 700 acres passed into the ownership of Robert French. In 1713 French willed the land to his daughter Catherine, in tail to her daughters Mary and Ann. Mary, who became Mrs. James Sykes, inherited the half of the property on which the house stands. On the death of James Sykes (a member of the Continental Congress), the place fell in 1792 to their only child, Mary, who became Mrs. John Wethered. The house (shown in the illustration) and the land on which it stands then got the name of Wethered Court.

The three-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick house, facing east and west, was built by 1740, or possibly earlier, as there is mention of a brick house on the place at that time. It is two rooms deep.
The brick kitchen-wing on the south side, built early in the nineteenth century, was a replacement for a much older kitchen-wing of frame construction.

Across the road from the brick plantation house, on the other half of the Tyn Head tract, was an old gambrel-roofed frame house that belonged to Major John Patten of Revolutionary repute. This has disappeared. Major Patten there entertained many of Delaware's first citizens.

When William Heverin, a prosperous farmer, ship-owner and grain-shipping merchant, bought Wethered Court from the Wethered heirs about 1816, he paid what was then considered a record price for farm land, $12,500 for 315 acres. This indicated the great fertility and exceptional agricultural value of the plantation at that time. It also showed the importance of nearness to Little Creek and its shipping facilities. Farms closer to Dover brought hardly a third as much per acre.

The brick wing that William Heverin built had a large kitchen, with capacious fireplace and winding stair on the ground floor; the bedrooms above the kitchen were the quarters of the white housekeeper and her husband, the farmer. The Negro brick cabins were nearby in a lane. Gardens and orchards surrounded the house.

The last Heverin owner was something of a "high-flier." He was a keen sportsman, an excellent shot and an ardent fox-hunter. He liked to imbibe, too. He is said to have ridden his horse through the hall, also into a local tavern, and the Court House, as well.
Wheel of Fortune, South front, with brick dependencies (milk house and meat house) at west side
The Heverins lived at Wethered Court until 1871, when they sold it. They were the last owners who lived in the house. Since then it has been at the mercy of tenant-farmers and successive owners.

Its present condition is not edifying. The brick wing has been demolished. The interior has been ruthlessly maltreated. Only the west room on the ground floor retains a remnant of its former dignity: in the southwest corner, a handsome china-cupboard; in the southeast corner, an angle fireplace with fine chimney-breast panelling. The corresponding angle fireplace in the east room has been demolished; a full-sized battery of electrical housekeeping-appliances lines all four sides of the room!

The name Wethered Court has been forgotten. The name Tyn Head Court is known or remembered by few.

WHEEL OF FORTUNE

About two miles south of Leipsic, on Route 9.

About two miles south of Leipsic, on the west side of the Bay Road, is Wheel of Fortune, an eighteenth-century plantation house in the Georgian manner. The term "Georgian manner" is used advisedly because not a few Delaware plantation houses of approximately the same date, Wheel of Fortune was built near the middle of the eighteenth century, whether designed for Quakers or not, left off many of the Middle-Georgian exterior characteristic features while presenting a structural Georgian body. They were instances of identifiable genus, minus the requisite identification marks of species.

As for the interiors of these houses, that was another matter.
They might be as plain as the proverbial "pipe-stem"; again, they might disclose all the current enriching amenities of woodwork.

In any event, not a few of these plantation houses that have what one might call a "non-committal" exterior, nevertheless show an wholesome measure of recognisable individuality. There is no likelihood of mistaking one for another.

Wheel of Fortune, with its five-bay frontage facing east, like some other plantation houses in Little Creek Hundred, is of one-room depth. There is a two-storey wing at the rear of the south end. The masonry of the end walls, and of the rear, is laid in Liverpool bond. The front of the house is in Flemish-bond. The belt course of four-brick width has the two central courses recessed. There is a simple moulding beneath the box cornice. The small porch at the house-door is a later addition.

Too little attention is usually paid to the dependencies on an old farm or plantation. They were just as much a part of the machinery of living as the dwellings to which they belonged. If we wish to visualise truly the pattern of plantation life in bygone times, the dependencies must be taken into account.

Oftentimes, where the original dependencies were of wooden construction, they have disappeared and been replaced by others of more modern contrivance. At Wheel of Fortune, happily coincident with the plantation's name, two of the original dependencies are intact, the meat house and the milk house. They are both substantially built of brick and stand near the southwest end of the house, conveniently reached from the kitchen wing.
Snowland, near Leipzig, Southwest front.
Latter half of eighteenth century
The interior has good but not elaborate woodwork. In the parlour, evidently done over about the beginning of the nineteenth century, the mantel and chair rail are good examples of punch-and-gouge decoration. The dog-eared door and window-framing of an earlier date, and the robust muntins of the window sashes have not been disturbed.

"Wheel of Fortune" is one of the old tracts surveyed and named in the early period of the Penn land-grants. The part of the tract on which the house stands was conveyed to John Chance in 1738. The property later came into the possession of the Nicholson family. Since the house was occupied by Senator Hughes, it has been kept in good repair by tenant farmers.

SNOWLAND

At northern end of Leipsic, on Little Duck Creek

Snowland was built by some of the Naudain family in the latter half of the eighteenth century. The Naudains had extensive land-holdings in Kent County and Snowland was the plantation house on a 1400 acre tract. The winding course of Little Duck Creek, southwest of the house, affords a broad engaging vista over the marshland. The place was named Snowland for Andrew Naudain's wife whose maiden name was Rebecca Snow.

The plantation house, a two-storey-and-attic five-bay structure, is of brick painted white and has a one-storey-and-attic brick wing, on the same axis, at the southeast end. The Victorian verandah before the house-door is, of course, a much later addition.

The belt-course between the ground and upper floors, and the absence of dormers, emphasise the horizontal accent of the orderly
Middle Georgian mass. Judging from the disposition of the windows on the southwest front of Snowland, the part of the main block of the house, to the left of the house-door, was built a little later than the three-bay part directly next to the low wing.

Snowland is a good example of the simple Delaware plantation house built after Georgian symmetrical arrangement had come into favour. While many of the external features characteristic of the Middle Georgian manner are absent, the fundamental feeling of the composition is unquestionably traceable to Georgian precedent.

The interior of Snowland comports well with the exterior. The woodwork, though not elaborate, is good and its pattern accords with contemporary usage. The interior plainly indicates that the owners really lived in their plantation house and had not forsaken it for town or city dwelling.

Both of Andrew Naudain's sons were born at Snowland. Arnold, born in 1790, was graduated from Princeton and then studied and practised medicine. He became a director of the Farmers' Bank and his increasing interests in public life led to the abandonment of medical practice. He became a State Senator in 1832, a State Senator 1836-1839 and a United States Senator in 1842. He was Collector of the Port of Wilmington from 1841 to 1845.

The other son, Andrew, was born at Snowland in 1812. He also studied and practised medicine, but eventually went into a business career in Philadelphia. In 1830 another Elias Naudain lived at Snowland. The place passed out of the Naudain family's possession about the middle of the nineteenth century.
Ronald? a scholar on the "Lilliputians"

Dear George, Marth, Frank.

[Signature]
Great Geneva

About two miles south of Dover, on Route 113A, is junction with road marked "Lebanon." East on this; Great Geneva on right.

Great Geneva, near the Tidbury Branch of St. Jones Creek, is a modest-sized two-storey, three-bedroom brick house with a small frame kitchen wing.

The tract on which Great Geneva stands was surveyed to Alexander Humphreys on "ye 28 day of ye 7 mo. 1663." Humphreys sold it in 1702 to Thomas England, of Hemingborough, Yorkshire. England sold the property to Robert Willcocks. The house must have been built before 1748 as it is mentioned in a survey when Willcocks sold the place to Jonathan Hunn.

The plan of Great Geneva shows an arrangement that seems to have been favoured in Kent County during the eighteenth century. (Cf. Ridgely house, 1728; Loockerman house, 1742; and Aspendale, 1771.) The house-door opens into a room or generous-sized hall. The winding enclosed stair (usually shut off by a door) is in a corner, and ascends behind or above the fireplace. From this hall-room doorways open into the other rooms. Variations of this plan occur, but the basic idea of a corner stair and a spacious entry seems to have had a strong appeal.

The Hunns were Quaker Abolitionists during the War Between the States and the Jonathan Hunn of Great Geneva was a leading figure of his day in Delaware in conducting the "Underground Railroad," the far-reaching and well-organized system of helping runaway slaves to evade recapture and secure their freedom.

Great Geneva, by all accounts, was an important station on
the "Underground Railroad." Runaway slaves would be hidden until they could safely be passed on to the next Underground station, or stations, in Delaware, and thence onward to Pennsylvania and freedom.

It is said that Jonathan Hunn lost all his property except Great Geneva and nearby Wildcat in helping slaves to escape to the North.

Former Governor John Hunn was the son of Jonathan Hunn of Great Geneva. When the old Abolitionist lay on his death-bed he called his son and made him promise to burn a history of the Underground Railroad he himself had written. It minutely detailed every fact and circumstance of that secret chapter in Delaware's history. The son promised, but as he was turning away something in his face prompted the old gentleman to say, "Son, thee meant to copy that diary before thee destroyed it, is it not so?" The son admitted he had intended to make a copy, whereupon his father made him promise to burn the record uncopied. The promise was fulfilled.

"This valuable and doubtless intensely interesting recital was fully prepared for publication; but, as the senior Hunn said, the issue was closed, and inasmuch as some of the actors in the affair were yet alive, and might be compromised thereby, he thought it best to cover the whole episode with oblivion . . ."

W I L D C A T

Lane from road passing nearby Great Geneva leads into Wildcat.

Wildcat, near Forest Landing, at the mouth of Tidbury Branch, is a small pre-Revolutionary frame house. It has been so much altered from time to time that all semblance to the original
Mifflin house, Camden. South front. Stately but
Good interior woodwork. Small wing as
right a later addition.
structure is lost.

Wildcat belonged to the Hunns and before 1810 Nathaniel and Jonathan Hunn operated a saw-mill at a nearby pond, formed by damming the Tidbury Branch. The pond no longer exists.

**M I F F L I N H O U S E**

Camden, village, right-hand side of street

The Mifflin house, facing southeast, on the main street of Camden, is a five-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick structure, painted a light tan colour. There is a central hall with stair. A lower wing extends from the rear or northwest side, and a low wing or office has been added to the northeast. The main block of the dwelling is one room deep, as is so frequently the case with eighteenth and early nineteenth-century houses in Delaware.

The architectural type of the Mifflin house might be called "simplified Middle-Georgian" or "Quaker Georgian", although there are the exterior amenities of an arched doorway with fanlight, and a belt course of stone. The interior woodwork is good, and the panelling adequate but plain. Some twentieth-century changes have been made within doors.

Camden, known in early days as Mifflin's Cross Roads, and also as Piccadilly, is built on the Brecknock Tract warranted to Alexander Humphreys in 1680. In 1783 Daniel Mifflin acquired a 112-acre portion of this tract, called Piccadilly, and laid it out in lots. Between 1783 and 1788 he had sold enough of these lots to ensure the start of a considerable village. This was the beginning of Camden.
In 1786 the village was called Piccadilly, but was better known as Mifflin's Cross Roads. The name "Camden" first appears in a deed of December, 1788.

Camden was settled chiefly by members of the Society of Friends. Descendants of the Mifflins, Hunns, Lowbers, Dolbys, Howells, Jenkinses and Nocks are still to be found in the neighbourhood.

Daniel Mifflin was the son of Daniel Mifflin who came into Delaware from Accomac County, Virginia. The Daniel, who established Camden and built his house there about 1796, was of the fifth generation from John Mifflin, senior, who, with his son John, came from Warminster in Wiltshire in 1677 or 1678 and settled on a tract in what is now a large part of Fairmount Park, Philadelphia. This tract in present Pennsylvania was granted in 1679 by Sir Edmund Andros, then Governor under the Duke of York's Government. John Mifflin, the younger, had a son Edward who migrated to Accomac County. Edward had a son Daniel who migrated to Delaware from Virginia. This migrant Daniel was the father of Daniel who laid out and fostered the beginnings of Camden.

Although most of the Mifflins stayed in Pennsylvania, the descent and migrations of the Mifflins afford a typical instance of the way in which substantial elements of Delaware's population came from the south, west and north when the Duke of York's Government had replaced Dutch rule.

The Quakers, many of whom came to Delaware after Penn's Province of Pennsylvania had been granted and set going, recognised the sterling attractions of the peninsula. No doubt, too,
"Cooper" house Canada. A reputed station on the "Underground Railroad" with a loft for fugitive slaves.
they appreciated an independent government, free from dictation by the cantankerous Pennsylvania Assembly.

Until Daniel Mifflin built his Camden house towards the close of the eighteenth century, the Miffins lived in the country near Camden. It is worth noting that Daniel's elder brother, Warner Mifflin, was one of the first men in America to free his slaves unconditionally.

**COOPER HOUSE**

Near north end of the main village street, *Camden*.

The house, generally known in the neighbourhood of Camden as the Cooper house, is a four-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick dwelling, painted grey, facing northwest, near the north end of Camden's main thoroughfare.

Hunn Jenkins built it about 1782. He was one of the Quakers who early gravitated to the Piccadilly Tract which Daniel Mifflin was about to lay out in building lots, with the vision before him of a future Quaker Town, a vision that was soon to be realised. The town has well preserved its Quaker poise and placidity, its leisurely atmosphere quite undisturbed by twentieth-century bustle and hurry.

Curiously enough, save for a few external changes made in the late Greek-Revival manner, such as the entrance portico, the house bears a rather Early-Georgian aspect. The door itself, and the transom with small lights above it, confirm this impression.

On entering, however, it at once becomes evident that a pre-Georgian plan has been followed. This, possibly, a touch of
Quaker conservatism.

The front door opens into a good-sized room; to the left is the panelled fireplace wall, with the stair, in the far corner, winding up behind the fireplace (cf. the Ridgely and Lockerman houses in Dover). To the right of the front door, a doorway opens into a larger room with fireplace and panelled wall. Directly opposite the front door is the doorway into the kitchen wing.

In short, the plan plainly reverts to a seventeenth-century precedent, a type found in its fundamental form in such houses as Resurrection Manor in St. Mary's County, Maryland, or in the first-built part of White Meadow Farm (the so-called Martin house) at Cool Spring in Sussex County. Variations and adaptations of this fundamental plan occur in Delaware from southern Sussex up to northern Kent. There are, indeed, occasional instances in New Castle County where the early plan was evidently in the minds of the builders, who made only slight variations therefrom in the final form of their work.

The paneling and other interior woodwork at the Cooper house are both in good late Middle-Georgian tradition. When various interior changes were made, and the original kitchen wing became the dining-room, some of the older woodwork there disappeared.

Strong Quaker anti-slavery sentiment increased steadily from the second half of the eighteenth century right up to the War Between the States. With this in mind, it would be strange not to find some visible reminder of it in an essentially Quaker community. Such a reminder there was in the Cooper house.
Camden Friends' Meeting. Upper part formerly used as a school.
A small bunk-lined room above the kitchen, entered by a ladder, was lighted by a little round window near the peak of the roof. This fitted in with the tradition that the Cooper house was a station on the Underground Railroad and that the bunk-lined room was a hiding-place for escaping Negroes.

Later changes have sealed up the opening in the kitchen ceiling and bricked up the little round window.

CAMDEN FRIENDS' MEETING
On Commerce Street, Camden

Ever since Daniel Mifflin, in 1783, laid out his Piccadilly tract in town lots, Camden became increasingly attractive as a dwelling place for town-minded Quakers.

Although Duck Creek Monthly Meeting, near Smyrna, had originally been the controlling centre of Quaker activities in Kent County, the end of the eighteenth century saw the jurisdictional affairs of the Society of Friends gradually shifting to Camden. The last to be organised, Camden Meeting eventually absorbed all the other Friends' Meetings in Kent County.

Towards the latter part of 1805, the Friends decided to erect a building in Camden for school and meeting-house purposes. They circulated for contributions a petition towards that end, signed by twenty-three members of the Society. The signers appointed three trustees to take title to land and carry out the wishes of the Society.

To these trustees, Jonathan Hunn and Patience, his wife, deeded "a lot near the village of Camden . . . . for the erection
Eden Hill, west of Dover. Built by Nicholas Ridgley in 1749.
of such a building" as the trustees intended, and the Meeting house was accordingly built, with the date-stone in the gable marked "1805."

It is a two-storey, gambrel-roofed structure of brick. The front is laid in Flemish-bond, the sides are in Liverpool bond. The ground floor has the usual seating arrangements and other provisions for the accommodation of the weekly and other meetings. The upper floor was intended for school use and was fitted up accordingly.

The upper floor, thanks to the wide spread gambrel roof, provides adequate space for a goodly number of scholars. It is well lighted by windows in the gable ends, and, at the sides, by water-shed dormers in the lower slope of the gambrel.

In the upper floor school-room are still some of the old desks and other equipment left there in 1882 when the school hitherto maintained by the Meeting was discontinued.

The upkeep of both the Meeting House and of the burial-ground, in which it stands, is guaranteed by a trust fund.

EDEN HILL

At west end of North Street, Dover.

When Nicholas Ridgely built Eden Hill in 1749, there were six or more houses, in Dover or on nearby plantations, that might have influenced him in making up his mind what manner of house he wished for himself. In Dover, the Parke (later Ridgely) and Loockerman houses were pre-Georgian in plan, while Chief-Justice Samuel Chew's house at the southeast corner of the Green and the house he had built at Barry's Range, were symmetrically-planned
Georgian compositions of five-bay width with central hall and the customary interior amenities of paneling and woodwork. In the nearby countryside, there were the plantation houses at Kingston-upon-Hull, Cherbourg and Byfield.

The house Nicholas Ridgely built in 1749 is a brick two-storey-and-attic structure, two rooms deep, and faces east towards the town. It combines elements present in more than one of the nearby houses just mentioned.

The hall of generous width, with the stair rising at the far end of the hall, opposite the house-door, along with the two rooms at the south side of the hall, follow Georgian usage in plan. The two rooms, at a lower level, north of the hall, with the fireplace and a winding stair in the kitchen, indicate persistence of an earlier building tradition, the late-Medieval tradition already referred to in connection with other houses.

Although there is no mention in any of Nicholas Ridgely's papers of a pre-existing structure at Eden Hill, and although it has always been believed that he built the entire structure as it stands to-day, the visible evidences of construction point to an earlier date for the part of the house north of the hall.

In the eighteenth century, in building a new house it would have been the natural thing to incorporate an already existing structure. This was so commonly done in the eighteenth century that it was not thought worthy of any special comment or record. Furthermore, if there had been no structure already standing, that he could suitably incorporate in a new house, Nicholas Ridgely, in all likelihood, would have built a five-bay Georgian house, two
rooms deep on each side of a central hall, with such wing or rear extension as might be required.

Mrs. Nicholas Ridgely (Mary Middleton Vining Ridgely) named the plantation Eden Hill. The natural beauty of the place appealed to her. With her love of growing things, it is not unreasonable to surmise that she had something to do with planting the trees to the north and to the east towards Dover, that have now grown into two splendidly overarching avenues.

When Nicholas Ridgely died in 1755, his widow continued to live at Eden Hill until her death in 1761. Dr. Charles Ridgely, her son, then came into possession of the place. Thence onward the story of Eden Hill is interlocked with the story of the House on the Green.

After Dr. Ridgely's death, his widow, Ann Moore Ridgely, who loved the country, made Eden Hill her home. When her growing daughters were not visiting their relatives in Philadelphia, she taught them the arts of housekeeping, including spinning and weaving, plain sewing and fine needlework, and activities essential to plantation living. The boys, when not away at school, learned the routine working of the farm.

A touch of home life, and also an evidence of the pride and interest the family took in the vegetable and flower gardens at Eden Hill appears in a letter Williamina Ridgely, then on a visit in Philadelphia, wrote her mother in February, 1803. She writes:

"I have just bought for you, my dearest Mother, the roots and seed you desired. I could not get any more of the melons or cucumbers than I send without giving an extravagant price. Mc Mahon would not let me have of two kinds of watermelon without paying highly. I therefore took a five penny bits worth of what looked the best. He said
the meat was red and very fine. I got four kinds of cucumbers, one of which is white always, even after pickling them; this the seedsman and another man standing by told me; ... they got two crocus. The other kind called saffron crocus he said not do to send now as it is too late and the moss rose had not come yet. I wish very much to have the china pink and those already sent taken great care of. All the Beans and Peas I got because they were different from any we have and you know I am particularly fond of them. The white beans look something alike but are very different. They say, the smallest are the earliest. They are all very tender; the black beans have white blossoms and when boiled are very green. I send the Illinois nuts. The Hiclory I have not got now. ... I have sent mixed with red radish, and the salmon radish by itself. The star of Bethlehem is a white flower blooming in a cluster like stars, very handsome ... ... Remember to plant the smallest Illinois nut for me in the garden; let the ground be watered and oats put with it, & keep a little one to taste ... .

I send you the bill of roots and seeds because I fear as they are in newspaper bags you will not be able to read what they are. All the beans and peas have fine characters ... .

At the death of Ann Moore Ridgely in 1810, Nicholas Ridgely (the "Chancellor"), Dr. Charles Ridgely's eldest son, came into possession of Eden Hill. Up to that time he had been living at his plantation Somerville, several miles northwest of Eden Hill.

Nicholas Ridgely, born September 30, 1762, and carefully trained for the law, was admitted to the Bar in 1787. Even as a very young man, he won distinction among a brilliant galaxy of Delaware lawyers and, in 1791, when he was only twenty-nine, he was appointed Attorney-General of the State. In the same year he was elected a delegate from Kent County to the Constitutional Convention of 1792. Probably the youngest member of the Convention, he at once showed himself pre-eminently useful in all the deliberations. He was also chosen a Representative from Kent County in the first General Assembly that met in 1793 under the

(2) Aspendale. South front and older frame wing.

(3) Aspendale. Old carriage house and other dependencies.


Also Floor plans. (1) as it actually is (2) Drawing of "Queen Plan" from Waterman's book.
The Quaker Plan in the Valley of Virginia

Fairfax Grant Farm. The Quaker plan of the central block with an added wing room.
new State Constitution.

He retained the post of Attorney-General for ten years until he succeeded Chancellor William Killen (December 6, 1801) who resigned the Chancellorship "with the distinct understanding that Nicholas Ridgely, then Attorney-General, should be his successor."

Nicholas Ridgely remained Chancellor of the State for twenty-nine years, until his death in April, 1830.

Chancellor Ridgely and his wife, Mary Brereton, were childless. At the death of the Chancellor's widow, who survived him many years, Eden Hill descended to Henry Ridgely, the son of the Chancellor's half-brother, Henry Moore Ridgely.

Henry Ridgely, born in 1817, had already "possessed" Eden Hill for a long time before he became the legal owner. When but a youngster, Henry

"ran away one morning from his many brothers and sisters and arrived at the door of Eden Hill Farm a mile away. When his aunt and uncle greeted him, he announced that he had come because there he wished to live. He was in earnest about it and though but a small boy he managed to carry out his intention. His uncle and aunt were devoted to him and the Chancellor made him his heir after the death of his widow."

ASPENDALE

Kent County

State 301
Route 106, about a mile southwest of Kenton

Aspendale, built in 1771-73, stands on part of a tract originally known as Duncaster. A great portion of this tract, at the headwaters of the southwest branch of Duck Creek Hundred, was deeded in 1770 to Charles Numbers, "Yeoman, of Duck Creek forest."
Charles Numbers started to build his house in 1771 and completed it in 1773. Not far off is the old "brick hole" (now a small marshy pond) whence was dug the clay to make the bricks to be used for the three-bay, two-storey-and-attic house of Georgian quality. Apart from plan, it might be classified as restrained Middle-Georgian with some Early-Georgian elements, and a venture or two into the future.

Aspendale is one of the comparatively small number of old Delaware houses that have never passed from ownership by the families of the original builders, and have been continuously lived-in by them. Charles Numbers was the great-great-grandfather of the present owner. The house Charles Numbers built in 1771 has, therefore, escaped such maltreatment as changes in ownership so often caused, and likewise the neglect and abuse incident to absentee landlordism.

The Flemish-bond brickwork of the south and north fronts is of admirable quality, and it is worth noting that two courses of moulded bricks cap the water-table instead of the more usual single course. A belt course, five bricks in width with the three middle courses recessed, imparts effective accent to the south and north fronts.

By way of contrast, the east and west ends of the house, with their twin chimneys coupled by short curtain walls, are stuccooed. When the house was completed in 1773, the ridge of the roof was slightly flattened, covered with lead, made into a deck between the pairs of chimneys, and enclosed with a balustrade. During the Revolutionary War, the lead was required for bullets. The
balustrade was then removed, and the shingled roof given its present form.

The one-storey-and-attic frame wing at the west end adds a note of interest to the composition. It is a good instance of the frequent Delaware habit of having a frame wing on axis with the main body of the house. It is older than the rest of the house, just how much it is impossible to say. The particulars of construction indicate that it was already standing when the brick structure was erected. It is certainly of much earlier type, the one room, fireplace and winding-stair type, only, in this case, instead of a winding stair, a ladder gave access to the big chamber above. The previous presence of the wing may have suggested the plan of the 1771 building.

The various dependencies, farm buildings, and old lanes and divisions between the fields, have never been changed, and although there have been renewals and additions about the barn, Aspendale and its plantation surroundings are virtually the same as when Charles Numbers finished his brick house in 1773. The place is a living example of a prosperous Kent County farmstead in the last quarter of the eighteenth century.

It would be little short of a miracle if Aspendale had altogether escaped Victorian "improvement." The "improvement," however, was of very limited extent and easily eliminated. Outside, it consisted of a Victorian verandah hitched onto the middle bay of the south front, and an "ornamental" Victorian cornice. Inside, two partitions encroached upon the area of the large parlour.

When the present owner took over after the demise of two old
spinster aunts, who had occupied Aspendale during part of the Victorian Era and in the years following, the only exterior restoration needed was the removal of the aforesaid verandah, and the replacement of the cornice "prettification" by a Georgian cornice in perfect scale with the house. Indoors, only the parlour partitions had to be taken away.

One of these partitions had sliced off the west side of the parlour to make a long, narrow hall from the front door clear through to the door on the north front. The other divided what was left of the parlour into two smaller rooms. When these came out, the original character of the room appeared. Its ample dimensions, twenty-eight by eighteen feet, assured exceptional dignity and spaciousness; it was actually one of the largest rooms in Delaware when the house was built. Removal of the partitions, besides revealing a room of unusual and satisfying proportions, disclosed the formerly obscured fine panelling and the cupboards at each side of the fireplace.

On removal of the parlour partitions, the original plan of the house at once became obvious and intelligible. When Charles Numbers built his house, he adopted the "Quaker plan" William Penn had advocated in 1684, a plan little heeded elsewhere in Delaware. Georgian methods were confined to the exterior and to the appointments of the interior. The parlour was the one big room; the partition "near the middle" divided "one end of the house into two small rooms"; the hall and the study (formerly a dining-room). The frame wing was the "added" room and became the kitchen. Aspendale, indeed, affords the best instance in Delaware of what can be unquestionably identified as the "Quaker plan" recommended
by Penn.

As to the appointments of the interior, besides the handsomely panelled whole east or fireplace wall in the parlour, already mentioned, there is a wood cornice and a chairrail but in the manner of the day, no panelled dado. In the hall, the entire fireplace wall is panelled; there is a good wooden cornice and chairrail. In the study the vigorously panelled dado, chimney-breast and cupboards, and the robust wooden cornice, are all of a pattern much earlier than the actual date of the house. In all likelihood, the joiner had learned his craft under his grandfather and was loath to give up time-honoured practices. Instances of the same thing occur in plenty of other houses. In the upstairs rooms there is the same carefully-studied and admirable paneling and other woodwork as there is downstairs. So much for the Georgian interior dressing of a "Quaker plan" house.

There are no mantels above any of the fireplaces except in the kitchen; the paneling ends in moldings framing each fireplace. All the fireplaces are of different measurements, including one in the attic (without paneling or any other accompanying grace) which is probably the smallest fireplace in Delaware, or in any other State for that matter.

It is worth noting that in the study the paint on the woodwork is the original coat applied in 1771, and the paint now on the walls is the same colour as the original lime wash. This same fortunate preservation of paint and wall colours occurs elsewhere in the house also.

The few slight changes required to make Aspendale convenient for modern living have in no wise altered the aspect of the house.
Enclosure of the north porch to the frame wing, to make a modern kitchen, has made the former kitchen available as a dining-room. Besides this, the judicious introduction of several bathrooms, so far as any visible changes go, has rendered the house completely comfortable.

**B A N N I S T E R H A L L Smyrna**

*Route 301, about 2 miles west of Smyrna*

Bannister Hall, set up in 1866, it is safe to say, is the first pre-fabricated house erected in Delaware.

It is a frame "two-storey-and-attic" structure of five bays with central hall, and a hipped-roof surmounted by a glassed-in observatory. At the rear is a commodious wing. Across the full width of the front is a one-storey verandah, enclosed by a low balustrade with robustly-turned vase-shaped spindles.

The attic is lighted by low "lie-on-your-stomach" windows directly under the eaves. There is more headroom in the attic than appears from the outside, thanks to the rising slopes of the hipped-roof. The whole house, outside and within, is in the characteristic Victorian country-house manner of the period.

In 1865, John Anthony of Troy, New York, was being urged to stand as a candidate for the Governorship. He felt he was not qualified for the post, despite the importunities of the politicians. At the same time, Delaware's phenomenal success in peach culture had fired his imagination. He decided to move to Kent County and grow peaches.

Mr. Anthony was a building-contractor in Troy and applied his experience in a somewhat unusual and original manner. Having
secured the plans for his proposed house, he had all the materials for it fully prepared in Troy. Everything was carefully cut and finished by exact measurement, from the weatherboarding of the sides down to the balusters for the verandah, and the cornices and cresting for the observatory atop the roof.

And, of course, all the interior woodwork was prepared with the same meticulous care. Including all the plumbing fixtures, everything was ready to be put in place, without any further fitting.

When all preparations were complete, Mr. Anthony had every bit of the pre-fabricated material loaded in freight cars at Troy and shipped thence to Delaware. Arrived in Delaware, the materials entirely pre-fabricated in Troy were forthwith assembled and set up on the waiting foundations near Smyrna. Mr. Anthony got his completed house promptly in 1866, without any of the usual builders' delays in finishing up. He was then free to start his peach-growing, which he did successfully.

As one goes along Route 301 westward from Smyrna, Bannister Hall is entirely hidden by the splendid growth of woodland surrounding it. Mr. Anthony started the planting of the avenue leading up to the house. Successive plantings by his son, James Anthony, and by his grandson, William Anthony, the present occupant, have produced to-day's park of lofty trees.

This park is also a veritable arboretum. Besides the many trees native in Delaware, it contains flourishing specimens of sequoia or redwood and other exotics which have taken kindly to Delaware climate and soil.
Enoch Spruance house, Smyrna. North front
oldest part where the banking started is furthest
at right. Both doorways later additions.
At some distance back of the "big house", among the outlying farm buildings is a little old brick house, apparently built about 1755 or 1760, showing a variation in plan from the type derived from an early Maryland precedent. Its history is obscure.

ENOCHE SPRUANCE HOUSE
South side of Commerce St. near Main St.

The Enoch Spruance house presents a long, irregular front on Commerce Street. It is unmistakably a Georgian structure but, because of its irregularity, it cannot be classified in any one of the familiar Georgian domestic categories, all of which are characterised by their symmetrical disposition of doorways and windows. The irregularity is the result of growth from the original small structure.

The whole house is built of brick, with a belt course between the ground and upper storeys. The bricks are laid in Flemish-bond. Being good eighteenth-century bricks, their surface is rough enough to give the walls a virile texture, a welcome contrast with some of the painfully precise pressed brickwork of the mid-nineteenth century, which suggests a mere veneer instead of substantial masonry. The keystone lintols above the windows are of white-painted wood, in lieu of the hard-to-get marble or stone. Both doorways are of more recent date than the rest of the structure.

The oldest part of the house, built well before the end of the eighteenth century, is the portion farthest west and
nearest Main Street. It once held the only bank between Wilmington and Dover.

It was not at all unusual at the time for the same building to be both a bank and a dwelling. Some officer of the bank, generally the cashier, lived in the house. The main room downstairs was the place of business, the rest of the lower floor and upstairs were the family’s living quarters. Oftentimes in rural districts this arrangement persisted well into the nineteenth century. Country banking business then had a more intimate, personal flavour than in subsequent years.

In the Spruance house, the parlour was the banking room. There the directors met on Thursdays and there, especially on Thursdays, came the bank’s customers. When it became necessary to enlarge the house, near the turn of the century, this parlour was architecturally refurbished with a very handsome and up-to-date plaster cornice and with punch-and-gouge woodwork at the fireplace and elsewhere. The bedroom immediately overhead was let alone and still has the excellent panelling and woodwork originally put there.

The addition bulked much larger than the original house. Its roof, with two large dormers in the attic, is perceptibly higher than the roof of the older part. Also, at the east end is a low, one-storey wing whose doorway served as the entrance to the new structure.

In the big sitting-room of the addition, the mantel and other items plainly show that the Spruance banking family were conscious of the architectural trend of the day and responded to it. In another matter they were not quite so responsive to the spirit
John Cummins. Cummins house, Smyrna. circa 1820. An excellent example of "simplified Regency."
of the age. In the entrance room or hall of the addition, the fireplace opening is closed and in front of it is a small iron stove, of more or less Franklin type. Presley and Enoch Spruance, so the story goes, bought it in Philadelphia to try an experiment. They were sceptical about "those black stones called coal" and whether they "would really burn in it, as guaranteed." The stove remains where they put it.

Spruance descendants still own and occupy this house that grew.

CUMMINS HOUSE
Smyrna
East side of Main Street, north of Mount Vernon Street

The house known as the Cummins house in Smyrna was built by John Cummins about 1820. It is a two-storey-and-attic brick building of five bays, with a central hall, and two rooms deep. There is a commodious wing at the rear. At the right of the main house is a one-storey brick annex (once a separate and older structure but now joined to the main house) such as it was usual for lawyers and physicians to have attached to their homes, where they could attend to their professional work in complete privacy from the main house.

The brick masonry, laid in the running bond that was customarily employed in the early nineteenth century, is of noticeably excellent quality. Likewise, the exterior woodwork, at the doorway, with its four-centred arch and leaded fanlight; at the windows, and at the well-designed dormers, is characterised by delicate refinement.

Withindoors, the well-studied woodwork, and such panelling as was used at the time, exhibit the quiet dignity and restraint
that prevailed before the pretentious vagaries of the domestic Greek-Revival manner invaded the field. Also, the gratifying sense of amplitude in the hall, and in the rooms on each side of it, testifies an appreciation of just proportions on the part of the builder; an appreciation that vanished when the mania for domestic Greek-Revival design seized the American public.

The Cummins house is a striking example of what might be termed a "simplified Regency" manner, a type of design that combined much of the substantial quality of the late Middle-Georgian manner with a fresh element of the Graeco-Roman, Federal or Regency simplicity. It was a style that maintained a deserved popularity throughout the fore part of the twentieth century.

John Cummins, when he built his house, had become an eminently prosperous merchant. As one of the greatest grain merchants in Delaware, it was he who made Smyrna rank second only to Wilmington as a port.

When only a little over twenty, he entered a commercial establishment, of which he soon became the owner. Then he went into the grain business and managed it with such assiduity that his schooners plied to Wilmington, Philadelphia, New York and even to Boston, laden with grain, and returned to Smyrna with cargoes of manufactured goods. These goods Cummins had his agents convey in waggons to crossroads stores and towns in two States.

While successfully directing a widespread business, John Cummins also played an active part in public affairs. He was a member of the General Assembly for Kent County for five years, from 1816 to 1820, and, in 1820, was Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The little annex at the side of the house was his office.
Hoffacker house, near Clayton. Southwest from
Secrecy plain outside but contains fine woods.
Hoffecker House  

Just west of Clayton, on road to Millington; righthand side of road.

The Hoffecker house, just a little west of Clayton, on the road to Millington, is a two-storey- and-attic structure, three bays wide and one room deep. The house faces south. At the west side is a lower wing. Both the main house and the wing are built of brick, painted white. The Hoffecker house dates from about the middle of the eighteenth century.

The lower wing at the west side is set a little back from the front, and its roof is a simple slope upward to the west end wall of the main house. This single-slope roof arrangement may possibly be the result of a later alteration, made when some other small changes took place in the wing. From all interior indications, however, the wing was built at the same time as the main body of the house, where no changes have been made.

The only change made to the exterior of the main part of the house was the addition of a verandah extending across most of the front; its design plainly shows it was an "improvement" of the mid-nineteenth century.

The whole house is exceeding plain. There is no belt course across the front. There is a meagre and very small box cornice, and the thin, narrow barge-boards have only the slightest flare at their lower ends.

Considering the extreme plainness of the exterior, it is somewhat of a surprise to find excellent interior woodwork and panelling. Over the fireplace of the chief room, the "great room", there is a large, square dog-eared panel as a central
feature.

The plan of the house is pre-Georgian; the woodwork is Georgian. The plan, in fact, is an adaptation of the really late-Mediaeval "Resurrection Manor plan", already referred to in several other places, that came up from Maryland.

The "great room" (the nucleus), into which the central door of the south front opens, has the fireplace on the east side, with the stair winding up beside it to the bedrooms above. The one "added" room, not very large, accounts for the one window west of the front door. Beside its fireplace is a doorway, whence steps descend into a spacious kitchen that takes up the whole ground-floor space of the wing. It is obvious from the whole interior arrangement that the wing is co-eval with the rest of the house.

The plan shows the strong hold of pre-Georgian tradition in building the small farmhouse. In farmhouse design, the closed-in winding stair was a long time in giving way to the open stair with straight runs, rectangular treads and a banister, placed in a hall separate from other rooms.

The Hoffecker house is also significant as an example of the substantial and comfortable dwelling of the prosperous Kent County yeoman farmer in the eighteenth century.

Henry Hoffecker, the progenitor of the Hoffecker family in Kent County, came from Germany in the fore part of the eighteenth century. His descendants have been active in the industrial, the banking and the political life of Smyrna and Kent County ever since.
"Woodlawn,” since 1863 when the Creek temple-front was added to old brick
“Marris Recesses,” built by James Morris.
WOODLAWN

Woodlawn, at Smyrna, is the most successful piece of Greek-Revival "Temple-front" domestic architecture in Delaware. It is the Greekest in aspect of any of the houses in New Castle, Kent and Sussex that have been affected by Hellenistic treatment.

The word "treatment" is used advisedly, for nearly all the houses, whose exteriors bear the stamp of Greece, began life as something else. Greek-Revival "embellishment" has been applied as a process of "face-lifting."

Woodlawn was originally an eighteenth-century two-storey-and-attic brick house of five-bay width with central hall, one room deep, and a kitchen wing at the south side. In 1853, under a prevalent impulse of renovation and enlargement, the Greek-Revival "Temple-front" manner was called into service.

To the old brick west front (towards the Highway) were added two rooms of wooden structure, on both the ground and upper floors, to make the main body of the house two rooms deep, instead of one, as previously. The new façade was made of matched planking, painted white and sanded, incised with regularly-spaced lines an inch wide and nearly as deep, to simulate ashlar masonry in marble. This made an effective background for the wooden portico with its six fluted Doric columns, frieze with triglyphs and mutules, and the sweeping pediment.

In other words, to speak quite bluntly, the hexastyle Greek temple façade of Woodlawn is a false front put on to give an eighteenth-century structure a more imposing appearance than it

East side of du Pont Highway, about 1 mile south of Smyrna
formerly displayed to the passing world.

The little wing of matched boarding on the south side of the house is a masque to conceal the old brick kitchen wing, which is just behind it. The round-headed window, set in a countersunk panel with segmental-arched top, gives a lightening Regency touch to the composition. Incidentally, the dark pointed-top shutters, which coincide with neither the lines of the window nor the lines of the countersunk panel, are without archaeological precedent in a composition which relies upon archaeology for its effect.

Inside, both the two original rooms and the added rooms were appointed with marble mantels and with the woodwork in fashion at the date of rejuvenation. These cause no strong impression, one way or another. The strong impression comes from another source.

Upon entering, one becomes immediately conscious, uncomfortably so, of the complete difference in scale between exterior and interior. The scale outside is heroic, the scale inside is human. There is a conscious jolt of sensibility on passing suddenly from one to the other. It seems like sudden asphyxiation.

Even in many of the much-admired ante-bellum Greek-Revival temple-front plantation houses of the South, conflict in scale is often disturbing, although there was frequently an attempt to minimise it by making much larger and loftier rooms, with corresponding enlargement of window and door openings.

In the wave of Greek enthusiasm that swept the country, the would-be imitators of Greek building failed to grasp the inherent difference between monumental and domestic architecture. Admiration
for truly splendid modern examples of Greek monumental architecture blinded the domestic "Temple-fronters" to the facts that the Greeks didn't live in temple-fronted houses, and that monumental architecture is unsuitable for ordinary domestic use.

Furthermore, the "Temple-fronters" were oblivious to any consideration that taking a Greek temple as a pattern for a moderate-sized or small dwelling house was really perpetrating a parody on a worthy and honourable source of inspiration. Moreover, they failed to see the inconsistency of copying in wood, \[\text{and oftentimes flimsily}\], what the Greeks had invariably built massively of stone or marble.

Fortunately, able architects kept their heads and reared Greek-Revival buildings that would do credit to any age or country. But the "Temple-fronters", obsessed by the popular fad, persisted in tacking diminutive wooden temple-fronts to little two-storey frame structures. The Middle, North-Eastern and Middle Western States are full of them. It was really a reductio ad absurdum.

As already pointed out, Woodlawn is the most imposing example of Greek-Revival temple-fronted domestic architecture in Delaware. That is because its features are really Greek, \[\text{fluted columns, frieze, pediment are all correct in detail and in the manner of their use. It is what it set out to be}}\] and its exterior scale ensures becoming dignity. Other "more or less" Greek-Revival houses in Delaware exhibit such anomalies, for instance, as square panelled box-columns, without entasis, and with box capitals.

Until 1853, Woodlawn was a possession of the Morris family and was known as Morris Rambles. The land on which it stands was
originally patented to Thomas England by the Penn Government in 1709. In 1711, Thomas England and his wife Hannah sold the tract of 600 acres to James Morris for £67.10.0.

James Morris, born in Philadelphia in 1688, was the son of Anthony Morris by his first wife, Mary Jones. In 1716, the tract was re-surveyed and Penn's Commissioners patented it to James Morris. The tract was then designated Morris Rambles. James Morris built his brick house thereon in 1741-42. The brick barn he built in 1745.

The last Morris to own Morris Rambles was James Morris's great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Berry Morris. In 1853 she sold the property to her cousin, George Wilson Cummins.

Daniel Cummins, the progenitor of the family in Delaware, settled in Duck Creek Hundred early in the eighteenth century. The Cummins family had large landholdings in and around Smyrna.

A descendant, John Cummins (1777 - 1833), whose exceptional ability as a grain and shipping merchant built up a widely-extended business and made him a handsome fortune, built the Cummins house on Main Street in Smyrna, one of the finest "simplified Regency" houses in Delaware.

It was left for his son, George Wilson Cummins, to contract a virulent case of Greek-Revivalitis when he bought the Morris Rambles property from his cousin, Elizabeth Berry Morris, in 1853. He remodelled the house soon afterwards and re-named the place Woodlawn. Under the contagious impulse of the endemic architectural mania, he did the wrong thing, but he did it very well.
1. Belmont Hall, Smyrna. Southwest front showing railed deck on roof.

2. Belmont Hall, Rear or north side, showing two projecting wings of original structure.

3. Belmont Hall, Dining room in one of the original wings.

4. Belmont Hall - Parlour.
BELMONT HALL

About a half-mile south of Smyrna, on the east side of U.S. Route 13.

Belmont Hall is justly accounted one of the handsomest homes of colonial Delaware. The inscription on the roadside historical marker near the entrance is:

"Built on tract of land called 'Pearman's Choice'. Home of Thomas Collins, Brigadier General of Kent County Militia during Revolution and Governor of Delaware (1786-1789) who called State Convention in Dover which on December 7, 1787, was first to ratify the Federal Constitution, thus making Delaware the First State."

Approached by a straight driveway through the tall trees of a surrounding park, the stately Georgian brick house of three storeys faces southwest. The five-bay front is gabled, and the broad gable is topped by a railed deck. To the east, or rear, are two parallel brick wings of earlier date. Built in the latter part of the seventeenth century, these were the eastward projections from the co-eval structure that was demolished after the middle of the eighteenth century, to make way for the present western part of the house. To the west front displays all the elegance of the finest eighteenth-century creations; the eastern wings present a sharp contrast in their robust pre-Georgian simplicity.

On March 16, 1684, William Penn deeded 600 acres of land near Duck Creek to Henry Pearman. Pearman called his grant "Pearman's Choice". Soon after the land was granted the dwelling was built thereon, of which the two remaining eastern wings were parts.

Thomas Collins, who is credited with the present architectural aspect of Belmont Hall, was a man of substantial means
and public spirit, highly esteemed in the community. He was High Sheriff of Kent County in 1767 and was for four years a member of the Council. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War he was a member of the Council of Safety; he was a leading member of the first Delaware Constitutional Convention in 1776; he was Speaker of the Assembly in 1778; in 1779 he was State Senator from Kent; and from 1777 to 1783 he was Brigadier-General of Delaware State Militia.

On June 18, 1782, he was appointed Chief-Justice of the Court of Common Pleas and of the Orphans' Court. In 1786 he became the eighth President of the Delaware State by election of the General Assembly. During his Presidency Delaware promptly ratified the United States Constitution and became the "First State." Thomas Collins died March 29, 1789, during his term as President.

At the beginning of the Revolution, the Delaware Council of Safety was actively engaged in recruiting men for the State Militia. The Council agreed to give every private who enlisted:

"a Felt Hat, a pair of Yarn Stockings and a pair of Shoes, the Men to find their own Arms." Each man was to "be furnished with a Hunting Shirt not exceeding in value one and one third Dollars and a blanket, provided these could be procured, but not to be made part of the Terms of Enlistment."

Collins organised and helped finance a brigade of Militia and these militiamen caused him plenty of trouble. "A battalion of these rustics sent in 1777 to support Washington at Morristown, New Jersey, no sooner arrived there, after taking four weeks on the way, than they requested "the Commander-in-Chief to be allowed to go home! They "got so uneasy to return" that General Washington wrote Collins, January 21, 1777: 
"To my great surprise I was applied to this morning to discharge your Battalion. What service have they been of? None, unless marching from home, when they had nothing else to do, and staying four weeks on the way can be called service. If they would consider how ridiculous they will appear when they return without staying a week with me, they would continue here. This is probably the only time they will be needed to maintain our ground till the new Army is raised. For this purpose I hope they left home and surely they cannot think of deserting me at so important a time. Please mention these things to your Battalion. If they will not stay, tell them I cannot in justice to the States give them a discharge, and moreover, that I will not suffer them to draw pay for the time they have stayed. This measure being extremely disagreeable to me, I entreat you to use your utmost influence to prevail on your men to stay. On the contrary, should they go home, they will not only lose their pay, but remain the scoff of all their worthy neighbours."

Collins, it seems, was not at Morristown when the militiamen arrived there. He hastened to the scene and apparently was able to persuade the men to stay for active service.

In 1777 the State Council of Delaware met on one occasion at Belmont Hall because it seems to have been safer that the usual meeting place. By a special request from the Speaker or President of the Council, "requiring his attendance if consistent with the services he owed his chief," Collins himself had been recalled from the army under Washington.

No part of the State accessible by water was safe from hostile incursions when "British vessels could patrol Delaware Bay or when British emissaries and sympathisers [of whom there were many] could hold frequent communication with the shore, landing at night, and causing terror to the inhabitants."

To meet this insidious peril, it is said that Thomas Collins fortified his grounds with a stockade and posted a sentry on the
railed deck atop the house. One dark night a marauder crept up to the house and shot the sentry on the roof. The wounded man dragged himself to a room below and died in a pool of blood. The blood stains are still visible. To commemorate this tragedy, the Elizabeth Cook Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, have placed a tablet in the hall, to the right of the door on entering.

In 1827 John Cloak bought Belmont Hall from William Collins, grandson of Thomas Collins. From John Cloak's daughter, Cummins Speakman's mother, a descendant of the earlier owners, Belmont Hall, 1867, came by inheritance to Mrs. Carrie E. P. Speakman, and has been in possession of the Speakman family ever since.

GARRISON HOUSE
On east side of Route 13, at Garrison's Pond

Good two-storey-and-attic brick house, with date, 1774, in black headers on west gable end. Good interior woodwork.

FORMER PRESBYTERIAN MANSE

Plain brick two-storey-and-attic brick house; early nineteenth century.

LOCKWOOD HOUSE or BARRACKS
On west side of Main Street south of Mt. Vernon, in Smyrna

A long two-storey brick building, much altered. Said to have been used as militia barracks in War of 1812.
COOPER HOUSE

Kenton

Late eighteenth-century two-storey-and-attic brick house, at northeast corner of 300 and 42. In good condition; excellent woodwork and panelling.

LOWBER HOUSE

Magnolia

East side of Main Street, north of intersection with cross street, Magnolia.

Brick house built in 1774 for Matthew Lowber; good brick work but has been painted. Frame section added about 1855.

THARP HOUSE

Farmington

At northern edge of Farmington, on west side of Route 13.

Built c. 1835 by William Tharp, thirty-sixth Governor of Delaware (1847-1851). Part brick and part frame.

TORBERT HOUSE

Milford

Southwest corner of North Walnut and Second Streets, Milford.

Square brick house, painted yellow; c. 1825. Third floor added later. Former home of Major-General Alfred T. A. Torbert.

SOMERVILLE

Kent County

Righthand side of road between Cheswold and Kenton

A two-storey-and-attic, five-bay Georgian brick house. c. 1800. Exterior painted brown and much Victorianised. Interior has good woodwork and admirable panelling. In one of bedrooms, a landscape painted in large dog-eared overmantel panel. Former home of Chancellor Ridgely until he moved to Eden Hill.
TIMOTHY CUMMINS FARM

Left side of Smyrna-Leipsic Road, going east from Smyrna

A two-storey-and-attic, five-bay Georgian brick house, c. 1800, or a little earlier. Excellent Flemish-bond masonry, with belt course, and moulded topping to water-table. Notably good interior woodwork and excellent panelling. Occupied by tenant-farmers.

BONWELL HOUSE

Southwest from Frederica on Route 12 to a Y junction with side road. Right on this road to edge of Andrews Lake.

Three-bay, two-storey-and-attic eighteenth-century brick house in good condition. In the eighteenth century, it is said, "Quaker Bonwell", in a fit of rage killed a negro lad working in his tannery. For a long time after Bonwell's death, an apparition believed to haunt the spot, the Old Long Dog, with body as long as a fence rail, great bushy tail and flaming red eyes, terrified the neighbourhood.

THE LINDENS

At Duck Creek Crossroads, in Duck Creek Hundred

Miller's house at Denny Mill on Duck Creek, built before 1765. Several log houses covered with weatherboarding nearby.

HOUSE ON GAME PRESERVE

East from Smyrna on Route 6 to Route 9; Left on Route 9 (before extension of 6 to Woodland Beach) to first road on right.

Three-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick house painted white, c. 1750. Good panelling and woodwork.