NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name _____

other names/site number Hart, H. Spencer and Joyce W. Property

2. Location

street & number North side of Route 24 between Love Creek and Tanglewood Dr. ☐ not for publication

city or town Lewes ☒ vicinity

state Delaware code DE county Sussex code 005 zip code 19958

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
7		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT
VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Vernacular I-House

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Aluminum siding
roof Asphalt shingles
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1880; 1912

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other
Name of repository:
McCormick Taylor, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Hart, H. Spencer and Joyce W. Property
Name of Property

Sussex County, Delaware
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.68

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	786551	2225341	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lara Otis/Historic Preservation Specialist

organization McCormick Taylor date January 2004

street & number 2001 Market St., 10th Floor telephone 215-592-4200

city or town Philadelphia state PA zip code 19103

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name H. Spencer and Joyce W. Hart (trustees)

street & number 20248 John J. Williams Highway

city or town Lewes state DE zip code 19958

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Hart, H. Spencer and Joyce W. Property
Sussex County, Delaware

Description

This two-story dwelling with various outbuildings is located on the northwest side of John J. Williams Highway (Route 24) between Love Creek and Tanglewood Drive in Lewes and Rehoboth Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. The main house is set back from Route 24 and is composed of a side-gabled front section with a two-story front-gabled addition to the rear (west) façade and various one-story shed-roofed additions to the rear portion. Scattered to the rear of the house are six outbuildings of varying sizes and materials, with no discernible pattern of arrangement. The property is currently vacant, and the buildings are deteriorating to various degrees.

Both of the two-story portions of the house have steeply pitched roofs with overhanging eaves, covered with asphalt shingles. The front portion has a brick chimney centered in the ridge, while the rear portion has a brick chimney protruding from the ridge west of center. The walls are covered with aluminum siding, and the windows have two-over-two double-hung sash; some panes are broken. The main (east) façade of the front portion has a one-story, shed-roofed porch that is rendered largely invisible due to the shielding of two large trees.

Three one-story, shed-roofed additions are found on the rear portion of the house, one on each open façade. On the north façade is an enclosed porch, with multiple tall four-light windows. On the west façade is a small one-room addition with one window with two-over-two double-hung sash; it is covered with the same siding as the main portions of the house. On the south façade is a later addition with windows with one-over-one double-hung sash; this entrance contains a secondary entrance on its south façade and is also covered with the same siding as the main portions of the house.

Located closely adjacent to the southwest corner of the house are two gable-roofed outbuildings. The building closest to the house is significantly smaller than the neighboring outbuilding. It is entered via a wood door on the east end of the north façade; on the same façade in the gable end is a louvered ventilation opening. This structure is covered with asphalt shingles and has an asphalt shingle roof. The neighboring outbuilding is a larger concrete block structure, also with an asphalt shingle roof. The north façade of this building is vertical wood with sliding doors, probably recycled from a barn.

The westernmost outbuilding on the property is the most recent. It is a metal building with a side-gable roof of standing seam metal and a shed-roofed addition running the length of the east façade.

To the northeast, moving back toward the main house, is a shed-roofed building that likely functioned as a chicken house.

Hart, H. Spencer and Joyce W. Property
Sussex County, Delaware

Description (continued)

Again to the northeast is a large barn with a side-gable roof, vertical wood siding, and a shed-roofed addition to the east façade to shelter machinery. This building is extremely deteriorated, and portions of the roof have fallen in.

At the center of the grouping of outbuildings, off the northwest corner of the main house, is a small gable-roofed corncrib. This structure is composed of vertical wood atop a block foundation.

Statement of Significance

The H. Spencer and Joyce W. Hart Property is significant under Criterion C as an example of agricultural housing and development in Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. The house is a good example of vernacular farm housing in the region, and it and the attendant outbuildings show the evolution of farm housing and related buildings in the area. The property no longer maintains associated farmland, and therefore does not fully illustrate the continuing trends of agricultural development (Criterion A) as well as the architecture itself does. The property is not known to be affiliated with any persons important to local, state or national history (Criterion B). Owing to prior ground disturbance, there is little probability that new information will result from any archaeological testing performed in the vicinity of the property (Criterion D). Much of the surrounding land has become occupied with tract housing, which affects the integrity of setting, feeling, and association. However, this property, while it is deteriorating due to being vacant and does not retain a large parcel with active farmland, does retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and location, and is a visible reminder of the agricultural past in the region. The Period of Significance for this resource is the approximate time of its construction and major additions, c. 1880 and 1912.

Physical evidence suggests that the H. Spencer and Joyce W. Hart Property was likely constructed c. 1880, and according to a state survey form the rear gable wing was added in 1912, with the lean-to additions after that. The outbuildings vary in style and date; this combined with their relatively random pattern of placement serves to illustrate the evolution of this farmstead over time. The northernmost outbuilding, a small multi-use barn, appears to be the oldest. The two outbuildings directly behind the house, the chicken house, and the corncrib probably date to the early twentieth century; the westernmost outbuilding, a metal barn, is the most recent and probably dates to the mid-twentieth century. This variety of age and use is an indication of the changes in agricultural practices in Baltimore Hundred over the course of the twentieth century and the effect of new trends in agriculture such as the development of truck farming and the commercial broiler industry during this time period (all outbuildings are contributing features).

Hart, H. Spencer and Joyce W. Property
Sussex County, Delaware

Statement of Significance (continued)

The H. Spencer and Joyce W. Hart Property represents the eras of industrialization and early urbanization. The agricultural complex and vernacular I-house are typical forms of housing seen during this time in Baltimore Hundred. These agricultural complexes were usually composed of a farmstead with one or more dwellings on the property, along with yards, gardens, fences, ditches, wells, and other standing "domestic and agricultural outbuildings" (De Cunzo & Garcia, pp. 234-5). I-houses, usually found on agricultural complexes, are two and one-half stories in height, one or two rooms deep, three to five bays in width, and feature a side-gable roofline. While the I-house existed in pre-railroad America, especially in regions of the Tidewater South where traditional British folk forms persisted, rail lines helped provide cheap, plentiful lumber to areas once limited by water transportation routes, which helped continue the popularity of the familiar, side-gable house form (McAlester, p. 96). Railroads also helped disseminate changing stylistic trends and urban news to the rural inhabitants of Baltimore Hundred. Affluent local farmers could now add stylistic details to make their simple, side-gabled dwellings appear fashionable, as they were no longer restricted exclusively to local building materials and customs (McAlester, pp. 96, 89). Existing I-houses were altered during the post-railroad era to include front and side porches, chimneys, and rearward ell extensions (McAlester, p. 96).

Significant changes in agriculture during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries included the development of the canning industry, truck farming, and the commercial broiler chicken industry. The canning industry started in the Delmarva region around 1840 (Doerrfeld, p. 1). Initially, the canning of fruits such as peaches dominated the fledgling industry. By the 1870s and 1880s, the advent of new technology such as large pressure cookers (retorts), coupled with the mechanized harvest of crops, led to a boom of diversification in the canning industry (Doerrfeld, p. 11). Canneries significantly altered the structure of Delaware's agricultural economy, controlling almost a tenth of the state's productive farmland and the lives of thousands of workers (Doerrfeld, p. 1). In 1890 alone, almost 6,000 acres of land in Sussex County was devoted strictly to cultivating tomatoes (Hancock, p. 100). During the early twentieth century, the advent and affordability of the automobile, coupled with an improved highway system, prompted the development of truck farming. Paved roadways facilitated the timely transport of perishable fruits such as strawberries to urban markets, along with poultry. Delaware was centrally located in what was known as the "Middle Atlantic Trucking Region" during the 1920s; this corridor exceeded 900 miles and extended from the coast of Maine southward to the Low Country of South Carolina (Doerrfeld, p. 11). The corridor averaged only 50 miles in width, and owed its existence to three factors: the string of large cities and towns situated on the east coast which served as ready markets, soils ideally suited for the cultivation of fruits and vegetables, and the "mild, semi-marine climate, having long frost-free seasons" due to the regulating effects of the Atlantic Ocean (Doerrfeld, p. 11). In 1924, the du Pont Highway (or U.S. Route 13 and U.S. Route 113) was constructed; this roadway functioned as a vital north-south transportation artery for the state and further enhanced Delaware's truck farming economy (Williams, p. 112; Federal Writers' Project, p.

Hart, H. Spencer and Joyce W. Property
Sussex County, Delaware

Statement of Significance (continued)

81). Railroad lines passing through the region to the west, coupled with the expansion of paved highways in the twentieth century also promoted growth of the egg and poultry industries (Collins & Eby, p. 207). Broiler chicken production rose to unprecedented levels during this time period, and was a savior for the local and state economy during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

While Cecile Long Steele, a housewife from Ocean View, is credited with having "created" the broiler chicken industry in Baltimore Hundred in 1923, the industry had started on a much smaller scale several years earlier. By c. 1917, "virtually every farm wife had her flock of laying hens" to augment family income (Collins & Eby, p. 207). By 1928, Delaware's annual poultry production grew from "two million broilers [in 1928] to sixty million in 1944" (Williams, p. 121). The broiler chicken industry prompted many downstate farmers to expand their field acreage of corn and also start cultivating drought-resistant soybeans for chicken feed (Williams, p. 122). The move to broilers also meant a decrease in truck farming in many areas, and the decreased profitability of canning operations in the region (Williams, p. 122).

Although the average farm size declined in Sussex County (from an average of 123 acres in 1880 to an average of 78 acres in 1930) along with the percentage of land used for farming activities, many farmers were able to take advantage of agricultural and technological changes and increase their own revenues (Callahan, n.pag.; Herman & Lanier, p. 7). Tenant farming increased during this period as well, with "over 50% of Delaware's farmers being tenants or sharecroppers" around 1900 (De Cunzo & Garcia, p. 31). High levels of farm tenancy continued throughout the region well into the twentieth century (De Cunzo & Garcia, p. 31). With this monetary windfall, many larger Baltimore Hundred farmers constructed new family farmhouses and agricultural outbuildings, altered their existing homes, or moved older housing stock to their properties for tenant residences.

The H. Spencer and Joyce W. Hart Property with its variety of outbuildings, illustrates the changing nature and evolution of Sussex County agriculture, and the resulting flexibility of local farming practices and architecture as dictated by regional trends.

Hart, H. Spencer and Joyce W. Property
Sussex County, Delaware

Bibliography

Callahan, Mary Helen, Rebecca Siders & Susan Mulchahey. *The National Register and Baltimore Hundred.* Newark, DE: Center for Historic Architecture and Design, University of Delaware, 1990.

Collins, Mary & Evelyn Eby. *140 Years of Rainbows: A Book about Mariner's Bethel United Methodist Church and the Local Area.* Dover, DE: Dover Litho Printing Company, 1998.

De Cunzo, Lu Ann & Ann Marie Garcia. *"Neither A Desert Nor A Paradise": Historic Context for the Archaeology of Agriculture and Rural Life, Sussex County, Delaware, 1770-1940.* Newark, DE: University of Delaware, Department of Anthropology, Center for Archaeological Research. Prepared for the Delaware Department of State, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, State Historic Preservation Office, August 1993.

Doerrfeld, Dean, David L. Ames & Rebecca J. Siders. *The Canning Industry in Delaware, 1860-1940 +/-: A Historic Context.* Newark, DE: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware, June 1993.

Federal Writers' Project. *Delaware: A Guide to the First State.* Compiled and written by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of Delaware, American Guide Series, Sponsored by Edward W. Cooch, Lieutenant Governor. New York, NY: The Viking Press, 1938.

Hancock, Harold B. *Delaware Two Hundred Years Ago: 1780-1800.* Wilmington, DE: The Middle Atlantic Press, 1987.

Lanier, Gabrielle & Bernard L. Herman. *A Field Guide to Delaware Architecture.* Newark, DE: University of Delaware. Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, 1992.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000.

Williams, William Henry. *Delaware: The First State.* American Historical Press, 1999.

Hart, H. Spencer and Joyce W. Property
Sussex County, Delaware

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the H. Spencer and Joyce W. Hart Property follows Sussex County, Delaware tax parcel 3-34-18-4.

Boundary Justification

In accordance with "National Register Bulletin: Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties" (Revised 1997), consideration was given to the distribution of resources, current legal boundaries, historic boundaries, natural features, and cultural features. The boundary includes the entire tax parcel (3-34-18-4) currently associated with the dwelling and its related outbuildings.

Photo 1: Side (north) façade and outbuildings, looking southwest from adjacent property.

Photo 2: Looking south from rear yard at rear ell addition.

Photo 3: Lateral view, front (east) and side (south) facades, and outbuildings, looking north from side yard.

Photo 4: Context overview of outbuildings, looking north/northwest from driveway.

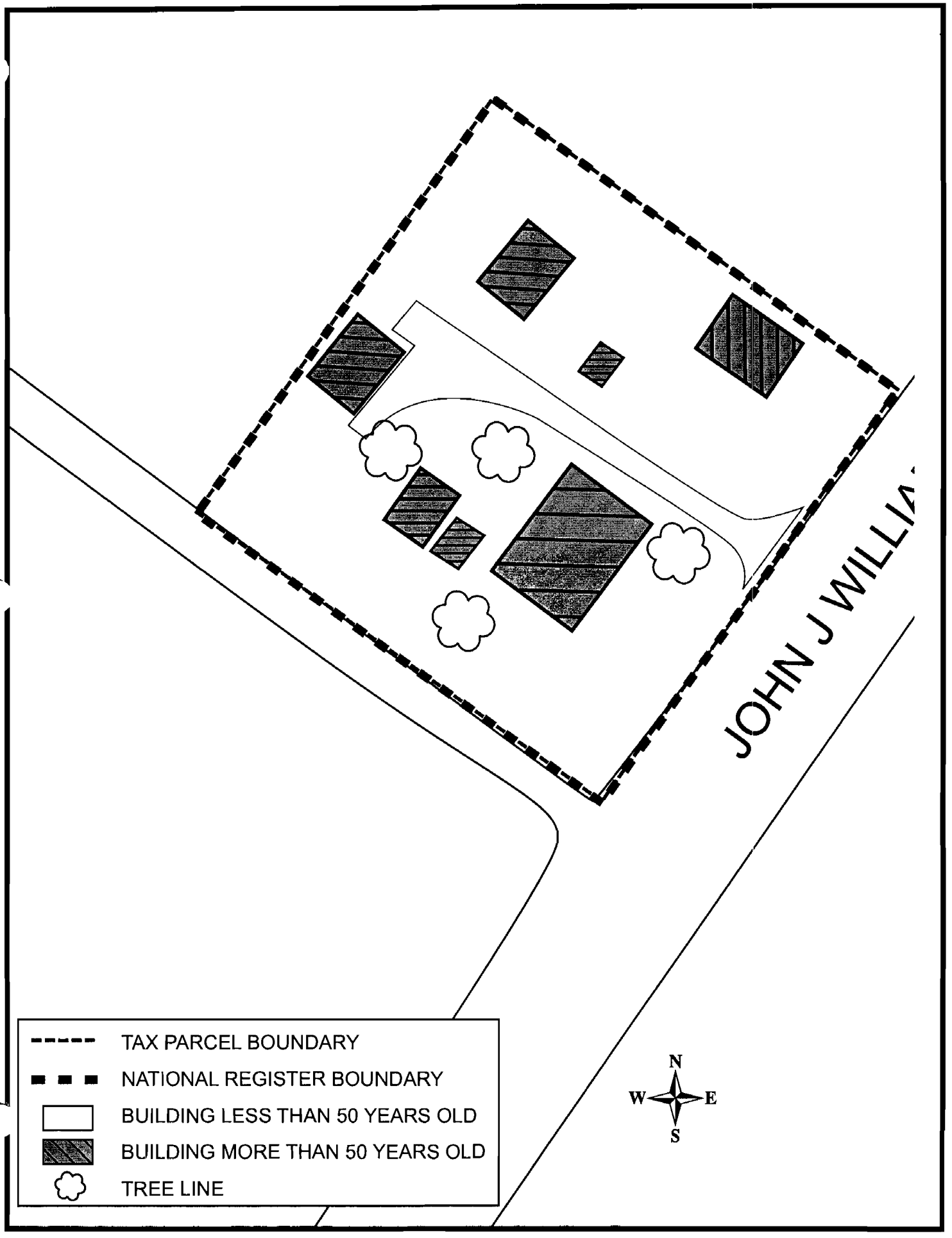
Photographer: Jennifer M. Holl
Date: January 16, 2003

Photo 5: Detail of front façade of barn located northwest of dwelling, looking northeast.

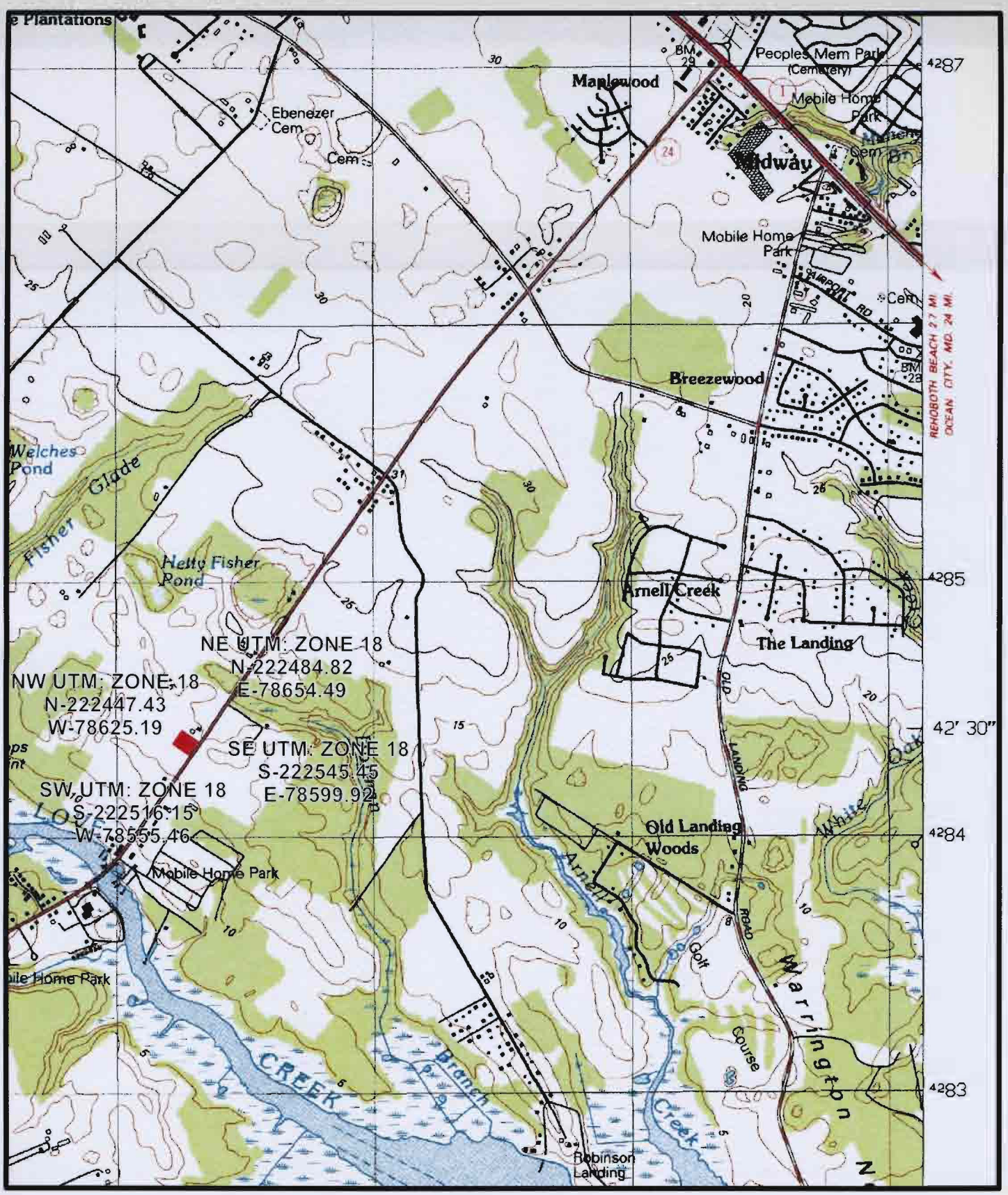
Photo 6: Looking west/northwest from driveway at context of outbuildings.

Photographer: Jennifer M. Holl
Date: January 16, 2003

Hart, H. Spencer and Joyce W. Property



Hart, H. Spencer and Joyce W. Property



Sussex County, DE

Fairmount Quadrangle
1992

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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1. Name of Property

historic name _____

other names/site number Powell, Wallace and Anna Christina Property

2. Location

street & number West side of Route 24 north of Tanglewood Drive ☐ not for publication

city or town Lewes ☒ vicinity

state Delaware code DE county Sussex code 005 zip code 19958

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Powell, Wallace and Anna Christina Property
Name of Property

Sussex County, Delaware
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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7		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
7		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: vernacular I-House

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Asbestos shingles
roof Asphalt shingles
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

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(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

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Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1880

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other
Name of repository:
McCormick Taylor, Philadelphia, PA 19 03

Powell, Wallace and Anna Christina Property
Name of Property

Sussex County, Delaware
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.77

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	789733	2227399	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lara Otis/Historic Preservation Specialist

organization McCormick Taylor date January 2004

street & number 2001 Market St., 10th Floor telephone 215-592-4200

city or town Philadelphia state PA zip code 19103

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Wallace and Anna Christine Powell

street & number 70 Possum Point Road telephone

city or town Millsboro state DE zip code 19966

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Powell, Wallace and Anna Christina Property
Sussex County, Delaware

Description

This gable ell structure with various associated outbuildings is located on the north side of Route 24 in Lewes & Rehoboth Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. The two main portions of the structure are two stories and have steeply pitched gables with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter ends with tail cuts; additions are shed-roofed. All roofs are covered with asphalt shingle, and a brick chimney is located at the south end of the side-facing gable. The front (east) façade has a one-story porch addition with contiguous two-pane windows. The windows on the main portions of the house predominately have two-over-two and one-over-one double-hung sash, but in three of the four gable ends are two evenly spaced four-light windows, and one replacement window on the second story near the re-entrant angle has six-over-six double-hung sash. Extending from the re-entrant angle around the majority of the west façade is a one-story addition with two secondary entrances. This addition has a concrete foundation, concrete block chimney, and echoes the main portion of the house with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters.

The outbuildings are arranged roughly in a rectangle and located east of the residence, clustered past the end of a driveway. Located slightly southeast of the residence is a large one-story, front-gable outbuilding with vertical board siding. The use of this structure is unclear. Moving to the east, the next structure is a one-story building with a side gable and a shed-roofed addition to the east façade. This appears to be a storage building. The easternmost outbuilding is a large, two-story barn with a standing seam metal roof, vertical board siding, and flanking shed-roofed additions. In the front-facing gable end is a window with six-over-one double-hung sash. Immediately adjacent to the northwest is another barn with a two-story central portion and flanking one-story additions to house machinery. Off the northeast corner of the main residence is a small front-gabled outbuilding with metal walls and roof. To the southwest of the metal outbuilding is another front-gabled outbuilding with a shed-roofed addition to the north façade.

Statement of Significance

The Powell Property is significant under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a good example of a vernacular Sussex County farmhouse with supporting outbuildings. The property no longer maintains associated farmland, and therefore does not fully illustrate the continuing trends of agricultural development (Criterion A) as well as the architecture itself does. The property is not known to be affiliated with any persons important to local, state or national history (Criterion B). Owing to prior ground disturbance, there is little probability that new information will result from any archaeological testing performed in the vicinity of the property (Criterion D). While the house has some additions and changes to its fenestration that affect its integrity of materials and workmanship, its overall integrity of design is still easily understandable. The house and outbuildings remain in their original pattern and therefore retain integrity of location, setting, feeling, and

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Statement of Significance (continued)

association, in spite of the fact that much of the surrounding land has become occupied with tract housing. This property remains a visible reminder of the agricultural past in the region. The Period of Significance for this resource is the approximate time of its construction, c. 1880.

Physical evidence suggests that the Powell Property was likely constructed c. 1880. According to a state survey form completed in 1979, the property formerly contained 10 outbuildings, described in that form as follows: one gable roof shed with vertical board walls; one shed with a gable roof, lean-to on the north side, high block foundation, and vertical board and batten walls; two large modern gable roof barns; two large granaries, both with corrugated metal roofs and lean-tos on each side; two small corn crib-size sheds with gable roofs with lean-tos on each side; long rectangular shed with lean-to roof; and chicken coop with asymmetrical roof of corrugated metal with vertical board walls with vertical battens (S-1005 Delaware Cultural Resource Survey Structural Data Form CRS-1, completed October 1979). Today, six of these outbuildings remain; although some have been lost, the remaining buildings in their pattern of arrangement, style, and relation to the main house, still convey the sense of a Sussex County farm and illustrate its development over time (all outbuildings are contributing features).

The Powell Property represents the eras of industrialization and early urbanization. The agricultural complex and vernacular I-house are typical forms of housing seen during this time in Baltimore Hundred. These agricultural complexes were usually composed of a farmstead with one or more dwellings on the property, along with yards, gardens, fences, ditches, wells, and other standing "domestic and agricultural outbuildings" (De Cunzo & Garcia, pp. 234-5). I-houses, usually found on agricultural complexes, are two and one-half stories in height, one or two rooms deep, three to five bays in width, and feature a side-gable roofline. While the I-house existed in pre-railroad America, especially in regions of the Tidewater South where traditional British folk forms persisted, rail lines helped provide cheap, plentiful lumber to areas once limited by water transportation routes, which helped continue the popularity of the familiar, side-gable house form (McAlester, p. 96). Railroads also helped disseminate changing stylistic trends and urban news to the rural inhabitants of Baltimore Hundred. Affluent local farmers could now add stylistic details to make their simple, side-gabled dwellings appear fashionable, as they were no longer restricted exclusively to local building materials and customs (McAlester, pp. 96, 89). Existing I-houses were altered during the post-railroad era to include front and side porches, chimneys, and rearward ell extensions (McAlester, p. 96).

Significant changes in agriculture during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries included the development of the canning industry, truck farming, and the commercial broiler chicken industry. The canning industry started in the Delmarva region around 1840 (Doerrfeld, p. 1). Initially, the canning of fruits such as peaches dominated

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Statement of Significance (continued)

the fledgling industry. By the 1870s and 1880s, the advent of new technology such as large pressure cookers (retorts), coupled with the mechanized harvest of crops, led to a boom of diversification in the canning industry (Doerrfeld, p. 11). Canneries significantly altered the structure of Delaware's agricultural economy, controlling almost a tenth of the state's productive farmland and the lives of thousands of workers (Doerrfeld, p. 1). In 1890 alone, almost 6,000 acres of land in Sussex County was devoted strictly to cultivating tomatoes (Hancock, p. 100). During the early twentieth century, the advent and affordability of the automobile, coupled with an improved highway system, prompted the development of truck farming. Paved roadways facilitated the timely transport of perishable fruits such as strawberries to urban markets, along with poultry. Delaware was centrally located in what was known as the "Middle Atlantic Trucking Region" during the 1920s; this corridor exceeded 900 miles and extended from the coast of Maine southward to the Low Country of South Carolina (Doerrfeld, p. 11). The corridor averaged only 50 miles in width, and owed its existence to three factors: the string of large cities and towns situated on the east coast which served as ready markets, soils ideally suited for the cultivation of fruits and vegetables, and the "mild, semi-marine climate, having long frost-free seasons" due to the regulating effects of the Atlantic Ocean (Doerrfeld, p. 11). In 1924, the du Pont Highway (or U.S. Route 13 and U.S. Route 113) was constructed; this roadway functioned as a vital north-south transportation artery for the state and further enhanced Delaware's truck farming economy (Williams, p. 112; Federal Writers' Project, p. 81). Railroad lines passing through the region to the west, coupled with the expansion of paved highways in the twentieth century also promoted growth of the egg and poultry industries (Collins & Eby, p. 207). Broiler chicken production rose to unprecedented levels during this time period, and was a savior for the local and state economy during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

While Cecile Long Steele, a housewife from Ocean View, is credited with having "created" the broiler chicken industry in Baltimore Hundred in 1923, the industry had started on a much smaller scale several years earlier. By c. 1917, "virtually every farm wife had her flock of laying hens" to augment family income (Collins & Eby, p. 207). By 1928, Delaware's annual poultry production grew from "two million broilers [in 1928] to sixty million in 1944" (Williams, p. 121). The broiler chicken industry prompted many downstate farmers to expand their field acreage of corn and also start cultivating drought-resistant soybeans for chicken feed (Williams, p. 122). The move to broilers also meant a decrease in truck farming in many areas, and the decreased profitability of canning operations in the region (Williams, p. 122).

Although the average farm size declined in Sussex County (from an average of 123 acres in 1880 to an average of 78 acres in 1930) along with the percentage of land used for farming activities, many farmers were able to take advantage of agricultural and technological changes and increase their own revenues (Callahan, n.pag.; Herman & Lanier, p. 7). Tenant farming increased during this period as well, with "over 50% of Delaware's

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Statement of Significance (continued)

farmers being tenants or sharecroppers" around 1900 (De Cunzo & Garcia, p. 31). High levels of farm tenancy continued throughout the region well into the twentieth century (De Cunzo & Garcia, p. 31). With this monetary windfall, many larger Baltimore Hundred farmers constructed new family farmhouses and agricultural outbuildings, altered their existing homes, or moved older housing stock to their properties for tenant residences.

The Powell Property with its variety of outbuildings, illustrates the changing nature and evolution of Sussex County agriculture, and the resulting flexibility of local farming practices and architecture as dictated by regional trends.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Powell Property follows Sussex County, Delaware tax parcel 3-34-18-40.02.

Boundary Justification

In accordance with "National Register Bulletin: Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties" (Revised 1997), consideration was given to the distribution of resources, current legal boundaries, historic boundaries, natural features, and cultural features. The boundary includes the entire tax parcel (3-34-18-40.02) currently associated with the dwelling and its related outbuildings.

Photo 1: Lateral view, front (east) and side (north) facades, looking northwest from Rt. 24.

Photo 2: Lateral view, front (east) and side (south) facades, looking north from driveway.

Photographer: Jennifer M. Holl
Date: January 16, 2003

Photo 3: Looking east from end of driveway at side ell and enclosed porch.

Photo 4: Context overview of outbuildings, looking northwest from driveway.

Photo 5: Context overview of outbuildings, looking northwest from driveway.

Photo 6: Looking south at shed and rear ell of house.

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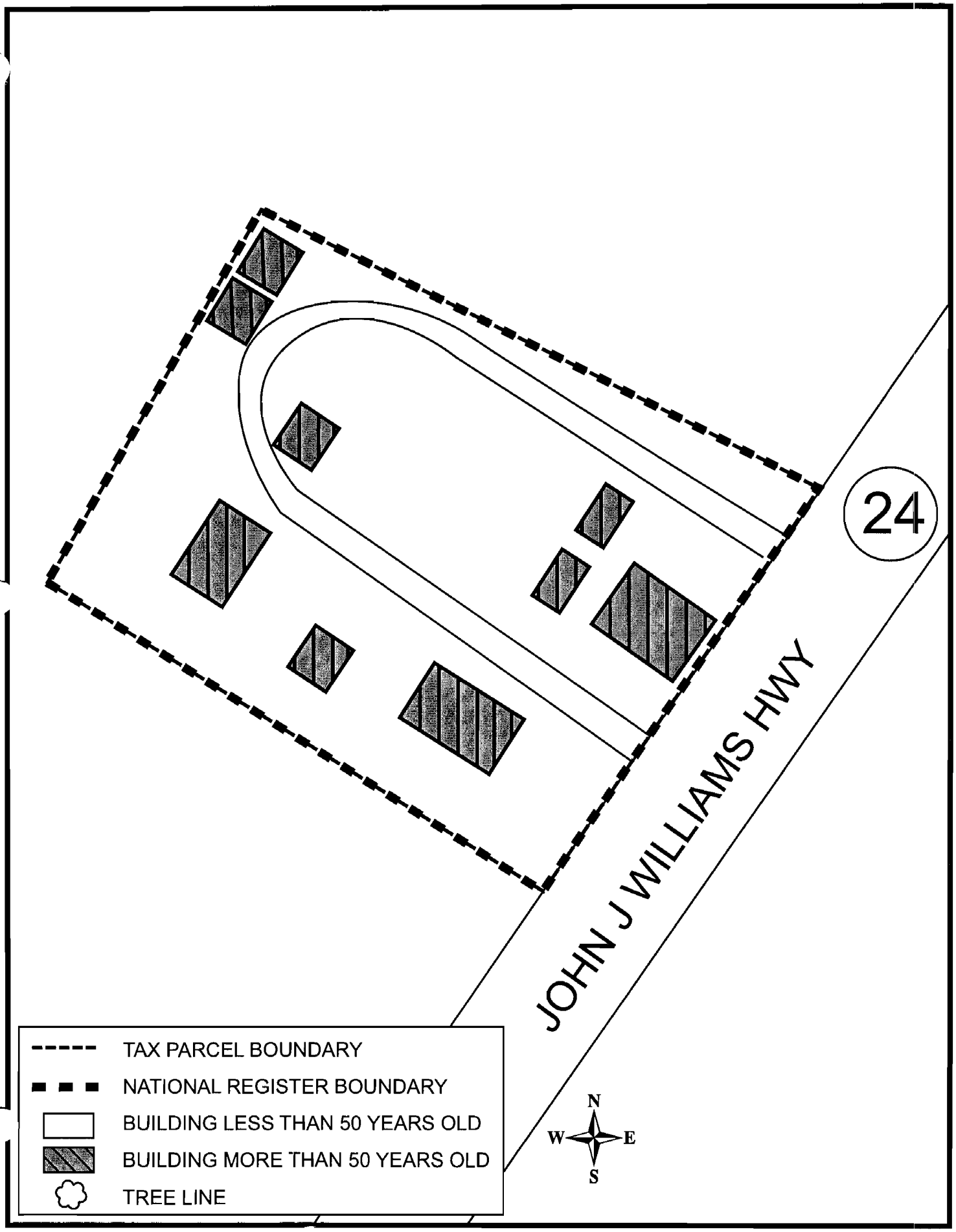

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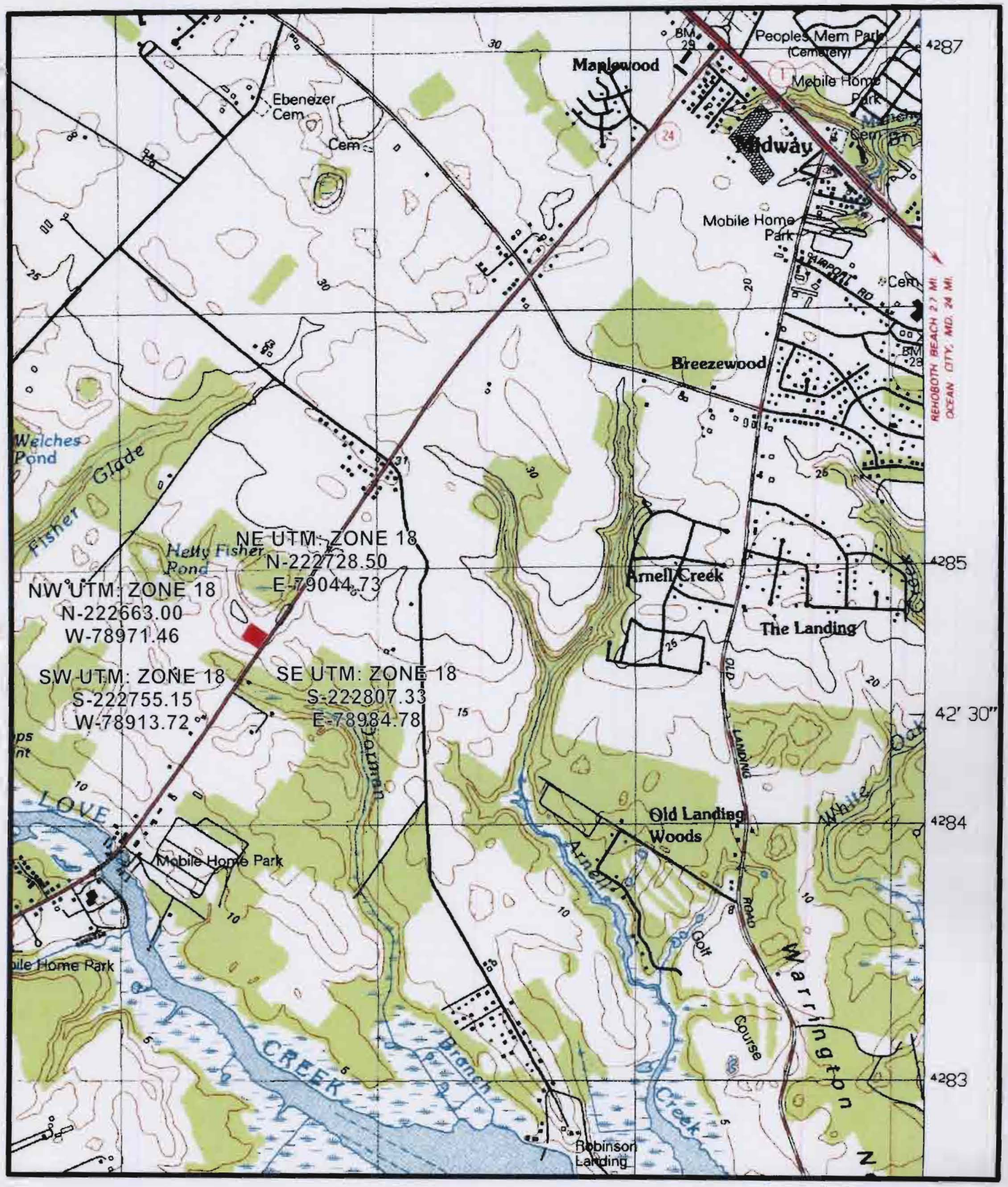

Sussex County, DE

Fairmount Quadrangle
1992