

**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 Wolf, Grace D., House/S-9119

**2. Location**

street & number 338 Atlantic Avenue (Route 26)  not for publication

city or town Millville  vicinity

state Delaware code DE county Sussex code 005 zip code 19967

**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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

OTHER: knee wall

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK: clinker brick

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

**Narrative Description**

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

See Continuation Sheets

**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)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

c. 1850; c. 1941

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Builder: Harry Dukes, per owner

**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 & Associates, Inc.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 0.6 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 60786 226436  
Zone Easting Northing

3           
Zone Easting Northing

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 & Associates, Inc. date July 2003 (Revised December 2003)

street & number 2001 Market St., 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Grace D. Wolf

street & number 338 Atlantic Avenue telephone   

city or town Millville state DE zip code 19970

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Grace D. Wolf House      Sussex County, Delaware

**Description**

The Grace D. Wolf House (Tax Parcel 1-34-12-363.00; S-9119) is a two and one-half story, seven-bay, clinker brick, Colonial Revival dwelling with an asphalt-shingle side-gable roof. The main (north) façade features a central single-leaf entrance with a paneled wood and glazed door, fluted pilasters, and an arch-head surround. Wood sash 6/6 windows flank the entrance; the second floor features seven bays of the same window. The east façade has a one-story enclosed porch with decorative wrought iron covering the corner piers, a flat roof, and a Chinese latticework wood balustrade. The second floor has two wood sash 6/6 windows whereas the gable peak has two wood four-light windows. The west façade has two wood sash 6/6 windows on the first and second floors and two smaller openings in the gable peak—one with four lights and one infilled with a louvered vent. There is a rear ell of the same material with similar fenestration and an exterior brick chimney at its southern end. This dwelling is exceptionally large in scale when compared to other, more modest dwellings seen along this portion of the Route 26 corridor. The house is set back approximately fifty feet from Route 26 on a lightly wooded lot; scattered residential buildings and fields surround the property.

To the south of the main building is a one and one-half story, two-bay, clinker brick garage with an asphalt-shingle front-gable roof and a wood cornice with a partial return. The main (east) façade has two vehicular entrances with paneled metal roll-down doors; there is a wood sash 6/6 window in the gable peak. The north façade has a single-leaf entrance with a flush door. Based on a similar physical appearance to the main house, this vehicular garage was likely constructed c. 1941.

A brick and concrete knee wall is seen north of the driveway entry and east of the dwelling, facing Dukes Drive. This retaining wall was likely constructed during the second half of the twentieth century.

Per an oral interview (May 2002) with the current homeowner, Grace D. Wolf, her father, Harry Dukes, renovated the house in 1941. Previously, the house was a duplex, shared by her family and several widow aunts. According to Grace Wolf, her grandfather from Bayard, Delaware, originally built the dwelling, *circa* 1850. In 1941, her father, Harry Dukes, tore the building down to its wood frame, moved the dwelling south approximately 12 feet, and re-constructed the entire building of clinker brick. Harry Dukes also built the filling station across Dukes Drive and Route 26 that is now by Dietrick's One Stop Art Shop. The clinker brick exterior on the Wolf residence is similar to that shared by Dietrick's One Stop Art Shop and the nearby Ralph H. and Geraldine B. West House.

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Section number 8 Page 2

**Grace D. Wolf House**      **Sussex County, Delaware**

**Statement of Significance**

The Grace D. Wolf House is significant under Criterion C as a relatively intact example of Colonial Revival architecture and clinker brick construction along the Route 26 corridor in Sussex County, Delaware. The Period of Significance for this dwelling is c. 1850, when the dwelling was initially constructed, and c. 1941, when it was moved and renovated. As such, the garage is a contributing element, since it appears to have been constructed c. 1941. The knee wall north of the vehicular entry off Dukes Drive is not a contributing feature because it appears to have been constructed at a later time. The dwelling retains both integrity and significance. Although the dwelling was originally constructed c. 1850 as an I-house, since it was moved and almost entirely reconstructed, it derives its primary significance from its post-move Colonial Revival styling and clinker brick construction. The dwelling illustrates integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, feeling, and association, without modern unsympathetic additions to the façade. The Grace D. Wolf House is not known to be associated with an event of import; however, it is associated with the additive and moving building processes popular in rural Sussex County, Delaware (Criterion A). The Grace D. Wolf house is not directly affiliated with persons of state or national note, though it is reputed to have been constructed as the residence for Harry Dukes, a local Millville businessman, for whom a road in Millville adjacent to the property is named (Criterion B). Owing to prior ground disturbance from road widening projects and construction, there is little probability that new information will result from any archaeological testing performed in the vicinity of the property (Criterion D).

Baltimore Hundred is located along the southeastern coast of Sussex County, Delaware. As part of both the Lower Peninsula/Cypress Swamp (Eastern) Zone and the Coastal Zone as identified in the *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Plan*, Baltimore Hundred's history is tied to the natural features of the landscape. Scattered European settlements (Dutch, English, and Scotch-Irish) appeared in Delaware near coastal bays and river inlets during the seventeenth century; although Native American groups continued to live in the area, for the most part their way of life had been dramatically altered by the middle part of the eighteenth century. Baltimore Hundred's boundary was much contested through the eighteenth century, with both the colonies of Delaware and Maryland claiming the area; it was not until 1775 that Worcester County, Maryland, released its claims to the land and ceded the territory to Delaware (Scharf, p. 1339).

Early inhabitants of Baltimore Hundred engaged in corn farming, in spite of the sandy, nutrient-poor soils of the Coastal Zone (NSDAR, p. 7), and in water-related activities such as trade or ship-building. Also, the fresh water and Cypress Swamp aided a forest-oriented economy in the eighteenth century. After the border question was settled, settlement increased along the Cypress Swamp and inhabitants began to construct larger and more permanent housing, knowing that their land claims were secure.

The great Cypress Swamp, a "full seven miles from East to West and ten or twelve from North to South," contained 50,000 acres of land according to one informal estimate in 1797 (McKean, p. 126). This swamp area was prone to conflagrations in the dry summer months. Despite the danger, the swamp was a source of wild

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Section number 8 Page 3

Wolf, Grace D., House                      Sussex County, Delaware

Statement of Significance (continued)

game and lucrative timber stores. Much of the swamp itself was interspersed with open agricultural fields too (Herman, p. 92). Ultimately, however, the swamp and surrounding lands were a limited resource; timbering efforts "removed the greatest cash resource" while farming "sapped the soil of its nutrients and productivity" (Herman, p. 104). Generally speaking, large absentee landowners hired out workers to timber their lands in the Cypress Swamp. These day laborers in turn produced rot-resistant cypress shingles in bundles that they left for pick-up at the edge of the swamp. Since much of this work was laborious, dangerous, and paid little, the turnover rate of workers was likely high; as a result, the absentee landowners had little incentive to provide better housing for their workers, and workers had little to gain in constructing their own permanent dwellings.

The nineteenth century brought change to Baltimore Hundred in a number of areas. Methodism challenged the primacy of the Anglican Church in Sussex County, for example. Local camp revival meetings bolstered Methodist church membership, which rose 120% between 1800 (8,705) and 1805 (18,985) (Quinn, p. 120). What little formal education Baltimore Hundred inhabitants received usually came through these churches and preachers (Collins & Eby, p. 204). In addition, the arrival of the railroad through Sussex County in the 1850s and 1860s altered settlement patterns. The Delaware Railroad, which pushed south to Delmar in 1859, helped connect Sussex County to northern urban communities (Williams, pp. 1-2). Small towns or cross roads proliferated (such as Roxana and Frankford) in response to these rail lines. The rail lines did not bring immediate local prosperity, but helped to slowly transform the nature of commerce and transportation throughout the Baltimore Hundred area over time (Carter, p. 8).

Millville, situated about four miles west of Bethany Beach along Route 26/Atlantic Avenue, also witnessed growth at the end of the nineteenth century. Around 1886, a group of residents, including Elisha C. Dukes, felt that a post office was needed for the community of over 200 people (NDDAR, p. 23; U.S. Postal Service, *Post Office Department Reports of Site Locations*, 1886). While the names Dukestown or Dukesville were suggested for the hamlet, others wanted an appellation more descriptive of the place. Since the leading industry in the low and marshy area was the lumber mill of Captain Peter Townsend, and sorghum, molasses and gristmills proliferated nearby, the name Millville was chosen (NSDAR, p. 23). Elisha Dukes, proprietor of the local general county store, served as the first postmaster (NSDAR, p. 23). A small schoolhouse "stood off the main road to the northwest" in Millville before a newer one-room structure took its place; today, the Methodist Church occupies the lot where this schoolhouse once stood (NSDAR, p. 23). Millville continued to expand on a limited scale during the early twentieth century, as the Millville Hardware Store commenced operations in 1930, and the Millville Fire Company organized and constructed a hall in 1939 (Collins & Eby, n.p.).

Agriculture in Baltimore Hundred changed over the course of the twentieth century. With the exception of small, linear roadside towns that grew around transportation routes, many inhabitants in Baltimore Hundred clung to historic settlement patterns and gravitated toward rural, agricultural pursuits. The advent and affordability of the automobile, coupled with an improved highway system, later prompted the development of truck farming, and ultimately the development of the commercial chicken broiler industry proved to be "one of

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**Wolf, Grace D., House**                      **Sussex County, Delaware**

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

the most significant events in the evolution of Delaware commercial agriculture” that helped replace waning maritime interests (Herman & Lanier, p. 238-239).

Residential architectural property types associated with the period of urbanization and early suburbanization in Delaware (1880-1940 +/-) include Colonial Revival and bungalow houses. Colonial Revival-style, single-family residences along the Route 26 corridor usually have a decidedly balanced feel, with accentuated front façade entries with pediments supported by pilasters or simple wood columns, sometimes surrounded by fanlights or sidelights. Typically three, five, or seven bays in width and two bays in depth, Colonial Revival houses with single and paired multi-pane glazing are the best representative examples of their type (McAlester, p. 321). Most of the Colonial Revival dwellings seen along Route 26 include side-gable roof varieties, reflecting an Adam influence, while others are hipped-roof, four-square examples both with and without full-width first story, front façade porches (McAlester, pp. 321-323). Hipped roof, four-square examples of Colonial Revival style residences with full-width front porches were popular forms from circa 1895 through 1920, while side-gable types with simple accent details reigned from circa 1905 until 1940 (McAlester, p. 325). Most of these vernacular forms of Colonial Revival style houses had either wood shingle siding (produced locally from Cypress Swamp mills), wood clapboard siding, or if the interpretation was executed in a high-style form, masonry. Colonial Revival style dwellings in the Baltimore Hundred area were frequently used as part-time summer residences, and as such featured large enclosed or screened-in porches which allowed for a summer shore breeze but blocked insects out of the living quarters.

The Grace D. Wolf House exhibits many of the defining elements of the later (circa 1905-1940) examples of Colonial Revival-style dwellings in Baltimore Hundred. The dwelling is balanced, with a seven-bay front façade and central door with fluted pilasters and an arched pediment; the side-gable roof is also consistent with the style in this period. The cornice returns, Chinese railing on the rear roof porches, screened side porch, and suburban feeling of the lot all add to the illustration of Colonial Revival style architecture in Baltimore Hundred. The house also retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association, with little alteration to its c. 1941 construction in spite of the fact that the original c. 1850 I-house has been almost completely obscured and was moved a short distance from its original foundation. Therefore, the Grace D. Wolf House does not illustrate the earlier time period or the architecture of the I-house, but is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style and clinker brick construction in Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware.

**Bibliography**

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**Wolf, Grace D., House**                      **Sussex County, Delaware**

**Bibliography (continued)**

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Herman, Bernard & Rebecca Siders, et al. *Historic Context Master Reference and Summary*. Newark, DE: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, College of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, University of Delaware, June 1989.

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Quinn, Judith & Bernard L. Herman. *National Register of Historic Places: Eligible Sites in Little Creek and Broad Creek Hundreds, Sussex County, Delaware*. Newark, DE: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, December 1986.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Delaware 1609-1888*. Philadelphia, PA: L.J. Richards & Company, 1888.

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Oral interview with Grace D. Wolf, May 2002.

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Continuation Sheet**

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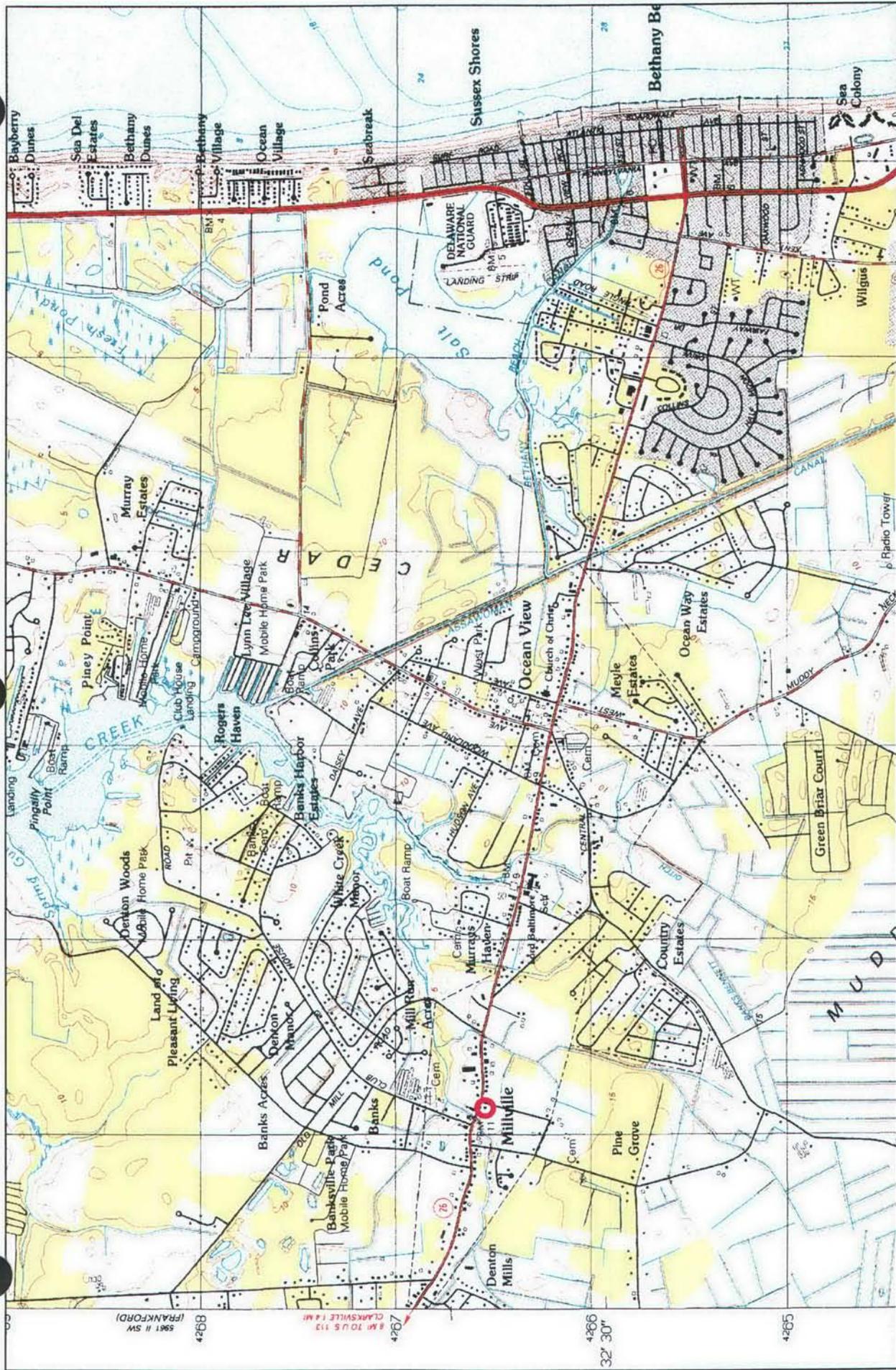
**Wolf, Grace D., House**                      **Sussex County, Delaware**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the Grace D. Wolf House follows Sussex County, Delaware tax parcel 1-34-12-363.00 as shown on the accompanying site plan.

**Boundary Justification**

This boundary is sufficient to convey significance under Criterion C. The boundary encompasses the dwelling, garage, sidewalk and knee wall surrounding the property from the edge of the paved road along Route 26/Atlantic Avenue and Dukes Drive. This boundary was prepared in accordance with the guidelines spelled out in the National Register Bulletin: "Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties."



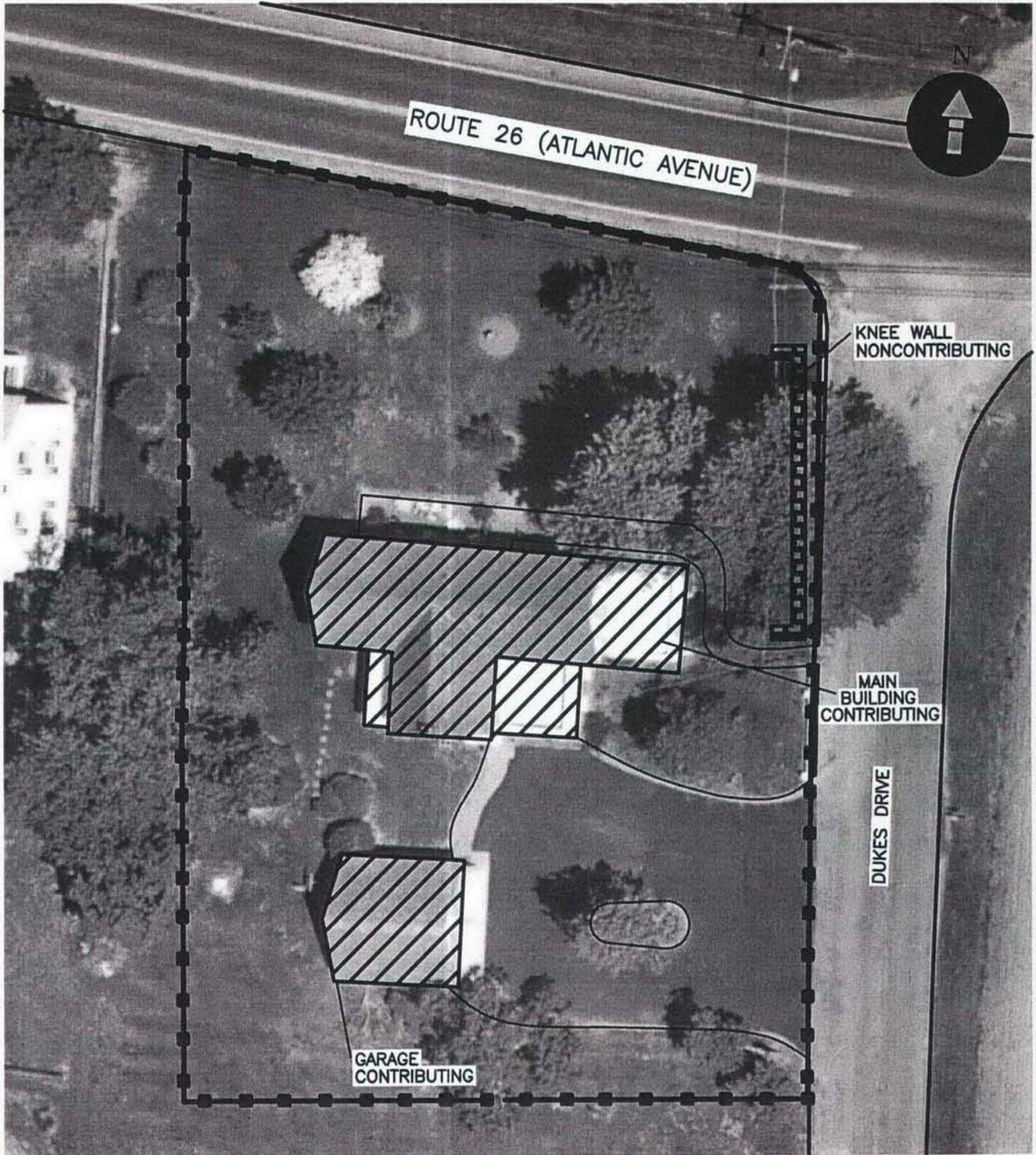
Bethany Beach, Delaware  
 USGS Quadrangle  
 1984, Photorevised 1991



Zone: 18  
 UTM: N-226436  
 E-60786

Wolf, Grace D., House  
 338 Atlantic Avenue  
 Sussex County, DE

Wolf, Grace D., House  
Sussex County, DE



KNEE WALL  
NONCONTRIBUTING

MAIN  
BUILDING  
CONTRIBUTING

DUKES DRIVE

GARAGE  
CONTRIBUTING

APPROX. SCALE 1"=35'

	BUILDING 50 YEARS OLD OR OLDER
	NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY (FOLLOWS TAX PARCEL BOUNDARY)
	BRICK-CONCRETE WALL



Photo 1: Front (north) and side (east) facades, facing southwest.



Photo 2: Rear lateral and garage, facing northwest.



Photo 3: Side (west) elevation, showing clinker brick, facing east.



Photo 4: Garage, facing southwest.