

IV. HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

URSGWC identified and assessed two standing resources within the project's historic architecture area of potential effect (APE) that are more than 50 years, the Chandler-Taylor House and its associated carriage house. Summary histories, descriptions, and evaluations of these resources are included in this section. Copies of the Delaware Cultural Resource Survey and National Register forms completed by URSGWC for these resources are appended to this report (Appendices A and B).

Chandler-Taylor House

The Chandler-Taylor House faces south to the original Newport and Gap Turnpike (Plate 1). It is a 2-½ story uncoursed rubble fieldstone dwelling covered with stucco. It is rectangular in shape with two brick interior end chimneys, the west one with a corbelled cap and the east with a castellated cap. The eastern half dates from around 1815 while the western half was added c. 1865-70, doubling the size of the house.

The south façade is five bays wide with 6/6 vinyl sash windows. The dormers are gabled and contain 1/1 double hung wood sash windows. The cornice, the only decorative touch on the house, is a large wood box cornice with a molding running below. It runs along the south and north facades only. A small front porch has been added to the center of the south (front) façade, replacing a wider porch that ran almost the entire length of the façade. The central doorway is also new and replaces two entrances located to the east and west of center on the south façade. These two doors entered into the original and added halves of the house separately. The new door contains nine lights over four recessed wood panels with 4-pane sidelights and no transom. Windows have replaced the two former doorways.

The east and west facades are decorated by a simple flush vergeboard under the gable. The west façade is symmetrical, with two windows per floor on either side of the chimney. The two attic windows are smaller and pushed towards the center by the slope of the gable roof. All windows are 6/6-vinyl sashes. The east façade, at the older end of the house, contains one 6/6 vinyl window on the first floor at the south end and one very small 1/1 wood sash window under the gable at the south end. An early one-story lean-to was formerly located at the northern end of this side. A cellar entrance, formed by a sloped plank door with iron handle and straps, is located at the southeast corner.

On the north side of the house (rear), the division between the original house and the addition becomes readily apparent. The east end has a rougher finish, while the western end projects slightly and the stones were bonded more smoothly. There are two doors, one into the old house and one into the addition, and two windows on the first floor and four on the second. All are 6/6-vinyl sashes. The addition has a gable dormer with drop siding and a 6/1 wood sash window. The door into the old house is a new multipane double French door while the door into the west end contains a single large pane over two



Plate 1 Chandler-Taylor House, South Side Elevation

vertical recessed panels. A small 1-story lean-to formerly enclosed this doorway and the adjacent window. This addition, with three windows facing north and east and a door to the west, has been removed.

Common elements in houses built in Mill Creek Hundred from the late 1790s through around 1820 were rubble fieldstone construction, stucco exterior finish, 2- to 2 ½-story height, 3- or 5-bay width, and an exterior basement access, all of which appear in the Chandler-Taylor House.

Carriage House

The carriage house, dating from the last quarter of the nineteenth century, is located immediately to the north of the house (Plate 2). It faces southwest with two doors that were at one time accessible from Brackenville Road. The building is generally rectangular in shape with a gable roof and shed addition to the north. The main block is timber frame and rests on an elevated fieldstone foundation. It is sheathed with wide vertical boards and has an undecorated vergeboard beneath the east and west gables. It has a standing seam metal roof, moderate eave, and exposed rafter tails.

The south façade contains two large openings, one sliding wood door on the west and a newer metal panel garage door with 6 lights along the top on the east. There is an inserted panel of corrugated metal above the west door. The east gable contains one small window in the gable. It is a 2-pane vinyl slider. The lean-to at the north end is sided with horizontal boards on the east and west and is open to the north. It is roofed with patches of sheet metal and contains one opening in the east wall, which has been boarded up.

Recommendation

Neither building is recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register. The removal of all agricultural buildings and loss of farmland make the Chandler-Taylor property ineligible for listing under Criterion A for its association with Delaware's farming history. It also does not have any notable connection with, and has little to say about, the life or work of any persons significant in our history and is therefore not believed to be Register-eligible under Criterion B. Significant changes to the house, including the removal of two small historic additions on the north and east sides, the replacement of the front porch and windows and the relocation of the front door have compromised the architectural integrity of the house, making it ineligible under Criterion C.

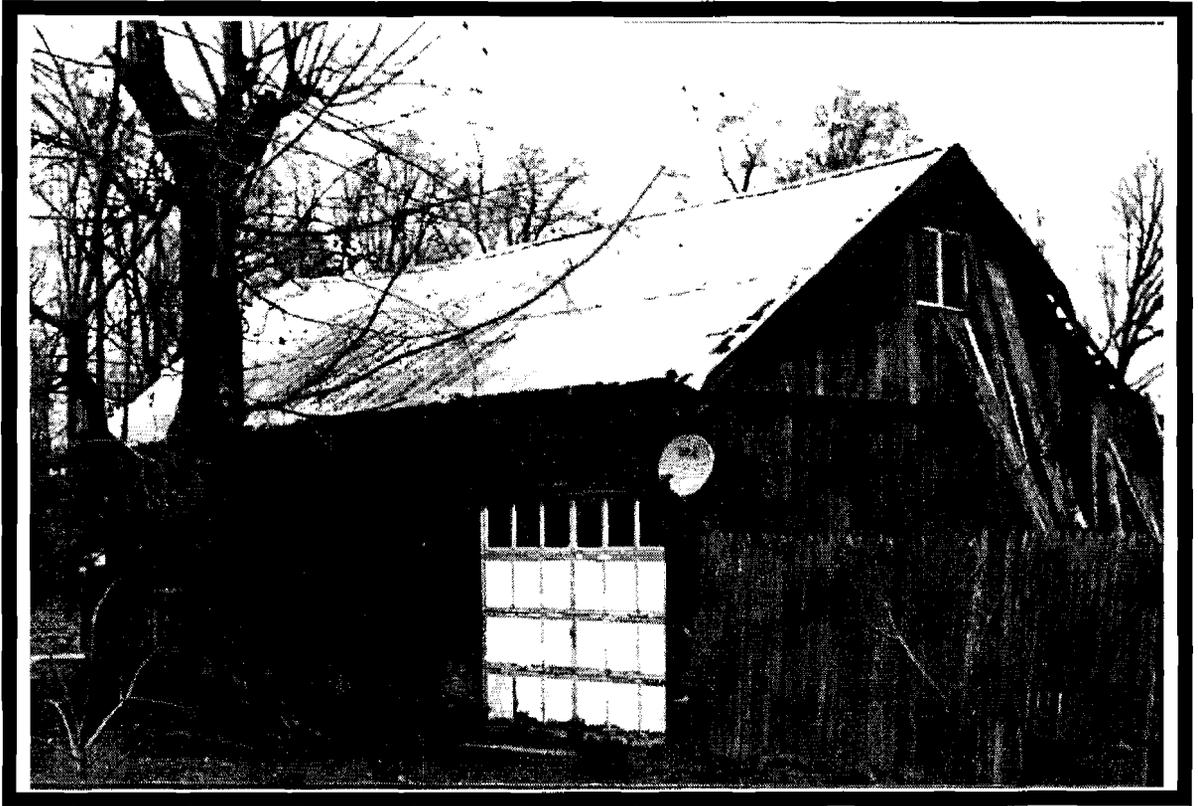


Plate 2 Carriage House Looking Southeast