

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Aquila Derrickson House

and/or common Derrickson-Ball House

2. Location

street & number Limestone Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Wilmington  vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Delaware code county New Castle code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Franklin B. and Scholastica Gray

street & number Limestone Road

city, town Wilmington  vicinity of state Del.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New Castle Co. Recorder of Deeds

street & number 800 French St.

city, town Wilmington, state Del.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Architectural Investigation of Route 7 North Corridor, New Castle Co., Del. has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date 1986 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, CRS# N-211 Delaware Dept. of Transportation

city, town Dover -114- state Del.

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Aquila Derrickson house is located on a 1.5-acre lot on the west side of Limestone Road. The lot rises some 15 feet above the roadway, there by giving the house considerable visual prominence. A semicircular driveway extends up from the road and around the back of the house, where it passes a shed-roofed frame garage, which is of recent construction and does not contribute to the character of the property as a whole. The treeless front yard falls in a series of broad terraces, bisected by a flight of concrete steps, to the highway. Vegetation consists of several small conifers at the south end of the house, scattered shade trees, and low, neatly-trimmed hedges around the front and north side of the house.

The house, oriented to face northeast, is a 2-1/2 story structure built of local fieldstone covered with stucco. The massing consists of a side-gable main block and short ell, with a small, 2-story gabled frame unit attached to the latter. The gable roofs have synthetic shingles; the wooden box cornice has partial returns. Stuccoed interior chimneys and pairs of small fixed-light attic windows are located at each gable end. A small diamond-shaped date stone, which reads "A. Derrickson 1846" is set high on the north gable.

The main elevation is symmetrically arranged as six bays, with a pair of entrances in the center two bays and round-headed dormers above the second and fifth bays. Each entrance features deep, paneled reveals and five-light transoms. The left door has five molded panels, while the upper half of the right-hand door is glazed. The full-length front porch (which is perhaps from the later 19th or early 20th century) has a shed roof, wood floor, and chamfered posts, between which are frieze panels of wood latticework.

Window openings in the stone portion of the house have are fitted with double hung sash in very narrow surrounds, with wood lintels and sills. On the facade, the first floor openings are very tall, suggesting 6/9 light sash, while those above (and elsewhere in the stone part) have 6/6 sash. First floor shutters are paneled, while those of the second story are louvered. The 2-bay frame unit at the west end of the stone ell has 2/2 double hung sash. In general, fenestration on the sides and rear is more informal than that of the front. The rear also has a series of shed-roofed porches ranged around the re-entrant angle formed by the main block and ell. These porches, which have plain wood posts and cement floors, are of 20th century origin but do not interfere with the overall character of the house.

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Although the setting of the house has been considerably altered through loss of outbuildings and by recent adjacent construction of a church (to the south) and large office building (to the north), the Derrickson house preserves its historical location on high ground above Limestone Road. The house itself retains integrity of design, materials and workmanship, the design intent of its builder readily appreciable.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1846

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Aquila Derrickson house is significant under Criterion C, displaying distinctive characteristics of, as well as variations on, 19th century vernacular domestic architecture in northern New Castle County. Built of local stone and stuccoed, the dwelling at first glance appears to be a straight forward representation of the "Georgian" I-house, 2 stories high, one room deep with a symmetrically-arranged facade. Closer inspection, however, reveals the paired center entrances and the even number of bays, which Glassie (1972) has attributed to the influence of the Georgian style on the traditional three-room "continental" house type. The result is a highly distinctive melding of these regionally-important vernacular forms, proclaiming a certain creativity on the part of its builder in the context of regional building tradition.

The house was built in 1846 for (or by) Aquila Derrickson, who in 1844 acquired adjacent parcels of land on the south side of Limestone Road from the estate of Benjamin Springer and from Thomas Brown of New Garden Township, PA (N.C. Co. Deeds, N5/477, F4/456). With his wife, Margaret, he had four children Calvin, Joseph, Bayard and Sarah, but died intestate in 1881. Aquila Derrickson's inventory clearly conveys his agricultural livelihood (wheat, corn), and also indicates that he was owner of a mill for the processing of a fiber crop, such as hemp or flax, or wool (items listed include a set of cards, a mule, a boiler, and tanks ricker, and reel). His participation, however modest, in the larger economy of the nation is indicated by his holding 1/4 interest worth \$1250 in a mortgage on a Nevada silver mine (inventory of Aquila Derrickson, Jan. 7, 1882).

Within the next year, Aquila Derrickson's farmlands had been divided among his three sons, with Bayard purchasing the tract on which this house is located from the other heirs (N.C. Co. Deeds, T12/88). Nineteenth century maps indicate that Bayard Derrickson retained ownership of the property at least to 1893 (Beers 1868; Hopkins 1881; Baist 1893). Although no record of the conveyance has been located, the property eventually came into the possession of heirs of Bayard's brother, Calvin, and was sold to the present owners by Calvin's grandson, Calvin Harvey Ball, in 1960 (N.C. Co. Deeds, L66/331).

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Aquila Derrickson House (CRS #N-211): The boundaries of the property included in this nomination conform to those of the legal parcel, #08-037.00-010, which contains 1.27 acre. This parcel represents all that remains of what was once a working farm but from which tracts on all four sides have been sold over the years for non-agricultural purposes. The Derrickson house is significant for its architectural characteristics. No agricultural structures or historic domestic outbuildings remain on the lot; and the parcel on which the house is located no longer conveys a sense of its original agricultural rural context. The parcel contains the house, the modern garage/shop structure, yard and foundation plantings, and the remains of a stone foundation or wall located near the rear property line. No elements contributing to the significance of the resource are excluded by the legal parcel boundaries.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

New Castle Co. Deeds, Inventories (Specific References in Text), Hall of Records, Dover.  
 Glassie, Henry, "Eighteenth Century Cultural Process in Delaware Valley Folk Building." Winterthur Portfolio 7(1972), pp. 29-57

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Newark East, DEL.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1, 8	4, 41, 4, 60	43, 9, 82, 4, 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Aquila Derrickson House is shown on the accompanying map entitled "Figure 2, Site Boundary, Aquila Derrickson House." See Continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title M.H. Bowers

organization Louis Berger & Associates, Inc.

date 1 April 1986

street & number 100 Halsted St.

telephone 201-678-1960

city or town East Orange

state New Jersey

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

For NPS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

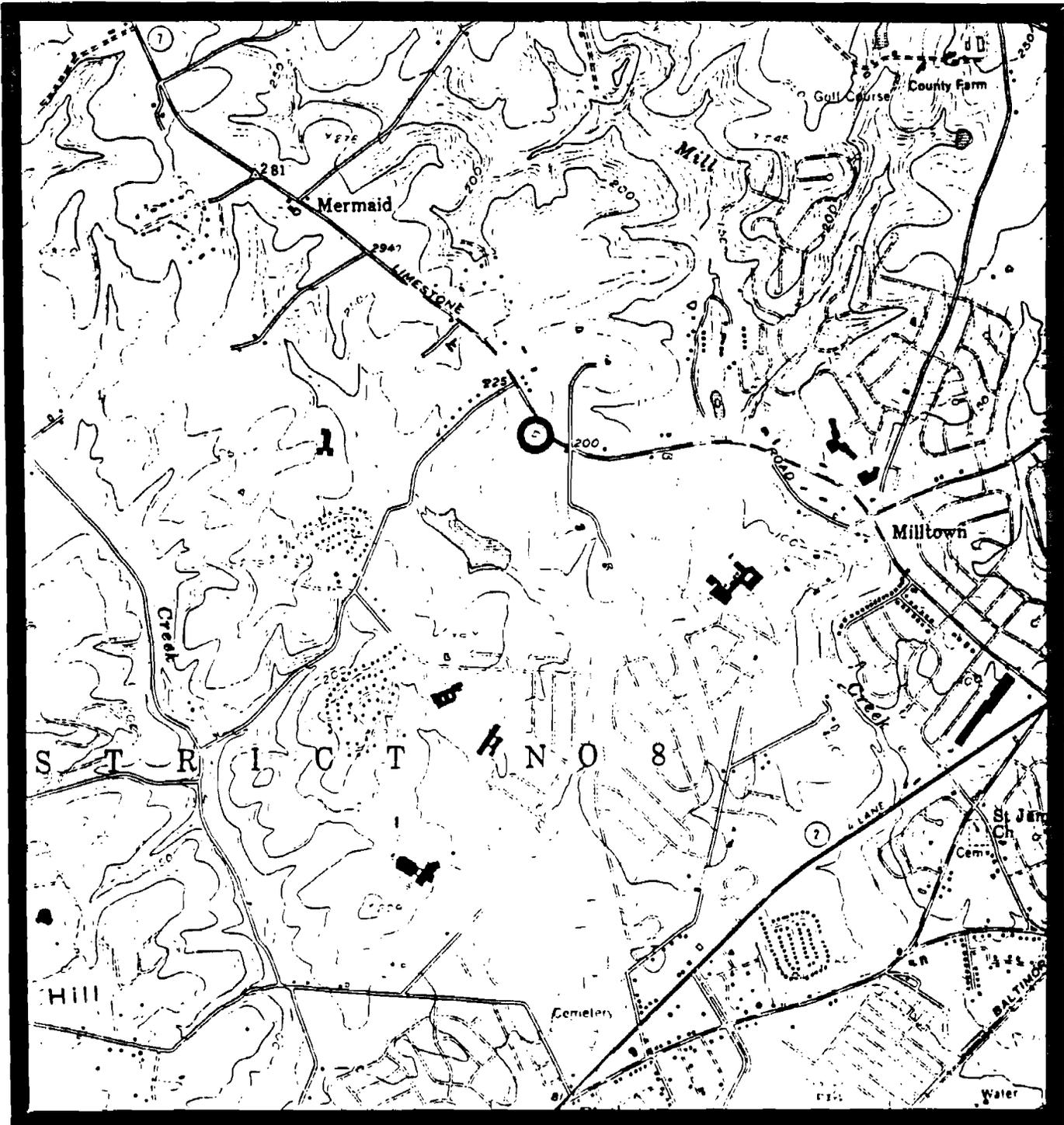
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

119

date

Chief of Registration



**FIGURE 1:**  
 Aquila Derrickson House,  
 Limestone Road  
 New Castle Co., DE  
 UTM: 18/441460 4398240



SOURCE:  
 USGS Newark East Quadrangle  
 Delaware-New Castle Co.  
 7.5 minute series



**FIGURE 2**  
**Site Boundary, Aquila Derrickson House**  
**Limestone Road, New Castle Co., Delaware**

