

**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 Townsend Store and Dwelling

other names/site number E.B. Phillips Store/S-9120

2. Location

street & number 318 & 329 Atlantic Avenue/Route 26 not for publication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:

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 _____

Townsend Store and Dwelling
Name of Property

Sussex, DE
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.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	0	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 - residence
- Agricultural/storage - barn
- Agricultural/storage - barn
- Agricultural/storage - corn crib
- Commercial/business - general store

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling - residence
- Agricultural/storage - barn
- Domestic/secondary structure - garage
- Agriculture/storage - corn crib
- Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Other: Vernacular Victorian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Brick
- walls Aluminum
- roof Asphalt
- other Brick chimney

Narrative Description

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

Commerce _____

Architecture _____

Period of Significance

c. 1907 to c. 1976 _____

Significant Dates

N/A _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Unknown _____

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. _____

Townsend Store and Dwelling

Name of Property

Sussex, DE

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .86 Acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 8 6 0 7 8 7 2 2 6 6 2 6
Zone Easting Northing

3 Zone Easting Northing

2 Zone Easting Northing

4 Zone Easting Northing

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 Charles A. Richmond/Historic Structures Specialist

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

street & number 2 Commerce Square, 2001 Market Street 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 Blaine T. Phillips

street & number 318 & 320 Atlantic Avenue/Route 26 telephone N/A

city or town Millville state DE zip code 19967

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

Townsend Store and Dwelling Sussex County, Delaware

Description

The Townsend dwelling (Tax Parcel 1-34-12-405.00) is a two and one-half story, three-bay, aluminum-clad, vernacular Victorian dwelling with an asphalt-shingle, cross-gable roof and brick foundation. The main (north) façade has a single-leaf entrance flanked by faux louvered shutters in its westernmost bay; the easternmost bay has a bay window with three wood sash 1/1 windows. The second floor has three wood sash 1/1 windows flanked by faux louvered shutters. In the gable peak there is one wood sash 1/1 window. The east façade has one wood sash 1/1 window on the first and second floors of the main block; the rear cross gable has a two-story bay window with three wood sash 1/1 windows and a fixed diamond-shaped light in the gable peak. The west façade of the main block has a fixed diamond-shaped window on the first floor and a wood sash 1/1 window on the second floor; the cross gable has the same fenestration as the east façade. Faux louvered shutters flank the windows on each façade. Physical evidence suggests that the residence is currently unoccupied; it likely dates to the late nineteenth-early twentieth century. This building does not appear to be depicted on the 1868 Beers' Atlas. This main building is a contributing resource within the property.

To the southeast of the main building is a one and one-half story one-bay, weatherboard-clad gable-front mixed-use barn. The main façade has a central vehicular entrance with a wood sliding door; centered above it in the gable peak is a wood sash 3/3 window. This barn was likely constructed during the first quarter of the twentieth century, based on physical evidence. It is more massive in size than most other barns seen along Route 26. The side (west) façade double doors are braced with a wood plank; the entire structure appears to be listing to the east and may be falling due to structural problems. This barn is a contributing resource within the property.

Also to the south of the main building is a one-story, one-bay, asbestos-clad gable-front mixed-use barn with an asphalt-shingle roof with an exposed rake. The front (east) façade has a vehicular entrance with wood sliding wood doors. This small barn may have been moved to the property; based on exterior evidence, it was likely constructed during the early twentieth century. This barn is also a contributing resource within the property.

Also to the south of the main building and the small, mixed-use gable-front barn is a one-story, one-bay, weatherboard-clad corncrib with an asphalt-shingle front gable roof. The main façade has a single-leaf entrance with a wood plank door. The corncrib is supported on stone piers, and features an open rake. Like the mixed-use barn, this structure may have been moved to the property at a later date; physical evidence suggests it too was likely constructed during the early twentieth century. The corncrib is a contributing resource within the property.

To the east of the main building is a second house converted for commercial use. This is a two and one-half story, three-bay, weatherboard-clad, vernacular building with an asphalt-shingle front-gable roof. The main (north) façade features a central double-leaf entrance with glazed doors flanked by two one-light picture windows. A fourth bay is created by a one-story addition on the east façade; it has a fixed picture window. A one-story shed roof porch supported by metal poles extends across the four bays. The second floor of the main block has two wood sash 1/1 windows and the gable peak has one wood sash 1/1 window. The east façade has an irregular fenestration pattern of wood sash 1/1 windows. The west façade has an irregular fenestration pattern of wood sash 1/1 windows and a single-leaf entrance with a wood door. A stuccoed interior chimney is best seen from this façade rising from the ridgeline. A painted sign proclaims this building once functioned as the E.B. Phillips General Store in Millville, Delaware; field survey in March 2002 suggests it is unoccupied. This building is also a contributing resource within the property.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Townsend Store and Dwelling **Sussex County, Delaware**

Statement of Significance

The general store was a common feature in communities of Sussex County throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The general store served as a commercial center for isolated and rural communities, and frequently served in additional capacities, such as post offices and private residences. The defining characteristics of the general store include original store-front windows, store-front awnings, and window signage. The Townsend store and dwelling is recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A (association with the retail development trends of Millville, Delaware) and Criteria C (architectural significance of the vernacular store). Historically, the Townsend (most recently the E.B. Phillips) Store functioned as a hub of commerce for the town of Millville, Delaware. One of a handful of general stores that once operated in the Millville vicinity, the Townsend store and dwelling is a relatively unaltered property that retains much of its original feeling, materials, setting and association as a general store and family residence that it had in the early twentieth century. While the Townsend (E.B. Phillips) Store is currently not in use, it retains its original store-front awning, window signage, and location close to Route 26/Atlantic Avenue, and represents the development of rural retail outlets during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century in southern Delaware (Criterion A). Although the town of Millville has lost much of its feeling as a linear village due to demolition, infill, and modern alterations/additions, the Townsend store and dwelling stand as a lone example of what the "downtown" area of Millville once functioned as during the early to mid-twentieth century. While this property is not directly associated with the lives of persons significant to local, state or national history (Criterion B), the Townsend (E.B. Phillips) Store is nonetheless significant for its vernacular architectural style. Both the store and the corncrib located south of the main dwelling are free of significant modern additions, or unsympathetic alterations, retain their original materials, workmanship, and setting, and are one of the few remaining examples of their kind within the town limits of Millville, Delaware.

Historical Background

Millville is situated about four miles west of Bethany Beach along Route 26/Atlantic Avenue. Around 1886, a group of residents, including Elisha C. Dukes, felt as though a post office was needed for the community of over 200 people (NSDAR, 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). The Millville Protestant Church was constructed c. 1897 (it currently houses "Reflections Antiques"), and the Millville United Methodist Church was built c. 1907. Millville continued to expand on a limited scale during the early twentieth century, for the Millville Hardware Store commenced operations in 1930, and the Millville Fire Company organized and constructed a hall in 1939 (Collins & Eby, n.p.). Notable local families in Millville included the Dukes, Townsend, and Phillips families. Lifetime Millville resident Grace Wolf states that her father Harry Dukes constructed a filling station at the northern junction of Route 26 and Route 17, and also moved and reconstructed the clinker brick dwelling located at the southwest corner of Route 26 and Route 17. The Townsend and Phillips families operated a general store along the south side of Route 26 during the twentieth century; evidence has been found of at least one other store operating in Millville which has since been

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Section number 8 Page 3

Townsend Store and Dwelling Sussex County, Delaware

Statement of Significance (continued)

demolished. Today, the former Millville Protestant Church has been converted into an antique shop, one of the general stores in Millville has been demolished, and the former Townsend (most recently E.B. Phillips) Store is vacant.

Even throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, inhabitants in Baltimore Hundred clung to historic settlement patterns and gravitated toward rural, agricultural pursuits. Many locals kept one foot "firmly planted in the eighteenth century" as conservative attitudes and agricultural practices persisted in southeastern Delaware well into the twentieth century (Williams, p. 95). The one limited exception to this pattern occurred as communities grew around transportation routes, forming small, linear roadside towns. 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. Ultimately the development of the commercial chicken broiler industry proved to be "one of the most significant events in the evolution of Delaware commercial agriculture" that helped replace waning maritime interests (Herman & Lanier, p. 238-239).

Delaware was centrally located in what was known as the "Middle Atlantic Trucking Region" during the 1920s (Doerrfeld, p. 11). In excess of 900 miles long, this region extended from the coast of Maine southward to the Low Country of South Carolina (Doerrfeld, p. 11). Averaging only 50 miles in width, this truck farming corridor 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). As Coleman du Pont's desire for a "road of the future" matured into fruition, and the State Highway Department was established by a 1917 session of the Legislature, the state of Delaware was positioned for commercial growth (Federal Writers' Project, pp. 80-81). By *circa* 1920, improved roadways meant that strawberries could be picked "in the early morning, loaded into crates and packed for market by midday and be in Philadelphia and New York by evening, there to be sent to retail stores in time for the next morning's contingent of shoppers" (Collins & Eby, p. 207). Crops such as strawberries, apples, sweet potatoes, corn and tomatoes were grown in southeastern Delaware, but peaches, which had been a boon to many Sussex County farmers in the 1860s, were decimated by disease in the early 1890s (Doerrfeld, p. 11). During the 1890s, the canning industry likewise shifted focus away from peaches to the canning of tomatoes, corn and peas (Doerrfeld, p. 11). The invention of the sanitary can and associated processing equipment rendered the hand-made can of the nineteenth century obsolete (Doerrfeld, p. 11). By the 1940s, the advent of frozen foods supplanted the popularity of canned goods, and many canneries heeded the capitalist imperative and closed by the end of World War II when profits evaporated (Doerrfeld, p. 1).

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). While many local farmers had previously been engaged in egg production, it suddenly became profitable to raise and dress broiler chickens for delivery to New York City and Philadelphia. 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.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Townsend Store and Dwelling **Sussex County, Delaware**

Bibliography

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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.

Lanier, Gabrielle & Bernard L. Herman. *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.

National Register Bulletin. *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1998.

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United States Postal Service. *Post Office Department Reports of Site Locations*. Delaware State Archives, Roll #1, Sussex County, Delaware (#RG 0710.000).

Williams, William Henry. *Delmarva's Chicken Industry: 75 Years of Progress*. Georgetown, DE: Delmarva Poultry Industry, 1998.

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

Oral interview with Grace Wolf, May 2002.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 5

Townsend Store and Dwelling **Sussex County, Delaware**

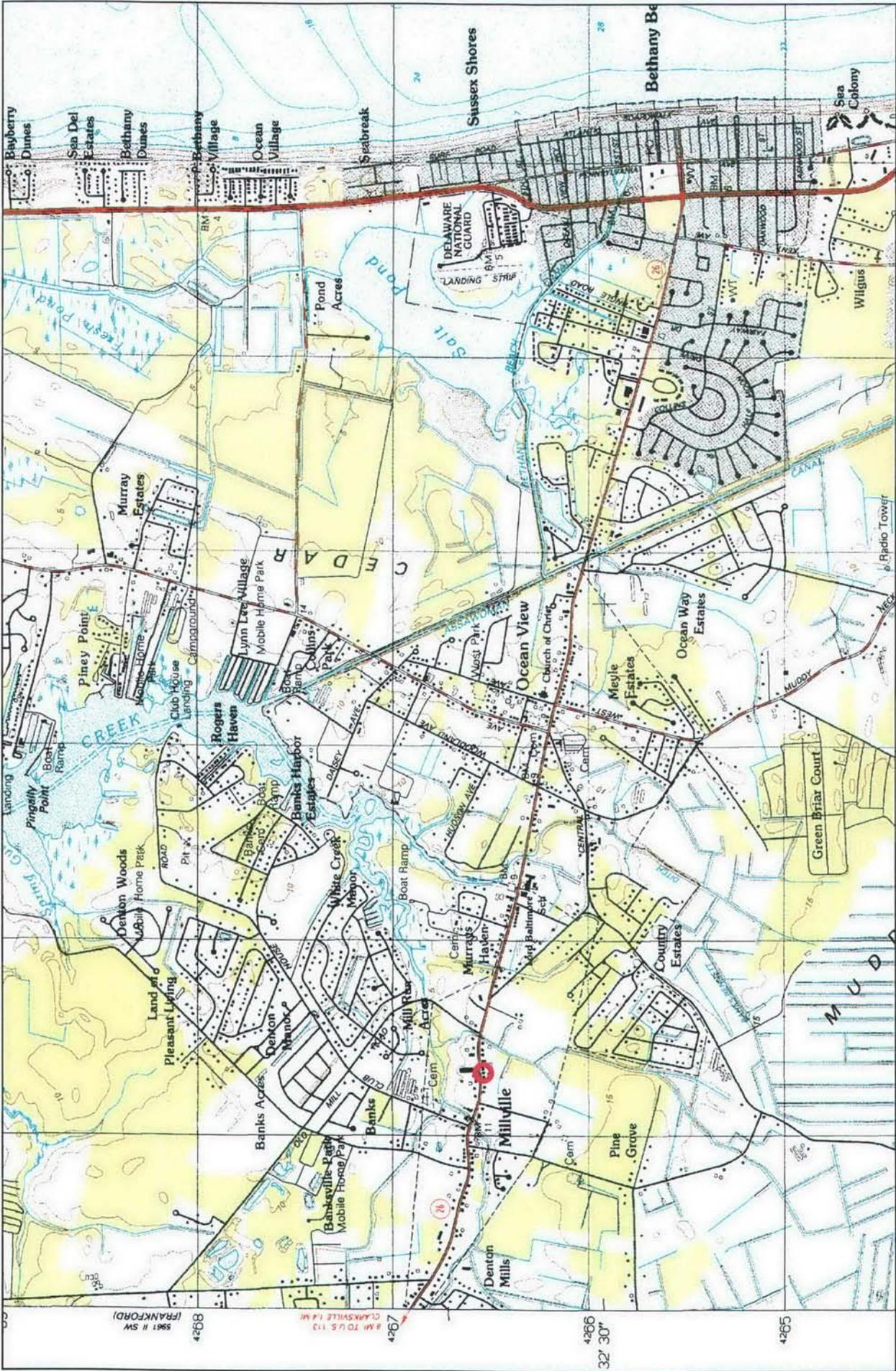
Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Townsend Store and Dwelling follows Sussex County, Delaware tax parcel 1-34-12-405.00 to the edge of pavement along Atlantic Avenue/Route 26 as depicted on the attached site plan.

Boundary Justification

This boundary is sufficient to encompass the buildings, sidewalk, and feeling of the Townsend store, dwelling corn crib, shed and barn. The boundary extends to the edge of pavement of Route 26 due to the overhang supported by posts that extends from the front of the building over the sidewalk. This boundary was prepared in accordance with the guideline set forth in the National Register Bulletin: "Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties."

The Period of Significance for the Townsend store and dwelling is c. 1907 when Charles and Sadie Townsend purchased the store and dwelling, to c. 1976, when Mae (Townsend) Phillips sold the property. The store, dwelling, barn, shed, corn crib, and sidewalk are all contributing features to the resource.



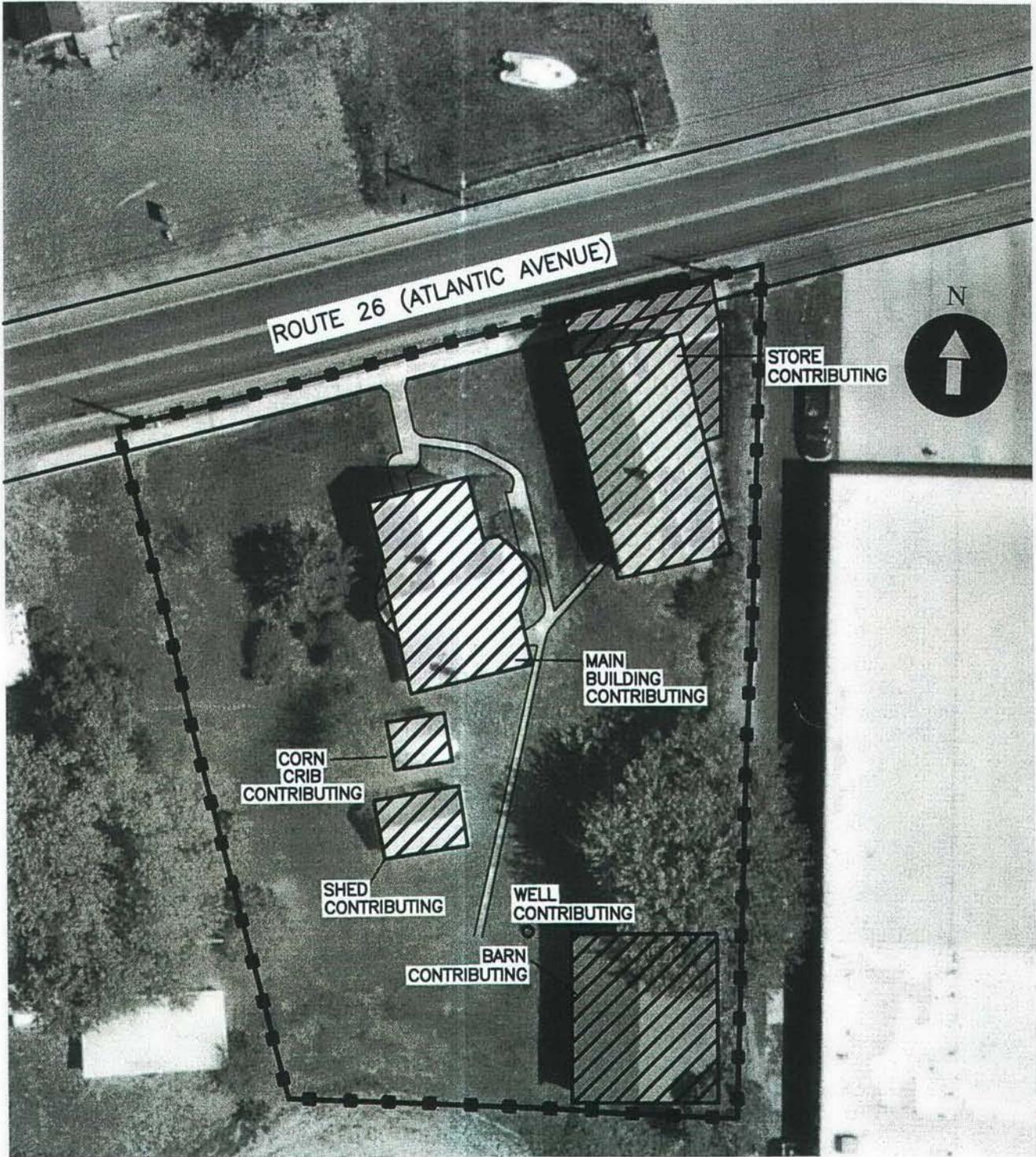
Bethany Beach, Delaware
 USGS Quadrangle
 1984, Photorevised 1991



Zone: 18
 UTM: N-226625
 E-60787

Townsend, Store and Dwelling
 318 & 320 Atlantic Avenue
 Sussex County, DE

Townsend, Store and Dwelling
318 & 320 Atlantic Avenue
Sussex County, DE



APPROX SCALE 1"=25'



BUILDING 50 YEARS OLD OR OLDER



NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY
(FOLLOWS TAX PARCEL BOUNDARY)



Photo 1: Store, front (north) and side (west) facades, facing southeast.



Photo 2: Store, front (north) and side (east) facades, facing southwest.



Photo 3: Store, side (west) façade, facing east.

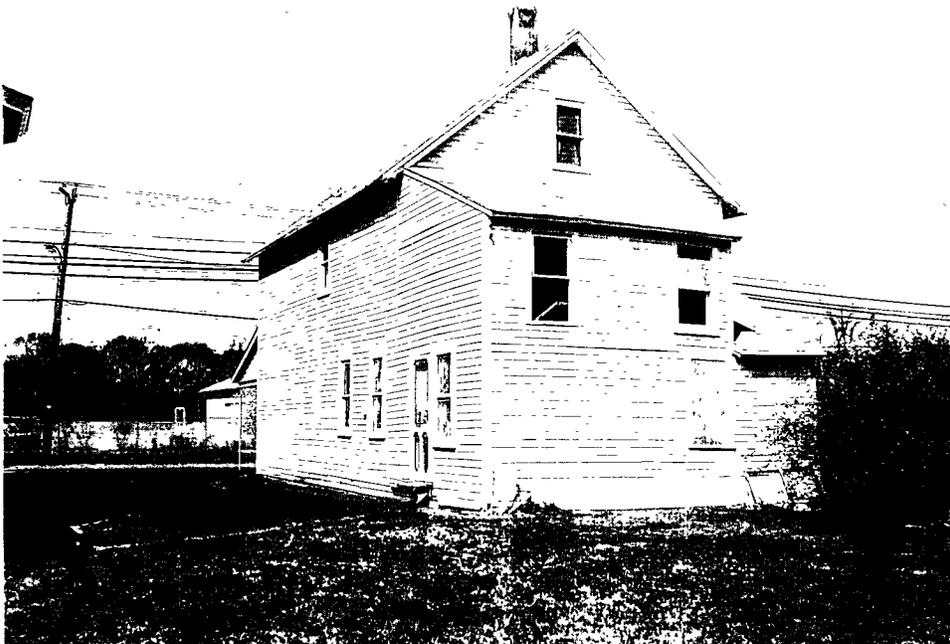


Photo 4: Store, rear (south) and side (west) facades, facing northeast.



Photo 5: Store, rear (south) and side (east) facades, facing northwest.



Photo 6: Detail, store sign.



Photo 7: Main building, front (north) and side (east) facades, facing southwest.



Photo 8: Main building, side (east) and rear (south) facades, facing northwest.



Photo 9: Main building, side (west) and rear (south) facades, facing east/northeast.



Photo 10: Barn, front (north) and side (west) facades, facing southeast.

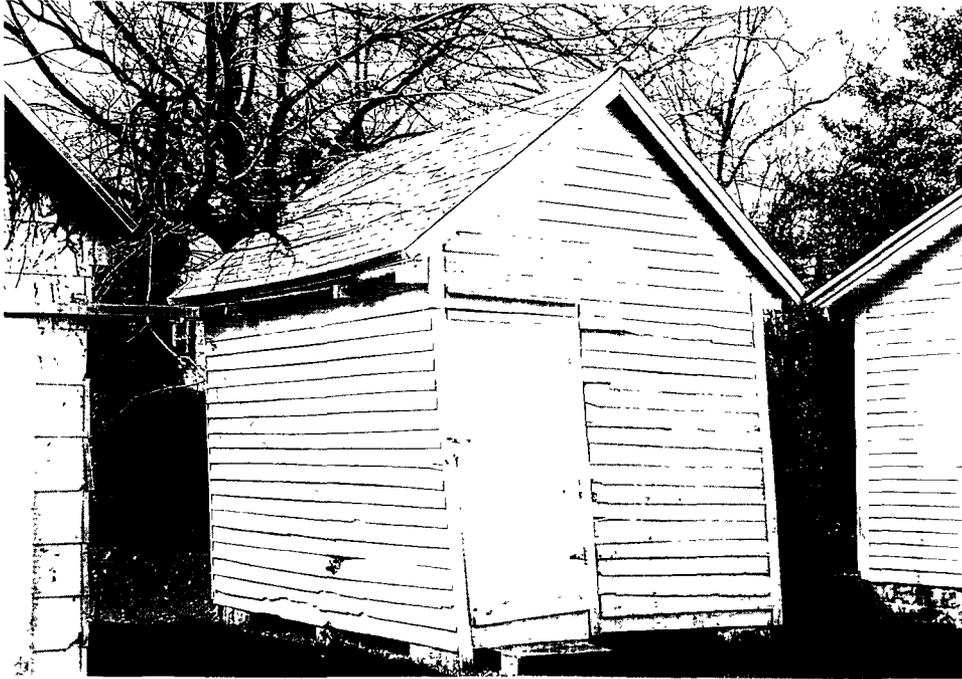


Photo 11: Corn crib, front (east) and side (south) facades, facing west.



Photo 12: Shed, front (east) and side (south) facades, facing west.