

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **SEP 27 1982**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Scott's Store

and/or common Same

2. Location

NW of Bridgeville on Rt. 404

street & number Southwest side of Intersection of Del. Rts. 404 and 32 N/A not for publication

city, town Bridgeville vic. vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Delaware code 10 county Sussex code 005

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (Information obtained 1/5/82 from Sussex Co. Tax Records)

name Mr. Horace A. Williams, Sr.

street & number R.D. 2 Box 108

city, town Bridgeville vic. vicinity of state Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sussex County Courthouse

street & number The Circle

city, town Georgetown state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Del. Cultural Resource Survey- has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Hall of Records

city, town Dover state Delaware

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Scott's Store sits southeast of the intersection of Route 404 and Road 32, approximately six miles northwest of Bridgeville. Constructed ca. 1875, and in continuous operation for over a century, the massing and fabric of the store are largely intact. It is a vernacular commercial building reflecting a utilitarian purpose and rural location, with a few "high style" details within and without. Basically it is a two-story, rectangular frame building, with the entrance centered in the front-facing gabled end. It is sided with white weatherboard with simple corner boards; the foundation is brick; the roof, with its simple fascia board cornice, is now asphalt shingled. A corbelled brick chimney is located on the eastern roof slope, just inside the rear south wall. A single lancet window in the gable end is the most specific stylistic reference.

The storefront in the north gable end displays features typical of rural stores. The central entrance consists of a pair of double doors, each with two square lights, one above the other, over a square recessed panel. The surrounds are plain. A double-hung one-over-one sash window is set on either side of the entrance. One-over-one sashes are aligned above them on the second floor as well. The windows have plain trim with molded drip caps; those on the first floor have wooden shutters with two panels in each, while those on the first floor have louvered shutters. All shutters are painted green. The attic level lancet window has five-over-six lights and a molded drip cap. The most prominent features of the facade, and one that is definitely characteristic of nineteenth-century rural stores, is the large one-story porch roof extending across the face of the building. The hipped roof was installed at an unknown date to replace an earlier shed roof. It has a simple molded cornice and is supported by four chamfered posts. Although the flooring here is now poured cement, it originally was probably either packed earth or wooden planking. This awning served as the cover under which fresh produce was displayed in the summertime.

The east side of Scott's Store has a single, one-over-one double-hung sash on both the first and second floors; these windows have flat trim with molded drip caps. The window has louvered shutters. The first floor of the west side has two one-over-one double-hung sash windows with simple two-panel shutters. The second floor has a single, six-over-six sash window with louvered shutters. Due to two small single-story additions, only the second floor is visible on the south rear exterior; it has a small door or window opening which is covered with a door of vertical boards and battens.

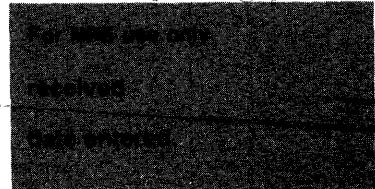
A small, single-story addition extends across the southern rear gable end; it was probably added around the turn-of-the-century to provide needed storage space. It has an asphalt-shingled lean-to roof; the side walls rise up above the lean-to in such a way that if viewed from the side it appears that this addition has a flat roof. The exterior walls are of weatherboard, painted white. The east side of this addition has a window opening which is covered by a door of vertical boards with battens; the south side has a full-size door of beaded boards with battens. Another small addition has been made to this rear addition. It is half as large as the earlier addition, and appears to also serve as storage space and as a rear service entrance. Its exterior walls and lean-to roof all are covered with white corrugated metal.

(see continuation sheet)

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APR 10 10 24 00 18
EXF 10/31/84



Continuation sheet

Item number

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Like the exterior, the interior of Scott's Store reflects a simple vernacular style. The first floor contains a single, long retail space; a door at the southern end of this room leads to storage space in the rear lean-to. As in most nineteenth-century country stores, the second floor was used as a storeroom; it was unavailable for inspection, but the present owner stated that it contains a single rectangular room.

One of the most distinctive features of the first floor interior is the simple champhered woodwork on the two beams and four supporting posts which run front to rear. The interior walls seem to be plastered and are painted green. Banks of shelves line both side walls; six shelves on the upper tier are separated from two lower shelves by a counter. The only trim is the heavily molded cornice around the upper edge. The floor is wooden planking. To the left of the main entrance is a wooden and glass display case which runs approximately half the length of the store. It has an egg-and-dart molded trim, and is probably original. Interior window trim is plain. An enclosed staircase is located on the southern rear wall of the store; it is constructed of horizontal planks and has a door of beaded vertical boards. Another beaded board door leads to the rear storage room, and has plain trim.

Two outbuildings are located to the rear of Scott's Store. The first is a garage which dates from about the 1940's; it has vertical plank walls and a corrugated metal gable with exposed rafter ends. Near the front corner of this garage is a submerged round metal tank, approximately eight feet deep and three-and-a-half feet in diameter, with a removable top. Chemicals were poured into the tank and mixed with water to form carbide gas, which was piped into the store to light the gas lamps. These lamps were later removed and replaced with electric fixtures, but the tank device remains intact. The other outbuilding is a lean-to roofed outhouse with beaded vertical board walls, probably dating from the 1920's.

Boundary Justification

The nominated area of the Scott's Store nomination is a rectangular portion of a larger tract large enough to enclose the store building, a garage to the rear, and a double public privy to the southeast side of the store. Since these three structures are the only ones on the property which relate directly to the history and function of the store, it is felt that they are the only structures which should be included. The nominated area is large enough to enclose them.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1873 **Builder/Architect** C .M. Scott

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Scott's Store is significant to the architectural and commercial history of southern Delaware as a well preserved and little altered example of a nineteenth-century country store. The two-story configuration and utilitarian design, softened by simplified Victorian Gothic detail, are very typical of the no longer numerous nineteenth-century country stores of southern Delaware. The alterations which have been made involve such additions as gas pumps and refrigeration equipment -- a logical progression of retail technology from the late-nineteenth century to the present, rather than renovation for renovation's sake. With these relatively minor exceptions, the store remains much the same in appearance as it did a hundred years ago. The relationship of the store to the community is also typical and largely unchanged. Sited on a major highway six miles from the nearest town, near an intersection to which it has given its name, Scott's Store serves not only as a convenient source of supplies for the surrounding rural community, but as a social gathering place. Thus, not only is a distinctive type and style of architecture represented here, but an important social function, described in the N.R. guidelines as the "...exchange of goods and the social contacts thereby encouraged." When Scott's store was built, it was one of hundreds of such commercial operations in Delaware; it is one of a tiny handful to have survived so far intact. It therefore meets criterion C of significance for National Register properties, in that it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and period.

The survival of Scott's Store as a viable commercial entity is due primarily to its location along a major highway and to its relatively remote location. It has always opened at four o'clock in the morning. Though it now closes at seven o'clock in the evening, it was open until nine o'clock or later for much of its history; and the owner keeps it open seven days a week. The store is typical of the country store economy in that it served many of its owners as a springboard to larger commercial interests. C.M. Scott, the first proprietor, became active in banking and other business interests in the town of Bridgeville. Scott's nephew, Norman, was the second owner. He later rented the store to his two cousins and opened a larger grocery store in town. The next owners, Ralph and J. Conn Scott, went on to become successful merchants in other areas. After their tenure, the store was sold out of the family.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Thackery, Grace. "Scott's Store." Article appearing in the Seaford, Del. LEADER, 1973 (No date of issue in which article appeared)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .3 acres

Quadrangle name Hickman

Quadrangle scale 7,5 minute

UMT References

A

18	441990	4292400
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the nominated area enclose a rectangle 100 feet by 150 feet, containing 15,000 square feet. The area is a portion of a larger 11.6 acre tract illustrated on Sussex County Tax Map N. 1-31-3, parcel No. 4. Within that tract (see continuation sheet)

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

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard B. Carter, Phyllis A. Hastings

organization Sussex County Preservation Planner's Office

date December, 1981

street & number Old Courthouse, South Bedford St.

telephone (302) 856-7701, Ext. 361

city or town Georgetown

state Delaware

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

David R. [Signature]

title Deputy/State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/15/82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 10/29/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

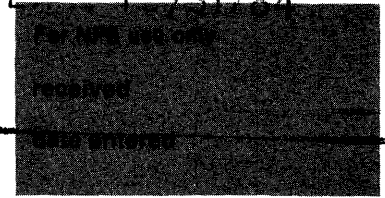
date

Chief of Registration

1/31/81

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Continuation sheet Verbal Boundary Descript. Item number 10

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the nominated area is further described as follows: beginning at the northeastern corner of the tract where it joins with De. Rt. 404 and running along the southwest side of Rt. 404 for 100 feet in a northwesterly direction; thence turning 90° to the southwest and running 150 feet in a southwesterly direction; thence turning 90° to the southeast and running 100 feet in a southeasterly direction; thence turning 90° to the northeast and running 150 feet in a northeasterly direction to the point of beginning.

SITE MAP OF SCOTT'S STORE
NORTHWEST FORK HUNDRED, SUSSEX CO.
DELAWARE
NOT DRAWN TO EXACT SCALE

