

PH0001236

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUL 2 1973	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Old Stone Tavern

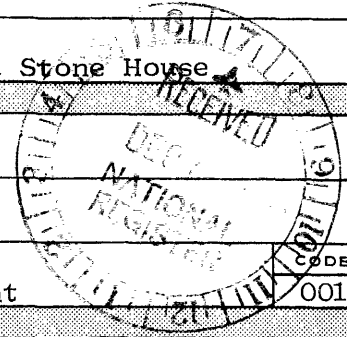
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
The Nowell House, The Bell House, The Old Stone House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Little Creek

STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: Kent	CODE 001
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Awaiting restoration</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, State of Delaware

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Kent County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
The Green

CITY OR TOWN: Dover	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:                     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

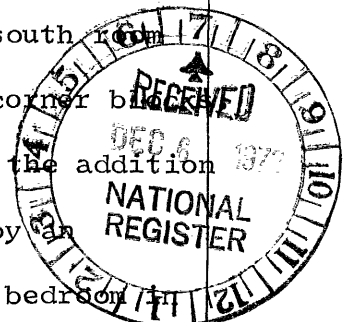
The principal portion of the Old Stone Tavern is a five-bay, one-room-deep, two-story Georgian building constructed of dressed stone.

At the eave line, a corbelled cornice of rubbed brick laid in Flemish bond distinguishes the west, or front, facade. The roof is pierced by three dormers, decorated with Victorian detailing. A portico of recent date covers the first story of the three center bays. The north facade is broken east of its center by a first-story window, which abuts the fireplace apron in the interior. On the east facade is a two-story frame wing sheathed in shiplap weatherboard. This wing contains a kitchen on the first level and servants' quarters above. A porch extends along the south facade of the addition and turns the corner to embrace a portion of the east facade of the main structure. The south facade is an unbroken stone wall.

The flooring of the main structure is hung from the twenty-one-inch stone bearing walls. The first floor is divided by partition walls into a center hall and two adjoining rooms. In the south room the panelled window casings are more broadly splayed than in the north room. The windows have all been rehung, those on the western facade with larger lights. Interior detailing includes bullseye corner blocks at the lintels and reeded fireplace mantels. The south room is more finely detailed than the north room, which lacks corner blocks.

The second-story hall has been greatly diminished by the addition of a bathroom. Access to the finished attic is provided by an enclosed staircase surmounting the main stair. The north bedroom, the second story features two closets on either side of the chimney, set in a plastered wooden wall. The south bedroom, like the room

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) About 1825

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first documentary reference to the stone house in Little Creek is dated 1829, when it was sold, with a two-acre lot, by Sheriff Nehemiah Clarke in execution of a judgment against John Bell and Manlove Hayes.

This two-acre lot was divided from the main Simpson's Choice tract in 1764, when the lands of Mary Hunter were divided among her children, John, Henry and Lucy Bell. At the time of the division, there were no improvements on this particular lot.

The land remained in the Bell family until Henry's son John lost it at a sheriff's sale in 1829. It changed hands several times during the next quarter-century, finally becoming the property of Abraham Nowell in 1858.

Stone buildings, particularly buildings constructed of cut Piedmont stone, are rare in Kent County, which is devoid of native rock. The Nowell House is therefore an architectural curiosity, even though it otherwise differs only in quality from its nearby contemporaries.



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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Kent County Deed Book N-4, page 492; Deed Book B-4, page 50; Deed Book C-4, p. 166; Deed Book E-3, p. 180; Deed Book C-3, pp. 34-35; Deed Book S-1, p. 249.

Eberlein, Harold Donaldson and Hubbard, Cortlandt V.D. Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware. Dover: Public Archives Commission, 1963.

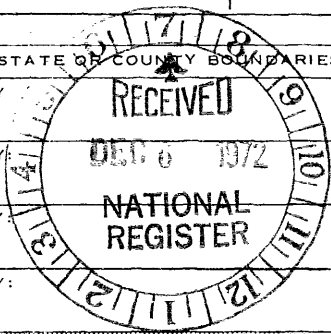
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 09' 51"	75° 26' 51"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Two

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Edward F. Heite, Vincent Rogers and Rosemary Troy

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: 10/13/72

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins

Title Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Date Nov. 21, 1972

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

Robert A. Wiley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/2/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 6 25 73

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUL 2 1973	

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)---

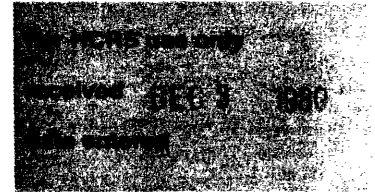
below it, is the more richly detailed of the two second-story rooms. It has been divided into two smaller rooms by a recent partition.

The Old Stone Tavern is typical of the architecture prevalent in Delaware during the second and third decades of the nineteenth century. Its corbelled brick cornice has parallels in stone buildings nearby at York Seat (1826) and at the Octagonal Schoolhouse (1834). Its interior detailing, with deep reeded mouldings and vigorous bullseye corner blocks, echo styles popularized through the writings of Asher Benjamin, whose seven books on house carpentry and architecture were being widely circulated at the time.



**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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dwelling, adding an additional piece of information to the historical record in an era and area of largely anonymous vernacular building. The house is particularly interesting from an architectural perspective as a combination of two typical Delaware mid-nineteenth century housing forms. The story and a half block, in this case utilized as a kitchen wing, often was a house in and of itself. It is possible, though difficult to substantiate or refute without detailed interior physical investigation of the house, that the story and attic unit once faced the street at the front of the lot and was later moved rearward to form the kitchen wing of the newer and larger frame block that now functions as the main block of the building. This practice of moving and reusing existing buildings as parts of later housing enlargements and improvement appears to have been rather commonplace, based on suspected parallels elsewhere in Little Creek and Leipsic and other rural areas of the state.

The 1850 census for Little Creek Hundred, Kent County lists Jonathan Woodley as the head of a household and carpenter by trade. An 1843 deed mentions that he resided in a two-story frame house with a one-story kitchen near Leipsic that he has built. By 1868, he and his family had moved to the town of Little Creek. The transaction whereby the Woodley's obtained the town land is elusive and there is uncertainty whether a house stood there at the time. Woodley's oldest son, Charles F. is listed as a carpenter as well in the 1860 census.

K-130

1. Property Name: STONE TAVERN

2. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: The Stone Tavern is located in the east side of Main Street, just north of Wilson Lane. The lot is 160 feet wide and 210 feet deep and contains .771 acres.

3. Owner: Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control, State of Delaware, Dover, Delaware 19901

4. Property Description:

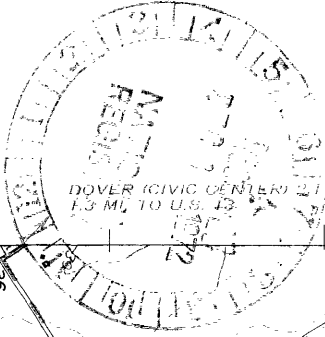
The Stone Tavern was built c. 1829 as a two-story, single-pile, five-bay, center-hall, stone building. It has a corbelled ribbed brick cornice and interior gable end chimneys. It is one of the few stone buildings in Kent County and was thought to have been a tavern by the local community, but records have shown that it was always a dwelling house.

The property was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

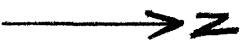
Old Stone Tavern  
(Nowell House)

39°09'51"

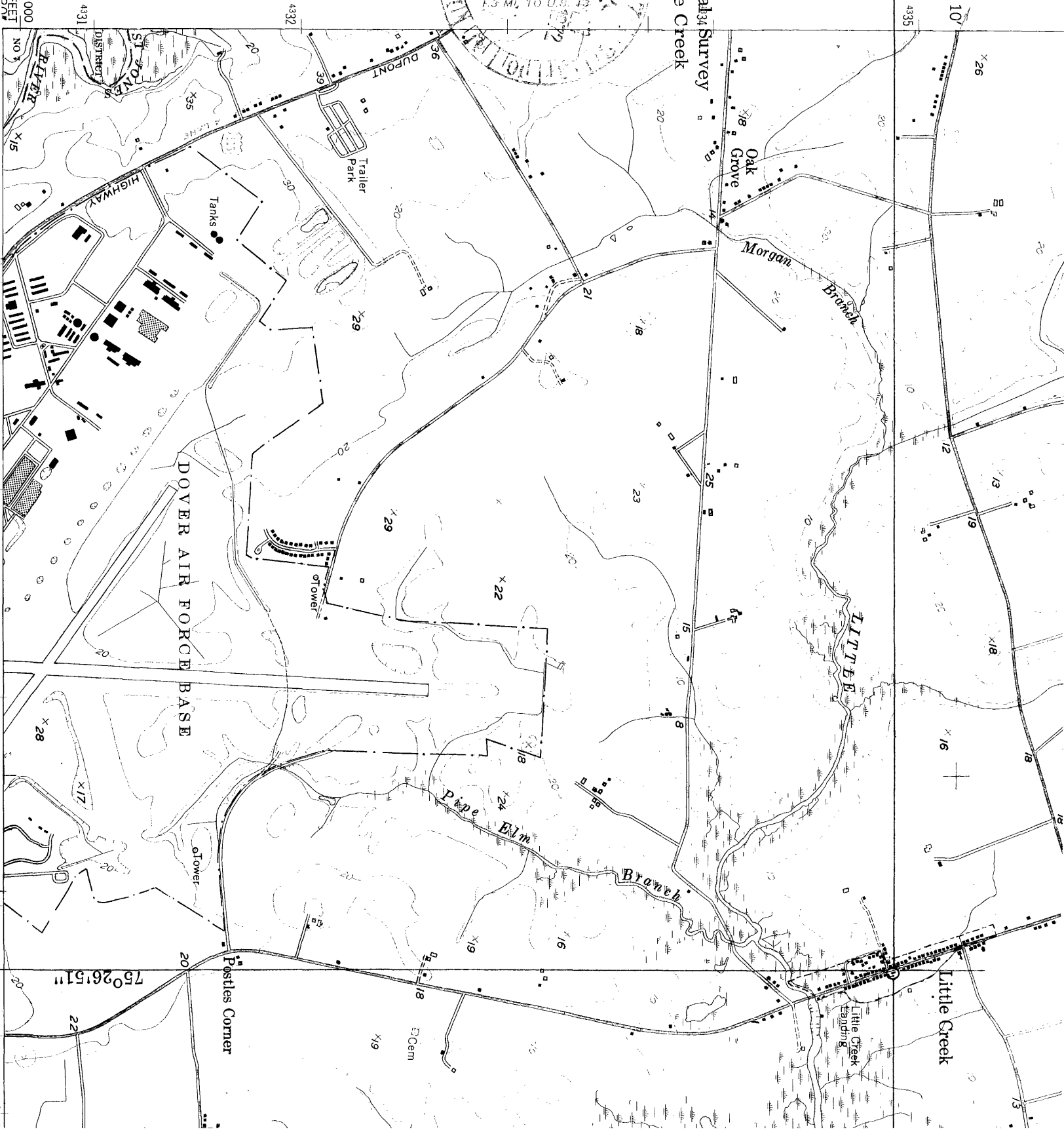
United States Geological Survey  
Topographic Map Little Creek  
1956



DOVER (CIVIC CENTER) 1.5 MI.  
1 MI. TO U.S. 13



410 000  
FEET  
NO. 1  
20997750



75°26'51"

Postles Corner

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE

Little Creek  
Felding

Little Creek

Morgan Branch

Pipe Elm Branch

Cem

Tower

Tower

Tanks

Trailer Park

Oak Grove

ST. JONES DISTRICT

RIVER

4331

4332

4335

410 000

FEET

NO. 1

20997750