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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 an 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 Meeteer House

other names/site number N-206

2. Location

street & number 801 Kirkwood Highway N/A not for publication

city or town Newark, Mill Creek Hundred vicinity

state Delaware code DE county New Castle code 003 zip code 19711

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Amico P. Buffo DESHPO 7/23/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 Entered in the National Register Date of Action

Delores Byers 9/2/93

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National Park Service

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Section number 3 Page 1

Meeteer House

In my opinion, the Meeteer House meets/ does not meet
the National Register criteria.



Dennis E. Greenhouse
County Executive
New Castle County, Delaware

12-2-92
Date

Meeteer House
Name of Property

New Castle Co., 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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

FUNERARY/mortuary

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood: weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Narrative Description

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

Meeteer House
Name of Property

New Castle Co., DE
County and State

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 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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1828

Significant Dates

1828

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Meeteer House
Name of Property

New Castle Co., DE
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.35

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	438400	4394010
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

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 Wanda Czerwinski/ Intern

organization New Castle County Dept. of Planning date July 1992

street & number 2701 Capitol Trail telephone (302)366-7780

city or town Newark state DE zip code 19711

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 Stanley J. and Elizabeth Yasik

street & number 801 Kirkwood Highway telephone (302)737-4444

city or town Newark state DE zip code 19711

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
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DESCRIPTION

The Meeteer House is a 2½ story over a raised basement, Federal style, frame dwelling located in Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. The front facade of this double pile dwelling is five bays, made up of a central passage flanked by two windows on either side of the doorway. The foundation is roughly coursed rubble, and the building is sheathed in weatherboard, with the corners covered with beaded corner boards. The windows are all six-over-six, double hung sash, except the basement windows, which are fixed sash. On the front facade are three 20th century gable dormers that are sided with diagonally laid weatherboard. The gable roof has two interior end chimneys and is covered in asphalt shingles. There is a small, one story, 20th century addition to the rear of the house. Most of the decorative and structural elements are original or early, including the box cornice, shutters, windows, and paneled door. The only other building on the property is a 19th century frame carriage house, with a 20th century shed addition. The property is located on the northeast corner of Kirkwood Highway (State Route 2) and Old Possum Park Road (County Road 303). A substantial setback from Kirkwood Highway, the mature landscaping, and the dwelling's prominent position on a gently sloping hill, all enhance and preserve the integrity of this property. The dwelling functions primarily as a private residence. The current owners operate a funeral home, and several times a year funeral services are held in the house.

The Meeteer House was built by a prominent paper milling family, the Meeteers, between 1822 and 1828, as revealed in the local tax assessment records. The property is situated along a heavily developed commercial route, at the corner of Kirkwood Highway (State Route 2) and Old Possum Park Road (County Route 303). The house is removed from the commotion of Kirkwood Highway by its position on top of a small hill, more than 100 yards from the highway. To the rear of the dwelling is the sole other building on the property, a 19th century carriage house. A 3½ acre yard has helped to isolate and protect these historic buildings from the 20th century development of the area along Kirkwood Highway. The eastern side of the property abuts the residential subdivision, "Delaplane Manor". To the north is the Maple Valley Swim Club and a portion of the Middle Run Valley Natural Area. Old Possum Park road forms the western boundary of the property. Across Old Possum Park Road is a real estate office and a Wendy's fast food restaurant.

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Dwelling Exterior

The house is a 2½ story over a raised basement, double pile, five bay structure. The central passage plan and symmetrical facade are typical of the Federal style. The foundation is laid in roughly coursed rubble, the walls are covered with unadorned weatherboard with beaded corner boards covering the edges of the siding. The asphalt shingled, gable roof kicks out at the eaves slightly, and has an interior end chimney located at each end of the gable.

The principal facade faces south. It is 39' 6" along this elevation. The foundation is exposed approximately 2' 7" above the ground. There are two windows at the foundation level, one on either side of the centrally located stoop for the front door. The windows are made up of six panes in a fixed sash. Seven squared, wood slats run horizontally across the frame. The stoop appears to be a later replacement for the original porch. It has two sets of three steps on opposite sides of a landing made out of coursed rubble, with an iron railing.

The first story of the principal face has four windows, with two flanking each side of the centrally placed door. The windows are six-over-six, double hung sash. Each window has a pair of original, wooden paneled and pegged shutters and iron shutter dogs. The front door has two long vertical panels. A three-pane transom and four-pane side light surround the door opening. Below the side lights is a paneled area that mimics the paneling found in the first story shutters. The door surround is in temple form, with coupled pilasters supporting a pediment.

The second story has five windows which are slightly smaller than the first story windows. They are also six-over-six double hung sash. The windows have wooden louvered shutters with iron shutter dogs. The window sills have been made into a continuous run with pieces of wood patched in between the original sills.

There are three gable dormers, one centered and one on either side of this dormer. These windows were added in the early to mid 20th century. The windows are six-over-six double hung sash. The sides of the dormers are covered in diagonally laid weatherboard, and the pediment is plain.

The gable roof is covered in asphalt shingles, and there are two interior end chimneys, one at either end of the gable. The chimneys are laid in stretcher bond brick. There is a simple box cornice under the eaves of the roof.

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The west endwall faces Old Possum Park Road. At the basement level there is one, three-pane, fixed sash window toward the rear of the house. There are two first story windows located near the corners of the house. The shutters are paneled, as on the front elevation. Two windows are at the second story level. These are placed in several inches from the first story windows, and have louvered shutters. There are two attic windows, inset approximately 1' 6" from the inside edge of the second story windows. The windows located at the first, second, and attic stories are all six-over-six, double hung sash.

The north (rear) elevation is not symmetrical, and has no dormers. There is recent one story addition to the west side of this elevation. The foundation only shows about 6 inches above the ground level, allowing no room for cellar windows. There is a bulkhead entrance to the cellar made out of the same roughly coursed rubble as the foundation. The double, exterior cellar doors have been replaced in the 20th century, and the steps leading to the interior door have been covered in cement.

The first story of the rear elevation has a kitchen door located at the east end. This original paneled door has a simple shallow reveal and a one-pane transom. The 20th century porch is made up of a gable, open pediment roof supported by two posts, and a small stoop. Moving west, there is a six-over-six, double hung sash window without shutters, the 20th century addition, and a final six-over-six double hung sash window. The frame addition has a gable roof and sits perpendicular to the dwelling. The foundation is poured concrete, the weatherboard mimics the covering of the dwelling, and the roof is covered with rolled strip roofing. The door and windows are metal with simple surrounds and there is a simple box cornice at the eaves. This addition resembles the style and character of the house, and does not detract from the integrity of the dwelling.

At the second story rear elevation are four windows. They are all six-over-six double hung sash with louvered shutters. There is a box cornice at the eaves that resembles the one on the front elevation.

The east endwall is the same as the west, except that one window on the first story is slightly smaller than the other first story windows on the house. This window was apparently reduced in size to accommodate modern appliances in the kitchen. There are also two basement windows instead of one.

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Dwelling Interior

The interior of the Meeteer House has retained a high degree of integrity. The original floor plan has changed little, and most of the original details remain intact. The house has a central hall that extends half way through the dwelling, where it intersects a rear hallway. There were originally two rooms on either side of the hallways, but on the west, the dividing wall has been removed to create one large room. Almost all of the doors are paneled with two long panels, and the window and door surrounds come in two distinct styles. One is the more ornate molded surround with bulls eye corner blocks. The other is a very simple unadorned surround, with plain corner blocks. The random width hardwood floor is exposed in many rooms of the house. The basement and attic remain as unfinished storage areas. There is a one story 20th century addition to the rear.

The Basement

The basement plan consists of two rooms divided by a stone wall, running the length of the house. The space in the southern room is divided by the centrally placed stairs, which run from the first story down, toward the south. The room at the bottom of the stairs to the left has been made into a recreational room, with linoleum flooring, cedar paneled walls, and a tiled ceiling. The chimney base is hidden behind the wall covering, and the floor level has been lowered approximately two feet. The only early details are the two, three-pane casement windows.

The room to the right of the stairs has been left largely unaltered. There is one three-pane casement window. The solid stone chimney base located in the west wall is exposed, as are the partially hewn unbarked log first floor joists. The floor has been covered with bricks, the walls are stone, and are partially plastered and white washed. The walls and first story joists and sash sawn floor boards, which made up the ceiling of the basement had been white washed at some time. This degree of finish indicates that the basement was used for something more than storage.

The rear, or north room, can be accessed through either of the two smaller rooms. The doorway set into the stone wall between the right front and rear room is original. It is very simple, made up of pegged and whitewashed jambs and lintel. The rear room runs the length of the house. There are three, three-pane casement windows, and the two solid stone chimney bases located in the east and west walls are exposed. As in the previous room, the floor has been bricked, and the exposed joists, floorboards, and plastered walls have been white washed. The exterior cellar door leads into this room. All of the window reveals in the basement are splayed.

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The First Story

The first story is a variation of the central passage, double pile plan. The central passage only extends half the depth of the house. Located in the central hallway is an open string staircase that leads to the second story. The full-turn staircase runs from the south to a landing on the north, where the second run turns back to the south. The staircase is made up of turned balusters and newel posts. There are two balusters per tread, and the handrail curves at the landing. The front door is pegged and paneled with two long panels extending the height of the door. There are three doorways leading out of this passage. The door surrounds are molded and have bulls eye corner blocks. There are two, one to the right and one to the left of the front door. These lead into the dining room and living room. There is another door directly across from the front door, leading to a rear passage. The rear hallway and stair run perpendicular to the central hallway.

Working clockwise, the room entered from the left side of the central passage is the living room. This room has been enlarged. It was originally two rooms, but the dividing wall has been removed, therefore, this room runs the entire depth of the house. There are five, six-over-six double-hung-sash windows in this space. There were two fireplaces on the west wall, but the one towards the front has been walled over. The baseboards are simple, and the door and window surrounds are molded with bulls eye corner blocks. The doors are paneled with two long panels extending the height on the door. The mantelpiece mimics the door and window surrounds, and also has a mantel shelf supported by two small doric style blocks in the frieze. To the north is a doorway leading to a 20th century addition. There is also a doorway leading to the rear passage. Over this doorway is a three pane transom.

The rear passage connects the living room with the kitchen. It also serves as accesses to the basement stairs and the rear set of winder stairs leading to the second story. The doors to the closet, both stairs, and central passage are all paneled in this hallway, and the surrounds are simple boards, with unadorned corner blocks.

The kitchen is the northeast room. There are two six-over-six double-pane-sash windows in the kitchen. The window in the east wall has been shortened to accommodate the modern appliances. There is a fireplace that has been walled over in the east wall. There are no baseboards, and the simple door surrounds are the same as in the rear hallway. There is a door leading to the exterior in the rear wall. This door is paneled and pegged like the front door, but has been altered to accommodate a window in the upper half of the door. There is a one light

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transom above this door. There is also a door leading to a small room behind the rear passage. This room is divided into a bathroom and laundry room. This room also has a doorway leading to the 20th century addition in the north wall.

The final doorway in the kitchen leads to the dining room in the southeast corner. The dining room is very similar to the living room, except it is half the size. There is one fireplace in the east wall, with the same mantelpiece as in the living room. The door and window surrounds are molded with bulls eye corner blocks. There are three, six-over-six double hung sash windows, and paneled doors leading to the kitchen and the central passage.

The addition to the rear of the house appears to have been built in the early to mid 20th century; probably at the same time as the dormers. This small room is one story, and is referred to as the sun room. It can be entered from either the laundry room or the living room. There is also a door to the exterior in the east wall of the addition. There are seven metal casement windows in the addition.

The Second Story

The second story can be reached by using either the front stairs or the stairs in the rear hallway. The second floor will be described as the first, beginning with the front stairs and continuing clockwise through the rooms. To the left of the stairs is the master bedroom. A door leads out of this bedroom to the rear hallway, which runs east-west, and connects two smaller bedrooms at either end. There is also access to the rear stairs, attic stairs, and two bathrooms from the hallway. The bathrooms are placed next to one another in what used to be a small bedroom in the rear of the house. The final bedroom is larger, and located in the front of the house. It can be reached from either the rear hallway or the front stair area.

The area above the central passage is a room that serves as the terminus of the stairs and as a transitional space between the two large bedrooms. There is one window, and the door surrounds are simple, mimicking the surrounds found in the kitchen.

The master bedroom is found in the southwest corner of the house. There are three windows, and a fireplace in the west wall. There are also modern closets built into this wall on either side of the fireplace. The mantelpiece is simple and there are two simple wooden blocks supporting a mantel shelf. There is one other door in this room leading to the rear hallway.

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The next room off of the rear hallway is a smaller bedroom. This bedroom has two windows, and a three-pane transom above the door. There is no fireplace, and the door surround is simple. Continuing through the hallway, there is a door to a small hallway connecting two bathrooms. The next doorway leads to a set of winder stairs that run to the attic. Continuing east, the next doorway is to the rear stairs that lead to the first story. In the northeast corner of the house is another small bedroom that mirrors the northwest bedroom. The only difference is that this bedroom has an extra doorway leading to one of the bathrooms.

The final bedroom is in the southeast corner. A narrow doorway leads from the rear hall to this room, and this is the only door that breaks the double panel motif, being a four paneled door. This doorway was probably a 20th century addition. This bedroom has three windows and the same mantelpiece and shelf as the master bedroom.

The Attic

The attic is reached by a set of winder stairs in the rear hallway on the second floor. The attic has remained largely intact. The original sash sawn floorboards line the floor, and the sash sawn rafters and collar beams are numbered and pegged together. The two chimney stacks taper at each endwall to form one chimney. The dormers probably date to the early or mid 20th century, of which there are three on the south side. There are four other windows, one on each side of the chimney stacks in the gable ends. One final detail is an ornate turned railing that surrounds the staircase opening. This railing is rumored to have been taken from "Ellerslie Mansion," a mid 19th century Italianate house located on the Delaware River at Edgemoor, which was the home of author F. Scott Fitzgerald early in the 20th century. The railing was brought to the Meeteer House in the mid 20th century.

CARRIAGE HOUSE

There is one contributing outbuilding on the property, a 19th century frame carriage house, measuring 25' x 23'. This one story building has a stone foundation and a gable roof. The building has a small 20th century shed addition on the north endwall, measuring 15' 3" across the front. The orientation of the entrance was changed in the 20th century from the south endwall to the east side, where there are now two sets of large double doors. The opening to the shed is also on the east side. There is one six-over-six double-hung-sash window at the loft level in the south endwall. The building is covered with synthetic siding and the roof is sheathed

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in asphalt shingles, but the original materials have been left intact beneath. Under the modern encasement, are 8"-10" vertical sash sawn boards for walls, and under the roof are wooden shingles. There is also a scalloped cornice board running along the roof line.

The interior of the carriage house is divided into two floors, the main floor and the loft. The loft is reached by a straight run of stairs located next to the north wall. Many of the principal support members in the building are hewn and pegged, although several have been replaced with sash or circular sawn wood. The loft floor joists are partially hewn unbarked logs, as in the basement of the dwelling. The sash sawn and pegged rafters also resemble the ones in the dwelling. The similarities in style and construction indicate that the carriage house was either built at the same time as the house, or soon after.

LANDSCAPE

There is one other site that was once part of this property, but as the acreage was sold off, it became part of another. The stone foundation of the Meeteer livery barn can be found to the east on a neighbor's property. It now serves as the foundation of a dwelling.

The landscaping is an important part of the property. The house sits in the middle of a large yard, on a hill. The house is separated from Kirkwood Highway by a number of large trees and bushes. These trees and shrubbery appear to have been part of a landscaping effort, possibly in the 19th century. Although no longer existing, there is evidence of a circular driveway leading directly to the house, around which were planted rows of trees. A boxwood was planted in the center of the circular portion of the drive, which has since grown to be approximately 8 feet tall and 18 feet in diameter. There is also evidence of a driveway leading to the carriage shed, on the east side of the house. The large, elevated yard, and mature plantings help isolate the Meeteer House from the commotion of the area.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Meeteer house is significant under criterion C, as a well preserved example of the vernacular Federal style. Built between 1822 and 1828 by a prominent milling family, the dwelling represents the upper end of the economic scale of construction in New Castle County. The building of the house represents two important regional themes. First, is the importance of milling and the wealth of mill owners in Mill Creek Hundred and New Castle County. Second, is the wider tradition of rebuilding that occurred in the early 19th century. Both the style and quality of construction attest to these themes. This 2½ story frame house has retained a very high degree of integrity.

The Meeteer House is significant under criterion C for three primary reasons. The contributing factors are, its state of preservation, its setting, and that it is an excellent example of the Federal vernacular style. In Mill Creek Hundred, there are many Federal style dwellings. What makes the Meeteer House distinctive is that it is frame construction and that it is a five bay, central passage plan. During this period, stone houses greatly outnumbered frame dwellings in Mill Creek Hundred. In 1828, stone dwellings made up 35.4% of the primary houses, while frame made up only 10.7% or 36 houses. The Meeteer House is one of the few surviving frame houses built prior to 1828, in Mill Creek Hundred. The other distinguishing feature in the Meeteer House is its plan. The two story, five bay, double pile form is the fullest expression of the Georgian plan, which was the precursor of the Federal style. Many of the Federal style houses found in Mill Creek Hundred are three bays, with a side passage plan. Some houses survive in this form, but many were expanded with a two-bay addition. By adding two bays, this moved the door placement to the center. The owners were trying to achieve the ideal, symmetrical Georgian form. An example of this evolution in form is the McKennan-Klair House (N-1250). Built in 1818 as a three bay, side passage plan house, it was expanded to a five bay house in the 19th century. The form of the Meeteer House as an original five bay plan and its construction material being frame are both distinguishing features when occurring separately, but the fact that the two features occur in one dwelling makes the Meeteer House very significant.

The Meeteer House is described as Federal because it embodies classically Federal motifs and forms. The most obvious is the symmetry of the front facade. The five bay, center passage plan is the ideal expression of the Federal style. The paneled shutters, box cornice, and classically inspired door surround are further evidence of the Federal style. The interior reflects the Federal style as well. The molded window and door surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks are typical of the Federal style. The full-turn staircase with turned balusters and newel posts is also an

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excellent example of Federal style craftsmanship. The classical form of the first floor mantels and less elaborate second floor mantels is typical of the Federal style.

There are several features in the Meeteer House that are atypical of the Federal style, exhibiting local variations that make this building vernacular. The most obvious is the use of local materials, such as the stone in the foundation. The vertically paneled doors are another atypical feature. Perhaps the most distinguishing feature is the plan. From the exterior, the house appears to have a full center passage, but instead, the passage extends only half the depth of the house. This passage is the formal, entrance area, with one of the highest levels of finish in the house. In the back of this hallway is a door to the rear passage, which runs perpendicular to the front passage. The less-finished basement stairs and secondary staircase can be accessed from this hallway. On the second level, there is only one hallway that runs above the first story rear passage. The division of interior space is basically symmetrical, but is not a typical example of the Federal form.

Aside from its form, the Meeteer House is significant because of its high degree of integrity. The original plan of the house has been changed very little. The only major change was the removal of the dividing wall between the two western first story rooms. There has been one 20th century addition to the rear of the house. It is small and in keeping with the style of the house. The original materials and decoration also remain largely intact. The paneled doors and shutters, windows, weatherboard, floorboards, window and door moldings, staircase, and mantels are almost all original, and in a good state of preservation. Where modernization occurred, the original materials were left intact even though they were covered over. For example, in the carriage house the vertical weatherboards are intact under the synthetic siding.

The setting also contributes to the Meeteer House's state of preservation and integrity. The elevated, 3½ acre plot isolates and protects the house from the pollution and noise of Kirkwood Highway. The house is set back from the highway and there are several clusters of mature trees that shield the house. There is evidence of a circular driveway leading to the front of the house. There is a pattern to the landscaping surrounding the ghost of the driveway. A stand of trees lines one side of the drive and there is a very large boxwood that stands in the center of the circular part of the ghost. There is another ghost of a driveway that runs on the east side of the house to the carriage house. The mature landscaping and unobliterated evidence of early features add to the integrity of the Meeteer House.

In the early to mid 19th century, Mill Creek Hundred was a farming and milling community. Many of the large dwellings in Mill Creek Hundred were built by mill owners, as they followed

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the widespread rebuilding trend. Small houses, such as the log dwelling located on the property in 1816, were replaced or improved in an effort to exhibit wealth and provide a more comfortable living space. Other examples of houses built in New Castle County during this time include, the Benjamin Hersey House (NR, N-1244), the Abner Cloud House (N-5283), and the Ashton Richardson House (N-160). Each of these houses was built in the Federal style by mill owners. It is important to note that the rebuilding tradition and adoption of the Federal style was not confined to mill owners, or even dictated by wealth. Rebuilding occurred at all economic levels and the vernacular Federal style was a typical form during the early 19th century rebuilding period.

History of Property

The property on which the house was built was bought by Samuel and William Meeteer from Joseph and Eliza England in 1816. Samuel and William Meeteer were the sons of Thomas Meeteer, a Quaker from Chester County, Pennsylvania. Thomas Meeteer came to Delaware in the 1780s and established a paper mill in 1789 on the banks of White Clay Creek. By 1797 Thomas Meeteer owned 285 acres made up of a farm, saw mill, paper mill, and workers housing along White Clay Creek. His was one of the first paper mills in Delaware. He fathered three sons by wife Mercy: William (1776-1838), Samuel (1787-1833), and George. In 1801, the Meeteers established T. Meeteer and Sons, a bookstore, in Baltimore, Maryland. The store changed ownership within the family several times, but by 1810 it was again owned by Thomas, Samuel, and William. When Thomas Meeteer died in 1812, William took over the management of the bookstore while Samuel resided in Mill Creek Hundred and oversaw the mill operations. The paper mill was known as the Milford Mill or Milford Paper Mill. The Milford Paper Mill had three vats in operation in 1820 according to the industrial census, and employed 21 men, 28 women, and 7 children, with wages totaling \$7330. The mill operated until 1841. The property was sold by Samuel and William's heirs in 1843 to Joseph E. Perry of Mill Creek Hundred for \$6000. By 1847, Perry was bankrupt and the mill was sold at a sheriff's sale to George B. and Soloman M. Curtis. At this point it became the Curtis Paper Mill. Although the original mill was replaced in the late 19th century, the Curtis Paper Mill still stands on Paper Mill Road in Newark.

The 1816 Tax Assessment for New Castle County mentions the land bought from Joseph England. Of the 152 acres, 100 were wooded and 52 acres were improved. On the property was one log dwelling. Samuel and William Meeteer also owned a 368 acre lot in Mill Creek Hundred. On this property were one stone and wood dwelling, a smokehouse, a wood outhouse,

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12 brick outhouses, 3 log tenements, a stone barn, a sawmill, and a paper mill. This was property inherited from their father. In 1822, Samuel and William Meeteer were assessed for a "paper mill and various houses valued at \$5754" on 709 acres of land. In 1828, Samuel and William Meeteer owned 430 acres, on which were a frame house and paper mill worth \$16,750, and a total value of \$18,000. It is very likely that the frame house referred to in the 1828 assessment is the Meeteer House. In 1828, Samuel and William Meeteer owned the second largest parcel of land and were the second wealthiest property owners in Mill Creek Hundred. In 1828, the median number of acres was 66.5 and the median total taxable property was \$1885 in Mill Creek Hundred. Looking at these statistics, one realizes that the Meeteer House must have been one of the largest and most impressive in the area when it was built. The house was sold in 1842 by the estate of Samuel Meeteer to Uriah Drake, Sr., who owned it until it was sold via a sheriff's sale in 1875 to Milton and Mary Hustis.

The Meeteer House is a 2½ story frame, five bay, central passage plan dwelling. It is in sound structural condition and retains many of its original or early elements, such as weatherboards, paneled and pegged shutters and doors, mantels, and staircase. The plan has been changed little, mainly to accommodate modern appliances. There is a one story addition in the rear and the three dormers were added in the early to mid 20th century. An effort was made to preserve the original design and decoration of the house whenever changes were made. The level of preservation and the setting of the house are considerations that substantiate the argument that the Meeteer House has a very high degree of integrity. It is important as a well-preserved example of a vernacular Federal style house, and with its association with the Meeteers and the mill industry so important to Mill Creek Hundred and New Castle County.

Comprehensive Planning

The Meeteer House is located in Mill Creek Hundred, which is part of the piedmont geographic zone in Delaware. The period of significance falls within the early industrialization period in Delaware history, which is between 1770 and 1830 +/- . The historic theme associated with this property is, "architecture, engineering, and decorative arts".

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MEETEER HOUSE--DEED SEARCH

- 8/3/1974 Grantor: Holger H. Schaumann
Grantee: Stanley J. Yasik
Deed Book: P-89-914
- 12/17/1949 Grantor: James F. Wood
Grantee: Holger H. Schaumann
Deed Book: S-49-217
- 6/19/1946 Grantor: Elizabeth O'Neill
Grantee: James F. Wood
Deed Book: G-46-469
- 5/13/1946 Grantor: Frederic C. and Gladys Evans
Grantee: Elizabeth O'Neill
Deed Book: D-46-568
- 1/20/1939 Grantor: J. LePenne and Clare K. Guenveur
Grantee: Frederic and Gladys Evans
Deed Book: D-41-579
- 3/14/1938 Grantor: Security Title Company
Grantee: J. LePenne and Clare Guenveur
Deed Book: W-40-141
- 4/24/1935 Grantor: Charles J. and Ella L. Burnley (Via Sheriff Harry C. Clark)
Grantee: Security Title Company
Deed Book: M-39-250
- 6/21/27 Grantor: Thomas D. and Alice J. Smith
Grantee: Charles and Ella Burnley
Deed Book: G-35-16

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5/20/1925 Grantor: Delaplane Land Company
Grantee: Thomas and Alice Smith
Deed Book: P-33-329

1/1925 Grantor: Max and Rosa K. Keil, and George L. and Mary Medill, and Aaron and
Jennie Keil
Grantee: Delaplane Land Company
Deed Book: I-33-353

7/22/1920 Grantor: Joseph and Ellen Vought
Grantee: The Keils and Medills
Deed Book: E-33-305

3/6/1878 Grantor: Milton C. and Mary Hustis
Grantee: Joseph N. Vought
Deed Book: C-11-305

5/18/1875 Grantor: Uriah Drake (via Sheriff's sale)
Grantee: Milton and Mary Hustis
Deed Book: W-10-413

1842 Grantor: Estate of Samuel Meeteer
Grantee: Uriah Drake, Sr.
Deed Book: I-5-401

1816 Grantor: Joseph and Eliza England
Grantee: Samuel and William Meeteer
Deed Book: S-3-150

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Tax Assessments of New Castle County, Delaware: 1816-1817, 1822, and 1828.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

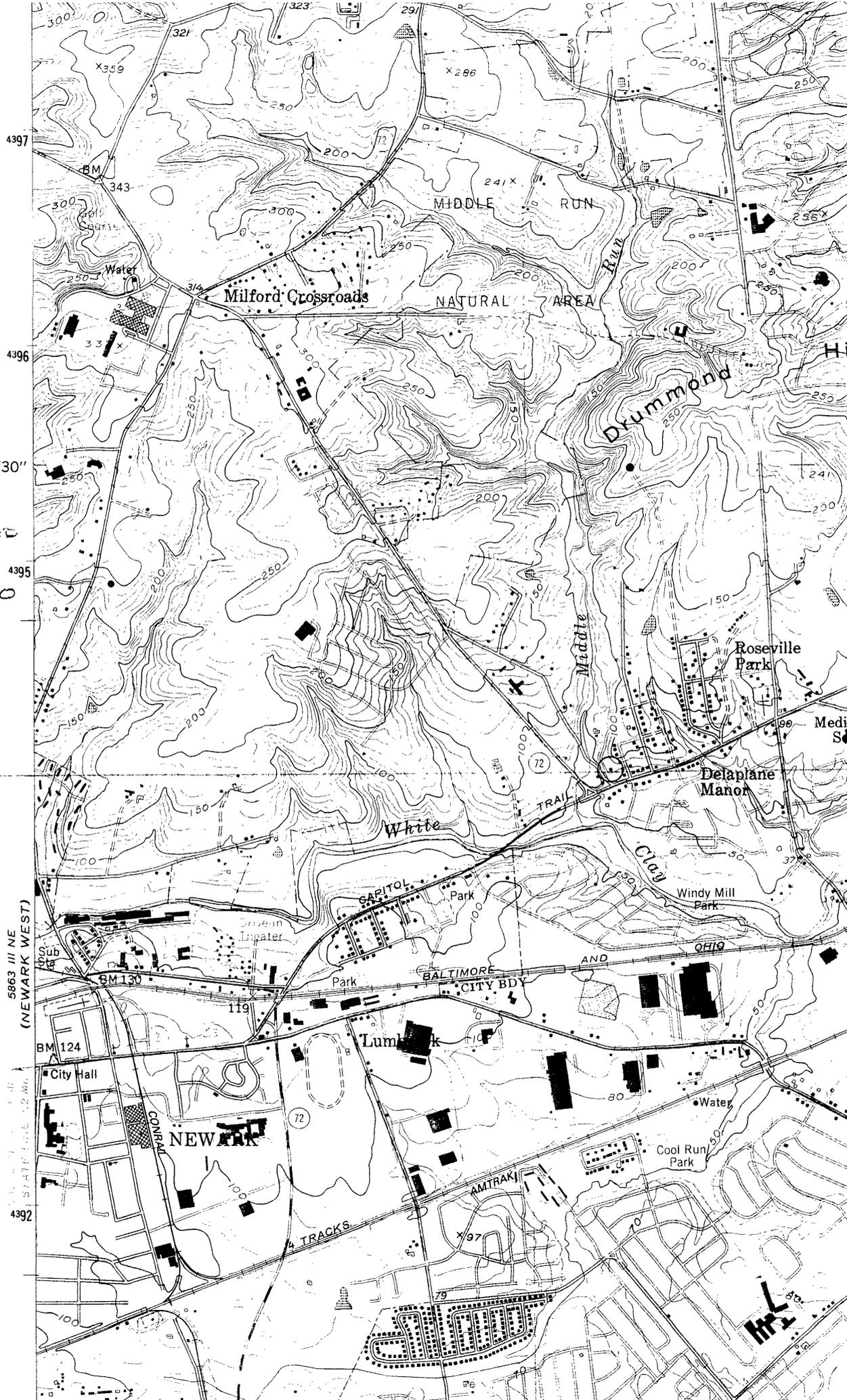
Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated boundary is outlined on the attached New Castle County Tax Parcel Map. The entire legal parcel on which the house, carriage house and landscape elements are located, is defined as the boundary. The parcel contains 3.35 acres and is bounded on the south by Kirkwood Highway and on the west by Old Possum Park Road. The tract is defined as parcel number 08-059.00-018.

Boundary Justification

The nominated tract encompasses the entire parcel on which the house is located, since that is all that is left of the historic acreage.

MEETEEL HOUSE
NEWARK EAST, DEL.
QUADRANGLE 42'30"
7.5 MINUTE SERIES
SCALE 1:24000
953, PHOTOZENISED
1985
18/438400/4394010

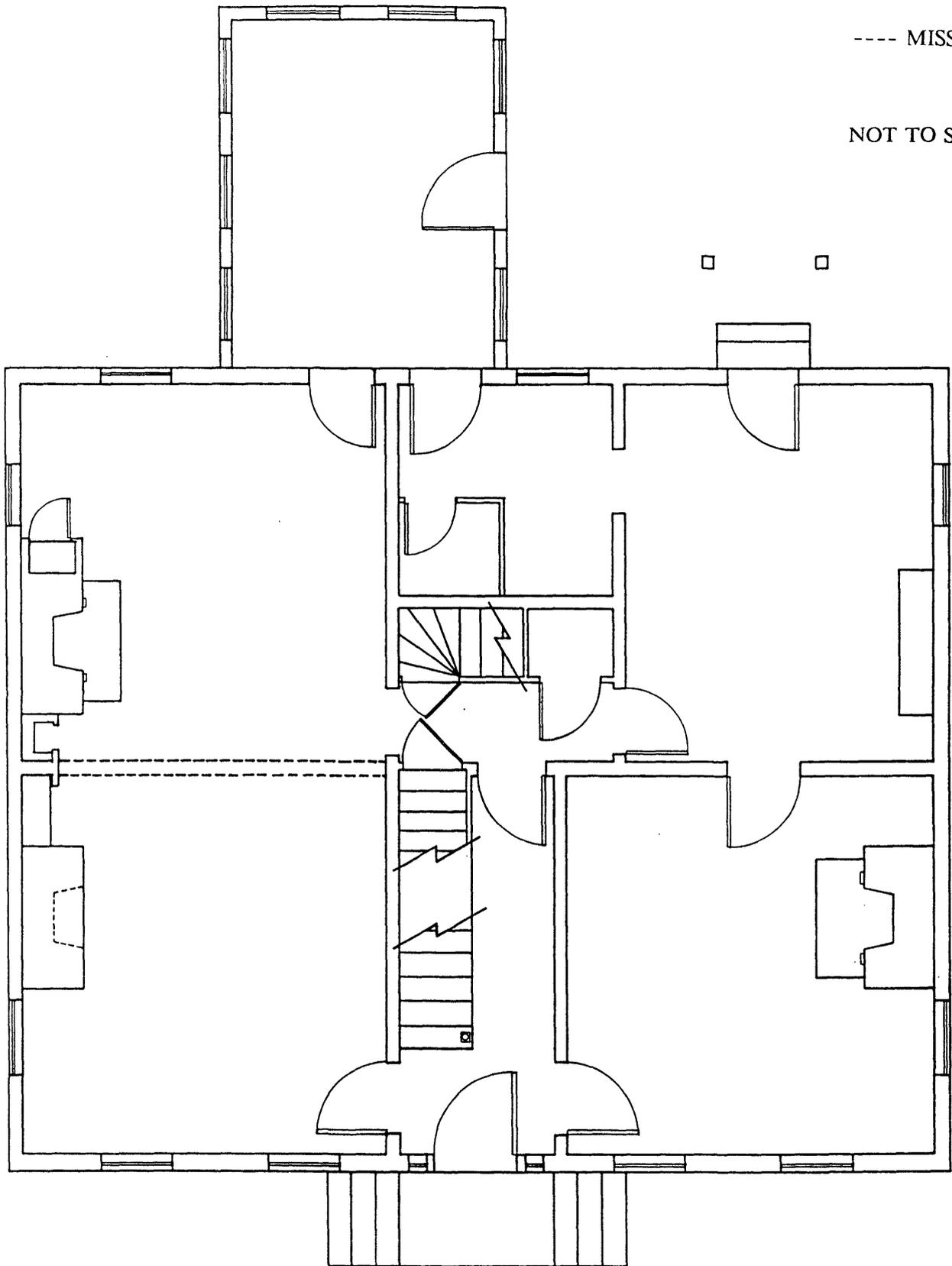


↑
NORTH

KEY:

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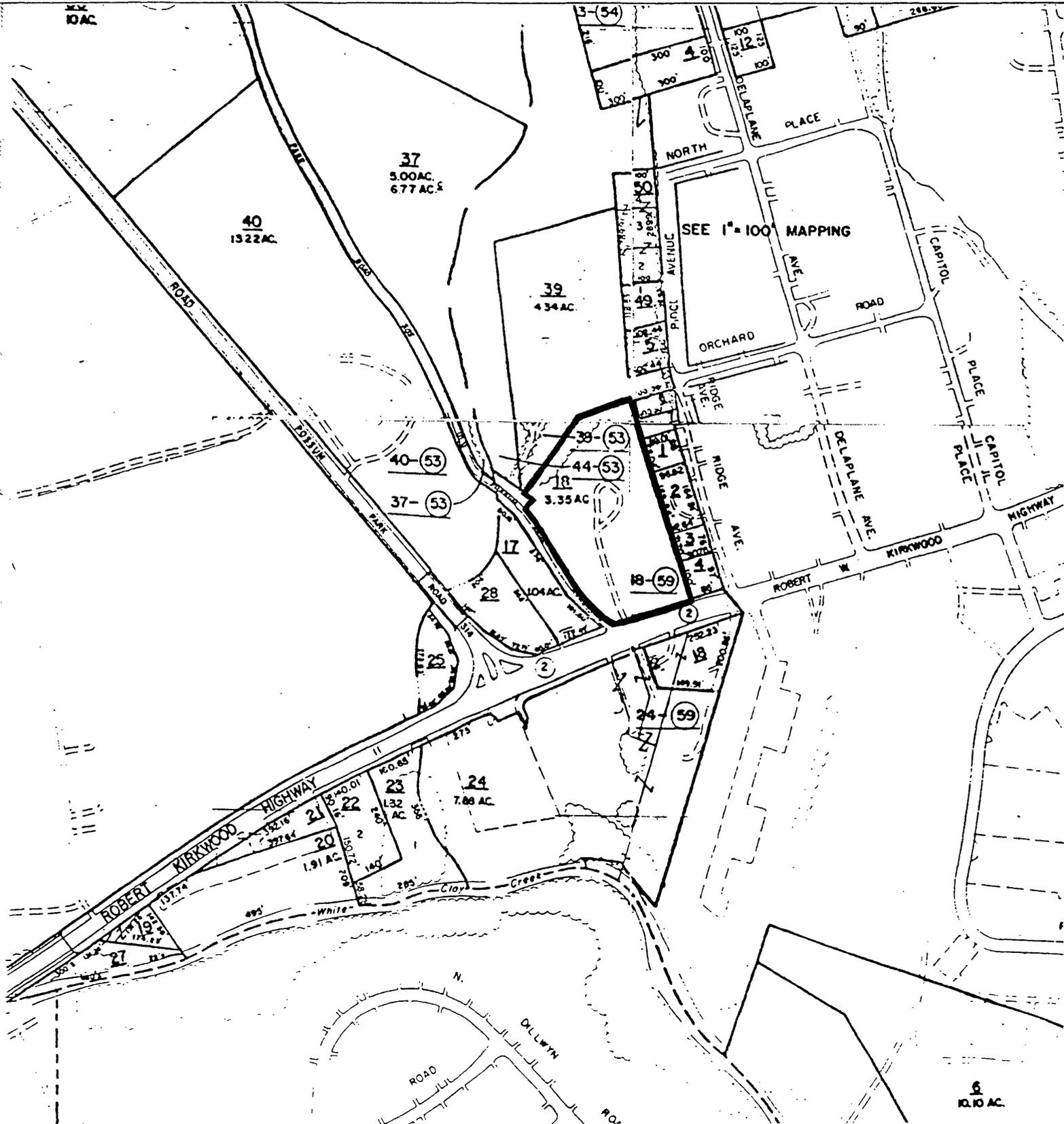
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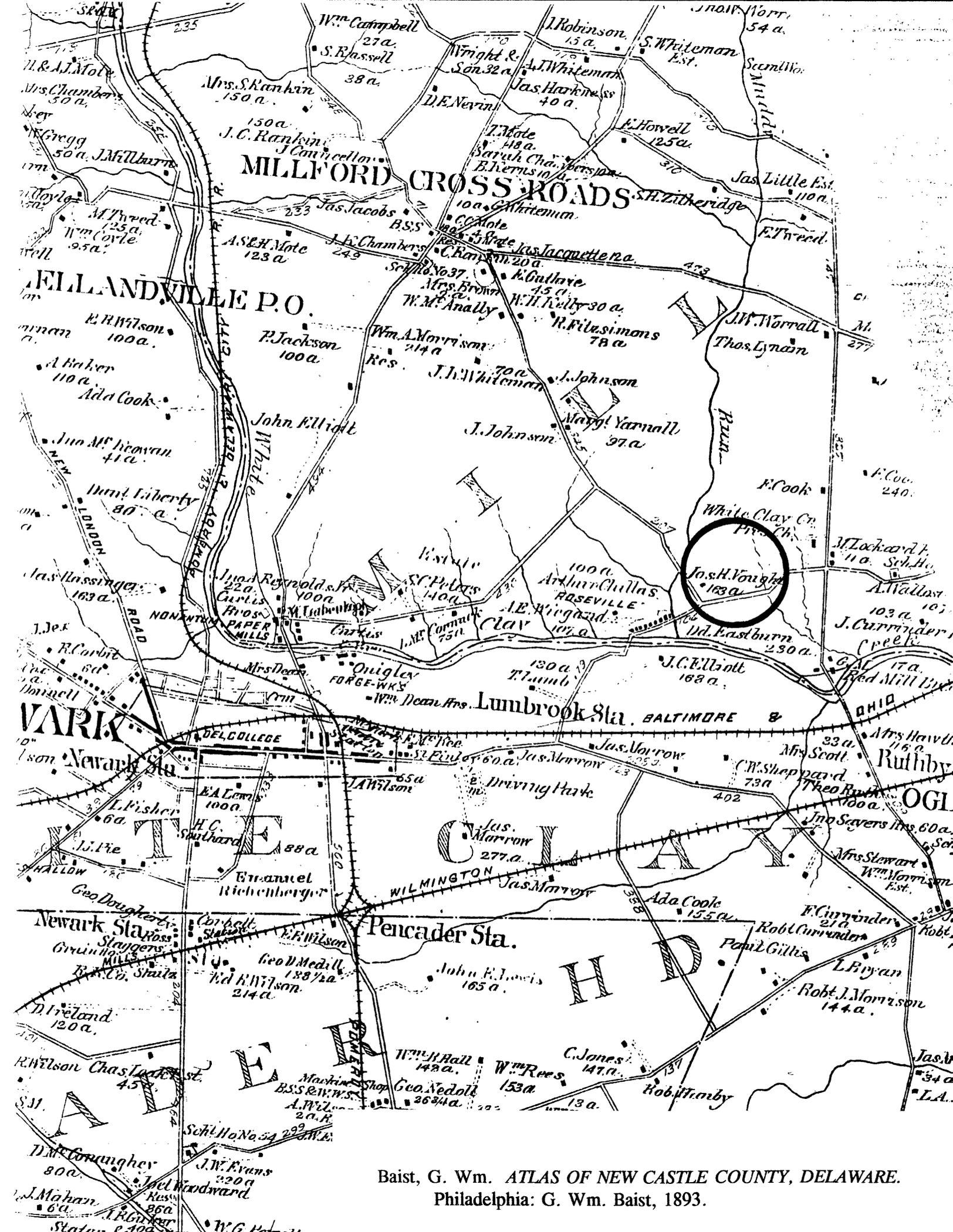


**THE MEETEER HOUSE
801 KIRKWOOD HIGHWAY, NEW CASTLE COUNTY,
DELAWARE**

THE MEETER HOUSE
NEW CASTLE COUNTY TAX PARCEL MAP

08-059.00-018





Baist, G. Wm. ATLAS OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE.
 Philadelphia: G. Wm. Baist, 1893.