

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 18 1980
DATE ENTERED	APR 8 1982

Historic Resources of Red Lion Hundred

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 26

11. A. Property Name - N-5042 - Bloomfield

B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description - Bloomfield is located approximately 800 feet west of Route 13 on the Kirkwood-St. Georges Road. The nominated property is an irregularly shaped parcel fronting on the Kirkwood-St. Georges Road for 190 feet with a maximum depth of approximately 900 feet.

C. Owner - ~~Francis M. Gam~~ *Lester M. Weaver*
~~Howell School Road~~ *P.O. #4*
~~Bear, Delaware 19701~~ *Quarryville, PA 17566*

D. Property Description

Bloomfield is a two-and-a-half story, five-bay, cross-gable frame house with asymmetrical floor plan and porch on three sides. The off-center facade entrance, an inside end brick chimney on the west end, an interior brick chimney on the east side and the irregular placement of the second story fenestration, combine with the steeply pitched cross gable to give this bracketed structure a distinctly picturesque appearance. Enhancing the impression of irregularity is the attached rear addition, a two-bay section of which extends beyond the main block on the east end. The rear section of this service wing was added by the Gams in 1910. The main block was constructed about the middle of the nineteenth century; the portion of the addition not constructed in 1910 may pre-date the main block and could possibly date as early as 1840.

Near the main structure is a frame, double pile, four-bay tenant house with a low-gable roof, a full front, shed roof porch and a flounder roof addition to the rear.

Inventory of Outbuildings

N5042 a. Intrusion; modern wooden gable roof shed.

N5042 b. Intrusion; modern wooden shed.

N504 c. Intrusion; modern gable roof shed.

N5042 d. Wooden barn with vertical board siding; gable roof covered with corrugated metal.

N5042 e. Wooden barn with board-and-batten sheathing; gable roof

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covered with corrugated metal; attached wooden shed and gable roof concrete block addition.

N5042 f. Wooden shed.

N5042 g. Wooden shed with vertical board siding; gable roof covered with corrugated metal.

N5042 h. Wooden privy with vertical board siding; shed roof covered with corrugated metal.

N5042 i. Wooden board-and-batten shed; gable roof covered with corrugated metal.

Historical Background

The Chesapeake and Delaware Canal was constructed by five farmers up to the "deep-cut" at Summit. One of these, William J. Hurlock, an enterprising farmer, was responsible for obtaining the contract to dig the canal lock at St. Georges. From this he amassed a fortune and became one of the most prominent and respected men in Red Lion Hundred. Hurlock married a Miss Wilhemina Stewart of Bloomfield Farm, whose family owned the land next to the town of Saint Georges, and resided there. After the completion of the canal he improved his farm and bought other farms that came on the market, so that by 1843 he owned 640 acres along the Canal. Hurlock was one of the first persons to recognize the beneficial properties of marl, a substance composed of decaying seashells, that was uncovered when the canal lock was being dug.

This substance was spread over his fields with the result that his crops "were the largest no matter how the seasons were." Hurlock built a house in Saint Georges for his daughter, Julia, who married Albert O. Newton, a merchant, but later he gave his daughter and son-in-law Bloomfield, and he moved into the house in town. A contemporary described Bloomfield as "a beautiful farm home containing 18 rooms and known as the Newton Mansion."

Mr. Albert O. Newton was elected to the Legislature of the State of Delaware in 1851, and was instrumental in the passage of the railroad bill. He was nominated for Governor in 1875, however was not elected as such.

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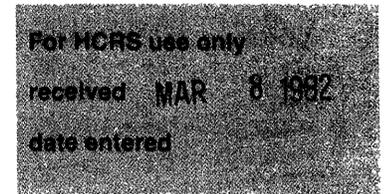
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Bloomfield was purchased in 1910 by the Gam Family, who had moved to St. Georges in 1896 and operated the St. Georges Hotel. It was Gam who moved the tenant house from its original location near the Kirkwood-St. Georges Road to a site about 300 feet from the mansion house. A large frame barn on the property was erected about 1914, utilizing timbers from the ammunition plant in Dobbinsville, near New Castle, Delaware. Only 164 acres remain of the original 640 acres that constituted this farm.

E. Significance

With its steep central gable, deep one-story veranda, bracketed overhanging cornice, picturesque profile and irregular plan, Bloomfield survives as an excellent example of the popular approach to rural Gothic Revival architecture advocated by Andrew Jackson Downing. Additionally, it not only symbolizes the prosperity of one of those individuals responsible for the digging of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and the resultant agronomic prosperity of the Hundred, but also it survives as a rare and largely intact version of a pervasive stylistic expression.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**Red Lion Hundred Multiple Resource Area
Continuation sheet

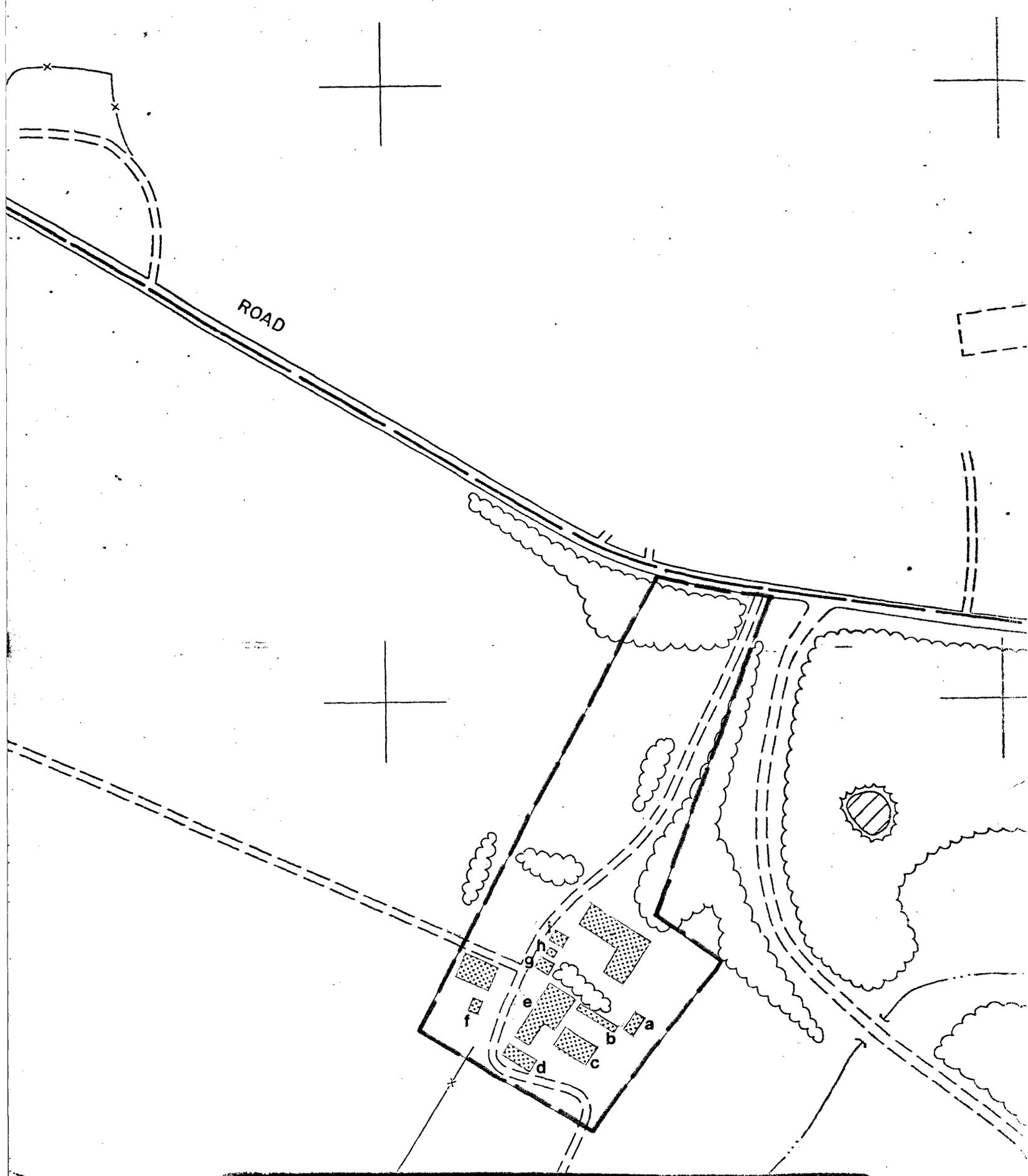
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11. Bloomfield (N-5042)

E. Significance

As it survives today, Bloomfield reflects the tastes of Julia (Hurlock) and Albert O. Newton. Upon returning from what is now the State of Arizona in 1840 to live permanently in Delaware, the Newtons resided on this property, which had been given to them by William J. Hurlock. Apparently, the Newtons are responsible for transforming Bloomfield into the "Newton Mansion." Bloomfield is historically significant because of its association with two of Red Lion Hundred's leading figures, William J. Hurlock, who got his start in life by working on the Canal, and Albert O. Newton, representative to the State Legislature, and instrumental in the passage of the State's railroad bill.



SKETCH MAP

N-5042 Bloomfield

DATE : 4/14/80

SCALE: 1:200 ±

NEW CASTLE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

