

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 30 1979
DATE ENTERED JUL 22 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Robert Ferguson House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

E of Newark at

STREET & NUMBER

636 Chestnut Hill Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Newark,

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Delaware

X VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

New Castle

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Alice Norvell

STREET & NUMBER

636 Chestnut Hill Road

CITY, TOWN

Newark

X VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New Castle County Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

800 French Street (City-County Building)

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey

DATE

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Delaware Division of Historic and Cultural Affairs

CITY, TOWN

Hall of Records, Dover

STATE

Delaware

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

The Ferguson House, situated on Chestnut Hill Road near Newark, reflects the development of building techniques from the late-eighteenth, early nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Stylistically, the two-story, two-bay southwest portion of the residence was constructed between 1790 and 1810. This single pile, frame section, presently covered with asphalt siding features an interior end chimney, box cornice and field stone foundation. Unlike the other portions of this structure, its framing consists of mortise and tenon joining. This section has a full basement.

A Tower, two-story, one-room section adjoining the earlier structure retains its original six-over-six double hung sash windows and interior end chimney. Examination of the original hardware found within this area and its building techniques suggests a construction date of about 1835. A basement has been added under this section in this century to house heating equipment.

Around the turn of the century, a third addition was attached to the residence. It is a one-story, two-bay section and presently contains kitchen and bathroom facilities.

The interior of this modest, middle-class residence retains its original moulded door and window surrounds, baseboard trim, four paneled doors and painted fireplace mantels.

The southwest staircase wall within the earliest-known section retains its original verticle sheathing with beaded edge. The staircase railing features square balusters and handrail and terminates with a columnar newel post surmounted by a Ionic capital with egg-and-dart motif.

Several additional buildings are on the property; however, all have been erected by the present occupants who have owned the property since 1948. Included are a one-story frame and concrete block combination garage and small machine shop, and three smaller wooden sheds. With the exception of some present use for storage, the sheds have essentially been abandoned since poultry and farming operations were ceased.

Although the nominated property and a smaller adjoining parcel retain much of their rural characteristics, the general area is heavily developed as numerous residential communities have been built along Delaware Route 4 (Chestnut Hill Road). In the immediate vicinity of the nominated property, residential development is situated to the north (rear) and west, and a 215-unit subdivision development occupies land across the Delaware Route 4 roadway. A main entrance road of the subdivision "T" intersects with Delaware Route 4 directly in front of the nominated structure. The structure is precariously situated only 15 feet from the edge of the Delaware Route 4 roadway.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ferguson House is characteristic of the small scale vernacular architecture of the early nineteenth century. Because of its location in a highly developed part of the state, it is one of the few in the immediate vicinity still standing and in good condition. While the interior trim is not elaborate, it is typical of that used by small landowners of the period, and attractive in its simplicity.

This dwelling, characterized by three distinct periods of construction, reflects the development of building techniques from the late eighteenth, early nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. The interior trim and construction details suggest that the two-story, two-bay section was constructed between 1790 and 1810. Original hardware on the interior door joining this section with the lower, two-story, two-bay section suggests that the addition was constructed about 1835. The deep fireplace and very simple trim indicate that it was intended for use as a kitchen. Finally, around the turn of the twentieth century, a one-story, two-bay section, containing kitchen and bathroom facilities was added. However, despite the increase in the size of the structure over time, no significant changes were made to the original construction of each section. Thus, the Ferguson House is a significant survival from the first half of the nineteenth century.

Although the area surrounding the house and its grounds has undergone severe ground disturbance due to development in the last twenty years, the activity areas associated with the occupation of the house throughout its history has not been altered, except in the roadway immediately in front of the house. Thus it should be possible to recover significant socio-cultural information about the small landowner in the early nineteenth century, a period and class for which we currently have little comparative data.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.45

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	4	3	9	3	8	0	4	3	9	1	5	1	9
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a rectangular lot with roughly 245 feet fronting the northern edge of the two lane Delaware Route 4 (Chestnut Hill Road). The depth of the property from highway right-of-way is approximately 610 feet. The property is bounded to the north and west by residential properties and to the east by public-owned open land. A New Castle County property map is attached. The nominated property is identified as parcel.2.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nicholas S. Blendy/Highway Planner

1/4/78

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Delaware Department of Transportation

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Highway Administration Building, P.O. Box 778

(302) 678-5295

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dover

Delaware 19901

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL *see letter*

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bill Blouin

DATE July 22, 1979

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST *Caroline Jane Seys*

DATE 7-19-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Regional Coordinator

