

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

SEP 25 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 13 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

The Brick Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

The Wilmington Trust Co., Georgetown Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

The Circle

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Georgetown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

Sussex

CODE

003

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

W. 10th Street Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

W. 10th St.

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware

\_\_ VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds Office; The Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

The Circle

CITY, TOWN

Georgetown

STATE

Delaware

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey (S-109)

DATE

June 13, 1978

\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

CITY, TOWN

Hall of Records, Dover

STATE

Delaware

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Brick Hotel, now the Georgetown office of the Wilmington Trust Company, is situated at the southwest corner of West Market Street and The Circle in the Sussex County Seat. It is a seven-bay, double-pile, two-story-and-attic structure with a rear one-story original (but much altered) kitchen wing and a larger one-story modern wing dating from the 1930's which is now used as law offices.

The walls of the hotel are three courses of red brick laid in Flemish bond. The walls rise to double end chimneys contained in the brick end walls and joined by curtain walls at the ridge of the roof. Originally a third set of double chimneys were located at the center of the roof, but these were removed in the early 20th century. (See old photos for record of exterior alterations).

The roof is now slate-tiled. Earlier in this century it was roofed with seamed tin, and still earlier in wooden shingles. A modern flat verandah roof extends outward from the front of the roof at the eaves. A modern Greek Revival reproduction, the porch replaces two earlier porches. From about 1920 to about 1955 an earlier 19th century porch was roofed in tin. Before the turn of the century, the porch roof sloped smoothly down from the roof of the main hotel section in a "cat slide" style. Until the building was remodeled in the early 1950's, the porch was a double one with victorian trim.

Both the front and back slopes of the roof contain four dormer windows. Those at the rear of the building are very plain gable dormers while those in front are more ornate Federal-style pedimented dormers with arched tops with a dentil molding, pilasters, and arched two-over-two sash windows. All dormers are frame construction.

The exterior of the building underwent considerable alteration in 1955 when it was converted from a hotel to a bank building. At that time the original double porches were removed from the front of the building. Two first-floor doorways with original arched fanlights were removed at that time, as were two similar doorways exiting onto West Market Street at the side of the building. A three-window one-story bay at the center of the first-floor porch was also removed, as were two doorways opening onto the second floor porch. The first-floor main door was moved to the center of the porch. It is a reproduction Greek Revival door with bullseye mouldings.

The interior of the structure has undergone considerable alteration on the first floor but the second floor and the finished attic are still relatively unchanged. The building originally contained 17 fireplaces--eight on the second floor and nine on the first floor. All eight second floor fireplaces remain with original Greek Revival-style mantelpieces and decoration. Two fireplaces on the West Market

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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      1836      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Joshua S. Layton and Caleb B. Sipple

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brick Hotel is significant as one of the few early brick public buildings ever constructed in Sussex County as well as for the substantial role it played in the legal and social history of the county seat of Georgetown. It also serves as one of the primary components in the streetscape of Georgetown's public square and circle.

Brick structures of any type were a relative rarity in southern Delaware before the late 19th century because of a shortage of suitable clay deposits in the area. Out of several hundred 18th and early 19th century structures still standing in the county, less than a dozen are brick. That the old hotel was known throughout its history as "The Brick Hotel" except for a Civil War Era designation as "The Union Hotel," further attests to its rarity in Sussex.

The county seat of Georgetown was laid out by order of the Delaware General Assembly in 1791. The first courthouse there was a small two-story frame and shingle building situated on the Public Square and Circle. A jail was built of brick at the same time, doubtless to increase its resistance to fire and attempts of prisoners to escape. During the first three decades of the 19th century, the town was served by a frame-and-shingle inn situated on the square directly across from the courthouse, on the site of the present Brick Hotel.

During the 1830's it became increasingly obvious that both courthouse and inn were too small and both were replaced by brick structures, a good deposit of suitable clay having been located just to the west of Georgetown. In 1836 the Brick Hotel was built by two local builders, Joshua S. Layton and Caleb B. Sipple. The following year it was deemed necessary to replace the existing wooden courthouse with a larger brick structure. The old courthouse was sold and moved from its location on the Circle to make room for the new building.

From 1837 until the completion of the new structure in 1839, sessions of the various Sussex County Courts were held at the Brick Hotel. The structure also served as lodging and informal club for the Delaware Bar as the courts moved from county to county and at

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

16 Miles From Anywhere - A History of Georgetown, Del. , Wm. J. Wade;  
 Georgetown, Delaware, 1976  
Delaware - A Guide to the First State ; Eckman, Higgins, and Conner;  
 American Guide Series, N.Y.C., 2d Ed., 1948  
The History of Delaware... J. Thomas Scharf, 1888

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(Note: No U.T.M. grid marks on Georgetown map; see geographic coordinates on continuation sheet)  
 QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one-half acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Georgetown

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nomination are the edge of the Wilmington Trust Company property line on West Market St., The Circle, bordering the Farmer's Bank of Delaware property on the south, and the rear of the

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dick Carter, Sussex County Historical Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Sussex County Planning and Zoning Department

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

The Courthouse, The Circle

TELEPHONE

856-7701

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.

Deputy STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*[Handwritten Signature]*

TITLE

Chief, Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

DATE

Sept. 11, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
 KEEPERS OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-13-79

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
 Regional Coordinator

DATE

11-13-79

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Description:  
(Continued)

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Street end of the first floor remain as does a large kitchen fireplace with a massive oak beam mantel. Several interior walls have been removed from the first floor. The second floor rooms are original as are those on the third floor. The very wide rough plank flooring on the third floor appears to be original to the building. Much original bullseye moulding remains.

The ground floor windows originally had stone (or wooden simulated stone) lintels. These have been replaced with brick. All windows had shutters during the 19th century, panelled on the first floor and louvered on the second floor. These have also been removed.

The many stable and outbuilding structures located at the rear of the hotel during the 19th century have been demolished. Most disappeared during the early 1900's.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Statement of Significance: 8 1  
(Continued)

intervals came to Georgetown during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

One local folk tale concerning the hotel centers on its reputation as a favorite lounging spot for staunch supporters of the Union cause at a time when the county was leaning toward the Confederate cause in public opinion. The southern sympathizers in the area were in the habit of spending their evenings in the barroom of the Eagle Hotel elsewhere on the Public Square and Circle. Late in the evening when both sides had had their fill, tradition says that they piled out of their respective refuges and fought out their differences in the middle of the Circle. In view of the political climate in Sussex County during the Civil War the story is quite possibly true.

The Brick Hotel continued in service as a hotel until the early 1950's when the building was remodelled and converted to use as a bank. Most of the changes to the building took place on the first of its three floors and its overall appearance is still quite similar to its 19th century appearance.

The structure itself is a transition between late Federal and Greek Revival architecture of a type found in several of the old inns of the Delmarva Peninsula with its broad verandah, although in size and style it was more imposing than most. The hotel is very similar in design to an earlier (1827) brick hotel in Odessa, Del. Originally, its most imposing features were its first and second floor porches and three large double chimneys, each joined by curtain walls between they chimneys. The central pair of chimneys was removed during the early 1920's. Although the verandah remains, the second-story porch was removed in 1952 as were arched doorways and a central one-bay window on the first floor.

Considering the fact that the structure was in constant use as a hotel for 110 years and was later converted to offices, a surprising amount of its original architectural detail remains. Today it and the brick Sussex County Courthouse, itself on the National Register, are the only remaining early 19th century structures on the Public Square and Circle, with the exception of the Richards Mansion, a private house.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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Statement of Significance:  
(Continued)

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While the integrity of the structure has been compromised by the interior and exterior alterations, in its overall impact as a major public building on the Circle, the building continues to possess much of its original importance.

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The Brick Hotel

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
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Geographical Data: (Continued)	10	1
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There are no UTM Grid Marks on the GEORGETOWN U.S.G.S. Map.  
The Geographic Coordinates are as follows:

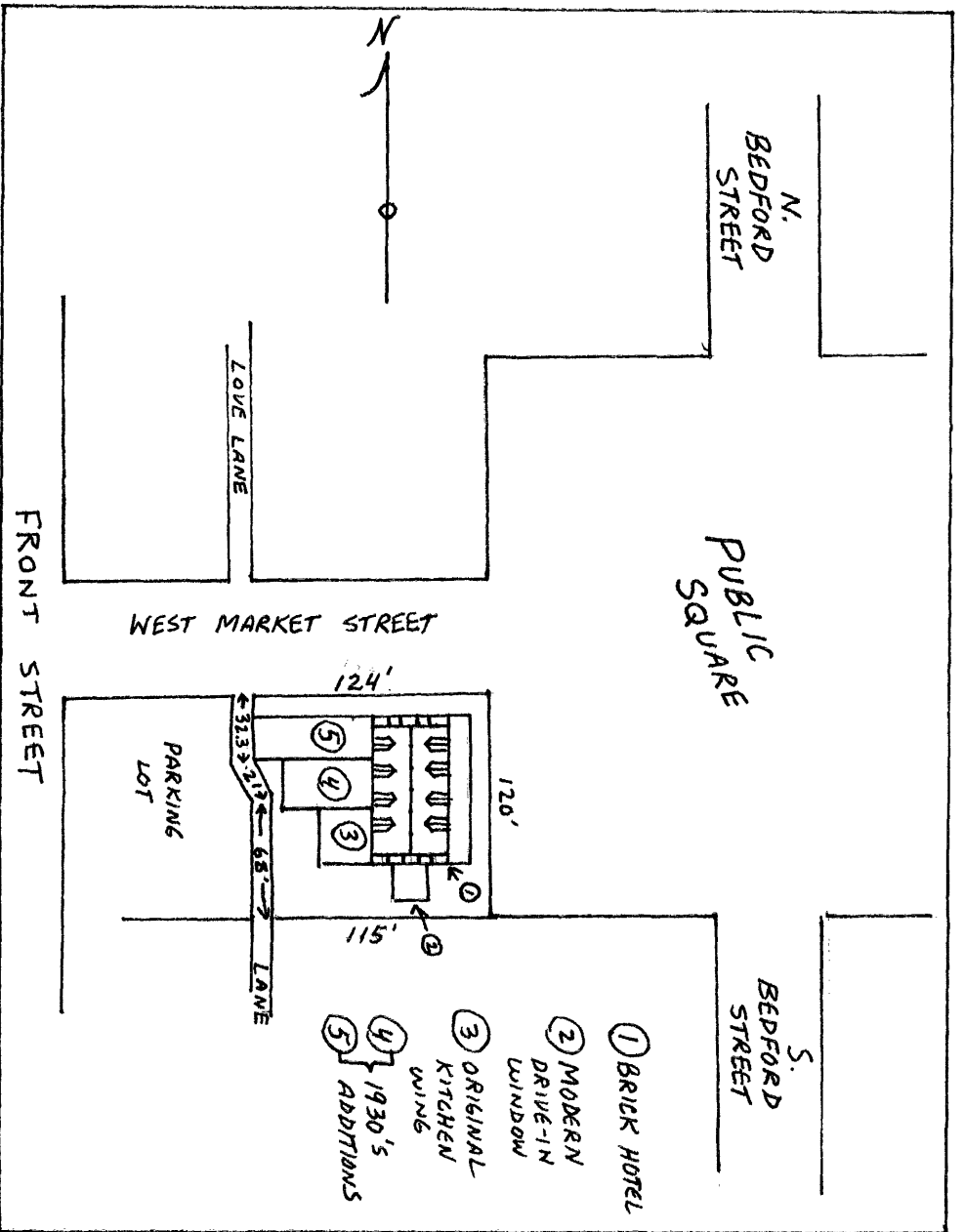
75 degrees 23 minutes 13 seconds longitude

38 degrees 41 minutes 23 seconds latitude

Verbal Boundary Description: (Continued)	10	1
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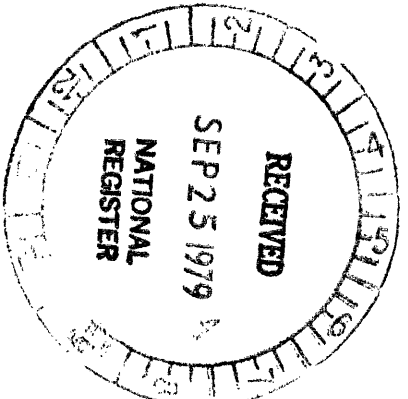
hotel's rear wing on the west side. The total area nominated is one-half acre.

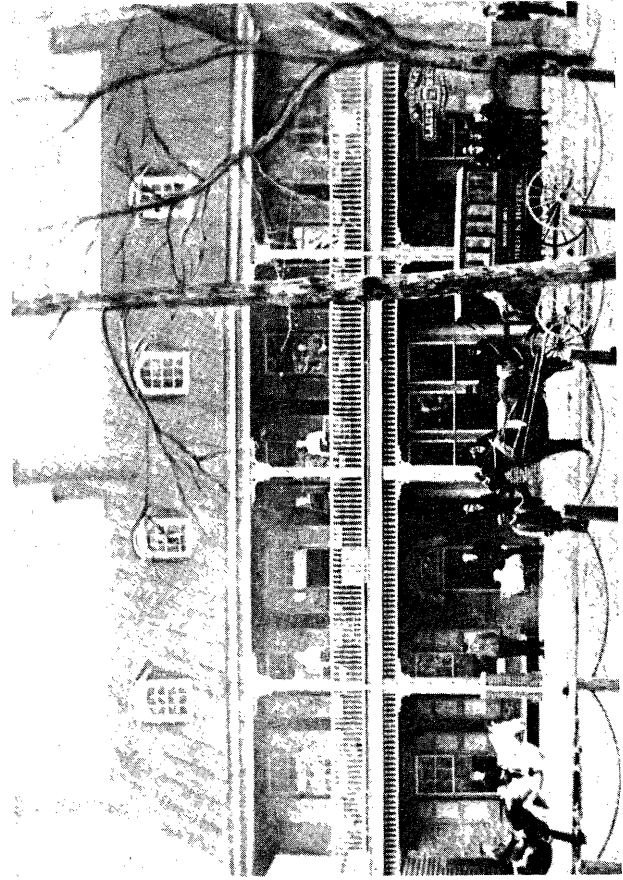




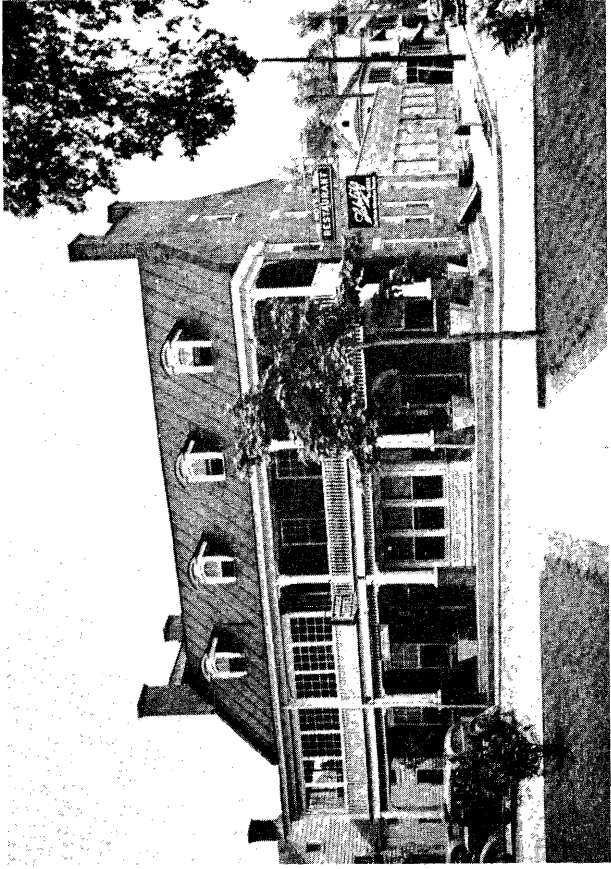
DRAWN TO SCALE (1"=100') AFTER SUSSEX COUNTY TAX MAP BY R.B. CARTER

SITE MAP OF  
**THE BRICK HOTEL**  
 GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

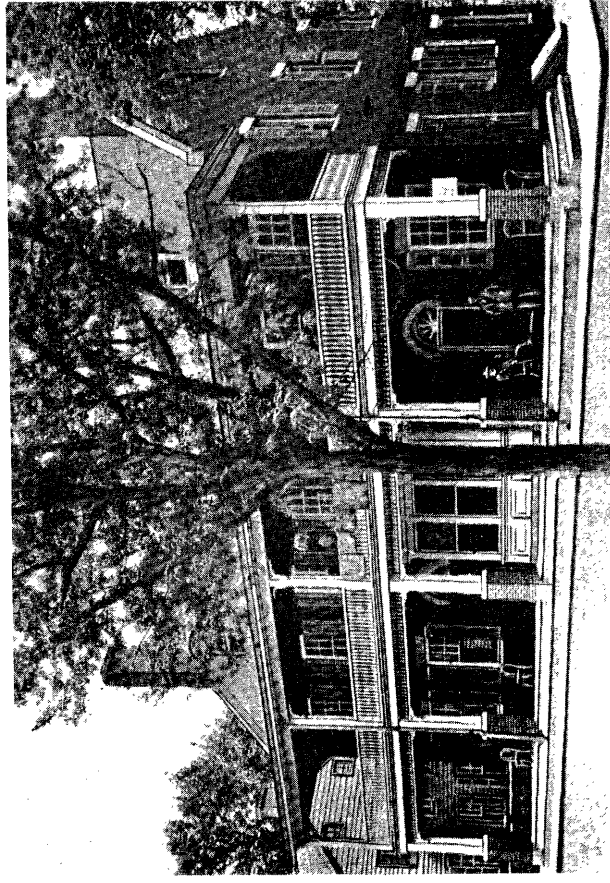




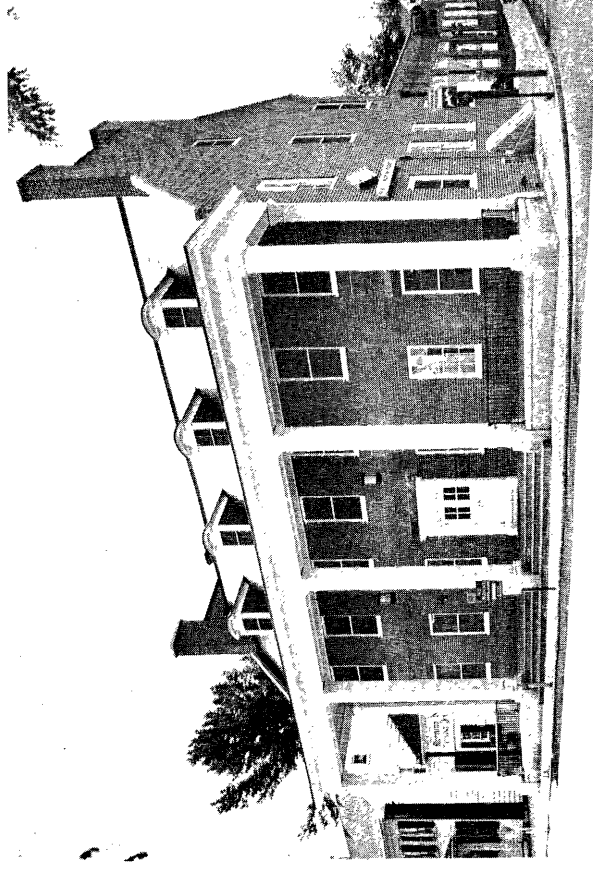
*Brick Hotel about 1890.*



*Brick Hotel about 1940.*



*Brick Hotel about 1920.*



*Wilmington Trust in 1966.*

from 46 Miles From Anywhere-  
A History of Georgetown, Delaware  
William Wade, Georgetown, Del.  
1976

the Town Hall. In 1963, Wilmington Trust acquired the Citizens Acceptance Corporation which was housed in what was formerly the Brick Hotel on The Circle and West Market. After extensive renovation of the Citizens' Building in 1965, Wilmington Trust moved in and deeded its former office across The Circle to the Town.

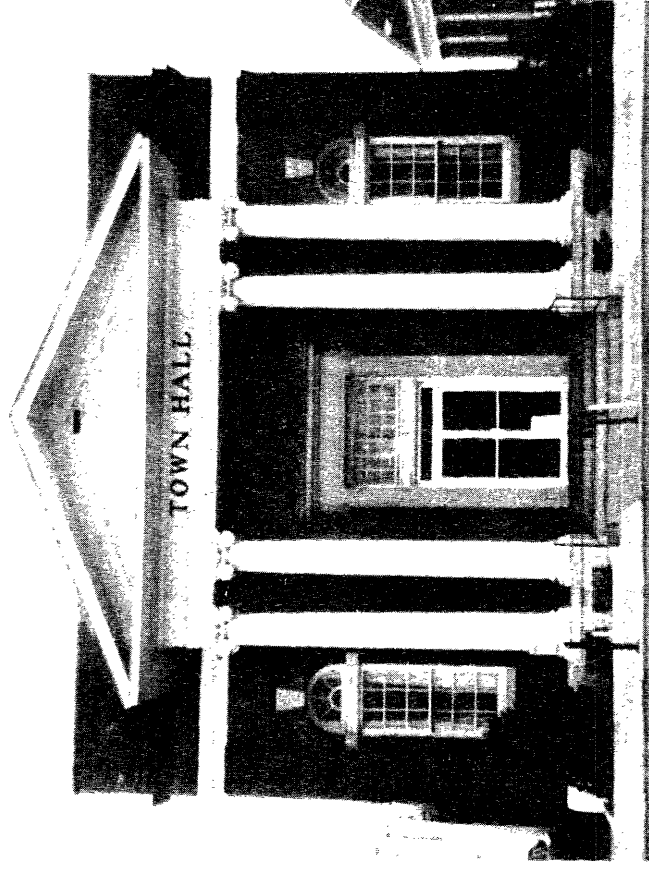


### *The new Farmers Bank going up alongside the old.*

Because of increased business, Farmers Bank found that its mid-nineteenth century structure was too small. Rather than add to it, the bank chose to tear down the old structure and construct, in its place, a larger Georgian-style brick building with a columned portico facing The Circle. Farmers Bank moved into its handsome new structure in 1971.

The Sussex County Court House was also too small to house the staff needed to meet the expanding responsibilities of county government. An extensive renovation and addition program was undertaken and, to make way, the building which had once been the county jail was demolished. The construction program was complete by 1969. Certainly, if he were alive today, William Strickland would be hard put to identify the court house that he designed back in 1837. Subsequent additions of columns and a cupola plus the expansion of the structure along East Market to Race has produced a more handsome building than graced The Circle for much of the nineteenth century.

Of course Strickland's structure was not Georgetown's first court house. The original building built in 1791, is the oldest extant wooden county court house in the U.S. In the 1830's, the first court house was moved just off The Circle to South Bedford Street to make way for its successor. At



### *Town Hall*

residents were complaining about the quality of water supplied by the privately owned Georgetown Water and Supply Company. On May 18, 1960, a public meeting at the V.F.W. Hall addressed the issue of the town purchasing the company. But unfortunately, on this and on subsequent occasions the town and water company could not arrive at a mutually acceptable purchase price. By 1975, complaints of the rust content in the town's water supply were increasing, but no immediate solution seemed in the offing.<sup>10</sup>

The town's government has been more successful in its attempts to beautify Georgetown. In 1951, the Town Council officially proclaimed a clean-up week and asked all residents and property owners to clean up their premises and set out garbage and other disposable matter. In 1958, numerous complaints concerning the burning of trash, the piling of yard trash in the streets, and the height of weeds in vacant lots, led to a town ordinance requiring owners to keep their property free of weeds and other undesirable growth or they would be billed for the removal of same by the town.<sup>11</sup> Not only has the town placed restrictions on lot owners, it has also done its utmost to maintain The Circle's pleasing appearance. In addition, the town has landscaped the park adjoining the Presbyterian Church and renovated the present Town Hall.

Also significant in changing the face of Georgetown in the last twenty-five years have been the building, restoration, renovation and expansion programs of Wilmington Trust, Farmers Bank, the County Government, the State and Federal governments, and the Georgetown Lodge of the Odd Fellows. In 1959 the Wilmington Trust Company and the Georgetown Trust Company merged and Wilmington Trust moved into what is now