

PH0021725

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.3.10.0007	DATE 3/24/71

1. NAME

COMMON: Starr House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Michael VanKirk House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1310 King Street

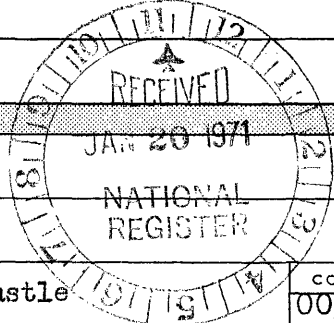
CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington,

STATE: Delaware

CODE: 10

COUNTY: New Castle

CODE: 003



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>law offices</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: William Prickett

STREET AND NUMBER: 1310 King Street

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington

STATE: Delaware

CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: Public Building, 11th and King Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington

STATE: Delaware

CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936

Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER: 10 First Street SE

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C. 20540

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

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ENTRY NUMBER: 71.3.10.0007

DATE: 3/24/71

7. DESCRIPTION

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

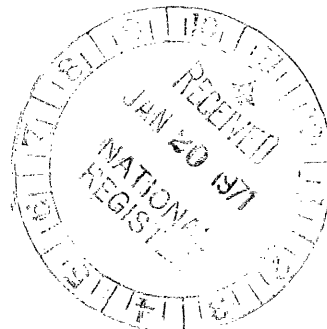
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A comparison of modern and old photographs shows that the front elevation of the house Michael VanKirk built between 1801 and 1806 at 1310 King Street is unchanged. On the northeast side of the house a mid-nineteenth century frame summer kitchen, which contains a beehive oven, has been encased in brick. The new brick matches the colour and texture of the original. There is a mid-twentieth century brick addition at the rear of the house.

The 2-1/2 story brick house is three windows wide. The front is laid in Flemish bond from the fourteenth course to the cornice. Below that, however, it is English bond. The exposed side and the rear of the house are laid in English bond. The front elevation has a marble belt course between the first and second stories. A single dormer provides light in the attic, or third story. The level line arches above the windows has marble voussoirs. They are a particularly fine example of Wilmington craftsmanship. The first and second story windows have marble sills. The roof was replaced during the nineteenth century and again in 1946. At that time the original shutters, which a previous owner had stored in the attic, were put on the front of the house. Photograph 1 shows the street elevation.

The interior has been altered to accommodate the buildings use as law offices. On the second and third floors doorways were cut to connect 1310 and 1312 King Street. The walls of the frame shed have been left in their unfinished state, and the shell of the bake oven still protrudes into the room. The first floor is essentially intact. The brick addition at the rear contains the entryway to 1312 King Street. Paneling, woodwork, and hardware are original. The simpler carved fireplaces remain in the upstairs rooms. Photographs 2-6 illustrate the first floor interior.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1801-1806

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 checked="" 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

Local legend alleges that Lafayette dined at the Starr House during a visit to Wilmington. There is no proof that this is so. The house's significance, however, far outweighs any merits which Lafayette's visit might have. The house is first and foremost an example of the excellent work Wilmington craftsmen produced in the early nineteenth century. When the man who built the house, Michael Van Kirk (VanKuik) was a stonecutter, who advertised regularly in local newspaper that "he executes all kinds of grave stones and chimney pieces." While his accounts of the construction of the house have not turned up, it is possible to attribute the carved mantel and fireplace in the parlour to him. The mantel and the stairway rival the work an American craftsmen working at that time. The house has had the good fortune to have had owners who appreciate its outstanding architectural characteristics and have done their utmost to protect them. In February 1958, Albert Kruse the architect who restored the house in 1946, noted that in his opinion, "The Starr House is now almost the last example of colonial architecture in the city of Wilmington."

Jacob Starr purchased the house from Michael VanKirk in 1806. It remained the the Starr family for the next three generations until finally it passed out of the family's possession in 1901. The Starrs were coastal traders. Thomas, Jacob's son, was the prominent member of the family. The Wilmington directory describes him as a waterman. He owned several ships, most of which transferred Wilmington's manufactures within the Delaware Bay, although his ships did visit other Atlantic coastal cities.

The architectural qualities and the strong association with Wilmington's commerce made the Starr House notable. It is fortunate that the house has managed to survive without major alterations. For Wilmington has few remaining examples of the architecture of this period of its history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PRIMARY SOURCES:

Wilmington Directory - 1845
 Containing the Names, Occupations, Place of Residence and Place of
 Business of Heads of Families...Citizens of Wilmington.
 Wilmington. Lewis Wilson 1845

(Con't)

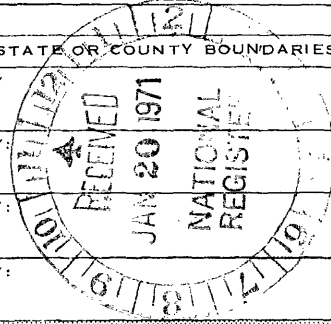
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	0 ' "	0 ' "		39° 44' 53"	75° 32' 42"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .075

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Eleanor M. Webster, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **for William Prickett** DATE: **15 March 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1310 King Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Wilmington,** 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: *Eleanor M. Webster*
 Title: State Archivist and State Liaison Officer

Date: October 30, 1970

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

Walter A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAR 24 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST:
William J. Prickett
 Keeper of The National Register

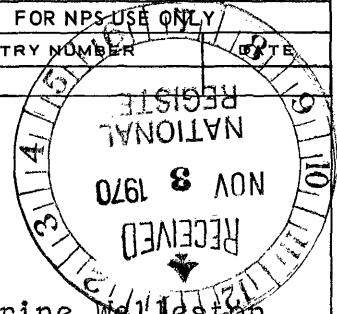
Date: FEB 22 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Delaware
COUNTY	New Castle
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	



71.3.10.0007 3/24/71

(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES - Cont.

PRIMARY SOURCES - Cont.

Wilmington Directory - 1845

Deed, 10 March, 1801 Between Joshua & Catherine Wallington,
and Michael Vankirk, Stonecutter, Original in Possession
of William Prickett.

Deed, 9 April, 1806 Between Michael VanKuik (Sic.) and Mary,
his wife, and Jacob Starr. Original in Possession of
William Prickett.

SECONDARY SOURCES:

American Institute of Architects (Wilmington)
Inventory Worksheet, March 29, 1962

Delaware: A Guide to the First State Compiled & Written
by the Federal Writers Project of the Works Progress
Administration for the State of Delaware. (American
Guide Series) Revised Edition. New York: Hasting
House, 1955.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware: 1609-1888 2 volumes.
Philadelphia: L.J. Richards & Company 1888.

NEWSPAPERS:

Delaware and Eastern Shore Advertiser, June 25, 1798.

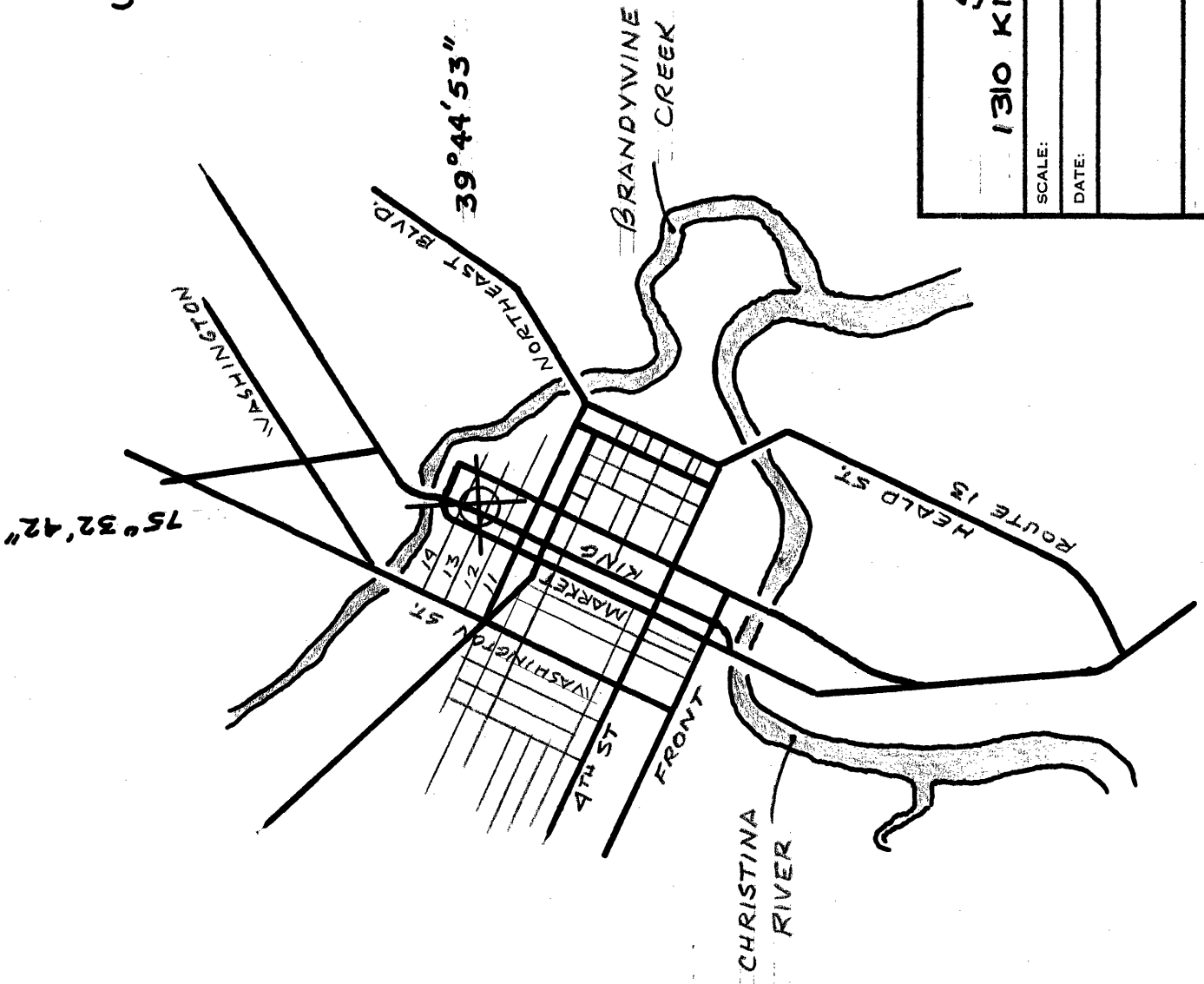
"Handy to the Courts." Wilmington Every Evening News
Journal, September 10, 1954.

Mirror of the Times. January 15, 1800. Advertisements for
Michael Vankirk, Stone Cutter.

Philadelphia Gazette and Daily Advertiser, May 21, 1811. Ad-
vertisement for Michael VanKirk, Stone Cutter.

Reese, Peter A. "Historic Mid-City House Bought by William
Prickett". Wilmington Every Evening News Journal.
September 7, 1954

Wilmington Morning News. September 7, 1954.



STARR HOUSE

1310 KING ST. WILMINGTON, DEL.

SCALE:	APPROVED BY:	DRAWN BY:
DATE:		REVISED:
DRAWING NUMBER		

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 713.10.0007	DATE 3/24/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Starr House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Michael VanKirk House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1310 King Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington			
STATE: Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: New Castle	CODE 003
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: City of Wilmington Street Map-Coordinates from USGS Map Wilmington S Quadrangle 7.5 minutes			
SCALE: 1:2400			
DATE: 1967			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

