

PH000 1325

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	DATE
MAY 8	1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Andrew Fisher House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

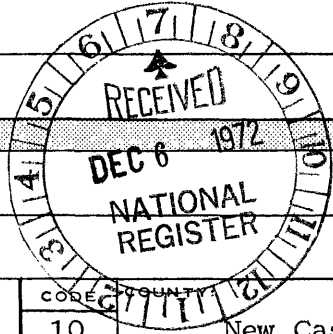
STREET AND NUMBER:
725 Art Lane

CITY OR TOWN:
Newark

STATE:
Delaware

COUNTY:
New Castle

CODE:
10 003



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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Ellis B. Rittenhouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
610 N.W. 36th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Corvallis

STATE:
Oregon

CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Public Building

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rodney Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Wilmington

STATE:
Delaware

CODE:
10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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The Andrew Fisher house has been gutted of almost all its original interior features. It is a two-story brick structure with an attic and basement; a one-story wing to the west of the main block was added at a later date. Oriented in a southerly direction, the house sits atop a hill overlooking the Christina River. Its symmetrical three bay, center doorway facade would indicate a Georgian plan but the interior has been altered appreciably. Almost no original woodwork remains. The exposed structural members show evidence of being cut at a saw mill, but this does not rule out their eighteenth-century origin, as Andrew Fisher was operating a saw mill on his property. The purlins of the gable roof as well as two heavier braced rafters are the only visible hewn members. The rafters are pegged and marked. Stone foundations support the one-and-a-half-foot-thick brick walls. Segmental relieving arches are evident in the basement supporting the two chimney stacks which rise at the peak of each gable. The fireplaces diagonally cut one corner of each room in which they are located.

The brickwork of the house is unique. The front facade is laid in Flemish bond with a convex moulded watertable and a double belt course. The east end also is laid in Flemish bond, however the water table is now of concave moulded brick. The cornice continues around to mark the attic level on the gable end. The rear of the structure shows Flemish bond brick coursing broken by a glazed header course every sixth course. This pattern is continued around the west end and curiously shows up in some parts of the rear



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7. DESCRIPTION (continued)---

wall of the wing. The wooden window frames are surmounted by a header brick lintel. If this lintel was repeated in the door, it has been obliterated by its subsequent enlargement. The original front door is no longer in use but the evidence of a wooden stoop, now gone, is evident in the brickwork.



SIGNIFICANCE

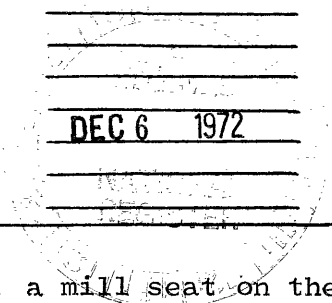
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Andrew Fisher, a miller, purchased land and a mill seat on the Christina at Sheriff's sale January 4, 1768. The sheriff mentioned the land as being the site of the Abbington Furnace and Samuel James' Forge. This forge had been built by Samuel James, the son of James James who was one of the original grantees of the 30,000-acre Welsh Tract.

The abundance of iron ore in the area brought success to James in his first ironmaking venture, and by 1725, he had attracted several Pennsylvania iron-masters into a company known as "Abbington Iron Works." This company built a blast furnace near the James forge and apparently continued in business for about ten years. Samuel James operated Abbington Furnace and the forge until 1734, when his property was ordered to be seized and sold. It appears that each member of the company still held claim to some of the land, for the Sheriff advertised a one-eighth share of the land belonging to the furnace would be sold. Abraham Taylor and John White bought Samuel James' land and his share of the furnace. Whether or not they continued in the iron industry is uncertain, but the property still was called James' Forge when it was sold to Fisher in 1768.

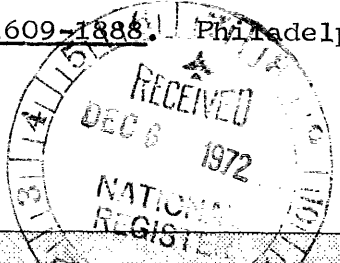
Andrew Fisher erected a grist mill and saw mill on the land.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cooch, Edward W. The Battle of Cooch's Bridge, September 3, 1777.
Cooch's Bridge: Author, 1940.

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



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"	39°	39'	21"
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"	75°	45'	23"
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"			
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Under 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Joan M. Norton, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: 10/12/72

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs</u></p> <p>Date <u>Nov. 27, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert W. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>5/8/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>W. M. ...</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>4 26 73</u></p>
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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

As Samuel James had been a millwright, it is probable that a mill had been present before Fisher bought the property.

It was in Andrew Fisher's home that a German general quartered after the Battle of Cooch's Bridge. A letter from Washington to Maxwell on September 5, 1777 verifies this fact:

Several people have mentioned that there is a Hessian General quartered at one Fisher's, covered only by a small guard. This is well worth your attention and may afford a glorious opportunity for a partisan effort. Any of the country people can direct you, I suppose, where Fisher's is...

There is some speculation as to who this general was, whether Knyphausen or von Donop. Fisher's loyalty to the colonial cause has also been questioned; however, he was among the first to take the Oath of Fidelity the next year.

Andrew Fisher died in 1804, leaving the property to his sons, John and Samuel; they in turn, sold the mill property and forty-five acres of land to Thomas Bradley in 1808 and to Alexander Forester in 1810, after Bradley's default. Forester failed as well, and in 1815, the land was vested solely in John Fisher. He immediately sold it and it never again returned to the Fisher family. The mill was still functioning in 1863 when the overshot wheel was replaced by an iron wheel on the grist mill, in which was incorporated the saw mill. In July of 1883, the grist mill burned and was never rebuilt. Evidence of the mill race still remains along the banks of the Christina.

