

1144

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cloud, Abner, House
other names/site number Sawmill Farm; Mansion Farm; Petitedemange, John S., House; N-5283

2. Location

street & number 14 Ravine Road not for publication
city, town Wilmington, Brandywine Hundred vicinity
state Delaware code DE county New Castle code 003 zip code 19810

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 7/24/92
State or Federal agency and bureau Delaware Division of Historical & Cult. Affairs

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain): _____
[Signature] Entered in the National Register 8/31/92
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Domestic/Secondary Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Commerce/Trade/Professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Federal Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Granite

walls Stone: Granite

Stucco

roof Wood Shingle

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Abner Cloud House is an L-shape stone, vernacular Federal style dwelling that was built circa 1822. The property on which it is located contains approximately 2.3 acres. A one-and-a-half story gable-roof, frame and stone outbuilding (contributing) and a one-story, shed-roof, frame shed (non-contributing) are also located within the nominated boundaries.

The Abner Cloud House is located in Brandywine Hundred in northeast New Castle County. The house is located on the east side of Ravine Road, north of its intersection with Big Oak Lane and one-fifth of a mile south of the intersection of Darley Road and Ravine Road. The property is situated within Highland Woods, a subdivision built on land formerly associated with the Abner Cloud House.

Throughout the nineteenth century until the 1930's, the Abner Cloud House was part of a 120 to 160 acre agricultural property. Within these boundaries, to the south and west of the house ran the west branch of Naaman's Creek where a sawmill was located. Due to its location within the creek valley, the surrounding area is very hilly. The creek valley also contains numerous outcroppings of grey stone, probably granite, which undoubtedly provided the building materials for the house.

Exterior

The facade of the building faces southwest, while the rear elevation is oriented toward Ravine Road. The frame and stone out building is located to the west or rear of the house and the small frame shed is located to the north of the house. Presently, the rear entrance is used as the main entrance to the house. However, from the facade, the traditional vista has been maintained, because of the large yard space on that side of the building.

From the exterior, the building appears to have been built in three sections: the two-story, side-gable, double-pile main section of the house; the two-story, gable-roof, original kitchen wing; and the one-story, twentieth century modern kitchen wing. The original kitchen wing is attached to the north endwall of the main house. The facade of this two-bay, stone wing is recessed from that of the main portion of the house, so that its depth is a little more than half of the main section of the house.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1822

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Abner Cloud House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture. The Abner Cloud House is an outstanding example of a Federal vernacular style dwelling which has retained the integrity of its original features to an exceptional degree. The two-story, three-bay, double-pile, side-passage, main house was constructed of stone around 1822. The original, two-story, stone, kitchen wing was constructed at the same time on the north endwall of the main house. The small, twentieth century, stucco-covered kitchen wing effectively preserved the older sections of the house by restricting modern kitchen functions to that wing. Due to the retention of its original floorplan and the integrity of its original interior and exterior finish details, the house retains an extraordinarily high level of its architectural integrity.

The Abner Cloud House was built during a rebuilding period which occurred in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in the Piedmont region of northern Delaware. In terms of dwellings, log and other less permanent structures were being replaced by more permanent buildings such as stone. The ownership of a stone dwelling was a reflection of its owner's more elevated social and economic position and aspirations. Tax assessment data for the period provide evidence for the rebuilding trend which occurred in the Piedmont region. A comparison of tax assessment data for the year 1798 and 1816 in nearby Millcreek Hundred provides evidence of the shift from log to stone construction. In 1798, log was the construction material of 57.6% of the dwellings, while stone was the construction material of 18.6% of the dwellings. By 1816, the percentage of stone buildings had increased to 38.1% and the percentage of log buildings had decreased to 28.7% (Jicha and Siders, 1985).

Unfortunately, similar comparative data is not available for Brandywine Hundred, however, the 1816 tax assessment records verify its participation in the same rebuilding trend. By that year 49.0% of the dwellings (excluding Brandywine Village) were stone and 25.0% were log.

9. Major Bibliographical References

~~Baist, G. William, Atlas of New Castle County, Delaware. Philadelphia. G. William Baist, 1893.~~

Beers, D. G. Atlas of the State of Delaware. Philadelphia Pomeroy and Beers, 1868.

Cloud Family Genealogy File, Historical Society of Delaware Library

Community Planning Committee, Village of Arden National Register Nomination, March 20, 1972.

Deak Family Records

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings

Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.30 Acres

UTM References

A 18 458900 4407100
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The boundary for the Abner Cloud House is the legal parcel on which it is located. On the accompanying map titled, "New Castle County Tax Parcel Map, revised July 20, 1983," the parcel is outlined and identified by the parcel number 06-046.00-028.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification The legal parcel was chosen as the boundary because all of the acreage that was once a part of this property has been sold off, subdivided and developed. The current 2.30 acre parcel is a small vestige of the former 160 acre "Sawmill Farm." However, the residential subdivisions that surround the Abner Cloud House prevent the extension of the boundary beyond the legal parcel.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Wilson/Historic Preservation Planner

organization New Castle County Planning date March 25, 1991

street & number 2701 Capitol Trail telephone (302) 366-7780

city or town Newark state DE zip code 19711

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 4 Page 1

Abner Cloud House, N-5283

In my opinion the Abner Cloud House
meets / does not meet the
National Register criteria.


Dennis E. Greenhouse
County Executive
New Castle County
Delaware

11/19/91
Date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Documentary and physical evidence indicate that this section was built at the same time as the main portion of the house around 1822. The one-story, gable-roof, modern kitchen wing was added to the north endwall of the stone kitchen wing sometime in the twentieth century. This wing covers the depth of the lower portion of the original kitchen wing.

The more prominent main portion of the house is a Georgian side-hall plan house, with Federal vernacular features evident on both the interior and exterior. The gable-roof is covered with wood shingles. A rebuilt interior, brick chimney pierces the roof at the ridge on the south endwall. Beneath the roof is a molded box cornice with partial returns on the gable ends. The walls and foundation are constructed of uncoursed roughly laid fieldstone, with larger stones serving as quoins. The stonework consists of smooth grey and tan stones with more uniform grey stones used on the facades of both the main house and the original kitchen wing. The stones have recently been repointed. Photographs taken in 1931 reveal that the walls of the two original sections were covered with stucco at one time, but this covering was removed in the 1980's.

The facade of the main building reveals its Federal vernacular influences. The three-bay facade is lit by three symmetrically placed nine-over-six windows on the second floor and two nine-over-nine windows on the first floor. The side-hall entry is located on the right bay, where the original eight panel door can still be found. Above the door is the original semi-circular fanlight with tracery in four of its six panes. The arched and molded door surround is topped with a wedge-shaped, decorative, wood keystone. The doorway features a paneled reveal and reeded molding in the arch above. A gabled Colonial Revival door hood supported by Doric columns was added sometime in the twentieth century. This feature is not evident in a 1931 photograph of the building's facade.

On the south endwall of the main building, a nine-over-nine window may be found at each corner of the building. An additional nine-over-nine window is located toward the middle in the southeast corner of the building. On the second floor, a nine-over-six window may be found in each corner, above the nine-over-nine windows. On the attic level, there is one six-over-six window in the gable.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3

The rear or west wall of the original kitchen wing and the main, double-pile portion of the house form one continuous wall. The lack of seams in the stonework on this wall provide evidence that the two sections were built at the same time. Presently, the main entrance is the original rear entry to the house. This door is located opposite the facade door and to the right of the center of the rear wall. It is a four-panel replacement of the original. Above this door is a gable-roof entrance portico supported by four wood posts. This portico is not evident in the 1931 photograph of the rear elevations, suggesting that it was added after that time.

On the rear wall there are two windows located in the southwest corner of the main house. These are the nine-over-nine sash window on the first floor and the nine-over-six sash directly above it on the second floor. The other rear window of the main house is the small six-over-six landing window located near the center of the long rear wall.

Since the stone kitchen wing is attached to the north endwall of the main house, a large portion of this wall is covered by the wing. The six-over-six gable window is visible on the north wall. Also visible on the north wall is a first-floor entry to the side-hall of the main house. Although the doorway has been covered by a plaster wall on the interior, the original eight-panel door is still in place on the outside.

The original kitchen wing is a two-story, gable-roof, single-pile building. The walls and foundation of this section are also constructed of uncoursed roughly-laid fieldstone. The stone work of this section is very similar to that of the main house - another indication that the two sections were built at the same time. There are three walls to this wing, since the main house's north endwall serves as the fourth wall. The gable roof of the original kitchen wing is covered with wood shingles. There is a molded box cornice with partial returns on the north gable end. A rebuilt interior brick chimney pierces the roof of this section at the ridge. The roof height of this wing is lower than that of the main house although the roof pitch appears to be the same.

The two-bay, rear wall of the original kitchen wing is lit by two nine-over-nine symmetrically placed windows. This was not the original arrangement since a 1931 photograph of the rear wall shows a door on the right bay instead of a window. The same photograph also shows a shed-roof, open porch which sheltered both doors and has subsequently been removed. Directly above the two first floor windows are two nine-over-six windows on the second floor. Above

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4

the portion of the north endwall that is covered by the modern kitchen two four-light casements are visible in the gable.

The original window trim evident on the first and second story windows of the main house and the original kitchen wing consists of a molded wood surround and a lug sill. Original shutter hardware can be seen on the first floor windows of both wings, but not on the second floor windows. The original, raised and molded panel shutters are present on the first floor facade windows of the main house and the first floor rear windows of both the main house and the kitchen wing. These shutters have a single bead around each of the panels, similar to the double bead on the interior and exterior doors.

The two-bay facade of the original kitchen wing is recessed from the facade of the main house, since the depth of the wing is about half that of the main house. In the space between the north endwall of the main house and the east facade wall of the wing is a full-length, one-story, shed-roof, screened porch. This porch rests on a stone foundation with a poured concrete floor and has exposed rafters in the ceiling. One of the 1931 photographs shows an open shed-roof porch in this location. Beneath the porch roof, the north endwall of the main house and the east facade wall of the kitchen wing are covered with stucco. There are also two openings on each floor of the wing's facade. These are located directly opposite the openings on the rear wall. On the first floor, the original left-bay, eight-panel door remains, with a plain wood surround and a four-light transom above. The right-bay, first-floor window is a nine-over-nine sash. The two second-story windows directly above the first floor openings are nine-over-six sash.

The one-story, gable-roof, modern kitchen wing is joined to the original kitchen wing on its north endwall. There are three walls to this kitchen wing with the fourth wall supplied by the north endwall of the original kitchen wing. The walls and foundation are covered with white stucco, so the original building material is unknown. A set of paired six-over-six sash windows and a single six-over-six sash may also be found on the north endwall. On the rear wall, there is a right-bay door and a left-bay six-over-six sash window. The exact construction date of this small kitchen wing is uncertain, although it was probably built after the 1930's. A 1931 photograph shows a one-story, shed-roof frame wing in the same location.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Interior Description

Main House

The floorplan of the main section of the Abner Cloud House is arranged according to a side-hall, double-pile plan. The original plan of the first floor has been preserved with only minor alterations. Presently, the first floor arrangement consists of the wide side-hall which extends the depth of the building with two approximately equal sized parlors off the side hall to the south. The nine-and-a-half foot ceilings on the first floor add to the feeling of height. The open string staircase occupies the right, rear portion of the hall, with the hall extending to the rear exit. Beneath the staircase in the northeast corner of the hall is a small powder room. This modern alteration appears to have been built in the space formerly occupied by a straight run staircase to the basement. A scar along the north basement wall of the main house indicates the former location of these stairs.

Another minor change is the walled-over doorway along the first floor hall on the north wall. This doorway formerly opened to the space now occupied by the screened-in porch. Although the original door is still present on the exterior, the smooth, continuous plaster wall on the interior provides no clue of the former location of the door.

The Federal influenced interior fabric has also been preserved to an extraordinary degree on the first floor of the main house. These interior elements include some of the original floorboards, the original baseboards, chair rails, mantels, cupboards, windows, doors, window surrounds, and door surrounds. As might be expected, the front parlor and hall as public places, display a more elaborate level of interior finish than the less public rear parlor.

In the hall, the five to six inch wide floorboards, which may be original, run from the front to the back of the house. The original eight-inch-high, deeply molded baseboard has also been preserved, as well as the simple round chair rail. The baseboard is the same type found in the front parlor. The original eight-panel doors, leading to the stone kitchen wing, the front and back parlor and the front door have been kept. These consist of six small square panels over two larger panels. Two small beads surround each of the panels. The rail of each of the nearly seven-foot-high doors is about 36 inches from the floor adding to the feeling of height. Each of the thirty-eight-inch wide doors has been varnished. The door surrounds are also consistent in the hall and front parlor. These surrounds consist of a thick bead in the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6

middle with two thin beads, and a flat portion on either side. Each of the door and window surrounds is topped by bull's eye cornerblocks.

The original eight-panel front door is similar to those described above except that the surround is topped by a semi-circular arch with a decorative wooden keystone at its apex, mirroring the exterior door surround. Within the arch is the fanlight with tracery visible from the outside of the building. The large original lockbox is still in place along with its brass key.

At the opposite end of the hall the open-string, full-turn staircase may be found. There are eleven treads leading to a landing with a six-over-six window and four more treads leading to the second floor hall. There are two square balusters to each tread of the staircase. The newel post is a slender column with a round cap and a round handrail. The staircase is decorated by drop pendants and side pilasters and a continuation of the chair rail and the baseboard found in the hall. The landing window is trimmed with the same deeply molded surround and bull's eye cornerblocks found in the first floor hall and front parlor. The staircase is panelled on the first floor level with rectangular and triangular raised and molded panels.

Access to the front parlor is to the left from the original entrance to the house through one of the original eight panel doors. There are two, nine-over-nine windows symmetrically placed on the facade or east wall. On each side of the fireplace on the south wall, a nine-over-nine window may be found. Each of the four windows has splayed reveals although the reveals are straight on the sides of the two windows next to the fireplace. The window surrounds in this room are the deeply molded type with bull's eye corner blocks found in the hall and around the door in this room. On each side of the fireplace, a set of top and bottom chimney cupboards may be found, with three raised, molded and beaded panels on each top door and one panel on each lower door. Five to six inch wide floorboards run from endwall to endwall in this room. These are a different wood-type from those found in the hall and may not be original. The same deeply molded eight and one half inch tall baseboard as found in the hall is also present in this room. However, instead of the simple round, chair rail found in the hall and on the stairs, the parlor has a more elaborate chair rail. This is a deeply molded chair rail similar to the baseboard and window and door surrounds found in both the hall and front parlor.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 7

The most prominent feature of the front parlor is the Federal style mantel located on the south endwall of the room. The varnished mantel is over five feet high and ninety inches wide. The brick fireplace opening is framed by reeded pilasters with bull's eye cornerblocks, and fluted colonnettes topped with Doric capitals. Above this is a frieze with a raised central block flanked by side blocks and a molded and curved mantel shelf.

Access to the back parlor may be gained by an eight panel door further down the hall on the south side. The partition wall between the two rooms has not been altered probably because it is constructed of stone. The level of interior finish found in the back parlor is less elaborate than in the front parlor and hall. The room probably functioned as a dining room in the past, since a crane may be found in the small hearth on the south endwall. Further evidence of its previous function as a dining room may be found in the pair of raised, paneled, double-leaf door cabinets which are built into the stone partition wall. A set of top and bottom cabinets also may be found to the left of the fireplace in the southeast corner. The top cabinet features three raised panels on its door and the bottom cabinet features one raised panel on its door.

The cabinet doors in this room exhibit a slightly less elaborate level of finish than the chimney cupboards in the front parlor and the eight panel doors in the first floor. Instead of the double bead around each panel of the chimney cabinet doors and the eight panel doors, the back parlor cabinets feature a single bead and a curve. Such subtle distinctions in finish progress from the most formal rooms such as the front parlor and hall through the house to the less formal rooms such as the back parlor and front chamber, to the informal rooms such as the kitchen and back chamber to the least formal chamber above the kitchen.

The room is lit by one nine-over-nine window in the southwest corner of the endwall and one nine-over-nine window centrally located on the west wall. In contrast, to the window and door surrounds in the front parlor and hall, the molded surrounds in this room are simpler with no bull's eye corner blocks. The mantel on the south endwall is also simpler consisting of a Federal mantel with reeding on the side blocks. The six inch baseboard and four inch wide chair rail are also plain with a simpler molding profile than those found in the front parlor. Finally, the floors also differ from those in the front parlor and side hall. The random width ten to eleven inch floorboards run from endwall to endwall. They are similar to those found in the original kitchen wing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 8

The second floor plan of the main house is very similar to the first floor plan with a chamber over each parlor. The small room over the entry which has been converted to use as a bathroom retains its original six-panel door and door surround. A modern alteration can be seen in the built-in set of double-leaf door top and bottom storage cupboards which have been added to the space in the hall east of the bathroom.

In the middle of the north wall of the hall between the kitchen wing and the main house, a door has been cut through the stone wall to the chamber above the kitchen. Changes in the floorboards in this area attest to this alteration. The original physical separation of the kitchen wing from the main house on the second story indicates a desire for social separation of the service wing from the main house. In the northeast corner of the hall, the enclosed stairway with its original six-panel door and surround leads to the attic portion of the main house.

The front and rear chambers retain most of their original finish including the original baseboards, chair rail (in the front parlor), six-panel doors leading to the hall, windows, window and door surrounds, mantels, cabinets, closets and cabinet and closet doors. The level of interior finish is slightly more elaborate in the front chamber than the rear chamber. For instance, a chair rail is evident in the front chamber, while there is no chair rail in the rear chamber. The interior finish elements such as baseboards, window and door surrounds and cabinet doors represent variations on the designs found in the kitchen and back parlor. These subtle distinctions in interior finish progress from the least formal to the most formal rooms of the house.

The front chamber is lit by two, nine-over-six windows on the facade wall and one, nine-over-six window on the endwall in the southeast corner. A fireplace with a masonry hearth and brick floor may be found in the center of this endwall. The sixty-four inch wide Federal mantel features side blocks with three bands of reeding, a molded surround and a molded shelf. On the other side of the mantel, original double-leaf door top and bottom cabinets may be found. Each of the top doors features three raised and molded square panels and each of the bottom doors features one square raised and molded panel. Similar doors are evident in the kitchen, back parlor, and back chamber. On the partition wall there is an original thirteen inch deep closet built into the stone wall with its original six-panel door. The six-panel doors found on the second story level leading to the hall, the bathroom, the attic and the closets are similar to the six-panel doors in the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 9

original kitchen wing. The six inch tall beaded baseboard, the four inch wide molded chair rail and the molded door and window surrounds are similar to, but not identical to those found in the back parlor.

Entry to the rear chamber is through an original six-panel door. As in the front chamber, the five to six inch floorboards in this room run from side to side. In the middle of the south endwall, the original mantel and fireplace is still in place. The sixty-two inch wide mantel is simpler with a molded surround and molded shelf. On the west side of the mantel is a nine-over-six window with its splayed reveal. The surround on this window and the nine-over-six window in the center of the rear wall is simple consisting of a thick interior bead and a flat panel. The window and door surrounds in this room are similar to those found in the original kitchen. On the east side of the mantel on the south endwall is a built-in cabinet with top and bottom raised paneled doors. The top door has three square, raised and molded panels and the bottom door has one square panel. There are similar cabinets in the back parlor and the original kitchen. On the east partition wall between the two chambers, there is an original fifteen inch deep closet built into the stone wall with the original six-panel door. The six inch tall beaded baseboard is similar to the one found in the front chamber. One indication of the simpler level of decor in the back chamber are the paneled cabinet and closet doors. Each panel is surrounded by a single thick bead in contrast to the double bead in the front parlor and side hall and the bead and curve in the other rooms.

The original attic space above the main house has been partitioned in recent years into two rooms above the chambers and a bathroom in the northeast corner. New floorboards, ceilings, and partition walls have been installed. However, the enclosed stair, handrail and the treads appear to be original. There are eight treads leading to a landing, and five more steps to the attic. There is a thin paneled partition wall separating the front bedroom from the rear storage room. Despite this partition wall, the original plaster covered chimney stack is still visible on the south gable wall. There the two chimney piles of the double pile house join to form one stack. One clue to the history of the house has been inscribed into the plaster wall of the chimney stack. "Abner Cloud April 4, 1827" is traced in cursive on the stack presumably by the owner and builder of the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

Original Kitchen Wing Interior

The original kitchen wing was probably built at the same time as the main house. Tax assessment records point to an 1822-1827 construction date for both sections of the house. The physical evidence of the house also reinforces the circa 1822 construction date for both original sections of the house. The seamless continuous rear stone wall and the similarity in the stonework, doors, windows and trim have already been described. On the interior, the subtle similarities in finish details between the back parlor, the front and rear chambers and the kitchen have also been mentioned.

The original one room floorplan on the first and second floor and the original fabric of this wing have been retained to an extraordinary degree. This service wing was apparently designed to be nearly independent of the main house. Access from the first floor to the kitchen is available only through an eight-panel door on the north wall of the main house. The doorway is located about half way down the hall just before the staircase. Originally, there was no passage between the service wing and the main house on the second-story level and there are separate attics over the two sections of the house. Although the basement is now only accessible through the kitchen wing, there were originally separate stairs to each of the basement rooms.

As would be expected for a service wing, the kitchen wing displays a less elaborate level of finish than the first floor of the main house. The north wall of the kitchen is dominated by the large walk-in fireplace with its crane and hook still in place. Above the walk-in fireplace is a wood mantel shelf supported by three curved iron brackets. In the northwest corner of this wall, next to the fireplace, is a brick lined, beehive oven which is still functional. Above this is a built-in wall cupboard with a raised and paneled door.

On the rear (west) there are two symmetrically placed nine-over-nine windows which have splayed reveals. The window in the southwest corner is a twentieth century alteration, since a door was originally located in this spot. On the south wall of the kitchen are the two six-panel doors opening to the winder stairs that extend from the basement to the attic. These six-panel doors are identical to those found in the second floor chambers and hall of the main house. A top and bottom built-in cupboard (similar to the ones on the south endwalls of the back parlor and back chamber) may also be found along the south wall of the kitchen. In the southeast corner of this wall, the eight-paneled door leading to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

the main house is located. In the same corner, about seven feet above floor, a thin wood strip with pegs for hanging clothes may also be found. Whether this feature is original to the house is unknown.

The east or facade wall of the kitchen is lit by a nine-over-nine window with a splayed reveal. The original facade door with its four-light transom above stands in the southeast corner along the facade wall. On the outside, the door is the characteristic eight paneled door. However, on the inside the door is comprised of three beaded vertical boards. The difference between the interior and exterior side of this door seems to be an example of the deliberate differentiation in trim between the more formal parts of the main house and the less formal parts of the main house and the kitchen wing.

A six inch baseboard topped by a thick bead is found on the east (facade) and west walls, but not on the north wall or the part of the south wall where the doors to the winder-stairs are located. A molded four inch chair rail is located on part of the south wall and part of the east wall of the room. The window and door surrounds in this room consist of a thick interior bead and a flat panel, similar to those in the rear chamber. Some of the ten to eleven inch wide floorboards in this room appear to be original, while some are replacements. In the northeast corner of the room, a four-panel replacement door leading to the modern kitchen wing is located. Changes in the floorboards indicate that this doorway was cut through the stone wall in more recent times. Shadows in the plaster above the door and the fact that the chair rail on the east wall stops about two feet from this corner indicate another alteration, possibly the removal of a built-in cupboard.

The most unusual feature of the original kitchen wing is its ten foot high ceiling with exposed joists. The two to three inch wide joists run from the front to the back of the room with six to eight inch wide spaces (filled with wallboard) between each joist. The wood of these narrow, unbeaded joists is very smooth, and stained with a dark varnish. A narrow molded strip has been applied atop the joists on both sides where they meet the ceiling. Apparently these joists are original to the house, but were not intended to be exposed to view. A former resident has stated that her father decided to remove the plaster ceiling after a portion of the original ceiling collapsed, exposing the joists. This twentieth century alteration explains the unmarred appearance of the joists. When the original plaster ceiling was in place, the nine and one half foot ceilings were the same height as the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 12

ceilings in the main house.

The room above the kitchen is presently used as a bedroom which probably was its original function. Although the winder-stair is still in place between the kitchen and the second floor, the space is presently used for storage. On the second floor the stair has been walled-in providing a closet. A door from the second floor hall of the main house now provides access to this room. This entry was not original, but was cut through the stone wall sometime after its construction.

On both the front and rear walls of this room there are two symmetrically placed nine-over-six windows with slightly splayed reveals. In contrast to the other rooms in both the main house and the kitchen, the window surrounds are minimal consisting of a thick interior bead and a thin flat piece, indicating that this chamber was considered the least formal of the finished rooms of the house by its builder and owner. The fireplace which was formerly located on the north wall has been walled-in. Evidence of the presence of this fireplace is found in the brick hearth floor which is still in place. On either side of the walled-in fireplace, is a closet covered by double-leaf batten doors with strap hinges. These closets seem to be a twentieth century addition. On the opposite wall in the southwest corner, the batten door leading to the winder-stair to the attic is located. The original door is similar to the batten door in the kitchen, consisting of three beaded vertical panels. The batten door to the former winder-stair to the kitchen (next to the attic door) seems to be an early twentieth century replacement.

There is a five-inch tall, beaded-top baseboard around this room similar to that found in the kitchen. Except for the ten to eleven inch floorboards around the edges of the room most of the floorboards in this room are ten to eleven inch wide replacements. Perhaps the originals were removed to repair the kitchen ceiling below. The ceiling joists in this room are also exposed and are very similar to those found in the kitchen in size, dimension, and space between joists. However, these are painted white and show evidence of nail marks from the lath which has been removed.

The separate attic space above this chamber is still unfinished. The roof system consists of vertical-sawn, common rafters, meeting at the apex with a mortise and tenon joint. Roman numerals indicating the order of construction are visible at the top of some of the rafters. The rafters probably rest on a false plate atop the stone walls, although this is not visible because of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 13

the stucco work. The stuccoed, stone chimney stack continues to about two feet from the top of the north gable wall where the brick chimney continues through the roof. On either side of the chimney stack, there is a four-light casement window.

Modern Kitchen Wing

The one-story, gable-roof, modern kitchen wing is accessible through a four-panel replacement door in the northeast corner of the original kitchen. There are two small rooms in the kitchen wing which was probably constructed in the mid-twentieth century. The larger, front room in the northeast corner is a kitchen which is fitted with modern appliances and cabinets. The smaller, rear room in the northwest corner is a laundry room. Access to the outside is provided through this room by a door on the west wall.

Basement

There are basements with concrete floors and stone foundation walls under the main house and the original kitchen wing. A crawlspace is located under the modern kitchen wing. The basement floorplan follows the same plan as in the first floor of the house above. There is one large room under the stone kitchen and two large rooms under the double-pile main house.

Originally there were two sets of stairs providing access to these basements: a straight-run staircase from the northwest corner of the main house and a winder-stair from the original kitchen. Now the winder-stair provides the only passage to the basement. Although there was separate access from the two wings to the basement, the two basements were not completely separate. A door between the kitchen basement and the rear basement room of the main house allowed passage between the two sections. The door has subsequently been removed, but the door jamb is still in place.

The stone walls in the kitchen basement are whitewashed and the floors are poured concrete. The vertical sawn joists run from front to back. On the north wall, beneath the large walk-in fireplace in the original kitchen, there is a large stone relieving arch which is approximately seven feet wide and five-and-one-half feet tall. This is joined on its west side to a smaller relieving arch beneath the bake oven. There is a break in the stonework on the east side of the large stone relieving arch. These stones are piled in a random fashion to a height of about five feet. Above the stones is the access to the crawlspace beneath the modern kitchen wing. The kitchen basement room is presently used to house utilities and for storage.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 14

The basement room beneath the rear parlor and the rear portion of the hall is presently used for storage. The stone walls of the room as also whitewashed and there is a poured concrete floor. The vertical sawn joists run from front to back except in the area beneath the stairs and hall where they run from side to side. On the south wall, there is a large stone relieving arch supporting the rear parlor fireplace which is about five-and-one-half feet tall and four feet wide. Along the opposite wall, the shadow of the former straight-run staircase can be found.

The room beneath the front parlor may be reached through a doorway in the intermediate stone wall in the northeast corner of the rear parlor basement. A step down is required to reach this room from the rear parlor basement. During the 1950's the room was refinished as a recreation room. The stone walls were covered with panelling, a drop ceiling was installed and a tongue and groove wood floor was laid. On the south wall, the stone relieving arch supporting the front parlor's fireplace has been converted to a working fireplace. This was done by filling in the upper portion of the arch with stones and mortar, installing a hearth floor, and punching a hole through the arch to the chimney. Because of the alterations to this room, very little of the original fabric is available for study.

Outbuildings

There are two outbuildings included within the National Register boundaries for this property: the one-and-a-half story stone and frame wagon-shed (contributing) and the small, one-story frame shed (non-contributing).

The one-and-a-half story stone and frame, gable-roof, former wagon-shed presently functions as a combination garage and professional office. The gable-fronted structure is slightly banked with one-and-a-half stories on the west (rear) wall and two stories on the east (facade) wall. The gable roof with exposed rafter ends is covered with wood shingles. The original north and south walls of the building are constructed of uncoursed roughly-laid fieldstone, while the modern east and west frame walls are presently clad in white weatherboard. On the first floor of the facade wall two sets of hinged doors attached with iron strap hinges may be found. Between the hinged doors is a central entry door. Above the hinged doors in the gable are a set of three six-over-six windows. On the rear weatherboard wall are two six-over-six windows in the gable. The stone work of the north and south walls is very coarse with stones of many sizes, colors and shapes. Near the top of the south stone walls are a row of holes with cut

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 15

rafter ends projecting from the holes. Two 1931 photographs verify that a one-story frame, shed-roof addition was previously attached to this wall. On the north stone wall, the northeast corner has been parged over, perhaps to stabilize that portion of the wall.

The 1931 photographs document the changes that have occurred to the building since that time. The lower portion of the east facade wall is open in the photographs verifying the building's probable earlier function as a wagon-shed. Two door size openings are also visible on the rear wall of the shed. Above the drive-in portion of the upper portion of the facade wall, the upper portion of the wall consisted of vertical board siding with a single square window opening in the center.

Presently, the interior consists of a professional office on the second floor. The second floor of the building was inaccessible for study at the time of the preparation of this nomination. The lower level of the building serves as a combination garage and storage space and is presently divided by paneled partition walls into at least three rooms. The present first floor consists of poured concrete. The original second floor joists remain. These are vertically sawn and run from side to side. In size and dimension, the joists are similar to the exposed joists in the original kitchen wing indicating that this building may have been built at about the same time. Evidence of a haymow may be found in the center of the ceiling between the first and second floor, pointing to its former function as a wagon shed and for the sheltering of animals. Unfortunately, the lack of documentary and physical evidence make the construction date of this building uncertain.

The small, one-story, frame shed stands to the north of the house and appears to have been built in the early to mid-twentieth century. It is a shed roof, one-story frame building with white plywood walls over vertical boards. The building is set on a concrete pad. Exposed rafters are visible on the east side of the building as well as a pair of six-over-six sash windows. A batten door on hinges opens on the south side of the building. The shed roof extends over the rear of the building forming an overhang that shelters a wood pile. In the foreground of the building a well and well cover may be found. This shed presently is used for storage purposes.

Several outbuildings which have been removed are evident in the 1931 photographs of the yard space. These include a small privy to the west of the house, a large frame shed of unknown

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 16

function to the southwest of the house and a small frame shed (similar to the extant frame shed) to the southwest of the wagon shed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Abner Cloud chose the two-story double-pile, side-passage variation of the Georgian form when constructing the main portion of his stone house. Although the side-hall plan is usually associated with urban town houses, the form was also popular in rural environments in the early nineteenth century. The original portion of the Thomas Justis House (N-257) is another surviving example of a three-bay, double-pile, side-passage, stone house, constructed circa 1816. In the early twentieth century, the Thomas Justis House was expanded by an endwall addition to a five-bay house. The Abner Cloud House is unique in the virtually unaltered state of its double-pile, side-passage floorplan on the first and second floors of the main house.

During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, variations on the Georgian side or center passage form found widespread acceptance in the Piedmont region of northern Delaware. The center or side passage Georgian form gradually replaced the prevalent hall-parlor house. The unheated center or side passage served a social function to mediate between the private and public spaces of the dwelling. The fullest expression of the Georgian form is evident in the five-bay, double-pile, center-passage house such as the William Young House (N-551, NR). The presentation of the full, five-bay facade stone house signified William Young's prominence within his community as the owner of the Rockland paper mill.

The Abner Cloud House represents his aspirations within his community as the owner of the "Sawmill Farm," which he inherited from his father Joseph in 1821 at the age of twenty-five. The 165-acre property included a sawmill on the west branch of Naaman's Creek. Abner Cloud's ownership of a sawmill provides at least a partial explanation for the finely-crafted, Federal style finish details evident in both the interior and exterior of the house.

On the exterior, many of these Federal style influences are still evident on the three-bay facade of the main house. The symmetrical, three-bay facade with its nine-over-six second floor windows, and nine-over-nine first floor windows provide evidence of late Federal influence. The thick muntins and mullions on these windows and the original paneled shutters on the first floor are also evidence of this influence. The eight-panel door with its raised and molded panels with beaded edges, and the arched and molded door surround provide more evidence of the Federal influence. The semi-circular fanlight above the door with its tracery still intact is yet another example of the late Federal-style influence.

Examples of the Federal-style influence are also abundant in the extremely well-preserved interior of the main house. The center-hall, open,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

full-turn staircase with its paneled sidewall is one example. The staircase is embellished with reeded pilasters, a rounded chair rail and drop pendants, but the square balusters and simple columnar newel post are also typical of the Federal influence.

The characteristic eight-panel doors found throughout the first floor of the house also provide evidence of the Federal style. The consistent use of the beaded raised panels not only on the doors, but also on the paneled staircase, and the paneled chimney cupboards in the front parlor further emphasizes this influence. Finally, the deeply molded window and door surrounds with bull's eye cornerblocks found consistently in the front parlor and the hall provide another example of the late Federal influence.

The original mantels in the front parlor, back parlor and the two upstairs chambers provide outstanding examples of Federal influence which contribute to the extraordinary integrity of this house. This is particularly true of the large mantel in the front parlor with its reeded surround, bull's eye cornerblocks, fluted Doric colonnettes, side and raised central blocks on its frieze and molded and curved mantel shelf.

The original service wing also retains a high degree of its interior and exterior integrity. The Abner Cloud House is unusual, because of the inclusion of a kitchen wing as an original endwall wing to the house. The majority of houses built in the Piedmont region during this time period were constructed with kitchens either in a separate building or with a rear kitchen wing to the main house. The Thomas Justis House (N-257) is an example of a similar house where the original kitchen was apparently housed in a separate building. Numerous examples of buildings with original rear kitchen wings such as the J. Whiteman House (N-4023) in Mill Creek Hundred still survive. A few examples survive in which the kitchen was housed in the basement, such as the Penny-Shaw House (N-158) and the J. Pyle House (N-476). Both of these buildings are located in Brandywine Hundred, appropriately enough, since the basement kitchen was most popular in the Philadelphia vicinity.

Since the original kitchen of the Abner Cloud House was left undisturbed by later alterations, most of its original features remain intact. These include the walk-in fireplace with its original crane and hook and the bake-oven. Most of the interior trim such as the baseboards, chair rail, window and door surrounds, and the original cabinets also remain unaltered. Except for the change of the rear door to a window on the west, the original doors and windows remain unaltered. The ceiling joists were not originally meant

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

to be exposed, but the craftsmanship evident in their construction is another testament to the expertise of the skilled carpenter responsible for the construction of the Abner Cloud House. The high integrity of the kitchen wing is also evident in the kitchen chamber and the intact roofing system in the attic.

Another important feature of the Abner Cloud House is the subtle distinction in interior finish found as one progresses from the most formal rooms to the least formal rooms of the house. The mantels, baseboards, chair rails, door and window surrounds, cabinet doors and doors between rooms all show subtle variations from one room to the next. These deliberate variations in trim are intended to differentiate between the most formal and public spaces such as the front parlor and hall, to less formal spaces such as the back parlor and front chamber to the least formal rooms such as the kitchen, rear chamber and the kitchen chamber. Although such distinctions in trim are evident in houses of the period, the degree of variation and the subtlety of the differences from room to room is well expressed in the Abner Cloud House. In a more typical house, the differences in trim, becomes obvious as one progresses from the front to the rear of the house or from the first to the second story of the house.

Summary of Documentary Evidence

Abner Cloud and William Cloud (Abner's Father) were descendants of William Cloud who obtained a landed proprietorship for property in southeastern Pennsylvania and northern Delaware in 1682. Abner Cloud inherited the 160-acre "sawmill plantation" on which his house was built, from his father in 1821 (N.C.Co. Probate Records - William Cloud). In his will, William Cloud mentions that he purchased the "sawmill plantation" from his father, Joseph Cloud.

The 165-acre property including the stone mansion house where his father lived was inherited by Williams' younger son, Lot Cloud in the same will. William Cloud's widow, Ann Cloud, was given the right to live in the front rooms of the "mansion" house which her ten year old son, Lot Cloud, inherited in 1821. On nineteenth century maps, including the 1849 Rea and Price and the 1868 Beers maps, a property owned by L. Cloud is shown about a mile directly east of the Abner Cloud House. The 1881 Hopkins and the 1893 Baist maps indicate that L. Cloud had expanded his holdings to 230 acres in the late nineteenth century. The stone mansion house mentioned in William Cloud's will does not survive.

William Cloud is mentioned in the 1804 and 1816 tax assessment records

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5

as a major landholder in Brandywine Hundred. In the 1803-1804 tax assessment list, William Cloud owned two lots in Brandywine Hundred. One of these lots totalled 162 acres with one house of brick and log construction, a granary, a log barn, and a frame stable. The second lot, apparently the sawmill farm inherited by Abner Cloud encompassed 165 acres and included, a "log house, one barn, part log and part frame, an old sawmill." The total value of William's real and personal property in 1804 was \$1,743.00. By 1816, William Cloud possessed a total of 326 acres with "one stone dwelling, two wooden tenements and one wooden barn, valued at \$10,432.00." The stone house apparently is the dwelling inherited by Lot Cloud in 1821.

The 1822-1824 tax assessment lists for Brandywine Hundred indicate Abner Cloud's ownership of 160 acres, a stone house, and a sawmill. The total value of his real and personal estate was valued at \$11,700.00 at that time. His signature on the main attic's chimney stack refers to an April 4, 1827 date. Probably, this date is indicative of the house's completion data not its initial construction. From the documentary and physical evidence, it appears likely that the house was built between 1822 and 1827.

The 1828 tax assessment list for Brandywine Hundred provides a more complete description of the property, as "165 acres, stone house, frame barn, and sawmill," valued at \$3,630.00. Subsequently, Abner Cloud had acquired an additional 77 acres with a stone house and a frame barn from "Henry Guest's estate." By 1834, he possessed "242 acres, two stone houses, two frame barns and a sawmill," for a total value of \$5,870.00. In 1852, the tax assessment records for Brandywine Hundred indicate that Abner Cloud owned three lots in Brandywine Hundred. Lot #1 included, "165 acres, a stone house, and a frame barn," valued at \$6,600.00 - probably the sawmill farm. Lot #2 included 70 acres, a stone house, and a frame barn valued at \$5,300.00. Lot #3 consisted of one lot and a stone house valued at \$1,000.00

Abner Cloud died in 1855, and left the "Mansion or Sawmill Farm," and the "Guest Farm" in Brandywine Hundred to his son, William Cloud. According to the provisions of this will, William was to deliver one cord of hickory and two cords of oak yearly to his mother. This information provides an indication that the sawmill was still in operation by 1855. The provisions of the will also indicate that Abner Cloud was probably a wealthy individual for the time, since several lots in Wilmington, in his ownership are listed in the will. These include "my three story brick message . . . situate on Poplar Street between second and third streets," and a "two-story stone house" in Brandywine Village. Whether Abner Cloud acquired this apparent wealth partly or solely from the proceeds of the operation of the "Sawmill

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Farm," in Brandywine Hundred is not known at this time (N.C.C. Wills: W/1/58).

By 1861 according to the Brandywine Hundred tax assessment records, William Cloud possessed two lots. Lots #1 contained "23 acres, a stone house, and a frame stable." Lot #2 contained, "two sets of buildings", "a log tenement" and a "SM" - possibly a sawmill. The total value of his estate was \$13,125.00. On October 29, 1862, William Cloud sold to David Derrickson "all that part of the 'mansion or sawmill farm,'... containing 120 acres for \$3,000.00 (N.C.C. Deeds: Q/7/223). However, the March 23, 1867 deed for the 120 acre "Mansion or Sawmill Farm," listed David Derrickson, William and Sarah Cloud as the grantors and John S. Petitdemange as the grantee for \$10,000.00 (N.C.C. Deeds: K/8/166).

J. Petitdemange is shown as the owner of the property on the 1868 Beers map. On the 1881 Hopkins and the 1893 Baist maps, J.S. Petitdemange is shown as owning one hundred acres. According to information from the Petitdemange genealogy file, John Sebastian Petitdemange was born in 1828 and was the fourth child of Francis Petitdemange. Francis Petitdemange was a French emigre' who married the German born Julianna Plank in 1819. They owned a farm on Rockland Road in Brandywine Hundred near the present location of the Du Pont Country Club. Francis Petitdemange also worked as a wagoner at the Hagley yards. His son, John Sebastian Petitdemange married Harriet Hanby in 1851 and died in 1905 (Historical Society for Delaware - Petitdemange Genealogy File).

The "Sawmill Farm" property remained in the Petitdemange family until 1921, when Elmer E. Petitdemange and William J. Hewes, Administrators of the John S. Petitdemange estate sold the 120-acre parcel at a public sale ordered by the Orphan's Court. Anton Schmidt of Chester, PA. paid \$6,900.00 for the property (N.C.C., Deeds: H/3/569). On August 16, 1930, Anton Schmidt sold the property to the Stockdale Corporation. (N.C.C. Deeds: L/37/51).

Deed records reflect a very confusing period in the property's history between 1930 and 1940. The property was subdivided, consolidated and sold numerous times by the Stockdale Corporation or by its Trustees who are identified as: George Frank Stephens, Edwin Young and Hamilton Ware. In all, there were about ten transactions involving all or part of the "Sawmill Farm" and adjoining properties between 1930 and 1933. The first of these involved the purchase of 120- acre property by George Frank Stephens on November 3, 1930 for \$15,000.00 (N.C.C. Deeds: L/37/382). On September 28, 1932, the 120-acre parcel was sold back to the Stockdale Corporation for five

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

dollars by George Frank Stephens, Edwin Young and Hamilton Ware (N.C.C. Deeds: L/38/142). On August 29, 1933, a nine-acre parcel of the property (including the house) was sold to John E. Sutton by the Stockdale Corporation for \$5,500.00 (N.C.C. Deeds: T/37/548). On July 1, 1940, John E. Sutton purchased a small parcel from the Stockdale Corporation for five dollars (N.C.C., Deeds: D/42/302).

This confusing pattern of ownership during the early 1930's resulted from the fact that the "Sawmill Farm" was part of a single-tax community during this period. According to the present owner, the property was part of one of the single-tax communities of Arden, (N-414; NR) Ardencroft or Ardentown during this time. The farm was part of an experimental communal type of community during the period. One of the members of this short-lived community was the noted News Journal commentator Bill Frank. The 1931 photographs of the property were taken during this period and were obtained by the present owner from the Arden Archives.

Deed records for this period substantiate the idea that the property was a part of a single-tax community during the early 1930's. According to the single-tax theory, espoused by Henry George in the nineteenth century, property owners in a single-tax community did not own the land on which their houses were located. Instead, the land in the community was held by trustees who executed "Deeds of Trusts." Property owners owned the buildings and improvements erected on the land, but merely rented the land. The yearly rents for the land paid for state and local taxes and community improvements. The language in the deeds of this period elaborate on the relationship of the owners to the property. According to a 1930 deed for the "Sawmill Farm" between George Frank Stephens and his wife and the trustees, "all of the buildings and improvements on the parcel of land herein described and herein before granted and conveyed, it being the purpose and intention of the parties of the first part hereto to convey only the title to the bare land with the native grown trees thereon, exclusive of any buildings, fences, walls, cultivated trees, and plants placed thereon by the handiwork of man, the title to which buildings, fences, walls, cultivated trees and plants shall remain vested in the said George Frank Stephens, and sold, disposed of and removed as personal property." (N.C.C. Deeds: L/37/334).

Elsewhere in the same deed, the responsibilities of the trustees are described. Among the responsibilities are: to sell and lease real estate; to pay state and local taxes; to supervise lands held in common; to apply money collected from leases in excess of taxes to common purposes; and to supply vacancies in Board of three trustees by a vote of the lease-holders.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

All of these provisions seem consistent with those of a single-tax community. Coincidentally, one of the founders of Arden in 1900 was Frank Stephens. The nature of his relationship to the George Frank Stephens named in the deeds of this period as a trustee of the Stockdale Corporation is unknown.

After John Sutton purchased the nine-acre "Sawmill Farm" parcel, the property probably was not part of a single-tax community. John and Erma Sutton resided there for fifteen years, selling the house on a reduced parcel of 3.4 acres for \$34,000.00 to Gilbert and Doris Donnigan (N.C.C. Deeds: 4/48/95). Doris Donnigan (a widow) sold the 3.4 acre property to Harry L. Cates and Virginia W. Cates on January 24, 1966 for \$48,000.00 (N.C.C. Deeds: N/76/535). After the 1948 sale to the Donnigan's, the property was referred to in deeds as Lot #14 Ravine Road in Highland Woods. The Highland Woods subdivision was first laid out and developed in the 1940's.

On August 24, 1976, Harry L. and Virginia W. Cates sold the 3.4 acre parcel to C. Webster and Mabel K. Johnson for \$115,000.00 (N.C.C. Deeds: H/94/82). At some point, about one acre of the property was sold so that by the time the present owners purchased the property, the lot contained its present 2.3 acres. On January 30, 1980, Gedeon I. and Marilyn Deak purchased the property for \$100,000.00 from the Johnsons. The Deaks have lived in and preserved the Abner Cloud House until the present day.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

Delaware State Archives. New Castle County Tax Assessment Records, 1803-04, 1816-17, 1822-24, 1828-29, 1834, 1852-53, 1861.

Delaware State Archives. Probate Records, William Cloud, 1821.

Glassie, Henry. "Eighteenth - Century Cultural Process in Delaware Valley Folk Building." In Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, ed. Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture. Athens, Georgia: The University of Georgia Press, 1986.

Hopkins, G.M. Map of New Castle County, Delaware. Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins and Co., 1881.

Jicha, Hubert F. III and Rebecca Sheppard Siders. "Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware Tax Assessment Analysis For 1798, 1804, and 1816." (University of Delaware Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, Unpublished Computer Analysis, 1985).

New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Land Records.

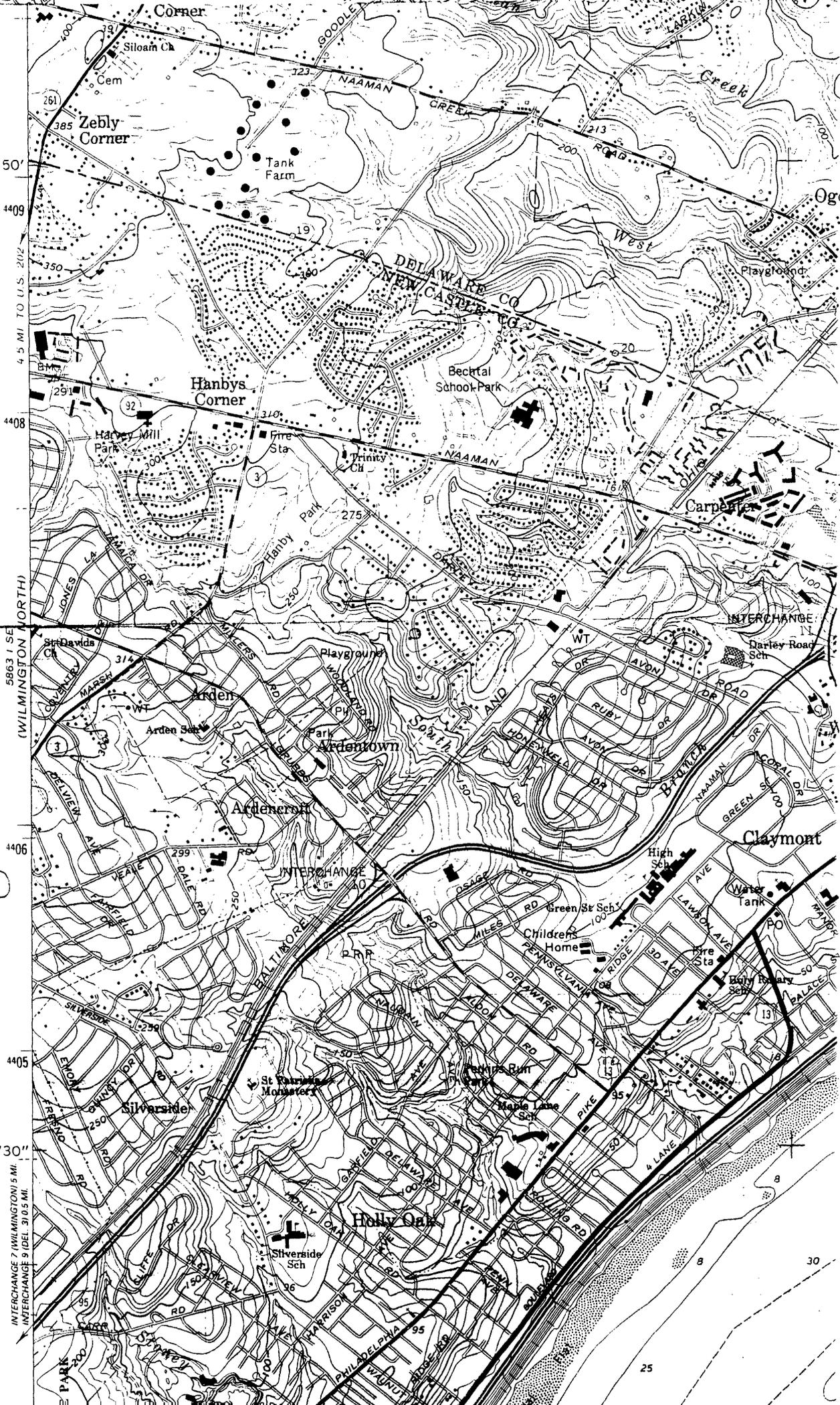
New Castle County Register of Wills and Administrations, Abner Cloud Will: W/1/58.

Petitdemange Family Genealogy File, Historical Society of Delaware Library.

Rea, Samuel and Jacob Price, Map of New Castle County, Delaware. Philadelphia: Smith and Wistar, 1849.

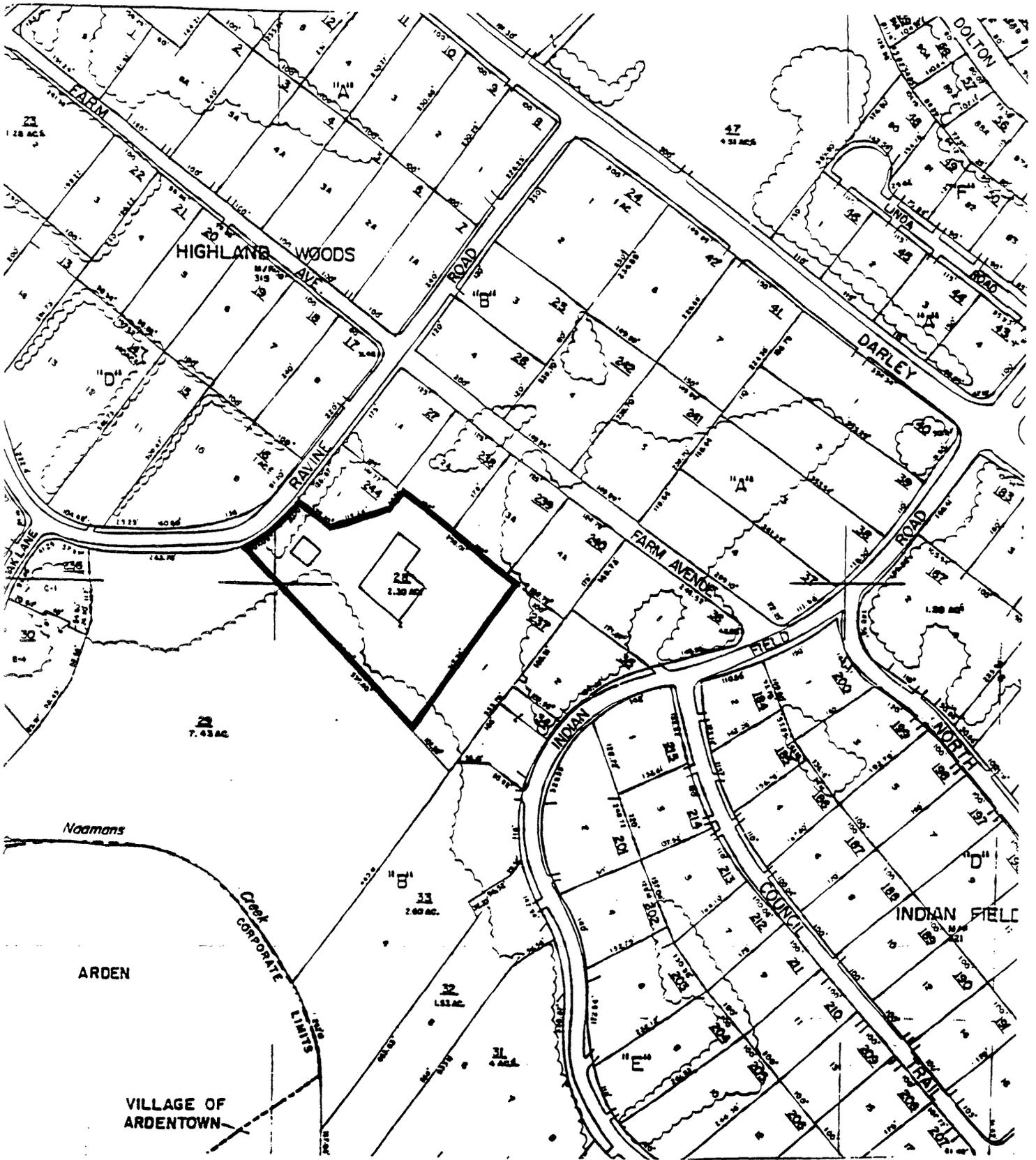
Shoemaker, Jay AIA and Patricia Wright Historian, William Young House National Register Nomination, March 29, 1982.

Wilson, Anne and Valerie Cesna, Thomas Justis House National Register Nomination, January 30, 1990.



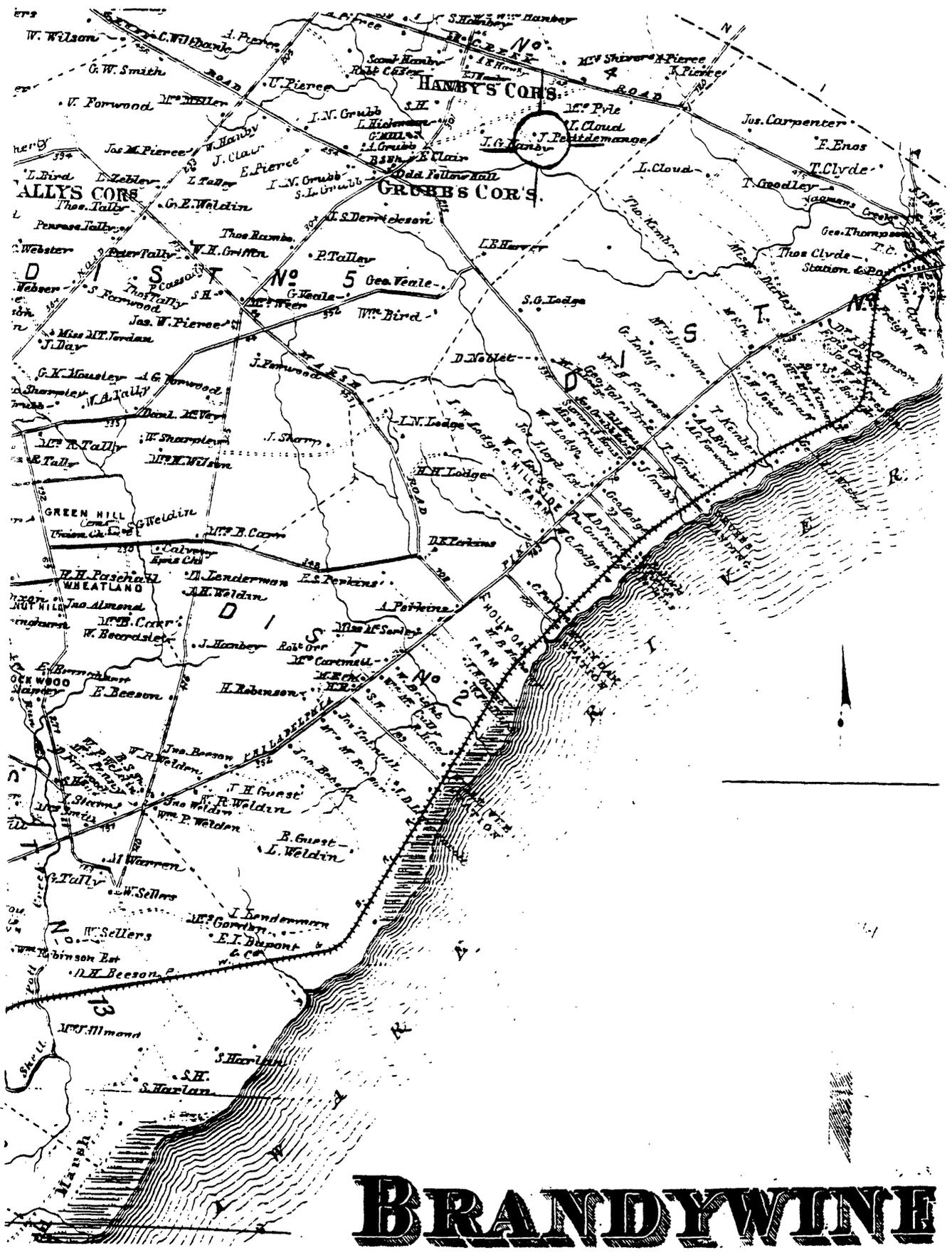
CLOUD
 USE (N-5283)
 ARCUS HOOK,
 -NU-DEL.
 DRANGLE
 MINUTE
 ERIES
 E-124000
 7 PHOTOREVISED
 86
 458900/
 +407100

50'
 4409
 4408
 4406
 4405
 47'30"
 5863 / SE
 (WILMINGTON NORTH)
 INTERCHANGE 7 (WILMINGTON) 5 MI.
 INTERCHANGE 9 (DEL.) 31.05 MI.

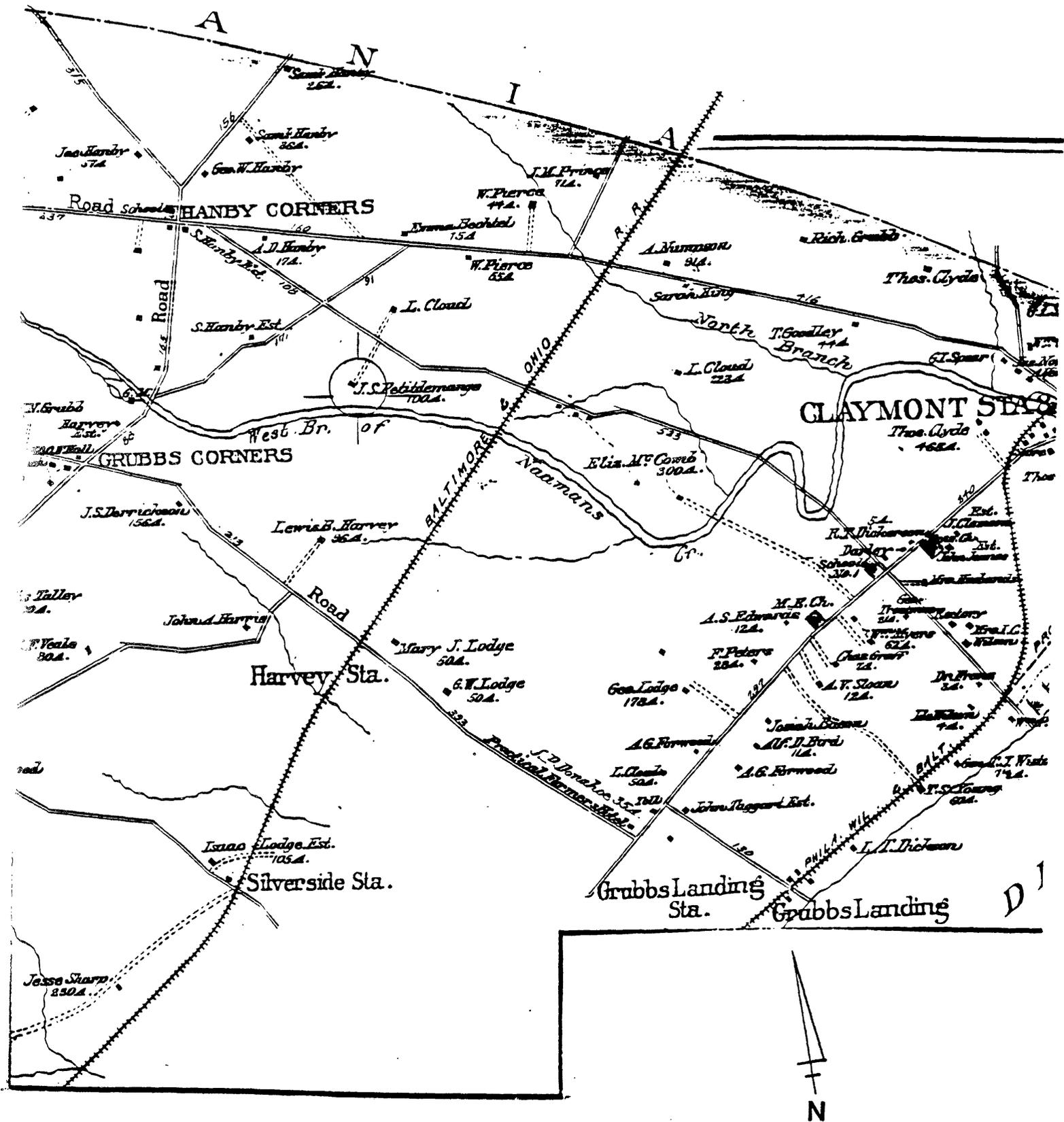


THE ABNER CLOUD HOUSE, N-5283
New Castle County Property Tax Map
 Revised 1/11/89
 Parcel #06-046.00-028
 Scale: 1 inch = 100 feet





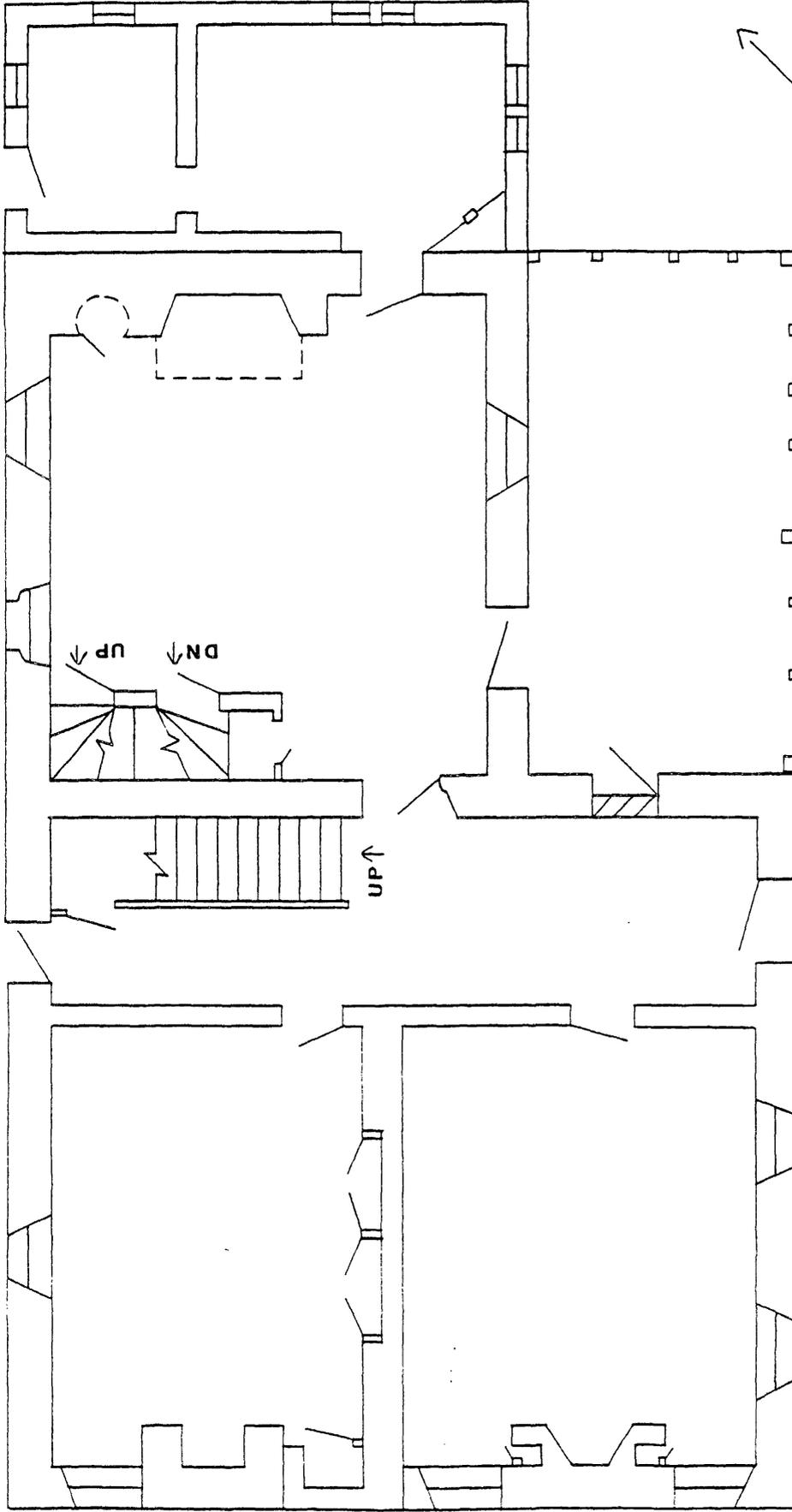
D. G. Beers Atlas of the State of Delaware
 Philadelphia: Pomeroy and Beers, 1868
 Scale: 1½ inch = 1 mile



ATLAS OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE:

Philadelphia: G. Wm. Baist, 1893.

Scale: 1 inch = 2000 feet



The Abner Cloud House N- 5283

14 Ravine Road

Brandywine Hundred

New Castle County, Delaware

Not To Scale

Anne Wilson April, 1991