



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Peter Marsh House, in Sussex County, Delaware, reference number 77000397, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 11/23/1977, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 7, 1978, Part II, Vol.43, No. 26, page 5185. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.


Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

9/2/2008
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL MONUMENTS SERVICE

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC PETER MARSH HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON THE HOMESTEAD

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 10 Dodd's Lane

CITY, TOWN Henlopen Acres VICINITY OF One

STATE Delaware CODE 10 COUNTY Sussex CODE 003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME University of Delaware

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Newark VICINITY OF STATE Delaware

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Sussex County Court House

STREET & NUMBER The Circle

CITY, TOWN Georgetown STATE Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Delaware Cultural Resource Survey, S-155; HABS Survey, Del-152.

DATE 1974 and 1966 X FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs/Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Dover/Washington STATE Delaware/D.C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS TO BLANK

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Peter Marsh House has a two-bay, two-story-and-attic, eighteenth-century main section, with an eighteenth-century, three-bay, story-and-a-half kitchen wing. A one-story, single-bay, eighteenth-century addition is to the south of the wing. To the north of the main section is a twentieth-century, two-bay, two-story wing and garage. The entire building is covered with cypress shingles. The pitched roof is shingled; a box cornice is under the roof. The original house, which comprises the main section and eighteenth-century kitchen wing, has interior end chimneys. The original six-over-six light windows remain on the main section and eighteenth-century wings of the house.

The main entrance to the house is a simple doorway in the west corner of the eighteenth-century wing. It enters into a hall which has been partitioned at the end to allow the intrusion of a small bathroom. To the south of the hall is the eighteenth-century kitchen, which has the original exposed beaded beams. The panelling which surrounds the fireplace on the south wall is original. The doorway from the hall and the panelling around the doorway were put in the house during the Corkran restoration and originally were in an inn in Morristown, New Jersey. To the south of the kitchen is a small room which has an enclosed corner staircase rising in the northwest corner. This staircase was added during the Corkran restoration. To the east of the kitchen is a twentieth-century screened porch.

To the north of the hall are the original parlor and chamber which have corner fireplaces. The chimney breasts of each fireplace are panelled. Exposed beaded corner posts are also in these rooms. A flat beaded cornice is in both rooms. The chair rail in the parlor has a simple design, while the one in the chamber is more elaborate. Each room has a beaded base. An enclosed staircase rises in the southwest corner of the parlor. A similar staircase was in the southeast corner of the chamber, but was removed by the Corkrans. A less steep corner staircase was put in its place.

To the east of the chamber is an enclosed dining porch. The twentieth-century kitchen, maid's room, and garage are to the north of the chamber. A staircase rises in the southwest corner of the kitchen.

The second floor of the original house contains two chambers and an attic chamber above the eighteenth-century kitchen. Panelled corner fireplaces are in the two chambers above the main section. Each room has a simple beaded base, flat beaded cornice, and simple chair rail. The original random-width wood floors remain in these chambers. Exposed beaded corner posts are in both chambers. The attic chamber has a nineteenth-century interior.

The second floor of the twentieth-century wing contains one large room and bathroom. Two smaller offices are over the garage.

The Peter Marsh House is surrounded by boxwood gardens and faces Dodd's Lane. The landscaping is twentieth century, as originally the house was surrounded by farmland. It is located near the middle of Henlopen Acres and is surrounded by beautifully landscaped homes. To the north of the nominated area is the Rehoboth Art League compound which includes the Paynter Studio, an eighteenth-century house moved to the location and converted to an artist's studio.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Peter Marsh House is significant as an example of an eighteenth-century Sussex County farmhouse which has retained much of its original detail. The house is also significant as the visual focal point of Henlopen Acres, a well-planned resort and residential community, developed in the 1930's by Colonel Wilbur Corkran, who owned and restored the house.

Peter Marsh built his cypress-shingled house after 1743 when he purchased portions of a tract of land called Youngs Hope, originally granted in 1681 to George Young by the Duke of York.

Marsh was an ensign in the Sussex County Regiment for the southern district of Lewes and Rehoboth Hundred during the French and Indian Wars. Two of his sons, Peter and Thomas Purnell, served in the Revolutionary War. The latter, who inherited the house in 1769, was appointed Standard Bearer of Colonel David Hall's Battalion in 1775.

Peter Marsh's children married into many important Sussex County families, including the Maul, Lewis, and Wilson families of Lewes. Indeed, his sons, Peter and Thomas Purnell, married sisters, Nancy and Mary, daughters of the Reverend Matthew Wilson, minister of Lewes Presbyterian Church and a well-known patriot during the Revolution. Wilson was later one of the founders of the Academy of Newark, the predecessor of the University of Delaware. Today, the University owns the Peter Marsh House.

When Peter Marsh died in 1769, he left a large estate of over 2,000 acres in Sussex County. To his son, Thomas Purnell, he left "...the Tract of Land whereon I now Dwell called Youngs Hope about Three Hundred Acres..." When Thomas Purnell Marsh died in 1821, he left the northwestern portion of his inherited tract of land, together with the mansion house to his son, also named Thomas Purnell Marsh.

The house and surrounding land remained in the Marsh family until 1871 when it was sold to the Dodd family. During most of the Dodd ownership, the house was occupied by tenants. In 1930, Colonel and Mrs. Wilbur Corkran purchased the house and restored it. Where original material was beyond salvage, they carefully replaced it with eighteenth-century building material from houses about to be demolished in the area although, in one instance, Corkran used panelling from a New Jersey inn.

The house retains its original floor plan and exterior. Its original configuration, that of a two-bay, two-story-and-attic main section, and a three-bay, story-and-a-half wing, is evident despite the addition of the twentieth-century kitchen and garage wing,

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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which was constructed in compatible material with the house. On the interior, the original floor plan remains. Among the remaining eighteenth-century interior detail are the panelled chimney breasts of the corner fireplaces, the chair rail, the base, and the flat beaded cornice in all of the four rooms of the main section of the house. Each chimney breast is similar in execution. Exposed beaded corner posts are in the four rooms of the main section and exposed beaded beams are in the eighteenth-century kitchen. The original corner staircase remains in the southwest corner of the parlor, while the corner staircase in the downstairs chamber was taken out and replaced with a less hazardous, more utilitarian, stair during the Corkran restoration. The original flooring remains in the two second-floor chambers of the main section. The flooring throughout the first floor was replaced with large, random-width floor boards taken from eighteenth-century houses in the area. The downstairs hall was stripped to reveal the stud walls. Panelling from a Morristown, New Jersey inn was added in the eighteenth-century kitchen around the door from the hall.

The Corkrans also purchased the adjacent farmland of about 200 acres, which in the 1930's became the site of Henlopen Acres. The community developed into a unique resort area with its own governing body and an architectural review board. It is the only planned resort community of its kind in the Middle Atlantic area, and has remained virtually unchanged since it was developed.

Colonel Corkran was well qualified to develop the area as he was an architect and engineer. Corkran's concept for Henlopen Acres involved preserving the natural habitat of the area. Wide roads, seventy-feet in width with thirty-foot center pavements, were laid out to follow the contour of the land, which was bordered on the west and north by the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal, on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the south by the resort community of Rehoboth Beach. The standard lot size was 150 feet in width and 170 feet in depth; however, many lots were larger. Each site had to retain its natural setting and the houses to be built had to conform to this setting. Plans for each proposed house in the Acres had to be approved by the developer and the governing body. In the promotional material, suggested house plans were presented, many of which resembled the eighteenth-century detail of the Peter Marsh House.

Henlopen Acres was, and is, a purely residential area with small landscaped parks, bridle paths, and a yacht basin. Certain restrictions and deed covenants were required to ensure the continuity of the area, according to Corkran's original concept. Today, Henlopen Acres remains an outstanding example of a well-developed residential community and retains its autonomy in the area by virtue of its independent governing body. It also reflects the architectural and aesthetic character derived from its centerpiece, the Peter Marsh House.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Corkran, Louise Chambers, "Two Centuries and Our Heritage," American Home, August 1934.
 Corkran, Louise Chambers, Sand in Your Brush.
 Corkran, W. S., Henlopen Acres.
 Eberlein, Harold Donaldson & Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard, Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware, 1962.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY circa 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	49,250,00	4,285,050	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Peter Marsh House is bounded on the west by Dodd's Lane and on the south by the Rehoboth Art League. The east and north property lines are the remaining boundaries.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sue N. Fox

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

November 10, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Records

TELEPHONE

678-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Lauren [Signature]

TITLE Director, Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

5/4/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Form No 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

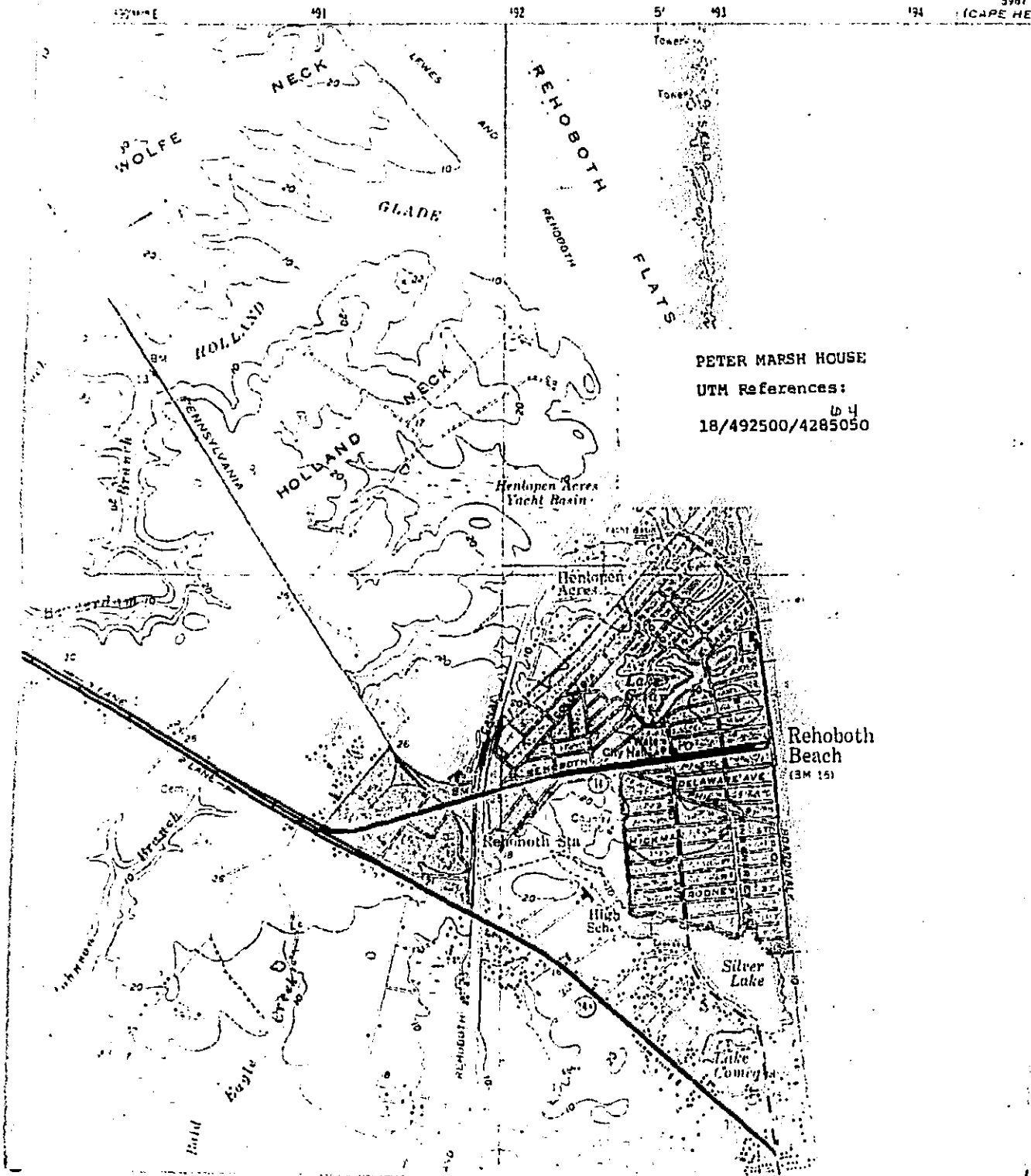
ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Mull, Baldwin, and Helen Carter Potter, Paul Marsh, offprint from The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine, XXVIII, 4, 1974.

Sussex County deeds, wills, inventories, and court records.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

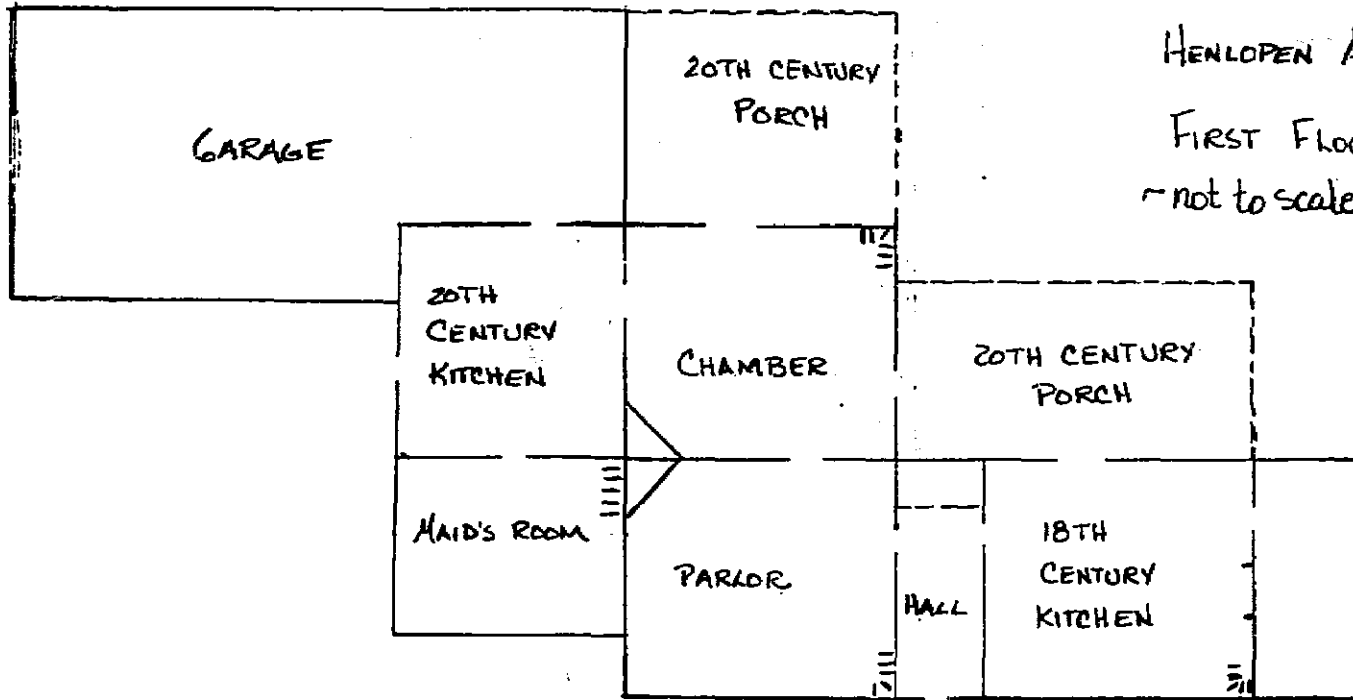


PETER MARSH HOUSE

UTM References:

18/492500/4285050

Rehoboth
Beach
(BM 15)



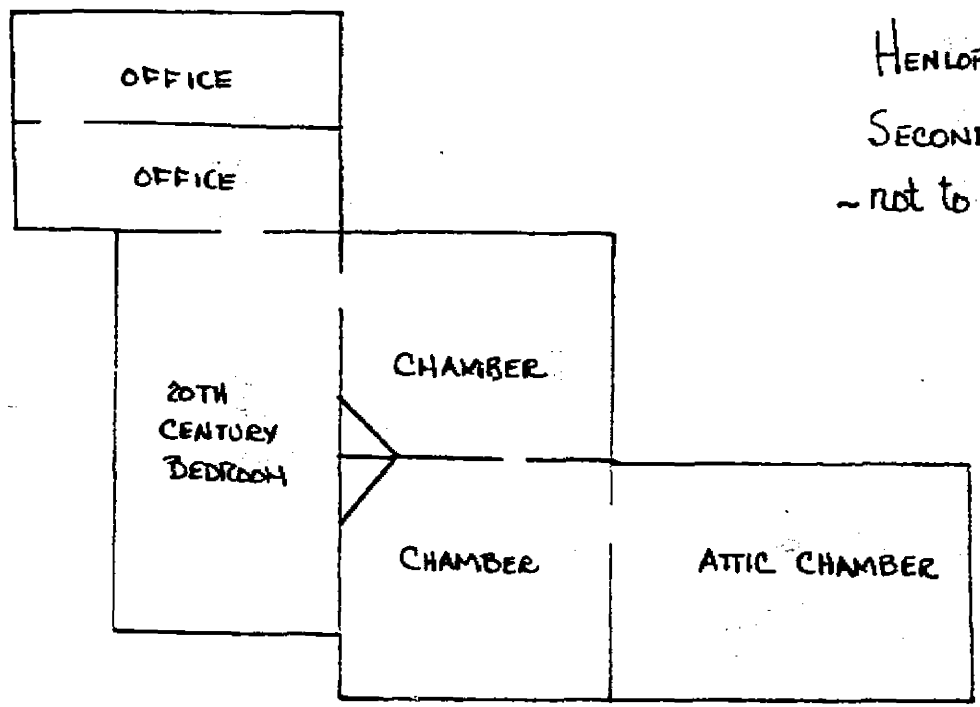
PETER MARSH HOUSE ○

HENLOPEN ACRES, D.C.

FIRST FLOOR

~ not to scale - 1976 - snf ~

2



PETER MARSH HOUSE
HENLOPEN ACRES, DEL.
SECOND FLOOR
~ not to scale - 1976 - snf ~

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE DELAWARE

Date Entered NOV 23 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Marsh, Peter, House	Rehoboth Beach vicinity Sussex County

Also Notified

Hon. William V. Roth, Jr.
Hon. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Hon. Thomas B. Evans, Jr.

RECEIVED
ARCHAEOLOGY &

NOV 30 1977

HISTORIC
PRESERVATION

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