

PH0001287

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 14 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Scene of Cheyney Clow's Rebellion

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Cheyney Clow's Fort

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
On side road off Rt. 300-1 1/2 mile west of Downs Chapel

CITY OR TOWN:  
Kenton

STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: Kent	CODE 001
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Lester and Dorothy Holtz (north portion), Mary Ford (south portion)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
State Route 300

CITY OR TOWN:  
Kenton RD

STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Kent County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
The Green

CITY OR TOWN:  
Dover

STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

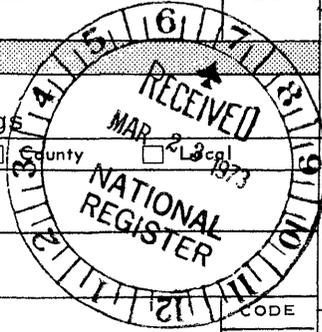
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Survey of Delaware Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972     Federal     State     County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Dover

CITY OR TOWN: Dover	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input checked="" 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

The scene of Cheyney Clow's Rebellion is on two farms, very near the Maryland line, in Delaware's Kent County; both farms extend across the line into Maryland. The southern half of the site is the farm of Mary Ford, on which stands the Clark House, a 2½-story structure that was built in three parts, with frame portions flanking the original two-bay brick portion. Part of this house may have been standing during the Revolution.

Northward from the Clark House, the Gravelly Branch of Chester River divides the Ford farm from the Holtz farm. Nearby is the survey corner that in 1829 was described as being near the Cheyney Clow fort site.

In 1829, while James E. B. Clark was assembling his farm, he bought a piece of land from John and Sophia Chase. One of the corners of the deed was a "small distance above Cheyney Clow's fort." When this deed is plotted, the point is very near the Gravelly Branch bridge, north of the stream. This property had descended through the heirs of Robert Wright, a governor of Maryland; his father, Solomon Wright, a member of the Maryland convention of 1775, had owned the property during the Revolution.

Because the fort lay on or near the Wright-Tilghman property line, it is impossible to discover who owned it during the Revolution. Since both owners were ardent patriots, it is impossible that they would have knowingly harbored Cheyney Clow.

The acreage that is the subject of this nomination was the scene of Cheyney Clow's Rebellion. Documentary sources place Clow's fort on the site, although cursory archaeological surface collection has failed to reveal tangible evidence of its exact location. Since the fort probably stood in a large swamp near the confluence of two prongs of Gravelly Branch, it is unlikely that many surface indications would be found in the plowed fields nearby.

It is known from contemporary military dispatches that the fort stood in the swamps. According to an 1839 article, some logs of the fort were still in place, even though the Delaware militia is supposed to have burned it. Since scorching retards rot, and since logs in wet ground sometimes last many years, it is not surprising that part of the structure should have survived for half a century after the battle.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

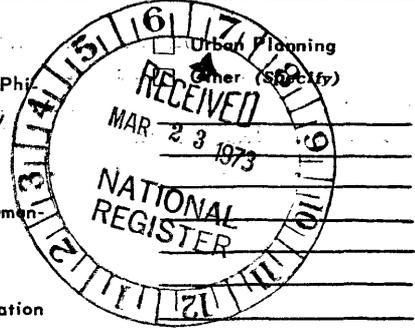
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            |  |
| <input 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

Cheyney Clow's Fort site and the surrounding fields were the scene of Kent County's only Revolutionary battle. Although the fort no longer stands, the two farms on which the battle took place are still under cultivation. The character of the neighboring country has changed little since the Revolution.

Cheyney Clow was a local eccentric who obtained a British commission and raised a force of Tories along the western boundary of Delaware. Although the line between Delaware and Maryland had been finally settled a few years earlier, Clow insisted that he was a Marylander; even though his house lay 200 yards inside Delaware, he refused to pay Delaware taxes.

He led his small band of loyalists in raids on the scattered farms of the area, until the inhabitants appealed for military protection. Charles Pope was sent to put down the rebellion, and camped with his Delaware militia at Groggtown (now Kenton). In a letter to Caesar Rodney on April 14, 1778, Pope reported that Clow had a fort erected nearby. Two days later, he informed Rodney that he had ordered "militia from the Head of Chester to join me at Marches Quarter within one mile and a half of their fortress." The attack proved unsuccessful; Clow fled, and the militia burned the fort. In May, the Delaware Assembly called for inhabitants to take an oath of loyalty, which Clow refused. In 1782, a warrant was issued for Clow's arrest on charges of treason, and the sheriff of Kent County was sent to take him in custody. Clow and his wife defended their house; a man was shot, and Clow was taken prisoner. He was eventually sentenced to hang, but the sentence was not executed until 1788, when he asked the State to decide between pardon and death. Public sentiment, which had been a factor in the decision to hang him, changed almost immediately after his death. Clow became a popular martyr, who had been unjustly executed because of his political convictions. The circumstances surrounding Cheyney Clow's last ten years serve to emphasize Kent County's indifferent support of the Revolutionary cause.

Archaeological exploration, to determine the exact fort site, would be desirable.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Federal Writers Project. Delaware: A Guide to the First State.  
 Edited by Jeannett Eckman. N.Y.: The Viking Press, 1938.  
Evening Star (Wilmington) Dec. 24, 1882: 4.  
 Kent County Deeds V-2, 66; W-Z, 192; B-3, 213; O-2, 198; U-4, 430;  
 Z-2, 123; O-3, 171-2; P-3, 74; L-4, 176; I-4, 183.  
 Huffington, William. The Delaware Register and Farmer's Magazine.  
 V. I. Dover: S. Kimmey, Printer, 1839.  
 Hancock, Harold. "The Kent County Loyalists." Delaware History.  
 v. VI Wilmington: Historical Society of Delaware, 1954-6,  
 P. 3-24, 92-139.

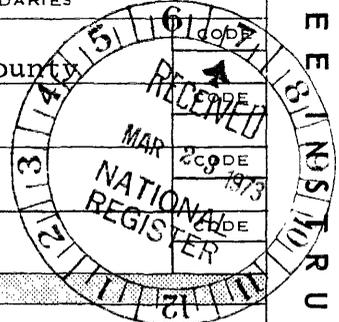
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39° 12' 24"	75° 44' 15"		39	12	30
NE	39° 0' 24"	75° 44' 36"			42	30
SE	39° 0' 3"	75° 44' 36"				
SW	39° 0' 3"	75° 0' 0"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 160

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY
Maryland		Queen Anne's County
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:



SEENSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Joan Norton, Vincent Rogers, and Edward F. Heite

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: 1/4/73

STREET AND NUMBER: Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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

National  State  Local

Name: E. Berkeley Tompkins  
 Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins  
 Title: Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
 Date: 3-15-73

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

R. R. Warkentin  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 1/14/74

ATTEST:  
Charles R. Herring  
 acting Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: 11-30-73

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Kent	
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	JAN 14 1974

(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)---

Ryden, George Herbert, ed. Letters To and From Caesar Rodney, 1756-84. Philadelphia: Historical Society of Delaware, 1933. (p. 262-3)

Biographical and Genealogical History of the State of Delaware. (Chambersburg, Pa.): J. M. Runk & Co., 1899.

Cheney Clow - Archives General Reference No. 24.

Hanson, George A. Old Kent: The Eastern Shore of Maryland. Baltimore: John P. Des Forges, 1876.

Public Archives Commission, ed. Delaware Archives Military. v. III. Wilmington: Public Archives Commission of Delaware. 1911.

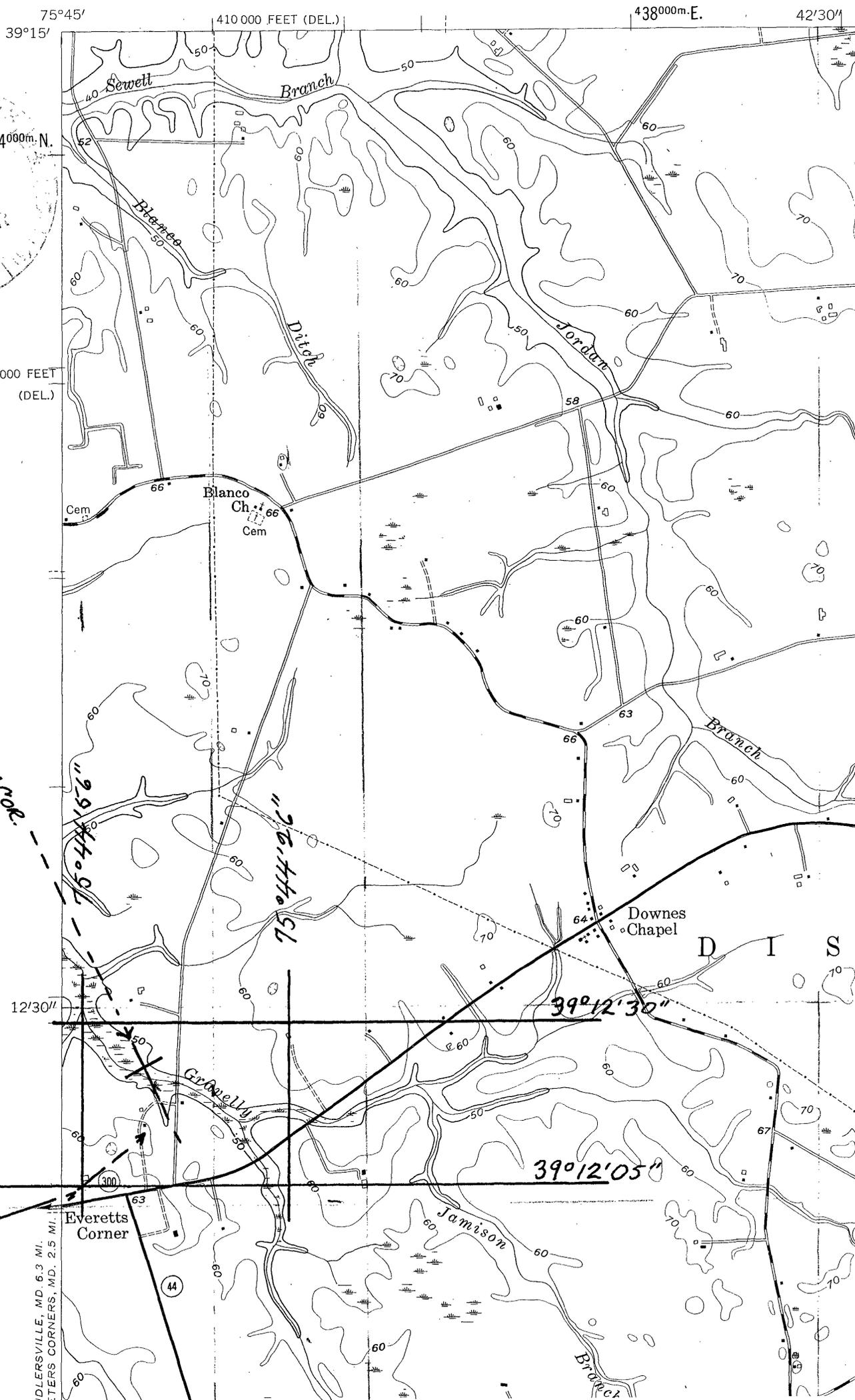
Turner, Joseph Brown. "Cheney Clow's Rebellion." Historical and Biographical Papers. v. VI, no. 58. Wilmington: The Historical Society of Delaware, 1910.

Hancock, Harold Bell. The Delaware Loyalists. Wilmington: The Historical Society of Delaware, 1940.

Waller, Wm. W., Robert H. and Joseph W. The Wrights, v. 2. Unpublished manuscript, 1940.



SCENE OF CHEYNEY CLOW'S REBELLION  
CORRECTED MAP



1878 SURVEY COR.

EVERETT'S CORNERS, MD. 2.5 MI.  
DILERSVILLE, MD. 6.3 MI.

CLARK HO.

Blanco Ch. Cem

Downes Chapel

Everetts Corner

300

44

39°12'30"

39°12'05"

75°44'56"

75°44'26"

12/30"

39°15'

75°45'

410 000 FEET (DEL.)

438 000 m. E.

42/30'