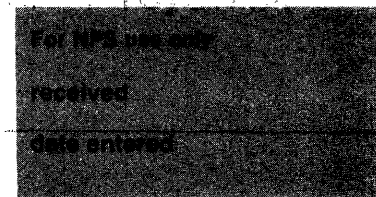


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

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2. K-193:

Property Name: JAMES McCOLLEY HOUSE

Location & Verbal Boundary Description:

500-502 N. W. Front Street; located on a double lot at the southwest corner of N. W. Front Street and Maple Avenue, lot size being 77.15 feet along N. W. Front Street and 112 feet along Maple Avenue. Bounded on the south and west by house lots. It occupies .195 acres.

Owner: Dr. J. R. Martin, 502 N. W. Front Street, Milford, DE. - (obtained 12/8/81 at Kent County Board of Assessments).

Property Description:

The James McColley House is a 2-story, 5-bay building with double center entrances. Built in two sections, the west section, including the center passage and two bays, is brick while the remainder is frame. A gable roof covers both halves with a cross gable at the center, pierced by a lancet window. The chimneys are both located on the interior gable end with the west stack being massive and having a corbelled cap. The east stack on the frame end is smaller and has a plain top. The roof has a box cornice and partial returns, supported by sawn, paired, decorative brackets. The roof covering is composition shingle. The windows are two-over-two sash with plain wood surrounds and no shutters. Both entrances to each section are double, 2-panel doors with the upper panel having glass inserts. The west entrance has a rectangular transom. A porch covers the middle three bays and has a tin roof and box cornice, supported by turned posts and decorative sawn brackets. The balustrade has turned spindles.

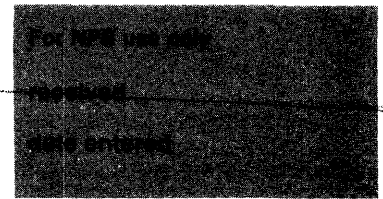
There are two rear wings, one on each half, with gable roofs. Each wing has a central chimney. A 1-story enclosed porch covers part of the central yard space.

History of Property:

The first building on the lots occurred around 1790, when a cooper named Henry Paine built the brick section on the west end as a 2-story, single-pile, 3-bay, side-hall-plan building, with a gable roof and a massive interior west gable end chimney. Approximately 10 years later, Henry Paine built the east frame section and covered the whole a the gable roof. A rear wing was added to the brick section, probably at this time.

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Continuation sheet

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JAMES McCOLLEY HOUSE CONTINUED

Sometime during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the house was changed to a Victorian Gothic Revival style, with the addition of the cross gable and decorative brackets to the roof, the changing of windows to their present appearance, and the addition of the present porch. A further change was the moving of the west wing to the east section and the construction of a new wing on the site of the former.

Property Significance:

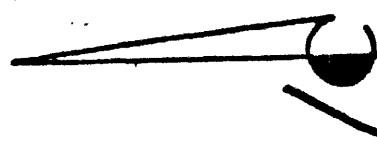
The McColley House is being nominated under Criterion C for its architectural significance in illustrating the adaptability of Georgian forms to later styles, and under Criterion B for its association with people who were actively involved in Milford's development and who, in the case of James McColley, were of sufficient national reputation to be awarded high government office.

This property is an excellent example of both early building patterns in Milford and later styles and forms that became popular during the course of the nineteenth century. The original plan for the house was that of a two-thirds Georgian, single-pile-plan. Enlargement followed fairly quickly with the conversion of the house to a full Georgian plan. The house was further updated fairly shortly to a Gothic Revival form with its cross gable and applied mouldings.

The first owner and builder, Henry Paine, was a cooper by trade. This craft was indispensable to Milford's milling industry, and barrels were also an important export item. The location of the house expresses this early association with industry, in that it is near the site of Milford's first mills.

Upon Henry Paine's death in 1830, James H. McColley purchased the house. McColley was the son of T. P. McColley, an early Methodist preacher in lower Delaware, and one of the largest landowners in Milford. James H. McColley was married to Elizabeth Bell Dutton. They had numerous real estate buildings in Delaware. Mrs. McColley owned the Milford Mills, then called the Haven Mills.

McColley entered government service and was appointed U. S. Consul at Callao, Peru. He died of yellow fever there. His wife continued to occupy the house and remained active in business affairs. However, in 1890, she lost the house and other property as a result of bad debts.



N 332,000

AVENUE

K-193 James McColley House

1.0A  
1.8AP  
60

FRONT

NW

MAPLE

LAKE

