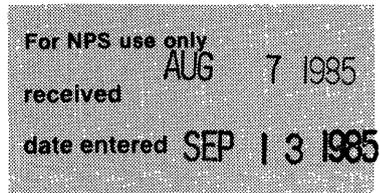


**United States Department of the Interior
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Property Name: S. Higgins Farm (1868); Shady View Farm (1984); built ca. 1865.

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The S. Higgins Farm is located on the north side of Rt. 423 approximately 1.25 miles east of its intersection with Rt. 13 at McDonough. The nomination consists of one acre containing only the house and the yard. No outbuildings are included.

The nominated parcel begins at a point on the north side of Rt. 423—100 feet east of the present farmlane, extends north 400 feet, turns west at 90° and runs west for 300 feet, and then turns south at 90° and runs back to Rt. 423.

The nominated parcel includes the house and grounds with sufficient acreage to preserve their setting.

UTM 18.46060.71460 Tax parcel 13-D14.00-01

Owner: Harold Scannel

R. D. 2, Box 500

Middletown, Delaware

19709

Description:

The S. Higgins dwelling is a two-story frame house built in the vernacular Victorian style. The overall shape is square with a jog in the northwestern corner for a service wing. The original weatherboard siding was covered in the 1950s with aluminum siding and resided again in the 1980s. The structure rests on a stuccoed brick foundation. The house is finished with a hipped roof and boxed cornice. Any cornice trim is concealed by aluminum covering. The irregular, four-bay facade features a two-and-a-half story tower set off-center to the west with a pyramid roof. The tower has a small room with windows at the top. The windows of this irregular facade are tall and narrow, one-over-one sash, with decorative vine relief on the head and relief pendants on the side trim. The entry is a two-leaf, wooden door with recessed panels above and below, set

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in the tower, with centered door knobs set in circular, etched brass plates. The architrave is identical to the windows, and there is a large three-light transom. On the west facade there is an added bay window, and on the north facade there is a small two-story addition with hipped roof. The front porch was recently rebuilt but features a very large off-center gable roof. The rear porch is a recent addition.

The dwelling has an off-center passage stairway in line with the entry and tower. The house is currently occupied by the owners of the farm and unavailable for examination.

Historical Background and Significance:

The Samuel Higgins farmstead is a good example of the rebuilding period of nineteenth-century New Castle County. The agricultural censuses record the rise and decline of Samuel Higgins through thirty years of mid to late nineteenth century (1850-1880).

Mr. Higgins's income was derived mainly from Indian corn, wheat, oats, and butter with a few cattle and swine. He apparently ran a small dairy but was out of business by 1870 and depending on grain production for his income. While grain remained the backbone of his operation, S. Higgins invested in fruit orchards and earned a modest income similar to other farmers in the area. He also was caught like the others, when the peach bubble burst with a combination of market loss and peach blight during the post-war depression. The dwelling of S. Higgins reflects the extensive rebuilding period of southern New Castle County and the prosperity brought on by a grain-based economy.

Nomination by Bert Jicha