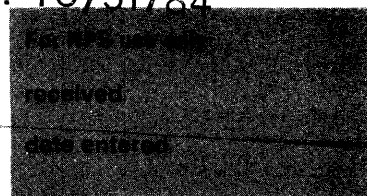


**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
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Property Name: Clark/Pratt House

Location and Verbal Boundary Location:

The house and lot is identified as parcel 12 on Kent County tax map #44.08.02 and is located on the east side of Main Street south of Frazier Street in the Town of Kenton. The lot and nominated property contain one acre.

Owner: Ruby M. Pratt
Kenton, Delaware 19955

Description:

The Clark/Pratt House was built c. 1880, as part of David S. Wilds building development in Kenton. It is a frame, 5-bay, center-hall, 2-story dwelling with a 1½-story rear wing. The decorative elements of the house are a combination of Gothic-Revival and Italianate and reflect the influence of the Queen Anne in that the two distinct styles are incorporated into one building.

The house was built using a balloon frame and is sided in weatherboard. It has a standing seam tin, gable roof with a cross gable. The cornice is classically inspired and has partial returns. The foot of the roof is extended horizontally in the plain of the returns to accommodate a series of roof brackets across the front as well as on the gable ends.

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The windows are all two-over-two sash with plain wide window surrounds. The original porch over the central 3-bay has been lost and was replaced with a hood supported by wrought iron posts. The rear wing contains the service functions of the house and was erected at the same time. It has an enclosed porch on the south face. The outbuildings consist of a summer kitchen, privy, and small barn/carriage house all constructed of frame.

Historical Background:

The Clark/Pratt house was built on land divided into building lots by David S. Wilds in the late 1870's as part of his plan to increase the size and importance of Kenton. This house and several others were erected but the town did not develop as large as Wilds had hoped and he eventually lost the land in the town and elsewhere in a sheriff's sale in 1902. David Clark who bought this house as well as several others was a wealthy landowner and used this house as a rental property. When he died he willed the property to Addie G. Arthur in 1921.

Statement of Significance:

The Clark/Pratt house is a significant structure in Kenton in that it is a combination of Gothic-Revival and Italianate elements under the influence of Queen Anne notions about the acceptability of both house plan and decoration. It is therefore being nominated under Criterion C. It is a much larger dwelling than many of the other houses in Kenton and was intended for a wealthy tenant or later owner by David S. Wilds.