

PH0001244

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.6.10.0015	DATE 6/21/71

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Parson Thorne Mansion

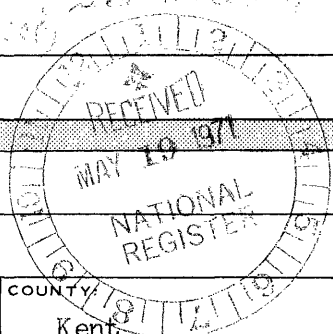
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
501 N. W. Front Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Milford

STATE: Delaware      CODE: 10      COUNTY: Kent      CODE: 001



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 checked="" 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)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Milford Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
119 N. Walnut Street

CITY OR TOWN: Milford      STATE: Delaware      CODE: 10

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Recorder of Deeds, Kent County

STREET AND NUMBER:  
The Green

CITY OR TOWN: Dover      STATE: Delaware      CODE: 10

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:      COUNTY:      ENTRY NUMBER: 71.6.10.0015      DATE: 6/21/71

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input 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 Parson Thorne Mansion is a Georgian five-bay, two-storey-and-attic brick structure with central hall. At each side is a lower, one-storey-and-attic wing, joined to the main block of the house by a covered way. The lintels above the windows are of wood, designed to simulate marble. At the rear of the main brick portion of the house is a two-storey frame wing which is the oldest section.

In 1879 the exterior of the house was remodelled. The roofs on both the center section and the two side wings were raised and given the present sharp pitch, and the three gables across the front were added. However, the interior of the building was not altered.

Directly behind the entrance hall is the parlor. The fireplace wall is adorned by two corner cupboards having butterfly shelves and panelling. The other three walls are plain with only chair rail. To the right of the hall is the dining room. This room has a larger corner cupboard, also with butterfly shelves. Fireplace surround mouldings and chair rail are intact.

The second floor plan is the same as that of the first floor. Each room has a fireplace. In the west room the fireplace wall is panelled, but in the east room there are only the surround mouldings and chair rail to ornament the room.

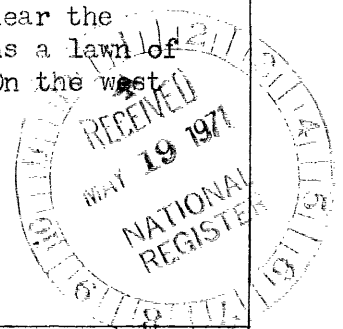
The west wing is finished in the same style as the main house; that is, the fireplace wall is panelled, chair rail and ceiling moulding are used and the trim is nicely detailed. It gives the appearance of a plantation office. The east wing has a large cooking fireplace, beaded ceiling beams, plain interior finish and indications of a brick floor. It appears to have been the kitchen of the mansion. This wing has a stairway to the second floor which has plastered walls and ceiling. There is no inside access to these two wings.

The rear wing has been altered at the fireplace wall. This panelled wall contains a closet and the stairway to the second floor. Brick nogging filled the other three walls. The doorway from the dining room to this wing is the only interior one with panelled jambs. The second floor room is similar with fireplace and panelling. There is no access to the main portion of the house on the second floor.

The Parson Thorne Mansion is situated on a hill near the outskirts of Milford. Its own 300 ft. deep front lawn joins a lawn of the same depth on the east fronting apartment buildings. On the west is unoccupied land.

(see Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

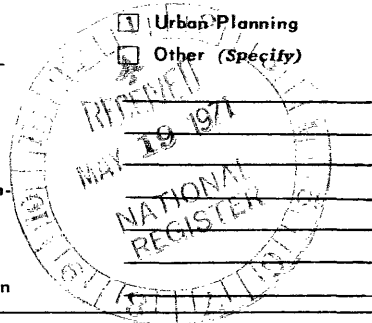
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1730 - 1735

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Architecturally, this building is significant as an eighteenth century plantation house. Although the exterior was modernized in 1879, the interior was not altered and remains today as it was built. The corner cupboards, raised panelling, chair rail, fireplaces, stairway, and interior finish are those which were installed by the builder.

Historically, the Mansion is important as the home of men who contributed to the life of the town, state, and nation. One of the early owners and occupants was the Rev. Mr. Sydenham Thorne, from whom the house received its name. He was an Anglican clergyman who was the first resident rector of Christ Church, Milford, and the builder of the present church. Also, he is acknowledged as a co-founder of the town of Milford.

Dr. William Burton lived in this house during at least part of his term of office as governor of the state of Delaware. The most famous occupant was the statesman John M. Clayton who served as Secretary of State under President Zachary Taylor and negotiated the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty with Great Britain. Here he spent his boyhood years.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eberlein & Hubbard, Historic Houses & Buildings of Delaware pp.83-85  
 Delaware, A Guide to the First State pp. 212-213

Kent County Deed Records: Volume K 1 p. 33  
 N1 p. 107  
 V 1 pp. 77-79  
 Z p. 133  
 N 2 p. 47

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 55' 11"	75° 26' 08"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		54' 49"		
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.45

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
none		none	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
M. Catherine Downing, Vice-President

ORGANIZATION: Milford Historical Society DATE: 5/7/1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
402 South Walnut Street

CITY OR TOWN: Milford STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: *Lea Hickie*  
 Title: Historic Registrar,  
 State Liaison Officer for  
 Delaware

Date: May 13, 1971

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

*Ernest A. Community*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**JUN 21 1971**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
*William J. Murley*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **MAY 20 1971**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 716.10.0015	DATE 6/3/71

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

The original wing built between 1730 and 1735 and the main portion of the mansion built between 1745 and 1750 was acquired by the Milford Historical Society in December of 1961.

