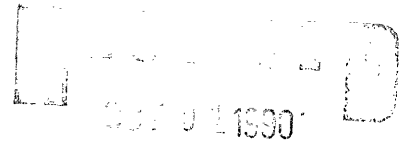


1-7-06

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wright Potato House
other names/site number CRS#-6758

2. Location

street & number Route 24 not for publication
city, town Laurel vicinity
state Delaware code DE county Sussex code 005 zip code 19556

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>N/A</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>NA</u> objects
			<u>NA</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Sweet Potato Houses of Sussex County, Delaware

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

David R. [Signature] - SHPO 9/25/90
Signature of certifying official Date
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

INA
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. [Signature] 10/15/90

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/processing, storage

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Other: Potato House

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls asphalt shingle w/weatherboard in situ

roof asphalt w/wood shingles in situother N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Wright Potato House is a one and one half story, gable fronted structure of small dimensions (20 feet 2 inches by 30 feet 3 inches) built circa 1910. It is located 7/10 of a mile southwest of the junction of Route 24 and Road 510 lying on the north side of Route 24. The potato house belongs to a farm complex which is not being considered for nomination. The surrounding environment includes cultivated (corn, soy bean) and uncultivated fields. The building stands at a considerable distance from the complex's other buildings which include a gambrel roof barn and late nineteenth century farm house. The land is very flat and is graced by very few trees.

The building is in good condition resting on a brick and concrete block foundation. First and second story loading doors and a small, square, two-over-two light gable window comprise the front gable elevation. First and second floor loading doors retain both their interior sliding doors and their exterior hinged doors. All hardware (hinges and latches) is original.

Rear gable elevation includes a first floor three over three light window, a second story six over six light window and a two over two light gable window. Original wooden hatches and hinges remain on the front elevation. Glazing remains in all rear elevation windows but not in the gable window of the front elevation. Lateral sides of the building have no fenestration.

Original mill-sawn weatherboards remain in situ beneath modern asphalt shingles. The characteristic triple sheathing is discernible where the modern shingles have broken away. Sheathing consists of exterior weatherboards, diagonal boards, studs with straw insulation visible, and interior horizontal, six inch tongue and groove beaded panels.

The original wood shingle roof remains in situ beneath modern asphalt shingles.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance

1910-1937

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

~~N/A~~ unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Wright Potato House is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places as an excellent example of an architectural reflection of a broad historical trend and as a significant architectural type. The potato house, as a functional type, relates to the Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan's study unit III under the 1880-1940 period and is an example of that plan's property type 1B reflecting major economic and cultural trends relating to agriculture.

The broad historical pattern to which the potato house is directly linked is the modernization of agricultural practices in southern Delaware during the first half of the twentieth century including the emergence of truck farming, the growth of perishable produce crops, and the development of modern agricultural marketing. The growth of sweet potato cultivation was one of the major manifestations of these changes in production practice and crop choice. The potato house is the remaining physical evidence of this important trend in Sussex County's agricultural history when the sweet potato was "king".

Sweet potato cultivation dominated the region particularly in the years 1910-1940, and was one of the first crops to benefit from truck farming and modern agricultural marketing. The long (eight month) and multi-phased process of sweet potato production impacted the culture and economy of the rural community in Sussex County during the years of its prominence as one of the area's cash crops.

The potato house is significant as an architectural type. It was essential to the process of sweet potato production in both curing and storage capacities and was developed as a distinct building type to provide the functional needs required for a successful, saleable sweet potato crop.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Delaware Agricultural Statistics, Historical Series 1866-1974, Bul. no. 419,
Newark: University of Delaware, Agricultural Experiemtn Station, 1976.

Hancock, Harold B. The History of Sussex County, Sussex County Bicentennial Committee,
1976.

Herman, Bernard and Siders, Rebecca. The Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation
Plan, prepared for the Delaware State Office of Archaeology and Historic
Preservation, 1987.

Oral History Interviews with retired sweet potato farmers of Sussex County, August 1986.
Tapes with the Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware.

Scharf, Thomas. History of Delaware, 1609-1888, Philadelphia: L. J. Richards & Co., 1888.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .034 acres (700.5 square feet)

UTM References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>446856</u>	<u>4264869</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Tax Parcel Map #: 4-32-11, 5

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the site is a rectangle surrounding the potato house and extending
ten feet from the roof line of the buidlign on all sides.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is justifiable because this nomination asks for the consideration of only
the potato house. The property and additional non-contributing structures associated
with the site are not included in this nomination.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judith Quinn
organization Center for Historic Architecture & Engineering date December 23, 1987
street & number Urban Affairs, University of Delaware telephone 302-451-2394
city or town Newark state Delaware zip code 19716

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

CRS#-6758

The interior brick chimney stands in the rear (northeast) end of the building though the exterior stack has been removed. Stairs to the second floor stand inside the entrance door. The plan is arranged with a center aisle orientation. On the first floor, seven narrow, slated storage bins remain. One bin on the left of the center aisle and six bins on the right. Bins on the second floor have been removed though a few end posts remain standing. The second floor walls and ceiling are carefully finished exhibiting beaded tongue and groove paneling nailed to studs, rafters, and collars. Similar treatment is found in the Rider Potato House (CRS# 6820).

A typical sliding trap door is located in the second floor ceiling providing access to ventilation from attic, gable end windows.

The farm is not presently inhabited and exact use of the farm during the sweet potato era is unknown. One could safely assume that the Wright Farm followed a similar pattern of land use found in neighboring farms growing Indian corn and produce vegetables such as peas, cucumbers, tomatoes, and melons. The small size of this potato house suggests that it was used only for the owner's crop and not for speculative renting.

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

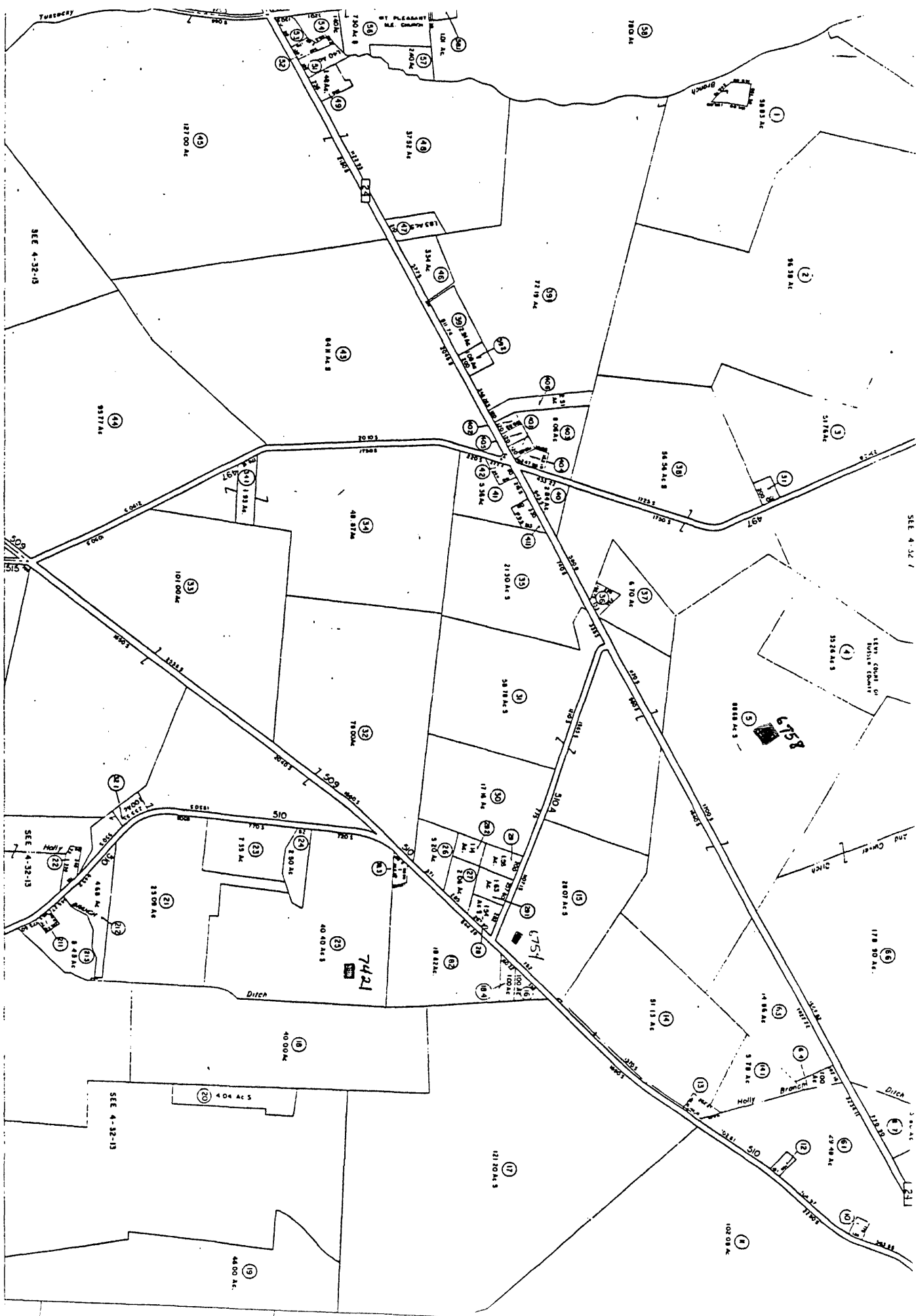
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

CRS#-6758

Potato houses share common construction elements and are recognizable on the landscape as belonging to this specific property type. The Wright Potato House is a significant example of the property type because it retains an important number of elements characteristic of potato house construction and function. These elements include; minimal fenestration, gable front orientation, gable end loading doors, double sheathing, storage bins, and ventilation features.

The excellent and nearly original condition of the building is its most valuable asset. Extant bins on the first floor create the rare example of a complete interior and the finished treatment of second floor walls reflect the builder's attention to design details. The curing and storage functions of the building are clearly evident in bins, chimney, and insulation features. The Wright Potato House has integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association.



RYGICE
 County of Sussex, Delaware
 Date of Revision: 4-32-13

DATE OF REVISION
 Date of completion: 10/15/13, Date of amendment: 10/15/13
 Project: 10/15/13, Date of amendment: 10/15/13
 Well known: 10/15/13, Date of amendment: 10/15/13

SUSSEX COUNTY
DELAWARE

LEGEND

—	County line
—	Ward line
—	Block line
—	Lot line
—	Water
—	Ditch
—	Right of Way
—	Other
—	Other
—	Other
—	Other

Tax Parcel
MAP 4 - 32 -
Wright Potho House
Sussex County, DE