

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

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

Continuation sheet

Item number

K1374

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K-1374:

Property Name: T. H. Denny, <sup>House</sup> "Mount Pinder"

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The house and farm of 133 acres is located on the south side of Route 42, about 3/4 mile east of Seven Hickories. The nominated property is a small lot of land surrounding the house and including some related agricultural out-buildings. The lot extends 200 feet on either side of the central driveway and south from Route 42 for 500 feet. This lot contains 4.6 acres and excludes the modern house that is east of the house and east of the driveway.

Owner: Samuel Mast  
R.D. 5, Box 702  
Dover, DE 19901

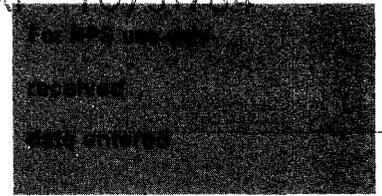
Description:

The T. H. Denny House was constructed during the last quarter of the eighteenth century. It is a 5-bay, 2-story, center-hall, brick building. The facade is laid in Flemish bond with a wide belt course. The rear is laid in common bond. The end walls are stuccoed and the entire house is painted white. There is a full basement under the house and the house is slightly elevated to allow for small windows to light the basement. The windows on the first floor are nine-over-nine with heavy wood lintels in a modified keystone shape. The second floor windows are six-over-nine.

The entrance porch is a mid-nineteenth-century addition, as is the rear wing. The wing now sits on cement block foundation, which replaces the original brick piers.

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The outbuildings consist of a barn, stable and a machine shed. They are all of frame construction with the barn and stable having mortise and tenon joints. The machine shed is a light, 3-sided structure.

**Historical Background:**

The T. H. Denny House served as the mansion house for Risdon Bishop and for Nehemiah Clark. Bishop died in the early 1820's, and may have had the house built. However, due to the poorly-kept records, the property ownership cannot be readily traced beyond Risdon Bishop. After Bishop died, his lands were sold by the county sheriff, Nehemiah Clark. Clark purchased the house and farm himself at the sheriff's sale in 1831, along with a number of Bishop's other properties.

Clark willed the property, which he used as his mansion house, to his two sons Henry and Hiram in 1846. Hiram, in turn, sold to Henry his share of the mansion house, plus 1625 acres of land in various tracts located in the state of Missouri. Hiram, at that time, was living in Indiana on part of a series of tracts that his father had bought in 1835 from the Wabash and Erie Canal Company. Henry Clark then sold the land to Thomas H. Denny. The farm which Denny called "Mount Pinder" remained in his possession, though not as his home farm but as a tenant farm, until he died in 1886 and his lands were sold to pay his debts.

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Statement of Significance:

The Thomas H. Denny House, "Mount Pinder," is important as an example of a typical Delaware farmhouse that has been enlivened with the use of large and elaborate wooden lintels. These unusual features combine with the use of brick, to serve as a visual display of wealth for the original builders of the house. The house is also slightly longer than the usual 5-bay, center-hall dwellings and, hence, does not rise out of the landscape as much as it spreads itself over the land. Because of its use of unusual decorative elements, this is the only house in the hundred to have the massive wood lintels. "Mount Pinder" is being nominated under Criterion C for its architectural features.