NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)	RECEIVED 2228048 No.1024-0018
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	JUL 1 2 2001
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM	NAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and district the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Com appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9) or computer, to complete all items.	plete each item by marking "x" in the being documented, enter "N/A" for "not r only categories and subcategories from
1. Name of Property	
historic name : <u>Cloud-Reese House</u>	
other names/site number : <u>CRS # N-1113</u>	
2. Location	
street & number : 2202 Old Kennett Road	t for publication
city or town : <u>Wilmington</u> × vicinity hundred :	<u>Christiana</u>
state : <u>Delaware</u> code : <u>DE</u> county : <u>Ne</u>	ew Castle
code : <u>003</u> zip code : <u>19807</u>	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this \times nomination \Box 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 \Box meets \Box does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \Box nationally \Box statewide \times locally. (\Box See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying

,25,2001

Signature of certifying of the lat

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \Box meets \Box does not meet the National Register criteria. (\Box See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

	oud-Reese House Inty, DE	New Castle
	National Park Service Certificat:	ion
	ereby certify that this property entered in the National Registe	er also H Beell 8.17.01
	determined eligible for the National Register	
	See continuation shee	et.
	determined not eligible for the National Register	e
	removed from the National Regist	ter
	other (explain):	
=== 5. ===	Classification	
	eck as many as apply) 0 X private □ public-local □ public-State □ public-Federal	Category of Property (Check only one) X building(s) district site structure object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributin	q
1 1	1	buildings
		sites -
<u> </u>		structures
	0	objects
2	<u> </u>	TOTAL

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register $_ 0_$

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

Cloud-Reese House County, DE ____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) C C

Cat:	Domestic			Dwelling
Cat:	Landscape	Sub:	Street	Furniture/Object

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Domestic	Sub:	Single Dwelling
Cat:	Landscape	Sub:	Street Furniture/Object
Cat:	Agriculture	Sub:	Animal Facility
Cat:	Landscape	Sub:	Garden

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation stone walls stone asphalt wood roof other wood

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- X Α Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in
- Π В our past.
- X Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack С individual distinction.
- Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important D in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- \square Α owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- \Box removed from its original location. В
- С a birthplace or a grave.
- a cemetery. D
- Ε a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within G the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance: (Enter categories from instructions)

Social History Architecture

Periods of Significance: 1929

Significant Dates: 1929

Significant Person: N/A (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A Cultural Affiliation:

Architect/Builder: L. Waring Wilson

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

Dpreliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. Designated previously listed in the National Register
Dereviously determined eligible by the National Register
Ddesignated a National Historic Landmark
Drecorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
Drecorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data XState Historic Preservation Office DOther State agency DFederal agency $X_{Local government}$ □ University Other Name of repository : New Castle County Department of Land Use

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.36

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone E Zone Easting Northing 3 2 Δ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name Susan Brizzolara Wojcik title Historic Preservation Planner

organization Department of Land Use, New Castle County

date August 4, 1999 telephone (302) 395-5400

street & number 87 Read's Way, Corporate Commons

city or town New Castle state DE zip code 19720-1648

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Cloud-Reese House:

name Mrs. Patricia G. Breuer

street & number 2202 Old Kennett Road

telephone (302) 654-2931

city or town Wilmington state DE zip code 19807

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Agency Certification

In my opinion, the Cloud-Reese House d'meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Thomas P. Gordon, County Executive New Castle County, Delaware

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Cloud House New Castle County, DE

Description

The Cloud-Reese House is a three-bay, two-story, stuccoed stone dwelling built circa 1820 with an original rear wing forming an ell plan. A oneroom, two-story stone building is attached to the rear of the wing, within a portion of the ell and extending beyond the wing's end wall. This offset portion of the house appears to be the house's first period of construction, dating to circa 1770. Although elements remain from these first two building periods, the house's overall integrity of design, materials, and workmanship is from the year of its renovation, 1929. In that year, the Cloud-Reese House was thoroughly updated with the addition of spaces identified with estates of the era. Notably, the central hall and stair were removed from the house's front section to create a large living room; a wing was added with a kitchen, pantry, laundry, three-car garage, and servants' quarters; the original rear wing was expanded with the addition of a reading room; and the house was opened up to the landscape with outward-oriented spaces, such as a front terrace in place of a Victorian porch, first-floor sun porch with an open porch on its second story, breakfast terrace, and conservatory. The vernacular, Federal era house was transformed into a Colonial Revival home befitting the Country House movement then sweeping the country.

The Cloud-Reese House is located in the Piedmont Zone in the north central section of New Castle County, Delaware, near the Pennsylvania line. The landscape in this section of Christiana Hundred is a gently rolling valley between the Red Clay Creek on the west and the Brandywine Creek on the east. Since the early twentieth century, the setting has been characterized by country estates, which supplanted what had been working farms. The house, on a parcel of 4.36 acres, fronts east toward the rolling landscape, while its circa 1820 wing faces north onto Old Kennett Road. Along that road a stone wall (contributing) runs nearly the length of the parcel. Behind the house are the remains of a stone barn, which have been converted to dog pens in recent years (noncontributing). The property is in excellent condition.

The House

The stone, three-bay, two-story section of the house with its original wing, built circa 1820, measures approximately thirty-eight feet across the front by thirty-seven feet to the rear of the original wing. Beyond the rear wall of the wing, a one-bay, two-story addition was built in 1929. The wing is approximately eighteen-feet wide. The ell opens to the south. The house's first period of construction is located within a portion of the ell. The circa 1770 stone building is approximately seventeen-feet square, and it is located at the western end of the circa 1820 wing. Within the ell, between the older stone building and the circa 1820 addition, a stairhall was built in 1929. An outdoor breakfast terrace, also built in 1929, fills in the remaining space within the ell. The other main addition of 1929 was the two-story frame service wing with a one-story, brick three-car garage. This wing attaches to the main house at the southwestern corner of the circa 1770 construction.

The older, stone sections of the house are stuccoed and painted white with dark green shutters. The 1929 service wing is clad with white weatherboard. The three-car garage, attached to the southern end of the service wing, is white-painted brick. The roofs of the main house and

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its wings are gable with gray/brown asphalt shingles throughout. The its Wings are gable with gray/brown asphalt sningles throughout. The circa 1820 stone section has a slight eave overhang with a closed cornice, a change evidently made in 1929. A 1922 photograph of the house shows a brick cornice laid to imitate dentils, a common feature of the nineteenth-century houses of this area. This photo also indicates that the roof was raised in 1929, hence the change in the cornice. Wide, molded vergeboards finish the gable ends of the main roof and the 1929 rear wall of the extended wing.

The house's main facade is symmetrically arranged, with a center entrance flanked by 6/9 wood sash windows on the first floor with three shorter, 6/6 windows on the second floor and parged chimney caps centered on the roof ridge slightly inset from each end of the house. A thirteen-foot deep terrace extends the width of the facade. The slate terrace, composed of large square and rectangular slates laid with a few smaller square slates, is raised a few steps above the lawn and is separated from the lawn by a boxwood hedge. The 1922 photo shows that an Italianate flat-roofed porch once extended over the center entrance between the windows.

The front door surround is composed of fluted pilasters, painted dark green, supporting a broken, triangular pediment with small modillions. This form appears to date from the 1929 alterations. Within the Colonial Revival surround, however, the square panels of the deep entryway appear to be original, as is the paneled front door, with three rows of two horizontally-placed panels in the door's top half and two, longer vertical rectangular panels below. Over the door is a four-light transom. The woodwork, muntins, and moldings of the windows appear to date to the circa 1820 period. (Although the shutters were closed over the first-floor windows in the 1922 photo, one 6/9 first-floor window is evident on the side of the house.) The paneled shutters on the first floor also appear to be original. The shutters are three-paneled on the first floor and are composed of two louvered sections on the second. The second-floor shutters were not extant in the photo of 1922, suggesting that the current shutters were made to match the style of the suggesting that the current shutters were made to match the style of the originals.

The northern elevation of the house has symmetrical fenestration, with the side entrance door flanked by four 6/9 wood sash windows and with five 6/6 wood sash windows on the second story. The left or eastern two bays are in the gable end of the house's front section. The remaining three bays are in the house's wing, which was originally two bays long. The right or western bay dates to 1929. The stuccoed wall surface is seamless, with only the parged chimney cap marking the wing's original end wall.

In addition to its symmetry, this street elevation is notable for the In addition to its symmetry, this street elevation is notable for the Colonial Revival, one-story portico over the entrance. Paired, square columns with molded capitals support a high, molded cornice and an elliptical underside below the porch's gable roof. The columns rest on a slate floor, matching the slatework of the front terrace. This portico dates to 1929, replacing the three-bay porch evident in a photo of 1922. That porch, in a style that matched the front porch, had covered the door and its flanking windows, extending to a point near the end of the wing.

The southern elevation is the house's most complex side, for it reveals the house's asymmetrical U-shaped plan created in 1929. From the south, the original end walls of the house are almost completely concealed by

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the later additions, except for a portion of the south wall of the main On the left or western side of the south elevation, the threeblock. car garage and four-bay, two-story service wing project from the southern wall of the circa 1770 construction. On the right or eastern side of the south elevation, a one-story sun porch projects from the southeast corner of the main block, extending the depth of the terrace in front of the house. Between these two projecting additions, the remaining open space within the ell was filled in 1929 with a stairhall and an outdoor breakfast terrace.

The sun porch is accessed from a multi-paned centered door on the south elevation, flanked by three eight-light (2/2/2/2) fixed windows on each side. The eastern and western walls are filled with six eight-light windows. A door flanked by eight-light windows on the northern elevation permits access from the terrace. The end walls of the sun porch are marked by plain pilasters with simple, narrow molded capitals. The entablature is composed of a wide, plain architrave, frieze, and heavy, overhanging cornice. An iron railing caps the flat roof, which is accessible from a second-floor door on the south elevation of the main block.

The service wing is a long and narrow addition, extending from the southern wall of the circa 1770 section approximately fifty-eight feet and being about twenty-feet deep. The one-story, gable roof, brick three-car garage is located at the southern end. The end bay has its original doors, which swing outward to open. These doors, with six lights in the top portion and three vertical panels below, are each hung with three large iron strap hinges. The doors in the other two bays are paneled wood overhead replacements, with a row of lights. The south wall of the garage has only one opening, a louvered lunette in its gable end.

The two-story portion of the service wing is frame with an inset porch on the first floor, facing east. This porch is labeled "conservatory" on the plan of 1929. The porch has a slate floor, like the front terrace, and a beaded-board ceiling. Three square columns with plain board bases and capitals support the second floor. The porch accesses the south end of the dining room (the circa 1770 period) through a circa 1929 wood door with nine light top half and paneled bottom. The east elevation of the service wing's first floor, within the porch, contains a door at each end and two 6/6 wood sash windows. The second story, above the porch, contains four 6/6 wood sash windows, grouped in pairs toward the end walls. The southern elevation of the service wing contains an open door frame, leading to the first floor porch, and two evenly spaced 6/6 wood sash windows on the second floor.

A stairhall was added in 1929 in the space formed between the porch and the front block. Its southern elevation contains a long window with eight long vertical lights in its lower half. Its top sash contains a curved arch muntin pattern in the center, flanked by two four long vertical muntins. Below this window is a small, four-light window lighting a powder room below the stairs. In front of the stairhall addition is a terrace designated on the 1929 plan as a "breakfast terrace," for it is accessed from the dining room door, which has a six-light top half and two vertical panels below. This area is now used to house the air conditioning unit house the air conditioning unit.

The western, or rear elevation, like the southern elevation, is characterized by complexity rather than the ordered symmetry of the elevations of the circa 1820 portions of the house. The two-story,

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white-painted, gable end of the addition of 1929 anchors the left or northern end of the elevation. Two symmetrically-spaced 6/6 sash windows are located above two 6/9 first-floor windows, and two quarter-round vents punctuate the gable. To the right of this gable-end section is the most visible view of the house's original section. Two-bays wide, just its left or northern bay is fully exposed. A circa 1929 door with a nine-light top half and paneled lower half, with two vertical panels, is located on the first floor and a 6/6 window is situated directly above. The right or southern bay of this section is covered to a line one-and-one-half stories above the ground by the shed roof extension of the service wing, which contains the pantry. However, the 6/6 sash window in the right bay of the second story is left exposed. The break in the roof line from the circa 1770 two-story section to the 1929 slightly lower wing is marked by the parged chimney cap at the roof ridge of the circa 1770 section. white-painted, gable end of the addition of 1929 anchors the left or

The service wing contains two distinct sections, most visible from this elevation. Attached to the circa 1770 wing is a two-story frame addition notable for the three, gable-roofed dormers punctuating a long, sloping roof. The roofline extends toward ground level so that just the wide weatherboard of the first story is exposed, creating a more horizontal effect for this section compared with the verticality of the main block. The two exposed bays on the left contain 6/6 sash windows, which light the pantry. In the right bay of this section, a door with a nine-light top half and paneled lower half, with two vertical panels, is located within a gable-front vestibule. The gable roof projects above the cornice to the level of the dormer window. Above the door, a louvered half-circle vent is located in the gable end. Between the left and right bays, a flat-roof, one-story porch projects from the wing's rear wall. Three large sliding glass doors create the porch wall, above which is a wide entablature. This space was added circa The other section of the service wing is the one-story low brick 1970. wall of the three-car garage, punctuated by three, symmetrically-spaced 6/6 sash windows.

The House Interior

Throughout the house, the trim and doors share similar molding profiles and paneling, indicating that the architect L. Waring Wilson was desirous of re-creating the Early American feeling throughout the house by imposing consistency among the house's several sections through its trim. The interior doors, some of which are from the circa 1929 period, are consistent in style with the original exterior doors of the circa 1820 block, with six horizontal panels in the top section and two vertical panels below. For the new exterior openings added in 1929 at the rear of the house, however, the architect used a more open door with a nine-light top section and two vertical panels below. The baseboard appears to have been replaced throughout the house in 1929. It is the same throughout the house and consists of a plain board with molded cap, Throughout the house, the trim and doors share similar molding profiles same throughout the house and consists of a plain board with molded cap, measuring ten-inches high. The house's oak floors are also replacements.

The alterations and additions of 1929 re-oriented the main entrance from the center of the circa 1820 main block to the side door of the rear wing. According to the floor plans drawn by L. Waring Wilson in 1929, the main entry is the door on the street elevation. This door leads to a space labeled "reception" on the plan, which is the rear wing of the 1820 section.

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Because it provides access to many areas of the house-the living room, dining room, reading room, powder room, basement, and second story--the reception room is aptly named. In addition to its original paneled door surmounted by a four-light straight transom, the reception room is surmounted by a four-light straight transom, the reception room is notable for the large cooking fireplace with stone jambs, brick hearth, and flat-arch brick lintel. The fireplace has an opening that is four-feet, four-inches high and five- and one-half feet wide. It is outfitted with a crane and surmounted by a narrow Colonial Revival mantel shelf. A hall closet from the 1929 renovations is located in the wall between the front block and rear wing, close to the front door. Paneled doors enclose the closet's upper and lower compartments. The upper compartment is closed with a door with four vertical panels with a glass knob. The lower door is composed of a single panel. The fireplace, on the original endwall of the wing, is flanked by two openings. On the left are paired paneled doors. The left door (with six square panels in the top and two vertical panels in the bottom third), leads to a winder stair to the second floor. To the immediate right of this door is a similar door to the basement. To the right of the fireplace, a doorless opening leads to the library addition of 1929.

The library is a long and narrow space with built-in bookcases lining the east wall, a window on the north wall, and two windows on the west wall. On the south wall is a doorway leading to the dining room, which can also be accessed from the reception room.

Beyond the reception room, a wide opening in the wall reveals the new stair hall (1929), tucked in the ell between the circa 1820 and circa 1770 sections. Eight steps lead up along the end wall of the circa 1820 block to a landing that traverses the width of the addition, where the stairs continue back toward the front door along the end wall of the house's original (circa 1770) section. The smooth, turned tapered shape of the newel post, with a high base, is echoed in the shape of the balusters, of which there are three per tread. Below the stair return, steps lead down to a paneled door accessing a powder room.

Immediately to the left of the stairhall is a wide opening inset with Immediately to the left of the stairhall is a wide opening inset with square panels. The opening leads to the living room, a large space, eighteen feet by thirty-six feet, with fireplaces at each end and a central doorway. The centered exterior door is a three-foot wide paneled door identical to the entrance door into the reception room and also surmounted by a four-light straight transom. Originally this door led to a center hall and stair, removed during the alterations of 1929. The mantels, from the 1929 period, consist of a simple molded surround on a low base resting on the brick hearth. Above this enframement is a wide frieze with a narrow molding forming a long rectangle. Above the frieze is a wide mantel shelf. On the east side of the southern fireplace is a long narrow chimney closet with a door filled with three vertical a long narrow chimney closet with a door filled with three vertical panels and opening with a glass knob. Below the closet is another small closet just above floor level, with a door with one rectangular panel. On the north wall facing the main road, the fireplace is flanked by two on the north wall facing the main road, the fireplace is flanked by two windows. This north fireplace also has a chimney closet, with a small door and glass knob. The south fireplace is flanked by a door leading to the sun porch (where a window was located in the 1922 photo), and a built-in bookcase, altered so that a grandfather clock can fit within the alcove. To the right of this alcove on the rear or west wall of the living room, a door was added in 1929 to access the breakfast terrace, where the air conditioning unit is located today.

To the right of the stairhall is a deep doorway through the wall of the

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original circa 1770 section. The door leads to the dining room. This room is a square space, measuring sixteen feet, four inches. Of its original features, two significant elements remain: exposed rafters and a large fireplace with a baking oven. The room's ceiling rafters, covered sometime after 1929, were described by a previous owner as having been "a mess of nails," indicative of the room's previous use as a kitchen. The fireplace is a massive stone construction from floor to ceiling with a straight brick lintel and slate beauth. Contored in the ceiling, with a straight brick lintel and slate hearth. Centered in the right jamb, brickwork replaces stone and a square iron door accesses the bake oven. The door covers a brick round arch supported by a wroughtiron band, which provides access to a circular brick oven space six-feet deep with a domed brick ceiling. Other than these two significant features, the room has been fully integrated into the 1929 renovations, with little evidence of its original entrance or finish. To the left of the fireplace is a door added in 1929, which leads to what was termed the "conservatory" on the 1929 plan. The door is in a location where the original stair typically would have been located. In addition to this door and the doors to the reading and reception rooms, a door on the east wall accessed what had been the breakfast terrace. Two doors are located on the west wall. The right door leads outside and the left leads to the service wing.

A pantry links the dining room with the kitchen. Both the pantry and kitchen have been updated since 1929. The pantry is lined with cupboards with glass doors and contains a stainless steel sink and white-painted wood cabinets with bright yellow Formica countertops. Just before the kitchen space, a stair leads from the pantry to the servants' quarters on the second floor. The kitchen, lighted on both the east and west, is laid out with a sink located in a center island and cupboards along the walls. This room is decorated in the opposite scheme from the pantry, with yellow cabinets and white counters. A breakfast nook is located on the west wall.

The room arrangements on the second story are also largely a creation of the architect Wilson. The stairhall added in 1929 leads to a hallway running the length of the house from the circa 1820 section in the east running the length of the house from the circa 1820 section in the east through its wing in the west. At the western end of the hall are two doorways. On the left is a paneled door leading to the attic (four vertical panels in top and two below). On the right is the entrance to the winder stair from the reception room below. It is enclosed with a door with a nine-light top half and panels below. There are four bedrooms on the second floor, excluding the servants quarters. Two chambers are located above the living room. The space between the two rooms, where the staircase was originally located, was converted in 1929 to closets and a shared bathroom adjoining the two bedrooms. The bathrooms retain their appointments from 1929, with large pedestal sinks and black-and-white tiled scheme. The southern bedroom opens out onto the roof of the sun porch. The third bedroom with an adjoining bathroom the roof of the sun porch. The third bedroom with an adjoining bathroom the roof of the sun porch. The third bedroom with an adjoining bathroom is located above the reception room. Above the reading room is a dressing room, accessible to both the third and the fourth bedrooms. The fourth bedroom, above the dining room, is today used as an office, with built-in paneled bookcases with H hinges installed by the present owner. There is no evidence on this level of the original circa 1770 construction or its chimney stack, except for the rounded jambs of its windows. From this room the original (1929) servants' quarters can be accessed. The room above the pantry at the top of the pantry stairs was originally designated a sewing room. It leads to two bedrooms above the kitchen space. kitchen space.

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The basement is accessed from the reception room by winder stairs. Α full basement with white stuccoed stone walls is excavated below the circa 1820 construction, with an inaccessible crawl space below the circa 1770 section. The saw marks on the roughly three inch by eight inch joists are vertical not circular, and some joists have traces of whitewashing. There are approximately twenty-five inches between joist centers. Steel I-beams and columns in the front block and wing were added later to reinforce the middle of these joists. A large, round-arched structure, supporting the cooking fireplace in the reception hall, has a five-foot wide opening and jambs one-and one-half feet wide. The support system for the fireplaces in the living room consists of two straight stone walls two-feet wide by about two- and one-half feet deep. Below the basement floor in the circa 1820 wing and accessible by a straight stair is a poured concrete wine cellar with an arched full basement with white stuccoed stone walls is excavated below the a straight stair is a poured concrete wine cellar with an arched ceiling, probably of 1929 vintage. A six-inch by eight-inch beam supports the upstairs wall dividing the front block from the wing. The present owners enclosed a room in the area below the front block of the circa 1820 section.

The useable attic area is located above the circa 1820 section. The attic rafters are about three inches square with up-and-down saw marks. These rafters are numbered and mortised and tenoned with pegs. Because the photos from 1922 indicate that this roof was raised, these materials the photos from 1922 indicate that this roof was raised, these materials indicate that the original rafters were re-used. The original gable end windows at the rear of the circa 1820 wing, flanking the chimney, are apparent within the attic area, windows that were made obsolete when the reading room wing was added on that end. The construction of the upper walls of the reading room addition is concrete block with brick filling in the gable end. About nine feet of the wall of the first period of construction is visible in the southwest corner of the attic.

The Landscape

On March 7, 1930, Wheelwright & Stevenson, landscape architects of Philadelphia, created a landscape plan for Mrs. Charles Lee Reese Jr.'s 4.36 acre parcel. Significant areas of that plan, such as the orchard and vegetable garden, are gone. The landscape is characterized by large areas of open fields with mature plantings at its borders and an area for dog pens behind the house, cordoned off by the present owners with post-and-rail fence.

East of the house, a macadam drive leads from Old Kennett Road and curves west to the garage on the house's south side. Near the property entrance, on the west side of the drive, is a large apple tree, which had been indicated on the plan. The end of the drive near the house has been expanded with pebbles to make it easier for turning a car around. The expansion area had been designated on the plan as the location for flowering shrubs, which are no longer there. Instead, a low stone wall defines the south edge of the driveway.

The east front of the house looks out onto a lawn where a large cherry tree once stood. Low shrubs line the driveway's west side. Large pines, mixed with pin oaks and other deciduous trees, encircle the property, as described on the landscape plan.

Today, the south lawn is primarily a large open field with a few young trees near the driveway. In the 1930 plan, this area had been divided into three main sections. The southeast section of the property is still an open meadow. The area directly behind the house had been

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filled with a large vegetable garden. A central walk lined with flowers led to a grape arbor and to an orchard, the third main area of the yard, recalled today by a few remaining trees. More recently a post-and-rail fence was installed to separate the meadow from the remaining fruit trees.

Along the street front, the plantings are essentially as they were in the 1930s. Two large spruces, with trunk circumferences of 115 inches and 91 inches, are located near the northeast corner of the house. Two large red pines, with trunk circumferences of 58 inches and 55 inches, flank the walk leading to the entrance in the wing. These were indicated on the landscape plan.

The rear yard, on the west side of the house, is still framed with high shrubs and trees, labeled a "wind break" on the plan. Recently this area has been adapted for dog breeding with dog pens cordoned off by post-and-rail fencing. On the 1930 plan, the area behind the garage had been designated as a "drying yard." Behind the sun porch at the rear or western elevation of the house is the only above-ground evidence of the outbuildings associated with the property's agricultural period. A one-story, rubble-stone foundation of a barn is all that remains (noncontributing). A roof, with an asymmetrical gable and vertical-board gable ends, was added in recent years to adapt the remains to serve the dog pens located in this section of the yard. On the landscape plan, the remains were labeled "old stone wall" and were incorporated into an arbor. incorporated into an arbor.

The Stone Wall

A low stone wall (contributing), about four feet at its highest point, extends along the front property line parallel to Old Kennett Road, breaking at the driveway. The end walls are marked by one-foot, six-inch square stone piers with stone caps. The one-foot, two-inch thick wall is constructed with russett- and gray-colored rubble stone, random laid with thick unscored mortar joints.

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES:

1 contributing building (house) 1 contributing structure (stone wall) 1 noncontributing building (dog pen)

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Statement of Significance

The Cloud-Reese House is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. The Cloud-Reese House is eligible for the National Register under criterion A and the theme Social History, for the house is a well-preserved product of the Country House Movement as it occurred in northern Delaware in the early twentieth century. The house's remodeling in 1929 represents the local manifestation of a domestic preference among the nation's upper class to live in revival-style houses in the healthful and restful country atmosphere, removed from the toil of farm and city. The Cloud-Reese House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a wellpreserved Country House. The Cloud-Reese House is a Federal-era home with alterations and additions from 1929 that significantly enlarged the home and unified its parts with moldings and trim befitting its early American roots. Characteristic of the Country House Movement, the renovated Cloud-Reese House contains free-flowing spaces that served the lifestyle of its era, such as a living room, service wing, and garage, as well as spaces, such as the patio and sun porch, that permitted the enjoyment of its picturesque location.

The Cloud-Reese House Before 1929

According to an oral history of the Cloud Family, the original section of the house dates to circa 1770, a date supported by architectural tradition in this area and deed evidence. The oral history notes that the house was built in either 1768 or 1771.¹ In 1767, "a messuage" on a Christiana Hundred plantation was owned by John Cloud-Reese (Deed Y1/232). John had inherited this messuage and plantation from his father, John. Although the messuage referenced here may refer to the older stone portion of the Cloud-Reese House, it seems more likely that John the younger built the stone house, for the house he inherited was more likely to have been log. In these years, John the younger owned the land. When John died in 1790, he willed to his wife "messuages and tenements" (Deed N3/154). This record suggests that at least a second house, which was probably the older stone section of the Cloud-Reese House, was built on the one hundred acre farm between 1767, when there was just one building, and 1790, when there were "messuages and tenements," supporting the oral history recollections.

John's widow, Phebe, retained ownership of the house until her death in 1811 (Deed N3/154). Her deceased husband's closest offspring was his nephew, John Cloud, who lived in Frederick County, Virginia. As the closest relative, he inherited the property, but he quickly sold it in 1813 to Joseph and James Cloud of Pennsylvania for \$2,900 (Deed N3/254). By 1823, James had sold his half to Joseph (Deed A4/89), who still resided in Pennsylvania. It was Joseph's son, Harlan, who would build the house's main section, the three-bay, two-story, center-entrance house with rear wing attached to the circa 1770 stone building.

Harlan Cloud is said to have come to Delaware in the late eighteenth century, presumably from just over the State line where his father

¹Charles Lee Reese, Jr., "Notes on the History of the Cloud Farm (More Recently Known as Foxchase) and the Cloud Farmhouse, Occupied by Charles L. Reese, Jr., Based on the Recollections of Mrs. Ralph Trimble, of Hockessin in 1961." The notes explain that Harlan Cloud was Mrs. Trimble's great-grandfather.

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resided.² Although Harlan may have built and moved into the house earlier than 1838, in that year he took title to it, purchasing the property for \$1.00 from his father, who still lived in Pennsylvania (Deed B5/321). The house's vernacular Federal style, evident in a photo dated 1922 in the possession of the current owner, indicates that the ell-plan addition to the original stone house was built circa 1820 by Harlan, who would officially own the property from 1838 until 1873.

Harlan increased the farm size from 100 to 126 acres during his period of ownership. He died in 1873. The "Home Farm," as it was referenced in the deed, sold in 1881 to George D. Cloud for \$8585.62, considerably higher than its \$2900 sale price in 1813, indicating a major improvement had occurred (Deed X11/107) had occurred (Deed X11/107).

George Cloud owned the property from 1881 to 1921. In that year the home farm passed out of the ownership of the Cloud family when George Cloud sold the 126 acre farm to James and Mabel Hanna for \$22,000 (Deed H30/574). The Hannas sold the 126 acres on March 28, 1929, for \$5,000 (Deed F36/337) (much less than they had paid for the estate).

It was this transaction that ended the farming history of the plantation It was this transaction that ended the farming history of the plantation and began its transformation to a country estate. The purchasers, Leon Beach Eberhardt and Robert O. Cooke, subdivided the property, hired an architect to renovate the house, and profited from their work less than seven months later when a 4.36 acre portion of their 126 acre purchase sold for \$40,000 to Charles L. Reese and Harriett S. Bent Reese (Deed P36/567). Charles Lee Reese, Jr., and his wife, Harriet C. Reese, purchased the property in 1940 from Harriett S. Bent Reese, widow (Deed F42/559). Charles Lee Reese Jr. continued to reside in the house until 1973 (Deed A88/193). The name "Cloud-Reese House" has been chosen for this nomination in recognition of the two families that are most closely this nomination in recognition of the two families that are most closely associated with the property.

Criterion A: The Country House Movement

The Cloud-Reese House is eligible for the National Register because it exemplifies the Country House Movement as it occurred in northern Delaware in the early twentieth century. Nationally, from about 1890 to 1940, a trend emerged among the country's increasingly wealthy upper class patrons and their academically-trained architects to create houses with modern amenities out of historical, revival styles.³ The location of such houses was as significant as their style, for the desire to live on the land was particularly strong in this period. As described by Fiske Kimball in 1919, the country house was built in the country but near the city, in a site "free of the arid blocks and circumscribed 'lots' of the city, where one may enjoy the informality of nature out-of-doors."

The desire to be separated from the toils of the farm are plainly stated in the deed restrictions from 1929 for the newly-renovated Cloud-Reese House:

² Ibid.

 $^{^{3}}$ For the national context, see Mark Alan Hewitt, The Architect and the American Country House, 1890-1940, New Haven: Yale U.P., 1990.

⁴Fiske Kimball, "The American Country House," Architectural Record 46 (Oct. 1919): 293, guoted in Hewitt, 12.

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No farm products shall be grown on the premises hereby conveyed such as wheat, rye, etc., but this shall not be interpreted so as to forbid the maintenance of a vegetable garden for private consumption by the owner of the tract (Deed Record P36/567).

In 1888, according to Scharf's *History of Delaware*, there were still many excellent farms in Christiana Hundred; yet, it was noted, "There are also a number of country homes, with extensive grounds and other improvements, to enhance the appearance of a naturally attractive country, making this one of the most pleasant sections."⁵

In addition to its long-admired natural beauty, this area of northern Delaware had other necessary ingredients for the Country House Movement to flourish here during the first few decades of the twentieth century: proximity to a city and a convenient transportation route (Route 52); a nationally-significant industry, the Du Pont Company; and recreational and social amenities. Country estates were established by members of the du Pont family, as well as by executives of that company. True to the site selection criteria that occurred elsewhere in the country, this area supported attractive amenities such as a hunt club, fox hunting, horse show, and riding academy, as well as grand balls and debuts. The decade of the 1920s, in particular, is considered by area residents to have been "an era of carefree good living," which came to a halt with the depression and war.⁶ Estate building reportedly slowed in the 1930s and came to a virtual end in the 1940s because of higher taxes and maintenance costs.⁷

In the summer of 1929 the sounds of the hammer on the Cloud-Reese House were echoed a few miles to the east at Winterthur, where Henry Francis du Pont's estate was being trebled in size by architect Albert Ely Ives. Ives had also been busy at Gibraltar (N-9075, NR-Listed 1998), where, circa 1927, he added spaces characteristic of the time period: an enlarged living room, conservatory, and service wing, which complemented the additions of the library, service wing, and enlargement of the dining room by De Armond, Ashmead and Bickley in 1915. The architect Edmond B. Gilchrist was employed by Ellen Coleman du Pont Meeds in 1924 to modernize the eighteenth-century Goodstay residence. This work added characteristic spaces of the country house: a service wing with kitchen and servants' quarters, as well as improvements to the living quarters. These renovations included the removal of the porch and its replacement with a terrace. A morning room, den, and living room were added. Robert Wheelwright was employed to create, as he wrote, "a more intimate relationship" between the house and the garden.⁶ The expanded residence spread out asymmetrically into the landscape. In 1933, a new entrance hall was added. These are but three of the dozens of houses constructed or renovated along Route 52 north of the City of Wilmington in the first few decades of the twentieth century.

⁵ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Delaware*, *1609-1888* (Philadelphia: L. J. Richards & Co., 1888), 880.

⁶Centreville, Delaware, 1750-1976, Centreville Bicentennial Committee (Wilmington, DE: Opportunity Center, 1976), 78.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Robert Wheelwright, "Goodstay," January 1960 (Historical Society of Delaware Collection), 6.

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The selection of the Cloud-Reese House as a prime candidate for the Country House conversion was due to a developer. (Further study of the Country House Movement in this area is needed to determine if this was the norm locally.) Leon Beach Eberhardt was described in his obituary as a contractor and builder active in real estate circles. His obituary a contractor and builder active in real estate circles. His obituary also noted that he was engaged for many years in the investment security business in Wilmington.⁹ In the Wilmington City directory for 1926-27, L. Beach Eberhardt was listed as the vice president of the Delaware Credit Company and Investments. In 1928-29, he was listed as the vice president of the Bankers Bond and Acceptance Company and Investments, at the same address as the company of the year previous. In 1930, he was listed as vice president of Brandywine Trust and Savings Bank, and in 1932-33, he was vice president of the Bankers' Title Company. In this period, according to references in the county deed indices, Eberhardt was heavily involved in the purchase and sale of property in Wawaset, a planned community on the edge of the city of Wilmington built during World War I by the Du Pont Company for its executives. Later in his career, Eberhardt was responsible for the Brandywine Hundred subdivision known as Windybush.

known as Windybush.

Restoring and modernizing the Cloud-Reese House was to be the first phase of the development of the Cloud Farm. Eberhardt planned to call phase of the development of the Cloud Farm. Eberhardt planned to call the new development of houses on four- to ten-acre lots Foxchase. The selling price of the renovated Cloud-Reese House suggests that Eberhardt realized considerable profit from his project. Yet, according to Charles Lee Reese Jr.'s notes on the history of the property, the stock market collapse in the fall of 1929 led to the foreclosure of Eberhardt's mortgage by the Equitable Trust Company. He was unable to develop the rest of the property, except for one house completed before the financial troubles (a house purchased by William G. Jones and later occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Werner C. Brown). Eberhardt sold a few other lots, which were independently developed, with the remaining lands being sold at public auction and at depression prices in the early 1930s.

The house was to be the home for forty-three years of Charles Lee Reese, Jr., who moved to the house in January 1930 with his wife, Harriet Hurd Curtis Reese. Her mother was a member of the Corbit family of Odessa and her father's family owned the Curtis Paper Mill in Newark. At the time of the purchase of the Cloud-Reese House, Charles was on the news staff of the Wilmington Evening Journal. By 1934, he would be editor of the Wilmington Morning News, and by 1939 he was editor of the News Journal.¹⁰ In his reminiscences, Mr. Reese recalled finding a house that met their desires and suited their needs. However, he wrote, "I had nothing like the means to swing the deal myself," so his father, Dr. Charles L. Reese, purchased the property for him.

Dr. Charles L. Reese was made the Chemical Director for the Du Pont Company in 1911 when the Chemical Department was inaugurated. During World War I, his department played a principal part in the company's wartime achievements. In 1924 he retired from this position, although he continued as an active consultant for more than a decade.¹² As was the

¹⁰Who's Who in Delaware (Chicago: A. N. Marquis Co., 1939), 721.

¹¹Charles Lee Reese, Jr., The Horse on Rodney Square (Wilmington, DE: News Journal Co., 1977), 112.

¹²William S. Dutton, Du Pont, One Hundred and Forty Years (New York: Charles

⁹"Eberhardt, Contractor, Dies at 78," Evening Journal (May 10, 1971): 30.

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story of many of the country houses in this region, therefore, there was a Du Pont connection behind the purchase of the property.¹³

Although the landscape no longer retains enough of its original design to be considered a contributing part of the country estate, it adds an interesting dimension to the Country House story to know that Mrs. Reese hired the noted landscape architect Robert Wheelwright to create a landscape plan for the estate. Wheelwright founded the department of landscape architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, and he was founder and editor of Landscape Architecture, his profession's official publication. In the 1930 plan, produced by the partnership of Wheelwright and Stevenson, the landscape was characterized by three main sections. The southeast section of the property was to be an open meadow, which it still is today. The area directly behind the house was filled with a large vegetable garden, which is no longer present. A central walk lined with flowers led through the garden to a grape arbor beyond which was an orchard, the third main area of the yard, recalled today by a few remaining trees.

Criterion C: The Country House

The Cloud-Reese House is eligible for the National Register as a well-preserved example of the houses associated with the Country House Movement. The Cloud-Reese House is a renovated older farmhouse like many houses of the movement; it contains spaces characteristic of the era; and its open plan is integrated with the landscape.

When the Cloud-Reese House was acquired, it was still a nineteenth-century place technologically, with a windmill to power a water pump housed in a pump house. Such indigenous examples of the country's early architecture had a special appeal to academically-trained architects in architecture had a special appeal to academically-trained architects in the 1920s and thirties and were particularly popular as the raw material for conversion into a Country House. The early American style was popular at the time, in part because it recalled the independence and freedom of the country's roots. Architects looked to the indigenous or vernacular architecture of the early American period for inspiration. George Fletcher Bennett's publication in 1932 of photographs and drawings of Delaware's early architecture is a product of that impulse. Similarly, a writer for the American Architect in 1927 was assigned by the journal's editor to explore the Colonial architecture of Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware for architectural inspiration. The author invoked architects to become more informed about their country's architectural beginnings, noting that more knew about buildings abroad.¹⁴ architectural beginnings, noting that more knew about buildings abroad.¹⁴

The result of these studies was often something quite unique, with the flavor of early American architecture, as described by Augusta Owen Patterson in American Homes of To-day, who wrote: "The modern Colonial is not a copy of original models. It is an entirely sophisticated, an

Scribner's Sons, 1942).

 $^{^{13}}$ The desire to take part in the Country House movement ran strong in the Reese family, for Charles Jr.'s brother, John S. Reese IV, hired R. Brognard Okie to renovate the historic home known as Merestone, which John purchased in 1941 (NR-Listed 1994).

¹⁴Carl A. Ziegler, "An Architectural Ramble in Delaware," American Architect 131 (June 20, 1927): 769, 775.

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entirely glorified, twentieth-century adaptation of a mental idea."¹⁵ As quotation suggests, the early-twentieth-century concept of this modernization was quite different from today's efforts to preserve historic integrity while updating old houses. The modernizations of the past aimed to produce the character and spirit of the original by employing old materials and through studied mimicking of older styles.

Period writings reveal that behind the strong interest in the early American era lay an equally strong desire to create an improved version of that age. An article about modernizing the old house in an American Architect journal article of 1927 stated that the goal of such projects was "to retain the peculiar charm and character of the original." For example, the sacrifice of a lean-to kitchen would be compensated by a new wing, which, though it would not retain the lines of the old, could retain the character by using old materials.¹⁶ Similarly, the House Beautiful published an article that advocated adding historic details to Beautiful published an article that advocated adding historic details to aggrandize simple older houses, details such as new sash, doors, mantels, and paneling, all of which might be procured from houses that were to be torn down. The writer advised laying old bricks "in as careful imitation of the old work as you can."¹⁷ Another author described the practice of house modernization as "architectural surgery" in order to achieve "greater symmetry or more perfect functioning."

Such careful study of the region's early American architecture and creative interpretation of that period appear to lie behind the alterations and additions to the Cloud-Reese House. Although its room arrangements and functions reveal its 1929 vintage, its style still retains the character and charm of the original farmhouse.¹⁹ The uniform size and profile of the baseboard throughout the house indicate its 1929 date, although its style was in keeping with the house's nineteenth century heritage. Some of the changes in 1929 were stylistically in keeping with the Colonial Revival, such as the large, round-arched window lighting the new stairhall, the imposition of symmetry on the house's street front with the addition of a Colonial Revival portico in the center bay, and the Classical door surround with broken pediment ornamenting the house's original front door.

The architectural plans for "alterations and additions" to the Cloud-Reese House, drawn in June of 1929, record that the architect of this work was "L. Waring Wilson, Architect, Wilmington, Delaware." A search for information about Wilson was unsuccessful. The name does not appear in Tatman's and Moss's directory of Philadelphia architects, nor is it listed in other biographical encyclopedias or local "Who's Who" volumes.

¹⁶ "Modernizing an Old House" American Architect 131 (June 20, 1927): 793-94.

 17 Gordon Allen, "Doing Over Old Houses, the Right Way and the Wrong Way," House Beautiful 66 (August 1929): 152-53.

¹⁸Cameron Clark, "Architectural Surgery, The Making Over of Old Houses is Becoming More and More an Important Part of the Architect's Work," House Beautiful 66 (August 1929): 158.

¹⁹The architectural style of the renovated Cloud House has been classified for the purposes of this nomination as Colonial Revival, in keeping with the popular use of that term to reference the architecture of early America, embracing the Colonial as well as the Federal periods.

¹⁵Augusta Owen Patterson, American Homes of To-Day, Their Architectural Style, Their Environment, Their Characteristics (New York: Macmillan, 1924), 59. Quoted in Hewitt, 86.

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There is no information about this architect in the files in the main library of the American Institute of Architects or in that institute's published directory of historic American architectural firms. Wilson apparently did not author any architectural literature of the period. His name does not appear in the Wilmington City directories for 1928 through 1933.

Although the professional training of L. Waring Wilson is yet unknown, his work at the Cloud-Reese House is in keeping with the body of work of what has been called the Philadelphia School of architects, who adapted the region's vernacular architecture into country retreats in a manner in keeping with the Country House Movement and befitting the conservatism of the area's patrons.²⁰ The house's transformation to a country estate for the region's upper class clientele occurred in a few short months, a rapidity that suggests that the architect was experienced with this type of work.

Wilson incorporated characteristic spaces of the Country House in his Wilson incorporated characteristic spaces of the Country House in his re-working of the Cloud-Reese House. According to a national study of the Country House, such spaces include the service wing with butler's pantry, kitchen, and utilitarian rooms, and spaces for leisure and outdoor living, such as a den, verandah, conservatory, library, bedroom and bathroom suites, servants' rooms, and garages. As in the Cloud-Reese House, the piazza or verandah typically replaced the front porch. A living room, a creation of this era, became the focus. A separate stairhall became popular, as well. At the Cloud-Reese House as well as at many other houses of this movement, the living room was placed in the south or garden front where the verandah was located.²¹

Also in the spirit of the movement, Wilson arranged these spaces in an open, asymmetrical, informal plan, which allowed greater interpenetration within the house and into the outdoors than was typical of early American architecture. From the exterior, the architecture of the Cloud-Reese House and the era was characterized by a complex massing and variety to accommodate the new spaces and to respond to the peculiarities of the site. The plan of the typical country house consisted of two or three major wings organized in a way that maximized the unique features of the landscape, while providing separate access for servants and automobiles. The Cloud-Reese House plan met this prescription.

Perhaps the most distinguishing feature of the Cloud-Reese House renovation is its integration of interior and exterior spaces, a characteristic regarded by Mark Alan Hewitt as one of the most important innovations of the day. He wrote, "This attention to the design of house and site together was one of the major innovations in the modern country house."²² Also an important tenet of Craftsman and Prairie architecture, this innovation had at its basis the interest of the period in assimilating the healthful qualities of the out-of-doors with domestic architecture. By employing architectural features to achieve domestic architecture. By employing architectural features to achieve that integration, such as the sun porch and breakfast terrace, Wilson designed into the renovated Cloud-Reese House the means for its inhabitants to fully enjoy the picturesque landscape where many sought refuge in the early twentieth century.

²⁰ Hewitt,	197-98.
²¹ Ibid.,	94-104.
	112-14.

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Cloud House New Castle County, DE

Comprehensive Planning

CLOUD-REESE HOUSE (CRS # N-1113)

Geographic Zone: Piedmont

Time Period: 1880-1940 +/-

Theme: Settlement Patterns and Demographic Change

In reference to the Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan, this nomination for the Cloud-Reese House expands the available information on the Country House Movement historic context in the Piedmont Zone during the 1880-1940 +/- time period. The nomination contributes to documenting that movement as it occurred in Christiana Hundred in the area popularly called Chateau Country, paralleling the national trend among the nation's upper class to live in revival-style houses in the healthful and restful country atmosphere, removed from the toil of farm and city. The nomination documents the facet of that movement that concerned the modernization of historic houses. The nomination also contributes information about the relationship between the Du Pont Company and the settlement patterns of its executives. The nomination of the carefree atmosphere of the Christiana Hundred landscape by outlawing the growing of farm products. Finally, the nomination documents the developer Leon Beach Eberhardt's role in furthering this movement.

Time Period: 1880-1940 +/-

Theme: Architecture, Engineering, and Decorative Arts

In reference to the Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan, this nomination for the Cloud-Reese House expands the available information on the architecture historic context in the Piedmont Zone during the 1880-1940 +/- time period. The property contributes information about house modernization in 1929 during the Country House Movement in Christiana Hundred. The nomination provides information about the role of the developer in the creation of country estates. The nomination provides an example of the work of unknown Wilmington architect L. Waring Wilson. The nomination connects the national Country House with the local mansion through similarities of room types and open floor plans.

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Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated boundary for the Cloud-Reese House is the boundary line around the legal parcel on which the house is located. The nominated boundary is outlined in a bold, black line on the accompanying map, "New Castle County Property Tax Map, Revised 9/26/1989." The outlined area is tax parcel 07-005.00-006, which contains 4.36 acres. The stone wall (contributing) is located near the edge of the tax parcel line along Old Kennett Road. At the parcel's northeast corner, the front edge of the contributing stone wall is located nine feet, nine inches from the road's macadam edge. The piers framing the driveway are located six feet, six inches from the road's macadam edge.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The legal parcel was chosen as the nominated boundary because this is the parcel created at the beginning of the nominated period of significance. The parcel contains the contributing resources, the house and stone wall. The tax parcel line has been chosen to preserve the house's setting, which includes the contributing stone wall. There is no Delaware Department of Transportation right-of-way line on record.

