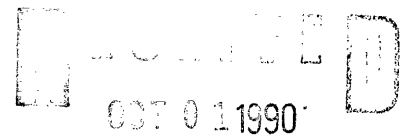


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Stanley Potato House

other names/site number CRS#-6723

2. Location

street & number Route 2, Box 161

not for publication

city, town Laurel

vicinity

state Delaware

code DE

county Sussex

code 005

zip code 19956

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

N/A buildings

 sites

 structures

 objects

NA 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. Giff

- 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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

NA

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain: _____)

Entered in the
National Register

Delores Byers

11/15/90

for 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 concrete blocks

walls wood/weatherboard

roof tin

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Stanley Potato House is a one and one half story, gable fronted, balloon frame structure built circa 1920 of dimension cut lumber. It measures 17 by 23 feet and is located south/southeast of Laurel, Delaware .47 miles north of the intersection of Roads 68 and 451, lying on the east side of Road 68. It belongs to a farm complex which is not being considered for nomination. The surrounding environment consists of cultivated (corn) and uncultivated fields and numerous (15) outbuildings including a kitchen, granary, chicken house, lumber shed, and garages. The landscape is emphatically flat. During the heyday of the sweet potato the farm would have grown Indian corn, and produce vegetables such as peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, and melons like its neighbors. The small size of this potato house indicates that it was used solely for the crop of the Stanley farm and not for rented storage space.

The condition of the potato house is excellent. It rests upon concrete blocks suggesting that it has been moved from its original site. Today it is used for storage.

Both exterior and interior of the building largely retain their original appearance, although as in most existing potato houses, the storage bins have been removed. Fenestration is original. The front gable end features a sliding first story loading door, while the upper story has a hinged loading door. The rear gable end has only a small attic story window in the gable. Lateral sides have no fenestration.

Original, narrow face, mill-sawn weatherboards comprise the exterior layer of the building's double siding. Four inch gaps between side walls and attic story floor boards indicate characteristic potato house ventilation. Nailing patterns indicate a center aisle running lengthwise through the building (gable end to gable end). A wooden loft ladder to the left of the main entry provides

See continuation sheet

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

Significant Person

N/A

Period of Significance

1920-1937

Cultural Affiliation

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 Stanley 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 in southern Delaware 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 cominated the region particularly in the years between 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

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Delaware Agricultural Statistics, Historical Series 1866-1974, Bul. no. 419, Newark: University of Delaware, Agricultural Experiment 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 DE.

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 .024 acres (491 square feet)

UTM References

A

1	8
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4	5	2	6	5	7
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4	2	6	3	1	9	9
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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Tax Parcel Map #: 3-32-4, 54

See continuation sheet

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 building 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 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

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National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

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access to the upper story. The interior chimney no longer exists but occupied the rear gable end of the building. The original wood shingle roof has been replaced with tin.

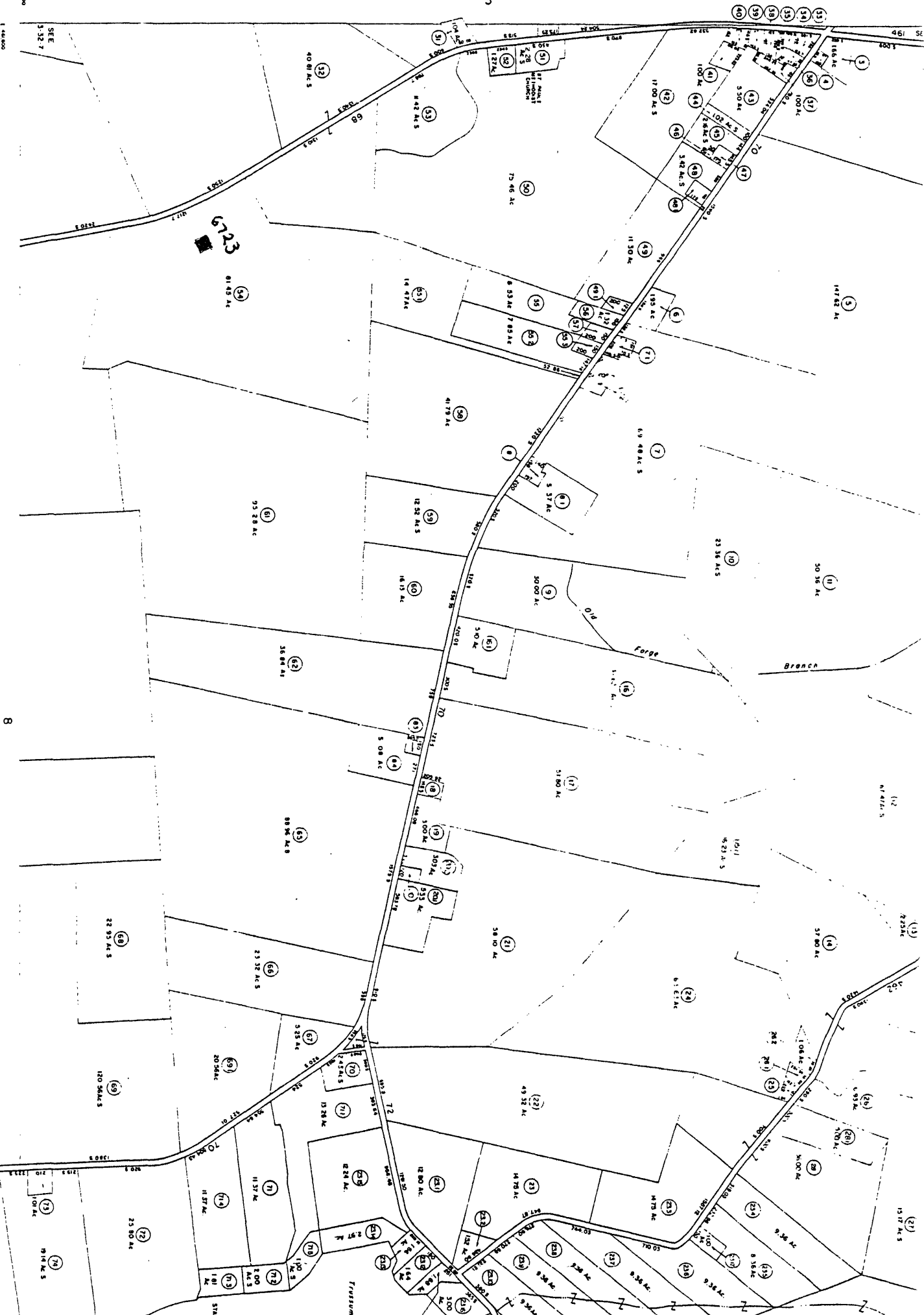
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to the process of sweet potato production in both curing and storage capacities and was developed as a distinct building type to provide the functional needs required for a successful, saleable sweet potato crop. Potato houses share common construction elements and are recognizable on the landscape as belonging to this specific property type. The Stanley Potato House is a significant example of the building type because it retains an important number of elements characteristic of potato house construction and function and is in excellent condition. These elements include; minimal fenestration, center aisle floor plan, double siding, and hatched loading doors. The storage and curing functions of the potato house are manifest in these elements. The building is an excellent example of the importance of the sweet potato crop for both large and small farms, personal and commercial consumption. The small size of the Stanley Potato House identifies it with the small grower of sweet potatoes who cultivated his crop for personal consumption. The Stanley Potato House has integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and association.



DATE OF REVISION

DATE OF COMPLETION OCTOBER 1947

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY DECEMBER 1947

DATE OF RECORDING DECEMBER 1947

DATE OF RECORDING DECEMBER 1947

DATE OF RECORDING DECEMBER 1947

DATE OF RECORDING DECEMBER 1947

DATE OF RECORDING DECEMBER 1947

DATE OF RECORDING DECEMBER 1947

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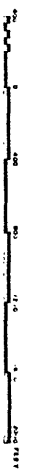
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PHOTOGRAPHED BY AERO SERVICE

Tax Parcel Map 3-32-4

SUSSEX COUNTY
DELAWARE

SCALE 1 INCH = 400 FEET



LEGEND	
(1)	City or Borough
(2)	County
(3)	State
(4)	Water
(5)	Unimproved Land
(6)	Improved Land
(7)	City or Borough
(8)	County
(9)	State
(10)	Water
(11)	Unimproved Land
(12)	Improved Land
(13)	City or Borough
(14)	County
(15)	State
(16)	Water
(17)	Unimproved Land
(18)	Improved Land
(19)	City or Borough
(20)	County
(21)	State
(22)	Water
(23)	Unimproved Land
(24)	Improved Land
(25)	City or Borough
(26)	County
(27)	State
(28)	Water
(29)	Unimproved Land
(30)	Improved Land
(31)	City or Borough
(32)	County
(33)	State
(34)	Water
(35)	Unimproved Land
(36)	Improved Land
(37)	City or Borough
(38)	County
(39)	State
(40)	Water
(41)	Unimproved Land
(42)	Improved Land
(43)	City or Borough
(44)	County
(45)	State
(46)	Water
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(48)	Improved Land
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(54)	Improved Land
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(56)	County
(57)	State
(58)	Water
(59)	Unimproved Land
(60)	Improved Land
(61)	City or Borough
(62)	County
(63)	State
(64)	Water
(65)	Unimproved Land
(66)	Improved Land
(67)	City or Borough
(68)	County
(69)	State
(70)	Water
(71)	Unimproved Land
(72)	Improved Land

MAP 3 -
Stanley Peltch House
Sussex County, DE

Stanley Potato House
CRS#-6723
First Floor Plan

