

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 5 1979
DATE ENTERED	APR 20 1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Woodward Houses

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 701-703 West Street

CITY, TOWN Wilmington

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT one

STATE Delaware

CODE 10

COUNTY New Castle

CODE 002 3

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Messrs. John Price and Geno Iubatti

STREET & NUMBER 701 West Street

CITY, TOWN Wilmington

VICINITY OF

STATE Delaware 19801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. City/County Building

STREET & NUMBER 800 French Street

CITY, TOWN Wilmington,

STATE Delaware 19801

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Delaware Cultural Resource Survey N-1458

DATE September, 1978 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN Dover

STATE Delaware 19901

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Woodward Houses are located at 701-703 West Street in a mid- to late-nineteenth-century neighborhood of mostly brick row houses in Wilmington, Delaware.

The 3½-story house at 701 is built entirely of quarried granite. A gable roof with two gable-roofed dormers and a box cornice with bed molding surmounts this structure with an L-shaped, side-hall plan. Double-hung windows, 9-over-9 on the first floor and 6-over-6 on the second and third floor, make up the 3-bay facade. A short staircase with a decorative wrought iron balustrade leads up to the front entrance, which is recessed by raised paneling and enframed by a simple classical frontispiece, probably added about 1840. A transom rests above the front door which has 6-raised panels. The reverse side of this door is beaded batten held in place by HL hinges.

The main hallway contains all of its original details including baseboard, chair rail, and raised 6-paneled doors. Also located in this hallway is a Federally-styled, open-string staircase with a paneled base, turned balusters, ramped hand rail, and an attenuated turned newel. The chair rail, which continues from the hallway up the staircase, is also ramped and "supported" by engaged newels.

A raised-paneled door leads from the hallway to the parlor. The architectural detail in this room dates from the Federal Period (c. 1780-1820). Wide architraves encase the windows and door. A paneled wainscoting with reeded molding beneath the chair rail surrounds the room. The mantel, situated on the chimney breast of the west wall, came from a late-eighteenth-century house on Front and Market Streets in Wilmington.

The rear parlor, or dining room, maintains its Georgian character. Although the period cabinet doors and the fireplace surround were added in the twentieth century, most of the paneled wall, the chair rail, baseboards, and the French doors are original.

The kitchen, located at the end of the hallway, contains the original large walk-in fireplace with a Dutch oven door and crane hooks still intact. A horizontal indentation in the brickwork above was probably an area used for powder horn drying. Except for the exposed hand-hewn beams and the random-width, pinewood floors, the architectural detail in this room is not original. A small room with an exit to the back yard is located behind the kitchen.

The second floor of the house contains two bedrooms, a sitting room, and a modern bathroom. Except for the bathroom, these areas retain their eighteenth-century qualities. The front bedroom, the largest room in the house, has a fireplace with a Georgian architrave and a simple early-nineteenth-century mantel. The central bedroom also contains a fireplace with a similar architrave set in a raised-paneled wall with two closets. The authentic chair rail and baseboard molding surrounds this room.

There are two rooms in both the third floor and attic. The architectural components in these rooms consist of simple baseboards, architraves, and raised 6-paneled doors.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Although 701 and 703 West Street appear to be identical, 703 is 3 feet shorter in both length and width than 701. The main section of the house at 703 is built of stone, faced with pebble-dash stucco; the rear ell is built of brick. A gable roof with one gable-roofed dormer and a box cornice with bed molding meets the front but not the rear roofline of the gable of 701. The facade of 703 is 3-bays wide, consisting of double-hung, 6-over-6 windows. The staircase, balustrade, and front entrance to 703 are without difference to those at 701, except that the reverse side of the front door is not beaded-batten.

The interior of the house at 703 was altered in the mid-nineteenth century and then in the 1930's to accommodate apartment dwellings. The only surviving eighteenth-century architectural details in the main hallway are the ramped chair rail and the paneled base of the staircase, which was remodeled about 1930.

The entrance to the first floor apartment is located at the end of the hallway; it leads directly into the dining room just past the entrance to the parlor on the right. The former entrance to the large parlor was located in the hallway to the right of the main entrance. Now filled with modern paneling, the entrance was defined by elliptically-arched simple wooden molding.

The parlor, which was probably enlarged in the mid-eighteenth century, contains a classically-styled wooden mantel decorated around the fireplace with blue and white tiles, believed to be English Minton tiles, which date from about 1860-70. The baseboards, window and door architraves consist of simple wooden molding.

One wall of the dining room contains a wooden, mid-nineteenth-century mantelpiece and wall cabinet. Some eighteenth-century window architraves remain in this room. The remainder of the molding in this room dates from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

A modern kitchen, bathroom, and two small rooms are located beyond the dining room.

The second floor contains two apartments, one of which appears to have an eighteenth-century fireplace and surround. The doors and moldings in these areas date from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The third and fourth floors are another apartment. Most of the original eighteenth-century woodwork remains in these sections.

The attached Woodward Houses stand alone on the odd side of the 700 block of West Street with a parking lot to the north and a low-story laundry center to the south.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Woodward Houses are significant as the only known, extant, eighteenth-century stone houses of a side-hall plan in the City of Wilmington, Delaware. They are excellent examples of the Georgian style of architecture which was prominent in Wilmington during this period.

According to the Delaware historian, Jeannette Eckman, 701 and 703 West Street were constructed in 1745 and 1760 respectively. A map drawn by a French military cartographer in 1781, and featured in The American Campaign of Rochambeau's Army, 1780-83, pictures what appears to be these houses with a "corderie", or ropemaking operation, behind them. The Federal Period interior architectural detail indicates that part of the interior of 701 was probably altered between the years 1780-1820.

Originally located on 65 acres of ground, known as South Shallcross Marsh, the Woodward Houses fronted West Street which was laid in the year 1739-40. Joseph Woodward, a Quaker ropemaker from West Chester, Pennsylvania, purchased the property around 1745. He probably built the houses when he established his ropemaking business on the same grounds. In 1769, when he sold the property to his son, Mordecai, the deed mentions a ropewalk which was used in the production of sailing ship rigging. As ropemakers, the Woodward family played an important role in Wilmington's shipbuilding industry of the eighteenth century.

When Mordecai Woodward died in 1795, John Dauphin, a French immigrant, purchased the property consisting of 8½ acres of land, a stone dwelling, a covered ropewalk, and a frame for the preservation of hemp. Around the turn of the century, James Ashton Bayard took ownership. He was a member of the prominent Bayard family of Delaware, Maryland, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His father, Joseph H. Bayard, the elder, was one of the negotiators for the settlement of the War of 1812. He, himself, was an eminent Delaware attorney who served in Congress as Senator for nearly 20 years. In 1885 he, and his wife Ann Frances, sold the property to another notable Wilmington family - the Edward Tatnall family. The Tatnall family was important in the business community of Wilmington and the Village of Brandywine.

There is a legend associated with the Woodward Houses. It is written that the house at 703 contains a hearthstone which was a section of the platform where Thomas Jefferson stood to read the Declaration of Independence to the people of Philadelphia.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deed records from the Recorder of Deeds Office, City/County Building, 800 French Street Wilmington, Delaware.

Eckman, Jeannette. Delaware - A Guide to the First State (New York, 1955)

The American Campaigns of Rochambeau's Army 1780-83 Vol. II (Princeton, N.J., 1972)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Wilmington South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 4526210 43993010
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is a rectangular lot 130' by 55', bounded on the north by a parking lot, on the south by a modern commercial building, on the east by West Street, and on the west by another parking lot.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jean Athan, Historic Preservation Intern/ Mr. John Price, owner

ORGANIZATION

City of Wilmington, Department of Planning

DATE

Nov. 1978

STREET & NUMBER

800 French Street - City/County Building

TELEPHONE

(302) 571-4147

CITY OR TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware 19802

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

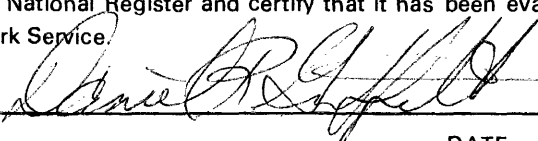
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

Acting Director, Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

1/29/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles A. ...
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4-20-77

ATTEST: William H. ...
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

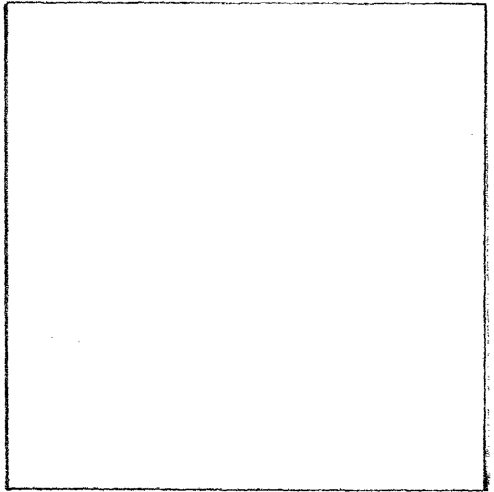
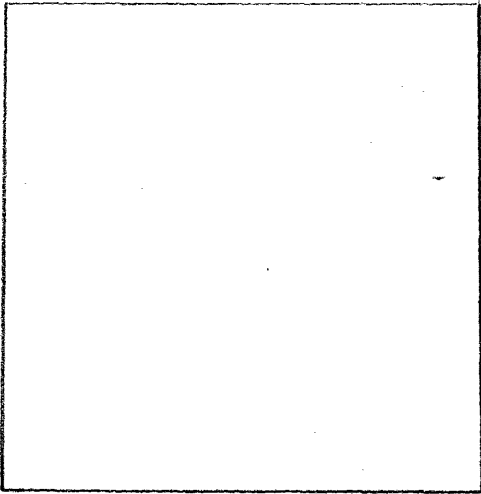
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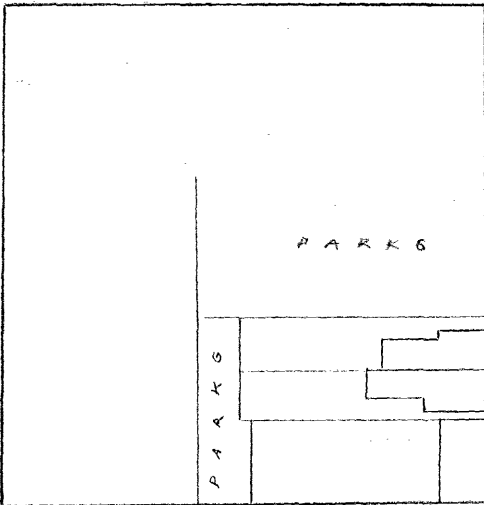
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Most of Wilmington's eighteenth-century houses were destroyed during the development of Wilmington in the mid-nineteenth-century development. Because of their location, the Woodward houses were not incorporated into the city proper until about the same time. This might explain how they survived destruction. Almost all of the remaining structures of the eighteenth century were razed by the Urban Renewal Program of 1950-70. Therefore, the Woodward Houses have become rare examples of Georgian architecture in Wilmington, Delaware.

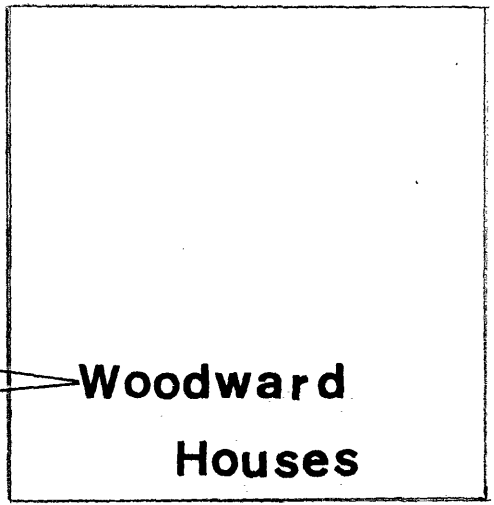


8th

Street



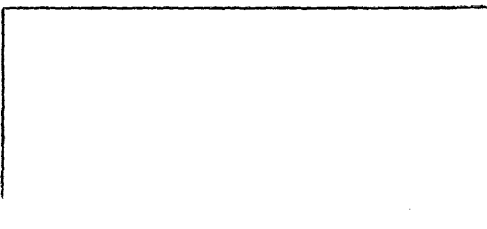
Street



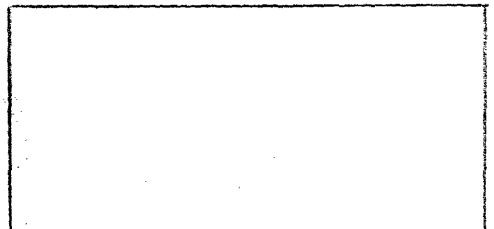
**Woodward
Houses**

7th

Street



West



City of Wilmington
Department of Planning & Development

Drawn By JCA Date 9/78 Scale 1":100'

File N-1458 Title Sketch Map

