

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
SEP 7 1973	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Banning Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Woodstock

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
102 Middleboro Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Wilmington

STATE: Delaware CODE: COUNTY: New Castle County CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
New Castle County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Public Building

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Public Building

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
1) Advisory List to National Register of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

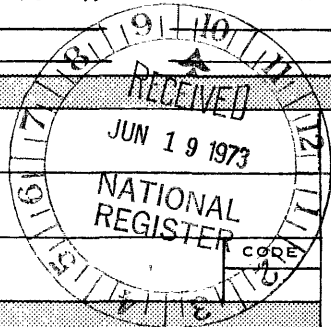
1)

2)

3)

- Greater Wilmington Development Council
- New Castle County Comprehensive Plan Background Study on Historic Buildings and Areas

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the grounds of the park are to be found three softball fields, one baseball field, one soccer field, eight tennis courts, playground equipment, and a senior citizens area as well as 27 picnic sites, walks, trails, roadway, and three picnic pavilions.

The "Woodstock" house stands at the highest point of the park. From this height can be seen the Delaware and Christina Rivers and their surrounding marshes. The house is of brick, with a two-story east wing said to have been built in 1743, and a two-and-one-half-story wing to the west built in 1833. The addition of porches (front, side, and rear) and a kitchen shed during the 1930's are the only modern changes. On the roof of the newer and taller wing is a "widow's walk" surrounded by a balustrade. Two sheds attached to the eastern wing are old but cannot be dated. Granite hitching posts and a mounting block stand near the entrance. The inside of the building presents contrast between its 18th and 19th century sections. The older section has rough-finished walls and low ceiling. The newer section is more refined, indicating not only the passage of one hundred years, but also the increased fortunes of the owners. On the lower floor of the 1743 wing is located the kitchen/parlor of the original building. A winding staircase leads to the floor above; and there is a root cellar underneath. A dutch oven with original hardware and wrought iron door can be found in the fireplace of this room.

The hardware in both sections is original. On the westerly side of the main floor in the newer section can be found large nine-over-nine windows. These rooms are distinctive for their imported marble fireplaces and original wood trim and hardware. The larger section features a side-hall, double-pile plan. The classic stairwell and broad passageways add to the spacious feeling of the interior. The second floor also contains handsome fireplaces, but with wooden mantels made. The one-half story above the newer section also contains two rooms which are notable for their inside shutters. Behind a doorway in the hall is a stairway leading to the second attic and the "widow's walk."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1743, 1833

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

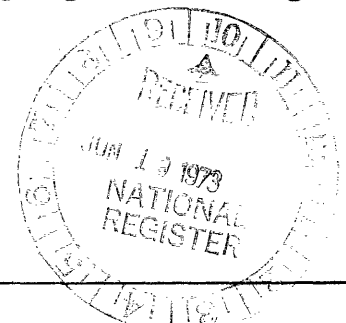
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

156 acres of parkland comprise the present-day Banning Park. This is the last remaining intact plantation property along the Christina River. The land title can be traced back through records to approximately 1659, when the Swede Andries Andriessen settled on the north bank of the Christina. The property changed hands several times until 1687 when John Richardson, a Quaker merchant from New Castle, purchased the property. Richardson planned to develop a milling community under the name of Middleburg, or Middleboro. It is believed that his son, John Richardson, II, lived on or near the property from about 1704. John Richardson, II, built a new and larger house further up on the hill at the present site of "Woodstock." The exact date of this new house is not known; however, we do know he built an addition in 1743, as he referred to it in his will of 1752. This addition is thought to be the smaller east wing of the present building. The older section, built between 1704 and 1743, was torn down in 1833 when the present main house was built.

John Richardson, II, and his several brothers developed on the northern bank of the Christina a series of mills, farming properties, and warehouses and docks. John Richardson, II, passed on the property to John Richardson, IV, his grandson. Since John Richardson, IV, left no will, the property went to Ann, daughter of John, II. She married Dr. Henry Latimer in 1789. Dr. Latimer was an active participant in the Revolution and a central figure in early Delaware politics. The Latimers were often guests of Presidents Adams and Jefferson, and "Woodstock" was the center of society and influence along the Christina. The home and farm were passed on intact through the Latimer family to James Latimer Banning. Previous to his acquiring the property, "Woodstock" had remained vacant for some time. In 1929 Mr. Banning and his wife, Jane E. Gray Banning, set about restoring it.

Tradition states that one of Delaware's most famous ghosts still lives in "Woodstock," haunting on the full moon and leaving signs of his tragic death at the foot of the stairs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Early Architecture of Delaware by George Fletcher Bennett
Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware by H. Eberlien and C. Hubbard
Delaware's Forgotten River by C.A. Weslager
Richardson's of Delaware by C.A. Weslager.

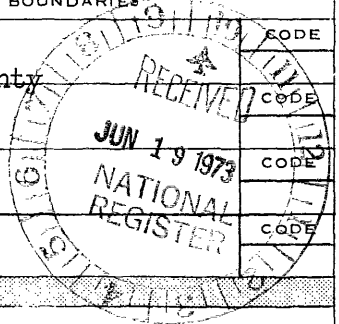
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 39 ° 43 ' 14 "	Degrees Minutes Seconds 75 ° 36 ' 01 "		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	39 ° 43 ' 30 "	75 ° 35 ' 19 "				
SE	39 ° 43 ' 08 "	75 ° 35 ' 06 "				
SW	39 ° 42 ' 52 "	75 ° 35 ' 49 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 156

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Delaware		New Castle County	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Richard E. May, Environmental Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION: Department of Parks and Recreation for New Castle County DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
102 Middleboro Road

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 1980/

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Grover A. Biddle, Asst. Sec. of State, (Acting Director)

Title Historic Preservation Officer

Date June 14, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

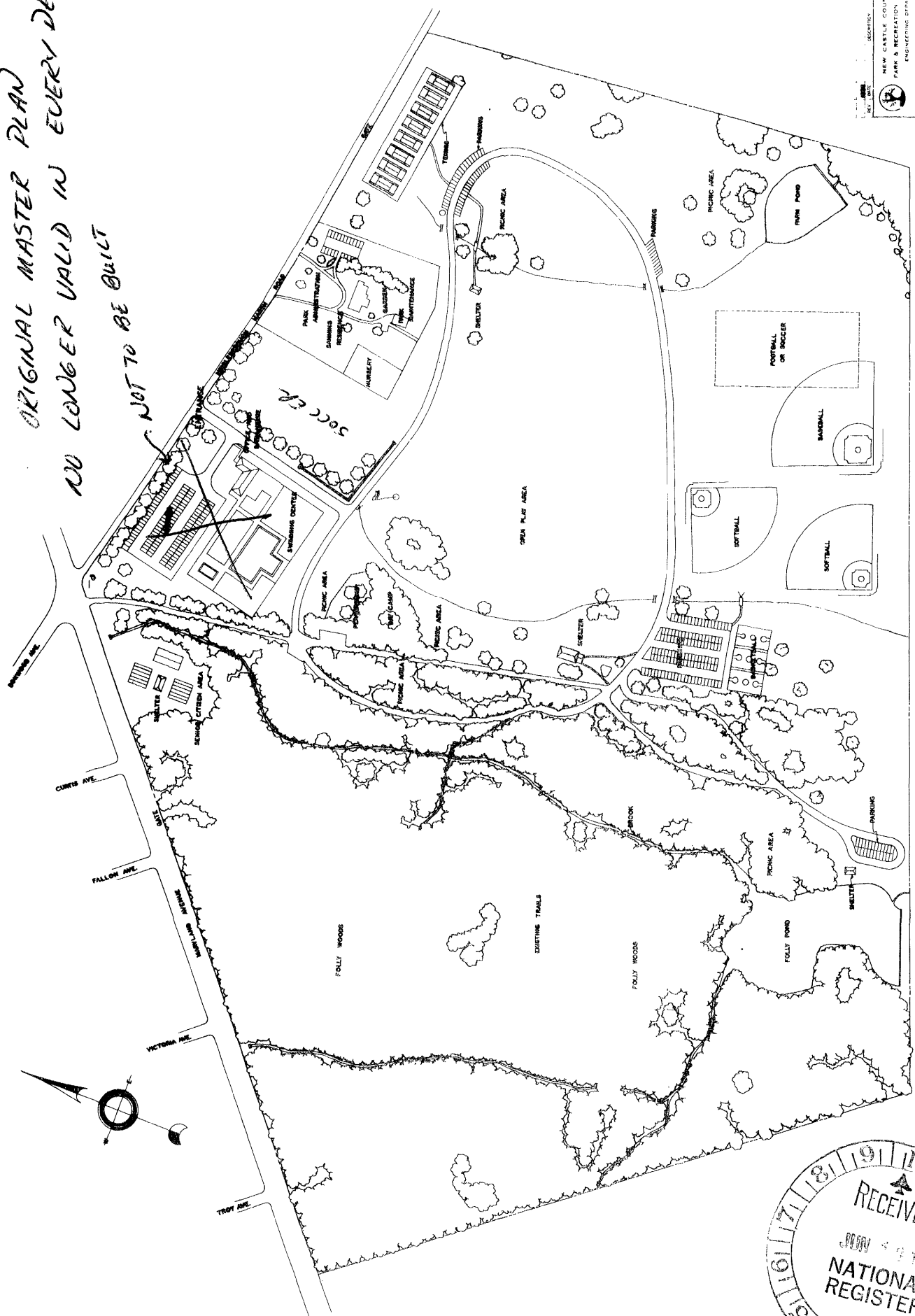
Date 9/7/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 9 5 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ORIGINAL MASTER PLAN
NO LONGER VALID IN EVERY DETAIL
NOT TO BE QUOTED



NEW CASTLE COUNTY
PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING DIVISION

BANNING PARK

SCALE: 1" = 40'

DATE: 10/1/73

DRAWN BY: [Signature]

CHECKED BY: [Signature]

