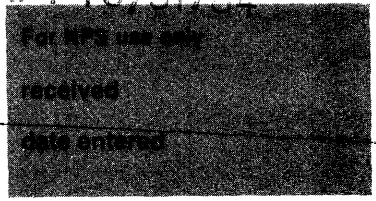


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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EXP. 10/31/84



Continuation sheet

Item number S-1112

Page 1

10. S-1112:

Property Name: DR. DAWSON HOUSE

Location & Verbal Boundary Description:

The Dr. Dawson House is located at 200 S. E. Front Street on the southeast corner of S. E. Front Street and Montgomery Avenue. The lot is approximately 52 feet by 60 feet and is bounded on two sides by public roads and on the other two sides by occupied house lots. It occupies .072 acres.

Owner:

Nancy Regelin & Jean Cameron, c/o L. Jean Cameron, 200 S. E. Front St.,
Milford, DE (obtained 12/9/81 at Sussex County Board of Assessments).

Property Description:

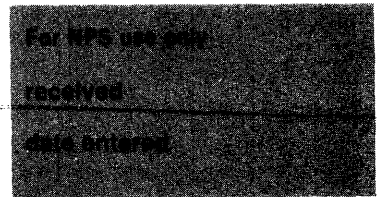
The Dr. Dawson House is in plan a 2-story, 5-bay, center-hall building on a brick foundation. There is a 1-story projecting bay on the west face, with four-over-four sash windows and a side entrance. A porch covers the middle three bays supported by rounded and chamfered posts, with turned balusters and a vertical awning overhang. Beyond the first floor the openings are not on a level, the right side being raised. The openings are four-over-four sash windows. The gable roof is at two levels with the right side being higher. Both sides have cross gables pierced by lancet windows. The chimney stacks are on both right side interior gable ends. There is a 2-story wing.

Historical Background:

The Dr. Dawson House was built in the middle of the nineteenth century as two separate, but neighboring structures. They were built at about the same time, and most likely by the same individual, as the window openings and surrounds are similar in execution, as is the pitch of the roof and cross gable. The date at which the two houses were pushed together is not known, but Bailey's Pictorial Atlas of 1885 shows them as one house. Dr. Dawson used part of the house, the west end, as an office. Bailey's Atlas includes a business directory that lists five doctors for the town. Only Dr. Dawson was located on the south side of the Mispillion River.

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number

S-1112

Page²

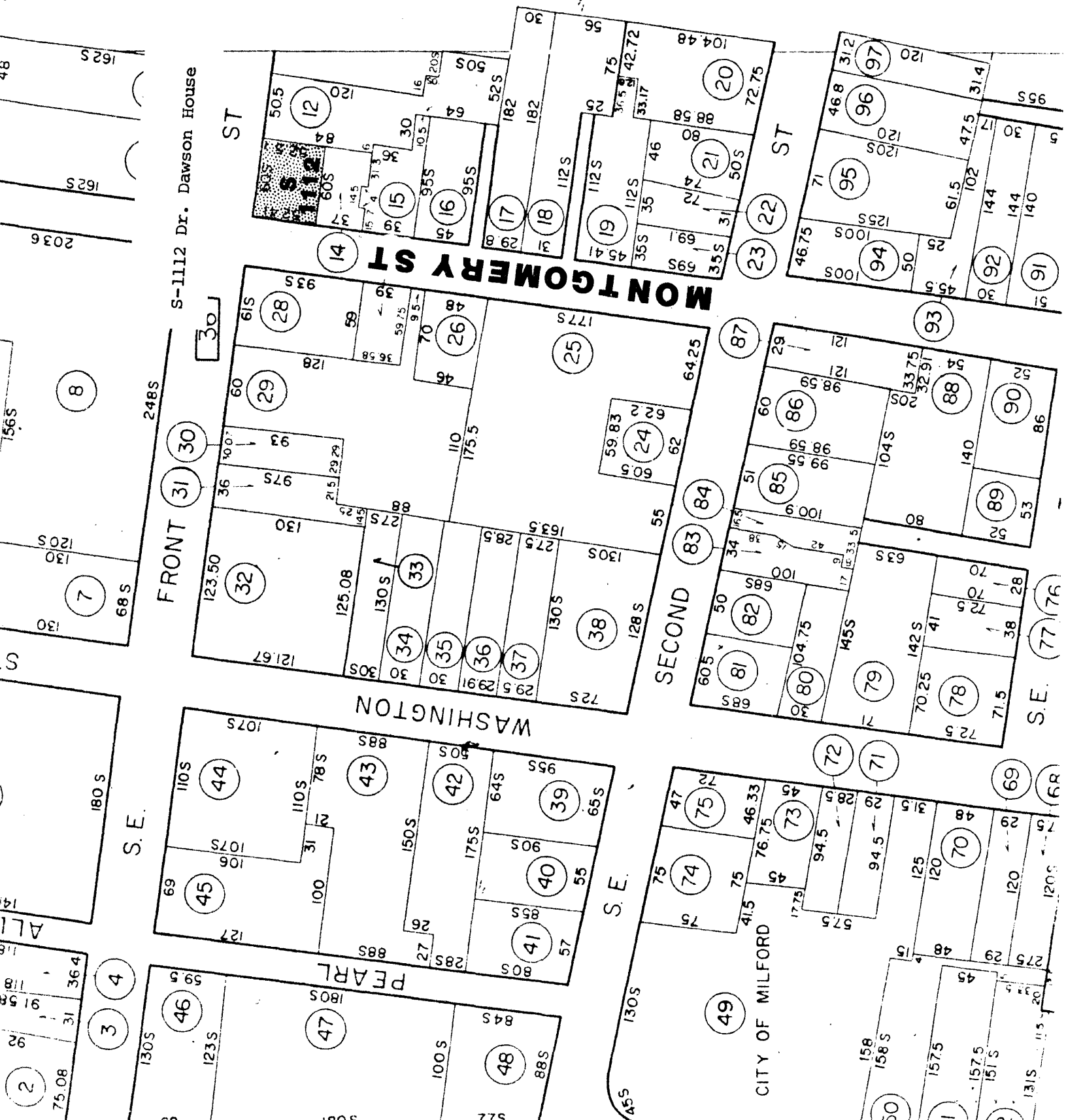
DR. DAWSON HOUSE CONTINUED

Property Significance:

The Dr. Dawson House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent example of Gothic Revival architecture. The builder employed a range of the key elements of the Gothic Revival style, while maintaining the separate identifier of the individual buildings. The usual practice in joining two houses together is to place them under a common roof. In this case, that traditional plan was not followed. Instead, the verticality of the Gothic Revival grammar was emphasized by maintaining the exaggerated cross gables and steep-pitched roof lines. Also, the asymmetry and love of projection in Gothic Revival architecture is achieved. The starkness of the west wall was relieved by the use of round arched windows and cornice window heads. The effect is to produce a unique expression of Gothic Revival architecture and one that is most unusual in the area, since it does not follow the traditional convention.

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7.17



S-1112 Dr. Dawson House

FRONT ST

MONTGOMERY ST

SECOND ST

WASHINGTON ST

PEARL ST

CITY OF MILFORD

2485

300

S.E.

S.E.

S.E.

