

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

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

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7. (N-5316):

A. Property Name: Blue Hen Farm

B. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: The Blue Hen Farm is located at 505 Stamford Drive on the west side of the road just north of Locust Street. This nomination includes the farmhouse and the property on which it is situated. The lot has a frontage of 314.24 feet on Stamford Drive and a depth of 183.50 feet (Property Tax Map, City of Newark, Map No. 7, Lot No. 1). Approx. 1 acre.

C. Owners: Mrs. Mary Vannoy and Mr. Richard Dayton, 505 Stamford Drive, Newark, Delaware 19711

D. Property Description: The house on the Blue Hen Farm is a stuccoed three-story, six-bay building that was constructed in four phases. The original block, estimated to date to the early nineteenth century, is the two-story, three-bay stone section on the southern end of the building. In the middle of the nineteenth century the facade was doubled by the addition of a three-bay frame wing. Also, a third story was added to the entire building. The windows were lengthened and marble fireplace mantels added to the first floor late in the nineteenth century.

Renovation in the 1950's included replacing the facade porch, removing several frame shed additions from the rear and replacing them with a two-story, concrete block wing. The entire building was also stuccoed at this time, since previously only the stone half was stuccoed while the frame half was weather-boarded.

The main impression of the stone block is a three-bay rectangular form with two interior end chimneys. Beyond this basic information, very little else can be analyzed in this part of the building, since virtually no original details remain, due to renovations conducted in the latter part of the nineteenth century and in the 1950's. The frame wing is basically a three-bay, side-hall-plan with the hall butted against the stone section.

The facade in its present state appears as a continuous six-bay expanse with a six-panel off-center door framed by a transom and sidelights. The windows are elongated four-over-four sash on the first floor, six-over-nine sash on the second floor, and three-over-three sash on the third floor. The roof is a shallowly-pitched gable outlined by a molded box cornice with partial returns. Three chimneys are situated on the ridgeline - two interior end chimneys on the stone section and one interior end chimney on the frame wing. The recent porch, which is a full length, flat-roofed structure supported by Tuscan columns, replaced a similar porch with square column supports.

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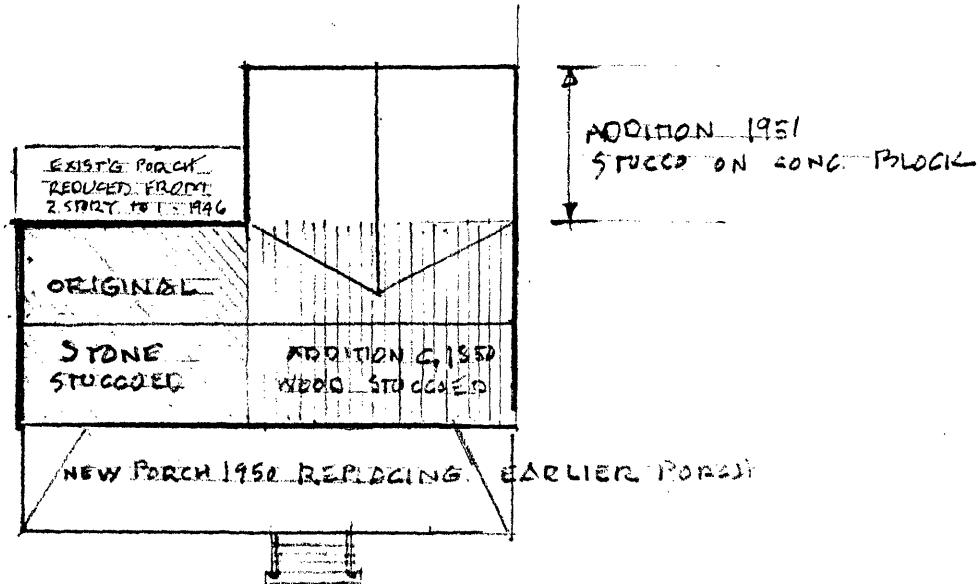
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E. Historical Background: The Blue Hen Farm, referred to as "Greenwood" on the 1868 Beers' Atlas of the State of Delaware, is an early farm site bordering on Newark. Located just one mile north of the town center, the surrounding acreage of the farm remained undeveloped until the 1960's when a housing development encroached on the area.

F. Significance: The Blue Hen Farm fulfills National Register selection Criterion C in illustrating the transition of house forms in Newark from the late eighteenth early-nineteenth century period to the mid-nineteenth century.

The basic difference between the preferred building forms of these two periods is a change from the two-story, gable-roofed, three-to five-bay rectangular plan to a larger proportioned three-story block with a flat or very shallowly-pitched gable roof. This more monumental three-story form was popularized by the Greek Revival style that appeared in Newark at the middle of the nineteenth century. It is not known, however, if this dwelling ever possessed classical details to consciously mimic the Greek Revival style. Apparently, achieving the three-story monumental form was of main importance rather than mere stylistic conformity, for the two wings, stone and frame, appeared as distinctly separate construction ventures until the entire house was uniformly stuccoed in 1950.





Blue Hen Farm, 505 Stamford Drive  
Original Plan and Additions

N - 5316