

PH0011207

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER NOV 3 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Bradford House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Loockerman House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
419 South State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Dover

STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: Kent	CODE 001
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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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Open annually on Dover Days <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. William Bradford

STREET AND NUMBER:
419 South State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Dover

STATE:
Delaware

CODE:
10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Kent County Court House, Register of Wills

STREET AND NUMBER:
The Green

CITY OR TOWN:
Dover

STATE:
Delaware

CODE:
10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington, D.C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

NOV 3 1972

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bradford House is in two sections, one a nearly square, five bay, two storey and attic brick structure erected in 1742, the other a substantially later frame addition to the southeast. The original brick house is pre-Georgian in interior design, an adaptation of a late Medieval style characteristic of the seventeenth and very early eighteenth centuries in this area.

A square entrance hall has a stairway of three straight flights turned on rectangular landings. The entrance hall contains two doorways opening into two large rooms on either side. Each of these rooms contains a fireplace and each opens to the one remaining first floor room.

The panelling and other woodwork throughout the building are Georgian, all of excellent workmanship, but of two distinct periods. Most is of a date contemporary with the house, while the east parlor and areas elsewhere contain handsome and more elaborate work installed somewhat later in the eighteenth century. The house is superbly furnished throughout, in large part with belongings of eighteenth century Lookermans.

Like most surviving eighteenth century town houses in Dover the original section of the Bradford House fronts directly on the sidewalk with no front dooryard. It has a large and very handsome garden behind the main house and on its south side, with fine boxwood and large trees.

The Bradford House lot occupies the south portion, approximately half, of a block running from The Green to Water Street along South State Street. It abuts on county and State owned properties to the north and west. Both Water Street and State Street, the latter a section of U.S. Route 13A, are heavily travelled. The house and grounds may be threatened by pressures to expand the Court House facilities.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. 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 type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input 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

The Bradford House is an exceptional specimen of a mid-eighteenth century Dover town house never significantly altered, still occupied by descendants of its builder, with its original lot still nearly intact, and the best feature of its early garden surviving. No other house in central Dover remains so nearly in its colonial condition and setting. It is, moreover, a close neighbor of the Old State House, contributing to the integrity of that notable building's background.

Its occupants, while not themselves outstanding statesmen, have frequently been active in public affairs and have been allied by descent or marriage with several notable figures. The builder, Vincent Loockerman of Dutch descent, came of a family prominent in New Amsterdam and later in Maryland. He himself was a Delaware Assemblyman in 1776, favoring independence at an early date. His daughter married first a son of Rev. John Miller, the most prominent colonial Presbyterian clergyman of Kent County, and second Thomas Bradford, father of her children. The house has been inherited in her line, through persons descended also from William Killen, first Chancellor of Delaware, and Willard Hall, distinguished Federal Judge whose support fostered the public school system of Delaware in its early years.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware, by Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Cortlandt V.D. Hubbard, Dover, 1962, pp.65-66.
Delaware A Guide to the First State, edited by Jeannette Eckman and others, New York, 1955, p. 188.
Papers of the Historical Society of Delaware, LV, pp. 6-7.

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	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		39°	9'	19"
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		75°	31'	24"
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Quarter acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mr. Rea Wilkie, Historic Registrar

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs DATE: 2/2/72

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins
 Title State Liaison Officer

Date 3-20-72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

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

Date 11/3/72

ATTEST
William H. Stuntz
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 1-1-72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS