

PA036 3502

~~REDACTED~~

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 2 1976
DATE ENTERED SEP 13 1976

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

Delaware Avenue Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Delaware Avenue

from N. Harrison to N. Howard (Delaware Ave)
— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

— VICINITY OF

One

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

New Castle

CODE

04

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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

Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New Castle Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Public Building, Rodney Square

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware 19801

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Delaware Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

June - August, 1975

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

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 Delaware Avenue Historic District contains twenty Victorian mansions along a wide two-block avenue. There are various styles of nineteenth-century architecture in these two remaining blocks of a once larger suburban residential section.

Italianate and Queen Anne styles predominate among the surviving buildings. Colonial-revival and mansard-roofed houses are also present. The style and massing of the buildings is quite large, mostly three stories in height with extensive wings to the rear of most of the houses. The houses are both detached and semi-detached. The modern intrusions, several apartments, blend well with the surrounding houses.

Beginning at the south side of the 1200 block with 1204-1206 and 1208-1210 (1 and 2), the Italianate style is most evident in the heavy bracket cornices and three-story height of these pressed-brick, semi-detached houses. Each has a fairly low roofline with interior end chimneys. Protruding gables with bracket cornices and gingerbread detail extend from the sides of both structures. 1208-1210 has limestone quoins. The next building to the west of these Italianate houses is a four-story twentieth-century apartment complex (3).

Across the street, going east, is first a large semi-detached brick house (4 and 5); the western portion of which, also known as 1400 N. Franklin Street, is three stories high with gable roof, shed dormers, and delicate bargeboard treatment. The handsome porch and interesting roof configuration distinguish this house. The eastern portion (5) is a three-story Colonial revival brick structure, laid in Flemish bond brickwork. Although predominantly Georgian or Colonial revival in style, there is a conglomeration of other features, including Greek and Gothic revival. The late date of this part of the house, 1908, explains the diversity in the architecture.

To the east of 1213 is a three-story, detached, brick house (6) with a mansard roof and bracket cornice. The house is the only one in the block with a mansard roof; however, its height and massing, including numerous back wings, conforms to the overall esthetic quality of the 1200 block.

Finally, there are two semi-detached houses, 1205-1207 (7) and 1201-1203 (8) of similar style and detail. Each has a heavy bracket cornice, attenuated ground-floor windows, and marble lintels and lugsills. The paired doorways are framed by bolection mouldings. 1205-1207 has a modified pent roof across the facade; however, this feature was removed from 1201-1203. This modified pent roof is an outstanding characteristic of this block as most of the houses on the north side of the block have some form of pent roof.

The predominant characteristic of the 1300 block of Delaware Avenue is the size of the houses built as single-family dwellings and not as semi-detached houses. All are three or more story dwellings. This block shows a predominance of the Queen Anne revival and Italianate styles.

Two twentieth-century apartment complexes are in this block. One, the Plaza (9), is a high rise of contemporary design and sits well back from Delaware Avenue. The other, 1320 (18), is smaller in proportion and resembles more closely the architecture of the block.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Delaware Avenue Historic District, an excellent example of America's "Gilded Age," contains outstanding examples of Victorian architecture. The district is also significant as an example of early suburban development in America.

The remaining original houses reflect fine Victorian architectural characteristics. The Italianate and Queen Anne styles predominate. Generally these houses or mansions are set well back from the street and occupy generous lots. They are true Victorian mansions: massive in size and irregular in plan. Bays, turrets, cross gables, and large front porches appear frequently.

A variety of materials are used, often in combination, in the construction and decoration of the houses, including brick, granite, marble, terra cotta, brownstone, ashlar-scored stucco, wood, cast iron, and slate. Many of the houses have one or more stained-glass windows. All of these architectural features and materials were used lavishly in the design of the major houses along Delaware Avenue, and most of the buildings still retain a nineteenth-century grandeur in their exteriors.

Fewer of the elaborate interiors, popular during the period, have survived intact. Most notable in this respect is 1308 (16), now occupied by the Delaware Lung Association. One of its ground-floor rooms has a ceiling richly embellished with Gothic tracery, while an adjoining sitting room is decorated in the style of Louis XV. 1304 (14) has a particularly fine fireplace in the room now serving as one of the A.A.U.W. offices and a smaller tiled fireplace is in the hall.

In the area formed by Delaware Avenue, West Fourteenth Street and North Broom Street is the Soldier and Sailors Monument. It originated with the idea of Alfred S. Nones, one-time officer with the Delaware Veteran Volunteer Infantry, to convert the columns in front of the Old Pennsylvania Bank Building, demolished in 1868, into monuments to the Civil War dead. The bill passed in Congress and plans were drawn up by A. B. Mullet, Supervising Architect in Washington, D. C. The monument was privately funded. In 1880 Washington Jones, the president of the Soldiers Monument Association, took charge of the shaft.

The Delaware Avenue Historic District is outstanding as an example of effective city planning. It comprises the only extant portions of the original 1870's real estate development along the trolley car line established by Joshua T. Heald in 1864 to encourage settlement in this part of Wilmington. In partnership with James L. Devou, Heald improved and laid out lots along the line. The lower portion of Delaware Avenue,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Canby, Henry Seidel, The Age of Confidence, New York, 1934.

Hoffecker, Carol E., Wilmington, Delaware: Portrait of an Industrial City, 1830-1890, University of Virginia Press, 1974.

Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Delaware, 1609-1888, 2 vols., Philadelphia, 1888.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	4	5	2	0	8	0	4	4	0	0	5	2	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Delaware Avenue Historic District in Wilmington, Delaware is bounded on the east by North Harrison Street and on the west by both North Broom Street and the back property lines of the lots between Fourteenth Street and Delaware Avenue on the west side of North Broom Street. On the north and south, the district is bounded by the back property lines of the lots facing Delaware Avenue between North Harrison and North Broom Streets.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Susanne N. Fox, Research Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

May 13, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Reocrds

TELEPHONE

302-678-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Lawrence C. ...

TITLE

Director, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

DATE

7/30/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Active

W. ...

DATE

9/13/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Charles ...

DATE

9/13/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 2 1976
DATE ENTERED	SEP 13 1976

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 5 PAGE 2

N-1075, N-1076, N-2581, N-2582, N-2583, N-2584,
N-2585, N-2586, N-2587, N-2588, N-2591, N-2592,
N-2593, N-2594, N-2595, N-2596, N-2692, N-3662.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	AUG 2 1976
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	SEP 14 1976

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The north side of the block is primarily Italianate with large, three-story structures having heavy bracket cornices. 1313 (11) is also ashlar-scored stucco. A slight central gable serves as a pediment top to the third-story Palladian window. The window surrounds are engaged pilaster strips. The motif is repeated in the central doorway and portico. 1315 (12) reflects both the Italianate and Gothic revival styles. Half of 1315 is now called the West Wing and is 1500 North Broom Street. Today there are two entrances: one on North Broom Street and one on Delaware Avenue.

The south side of the block is predominately Queen Anne revival in style. The houses are unusually large. The only Italianate structure on this side of the block is 1300 (13). It is a three-story brick house with heavy projecting bracket cornice and front porch. In the same style as the semi-detached houses in the 1200 block, it was designed as a single-family dwelling.

The remaining houses in the block, 1304 (14), 1306 (15), 1308 (16), 1310 (17) are Queen Anne revival, but each has individual characteristics. 1304 is a three-story, brick house with hipped roof, gables with bargeboard trim, tower, and turret. This house has all of the Queen Anne elements: slate, terra cotta, and wood with a brick base. 1306 is a three-story brick house and has a third story mansard with central cupola mansard topping the central brick projecting bay. The porch is Richardsonian in style, with short massed columns supporting Syrian arches, with the portico topped by a hooded turret sporting an eyebrow window.

1308 and 1310 (16 and 17) are both Tudor/Queen Anne revival houses. 1308 has tall corbelled chimneys integrated within an irregular massing of gables and bays. It is three stories high. 1310 is a three-and-a-half-story brick mansion with irregular massing of gables and entrances.

Accentuating this block is the tall Soldiers and Sailors Monument. The column has an inscribed base and ball on top with an eagle throttling a serpent. It is situated in a square landscaped with grass.

Facing the Soldiers and Sailors Monument are two houses on North Broom Street which complete the district. 1401-1403 North Broom Street is a three-story, semi-detached, brick, second empire house. To the north of it is 1400 Delaware Avenue, built in the Italian villa style. It is a three-story, tan stucco house.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 2 1976
DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

Delaware Avenue Historic District Inventory

1. 1204-1206 Delaware Avenue: 1872, Italianate, three stories, semi-detached (S. D. Carswell), N-2581.
2. 1208-1210 Delaware Avenue: 1875, Italianate, three stories, semi-detached, limestone quoins (Robert Scott), N-2582.
3. 1212 Delaware Avenue: 20th century, four stories, apartment complex.
4. 1215 Delaware Avenue: ca. 1875, Italianate, three stories, brick, detached, shed dormers (Mary Dixon), N-2594.
5. 1213 Delaware Avenue: 1908, Colonial Revival, three stories, brick (Joseph Reybold), N-2593.
6. 1211 Delaware Avenue: 1870, Italianate/Second Empire, three stories, brick mansard roof (William Spruance), N-2592.
7. 1205-1207 Delaware Avenue: 1873-1874, Italianate, three stories, brick, marble lintels and lugsills (Clement B. Smyth), N-2591.
8. 1201-1203 Delaware Avenue: 1873-1874, Italianate, three stories, brick, marble lintels, and lugsills, modified pent roof (Clement B. Smyth), N-2591.
9. Plaza Apartments, 1303 Delaware Avenue: 1954, high-rise apartment complex.
10. 1311 Delaware Avenue: 1871-1872, Italianate, three stories, detached, detailed wooden surrounds (James L. Devou), N-2595.
11. 1313 Delaware Avenue: 1871-1872, Italianate, three stories, scored-stucco, detached, engaged pilaster window surrounds (James C. Johnson), N-2596.
12. 1315 Delaware Avenue: 1868-1869, Gothic Revival, detached, grey fieldstone (Heald-Lovering), N-1076.
13. 1300 Delaware Avenue: ca. 1879, Queen Anne Revival, three stories, brick, detached (John Warner), N-2583.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 2 1976
DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

14. 1304 Delaware Avenue: ca. 1871, Queen Anne Revival, three stories, brick, hipped roof, tower, turret (Joshua T. Heald), N-2584.
15. 1306 Delaware Avenue: 1874-1877, Queen Anne Revival, three stories, brick (General H. B. Judd), N-2585.
16. 1308 Delaware Avenue: 1890, Tudor/Queen Anne Revival, three stories, tall corbelled chimneys (George Lobdell), N-2586.
17. 1310 Delaware Avenue: ca. 1893, Tudor/Queen Anne Revival, three and a half stories, gables, N-2587.
18. 1320 Delaware Avenue: 1940, apartment complex.
19. 1401-1403 North Broom Street: 1877, Second Empire, three stories, semi-detached, brick mansard roof (Mahlon M. Child), N-2692.
20. 1400 Delaware Avenue: 1876, Italian Villa, three stories, tan stucco (Mahlon M. Child), N-2588.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 2 1976
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

including the 900, 1000, and 1100 blocks, is gone, but the remaining 1200 and 1300 blocks centered around the historic Soldiers and Sailors Monument, retain much of the grandeur of their heyday. Strictly speculative, the real estate development proved a profitable investment. In less than ten years, this area was the most fashionable in the city and contained homes built in the most modern architectural styles. Many of the city's industrial and civic leaders built homes along the avenue. These men set the standard for elegance in Wilmington.

The 900, 1000, and 1100 blocks were developed first. Unfortunately, the buildings in these blocks are gone. The first houses in the 1200 block were built by James Bradford in 1871. The unique facade of 1200-1202 was painted because it had been built using second-hand bricks saved from the demolition of the old Indian Queen Hotel at Fifth and Market Streets, which was razed to make way for the Clayton House. This semi-detached house was demolished.

1200-1203 (8) and 1205-1207 (7) were built in 1873 as an investment by Clement B. Smyth, treasurer of the Diamond State Iron Company and the Vulcanized Fibre Company. William Spruance, one of the foremost lawyers in Delaware and later Senior Associate Justice of Delaware, built the next house to the west, 1211 (6), around 1870. Across the street in the same block, 1204-1206 (1) was built by S. D. Carswell, a millowner, who occupied 1206 and sold 1204 to F. L. Gilpin, president of the F. L. Gilpin Insurance Company. 1208-1210 (2) was built in 1875 by Robert Scott, who lived there for three years and then sold it to Thomas Bellah, president of the Bellah Iron and Steel Company.

Among the builders of homes in the 1300 block were James L. Devou, Heald's Delaware Avenue development partner, James C. Johnson, owner of a house-finishing company, and Heald himself. Devou built 1311 (10) in 1871. Heald also built 1315 (12). Johnson built 1313 (11) at the same time.

Had the development of Delaware Avenue remained centered around that one main street, it is doubtful that even the 1200 and 1300 blocks of the larger development would have remained. However, streets adjacent to Delaware Avenue were laid out and later developed along the same architectural lines as the Delaware Avenue homes. These subsidiary streets are not being included in the historic district at this time because of their later date.

Delaware Avenue was originally developed to provide a residential section for the growing Wilmington. Now a century later, people are returning to the area from the suburbs again to be closer to the center of Wilmington. The large apartment complexes in the area supply the additional needed housing. Thus, Delaware Avenue remains an important adjunct to the city.

