

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

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

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Item number N-224

Page 1

INVENTORY FORM: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

10. A. Property Name: James Morrow House (N-224)
1210 Ogletown Road
Newark, Delaware

B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The James Morrow House is located on the north side of Ogletown Road approximately .4 mile east of its junction with Marrows Road. The house and several outbuildings are situated on an irregularly-shaped 18.26 acre parcel that has a frontage of approximately 1,045 feet along Ogletown Road and a maximum depth of approximately 665 feet. An adjoining 6.22 acre parcel to the east is also being included, since it is a part of the original farm property (1982 New Castle County Property Tax Maps; Map Number 9-15, Parcels 5 and 6). The total acreage for the nominated site is 24.48.

UTM References: A - 18/438118/4393050 F - 18/438018/4392900
B - 18/438160/4392870 G - 18/438010/4392820
C - 18/438120/4392800 H - 18/437680/4392950
D - 18/438060/4392810 I - 18/437700/4393010
E - 18/438080/4392880

U.S.G.S. Quadrangle: Newark East, Del.

C. Owner: Mrs. Anna Stafford
1212 Ogletown Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

D. Property Description:

The James Morrow House is a stuccoed, one-and-a-half story, gambrel-roofed dwelling that was constructed in the late 1860's. Its five bay, center hall, double pile plan rests on a raised basement, which is an unusual feature in New Castle County. The facade is symmetrically arranged with a transom-topped set of paneled doors at its center. A one bay, flat-roofed porch with a semi-circular stairway on each side shelters the entrance, however, this porch is a recent addition. Its first story windows are two-over-two sash with louvered shutters and the basement windows are six-over-six sash with 3-panel shutters.

The gambrel roof is clad with asphalt shingles and has three gable dormers on both the facade and rear elevations. A molded box cornice with partial returns, scroll brackets, and a paneled frieze emphasizes the roofline. Two stuccoed interior end chimneys with corbeled caps rise from each endwall.

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Page 2

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A twentieth century one story, shed-roofed, frame wing abutts the east endwall.

Several twentieth century outbuildings are also situated on the property. Among them are a corn crib, a barn, and an assortment of poultry houses.

E. Justification of Boundaries:

Because part of the significance of the James Morrow House is due to its being a surviving farm site, all of the 18.26 acre parcel on which the house sits is being included in the nomination as well as an adjoining 6.22 acre parcel. The area immediately surrounding Newark was characterized by scattered farm complexes and large expanses of open agricultural lands from the early nineteenth century through the middle of the twentieth century. In recent years this area has been encroached upon by modern development. In particular, the portion of Ogletown Road surrounding the James Morrow property has been developed as an industrial park. The two nominated parcels, which are characterized by clusters of outbuildings and open field, are visually as well as historically related to the farm. This association is made especially obvious in comparison to the surrounding landscape on Ogletown Road which is lined with office buildings and large warehouses.

F. Significance:

The James Morrow House is significant for its unusual architectural design, it being the only raised-basement gambrel-roofed structure in White Clay Creek Hundred. It is being nominated to the National Register on the basis of criterion C, as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

The architectural style of the James Morrow House is an uncommon one in White Clay Creek Hundred. It and a property known as "The Buttonwoods" (N-356) are the only existing nineteenth century gambrel-roofed dwellings in the state. Located approximately ten miles apart, these two dwellings are nearly identical in size, form, and materials, however, no historical relationship has yet been found to link them. A three bay gambrel house form appeared in Delaware in the eighteenth century, as evidenced by the Liston House (NR 1973), Tyn Head Court (NR 1973), and the Lindens (NR 1972), however, this house type was largely discontinued in the nineteenth century. By the middle of the nineteenth century, two story dwellings with Greek Revival and Italianate details or cross gable variations were the norm.

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Page 3

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Aside from its architectural distinctiveness, the James Morrow House is important as one of the few surviving farms situated on the outskirts of Newark.

After immigrating to this country at the age of 16, Irish-born James Morrow became a successful merchant. His store was located at 211 Market Street in Wilmington. Having purchased four parcels of land near Newark during the years 1866-1875, it is probable that he built this dwelling shortly after he purchased the first tract. Remaining in the Morrow family until 1911, the property was then sold to John F. Richards whose descendents still retain the property. John F. Richards farmed the land, owned a store in Newark, and was elected to the Delaware State Legislature. Over the years he bought other farms around Newark, however this farm remained his residence.

Level of Significance:

The level of significance claimed for the James Morrow House is local. Even though this particular architectural expression is rare in New Castle County, insufficient survey data is available to adequately assess its importance on a statewide basis.



SKETCH MAP

- 10. James Morrow House (N-224)
- New Castle County Property
- Tax Map, 1982
- Map No. 9-15, Parcels 5 and 6
- Scale 1 inch = 400 feet