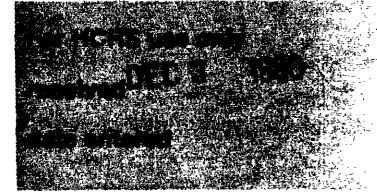


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latticework around the openings of the cupola, and the tapered, pyrimidical roof over the cupola. In essence, the small decorative features of the Gothic idiom of architectural style make a public statement about the relative wealth of the congregation and the vernacular perception of what a proper folk church, contemporary to the period, should look like.

K-1510

1. Property Name: ELIZABETH STUBBS HOUSE

2. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: West side of Main Street, south of Wilson Lane, Little Creek, Kent County, Delaware. It is sited on a parcel of land fronting Main Street, 50 feet wide and 210 feet deep, containing .241 acres.

3. Owner: Mrs. Charlotte Ford, Little Creek, Delaware.

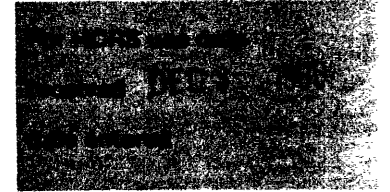
4. Property Description:

The Stubbs House, situated on Main Street in the town of Little Creek, is a two-story frame and weatherboard dwelling, 25 feet by 44 feet including the rear wings, which rests on a brick pier foundation. The front section of the house has a grey slate, concave, mansard roof with gable dormers, the interior of which remains as an unfinished attic rather than as an additional third floor. The original two-story rear wing has a shallow gable roof covered by tin. Later, when the second rear wing was constructed alongside it, a larger gable roof was built to encompass both wings so that the tin roof remains intact in the attic. Exterior ornamentation includes over-sized dentil moldings on the roof cornice and on the door and window lintels, cut out scrolls on the dormers, and patterned square and hexagonal slate roof tiles. A full facade porch that wraps around the south side of the house has square column supports. Unfortunately, the floor to the porch rotted and has been removed. A one-story lean-to to the extreme rear of the house is a later addition. The house was originally a three-bay, side-hall-plan, but the interior hall wall was removed to create one large front room. This room has a straight-run staircase with a winding corner at the top, raised panels beneath the windows on the facade wall, French doors into the rear wing, and chimney closets. The three main rooms on the first floor are all equipped for parlor stoves. All of the floors are painted and grained, but only at the edges of the rooms as there appears to have been carpets on the floors.

A frame privy and a small frame shed of ambiguous vintage are also located on the property.

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5. Significance:

The Elizabeth Stubbs House, built c. 1866, is significant within the context of Little Creek as an unusual example of Second Empire residential architecture, which represents a stylistic departure from the dominant vernacular forms of architecture on the town. The Stubbs House is invested with an uncommon style to Little Creek. It is significant in being one of the few buildings in the town that suggests high style pretensions. It is the only structure in the town with a mansard roof and its exterior and interior details speak a conscious awareness of style. This two-story, three-bay frame dwelling is adorned with an over-sized dentil molding on its roof cornice and on its facade window and door lintels. Square and hexagonal patterned slate tiles ornament the roof and small, delicate cut out scrolls flank the dormers. A massive porch with square column supports runs the full length of the facade and continues around one side of the house. This same consciousness is apparent on the interior also. Originally a side-hall-plan, the hall wall was later removed to create one large front room. This front room contains a staircase, has raised wood panels beneath the windows panels beneath the windows on the facade wall, French doors leading into the rear wing, and small chimney closets flanking the stove flue. The three main rooms of the first floor are all equipped for parlor stoves. One of the rear rooms has an open corner winder staircase and French doors connecting the adjoining room. The floors throughout the house are painted and grained, but only at the edges of the rooms as there appears to have been carpets on the floors.

The majority of dwellings in Little Creek are small, simple, two-story, frame, unadorned structures and the Stubbs House stands out from among them because of its deliberate styling. In its departure from the architectural norm, it shows an awareness of life styles and events beyond Little Creek and its immediate environment. It is significant as a local interpretation of the Second Empire style at this time in more urbane centers. Because it is less ornate, and perhaps not proportioned in quite the same manner as examples of Second Empire design found in populous cities, it retains the character and spirit of Little Creek.

In Beer's Atlas of Delaware (1868) it appears that this property was owned by E. Stubbs, and the 1880 census for the town of Little Creek reveals Elizabeth Stubbs, age 55, as a head of household, keeping house. Her daughter Linda Stubbs, 24, lived with her and served the community as one of two local dressmakers. Mrs. Stubbs kept two boarders: James Barber, a seven year old boy, and Pernel Emerson, 30, the local school teacher. Another Stubbs household appears on the census also. Edward Stubbs, a thirty-eight year old waterman, his wife Annie, and their three young children could also possibly have been the inhabitants of this house. Between these two households we see represented the water trade, which was one of the chief occupations of the citizens of Little Creek, and some of the community services necessary to the town as a whole.