

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 7 1985

date entered SEP 13 1985

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

N-105

Property Name: Fields Heirs (1868), built ca. 1820, enlarged mid 19th century

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The Fields House is located on the west side of route 71, 200 feet west of the road-way and .2 miles south of the junction of 71 and business 896. The house and out-buildings are surrounded by cultivated fields and the town of Middletown is clearly visible to the east. The nominated parcel includes 3 acres containing the house and contributing outbuildings.

The nominated parcel begins 100 feet north of the intersection of the present farm land and route 71, extends west 500 feet parallel to the farm lane, turns north for 400 feet at 90° to the previous line. From this point the parcel extends westward 600 feet and then turns southward at 90° and runs 750 feet. The line then turns eastward and continues back to route 71. The final line parallels route 71 and joins the two points defining the north and south boundary lines. The nominated acreage includes all grounds, buildings and the entire agricultural complex as well as sufficient land to preserve the site and its immediate environs as a whole.

UTM 18.37600.67520 Tax parcel 13-015.00-002

Owner: Prinz Von Croy  
c/o Colonial I & M Co.  
Dover, Delaware  
19901

Description:

The Fields House is a two-and-a-half story, five-bay by two-bay center-hall plan residence with a one-and-a-half story rear wing forming an L-shaped house. The exterior walls are weatherboard under asbestos siding. The foundation is rubble stone with a full basement running under the main block of the house.

The gable roofs of both the main block and addition are covered with tin. The main block contains brick interior gable-end chimneys with corbelled caps, while the wing houses two interior brick chimneys of two different styles indicating multiple periods of construction. The wing, built of logs, has a total of four dormers, three on the south side and one on the north side, each with returning eaves and six over six sash. The cornice is boxed with no decorative trim.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet N-105

Item number 7

Page 2

The windows are six-over-six sash with wood surrounds. The attic is lit with four-light gable end windows flanking the endwall chimneys. The center front entrance is a single leaf door surrounded by a single pane transom and four pane sidelights. There is a shed porch on the south facade of the addition.

In 1980 the roof was covered. In the process, the two dormers on the east side of the roof were removed. The tops of these dormers were segmentally arched. A front porch which featured classical columns, a decorative cornice and pilasters on the facade of the house were also removed. Evidence of the porch can still be seen on the east facade of the house as one of the pilasters was left in place and brick foundation still exists.

On the interior are mid nineteenth-century mantels, woodwork and stairs. The fireplace in the south room is bricked over with a stove in front. The fireplace in the north room is boarded up. The woodwork on the mantels and around the doors is fluted wood with corner blocks.

A large number of outbuildings accompany this farmhouse. All are situated to the north and west of the farmhouse, forming a courtyard area. These buildings include a drive-through granary directly north of the house. Connecting the granary to the gambrel roof barn is an equipment shed. Directly west of the farmhouse is a row of equipment sheds, some open and others enclosed. Within the courtyard are the remnants of a windmill, a concrete block milk house and another small, one-story, frame structure with vertical planking, corrugated tin roof, and four-light windows flanking a center doorway. The gambrel roof barn, windmill, concrete milk house, and equipment sheds are listed as noncontributing elements.

Historical Background and Significance

Little is known about the Fields House other than that in 1868 the farm was in the hands of an estate, and that in later years was owned by C. G. Ash and contained 382 acres. The paucity of information in this case is particularly significant. As the rebuilding cycle progressed many landholders acquiring new farms simply turned over the existing houses to farm managers as their personal residences. Ash's absence from any of the later agricultural census returns indicates that an unknown tenant and not the owner occupied and ran this farm adjacent to the most fertile and productive lands in St. Georges Hundred.

Architecturally, the dwelling exhibits the formal traits characteristic of the rebuilding period. Central stair-passage, secondary entries, service ells, and a clear progression from the front of the house to the rear in terms of both domestic

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet N-105

Item number 7

Page 3

---

life and social interaction are hallmarks of this local building tradition.

Nomination by Bert Jicha, Trish Bensinger, and William Macintire