

PH0509469

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 29 1977

DATE ENTERED AUG 24 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Golden Mine

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

On State Road 443 at Blairs Pond, (.2 miles east of the intersection of Rd. 443 & 444)

CITY, TOWN

Milford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

Kent

CODE

001

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Kennedy, III

STREET & NUMBER

R.D. 4, Box 279

CITY, TOWN

Milford,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

The Green

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey, K-171

DATE

1973

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, 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		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original part of Golden Mine is frame, sheathed in cypress shingles. It has an irregularly spaced three-bay front and two front doors, one entering into each room. The porch over these doors was added later, as were the brick steps. The windows are small with six-over-six lights. To the east is a brick wing. This was essentially a one-bay addition. It has its own door and the windows are similar to those in the original frame section. The gable roof of the house is steeply pitched. The box cornice covers the lintels of the second floor windows. The original wood shingles have been replaced with composition shingles. A chimney breaks the peak of the roof at the point where the two sections are joined. Both endwalls have windows, an unusual feature for a Delaware house of this period. These windows have four-over-four light, single-hung sashes. There are five windows in each endwall. Frame additions have been made to the rear of the house. One of these was the original summer kitchen. It now serves as the modern kitchen for the house.

The plan of the original section of the house is quite unusual. It allowed for one large hall with a large fireplace, winding stairs to the second floor, and front and rear doors, separated by a single board partition from a small narrow room with a corner fireplace. The finest architectural details in the house are found in these two rooms, particularly the paneled single-board partition. All of the floors in this section of the house are original, as are all of the exposed beaded joists. These joists are let into the exposed beaded plate on the front and rear wall. The corner posts are also exposed, as are some of the braces which are morticed and tenoned into these posts.

The smaller of the two rooms in the older section of the house had its own exterior entrance and has been called the preacher's room. The windows receive a heavy, almost unembellished architrave. The chimney breast is paneled with six equal raised panels above a simple fireplace surround. This raised panel is repeated above the exterior door. The chair rail and baseboard are original.

In the larger room, the detailing is slightly different. The overall features of the two rooms are the same including the chair rails, baseboard, and panels over the doors. The windows are handled quite differently, lacking any architrave. The fireplace is large and has provisions for cooking. The surround and mantel are quite plain and the wall above it is plastered rather than paneled. The mantel returns around the end of the chimney breast in the area where the door to the brick wing is placed. To the other side of the fireplace, the butterfly cupboard is let into the chimney breast. The mouldings are quite simple, the arched doors have glass insets; beneath these are paneled doors. To the far side of the cupboard is one of the doors to the winding stair. The double french doors at the rear of the room are a later addition.

The brick portion of the house holds one room on each floor. On the first floor is a dining room, the second floor a master bedroom. Access to the first floor room can be attained through the door on the south side of the chimney breast or through the winding stair, as there are doors to the rooms on each side of it. There is one step down into the wing. Here the chair rail and baseboard change, reflecting a different

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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

Golden Mine is significant, both architecturally and historically. Of primary importance is its architectural distinctiveness. There are few middle-class country houses in Delaware which still possess the quality of interior architectural detailing that is found in Golden Mine. Generations of owners have done little to detract from its character. Outstanding features include the double winding staircase and the fully paneled, single-board partition. Exposed structural members are found on both the first and second floors. The parlor has a large open hearth and an elegant butterfly cupboard.

Historically, it is uncertain whether Golden Mine was built before or after 1763. Architectural features in the older part of the house indicate that construction might have been before this date. In that case, the house would have been built by a tenant on land owned by an absentee landlord. Therefore, it would provide a rare example of a house built by the landless class which is still in a good state of preservation.

Furthermore, the Golden Mine tract of about 800 acres is typical of the speculative holdings that characterize colonial Delaware. It was owned by members of the Barbadian, London, and Pennsylvania land companies from 1686 until 1763. Such speculation in large parcels had a profound effect on the development of the frontier. In 1763, the Pennsylvania Land Company divided the 500 acres into farms of 140 acres, 325 acres, 165.25 acres, and 126 acres. Since a mill had already been built adjacent to the tract in 1747, it is evident that nearby lands were already being farmed.

Throughout its history, Golden Mine has served as the plantation house for one of the farms carved from the original Golden Mine tract. After the 1763 division of Golden Mine the owner of the property, William Tharp, occupied the house. At sometime before 1780, the house was expanded to its present size.

Thus it can be seen that, despite the divisions of the tract itself and its successive owners through time, the structure has remained a fine example of an architectural style.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Title Search of the Property called Golden Mine by Dallas Hitchens.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY About 3/8 of an acre less than 1 8/11/78

UTM REFERENCES 6E130011

A	1,8	4,5,7,8,9,0	4,3,0,6,1,7,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*Applicable*  
 The ~~southern~~ boundary of the nominated area extends for 400 feet along Road 443. The eastern boundary extends north about 150 feet from Road 443 to meet an arbitrary northern boundary which connects with the western boundary which extends south 75 feet to Road 443. Two twentieth-century houses included in the nominated area are modern intrusions to the site. 8/11/78

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joan M. Norton, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

Spring 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Records

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

*Lauren [Signature]*

TITLE Director, Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE 11/23/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST *[Signature]*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 8/20/78  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE 8.18.78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 29 1977
DATE ENTERED	AUG 24 1970

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

construction date. The fireplace wall consists of vertical beaded boards, the mantel shelf is quite plain. A crane remains built into the fireplace. Next to it is a small closet, the door of which has its original hinges, and above this is a built-in medicine cabinet. In the closet one can see the unusual construction of the winding stair.

The stair is built entirely into the chimney breast. Several steps project into the rooms on each side. At the chimney breast the stairs begin to turn. They form a triangular pattern in one direction, and then the other. They are the only staircase in the house and, despite constant use for a period of two hundred years and an unusual construction, are very stable.

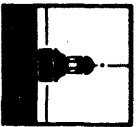
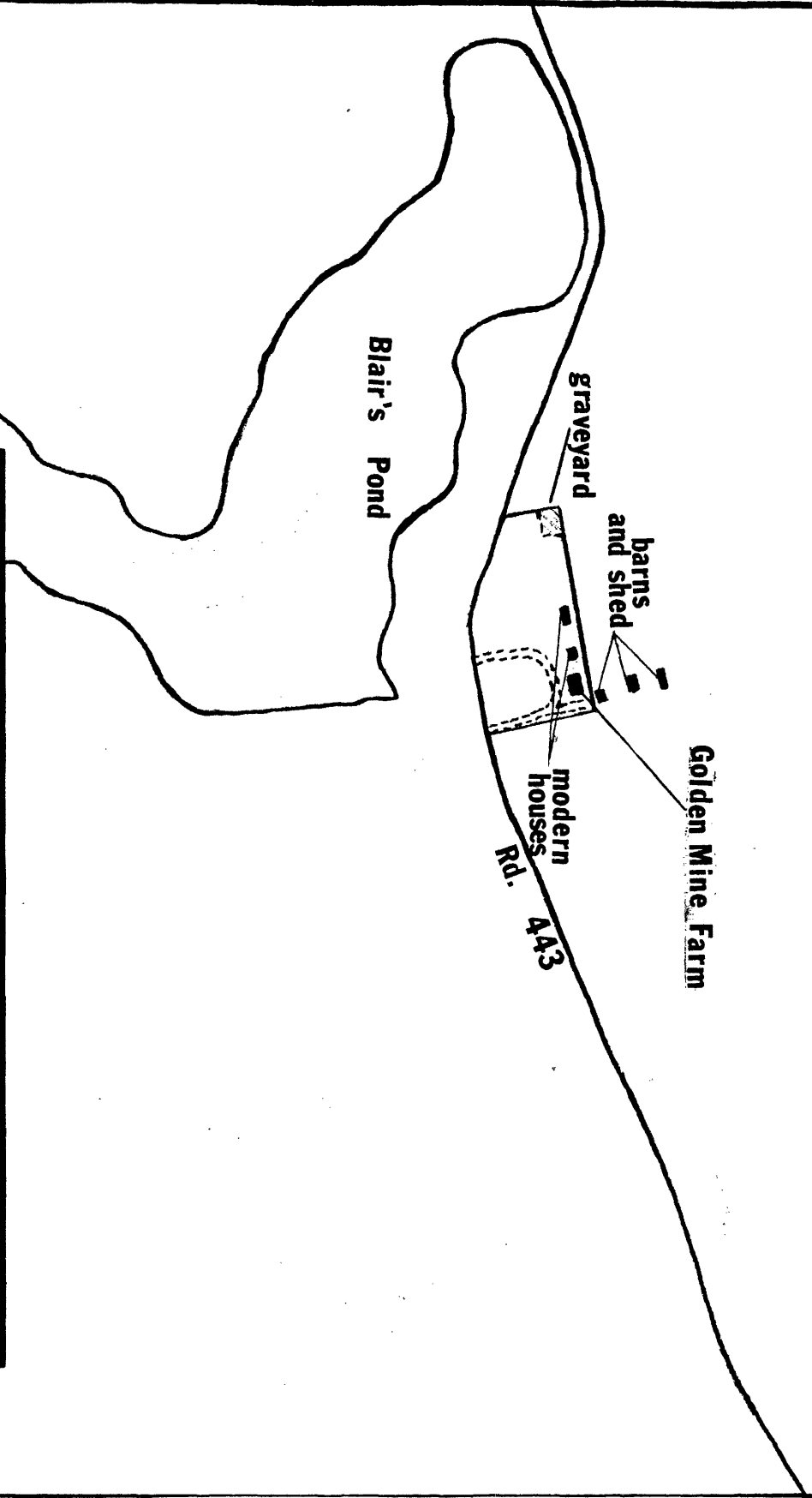
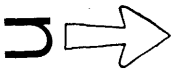
The second floor detailing reflects that of the first floor, and also the two periods of construction. Chair rails and baseboards are evident. Joists, posts, and plates are beaded and exposed; the floor is original. Most of the doors are original and many have their original hardware. The plan has been changed slightly to accommodate a modern bathroom, but this does not harm the character of the house. No fireplaces are found on this level. A winding staircase leads to the unfinished attic.

Alterations and changes have been made to Golden Mine. A baseboard heating system was installed along with modern plumbing and wiring. Most of this has been done by the present owners who are quite sympathetic to the historic fabric. The facade of the brick section of the house was recently sandblasted by the owners in response to some poor advice on a cleaning process. To rectify the extensive damage caused by this process, the owners intend to remove the damaged brick and reface the facade. Past renovation included the addition of a rear porch and a modern kitchen in a wing off the dining room. Despite these alterations, the simple elegance of the original detailing can readily be seen throughout the house.

Golden Mine is set near the road and is surrounded by trees. It is located approximately three miles west of Milford in an area that is predominantly agricultural. A pond nearby was a mill pond and early nineteenth-century plots show that a gristmill and sawmill were just across the road. One of the mills was operational until this century when fire destroyed it.

About 400 feet to the east of Golden Mine lies a nineteenth-century family graveyard, which is included in the nominated area. Between the graveyard and the house are two twentieth-century houses which constitute modern intrusions to the site. The farm buildings are excluded from the nomination.

no longer applicable  
L. B. ...  
8/1/78



DELAWARE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DRAWN BY **JCA**

DATE **11/1/77** SCALE **1:400**

FILE **K-171** TITLE **SKETCH MAP**

