

PH0352713

DATA SHEET D

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 31 1976

DATE ENTERED APR 26 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 *\*\** *Mr* COLONEL DAVID HALL HOUSE  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 107 King's Highway  
CITY, TOWN Lewes VICINITY OF CODE COUNTY CODE  
STATE Delaware 10 Sussex 003

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input 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 John M. Vessels and Sarah F. Vessels  
STREET & NUMBER 107 King's Highway  
CITY, TOWN Lewes VICINITY OF STATE Delaware

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds for Sussex County  
STREET & NUMBER Sussex County Court House  
CITY, TOWN Georgetown STATE Delaware

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey, DEL 149

DATE 1960  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress  
CITY, TOWN Washington STATE DC

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Colonel David Hall House in Lewes, built in the last quarter of the eighteenth century, with a lower two-and-one-half-story wing added probably during the first decade of the nineteenth century, is a three-bay, two-and-one-half-story house. The framing is of hewn white oak and the house is sheathed in its original cypress shingles. The wing has later, cedar shakes over the original vertical beaded sheathing. The front entrance has a fine pediment and the window architraves are crossetted on the facade.

The front door opens into a hallway running the depth of the house and divided into a reception hall and stair hall by a pair of Roman doric pilasters, showing pronounced entasis and situated on pedestals of dado height. The pilasters support an entablature with triglyphs. The reception hall has an elaborate cornice, chair rail, and baseboard. The ceiling has plaster ornamentation in the center. The stair hall has a simpler cornice. The stairway, which has an open well to the third floor, is of closed-string construction. The front and back doors have their original hardware: large strap hinges, a large iron lock on the front, an iron bolt on the rear, and hand-wrought nails forming a decorative pattern in the panels of the rear door.

The parlor contains the moldings as found in the reception hall. The mantel shelf is supported on consoles set on a crossetted fireplace surround. The large panel over the mantel shelf is framed by a crossetted architrave. As in the hall, the door and window architraves are crossetted at the upper and lower corners. The moldings of the mantel are a proportionately smaller copy of the cornice, even to the dentil detail. On each side of the fireplace is a panelled alcove.

The dining room lies beyond the parlor and has a panelled chimney breast with recessed "butterfly"-shelved cupboards on each side. The cornice, chair rail, and baseboard are simpler than those in the parlor and front hall. The woodwork of the dining room is repeated in the two bedrooms upstairs which have fully-panelled chimney breasts, with closets on each side of the fireplace.

The wing has the simplest woodwork in the house. Beading supplies the only decoration on the chair rail and baseboard. The mantels have reeded consoles and the panels above are plaster. An enclosed stair ascends behind the chimney breasts. Originally, the beams were exposed but boxed with beaded trim. This wing represents local building practices, whereas the main section gives a feel of urban influence. Many details are quite similar to woodwork in the earlier Corbit-Sharp House at Odessa, which was made by Robert May.

# 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The woodwork in the David Hall House is largely original. Because of the quality of its surviving trim, it is one of the finer period houses in southern Delaware.

This was the home of Colonel David Hall (1752-1817), lawyer (admitted to the bar in New Castle at the age of 21); patriot; governor of Delaware; and judge, son of Captain David Hall. David Hall figured conspicuously in the American Revolution as a captain in John Haslet's regiment; battalion commander under Brigadier-General John Dagworthy; and colonel of one of the Battalions of Sussex and first in command of the Sussex Brigade. In 1776 he was appointed to the Council of Safety by the General Assembly. In 1777 he was commissioned colonel of a regiment which formed part of the Delaware Line, succeeding Colonel John Haslet. He fought in the battles of Long Island, White Plains, the Brandywine (receiving a slight wound), Cooch's Bridge, Germantown (seriously wounded), was at Valley Forge, sharing General Washington's tent, and at Middlebrook, N. J., called "the forgotten Valley Forge." Following the war, he resumed his law practice in Lewes, became active in political and civic affairs of the state, serving as governor, 1802-1805. In 1813, Colonel Hall was appointed fourth associate justice of the Court of Common Pleas, Sussex County, a position he held until his death. He had married Catherine Tingley of New York soon after being admitted to the bar. They had one son, Joseph, a lawyer, who died in early manhood, and five daughters. Colonel Hall is buried in the cemetery of the Lewes Presbyterian Church, where he had been an elder for many years.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Munroe, John A. Federalist Delaware, 1775-1815. New Brunswick, N. J.: Rutgers University Press, 1954.
- Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware, 1609-1888. 2 volumes. Philadelphia: K. J. Richards & Company, 1888.
- Biographical and Genealogical History of the State of Delaware. Chambersburg, Pa.: J. M. Runk & Company, 1899. 2 volumes

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY One-quarter

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	4 8 7 9 2 5	4 2 9 1 4 7 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on one side by Kings Highway, on the east by Third Street, and by property boundaries on the south and west. The shape of the property is an irregular quadrilateral.

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

Sarah F. Vessels, owner

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

107 King's Highway

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Lewes

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. Henry, Director*

TITLE

Lawrence C. Henry

DATE

March 23, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

4/26/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Jay L. [Signature]*

DATE

4-23-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

Eberlein & Hubbard. Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware. Dover, Del.:  
Public Archives Commissions, 1962. Pictured on 21.