

PH0508306

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 31 1977

DATE ENTERED FEB 17 1978

**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

The Maples  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER On the northeast side of Bunker Hill Road, Rd. 299,  
approximately 7 miles north of its intersection with  NOT FOR PUBLICATION Rte. 301.  
CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

Middletown  VICINITY OF One  
STATE Delaware CODE 10 COUNTY New Castle CODE 002

**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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

John M. Gibson

STREET & NUMBER

Box 76

CITY, TOWN

Drumore

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Public Building

STREET & NUMBER

Rodney Square

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE

Delaware

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey N-106

DATE

1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

CITY, TOWN

Dover,

STATE

Delaware

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Maples is a good example of how classical architectural features can be effectively applied to vernacular architecture. The style in which the Maples is built is typical of many Delaware houses of the nineteenth century. However, the quality of the Greek Revival and Second Empire detailing distinguishes it from others of its type.

The Maples is laid out in an L-shape. The L-shaped pattern is repeated in the front porch which returns around the end of the house, meeting the wing. This porch extends from the front to the side door, and breaks the otherwise balanced facade. The porch is supported by square columns across the front and wrought iron piers along the side. The flat roof has a simple box cornice. The facade of the structure is pierced by five openings on each floor and surmounted by a gable roof with dormers. The sash have six-over-six lights and are flanked by paneled and louvered shutters. The dormer windows have two-over-two lights and were a later addition to the mid-nineteenth century house.

Centered on the roof and placed so as to break the cornice, and thereby extend the facade, is a form of cross-gable. It has a double-pitched roofline which is reminiscent of a mansard roof, a pierced bargeboard, and a balcony set under the window. This feature is found on structures built in the Second Empire style.

The pitched roof of the main section is presently sheathed with patterned shingles. These were installed at the same time as the cross-gable. The peak of the roof is broken by two interior end chimneys. A bracketed box cornice returns into the gable ends of the house. The north gable end of the house has only two small attic windows; the south gable end is more unusual in that a window has been placed next to the chimney on the first and second floors.

The house was originally sheathed in clapboard and the corners were marked by pilasters. In the 1920's, wood shingles were affixed to the house without removing the clapboard. The owner hopes to restore the original siding.

The interior plan of the Maples is a common one. A center hall is flanked by a parlor and living room. Access could be gained to the front and rear porches from this hall. A door in the rear of the living room provided access to the dining room and kitchen, both of which are in the wing. Doors leading to the front and rear porches were also found in the dining room. The rear porch has been almost entirely removed. A slope-roofed shed on the rear of the wing covers the rear door of the wing and the cellar entry.

Three staircases are found in the house. All rise the full two-and-a-half stories. One rises from the center hall, one from the living room, and one from the kitchen. The first of these is an open-string stair in the Greek Revival mode with a heavy newel and delicately turned balusters. The other two stairs are winding stairs set back to back and centrally located on the north wall of the wing. The second floor bedroom over the parlor, living room, and dining room are connecting; the room over the kitchen seems to have been segregated. The attics of the three sections have

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Maples, a prime example of Delaware vernacular architecture, is particularly notable because of its unusual combination of architectural embellishments.

The Delaware vernacular style served as a basis of Delaware architecture for over one hundred years. From the mid-eighteenth to the late-nineteenth century, two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, single pile, center hall houses were built in Delaware. Many of these are still extant and have become a part of the agrarian landscape. One of the peculiarities of the Delaware vernacular is the manner in which it adopted the most current stylistic elements, while maintaining its continuity of form and plan. Should the wealth of the owner and/or the skill of the carpenter permit, the interior and/or the exterior of the vernacular style house might be detailed with the most fashionable stylistic elements. Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, and Gothic Revival elements were frequent and pleasing additions to the Delaware vernacular form. It was not often, however, that later nineteenth-century elements were incorporated into the vernacular form. The Maples is an example of this uncommon occurrence.

The Maples was built in the 1850's. The two-and-a-half-story, five-bay facade is pierced by six-over-six sash, has a doorway with sidelights and transom, and is surmounted by a bracketed cornice. These architectural features are indicative of the Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate, respectively. In the 1880's, the house received embellishments of the Second Empire style. One of the most outstanding features of the Second Empire was the mansard roof with its patterned shingles and highly detailed dormers. The Maples retained its gable roof but it was sheathed with patterned shingles and improved by the addition of a variation on the Graham Gable.

The Graham Gable was a form of cross-gable meant to be used with the mansard roof. As pictured in an 1880 pattern book, the gable is shown to be convex in shape with a pierced bargeboard, window and balcony. As found on the Maples, the gable is concave with a pierced bargeboard, window and balcony. Both forms were popular on Second Empire houses in Delaware cities and towns. Nearby Middletown, for instance, has several extant examples. However, its use on a country house is unusual.

George Derrickson, Sr., owned a great deal of land northwest of Middletown. Among his property was a tract called Indian Range, which he had purchased in 1837 and was his home until the mid-nineteenth century when he purchased land nearby and built the

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Family Bible Records, Vol. 878, #356.  
 New Castle County Will, Jedediah Derrickson, 1832.  
 Reed, H. Clay. Delaware, A History of the First State, Vol. II. New York:  
 Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1947.  
Specimen Book of One Hundred Architectural Designs. New York: Bicknell and  
 Comstock, 1880.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Two  
 UTM REFERENCES

Latitude: 39° 27' 17"  
 Longitude: 75° 44' 18"

A 

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING			

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

ZONE	EASTING					NORTHING			

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property line begins at Bunker Hill Road, south of the house, with a frontage of 200 feet. The east and west boundaries extend back 350 feet to form approximately 2 acres. The nominated area does not include any of the outbuildings of the farm.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joan M. Norton, Architectural Historian March 1977  
 ORGANIZATION DATE  
Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs (302) 678-5314  
 STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE  
Hall of Records  
 CITY OR TOWN STATE  
Dover, Delaware 19901

# 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 10/25/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Rethig DATE 2/17/78  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: Cheryl [Signature] Feb KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE 2-9-78  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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always been isolated from each other. The two attic rooms in the wing are separated by the two staircases and the flue of the wing's central chimney.

The Greek Revival detailing found in the Maples is among the finest in the area. The designs of Minard Lafever, as found in his Builder's Guides, are reflected in the house. The front door is set between narrow sidelights with inside shutters and surmounted by a transom. Narrow, elongated recessed panels are found on the door. The windows are set on pedestals and have heavily moulded architraves with corner blocks. These corner blocks are particularly fine and are carved in a floral motif. The interior doors in the front section of the house are similarly detailed.

The two downstairs mantels have been replaced; however, the upstairs bedrooms retain their original mantels. The latter are quite plain; the sides are formed by simple Doric pilasters and the mantel shelf is very plain. The moulding which supports this shelf repeats the cyma reversa moulding found in the first-floor baseboards.

The wing is detailed in a much simpler manner than the front of the house. Window and door architraves and baseboards consist mostly of beaded boards. Doors have four panels, whereas those in the front of the house have six panels. The central fireplace in the wing has been covered over, but evidence as to its location is clear. Next to the fireplaces, and under the winding staircases in the kitchen and dining rooms, are closets. There is a small pass-through from between the closets. The kitchen has been modernized, but there is still evidence of the vertical board wainscoting which was around the room. At the same period that the main roof was replaced, a bay window was added to the south wall of the wing.

One of the most interesting features of the house is its window, cupboard, and door hardware. The front door lock is of a type that the outside doorknob is stationary; a key is needed to release the latch from the exterior even if the door is not locked. The chimney breast cupboard doors and interior shutters have spring latch catches and the windows have catches with porcelain knobs. The interior door latches are also quite unusual.

The Maples is located on the Choptank-Bunker Hill Road northwest of Middletown. It draws its name from the many maple trees in the front yard of the house. Beyond the house are modern farm buildings which are not included in this nomination.

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Maples. George's oldest son, Charles, retained the Indian Range farm until after his father's death. At about that time, Charles married and moved to the Maples. It was Charles who updated the house with the Second Empire features.

Although the Maples continues to be owned by the descendents of George Derrickson, it has been in the hands of tenants since Charles' death in 1926. Some rather unsympathetic changes have been made to the interior fabric, but old photographs reveal that the significant exterior architectural features remain. The current owner has taken an interest in the property and hopes to restore some of its lost details.

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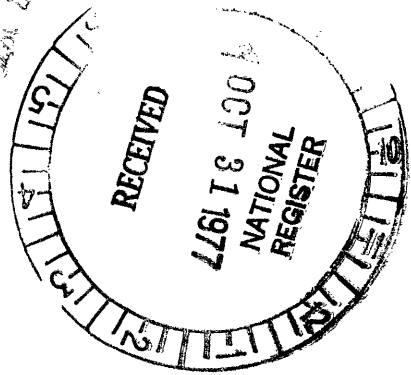
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Beers' Atlas of Delaware, 1868.

Rea and Price, Map of New Castle County, 1849.

Baist's Atlas of New Castle County, 1895.

New Castle County Deeds.



DELAWARE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DRAWN BY ica DATE 10-77 SCALE 1":800'

FILE N-106 TITLE Sketch map

