

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **AUG 7 1985**
date entered **SEP 5 1985**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Thomas Sipple House
and/or common The Chipman House (or Boxwood Manor)

2. Location

street & number Southeast corner of North Bedford & New Streets ___ not for publication
city, town Georgetown ___ vicinity of
state Delaware code 10 county Sussex code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Wilson G. Boyer
street & number North Bedford Street
city, town Georgetown ___ vicinity of state Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sussex County Courthouse
street & number The Circle
city, town Georgetown state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Del. Cultural Resource Survey S-119 has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no
date 1978 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local
depository for survey records Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
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 Sipple House, a mid-19th century structure built in a combination of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles, is situated on the southeast corner of North Bedford Street and New Street in the Town of Georgetown, Delaware. Erected in 1861, the original house was a wood frame two-story, single pile, center hall plan structure with a two-story rear wing, two rooms in length. A single story porch ran down the southeast side of the rear wing. In a series of alterations which occurred in 1912, the rear porch was enclosed to form two rooms and a sleeping porch was added above it (which was later enclosed as well). A rear two-story porch was added, thus connecting the house with two detached outbuildings. Finally, the low-pitched roof of the rear wing was raised, thus providing increased storage space in the attic.

Resting on a brick foundation, the exterior walls of the Sipple House are covered with wood weatherboard, with corner pilasters. The gable roofs of both main core and rear ell are now covered in composition shingles and have Greek Revival moulded box cornices with partial returns, with Italianate brackets on the frieze. The brackets on the rear wing are smaller and less decorative. It is apparent from surviving evidence in the attic of the rear ell that the original, lower-pitched roof, which was raised in 1912, was covered with standing seam metal. It is probable that the roof of the front section of the house had similar covering originally. The northwest and southeast exterior ends of the house have simple brick chimneys and another is located in the center roof ridge of the rear ell.

The Sipple House has a balanced five-bay facade, characteristic of the Greek Revival style as it was interpreted locally. Windows on both first and second floors are six-over-six sash with architrave surrounds and pedimented lintels. The facade door is in the central bay and is wooden with four panels. It has Greek Revival features such as a single-lite transom, four-lite sidelights and wooden pilaster door surrounds. A single tier porch extends across the entire facade. It has a standing seam metal flat roof with a box cornice and plain frieze supported by round Doric columns which rest on a brick floor. These posts and the floor seem more modern than the rest of the porch and may date from 1932, at which time a basement was dug under a part of the house to hold a modern furnace. All first floor windows have panelled shutters while those on the second floor have louvered shutters. The southeast side of the house, where the original porch and the later sleeping porch have both been enclosed, has both six-over-six and one-over-one sashes with simple board trim and without shutters.

(Continued)

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 type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1861 **Builder/Architect** Thomas Sipple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Thomas Sipple House is significant under Criterion "C" as a little-altered example of southern Delaware domestic architecture of the mid-nineteenth century. It serves as an extremely interesting transition between the three- and five-bay, two-story vernacular houses so common in Sussex County between 1790 and 1860 and the Victorian Gothic houses of the 1870's and 1880's. Though the Sipple House is of the five-bay, center hall plan which had become very common in Georgetown and the surrounding area by the time of its construction, it is much more typical of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles with its massing, low-pitched roof and formal symmetry than most houses of a few years earlier. It is transitional in being one of the last Georgetown houses to make use of fireplaces for heating and among the first to use "stoves with pipes well secured in brick flues." Finally, it is transitional in its location some distance beyond the area covered by the original 1791 plot of the new Town of Georgetown. Beers' ATLAS OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE of 1868 shows the house as being one of only three or four beyond the old part of town. In that sense it is interesting that the street running beside the house is named "New Street." Beyond New Street virtually all the architecture is later 19th and early 20th century in style (as are some of the houses built on vacant lots between the Sipple House and the center of town after 1861). The house was purchased from Sipple a few years after its construction by Shephard T. Martin, a prominent local businessman, town official and politician, who appears both to have occupied it himself and to have rented it to the equally prominent Colonel William Fiske Townsend. Townsend, a native of Talbot Co., Md., came to Georgetown in 1867 to buy out an existing weekly newspaper, which he renamed THE SUSSEX JOURNAL and established as a "commanding influence in the lower part of the state" before his death in 1879. The Sipple House was acquired by Dr. James Chipman around the turn of the century. Dr. Chipman was a physician who also owned and operated a leading drug store and merchantile establishment. The house has remained in the Chipman family since that time. Dr. Chipman made the only substantial changes to the house in 1912 when he raised the roofline of the rear wing, enclosed a side porch, and added a rear porch to connect the house to two detached outbuildings, a combination meat and meal house, servants' quarters and summer kitchen, and a wood frame and brick Victorian Gothic milk house. Both these structures are mentioned on an 1872 fire insurance application form and both are among the best remaining examples of mid-19th century outbuildings in Georgetown.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Wade, Wm., Jr. 16 MILES FROM ANYWHERE - A HISTORY OF GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE, Georgetown: The Countian Press, 1975.
Interview with owner, Virginia Chipman Boyer, 1980.
Sanborn Map Co., fire insurance maps for 1885, 1891, 1897, 1904, 1910, 1930.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 11,050 Sq. Ft.

Quadrangle name Georgetown, Delaware

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	4	66	1	3	0	4	2	8	2	5	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing							

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated area includes the lot on which the house is located, which is 65 ft wide along N. Bedford St., by 170 ft. deep along New St., for a total of 11,050 sq. ft.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard B. Carter, Sussex County Preservation Planner

organization Sussex County Government

date 11/84

street & number P.O. Box 589

telephone (302) 856-7701, Ext. 361

city or town Georgetown

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

John P. Kern

title Director, Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs

date 7/10/85

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date

9/5/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Both the northwest and southeast sides of the rear wing have single tier entrance porches covering only one bay. That on the southeast side has a flat roof supported by latticework sides, while the one on the northwest side, which is slightly larger, has a flat roof supported by two wooden Doric columns on square wooden bases. The single story porch which originally ran down the southeast side and the rear porch originally had wooden latticework sides. Now only the latticework of the rear porch remains, the side porch having been enclosed. The roof and flooring of the rear porch now tie in with the wood frame outbuildings, forming a sort of latticework room of a sort much in use in town residences in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The interior of the Sipple House has survived through the years with relatively little alteration. The layout still follows the center hall plan with the two story rear wing opening from one of the two front bedrooms and from the front parlor. The open-string staircase is a two-run, open well type with turned balusters with a Greek Revival newel post.

The two first floor rooms of the front section have identical marble mid-nineteenth century fireplace surrounds and mantelpieces. The two second floor front bedrooms have simple mantle shelves on plain braces with chimney cupboards. The chimneys in these two rooms were originally designed to accommodate stoves. Most interior doors have four raised panels. The first and second floors of the front section have more elaborately moulded door and window surrounds than does the rear wing. The first floor rooms of the front section also have moulded baseboards and crown moulding, while the kitchen and the enclosed porch additions have plain trim.

The eight foot by ten foot milkhouse at the southeast rear corner of the house is connected to the latticed rear porch and has a wood-shingled hip roof with heavy box cornice. The structure is topped by a small cupola with panelled sides and sawn trim. The exterior walls are covered with weatherboard and have louvered windows with interior shutters. The interior of the structure is plastered with a brick floor below ground level.

The multi-purpose outbuilding to the rear of the house, which is about ten by twenty feet, is also wood frame with weatherboarded walls, box cornice and an asphalt

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DESCRIPTION

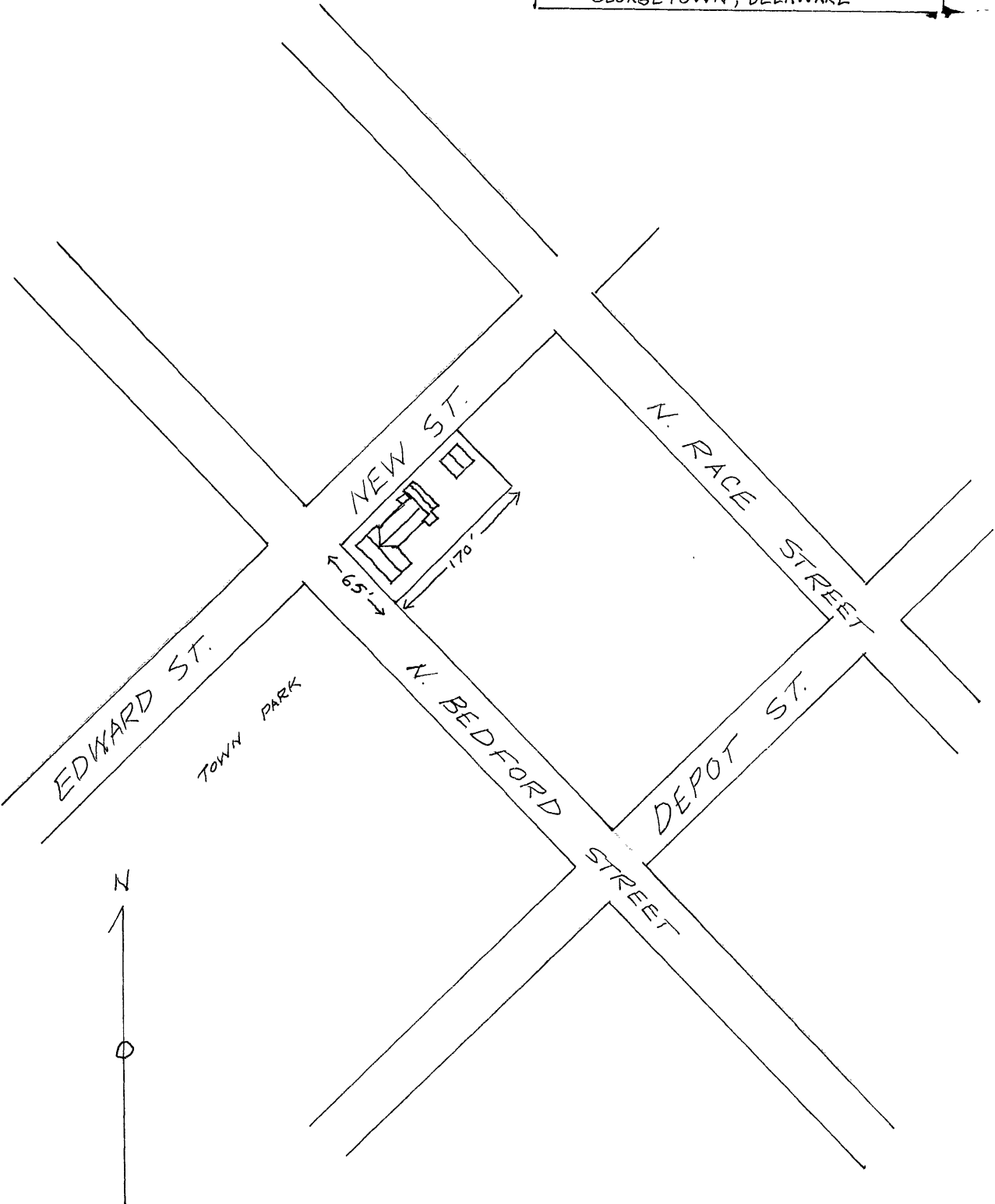
7

3

shingled roof. the sections containing the servant's quarters and summer kitchen open directly onto the rear porch, while the section used for storage of wood opens onto a covered porch extension outside the latticed rear porch, which is supported by two Doric columns. A modern garage is located to the rear of the property.

All of the buildings within the nominated parcel are contributing elements to this nomination except for the modern garage.

PLOT SHOWING LOCATION
OF THOMAS SIPPLE
HOUSE
GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE



NOT DRAWN TO SCALE