

PH0011169

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
DEC 5	1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Governor's House (Current)

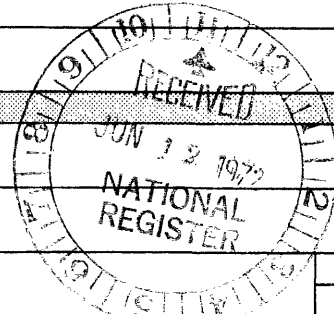
AND/OR HISTORIC:
(See continuation sheet)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Kings Highway

CITY OR TOWN:
Dover

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: Kent CODE: 001



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>Official</u> <u>Governor's residence</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Delaware, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder of Deeds, Kent County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
The Green

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: DEC 5 1972

DATE: _____

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Governor's House is one of the finest late eighteenth century houses in Delaware. It presents a well-proportioned, but massive, facade with two full stories, attic, and high basement. The north and south faces are laid in Flemish bond, with a belt course between the stories and a two-course moulded brick watertable. The principal facade, on the north, features cut-stone flat arches. The door on the north side has a semicircular fanlight. A striking feature of the house is a high hallway that runs the full length of the west wall, between the north and south doorways. The main staircase, in this hall, is open to the third floor. Panelling in the drawing room, main bedchamber, and dining room is outstanding.

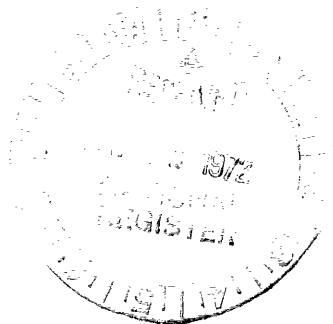
The main brick house has been supplemented with a rear wing, a Greek-Revival portico, masonry terraces, but these additions have not altered the west wall, which faces the street. A Greek-Revival portico on the south facade is a tasteful twentieth-century addition.

A large landscaped yard surrounds the house; across the street, a small public park and private lawns contribute to the illusion of a rural setting in downtown Dover. To the rear, the property runs to a public park on the bank of the St. Jones River; through this park, the open space surrounding the Governor's House is part of the landscaped capitol grounds.

The Governor's House is one of several significant historic sites that are included in the city's historic-district zoning program.

When Charles Hillyard built the house around 1790, it was a country seat on the King's Highway a quarter-mile north of Dover; by the middle of the nineteenth century, the town had grown to surround the property. Then, as now, this neighborhood is primarily a substantial residential district.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Governor's House is significant as a surviving example of the best-quality eighteenth-century houses in Delaware. It is preserved as an integral part of the State museum system, which strives to illustrate typical Delaware houses of various periods and economic levels.

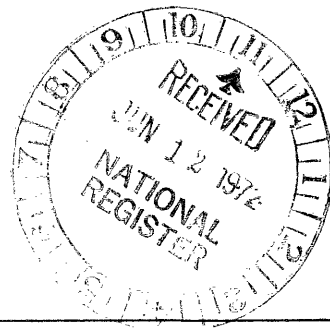
The builder, Charles Hillyard (1759-1814) was the fourth Delaware generation of a family of affluent landowners frequently active in the government, social, and economic life of Kent County. The founder of the line, Charles Hillyard received a warrant in 1683 for 3,000 acres; this document, signed at Dover, is the only surviving evidence that the Proprietor ever visited the town.

Local tradition, supported by geographical circumstance and the owner's abolitionist tendencies, identifies this house as a station on the fabled "underground railway." George Alfred Townsend, in his novel, The Entailed Hat (published in 1884), portrayed this as the scene of an attempted kidnapping by Patty Cannon's gang. As a result of this widely-known novel, a tradition has grown up which states that Mrs. Cannon fired a pistol-shot through the north door.

Since 1965, the house has gained further significance as the residence of Delaware's governors.

The house has often been the home of famous Delaware families; Charles Hillyard, the builder, was a son-in-law of Delaware's first Chancellor, William Killen.

The house was once the residence of Delaware's first woman legislator, Mrs. Vera Davis.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Early Architecture of Delaware, by George Fletcher Bennett, 1932.

Historic Houses and Building of Delaware, by Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Cortlandt van Dyke Hubbard, 1962, pp. 67-68.

The Entailed Hat, by George Alfred Townsend, 1884 and 1955, pp. 424-433.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Edward F. Heite, Historic Registrar

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: April 4, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>E. Berkeley Tompkins</u> Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins</p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>May 31, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>12/5/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William S. ...</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>11.30.72</u></p>
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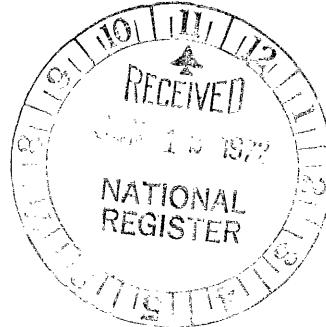
(Continuation Sheet)

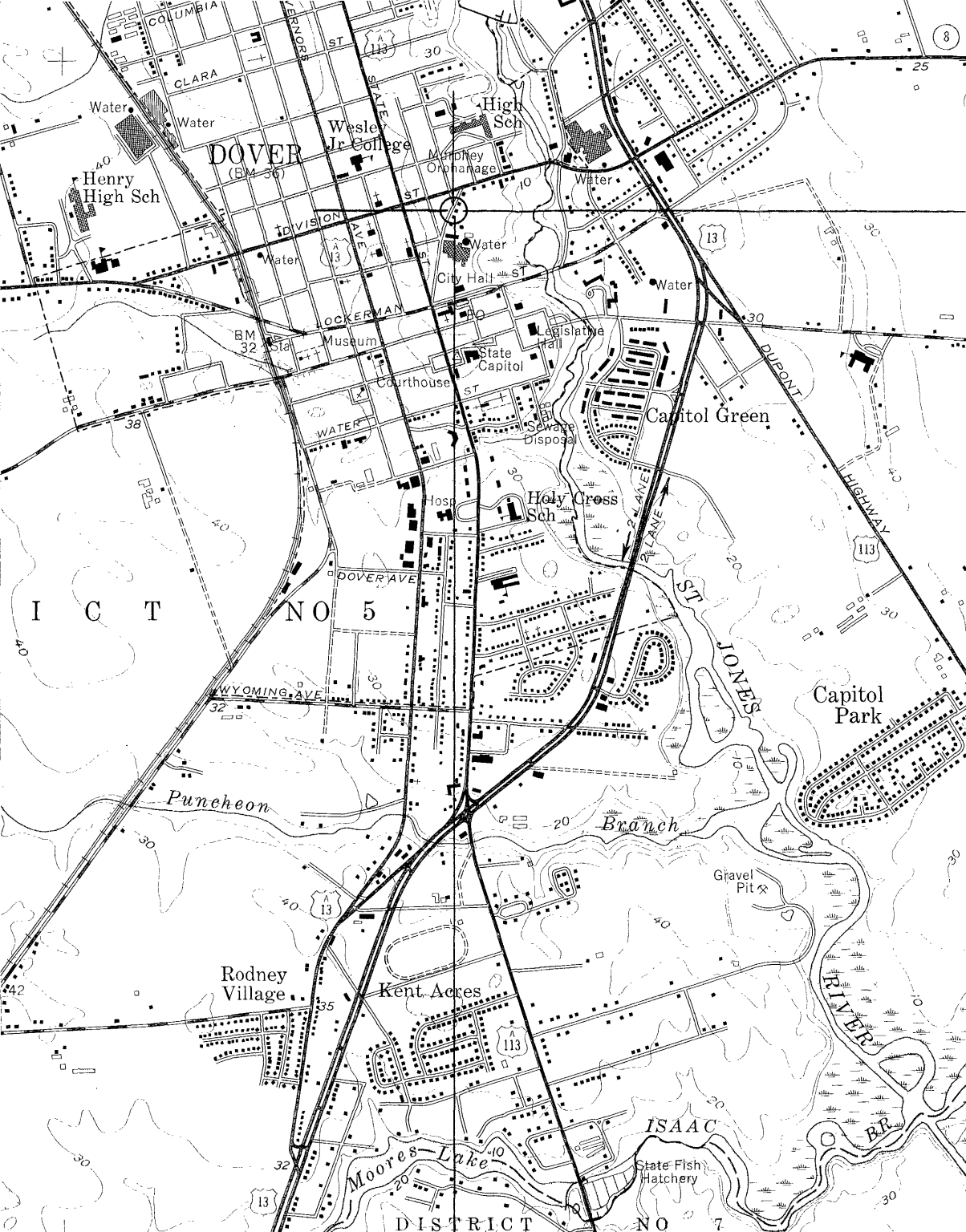
STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
DEC 5	1972

(Number all entries)

#1. Name - And/or Historic

Hillyard House
The Cowgill House (19th century designation)
Woodburn (20th century designation)

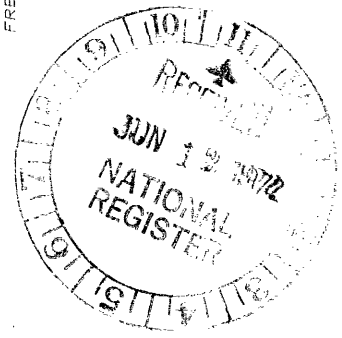




39°09' 40"



4.2 MI. TO DEL. 9
FREDERICA 17 MI.



4331000m.N.

39°07'30"

32'30" TELTON 8.7 MI. INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1957-N5 MR 0320 75°30'
HARRINGTON (JUNC. DEL. 14) 14 MI. RISING SUN 1.7 MI. 456000m.E. (FREDERICA)

1 MILE



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

75° 31' 26"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty.....—————
- Medium-duty.....—————
- Light-duty.....—————
- Unimproved dirt.....-----
- U. S. Route (shield symbol)
- State Route (circle symbol)

DOVER, DEL.

NE/4 WYOMING 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3907.5—W 7530/7.5