

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Vandyke-Heath House

other name/site number: Jacob C. Vandyke House, CRS#N-5891

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2. Location

=====

street & number: 385 Green Spring-Vandyke Road (County Road 47)

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Townsend, Appoquinimink Hundred

vicinity: X

state: DE county: New Castle

code: 003

zip code: 19734

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Dwellings of the Rural Elite in Central Delaware, 1770-1830 +/-

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Daniel M. [Signature]
Signature of certifying official

7/24/92
Date

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. X See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- removed from the National Register _____
- other (explain): _____

Patrick Andrews

9/11/92

[Signature] Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: Domestic Sub: single family

Current : Domestic Sub: single family

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Early Republic/Federal

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation Stone roof Metal

walls Shingle other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

The Vandyke-Heath House is located in Appoquinimink Hundred, New Castle County, southeast of CONRAIL's Centerville Branch at Vandyke at 385 Greenspring-Vandyke Road (County Road 47). A dwelling, a barn, a chicken coop, and a privy are located on a 3.7 acre parcel. The house faces south and is aligned with the road.

The dwelling was constructed in three distinct building periods. The original house, built in the late eighteenth century, was a one-room, one-and-a-half story, three-bay log structure. In the mid-nineteenth century, the house was raised by the addition of a frame second story and enlarged with a taller, two-and-a-half story, two-bay, one-room frame wing on the west end. In the late nineteenth century, a two-story, two-bay frame section was added on the west end. Shed porches are appended to the front and back of the building and its entire exterior, except for the rear porch, is clad with wood shingles. Behind the house to the north stand a late nineteenth-century barn, a chicken coop, and a privy that are considered non-contributing elements within the historic context defined by the nomination.

The original block of the house is built on a three-bay, one-room plan about 16' x 21' with a central entry and two windows in the front facade

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : _____

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Social History

Period(s) of Significance: 1780-1799, 1808-1830

Significant Dates : _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

The Vandyke-Heath House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A because it represents the changes in the landscape due to the emergence of a new class of farmers in the federal period (1770-1830) and under Criterion C as a type or method of construction that represents the late Georgian/Federal vernacular styles popular among Delaware's rural elite during the 1770-1830 +/- period. The houses of the rural elite as a functional type relate to the following historic context in the Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan: Upper Peninsula Zone; 1770-1830 +/-; agriculture, settlement patterns and demographic change, and architecture, engineering, and decorative arts.

Beginning in the third quarter of the eighteenth century, a self-described class of agriculturalists arose who were less actively engaged in the physical practice of farming and more heavily involved in the administration and management of agricultural estates. They purchased land in towns and in the countryside as investments, often renting out the land to tenants or transferring operations to individual farm managers. By 1850, the result was a dominant class of farmers who did not cultivate the soil but recorded and regulated the annual cycle of planting and harvest through ledgers and daybooks.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

N/A preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

N/A previously listed in the National Register

N/A previously determined eligible by the National Register

N/A designated a National Historic Landmark

N/A recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

N/A recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State historic preservation office

Other state agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: Approximately 3 acres

JTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>18</u>	<u>435560</u>	<u>4356480</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See attached map.

The boundary for the Vandyke-Heath House is shown on the accompanying New Castle County tax parcel map (tax parcel 14.22.1) and is outlined in bold black lines. The nominated property is a polygon containing approximately

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

The boundary includes the farmhouse and yard that have been associated historically with the David Wilson Thomas House and that maintain historic integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Bernard L. Herman, Rebecca J. Siders and Max Van Balgooy

Organization: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering

Street & Number: University of Delaware Telephone: (302) 451-8097

City or Town: Newark State: DE ZIP: 19716

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 4 Page 2

Vandyke-Heath House, N-5891

In my opinion, the property meets/ does not meet
the National Register criteria.



Dennis Greenhouse
County Executive
New Castle County
Delaware

7/11/87

Date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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and an opposing entry on the rear facade. It may have had an exterior chimney on the west gable end and an exterior cellar entry on the east gable end. The house is constructed of hewn logs joined with V-notch cornering. The logs are exposed on the front and rear walls of the interior and exterior. The interstices between the logs are chinked with plaster, and the interior and exterior walls are painted white. The room currently serves as a dining room and kitchen.

In the mid-nineteenth century, the building was raised to two-and-a-half stories with a frame addition. A modern open-string staircase in the northwest corner leads to the second floor chamber. This chamber contains three windows in the south wall and one in the north wall. A cedar closet and cupboard are in the west wall. A doorway in the west wall leads to the chamber and bath in the west wing, and a second doorway leads to the chamber in the east wing. This room currently serves as a bedroom.

During the mid-nineteenth century when the dwelling's height was raised, a two-story, frame wing about 16' x 13' was added west of the house. It contains a parlor on the first floor and a bedroom and bath on the second floor. The parlor has a fireplace in the west wall with a wooden, classically-inspired mantle and two cupboards built into the jambs on both sides of the interior chimney. The north wall has two windows, and the south wall has a window and a paneled door leading to the front porch. The east wall has a small passage connecting the wing with the original block of the house. The second floor has two windows, one in the south wall and one in the north wall.

The wing's construction required the removal of the original chimney and relocated the front entry of the house by changing the original entry to a window, cutting a doorway between the two rooms, and placing the new front entry in the wing. Late in the nineteenth century, a two-story, two-bay frame wing about 16' x 14' was added on the east side of the original block. It contains one room on the first floor and a chamber above. The first floor contains two windows in the south wall and one in the east wall. There are exterior doors in the north and south wall; the south door is sealed and inaccessible from the outside. The fireplace in the east gable end is blocked and modified to accommodate the cast-iron stove. The chamber above has a window in the south wall and another in the north wall. This wing most likely served originally as a kitchen but is now a utility room.

The present entry to the cellar is an exterior bulkhead door on the north side of the west wing. In the earliest section of the cellar, the original semi-round, unbarked log sills and joists survive. The rubble foundation remains intact except for portions of the west wall (which was broken through in the nineteenth century to provide access to the cellar of the west wing) and the south wall (which was replaced with modern cement block in the mid-twentieth century). What may have been the early exterior entrance to the cellar was blocked by the addition of the east wing,

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page # 3

=====
entrance to the cellar was blocked by the addition of the east wing,
although a rare run of early log steps still exist in the cellar.

Contributing Buildings
dwelling

Noncontributing Buildings
barn
chicken coop
privy

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Daniel Charles Heath, the builder of the Jacob Vandyke House, was among this rural elite. The earliest reference to Heath is his appearance in 1778 as the highest rated taxpayer in Appoquinimink Hundred.¹ By 1797, his tax assessment records him with 5000 acres, two dwellings, nine outhouses, and 47 slaves.² His taxable assets of \$49,066 easily placed him among the wealthiest citizens in Delaware.

The house is located on a major highway connecting the Sassafras River and Duck Creek. Known as the Sassafras Road in the eighteenth century, it was the trade link between the east and west sides of the Chesapeake Peninsula. During the nineteenth-century, the Greenspring and Vandyke Railroad Station was built on this road next to the Vandyke-Heath House. It was not until the twentieth century that the Greenspring-Vandyke Road ceased to be an important road.³

When this house was built, the majority of dwellings were of log or frame construction; a significantly lesser number were made of brick. Hewn log walling was the most widely used construction and was adopted for structures ranging from stylish two-story houses to chicken coops, yet few of these buildings survived the nineteenth century rebuilding cycles. Those that remain, however, represent the best of log-building technology.

In 1799, Heath's debts forced the sale of his entire estate. Edward Tilghman, a Philadelphia attorney, purchased 2022 acres of the 5000-acre estate and sold it piecemeal over the next several years.⁴ Tilghman managed his property second-hand, leaving direct administration to local managers. In 1807, a parcel of 150 acres containing the house changed hand several times, first to Charles and Hannah Coalman, then to Peter and Mary Taggart, and finally to Simon Sweetman, a farmer in Appoquinimink Hundred.⁵

Sweetman first appeared on a tax assessment list in 1808.⁶ By 1816, he owned 250 acres of land, half of which was improved with two wooden buildings, along with two slaves and livestock giving him a total assessment of \$1984. This placed him in the top wealth decile for Appoquinimink Hundred.⁷ By 1824, when he sold his estate to his son, he had acquired nearly 400 acres.⁸ Soon afterward, Simon Sweetman, Jr., increased his holdings through his marriage to Martha Heverin, who owned 150 acres.⁹

In 1847, Sweetman sold the house and surrounding land to Jacob Vandyke.¹⁰ It was during Vandyke's lifetime that the Queen Anne and Kent Railroad extended a line from Middletown in the 1870s and established a station at the Greenspring-Vandyke Road, giving the station and house its name of Vandyke.

The Vandyke-Heath House has integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association.

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Attachment A contains relevant historic and present day maps: Rea & Price's 1849 Map of the State of Delaware, Beers' 1868 Map of the State of Delaware, Hopkins' 1881 Map of New Castle County, present-day highway maps for New Castle and Kent counties.

Footnotes

1. Scharf, 1888, 118.
2. NCTA, Appoquinimink Hundred, 1797.
3. Pryor, 1975, 5.
4. NCRD, Book T, Volume 2, p. 5 (1799); NCTA, Appoquinimink Hundred, 1804, Edward Tilghman; NCRD, Book G, Volume 3, p. 429 (1805).
5. NCRD, Book G, Volume 3, p. 334 (1807); Pryor, 1975, 143.
6. Pryor, 1975, 143.
7. NCTA, Appoquinimink Hundred, 1816. Statistical analysis conducted by the Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware.
8. NCRD, Book B, Volume 4, p. 249 (1824).
9. Pryor, 1975, 143.
10. NCRD, Book V, Volume 5, p. 231 (1847).

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Primary Sources

- KCCC. Kent County Court of Chancery, Dover, Delaware.
- KCOC. Kent County Orphans Court Records, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.
- K CPR. Kent County Probate Records, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.
- KCRD. Kent County Recorder of Deeds, Dover, Delaware.
- KCTA. Kent County Tax Assessments, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.
- NCOC. New Castle County Orphans Court Records, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.
- NCPR. New Castle County Probate Records, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.
- NCRD. New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Wilmington, Delaware.
- NCRW. New Castle County Recorder of Wills, Wilmington, Delaware.
- NCTA. New Castle County Tax Assessments, Delaware State Archives, Dover, Delaware.

Secondary Sources

- Black, Samuel Henry. 1820. "An Essay, On the Intrinsic Value of Arable Land; With some General Remarks on the Science of Agriculture." American Farmer 2: 9-51.
- Bordley, J. B. 1801. Essays and Notes on Husbandry and Rural Affairs. Philadelphia: Budd and Bartram for Thomas Dobson.
- Bushman, Claudia. 1982. "The Wilson Family in Delaware and Indiana." Delaware History 20: 28-9.
- Cunnington, C. Willett, and Cunnington, Phillis. 1964. Handbook of English Costume in the 18th Century. London: Faber and Faber.
- Delaware Register. 1838. "Rural Life." The Delaware Register and Farmers' Magazine (April) 1:3, p. 195-198.

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Ferguson, David. 1981. "Architectural Survey Site Designated Number 1 Stellar Farm near Taylor's Bridge." Unpublished paper.

Herman, Bernard L. 1987. Architecture and Rural Life in Central Delaware, 1700-1900. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press.

Munroe, John. 1979. History of Delaware. Newark, DE: University of Delaware Press.

Munroe, John. 1973. Louis McLane: Federalist and Jacksonian. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Pryor, Clifford. 1975. The Forest of Appoquinimink. Milford, DE: Shawnee Printing.

[Rush, Benjamin.] 1786. "An Account of the progress of Population, Agriculture, Manners, and Government in Pennsylvania, in a letter from a citizen of Pennsylvania, to his friend in England." Columbia Magazine 1:3, p. 117-122.

Scharf, Thomas J. 1888. History of Delaware, 1609-1888. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards & Company.

Spurrier, John. 1793. The Practical Farmer: Being A New and Compendious System of Husbandry, Adapted to the Different Soils and Climates of America. Wilmington, DE: Brynberg and Andrews.

Sweeney, John. 1959. Grandeur on the Appoquinimink: The House of William Corbit at Odessa, Delaware. Newark, DE: University of Delaware Press.

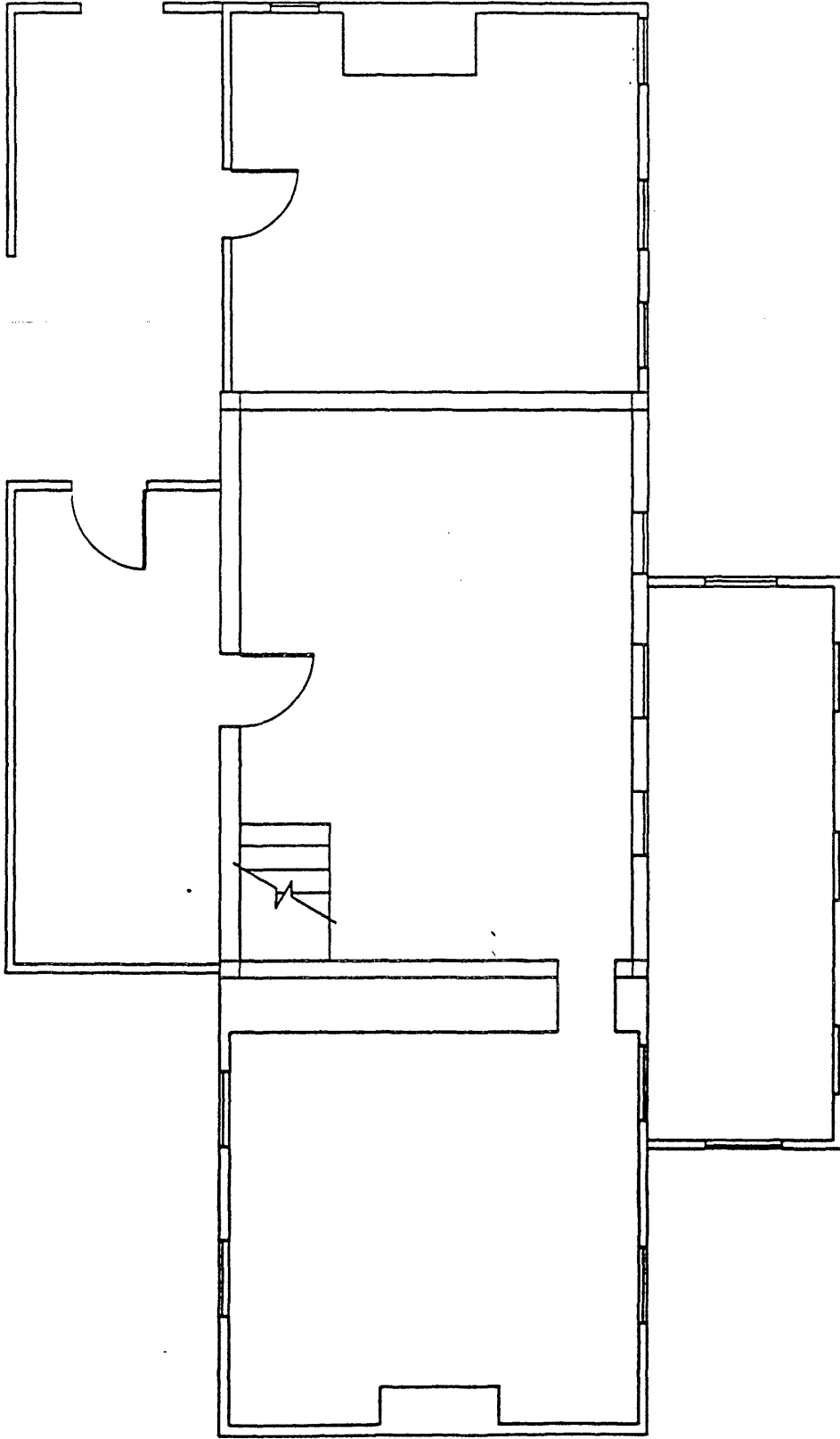
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3 acres. Beginning at a point defined by the intersection of the north side of County Road 47 and the east side of the Maryland and Delaware Railroad right-of-way, proceed approximately 500 feet northeast along the east side of the Maryland and Delaware Railroad right-of-way. Then, proceed east approximately 450 feet to the north side of County Road 47. The parcel boundary is completed by returning to the starting point at the intersection the Maryland and Delaware right-of-way and Road 47. The location of the property is UTM reference point 18 435560 4356480.

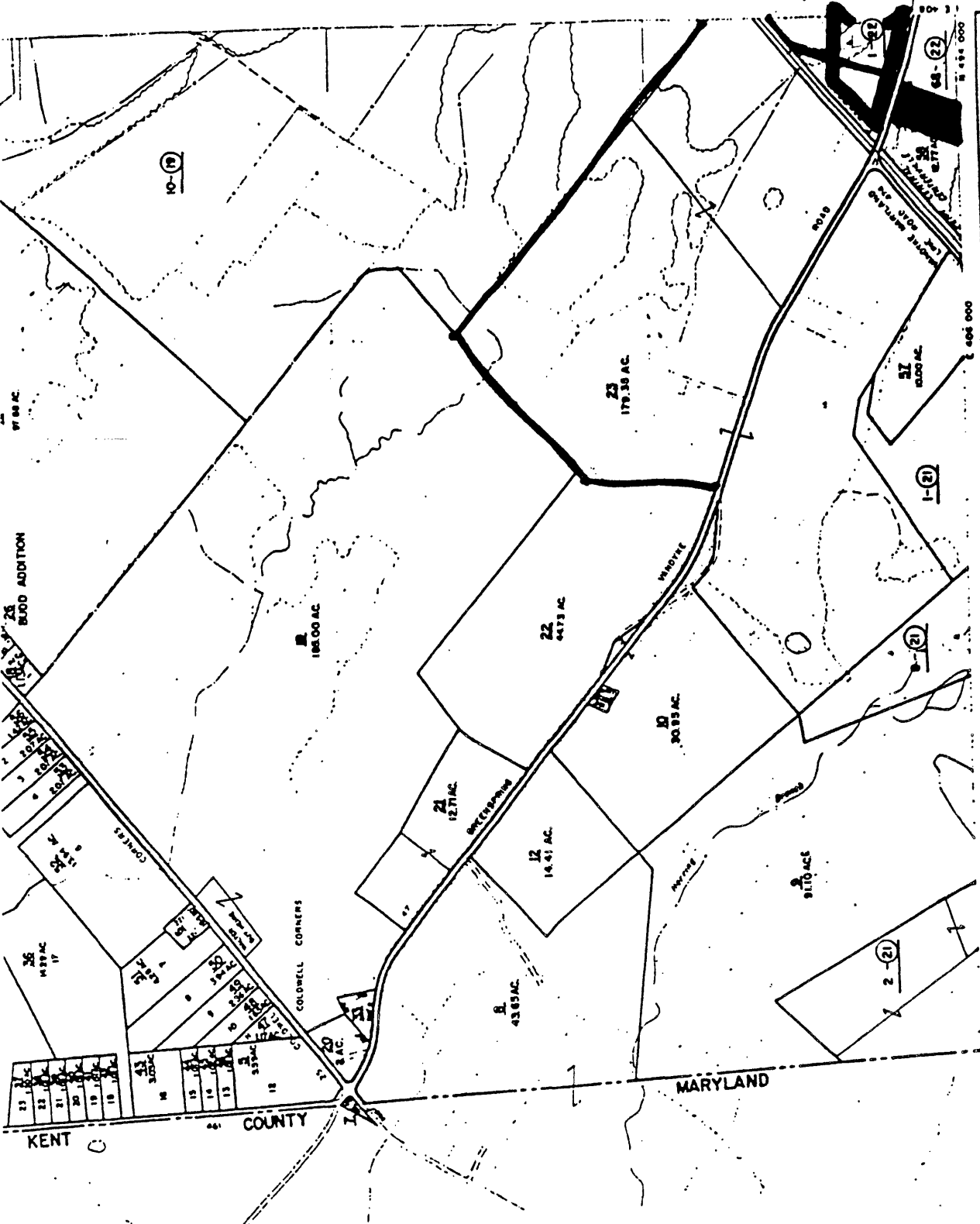


15'

52'

VAN DYKE-HEATH HOUSE
TOWNSEND VICINITY, NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE
(DRAWING AFTER MEASURED SKETCH DRAWN BY STACY K. LITTLE, 1986)





PROPERTY MAP
 NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE
 HUNDRED APPROXIMATE MAP NO. 18
 SCALE 1" = 400'
 DATE OF PLANNING 10-10-00
 DATE COMPLETED 10-10-00
 DWS SYSTEM 10-10-00
 GIS SYSTEM 10-10-00

REVISIONS	DATE	BY
1	10/10/00	10
2	10/10/00	10
3	10/10/00	10
4	10/10/00	10
5	10/10/00	10

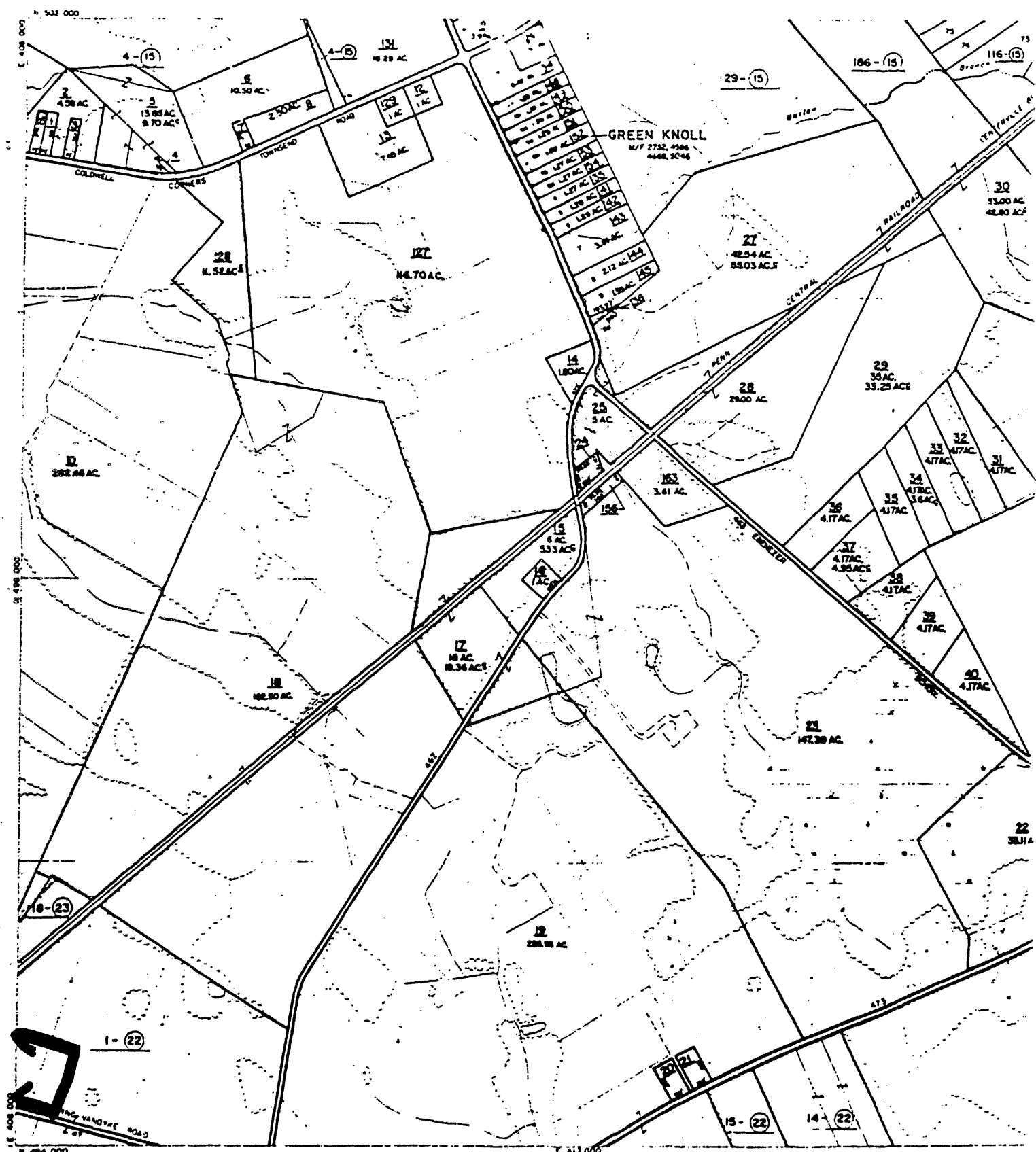


- PARCEL OUTLINE
- INTERIOR PARCEL LINE
- PARCEL HOOK
- PARCEL NUMBER
- TOTAL ASSESSED ACREAGE
- TOTAL CALCULATED ACREAGE
- PARCEL CONTROL MAP NO.
- SUBDIVISION LOT NO.

- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY ROAD
- HUNDRED LINE
- COMPOSITE LIMITS
- BRIDGE
- STATION
- POLE
- FIELD LINE
- CEMETERY
- CHURCH
- SCHOOL
- WOODED AREA
- FENCE
- WATER
- SEARCH MARK
- ENCLOSURE

LEGEND

VANDYKE - HEATH HOUSE
 TAX PARCEL 14.18.24



BASE MAP PREPARED BY
L. ROBERT KNIBBALL
Consulting Engineer
 EBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

THIS MAP IN WHOLE OR IN PART MAY NOT
 BE REPRODUCED IN ANY FORM OR BY
 ANY MEANS WITHOUT WRITTEN PER-
 MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF Fi-
 NANCE OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY

MAP LOCATION

14	15	16
18	19	20
21	22	23

LEGEND

	INTERSTATE HIGHWAY		STATE LINE		CHURCH
	U.S. HIGHWAY		COUNTY LINE		SCHOOL
	STATE HIGHWAY		HUNDRED LINE		WOODED AREA
	LEGISLATIVE ROUTE NO.		BRIDGE		FENCE
	ROAD, PAVED		STREAM		MARSH
	ROAD, UNPAVED		POND		BEACH MARK
	TRAIL		FIELD LINE		BLOCK/SEC
	R/W ROAD				
	RAILROAD				

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

75°45' STATE LINE 1.4 MI. 436000m E. TOWNSEND J MI. 438 42'30" TOWNSEND
39°22'30"

4358000m N.

SASSAFRAS, MD 3.2 MI.

PENNSYLVANIA

Ebenezer Ch
Cem

Gears
Corners

Vandyke VANDYKE-HEATH HOUSE

D I S T R I C T

4356

4355

4354

20'

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
SCALE: 1:24000

Dexter
Corners

McKays
Corners

Blodgetts
Corners

D

Downwood

Black Stallion Ditch

Branch

Reynolds
Corners

Cem

