

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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20. (N-5604):

A. Property Name: John Evans House

B. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: The John Evans House is located at the northwest corner of Main Street and North College Avenue. The house is situated on a 3.51 acre lot (property tax map, City of Newark, Map No. 20, Lot No. 1), but since the major part of the lot is filled by two large modern buildings and a parking lot, only the house and a narrow buffer zone around it are being included in this nomination. The boundaries around the building are as follows: on the east and south the nominated area includes the space from the building to the street curb, and on the west and north the nominated area extends from the building a distance of 10 feet.

C. Owner: University of Delaware, HULLIHEN Hall Newark, Delaware 19711

D. Property Description:

The John Evans House is a two-story, gable-roofed, brick building that measures six bays across its main (south) facade. A two-story wing, slightly lower in level than the main block, extends from eastern side of the rear (north) elevation. This form is the result of three major building periods. The original block, dating circa 1800, includes the easternmost two bays of the south elevation and the two-story rear wing. Two bays were added to the south elevation later in the nineteenth century, and sometime between 1891 and 1907, two more bays were added to the south side.

In 1912, the owners had two storefront bay windows installed on the south elevation. Renovation in the 1960's involved removing an extra layer of brick from the south elevation and refacing that wall with new brick in Flemish bond. During this process, a doorway with a semi-circular fanlight was uncovered between the two eastern bays of the south elevation; however, it was again sealed up with the new brick facing. Architect Richard Whittingham designed the two pedimented door frames on the south and east elevations. The dormers may also date to this 1960 period.

The walls are laid in seven-course common bond, except for the newer facade. Windows are six-over-nine sash with paneled shutters on the first floor and louvered shutters on the second. The gable dormers are lit by round-arched sash windows.

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E. Historical Background:

The earliest known occupant of this building was John Evans, who bought the property in 1804. Listed in an 1806 deed book as a cabinetmaker, several of Evans' signed pieces of furniture survive today. In addition to living in this building with his wife and family, Evans also operated a general store at this location.

Following Evans' tenure, the building served as the home of two Delaware College presidents. Purnell resided there from 1870 to 1885, and Caldwell from 1885 to 1888.

The building housed a restaurant and various stores until 1947, when it was purchased by the University of Delaware. It is now used by the University's Career Planning and Placement Office.

F. Significance:

This building fulfills National Register selection Criterion A in demonstrating the practice of using dwellings for commercial space in Newark.

The John Evans House is an early example of the dwelling/commercial dual usage of buildings that was the common practice on Main Street until the early-twentieth century. Stores were usually operated out of the proprietor's home or in a building of domestic style and scale. There was very little differentiation of building types to reflect different activities during the nineteenth century. The building form tended to rely on the domestic styles that were in vogue at the time.

UNIVERSITY
OF
DELAWARE

252-19

SKETCH MAP

Scale 1"-100'

N-5604

John Evans House

Property no. 20
Lot no. 1

COLLEGE

AND

BALTIMORE

256.42'

311

578'M

550'M

3.51 AC^c

UNIVERSITY
OF
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AVE.

540 M

STREET

896

2

MAIN

273

N 613 000

1.49 AC^c

239'M

239'M

50'M

45'

103.41'

45'

92'M

CHURCH
LANE

M. 882

175'M

238'M

COLLEGE

B.M.

44.5'