

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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32. (N-5658):

A. Property Name: 34 Choate Street

B. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: The building is located at 34 Choate Street, on the east side of that road. Choate Street runs in a northerly direction from Main Street, between Chapel and Center Streets. The plot of ground that contains this building has a frontage of 60 feet and a depth of 133.80 feet (property tax map, City of Newark, No. 20, Lot No. 152). (.18 acre).

C. Owner: Henry Nutt Blount, 34 Choate Street, Newark, Delaware 19711

D. Property Description:

Constructed circa 1880, ^{2 M.F.} the dwelling at 34 Choate Street is a two-story, gable-roofed brick building with original trim and front porch still intact. It is rectangular in plan, with one of its short ends oriented toward the street. The facade measures two bays across and is lit by two-over-two sash windows with plain wood sills and lintels. The door, which is decorated with molded round-arched panels, has a large transom above it. A hip-roofed porch supported by chamfered posts extends the full length of the facade. Orientation on the porch includes arched braces on the posts, decoratiely-trimmed rafter ends, and a square baluster railing. The facade is laid in stretcher bond with stained mortar joints, while the remaining walls are laid in nine-course common bond with white mortar.

The rear of the house is differentiated by a change in the direction of the roofline, and has no extraneous detail. A one-story, shed-roofed frame wing abuts the rear wall. Originally clad with wood shingles, the roof now has a covering of asphalt shingles. Its molded box cornice has a row of paired scroll brackets along the facade.

E. Historical Background:

This building was constructed c. 1893, at a time when the surrounding lots had been newly-laid out and were being developed. Judging from contemporary maps and atlases (Beer's Atlas of Delaware and Baist's Atlas of New Castle County), Choate Street was cut and graded between 1868 and 1893. Many lots on this street were occupied by single and two-family dwellings by 1900. Sanborn Insurance Survey Maps also indicate that little further development or alterations occurred in this area through the 1960's.

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F. Significance:

34 Choate Street is an unaltered example of the type of housing constructed for the laboring population during Newark's initial period of industrial growth in the 1880's. It is eligible under Criterion C for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Although the form of this building is relatively simple, it is built with quality materials and has the same decorative elements found in larger homes at this time period. This attention to detail, and the fact that it is a single-family structure, are important distinctions to be made in view of the labor mass production of lower income dwellings built in the form of duplex and row housing.

The Choate Street neighborhood, one of the first side streets to develop in Newark, is populated with other brick and frame late-nineteenth-century dwellings similar in form and decoration to No. 34. In addition, several frame duplexes are also located on the block. Unfortunately, the appearance of most of the buildings on this street have been significantly changed by the removal of original decorative elements and the addition of unsympathetic wings. No. 34 Choate Street stands in excellent condition in its original form, best revealing the character of this early workers' neighborhood.

SKETCH MAP Scale 1"-100'

N-5658
34 Choate Street

Property no. 32
Lot no. 161

