

PH0011100

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Delaware	
COUNTY:	Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	71-6-10-0014	DATE
		6/31/71



1. NAME

COMMON:
Loockerman Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Loockerman Hall

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Delaware State College Campus

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 type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Closed for restoration.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Delaware State College

STREET AND NUMBER:
Du Pont Highway

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Kent County Court House, Deed Book G, Vol. 7, Page 390, etc.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
NONE

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: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Loockerman Hall is a large brick Georgian plantation house, dating from 1730 or earlier. It has a simple rectangular plan 40 by 50 feet and exhibits the high quality architecture of the colonies.

It gives no evidence of early wings, though there surely were separate dependent buildings including a kitchen, smokehouse, wash house, carriage house, and quarters for house servants. At some greater distance from the "big house" were the plantations barns, stables, granaries, and the quarters for the field hands and their families.

Some present exterior features of the house are late additions and are planned for removal. These include the dormer windows and the porch. Removal of the porch will reveal again the handsome proportions of the entrance front. The present front door and window sash need replacements of contemporary early style.

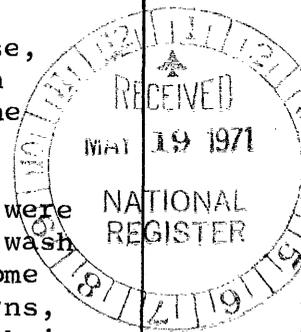
The stone belt course at the second floor line, the moulded brick water-table under the first floor windows, and the stone-trimmed basement windows will be again in full view. The original stone steps (five in number) were moved from under the front door outward to serve the porch when it was added; the prospect is that they can be repaired and moved back to their old place.

One stands back and looks up to see the classic cornice complete with its sophisticated modillions and "wall-of-Troy" dentils carried all around the house. The gables take this cornice up the slopes of the roof and thus form a pediment for each gable-- a rich and beautiful feature of the house which is rarely found in so complete a form in Delaware or elsewhere in so early an American house.

The stately and dignified character of the Loockerman house's exterior reflects the scale of the interior design. Inside, ceilings of the first floor are 11 feet 6 inches high, of the second floor, 10 feet 6 inches. Arrangement of rooms on both floors is similar. A center hall, more than 10 feet wide, leads from the front door to the stairway in the rear or west side. Here, under a stair landing, is a smaller door that once led out to gardens and dependent buildings.

The hall serves two large rooms on each side of the house. Between each pair of rooms is a brick wall with fireplaces built back to back and with cupboards on each side of each fireplace. Each of these four large rooms had one end fully paneled around its hearth.

The woodwork of five rooms is still in place, and three other rooms give evidence of having been paneled originally. All the



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

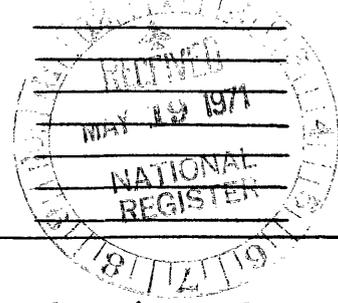
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Circa 1730 2.17.172-1793

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" 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 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

Loockerman Hall, well into its third century, for size and elegance in brick, stone and wood could be considered to be one of the finest pre-Revolutionary houses now standing in Delaware.

Sadly enough, this distinguished plantation mansion at the head of St. Jones River was allowed to fall into disuse and disrepair after seventy (70) years of usefulness as a classroom building and dormitory. For a while after 1891 it had been the main building for the Delaware State College established that year.

The origin of the Loockerman family began in the 17th century with the arrival of the young Dutch Govert Loockerman in 1633 at New Amsterdam and soon becoming "the richest man in North America, being worth 52,000 Dutch guilders or about \$208,099". Govert's son Jacob is recorded as moving to Talbot County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where he sired (among other children) Nicholas Loockerman who moved to Kent County, Delaware.

A deed showing that in 1723 Nicholas bought of Andrew Caldwell the tract of land known as part of "The Range, lying at the head of St. Jones River," for 100 pounds. Presumably he and his wife, Susan Emerson Loockerman, built their house soon thereafter. It was the early home of their son Vincent, a Revolutionary patriot whose own fine house of 1742 is a landmark in Dover.

In Scharf's "History of Delaware" (1888) one finds a brief and accurate description of the house as to its dimensions and adornments. He adds: "The slave quarters were a short distance away. Here Mr. Loockerman lived in the easy style of the old-time Southern gentleman, and here he died. He built a dam and sawmill at the head of St. Jones Creek, northeast of the house..."

The main significance of the Loockerman Hall mansion is its outstanding, handsome, and sturdy example of the Georgian plantation houses of America and speaks eloquently of the culture of its era. It is one of high importance on any list of the old houses of Delaware and the Eastern Shore. Indeed, it is an important contributor to one of our country's greatest inheritances, the high quality of architecture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Delaware, by J. Thomas Scharf, Philadelphia, 1888, vol. II, p. 1081.
 "The Loockermans Manor House Near Dover", by Annie Jump Cannon, in Delaware History, vol III, pp. 234-235.
Delaware: A Guide to the First State, ed. by Jeannette Eckman and others, New York, 1955 (mention only).

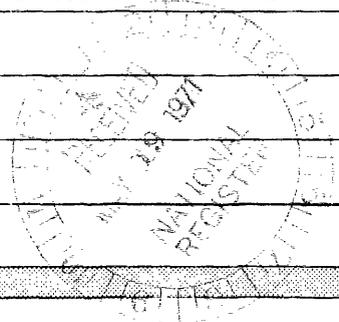
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	
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NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4

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: Mr. Rea Wilkie, Historic Registrar

ORGANIZATION: Department of State DATE: 5/6/71

STREET AND NUMBER: Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name Rea Wilkie
 Title Historic Registrar, State Liaison Officer for Delaware

Date May 13, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUN 21 1971

Date _____

ATTEST: William M. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date MAY 24 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Delaware	
COUNTY	Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	71.6.10.0014	DATE
		6/21/91

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

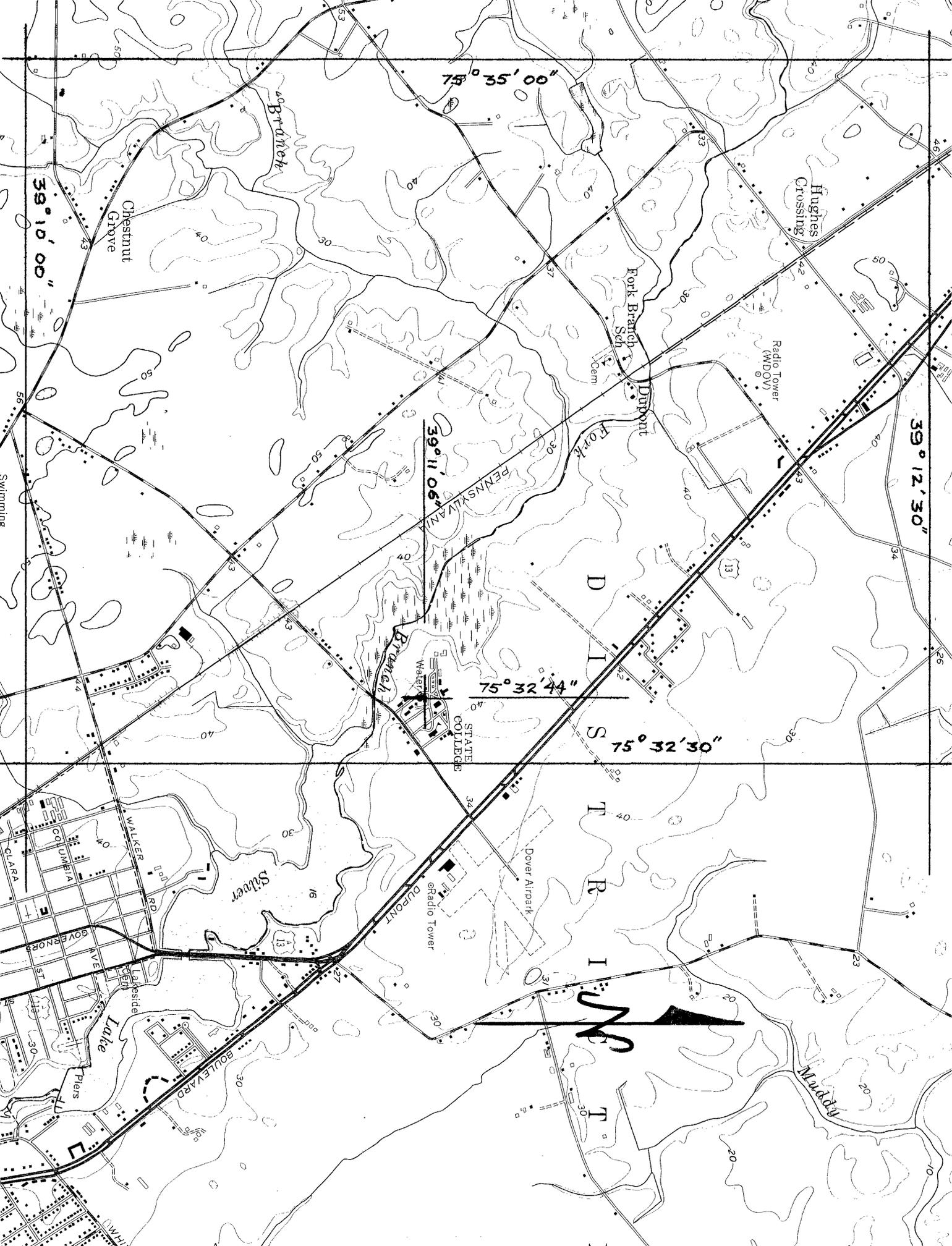
rooms and halls have cornices, chair-rails, and bases which will be part of the restoration.

All of this work including the paneling, is of excellent quality in Georgian design, with a charming overglaze of naivete which often characterized the work of early American craftsmen.

A recent fire caused major damage to the stairway. However, the remaining portion will allow for exact duplication. The stairway was originally a very handsome one which ran from the first floor to the attic. The railing side was made with nicely turned balusters rising from treads, with their strongly carved bracket ends, to sturdy moulded hand rails. The railings with curved slopes at each landing added much to the grace of the stairway. A paneled wainscot followed the line of the railing up the wall of the wide stair well.

Other areas damaged by this fire proved to be of small consequence.





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75° 32' 30"

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

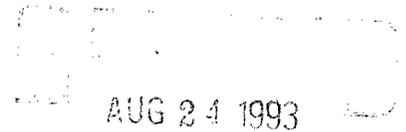
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATIONAL APPROVAL
Loockerman Hall

Patrick Andrews 10/5/93

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 1-Amendment

NATIONAL
REGISTER

name of multiple property listing
AFRICAN-AMERICAN RESOURCES IN DELAWARE

LOOCKERMAN HALL, DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE, DOVER, DELAWARE K-112

Eligibility Criterion: A
Area of Significance: Social History and Education
Period of Significance: 1891-1942
Level of Significance: State

In addition to its significance as an example of mid-eighteenth century, Georgian architecture and its association with the Loockerman Family, Loockerman Hall has an additional area of significance. That is as the first building on the campus of the Delaware State College. As such it is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its association with the founding of Delaware's efforts to provide higher education for its African-American students.

Delaware State College was originally established as the State College for Colored Students by an act of the Delaware General Assembly on 15 May 1891. The college was created in response to the State's understanding that its African-American citizens needed some opportunity for higher education and that the University of Delaware was not available to students of color. The college was also established in response to the 1890 Morrill Land-Grant Act of the United States of America. This act provided financial assistance to the individual states for the creation of college's for African-Americans. The intent of the act was the same as that for the 1862 Morrill Act. That act had made available financial assistance to the states for the establishment of schools that would assist the agricultural interests of each state.

When the college was placed on its present site, the area was a working farm. Loockerman Hall was used as the college's first building. For the first 70 years of the college's existence, the building was used for academic and dormitory space. It is now used as a gallery museum and as a center for historical research on early American life in Delaware.