

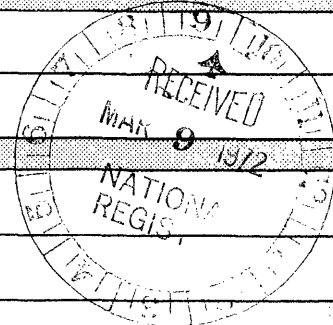
PH0021563

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY: JUN 2	
ENTRY NUMBER 3-9-72-347	DATE 3-9-72

1972



1. NAME

COMMON:  
Boyce

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Hale-Byrnes House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Corner of Route 7 and Route 4

CITY OR TOWN:  
Stanton

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: New Castle CODE: 003

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
New Castle County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Rodney Square

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
\_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D.C. STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

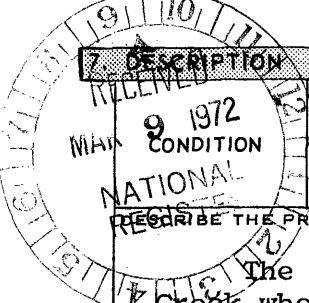
STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY



DESCRIPTION		(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 Hale-Byrnes house sits on the west bank of White Clay Creek where route 7 from Stanton to Christiana meets route 4 to Ogletown. It is a five bay brick house built upon stone. There are two stories with attic on the road side. The sharp slope of the bank allows the basement to be fully exposed on the creek side.

The house was built in two sections. The south section has been dated 1750, and the north section is somewhat later. The larger south end was designed in the William Penn style. That is, two small rooms off one large main entrance room which takes in the entire width of the house. During restoration, only one of these small rooms, the "Miller's Office" on the creek side, has been retained. These two south end rooms had a triangular chimney in common. The fireplaces with curved reveals and the floors are original. All other architectural features, such as chair rails, doors, panelled walls, iron fixtures, belong to the restoration. The stair is old, and installed in the location of the original stairway.

The second floor above this part has three rooms with small fireplaces in each. There is a main door on this floor opening out over the creek onto probably what was once a landing. This may have been used to facilitate moving of furniture to the second story as the stairway, narrow and circular, restricted movement. The attic does not run across the entire building, but is divided where the two original sections were joined. Original pegs and numbers in the rafters can be seen.

The north, later section of the house is divided into two rooms. The west, road side has a handsome large brick fireplace 5'4" high that takes up almost all of one side of the wall. There is evidence of a former bee hive oven in the back of the fireplace. Two pintels, both on the right side of the fireplace, are original. The other iron work has been added recently to fit the style and period of the building. The room next to this and the second floor above have been adapted for the needs of the present caretaker's quarters. Again each of the two rooms above has the original small fireplace. The flooring and stairs have the original boards of Delaware red pine.

Within, the house has been tastefully restored. Outside, the Georgian brick work remains. There is a belt course and a water table and the roof, now new, replaces the original as it was. Modern landscaping and parking area adapt the setting to meet the present purpose of the house, that is for civic, patriotic societies, and public visitation. This is enhanced by the natural beauty of the creek, several handsome, old sycamore trees, and an old spring house to be restored. The professional architect who assisted in the restoration was Mr. Albert Kruse.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

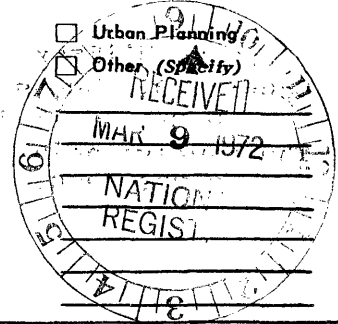
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1750 c. 1772

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education           | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input checked="" 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           | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               |   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hale-Byrnes House had a significant role in local industrial history and was a specific scene for an important encounter of the American Revolutionary War. Still in its original site, it remains a handsome example of 18th century architecture with its exterior Georgian brick work and interior original fireplaces.

First mention of the Hale-Byrnes House on White Clay Creek appears in 1752. The south end built in the William Penn plan was probably constructed by Samuel Hale after he purchased the property in 1750. Samuel Hale, from Philadelphia, was a potter and used the long cellar opening onto the creek as storage space for his pottery. It was conveniently near the creek's landing described by a contemporary source (1752) as the "most frequented landing on said creek." White Clay Creek empties one mile south into the Christiana River, then a major artery of northern Delaware.

The property changed hands and was bought by Daniel Byrnes who built a mill nearby about 1772. As he moved his family to live there at this time it is surmised that the north wing was added then to extend the living area and allow a separate kitchen area. Byrnes, a native of Kent County, was a devout Quaker and a spiritual leader in the Society of Friends when he moved to Philadelphia in 1784. While still in Delaware it is said that he held Quaker meetings in his home at White Clay Creek. Byrnes also invented a wooden instrument (later produced in brass) for the purpose of taking lunar observations to measure the angular distance between the sun and moon including the attitudes of both at the same time.

On September 3, 1777, a few days previous to the Battle of the Brandywine, the first battle between the invading British and Hessians and the defending light infantry of the Continentals had taken place at Cooches Bridge, less than five miles away from the Byrnes residence. This house is at the intersection of the Ogletown Road from Newark and the King's Highway from Christiana, and since the British under Lord William Howe were only a few miles down both roads, everyone knew a battle might occur at any time. General George Washington had ordered the Continental cannon to be placed directly in front of the house so that the artillerymen could cover both roads if the British came up either of them. The cannon

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Coghlan, Jill M., "Chain of Title Old Boyce House." Unpublished manuscript, N.D.  
Delaware Advertiser, July 30, 1829.  
Delaware Gazette, September 21, 1821.  
Delaware Journal, September 12, 1828.  
Delaware Military Archives, III, 1863.  
 Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Delaware, 1609-1888, 2 vols., Richards & Co., Philadelphia, 1888.  
The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, LIV, 106; VI, 343; XLVII, 275.

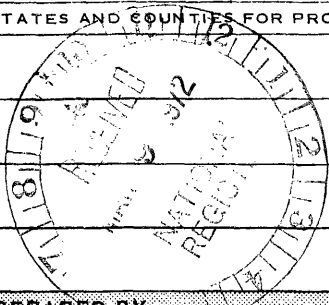
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	0 ' "	0 ' "		75° 40' 00"	39° 42' 30"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.004**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Mr. Rea Wilkie, Historic Registrar**

ORGANIZATION: **Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs** DATE: **1/14/72**

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 **Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins**  
 Title **State Liaison Officer**

Date **1-26-72**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

**Robert M. Utley**  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Date **6/2/72**

ATTEST:  
**William H. Huntley**  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
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	JUN 2 1972

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd.) -- Page 2

were placed on this rise of ground as thick as they could stand. General Washington, Marquis de la Fayette, General Anthony Wayne, General Nathaniel Greene and other high ranking officers including Captain Robert Kirkwood of near Newark, had arranged earlier in the day for Daniel Byrnes to make his house available for a council of war. It was decided to move picket lines a few miles closer to the British who were at this time still south of Christiana.

In 1790 Byrnes sold the house and it passed through several owners including Andrew C. Gray, the distinguished lawyer and democratic leader. The property eventually was acquired by the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities who were responsible for the restoration. On August 31, 1971, the property was generously given to the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs of the State of Delaware.

