



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Robert Davis Farmhouse, as part of the Nanticoke Indian Community, in Sussex County, Delaware, reference number 79003309, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 4/26/1979, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, March 18, 1980, Part II, Vol.45, No. 54, page 17451. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.


Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

9/8/2008
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Nanticoke Indian Community

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

2

Description: Harmony Church is a late-nineteenth century gothic style religious structure that retains its original use. The wood frame building is covered with asbestos siding and rests on a rock-faced concrete block foundation. The gable front has a lancet window with Y-tracery. Entrance is through a two-story crenelated tower at the junction of the main block and a lower two-bay wing. The door and window above form a wide lancet opening. The windows along the east side are lancets. All windows have stained glass borders with textured glass center panes. On the west side is what appears to be a more modern wing.

Significance: Prior to 1888, Harmony Church served all the remnant Indian families of the Nanticoke community. After a bitter controversy over the hiring of a black minister, many of the separatist families withdrew. This property illustrates the institutional assimilation of some remnant Indian families into black society.

Acreage: One acre

Verbal Boundary Description: This property consists of a 208' by 208' piece of land fronting on Route 24, and bounded on the east by a cultivated field, and on the north and west by woods.

UTM: 18/480930/4272860

3. Robert Davis Farmhouse and Environs (S-754)

Location: South of Route 24 about a quarter mile south of the intersection of Route 24 and County Road 297.

Description: The Robert Davis Farmhouse is a five-bay, two-story, single pile, wood frame building with asbestos siding, built about 1900. There are 2/2, double hung windows, with a lancet window in the corss-gable. The original three-bay, shed-roofed porch with cross-gable has been enclosed in recent years. The roof is covered with composition shingles, and the interior end-chimneys are corbelled. Several additions, including a side porch, have been made to the building since its construction. Of the outbuildings on the property, the log corn cribs deserve special attention. The splayed log walls feature saddle-notched corners and the structures rest on brick piers. There are openings in both the gable and the end wall with hinged doors. The gables have vertical sheathing, and the roofs are covered with wood shingles. Wood floors rest on top of square hewn sills.

Significance: This property exemplifies the material and economic assimilation of the Nanticoke Community into the culture of rural Sussex County. The distribution of features and artifact categories should provide data regarding the degree of difference of similarity between separatist Indian and other farmers in the area.

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO OAHAS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

Nanticoke Indian Community

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

One may expect a high degree of similarity in the tools and activities related to farming (an essentially commercial activity) and lower degree of similarity in subsistence-related activities.

Acroage: 3 acres

Verbal Boundary Description: The farmhouse, log corncribs and associated structures are surrounded by cultivated fields. The nominated property includes only the house and outbuilding complex.

UTM: 18/482280/4273140

4. Warren T. Wright Farmhouse Site (S-758)

Location: North site of Route 24 about one quarter mile south of the intersection of Route 24 and County Road 297.

Description: Although recently destroyed by fire, early photographs indicate that the Warren T. Wright Farmhouse closely resembled the Robert Davis Farmhouse and may have been built by the same carpenter. The remains are partially visible. No alteration has been made to the site since the demolition of the farmhouse.

Significance: The Warren T. Wright Farmhouse Site offers the opportunity to study the degree of material assimilation exhibited by separatist Indian farmers in the early-twentieth century when the community was undergoing "consciousness-raising" as a result of the studies of Frank G. Speck in the Indian River area. Warren Wright was a leader in the nativist movement of the period. Expected data categories are the same as for the Robert Davis Farmhouse.

Acroage: One acre.

Verbal Boundary Description: A one acre plot of unplowed land surrounded by cultivated fields and private residences.

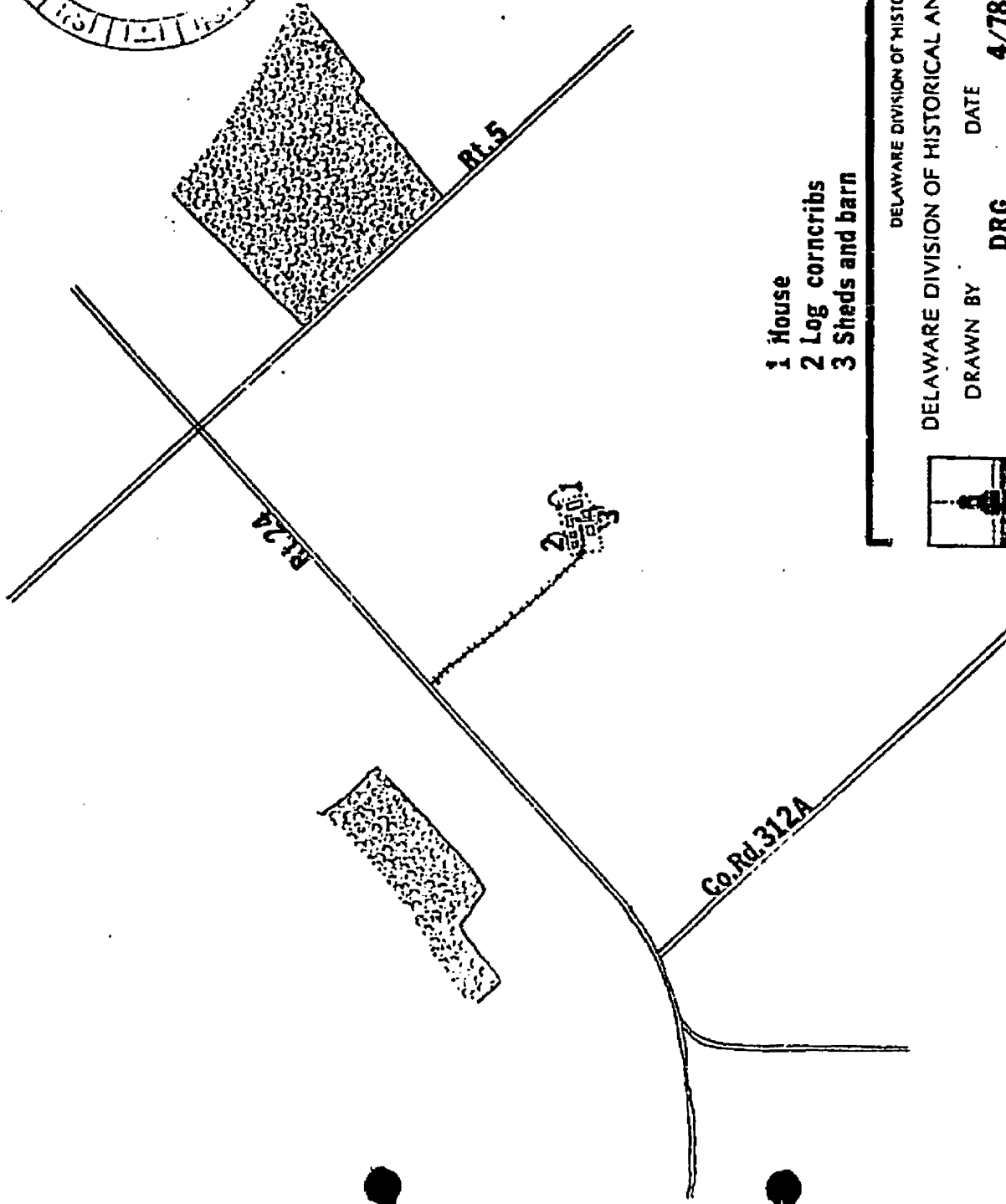
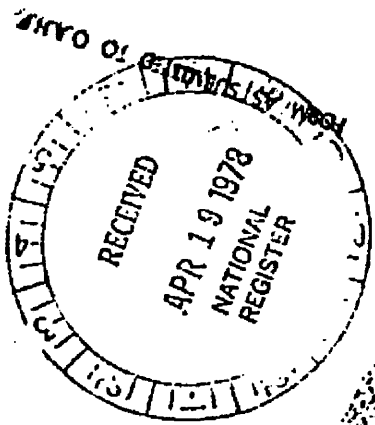
UTM: 18/481940/4273390

5. Ames Hitchens Chicken Farm (S-755)

Location: North of Route 24, approximately 200 yards behind Harmony Church.

Description: The chicken farm of Ames Hitchens is composed of a two-story, wood frame, gable-front structure with living quarters and two long, one-story, flat-roof buildings, used as chicken houses. The two-story structure is covered

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO O.A.H.P.



- 1 House
- 2 Log cornercibs
- 3 Sheds and barn



DELAWARE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DELAWARE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DRAWN BY DRG DATE 4/78 SCALE 1:9600

FILE S-754 TITLE NANTICOKE



Richard L. ...
 Richard L. ...
 Richard L. ...
 (no photo of building)

Name: Robert Davis Farm House

Location: Rt. 24, near Millsboro, Delaware

Photographer: Frank N. Porter III

Date: December 1977

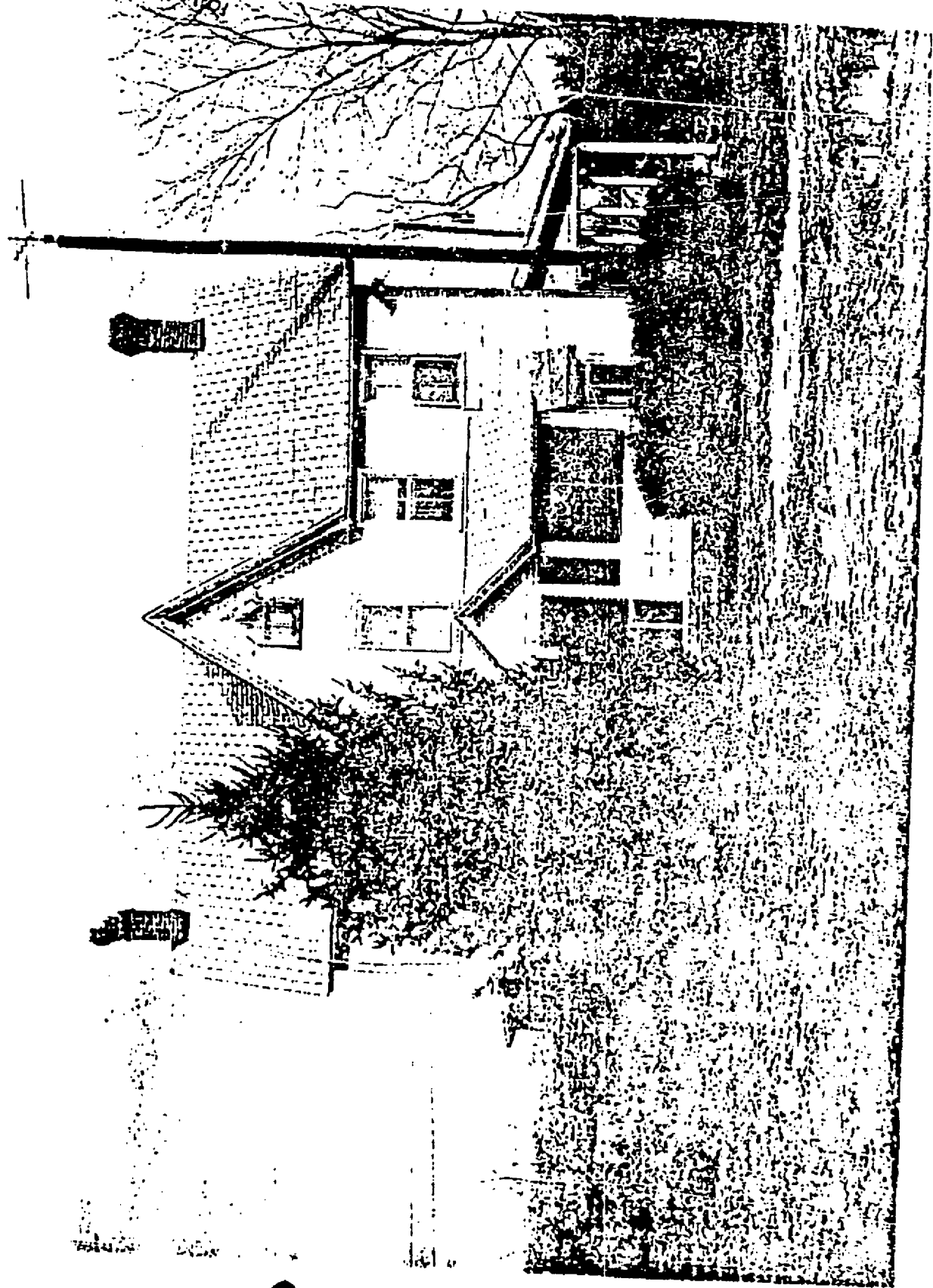
Location of Negative: Div. of Hist. & Cultural Affairs,
B/ASHP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901

Description: View to the east.

Photograph Number: 3a.

APR 11 1978

TOY AS SENTED TO G.A.H.P.



Name: Robert Davis Farm; log corncribs
Location: Rt. 24; near Millsboro, Delaware
Photographer: Frank W. Porter III
Date: September 1977
Location of Negative: Div. of Hist. & Cultural Affairs,
B/AHP, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901
Description: View to Northwest

Photograph Number: 3b. APR 19 1978

FORM AS SUBMITTED TO GAIFF

