

United States Department of the Interior

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

The attached property, the Amstel House, in New Castle County, Delaware, reference number 77000386, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 5/12/1977, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 7, 1978, Part II, Vol.43, No. 26, page 5184. 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

N-1306

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **Dr. Finney House**

AND/OR COMMON **AMSTEL HOUSE (Preferred Name)**

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **Northwest corner of Delaware and
Fourth Streets**

CITY, TOWN **New Castle** VICINITY OF **One** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDINGS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **New Castle Historical Society**

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN **New Castle** VICINITY OF STATE **Delaware**

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC **Recorder of Deeds for New Castle County**

STREET & NUMBER **Public Building, Rodney Square**
CITY, TOWN **Wilmington** STATE **Delaware**

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE **Historic American Buildings Survey, #9-3**

DATE **1934** FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS **Library of Congress**
CITY, TOWN **Washington, D. C.** STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE		
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE	
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The five-bay facade of the Amstel House fronts on Fourth Street and is embellished with a moulded brick water table and a protruding two-brick belt course. What is supposed to have been an earlier house fronting on Delaware Street now forms a wing of the main house. The detailing of the water table and belt course on the main facade continue along Delaware Street, though the belt course is at a lower level on the wing. Both are laid in Flemish bond.

The main facade is found in the gable end of the house, an unusual characteristic for town houses in Delaware. The broad gable is pedimented with cove cornices marking the roofline and the gable. Three windows pierce the gable and there is a dormer on the south side of the shingled roof. The windows of the first floor are surmounted by segmental brick arches, as are those of the basement. If there are arches over the second story windows, they are hidden by the cornice. The sashes are double-hung with nine-over-nine lights.

The frontispiece of the main doorway is classical in detail, with engaged pilasters and a broken pediment. The deep-set door has a fanlight surmounted by a keystone.

The center hall in the front part of the house is flanked by one room on each floor. In the parlor on the north or garden side is a panelled endwall. The large fireplace has a simple dog-eared surround and a dog-eared overmantel but no shelf. There is a deep relief to the panels flanking the fireplace and to those embellishing the butterfly cupboards on either end of the room. There are no windows on this side of the house. In the rear of the room, a French door provides access to the garden. A dentil cornice and a chair rail accent the room. On the south, the chimney is built against the wing of the house and there are windows along Delaware Street.

A kitchen and pantry are found in what is supposed to be the original section of the house. The fireplace against the west wall of the kitchen encompasses almost the entire endwall. This wing has six-over-nine light windows surmounted by segmental brick arches on the south wall and flat brick arches on the north wall. The hallway joining the two sections of the house is contained in a stuccoed addition where the two sections join.

The house today, as originally, stands on a single-family residential street. Since the eighteenth century, the spaces between houses have been filled by the addition of newer houses.

13 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The exact construction date of the Amstel House has not been determined, but it certainly is the oldest of the large town houses that were built in New Castle during the late colonial and early federal periods. It was the home of Dr. John Finney who bought the property in 1738 and may have built the present house before his death in 1774. His son, John Finney, Jr., lived in Pennsylvania and rented the house to Nicholas Van Dyke, who lived there until 1785.

Van Dyke was President of the Delaware State, as the governors were styled at that time. His daughter, Ann, was married in the house at a ceremony attended by General Washington.

After Governor Van Dyke moved out of the house, his daughter and her new husband, Kensey Johns, took up residence there until their house at Third and Delaware streets was completed. Johns was later Chancellor of Delaware and a principal in the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

Since 1929, Amstel House has been a museum.

9) MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Albert Kruse and others, Historical survey of New Castle, filed in New Castle Public Library.

Higgins, Anthony, Editor, New Castle on the Delaware. New Castle: New Castle Historical Society, 1973.

10) GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY One-half

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	4, 5, 1	4, 6, 0	4, 3	8, 9	9, 6, 0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING						
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on the south by Delaware Street, on the east by Fourth Street. The lot is rectangular, 86 feet wide along Delaware Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11) FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Edward F. Heite, Historic Registrar

ORGANIZATION

Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

February 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Records

TELEPHONE

302-678-4564

CITY OR TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

12) STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS.

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Laurel

TITLE

Director, Div. of Hist & Cultural Affairs

DATE

3/17/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

10 301
10 75

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Dr. Finney House

AND/OR COMMON

Amstel House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN New Castle

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

New Castle

STATE

Delaware

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey
Wilmington South Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24000

DATE

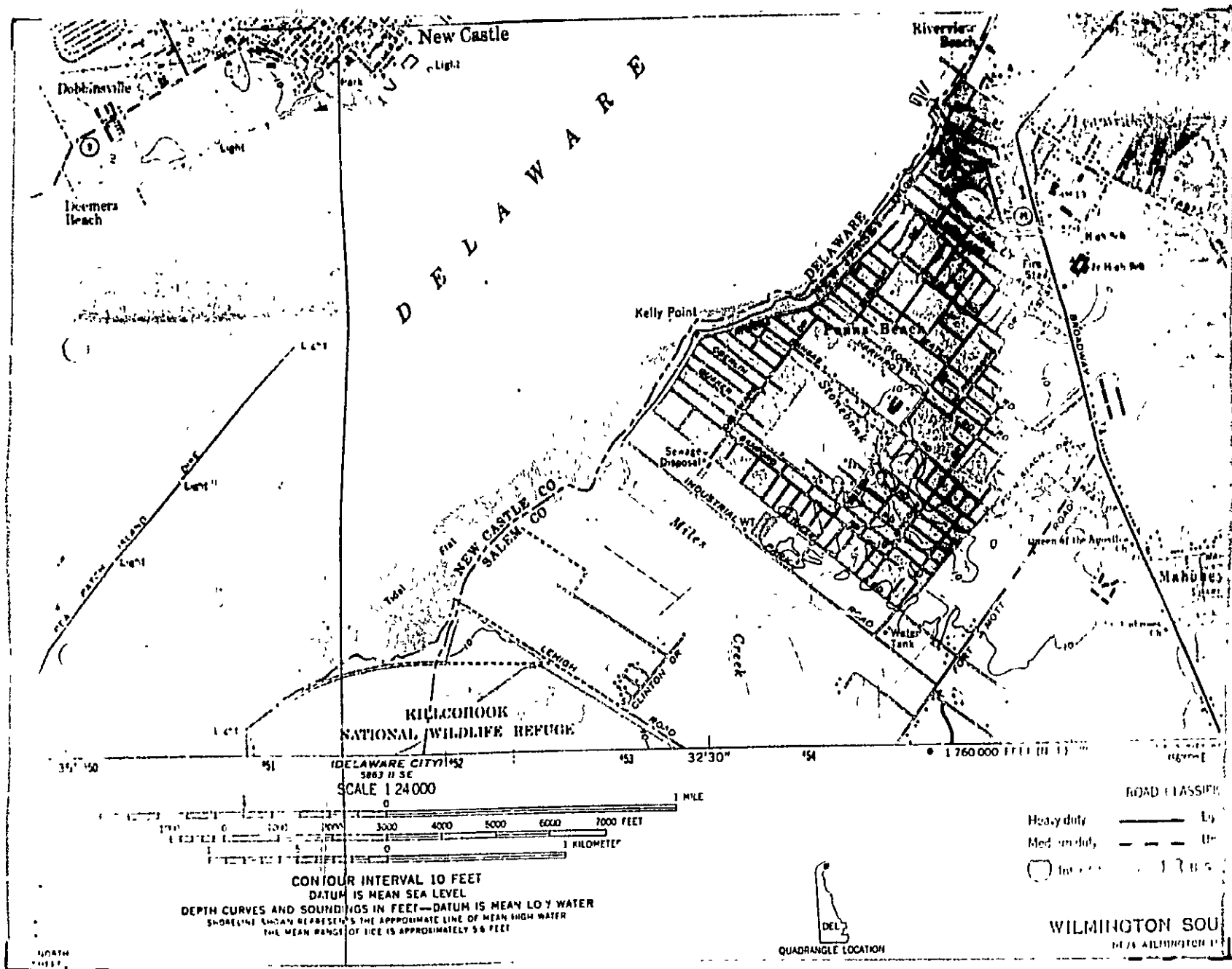
1967

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1 PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2 NORTH ARROW
- 3 UTM REFERENCES

INTL 2464-75



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE DELAWARE

Date Entered MAY 12 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Amstel House	New Castle New Castle County

Also Notified

Hon. William V. Roth, Jr.
Hon. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Hon. Thomas B. Evans, Jr.

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION