

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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35. (N-5969):

A. Property Name: Chambers House

B. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: The Chambers House is located at 196 South College Avenue, on the west side of the street between Kent Way and Winslow Road. This nomination includes the dwelling and the carriage house behind it. The lot on which they are situated has a frontage of 50 feet and a depth of 200 feet (property tax map, city of Newark, No. 20, Lot No. 11). (.23 acre).

C. Owner: University of Delaware, HULLIHEN Hall, Newark, DE 19711

D. Property Description:

The Chambers House is a Queen-Anne style, two-story, frame dwelling - that remains unaltered since its 1890 construction date. The plan is basically rectangular with a gable end facade. This simple underlying form is animated by cross gables, bay windows, a wrap-around porch and a variety of wall coverings.

The major portion of the building is covered with weatherboard siding and is lit by two-over-two sash windows with paneled shutters on the first story and louvered shutters on the second.

The facade gable end measures three bays across on the first floor and has its transomed doorway enclosed in a glazed, three-sided vestibule. A bay window with a heavy cornice and a sheathing of fish scale and diamond-shaped shingles juts out from the second floor. The facade porch, which continues around to the south elevation, is supported by pairs of Tuscan columns set on tall brick piers. A turned baluster railing and notched rafter ends provide additional ornamentation.

The facade gable and the two cross gables on the side elevations have chamfered diagonal bracing at their peak and eave points; their wall surfaces exhibit a covering of hexagonal shingles. The roof is sheathed with standing seam tin.

The carriage house on the rear of the lot is a one-and-a-half-story frame building with a tin-clad gable roof and wide batten doors. Board and batten siding with molded battens sheathes the exterior walls, and six-over-six sash windows light the side elevations.

E. Historical Background:

This dwelling, built by Gilbert W. Chambers in 1890, served as the home of the Chambers family until 1980, after which it was purchased by the University of Delaware.

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F. Significance:

The Chambers House is significant as an unaltered example of the modest, single-family, Queen-Anne style dwelling commonly built in Newark in the 1890's and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

The Queen-Anne style expressed in Newark relied on a rectangular form with a smattering of Queen Anne elements such as variously-shaped wood shingles, gable brackets and bay projections merely applied. The more exuberant form of Queen Anne design that incorporated turrets, curved porches, and ornate mill work was not introduced to Newark. As an unaltered and well maintained building the Chambers House stands as an excellent example of this modest Queen Anne house type.

As one of the first buildings constructed on this street, the Chambers House set the tone for subsequent building on Depot Road as a middle-class neighborhood composed of single-family dwellings. During the same time period the northern and eastern areas of town, which are closer to the industrial area, spawned streets filled with duplex and row housing.

N-5969  
Chambers House

Property no. 35  
Lot no. 11

316 - (25)

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