

PH0021474

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1978

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Bannister Hall and the Baynard House

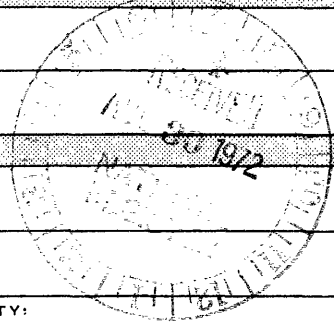
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Fox Hall

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Delaware Route 300, Box 89C

CITY OR TOWN:  
Smyrna

STATE: Delaware      CODE: 10      COUNTY: Kent      CODE: 001



**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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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:  
William G. Anthony

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Bannister Hall, Route 2, Box 89C

CITY OR TOWN: Smyrna      STATE: Delaware      CODE: 10

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Kent County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
The Green

CITY OR TOWN: Dover      STATE: Delaware      CODE: 10

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

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

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

BANNISTER HALL

Standing in the midst of a large arboretum, Bannister Hall exhibits a five-bay frontage to the northwest. The main body of the structure measures forty-one and a half feet by twenty-six and a half feet, and is two-and-a-half stories high. To the rear of the main portion is a two-story wing. The entire building is of frame construction, originally resting on brick footings; later a basement was dug, the footings now being supported by splayed brick retainers. The main portion is covered by a hip roof, and capped by a Victorian cupola. Exterior details include scroll brackets under the eaves, half-height windows near the attic floor level, and a hip-roofed porch stretching across the frontage.

The interior of the house is centered on the hall, which provides communication to the main rooms, second floor, and rear wing. To the northwest, the entry is edged by a stained glass transom and side lights. The stairway, along the northeast wall, is a straight run with out landings. Surrounding the hall is a varnished, embossed wallpaper wainscot. To the southwest of the hall is a large, two-bay parlor, filling the depth of the main body. In the southwest wall a fireplace with marble mantelpiece is centered, and a bay window extends the south corner. To the northeast of the hall, the depth of the house is divided into a front room and a rear office. The detailing, throughout the main portion of the house, is rather simple, though executed in deep relief. The wood used in the trim is pine, painted to appear as rosewood.

The second floor is disposed into four square main rooms, accessible from the hall. In addition, the front end of the hall is given to a smaller storage room, and an additional principal bedroom occupies a portion of the rear wing. The east room contains a bath and an enclosed stair servicing the attic. The attic, unfinished, contains a 2,000-gallon cistern, fed by rain water.

The rear wing contains two first-floor rooms: a front room, now used as a dining room, and a kitchen. Through an enclosed, straight-run stair, access is given to two servants' rooms, backing the main bedroom to the front of the wing. To the extreme southeast of the rear wing is a summer kitchen.

BAYNARD HOUSE

Located to the rear of Bannister Hall, the Baynard House stands two stories high, one room deep, and three bays wide. To the main brick portion a lower frame wing, two rooms in length, has been added, apparently in two stages.

The brick portion is composed of a main room with flanking south hall. The main room is belted by a chair rail and features a simply detailed fireplace with flanking cupboard and enclosed winding stair.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1866

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

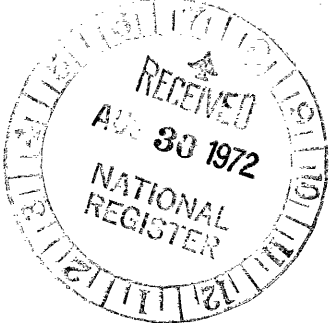
Bannister Hall, with its square lines and cupola, is typical of Delaware country mansions of the Victorian period. However, as far as can be determined, it may have been the first pre-fabricated house erected in Delaware.

In 1865 John Anthony of Troy, New York declined an offer to stand as a gubernatorial candidate, and moved to Delaware to grow peaches. Since John Anthony was a building contractor, all the materials, including the weatherboards, balusters, woodwork, and plumbing, were cut and fully prepared in Troy. After their arrival by freight cars, the members were erected on waiting foundations outside of Smyrna in 1866. The house and lands have been inherited, in turn, by James Anthony and William Anthony, the present occupant and owner.

To the rear of Bannister Hall stands a modified Resurrection Manor style house with a corbelled brick cornice. This brick house is dated about 1750 and is believed to have been called Baynard House or Fox Hall. According to family legend the Fox Hall estate became Bannister Hall in 1886, when family illness required the placement of two railings on the stairs in the main house.

Bannister Hall is locally famous for a large grove of trees surrounding the house. John Anthony began the arboretum by planting an avenue leading to Bannister Hall. Since then, both James and William Anthony have added to the collection. The park now contains over one hundred species, of both foreign and local origin.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Eberlein, Harold Donaldson and Hubbard, Cortlandt V.D. Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware, Dover: Public Archives Commission, 1968.

Federal Writers Project. Delaware: A Guide to the First State. Edited by Jeanette Eckman. New York: The Viking Press, 1938.

**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 ' "		39 17 20	75 37 19	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.0

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Mr. Vincent Rogers

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs      DATE: 7/24/72

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover      STATE: Delaware      CODE: 10

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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: Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Date: 8-24-72

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

Robert W. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/11/73

ATTEST:

W. S. [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4 4 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973

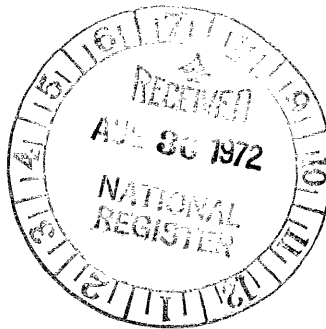
(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION - BAYNARD HOUSE (continued)---

The second story is disposed into a rear hallway, north front room of two bays and a single-bay south room. The attic remains unfinished, and the dirt-floor basement is enclosed by stone rubble foundation walls.

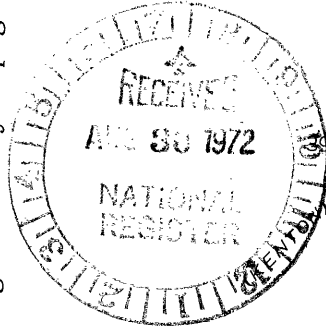
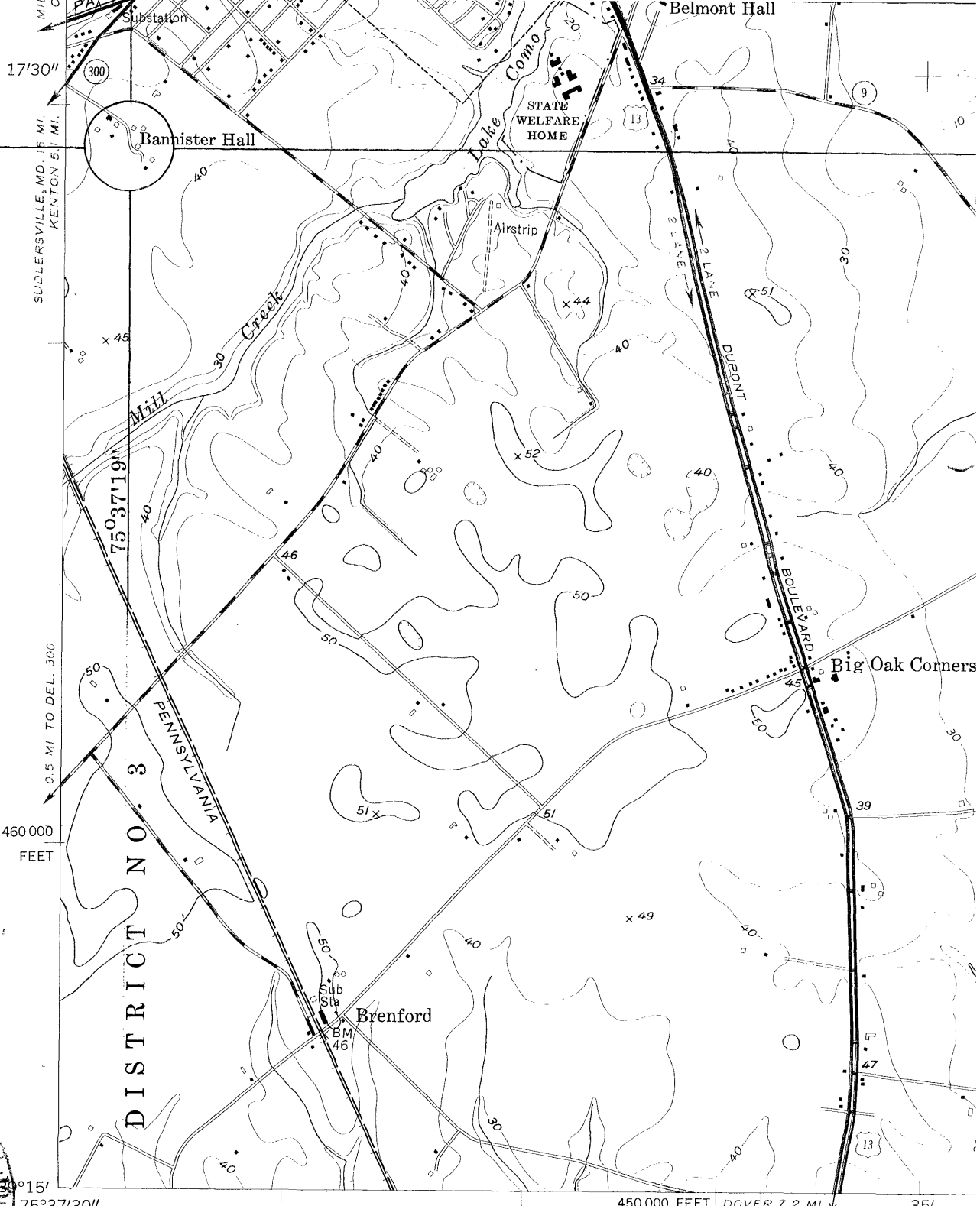
On the exterior the front, or northwest, facade is laid in Flemish bond with five-course common bond below the first floor level. The entry, located in the south bay, is surmounted by a rectangular light and spanned, as are the windows, by a header brick lintel. A corbelled brick cornice distinguishes the front and rear facades.

The northeast and southwest gable walls are laid in common bond, and each features two attic windows symmetrically placed. The north facade is capped by a chimney.



39°17'20"

# Bannister Hall and the Baynard House



Mapped by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USC&GS (C) and USGS  
 Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
 taken 1946. Topography by planetable surveys 1947.  
 Revised by USGS 1956

Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 294 (1951)  
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Delaware coordinate system  
 1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 18, shown in blue  
 Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

