

=====
6. Function or Use
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>Financial institution</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Multiple dwelling</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER:
Vernacular stair-passage plans

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
roof ASPHALT
walls BRICK
STUCCO
other WOOD

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE

Period of Significance c. 1790 - 1863

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>447670</u>	<u>4395940</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

_____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Historian

organization _____ date April 30, 1992

street & number 109 Brandon Road telephone (410) 296-7538

city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21212

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Weldin, Lewis, House
name of property
New Castle County, Delaware
county and State
Historic and Architectural
Resources of Newport, Delaware
name of multiple property listing

Description:

The Lewis Weldin House is a two-story gable-roofed brick building, seven bays wide, located on the north side of West Market Street, facing south. The building is set back a short distance from the sidewalk, behind a small lawn.

The south facade is constructed of painted brick laid in Flemish bond, above a water table of molded, ovolo-profile bricks. A typical brick measures 8¼" long, 4¼" wide, and 2¼" high; mortar joints average 3/8" wide. The masonry of the west gable end is laid in common bond; the east gable end has a stucco rendering. The building rests on a stone foundation.

The seven-bay-wide south facade has the principal entrance in the third bay from the west, and a secondary entrance in the second bay from the east, reflecting the building's original combined residential and commercial functions. It reads as a typical five-bay, Georgian-influenced dwelling with an additional two-bay (the easternmost bays) extension to the east. The location of the two chimneys is consistent with this impression: one rises from the west gable peak, and the other exits the roof ridge between the second and third bays from the east.

The main entrance is surmounted by a transom and set in a beaded frame flanked by tapered pilasters with molded capitals. The threshold is stone, with a carved bullnose edge. The secondary entrance has a plain pegged frame and a wooden sill.

The character of the facade masonry suggests a construction date in the fourth quarter of the 18th century. In addition to the Flemish bond pattern and ovolo water table, other characteristic features include the corbeled belt course between the stories, and the use of closers at the building corners and adjacent to several openings on the first- and second-story levels. The brickwork of the facade is continuous, indicating that the two sections of the building were constructed simultaneously. There is some evidence of repair and reconfiguration; the fourth bay from the west, now occupied by a window, once held a door.

Windows throughout the facade hold two-over-two sash in frames with backband molding of a common Victorian-period profile; the present windows were probably installed in the course of a remodeling carried out in 1863, in which the two large front-facing gables and overhanging eaves also were added. This campaign also included the construction of a broad half-hipped porch across the facade; a disturbance in the belt course marks the location and shape of this feature, which

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Section 7 Page 2

Weldin, Lewis, House
name of property
New Castle County, Delaware
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Historic and Architectural
Resources of Newport, Delaware
name of multiple property listing

=====

has since been removed.

The east gable end has a string course above the first-floor level, which may have served as a ledger for the roof framing of a former one-story shed addition. A modern metal stair serves a second-story entrance; a small window is located to the north of this door. The east end has been coated with stucco and painted. The west gable end is unfenestrated.

On the rear (north) elevation, a lower two-story, gable-roofed service wing projects from the third bay from the west. The eaves on this elevation were not altered in the 1863 remodeling, and retain an early boxed cornice with bed and crown molds. The wing has a comparable cornice, with returns at its north gable.

The interior was not available for investigation.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Weldin, Lewis, House
name of property
New Castle County, Delaware
county and State
Historic and Architectural
Resources of Newport, Delaware
name of multiple property listing

=====

Statement of Significance:

The Lewis Weldin House, so named for a 19th-century owner, is significant for its architecture, as an example of a rare type of late 18th century residential/commercial building, and for its association with the commercial development of Newport during the 19th century. Before about the second quarter of the 19th century, specific commercial building types had yet to be developed, and the outward appearance of commercial buildings had little to set them apart from domestic structures. These buildings were generally residential in scale, with a shop or office on the ground floor and domestic functions in the remaining spaces. The Lewis Weldin House exemplifies this type in its seven-bay facade with separate entrances serving domestic and commercial spaces. Local tradition holds that the building accommodated a Female Seminary at some point in its history (probably in the early 19th century); by 1859, it housed the Real Estate Bank of Newport, an early financial institution in the town, and precursor of the Newport National Bank, which operated in Newport until the Great Depression.

Stylistic evidence suggests that the house at 7-9 West Market Street was constructed in the fourth quarter of the 18th century. In 1863 Lewis Weldin, a farmer, grazer, and cattle dealer from Brandywine Hundred, purchased the property from John P. Hilyard for \$2300, and renovated the house to serve as his residence. Weldin's remodeling included the addition of a porch across the south facade, a pair of large front-facing gables with lancet-arched windows, and broad overhanging eaves. At the time of Weldin's purchase, the property associated with the house comprised more than half the block, running through to Justis Street; on this parcel, Weldin also built several subsidiary structures, including a slaughterhouse. The parcel has since been subdivided, and the outbuildings have not survived.

Weldin purchased several parcels of land in Newport during the 1860s. His real estate acquisitions were motivated in part by his devout Methodism; an ardent opponent of liquor, he made it his business to buy out taverns. In 1864, Weldin bought the old Relay Inn, which was located on the site of the present post office at the southeast corner of Market and John streets, and also a frame house on the west side of James Street below Ayre, where a tavern had been operated. He also purchased several farms in New Castle County for pasturage.

The Real Estate Bank of Newport occupied the east end of the house from its charter in 1859 until Weldin's purchase of the house in 1863; the Real Estate Bank merged into the Newport National Bank in 1865.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Weldin, Lewis, House
name of property
New Castle County, Delaware
county and State
Historic and Architectural
Resources of Newport, Delaware
name of multiple property listing

=====

The period of significance is intended to recognize both the architectural and associative importance of the resource; it is defined as beginning with the initial construction of the building, probably in the late 18th century, and continuing through 1863, when its association with the Real Estate Bank of Newport ended.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Weldin, Lewis, House
name of property
New Castle County, Delaware
county and State
Historic and Architectural
Resources of Newport, Delaware
name of multiple property listing

Major Bibliographical References:

Johnson, Ella Weldin. Story of Newport: a Square Little Town in the State of Delaware. Wilmington, DE: Paragon Press, 1963, pp. 116-117.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

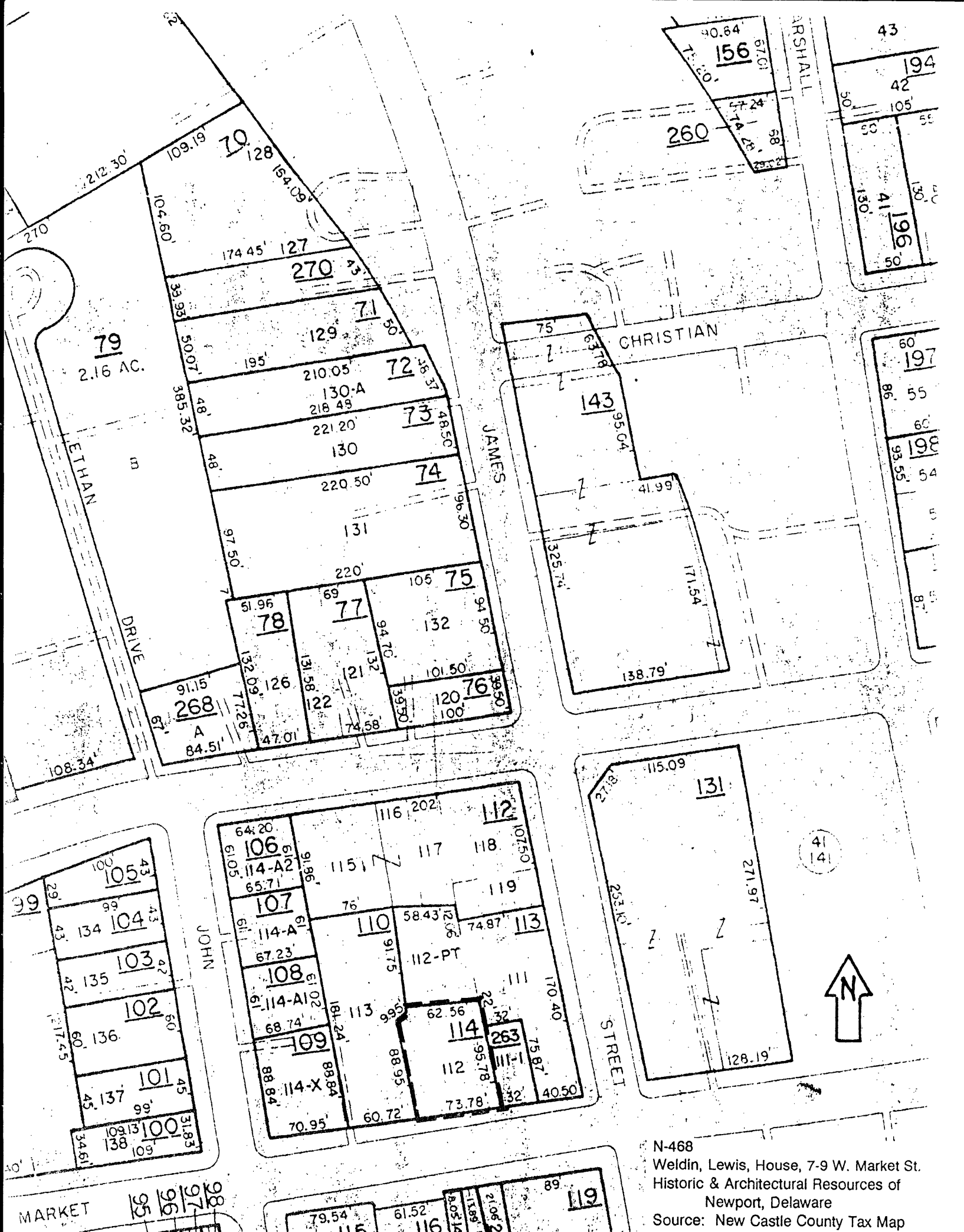
Weldin, Lewis, House
name of property
New Castle County, Delaware
county and State
Historic and Architectural
Resources of Newport, Delaware
name of multiple property listing

=====

Geographical Data:

Verbal boundary description: The nominated property includes all of that parcel designated 20-001.00-114 on the Property Map of New Castle County, Delaware, and further indicated by the broken line on the section of the property map which accompanies this nomination.

Boundary justification: The boundaries described above were selected to encompass the single town lot which comprises the remnant of the property historically associated with the resource.



79
2.16 AC.

CHRISTIAN

JAMES

ARSHALL

ETHAN DRIVE

DRIVE

JOHN

STREET



N-468
Weldin, Lewis, House, 7-9 W. Market St.
Historic & Architectural Resources of
Newport, Delaware
Source: New Castle County Tax Map