United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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- 8. (N-5995):
- A. Property Name: Anderson House
- B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description: The Anderson House is located at 58 West Park Place between the intersections of Orchard Road and Indian Road. The nomination includes the building and property on which it is situated, the latter having a frontage of 129 feet and a depth of 156.26 feet (Property Tax Map, City of Newark, no. 25, lot no. 333).
- C. Owner: Mr. John W. Burkert (former), 58 West Park Place, Newark, DE 19711

 John L. and Patricia Stowell (new), 58 West Park Place, Newark, DE 19711

D. Property Description:

The Anderson House is a two and one half story "L" shaped structure with a gable roof and a five bay main facade. The original section of this structure. located at the west end, consists of random coursed ashlar with 18" thick exterior walls and motar bond. The east half of the house, added at an undetermined date, is constructed of 12" thick brick and is faced with stucco. A center entrance at the main facade of the present house has a raised panel door flanked on either side by Doric style wooden pilasters. A frame portico, featuring a semi-elliptical cornice and dentilled trim, is supported by two Doric columns and outlines a center entry. A gable, slate covered roof has three gable dormers facing south and two interior parapet chimneys at the east and west ends. A combination of brick and stone construction at the west end roof ridgeline indicates that the present chimney was rebuilt after the original building's date of construction. A date stone also located at this gable end was not dislodged during chimney reconstruction and reads "1806". Window openings are of the 6 over 1 double hung sash type. Exterior porches include an enclosed frame porch at the east end with a flat roof, boxed cornice and Doric column corner supports. A larger open frame porch standing at the west gable end also features a flat roof, molded cornice and Doric column supports .

E. Historical Background:

Built by James Anderson and his wife in 1806, the original stone portion of this house probably had a double pile, side hall plan with a rear kitchen ell. In 1818 the house and 100 acres of land were purchased by Henry Whitely. Mr. Whitely continued to add ti the acreage of his property and on March 25, 1840, he sold the house plus a total of 263 acres to James S. Martin. One year later, Martin built the Greek Revival mansion directly to the east of this site and probably lived in this stone building until his new home was complete. Under Martin's tenure this property became part of what was known as the "Deer Park" farm. Martin was also responsible for constructing the Deer Park Hotel, a tavern which still stands at the west end of Main Street in downtown Newark.

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Martin owned the property at West Park Place for twenty-two years until John B. and Sara Ann Myers obtained the house and land by sheriff's sale in 1862. The house again changed ownership three times before the close of the century to George and Sybilla McCullough in 1864, to Samuel Miller in 1878, and to Justin Pie in 1883. As late as 1893, a plan of Newark and vicinity from Baist's Atlas shows this Pie property and neighboring buildings surrounded by a substantial amount of undeveloped acreage on either side of what is now West Park Place.

In 1909, the buildings and property on this site were again sold at sheriff's sale and it was probably soon after that time that this structure was sold as an individual residence and the surrounding acreage decreased. Major renovations to the house were reportedly carried out when it was bought by William Frank Wilson in 1920 and owned by him until 1969. Subsequent owners have altered primarily the interior of this property as desired.

F. Significance:

The Anderson House is among the earliest stone dwellings existing in Newark. The present appearance of this structure exhibits the original 1806 building and the later addition to the east. Once surrounded by predominately rural acreage on the outskirts of Newark, this structure reflects architectural changes contemporary with subsequent building expansion and residential development in southern Newark.

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- 8. (N-5995):
- A. Property Name: Anderson House
- B. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: The Anderson House is located at 58 West Place on the north side of the road between the intersections with Orchard Road and Indian Road. This nomination includes the building and the property on which it is situated. The lot has a frontage of 129 feet on West Park Place and a depth of 202.90 feet (Property Tax Map, City of Newark, No. 25, Lot No. 333). (.43 acres).
- C. Owner: John L. and Patricia Stowell, 58 West Park Place, Newark, Delaware 19711
- D. <u>Property Description</u>: The Anderson House is a two-story, five-bay building that was constructed in three phases. The original block of this house, constructed in 1806, is the three-bay, side-hall stone section with original one-story stone wing at the rear. The two-bay stuccoed brick wing on the east end of the stone wing was added at an undetermined date. The 12-inch thickness of the brick walls may perhaps date the wing to the mid-to-late nine-teenth-century period. Sometime after 1920 a classical revival portico, two classical revival porches, four pedimented dormers, and a one-story rear wing were added.

The stone section has 18-inch thick walls composed of uncoursed fieldstone with structural quoining. The window heads are spanned by irregular slabs of the same kind of stone. A date stone located in its west gable reads "1806".

E. <u>Historical Background</u>: This house was built for James Anderson and his wife in 1806, but by 1818 the house and 100 acres of land were purchased by Henry Whitely. Mr. Whitely continued to add to the acreage of his property, and in 1840 sold the house and 263 acres to James S. Martin. A year later Martin built a Greek Revival mansion immediately east of this house (see 13. N-5999). These two dwellings and the surrounding acreage composed the estate known as the Deer Park Farm until shortly after 1909 when the land was divided and the buildings sold as individual properties. The surrounding tract of land was not developed until the 1930's, when residential neighborhoods began expanding to this area of town. Most of the twentieth-century exterior changes were made by William Frank Wilson, owner of the house from 1920 to 1969.

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F. <u>Significance</u>: The Anderson House fulfills National Register selection Criterion C as an example of the three-bay, side-hall-plan popular in Newark at the beginning of the nineteenth-century, and in demonstrating modifications commonly executed on this building form.

Although later additions nearly double the size of this house, the original 1806 stone section remains clearly visible and distinct from the later parts of the structure. The two-bay facade addition is significant as well. It illustrates a common method of building expansion in this area - extending the main block to form the full fine bay Georgian plan. Also, the added porches and dormers reveal the preference for Classical Revival and Colonial Revival styles in Newark during the 1920's and 1930's. Viewed as a progressive unit, the Anderson House embodies the characteristics from three distinct periods.

One of Newark's early farm sites, the Anderson House and other large farm properties similar to it, characterized the landscape on the outskirts of this town until the beginning of the twentieth century.

