# United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# **National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

7

K- 1460 ·

1. Property Name: JONATHAN WOODLEY HOUSE

2. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: East side of Main Street south of the intersection of Wilson Lane, Little Creek, Kent County, Delaware. It is sited on a parcel of land fronting Main Street, 47 feet wide and 320 feet deep, comtaining .345 acres.

3. Owner: Mr. & Mrs. Michael S. Rinehart, R.D. 3, Box 127, Dover, DE 19901

#### 4. Property Description:

The house sits on a narrow town lot fronting Main Street and running eastward to the marshy area bordering Little River. The principal block of the Woodley House is of frame, two stories high, covered with wide mill-sawn weatherboard painted white, with a gable roof covered by a standing seam tin roof. A simple wooden box cornice defines the eave line on the three-bay facade. The principal entranceway is to the right and is shielded by the full facade hip-roofed porch supported by four equally spaced, turned wooden posts with decorative sawnwork brackets. Originally, a brick chimney projected from the roof ridge at the north gable end, but it has since been removed. The first floor facade windows are closed by four panelled shutters mounted on cast iron pintiles screwed to the interior edge of the architrave. The second-story shutters are louvered. Cast iron star-shaped shutter dogs are screwed to the weatherboard. The front doorway exhibits Greek Revival architectural characteristics with an architrave comprised of deeply reeded mouldings and bulls-eye corner blocks, framing a door consisting of four graduated recessed panels with applied Grecian ogee mouldings.

The rear wing of the house is a one-story-and-attic gable roofed frame unit set perpendicularly to the axis of the main block. Projecting from each slope of the wing roof are two gable roofed dormers, with decorative sawn work cresting along each dormer roof ridge. The wing is now partially covered by asbestos shingling. At the rear of the wing is located a brick interior end chimney. Immediately behind the kitchen wing is a large gable roofed, one-story frame shed of recent construction. On the south property line is an older, much weathered, frame shed.

### 5. Significance:

The Jonathan Woodley House is significant to the architectural history of Delaware as a good example of the vernacular housing traditions that characterized much of the residential building practices throughout the state during the nineteenth century. Though difficult to prove beyond a doubt, there is a high probability that Jonathan Woodley, a "house carpenter" by trade, built the

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dwelling, adding an additional piece of information to the historical record in an era and area of largely anonymous vernacular building. The house is particularly interesting from an architectural perspective as a combination of two typical Delaware mid-nineteenth century housing forms. The story and a half block, in this case utilized as a kitchen wing, often was a house in and of itself. It is possible, though difficult to substantiate or refute without detailed interior physical investigation of the house, that the story and attic unit once faced the street at the front of the lot and was later moved rearward to form the kitchen wing of the newer and larger frame block that now functions as the main block of the building. This practice of moving and reusing existing buildings as parts of later housing enlargements and improvement appears to have been rather commonplace, based on suspected parallels elsewhere in Little Creek and Leipsic and other rural areas of the state.

The 1850 census for Litle Creek Hundred, Kent County lists Jonathan Woodley as the head of a household and carpenter by trade. An 1843 deed mentions that he resided in a two-story frame house with a one-story kitched near Leipsic that he has built. By 1868, he and his family had moved to the town of Little Creek. The transaction whereby the Woodeley's obtained the town land is elusive and there is uncertainty whether a house stood there at the time. Woodley's oldest son, Charles F. is listed as a carpenter as well in the 1860 census.

K-130

1. Property Name: STONE TAVERN

2. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: The Stone Tavern is located in the east side of Main Street, just north of Wilson Lane. The lot is 160 feet wide and 210 feet deep and contains . 771 acres.

3. Owner: Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control, State of Delaware, Dover, Delaware 19901

### 4. Property Description:

The Stone Tavern was built c. 1829 as a two-story, single-pile, five-bay, center-hall, stone building. It has a corbelled ribbed brick cornice and interior gable end chimneys. It is one of the few stone buildings in Kent County and was thought to have been a tavern by the local community, but records have shown that it was always a dwelling house.

The property was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.