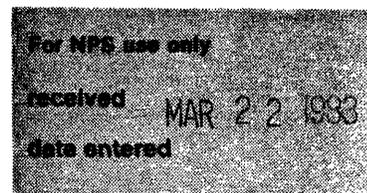


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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1. Property Name: "RAWLEY HOUSE (1868)"

2. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: West side of Main Street south of the intersection of Main, Front and Lombard Streets, Leipsic, Kent County, Delaware. It is sited on a parcel of land fronting on Main Street, 40 feet wide by 120.5 feet deep, containing .426 acres.

3. Owner: Ms. Anne M. Parvis, R.D. 4, Dover, DE 19901.

4. Property Description:

Located on the west side of Main Street, just south of its intersection with Front and Lombard Streets in Leipsic, the Rawley House is a two-story braced frame dwelling dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The present structure is sheathed with asbestos shingle and covered with a gable roof finished with flush vergeboard composition shingle. Laid out with a symmetrical three-bay facade, the dwelling began as a side-hall-plan, single-pile arrangement. Later additions include a two-story lean-to which transformed the plan into a double-pile configuration, a one-story, one-room plan lean-to to the north and a one-story frame ell to the rear. This last addition may have been an earlier dwelling fronting Main Street and moved to its present location in the course of nineteenth-century periods of rebuilding and alterations. A parallel instance of this occurrence in Leipsic is K-1569 (not included in our nominations), which began as a one-story, braced frame, gable-roof structure and was moved behind a store front in the late-nineteenth century.

The exterior at the main block of the Rawley House was also finished with a porch and chimney base. The late-nineteenth century full length tetra-style porch is composed of a hipped roof supported by squared columns with sawn work, factory manufactured, trim. The gable end chimney located inside the south gable is of brick construction and displays an exposed exterior chimney back defined by a simply molded architrave. Although this feature is quite common further south on the Delmarva peninsula, its appearance on Leipsic documents the extreme northern range of this regionally defined architectural device.

The interior was not open for inspection at the time of the nomination.

5. Historical Background:

The historical development of the Rawley lot is obscured in the county records through lack of recordation. One possible allusion to the house and land appears in Kent County Chancery Court when, in 1862, a suit is filed and a judgement granted against the Pleasanton family who had conveyed the property to the Rawleys in 1853. A map of Leipsic, dating from 1868, shows the house still in the possession of Mrs. Rawley.

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6. Significance:

The Rawley House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as it is architecturally significant as an example of the mid-nineteenth century vernacular building traditions which continue to define the built environments of Leipsic, Little Creek, and the surrounding landscape. The sequence of nineteenth century additions made to the original two-story, single-pile, side-passage plan dwelling, represent a broader movement in nineteenth century domestic housing drawing all the functional spaces of the household from kitchen to parlor under a single roof. The process of functional integration in the 1800's represented a major departure from the eighteenth century notion of a core dwelling surrounded by separate support structures.

In terms of construction the Rawley House also represents the continued preference for a braced frame building tradition through the nineteenth century. The use of an exposed exterior chimney back illustrates the northern range of this feature more common to the southern reaches of the Delmarva Peninsula.