

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number N-1144

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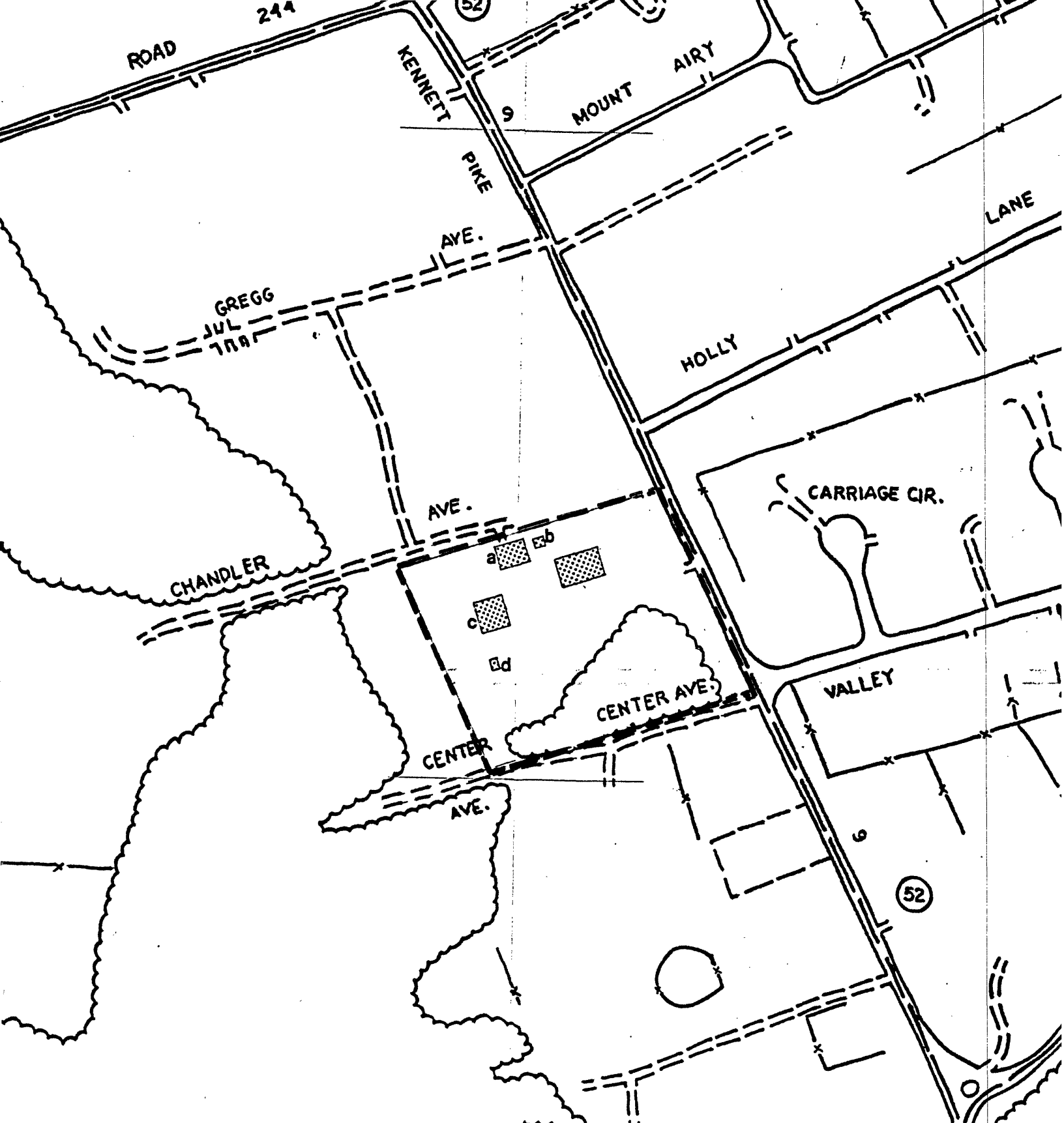
INVENTORY FORM: HISTORIC RESOURCES OF CENTREVILLE

Dr. Joseph P. Chandler used this house as both a residence and office. Later the house descended through the Gregg, Carpenter and duPont families. In 1935, William S. Potter purchased the property and added the brick and stone wings which flank both sides of the original stone dwelling.

E. Significance

The Joseph Chandler House is the oldest building in Centreville and has been occupied throughout its history by members of Centreville's most prominent families. Along with the James Delaplaine (N-1142) and Dr. Joseph H. Chandler (N-1379) residences, this fine stone building attests to the economic prosperity of Centreville during the nineteenth century. Because its essential form--a five-bay, two and one-half story, center hall plan--is representative of eighteenth century building practices that seem to have influenced the design and construction of later structures in the village, such as the Delaplaine and Chandler houses, it is important to our understanding of the evolution of building forms in the vicinity. For these qualities and for its effectiveness as a symbol of prosperity in Centreville, the Joseph Chandler House is nominated to the National Register on the basis of criterion C for significance as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction. Because of its ownership by important figures in the history of Centreville, the Chandler House is significant under criterion B, since it is associated with persons significant to the local past.

As the oldest building in Centreville and one that continues an earlier building form, the Chandler House is a tangible reminder of that period of Centreville's history before its emergence as a busy cross-roads center in the nineteenth century. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, New Castle County was largely rural in nature with scattered plantation houses dotting the countryside. Improvements to the Kennett Road, along with a booming agricultural economy, resulted in a restructuring of the local Centreville economy and a reorientation of settlement towards the road with its traffic of carters and drivers on their way to the markets in Wilmington. The Chandler House is oriented towards the south away from the roadway, rather than towards it, suggesting a temporal and spatial separation from the historic resources in the adjacent cross-roads area. It is its role as a progenitor of architectural form, as well as its association with central figures in Centreville's history, that make the Joseph Chandler House significant.



SKETCH MAP

N-1144 The Joseph Chandler House

DATE : 11/5/81

SCALE: 1:200

NEW CASTLE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

