Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Delaware	
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	(Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	TO TH	IE PU	BLIC	
	☐ District ☒ Building	X Public	Public Acquis	ition:	☑ Occupied	Ye	s:		
	☐ Site ☐ Structure	☐ Private	☐ In Pr	ocess	☐ Unoccupied	☐ Re			
	☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Bein	g Considered	Preservation work	k	restri	cted	
					in progress	⊠ No	•		
	PRESENT USE (Check One or !	More as Appropriate)							
	☐ Agricultural 🔀 G	overnment] Park		Transportation	□ Соп	nments	.	
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7.	DESCRIPTION							
****					(Check One)			
		☐ Excellent	🔀 Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	☐ Unexposed	
	CONDITION		(Check Or	1e)		(Che	ck One)	
		☑ Alter	ed	☐ Unaltered		☐ Moved	Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on a State game preserve, the Thomas Sutton House is a two-story brick house, constructed on a single pile, hall and parlor plan. The stuccoed north frontage features a belt course and a simple box cornice. The facade is composed of three bays. The center entry is surmounted by a rectangular light, but the center bay receives no fenestration on the second floor.

To the west is a lower two-story wing that extends the axis of the main house. The wing is composed of two bays on the first floor, but receives only one window on the second.

The house is completely stuccoed with the exception of the rear wall, which features five-course common bond brick facing. Segmental brick arches are discernible over the openings. Otherwise, the south, or rear, elevation is similar to the north.

A rear door also gives access to the kitchen in the west wing.

Adjoining the kitchen is the larger of the two main rooms in the house.

The west room is two bays in width, and communicates with the second floor through an enclosed winding stair.

Like the west room, the east room contains a fireplace and paneled end wall. In this smaller room remain the original crown moulding and chair railing.

The second floor is patterned on the first. The original flooring remains along with the paneled end walls. The only major alteration is a bathroom added in the west wing bedchamber.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
☐ Pre-Columbian	16th Century	🔀 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	☐ Education	□ Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	Industry	losophy	Local architectura
☐ Agriculture	Invention	Science	and historical
	Landscape	Sculpture	significance
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	☐ Military	Theater 60	
☐ Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	:		CISTA /

The Thomas Sutton House is an unusually well-preserved example of a mid-eighteenth-century Delaware farmhouse. The building is located on a point formed by Taylor's Gut and the main branch of Duck Creek. In 1684 this land called "Newberry", was surveyed to Robert Palmatary.

In 1691 Robert Palmatary died and the property passed to his widow Joanna, who later married Thomas Sharp. The Sharps sold

Newberry to Robert French in 1697. In 1712 the estate passed to his daughter Ann French, who became the second wife of Nicholas Ridgely of Dover. Ann French Ridgely bore only one child, Mary, who later married Patrick Martin. It was probably during this time of the French and Ridgely ownership that the present house was erected. In 1754

Mary and Patrick Martin took possession of Newberry. Because of financial difficulties, however, they mortgaged the property.

When the title to the land was investigated, there was some uncertainty as to the legal ownership, and the court awarded it to David Finney, a nephew of Ann French and grandson of Robert French. David Finney was known for having served as a justice on both the county court and the

Between 1770 and 1780 Newberry was divided several times among

State Supreme Court.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Continuation	Sheet)	

STATE	
Delaware	
COUNTY	
Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
ADD .	1 1 193

(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued) ---

several owners: Robert McMurphy, John Weldon, Daniel Morris, and David Finney. By 1794 James Robinson had bought most of the original tract of Newberry, along with other adjacent properties. When James Robinson died in 1815, his property was divided among his children. Elizabeth Fortain inherited the house and adjacent land and for the next thirty—eight years the house and land was controlled by descendants of James Robinson.

In 1853 Samuel R. Sutton purchased the house, and passed it to Thomas L. Sutton in 1855. Thomas Sutton, a farmer and merchant in the Smyrna area, held the house for a number of years. Since his death the house has changed ownership several times. It now serves as a residence and office for the personnel of the Woodland Beach Wildlife Area.



