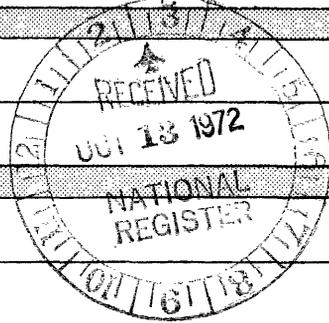


PH 0011002

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 11 1973	



1. NAME

COMMON:
Ruth Mansion House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Leipsic

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: Kent CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Hilda G. Wilson

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Leipsic STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Kent County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
The Green

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey, No. Del-130

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
ENTRY NUMBER:	APR 11 1973
DATE:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ruth Mansion is a five-bay, two-story-plus-attic Georgian house with an east frontage. The front facade is laid in Flemish bond with stucco below the first-floor level. The belt course is partially obscured by a first-floor porch, covering the three center bays, and a centrally-located second-floor bay window.

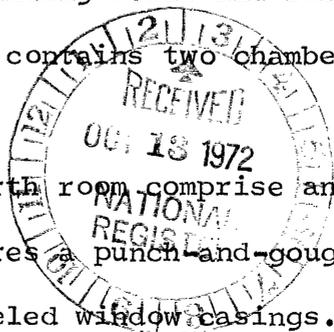
The main house block has been enlarged by various additions. To the north, a lower two-bay frame wing is attached, with its two-story porch. To the west a brick wing, two rooms in length, is joined at cross axis to the main block. Several frame additions extend the house to the west, and obscure the original rear facade.

The south gable wall, flush with the rear brick wing, is laid in five-course common bond, with a window to the west of the chimney, and two symmetrically-placed attic windows.

Within, the house has been divided into three separate sections. The north frame wing is independent. This wing contains two first-floor rooms divided by an enclosed winding stair and fireplace and a rear shed kitchen. The second floor contains two chambers divided by a hallway.

The original center hall and north room comprise another section of two floors. The north room features a punch-and-gouge detailed mantel with pineapple motif, and paneled window casings. The stairway is open through both flights to the attic. To the rear, or west, a dining room and kitchen have been added.

The third section includes the south room and rear wing. In the wing are located two rooms, each having a fireplace, with two chambers above, connected by a winding stairway. In the main house block the



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) About 1780

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ruth Mansion House today shelters several families in apartments that divide the interior. This division may be the result of an earlier owner's last will, dated 1822. William Ruth divided his home lot between his son, Samuel, and Peter Stout, probably a son-in-law. The dividing line began at a corner of the road leading to Muddy Branch and continued through the house's front yard, running along the wall separating the hall room from the entry, thence to the adjoining property line on the road. Ruth specified that the line through the house be repeated in the second floor and in the attic. Samuel got the north end of the house and property, and Peter the south end.

William Ruth had prospered in business, judging from the property mentioned in his will. In his will, he left a dry-goods store to his son and son-in-law; his daughter's legacy included a blacksmith and wheelwright shop, together with an adjoining parcel of land.

The Ruth Mansion was already a landmark in Leipsic, then called Fort Landing, well-known during William Ruth's lifetime. When the General Assembly set up five Kent County election districts in 1811, William Ruth's house was a polling place for Little Creek.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware: 1609-1888. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards & Co., 1888.

Kent County Register of Wills. Book P, Vol. 1, p. 255.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 14' 26"	75° 30' 02"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mr. Vincent Rogers and Miss Rosemary Troy

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: 7/25/72

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>E. Berkeley Tompkins</u> Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins</p> <p>Title <u>Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs</u></p> <p>Date <u>10-6-72</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert H. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>4/11/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>W. J. Muntz</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>4.3.73</u></p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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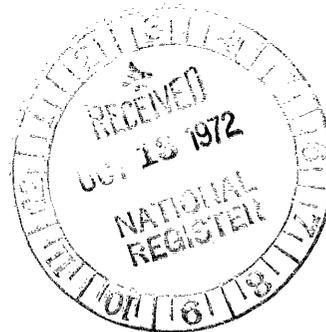
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1978

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)---

south room and the south bed chamber, though not as finely detailed as the north, have paneled window casings and chair railings. The first-floor fireplace is flanked by a butterfly-shelved cupboard and a south window.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

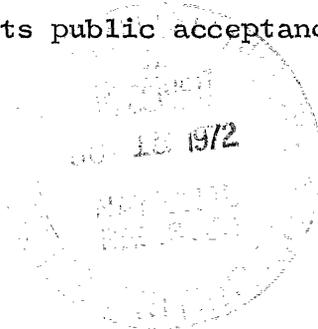
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Kent	
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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)---

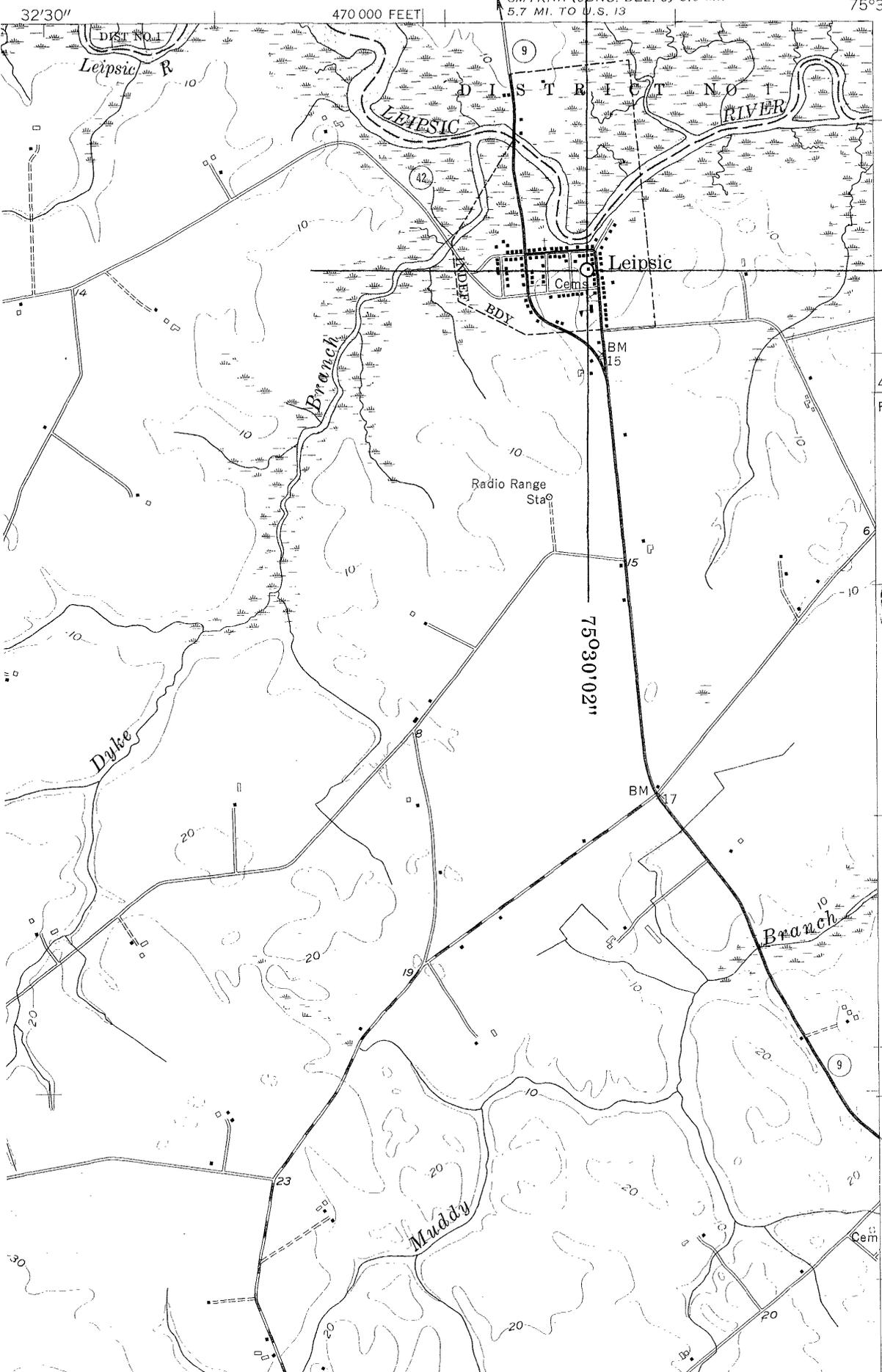
William Ruth was also involved in schemes for public free education in Delaware. Until 1792, free education was non-existent in the State. The Delaware Constitution of that year provided for free schools to be supported by the State, but not until 1796 did the legislature designate tavern license and marriage license fees to be used for this purpose. The fund created by the 1796 Act lay dormant until 1817, when an appropriation was made for the education of the poor. William Ruth served as one of the five trustees for the distribution of this appropriation, which was too small to be effective. Since the fund was designated a charity, its public acceptance was severely limited.



DOVER QUADRANGLE
DELAWARE—KENT CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE/4 WYOMING 15' QUADRANGLE 1956
SMYRNA (JUNC. DEL. 6) 6.6 MI.
5.7 MI. TO U.S. 13

(BOMBAY HOOK)



LITTLE CREEK 4.2 MI.
8.7 MI. TO U.S. 113