

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 4 1986  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic James Stewart House

and/or common Holly Farm

2. Location

street & number County Road 401 (Del-Laws Road) NA not for publication

city, town Glasgow X vicinity of

state Delaware code 10 county New Castle code 002

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Clyde A. and Bette M. Locker

street & number 2611 Del-Laws Road

city, town Bear \_\_\_ vicinity of state Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New Castle County Recorder of Deeds

street & number City/County Building, 800 French Street

city, town Wilmington state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Delaware Cultural Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes X no

date 1979-80 (Site #N-1089) \_\_\_ federal X state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
Old State House, The Green, P.O. Box 1401

city, town Dover state Delaware

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The James Stewart House is located in Pencader Hundred approximately one-and-a-half miles southeast of the village of Glasgow. The house and its ten associated outbuildings are clustered together on the southwest side of Wrangle Hill Road (Route 72) approximately one-half mile south of U.S. Route 40 at the point where Wrangle Hill Road makes an uncharacteristic ninety-degree turn. Wrangle Hill Road has been improved and straightened so that it bypasses the James Stewart House. However, it leaves the house in its historic relation to the existing ninety-degree road bend. This bypassed section of road has recently been renamed Del-Laws Road.

The house is a brick building dating from the second half of the eighteenth century with a series of eighteenth and nineteenth century brick additions. It is situated on the property facing straight north toward the road. At its southeast corner stands a mid-nineteenth century brick smokehouse, and further east is a group of nine frame outbuildings dating from the second half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century: a shop, a corncrib/granary, a corncrib, two sheds, a privy, a bank barn, a milkhouse, and a machine shed. The 6.89 acre property contains eight contributing buildings and three contributing structures.

The house is composed of three distinct two-story, gable-roofed, brick sections joined at the endwalls, plus a one-story, brick, lean-to. The sections have separate rooflines of graduated height, the tallest section standing at the west end and the shortest at the east end, with the lean-to abutting the easternmost endwall. The sequence of building originates with the first floor of the center section which was followed by the addition of a second story. The tall, three-bay, west wing appears to have been built by the end of the eighteenth century. The east wing, which contains a walk-in cooking hearth and the remnants of a bake oven, may have been added very early in the nineteenth century. The lean-to dates to the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

The three-bay center section was built in two stages. The core of the house appears to be the first floor, which is differentiated by its English Bond brickwork with random glazed headers. These bricks are slightly larger than those found elsewhere on the building, and are more roughly laid. The second story is laid in Flemish Bond, beginning with the course that rests on the lintels of the first floor windows. Both floors, front and rear, contain six-over-six sash windows with molded surrounds and lug sills. The facade arrangement has three openings on the first floor and two on the second; the rear elevation has two openings per floor. Scars in the brickwork reveal the relocation of the facade entrance from the center bay to the west side bay. A late-nineteenth century, hip-roofed porch with four chamfered posts extends from the center bay westward, to cover the relocated entrance and a portion of the west wing. On the rear, the door was switched from the eastern bay to the western bay. The small dimensions of this wing suggest a one room plan originally. The interior is now divided into a side hall and a parlor. The exterior entrance changes reflect this side hall arrangement. The parlor has an endwall hearth that is flanked by a boxed corner stair on one side and a chimney closet on the other. The hearth has a square opening with a narrow, molded surround, a wide, flat frieze, and a narrow, molded mantel shelf. Enclosed by a door with four raised and molded panels, the corner staircase has two treads in the room and then nine treads winding around a 180-degree turn. Behind an adjacent four-panel door are the basement stairs. In the opposite corner of this endwall is a raised and molded six-panel door that leads to the kitchen wing. Chair rails have been removed.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1750-1900      **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The James Stewart House is significant architecturally in exhibiting a changing pattern of eighteenth and nineteenth century domestic building in New Castle County. Spanning several rebuilding periods from the middle of the eighteenth century to the end of the nineteenth century, it articulates one family's intention to establish a permanent settlement, in addition to documenting a changing order of household space through this period. Set apart from the rest of the local community by the relative wealth of its owners, the James Stewart House indicates a level of success that could be materially expressed. Its associated range of nineteenth century agricultural buildings reveals the continued prosperity of this farm in the nineteenth century. Because of its architectural importance, the James Stewart House is being nominated to the National Register on the basis of Criterion C.

First known as the Morton Tract, this 230 acre parcel was a part of the original Welsh Tract which was granted to settlers by William Penn in 1701. Isaac Alexander bought the tract in 1760 from Thomas and Sarah Morton to use for his "mansion tract." After his death in 1784, the property was devised to his son Isaac Alexander, Jr. 1784 Orphans Court records indicate the presence of a dwelling, a kitchen, a meat house, and a barn by that time. When Isaac Alexander, Jr. died a couple of years later, the property passed to his sister Jane Alexander Whann and her husband William Whann. At William's death in 1803 the Orphan's Court described the property as follows: "The Mansion Farm... a two Story Brick Messuage, Log Kitchen, Frame Barn, and Stables, Milk House, Granary, and Corn Cribbs all in tolerably good repair, and an Apple Orchard containing about sixty trees." William's son Samuel Whann inherited the farm. Samuel's death in 1806 prompted another evaluation of the property by the Orphans Court. In 1808 the house is described as "...a very Comfortable Dwelling House, part Brick part frame in very good repair..." It is unclear if the frame part was an extension of the living space or if it had a service function since a separate kitchen was still in existence, although needing some repair. The frame wing does not survive. Improvements to the property since 1804 included a smoke house and a fenced garden. In 1809, a few years after Samuel Whann's death, Samuel's brother-in-law James Stewart, Jr. bought the property. Since it was under James Stewart's ownership that the house achieved its current form, the property is known by his name. At James Stewart's death the property passed to his wife Mary and their three children, Charles B., Annie J., and Susan F. In 1881 all interest in the property was transferred to Charles B. Stewart. It was under James and Charles B. Stewart's direction that most of the existing outbuildings were constructed. In 1924 the property was sold outside of the family for the first time. It was not until 1970 that the size of the property was reduced to six acres.

The series of additions and modifications that were performed on the house articulate a changing concept of household organization during the century between the late 1700's and the late 1800's. As the house expanded, its interior spaces became more complex and service functions were drawn inside. The house originated as a one-room-plan structure with a separate log kitchen building and a meat house. Before the end of the eighteenth

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 6.89 acres

Quadrangle name Saint Georges, Del.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	8	4	3	8	5	6	0	4	3	8	3	4	6	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the nominated property coincides with the legal parcel as indicated on the attached Sketch Map which is referenced: New Castle County Property Tax Map, 1985, parcel number 011-028.00-008.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	NA	code	NA	county	NA	code	NA
state	NA	code	NA	county	NA	code	NA

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Valerie Cesna, Historic Preservation Planner  
New Castle County  
organization Department of Planning date August 1985  
street & number 2701 Capitol Trail telephone (302) 366-7780  
city or town Newark state Delaware

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

### State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title John P. Egan Director  
Div. of Historical & C. Affairs date 3/11/1986

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John P. Egan date 6-11-86  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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James Stewart House (N-1089)

DESCRIPTION

The three-bay west wing is laid in common bond with an irregular repeat of three, four, and five courses of stretchers. Windows are six-over-nine sash on the first floor and six-over-six sash on the second floor. Scars in the brickwork around the eastern facade window show the outline of a doorway with a flared lintel that was filled in when the interior was rearranged during the latter part of the nineteenth century. A two-brick stringcourse runs across the facade, stopping short of the corners. This same detail is repeated on the rear. The exposed endwall on this wing has two louvered windows in the gable, on either side of an interior brick chimney. At the peak is an inset board on which the date 1765 is carved. Since it is doubtful that an unprotected piece of wood could survive from the 18th century with such crisp detail, this plaque was most likely put in place by one of the later owners to commemorate the initial construction date of the house. The gable stringcourse and the row of sawn-off joists below it reveal the former existence of a gable pent. At the southern corner of the endwall is the cellar entrance, which is supported by a brick relieving arch and is sealed by a batten door with iron strap hinges. The interior of the west wing is divided into two rooms. The western room has an endwall fireplace with an arched brick opening. Its molded surround and mantel is a mid-twentieth century reproduction of the one found in the center section of the house. The chair rails and molded window surrounds are also reproduced. An original raised and molded six-panel door with a crosseted surround leads to the eastern room. The eastern room was redecorated in the 1950's and no historic material remains. Scars in the southeast corner and a corbeled brick support in the basement below, indicate a fireplace location. There is also evidence of removed chair rails in this room. The facade door formerly entered this room, however, a late-nineteenth century, enclosed, straight run staircase was installed, rising from the northeast corner along the north wall. This alteration also resulted in the creation of a hallway on the second floor along the north wall of both the west and center wings.

The east wing, which houses the kitchen, measures one bay across the facade and two bays across the rear. Its walls are laid in seven course common bond, and its exterior entrance is a beaded batten "Dutch" door located on the rear elevation. The brick, walk-in hearth has an arched brick opening and an iron crane. Offset from the hearth, on its north side, is the arched door to the oven, which has been bricked-in. On the exterior wall behind the oven door is a semi-circular patch in the brickwork where the body of the oven was once attached. A boxed corner staircase in the northwest corner of the room is the only access to the second story of this wing.

The lean-to is one story high and is laid in seven course common bond. Its door is located on the rear (south) wall.

The roofing material of the three main wings is standing seam metal, painted red. Separate molded box cornices with bed moldings emphasize the roofline. A series of

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James Stewart House (N-1089)

DESCRIPTION

three shed-roofed porches extends across the rear elevations of all four building sections.

Outbuildings

B. Smokehouse (mid-nineteenth century)

The smokehouse is a one-and-a-half story, gable-roofed, brick building on a rubble stone foundation. The entrance is located on the west endwall facing the house, and it is sheltered by a frame overhang. Its walls are laid in seven course common bond. Diamond-shaped vents pierce three of its walls at the upper story level. The roof is sheathed with standing seam metal and is edged by a narrow box cornice. An interior brick chimney with a pointed-arch cap rises through the southwest corner.

C. Shop (dated 1879)

The shop is a one-story, frame, gable-roofed building on a brick pier foundation. Its mortised post-and-rail frame, with upbracing, is constructed with re-used lumber that is hewn and vertical-sawn. Circular-sawn, tongue-and-groove, vertical board siding sheathes the exterior. Double leaf batten doors with iron strap hinges are located in the south endwall. The gable roof has exposed rafter ends and a layer of folded aluminum sheeting over wood shingles. Inside is a large workbench with a built-in vise. The following is painted on the wall: Built 1879 By C. B. Stewart.

D. Corncrib/Granary (second half of the nineteenth century)

The corncrib/granary is a one-and-a-half story, frame, gable-roofed structure on a rubble stone foundation with a shed wing on its east side. Its mortised post-and-rail frame, with up-bracing in the upper story only, is constructed with vertical-sawn lumber. Vertical-sawn, tongue-and-groove siding sheathes the exterior. Vertical slats enclose the west wall where the cribs are located. Several doors pierce the south endwall. On the interior, a staircase rises along the south wall to the grain bins in the upper story.

E. Corncrib (second half of the nineteenth century)

This is a frame, gable-roofed structure on a pier foundation that is made of rubble stone with a few scattered stone railroad sleepers. The framing is a mortised post-and-rail system constructed with vertical-sawn lumber. Vertical-sawn,

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John Stewart House (N-1089)

DESCRIPTION

vertical board siding covers the exterior, except on the west wall where vertical slats provide ventilation for the single crib. The roof is covered with corrugated aluminum.

F. Shed (second half of the nineteenth century)

This shed is a one-story, frame, gable-roofed building with its sills set directly into the ground. Its mortised post-and-rail frame employs both hewn and circular-sawn lumber. The exterior is covered with board and batten siding. Its gable roof has exposed rafter ends and a covering of wood shingles. The siding has been removed from the north wall.

G. Shed (second half of the nineteenth century)

This shed is a very low, one-story, frame building with a steeply pitched gable roof. Its vertical-sawn post-and-rail frame is heavily constructed, and the sills are set directly into the ground. Vertical-sawn, vertical board siding covers the exterior.

H. Privy (late nineteenth/early twentieth century)

The privy is a gable-roofed, frame building that is set directly into the ground. The roof is covered with wood shingles and its siding is vertical-sawn, tongue-and-groove board. The batten door has a louvered panel in its upper half. The interior is whitewashed and has a beaded board ceiling. The seat has two holes with hinged lids.

I. Barn (second half of the nineteenth century)

This is a gable-roofed, frame, bank barn on a foundation made of rubble stone and scattered stone railroad sleepers. Its mortised post-and-rail frame employs re-used hewn lumber for the posts and girts, and vertical-sawn lumber for the rails. The roof truss uses a double purlin system. Vertical board siding and standing seam metal on the roof characterize the exterior. The main floor is for hay storage while the lower level contains early twentieth century concrete-lined milking stalls. A forebay extends across the rear; it is supported by piers made of stone railroad sleepers.

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James Steward House (N-1089)

DESCRIPTION

J. Milkhouse (early twentieth century)

The milkhouse is a frame, gable-roofed building on a poured concrete foundation. The exterior is sheathed with vertical board siding and corrugated metal roofing. Its six-light single sash windows tilt out of their frames to open.

K. Machine Shed (late nineteenth century)

The machine shed is an oblong, frame structure with a shallowly-pitched gable roof. The exterior walls are covered with vertical boards. The gables have louvered vents and weatherboard siding. Exposed rafterends highlight the standing seam metal roof.

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James Stewart House (N-1089)

**SIGNIFICANCE**

century, a second story had been added to the house and a larger, two-story, hall-parlor plan wing was joined to it. As the house assumed this more formal arrangement the kitchen still remained a detached household function. The addition of the kitchen wing is undocumented, but appears to date to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The servants' chamber above the kitchen is accessible only from the first floor of this wing. There is no cross access with other second floor rooms, as there is between the other two wings. Although the kitchen became physically linked to the house, its location at the end of the building and its segregated servants' quarters reflect the continuing perception of the kitchen as an element distinctly separate from the main household. The incorporation of a center hall between the original wing and the western wing further formalized the spatial arrangement by creating an element of privacy for the first floor rooms. While center passage plans were built for some of the wealthy beginning in the eighteenth century, and service wings became a common element in newly-built houses in the nineteenth century, the importance of the James Stewart House rests in its transitional nature which illustrates the gradual introduction of these functional features into one existing household.

While the basic elements of the building's physical form are indicative of general trends in new housing, the quality and materials of the house set it apart from most of the other farms of its period in Pencader Hundred. In terms of material wealth, William Whann ranked among the top 20 to 25 percent in Pencader Hundred. In the period between 1771 and 1830, only seven percent of the housing stock is known to have been brick; the majority of dwellings were constructed of log. The very low survival rate of log and frame buildings has not left us with an accurate physical record of representative buildings from that period. The 1850 agricultural census reveals James Stewart's 200 improved acres to be more than one-and-a-half times the norm for Pencader Hundred, and the cash value of the farm to be almost two-and-a-half times greater than the average farm. His cash crops were primarily grains (wheat, corn, oats, and buckwheat), butter, and orchard produce.

Level of Significance

Because the development of the James Stewart House is best seen in relation to the agricultural region of southern New Castle County, local significance is being claimed for this property.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Michel, H. John and David Allmendinger, Jr. Delaware Rural History Project: Statistical runs of the 1850 and 1870 Agricultural Census Manuscript Returns for the State of Delaware. University of Delaware: American Studies Program and the Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering. Unpublished Computer Analysis, 1982-1985.

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United States Bureau of the Census. Agricultural Census, Delaware, 1850.

United States Bureau of the Census. Population Schedules, Delaware.

SKETCH MAP

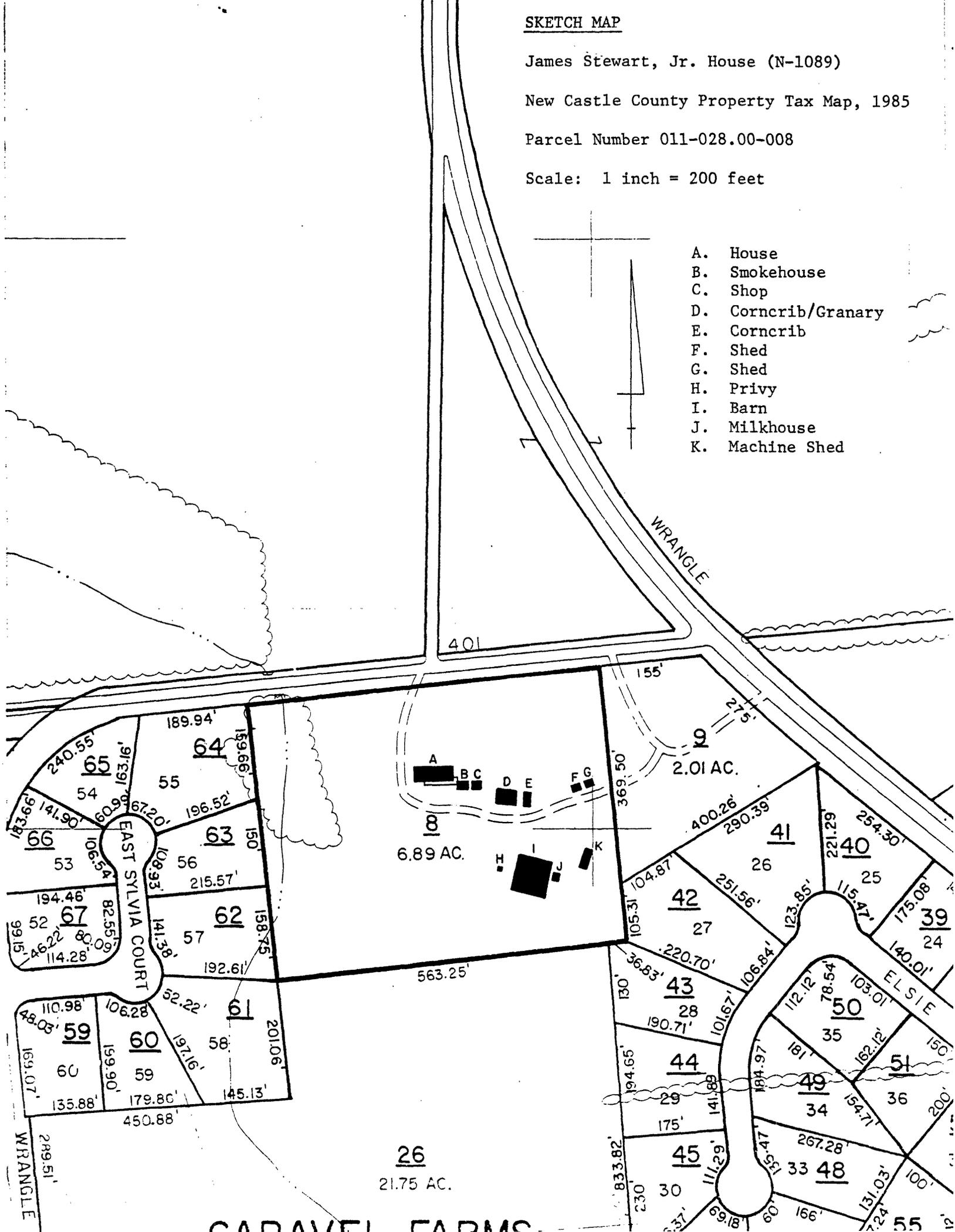
James Stewart, Jr. House (N-1089)

New Castle County Property Tax Map, 1985

Parcel Number 011-028.00-008

Scale: 1 inch = 200 feet

- A. House
- B. Smokehouse
- C. Shop
- D. Corncrib/Granary
- E. Corncrib
- F. Shed
- G. Shed
- H. Privy
- I. Barn
- J. Milkhouse
- K. Machine Shed



401

WRANGLE

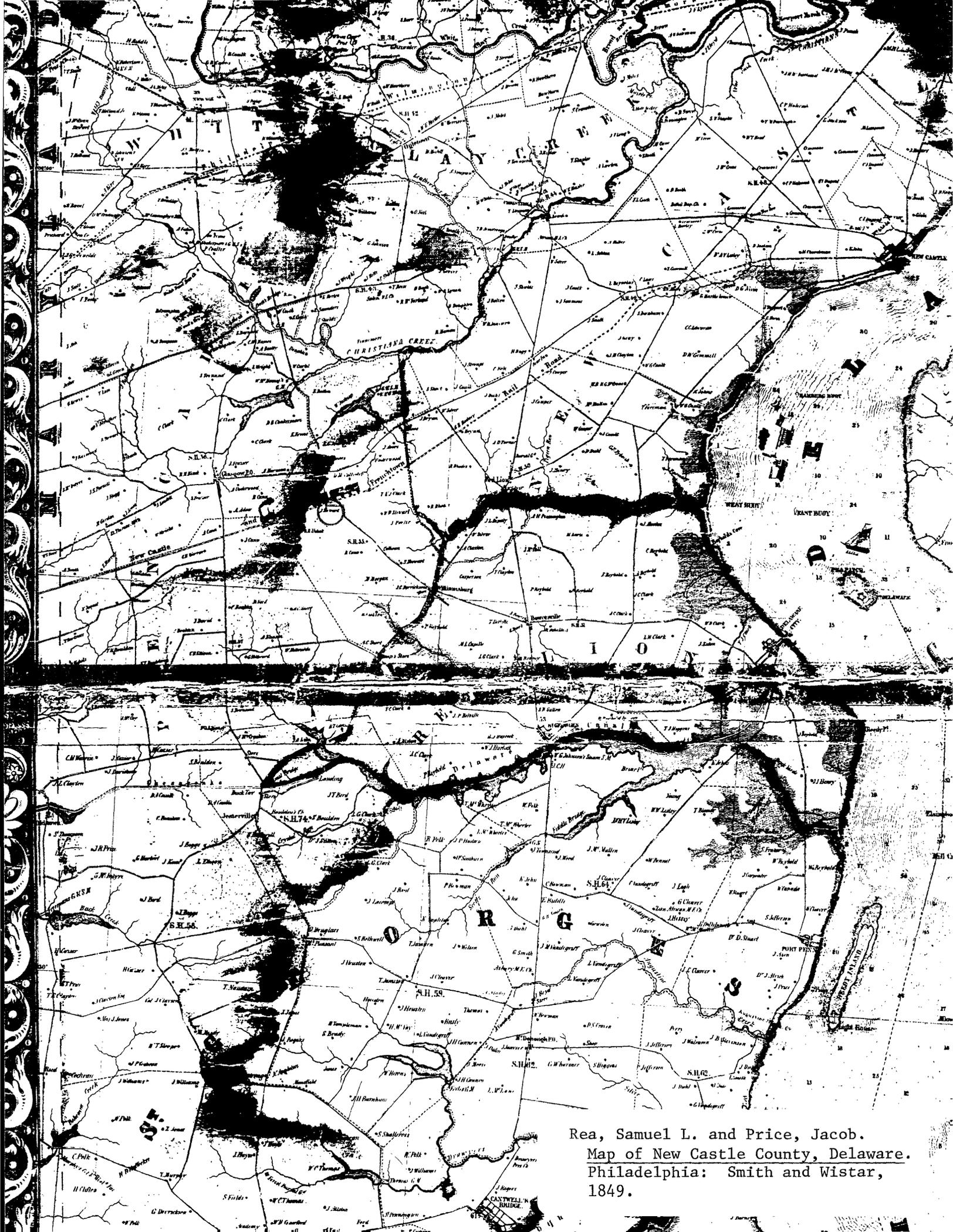
EAST SYLVIA COURT

6.89 AC.

2.01 AC.

26  
21.75 AC.

CARAVEL FARMS



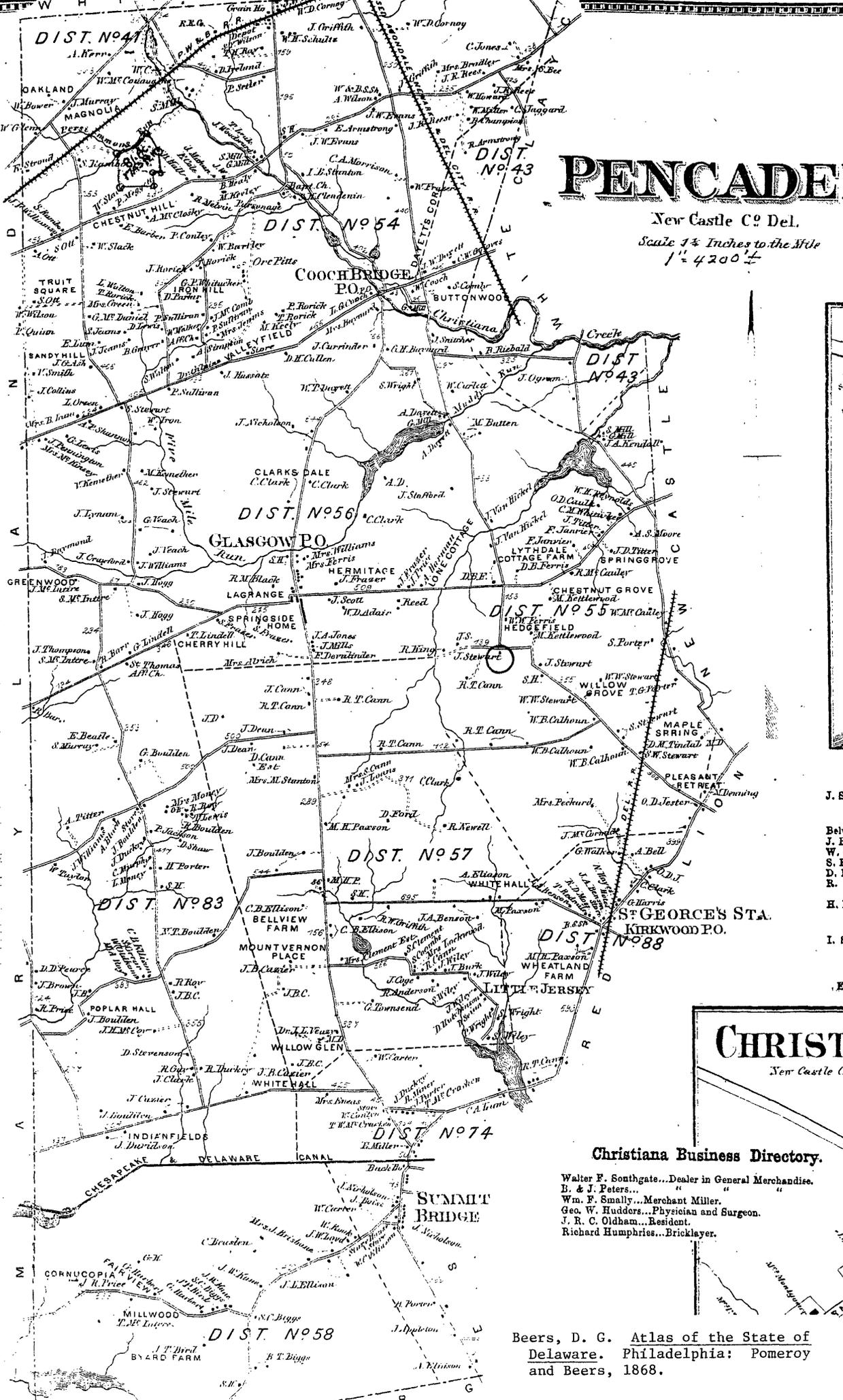
Rea, Samuel L. and Price, Jacob.  
Map of New Castle County, Delaware.  
Philadelphia: Smith and Wistar,  
1849.



# PENCADE

New Castle Co. Del.

Scale 3/4 Inches to the Mile  
1" = 4200'

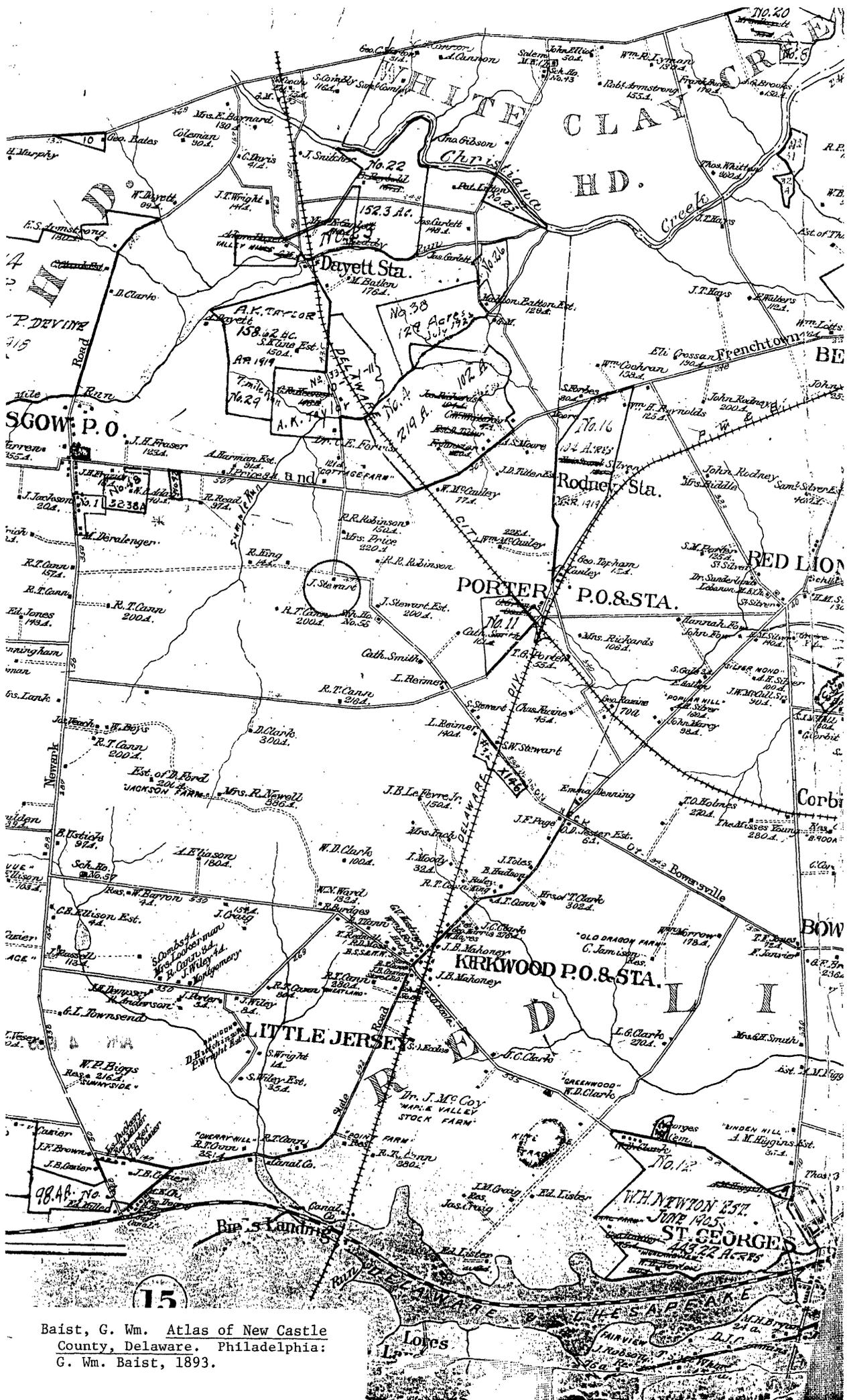


## CHRIST

New Castle Co.

### Christiana Business Directory.

- Walter F. Southgate...Dealer in General Merchandise.
- B. & J. Peters...
- Wm. F. Smally...Merchant Miller.
- Geo. W. Hudders...Physician and Surgeon.
- J. R. C. Oldham...Resident.
- Richard Humphries...Bricklayer.



Baist, G. Wm. Atlas of New Castle County, Delaware. Philadelphia: G. Wm. Baist, 1893.