United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 10/31/84



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N-5831

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INVENTORY FORM: HISTORIC RESOURCES OF CENTREVILLE

- 3. A. Property Name Mt. Airy No. 27 School N-5831 5925 Kennett Pike Wilmington, Delaware 19807
 - B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property is a rectangular parcel located on the east side of the Kennett Pike (Route 52), 1,950 feet north of the intersection of Owls Nest and Twaddell Mill Roads. This parcel fronts the Kennett Pike for approximately 150 feet, with a depth of 250 feet, and is less than one acre in total area.
 - C. Owner Carl Goldstein
 5925 Kennett Pike
 Centreville
 Wilmington, Delaware 19807

D. Property Description

A fine example of the one-room, one-teacher schoolhouse, this stuccoed, stone structure was erected in 1863. Adapted as a residence, this structure still retains its "school-house" character. Sheltering the facade is a one-bay, gable roof portico and a small bell-tower crowns the ridge line. The lines of the raking pediment of the porch are repeated on the roof line of the schoolhouse as well as the gabled bell tower, giving a pleasing and unified appearance to the whole. On each side are three large, shuttered six-over-six windows. Extant interior detailing includes a beaded wooden wainscoting and a cloakroom and storage room flanking the facade entrance.

Justification of Boundaries

The nominated area includes the entire legal parcel, as well as all elements related to the historic property.

Inventory of Outbuildings

N-583la - Small frame shed, originally the school's privy, converted into a utility shed.

Historical Background

Mt. Airy No. 27 School, built in 1863, is one of four school buildings still standing in the Centreville area, and is the only one in Centreville itself. Designed as a one-room, one-teacher school, it was in continuous use from 1863 to 1932, when this school was absorbed into a larger school system.

NPS Form 10-900-a

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E. Significance

The Mt. Airy No. 27 School is significant in that it is a fine example of the one-room, one-teacher schoolhouse, popular in America during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and contributes to our understanding of the development of public education in the Centreville area. Mt. Airy School No. 27 is nominated to the National Register on the basis of criterion C as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type period or method of construction.

A number of schools of this type had been erected in New Castle County by the middle of the nineteenth century and continued to be constructed throughout the century. Extant related examples in the adjacent Mill Creek Hundred include the 1848 Harmony School (N-202) in the vicinity of Mermaid and the Brick Schoolhouse (N-198) at the Milford Crossroads north of Newark. The now demolished 1847 North Star School (N-274) was also of this type. The Mt. Airy No. 27 School is perhaps the best preserved of these surviving structues.

