

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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S-6986

Property Name: J. W. Cox Dry Goods Store

Location and Boundary Description: 214 High Street, Seaford, Delaware; Sussex County Tax Map, 4-31-5/272. ¼ acre

UTM Reference: 18 446710 4276890

Owners: Thomas R. Young and Louise B. Young  
P. O. Box 405  
Seaford, DE 19973

Description: This is a four bay, two-story, front gable, frame store with living space in the rear built before 1885. It has a moulded cornice that returns at the gable ends. Originally there were three elongated two-over-two, double hung sash windows on the second story; only the two to the west remain. Above these windows is a small attic window in the front gable end. The original showcase windows and recessed doorway are on the first story. To the east is the doorway which leads to the second story. The building extends back nearly the entire lot and has a projecting gabled wing to the east midway back. Several of the original shutters remain in the rear portion. On the west to the rear is a two-story bay with windows and a flattened roof. An interior slope chimney is in the rear gable portion.

Significance: The building is significant as the J. W. Cox Dry Goods Store. Originally from West Virginia, Joshua Webster Cox was listed as a dry goods merchant as early as the 1880 census. In 1887 he purchased this lot and the one to the east where he probably lived. The 1897-1898 Delaware State and Peninsula Directory listed his business as J. W. Cox Dry Goods. Upon his death, the property descended to his children; his daughter Mary J. Cox ran M. J. Cox & Company with her brother and sister as it was listed in the Polk Directory of that year. The building is also significant because it remains intact and is an exceptional example of commercial architecture in Seaford in its showcase windows, original windows and doors, and size. The building is presently occupied by the American Original Coperation and used for storage space.