

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **NOV 3 1980**
DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **Redden Forest Complex**

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **Redden State Forest**

CITY, TOWN

Georgetown

VICINITY OF

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

Sussex

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: State Forest

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **Delaware Department of Agriculture, Forestry Section**

STREET & NUMBER **Agriculture Building, U. S. 13**

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Sussex County Courthouse**

STREET & NUMBER **The Circle**

CITY, TOWN

Georgetown

STATE

Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE **Delaware Historical & Cultural Resource Survey (S-825.1, 825.2, 825.3)**

DATE

1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS **Old State House, The Green, P.O. Box 1401**

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Redden Forest Complex is located in the northwest corner of the section of the Redden State Forest situated along Delaware Road 565 near Redden, Delaware. The three main structures contained in the complex are the Redden Forest Lodge (S-825.3), Forester's House (S-825.2) and Stable (S-825.1). The stable and forester's house are situated along the entrance road leading into the forest from Delaware Road 565, while the lodge building is situated in the forest 1400 feet east of the stable along a forest road which intersects with the entrance road just south of the forester's house. The stable and forester's house are about 2400 feet east of Redden Crossroads along U. S. Route 113. The lodge is about 4500 feet east of the crossroads. The structures are also situated about 800 feet east of a Penn Central Railroad line running north and south, roughly parallel with U. S. 113.

All three structures are examples of the rustic "shingle style" of architecture popular at the turn of the century and are typical of the elegant hunting camps of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. All three structures were built in the period 1900-1902 and possess many common features, though each is a different interpretation of the basic shingle style. All of the structures have been well maintained, since the Delaware Department of Agriculture's Forestry Section acquired the property in 1937.

All three structures are of frame construction. The stable and lodge building have heavy cypress timbers and framing. Though the framing of the forester's house is not visible, it is probable that the building's framing is of similar materials. The lodge and stable have interior horizontal siding of cypress and all three structures are covered with exterior cypress sawn shingles. While all were originally possessed of cypress-shingled roofs, the stable and lodge were altered in 1971 by the addition of asphalt shingles over the original wood shingle roofs.

The stable (S-825.1) is a "T"-shaped structure. The bottom of the "T" consists of a large front porch and entryway with a finished attic under a hip roof. The brick-floored porch leads through a massive arched doorway into an enclosed section of the same width, originally designed for the storage of carriages. Extending from each side of the carriage house section is a shed-roofed one-story wing. The wing on the north side of the building was used as an extension of the carriage storage area, while that on the south side of the building served as a tack room. The rear portion of the building, corresponding to the top of the "T", was the original stable area. All of the eight stalls which once ran along both sides of the stable have been removed with the exception of portions of two stalls. The original brick floor has been covered with concrete. The stable section has large doorways at each end which possess a pair of hinged, folding doors. Each wooden framed and planked door section is lit with six-light window. At the center of the rear (east) wall of the building, a stairway rises to the gable-roofed attic area. Two flights of stairs ascend to a single landing from which a single flight of stairs rises to the attic. The stairway's flight is enclosed by solid vertical plank walls, while the lower flights are partially enclosed by vertical planks leading up to handrails. The rear (stable) section of the building is five bays wide. A small doorway of simple design, with two panels at the bottom and a four-light window at the top, is located in the central bay. Double-hung windows with

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 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Recreation
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Redden Forest buildings are survivors of the florid age of great tycoons and "roughing it" in the elegant style of Theodore Roosevelt and other turn-of-the-century sportsmen. As such, and as examples of the elegantly rustic Shingle style of architecture, the buildings are unique in lower Delaware. They are among the very few examples of this type of architecture in the entire state.

The buildings were originally erected in the period 1900-1902 as a recreational retreat and hunting camp for executives of the Pennsylvania Railroad and their high-level guests. The complex was built in 1902 by a man named Frank Graham Thomson of Merion, Pa. Thomson was the son of Frank Thomson, the sixth president of the P. R. R. and inventor of the hospital car. He was the grandson of John Edgar Thomson, who served as the third president of the P. R. R. from 1852 to 1874 and is the man acknowledged to have moved the railroad into the modern era. Recently retired Chief Forester Oscar Bailey, who came to Redden Forest shortly after it was acquired by the State of Delaware in 1937, says that the buildings were built by local craftsmen based on an architect's design. He bases his statements on discussions he had in the 1930's with carpenters who worked on the construction.

At the time of their active use as a hunting lodge complex, a special railroad siding was built at the nearby hamlet of Redden Crossroads. The guests often travelled to the lodge in special trains and private cars. They were transported to the lodge in buggies. Servants and railroad crews lived in what is today the foresters house, and was then the manager's house.

During the early 1903's, the depression put an end to the lifestyle which had given rise to the camp and the buildings fell into disuse. After the area was acquired by the state in the 1930's, it was used briefly by the Civilian Conservation Corps and then became a state forest preserve in 1937.

The structures are well maintained and, because of their location within a forest preserve, are in no danger from development or other pressures. The stable building is used as a storage area for state forest operations. The lodge is made available to public groups for meetings and other events. The forester's house, since Mr. Bailey's retirement, is closed.

While the original complex has lost several smaller structures, including an elegant kennel built in a style similar to that of the stable, the three main buildings of the camp remain. Because of the foresight of the State Division of Forestry, in a largely unaltered state (except for the reconstructed south wing of the lodge), they represent today rare survivors of a sporting era which, even at its height, had only minor impact in Delaware.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mr. Oscar Bailey, Chief Forester, Redden State Forest, 1937-1978, conducted by Dick Carter, September 1978.

George H. Burgess and Miles C. Kennedy, Centennial History of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, 1846-1946. Philadelphia: The Pennsylvania Railroad Company, 1949.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Note: No U.T.M. grid on Georgetown Map - see geographic coordinates on Quadrangle Scale - 1:24,000

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 110 acres.

QUADRANGLE NAME Georgetown, Delaware

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	_____	_____	_____
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	_____	_____	_____
E	_____	_____	_____
G	_____	_____	_____

B	_____	_____	_____
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	_____	_____	_____
F	_____	_____	_____
H	_____	_____	_____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION : The bounds of the complex are as follows: Beginning at a point on the north property line of the Redden State Forest approximately 3500 feet east of Delaware Road 565, thence south 1900 feet along a line 100 yards east of (Continuation Sht.)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dick Carter, Sussex County Historical Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Sussex County Planning & Zoning Department

DATE

October 26, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

The Courthouse

TELEPHONE

(302) 856-7701

CITY OR TOWN

Georgetown

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.

Deputy STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Chief, Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

DATE

10/17/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-25-80

ATTEST:

Barbara Ann Donald
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Christa Jane Saxe
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

11-25-80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The Redden Forest Complex

CONTINUATION SHEET

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DESCRIPTION

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six-over-six sash units are located in the outerbays. Small, three-light casements are located high in each end of the west wall of the stable section just beyond the point where the shed-roofed wings of the front section stop. While the casement units themselves appear to be of modern construction, they apparently replace earlier units which were original to the building. The single windows in the front ends of the two shed-roofed additions are single hung sash units with arched fanlit tops. The arched upper sash units are stationary. The six-light lower sashes are movable. An identical window is located in the south gable end of the rear (stable) section of the building. The large doorway at the south end of the stable is shaded by a bracketed hood with a wood shingled roof. The overhanging eaves have large (four-by-four) rafter ends with sawn decoration. The gable ends, also with a large overhang, are bracketed with sawn and chamfered brackets. The porch roof at the front of the building is supported by four large posts each of which has decorative braces. Both posts and braces have chamfered decoration. The second floor loft or attic is supported by chamfered cypress columns with turned decoration at the tops. The posts appear to correspond to the ends of the original stalls. The north gable end of the building contains double doors with nine-paned windows. Over the doors, which are hinged, is a shingled, boxed in area in the top of the gable end from which a beam extends, designed to hold a pulley to raise hay bales and other material to the loft.

The center of the rear gable-roofed section of the building is crowned with an octagonal cupola with a domical roof. The hip-roof front section of the building has a slightly lower roof peak than the gable-roofed rear section.

The stable is situated on the east side of the forest's entrance road. To the rear and south side are several modern garages and maintenance buildings used by the state forest staff in their activities. The structures were built by the state forestry section at various times after the acquisition of the property by the state in 1937 and are not related to the original purpose of the property. The recently retired chief forester of Redden Forest, Mr. Oscar Bailey of Lincoln, Del., who lived at the forest from 1937 until his retirement in 1978, states that when he first moved to Redden, an elaborate shingled kennel similar in style to the stable was located to the rear of the stable. It has since been demolished since it was apparently in a state of considerable disrepair upon the state's acquisition of the land in 1937 and it could serve no function in the present use of the forest.

The forester's house, which served as Mr. Bailey's residence from 1937 on, is located 400 feet south of the stable and on the opposite side of the entrance road. While it is similar in style to both the stable and the lodge, the house is considerably more formal in its decoration and possesses some colonial revival detailing. It is a five-bay, single-pile, gambrel-roofed structure of one and a half storeys with a smaller gable-roofed, two-storey wing connected to the main

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The Redden Forest Complex

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house by an enclosed breezeway. Like the stable and lodge, the forester's house (S-825.?) is a frame, cypress-shingled structure with a modern asphalt shingled roof over the original cypress roof shingles. The gable ends of both the main house and the wing have full returns. The roof of the main house is pierced with three shed dormers on each side. It contains two interior end chimneys and a smaller chimney extending from the front slope of the roof near the peak. All are brick as is the foundation of the main house and the piers supporting the breezeway and wing. The main house has a full basement underneath and an original wood furnace. The eaves of the main house also have a large overhang which is supported by decorative white-painted arched brackets.

The front entrance has a wood-floored stoop with brick steps and benches extending across the ends of the stoop and along either side of the semi-circular arched doorway. The six-over-six double hung windows on the house are trimmed with white painted wood in contrast to the brown shingled walls. The first floor windows of both main house and wing have panelled shutters painted dark green. The small second floor windows of the two-bay wing are six-light casements.

The rear shed dormers on the main house each contain two windows in contrast to those on the front of the house which have only one window. Extending the width of the central bay at the rear of the main house is a gable-roofed porch with bracketed gable end and decorated rafter ends at the eaves. The porch is supported by simple square moulded columns. Two entrances give access from the porch to the house. Each contains French doors with panelled shutters at the sides of the doorways. The porch is supported by brick piers and has brick steps. According to a photograph of the house taken in the 1940's, a Xerox copy of which is attached to this nomination, the breezeway between main house and wing (which functioned as kitchen and servant's quarters) was originally open and closed in only with lattacework. It has since been closed in with framing and shingles and now possesses doorways at front and rear. A doorway is located in the rear wall of the wing between the two first floor windows. Though the interior of the forester's house is not presently accessible, it contains, according to Mr. Bailey, six small bedrooms on the second floor connected to a central hallway and a large living room, dining room, hallway, and kitchen on the first floor. The interior walls are plastered.

A small cypress shingled garage of the same vintage as the house and a small shed-roofed poultry house sit to the rear of the forester's house. The frame poultry house has white-painted weatherboard siding and is typical of small poultry house construction in lower Delaware of the 1930's and 1940's. It appears to have been built after the state acquired the forest in the 1930's.

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The Redden Forest Complex

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The Lodge building (S-825.3) sits 1400 feet east of the stable and forester's house and is located in the forested area itself. It sits in an "island" between two forest roads and is a broad "V"-shaped structure with a rear porch extending off the bottom of the "V". It is a one-and-a-half story structure of frame and cypress shingle construction. The lodge is quite similar to the stable building in its general construction and possesses identical sawn decoration on the rafter ends and other details. Of the three Redden Forest buildings, the lodge has been altered the most as the result of a fire caused by lightening in the early 1970's. At the time about 40 per cent of the building was destroyed (the southern wing of the "V"). It was rebuilt by the state Department of Agriculture in a way designed to approximate the original outside appearance of the building as closely as possible. The most obvious difference is that, because of the modern-day rarity and great cost of cypress shingles, the burned area was rebuilt with sawn cedar shingles. Fortunately, the most imposing and architecturally significant area of the lodge, both inside and out - the central lobby section and rear porch - was not damaged by the fire. The lodge and the other two buildings had their roofs covered by modern asphalt shingles at the time of the reconstruction work on the lodge in 1971. At that time a modern smoke and fire detection system was installed in the lodge building.

The central section, like the rest of the building, has broad, overhanging eaves with decorated rafter ends. a small front stoop is hooded and supported by heavy timber brackets, also decorated. Benches sit on the sides of the stoop, perpendicular to the wall of the building. The front door of the lodge is a heavy board and batten Dutch door original to the building. At the point where each wing ties into the central section there are smaller doors. That on the southern wing has a concrete ramp leading to the ground, installed at the time of the 1971 reconstruction of the wing.

The central section is seven bays wide and each wing is also seven bays wide. In the center of each wing are four closely spaced six-over-six double hung sash windows with larger double hung six-over-six windows at the end of each wing and evenly spaced on each side of the doorway in the central section. All have board-and-batten shutters. Two six-over-six windows, also shuttered, are located in the end wall of the original wing. The reconstructed wing has two six-over-six shuttered windows and a doorway. Five six-over-six windows are located in the rear walls of each wing while the central section has three windows and two doorways leading onto the rear porch. Both the main building and the rear porch are hip-roofed. The porch is supported by heavy bracketed timbers and has exposed beams. Two gable-roofed

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The Redden Forest Complex

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dormers are located in the front roof slope of the central section with one dormer in the rear roof slope. All have six-over-six windows. Massive chimneys of brick extend through the roof at the point where the wings join the central section. The structure has a brick foundation and does not have a basement.

The central section consists of three rooms - a large central lobby and a smaller dining room to the south with a small gun room to the north. The central lobby area contains two massive brick fireplaces with exposed chimneys. Smaller fireplaces are built into the back of each chimney and open into the gun room and the dining room. The lobby fireplaces are nine feet wide and have six foot wide hearths. The walls inside the lodge are panelled in cypress with the exception of the fireplace wall of the dining room, which contains a fully panelled end wall said to have been removed from an 18th century Long Island home and placed in the lodge at the time of its construction. It has raised panelling and a moulded Federal style mantelpiece. The gun room contains an original gun cabinet and an arched recess in the brick chimney which apparently held a trophy originally.

Located next to the gun room at the beginning of the north wing is a bathroom with original early 20th century fixtures. The two remaining rooms in the wing are bedrooms. The south wing has been rebuilt and now contains two modern kitchens, two modern bathrooms, and a large modern dining room, used by the state government for public functions.

The ceiling in the central lobby is a full one-and-a-half stories high and has exposed bracketed and cross-tied beams and two rustic style chandeliers made to resemble wagon wheels. The ceilings throughout the rest of the building are one story with attics above. Throughout the original section of the lodge is the original Mission-style furniture with which the building was furnished after its construction.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

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(Verbal Boundary continuation):

the east wall of the lodge until it intersects a line 100 yards south of the south corner of the Forester's house, thence approximately 3500 feet east to the western boundary of the Redden State Forest, thence northwest along the boundary to the south edge of the right-of-way of Delaware Road 565, thence north and east along the north forest property line to the point of beginning.

Geographical Data: U.T.M. Grid Marks do not appear on the GEORGETOWN U.S.G.S. Map. The Geographic Coordinates are as follows:

	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Latitude</u>
A.	75°24'26"	38°44'36"
B.	75°24'26"	38°44'19"
C.	75°24'58"	38°44'19"
D.	75°25'00"	38°44'22"
E.	75°25'03"	38°44'29"
F.	75°24'53"	38°44'36"
G.	75°24'46"	38°44'37"

