

PH0021555

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUL 2 1973	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Darley House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Wren's Nest, The Chimneys

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Northwest corner Darley Road and Philadelphia Pike

CITY OR TOWN:
Claymont

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: New Castle CODE: 003



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Dr. George Boines

STREET AND NUMBER:
413 North Broom Street

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Public Building

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rodney Square

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
A List of Delaware Heritage Buildings and Areas in New Castle County

DATE OF SURVEY: 1963
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Greater Wilmington Development Council

STREET AND NUMBER:
300 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1320

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

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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 Darley House, also known as the Wren's Nest, stands at the corner of Route 13 (Philadelphia Pike) and Darley Road, in Claymont. The front of the property is protected from the highway by large trees, which obscure the facade. The facade is symmetrically arranged. The principal door, in the center bay, is flanked by sidelights and crowned by a rectangular transom; an ornate portico, with large brackets and acorn pendants, covers the entry. The general outline of the house is rather standard, 2½ stories high, three bays wide, with three dormers across the front. In detail, however, the Darley House is a rich architectural creation.

Even though some of the details have been removed, and the house sheathed in composition shingles, the structure has retained its original overall appearance. A scrollwork bargeboard, triple chimney pots, Moorish interior doorway arches, and original stone mantels, survive to provide a very clear picture of Darley's personal taste.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

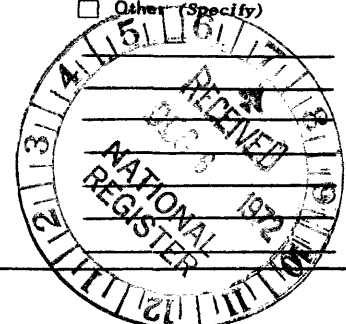
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input 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)

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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input checked="" 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

During the middle years of the nineteenth century, the words, "illustrated by Darley" on the title page of a book almost guaranteed a successful edition. Felix Octavius Carr Darley worked during a period when an increased demand for moderately-priced books caused publishers to search for faster, less expensive, methods of reproduction, and for artists who could work with the new media.

Felix Darley was born in Philadelphia in 1822, the son of John and Eleanora Westray Darley, both of whom had been on the comedy stage in England. He may have sketched on the banks of the Delaware as a boy, but his parents wanted him to enter a business career. Only after selling several sketches in 1842 did he devote his full time to art as a profession.

In that year, Darley sold a few street sketches to his friend Edgar Allan Poe, editor of the Saturday Museum. Poe planned to publish his own magazine, the Stylus, and in 1843 signed a contract with Darley as illustrator. The magazine never materialized, but Darley did two sketches for "The Gold Bug."

Darley became associated with the firm of Carey and Hart in 1845; during the next three years, this company published his first major work, The Library of Humorous American Works, in eighteen

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bolton, Theodore. "The Book Illustrations of Felix Octavius Carr Darley." Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society. v. 61 (April-October 1951) (Wilmington) Journal Every Evening. July 28, 1943, p. 13.
 Pitz, Henry. The Brandywine Tradition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1969
 New Castle County Deed Book K, Vol. 5, p. 148.

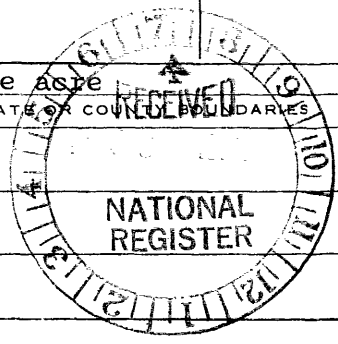
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	39	48	17
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	75	27	16
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Under one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: July 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins

Title Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Date 11727-72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/2/73

ATTEST: W. H. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 6 25 73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Delaware	
COUNTY	New Castle	
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(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

paper-covered volumes. Darley's talent for capturing American scenes probably inspired Washington Irving's publisher to retain him as illustrator for the Sketch Book and Rip Van Winkle. Darley's work for Irving cemented his reputation by linking his name with that of a favorite author. After Darley executed the wood blocks for Irving's Knickerbocker History of New York, Irving remarked that

Jarvis tried but failed to embody my conception of Diedrich Knickerbocker; Leslie also. Darley hit it in the Illustrated History of New York. My idea was that he should carry the air of one profoundly impressed with the truth of his own history.

Darley also engraved on wood for Dickens, Cooper, Stowe, and Longfellow.

In 1859, Felix Darley married Jane Colborn, through whom he probably met Ralph Waldo Emerson and other literary Bostonians who were Jane's friends. The couple settled in Delaware, on property that had been bought seventeen years earlier by John Clarendon Darley, the artist's brother.

His popularity never subsided, although in his later years he shared title-page credits with such developing illustrators as Howard Pyle and Winslow Homer. Felix O. Darley died at Wren's Nest in March 1888.

