

PH00732LS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware  
 COUNTY: Kent  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: DEC 24 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Brecknock  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Howell's Mill Seat

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *0.5 mile north of junction of Route 13 & 13A*  
 west side of junction of Route 13 & 13A  
 CITY OR TOWN: 1/2 mile north of Camden  
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: One  
 STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: Kent CODE: 001

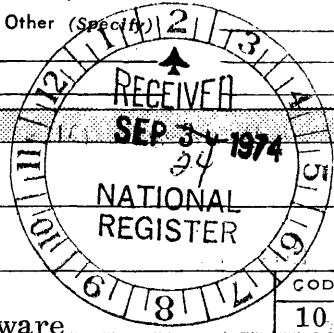
3. CLASSIFICATION

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"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Elizabeth Howell Goggin  
 STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 711  
 CITY OR TOWN: Dover  
 STATE: Delaware  
 CODE: 10



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Kent County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER: The Green  
 CITY OR TOWN: Dover  
 STATE: Delaware  
 CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Kent County Planning and Zoning Survey  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1965-9  
 Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Hall of Records  
 CITY OR TOWN: Dover  
 STATE: Delaware  
 CODE: 10

STATE: Delaware  
 COUNTY: Kent  
 ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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

Several unusual features set Brecknock apart from other Kent County houses. It was built in four sections, two of brick and two of frame. The original house possibly dates before 1700.

The oldest section was crudely built, suggesting haste. The common-bond brick walls are not plumb and the knotty oak beams in the structural supports have needed reinforcement. This one-room section has a shed roof. The loft above was reached by a ladder through an opening near the end of the fireplace. An oven originally occupied one end of the fireplace wall. Its separate hearth and chimney have since been removed. Improvements in this section during the eighteenth century included the laying of a floor, plastering of the walls and the construction of an enclosed staircase.

A brick addition, also shed-roofed, was constructed at right angles to the south end of the original house, probably during the 1740's. This section is two stories high. The roof of the earlier house was raised to meet the cornice line of this part. This alteration allowed the loft of the original house to be divided into two rooms by a board partition. The batten doors had leather hinges. In the new section, the first floor was divided by a board, lath and plaster partition. The corner fireplace in this section has a very heavy dog-eared bolection moulding with a dog-eared framed over-mantel. A similar fireplace, though less elaborately detailed, is situated in the room above.

The next shed-roofed addition, of frame construction, was built to abut the second brick portion. The roof of the second part was raised to meet the peak of the new two-and-a-half story addition, thus creating a gable roof. On the first floor, this third part contains a stairhall and a large parlor with two bedrooms above. The parlor has a corner fireplace surrounded by raised paneling. In the opposite corner stands a butterfly cupboard with a keystone arched opening. Like the back parlor, this room contains a chair rail and crown moulding. The heaviness of the bolection moulding in the back parlor is not repeated in this room, however. Some of the window frames date from 1837 when the house was renovated. The closed string stairway with urn-shaped balusters features squared newel posts. The stair railing, a four inch square solid piece of heart pine, is smooth on one side while on the opposite side is moulded to match the chair rail in the front parlor.

Almost all the mouldings in this section of the house are similar in design. It was built at about the middle of the eighteenth century.

The last addition to the house was built as a four room apartment for the mill wagon driver in the 1880's. This frame section completed the front of the house, taking the same roof pitch as the other frame section. There are two rooms on each floor. These rooms were incorporated into the house after 1912.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    |  | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Brecknock is a well-preserved eighteenth century house, which has remained in the same family for more than two centuries. On the property is a mill seat of considerable local importance. The history of Brecknock can be traced from an unfulfilled economic venture during the seventeenth century to a successful milling enterprise which remained in one family for more than one hundred and sixty years.

The six-hundred-acre tract called Brecknock was granted to Alexander Humphrey in 1680. It lay along Isaac's Branch between the Dover River and Betty Smith's Branch, a distance of about two miles. The land changed hands in 1682 and again in 1685. Daniel Toaes, who purchased the tract, called himself a mariner and cited England as his home. In payment for the land, he gave one white servant and 4000 pounds of tobacco in casks. At the time he purchased Brecknock, he also took up the tract Reserve, to the east, making a total holding of one thousand acres. He already owned twelve hundred acres on Tidbury Branch and Toaes continued to buy contiguous land in the area, including the Smyrna, Geneva, Shoemaker Hall and Dundee tracts. Whatever his plans may have been, he succeeded only in establishing a dam and water mill near the present Moore's Lake. The original house at Brecknock apparently was crudely built and perhaps served as temporary shelter, or for an overseer. After assembling such a large holding, Toaes did not settle on the property. He settled instead in Maryland, where he died in 1696 while still in possession of three tracts in the Dover area.

The Brecknock tract was sold in 1724 by Toaes' administrator to Andrew Caldwell, a land speculator. It is not known who lived on the property from 1697 until 1740. John Hill, a millwright, bought part of the property, including a mill seat and the house site for 10 pounds. In 1746, the house site was sold to John Clayton, Jr. In this deed, a residence was mentioned. From this evidence, it appears that Hill built some part of the house.

John Clayton, Jr. and later James Clayton, who reunited the tract, were responsible for the development of the mill-seat. John Clayton, Jr. owned another mill nearby; in 1750 he sold the Brecknock property to his brother James. During his ten-year tenure there, James may have constructed the first frame addition to the house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Kent County Deeds - A, 4; B, 63; H, 123; L, 73; N, 134; O, 48; O, 127; Q, 33; V, 246;  
 R, 114; K-3, 211-12; K-3, 212-13; N-9, 305; P-9, 240; N-5, 456; T-18, 481.  
 Kent County Wills - V-1, 235; A03, 278.

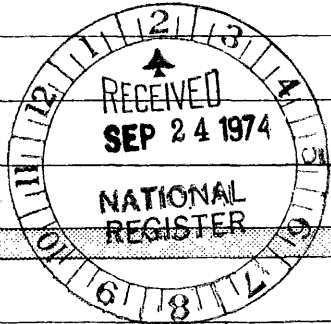
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 ° 07 ' 26 "	75 ° 32 ' 10 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **110 acres (total property) 5 acres nom.**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Elizabeth H. Goggin (Mrs. Henry Reed)**

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE **1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P. O. Box 711**

CITY OR TOWN: **Dover** STATE **Delaware** CODE **10**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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. Ronald M. Finch**  
 Title **Director, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs**  
 Date **9/18/74**

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

**AR Weortman**  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **12/24/74**

ATTEST:  
**Wm. M. ...**  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **12.24.74**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 24 1974

(Number all entries) 7. Description, cont'd.

The development of the house can be easily discerned from the exterior. Brecknock illustrates how a house expands to meet the growing needs of its owners. It is unusual because of its shed rooflines. These are not often found in this region. The four corner fireplaces, built in outside corners, are also unique in this region.



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Delaware	
COUNTY	Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		DEC 24 1974

(Number all entries) 8. Significance, cont'd.

The mill was built between 1746 and 1750; in the deed from John to James it is called Clayton's New Mill. In 1752, one of the small streams running into Isaac's Branch was dammed and headgates were installed; the other tributary was directed into a mill race on the south side of the branch. When it was next sold, the millpond totalled about sixty acres.

In 1760, Thomas Hanson and Joshua Gregg gave bond to James Clayton; they received the deed to Brecknock in 1761. Gregg, a member of a well-known New Castle County and Chester County, Pennsylvania, milling family, sold his interest to his partner in 1766. The Hanson family were well-respected residents of Kent County. Timothy Hanson had served as a justice of the peace in 1710, 1715, 1717 and 1726. His son, Thomas, served in the same office from 1771 to 1774.

The property became known as Hanson's Millpond. After 1783, it took the name of Hanson's heir, Samuel Howell, becoming Howell's Millpond. In 1928, the headgates went out in a storm and have never been replaced. The mill is now in ruins but the house is in a good state of preservation having remained in the same family from 1766 to the present.



DELAWARE-KENT CO.

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SE 4 WYOMING 15' QUADRANGLE

SMYRNA 1/4 M. DOVER (STATE CAPITOL) 2.2 MI.

SMYRNA 1/4 M. DOVER (STATE CAPITOL) 2.9 MI.

2.6 MI. TO DEL. 8

DISTRICT NO. 4

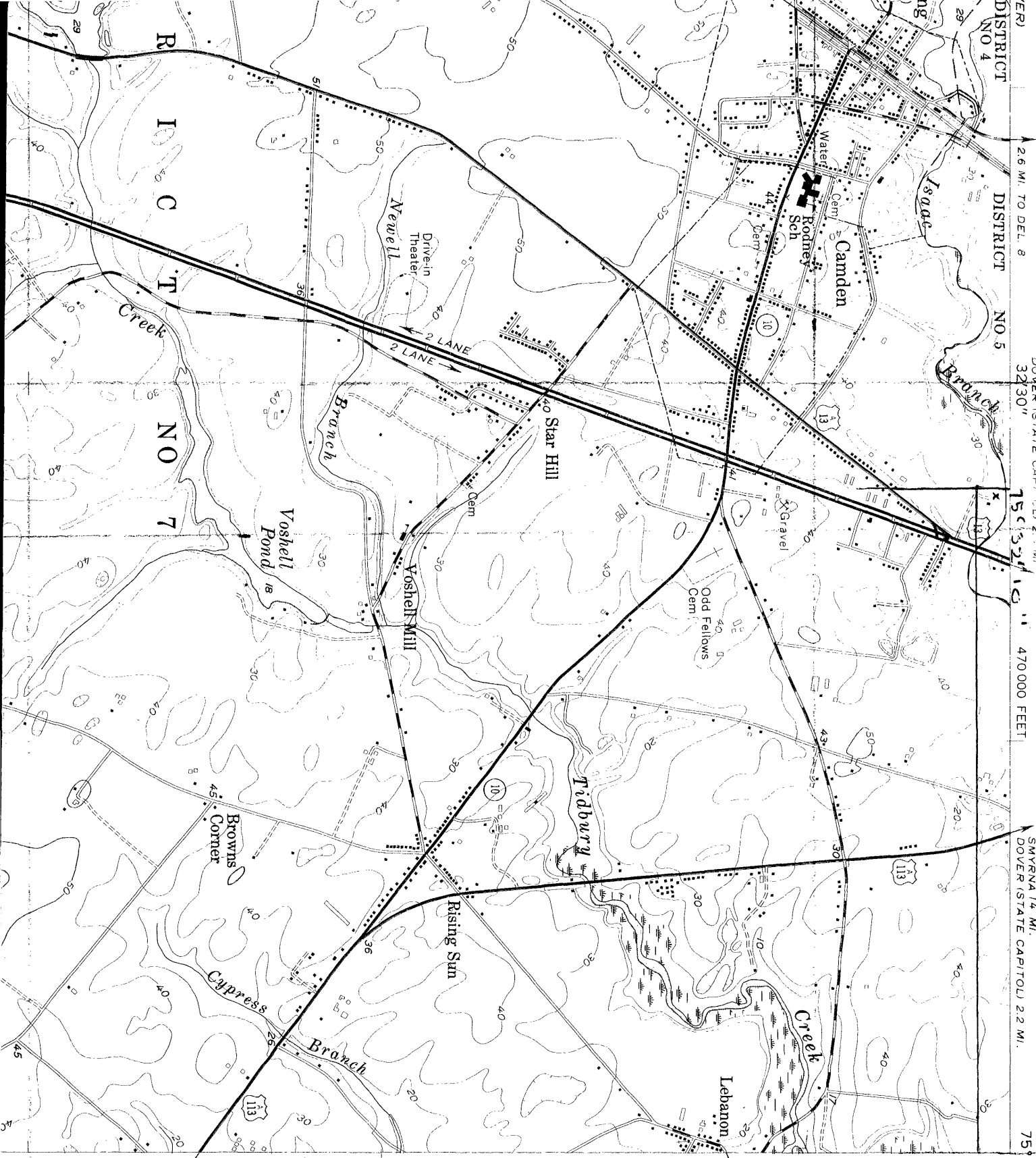
DISTRICT NO. 5

75° 30'

39° 07' 30"

LITTLE CR...  
Scale 1:24,000  
(1956)

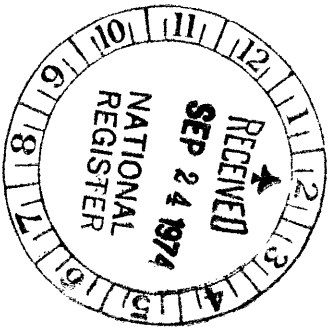
Wyoming Quadrangle 1956



MAGNOLIA 1.9 MI.  
FREDERICA 6.4 MI.

400 000  
FEET

1.3 MI. TO U.S. 113



Handwritten notes: 'HT' and '11/11/74'.

