

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>DELAWARE</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Kent</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>APR 14 1975</b>

### 1. NAME

COMMON: <b>214 South State Street</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>John Bullen' House</b>

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: <b>214 South State Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Dover</b>			
STATE <b>Delaware</b>	CODE <b>10</b>	COUNTY: <b>Kent</b>	CODE <b>001</b>

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

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

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: <b>Farmers Bank of Delaware</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Loockerman Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Dover</b>	STATE: <b>Delaware</b>	CODE <b>10</b>	<b>Delaware</b>

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Kent County Court House</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Dover Green</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Dover</b>	STATE: <b>Delaware</b>	CODE <b>10</b>	<b>Kent</b>

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>Survey of Delaware Historic Sites and Buildings</b>			
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>1973</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Historic Preservation Section, Hall of Records</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Dover</b>	STATE: <b>Delaware</b>	CODE <b>10</b>	<b>Delaware</b>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Delaware  
COUNTY: Kent  
ENTRY NUMBER: 10049581  
DATE: APR 14 1975  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The John Bullen House is one of the few surviving examples of eighteenth-century building in Dover. It is a five-bay, center-hall house with a pitched roof and interior end chimneys. It is laid in Flemish bond in the front and in five-course common bond in the rear and sides. The facade has a brick belt course. It has a boxed cornice with a dentil bed mould in the front.

The cellar windows, now bricked over, had flat brick arches. The remaining windows of the house are flat with little trim; the frames of the windows have been modified. On the south wall, the only openings are two attic windows, while the north wall contains two additional windows, one on each floor. On the first floor, the twelve-over-twelve windows have panelled shutters. The second floor windows have two-over-two lights and louvered shutters. The doorway has been modernized to include a transom and a pair of louvered doors.

The rear wing was added at two different times. The portion contiguous to the main part of the house was built at the same time as the main house or shortly thereafter. The back portion of the wing is somewhat later. There is a brick corbel cornice along both sides of the entire back wing. To the rear of the south end of the house there is evidence of a porch and bricked up door leading into the main house.

The deep roof overhangs on the ends may indicate that the cornice has been modified.

There is original woodwork in the central hall, the former dining room, and the second floor south bedroom. The hallway has a chair rail and cornice.

An open-string staircase leads to a landing and then to the second floor. It contains engaged pilasters and chair rail. From the second floor to the landing and to the attic there is a closed-string staircase. The attic stair retains the same width as the lower staircase. There are drop pendants below the newels at the breaks in the staircase.

The dining room has dog-eared trim around the doorway from the central hall and around the mantel with evidence that the same trim once existed around the modified doorway to the back wing. There is also evidence of a chair rail in the dining room.

The second-floor south bedroom has fine woodwork with punch and gouge design above the fireplace. The bed mould of the cornice contains evidence of the same design, which has been removed. This bedroom contains a chair rail.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                        |                                       |                                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1775 - 1781

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Local history</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>crafts</u>                                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                               |
| <input 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

The brick house owned by the Farmers Bank of the State of Delaware, located on the west side of State Street between North and Lookerman streets, is a rare documented example of the work of a Dover master builder. It is the only surviving eighteenth-century domestic building known to have been built by, inhabited by, and owned by a Dover carpenter. Though somewhat modified since it was built, it is still a significant example of eighteenth-century Dover architecture. John Bullen, house carpenter, built the house during the Revolutionary War, between 1775 and 1781. When he purchased the land on which the house now stands from Vincent Lookerman, Jr. in 1775, the land was unimproved. When Bullen died in 1781, there was a mansion house on the land which he left to his wife Rachel. After her death, the house passed to her daughter, Rachel Bullen Bedwell, wife of John Bedwell.

In 1796, the Bedwells sold the house to Joseph Harper. The next year he sold it to Benoni Harris. Thereafter, James Harper, Joseph Smithers, Thomas Harris, James C. Bird and James T. Bird were among the owners of the house. In 1866, Edwin M. Stevenson purchased the house; it remained in his family until 1931. James A. Downes purchased the house in 1931 and in 1947 he conveyed it to his daughter, Salome Downes Edgeworth. Finally, in 1959, she sold the house to the Farmers Bank of the State of Delaware.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Kent County, Deed Books; Land Grants and Surveys; Orphan's Court Books; Warrants and Surveys; Wills and Administrations; Will Books.

Charles C. Brown Survey of Salome Edgeworth Property in Dover, Kent County, Delaware, December 29, 1958.

**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	0 ' "	0 ' "		39 ° 09 ' 28 "	75 ° 31 ' 29 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Susanne N. Fox, Historic Site Surveyor**

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: October 30, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Hall of Records

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 Robert H. Reed  
 Title State Historic Preservation Officer  
 Date 1-13-75

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

ARLW + TCC  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/14/75

ATTEST:  
W. H. ...  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 APR 8 1975

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NO  
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
DELAWARE	
COUNTY	
Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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	APR 14 1975

(Number all entries)

7. Description (continued)

The parlor has been remodeled in the Victorian style with a white marble mantel and Victorian ceiling trim.

Although the superficial changes have given the house a nineteenth-century appearance, it retains most of its original character.