

PH0507474

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 18 1977
DATE ENTERED	JUL 21 1978

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The Bank House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

119 North Walnut Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Milford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
one

VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

Kent

CODE

001

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Edward Millis Hurley

STREET & NUMBER

119 North Walnut Street

CITY, TOWN

Milford

STATE

Delaware

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

The Green

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey, K-167

DATE

1973

FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bank House, a detached residence, is situated on the southeast corner of North Walnut Street and North East Second Street, only one block above Milford's business district.

The Greek Revival building is built of brick. The main block is three stories set on a raised basement, 42 feet by 34 feet. An attached two-story L-shaped wing, 40 feet by 18 feet, runs along North Second Street.

The facade of the five-bay house is faced with white marble at the basement level and above this with pressed brick laid in running bond. The detailing of the windows is quite plain. The sills are of cut marble, the lintels of wood. The cornice of the flat roof has a heavy overhang, carved brackets and an unornamented bed mould. The outstanding architectural feature of the facade is the entrance portico. A fully developed entablature of the Doric order is supported by classic Corinthian fluted columns whose capitals are ornamented with the Greek acanthus leaf. The hood mould of the moulded door architrave is supported by heavily carved brackets.

On the first floor of the main section of the house there are three rooms and a center hallway. The drawing room, to the left of the hallway, runs almost the length of the building, and is approximately 15 x 34 feet. In this room, the ceiling is done in gesso work and the two fireplaces have white marble fronts. On the other side of the hallway are two rooms, the front one having been planned for the counting room. The stairway in the entrance hall mounts uninterruptedly to the third floor. On the first floor of the wing are the dining room and kitchen.

Throughout the first floor, the windows are embrasured with heavily moulded architraves and, in style, correspond with the doors which have six equal panels. Door and window architraves are massive, being 10" wide and mitred. All of the mouldings are of the Greek Revival mode.

On the second floor there are four bedrooms of equal size in the main section, and two rooms with hall and bath in the wing. On the third floor there are four rooms of the same dimensions as those on the floor below.

In the house there is a total of ten fireplaces, five on the first floor and five on the second floor. Some of these have been closed off for the installation of a modern heating system.

An interesting feature which is virtually intact is the bell pull system so common to houses of this period. All of the bells are still present, hung high on the kitchen wall.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES	1854-1857	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Alonzo Reynolds
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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bank House is important as an example of a departed commercial custom, as well as being an architecturally outstanding building of the Greek Revival style in Milford. Planned and begun as a banking house for the short-lived Bank of Milford, its design carries out the practical purpose of serving as both a banking house and as a dwelling. At the time of its building, it was customary for the cashier of a bank and his family to live in the bank building, thus giving protection to the deposits housed there. Evidence of the plan for a bank shows in two places; namely, vestiges of a brick vault in the basement, and the original plan for a door on the south side front, now a window.

When the bank was closed on March 2, 1855 by an act of the General Assembly, the building was incomplete. Later that year, the unfinished building was sold at a sheriff's sale to the Farmers' Bank of the State of Delaware which, a year later, sold it to a local physician, Dr. James R. Mitchell, who completed the building for use as his residence and medical office.

Alonzo Reynolds, the architect, was from Port Deposit, Maryland. Among his other work is the old county office building in Dover, now a state office. The Bank House exemplifies the fine detailing for which he became known. As this house has been kept so much intact, it is surely one of the best known examples of Reynold's work.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A History of Milford, Delaware. Milford Historical Society News Letter, Vol.7, No. 1.

Kent County Deed Book, N-4, pp. 304-7.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/6 of an acre

UTM REFERENCES

43 07 - 260

A	<u>18</u>	<u>462840</u>	<u>4307260</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area fronts 60 feet on its western boundary, North Walnut Street. The frontage extends back approximately 75 feet to meet the eastern boundary of the rear garden.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Miss M. Catherine Downing, Chairman

ORGANIZATION

Delaware State Review Board for Historic Preservation

DATE

July 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Records

TELEPHONE

(302) 678-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware 19901

# 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Lauren Cheney*

TITLE

Director, Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE

11/15/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST: <i>Manoella</i>	DATE <u>7/3/78</u>
	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE <u>7-25-78</u>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 12 1978
DATE ENTERED	JUL 31 1978

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

Bank House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

The following changes should be made to the text:

Description

Paragraph 2, Line 1, Replace sentence 1 with:

The building, which reflects both Greek Revival and Italianate detailing, is constructed of brick.

Paragraph 3, Line 4, insert the following sentence after "mould."

This feature and the general massing of the structure indicate the Italianate influences in the style of the house.

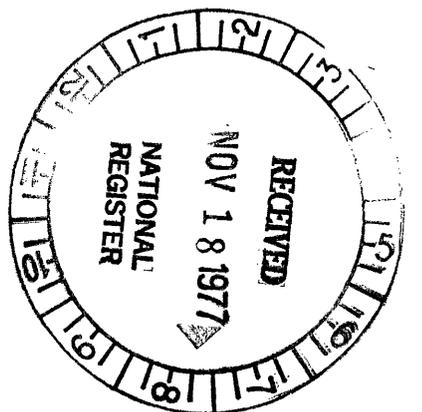
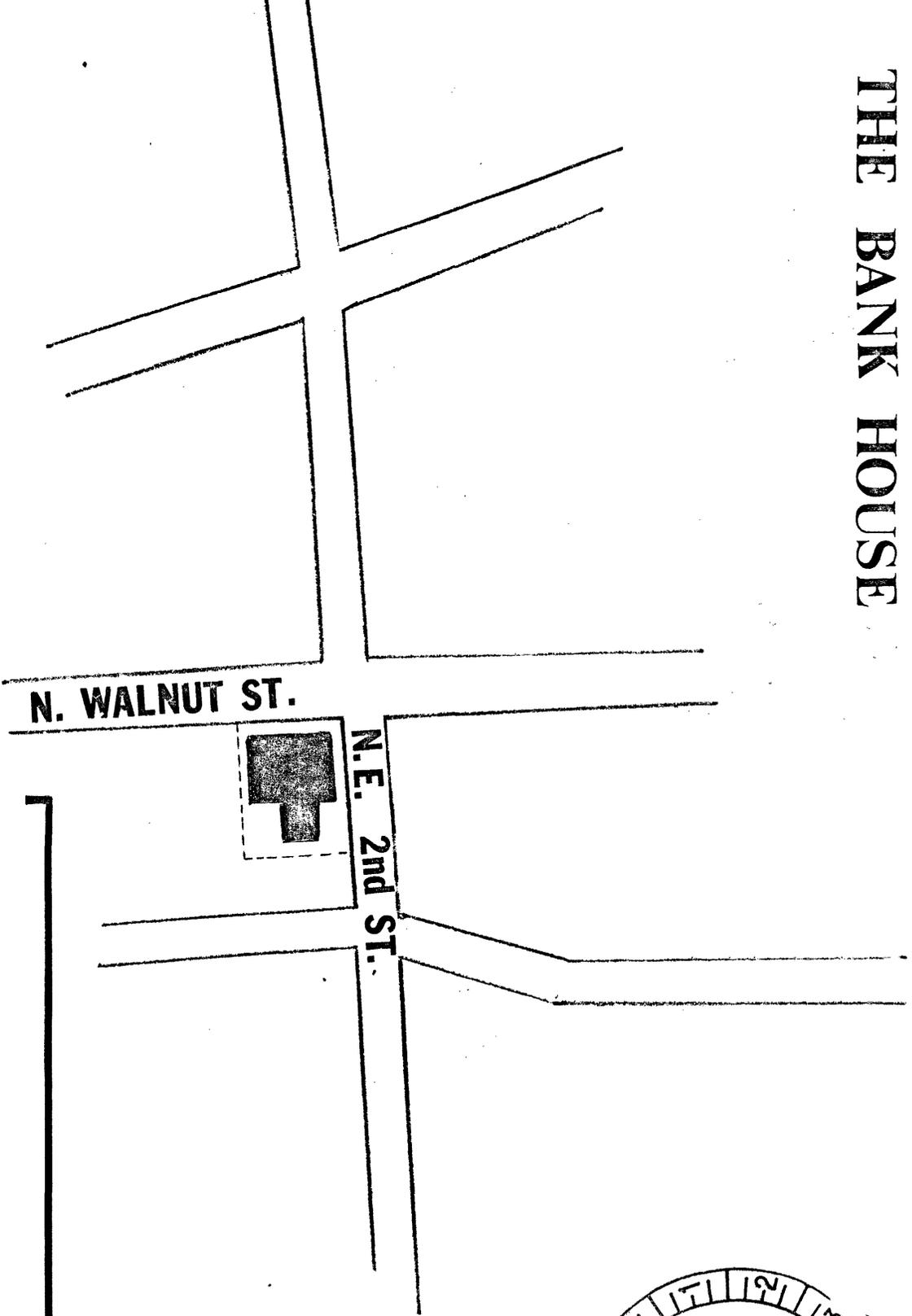
Paragraph 4, Line 7, insert the following sentence after "floor."

The first floor stair newel is quite massive; Italianate influences in the detailing is reflected here and in the stair balusters.

Significance

Paragraph 1, Line 2, delete the following: "of the Greek Revival style."

# THE BANK HOUSE



DELAWARE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DRAWN BY **jca** DATE **9/77** SCALE **1"=100'**

FILE **K-167** TITLE **sketch map**