

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

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

200  
For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered  
OCT 12 1982

**1. Name** Postles House

historic

and/or common 1007 NORTH BROOM STREET

**2. Location**

street & number 1007 North Broom Street

NA not for publication

city, town Wilmington vicinity of congressional district One

state Delaware code 10 county New Castle code 003

**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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Calvin K and Catherine Kauffman

street & number 1007 North Broom Street

city, town Wilmington vicinity of state Delaware 19801

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New Castle Recorder of Deeds

street & number 800 French Street

city, town Wilmington, state Delaware 19801

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Delaware Cultural Resource has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Hall of Records

city, town Dover, state Delaware 19901

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

1007 NORTH BROOM STREET

DESCRIPTION

The Postles house at 1007 North Broom Street is a three-story "T" shaped eclectic structure with Tudor Gothic elements. It has retained a very high degree of original architectural integrity, possibly due to having only four owners in its 77-year history.

The facade and main block are of random-coursed ashler with granite trim. Two-story polygonal bays emerge on either side of the entrance. The fenestrated bays are topped with battlements with wide merlons and crenelles; steep parapeted gables rise above them. The main entry wall with the Tudor arched surrounds contains a centered double-wide doorway with decorative wrought iron work protecting recessed doors with leaded glass. The single window above the entry way and the two windows in the third-story dormer above the entry way repeat its flattened arch width, while the windows in the bays and in the attic story above the bays are rectilinear in shape. Double chimneys are symmetrically placed at either end of the front section of the house. The roof is of slate.

The side and rear sections of the house do not repeat the symmetrical patterns of the facade; rather the windows are placed in an irregular fashion. The side windows also differ in materials; those in the main block are of leaded glass in an intricate octagonal design, while those in the rear wing are 12-over-12 lights.

The rear wing is of mixed materials--pebble stucco and wood.

The adjacent carriage house is of identical styling to the main dwelling. It retains original interior detail and has two bedrooms, a bath, and a kitchen in addition to space for two motor vehicles.

Inside, the main house has a central hall plan on the first floor, with sitting room/library, dining room to the left, the pantry and kitchen at the rear of the house, and the grand living room and stairs to the upper floors to the right. The sitting room features a fireplace with original mantle and grass wallpaper. The pantry and the kitchen retain the original floor to ceiling wooden cabinets. The living room displays an exposed beam and plaster ceiling. The dining room, with its access to the enclosed porch, as well as the other rooms on the first floor of the house, display original features which include bulleye molding around doors and windows.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The staircase has the original carved newel post and balusters, all of a rich dark wood. The stair landings between the first and second and the second and third floors feature leaded glass windows and are large enough for a small grouping of chairs. Stairs and landings have exposed finished wood flooring, as do the first-story floors.

The second floor has three bedrooms, a sitting room, and two baths, arranged around a central hall pattern. The third floor repeats this layout. All of the original woodwork has been retained on the upper floors. It is interesting to know that even the original fuse box remains on the third floor.

Justification of boundaries

The boundaries of the nominated property were set at the current legal parcel boundaries as indicated on the Sanborne map included in this nomination encompassing .26 acre at the southwest corner of 11th Street and North Broom Street. All evidence points to these being the boundaries at the time of the structure's construction, thereby being the logical boundaries for this nomination.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates**      1905                      **Builder/Architect**      Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

1007 NORTH BROOM STREET

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1007 North Broom Street, known to many Wilmington residents as "The Gargoyle House", is an eclectic structure with Tudor Gothic elements, built in 1905. It serves as an outstanding example of a dwelling built by the affluent class of Wilmington as its members moved to the more rural but fashionable western section of the City. The original owner was a member of a noteworthy Delaware family. The changes in ownership of the house reflect changes in the industrial association of Wilmington's affluent class from basic industrial (i.e. leather) to predominately chemical. Accordingly, 1007 North Broom Street is nominated under criteria B and C, associated with lives of persons significant in our past and embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type or period or method of construction.

The house at 1007 North Broom Street was built in 1905 by Grantley Post Postles, the third generation of a Delaware leather producing family. Grantley was the son of General James Parke Postles, a Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor winner and Adjutant General of the State of Delaware under Governors Cochran, Hall, and Stockley (1878-1890 approximately). James Parke Postles was also the individual most responsible for the evolution of the volunteer militia into an effective National Guard. General Postles was the most noteworthy of the family, and added patriotic respectability to a successful but average industrial family involved in one of the leading industries (leather) in Delaware in the last half of the nineteenth century. The Postles' family company, American Leather, remained in family hands with son succeeding father as president of the company from the 1860s to 1910. Grantley is the last Postles listed as president. 1911 City directories show American Leather and the old address with new owners, and show Grantley Postles as owning an auto business. Grantley remained in the auto business until 1916, after which time both his business address and the house at 1007 were shown with new owners, and Grantley and his wife, Laura, disappeared from the City directories.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

City Directories for Wilmington, Delaware, 1885-1977  
Biographical & Genealogical History of the State of  
Delaware, Vol. 2, J.M. Runk & Co. Chambers, Pa. 1899

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property       ,26      

Quadrangle name Wilmington North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	8	4	5	1	8	2	0	4	4	0	0	1	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Item 7

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia A. Maley, Planner II

organization Wilmington Dept of Planning date March 1982

street & number 800 French st. telephone (302) 571-4402

city or town Wilmington 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Daniel R. [Signature]

title Deputy SHPO date Sept. 30, 1982

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
Keoper of the National Register [Signature] Entered in the National Register date 11/12/82  
Attest: Chief of Registration date

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

After Postles, the house at 1007 North Broom belonged to two individuals involved with the chemical industry -- the first being the vice president of the Du Pont Company, followed by a chemist of the Du Pont Company. The house was sold to its present owners in 1978.

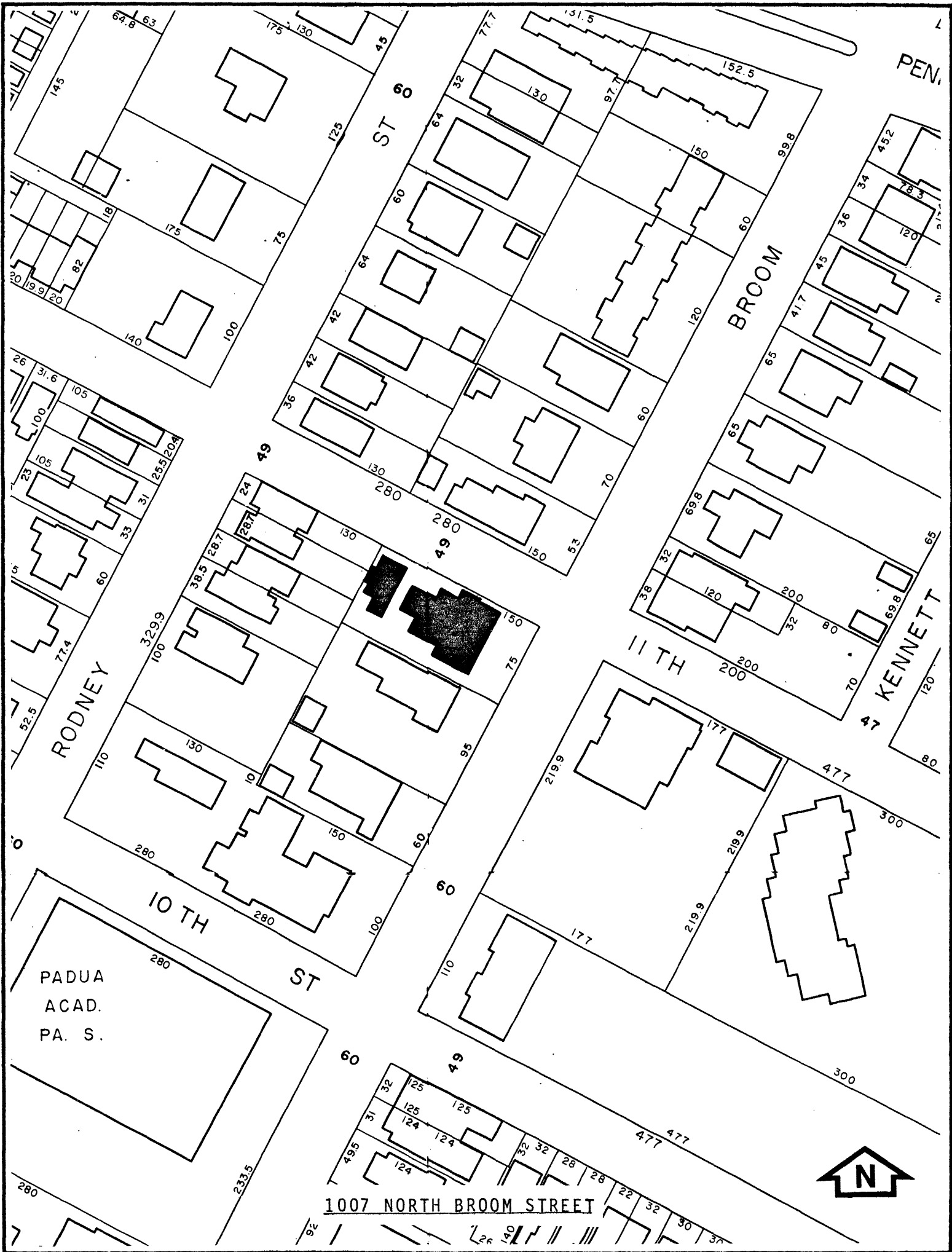
The house is an outstanding residence of the upper/middle class in the City at the turn of the century. The placement of the house and adjacent Carriage House also indicate the extent of residential development in that section of Wilmington at the turn of the century and the affluence of the builder. The choice of the eclectic style with Tudor and Gothic detailing and the particular massing and scale chosen reflect both a more rural setting and a lavish attitude on the part of the builder.

Level of Significance

The Postles House's level of significance is local. The house is well known in Wilmington for its architecture, but its association with a Congressional Honor winner is not widely known, and therefore does not elevate the known level of significance.

Boundaries

Bounded on the north by (the southerly right-of-way line of) West 11th Street, on the east by (the westerly right-of-way line of) North Broom Street, on the south by a line 70' south of and parallel to the southerly right-of-way line of West 11th Street, and on the west by a line 150' east of and parallel to the easterly right-of-way line of North Broom Street.



PEN.

ST 60

BROOM

RODNEY

11 TH

KENNETT

10 TH

ST

PADUA  
ACAD.  
PA. S.

1007 NORTH BROOM STREET

