

PH0021717

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:
Noxontown

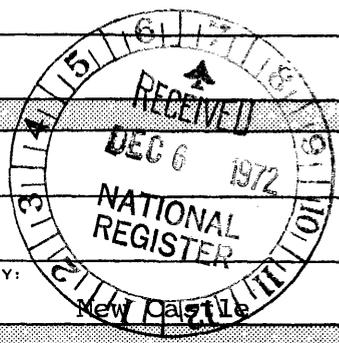
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Off State Route 896 on Road #38

CITY OR TOWN:
South of Middletown

STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: New Castle	CODE 003
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <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 type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park (Private) <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 _____ _____ _____

Absolutely no publicity wanted

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. William Y. Ellison

STREET AND NUMBER:
Noxontown Mill

CITY OR TOWN: Middletown	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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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
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Castle County Plan

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
New Castle County Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	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

Noxontown, at the northern tip of the mill pond of the same name, today shows little evidence of what was once a prosperous country mill seat and village. Remaining are Thomas Noxon's fine brick house and a small frame mill. The house is a four-bay structure of two-and-a-half stories with a two-story frame wing. The transomed main door is located in the left center bay and a flat-roofed porch covers it and its two flanking bays. The porch is detailed with fluted square columns and a denticulated cornice. This detailing is not repeated in the cornice of the gable roof. The facade is also broken by a brick belt course just below the second floor windows. It has been painted white. The interior has been significantly altered so that the original plan has been obscured. At some time during the nineteenth century, the datestone, inscribed "Thomas Noxon, 1740," was removed.

The thirty-by-forty-foot, two-and-a-half-story frame mill predates the house. It is of the simplest construction and has changed little since its erection. The metal roof is a later addition. Small windows with six-over-six sash pierce the walls in an unsymmetrical pattern. A split door would allow light and air to enter while keeping animals out. A shed to the east side stands the mill race and still covers the remains of the milling machinery. At one time a bakehouse, a brew-house and a malt-house stood adjacent to the mill. A hotel or tavern provided lodgings for those who attended the annual Noxontown Fair as well as travelers. Now, however, none of these structures remain, although the old King's Road still crosses the mill dam.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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) c.1740

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Noxontown, at the head of navigation on Appoquinimink Creek was an important trading and milling center throughout the Colonial period.

The original patent for the site of Thomas Noxon's house and mill was given to Lucas Abel, who died sometime before 1679. When the land title was reconfirmed under English rule, the tract, called Mountain Neck or Lucasses Neck, was patented to Edmund Cantwell, one of the most prominent settlers on the Delaware. When he died, his estate included more than one thousand acres. He left Mountain Neck to his daughter, Elizabeth Cantwell Garretson, who, with her husband Henry, conveyed it in 1701 to Isaac Hansen and James Sympson. In 1702 Sympson deeded Hansen one-third of his part of the tract. One-half of this one-third part was in turn deeded by Hansen to Jacob Rycker. In 1735, Rycker deeded his one-sixth part of the tract to Thomas Noxon.

Noxon, born in Kingston, New York, in 1669, first acquired Delaware property in 1726. Since grain was the most important crop in this region during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Noxon recognized the need for gristmills. He is known to have built or operated at least three mills on branches of the Appoquinimink,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eberlein, Harold Donaldson and Hubbard, Cortland V.D. Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware. Dover: Public Archives Commission, 1963.
Biographical and Geneological History of the State of Delaware. Chambersburg (Pa.): J.M. Runk & Co., 1899.
 Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware, 1609-1888, in 2 vol. Philadelphia: L.J. Richards & Co., 1888.
 Conrad, Henry C. History of the State of Delaware, From the Earliest Settlements to the Year 1907. Wilmington: Author, 1908.
 Macdonald, Betty Harrington. Historic Landmarks of Delaware and the Eastern Shore. Ed. by Jeannette Eckman. n.p.: Delaware State Society Daughters of the American Colonies, 1963.

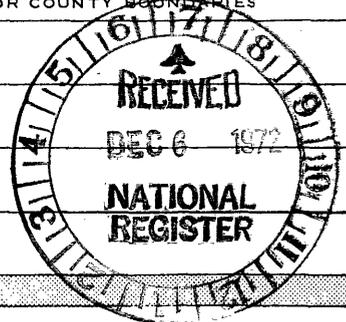
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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°	26'	09"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	75°	41'	02"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **LESS THAN 5**

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Joan M. Norton, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

DATE: 10/11/72

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: Nov. 21, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

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

Date: 7/2/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 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	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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JUL 2	1973

(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (continued)---

A List of Delaware Heritage Buildings and Areas in New Castle County
1963 Local
Greater Wilmington Development Council
Wilmington, Delaware



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Delaware	
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ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
111	2	1973

(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)---

the first on Mill Branch, the next on Deep Creek creating Silver Lake, 1972 and the third on Sassafras Creek, creating Noxontown Pond.

Lucas Abel had established Lucasses Landing where Noxontown would later flourish. Noxon, too, saw the potential for navigation here in 1735, when he bought one acre of land on the southeast side of Sassafras Creek and the right to build a mill dam from there to Lucasses Landing.

Noxon and his mill prospered. He served in several public offices including a seat in the Assembly of 1739, the office of Speaker in 1741, and the much-envied job of county surveyor. His mill seat grew into a town which was chartered in 1742. Part of the town's prosperity is due to the famous fair that was held there annually. Livestock, home products and imports from England were sold.

In 1743, when Thomas Noxon died, the mill passed to his son, Benjamin, who owned it when the Revolutionary War broke out. The people of Noxontown do not seem to have been affected by the war initially. A letter from Colonel John Haslet to Caesar Rodney in October 1776 reflects this:

Have wrote Nicol Vndyke a most flaming letter, running O'er with Patriotism, praying him not to let the People attend Noxontown fair rather than the Election, and sell their Birthright for a piece of Gingerbread - Dr. Tilton writes Capt. Clark on ye same head on back of letter.

However, when General Howe landed below Head of Elk and marched toward Philadelphia in August of 1777, Noxontown became the headquarters for Caesar Rodney, who stationed himself there with four hundred militia from



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(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE - 2 (continued)---

Kent and Sussex, in an effort to protect the mills against British raiding parties.

The mill passed out of the hands of the Noxon family but it continued in active use, as a merchant mill until 1855 and thereafter solely as a custom mill.

Thomas Noxon had built a unique burial vault near his home, and he, along with his wife and children, is buried there.



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Klinefelter, Walter. Lewis Evans and His Maps. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society. New Series, Vol. 61, Part 7 (1971) Philadelphia. July 1971.

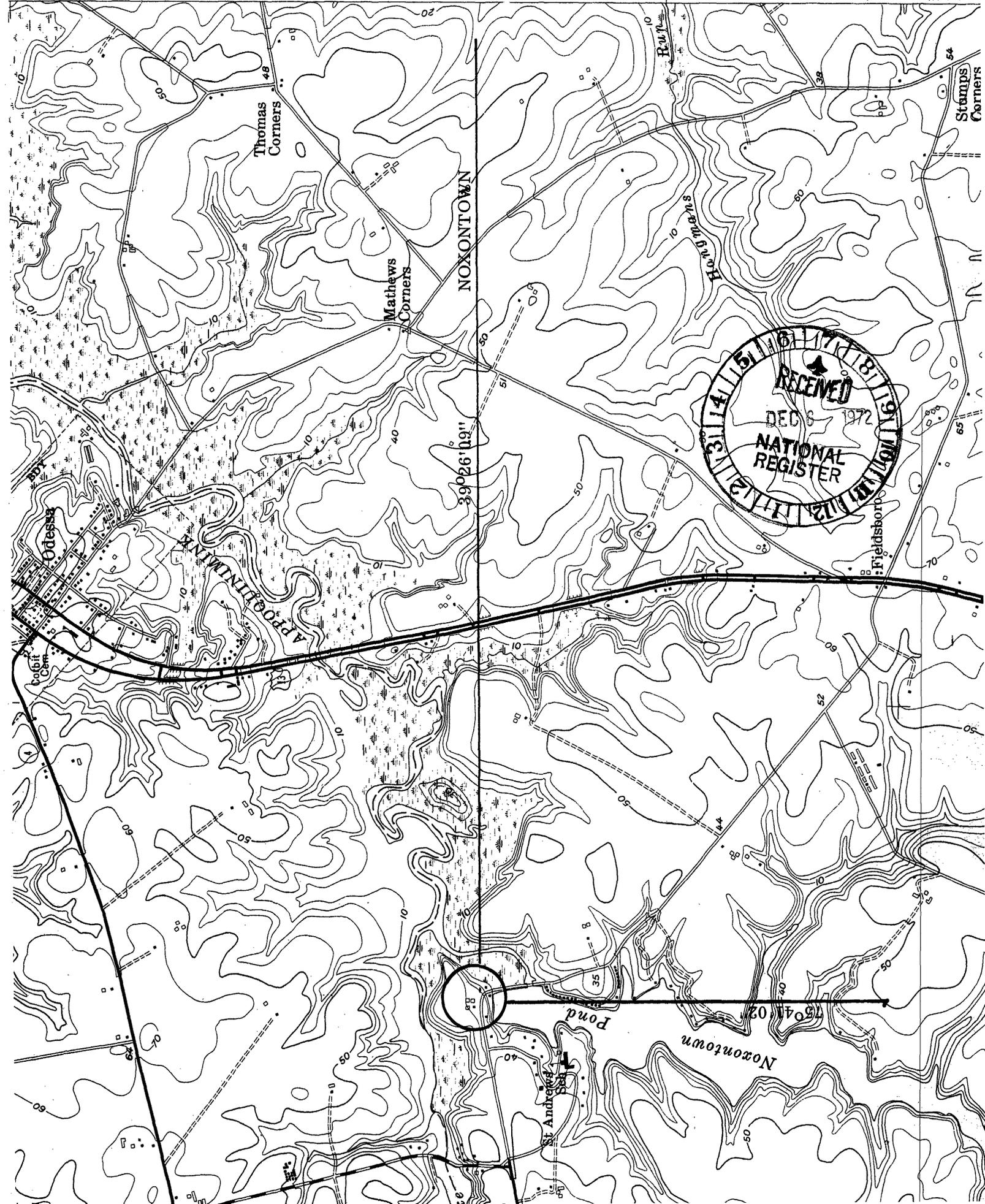


27°50'

(TAYLORS BRIDGE)

25'

SE 2.5 MI.



RECEIVED
 DEC 6 1972
 NATIONAL REGISTER
 FIELDSTATION

NOXONTOWN

Thomas Corners

Mathews Corners

Stamps Corners

Odessa

APPROXIMATE

Field Station

Pond

Noxontown

St Andrews

39°26'09"

604102

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