

PH0073270

**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	DATE
	DEC 16 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Christiana Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Intersection of Delaware Route 7 and Delaware Route 273

CITY OR TOWN:
Christiana

STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY:	CODE 003
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input 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
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Too numerous to list

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
New Castle County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rodney Square

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Wilmington Delaware 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

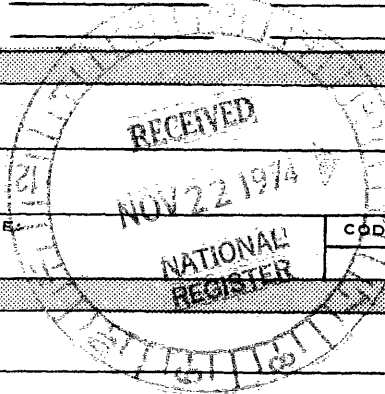
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7 DESCRIPTION

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

Christiana's Historic District contains a group of houses which are fairly homogeneous in their proportions and designs. The district contains approximately thirty houses, the majority of which are of simple frame construction. Though a number of these structures have been physically altered over the years, nine significant brick edifices have undergone minimal structural change. These nine brick structures, therefore, offer tangible evidence of the village's prosperous past as a thriving commercial center.

The village of Christiana Bridge, which was established on the northern bank of the Christiana River in White Clay Creek Hundred, was at the head of tidewater navigation. By 1739, approximately ten structures had been erected between the bridge and the fork of King's Highway, which led from the White Clay Creek Bridge to the Welsh Tract. These roads were of great importance to the community's development, for they connected Christiana Bridge with Philadelphia and the province of Maryland. Though log houses were among the first structures erected in the village, substantial brick dwellings were also constructed.

Situated at 29 East Main Street is the Brinkle-Maxwell House (N-1480). It is a three-bay, two-and-one-half-story Federal-style brick dwelling, apparently erected around 1786. It is the only federal-period brick dwelling now in the village, which was originally constructed on a side hall plan. Though contemporary additions abut the structure on the north, east, and west, the main portion remains intact. The facade, now covered with stucco, features gabled dormers, a box cornice with molded trim, as well as panelled shutters on the first floor level, and louvered blinds on the second. The recessed doorway topped by a simple arched transom contains a six-panelled door, with reeded surrounds and a granite doorsill.

In keeping with the building tradition of the area, this structure was erected on a stone foundation. Unusual for the area, however, is a pair of end chimneys connected by a parapet wall.

Though the interior is plain, simple chair rails, baseboards, and cornice trim are found in each room. The chimney breasts which protrude into each chamber are adorned with wooden mantle pieces of popular eighteenth and nineteenth-century styles.

The main open-string staircase with panelling also features plain square balusters and a molded handrail which terminates with a simple turned newel post.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" 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	_____
<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 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

As an historic district, the entire village of Christiana represents an area that has been enriched by historical events, commercial enterprises, cultural, educational and religious developments.

The village of Christiana, on the north bank of the Christiana River in White Clay Creek Hundred, was established on a tract known as "Eagle's Point". This seventy-five-acre tract was originally surveyed for John Ogle, a large landholder of the Hundred, as early as December 8, 1683.

"Eagle's Point" was conveyed to Christiana's first known practitioner of "physick", Dr. Rees Jones, on July 29, 1731, and was resurveyed for Dr. Jones under a warrant from Thomas Penn, July 10, 1741. Dr. Jones died intestate and without issue on December 1, 1754, thus creating doubt concerning the right, title, and claims to his real estate. The matter was, however, settled by April 9, 1759, when John Emes, a nephew of Dr. Jones, was recognized as the only true heir-at-law. On April 9, 1759, John Emes, late of "South Britain" but then of Baltimore County, Maryland, conveyed the major portion of Dr. Jones' estate to nine tenants in common.

The grantees - Thomas McKean, Esq., Thomas Ogle, William Patterson, Hugh Thompson, John McCarty, John McClughan, John Montgomery, George Hillis, and George Adams, received all the real estate of Dr. Jones on the north side of the Christiana Bridge for £50. As successful yeomen, merchants, innkeepers and cordwainers, each of the common tenants eventually contributed to the village's economic prosperity.

By the time of the Revolution, Christiana Bridge had become a considerable commercial center. Wharves and storehouses near the river's bank had been established in the 1760's. Of the twenty-two merchants and shopkeepers known to have worked the village between 1735 and 1800, only four were not residents of either Christiana Bridge or of White Clay Creek Hundred. At least three Philadelphia merchants bought property in the village - Isaac Jones (1745), Joseph Beddome (1749),

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

New Castle County: Deeds, Wills, Letters of Administration, Inventories, Tavern Petitions, Surveyor General Returns, Warrants and Surveys, and Orphan Court Records.
Books: Baird, Betty J. - A Proud Heritage - August 1967;
 Conrad, Henry C. - History of the State of Delaware - Wilmington: Henry C. Conrad, 1908.
 Fitzpatrick, John C. - The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources - United States Government Printing Office - Washington - 1944.

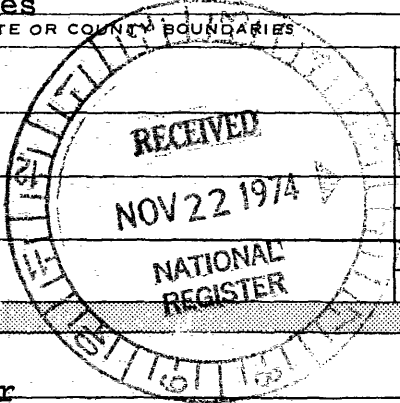
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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° 40' 02"	75° 39' 47"		°	'	"
NE	39° 40' 02"	75° 39' 25"				
SE	39° 39' 49"	75° 39' 25"				
SW	39° 39' 49"	75° 39' 47"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **20 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NO
v. m.
CJ
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Madeline-E. Dunn, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs DATE: 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Ronald M. Fine</u></p> <p>Title: <u>Director</u></p> <p>Date: <u>11/18/74</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>A. A. Mortensen</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>12/16/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u>Dwight F. Emery</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>Dec 12, 1974</u></p>
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7. Description (Page 2 - continuation):

As early as 1767, a message or tenement valued at 130 pounds, had been erected on this lot by James Partridge, a farmer. Documentation, however, specifically notes that by the year 1786 a brick house valued at 575 pounds had been recently constructed. John Brinkle, Jr. inherited this brick structure and lot from his father, John Sr., a farmer of Kent County and a captain in the Continental Army.

On May 23, 1787, this brick house, then in the tenure of a John McDowell, was conveyed to Solomon Maxwell, a commission merchant. The Maxwell family continued to own the house and property for twelve years.

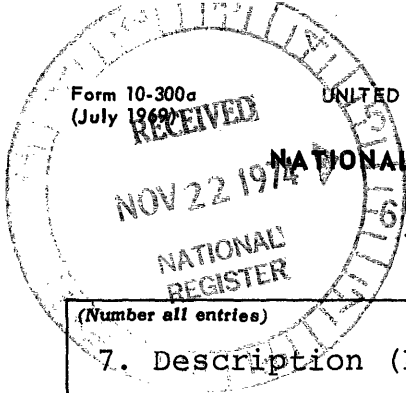
Adjacent to Brinkle-Maxwell House, at 2 King's Highway, is the Jones Mansion House lot (N-1594). Here, one of the village's oldest domestic structures had been erected before 1752.

The present dwelling is a substantial six-bay, two-and-one-half story brick dwelling built according to Delaware's traditional plan, with interior end chimneys. The facade features a simple box cornice with molded trim, and has panelled shutters on the first floor level and louvered blinds on the second, and a plain Victorian veranda.

The definite break in the brickwork, left of the main facade entrance, clearly indicates two distinct periods of construction. The earliest portion is three bays wide and features a belt course and segmented brick arches above each end and basement window. First floor window surrounds on this section are tenoned and are topped with unsophisticated brick lintels.

The left three-bay facade, also laid in Flemish bond, was probably constructed in the nineteenth century. This portion is adorned with unusual gothic arch shutters and is abutted at the rear by a lower, two-and-one-half-story structure, that may originally have been a separate outbuilding.

This mansion house lot was owned by Dr. Rees Jones, Christiana's first known physician, who owned the seventy-five acre tract on which the village of Christiana Bridge was eventually established. It became a part of the estate of Dr. William McMechen, Christiana's second practicing physician, in 1764. Mary McMechen, wife of Dr. McMechen, inherited the house from her father, Thomas Ogle, one of the original nine tenants in common who had purchased Dr. Jones' estate in 1759.



Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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7. Description (Page 3 = continuation):

Adjacent to the Jones Mansion House Lot is a two-story, asbestos shingled structure. This double dwelling house, of late eighteenth-century or early nineteenth-century origin, features a box cornice with molded trim and a plain Victorian porch.

Situated on Meeting House Hill, just above the junction of the original King's Highway with the road to Newport, is the Christiana Presbyterian Church (N-1477). The present brick church, erected in 1857, measures approximately sixty-feet by forty-feet and cost approximately \$4,938 to build. It is the only building in the village erected in a pseudo-gothic style that features buttresses and crenelated battlements at both the roof line and top of the tower. The entire structure was stuccoed in the early twentieth-century.

The Society of Presbyterians were among the first religious groups to establish themselves in the village. As early as 1738, they had erected a small frame church measuring approximately thirty-six feet by twenty-six feet. This edifice was sold on July 4, 1857 at a public auction and was replaced by the present structure. Dr. Jones and his wife Anna, granted the churchyard site to the Presbyterians by their deed of August 19, 1752. The first minister was Charles Tennent.

Among the prominent village citizens who supported the church during the eighteenth century were: John Read and Thomas Montgomery (merchants of White Clay Creek Hundred), Dr. Rees Jones and wife, Samuel Patterson (Brigadier General in the Delaware Militia), and Joel Lewis (United States Marshal under President Jefferson's administration).

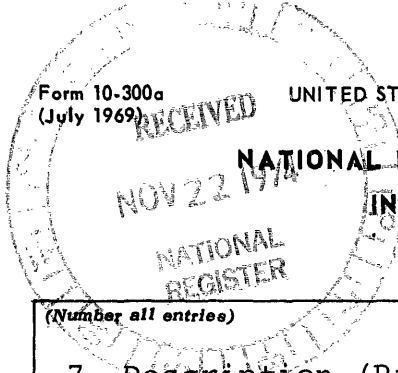
Adjoining the Presbyterian Church property is the Joel Lewis House (N-1604). The two-story-and-attic brick dwelling on this property was built before 1799. Unlike any other private residence in the village, it was built into a hill thereby enabling the basement to function as part of the living quarters. The facade features a simple box cornice with molded trim and solid panelled shutters at the first floor level. In keeping with the Delaware tradition, it is one-room deep and was constructed with interior end chimneys. Later, in the nineteenth century, a brick addition was added to the northeastern corner of the structure with a chimney flued into the original end chimney, thus creating an unusual chimney arrangement.

Though the interior of this residence has been altered over the years, it still retains its original wooden mantels with reeded trim, that are characteristic of the Federal period.

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7. Description (Page 4 - continuation):

Joel Lewis, Christiana's only known hatter, first acquired the property on February 22, 1775. John Vaughan, a physician of Christiana, obtained the property from Lewis on September 11, 1798, only to return it to the grantor within a year's time.

Joel Lewis had become one of Christiana's more prosperous merchants by 1798, and eventually became a United States Marshal under the Jefferson administration.

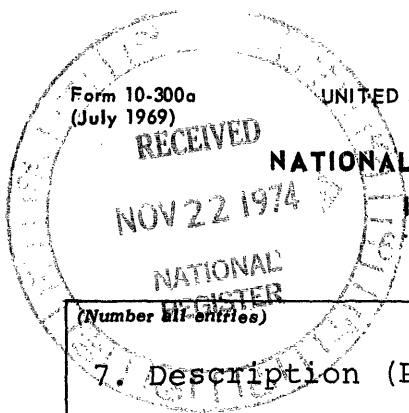
The five acres adjacent to the Lewis property, bounded by the road to Newark and the Christiana Turnpike, was once owned by John Hall, the village's only known tobacconist. It was eventually conveyed to Abraham Cannon, a merchant, on March 22, 1844. Today, this acreage contains four modern houses, one corner store, and four two-story asbestos shingled dwellings of possible eighteenth or nineteenth-century origin. Each of these early residences feature interior end chimneys, square attic windows, and a box cornice with molded trim. At the northern end of this lot stands the Methodist Episcopal Church (N-1625). This large rectangular brick building was built in 1857 and remodeled in 1929.

Christiana's first Methodist church was organized in September, 1827. The congregation bought a frame house from Samuel Johnson and moved it to this site, where it served as the first meeting house.

By August 2, 1856, the Trustees unanimously resolved to build a new church. A building committee composed of Benjamin Peters, Abraham Cannon, J. R. C. Oldham and others were selected. The plans for the new church, drawn and submitted by a Mr. Hand, were accepted by the committee. The new church, which cost approximately \$4,000 to build, was dedicated on June 26, 1858.

Directly across from Hall's five acres, on the northwest corner of the main intersection, stands the Christiana Inn (N-1479).

It is a commodious three-bay, two-story brick structure which was standing before 1770. Like its neighbors, this house was built on a solid stone foundation. Each of the two street facades are laid in a Flemish bond pattern with a molded brick water table, segmented window arches and a box cornice with an unusually heavy molded trim. Unlike the other brick dwellings in the village above the bridge, the inn contains a pedimented gable on each end.



Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

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7. Description (Page 5 - continuation):

The Christiana Inn was one of the village's two principal eighteenth-century taverns. In all probability, it may have been the place where General Washington dined, lodged or rested on his numerous visits to Christiana. According to Washington's diary, he dined and lodged at Christiana Bridge on May 8, 1775, while enroute to Philadelphia. During the months of July, September, October, November and December of 1795, he either breakfasted, dined, rested or was lodged, at the village at least five times while traveling between Mt. Vernon and Philadelphia.

This structure thrived as a public house of entertainment well into the nineteenth-century. Among its numerous proprietors were Joseph Janvier, Nicholas Cline, and Jediah Davidson. By 1815, David Armstrong had become the proprietor of the inn.

It was here, at his residence in Christiana Bridge, that a special election was held in 1820 for the purpose of electing a Captain, a First Lieutenant, a Second Lieutenant, and an Ensign for the volunteer company of Union Guards. Having viewed the "fluctuating events" which had followed each other in rapid succession on the Continent, many residents of New Castle County had agreed to organize a volunteer company of light infantry that would be prepared to take action at a moment's notice. Among the sixty-seven subscribers were the following Christiana landowners: David Armstrong, John Boyd, Abraham Cannon, John Hall, John and Thomas Montgomery and Isaac Price.

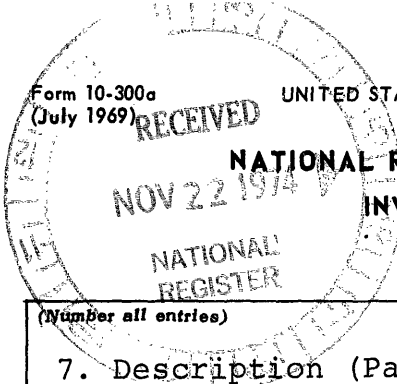
The seven lots adjoining the Christiana Inn were all a part of George Hillis Sr's. village property. By the end of the nineteenth-century, at least two blacksmith shops, one wheelwright shop, two small frame dwellings, and one brick house had been erected on it. Situated on this property today is a nineteenth-century brick residence, three small twentieth-century, asbestos shingled houses, and two, two-story, late eighteenth or early nineteenth-century dwellings. Each of these early residences, like others in the town, have interior end chimneys, box cornices with molded trim, and square attic windows.

The seventh lot from the corner contains Christiana's finest Georgian house above the bridge. The Hillis Mansion House at 29 South Old Baltimore Pike (N-1478), is a five-bay, two-story-and-attic brick residence. The Flemish-bond facade is embellished by a box cornice with molded trim, a raised belt course, a molded brick water table, and solid panelled shutters at the first floor level. An eight-panelled entrance door is

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7. Description (Page 6 - continuation):

surrounded by a wooden door jamb with crosetted corners. In keeping with the local building tradition, the house was constructed one-room deep, with interior end chimneys, solid end walls, and a lower ell.

Like its neighboring houses, it too, was built on a stone foundation. Unlike any other brick dwelling in the village, however, the house was originally designed in a center-hall plan.

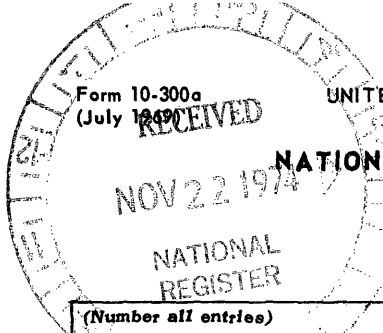
The interior of this Georgian mansion is quite handsomely finished. The entrance hall features an open-string staircase with turned balusters.

Simple chair rail and cornice trim adorn the interiors of each first-floor room. A projected chimney breast with panelled sides trimmed with quarter-round molding are featured in the parlor. Crosetted corners embellish both the over-mantel and the fireplace surround, under the mantel shelf.

Heavy cornice trim enriches the panelled end wall of the dining room. Flanking each side of the closed fireplace are eighteenth-century cupboards.

Though the deeds for this property are ambiguous, documentation indicates that this was the dwelling house of George Hillis, Sr., cordwainer of Christiana. According to Hillis' will, dated December 31, 1770, his dwelling house and the property contiguous to the Christiana Inn were bequeathed to his old friend, Ann Ravey, with the understanding that upon her death it would descend to his daughter, Elizabeth Adams. The wharves and stores at Christiana Bridge which were occupied by his son-in-law George Adams, a shallopman, were also bequeathed to Elizabeth. In 1775, when George Adams died, these same wharves and stores were bequeathed to his son Levi who, in 1787, went into partnership with Solomon Maxwell as commission merchants. Eventually, both the mansion house and inn became the property of John Hall, the village's only known tobacconist.

Directly across from the original Hillis property are a number of late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century frame dwellings, intermingled with a few modern houses. The oldest dwellings, homogeneous in their proportions and designs, are small, two-story frame dwellings with stone foundations, box cornices, and small, square attic windows.



Form 10-300a
(July 1949)

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7. Description (Page 7 - continuation):

Stratigically situated at the corner of Road 273 and the Old Baltimore Pike is a large, modern, brick fire station. Directly across from the volunteer fire company station is the Shannon Hotel (N-1476).

The oldest section of this brick edifice was erected on a stone foundation. It is a three-bay, two-story residence with a Flemish-bond facade and a water table. The exterior of this facade contains a box cornice with plain molded trim; panelled shutters are found on the first floor, with louvered blinds at the second floor level. Unlike the other private dwellings, a pent eave was constructed across the original three-bay facade.

The interior of this residence was designed in a modified Penn's Plan.

The rectangular entry hall has a closed-string staircase with short, turned balusters, square newels, and unusual diagonal beaded sheathing on the body of the staircase. Behind this entry hall is a narrow room with a large fireplace flanked by panelled side cupboards.

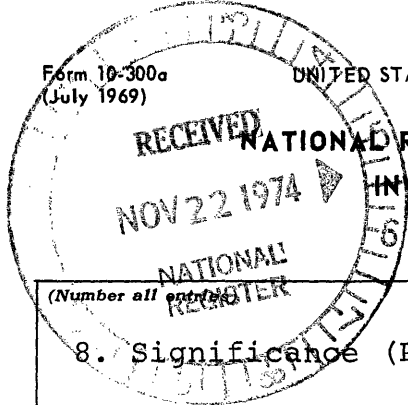
Panelling and heavy cornices in the second-story rooms are confined to the fireplace walls above the center corner chimneys. In keeping with the local tradition, the fireplaces are constructed with a recessed fire box within a larger opening.

A small, two-bay clapboard addition maintained as a store was added to the original three-bay structure in the nineteenth-century.

On May 21, 1735, when James James, Jr., a village merchant, conveyed this original ten-acre lot to John Welsh, a blacksmith of New Castle Hundred, several messuages and tenements had already been erected. At Welsh's request, the property was conveyed to his three daughters - Rebecca Janvier, Susannah John, and Frances Alrichs. on September 11, 1739.

Adjacent to the hotel lot is a small, two-story frame dwelling house with painted roof-line trim, a large stucco residence, and a two-story, three-bay dwelling house with a box cornice and molded trim.

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8. Significance (Page 2 - continuation):

Thomas Montgomery (1766), and one merchant from Cecil County, Maryland - Tobias Rudolph (1761). John Montgomery, who was one of the original nine tenants in common of the Jones' estate, became one of Christiana's more prosperous merchants. His inventory, dated 1765, contains such various goods as remnants of poplin, India damask, shalloon, manchester velvet, carpenter hammers, spelling books, testaments, knives, ivory pins, snuff and snuff boxes, japanned snuffers and boxes, and looking glasses.

Since it stood along the principal highway connecting Philadelphia to Baltimore, at the head of tidewater navigation, Christiana Bridge became an important center during the War for Independence.

Battalions under command of Colonels George Evans, Hunter and Udree, were ordered by General Washington on August 27, 1777, "to march to Christiana and there halt till further orders ... always [keeping the men] near their quarters, that they may be ready to move at a moments warning." By September 2, 1777, " ... the enemy from Bohemia [had] advanced some distance on the New Castle road and [were located] about ten miles from Christiana Bridge ..." The following day, September 3, Washington's letter addressed to the President of Congress noted "advance Picketts, at Christiana." By September 16, 1777, General Washington recorded that Colonel Gist was at Christiana Bridge with about 700 men.

General Lafayette enroute to Virginia, to command an expedition against Benedict Arnold, landed 1500 troops here, with cannon, stores, and ammunition, March 2, 1781. The Council of Maryland issued warrant to impress carriages, teams and drivers for his use at Christiana Bridge and vessels, hands, etc., at Head of Elk.

By a 1780 Act of Assembly, Christiana Bridge was chosen to be Delaware's supply depository from which the "whole of Salt, Salt Meat, Flour, and Rum" was to be collected and deposited. The "York Regiment" was ordered with its baggage to come down in batteaux to Christiana Bridge on August 31, 1781. Two days later, on the second of September, 1781, Brigadier General Moses Hazen was instructed by General Washington "to proceed immediately to Christiana Bridge at which place I expect you will meet the Boats laden with ordnance and other stores." The same correspondence also noted that "the road from Christiana Bridge to the Head of Elk should be put in the best repair ..."

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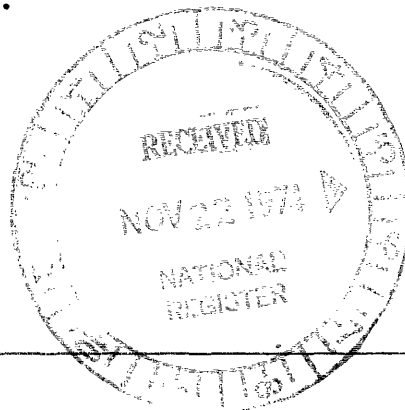
8. Significance (Page 3 - continuation):

After the Revolution, one of the village's largest and most productive commercial businesses was established. On March 1, 1787, Solomon Maxwell and Levi Adams, both residents of White Clay Creek Hundred, established the firm of "Maxwell & Adams". This newly formed company was primarily engaged in the business of buying flour on commission. By January 1793, Solomon Maxwell and Levi Adams jointly operated a shallop business that received, stored, and delivered wheat for Brandywine millers. The firm continued to grow. By the year 1793, a new partner - Levi Hollingsworth - had joined the business and the company's name was changed to "Maxwell, Adams, & Co."

By 1816, there were a total of thirty-six structures standing in the village. Twenty-one of these were frame houses, as compared with eight brick dwellings, two storehouses, one granary, one blacksmith's shop, two stores, one shop, and an undetermined number of wharves along the river bank. By 1822, a tobacco shop had been established by Christiana's only tobacconist - John Hall. Several wheelwright shops had been erected in the village by the 1830's.

Education always played an important part in the community's development. As early as 1752, a schoolhouse had been erected in the village near the Presbyterian Church. This school was finally incorporated in 1804. Though the original structure is no longer standing, it is important to realize that it was among the earliest buildings to have been erected in the community. The school had been established to teach the "English language, Arithmetic, and such other branches of knowledge as are most useful and necessary ..." to children of the inhabitants of the village.

After 1800, the village of Christiana continued to enjoy its economic prosperity for only a relatively short time. The completion of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in 1829, and the later development of the Delaware Railroad, bypassed the village which rapidly declined.



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(Number all entries) Major Bibliographical References (continued)

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Scharf, J. Thomas - History of Delaware 1609-1888 - Philadelphia: L. J. Richards & Company, 1888.

Weslager - C. A. - Delaware's Forgotten River - Hambleton Company Inc. - Wilmington - 1947

Miscellaneous:

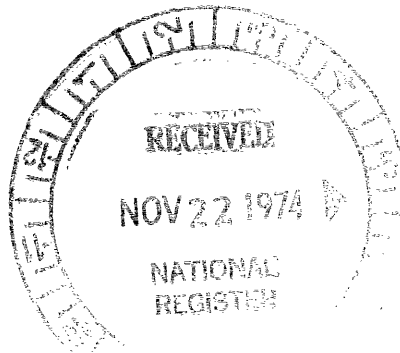
The Delaware Gazette 1793-1796

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Baist's New Castle County Map - 1893

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Laws of the State of Delaware 1700-1852



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Representation in Existing Survey:

Survey of Delaware's
Historic Sites & Buildings

Name

Brinkle-Maxwell House	1480
Jones Mansion House Lot	1594
Christiana Presbyterian Church	1477
Joel Lewis House	1604
Christiana Methodist Episcopal Church	1625
Christiana Inn	1479
Hillis Mansion House	1478
Shannon Hotel	1476



