

PH0021504

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

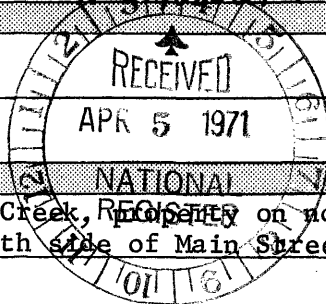
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 21504-100012	DATE 6/21/71

1. NAME

COMMON: **Historic Odessa Historic District**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **Appoquinimink; Cantwell's Bridge**



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Area bounded by Appoquinimink Creek, property on north side of High Street; Fourth Street; property on south side of Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Odessa**

STATE: **Delaware** CODE: **10** COUNTY: **New Castle** CODE: **003**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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: **The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum; Estate of H. Rodney Sharp; other private owners in historic district.**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Winterthur Museum Others**

CITY OR TOWN: **Winterthur Odessa** STATE: **Delaware** CODE: **10**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **New Castle County Recorder of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Public Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Wilmington** STATE: **Delaware** CODE: **10**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Housing Survey, Historical Sites and Buildings
A Comprehensive Development Plan**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1969** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Delaware State Planning Office**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Thomas Collins Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Dover** STATE: **Delaware** CODE: **10**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

21504-100012

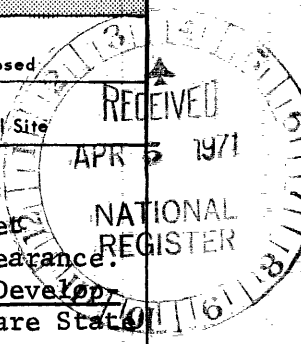
6/21/71

7. DESCRIPTION

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

Odessa, on the banks of the meandering Appoquinimink Creek, is a quiet Delaware town which today retains much of its nineteenth-century appearance. "The Historic atmosphere of Odessa," according to the Comprehensive Development Plan for Odessa, Delaware, prepared in June, 1969, by the Delaware State Planning Office for the Odessa Planning Commission, "is the town's most prominent characteristic. Even though the population is quite small (468 people in 1967) the town has, among others, . . . pre-1854 buildings which have historical or architectural interest." Conscious of these assets the town, in December, 1969, adopted a zoning ordinance creating a four-block historic district which includes twenty-three eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century buildings. An Historic District Commission has been established to maintain the integrity of the historic area. Along the south side of the wide, tree-lined Main Street are nine houses, surrounded by neat lawns, either built in the eighteenth century or retaining elements of their eighteenth-century structures. Among the most distinguished are the Corbit-Sharp House (1772-1774), restored by H. Rodney Sharp who purchased it in 1938, and the Wilson-Warner House (1769) preserved by Mrs. Mary Corbit Warner, who acquired it in 1901, and her heirs. Both houses, together with their antique furnishings, have been given to The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, the first in 1958 and the other in 1969, and are open to the public. Although built in an area where agriculture and shipping were the principal livelihoods, these two houses bear a remarkable resemblance to the great mansions of sophisticated Philadelphia. Nearer the Creek on Main Street are four other eighteenth-century houses restored by Mr. Sharp and now owned by his heirs. The buildings on the north side of Main Street were built in the early nineteenth century and include the Brick Hotel (1882) also restored by Mr. Sharp and given to the Winterthur Museum. Recently the stable built in 1791 by the cabinetmaker John Janvier was given to the Museum by St. Paul's Methodist Church, moved to an area behind the Brick Hotel, and restored. On Second Street, adjacent to the stable, is the Collins-Sharp House, probably built around 1700 and one of the few remaining examples of early Delaware architecture, which was moved by Mr. Sharp in 1963 from Taylor's Bridge when the house was threatened with destruction by industry. The other historic buildings in the district date from the early or mid-nineteenth century and include distinguished examples of Federal, "Italian Villa," and elements of Victorian architecture. With the exception of the bank, community center, and those owned by the Winterthur Museum, all properties in the historic district are privately owned. Essential to the unity of the district is the open space around it, particularly the marshes and adjoining land along the Appoquinimink Creek. The vista from the lawn of the Corbit-Sharp House, looking across the Creek to a broad strip of woodland, is important to the total concept of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century communities where adjacent wetlands and forests were the sources of fish, game, waterfowl, and lumber which were essential elements of their economy.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

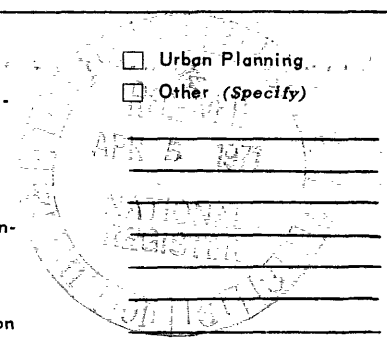
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 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 type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The section of Odessa which is now zoned as the historic district has remained almost unchanged for over a century in an area which is rapidly becoming urban. Only twenty-five miles from Wilmington, the state's largest city, and a single block from the Du Pont Parkway, a busy north-south artery, the center of the town miraculously has suffered the minimum of commercial encroachment, and the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century buildings have been spared major architectural changes. There have been some later sections added to early houses, but the original portions still stand, and at least five eighteenth-century houses which were altered after 1800 have been restored. The result is that in Odessa today there are examples of all of the important architectural forms which have appeared in Delaware from the first years of the eighteenth century through the nineteenth century, making it possible for the professional and interested amateur alike to see the development of building design.

Characteristic of early Delaware is the Collins-Johnson House, built about 1700 beside the Delaware Bay and moved to Odessa by H. Rodney Sharp in (1962) when the site was threatened by a proposed oil refinery. Sometime around 1740 the clapboard house, standing east of the present Corbit-Sharp House, was built, its vertical and horizontal sheathing concealing the heavy logs that form the walls. Also of log construction and of the same date is the wing of the Judge Lore House, the balance of which dates from around 1830. The elegance of the Georgian period is seen in the Corbit-Sharp House and the Wilson-Warner House, both carefully restored. Less ornate but typical of eighteenth-century country architecture are four other houses constructed in the last half of that century. In addition there is the house of the cabinetmaker John Janvier built in 1775, and down the street his stable which bears the date 1791. The following century saw buildings in the Federal style such as the Brick Hotel (1822), and the Davis Store (1824) and attached residence (1830). The Cyrus Polk House of 1853 reflects the "Italian Villa" mode, and other buildings nearby range in date from 1840 to the end of the century. Of importance equal to that of the buildings are the written records which exist for the construction of the Corbit-Sharp House, and for several of the town's early businesses. The possibility is real for productive archaeological excavation throughout the area, the Dutch having made the first settlement here in the seventeenth century. Since that settlement Odessa was known as Appoquinimink and Cantwell's Bridge (1731) before adopting its present name in 1855 in anticipation of becoming the rival of the Russian grain port of the same name. Until the railroad pushing south on the Delmarva Peninsula chose to pass four miles to the west,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conrad, Henry C., History of the State of Delaware, 3 vols. Wilmington, 1908
 Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of Delaware, Delaware, a Guide to the First State, New York, 1938
 Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Delaware, 1609-1888, 2 vols. Philadelphia, 1888
 Sweeney, John A. H., Grandeur on the Appoquinimink: The House of William Corbit at Odessa, Delaware, University of Delaware Press, 1959

New Castle County Deeds, New Castle County Court House, Wilmington, Delaware
 New Castle County Wills, New Castle County Court House, Wilmington, Delaware

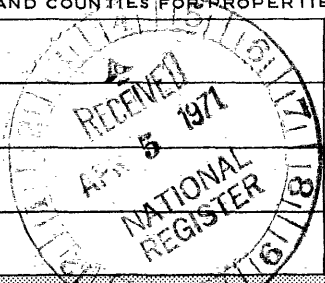
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NE	39 ° 27 ' 25 "	75 ° 39 ' 30 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	39 ° 27 ' 10 "	75 ° 39 ' 09 "				
SW	39 ° 27 ' 03 "	75 ° 39 ' 15 "				
NW	39 ° 27 ' 18 "	75 ° 39 ' 36 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 43

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Horace L. Hotchkiss, Jr., chairman Dorothy W. Greer, Head, Public Relations
 ORGANIZATION: Historic District Commission Winterthur Museum DATE: 11/17/70
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 Office of the Mayor and Council Winterthur, Delaware
 CITY OR TOWN: Odessa 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: Horace L. Hotchkiss, Jr.
 Title: State Liaison Officer
 Date: February 24, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.
Ernest A. Connerly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 JUN 21 1971
 Date: _____
 ATTEST:
William Thunig
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: APR 30 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

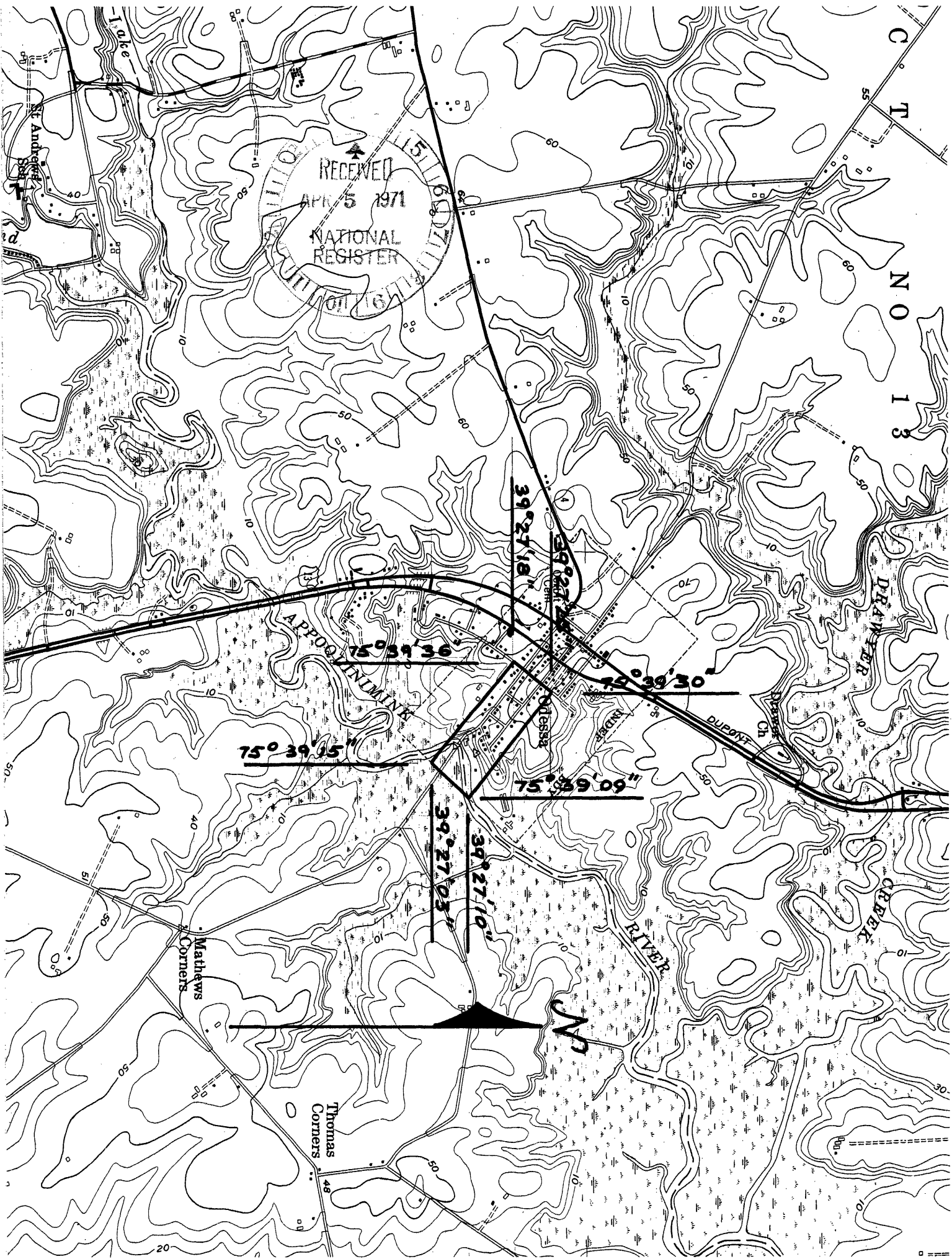
STATE	Delaware	
COUNTY	New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	71.6.10.0012	DATE
		6/21/71

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Odessa had been a busy tidewater port from which shallops carried grain from nearby farms down the Appoquinimink to coastal and foreign ports. The buildings within the zoned historic district are those which stood there when the new railroad changed the course of Odessa's economy. Far from becoming a ghost town, however, the community adjusted to agricultural pursuits, and still later became principally residential. Today Odessa still looks much as it did a hundred years ago when its citizens turned from granaries and shipping to a quieter way of life. Through the generosity of H. Rodney Sharp and of Mrs. Mary Corbit Warner and her heirs the Corbit-Sharp House and the Wilson-Warner House, both furnished with antiques of high quality, are open for the enjoyment of the public. Other buildings typical of tidewater culture, the gifts of interested neighbors, have been moved to sites nearby and others are scheduled to join them so that as complete a picture as possible can be presented of life beside the Appoquinimink Creek in the nineteenth century.





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39°27'18"
39°27'10"
39°27'03"
75°39'36"
75°39'05"
75°39'09"
49°39'30"

JAN

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St Andrews

Lake

APPROXIMATE

MATHews
Corners

Thomas
Corners

RIVER

DRAINAGE
CH

DUPONT

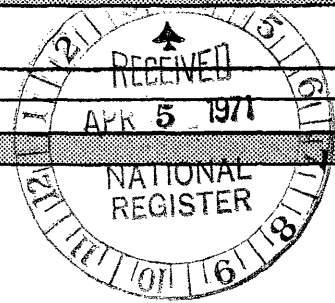
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	Delaware	
COUNTY	New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	71.6.10.0012	DATE
		6/2/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Historic Odessa			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Appoquinimink; Cantwell's Bridge			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Area bounded by the Appoquinimink Creek, property on north side of High Street, Fourth Street, property on south side of Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Odessa			
STATE: Delaware	CODE: 10	COUNTY: New Castle	CODE: 003
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: USGS Middletown Quadrangle			
SCALE: 7½ minute Series - 1:24,000			
DATE: 1953			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

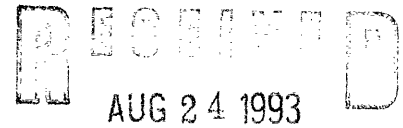
Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL
Odessa Historic District

Patricia Anderson 10/5/93

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET



Section 8

Page 1-Amendment

NATIONAL
REGISTER

name of multiple property listing
AFRICAN-AMERICAN RESOURCES IN DELAWARE

ODESSA HISTORIC DISTRICT, N-126, ODESSA, NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE

Eligibility Criterion: A
Area of Significance: Social History
Period of Significance: 1740-1942
Level of Significance: local

While the Odessa Historic District is eligible for its architecture and for the social history embodied in its development and its history, it is also eligible for the small Africa-American community that is incorporated within its boundaries on the west end of the town.

The exact date at which this community was established is not known but the central building at the community, the Zoar ME Church (.24) was constructed in 1881. The building is a good example of mid-nineteenth-century Gothic-Revival architecture. The cemetery surrounding the church has some grave stones remaining. The grave yard is surrounded by a brick wall with an iron gate.

This community of African-Americans served the same relationship of proximity and economics that was typical of such settlements throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in Delaware. The residents provided a steady work force for the farms, shops, and factories of the community as well as a labor pool for domestic activities that might be carried out within the community. Research on the exact jobs held by African-Americans in Odessa has not been conducted but some educated assumptions can be made based on patterns that existed to the present time.