

PH0080962

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: DELAWARE
 COUNTY: Sussex
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: DEC 31 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Sudler House
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: North Main Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Bridgeville CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
 STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: Sussex CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		<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

Agricultural
 Commercial
 Educational
 Entertainment

Government
 Industrial
 Military
 Museum

Park
 Private Residence
 Religious
 Scientific

Transportation
 Other (Specify)

Comments

RECEIVED NOV 18 1974

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

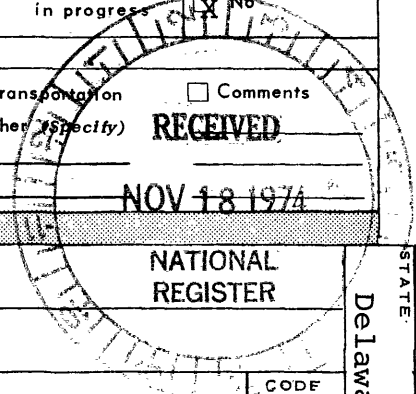
OWNER'S NAME: Thurman W. Adams
 STREET AND NUMBER: North Main Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Bridgeville STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Sussex County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER: The Circle
 CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown STATE: Delaware CODE: 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:



STATE: Delaware
 COUNTY: Sussex
 ENTRY NUMBER: DEC 31 1974
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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

The Sudler House is a six-bay, two-story cypress-shingle, sheathed dwelling house situated on the northern bank of Bridge Branch, in North West Fork Hundred. The original three-bay section, erected about 1750, was enlarged during the Federal period.

In keeping with the local building tradition, the house is only one room deep but, unlike any other residence in the immediate area. it has an unusual floor plan.

The plan of this particular house is unique for the Hundred, because it originally included one exterior end chimney and an interior corner chimney. The Federal period addition, which is composed of a stairhall and parlor, has an interior center end chimney with an exposed exterior base.

The exterior of this dwelling features a simple box cornice with molded trim and louvered blinds. An elliptical fanlight, flanked by sidelights, marks the Federal period entrance. Abutting the structure at the rear is a small, modern ell.

The simple elegance of the Sudler House is suggested by its fine interior decorative features. The unusual curved plinth blocks at the base of the door jambs are only found occasionally in Sussex's finest period houses.

The gracefully designed staircase with square balusters has an unusual double carved bracket trim and panelled base, rarely found in North West Fork Hundred.

Unique for the area, however, is the delicately carved wooden swag cornice which adorns the walls of a second story bedroom.

The original pine mantels, which were once marbelized, have flat molded trim, panelled friezes and pilasters.

The remains of an ice house, near the bank of Bridge Branch, offers architectural evidence for one of the original out-buildings. The exceptionally large structure is the only brick ice house which has been located in the Hundred.

As a significant example of Sussex County's vernacular architecture, the Sudler House incorporates architectural influences from both the Maryland and Virginia provinces.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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)

c. 1750

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Local history</u> |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sudler House is architecturally significant, for it is the only frame dwelling in North West Fork Hundred known to contain a corner end chimney. Its conservative design, proportions and elegant interior enable the Sudler House to be considered an excellent example of local vernacular architecture.

It is also the oldest known domestic structure in the town of Bridgeville, which was recognized as the "heart of the greatest fruit and berry growing section of the Peninsula" during the nineteenth-century.

The original hall and parlor section of the Sudler House was erected about 1750 on a tract of land called Attowattocoquin, which was originally part of Dorchester County, Maryland. This tract was part of ten thousand acres granted to Cacilius Stevens, of London, on September 22, 1658. In 1684, Cacilius' son, Colonel William Stevens, assigned 1200 acres of the original Attowattocoquin tract to Christopher Nutter of Somerset County, Maryland. Eventually, the Nutter family became one of the largest land holding families in the region.

By 1776, the boundary line between the province of Maryland and the three lower counties on the Delaware had been firmly established. John Jessop, a planter of the county, petitioned Governor John Penn for a resurvey of his part of the Attowattocoquin tract at the head of the Nanticoke River on March 6, 1776. He received a grant of confirmation for the tract, together with the vacant land contiguous thereto, for which he agreed to pay the rate of five pound sterling for every hundred acres with interest and the yearly quit rent of one penny sterling per acre. The resurvey was returned to the secretary's office on July 2, 1776. It began at a part of the Attowattocoquin tract known as Jessop's Meadow, on the north side of Bridge Branch and included Jessop's dwelling house (now known as the Sudler House). By 1779, John Jessop and his wife Eliner (Brown) had accumulated more than six hundred acres of land in North West Fork Hundred and, by 1780, had become one of the principal wheat growers of the area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES M-12, p. 71, 184, 185, 318.

Sussex County Deeds - P. #15, pg. 210; A-B #25, pg. 259; Survey Book A, pg. 311; Warrant and Survey Book B #53; #152, pg. 107; #626 pg. 713; #629, pg. 161; #678, pg. 801.

Patent Book - T #19, pg. 140
 Sussex County Chancery Court - R #7
 Orphans Court (Uncatalogued) September 5, 1787; I-1, pg. 357.
 Sussex County Wills, N-13, pg. 160; N-32, pg. 355; N-44, pg. 417;
 Kent Co. Mutual Insurance Company Papers - #1974, dated 1866.

Dorchester County Deed Book - #27, pg. 161; #2, pg. 56.

N-55 pg. 475.

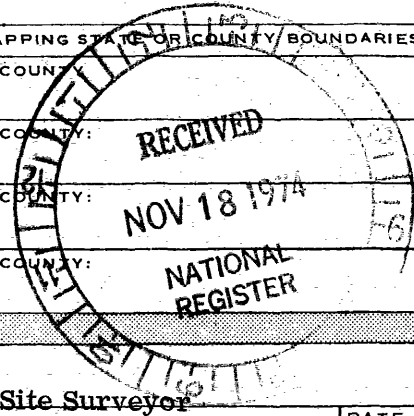
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 44' 50 "	75° 35' 58 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NO
LITM
CD
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Madeline-Elizabeth Dunn, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION: Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: October 30, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

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 type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Dr. Ronald M. Finch</u></p> <p>Title: <u>Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>11/13/74</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>AR Worleese</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>12/31/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Dr. [Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>12.31.74</u></p>
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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Delaware	
COUNTY	
Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 31 1974

(Number all entries)

(Significance: page 2)

Dr. John R. Sudler, for whom the house was later named, acquired the house and property in 1833. He was born in 1797 in the town of Milford, where his father was a practicing physician. Having received his medical training from the University of Pennsylvania, John R. took up residence in Bridgeville. Here he established an extensive practice of medicine, which he maintained for fifty years. Like the previous owners of the property, Dr. Sudler also engaged in agricultural pursuits and won recognition as a pioneer in the raising of peaches and strawberries. Besides his active career as a physician and farmer, he also served a one-year term in the state legislature. On April 3, 1870, at the age of 73, Dr. John R. Sudler died at his residence in Bridgeville. From 1833 until 1971, a period of 138 years, Dr. John R. Sudler and his descendants continued to own and maintain the Sudler House as a private dwelling.



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Delaware	
COUNTY	
Sussex	
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(Number all entries) Major Bibliographical References 2

Sussex County Warrants and Survey
Book C - page 174

Sussex County Road Book - 1855

Sussex County Chancery Court - R #26

Beers Atlas - 1868

Kent County Mutual Insurance Company
Policy number - 1298



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

(HICKMAN)

75°37'30"
38°45'

SCOTTS CORNER 3.4 MI

FARMINGTON 3.2 MI
GREENWOOD 4 MI

35'

38°44'50"

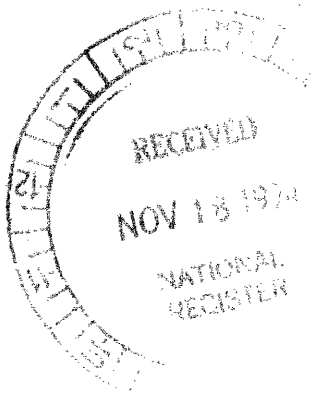
SUDLER
HOUSE

Bridgeville

Bridgeville
(BM 47)

40' Branch

SEAFORD EAST
1955 U.S.G.S
7.5 MIN. SERIES



42'30"

SWAIN AND TRUITT

Cannon

DITCH

Branch

Turkey

Airfield

15 W. 10 DEL 13

75°35'58"

