

Stamp: JUL 27 1982
EXP. 10/31/82

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUL 27 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Ricards House - Linden Hall

and/or common Conaway House

2. Location

E. of Bridgeville on US 13

street & number N.E. Corner of U.S. 13 and County Road 600 N/A not for publication

city, town Bridgeville *vic.* vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Delaware code 10 county Sussex code 005

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" 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 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Conaway

street & number R.D. 2, Box 150F

city, town Bridgeville vicinity of state Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sussex County Courthouse

street & number The Circle

city, town Georgetown state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Del. Cultural Resource Survey-S-827 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Bur. of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

city, town Dover state Delaware

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on County Road 600, just east of the junction of U. S. Route 13, the Ricard's House-Linden Hall lies on the eastern edge of Northwest Fork Hundred, near the town of Bridgeville and several hundred yards west of the northwest fork of the Nanticoke River. The structure was built in five distinct sections, beginning in about 1731 with the construction of the earliest brick section and concluding in the mid-1960's with the building of an attached garage at the rear of the house. The progression of growth is characteristic of rural farmhouses in the region. Despite some loss of integrity due to the most recent additions and renovations, the house, particularly in its retention of a rare two-story veranda, stands as an unusual example of the more affluent Delaware plantation house of the pre-Civil war era.

The earliest section of the house can be seen in the rear wing of the present structure. Tradition in the Ricards family dates it at 1731, and the design would be compatible with such a date. It was a two-story, gable roofed structure laid in common bond, with a basement. It contained a single room on the first floor and a single room above. An enclosed staircase leading to the second floor and a large open fireplace remain today, although the fireplace has been closed off. Other original features in this section are the arched brick fireplace supports visible in the basement, as well as rafters and uprights marked with Roman numerals.

Sometime between 1732 and 1800, the brick section was enlarged to two rooms in width. Scars remain in the dining room to show where the alteration likely occurred. The third stage occurred in 1831 and 1832, with the erection of a two-story, morticed and tenoned, braced frame gable-roofed section on the southeast gable end of the late-eighteenth-century brick addition. This frame section was three bays wide facing County Road 600, and of single-pile construction. The ell shape thus produced was modified between 1850 and 1860 with the addition of a second two-story frame section on the northeast gable end of the earlier one. This later addition was also single-pile and was two bays wide, thus expanding the 1832 frame ell into a five-bay frame block with the then frequently used single-pile center-hall plan. The overall plan of the house thus became a "T", with the top of the "T" facing the county road and its perpendicular lower wing preserving the earliest sections of the house.

The distinctive two-tiered veranda, which is today the most unusual feature of the house, was added at the time of this last construction in the 1850's. It runs across the full five bays of the facade; originally, it had heavy brackets and sawn vergeboard trim, as well as a molded balustrade on the first and second floors. All of this, except the second floor balustrade, has been removed because of deterioration. The six large post supports and all framing of the veranda are original. Extending along the sides of the rear section are two enclosed porches, probably built in the 1850's and enclosed in the present century.

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

Specific dates N/A Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Linden Hall - Ricards House is significant to the architectural history of Sussex County as a rare surviving example of a pre-Civil War plantation house, with a building history extending from the colonial vernacular through the late Federal and early Victorian periods. The most significant feature of the house is the broad two-story veranda that visually dominates it. Such verandas were once fairly common locally, not only on large farmhouses but on hotels and public buildings. Linden Hall's veranda is the lone survivor in Sussex County. This veranda dates from the mid-nineteenth century Victorianization, which enlarged the three-bay Federal frame block to form the full five-bay facade and added the picturesque pierced vergeboards. Though the 1730's brick section to the rear is not a unique survival, as is the 1850's veranda, it is one of only about a dozen eighteenth-century brick structures standing in the county. The exterior alterations which have occurred--veneering of the main block, loss of exterior trim, and the attachment of a modern garage at the end of the rear wing --do not obscure the elements identified as primarily significant, which are the long succession of building campaigns culminating in the double-tiered veranda. These features still go far to evoke the image of Linden Hall as the mansion house to a large plantation and the homestead of the Ricards family. It is, therefore, nominated to the National Register under criteria C, as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction.

As noted in the Description, the earliest section of the house is dated 1731 by tradition in the Ricards family; it was the homestead of that family, who were among the prominent early settlers in the area. While the Delaware "peach mansion" is more commonly associated with the mid-century peach boom in southern New Castle and Kent counties, the Ricards House in its later stages might be considered akin to those structures. When its final nineteenth-century addition was built, the family had become interested in the cultivation of peaches, a crop which continues to play an important role in the agricultural economy of Northwest Fork Hundred, nearly a century after it has fallen into decline in northern sections of the state. It is safe to say that Linden Hall is one of the few "peach mansions" left in Delaware with a peach orchard across the road from it.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Wolf, Dolly Ann. "The Ricards House, Bridgeville, Delaware." Unpublished monograph prepared under the auspices of the Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, 1978

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.2 acres

Quadrangle name Greenwood

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References Lat./Long.: $38^{\circ} 45' 75''$ lat.; $75^{\circ} 35' 35''$ long.

A

Zone	Easting			Northing							

B

Zone	Easting			Northing							

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries follow the exact lines of the metes and bounds descriptions of the two contiguous parcels of land listed as parcels 1&2 on Sussex Co. tax map 633, pp. 48.9 (parcel 2) and 493 (parcel 1).

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 Richard B. Carter, Historic Preservation Planner/Phyllis A. Hastings, Ass't. Planner.

organization Sussex Co. Historical Preserv. Planner's Office date December, 1981

street & number Old Courthouse, South Bedford St. telephone (302) 856-7701, Ext. 361

city or town Georgetown 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Daniel R. Griffith

title Deputy/State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/15/82

For NPS use only

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

Melvin Dyer

Entered in the National Register

date 8/28/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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The formerly wood-sided exterior walls of the main house are now covered by white aluminum siding. The house has an asphalt-shingled gabled roof with a molded box cornice. The facade and rear cornices of the main house are trimmed with sawn vergeboard in a fleur-de-lis pattern, while the gable ends are trimmed with vergeboard with cut-out designs in a variety of patterns. The southeast and northwest interior ends of the frame section each have a corbelled brick chimney.

The last phase of construction on the house occurred during the mid-1960's, and consisted of the addition of a two-car garage of brick veneer construction to the northwest end of the rear wing. Though a portion of the rear end of the house is thereby obscured, the garage addition does not detract substantially from the overall appearance or design of the house.

Though substantially altered, the interior also retains a fair amount of its early detail. The most interesting surviving features of the earliest brick section (which now houses the kitchen) are the pegged heart pine doors and the enclosed semi-circular staircase to the second floor. A pegged heart pine cupboard located in the kitchen on the wall dividing it from the dining room is quite unusual and dates from the early-nineteenth century. A small door with four recessed panels on the dining room wall gives access to this cupboard from the back. When the second brick section was added, the house apparently was altered along a center-hall plan. A seam in the wall and ceiling of the dining room suggests that it may have once been the location of a hall wall. Another unusual feature of the dining room is a wooden trap door in the floor which gave access to the potato cellar. Since potato cellars were traditionally located near a fireplace, it is possible to theorize that an original fireplace and chimney were removed from this wall of the second brick section when the first frame addition was built. The wall between the two sections is about eighteen inches thick.

The fireplaces in both principal rooms of the front wood frame section are vernacular interpretations of the Classical Revival, with pilasters, panels and molded trim. The living room fireplace is somewhat more Federal in style. The staircase in the central hall is two-tiered, with a landing, turned balusters and newel post, and a simple molded balustrade.

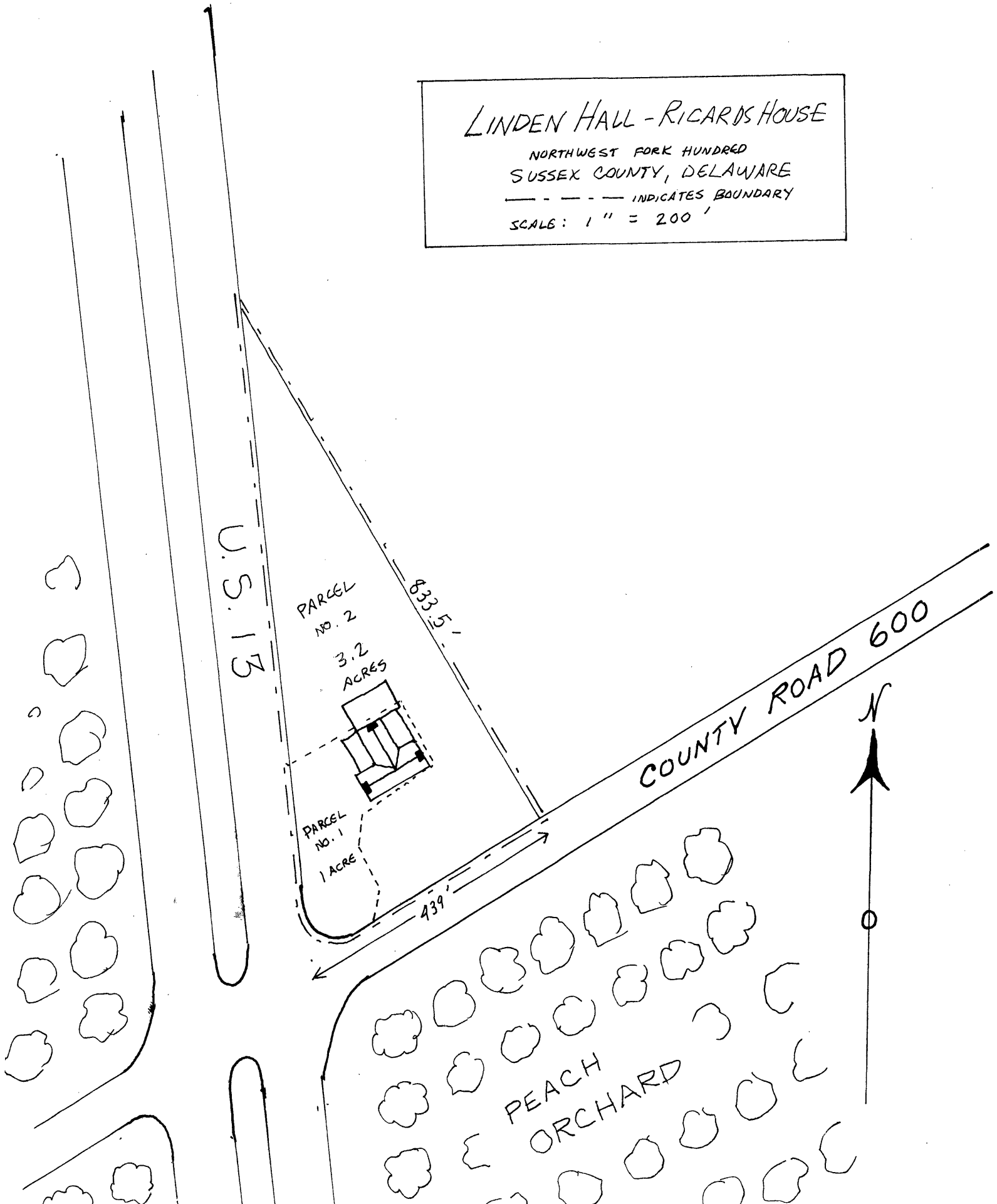
Boundary Justification

Linden Hall-Ricards House was once the mansion house of a large plantation of several hundred acres. Through successive estate divisions and property transfers since the early-twentieth century, the original farm has been subdivided so that of the original land there remains only a triangular section of land on which the house stands. This section is divided into two parcels of land, but both parcels were purchased at the same time by the present owners and are contiguous. The parcel on which the house actually sits, at one acre the smaller of the two, is completely surrounded on three sides by the larger of the two parcels, which forms the front, rear, and northeast side yards. It is thought to be much more logical, therefore, to include the total triangle in the nominated area, rather than just the irregularly-shaped parcel on which the house sits.

LINDEN HALL - RICARDS HOUSE

NORTHWEST FORK HUNDRED
SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE

--- INDICATES BOUNDARY
SCALE: 1" = 200'



U.S. 13

PARCEL
NO. 2

3.2
ACRES

833.5'

PARCEL
NO. 1
1 ACRE

439'

COUNTY ROAD 600

PEACH
ORCHARD

