

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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| FOR HCRS USE ONLY |
| RECEIVED AUG 18 1980 |
| DATE ENTERED APR 8 1982 |

Historic Resources of Red Lion Hundred

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 13

5. A. Property Name - N-1493 - Linden Hill
- B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description - Linden Hill is located on the west side of Route 13, 0.5 miles north of St. Georges. The nominated area is a rectangular property fronting approximately 250 feet on Route 13 with a maximum depth of 730 feet.
- C. Owner - Mr. and Mrs. Claude Lester
P.O. Box 45
St. Georges, Delaware 19733
- D. Property Description

Linden Hill, a five-bay, two-and-one-half story brick house with center hall plan, has a long kitchen wing at right angles to the main block, and is set back from the road by a long avenue of trees. The plan and exterior are Georgian, while the interior woodwork, mantels and other details are Greek Revival. The facade of the plain rectangular brick structure is laid in Flemish Bond and has a molded brick cornice that runs the length of the facade. There are two interior end chimneys on the gabled roof (the right one has been re-worked to the outside), with a third chimney located in the center of the kitchen wing. The three wooden dormers are decorated with segmented arches supported by paneled pilasters with a rosette motif on each corner block. On the ground floor of the facade, there is a central doorway flanked by two windows. On the second floor there are five windows, each one directly above the windows and door of the ground floor. All the windows have plain trim with lug sills, and lintels with bull's eye corner blocks. The windows on both stories have shutters, those on the ground floor appear to be original to the house, being wooden, paneled and hinged. There are no windows on the north side of the house; while the south has two windows, one on each floor, asymmetrically placed, and positioned near the right corner. There is a three-bay, one story, central porch supported by turned wooden columns on a rectangular base. The porch trim is a series of ogee arches with an incised floral motif.

The Linden Hill property is still a prosperous agricultural complex. Behind the brick house is a complex of farm buildings, ranging from sheds to various support buildings for the farm.

Inventory of Outbuildings

N1493 a. Wooden clapboard sheathed shed; low hipped roof covered

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with corrugated metal.

- N1493 b. Frame barn with vertical board siding; gable roof with standing seam metal roof; also, attached wood shed roof addition covered with corrugated metal roof.
- N1493 c. Intrusion; modern shed.
- N1493 d. Intrusion; modern gambrel roof barn with concrete block foundation; also, attached sheds with corrugated metal roofing.
- N1493 e. Intrusion; modern garage.

Historical Background

Anthony Madison Higgins, the third son of the A. M. Higgins that built "Fairview" in 1822, inherited one-third of his father's estate, but left it to his brother, preferring instead to buy a farm of nearly 400 acres near the paternal homestead. On this property, Anthony Higgins built Linden Hill in 1836. In his memoirs he relates that the digging of the clay (for the house) began on March 25, the laying of the Brick on July 5, with the completion of the house in the first week of November. The total cost, \$10,000, was paid from his wife's dowry. Another contemporary description of the structure indicated that shade and fruit trees were planted in the large lawn surrounding Linden Hill, thus making the A.M. Higgins residence "one of the most beautiful homes and farms in the Country."

In 1886, Linden Hill was sold, and the house passed out of the Higgins family. Until 1970, the occupants were tenant farmers, and the house was at some point converted into a duplex.

Since 1970, the present owners have converted the house back to a one-family dwelling and have been carefully restoring Linden Hill to its original pristine condition.

E. Significance

This house is significant not only because it was one of the most prosperous farms in the area, but also because it was built and owned by one of the most prominent citizens of Red Lion Hundred, Anthony Higgins, who kept meticulous records relating to the construction of the structure, and to

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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everyday life on an 19th century Delaware plantation. This structure is an excellent and well preserved example of a transitional Classical Revival style of architecture.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

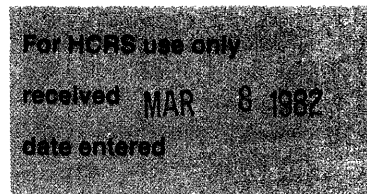
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Red Lion Hundred Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

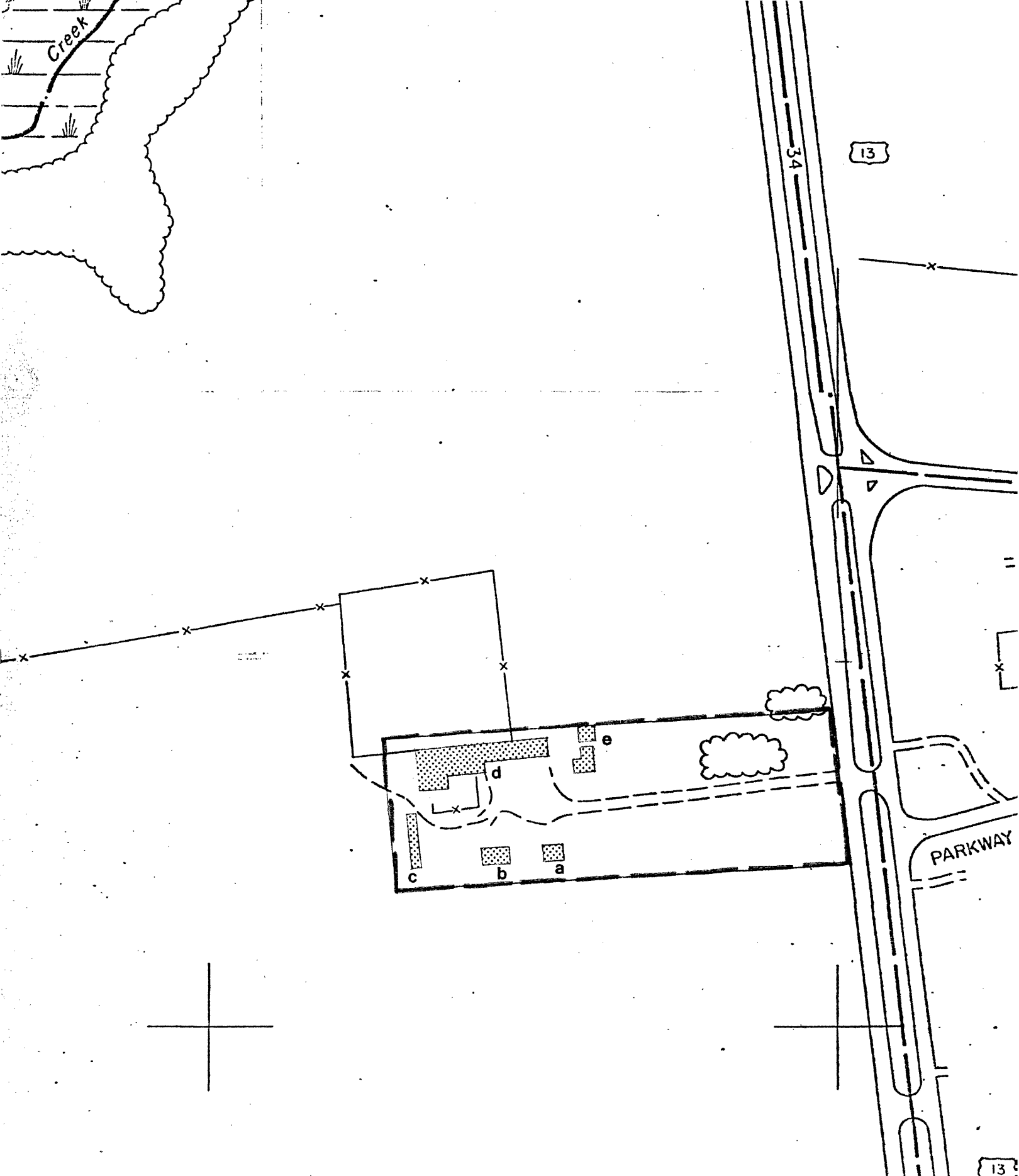
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5. Linden Hill (N-1493)

E. Significance

In addition to the fact that Linden Hill was one of the most prosperous farms in an area marked by unparalleled prosperity in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, Linden Hill is one of only two five-bay, center-hall plan buildings dating to the 1830's which survives in Red Lion Hundred.



SKETCH MAP

N-1493 Linden Hill

NEW CASTLE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

DATE : 4/14/80

SCALE: 1:200 ±

