

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 26 1980
DATE ENTERED APR 1 1982

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Short Homestead

AND/OR COMMON James Baxter House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER W of Georgetown Rd. 1/2 mi. S of 529

Intersection of Roads 526 and 529

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Georgetown vic. X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY confirmed 12/14/81 by Sussex County Preservation Planner

NAME James H. Baxter, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER R.D. 2; Box 171

CITY, TOWN Georgetown X 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 Delaware Cultural Resource Survey (S-410)

DATE 1974 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Hall of Records

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Short Homestead is a three-bay, double pile, two-story brick house with an attached two-bay, two story frame wing. Both the main house and the wing are gable-roofed with wood shingle roofs. The house sits on a one-acre lot and was once the center of a 500 acre plantation. None of the original plantation outbuildings remain, although two early 20th century farm buildings are located on the property to the northeast of the house. The house is situated at the north side of the intersection of County Roads 526 and 529, about one-quarter mile northwest of Deep Creek. The structure is now used as a double house, with one family living in the original brick section and a second family living in the frame wing. The doorways between the main house and the wing have been closed off.

The original brick section appears to have been originally a two-bay hall and parlor plan structure built in the mid-18th century. A two-story one-bay addition was made shortly after the original structure was built. The frame wing is of mid-19th century design. The brick of the front of the house is laid in Flemish bond, two courses thick, with a decorative belt course at the top of the first floor windows. A brick watertable around the base of the house has been covered with stucco.

During the late 19th century the brick section of the house underwent considerable alteration. These appear to date from the 1880's or 1890's. At that time the original windows were removed and larger two-over-two windows with victorian trim were installed. The original roofline was raised with the addition of four courses of brick. The brick gable ends were removed and a new frame gable roof was built with the gable end covered with decorative sawn wood shingles of round and diamond pattern. The exposed chimney on the west gable end and the interior end chimney on the eastern end are also victorian additions. The gable ends have partial returns and four-light attic windows.

The main brick section has a simple one-bay late 19th century porch over the front door in the central bay, with turned posts, a simple box cornice, and a low hipped roof. The frame wing has a two-bay porch of the same design, though of somewhat more modern construction, with square four-by-four posts. The rear door of the main house, located in the middle bay, has a low over-door hood with braced support. A one-bay, one-story rear wing extends from the frame section.

The brick gable end wall on the west end, the only one visible, is laid in common bond. Every fifth course consists of glazed headers. The belt course and watertable are continued on the end wall and rear wall, which is laid in Flemish bond.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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 Mid-Eighteenth Century BUILDER/ARCHITECT probably John Short

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Short Homestead is a two-story brick gable-roofed plantation house dating from the mid-eighteenth century. It is located on the north side of a sharp curve in the Georgetown-Seaford highway just below the village of Cokesbury. The house, though substantially altered, is architecturally significant as one of only about one-half dozen 18th century brick houses still standing in Sussex County. The house is even more unusual because it is located near the center of the county, several miles away from the nearest stream navigable during the period of its construction.

Most early plantation development in Sussex took place either in the Chesapeake drainage area on the western side of the county, which was considered a part of the colony of Maryland until the settlement of the boundary dispute between the Calverts of that colony and the Penn family in 1761, or in the Delaware Bay drainage area on the east. While settlers had moved into central Sussex by the 1740's and 1750's, most of their plantations and farms were small scale. The fact that the Short house was constructed of brick in an area where brick construction was so rare, makes it even more notable by local standards. While historical research has not succeeded in proving this theory conclusively, there is a good possibility that the relative affluence of the builder stemmed from the early existence of a flourishing "bog iron" industry near the property. In any case, the Short House is the only early brick house in Central Sussex.

The house is believed to have been built by John Short, the first member of the family to settle in central Sussex. He had moved there from neighboring Maryland. His son, Daniel, owned in excess of 500 acres of land by 1785.

The Short Homestead has, unfortunately, been extensively altered inside and out. Its surviving architectural details, aside from the original brickwork which is still much in evidence, is of no real relevance to its significance. By the early 19th century the house was referred to in a Short will as "the old brick house," and was left as the residence of two old maid sisters. A major effort was undertaken in the last quarter of the 19th century to modernize the house by raising the roofline, removing the original brick gable ends, and replacing them

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research in early Sussex County Deed and Orphan's Court and Will Records located in the Sussex County Courthouse in Georgetown, DE.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(Note: No U.T.M. grid on map; see geographic coordinates on continuation sheet)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 3/4 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Seaford East

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			
E			
G			

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			
F			
H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the site being nominated extend from a point where the western property line meets Del. Road 526 200 feet east along

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dick Carter, Sussex County Historical Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Sussex County Planning and Zoning Department

DATE

October 26, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

The Courthouse

TELEPHONE

856-7701

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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Daniel R. Hoff

TITLE Chief, Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

DATE

10/31/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

4/1/82

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
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with frame ends decoratively shingled with victorian round and diamond pattern shake shingles, and installing larger windows. The interior was also remodeled and the brick watertable was stuccoed.

In spite of the many alterations, the house continues to possess a substantial part of its original integrity. Its rarity is also a factor in its importance. While it is obvious that the late 19th century owners went to some effort to disguise the structure's 18th century elegance, it is equally obvious that they failed.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Verbal Boundary Description: (Continued)	10	1
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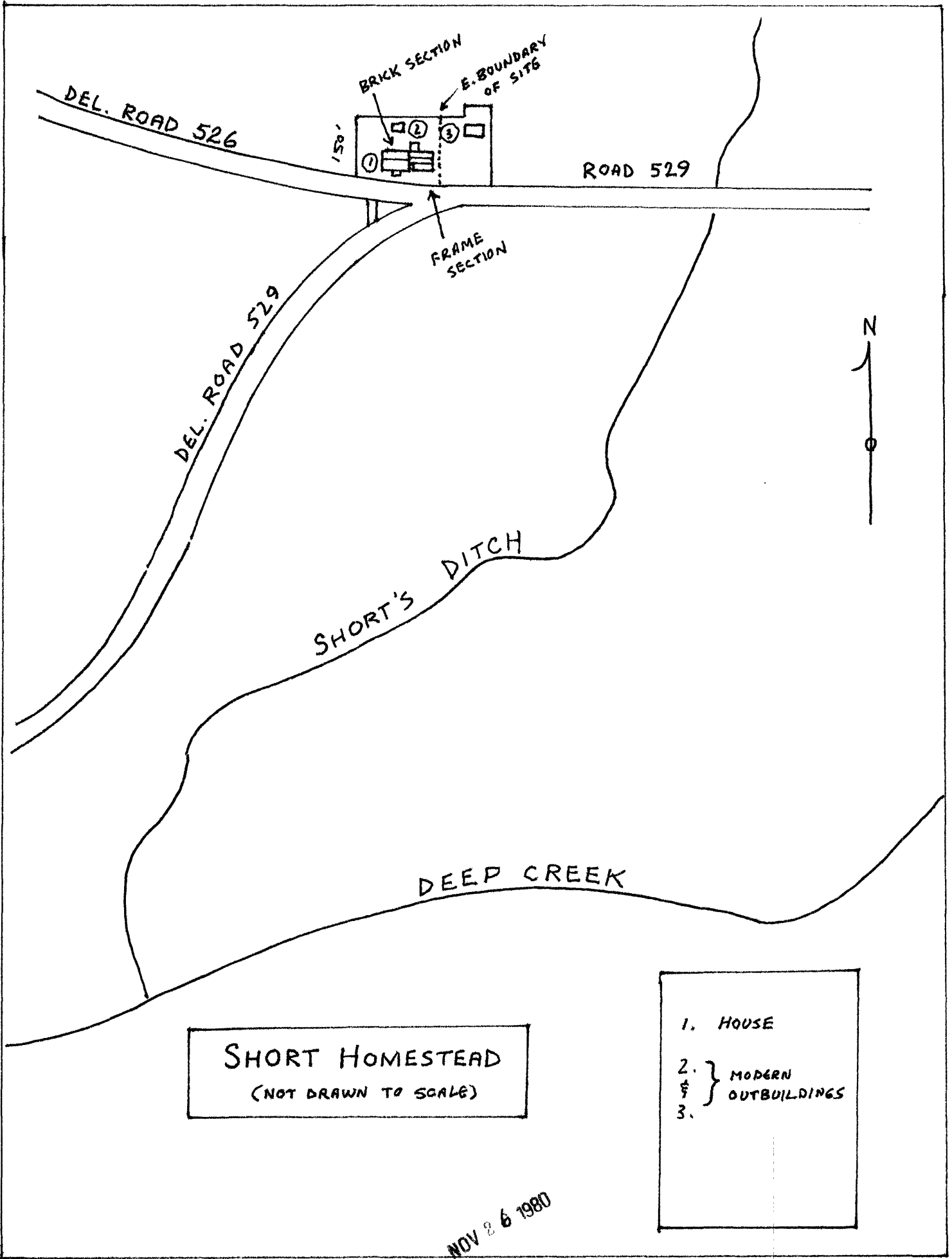
Road 526. At that point the line turns north 90 degrees and runs northward 150 feet. Then west 90 degrees and the line runs west 200 feet, then turns south 90 degrees and runs south 150 feet to the point of beginning, for a total area of 30,000 sq. feet. Any portions of the outbuildings extending into this area are excluded from the nomination.

Geographical Data:

UTM Grid Marks do not appear on the SEAFORD EAST U.S.G.S. Map.
The Geographic Coordinates are as follows:

75 degrees 30 minutes 4 seconds longitude

38 degrees 40 minutes 54 seconds latitude



DEL. ROAD 526

BRICK SECTION
E. BOUNDARY OF SITE

150'

ROAD 529

DEL. ROAD 529

FRAME SECTION

SHORT'S DITCH

DEEP CREEK



SHORT HOMESTEAD
(NOT DRAWN TO SCALE)

- 1. HOUSE
- 2. } MODERN
- 3. } OUTBUILDINGS

NOV 26 1980