

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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

For HCRS use only

received MAR 3 1982

date entered APR 27 1982

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

1. Name

historic B.F. Hanson House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Route 299 3 miles west of Middletown
at Junction of Warwick Road not for publication

city, town Middletown MA vicinity of congressional district One

state Delaware code 10 county New Castle code 002

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	<u>NA</u> 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input 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. William Hearn

(confirmed 12/81 by New Castle County Pres. Fowler)

street & number Elizabeth Allen Farms

city, town Fieldsboro vicinity of _____ state Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Public Building

street & number Rodney Square

city, town Wilmington state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N-5225 Delaware Cultural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Old State House, The Green, P. O. Box 1401

city, town Dover state Delaware 19901

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

The B.F. Hanson House is located on flat farmland on Delaware Road 299, approximately three miles west of Middletown, St. Georges Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. The house achieved its present form in 1843 and comprises a rectangular, two-story, five-bay, central hall plan main block, with a two-story rear ell. Evidence strongly indicates the rear portion of the ell incorporates all or part of a residence ante-dating the main block of the house. The entire structure is of frame construction on a brick foundation, with a cellar found under the rear portion of the ell. The general interior treatment of the main block and ell are divergent.

The main block exhibits many Greek Revival details, including graded siding, applied pilasters with capitals and footers, integrated brick chimneys, and a double ridge cornice. The four columns of the front porch and two columns of the side porch match the pilasters applied to the gable corners and main block of the house. The central front facade contains a six-panel door, with three-quarter side lights on recessed panels over which rests a five-light transom. There are two evenly spaced six-over-six light-sliding sash windows on each side of the door, and five similar windows spaced evenly on the second story. All of the windows are trimmed by three-panel moulded shutters with iron hardware and catches. The roof of the main block is nearly flat and sheathed with ridged metal.

The ell section of the house is sided in weatherboard and is of a style generally conforming to the main block. Its windows are unevenly spaced and of six-over-six sliding sash design. The ell has a pitched metal ridged roof broken at its peak by two brick chimneys. The portion of the ell within the chimneys is believed to ante-date the main structure. An attached one-story shed without foundation is located at the end of the ell.

Interior features of the main block continue a well-executed vernacular interpretation of Greek Revival architecture. A center hall divides two unequal bays and continues to an interior porch. Left of the entrance, the main staircase rises to a landing and thence to the second floor, where a door connecting to the ell is located at the center of the landing. The stairway features turned tapered balusters, a continuous walnut handrail and a faceted newel post. The smaller of the two first floor rooms, the dining room, is located to the left of the entrance and it features a marble quadrafoil scalloped edge fireplace, chimneys cupboards and a small closet; plain block trim and decorated baseboards are used. To the right of the main entrance is a larger room which probably served as a parlour. The room has a marble fireplace and trim similar to that of the dining room. Floors in both rooms are uniform width pine, and the walls and ceilings are plastered. The ceilings of both rooms are 10 1/2 feet high.

The second floor contains three rooms. The first, over the parlour, has a simple wood fireplace, decorated baseboard, fluted door and plain window trim. The center room, over the entrance hall, also has plain trim and decorated baseboards. The bedchamber over the dining room features chimney cupboards and matched closet and fireplace doors with fluted trim.

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1843 **Builder/Architect** Not Known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built during 1843 as the residence of Benjamin Hanson, the B.F. Hanson house remains one of the least altered Greek Revival residential structures in Delaware. The floorplan, decorative trim, and hardware are unintruded upon; even the original exterior paint remains. The residence is a valuable material manifestation of the state of mind of its era, an architectural exemplar of the conspicuous consumption often reflected in homes built during a prosperous period for the area. The house, particularly the main block, reflects an understanding and vernacular adaption of the Greek Revival style popular at the time. The owner's priorities are clearly defined in the first floor fireplaces and the manufactured staircase, doors, and trim. These stand in sharp contrast to the plainness of the ell and the adaptive use of a prior structure.

The tract of land on which the house stands was purchased by Peter and Christine Hanson in 1830, by conveyance of John Wales, and included 275 acres, a house, barn, and orchards. It remained as Peter's home until his death in 1836, and by his will of July 1836 the plantation was divided equally between his three eldest sons Benjamin F., William and Joseph Hanson. The will was probated in 1838 and named Benjamin, then twenty years old and the eldest son, as a co-executor. In 1843 Joseph Hanson conveyed 143 acres to his brothers William and Benjamin. Shortly thereafter William conveyed his share of the land to Benjamin, including 144 acres and the homestead. Tax assessment listings for 1844 confirm Benjamin's acquisition and reflect the increased value of his property including the frame house, barn, and real estate for a total of \$4,032, with additional assessments for slaves, silverplate and 281 head of stock. On a comparative basis, the assessment establishes Benjamin Hanson as one of the most affluent landholders in St. Georges Hundred.

Additional land purchases in St. Georges Hundred from Ann Cann and a Chancery Court sale in 1865 confirm Benjamin's interest and economic ability to expand his agricultural endeavors in a period of consolidation and movement to smaller, more efficient farms. Hanson's interests were not restricted to agricultural pursuits. His documented participation and leadership in St. Anne's Episcopal Church as vestryman from 1838 to 1870, as well as his service as a delegate to diocesan conventions during the period, attest to a man of status. He rests within a prestigious family plot at St. Anne's Cemetery, just south of Middletown.

The boundarys of the presently nominated property are set to enclose within a simple figure the historic resources discussed in this form--house, house grounds, and outbuildings--which are under a single present ownership. A minimum 20 foot clearance is allowed around all structures. The present owner plans to restore this unaltered but deteriorating house to its original appearance and condition.

9. Major Bibliographical References

New Castle County Deeds, Wills, Tombstone Listings - Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.
 Cultural Resource Survey Structural Data Form - Delaware Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. Old State House, Dover, Delaware (CRS # 50 N 5225).
 St. Annes Episcopal Church. Minutes and Registry 1804 to 1886, Hall of Records, Dover, DE

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approximately 5.3 acres

Quadrangle name Cecilton

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 8	4 3 4 6 1 3 0	4 3 6 4 2 9 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

ACREEGE NOT VERIFIED

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	George J. Fink - Private Researcher (to research) Robert A. Howard - (to consultation)		
organization	George J. Fink - Historical Research Materials (Fink) The Howard Company - (Howard)	date	July, 1980
street & number	P.O. Box 911 (Fink) P.O. Box 3512 (Howard)	telephone	697-1798 658-2401, Ext. 306
city or town	Dover, Delaware (Fink) Greenville, Delaware (Howard)	state	Delaware 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Samuel R. English

title Chief, Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

date 3/30/82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>Melona Byers</i>	Entered in the National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>4/27/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

The house grounds and farmyard are also intact, although two tenant trailers are presently sited there to provide security for the vacant house. These will be moved after the house is restored and occupied. The handsome group of out-buildings ranged on either side of the lane leading back to the fields is generally gable-roofed--though the largest barn has a low gambrel--and vertically-planked on cross-braced framing. These buildings illustrate the various storage and animal husbandry functions that would have contributed to the agricultural prosperity which supported the residence.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED MAR 3 1982

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

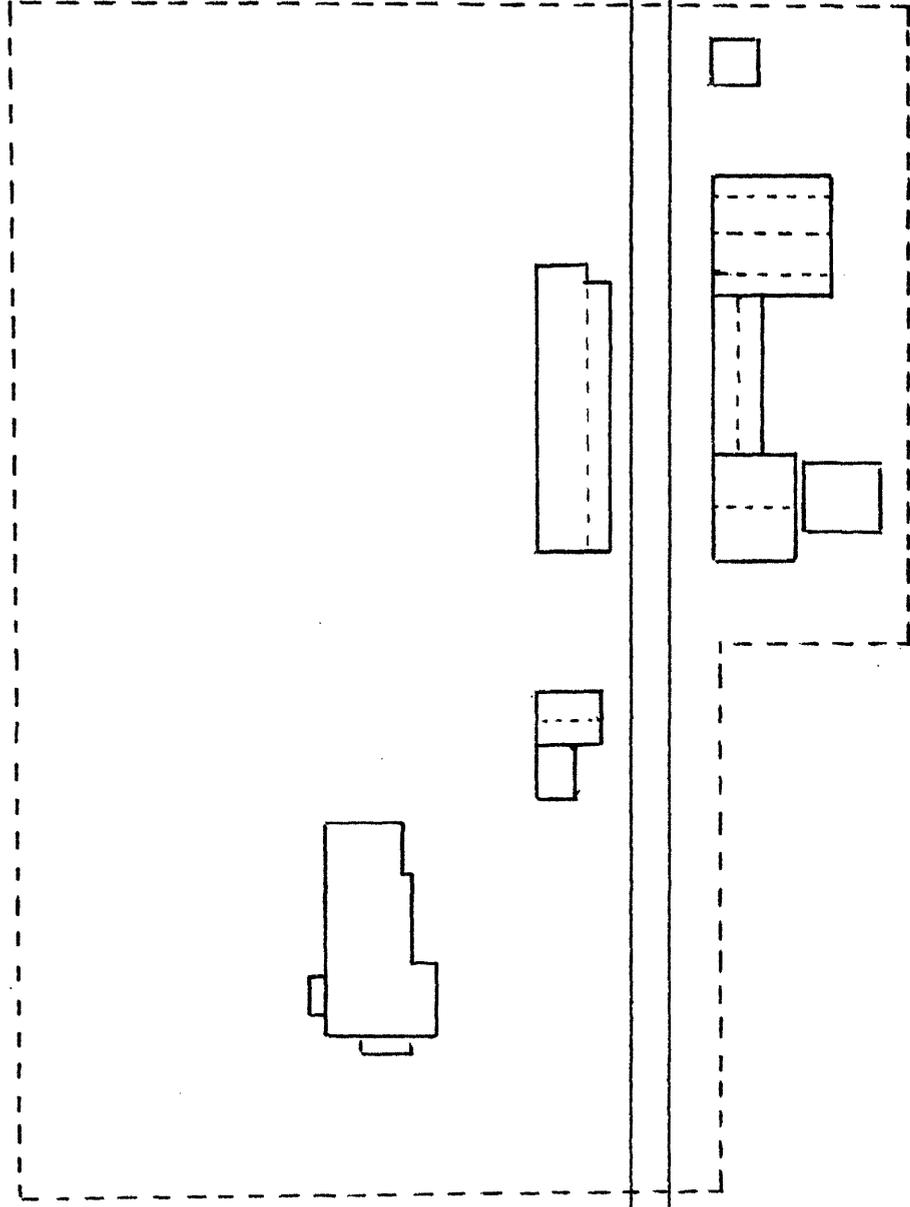
Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point 159.10 feet east of the east right-of-way of Delaware Road 229, and 275 feet north of the north side of a lane leading to the B.F. Hanson house; thence 492 feet east to intersect with a line parallel to the east wall of the easternmost outbuilding on the property; thence 370 feet south to intersect with a line parallel to the south wall of the southernmost outbuilding on the property; thence 227 feet west to intersect with a line parallel to the west wall of that building; thence 80 feet north to intersect with a line parallel to the southernmost wall of the B.F. Hanson house; thence 265 feet west to intersect with a line parallel to the west wall of the B.F. Hanson house; thence 289 feet north to the point of beginning. See attached sketch map.



ROUTE 299

lane.



B. F. HANSON HOUSE

Vicinity of Middletown, New Castle County, Delaware

..... district boundaries

not to scale