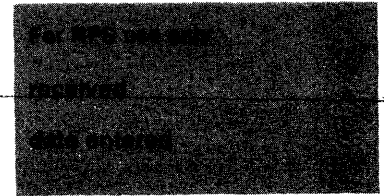


**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1

K-1375:

Property Name: Delaplane, McDaniel House

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The Delaplane McDaniel House is located on the west side of Road 92 and the Delaware Railroad Line and 3/4 mile north of Cheswold and Route 42. The farm property of 506 acres extends west from Road 92 and south of Road 152. The nominated property is a smaller tract of 91.8 acres that include the house, a tenant house, a servant's quarters and related agricultural outbuildings. The boundaries for the nominated property are Road 152 on the north and Road 92 on the east. The west and south boundary line would be the edge of a 2,000-foot square at the southwest corner of the two roads.

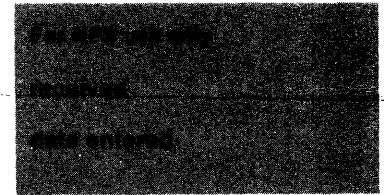
Owner: Kowinsky Farms, Inc.  
R. D. 5, Box 130  
Dover, DE 19901

Description:

The Delaplane McDaniel House and Farm is an extensive parcel of land that has been used for agricultural purposes since the the area was first settled. The house and farm complex, built c. 1880, sits on a low rise of land that overlooks the rest of the farm. The lane that provides access to the complex approaches from the east and passes through an open stand of trees before looping around to service the complex. The main house is in size a modest dwelling for such an extensive complex. However, a lot of planning and attention to detail went into the construction of the house.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number K-1375

Page 2

The house is a 3-bay, center-hall-plan, 2-story brick building. The entire building is covered in white stucco. There is a 1-story, flat-roofed wing on each gable end that act as sun parlors. They each have flat roofs decorated with wooden balustrades and they are set back from the facade and are only one-room deep, whereas the main house is two rooms deep. The roof of the main house, as well as the rear wing, is gable-roofed with interior gable-end chimneys. The roof overhang and cornice is extended beyond the edge of the wall face, an imitation of the Italiante roof fashion, and on the long wall faces it has a horizontal kick. The facade, gable ends and the low gable wings have Italianate brackets as decorative elements. The roof is pierced with two dormers. The wood trim of the dormers is arranged in imitation of a classical pediment and pilasters, even though there is no working of the wood and they are plain boards.

The entrance is the most elaborate element on the house. It is a carved wood piece that combines elements of Federal, Italianate, and Egyptian-Revival design. The central panel with its rounded arch, the embellishment of the frieze, and the broken pediment all show their Federal roots. The pilasters and free-standing columns have composite orders with extended acanthus leaves in a manner similar to Egyptian Revival capitals. The sidelights and the use of leaded glass complete the decoration of the entrance.

The rear of the house is not so elaborately decorated. The horizontal kick of the gable roof is carried out on the rear wing, but there are no brackets at the cornice. Two, 1-story, shed-roofed additions are found on the west and south ends of the rear wing, and there is a detached kitchen off the northwest corner of the rear wing.

**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

K-1375

Page 3

Located to the south of the main house and on the other side of the circular lane is a low, 2-story, frame tenant house that was built at the same time as the main house. It is a 4-bay, center-hall dwelling with a rear wing of two stories and a small, 1-story summer kitchen attached to that.

Another dwelling is located to the west of the main house. It is a small structure that was used as servant's quarters. It is a one-room-plan house with a full porch around the first floor; the second floor of the dwelling rises out of the roofline for the porch and slopes inward. The windows on this floor do not slope inward, but rather stand erect and resemble wall dormers. The second floor windows are basically two-over-two windows, but the upper lights have diagonals and appear to be lancet windows. The roof is pyramidal in shape, with a wide overhang and exposed and worked rafter ends. The entire building, which is frame, is stuccoed and painted white. It is believed that this building was a railroad related structure that was moved here in the late nineteenth century.

The agricultural outbuildings are a large complex of mostly 1-story frame buildings. They are all painted white and are mostly utilitarian structures. The single exception is the large 2-story barn that has a cement block first floor. In the center of the roof at the ridge line is a massive cupola with a sloping pyramidal roof and a weathervane with the figure of a horse in three dimensions at the top. Attached to the barn is a low, 2-story hay barn with a ventilator.

**Historical Background:**

The McDaniel House was built in the early 1880's by Delaplane McDaniel. Both Byle's Atlas of Kent County and Beer's Atlas of Delaware in 1868 show a house on the farm, but it was located much further west.

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

Item number

K-1375

Page 4

Delaplane McDaniel, a Philadelphia merchant, and George Simpson were business partners and held a number of farms together during the 1850's and into the 1870's. McDaniel bought out Simpson in 1875 and held the land until his death in 1884. His will divides his estate among his wife and children. Only real estate in Philadelphia and in Cecil County, Maryland is specifically mentioned. This particular farm and the others that McDaniel bought from Simpson were lumped together in a trust as an estate residual. In 1892, the trustees of the estate sold the farm near Cheswold to Clarence W. Hazel.

Significance:

The Delaplane McDaniel House plays an important part in the evolution of architecture in Kenton Hundred. The dwelling is a traditional Delaware farmhouse in plan, but when McDaniel built the house in the 1880's, he applied to the traditional form, a prefabricated elaborately carved wood entranceway and two, 1-story sun porches. The elements which are part of the developing Queen Anne building style are very classical in design as would be expected, but the asymmetrical floorplan is not introduced. The house is being nominated under Criterion C, as an example of the blending of traditional and Queen Anne building design.