

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

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17. (N-5786):

A. Property Name: Wright House

B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description: The Wright House is located at 47 Kent Way between Orchard Road and South College Avenue. This nomination is for the building and its 5.02 acre property with 455 feet of frontage on Orchard Avenue (Property Tax Map, City of Newark, no. 26, lot no. 9).

C. Owner: University of Delaware, HULLIHEN Hall, Newark, Delaware 19711

D. Property Description:

The Wright House is a two and a half story, "E" shaped residence with an impressive five bay facade. The exterior walls are constructed of Flemish bond brick, with a continuous belt course between the first and second floors, and exhibit architectural elements characterizing the Colonial Revival style. Twelve-over-twelve double hung sash windows at the first and second story levels feature flat arch lintels with large molded concrete keystones. The center panel door is flanked on either side by fluted pilasters; above is a dentilled pediment with molded returns. A monumental three bay main portico with fluted Corinthian columns and full entablature enhances the large scale and distinction of this structure. The gable roof, with two large interior end chimneys, has a heavy molded dentilled entablature with frieze. A frame port-cochere with fluted columns also extends from the north facade of this residence. Secondary porches are located at the west and south facades.

E. Historical Background

The Wright House was built in 1922 by J. Pilling Wright. In 1905, Pilling Wright organized the Continental Fiber Company in Newark. He was vice-president and manager of the firm until his father died in 1926; the elder Wright having served as nominal head of the company. J. Pilling Wright was president of the firm until it merged with Diamond Fiber Company. As president of the Continental Diamond Fiber Company, headquartered in Newark and with several plants in the United States and abroad, John Pilling Wright occupied a position of high standing in the Newark community.

The Wright House was acquired by the University of Delaware after 1950. It now serves as the home of the University President.

F. Significance

The Wright House is one of Newark's best examples of Colonial Revival architecture. It also represents a period of impressive and elaborate building construction which was carried out in the 1920's by Newark's captains of business and industry.

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

N-5786

Wright House

Property no. 25-26 17

Lot no. 9

328-19

1.50 AC<sup>±</sup>  
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

