

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

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N-5177

Property Name: J. Vandegrift House (High Hook Farm, 1893)

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The J. Vandegrift House is located on the south side Route 44 (Vance Neck Road) approximately one mile east of its junction with Route 13. The house and outbuildings are set in the midst of cultivated farmland. Included in the nomination are five acres containing the house, granary, and a dairy barn. Built within the past fifty years, the dairy barn is listed as a noncontributing element in the nomination.

The nominated parcel begins at a point 100 feet east and at a point 100 feet west of the intersection of the present farm lane and Route 44. These two lines run parallel to each other for a distance of 300 feet where they turn 90° east and west for a distance of 400 feet in each direction. At these points the lines turn 90° and proceed south for 700 feet prior to turning 90° and converging behind the house. The boundary is completed by joining the two points on the south side of Route 44 which form the northern most boundary of the property.

The nominated area includes sufficient acreage to provide for the preservation of the house, outbuildings, grounds and immediate setting.

UTM 18.45740,68880 Tax parcel 13-019.00-002

Owner: Arnold Boyer

P. O. Box 141

Odessa, Delaware 19730

Description:

The house is a two-and-one-half story, three-bay side hall plan house with a two-and-one-half story, two-bay addition to the east and a two-and-one-half story parged concrete rear wing to the south. The main block of the red brick structure, laid in seven-course common bond is built on a brick foundation and has a full basement. The house has a stepped brick cornice and two gable end chimneys in the main block of the house.

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The windows in the main block and addition (east) are all six-over-six sash and have wood surrounds. Those in the rear wing are eight-over-twelve sash. There are shutters across the north facade of the main block and east addition. The shutters on the first floor are paneled, and those on the second floor louvered. The attic is lit by a single gable end window.

The side hall entrance is a single leaf, six-panel, wood door with a transom. Flanked by fluted pilasters the door is topped by a segmental arch and dentil molding. A shed roof entryway has been added to the east addition.

To the east of the house are a mid nineteenth century granary and an early twentieth century barn. The granary is a two-and-one-half story drive-through, gable roofed structure. The barn, situated beside the granary, has a gambrel roof and is also two-and-one-half stories high.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Jacob Vandergrift, his family, and five black servants occupied this farm at the time of the 1850 census. The name "J. Vandergriff" appears on both the Rea & Price 1849 Atlas and Beers' Atlas. Later maps show Jas. M. Vandergrift, probably indicating an inheritance of the farm duties by Jacob's son.

In 1880, the agricultural census indicates that this was an average value farm strongly based in wheat, Indian corn, livestock, and butter production. These products, with the addition of sheep by 1870 and some orchard trees by 1880, remain the mainstay at the farm for at least the next thirty years after 1880. There is also a steady increase in the value of farm implements and machinery over that period.

As a farm of just above average size and production, mainly involved in the grain-based economy of the period, the Vandergrift property reflects the strong basic agricultural values of the nineteenth century. The brick house shows that a fair amount of expense was taken in building the farm's public face, while the drive-through granary reflects the agricultural period both in its technology and use.

Nominated by Trish Bensinger and William Macintire