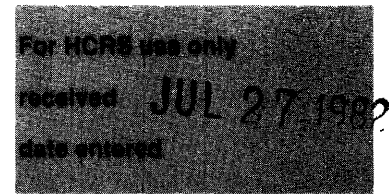


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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~~ Dodd Homestead

and/or common SAME

2. Location *W of Rehoboth Beach on DE 1*

street & number North corner of Del. Rte. One and Road 271 N/A not for publication

city, town Rehoboth Beach *vic.* vicinity of congressional district N/A

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	Public Acquisition	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
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (information obtained 1/5/82 from Sussex County Tax Records)

name Miss Eleanor Dodd

street & number R.D. 1, Box 33

city, town Rehoboth Beach 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 Del. Cultural Resource Survey S-1071 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 Dodd farmhouse is a modified ell-shaped wood frame structure, the earliest portion of which dates from the first quarter of the nineteenth century and which has evolved since that time as the need for more space arose. The main section of the house, fronting on Country Road 271, is a long, rectangular, two-story, single-pile structure, the dimensions of which follow those of the original house.

In its original form, the farmhouse consisted of a two-story building, three bays wide, and a one- or one-and-a-half story wing, also three bays wide. At a later date, probably in the mid-nineteenth century, the one-story wing was raised to a full two stories.

The earliest two-story section is relatively unaltered and is a vernacular interpretation of the late Federal style, with its original single-hung six-over-nine windows and hand-hewn cypress shingles. Probably at the time of the later raising of the wing, a molded box cornice with partial returns was added. Both the north and south gable ends have stuccoed brick interior end chimneys. The exterior walls are all shingled, though the shingles on the north end, which would have been more exposed to the weather, are modern sawn wood. The body of the house is painted a buff color, while the cornerboards, window and door trim, and cornices are painted maroon.

Attached to the rear of the main section is a two-story addition with a slightly lower roof line than that of the main house. Other additions include an early 20th century bathroom built over the enclosed porch of this rear wing.

The outbuildings are assembled to the north of the house in two groupings. The domestic outbuildings are situated immediately adjacent to the house, in close proximity to one another, while those used for general farm purposes are farther removed from the house and farther apart in relation to each other. The domestic out-buildings include a low brick ash house, about five feet by eight feet, with wood shingled gable roof; this entire structure extends only about four feet out of the ground and several feet into the ground. All other domestic outbuildings are of wood frame construction with wood-shingled, gabled roofs. All have vertical board siding. The milk house has a door in the side nearest the house and wooden louvered ventilators in the other three sides. Originally these ventilators had sliding wooden panel shutters which could be pulled over them from the outside in cold weather. Only the channels for these shutters remain. The interior of this structure, which was not accessible, is probably bricked-nogged and plastered and may also extend below ground level. Farther from the house are the larger wood shed and a storage shed.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 c. 1830-1900 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dodd Homestead is significant as the finest remaining example of a nineteenth century farmhouse-outbuilding complex in Lewes and Rehoboth Hundred. The early nineteenth century house with its vernacular mix of Federal and Greek Revival details and its shingle siding, and the range of outbuildings with their braced-frame construction and traditional configuration, are all quite typical of nineteenth century farms in lower Delaware. Many other nineteenth century houses have survived in the area, though generally in more conspicuously altered condition; a respectable, though smaller, number of outbuilding groups have survived as well. But nowhere else in the Delaware coastal area is it possible to find such a complete and little altered complex. That it has survived in the midst of the state's leading resort area, adjacent to the major access route to the Delaware shore, makes its survival all the more notable, and all the more illustrative of a traditional way of life on the diversified farms of southern Delaware. The Dodd Homestead is therefore significant under criterion C of the National Register guidelines, in embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. Further, the existence of a full set of early outbuildings, some still stocked with early implements, makes the farm a valuable resource for the study of agricultural history in Delaware. Therefore, significance is also claimed under criterion D, for a property which has yielded or is likely to yield information important to our history.

The homestead has been owned by the Dodd family since the 18th century. The last member to actively use the farm outbuildings, William A.B. Dodd, died many years ago, and retired from farming some years before his death. For that reason much of his equipment, including various types of horse-drawn agricultural vehicles and implements, is still housed in the buildings. In a short biographical account of William A.B. Dodd dating from the 1920's, it is noted that, "on the old Dodd lands, which now comprise about three hundred and fifty acres, he produces grain and other farm products, and keeps livestock. He has an average of twenty head of cows, and along with his other farming activities he does some dairy business." Like many other prominent farmers, Mr. Dodd was also active in banking and politics and the church. He was known as a conservative gentlemen who valued the traditional ways of farming, a fact which may explain the survival of the complex.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bevan, Wilson L. History of Delaware - Past and Present. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1929.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 3.68 acres

Quadrangle name Rehoboth Beach

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A

1	8	4	9	0	3	4	0	4	2	8	5	1	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the nominated area is a square, 400 feet to each side, enclosing 3.68 acres, bounded on the southeast side by country road 271 and on the southwest side by Del. Rt. 1. The nominated area is a portion of a larger tract of 363.2 acres illustrated on Sussex Co. tax map 3-34-13, parcel no. 325.

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

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Carter, Phyllis A. Hastings

organization Sussex County Historical Preservation Planner's Office

date December, 1981

street & number Old Courthouse, South Bradford St.

telephone (302) 856-7701 ext. 361

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Daniel R. Schiffell*

title Deputy/State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/15/82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the National Register
<u><i>Alma Byers</i></u>	date <u>8/26/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number 7

Page 1

The main farm buildings, the earliest of which appear to date from the mid-nineteenth century, consist of the following: a small shed-roofed poultry house of about thirty feet in length, with vertical board siding and tar-covered roof; stable with six stalls and a hay loft, with vertical board siding and wood shingled roof; and barn with a threshing floor and loft above and a horizontally slatted corn crib built onto the south-southwest end. The barn has a brick foundation, board siding and wood-shingled roof; a collection of farm wagons is stored within. The space between the poultry house, the domestic outbuildings, the stable and the barn forms a rectangle which was probably once fenced in to form the "pound" area for horses and mules. All buildings used for the housing of farm animals have a south-southwest exposure, away from the prevailing northeasterly winter winds.

To the rear of the barn is a group of buildings designed for the storage and handling of grain, including a second corn crib with horizontal slat sides and brick foundation; a two-story granary with vertical board sides and brick foundation probably used for the storage of wheat; and an attached shed-roofed equipment shed which probably housed threshers and similar horse-drawn equipment. Northeast of the stable is the largest of the farm buildings, a large gable-roofed dairy barn with rear ell, again with vertical board siding and wood-shingled roof.

Near the road along the front of the property is a one-story building with horizontal board siding, used as a carriage house and/or automobile garage. At one end is a three-bay section with two six-over-six windows and a door which may have been used as living quarters for domestic or farm laborers. Attached to the rear of this structure is another equipment shed containing a horse-drawn hay rake and other equipment.

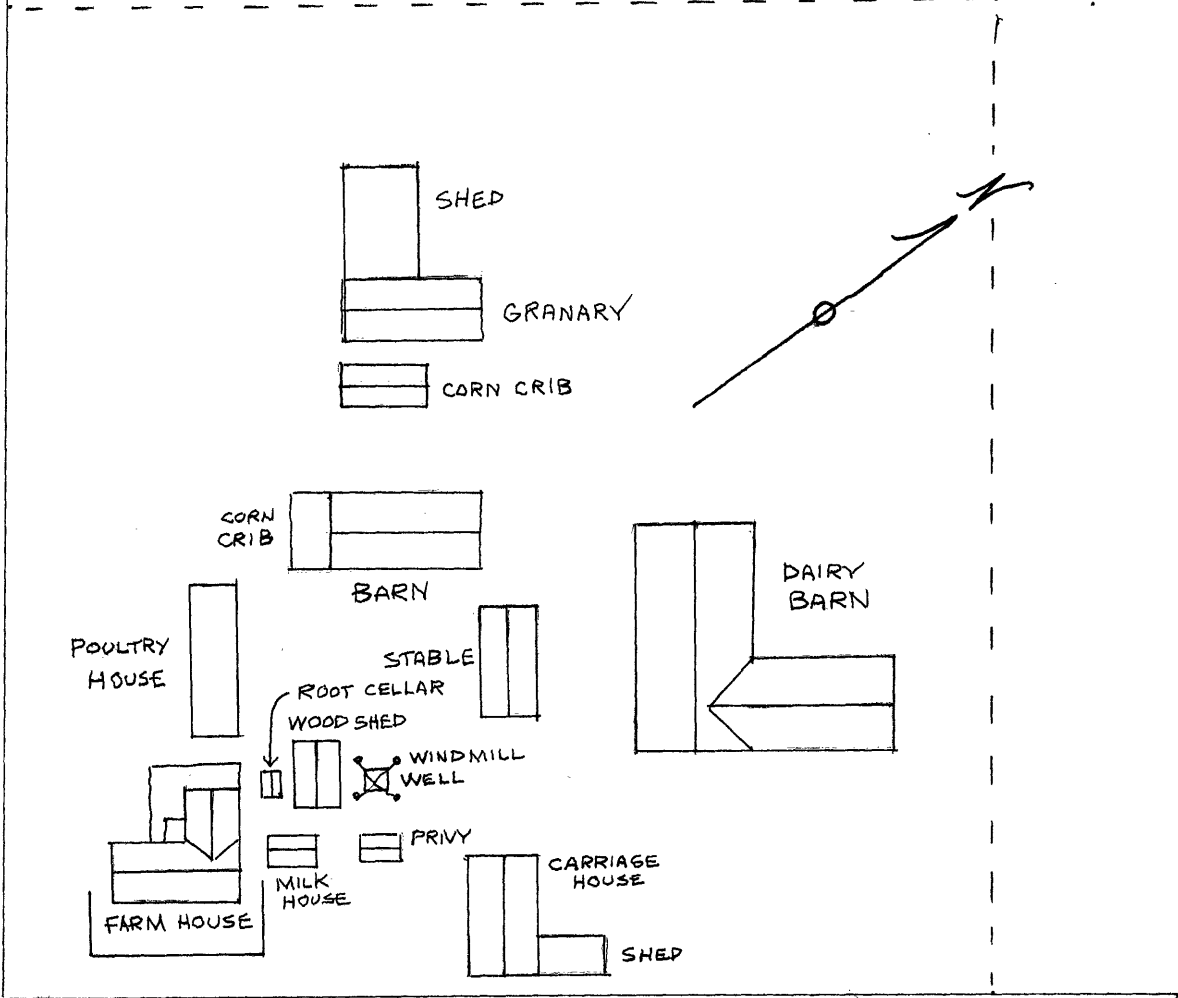
All the outbuildings are of braced frame construction, and most are built with framing members morticed and tenoned and pegged. While this construction technique fell into disuse with residential construction at about the time of the Civil War, it continued to be use in construction of farm buildings until the last quarter of the nineteenth century. For that reason it is difficult to date the various buildings. The two corn cribs and probably the poultry house date from the early twentieth century, but all these structures are undoubtedly the latest in a long line of similar farm buildings extending back to the eighteenth century origins of the homestead. Many of the larger structures, while still structurally sound, have stood unused for several decades and are today in a state of some dilapidation. The smaller structures are generally in much better condition. Also surviving is an early well, now covered, and the framework of a windmill used for pumping water.

Boundary Justification

The nomination area of the Dodd Homestead is a small section of a 363 acre farm. It is rectangular in shape and encloses within it all standing structures on the farm. While the entire farm has been owned by the Dodd family since the 18th century, it is felt that it is necessary to include in the nomination only sufficient land to include the farmhouse and attendant agriculture structures.

SITE MAP OF
DODD HOMESTEAD
LEWES & REHOBOTH HD.
(NOT DRAWN TO SCALE)

DELAWARE ROUTE ONE



DELAWARE ROAD 271

← REHOBOTH BEACH