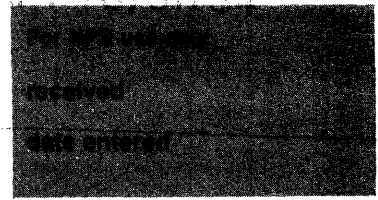


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



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Item number S-1115

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13. S-1115:

Property Name: GRIER HOUSE/ROGERS FUNERAL HOME

Location & Verbal Boundary Description:

The Grier House is located at 301 Lakeview Avenue on the southwest corner of Kings Highway and Lakeview Avenue. The lot is 2.8 acres and is bounded on two sides by occupied house lots and by Kings Highway and Lakeview Avenue.

Owner: John R. and Jeanne R. Rogers, 301 Lakeview Avenue, Milford, DE (obtained 12/9/81 at Sussex County Board of Assessments).

Property Description:

The basic plan of the house is that of a 2-story, 5-bay, center-hall, frame building. In decoration, it combines many elements of Queen Anne style and classic style into what some contemporary authors called the "free classic." The hip roof is pierced with dormers that have rounded window cornice heads. The center dormer over the main facade is larger and more massive and matches the projecting center bay that includes the entrance block. The center block has a Palladian window, while at the first floor the entrance takes the form of a Palladian window with its tripart division, but each section is of similar height and the whole is flat at the top. The first floor right window bays are combined into a Palladian window. The center block has a 2-story portico with slender, paired, fluted Ionic columns. A porch continues to the left from this portico around to the side of the house with single, fluted Ionic columns. The opposite side has a 1-story porch with large Doric columns. The whole sits on a raised brick foundation and is covered with weatherboard.

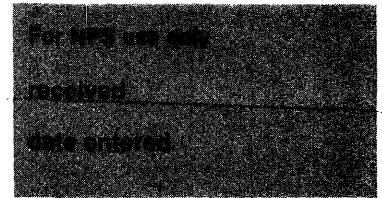
Historical Background:

The house was built in 1890 on unoccupied land. The architect was Morris and Whiteside of Wilmington, Delaware. The 1868 Beer's Atlas shows a cemetery near the present house and house sites further to the south. When built, its appearance was different than it is today. Between 1921 and 1923 the owner, Dr. Frank L. Grier, remodelled the house and removed the earlier embellishments such as the widow's walk, balustrade, and the center chimney. The corner boards were also removed. The dormer roofs lost their partial returns and the front porch was extended further out and around the house.

Dr. Frank L. Grier was a dentist who came to Milford in the early 1890's to take over his brother Layton's dental practice upon his move to Dover. Dr. Layton Grier had opened his practice in Milford in 1891 and soon became friends with Dr. Levin D. Caulk who, in 1877, had started a dental supply business in Delaware. Upon Dr. Caulk's death in 1896 Layton Grier gave up his practice to manage the Caulk Company. Frank Grier

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GRIER HOUSE/ROGERS FUNERAL HOME CONTINUED

married a daughter of Dr. Caulk in 1897 and soon thereafter he and his brother bought the L. D. Caulk Company. The company offices and laboratories were moved to Milford in 1900 and soon became one of the largest employers in the area.

Dr. Frank Grier was a member of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon when President Warren G. Harding visited Delaware on June 9, 1923; he stopped at Milford and was entertained by Dr. Grier at his home. Dr. Grier helped to initiate President Harding into Milford's Evergreen Forest #49 of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon.

The house is presently used as a funeral home. Besides its various uses, the house is significant to Milford as an example of the expansion of the town with the increased prosperity brought on by the late-nineteenth-century peach industry. Dr. Grier was not the only doctor in town. Five years before, in Bailey's Atlas, there were five doctors listed in the business directory. Dr. Grier was not listed on this directory, and was most likely attracted to the town because of its growth.

Property Significance:

The Grier House is significant primarily for its architectural design. It is the most successful of all the "Queen Anne/Free Classic" structures in the town. Other buildings in the town have elements of the design grammar but none exhibits the various forms in as complete a manner as does the Grier House. The house also marks the reintroduction of architect-designed buildings in the town. An architect-builder had practiced in Milford in the mid-nineteenth century, but none had done so in the late-nineteenth century.

The erection of this house in 1890 also may have stimulated an interest in remodelling and improving older structures into the more current fashion for the South Milford lake area. Both the Draper House and the Short House were remodelled into more imposing structures, perhaps in part to make them compatible with the Grier House. Dr. Frank Grier was one of Milford's wealthiest citizens and due to his partnership in the L. D. Caulk Company, one of the largest employers in the town. He was one of the most influential as well.

Silver

KENT COUNTY
CEDAR CREEK HUNDRED

Lake

393.7
29.8
125.78
286.5
110
2

S-1115 THE GRIER HOUSE

3
273 S

KINGS
HIGHWAY

1
149

4
2455
220
49
40.75
20S

LAKEVIEW

5
1.08 Ac. S

S 1115

36

260S

170S L

285
780S
20S
280S