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	Eden	Hill is co	mposed	of two p	orinc	ipal s	ections:a	dc	ouble-pile,	
	side-hall	structure	to the	south, a	and a	lower	section	of	two rooms	

to the north.

The hall in the south section has an open stair to the rear, which provides access to the three bed chambers and a newlyadded bathroom. On the first floor, two south rooms adjoin the hall. Very little original detailing is extant. The first floor had received Greek Revival additions in the first half of the nineteenth century. Thus, the windows are enlarged with paneled, splayed casings reaching the floor, and wainscot was added beneath the windows. The lintels are supported by tapered jamb trim. During the first half of the twentieth century, chair railing was added throughout the house, and the marble fireplace mantels were replaced by wooden mantels.

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The north section contains a dining room to the front and a kitchen to the rear; an enclosed stair leads to the three rooms above. The detailing in this portion is minimal, with the exception of the dining room, to which has been added a considerable amount of woodwork. Adjoining the dining room to the north is a small office added in the mid-nineteenth century by Dr. Henry Ridgely.

The stuccoed facade of Eden Hill faces east, toward the city NATION, of Dover. A division line between the three-bay south section and STE the two-bay north portion is discernible in the stucco. The entry located in the center bay, is marked by a reeded entablature. A box cornice stretches across the frontage, and evidence of a water table remains on the north section.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Eden Hill is noted, not primarily for its innate architectural value, but for its connection with a prominent Delaware family.

In 1680 a large tract called "Brothers Portion" was warranted to John and Richard Walker. In 1694 two hundred acres of "Brothers Portion" were purchased to create the town of Dover, under a warrant issued by Penn. When the town plot was completed in 1718, seventy-five acres to the west were not laid out. Sixty-nine of these acres were purchased by John Mifflin, and, after passing through several owners, they came into the possession of Nicholas Ridgely in 1748.

Nicholas Ridgely was a descendant of Henry Ridgely, who emigrated from Devonshire in 1659. By <u>1749</u> Nicholas Ridgely had erected a house on his farm west of Dover; he also purchased a house within the town itself. Among his public interests, Nicholas Ridgely served as Treasurer of Kent County and as one of the provincial justices of the Supreme Court of the Three Lower Counties. At the age of seventeen, the orphaned Caesar Rodney, one of Delaware's most illustrious patriots, chose Nicholas Ridgely as his guardian. At the death of Nicholas Ridgely in 1755, his third wife, Mary Middleton Vining, continued to live at the plantation house. She had named the house Eden Hill and also planted two avenues of trees.

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Form	10- <b>30</b> 0a
(July	1969)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

# (Continuation Sheet)

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Delaware	
OUNTY	
Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
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(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION (continued) ----

The west, or rear, wall is faced in brick laid up in three-course English bond. This facade contains a box cornice and two doors.

The south gable wall is dominated by two chimneys. The present fenestration includes an attic window and two second-story windows. However, brickwork inconsistencies indicate the presence of a window once located to the rear of the front chimney stack. Two doors cut into the south wall provide access to a garden containing some excellent boxwoods and trees.



Form 10-300a UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT (July 1969) NATIONAL PARK S	OF THE INTERIOR STATE ERVICE Delaware
NATIONALBREGISTER OF I	HISTORIC PLACES COUNTY Kent
BECEIVENTORY - NOM	FOR NPS USE ONLY
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(Number all entries) DEC NATIONAL 8. STATEMENT CREGICINIFICANCE ( At the death of Mary Brdgely, p	continued) ossession of the house passed to her son,

Dr. Charles Ridgely,

Dr. Charles Ridgely, a physician, moved to the Ridgely house in Dover, where he held several public offices. At his death in 1785, his second wife, Ann Moore Ridgely, returned to live at Eden Hill. In 1810 Nicholas Ridgely, son of Charles by his first marriage, became master of Eden Hill. Nicholas Ridgely had served as an Attorney General of the State, an elected delegate from Kent County to the Delaware Constitutional Convention, and a representative to the General Assembly of Delaware. In 1801 he was appointed Chancellor of the State, a position he held until his demise. By the time of his death the house had been expanded to its larger present appearance. At the death of Nicholas' wife, Mary Brereton, the house descended to Henry Ridgely, the son of the Chancellor's half-brother Henry Moore Ridgely. Henry Ridgely, trained as a physician, established an office at the north end of the Eden Hill house. While at Eden Hill, Dr. Ridgely headed several business enterprises as well as farming the Ridgely land. In 1869 Dr. Ridgely moved from Eden Hill.

Between 1869 and 1950 Eden Hill was occupied by tenants, usually the Ridgely farm managers. In the early twentieth century, control of Eden Hill passed to another Henry Ridgely, a nephew of Dr. Ridgely. He served as president of the Delaware Bar Association, president of the Farmer's Bank, and president of the State Board of Education. Henry's

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#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

### INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Delaware COUNTY Kent FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER MAY 0 1972

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE-2 (continued) ----

wife, Mabel Lloyd Ridgely, made extensive alterations to the house,

including the reconstruction of a considerable amount of woodwork.



Form 10-300a (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Delaware
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY
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Scharf, and	J. Thomas. <u>History of Delaware</u> . Phila Co., 1888. pp. 1043, 1048.	adelphia. L.J. Richards
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