

PH0011142

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 8 1973

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Eden Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West end of Water Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Dover

STATE: Delaware      CODE: 10      COUNTY: Kent      CODE: 001

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. Lloyd H. Scheller

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Eden Hill Farm

CITY OR TOWN: Dover      STATE: Delaware      CODE: 10

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Kent County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
The Green

CITY OR TOWN: Dover      STATE: Delaware      CODE: 10

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

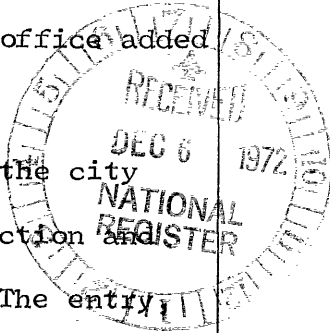
Eden Hill is composed of two principal sections: a double-pile, side-hall structure to the south, and a lower section of two rooms to the north.

The hall in the south section has an open stair to the rear, which provides access to the three bed chambers and a newly-added 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.

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 wood-work. 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 of Dover. A division line between the three-bay south section and 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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**2. SIGNIFICANCE**

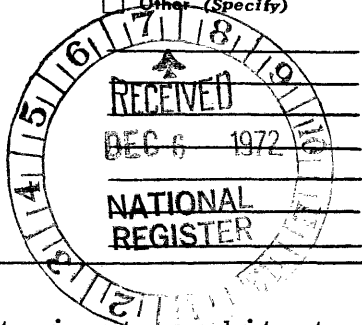
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1749 - house built

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



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 1749 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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Biographical and Genealogical History of the State of Delaware.  
 Chambersburg, Pa.: J.M. Runk and Co., 1899. p. 787.  
A Calendar of Ridgely Family Letters. Dover: Public Archives Commission,  
 1948. 3 volumes.  
 Eberlein, Harold Donaldson and Hubbard, Cortlandt V.D. Historic Houses  
 and Buildings of Delaware. Dover: Public Archives Comm., 1962. p. 96.  
 Hammond, John Martin. Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware.  
 Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott and Company, 1914. pp. 270-90.  
 Lathrop, Elise. Historic Houses of Early America. New York: Tudor  
 Publishing Co., 1941. pp. 409-10.

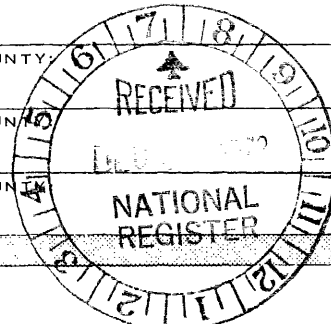
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		39 09 06	75 32 14	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Five**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Mr. Vincent Rogers**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs** DATE: **10/11/72**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Hall of Records**

CITY OR TOWN: **Dover** STATE: **Delaware** CODE: **10**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name E. Berkeley Tompkins  
 Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins

Title Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Date 11-21-72

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert W. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/8/73

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5 2 73

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

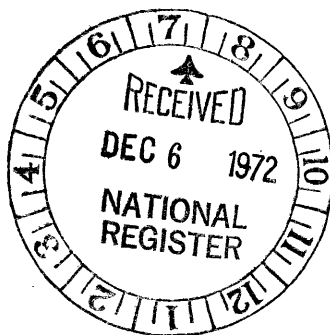
STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 8 1972

(Number all entries)

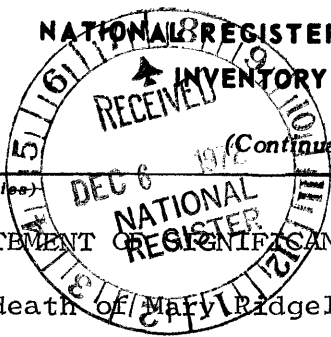
7. DESCRIPTION (continued)---

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.



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(Continuation Sheet)

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)---

At the death of Mary Ridgely, possession 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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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.



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
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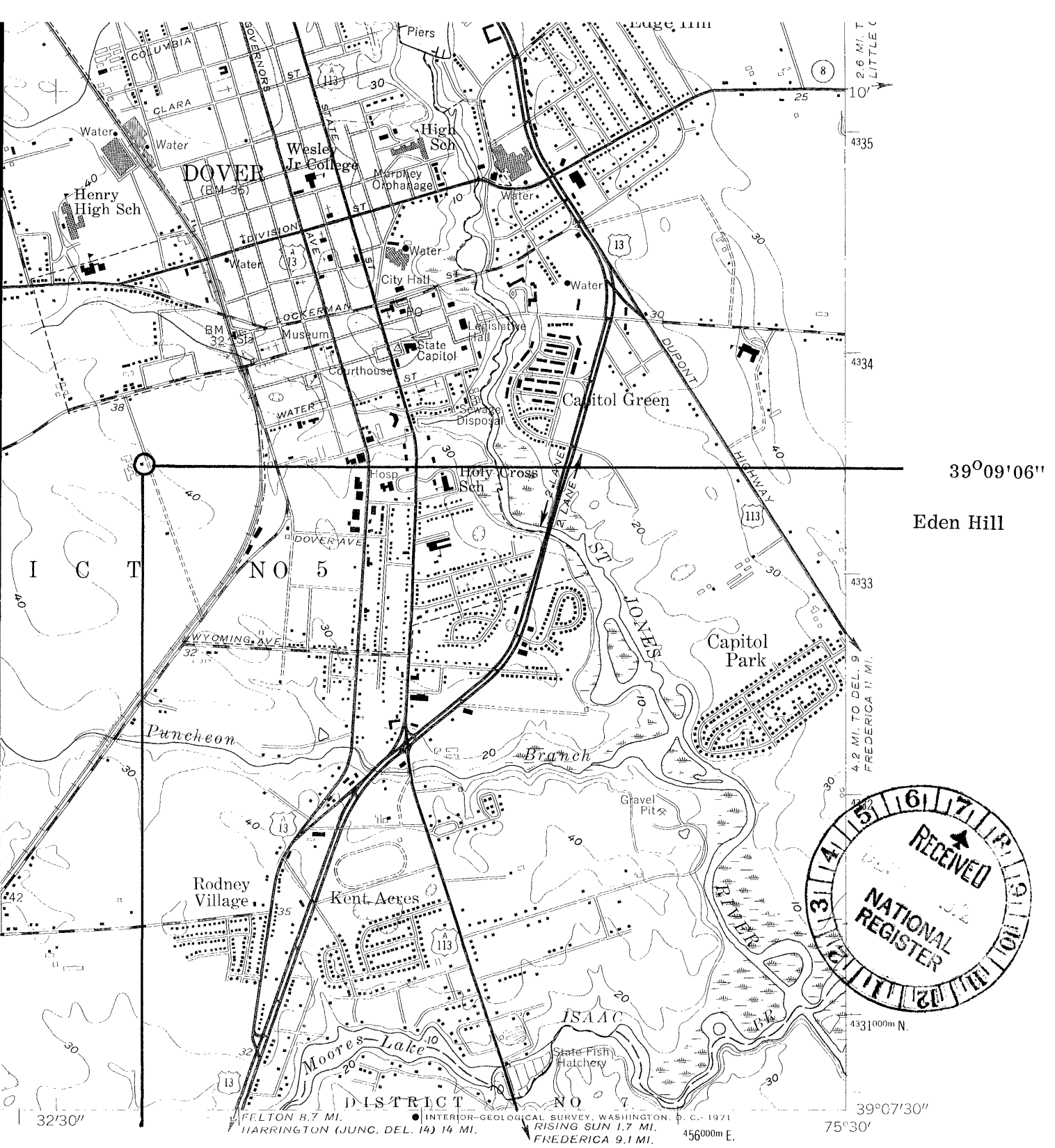
(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)---

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware. Philadelphia. L.J. Richards and Co., 1888. pp. 1043, 1048.







ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty
- Light-duty
- Medium-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- U. S. Route
- State Route

1 MILE

75°32'14"



DOVER, DEL.

NE/4 WYOMING 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3907.5—W75307.5

1956

AMS 5862 II NE. SERIES V832

(FREDERICA)  
5962 1/1 SW