Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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STATE:	
Delaware	
COUNTY:	
Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MIL 3 1974	

STREET AND NUMBER: CO1lege of Agricultural Sciences CITY OR TOWN: Newark Delaware Delaware 10 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS. ETC: Not applicable STREET AND NUMBER: CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE A. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: Not applicable DATE OF SURVEY: DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: STREET AND NUMBER: CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE		//B 11 - 114 :					ENTRY NUMBE		DATE		l
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CONDITION	🔀 Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed					
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	☐ Alter	ed	☑ Unaltered		Moved	Original Site					

This is an individual-colony brooder house, of the design that was built by many Delaware farmers during the nineteen-twenties. As restored, it is quite similar to its original appearance. Much of the original oak framing is part of the present structure. During restoration, a new wood shingle roof was applied and decaying rafters were replaced. The original two windows and door remain as parts of the present building. Restoration also included a new coat of barn red paint, typical of the kind used when the structure was constructed. The building, 16 feet square, housed 500 chickens. They were heated by a coal stove and were fed and watered by hand.

On its original site, the structure was one of several chicken houses at the Steele broiler farm. It now stands at the University of Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station near Georgetown, preserved as a museum.

UU: 13 1972

ERIOD (Check One or More as			ET 00.1 C
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	ble and Known) 1923		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropris	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	Industry	losophy	
🔀 Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	☐ Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	☐ Theater	**************************************
Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	
TATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Ξ		

Mrs. Wilmer Steele, of Ocean View, Delaware, is generally credited with originating the commercial broiler industry as it now exists. Mrs. Steele had raised a small laying flock for years; in 1923 she started a brood of 500 chicks in addition to her laying flock. When the birds reached an average weight of about two pounds, she sold the surviving 387 for 62¢ per pound, live weight. The following year Mrs. Steele started 1,000 chicks; by the third year the Steeles had a capacity of approximately 10,000 broilers. News of this new venture spread; one early writer estimated there were 50,000 broilers raised during 1925 in Baltimore Hundred alone.

The year 1973 will mark a half-century since Mrs. Steele's first flock of broiler chickens. In that fifty years, the commercial broiler industry has spread to other areas of the country; 22 major broiler-growing states now are included in the USDA statistical These 22 states produce three billion chickens each year.

Delaware farmers started 130,920,000 broiler chicks last year. Cash receipts from broilers alone exceeded \$72,000,000, just over 50 per cent of Delaware's total farm income.

Evidence of appreciation by consumers of this high-protein, low-calorie meat is demonstrated by the fact that the average American consumed only 8.6 pounds of broiler meat in 1950, compared to 37.2 pounds in 1971.



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	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						н	1 Confidence Cellan 2						
	forth by the National Park Service. The recommended								Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation					
	level of significance of this nomination is: National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐									,	,			
	COLO A								Date 7/3/74					
	Name Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins							ATTEST:						
Title <u>Director</u> , <u>Div</u> , <u>of Historical</u> and Cultural Affairs								Keeper of The National Register						
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