

PH0011410

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
First Broiler House

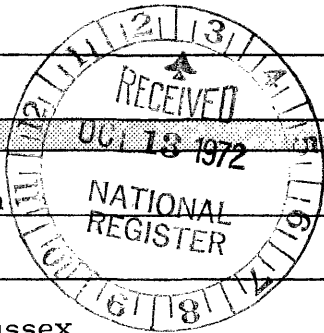
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Mrs. Wilmer Steele's broiler house

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
University of Delaware Experiment Station

CITY OR TOWN:
Georgetown

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: Sussex CODE: 005



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input 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:
University of Delaware, Attn: Dean William E. McDaniel

STREET AND NUMBER:
College of Agricultural Sciences

CITY OR TOWN: Newark STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Not applicable

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Not applicable

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

JUL 5 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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.



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SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" 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) 1923

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 checked="" 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

One of the major developments in the field of Delaware agriculture has been the commercial broiler industry.

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 reports. 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.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hugh A. Johnson, The Broiler Industry In Delaware. Newark, Delaware: University of Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin No. 250, October, 1944.
 H. R. Baker, "Fifty Years Of The Poultry Business." The Peninsula Broiler Journal, August 3, 1942.
 Joseph William Kinghorne, "The Broiler Business In Delaware." Broiler World, April 1955.

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	° ' "	° ' "		38° 38' 09"	75° 27' 16"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
J. Frank Gordy, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: **Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.** DATE: **8/31/72**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 2, Box 47

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs</u></p> <p>Date <u>10-6-72</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>A. K. Montross</i></u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>7/3/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>William S. ...</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>7.2.74</u></p>
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