

PH 0508632

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

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RECEIVED

NOV 3 1977

DATE ENTERED

MAR 8 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Curtis Jacobs House, Melson House (preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Brown Residence

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

One East side of Rd. 30, approx. 1 mi. north of NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

Route 18.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

Sussex

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Delma R. Brown

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 228B

CITY, TOWN

Bridgeville

 VICINITY OF

Delaware

STATE

19933

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sussex County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

The Circle

CITY, TOWN

Georgetown

STATE

Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey S-362

DATE

1973

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Melson House, an eighteenth-century farm house, has retained its original external appearance despite its continual occupation since it was built.

The main two-story brick section is three bays wide. A frame porch covers most of the first-floor front. A belt course and a water table are found on all sides. The walls are laid in Flemish bond. Exterior end chimneys are found on both ends of the house. Exterior wood trim on the main block is original except for the Victorian porch. A small stoop has been removed from the center of the east facade.

The exterior brickwork was once whitewashed. Windows have been replaced with two-over-two Victorian sash in the original reveals. There are flat arches over the first-floor windows.

To the north are two one-story wings on axis. The first wing is brick, and the second is frame. The frame wing retains its original beaded clapboard, secured with handmade nails. The brick wing was extended to the east at an early time, and the roof was extended to cover the extension. The two wings have dormers on the front and rear.

On the interior, the house has been modernized, possibly first by B. S. Melson, the owner after the Jacobs family. Yet a staircase along the interior bearing wall and beaded panelling on the second floor have survived. Eighteenth-century six-panel doors also survive on the second floor.

The Melson House, located on a secondary road in North West Fork Hundred, faces west toward the road. A double row of trees frame the broad lawn. Large old boxwoods and other formal plantings surround the house. To the east stand two ranges of more recent outbuildings, which are not included in the nomination.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Melson House is distinguished as a rare surviving example of brick eighteenth-century construction in North West Fork Hundred. Its fine exterior detailing includes the use of exterior end chimneys, and a belt course and water table around the entire house. Both of these features are very unusual. Most of the examples of exterior end chimneys are found on houses near the Maryland line or on roads leading to Maryland, where they are more common.

Maryland influence is to be expected because of the hundred's political history. Until the eve of the Revolution, both the Penns and the Calverts claimed this part of Delaware. Because land titles were unsure, there was little development. During the 1760's, the discovery of iron mines and the clarification of the boundary line opened the area. The oldest surviving houses apparently date from this period of stabilization. Never a wealthy area, North West Fork Hundred first produced iron and timber. Large landholdings, often owned by speculators, characterized North West Fork Hundred until the present century.

The Jacobs family and their predecessors the Polks, who owned this property, were typical of the landholding class in the hundred. Curtis Jacobs, who owned the house and apparently lived here until his death in 1840, owned more than 600 acres in a single block. Over 200 acres of fields surrounded this house at that time.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sussex County Chancery Papers, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 2

Latitude: 38°43'26"
Longitude: 75°40'55"

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING
NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING

B

ZONE	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING	EASTING
NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The house and front yard, about two acres, comprise the nominated area which is bounded on the west by the road, on the south by a drive, on the north by a field boundary, and the on the east by a barn

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Edward F. Heite, Historic Registrar

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Records

TELEPHONE

678-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Edward F. Heite

TITLE Director, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

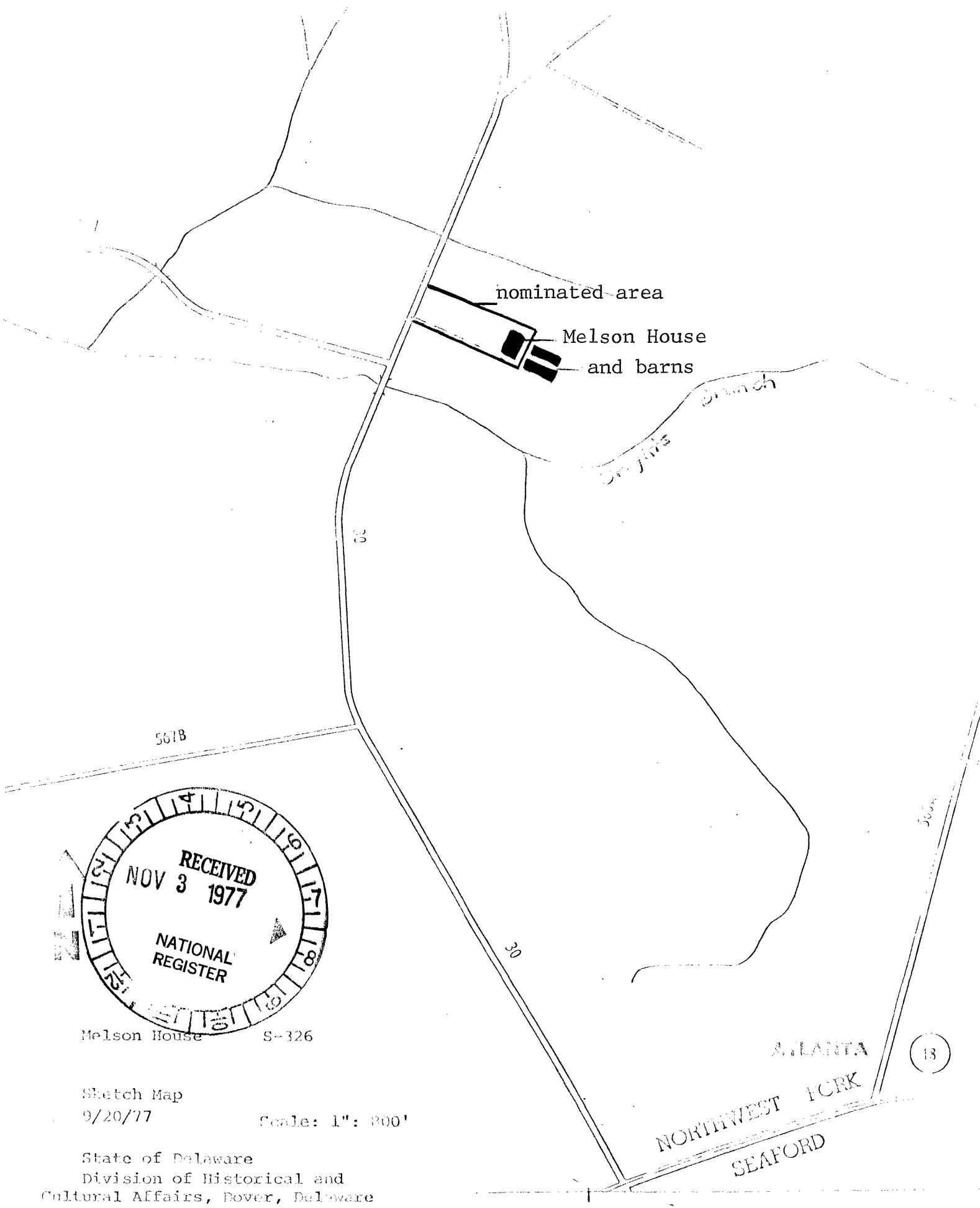
DATE 11/1/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles A. Harrison*
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3.8.78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 3.6.78



nominated area

Melson House

and barns

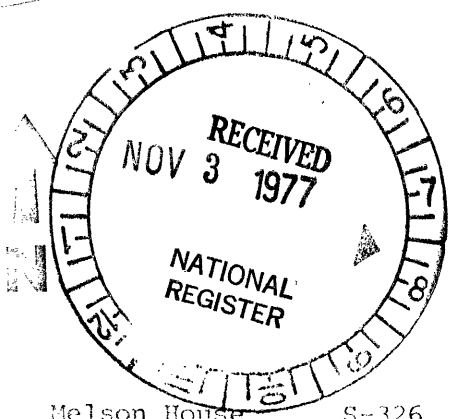
Cypress Branch

567B

30

30

567A



Melson House S-326

ATLANTA

NORTHWEST FCRK

SEAFORD

13

Sketch Map
9/20/77

Scale: 1" = 300'

State of Delaware
Division of Historical and
Cultural Affairs, Dover, Delaware