

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet

Item number N-6188

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INVENTORY FORM: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

E. Justification of Boundaries:

The boundaries of the nominated property coincide with the boundaries of the legal parcel. Because the property fronts on Elkton Road, is bounded on the west by Casho Mill Road, and on the north and east by modern residential development, selection of these boundaries best preserves the integrity of this historic resource.

F. Significance:

The Andrew Kerr House is significant as an early example of a stone dwelling in White Clay Creek Hundred, and is important in understanding the early history and development of the hundred. The Kerrs were one of the first Scotch-Irish families to settle in the western part of White Clay Creek Hundred, and were prominent members of the Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church. Therefore, this property is being nominated to the National Register on the basis of criterion C, as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; and on the basis of criterion B for its association with persons significant to the local past.

Samuel Kerr, patriarch of the White Clay Creek Hundred family, came to this country from Scotland, and settled in the western portion of the hundred, southwest of the Village of Newark. It was Samuel's son, Andrew, who built this stone house in 1805—authenticated by the initials AK and 1805 in a stone under the right gable—said to be the most complete stone house erected in White Clay Creek Hundred at the time.

An influential member and elder of the Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church, Andrew Kerr was buried there in 1823. His will stipulated that his plantation be divided, with that portion lying east of the Christiana Creek (which included the stone house) to go to his son, Andrew. This second Andrew married Hannah Gillespie, great-granddaughter of George Gillespie, the first pastor of the Head of Christiana Church (1713-1760). Andrew's son, George Gillespie Kerr, inherited this property as well as other real estate in the Village of Newark. Three years before his death in 1916, George Kerr sold this tract of 175 acres. It remained a farm until the 1940's—after which 15 acres and the house were retained. Today, the house is surrounded by busy roads and the City of Newark.

Although several late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century outbuildings and industrial buildings exist in White Clay Creek Hundred, the Andrew Kerr House is one of the few early stone dwellings in the hundred. In Delaware, stone construction was limited primarily to the extreme northern portion of New Castle County where stone is plentiful. Since White Clay

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6. A. Property Name: Andrew Kerr House (N-6188)
812 Elkton Road,
Newark, Delaware 19711

B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The Andrew Kerr House is located on the northwest side of Elkton Road approximately 200 feet northeast of its junction with New Casho Mill Road. The house is situated on an irregularly-shaped 1.00 acre parcel that has a frontage of 204.35 feet along Elkton Road and a maximum depth of 251.82 feet (1982 New Castle County Property Maps; Map Number 18-30, Parcel 124).

UTM Reference: 18/433960/4391370

U.S.G.S. Quadrangle: Newark West, Md.-Del.-Pa.

C. Owner: Kenneth J. Abbruzzese
812 Elkton Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

D. Property Description:

Constructed in 1805, the Andrew Kerr House is a two story, gable-roofed, stuccoed stone structure with a late nineteenth century addition on its southwest endwall.

The original block which has a datestone marked "AK 1805" in its northeast gable, presents an evenly-spaced four bay facade. The door, located in the bay just left of center, has a crosseted surround. All facade windows are two-over-two sash with raised and molded two-panel shutters on the first floor and louvered shutters on the second floor. The rear elevation retains its original eight-over-eight and eight-over-twelve sash windows. A stuccoed interior chimney rises through each endwall.

The interior of the main block has a three room plan. The facade door leads directly into a parlor that runs the width of the house with a fireplace on its endwall and an open stairway leading to the second floor. The stairway is not original. Two smaller rooms occupy the other half of the house, and are entered from the parlor. Unfortunately, much of the interior has been renovated.

The facade addition is a two story wing that extends the length of the house from the southwest endwall. A half-octagonal, two story bay window on its facade elevation is its main decorative focus. Three pedimented gable dormers were added to the facade, as well.

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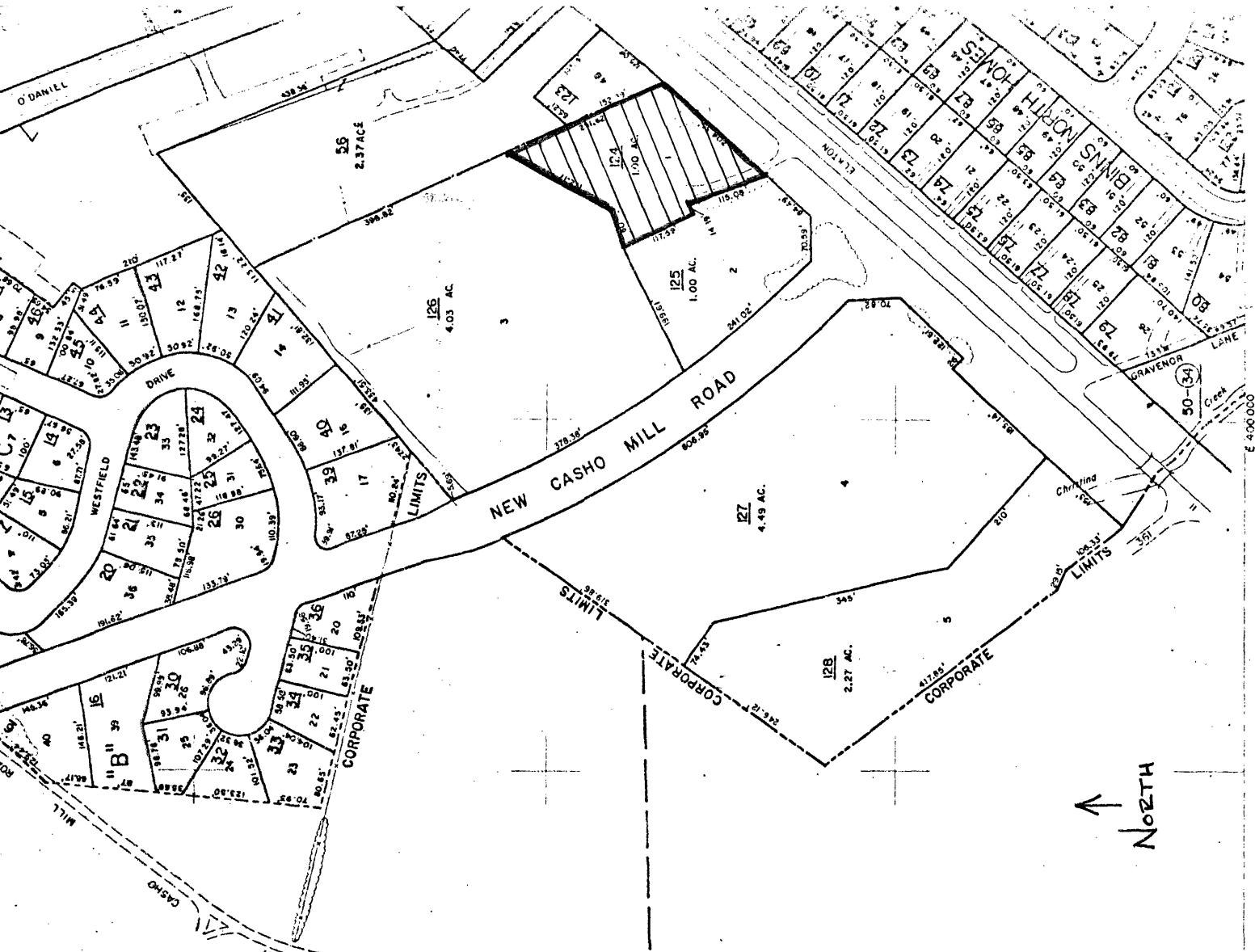
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Creek Hundred lies at a transition point between two different geological regions, the occasional use of stone in this vicinity reflects its scarce availability rather than any strong tradition.

Level of Significance:

The level of significance claimed for the Kerr House is local because the influence of both the house and Kerr family was largely limited to White Clay Creek Hundred.



WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED
 PENCADER HUNDRED

SKETCH MAP

- 6. Andrew Kerr House (N-6188)
- New Castle County Property
- Tax Map, 1982
- Map No. 18-30, Parcel 124
- Scale 1 inch = 200 feet

LEGEND

- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- STATE LINE
- CEMETERY
- PARCEL OUTLINE

E395000

E 400 000