



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Coleman House, in Sussex County, Delaware, reference number 77000392, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 4/11/1977, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 7, 1978, Part II, Vol.43, No. 26, page 5185. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.



Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

9/8/2008
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NATIONAL REGISTER USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC

Coleman House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

422 Kings Highway

CITY, TOWN

Lewes

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

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. Otto K. Lange

STREET & NUMBER

422 Kings Highway

CITY, TOWN

Lewes

VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware 19958

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-142; Delaware Preservation Checklist

DATE

1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

77 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Coleman House has a three-bay, two-story, single-pile, frame main section and a story-and-a-half frame wing. The cypress-shingle siding on both parts has been painted red. There is an interior end chimney on the south of the house and an interior chimney in the center of the wing. Both shingled roofs are pitched; a box cornice is beneath each. The wing roof is pierced by two gabled dormers on each side. Batten shutters are at the windows on the first and second stories. All of the doors and windows have simple wooden surrounds. On the first story, the windows have six-over-nine lights, while the second-story windows and dormer windows have six-over-six lights.

On the east of the house there are modern awnings over the main and wing doors as well as a twentieth-century screened porch and a patio. To the west of the house, there is a twentieth-century kitchen wing which was built on the site of an earlier back porch.

The first floor of the main section consists of one large room which originally was a parlor and a stairhall; the partition wall between them was removed in the 1930's. There are three rooms and a hall on the second floor of the main section. On the first floor of the wing there were originally four rooms: the dining room, the chamber, the back stairhall, and the kitchen. The partition wall between the back stairhall and the kitchen was removed in the twentieth century. Two rooms are on the second floor. An original doorway connects the stairhall of the main section to the dining room of the wing.

The parlor features a well-executed chimney breast, surbase, and base. A fully-developed cornice is around the chimney breast, but appears nowhere else in the room. The overmantel, which contains a central plastered area, is flanked by two smaller plaster panels on each side. There is reeding under the mantel shelf. The base and surbase return into the front of the chimney breast. A simple surbase (or chair rail) and base surround the room.

A closed-string, quarter-turn staircase rises in the southwest corner of the room. The newel and square balusters appear to be later than the staircase. The chair rail follows the stair to the second floor.

The three chambers and hall on the second floor of the main section have original random-width wood floors and exposed beaded beams.

In the wing there are corner fireplaces, chair rail, base, and original floors in the dining room and chamber. The fireplace in the dining room is larger than the one in the chamber and closely resembles the parlor fireplace in its cornice, overmantel, mantel shelf, and reeding. The chamber fireplace has a plastered overmantel and some wood panelling. The chair rail in both rooms is more elaborate than that in the main section of the house. A built-in corner cabinet is in the dining room. It originally had wooden doors that were removed in the twentieth century.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The room which comprises the original kitchen and back stairhall and the present staircase are twentieth century in detail; however, the second floor of the wing retains its original random-width wood floors and original simplicity.

The Coleman House faces Kings Highway and sits to the west of the road. Today, twentieth-century structures intrude on the house which once stood alone on this portion of Kings Highway. It has deep front and back yards, but the north and south yards are narrow and houses on the adjacent lots are built up to the property lines.

8) SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Coleman House is an outstanding example of the early-nineteenth-century rural architecture once common to the Lewes area. Much of the original detail of the house remains.

It is significant that the house retains its original floor plan. The simple arrangement of rooms was once quite popular in Lewes, but the Coleman House is the only one of its kind remaining. The main section consists of a parlor and stairhall, while the wing has a modified side-hall plan with corner fireplaces. Although two partition walls have been removed, the original floor plan is evident.

The fireplaces, those in the parlor, dining room, and first-floor chamber, are noteworthy. They are well executed and have similar plasterwork and panelling. The dining room corner fireplace has identical detail to the parlor fireplace, including cornice, plaster and panelled overmantel, mantel shelf, and reeding. The chamber corner fireplace is less elaborate, but similar in its single-panelled overmantel.

The built-in corner cabinet in the dining room retains its original shelving and lower wooden doors. Its upper doors were removed in the twentieth century.

The original detail remaining in the Coleman House includes the pine random-width floors in all rooms except the kitchen of the wing, the chair rail and base in the parlor, dining room, and chamber, the window lights and surrounds, the panelling and plasterwork around the fireplaces, the exposed beaded beams on the second floor of the main section, the panelled doors in most of the rooms of the house, and the main staircase.

The Coleman House is typical of eighteenth and early-nineteenth-century Lewes houses in its well-executed detail on the first floor and simple detail on the second floor, including exposed beaded beams.

Thomas Coleman, a wealthy Lewes landowner and silversmith, was the son of William Coleman, also a Lewes silversmith, and was born on January 10, 1790. He first married Nancy Walton and they had one daughter, Ellen Prettyman Coleman. When Nancy Coleman died, Thomas Coleman married Margaret A. Maull and they had no children. He died on June 1, 1868 and was buried in the Lewes Methodist Episcopal Cemetery. Coleman built his house around 1815. The house remained in his family until the early part of the twentieth century. Today the house consists of an apartment in the main section and another in the wing.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cullen, Virginia, "History of Lewes, Delaware," Colonel David Hall Chapter N.S.D.A.D. 1956.

Mauil, Baldwin, John Mauil (1714-1753) of Lewes, Delaware, New York, 1941. Sussex County Deeds, Wills, Inventories, and Court Records.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre
UTM REFERENCES

A	1, B	4, 7, 6, B, 0	4, 2, 9, 1, 0, 6, 0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	

B			
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Coleman House is bounded on the east by King's Highway, and on the north, west, and south by its side and back property lines.

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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Sue Fox, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

DATE

October 1, 1976

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 XX

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

Lauren Clark

TITLE

Director, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

DATE

12/5/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTENT:

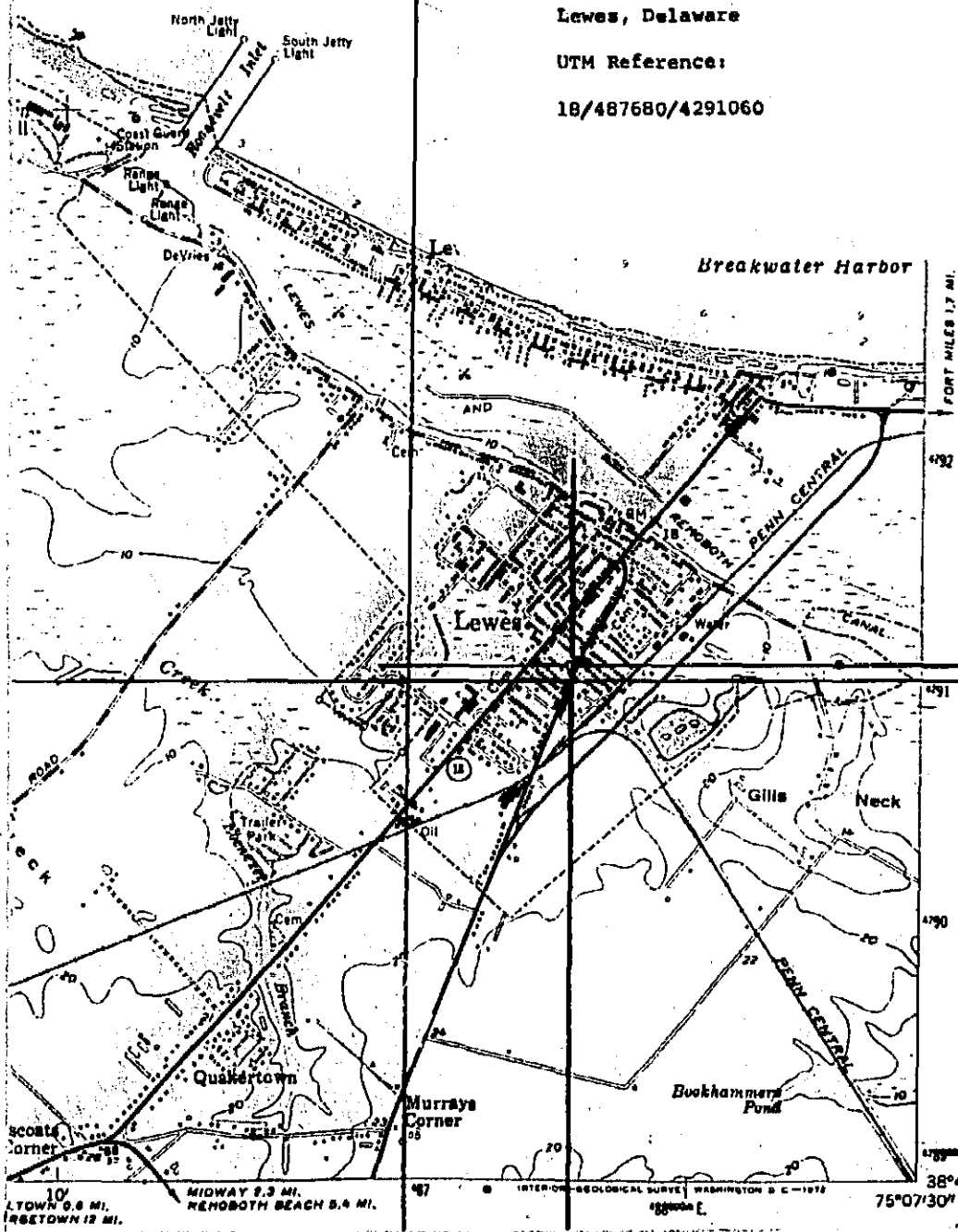
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

The Coleman House

Lewes, Delaware

UTM Reference:

18/487680/4291060



FORT MILES 1.7 MI.

492

491

490

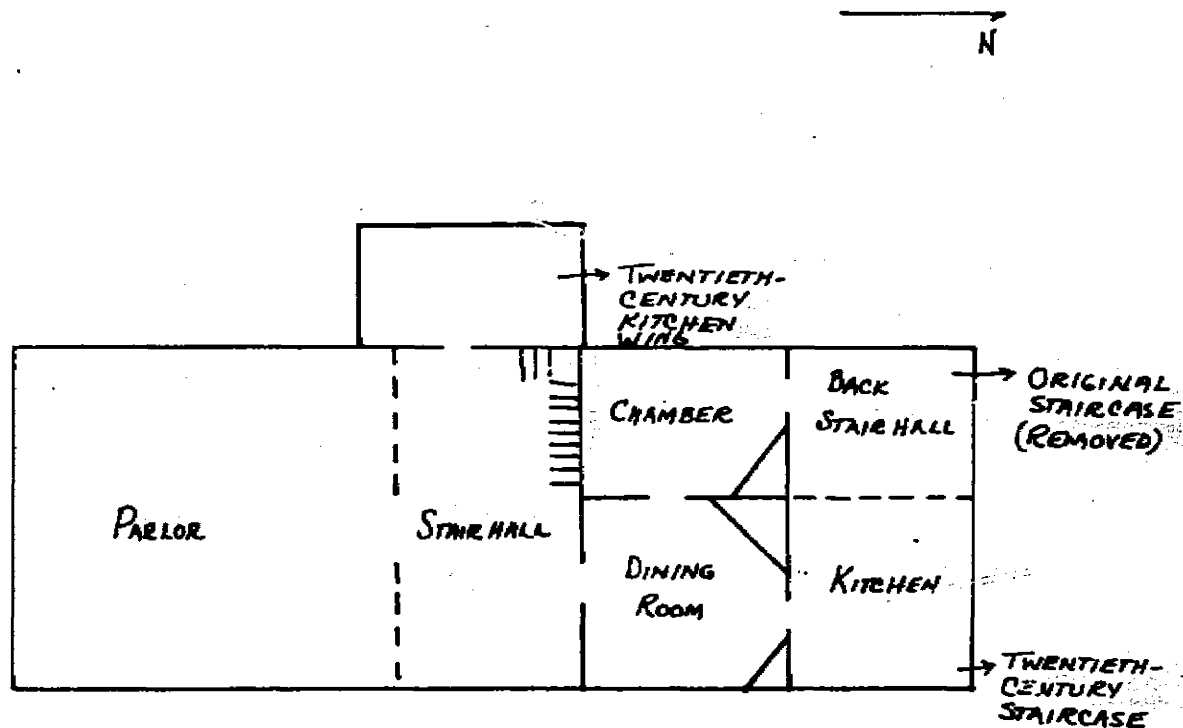
38°45'

75°07'30"

10' TOWN 0.8 MI. RISETOWN 12 MI.

MIDWAY 2.3 MI. REHOBOTH BEACH 5.4 MI.

INTER-OCEANOGRAPHICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D. C. - 1972



THE COLEMAN HOUSE
 LEWES, DELAWARE
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 NOT TO SCALE
 1976 SHF

Name: Coleman House
Location: 422 Kings Highway, Lewes, Delaware
Photographer: Sue Fox
Date: September 1976
Location of Negative: Division of Historical
and Cultural Affairs
Description: facade (east side) of house
Photograph Number: 1



Name: Coleman House

Location: 422 Kings Highway, Lewes, Delaware

Date: 1971

Photographer: John Purnell

Location of Negative: Division of Historical and
Cultural Affairs

Description: facade of house before it was painted
red and before the addition of the front
porch

Photograph Number: 2





Name: Coleman House

Location: 422 Kings Highway, Lewes, Delaware

Photographer: Sue Fox

Date: September 1976

Location of Negative: Division of Historical and
Cultural Affairs

Description: Detail of box cornice of wing, dormer,
and shingles

Photograph Number: 4





Name: Coleman House

Location: 422 Kings Highway, Lewes, Delaware

Photographer: Joan Norton

Date: September 1976

**Location of Negative: Division of Historical and
Cultural Affairs**

Description: South or rear of house

Photograph Number: 6



Name: Coleman House

Location: 422 Kings Highway, Lewes, Delaware

Photographer: Joan Norton

Date: August 1976

Location of Negative: Division of Historical and
Cultural Affairs

Description: Chimney breast in parlor of main portion
of house

Photograph Number: 7

© 1910
The Curtis Studio
New York





Name: Coleman House

Location: 422 Kings Highway, Lewes, Delaware

Photographer: Joan Norton

Date: August 1976

Location of Negative: Division of Historical
and Cultural Affairs

Description: Original flooring in second floor of
main portion of house

Photograph Number: 9



Name: Coleman House

Location: 422 Kings Highway, Lewis, Delaware

Date: September 1976

Photographer: Sue Fox

Location of Negative: Division of Historical and
Cultural Affairs

Description: Corner cabinet (built-in) located in
dining room of wing

Photograph Number: 10



Name: Coleman House

Location: 422 Kings Highway, Lewes, Delaware

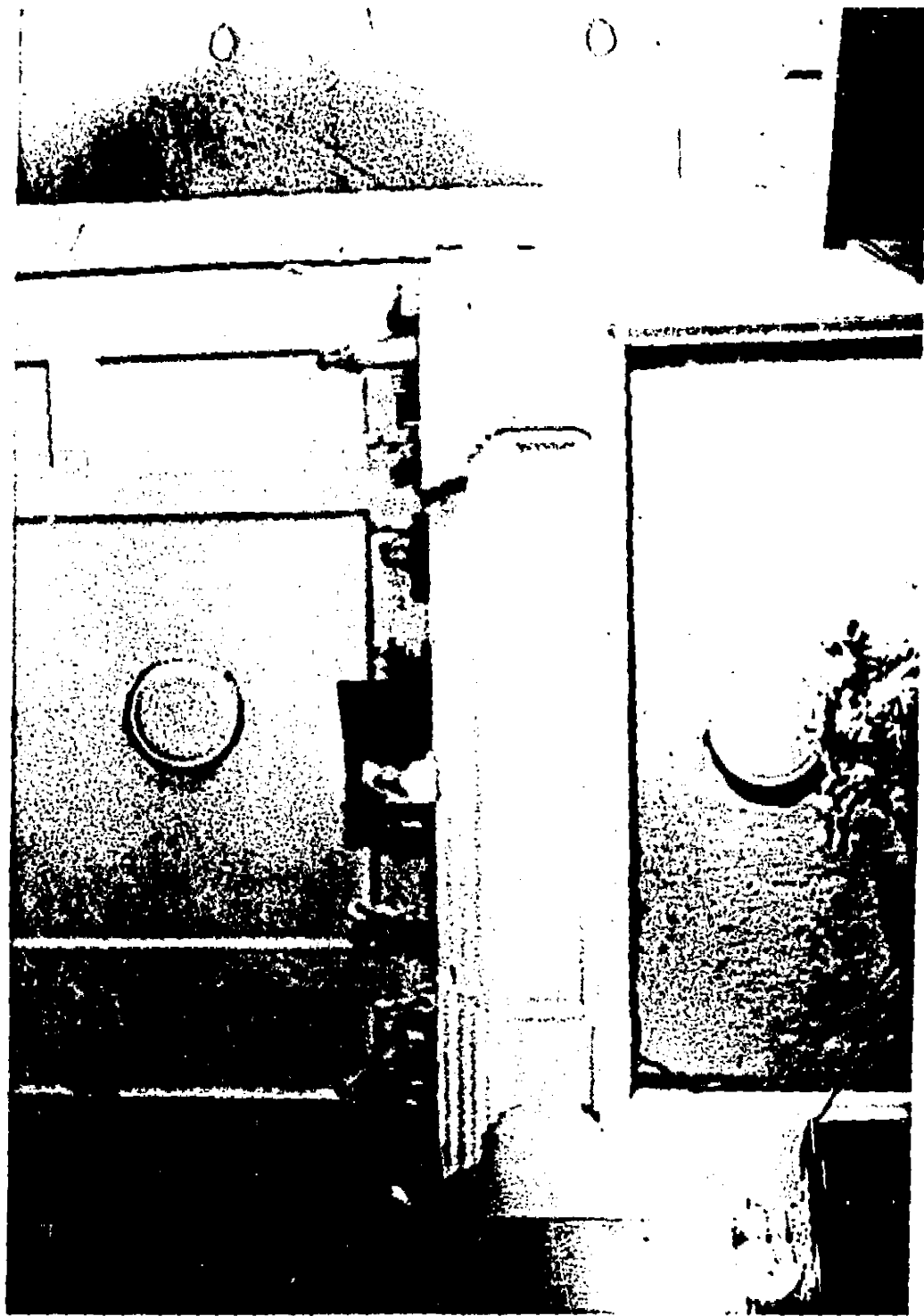
Date: September 1976

Photographer: Sue Fox

Location of Negative: Division of Historical and
Cultural Affairs

Description: Detail of corner fireplace in dining
room of wing

Photograph Number: 11



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE DELAWARE

Date Entered APR 11 1977

Name

Location

Coleman House

Lewes
Sussex County

Also Notified

Hon. William V. Roth, Jr.
Hon. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Hon. Thomas W. Evans, Jr.

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION