

PH0021539

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1979

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Coffee Run Mission Site

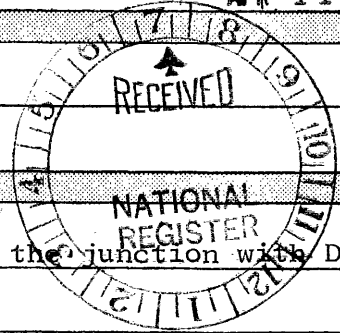
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Coffee Run Church, St. Mary's Church

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Delaware 41, approximately 1 mile south of the junction with Del.

CITY OR TOWN:  
(Rockessin)

STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: New Castle	CODE 003
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48

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Diocese of Wilmington (cemetery)    William Mundy (house)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1925 Delaware Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Wilmington

STATE:  
Delaware

CODE:  
10

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Public Building

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Rodney Square

CITY OR TOWN:  
Wilmington

STATE:  
Delaware

CODE:  
10

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

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

APR 11 1979

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

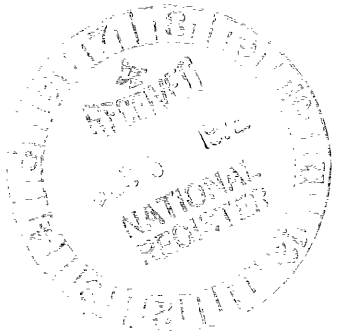
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Coffee Run cemetery, burial ground of the first Catholic church in Delaware, is a rectangular enclosure, approximately 66' by 183', surrounded by an iron fence. Over 50 carved headstones and 12 uncut stone markers still stand in the churchyard. A small cinder block building, which contains an altar, stands at the site of the church. The cemetery and church site are owned by the Diocese of Wilmington.

The Father Kenney House and barn stand nearby. Several wood frame additions have extended the original three-bay stone house, formerly about 21 by 45 feet. Bricks frame the windows in the stone section. A curiously-placed cross-gable in the original house allows light into the attic of the two-story structure. A stone in the east gable is inscribed "PK 1812." The roof is shingled. A columned porch now breaks the north facade of the building.

Father Kenney's stone barn, with a wooden wing, stands near the house.

The house and barn, now in private hands, are parts of the farm property that was sold after Father Kenney's death in 1840.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

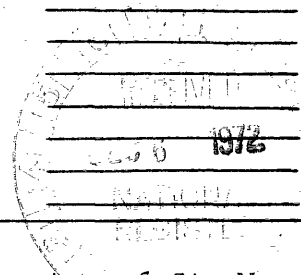
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1812 (house)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input 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

In 1804, Father Patrick Kenney became the pastor of St. Mary's of the Assumption, a log mission that was the first church built for Roman Catholic worship in Delaware.

By his tireless efforts as a circuit rider, he established several parishes among the French and Irish immigrants in south-eastern Pennsylvania and northern Delaware. He was particularly suited for this ministry, having been born in Ireland and educated in France. His diary, which has survived, bears testimony to the difficulties of ministering to scattered groups of Catholics in a "parish" that extended through three or four counties. From Father Kenney's missions grew the present Diocese of Wilmington.

The log church at Coffee Run had been built around 1790 on land that had been bought by English Jesuits in 1772. Father Kenney built his stone house, barn, and spring house near the church in 1812.

Father Kenney's flock included Wilmington's growing Catholic community, which included French refugees from the West Indies and their servants, Irish immigrants, and a scattering of other nationalities. His work there culminated in 1816, when he laid the cornerstone for St. Peter's Church, now the Cathedral of the Diocese of Wilmington. It soon became evident that Wilmington was to be the center of Catholic activities in Delaware.

Even before Father Kenney's death in 1840, Bishop Conwell had decided not to appoint a new pastor for the Coffee Run mission, which had been largely supplanted by new churches. Since he had held the land and churchyard at Coffee Run in his own name, Father Kenney's executors sold the property outside the churchyard, and applied the proceeds to charitable causes.

Coffee Run, without a regular pastor, became a mission of St. Peter's and later of St. Joseph's on the Brandywine. A new chapel replaced the log structure in 1850, but with the establishment of St. Patrick's Church in Ashland, services at Coffee Run were discontinued. The second Coffee Run chapel was torn down in 1908, but the site has recently been marked with a shrine erected by the Knights of Columbus.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cooch, Francis A. Little Known History of Newark, Delaware and its Environs. Newark: Press of Kells, 1936.  
 di Michele, Anthony F. Compiler, Coffee Run 1772-1960. Hockessin: St. John's Church, 1960.  
 Errigo, Joseph A. L. A History of St. Josephs on the Brandywine. Wilmington: William N. Cann, Inc., 1941.  
 (Ralston, Anne) "Re-Dedication of Coffee Run Cemetery, May 30, 1952"  
 Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware, 1609-1888. Philadelphia: L.J. Richards Company, 1888.

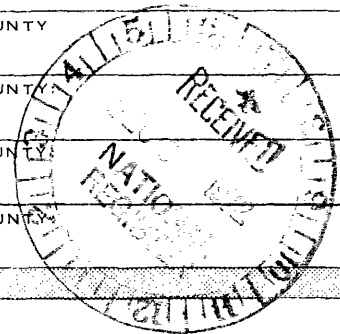
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		39°	46'	03"
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		75°	39'	34"
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Mr. Graydon Wood and Miss Rosemary Troy**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs** DATE: **10/16/72**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Hall of Records**

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

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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:

National  State  Local

Name Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins  
 Title Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
 Date Nov. 21, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/11/73

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 4. 5. 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS