

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

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

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K-1350

Property Name: (W. D.) Burrows House, "Hopewell"

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The W. D. Burrows House and farm known as "Hopewell" is located on the northeast side of Route 42 just north of the intersection with Road 140 and about 3/4 mile southeast of Underwoods Corner. The farm contains 175.3 acres. The nominated property is a smaller tract that contains 22.96 acres and serves to protect house and farm buildings that have always been associated with the house. The boundaries for the nominated property are a 1,000 foot square that has Route 42 as its southwest border and extend northwest and southeast for 500 feet on either side of the farm lane. It extends 1,000 feet northeast away from the road and beyond the outbuildings behind the house.

Owner: Robert J. Connell, Jr.
R. D. # 1, Box 402
Clayton, DE 19938

Description:

The W. D. Burrows House, "Hopewell", was built about 1830. In plan it is a 2-story, 5-bay, center-hall brick building, but in elevation it shows two distinct sections. The northern portion of the house which faces west is a full 2-stories and is a 3-bay, side-hall-plan block. The southern portion is slightly lower and is 2-bays wide. The disparity in height, and the fact that each "section" has its own set of chimneys, would tend to indicate that the house was built in different sections. However, there is no apparent seam in the Flemish bondbrick work and the massive corbelled brick cornice has the same pattern and brick bond on either section.

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The house is slightly elevated and it has a full basement underneath the main block. The windows have been replaced and are now two-over-two with shutters on the facade windows. The two front roof surfaces have wide shed dormers with double windows under one roof. The rear wing forms an "L" shape to the house. It is a short 3-bay section and it is two stories high. It has a single chimney at the interior gable end.

The outbuildings are a collection of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century frame buildings. The barn is a late-nineteenth-century braced frame structure. There is also a machine shed, chicken house and assorted storage sheds.

Historical Background

William D. Burrows was a wealthy landowner and gentleman farmer who acquired a number of farms in the vicinity of Kenton from the late 1830's till his death in 1879. "Hopewell" was Burrows' main house. Byles' Atlas of Kent County in 1859 shows that Burrows' owned land to the north beyond Underwoods Corner which in 1859 was known as Wilds Corner. By 1868, Beers Atlas of Delaware shows that Burrows had combined and extended his Wilds Corner land so that he now owned almost all the land from the Delaware and Maryland Railroad line near Kenton to Road 94 at Wilds Corner. Road 139, then and now served as the northeast border of the farm. By 1868, Burrows had also erected a second mansion house north of "Hopewell" and located on Road 139; the mansion was built for the use of his children and was called "Fairview."

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Burrows died in 1868 and in his will divided his estate among his children. Two of the daughters were married to members of the Attix family and their shares were used to further increase the Attix family farms in the hundred. Burrows' widow received a life interest in "Hopewell." In 1879, the Burrows' estate was divided among his heirs. Francis Burrows received the land subject to his mother's life interest, but lost it in a sheriff's sale to John W. Attix in 1892.

Statement of Significance:

The William D. Burrows' House, "Hopewell", is similar in plan to the typical Delaware Farm House, but in elevation it is more similar to many mid-eighteenth-century dwellings in Kenton Hundred. With its two separate but contemporary sections, the house reflects the tradition of the eighteenth century to add additional rooms to the gable ends of the dwelling rather than building to the rear. It is entirely possible that this house was built to serve as a reminder, in new construction, of an earlier house that might have stood on the site. The corbelled cornice and use of Flemish bond on all facades dates this house to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. This was a general period of rebuilding in Kenton Hundred and a number of early structures were either rebuilt or replaced. As an example of the second quarter of the nineteenth century architecture, and for its erection as a visible reminder of an earlier period, the house is being nominated under Criterion C.