

PH0001228

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.2.10.000.3	3/24/71

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Old State House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
The Green

CITY OR TOWN:  
Dover

STATE: Delaware      CODE: 07      COUNTY: Kent      CODE: 001

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of Delaware - Public Archives Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover      STATE: Delaware      CODE: 07

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Kent County Court House, Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
The Green

CITY OR TOWN: Dover      STATE: Delaware      CODE: 07

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

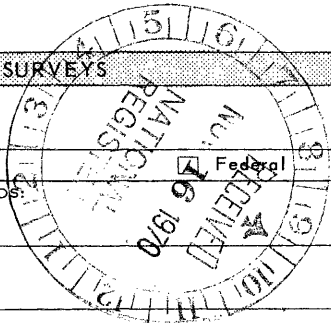
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  Federal     State     County     Local

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

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DATE

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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 Old State House is a five bay brick structure, in the late Middle Georgian style, laid in Flemish bond in front and Liverpool bond at the sides, both of good workmanship. The watertable is topped with marble and marble lintels surmount the windows. There is a fanlight over the door and above it a Palladian window as the center of the second floor fenestration. The shingled hipped roof is topped with an octagonal cupola. The State House was completely rebuilt in 1787-1792 on the site of a 1722 court house, incorporating all the hard brick and other salvageable materials of this predecessor.

Except for unfortunate changes in 1873-1875, which substituted a mansard roof and bricked in most of the Palladian window, exterior alterations to the State House have been in the form of attached wings, added between 1836 and 1926. In 1910 the original roof line and five second floor windows were restored to their pre-1873 appearance. The enlargements are a brick two story and basement addition to the east, built in 1836 and extended in 1895-1897; a pillard rotunda and south wing in 1910; and an annex to the east in 1925-1926. In 1968-1969 the rotunda was removed, leaving an inconspicuous single-story recessed structure between the original Old State House and the remodelled former south wing, now a separate Supreme Court Building.

The interior of both the oldest section and the successive additions has been repeatedly altered to meet changing needs. Research to determine the nature and dates of these changes is far advanced. Restoration of the original 1787-1792 State House is scheduled for the near future.

The State House stands on The Green, centrally located in the Colonial portion of Dover. It faces west, occupying, with the Supreme Court Building, all the east side of the small eighteenth century square. The State House shares The Green with Kent County Court House, private homes, several of them handsome, and former private homes converted to State or professional office use. A four lane street, widened for extra parking in front of the State House, separates the tree-shaded grass plot from the buildings, nearly all of which open directly on the sidewalk. Many are of eighteenth century date, some with Victorian facades. State Street, a portion of U.S. Alternate 113, bisects The Green parallel with the front of the State House.

To the east of The Green, adjacent to the newer rear additions to the State House, is a large open space laid out circa 1930. About it are centered additional small and medium sized State buildings erected in and after 1932 but of Georgian design to harmonize with the original structure. Together with the public buildings fronting on The Green, they comprise a Capitol Buildings Complex.

SUPCT. ELDS. →

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1787 1792

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" 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

The Old State House is the most significant unit, both architecturally and historically, of the Capitol Buildings Complex which collectively comprises the Capitol of Delaware. With its immediate environs it is associated directly with most and indirectly with all of the legislative and executive decisions of this State since 1777. From 1792 to 1932 it was the sole seat of State government, while from 1722 until 1873 it served also as Kent County Court House. Before it the Declaration of Independence was read and King George's portrait ceremonially burned in July, 1776. On or very near this site Delaware became the First State by ratification of the Federal Constitution on December 7, 1787. Within the building the General Assembly of this northern most slave state expressed "unqualified disapproval" of secession on January 3, 1861. Other incidents of almost comparable significance which have occurred in the Old State House, or nearly because it was there, might be drawn from almost any decade of Delaware history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

History Of Delaware, J. Thomas Scharf, Philadelphia, 1888, Vol. II pp.1032-1034  
 Historic Houses And Buildings Of Delaware, Harold D. Eberlein and Courtlandt V.D. Hubbard, Dover, 1962, pp.53-55  
 Delaware A Guide To The First State, Jeannette Eckman and others, eds., New York, 1955, pp.185-186  
 Laws Of Delaware, passim; Legislative Journals; Minutes of the Levy Court; Accounts of State and Country Treasurers and other documents in the custody of the Public Archives Commission.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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	°	'	"	°	'	"	39°	09'	23"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	75'	31'	23"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .05

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Leon deValinger, Jr., - State Archivist

ORGANIZATION: Public Archives Commission

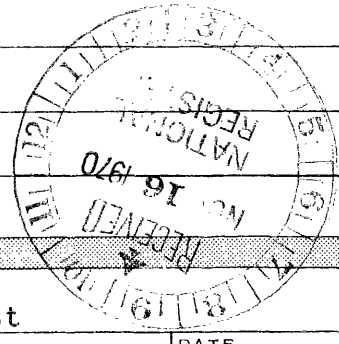
DATE: Jan. 27, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover

STATE: Delaware

CODE: 07



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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: Leon deValinger, Jr.  
 Title: State Archivist  
 State Liaison Officer

Date: November 13, 1970

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

Ernest A. Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

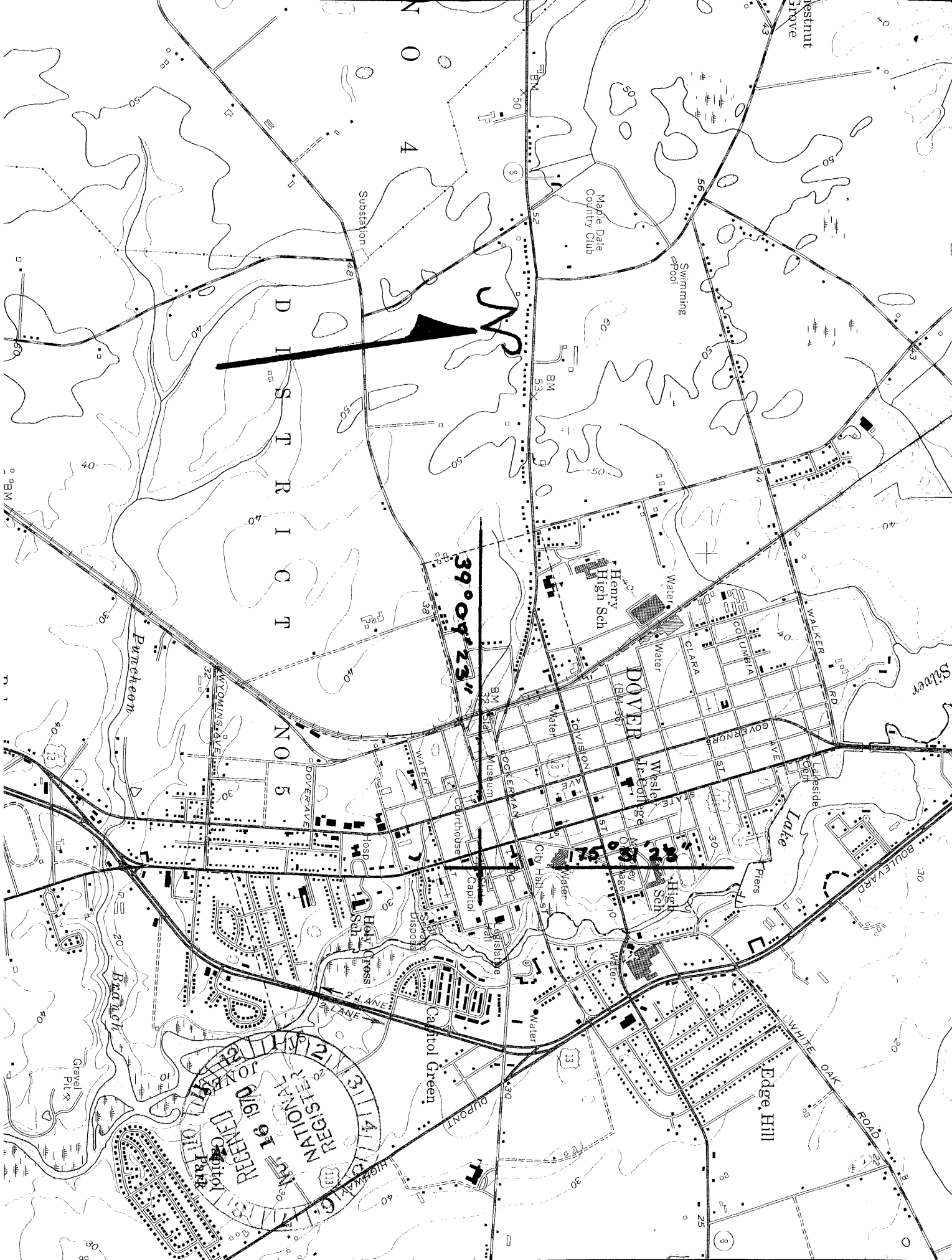
**FEB 24 1971**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: William J. Huntley  
 Keeper of The National Register

**FEB 24 1971**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



39° 04' 23"

DOVER

RECEIVED  
JAN 16 1970  
NATIONAL REGISTER