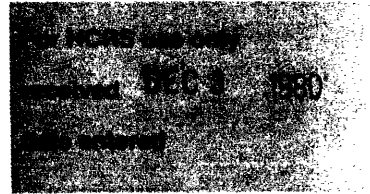


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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K1560
1. Property Name: SIPPLE HOUSE

2. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: Southwest corner of Denney (Route 9) and Front Streets, Leipsic, Kent County, Delaware. It is sited on a parcel of land fronting Front Street and the Leipsic River, 65 ft. wide and 142 ft. deep, containing .203 acres.

3. Owner: Janet H. and Fred L. Sipple
Box 319-A, R.D. 4
Dover, DE 19901

4. Property Description:

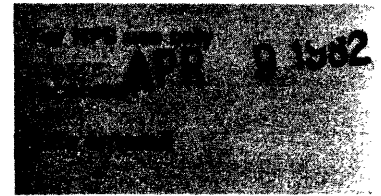
Sited on the southwest corner of the intersection of Front and Denny (Route 9) streets in Leipsic, the Sipple House is a two-story, cruciform-plan structure dating from the late-nineteenth century. The single-pile frame dwelling is covered with a gable roof with a box cornice ornamented with regularly-spaced Italianate brackets and a projecting mansard-roofed central bay. The gables of the main block and rear extension are also finished with Italianate cornice brackets. The roofline is further interrupted with interior gable end chimneys carrying paired terra-cotta chimney pots. The balanced three-bay center-door facade is further enhanced with first-floor bow-front windows containing paired segmental arched sash openings and capped with shallow hipped roofs. The second-floor windows are also grouped in three balanced pairs with wooden architraves rising to round arched lintels. The same treatment for the single two-over-two light sash is mirrored in the dormer window located in the mansard roof-projecting bay. A centrally placed door on the facade reflects a similar treatment with its plan architrave surrounding a single rectangular light transom and Empire door consisting of two round-arched panels over two rectangular panels and rising to a segmentally-arched opening visually supported on sawn work pendants. The distyle front porch and tetrastyle east gable-end porch continue the use of bracket cornices as well as adding scrolled sawnwork trim to the capital and, in the case of the latter, a perforated sawnwork balustrade. Later wings include a one-story frame gable-roofed rear el and a west gable end, one-story frame lean-to. Of additional note is the fine Victorian cast iron fence defining the street parameter of the front yard.

Historical Background

Erected between 1880 and 1890, the Sipple House documents the final economic boom period of Leipsic and Little Creek brought on with the burgeoning marsh hay, oyster and maritime and agricultural produce markets in Philadelphia, Wilmington and New York. In the generation following the construction of the Sipple House the market for maritime products shifted over to the New Jersey side of the Delaware Bay and the era of Leipsic's importance as a trade and oyster port began its gradual economic decline, carrying it to the present day.

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5. Significance:

The Sipple House is architecturally significant as the most elaborate Victorian dwelling erected in Leipsic. The two-story frame structure with its gable-roofed main block and projecting mansard-roofed central element is an important essay in Delaware Victorian-era architecture and the practice of aesthetic eclecticism in the late-nineteenth century. When the Sipple House was erected in the 1880 to 1890 period it was the most elaborate period architectural statement to be made in the context of the village's built environment. Other structures in Leipsic and Little Creek reflect the same concern with Late-nineteenth century architectural fashion through the addition of wings, overlays of ornament and the construction of new porches containing Italianate, Gothic, Stick Style, and Eastlake motifs. The Sipple House, however, stands alone as the built expression of the economic flourescence that the oyster trade brought to some segments of the Leipsic and Little Creek communities.

K-1563:

1. Property Name: ALEXANDER LAWS HOUSE (1868 name)

2. Location & Verbal Property Description: Southwest corner of Front and Walnut Streets, Leipsic, Kent County, Delaware. It is sited on an L shaped parcel of land fronting Front Street and the Leipsic River, 100 feet wide, 235 feet deep with a 110 feet and 120 foot deep extension fronting the east side of Denny Street (Route 9). The nominated property contains .843 acres.

3. Owner: Harold Remley, Box 324, R.D. 4, Dover, Delaware.

4. Property Description:

Located on the southwest corner of Front and Walnut Streets in Leipsic, the house is a two-and-a-half story, gable-roofed dwelling of braced frame construction, with frame wings extending to the rear of the structure along Walnut Street. The exterior of the structure is presently covered with aluminum clapboards, but the house is distinguished by a fine Eastlake porch, round-arched roof dormers, and handsome Greek Revival entry.

The earliest portion of the structure may be the kitchen wing, one-story in elevation with a large gable and hearth and an overhead loft originally reached by a ladder-like stair. Such low profile dwellings were common in Leipsic and several may still be found moved behind larger additions now fronting the village's primary thoroughfares.

Between 1820 and 1830 the main block of the present structure was added fronting on Front Street and the Leipsic River. The first floor of this section contains a Federal period side-hall plan, one room deep with an interior gable end chimney pile. All the rooms of the Federal period block retain their mantel pieces typified by the east parlor with a composition made up of a bulls-eye capital on an engaged fluted pilaster and bearing a full entablature. The paneled front door has a three light transom, side lights and pilasters, and a box lock and bell (dated September 8, 1868) on the inside. The stair passage contains an open string stair with a turned newel and stick type balusters.