

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

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

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K-1362:

Property Name: Thomas Lamb, "My Home"

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

DE 129 and DP 130
The house and farm are located on the north corner of the intersection of Road 129 and Road 130, about one mile north of Blackiston Crossroads on Route 6, the Smyrna-Millington Road. The farm contains 213 acres. The nominated property is a smaller tract of 2.7 acres. Its southeast boundary is Road 130. The southwest boundary is Road 129. The nominated acreage is a polygon, shaped tract land 1,000 feet wide and 1,000 feet long, northwest of Road 130 and northeast of Road 129. This smaller tract includes the house and its associated and related farm complex. It also protects its historic vista and setting, which has not changed over time.

Owner: C. Allen & Carol Davis
R.D. 1, Box 665
Clayton, DE 19938

Description:

The Thomas Lamb House, "My Home," built c. 1855, is a 2-story, 3-bay, side-hall-plan house with a long, low rear wing. The house is constructed of frame with a brick foundation. It still retains its original weatherboard, as well as all of its decorative details. The entrance on the facade is a heavy panelled door with plain wide boards as an architrave. There is a 3-light transom over the door. Both the main block and the rear wing have gable roofs. The main block has a heavy box cornice with partial returns. The gable end cornices are decorated with modillions. The main block has a single chimney located on the west gable end interior.

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The rear wing is constructed in two sections. The original section, which is contemporary with the main block, extends as far as the first chimney stack. The second section was added in the late-nineteenth century, as was the full porch that extends along the east face.

The farm complex is arranged behind the house and consists of a late-nineteenth-century frame barn with an attached stable as its major building. There is also a frame milk house, a privy, a corn crib and a chicken coop. The milk house and privy date from the late-nineteenth-century and were built at the same time as the barn.

Historical Background:

The Thomas Lamb House, "My Home," was built in the early 1850's as the mansion house for Thomas Lamb, a wealthy local blacksmith. The farm was part of a larger tract that Lamb acquired over a long period of time. It extended west from Road 130 and north from Road 129.

Lamb's first blacksmith shop was located at Blackiston Crossroads. As his trade and business grew, he was able to increase his holdings to include the three adjoining farms near the crossroads, as well as a blacksmith shop in Clayton and a town lot and houses in Kenton.

In 1850, Thomas Lamb insured his property with the Kent County Mutual Insurance Company. At that time the farm, which was Lamb's main residence, had a 1½-story log and frame dwelling with a 1-story kitchen. There was also a meat house, a granary, carriagehouse, corn shed and log barn. These buildings were insured for just a few years and then the insurance was cancelled by Lamb. The present house was built after the insurance was cancelled.

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Statement of Significance:

The Thomas Lamb House, "My Home," is an example of the rebuilding that took place in the middle of the nineteenth-century in Kenton Hundred. This rebuilding did not in all cases involve new construction, but at the very least caused remodelling of many structures. Thomas Lamb's mansion house is the result of new construction and the replacement of no longer acceptable dwellings with a structure that the owners felt was more in keeping with their status. In this particular case, Lamb obliterated all traces of the original farm complex and replaced it with buildings of his own creation. His use of the title for his main farm, "My Home," conveys the pride that he obviously took in his new dwelling. The house and farm buildings sit back from the road with the house masking, to some extent, the outbuildings. Because of its setting and relationship to both the land and the related agricultural complex, as well as its use of Classical Greek Revival details on the traditional Delaware farmhouse plan, this site is eligible under Criterion C.