UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Historic Resources of Red Lion Hundred

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- 15. A. Property Name N-5054 W. Casperson House
 - B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description The nominated area is located 0.6 miles north of the intersection of Routes 71 and 72 and is an irregular parcel fronting on Route 71 for approximately 550 feet with an approximate depth of 1,920 feet.
 - C. Owner WBW Corporation
 Room 208
 4-Greenville Center C/O Suite C-3OU
 Wilmington, Delaware

D. Property Description

This structure, a five-bay, two-and-a-half story, brick house with center hall plan has a low two-story wing with attached modern garage. Both main block and wing are gable roofed with composition shingles. There are two dormers on each slope. Those on the front slope have segmental arches and pilasters surrounding six-over-six windows; those on the rear slope are gable roofed and embellished with diminutive bargeboards. The two interior end chimneys, as well as the exterior walls, are stuccoed. A small stuccoed chimney is centrally located in the service wing of which the outermost two bays were added somewhat later than the original construction in the 1830's. A five-bay hipped roof wooden porch supported by four Tuscan columns along the front, and two half-round Tuscan columns on the facade wall shelters a plain moulded doorway with fanlight. Windows are six-over-six with plain surround and lugsills. Two six-over-six windows in each gable end illuminate the attic.

Inventory of Outbuildings

- N5054 a. Wooden barn with vertical board siding; gable roof covered with composition shingles.
- N5054 b. Wooden barn with board-and-batten siding; gable roof covered with corrugated metal over wood shingles.
- N5054 c. Wooden shed with vertical board siding; gable roof covered with composition shingles.
- N5054 d. Intrusion; modern concrete block shed.

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N5054 e. Wooden barn with vertical board siding; gable roof covered with corrugated metal; attached concrete block addition.

Historical Background

A property survey from 1847, which shows a sketch of this house has been located. The drawing, although small, is a very accurate representation of the present-day dwelling, a two-story main block with a one-story wing attached. William Casperson purchased this tract in 1821. On April 17, 1845, he died intestate, and for the next four years the land was tied-up in litigation.

The Beers (1868), Hopkins (1881) and Baist (1893) atlases all indicate that a T. O. Holmes owned this parcel of land. According to the deed, this property contained "two certain tracts or parcels of land; together comprising one tract or farm known as 'Winona', with the brick dwelling house, frame barn, small tenant house, and other improvements." These were the same lands assigned to Thomas O. Holmes in the partition of the real estate of William Casperson, September 10, 1849.

E. Significance

The structure is one of only two five-bay, center-hall plan buildings dating to the 1830's, which has survived in present day Red Lion Hundred. Like Linden Hill, it is tangible evidence of the renewed prosperity in Red Lion Hundred as a result of the application of novel agricultural techniques in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Unlike Linden Hill, which faces a busy four-lane highway, this structure is surrounded by land only minimally developed and largely agricultural. For this reason, it possesses an unusual degree of environmental and historical integrity.



