

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUL 6 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic White Clay Creek Hundred ~~Multiple Resource Area~~ MRA (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties)

and/or common

2. Location

10 ind. + 1 DOE

street & number The Unincorporated Area of White Clay Creek Hundred NA not for publication

city, town NA NA vicinity of Congressional District

state Delaware code 10 county New Castle code 002

3. Classification

Multiple Resources

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> <u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> <u>X</u> agriculture
<u> </u> building(s)	<u> </u> <u>X</u> private	<u> </u> <u>X</u> unoccupied	<u> </u> <u>X</u> commercial
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> <u>X</u> educational
<u> </u> site	<u> </u> Public Acquisition	<u> </u> Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> <u>NA</u> in process	<u> </u> <u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial
		<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military
			<u> </u> museum
			<u> </u> park
			<u> </u> <u>X</u> private residence
			<u> </u> <u>X</u> religious
			<u> </u> scientific
			<u> </u> transportation
			<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (See Owners List)

street & number NA

city, town NA NA vicinity of state NA

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New Castle County Recorder of Deeds

street & number City/County Building, 800 French Street

city, town Wilmington state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Delaware Cultural Resource Survey, N-6762

has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1982 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Bureau of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Old State House, The Green

city, town Dover state Delaware

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☒ moved

date 1897 1200 CHURCH

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The White Clay Creek Hundred Multiple Resource Area is made up of eleven sites that contain sixteen historic structures including nine dwellings, three churches and a grist mill, and three outbuildings. The architectural resources discussed here date from the mid-eighteenth century through the late nineteenth century and reflect a period in the history of White Clay Creek Hundred when it was agricultural and rural in character. All of the buildings are located in the unincorporated area of White Clay Creek Hundred, which is one of eleven political units that subdivides New Castle County. The hundred is irregular in shape, contains 25 square miles, and is bounded on the north by the Pennsylvania/Delaware boundary line and White Clay Creek, on the east and south by the Christina River, and on the west by the Maryland/Delaware boundary line.

Although the Multiple Resource Area has been defined as the unincorporated area of White Clay Creek Hundred, one site, the Andrew Kerr House (#4, N-6188), does actually lie within the boundaries of the City of Newark. This is due to the fact that the City limits were extended after research on this property was completed for this nomination. In addition, a multiple resource nomination was written for the City of Newark before the city limits were extended, and so, the property was not included in that nomination. Rather than amend the Newark Multiple Resource nomination, it was decided to retain the Andrew Kerr House in the White Clay Creek Hundred nomination as originally planned.

While all of the structures included in the Multiple Resource Area nomination have been altered to some extent, the principal features of their design and construction are sufficiently intact to convey architectural significance. Insofar as the nominated properties are significant because of historic associations, each retains the essential physical features that made up its character or appearance during the period of its association with important events, historical patterns or persons. For these reasons the nominated properties retain considerable integrity.

A fall line running in an east-west direction through Newark divides White Clay Creek Hundred into two distinct geographic areas. South of Newark the landscape is generally flat with altitudes descending from 100 feet above sea level down to 20 feet over the course of approximately three miles to its southern boundary. North of Newark the character of the landscape suddenly changes to gently sloping uplands that rise from 100 to 300 feet above sea level over the course of approximately two miles to its northern boundary. The Hundred is drained by a network of small creeks that flow into White Clay Creek and the Christina River. These two waterways join and then empty into the Delaware River to the east.

Locally, White Clay Creek Hundred is situated at the western end of the major developmental corridor in northern New Castle County. Interstate 95 and Delaware Route 2 are the major transportation routes.

Historically, development has concentrated around the City of Newark and the Village of Christiana with agricultural land evenly distributed through the rest of the Hundred. Currently the major city in White Clay Creek Hundred, Newark originated as a market center then developed into an industrial and educational community in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Village of Christiana was an important commercial center

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WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

Owners List

1. Thomas Montgomery House (N-1601)

Mr. H. C. Levan
Manager - Real Estate
Delmarva Power & Light Company
Post Office Box 231
Wilmington, Delaware 19899

**SUBMITTED FOR
D. OF E. ONLY--
OWNER OBJECTION FILED**

2. James Stewart, Jr., House (N-4003)

Charles Walther, Jr.
563 Walther Road
Newark, Delaware 19702

3. Charles Allen House (N-6755)

Marvin and Anna Hershberger
855 Canoe Road
Newark, Delaware 19702

4. James Steel House (N-6756)

Albert L. Lackman
1016 West Church Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

5. Thomas Phillips Mill Complex (N-6757)

Dr. David Lamb
708 and 712 Nottingham Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

6. Andrew Kerr House (N-6188)

Mr. Kenneth J. Abbruzzese
812 Elkton Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

7. Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church (N-1258)

Rev. Richard Loring
1100 Church Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

and

Head of Christiana Cemetery Assoc.
Post Office Box 918
Newark, Delaware 19711

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WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

Owners List

8. Wesley M. E. Church (N-6758)

Marvin R. and Harriet R. Sachs
3513 Concord Pike
Wilmington, Delaware 19803

9. Old Fort Church (N-5276)

Union A. M. E. Church
c/o Rev. James S. Matthews
32 North Old Baltimore Pike
Christiana, Delaware 19702

10. The James Morrow House (N-224)

Mrs. Anna Stafford
1212 Ogletown Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

11. The Samuel Lindsey House (N-6759)

Elmar Schools, Inc.
Mrs. Ann VanHook
New London Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

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WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

Properties Previously Listed on the National Register

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Listed</u>
A. Rotheram Mill House (N-247)	1972
B. Christiana Historic District (N-1475)	1974
C. Robert Ferguson House (N-3902)	1979
D. Public School No. 111-C (N-5258)	1979
E. Newark Multiple Resource Area (N-6211)	1983

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DESCRIPTION: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

in the eighteenth century, located on the main road from Philadelphia to Baltimore at the head of the tidewater navigation. Today, it exists only as a crossroads community on a heavily traveled highway. The only other named concentrations of buildings are McClellandville, Mechanicsville and Ogletown, three nineteenth century hamlets located at road intersections. Ogletown has nearly been obliterated by major highway construction.

The types of historic resources most prominent throughout the Multiple Resource Area are rural dwellings and agricultural sites dating from the middle of the eighteenth century through the early twentieth century, as well as several churches, mill sites, and a school. The buildings chosen for this nomination include nine dwellings, three out-buildings, three churches, and a grist mill—a total of 16 buildings contained on eleven different sites. Four of the sites date from the mid to late eighteenth century, two sites date from the first half of the nineteenth century, and five sites date from the second half of the nineteenth century. Building materials include stone, brick, and frame in vernacular, Greek Revival, Carpenter Gothic, and Second Empire styles.

Buildings and areas previously accorded National Register status within the Multiple Resource Area include the Rotheram Mill House (1972), the Christiana Historic District (1974), the Robert Ferguson House (1979), Public School No. 111-C (1979), and the Newark Multiple Resource Area (1983).

The comprehensive survey of White Clay Creek Hundred was conducted by Gretchen Fitting, Planning Aide for the New Castle County Department of Planning, and six volunteers as well as several students from the American Studies Department at the University of Delaware. The survey was accomplished by driving along each segment of the public road network and down private lanes with the permission of the landowners. Each structure dating prior to 1945 was noted on a map of the area and a Delaware Cultural Resource Survey form was completed for each structure. The Cultural Resource Survey forms that are used to record the survey data are composed of two parts; one is the Locus Identification Form, which pinpoints the exact location and ownership of the building; the second is the Structural Data Form, which records descriptive and historical background information. Each structure was photographed in black and white with a 35mm camera in such a manner as to record its essential architectural character. Whenever possible, the occupants of the pre-1945 buildings were approached to explain the intent of the survey and to obtain information about the particular building. Upon completion of the fieldwork, the photographs, negatives and forms were coordinated and a permanent Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) number was assigned to each structure. This survey data is stored at the Bureau of Archeology and Historic Preservation in Dover, Delaware. Each structure was also plotted on the Master Index State Planning Office Air Photo Mosaic maps and logged into the Inventory Records. The eleven sites included in this Multiple Resource Nomination were chosen from those surveyed and inventoried as all those that qualified under the standards set forth in the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. This inventory is a partial one since it does not include archeological resources. Sufficient archeological site information was unavailable for inclusion in this effort.

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DESCRIPTION: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

All National Register eligible architectural and historical sites in White Clay Creek Hundred, that were identified through a comprehensive survey of the area, have been included in this nomination.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Local History

Specific dates

Builder/Architect NA

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The historic resources of White Clay Creek Hundred are palpable evidence of the dominant patterns of land speculation and settlement in that hundred from the mid-eighteenth century through the late nineteenth century. These extant resources provide perhaps the only tangible evidence of population distribution and building evolution within the early development areas around the Christiana Bridge and in the western part of the Hundred, and yield important information about subsequent changes in land use and building patterns throughout the nineteenth century. For these qualities, the eleven sites included in this multiple resource area are nominated to the National Register on the basis of criterion C for significance; that is, they embody within the context of White Clay Creek Hundred the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction. Included in this group of architecturally significant buildings are three churches that are nominated to the National Register as exceptions to the usual ineligibility of properties owned and used by religious organizations. Additional significance is claimed under criteria A and B for their association with events and persons which made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the local past.

White Clay Creek Hundred was one of the first hundreds in New Castle County to be inhabited and developed. Land records for this area occur as early as the late seventeenth century. The two major streams, the White Clay Creek and the Christiana Creek were the major attractions for settlements and land speculation. Water power for the development of mills, plus the navigability of the Christiana River from Fort Christina to a fording place known as Christiana Bridge, were major factors in the early development of this area.

The system of roads that developed in this Hundred during the eighteenth century reflect the present major transportation routes from east to west and north to south. The primary east-west route extended from the Elk River in Maryland eastward to Christiana Bridge, further east to Newport, and then to Philadelphia. Today, this route is part of Old Baltimore Pike. Now known as Delaware Route 273, the major north-south artery in the Hundred extended from the Village of New Castle northward to Christiana Bridge, Newark, and Nottingham, Pennsylvania.

During the first half of the eighteenth century, land speculators, who appear to have been merchants, were buying and holding large tracts of land—especially in the easternmost portion of the Hundred where the White Clay and Christiana Creeks joined, and also along Christiana Creek south of Christiana Bridge. Sometime after 1741, a small village began to grow around the Christiana Bridge, which had become established as a shipping point. It remained an important transportation and commercial center through the eighteenth century, however, after the completion of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in 1829, and later the creation of railroad routes, traffic bypassed Christiana (NR 1974) causing the Village to decline. The Thomas Montgomery House (#1, N-1601) and the James Stewart, Jr. House (#2, N-4003) were constructed in the vicinity of Christiana Bridge during its major period of activity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Land Records, New Castle County Recorder of Deeds

FOR ADDITIONAL REFERENCES, SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property See individual inventory sheets

Quadrangle name Newark East, Del.; Newark West, Md.-Del.-Pa. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References See individual inventory sheets

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the Multiple Resource Area as a whole coincide with the boundaries of White Clay Creek Hundred, excluding the City of Newark.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	NA	code	NA	county	NA	code	NA
-------	----	------	----	--------	----	------	----

state	NA	code	NA	county	NA	code	NA
-------	----	------	----	--------	----	------	----

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gretchen Fitting, Richard Jett, Valerie Cesna

organization New Castle County Department of Planning date May 1982

street & number 2701 Capitol Trail telephone (302) 366-7780

city or town Newark state Delaware

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Daniel R. Griffith

title _____ date 6/21/83

For NPS use only

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

See Continuation sheet for listing date _____
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

Settlement in the western part of White Clay Creek Hundred was concentrated around the crossroads agricultural community of Newark (NR 1983) in the eighteenth century. King George II officially recognized Newark in 1758, granting it corporate privilege to hold a weekly market and semi-annual fairs in the town center. Around the turn of the eighteenth century, a group of Scotch Presbyterians settled in the area just west of Newark near a spring known as Head of Christiana. By as early as 1708 they had erected a log church for their place of worship, and in 1750 they built a brick church near the spring on land that had been donated by James Steel. The current Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church (#7, N-1258) replaced this small brick building after it was destroyed by fire in 1858. James Steel and Andrew Kerr, both influential with the Head of Christiana Church, resided nearby (#4, N-6756 and #6, N-6188).

Due to the many streams that drain the northernmost region of the state, mill industries were an important economic factor in New Castle County during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Although grist and saw mills were most numerous, woolen mills, paper mills, powder mills, a spice mill, and a snuff mill existed. The Thomas Phillips Mill Complex (#5, N-6757), a grist mill dating to 1795, is the only remaining mill complex in the Multiple Resource Area.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, most of the rural area of White Clay Creek Hundred had been developed as agricultural land with mill industries still situated along the White Clay and Christiana Creeks. The two properties that represent this latter period of rural development are the James Morrow House (#10, N-224), built in the 1860's, and the Samuel Lindsey House (#11, N-6759), built in the 1870's.

In material and style, buildings in White Clay Creek Hundred have been consistent with those in the rest of northern New Castle County. Construction materials used in White Clay Creek Hundred in the eighteenth century were primarily log, brace-frame, and brick. Although no log structures survive in White Clay Creek Hundred, there is documentary evidence locating the sites of several. More brick than frame eighteenth century buildings exist, however, this is most likely a matter of survival rather than an accurate representation of ratios. The Robert Ferguson House (NR 1979), estimated to date between 1790 and 1810, is a brace-frame building, while the other four eighteenth century sites in this nomination contain brick buildings. Stone was not used in White Clay Creek Hundred to the extent that it was used in the extreme northern portion of the County because the change in geology makes stone a less plentiful material in the White Clay Creek vicinity. The few stone buildings in this Multiple Resource Area tend to be utilitarian structures such as the bank barn on the Thomas Montgomery property, the springhouse on the James Steel property, and the mill building at the Thomas Phillips Mill Complex. The Andrew Kerr House, which dates to 1805, is one of the few stone dwellings in the area.

Eighteenth century plans consist of asymmetrical vernacular buildings such as the two story, two bay arrangement of the James Steel House and the Robert Ferguson House (NR 1979), and the four bay, hall-parlor plan of the Thomas Montgomery House; as well

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

as three or five bay Georgian plans such as the Hillis Mansion House in the Christiana Historic District (NR 1974). The James Stewart, Jr. House (#1, N-4003), a five bay dwelling that is double pile on one end and single pile on the other end, is an unusual and unexplained form.

Primarily frame or brick, early to mid-nineteenth century dwellings in White Clay Creek Hundred tend to be two story, three or five bay, center hall plans. The Charles Allen House (#3, N-6755) is the only dwelling of this type and period that is included in this nomination, however, its plan is the most commonly found nineteenth century house form in the state.

Later in the nineteenth century, buildings in White Clay Creek Hundred, and in the state, tended toward more diverse Victorian styles. The symmetrical, center hall plan was still preferred, but with the addition of Gothic Revival, Italianate, and Second Empire details, buildings appeared more complex. The Samuel Lindsey House (#11, N-6759), an 1870's Second Empire dwelling, and the James Morrow House (#10, N-224), an 1860's dwelling with a gambrel roof and scroll bracket cornice, are both based on the traditional five bay, center hall plan. Additions to earlier buildings during this period also show an interest in more animated detail. Both the James Steel House and the Miller's House at the Thomas Phillips Mill Complex received major additions late in the nineteenth century that tend to overshadow the original structure both in terms of size and the increased use of ornamentation.

The three churches in this nomination are representative of small rural congregations in the nineteenth century. The gable-roofed, oblong, center aisle plan that was employed for all three had become a standard form for all denominations. As with dwellings, the application of ornamentation to a basic plan is what made a difference in style.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: WHITE CLAY CREEK HUNDRED MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name White Clay Creek Hundred Multiple Resource Area
State Delaware

Nomination/Type of Review

- | | | <u>Substantive Review</u> | <u>Determined Eligible</u> | Date/Signature |
|-----|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Montgomery, Thomas, House | DOE/OWNER OBJECTION | Keeper | <u>Thomas Lee Dugan 8/19/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 2. | Allen, Charles, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/19/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 3. | Head of Christiana United
Presbyterian Church | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/19/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 4. | Kerr, Andrew, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/19/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 5. | Lindsey, Samuel, House | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Thomas Lee Dugan 8/19/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 6. | Morrow, James, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/19/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 7. | Old Fort Church | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/19/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 8. | Phillips, Thomas, Mill
Complex | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/19/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 9. | Steel, James, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/19/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 10. | Stewart, James, Jr., House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 8/19/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | |

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name White Clay Creek Hundred Multiple Resource Area
State Delaware

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Wesley M. E. Church

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Delores Byers 8/19/83

Attest

12.

Keeper

Attest

13.

Keeper

Attest

14.

Keeper

Attest

15.

Keeper

Attest

16.

Keeper

Attest

17.

Keeper

Attest

18.

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19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest