

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 6	1972

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Drawyers Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Drawyers Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
U. S. Route 13

CITY OR TOWN:
Odessa

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: New Castle CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Drawyers Presbyterian Church/Friends of Old Drawyers

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Odessa STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COUNTY:
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The knoll on which Drawyers Church stands is adjacent to the Drawyers Creek causeway, the site of a drawbridge erected around 1682. From an early period of Delaware settlement, the neck between Drawyers and Appoquinimink creeks was the home of Dutch settlers, who were mostly of Reformed persuasion. In 1711, several settlers bought the acre on which the present church stands and built a meeting house. Drawyers (then known as Appoquinimink) was represented at the formation of the New Castle Presbytery in 1717.

The first meeting house is thought to have stood southeast of the present church; it is known from the records to have been enlarged by a carpenter, Alexander Hoage, in 1736, and probably at other times as well. A "study house," which also has disappeared, was built in 1797; the present brick wall encompasses a much larger area.

The old and much-altered first meeting house had decayed badly by 1769, when the congregation resolved to build the present structure, which was finished and occupied by 1773, but not completely plastered until 1823.

A new church for the congregation in town was built in 1861, whereupon "Old Drawyers" was virtually abandoned, except as a burial site. The old church decayed until the present century, when an organization known as the Friends of Old Drawyers was organized to preserve it, and to hold commemorative services the first Sunday of June each year.

Except for pews that were cut down during the nineteenth century, the church is little changed from its original appearance. The delicate and refined appearance of the building has been credited to two men: Duncan Beard, a well-known clockmaker who was on the building committee, and Robert May, to whom some architectural historians have attributed the design.

The church is brick, laid in Flemish bond on stone footings, with a five-bay east front embellished with an elaborate Georgian doorway. The smaller south and north doorways are set in gable ends that feature a pediment and a round window in the gable. The south, east, and north walls all contain two tiers of windows and a smaller window to light the pulpit.

The principal feature of the interior is an ornate sounding-board, suspended over the open pulpit in a manner that makes it appear to be floating. A gilt dove surmounts the painted crown of the sounding board. A second-story gallery on three sides is reached by two flights of stairs that terminate near the side doors. All the windows are covered with solid blinds, except the round windows in the gables, which are boarded. The round windows formerly were closed with glazed sash.

8. 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 type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1769-1773**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" 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

Drawyers Church is an example of refined rural ecclesiastical architecture. Harold Donaldson Eberlein has called it "one of the finest buildings of the Georgian Age in Delaware; one of the finest Georgian ecclesiastical structures, indeed, in the whole Country." Its architecture certainly reflects the skill of Duncan Beard, cabinetmaker and clockmaker, and probably of the builder Robert May, of Head of Elk, who was working nearby at the time.

Old Drawyers is one of several Delaware churches that were preserved after their congregations built town churches during the middle of the nineteenth century. Even at a time when Georgian architecture was in eclipse, the people of Delaware consciously preserved their eighteenth-century churches and meeting houses long after they ceased to serve useful purposes.

Duncan Beard, who was on the building committee, was a well known clockmaker and silversmith.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Cortlandt vanDyke Hubbard, Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware, 1963, pp. 127-131.
 J. Thomas Scharf, History of Delaware 1609-1888, 1888, vol. II, p. 1012.
 George Foot, An Address...Early History of Delaware, and...Drawyers Congregation..., 1842.
 J. L. Vallandigham and Samuel A. Gayley, History of the Presbytery of New Castle... 1888.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		39 ° 28 ' 01 "	75 ° 39 ' 15 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: five

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mr. Edward F. Heite, Historic Registrar
 ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: May 2, 1972
 STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records
 CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>E. Berkeley Tompkins</u> Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u> Date <u>6-30-72</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation Date <u>2/6/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u>Wm. J. [Signature]</u> Keeper of the National Register Date <u>1-29-73</u></p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

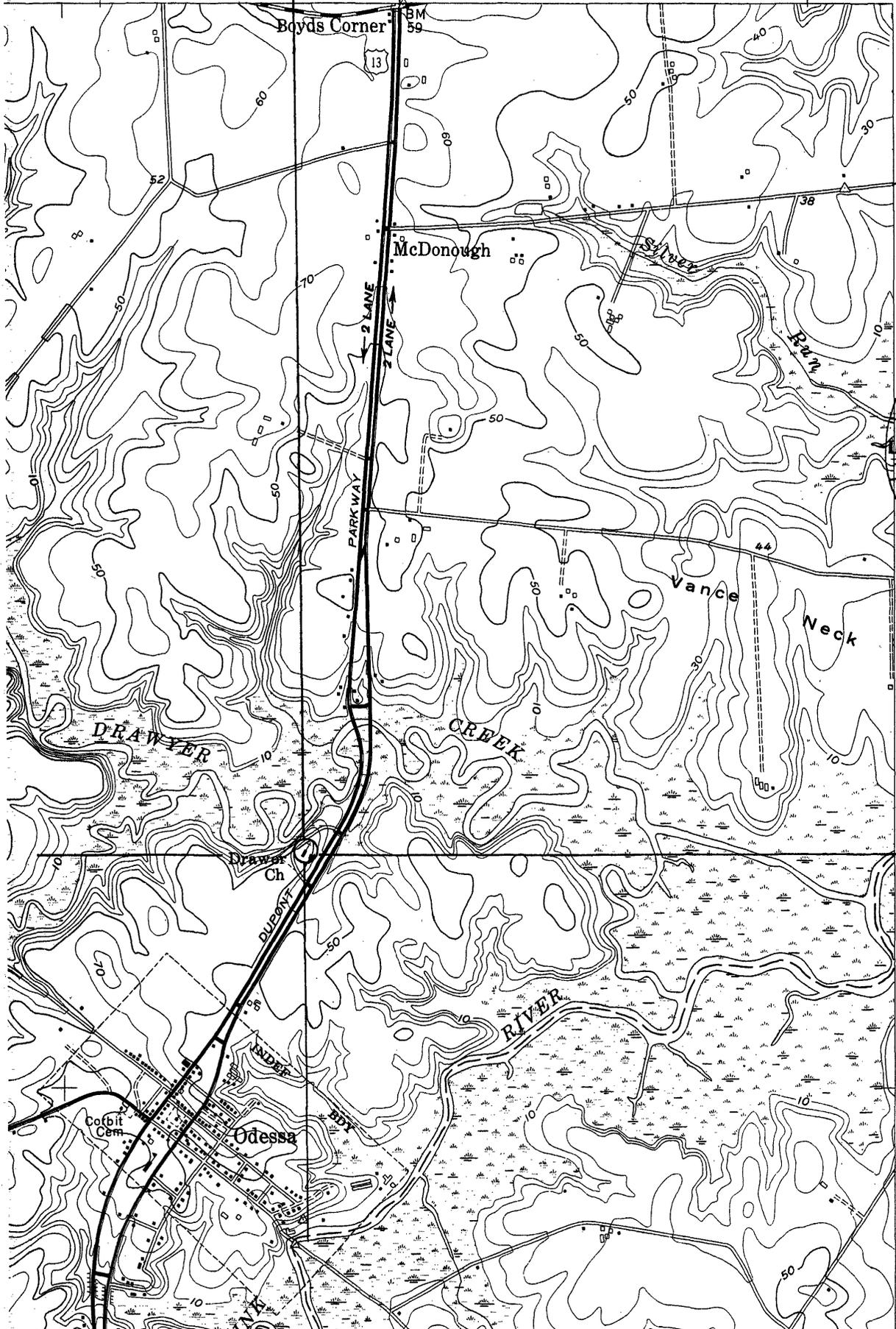
MIDDLETOWN QUADRANGLE
DELAWARE—NEW CASTLE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 SMYRNA 15' QUADRANGLE
1953 edition

(DELAWARE CITY)

WILMINGTON 18 MI.
SAINT GEORGES 4 MI.

440 000 FEET

75°37'30"
39°30'



39°28'1" Old Drawyers —

27'30"

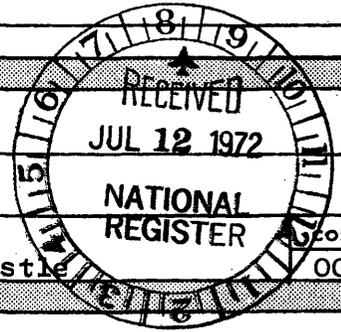
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Delaware	
COUNTY	
New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 6 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Old Drawyers Church			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Drawyers Church			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
U.S. Route 13			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Odessa			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Delaware	10	New Castle	003
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
USGS Map, Middletown Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1953			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



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