

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

For NPS use only

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

received **JUL 9 1986**

date entered **AUG 13 1986**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Ott's Chapel

and/or common Ott's Chapel Sunday School (N-6207)

2. Location

street & number Ott's Chapel Road (County Road 397)

NA not for publication

city, town Newark

vicinity of

state Delaware

code 10

county New Castle

code 002

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Ott's' Chapel Inc.

street & number Sandy Brae Road

city, town Newark

vicinity of

state Delaware

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 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Old State House, The Green, P.O. Box 1401

city, town Dover state Delaware

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Ott's Chapel, a small frame building constructed in 1871, stands on a half-acre lot on the west side of Ott's Chapel Road (County Road 397) approximately 1.3 miles south of Welsh Tract Church Road (County Road 367). The chapel is situated with its gable end entrance facing the road. Behind it is a small cemetery containing about thirty tombstones and a frame shed with an attached privy. The boundaries of this nomination contain two contributing buildings.

Ott's Chapel is a small, one story, gable-roofed frame building on a rubble stone foundation without a basement. It is rectangular in plan, measuring one bay across the facade and three bays on each side. The facade entrance is located on the east end with a gable-roofed porch sheltering it. In 1956, a low, one story frame wing was added to the west (rear) end wall. This addition has a minimal impact on the overall design of the building.

The exterior of the chapel is sided with weatherboard which has been covered with asbestos shingles. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. Previously, wood shingles had been the roofing material. The cornice is a plain box type with partial gable end returns. All windows are six-over-six sash with molded surrounds; the shutters have been removed. The facade contains a double door entrance, each door having four raised and molded panels. Its gable-roofed porch is supported by two turned posts with pierced brackets. The porch gable is sheathed with narrow, vertically set boards with the lower ends trimmed to points, creating a zig-zag edge. The porch ceiling is finished with beaded edge boards.

The 1956 rear addition is a one story, gable-roofed, frame extension with a much lower roof height than the main building. An entrance is located on the south side and the windows are a variety of multiple light sash. Roofing and siding materials are the same as those on the chapel. The furnace and chimney that are contained in this wing replace the potbellied stove and central chimney that formerly occupied the main building.

The interior of the chapel is a one room plan with a high ceiling that rises to a point along the rafters halfway between the plate and the ridge. The most outstanding design feature in the room is the well preserved pressed tin that covers all of the wall and ceiling surfaces. The walls have a low relief pattern alternating vertical stripes with fleur-de-lis embellished forms. The wainscoat exhibits a very stylized foliated pattern in high relief. A design arranged in squares lends a coffered effect to the ceiling.

The room is arranged with folding wooden chairs set up on either side of a center aisle that leads to a raised platform at the altar end. A four-panel door adjacent to the platform is the access to the rear addition. Both this door and the pair of entrance doors are fitted with box locks and white porcelain doorknobs. Two of the four original oil lamps, which served as the light source before the building was electrified, remain. The glass lamps rest on hinged, cast iron brackets that are attached to the window frames closest to the altar end.

An oil painting commemorating the founding of Stephen Ott's Temperance Society still hangs in the chapel. It depicts an obelisk flanked by fountains under which are seated two women in classical dress. The wording on the painting reads: "Our motto...Virtue, Truth, and Temperance..God Bless Our Order..Temperance Society and Band of Hope

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 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1871 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Ott's Chapel is significant as a very well preserved example of nineteenth century church architecture in Delaware and as an element of local history that documents the growth of religious and social movements in the late nineteenth century. This small frame chapel was constructed in 1871 by Stephen Ott and his neighbors in a simple style that was common to rural areas of the state. It has been finely maintained, most notably its pressed tin interior. Unusual in its day, Ott's Chapel has been independent of any formal religious organization since its founding. Ott's Chapel is being nominated to the National Register on the basis of criterion A for its contribution to our understanding of religious and humanitarian organizations in local history, and on the basis of criterion C for its architectural importance.

Stephen Ott moved to Newark, Delaware, from Bridesburg, Pennsylvania, in 1840. Initially a Methodist, it is said that he changed to the "Christian church" after the Civil War. He made his living as a farmer, primarily by tending fruit orchards and cultivating strawberries. Ott's commitment to religious worship prompted him to hold prayer meetings in his home. When the size of the meetings outgrew his home, he donated a piece of his property and built a chapel with the help of his neighbors. From 1871 until his death in 1875, Mr. Ott held prayer meetings, Sunday School, and meetings of the "Band of Hope," a temperance society that he organized. His wife, Jane, continued services in the chapel until her death in 1881. The chapel went unused until 1889 when George A. Blake, a lawyer from nearby Elkton, Maryland, obtained permission to move his Sunday School group to the chapel. He ran the school until his death in 1910. Since that time Sunday School, prayer meetings, and services by visiting preachers have continued to be held there. Today, Ott's Chapel is still operated as a nondenominational Sunday School and prayer meeting as it was set up by its founder, Stephen Ott.

The one story, rectangular, gable front plan that the builders of Ott's Chapel employed is representative of small rural churches in Delaware throughout the nineteenth century. Constructed in frame, stone, or brick, depending upon preference and the availability of materials, this basic plan was the choice of many denominations statewide. Most of these churches were adorned very simply, sometimes by the addition of Greek Revival or Gothic Revival ornamental elements. Ott's Chapel is quite plain on the exterior, but its ornate pressed tin interior is an unusual feature that is worthy of note. Its excellent state of preservation and its continuous use as a chapel and Sunday School make it a particularly fine example of this class of small rural churches.

As a religious organization, Ott's Chapel is very unusual in being founded and maintained as a nondenominational group. According to Zebley's study of 900 Delaware churches, Ott's Chapel is the only continuous nondenominational religious building in New Castle County. Centreville Hall, N-1379a (NR 1983, Centreville Historic District), was a community sponsored facility built in 1842 for use by all Christian denominations and community groups. However, it was sold in 1851 to a private individual. Boulden's Chapel, which was located near Summit Bridge before it was demolished, was built in

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.5 acre

Quadrangle name Newark West, MD-Del-PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	4	3	3	1	4	0	4	3	8	8	2	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the nominated property coincide with the 0.5 acre legal parcel on which it stands (parcel number 11-012.00-045). These boundaries contain all of the significant resources on the site. See attached sketch map.

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 Hubert F. Jicha, III, Historic Preservation Planner
Valerie Cesna, Historic Preservation Planner

organization New Castle County
Department of Planning date December, 1985

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature John T. Klein

title SHPO date 6/24/86

For NPS use only

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

John T. Klein date 8-13-86
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Organized by Mr. Stephen Ott, Feb. 9th 1871." The four other oil paintings that hang in the chapel were painted and donated by Sara J. Eddy of Bristol Ferry, Rhode Island. The first one, which hangs above the altar, was given in 1913.

The combination shed/privy stands directly behind the chapel. It is a rectangular, balloon frame structure with a shed roof and a stone foundation. The shed occupies the eastern two thirds of the building and the two-seat privy occupies the remainder. Its two windows are four-light and six-light sash, and the doors are batten. Asbestos shingles cover the weatherboard siding.

The cemetery contains approximately thirty tombstones ranging in date from 1875 through 1967. Elder Stephen Ott's grave is one of the earliest ones. The major families interred there are: Ott, Gentry, Ash, Walton, Holton, Davis, Beaver, and Anderson.

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1822 and served as a nondenominational church until 1837 when it was deeded to the Second Baptist Church. So, although Ott's Chapel is not unique as a nondenominational church, it is perhaps the only church that was founded and maintained as a place of worship without specific reference to any particular christian group.

Stephen Ott's establishment of the Band of Hope Temperance Society in 1871 can be associated with a general pattern of increased criticism of the consumption of alcohol in late nineteenth century America. One line of thought attributes the beginning of the temperance movement to women on the western frontier who, although powerless to vote, sought to eliminate some of the misery of frontier life brought on by drunkenness and alcoholism. The movement increased in intensity after the Civil War when abolitionists turned their attention from slavery to alcoholism. Churches played a major role in the temperance movement in the interest of social reform. The Band of Hope Temperance Society is commorated in an oil painting of the period which still hangs in the chapel.

Level of Significance

The level of significance claimed for Ott's Chapel is local since its primary sphere influence was the rural community immediately surrounding it.

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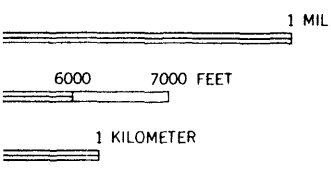
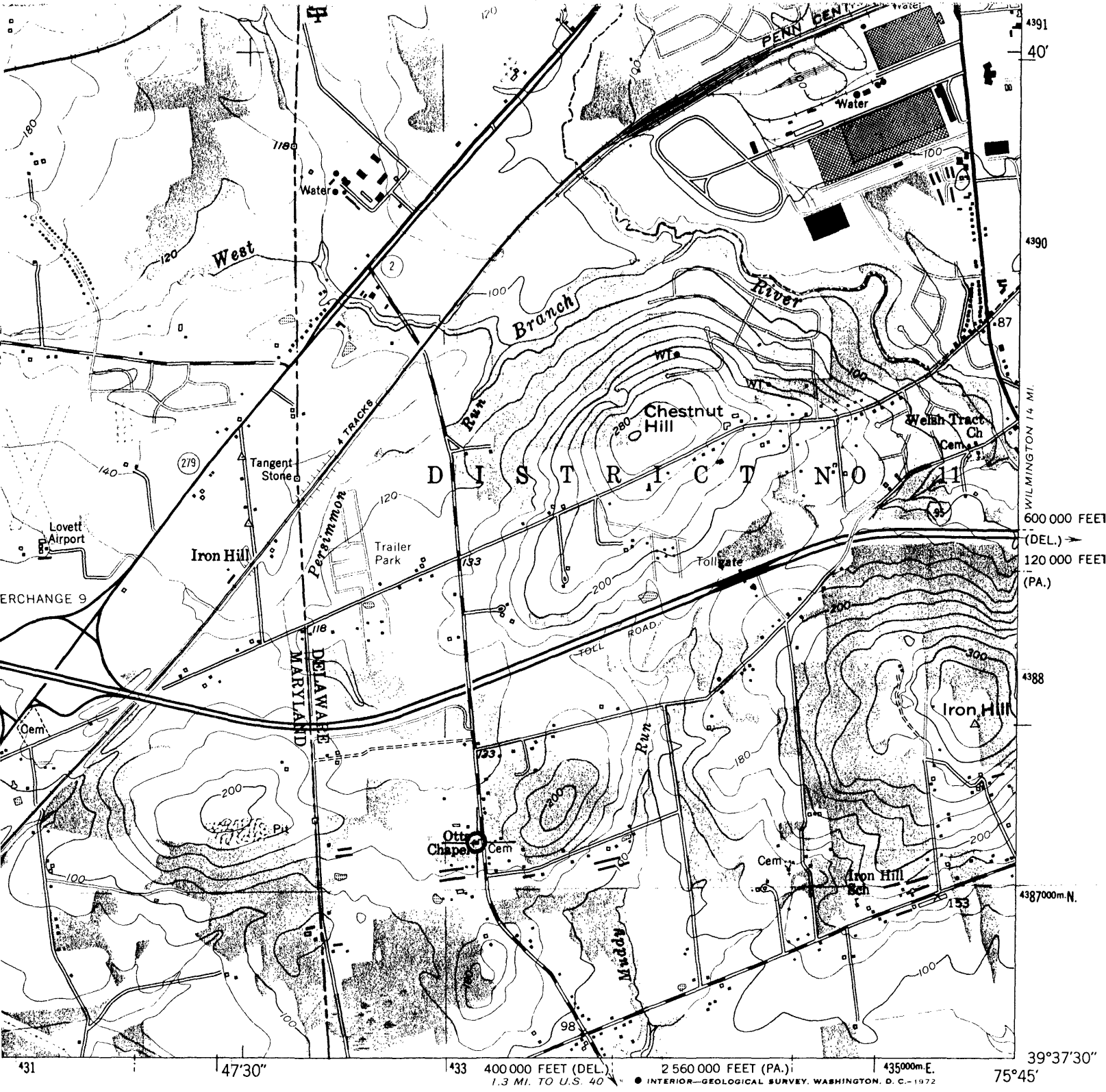
Map of New Castle County, Delaware. Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins and Co., 1881.

Miller, Glenn T. Religious Liberty in America, History and Prospects. Philadelphia:
The Westminster Press, 1976.

New Castle County Recorder of Deeds. Lands Records.

"Ott's Chapel Sunday School 100 Year Celebration 1871-1971." Pamphlet prepared by
members of Ott's Chapel, 1971.

Zebley, Frank. The Churches of Delaware. Published by the author: Wilmington,
Delaware, 1947.



Ott's Chapel (N-6207)
 Newark West, MD-Del-PA Quadrangle
 7.5 minute series
 Scale 1:24000
 1953, Photorevised 1970

18/433140/4388210

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION 1964

Heavy-duty		Light-duty	
Medium-duty		Unimproved dirt	
		State Route	

NEWARK WEST, MD.—DEL.—PA.
 NE/4 ELKTON 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3937.5—W7545/7.5

1953
 PHOTOREVISED 1970
 AMS 5863 III NE—SERIES V832

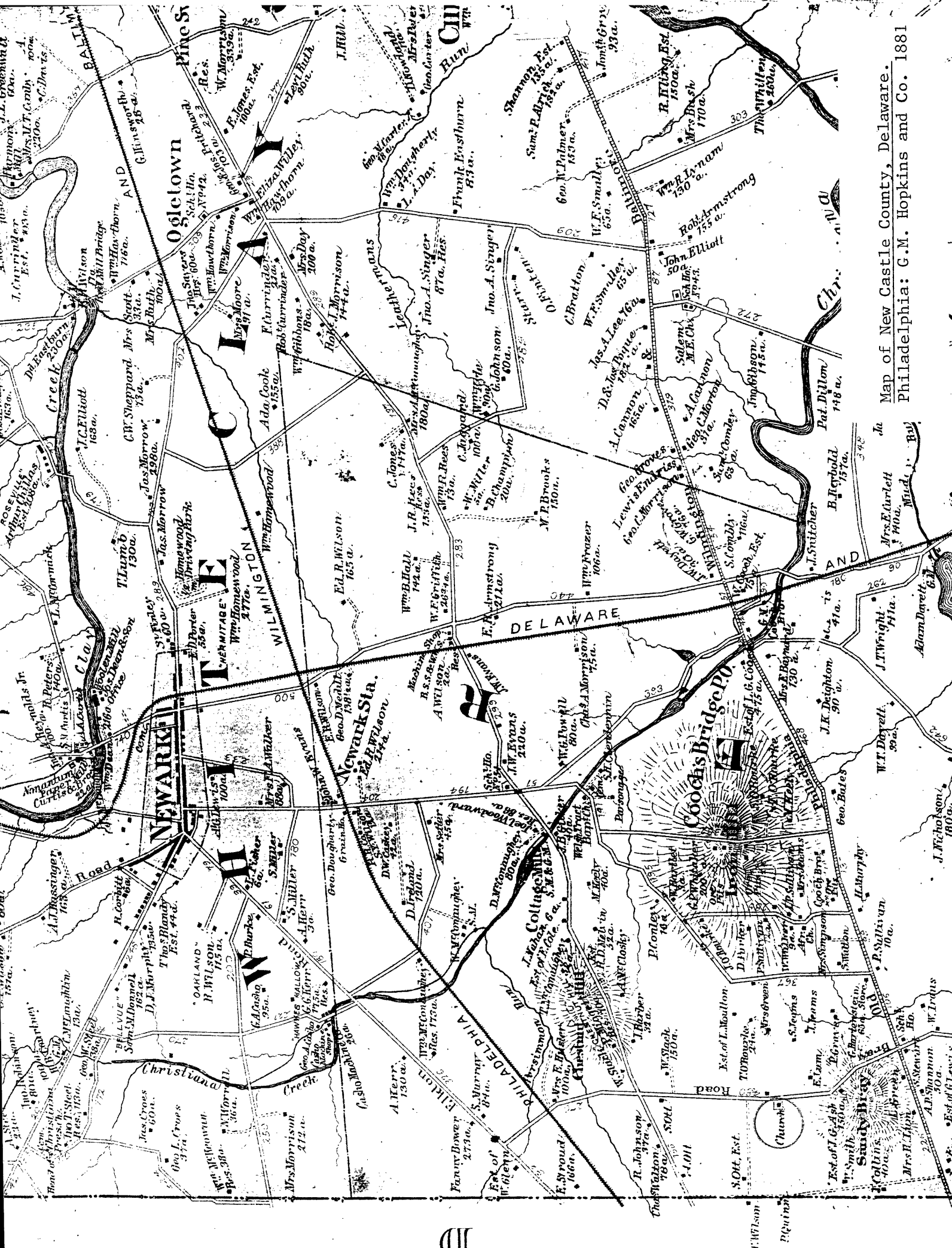
STANDARDS
 ON, D. C. 20242
 AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1970. This information not field checked
 Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

(SAINT GEORGE'S ISLAND)



Sketch Map
 Ott's Chapel (N-6207)
 New Castle County Property Tax Map, 1984
 Parcel Number 11-012.00-045
 1 inch = 200 feet



Map of New Castle County, Delaware.
Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins and Co. 1881