

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 18 1980
DATE ENTERED	APR 8 1982

Historic Resources of Red Lion Hundred

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 9

3. A. Property Name - N-429 - Chelsea

B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description - The area to be nominated totals 1.83 acres and is situated on the east side of State Road 9, northwest of Delaware City, approximately 670 feet east of Dragon Creek. The nominated property is a rectangular parcel fronting on State Road 9 for approximately 184 feet with a maximum depth of 456 feet.

C. Owner - Lloyd W. Deboer
910 5th Street
Delaware City, Delaware 19706

D. Property Description

An excellent example of that regional variation of the Italianate/Greek Revival style known as the "peach mansion," Chelsea is a three-story, three-bay square block with a low, almost flat, hipped roof surmounted by a widow's walk. The exterior walls are brick, laid in running bond on the facade and common bond with seven rows of stretches to one row of headers for the remaining walls. Facade courses are separated by thin bands of mortar.

The double windows along the central axis of the facade emphasize the interior center hall arrangement, as well as the formal simplicity of this Italianate style. Noteworthy interior features include decorative plaster cornices, ceiling medallions, white marble fireplaces and an elegant oak and mahogany parquet floor on the first level.

Additions, not part of the original construction, include the rear addition with an attached one-story, shed roof enclosure and a low one-story wing at the east side, set back from the facade. A wide one-story glass enclosed porch allows a transition from the regularized symmetry of the main block to the expanse of lawn, irregularly dotted with walnut, pine, cedar and cypress trees.

A number of ancillary buildings, including a frame barn and granary, survived as late as the early 1970's. These have been demolished. A modern brick garage and swimming pool are included in the nominated area.

Historical Background

Chelsea was constructed by Thomas Jefferson Clark in 1848. Clark was a

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prominent and influential landowner in Red Lion Hundred and active participant in Delaware City community affairs, serving as both a charter member of the St. Georges' Cemetery Company of Red Lion Hundred and a founder of the Delaware Academy in Delaware City. When the latter closed in 1876, the building was acquired by Clark, who established a private school wherein classes were conducted through the end of the nineteenth century.

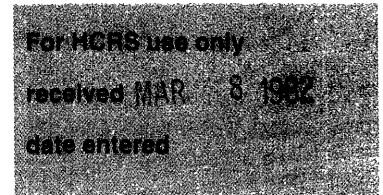
Before Clark's death in the late nineteenth century, the estate was purchased by Judge Heisel, a respected circuit judge. Presumably, Heisel was responsible for several alterations to the original four-square structure, including the two-story addition to the rear. After Heisel's death in the early twentieth century, Benjamin G. Carpenter acquired the property, which, in turn, was purchased by the Getty Oil Company in 1964, following Carpenter's death. The house was unoccupied until purchased along with two acres in 1966. The current owner purchased Chelsea in 1975.

E. Significance

The significance of Chelsea may best be understood in its relation to the agricultural prosperity of Red Lion Hundred. Philip Reybold introduced Delaware's first peach orchards into Red Lion Hundred in 1831. It was Reybold, "the Peach King," who erected the first peach mansion on what is now State Road 9 in the early 1840's. Reybold's "Lexington" set the architectural pattern for the homes of the prosperous rural gentry, including T. Jefferson Clark's Chelsea. Regardless of the prevalent replication of this style, only Chelsea survives as a reminder of the agricultural wealth and the fashion in architecture it inspired in Red Lion Hundred in the middle of the nineteenth century.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Red Lion Hundred Multiple Resource Nomination



Continuation sheet

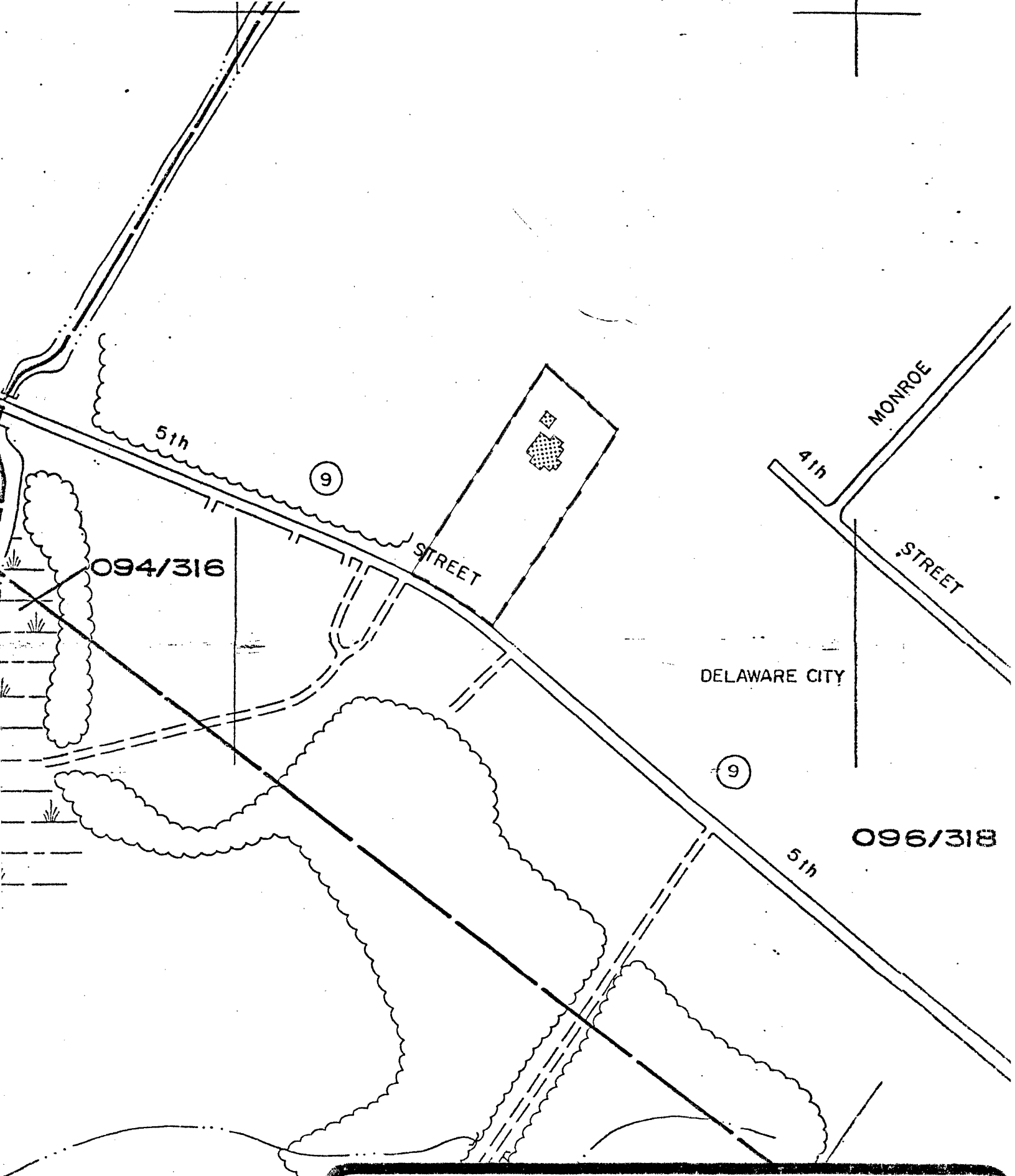
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3. Chelsea (N-429)

E. Significance:

The "peach mansion" occurs with some frequency in the rural areas flanking the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, particularly in those Hundreds below the Canal. Philip Reybold is credited with constructing the first of these Greek Revival structures which soon became fashionable with peach growers initially in Red Lion Hundred, and then primarily in lower Pencader and St. Geroges Hundreds. Other than the J. Vandegrift House at the Deputy Farm (N-143), Chelsea is the only "peach mansion" which survives in Red Lion Hundred. Because of its proximity to Reybold's Lexington in terms of physical location and construction data, Chelsea is significant as it illustrates the acceptability to the rural gentry of this adaptation of the Greek Revival style and provides clues to the early evolution of this architectural fashion.



AUG 18 1980

SKETCH MAP

DATE : 4/14/80

N-429 Chelsea

SCALE: 1:200 ±

NEW CASTLE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

