

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



844

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

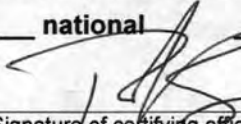
### 1. Name of Property

historic name Carswell, Stuart Randall and Priscilla Kellogg, House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

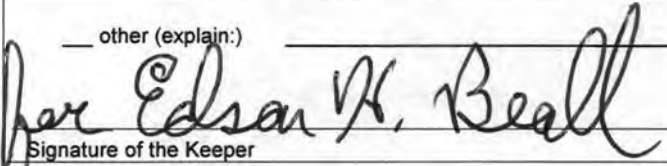
street & number 102 Briar Lane  not for publication  
city or town Newark  vicinity  
state Delaware code DE county New Castle code 003 zip code 19711

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
national X statewide X local  
 DE SHPO September 30, 2011  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
 11.22.11  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Carswell House  
Name of Property

New Castle, Delaware  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

International Style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE  
walls: STUCCO  
STEEL (parapet wall coping)  
roof: ASPHALT  
other: BRICK (window sills)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Carswell House  
Name of Property

New Castle, Delaware  
County and State

---

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Stuart Randall and Priscilla Kellogg Carswell House is a two-story, single-family residence built during 1948 in the International Style of the 1930s. Structural and design elements include a framework of steel posts and beams, concrete slab and block foundation, concrete block and brick walls, and steel window frames. Exterior walls are sheathed in stucco, painted white, and accentuated by discontinuous ribbons of steel windows that wrap around the building's corners on both levels. Low porches, a one-story garage, and a glass-dominated conservatory impart asymmetric detail to the front and sides of the exterior, complemented at the rear by a semi-regular octagonal prism projecting from the main body of the building. The asphalt roof slopes gently to the north and south sides of the building, and is enclosed by a low parapet that conveys the impression of a flat roof. The interior reflects the exterior's simple geometric lines, with large rectangular and cubic rooms unadorned by decorative elements. Interior features include lath-and-plaster walls and ceilings, hardwood floors, and a spiral staircase. Hallways, closets, and bathrooms occupy the east side of the interior. The hallways provide access to the primary living spaces, which are arrayed linearly along the west side of the house, following its north-south primary axis. The house is built into a hill that slopes gently to the rear of the property, allowing penetration of natural light into the finished basement through a series of west-facing windows slightly above ground level. The Carswell house is part of the Nottingham Manor neighborhood, an area of tree-lined streets and diverse architectural styles, with most houses dating from the 1950s. The front of the Carswell house is situated on a curved segment of Briar Lane and faces a predominantly easterly direction. A one-story garage is at the northeastern corner of the building, with access provided by a straight driveway extending directly to the street. The house is in excellent unaltered condition and retains most of its original windows, doors and hardware, lighting, and plumbing fixtures. Interior surfaces are original, including plaster walls, ceramic and wood wainscoting, and hardwood floors.

---

### Narrative Description

The Stuart R. and Priscilla K. Carswell House (Figure 1) was designed and constructed in the International Style, based on plans developed by the well-known modern architect Edward Durrell Stone and published in a series of six articles in *Collier's Magazine* during the second quarter of 1936. Horizontal lines, white stucco facades, lack of decorative elements, and steel windows extending around the house's corners cause it to stand out among the more traditional suburban residences in its vicinity.

#### Location and Setting

The Carswell house was built in 1948 just outside what at that time was the western boundary of the Town of Newark, Delaware (Figures 2 and 3). The house is situated on Briar Lane, a curving street that follows an oblique path across a gentle hillslope on Newark's west side. The street and adjacent yards are lined with mature hardwoods and conifers. A variety of postwar suburban houses, including single-story broadfront ranches, Cape Cod Revivals, Neocolonials, and two examples of post-WWII mid-century modern design, were constructed on the street during the 1950s and 1960s; with



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Carswell House

Name of Property

New Castle, Delaware

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number   7   Page     1    

similar residences on Tanglewood Lane, Bent Lane, and Dallam Road. Most of these houses were custom built for the original owners. Sidewalks line both sides of the streets. Electricity to streetlamps is provided by underground cables in most of the neighborhood. Collectively, the development is known as "Nottingham Manor."

The Carswell house is situated on a large (~0.7 acre) lot that provides unobstructed views of the building from all angles (Figure 4). The house fronts on a curving segment of Briar Lane, facing an easterly direction. The property is near the crest of the eastern valley side of the Christina River, and declines gently in elevation from front to back (east to west). Prior to 1957, vistas from the living, dining, and bedrooms extended westward nearly to the Maryland state line. The property's western boundary abuts an area of late-1950s and early 1960s tract housing, composed primarily of raised ranches and split-level ranches, known as "Nottingham Green" (Photograph 25; Figure 5). Construction of these houses obstructed views from the Carswell house and changed its setting from predominantly rural to distinctly suburban. Owing to its large lot and landscaped yard, the Carswell house serves as a reminder of the once-pastoral West Newark landscape. The original 1948 chain-link fence follows the Carswell property line in the rear of the house. Mature oaks, Red maple, Bald cypress, Sugi, and European holly are scattered about the property, with flowering ornamentals in both the front and back yards.

*Exterior*

The main body of the house forms a rectangular solid, constructed around a structural skeleton of steel posts and beams rising from a slab-on-grade and concrete block foundation. Walls are composed of concrete block and brick, with most elements of the exterior sheathed in white-painted stucco. Ornamentation is absent. Series of manufactured double-hung steel windows<sup>1</sup> on sills of rowlock brick wrap around the corners of the house on both levels. Ribbons of morphologically identical steel-framed windows occupy the front (east) and rear (west) facades of the building in groups of two to six. Window size is roughly proportional to room size and functional importance. Slim steel muntins divide sashes into two panes, adding to the exterior's impression of horizontality. A series of four small steel-framed windows extends across the western façade at ground level, permitting natural light to enter the basement.

Three-bay, symmetric fenestration imparts an impression of regularity to the front (east) elevation. In observance of International Style canons, however, asymmetry was employed to enhance the building's aesthetic appeal and to accommodate specific functions. Asymmetric elements include a garage and a conservatory attached to the main body of the house, a series of large windows in the first level on the rear elevation, front and side porches, a blank wall on the north side of the garage, and a bay window at the rear of the house. Viewed from the east, south and west, the building appears as "a composition of white cubes."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Most are Truscon Series 101 steel windows, manufactured by Republic Steel. Of the 47 windows in the main body of the house, 39 are original. The five windows in the dining room and three in the living room were replaced by a previous owner because leaks had developed around the frames (Kennie Harr (Bollmeier), personal communication, January 1999).

<sup>2</sup> Stone (1962), p. 42. See Photographs 2-6. An index to locations and orientations of photos of house



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Carswell House

Name of Property

New Castle, Delaware

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number   7   Page       2      

The one-story, stucco-clad, concrete block and brick garage is attached to the front of the main body of the house at its northeast corner. A straight driveway leads directly from the street to the garage. A one-story conservatory, of wood and glass construction, forms the southern extremity of the house. A one-story, semi-octagonal prism, dominated by five steel windows, projects outward from the rear (west) façade. Public entrances are at the first level, in the center bay of the front (east) façade and the east corner of the south exterior wall. Each of the entrance porches is floored with 6" x 6" sealed quarry tiles and shaded by a low roof supported by lally columns. A third, slightly elevated private entrance at the southwest corner of the house leads from a concrete patio into the conservatory, and thence to the dining room. A fourth entryway at the southern end of the house is formed by a pair of steel bulkhead doors at ground level, providing access to the basement via a series of concrete steps.

The built-up asphalt roof, last replaced in 2003, slopes gently toward the north and south ends of the main body of the house. A continuous parapet, capped with shallow, painted metal coping, extends around the upper perimeter, imparting the impression of a flat roof to an observer at ground level. A brick chimney at the center of the roof extends slightly above the level of the parapet. Four scuppers drain the roof near the building's corners, connected to cylindrical aluminum drain pipes that funnel rainwater away from the north and south sides of the house. The roofs of the garage, porches, conservatory, and dining room each have one or more scuppers and drain pipes.

### *Interior*

Interiors repeat the simple geometric lines of the exterior. Large rectangular rooms dominate. Interior surfaces are devoid of decorative elements other than simple, white-painted baseboards and steel doorframes. The front (east) side of the house is dedicated primarily to utilitarian functions. Public spaces occupy the west side of the first level. Hardwood (oak) floors, stained a light shade of gold, occupy all first-and second-level rooms in the main section of the house, except bathrooms and the kitchen.

*First Level (Figure 6b):* The front entrance opens directly into the midpoint of a rectilinear hallway that leads from the kitchen in the southeast corner of the house to a den situated in the northeast corner. The hallway also gives access to the living room, a bathroom with grey and blue ceramic tile wainscoting, a large coat closet, and stairways leading to the second level and basement. Together, the two stairways sweep out a continuous circular spiral. The staircase between the first and second levels is constructed of lightly stained oak, while that between the basement and the first level is painted grey. A pair of corner "flower windows" delimits a small bay between the oak staircase and the front entry.

At the southeast corner of the house is a large kitchen. A 1953 sales advertisement for the house<sup>3</sup> states that steel cabinets, which were popular in the 1930s and 1940s, were employed in the original kitchen. These were replaced with wood cabinets at an unknown date. One of the six *Collier's* magazine articles describing plans for the house emphasized that many possibilities existed for kitchen arrangements. The current configuration closely resembles two of the sketches featured in that article,

exterior is provided in Figure 8.

<sup>3</sup> *Newark Post*, November 5, 1953, p. 2.

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

Carswell House
Name of Property
New Castle, Delaware
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page       3      

suggesting that the replacement cabinets were arranged in the same configuration as the originals.<sup>4</sup> A small water closet in the kitchen's northeast corner was converted by the present owners in 2001 to a laundry room containing an over-under washer-dryer combination. The kitchen's current configuration consists of contemporary stainless steel appliances set into wood cabinets that were painted white and fitted with period handles and drawer pulls in 2008. Black laminate countertops and a dark blue linoleum floor, both installed in 2011, recreate the appearance of the *Collier's* sketches. A door in the kitchen's south wall forms a service entrance from the side porch.

The den in the northeast corner of the house is immediately behind the garage. The den contains a clothes closet and has two contiguous windows providing a view of the treed side yard to the north. The den is connected by a doorway to a library room with integral shelving for 1500 volumes. The library is illuminated by a strip of five windows wrapping around the northwest corner of the house. Together, the library, den, and adjacent bathroom form, as described in one of the 1936 *Collier's* articles, "a little estate, independent and complete."<sup>5</sup> This assemblage of rooms is currently used as a mother-in-law suite.

A semi-octagonal dining room, dominated by five windows set into its prismatic faces, projects outward from the southwest corner of the house. A steel-and-glass door leads from the south side of the dining room to the glass-enclosed conservatory, which is oriented for maximum exposure to direct solar insolation throughout the day. The conservatory's floor consists of sealed quarry tile identical to that used for the entry porches.

An unadorned, rectangular archway on the dining room's north side leads to a 15.5' x 27' living room that features a tiled, asymmetric fireplace and three large windows overlooking the rear of the property. An identical archway leads from the living room to the hallway at the front of the house. A smaller doorway leads from the north end of the living room to the library.<sup>6</sup>

*Second Level* (Figure 6a): A rectilinear hallway occupies the east side of the second level, between the top of the staircase and a guest bathroom at the northeast corner of the house. This hall gives access to the three bedrooms comprising the west side of the interior. The hall, which contains a linen closet and a large cedar closet, is illuminated by a three-unit ribbon of windows, and by two recessed overhead light fixtures.

The large (22' x 15') master bedroom is in the southwest corner of the second level. A ribbon of six window units wraps around the south and west walls. An interior door leads to a private bathroom, in the southeast corner of the house, containing separate bathtub and glass-doored shower, a linen closet, and two large recessed cosmetics cabinets. Wainscoting, made of ceramic 4¼" tiles in a muted peach and apricot color scheme, sets off black 4" linotile flooring. All tiling and fixtures in the bathroom are original components of the house.

<sup>4</sup> Stewart, B. T. (1936), p. 35. Comparison of one of these sketches (Figure 11) with Photograph 13 illustrates the close similarities between the kitchens of the Carswell and *Collier's* houses.

<sup>5</sup> Thompson (1936), p. 46.

<sup>6</sup> An index to locations and orientations of photographs taken on the first and second floors is provided in Figure 9.

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

Carswell House
Name of Property
New Castle, Delaware
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page     4    

Two smaller bedrooms extend along the west side of the house to its northern extremity. Both are rectangular and, like the master bedroom, each contains two clothes closets. The central bedroom has a strip of three west-facing windows. The ceiling in its northernmost closet contains an access panel leading to the attic, a crawl space containing thermal insulation and utility corridors. The attic is ventilated by a series of ducts extending around the house just below the exterior parapet.<sup>7</sup> The "guest" bedroom in the northwest corner of the house has a ribbon of five windows, with views to the north and west. The adjacent bathroom contains a shower-over-bath arrangement, with coordinated sink and toilet, a built-in four-door linen cabinet made of painted wood, and a ribbon of three windows extending around the northeast corner of the house. Wainscoting and shower walls are composed of sand-colored 4¼" ceramic tiles with burgundy trim. The 4" linotile floor is original but has suffered water damage adjacent to the bathtub.

*Basement (Figure 7):* The basement contains two large finished rooms, a compact bath and sauna combination, and a narrow, unfurnished furnace/storage room. The stairway from the hallway on the first level leads to a large (40' x 15') bar room on the west side of the house that features pine wainscoting, glass-and-pine cabinets, and exposed metal ductwork. A pine-and-formica bar, with mirrored and shelved back-bar, occupies the southwest corner of the room. Illumination is provided by three original windows on the west side of the room, a recessed florescent light in the back-bar, and by two lengthwise rows of four recessed lighting fixtures in the ceiling. Walls are cement blocks covered with a waterproof cement coating. Basement ceilings are pine tongue-and-groove planking, stained to match the wainscoting.

The bar room's flooring material is black 9" x 9" vinyl composition tile (VCT), cut from 12" x 12" squares by the present owner to replicate the appearance of the original asphalt tile, which had deteriorated and had to be removed. The original tile pattern, consisting of a strip of contrasting (grey) tile tracking the room's perimeter, was duplicated exactly in the 2001 replacement.

Another large room, immediately below the dining room at the southwest end of the house, had served as a work and laundry room until the present owners converted it to an "annex" to the bar room in 2001. Unpainted concrete blocks had formed the walls of this room, which is immediately below the dining room and shares its semi-octagonal shape. The block walls were covered with a waterproof cement coating and painted white. The pine wainscoting and cabinetry of the bar room were replicated in the annex. An original, single window brings natural daylight into the room from the upper part of the west wall. The concrete floor was tiled with the same VCT material and geometric pattern used in the bar room. An integrated bathroom (with shower) and cedar sauna were added to the east end of the room, also in 2001. The annex and bathroom are illuminated by a series of recessed light fixtures in the ceiling.<sup>8</sup>

Together, the bar room and annex present an integrated, recreationally themed appearance common to basements in many early post-WWII homes, albeit on a larger scale than most.

<sup>7</sup> See Photograph 8.

<sup>8</sup> An index to locations and orientations of photographs taken in the basement is provided in Figure 10. Photographs 21-23 provide views of the basement, bar room, and stairway.



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Carswell House

Name of Property

New Castle, Delaware

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number   7   Page       5      

*Condition, Repairs, and Details*

The Carswell house is in excellent condition. Although many of its surfaces and details had deteriorated when purchased by the present owners in 1999, the house remained virtually unmodified from its original plan, which is very similar to the layout published in 1936 in *Collier's* magazine.

The present owners repaired all interior surfaces in 1999 and 2000. Lath-and-plaster interior walls were patched, sanded and painted in 1999. Public rooms and hallways were painted light grey, while private rooms received a muted shade of peach. Thick pile carpeting, track lighting, and wall mirrors were removed. The hardwood floors of the first and second levels and upper staircase were sanded, stained, and sealed with polyurethane, also in 1999. The lead shower pans, which had been leaking, were replaced the same year. Care was taken to repair shower floors using the same type and colors of 1" square ceramic tile employed in the originals. The built-up asphalt roof was replaced in 2003, and all exterior walls were repainted in white that year. Exterior trim and windows were painted with a caramel color.

The original General Electric oil-burning furnace and air conditioning units had been replaced by the 1960s. Since 2000, heating and cooling have been handled by a Bryant high-efficiency natural gas furnace in the basement and a central air-conditioning unit located outside the house, adjacent to the north façade. The original galvanized forced-air ductwork is in place and used throughout the house. Ductwork is exposed only in the basement.<sup>9</sup>

The architectural details and workmanship of the Carswell house are notable for their original condition. Original plumbing, utility, and lighting fixtures remain throughout the first and second levels. Most rooms are illuminated by square, recessed Kirlin "K-Lens" light fixtures mounted flush with the ceiling in the centers of rooms and hallways. Plumbing fixtures in bathrooms on the second level are from the Crane Drexel series of oversized bathtubs, sinks, toilets, medicine cabinets, and light bars. The bathroom on the first level contains the smaller Crane Oxford series of plumbing fixtures.<sup>10</sup> Speakman mixing valves are employed in showers. Door hardware is standardized throughout the first and second levels, consisting of distinctive brushed aluminum knobs with two concentric inscribed circles. The garage door opener, a "Petrometer" (a heating oil gauge, now nonfunctional) and circuit breaker panels are all original equipment in the house.

<sup>9</sup> See Photographs 23 and 24a.

<sup>10</sup> Both the Crane Drexel and Oxford series of bathroom fixtures were designed by Henry Dreyfuss, one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's foremost industrial designers.)

Carswell House  
Name of Property

New Castle, Delaware  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1948-1961  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1948  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Stone, Edward Durell  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance (justification)**

1948, the date of construction, is when it achieved the significance for which it is being nominated, through 1961, the 50-year mark.

Carswell House  
Name of Property

New Castle, Delaware  
County and State

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Stuart R. and Priscilla K. Carswell House in Newark, Delaware, has significance at the local and state levels under Criterion C. Its architectural and historic significance lies in six general areas: (1) The house adheres closely to the aesthetics and design principles of the International Style. It incorporates the majority of the design elements that distinguish this architectural style, including a structural steel framework, flat roofline, multiple roof levels, ribbon windows, rectilinear and cubic rooms, and lack of ornamentation. (2) The house is associated with Edward Durell Stone, a Modern architect of iconic status. The house was built in 1948, based on Stone's plans for an International Style residence published in *Collier's* magazine in 1936. Stone corresponded with and advised the Carswells while the house was under construction. (3) The *Collier's* house design was used to create a middle-class market for Modern architecture in the United States at a time when such buildings were distinctly *avant-garde*. (4) International Style residential architecture is rare in the United States, and especially so in the state of Delaware. (5) The original appearance, design, structural features, details, and workmanship of the Carswell house have been preserved. (6) The house serves as a visual reminder and representation of west-side Newark's vanished pastoral landscapes.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Architectural Significance**

The Stuart Randall and Priscilla Kellogg Carswell House has significance at the local and state levels under Criterion C. The house was built in 1948, based on plans for an International Style residence created 12 years earlier by Edward Durell Stone, an important American architect of the mid-twentieth century. These plans provided the basis for a series of articles published in 1936 in *Collier's* magazine, and played a significant role in popularizing Modern architecture in the United States.

The Carswell house gives a strong impression of "plane surfaces bounding a volume," an expression of the first of the International Style's three primary principles—*architecture as form*.<sup>1</sup> Its system of large, open rooms bounded by stucco-sheathed masonry walls gives rise to an external morphology described effectively as a "container of space lightly enclosed by membranous walls."<sup>2</sup> The house displays most of the signature structural and design elements of the International Style: steel post-and-beam skeleton; rectilinear and cubic volumes; ribbon windows extending around the building's corners; multiple roof levels; a white stucco-sheathed exterior; parapets that continue wall surfaces and give the impression of a flat roofline; shallow coping; large open rooms; recessed entryways; and an isolated rounded component.<sup>3</sup> The overall impression conveyed by the exterior is uncontrived horizontality.

The International Style's second principle, *asymmetric regularity*, is expressed in the Carswell house through modifications to the axial symmetry of its central component, a simple rectilinear volume containing the living areas. The placement of windows in this section accentuates an impression of regularity, especially on the front (east side) of the house. In contradistinction are the cube-shaped garage and conservatory attached to the main body of the house, the octagonal bay window, the placement of entry porches, and the large living-room windows, all of which provide asymmetric effects that enhance the design's appeal and serve function.

The International Style's third canon, *avoidance of applied decoration*, is apparent both outside and inside the house. Interiors repeat the simple, sharp geometric lines of the exterior. Large rectangular rooms dominate. Purely decorative elements are absent. Window treatments are simple and standardized throughout. Interior colors are neutral. Doors are plain white panels set in simple steel frames. Archways between rooms are unadorned rectangles. The exterior contains large expanses of blank wall in areas where interior function does not require windows.

<sup>1</sup> Hitchcock and Johnson (1932), Chapters IV, VI, VII.

<sup>2</sup> Jordy (1965, p. 11).

<sup>3</sup> McAlester and McAlester (1984), pp.469-473.



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Carswell House

Name of Property

New Castle, Delaware

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number   8   Page     1    

The Carswell house embodies the International Style's insistence that form follow function. A continuous circular spiral of stair-steps connects the three levels of the house, providing a smooth transition between spaces devoted to public (first level), private (second level), and recreational (basement) uses. Function flows ergonomically between adjacent rooms. The juxtaposition of front porch, recessed entryway, kitchen, living room, dining room, conservatory, and patio promotes efficiency, and forms a continuum between interior and exterior spaces. Library, den, and guest quarters are situated to afford privacy.

Placement of living areas at the back of the house and their integration with the large landscaped yard promote feelings of seclusion and unity with nature. Such arrangements were a radical departure from standard American residential practice when plans were drawn up for the 1936 prototype in *Collier's* magazine. Concentration of public entries, hallways, kitchen, bathrooms, and garage at the front imparts to this side of the house an integrated, distinctly utilitarian feel that was also highly unusual in American architecture to that time.

The Carswell house was constructed in the early postwar period, facilitating the use of new technologies. Many features have continued to function in the house for more than 60 years. Foremost are the mass-produced steel windows, which were not widely available in the 1930s.<sup>4</sup> General lighting is derived from isolated, recessed ceiling fixtures. These represent an attempt to address general background lighting and promote use of localized solutions within rooms, including stairwell lighting and cylindrical light bars surrounding mirrors in the bathrooms.<sup>5</sup>

References to industrial design, ascendant in the late 1930s and the 1940s, occur throughout the house. Significant in this regard is the use of Kirlin light fixtures, found throughout the first and second levels. Selection of these specific fixtures creates a strong association with industrial and institutional buildings executed in the International Style.<sup>6</sup> The use of brushed aluminum doorknobs, Dreyfuss-designed streamlined bathroom fixtures of substantial proportions, and electrical panels in living areas enhance the association.<sup>7</sup>

Architectural significance also derives from the fact that the Carswell house was constructed from plans by Edward Durell Stone, who was instrumental in popularizing and diffusing Modern architecture in the United States over the course of five decades. His works include the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the United States Embassy in New Delhi, the American Pavilion at the Brussels World's Fair of 1957, the uptown campus of the State University of New York at Albany, and many other structures

<sup>4</sup> See Hitchcock and Johnson (1932), p. 47.

<sup>5</sup> See Photographs 14 and 21 for surviving examples of solutions to "local" lighting problems.

<sup>6</sup> The Kirlin Lighting Company manufactures almost exclusively for an institutional market. When the present owner initially attempted to secure two "K-lens" replacements from the Kirlin Lighting Company, the representative was incredulous, stating that Kirlin lights had *never* been used in residential applications. After documenting the existence of Kirlin recessed light fixtures throughout the Carswell House, the company agreed to supply the needed lenses. Many examples of institutional and industrial buildings designed in the International Style appear in Hitchcock and Johnson (1932), and many aesthetic similarities between them and the Carswell House can be found there.

<sup>7</sup> See Photographs 19 and 24 for examples.

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

Carswell House
Name of Property
New Castle, Delaware
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page       2      

in the U.S. and abroad. As an emerging architect during the 1930s Stone embraced the International Style enthusiastically and designed a substantial number of landmark buildings, primarily residences, consistent with its tenets. Stone's residential designs during the 1930s received widespread acclaim at the time, and were featured in two compilations at the close of the decade.<sup>8</sup> The significance of Stone's 1930s work in the International Style was reaffirmed nearly a half-century later.<sup>9</sup>

The Carswell house is a rare example of International Style architecture in the United States.<sup>10</sup> It may be the only surviving residential example in the state of Delaware. The Henry B. Robertson house in Centerville, a well-known example to which the Carswell house had substantial similarity, has been demolished.<sup>11</sup> Other examples in the state are not known.

### Historical Context

#### *The International Style and Stone's Mandel House*

The International Style of architecture emerged in Western Europe during the 1920s. In its formative stages it was especially associated with the architects Le Corbusier (Charles-Édouard Jeanneret), Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, and Walter Gropius. The style employs simple, stark geometric lines, lacks ornamentation, and makes extensive use of steel, glass, and concrete. It became well known in North America through the exhibition "Modern Architecture: International Exhibition," sponsored by the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The term "International Style" gained ascendancy with publication of a manifesto of sorts accompanying the exhibition, written by the show's organizers.<sup>12</sup>

Early in his career, Edward Durell Stone (1902-1978) worked on several prominent projects in New York, including the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Radio City Music Hall, and Rockefeller Center. An associate at the Music Hall project, Donald Deskey, introduced Stone to Chicago department store magnate Richard Mandel. This introduction led to Stone's first major commission, a 10,000 square foot home for Mandel in Westchester County, NY, completed in 1935.

A striking interpretation of the International Style, the Mandel house received considerable critical and popular acclaim, and was featured in publications as diverse as *Architectural Forum*, *Fortune*, and *Time*. Its pronounced asymmetry, flat roof, open plan, use of concrete, ribbon windows, and the semi-cylindrical dining room projecting from a side of the house represented distinct departures from the norms of American residential architecture to that time. A 1935 article in *Architectural Forum* about the Mandel house stated that "Stone has boldly and unhesitatingly translated a theory and scheme into the physical form of a house in which to live. There is no blind following of the European so-called

<sup>8</sup> See Anonymous (1935a,b), Burton (1940), and Ford and Ford (1940).

<sup>9</sup> See Ricciotti (1988), and references therein.

<sup>10</sup> See McAlester and McAlester (1984, p. 469).

<sup>11</sup> Anonymous (1938b). Information about demolition of the Robertson house came in a personal communication from Alexine Cloonan of Homsey Architects, Wilmington, DE.

<sup>12</sup> *The International Style: Architecture Since 1922* (Hitchcock and Johnson 1932). Also see Wilson (1982).

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

Carswell House
Name of Property
New Castle, Delaware
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page       3      

International Style, no smugness, no dependence for elegance upon the dead glamour of the past."<sup>13</sup>  
The Mandel house is considered an important milestone through its adaptation of the International Style to American culture and landscapes.

The attention given the Mandel house was not uniformly positive, however—as Stone put it, the house “was a real shocker” to many unfamiliar with the style. A second Stone-designed residence in the community (the Kowalski house), created great dissension, and zoning ordinances were put in place to “prevent further shocks to [locals’] sensibilities” and avoid “desecration of a synthetic colonial community.”<sup>14</sup>

*The Collier’s House of 1936*

Up to the time the Mandel house was completed, American houses in the International Style were extremely rare, mostly large, expensive, and considered somewhat elitist. Although the 1935 article in *Architectural Forum* had predicted that “the Joneses will take it or leave it, most likely when they understand it better, they will want one like it,”<sup>15</sup> such a house was far beyond the means of all but the most prosperous Americans. Given economic conditions in the mid-1930s, as well as the negative reactions to its radical departure from traditional American residential architecture, diffusion of the style would require that it somehow be recognized and accepted by the middle class. Stone helped to achieve this goal by developing plans for a relatively modest International Style house for publication in *Collier’s* magazine, a literary publication with a circulation of well over two million in the mid-1930s. Although it has not been widely recognized as such, the *Collier’s* house represented an early instance of Modern architecture penetrating the American mass market.<sup>16</sup>

Details of how the *Collier’s* house came into being are not known, but it was a substantial project involving a full set of architectural plans, a model by Theodore E. Conrad,<sup>17</sup> and a series of six articles in *Collier’s* during the second quarter of 1936. Collectively, the articles constitute a comprehensive, well-integrated strategy aimed at generating interest in Modern architecture by potential middle class homeowners. The sequential articles provided (a) an overview of modern architecture and its benefits, illustrated using specifics of the *Collier’s* house; (b) the integration of house and garden; (c) scientific development of interior lighting; (d) financing and government mortgage programs; (e) use of new materials and technologies for interior decoration; and (f) ergonomic kitchen design.<sup>18</sup>

In the series’ first article, appearing on 28 March 1936, the house was described as having been

<sup>13</sup> Anonymous (1935a), p. 79.

<sup>14</sup> Stone (1962), p. 32 and 47.

<sup>15</sup> Anonymous (1935a), p. 79-80.

<sup>16</sup> Stone (1962), pp. 33.

<sup>17</sup> According to Stone, this 1936 effort was a “pioneering venture in the making of models.” Writing a quarter-century later, he asserted that “no important project is undertaken in the New York area without an introduction by a Conrad model” (see Stone 1962, p. 33).

<sup>18</sup> Authored by Flynn, Carson, Ray, Creel, Thompson, and Stuart, respectively (see Bibliography).



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

Carswell House
Name of Property
New Castle, Delaware
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page     4    

designed “primarily and fundamentally as a place to live in.”<sup>19</sup> Although Stone much later disavowed association with the phrase,<sup>20</sup> the article described *Collier’s* house using Le Corbusier’s famous characterization of the modern house as “a machine for living,” and proclaimed that it “combines all the elements of modern planning and illustrates how the utilities, graces and conveniences of living in this era may be united in a home.” The cost to build the house was estimated at \$12,000 to \$16,000, plus the expenses associated with landscaping and possible architect’s fees.

The central theme of this article is that *Collier’s* house should be considered as a conceptual model, rather than a fixed set of plans. The house was represented as a fundamentally new and *functional* approach to American residential architecture. The plans were considered to be highly adaptable to location and taste.

In a “form-follows-function” interpretation of the International Style’s first principle (“architecture as volume”), Flynn tutored his lay audience:

*In the old kind of housebuilding, we settled upon a type of house—Colonial or Spanish or Old English or what-not—and then arranged our rooms inside as well as we could. We were limited at the start by the exigencies of the settled design. Now in the new technique of housebuilding, the architect proceeds in the reverse order. That is, he settles on the rooms desired, the location of the rooms and the uses to which they are to be put. If you can imagine such a thing, visualize a house built without any outer walls, but all the rooms put in precisely the places we want them without reference to the exterior shape or design...The modern architect then proceeds to put a shell over them, which is the exterior of the house. The modern style lends itself to this, for the architect can give beauty of line and form to any shape this shell falls into.*<sup>21</sup>

A second article (11 April 1936) asserted the unity of the house and the yard in which it is situated. Stressing the placement of living quarters at the back of the house, immediately adjacent to the rear yard, prospective homeowners were encouraged to optimize the size, aesthetics, and utility of the garden, which was described as an “outdoor living room.”

A discussion of lighting possibilities afforded by contemporary scientific developments followed two weeks later, detailing the advantages of indirect lighting in response to a rhetorical question: “Why must light come from some obvious source—a chandelier, a lamp, a bracket? Recommendations were again focused on solutions to problems posed in terms of function. Lighting solutions were divided into complementary “local” and “general” categories, involving projected and cove lighting in the former and recessed overhead lights in the latter.

A crucial element in the marketing of Modern architecture to middle-class people in the Depression era

<sup>19</sup> Flynn (1936, p. 11). See Jordy (1965, pp. 12-13) for a discussion of the tension between the early *avant-garde* “pure” forms of the International Style and a softened, “humanized” version that evolved in the 1930s, and is represented by *Collier’s* house.

<sup>20</sup> Stone (1962), p. 89

<sup>21</sup> Flynn (1936), p. 11.

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

Carswell House
Name of Property
New Castle, Delaware
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

involved financing for the house. One of the more clever aspects of the *Collier's* house project is revealed in the 2 May 1936 issue, under the title "Money to build your home." The adaptability of the modern design dispensed with the need to engage an architect's services and yet come into possession of detailed, professional architectural plans for an up-to-date custom home—at a total cost of \$3, postage included. A second element of the house's financial appeal was developed by paving the way for approval in the Federal Housing Administration's new home-loan guarantee program.<sup>22</sup> Building a *Collier's* house provided a distinct advantage in the approval process because the magazine had submitted the house plans to FHA, receiving "enthusiastic approval" that would purportedly extend to anyone building from those plans.

The penultimate article, published in the 16 May issue, told "the story of the house that is made to work for us, rather than the house for which we are made to work...the story of a tool masquerading as a house." Postulating a family of two adults and two children (as well as a maid) with interests in entertainment and current affairs, the interior furnishings of the house were planned by considering the problem at a series of scales: in its entirety, as plans for entire floors, and as individual rooms. Goals included spaciousness, comfort, and privacy. The house was considered "a mobile, flexible unit that could change with the demands placed upon it." The essence of the *Collier's* house project is communicated clearly at the end of this paper:

*The fact that*

*there is no fixed point of style is vastly important. There is only one fixed element and that is a point of view—the elements in the modern house can change, vary, [or] take on various accents.*

The final (30 May) article in the series emphasized alternative kitchen appliances, color schemes, and functional arrangements. The latter would in some instances necessitate minor changes to the exterior, such as door and window placement. The influence of the many time-and-motion ("efficiency engineering") studies conducted during the 1930s is apparent in the text's emphasis on layout:

*the modern*

*kitchen...provides an area so small and units fitting into each other so beautifully that extra steps are automatically reduced to fractions of a foot...[leaving] us free to concentrate on maximum convenience at each working spot and beauty over all.*

*Collier's* house was, in fact, a scaled down version of the Mandel House, designed for middle-class circumstances and budgets.<sup>23</sup> The *Collier's* house eliminated many of Mandel's more luxurious elements, including some of the servants' quarters, a squash court, and extra bedrooms. The house was reoriented with respect to most American residences by placing the garage at the front of the

<sup>22</sup> In retrospect, the FHA program is notorious for having exercised a form of redlining through its focus on "attractive" buildings involving "higher housing standards." See, for example, Myrdal (1944) and Taeuber and Taeubar (1965).

<sup>23</sup> Hunting (2007, pp. 80-91). The author expresses appreciation to Mary Anne Hunting of New York City for alerting him to the association between the Carswell House and Edward Durell Stone.

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

Carswell House
Name of Property
New Castle, Delaware
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page       6      

building and concentrating living areas at the back, while the kitchen and maid's quarters were located at the front, an arrangement justified in terms of functionality, aesthetics, and privacy. The Mandel and *Collier's* houses shared the overall characteristics of asymmetric regularity, steel post-and-beam construction, ribbon windows wrapping around corners, an outward-projecting semicircular dining room, rooftop gardens, a cantilevered, full-length sun deck on the second floor, and the use of stucco to cover masonry walls. Flexibility was paramount, however; the exterior, for example, could be "finished in any material which suits the owner's taste."<sup>24</sup>

The *Collier's* house was successful in helping to popularize Modern architecture with middle-class Americans. An advertisement following the last of the 1936 articles, under the heading "*Collier's* Town," announced that *Collier's* had sold more than 1200 copies of the house plans in the 10 weeks elapsed since the first article in the series had appeared. The ad asserted that this was "enough to house a community of six thousand and make a completely modern town."<sup>25</sup> At least six houses were built from the plans by 1940, including examples in West Virginia, Kentucky, New Mexico, Kansas, South Carolina, and Georgia.<sup>26</sup> The owners came from a wide variety of backgrounds and some were described by Hunting's interviewees as conservative, indicating that Modern houses had found widespread acceptance. This may be related to the emphasis placed in the *Collier's* articles on order, functional integration, and efficiency.

The *Collier's* house also received critical acclaim. It was featured in the 1938 *Exhibition of Models* in New York City organized by *Architectural Record* and W & J Sloane, an upscale New York home furnishings store. Photographs of the model were made by the noted garden and architecture photographer Mattie Edwards Hewitt and published in a 1938 issue of *Architectural Record*.<sup>27</sup> Additional affirmation of both critical and popular acceptance for the *Collier's* house is provided by the Edward Clifford Jones Jr. House in West Virginia having received honorable mention in the 12<sup>th</sup> annual *House Beautiful* Small House Competition for 1940.<sup>28</sup>

**The Stuart Randall and Priscilla Kellogg Carswell House**

*A Soldier's Dream, Deferred*

The Stuart R. and Priscilla K. Carswell House in Newark, DE, was commissioned in early 1948 and

<sup>24</sup> Flynn (1936) p. 54.

<sup>25</sup> *Collier's*, May 30, 1936, p. 54.

<sup>26</sup> Hunting (2007, pp. 85-87) listed five such houses, to which the David Armstrong McNeill Sr. House in Thomson, GA should be added. That house is described at <http://www.thomson-mcduffie.com/tour-David-McNeill-House.shtml>.

<sup>27</sup> Anonymous (1938a), p. 84. Also see The Mattie E. Hewitt & Richard A. Smith Photograph Collection, PR-026, Department of Prints, Photographs, and Architectural Collections, The New York Historical Society.

<http://dlib.nyu.edu/eadapp/transform?source=nyhs/hewittsmith.xml&style=nyhs/nyhs.xml&part=body>

<sup>28</sup> The Jones house was one of the first to be built from the *Collier's* plans. See *House Beautiful* for March 1940 and Chapman (2007, pp. 89-90).



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

Carswell House
Name of Property
New Castle, Delaware
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 7

built later that year. The Carswells purchased land on the west (unincorporated) side of Briar Lane in 1947, for \$2200. At that time Briar Lane formed part of Newark's western limit, beyond which open land extended to the Maryland boundary. They worked with a local architect in modifying the plans for the 1936 *Collier's* house. The house was finished during the late autumn of 1948, but Stuart Carswell was afforded only a few weeks in it before passing away in early January 1949, at the age of 57.

Stuart Randall Carswell (1891-1949) was a native of Ellesmere, DE. He attended public primary and secondary schools in Wilmington. His father, William B. Carswell (1860-1923) was a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy and practiced architecture in Wilmington after separating from military service. Carswell earned college degrees from the University of Delaware (Mechanical Engineering) and Stanford University (History) in 1913 and 1922, respectively.

Priscilla Whipple Kellogg (1907-1991) was the daughter of Harry F. and Gertrude W. Kellogg of Chicago, IL. She attended private schools in Chicago. She graduated from the University of Chicago in 1929 and served as Horseback Representative to the Women's Athletic Association of that institution. Carswell and Kellogg were married in 1934, in Chicago.

Carswell's military career began in the Delaware National Guard, with which he saw action at the Mexican border. He entered the regular Army in 1917, after the U.S. declared war on Germany. He served as a captain in the Third Division's Third Machine Gun Unit, and was gassed in the Battle of Chateau Thierry (France) in July 1918.

In 1926, Carswell was assigned to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point as an instructor of economics and military science. In 1933, after promotion to the rank of major, he began staff duty as Historical Secretary in the U.S. War College in Washington, DC.<sup>29</sup> It was while holding this assignment that he and Priscilla encountered a set of plans for a "modern" house in several 1936 issues of *Collier's* magazine. They set the articles aside with the idea of building such a house in retirement. In the years leading up to World War II, Carswell was assigned to military bases in Indiana and Hawaii. When the war broke out, he was assigned to the Army's General Staff Corps in Washington. Shortly thereafter, he was promoted to full colonel and made commanding officer of the Army Air Forces Second Command in Albany, New York. Announcements in the Albany State College (now the State University of New York at Albany) student newspaper show that Carswell made several appearances at the college,<sup>30</sup> which two decades later occupied a large new campus in uptown Albany, designed by Edward Durell Stone.

Carswell retired at the end of WWII on physical disability and returned to Delaware, where he remained

<sup>29</sup> During this period Carswell published at least one historical paper (Carswell 1937) in a professional journal. Carswell's papers and correspondence concerning World War I are held in the Historical Section of the Army War College. For further information see <http://www.worldcat.org/title/stuart-r-carswell-papers-1917-1923/oclc/050336659>. Accessed February 2011.

<sup>30</sup> See [Albany] *State College News*, May 12 and May 19, 1944. [http://library.albany.edu/speccoll/findaids/issues/1944\\_05\\_12.pdf](http://library.albany.edu/speccoll/findaids/issues/1944_05_12.pdf)  
[http://library.albany.edu/speccoll/findaids/issues/1944\\_05\\_19.pdf](http://library.albany.edu/speccoll/findaids/issues/1944_05_19.pdf)  
Accessed February 2011.

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

Carswell House
Name of Property
New Castle, Delaware
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page       8      

a member of the Delaware National Guard. He resided at 106 Tanglewood Lane, one block east of the site on Briar Lane where he was to build his International Style house from the *Collier's* plans. Only one block east from Carswell's home on Tanglewood Lane was the residence of the President of the University of Delaware, William Samuel Carlson, also a colonel in the Army Air Forces during WWII, and destined a few years later to become the second Chancellor of the State University of New York system, headquartered in Albany. Carlson was instrumental in securing a research mission for SUNY, a designation that provided the impetus for constructing Stone's campus in uptown Albany.

Carswell wrote to Stone in January 1948:

*When your modern house appeared in Collier's in the March issue of 1936 my wife and I liked it so much we copied the data and kept most of the articles. We intended to build this house when we retired from the Army. We have retired and hope to build your house this year...do you have any [of the plans for the house] available?<sup>31</sup>*

Stone replied through an associate in early April, explaining his late response as a consequence of having recently mustered out of the Army Air Corps himself. He offered copies of the plans for \$100 and suggested that the services of a "local architect or contractor" be sought to execute the project, as "minor changes" were likely to be required. He estimated that it would cost \$35,000 to \$40,000 to complete the project.<sup>32</sup>

Carswell wrote again to Stone several days later, thanking him for his letter and informing him that

*I gave the pictures of the House as they appeared in Collier's issues of 1936 to an Architect here with certain changes. We did away with the sun decks and made the walls straight up from the first floor, making the bed rooms much larger and also closed in the porch making it a study...I hope to have it finished by the middle of next September. I found that the costs will run just about your estimate.<sup>33</sup>*

<sup>31</sup> S.R. Carswell to E.D. Stone, January 11, 1948. Edward Durell Stone Papers, University of Arkansas, 1<sup>st</sup> acc., box 82, file 2.

<sup>32</sup> Roy S. Johnson to S.R. Carswell, April 5, 1948. Edward Durell Stone Papers, University of Arkansas, 1<sup>st</sup> acc., box 82, file 2.

<sup>33</sup> S.R. Carswell to E.D. Stone, April 11, 1948. Edward Durell Stone Papers, University of Arkansas, 1<sup>st</sup> acc., box 82, file 2.

Despite extensive searching in the records of New Castle County and other sources, the identity of the local architect Carswell employed remains unknown. Elements of the Carswell house are, however, strikingly similar to the interior and exterior of the Henry B. Robertson House in Centerville, DE, designed in 1937 by Wilmington architects Victorine and Samuel Homsey and featured in the February 1938 issue of *Architectural Forum*. That house has since been demolished. A search of the Homsey firm's files in February 2011, conducted by Donald Homsey (the son of Victorine and Samuel Homsey), found no associations between the Homseys and Stuart Carswell or Briar Lane in Newark. The firm's pre-1950 files are, however, known to be incomplete (Alexine Cloonan, personal communication,

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

Carswell House
Name of Property
New Castle, Delaware
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page     9    

Colonel Carswell's long-deferred dream was a dream nearly denied. He lived for only a month in the house he had anticipated for more than a decade.<sup>34</sup> During the early evening of January 9, 1949 he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage at the residence on Briar Lane and died in Delaware Hospital a few hours later. Besides Priscilla, he was survived by two brothers, a sister, and three children. He was interred at Silverbrook Cemetery near Wilmington on January 12, with full military honors. "Taps" was played by an ROTC cadet from the University of Delaware.<sup>35</sup>

*A Receding Panorama*

Priscilla Carswell subsequently married James G. Lewis of Westport CT. In an 800-word 1953 advertisement for the house entitled "Newark's Farthest West View," James Lewis emphasized one of its prime attractions, expressing virtues in line with the *Collier's* article about the oneness of house and garden:

*Look to the western ridge and beyond, to the Maryland line, 2½ miles away. Revel in those gorgeous, unobstructed sunsets. Soak up the fresh, clean air that moves in from the lovely, open country...Better than ¾ acre. More ground can be had in the rear. Property can be increased to three acres total, if desired.*<sup>36</sup>

The 1953 price was \$65,000,<sup>37</sup> a value represented as being "based on actual costs...not just an 'asking' price."

The population of the state of Delaware grew by more than 40% during the 1950s, a rate greater than that of any other state east of the Mississippi except Florida. Much of this growth was in-migration from other states. The city of Newark experienced both economic and population growth during this period. The housing market in Newark during the early postwar years was extremely tight, with little construction until development of Chrysler's parts distribution center and assembly plant on the city's south side in the late 1940s and early 1950s. This complex, which employed more than 5000 workers at its peak, prompted the initial phase of Newark's suburban expansion, a development of hundreds of Levittown-like Cape Cod houses in the vicinity of the Chrysler plant. The State of Delaware granted Newark a new charter in 1951, doubling its geographic area and moving its western border to the Christina

February 2011).

<sup>34</sup> The Carswells held an open house in their new home on Sunday, December 12, 1948. The event was noted on page two of *The Newark Post* for December 16, 1948.

<sup>35</sup> *Wilmington Morning News*, Monday, January 10, 1949, pages 1 and 4, and Tuesday, January 11, 1949, page 4. Also see *Newark Post* for January 13, 1949, pages 1-2. New Castle County Probate Records indicate that at the time of Carswell's death the property (with house) was valued at \$12,800, its fair market value was \$40,000, and the mortgage held against it was \$35,000. Carswell's estate paid half of the mortgage.

<sup>36</sup> *The Newark Post*, November 5, 1953, p. 2.

<sup>37</sup> A sum equivalent to \$540,000 in 2011 dollars. A brief description of the property was given in a sign erected in the front yard (Figure 12).



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Carswell House

Name of Property

New Castle, Delaware

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number   8   Page   10  

River, approximately 3000 feet west of the Carswell property.<sup>38</sup>

The need for new housing in the 1950s was not restricted to industrial workers. Enrollment at the University of Delaware had grown from fewer than 1000 students in 1939 to more than 2200 a decade later. Student numbers held steady at this level until the 1957-58 academic year, when they began to climb steeply, reaching 3600 in 1961-62 and 6500 in 1967-68.<sup>39</sup>

Commensurate growth in the numbers of University of Delaware faculty and staff contributed to the development of a large area of tract housing known as "Nottingham Green," immediately west of the Carswell house and within walking distance of the University of Delaware campus. That the development was intended, at least in part, for university-affiliated people is obvious from its street names, which include Amherst, Baylor, Colgate, Harvard, Radcliffe, Tufts, and Vassar. Faculty and other professionals employed by the University of Delaware continue to have a strong presence in the neighborhood.

The 1953 ad's emphasis on open country and unobstructed views<sup>40</sup> is ironic in light of results from a series of ping-pong-like land deals involving Mr. and Mrs. Lewis and several Delaware corporations, in which the property changed hands repeatedly for sums of \$10 to \$100 "and other valuable considerations."<sup>41</sup> Emerging from these dealings was the northeasternmost group of houses in Nottingham Green and a three-foot-wide utility corridor, dedicated in perpetuity to a developer and his heirs. This strip today abuts the rear (western) property line of the Carswell house. The houses of Nottingham Green immediately behind the Carswell property, completed in 1957, were the spearhead of this large suburban residential development and served very effectively to eradicate the views touted so eloquently in the advertisement composed by Mr. Lewis.<sup>42</sup>

James and Priscilla Lewis ended their association with the Carswell house in April 1956 through sale to Edward and Anna Paret Ashcraft. Subsequent owners were Edward and Kay Sobolewski (February 1967 to October 1969), Lewis and Georgette Shupe (October 1969 to December 1982), John and

<sup>38</sup> See 1953 USGS map (Figure 3). Also see the City of Newark's "History of Newark" web page <<http://www.cityofnewarkde.us/index.aspx?nid=56>>. Accessed February 2011.

<sup>39</sup> Munroe (1986), Chapters 10 and 11.

<sup>40</sup> See section of 1953 Newark West quadrangle (Figure 3) and the 1954 aerial photograph (Figure 13) for impressions of the open character of the land between the Carswell House and the Maryland border at that time.

<sup>41</sup> Deed P57-469, New Castle County Recorder of Deeds.

<sup>42</sup> Vertical air photographs taken in 1954 and 1961 (Figures 13 and 14) provide vivid illustration of the degree to which landscapes west of the Carswell House were affected by Newark's construction boom in the late 1950s. The close proximity of these tract houses to the Carswell house can be seen in Photographs 3 and 25. Most of the "three acres" mentioned as available in the 1953 newspaper ad became part of the Nottingham Green development. These are represented as tax parcels 1801200246 through 1801200251 in Figure 15. The small lot north of the Carswell House (tax parcel 1801200253) was acquired by Lewis and Georgette Shupe in 1970 and reintegrated with the lot (tax parcel 1801200252) on which the Carswell house stands.

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

Carswell House
Name of Property
New Castle, Delaware
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   11  

Kennie Bollmeier (December 1982 to January 1999), and Frederick Nelson and Margaret Wilder (January 1999 to present).

When purchased by the present owners in 1999 the house had deteriorated, largely through lack of maintenance, water leaks, and damage inflicted by domestic animals. A large number of cosmetic changes by former owners had resulted in a substantial departure from the aesthetic ideals of the International Style. These included grey exterior walls, introduction of large wall mirrors, track lighting and other contemporary lighting fixtures, pile carpeting throughout the house, and interior color schemes dominated by vivid pinks and purples. Wall partitions, a bathroom, and a series of closets had been added to the basement bar room to form a rental apartment. Fortunately, none of these modifications involved structural modifications, allowing the current owners to undertake a program of restoration between 1999 and 2011 that returned the house to near-original condition.<sup>43</sup>

**Synthesis: Significance and Integrity**

The architectural and historic significance of the Stuart R. and Priscilla K. Carswell House lies in six general areas: (1) adherence to the aesthetics and design principles of the International Style; (2) association with Edward Durell Stone, an architect of iconic status; (3) the fact that the *Collier's* house, on which its design is based, was used to create a middle-class market for Modern architecture in the United States; (4) rarity of International Style residential architecture in the state of Delaware and elsewhere in the United States; (5) retention and preservation of the original design, structural features, details, and workmanship; and (6) association with and communication of the once-idyllic landscapes of Newark's west side.

(1) *Adherence to International Style*: The Carswell house adheres closely to the International Style's three primary design principles: *architecture as volume*; *asymmetric regularity*; and *absence of ornamentation*. The house employs the structural, material, and design elements apparent in most International Style buildings: rectilinear and cubic volumes, ribbons of windows that wrap around building corners, white-painted stucco draped over masonry walls, structural steel skeleton; multiple flat rooflines, large open rooms, and an isolated rounded component (the semi-octagonal dining room). These design elements have all been retained in unmodified form.

(2) *Association with Edward Durell Stone*: The design of the Carswell house originated with one of the earliest American practitioners of Modern residential architecture, Edward Durell Stone. Correspondence between Stone and Carswell demonstrate that the plans for Stone's 1936 *Collier's* house were used to construct the Carswell house, 12 years after publication of the design. Stone is regarded as one of the twentieth-century's greatest American Modern architects. The inability to ascertain the identity of the local architect Carswell employed to modify the plans is of little consequence because the modifications involved only elimination of a sun porch, replacement of a ground-level porch with a library room, addition of the conservatory, and a modification to the shape of the dining room. The interior of the Carswell house is nearly identical to the published plans for *Collier's* house,<sup>44</sup> and may well be more in keeping with the published version than any of the other houses built

<sup>43</sup> Elements of the Nelson-Wilder restoration are detailed in the Narrative Description section.

<sup>44</sup> Comparison of the *Collier's* plans for the first and second floors with the schematic representation of

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

Carswell House
Name of Property
New Castle, Delaware
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 12

from the plans.<sup>45</sup>

(3) *Middle-class housing market*: A major point of significance in the Carswell house is that its prototype played an important role in legitimizing Modern architecture with the American middle-class, and in penetrating that housing market. The exposure afforded by a high-circulation magazine, the large number of *Collier's* house plans sold, its *House Beautiful* award, and its appearance in major architectural publications and exhibitions demonstrates acceptance by middle-class consumers, who came from a broad spectrum of American belief and lifestyle systems. The Carswells' use of the *Collier's* design also testifies to its broad and sustained appeal—that a late-middle-aged career soldier with historical interests would find the plan attractive demonstrates that Modern architecture had made significant inroads into the housing market.

(4) *Rarity in Delaware*: The International Style, rare elsewhere in the United States, is virtually absent in Delaware. The best-known example, the Henry B. Robertson House in Centerville, was demolished many years ago. The vast majority of Delaware residential buildings on the National Register date from the very early 20<sup>th</sup> century or earlier.<sup>46</sup> A survey of pre-1960 Modern architecture in the state found that residential examples are particularly rare, and that most remaining examples have been modified in ways that degrade their architectural integrity.<sup>47</sup>

(5) *Originality*: The Carswell house is notable for the degree to which it has retained its original aesthetics and components. Its current appearance, both exterior and interior, is virtually identical to that of 1948. The house is located on its original site, which is large enough to afford views of the building, from any direction, that are essentially identical to those available at the time of construction, despite the infill buildings now surrounding it.<sup>48</sup> Most of the original windows, doors, lighting, plumbing fixtures, and hardware in the house are in place and in good working order.

(6) *Representation of Newark's past*: The Carswell house is one of the few surviving visual clues to the appearance of the area's landscapes prior to erection of tract housing in the late 1950s. Because of its perceived radical nature, Modern architecture was frequently constructed in rural or semi-rural locations, to minimize conflict rooted in disagreements over aesthetic qualities. The location of the Carswell house immediately outside the 1948 limit of the Town of Newark in a pastoral setting reflects the feeling of harmony with nature expressed in James Lewis' 1953 advertisement for the house, but may also represent a desire to avoid conflicting aesthetic sensibilities.<sup>49</sup> The strong implied association

the corresponding spaces in the Carswell House (see Figures 16 and 17) shows how closely Carswell followed the published plan.

<sup>45</sup> Hunting (2007, p. 87) noted that all of the *Collier's* houses she examined "were modified to meet individual tastes and needs," and cited examples of interior rearrangements.

<sup>46</sup> Madeline Dunn, personal communication, October, 2010.

<sup>47</sup> See discussion in Dooley (1999).

<sup>48</sup> Comparison of a view from the late 1940s or early 1950s (Figure 1) with contemporary views (Photographs 2 and 3) shows how little the exterior of the house has changed in 60 years.

<sup>49</sup> The owner of another unusual, mid-century modern house on Briar Lane told the author that the lot across the street from his house had remained vacant for nearly 50 years after construction "because nobody wanted to live across from such an ugly house."



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

Carswell House
Name of Property
New Castle, Delaware
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 13

between International Style houses and scenic rural landscapes,<sup>50</sup> and the grouping of windows, conservatory, patio, and landscaped yard provide evocative visual cues about west-side Newark's past. The Carswell property stands as a singular reminder of idyllic landscapes long since transformed by suburban development.

**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

**Comprehensive Planning**

Zone: Piedmont  
Period: 1880-1940+/-: Urbanization and Early Suburbanization  
Theme: Architecture, Engineering and Decorative Arts  
Property Type: Early 20th Century International Style

<sup>50</sup> See, for example, photographs in Ford and Ford (1940).

Carswell House  
Name of Property

New Castle, Delaware  
County and State

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

(see continuation sheet)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N06669

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.7

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>433998.0566</u>	<u>4393158.2930</u>	3	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	4	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Tax parcels 1801200252 and 1801200253.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These parcel numbers represent the entire property currently associated with the house. Their combined boundary coincides with the original 1948 property boundary everywhere except at the extreme north of the property (the addition of tax parcel 1801200254 would duplicate the original boundary exactly). The area enclosed by the nominated boundaries lies entirely within the boundary of the Carswell property at the time of construction. The current boundaries permit unobstructed views of the house from any location on the property.

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

Carswell House
Name of Property
New Castle, Delaware
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   9   Page       1      

Anonymous (1935a). House of Richard H. Mandel, Mt. Kisco, New York. *Architectural Forum*, 63(2): 78-88.

Anonymous (1935b). The house that works, I. *Fortune*, 12 (October): 59-65.

Anonymous (1938a). Co-operative exhibitions attract prospective clients. *Architectural Record* (June): 83-85.

Anonymous (1938b). House for Henry B. Robertston, Centerville, Del. Victorine and Samuel Homsey, Architects. *Architectural Forum*, 68: 125-132.

Burton, Will (1940). Design Decade: 1930-1940. *Architectural Forum* 73(4): 217-320.

Carson, Ruth (1936). What's a garden for? *Collier's Magazine*, (April 11): 20-21, 76, 78.

Chapman, Christine (2007). *Archetype, Hybrid, and Prototype: Modernism in House Beautiful's Small House Competition, 1928-1942*. M.S. thesis, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 131 pp.

Carswell, Stuart R. (1937). Twenty to one. *Cavalry Journal*, 46 (January-February): 9-55.

Creel, G. (1936). Money to build your home. *Collier's Magazine*, May 2, 11, 36.

Dooley, David (1999). *The Geographic Diffusion of Art Deco Architecture in Delaware*. M.A. thesis, University of Delaware, 166 pp.

Flynn, John T. (1936). A good place to live. *Collier's Magazine*, March 28, 10-11, 52, 54-56.

Ford, James, and Ford, Katherine Morrow (1940). *The Modern House in America*. New York: Architectural Book Publishing Co., Inc., 134 pp.

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell Jr., and Johnson, Philip, (1932). *The International Style: Architecture Since 1922*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 240 pp.

Hunting, Mary Ann (2007). *Edward Durell Stone: Perception and Criticism*. Ph.D. dissertation, City University of New York.

Jordy, William H. (1965). The International Style in the 1930s. *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 24: 10-14.

McAlester, Virginia, and McAlester, A. Lee (1984). *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 525 pp.

Munroe, John A. (1986). *The University of Delaware: A History*. Newark, DE: University of Delaware Press, 516 pp.



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Carswell House

Name of Property

New Castle, Delaware

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number   9   Page       2      

---

Myrdal, Gunnar, Steiner, Richard, and Rose, Arnold. (1944). *An American Dilemma: The Negro Problem and Modern Democracy*. New York: Harper and Brothers.

Ray, Marie Beynon (1936). Night life at home. *Collier's Magazine*, April 25, 18-19, 63-64.

Ricciotti, Dominic (1988). Edward Durell Stone and the International Style in America: Houses of the 1930s. *American Art Journal*, 20(3): 48-73.

Stern, Robert A. M. (1975). *George Howe: Toward a Modern American Architecture*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 273 pp.

Stone, Edward Durell (1962). *The Evolution of an Architect*. New York: Horizon Press, 288 pp.

Stuart, Betty Thornley (1936). The cook gets the last word. *Collier's Magazine*, May 30, 34-35, 54.

Taeuber, Karl E. and Taeuber, Alma F. (1965). *Negroes in Cities: Residential Segregation and Neighborhood Change*. Aldine Publishing Company.

Thompson, H. G. (1936). Home is like this. *Collier's Magazine*, May 16, 20-21, 46.

Wilson, Richard Guy (1982). The International Style: The MoMa Exhibition. *Progressive Architecture*, 63(2): 92-104.

Carswell House  
Name of Property

New Castle, Delaware  
County and State

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Frederick E. Nelson	date	March 15, 2011
organization		telephone	302-369-4156
street & number	102 Briar Lane	state	DE
city or town	Newark	zip code	19711
e-mail			

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

### Index of Figures

Figure 1 of 17. Watercolor picture of the Carswell House from the late 1940s or early 1950s. Picture is autographed "Eleanor Lambert." View is from east-southeast. Pink color is almost certainly the product of artistic license—a 1953 advertisement for the house states clearly that the exterior of the house was painted white.

Figure 2 of 17. City of Newark and its constituent subdivisions. Location of Carswell house in Nottingham Manor is depicted with filled black square.

Figure 3 of 17. Section of 1953 USGS 7.5' Newark West quadrangle, showing location of Carswell House across Briar Lane from Newark's built-up areas (shown in pink) and lack of development in lands west of the house. The 1951 City Charter expanded Newark's western limit to Christina Creek, annexing the Carswell property and setting the stage for suburban developments such as Nottingham Green later in the decade.

Figure 4 of 17. Land survey sketch map of the Carswell House property, made in 1999. Scale (distances measured in feet) can be inferred from measurements given at various locations.

Figure 5 of 17. Location of Carswell House in relation to surrounding suburban developments.

Figure 6 of 17. Schematic drawings of (a) upper and (b) lower levels of Carswell House interior.

Figure 7 of 17. Schematic drawing of Carswell House basement.

Figure 8 of 17. Locations at which photographs of the exterior of the Carswell House were made. Numbers correspond to those identifying the photographs. Numbered arrows indicate directions faced by camera. Base map is from a land survey of the Carswell House property in 1999. Scale (distances measured in feet) can be inferred from measurements given at various locations. Photograph locations continued on next figure.

Figure 9 of 17. Locations at which photographs of the interior of the Carswell House were made. Numbers correspond to those identifying the photographs. Numbered arrows indicate directions faced by camera. Photograph locations continued on next figure.

Figure 10 of 17. Locations at which photographs of Carswell House basement were made. Numbered arrows indicate direction faced by camera in Photographs 21-23.

Carswell House  
Name of Property

New Castle, Delaware  
County and State

Figure 11 of 17. One realization of the *Collier's* house kitchen presented in Stuart (1936, p. 35). Close similarity between kitchens in *Collier's* and Carswell houses is apparent through comparison with Photograph 13.

Figure 12 of 17. Metal sign from 1953, advertising the availability of the Carswell House. This sign corresponds with the newspaper advertisement discussed in the Narrative Statement of Significance. The \$65,000 figure is well over a half-million 2011 dollars. Sign measures approximately 4' x 5'.

Figure 13 of 17. Vertical air photograph, taken in 1954. Note lack of development to west. Subtle tonal variation immediately above arrow head reflects the contrast between the Carswell property's cultivated lawn and vegetation in the surrounding field.

Figure 14 of 17. Vertical air photograph, taken in 1961. Note intensive development (Nottingham Green) immediately west of Carswell house.

Figure 15 of 17. Tax parcel numbers for Carswell House (1801200252) and surrounding properties. Parcels ending in numbers 252, 253, and 254 delimit the original (1947) Carswell property. Parcels ending in numbers 246 through 255 constituted the three acres offered with the house by James and Priscilla Lewis in 1953. Parcel ending in number 253 was reintegrated with the Carswell House property (252) in 1970.

Figure 16 of 17. Comparison of first-level schematics for *Collier's* House (left) and Carswell House (right). Primary differences are (a) replacement of *Collier's* porch with library room, (b) addition of conservatory, and (c) repositioning of garage. Schematic for *Collier's* house from Flynn (1936).

Figure 17 of 17. Comparison of second-level schematics for *Collier's* House (left) and Carswell House (right). Elimination of sun deck results in larger bedrooms in Carswell House. Designs are otherwise nearly identical. Schematic for *Collier's* house from Flynn (1936).

---

### Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

---

### Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Carswell, Stuart Randall and Priscilla Kellogg, House  
City or Vicinity: Newark  
County: New Castle State: Delaware  
Photographer: Frederick E. Nelson and Eva van Kempen  
Date Photographed: Photographs 2 and 5: June 2003 (Eva van Kempen)  
Photograph 9: May 2000 (Frederick E. Nelson)  
All other photographs: February-March 2011 (Frederick E. Nelson)

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of \_25\_. Nottingham Manor houses from side porch of Carswell house. Camera is facing east-northeast.



Carswell House  
Name of Property

New Castle, Delaware  
County and State

2 of \_25\_. View of Carswell House from a perspective similar to that of the Lambert painting (Figure 1). Camera is facing north-northwest from center of Briar Lane. Photograph by Eva van Kempen, 2003.

3 of \_25\_. View of Carswell house from center of Briar Lane. Camera is facing west. Note proximity of Nottingham Green tract housing in extreme right of photo.

4 of \_25\_. View of Carswell house with garage in foreground. Large blank expanses of wall, such as that on north side of garage, are a typical International Style treatment of surface areas where interior functions do not require windows. Camera located on edge of Briar Lane, facing southwest.

5 of \_25\_. View of rear of Carswell House, showing conservatory (right) and outer wall of semi-octagonal dining room. Camera is facing east-northeast. Photograph by Eva van Kempen, 2003.

6 of \_25\_. Asymmetric elements extending from main rectangular body of Carswell House. Conservatory is on right. The outer wall of the dining room, an adaptation of Stone's signature semicircular dining rooms, projects from the main body of the house. Camera is facing northeast.

7 of \_25\_. Front entry porch of Carswell House, showing porch roof suspended by lally column. Flower window on left, first-floor bathroom window on right, hallway ribbon window on upper level. The relation of the garage (closed door shown in photo) and house entryways follows their arrangement in *Collier's* house, providing shelter from the elements and combating petroleum odors and fire hazard in the house (see Flynn, 1936, p. 54). Window size varies according to room function throughout the house, a common characteristic in International Style architecture. The recessed entryway is a typical feature of the International Style. Camera is facing northwest.

8 of \_25\_. Detail of steel double-hung ribbon windows at northeast corner of house (upper level). Attic vents are visible near the top of the walls. Camera is facing southwest.

9 of \_25\_. Interior wall of the Carswell House garage. Masonry incorporates a course of Flemish brick between every two courses of cement block. Camera is facing north, inside garage.

10 of \_25\_. Living room of Carswell House. Camera is facing north from the edge of dining room. Door at far end of room is open to the library room. Note the similarity of this room to the living room of the Robertson House (Anonymous, 1938b, p. 128), designed by Delaware architects Victorine and Samuel Homesy.

11 of \_25\_. Base of stairway leading from first to second levels, showing open room plans and unadorned archway between living room and front hall. Camera is facing east-southeast.

12 of \_25\_. Dining room, showing prismatic faces. Camera is facing west.

13 of \_25\_. Kitchen. Work areas are compact, promoting efficiency and allowing other parts of the large kitchen to be used for alternative functions. Camera is facing south. Compare with Figure 11, a sketch of a kitchen concept for *Collier's* house (Stuart 1936).

14 of \_25\_. Fixtures in first-floor bathroom. Sink, cabinet, and light fixtures are from the Crane Oxford series, and are original to the house. The cylindrical light columns are an example of how "local" solutions to lighting problems were employed in the house. Camera is facing east.

15 of \_25\_. Semi-circular oak staircase extending from second to first floors. Flower windows are visible just beyond the end of the railing. Compare this staircase with that in the Robertson House (Anonymous, 1938b, p. 131). Camera is facing north-northeast.

16 of \_25\_. Master bedroom in Carswell House. Ribbon of six windows extends around the southwest corner of the house. Camera is facing southwest.

Carswell House  
Name of Property

New Castle, Delaware  
County and State

17 of \_25\_. Guest bedroom in Carswell House, showing five-window ribbon in northwest corner. Camera is facing northwest.

18 of \_25\_. Streamlined bathtub, showing Speakman faucet and knobs, in bathroom of master bedroom suite. All plumbing fixtures are original parts of the house. Camera is facing north-northwest.

19 of \_25\_. Details of bathroom in master bedroom suite. Fixtures are from the Crane Drexel series, created by industrial designer Henry Dreyfuss. Note oversize sink. Floor is composed of 4" squares of linotile. Plumbing fixtures, flooring and ceramic tile are original. Camera is facing north-northeast.

20 of \_25\_. Crane Drexal series fixtures in guest bathroom. This sink features "Dial-Ese" knobs, designed by Henry Dreyfuss. Fixtures and ceramic tile are original. Camera is facing northwest.

21 of \_25\_. Looking up basement stairway, showing wall fixture providing "local" lighting solution. Camera is facing south.

22 of \_25\_. Bar room ("The Euphorium") in basement of Carswell House. Knotty pine bar structure, Formica surface, back-bar, and wainscotting are original to the house. Camera is facing south.

23 of \_25\_. Basement stairway, patterned tile, cabinetry, and ductwork. Camera is facing east.

---

**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Frederick E. Nelson and Margaret G. Wilder

street & number 102 Briar Lane

telephone 302-369-4156

city or town Newark

state Delaware zip code 19711

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.





**Carswell House**

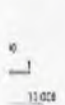
**Zone: 18**

**UTM X:**

**433998.0566**

**UTM Y:**

**4393158.2930**



1	2	3	1 Oxford
			2 West Grove
			3 Xanadu Square
4		5	4 Bay View
			5 Newark East
			6 North East
	7	8	7 Elkton
			8 St. Georges

1 22092

ADJOINING 7.5 QUADRANGLE NAMES

- ROAD CLASSIFICATION**
- Primary highway, hard surface
  - Secondary highway, hard surface
  - Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
  - Unimproved road
  - Interstate Route
  - U. S. Route
  - State Route

**NEWARK WEST, MD.-DEL.-PA.**  
 33075-4777-024  
**1992**  
 DMA 5863 III NE-SERIES V932





Figure 1 of 17

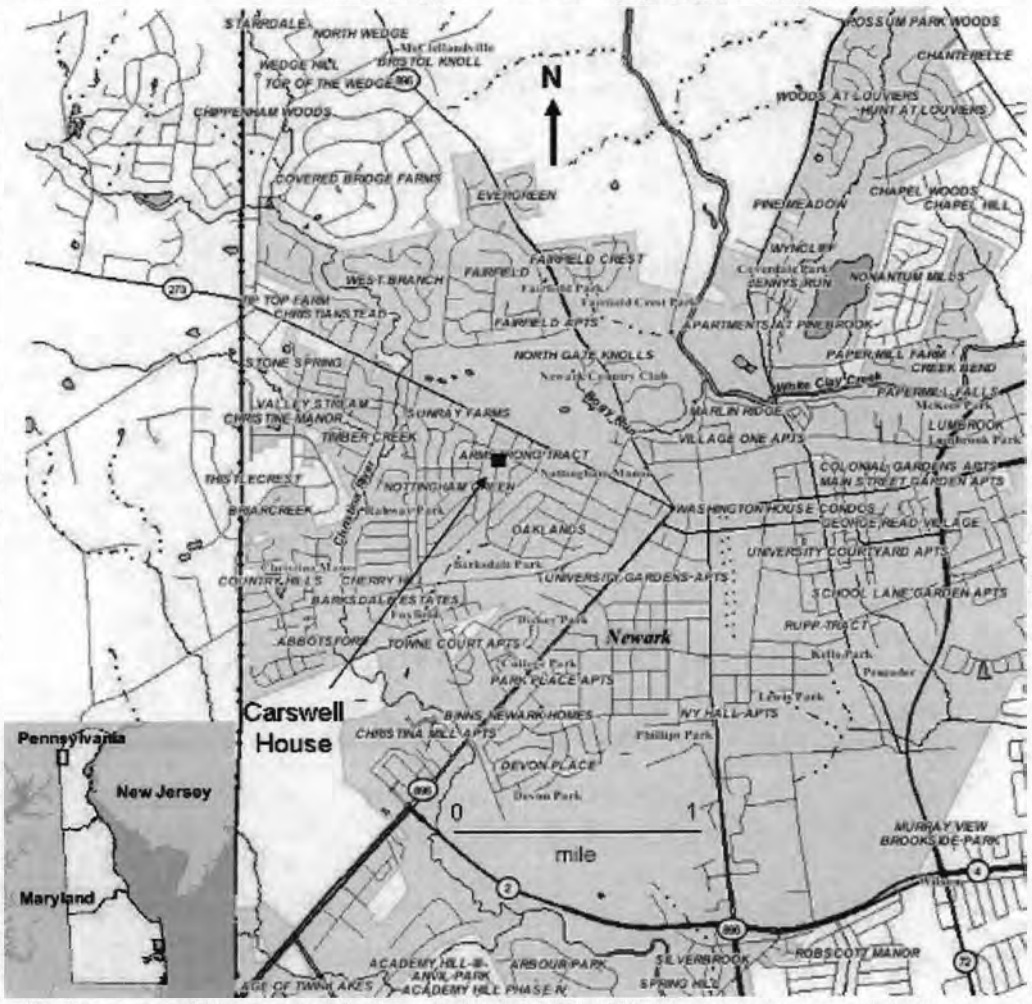


Figure 2 of 17

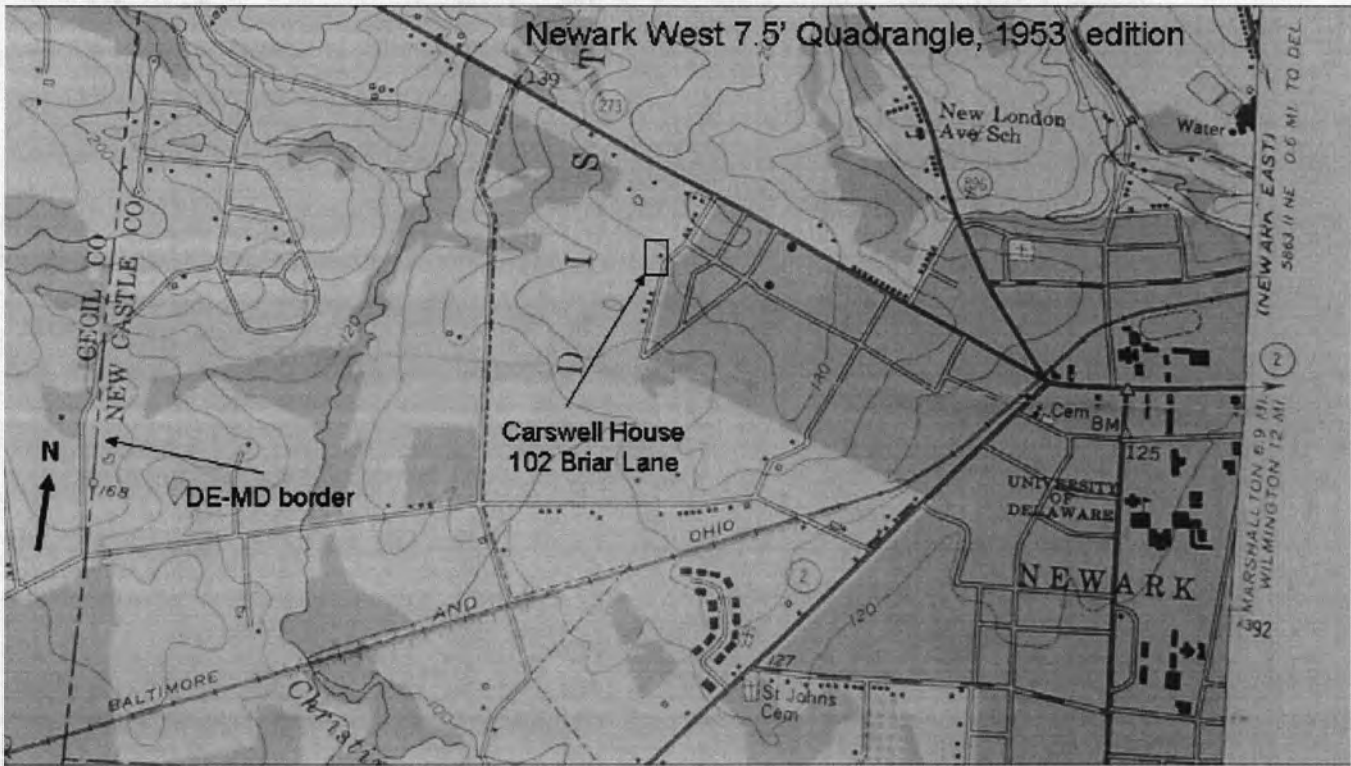


Figure 3 of 17





BOUNDARY AND IMPROVEMENT LOCATION SURVEY

Figure 4 of 17



Figure 5 of 17

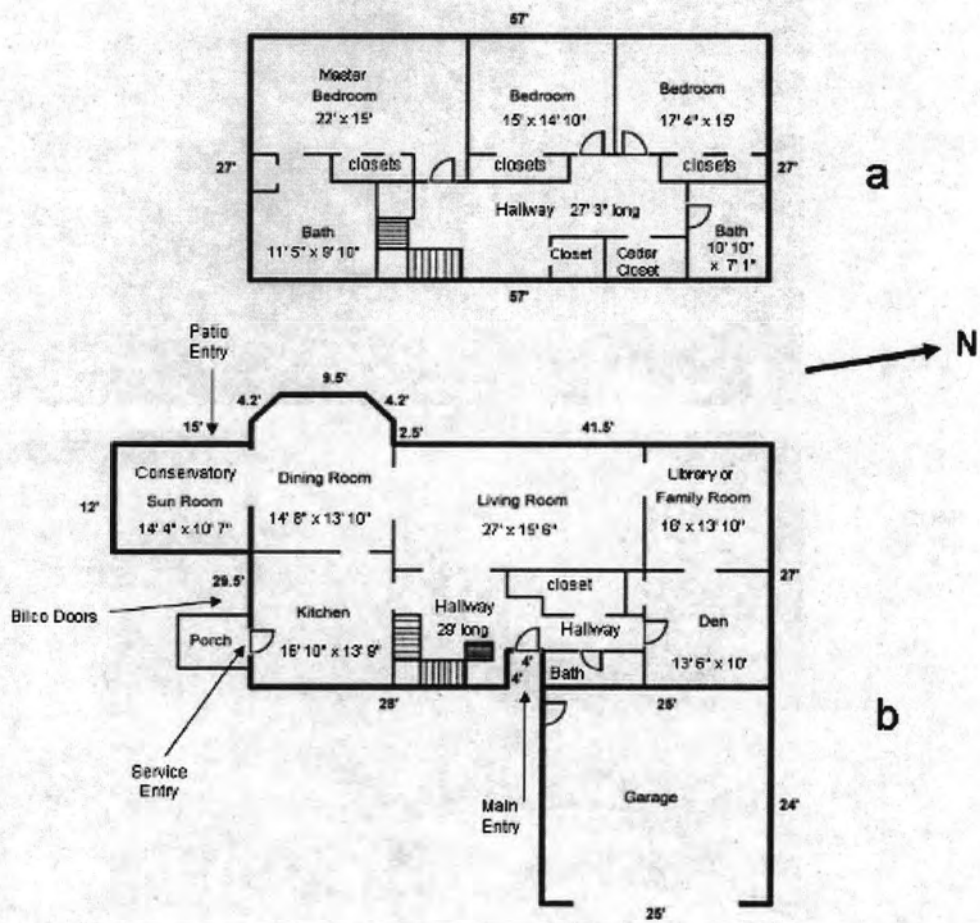


Figure 6 of 17



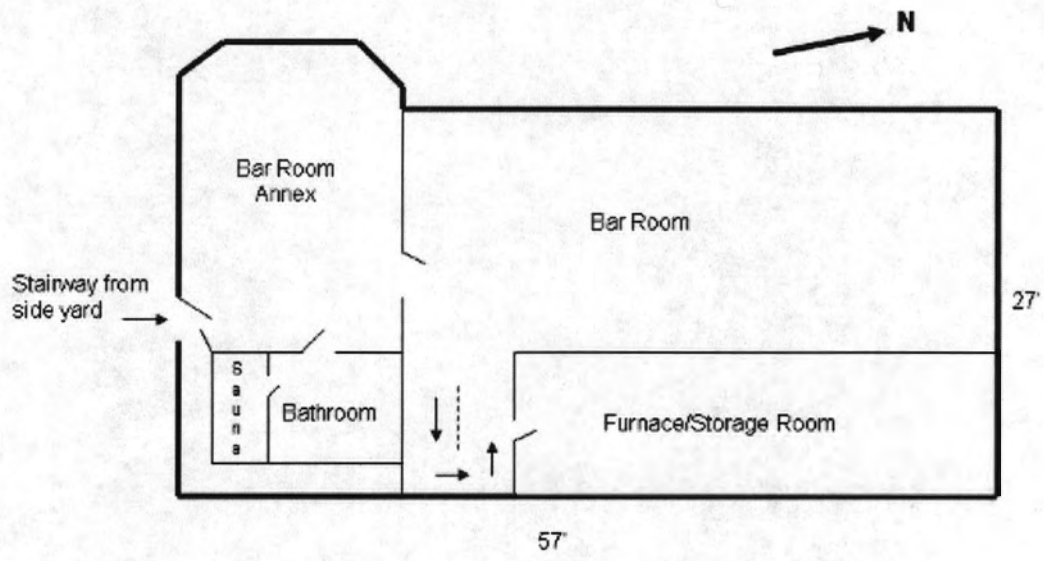


Figure 7 of 17



Figure 8 of 17

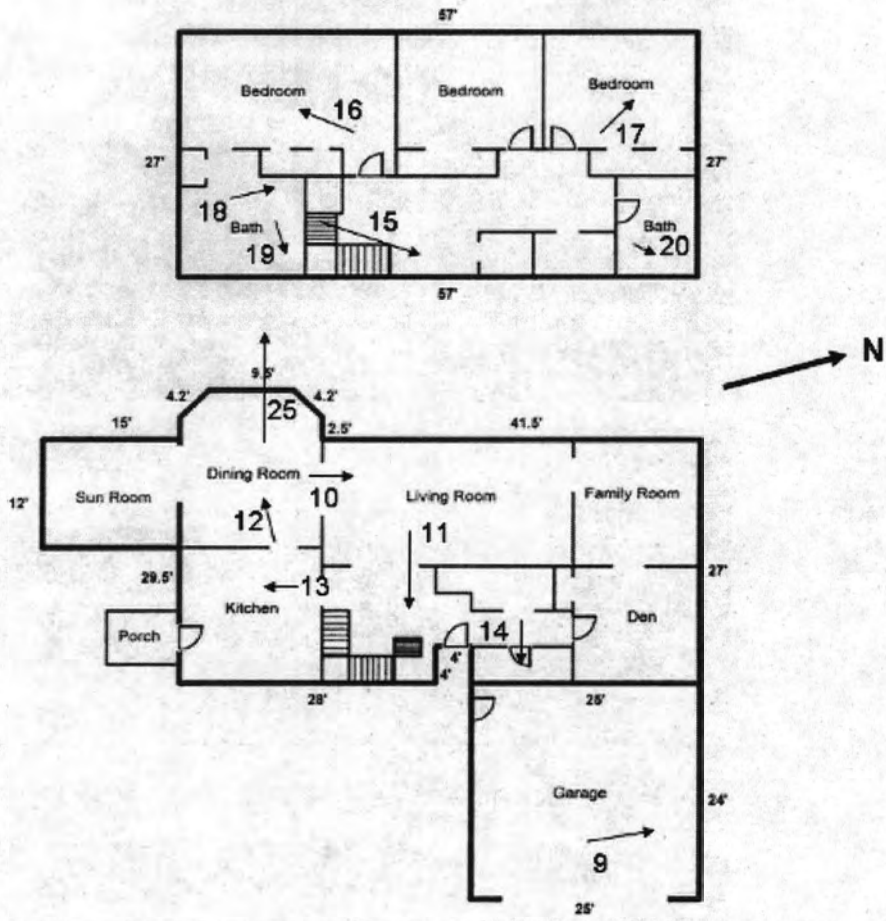


Figure 9 of 17



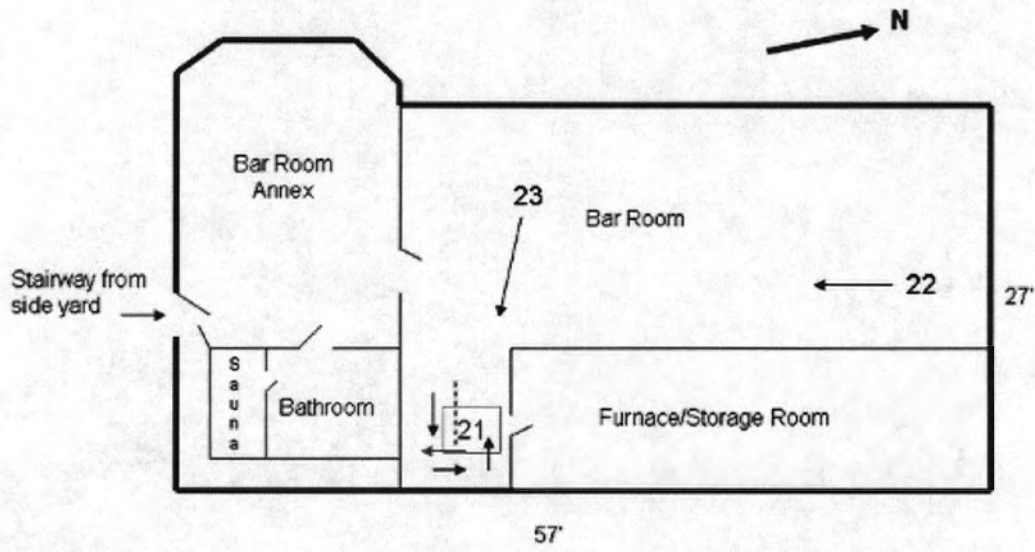


Figure 10 of 17

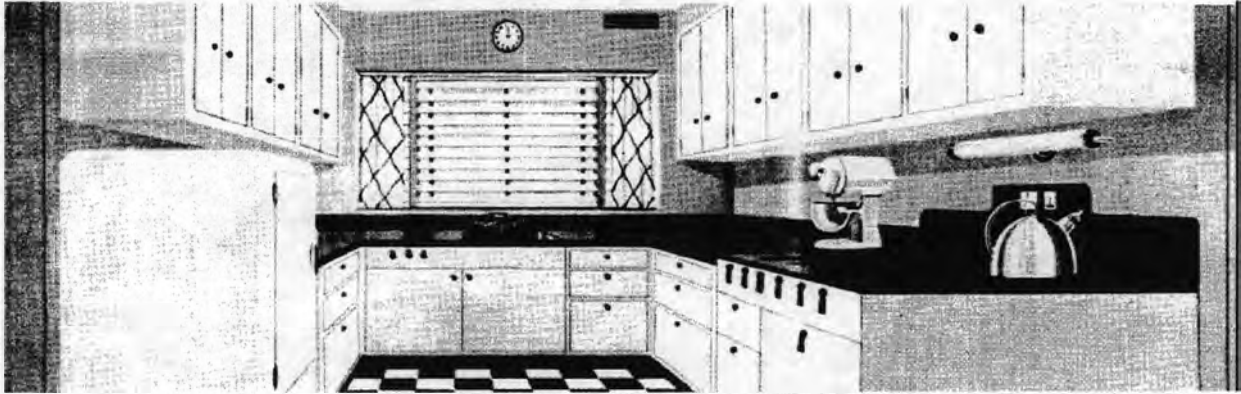


Figure 11 of 17

**SALE..\$65,000.**

- COMPLETELY AIR CONDITIONED
- METAL BEAMS AND FRAMES
- 4 BEDROOMS • 3½ BATHS • GAME (POOL) ROOM
- BOOK ROOM • CONSERVATORY PORCH • WORK ROOM

**← WITH ADJOINING LOT**

**218 FEET FRONTAGE • ¾ ACRE**

**BROKERS PROTECTED • Phone Newark 6469**

Figure 12 of 17



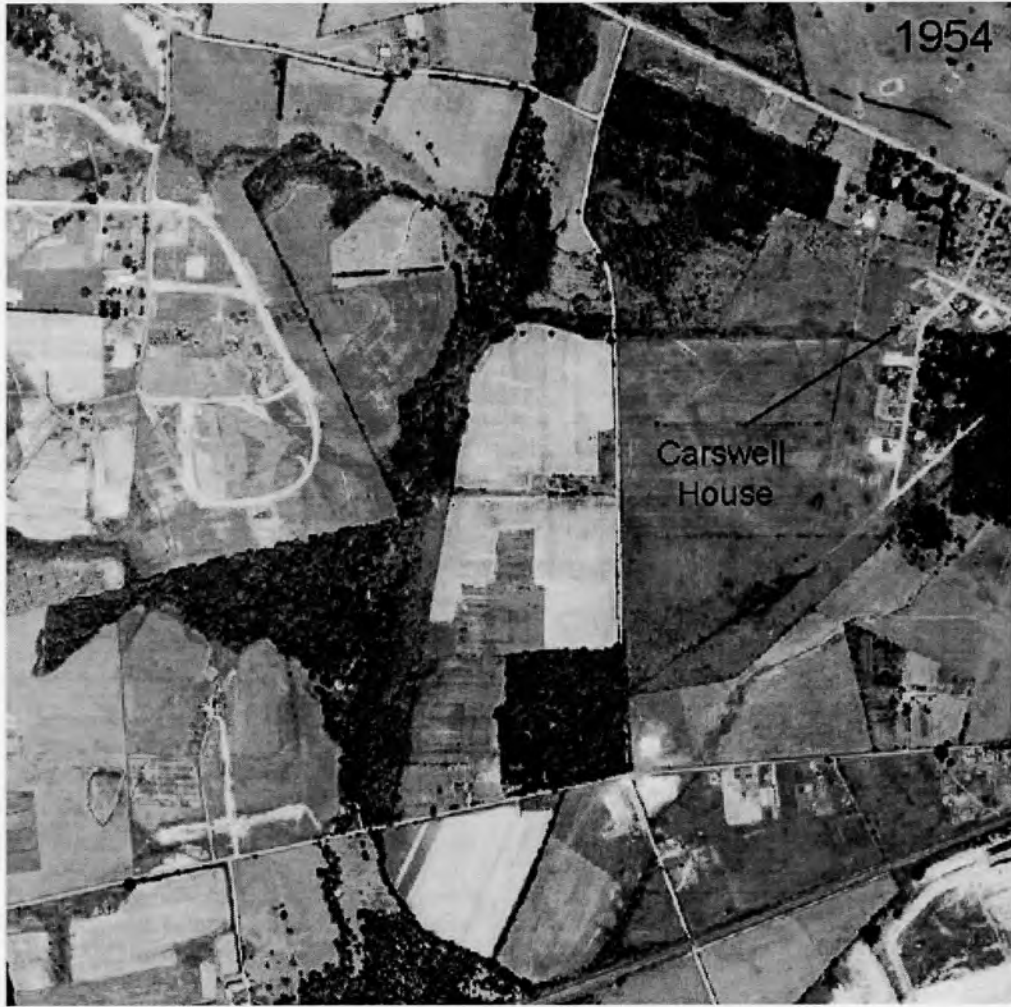


Figure 13 of 17



Figure 14 of 17



Figure 15 of 17



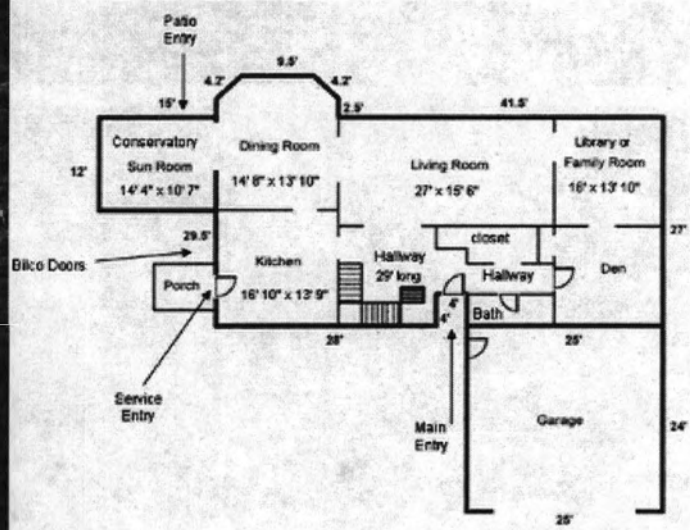
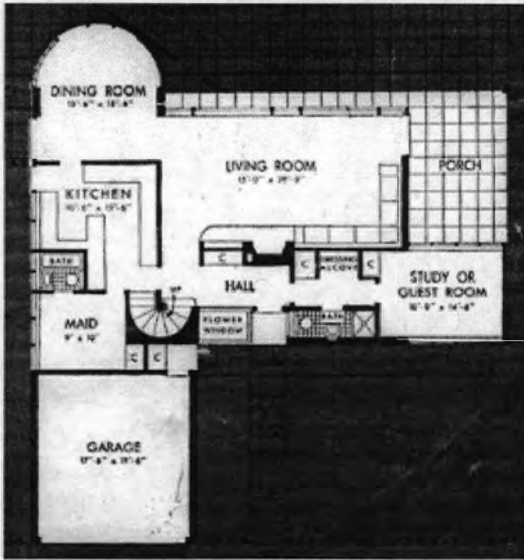


Figure 16 of 17

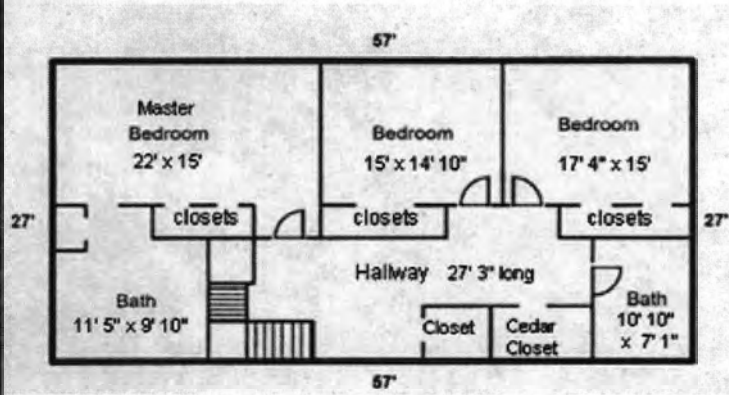
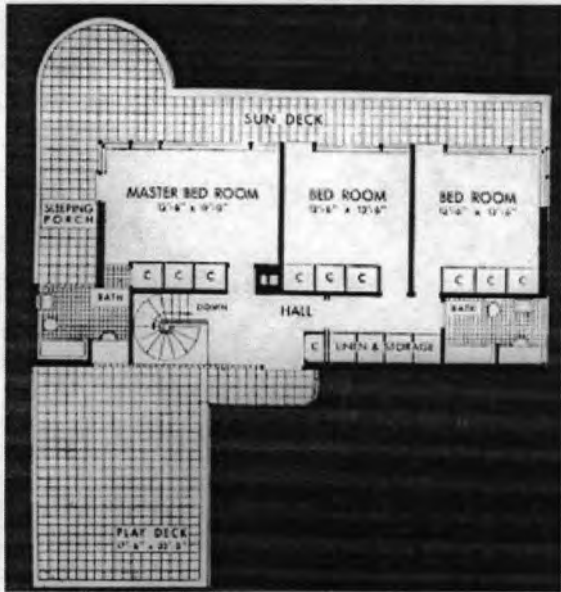


Figure 17 of 17

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Carswell, Stuart Randall & Pricilla Kellogg, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: DELAWARE, New Castle

DATE RECEIVED: 10/14/11      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/02/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/17/11      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/29/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000844

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    11.22.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.







Carswell House\_New Castle County\_DE  
facade view from Briar Lane



Carswell House\_ New Castle County\_DE  
view of house facing west





Carswell House\_New Castle County\_DE  
view of house with garage in foreground



Carswell House\_New Castle County\_DE  
rear facade



Carswell House, New Castle County, DE  
asymmetric elements









Carswell House, New Castle County, DE  
Interior garage wall





Carswell House, New Castle County, DE  
Living Room 10 of 25



Carswell House, New Castle County, DE  
Base of stairway leading from first to  
second floor







Carwell House, New Castle County, DE  
Dining Room 12 of 25



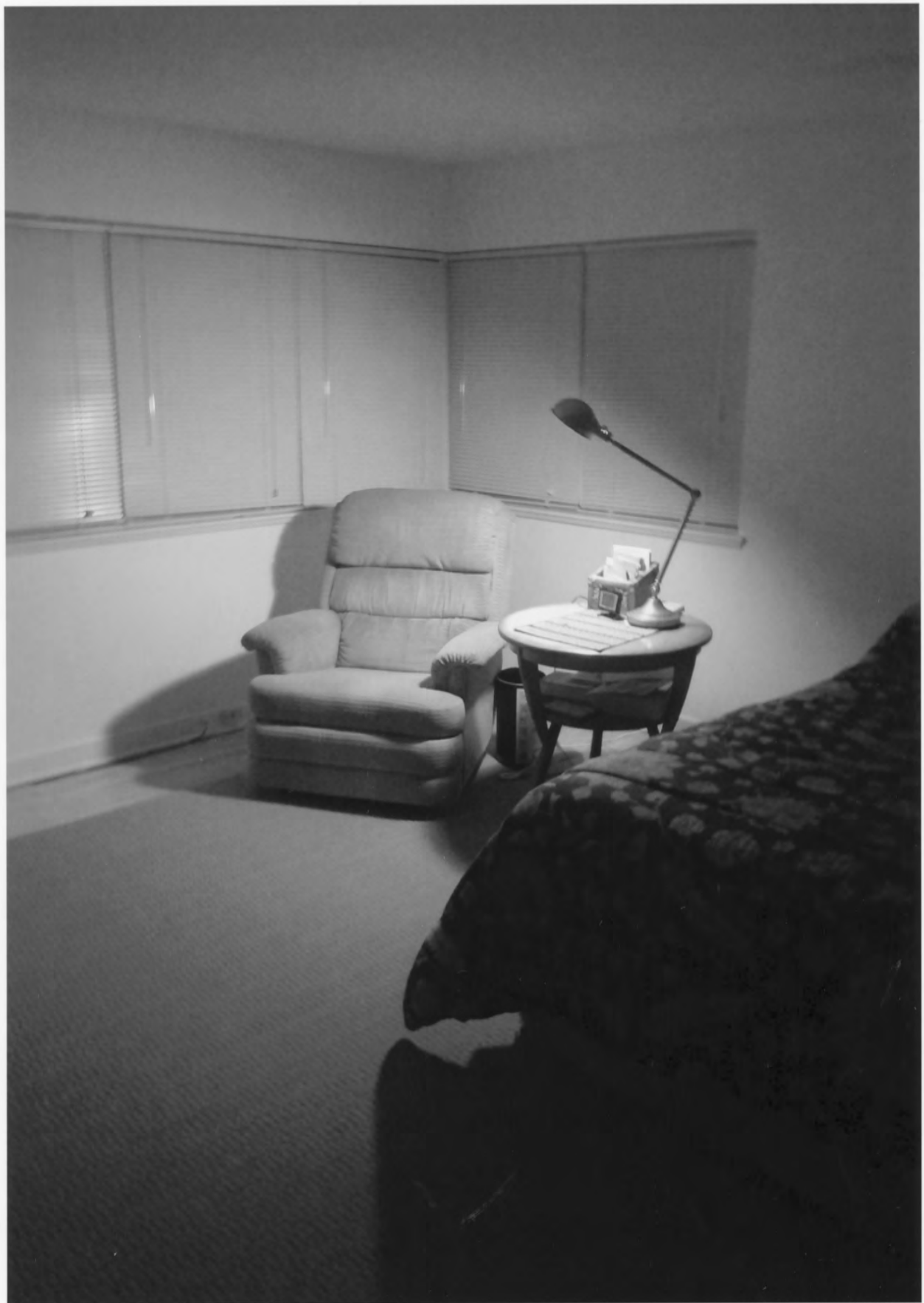


Carswell House, New Castle County, DE  
Semi-circular staircase second to first  
floors 15 of 25





Carswell House, New Castle County, DE  
Master Bedroom 16 of 25







Carswell House, New Castle County, DE  
Master bedroom - original ceramic tiles and  
plumbing fixtures - Crane Drexel series designed  
Henry Dreyfuss 18 of 25





Carswell House, New Castle County, DE  
Guest bedroom - original plumbing fixtures,  
ceramic tiles, "Dial-Ese" knobs designed by  
Henry Dreyfuss 20 of 25





Carswell House, New Castle County, DE  
Bar room ("The Euphrum") - basement







### Carswell House\_New Castle County\_DE

Industrial design elements: (a) exposed ductwork - basement, (b & c) circuit breaker panels, (d) Speakman valve -bathroom, (e) garage door opener, (f) brushed aluminum doorknobs, (g) Kirlin Lighting K-Lens recessed ceiling fixtures throughout the house



Carroll House, New Castle County, DE  
View of neighboring houses in Nottingham  
Green from diagram window

## Missing Core Documentation

<b>Property Name</b>	<b>County, State</b>	<b>Reference Number</b>
Carswell, Stuart Randall and Pricilla Kellogg, House	New Castle, DE	11000844

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

Photographs

USGS Map

State of Delaware  
Historical and Cultural Affairs

21 The Green  
Dover, DE 19901-3611

Phone: (302) 736.7400

Fax: (302) 739.5660



September 30, 2011

Carol Shull, Interim Keeper  
National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

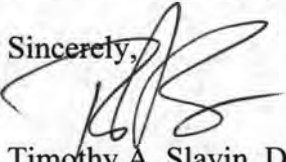
Carswell, Stuart Randall  
and Priscilla Kellogg, House

Newark, Delaware

New Castle County

If there are any questions regarding these documents, please contact Madeline Dunn, Curator of Education – Historian for the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office at (302) 736-7417.

Sincerely,



Timothy A. Slavin, Director  
Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
And State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

