

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 26 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 13 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC THE JUDGE'S (House and Law Office)

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
100 and 104 West Market Street

CITY, TOWN
Georgetown

STATE
Delaware

CODE
10

COUNTY
Sussex

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
One

CODE
003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Law Office

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mrs. Mary Houston Robinson, Robt. H. Robinson, Thomas Robinson, Mary Catherine Robinson

STREET & NUMBER
100 and 104 West Market Street

CITY, TOWN
Georgetown

STATE
Delaware

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Sussex County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
The Circle

CITY, TOWN
Georgetown

STATE
Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey (Del. 154 and Del. 155)
Delaware Cultural Resource Survey (S-103)

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN
Dover

STATE
Delaware

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Judge's house and law office occupy a block on the original town plot of Georgetown (drawn up in 1791) bounded by West Market Street on the southeast, North Alley (closed for more than a century) on the southwest, Laurel Street on the northwest, and North Front Street on the northeast. The section of Georgetown in which the property is located contains some of the earliest surviving structures in the town.

The original structure built by Justice Peter Robinson shortly after 1800 appears to have been a single-pile side hall plan, two-and-a-half story Federal style house with a single-pile, two-bay wing on the southwest end and a single-pile, one-story, three-bay wing running out from the rear of the main section of the house. The original siding, still visible on the outside of the kitchen wing and in a small portion of the first floor rear wall of the house, was wide, horizontal water millsawn beaded weather-board. Remnants of this same type of siding are also found in other structures of the same vintage and quality in Sussex County, Delaware.

By the time of Justice Robinson's death in the early 1830's, court records indicate that the one story wing on the southwest end of the house had been raised to a full two-and-a-half stories, in a five-bay, center hall style. While this main section of the house appears from the street to be a symmetrical late Federal house with some Greek Revival detailing, the rear of the house is not entirely symmetrical. It is possible from a close examination of the rear of the main section to detect where the original one story or one-and-a-half story wing was raised to a full two stories, probably during the 1820's.

The structure has undergone other alterations during its history. Most changes were made during the mid-19th century, though certain modern alterations have been made as well. In the early 1840's, Judge Edward Wooten, Justice Robinson's son-in-law and the second owner of the house, carried out an extensive remodelling of the interior in Greek Revival style. Hand-hewn cypress shingles, a characteristic siding material of 19th century lower Delaware architecture, were applied to the exterior of the main five-bay section of the house. The small law office on the property is also shingled in the same material. Judge Wooten also added one-story, one-bay Greek Revival flat-roofed porches to the house and the law office.

While the kitchen, located at the rear of the rear wing, underwent an unfortunate major alteration in the 1950's in which all the original paneling was removed, the dining room, situated between the kitchen and the main section, is largely original. It possesses many original details including wide pine floorboards, chair-rail mouldings, four-paneled doors, and door and window trim. The dining room also retains its original arched corner cupboard. Two attic rooms over the kitchen and dining room were rendered inaccessible by the removal of an enclosed kitchen stairway in the 1950's, except through two small, four-pane gable end windows on the northwest gable end of the rear wing. The original kitchen fireplace, said to have been seven feet wide, was also closed in during the 1950's. The exterior end chimney is a rare (by lower Delaware standards) stuccoed brick chimney nine feet wide at the base with a water table and sloped weatherings. The chimney has an arched brick hood. The arched hoods are repeated in the two interior end chimneys in the main section of the house.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

Circa 1810

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Justice Peter Robinson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Judge's house and law office, on West Market Street, one block southwest of Georgetown's Public Square and Circle, are significant as the home and office of a long line of Delaware judges, government officials, and political leaders. The house is architecturally significant as one of the better preserved 19th century houses in Georgetown, the county seat of Sussex County, Delaware. The law office, though substantially altered, is significant as the last remaining 19th century law office in Georgetown. It is perhaps equally significant that the structure has been used as nothing but a law office since the date of its construction in about 1809 except for several years during the 1960's when it served as the county Red Cross headquarters.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Delaware - A Guide to the First State; Jeannette Eckman, Anthony Higgins, Wm. H. Conner, eds. New York: 1938, 1948; Hastings House Publishers.

16 Miles from Anywhere - A History of Georgetown, Del.; William J. Wade. Georgetown: 1976; published by Georgetown Bicentennial Committee.

Sussex County Courthouse public records. Interviews with Mrs. Mary Houston Robinson conducted in August and Sept., 1978, by Dick Carter.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(Note: Georgetown Quad map not equipped with U.T.M. ticks. See Continuation Sheet)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 39,060 square feet

UTM REFERENCES QUADRANGLE NAME Georgetown

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dick Carter, Sussex County Historical Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Sussex County Planning and Zoning Department

DATE

October 26, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

The Courthouse

TELEPHONE

302/856-7701

CITY OR TOWN

Georgetown

STATE

Delaware

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Handwritten Signature]

TITLE Chief, Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

DATE September 19, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Handwritten Signature]

DATE

11-13-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

[Handwritten Signature]

DATE

11-13-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Handwritten Signature]

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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The Judge's (House and Law Office)

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
DESCRIPTION (Continued)	7	1

The exterior of the rear wing is largely original with original siding, window trim, and heavy beaded plank outer doors bolted to inner paneled doors. An "L" shaped porch extends along the full length of the rear wing and across the central bay of the main house. The section of the porch at the rear of the main house displays mortise and tenon construction. That running along the side of the rear wing appears later and may have been reconstructed during the early 20th century. The porch in its present design appears in a photo of the house taken in 1900.

The roofs of both wings and the main section of the house are covered with modern asphalt shingles over earlier wooden shake shingles. Both front and rear slopes of the gable roof of the main section contain three symmetrically-placed federal style dormers with classical curved pedimented roofs and six-over-six sash windows. The gable ends contain small six-light casement windows at each side of the interior end chimneys. The windows are shuttered with board-and-batten shutters.

Perhaps the most visible of Judge Wooten's exterior renovations is a one-story gable-roofed addition extending out from the northeast gable end of the main section. This one-bay wing, which was apparently used as a study through much of the history of the house, contains Greek Revival window trim, and a fireplace surround in the same style. The fireplace ties into the chimney running up through the main section. Another fireplace in the parlor at the northeast end of the main section opens into the same chimney as does a third fireplace in the northeast end bedroom on the second floor which has been enclosed. Judge Wooten installed ornate Greek Revival mantelpieces of gray King-of-Prussia marble around the two first floor fireplaces in the main section of the house. Both have Ionic columns supporting the mantelpiece. The baseboards, symmetrical window trim, doorways, and other features of the main section date from Judge Wooten's renovation. The stairway rising from the central hallway to a landing and then to the second floor hallway is Greek Revival in design with simple turned balusters and a ramped railing where the rail meets the landing and second floor hallway posts.

The front doors of both the house and the law office are six-paneled. The doorway of the main house has sidelights and a four-light transom. An ornamental brass knocker on the door is engraved with the arms of the Lords Baltimore. The device was inherited from the ancestral home of General Jesse Green, a descendent of the Calvert family. The doorways leading onto the rear porch from the central hall of the main section are three-paneled on the interior and planked with beaded planks on the exterior. These double doors and the doors leading to the porch from the kitchen and dining room in the rear wing appear to be original.

The attic of the main section is partially finished with plaster walls and simple wood plank floors and baseboards. A crawl space above the attic gives access

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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
DESCRIPTION (Continued)	7	2

to the ridge of the roof, where it is possible to see the original morticed and tenoned beams on the northeast or older end.

Two second floor six-over-six double hung sash windows pierce the southwest gable end, which also contains two attic level six-light casements. Only one window appears in the northeast gable end, also at the second floor window level at the front corner of the house. The northeast end also contains the two attic level windows and a first floor window at the front corner. It is probable that both of these windows were cut into the wall during the 1840 renovation.

Among the more interesting features of the second floor of the house are a pair of wrought iron and brass carpenter's locks on doors of adjoining bedrooms on the second floor. Although the two rooms, at the southwest end, were originally a single larger bedchamber, a dividing wall was put in during Judge Wooten's renovation. An original single fireplace was converted into two smaller corner fireplaces. The lock on the rear bedroom door bears a brass seal emblazoned with the arms of Great Britain and the notation that the lock was manufactured during the reign of King William IV. The front bedroom door lock seal is emblazoned with an American eagle.

Neither the house nor the law office have basements and both sit on brick foundations. While the exterior of the small gable roofed law office is relatively unaltered, the building has had a modern one-story wing added to the rear. The interior of the original two-bay one-story office was extensively altered during the 1950's and now possesses virtually no original details.

The grounds also include a small gable-roofed cypress shingled milk house, and a small two-bay one room plan house with modern additions which might originally have served as a servant's quarters or summer kitchen. While it contains much original exterior trim on the front facing North Front Street, the structure has been extensively altered inside and out. Although included in the site being nominated, the structure is not considered important to the nomination because of the major alterations it has undergone within the past two decades.

Also located on the site is a fine old boxwood garden which appears to date from the mid-19th century.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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The Judge's (House and Law Office)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

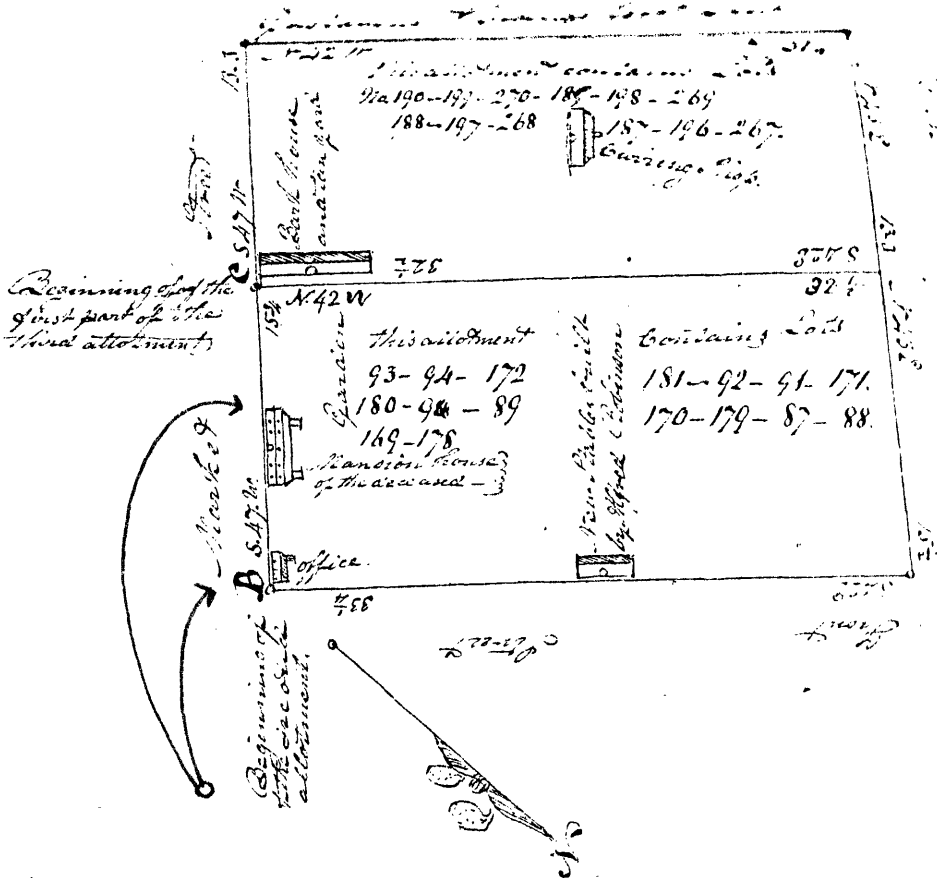
75 Degrees 23 Minutes 17 Seconds Longitude

38 Degrees 41 Minutes 21 Seconds Latitude

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundaries of the site being nominated begin at the western corner of West Market Street and North Front Street. The line runs with West Market Street in a southwesterly direction for 252 feet to South Lane and thence in a northwesterly direction with South Lane for a distance of 155 feet. The line turns northeast 90 degrees and runs northeast for a distance of 252 feet. At the intersection of the northeasterly line with North Front Street, the line turns 90 degrees southeast and runs in a southeasterly direction with North Front Street 155 feet to the point of beginning. The nominated area is a rectangle of 252 feet by 155 feet and contains 39,060 square feet.

[Faint, mostly illegible text at the top of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]



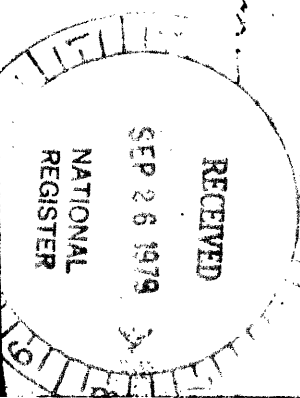
[Handwritten note:] This above is a Draught of the Road State of the Honourable Peter Robinson deceased late of Sussex County and Peter of Delaware Maryland and last daughter the youngest of was King a at [unclear] among the heirs of the said [unclear].

[Handwritten note:] Peter Robin's Personal Assignments

Photocopy of a page from 1840 Inventory of the property of Justice Peter Robinson, showing five-day house and law office (house lacking 1840's wing on northeast end.
 From Sussex County Orphan's Court Book " S ", Page 241.

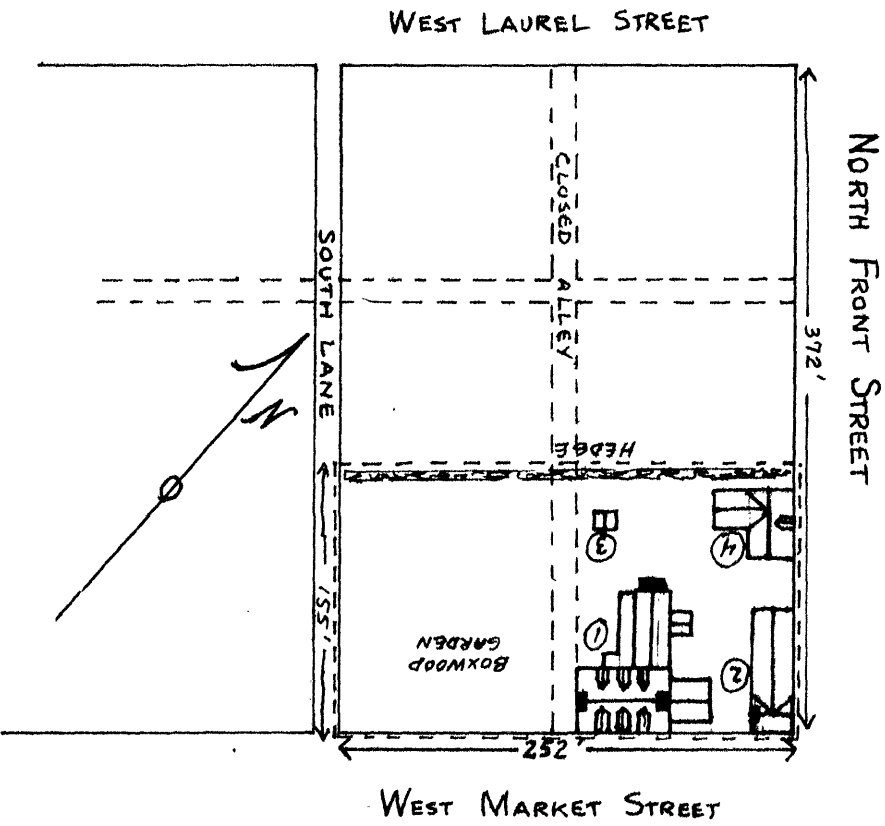
THE JUDGE'S

[Handwritten signature:] Beginning of the second part of the third allotment



SITE PLAN OF
 "THE JUDGE'S"
 HOUSE AND LAW OFFICE
 GEORGETOWN, DE

1. THE JUDGE'S HOUSE
 2. LAW OFFICE
 3. SMALL MILKHOUSE
 4. SMALL HOUSE - NOT INCLUDED IN NOMINATION
- (DOTTED LINE MARKS BOUNDARY OF NOMINATION)



DRAWN TO SCALE AFTER SUSSEX CO. TAX MAP BY R.B. CARTER

