

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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28. (N-5628):

A. Property Name: Green Mansion

B. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: The Green Mansion is located at 94/96 East Main Street on the north side of that street, between Center Street and North College Avenue. This nomination includes the building and the property on which it is situated. The lot has a frontage of 91.50 feet and a depth of 330 feet (Property Tax Map, City of Newark, No. 20, Lot No. 34). (.68 acre).

C. Owner: Thomas D. and Donna J. Cox, 96 East Main Street, Newark, Delaware 19711

D. Property Description:

The Green Mansion, constructed circa 1882, is an oblong, three-story, brick building with a flat roofline. Its primary decorative details are concentrated on its green serpentine facade, a feature which also gives the building its name.

The facade has a two-story bay window at each end, joined in the center by an ornate two-tiered porch featuring paneled columns, jigsaw railing and eaves trim, and a scroll-bracketed cornice that extends across the upper story of the porch as well as the two bay windows. Within the porch area of the first floor is a pair of doors with round-arched molded panels and two-light transoms. All of the facade windows are one-over-one sash framed by flat-arched lintels with alternating white and green voussoirs, and white stone sills. The first-floor windows are elongated floor-to-ceiling length, while those on the second and third floors are progressively shorter. A molded box cornice with scroll brackets outlines the roofline of the facade only. A one-story brick wing with serpentine facing extends from the east end of the facade. The serpentine used on this building is a finely-worked, random-sized ashlar with a pecked finish and chiseled margins.

The side elevations are laid in seven-course common bond. Both sides can be entered through a doorway with a two-light transom, and both have a two-story bay window located toward the rear of the wall. The bay window on the west wall is faced with serpentine. The windows on the side elevations are one-over-one sash topped by brick flat arches. They follow the same proportions as those on the facade. White stone sills ornament the first floor windows, while plain wood sills underline those on the second and third floors. The shutters on all three floors have been removed and new ones have been installed on the west elevation, ground floor only. The basement windows are protected by ornate iron grills.

A three-story brick addition obscures the rear elevation.

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E. Historical Background:

The Green Mansion was built circa 1882 for David Caskey (born 1828, died 1918). Caskey is also responsible for building the Newark Opera House across the street.

This building was used as a two-story dwelling until sometime shortly before 1915, when the eastern half was converted to a millinery shop. By 1922, it again housed two families. Today, the building is used for both office and apartment space.

F. Significance:

The Green Mansion is an excellent example of Italianate building style in Newark and is significant as being one in a group of buildings identifiable to this region, by their use of serpentine as a decorative building stone. As such, it is eligible under Criterion C for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Although the facade of the Green Mansion is more ornate than the surrounding Greek Revival buildings constructed previous to it, the basic form of the building is similar to several of these structures. These buildings have the same three-story, symmetrical, square proportioned facade. But what distinguishes the Green Mansion from three earlier buildings are the bay windows, ornate porches, and scroll bracket cornices that were built as original elements rather than as additions. The Green Mansion is a Victorian building that bears its transition from earlier styles. It retains a traditional form, yet also expresses current popular taste.

With a vein of serpentine running through the southeast corner of Pennsylvania, this region is distinctive for its array of green stone buildings. Chester County, Pennsylvania, which borders on northern Delaware, was the location of some of the most extensive serpentine quarries during the late-nineteenth century. Referred to in Newark as "The Green Mansion", the name points it out as being the only such building in town, relating to this regional group of buildings.

G. Bibliographical References:

Sanborn Insurance Surveys, (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Map Company), 1891, 1907, 1915, 1922, and 1929 Editions, for Newark, Delaware.

George P. Merrill, Stones for Buildings and Decoration, (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1891), p. 67.

28.45628

SKETCH MAP Scale 1"-100'

N-5628
Green Mansion

Property no. 28
Lot no. 34

