

PH0021784

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Sussex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER DEC 4 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fisher's Paradise

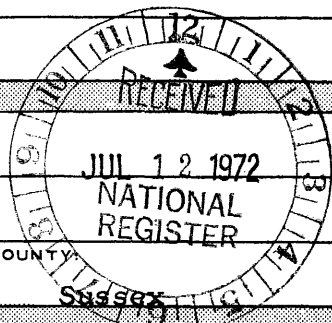
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Paradise Point

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
624 Pilottown Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Lewes

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: Sussex CODE: 005



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Robert Hunter Orr

STREET AND NUMBER:
624 Pilottown Road

CITY OR TOWN: Lewes STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Sussex County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
The Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: DEC 4 1972

DATE:

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This three-bay, two-story house with a dormered third floor is built of wood, sheathed in unpainted shingles, with painted trim.

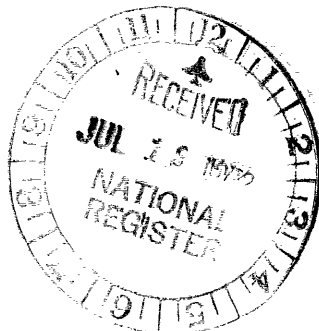
Around 1900 a Victorian porch and large-paned windows were added; some panelling was removed and chimney breasts were taken out.

The present owners have re-sheathed the house in hand-riven cedar shakes; the Victorian windows have been replaced with small-paned sash. The Victorian porch has been removed, and replaced with a stoop copied from a photograph of the original. Woodwork in the parlor, removed during the Victorian renovations, has been replaced with panelling from another Lewes house of the same period. Woodwork in the hallway has been repainted its original color. Original panelling remains in the second-floor rooms. The simpler third-floor rooms retain original chair rails.

The present kitchen is a wing added to the original small house that Dr. Fisher bought from Rebecca Fisher Cornwallis, his cousin. The present owners have tried to retain the early features of this wing, while adapting it for use with modern appliances. One interior wall has been left unplastered to exhibit the nogged timber construction. (See attached photograph.) The kitchen wing is the sole remaining portion of the original house that is incorporated in the present structure. The stone foundation of the main part of this earlier structure may still be seen, under the front portion of the present house.

The front portion, now the main house, was built shortly after the American Revolution by Major Fisher, who probably demolished the front section of the original house at the same time.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

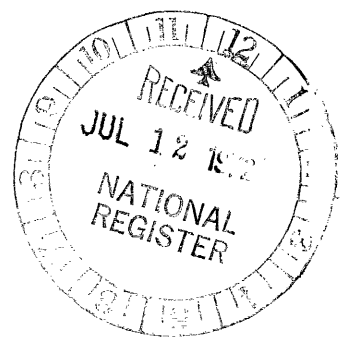
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

It is thought that Dr. Henry Fisher bought from Rebecca Fisher Cornwallis an early frame house with a stone foundation, and added the present kitchen wing. He left this house to his wife when he died in 1746. Dr. Fisher came to Lewes from Waterford, Ireland, and was the first physician of eminence in the Lower Counties.

Major Henry Fisher, the son of Dr. Fisher, wanted to go to sea, but his mother allowed him to go out with marine pilots. Upon the outbreak of the Revolution, there were many Tories in Lewes, and a military detachment was sent to keep the peace. After the troops departed, Henry Fisher raised a unit at his own expense. He was responsible for the defense of Cape Henlopen and the entrance to Delaware Bay, and for the care of prisoners. It was he who informed Congress that Lord Howe's fleet was headed for the Chesapeake. A story with no apparent basis in fact states that Caesar Rodney began his ride at Major Fisher's house. It is known, however, that Rodney visited Fisher on other occasions.

Major Henry Fisher's daughter sold the house to Colonel Samuel Boyer Davis, who defended Lewes and the entrance to Delaware Bay during the War of 1812. The British bombarded Lewes, but Colonel Davis by a clever ruse led Commodore Beresford to believe that the defending force was larger than it was; the British squadron withdrew without revictualling in the town. In 1817 Colonel Davis sold the house and a hundred acres to George Hickman.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Federal Writers Project, Delaware, A Guide to the First State.

Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Cortlandt vanDyke Hubbard, Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware, Dover, Public Archives Commission, 1963.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	38	47	01	75	09	57
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Robert Hunter Orr

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE June 8, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
624 Pilottown Road

CITY OR TOWN: Lewes STATE Delaware CODE 10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name E. Berkeley Tompkins
Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 8-30-72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

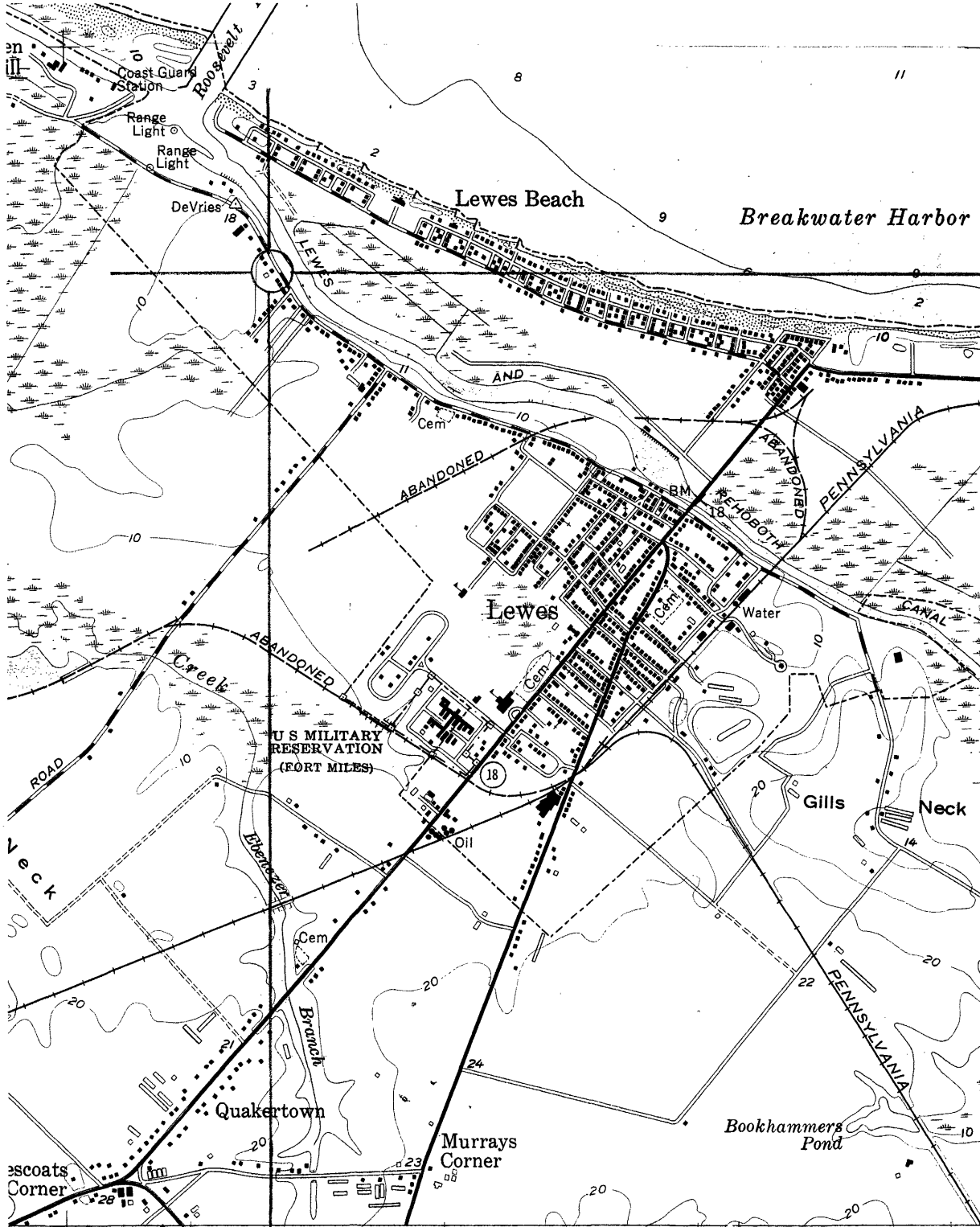
Robert Hunter Orr
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/4/72

ATTEST:
William K. ...
Keeper of The National Register

Date 11.30.72

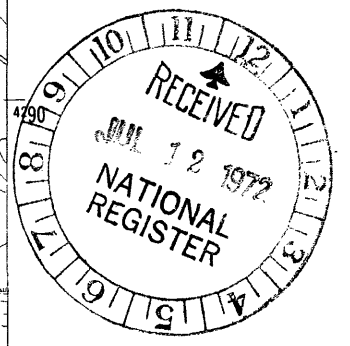
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



47'30"
4293
4292
4291
4290
4289000m.N.
38°45'

FORT MILES 1.7 MI.

38°47'01"
Fisher's Paradise



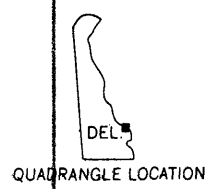
10' ... TOWN 0.6 MI. ... ORGETOWN 12 MI.
MIDWAY 2.3 MI. ... REHOBOTH BEACH 5.4 MI.

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1968
488000±.E.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————
- Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt =
- U. S. Route (shield symbol) State Route (circle symbol)

1 MILE



LEWES, DEL.

SW/4 CAPE HENLOPEN 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3845 — W 7507.5 / 7.5

1954

AMS 5961 SW—SERIES V832

REHOBOTH BEACH
5961 NE