

2/21/73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
DEC 5	1972

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Town Hall

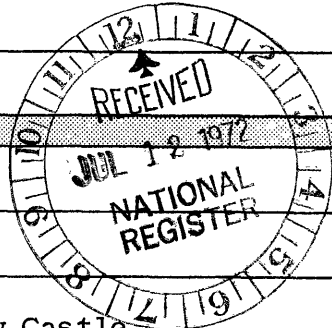
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Middletown Academy

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
218 North Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Middletown

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: New Castle CODE: 003



3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mayor and Council of Middletown

STREET AND NUMBER:  
218 North Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: Middletown STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Public Building

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Greater Wilmington Development Council List of Delaware Heritage Bldg

DATE OF SURVEY: 1963  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Greater Wilmington Development Council

STREET AND NUMBER:  
300 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1320

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

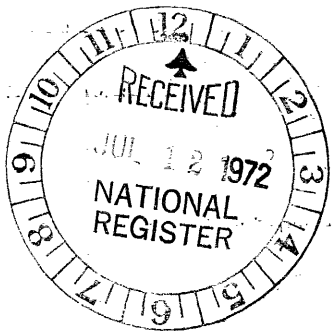
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original five-bay academy building was stuccoed brick, two stories, with an attic. About 1872, a three-bay brick wing was added, to form the present eight-bay structure. / The attic is lighted by four pair of round-headed dormers; a cupola (formerly a belfry) crowns the original portion. There was once a frame side entrance on the south end of the building, a later addition that has been removed. The interior of the main five-bay portion contains two rooms on each floor, a central hall, and a stairway. The addition contains one room on each floor and a small stairway. The brick of the original portion is stuccoed, so that its bond cannot now be determined; the addition is laid in common bond, painted to match the main structure.

/Interior plan is virtually unaltered, but the rooms have been considerably modernized to accommodate a town office, police station, library, and meeting hall. / A front porch, of restrained Victorian design, stands at the central entrance to the original section.

The original part of the building has always been stuccoed; one of the trustees went to Philadelphia in 1827, for the specific purpose of investigating the latest methods of finishing masonry.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1826-1827

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1824, 16 farmers and merchants from Middletown area petitioned the General Assembly for permission to raise \$6,000 by lottery for the purpose of "facilitating the means of education and morality by the erection of a building in said village or in its vicinity sufficiently large to contain rooms for an academy(sic) and elementary schools and for public worship &c." The petition was granted, and in 1825 the General Assembly amended the authorization to allow a \$10,000 lottery. The academy trustees were incorporated under an act of 1826.

For 101 years from its first session in 1827, the Middletown Academy served as a secondary school, after 1875 as part of the state free-school system. After the present Middletown School building was opened in 1929, the Academy building stood vacant. The trustees finally sold the property to the Federal Government, which planned to build a post office on the space in front of the old building. This proposal inspired a popular movement that resulted in the formation of the St. Georges Hundred Historical Society, to whom the United States deeded the Academy property in 1945. Since 1960, the building has been owned by the town government, which uses it as municipal offices, police station, library and meeting hall. The present use of the building is an example of adaptive preservation, wherein a substantial historic structure is converted to modern purposes that are compatible with its original design. During its entire history, the Academy has been the center of community activities in St. Georges Hundred. Before the town was incorporated in 1861, the Academy was the principal local institution around which local activities revolved.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

J. Thomas Scharf, History of Delaware 1609-1888, Vol. II, pp. 996-997.  
 Legislative Petition, 1824 January session, Hall of Records, Dover.  
 Middletown Centennial, Inc., Middletown Centennial 1861-1961.  
 Greater Wilmington Development Council, A List of Delaware Heritage  
 Buildings and Areas in New Castle County (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 0	0 0 0		39 27 05	75 43 04	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Edward F. Heite, Historic Registrar**

ORGANIZATION: **Div. of Historical & Cultural Affairs** DATE: **May 2, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Hall of Records**

CITY OR TOWN: **Dover** STATE: **Delaware** CODE: **10**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 **Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins**  
 Title **State Liaison Officer**  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Robert M. Utley**  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Date **12/5/72**

ATTEST:  
**William M. ...**  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date **11-30-72**

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