

PH 002-8908

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAR 20 1973	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Cooper House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Wilds House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Delaware Route 300

CITY OR TOWN:
Kenton

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: Kent CODE: 001

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Edward Hughes et al.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Kenton STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
The Green

CITY OR TOWN: Dover 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:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(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 portion of the Cooper House is a three-bay, side-hall house with a south frontage. The house has been completely stuccoed, and a bracketed cornice has been added to match that of the rear wing.

The front, or south, facade is marked by a well-detailed portal, including dog-eared trim and a paneled casement. The east and west gable ends receive fenestration at the attic and on the first floor. The rear, or north, facade is partially obscured by a shed addition and a frame wing, added in the latter half of the nineteenth century. In addition, evidence remains of a lower wing, flush with the east gable wall.

The two-story rear wing contains a kitchen and a room now used as a dining room. Above were servants' quarters.

The main body of the house is disposed into a west hall and two adjoining rooms. The front, or south, room is the more finely detailed, featuring crown moulding and chair railing, and dog-eared trim about the doorway, windows, and fireplace breast panel. The rear, or north, room is surrounded by a chair rail, but the only crown moulding present is located on the fireplace breast. The hall is illuminated by a rectangular light over the entry and a west window. The open stair, located to the northeast, communicates with a similarly disposed second floor, and to the rear wing through a landing entry. The stairway to the attic is enclosed in simple beaded field paneling.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 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 type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Local</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>architectural</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>and historical</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | <u>significance</u> |
| <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

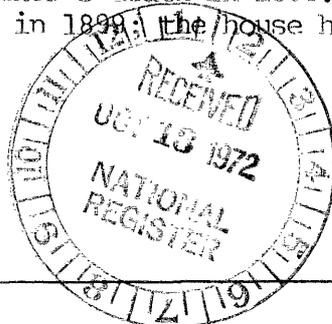
Family legend states that three Wilds brothers arrived in America from Wales sometime near the middle of the eighteenth century. One settled in Virginia, while another settled in Maryland. A third remained in Maryland for a time, but soon moved to Delaware's Duck Creek Hundred, where he took up a large tract. The three are supposed to have made a strange agreement. In order to avoid confusion in possible reports of misfortune travelling by the slow and unreliable mails, they chose to spell their names differently. One became Wild, another, Wyles, and the third, Nathaniel, the patriarch of the Delaware family, Wilds.

Nathaniel Wilds cleared his land and built a home, possibly the older section of the present Cooper House. The house's owner dates that section from 1794, but since Nathaniel died in 1800, it is either an earlier product, or a second home that he built in his later years. Wilds also erected the first school house in what became Duck Creek's District 9, a substantial log house which bore his name for years. Five generations of his descendants received their education there.

When Nathaniel Wilds died in 1800, he willed to his son, Nathaniel, "250 acres of the home plantation and all the belongings thereof." Nathaniel and his brother John divided their father's personal property.

James D. Wilds was born on the land his grandfather had taken up, as his father had been. He bought another farm, however, in 1851, where he apparently had been living since his marriage in 1830. James cast his first vote, for John Quincy Adams, but later became a Democrat. He served in the Delaware House of Representatives in 1840.

James' son, David S., was the third generation of Wilds to be born on the farm. At twenty, after a desultory academic career, he became manager of a part of his father's farm, and bought a portion of the land from his mother after his father's death in 1863. The farm and the house were owned by Dr. W. N. Cooper in 1899; the house has since borne his name.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical and Genealogical History of the State of Delaware. 2 vols.
Chambersburg, Pa.: J.M. Runk, 1899.

Kent County Deed Book W. vol. 5, p. 321.

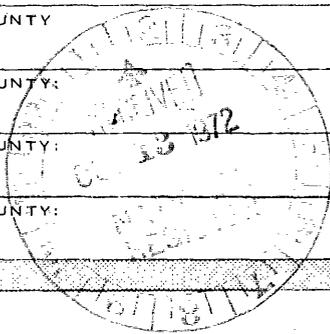
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	39°	13'	41"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	75°	39'	50"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	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:
Mr. Vincent Rogers and Miss Rosemary Troy

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: 8/1/72

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 E. Berkeley Tompkins
Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins

Title Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Date 10-6-72

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/20/73

ATTEST:

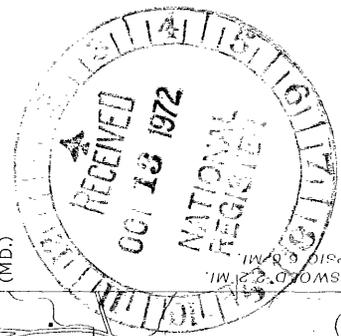
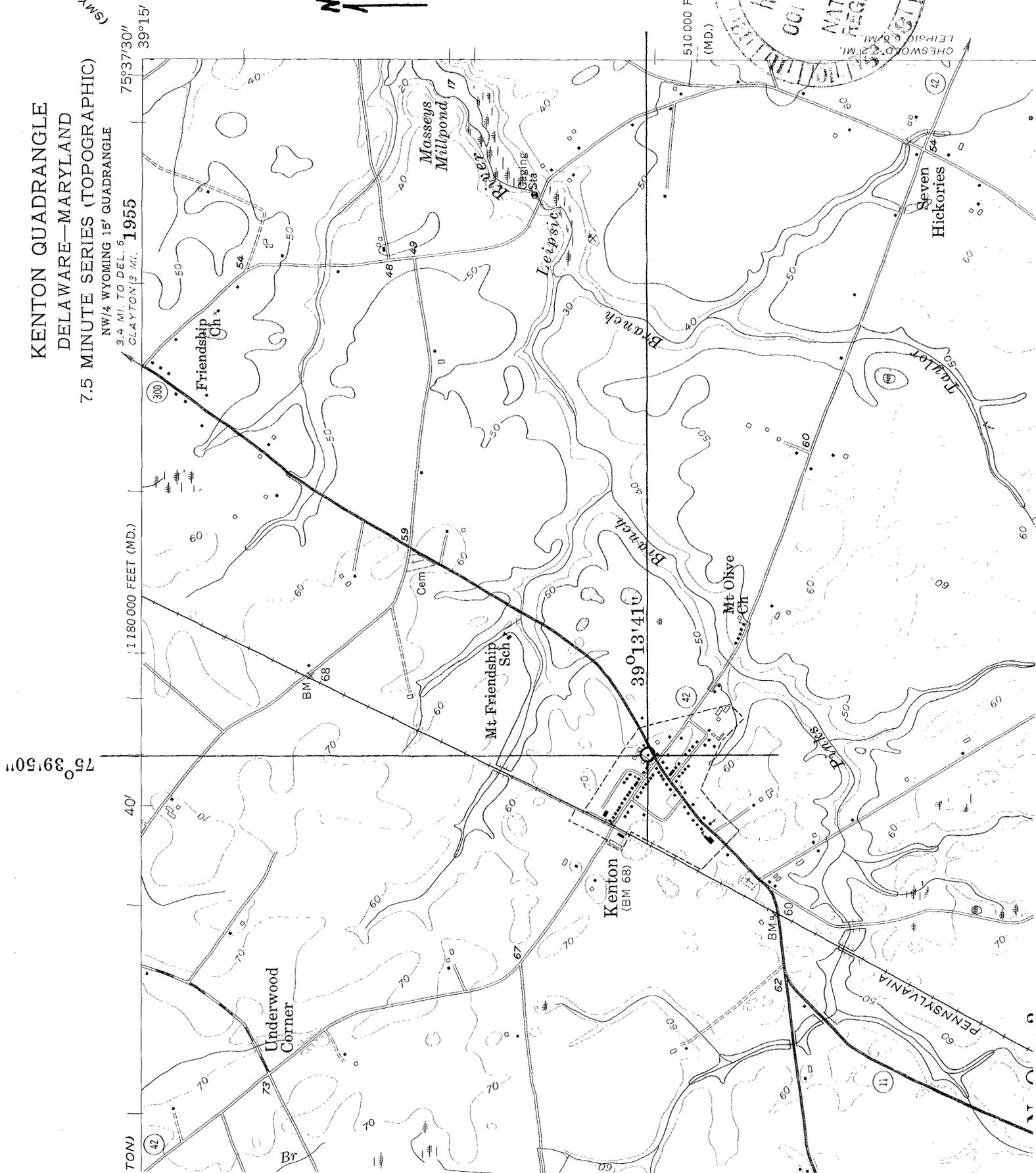
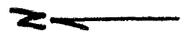
W. Bradford
Keeper, of The National Register

Date 3/15/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

KENTON QUADRANGLE
 DELAWARE-MARYLAND
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW/4 WYOMING 15' QUADRANGLE
 3.4 MI. TO DEL. S
 CLAYTON 1/3 MI. 1955



Cooper
 House

CHESWOLD 2.2 MI.
 LEIPSIC 0.8 MI.

PENNSYLVANIA