Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Delaware	

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This house, built in 1864 by George G. Lobdell as his summer home, is two stories tall with an attic, five bays wide, stuccoed, and gable-roofed.

The original interior layout is almost impossible to describe, since the house has been remodeled to suit its present role as a retirement home. The main block of the building, which is the oldest part, has two large and two small rooms on the first floor. The two large rooms are used as a living room and a dining room. The smaller rooms are used as sitting rooms. The second floor contains several small rooms and bathrooms that appear to be quite changed from the original. The attic story has probably remained closest to original; however, it is quite plain and hardly representative of what the rest of the house must have looked like. The cupola is still accessible by what appears to be the original ladder. The large windows in the cupola afford a commanding view of Wilmington and its environs.

The 1891 addition, while useful, is uninteresting, being only a collection of small rooms arranged in a hotel-like fashion.

The exterior of the house is its most interesting feature, having remained close to its original appearance. It is finished in stucco applied to lath. The stucco is now painted white, but was most likely a different color(such as beige)originally. The facade is five bays wide and has three dormer windows equally spaced across it. The windows all contain double hung sash with two large panes of glass per sash. Rows of large brackets rum around the entire house under the eaves of the gable roof, under the dormer eaves, and around

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
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COUNTY	
New Castle	
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(Continuation Sheet)

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7. DESCRIPTION (continued) ---

the cupola. The two porches on the house are altered from their original arrangement. The porch on the facade was smaller originally, as was that on the gable end. In addition, there was originally a back porch on the house, which is now part of the dining room. On the back of the house, in addition to three dormer windows like those on the facade, is a two-story-tall bay window, most likely a part of the original parlor and the master bedroom above.

The house fits in the Italianate Revival style. The rather late date for this house is indicated in the fact that not all the conventions of the style were followed, a gable roof having been substituted for the usual flat one, and dormers replacing the usual half story. The cupola, however, is magnificent in its scale - though it is a little large for the house - and is the one element that really follows the Italianate style to the letter.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house, originally, was the summer home of George G.

Lobdell, a manufacturer of car wheels, whose plant was located in

Wilmington. Lobdell became a partner in the company in 1838,
succeeding his uncle. Under his direction, the company prospered
enormously, 1882 being the year of the greatest expansion. In
addition to his judicious management practices, Lobdell prospered
because he was something of an experimenter. His endeavors
culminated in two patents; one in 1861 for the "Lobdell Improved
Single Plate Wheel" and one in 1869 for a "combination wheel."
Scharf writes of the company that it

...casts as well as grinds its rolls and has received premiums upon them at the Centennial Exposition, the Paris Exposition and the International Cotton Exposition at Atlanta, Georgia in 1881.

In 1891, his vacation house was made over into a retirement home for Lobdell's employees of both sexes, demonstrating that Lobdell felt a great sense of responsibility for the welfare of his employees.

The house itself is interesting as one of the later expressions of the Italianate Revival in Delaware, with its large brackets and especially fine cupola.

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9.	MAJOR	BIBLIOGRA	PHICAL RI	EFERENCES									
	(Wilmington) Evening Journal. Friday, May 6, 1966.												
	Scharf, J. Thomas. A History of Delaware: 1609-1888. 2 vols. Philadelphia. L.C. Richards & Co., 1888. p. 775.											-	
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Date Nov. 27, 1972