

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 27 1976

DATE ENTERED

MAY 24 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME****** HISTORIC**

The Academy of Newark

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Main and Academy Streets

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Newark

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Delaware

___ VICINITY OF

CODE

10

One

COUNTY

New Castle

CODE

002

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
___ DISTRICT	___ PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___ AGRICULTURE	___ MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	___ UNOCCUPIED	___ COMMERCIAL	___ PARK
___ STRUCTURE	___ BOTH	___ WORK IN PROGRESS	___ EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE (caretaker)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ ENTERTAINMENT	___ RELIGIOUS
___ OBJECT	___ IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	___ SCIENTIFIC
	___ BEING CONSIDERED	___ YES: UNRESTRICTED	___ INDUSTRIAL	___ TRANSPORTATION
		___ NO	___ MILITARY	___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees of the Academy of Newark, Mr. James H. Thompson, President

STREET & NUMBER

Main and Academy Streets

CITY, TOWN

Newark

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Delaware 19711**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. New Castle County Courthouse, Office of Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

Deed Record Z, Volume 1, pp. 366-369.

CITY, TOWN

Wilmington

STATE
Delaware 19801**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Delaware Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

1974

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE
Delaware

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Academy Square, at the southeast corner of Main and Academy Streets, is a park, on the south side of which is the Academy of Newark building.

Academy Square is now a public park, landscaped with walks and monuments. What was originally the marketplace is now a green space in the middle of a commercial district. All vestiges of the former marketplace are gone.

The original portions of the Academy building (Picture 1) are now the east and west wings. A later connection created the present facade (Picture 2). First to be built was the western building (1841), which served as the classrooms and offices. The 1842 eastern section was a dormitory. In 1872, the middle section was built.

All three portions are of brick. The principal structure, on the west, is three stories high over an English basement. It is four bays wide, with four interior end chimneys. The low-pitched roof supports a square two-level enclosed cupola. Windows have six-over-six lights, but the upstairs openings are smaller than the main floor windows. A portico in the western portion is two bays wide, supported by fluted columns.

The older two portions contain corbelled cornices, but no lintels or jack arches over the windows. The central three-bay, three-story section features segmental-arched windows and inset panels with houndstooth brick dentils above.

The eastern building repeats the general design of the main structure, but has no portico. This structure is also three stories high over an English basement, three bays wide.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1841, 1842, 1872

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Academy Square has been the center of Newark's educational, social, economic, and political activity throughout the history of the city. Before the first academy building was built there, it was a marketplace. In recent years, the Academy building has served as a city hall. Current plans call for the University of Delaware to occupy it as classrooms again.

The square itself has been an important part of the community since 1758, when a charter was obtained for holding two fairs a year and a weekly market. In 1772, the legislature provided for regulating the market and provided that rents and penalties would be paid to the trustees of the Academy. A market house stood on a corner of the present site until it was taken down in the early 1840's. The former market place is now a landscaped park, with benches, monuments, and public walkways.

The Academy of Newark is Delaware's oldest educational institution. It was founded at New London, Pennsylvania by Dr. Francis Alison, a Presbyterian minister of the oldlight persuasion. On May 25, 1744, the Synod of Philadelphia accepted financial responsibility for its operation.

Alison moved to Philadelphia in 1752, leaving the school in the care of Rev. Alexander McDowell, who transferred it to Cecil County, Maryland. About ten years later, McDowell and his students moved to the crossroads village of Newark, in northern New Castle county.

Alison and his successors tried unsuccessfully for many years to obtain a charter authorizing the Academy to grant degrees. Finally in 1769, John Penn issued a charter to the Academy of Newark, creating the self-perpetuating board that still exists. Dr. Alison served as president of the board from 1769 to 1779.

Pre-Revolutionary alumni of the Academy included signers Thomas McKean and George Read, Secretary of Congress Charles Thomson, and Captain Robert Kirkwood. Financial support in England came from King George III, Samuel Johnson, and other notables; these funds were lost in 1777 when the invading British army carried off the Academy's treasury.

After the war, the trustees applied to the State of Delaware for a charter as a degree-granting college, which finally was granted in 1833, under the name of Newark College. Beginning in 1834, the Academy and the college operated as separate branches of the same institution. In 1843, the name of the institution was changed to Delaware College.

Separate buildings for the Academy, now the east and west wings of the Academy building, were erected in 1841 and 1842. The College continued to use the building now known as Old College Hall of the University of Delaware. Edgar Allan Poe lectured at the new Academy in 1844.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Federal Writers Project (Jeannette Eckman, ed.), Delaware, A Guide to the First State (Hastings House, 1955), pp. 230-231.

A Brief History of the University of Delaware (Newark, 1940), pp. 6-15.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one and one half
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 8	4 3 5 6 9 0	4 3 9 2 6 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is a park containing the Academy building, bounded on the west by Academy Street, on the north by Main Street, on the east by a property boundary, and on the south by a parking lot.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Mrs. H. Clay Reed, Trustee

ORGANIZATION: Trustees of the Academy of Newark DATE: February 25, 1975

STREET & NUMBER: 157 West Main Street TELEPHONE:

CITY OR TOWN: Newark STATE: Delaware 19711

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE: *Lauren Oberly*

TITLE: Director, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: 4/21/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE: 5/24/96

Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE: 5-21-16

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In 1859, when Delaware College was closed by financial problems, the Academy became a separate institution once more. Until 1898, the school continued to function as a private secondary institution. In that year, Newark's first public high school opened in the Academy building. After a separate high school was built, the trustees rented the building to various tenants, including the public library and the city.

The Trustees of the Academy of Newark are now in the process of transferring Academy Square to the University of Delaware, the institution that has evolved from Delaware College.

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Undated map in University of Delaware Archives on temporary loan from Mr. Elwood Wilkins. Permission to reproduce has not been obtained. Shows fair and market grounds in "Academy Square" before present academy building was erected. Wilkins thinks it may date from 1758.

1. Charter of the Academy of Newark. University of Delaware Library. Granted by Thomas and Richard Penn, proprietors and governors signee by John Penn, Lt. Governor in Philadelphia, Nov. 10, 1769.

(Printed in Delaware History, Vol. IV, Sept. 1950. Beverly McAnear "The Charter of the Academy of Newark, pp. 149-156.)

2. Deed, March 21, 1770. University of Delaware Library. Traces land from Thomas & Richard Penn 9-11-1702, 223 acres down to 1 acre to Academy Trustees from Jonathan Germain. Philadelphia Patent Book A, Vol. 2, p. 357.

(Printed in Scharf, II, p. 937).

3. Letter, Oct. 19, 1773 signed by Francis Alison and Charles Thomson, Commissioner John Ewing and Hugh Williamson to solicit funds in Great Britain and Ireland for academy.

Has an interesting seal--only one of the academy that George H. Ryden came across.

(Much of this letter is discussed and reproduced in Delaware Notes, Ninth Series 1935. George H. Ryden "The Relation of the Newark Academy of Delaware to the Presbyterian Church and to Higher Education in the American Colonies, pp. 7-42).

4. Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Newark College, Newark, Delaware, 1841-42. Philadelphia, 1842.
5. Catalogue of the Academical Department of Delaware College, 1842.
6. Catalogue of the Academical Department of Delaware College, 1842-43.
7. Catalogue of the Academical Department of Delaware College, 1843.
8. Catalogue of Newark Academy, Newark, Delaware for year ending Sept. 27, 1844. Wilmington, Del. 1844.
9. Circular of Newark Academy, New Castle County, Delaware. Edward D. Porter, Principal, Philadelphia 1860.

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10. Decennial Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Newark Academy, New Castle County, Delaware. Edward D. Porter, A. M. Principal, 1870, Philadelphia: 1870.
11. Newark Academy, Annual Academy, 1874-1875; Newark, Del. Philadelphia, 1875.
12. The Academy of Newark and Delaware Normal School, Newark, Delaware. 157th year. 1897-98. J. D. Jaquette, M. S. Principal.

Minutes of the Trustees of Newark College: 9-21-1841 and 3-29-1842.
(Have gone over a small amount of these minutes in the 1840's.)

Delaware Notes: 17th Series, 1944;

Pears, Thomas Clinton, "Francis Alison, Colonial Educator", p. 9-22.

Lewis, William D, "The University of Delaware and its Predecessor.",
pp. 111-125.