

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Property Name: Thomas Lamb <sup>Farm</sup> "Brick House Farm"

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The Thomas Lamb, "Brick House Farm", is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Road 130 with Road 126. The farm has been separated from the house and each piece is in separate ownership. Therefore, just the house and its lot are included in the nomination. The lot contains 1.4457 acres.

Tax Map No. 17-1-61.01; Deed Book O-36, p. 9.

Owner: Janice L. and Ray S. Wood  
R.D. #1, Box 112  
Clayton, Delaware 19938

Description:

The Thomas Lamb, "Brick House Farm", House was built in the second quarter of the eighteenth-century as a 3-bay, single-pile, 2-story brick house. In plan, it is a hall-parlor dwelling. The facade is laid in Flemish bond, the gable ends in English bond, while the rear is laid in a mixture of brick courses. The house has a number of design elements that are distinctive of early-eighteenth-century buildings. These include a stepped water table, narrow arched window openings, double belt course and the scar remains of the doorhood.

Since its original construction, a number of changes have taken place. The rear door has been bricked-in and the windows have been changed to a two-over-two configuration. Also, the roof was lowered slightly and heavy box cornice and partial returns added. The roof changes occurred during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, most likely at the same time that the kitchen wing, was added to the east gable end. This wing is a 3-bay, 1 1/2-story, and constructed of brick. The porch across the front of the kitchen wing is a recent addition.

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## Historic Background:

The Thomas Lamb, "Brick House Farm", was acquired by Thomas Lamb in stages from members of the Chiffen family from 1830 onward. The purchases were not complete until the mid-1850's. At his death in 1872, Lamb left his widow and seven children an immense tract of land that included all the land south of the Kent-New Castle border, and bounded on the east by Road 130 and on the south by Road 129. It extended west almost as far as Hollett's Corner at Road 127 and Road 129. The tract amounted to over 700 acres of land. He also owned town lots in Kenton and in Clayton and a blacksmith shop in Clayton. Blacksmithing was his original trade. For most of his life he operated a blacksmith and wheelwright shop, at Blackiston Crossroads. He purchased the blacksmith shop, with a carriage maker's shop attached, in Clayton in 1850.

The construction date for the house at "Brick House Farm" is based on structural evidence. The original warrants for the land in Kent County do not list exact boundaries but give locations based on the position of streams. Walter Dulany received a patent to lands west of the Lamb properties in 1706. The land to the east of the Lamb properties was deeded in individual farm plots starting about 1720. The chain of title for the "Brick House Farm" is lost in a maze of unrecorded deeds and family transfers through inheritance.

## State of Significance:

Thomas Lamb's, "Brick House Farm", is a surviving example of a once common building plan, the hall-parlor house. Constructed early in the second quarter of the eighteenth century, the dwelling was a substantial investment for its first owner and makes a significant statement about housing choice and wealth in early Kenton Hundred. Exploitive crops such as tobacco and hemp were preferred by the first settlers of the area. These produced enough surplus so that large permanent brick dwellings were soon the preferred building choice. As an example of this tradition of building in brick and as a surviving example of a hall-parlor dwelling from the eighteenth-century, the "Brick House Farm" is being nominated under Criterion C.