

**PH0363456**

**DATA SHEET**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **MAY 10 1976**  
DATE ENTERED **MAY 9 1976**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Vogl House (Preferred name)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Road 78, approximately 1/4 mile west of Road 277 NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Masten's Corner

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

one

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

Kent

CODE

001

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Alphonzo and Alexander Vogl

STREET & NUMBER

Cedar Lane Farms, RD 1, Box 25

CITY, TOWN

Harrington

VICINITY OF

Delaware

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

The Green

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

DC

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Vogl House is a unique example of folk art and vernacular architecture. It was designed by <sup>1882.</sup>Wilhelmine Vogl who was untrained in architecture.

The H-shaped house has two large wings joined by a central section. The exterior walls are constructed of concrete blocks which were produced on site by the Vogls with a machine they purchased from Sears, Roebuck. The blocks were rusticated in places for artistic effect. At the corners of the house, quoins are formed by the rusticated blocks. There is a decorative belt course at the second-floor line. The water table of rusticated blocks is capped by an egg-and-dart moulding.

One brick chimney for the wood-burning heating system is at the south end of the center bay. The wood-burning system is housed in a small cellar with a concrete floor under the north end of the house.

The wooden windows have four-over-four, six-over-six, and nine-over-nine light sashes on the upper floor and ten-light casements on the lower floor with heavy wooden heads and egg-and-dart mouldings around the jambs and sills.

The high-hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Part of the roof on the west side is covered with pressed tin to simulate shingles. There is a metal ridge cap with anti-fixae at each hip. The cornice below the roofline repeats the egg-and-dart motif.

The facade porch is supported by four columns with modified Ionic capitals. The two outer columns have pedestals. The four-step risers again repeat the egg-and-dart motif in the moulding. Above the porch is a balcony with a balustrade having Ionic capitals on two half-columns at the front corners and an egg-and-dart frieze around the cornice forming the roof of the porch. Above the balcony doorway, leading to the second floor of the house, is a magnificent primitive eagle, also cast in concrete by Mrs. Vogl.

The main doorway, entered from the porch, has a wooden surround with sidelights and a leaded-glass fanlight transom. Engaged columns stand at each side of the door which opens into a two-story entrance hall with a second-floor balcony. On the south wall of the entrance hall is the stairway leading to the second floor. Beyond a large opening in the north wall is the living room, formerly the dining room, from which access to the kitchen is attained. On the south of the entrance hall, through a double opening, is a large room, divided by two center columns. There is a rear stairway in a room off the main entrance hall.

The second floor has a bedroom wing on each side of the entrance hall balcony. An unfinished attic is located over the east end of the house.

The open-well, open-string main stairway has wooden risers and treads painted to simulate stone. A simple, wooden handrail extends from the newel to the second floor and around the balcony. The balustrade has slender, straight, wooden balusters. The rear stairway is a quarter-turn winder, open-string, partially-enclosed stairway. The attic stairway is open string with a simple wooden balustrade.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES            1915                                    BUILDER/ARCHITECT    John and Wilhelmine Vogl

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built by a family of Bohemian immigrants in 1915, the Vogl House, a small-scale Bohemian castle located in the heart of Kent County farmland, is an expression of the architectural ideas of Mrs. Wilhelmine Vogl, who designed and laid out the plan of the house. It was built by her husband John under her direction and with the assistance of their eight children. Its significance lies in the fact that no other structure in the state repeats this architectural style, nor is any other house so lavishly detailed with such fine folk art. The extensive and sensitive use of cement blocks also lends significance to the unusual character of the house.

The Vogls acquired the Mispillion Hundred farmland on which the house stands in 1908 soon after immigrating from Bohemia. They moved into an old farm house on the property and began tilling the land. Since the soil was not productive, they found farming difficult. When, a few years later, the old house burned to the ground, the Vogls decided to raise chickens instead. This move allowed Mr. Vogl the time to work on the construction of a new house. A cement block machine and moulds were ordered.

There probably were three reasons for using cement as a building material: first, it was relatively inexpensive; second, for one man with the assistance of young children, it was easier to handle this form; and third, perhaps the most important reason, cement closely resembled cut stone, the material of which Bohemian buildings are constructed.

As far as the children know, Mrs. Vogl never had any formal training in architecture. The form and detailing of the house reflect her interest in the grander structures of her homeland as well as a certain inherent knowledge of how to recreate these forms. The walls, of smooth and rusticated cement block, are accented with mouldings of Mrs. Vogl's design.

The interior of the house again reflects Mrs. Vogl's artistic ability. Though architecturally and structurally simple, a wealth of folk art is integrated into the design. The primitive genre paintings and decorative borders embellish the fibreboard walls and the ceilings. The two-story entrance hall has a painted ceiling resembling the sky dotted with small stars. In the center are larger stars, each of which was placed by a member of the family.

The Vogl House is now the residence of three children of John and Wilhelmine Vogl. Alphonzo and Alexander Vogl still farm the property.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

HABS report, 1975

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Five  
 UTM REFERENCES

Latitude: 38°57'45"

Longitude: 75°37'45"

A 




  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 




  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is the farmyard and garden around the house, barn, and outbuildings.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joan M. Norton, John P. White, and Susanne N. Fox

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

DATE

January 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Hall of Records

TELEPHONE

302-678-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

## 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 C. [Signature]*

TITLE

*Director, Div of Hist & Cult Affairs*

DATE

*5/4/76*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DATE

*11/10/96*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

*11/2/76*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The walls and ceilings of most of the rooms are painted-fibreboard panels with varnished wooden lattice battens. The ceiling in the entrance hall is coffered and painted to simulate the sky. All of the walls in the entrance hall have scenes painted by Mrs. Vogl. The south wall of the entrance hall under the stairway has a balustrade painted on it. There are paintings on the walls in the parlor, living room, sun parlor, and stair hall to the attic.

Each doorway has simple wooden surrounds. There is a wooden door with an oval, beveled-glass, full-length panel between the living room and kitchen. A wooden mantel with a large beveled mirror is in the center of the north wall of the living room and small mirrors are on each side; a carved wooden surround is supported by two slender columns. There is no fireplace. A wooden cupboard with wood-and-glass doors is in the dining room and a built-in bookcase, surrounding the chimney with a mirror in the center section, is in the living room.

The Vogl House is situated amidst cedar trees and is surrounded by farmland. There is a circular driveway in front of the house. Many cast-concrete animal statues are in the front yard; there is even a small concrete wading pool. The outbuildings, including the barn with concrete silo, milk house, garden house, chicken house, and even dog house, are concrete repeating many of the details of the main house. In one of the other outbuildings is the block machine and original moulds.

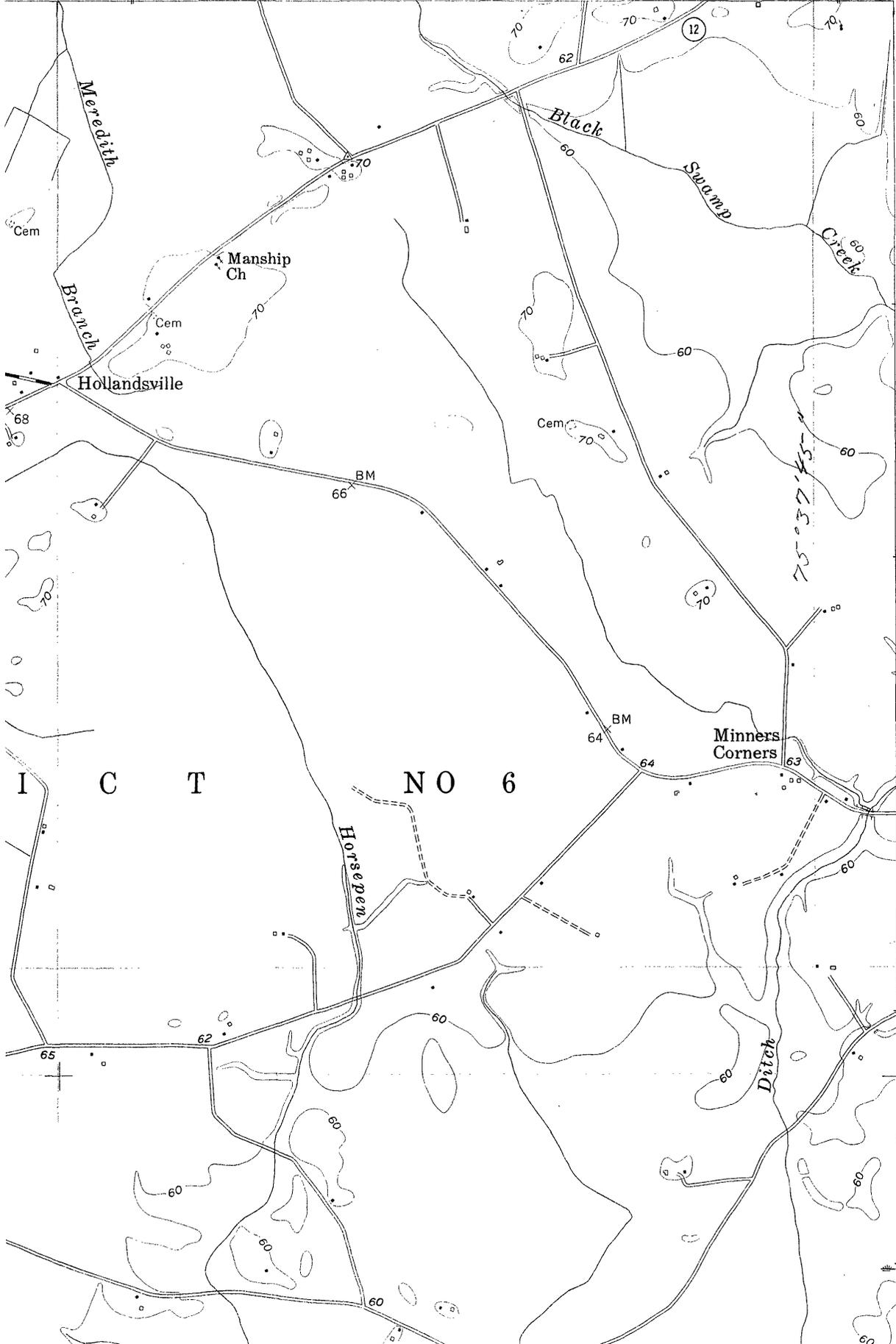
BURRSVILLE QUADRANGLE  
DELAWARE—MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW/4 HARRINGTON 15' QUADRANGLE  
3.7 MI. TO U.S. 13  
FELTON 3.3 MI.

(WYOMING)

40' | 430 000 FEET (DEL.)

75°37'30"  
39°00'



360 000 FEET  
(DEL.)

MASTERS CORNERS 0.2 MI.  
HARRINGTON 4 MI.

I C T N O 6

*Handwritten note:*  
32°57'45"

57'30"