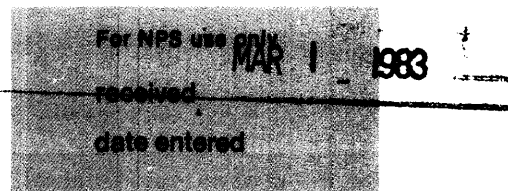


OMB NO. 1024-0018  
EXP. 10/31/84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# 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 Historic Resources of Centreville (Partial Inventory: Architectural and Historic Properties)

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Various (See Inventory Sheets) NA not for publication

city, town Centreville vicinity of congressional district

state Delaware code 10 county New Castle code 002

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>NA</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" 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:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (See Owners List)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, City/County Building

street & number 800 French Street

city, town Wilmington state Delaware

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Delaware Cultural Resource Survey,  
N-6186

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1980 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
Old State House, The Green

city, town Dover state Delaware

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<del>excellent</del>	<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 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

Centreville is located in the northern part of Christiana Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware, approximately seven miles northwest of Wilmington. The Historic Resources of Centreville include three individual resources--the Joseph Chandler House (N-1144), the Carpenter-Lippincott House (N-541) and the Mt. Airy No. 27 School (N-5831)--as well as the Centreville Historic District (N-6186) which includes fifteen properties located within a one-block area on both the north and south sides of Owl's Nest/Twaddell Mill Road (formerly the Newport Road), and on the east and west sides of the Kennett Pike. Centreville is still largely surrounded by the open fields, meadows and pastures that characterized its nineteenth century setting. This nomination encompasses a variety of well-preserved residential and commercial buildings dating from the beginning of the nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. The predominant construction material is stone and it is fashioned in a variety of architectural styles including Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate and Second Empire. A number of vernacular buildings are also represented. Of the fifteen properties located within the Centreville Historic District, six have been converted into small speciality shops, three into offices, four are residences, one is parkland and one, a former grocery store, is presently vacant. The three individually-nominated structures are maintained as private residences.

The northern portion of New Castle County lies within the Piedmont Province, a part of the Appalachian upland. To the southeast, this province is bounded by the Coastal Plain which is defined by a well-marked change in topography and geology. Topographically, the change consists of the abrupt transition from an upland of diversified relief to relatively smooth lowlands. Geologically, the change is a transition from old, hard crystalline rocks to gently dipping beds of unconsolidated sediments, clay, silt, sand and gravel, of a far more recent age.

Located within this northern portion of New Castle County is Christiana Hundred, an area comprising approximately thirty-four square miles. Christiana Hundred lies between the Brandywine and Red Clay Creeks, to east and west respectively, and is bounded by Pennsylvania to the north and by the Christiana River to the south. Farms and country homes are set amid parks and pastures, woods and tilled fields. These enhance the beauty of the naturally attractive Christiana Hundred, from the handsome rolling country of the northern part to the populous suburban lowlands of the southern part.

Centreville owes its existence, and indeed its very physical character, to a road--the original Wilmington and Kennett Toll Road, today known as the Kennett Pike. One hundred and sixty years ago Centreville was an active commercial center that developed as a result of its convenient location along the route from southeastern Pennsylvania to the mills and ships at Wilmington, Delaware. Consequently, inns, taverns, blacksmith shops and small businesses were opened in Centreville to cater to the travellers.

In 1868, Centreville was a small, rural, cross-roads community with businesses and residences situated out along the north and south sides of Kennett Turnpike at the intersection of the "Newport Road."

Today, Centreville retains its rural character and in outward appearance reflects the growth of this cross-roads community during the nineteenth century. Suburban development during this century has begun to encroach upon the edges of the village. However, because of the low-density or large estate nature of this residential development, the impress of the surrounding countryside is still largely rural.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates	NA	Builder/Architect	NA
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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Historic Resources of Centreville are significant to the architectural and commercial history of New Castle County as tangible evidence of Centreville's emergence as an important residential and commercial center during the nineteenth century. Centreville represents the survival of a well-preserved nineteenth century non-industrial rural village that has survived largely intact with minimal intrusion while similar communities have almost disappeared from the northern Delaware countryside. Because of their association with persons significant to the local past, the Historic Resources of Centreville are significant under criterion B; and because these resources include important examples of varied architectural styles, they are also significant under criterion C, as they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction.

In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, when Unionville, Pennsylvania, was the center of the cattle business in southeastern Pennsylvania, the way to market from Delaware was through Centreville on what was the Doe Run Road and today the Kennett Pike. Farmers would bring their herds to town to be "shaped-up" and driven to market. On January 21, 1811, the Delaware State Legislature granted a charter to the Wilmington and Kennett Turnpike Company to maintain a hard-surfaced, twenty-foot arched road, on a 100-foot right-of-way from the Wilmington Borough line to the Pennsylvania State line. This turnpike was considered the best route to tidewater for the rich farming section of Pennsylvania bordering Delaware on the north. Early turnpike tolls were one and one-half cents for two oxen or one horse, cart or carriage; six cents for 20 sheep, twelve cents for a score of cattle. Church goings or funerals were toll free.

Centreville developed and grew along this route--to serve the traffic of carters and drivers, with taverns, inns and blacksmith shops--and it was not unusual for Centreville to have as many as 50 teams stopping on one night.

Scharf mentions in his History of Delaware, that in 1821 Centreville had a "good store kept by James Delaplaine who prospered there as a merchant." By mid-century the village, stimulated by agricultural prosperity, had experienced considerable growth. The town population in 1850 included a number of farmers, two innkeepers, two shoe-makers, a physician, a carpenter, a stone mason, a drover, a teamster, as well as a number of common laborers. Centreville was the home of Dr. Joseph H. Chandler, who served a large clientele of Pennsylvania and Delaware residents. An apothecary shop, blacksmith shop and a post office were available. The burgeoning agricultural economy continued to bring change to Centreville.

By 1888, continues Scharf, "Centreville had a number of fine residences, a good public hall, several stores and an inn." Centreville flourished until the latter 1800's when the railroad arrived offering quicker service and an easier ride. Conestoga wagons were no longer needed to carry the goods to port. The number of businesses began to dwindle, the inns went out of business and were demolished, and Centreville became a rural hamlet.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Centreville Bicentennial Committee. Centreville, Delaware, 1750-1976: A History of the Village from Colonial Times. 1976.

"Centreville: Things Have Changed-But Not Much." Evening Journal, 24 June 1961.

"Sale Recalls Time When Centreville Was a Medical Center: Journal Every Evening, 24 June 1933

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware, Vols. 1 & 2. Phila.: L. J. Richards Co., 1888

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property See individual properties.

Quadrangle name Wilmington North, Delaware-Pennsylvania

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References See continuation sheet

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting			Northing				
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting			Northing				
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual properties.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	NA	code	county	code
-------	----	------	--------	------

state		code	county	code
-------	--	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gretchen Fitting and Richard Jett

organization New Castle County Dept. of Planning date January, 1983

street & number 2701 Capitol Trail telephone: 302-366-7780

city or town Newark 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

*David R. Griffith*

title

date

Feb. 24, 1983

For NPS use only

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

*Louis M. Chalk*  
Special Agent in Charge

date 4-13-83

*Patrick Andrews*  
Chief of Registration

date 4/13/83

*See Continuation sheet for testations*

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Continuation sheet

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PROPERTY OWNERS LIST:

1. The Joseph Chandler House - N-1144

Stephen L. Hershey  
5826 Kennett Pike  
Wilmington, Delaware 19807

2. Carpenter-Lippincott House - N-541

Elizabeth B. Lippincott  
5620 Kennett Pike  
Wilmington, Delaware 19807

3. Mt. Airy No. 27 School - N-5831

Carl Goldstein  
5925 Kennett Pike  
Centreville  
Wilmington, Delaware 19807

4. Centreville Historic District - N-6186

Multiple Owners  
See Attached List

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Continuation sheet

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HISTORIC RESOURCES OF CENTREVILLE

The Historic Resources of Centreville represent a diversity of architectural styles documenting a period of 150 years. Of the eighteen buildings included in this nomination, nine are constructed of native fieldstone, either used in its rusticated, monochromatic state, or covered with stucco, six are of frame and three are of brick construction. Contrary to the architectural styles predominate in the southern hundreds of New Castle County which are closely linked with southern regional architectural styles, the architecture in Centreville is small town rural in character and the architectural style is more closely linked with the nearby Pennsylvania building traditions. As might be anticipated in a community that grew in response to mercantile activity, many buildings were constructed originally as housing for the proprietor or tenant associated with a small business, or combined a business and residential function under one roof.

The earliest example of this commercial/residential function in Centreville is the Joseph Chandler House (c. 1800, N-1144), which is Georgian in style following the five-bay, two-and-a half story, single-pile formula established in the previous century. The Joseph Chandler House is built of stone. This dual purpose plan can be seen in buildings erected in Centreville throughout the nineteenth century, for example, in the Delaplaine House (c. 1820, N-1142), a residence and store that combines Georgian and Federal features in brick construction, the Greek Revival stone office and residence erected by Dr. Joseph H. Chandler (c. 1830, N-1379), the frame Second Empire Chandler-Dixon House (c. 1880, N-1143) or Connors Stone (c. 1900, N-1377) constructed in brick. The 1876 Odd Fellows Building (N-5828), while not a residence, combines commercial shop space with facilities for fraternal or community meetings.

A number of essentially residential buildings are represented in this nomination. These tend to be constructed both in stone and frame and are rendered in a variety of styles. These may be high-style like the three-story, Italianate Carpenter-Lippincott House (c. 1840, N-541) or vernacular like the Greek Revival R. T. Carey House (c. 1850, N-5285).

The Centreville Civic Association approached the New Castle County Planning Office in the Fall of 1979 requesting assistance in the preparation of a National Register nomination for their cross-roads community. It was the goal of the survey to inventory and document 15 properties located in the one block area on both the north and south sides of Owls Nest/Twaddell Mill Road and on the east and west sides of Kennett Pike, as well as three individual nominations adjacent to the nominated historic district. Centreville is that area on the Delaware State Planning Office Aerial Photo Mosaic Map Number 7-08-09 and the natural and man-made features of this area appear on the United States Geological Survey Map, Wilmington North Quadrangle. The survey area itself was suggested by the physical and visual qualities of the Centreville area. Clustered very tightly around the intersection of Kennett Pike and Owls Nest/Twaddell Mill Road are a number of structures erected between 1800 and 1920. The areas immediately south, east and west are largely open spaces with the exception of the Lippincott House property, just south of the designated district. In the area immediately north of this cluster of historically related buildings, the presence of modern suburban development provided

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HISTORIC RESOURCES OF CENTREVILLE

a clear demarcation between potentially eligible and non-eligible resources.

The survey was conducted by Gretchen Fitting and Richard Jett of the New Castle County Department of Planning. It was accomplished by walking through Centreville and talking with each owner or occupant. Each building dating prior to 1945 was noted on the map of the area, and a Delaware Cultural Resource Survey Form was completed for each structure. The Cultural Resources Survey forms that are used to record the survey data are composed of two parts; one is the Locus Identification Form which pinpoints the exact location and ownership of the building, the second is the Structural Data Form, which records descriptive and historical background information. Each structure was photographed in black and white with a 35 mm camera in such a manner as to record its essential architectural character. The occupants of the pre-1945 buildings were approached in order to explain the intent of the survey and to obtain information about that particular building.

Upon completion of the fieldwork, the photographs, negatives and forms were coordinated and a permanent Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) Number was assigned to each structure. Each resource was also plotted on the Master Index State Planning Office Air Photo Mosaic Maps and logged into the inventory records.

The criterion for selecting the resources included in this multiple resource nomination was direct involvement in the commercial and residential growth of Centreville between the years 1800 and 1920. Every eligible resource in Centreville was included in the nomination. Those in the district are historically, physically and visually related to each other along the Kennett Pike at its intersection with Owls Nest/Twaddell Mill Road. Individually nominated properties are historically associated with the development of Centreville but are physically and visually segregated from the district by modern, intrusive development.

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

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HISTORIC RESOURCES OF CENTREVILLE

Many commercial and residential buildings survived as tangible evidence of the agricultural boom years of the nineteenth century. Homes built by the prominent Chandler, Delaplaine and Carpenter families document the affluence of Centreville society and provide an opportunity to examine the evolution of the Georgian, Greek Revival, Gothic and Italianate architectural styles in Centreville. Complimenting this development and documenting the civic life of the area are the fine Odd Fellows Hall and the Mt. Airy No. 27 School.

After World War I, when toll roads were fast becoming an anachronism, Mr. P. S. duPont paid the shareholders double par value for the 1,200 shares in the Turnpike Company and assumed a \$10,000 debt. He widened and rebuilt the road (today known as the Kennett Pike) at his own expense and transferred it to the State of Delaware. Today the "Pike" is, in many places, the same as when it was turned over to the State in 1920. By the second decade of the twentieth century, the growth of industry in the Wilmington area enabled the most affluent to maintain large estates around Centreville. Many of the homes of the wealthy were built here, as they were attracted by the natural beauty of the countryside, its proximity to Wilmington as well as by the Kennett Pike itself.

Today, one finds that there has been little change in Centreville's essentially rural identity and character since the late nineteenth century but considerable change in its economic structure. Centreville has become a popular shopping mecca for those who enjoy small speciality shops and the leisurely pace of shopping in the relaxed atmosphere of a small town.

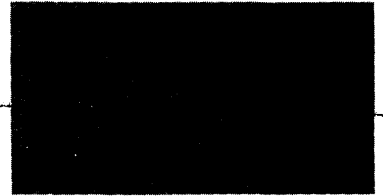
Level of Significance

The level of significance of the Historic Resources of Centreville is local. Although individual resources included within the nomination may be described as excellent examples of a particular architectural style and in the case of the Lippincott House as unusual, they are not unique. They are best seen as a group, that collectively represent an unusual resource. Nevertheless, the effects of its architectural, social and economic development were limited largely to those areas of northern New Castle County immediately surrounding Centreville.



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HISTORIC RESOURCES OF CENTREVILLE

Wilmington North Quadrangle, Pennsylvania-Delaware  
1967 (Photo Revised 1973)  
7.5 Minute Series  
Scale 1:24,000

UTM Coordinates

Centreville Historic District (N-6186)

- A. 18/447370/4408090
- B. 18/447360/4407640
- C. 18/447060/4407645
- D. 18/447060/4408090

Mt. Airy School (N-5831)

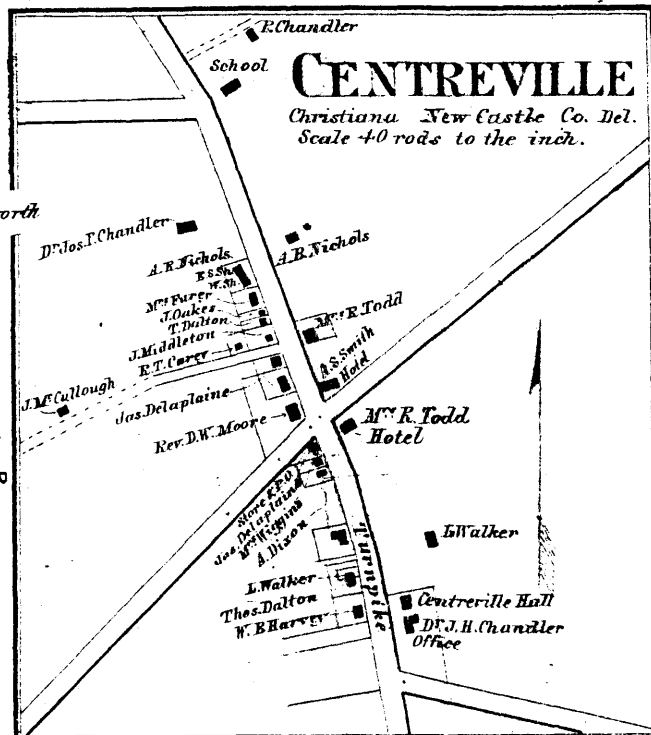
- E. 18/446930/4408500

Joseph Chandler House (N-1144)

- F. 18/447010/4408180

Carpenter-Lippincott House (N-541)

- G. 18/447195/4407550



### Centerville Business Directory.

- A. S. Smith...Proprietor of Centerville Hotel.
- Jos. P. Chandler...Physician and Surgeon.
- Jos. H. Chandler...
- D. W. Moore...Pastor of Lower Brandywine Presb. Church.
- Jas. Delaplaine...Resident.
- A. H. Dixon...
- Philemma Chandler...Farmer.

# CHRISTIANA

New Castle Co. Del.  
Scale 1 1/2 Inches to the Mile

From: D.G. Beers, Atlas of the  
State of Delaware, 1868

WILMINGTON

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Centreville Multiple Resource Area  
State New Castle County, DELAWARE

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Carpenter-Lippincott House

Keeper

Linda McClaud 4/13/83

Attest

accept Patrick Andrews 4/13/83

2. Mt. Airy School No. 27 Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

4/13/83 Delores Byers

Attest

3. Chandler, Joseph, House Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

4/13/83 Delores Byers

Attest

4. Centreville Historic District  
Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

4/13/83 Delores Byers

Attest

5.

Keeper

Attest

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest