NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Zachariah Ferris House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
14302 Channing Road, Brandywine Hills

CITY OR TOWN:
Wilmington
STATE:
Delaware

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)
District
Site
Building
Structure
Object

OWNERSHIP
Public
Private
Both

Public Acquisition:
In Process
Being Considered

STATUS
Occupied
Unoccupied

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
Yes:
Restricted
Unrestricted

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
Agricultural
Commercial
Educational
Entertainment
Government
Industrial
Military
Museum
Park
Private Residence
Religious
Scientific
Transportation
Other (Specify)

Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Abraham and Eleanor Slovin

STREET AND NUMBER:
14302 Channing Road, Brandywine Hills

CITY OR TOWN:
Wilmington
STATE:
Delaware

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Register of Deeds for New Castle County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Public Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Wilmington
STATE:
Delaware

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:
1/20 acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:
**7. DESCRIPTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Deteriorated</th>
<th>Ruins</th>
<th>Unexposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTEGRITY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>(Check One)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Altered</td>
<td>Unaltered</td>
<td>Moved</td>
<td>Original Site</td>
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Jull West 2nd Street is a two-story brick house with its 29 foot front set well back from the street, in contrast to the other houses on the street, whose fronts line the sidewalk. The street front has a brick extension of later date to the east. There is no doubt that the original house stood without any wings, facing the Christina Road on the north and overlooking the Christina River to the south. Both north and south walls are laid in good Flemish bond with dark glazed headers. A change in the character of the brickwork takes place over the first floor windows for eleven courses to the bottom of the belt course, giving clear indication of a pent roof which carried across both facades. Of further interest is the panel of brickwork between the two windows of the second floor, where two rows of numerals and letters are built in with dark glazed headers. The search to date has not explained in full the meaning of these characters but a date of 1718 is a strong possibility. A very bold moulded brick water table extends across the front a few courses above the first floor. The gable end is 16 feet deep and has been stuccoed. A small window is placed high in the gable end. Since the lot slopes off sharply toward the south and the river a full stone basement is exposed on this side. The plan of the first and second floors show two rooms on each floor with a fireplace in each room. These are located in the far corners of the rooms, strongly reflecting a Swedish influence. The exterior wood cornice is a simple moulded type. The window frames are well-proportioned. The first floor sash are six panes over nine and the second floor six panes over six. The doorways have similar jambs and heads with narrow transoms over them.
6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-Columbian</th>
<th>16th Century</th>
<th>18th Century</th>
<th>20th Century</th>
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| SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) | 1718-1749 |

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal | Prehistoric | Historic | Agriculture | Art | Commerce | Communications | Conservation | Architecture | Education | Engineering | Industry | Religious/Philosophy | Science | Sculpture | Social/Humanitarian | Transportation | Music | Theater |

Urban Planning | Other (Specify) | Early farmhouse continually occupied by professional and working families of Wilmington.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

It is strongly probable that the Zachariah Ferris House is the oldest surviving dwelling in Wilmington. Although the sequence of the numerals and letters laid into the facade in dark glazed headers is perplexing, the most likely interpretation indicates the date 1718, with the initials OM. The house stands on land owned by John Andrew Stalcop, a Swede, in 1671, and sold to Samuel Peterson in 1675. There is some confusion in later deed records, as the original tract was sold off in smaller acreages; however, one may consider the following facts. The house is very certainly of Swedish design, indicated by the floor plan and placement of the corner chimneys. The house was described in an advertisement in 1719, so was built before that date. There is only one communicant with the initials O. M. in the records of Trinity (Old Swedes) Church during the appropriate period, Olaf Hansson. Hansson was married in 1713 to Anna Kossava and died in 1748. In 1729 there is record of purchase of the house by another party. The deeds become clear with the purchase of the block of land on which the house stands by Daniel Barker, in 1745. Later the same year Barker sold a smaller part of the block containing the house to Job Jacob, a Quaker. Zachariah Ferris purchased the house from the late Job's son in 1765. Zachariah was one of three Ferris brothers who came to Wilmington from Connecticut in the 1730s and quickly established themselves as prominent men in Wilmington. As Quakers they were much concerned with the affairs of Friends in the area, and were closely involved with William Shipley, the Quaker primarily responsible for the development of Wilmington. All three brothers were tanners, co-owners of the large tanyard at Second and Tatnall Streets, near Zachariah's home. Their success in this business encouraged others, and the manufacture of leather products remains a substantial industry in Wilmington today. The Zachariah Ferris House is the only one remaining of the three houses the brothers occupied. Zachariah's nephew, Benjamin, was a well-known historian, author of Original Settlements on the Delaware, Zachariah's son, John, who grew up in the house, owned a large and prosperous cabinetmakers shop and
Perris, Benjamin. Original Settlements on the Delaware, 1846
Lincoln, Anna T. Wilmington, Delaware: Three Centuries Under
Four Flags, 1937
Montgomery, Elizabeth. Reminiscences of Wilmington, 1851
Proud, Caryl. 444 West Second Street. For the Historical Society of Delaware

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES</th>
<th>ORIGINATING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LATITUDE LONGITUDE</td>
<td>LATITUDE LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corner</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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<tr>
<td>NW</td>
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<td>NE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
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<td>SW</td>
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LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
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<th>COUNTY</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Albert Kruse, FAIA, State Preservation Coordinator for the
ORGANIZATION: Society for the Preservation of Antiquities
STREET AND NUMBER: c/o Lynn D. Sprankle, 202 Country Club Drive
CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington
STATE: Delaware

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name: [Signature]
Title: State Liaison Officer
Date: August 18, 1970

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

OCT 19 1970

ATTEST:

Keeper of the National Register

OCT 14 1970
3. Significance. Statement of Significance

store, was a member of the Friendship Fire Company at the time of its establishment in 1775, a first member of the Library Company, second burgess of Wilmington in 1794, and an organizer and director of the present Bank of Delaware. For a brief time after Zachariah's death the house was owned, although not lived in, by two famous Delawareans, Louis McLane, member of Congress, Minister to England, Secretary of the Treasury and Secretary of State, and Outerbridge Horsey, United States Senator from 1810 to 1821. Next owner was David Wilson, commander of the Third Company of Wilmington Artillerists during the War of 1812, a director of a fire insurance company and of the Whaling Company in 1833. Later occupants of the house have been less remarkable but industrious citizens of Wilmington, including a car builder, cabinet maker, butcher, and carpenter.
NO. 414 W 2ND STREET
WILMINGTON - DELAWARE