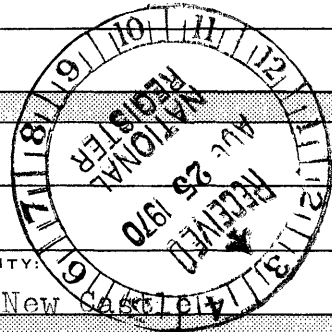


PH0001317

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <i>Delaware</i>	
COUNTY: <i>New Castle</i>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <i>70.10.10.0003</i>	DATE <i>10/19/70</i>



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
*Zachariah Ferris House*

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
*414 West 2nd Street*

CITY OR TOWN:  
*Wilmington*

STATE: *Delaware* CODE: COUNTY: *New Castle* CODE:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>in redevelopment area</i>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
*Abraham and Eleanor Slovin*

STREET AND NUMBER:  
*4302 Channing Road, Brandywine Hills*

CITY OR TOWN: *Wilmington* STATE: *Delaware* CODE:

**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* CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: *1/20 acre*

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

*70.10.10.0003 10/19/70*

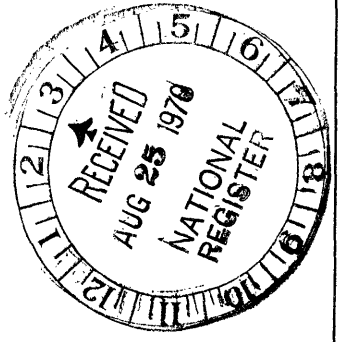
**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

114 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 18 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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1718-1749

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |              |                     |   |
|---|--------------|---------------------|---|
| Aboriginal  | Education    | Political           | Urban Planning                                      |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>                    | Engineering  | Religion/Philosophy | Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/>                       | Industry     | Science             | <u>Early farmhouse</u>                              |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>                    | Invention    | Sculpture           | <u>continually occupied</u>                         |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/>                            | Landscape    | Social/Humanitarian | <u>by professional and working</u>                  |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>                       | Architecture | Theater             | <u>families of</u>                                  |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/>                 | Literature   | Transportation      | <u>Wilmington.</u>                                  |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Military     |                     |   |
| <b>Architecture</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Music        |                     |   |

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 1749, 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 Annika Fossawa and died in 1726. 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 1768. 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

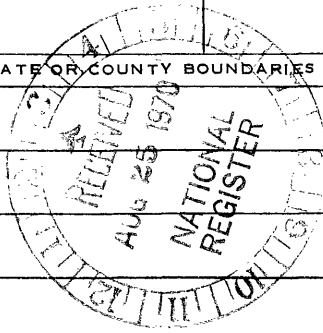
Ferris, Benjamin. Original Settlements on the Delaware, 1846  
 Journal Every Evening. Colonial Homes of Wilmington. Series,  
 1914  
 Lincoln, Anna T. Wilmington, Delaware: Three Centuries Under  
 Four Flags, 1937  
 Montgomery, Elizabeth. Reminiscences of Wilmington, 1851  
 Proud, Caryl. 1114 West Second Street. For the Historical  
 Society of Delaware

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	39	44	23
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	75	33	23
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Albert Kruse, FAIA, State Preservation Coordinator for the ATA

ORGANIZATION: Society for the Preservation of Antiquities      DATE: 15 Aug, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 c/o Lynn D. Sprankle, 202 Country Club Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington      STATE: Delaware      CODE:  

**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 Archivist and State Liaison Officer

Date: August 18, 1970

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

OCT 19 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: OCT 14 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

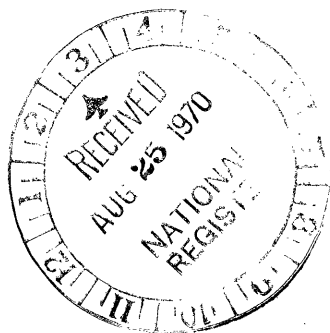
(Continuation Sheet)

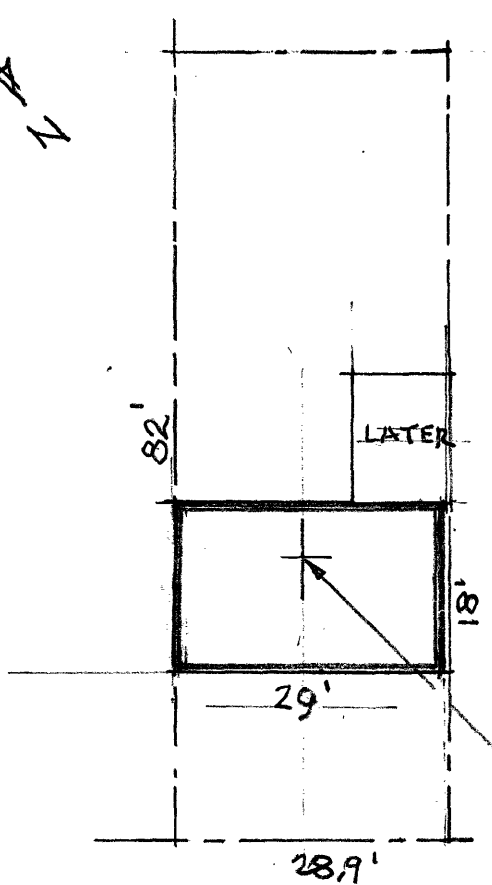
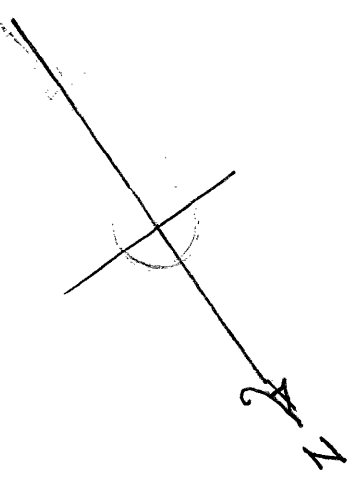
STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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70,10,10,0003	10/19/70

(Number all entries)

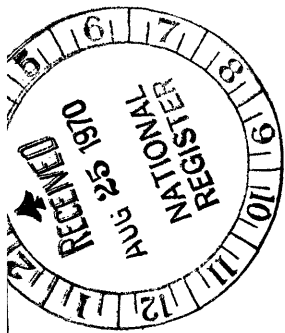
8. Significance. Statement of Significance

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.





LATITUDE  $39^{\circ} 44' 23''$   
 LONGITUDE  $75^{\circ} 33' 23''$



NO. 414 W 2ND STREET  
 WILMINGTON - DELAWARE

8/15/69.