Form 10-300 (July 1969)

Ш Ш UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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STATE:	
Delaware	
COUNTY:	
Kent	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
16410,0010	4/11/2/11

1.	NAME				779770100	9 1,,,,,,,,,	
	Matthew Low	ber House					
	AND/OR HISTORIC:						
2.	LOCATION						
	East of Main	Street, n	orth of the	inter	section		
	CITY OR TOWN: Magnolia, So	uth Murder	kill Hundre	d			
	State Delaware		CODE COU	NTY: Kent		00	
3. (CLASSIFICATION						
	CATEGORY (Check One)		ÖWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBL	
	☐ District X Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: In Process Being Cons	i dered	Occupied Unoccupied Preservation work in progress	Yes: Restricted Unrestricte No	d
	PRESENT USE (Check One or M	lore as Appropriate)					
	Commercial Inc	dustrial [Park Private Residence Religious Scientific		Transportation Other (Specify) ACANT	Comments Exhibiti planned	on
4. (OWNER OF PROPERTY						
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	street and number: Hall of Rec		abile Archi	ves co	imit 55 TOIT		- TE:
	CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		CODE	1
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	Kent County (Court House	e, Recorder	of De	eds		COUNTY:
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6.	REPRESENTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS _					
***************************************	TITLE OF SURVEY:	RRA	3			,	ENT
	DATE OF SURVEY: DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RE	OIL BUSINESS		State	County] Local	TRY NUMBER
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7.	DESCRIPTION								
	'	(Check One)							
	CONDITION	Excellent	X Good	☐ Fair	☐ Dete	riorated	Ruins	Unexposed	
	CONDITION		(Check C	lne)			(Che	ck One)	
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- 1	DESCRIBE THE PR	RESENT AND OR	IGINAL (if be	OWN) BHYSICA	LADDEAL	DANCE			

The Matthew Lowber House at Magnolia is a two story and attic, three bay brick house, one room deep, erected in 1774, with a frame addition at the north end built about 1855. The older portion has excellent panelling, the original wide floor boards, and other good woodwork along with much of the original hardware. Each of the two ground floor rooms in the brick portion has its own front door and winding enclosed stairway. The brickwork, now painted, features a belt course, watertable, and the owner's initials with the date in black headers near the peak of the southeast gable.

Before the doorway is a pair of great sycamores, doubtless bride and groom trees planted by the builder and his wife when they first occupied the new home, It was then an isolated farmhouse. The present Town of Magnolia has grown up around it, beginning about 1845.



ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	X 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	ole and Known) 1774		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	Industry	losophy	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
🔼 Architecture 📝	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture .	X Social/Human-	
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

The Matthew Lowber House is of architectural value as an exactly dated example of a small but comfortable country home of the later eighteenth century which has had amazingly little alteration. The builder was a fourth generation descendant of a Dutch immigrant who reached New Amsterdam by 1677 and was in Kent County by 1684. Members of his line in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were comfortably well-to-do landowners and craftsmen, usually Friends. In the colonial years they were not officeholders. The child-ren and grandchildren of Peter Lowber, the immigrant (d.1698) are the progenitors of many modern Kent County families. Another Lowber House, built around 1750 by Matthew's father, also named Matthew, is still standing in Frederica.



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As th	e designated State	Liais	on Officer for the	Na-							
tiona	tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law			ic Law		I hereby	certify th	at this pr	operty is	included	in the
İ	89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion					National	Register	,			
	in the National Register and certify that it has been					۴.		,			
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED NOV 3 1980

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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HISTORIC	, marry			
	w Lowber House			
AND/OR COMMON				
2 LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER				
orth Main Street	(Route 113A)	0	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DIST	RICT
aqnolia		VICINITY OF	One	2005
STATE elaware		CODE 10	COUNTY Kent	CODE 0 01 .
3 CLASSIFICA	ATION			
CATECORY	OWNEROWS	07.2	555	·
CATEGORYDISTRICT	OWNERSHIPPUBLIC	STATUS		SENT USE
BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	_OCCUPIED X_UNOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL	MUSEUM PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	X_PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
4 OWNER OF	Boa	ership and address rd of Assessments)	confirmed 12/3/81	., Kent County
	seph P. Eberly			
STREET & NUMBER Box 42	,			
CITY, TOWN			STATE	26
Manokin,		VICINITY OF	Maryland 218	30
5 LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION		
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, E	TC. Kent County Cou:	rthouse		
STREET & NUMBER The Green				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
Dover			Delaware	
6 REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
TITLE				
	nuation Sheet			
DATE		ECDEDAI	STATE COUNTY 1004	
DEPOSITORY FOR		LEDEKAL	_STATECOUNTYLOCA	L
SURVEY RECORDS				
CITY TOWN			STATE	



X_FAIR

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT __DETERIORATED __GOOD __RUINS

_UNEXPOSED

__UNALTERED X_ALTERED

__ORIGINAL SITE DATE Feb. 1980 X_MOVED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lowber House is located in the rural Kent County crossroads town of Magnolia, comprised of about seventy-five frame residences, ranging in date from the third quarter of the nineteenth century to the present, which lines the town's two principal streets. Most of Magnolia's houses lie adjacent to the edge of the roadway and are typically set close to one another on small to medium-sized town lots. The center of town, formed by the intersection of the Barker's Landing Road and the Dover-Frederica Road, is today dominated by the modern brick fire station of the Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company.

In February of 1980, the Lowber House was moved from its original location between the fire house and the Magnolia Post Office to a new location on the same side of North Main Street, approximately one hundred yards to the northwest. At present, it rests on a cinderblock foundation that will receive a veneer of original bricks salvaged in the move as stabilization of the houses progresses.

As initially constructed, the Lowber House was a brick, hall-parlor-plan plantation house of two stories with a basically symmetrical three-bay facade laid in Flemish bond. With the addition of a two-story, two-bay frame wing to the north gable end in the mid-nineteenth century, the building assumed its present configuration. In an attempt to retain symmetry on the facade in this transformation, the original doorway was converted into a window and a new entrance cut into the brickwork closer to the new vertical axis of the house. The simple bed-moulded box cornice of the original block's gable roof was extended to the frame addition and further embellished with an applied foliated serpentineshaped sawnwork bargeboard. The shingled roof was later covered with ribbed tinned sheet, and the facade of the house is now covered by a peeling gray paint. The two facade cellar windows, aligned beneath the flanking bays of the principal block, feature segmental arches. The first-floor windows with brick flat arches and projecting key bricks, now feature mid-nineteenth-century wooden shutters mounted on cast iron pintles screwed to the inner edges of the architraves, replacing earlier wrought iron driven pintles.

The upper windows have operable louvered shutters, also of the mid-nineteenth century. Most of the scrolled wrought iron shutter dogs with flattened terminals are missing. Removed from their framing and presently stored in the building are several original single-hung window sashes. The first-floor windows originally held nine-over-nine pane sashes and the shorter, upper-story windows held six-over-nine sashes. Visible in the brickwork adjacent to the bricked-in doorway are the sockets for the top rails and seats of now-missing porch benches.

The south gable end features excellent glazed header Flemish bond brickwork, in this instance quite unusual since it is the only exterior wall of the Lowber House so contstructed. The header bricks on the facade and rear elevations are without glazing. Worked into the patterning at attic level are the initials "M L" and "1774", and the lower portion of another letter, probably an "L" for Lowber, mostly obscured by parging on the apparently rebuilt chimney. The roofline of an earlier wing, depicted in an 1818 Orphan's Court Plot of the property, is clearly defined on this gable. A segmentally-arched cellar entrance

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE	
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
X-1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
X-1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)	
SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1774	BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Matthew Lowber House is of paramount importance to the architectural history of Delaware as a largely unaltered, tightly dated, pre-Revolutionary War brick plantation house containing one of the most intact interiors of that period in the state. In recognition of its architectural merit, the Lowber House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 16, 1971. The re-siting of the Lowber House within the town of Magnolia has not diminished the architectural qualities that brought it to the National Register in 1971.

The Lowber House is one of only three known houses in Kent County bearing a pre-Revolutionary War construction date in glazed headers in the gable end wall. The architectural integrity of the others has been comprised to such an extent that their eligibility for the National Register on architectural significance alone is doubtful. The Presbyterian Manse, near Garrison Lake, south of Smyrna is dated "1774" on its western gable end. Unfortunately, its extensive interior paneling, architectural cupboards, and staircase have been robbed in the last decade. The brick mansion known as "Tomahawk," dated "1772," has been disassembled and re-erected on another site.

Given the circumstances of the state's financial inability to restore the Lowber House and the fire company's valid needs for its lot, there was no feasible alternative for its preservation. Every effort was made to reestablish its historic orientation, immediate setting, and general environment. The Lowber House was moved intact to its new siting, one hundred yards north of where it was built and is positioned facing the street much as it has since 1774. Though the building's specific relationship to the rest of the town has changed, its general orientation remains the same. The streetscapes of Magnolia remain largely as before and it is arguable that the unique architectural qualities of the Lowber House can be better appreciated on its new site than when it stood in the shadow of the fire station.

Prior to the move, it was determined by the Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation that the proposed siting held no archaeological significance and that the move would have no adverse effect on other buildings potentially eligible for the National Register. The one-acre lot where the Lowber House stood when listed on the National Register in 1971 does not possess archaeological significance sufficient to warrant listing and should, therefore, be removed from the National Register.

Historic American Building Survey; Matthew Lowber House

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

	
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1/4 acr	THE NOT VERIFIED
UTM REFERENCES	
A 1 8 4 5 8 4 4 0 4 3 2 4 7 2 0 ZONE EASTING NORTHING C VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	B
The nomination includes only the buildi	ing itself.
REVISED - FOR RESUBMISSION - Se	ee Continuation Sheet
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LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES	S OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE CODE	COUNTY
STATE CODE	COUNTY CODE
11 FORM PREPARED BY	
NAME/TITLE Dean E. Nelson, Historian	February 15, 1980
ORGANIZATION Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Prese	rvation DATE
STREET & NUMBER Old State House, The Green, Dover, Dela	TELEPHONE aware 19901 302-736-5685
CITY OR TOWN D ove r	STATE Delaware
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION	OFFICER CERTIFICATION
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF TH	HIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:
NATIONAL STATE_	XLOCAL
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the Nati	
hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Reg	gister and certify that it has been evaluated according to the
criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.	De Mak
DeputyATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE	aniel Soft the
TITLE	DATE 10/10/80
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN	THE NATIONAL REGISTER
, Toma ha Soufe	DATE 4/9/92
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRES	SERVATION DATE 4-5-82
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

FHR-8-300A (11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 3 1980

DATE ENTERED

Matthew Lowber House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

5 PAGE 1

Historic American Building Survey 1975 Federal Library of Congress Washington, D.C.

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey K-113 1975 State Hall of Records Dover, Delaware 19901

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only received MOV 3 1980 date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

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is also located here. The rear elevation of the main block has been stuccoed.

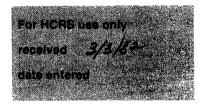
The interior of the Lowber House boasts some of the finest and most complete eighteenth-century woodwork in Delaware. The parlor end wall, composed of raised, fielded panels, is divided into three principal sections. The central portion covers the chimney breast and fireplace with a crossetted architrave and later, simple bracketed board mantle shelf. Flanking this central element are the right and left sections of the end wall panelling, which protrude into the room; the right contains a cupboard (perhaps added) with panelled doors and crossetted architrave, and the left section boxes a stairway to the cellar. The interior walls of the parlor, as in the remainder of the original block, are of plaster-over-lath and a chair rail and baseboard complete its treatment. In the southeast corner of the parlor is a short open-string staircase with a turned newell and two turned balusters per tread, which leads to an enclosed winder staircase to the second floor chamber, also with fully panelled end walls. The attic is unfinished, except for wide board flooring.

The frame mid-nineteenth-century addition appears to have been a kitchen and it contains a sizeable cooking hearth.

The Matthew Lowber House was acquired by the State of Delaware in 1969 for the purpose of preserving its architectural character and presence in Magnolia. However, the state lacked the finances necessary to restore the building and put it to productive use. At the same time, the Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company, operating in a fire station immediately adjacent to the Lowber House, increasingly found it necessary to expand their facilities essential to the health, welfare, and safety of the area's residents. As a consequence of this situation, House Bill No. 955 was introduced and subsequently passed in 1978 by the 129th General Assembly, conveying the Lowber House and lot to the Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company. Under provisions of the bill, the house was to be sold by the fire company and moved by the purchaser to a new location under the supervision and control of the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. This transaction and resiting has taken place and the house is currently being stabilized on its new site, prior to restoration as a private residence.

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

REVISION MATERIAL - MATTHEW LOWBER HOUSE (submitted 10/10/80, returned for clarification 2/13/81)

- 8. As first submitted after the relocation of the Lowber house in 1980, the nomination included only the historic structure itself. The thought behind this conservative setting of boundaries was that, since the new lot had no historical or archaeological significance specifically relating to that of the property being nominated, no significance should be claimed for it. In response to comments by National Register staff, however, and in view of the particular appropriateness of the new setting which is described in paragraph three of item eight of the original statement, the boundary description has been revised to include the tax lot on which the building is now approximately centered.
- 10. (Revised v.b.d.) The nomination includes the Matthew Lowber house and the parcel on which it stands: tax lot #32 (135'X130') Magnolia, Kent County, Delaware.