

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.6.10.0013	DATE 6/21/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Naaman's Tea House (Naamans)

AND/OR HISTORIC: see letter 9-18-74
~~Block House~~ -- Robinson House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Naaman's Corner

CITY OR TOWN:
Claymont

STATE: Delaware CODE: 10 COUNTY: New Castle CODE: 003



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural
 Commercial
 Educational
 Entertainment
 Government
 Industrial
 Military
 Museum
 Park
 Private Residence
 Religious
 Scientific
 Transportation
 Other (Specify) Restoration planned in the near future.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Delaware, Public Archives Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 19901 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Public Building

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Delaware Heritage Buildings and Areas

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Greater Wilmington Development Council, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
300 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1320

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington STATE: Delaware CODE: 19801 10

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

ending

The Robinson House and adjoining Blockhouse, often collectively called Naaman's, stand on a 1.2 acre plot in a rapidly developing commercial--industrial neighborhood, with a small shaded lawn and a paved parking lot. They comprise a group of connecting structures, painted white, some of stone and some frame, erected at different periods. The Robinson House is two-storey and attic, with dormer windows. The eastern end, of stone, was erected about 1723. The western portion of somewhat later date, is of wide, smoothly matched ship lapped with flush joints. To this has been added, still later, (c. 1915) a portico with fluted Doric columns and a recent one-storey enclosed porch. There have been many interior changes. The main floor retains much fine original woodwork. A modern one-storey frame section now connects an originally separate one-storey stone dependency and the Blockhouse with the main house.

The Blockhouse, believed built in 1654 ^{X see note} is a small square two-storey building. The first floor originally had no windows other than loopholes under the eaves. There is a narrow stairway to the upper room. A fireplace almost fills the east wall. Other than probably renewal of the roof and cutting of small windows, the structure is considered to be in its original condition.

The surrounding country has changed beyond recognition. Once a center of waterpowered mills set in farmed country at a well-known bridge on the King's Highway, later Philadelphia Pike, it now has a steel mill in the immediate area and is developing as a major interchange on I-95 with accompanying commercial expansion and, nearby, greatly increased population pressure with widely varied classes of housing within a short distance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> itarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Blockhouse may be the oldest surviving building in Delaware. Johan Rising, in October 1654, selected a site on Naaman's Creek for a sawmill, the Colony's first in which blades newly brought from Sweden were to be installed the following spring. The Swedes customarily fortified their industrial installations, especially those equipped with imported implements. In September 1655, the Swedes were defeated by a Dutch expedition. Architects find the Blockhouse structurally compatible with such a history and purpose.

From the middle seventeenth century the immediate vicinity of the Robinson House has been a significant milling center. In 1701 a gristmill across the King's Highway was a landmark in the survey of the circular boundary now dividing Delaware and Pennsylvania. The mills and their supporting lands, including the Robinson House site, was purchased by a merchant, Thomas Robinson, in the period 1745-1751 and remained in his family about a century, the House being the home of the successive owners. It is an architecturally fine building.

Abraham Robinson, owner during the Revolution, was a brother-in-law of Anthony Wayne, who visited him there. Washington is known to have stopped on August 25, 1777, when the Army, moving to meet Howe, encamped nearby. The Robinson Mills were among those dismantled at Washington's order to prevent their use by the British. A later Thomas Robinson was a Major General of Delaware Militia from 1807 through the War of 1812. Some sources state that the Robinson House was an inn through much of the eighteenth and nineteenth century. It housed a fine restaurant from the early twentieth century until shortly before its purchase by the State of Delaware.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware, by Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard, Dover, Delaware, 1962, pp. 226-227.
Early Architecture of Delaware, by George Fletcher Bennett, Wilmington, Delaware, 1932, pp. 65-68.
Atlas of the State of Delaware, by D.G. Beers, Philadelphia, 1868, p. 7.
Atlas of New Castle County, Delaware, by G. W. Baist, Philadelphia, 1893, Plate 9.

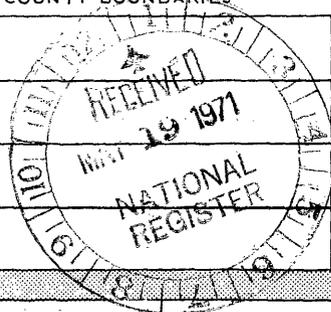
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		39° 48' 36" N	75° 26' 32" W	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.0

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Leon deValinger, Jr., State Archivist

ORGANIZATION: Public Archives Commission, State of Delaware DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: Lea Hilkie

Title: Historic Registrar, State Liaison Officer for Delaware

Date: May 13, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: JUN 21 1971

ATTEST:

William Mountz
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: MAY 28 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

