

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# 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

THE THOMAS MAULL HOUSE (Amended)

AND/OR COMMON

THE MAULL HOUSE

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

542 Pilot Town Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Lewes

VICINITY OF

One

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Delaware 19958

10

Sussex

003

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☒ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☒ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Colonel David Hall Chapter, NSDAR

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lewes

VICINITY OF

STATE

DE 19958

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

The Circle

CITY, TOWN

Georgetown

STATE

DE 19947

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

July and August, 1936

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Maull House is the oldest Lewes building in its original location that has the least alterations. It is a gambrel-roof, cypress-shingled, one-and-a-half story dwelling with an attic. It seems to follow the "Quaker Plan" of William Penn's and was built at a time when several Quaker families lived in the Pilot Town area, including the Claypooles, Fishers, Miers, Wynnes, and Rowlands.

A rear wing was added about 1890. Also, at this time an older wing to the north was removed. It was a one-story section, with attic and gambrel roof.

Restoration work to date has revealed that this 30' by 16' structure was built all at one time, instead of at two different times as previously believed. The sills and plates are one timber each, and the joist and rafter for the partition are part of the original bracing. There are gunstock corner posts and the main studs have consecutive Roman numerals at the plate. The paneling and mouldings are generally intact, although some of the upstairs paneling was moved when the rear wing was added. The back of the house has old, beaded weatherboarding.

The smaller fireplace was removed in the main room downstairs and revealed a very large fireplace with a huge oak lintel; bricks in a herringbone pattern formed the fireback. Evidences were found that the original paneling over this fireplace may have been a very simple type at first, with the present paneling being installed later, and the shelf a much later addition. When the flooring was removed downstairs, a brick hearth level with a hard dirt floor was found one foot below the sills.

(AMENDMENT - August 10, 1977)

Directly across Pilot Town Road from the Maull House is a grassy field which falls away to the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal. It was here that the dock for the pilots' boats would have been. Also in this area is an ancient spring which, according to legend, is believed to possess the virtue of restoring or preserving youth.

## 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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES : c. 1730-1740

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This property was purchased in 1741 by Luke Shields, Sr., from Samuel Paynter, carpenter, for 90 pounds which included the house. Further research is being undertaken.

Luke Shields, a pilot, married the widow of John Maull, also a pilot and Luke's neighbor, who died in 1753. No doubt the Maull children were brought up in this house. It did not come into the actual possession of the Maulls until 1836, when Thomas S. Maull, great grandson of the above John Maull, bought it at a sheriff's sale.

The early Maulls were pilots, shipcarpenters, and farmers. In later years, some continued in these occupations and others entered various professions. Dr. Joseph Maull was Speaker of the State Senate and, upon the death of Governor Thomas Stockton on March 2, 1846, became governor until he died on May 3, 1846.

An interesting episode in the memoirs of the Maulls was the visit by Jerome Bonaparte and his bride, Betsy Patterson, after they had been shipwrecked off Lewes in 1803.

(AMENDMENT - August 10, 1977)

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the adjacent Lewes and Rehoboth Canal (which follows the channel of Lewes Creek) was an important transportation waterway. The Maull House was occupied by bay pilots during much of this period. The canal site was used as their dock area. This area can be expected to contain archaeological evidence, including road traces and remains of docks.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Eberlein, Harold D. and Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard. Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware. Dover: by the Public Archives Commission, 1962, pp. 9 and 23.

Macdonald, Betty Harrington. Historic Landmarks of Delaware and the Eastern Shore. Published by Delaware State Society of the American Colonists, 1963, p. 71.

Delaware: A Guide to the First State. Published by The Viking Press, 1938, p. 206.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA *Lewes, Del. Canal*

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9600 sq.ft. (Amended to include an additional 11,602.5 square feet)

UTM REFERENCES

A	1	8	4	8	6	3	3	0	4	2	9	2	6	5	0		
ZONE			EASTING			NORTHING			ZONE			EASTING			NORTHING		
C																	
D																	

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The frontage of the nominated area on Pilot Town Road measures 149.54 feet. The property line extends back approximately 90 feet to meet the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION Mrs. David Anthony Potter, Treasurer; Joan M. Norton, Architectural Historian  
Date: XXXX DHCA; Hall of Records  
Colonel David Hall Chapter, NSDAR (July 22, 1970) Dover, DE  
STREET & NUMBER 364 Pilot Town Road ~~XXXXXX~~ (Amended 8/10,77)  
CITY OR TOWN Lewes, Phone: (302) 678-5314  
STATE DE 19958

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE      LOCAL X

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



TITLE Director, Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs

DATE 11/15/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: Laurence C. Potter  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/24/78

DATE

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Delaware Cultural Resource Survey, S-175

1970 State Survey

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
Hall of Records  
Dover, Delaware 19901

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Mauil, Baldwin S. John Mauil and His Descendants, 1941.

SKETCH MAP

Maul House Amendment S-175

11-77

JCA



