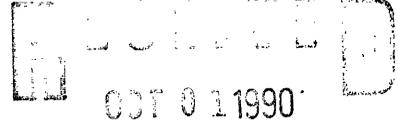


1674



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hearn Potato House
other names/site number CRS#-5761

2. Location

street & number Route 1, Box 157 NA not for publication
city, town Laurel vicinity
state Delaware code DE county Sussex code 005 zip code 19956

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>N/A</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>NA</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Sweet Potato Houses of Sussex County, DE

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Laurel [Signature] - 5480 9/25/90
Signature of certifying official Date
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

INA _____
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. [Signature] 11/15/90
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/processing, storage

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/ storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Other: Potato House

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls wood/weatherboard

roof wood shingleother brick (chimney)concrete (first floor)

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Hearn Potato House is a one and one half story, gable fronted, balloon frame structure resting on a brick foundation and built circa 1900. It is located in Broad Creek Hundred northeast of Laurel, .6 miles north of Hitchens Crossroads (roads 74 and 62), lying at the end of a .3 mile light duty road on the east side of Road 62. The building is part of an agricultural complex which is not being considered for nomination. It measures 18 feet 3 inches by 28 feet 3 inches. The surrounding environment includes a rectangular farm courtyard and cultivated (Indian corn) fields. The potato house is located on the southeast perimeter of the farm yard beside an early (nineteenth century) corn crib and facing a frame barn, cart shed, and farm house. Today the potato house is a storage building, but was used for raising chickens after its function as a potato house became obsolete in the 1940s. During the sweet potato era, the Hearn Farm grew Indian corn, and produce vegetables such as peas, tomatoes and cucumbers as well as apples and pears.

The overall condition of the building is excellent.

Fenestration is original and consists of first floor loading door on the front elevation and second floor loading doors on front and rear gable elevations. Doors retain their interior sliding, and exterior hinged doors. Braces for a second floor loading platform may still be seen on the front elevation.

North lateral side of the building exhibits a centered, second floor loading door, above a six over six light window. South lateral side has extensive fenestration including center hinged loading doors on first and second floor levels each flanked by six over six light windows. Window hatches are currently on only the doors and one window of the south lateral side, and on only the second floor loading door of the north lateral side. The remainder of the hatches are stored in the potato house.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance

1900-1937

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Hearn Potato House is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places as an excellent example of an architectural reflection of a broad historical trend and as a significant architectural type. The potato house, as a functional type, relates to the Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan's property type 1B reflecting major economic and cultural trends relating to agriculture.

The broad historical pattern to which the potato house is directly linked is the modernization of agricultural practices in southern Delaware during the first half of the twentieth century including the emergence of truck farming, the growth of perishable produce crops, and the development of modern agricultural marketing. The growth of sweet potato cultivation in Sussex County was one of the major manifestations of these changes in production practices and crop choices. The potato house is the remaining physical evidence of this important trend in Sussex County's agricultural history when the sweet potato was "king".

Sweet potato cultivation dominated the region particularly in the years between 1910-1940, and was one of the first crops to benefit from truck farming and modern agricultural marketing. The long (eight month) and multi-phased process of sweet potato production impacted the culture and economy of the rural community in Sussex County during the years of its prominence as one of the area's cash crops.

The potato house is significant as an architectural type. It was essential to the process of sweet potato production in both curing and storage capacities

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Delaware Agricultural Statistics, Historical Series 1866-1974, Bul 419.
Newark: University of Delaware, Agricultural Experiment Station, 1976.

Hancock, Harold B. The History of Sussex County, Sussex County Centennial Committee, 1976.

Herman, Bernard and Siders, Rebecca. The Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan, prepared for the Delaware State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, 1987.

Oral History Interviews with retired sweet potato farmers of Sussex County, August, 1986. Tapes with the Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware.

Scharf, Thomas. The History of Delaware, 1609-1888. Philadelphia: L.J. Richards & Co., 1888.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
 has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .03 acres (604.75 square feet)

UTM References

A

1	8	4	5	9	9	5	9	4	2	7	0	6	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Tax Parcel Map#: 2-32-9, 15

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the site is a rectangle surrounding the potato house and extending ten feet from the roofline of the building on all sides.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is justifiable because this nomination asks for the consideration of only the potato house. The property and additional non-contributing structures associated with the site are not included in this nomination.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judith Quinn

organization Center for Historic Architecture & Engineering date December 23, 1987

street & number Urban Affairs, University of Delaware telephone 032-451-2394

city or town Newark state Delaware zip code 19716

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All hardware including hinges, latches, and shutter holders are original.

Triple siding is intact. Layering consists of exterior vertical weatherboards over horizontal planking, insulating paper, studs, and interior horizontal planking.

The plan of the Hearn Potato House is laid out on a center aisle orientation. The interior brick chimney still stands in the southeast corner of the building approximately three feet from the front gable wall. Stairs accessing the second floor are tucked into the southeast corner of the building between chimney and front gable wall. Three samson posts set into the concrete floor and running the length of the house supplement the balloon framing on the first floor.

Bins have been removed on both first and second floors. Bins remain on the attic level which is accessed by a ladder on the rear gable wall of the second floor. The tall, narrow, slated bins are arranged on a center aisle plan, six on each side. Tags identifying renter's name and bushels of potatoes stored are still nailed to most of the bins' end posts. There are no gable end windows at this level and ventilation was provided by a fully slated floor. Air from the second floor thus flowed freely up to attic story bins. Though reported in oral interviews, this feature was found only in one additional potato house.

An additional unique feature are hinged vents in the attic story ceiling which (like the typical sliding trap door) opened to the space just under the peak of the roof. The two hinged vents in the Hearn Potato House measure three feet in length and are a six inch board in width. Each swing up, opening a long, narrow channel for air passage.

The roof is of original wood shingles.

The Hearn Potato House remains an excellent example of the potato house in details of both construction and function.

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and was developed as a distinct building type designed to provide the functional needs required for a successful, saleable sweet potato crop. Potato houses share common construction elements and are recognizable on the landscape as belonging to this specific property type. The Hearn Potato House is a significant example of the building type because it retains an important number of elements characteristic of potato house construction and function. These elements include; tall, narrow proportions, triple sheathing, hatched windows, interior chimney, storage bins, ventilation features, and gable front orientation.

It is also one of the older (ca. 1900) and most complete examples of the type and includes unique design elements in its ventilation system (slated floors and ceiling vents) and surviving evidence of the people who used the potato house (identifying tags on bin posts). The Hearn Potato House has integrity of design, materials, location, workmanship, and association.

