

**THREATENED BUILDINGS DOCUMENTED
IN DELAWARE, 1998-1999**

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Preface

In 1998 the Center for Historic Architecture and Design, University of Delaware (CHAD), received a matching funds grant from the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DE SHPO) to provide documentation of threatened resources in Delaware. This project focuses on standing resources threatened by a variety of factors, including abandonment, neglect, development pressure, and renovation. Funding for this grant provides a level of documentation for buildings facing serious threats in cases where there is no other funding source to pay for such recordation. Dwellings threatened by highway projects receiving federal funding, for example, are documented through the Section 106 process.

Between September 1998 and June 1999, CHAD students and staff documented eight properties located throughout the state, including a kitchen/slave quarter, a nineteenth century urban commercial block, several farm dwellings, a Methodist church, and a log stable. Sites were documented in all three counties in Delaware, in both urban and rural settings. The commercial block, located in downtown Wilmington, contained several buildings joined together over the last century, including one late-eighteenth century townhouse. The farm dwellings documented represented typical farm houses for their periods of construction, but are examples of types of construction that do not survive in large numbers. One farm house, located in the New Castle County piedmont, was an early-nineteenth-century stone dwelling. Two of the dwellings were of timber frame construction over multiple building periods, while the fourth was built of log.

Threats to these sites take a variety of forms. The commercial block and the church are currently slated for demolition; the log stable and the log dwelling are both seriously deteriorated; the kitchen/slave quarter is protected but is being renovated. Two of the timber frame dwellings have been dismantled and portions of the frames moved to new locations for adaptive reuse in modern developments.

Most of the documentation carried out under this grant occurred at the Category II level (Partial Intensive Documentation). This included a set of archival measured field notes, annotated and to scale; large-format (4" x 5") black-and-white photographs or

35mm color slides; and an architectural data form. Included in this report are the narrative data sheets; hand drawn or AutoCAD generated drawings; and photographic documentation for each resource. Full size copies of all field notes and drawings are stored at both the Center for Historic Architecture and Design and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office.

All of the documentation produced by this grant is available to the public. If you are interested in further information, contact one of the following sources:

- 1) Center for Historic Architecture and Design
307 Alison Hall
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(302) 831-8097
- 2) Delaware State Historic Preservation Office
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