

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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N-5176

Property Name: J.M. Gordon House (1868)

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The J.M. Gordon House is located on the south side of route 44 (Vance Neck Road) approximately 2 miles east of its junction with route 13. The structure is situated in an area of cultivated fields and pasture. The nominated area includes 5 acres containing the house and eligible outbuildings. Non-contributing buildings include tractor sheds, a silo, and frame storage buildings erected within the last fifty years.

Owner: Arnold Boyer
P.O. Box 141
Odessa, Delaware
19730

Description:

The Gordon House is a two-and- one-half story, three bay, brick structure with a two-and-one-half story, four bay addition to the east. A one story, frame lean-to addition has been added to this, on a concrete foundation with band windows. The brick portion is built on a brick and stone foundation, with a full basement below. The exterior brick walls are painted white. The south facade is laid in flemish bond, while the north and west facades are laid in seven course common bond, indicating that the structure was at one time oriented towards Appoquinimink Creek. The gable end windows flanking the chimney on the east facade are evident but have been filled in and built over when the frame addition was added.

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The windows in the brick portion of the structure are six over one sash with wood surrounds, the attic being lit by a single gable and sash window on the west facade. The frame addition features four over four, and two over two sash with wood surrounds, but no attic lights.

The center passage on the south facade has a single leaf door featuring ten panes of glass. The side hall passage on the north facade is a single leaf door with four panes of glass.

There is a one story, five bay, screened porch on the south facade of the brick structure and a one story enclosed porch on the south facade of the frame addition. Both have concrete foundations.

The outbuildings on this property are to the south and east of the house and reflect the raising of beef cattle. There are two, two and one-half story gable roof barns, one having a shed addition and interior chimney; the other, somewhat larger, having a silo beside it. The property is divided into sections by split rail and electric fencing. Cattle ramps are set up beside the barns. There is a chicken coop to the east of the house and a small one story frame gable roof structure directly south of the house. Another frame structure of the same proportions is located between the barns. There is also a garage at the west end completing a courtyard plan.

Historic Background and Significance

The J. M. Gordon house is first mentioned on the Rea and Price atlas of 1849 as S. Townsend. Beers' atlas of 1868 lists the change of lands and J. M. Gordon's acquisition. This farm remained in J. M. Gordon/Gordon's possession until after 1893 as he is listed on the Baist 1893 atlas. The 1870 agricultural census, reveals a farm a little larger than average (260 acres) with a devalued cash value typical of the post-war period. Butter and hay were the main products with 40 acres being concentrated in hay. A three acre apple orchard provided some extra income. The brick house with its extended facade indicates the prosperous re-

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building period and landward orientation change from the original location facing the Appoquinimink Creek as indicated by the flemish bond south facade.

Nomination by Trish Bensinger and Bert Jicha