

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

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K-1315

Property Name: A. Poinsett House

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The house sits on a farm of about 210 acres, located on the north side of Delaware Route 6 and east of Road 126. The nominated property includes a tract of land 750 feet on either side of the driveway and 1,000 feet north of Route 6. This contains 34.4 acres and would include the agricultural buildings to the north and west of the house.

Owner: Antone J. Kujawski
R. D. 1, Box 852
Clayton, DE 19938

Description:

The Poinsett House was built in the mid-eighteenth century as a tenant house by the Blackiston family. The original core is a 2-bay, one-room-plan brick house, 20 feet by 18 feet. The facade is laid in Flemish bond, while the remaining sides are laid in five-course common bond. A three-course belt course once was located on the facade, but it has been removed. Later additions to the building in the early-nineteenth century include two log sections. One is a wing 24 feet by 16 feet, and the other log wing is 18 feet by 16 feet. Both are attached to the west gable end. The house faces south.

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While originally part of the Blackiston family lands known as "Deer Park," by the nineteenth century the lands were in the hands of the Whitby family as a tenant farm. When Joseph Whitby died, the farm passed to his son John. The Kent County Orphan's Court in 1823 contains the following description of the house: "Brickroom about 20 feet by 18 feet. generably in tolerable order except one of the porches and some of the window sills, a log wing adjoining about 24 feet y 16 feet covered with weatherboard..., a log kitchen adjoining the last room about 18 feet by 16 feet which wants repair..." At this time the farm had a brick smokehouse, a brick milk house, a log granary with a cellar, a log corn crib, a small log house, a small log corn crib, a frame barn, a log stable and corn crib and another log stable. There was also a 106-tree apple orchard and a garden with a brick wall. The cleared land was 180 acres. The total acreage was not given.

The trustees of the estate ordered repairs and maintenance of the house. The porches were repaired; the porch on the front of the house still retains its vernacular Greek-Revival features, even though it has been screened-in. The porch on the rear of the house has been replaced by a 1-story shed wing.

The interior of the house has not been altered and retains its original floor plan. Recent exterior changes include covering the log wings with asbestos shingle and removing the west chimney. The asbestos shingle was placed over the center door on the 3-bay kitchen wing. In addition to the house, there are also a number of agricultural buildings including barns, sheds, and large metal silos.

Historic Background:

Built as a one-room-plan dwelling, the Poinsett House was a tenant house until the early part of this century. The house is shown on the maps by Mason & Dixon in determining the boundary between Delaware and Maryland in 1763. Land sale records during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Kent County were not always recorded at the courthouse and it is difficult to trace the ownership of the properties. In 1823, when Joseph Whitby's estate was being settled, the land was occupied by James Green. Whitby owned the adjoining 200-acre farm, which was occupied by John Harrington.

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By 1859, the land was owned by the firm of Poinsett and Pratt, according to Byle's Atlas of Kent County. The owner in 1868, as listed on Beer's Atlas of Delaware was A. Poinsett. The land sales from Whitby to Poinsett were not recorded. Poinsett was a Wilmington merchant and owned various parcels of land in Kent County. When Poinsett's estate was being settled in 1872, the farm had 237 acres.

Statement of Significance:

The Poinsett House is eligible for listing under Criterion C, as an example of the maintenance of two archaic building traditions. While brick appears to be the preferred building material of the eighteenth and early-nineteenth century in Kenton Hundred, the other surviving brick houses are much more substantial dwellings. This is the only one-room-plan dwelling in the hundred. The addition of the one-room, 2-story log wing immediately to the west of the core effectively converted the house into a hall-parlor-type, 4-bay dwelling with interior gable end chimneys. The kitchen wing most likely was the most recent addition to the dwelling.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Kenton Hundred Multiple Resource Area
State Delaware

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 21. McDaniel, Delaplane, House **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Delores Byers 6/27/83
Attest _____
- 22. **Poinsett House** **Substantive Review** *for* Keeper accept Patrick Andrews 6/27/83
Attest _____
- 23. Stevens, William, House **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Delores Byers 8/29/83
Attest _____
- 24. Wilds, David, House **Substantive Review** **Determined Eligible** *for* Keeper Eligible Patrick Andrews 6/27/83
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Attest _____
- 25. Williams, James, House **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Delores Byers, 6/27/83
Attest _____
- 26. Wright-Carey House **Entered in the National Register** *for* Keeper Delores Byers 6/27/83
Attest _____
- 27. Somerville
(previously listed) Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 28. Boxwood
(previously listed) Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 29. Aspendale
(previously listed) Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 30. Cheney Clow's Fort Site
(previously listed) Keeper _____
Attest _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Poinsett House (Kenton Hundred MRA)
Kent County
DELAWARE

Working No. MAY 18 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 6/16/83 — 7/6/83
Action: ACCEPT 6/27/83
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*architecturally significant within the context
of the MRA*

Recom. / Criteria accept
Reviewer Patrick Andrus
Discipline Historian
Date 6/27/83
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
| | Public Acquisition | Accessible | |

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



P.2
Name: Poinsett House; K-1315

Location: Kenton Hundred

Photographer: Stephen G. Del Sordo

Date of Photograph: 1980

Location of Negative: Bureau of Archaeology &
Historic Preservation

Description: View from South

Photograph Number: 10 of 85



Name: Poinsett House; K-1315

Location: Kenton Hundred

Photographer: Stephen G. Del Sordo

Date of Photograph: 1980

Location of Negative: Bureau of Archaeology &
Historic Preservation

Description: View from North

Photograph Number: 11 of 85

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000102