Original blueprint, designed by New York City architects Sharpe & Bready, of the Jackson-Wilson House at 12 Red Oak Lane in Wilmington, Delaware that was listed in the National Register in 2017.

Exterior of the Jackson-Wilson House at 12 Red Oak Lane in Wilmington. Built in 1914, this house is an example of the English Tudor Revival style based on the architecture of the Cotswold area of south-central England.

Recent Accomplishments
March 2018
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As part of the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the mission of the State Historic Preservation Office is to locate, study and record Delaware's historic buildings, structures, objects, districts, landscapes and archaeological sites. The preservation office consults with federal and state agencies on projects subject to preservation laws and regulations, oversees tax-credit programs that promote rehabilitation of historic properties, assists local governments with preservation programs, works with individuals and organizations to nominate eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places and maintains the Historic Properties Research Center, a repository of information on historic properties within the state.

The following represents a sample of the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office’s recent significant accomplishments.

**State historic preservation plan nearing completion**

The State Historic Preservation Office is in the final stages of updating Delaware's statewide historic preservation plan. Required as part of the state's Historic Preservation Fund grant from the National Park Service, development of a new historic preservation plan provides an opportunity to examine current issues and refocus efforts to serve the goals and needs of Delaware’s preservation community. This level of planning occurs every five years. (Go to the following to see the current plan: “Preserving Our Past for a Better Future: Delaware’s Historic Preservation Plan, 2013–2017.”)
Working with consultant Heritage Strategies, the planning committee sought broad public input through a variety of means. The office held five general public meetings throughout the state, but also met directly with a number of organizations. Nearly 350 people participated in these meetings. An online survey was also posted, garnering over 170 responses. Delawareans spoke about the issues facing historic places in the state and offered their ideas for the priorities for the next five years. An established working group of planners and preservationists then helped develop goals and suggest strategies for implementing the historic preservation plan, based on input from the survey and public meetings.

Efforts to integrate the public comments, background research on factors affecting historic preservation, and connections with other statewide and local planning work are underway. The new preservation plan is scheduled to be completed in 2018.

**Archaeological discovery adds chapter to Delaware’s early colonial history**

In a press event at the Rehoboth Beach Museum on Dec. 6, 2017, a team of archeologists from the Archaeological Society of Delaware and the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, together with Dr. Douglas Owsley, division head of physical anthropology for the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, unveiled new findings from a years-long study of the site of Avery’s Rest, a Sussex County, Del. homestead first settled by Capt. John Avery and his family in 1674.

The new findings, based on analysis of numerous artifacts and 11 well-preserved burials discovered at the site, fill in gaps in Delaware’s early history, telling the story of the colonists’ physical health, diet, family life and how they made their living. Three of the burials, one a young child, were determined to be of African descent, constituting the earliest known discovery of remains of enslaved people in the state.

“This is a story of the life and death of some of the earliest Europeans and Africans to occupy what is now the state of Delaware. Their interactions with neighbors and colonial governments, and global connections with Europe, Africa and the British colonies are revealed to us through archaeology and archival research,” said the archaeological society’s Daniel Griffith.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978, Avery’s Rest was slated for development in 2005. The Delaware State Historic Preservation Office’s comments on the proposed development spurred a first round of excavations and surveys at the property by the division and the archaeological society. Over the next few years, archaeologists continued to work the site, branching out into neighboring parcels and uncovering artifacts and evidence of structures from the original homestead.
In September 2012, the first burials were discovered. This triggered a legal process under the state’s Unmarked Human Remains Law which identified three known descendants of John Avery. With their consent, the state engaged Owsley to analyze the remains owing to his expertise in the field of physical anthropology and his well-known work with early colonial settlements at Jamestown, Va. and St. Mary’s City, Md. The remains were subsequently excavated and transferred to the Smithsonian for advanced DNA testing under Owsley’s supervision.

Bone and DNA analysis confirmed that three of the burials were people of African descent and eight were of European descent. Coupled with research from the historical record, Owsley conjectured that the European burials might be the extended family of John Avery and his wife Sarah, including their daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren. The remains will stay in the custody of the Smithsonian where they will assist ongoing work to trace the genetic and anthropological history of the early colonial settlers of the Chesapeake region. Delaware law strictly forbids the public display of human remains.

In addition, 200 boxes of Avery's Rest artifacts—prepared for curation by the archaeological society—were transferred to the division in late 2017 and accessioned into the collections of the State of Delaware.

Speaking at the Dec. 6 press event, Owsley noted that “Avery's Rest provides a rare opportunity to learn about life in the 17th century, not only through the study of buried objects and structures, but also through analyses of well-preserved human skeletal remains. The bone and burial evidence provides an intriguing, personal look into the life stories of men, women and children on the Delaware frontier, and adds to a growing body of biological data on the varied experiences of colonist and enslaved populations in the Chesapeake region.” Owsley and other speakers also emphasized the incredible support of the property owners throughout the archaeological investigations.

In collaboration with the state’s historical community, the State of Delaware is planning a major research project that will attempt to identify each of the individuals buried at Avery’s Rest. Plans call for the development of exhibits featuring artifacts from the site as well as panel displays exploring the findings of the research project. Tantalizingly, displays may also include facial reconstructions based on the skeletal remains so that Delawareans can literally come face-to-face with their counterparts from 300 years ago.
Six new additions to the National Register of Historic Places
During the past year, six Delaware properties were added to the National Register of Historic Places, the U.S. government’s official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects deemed worthy of preservation. State Historic Preservation Office staff members provided vital assistance to the property owners, consultants and volunteers in the preparation and submission of their nominations.

♦ Downtown Wilmington Commercial District—Listed March 24, 2017
Comprised of 66 buildings, this historic district incorporates properties located in the 600 through 800 blocks of Market Street, the 700 and 800 blocks of adjacent Shipley Street, and the unit block of East Seventh Street. The district is representative of the dynamic forces including the arrival of electric trolleys, an evolution in residential patterns and the resulting concentration of business interests that transformed Market Street into a highly concentrated downtown commercial environment that prospered through much of the early-20th century.

Structures within this district represent a unique concentration of small- to mid-size commercial buildings dating from the late-19th to the mid-20th centuries. A variety of architectural styles including the Italianate, Second Empire, Beaux Arts, Commercial, Mission Revival, Art Deco and Art Moderne are present in the district and parallel national trends in the design of commercial buildings during this period. Local architects responsible for designing many of these buildings include William Draper Brinckloe; Clarence R. Hope; Charles Barton Keen; Edward L. Rice; John Dockery Thompson; and the architectural firms of Brown & Whiteside; Hoggson Brothers; and Robinson, Stanhope, and Manning.

♦ 901 Mount Lebanon Road (Rockland)—Listed March 28, 2017
The original section of this house, designed by Philadelphia-area architect Jesse Stetler and built in 1950, is a well-documented example of organic architecture espoused by Frank Lloyd Wright and other early advocates of modern house design. The horizontal orientation of the house, designed to capitalize on the panoramic view from its hilltop building site, its organic relationship to the surrounding landscape, its rational design based on interior space and the forward-looking style of the house and its builders make “901” a significant, one-of-a-kind artifact of the post-World-War-II era in Delaware.
♦ **Jackson-Wilson House (12 Red Oak Lane, Wilmington)—Listed April 10, 2017**

Built in 1914, this house is a locally significant example of the English Tudor Revival style based on the architecture of the Cotswold area of south-central England. Designed by the New York City architectural firm, Shape and Bready, the property is exceptionally grand in size and scale for Wilmington. It was originally constructed for Willard Cartwright Jackson and his wife Josephine Willauer Jackson. Mr. Jackson was the secretary-treasurer of the Wilmington Automobile Company. Joseph Shields Wilson and his wife Lois Martenis Wilson eventually acquired the property. Mr. Wilson served as mayor of Wilmington from 1905 to 1907, and again from 1946 to 1949.

![Jackson-Wilson House](image)

♦ **Holly Oak (1503 Ridge Road, Claymont)—Listed April 10, 2017**

Constructed in 1779, this home is an early extant example of a hall-parlor plan built of stone. The property is also notable for its early 20th-century renovations. It was constructed as a residence for the Perkins family who owned the land for about 160 years. Documents suggest that by the 1850s, the property was utilized as a tenant house. John H. Longstreet, president of the Philadelphia Real Estate Investment Company and the president and treasurer of the Lawndale Land Company, bought the property in 1889. Longstreet reassembled the original 154-acre tract of land that once belonged to the Perkins family, along with additional acreage, and plotted the residential subdivision named “Holly Oak” in 1901.

![Holly Oak](image)
Cox-Phillips-Mitchell Agricultural Complex (1651 and 1655 Old Wilmington Road, Hockessin)
Listed March 13, 2017
The house and original outbuildings of this complex were built by William Cox who acquired the property in 1721. The site provides an excellent example of the practice of remodeling agricultural complexes during the late-19th to early-20th centuries when many farmers in the Delaware Piedmont turned to dairying on a commercial scale. During this period, farmers built larger barns, specifically designed to support milking operations. Supporting agricultural outbuildings for equipment and crop storage also changed in this period to accommodate changes in machinery and the scale of production. Both the dwelling and the bank barn at the complex represent multiple periods of construction and adaptation, while the various other buildings demonstrate experimentation with efficiency. The farm also features several unusual combination buildings including a chicken coop/piggery and corncrib/granary.

Dinker-Irvin Cottage (Garfield Parkway Extended, Bethany Beach)—Listed July 3, 2017
This white-painted cut-shingled beach cottage was built in 1904 by William Dinker, one of Bethany Beach’s original financial investors. Between 1922 and 1925, part of the first floor was utilized as a U.S. Post Office making it the resort’s only-documented public building to survive from this early period. Despite its continuous use as a family beach cottage, it retains a high level of architectural integrity. Among its most significant features are the living room’s tongue-and-groove paneled fireplace wall and ceiling, the basket-weave- and running-bond-brickwork around the fireplace and an original closed-string staircase. Other significant features include the dining room’s built-in corner cupboard, the pantry’s built-in floor to ceiling cupboards with original electroplated hardware, as well as original flooring, baseboards and molded door and window surrounds with bullseye corner block-trim. With an eye toward preserving the property, its owners recently donated it to the town of Bethany Beach which plans to utilize it as a museum which will highlight both the history of the cottage and of the community.
Project reviews keep federal projects moving and protect historic properties

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, federal agencies are required to take into account the effects of their projects on buildings, districts and archaeological sites that are historically significant. Section 110 of the same act further directs federal agencies to proactively identify, evaluate and protect historic properties in their jurisdictions. State historic preservation offices guide agencies and applicants through these processes, balancing protection of historic properties with the goals of government-assisted projects and programs.

The Delaware State Historic Preservation Office also conducts similar reviews for non-federal projects, providing technical assistance to state and local agencies for land-use planning. An example is the Preliminary Land Use Service review of the development that affected the Avery’s Rest archaeological site.

The preservation office typically receives nearly 400 projects for review annually. In consultation with federal agencies and their applicants, the office helps develop creative approaches to avoid/minimize adverse effects to historic properties. Despite a small staff, the office successfully negotiates a positive outcome for most projects in a timely manner. The overwhelming majority of projects move forward quickly.

Current regulations provide agencies with the flexibility to develop innovative methods to streamline the project review process. For example, preservation staff actively work with federal agencies to negotiate Programmatic Agreements that allow minimal review or exemptions for routine projects that have little potential to affect historic properties.

This tool is particularly effective in the review of infrastructure projects. The Federal Highway Administration, Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and the State Historic Preservation Office have been working under a programmatic agreement since 2002. In 2017, the federal and state agencies began the process of negotiating an update to the agreement.

Last summer, representatives from Federal Highways, DelDOT and the preservation office also served as panelists for a national conference focused on improving procedures for transportation projects. Delaware’s 2013 programmatic agreement for highway projects was discussed as an example of how to build on trust between agencies to negotiate good agreements. Delaware was one of four states invited to send representatives to serve on this special panel.
Federal tax incentive program preserved in tax reform legislation; state program revitalizes communities

Each year, historic preservation tax credits not only assist with the rehabilitation of significant buildings and revitalization of communities, they also generate considerable private investment and create jobs. In Delaware, the benefits of both the federal and the state historic preservation tax credit programs continue to have a positive impact.

In 2017, developers and historic preservation advocates alike watched carefully the deliberations in Washington on tax reform. A significant change or elimination of the federal program could have had devastating effects on preservation efforts and economic investment in some of our local communities. The program is widely recognized as returning more to the U.S. Treasury than it costs. That message apparently resonated with lawmakers, as the program was preserved in the final bill.

In fiscal year 2017, proposals were approved for five Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive projects in Wilmington, and one in Dover. The Wilmington projects include commercial, residential and mixed use properties. Of note is the DuPont Building on Rodney Square which houses the Chemours corporate offices along with the Hotel du Pont and other uses. Also, the Ministry of Caring is converting the former St. John’s Cathedral complex into low income housing, retaining all of the historic buildings in the complex and repurposing the church and lady chapel for common use by the residents. The project in Dover rehabilitated a residence for office use. These projects, supported by federal and state historic preservation tax credits, help preserve Delaware’s history and invest in its future. To date, nearly 70 projects have combined federal and state tax incentives to rehabilitate properties in Delaware.

Rehabilitation work on a conference room in the DuPont Building (left) revealed an amazing decorative ceiling that had been hidden by modern finishes (right). The applicant has committed to restoring this space as part of the rehabilitation project.
In Delaware’s program, $4.3 million in Historic Preservation Tax Credits assisted in the rehabilitation of historic buildings during fiscal year 2017. These state tax credits were awarded to owner-occupied, non-profit-owned and income-producing properties for eligible expenses incurred during rehabilitation. Twenty-seven historic buildings in communities across the state including Bridgeville, Camden, Delaware City (including Fort DuPont), Dover, Lewes, Middletown, New Castle, Ocean View and Wilmington benefited from the program.

Before and after photos of 1303 Officer’s Row in Fort DuPont that was rehabilitated with assistance from the Delaware Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program.

One of the Wilmington properties, 200 W. Ninth St., a vacated office building, was rehabilitated in conjunction with the state’s Downtown Development Districts Grant Program. Created in 2014, this program leverages state resources in a limited number of designated areas in Delaware’s cities and towns to spur private capital investment in commercial business districts, stimulate job growth and commercial vitality, and help build a stable community of long-term residents in downtown areas and adjacent neighborhoods.

The cost effectiveness of the state’s historic preservation tax credit program was documented in a 2010 analysis. As reauthorization of the program nears, the division is conducting a new study of the program through 2017. The results will be available later in 2018.
Online map of National Register-listed properties gets a makeover

During the past year, work was completed to restore the online map provided through the Cultural and Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office’s geographic information system (GIS) on historic properties that are located in the state. The map was affected by a software issue that prevented proper filtering of historic-property information. The office’s vendor, GeoDecisions, researched options to address the problem and an update to the ArcGIS Online software provided the solution.

In addition to restoring the map, several new layers have been added to make it even more useful. For example, students and teachers can now overlay their school districts on the map to research National Register of Historic Places-listed buildings, structures and historic districts located within their school districts. Similarly, state legislative-districts have been added, allowing citizens and legislators to see National Register listings in their communities.

Likewise, the map shows the state’s Downtown Development Districts, which will allow owners and developers to see what properties in those districts may also be eligible for Historic Preservation Tax Credits. Finally, the Delaware Department of Transportation’s updated layer shows the full range of the state’s historic and scenic byways, allowing citizens and travelers to learn more about the National Register-listed places along those routes.
Cultural resource mapping and document scanning projects near completion

In 2017, the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office achieved important milestones in improving access to information held in its Historic Property Research Center. Completion of a geographic information system (GIS) mapping project and progress in document-scanning significantly increased the accessibility of these data which, in turn, help streamline project planning for agencies and their consultants, allow the general public to more easily research historic properties, and assist in planning for disaster events and the effects of climate change.

During the year, the preservation office completed a project to map all previously identified cultural resources into the Cultural and Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), the office’s online GIS-based mapping system. Supported with a grant from the National Park Service’s special Historic Preservation Fund following Hurricane Sandy and from the state’s Strategic Opportunity Funding Adaptation program, a GIS specialist was hired to work on the project. At the conclusion, over 31,000 new points had been added to the system, each corresponding to the location of a building, structure, historic district or archaeological site. Adjustments were also made to over 25,000 existing points. The project also included mapping hundreds of polygons into the system to illustrate areas that had been previously surveyed for cultural resources.

In a related project, the preservation office continued to make significant progress in scanning historic property files which can then be uploaded and connected to the points mapped in CHRIS. Through a program supported by the Delaware Department of State, the scanning work is being conducted by employees of Computer Aid, Inc. (CAI), supervised by preservation office staff. In 2017, over 26,000 microfiche and photographs were digitized, bringing the total for the project to date to nearly 62,000 documents scanned. The project is expected to be competed in 2018.
$53,472 re-granted to Certified Local Governments
During fiscal year 2017, the State Historic Preservation Office re-granted $53,472 in funds it had received from the Federal Historic Preservation Fund to support preservation-related activities conducted by Delaware’s Certified Local Governments.

Part of a nationwide effort, the Certified Local Government Program in Delaware is administered by the preservation office in partnership with the National Park Service. The program strengthens preservation efforts at the local level by providing technical and financial assistance while encouraging successful preservation programs and practices.

Certified Local Government grants awarded in 2017 will support preservation initiatives such as:

◆ Updating historic property information for historic districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places
◆ Preparing documentation for a formal amendment to a historic district’s National Register nomination, incorporating updated data from previous years’ grant projects
◆ Augmenting local design guidelines with new illustrations, providing a “visual dictionary” to assist residents and property owners
◆ Revising standards and guidelines related to the use and role of modern materials and construction techniques in historic districts
◆ Developing public information packages and tours on local history and historic sites
◆ Documenting threatened historic properties as well as preparing nominations for eligible properties to be listed in the National Register

Delaware currently has seven Certified Local Governments, including Delaware City, Dover, Lewes, Milton, New Castle County, Wilmington and the City of New Castle. Applications for 2018 grants will be received in April.
Public presentations and activities
In addition to outreach for the state historic preservation plan, the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office engaged the public through a number of presentations and educational activities which included:

♦ Sponsoring programs that shared new research on “The Negro Travelers’ Green Book,” a travel and vacation guidebook for people of color during the segregation era which contained advertisements for properties in Delaware

♦ Presenting the second annual ArCH (Arts, Culture and Heritage) field-day program in partnership with 15 other organizations which featured hands-on activities focused on Delaware arts, history, archaeology and cultural heritage. The three-day event was coordinated with the Social Studies Coalition and designed to meet Next Generation science standards and Common Core state standards for art and history. Participants included over 1,400 students

♦ Engaging over 1,000 students from 22 schools in a study of the U.S. Constitution as part of the annual Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition. More than 13,500 students have participated in the competition since it was initiated in 2001

♦ Presenting the annual “Archaeological and Historical Symposium of the Colonial Delaware Valley,” and participating in the annual Iron Hill Archaeology and Heritage Festival

♦ Providing information on the historic preservation tax credit programs to three Sussex County communities

♦ Helping develop a new exhibit entitled “New Castle: Three Forts, One Community” which examines the 17th-century struggle for control of New Castle by the Dutch, Swedes and English, and the strongholds that they built to maintain their power. The exhibit opened at the New Castle Court House Museum in September 2017

♦ Presenting programs on archaeological excavations of the site of Fort Casimir in New Castle

♦ Participating in a Historic Cemetery Workshop, showcasing a new layer in the Cultural and Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) with information on recorded cemeteries

♦ Participating in the Native Ways second annual event, with presentations and activities showcasing indigenous technologies and skills

♦ Contributing to a Career Pathway Workshop for students attending the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology’s annual conference
Looking forward
In the coming year, the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office will focus its efforts on completing and beginning implementation of the 2018–2022 statewide historic preservation plan. The plan will not be a blueprint for state government alone. Rather, it will include goals and strategies that benefit preservation advocates across Delaware. The plan will provide all Delawareans who are passionate about historic preservation with a framework for effective decision-making, for coordinating statewide preservation activities, and for communicating preservation policy, goals and values to a broad audience.

The preservation office will also continue public outreach and education efforts with its partners. Events will include the annual “Archaeological and Historical Symposium of the Colonial Delaware Valley”; and the third year for the Arts, Culture and History (ArCH) Field Days for 4th-grade students, a joint effort of the division’s museums and historic preservation staff, Delaware State Parks, the National Park Service and many others.

Additionally, the office will continue to enhance its CHRIS geographic information system by linking scanned cultural resource survey-forms, photographs and reports into the system. Developing “story maps” that use these data to illustrate specific issues, such as the effects of sea-level rise on historic properties, is also a goal for 2018. These projects will help further the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs’ efforts to make information more accessible, a priority identified in its strategic plan. Finally, the preservation staff will explore e-government initiatives for the office’s many programs.

About the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office
The widespread demolition of older buildings and neighborhoods in America’s cities in the early 1960s helped spur the federal government to enact the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This legislation provided for the designation of a state historic preservation officer and a qualified staff within each state to help promote the preservation of historic properties of local, state and national significance.

Delaware’s State Historic Preservation Office resides within the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, with the division director serving as the state historic preservation officer. Working in concert with academic and professional communities, preservation organizations, concerned citizens and all levels of government, the office coordinates preservation efforts throughout Delaware and serves as an advocate for the preservation of Delaware’s historic places and unique cultural identity.

The Delaware State Historic Preservation Office is supported with federal Historic Preservation Fund formula grants on a 60 percent share/40 percent matching basis. In general, the preservation office performs the following services, fulfilling federal and state mandates:
Administers the annual federal Historic Preservation Fund appropriation
Administers federal and state historic preservation tax incentive programs for the rehabilitation of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places
Reviews federally-funded, permitted or licensed undertakings/projects, and advises the agencies and applicants about the projects’ effects on historic properties including buildings, structures, districts, archaeological sites, objects and landscapes
Reviews and comments on land use and development proposals under the state Preliminary Land Use Service
Leads efforts in securing and accepting nominations of significant properties and sites to the National Register of Historic Places in conjunction with the Delaware State Review Board for Historic Preservation
Encourages and assists local governments in securing Certified Local Government designation which makes them eligible to receive a portion of the Historic Preservation Fund grant for local historic preservation activities. Delaware has seven Certified Local Governments: Delaware City, Dover, Lewes, Milton, the city of New Castle, New Castle County and the city of Wilmington
Monitors the terms of preservation covenants and easements that are administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
Provides guidance upon the discovery of unmarked human burials and/or skeletal remains, and advises on appropriate treatment and disposition, in accordance with state law. Works with developers and landowners on efforts to avoid such discoveries
Conducts, or supports others in conducting, statewide cultural resource surveys of historic properties
Maintains a central research repository of historical and cultural resource information related to historic properties and sites in Delaware
Provides technical assistance to the public on historic preservation topics
Provides and participates in educational programs about Delaware history, archaeology and historic architecture
Drafts Delaware’s statewide historic preservation plan every five years and maintains a commitment to implement its goals

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The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs receives federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.

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