
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2019

Revised: 2/2026



New Castle Green

First State National Historical Park

Table of Contents

Introduction

General Information

Concurrence Information

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Uses

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information.

The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: New Castle Green

Resource Classification: Cultural Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 976056

Parent Landscape: 976056

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: First State National Historical Park

Alpha Code: FRST

Park Organization Code: 4542

Park District: FRST

Region: Northeast

Restricted: No

Landscape Description:

New Castle Green is a small two-acre park located in New Castle, Delaware, six miles south of Wilmington and thirty-eight miles southwest of Philadelphia. The park is a unit of First State National Historical Park (NHP), originally established in 2013 as a National Monument to protect and manage significant sites related to the settlement of the region by the Swedes, Finns, Dutch, and English; the role that Delaware played in the establishment of the Nation; and the preservation of the cultural landscape of the Brandywine Valley. The site preserves the historic village green, first laid out under the direction of Peter Stuyvesant in the mid-seventeenth century. New Castle Green (“the Green”) is defined by its open lawn setting which is interspersed with mature trees and crossed diagonally with brick sidewalks. The Green serves as the setting for prominent historic buildings including the New Castle Court House, the Arsenal, and the Sheriff’s House. Today Green remains a place for contemplation, passive recreation, and community events.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The New Castle Green is part of the New Castle National Historic Landmark District, and is nationally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criteria A and C in the areas of Exploration/Settlement, Politics/Government, Transportation, and Architecture. The Green, laid out by Dutch Governor Peter Stuyvesant by 1655, is associated with the settlement of the colony of Pennsylvania and the early state of Delaware, and specifically New Castle’s role as the seat of governance in Delaware and as a major port and market on the Delaware River. The Green also served as the setting for several architecturally prominent government buildings, the New Castle Court House (1732), Arsenal (1809), and Sheriff’s House (1857), that survive today. By the late nineteenth century, the Green was planted with deciduous trees and served as a public park and the setting of adjacent educational facilities. The period of significance for New Castle Green begins in 1655, the year Stuyvesant initially laid out the Green within Fort Casimir, which was established in 1651. The period ends in 1934, when spatial organization and circulation patterns within the Green were formalized.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The physical integrity of the New Castle Green landscape is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1655-1934) with current conditions. Many of the historic characteristics and features that contribute to the significance of New Castle Green remain today. The Green, which remains in its original location, retains its defining enclosure through the preservation of historic structures both on the Green and adjacent to it. These include the eighteenth-century New Castle Court House and the nineteenth-century Arsenal Building and Sheriff’s House, and the eighteenth-century Immanuel Church (partially rebuilt in 1980 following a fire) and Academy Building. The specimen trees that intersperse the grounds are not historic, though many gesture to the original high-branching, deciduous trees present on the Green historically. The current system of sidewalks diagonally crossing the Green, as well as the perimeter paths, were well-established by the 1930s and paved in brick. The framed views to and from the Green, and specifically of the New Castle Court House, the Sheriff’s House, and the Arsenal Building, are general intact and are a defining characteristic of the landscape. In turn the Green retains integrity as a historic setting for these historically significant buildings, as do a historic marker and an ornate drinking fountain. Since the mid-twentieth century, the most notable changes to the landscape have been the introduction of evergreen trees and deciduous trees with low-branching habits, and the replacement and/or addition of small scale features such as benches, lights, and signs to enhance visitor use of the space.

The condition of the New Castle Green landscape is “good.” Although there is some evidence of soil compaction near circulation routes, there is no evidence of major negative disturbance or deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The cultural and natural values are preserved under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

First State National Historical Park is comprised of seven sites: Beaver Valley, Fort Christina and Old Swedes Church in or near Wilmington; New Castle Green and New Castle Court House in the city of New Castle; the Dover Green and John Dickinson Plantation in Dover; and the Ryves Holt House in Lewes. For the purposes of the Cultural Landscape Inventory, First State Historical Park contains three noncontiguous landscapes: Beaver Valley, New Castle Green, and Dover Green.

Landscape Type:

Historic Designed Landscape

Other Names:

Other Name:	Market Square	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	Market Plaine	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	New Castle Green	Other Name Type:	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	New Castle Courthouse Green	Other Name Type:	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	The Square	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	School Green	Other Name Type:	Historic
Other Name:	New Castle Common	Other Name Type:	Both Current And Historic

Site Plan



Site plan for New Castle Green.

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	10/21/2019

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This CLI was completed by Jennifer Hanna, Historical Landscape Architect with the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, Boston, Massachusetts. Ms. Hanna and Eliot Foulds, Historical Landscape Architect at the Olmsted Center, conducted archival research at the Delaware Public Archives in Dover, Delaware in May 2017. Field research and inventory was conducted in November 2017 by Jennifer Hanna. Acting Superintendent Dan Hodgson is the primary contact for the park. He can be reached at 215-341-0032 or dan_hodgson@nps.gov. Note: cover photograph is credited to Bruce Burke.

NOTE: Although the cover date for the CLI is 2019, this CLI was officially counted as part of the FY 2020 CLI workplan because park concurrence was not received until FY 2020 (on 10-21-2019). The revision date of 1/1/2020 has been entered here so that the year 2020 appears on the cover page.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

New Castle Green
First State National Historical Park

First State National Historical Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for New Castle Green, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

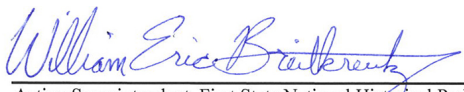
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

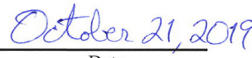
Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for New Castle Green is hereby approved and accepted.


Acting Superintendent, First State National Historical Park


Date

Park concurrence form, 2019.

**Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Updates Certification Form
2026**

First State National Historical Park
Dover Green
New Castle Green

First State National Historical Park certifies the CLI updates for Dover Green and New Castle Green, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Dover Green
 Good – New Castle Green

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The CLI updates for the sites listed above at First State National Historical Park are hereby approved and accepted.

JOSHUA BOLES

Digitally signed by JOSHUA
BOLES
Date: 2026.02.10 09:53:11 -05'00'

Superintendent, First State National Historical Park

Date

Park concurrence form, February 10, 2026.

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Narrative
Jeff Killion	Other	01/01/2020	Although the cover date for the CLI is 2019, this CLI was officially counted as part of the FY 2020 CLI workplan because park concurrence was not received until FY 2020 (on 10-21-2019). The revision date of 1/1/2020 has been entered here so that the year 2020 appears on the cover page.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	02/10/2026	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2026 update to the New Castle Green CLI has been conducted at a Level C effort. See Landscape Documents in CRIS-CL for correspondences with park.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State	County
Delaware	New Castle

Size (Acres): 2.09

Land Tract Number(s)

02-101, 0.13 acres
02-102, 1.96 acres

Boundary Description:

New Castle Green is located within the authorized boundary of First State National Historical Park. The boundary of the New Castle Green Unit corresponds to the boundaries of a conservation easement granted by the State of Delaware and held by the National Park Service. The easement includes two tracts: #02-101 (0.13 acres, includes Sheriff’s House) and #02-102 (1.96 acres, includes New Castle Court House and Arsenal) that is comprised of two parcels (211 Delaware Street, no.21-015-.30-156, 1.20 acres and 30 Market Street, no.21-015.40-016, 0.76 acres). The easement includes New Castle Green, the exterior of the Arsenal, and the interior and exterior of the New Castle Court House. The Sheriff’s House is owned in fee simple by the National Park Service.

The New Castle Green is rectangular parcel approximately 2.09 acres in size. The northern boundary of the Green is defined by the walls separating the lots of Immanuel Episcopal Church and the Academy from the Green; the east boundary parallels Market Street, the south boundary parallels Delaware Street; and the west boundary parallels East 3rd Street.

Boundary Coordinates

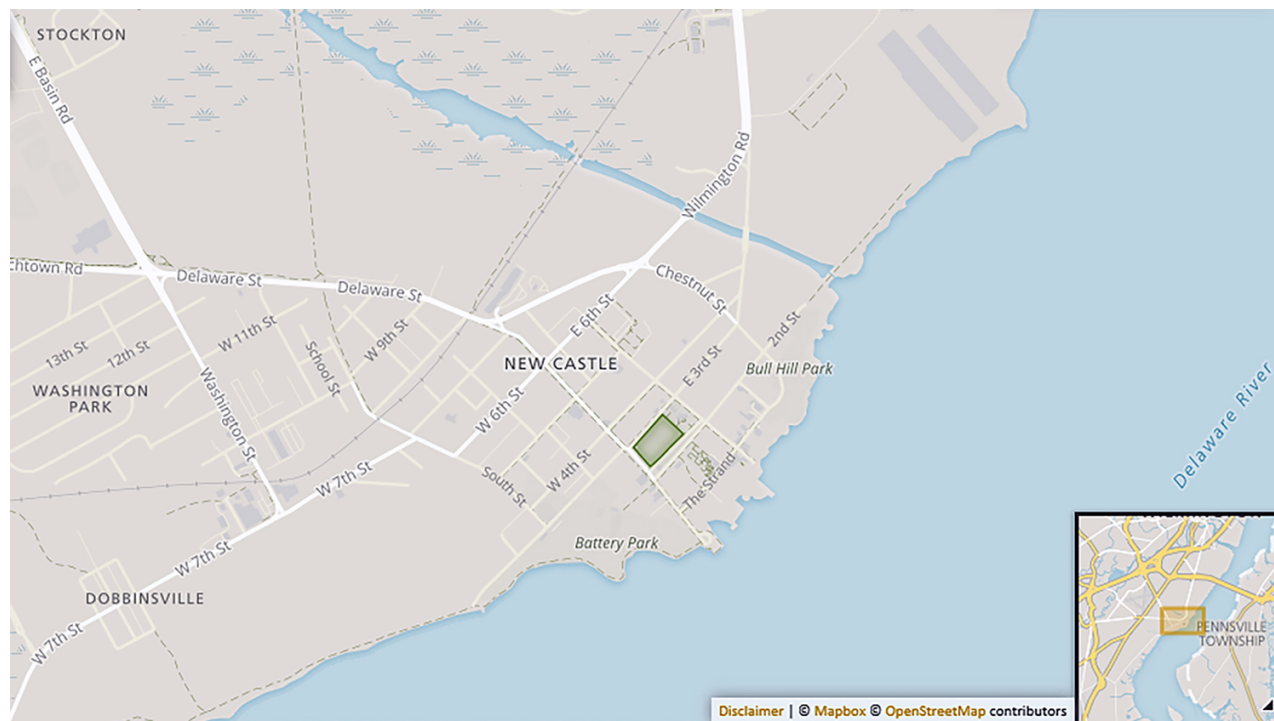
Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
	Area	39.659561	-75.563565	
	Area	39.660057	-75.56413	
	Area	39.66084	-75.563229	
	Area	39.660343	-75.56249	

Location Map:



Location of New Castle, Delaware. (Harpers Ferry Center 2019)

New Castle Green
First State National Historical Park



Location of the New Castle Green in New Castle. (Harpers Ferry Center 2019)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

New Castle Green is situated in the city of New Castle, which is located on the west side of the Delaware River on the northern end of the DelMarVa Peninsula. The peninsula is bordered on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay, and on the west by the Chesapeake Bay. New Castle has a continental climate defined by cold winter temperatures, hot summers, and usually adequate precipitation throughout the year. New Castle Green is located within the United States Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zone 7a, where vegetation is hardy to between zero to five degrees Fahrenheit. It is located within the Atlantic Coastal Plain geological region with soils comprised of Scotts Corners Formation, a heterogeneous unit, light-gray to brown/light-yellowish-brown in color, that is interspersed with coarse to fine gravelly sand and pebble-sized gravel and occasional discontinuous beds of organic-rich clayey silt. (Ramsey 2005)

The city of New Castle is located on the Coastal Plain, several miles southeast of the fall line which divides the Coastal Plain from the Piedmont. The area around New Castle consists of tidal flats and marshes cut by small creeks that are characteristic of riverine environments along the lower reaches of the Delaware River. The area is relatively flat, with elevations ranging from sea level in the flats and marshes to about fifteen feet above sea level at the summit of the river terrace. (Roberts 1987: 1)

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

New Castle Green is defined by its central location in the city of New Castle. The Green and its adjacent structures, the Court House, the Arsenal, and the Sheriff's House, are surrounded primarily by two-and three-story residential and commercial development. Historic New Castle retains many Colonial and Federal-era buildings, along with numerous museums highlighting the town's early history. New Castle serves as both a cultural center and bedroom community for the city of Wilmington, located six miles to the north and Delaware's largest city with a population of 71,000. New Castle is located in New Castle County, the most densely populated of Delaware's three counties. Other units of First State National Park located in New Castle County include Beaver Valley, Fort Christina, and Old Swedes Church.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

According to the 2010 census, the population of the city of New Castle was 5,285. New Castle County has a population of 540,000 spread over an area of 426 acres. Like all counties in Delaware, New Castle County is apportioned into hundreds (see graphic below). New Castle County's ten hundreds include Brandywine, Christiana, the city of Wilmington, Mill Creek, White Clay Creek, Pencader, New Castle, Red Lion, St. Georges, and Appoquinimink. The city of New Castle is part of the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington Metropolitan area and is linked to Wilmington via Interstate 95 and Interstate 295. Wilmington serves as the county seat of New Castle County.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 10/21/2019

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The New Castle Green unit of First State National Historical Park meets criteria for the “Must Be Preserved and Maintained” management category because the preservation of the property is specifically legislated. According to Presidential Proclamation 8944 of March 23, 2013 which established First State National Monument:

“Sites within the State of Delaware encompass nationally significant objects related to the settlement of the Delaware region by the Swedes, Finns, Dutch, and English, the role that Delaware played in the establishment of the Nation, and the preservation of the cultural landscape of the Brandywine Valley. A national monument that includes certain property in New Castle, Dover, and the Brandywine Valley, Delaware (with contiguous acreage in the Township of Chadd’s Ford, Pennsylvania) will allow the National Park Service and its partners to protect and manage these objects of historic interest and interpret for the public the resources and values associated with them.”

The park encompasses approximately 1,108 acres and included Beaver Valley (Woodlawn), New Castle Green, and the Dover Green. An Act of December 19, 2014 (P.L. 113-291, Section 3033) re-designated the national monument as a national historical park to include the former national monument and, upon acquisition, additional historic sites: Fort Christina, Old Swedes Church, John Dickinson Plantation, and the Ryves Holt House.

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: Other

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The property of New Castle Green is owned by the State of Delaware in fee simple. The National Park Service holds a conservation easement on the property with the State of Delaware.

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: None ☐ State Government Owned

Narrative: New Castle Green is owned by the State of Delaware and administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. The National Park Service holds a conservation easement on the property, which is a unit of First State National Historical Park. The National Park Service owns the Sheriff's House in fee simple, but does not own the New Castle Court House or the Arsenal.

Type of Interest: Less Than Fee Simple

Narrative:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative:

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are lands outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park. Such lands contribute to the integrity and significance of New Castle Green's cultural landscape. The historic streetscape surrounding the rectangular-shaped Green features buildings dating to the period of significance, including numerous civic, religious, and residential structures, namely Immanuel Church (c.1706) and the Academy Building (1789) to the northwest that have been integral elements of the Green for hundreds of years. All of these buildings reveal a broad range of building traditions and architectural styles, from Georgian through Colonial Revival. Over time these design styles were subtly reflected in the treatment of the Green, from its beginning as an open square to its Colonial Revival-era brick sidewalks of the early twentieth century. Conversely, the Green forms a setting for the historic structures. These adjacent lands, like the Green itself, are part of the New Castle Historic District, a designated National Historic Landmark.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Entered Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

First State National Historical Park was established as a National Monument on March 25, 2013, and then as a National Historical Park on December 19, 2014. Historical units of the National Park System, such as National Historical Parks, are automatically listed on the National Register of Historic Places by law as required by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. As such, all physical components of the park are considered "listed." Although no park-wide documentation of historic resources has been completed, several resources in the park have been previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

On December 24, 1967, the New Castle Historic District was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL). The NHL documentation form identified significance for the 95-acre district at a national level under NHL Criterion 4 (the equivalent of National Register Criterion C) in the area of Architecture for the seventeenth through mid-nineteenth centuries. Specific dates of significance were listed as 1651 when the town was founded by Peter Stuyvesant as the seat of the New Netherland government, 1664 when the town received its present name after it was seized by the British, 1682 when William Penn received the colony, and 1776 as the final year that New Castle served as the colonial capitol. The form stated that the district's historic buildings illustrated a broad range of architectural history, extending from Colonial through the Federal era, including the New Castle Court House and Arsenal. The Sheriff's Office was not specifically noted. It also stated that the streets and the "broad Green preserved unspoiled the work of seventeenth, eighteenth and early nineteenth-century builders, maintaining the intangible atmosphere and character of a mid-eighteenth century town." The NHL theme was identified as Theme 3, "Expressing Cultural Values" and the subtheme as #5, architecture.

On November 28, 1972, the New Castle Court House was individually designated as a National Historic Landmark. The documentation form, which was updated on July 31, 2003, identified national significance under NHL criteria 1 and 2 (the equivalent of National Register Criteria A and B) in the areas of Politics/Government, Social History, and for associations with nineteenth-century abolitionists Thomas Garret and John Hunn. The period of significance was identified as 1732 to 1848, beginning with the year that the central section of the building that stands today was in use as seat of the colonial assembly of the Three Lower Counties, and ending when the Federal Court trials of Thomas Garrett and John Hunn took place in the building. Applicable NHL themes and subthemes were identified as Theme 2, "Creating Social Institutions and Movements" and subtheme #2, "reform movements". In addition, Theme 4, "Shaping the Political Landscape" was listed with subthemes #1 parties, protests and movements and subtheme #2, government institutions.

On November 8, 1984, additional National Register documentation was approved for the New Castle Historic District. The documentation form identified national significance in the areas of Architecture, Exploration/Settlement, Politics/Government, and Transportation for the seventeenth through twentieth centuries. No specific dates of significance were listed; however, in Section 7 the text noted that the end of the district's period of significance was extended to 1934 to acknowledge significant building periods and styles extending into the twentieth century. The boundaries of the district were expanded, increasing the size of the district to 135 acres. The Old Court House, Arsenal, and Jail (Sheriff's House) were evaluated as contributing buildings, while the Green was recognized as a "public square laid out during the Dutch period." (Federal Register Vol 78, No. 30)

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the "CLI Professional Procedures Guide," the areas and period of significance for New Castle Green are adequately documented in the National Register. The documentation adequately describes the site's historic resources that contribute to its significance. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the New Castle Green property is considered "Entered-Documented."

Eligibility: Eligible - Keeper

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 11/08/1984

Concurrence Narrative:

New Castle Green
First State National Historical Park

Additional National Register documentation was approved for the New Castle Historic District on November 8, 1984.

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: District

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

New Castle Green is nationally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement, Politics/Government, Transportation, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The period of significance for New Castle Green extends from 1655 to 1934. The period begins the year Dutch Governor Peter Stuyvesant initially laid out the Green within Fort Casimir, which was established in 1651. The period ends when spatial organization and circulation patterns within the Green were formalized. This end date is in alignment with the existing National Register documentation. Each area of significance that pertains to the New Castle Green landscape is described below.

CRITERION A

Exploration/Settlement:

New Castle Green is significant in the area of Exploration/Settlement for the role that it played in the settlement of the colony of Pennsylvania and the early state of Delaware by the Swedes, Finns, Dutch, and English. New Castle, located on the Delaware River six miles south of Wilmington, is among the oldest settlements in the Delaware River Valley. Peter Stuyvesant founded Fort Casimir, as New Castle was first called, in 1651 as the seat of the New Netherland government. The central Green was first laid out by the Dutch under the direction of Peter Stuyvesant in the mid-seventeenth century as a central open Green. By 1681, when William Penn landed at New Castle, the town was already an established market town defined by a loose grid of streets around the central open Green. Community greens were often incorporated into in seventeenth and eighteenth century colonial towns and were commonly used for animal grazing, public gathering, and troop mustering. Later, Latrobe in his 1805 plan for the City of New Castle, designated the Green as an open space surrounded by streets, and removed the market area to a designated location south of the Green proper. The Green's perimeter and interior walkways that developed over time were eventually formalized in the 1930s.

Politics/Government:

New Castle Green is significant in the area of Politics/Government for the role that New Castle played as the seat of governance in Delaware, the first state to ratify the Constitution during the colonial and early statehood periods.

Transportation:

New Castle Green is significant in the area of Transportation for its role as a regionally important port of entry and transfer point for travel across the DelMarVa Peninsula. Much of the town's early development and grid plan, including the centrally located public Green, occurred in proximity to the Delaware River, which was an important transportation link.

CRITERION C

Architecture:

New Castle Green is significant in the area of Architecture for the two-and-a-half-story New Castle Court House, constructed in 1731. The early Georgian-style brick building is comprised of three sections: the oldest central section was built between 1730 and 1731; the east wing was built in two stages, 1765 and 1802; and the west wing was constructed in 1845. The two-story brick Arsenal Building, also on the Green, was constructed by the federal government in 1809 and features an octagonal cupola. The brownstone Sheriff's House located between the courthouse and Arsenal, is an important non-residential demonstration of the Italianate-style and was designed in 1857 by Samuel Sloan.

National Register Significance Criteria:

Significance Criterion A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Significance Criterion C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

National Register Criteria Consideration:

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1655 - CE 1934

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Peopling Places	Colonial Exploration and Settlement	Dutch Exploration and Settlement	
Peopling Places	Colonial Exploration and Settlement	English Exploration And Settlement	
Peopling Places	Colonial Exploration and Settlement	Scandinavian Exploration and Settlement	
Peopling Places	Development of the Colonies	Physical Development	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Colonial (1600-1730)	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Georgian (1730-1780)	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Exploration - Settlement

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Politics - Government

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Transportation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name: New Castle Historic District

NRIS ID: 67000003

Other Name: New Castle

Primary Certification Date: 09/08/1994

NRIS Name: New Castle Court House

NRIS ID: 72000285

Primary Certification Date: 07/31/2003

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number: N-349

Name: Delaware Cultural Resource Survey

Listed Date: 01/01/1978

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark?	Yes
Theme:	Shaping the Political Landscape
Contributing:	Contributing
NHL ID:	Arsenal and New Castle Court House
NHL URL:	
Date:	12/24/1967

National Historic Landmark?	Yes
Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Contributing:	Contributing
NHL ID:	New Castle Court House
NHL URL:	
Date:	11/28/1972

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1631	Established	Samuel Godyn, a Dutch financier, establishes the first settlement in what would become the state of Delaware, near present-day Lewes.
CE 1651	Established	Peter Stuyvesant, director general of the Dutch West India Company's North American colony, establishes Fort Casimir.
CE 1654	Military Operation	Swedish seize Fort Casimir and rename it Fort Trinity.
CE 1655	Military Operation	The Dutch recaptured the fort from the Swedes the following year and renamed it New Amstel.
CE 1655	Platted	New Castle Green is platted by 1655, although it may have been platted as early as 1651 when Fort Casimir was established
CE 1658	Built	By 1658 New Amstel grows to about one hundred and ten buildings, primarily wood and log with brick chimneys, on streets arranged in a compact grid pattern.
CE 1664	Military Operation	The English seized the entire New Netherland colony in the Second Anglo-Dutch War, changing the name New Amstel to New Castle and making it the capital of their Delaware Colony.
CE 1671 - 1675	Built	Block House and fortifications constructed on the Green between 1671-1675.
CE 1682	Land Transfer	William Penn acquires the Three Lower Counties on Delaware: Sussex, Kent and New Castle.
CE 1689	Built	Wood frame courthouse is constructed on the southeast corner of the Green by 1689. A dedicated lot for the courthouse is assigned. The Green is physically defined as an open space enclosed by streets.
CE 1703 - 1706	Built	In 1703-1706 Immanuel Church is constructed at the northeast corner of the Green, where the blockhouse fort likely stood.
CE 1729	Destroyed	The wood-frame courthouse is destroyed by fire.
CE 1731	Built	A new brick courthouse is constructed on/near the foundation of the 1689 courthouse, as a five-bay block.
CE 1765	Built	An east wing is added to the southeast side of the courthouse.
CE 1777	Moved	Colonial seat of government moves from New Castle to the city of Dover in Kent County.
CE 1789	Built	Academy Building is constructed in the northwestern corner of the Green.
CE 1797 - 1798	Planned	Act of the General Assembly creates a 5 person commission to survey the town, create an official boundary, oversee building, and collect taxes for the market
CE 1802	Built	The east wing of the courthouse is expanded.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1805	Platted	Benjamin Latrobe prepares his "Plan of the Town of Newcastle, State of Delaware" in it a strip of land along the length of the southeastern boundary of the "Public Square" is carved off to create a dedicated market space separated from the square by the widened "Market Street."
CE 1805 - 1810	Altered	Street regrading results in construction of a brick retaining wall around portions of the courthouse.
CE 1809	Built	The Arsenal Building is constructed on the southeast side of the Green. It is used as an arsenal until the 1840s.
CE 1813 - 1818	Built	A brick plaza is built along the southern façade of the courthouse between 1813 and 1818.
CE 1820 - 1825	Built	In the early 1820s, the brick retaining walls at the courthouse are replaced by stone walls. Low cast iron railings are also added.
CE 1820 - 1829	Altered	Immanuel Church is expanded with a bell tower and steeple in the 1820s.
CE 1824	Destroyed	Much of the waterfront and the Strand is destroyed by fire.
CE 1823 - 1826	Built	In 1823-1826 a three-story arcaded Market House is constructed, with upper stories housing the town government.
CE 1829	Built	The Chesapeake & Delaware Canal is completed, providing direct access between Baltimore and Philadelphia.
CE 1838	Built	Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad is completed.
CE 1839	Built	A Sunday school building is erected in the southeast corner of the churchyard in 1839.
CE 1845	Built	A west wing is added to the northwest side of the courthouse.
CE 1845	Built	The brick plaza is extended to the new west wing.
CE 1852	Established	The New Castle Institute is established in the former Arsenal Building.
CE 1857	Built	The Sheriff's House and Jail are constructed just northeast of the courthouse.
CE 1881	Moved	New Castle County offices are relocated from New Castle to Wilmington.
CE 1897	Built	A cast-iron drinking fountain and water trough is erected at the southwest edge of the Green, donated to the city by Annie Newlove Burgie as a memorial to her son Henry.
CE 1911	Removed	Jail building is demolished except for Sheriffs House, following the closure of the jail in 1905.
CE 1934	Altered	Interior walks are formalized with gravel and edging by the mid-1930s.
CE 1937	Built	Photographic documentation suggests that the brick sidewalks that traverse the Green today may have been installed as part of a WPA project.
CE 1936	Restored	Restoration of the New Castle Court House and Arsenal Building begins as part of a WPA project.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1955 - 1963	Restored	In 1955-1963 the State of Delaware restores the courthouse. The original main block is restored to its c.1800 appearance.
CE 1960 - 1969	Established	The courthouse is opened to the public as museum.
CE 1967	Established	New Castle Green, the exterior of the Arsenal, and interior and exterior of the Old New Castle Court House are included in the National Historic Landmark designation of the New Castle Historic District.
CE 1972	Established	The courthouse is listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1972 under the name "Old New Castle Court House."
CE 2013	Established	First State National Monument is established on March 25, 2013. New Castle Green is included within the boundaries of the park.
CE 2014	Established	First State National Monument is redesignated as First State National Historical Park on December 19, 2014.

Physical History:

PRE-EUROPEAN CONTACT

The earliest archaeological evidence of human habitation on the DelMarVa Peninsula dates to the Paleo-Indian cultural period (12000 BCE – 6500 BCE). The cold and wet climate characteristic of the early Paleo-Indian period moderated as the Wisconsin glacial ice sheet receded. With the dryer and warmer climate, the patchwork of grasslands, deciduous, and boreal forests dominated by spruce and pine became increasingly mixed with hardwoods, particularly oak. The Archaic period (6500 BCE – 3000 BCE) was wet and warm with oak-hemlock forests dominating the landscape. During this time, native peoples hunted game and gathered resources in a mobile society. During the Woodland I period (3000 BCE – 1000 CE), rising sea levels caused by the warming environment began to stabilize and the climate became drier. Riverine areas stabilized and supported seasonally predictable populations of fish, resulting in increased human population. These people adopted a cyclical lifeways characterized by repeated and seasonal reuse of campsites and small village sites along waterways. The oak and pine forests evolved into mixed vegetation of grassland, oak, and hickory forests, supporting smaller game. (Coleman et.al. 1985: 7; Versar, Inc. 2011: 4-3)

During the Woodland II period (1000 BCE – 1600 CE) the Lenni Lenape, a loose affiliation of matrilineal kinship bands within Algonquin language group, lived within floodplains of major streams and tributaries over a large portion of the Mid-Atlantic region, including the DelMarVa Peninsula. The Lenape constructed large, oval-shaped long houses of wood and practiced hunting, gathering, fishing, and limited subsistence agriculture. The English called the Lenape, the Delaware. Conflict over the fur trade, coupled with European diseases, caused catastrophic upheaval among the Lenape and other indigenous people of the region. By 1670 most of the Lenape had moved north and westward in search of greater freedom and safety. (Griffith and Artusy 1976: 45; Emory et.al. 2007: 22; Delaware National Coastal Research Study 2008: 20)

NEW CASTLE GREEN IN THE 17th AND 18th CENTURIES

The English established colonies in the early seventeenth century in the Chesapeake to the south and New England to the north, but it was the Dutch and Swedes that first settled the mid-Atlantic. At the time of first contact with Europeans, much of the DelMarVa Peninsula was forested except where tribes had cleared small fields and burned brush to grow subsistence crops. In 1631 Samuel Godyn, a Dutch financier in partnership with other investors, established the first settlement in what would become the state of Delaware, near present-day Lewes. Patroons, who were men given land and manorial rights under Dutch government rule, were loosely affiliated with the West India Company, financing settlement in new territories in exchange for profits from the colonies they created. (Levy 1992: 126)

In 1638 Sweden established a new settlement, Fort Christiana, on the western bank of the Delaware River near present day Wilmington. In 1651 the Dutch established Fort Casimir six miles south of Fort Christiana, on a spit of land surrounded by marshes. Peter Stuyvesant, the Governor of the Dutch settlement, built the Dutch fort in part to regain trade dominance over the Swedish through control of the Delaware River. Fort Casimir, which would later become New Castle, was funded by the Dutch West India Company, and after three years of development the fort had expanded to approximately twenty-two dwellings. The Swedes gained control of Fort Casimer in 1654 and renamed it Fort Trinity, but the Dutch recaptured the fort the following year and renamed it New Amstel. (Jett 1984: 4; Roberts 1987: 6, cited in De Cunzo 2011: 3)

New Amstel was laid out under Stuyvesant's authority in a rudimentary grid that according to deeds began "below the fort" with two blocks of "town lot." The site that would become New Castle Green may have been platted as early as 1651 when Fort Casimir was established; however, documentary evidence of a lot sale in 1655 indicates that an open space in the location of the existing Green was used as a public "common." By 1658 New Amstel had grown to approximately one hundred and ten buildings, constructed primarily of wood and logs with brick chimneys and arranged on a compact grid of streets. (Fernow 1887: 182; Duke of York Record, 12: 10, cited in Reed 2018: 279; Jett 1984: 5)

In 1664 the English seized the entire New Netherland colony in the Second Anglo-Dutch War, changing the name New Amstel to New Castle and making it the capital of their Delaware Colony. The English made physical improvements to New Castle, including rebuilding the fort (which included a court, prison, and fortified storehouse) and controlling water flow by draining marshes and building dykes. They also resurveyed streets, continuing the earlier grid pattern established by the Dutch that paralleled the river (southwest to northeast). Like Dover to the south, New Castle's streets were lined with residential and commercial structures surrounding the open market area, as referenced in land deeds from the 1660s and 1670s: a 1669 deed granting a lot to John Arskin [Erskine] described it as adjoining "the market," while a 1676 deed referenced the area that would become the Green as a "Market Plaine." (Heite 1978: 104, as cited in Reed 2018: 280; Heite 1978: 138-139)

Improvements were also made to public structures. In September 1675 the Council at New York ordered that the blockhouse at New Castle be taken down and a new blockhouse be constructed "at ye back side of ye Towne, about ye middle of it, at or near ye olde Block House." Several sources (Roberts and Heite) suggest this structure was located in the northeast corner of the Green, around the site of the current Immanuel Church. (Roberts 1987: 6-7,21; Heite 1978: map; Scharf 1888, as cited in Milner 2005: 85)

In 1681 William Penn, a wealthy English Quaker, sought territory from King Charles II between New York and Maryland on which he might establish a settlement supportive of Quaker theology. Charles II agreed to Penn's request and granted him approximately 45,000 square miles of land. The grant repaid a loan of sixteen thousand pounds made to the Crown by William Penn's deceased father, formerly an admiral in the Royal Navy. The land was called "Penn's Woods," or Pennsylvania. The grant encompassed lands between the 39th and 42nd degrees north latitude and from the Delaware River westward for five degrees of longitude. King Charles II, not wanting to encroach upon land owned by the Duke of York, determined that the southern boundary of Pennsylvania would be twelve

miles from New Castle. However, when Penn's agents arrived they realized that the new province of Pennsylvania did not include a guaranteed right-of-way to the Atlantic Ocean. Penn then petitioned the Duke of York to add the "Lower Counties," including the county of New Castle, to his patent, which was approved in 1682. By the time Penn landed in New Castle in October 1682, the settlement was well-established as a market town. (Taylor 2002: 265-266; De Cunzo 2011: 4)

In 1689 New Castles' magistrates issued a public directive that defined the Green as an open space enclosed by streets, and identified it as a "Square or Markett Place." In the description, the Green was described as being laid-out "to the Courthouse." Descriptions of the building suggest it was a one-and-a-half story frame structure with a prison on the ground floor and the courtroom on the first floor. An archaeological investigation in 1955 discovered a stone foundation beneath the present Court House floor, suggesting the original building measured thirty feet by thirty feet. The 1689 directive also described five lots on the southwest end of the square, including the fifty-foot wide courthouse lot, and designated the remaining fifty-five feet on the southeast side and sixty feet on the northwest side to be the "streets leading to the Market place." (Heite 1978: 138-139, as cited in Milner 2005: 87; Guerrant 1984, as cited in Milner 2005: 7; Wolcott 1957: 205, as cited in Milner 2005: 7; Heite 1978: 138)

Delaware was granted a separate legislature in 1702, and in 1704 formally broke from Pennsylvania. New Castle served as the seat of the colonial government, thriving with the various judges and lawyers that fueled the economy. By the early eighteenth century, brick Georgian-style buildings began to dominate new construction in New Castle, reflecting in part the transition from Dutch to English rule. Among the new buildings constructed was Immanuel Church, built in 1703-1706 at the northeastern corner of the Green. Years later, in 1727, the church's pastor Reverend George Ross described New Castle:

"In the middle of the Town lies a spacious Green, in the form of a Square, in a corner whereof stood formerly a Fort, & on the Ground whereon the said Citadel was built, they [the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts] agreed to erect their church." He went on to portray his parishioners as: "generally low in their condition, but not indigent, having wherewithal to support themselves, but little to spare. The employ & business of such of them as lived in the Town was retailing of Goods, Rum, Sugar & Molasses, together with some European Goods. Some enjoyed posts in the Government, & others get their living by their handy crafts, as Carpenters, Smiths & Shoe makers." (Cooper 2001: 31-32, as quoted in De Cunzo 2011: 7)

In 1729 the wood-frame courthouse was lost to a fire, after which a new brick courthouse was constructed. The new courthouse opened in 1731 and remains evident today in the center five-bay block of the existing New Castle Court House. In May 1732 representatives of the proprietors of Maryland and Pennsylvania, including the Three Lower Counties of Delaware, met in the new courthouse to negotiate the disputed boundaries between Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Though they signed the Articles of Agreement that year, the final survey locating the boundary between the colonies was not completed until 1765 by surveyors Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon. One point of contention between the parties was where to locate the center of the twelve-mile circle identified in Penn's original 1682 petition, which defined between the colonies of Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Some sources incorrectly state that the cupola on the current New Castle Court House served as the center point of the twelve-mile arc that formed this curved boundary. However, the arc was surveyed in 1701, well before the construction of the 1732 building, with the centerpoint located northwest of the Green, at present day Third and Chestnut streets. (Jett 1984: 5; Breitreutz review comments, 11 September 2019)

From 1731 to 1777, the General Assembly of the Lower Counties met in the assembly hall on the second floor of the courthouse. The courts were located on first floor, with the jail cells and a sheriff's office in buildings just to the north. In 1765 a four-bay-wide east wing was built on the southeast façade of the original center block (and then expanded in 1802). In September 1776, following the Assembly's vote in favor of a declaration of independence, the Delaware Assembly met in the courthouse to form its new state government. In 1777 the Delaware State Assembly was relocated from New Castle to Dover in Kent County, a site more centrally-located in the state and seen as less vulnerable to British attack. However, New Castle remained the seat of the New Castle County government and the site of federal courts. (Davis et.al. 2013: 6)

Following the Revolutionary War, New Castle continued as a trading port on the Delaware River, and the Green served as an open public gathering space and market. In 1789 the Academy Building, a seven-bay Federal-style structure ornamented by a center-pediment and a cupola on its gable roof, was constructed in the northwest corner of the Green as a private school. The presence of a prominent church, the county courthouse, and now a school emphasized the importance of the Green as a public square and marketplace in the life of the New Castle community. In 1797 as part of a bid for self-governance, an act of the General Assembly created a five person commission to survey the town, create an official boundary, oversee building, and collect taxes for the market. The Blaney Survey, as it was called, was completed in 1798 and documented the location of the New Castle Green and its relationship to the New Castle Court House and surrounding streets (Figure 1). (Jett 1984: 6)

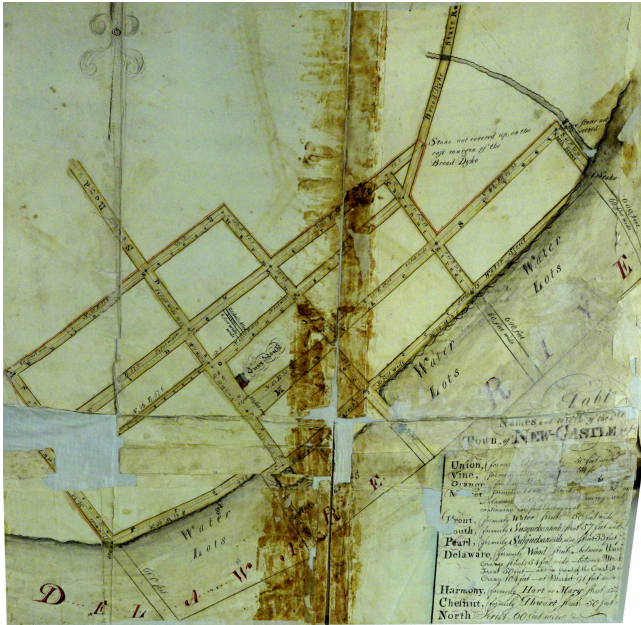


Figure 1. Blaney Survey was conducted by Daniel Blaney in 1798. The Green and the New Castle Court House are indicated at center left. (Delaware Public Archives)

NEW CASTLE GREEN IN THE 19th CENTURY

In the early nineteenth century an infrastructure improvement project began in New Castle, motivated in part by the expected developmental impact of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and the town's newly won bid for self-governance. Benjamin H. Latrobe, chief engineer for the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal Company, was contracted in 1804 to complete a survey of New Castle's boundaries, street layout, and existing gradients as a basis upon which to make street improvements and regrading to support future construction and flood prevention. Architects Robert Mills and William Strickland both apprenticed under Latrobe and were responsible for the detailed renderings in the survey, completed in 1805 and entitled "Plan of the Town of Newcastle, State of Delaware." The survey identified the Green as a "Public Square," and documented structures adjacent to the Green through plans, sections, elevations, and perspective drawings. The Latrobe survey illustrates the Green as almost devoid of trees, as does an 1822 painting of the Green by Tilson (Figures 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). The 1805 Latrobe survey also recorded numerous buildings occupying the blocks surrounding the Green. (Toro 1971: 1-8)

Though street grading began quickly, many New Castle residents were slow to comply with the legal requirement to pave and curb their properties. Between 1805 and 1810, the public works project regraded and leveled the streets of New Castle, "with the surface of the streets on the southwest side of the Green [present Delaware Street] lowered about four feet." The regrading necessitated alterations to the topography at the southern end of the Green. The 1731 courthouse had been constructed on a slight natural hill or knoll at the southern end of the Green, so that to effectively grade Market Street, the sides of the knoll upon which the Court House sat had to be cut drastically, thus creating the need for a brick retaining wall to stop or slow erosion. In 1820 the New Castle County Levy Court appropriated funds for the construction of a stone retaining wall to replace the brick wall. To further control the erosion that resulted from cutting the knoll and to provide a more formal entrance, a raised brick terrace was constructed at the courthouse. Construction of the terrace and associated marble steps initially occurred along the southwest (front) façade of the courthouse between 1813 and 1818. The terrace was bound by a low cast iron railing in the early

1820s. A second phase of the terrace construction occurred in 1845, when it and the railing were extended to the front of a new west wing. (Toro 1971: 39, as cited in De Cunzio 2011: 12; Roberts 1987, as cited in Milner 2005: 78; Milner 2005: 78-81)

On Latrobe's 1805 survey, the word "arsenal" was placed in an open area on the southeastern boundary of the Green (see Figure 2). In 1809 the Arsenal Building was constructed at this location by the Quartermaster General's Office, a subordinate unit of the Office of the Secretary of War, in accordance with legislation passed in preparation for possible war with Britain. The building would serve as armory until sometime in the 1840s. The survey also illustrated the market area as a separate area from the Green proper, located on a narrow strip of land on the southeastern boundary of the Green (see Figure 2). Between 1823 and 1826 a three-story arcaded market house was constructed in the location of the market stalls (Figure 8). Its upper floors served as the location of New Castle town offices. Immanuel Church was expanded with a bell tower and steeple in the 1820s under architect William Strickland, who assisted Latrobe in his 1805 survey of New Castle. (Hein and Siders 1998: 1; Davis et.al.: 4; Ten Bears 2013: 6)

A combination of factors lead to a gradual decline in New Castle's importance as a commercial center: the decline of traffic on the Delaware River following the completion of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in 1829; the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad's bypass of New Castle in the 1850s, and the growth of Wilmington as an industrial center. From a peak of 2,737 in 1840, the population of New Castle declined by more than half to 1,217 by 1850. The local population, however, continued to make use of the county offices located in the New Castle Court House, and the Green as a public gathering space and local park. In 1852 a school, the New Castle Institute, was established in the former Arsenal Building, which was enlarged with the addition of a second floor (Figure 9). (Jett 1984: 4)

A few years later in 1857, the Levy Court appropriated \$15,000 to repair the old Sheriff's House just north of the courthouse and build a new jail. The commissioners engaged architect Samuel Sloan to design the jail, and then decided to build a new Sheriff's House instead of repairing the older structure. The new Sheriff's House measured approximately fifty by fifty-two feet while the adjacent jail contained thirty-eight cells and incorporated two prison yards (Figures 10, 11). The building facades and free-standing 25-foot high stone walls enclosed the yards. A pillory and a whipping post were located in the eastern yard. (Jett 1984: no page #)

An 1881 map by Hopkins and Company depicts the Green and its various buildings, as well as the surrounding blocks that featured an increasingly dense collection of structures as well as extensive rail lines terminating at the river (Figure 12). The Green served as a park for school children and local residents, especially after the relocation of New Castle County government offices to Wilmington in 1882. However, the New Castle Court House continued to accommodate the town government, as well as "public school rooms, a men's club, vocational training classrooms, and the post office." Indeed, due to the educational facilities in the courthouse, the Arsenal Building, Immanuel Church (a Sunday School building had been erected in 1839 on the grounds of the church), and the Academy, the Green was sometimes referred to as the "School Green." In 1897 a large cast-iron drinking fountain and water trough was donated to the city by Annie Newlove Burgie as a memorial to her son Henry N. Burgie who had passed away in 1886 at the age of nineteen. The two-tiered octagonal cast-iron fountain was built for all: people drank through a spigot that originally projected from a bas-relief rosette; horses via a large gadrooned trough; and dogs via a ground level trough. The fountain stood at the southwestern end of the Green, near the edge of the sidewalk bordering Delaware Street. It was also during this period that New Castle Green, much like the Green in Dover, was filled with a collection of young and mature shade trees, likely elms (Figures 13, 14, 15). Historic photographs and postcards also show benches along the perimeter walk and around some of the trees, and curbs that separated the turf areas from the perimeter walks, some of which may have been paved with bricks. (Jett 1984: 6; <https://memorialdrinkingfountains.wordpress.com/tag/school-green/>, accessed 3/14/2019)



Figure 2. Portion of Benjamin Latrobe's 1805 "Plan of the Town of New Castle" showing the "Public Square" and the location of the courthouse, jail, workhouse (Sheriff's House), Academy building, and Immanuel Church. (Delaware Public Archives)



Figure 3. Perspective drawing looking east into the "Public Square" showing an open and level area of turf with no trees. From image left to right are the Academy, Immanuel Church, Sheriff's House, and courthouse. From Latrobe's 1805 "Plan of the Town of New Castle." (Delaware Public Archives)

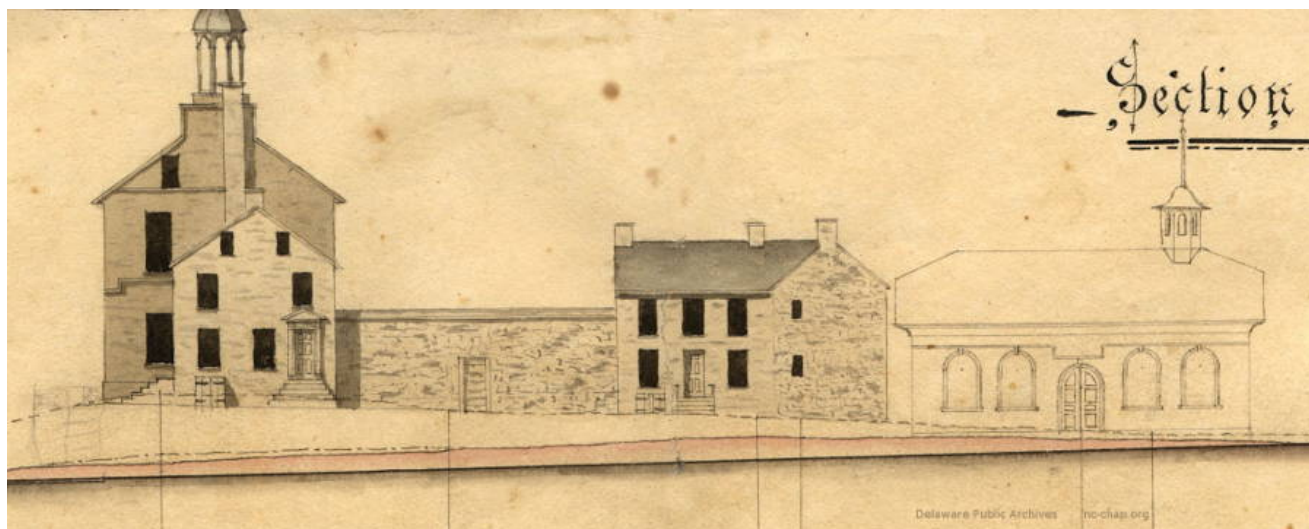


Figure 4. Detail from Market Street of the east elevation of the Court House, Sheriff's House and Jail, and Immanuel Church. From Latrobe's 1805 "Plan of the Town of New Castle." (Delaware Public Archives)

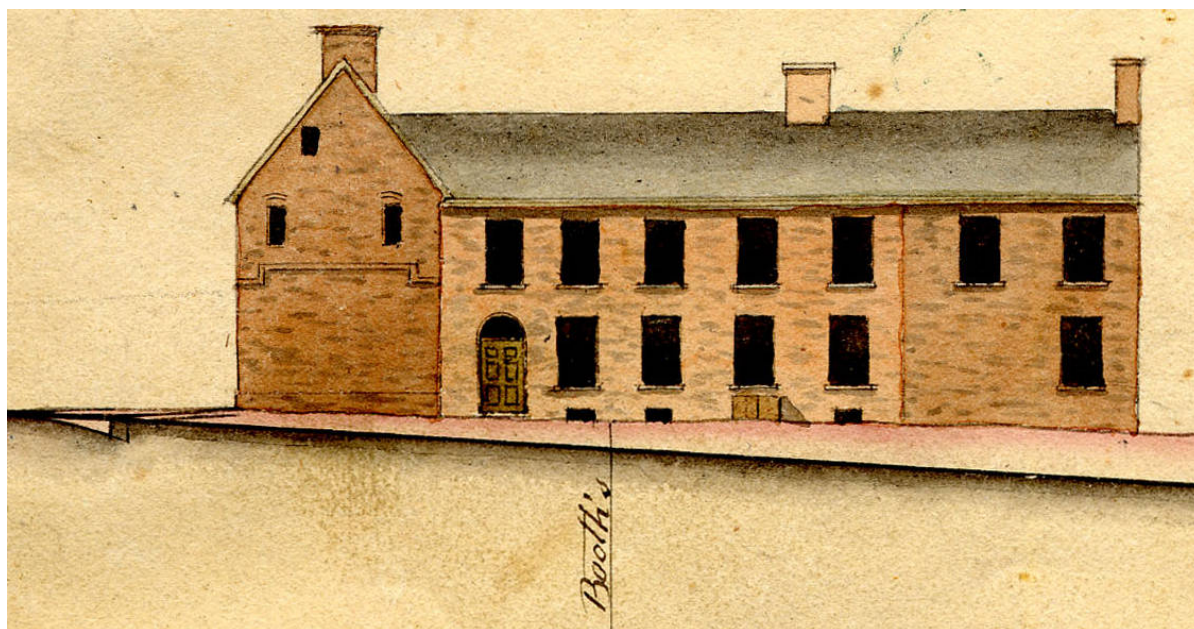


Figure 5. South elevation of the Sheriff's House and Jail building. From Latrobe's 1805 "Plan of the Town of New Castle." (Delaware Public Archives)

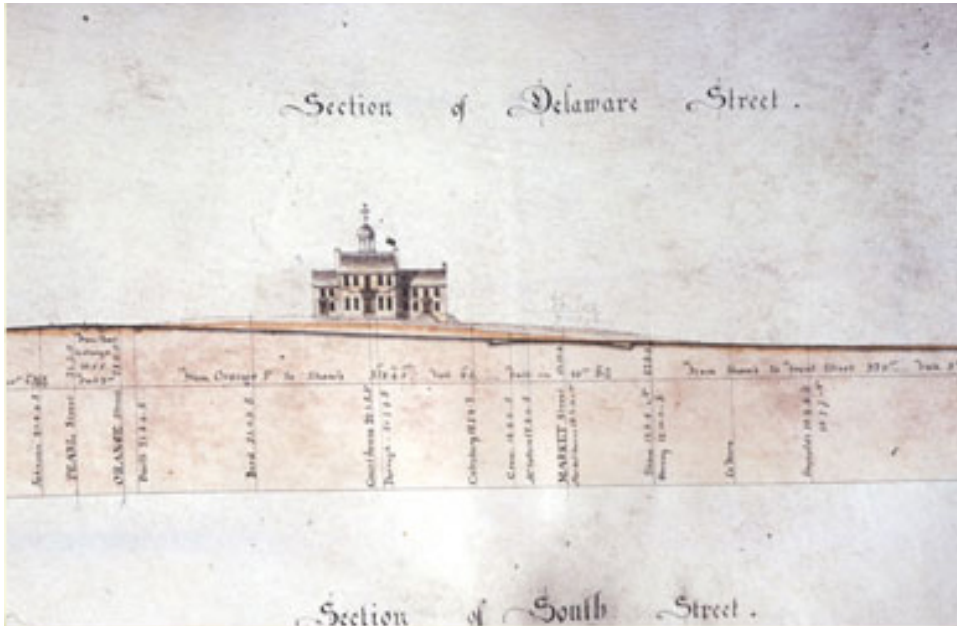


Figure 6. Section of Delaware Street, looking northeast. From Latrobe's 1805 "Plan of the Town of New Castle." (Delaware Public Archives)



Figure 7. Painting by Tilson, 1822, looking northeast across the Green toward the Academy, Immanuel Church, and portions of the Sheriff's House and Jail. Note the depiction of walls and fencing, and a few trees. (Delaware State Historical Society)

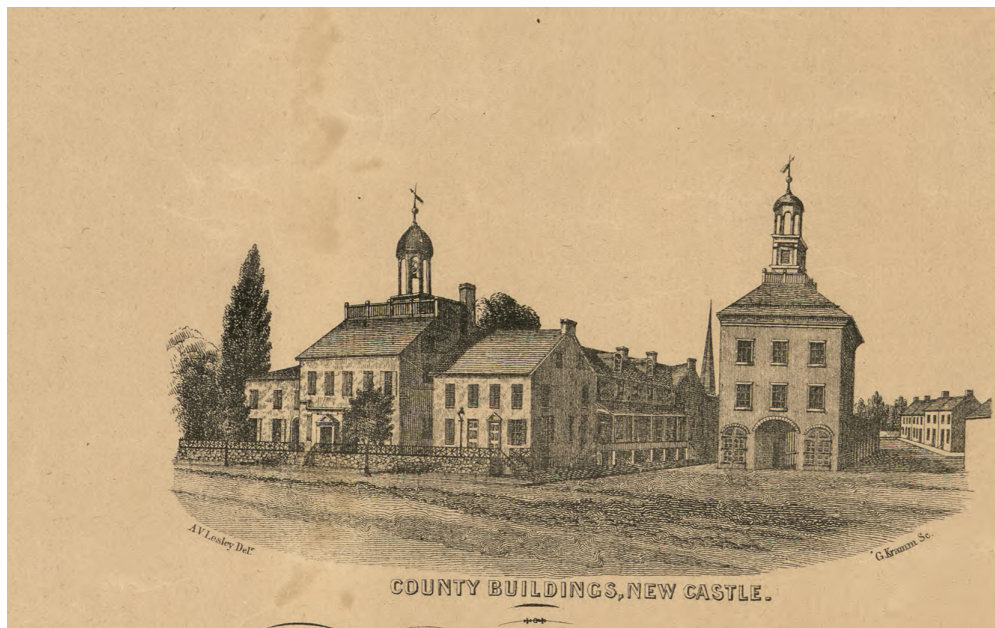


Figure 8. Detail of New Castle Court House and Market Building from an 1849 Rea Map. (Library of Congress).

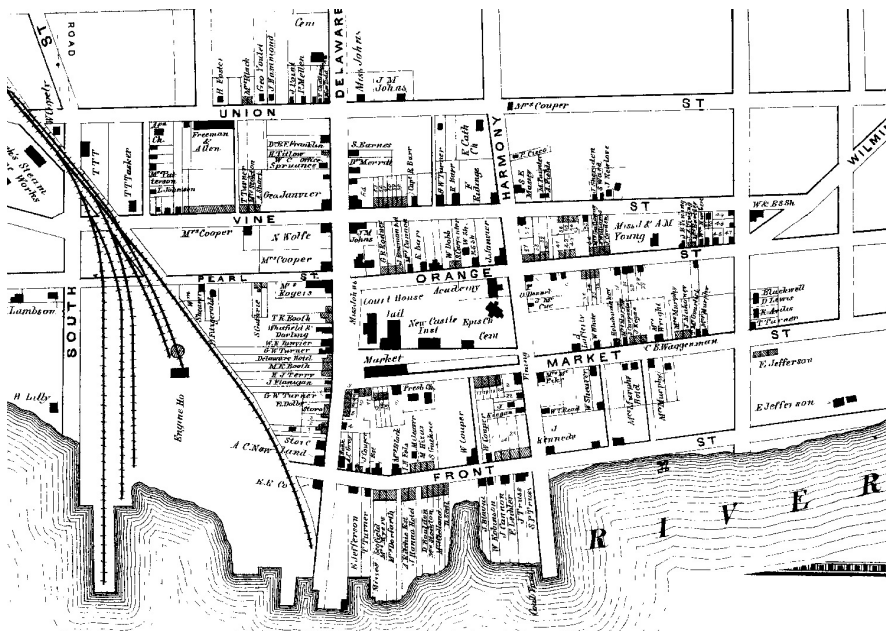


Figure 9. Detail of the 1868 Pomeroy and Beers Map of New Castle, showing the use of the Arsenal as the New Castle Institute. (Library of Congress)

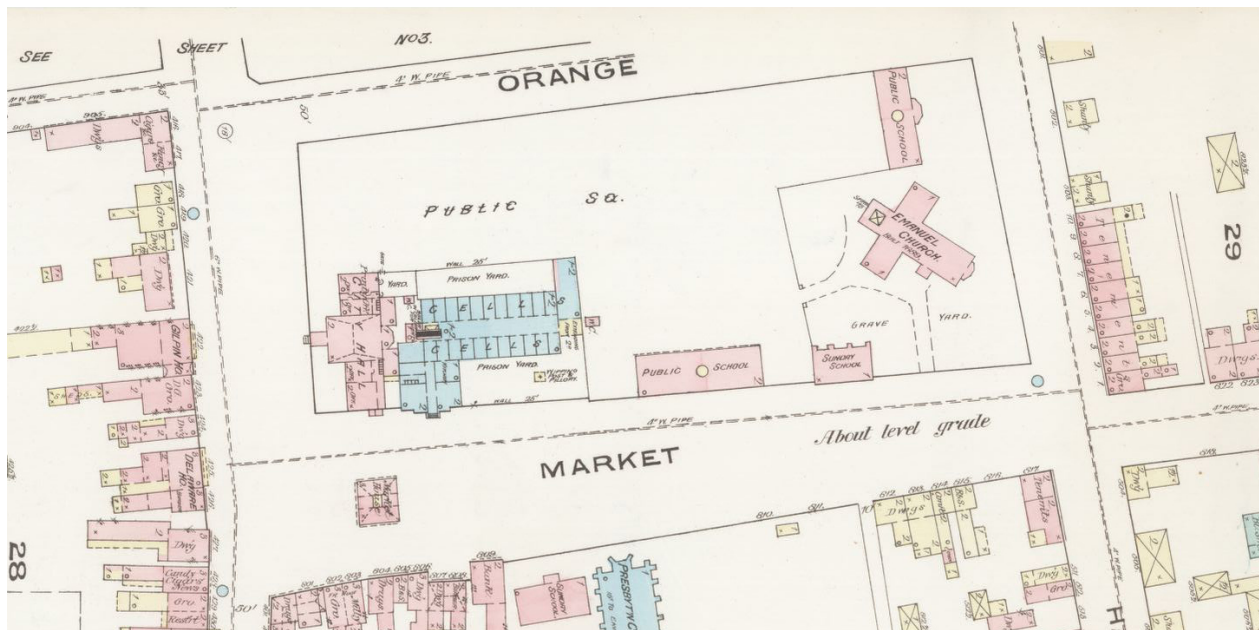


Figure 10. Detail from the 1885 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the location of the jail and schools. (Library of Congress)



Figure 11. Market Street in 1878 looking northeast, showing part of the new Sheriff's House and Jail at image left and the Market Building at image right. (Delaware Public Archives)



Figure 12. Detail of the 1881 G.M. Hopkins & Co. Map of New Castle. (Library of Congress)



Figure 13. New Castle Green in c.1900, also known as "School Green." Postcard view of from the southwest corner looking north in winter. The Burgie fountain is at image right. (Delaware Public Archives)



Figure 14. New Castle Green, or “School Green,” in c.1900. Postcard view from the southwest corner looking north in summer. (Delaware Public Archives)

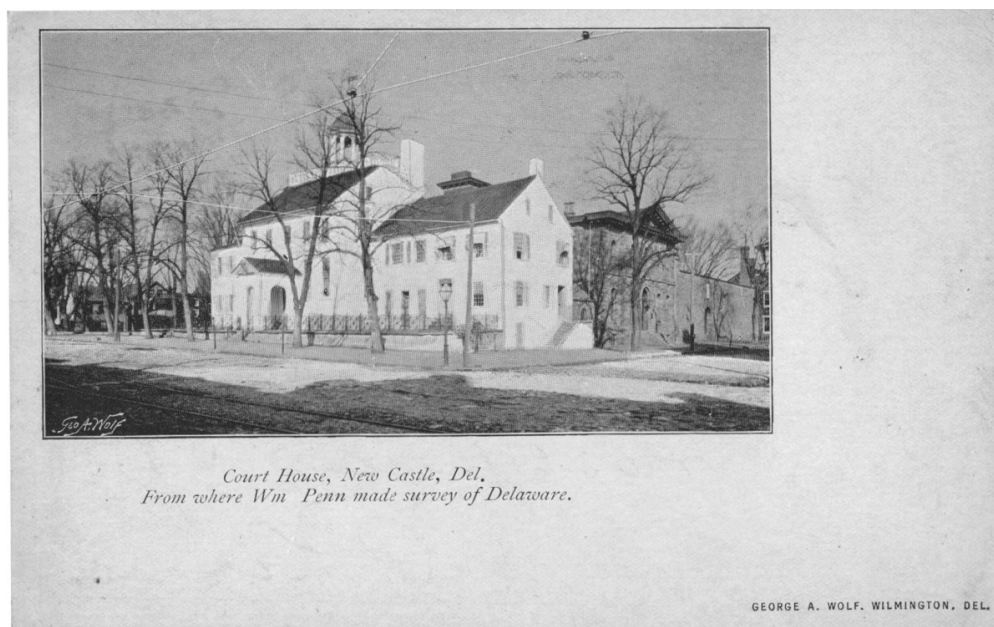


Figure 15. A c.1903 postcard view of the New Castle Court House, looking north. (Delaware Public Archives)

NEW CASTLE GREEN IN THE 20th CENTURY

In the early twentieth century, local artist Laussat Richter Rogers and others launched an effort to preserve the architecture and character of early New Castle. As part of the effort, Rogers directed the “restoration and improvement” of the Amstel House, a seventeenth-century home located a block northwest of the Green on East 4th Street. A reporter for a Wilmington newspaper praised the work,

writing that it was “not the kind that will make the heads of future generations hang in shame, because their forbearers had bad taste instead of good.” A few years later, in 1915, the state made provisions to operate the New Castle Court House as a museum, although this did not happen until the 1950s. In the meantime, a Tea Room operated in the courthouse until around 1957 (closed during World War II). (Harper 2001: 160,178)

Beyond the courthouse, a significant changes occurred just north by 1905 when the jail was vacated, and again in 1911 when the jail and its prison yard walls were razed (Figure 16). At this time, the Sheriff’s House was retained and used as a club house. A small fire shed was built nearby. Between 1912 and 1923, a square two-story central bay addition was made to the west elevation of the Arsenal. (Harper 2001: 160,178)

The appreciation of New Castle’s colonial roots continued to grow through the popular press. In October 1920, Maitland Belknap published “The Town that Time Forgot” in *Country Life*, accompanied by photographs by Roger B. Whitman. Belknap praised the: “visible, tangible connection with the tradition brought from overseas” that New Castle evoked, and daydreamed, “When you see New Castle in the morning’s golden calm, you are not surprised to find yourself half expecting that the paneled doors of the Georgian houses will swing slowly open and permit the powdered gentry to take the bright, clear air, whilst they walk the shaded pavement in their leisurely journey down the Strand to their appointed tasks.” (Belknap 1920: 42)

In closing the article, she offered clear insight into Colonial Revival ideology: “The knowledge that there are those who appreciate the tradition and who make it their task to continue it is balm to a conservative spirit much battered by the advocates of “improvement,” for has it not been said, “Improvement means change, and change means innovation---and innovation is to be deprecated.” (Belknap 1920: 45, as quoted in De Cunzo 2011: 17)

In the mid-1930s restoration of the New Castle Court House and the Arsenal was completed with funding through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) (Figures 17, 18). The courthouse was still used as a tea house, club house, and for other activities, but around this time the Arsenal Building was vacated with the departure of the New Castle Institute in the 1930s. Improvements also occurred on the Green, including formalization of the interior walks with gravel and edging by the mid-1930s, likely on the routes of earlier pathways. Documentation suggests that the bricks were installed on the interior and remaining perimeter walks (those not paved in the nineteenth century) around 1937, possibly by the WPA (Figure 19). The use of brick was typical of Colonial Revival-era improvements. (Federal Writers Project 1938: 242; Ten Bears 2013: 6)

In 1937 the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities (DSPA) was founded under the leadership of Mary Wilson Thompson and Col. Daniel Moore Bates. New Castle became their first project. Bates’ neighbors and friends in his hometown of Centreville included Henry Francis du Pont and Louise du Pont Crowninshield, who may have influenced him to turn his attention to New Castle. Bates envisioned the colonial era city as a “Williamsburg of the North” and invited Reverend Goodwin of Williamsburg and Andrew Hepburn of the Boston architectural firm responsible for the Colonial Williamsburg restoration, to meet with the DSPA. By the end of the year, the DSPA had acquired the Old Dutch House (just northeast of the Green). With World War II, however, attention shifted from historic preservation to production for the war at local companies and to the army base established at nearby New Castle County Airport in 1941. (Harper 2001: 163-167; Munroe 1993: 220-221)

In 1946, with the support of Bates, Crowninshield, and others, a nonprofit company Historic Research, Inc. hired the firm of Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn to complete an architectural survey of the city as a basis for restoration planning. Later, Jeanette Eckman joined the team to assist in documenting and evaluating the historical importance of the city and its cultural landscape. The project was undertaken in secret to keep real estate speculators at bay, and took three years to complete. The inventory and documentation work later served as a foundation for future city preservation planning, including the preservation of the Green. (De Cunzo 2011: 19)

Between 1955 and 1963 the State of Delaware restored the courthouse for interpretation to the public as part of the state museum, which still operates today. Through the 1950s and 1960s, Dutch elm

disease killed many of the large shade trees planted on the Green in the second half of the nineteenth century. These trees were sometimes replaced with other species of shade trees, including maple and ash. In subsequent decades, site furnishings including concrete planters, concrete and wooden benches, waysides, fencing, and Victorian-style light standards were added to the Green to support passive recreational use (Figures 20, 21). The Arsenal Building was utilized for office space until sometime in the 1960s, when it became a restaurant. The Arsenal currently serves as a visitor center for the city of New Castle. (Davis et.al. 2013: 5; Ten Bears 2013: 6)

In 1967 the New Castle Green, the exterior of the Arsenal Building, and the interior and exterior of the Old New Castle Court House, were included in the National Historic Landmark designation of the New Castle Historic District. In 1972, the courthouse itself was individually identified as a National Historic Landmark. In 2013 New Castle Green was included within the boundaries of First State National Monument, which was re-designated as First State National Historical Park in 2014. In addition to the Green, the courthouse, Sheriff's House, and Arsenal Building were included in the park boundary, but the Academy Building and Immanuel Church were not in the boundary. Shortly after the park's establishment, the National Park Service began rehabilitation work on the Sheriff's House for use as the headquarters for First State National Historical Park to house park operations, visitor services, and future compatible non-NPS uses. In 2019, in partnership with the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the park is initiating an archaeological investigation prior to the final planning for the rehabilitation of the Sheriff's House and the adjacent exterior perimeter as the park's new office and visitor center.

Today, New Castle Green still functions as an open space, covered with lawns and dotted with large shade trees, and crossed by diagonal brick sidewalks linking its four corners. The Green continues to provide a public place for contemplation, passive recreation, and community events.

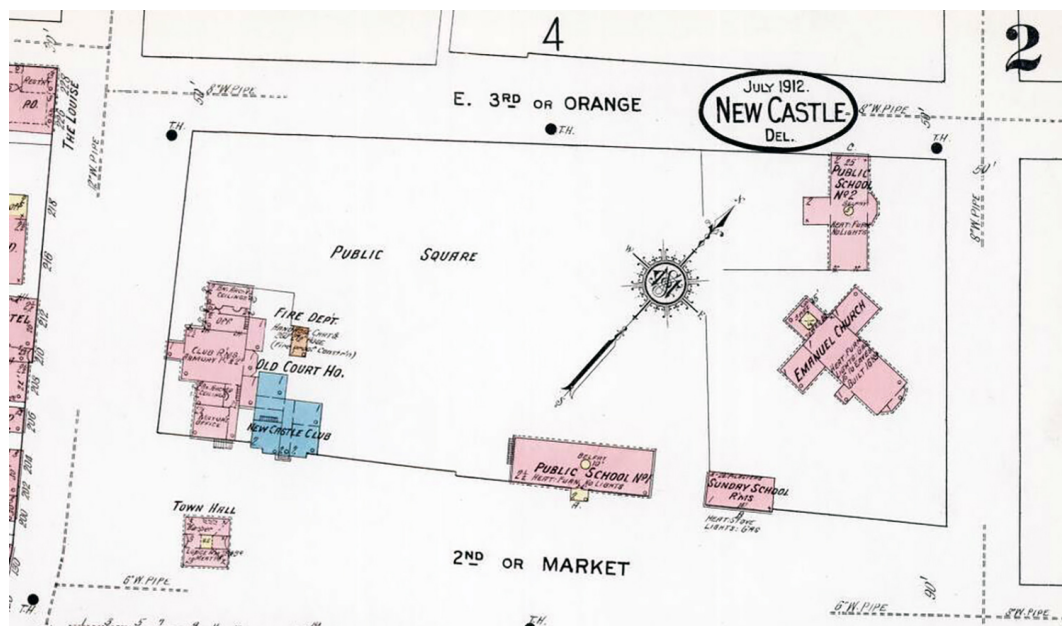


Figure 16. Detail from the 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, showing the Green after the removal of the jail.



Figure 17. The New Castle Court House, view looking north, c.1945. (Delaware Public Archives)



Figure 18. View looking north at the Arsenal Building, c.1937. (National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 69)



Figure 19. View into the Green from the southwest corner, looking northeast, mid-1930s, after the interior walks were formalized with edging but before they were paved with brick. (Delaware Public Archives)



Figure 20. View from the south-central portion of the Green looking northeast, 1961. (Delaware Public Archives)



Figure 21. View looking north from Market Street. Note the white fencing (since removed). (Delaware Public Archives)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Defense	Fortification	Battery (Defense)	Yes	No	No
Government	Capitol	Capitol	Yes	No	No
Government	Correctional Facility (Jail)	Correctional Facility (Jail)	Yes	No	No
Government	Courthouse	Courthouse	Yes	No	No
Landscape	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Museum (Exhibition Hall)	Museum (Exhibition Hall)	No	Yes	No
Education	School	School	Yes	No	No
Landscape	Plaza/Public Space (Square)	Plaza/Public Space (Square)	Yes	Yes	Yes

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

Currently there is unrestricted access to the landscape of New Castle Green.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Landscape characteristics identified within the New Castle Green include natural systems and features, spatial organization, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, small-scale features, and archeological sites. Of these spatial organization, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, views, and small-scale features contribute most fully to the Green's overall historic character.

INTEGRITY

Integrity is defined in the National Register of Historic Places as the ability of a property to convey its significance through physical resources. The National Register program identifies seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Retention of these qualities is necessary for a property to convey its significance; however, not all seven aspects must be present for a property to retain integrity. Overall, the New Castle Green landscape retains integrity to the period of significance, with all seven aspects of integrity evidenced on the grounds.

Location:

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where an historic event occurred. New Castle Green is in the same location as the public green laid out in the mid-seventeenth century by Peter Stuyvesant as part of the development of Fort Casimir by the Dutch East India Company. The location of the structures that helped to define the Green, including the New Castle Court House, the Sheriff's House, and the Arsenal, remain in their original locations.

Design:

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of a property. The existing location and spatial characteristics of New Castle Green reflect the public square's original layout as set forth by Peter Stuyvesant in 1655 and identified in Henry Latrobe's 1805 plan for the town. Brick-paved walkways and sections of granite curbing still define the perimeter of the space and provide access into the Green itself through multiple crisscrossing routes. Benches, though not original, promote its use as a public space and by providing places to sit and relax. Although individual trees on the green do not date to the period of significance, the current design of an open turfed space dotted with large deciduous specimen trees dates to the late nineteenth century. However, the introduction of evergreen trees and low-branching deciduous trees, as well as a few shrubs, has somewhat diminished the historic design characteristics of the Green.

Setting:

Setting is the physical environment of a property and the general character of the place. New Castle Green is set within an urban environment of orthogonal city blocks that are lined with one- to three-story buildings dating to the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries. Many of these buildings are historic, and provide historic context for the Green, especially the Academy building and grounds and the Immanuel Church and churchyard just to the north. The physical relationship between the Green's collection of trees and lawns to the New Castle Court House, Sheriff's House, and Arsenal remains intact and serves as the setting of those buildings.

Materials:

Materials are the physical features that were combined or deposited during the period of significance in a particular pattern or configuration to give form to the property. The cast iron drinking fountain, railings, and hitching post; granite curbing; and many of the brick sidewalks are original materials. Turf and most plant material post-dates the period of significance.

Workmanship:

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts and methods of construction used during the specified period of significance. This aspect of integrity is best seen in the patterns of brick in the sidewalks and the details evident cast iron drinking fountain, railings, and hitching post.

Feeling:

Feeling is the expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular time resulting from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey a property's historic character. New Castle Green retains its historic physical and visual relationships to the New Castle Court House as well as to surrounding streetscapes and circulation systems. The Green continues to serve as public open space, and still provides a setting for adjacent educational and religious institutions. However, the political-related activities that historically occurred on the Green have largely been replaced with park- and visitor-related uses.

Association:

Association is the direct link between an important event or person and the property. The association of the New Castle Green with important developments in colonial settlement and in government and politics is retained through the relationship of the open space to the Green's important eighteenth and nineteenth century civic buildings and the surrounding city blocks and streetscape. The eighteen and nineteenth-century civic, religious, military, and residential structures that border the Green reveal the development of the surrounding community, as well as the importance of the Green in political discourse.

The following section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding List of Classified Structures names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the historic period (1655-1934), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource. If a feature is non-contributing, it is evaluated as "compatible" (visually congruent with the historic character of the landscape) or "incompatible" (visually incongruent with the historic character of the landscape).

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Historic and Existing Conditions:

Natural systems are the natural aspects that influence the development and physical form of the landscape including, physiography, geology, and vegetative communities. Prior to European settlement, the area that was to become the city of New Castle was almost entirely covered by forest and marsh. The town of New Castle was originally situated on the down slope of the Delaware River terrace, almost completely surrounded by marshes and tidal flats. Prior to about 1831, wetlands, known as "Deakyne's Swamp," were situated south of the Green behind the buildings that lined Delaware Street. This wetland was filled with the construction of the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad. (de Valinger 1932, cited in Roberts 1987: 2; Heite 1989: 35-36, cited in Milner 2005: 84)

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, New Castle's market square was most likely a semi-cleared rectangular plot of land of roughly shorn meadow grasses and exposed soil. What remained of the Green's natural systems was replaced in the nineteenth century by landscape of roughly mown turf and cultivated deciduous trees. Though trees dating to the period of significance have succumbed to disease and age, the landscape remains a rectangular plot of mown turf, crossed diagonally with brick sidewalks, and dotted with scattered deciduous trees of various sizes (see Cover).

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Historic Condition (to 1934):

Spatial organization refers to the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. The spatial organization of New Castle Green was first defined by the rough grid of streets and lots laid-out in the mid-seventeenth century. Structures defined the sides of the Green, including the New Castle Court House, Sheriff's House, and Jail at the southeastern corner, Immanuel Church on the northeastern corner, and the Academy on the northwestern corner. Perimeter and interior walks, as well as sections of fencing and curbing, further defined the Green. The Green was illustrated in Latrobe's 1805 perspective drawings as mostly absent of trees, but by the late nineteenth century numerous large deciduous trees created a sense of overhead enclosure on the Green. Because there were few understory plantings, views in to and out of the Green reinforced the spatial connections with the buildings on the Green and those in the surrounding lots.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

New Castle Green currently retains its historic spatial characteristics, as the primary buildings, circulation features, and vegetation characteristics are intact. The Green remains a relatively flat rectangular plot of maintained lawn dotted with deciduous trees and bordered by streets. Historic structures, including the New Castle Court House, the Sheriff's House, and the Arsenal provide enclosure and spatial definition to the Green (Figure 22). As during the period of significance, there are few understory plantings or shrubs on the Green, but the introduction of low-branching deciduous trees creates more enclosure than that created by the high-branching elm trees prevalent in the mid- to late- nineteenth century (Figure 23).

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 22. Aerial photograph showing the locations of the buildings, circulation features, and vegetation that define the Green. (Google Earth, 2016)



Figure 23. View looking south at some of the low-branching trees that screen views and impact the historic spatial character of the Green. (Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation--hereafter OCLP- -2017)

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Historic and Existing Conditions:

Land use describes the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction. During the period of significance, New Castle Green served as a market space and a gathering place for community events, including civic, governmental, and religious activities. The Green's use as a market space likely ended in the early nineteenth century, after the creation of the designated market space along Market Street following Latrobe's 1805 plan. However, this change did not affect the use of the Green as a setting for the surrounding civic buildings and a place of public gathering, political discourse, and community engagement, and as a landscape for passive recreation. By the second half of the nineteenth century into the twentieth century, the presence of numerous schools highlighted the Green as an academic setting for educational institutions. The historic use of the Green for passive recreation, as well as public gathering and community events, was sustained through the twentieth century and continues to the present day.

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

Historic and Existing Conditions:

Topography is the three dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect). Historically, the Green occupied a relatively high elevation, above the floodplain within the surrounding topography of New Castle. The mostly level plane of the open Green was characterized by two slight highpoints or knolls – in the southeast corner of the Green where the New Castle Court House is located and in the northeast corner where Immanuel Church is located. The Green's low point is located in the northwest corner. Though extensive grading of the surrounding streets in the early nineteenth century necessitated the removal of part of the knoll upon which the New Castle Court House sits, the two knolls are still visible in the landscape today.

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Conditions (to 1934):

Vegetation includes managed individual specimens and masses of deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers and herbaceous materials, both indigenous and introduced. The exact composition of vegetation on the Green in the seventeenth through early nineteenth centuries is unknown. The Green may have been covered in a mixture of native grasses, scythed short as a meadow, and possibly scattered trees. Perspective drawings from Latrobe's 1805 "Plan for the Town of New Castle" reveal a mostly treeless area except for a few around existing buildings. Latrobe's drawings also indicate newly planted deciduous trees along Delaware Street, in the foreground of his perspective drawings of the Green. By the late nineteenth century, however, photographs show plantings of deciduous trees, likely elms, scattered around the lawns of the Green. Early twentieth century photographs show that the Green remained a turfed open landscape dotted with large deciduous trees.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

In the decades following the historic period, the large elms on New Castle Green succumbed to Dutch elm disease, and were replaced by a more diverse palette of species including American ash (*Fraxinus Americana*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), European linden (*Tilia x europinea*), silver linden (*Tilia tomentosa*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), American elm (*Ulmus Americana*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), copper beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*), European crabapple (*Malus sylvestris*), ginko (*Ginko biloba*), and honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) (Figure 24). Some of these tree species feature low branching forms, which has altered views to and from the Green. Though individual tree species have changed over time, some vegetation characteristics have remained consistent: turf has served as the primary planted groundcover, there are few understory shrubs and perennials, and trees are located in a random pattern throughout the grounds rather than in formal allees. In several locations of the Green, trees that have been removed have not been replaced, leaving conspicuous jogs in the sidewalks (Figure 25).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Deciduous, High-Branching Trees	187688	Contributing					No
Other Trees	187689	Noncontributing – Incompatible					No
Shrubs	187690	Noncontributing – Incompatible					No
Lawns	187691	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 24. Although this elm likely does not date to the period of significance, it represents a species that was common on the Green at the turn of the twentieth century. (OCLP 2017)



Figure 25. In this view from the southwest corner of the Green looking northeast, the jogs in the sidewalk indicate where large specimen trees once grew. (OCLP 2017)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Condition (to 1934):

Circulation is comprised of the spaces, features, and materials that make up the network facilitating pedestrian and vehicular movement. According to the 1797 Blaney Survey of New Castle, the Green was bordered on the western edge by Orange Street (later East 3rd Street) and on the eastern edge by Market Street, which was wider at its southern end (120 feet) than at its north end (60 feet). In Latrobe's 1805 "Plan for the town of New Castle," Market Street was widened further at the southern end to allow for the establishment of permanent market stalls. There were no pedestrian paths shown on either plan; however, Latrobe's perspective of the Green suggests a pedestrian path extended from the southern edge of the Green, to west of the Court House, to the northern end of the Green. An elevated brick terrace was built on the southwest (front) façade of the courthouse in 1813-1845. According to late nineteenth-century photographs, unpaved walks extended around portions of the Green's perimeter. The photographs suggest sidewalks traversed the interior of the Green, but the exact layout is not discernable. Later photographs from the 1930s show some of the perimeter walks paved in brick, as well as interior paths with edging that were paved in bricks by 1937.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

While no streets are included within the park unit boundary of New Castle Green, the surrounding network of city streets defines the Green and places it in the context of the mid-seventeenth century street grid development. Currently, brick pathways cross diagonally across the Green and around the perimeter of the Green, culminating in a small, circular brick section located at the Green's approximate center. The pathways radiate from this center section in four directions, connecting to the sidewalks of East 3rd St. (near the Delaware St. intersection) and Market St. (near the Sheriff's House); along the Arsenal's northeast (side) elevation; and near the Academy at another primary pathway, which extends from near the adjacent cemetery of Immanuel Church. A few smaller pathways provide crisscrossing shortcuts and connections to the surrounding buildings (Figures 26, 27, 28). Brick sidewalks define the perimeter of the Green on three sides: east (Market Street), south (Delaware Street), and west (East 3rd Street). The north boundary is formed by a brick sidewalk that parallels a low wall separating the Green from the Academy Building and Immanuel Church.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Brick Sidewalks	187692	Contributing					No
Brick Terrace	187693	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 26. This view looking north along western perimeter sidewalk reveals the crown in the brick sidewalk to promote adequate drainage. (OCLP 2017)



Figure 27. View looking northwest at the brick terrace and cast iron railing fronting the New Castle Court House, and perimeter brick walk along Delaware Street. (OCLP 2017)



Figure 28. View looking northeast at the brick sidewalk fronting the Sheriff's House and cobblestone paving on Market Street. (OCLP 2017)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition (to 1934):

Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity. The first known building in the vicinity of the Green was a blockhouse, built in the 1670s possibly in the northeast corner of the Green, around the site of the current Immanuel Church. By around 1689 there was a courthouse with a wood frame and stone foundation at the southeast corner of the Green. The wood-frame building was lost to a fire in 1729 and replaced by 1731 by a five-bay, 2.5-story, Georgian-style brick structure with a rooftop cupola. (Some sources incorrectly state that the cupola served as the center point of the Twelve Mile Arc that defined the curved boundary between the colonies of Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. This arc was surveyed in 1701, at present day Third and Chestnut streets). A four bay-wide east wing section was added in two stages, 1765 and 1802, and a west wing was added in 1845. From 1731 to 1777, the General Assembly of the Lower Counties met in courthouse, but were then moved to Dover. After county offices moved to Wilmington in 1881, the building was modified for use as a tea house, club house, and for other activities. (Breitkreuetz review comments, 11 September 2019)

The Arsenal Building was constructed between 1809 and early 1811 as a one-story brick structure by the Quarter Master General's Office, and accommodated military uses until the 1840s. In 1853 the Arsenal was enlarged with the second floor addition and converted into a school, known as the New Castle Institute. Between 1912 and 1923, a square two-story central bay addition was made to the west elevation. The school left the building in the 1930s.

In 1857 efforts were made to repair the old Sheriff's House just north of the courthouse and build a new jail. Instead, new structures were build for both. The 2.5-story, brownstone Sheriff's House and jail were located between the courthouse and Arsenal. The Italianate style house measured approximately fifty by fifty-two feet, while the jail contained two levels of cell blocks and featured two walled prison yards. The jail was closed around 1905 and demolished in 1911. The Sheriff's House was retained for a variety of uses.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

The New Castle Court House, Sheriff's House, and the Arsenal contribute to the significance of the New Castle Green (Figures 29, 30, see also Figure 28). Between 1955 and 1963 the State of Delaware restored the courthouse for interpretation to the public as part of the state museum, which still operates today. Offices for First State National Historical Park are currently housed in the west wing. The Arsenal Building was utilized for office space until sometime in the 1960s, when it became a restaurant. The Arsenal currently serves as a visitor center for the city of New Castle. Rehabilitation of the Sheriff's House to accommodate park offices is underway. Note: The New Castle Court House and Arsenal are not owned, managed, or maintained by the National Park Service, however the historic buildings contribute to the integrity of the landscape of New Castle Green.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
New Castle Court House	187694	Contributing					No
Sheriff's House	187695	Contributing			Location	244537	Yes
Arsenal	187696	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 29. View looking east at the New Castle Court House. The 1845 west wing is at image left, and the original 1731 main block is at image right. (OCLP 2017)



Figure 30. View looking north-northeast at the Arsenal. Note the bas-relief depicting a cannon on the building facade. (OCLP 2017)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Historic Condition (to 1934):

Views are the panoramic or expansive prospect of a broad range of vision, which may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. Vistas are controlled aspects of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived. Views to and from the Green were mostly open from its inception in the mid-1600s to the mid-1800s due to the minimal presence of trees. Instead, views were framed and controlled by the construction of the New Castle Court House (1731), Arsenal (1809), and Sheriff's House and Jail (1857) on the edges of the Green, as well as the Academy Building (1789) and Immanuel Church (c.1706, 1820s) to the north and development of buildings on the blocks facing the Green. The planting of trees –mostly high-branching, vase-shaped elms – occurred in the mid- to late-1800s and further framed inward and outward views, while providing welcome shade in the summer.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

Views and vistas into and out of New Castle Green historically provided, and still provide, an important visual connection between the open public space of the Green and the surrounding civic and residential structures. In particular, the Green provides a setting for the New Castle Court House, reinforcing a sense of the government's prominence and authority in the social fabric of the colonies and the newly formed state. Changes in vegetation have constricted some of the views into and out of the Green; many of the elms have been lost, and some have been replaced with species with lower branching habits (Figures 31, 32).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Views from the Green to surrounding Streetscape, Academy, and Immanuel Church	187697	Contributing					No
Views into Green from Bordering Streets and Perimeter Walks	187698	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 31. View looking northeast from the Green toward the Academy and the Immanuel Church. (OCLP 2017)



Figure 32. View looking northwest from the west side of Green to the residential streetscape of East 3rd Street. (OCLP 2017)

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Condition (to 1934):

Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. In the 1820s the brick wall constructed around the front of the courthouse after the adjacent streets were lowered was replaced with a stone wall and topped with a cast iron fence.

In 1897 a cast-iron drinking fountain and trough was placed on the southwest side of the Green, alongside Delaware Street, in memory of Henry N. Burgie. The octagonal-shaped fountain was decorated with bands of foliate frieze and horizontal beading. The pedestal featured a large gadrooned trough for the use of horses, and spigot projecting from a bas-relief rosette that supplied water to a smaller fluted basin for human consumption, and a ground level trough for pets. Historic photographs from this time show granite curbs separating the brick walks from the lawns in the Green along Delaware Street. They were installed sometime in the nineteenth century, likely to compensate for the lowered grade of Delaware Street. In 1932 a historic marker was placed on the Green, with the words "The Green or Market Plaine." There was also a cast iron cannon located near the Arsenal and a cast iron horse hitching post near the Sheriff's House.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

In September 1940 the Burgie Fountain was modernized with a drinking fountain, and in 1969 the fountain was painted by Edward Wise. A small plaque, almost flush with the ground, and dedicated to MIA soldiers is located near the copper beech tree near the center of the Green, while a flagpole is set on the brick terrace near the Market Street stairs. A freestanding brownstone wall extends from the rear of the west wing of the courthouse to the rear of the Sheriff's House, and connects to a brown-painted wood privacy fence at the screens HVAC equipment. The status of plaque, flagpole, and stone wall are undetermined, but the fence is non-contributing. The current collection of waysides, light standards, benches, trash cans, and concrete planting containers post-date the period of significance, but as a whole they do not diminish the character of the landscape. The cast iron cannon is no longer present but the fountain, granite curbs, and historical marker are extant (Figures 33, 34, 35, 36, 37).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Granite Curbs between Perimeter Walks and Lawns	187699	Contributing					No
"The Green or Market Plaine" Sign	187700	Contributing					No
Burgie Fountain	187701	Contributing					No
Cast Iron Hitching Post	187702	Contributing					No
Cast Iron Railing around New Castle Court House Brick Terrace	187703	Contributing			Asset	1568857	No
Free-Standing Stone Wall between Courthouse and Sheriff's House	187704	Undetermined			Asset	1568794	No
MIA Soldiers Plaque	187705	Undetermined					No
Flagpole at Courthouse	187706	Undetermined					No
Privacy Fence at Sheriff's House	187707	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
New Castle Sheriff's House Wayside System	187708	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset	1555567	Yes
Wayside with Iron Stand	187709	Undetermined					No
Light Standard, type 1	187710	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Light Standard, type 2	187711	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Manufactured Wood and Iron Benches	187712	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Concrete Planter Containers	187713	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Trash Cans	187714	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 33. View looking west at the Burgie Fountain. (OCLP 2017)



Figure 34. Hitching post located east of the Sheriff's House. (OCLP 2017)



Figure 35. Free-standing stone wall and privacy fence on the west side of the Sheriff's House. (OCLP 2017)



Figure 36. Light standard, type one, located south of New Castle Court House. (Google Earth 2016)



Figure 37. Light standard, type two, located near northwest corner of Green. (OCLP 2017)

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

Numerous archaeological investigations have occurred in the vicinity of the New Castle Court House. In addition, the outlines of the foundations of the former jail are apparent in some aerial photographs. The location of the foundations are not included in the CLI to protect the integrity of the resources.

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 5

Next Assessment Due Date: 02/10/2031

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 02/10/2026

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall landscape is well-maintained and in good condition.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 10/21/2019

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The condition of the New Castle Green landscape is “good.” Although there is some evidence of soil compaction near circulation routes, there is no evidence of major negative disturbance or deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The cultural and natural values are preserved under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Soil Compaction

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Soil compaction is evident in some areas near the sidewalks, which inhibits the growth of grass.

Date Identified: 10/21/2019

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Undetermined

Treatment Completed: No

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

No park planning documents regarding the treatment of the Dover Green landscape yet exist. The 2013 Presidential Proclamation that established First State National Monument (redesignated as First State National Historical Park in 2015) identified the New Castle Green as one of the “object of historic interest,” and charged the National Park Service and its partners “to protect and manage these objects of historic interest and interpret for the public the resources and values associated with them.” The Presidential Proclamation also noted that for the purpose of establishing a national monument, “the State of Delaware has donated to the United States certain lands and interests in lands in New Castle, Delaware (including the Sheriff’s House in fee, and an easement for the protection of and access to the New Castle Court House and the Green).”

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
Versar, Inc.	American Indian Settlement of Bay/Basin Landscapes in the Archaic and Woodland Periods: The Frederick Lodge Site Complex, 7NC-J-97, 7NC-J-98, and 7NC-J-99, New Castle County Delaware, Delaware Department of Transportation, June 2011, 4-3.	2011	Delaware Department of Transportation			
Trustees of New Castle Common	New Castle Common	1944	Trustees of New Castle Common			
Toro, Lucille	The Latrobe Survey of New Castle	1971	Thesis, University of Delaware			
Ten Bears Environmental Associates Company	Phase 1 Environmental Assessment, The Green, City of New Castle, New Castle County, Delaware	2013	Unpublished study completed under contract with National Park Service			
Cooper, Alexander B.	"The History of New Castle, Delaware, At the close of the 18th and beginning of the 19th century," September 23, 1906.	1906	The Sunday Morning Star			

New Castle Green
First State National Historical Park

Coleman, Jay F., C. Ellis, Mark Shaffer, and Colleen DeSantis	Phase I & II Archaeological Research of the Proposed Bridge 260 Replacement, County Road 346, Whitten or Walther Road, New Castle County, Delaware	1985	Delaware Department of Transportation			
Breitkreuetz, William	Review comments, 11 September 2019.	2019	n/a			
Bodo, Robin K. et.al. Delaware State Historic Preservation Office	New Castle Court House National Historic Landmark Nomination.	2001	United States Department of the Interior			
Belknap, Maitland	"The Town that Time Forgot," Country Life Magazine, October Volume XXXVIII, Number 6	1920	Doubleday, Page & Company			
Anon	Laws of Delaware, Volume I & II	1797	John and Samuel Adams			
Taylor, Alan	American Colonies: The Settling of North America, Volume 1	2002	Penguin Books			
Scharf, Thomas J.	History of Delaware, 1609-1888	1888	L.J. Richards & Co, Philadelphia			
Roberts, Daniel J.	"The History and Archeology of Immanuel Episcopal Church, New Castle Delaware." From Pennsylvania Archeologist, Volume 57, 1987.	1987	Society for Pennsylvania Archeology, Inc.			

New Castle Green
First State National Historical Park

Reed, Paula	Historic Resource Study, First State National Historical Park, Draft	2018	Park files			
--	New Castle County Geological Survey, Kelvin Ramsey, 2005)					
--	Original Land Titles in Delaware Commonly Known as The Duke of York Record. Printed by order of the General Assembly of Delaware, Wilmington: Sunday Star Print, 1899.	1899	digitized on https://archive.org .			
National Park Service	Delaware National Coastal Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment	2008	National Park Service, Department of the Interior			
Munroe, John	Colonial Delaware: A History	1978	Kraus International Publishers			
Milner, et.al.	Archaeological Study, New Castle Court House	2005	Department of the Interior, National Park Service			
Levy, Barry	Quakers and the American Family: British Settlement in the Delaware Valley	1992	Oxford University Press			
Jett, Richard and Valerie Cesna	New Castle Historic District National Register Nomination	1984	United States Department of the Interior			

New Castle Green
First State National Historical Park

Holcomb, Thomas	Sketch of Early Ecclesiastical Affairs in New Castle Delaware and History of Immanuel Church	1890	Delaware Printing Company			
Heite, Louise B.	New Castle Under the Duke of York	1978	Thesis, University of Delaware			
Hein, Kara K. and Rebecca J. Siders	A Documentary History of the Arsenal New Castle, Delaware	1998	Center for Architecture and Design, University of Delaware			
Griffith, Daniel R. and Richard E. Artusy, Jr.	An Assessment of the Prehistoric Archaeological Resources of the Proposed Dover Bypass Corridor Frederica to Route 100, Kent County, Delaware, Archaeological Series No. 7	1976	Delaware Department of State, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs			
Fernow, B.	Documents Relating to the History of the Dutch and Swedish Settlements on the Delaware River	1877	The Argus Company			
Federal Writers Project.	Delaware: A Guide to the First State, 1938.	1938	New York: Viking Press			
Emory, Scott A., Amy K. Fanx, Daniel Hayes, Paul W. Schopp, Christine Gill	Combined Phase 1B Archaeological Survey and Phase II Archaeological Investigation, SR 1 North Frederica Grade Separated Intersection, Frederica, Kent County, Delaware	2007	Delaware Department of Transportation			

New Castle Green
First State National Historical Park

Davis, Gwen, & Alice H. Gurerrant, Lynn Riley, Suzanne Savery, Stephanie Shaw, Jesse Zanavich	The New Castle Green Baseline Documentation	2013	Unpublished study by the Delaware Division of Cultural Affairs			
De Cunzo, Lu Ann	"New Castle History: A Brief Review," excerpted from Archaeology in the Garden at the Read House, Draft Report, January 24, 2011.	2011	Unpublished study			
Cooper, Constance J., ed.	350 Years of New Castle, Delaware.	2001	Wilmington, Delaware: Cedar Tree Books			

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: A Map of New Castle Upon Delaware as William Penn Saw It,
1932

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Devalinger, Leon, Jr. Original on file at Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Department of State, Hall of
Records, Dover, Delaware

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type
FRST_Dover Green-New Castle Green_CLI Updates Notes_2026.pdf		

Source