

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC L.E. Eliason House
J.T. Eliason House

AND/OR COMMON Pyle House
Stoffer House

Practice Nomination by Madelyn
Ladner in 1983 for a class at the University
of Delaware. Courtesy Center for Historic
Architecture and Design.

With permission of Ms Ladner

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 72 W. 5th Street
80 W. 5th Street

CITY, TOWN New Castle

STATE Delaware

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
VICINITY OF
CODE COUNTY CODE
New Castle

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
___ DISTRICT	___ PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___ AGRICULTURE ___ MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	___ UNOCCUPIED	___ COMMERCIAL ___ PARK
___ STRUCTURE	___ BOTH	___ WORK IN PROGRESS	___ EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RES
___ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ ENTERTAINMENT ___ RELIGIOUS
___ OBJECT	___ IN PROCESS	___ YES: RESTRICTED	___ GOVERNMENT ___ SCIENTIFIC
	___ BEING CONSIDERED	___ YES: UNRESTRICTED	___ INDUSTRIAL ___ TRANSPORTA
		___ NO	___ MILITARY ___ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Sarah L. E. Pyle
Paul and Judy Stoffer

STREET & NUMBER 72 W. 5th Street
80 W. 5th Street

CITY, TOWN New Castle

STATE Delaware
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC City/County Building

STREET & NUMBER 810 French Street

CITY, TOWN Wilmington

STATE Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE NA

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The L.E. Eliason House faces southeast at 72 W. 5th Street in New Castle, Delaware. Though the street was laid out before the 1798 New Castle survey, the L.E. Eliason house was the first structure on the site. It stands as built, except for 1940 renovations that removed an interior wall and a 1950 addition to the original flat-roofed rear extension. Both changes are sympathetic to the original structure.

The L.E. Eliason House is a two-and-a-half story, three-bay brick and frame structure. Typical of nineteenth-century eclectic house architecture, it incorporates many popular house planning ideas featured in pattern books of the period, including a conservatory, bays, a variety of exterior surfaces, turned posts and balusters, and an off-center main stair hall plan. Built in 1894 by local coal and lumber merchant J.T. Eliason, the house is a catalogue of commonly used late nineteenth century building materials.

The first floor of the main block and rear extension are constructed of smooth red brick set with thin layers of red mortar. On the facade the brick is laid in stretcher bond. The rest is laid in flemish stretcher bond with irregular intervals. The second and top floors are of frame construction. The exterior walls of the second floor are sheathed in milled board siding kicked out at the base and have plain corner trim. The exterior walls of the gable ends are covered with rows of shingle in four patterns -- scallop, diamond, fish-scale, and hexagonal. The first four rows are scallop-shaped, followed by three diamond-shaped rows beginning at window sill level; then four fish-scale rows, four scallop rows, four diamond, two fish scale, three scallop, three fish scale, ending with diamonds at the top that set neatly into the gable peak.

The two projecting hexagonal bays are also of frame construction. The two-story northeast bay rests on a ground level brick foundation. Below the windows are recessed paneled aprons. The rest of the first floor of the bay is covered with patterned shingles of the same type that sheath the gable ends. The second floor of the bay conforms to the design of the rest of the second floor, covered with the same siding and trim, and displaying the same kicked-out base. It is topped with a molded cornice and flat roof. The one-story southwest bay is set on brick piers, with paneled apron infill to ground level. It also is sheathed in patterned shingles.

Molded belt courses delineate floors on the exterior wall. On the northeast bay a row of dentils is set into the top fascia of the molding on each floor.

All exterior woodwork is presently painted white, but was originally in contrasting dark and light tones, at one time buff and brown. According to early photographs of the building, window and corner trim was dark. The three fascia molded belt course was painted with a light center strip and darker outer strips. Barge boards were dark. Porch woodwork also contrasted. Rails and the lower and upper portions of the posts were dark, the turned portion was light except for the center doughnut-like section. Brackets and probably dentils were dark, as was the underside of the cornice. The shingled section and arched section are light. The large surfaces of the elevations -- those covered with board siding and shingles -- are light.

The cross gable roof over the main block of the house is covered with cedar shingles. The unbracketed beveled barge boards terminate in single cut scallops. The roofs of the rear extension, porches and bays are covered with metal sheeting.

There are two brick interior chimneys with corbeled caps, one to the southeast of the northeast gable face, the other to the northeast of the northwest gable face.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Simple architrave trim surrounds all the windows which above the basement level are all one-over-one sash except for the non-opening stained glass window in the vestibule. This rectangular framed window is set with square (5-1/2" x 5-1/2") lights in a five down, six across pattern with wooden muntins. The colored lights are arranged in a regular configuration with each tier alternating two colors; the first column alternates pink and blue top to bottom, the second aquamarine and gold, the next green and pink, the next magenta and blue, then blue and gold, and finally green and maroon.

The basement windows at ground level are rectangular, long side parallel to the ground line, and divided vertically by a single muntin. The two first floor facade windows have brown sandstone sills, the rest plain painted wooden sills. There was originally additional jig-sawn trim under the first floor windows which was removed early in the 1900s. Brick segmental arches one brick deep frame all the window openings in the brick portion of the house. The window in the bay between the conservatory and the dining room is one-over-one sash above a panel apron which was movable but is now sealed with exterior siding.

The raised panel front door has a beveled glass, single horizontal light in place of the middle panel at eye level. To the right of the door as you face it is a doorbell set in a carved brown sandstone block laid in the brick wall. The door sill is of matching sandstone. The facing door from the vestibule to the conservatory matches the front door. There are two door openings onto the back porch, one from the kitchen and one from the back wall. The back hall opening has double doors. The inner one has a narrow glass panel in place of the top rail; the exterior one is sealed shut. All ^{new} openings in the brick wall are finished with brick segmental arches one brick deep.

Penetration is asymmetrical on all elevations. Basement windows are vertically aligned with each window in the brick wall. On the facade the front door is set in the southwest corner, next to it a wide window. Another wide window is set in the front extension on the northeast side of the facade. Above the front door and adjacent window, and recessed under the gable is a three-window bay. Adjacent is a single window vertically aligned with the first floor northeast window. Two windows are centered in the gable.

On the northeast elevation first and second floor windows are vertically aligned. There is a set of such aligned windows to each side of the two-story hexagonal bay. In the second floor rear addition to the northwest is a window of slightly smaller dimensions than the others. The two gable windows are unrelated to those below and are not centered. The gable window to the southeast is set against the roof line.

On the rear elevation on the first floor two doors open onto the porch in the northeast corner. The window on the southwest is vertically aligned with the second floor window. The second floor northeast window is slightly smaller than the southwest window. There are two windows centered in the gable.

On the southwest elevation, in the rear extension the first and second floor windows are vertically aligned. In the main block of the house to the southeast is the one-story three window bay with the southeasternmost window opening into the conservatory. On the second floor in the main block, a center window is

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

flanked by two narrower windows. Vertically aligned with the center window is a gable window of the same width, but shorter.

The house is built on a rectangular stone foundation with front and rear crawl space extensions half the width of the house. The front porch, vestibule, and conservatory describe an ell from the southwest half of the facade to the southwest bay. This ell is supported by brick piers with latticework panels set between them.

Approaching the front porch, a center brick walk leads to a set of three-riser-high closed string wooden steps. The porch entry bay is framed by paired, turned posts, approximately six inches in diameter which support an elliptical arch over the bay. Scroll brackets set into the arch springing visually support a projecting pedimented porch cross gable with modillioned cornice and inset shingles. Matching posts support the roof at the outside southwest corners. A molded rail and turned balusters define the edge of the porch.

The front door leads to a vestibule which in turn leads to the conservatory straight ahead and the main stair hall to the northeast. The conservatory can also be entered from the outside. Plain square posts with cushion caps topped with finials frame the outside entrance bay to the porch. Turned posts which match the front porch posts frame the conservatory opening between the southwest bay and the vestibule and support an elliptical arch over the opening. Molded rails and turned balusters are set between the porch and entrance posts on each side of the entry. The conservatory is enclosed with four panels of framed glass -- eight by four rows of lights -- which are interchangeable with screen panels and are set into the elliptical arch.

When built the conservatory was heated. The decorative grill over the original heating vent remains in the brick wall, though the duct was permanently closed when a new heating system was installed in place of the original coal furnace.

The vestibule also opens into the interior, leading into the main stair hall. The half-turn stair with landing is paneled in plain wide boards. The stairs are wooden closed string course and are lined with turned balusters and rail. A carved square newel post topped with a finial sits at the base of the stairs. A simply molded baseboard delineates the floor line in the stair hall as it does throughout the house. A recessed panel, solid wood with two vertical top panels, horizontal middle panel, and two vertical bottom panels leads from the stair hall to the dining room to the rear. Interior doors throughout the house are the same, except for the closet door in the dining room which has the same paneling scheme with the addition of a beveled molding in the center of each panel. All interior woodwork is now painted white, but was originally stained a dark natural color. Window hardware is original throughout -- small brass decorated window lifts, closet knobs, and the doorstop on the dining room movable apron all exhibit raised abstract flower designs. The dining room wainscote is plain with a plain chair rail, under which is set a simple molding. A double door wide opening leads from the main stair hall into the living room at the front of the house. Once divided into two rooms, it runs three-quarters the depth of the house. The service wing behind the living room and dining room is entered from a back hall from the dining room. The back hall opens into the kitchen, the basement steps, a laundry/bathroom where the back stairs originate, and the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

4

back porch.

No original outbuildings remain, although former presence of backyard and back porch privies, a chicken coop, and a grape arbor have been established.

The J.T. Eliason house faces southeast at 80 W. 5th Street in New Castle, Delaware. The house was the first building on the site and stands as built, except for a kitchen window alteration, a window addition in the gable face on the southwest elevation, and the replacement of a stained glass window with frosted glass in the front stair well on the southwest elevation. Current owners plan to repair and replace the original stained glass window.

The J.T. Eliason House is a two-and-a-half story, three-bay brick and frame structure. Like its neighbor the L.E. Eliason house, it is typical of nineteenth century eclectic house architecture, incorporating many popular house planning ideas featured in pattern books of the period, including bays, a variety of textured exterior surfaces, a wide veranda, and a half-turret. Built around 1899/1900 by local coal and lumber merchant J.T. Eliason, the house is a catalogue of commonly used late nineteenth century building materials. As the second house built by Eliason within five years, it also reflects a shift in personal and popular taste in its use of more classical elements of decoration and a somewhat adjusted plan.

The first floor of the main block and rear extension are constructed of smooth red brick set with thin layers of red mortar laid in flemish stretcher bond with irregular intervals. An eight foot wide porch describes an ell from the southwest bay to the facade, ending in a semicircle whose center point is the east corner of the house. The porch is screened on the southwest elevation and on the facade to just southwest of the front door. The rest is open. The first floor rear porch is completely enclosed with wood latticework. The second and top floors are of frame construction. The exterior walls of the second floor are sheathed in milled board siding kicked out at the base and have plain corner trim. The exterior walls of the top floor are covered with rows of wooden scallop-shaped shingles, also kicked out at the base.

The two-story projecting hexagonal bay on the southwest elevation is built on the main foundation of the house and conforms to the design of the main block of the house with a brick first floor and frame second floor sheathed in milled board siding. On the facade over the front porch the projecting second floor hexagonal bay is also sheathed in milled board siding. The semicircular turret projecting over the porch from the northeast elevation is sheathed in rows of scalloped shingles, matching those in the gable ends.

Molded belt courses delineate floors on the exterior walls.

All exterior woodwork is presently painted white, but was originally in contrasting dark and light tones. According to early photographs, window and corner trim and window cornices were dark. The bargeboards were dark. The three-fascia molded belt course between the floors had a light center fascia and darker outer ones. The porch molding had a light top fascia and a darker lower one. Columns were light. Rails were dark and balusters light. All large surfaces, that is those covered with board siding and shingles, were light.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

5

The cross gable roof over the main block of the house is covered with cedar shingles. The beveled barge boards terminate with single cut scallops. Ends of the 3x4s that compose the roof structure extend under the roof projection. The roofs of the rear extension, bays, porches, and turret are covered with metal sheeting.

There are two brick interior chimneys with plain caps, one to the southeast of the northeast gable face, the other to the northeast of the northwest gable face.

Simple archtrave trim surrounds the windows which above the basement level are all one-over-one sash except for the two stair well windows on the southwest elevation and the small square window in the southwest gable face. The one-over-one windows in the frame stories of the house have a small cornice. Windows in the turret have the same trim and cornice, but the frames and lights are curved to fit into the semicircle of the turret. The rectangular lower stair well window is set long side parallel to the ceiling line of the porch. Its top is flush with the ceiling line. Directly above it is a forty-two inch by fifty-seven inch window with arched top that is currently filled with frosted glass. The original stained glass window is still extant. The focal point of the stained glass window is a 9-1/2 inch by 12-3/4 inch center panel of translucent glass on which is painted a waterside scene with a windmill, the small figures of a woman and child, and a tree. The picture panel is framed by two-inch wide textured glass and green opaque glass corner blocks with raised, rippled pyramidal surfaces. Outside this rectangular center area is a section of irregularly shaped polygonal lights of a variety of colors and textures (colors mostly in the blue to green range), set in a symmetrical pattern. At a number of intersections of these lights are hemispherical and diamond block pieces of glass in a variety of colors. Centered approximately twelve inches above the top of the picture panel is a 3-1/4 inch in diameter red hemisphere with a raised center and nine raised segments radiating from the center, each decorated with raised dots. Framing this entire section is a one-inch wide strip of red glass. Next there is a 4-1/2 inch wide section composed of rectangular lights of streaked, two-color glass. Hemispherical pieces of glass 3-1/4 inches in diameter are centered in the rectangular lights and are set at regular intervals around the frame. Centered between these hemispheres are one inch in diameter white opaque hemispheres with multifaceted surfaces. Finally there is a one-inch wide border strip of lavender colored glass. The whole is set in a 2-1/4 inch wide wooden frame.

The basement windows at ground level are rectangular, long-side parallel to the ground line, and divided vertically by a single muntin. All first floor windows have rough-faced stone sills.

The recessed panel front door has a beveled glass, single horizontal light in place of the middle panel at eye level. To the right of the door as you face it is a doorbell set in a dressed brown sandstone block laid into the brick wall. The door sill is of dressed granite. The door from the southwest bay onto the veranda matches the front door in design. There are two door openings onto the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 6

back porch, one from the kitchen and one from the back hall. All openings in the brick wall are finished with brick segmental arches one brick deep, except for the lower front stair well window and the back stair well window which is set half way between the brick and frame sections of the house.

Fenestration is asymmetrical on all elevations. On the facade the front door is flanked by two wide windows. The door is southwest of center. Above the first floor southwest window and door is the projecting hexagonal bay. To the northeast is a wide window, not aligned with the first floor window below. The two curved windows in the turret describe the semicircle of the structure, curving around from the facade to the northeast and from the northeast to northwest. The windows in the gable are centered.

On the northeast elevation the southeastern first floor window is under the proch roof and the turret. To the northwest are two sets of vertically aligned first and second floor windows. To the northwest of these is a single window that is half on the first floor, half on the second (the back stair well landing window). Two windows are centered in the gable under a single cornice, separated by a mullion.

On the rear elevation on the first floor, two doors open onto the lattice enclosed porch. Above the proch on the second floor of the main block of the house is a single window in the corner formed by the two-story rear extension. In the extension on the first floor is a single window which has been shortened from the bottom. Above it and to the northeast on the second floor extension is another window. Two windows are centered in the gable of the main block.

On the southwest facade there is a first floor window in the rear extension. Above it on the second floor and slightly to the northwest is another window. The two-story hexagonal bay projecting from the main block holds vertically aligned windows on basement, first and second story levels. To the southeast of the bay the stair well windows of irregular shape are vertically aligned. There is one window in the second floor to the southeast of the stair well windows. In the gable are two windows of matching dimensions which are wide apart and to the northwest of them a small square window. The small window is placed horizontally slightly above the center line of the larger windows and almost touches the roofline. The window was added sometime during the 1940s.

The house is built on a stone foundation which projects under the bay and the rear extension. The front and rear porches are supported by brick piers. Wooden lattice work screens fill in at ground level between the piers.

The brick piers of the front porch are finished with stone plinths with rough cut edges, matching the stone of the window sills. Set on theses are thinner wooden plinths, then wooden columns which support the proch roof. The columns have circles of torus molding at the base, undecorated shafts, and terminate in two rings of torus molding, a ring of egg and dart molding, and a square thin wooden abacus. There are two such piers and columns on the southwest elevation, one at the south corner, two supporting the pedimented cross gable over the entrance of the proch on the facade, and three supporting the semicircular portion of the porch at the eastern corner.

A balustrade of simply turned balusters and a rail describe the edge of

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

7

of the porch with openings at the southwest bay and the front entrance.

A curved, four-riser closed string stair leads to a screened door adjacent to the southwest bay. On the facade a brick walk leads to a closed string wooden stair up to the front porch. Abutting the stairs on each side are rectangular brick bases, on top of which are massive hewn stone blocks on which sit two additional columns supporting the porch gable. These columns, since they are on ~~square~~ bases than those set on brick piers, have longer shafts, but are otherwise exactly the same as the other columns.

The gable pediment has a molded cornice and is faced with scalloped shingles.

To the southwest, as one stands at the tops of the porch steps, is a screened door into the screened section of the porch.

The front entrance leads directly into a stair hall. The quarter turn stair with one landing begins on the southwest wall. The carved newel post with finial is set at a forty-five degree angle to the stairs. The stair wall is paneled with rectangular recessed panels. There is a small bench built into the base of the stairs. There is a window to the southwest of the front door with simple molded surround and cyma recta molding beneath the sill. A baseboard delineates the floor line. A recessed panel door with two long vertical top panels, horizontal middle panel and two shorter vertical bottom panels leads to the dining room to the rear of the stair hall. The woodwork is the same throughout the first and second floors of the house. From the stair hall to the northeast is a wide sliding door that leads to the living room. The sliding door ~~has~~ recessed panels in the same pattern as the other ^{interior} doors, except that the vertical panels are three across. There is a narrower sliding door between the living room and dining room.

In the living room there is a brick fireplace with brick hearth on the northeast outer wall. The opening is flanked by two columns set on tall squared bases and finished with acanthus leaved capitals and an abacus turned forty-five degrees. The columns support the mantel which is edged with tiny egg and dart molding.

A swinging door from the dining room leads to the back hall. Built into the southwest wall of the hall is a glass-doored china closet. The back hall gives access to the kitchen which is to the rear of the dining room and to a laundry/bathroom, the back stairs, the basement stairs, and the back porch, which are all to the rear of the living room. The laundry/bathroom has a swinging door and may originally have been a pantry.

There is a second fireplace in the center, southwestern room on the second floor above the dining room. The fireplace is tiled in small rectangular ceramic brick which has a mottled glaze, predominantly green and pink in color. The mantel has a wooden surround with beveled edge, and is supported by two columns set on tall squared bases and finished with ionic capitals. In the fireplace opening is a cast iron coal burner with a floral decorated front.

A wrought iron fence defines the outer edge of the lots on the South Street and Union Street sides. There are four gates in the fence, one on the South Street side in the northwest corner, one each at the front walls to the houses, and one to the northeast of the L.E. Eliason house. The fence is approximately three feet tall, composed of panels made up of three evenly spaced horizontal

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

8

bars and, perpendicular to them alternating tall and short vertical cylindrical bars. The taller verticals extend above the top horizontal several inches; the shorter ones extend the same height above the middle horizontal. All verticals are topped with four-sided arrow-like points which curve out at the base. Mid-way between the bottom and middle bar, the verticals are decorated with medallions. Within the rectangular section formed by the two tall verticals and the middle and upper horizontal a flat bar describes a closed U with spiral ends. The panels are set between vertical cylindrical posts, approximately two inches in diameter, set into the ground and topped with points similar to those on the vertical bars of the fence, but larger and with each facet of the point set perpendicular to the ones next to it.

There is a non-contributing garage at the rear of the J.T. Eliason House property.

B SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1893/94 1899/1900	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
----------------	----------------------	-------------------	---------

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The J.T. and L.E. Eliason houses are eligible for nomination to the National Register under Criterion C, architecture. Built in 1899 and 1894 respectively, the structures represent the eclectic nature of later nineteenth century architectural composition in that they draw from a number of sources and styles in their plan and decoration, and can be labeled with no one stylistic title. Also, built for a local lumber merchant from materials from his own yard, they can be seen as a representative sampling of available building materials of the time. The houses are in excellent condition and unchanged from the time of their building with the exception of sympathetic renovations in 1940 and 1950, and so demonstrate a high level of integrity.

New Castle, Delaware, in the second half of the nineteenth century was typical of many towns and cities in the United States that were undergoing the transition from an agricultural/mercantile based economy to a manufacturing/industrial one. In 1850 there were only four companies in New Castle Hundred with production valued at over \$500 annually. In 1870 there were twenty in the town of New Castle alone. By 1900 there were thirty-one manufacturing companies. With the increase in industry came an increase in population of New Castle doubled between 1870 and 1880. These changes were matched by municipal changes and growth. In 1859 the state legislature extended the limits of the town so that it was about six times its previous size. In 1875, shortly after James Eliason came to New Castle, the town was incorporated as a city by an act of the state General Assembly.

James and Lewis Eliason contributed to this economic trend. They moved to New Castle from the country, established a successful business, and continued to expand their enterprises as the town grew. James and Lewis Eliason were sons of a highly successful and respected local farmer and state legislator, Andrew Eliason. James began his commercial career in Summits Bridge after the Civil War, but moved to New Castle in 1874 where he opened a dry goods store on Delaware Street across from the courthouse. In the course of the next seven years, during which he was joined in partnership by his younger brother Lewis, he built the business into a successful enterprise that catered to a broad spectrum of the population. Clientele included farmers in town to buy supplies, county commissions, local businesses, and the general populace of New Castle. In 1881 the business moved into larger quarters in one of the store fronts under the Opera House. At the same time the brothers acquired a lumber yard at the corner of 5th and South Streets from the estate of Dr. Allen V. Lesley. The lumber yard was established as a new business separate from the dry goods store under the name "J.T. and L.E. Eliason, dealers in farm implements, coal, and lumber." In addition to selling lumber to farmers for repairs, fence posts, barn and home renovations, they also had a town clientele that included the same government commissions, businesses, and townspeople that traded at the dry goods store. This local coal and lumber trade became more and more important and profitable

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

2

as the town population expanded. In 1886 the brothers closed the dry goods store to concentrate on the trade in lumber and building supplies. They moved from the Opera House and established a hardware and paint store at 406 Delaware Street. Over the course of the next thirty years the company gradually shifted out of the agricultural trade altogether and expanded its building supplies business, more and more supplying to builders, contractors, and developers.

In 1893 the company began to supply lumber to build a house for James T. Eliason on a lot on W. 5th Street that he had purchased the previous year from the estate of Allen V. Lesley. A record of the materials purchased exists in the form of counter books from the company. Materials are comparable to those supplied to other clientele. A complete list of materials is attached to the nomination as an appendix. Unfortunately such a record does not exist for the house that James Eliason built at 80 W. 5th Street immediately to the southwest of his first house.

In addition to representing the materials that went into constructing a nineteenth-century house, the houses also reflect the ideas on house planning prevalent in the second half of the nineteenth century. Both houses incorporate the same basic features in their plans, and it is through minor variations in plan and major variations in decoration that they succeed in giving the appearance of very different houses built in a more widely separated period of time than five years.

The turned balusters, elliptical arches, decorated brackets, and modillioned cornice of the L.E. Eliason house all suggest the detail work of the Stick Style and the Queen Anne style popular in the 1870s and 1880s. The Queen Anne is also suggested by the variety of textures on the exterior of the house -- the combination of brick, board siding, and multi-shaped shingles. However the roof massing of the building is not so complex as that of Queen Anne at its height and the textured surfaces are not so elaborate or varied as the Queen Anne exhibits in more representative examples. Decoration on the J.T. Eliason house shows a shift to the classical which was part of a general trend in American building following the Columbian Exposition of 1892/93 which featured a vast array of buildings designed in the classical mode. The wide veranda is, however, a carryover from an earlier period, despite its classical columns. The semicircular extension on the northeast elevation demonstrates in a popularized form an awareness of Richardson's work in the 1880s.

Interior decoration shows the same shift from the busier surfaces of an earlier period to the simpler lines of classical features. This can be seen particularly in door and window moldings and in door and window hardware.

Both houses incorporate many features recommended by pattern books of the period, including a reception room/stair hall plan, bay windows, and a rear service area which included a back stairs and pantry. The L.E. Eliason house includes a conservatory which was suggested in many pattern books of the period.

Despite this seeming dependence on pattern books, the houses were built from professionally prepared plans. The use of professionally trained architects in designing houses in place of artisan builders was in itself a growing trend at the end of the nineteenth century.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

3

The J.T. and L.E. Eliason houses are therefore significant under Criterion C because they are representative of nineteenth century architecture in several ways -- in the materials employed, in the eclecticism of their stylistic sources, and in the manner in which they were designed.

Boundaries are legally defined lots as indicated in deeds.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Johnson, Daniel P. "The J.T. and L.E. Eliason Company, 1868-1918, A Study in Market Transition." Undergraduate research paper submitted in fulfillment of the requirements of a Special Problems Seminar, Feb., 1981.

New Castle Board of Trade. New Castle, Delaware, 1915.

(see continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING									

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING									

C

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING									

D

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING									

E

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING									

F

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING									

G

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING									

H

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING									

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION _____

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Madelyn Ladner

ORGANIZATION _____

DATE 12/8/83

STREET & NUMBER
Atram #5 English Village

TELEPHONE
368-5216/738-1255

CITY OR TOWN
Newark

STATE
Delaware

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____

STATE _____

LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE _____

TITLE _____

DATE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

New Castle, Delaware. Private Business Journals of the Brosius & Eliason Co.,
1892-1900.

Pyle, Sarah L.E. New Castle, Delaware, Interview, 10/29/83.

Pyle, Sarah L.E. New Castle, Delaware, Interview, 11/17/83.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware 1609-1888, 2 vols. Philadelphia:
L.J. Richards & Co., 1888.

Wilmington, Delaware. Recorder of Deeds. Howell J. Terry and wife AND
Allen V. Lesley, B:15:467, 1854.

Wilmington, Delaware. Recorder of Deeds. Henry V. Stillwell, Trustee Allen
V. Lesley AND James T. Eliason, S:15:461, April 9, 1892.

Wilmington, Delaware. Recorder of Deeds. James T. and Sarah H. Eliason
AND Lewis E. Eliason, I:21:78, May 3, 1905.

Other sources:

Gibson, Louis H. Beautiful Houses. A Study in House-building. New York:
Thomas Y. Crowell & Company, 1895.

Lent, Frank T. Sound Sense in Suburban Architecture. Cranford, N.J.: Frank
T. Lent, 1893.

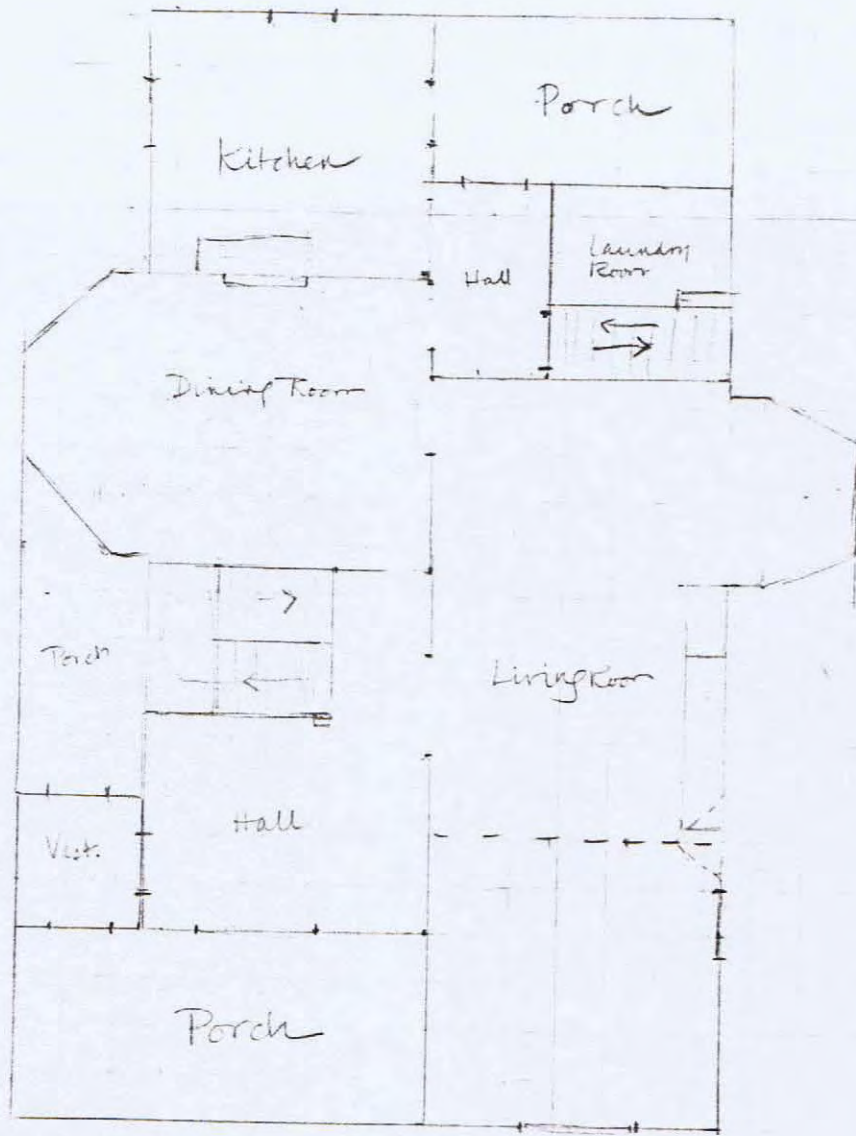
Oakey, A.F. Appleton's Home Books. Building a Home. New York: D. Appleton
and Company, 1881.

Scully, Vincent J., Jr. The Shingle Style and the Stick Style, Revised Edition.
New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976.

Sturgis, Russell, John W. Root, Bruce Price, Donald G. Mitchell, Samuel
Parsons, Jr., W. A. Linn. Houses in City and Country. New York:
Charles Scribner's Sons, 1893.

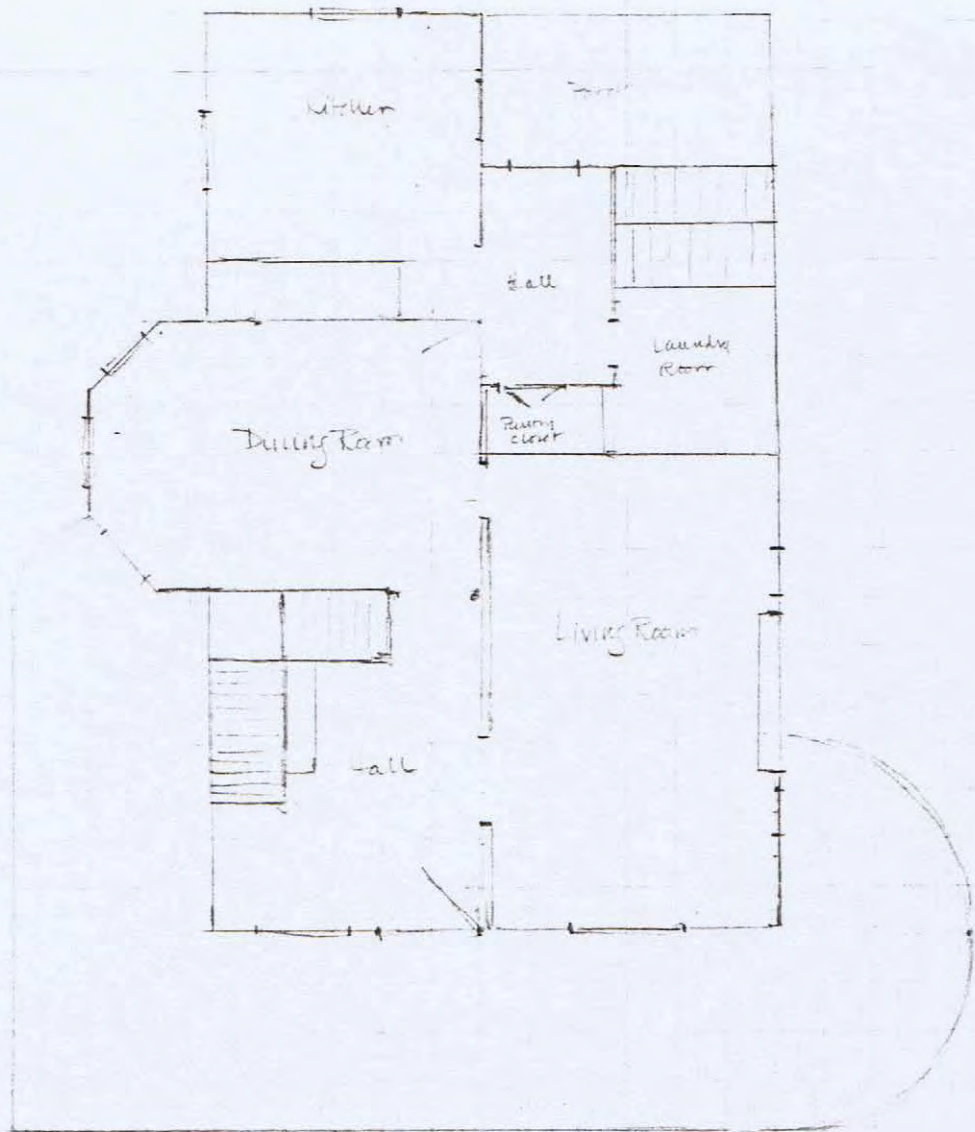
Tuthill, W.B. The Suburban Cottage. New York: William T. Comstock, 1885.

72 W 5th St.



1 sq. = 2 ft.
measurements approximate

80 W 5th St.



1 sq. = 2 ft.

measurements approximate

APPENDIX I *

Lumber Book

J.T. and L.E. Eliason, New Castle, Delaware
August 9, 1893 to October 28, 1893

8/12/93		
120 ft. Hem 3-4x6-20		1.68
8/15/93		
20 lbs 20d nails		.40
1668 ft. Hem	{ 46-3x8-14	18.77
	{ 7-3x7-14	
	{ 5-3x8-16	
	{ 2-3x8-12	
213 ft.	16-2x4-20	2.45
		<u>21.22</u>
8/18/93		
480 ft. Hem 30-3x4-16		5.40
376	15-1x6-16	
	16-1x12-16	4.70
60" shing. lath		.18
60" 4 pc 3x5-12		.68
		<u>10.96</u>
8/19/93		
15 pc. 3x4-16 culls		
80 ft. cull fence bds		3.20
128 ft	{ 5 1x12-16	1.60
	{ 4 1x12-12	
60 ft shg lath		.18
		<u>4.98</u>
768 ft Hem 48-1x12-16 sls		9.98
6 win frames 36x30		8.10
1 " " 12x30		1.25
		<u>19.33</u>
8/21/93		
16 ft fence bds		.20
128 ft shing. lath		
252 " " "		1.14
400 " Hem boards		5.00
		<u>6.14</u>
8/22/93		
120 ft 4 3x6-20		1.41
432 " 18 3x6-16		4.86
80 " 4 3x4-20		.94
336 " 21 3x4-16		3.78
		<u>10.99</u>

*Capitalization and punctuation are as they appear in the log books.

I have used [] to indicate places where entries are illegible and I've guessed at what they might say.

8/23/93
 408 ft 15-3x4-16 4.59
 18-2x4-14
 10-2x4-18 1.41
 6.00

8/24/93
 2 win frame 30x24 2.60
 912 ft Hem 57 1x12-16 1.86
 14.46

8/25/92
 1 win frame 48x30 1.65
 3 " " 30x30 4.05
 5.70

1 wind frame 48x48 1.65
 2 " " 30x30 2.70
 1 " " 48x ? 1.65
 4 " " 30x24 5.20
 1 " " 30x30 1.35
 12.55

8/26/83
 2-win frames 24x24 2.40
 10 pr sls bds .35
 2.75

8/28/93
 2 shng lath .10

60 ft sls bds wp 2.70
 84 ft 1-6x6-28 yp
 56 " 1 4x6-28
 105 { 1 2x4-14 Hem
 { 3 3x8-16 1.18
 7.38

8/29/93
 3 lbs 7d nails .06

1 jib door frame 1.75
 1 wind frame 24x24 1.20
 1 " " 30x30-6/4 1.45
 4.40

8/30/93
 693 ft { 40 3x4-16
 { 5 2x4-16 7.80

8/31/93
 32 ft. s2s boards
 40 " " " 2.52
 42 " Hem ? .55
 3.07

96 ft 9 pc 2.4-16	1.08
384 ft 24 pc 1x12-16	4.80
1 keg 1d nails	<u>1.85</u>
	7.73

9/1/93	
56 ft s2s boards	2.52
17. Lin ft Cr mould	3.51
6 " 6 " wire nails	.21
1 keg 8d nails	1.95
1 " 8d Fin"	2.10
52 ft s2s shelves	1.82
128 " shing lath	.38
53 " s4s bds	<u>1.86</u>
	15.35

9/2/93	
14 ft. W.P. bd	.33
42 ft 3 1x8-16	
1 1x8-14	1.47
22 ft Hem bds	.28
30 " w.p. royh?	<u>.68</u>
	.96

9/4/83	
32 Ft s2s bds	1.12
240 ft Hem 15-1x12-16	3.00
8 ft. s4s bds	<u>.28</u>
	4.40

6 pas. carpet tacks	.12
106 ft. Pat. siding	2.39
2 " 4 d nails	<u>.05</u>
	2.56

9/5/93	
159 ft. Pat. siding	3.58
4 roll [shea use] paper	5.25
80 " 4d nails	<u>2.00</u>
	10.83

133 ft. Pat. sheathing	
53 ft. " "	4.19

1 Pa Brads	.07
530 ft. Pat siding	<u>11.93</u>
	12.00

9/6/83	
413 ft siding	9.29
128 " shing Lath	.38
16 ft Hem [?] bds	.30
8 " " " "	
	<u>9.97</u>

9/6/93

1 1/4 gals Paint	1.31
1 1/4 " oil	.65
shellac varnish	.20
	<u>2.16</u>

9/7/93

24 ft Hem Fence Bds	.30
128 " shg Lath	.38
160 10-1x12-16	2.00
2175 lbs Sand	
2125 " "	
2040 " "	
2200 " "	4.32
	<u>7.00</u>

9/8/93

161 ft S2S bds	7.25
----------------	------

2200# sand	
2200" "	
2200 " sand	
64 ft Hem bds	.80
2250 # sand	3.54

5 lbs 6d wire nails	.15
32 ft. S4S Base bds	1.12
1 Gal #207 Paint	1.05
1/2 " Lin oil	.27
	<u>2.59</u>

2060 sand	
2225 "	
2125 "	2.57

9/9/93

24 2/15 bus Lime	5.79
35 ft S2S Bds	1.58
22 " " "	.77

43 Bus Lime	10.65
-------------	-------

192 ft. Hem. bds S1S	2.50
----------------------	------

14 2/5 Bu 1080 lbs Lime	3.46
12 ft S2S bds	.48
	<u>3.94</u>

128 ft. 2 1/2 " Rebats Strip	1.45
------------------------------	------

9/11/93

1665 lbs. Lime	5.33
----------------	------

1 1/2 lbs Lath Nails	.06
----------------------	-----

9/12/93	
1 lbs Nails	.04
14 Bu 1050 lbs Lime	3.36
16 ft rough wp bds	<u>.36</u>
	3.76
9/13/93	
14 ft Fence Bds	.18
72 " Shing Lath	.22
24 " fence bds	.30
1 pa tacks	<u>.02</u>
	.72
9/14/93	
11 Bus. Hair	2.31
9/18/93	
24 ft Hem F Bds	.30
1 [Grs] 1 1/4 #12 screws	<u>.30</u>
	.60
117 ft Select wp Bds	6.56
1 gal #207 Paint	<u>1.05</u>
	7.61
9/19/93	
24 ft 2" W.P. [Plan]	.84
64 ft 4 pc 3x4-16	.72
1 Roll Raw hide Paper	<u>1.60</u>
	3.16
9/20/93	
1280 ft shg Lath	3.84
160 " Hem Bds	<u>2.00</u>
5 Bus 475 lbs Lime	1.20
2360 " sand	1.82
2185 " "	
9/21/93	
2 Dz. screws [11] #2	.06
33 ft. Hem bds	<u>.41</u>
	.47
Fancy [butt] shingles bill of Eastern F. Co.	26.10
128 ft shing Lath	<u>.38</u>
	26.48
9/22/93	
128 ft shing Lath	3.84
62 " Arch. moulding	2.32
94 " 3" " "	
56 " Shing Lath	
16 " Arch moulding	
896 " shing. Lath	<u> </u>
	6.16

9/22/93	
5 lbs. 20d nails	.10
1 Keg 6d nails	2.10
36 ft. 3" Arch Moulding	.49
3[chimny crocks]	<u>.22</u>
	2.91
9/23/93	
18 ft. fence bds	.23
9/26/93	
21 ft 2 2x4-16	.24
5 Gals #218 [H] Paint	5.00
9/27/93	
1 Keg 8d Nails	1.95
800 ft #1 flooring	16.40
9/29/93	
1 P. Brush	.50
1 1/2 gal L oil	.60
1 qt Turpentine	<u>.08</u>
	1.18
56 ft. S4S Base bds	1.96
500 " #2 N.C. flooring	9.00
81 " Rough N.C. bds	<u>1.13</u>
	12.09
9/30/93	
1 Dz. 1 1/2 in. screws	.03
17 ft. flooring	<u>.35</u>
	.38
10 3x4-18	2.07
325 ft #2 Floor	5.92
25 2x3-18	<u>4.40</u>
	12.39
10/2/93	
1 Gal Lin oil	.40
69 ft. S2S bds	3.11
1 Gal. #207 H. Paint	<u>1.05</u>
	4.56
10/3/93	
256 ft. shing. Lath	.77
1 [bund.] Plas Lath	.26
1/2 Gal. Lin. oil	<u>.20</u>
	.46

10/5/93	
2500 Plas Lath	6.50
1 Keg 3d [Ex] fin Nails	3.05
14 ft. S2S Plank	.63
128" shing. Lath.	.38
	<u>10.56</u>
30 ft rough N.C. bds	.42
10/6/93	
5 strips N.C. 1/2x3-16	.25
11 ft. Rough N.C. bds	.15
	<u>.40</u>
30 ft select S2S bds.	1.43
123 " shg Lath	.38
	<u>1.81</u>
75 ft S2S bds	2.63
6 strips 1/2 x 3-16	.30
Bill shingles[Kent Wks]	8.82
	<u>11.75</u>
36 ft select S2S Bds	
12 " " "	2.28
10/7/93	
1 Keg 8d Nails	1.95
To A.M. Hizer	4.98
2500 Plas Lath	6.50
24 ft 3 pc 2x3-16	.28
	<u>6.78</u>
180 ft 20 pc 2x3-18	2.16
10/9/93	
30 ft 3 pc 2x3-18	.43
14 ft slelct S2s bds	.76
	<u>1.10</u>
60 ft wide S2S bds	6.60
105ft S2S "	
160 " 1 1/4 [car send]	1.25
	<u>7.85</u>
18 ft 1 pc 3x4-18	.21
16 ft S2S Bds	2.04
35 " " "	

10/11/93
56 ft 8 1x6-14 S2S Base 1.96
2500 P Lath 6.50
[1b 30d] Nails .02
8.48

15 6 ft 6 " Fire Clay Pipe 2.40
3 " 6" " " [Lees] 3.60
6.00

10/12/93
3000 Lath 7.80
18 1 pc 3x4-18 .21
8.01

47 ft. S2S bds 1.65

10/13/93
21 lbs 8d fin nails .05
2500 Plas Lath 6.50
6.55

10/17/93
138 ft YP. 6x6-2/14 1/18 3.11
224 " Hem. 3x8-8/14 2.52
180 " : 3x8-5/18 2.12
7.75

10/18/83
8 Porch Post 6x9-9 ft 14.00
3 " " 5x5-9" 3.75
17.75

253 ft. H.F. Flooring
229 " " "

10/19/93
64 ft 1/2" WBMs
" YP 4x6 1/20 1/18
" Hem 6/6 13

11 Porch Post Sockets
2 Dz 1" screws 2.95

10/21/93
1 pt Lin oil
1/2 Putty

10/23/93
To Freight on Porch Posts .70

10/24/93
10 ft WP s4s Base Bds
398" 1/2 in NC Ceiling
5 " 8d Fin Nails

64 ft 1 1/2 "[WBG]

10/25/93
1 gal #270
1/2 " Lin oil

2100 + Sand
2100 " "

1 gal Hand Fin oil
25 " Putty
1 pt Turpentine
5 " 6d Fin nails

10/27/93	
25 l+ Putty	.50
16 fr S 13 Select	.72
1 pa 1 1/w" [?] nails	.05
1 qt Lin oil	.10
	<u>1.37</u>

Lumber Book
J.T. & L.E. Eliason
New Castle, Del.
Feb. 17, 1894 to June 4, 1894

3/7/94
To G.Hewlett 185.00

3/20/94
1/4 Gal oak Royal Filter .52

4/30/94
1 Gal wal H.O. Finish 1.45

5/2/94
1 Spade .40

75 ft. 6" pipe 22.50
2-6/4 [Tels] 2.70
1-6"[curve] 1.10
26.30

5/7/94
Frt on Pipe .60

1 Gal o.w. Paint 1
1 lb. Putty

5/12/94
5 lbs 20d nails .09
40 ft 1x8-16 S4s 1.40
3 wp [] .36
1.85

5/18/94
1 Jewett Refrigerator 13.30

5/19/94
1 can W Lead .26
31 ft 4" moulding .62
.68

5/21/94
4 1/2 ft. W.P Bds select .20
4 shutter Bars .16
.36

5/22/94
60"x50ft. 2; ;/16 Netting 3.44
1 Double Gate 11.90
1 bill of Werdiner 19.10
1 bill of Hodus & H Co 4.50
38.94

5/24/94
1 qt Lin oil .13