

Discover Wonderful Delaware

The History of Delaware

"Delaware is like a diamond, diminutive, but having within it inherent value," a Delaware poet, John Lofland, wrote more than one hundred years ago. This was perhaps the origin of Delaware's "nickname," The Diamond State, although it may have come from Thomas Jefferson's earlier reference to Delaware as "a jewel among the States."

One of the original thirteen colonies and "The First State" by virtue of being the first state to adopt the Constitution (December 7, 1787), Delaware has made notable contributions to the history and progress of the United States.

The state derived its name from Lord De La Warr, an early governor of the Colony of Virginia, when Captain Samuel Argall named the bay and the river after his patron during a visit to the area in either 1610 or 1611. The first attempt at colonization, made by the Dutch near present-day Lewes, in 1631, was subsequently destroyed by Indians.

Swedish colonists, under Peter Minuit, established the first permanent settlement in 1638 on a site now a part of Wilmington. In 1655, The Dutch, who four years previously had settled at present-day New Castle, extended their holdings to include the Swedish settlements. What is now Delaware later became a British colonial possession

(as part of the Province of Pennsylvania) and remained so until 1776 when the "Three Lower Counties on the Delaware" became "The Delaware State."

The valor of the state's fighting men in the American Revolution matched that of their mascot-gamecocks-hatched from the eggs of a famous Blue Hen. As a result, Delawareans became known as the "Blue Hen's Chickens." Only one Revolutionary War skirmish was fought on Delaware soil — September 3, 1777 — at Cooch's Bridge; here, the American flag was first displayed in land battle.

Delawareans have distinguished themselves in both war and peace. The State's contributions, in men and materials, have been notable in all this Nation's wars.

The level fertile coastal plain area comprising much of Delaware's 2,057 square miles (of which 79 square miles is inland water) has always produced an abundance and variety of vegetable, grains, and fruit. In 1895, in recognition of Delaware's then outstanding fruit production, the peach blossom was adopted as the state flower. In recent years, Delaware farmers have turned to the lucrative production of broiler and truck crops.

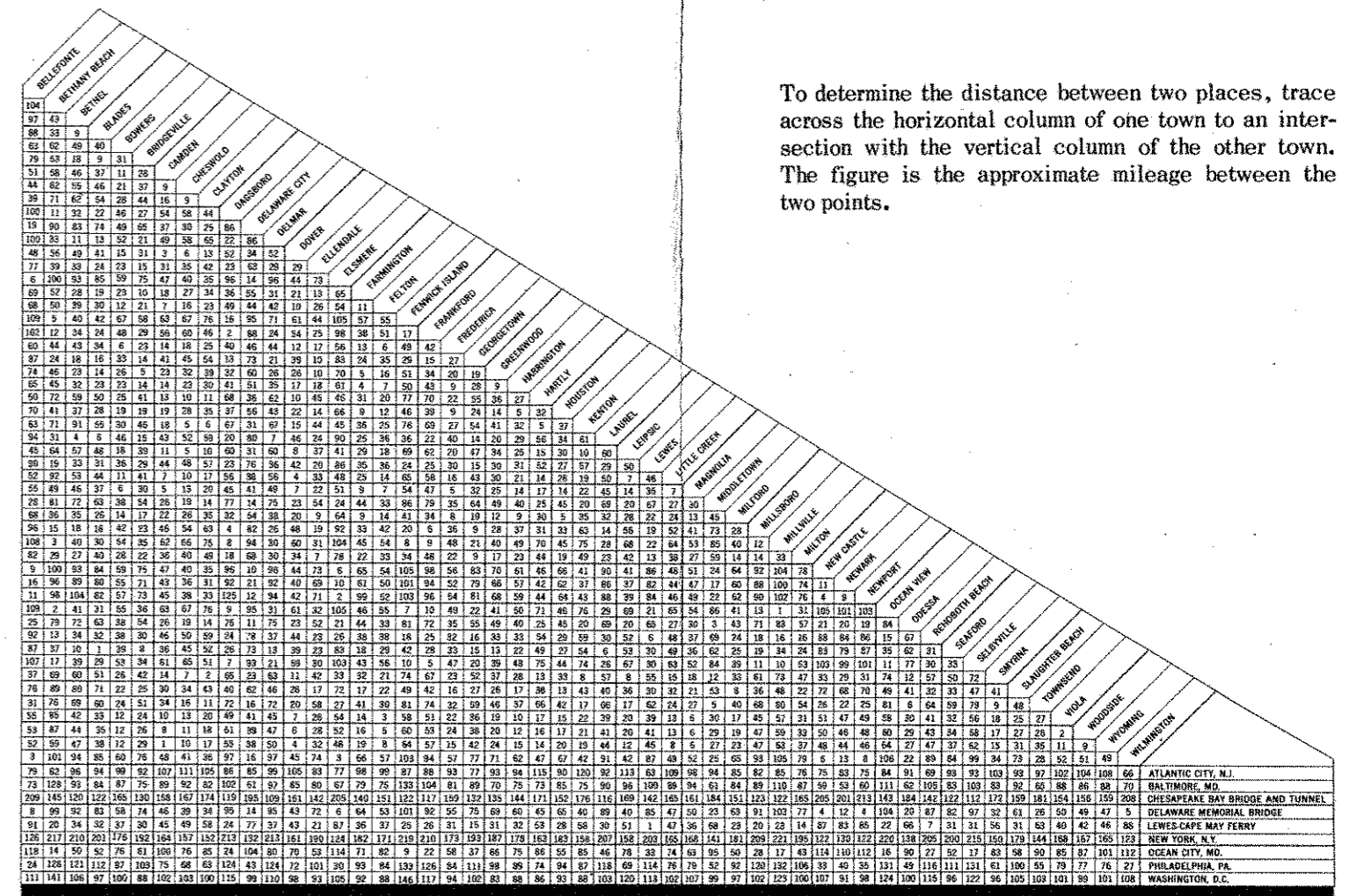
The Wilmington area, with its abundant water power and proximity to Northern markets, early became the site of flour mills, to which were added powder mills in 1802, and textile mills in mid-1800's. From these small beginnings sprang Delaware's greatest industries of today.

While Kent and Sussex Counties are still basically agrarian, Delaware's industrial growth has, in recent years, bordered on the spectacular and has greatly influenced its economy, giving Delaware an unusually high per capita income.

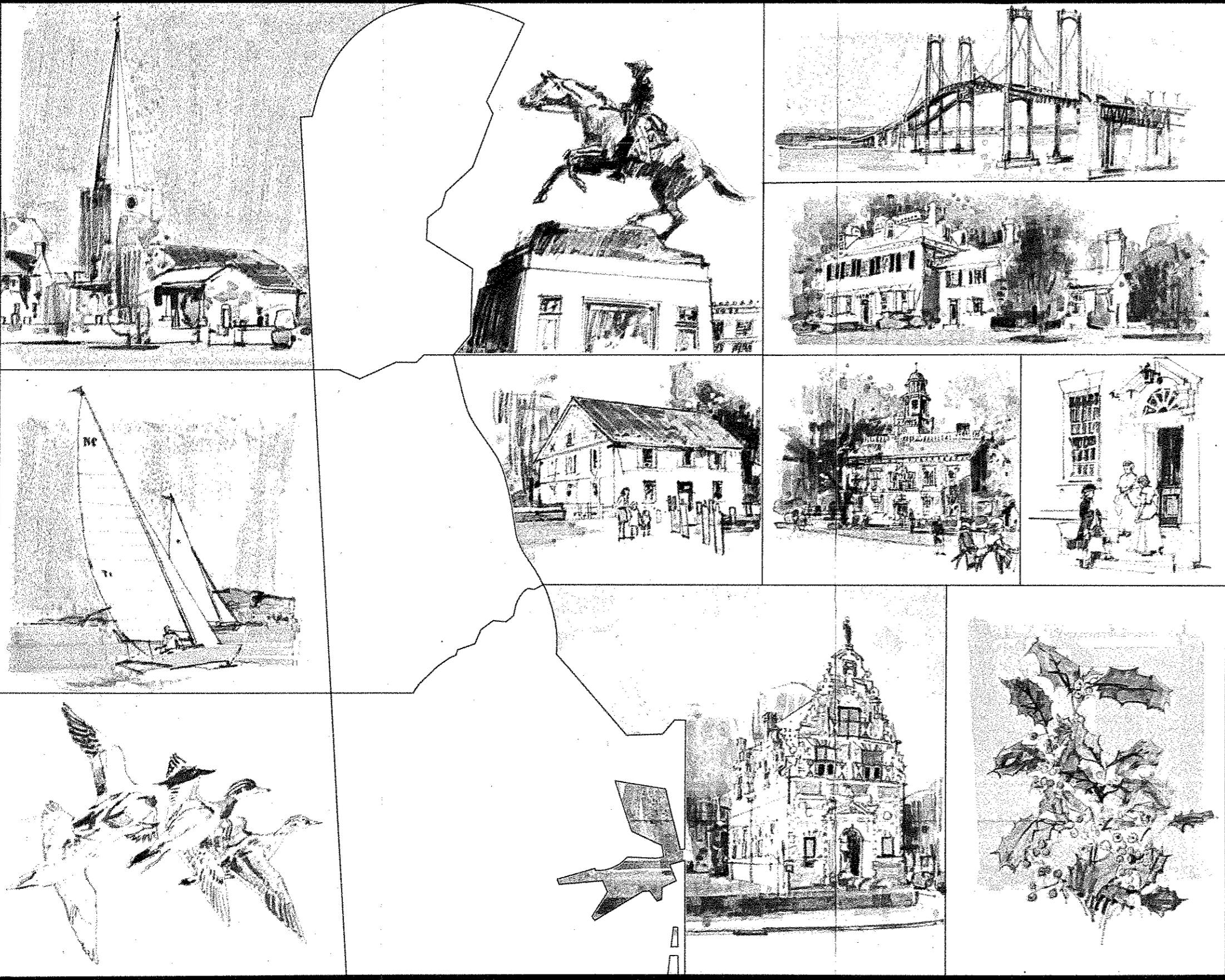
Equally spectacular has been Delaware's population growth; since 1950, the population has increased from 318,985 (official U. S. census) to 446,292 (1960 census) making Delaware one of the fastest growing states, percentage-wise, in the nation.

Delaware's schools are keeping pace with the state's growth. Its highways are among the best in the nation. Its recreational facilities are being constantly improved. Its soil is productive, the climate is mild, and its people are industrious and adaptable. Its economy shows a good sense of balance between industry and agriculture. All of which combines to assure a most promising future for Delaware and its citizens.

Mileage Chart



To determine the distance between two places, trace across the horizontal column of one town to an intersection with the vertical column of the other town. The figure is the approximate mileage between the two points.



Kent County

"THE LINDENS", Smyrna. Typical of a miller's home of the late colonial era (erected before 1765). Nearby is an early plank house. Telephone 653-7021 for your appointment to see this historical shrine.

THE OLD STATE HOUSE, The Green, Dover. Rebuilt in 1787-1792 from earlier Kent County Courthouse. A center of State Government since 1777, and the second oldest courthouse still in administrative use. Here Delaware became the first state in 1787. Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays thru Fridays.

LEGISLATIVE HALL, Completed in 1933, this is the keystone of the capital buildings group. It houses the General Assembly, the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and Secretary of State. Portraits of military heroes on display here. Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays thru Fridays.

HALL OF RECORDS — Here public archives of state are housed, including original royal grant from Charles II to James, Duke of York, (1682). Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays thru Fridays.

CHRIST CHURCH, Dover. Built in 1734 by a congregation organized in 1704. Caesar Rodney, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence, is among the many prominent parishioners buried in its churchyard.

DELAWARE STATE MUSEUM, Governors Avenue, Dover. Offers exhibits on many phases of Delaware life. A Swedish type log house is an outstanding exhibit. Open Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10

a.m. - 6 p.m. Sundays 1-5 p.m. Closed Mondays and holidays.

BARRATT'S CHAPEL, near Frederica. Erected in 1780. Known as "The Cradle of Methodism in America". Here the decision to organize the Methodist Episcopal Church was reached in 1784 and Communion first regularly administered.

THE PARSON THORNE MANSION, N. W. Front Street, Milford. One of Delaware's newest historical shrines and tourist attractions. Believed to be oldest dwelling in Milford area (acquired during Revolutionary War period by the Rev. Sydenham Thorne, co-founder with Joseph Oliver of Milford). Old English Colonial type structure.

PETERSBURG RECREATION and CONSERVATION AREA, west of Woodside, offers camping site and lodge for supervised youth and conservation groups.

SWIMMING AND BOATING: Municipal-operated areas at Lake Como, Smyrna and Silver Lake, Dover offer fresh water swimming and boating.

FISHING: Public fishing and small boat launching facilities available at several Kent County ponds and lakes. Party boat accommodations, for salt water fishing, available at Bowers, Mispillion Light, and other bayside locations. Boats may be rented at Woodland Beach, Kitts Hummock and Bowers. Ask about the state-wide Governor's fishing citations available during summer months.

WILDLIFE VIEWING: The Bombay Hook Federal Waterfowl Refuge near Smyrna offers, in the Fall and Spring, spectacular wildlife scenes.

Sussex County

ZWAANENDAEL MUSEUM, Lewes. Erected in 1931 by the State of Delaware to mark the tercentenary of the European settlement, in Delaware, made by the Dutch in 1631. Sunday and Holidays, 1-5 p.m. Open daily except Mondays.

1812 MEMORIAL PARK, Lewes. This small park facing the Lewes-Rehoboth Canal commemorates the bombardment and defense of Lewes during the War of 1812.

DE VRIES MONUMENT, Lewes. Near north and Pilot Town Road, is monument marking site of ill-fated Dutch Colony of 1631.

ANCIENT HOMES, Lewes abounds in preserved 18th Century dwellings. A "Country Store" operated for over 100 years is open in summer.

OLD CHURCHES AND CHURCHYARDS. Included among the churches of Lewes are St. Peter's Episcopal, erected in 1858 by a congregation established before 1700; Lewes Presbyterian and Bethel Methodist date back to the 17th and 18th century respectively.

FENWICK LIGHT, At Fenwick Island, adjacent to Delaware-Maryland boundary line, is light-house whose lights have guided Atlantic Coast shipping for over 100 years.

PRINCE GEORGE'S CHAPEL at Dagsboro. Completed in 1757. Retains original appearance.

CHRIST CHURCH, Broad Creek Hundred, near Laurel. Erected in 1771, this unpainted frame dwelling remains as a fine example of early rural church architecture. Annual services held here each Whitsunday.

MASON-DIXON MONUMENT, west of Delmar at S. W. Corner of Delaware. Double crownstone erected 1768 by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon to mark the middle point of trans-penninsular line (1751) and southern end of north-south portion of Mason-Dixon boundary.

BEACHES: The County, offers ocean bathing, surf fishing, golf, tennis, clamming, fishing, crabbing and boating. Modern housing facility and good restaurants throughout the area.

INDIAN RIVER INLET PARK: South of Dewey Beach are state-owned lands providing varied outdoor recreation including bathing in ocean or in shallow inland waters. Picnic tables and sanitary facilities are provided; restaurants and motels are nearby.

TRAP POND STATE PARK: Off Rte. 24, five miles southeast of Laurel and U. S. 13 is a good site for camping, bathing, fishing and boating.

STATE FORESTS: Picnic Facilities, pavilions and fresh water are available at sites in Ellendale and Redden State Forest Areas along U. S. 113 in Sussex County.

FISHING: Fish — in many varieties and sizes — are taken from many ponds and inland bays, and from the surf line and depths of the Atlantic. Party boats depart daily from Lewes and Indian River Inlet.

NOTE: Many other historical sites and dwellings, too numerous to be included in this list, may also be seen in Delaware. For information regarding these and other Delaware attractions, contact Delaware State Development Department, 45 The Green, Dover, Delaware.

New Castle County

FORT CHRISTINA MONUMENT, In a park at the foot of Seventh Street, Wilmington.

OLD SWEDES CHURCH, East Seventh Street, Wilmington. Built in 1698. Open 12-noon to 4 p.m. daily, except Mondays. Guide Service.

OLD TOWN HALL, Market Street nr. Sixth, Wilmington. Built in 1798 on land given by John Dickinson. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

DELAWARE ART CENTER, Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington. Admission free. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays — 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

HAGLEY MUSEUM, located in the old Du Pont Powder Yards on Brandywine Creek, three miles north of Wilmington (via Rte. 141). Hours: Tuesday thru Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Sundays, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mondays.

HENRY FRANCIS du PONT WINTERTHUR MUSEUM, five miles west of Wilmington, on Route 52. More than 100 period rooms covering American domestic scene 1640-1840. Ten rooms in

South Wing open without appointment. Tues.-Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

THE OLD COURT HOUSE, New Castle, Delaware's colonial capital and the country seat for many years. Also see the Amstel House and the Old Dutch House, which are now museums.

FORT DELAWARE, On Pea Patch Island in Delaware River off Delaware City. This State Park has ruins of old fort and a museum. Boats from Delaware City Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, Memorial Day to Oct. 15.

OLD COLLEGE, NEWARK. Built in 1833.

WELSH TRACT CHURCH, Newark, Baptist Church built in 1746.

COOCH'S BRIDGE, Rte. 7 south of Newark. In 1777 was the scene of the only battle of the Revolutionary War fought in Delaware.

OLD ST. ANNE'S CHURCH, near Middletown. Erected in 1768.

THE CORBIT-SHARP HOUSE, Odessa. Beautiful example of Georgian Colonial architecture.

Built in 1772. Museum. Open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Sundays, 2-5 p.m.

DAVID WILSON MANSION, Odessa. Restoration of original 1740 house. Open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sundays - 2-5 p.m. April thru November.

BRANDYWINE SPRINGS STATE PARK — 4 miles west of Wilmington on Del. Route 41. Offers 200 tables and 245 fireplaces for picnicking. Day camp site and two athletic fields. No pets permitted. Park closes at 10 p.m.

WILMINGTON PARKS — Many fine parks and recreational areas are provided by the City of Wilmington. Athletic competition and picnicking permitted at Baynard Stadium, 18th and Broom Streets. Swimming pools, tennis courts, playground at several locations.

FRESH WATER FISHING — Good fresh water fishing is available at several ponds in lower part of county. Fresh water trout are stocked in some of northern New Castle streams.

Safety First in the First State

It is the aim of the Delaware State Police to have you enjoy a safe and pleasant visit to Delaware. You will find our Troopers courteous and happy to furnish you assistance at any time.

Visitors staying in Delaware motels frequently must cross high speed highways to gain access to restaurants. Please, for your own safety, comply with all pedestrian regulations and use extreme care in such crossings. After determining that the roadway is clear of oncoming traffic, cross quickly, remaining constantly alert for approaching vehicles. Remember adverse weather and traffic conditions place an additional responsibility on you as a pedestrian to exercise extreme care and caution.

STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Dover U. S. 13, N. of Dover 734-5973

STATE POLICE TROOP LOCATIONS

Penny Hill U. S. 13, N. of Wilm. 764-2192
State Road U. S. 13, S. of Wilm. 328-7503
Newark, Del. Rt. 2, E. of Wilm. 998-2212
Dover U. S. 13, N. of Dover 734-5756
Georgetown U. S. 13, N. of Georgetown 856-2534
Dewey Beach, Del. Rt. 14, Dewey Beach 227-7733
Bridgeville U. S. 13, N. of Bridgeville 337-8251

SPEED LAWS

60 MPH (Daytime) on dual or four or more lane undivided roads.
55 MPH (Night Time)
50 MPH on two lane roads
25 MPH in business and residential districts
20 MPH in school zones
TRUCK 45 MPH over 8,000 lbs. maximum speed limit

SAFETY POINTERS

1. Keep to the right on four lane highways except to pass. Never stop on the main traveled portion of the highway, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with traffic control devices.

2. Remember intersecting highways are quite frequently high accident locations, therefore, they should be approached with extreme care.
3. Never drive so slowly as to be a traffic hazard to the road or a hindrance to other traffic.
4. Give all your attention to the job of driving.

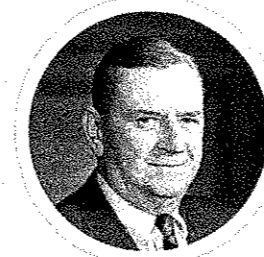
IN THE EVENT OF A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

1. Stop and render reasonable assistance to the injured.
2. Identify yourself by displaying your driver's license and registration cards.
3. Report the accident immediately to State or local police, if property damage amounts to \$25.00 or more, or if there is anyone injured.
4. In addition, if injury or property damage of \$100.00 or more results, a separate report must be submitted to the Financial Responsibility Division, Motor Vehicle Department, Dover, Delaware within five days of the accident.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A DRIVER'S LICENSE

If you are not a visitor but have established residence in this state you are required by law, to obtain Delaware license and auto registration plates within 90 days by applying to the Motor Vehicle Department's Offices in Dover, Wilmington or Georgetown.

- You are a resident when you:
1. Accept employment and establish residence in this state.
 2. Accept employment and place your children in Delaware Schools.
 3. Accept employment in Delaware and maintain no permanent residence in another state but periodically visit your native state.



GOVERNOR CHARLES L. TERRY WELCOMES YOU TO DELAWARE.

The citizens of Delaware join me in welcoming you to the First State.

You will discover that Delaware highways and byways provide pleasant, interesting travel. From the beautiful Atlantic Ocean beaches and pine forests in the south to the gently rolling hills in the north, Delaware offers the visitor an ideal balance of recreation, culture, entertainment and relaxation.

We hope your visit to Delaware is gratifying. For your added comfort and enjoyment, please drive carefully.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Terry
Governor of Delaware



1966 OFFICIAL HIGHWAY MAP

DELAWARE STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
DOVER, DELAWARE

HENRY T. PRICE, Chairman
LEMUEL H. HICKMAN, Vice-Chairman
Thurman Adams, Jr. Harry Bonte William G. Dorsey C. Warden Gass
Frank H. Mackie, Jr. Albert S. Moor George M. Neilson Elmer Pratt

Walter L. Wheatley
Ernest A. Davidson, Director of Operations
Joe S. Robinson, Chief Engineer
James J. Deputy, Controller
FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION ONLY

OFFICIAL HIGHWAY MAP

