

DELAWARE SOCIETY FOR PRESERVATION OF ANTIQUITIES HISTORY OF THE HALE BYRNES HOUSE

TRANSCRIPTION OF AGNES P. NOLAN SCRAPBOOK, WITH GEORGE M. WHITESIDE FILE
& BARBARA Y. MCEWING FILE, LOCATED AT DSPA-HALE BYRNES HOUSE.
AUGUST 26, 2015



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| . | Website "About Us" page | www.halebyrnes.org | <p style="text-align: center;">DSPA-HALE BYRNES A Delaware-based 501c-3 nonprofit.</p> <p>Our Mission is to protect, preserve, and promote the buildings and grounds of the historic Hale-Byrnes House, an eighteenth century Quaker house offering educational public programming.</p> <p>Vision Statement: DSPA's vision includes the careful and accurate maintenance, repair, restoration, and historically sensitive renovation of the Hale Byrnes House and grounds.</p> <p>As the southern anchor of the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic River designation, we aspire to remain a small but friendly, historically accurate and welcoming meeting place for families, Revolutionary War scholars, fishermen and eco-tourists.</p> <p>DSPA-HALE BYRNES' niche is the time period 1750-1850. Our collection policy helps us remain true to our mission without amassing irrelevant or inappropriate material.</p> |
| ... | HB Whiteside files | Undated Typescript Probably by Ralph Cavanaugh | <p>The Hale Byrnes House is on the National Register of Historic Places and, over twenty years ago, was awarded the State's first "Heritage Plaque by the then Governor Elbert N. Carvel.</p> <p>Undated Typescript, Probably by Ralph Cavanaugh In 1971, the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities who had restored the house, gave it to the State of Delaware to be cared for by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, The society has recently leased the property and, for a small fee, will make it available to community groups for meetings and cultural and social activities.</p> |
| 1961 | HB | Clippings of | Extract from clippings. WNJ-no date. A Voice out of the Past By Bill |

Aug 26, 2015 at 3 pm edition.

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| | Agnes Nolan Files | Headlines Only | <p>Frank</p> <p style="text-align: center;">It isn't the British This Time it's the Highway Department</p> <p style="text-align: center;">&</p> <p>Wilm Morning, Sat 11/4/61. Front page, Wilmington Morning News:Headline News</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Old Boyce May Get Reprieve as Shrine.</p> |
| 1961 + | Wilson, McEwing Research House File on | Carbon copy of History of Hale-Byrnes House by W. Emerson Wilson | <p style="text-align: center;">History of Hale-Byrnes House by W. Emerson Wilson [Note: This section begins on page 3 of 5 of Wilson's original manuscript.]</p> <p>The State of Delaware erected an historic marker in the 1930s in front of the house telling of the 1777 council of war held there.</p> <p>In 1961 the State Highway Department drew plans for the improvement of Route 7, the old highway from Christiana to Stanton, which necessitated demolition of the historic old house. When these plans were announced through the press, Mrs. Harry Clark Boden (1907-1977) of Newark, a leader in the preservation of historic sites and buildings, was dismayed. Mrs. Boden contacted other interested persons and organized a committee to preserve the house.</p> <p>Mrs. Boden remembered that an earlier "Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities" had surrendered its charter in the early 1940's after the death of Mrs. Henry B. Thompson who had been its leading light. She was instrumental in having the charter reactivated and a new group formed to work not only for the preservation of the Hale Byrnes House but also for other historic properties which might be endangered in the future. J.H. Tyler McConnell (1915-1989) was elected president of the Society with Mrs. Boden vice president. Leon deValinger, Jr. (1905-2000) secretary and Richard L. Cooch, treasurer. (need his dates)</p> <p>This group started a drive to preserve the old house. They introduced a resolution in the General Assembly, with the approval of Governor Elbert Carvel (1910-2005), calling for its retention and for a change in the highway plans. More than 500 school children of the nearby Stanton school signed a petition urging adoption of the resolution by the legislature.</p> <p>The property was purchased in the name of the Cooch's Bridge Chapter, daughters of the American Revolution and a year later was turned over to the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities.</p> <p>Plans for the restoration of the house were prepared by G. Morris Whiteside II, a well-known architect and director of the Society. The</p> |

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| | | | <p>restoration has been continued under the direction of Albert Kruse since Mr. Whiteside's death. Research showed the house had been built in two sections with doors in each, but sometime during the 19th century one of the doors had been converted into a window. This doorway has been restored so the house now has its original appearance.</p> <p>The exterior work has been completed and the interior partitions have been restored. However, the plumbing, heating, plastering and interior woodwork remains to be done. There are plans for landscaping the property. There is a beautiful vista of White Clay Creek and of Bread and Cheese Island from the rear lawn. A contribution from the Tidewater Oil Company several years ago has made it possible to save the old sycamore tree in front of the house and under which the generals waited for the council of war to begin back in 1777.</p> <p>When the restoration work is completed, it is planned that the house will be furnished approximately as it was in 1777 and become a center for historic and patriotic societies meetings. There are rooms on both the first and second floors which will be suitable for this purpose. A section will be furnished for the caretakers' quarters.</p> <p>Hale-Byrnes House was the first building in Delaware to have affixed the bronze "Heritage Plaque" at a ceremony at which Governor Elbert N. Carvel presided. This plaque, developed by the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, has since been placed on a number of other buildings.</p> <p>A Notice to Interested Readers</p> <p>If you would like to make a contribution to be used by the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities in its project for authentic restoration and maintenance of Hale-Byrnes House, please make your check payable to Hale-Byrnes House Committee and mail to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities Mr. John F. Mulhern, Treasurer Bank of Delaware, 9th & Market Streets, Wilmington, Delaware.</p> |
| <p>1961 11/3</p> | <p>HB Whiteside files</p> | <p>Letter from Carita Boden to Morris Whiteside</p> | <p>Mrs. Harry Clark Boden Fairthorne Newark, Delaware</p> <p>November 3, 1961</p> |

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| | | <p>Mr. G. Morris Whiteside Whiteside, Moeckel & Carbonell Bank of Delaware Building Wilmington, Delaware</p> <p>Dear Morris,</p> <p>I can't begin to thank you for the time and interest that you have put on the project of trying to save the Boyce House.</p> <p>Your report and the figures you gave us was wonderful, in that now it will be possible to proceed step by step. The Committee which was formed will be known as the Committee for the Preservation of the Boyce House. Fortunately I was able to get Leon de Valinger to say he would take the Chairmanship of it at least temporarily. There is to be a meeting of the Highway Commission next Wednesday, and I hope he will be able to attend. I will go down, but I do not know exactly how to put the matter before such a body. I really feel I cannot impose on you to ask you to go, since the distance there and back is time consuming, but what you have said, I will repeat and give the figures.</p> <p>I hope I was not out of order in saying that this house was not the one which stood by Harmony Mills in the old days. I know that house very well; my Canby and Price ancestors lived in it. It is also a brick house and white, and I feared for any possible confusion in the minds of people present. It is so hard to get a group to absorb and understand one idea and stick to it.</p> <p>If you have time, someday I would love to take you and Henryette to see the Harmony Mills house which, of course was called Rotherham Mill anyway, and the one just a little further down the Creek called Red Mill Farm, which originally was the England House and mill. I feel it is unfortunate that when houses are renamed with the names of more recent owners, for to my mind they should remain in the name of the person who first built and occupied them. These three houses, all standing on the White Clay Creek are not far from each other, and all interesting, but the Boyce House was the only one ever to be marked by the Delaware State Markers Commission, and in fact that makes it more important than the others, besides the fact that somebody wants to knock it down, while the others are at least safe</p> |
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| | | | <p>for the moment.</p> <p>Again my thanks for your kindness and generosity on this project. Always Sincerely,</p> <p>Carita</p> <p>Mrs. Harry Clark Boden</p> |
| 1961 11/9 | HB-Agnes P. Nolan file | Evening Journal Wilm, DE 11/9/1961 | <p><u>Excerpt: Boyce House's Fate in Doubt</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Smith's Bridge Restoration Voted; Cost Put at \$75,000.</p> <p>Smith's Bridge will be covered when it is rebuilt, but another Delaware landmark may give way to progress. The fate of the old Boyce House near Stanton has been placed, at least for the time being, in the hands of the New Castle County members of the State Highway Commission.</p> <p>The northern county commissioners were asked at yesterday's full commission meeting to submit a recommendation next month on what action should be taken on the historic house.</p> <p>Boyce House would have to be torn down under a proposal to reconstruct Route 7 between Stanton and Christiana. If the road were expanded to four lanes, as proposed, the house would be in the path of the new right-of-way.</p> <p>... The cost of saving the Boyce House, William J. Miller, (director of highway department operations) said would be about \$35,000. The Highway Department would have to change its plans and divert White Clay Creek to take the house out of the path of the proposed highway.</p> <p>Washington and his generals held a council of war in the house in 1777, prior to the Battle of Brandywine.</p> <p>A delegation from a recently formed committee to save the Boyce House attended the meeting. Mrs. Gerald Montaigne, president of the Colonial Dames of Delaware was the spokesman. With her were Mrs. G.F.G. Catty, treasurer of the Colonial Dames, and former State Treasurer, Harold W.T. Purnell of Georgetown.</p> <p>The Boyce House is now vacant and falling into disrepair. The committee to save it believes if it can be assured the highway department will not tear it down, money can be raised for its restoration.</p> <p>N. Maxson Terry, speaking as an individual and not as chairman of the commission, said:</p> <p>"I for one, am anxious that the building be preserved. It is important to save this house—since it is part of our heritage."</p> |

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| | | | However, Anthony Carroll of Dover was skeptical as to whether it is worth the \$35,000. |
| 1961 11/9 | HB Whiteside Files | Letter from Emily M. Gibson to G. Morris Whiteside | <p style="text-align: center;">Mrs. Harry Clark Boden Fairthorne Newark, Delaware</p> <p>November 9, 1961</p> <p>Mr. G. Morris Whiteside Whiteside, Moeckel & Carbonell Bank of Delaware Building Wilmington, Delaware</p> <p>Dear Mr. Whiteside:</p> <p>Mrs. Boden has been ill from a relapse of the flu, and was unable to attend the Highway Commission Meeting in Dover on November 9, 1961. Neither Mr. deValinger nor Mr. Bayard were able to attend. Those who went were Mrs. Montaigne, and Mrs. Catty of the Colonial Dames, Mr. John R. Ernest and Mr. Harold T. Purnell.</p> <p>The Chairman, Mr. Terry, is in favor of preserving the Boyce House. However, it is our understanding that the matter will now be taken up by the New Castle County Highway Commissioners, who are Benjamin Ableman, Wardon Gass, Frank E, Machie, Jr., and Elbert S. Moore, and that there will have to be another meeting with them and some members of the Boyce House Committee. Mrs. Boden knows some of these people; Mr. Bayard knows Mr. Ableman.</p> <p>The title of the house is being searched, and we are learning more about it all the time. It now appears that in the early days it was used as a Quaker Meeting House, before the old one standing in Stanton was built. At that time it was the Lewden House and Mrs. Lewden invited the Quakers to come there for service. This gives added significance to the place, in addition to its historic marker concerning the Revolution.</p> <p>Mrs. Boden thought you should have the above information, hoping that you may know some of the Commissioners mentioned. I also inclose [sic] a copy of the information which was handed each</p> |

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| | | | <p>Commissioner at the meeting.</p> <p>Very truly yours, Emily M. Gibson, (Mrs. M.G.) Secretary to Mrs. Harry Clark Boden</p> |
| <p>1961 11/9</p> | <p>HB Agnes Nolan files</p> | <p>Letter from Emily Gibson to Daniel Wolcott</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">November 9, 1961</p> <p>The Hon. Daniel P. Wolcott Fourth Street & Delaware Avenue New Castle, Delaware</p> <p>Dear Judge Wolcott:</p> <p>Mrs. Boden has been ill from a relapse of the flu, and was unable to attend the Highway Commission Meeting in Dover on November 8, 1961. Neither Mr. deValinger nor Mr. Bayard, who is extremely interested, were able to attend. Those who went were Mrs. Montaigne and Mrs. Catty of the Colonial Dames, Mrs. John R. Ernest and Mrs. Harold W.F. Purnell.</p> <p>The Chairman, Mr. Terry, is in favor of preserving the Boyce House. However, it is our understanding that the matter will now be taken up by the New Castle County Highway Commissioners, who are Benjamin Ableman, C. Warden Gass, Frank H. Machie, Jr., and Elbert S. Moore, and that there will have to be another meeting with them and some members of the Boyce House Committee. Mrs. Boden knows none of these people; Mr. Bayard knows Mr. Ableman.</p> <p>The title of the house is being searched, and we are learning more about it all the time. It now appears that in the early days it was used as a Quaker Meeting House, before the old one now standing in Stanton was built. At that time it was the Lewden House, and Mrs. Lewden invited the Quakers to come there for services. This gives added significance to the place, in addition to its historic marker concerning the Revolution.¹</p> <p>Mrs. Boden thought that you should have the above information, hoping that you may know some of the Commissioners mentioned. I also inclose a copy of the information which was handed each Commissioner at the meeting.</p> <p>Yours very truly,</p> |

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| | | | <p>Emily M. Gibson, (Mrs. M.G. Gibson) Secretary to Mrs. Harry Clark Boden</p> |
| <p>1961 11/16</p> | <p>HB Whiteside files</p> | <p>Letter from Carita Boden to George Morris Whiteside</p> | <p>Mrs. Harry Clark Boden Fairthorne Newark, Delaware</p> <p>November 16, 1961</p> <p>Mr. G. Morris Whiteside Whiteside, Moeckel & Carbonell Bank of Delaware Building Wilmington, Delaware</p> <p>Dear Morris,</p> <p>I had a few of these brochures left from the tour I got up last May, and thought you might be interested to have this as it mentions the Boyce House, and the two others not far from it on the White Clay Creek. These are the houses I would like to show you and Henryette sometime when we can take a little drive in the afternoon.</p> <p>I am anxious to have your opinion on the other two houses as compared to the Boyce House. Of course, the others are privately owned, and never marked by an Archives Commission marker.</p> <p>Always Sincerely, Carita Mrs. Harry Clark Boden</p> |
| <p>1961 11/24</p> | <p>HB Agnes Nolan Files</p> | <p>Letter to Mrs. Boden from Telford & McLeod Tree Mgt</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Telford and McLeod 6 Elliott Avenue Wilmington 5, Delaware Tree Management Consultants WY 8-5378</p> <p>Mrs. Harry Clark Boden W. Park Place Newark, Delaware</p> <p>Dear Mrs. Boden:</p> |

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| | | | <p>As per your request, we have made a survey of the tree conditions on the property surrounding the old Boyce House at Stanton.</p> <p>Probably the most important and oldest tree on the property is the large sycamore at the right front of the house. This tree is in very poor condition and in its present state must be considered a hazard. We would recommend a reduction of the weakened leaders, removal of dead-wood, and a heavy application of special tree fertilizer.</p> <p>The walnut tree at the left front of the house should be fertilized and important dead wood removed.</p> <p>The Norway maple by the road and to the left of the house and the apple at the right rear corner of the house should be thinned slightly and important deadwood removed.</p> <p>The cost of the work as outlined in this letter, including the removal of the resultant detritus, would not exceed \$345.</p> <p>Hoping this is the information you desired, we await your further instruction.</p> <p>Yours truly,</p> <p>Alfred H, Rosin Representing Telford</p> |
| 1961 12/28 | HB Whiteside Files | Letter from Terminix | <p style="text-align: center;">Terminix Company of Delaware 606 Orange Street, Wilmington 1. Delaware Telephone Olympia 8-5201</p> <p>Mrs. Harry Clark Boden "Fairthorne" West Park Place Newark, Delaware</p> <p>Dear Mrs. Boden:</p> <p>In the Wilmington Morning News, I read the article in reference to the Old Boyce House in Stanton, Delaware and noticed that you have been leading the campaign to restore this historical building.</p> |

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| | | | <p>As a member of the Terminix Company of Delaware, I offer my services to make a termite inspection and survey to determine if termites or any other wood destroying insects are causing any deterioration. This service is one the Terminix Companies offer all over the United States. Within the past year, we did such a survey and work for Mr. Leon deValinger, at the John Dickinson Mansion, Dover, Delaware.</p> <p>If we can be of any assistance to you and/or your associates, in the restoration of the Boyce House, do not hesitate to call our office. Sincerely yours, TERMINEX COMPANY OF DELAWARE, INC.</p> <p>Alfred H. Burns, Representative Cml/enclosures ,</p> |
| 1961 11/02 | HB McEwing folder | Minutes from Patriotic Societies Joint Meeting. Regent: Miss Catherine Downing Vice Regent: Mrs. Harman Money | <p>The fifth meeting of a "Convention of Patriotic Societies of Delaware" was held at the University Club, Wilmington, Delaware at 12:00 noon on Thursday, November 2, 1961. Miss Catherine Downing, State Regent of the Delaware Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, gave the invocation.</p> <p>The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Daniel F. Wolcott, Governor General of the Society of Colonial Wars, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Delegates attending were:</p> <p>Daughters of Founders and Patriots President: Mrs. Ralph McClosky Secretary: Mrs. Helen Savage Smith</p> <p>National Society of Colonial Dames of America President: Mrs. Gerald Montaigne</p> <p>Delaware State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Regent: Miss Catherine Downing Vice Regent: Mrs. Harman Money</p> |

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| | | <p>Delaware Society Daughters of Colonial Wars President: Mrs. Chaplin Tyler Vice President: Mrs. E. Roy Wright</p> <p>Society of Colonial Wars Governors General: Associate Justice Daniel F. Wolcott</p> <p>Delaware State Society Daughters of American Colonists Regent: Mrs. Milton L. Draper Past Regent: Mrs. David R. Eastburn</p> <p>Sons of the American Revolution President: Mr. Lynn Sprankle Past President: Mr. William Rheuby</p> <p>Order of the Three Crusades: National President: Mrs. Harry Clark Boden</p> <p>Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Delaware Delegates: Mr Victor Washburn, Past Governor Delegate: Mrs. Hugh Clark</p> <p>Special Guest: Mr. G. Morris Whiteside</p> <p>Mrs. Bodenⁱ introduced Mr. Whiteside who spoke on the possibility of preserving and restoring the Boyce House at Stanton, Delaware. A proposed new highway ravages this old landmark where George Washington met with his officers prior to the Battle of Brandywine. Mr. Whiteside described the house and the condition of its interior and exterior. One of the Boyce descendants is the owner. The house is marked by the Delaware Marker Commission and there is a good chance of the road being diverted around it. Preservation and restoration would cost approximately \$38,000. The house and one-half acre of ground would cost \$8,000; a new roof, \$6,200. Four additional acres are owned by another member of the Boyce family and may be purchased for \$8,000. It was suggested that it might serve as a meeting place for patriotic societies in years to come.</p> <p>Mr. Rheuby recommended that the project be presented to the member organizations by the delegates, asking what financial support each will give.</p> <p>Motion-by Dr. Washburn, seconded by Mr Rheuby and carried, that it</p> |
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| | | | <p>is the consensus of this Convention that we are in favor of preserving the Boyce property, that this information be supplied to each member of the Convention seeking their official support and interest, and that the Secretary of this Convention so notify the Highway Department.</p> <p>The Secretary was instructed to send copies of the letter to Harris B. McDowell, Delaware Park Authorities and Bryan Field.</p> <p>Motion-by Mr. Rheuby, seconded by Mrs. Tyler and carried that a committee be appointed, chaired by Mrs. Boden, to spearhead the whole proposition. Mrs. Boden to select her own committee.</p> <p>Appreciation was expressed to Mrs. Boden for bringing this matter to our attention...</p> <p>...In accordance with the bylaws, Mrs. Milton L. Draper, Regent of the Delaware State Society, Daughters of the American Colonists, was elected Chairman of the Convention for 1961-1962.</p> |
| 1961 | HB Whiteside Files | Undated News Journal Article | <p>EFFORT to SAVE BOYCE HOUSE FAILS BY TWO VOTES in SENATE By Staff Correspondent</p> <p>(Photo shows stuccoed exterior, boarded up windows. Photo caption says, <i>"IN HIGHWAY PATH. The State Senate yesterday failed by two votes to pass a resolution to save the old Boyce House in Stanton from demolition. The house was a meeting place for Gen. George Washington's staff and officers following the Battle of Cooch's Bridge in 1777. Now it is in the way of planned realignment of Route 7).</i></p> <p>DOVER-An effort to save the old Boyce House from demolition in a highway improvement project fell two votes short in the State Senate yesterday.</p> <p>A concurrent resolution putting the General Assembly on record in opposition to destruction of historic sites ran afoul of Sen. J. Allen Cook, D-Kenton.</p> <p>Cook argued that the resolution (SCR 47), introduced by Sen. Calvin R. McCullough, D-Holloway Terrace, should not be passed until the Highway Department was asked why they planned to run the new Route 7 through the Boyce House site.</p> <p>The resolution would have required that the highway bypass the Boyce House.</p> <p>The BOYCE House was the meeting place of the general staff officers of Gen. George Washington after the Battle of Cooch's Bridge Sept 6, 1777.</p> <p>Cook arose to ask that the bill be deferred until such time as the</p> |

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AUGUST 26, 2015

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| | | | <p>highway department had a chance to explain why the road had to go through the Boyce House. "I don't think the department goes out of its way to find historic landmarks to run their roads through," Cook said, "I'm sure there's some reason."</p> <p>McCullough objected to Cook's motion to defer consideration. "I may lose my job, but I don't care," McCullough told the Senate. "We're not here to listen to the highway department tell us what to do; it's the other way around. It's about time we started considering this problem of demolishing historic sites."</p> <p>Both McCullough and Cook are employees of the department.</p> <p>The Senate rejected Cook's deferral motion 6-4 with two not voting and five absent.</p> <p>On a roll call on the resolution, seven senators (duPont, Johnson, Manning, McCullough, Price, Snowden and Wilgus) voted yes, two (Cook and Steen) voted no, and the remainder either refused to vote or were absent.</p> <p>Lt. Gov. Eugene Lamot, presiding officer, ruled that a resolution requires nine votes for passage. The rule book backed him up, despite a lengthy discussion of rules.</p> <p>Yesterday's action, however, was just a preliminary skirmish. McCullough vowed to map further action but failed to say whether he would set up his general staff t Boyce House or some other way station.</p> |
| 1961 | HB-Agnes P. Nolan file | WNJ article nd | <p style="text-align: center;">The Boyce House Issue</p> <p>Near Stanton is an old building known as the Boyce House. It is involved in what some call "our Delaware heritage." It figured in events leading up to the Battle of the Brandywine during the Revolutionary War.</p> <p>The Boyce House, regarded as an excellent example of colonial architecture, seemed doomed because the Highway Department was to go through the site with its FAI-3 highway.</p> <p>Interested citizens got busy, started plans to save the house. But what about the Highway Department?? Would it change bits highway design so as to spare the house?</p> <p>The department engineers said it would cost \$35,000 to change the plans.</p> <p>The highway commissioners have now said that if the committee interested in the Boyce House puts up the \$35,000, the department will spare the house that has been declared to be part of our "cultural resources."</p> |

Aug 26, 2015 at 3 pm edition.

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DELAWARE SOCIETY FOR PRESERVATION OF ANTIQUITIES HISTORY OF THE HALE BYRNES HOUSE

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| | | | <p>This is the ruling of an agency that spends thousands of dollars to save "private" beaches in southern Delaware...and the same agency that is spending thousands of dollars to pave dirt roads that have daily traffic ranging from eight to seventy-five cars a day!</p> |
| 1962 1/18 | HB Agnes Nolan File | Letter from Carita to Harris McDowell | <p style="text-align: right;">January 18, 1962</p> <p>Mr. Harris McDowell, Jr. Congress of the United States House of Representatives 457 Old House Office Building Washington, DC</p> <p>Dear Mr. McDowell:</p> <p>Thank you for your good letter received today. I am, indeed, delighted that the Governor has asked Tyler McConnell to serve and that he has accepted.</p> <p>I am also very much pleased that you are willing to serve as a member of our Committee. In the meantime, some members of our Committee have become the Trustees of the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, which we have just incorporated. You may remember there used to be a group of that name, which some years ago formally disbanded. As of this week, it is now once more incorporated, and it is this Society that Tyler McConnell will now head as President. The opinion was that in using this name, our work could be much broader in scope, and that while the Boyce House is our immediate concern, we would want to continue to encourage the restoration of worthwhile buildings in any part of the State. We are therefore, assuming that everyone who agreed to be on the Boyce House Committee will approve of this change of name and be willing to continue as a member of the new group. I mention this, since we only recently had your consent to be a member due to your absence out of the country.</p> <p>The Boyce House is at present the property of the Cooch's Bridge Chapter of DAR. They plan to put it into the hands of the group in the near future. However, any donation toward the restoration can be made to the Treasurer of the Cooch's Bridge Chapter of DAR, and are therefore, tax-deductible. This is a fact we hope to bring out, since the</p> |

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| | | | <p>immediate need of the house is a new roof to keep the bad winter weather from doing any further damage.</p> <p>Again, thank you for all you have done for us.</p> <p>Sincerely yours,</p> <p>Mrs. Harry Clark Boden</p> |
| 1962 1/19 | HB Agnes Nolan File | Page 1 of a letter to Gov Carvel from Carita. Rest is missing. | <p style="text-align: right;">January 19, 1962</p> <p>The Hon. Elbert N. Carvel Governor of Delaware Dover, DE</p> <p>Dear Governor Carvel:</p> <p>The Committee for the Preservation of the Lewden-Boyce House has greatly appreciated your being Honorary Chairman. We also want to thank you for asking Tyler McConnell to head this group for us, as the consensus of opinion was that he would be both interested and especially qualified to do so.</p> <p>Some of our Committee have now become the Trustees and Incorporators of "The Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities." We will now function under this title. You may recall that a number of years ago there was a Society by this name. It was formally disbanded, however, and, therefore, assuming that everyone who agreed to be on the "Lewden-Boyce House Committee" will approve of this change of name, and be willing to continue as a member of the new group, and we hope you will consent to serve in this same honorary capacity.</p> <p>While our immediate concern is the Lewden-Boyce House our work can now be much broader in scope covering the restoration of worthwhile buildings in any part of the State.</p> <p>As of now the Lewden-Boyce House has been purchased and is the property of the Cooch's Bridge Chapter DAR. They plan to put it in the hands of our group in the near future. However, any donations toward the restoration can be made to the treasurer of the Cooch's Bridge Chapter, and are, therefore, tax deductible.</p> |

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| 1962 2/7 | HB Agnes Nolan File | Letter to Sherman Tribbitt from Ned Cooch, Cooch & Taylor | <p style="text-align: center;">Law Office Cooch and Taylor Bank of Delaware Building Wilmington, Delaware</p> <p>Edward W. Cooch, Jr Donald C. Taylor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 7, 1962</p> <p>Honorable Sherman Tribbitt Speaker of the House of Representatives Dover, Delaware</p> <p>Dear Sherman:</p> <p>Yesterday I discussed with you by telephone a proposed Concurrent Resolution of the General Assembly which would provide first, a declaration of policy by the State of Delaware, to the effect that historic sites, buildings and objects of National and State significance should and ought to be preserved., and secondly, that the Old Boyce House, which has now been acquired by the Cooch's Bridge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was a worthy subject of such preservation. I pointed out to you that the Old Boyce House is presently in the path of a proposed highway to be constructed by the State Highway Department.</p> <p>I enclose, for your consideration, a Concurrent Resolution, which I believe to be factual and a worthwhile measure for the General Assembly to adopt. While I believe you will find it self-explanatory, if you need any further information, please feel free to call me.</p> <p>I have discussed this measure informally with the Honorable Max Terry, State Highway Commissioner, and with other persons interested in its contents. I believe Mr. Terry is sympathetic with the objects of the Resolution. While he has not seen a copy of it at this writing, I am sending him a copy of this letter, as well as a copy of the enclosed Resolution, and you are, of course, free to discuss the matter with him. Copies are also being sent to the Governor, to William J. Miller, Director of the Highway Department, and to those persons whose names appear at the end of this letter.</p> |
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| | | | <p>When I discussed the proposed Resolution with you by telephone, I was under the impression that the proposed highway which would require the Old Boyce House as a part of the toll road running from the Memorial Bridge to the Maryland Line and would be paid for by revenues from that road. I find this not to be the case. The proposed road, which would require the acquisition and destruction of the Old Boyce House, is I am informed, an extension and improvement of Delaware Route no, 7.</p> <p>I hope you will approve the Resolution and urge its adoption.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Very truly yours.</p> <p>EWC, Jr.</p> <p>c.c. Hon. Elbert N. Carvel Hon. Max Terry, Jr Mr. Wm Miller Hon. Harold T. Purnell Mr. Morris Whiteside Mr. Leon DeValinger Mrs. Harry Clark Boden Miss Anna Gallagher</p> |
| 1962 | HB Agnes Nolan File | Carbon of Concurrent Resolution prepared by Cooch & Taylor | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Concurrent Resolution</u></p> <p>Be It Resolved By The Senate And House Of Representatives Of The General Assembly Of The State Of Delaware:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Whereas, the United States has heretofore declared it to be the national policy to preserve for public inspiration and benefit historic sites, buildings and objects of national significance, as will appear in 16 U.S. C.A., Section 461; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Whereas, the Senate and House of Representatives of the General Assembly concur in the declared policy of the United States and urge that the various responsible state agencies of the State of Delaware preserve and protect whenever possible the historic sites, buildings and objects located within the State of Delaware for the inspiration</p> |

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| | | | <p>and benefit of citizens of the State of Delaware; and</p> <p>Whereas, the Cooch's Bridge Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, has acquired title t property known as the "Old Boyce House" situated in White Clay Creek Hundred, New Castle County and State of Delaware; and</p> <p>Whereas, the old Boyce House was the meeting place of the General Officers on the staff of General George Washington, on September 6, 1777, following the Battle of Cooch's Bridge; and</p> <p>Whereas, the Old Boyce House was selected by the Historic Markers Commission of the State of Delaware as an historic site worthy of mention, and has been marked by said Commission with a marker observing its historic significance; and</p> <p>Whereas, the Old Boyce House represents an example of colonial American architecture characteristic of the colonial period f the State of Delaware; and</p> <p>Whereas, the present alignment of a toll road to be constructed by the State Highway Department to connect the Delaware Memorial Bridge with the Northeastern Expressway under construction by the State of Maryland will require the acquisition of the Old Boyce House by the State Highway Department; and</p> <p>Whereas, the proposed toll road will be constructed and paid for from revenues collected from the users of the new highway, and the cost thereof will not represent an obligation of the State of Delaware;</p> <p>IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That it is declared to be the policy of the State of Delaware to preserve historic sites, buildings and objects of national and state significance located within the State for the inspiration and benefit of citizens of our State2. That the State Highway Department is requested to consider the feasibility of a change of alignment of the toll road connecting the Delaware Memorial Bridge with the Northeastern Expressway under construction by the State of Maryland, t the end that the Old Boyce House may be |
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| | | | <p>preserved.</p> <p>3. That copies of this Resolution shall be sent to the Governor of the State of Delaware and to the State Highway Department.</p> |
| 1962 | HB Agnes Nolan File | WNJ??? Clippings n.d. | <p style="text-align: center;">Antiquities Group Bids for Backing</p> <p>The Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities has adopted a scale of membership dues and soon will seek wide support for its efforts to preserve historic sites and buildings.</p> <p>The dues set by the board at a recent meeting at the Newark home of Mrs. Harry Clark Boden, vice president are: \$5 annually for individuals; \$25 for sustaining members; \$100 for patrons; \$500 for benefactors and \$1000 for life members.</p> <p>There will be a \$10 membership fee for clubs or institutions, an institutional sustaining membership of \$1,000 and an industrial membership of \$1,000.</p> <p>The organization will have the first annual general membership meeting in October at which its work and objectives will be outlined. The charter provides that the general business shall be conducted by the board.</p> <p>At present, the society is restoring the Boyce House where a council of war was held by Washington's officers before the Battle of Brandywine. However, the society is intended to have statewide interests. Its chief objective will be to save historic homes and buildings from destruction wherever they may be threatened.</p> <p>Money from dues will be used for the administration of the society and for the acquisition and restoration of homes and buildings. The society has asked the federal government for tax-exempt status. In the meantime, persons interested in assisting the Boyce House project may send checks to the Cooch's Bridge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.</p> <p>For information concerning gifts to other projects and about general membership, interested parties may write to the secretary of the society, Leon deValinger, Jr., Hall of Records, Dover, De.</p> <p>G. Morris Whiteside II has been appointed chairman of the historic buildings and sites committee of the society.</p> |
| 1962 3/13 | HB Agnes Nolan File | WNJ??? Clippings | <p style="text-align: center;">March 13, 1962</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Antiquities Society is Renewed</p> |

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| | | | <p>The Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities has been rechartered with J.H. Tyler McConnell as President and Gov. Elbert N. Carvel as honorary president.</p> <p>The aim of the organization will be to preserve whatever is worthwhile from an historical viewpoint throughout the state such as homes, other buildings, monuments and even trees.</p> <p>The new organization, while taking the name of a similar organization which was founded by Mrs. Henry B. Thompson, but which was disbanded shortly after her death in 1947. That organization was responsible for the preservation of the Old Dutch House in New Castle, and among other projects, the maintenance of the Unknown Sailor's Cemetery near Lewes.</p> <p>The new organization, while taking the name and having the same objectives, is not in any way tied in with the other.</p> <p>Other officers elected at the organization meeting of the new society are vice president, Mrs. Harry Clark Boden; secretary, John R. Ernest; and treasurer, Richard L. Cooch. The trustees include G. Morris Whiteside, architectural advisor; Mrs. Charles Lee Reese, Jr., Alexis I duPont Bayard; and Harold W.T. Purnell.</p> <p>The new society is an outgrowth of the committee formed some time ago to preserve the old Boyce House near Stanton, and of McConnell's interest in a committee of the Greater Wilmington Development Council named to study historic sites in this area.</p> |
| 1962 4/13 | HB Agnes Nolan File | Letter to Carita Boden from Alexis duP. Bayard | <p style="text-align: center;">Hermann, Bayard, Brill & Gallagher Continental American Building Rodney Square Wilmington 1, Delaware</p> <p>April 13, 1962</p> <p>Mrs. Harry Clark Boden Fairthorne Newark, DE</p> <p>Mr. J.H. Tyler McConnell Hercules Powder Company Delaware Trust Building Wilmington, Delaware</p> <p>Dear Carita:</p> |

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| | | | <p>The other day I had a man check in Dover on the Boyce House Resolution. Shortly after, as you know, it passed the Senate 12 to 1 with certain senators abstaining.</p> <p>The report of my agent in Dover is as follows:</p> <p>“On the Boyce House resolution. AS you know, it passed voting against it. An important point was made by Bill Miller of the State Highway Department in his discussion of the resolution, a point that did not get into the rather sketchy story in this morning’s paper. Miller said that the owners of the Boyce House should get busy right away with their plans for restoration. The more that is done in the way of restoring the place, the less likely it is that the Highway Department will try to go through it. He pointed out that up until about four or five months ago no one had expressed any interest in the house. He was asked specifically if the Highway Dept. would plot a realignment should restoration be well underway and he said yes. He also estimated that the Dept would not begin to build there until early 1964. Seems to me that a word to the wise, etc. A public announcement by the Delaware Society, for instance, that plans are forming and workmen are being hired—all of this would help to preserve the Boyce House.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Affectionately,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Lex</p> |
| 1962 4/25 | HB Agnes Nolan File | Evening Journal Wed 4/25/62 | <p>Evening Journal, Wed 4/25, 1962. P 30.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Boyce House Keys Change Hands</p> <p>The keys to the Old Boyce House in Stanton were to be turned over to new owners today.</p> <p>Anne Gallagher, regent of the Cooch’s Bridge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was scheduled to turn over the keys to J.H. McConnell, president of the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, at 3 p.m.</p> <p>The chapter bought the house last December with funds donated for the purpose.</p> <p>The house was a meeting place of George Washington’s general staff officers during the Revolutionary War in 1777.</p> <p>Although the State Highway Department’s plans call for elimination of the landmark in the proposed realignment of Rt 7, the General</p> |

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| | | | <p>Assembly has passed a resolution strongly urging the department to spare historic sites in its highway plans.</p> <p>It will probably be three years before funds become available for the Route 7 project. The department will spare the house if it gets sufficient funds to change the pr [opposed] realignment plan.</p> |
| 1962 | nd | <p>Farmers Bank article. Illustrated by good sketch of the house by B. Harrington MacDonald</p> | <p>Farmers Bank Of the State of Delaware Established 1807</p> <p>Boyce House</p> <p>This large, old, Georgian brick house—a mile below Stanton—has recently been bought by the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities and is under restoration. It was built before the Revolution. Fame touched it briefly during the Revolution. The British army, having sailed up the Chesapeake, had marched overland and was encamped at Newark. General Washington was preparing to defend Philadelphia, but fearing for the safety of Wilmington, he marched the Continental army down from Pennsylvania and stationed it along Red and White Clay creeks, southwest of the city. On September 6, 1777, he convened meeting of his officers “at the brick house by White Clay to fix proper piquets for the security of the camp. “This was five days before the Battle of the Brandywine.</p> <p>In 1961 the house was threatened with destruction because of a highway-widening project. Mrs, Henry Clark Boden, a vice-president of the Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, felt that it was historically and architecturally worth saving. She worked tirelessly to gain support for her idea. A “Committee for the Preservation of the Old Boyce House” was formed, and patriotic and other organizations became interested, with the result that the State legislature passed a resolution asking the highway department to spare the house by shifting the road alignment. So the building now appears safe.</p> <p>The high creek bank gives the house three full stories in back. Interior changes have eliminated most of the Colonial details. There are three chimneys. Architects find that there are two separate buildings, one built perhaps before 1750—the other later in the century but in the same Georgian style. The two original front entrances have been reopened and the center entrance returned to a window. There is a belt course and a water table across the front. The</p> |

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| | | | <p>site is a fine one, looking up and down the creek and across to Bread and Cheese Island—the island so named back in 1668 when it was confirmed to Thomas Jackson and Olle Paulson, a Swede. Old Swedes Church later enjoyed some income from the island. The land along the creek was taken up by the Islanders for pasture.</p> <p>The history of the old house is incomplete as yet. It may have been owned before the Revolution by Thomas Montgomery which he willed to his daughter, Susan Wilday. It is called the Boyce House because it was the home of W. Truxton Boyce for over 50 years. Who was living there when General Washington came to meet his officers, we do not know. Perhaps the old, hollow sycamore tree by the front door shaded the house then also.</p> |
| 1962 7/11 | HB Agnes Nolan Files | WNJ Bill Frank article | <p><u>EXCERPT: July 11, 1962</u></p> <p><u>Bill Frank</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">She Foiled the Bulldozers</p> <p>There's been a lot of talk lately about restoring old and historic houses in northern Delaware. But there's been mighty little done about them—except in the case of the Boyce House on the banks of the White Clay Creek near the Stanton entrance to Delaware Park.</p> <p>Everyone is planning, surveying, studying and discussing the restoration of old houses, but it remains for the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities to do something.</p> <p>And the credit in a large measure belongs to Mrs. Harry Clark Boden of Newark. Hers has been the loud clear voice for its preservation and restoration. But for a while, it seemed as if she were crying in the wilderness or in the camps of Philistines who care nothing for landmarks or historic sites.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*</p> <p>Monday afternoon, I kept an appointment with Mrs. Boden at the Boyce House, and I stood there watching the men put on a new roof—the first step in restoration.</p> <p>In front of the house is a large blue and gold sign, proclaiming to all and sundry that a colonial house is being restored...</p> <p>It has historical associations with the American Revolution because, according to the State Archives Department, it was in this two-story brick house that Washington held a council of war with his top echelon officers Sept. 6, 1777, during the maneuvers in that area that eventually led to the Battle of the Brandywine at Chadds Ford, PA.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*</p> |

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| | | | <p>The house began to deteriorate a few years ago and was doomed recently by the State Highway Department with its interstate highway plans.</p> <p>Then came Mrs. Boden, marshalling protests and support. The house was first purchased by the Cooch’s Bridge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and turned over to the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities.</p> <p>Money was made available for restoration—and the architectural firm of Whiteside, Moeckel and Carbonell was employed, and the general contract given to DiSabatino and Raniere, Inc.</p> <p>The magnificent buttonwood in front of the house, at least 200 years old, will also be saved. Eventually the grounds will be landscaped—and the old Boyce House will become a joy and a pleasure, and available for meetings. It may even have a small museum featuring the campaign of the Battle of the Brandywine.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*</p> <p>Mrs. Boden hopes that groups of citizens and societies will pitch in and help to refurbish the house and even lend a hand with money.</p> <p>When the restoration of the Boyce House is completed, what will it mean?</p> <p>It could very well become the focal point of revived interest in the Battle of the Brandywine Campaignⁱⁱⁱ which began in the Stanton-Newark sector and shifted to Chadds Ford. Some day when Revolutionary War Round tables are organized here and the Revolutionary War becomes as interesting to people as the Civil War is today, the Boyce House will be the hub.</p> <p>But as this restoration job continues, let’s keep this in mind:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restoration costs are more than peanuts. 2. It takes a lot of energy, imagination—and dedication 3. Restoration of these houses is part of positive Americanism. |
| 1962 7/ 12 | HB Whiteside Files | Letter from John R. Ernst to Morris Whiteside | <p>Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, Inc. July 12, 1962</p> <p>Mr. G. Morris Whiteside, 2d Greenville Wilmington, Delaware</p> <p>Dear Mr. Whiteside:</p> <p>With the consent of our President, J.H. Tyler McConnell, Esq., Mrs.</p> |

Aug 26, 2015 at 3 pm edition.

Transcribed 2015 by Kim Burdick, MA, MPA, Advisor Emeritus, National Trust for Historic Preservation.
Hale Byrnes House. DSPA-Hale Byrnes House, 606 Stanton-Christiana Road, Newark, Delaware 19713

DELAWARE SOCIETY FOR PRESERVATION OF ANTIQUITIES HISTORY OF THE HALE BYRNES HOUSE

TRANSCRIPTION OF AGNES P. NOLAN SCRAPBOOK, WITH GEORGE M. WHITESIDE FILE
& BARBARA Y. MCEWING FILE, LOCATED AT DSPA-HALE BYRNES HOUSE.
AUGUST 26, 2015

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| | | | <p>Harry Clark Bode, Vice-President, has called a meeting for July 19th at 8:00 P.M. at her home, 29 West Park Place, Newark, Delaware.</p> <p>The purpose of the meeting is to consummate the organization of the Society, arrange a scheduled due and provide for the other necessities so that our Society can be ready to pursue its work in the Fall.</p> <p>The Ninth Article of the Certificate of Incorporation of our Society provides that "The direction of Incorporation of the affairs of this corporation and the control and disposition of its property and funds, subject to the limitations prescribed in the foregoing Article 3 hereof, shall be vested in a Board of Trustees." In order that you may be familiar with the terms of the Act of Incorporation, a copy is herewith enclosed. We hope it will be useful to you in pursuing your duties as a Director.</p> <p>This is an important meeting and we hope all Directors will plan to be present.</p> <p>Cordially yours,</p> <p>John R. Ernst, Secretary</p> |
| 1962 7/12 | HB Whiteside Files | Wilmington NewsJournal July 12, 1962 | <p>Photocopy marked (AIA)</p> <p>Photo caption: History Preserved. Carpenters are putting a new roof on the Boyce House, a historic landmark on the banks of White Clay Creek near Stanton. The house, used as a meeting place by George Washington in the Revolutionary War, is being restored by the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities.</p> <p>Restoration of Boyce House Near Delaware Park Starts by Gene Lincoln</p> <p>New action to preserve Delaware's historic houses has begun with restoration of the Boyce House.</p> <p>The Boyce House, located on the banks of White Clay Creek near the Stanton entrance to Delaware Park, was built prior to the American Revolution. George Washington held a council of war there with his top echelon officers on September 6, 1777.</p> <p>The house, unoccupied for a number of years, had been deteriorating rapidly until the Cooch's Bridge Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution and the Delaware Society for the</p> |

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| | | <p>Preservation of Antiquities began a cooperative venture to restore it.</p> <p>The DAR chapter purchased the house and turned it over to the recently rechartered Preservation Society, a statewide nonprofit organization.</p> <p>Restoration was started recently with the replacing of the roof. The work is being directed by the architectural firm of Whiteside, Moeckel & Carbonell. The general contract was given to DiSabatino & Ranieri, Inc.</p> <p>After the roof is restored, work will be done as money is made available to the Preservation Society. As much of the original materials as possible will be used in the restoration, and features added in modern times, such as the plumbing system, will be removed, according to Ernest Lundgren of the architectural firm.</p> <p>Not all the materials in the house are original. The bricks of one section were imported from England, dating to prerevolutionary times, Lundgren said. The bricks of another part of the house were made later in America.</p> <p>The floors in the original section of the restored house will be mostly original wood, Lundgren said. Most of the boards will be refinished and a few will have to be replaced. A new first floor added by recent residents will have to be ripped out to reach the original floor.</p> <p>The Preservation Society is also planning tree surgery on the 200 year-old tree in front of the house, according to Mrs. Harry Clark Boden, Newark, who has been instrumental in marshalling support for the restoration project. The old tree, about five feet in diameter, is like the house, badly in need of repair. Rotted wood will be removed and the hollows filled with concrete.</p> <p>Eventually the grounds will be landscaped. There are plans to set up a small museum in the house featuring the Battle of the Brandywine which began in the Stanton-Newark area and shifted to Chadds Ford.</p> <p>But, Mrs. Boden pointed out, completion of the Boyce House project and the restoration of other historic buildings in the state depends on public interest. Funds must come from contributions. It will cost roughly \$35,000 for the most basic reconstruction work on the Boyce House.</p> <p>Contributions should be made out to the Cooch's Bridge Chapter of the DAR, rather than to the Preservation Society because the recently rechartered society has not yet received its federal tax exempt status for nonprofit organizations.</p> <p>Contributions should be addressed to Mrs. J. Gifford Weaver, 10</p> |
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| | | | Windsor Road, North Hills. Contributors are asked to include a notice that the money is for the Boyce House restoration project. |
| 1962 4/4 | HB Agnes Nolan files | WNJ article clipping | <p style="text-align: center;">New Friends for an Old House</p> <p>A staunch colonial brick house of historic as well as architectural importance is the so-called Boyce House opposite the Stanton entrance of Delaware Park racetrack. It's no wreck. Cost of restoration seems reasonable enough at the estimated \$35,000 –provided there's a prospect for usefulness and means for upkeep.</p> <p>Such a prospect is now held out, and none too soon at that. Highway Department plans have called for the house's removal to make way for a change in Del. 7, the road it fronts on. We are pleased that the State Senate seems still willing to consider a resolution in general opposition to the erasing of historic sites ahead of road building.</p> <p>For it looks as if a groundswell of support for the Boyce House is rising fast. First impetus came when it was bought last December by the Cooch's Bridge DAR. That group, not equipped by itself to use or maintain the house, is willing to transfer it to the newly revived Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities. We understand a possible future for the house is its becoming a headquarters and meeting place for a number of patriotic societies of the state.</p> <p>So while the highway authorities are trying to see how to improve the road without destroying the old house, the interested societies and citizens can busy themselves in further plans for raising funds and establishing future use.</p> <p>The auspices just now are most favorable. Archivist Leon deValinger Jr. is chairman of an interim committee for the Boyce House. Meanwhile the state chapter of the American Institute of Architects is leading a get-together of historical societies and women's organizations for a statewide effort in spotting and evaluating the kinds of old structures that ought to be saved.</p> <p>If you ask us, not only the Boyce House but a lot of other cherish able old landmarks will soon be getting the kinds of friends they so badly needs.</p> |
| 1963 1/4 | HB Agnes Nolan file | Wilm Morning News Clipping | <p>Wilm. Morning News Clipping. 1/4/63. P 7.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tidewater Co. to Finance Boyce House Tree Project</p> |

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| | 1/4/63. P 7. | <p>The work of preserving the trees around the Boyce House will be financed through a gift from the Tidewater Oil Co.</p> <p>This was announced yesterday by Mrs. Harry Clark Boden, vice president of the Delaware Society for Preservation of Antiquities, who expressed appreciation for the company's gift.</p> <p>Work will begin within the next few days on the preservation of the 200 year-old sycamore tree in front of the house, Mrs. Boden said. The tree is known to have been standing at the time that Washington's officers held a conference in the Boyce House and it is thought probable that assembled under the tree waiting for the conference to begin.</p> <p>The historic building is located on Route 7, near Stanton. Walter Harrison, Jr., who is in charge of community relations projects for Tidewater, said yesterday the company was glad to assist in the plans for the preservation of this historic home and its grounds.</p> <p>Mrs. Boden praised the company for its interest in the community and said the fund would be used, not only to preserve the old sycamore, but to preserve several other trees on the property. Alfred H. Rosin, foreman of Telford and McLeod, tree surgeons will be in charge of the project.</p> <p>A large limb high in the old sycamore which was broken sometime ago but which is caught near the top of the tree will be removed first. Then all rotten limbs and parts will be removed and preservatives added.</p> <p>With this work, it is believed the ancient tree has many more years of life ahead of it.</p> <p>Other trees on the property are at the rear of the house. They will be pruned and treated. General landscaping of the property, will, however be deferred until later when work on the house itself will be completed.</p> <p>G. Morris Whiteside II is the architect on the restoration of the house itself. The front of the house was recently sand-blasted to show the original bricks and chimneys were repaired. Detailed drawings of the interior are now being made so that changes that may now be necessary to bring the house to what it was in 1777 can be made during the preservation and restoration work.</p> <p>Other firms or individuals interested in helping to finance the restoration should send their contributions to the Cooch's Bridge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, earmarked for</p> |
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| | | | <p>the Boyce House, Mrs. Boden said.</p> <p>The Chapter is receiving the donations since the recently reactivated Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities has not yet been granted tax exempt status.</p> |
| 1968 12/28 | HB Agnes Nolan file | WNJ article | <p>(Newspaper clipping: title was cut off from the article) By William P. Frank</p> <p>The old Boyce house near Stanton now belongs to about 100 Daughters of The American Revolution who are determined it will not be victimized by highway construction.</p> <p>The house, about 200 years old, is where Gen George Washington held a council of war in 1777, before the Battle of Brandywine.</p> <p>It has been purchased by the Cooch's Bridge DAR from Mrs. Elizabeth Walker of Stanton.</p> <p>And, to show that the house is no longer forsaken, Mrs. Harry Clark Boden of Newark had a Christmas wreath placed on the front door. Mrs. Boden has been leading the campaign to preserve the house as part of Delaware's historical heritage.</p> <p>The sale also included ½ acre of land stretching to the White Clay Creek. In purchasing the house—once one of the finest examples of American Georgian architecture in northern Delaware—the DAR is serving notice upon the State Highway Department that everything possible will be done to save the house when Route 7 from Stanton to Christiana is widened to four lanes.</p> <p>The State Highway Department says it will cost about \$35,000 to change plans and design the highway so it will not go through the site of the house. The State Highway Commission has decided that if the people who want to save the Boyce House will pay the department \$35,000, the plans will be changed.</p> <p>The recently organized Committee for the Preservation of the Old Boyce House isn't ready to commit itself on that offer but some of its members thought the first step was to have a patriotic or civic organization buy the house.</p> <p>Gov. Elbert N. Carvel is honorary chairman of the committee and State Archivist Leon deValinger is temporary chairman. It is expected that eventually the Society for the Preservation of Delaware Antiquities will be revived and will take over efforts to restore and maintain the house through public subscriptions.</p> <p>The house has greatly deteriorated in the last few years. Its first need will be a new roof. This will be the immediate project of the DAR.</p> |

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| | | | <p>One of the next steps will be an architectural survey to learn more about what is really “old” in the house and what had been added during the years.</p> <p>There’s no sound estimate as to what it would cost to restore the house, but a tentative figure that’s being used is \$38,000.</p> <p>It is difficult to establish the date of construction. 1755 is a guess. It was once used as a Friends meeting house and also it is thought it was once an inn with a dock on White Clay Creek across from Bread and Cheese Island. The creek was navigable about 200 years ago.</p> <p>The House gets its name from its former owner, the late Truxton Boyce, who was a legislator, magistrate, and one of the early Prohibition administrators of Delaware.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1971 7/28 | HB Agnes Nolan file | Letter to Edward R. Bachtle, ASLA From Augustine Fortunato | <p style="text-align: right;">Fortunato & Sons, Inc. Contractors & Builders 1811 Lancaster Avenue. Wilmington, Delaware 19805 Phone 655-8276 July 28, 1971</p> <p>Edward R. Bachtle, A.S.L.A. Landscape Architect 111 Jefferson Street Wilmington, Delaware</p> <p>RE: Hale Burns House [sic]</p> <p>Dear Sir:</p> <p>We are pleased to submit our price of \$23,757.40 to do the following:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Parking area</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$3,806.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excavation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">620.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fill</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,893.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brick Steps</td> <td style="text-align: right;">416.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brick Walks</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,528.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brick Paving, terrace and entrance pad</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5,493.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.R. tie wall</td> <td style="text-align: right;">900.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stone tree wall</td> <td style="text-align: right;">840.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drainage structures and pipes</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,880.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grading</td> <td style="text-align: right;">550.00</td> </tr> </table> | Parking area | \$3,806.40 | Excavation | 620.00 | Fill | 3,893.40 | Brick Steps | 416.00 | Brick Walks | 1,528.30 | Brick Paving, terrace and entrance pad | 5,493.60 | R.R. tie wall | 900.00 | Stone tree wall | 840.00 | Drainage structures and pipes | 1,880.00 | Grading | 550.00 |
| Parking area | \$3,806.40 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Excavation | 620.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fill | 3,893.40 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brick Steps | 416.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | <p>Concrete curb 2,198.40 Demolition & remove 2 trees 850.00 Clean Site 260.00 Seeding <u>520.00</u> \$23,757.40</p> <p>If #7 wall is of stone, add the sum of \$3,740. If No.7 wall is of brick, add the sum of \$2,478. Deduct \$3,528 for 20 x 42 back terrace.</p> <p>If brick is supplied by owner for terrace deduct the sum of \$378. If brick is supplied by owner for entire job, deduct the sum of \$616.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Very truly yours, A Fortunato & Sons, Inc.</p> <p>Augustine M. Fortunato</p> |
| 1971 9/9 | HB Barbara McEwing Papers | Letter to Lynn Sprankle, DSPA from E. Berkely Thompson, Div of Hist & Cult Affairs | <p>State of Delaware. Department of State. Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. Eugene Bunting, Secretary of State</p> <p>September 9, 1971</p> <p>Mr. Lynn D. Sprankle, President Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities 202 Country Club Drive Wilmington, Delaware 19803</p> <p>Dear Mr. Sprankle:</p> <p>I have received the Deed to the Hale-Byrnes House from Mr. Iank. Since the property has now been officially transferred to the State, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities once again for its great generosity in presenting this valuable historic property to the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.</p> <p>I will look forward to working with the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities on future endeavours of mutual interest, and I hope that you will convey my best wishes to the members of the</p> |

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| | | | <p>Society. Sincerely, E. Berkeley Tompkins, Director Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. EBT/sjp</p> <p>Cc: Mrs. Harry Clark Boden IV</p> |
| 1971 9/22 | HB-Agnes Nolan File | Wilm Morning News? | <p>Clipping showing only image of north exterior wall and headline.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State Acquires Historic 1750 Home.</p> |
| 1971 11/16 | HB-Agnes Nolan File | Wilm Morning News Nov 16, 1971 | <p>Article in Morning News. 11/16/1971. Excerpt: Hale-Byrnes House due for Ceremony A Chippendale mirror of 1769 will be dedicated at the Hale-Byrnes House near Stanton by its donors, The Delaware State Society , Daughters of AMERICAN Colonists +...in memory of Mrs. David Eastburn, a past regent. Mrs. Eastburn was very active in the restoration of the house, by the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities...[The house] was recently turned over to the State by the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities and now comes under the jurisdiction of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs</p> |
| 1976 | HB Agnes Nolan file | Xerox. Article in Bicentennial edition, Historic Landmarks of Delaware and the Eastern Shore by Macdonald, Published by De State Society, Daughters of the American Colonists. Edited by Agnes P. Nolan | <p>Excerpt: During the 19th century, the house and mill were owned by a number of different persons. In 1844, when owned by the prominent lawyer, Andrew Gray, the old mill burned down. In 1905, the property was purchased by U. Lawrence and W. Truxton Boyce. Since it remained in this family for 56 years, it was long known as "The Boyce House."</p> <p>In 1961, seeing that the old Boyce House was scheduled for demolition, Mrs. Harry Clark Boden of Newark contacted interested persons and organized a committee to preserve the house. The property was purchased in the name of the Cooch's Bridge Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution and, a year later, was turned over to the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities. It is now landscaped and furnished with authentic 18th century antiques. The Delaware Daughters of the American Colonists were proud to donate all profits from the sale of the first and second editions of "Historic Landmarks of Delaware and the Eastern Shore" to this restoration. The Hale-Byrnes House is open, by special arrangements, for meetings by writing to the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.</p> |
| 1979 | HB | Historic | DRAFT: Historic Preservation Fund of Delaware (In HB file, attached to |

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| 3/12 | Whiteside Files | Preservation Fund of Delaware | Colwyn Krusman's letter to DSPA Board above): Outline of Proposed Charter for Historic Preservation Fund of Delaware |
| 1979 3/12 | HB Whiteside Files | Letter from Colwyn S. Krussman, President DSPA to Board members | <p>Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, Inc.</p> <p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>A luncheon meeting of the Board of Trustees is called for 12:00 noon at the Georgetown Room of the Hotel DuPont on Friday, July 27, 1979.</p> <p>I will ask that the following suggestions be considered, if it is our decision to disband.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a sum be set aside for the purpose of establishing a memorial to Mrs. Boden at the Hale-Byrnes House. Specifically that the circular area in the driveway be planted with trees and shrubs and appropriately marked as a memorial. 2. That the remains of the Alrich House, currently in storage at the Marine terminal, be given to some other organization to be used as part of a preservation restoration effort. Interest has been expressed by the owners of the Shannon Tavern (Christiana) and the Old Swedes Neighborhood Foundation. 3. That the balance in the treasury, after all outstanding bills are paid upon disbandment, be donated to the newly created Historic Preservation Fund of Delaware (the attached document will provide further information). The fund is jointly sponsored by the Greater Wilmington Development Council and the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. <p>The discussion will be open to other proposals made either in person or in writing by members of the Board of Trustees.</p> <p>If you require further information concerning the meeting or on any of the proposals made above you may contact me on Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays at 654-6237. If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to make any comment on these proposals, suggest alternatives or have any additional business to be brought before the meeting please communicate in writing to the Secretary, Mr. Robert L. Alphin.</p> <p>Sincerely yours,</p> |

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| | | | <p>Colwyn S. Krussman, President</p> <p>Cc: Mr. Robert L. Alphin Suite 13, Independence Mall 1601 Concord Pike Wilmington, Delaware</p> |
| 1982-11/5/85 | HB Files Whiteside Files | DSPA Overview by SFD Miller. | <p>Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, Inc. 606 Stanton-Christiana Rd., Newark, DE 19713 (302) 998-3792</p> <p>A run-down in our efforts to Re-activate Hale Byrnes House</p> <p>1982. 1. Was notified of the fact that H-B was being used by the University of Delaware for History Department classes and that the contents had been removed and the house was in bad condition. My sadness was echoed by others. So contacts were started.</p> <p>Dr. [Larry] Henry, then head of State's H&C called me. He asked where we wished the contents sent. I said we had not present depository and asked him if they could store them. He assured me they would. He also said that the U of D was using some artifacts for class lessons.</p> <p>1983. 2. Our further concern brought forth two meets at the State office building in Wilmington) one of which the State failed to appear, but fortunately Sen. Berndt did.)</p> <p>Two meets with State H&C followed. . One at Buena Vista and another later in the kitchen of H-B House, when we were told that the U of D had leased the house for another year and that we would have to lease it from the State in order to restore it to a more public use. It was tacitly understood that the contents of the House would be returned if we would manage it.</p> <p>1984. 4. We started organization—interviewed many and contracted a fine young couple as Residents who would share responsibility to up-keep of HB. Started contacts: including re-association with former sponsoring group D.S.P.A. and joined them in “original” efforts to save the House again. Got a membership drive going –a Board of responsible people—assigned singular duties and started to build committees and activities—set up regulations for Hosts and Speakers and Use of House—with fine success to fulfill our promise to the State.</p> |

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| | | | <p>1985. 5... All of above within 1 ½ years! Plus, initiating contacts for necessary repairs and development needed in various concerns for the property and its future use to the State. State has followed through in all but two major needs—that of our use of the State Highways Dept right-of-way for a much needed parking area, and in helping us furnish the newly expanded areas of the house.</p> <p>S.F.D. Miller 11/5/85</p> <p>G. Morris Whiteside 111, Ores., Kip K. Boden, 1st Vice Pres., Sarah F.D. Miller, 2nd Vice Pres.,</p> |
| <p>1984 3/20</p> | <p>HB Barbara McEwing Papers</p> | <p>letter to Krussman from G. Morris Whiteside</p> | <p>Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, Inc. 606 Stanton-Christiana Road, Stanton, DE 19713 3/20/1984</p> <p>Mr. Colwyn S. Krussman 1412 Lovering Ave. Wilmington, DE 19806</p> <p>Dear Colwyn:</p> <p>We are in dire need of the old “Antiquities” by-laws and complete records in your possession. Will you please respond by an immediate search of your artifacts to help us? You may call Chic Draper at 654-9257, or write him at Methodist Country Home, 4830 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, 19807, and we will pick them up.</p> <p>Sincerely appreciating your prompt effort to do so. George Whiteside, President Del. Soc. Preserv. Antiquities</p> <p>Hand-written note at bottom of copy of this letter says:</p> <p>Dear Mr. Draper, Please find enclosed material on the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, Inc. that I have been able to locate thus</p> |

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DELAWARE SOCIETY FOR PRESERVATION OF ANTIQUITIES HISTORY OF THE HALE BYRNES HOUSE

TRANSCRIPTION OF AGNES P. NOLAN SCRAPBOOK, WITH GEORGE M. WHITESIDE FILE
& BARBARA Y. MCEWING FILE, LOCATED AT DSPA-HALE BYRNES HOUSE.
AUGUST 26, 2015

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| | | | <p>far. There may be some additional things stored with [Greenwood Bank Sheys??? Editor's Note: Hard to decipher this handwriting]. I shall be going through these over the next two months and I shall forward to you anything I find.</p> <p>Sincerely, Colwyn S. Krussman</p> | | |
| 1985 | HB Whiteside files | Circa 1985 from G. Morris Whiteside, President | <p>Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, Inc.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Officers</p> <p>Geo Whiteside, Pres Kip Boden, Vice Pres John Sweeney Milton Draper, Treas Donna Draper, Sec'y Sarah F.D. Miller, Corr Sc'y</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Bd of Directors</p> <p>Harry Diehl Dorothy Greer Agnes Nolan Mrs. Eastburn MarySam Ward Joe Monigle</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Dear Friends of Delaware Landmarks:</p> <p>A small group interested in endangered historic buildings in Delaware has recently reactivated the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities.</p> <p>Although interested in all neglected historic sites and buildings, our immediate concern is the charming Hale-Byrnes House, a fine Georgian Colonial structure, an important part of our heritage, located at the junction of routes 7 and 4 in New Castle County. This building is in disrepair and greatly needs our help.</p> <p>This was the first building in Delaware to have had affixed the bronze label "Heritage Plaque" and is now on the National Register of Historic Places. This house has a beautiful location at a landing on White Clay Creek, a scene of busy commerce in 18th century Delaware. In 1772 Daniel Byrnes, a well-to-do miller bought the house and a mill beside it from Samuel Hale, a potter, who had it built in 1750. [Editor's note: Byrnes actually bought it from David Finney of New Castle who had owned it for twenty years before selling it to Byrnes).</p> <p>Byrnes, who later became a Quaker minister, added a section to the house in order to make it comfortable for his wife Dinah and his three children. Unfortunately, the mill burned down in 1844. The Byrnes moved to Philadelphia in 1790. The house had many occupants since then but particularly the family of W. Truxton Boyce who lived there a half century.</p> | <p>Officers</p> <p>Geo Whiteside, Pres Kip Boden, Vice Pres John Sweeney Milton Draper, Treas Donna Draper, Sec'y Sarah F.D. Miller, Corr Sc'y</p> | <p>Bd of Directors</p> <p>Harry Diehl Dorothy Greer Agnes Nolan Mrs. Eastburn MarySam Ward Joe Monigle</p> |
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| | | | <p>On September 6, 1777, Generals Washington, Lafayette, Wayne and Green held a council of war at this house a few days before the Battle of the Brandywine.</p> <p>In 1961 the State Highway Department was about to demolish this property in order to widen Route 7 when Mrs. Harry Clark Boden, a leader in historic preservation, reorganized the Delaware Society for Preservation of Antiquities with new members and rescued the valuable Hale-Byrnes House. One of the directors of the society, architect G. Morris Whiteside ii, made plans for the restoration. Following his death, the work was continued by Albert Kruse.</p> <p>With the help of Mrs. Boden and the Delaware Daughters of the American Colonists, the house was beautifully restored and they added a number of authentic antiques along with other furnishings. The 200 year-old sycamore tree in front was restored with funds from Tidewater Oil Company.</p> <p>For about fifteen years Mr and Mrs Vittaco were efficient caretakers who helped with meetings of patriotic societies and others. But alas, this fine couple could no longer serve because of the death of Mr. Vittaco. Meanwhile the Cooch's Bridge DAR, for whom Mrs. Boden purchased the house had given it to the Society for Preservation of Antiquities, who in turn had turned it over to the State of Delaware, under the direction of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.</p> <p>For protection, the State has stored the valuable antiques in Dover and has allowed the University of Delaware to make some use of this building. It needs caretakers; it needs security; it needs funds in spite of the fact that a little money is available.</p> <p>The Division of Cultural Affairs is willing for us to lease it if we can finance and manage it. They will make major repairs. There are plans for relocating the present busy Route 7. We will need to charge small fees for membership, meetings, etc.</p> <p>If you are willing to help in any way, please fill in the enclosed form and mail it in the enclosed envelope.</p> <p>Our society and all lovers of our Delaware heritage will welcome you.</p> <p>Sincerely, ##</p> |
| 1987 7/22 | HB Barbara | Letter from Jim Stewart | State of Delaware Department of State |

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| | McEwing Papers | to Harry Diehl, DSPA | <p>Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs Bureau of Museum and Historic Sites 102 South State Street P.O. Box 1401</p> <p>July 22, 1987</p> <p>Mr. Harry A. Diehl, Treasurer Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities 4654 Norwood Drive (Liftwood Estates) Wilmington, DE 19803</p> <p>Dear Mr. Diehl:</p> <p>I am answering your letter of July 13 on behalf of Dean Nelson. First of all we would like to wish your group good luck for your Harvest Festival in October.</p> <p>As to the money mentioned in your letter, the four thousand dollars in this year's budget must be used for maintenance or development of the house and grounds. Our fiscal budget runs from July 1, 1987-June 30, 1988.</p> <p>The five thousand dollars was in Fiscal Year 1986 and paid for the paving of your driveway. I have attached a copy of the contract for the work.</p> <p>I hope this answers your questions.</p> <p>Sincerely, James A. Stewart Curator of Historic Buildings</p> |
| 1994 Spring | HB Agnes Nolan file | DSPA newsletter Spring 1994 | <p>Excerpt: Spring 1994. New Board members elected. George Whiteside has resigned, Nancy Sawin new President. Donna Draper, VP; Martha Schiek, Treasurer; Jeanne Funderburk, Secretary. Kip Boden, honorary VP; Lucy Barnes; Anna May Case; Harry Diehl; Lucie Larnick; John Sweeney, advisor.</p> <p>...In February 1993 James Stewart and 23 other persons representing the State of Delaware visited the House and DSPA's management of the House met with their approval... In terms of maintenance and improvements: Two items stand out. The State of Delaware has cut back on their assistance on maintenance and will only assist when</p> |

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| | | | <p>the cost is over a \$1,000 versus the previous cap of \$400. In addition, up to this time the State was self-insured on their Historical Properties but now the lease (DSPA) must pick up fire insurance. These two changes increase our needs for additional members and more contributions as in 2013 our increased costs were about \$1500. As this is being written the harsh winter of 1993-1994 is still with us. The bad weather in February caused an ice jam on the White Clay Creek just below the House and a flood developed, putting 4 feet of water in the basement and causing \$600 damage to the furnace.</p> <p>Caretakers Angelo and Leonora Grillo have completed their residency at Christiana Hospital and will be leaving in mid-summer. They have been wonderful caretakers for the past four years and will be missed.</p> |
| 1995 Spring | HB Agnes Nolan file | DSPA newsletter Spring 1995 | <p>Newsletter Excerpt: July, 1994 brought excellent new tenants, Drs William and Diane Ziegler of Christiana Hospital. They are exceptionally helpful in the care of the house.</p> |
| 1995 9/22 | HB Barbara McEwing Papers | Newark Post article Page 4A September 22, 1995 | <p>HISTORIC HALE BYRNES HOUSE WORTH THE TRIP By Nancy Turner</p> <p>The Hale-Byrnes House has been a well-kept secret among the line-up of Delaware historic homes, but according to the Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, it's a secret that needs to be told.</p> <p>The Hale-Byrnes House was the first building in Delaware to receive the State "Heritage Plaque." It is now on the National Register of Historic Places.</p> <p>For years, the care and maintenance of this Georgian brick home located in Stanton, just east of Route 4, has been a labor of love for DSPA. "But now we are getting older," said Nancy Sawin, DSPA president. "We are concerned about the future of this house because we don't see enough young people with an interest in carrying on the work of preservation."</p> <p>Built before 1750, the Hale Byrnes House is in good structural condition. The first floor is tastefully decorated with furnishings from the period. It has original yellow pine floors, walk-in fireplace, raised panel wainscoting, and original mantles. Standing high on the bank of the White Clay Creek, the sic-on-nine windows offer a serene view of Bread and Cheese Island. A 250 year old Sycamore tree shades the opposite side of the house.</p> <p>The first floor of the Hale Byrnes House is home to the George Washington Society Library. The second floor, which has a converted</p> |

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| | | <p>kitchen and bath, is home to a local physician who oversees the maintenance of the property.</p> <p>The original portion of the house was built by Warwick Hale, a millwright who in turn, left the house top his son, Samuel, a potter. Hale brought the exterior bricks, which are set in Flemish bond, from England. Daniel Byrnes, a well-to-do miller and Quaker preacher, purchased the house in 1773 and added a left wing.</p> <p>On September 6, 1777, while the Byrnes family lived there, General George Washington held a Council of War at the house prior to the Battle of Brandywine. With him were the Marquis de Lafayette and other high-ranking officers of the Revolutionary army. Afterwards the troops marched north to Chadds Ford where they were defeated at the Battle of Brandywine.</p> <p>In the 1960s, the house faced demolition at the hands of the Delaware Department of Transportation when a new road was planned to traverse the property. Margarita Boden of Newark led a crusade to save and restore the house and it is because of her fight and the efforts of the Delaware D.A.R., the DSPA, and others who joined her that this historic landmark exists today.</p> <p>Board members of the DSPA are: Nancy Sawin, President; Donna Draper, vice president; Kip Boden, honorable vice president; Martha Schiek, treasurer; Jeanne Funderburk, Secretary Lucy Barnes; Anna Mae Case; Ralph Cavanaugh; Harry Diehl; Lucie Larnick; Barbara McEwing; Warner Naudain; John Sweeney; Barbara White.</p> <p>To increase public awareness of the Hale Byrnes House, the DSPA is holding a Collectible Sale on the property on October 7, from 9 am-4 pm. Guests may enjoy a free tour of the house and browse through the wares of more than ten antique dealers offering everything from tea cups to tools. At 11 am and 2 pm. Nancy Sawin will lecture on the identification of unique kitchen and farm implements. Visitors are encouraged to bring any of their own antique tools for discussion.</p> <p>Looking ahead, in October 1996, the Cooch's Bridge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and a delegation from France, "Voyage aux USA Sur Les Traces" de Rochambeau chapter of the DAR, will commemorate that meeting with a reception and ceremony at the house. DSPA is looking for host families for members of the French delegation and volunteers for other projects associated with the event.</p> <p>Anyone wishing to learn more about the DSPA may call Nancy Sawin at 239-2416, Barbara White 737-5792, or Ralph Cavanaugh 737-0180.</p> <p>"It's important for us to look toward the future and think about</p> |
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| | | | what will become of historic places like the Hale-Byrnes House,” said Sawin. “We really hope that there will be another generation to carry on this worthwhile project.” |
| 1997 | HB Agnes Nolan file | DSPA 2/14/97 Letter to Board members from Nancy Sawin, Pres | Excerpt: We have had Venetian blinds replaced as needed—one was completely wrecked by a cat. Reivers has replaced them with clear blinds at a 50% deduction as our nonprofit status allows! Mr, McGrellis cleaned out our basement—two truckloads and would take no \$’s, but I did take him a basket of fruit. Warren is working on the “falling” railroad ties on the bank above our parking area—now we all need to work to recruit new members & possible board members. |
| 1997 | HB Agnes Nolan file | DSPA newsletter Spring 1997 | Excerpt: Maintaining the grounds is a never-ending job, including this spring’s replacement of several timbers in our retaining wall. The cost will be about \$500. The Board is considering preparing and opening the spring house to visitors. In the main house we have replaced a number of venetian blinds. The floors were cleaned and waxed thanks to the hard work of our newest tenant [Ida Smith] who loves the house and works endlessly to maintain it. She and her family have completely painted the upstairs, re-done the floors and furnished it with lovely antiques. |

ⁱ Daniel Byrnes was a leader in the local Quaker Community and Clerk of Wilmington Friends Meeting. White Clay Meeting’s building was constructed circa 1790. Records show that Daniel Byrnes bought this house from David Finney of New Castle in 1773, who in turn, had purchased it from the Hale Family circa 1750.

ⁱⁱ Marguerite duPont Ortiz m. Harry Clark Boden.

ⁱⁱⁱ Philadelphia Campaign 1777-1778

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