

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic HOWARD'S GROVE

and/or common ST. GEORGE BARBER PROPERTY

2. Location

street & number 660 HOWARD GROVE ROAD _____ not for publication

city, town DAVIDSONVILLE _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district

state MARYLAND _____ county ANNE ARUNDEL

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name MARYLAND NATIONAL BANK - EXECUTOR OF ST. GEORGE BARBER ESTATE

street & number _____ telephone no.: _____

city, town _____ state and zip code _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURTHOUSE liber GW 115

street & number SOUTH STREET folio 28

city, town ANNAPOLIS state MARYLAND

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. AA-843

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Howard's Grove is located on the south side of Route 50, 1.1 miles east of the intersection of Route 50 and 424. Though within sight and sound of Route 50, access to the property is by private dirt road on the right of Rutland Road just east of the latter's underpass of Route 50.

The house is sited on high ground facing southwest. Nearby on the northern slope is a small family graveyard with stones dating from 1832 to 1855. At present the house is unoccupied and it's future is uncertain. (For cemetery description see AA-844)

This mid - 19th century house is a modest three bay, two story structure with a steeply pitched and cross gabled roof. There are small end chimneys. A one story hip roof porch was added to the southwest (front) and southeast facades. Forming a "T" plan to the rear of the house is a later addition serving as the kitchen wing.

The main house is constructed of brick laid in 6/1 bond and rests on an ironstone foundation. This is not readily observable because the once exposed brick and stone foundation has been stuccoed. Since exposed brick can be seen above the porch ceiling, the stucco was apparently applied concurrent with the addition of the porch. The eaves of the original structure overhang about 14" and are sheathed in narrow beaded boards. Rather than having a box cornice, the sides and ends of the rafters are enclosed with plain boards. Below the eaves on the gable ends are simple rakeboards which flare at the ends. There is no crownmold.

The entrance is centered on the first story with single 6/6 windows on each side. The doors and windows are recessed within the brick walls. They have no exterior trim and are encased by plain 12" boards with a half round nosing. Aligned above, on the second story, are three similar windows. The windows have 4X4 inch sills. Centered in the cross gable is a rectangular opening with closed louvered blinds hung by heavy ring shaped hinges. The roof is covered with green asphalt shingles.

The porch is set on a continuous double row of cinder blocks and has a cement floor. The ceiling is formed by narrow beaded tongue-and-groove boards. The roof is supported by seven columns on the front with three additional columns on the side. These are 3" square and are constructed of unfinished lumber. They rest on 2" cement footings and have plain wooden caps.

The southeast gable wall has no windows and one door on it's left side. On the right side is an enclosed bulkhead cellar entrance. This structure may predate the porch, the roof of which now extends over it. It is constructed of random width weatherboards which are secured by machine cut nails. The exterior door is plain batten with modern hinges whereas the lower door is made of the tongue-and-groove boards. Both have metal box locks. One side of this entrance way has a curious use of the full face of the brick exposed in the bond with alternate courses laid on edge.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Howard's Grove is a two story, three bay, stucco covered, brick dwelling dating to the middle of the 19th century. In form, plan and materials it is typical of rural vernacular architecture of the tidewater Chesapeake in the late 18th and much of the 19th centuries. Less common is the ironstone foundation of the main house. This type of foundation appears in some numbers in Anne Arundel County in the 18th century, but is extremely unusual by the mid-19th century, suggesting that the foundation may be earlier than the existing house. Similar foundations for a least two early outbuildings are also evident in the yard, indicating the presence of archeological significance as well.

The cellar is the most interesting part of the house, with it's dirt floor, storage bins and bricked in opening. The foundation which is probably supporting it's second house is still in sound condition.

Examples of this style house can be seen throughout rural Maryland. More importantly or significant, perhaps, it marks the end of 2 ways of life. The first as an agricultural estate in the mid-19th century and up until the 1970's a home for the farm manager who served the landowner along with other family retainers scattered over the acreage known today as the St. George Barber Property.

To the north of the house is a small family cemetery with tombstones dating from 1832 to 1855 (see AA-844).

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title			
organization	DAVIDSONVILLE SURVEY TEAM	date	7/20/83
street & number	1521 THEMES DRIVE	telephone	798-6145
city or town	DAVIDSONVILLE,	state	MARYLAND

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

The northeast or rear facade has windows flanking the added wing on the first story three windows on the second spaced the same as those of the front facade. There is a four foot high water table with plain weathering on the left side, where the stucco has eroded. The first floor window on the right side reveals a crudely laid jack arch. The base of the house and a splash gutter on this side also show much erosion.

The one story wing that projects from the center of this same rear facade has a gable roof shingled the same as the main house. It has novelty siding painted white. The wing originally sat on simple brick piers but now the spaces between the piers are enclosed by cement blocks. The exterior door is located on the left of the south-east side; on the right is 4/4 window. The gable end has an inside brick chimney centered on the ridge, and a window offset to the right of it. The northwest side has two windows. The framing around the windows and the door is plain. However, there is an ogee cap molding above the window frames and a ghost of a similar cap above the door. The wing has a simple box cornice which returns on the gable end. Its fascia is constructed from the grooved portion of the novelty siding.

The only opening on the northwest gable end is boarded up, and was possibly a window into the cellar. The water table on this side rises only six to eight inches above grade.

The first floor of the original house consists of a simple hall-parlor plan with the entrance opening directly into the larger southwest room. Inside can be seen a two-light transom above the doorway, which is now concealed by the porch. The door on the gable end has no transom. The door to the kitchen wing does have a transom which is also concealed by that addition. This latter doorway has an unusual threshold of stone and conglomerate which is deeply worn. The plastered chimney protrudes into the gable end of the room and has a thimble opening. The doors and windows have simple beaded trim with mitered cornices. The baseboards are also plain. With one exception the doors all have four panels, raised on both sides. Areas of exposed brown coat plaster appear to be firmly bonded directly to the exterior brick walls. The second and finish coats are very loose. The flooring is narrow and apparently laid over an earlier floor.

A single flight of stairs rises against the interior portion of this room. It is open with the stair treads cut flush to the string board. The ends of the risers and treads are faced with a continuous trim of mitered and deeply beveled two inch wide board. The newel post is 6X6 inches at the base tapering to 4 inches square at the top. It is chamfered except where the three-quarter round banister joins. There is evidence that a large finial was once attached. Each tread has two rectangular balusters. There is a closet below the stairs with a door set in the rear.

Beyond this closet a door in the northeast wall leads onto the space that has been converted into a bathroom. This was achieved by partitioning off a large area of the parlor.

The smaller of the original first floor rooms is now entered to the left of the foot of the stairs. It has a later door with five horizontal raised panels. What remains of the room (with the bathroom space taken from it) is now L-shaped. The only mantel piece in the house is centered on the northwest gable wall. The fireplace has been closed off and a thimble opening exists above the mantel shelf. The surround has flat pilasters. These pilasters have molded chamfers as does the inside of the surround. The mantel shelf has an ovolo edge and is supported by a

of curved and channeled brackets. A flat frieze is relieved by a simple applied rococo design. No hearth is visible.

In the kitchen wing the only notable feature is the second five-panel door.

There are mortised locks throughout the house but all of the knobs are missing with the exception of brown porcelain ones on the lower cellar door.

The second floor has a center passage with an open stairwell with simpler intermediary posts. The balustrade continues around the opening. The front (southwest) window is flanked by vertically placed, two door, cupboards. Since they have applied moldings these appear to be later additions. A window seat joins the cupboards.

Flanking the passage are identical bedchambers. These also have openings for stoves in the chimneys. There are no closets. The flooring on the entire second level is random-width pine.

There is limited opportunity to observe the roof structure through a break in the lath and plaster ceiling above the window seat. The rafters have mitered joints and the intersecting front gable appears to be original. The brick work of the facade continues up into the cross gable. Broad nailers across the rafters are very widely spaced. These are covered with relatively new plywood. It was not possible to study any nails. The louvered blinds serve as ventilation openings.

The four foundation walls of the cellar average 2 feet in thickness and rise an average of 5 feet 10 inches from a dirt floor.

Three of the foundation walls, the southwest, northwest and northeast are all constructed of what appears to be local sandstone. The southeast cellar wall is constructed of a sandstone with a high iron content as evidenced by the deep brownish-red coloration. All four cellar walls have been given a coating of mortar and whitewashed.

Two brick chimneys ascend from the cellar. Brick chimney bases are centered on each gable wall. The chimney on the northwest wall has an 18 inch square knocked into it with a hole for a stovepipe. Signs of use are apparent with the presence of creosote buildup visible through the hole. The southeast wall, which is made of the high iron content sandstone, has a pier made of the same material which juts out 15 inches from the wall and is the same height as the stone foundation, 5 feet 10 inches. It is 7 feet across the face. The second chimney sits atop this pier.

The northeast wall contains a bricked-in opening which begins 5 feet from the cellar floor and is 45 inches wide.

Floor joists supporting the first floor random-width pine flooring are cut with a circular saw and measure 3X9-3/4 inches. They also measure 24 inches on center.

Storage bins line the southwest wall and are constructed of random-width boards which have been cut with a circular saw. There are two bins. The first is 6 feet 6 inches long and 8 feet deep. The second is 8 feet 6 inches long and 7 feet 6 inches deep. Both are fronted by boarding approximately 2 feet high.

Observation and speculation would lead one to believe the cellar of Howard's house is of earlier construction than the house.

This building appears to be sound and structurally stable.

The only usable remaining outbuilding is a cement block pump house northeast of the wing. Other small buildings to the north have deteriorated beyond repair.

After a heavy rain evidence of earlier foundations were visible near the front porch and at the foot of the driveway some 40 feet from the house. These were of the same high iron content sandstone as seen in the cellar's southeast wall.



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