

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: Tom Parran House Survey Number: CT-50

Project: Wireless Communications Tower Agency: FCC

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
 None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on the information provided by the 1977 MIHP form, the house was built in 1898 by Thomas Parran, who was a Member of Congress beginning in 1908. The house is a Queen Anne's style building, with three bays wide. It has a gable roof, and the gable ends are decorated with fishscale and other decorative shingle patterns. There is a tower with a conical roof and a wrap-around porch with decorative spindlework and porch supports. The windows are two over two and the upper sashes have smaller lights in darker colors surrounding the main light. The main building appears to be a single pile with one addition which is smaller than the main building. The distinguishing of the dependencies by decreasing the size of that portion of the building is characteristic of southern Maryland architecture. Thus this house is a high-style building in its architecture, which incorporates the local building aesthetic. There is also a windmill, which is a very rare structure. The Thomas Parran House is therefore eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B, people, because of Congressman Parran's local importance and Criterion C, architecture, because the house is an excellent example of a Queen Anne's style building.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: 1995 Calvert County Architectural Survey Report and MIHP Form(s)

Prepared by: Wayne L. Nield

Anne E. Bruder September 22, 2000
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable

B. Kuntz 9/27/02
Reviewer, NR program Date

(Capsule)

Tom Parran House

According to the Maryland Historical Trust's Historic Sites Inventory, This house "is one of the finest and most attractive examples of Victorian shingle style architecture in Calvert County." It might be proper as well to cite the Thomas Parran house as one of the county's few Queen Anne houses since its exterior exhibits a combination of textures and a juxtaposition of shapes. Shingles of various patterns and clapboards create the varied texture while different sized gables, a pedimented veranda, a projecting bay, plus a polygonal "turret" with a conical cap provide an interesting interplay of different shapes.

One feature of this house which clearly connects it with an earlier era is the windmill. Few have survived.

CT-50

THOMAS PARRAN HOUSE

ca. 1890

One of the finest and certainly the most attractive examples of Victorian shingle style architecture in Calvert County is this structure. As is typical of this type of architecture the many roof gables are decorated with various types of shingles and jig saw patterned boards, irregular fenestration and sash types, and a deep veranda ~~rows~~ around three sides of the house.

RUNNING

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CEVT 50
 MHC I# 050055604

CT-50

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Tom Parran House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

St. Leonard Road (Maryland Route 765)

CITY, TOWN

St. Leonard

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Madeline Parran

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: *AWR* 31/169

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CT-50

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wayne L. Nield II

DATE

Winter 76-77

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER

Broomes Island, Maryland 20615

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Tom Parran's House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

St. Leonards

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Madeline Parran

Telephone #: 586-0633

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 2/4

CITY, TOWN

St. Leonards

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

MD

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Tom Parran's house is most properly described as Queene Anne style and the only other one like it is also on Route 2-4 on the north edge of Solomons. As is typical of the style, the exterior surfaces are defined by contrasting textures and an interplay of various shapes. These textures are accomplished through a use of clapboards, shingles, and square wooden blocks that are raised off of the surface and arranged grid-like in the gables. The house sits on a high cellar made of brick. Swell-fronts, variously sized gables, a turret with a conical roof-cap, and a spindle-porch provide an assembled geometrical shape. Although the house is painted white (and appears to have been) the aspect of color has been introduced via stained glass windows which light the stair-well on the south side.

This is a large house which measures approximately forty-one feet in width and seventy-eight feet in length. There are two full stories above the basement plus servants quarters on a third level. The plan is Victorian in that the rooms are broken up into different size compartments which sort of "spill out" behind the front (west) parlors in an irregular fashion. Although the Tom Parran house is late Victorian, this plan may nevertheless be read as a reaction to the quite regular geometry of earlier Georgian and Greek Revival plans.

The house faces west and unfolds to the east. There is a large verander which runs on all three sides of the front wing and considering the importance given to the porch in pre-air conditioned South, it may be considered the first "room" of this house which one would enter. Large hooks in the ceiling betray an earlier presence of porch swings and one can presume that there was other porch furniture as well. There are three parlors inside and the first of these is the entrance parlor. It is large enough to contain a large green marble fireplace, two sofas, and some chairs as well as the multi-landing staircase. The stained glass windows which light those stairs bathe this room with a gothic light at certain hours of the day. Further elegance is achieved by the fact that the coal burning fireplace is decorated with stylized columns and a Roman arch. The stairs have scrolled step-ends and a fluted newall post.

Doors on either side of the fireplace lead into two more parlors, which occupy the north and south sides of the next section. Polygonal ends simulating swell-fronts provide much light for these high ceiled rooms. Double doors separate the parlors, each of which has its own brown marble fireplace. The south parlor is the smaller of the two and would probably be one of the warmer rooms in winter. Each parlor has a door in the east wall which leads into the dining room. This room is the size of both parlors together and houses a long table, serving tables, and large buffets. The west wall contains yet another fireplace that is decorated with a full wooden mantle made elegant by tall classical columns, a large mirror, and embossed swags and garlands.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1898 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to his second wife, Mrs. Madeline Parran, Senator Tom Parran had this house built in 1898. A biographical sketch of that man is attached.

With its outbuildings the large frame house may be seen as a document of turn-of-the-century rural life, however, there is no denying that the complex is also a symbol of financial success and an example of late nineteenth century polite architecture. This is no mere farm house.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CT-50

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE NEILD

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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#7 Description continued. (CT-50)

A stained glass door leads to a service area and the kitchen is beyond. A back porch serves the kitchen area and is unusual for its chamfered posts. They are but one example of materials found on the property which have an appearance much earlier than the 1898 building date.

Adjacent to the north-east corner of the house is a steel frame windmill that is somewhat taller than the highest point of the roof. The sound of this windmill must have been nearly a constant factor of the environment and today has an eerie quality to it now that the big house is nearly empty.

There are several interesting buildings accompanying the immediate yard. One of these is a relatively modern board-and-batten structure which is used for storage and may possibly have served as a living quarters. The little building on the south side of the house appears to have been a small office. It is constructed of materials which are identical to those in the main house and has been nicely landscaped with box woods.

TOM PARRAN'S HOUSE

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This is a large house which measures approximately forty-one feet in width and seventy-eight feet in length. There are two full stories above the basement plus servants quarters on a third level. The plan is Victorian in that the rooms are broken up into different size compartments which sort of "spill out" behind the front (west) parlors in an irregular fashion. Although the Tom Parran house is late Victorian, this plan may

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A stained glass door leads to a service area and the kitchen is beyond. A back porch serves the kitchen area and is unusual for its chamfered posts. They are but one example of materials found on the property which have an appearance much earlier than the 1898 building date.

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There are several interesting buildings accompanying the immediate yard. One of these is a relatively modern board-and-batten structure which is used for storage and may possibly have served as a living quarters. The little building on the south side of the house appears to have been a small office. It is constructed of materials which are identical to those in the main house and has been nicely landscaped with box woods.

Doors occupy the north and south sides while windows vent the east and west sides. The exterior is painted white and there is evidence of dark green trim.

The most interesting outbuilding, by far, is the meathouse, which is located approximately fifty yards off of the north-east corner of the house. Modern clapboards (rounded edge variety called "old german" by local carpenters) hide the fact that there is much age to this building, or at least to the materials of which it is constructed. The first hint of this fact can be seen from the outside where the exposed rafter ends reveal that the ceiling joists on the beams are made of beaded rafters identical to those found in eighteenth century houses. The frame of this building is a proper post-and-beam construction made of hewn stuff. The most surprising feature of the meathouse is the batten entrance door, which not only contains hand-made and easy cut nails used structurally, but also contained decorative hand-made nails which spell out the name and date, "H.C. Task, 1813". The nails, large key holes, and the remains of leather strap hinges, do not contradict that date.

That the meathouse is on its original site and survives another house is possible, but unlikely. Mrs. Parran, who was not yet married to Mr. at the time the house was built, does not think that there was an earlier house on this site. She does recall that there was an earlier house on the same property (over five-hundred acres), however, that is no longer standing. The likelihood that the meathouse was built of materials salvaged from this or some other early house is great.

THOMAS PARRAN



TOM PARRAN

One of the best known and best beloved citizens of Calvert County is Thomas Parran, who has lived to see almost a hundred of Calvert's three hundred years. He is 94 years old, and his humor and career are legend in his county.

He was born on February 12, 1860 at Chestnut Hill, located on St. Leonard's Creek, the son of Thomas Parran and Mary Evelyn Sollers, both descendents of the early settlers of Calvert County. His memories begin as a little boy of five on his father's tobacco farm when he recalls the soldiers riding through the area in search of John Wilkes Booth after the assassination of Lincoln.

As a young boy, Mr. Parran worked on his father's farm, raising tobacco which sold anywhere from 5 to 20 cents a pound. When he was 17, he attended Charlotte Hall Military Academy for two years. He returned to the farm, but his career as a farmer was soon interrupted because at the age of 21, he was appointed tax collector of Calvert County, a job which required riding throughout the county on horseback.

In 1883, when he was just 23 years old, he was nominated for the Senate of Mary-

land on the Republican ticket, but it was soon realized that he was not of the required age. He was nominated for the House of Delegates instead and served two terms.

In 1887, Mr. Parran was elected to the State Senate. Following that he served as Clerk of the Court of Appeals in Annapolis, and then he went on to become Index Clerk in Congress. In 1908 he was elected to United States Congress as a member of the House of Representatives. He likes to recall dining with President William Howard Taft in the White House several times. During the presidential campaign of 1952, he reminisced with Senator Robert Taft during a political meeting at the Lord Baltimore Hotel where he has spent many winters.

Mr. Parran, better known as Uncle Tom or just Tom Parran, has always interested himself in projects concerned with civic improvements. He was appointed State Road Commissioner by Governor Phillips Lee Goldsborough, he helped organize the County Trust Company in Prince Frederick and served as its president for many years, he organized and became president of the Maryland Tobacco Growers Association a position he subsequently held for 23 years.

Along with his other activities, Mr. Parran operated a tobacco farm at St. Leonard where he lives today. For many years he was chairman of the Republican State Central Committee.

His first wife died in 1918 and in 1920, he married Madeline Bond, a cousin of his first wife and they had four children, Thomas Jr., Mary Lancaster, Annie Bond and Elizabeth Sollers.

His active, successful life can be attributed to his great love for all people, reflected in his perpetual good humor and kindness. Calvert County has been proud of his representation in local, state and national affairs. He has continued his keen interest in politics and current affairs up to the present, although he has become less active in recent years as a result of two falls, one in 1942 and again in 1950, breaking the same hip. He reads a newspaper avidly.



CT-50

T. PARRAN

E.

Wayne Nieuw

Jul. '77



CT. 50

T. PARRAN

W.

Wayne Nield

Jul. '77



CT. 50
T. PHOENIX
S.W.

Wayne Nield

Jul. '77



CT-50 VICTORIAN HOUSE WITH TOWER