

**Addendum to  
Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Inventory of  
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. CAR-141

Page 1 of 1

Name of Property: Controversy, The Cawley House

Location: Caroline County

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7. Description:

Controversy, the ca. 1800, wood-frame farmhouse that was located along Shore Highway (MD 404) approximately one-mile west of the Choptank River, is no longer extant.

11. Form Prepared by:

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TRC Environmental Corporation

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Suite B

Lanham MD 20706

August 2015

Prepared by: SHA / TRC ENVIRONMENTAL CORP.

Date: 8/2015

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Controversy

AND/OR COMMON

Cauley House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Md. Rt. 404, approximately 1 mile west of the Choptank River

CITY, TOWN

Denton

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Caroline

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Wayne A. Cauley

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 3, Box 196

CITY, TOWN

Denton

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21629

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Caroline County Courthouse

Liber #: 149

Folio #: 398

STREET & NUMBER

Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Denton

STATE

Maryland 21629

**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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cauley House is located on Maryland Route 404 approximately one mile west of the Choptank River and Denton in Caroline County. It is a frame structure that has undergone various alterations and enlargings, and contains some good nineteenth century woodwork.

The house is two storys with a five bay main (north) facade and a central hall plan. There is a single room to each side of the central hall and a three room ell on the east side rear wing. There are 6/6 pane sash windows asymetrically placed on the main facade. There is a three bay entrance porch with wood posts and ornamental brackets and trim. Brick chimneys are locate inside each gable end and midway back of the ell. The house has recently been covered with a green aluminum siding.

The original section of the house and how the house evolved to its current status is uncertain. There is evidence of a solid brick foundation slightly southeast of the present structure, which may have been an earlier dwelling. The present basement is a small brick walled area below the east room of the main house and has been altered variously with bricked in foundation windows and the entrance was changed to its current ground level opening along the east gable end. The interior woodwork of the east room and the northernmost room of the ell is characteristic of the early 19th century and probably one of these rooms was the earliest. There is evidence of a corner staircase having once been in the north east corner of the east room. The three bays containing the hall and west room were probably added during the mid 19th century. This progression of additions follows a development pattern similar to several other Caroline County houses. It is on a slightly lower level to accomodate the basement on the east, which the west side does not have, and has molded window and doorway trim of that period. Double doors lead into the parlor, each door has two vertical panels. The staircase was conctructed against the outer wall of the east room and has slender turned newels, square balusters, and an ovoid rail. The mantel piece in the west room has pilasters below a pyramidal section that supports the shelf. The woodwork is continued upstairs but with plainer mantelpieces.

After these improvements the ell was widened on its west side, sections of it raised to a full two storys, and the current owners have recently added a new kitchen to the ell. Most of the early outbuildings have been replaced as necessary with modern farm buildings, but there is an interesting early twentieth century dairy.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cauley House is an excellent example of how houses were altered, and how often they were altered, to suit the needs of the owners, a process that is still going on. Land records show that this property was inhabited in the 18th century. During the latter part of that century, the Willson family established several farms in the immediate area, and in 1806 William Willson left a house, probably a part of the present Cauley House, to his son Jonathan. Jonathan left it to his daughters and in 1872 it was bought by the Pierson family. In the early part of the 20th century the property changed possession several times until the Cauley family bought it in 1917. The current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne A. Cauley, have restored the house, respecting the early architectural features of the house as well as providing for its contemporary use.

An interesting sidelight is a large seemingly man made depression in the ground in a woods about a mile behind the house. In one of the land deed descriptions, this hole is mentioned as being the spot where William and Jonathan Willson dug the clay for the bricks for the foundation of their house.

Cauley House is an unassuming example of a continually used farmhouse in Caroline County with characteristic 19th century woodwork representative of the tastes of that period. The development of the house to its present form follows a peculiar pattern found elsewhere in Caroline County.

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

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant &amp; Joe Getty

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

March, 1977

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

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



CAR 141

Carley House



J. Betty 4/77