

Frazier's Flats CAR-51
Visited 3/11/98
by Michael Bourne & J.O.K. Walsh

It is the intention of the Caroline County Historical Society to salvage whatever architectural fragments from the house as is possible in the near future. Our visit was to confirm the date of construction. There are two inventories for the Fraziers, one dated 1764 and the other 1807. Both inventories are listed by room name. It would appear from our visit that the 1764 inventory room names refers to another house which had a hall-parlor plan. The 1807 inventory included room names that correspond to the rooms that were in the house with the exception of two bed chambers. On examination of the photocopy of the inventory, it appears that there is at least ~~one~~ room name that was omitted. There is a space for the room name, but it was left blank, and the items following included two beds. Mr. Walsh has much data on the personages associated with the plantation.

When this house was visited in 1977 for the inventory of history sites in Caroline County, few notes were taken due to the hostility of the owners, who live in trailers on the farm. Photographs were not allowed at that time, however, photographs in the MHT files, taken in 1966 (slides) and 1970 (by MOB), indicate more building standing than what was standing in 1977. An historic photograph in Mr. Walsh's possession gives an even better understanding of its original appearance. These photos and today's visit recreate a better understanding of the layout of the house.

The building was a large two-and-one-half-story Federal style brick residence, five bays long and three bays deep, covered with a shallow pitched gable roof with two dormers on each side and chimneys rising from the center of the gables. The two principal facades face north and south. There was a frame one story kitchen wing on the west side of the house.

Both the north and south facades were originally identical, with central classical architraves with semicircular fanlights in the five bay facades. The brickwork was laid in Flemish bond with "grapevine"-struck joint above an ovolo-molded water table. Below the water table the wall was two and-one-half bricks thick; two bricks thick above. The basement windows had wide wood frames with iron bars and originally had rusticated wood jack arches. The windows on the first and second stories both had narrow frames set back from the face of the brick surmounted by wooden rusticated lintels with keystones. The three-bay east gable also had the same type of windows and lintels. The first story sash had 9/9 panes and the second story had 9/6 sash. A well executed modillion cornice crowned the north and south facades. There were two dormers on each side of the roof and no gable windows. No description is available for the appearance of the west gable other than the fact that there was a chimney rising above the roof.

The plan of the house is not as indicated in the 1977 report, but consisted of four rooms on the first floor arranged in the same manner as the plan of Pleasant Valley in Talbot

County. The north entrance opened into a stair hall with the stair rising against the north wall, across at least one of the two windows. The finish of this room included baseboard, chair rail and no cornice. The windows were finished with a three-part trim and double recessed panel shutters within the jambs. The three other rooms apparently opened directly from the stair hall, referred to as the "passage below" in the 1807 inventory.

The "drawing room" was located opposite the front door and extended the length of three bays. The east wall contained a plaster chimney breast with a wood mantel flanked by two full size windows. Those windows and the two on the south wall had three-part trim extending to plinth blocks on the floor. Below the window sill the wall was recessed about four inches from the plane of the wall. That recess was simply plastered and did not contain a wood panel that was so common to the period. Like the hall windows, these were also fit with folding interior shutters, the outer face having a recessed panel. There was a bold baseboard, chair rail and plaster cornice. The cornice was composed of the classical elements of crown, fascia, soffit and bed moldings. The south entrance may have been finished in the same manner as the north entry, with trim matching the windows, with impost blocks at the bottom of the semicircular trim of the transom and a keystone at the top of the transom. A six panel door opened into the northeast room from the drawing room. Its jamb through the brick partition was finished with fluting in three sections corresponding to the height of the door panels. Its trim also rested on plinth blocks.

The northeast room may be the one called "Mrs. Frazier's Room" in the 1807 inventory. It still retains some of its green trim. Like the drawing room, the area beneath the windows was recessed, but here the window trim rested on the chair rail and there was no trim on the corners of the plaster recesses. The chair rail and baseboard extended back into the recesses. Like the other first floor windows, these were fit with shutters which fold back forming paneled window jambs. The fireplace chimney breast was set on the diagonal, in the southeast corner of the room. A wood mantel dressed the fireplace, the outline of which is still visible. A bold cove cornice with two torus and cavetto moldings finished off the five walls of the room.

Little is known of the appearance of the southwest room. There was undoubtedly an opening between the stairhall and the southeast room, but it is not known if there was a door into the drawing room or the kitchen. This was undoubtedly the "dining room" in the 1807 inventory. What little is visible in the 1966 photograph creates more questions than answers. A line in the brickwork appears to be either a door or window, but the closers are irregular. If it was either, it would have been located south of the fireplace. An arched cabinet front in the same photographs appears too high on the pile of rubble to have come from the dining room and most likely originated from the southwest corner of the chamber above.

From the photographs, it appears that the plan was slightly different from the first floor. It also appears that the second story partitions were frame and not brick like the ones below. There was the stair passage in the northwest corner of the building with three

chambers in the other three corner rooms which were served with fireplaces plus a corridor between the two south rooms which ran from the stair passage to the central south window. The rooms each had smaller mantels than those below, with wide molded surround a plain frieze with central plinth and a shelf with dentil molding. These mantels were removed from the house several years ago and are in storage in Denton. One was fastened to the wall with cut nails and the other with wrought nails. One surround is a bold ovolo molding and the other is a bold cavetto molding. In each of the rooms of the second story the chair rail terminated at the windows trim; the sills were lower than the chair rail. There was a baseboard but no cornice.

The stair ascended to the attic where there was a door at the top of the steps. Nothing is known of the attic other than it was lighted by four dormer windows.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CAR-51
0600515204

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Frazier's Flats

AND/OR COMMON

Frazier's Flats

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Frazier's Neck Road, 3.2 miles south of Md. Rt. 331

CITY, TOWN

Preston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Caroline

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mabel M. Cole & Wendell H. Lankford

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Preston

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21655

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Caroline County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #: Est. 2078 - 1967

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" 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

Frazier's Flats is located on Frazier's Neck Road approximately three and two-tenths miles south of Maryland Route 331. It is a late eighteenth century Federal style house that was damaged in 1954 by Hurrican Hazel and has been allowed to decay since that time.

The house was two and one-half story, five bays by three bays and constructed of brick. The main facade was Flemish bond with an ovolo water table, a three brick belt course, and a wood modillion and dentil cornice. Two or three pediment dormers were on the roof. The entrance was in the central bay and there is evidence that it had a semicircular fanlight, fluted pilasters, paneled soffit and surround, and a triangular frame or gable porch roof of some type. Other bays on the first story had nine over nine sash windows and the second story bays had nine over six. Each window, including the grilled foundation windows, had applied wood lintels of an imitation masonry flat arch with keystone style. The rear facade was almost identical in fenestration and detail to the main facade. The gable ends had windows in all three bays, nine over nine sash on the first story and nine over six on the second story.

The interior plan had a central hallway with two rooms to each side. Within the ruined pile, some of the interior features, such as the paneled doors, interior shutters, carved mantelpiece, molded chair rails and evidence of other woodwork and plaster ornamentation, remain broken and scattered.

Only two bays of the house remain standing. The owner would not allow pictures to be taken.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architecture and ornamentation of Frazier's Flats shows the influence of the Federal style during the late eighteenth century. The builder of Frazier's Flats was prosperous enough to build in the predominant architectural style of the time and the result was a refined and finely ornamented structure. It was one of the best examples of domestic Federal style architecture in Caroline County, and as it was a symbol of cultivated taste in architecture to its own period, the knowledge of its existence still serves as a symbol of traditional architectural ideas and their impact on Caroline County culture.

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, & Joe Getty

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

February, 1977

STREET & 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



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