

CARR-880

JOHN H. CHEW HOUSE

1853

Finksburg vicinity

private

The John H. Chew House is representative of a farmhouse built by an affluent citizen during the mid-19th century. The house contains the typical characteristics of the period with its two story height, five-by-two bay shape, symmetrical facades and gable roof. The stone construction, rectangular plan and wood ornamentation set this structure off as an architectural statement of a more prosperous farmer. The life of John H. Chew typifies the active farmer of mid-19th century Carroll County, having served in the local church and as a County Commissioner.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John H. Chew House, Pleasant Home

and/or common Chew - Shilling House

## 2. Location

street & number 2051 Bethel Road  not for publication

city, town Finksburg  vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Carroll

## 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"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name M.B. Shilling

street & number 2051 Bethel Road telephone no.: 876-6142

city, town Finksburg state and zip code MD 21048

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County Courthouse Annex liber 276

street & number 55 North Court Street folio 141

city, town Westminster state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Carroll County Historic Sites Survey

date 1975-76  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

# 7. Description

Survey No. CARR-880

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 of move _____
<input 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.

SUMMARY: The John H. Chew House is representative of an affluent Carroll County farmhouse from the mid-19th century. The house contains the typical characteristics of the period with its two story height, five-by-two bay shape, symmetrical facades and gable roof. The stone construction, rectangular plan and wood ornamentation set this structure off as an architectural statement of a more prosperous farmer.

DESCRIPTION: The John H. Chew House is located on Bethel Road, approximately one-half mile north of the intersection of Bethel Road and Md. Rt. 140, Carroll County, Maryland.

A stone-masoned, two and one-half story structure, it is five bays wide and two bays deep. The stone construction is uncoursed fieldstone with larger-sized stones forming quoins. The main facade has a central doorway with wood trim (side half-columns and a broken pediment). Six-over-six windows with wood sills and lintels are in the other bays of the main facade and the bays of both ends. The front cornice has small wood bracket ornamentation. The original central entrance of the rear facade has been moved to the second bay from the north, and six-over-six windows are in the other bays. A partitioned wood porch is being constructed across the full length of the rear.

The floor plan is rectangular with a central hallway containing the main staircase. On the south side, a double parlor runs the full depth of the house and the north side is divided into two rooms (kitchen and dining room). The original arrangement had a central through-passage which was closed to position a powder-room at the hall end in the 20th Century. The interior walls are plastered and have wood-molded chair rails, window and doorway architraves.

The chimneys are located in the gable ends and are constructed of brick. In the south gable is a white stone block with the inscription "Built by J.H. Chew in 1853."

The framing of the house is typical of mid-19th Century construction. Hewn logs of medium size placed parallel to the axis of the central hallway support the floor boards of the side rooms while the boards of the central hallway are laid on joists butt-cogged to the central two hewn supports. The parlor summer beam is visible. The roof frame consists of common rafters strengthened by collars and vertical posts. A wood sheathing covers the rafters to which a tin roof is fastened. This roofing system has no ridge pole nor purlins.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-880

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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** 1853 **Builder/Architect** John H. Chew

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

**SUMMARY:** The John H. Chew House was built in 1853 and is representative of a prominent farmhouse in Carroll County during the mid-19th century. John H. Chew was a prosperous citizen of the county who farmed 115 acres at the house site and also served as County Commissioner.

**HISTORY:** The John H. Chew House is located on Land patented as "O'Brian's Folly" and "Cambridge Resurveyed." A tract of 100 acres was bought by John H. Chew in 1849 from Samuel Devilbess and Nimrod Stevenson. Chew built the stone house in 1853 and ran a farming operation on the land and on an additional 15 acres that he acquired.

John Chew was born near Uniontown in 1823 and died in this stone house near Carrollton in 1886. He exemplifies the rural farmer and businessman during this period of growth in American history, particularly through his activities in the community and church. His obituary aptly describes the strong moral and religious sentiments of Chew and how they were intertwined with his life and community leadership-- "He moved to the Carrollton neighborhood where he soon became a leading spirit in the development of that country. His energy, push, good judgement and business capacities secured to him the confidence of his neighbors and acquaintances and for three successive terms he was elected to the office of County Commissioner. He was a staunch, well indoctrinated member of the Church of God. After moving to Carrollton he became the seed corn from which a good, flourishing church grew up and through his influence a good stone Bethel stands near his late home. He was one of the most efficient layman in Maryland--ruling elder of the Carrollton Church and an acknowledged leader of the Maryland--Virginia Eldership occupying and filling with credit every position within the gift of that body."

An article in the April 3, 1886 edition of the Democratic Advocate describes the Chew farm at that time. The principle crops were wheat, rye, corn, clover, timothy, potatoes, and clover seed. Chew had improved the land quality with the application of lime on the soil for the first 25 years of his ownership during the 1880s, he was using pure raw bone as fertilizer. The farm also contained

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8, CARR-880

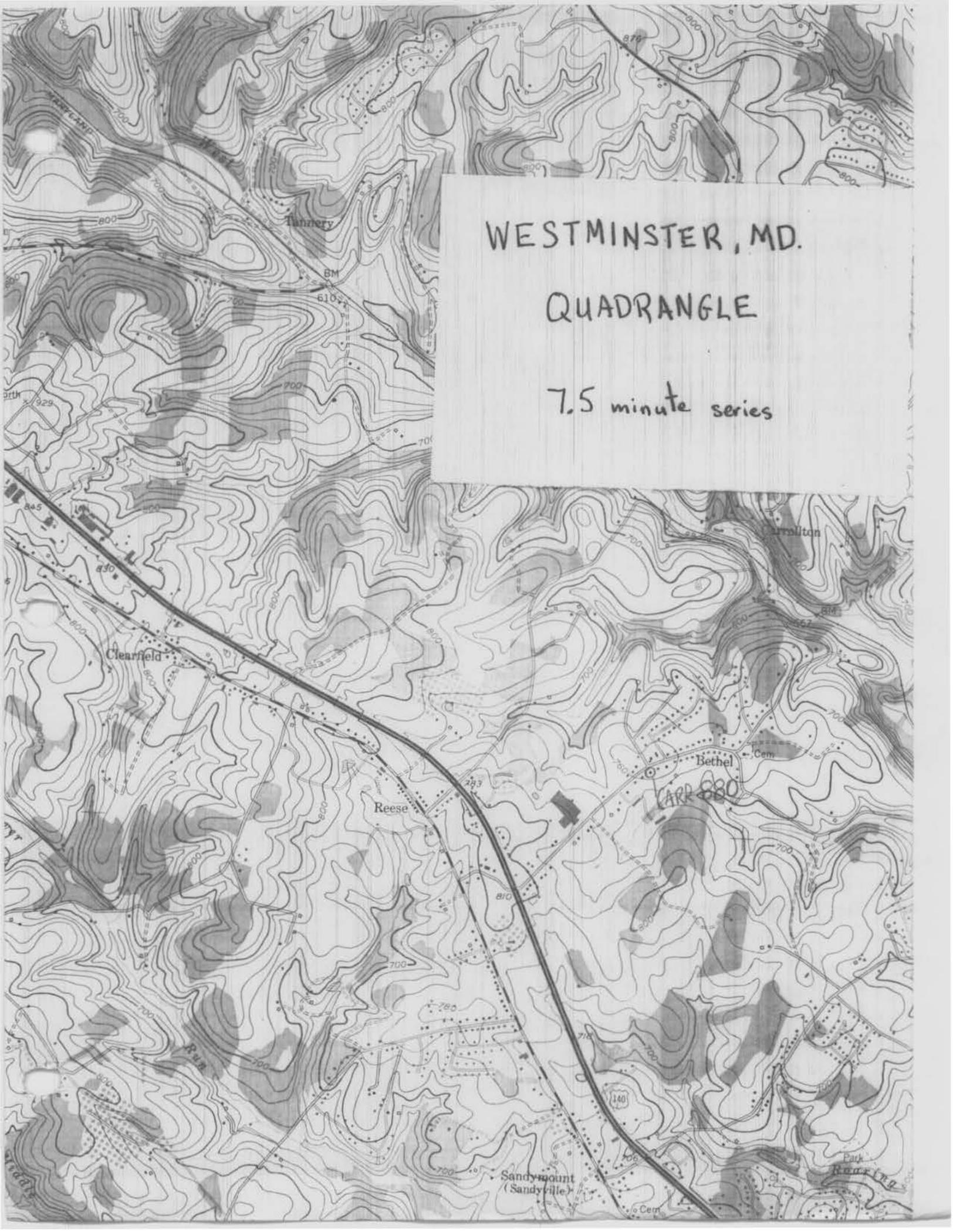
Page

a pear orchard of 200 trees, an apple orchard of 250 trees, blackberry and raspberry fields, 70 cherry trees, and 100 grape vines. Chew's livestock included animals for ordinary farm purposes--three to four head of horses, six to eight head of cattle--and mixture of poultry breeds.

The farm complex as described in the article was: "The main dwelling is of stone, forty by thirty feet, with a portico in front, and two pantry and a porch in the rear. It was built in 1853, and is surrounded by a number of fine shade trees. There is a bank barn, 40 by 60 feet, frame, weatherboarded wagon shed and corn crib, 45 by 20 feet, attached, built in the year 1859; grain barrick, 60 by 20 feet, Ice house, hog house; smoke house; wash house; dairy; two carriage houses; wood and corn houses. Also a house built expressly for keeping machinery from exposure to weather..."

The architecture of the John H. Chew House depicts the regional farmhouse characteristics of the mid-19th century in Carroll County with some refinement in design and ornamentation. The regional characteristics include the two story height, five-by-two bay shape, symmetrical facades and gable roof. However, the stone construction, rectangular plan with central hall and double parlor, and the wood ornamentation show the affluence of the owner.





WESTMINSTER, MD.

QUADRANGLE

7.5 minute series



1. CARR-880 John H. Chew House
2. Carroll Co. Md.
3. Joe Getty
4. October 1975
5. Joe Getty, Manchester, Md.
6. West - South elevation