

CE-890 Benjamin House

c.1740, 1940

The Benjamin House is primarily a 20th Century structure but contained within its walls is the last remnant of the early English Quaker building tradition that once existed in the area. The 2 story 3 bay glazed header Flemish bond brick south wall (main) is the only indicator of the early structure other than the 1740 datestone between the two second story windows. Other early details include segmental arches over basement and first floor windows which have their heavy mortise and tenon window frames. The datestone has the initials W·H and M·H along with the 1740 date and other smaller initials. Complete structures with these same features exist in the Calvert area. (John Churchman House, CE-187 and Mercer Brown House, CE-88)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

FILE # 892

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Benjamin House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side of Route 222 between Johnson Road and Old Conowingo Road

CITY, TOWN

Oakwood

VICINITY OF

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Stanley Benjamin

Telephone #: 378-3002

STREET & NUMBER

Route 222

CITY, TOWN

Conowingo

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21918

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of The Circuit Court

Liber #: RRC 11
Folio #: 238

STREET & NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland

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

The Benjamin House c. 1940 partially consists of a much earlier house that was built in 1740 with the initials W H and M H in a datestone on the front of the house. According to Stanley Benjamin, the present owner, the early house was in rather poor condition so he built a new structure while incorporating the old walls of the 1740 building. The roof was removed and the gable turned to run perpendicularly to its previous orientation. A 2 1/2 story stuccoed block, 3 bays across by 2 bays deep was added to the north side of the earlier section. The entire house was stuccoed except for the first floor of the south facade because of a single story shed porch.

The first floor is built with glazed header Flemish bond brick with a beveled water table. Segmental arches appear over the first floor and basement windows. The mortise and tenon window frames remain, however the early sash windows have not. Between the two windows on the second floor is the slate date stone with the initials W * H and M H and 8 smaller initials H H, W H, M H, T H, and C H. The date 1740 is also inscribed in a larger size. The datestone has a slight pediment.

The interior could not be seen but has been extensively remodeled.

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 1740

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although this house has been extensively altered, it still is evident that the original house was probably a hall/parlor-structure of ^{English} ~~Scottish~~ ~~Irish~~ tradition. No other early structures of this form remain in the area, thus making the remains of this early house extremely important. This house retains the earliest dated ^{date} ~~structure~~ in the Conowingo Area, and attests to the fact that there were early ^{English} ~~Scottish~~ ~~Irish~~ settlements in the vicinity. The specific architectural elements mentioned also retain significance in tying it to similar buildings in the eastern part of the county of similar date. (NAMEY THE JOHN CHURCHMAN HOUSE CE-187 AND THE MERCER BROWNELL HOUSE CE-88)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

[Faint, mostly illegible text describing the verbal boundary description of the property.]

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

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul B. Touart Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Cecil County Committee

DATE

9/6/78

STREET & NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

398-7568

CITY OR TOWN

Elkton

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



BENJAMIN House

CE-890

Southwall

NK

OAKWOOD, MD.

7/78

PBT



CE-890

BENJAMIN HOUSE

SOUTH WALL DETAIL

NR

OAKWOOD, MD.

7/78

PBT



CE-890

BENJAMIN HOUSE

SOUTH WALL DATE STONE

NR

OAKWOOD, MD.

7/78 PIST



ROWLAND - WORKMAN HOUSE

CE-890

ROWLANDSVILLE, MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

NEG./MD. HIST. TRUST

PBT

9/78