

McVey Property  
CE-916  
near Richardsmere  
private

c. 1815-1825

The McVey Property and its history of ownership raises various questions about early 19th century settlement and division of larger tracts of land in the 8th Election District, especially ~~cases~~<sup>questions</sup> of land speculation and the movement of Pennsylvania farmers to the Conowingo area. This property, which is part of "Bourn's Forrest" was owned by numerous Cecil County residents until the 1820's. The last exchange between county residents was a sale where Nathaniel Lightner conveyed 81 acres to Samuel Reynolds in 1820 for \$3,645. (JS 17/239), which was a large sum for 81 acres and indicates a high probability that a structure was standing on the tract. This is further substantiated by the fact that Samuel Reynolds split the tract in the following year by selling a fifty-one acre parcel to Susannah Harris, of Nathan Harris, West Nottingham for \$600. (JS 18/331) The remaining twenty-nine acres went to Issac Chambers of London Grove Township, Chester County for \$1000. (JS 18/335) Since the owners before Issac Chambers, including Susannah Harris, were already Cecil County residents their need for small detached parcels of land for farming were much less than new immigrants from Pennsylvania. It is not completely evident as to who was responsible for the construction of the present two story two bay two room stuccoed fieldstone house, but with all facts considered the builder was probably Nathaniel Lightner who owned adjoining property along the Octoraro Creek. Architectural evidence supports this first quarter of the 19th century date with Federally influenced dining room mantel and early 19th century construction details. One of the most interesting features of this structure is its room arrangement, a two room deep house that is only one room wide, which is known as ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> double cell plan.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

FILE # 898

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

McVey Property

AND/OR COMMON

Spring Valley Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

South of Route 1 and ~~was\*\*~~ east of Kilby Corner

CITY, TOWN

Cenowingo

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Daniel Derr

Telephone #: 378-3280

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route 1

CITY, TOWN

Cenowingo

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21018

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Liber #: WAS 256

Folio #: 32

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CE-916

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

1820-1830

The McVey - Derr House c. ~~1830-1850~~ is a stone structure located south of Route 1 and 1 mile east of Kilby Corner. The structure is located at the end of a long lane and on the south slope of a hill. The main facade used to face south with the primary gable running west. The present owners have changed the orientation around by adding a compatible structure to the east of the early house. The main entrance is now located in the new section on the north side. The owners doubled the earlier living space of the original house.

The early structure is a 2½ story fieldstone structure, two bays across by two rooms deep. The entire house has been stuccoed. The slate roof is of medium to steep pitch and an interior end brick chimney stack protrudes out of the west gable end.

The south facade is two bays across with an entrance in the eastern bay and a replaced sash window. There is a plan box cornice.

The west gable end has two sash windows on the first and second floors. The eve is closed with a plain barge board.

The north side has a single sash window on each floor.

The interior has been somewhat altered with the removal of some of the partition walls. Corner fireplaces remain in both rooms. The south room mantel is still in place. It has beaded pilasters that support a simple architrave. The frieze has one large central projecting block and two smaller blocks above the pilasters.

The mantel shelf is supported by a series of stepped molding and the shelf projects slightly on the ends and at the intersection with the main block. The moldings below the shelf repeat the slight projection. The corner ~~cupboard~~ <sup>CUPBOARD</sup> has two paneled doors below and glazed doors above. There is a slight cornice. A chairrail with a simple bead remains in this room.

A 19th century barn with board and batten siding is located to the north and east of the house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

<b>PERIOD</b>	<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</b>			
<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/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

This house is fairly significant since it retains its basic form and some of original details. The mantel is a nice example of a late Federal <sup>period</sup> mantel. Even though an extensive addition was attached to the east side, the 19th century character has remained in that the new addition was added in such a way as to not damage the earlier appearance of the first building. ~~The house is also a particular three room plan without the large room to the east.~~ The house, like the others related to it, is located on the southern slope of a small hill. Associated along with the house is a 19th century barn which serves the agricultural pursuits of this farm. The property does appear on the 1877 map of Cecil County and the house was owned by A. B. McVey.

Two Room Penn Plan -

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CE-916

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

Paul B. Touart, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Cecil County Committee

DATE

9/22/78

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

PENNSYLVANIA

HANCASTER TOWNSHIP  
CECIL CO

Rock Springs

New Valley Sch

Porters Grove Ch

Richardson

Conowingo (PO) Kilby Corner

Conowingo Sta

CONOWINGO DAM  
QUAD.

Rowlandsville

4397

4396

42°30"

4395

4394

(RISING SUN)  
5783 II NE

4393

4392

40'

4391

0 CE-914

WISCONSIN 3.3 MI  
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 58 MI

Zoar Ch

at Zoar

Conowingo Ch

CREEK

OCTORARO

BM 535

49.33

360

128

BM 284

BM 51

BM 590

440

500

400

380

380

360

360

300

200

260

40

400

400

300

200

100

200

100

300

300

300

200

300

200

100

200

300

200

300

300

20

400

400

300

200

128

200

100

300

300

21

440

476

400

380

360

360

360

300

200

260

40

22

400

300

200

100

200

100

200

100

300

300

20

400

400

300

200

128

200

100

300

300

21

440

476

400

380

360

360

360

300

200

260

40

22

400

300

200

100

200

100

200

100

300

300

20

400

400

300

200

128

200

100

300

300

21

440

476

400

380

360

360

360

300

200

260

40

22

400

300

200

100

200

100

200

100

300

300

20

400

400

300

200

128

200

100

300

300

21

440

476

400

380

360

360

360

300

200

260

40

22

400

300

200

100

200

100

200

100

300

300

20

400

400

300

200

128

200

100

300

300

21

440

476

400

380

360

360

360

300

200

260

40

22

400

300

200

100

200

100

200

100

300

300

20

400

400

300

200

128

200

100

300

300

21

440

476

400

380

360

360

360

300

200

260

40

22

400

300

200

100

200

100

200

100

300

300

20

400

400

300

200

128

200

100

300

300

21

440

476

400

380

360

360

360

300

200

260

40

22

400

300

200

100

200

100

200

100

300

300

20

400

400

300

200

128

200

100

300

300

21

440

476

400

380

360

360

360

300

200

260

40

22

400

300

200

100

200

100

200

100

300

300

20

400

400

300

200

128

200

100



Mc Vey - Deer House  
CONOWINGO, MARYLAND  
NORTH FACADE

CE-916

PBT

8/78



McVey - DENR HOUSE  
CONOWINGO, MARYLAND  
SOUTH ROOM

CE-916

PBT

8/78



Mc Vey - DEAR HOUSE  
CONOWINGO, MARYLAND  
SOUTH ROOM MANTEL

CE. 916

PBT

8/78