

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY MAGI # 0901116427

1 NAME

HISTORIC BRAWNER HOUSE (SITE)

AND/OR COMMON Federal Oak; Cornwallis Neck

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North side of Livingston Road (MD 224)

CITY, TOWN Mason's Springs VICINITY OF Indian Head CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First

STATE Maryland COUNTY Charles

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 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER ABD.

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Henry Thomas and Elsie Richards Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Indian Head VICINITY OF Maryland STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 187
Folio #: 279

STREET & NUMBER Charles Street

CITY, TOWN La Plata STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

DESCRIPTION

CH-11

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE ATTACHED

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

#7: Description

The Brawner House Site is located in a heavily wooded area roughly two hundred feet to the west side of an old road bed, about one-half mile in from the entrance to the road on the north side of Livingston Road, the latter approximately one-half mile east from the junction of Livingston Road and Maryland Route 225, in the vicinity of Mason's Springs. As recently as ten years ago the foundations, cellar, the chimneys and portions of the framing remained, but since that time the chimneys have fallen, the framing has rotted away and the entire site covered by vegetation. The general site location is identifiable, however, by a thick growth of an evergreen groundcover carpeting an area several hundred feet in all directions of the house site. When the Brawner House Site was first recorded in 1970 several sheds and a small barn still stood to the east of the house site, but these are now gone as well.

The Brawner House, known since the late-nineteenth century as Federal Oak, was probably built in the late-eighteenth or early nineteenth century and was destroyed by fire in the late-1940's. It was a two-story frame structure over brick foundations that enclosed a full cellar. Measuring approximately 32-feet by 44-feet, the house had a center stair hall and four rooms on both floor levels. At both ends of the house stood two interior chimneys, each with an arched niche in the base visible from within the cellar. Extending out from the west end of the main block was a one-story frame wing that had a large exterior chimney at one end and a partial cellar. Approximately 26-feet by 18-feet, the wing quite possibly pre-dated the main section. About 75-feet to the north of the house site, in what was probably a small ornamental garden, stands a single large headstone marking the grave of Mrs. Catherine Brawner (1778-1846).

As the site of the house is now completely grown over, the preparation of an analysis and description of remaining features is almost impossible. However, it is conceivable that reasonably accurate determinations could be made during the winter months when some of the vegetation has died back.

Attempts to locate early photographs of the house have not proved successful. A nearby resident who visited the house when it was still standing but not occupied recalls that the house was very "elegant" and had marble mantles in the first floor rooms. According to this source, the land between the house and Livingston Road was completely open and under cultivation and that neighboring residents called it the "Highland Brawner House" and/or "Highland".*

* Source: Mrs. William Highby, Bumpy Oak Road, Pomonkey, Maryland.

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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

SEE ATTACHED

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

#8: Statement of Significance:

The Brawner House, located on a part of the 5,000 acre Cornwallis Neck grant of 1665 and known in this century as "Federal Oak", was a substantial, two-story, frame house of center hall plan with four chimneys. At one end of the house stood a one-story frame wing with a large exterior chimney. The wing quite possibly pre-dated the main section and was conceivably one of ten "tenements" listed as improvements on the Cornwallis Neck estate belonging to the heirs of John Pye in 1783.¹ About 75-feet to the north of the house site stands an ornate headstone marking the grave of a Mrs. Catherine Brawner (b. 1778) who died here in 1846. According to local sources the house burned in the 1940's. Although as recently as 1970 the foundations, cellar, chimneys and several outbuildings still stood, few remnants remain and these now covered by dense vegetation.

The Brawner House is believed to have been built by Edward Edelen (1747-1811) on land acquired in 1802 from Charles Pye.² The property subsequently passed to his brother, Dr. James Edelen (1764-1813), a bachelor who is said to have lived there prior to moving to Prince Georges County a few years before his death.³ In 1822 the land was sold by Edelen's heirs to Nicholas Stonestreet, who in turn sold it to George Dement in 1836.⁴ In 1867 the property was transferred from Julianna Dement Brawner (daughter of George Dement and widow of Hezekiah Brawner, son of Catherine Brawner) to Samuel H. Cox.⁵ The property remains in the ownership of descendants of Samuel Cox to this day.

Footnotes:

1. 1783 Tax Assessments, Charles County: District No. 5, Land. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.
2. Charles County Land Records, La Plata, Maryland. Liber IB#2, folio 56. (See also D#4, folio 314; IB#2, folio 55.)
3. Liber IB#15, folio 59.
4. Liber WM#1, folio 101.
5. Liber GAH#1, folio 340.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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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

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

July, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

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

BRAWNER HOUSE (SITE)
(Federal Oak; Cornwallis Neck)

CHAS-111

NOTE: Due to the heavy undergrowth existing at the time the site was visited the surveyor was unable to obtain photographs or take measurements of the site.

Md. Historical Trust
94 College Ave.
Annapolis, Md. 21401

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: BRAWNER HOUSE, LIVINGSTON RD.

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: LIVINGSTON ROAD

CITY OR TOWN: VIC. MASON'S SPRINGS

STATE: MD. CODE: COUNTY: CHAS. CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>ABD.</u>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: CHAS. CO.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: LADIATA STATE: MD. CODE:

ACREAGE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Very little of the BRAWNER House remains above ground. From detail revealed in the foundations and chimneys it appears that the West end of the house is of late 18th C. date while the E. end is of 19th C.

The West end was of probable one story height with two external chimneys at the W. end. There was a one story kitchen wing at the chimney end of uncertain date. It had one chimney at its west end.

The E. end of the main block was of two story height with 2 interior chimneys at the E. end.

The main block, excluding the kitchen wing was five bays in length. There was a full cellar beneath the main block. It is believed that a root cellar was positioned approx 15' from the NW corner of the main block. Its door was an iron grill or gate.

A lone ^{19th C.} grave, that of a Mrs. Catherine BRAWNER, stands at the rear (N) of the house site.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <i>Riverson</i>		
ORGANIZATION: <i>MHT</i>	DATE: <i>12/71</i>	
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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