Bowling Green

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 12-18-2012
In its most recent form, Bowling Green is currently a 2 1/2 story, double-pile, center-passage frame dwelling reconstructed from an earlier Federal-era dwelling by members of the Bowling family during the last quarter of the 19th century. Exhibiting classic vernacular Victorian details, Bowling Green has an overall side-gable orientation with a decorative center gable and an Italianate-inspired arched window. A full-width hipped roof porch is embellished with decorative brackets and a center gable capped with a Stick ornament. Under this Victorian skin is a side-passage dwelling likely constructed during the first quarter of the 19th century, whose most distinctive vestiges are a pair of exterior brick chimneys with single end stepped shoulders found on the southeast gable elevation. Since its major reconstruction, the dwelling remains largely unaltered.

Although originating in the early 19th century, Bowling Green, heavily reconstructed in the Victorian style around 1875, is one of the earliest and most elaborate post-Civil War dwellings in Charles County. Retaining its historic rural setting, Bowling Green is one of a handful of fully executed Victorian farmhouses built during the last quarter of the 19th century. At the time of its reconstruction Bowling Green consisted of almost five hundred acres acquired by William Francis Bowling during the second quarter of the 19th century. According to family tradition, the reconstruction was largely as a result of assistance from Phillip Simms, an extremely wealthy relative who acquired a sizeable fortune in New Orleans during the Civil War. Simms was the brother of Theresa Bowling, wife of William Francis Bowling.
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of Property
(indicate preferred name)
- historic: Bowling Green
- other:

2. Location
- street and number: 12875 Edelen Road
- city, town: Bryantown
- county: Charles

3. Owner of Property
(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)
- name: Joseph C. Posey
- street and number: 12875 Edelen Road
- city, town: Bryantown
- state: MD
- zip code: 20617-2206
- telephone: 301-274-0229

4. Location of Legal Description
- courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Charles County Courthouse
- tax map and parcel: 46 p. 21
- city, town: LaPlata, MD
- liber: 280
- folio: 23

5. Primary Location of Additional Data
- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other:

6. Classification

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Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory: 1
Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

In its most recent form, Bowling Green is currently a 2 1/2 story, double-pile, center-passage frame dwelling reconstructed from an earlier Federal-era dwelling by members of the Bowling family during the last quarter of the 19th century. Exhibiting classic vernacular Victorian details, Bowling Green has an overall side-gable orientation with a decorative center gable and an Italianate-inspired arched window. A full-width hipped roof porch is embellished with decorative brackets and a center gable capped with a Stick ornament. Under this Victorian skin is a side passage dwelling likely constructed during the first quarter of the 19th century, whose most distinctive vestiges are a pair of exterior brick chimneys with single end stepped shoulders found on the southeast gable elevation. Since its major reconstruction, the dwelling remains largely unaltered.

Bowling Green rests on a continuous brick foundation and is covered in German siding adhered with cut nails. The five bay, center-passage, double-pile plan also includes a single 1 1/2 story kitchen wing. Asphalt shingles covers the main roof while the porch includes a standing seam metal roof. The cornice is boxed. Paired exterior end chimneys flank either gable end while an interior chimney flue is found in the kitchen wing. All windows, doors and shutters appear to be original.

The principal elevation faces northeast and is approached by a circular drive. The porch dominates the façade and is the center of the buildings decorative elements. Highly ornate decorative brackets adorn the six chamfered porch columns and reach horizontally toward the center. The main focal point is the center gable adorned with a simple decorative truss. The porch roof rafters are exposed. The first floor includes tall, four 4/4 windows that almost descend to the height of the floor. The centered doorway has a 4-light transom and sidelights and the double door includes prominent arches that mimic the center gable window above. The second story has smaller variations of the se 4/4 window sash well as a pair of narrow 2/2 windows in the center bay. Above this is a 4-light arched window.

The northwest elevation includes a single centered 6/6 light window in the attic story flanked by two asymmetrical chimneys with stepped shoulders, although both provide heat to both the first and second floor. The rear elevation includes a shed roof porch on the first floor supported by identical chamfered posts as found on the front elevation. The second floor includes a porch that extends mid-way from the center passage toward the kitchen wing, providing access to the loft space above. A second story bathroom, occupying the center bay has been added at the end of the porch. The rear elevation includes 9/9 or 9/6 windows on the second floor and 4/4 on the first floor. To the right of the door approaching the kitchen wing is a break in the siding.

The northwest wall of the kitchen wing includes two 9/9 windows. The gable end is without fenestration while the southeast wing includes a covered porch. This kitchen porch has a shed roof and is partially enclosed on the northermost. Access to the cellar confirms the use of hand-hewn posts and circular sawn joists in the kitchen construction. Extending from the main block is a narrow shed addition that serves as a pantry and hallway leading to the kitchen. This hallway also includes a narrow stair situated between the chimneys that leads to the sleeping loft above. Two windows pierce this passageway on the southeastern wall and a pair of 4/4 windows are situated on the northeastern principal façade. A false-front or parapet conceals the true shed roofline of this wing.

The interior features an overall center-passage, double-pile plan. Dominating the entrance hall is a curved mahogany staircase similar to that found at Simms/Burch House CH??, and accentuated with a prominent turned newel. All doors throughout include four panels. Many include original paint finishes and graining. All walls include their plaster finish and the milled Victorian trim is characteristically wide. The original wood floors throughout are unfinished. The principal room in the front part of the dwelling include Victorian mantels. The smaller rear rooms have three-part mantels more closely in line with the Federal era. While the dining room mantle may be in its original location, the similar mantel in the opposite room was likely moved from the current southeast parlor at the time of the reconstruction in the late 19th century. Pantry doors likely originated as the dividing doors between the northernmost front and rear rooms. The dwelling also includes several original coal stoves and much of the original Victorian furniture.
Two tobacco barns are also located on the site. The earliest was constructed in 1925 and consists of a gable structure with vertical board siding and an attached stripping shed. Beyond this field is a gambrel roof barn built by the Amish in 1975. This is a double, center-isle structure with iron clasps used to secure the vents on either side.
8. Significance

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Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Although originating in the early 19th century, Bowling Green, heavily reconstructed in the Victorian style around 1875, is one of the earliest and most elaborate post-Civil War dwellings in Charles County. Retaining its historic rural setting, Bowling Green is one of a handful of fully executed Victorian farmhouses built during the last quarter of the 19th century.

At the time of its reconstruction Bowling Green consisted of almost five hundred acres acquired by William Francis Bowling during the second quarter of the 19th century. These tracts included Warren's and Guibert's, part of Indian fields, part of Warren, part of Boarman Manor, part of Giebert's tract. After his death around the time of the Civil War, the property was acquired by his three daughters Rachael, Maria and Elizabeth. According to family tradition, the reconstruction was largely as a result of assistance from Phillip Simms, an extremely wealthy relative who acquired a sizeable fortune in New Orleans during the Civil War. Simms was the brother of Theresa Bowling, wife of William Francis Bowling.

Although it is difficult to identify the locations of each tract, the two mentioned first Warren and Guibert's consisting of 204 acres may have included the house site and its earlier dwelling. In 1836 these adjoining tracts were deeded to William Francis Bowling from Henry J. and Mary Rose Bowling. This was the earliest transaction recorded for William Francis Bowling who went on to purchase adjoining acreage throughout the 1840's and 50's. The deed refers to buildings and improvements.
9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 245  
Acreage of historical setting 488  
Quadrangle name Hughesville  
Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Bowling Green is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 46, Parcel 21, Grid 1.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Currey/ Historic Sites Surveyor  
organization Charles County Planning  
date 9/9/01  
street and number 200 Baltimore Street  
city or town LaPlata  
state MD  
zip code 20646  
telephone 301-396-5815

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600
MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Bowling Green
name of property
Charles County, MD
county and state

Section 8 Page 1

Chain of Title:

Last Will and Testament of Mary B. Posey, wife of Reed Posey, deceased. GCW 30:274.

June 4, 1914 Frank V. Bowling to Mary Bowling Posey and Reed A. Posey. “Bowling Green” 245 ac. HCC 27 Folio 233

Last Will and Testament of Frances L. Bowling, sister of Frank V. Bowling

March 3, 1904 Elizabeth S. Bowling of Baltimore City to Frank V. Bowling and sister Frances L. Bowling. 276 acres with Improvements. Adjoining the property of Benjamin F. Bowling, William F. Bowling and Benjamin M. Edelen. FDM 15:292

October 1, 1874 Teresa Bowling, widow of William F. Bowling, to Rachael, Maria and Elizabeth Bowling. $1200. 488 a. Her interest in the real estate of the late William F/H.Bowling GAH:349

July 4, 1874 Joseph Bowling, Louisa, his wife, and others to Rachael, Maria and Elizabeth Bowling. Warrens tracts and Guilards, part of Indian fields, part of Warren, part of Boarmans Manor, part of Gilberts tract. 488 acres. All the real estate which the late William (F/H.)Bowling died seized and possessed. GAH 4:348
MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-215

Section 9    Page 1

Bowling Green
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

Major Bibliographic References:


Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.
CHARLES COUNTY PROPERTY TAX MAP NO. 46
2000
CH - 215
Bowling Green
Charles Co., Md.
C. Currey
8/2001
MD SHPO
LOOKING SW
10F7
CH-215
Bowling Green
Charles Co. Md.
C. Currey
8/2001
MD SHPD
REAR, DINING RM MANTEL
6 of 7
Built by members of the Bowling family, who still own the property, on a part of the 3,333-acre Boarman Manor tract, this two-story frame house has large exterior chimneys and Victorian embellishments at the principal facade including the cornice decoration, centered cross-gable with round-arched window, and bracketed porch. At the rear are several later additions which give the house its present L-plan. One of the many interesting features is a curved mahogany stairway.

The house is five bays long and two wide. Sash are 4/4 on the first two floors, with real shutters. The hip-roofed front porch is supported by square columns with sawnwork brackets, and has exposed rafter feet. There is a gable above the central entrance to the porch, which has a stick ornament.