

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0900695404

CHAS-69

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC MT. ZEPHYR

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER North side of Maryland Route 227 (Pomfret-Pomonkey Rd.)

CITY, TOWN Bryan's Road  VICINITY OF Pomonkey CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First

STATE Maryland COUNTY Charles

**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"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Richard L. Bolton

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER Mt. Zephyr

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 207  
Folio #: 739

STREET & NUMBER Charles Street

CITY, TOWN La Plata, Maryland 20646 STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIPTION**

CH-69

**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:

Mt. Zephyr stands on the east side of a private road, about 275 yards north of the junction of the farm road and Maryland Route 227 (Pomfret-Pomomkey Road). The entrance to the farm is located approximately seven-tenths of a mile east-southeast from the junction of Maryland Route 227 and Livingston Road at Pomomkey.

Until it was completely renovated on both the interior and exterior in the 1930's, Mt. Zephyr was a typical rural farmhouse of the early and mid-nineteenth century. Of a stepped, three-part composition, it consists of a two-story, three-bay main block at the south end, a one and one-half story, two-bay center section, and a one-story, two-bay north wing. All three parts of the house are of frame construction, with one exterior chimney at the south end of the main block and a second chimney at the north end of the center section, the latter partially covered by the north wing. Although the side hall-single parlor room configuration and remaining original woodwork in the main block indicates a circa 1835-50 construction date for that portion of the house, almost all of the original woodwork of the two north sections has been removed; however, construction techniques, the design of the north chimney and other details suggest that the two-part north wing pre-dates the main block. They were probably built as a single unit within the first quarter of the nineteenth century, with what is now the center section serving as a small dwelling with an attached kitchen-service wing. The roof framing of the north-end section utilizes saplings for rafters, a construction material typically used in kitchens and other dependencies throughout the first half of the nineteenth century; the nails used in the building of the roof are of a type manufactured after 1800.

In the 1930's the house was thoroughly renovated inside and out. A major alteration occurred when the exterior walls of the main block and center section were veneered with old brick laid in a running bond pattern and the south end chimney torn down and rebuilt. At the same time the exterior walls of the north end wing were skillfully veneered with fieldstone and remains an impressively executed example of stone masonry from this period. While the interior of the main block was left relatively intact, both north sections of the house were completely remodeled on the interior. Additional alterations include the raising of the rear slope of the roof of the center section to two stories, the replacement (or addition) of a single dormer on the west side of the same roof, and the addition of a brick kitchen and porch extending the full width of the main block and center section on the east side. At the present time a full basement is being provided beneath the main block. From within the cellar, which replaces an earlier but smaller earth walled and floored area, can be seen the original hewn sills and bearing beams and the flattened log joists supporting the walls and floors of this part of the house. A door in the east wall of the cellar opens into a small brick-walled room, the precise age and initial function of which remains undetermined.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

CH-69

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 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:

Mt. Zephyr, a three-part house of late-Federal styling, is actually a frame house that was extensively remodeled in the 1930's when the main block and center section were veneered with brick and the north wing with fieldstone. The center and north-end parts of the house are believed to have constituted a small one-room dwelling with a kitchen-service wing built in the early nineteenth century. The larger, south-end section was added somewhat later, probably between 1835 and 1850. Despite the extent of the alterations, Mt. Zephyr is a very attractive house--time and the elements having joined to age and soften the brick and stone veneers. It is an interesting example of a renovation in the pseudo-colonial style from the 1930's, when work of this type attained great popularity, largely influenced by the highly publicized reconstruction/restoration of Colonial Williamsburg being carried out at that time.

The property, named Mt. Zephyr in this century, is composed of parts of several different tracts of land, including Independency (now known as Independence), Dent's Levels, Cowpens and Snap (the last also known as Snip Snap and Snap Swap).<sup>1</sup> Although Dent's Levels is not a patent tract, the name appears frequently in area land records and was owned by the locally prominent Dent family during much of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Independency, a substantially larger tract of 1120 acres, was patented by Richard and Theophilus Dent in 1792.<sup>2</sup> Snap, consisting of twenty acres, was patented in 1755 by Peter Dent.<sup>3</sup> Cowpens, encompassing 183 acres, was patented by Alexander Wilkinson in 1792, but land of that name in this same location was owned by George Dent in 1783.<sup>4</sup> According to the 1783 tax assessments, Cowpens, with "two small log houses and a tobacco house," was the only one of these tracts with buildings standing at that time.<sup>5</sup>

In 1876 John W. Mitchell, trustee, in the settlement of a dispute involving Amos Horton, et al, versus William Rowe and Joseph Guy, sold to William Rowe lands "comprising the farm owned by John W. Guy, deceased, containing some 384 acres."<sup>6</sup> The 384 acres included 160 acres known as Cowpen and Cowpen Enlarged Guy purchased from the estate of Alexander Wilkinson in 1846, and 224 acres made up of parts of Independency, White Haven and Snap he bought from Walter Hannon in 1850.<sup>7</sup> (In 1838 Guy purchased 71 acres of Dent's Levels from Peter Dent, but this was not part of Guy's estate that was sold to Rowe in 1876.) It is not known on which of these tracts the house known today as Mt. Zephyr stands, but it appears likely that it was the Wilkinson tract since he is known to have lived on the property prior to his death. In 1887 William Rowe sold "the lands conveyed (to him) by John Mitchell, trustee, in 1876," to Mary Nelson for \$2,500.00.<sup>8</sup> Mary Nelson in turn sold the same lands to Richard Earnshaw in 1910, and in 1919 Alice Earnshaw, executrix, sold the same property to Alice Bolton.<sup>9</sup> The property has remained in the possession of the heirs of Alice Bolton since that time.

Footnotes

1. Charles County Land Records, La Plata, Maryland. Liber 142, folio 343; Liber 172, folio 203.
2. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. Patents: Liber ICF, folio 662.
3. HR. Patents: BC&GS#1, folio 407.
4. HR. Patents: ICF, folio 703.
5. HR. 1783 Tax Assessments. Charles County, District #5.
6. Charles County Land Records: Liber BGS#1, folio 207.
7. Liber WM#1, folio 629; Liber WM#3, folio 566.
8. Liber JST#1, folio 517.
9. Liber JST#22, folio 66; Liber JST 35, folio 398.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CH-69

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

