

Neale-Shea House
CH-745
Newburg vic.
Private

Circa 1888;1901

The Neale-Shea House is an exceptionally well-preserved example of one of Charles County's more elaborate expressions of Victorian architecture. The dwelling is a 2-story Queen Anne-inspired frame dwelling accentuated by two 3-part projecting bays on the front elevation and a porch with octagonal ends spanning the full width of the first floor front elevation. The house maintains an especially well-preserved interior as well as much of its historic setting. Sited on 71 acres and approached by a narrow cedar-lined drive, the dwelling stands beside a one-story, front gable, frame commercial structure which was once a general store operated by the Shea family. In 1887, Joseph and Sophia Neale acquired "Part of Springfield", containing 131 acres which was part of a larger tract owned by the Neale family which was recently subdivided. Michael Shea acquired the property in 1901 and it remained in the Shea family until 1980.

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-745

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Neale-Shea House is a two-story Queen-Anne inspired frame dwelling accentuated by two octagonal projecting bays on the front elevation, and a porch with octagonal ends spanning the full width of the first floor front elevation. The house maintains an especially well-preserved interior as well as much of its historic setting. Sited on 71 acres and approached by a narrow cedar lined drive, the parcel includes a rare one-story commercial structure next to the dwelling and a stable on the opposite side of the road.

The dwelling has an overall double-pile, center-passage plan with a single-pile, cross-gable rear service wing. It is constructed of wood with original weatherboard siding covered in aluminum and on the first floor façade, earlier stucco. The foundation is of poured concrete. The original pressed tin shingles are intact as well as some of the pressed tin gable ornaments. The porch has a decorative center gable at the center bay and the roof, covered in tin, is supported by turned wood posts adorned with scrollsawn brackets. The floor is tongue and groove boards over plank and the ceiling is covered with painted beadboard. The porch is currently screened as it was in a c. 1920 photograph in the possession of the owner. Windows are early or original 1/1 single hung throughout. Two interior corbel capped chimneys pierce the roof. Later additions include a concrete block wing holding the heating unit, an enclosed original porch, and a recent ell addition housing a new kitchen.

The house faces south and stands very close to Wicomico Beach Road. The front elevation is symmetrical with nine original 1/1 throughout. Centered on the façade is an original panel and light door. The east and west elevations of the main block are symmetrical with two second story and two first story windows. At the rear, a 1/1 window stands on the north wall of the second story intersected by the service wing. The first floor has a single 1/1 window near the enclosed kitchen porch. The service wing includes two asymmetrical windows on the second story above the enclosed kitchen porch which holds a modern 1/1 window to the left of the door and a smaller window to the right. The opposite elevation includes a single centered second story window above the new kitchen ell. This ell holds a modern 1/1 window on the west elevation and a bay window on the north wall.

The interior of the dwelling is exceptionally well-preserved. Ornately grained and louvered oak interior shutters on the front elevation windows. Represent one of the dwelling's most impressive features. Plaster walls are found throughout as well as original wood moldings, doors and mantles. Other notable features include early lighting and bathroom fixtures. Significant changes to the interior include the partition of a section of the original dining room or west parlor to accommodate a bathroom.

The historic setting is well preserved consisting of open flat pasture divided by a cedar-lined drive that leads from Tompkinsville to the Wicomico River, just a few hundred yards from the house. The domestic yard is separated from the road by early/original wire fencing. Next to the dwelling is a small front gable frame structure with a shed roof porch that served as a store. The building is covered with a metal seam roof and the porch is supported with wooden posts. The other standing structure on the property includes a stable found on the south side of the road.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-745

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1901-1913	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1901; 1913		

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

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.)

The Neale-Shea House is an exceptionally well-preserved example of one of Charles County's more elaborate expressions of Victorian architecture. In 1887, Joseph and Sophia Neale acquired Part of Springfield, containing 131 acres, part of a larger tract owned by the Neale family which had been subdivided nine years earlier. The Neales likely began construction of the house around 1888, but by 1894 had defaulted on their loan of \$1220. In 1901, Michael Shea purchased through public sale, some of the lands of Frederick Richmond along the Wicomico River. Richmond had acquired the land after the default of the Neales' mortgage. After acquiring the property in 1901, the Shea family continued to own the dwelling until 1980.

Following the Civil War, Charles County suffered the same fate as most of the southern states. The basis of the economy, slave labor, was gone. The post-war period therefore marked the end of large farms. In 1870 there were 545 farms in Charles County. By 1900 that number had more than tripled at 1900 farms. Farm size continually decreased as large farms, containing over 500 acres, were divided. The most dramatic increase was seen in the number of farms under fifty acres, which more than doubled between 361 farms in 1880 and 728 farms in 1920. The turmoil of the Reconstruction era continued in Charles County well into the 20th century. Because of these economic difficulties, population growth in the county stagnated between 1860 and 1920. The general economic decline, and later, stagnation that followed the Civil War is evident in the census figures between 1860 and 1890. By 1890, the number of county residents was nearly 1,400 less than in 1860. With little industry or profitable agriculture drawing new residents to the county during the post-Civil War era, many young Charles County residents moved away as they reached maturity. Architectural trends tended to follow the same patterns as economic trends. Building activity remained low and design remained conservative until after World War II. The Neale-Shea House represents one of the finer local examples of Victorian architecture in Charles County although by comparison to National models it remains quite conservative.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-745

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 71

Acreage of historical setting 131

Quadrangle name Rock Point

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Neale-Shea House is associate with Charles County property tax map 87, parcel 39.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 6/11/2002

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state MD zip code 20646

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

Inventory No. CH-745

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Neale-Shea House
name of property
Charles County, MD
county and state

Chain of Title:

- 1985 Raphael Voight to Robert D. and Elizabeth A. Hyssong.
Four parcels containing a total of 71.534 acres.
1100/338
- 1980 Michael C. Shea to Kay G. Shea to Raphael Voight
739/151
- 1978 Earl L. Shea and Sara B. Shea to Michael C. and Kay G. Shea.
Being the residue of parcel C as acquired by Elsie Richards in 1969.
With restrictions
557/127
- 1967 Marie Shea, widow and Michael Carnes Shea and Kay Gilbert Shea, wf. To Earl L. Shea
194/595
- Parcel subdivided 1966. DH Steffens surveyor.
- 1938 Last will and testament of Michael Shea. To widow Marie for life, then to son Earl L. Shea, then to grandson Michael Carnes Shea, grandson.
- 1901 Public Sale of the lands of Frederick Richmond including mortgaged property from
1) Francis and Adeline Middleton, wife 1888 JST 2/249
2.) **Middleton and wife for Joseph H. Neale 1888 JST 2/251 and afterwards from Neale to Richmond in 1894 after default of loan. \$1220**
Being all the same conveyed to Joseph and Sophia Neale his wife 1887 called Part of Springfield JST 1/316... and was partitioned in 1883 from the lands of Mary A. Neale BGS 6/ 316 131 acres
BGS 11/447

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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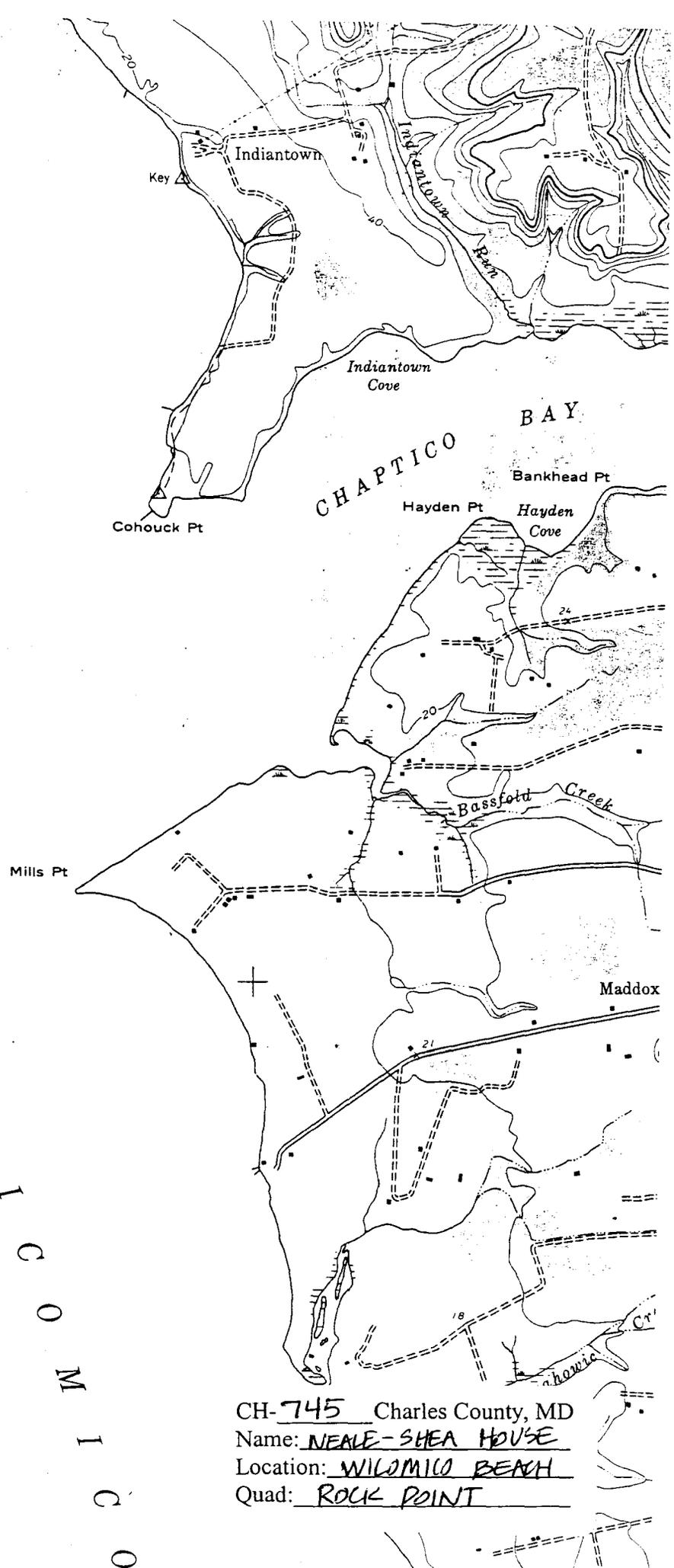
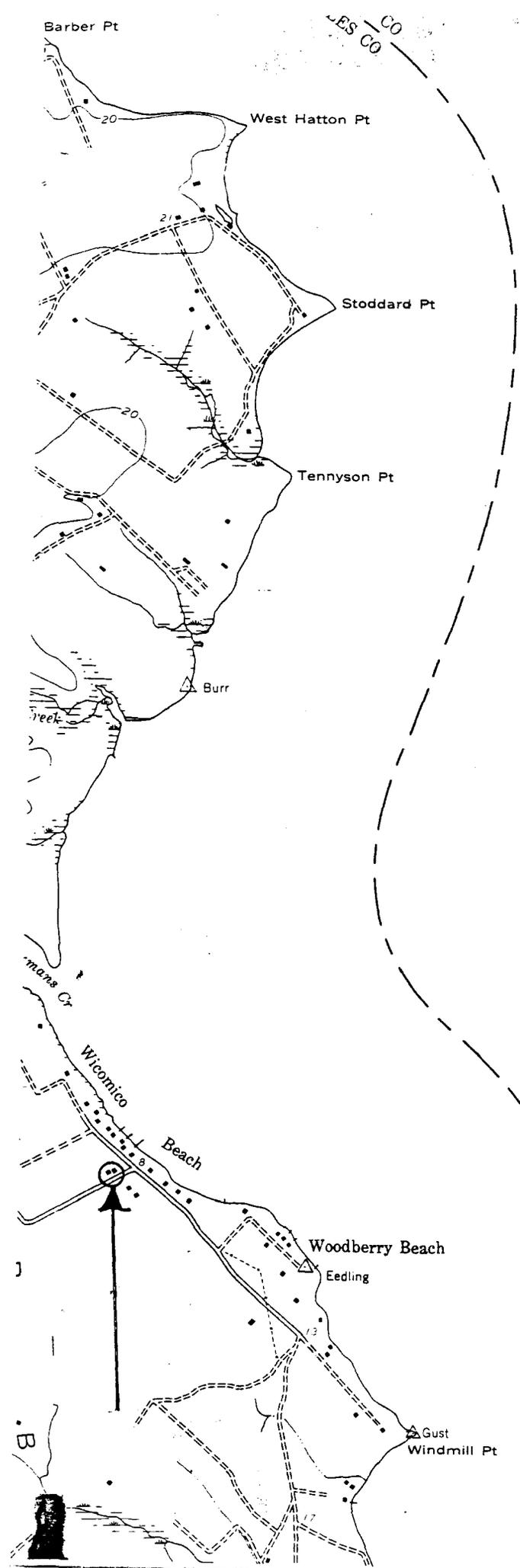
Neale-Shea House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

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

Klaphor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland.
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.



CH-745 Charles County, MD
 Name: NEALE-SHEA HOUSE
 Location: WILCOMICO BEACH
 Quad: ROCK POINT



CH-745
MICHAEL SHEA HOUSE
CHARLES CO. MD
C. HARDY

4/02
MD SHPO

FRONT ELEVATION, 1/2 SCALE (W/IN)

↑ or ↓



CH-745
MICHAEL SHEA HOUSE
CHARLES CO. MD
G. HARDY

4/02
MD SHPO
LOOKING FOR N/A

2018



CH-745
MICHAEL SHEA HOUSE
CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

4/02

MD SHPO

LOOKING NE

30158



CH-745
MICHAEL SHEA HOUSE
CHARLES CO, MD
C. HARDY

4/02
MD SHPO

SADIR
4/02



CH-745

MICHAEL SHEA HOUSE

CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY

4/02

MD SHPO

INTERIOR SHUTTERS

5/1/02



CH-745

MICHAEL SHEA HOUSE

CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY

4/02

MD SHPO

MANTEL

600A



CH-745
MICHAEL SHEA HOUSE
CHARLES CO. MD
C. HARDY
4/02
MO SHPO
EARLY MYRIE
70F-8



Men Home



Men Home - 1943

CH-745
MICHAEL SHEA HOUSE
CHARLES CO, MD
C. HARDY
4/02
MD SHPO
HISTORIC PHOTOS

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