

D-809
Murphy Farm
Salem vicinity
c. 1840-50
Private

Known as the Murphy farm for more than one-hundred years, this Griffith's Neck property includes tracts known as "Kinver's Heath" and "Vale of Esom." The three-part frame dwelling, built in the regionally distinctive stepped format, dates to the late second quarter of the nineteenth century around 1840-50. The two-story, three-bay, side hall/parlor plan main block extends eastward with a story-and-a-half one-room plan section, which extends farther eastward with a single-story kitchen wing.

Chain-of-title research for this Griffith's Neck farm tracts back to the mid nineteenth century ownership of James Gore (1822-1900), who purchased the acreage from trustees Hooper C. Hicks and executor George W. Hurley, who was representing the last will and testament of Marcellus Beard. James Gore acquired the farm in 1854, and six years later in the 1860 U.S. Census, he is listed as a prosperous farmer with \$15,000 worth of real estate and almost the same amount in personal property. He is listed in the census with his wife Susan, four children, a 45-year old Roda Webster, and a 18-year old farm laborer, James McKeever. In 1863, James and Susan Gore sold the Griffith's Neck farm then containing 200 acres, to Matthias Willey. Matthias Willey held title to the "Kinver's Heath" and "Vale of Esom" tracts throughout his life, and in 1886, after his death, the property entered Dorchester County's Circuit Court for the settlement of his estate. After passing through numerous hands between 1886 and 1900, the farm was acquired by Thomas H. Murphy for \$1,000.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-809

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Murphy Farm
other _____

2. Location

street and number 4010 Griffith's Neck Road not for publication
city, town Salem vicinity
county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Arlene Phillips Burton and Rodney Steven Burton
street and number 4010 Griffith's Neck Road telephone 410-
city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber DLP 972 folio 79
city, town Cambridge tax map 82 tax parcel 9 tax ID number 11-000762

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 at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

**Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory**

7. Description

Inventory No. D-809

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

The 24.34 acres comprising the Murphy farm, located at 4010 Griffith's Neck Road, spans the county road southwest of the intersection with Henrys Cross Roads southwest of the rural community known as Drawbridge in Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-story, three-part stepped profile frame house, built during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, faces southeast with the principal gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built around 1840-50, the two-story, three-part frame house is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding. The main block is a two-story, three-bay, side hall/single pile structure covered by a medium pitched roof of asphalt shingles. Attached to the northeast gable end of the main block is a story-and-a-half center section featuring gable roofed dormers on the north and south roof slopes. Extending further in a northeasterly direction is a single-story, one-room plan kitchen of slightly shorter height than the middle section. Extending along the roofline is a late nineteenth century lightening rod system.

The southeast façade of the main block is partially covered by a shed roofed screened in porch that stretches across two bays of the main block and the entire length of the center section. A partially glazed door that opens into the side passage is flanked by six-over-six sash windows. The second floor is defined by two six-over-six sash windows flanked by vinyl shutters. Trimming the base of the roof is a boxed cornice, also covered with artificial materials. The southwest gable end of the main block features an exterior, seven-course common bond brick stack. The stack has a corbelled base and corbelled shoulders, and the stack rises between a pair of six-over-six sash windows that light the second floor. Small louvered opening define the gable end. The edge of the roof is finished flush with the end boards covered with artificial materials. The rear elevation is an asymmetrical façade with a pair of six-over-six sash windows lighting the southern two bays. The second floor is lighted by two six-over-six sash windows as well that occupy the outer two bays of the three-bay façade.

The northeast gable end of the main block is largely covered by the story-and-a-half middle section, which is three bays across by one room deep. Six-over-six sash, gable roofed dormers are centered on the front and rear roof slopes, and a single flue interior end brick stack rises through the gable roof.

The third section is a two-bay by one room kitchen with a shed roofed extension enlarging the kitchen to the rear. An open shed roofed porch extends across the front. The front door to the kitchen is partially glazed, and it is flanked on its right side by a six-over-six sash window.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-809

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	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 history	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Known as the Murphy farm for more than one-hundred years, this Griffith's Neck property includes tracts known as "Kinver's Heath" and "Vale of Esom."¹ The three-part frame dwelling, built in the stepped format, dates to the late second quarter of the nineteenth century around 1840-50. The two-story, three-bay, side hall/parlor plan main block extends eastward with a story-and-a-half one room plan section, which extends farther eastward with a single-story kitchen wing. The three-part stepped dwelling is a distinctive vernacular house form for the region.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Chain-of-title research for this Griffith's Neck farm tracks back to the mid nineteenth ownership of James Gore (1822-1900), who purchased the property from trustees Hooper C. Hicks and George W. Hurley, executor of the last will and testament of Marcellus Beard.² James Gore was a relatively prosperous 37-year old farmer at the time of the 1860 U.S. Census as he is listed with \$15,000 worth of real estate and almost as much in personal property.³ He is listed with his wife Susan, four children, a 45-year old Roda Webster, and a 18-year old farm laborer, James McKeever. In 1863, James and Susan Gore sold the Griffith's Neck farm, then containing 200 acres, to Matthias Willey.⁴ Matthias Willey held title to "Kinver's Heath" and "Vale of Esom" throughout his life and in 1886, after his death, the property entered Circuit Court to settle his estate.⁵ After passing through numerous hands between 1886 and 1900, the farm was acquired by Thomas H. Murphy for \$1,000.⁶

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, DLP 972/79, 7 January 2010, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

² Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 4/100, 9 February 1854, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

³ Eighth Census of the United States (1860), Population Schedule for Dorchester County, Ancestry.com.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 5/397, 29 June 1863, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

⁵ Dorchester County Circuit Court, Chancery Record 1260, 24 May 1885, Dorchester County Courthouse, as cited in Dorchester County Land Record, CL 9/124, 16 October 1886, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

⁶ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 25/56, 20 December 1900, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. D-809

Name Murphy Farm

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

CL 20/374 Nicolas Burkart and wife

to

6.15.1896 Bruno E. Aurick

CL 19/251 William L. Brown

to

5.6.1895 Nicolas Burkart

CL 19/30 John W. T. Webb

to

11.22.1894 William L. Brown

CL 9/124 Henry Lloyd and John W. T. Webb, Trustees

to

10.16.1886 William M. Willey

Decree of Circuit Court, 5.24.1885 in a cause wherein William M. Willey is complainant and Mary Willey and others are defendants No. 1260 Chancery

\$600, subject to the dower of Mary Willey, Home Farm of Matthias Willey

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Name Murphy Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

FJH 5/397

James Gore and Susan E. Gore

to

6.29.1863

Matthias Willey

“Kinver’s Heath” and “Vale of Esom” 200 acres

FJH 4/100

Hooper C. Hicks and wife and George W. Hurley, Executor
of the Last Will and Testament of Marcellus Beard

to

2.9.1854

James Gore (b. 5.4.1822, d. 3.5.1900)

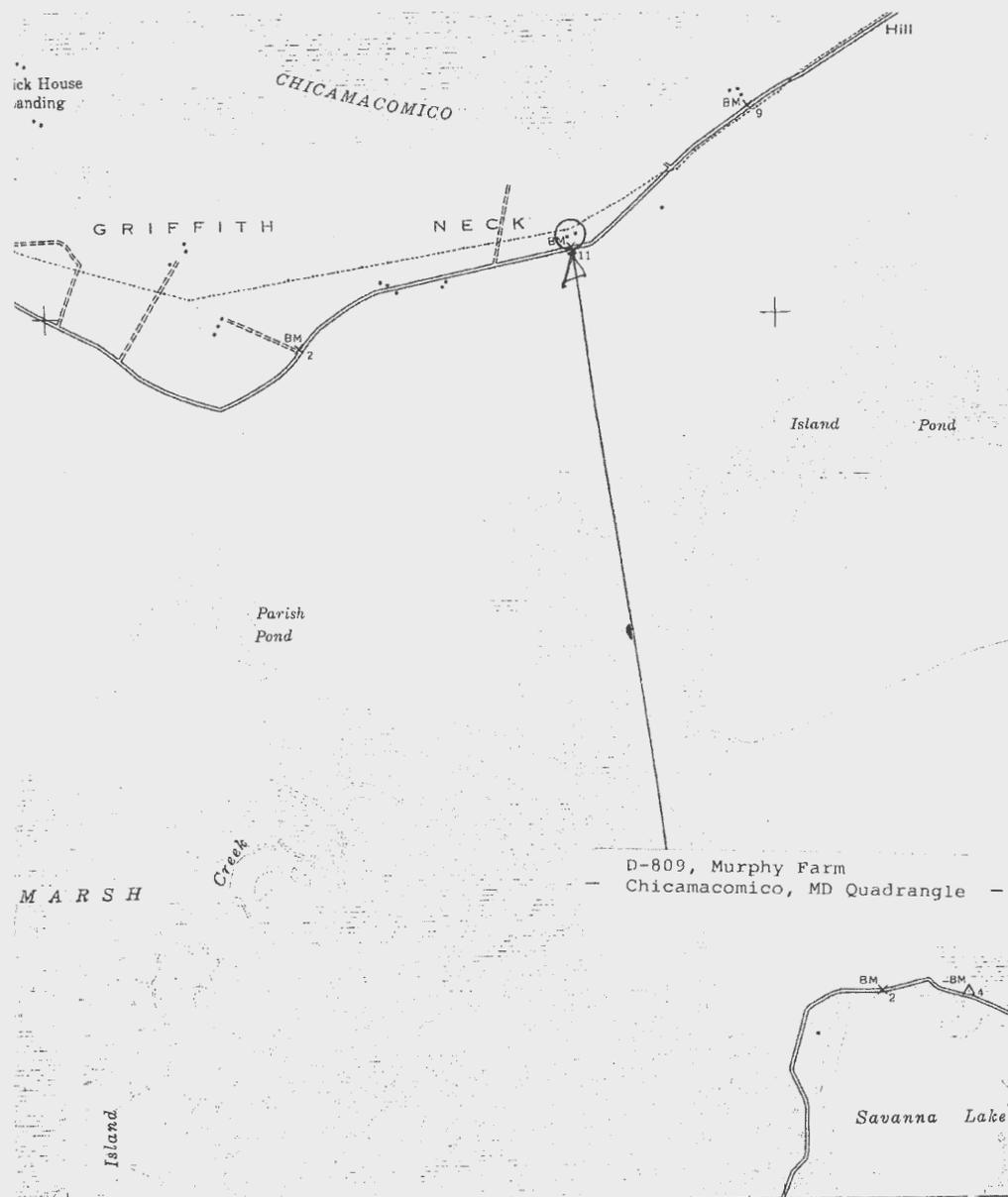
Whereas the said Hooper C. Hicks did in the year Eighteen Hundred and forty nine sell to the said Marcellus Beard all that tract or parcel of land or tracts or parcels of land called Kinver’s Heath and Vale of Esom Containing one hundred and ninety two acres of land more or less, and whereas the purchase money for the same was paid to the said Hooper C. Hicks by the said Marcellus Beard who departed this life without obtaining a conveyance for the same and whereas the said Marcellus Beard made and executed his Last Will and Testament which has been duly admitted to probate in the Orphans Court of said County and by which he appointed the said George W. Hurley the Executor thereof, and authorized the said Executor to sell the dispose of the said lands and premises, as by reference to said Will will appear and whereas the said George W. Hurley did accept of the said trust and did according to the Provisions of said Will sell and dispose of said tracts or parcels of land to the said James Gore, and whereas the said James Gore is desirous of obtaining a title to the said premises and whereas the said Hooper C. Hicks and Harriet A. Hicks his wife and George W. Hurley Executor as aforesaid are willing to execute a Conveyance for the same to the said James Gore...being the same lands formerly owned by Horatio Hughes, and which was sold by Ezekial K. Hooper, Trustee to the said Hooper C. Hicks...

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Name Murphy Farm
Continuation Sheet

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 23.34 acres
Acreage of historical setting _____
Quadrangle name Chicamacomico, MD Quad

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	5.15.2011
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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 21032-2023
410-514-7600



D-309
MURPHY Farm
SALEM VICINITY, DORCHESTER Co. MD.
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION
5.2011, PAUL B. TOUANT, PHOTO.
N.H.S. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 2



D-809

Murphy farm

Salem vic. Dorchester A. MD

5.2011, Paul B. Towart, Pittsburg, MD

MD Historical Trust

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