

SUMMARY

George Jones House
3303 Churchville Road
Aberdeen, Maryland 21001

The George Jones house is one element in an essentially unaltered example of a typical 19th century Harford County Farm site. Also included are a smoke-house, milkhouse, and a barn constructed with hewn timbers and pegged joints. Grain and tomatoes were the principal crops here. Archival evidence suggests the house was constructed during the period 1850-1860. In any case, the house has been in the same family since 1856, thus establishing a 130 year kinship between land and people, that hints at the stable prosperity of hardworking farmers.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

George Jones house

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3303 Churchville Road

CITY, TOWN

Aberdeen

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Md. 21001

COUNTY
Harford

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Anita Jones

Telephone #: 734-6591

STREET & NUMBER

3303 Churchville Road

CITY, TOWN

Aberdeen

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Md. 21001

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 337

Folio #: 91

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air,

STATE
Md. 21014

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

NA-1053

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two-story frame house built in three sections is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Churchville Road (Md. Rte. 22) and Snake Lane in Harford County, Maryland. The north and south sides of all three sections are flush: on the south side, the west and center sections are both two bays wide, and the east wing is one bay wide; all sections are one bay deep. (The center and east sections are the same height; the west wing is slightly taller.) Set on a high stone foundation, the house is covered in clapboards and has a gable roof and two brick interior chimneys, one in the west end and one in the east end of the center section. All first story windows have 6/6 sash with narrow beaded trim (the center section trim is narrower than that on the two wings). The basement windows have six lights; the second story windows in the center and east sections have 3/6 sash, and those in the west wing have 6/6 sash.

The west wing which was built last, has a door with a gabled portico in the first story east bay, flanked on the west by a window. The second story has two windows aligned with those in the first story. The west end has one window north of center in both the first and second stories. The north side is like the south, except the door in the east bay has been blocked up.

The center section has a four-panel door reached by a flight of wooden steps in the east bay, flanked on the west by a window. In the second story are two windows; the one in the east bay is east of the door in the first story. In the basement west bay is a window, and in the east bay is a hatch. In the north side, the first story has a door (blocked-up) in the center bay, flanked by a window on each side. The two windows in the second story are aligned with those in the first.

The east section has a window in the first and second stories in the south side. In the east end is a board-and-batten door reached by a flight of wooden steps, and there is a square, covered opening in the gable. In the north side, there is a window in both the first and second stories.

The interior plan of the first floor is simple with one room in each section. In the west wing, the windows and doors have plain trim, and there is a plain baseboard. In the south corner of the east wall is a door with two steps to the center section, and in the center of the west wall is a fireplace. The mantel has a cyma recta shelf, a raised oval panel in the frieze, and an ogee-arched opening, flanked by pilasters with raised ovals.

The center section has a winder staircase in the southwest corner and a door to the east wing in the northeast corner. In the center of the east wall is a fireplace; the mantelpiece has a molded shelf and a brick opening with a segmental pointed arch flanked by pilasters. Under the stairs is a closet, and both the closet and stairs have beaded board-and-batten doors. This room has a plain baseboard.

The east section contains the present kitchen. At one time, there were stairs to the basement and, in the northeast corner, stairs to the second floor. This room has a beaded board wainscot and plain trim.

On the second floor, there is one room each in the west and east wings, and two rooms and a hall on the south side in the center section.

Also on the property is a board-and-batten, gable-roofed smokehouse east of the house and, south of the house, a milkhouse covered with asphalt shingles, and a frame barn. The gable-roofed barn (with the date 1881 carved on an interior beam) is on a hill, so the stone foundation is a full story on the south side. In the north side are large double doors. The east end has two louvered openings in the main level, another in the gable, and, in the lower stone level, a Dutch door in the south bay and a square

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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

This parcel has historical significance as part of the original Stony Ridge tract. The house, however, probably dates from 1856-1859, when Jarvis and Deborah James purchased the land the house is on in two separate parcels - in 1856, fifty acres from Richard Green and Henry D. Farnandis for \$300,¹ and in 1859, 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres from Richard and Charlotte Gawthrop.² The James' sold the property to Jarrett B. Moore in 1865 for \$1200³, the jump in price indicating the probable erection of a house, and the house has stayed in the same family since then. The Portrait and Biographical Record of Harford and Cecil Counties, published in 1897, describes Jarrett Moore as "the owner of a well-improved farm in District No. 3". Of Scotch descent, he was born in 1837 in Bel Air to carpenter-farmer James Moore (b.1801) and Johanna Boddin, who had three other sons. He was trained as a carpenter himself, abandoned the trade at age 29 to take raising grain and tomatoes for canning on part of Stony Ridge farm. He married Sarah Cole in 1865 and had three sons, Archer, Charles G., and Harry, the latter taking possession of the house in 1914.⁵ In 1949, Anita Moore Jones and her husband inherited the property,⁶ and it is still in their hands.

Although the house is not unusual architecturally, the farm as a whole with its milkhouse, smokehouse, and barn, merits attention. Few farms in Harford County have survived with their outbuildings intact. This one, in particular, is a fine representation of a late 19th century farm since it has not been altered and has been well-maintained.

FOOTNOTES:

- ¹ Liber 7, folio 107; Jan.23,1856.
- ² Liber 11, folio 10, April 7,1859.
- ³ Liber 13, folio 9; March 25, 1865.
- ⁴ The Portrait and Biographical Record of Harford and Cecil Counties, Md., p.198.
- ⁵ Liber 145, folio 51; March 5, 1914.
- ⁶ Liber 337, folio 91-2; Nov.30, 1949.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land and Will records of Harford County
Portrait and Biographical Sketch of Harford and Cecil Counties; N.Y. and Chicago,
 Chapman Publishing Co., 1897.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 59 1/4 acres

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	
Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Harford County Historic District Commission	January, 1979
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
45 South Main Street	301-879-2000- Ext. 207
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Bel Air,	Md. 21014

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

opening in the north bay. The south side has a door in the first story center bay, flanked the west by double six-light windows; in the second story center bay is a window. The west end is like the east, except there are no openings in the foundation. The interior of the barn has hand-hewn beams which are pegged together.

HA-1053

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

5
131053#504

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: George Jones house

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Lane enters southeast of Snake Road

CITY OR TOWN: near Churchville about 0.3 mi southwest of Churchville Road

STATE: Md COUNTY: Harford

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: George R. Jones

STREET AND NUMBER: RD 2 Box 141

CITY OR TOWN: Aberdeen STATE: Md

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER: HARFORD COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

CITY OR TOWN: ELLSWORTH STATE: MARYLAND

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

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:

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This log and frame house is covered with clapboard painted white.

In three parts, oblong, 2 stories high, it faces west, the pitched roofs have ridgelines running north-south, sheathed in slate.

The center section 2 bays wide, is of log. Set on stone foundations, ceilings are low, windows downstairs have 6 lights on 6, upstairs smaller windows have 3 lights on 6. Eaves are trim.

The south section 1 bay by 1 shingled the same roof height, is newer - perhaps 50 years old. A chimney rises along the inside wall.

The north end, 2 bays by 2 wide a higher roof has wide plain eaves, and a chimney inside the north end wall.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> 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/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A fine example of how well these old frame houses can serve if well-kept. (See HA 1052)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Blank area for Acreage Justification.

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

STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **JEAN S SWING**

ORGANIZATION: **MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST** DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: **2077 KIVA ROAD**

CITY OR TOWN: **ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND**

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

INVENTORY NO. #D-1053

ELECTION DISTRICT _____

DATE: 1/79

TAX MAP NO. _____

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

PARCEL NO. _____

NAME OF PROPERTY: George Jones House

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 3303 Churchville Road, nr. Aberdeen

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: south

NAME OF OWNER: George Jones

ADDRESS: 3303 Churchville Rd., Aberdeen, Md. 21001

STORIES: 1[] 2[x] 3[] 4[] 5[] 6[] BAYS:

WINGS, ADDITIONS:
constructed in three phases

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- FRAME: Bevel, ~~clapboard~~, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten(type?)
- BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
- STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- LOG

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS _____

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1[] 2/2[] 6/6[x] 9/6[] 9/9[] other[]
pegged[] nailed[] wide[] narrow[]
original[] replaced[]

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: 2 south side, 1 east end, 2 north side
HARDWARE: original[] replaced[]
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES:
original[] replaced[]
boxed and barge board

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, MANSARD, FLAT, DORMERS
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original[] replaced[]

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed[] hip[] gable[]

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 2 BRICK[x] STONE[] CORBELED[] original[] replaced[]
LOCATION: west end, east end center section

ARCHES:

COMMENTS:

On October 4, 1779; Amos Cord conveyed 150 acres of "Stony Ridge Enlargement" to John Mitchell for the sum of 500 pounds.¹ In a description of the boundaries of Mitchell's land, this property was referred to as part of "Stony Ridge" and "Paca's Enlargement".² Originally, this land had belonged to John Paca, who in 1775 conveyed it to John Blackburn,³ Blackburn then sold it to Thomas Perigrine Farsby who exchanged it with Amos Cord in 1776.⁴

Also, on December 17, 1783, John Stevenson sold 243 acres of "Stony Ridge" to John Mitchell for 486 pounds.⁵ And in 1800, Captain James Philips of Baltimore City conveyed 100 acres of Stony Ridge, which he had inherited from his father, to John Mitchell.⁶ This parcel had been confiscated from James Christie after the Revolution and sold by commissioners appointed to preserve confiscated British property to James Philips on October 1, 1782 for 100 pounds.

John Mitchell (b. 1737, d. 1801), has been described as "a respected and thrifty millwright." He married Mary Tidball in 1765 and had eight children. The property we are concerned with here-i.e. on the north side of Snake Lane-presumably passed to John Mitchell's son, Elijah, and then to Elijah's three sons William, Robert, and Elisha.⁷

It is said that in 1831 Elisha Mitchell possessed the land on which the Bechtold-Lohr house and the Mitchell-Lauterbach (HA-1286) house now stand.⁸ William's house burned. Robert owned the property where the Winfield Mitchell house (HA-1286), the Mitchell Tenant house #1, the Markline house, and the Mitchell-Magness house are now situated. Robert probably lived in the house now owned by William Craig, located behind the Mitchell-Magness house. However, that structure has been altered extensively, and the house as Robert Mitchell would have known it is unrecognizable.

Robert Mitchell married Averilla Hawkins and together they had seven children: Robert Louis, Mary Jane, Samuel, George, John Thomas, Catherine, and Margaret. In the last quarter of the 19th century, Robert Louis Mitchell built the Winfield Mitchell house⁹, Samuel built the Markline house (HA-1283)¹⁰ and eventually occupied his father's house; John Thomas built the Mitchell Tenant house #1,¹¹ and Margaret lived in the Mitchell-Magness house.

John Thomas Mitchell had two sons, George and Alonzo. George's house burned; Alonzo lived in what is called the Mitchell tenant house #1 and inherited Robert Louis Mitchell's house. John Winfield Mitchell, son of George Mitchell, then inherited the property of Alonzo Mitchell who had no children of his own.¹²

Thus, most of the Mitchell houses on Snake Lane were built during the last quarter of the 19th century by the children of Robert Mitchell.

Footnotes

- 1 Liber JLGC, Folio 239
- 2 Liber JLGD, Folio 16
- 3 Ref. Liber JLGC, Folio 239
- 4 Liber JLGA, Folio 257
- 5 Liber JLGE, Folio 416
- 6 Liber JLGP, Folio 430
- 7 Mitchell family archives
- 8 HD 14/87
- 9 ALJ 32/190
- 10 ALJ 32/464
- 11 ALJ 36/186
- 12 ALJ 64/373

Although unimpressive singly, this cluster of houses in the Snake Lane vicinity represents a good cross-section of Harford County's small farmhouses built in the second half of the 19th century. Each is ordinary and, thus, together they represent the surprising variety of vernacular forms built at that time. None seems distinctive, but, on closer examination, no two are the same (although at least one house was a deliberate imitation of its neighbor).

There are certain common denominators among these buildings. They are all two story frame structures with gable roofs. Most are L or T shaped, with 6/6 sash windows and brick end chimneys (for stoves). They are of various construction: clapboard, shingle, board-and-batten, (However, most have been covered in asphalt shingles or aluminum siding, so the original materials are not apparent.) There is minimal exterior ornament: the shutters, gable returns, and carved porch brackets on the Winfield Mitchell house represent the height of fancy; the Wakeland-Gorrell house with its projecting vestibule and colored glass windows is an anomaly. Similarly, the interior plans are functional: one or two rooms in each story of the main section, one or two rooms in the el, with a staircase tucked in between. Or, if the staircase is in the center of the main section as in larger houses, it is not given undue prominence by being set apart in a hallway (again, except for the Wakeland-Gorrell house); it is against one wall of one of the rooms. Utilitarian, functional, with few conceits--these are the underlying themes of these houses.

Other motifs are subtler--the relationships between formal and informal elements, for instance. This dichotomy is represented in various ways: the symmetrical fenestration on the front facade versus the haphazard arrangement on the rear; the ambiguous relationship between the facade and the interior arrangement, wherein the former formalizes the latter. Perhaps the best way to discuss this cluster of seemingly non-descript buildings is to group them on this basis.

All houses have a front porch--less one for sitting than one to announce the entrance. It is the way visitors are introduced to the house and is often the one element that is decorated. The porches on these houses are of different shapes--their scale and ornament in direct proportion to the size and prosperity of the house: The George Jones house (HA-1053) is absolutely straightforward: three parts built side by side with an entrance in each. The formal entrance, in the west section, has a one bay wide, gable-roofed portico--and that is the only exterior element that could be considered extraneous. The Markline house and the Mitchell Tenant house #2 both having two parts, each two bays wide and two bays deep have undecorated shed-roofed porches spanning their front facades. The Markline house represents a slightly more formal arrangement than the other two--with its additions annexed to the rear, leaving the front facade symmetrical and singularly autonomous.

The Mitchell Tenant house #1, which is wider than the Markline house by one bay and has a central entrance, correspondingly has a more ornate porch with gable returns and collared posts. Likewise, instead of the stair being tucked between the front and rear sections as in the Markline house, the stair is in the center, against the east wall of the parlor.

The Winfield Mitchell house and the Mitchell-Magness house--both four bays wide, with entrances in the two center bays--illustrate well the formal-informal dichotomy that the other houses suggest. The symmetrical facades, the porches with carved brackets, collared or turned posts, and central flights of steps represent the public gestures; and the rear elevations, haphazardly arranged, are for residents' eyes only. The two entrances--one leading into the family parlor, the other into the formal part--manifest the duality.

The Bechtold-Lohr and Bonnett-Mitchell houses are both five bays wide--and the latter was copied deliberately from the former. The porch of the Bechtold-Lohr house with its

NA-1053

massive rock-faced concrete block piers, tapered columns, and hipped roof was constructed after the house was built but is appropriately-and symbolically-prepossessing for a house of this breadth. Its cousin, the Bonnett-Mitchell house, has a relatively scaled-down porch with square Doric posts covering the central three bays. Both houses have central entrances and central sets of porch steps-but no center hall on the interior. The formal symmetry of the exteriors bely the simply, functional interiors. Inside of both are two rooms, the room with the staircase (which is aligned with the entrance) larger than the other.

Finally-with the ultimate formal arrangement-the Gorrell house is three bays wide, with floor-length windows in the first story. Spanning the facade, the hipped-roofed porch with square posts shelters the projecting three-sided vestibule with a double-leafed door in the center, flanked by windows with colored glass borders. Inside, the house has a central hall plan. The principal facade of the Gorrell house has all three formal elements present in varying degrees in the other houses of this area: the extroverted porch, the inflected entrance, and relatively elaborate ornament.

ABERDEEN
USGS
QUADRANGLE

HA-1053



HA-1279

HA-1277

HA-1277

HA-994

HA-1276

HA-1284

HA-1053

HA-1286

HA-1285

HA-1054

HA-1287

HA-1300

HA-1309

HA-1290

Smith Chapel

Bodt Corner

Carrins

Jefferson Sch

Aldino

Aldino Airport

Churchville

Grays

Gravel Pkt

Basal Cfm

OLBERT

GRATONS LANE

Outsling

HA-1053

HA-1053

HA-1053

HA-1053



George Jones Hosse
Churchville, MD 21001

HA-1053

Natalie Shivers
January, 1979

Southeast elevation



George Jones House HA-1053
Churchville, MD 21001

Natalie Shivers
January, 1979

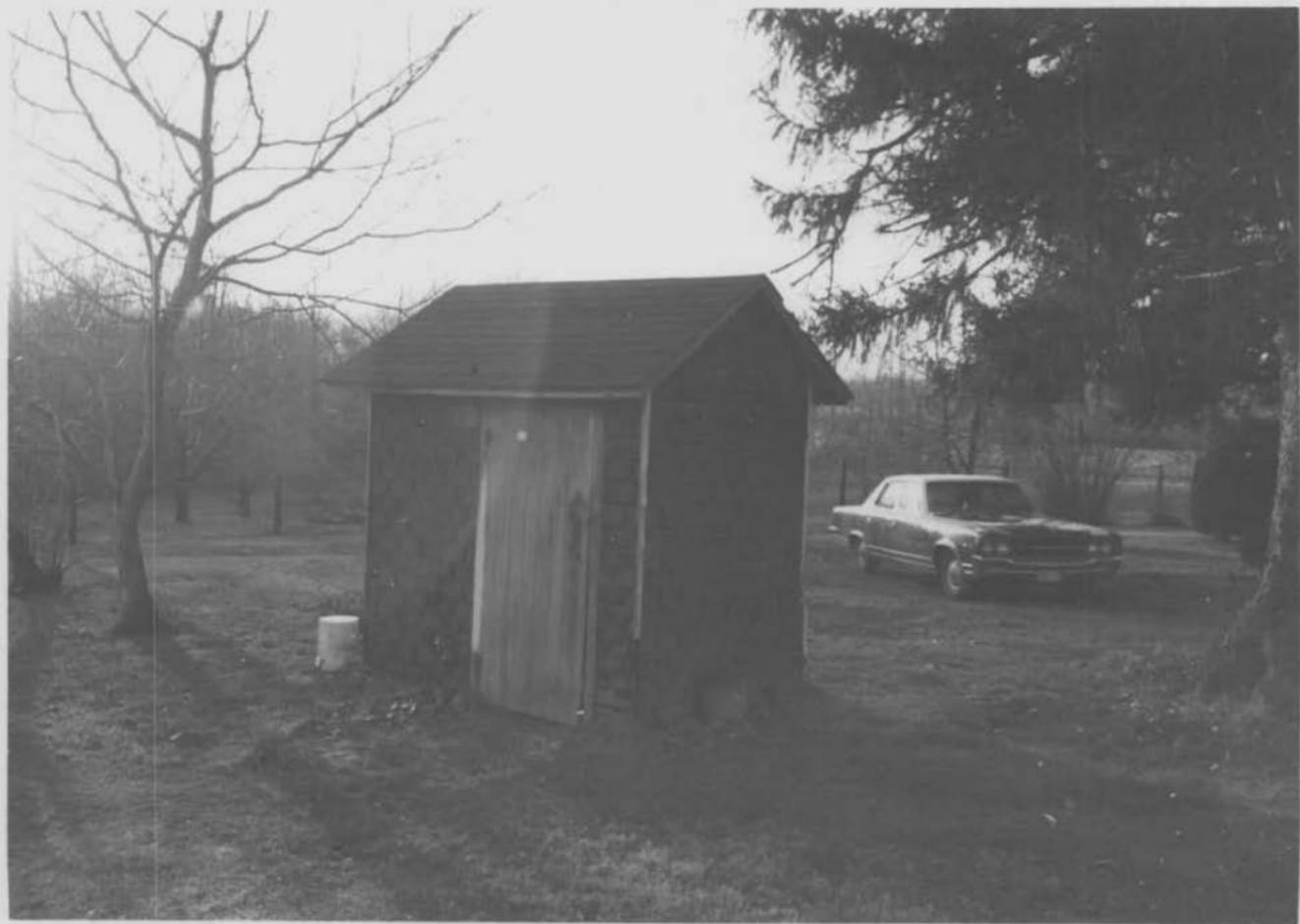
Northwest elevation



George Jones House
Churchville, MD 21001
Natalie Shivers
January, 1979

HA-1053

Smoke house



George Jones House HA-1053
Churchville, MD 21001

Natalie Shivers
January, 1979

Milkhouse