

K-228

Plain View Farm, Ralph Williams Farm, Muddy Branch Farm 19th Century  
Lynch  
Private

Plain View Farm house is a vernacular building, circa 1800, which has several unusual elements including a very small front room, double entrance doors, a huge chamfered summer beam in the first floor ceiling, and shaped rafter ends. Certainly, these are adaptations of the usual two story gable roofed, rectangular, brick house form to the needs of an individual builder. The house is brick with a frame wing.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Ralph Williams Farm

AND/OR COMMON

Plain View Farms, Muddy Branch Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lynch

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ronald Wessel (Mr. & Mrs.)

Telephone #:(301) 778-1065

STREET & NUMBER

Box 14

CITY, TOWN

Worton

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21678

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Liber #: EUP 69

Folio #: 699

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

K-228

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

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The main house of Plain View Farms is a four bay, two story brick vernacular farm building which closely resembles its neighbors, Duncan's Folly (K-107) a much earlier building and Terra View (K- The house, once called Muddy Branch Farm, faces south, on a hill overlooking fields and distantly, the old Muddy Branch. Tall, old trees are the only striking vegetation. Only one outbuilding remains, a steep gable roofed frame shed with a batten door hung with penny-end strap hinges.

The house has Flemish bond brick on the front facade with Liverpool bond used elsewhere. The brick walls are painted white. Original windows are located in the second and fourth bays (from the west.) The main entrance is in the third bay. The first bay also contained a door, now converted into a tall window with Victorian trim. Windows have 6/6 sash, slightly projecting wooden sills and beaded frames with a backband molding. Segmental brick arches are used above first floor window openings on both front and rear facades. Second floor windows with sash, similiar trim and sills are situated above the windows below. The fenestration of the rear facade resembles that on the front except that there is only one door in the same, third from the west bay.

There were two small attic windows in the east gable until a recent remodeling. A former window in the west gable near the front wall of the building was long ago closed.

The cellar entrance with its arched opening is located in the bay west of the main entrance. The building has no belt courses or water table but stands on a field stone foundation. There is a cellar under the west half of the house.

A four bay modern porch shades the front of the house, obscuring window and door arches. At the rear of the house is a one bay entrance porch with turned posts, wooden benches, and very attractive and unusual sawn wooden brackets and pendants.

The gable roof of the main house has exposed rafter ends which are shaped to resemble brackets. This unusual roof finish appears to be quite early. Enclosed chimneys with rebuilt caps rise at each gable.

North east of the house is a two story wing which appears to be contemporary with the main house. Although it may have once been one and one-half storys in height, it had a shed roof over a full two storys until recently. It rests on a stone cellar and has an enclosed corner stair in the northwest corner. It originally had two rooms on the second floor with a passage leading from the stair to the front room. A recent remodeling replaced the ungainly shed roof with a gable roof and removed the second floor partitions. In the remodeling fragments of beaded weatherboarding were found.

The interior floor plan is somewhat unusual and may indicate changes. The building now has a central stair entrance hall with stair, which, by its details, posts-dates the house. South of the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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		

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SPECIFIC DATES Early 19th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Plain View Farms house which appears to be a very typical vernacular farm house of c. 1800 has in fact several unusual elements: The plan with the small front room, the double entrance doors, the chamfered structural beam inside and the shaped rafter ends. Certainly these are adaptations of the usual gable roofed, rectangular, vernacular form to the needs and tastes of an individual builder.

Little is known of the history of the building, its unusual elements could make its research an interesting project.

K-228

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Historical Society

DATE

August, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

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

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# 7 Continued

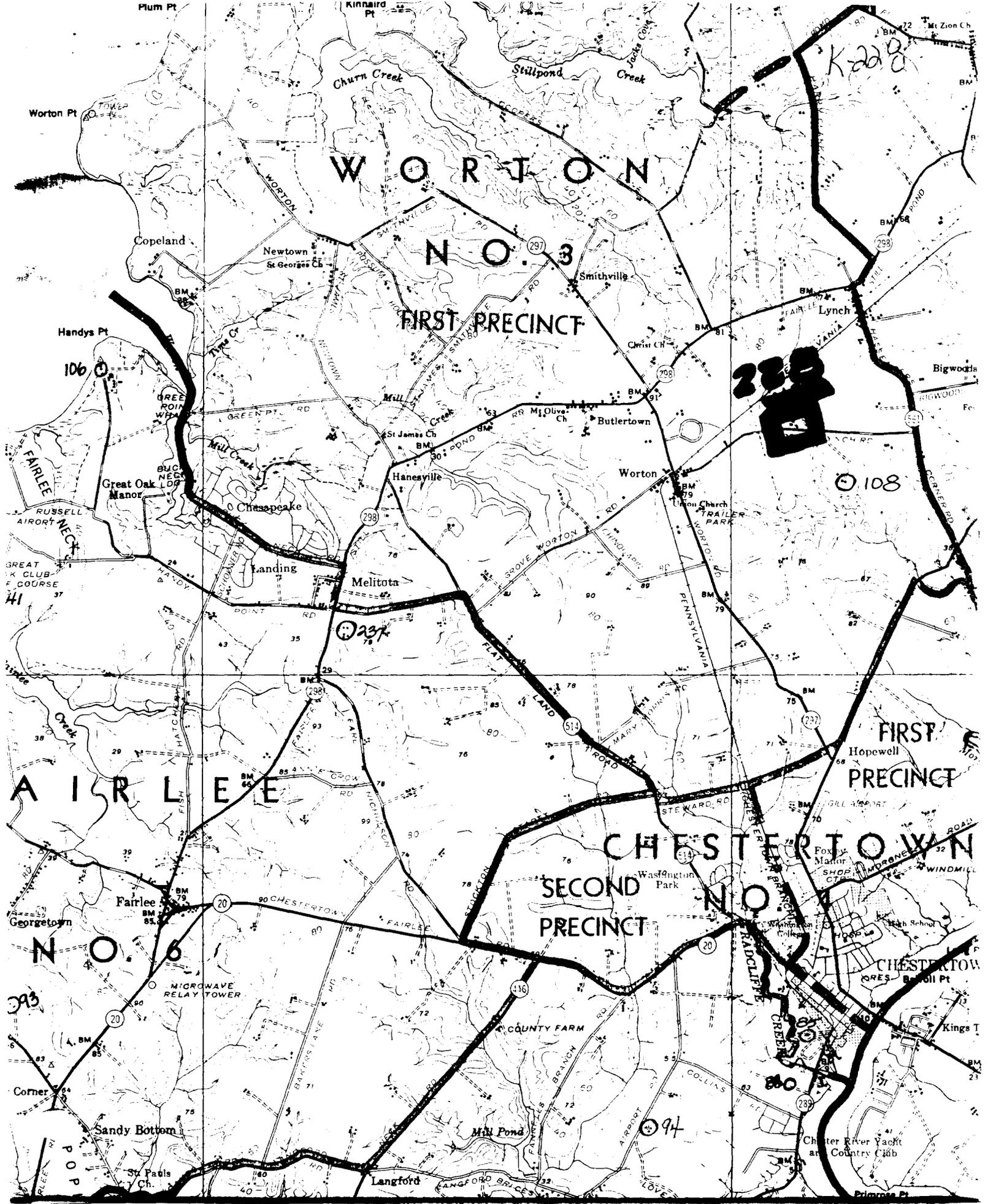
present stair the first floor is divided into a long narrow front room (into which was a door) and parlor. Portions of this wall, now plastered, show it is vertically boarded and beaded facing the parlor. There is a large mantle with surround consisting of quarter round backband, wide fillet, cyma recta, wide fillet & bead. There is a plastered panel above the fireplace. A closet left of the mantle has a beaded batten door.

Other window and door trim on the first floor is simple and appears to date from the mid to late 19th century.

The most unusual feature of the house is a large structural beam which runs the length of the house beneath the roof ridge and supports the second floor. The beam has wide chamfers with lamb's tongue chamfer stops. Whether it was original or added for structural stability can only be determined by examination of the pockets in the brick walls in which it is let and other structural elements.

The central stair, certainly a later addition, has a mahogany newel and handrail and plain rectangular balusters.

The second floor of the house has original trim on most windows and doors. It is identical to that on the mantle surround and certainly dates the house to the Federal period, probably the early 19th century. Doors are six panel, raised and beveled on the front and recessed at the rear. Old pine floors are found on the second floor.





PLAIN VIEW

MHT-K228

WORTON-LYNCH RD.

LYNCH, MD

FRONT FROM SOUTH

C. ENGSTROM AUG 1977



PLAIN VIEW

MHT-K 228

WORTON-LYNCH RD.

LYNCH, MD.

REAR FROM NORTH

C. ENGSTROM AUG. 1977



PLAIN VIEW  
WORTON-LYNCH RD.  
LYNCH, MD.

MHT - K 228

LIVING ROOM MANTEL  
C. ENGSTROM AUG. 1977