

SIMPSON HOUSE
Chestertown, Maryland
(ca 1880)

K-404

Typical of many Victorian farmhouses in Kent County, the Simpson House near Hanesville has a gable located in the center of its principle facade. The main stair behind this front gable has handsome turned newels and balusters and rises to the attic. The interior of the building and its original hardware have been meticulously restored, but the installation of aluminum siding has resulted in the loss of much exterior detail.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Simpson House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West side Flatland Road near

Hanesville

CITY, TOWN

Porter's Grove Hanesville Road (10511) 1st

STATE

(Hanesville)
Chestertown

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

COUNTY

Maryland

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

James A. Simpson

Telephone #: 301-778-0351

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. #4 Box 606

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Court House

Liber #: EHP 42

Folio #: 850

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

K-404

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Simpson House is sited on a knoll overlooking a similiar house across the road. The house has a grassy front yard edged with large trees. Behind the house are several outbuildings which will be described below.

The main house is five bays wide. It has a narrow central gable, two centrally located brick chimneys, and a three bay, one-story front porch. On the south gable is a one-story octagonal bay window with a very shallow hipped roof and round-headed sash windows. The porch has chamfered, square columns and ornamental bracketts; like the bay window, the roof is a shallow hip.

On the south side of the main house is a four-bay, two story ell; on its end wall is a one-story, hip roof glass-enclosed porch.

The main house and ell both have gable roofs with overhanging, undecorated eaves. The two front dormers also have overhanging eaves and round headed sash windows.

Round headed windows are also located in the gables; elsewhere windows have plain 2 over 2 sash. The central main entry has a four-light transom and three-light sidelights with panels. There are double front doors with round-headed panels with bolection moldings.

The interior stair of this building is very beautiful and has recently been refinished and repainted. In its details the stair is similiar to many others of the period but this one is especially graceful and is located in an unusually generous stair hall. The newels and balusters are turned and there are foliated step bracketts. The handrail and newel are walnut. The dog-leg stair is open for three stories. Hanging in the entry is a ruby-glass gas fixture which probably is original to the building. It has been electrified.

An other original feature are the interior louvered blinds in the bay window.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-404

| 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

ca 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Simpson House is a central gable house which is very typical of the late 19th century farmhouse. It is included on the survey because it illustrates that simple, commonplace Victorian houses can be adapted to modern use without the loss of the distinctive quality of their spaces and without the loss of their interior detail. Because of the potential for causing damage and because exterior detail is usually lost, aluminum siding is not recommended for old houses. If it must be done, an installation such as this one which contrasts trim to the body of the house is more in keeping with the principles of Victorian architecture, and results in a more attractive building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-404

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, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION
Kent County Planning Commission

DATE
778-4600, ext.67

STREET & NUMBER
Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

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.

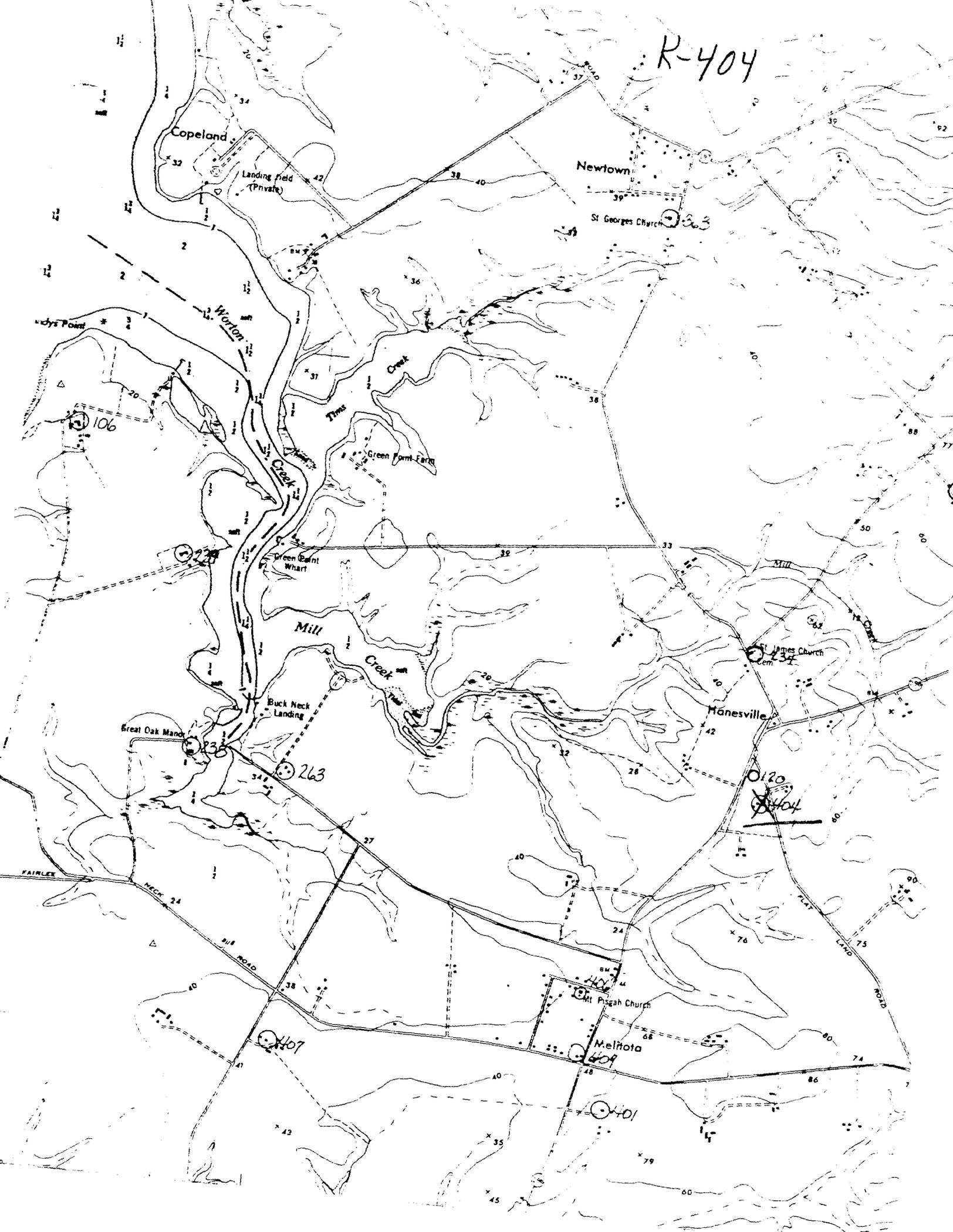
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Original cast iron locks and latches remain on most doors and windows. The mantles are marbelized slate in the southern first floor rooms and wooden with applied rosettes and panels in the other rooms.

The present owners have recently remodeled the building. Some interior walls on the upper floors have been covered with plywood paneling, crown molding has been installed in some rooms, and new oak flooring has been installed on the first floor. In addition, the installation of aluminum siding on the exterior has resulted in the loss of some detail, especially corner moldings applied panels under the windows of the bay. Most other details--windows, stair, hardware, four-panel doors, trim--were meticulously cleaned, repaired and re-installed.

Outbuildings on the property include a gable roofed post and plank building which rests on a foundation and is covered with wide weatherboarding, and a two-hall outhouse with German shiplay siding and a nice, bold crownmolding. There are also early 20th century barns and chicken houses and one shingle-covered, gable roofed building now used as a work shop.

R-404





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Simpson House

View to west

Chestertown

Kent County

M. L. Fritz

3/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

JAN 15 1980