

K-487

Reardon  
Quaker Neck  
4th quarter 18th Century

This old brick house while called Reardon is actually located on the tract called Lyons Hall and dates from the last quarter of the 18th century. Originally, its southeast facade was nearly identical to Providence Plantation only a mile up Quaker Neck with three bays and two stories in the main house and the two bays in the brick kitchen wing. Both houses have Flemish bond brickwork and asymmetrical door placement. Even the location of the chimneys is similar. The plan differed in that it was of the more common vernacular form of hall-parlor with attached kitchen.

Originally, the enclosed winder stair was located in the north corner of the hall, and like Providence, there was probably a wall of paneling across the chimney breast and adjoining cabinet. The parlor may have had a paneled chimney breast too, but because of its location in the center of the wall, it would only have had a mantel or simply a fireplace surround. The kitchen was located down four or five steps and had a brick floor on grade. Its ceiling joists were originally exposed as they are at present.

In the 1783 Tax Assessment, Morgan Brown is assessed for the property, but there is no improvement schedule for Quaker Neck, making it more difficult to pinpoint the date of construction. In his will, probated in 1800, Brown left "all my land which belonged to my grandfather, Morgan Brown, and 100 acres that belonged to my father, Edward, called Lyons Hall" to be divided between Edward and Morgan, his sons.

K-487

In another tax assessment of 1852, the owner was Captain Morgan Brown and the parcels of land and improvements were listed as follows:

"Pt. Providence, Price's Lot  
Lyons Hall, Batchelor's Hope  
Reardon & McConican  
Brick House & other Buildings  
in good repair, formerly to  
Edward Brown 281 acres"

Strangely enough, this man whose ancestors were Quakers, possessed two slaves along with livestock, furniture, 2 watches, etc., totaling \$6,088.

According to local tradition, the house was struck by lightning in the late 19th century and burned, leaving only the brick shell. The Browns rebuilt within the old shell, changing and simplifying as was necessary. Instead of rebuilding the corner stair, they built the new one in a narrow center hall, making it more like other farmhouses of the time. All of the windows were changed to 6/6 sash with louvered blinds, and dormers were built on the roof to light the attic bedrooms. The property remained in the Brown family until 1932.

The house appears to have remained essentially a typical 19th century farmhouse until it was purchased in 1935 with 14 acres by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Roach. The Roaches undertook the next major alteration by adding a one-and-a-half story brick wing on the northeast side of the house, installing a kitchen in what was the living room and converting the old kitchen into a den. By raising the kitchen walls a half story, they created a

K-487<sup>3</sup>

master bedroom adjacent a dressing room in what was the parlor chamber.  
Other amenities changed the old farmhouse into an attractive estate  
overlooking the waters of Comegys Bight.

The present owners have recently remodeled the house within the  
general confines established in the 1930's.

K-487  
Reardon  
24151 Comegys Bight  
Johnsontown vicinity  
Langford Creek Quad.  
Kent County

