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Shipyard Farm  
Near Rock Hall  
mid-19th Century

Shipyard Farm is composed of parts of several early tracts including Standaway, Broadnox, Timely Discovery and Childers. John P. Smith appears as the owner in the 1852 Tax Assessment and is assessed on 377 acres with "a Frame and a Brick Dwelling in good repair."<sup>1</sup>

The brick dwelling may be the house called Bennington today. Whether or not the frame house mentioned in the assessment is our subject is not certain. The Italianate style, form, and detail is typical of the mid-19th century. Many details are similar to the Taylor House in Chestertown which was built in 1857.

Its plan has a central stairhall with four flanking rooms. The important interior architectural elements are largely intact, but the exterior has lost much of its decorative trim. The front and rear porches have been enclosed and the cupola or lantern has been replaced.

Local tradition holds that the house was constructed by Captain Columbus Leary who purchased the farm from Richard Hynson.<sup>2</sup> Hynson acquired it from George B. Westcott who foreclosed on a mortgage from James Hadaway (John Smith's son-in-law).<sup>3</sup> Hadaway appears as the owner in the 1877 Atlas. The current owners purchased the farm from the Leary heirs in 1947.<sup>4</sup>

1. 1852 Tax Assessment.
2. Land Records, Lib. SB 3, fol. 178.

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- 3. Land Records, Lib. SB 3, fol. 178.
- 4. Land Records, Lib. WHG 2, fol. 392.