NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior**
**National Park Service**

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Oakwood

other names AA-741

## 2. Location

street & number 4566 Solomons Island Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Harwood ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Anne Arundel code 003 zip code 20776

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title, Deputy SHPO Date 6-22-01

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Oakwood (AA-741)
Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

**Category of Property**
(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | 0 | Total |

**Name of related multiple property listing**
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Colonial Revival

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Asbestos
roof Asphalt
other Wood

**Narrative Description**
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.

☒ B Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture
Politics/Government

### Period of Significance

1850-1902

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Sprigg Harwood

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

### Previous documentation on files (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

### Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository:

Oakwood (AA-741)
Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 6.97 acres

**UTM References** Deale, MD quad
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 18 | 359600 | 4301930 | 3 | | | |
| 2 | | | | 4 | | | |

☐ See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification**
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sherri M. Marsh
Organization Anne Arundel County Historic Preservation Planning Office date February 2001
street & number 2664 Riva Road telephone (410) 222-7441
city or town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional Items**
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

**Paperwork Reduction Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

## Description Summary:

Oakwood is located on the west side of Solomon's Island Road (Maryland Route 2) approximately one-half mile south of the village of Harwood, in southern Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Oakwood is approached from Solomon's Island Road via serpentine gravel drive. Thick stands of trees and vegetation shade the private drive and surround the house, completely blocking its visibility from the main road.

Built in the 1850s, Oakwood is a 2 ½-story, double-pile-plan, frame vernacular farmhouse. The main block is three bays wide. An original two-story, frame wing projects from the south gable end of the main house. This wing is three bays wide and one room deep, and its front façade is set flush with that of the main block. The brick foundation under both sections is continuous.

Oakwood is in very good condition and retains a high degree of historic integrity. The interior shows the influence of three periods of occupation, with architectural elements reflective of the varying economic status and changing tastes of Oakwood's occupants from the 1850s to present.

## General Description:

Setting

Oakwood is located in southern Anne Arundel County, on the west side of Solomon's Island Road (Maryland Route 2) approximately one-half mile south of the village of Harwood, Maryland, Oakwood is approached from Solomon's Island Road via winding gravel drive. Thick stands of trees and vegetation shade the approach and surround the house. As a result, the dwelling and most of the associated seven-acre lot is not visible from the main road.

The house faces east and is sited on high ground overlooking a wooded ravine that runs southwest into Rock Branch, a tributary of Patuxent River. The setting is wooded and rural. Remnants of an 1860s terrace garden remain on the south side of the dwelling. Unfortunately, no historic outbuildings survive.

Exterior

Built between 1850-1860, Oakwood is a 2 ½-story, double-pile-plan, frame farmhouse, with original architectural details influenced by the Greek Revival style. The main block contains three bays. A two-story, frame kitchen wing projects from the south gable end of the main house. The wing is three bays wide and one room deep, with the front façade set flush with that of the main block. A continuous brick foundation suggests the two sections represent a single building episode.

The main house features a pitched gable roof, covered by modern composition shingles. Two symmetrically placed 6/6 dormer windows, accented with partial cornice returns, pierce the east and west sides. The boxed cornice features a dentilated frieze below the soffit and a complex crown molding above. An internal brick fireplace chimney slightly offset to the west of the ridgeline, stands at each gable end. Chimneys are approximately 17 brick courses tall, inclusive of corbelling, and both stacks show evidence of repointing and repair.

The kitchen wing's roof pitch and covering are consonant with the main building. The roof is pierced at the south gable end by a brick fireplace chimney of the type found on the main block. A tall, narrow, semi-exterior stove chimney breaks the roofline slightly left of center on the west façade. The front (east) façade of the wing is set flush with that of the main section. Both the main house and wing are sheathed with asbestos shingles applied over early horizontal siding.

A classically styled front porch dominates the front façade. It features an attractive dentilated cornice and four Doric-style wood columns. In his memoirs a family member writes that this porch was built about 1895 as a replacement for an earlier porch. He recalls the columns used in the 1895 porch were salvaged from elsewhere.[1]

The principal entrance is located in the center bay of the east façade. The original door survives and is distinguished by a six-light transom and flanking sidelights. Flanking Greek Revival style pilasters, related to the earlier porch treatment, stand between the door and window openings. A second floor doorway aligns with the principal entrance below. Fitted with double French doors and topped by a three-light transom, the opening provides access to an approximately 8' x 10' balustraded balcony.

Fenestration in the main block's front (east) façade consists of four, 8/8 sash windows. While the house is predominately Greek Revival in character, the window's thin attenuated muntin profiles more closely resemble Federal or Colonial Revival examples. The backbands feature a beveled ogee. While this type of trim appears in pattern books as early as about 1830, they are rarely seen in this area earlier than the 1850s.[2]

The kitchen wing's front façade features three evenly spaced, 6/6 sash windows on each floor. Muntin profiles closely match those on the main block. The wing's north façade features a relatively modern door topped by a shed-roof hood and a modern, second-floor jalousie window.

---

[1] Sellman Woollen was born at Oakwood in 1890. He remembers the porch was built when he was a very small child. In his eminiscences he writes that the current porch is three times longer, and also wider than the porch it replaced. Sellman goes on to say that the porch is supported by "four old Colonial style wooden pillars" that his grandmother, Virginia Woollen, acquired.

[2] Orlando Ridout, V of the Maryland Historical Trust graciously provided much of the building fabric analysis used in the description and significance sections of this nomination.

A circa 1894 bay window projects from the front of the first floor's east side. The openings are glazed with 2/2 sash windows. The projecting bay's dentilated cornice treatment matches that embellishing the front façade. Additional fenestration on this side of the main block includes a 6/6 attic widow.

The main block's rear (west) façade contains four bays. Each first floor opening contains a pair of French doors, topped by a three-light transom. Transoms appear original, while the doors date to the late-19th or early 20th century. These doors possibly replace earlier triple hung, floor-length sash windows or jib doors. Four second-story windows match those on the primary façade. A one-story porch supported by thin, square, built-up posts, span the 1st floor of the rear façade.
The porch obscures the three-light cellar window located beneath each 1st floor opening. Cellar windows are fitted with wooden, horizontal, diamond-shaped bars.

The kitchen wing's west façade is set back from the main house. A 20th-century, shed-roof screen porch runs he length of the wall. The three second-story 6/6 windows appear historic, but the 1st floor openings are altered. A small, square exterior stove chimney stands to the left of the center, second-story window.

Interior

Oakwood's floor plan is unusual. The builder rejected the center-hall plan typically used in the construction of large 18th and 19th century rural dwellings. Oakwood's plan is best described as a side-passage, double-pile plan turned 90 degrees. The result is a laterally oriented stair hall corresponding with the front façade's front and center bays.

The front entrance opens into the base of the stair hall. Immediately to the left, the open-string staircase rises against the front wall to a landing on the south gable end. The plain ovoid walnut rail rests upon tapered and attenuated turned balusters, and terminates at the base with a fancy-turned walnut newel post. Jig-sawn scroll brackets and vertical paneling embellish the stringboard. A six-panel, through-tenon door under the landing opens to reveal the cellar stair. This door is fitted with a metal box lock marked "Johnson, Balt."

The hall's west wall contains two six-panel, through-tenon doors with internal locks. These provide separate access to the juxtaposed dining room and parlor. A wall running north to south bisects the dining room and parlor. The partition wall contains a large opening, once fitted with sliding pocket doors.

The north room serves as the parlor. The fireplace features a highly polished, Greek Revival-style, black slate mantel with plinths, pilasters, frieze and shelf painted to imitate marble. An elegant Colonial Revival style mantel accents the dining room fireplace. Square, reeded pilasters rise up to engage its Corinthian order capitals. Applied garlands festoon the frieze, which is topped by a complex shelf. Repairs to the floor and wall

indicate this mantel replaces an earlier piece. An alcove to the left side of the fireplace contains a door that leads into a small chamber (possibly a former pantry) that is now used as a bathroom.

Two pairs of evenly spaced 10-light, French doors are present in the west wall of both the dining room and parlor. As previously mentioned these likely replaced earlier full-length windows. A three-light transom spans each door opening. Door surrounds are plain, embellished only with corner blocks.

Other first-floor rooms include a small, unheated chamber located at the north end of the stairhall. The six-panel door is consistent with those found throughout the 1st floor. This room, possibly a former office, is now a library. Changes in flooring and trim indicate the bay window is a later consideration.

A door at the south end of the stairhall provides access into the kitchen wing. The floor plan in this part of the house shows evidence of alteration. The original configuration probably consisted of a stairhall on the northeast and a small room (previously mentioned pantry-turned-bathroom) on the northwest, and a large chimney on the south wall. The current arrangement presents an open string stair nestled against the east wall of a short hall that connects the main house with the kitchen. The stair begins as a winder, then changes to a straight-flight type as it rises against the wall, transforming once again to a winder at the top. The bold, molded rail sits upon large, square balusters and terminates at a square newel post.

Though modernized, the kitchen remains dominated by a large cooking fireplace built into the south gable wall. The firebox retains its crane as well as a retrofitted wood cook stove. An original built-in bake oven is situated on the right side of the firebox. large bolts affix the heavy iron oval door surround to the brick. A brass plate attached to the door reads:

The Best Improved Bake
Oven
By Henry Reip
36 Paca St.
Balto.

The second floor of the main house is virtually identical in plan to that below. The unheated chamber at the north end now serves as a modern bathroom. The west rooms serve as chambers and are heated by fireplaces located in the end walls. Mantels in these rooms are relatively simple, consisting of wood surrounds with plain pilasters, frieze and shelf.

A six-panel door, fitted with a box lock marked "F. Johnson" provides communication between the second-floor stair landing and the wing's upper stair hall. The original three-room plan survives on the second floor of the wing. The stair features a simple rail with turned newel and square balusters.

The third floor of the main house consists of a stair hall in the southeast corner, and sleeping chambers to the north and southwest. Architectural embellishment on this level is less sophisticated than on the lower floors.

## Summary Statement of Significance:

Oakwood is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B and C. This ante-bellum plantation house achieves significance in the areas of agriculture, architecture, and politics and government.

A highly intact, mid-19th century tobacco plantation dwelling, Oakwood is significant under Criterion A as it reflects important trends in agricultural practice in Anne Arundel County, including the slave-based economy of the ante-bellum period and the post-war transition to a free labor system.

The property is significant under Criterion B for its association with Sprigg Harwood, who constructed Oakwood between 1850 and 1860. Harwood held a variety of political offices and was a leader in the failed initiative to have Maryland leave the Union and align with the newly-formed Confederate States of America.

The house is architecturally significant under Criterion C for its Greek Revival-influenced decorative detailing, and its unusual floor plan which is more commonly seen in urban contexts in the period. Oakwood is in excellent condition and has experienced very little alteration. As a result, the property retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The period of significance, 1850-1902, encompasses the initial construction of the house and its turn-of-the-20th century renovations, during which it substantially achieved its present appearance.

## Resource History and Historic Context:

This mid-19th century dwelling derives significance from its association with the tobacco-based economy and plantation system of agriculture that dominated southern Anne Arundel County and the tobacco-producing regions surrounding the Chesapeake Bay. The general history of the Chesapeake Bay region from the 17th- to the 20th century has been well documented. Historically, tobacco was the Chesapeake region's most valuable crop and its importance to the area's cultural development and architectural legacy can not be overstated.

By the 18th century, a small number of Chesapeake area tobacco planters amassed great wealth. These few prosperous families preserved and enhanced their wealth and social position through advantageous marriages and inheritance. Tobacco was extremely labor intensive, resulting in an increased reliance on slavery during this period. As a result, this small group exercised control over the ingredients of wealth:

land and labor. Planters translated wealth into power, and protected their rarified position through politics and patronage.

Well into the second quarter of the 19th century, the tobacco producing regions of Maryland and Virginia were characterized by mono-crop agriculture, profound economic inequality, and domination by a powerful and culturally homogeneous elite. For decades this region remained Isolated from the modernizing trends that affected other parts of Maryland and the country, e.g. industrialization and agricultural diversification. The result, according to scholars, was "a rural oligarchy that, until the Civil War ruled with the constancy of a seamless web."[3]

Sprigg Harwood (1808-1894) was born into this rarefied planter class. He descended from a well-respected, politically active family. Harwood was successful, but his wealth was meager compared with some of his relations. He built Oakwood in the mid-19th century. This attractive, but not grand plantation house, represents the architectural taste of a middling member of Maryland's rural gentry as the United States struggled to transformation from an agrarian society to an urban, industrial nation. Oakwood was constructed at a pivotal time in the nation's history and is important as an artifact of slave-based plantation culture at the end of the ante-bellum period.

Oakwood experienced only modest physical changes in the post-Civil War period, but operationally the plantation underwent a major reorganization. In 1850, Sprigg Harwood carried out operations at Oakwood with 20 adult slaves and an overseer. In 1850 Tobacco was overwhelmingly Oakwood's, as well as the regions, principal crop. 20,000 lbs. of tobacco was grown at Oakwood in 1850. In a little more than a decade, wheat and corn increased their importance to this part of the county.

The reason for this switch was partially economic and partially political. Maryland abolished slavery in 1864. (The Emancipation Proclamation of 1862 freed only those slaves in rebelling states.) After emancipation, many of the region's tobacco farmers, especially those operating marginal land, abandoned tobacco in favor of less labor-intensive grain and cereal crops[4][5]. Harwood chose instead to retire from farming. In April of 1866 Sprigg Harwood sold Oakwood plantation to Jacob Rogers Woollen.

Woollen came from Baltimore County and was educated at Baltimore City College. At Oakwood he switched from growing tobacco to grain crops. Woollen's labor force consisted of an unknown number of sharecroppers. These were tenant farmers who were paid with a share of the crop, instead of cash.

[3] Whitman H. Ridgway, Community Leadership in Maryland: 1790-1840, UNC Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (1979).
[4] Richard Walsh and William Lloyd Fox, Maryland: A History 1632-1974, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Maryland (1974).
[5] Federal Schedules for Productions of Agriculture (commonly known as agricultural census records) for Anne Arundel County from 1850, 1860 and 1880 quantify this trend.

Jacob Rogers Woollen's grandson, Sellman Woollen, was born at Oakwood in 1890. Sellman Woollen's memoirs, written in the late 1970s and 80s, make numerous references to his grandfather and Oakwood. Sellman records that his grandfather was opposed to slavery. He, however, married the former Virginia Claytor, who was local to the area. Sellman Woollen recalls that his grandmother and her family believed in "the old way", i.e. slavery. Because of this difference in background, the younger Woollen writes, his family rarely discussed the morality of slavery.

In his memoirs Sellman Woollen writes: "Grandfather Woollen was a so-called gentleman farmer, meaning that he owned the farm and rented it out to tenant farmers on shares, with he acting as a farm manager...Grandfather Woollen did a good bit of his managing before breakfast by horseback, riding out to the tenants houses and discussing the days work with them..."

Sellman Woollen did not know when Oakwood was built, but he makes the following attribution. "It [Oakwood] was a sort of intermediary type of country home for the landlord who was adjusting to changing conditions."

Sellman Woollen's memoirs include a c. 1900 site plan, which is especially valuable as no historic outbuildings survive. A reproduction is submitted with this nomination. His writings repeatedly stress the gentility of his grandparents and their friends. He declares "the Oakwood atmosphere was southern hospitality at its best."

Sprigg Harwood sold Oakwood plantation to Woollen when the system that had for generations supported his family and peers ceased to be viable. By 1866 Harwood's debts were mounting and he was spending a greater percentage of his time in Annapolis, truing to rebuild his political career. Woollen purchases the tobacco plantation for $25,100, a $14,405 increase over the 1847 auction price paid by Harwood. The construction of the dwelling alone can not account for such a large increase and probably takes into consideration the value of crops in the field or barn.

Sprigg Harwood was very active in local and state Democratic Party politics for more than forty years. During this time he played a leading role in important and controversial issues. Oakwood's association with Sprigg Harwood qualifies the property for National Register listing under Criterion B.

In 1836, newspapers identified Sprigg Harwood as one of the "Glorious 19". This name refers to those 19 Democrats chosen that year as electors of the State Senate who refused to sit with the electoral body until the majority Whig Party agreed to constitutional reforms.

The dispute of 1836 centered on inequity in representation. Specifically, the fact that less populous districts were over-represented in the Maryland House of Delegates. The stand-off led to a major restructuring of Maryland's government and election system. Ironically, the democratic reforms

championed by Harwood eroded the power of families like his that had dominated Maryland politics since the early colonial period.[6]

Harwood served as State Treasurer from 1860 to 1864, which was an office previously held by two of his uncles. In 1865 Sprigg Harwood was elected to the Maryland Senate. His father previously served in the State House of Delegates. In the early 1860s Sprigg Harwood was a key supporter of the subsequently failed movement to have Maryland secede from the Union, and with the assistance of ex-Governor Pratt, drew up a formal secession plan. In 1864 he was one of a small minority of southern sympathizers who attended the Maryland State Constitutional Convention, which abolished slavery in the state.

With respect to Criterion C, Oakwood achieves architectural significance as a well-crafted and nicely finished vernacular dwelling influenced by the Greek Revival style. The house is noted for its unusual floor plan, and its builders combined use of what, in the mid-19th century, were traditional, transitional and modern construction features.

With respect to plan, Oakwood's internal arrangement has antecedents in 18th century, Annapolis-area gentry housing. Specifically, Oakwood's configuration shares similarities with the regional architectural form known as the "Annapolis Plan".[7] The Annapolis Plan, however, is unusual in a 19th century context. One could expect Oakwood to feature a center-hall plan, which is extremely common in both rural high-style and vernacular architectural forms from the 18th through the 20th century.[8] Oakwood's builder rejected this popular form in favor of something rather unusual.

Orlando Ridout V, of the Maryland Historical Trust describes Oakwood's plan as essentially a side-passage, double-parlor plan dwelling. This form, seen at Oakwood with sliding pocket doors that can separate the formal rooms, is common in better quality houses in the Greek Revival and later Italianate periods. What distinguishes Oakwood from the side-passage plan is the orientation with the passage across the front of the house. The builder, in essence, turned the house "sideways".

In practical terms, this allowed both of the best rooms to open out into the garden. This arrangement also provided a rational route of access to the kitchen wing, and direct communication between the passage and the office/library. As a result, work and public activities could be carried out without intruding into the private, family space.

---

[6] Walsh and Fox, pp. 281-282
[7] Marcia M. Miller and Orlando Ridout V, Architecture in Annapolis: A Field Guide, Crownsville, MD: Vernacular Architecture Forum and the Maryland Historical Trust Press, 1998.
[8] Richard L. Bushman, The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities, New York: Vintage Books, 1993, pp. 396-397.

Ridout observes that it is reasonable to observe a conceptual link between Oakwood and the Annapolis plan. The placement of the two well-finished public rooms on the garden side recalls the arrangement at Hammond-Harwood, Upton Scott and the John Ridout House. A small room off the entrance suited for business affairs provides another similarity with Annapolis plan houses[9]. Ridout acknowledges Oakwood's Annapolis plan antecedents, but concludes that Oakwood possesses all the essential elements of a Greek Revival urban town house, that is reoriented to take advantage of a rural setting[10].

Oakwood represents an important transition in the region's building practice. During the 19th-century, traditional regional house forms, such as the Annapolis plan, started giving way to nationally popular styles, built with mass-produced, stock components. Oakwood's amalgamated display of building technologies, unusual plan, and incorporation of Greek Revival stylistic elements represents the emerging influence of the national culture on traditional architectural forms.

Property History

On December 14, 1847, Sprigg Harwood purchased at auction 231 acres of Cherry Hill tobacco plantation. Cherry Hill belonged to Harwood's recently deceased father, Osborn Harwood (1760-1847). Sprigg Harwood would have inherited the entire 631 ¾- acre plantation and 37 slaves under the terms of his father's will. Debts and a subsequent Chancery Court order, however, brought prior to Osborn's death, forced the property's sale.

In accordance with Chancery Court decree, notice of Cherry Hill's was published in local newspapers. As the history of Sprigg Harwood's Oakwood plantation is inextricably bound up with that of Cherry Hill, it is useful to quote the description of Cherry Hill published in the Maryland Republican prior to the sale.

> "Trustees will offer at public sale, to the highest bidder, on the premises, on Tuesday, the 14th Day of December next, the following real and personal Estate
> CHERRY HILL
> Containing by a survey just made and returned
> 621-34 ACRES OF LAND
> more or less, situated in that part of Anne Arundel County, known as West River, and second to no land in that most fertile section of the country. The locality of this property, its great fertility, the salubrity of the country, and a neighborhood remarkable for the agreeable intercourse, and polish and refinement of its society, combine to render it one of the

[9] Ibid. pp. 131 and 147
[10] Personal communication to Sherri Marsh, October 12, 1999.

most delightful residences in Maryland, or a sale and profitable investment of capital. To suit purchase, said estate has been laid off into 4 lots, vis:

Lot No. 1 contains 197 ¼ ACRES,
more or less, and includes the DWELLING, and all suitable OUT-HOUSES, BARNS, CORN-HOUSE, STABLE and QUARTERS, and an ample supply of wood for the want of the farm.

Lot No. 2 contains 173 ½ ACRES,
more or less, and adjoins the village of Owensville, upon this lot there are no buildings, but it contains every other requisite for a very desirable farm.

Lot No. 3 contains 131 ACRES,
more or less and

Lot No. 4 contains 131 ACRES,
more or less, both of which lying on the south west, or right hand side of the road leading to Calvert, and will be sold together or separate, to suit purchases.

This portion of the estate is supposed to be the best land upon which there is a comfortable
FRAME DWELLING
used as an Overseer's House, and a large Barn, and a sufficiency of wood and water for the wants of the farm.
Also,
A large number of valuable
slaves for life of both sexes
and all ages, and a large number of horses and cattle,
and a good supply of farming utensils, etc.

As stated, Sprigg Harwood purchased lots 3 and 4. The purchase price for the two lots totaled $10,695. Chancery Court records reveal that, for reasons not stated, neither Lot 1 nor the slaves were auctioned. The slaves were sold separately, and Sprigg Harwood inherited his father's house and the associated 197 acres.

Both physical and documentary evidence indicate at least several years passed between Harwood's acquisition of lots 3 & 4 in 1847, and the construction of the current dwelling. A construction date between 1850 and 1860 seems most likely. Prior to the construction of Oakwood, Harwood and his wife, a cousin formerly named Elizabeth Hall, probably resided at Cherry Hill.

The possibility exists that the couple moved to the newly acquired Oakwood property, though this scenario seems unlikely. The house standing at Oakwood in 1847 is described as an overseer's dwelling, and is certainly not the current house. Oakwood appears too large and refined for employee housing and, furthermore, is superior in both size and finish to the dwelling at Cherry Hill.[11] The overseer would not occupy a grander house than the plantation owner. Status issues aside, the bulk of physical evidence fails to support a construction date for Oakwood earlier than the 1850s. There is no reason to suppose Harwood would evict the overseer so he could take up residence in a lesser quality house.

An 1850-1860 construction date fits with most of the physical evidence, but some features are annoyingly contradictory. For example, according to Orlando Ridout V, the presence of pit-sawn and hewn rafters in the kitchen wing generally suggest a pre-1860 construction date. The rafter pairs, however, are secured at the top with mitered and nailed joints, which Ridout considers a post-Civil War feature. Perhaps the kitchen wing rafters are re-used materials, possibly salvaged from the overseer's house mentioned in the 1847 newspaper advertisement.

An analysis of trim and finish supports, but does not narrow, the 1850-1860 date range. The F. Johnson box locks found on several doors most closely resemble examples patented in the 1850s and Henry Reip, who died in 1859, made the bake oven. Beveled ogee backbands found throughout most of the 1st-, and 2nd- floors display a profile that show up in pattern books as early as the 1830s, but could easily be later.

It is known that Sprigg Harwood inherited the remaining 197 acres of Cherry Hill, including the dwelling, upon the death of his father in 1848. This occurs at approximately the same time Harwood buys lots 3 & 4 (the Oakwood property) at auction. He and his wife probably live at Cherry Hill. In 1848 Sprigg Harwood sells the inherited Cherry Hill property to Dr. Benjamin Bird for $9,000. 1850 census indicates Bird continued to reside near his families property on the South River, and it is believed that Sprigg Harwood and his wife remain at Cherry Hill.

Harwood, however, cultivated the Oakwood property. The acreage figure provided for Sprigg Harwood's 1850 agricultural census is 250 acres. This amount exactly corresponds with the combined acreage of lots 3 & 4. In 1850, Oakwood produces 20,000 pounds of tobacco, using the labor provided by Hardwood's 20 working-age slaves.

The 1850 agricultural census lists the statistics for Sprigg Harwood's plantation on a page with information for forty neighboring farms. These properties have values between $2,000 and $75,000. It

[11] Cherry Hill still stands and is located approximately ½ mile northeast of Oakwood. See Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Site Form AA-0057, on file with that organization in Crownsville, Maryland.

is worth noting that the cash value of Sprigg Harwood's farm is assessed at $12,000, a value exceeded by only 9 other farms in that population group.

Harwood owned a relatively large farm and political demands required him to spend a considerable amount of time in Annapolis. As a result, he employed an overseer to supervise the slaves and manage the plantation in his absence. Census records suggest the overseer was John Meushaw, who with his family lived in the overseer's dwelling on the Oakwood acreage.[12]

Dr. Bird moved to Cherry Hill with his family sometime before the 1860 census. The construction of the new house at Oakwood probably corresponds with the arrival of Bird at Cherry Hill. An 1860 Anne Arundel County Atlas identifies the residences of Benjamin Bird and Sprigg Harwood. Their location correctly corresponds with the Cherry Hill and Oakwood respectively.

In April 1866, Harwood sold the Oakwood property to Jacob Rogers Woollen for $25,100. This represented a $14,505 increase in purchase price over 1847. This amount is far too large to simply represent the construction of Oakwood, and probably took into consideration the value of crops in the field (or barn) as well.

The sale of the plantation to Woollen followed the Civil War and the abolition of slavery. By 1866 Harwood's debts were mounting, his political career was in decline, and he did not have children to take over the plantation. The Harwood's took up permanent residence at their house in Annapolis. Sprigg Harwood subsequently held several minor city and county offices, including Anne Arundel County Recorder of Deeds. He died in 1894.

During Woollen's ownership agriculture at Oakwood concentrated on wheat and corn production and tenant farmers replaced slaves as labor force. Between 1850 and 1870 tobacco production at Oakwood fell from 20,000 lbs. to 2,000 lbs. The new cereal crops were less soil-depleting. As a result, Woollen was able to bring more of the farm's 250 acres into active cultivation.

County tax assessments from the period 1876 to 1893 fail to record improvements at Oakwood. The memoirs of Woollen's grandson indicate the construction of the present porch took place c. 1895 and the dining room mantel appears to date to the 20th century. Jacob Rogers Woollen died in 1907 and the property remained in the family until the 1937. The next owners, T. Stansforth Shephard and his wife, Bessie Shephard, sold Oakwood and 6.97 acres to the Dodderidges in 1941. The current owner, Joan Turek, acquired the property in 1978 and has exercised great care and dedication in its preservation.

[12] 1850 Federal Population Census, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, District 1.

## Major Bibliographical References:

Published Sources

Richard L. Bushman. The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities, Vintage Books, New York, New York (1983).

Edward A. Chappell and Julie Richter. *Wealth and Houses in Post-Revolutionary Virginia,* in Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture VII: Exploring Everyday Landscapes, University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee (1997). Annemarie Adams and Sally McMurry, editors.

Bernard L. Herman. Architecture and Rural Life in Central Delaware: 1700-1900, University of Tennessee Press, Nashville, Tennessee (1989).

Rhys Isaac. The Transformation of Virginia: 1740-1790, W. W. Norton & Company, New York, New York (1988).

Allan Kulikoff. Tobacco and Slaves: The Development of Southern Culture in the Chesapeake, 1680-1800, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (1986).

Mills Lane. Architecture of the Old South: Maryland, Beehive Press, New York, New York, (1991).

Sally McMurry. Families and Farmhouses in Nineteenth Century America: Vernacular Design and Social Change, Oxford University Press, Oxford and New York (1988).

Marcia Miller and Orlando Ridout V (editors). Architecture in Annapolis: A Field Guide, Vernacular Architecture Forum & The Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland (1998).

Whitman H. Ridgway. Community Leadership in Maryland: 1790-1840. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (1979).

John Michael Vlach. Back of The Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, (1993).

Richard Walsh and William Lloyd Fox (editors). Maryland, a History: 1632-1974, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Maryland (1974).

Donna M. Ware. The Historic Properties of Anne Arundel County, Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, Anne Arundel County, Maryland (1990).

Primary Sources

Productions of Agriculture in Anne Arundel County, Maryland (District 1), 1850, 1860 and 1870.

Federal Population Census of the United States for Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1840, 1850, 1860 and 1870.

Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber WSG 25, Folio 278; Liber JHN 5, Folio 35; Liber JHN 3, Folio 171, Liber SH 1, Folio 171.

Chancery Court Papers, Anne Arundel County, Case # 9544, 1847.

Patent Book for Anne Arundel County, Liber GGH 4, Folio 589.

Wills of Anne Arundel County, Liber NFP 1, Folio 116

Unpublished Sources

Anne Arundel County Historic Sites Inventory Site File, AA-741, Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Code Enforcement, Annapolis, Maryland.

Memoirs of Sellman Woollen (Jacob Rogers Woollen's grandson), 1982. Copies contained in Anne Arundel County Historic Sites Inventory Site File, AA-741, Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Code Enforcement, Annapolis, Maryland.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, AA-0057 at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

## Verbal Boundary Description:

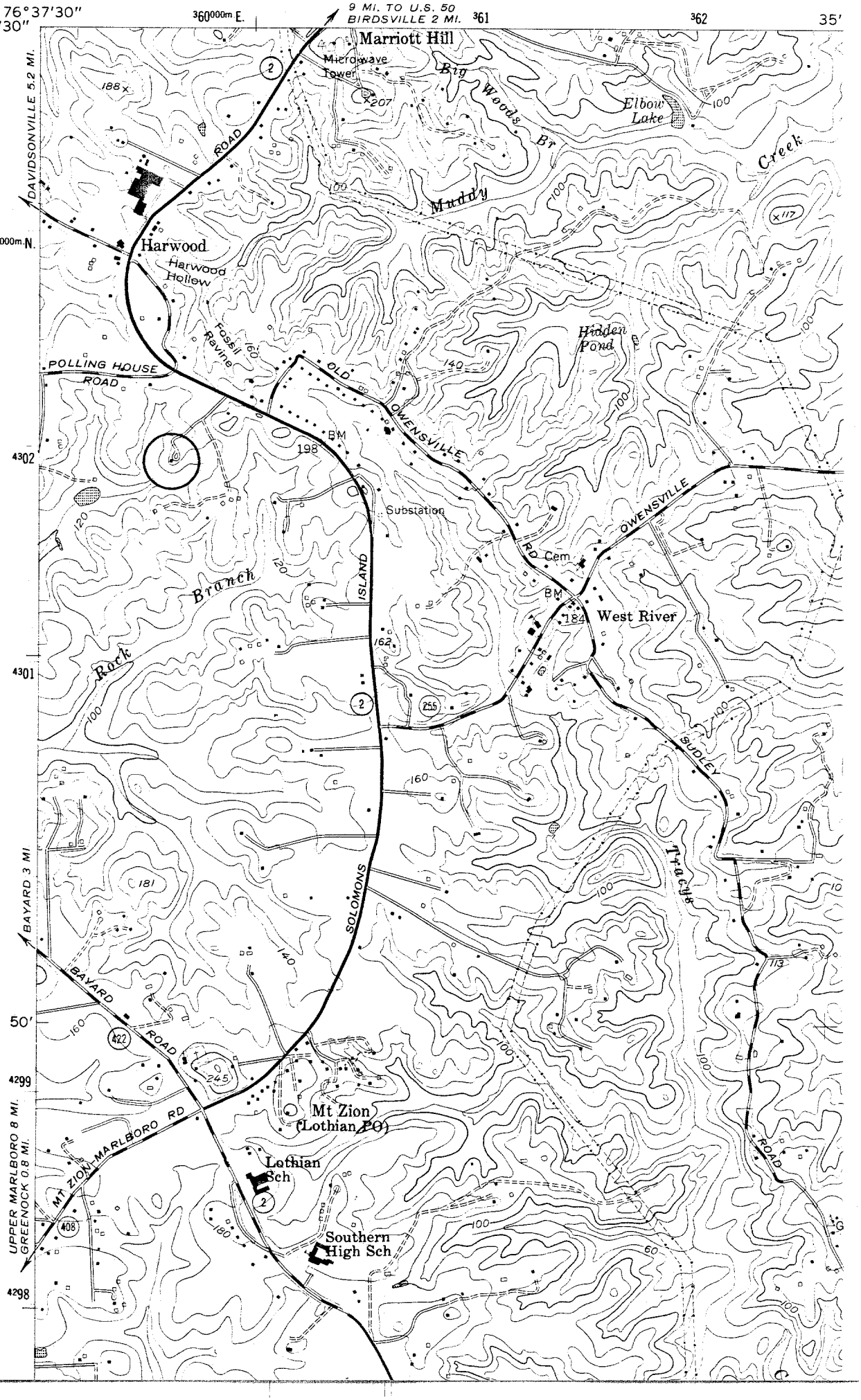
The property is described among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County in liber 6711, folio 171, and is identified as Parcel 110, Block 19 on Anne Arundel County Tax Map 64 (1999).

## Boundary Justification:

The nominated property, 6.97 acres, comprises the remnant of the historic property associated with the resource.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Deale Quad
AA-741
OAKWOOD
ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY,
MARYLAND
18-359600-
4301930



AA-741
Oakwood
Anne Arundel Co, MARYland
by S. MARSH
Oct. 1999
Neg. at MD SHPO
View from front porch looking toward
MD Rt. 2.

1 of 16

AA-741
Oakwood
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
by S. MARSH
Oct 1999
Neg. at Maryland SHPO
EAST FACADE

2 of 14

AA-741

Oakwood

Anne Arundel Co, Maryland

Photo by S. MARSH

Oct. 1990

Negative at Maryland SHPO

Front (East) FACADE

3 of 16

AA-741

Oakwood

Anne Arundel Co, Maryland

Photo by S. Marsh

Oct. 1999

Negative at Maryland SHPO

Front (East) door detail

4 of 16

AA-741
Oakwood
Anne Arundel Co. Maryland
Photo by S. Marsh
Oct. 1999
Negative @ Maryland SHPO
Rear (west) facade
5 of 16

AA-741
Oakwood
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo by S. Marsh
Oct 1999
Negative at Maryland SHPO
1st Floor stair hall, camera facing approx south
6 of 16

M-741
Oaknood
ANNE ARUNDEL CO, MARYland
Photo by S. MARSH
Oct 1999
Negative
At MARYland SHPO
1st floor Stair Detail

7 of 16

AA-741
Oakwood
Anne Arundel Co. MARYland
Photo by S. MARSH
Oct 1999
Negative at Maryland SHPO
Dining Room. Camera facing approx. West
8 of 16

AA-741

Oakwood

Anne Arundel Co, Maryland

Photo by S. MARSH

Oct 1999

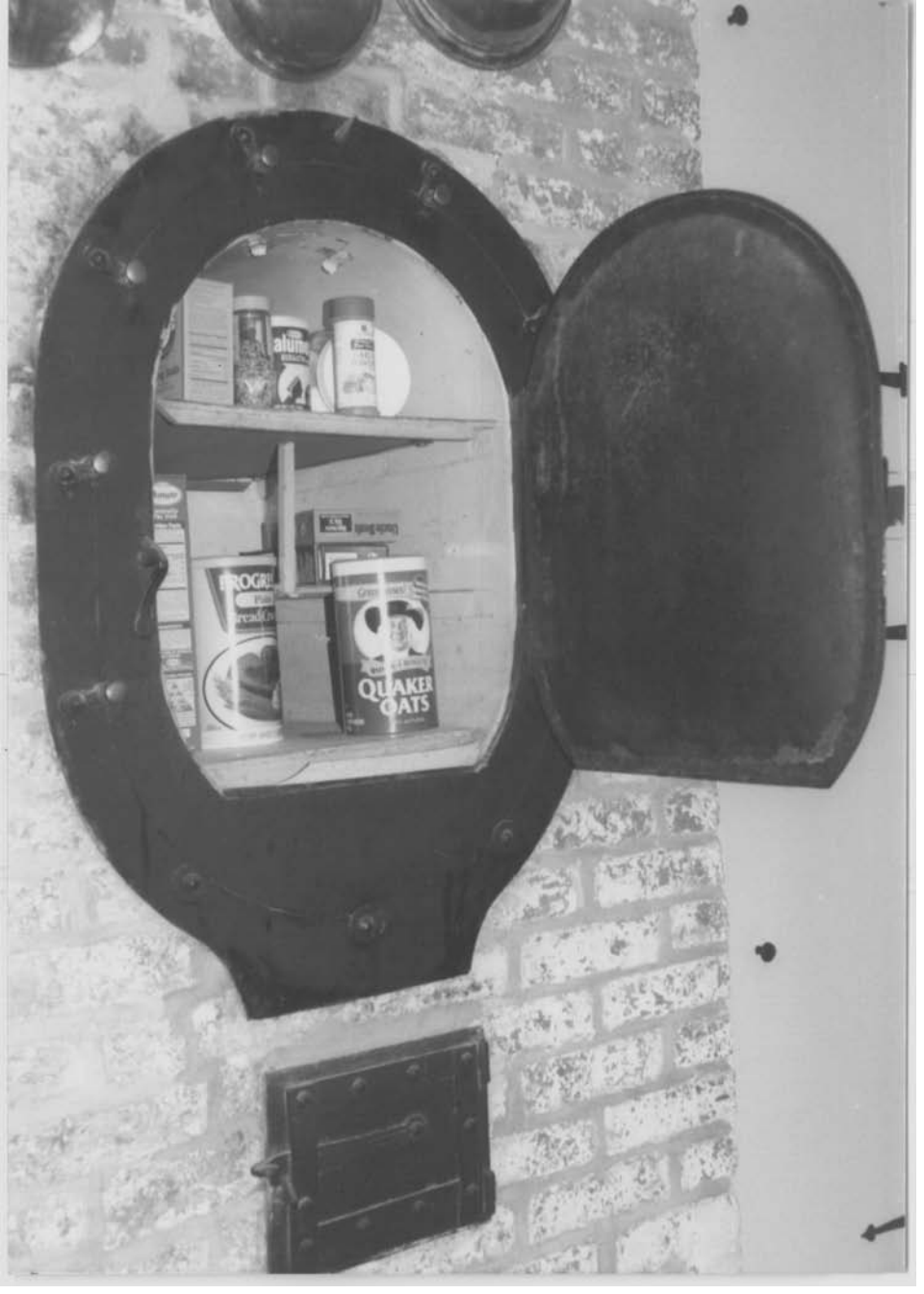
Negative at MARYland SHPO

Dining Room, northwest facing SE

9 of 16

AA-741
Oakwood
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo by S. Marsh, Oct. 1999
Negative at Maryland SHPO
Parlor Mantle
10 of 16

AA-741
Oakwood
Anne Arundel Co. Maryland
Photo by S. Marsh
Oct 1999
Negative at Maryland SHPO
Kitchen fireplace, camera facing South
11 of 16


alum
QUAKER
OATS

AA-741

Oatwood

Anne Arundel Co, Maryland

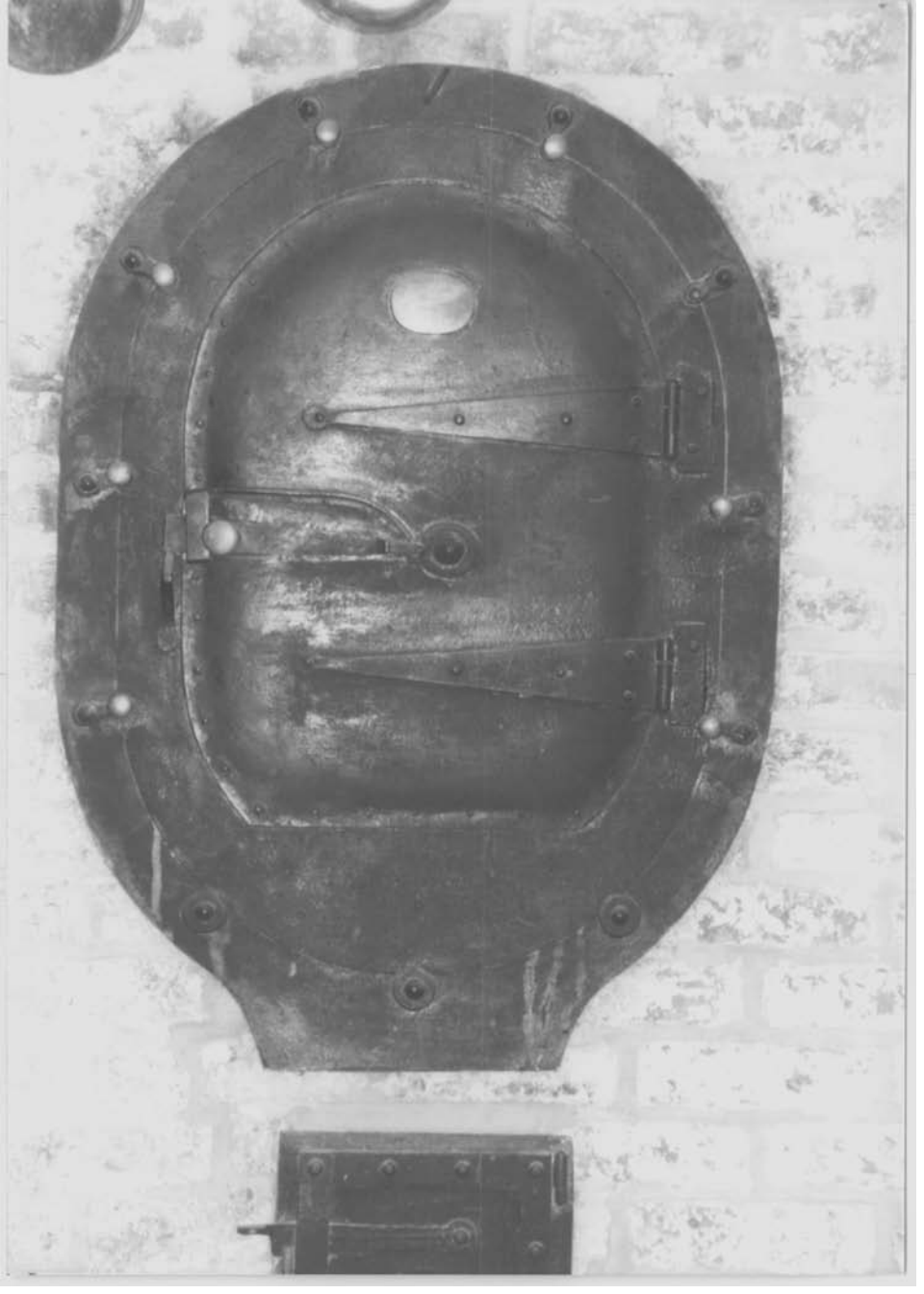
Photo by S. MARSH

Oct 1999

Negative at Maryland SHPO

Bake oven

12 of 16



AA-741
Oakwood
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo by S. Marsh
Oct 1999
Negative at Maryland SHPO
Bake oven
13 of 16

AA-741
Oakwood
Anne Arundel Co. Maryland
Photo by S. MARSH
Oct 1999
Negative at Maryland SHPO
2nd floor stair
14 of 16

AA-741
Oakwood
Anne Arundel Co. Maryland
Photo by S. Marsh
Oct 1999
Negative at Maryland SHPO
2nd floor Chamber, Camera facing North
15 of 16

AA-741

Oakwood

Anne Arundel Co, MARYLAND

Photo by S. MARSH

OCT 1999

Negative at MARYLAND SHPO

2nd floor [illegible], Camera facing South

16 of 16