

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Content

and/or common C.C. Harper Farm

2. Location

street & number MD Rte. 305 near Tanyard Road ___ not for publication

city, town Centreville ___X vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Queen Anne's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<u>X</u> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	<u>X</u> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Daryle R. Stuckey

street & number Route 1, Box 19 telephone no.: 758-2665

city, town Centreville state and zip code Maryland 21617

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Courthouse liber 203

street & number Courthouse Square folio 461

city, town Centreville state Maryland 21617

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____ ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. QA-11

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" 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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The C.C. Harper Farm is located on the southeast side of Maryland Route 305 approximately 1/2 mile southwest of the intersection with U.S. Route 301 and two miles east of Centreville.

The early house on the Harper Farm is of brick construction, two stories high, five bays wide and one room deep, with a single flush brick chimney centered on the southwest end of the shallow hip roof. A matching chimney on the northeast gable end was demolished in the 19th century and replaced with a shared chimney stack between the main house and the wing. An original rear wing projects from the northeast end of the rear or southeast facade of the main building. This wing was originally constructed as a single story structure but at an early date, perhaps even while the house was still under construction, the wing was raised to a full two stories.

In the 19th century the original, presumably pitched gable roof of the main house was modified to form the present hip roof with a widow's walk. The latter feature was removed when the house was renovated and restored in recent years. Probably at the same time, the rear wing was raised an additional 12 or 18 inches to allow more headroom on the second story.

The front facade of the house faces northwest toward Route 305. The door is in the center bay of the first story flanked by two 12/12 windows on each side. The six-panel door is framed with paneled soffit and jambs, a four-light transom and a simple molded surround. Five 12/12 windows are ranged across the second story; three-light cellar windows are located directly below each of the four first story windows. The brickwork is laid in very fine, regular Flemish bond above a molded water table and a Flemish bond foundation. There is no belt course between the first and second story. The windows are set in simple beaded frames with plain rowlock lintels above and reproduction paneled exterior shutters. The eaves are boxed in with a handsome cornice with complex crown and bed mold. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

There are no openings in the southwest gable wall. The brickwork matches the front facade, including the molded water-table. The front and rear cornice is carried across most of the gable, stopping on either side of the chimney shaft, which evidently was rebuilt in the 19th century.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

The rear wing completely covers the two northeast bays on the rear facade of the house. The rear door is in the center bay, with two 12/12 windows to the left. On the second story, there is one 12/8 window in the center bay, above the door, and a blocked 12/8 window opening in the far left or southwest bay. This window was blocked and a larger 12/12 window was cut in immediately to the right, centered on the interior room. The six-panel rear door is set in a deep frame with paneled soffit and jambs and a broken-field architrave. The brickwork is laid in three-course bond above a molded water table and a three-course bond foundation pierced by three cellar windows. The header bricks forming every fourth course are all glazed, creating a striking banded pattern in the brickwork similar to the gable walls at Bordlington (QA-95), a large brick house of the same period nearby.

When the roof of the original house was changed to a hip, the original flush chimney centered on the northeast gable wall was taken down and shifted to the rear facade, centered on the axis of the rear wing. Two small windows on the second story of the northeast gable wall were bricked up and a larger 12/12 window was cut into the center of the second story. The brickwork on this gable wall is laid in Flemish bond above a molded water table and three-course bond foundation. A bulkhead cellar entrance is located at the southeast end of this gable wall.

The northeast wall of the rear wing is flush with the northeast gable wall of the main house. The brickwork is continuous between the main house and the wing on the first floor but is interrupted by a seam on the second floor, indicating that the second story is an early addition. The molded water table drops down six courses where the wing joins the main house, and is carried around all three walls of the wing. The first story brickwork is laid in Flemish bond, the foundation is three-course bond. The early second story addition is also laid in Flemish bond but with a slightly darker brick with numerous glazed headers. Five courses of 19th century brickwork are visible just below the eave, indicating the roof was later raised slightly. There is a single door in the center on the first floor flanked by a single 6/6 window on each side. Two 6/6 windows on the second story are centered directly above the first story windows. The roof and cornice match the main house.

The southeast gable wall of the wing is also laid in Flemish bond above a molded water table and three-course bond foundation. The outline of the original pitched gable eave line is clearly visible approximately 15 inches below the present rakeboards. A pair of early window openings in the upper gable, flanking the flush center chimney, have also been blocked. A brick repair in the center of the foundation wall is evidence of a modern repair to the kitchen fireplace.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

The first story brickwork on the southwest wall of the wing is bonded into the main house while the second story is not. Both the first story and the added second story are laid in three-course bond with bands of glazed headers above a molded water table and three-course bond foundation. Two courses of later brickwork are visible just below the cornice. The fenestration on this wall of the wing originally corresponded to the northeast wall, with a center door flanked by two 6/6 windows on the first story and two 6/6 windows on the second story. The center door was later bricked up and a 6/6 window cut in immediately to the left. The left or northwest windows were also bricked up on both the first and second story and a smaller 6/6 window was cut in farther to the left on the first story.

Interior The interior of the main house consists of a center passage plan with a single room on either side of the stair passage. The stair rises against the northeast wall of the passage to a landing at the southeast end, then turns 180 degrees and continues up to the second floor. It is an open-string stair with delicate, turned newels, square balusters and a simple molded rail. The stair ends are decorated with solid scrolled brackets; the area below the carriage is enclosed with plain horizontal boards. A six-panel door with fully fielded panels under the landing opens onto an interior cellar stair. The interior doors opening from the hall into the flanking rooms have paneled soffits and jambs, bold architrave trim, and fielded six-panel doors. The architrave trim has a broken-field fascia and an ogee backband. A two-piece chairrail and molded baseboard encircle the room. The front entrance door is particularly wide, with unusual reeded panels set flush with the stiles and rails. The architrave trim consists of a broken-field fascia with a very steep ogee molding breaking the fascia; the backband is Italianate. The six-panel rear door has plain flush panels; only part of the architrave survives.

In the southwest room, the fireplace is centered on the gable wall. The fireplace opening is framed with a bold, crossetted molding applied directly to the plaster wall. Above this molding, a pair of simple scrolled brackets support a molded mantel shelf. This shelf is composed of a series of moldings typical of the last quarter of the 18th century, accented by a dentil course with unusual, slightly triangular dentils virtually identical to the dentil course found at Wharf House (QA-196), a house in nearby Centreville constructed in 1771 for William Hopper. Above the shelf is a crossetted overmantel surmounted by an elaborate broken pediment. A complex molded cornice completely encircles this room, repeating the unusual dentil course found in the mantel and the overmantel pediment. Further refinement in this room is derived from the window embrasures, which are splayed and have richly paneled soffits and jambs and paneled window seats. The paneling is continued around the room below a bold two-piece chairrail with a broken-field fascia below the nosing shelf. The window seats have been adapted to conceal the modern heating system.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION (continued)

The fireplace in the northeast room was originally located on the northeast gable wall, but at an early date it was shifted to the southeast wall, backing onto the rear wing. Seams in the flooring and plaster and framing evidence in the cellar and roof verify this alteration. The relocated fireplace is centered on the southeast wall, flanked by a closet to the left and a door to the right leading through a small vestibule and down several steps to the wing. This entire wall is paneled with very handsome fielded paneling. This paneling was evidently moved from an original position on the gable wall when the chimney was relocated. The fireplace in this room is framed with a crossetted surround below an elaborately molded shelf with a Wall-of-Troy dentil course. The remainder of the wall consists of fielded paneling in addition to the matched six-panel doors. A complex molded cornice encircles this room as well. The two windows on the northeast wall are similar to the windows in the southwest room, with glazed and paneled reveals and paneled window seats. Other significant trim includes the broken-field architrave trim, two-piece chairrail and molded baseboard.

The center passage plan is repeated on the second floor as well. The stair continues up to the attic but with a closed-string carriage. The stair passage is not partitioned to form a passage chamber.

The southwest chamber on the second floor is quite elaborate. The fireplace is centered on the southwest gable wall, flanked by closets on either side. The entire gable wall is paneled and the closets are fitted with four-panel doors hung on wrought H-L hinges. The fireplace has been partially reworked and the surround is a reproduction, but the fielded paneling is all original. The window openings have splayed and paneled jambs and paneled window seats. Other original detail includes the complex interior cornice, two-piece chairrail and molded baseboard.

The northeast chamber is somewhat simpler in finish but has been reduced in size by inserting a partition wall to allow room for a small bathroom and a clothes cupboard across the southeast side of the original room. Significant trim in this room includes the paneled window seats, simple interior cornice, a two-piece chairrail, molded baseboard and the architrave trim. A seam in the flooring at the northeast end of the room outlines the location of the original chimney and suggests that this room may have been paneled as well.

The attic is partitioned to form a finished stair passage flanked by unfinished storage areas. The original roof framing survives in the center of the building but was replaced at either end in the 19th century. The original roof framing consists of common rafter pairs set at a pitch of approximately 32 degrees. The ridge connections were sawn off during the later alteration, but the collar beams survive in place. These are half-dovetailed into the rafter pairs and secured with wrought nails. It is not clear, however, whether the original roof was a shallow pitch gable roof similar to the roof at

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Bordlington (QA-95), a house nearby with many similar features, or if it was a hip roof similar to the existing roof. The gable end chimneys are most likely indicative of a pitched gable roof.

The cellar plan reflects the first floor plan, with brick bearing walls below each first floor interior hall partition. Heavy wood door frames survive in the openings of both interior cellar door openings, with pintels or pintel holes to indicate door orientation. The arched chimney base survives on the southwest gable wall, while the original base on the northeast gable wall has been demolished. The later chimney on the southeast wall is supported by a base constructed of two brick piers and a heavy wood lintel, a feature not generally found before the mid-19th century. This evidence combined with the mature machine nails found in the altered roof framing suggests the chimney and roof changes were made between circa 1850 and 1890.

The first floor of the wing is divided into two rooms, a large kitchen at ground level to the southeast and a smaller service or informal dining room to the northwest, adjacent to the main house. This smaller room is two steps up from the original kitchen and several steps below the first floor of the main house. In this century, the kitchen was shifted to the smaller room. Both rooms have brick paved floors. A large cooking fireplace is centered on the gable wall of the original kitchen, flanked by a cupboard to the left and an enclosed stair to the right. This stair rises to a short hall on the second floor.

The second floor is divided into a large sleeping chamber to the northwest and a smaller chamber to the southeast, with access via the hall. Significant details include the beaded vertical paneling of the hall partition, a small mantel in the southeast chamber, and a handsome six-panel door with graining and stenciling.

Dairy

Immediately to the northeast of the house is a small brick dairy, ten feet square with a pitched gable roof set parallel to the axis of the main house. The Flemish bond brickwork is virtually identical to the main house and the building is presumably contemporary with the house. A single batten door is centered on the southwest gable wall; small four-light windows are centered on each of the remaining three walls. These openings are fitted with reproduction heavy beaded frames with horizontal diamond-section wood bars. These replace early frames with fixed wood slats which were badly deteriorated but still in place (and are now stored in the meat house). The plain box cornices and rakeboards are later replacements; the roof is covered with corrugated metal.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The interior walls are plastered and whitewashed and the ceiling is plastered using machine lath and machine nails. There is no access to the roof. A small concrete cooling trough in the north corner of the building probably dates to the turn of the 20th century.

Meat House

Located to the northeast of the dairy, this building was at one time moved into Centreville, but was later returned to the present location, within a few feet of the original site.

This building is 12 feet square, with a pitched gable roof oriented on a northwest-southeast axis. It is constructed of hewn and pit sawn log planks tenoned into hewn corner posts and reinforced with diagonal downbraces in each corner. This method of building evidently enjoyed some popularity in this area, and was particularly useful for meat houses due to the solid wall construction. This particular example is probably the earliest surviving in the county. It is constructed with wrought nails and employs a tilted false plate roof, one of the few recorded examples in Queen Anne's County. Carved ogee caps on the interior corner posts are also an unusual feature and add considerably to the charm of the building. It is raised up off the ground and has a heavy plank floor with a square hole in the center, presumably to facilitate fires needed for curing meat. The exterior siding, roofing, and the door have been replaced, otherwise the building is pristine and in unusually good condition. It is also interesting to note that the original door opening remains undisturbed. This opening is 5 feet high and 3½ feet wide, with original iron hinge pintels on the inside of the southeast jamb. It is unusual for the door opening to remain undisturbed due to the low clearance.

In 1983 the roofs of the two outbuildings were repaired. New split cedar shakes were installed and the rakeboards were replaced on the dairy.

8. Significance

Survey No. QA-11

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Description

The C. C. Harper Farm, also known as Content, includes three buildings of architectural and historical significance. The large two story house is an exceptional example of 18th century brick domestic architecture on the Eastern Shore. It is among the finest surviving houses of the period in Queen Anne's County, and is particularly notable due to the unusual banded, glazed brickwork and the very fine interior woodwork. The banded brickwork is a feature that has been noted on a number of brick houses on the Eastern Shore; all are thought to date to the period circa 1760s to 1790s. The most notable example of similar brickwork nearby is Bordlington (QA-95), a two story brick house with glazed header Flemish bond facade and banded glazing on the gable ends. Of equal interest is the similarity of the interior lentil cornice, at Content and at Wharf House (QA-196), a large brick house constructed in 1771 at Centreville Landing.

Also significant are the brick dairy house and log plank meat house to the northeast of the house. Both buildings appear to be contemporary with the main house and represent unusually well preserved examples of 18th century domestic outbuildings. The brick dairy is one of the finest and earliest examples of its type in the county. The meat house is an important example of an unusual building form known as post-and-plank construction. This is the earliest and finest surviving example that has been located in Tidewater Maryland. Of particular interest are the molded and braced corner posts and the tilted false plate eave construction.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. QA-11

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Orlando Ridout V/Historic Sites Survey Coordinator		
organization	Maryland Historical Trust	date	
street & number	21 State Circle	telephone	269-2438
city or town	Annapolis	state	Maryland

Field Notebook QA-28; Recorded October 22, 1981.
QA-29; Recorded December 2, 1981.

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



RA-11
 CONTENT
 QUEEN ANNE'S
 COUNTY,
 MARYLAND

- A: 18-411860-4321680
- B: 18-411540-4321470
- C: 18-411440-4321950

2'30"

4321

4320

RUTHSBURG 2.5 MI.
 BRIDGETOWN 7.7 MI.

4318000m N.

QA-11

Content

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-11 C.C. Harper Farm
Centreville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Northwest (front) facade



QA-11 C.C. Harper Farm
Centreville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Rear facade from South



607-34

QA-11

C.C. Harper Farm
Centreville vicinity
Michael O. Bourne 1968
Front facade from northeast



C.C. HARPER FARM , QA.-11

QA-11 C.C. Harper Farm
Centreville vicinity
Michael O. Bourne 1968
Rear facade from Southeast

607-36

1903 68



QA-11

C.C. Harper Farm

Centreville vicinity

Orlando Ridout V 1981

Meat House: eave detail



9A 11