

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #75A-5 Building Date: 1830's, 1912

Building Name: Ryon Farmhouse (Covert Farm)

Location: 3700 Forestville Road, Forestville, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

The Ryon farmhouse is a two-part frame gable-roofed house: a three-bay two-story section attached at right angles to a three-bay one-and-one-half-story section. The main two-story section (ca. 32 by 16 feet) faces west, and entrance is through an off-center door in the central bay. Across the main west facade and the south gable end is a one-story porch supported by Doric columns. The rear, smaller section (ca. 16 by 26 feet) has a lower, steeper pitch to the roof; this roof extends to the south forming a porch which is flush with the south gable end of the main section. Practically nothing of the original fabric of the older section survives. Its lines suggest an early construction date (1830's, according to family tradition), but this cannot be substantiated by observation of the present structural materials.

Significance:

The Ryon farmhouse incorporates one of the oldest buildings surviving from the town of Long Old Fields, now known as Forestville. It stands in a prominent and visible location in open farmlands on the southeast edge of the present town, separated from the main commercial center by Maryland Route 4. It has been the home of the Ryon family since before the Civil War. The 65-acre farm called "Covert" was purchased in 1857 by Thomas Ryon of Jerry. Oral tradition suggests that the small, one-and-one-half-story dwelling house was already standing on the farm at that time. When Thomas Ryon died in 1889, he devised "Covert" to his son W. Ward Ryon. W. Ward Ryon continued to farm the property, and ca. 1912 built the two-story west addition to the house, thus more than doubling its size. Upon Ryon's death in 1945, the 45-acre farm was bequeathed to his daughter, Edna Ryon Entwisle. The house remains a prominent landmark in a rapidly developing area. The early twentieth century section is typical of modest farmhouses of its period, but the earlier section has lost most of its historic character.

Acreage: 31.9 acres

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Covert farm

and/or common Ryon farmhouse

2. Location

street & number 3700 Forestville Road not for publicationcity, town Forestville vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

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

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

name Edna Entwisle heirs, c/o W.R. Entwisle

street & number 3712 Forestville Road telephone no.:

city, town Forestville, state and zip code Maryland 20747

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. County Courthouse liber 2117

street & number Main Street folio 165

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 federal state county local

repository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town c/o Calvert Mansion, Riverdale, state MD. 20737

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 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 Ryon farmhouse is a two-part frame gable-roofed house: a three-bay, two-story section, attached at right angles to a three-bay, one-and-one-half-story section. The main two-story section (ca. 32 by 16 feet) faces west, and entrance is through an off-center door in the central bay. There is an interior brick chimney at each end of the ridge. Across the main west facade is a one-story porch supported by Doric-order wooden columns; the porch wraps around the south gable end, sheltering a side door in its second (east) bay. This section is covered with asbestos shingle; the roof is covered with asphalt shingle; foundations are of brick. There is no basement.

The rear, smaller (ca. 16 by 26 feet) section of the house has a lower, steeper pitch to the roof; the roof extends to the south forming a porch which is flush with the south gable end of the main section. There is a central entrance into this south facade over which there is a dormer window. There is an interior chimney at the east end of the ridge. This section is covered with asbestos shingle, the roof with asphalt shingle, and the foundations are of concrete. There is a small basement space under this section.

Practically nothing of the original fabric of this section survives. Its lines suggest an early date of construction (1830's, according to family tradition), but this cannot be substantiated by observation of the present structural materials.

The doors and windows of both sections of the house have plain board surrounds.

8. Significance

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History

Specific dates 1830's. 1912 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

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

The Ryon farmhouse incorporates one of the oldest buildings surviving from the town of Long Old Fields, now known as Forestville. It stands in a prominent and visible location in open farmlands on the southeast edge of the present town, separated from the main commercial center by Maryland Route 4. It has been the home of the Ryon family since before the Civil War.

The 65-acre farm called "Covert", was purchased in 1857 by Thomas Ryon of Jerry¹. Oral tradition suggests that the small, one-and-one-half-story dwelling house was already standing on the farm at that time. When Thomas Ryon died in 1889, he devised "Covert" to his son W. Ward Ryon.² W. Ward Ryon continued to farm the property, and ca. 1912 built the two-story west addition to the house, thus more than doubling its size. Upon Ryon's death in 1945, the 45-acre farm was bequeathed to his daughter, Edna Ryon Entwisle.³ The house remains a prominent landmark in a rapidly developing area. The early twentieth century section is typical of modest farmhouses of its period, but the earlier section has lost most of its historic character.

¹ P.G. County Deeds CSM #2:258.
² P.G. County Will WAJ Jr. #1:555
³ P.G. County Will WEC #1:207; interview with family members, December 1984.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#75A-5

P.G. County Deeds: CSM#2:258, ON#2:91. #2117:162, #2117:165
P.G. Co. Wills - WAJjr.#1:555; WEC#1:207
Interview with owner.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 31.9 acres

Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro Section A

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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

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

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Susan G. Pearl & Rod McDonell, Research Historians		
organization	Historic Preservation Commission	date	January 11, 1985
street & number	c/o County Planning Div., County Administration Bldg.,	telephone	952-3520
city or town	Upper Marlboro,	state	MD. 20772

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

1. R #75A-5
170225504

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: T. Ryon House				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Forestville Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Forestville				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY:	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The house is a two story, frame structure with a three bay main (west) facade. The ground floor bays are irregular with the door in the center bay. There is a porch across the facade. On the rear is a 1-1/2 story ell with a steeply pitched roof. At either end of the main block are internal end chimneys. There is a tall chimney on the rear of the ell. The sheathing is clapboard and shingles.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> Art
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering
<input type="checkbox"/> Industry
<input type="checkbox"/> Invention
<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape
<input type="checkbox"/> Literature
<input type="checkbox"/> Military
<input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-
losophy
<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-
itarian
<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
|--|---|---|--|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreeage Justification:

Blank area for Acreeage Justification.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 13 Sept 74

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

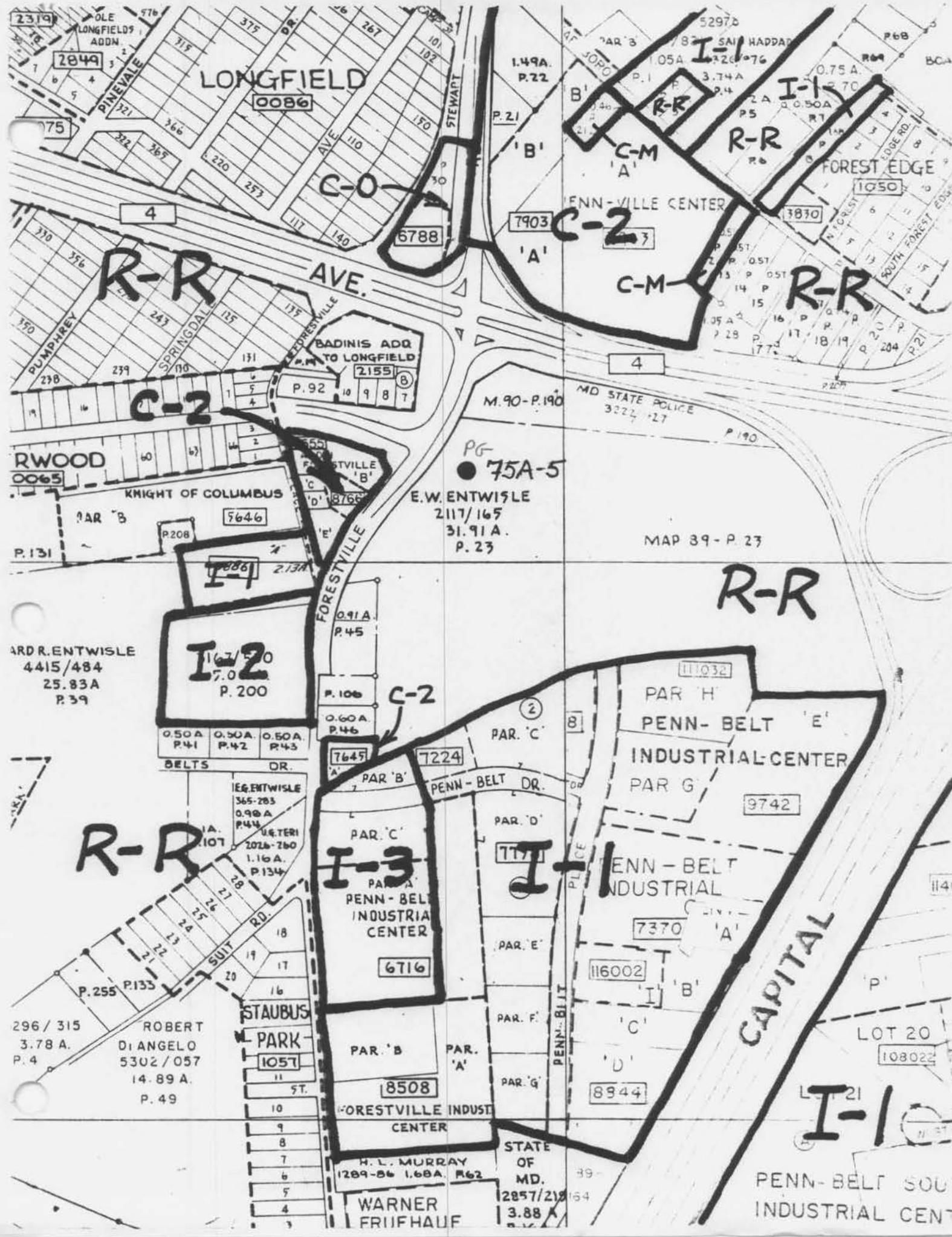
Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature _____

Chain of Title

Ryon Farmhouse
P.G. #75A-5

2117:165 28 June 1957 Deed	Alderic Sturtevant to Eugene and Edna Entwisle: the remainder of the 65-acre farm not previously sold by W. Ward Ryon, totalling approximately 45 acres. Sturtevant acquired this land through 2117:162.
2117:162 28 June 1957 Deed	Eugene and Edna Entwisle to Alderic Sturtevant: 45 acres willed to Edna R. Entwisle by her father.
WEC #1:207 31 May 1945 Will	Testator, W. Ward Ryon; to daughter Edna Ryon Entwisle; remaining 45 acres of the original Ryon farm, including the farmhouse and outbuildings.
WAJ Jr.#1:555 19 Feb. 1889 Will	Testator, Thomas Ryon of Jerry; to son W. Ward Ryon, all of Thomas Ryon's property including "Covert". W. Ward Ryon named personal representative.
CSW #2:258 23 Sept. 1857 Deed	Hiram King to Thomas Ryon of Jerry. Approximately 65 acres near the village of Long Old Fields, known as "Covert".
ON #2:91 14 Aug. 1854 Deed	John Stuart to Hiram King, 65 acres known as "Covert" formerly belonging to Fielder Ryon near the village of Long Old Fields.



LONGFIELD

0086

C-0

R-R

AVE.

PENN-VILLE CENTER

C-2

FOREST EDGE

R-R

C-2

RWOOD

0065

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS

I-2

P. 200

E.W. ENTWISLE

2117/165

31.91 A.

P. 23

MAP 39-P. 23

R-R

ARD R. ENTWISLE

4415/484

25.83 A

P. 39

INDUSTRIAL CENTER

9742

PENN-BELT INDUSTRIAL

7370

I-1

116002

8944

I-3

6716

8508

FORESTVILLE INDUSTRIAL CENTER

H. L. MURRAY

1289-86 1.68 A. P. 62

WARNER FRIIFHAUF

STATE OF MD.

2857/21

3.88 A

CAPITAL

LOT 20

108022

I-10

PENN-BELT SOUTH INDUSTRIAL CENT



P.G.#75A-5

Ryon House (Covert Farm)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1984
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#75A-5

Ryon House (Covert Farm)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1984
South elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#75A-5

Ryon House (Covert Farm)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1984
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#75A-5

Ryon House (Covert Farm)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1984
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME T. RYON (?) FARM

PG:75A-5

LOCATION SW OF RTES. 4 + 495, FORESTVILLE, MD.

FACADE NW

PHOTO TAKEN 9/13/74

m. DWYER