

QA-100

John Cannon House
Centreville vicinity
Private

early 19th century

The John Cannon house began as a somewhat unusual two story, hall parlour house and was later enlarged to form an even more unusual four room plan dwelling with an attached kitchen wing. These later alterations have largely obscured the early form, but the result is a large airy house with a two part hall, a rather grand stair, and two large, sunny parlours on the first floor. Much of the early trim has survived from the second period of construction. Of particular interest are two louvered wooden shutters dating to the second quarter of the 19th century. One of these covers a false window in the west gable and is virtually identical to a shutter used for the same purpose at Lansdowne (QA-87), constructed in 1823.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

The John Cannon Yellow House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Northeast of intersection of U. S. 301 and Md. 213

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William E. and Josephine B. Gardner

Telephone #: 643-5482

STREET & NUMBER

Cox Neck Road

CITY, TOWN

Chester

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21619

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 82

Folio #: 349

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-100

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"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Cannon House lies to the northeast of the intersection of U. S. Route 301 and Md. Route 213. Surrounded by open agricultural land, the house and associated farm buildings are clearly visible from both roads.

The house was built in three stages. The earliest section was brick, two-and-one-half stories high, with flush chimneys centered on each gable end. The fenestration pattern is asymmetrical, three bays wide and two bays deep. This section of the house dates to the late 18th or early 19th century.

In the second quarter of the 19th century, a major addition was made on the south facade. Of frame construction, this addition doubled the size of the main house. The south facade of the new section became the entrance facade, with the door in the east bay and six-over-six windows symmetrically placed in the west and center facade. This fenestration pattern is duplicated on the second floor. Six-over-six windows are used throughout the house in the first two floors, and two six-over-six windows in the west gable provide light for the west rooms of the third floor.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-100

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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/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 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 _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Cannon house began as a somewhat unusual two story, hall parlour house and was later enlarged to form an even more unusual four room plan dwelling with an attached kitchen wing. These later alterations have largely obscured the early form, but the result is a large airy house with a two part hall, a rather grand stair, and two large, sunny parlours on the first floor. Much of the early trim has survived from the second period of construction. Of particular interest are two louvered wooden shutters dating to the second quarter of the 19th century. One of these covers a false window in the west gable and is virtually identical to a shutter used for the same purpose at Lansdowne (QA-87), constructed in 1823.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

3/31/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

A pair of four-over-two windows in the east gable light the east rooms, and a single four-over-two window in the peak of the east gable lights the attic.

A frame, story-and-a-half wing on the east gable of the brick section is of uncertain date, but appears to have been built simultaneously with, or slightly before, the frame addition. Although the windows, door, and most of the interior of this wing date to the late 19th century, the general form and configuration of the building, combined with the beaded, tapered rakeboards and refined dormer windows would suggest a date early in the 19th century.

The main section of the house has undergone numerous changes as well. The north wall of the brick section collapsed in the early 1950's and has been rebuilt in stretcher bond, with every fourth course laid in darker brick. The roof seems relatively intact, except for a pair of large, 20th century dormers which have since been removed. The cornice is quite bold, with a crown mold above the fascia and a bed mold below a deep soffit. Both gables are pedimented, and the area above the cornice has been sided with decorative shingle work common to the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

late 19th century.

The beaded siding on the frame section of the house dates to its most recent renovation and replaces earlier plain siding.

The plan of the earliest section of the house appears to have been a rather large and elegant hall-parlour arrangement with fireplaces on the gable walls of each room and a stair rising at the east end of the south facade.

When the large frame addition was made, the floor plan was simply doubled, leaving two spacious rooms with fireplaces at the west end of the house. The east fireplace was closed up, and a "double hall" was created, with entrance now made into the south room, and a large archway separating the south room from the north. A large, open string stair with simple turned newels and square balusters rises along the east wall, then turns at a landing, and runs up to an open hall on the second floor.

A door in the northeast corner of the old hall gives access down several steps to the kitchen wing.

The second floor consists of four rooms of varying size opening off of a large, irregular shaped

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

hall. A short passage off the hall allows access to the chamber above the kitchen. A small, enclosed stair rises against the east gable to the third floor.

The third floor consists of a hall at the top of the stairs in the center of the east gable, with doors leading to two long rooms with windows facing west, and two smaller rooms at the east end. One of these, having no windows, was evidently used for storage. A door off the hall opens into a small closet containing a steep ladder to the attic.

The interior of the house is very pleasing. The size and configuration of the first floor rooms, combined with high ceilings and numerous large windows, creates a bright airy feeling. The doors and hardware are all early, but the original mantels are gone. Most window and door trim is intact, dating to the period of the frame addition. Perhaps the most interesting survival from the earlier section of the house are a pair of wooden venetian blind shutters. One may be found in the south bay of the west gable on the first floor, and disguises a false window to the right of the chimney. The other remains on what was once an exterior cellar window on the south facade.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

of the first house, but is now covered by the frame addition. These were stationary shutters, constructed of one frame to cover the entire window, with a pair of grooves down the middle of the center style to suggest a pair of moveable shutters.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

Construction Details

The earliest part of the house is constructed of brick, laid in three course American bond. There is a full cellar under this section of the house, divided into two rooms by a brick partition wall. The rooms are unequal in size, the west room being slightly larger than the east room. Large brick chimney supports with arched recesses are centrally located on each gable wall. A doorway in the partition wall connects the two rooms and retains most of the original frame, as well as the iron pintels of the door. A cellar window on the south wall in the west room retains the original frame, and a louvered wooden shutter that appears to be original also remains in place though not in its correct position. A similar window opening on the south wall of the east room has been enlarged to serve as a connecting door with the cellar beneath the frame addition. The original cellar entrance was in the south corner of the east gable. This entrance was covered by the later kitchen addition and was replaced by a bulkhead entrance in the east gable of the frame section.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

The ceiling joists in the cellar of the earlier house are pit-sawn, average about 9 inches by 3 inches, and are laid on approximately 18 inch centers. They run parallel to the gable ends of the house and are fitted into pockets in the masonry, rather than resting on a sill.

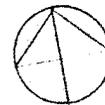
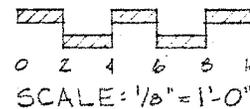
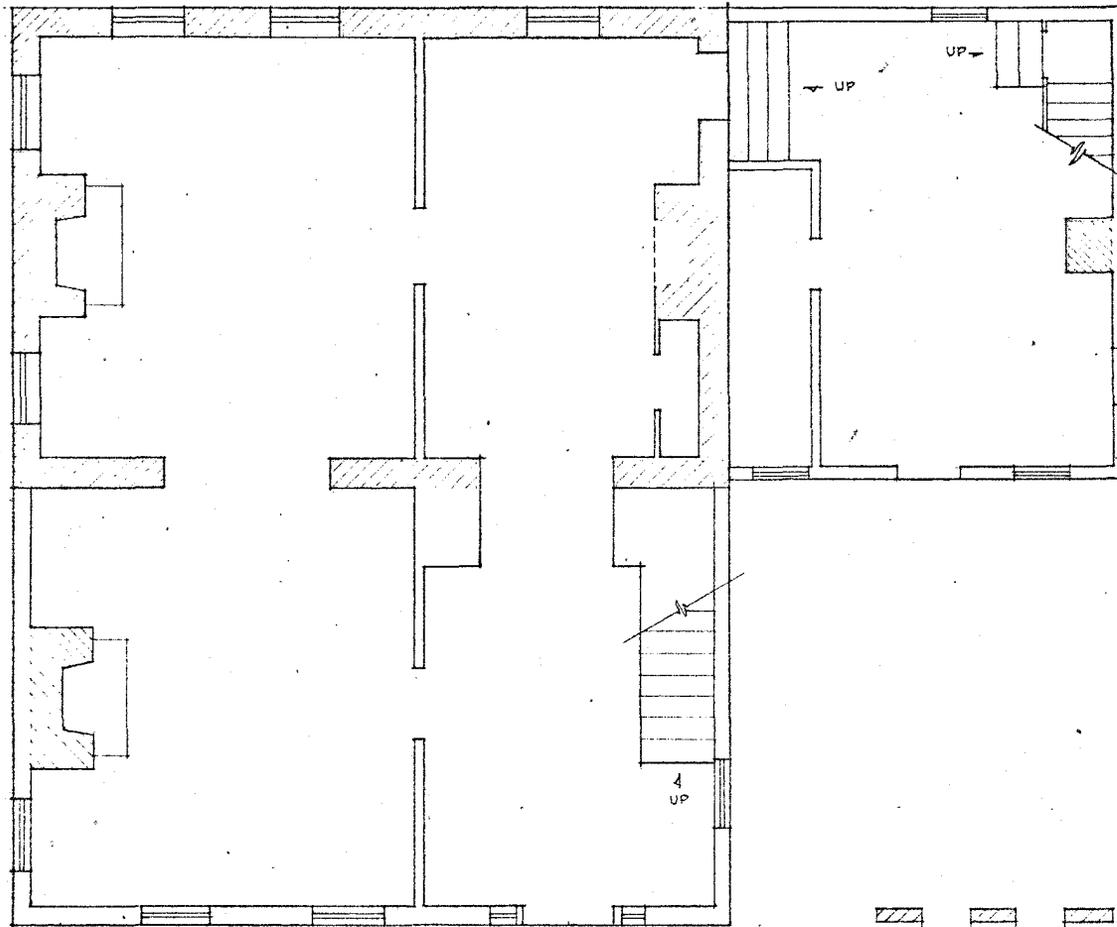
The frame addition on the south facade rests on a six-course American bond foundation wall. The crawl space below the first floor has been enlarged in the center for storage purposes, but is otherwise unused. The joists are machine sawn and average 10 x 2 3/4 in size. They run parallel to the gable and are notched over a hewn 6½ x 7½ sill on the south end, but at the north end are set into crudely cut pockets in the old foundation wall of the earlier house.

The roof is of common rafter construction and offers numerous evidence of the extensive alterations made necessary by the frame addition. The original common rafter roof rested on a flat false plate laid on top of the second floor joists and was joined at the ridge by carefully cut mortise and tenon joints. When the addition was made, the depth of the house was doubled, necessitating an entirely new roof. The

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

earlier roof was disassembled and changed in pitch from about 45° to 38° . The original rafters were reused, but as they were not long enough to reach the ridge, secondary rafters were scabbed on the side of each common rafter, and these were joined at the ridge in a simple butt joint secured with machine nails. The collars were half-lapped to the sides of the rafters and also serve as ceiling joists for the third floor. Smaller, secondary collars were also nailed to the rafter pairs near the ridge. In some instances earlier rafters were reused from elsewhere, as several of the upper rafter pairs are secured with mortise and tenon joints, but these are of lighter construction than the original roof.



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-100

JOHN CANNON FARM
CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND

MARCH 15, 1978.



Ship Pt
Wash Pt
Cedar Pt
Rocky Pt

ICA NECK HILLS

Brownsville

CENTREVILLE

Carville

JOHN CANNON FARM
GA-100

Starr

Wye Mills Station

Wye Mills

WYE OAK STATE PARK

WILFLOIGHTS

QA-100
John Cannon House

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





QA-100 John Cannon Yellow House
near Centerville
OARV 1978



QA-100 John Cannon Farm
Centerville vicinity, Md
Orlando Ridout V, 1978 (MHT)
3/4 view, camera facing SE



QA-100

John Cannon farm
Centerville, Va.

ORV 1978



QA-100

John Cannon House