

QA-167

Samuel Aaron Farm
Romanceke vicinity
Private

mid-19th century

The house at the Samuel Aaron Farm is a notable example of mid-19th century vernacular architecture. The center hall plan combined with story-and-a-half height are characteristic of small dwelling houses throughout the 18th and first half of the 19th century. The over-sized windows, interior trim, and the framing all suggest, however, that the house dates to the mid-19th century. In particular, the combination of hewn sills and machine sawn joists with an early use of diagonal bridging between the floor joists suggests a date of circa 1850-1860.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Samuel Aaron farm, Tolson farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Southwest of intersection of Md. Route 8 and Kent Point Road

CITY, TOWN

Romancoke

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

 VICINITY OF

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

East Bay Colony Association

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

c/o William E. Dixon, 650 Ritchie Highway

CITY, TOWN

Severna Park

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21146

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC #77

Folio #: 560

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

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CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Samuel Aaron farm, commonly known as the Tolson farm, is located on the southern end of Kent Island, southwest of the intersection of Maryland Route 8 and Kent Point Road. The house is sited on a low rise between Tolson Creek and Carter Creek. There are a number of small out-buildings to the southwest of the house, and several barns to the north.

The house is of frame construction, one-and-one-half stories high, five bays wide, and one room deep. An original, one story frame wing projects from the south gable. The wing is two bays wide and the same depth as the house, but is slightly lower to the ground. Although the main house rests on brick piers, and the wing is constructed on a continuous brick foundation, the two were evidently built at the same time. Flush brick chimneys are centered on each gable of the main house, and an exterior brick chimney projects from the south gable of the wing. One story porches cover the majority of both facades of the wing.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

The house faces east, toward Kent Point Road. A double paneled door with paneled sidelights and a three light transom is located in the center bay of the main house, flanked on each side by two six-over-six windows with unusually large panes. On the second floor, three gable roof dormer windows with smaller six-over-six sash are symmetrically ranged along the roof. There is a door in the north bay of the wing, with a six-over-six window to the left of the door.

The north gable wall is uninterrupted by openings. The west facade is similar to the east, but there is a single paneled door, with the second window from the south and the middle dormer window omitted. There is a door in the south bay of the wing, with a six-over-six window to the left.

The south gable of the main house is almost entirely covered by the wing. The south gable of the wing has a six-over-six window to the left of the chimney on the first floor and a rough opening to the right of the chimney on the second floor.

The entire house is sided with plain horizontal weatherboards secured with machine nails. This appears to be the original covering, and does not stop at a seam between the house and wing, but is

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

carried continuously from end to end. The eaves on the main house are boxed in, with the soffit board nailed to the underside of the pitched rafters. The cornice projects approximately one foot on both the facades and the gables, where it is carried up the gable eaves. On the wing, a standard box cornice was used, without bed mold or crown mold.

The interior of the main house consists of a center hall plan with a single room on either side of the hall. An open string stair with tapered round ballusters and turned newels rises along the south wall of the hall. There is a fireplace on the center of the gable wall in both first floor rooms; the mantels are plain, with undecorated pilasters and tympanum, and a crude molding supporting a one-inch shelf. The fireplaces have been blocked with sheet metal, and fitted for wood stoves or space heaters. In the south room, there is a small closet in the alcove to the right of the fireplace, and in the alcove to the left, a door gives access to the kitchen wing.

The second floor plan is similar to the first floor, but the front (east) end of the stair hall is partitioned, forming a large original closet. The doors and trim

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

are identical to the first floor, but the mantels are simplified versions of those found downstairs. There is a small closet on the west side of the fireplace in both of the second floor chambers.

The first floor of the wing was probably one room originally, but now has a small, narrow pantry partitioned off along the north side of the room, and a small "landing" where the door to the main house is located. The rest of the wing is one step lower. The fireplace on the gable wall is blocked and fitted for a wood stove.

Above the kitchen there is a small loft, evidently used at one time as living space. The only source of light to this area is provided by a single window opening next to the chimney on the south gable. This is now covered by tar paper, but probably originally had a single-sash, removeable window.

Charlie Butler, the present tenant and a long-time employee on the Tolson farm, believes that this loft was used as living quarters for slaves. Within Mr. Butler's memory, the only access to the loft was by climbing a ladder kept against the side of the house and entering through the window opening. It is his

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

belief that this was the traditional method, and there had never been an interior stair. An examination of the loft, however, reveals a stair opening in the southwest corner. Although no evidence of the stair carriages could be found, it seems likely it was a very steep ladder-stair without risers between the treads, similar to the loft stair in the wing of the Goodhand House (QA-10), in nearby Chester. The opening has been covered with short floorboards in the loft, and the hole in the ceiling has been plastered.

The south gable wall and the ceiling of the loft have never been plastered or finished. The studs and rafters are left exposed and have been whitewashed. The north gable wall, adjoining the main house, has been crudely finished with flush horizontal boards nailed to the studs and whitewashed.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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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 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 house at the Samuel Aaron farm is a notable example of mid-nineteenth century vernacular architecture. The center hall plan combined with story-and-a-half height are characteristic of small dwelling houses throughout the 18th and the first half of the 19th century. The oversized windows, interior trim, and the framing all suggest, however, that the house dates to the mid-nineteenth century. In particular, the combination of hewn sills and machine sawn joists with an early use of diagonal bridging between the floor joists suggests a date of circa 1850-1860.

Of particular interest is the loft above the kitchen, which remains as a relatively unusual reminder of the bare accommodations that were undoubtedly common in rural dwellings long after the Civil War.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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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

10/18/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

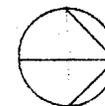
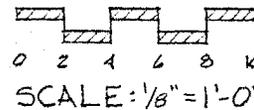
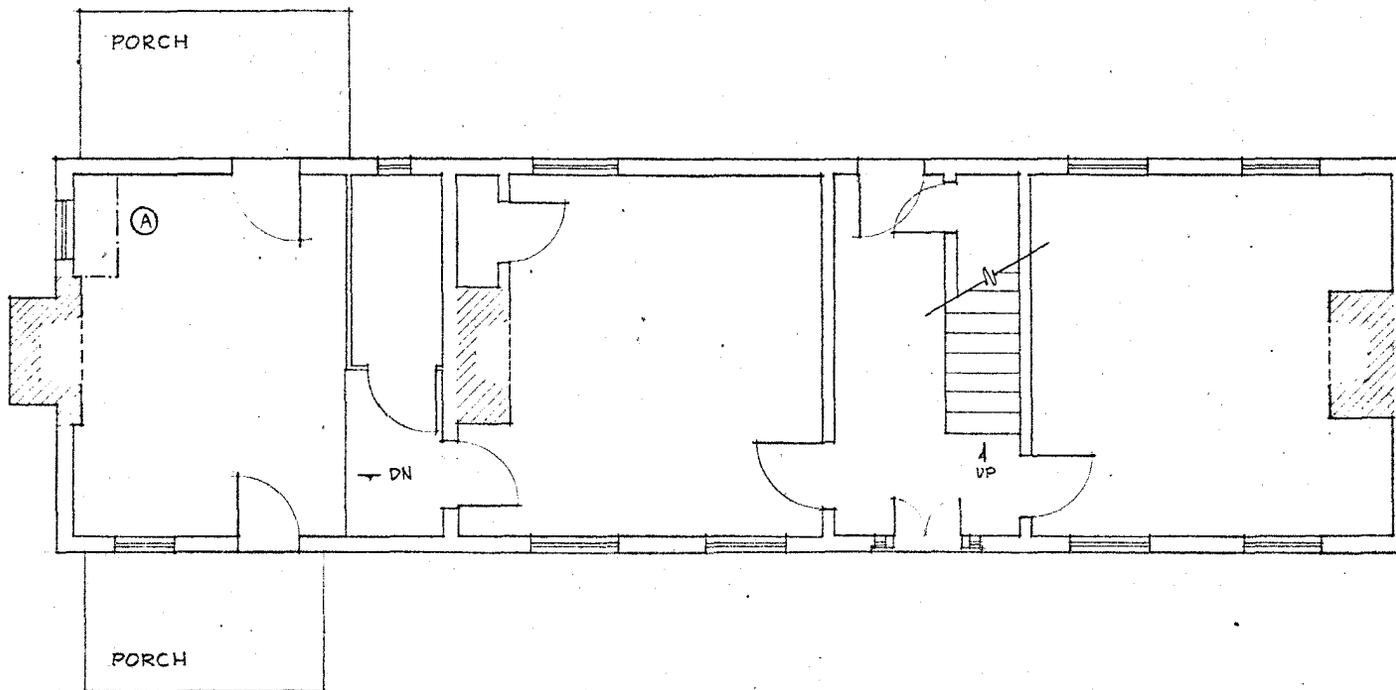
Maryland

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

A LOCATION OF ORIGINAL STAIR TO LOFT



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-167

TOLSON FARM
ROMANCOKE, MARYLAND

JANUARY 24, 1978



QA-167

Samuel Aaron Farm

ORV 1978



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