

QA-169

Morgan's Enclosure  
Kent Island  
Private

circa 1760-80

Morgan's Enclosure is one of the largest 18th century houses on Kent Island. The most notable feature of the house is the unusual four room plan with a side stair hall. Variations of this general plan type are found in a number of 18th century houses in Annapolis, as well as in scattered examples on the Eastern Shore. The overall form and fenestration of the house is quite typical of the more common Georgian plan houses built during this period, and it is interesting to observe the similarity between this plan and a hall parlor plan that has simply been doubled, with an enlarged stair in the usual position adjoining a gable chimney. Other features of interest include the unusual variation of Flemish bond brickwork found in the gable walls, and the handsome interior stair.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

**Morgan's Enclosure**

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

**North side of Maryland Route 8**

CITY, TOWN

**Romancoke**

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**1st**

STATE

**Maryland**

COUNTY

**Queen Anne's**

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

\_\_\_DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_SITE

\_\_\_OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

\_\_\_PUBLIC

PRIVATE

\_\_\_BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_NO

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_\_PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

**Mary E. Marshall**

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

**Stevensville**

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**Maryland 21666**

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

**Queen Anne's County Courthouse**

Liber #: **TSP 43**

Folio #: **122**

STREET & NUMBER

**Courthouse Square**

CITY, TOWN

**Centreville**

STATE

**Maryland**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_FEDERAL \_\_\_STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

QA-169

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Morgan's Enclosure is located on the north side of Maryland Route 8 at Romancoke on Kent Island. The house is oriented on a north-south axis facing east across Eastern Bay.

This large brick house is believed to date to circa 1780. It is 2 stories high, five bays wide and two rooms deep, with flush brick chimneys centered at either end of a pitched gable roof. An early 1 1/2 story frame wing on the south gable was totally rebuilt in the late 1940's, and a one story frame garage has been added to the north gable more recently.

There is no obvious differentiation between the east and west facade, each apparently being considered of equal importance. Both facades are laid in Flemish bond above a plain water table and a Flemish bond foundation. A two-course Flemish belt course is carried to the corners of each facade but neither the belt course nor the water table continues across the gable walls. The fenestration is carefully ordered on each facade, with a central door on the first floor flanked by two large 6/6 windows on each side and five

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

6/6 windows on the second floor. Cellar windows are centered below each first floor window. The ornate door surround on the west facade and the box cornices on both facades are 20th century.

The north and south gable walls are laid in an unusual variation of Flemish bond consisting of two stretchers between each pair of headers. This bonding pattern is relatively rare in Maryland, but is identified as monk bond, flying bond, or Yorkshire bond by Brunskill and Clifton-Taylor in their book, English Brickwork (London, 1977). The only other recorded example in Queen Anne's County is found in an 18th century context at Poplar Grove (QA-191). A single corbel course crosses the gable at each end of the building at second story eave level, and a similar corbel course marks the base of each chimney. On the north wall, the upper gable is stuccoed between these two courses. There are two four-light windows flanking the chimney and a modern 6/6 window in the east bay of the second floor on each gable. A modern door in the west bay on the first floor of the north gable was cut in during the restoration, blocking a bulkhead cellar entrance. The cellar is now entered

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

through a bulkhead in the east bay of the south gable.

The appearance of the wing before renovation can be determined using a series of photographs taken in the mid-1940's. A center door on each facade was flanked by 6/6 windows. There were two pitched roof dormers on the second floor and a flush brick chimney on the south gable wall. A small 20th century window in the west bay on the first floor was the only opening on the south gable. The exterior walls were covered with horizontal German siding; the roof was covered with wood shingles.

The interior is particularly interesting due to the unusual floor plan. The west entrance opened into a large stair hall that stretches across the north three bays of that facade. A similar large room occupied the three north bays on the east facade. The partition which originally separated these two rooms has been opened up to create a large living room. Interior doors lead from this room into two smaller rooms to the south, which share a common chimney stack on the south gable wall. This four room plan bears much in common with a series of plans found in 18th century houses at Annapolis,

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

and at least two other houses on Kent Island, Blue Bay Farm (QA-270) and Cloverfields (QA-269). The common element in all of these buildings is the departure from a central stair hall, choosing instead to place the stair off to the side.

At Morgan's Enclosure, the stair rises against the west wall of the northwest room to a landing against the north gable wall, then turns and rises to the second floor. The stair has an open-string carriage with a handsome molded walnut rail, square balusters, and square walnut newels with molded caps and with reeding on each face of the newel. The face of the carriage is now plain, but appears to have once been decorated with scrolled stair brackets. The area below the carriage is covered with modern paneling. Other early details on the first floor include the diagonal fireplaces in the two south rooms, the east and west doors, and the paneled soffit and jambs of the west door. An original exterior door survives in the south gable of the southwest room, still fitted with a weathered, beaded frame.

The same basic floor plan is repeated on the second floor, but with a narrow hall bisecting the

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

middle of the house to allow separate access to the southeast chamber. The stair hall in the northwest corner of the house is smaller on the second floor, allowing a larger sleeping chamber to the northeast. This chamber was heated by a fireplace on the north gable; the two south chambers were heated by shared corner fireplaces on the south gable. These fireplaces are now blocked.

The attic remains unfinished other than flooring. There are no dormer windows, the only light comes from the small four-light windows in the gable walls. The common rafters rest on a heavy wall plate and are joined at the ridge with a pegged mortise-and-tenon joint. Collar beams are half-dovetailed and pegged into the rafter pairs. The stair opening is enclosed by an early (presumed original) partition of vertical beaded boards secured with wrought nails. Where the stair opening interrupted the floor joists, the joists were cut off flush with the inner face of the exterior wall and were toe nailed into the wall plate with wrought nails and are reinforced by riven knee studs, also secured with wrought nails.

The cellar is divided into two rooms by a brick

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.5 DESCRIPTION

partition wall that runs on an east-west axis. A heavy summer beam runs longitudinally from north to south. This beam does not run down the center of the building, but is only nine feet from the west cellar wall. The joists are hewn and whip-sawn and are whitewashed. They average 4 inches by 10 and are mortised into the summer, which is approximately 9 inches by 16. There is a large rectangular arched chimney base on the north gable wall and a triangular base with two recessed arches on the south gable wall.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

QA-169

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/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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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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

**9/25/80**

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

**Centreville**

STATE

**Maryland**

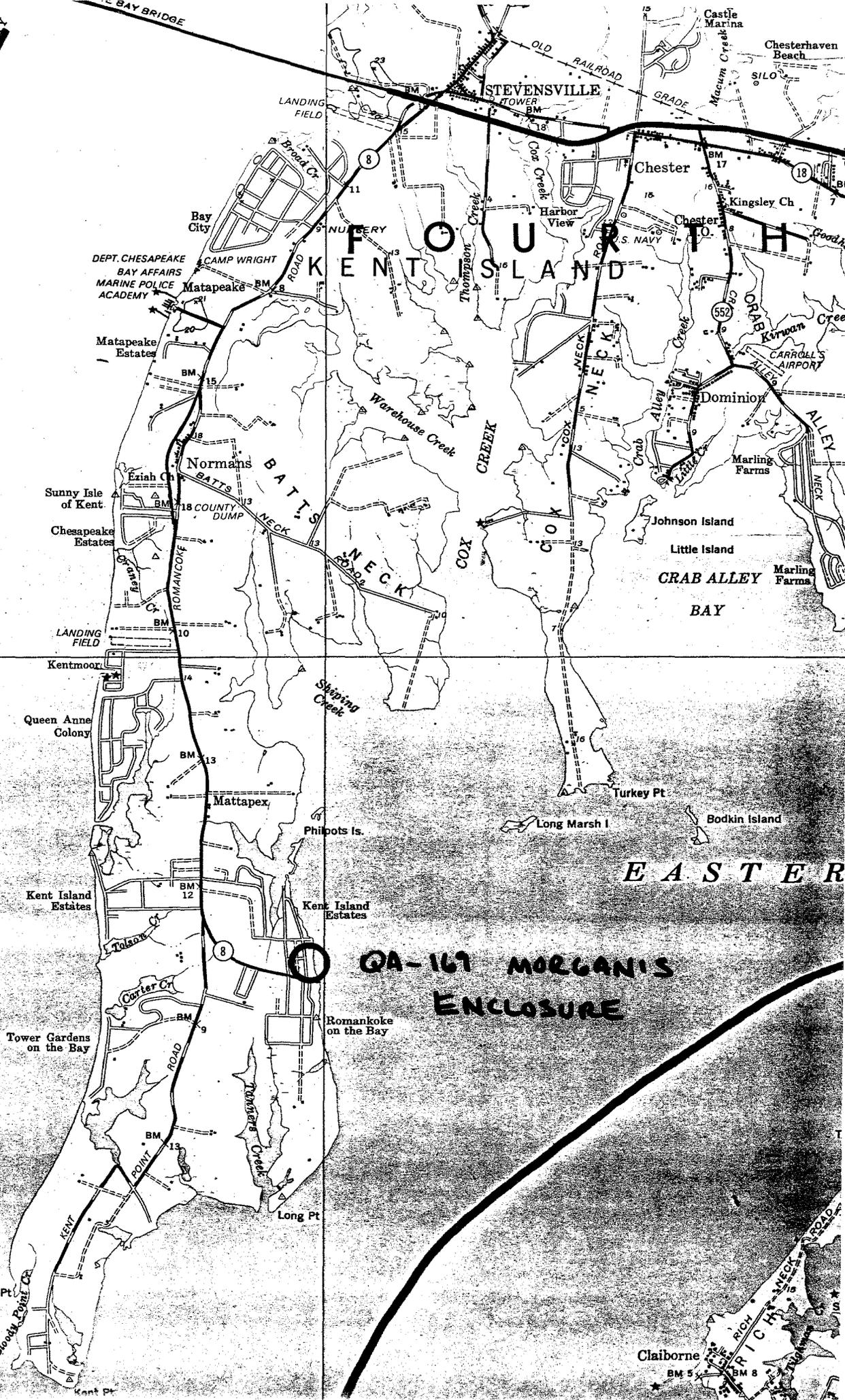
**Field Notebook QA-XI; Recorded September 11, 1979.**

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

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY



BLOODY POINT BAR

Claiborne  
B.M. 5  
B.M. 8  
RICHMOND  
NECK ROAD

QA-169  
Morgan's Enclosure

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





#169

QA#169

Morgan's Enclosure  
(House at Roman cove)



QA-169

Morgan's Enclosure  
Romanceke  
Kent Island  
Orlando Ridout V 1980  
West facade



QA-169

Morgan's Enclosure

Romanceke

Kent Island

Orlando Ridout V 1980

East facade