

QA-175  
The Villa  
Sudlersville vicinity  
Private

1859

The Villa, also known as "Rose Villa", was constructed in 1859 by John W. E. Sudler, purportedly as a home for his second wife. The house has undergone only minor alterations since then, and is probably the finest surviving example of mid-19th century architecture in the county. The bracketed cornice and cupola are the most visible features on the exterior of the house; other details of interest include the marble sills and lintels, the original porches, and two dated bricks confirming the date of construction. The interior is virtually intact with the exception of the modern kitchen and two bathrooms. Four of the five mantels have survived, including a white marble surround in the southwest parlor. The heavy molded architrave trim is similar to the mid-19th century trim in the Cohey Farm (QA-57) near Church Hill.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The Villa, Rose Villa

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

East side of Maryland Route 313

CITY, TOWN

Sudlersville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

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 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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

Leo M. Dulin

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Box 62

CITY, TOWN

Sudlersville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21668

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

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

Liber #: CWC 115

Folio #: 300

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

QA-175

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

The Villa is located on the east side of Maryland Route 313 approximately one mile north of Sudlersville. The house and original rear L were constructed in 1859 by John W. E. Sudler. A mature pine windbreak shields the house on the north side. A row of 19th century outbuildings, including a carriage house and stable, stood along the south side of the driveway until the middle of this century. Several barns and farm buildings are located to the east of the house.

The house is of brick construction, two stories high, five bays wide and two rooms deep, with two interior chimneys projecting from a low hipped roof. An original two story rear L with a pitched gable roof projects from the north end of the rear facade. The dominant features of the house are a bold bracketed cornice and the cupola or observatory centered on the roof.

The principal facade faces west, toward the road. It is five bays wide, with an original one story porch covering the center three bays on the first floor. The entrance is in the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

center bay, flanked by two large 6/6 windows on each side; five 6/6 windows are ranged across the second story. The first floor windows are fitted with paneled shutters hung on machine-made "H" hinges. The second story shutters are louvered. A transom above the door allows light into the stair hall; four cellar windows are aligned below the first floor windows. All of the first and second floor openings have white marble sills and the first floor openings have marble lintels. The second floor lintels are incorporated into a projecting corbel course that forms the lowest component of the cornice. The cornice has a deep soffit above large scrolled brackets set against a broad frieze. A three-course belt course directly below the frieze is painted white. The brickwork is laid in seven-course bond. A brick in the south corner of this facade is dated "May 1859". The front porch is supported by four large reeded columns with Greek caps. The porch cornice is bracketed. The cupola has a roof and cornice similar to the main house, but the brackets are paired. There are two small 2/2 windows with semi-circular louvered transoms on each side of the cupola. A turned finial projects from the peak of the hipped cupola roof.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

The south gable is laid in seven-course bond. There are two 6/6 windows on the first and second floor and two 3-light cellar windows. The window openings have the same marble sills and lintels found on the front facade, and each window is fitted with shutters. The bracketed cornice is carried across the gable and turns the rear corner. The frieze and soffit continue across the rear facade but the brackets are omitted. The original rear "L" covers the north end of the rear facade. A door in the center bay of the first floor opens onto a one story porch along the south wall of the wing. There is a single 6/6 window in the south bay, to the left of the door, and two 6/6 windows on the second floor. A bulkhead cellar entrance is located below the south window.

The north gable of the main house is identical in all details to the south gable. The north wall of the rear wing is flush with the north gable. There is no seam between the two sections. A narrow door has been cut in at the west end of the first floor, with two 6/6 windows to the left on both floors. The openings have wood lintels and granite sills. The second story eave is lower than the eave

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

of the main house and is finished with a box cornice, a complex crown mold and a small bed mold.

The only opening in the east gable wall of the wing is a paneled door on the first floor to the south of the flush chimney. The shallow pitch gable roof has tapered and beaded rakeboards.

A one story porch with square posts, Greek ogee caps and an arched spandrel frieze covers the first floor on the south wall of the wing. A paneled door in the west bay on the first floor may be an altered window. There is an original 6/6 window to the right of the door and two 6/6 windows on the second floor. A brick in this wall of the wing, next to the rear door of the main house, is inscribed with the date "1859".

The interior of the main house is a variation of the center passage, double pile plan similar to the plan of the Jackson Collins Residence (QA-257) in Centreville. A center hall is flanked on the south by two rooms and on the north by a parlor in the front and a side stair hall and pantry to the rear. The chimneys are centered on the interior partition walls.

The southwest parlor is the most formal room on

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

the first floor. The fireplace, centered on the rear or east wall, is fitted with a handsome white marble mantel. The windows are set in splayed recesses with paneling below the sills. The baseboard and architrave trim in this room and the hall are wide and heavily molded. A door to the left of the fireplace leads to the southeast room, now a modern kitchen. This door was cut in by the present owner, but the architrave trim was specially planed to copy the original trim and the door was moved from another part of the house.

The fireplace in the northwest parlor has been rebuilt and the original wood mantel is gone. The window recesses in this room are also splayed, but the architrave trim is somewhat simpler than in the hall and the southwest parlor.

The stair is in a side hall behind the northwest parlor, separated from the center passage by a simple arch at the ceiling. The open string stair rises against the east wall of the stair hall.

A door with a three-light transom at the north end of the stair hall opens into a pantry behind the stairs. A door with an arched lintel in the rear (east) wall of the pantry leads to the rear wing.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.5 DESCRIPTION

The south end of the pantry has been partitioned in recent years to form a modern bathroom.

The rear wing is now completely open on the first floor. A straight-run stair rises against the west wall. This stair allows access to the west room on the second floor of the wing and until recently also opened into the second floor of the main house. A steep ladder in the northeast corner of the wing led to the east room on the second floor. This stair has been removed and the room above is no longer accessible. The first floor of the wing has been altered somewhat. An 1883 description of the house notes that there was a kitchen, a bedroom, and a bathroom on the first floor of the wing and two rooms on the second floor. All interior partitions have been removed on the first floor and the original brick paving has been replaced with a wood floor. The kitchen fireplace survives on the east gable but has been blocked.

The second floor of the main house is similar in plan to the first floor. An "L" shaped hall runs from the front (west end) of the house back to join the stair hall on the north wall. There are

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.6 DESCRIPTION

three large sleeping chambers and a smaller room that wraps around the east side of the stair hall. The original stair and door leading from this room into the second floor of the wing has been blocked to allow a modern bathroom to be installed. A narrow door in the west wall of the stair hall opens to a steep ladder-stair leading up to the attic and the cupola. All three of the original mantels and virtually all of the original trim has survived on this floor.

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 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 1859

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John W. E. Sudler (owner)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Villa, also known as "Rose Villa", was constructed in 1859 by John W. E. Sudler, purportedly as a home for his second wife. The house has undergone only minor alterations since then, and is probably the finest surviving example of mid-19th century architecture in the county. The bracketed cornice and cupola are the most visible features on the exterior of the house; other details of interest include the marble sills and lintels, the original porches, and two dated bricks confirming the date of construction. The interior is virtually intact with the exception of the modern kitchen and two bathrooms. Four of the five mantels have survived, including a white marble surround in the southwest parlor. The heavy molded architrave trim is similar to the mid-19th century trim in the Cohey Farm (QA-57) near Church Hill.

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## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present owners have a copy of the Centreville Record dated May 31, 1883 with an advertisement for a trustees' sale of the property. Included is the following description of the house and property:

The Home Farm of J. W. E. Sudler

"Rose Villa"

176 acres

...divided into six fields, two of them being in fruit--Peaches, Pears, and Grapes. There is also a young Peach orchard...

Fine brick dwelling built throughout of the best material and in a workmanlike manner, the house being studded and lathed to prevent any dampness, and has a splendid cellar under the entire front building with four large rooms. The Main Building has three rooms with large halls and good pantry on the first floor, four rooms and hall on the second floor. The Back Building has a kitchen, bedroom and bathroom on the first floor and two rooms on the second floor.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Near the house is an Ice House, nearly new, also Carriage House and Stable for the driving horses. The outbuildings for the use of the farm stand farther back and consist of cattle stable, Hay building, phosphate and tool house, a good granary and barn for horses below and hay above...

**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

5/9/80

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

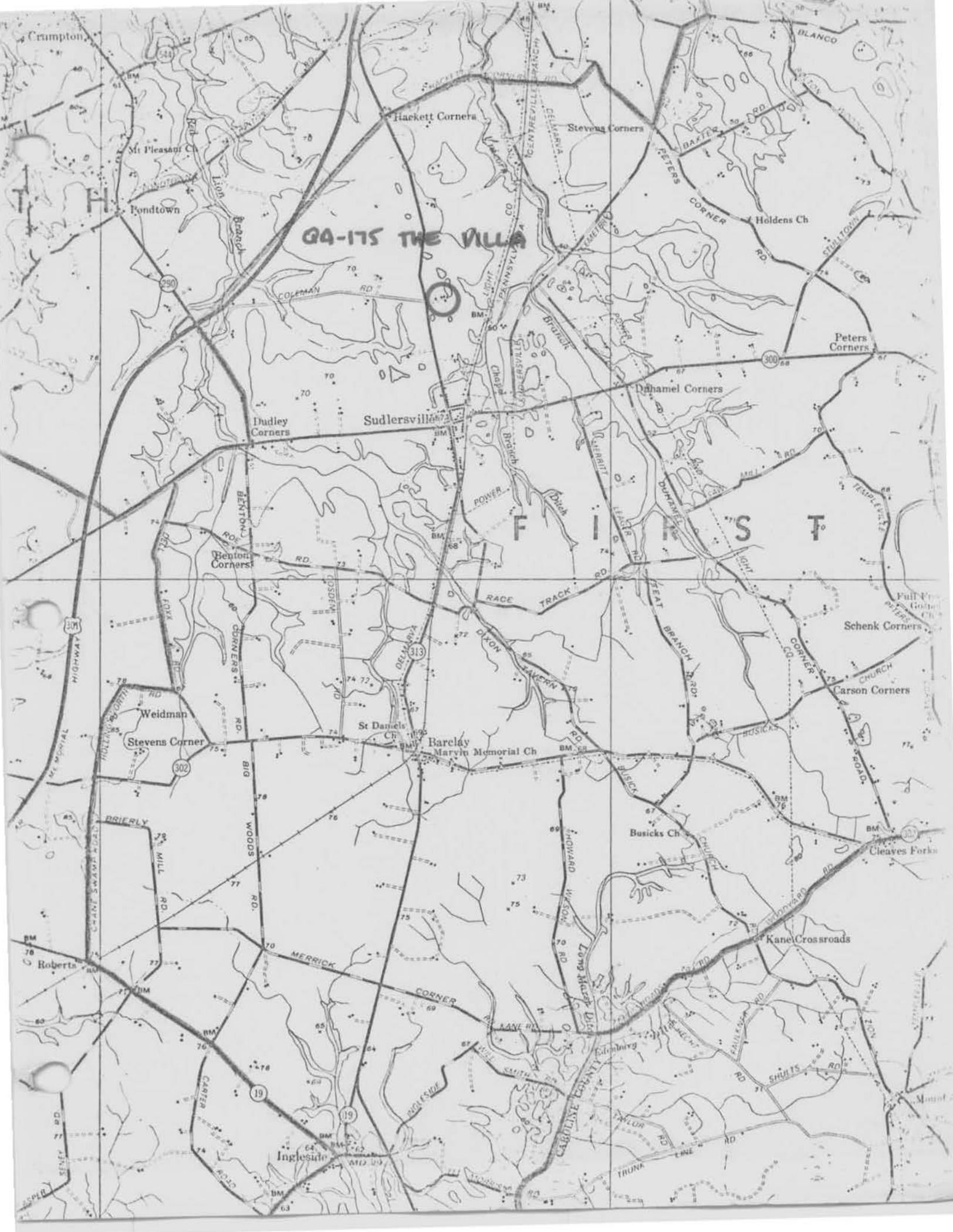
Maryland

Field Note Book QA-XIV, Recorded January 24, 1980.

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



QA-175  
The Villa

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



QA-175  
The Villa

Mary McCarthy  
Spring/Summer 2003  
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The Villa  
Sudlersville vicinity  
Orlando Ridout V 1980  
View from Southwest



QA-175

The Villa

Sudlersville vicinity

Orlando Ridout V 1980

View from Southeast