

QA-192

Shipping Creek Plantation  
Kent Island  
Private

circa 1800  
mid-19th century

The house at Shipping Creek Plantation has evolved through a relatively complex series of additions and alterations to its present form. The earliest section is an unusual example of a true 2 1/2 story brick house with a side passage plan, constructed in the early 19th century. The frame wing to the south is an early addition, an example of the more common true story-and-a-half form. In the mid-19th century a further enlargement was undertaken, this time by adding a two story frame house with a side hall, double parlor plan to the north gable. It was probably at that time that the two story porches were added to both sides of the original house, as the bracketed cornice of the mid-19th century frame section is continued across both porches and the south gable of the earlier building. In 1940, a frame wing was added to the north. Significant interior details include two handsome Federal mantels in the original section and a variety of 19th century trim, including crossetted architrave trim, an unusual feature in the mid-19th century context.

To the south of the house is a large, square frame building with a pyramidal roof, probably dating to the third quarter of the 19th century. It is constructed with posts set in the ground and interrupted sills. A hen house to the northeast of the house is constructed in the same manner.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Shipping Creek Plantation

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

East side of Maryland Route 8

CITY, TOWN

Romancoke

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

Thomas C. Grier, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Shipping Creek Plantation

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 #: CWC 52

Folio #: 211

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**

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Shipping Creek Plantation is located on the east side of Maryland Route 8 on Kent Island, approximately 5 1/2 miles south of Stevensville. The house is sited on flat, level ground at the mouth of Shipping Creek, looking east across Eastern Bay.

The house was constructed in four distinct sections. The earliest part is a 2 1/2 story brick house dating to the early 19th century. It is three bays wide and one room deep, with a single flush brick chimney at the south end of a pitched gable roof. There are two story porches across both facades. At an early date, a 1 1/2 story frame section was added to the south gable. This wing is also three bays wide and one room deep. In the mid-19th century a large, two story frame addition was made to the north gable of the brick house. This was essentially a house in itself. It is three bays wide and two rooms deep and extends the full depth of the brick house, including the front and rear porches. In 1940 a 1 1/2 story frame wing was added to the north gable of the two story frame section. The result

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

is a long, sprawling house that clearly reflects these varied stages of development.

The east facade of the original building, facing the water, is laid in common bond with a relatively rough finish, suggesting it may originally have been stuccoed or whitewashed. There is a door with a three-light transom in the north bay on the first floor and two 6/6 windows to the left. On the second floor, there are 2/2 windows in the south and center bay. The north bay of the second story porch has been enclosed. The window openings have splayed brick jack arches and wood sills.

The south gable wall is laid in six-course bond, and is partially covered by the story-and-a-half frame wing. Two small windows flanking the chimney in the upper gable are the only openings. The gable eaves are boxed in, and a bracketed cornice runs across the front and rear two story porches and is carried up the gable eaves. The north gable wall is entirely concealed by the mid-19th century addition.

The west facade has only two openings on each floor. An original door in the north bay on the first floor has been changed to a 6/6 window. There is a

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

second 6/6 window in the south bay of the first floor, and two 2/2 windows on the second floor. The brickwork is common bond, the openings have splayed jack arches and wood sills. The two story porch has a bracketed cornice and has not been enclosed.

The interior is now opened up into one large rectangular room, but the floor framing and the flooring make it clear that the original plan consisted of a side hall across the north gable and a parlor to the south. The fireplace is centered on the south wall of the parlor, flanked on the right by a door to the wing and on the left by a winder stair with plastered soffit. The original Federal mantel has survived. It is a beaded board surround with a molded backband, reeded sideblocks and center block and a simple molded shelf. The door to the wing has a beaded frame and a backband identical to the mantel. Other early details include beaded door and window architraves and rabbeted sill pieces below the windows.

The second floor has also been opened up from a two room plan to a single rectangular room. A small Federal mantel survives in place on the south gable wall. An enclosed winder stair to the left of the

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

fireplace continues up to the attic, which is plastered and finished, but is used for storage. The north gable wall has been taken down and is now framed with studs reused from an earlier building. A very fine flush-panel door opens into the attic of the adjoining mid-19th century wing. It is interesting to note that this is a rare example of a true 2 1/2 story building, in which the masonry walls are carried up above the attic floor level.

The frame addition to the south is a true story-and-a-half on a continuous brick foundation. The only door is in the center bay of the east facade, flanked by a 6/6 window on each side. There are two 6/6 shed roof dormers on the second floor, directly above the first floor windows. The wing is covered with plain horizontal siding and a wood shingle roof with no cornice. The back of the chimney is exposed for the first five feet above ground level on the south gable wall. There are no windows in this end of the building. The eaves are finished with beaded and tapered rake-boards. On the west facade, there are two 6/6 windows on the first floor and two 6/6 shed roof dormers on the second floor.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

The interior of this wing has been completely opened up. Any interior partitions on both floors were removed, the flooring was removed from the upper story and the ceiling joists have been raised approximately two feet and left exposed, to form a "cathedral" ceiling. The interior wall framing is also partially exposed. The most significant feature revealed in this way is a short downbrace in the north gable, set low enough that it does not interfere with the door to the main house. This tends to confirm the assumption that the wing stands on its original site and was not moved from an earlier location. Other features of note are the fireplace on the center of the south gable wall and the beaded door and window architraves. According to a previous resident, the stair was located in the southeast corner, next to the fireplace.

The two story frame addition made to the north gable of the original house extends the full depth of the earlier house as well as the front and rear porches. It is a standard side hall, double parlor plan house, except the west end of the hall is set back even with the west facade of the brick house, to form an entrance

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.5 DESCRIPTION

porch of sorts.

On the west facade, therefore, the south bay on the first floor is recessed approximately seven feet, allowing an entrance porch that is a continuation of the first floor porch on the original house. The entrance door has flanking sidelights and transom, a 6/6 window faces south onto the entrance porch. There are large 6/6 windows in the center and north bays on the first floor and all three bays on the second floor. The siding consists of plain horizontal weatherboard; the cornice is bracketed.

The 20th century wing covers the majority of the north gable wall. A single 2/2 window is centered in the upper gable, between the pair of flush brick chimneys. The bracketed cornice returns at the corners and is carried up the gable eaves.

On the east facade there are three 6/6 windows on both the first and second floor. The siding and cornice match the west facade.

The first floor interior is divided into a stair hall along the south gable and two large parlors to the north. The stair rises against the south wall of the hall to a landing at the rear. It is an open-string

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.6 DESCRIPTION

stair with heavy turned newels, smaller delicately turned balusters and a plain rail. The carriage piece is rabbeted and decorated with scrolled stair brackets. The area below the carriage is finished with vertical four-inch beaded boards. An original closet stretches across the east end of the hall below the landing. The partition wall between the two parlors has been removed, opening them up into one large room. Doors in the north wall lead to the 20th century wing. Simple mantels with plain pilasters, molded and rabbeted caps, and a plain frieze and shelf have survived on both fireplaces. The architrave trim is crossetted and consists of a Victorian ogee backband applied against a beaded broken-field fascia. The sill pieces and baseboard are rabbeted.

The side hall plan is repeated on the second floor, except that the west end of the hall is partitioned to form an original unheated chamber, now a modern bath. A door in the south wall of this room opens onto the west second story porch. Two simple mantels survive in the north chambers. The architrave trim is beaded, with plain cornerblocks; the baseboard and window sill-pieces are rabbeted. The attic has flooring

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.7 DESCRIPTION

and plastered walls and ceiling but is only used for storage.

The frame wing on the north gable was added in 1940. It very nearly duplicates the south wing in modern materials.

Outbuildings

To the south of the house is a large, square frame building with a pyramidal roof, probably constructed in the third quarter of the 19th century. It is constructed with posts set in the ground and interrupted sills. The exterior walls are vertical board and batten; the interior is whitewashed. A scalloped fascia board is carried around the eaves, adding a decorative touch. The door is in the north wall; there are single six-light windows in the south and east walls.

Other outbuildings include a hen house constructed in the same fashion, but with a pitched gable roof. Details include late 19th century laying nests. A small frame privy with a pyramidal roof is located to the northeast, near the water.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-192

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 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

The house at Shipping Creek Plantation has evolved through a relatively complex series of additions and alterations to its present form.

The earliest section is an unusual example of a true 2 1/2 story brick house with a side passage plan, constructed in the early 19th century.

The frame wing to the south is an early addition, an example of the more common true story-and-a-half form. In the mid-19th century a further enlargement was undertaken, this time by adding a two story frame house with a side hall, double parlor plan to the north gable. It was probably at that time that the two story porches were added to both sides of the original house, as the bracketed cornice of the mid-19th century frame section is continued across both porches and the south gable of the earlier building. In 1940, a frame wing was added to the north. Significant interior

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## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Wilson, Everett B. Maryland's Colonial Mansions. New York:  
A. S. Barnes, 1965.

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

10/14/80

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XI; Recorded September 18, 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



QA-192  
Shipping Creek

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





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Shipping Creek Plantation  
Kent Island  
Orlando Ridout v 3/1980  
West facade



QA-192

Shipping Creek Plantation  
Kent Island  
Orlando Ridout V3/1980  
East facade



QA 192

Shipping Creek Plantation



QA # 192

shipping Creek  
Plantation