

QA-216  
Scillin  
Love Point vicinity  
Private

mid-19th century

This large brick house was constructed in two successive stages. The original house, built circa 1840-50, consisted of a 2 1/2 story side hall, double-parlor plan with a two story wing on the north side of the hall. Later in the 19th century the wing was raised to 2 1/2 stories and expanded to two room depth. At the same time, a 1 1/2 story brick kitchen wing was added to the north gable. The interior remains virtually intact to the mid-19th century.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Scillin, Sillin, Cilly, other spellings.

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West side of Maryland Route 18 near Love Point

CITY, TOWN

Stevensville

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

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

Mrs. Emily P. Denny

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; 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 #: CWC 27

Folio #: 411

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

QA-216

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

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Scillin is located on the west side of Maryland Route 18 approximately one mile south of Love Point, the northern tip of Kent Island. Unlike many of the older homes on Kent Island, the house and associated outbuildings are located near the road and face east, away from the water.

From a distance, the house appears to be a large, two-and-a-half story house, five bays wide and two rooms deep, with a small story-and-a-half brick wing on the north gable. Closer examination, however, reveals that the house has undergone at least one major alteration, and that the main house was originally only three bays wide, with a smaller wing to the north of the front door. This wing was apparently two stories high but was only one room deep, with the front wall of the wing flush with the front wall of the main house. When the house was enlarged, the wing was raised to two-and-one-half stories and was extended one more room to the rear.

The small, brick story-and-a-half wing on the north gable of the enlarged house was added at the same time, as there is no seam in the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

brickwork on the rear wall.

The main section of the original house is laid in five- to seven-course bond with a corbeled houndstooth brick cornice on the front and rear facade, but no water table.

The front entrance is located in the north bay of the east facade. The door is paneled and is set off with sidelights, a five-light transom, and a white marble sill. A handsome cornice dominated by Greek ovolos separates the transom from the door. The ghost of an early door surround remains, but the doorway is now sheltered by an open entrance porch with simple Doric columns. There are two large six-over-six windows to the left of the door on the first floor and three six-over-six windows on the second floor. Six-light cellar windows are located directly below each first floor window.

Two flush chimneys rise on the south gable of the main house. The west chimney is larger than the east chimney to accommodate an extra flue serving a fireplace in the cellar. The fenestration is ordered, with a single six-over-six window at the east and west end of the gable facade on the first

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

and second floor, and a pair of six-over-six windows between the chimneys on the third floor. The rake-boards are plain and untapered, with a simple piece of applied trim.

The rear or west facade is similar to the front, but the doorway lacks a transom and sidelights, and is offset slightly to the south to accommodate the stairway inside. The window above the door is lower than the other second floor windows to allow light on the stair landing.

Seams in the brickwork on the front and rear facade and the north gable of the enlarged house define the size and configuration of the original wing. The fenestration on each facade apparently consisted of a pair of six-over-six windows on the first floor and two smaller windows on the second floor. When the wing was raised, the second floor windows on the east facade were enlarged to six-over-six, while all of the rear openings were covered by the addition. An original exterior door in the northwest corner was the only opening in the north gable wall of the original wing, and the outline of the pitched gable roof and the chimney are clearly visible. The enlarged north gable has

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

paired flush chimneys, with a six-over-six window to the left of the west chimney on the second floor and an elliptical fan-light window in the upper gable. The latter window was installed in 1958 by the Dennys, and replaced a smaller window with double-hung sash. An early fan-light window was discovered in the attic, probably removed from the north gable of the main house when the wing was raised, and the Dennys used this as a model for the window that was cut in.

The small brick wing that projects from the north gable of the main house was built at the same time that the original wall was enlarged. The brickwork is laid in five-course bond, and the eaves are finished with a two-course corbeled brick cornice.

The front facade is covered by an open one-story porch with chamfered posts, scrolled brackets and a scrolled fascia board. The door is located in the south bay and has sidelights and a three-light transom, while a six-over-six window is located in the north bay. A flush brick chimney rises at the center of the north gable, and is flanked on the second floor with a pair of small six-over-six windows. A door to the right of the chimney is the only opening on

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

the first floor. On the west facade, there are two six-over-six windows on the first floor and a pair of modern dormers on the second floor.

The interior of the main house began as a side hall, double parlour plan with the stair hall on the north gable of the house, allowing it to be used for access to the wing as well. When the wing was enlarged, it was adapted to a plan similar to a Georgian center hall, but lacking direct access between the hall and the additional northwest room. A further complication resulted because the floor of the original wing was several steps lower than the main house, and until the 1930's the northeast room on each floor was slightly lower than the rest of the house.

The stair rises along the north wall of the hall to a landing at the rear, then turns and ascends to the second floor. It is an open string stair with turned burlwood newels, square-section balusters, and a walnut railing. The carriage piece is decorated with elaborately scrolled stair brackets, and the space below the carriage is paneled. A door under the landing leads to an interior cellar stair.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.5 DESCRIPTION

The two parlours are connected by a large opening with double doors, and each room is heated by a fireplace on the gable walls. All of the trim is original except for the interior cornice. The window and door architraves are typical of the Greek Revival period, with a raised vertical panel with beveled faces running between large fillets, and bullseye corner blocks terminating the corners. The mantels have flat pilasters with molded capitals and a plain shelf supported by a bold elliptical molding. The baseboard is rabbeted, with a flattened ogee molding applied to the top face; the panel molds feature a flattened ogee typical of the 1840's and 1850's. In the rear or west parlour, further refinement is derived from a built-in cupboard to the left of the fireplace. This has a pair of eight-light glass doors above two raised-panel cupboard doors.

The interior of the original wing was completely redone when the floor levels were raised in the 1930's, and the cupboards, paneling, and wainscoting that now grace the first floor parlour all date to that period.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.6 DESCRIPTION

The northwest room, which was added when the wing was enlarged, is now used as a kitchen and retains little early fabric. An enclosed stair on the south wall allows access to the northwest room on the second floor. A door in the southwest corner of the room opens onto the landing of the cellar stairs, and a door in the northwest corner of the gable wall leads to the present wing.

The second floor plan is similar, but the east end of the hall is partitioned to form a small, unheated chamber. This partition appears to be original, but the extra chamber has been adapted for a modern bathroom. Each of the four sleeping chambers is heated by a fireplace on the gable wall. The mantels in the two south chambers are simplified versions of the first floor mantels. The trim is also much simpler, with rabbeted baseboard and plain architraves with plain corner blocks. The four-panel doors have the same flattened ogee panel mold, except for a later door connecting the two south chambers. The decorative brackets were omitted from the stair to the third floor.

The third floor was originally divided into three

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.7 DESCRIPTION

rooms, with plastered walls and ceilings and plain trim. The partition between the two south rooms has been dismantled however, and most of the plaster is gone.

The roof is of common rafter construction, set at a pitch of 33 degrees. The rafter pairs are joined at the ridge with a mortise-and-tenon joint that is not reinforced with either pegs or nails. Collar beams are half-lapped against the rafters and are secured with machine nails. Both the rafters and the floor joists are circular sawn, suggesting a date of circa 1840 or later.

The attic of the later section of the house was never finished, and serves now as storage space. The roof construction is quite unusual, consisting of circular-sawn common rafters supported at the peak by a huge ridge beam. Framing evidence suggests there were dormer windows on both sections of the house, but it is uncertain whether these were an original feature.

The interior of the story-and-a-half wing is divided into two long, rectangular rooms on the first floor. The west room is larger than the east room

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.8 DESCRIPTION

and has a fireplace on the gable wall. Apparently this room served as a kitchen, while the east room was partitioned to form a small entrance hall at the south end and a large pantry at the north end. A square hole in the brick partition wall between the kitchen and pantry allowed food and supplies to be passed back and forth. Both rooms are extremely plain, with the bare brick walls painted but not plastered. The circular-sawn ceiling joists are now exposed but were at one time plastered. A steep companionway stair at the south end of the west room leads to the second floor, which has been completely modernized.

The cellar under the main house is divided longitudinally into two rooms by a brick partition wall. A fireplace is incorporated into the base of the southwest chimney, but the southeast chimney is supported by two brick piers and a wooden lintel, rather than a recessed relieving arch. The exposed first floor joists are circular sawn and are laid parallel to the gable under both of the first floor parlours and the rear half of the hall, but are laid perpendicular to the gable under the front half of the hall. It is not unusual to see the hall joists set perpendicular, as this simplifies laying the flooring.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.9 DESCRIPTION

In this case, the rear joists are apparently set parallel because of the framing for the cellar stair. This would have caused problems with the flooring, so short 3 x 3 joists are let into the upper face of the joists in the rear hall, giving the necessary support to the floorboards. This is the first example of this framing variation that has been encountered in Queen Anne's County. It is also interesting to note that all of the first floor joists are reinforced with original diagonal bridging, a feature that probably first appeared circa 1840-1850 and became a standard detail in the later balloon frame and platform frame methods of construction.

The original bulkhead entrance to the cellar was located on the north gable wall, and now serves as access to the crawl space below the enlarged north wing. Evidence of the lower floor level of the original wing is clearly visible in the crawl space, and most of the old joist pockets remain. It would also appear that there was a porch on the west facade of the wing, as two joist holes and a ghost in the painted brick foundation wall suggest.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

QA-216

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

Built circa 1840-1850, Scillin is a notable example of the side hall, double parlour plan house popular in Tidewater Maryland during the second quarter of the 19th century. The alterations and expansion undertaken later in the 19th century transformed the original three bay, side hall house and the adjoining wing into a five bay, center hall house with a small kitchen wing. In many respects, this pattern of growth is reminiscent of Hadden Hall (QA-44). Both houses reflect the desire to attain a balanced and reasonably symmetrical facade, while shifting the domestic and kitchen activities into a smaller wing adjoining the house. Other similarities can be seen in both the decorative corbeled cornices and the interior woodwork. Interior details of particular interest include the Greek Revival mantels and trim, the burlwood newel posts, and the handsome scrolled stair console brackets.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Construction details of interest include the use of diagonal bridging in the original section of the house and a massive ridge beam in the roof of the enlarged wing.

**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

1/26/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

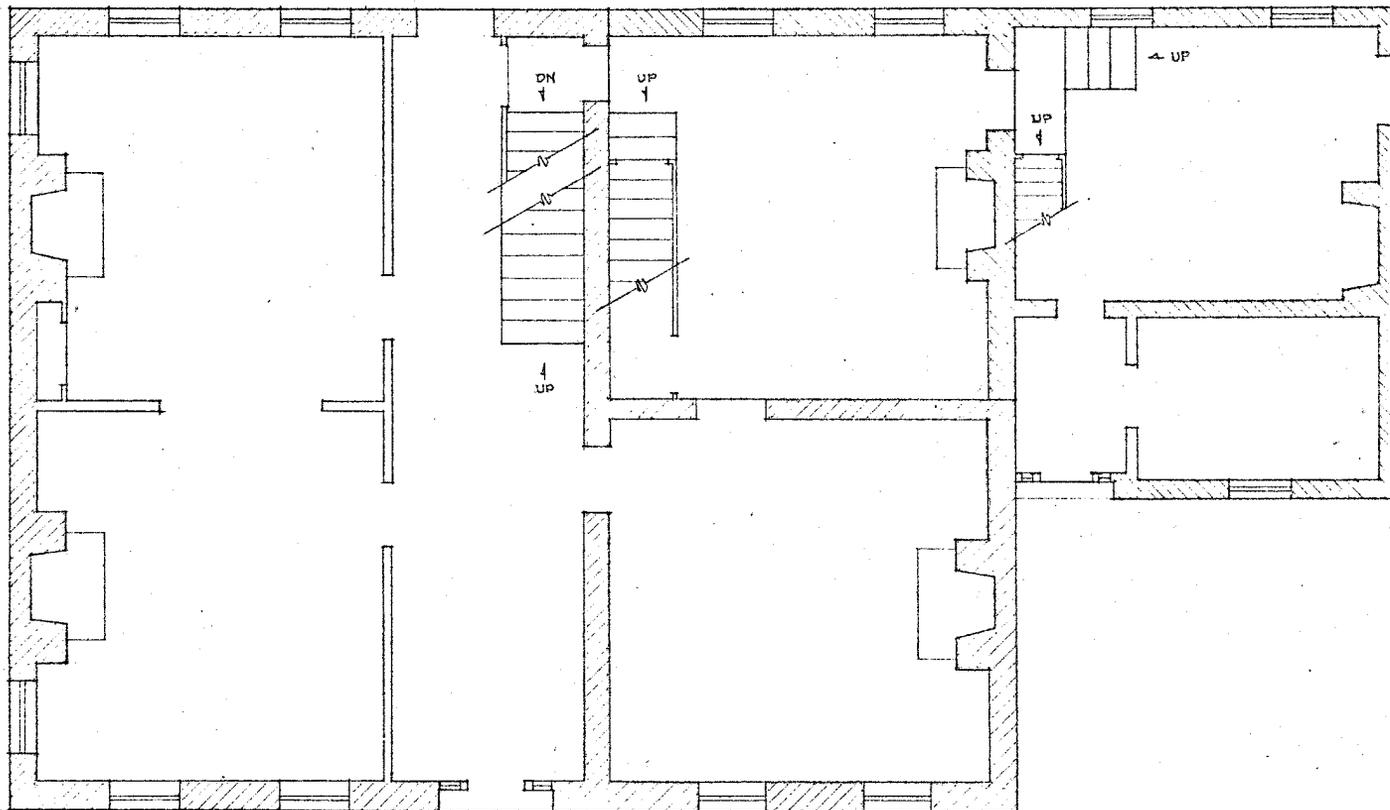
Maryland

Field Book QA-V, Recorded October 10, 1978.

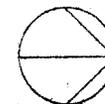
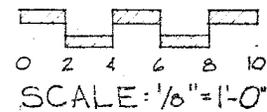
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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



- PERIOD I CIRCA 1840
- ▨ PERIOD II CIRCA 1850'S



QA-216

SCILLIN  
KENT ISLAND

OCTOBER 10, 1978.

CHESAPE

CHESA

on the Bay

4 leg Inn

ALL CREEKS

\*SANDY POINT LIGHTHOUSE

Sandy Pt

Love Pt

LOVE POINT LANDING

Love Point

SCILLIN  
QA-216

CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

ISTEVENSVILLE

Chester

KENT ISLAND

DEPT CHESAPEAKE BAY AFFAIRS MARINE POLICE ACADEMY

CAMP WRIGHT

Matapeake

Matapeake Estates

Normans

Sunny Isle of Kent

Chesapeake Estates

LANDING FIELD

Kentmoor

Queen Anne Colony

Mattapex

LANDING FIELD

Bay City

NUREY

Harbor View

Chester

Warehouse Creek

CREEK

COX

COX

BATTIS

NECK

Johnson Island

Little Island

CRAB ALLEY

RAY

Shipping Creek

Turkey Pt



QA-216



QA-216



DA-216