

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

Property Name: Woodbury (Cloverfields, Marion Leaverton Farm) Inventory Number: QA-227

Address: Wye Mills Centreville Road (MD 213) (west side) Historic district: yes no

City: Wye Mills/Queenstown Zip Code: _____ County: Queen Annes

USGS Quadrangle(s): Wye Mills

Property Owner: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: _____

Project: _____ Agency: _____

Agency Prepared By: DOT/FHWA/E.Elinsky

Preparer's Name: _____ Date Prepared: 12/3/1979

Documentation is presented in: _____

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: X Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes Listed: yes

Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Woodbury, a 4-bay brick house dating from the second quarter of the 19th c. with a modern frame addition and 2-story porch addition, is architecturally significant as embodying the design characteristics of 19th c. vernacular architecture, borrowed from both the Federal and Greek Revival styles. The house and granary are associated with the Hemsley family, important and prominent in the agricultural development of the area.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments: Federal DOE

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Carol D. Schull (Keeper NR)

Monday, February 11, 1980

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

QA-227

Marion Leaverton Farm
Wye Mills vicinity
Private

2nd quarter 19th century

The early brick house on the Marion Leaverton farm is unique in form and plan among the vernacular buildings of Queen Anne's County. The basic side hall-single parlour plan is not unusual, but is not ordinarily found with a second parlour to the rear. This plan is used in conjunction with a temple form building, a feature generally associated with the Greek Revival period. Although the temple form is quite common in many areas, particularly in New York State and the northern Mid-West, it seems not to have gained favor on the Eastern Shore. The overall appearance of the exterior of this house can be compared with one other building in the county, Shipping Creek Plantation on Kent Island (QA-192). The interior of the house on the Leaverton farm has been modernized in some respects, but retains virtually all of the original interior trim, including all four original mantels.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

Although the east gable facade of the original house was clearly intended as the principal facade, the fenestration and general organization of this wall are surprisingly understated. The entrance door was located in the extreme north corner on the first floor, with a single six-over-six window in the south bay, two six-over-six windows on the second floor, and a four-light window to the left of center in the upper gable. The door has been bricked up, and the north window on the second floor, directly above the door, also shows evidence of alterations. A rowlock lintel course remains visible about 18 inches above the present window opening, suggesting an earlier door opening, which in turn suggests that there was once a two story porch on this facade, a feature often found on temple-form houses. The brickwork on this facade is laid in five-course bond, in contrast to the Flemish bond found on both the north and south facades. The use of common bond on a gable wall is not unusual in the late 18th and 19th century, but is unexpected on a house with a gable entrance. Perhaps this is further evidence that this facade was originally dominated by a porch.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

The south facade is divided into two sections, with the western half set back about five feet and protected by a two story porch. The porch serves as the principal focus of this facade, with a wide door in the left or west bay and a six-over-nine window in the right bay on the first floor. On the second floor, there is a somewhat smaller door in the left bay leading onto the upper porch, and a six-over-six window in the right bay. A door has also been cut through in the east side wall of the porch, allowing direct access into the front parlour, but the larger west door now serves as the principal entrance to the original house. The east section of this facade, to the right of the porch, has two six-over-six windows on each floor. A single six-over-six pitched roof dormer window is centered on the east section of the roof. The brickwork on this facade is laid in Flemish bond, with splayed brick jack arches above each opening, and a three-course corbeled brick cornice.

The north facade is relatively plain by comparison, and the fenestration pattern is asymmetrical. There are only two windows on the first floor, a six-over-six in the center of the east half of the facade and a

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

larger six-over-nine in the center of the west section. There are four six-over-six windows ranged across the second floor and a single six-over-six pitched roof dormer in the center of the east section of the roof. The brickwork is Flemish bond, with a corbeled brick cornice. There is no seam between the east and west portions of the building so the west or "rear" section is clearly original. It is worth noting that the six-over-nine window on the first floor has a jack arch that differs from those found on the other windows, suggesting it may have been altered or added at a later date, but unfortunately the jambs are concealed behind fixed shutters, and the opening cannot be examined in detail. There are no seams below the opening, thus ruling out an earlier door location.

The interior, as previously stated, consists of a side hall-single parlour plan with a second parlour to the rear. The hall runs along the north wall of the house, and opens into both the front and rear parlours. The stair rises along the interior partition wall to a landing at the rear. It is an open string stair, with turned walnut newels, square pine ballusters, and a mahogany rail. The stair ends and carriage piece

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

are left undecorated, but the area below the carriage is finished with beaded vertical paneling. A puzzling feature of this hall was the original floor, which was one step lower than the two parlours. This has since been raised to the same level as the parlours, leaving no explanation for the original configuration.

The front parlour was clearly the formal parlour, with the fireplace centered on the west wall, flanked by original closets on each side. The left closet was later converted to a "lobby entrance" when the door was cut through onto the south porch. The original mantel remains in place and is a very fine Federal surround, with reeded convex pilasters, oval sideblocks and center block, and a wide, complex molded mantel shelf that breaks forward above the sideblocks. The original six-panel door remains on the right closet. A complex two-piece chairrail has survived in both east rooms, and a molded baseboard remains on the stair.

The rear parlour probably served as a dining room. The fireplace is located on the east wall, and retains the original mantel, though the lower part of the surround appears to have been cut off.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

This is a relatively unusual mantel, with turned columns supporting projecting sideblocks and a heavily molded frieze below a complex molded shelf. The frieze is reminiscent of more subdued Greek Revival mantel details found elsewhere in the county, but is unusual for the boldness and detailing of the pattern. The large six-panel exterior door to the south porch is certainly original, with flattened ogee panel molds typical of the second quarter of the 19th century. A second door on the center of the west wall leads to the modern addition, but both the panel molds and the architrave suggest this is an original door. It is hung on butt hinges marked "Thom^s Clark".

The second floor plan is similar to the first floor, with an enclosed winder stair in the hall leading up to the attic. Original door architraves and one section of chairrail have survived in the hall, while all of the trim in the east chamber is original. In this room, the fireplace is located on the west wall, flanked by original closets with six-panel doors. The mantel is Federal, with reeded convex pilasters, paneled side blocks, a plain frieze, and a complex shelf that breaks forward above the side blocks.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

The architrave backband is a Greek ogee-astragal.

The west chamber is less formal, with a molded board fireplace surround flanked by a closet on the left with a beaded batten door and an alcove to the right. The chairrail and all of the architraves have survived intact in this room, and offer several clues of alterations. The door to the south porch has evidently been enlarged from a window, as the architrave has a seam on each side at chairrail level. These are seams in the chairrail on each side of the room, perhaps suggesting evidence of a partition, but the plan argues against this possibility. There is a door to the addition in the center of the west wall. The opening has an ogee-astragal architrave and is fitted with a beaded batten door. The architrave is identical to the corresponding door on the first floor, implying that the earlier frame addition was added by the mid-19th century, if it was not original.

The third floor is divided into two chambers, with the east half plastered and fitted with dormer windows, while the west half is left unfinished. The plaster in the east chamber is laid against split lath secured with machine nails, but is probably an early improvement

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

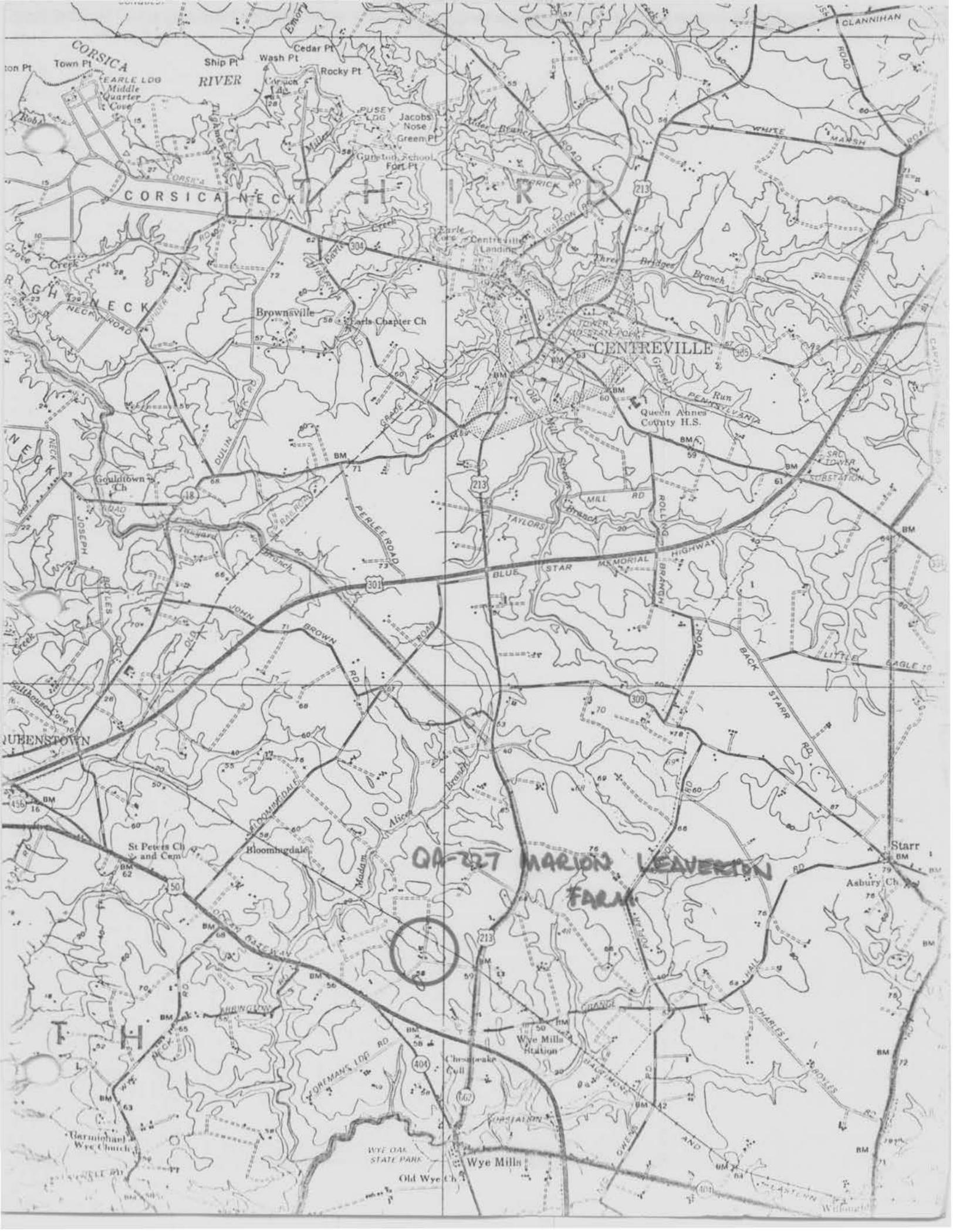
rather than an original feature, as the collar beams that form the ceiling are scabbed on to the rafters. The roof is of common rafter construction, set at a 37-38 degree pitch and joined at the ridge with a pegged mortise-and-tenon joint. Small beaded batten doors hung on butt hinges allow access behind the knee walls on each side. A carefully constructed ladder-stair leads to a hatch in the roof. The west half of the roof is unfinished, and the roof construction is readily visible.

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house clearly dates to the second quarter of the 19th century, and the combination of both Federal and Greek Revival details on the interior suggest a date of circa 1820-1840, with further improvements made soon after the house was completed.

A heavy timber frame granary dating to the second half of the 19th century lies to the northwest of the house.



CORSICA NECK

CENTREVILLE

QA-27 MARION LEAVERTON FARM

CORSICA RIVER
Ship Pt
Wash Pt
Rocky Pt

High Neck
NECK ROAD

WHEENSTOWN

TH

Brownsville
St. Pauls Chapter Ch

Bloomfieldale

Wye Mills
Old Wye Ch

Queen Annes County H.S.

Starr
Asbury Ch

Wye Mills Station

Wye Mills

Wheaton



QA-227 Marion Leaverton Farm
Wye Mills vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1979
View from Southeast



QA-227

Marion Leaverton Farm
Wye Mills vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1979
View from Northeast