

QA-281  
Conyer House  
Grasonville vicinity  
Private

2nd quarter 19th century

The Conyer House is the only recorded example in Queen Anne's County of a rare form of vertical plank construction. Probably constructed in the second quarter of the 19th century, the original house consisted of a side stair hall and single parlor on the first floor, with stair hall and two chambers on the second floor. Later in the 19th century the house was expanded to the northeast, adding a single room on each floor.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Conyer House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Southeast side of Route 18, 1 mile east of Grasonville

CITY, TOWN

Grasonville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER/vacant

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mable M. Conyer

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

12103 Soika Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Ohio 44120

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 11

Folio #: 52

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-281

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

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

The Conyer House is located on the southeast side of Maryland Route 18 about one mile east of Grasonville. It sits back from the road at the edge of thick woods, behind several modern houses.

The house is four bays wide and one room deep, one-and-one-half stories high with a gambrel roof. There are three shed roof dormers on each facade, a large brick chimney flush with the southwest gable and a small stove chimney flush with the northeast gable.

The house was constructed in two stages. The original house was three bays wide, and consisted of a side hall and parlour. It was later enlarged by adding a second parlour on the northeast side of the hall, creating the present center hall plan house.

Fenestration of the original house consists of an exterior entrance in the northeast bay of each facade and six-over-six windows in the center and southwest bays. There are no openings in the southwest gable. The flush brick chimney is centered on that wall, laid in stretcher bond, with the brickwork exposed up to the first floor

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

ceiling joists. The northeast gable was subsequently covered by the addition, but may have had an exterior door in the east corner.

The addition was made to the northeast gable of the original house, and consists of a single room with a six-over-six window on each facade and an exterior door in the east corner of the gable with a four-over-four window to the right of the door.

Framing evidence suggests that the present gambrel roof dates to the second period of construction, possibly replacing a gable roof on the earlier building. This theory is reinforced by the symmetrical placement of the three six-over-six shed roof dormers on each facade.

The exterior of the house is very plain in appearance. A simple box cornice with a deep soffit is carried across both facades of the house. This cornice returns at the gables and is carried up the gable eaves. Exterior siding consists of dark green tarpaper nailed over plain horizontal weatherboards secured with machine nails. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The interior of the house is equally plain.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

An open string stair with square section ballusters rises from the east end of the hall, running along the northeast partition wall. A door at the foot of the stair leads to the northeast parlour. This room was heated by a wood stove, and in recent years served as the kitchen. The southwest parlour was originally heated by a fireplace centered on the southwest gable wall. This has been blocked up and fitted for a wood stove or space heater. Several raised panel doors dating to the late-nineteenth century remain in the house. There is no decorative trim evident anywhere in the house.

The second floor plan is identical to the first, except that a small room was worked into the east half of the stairhall.

## Construction Details:

The house rests on brick piers, with heavy hewn sills supporting 9 x 3 sawn joists notched over the sills. The sills under the northeast section of the house are circular sawn.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

The wall construction of the original house is quite unusual. Heavy vertical planks have been set into a rabbetted groove on the upper edge of the sill and the lower edge of the top plate, and are spiked into place with large machine made nails. Wide, one-inch boards are nailed to the inner face of the plank walls, apparently supplying needed diagonal bracing for an otherwise unstable wall construction. The plaster lath has been nailed directly to the diagonal boards, and plaster applied. The cracks between the heavy vertical exterior planks were covered with narrow wood battens. These were evidently stripped off the building when the horizontal siding was applied, but ghosts of the battens remain on the northeast gable wall. There is no access to the crawl space above the collar beams or to the area behind the second floor kneewalls.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-281

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is quite typical, in many respects, of the small dwelling houses constructed in Queen Anne's County during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. It began as a side hall plan house, probably with a gable roof, and was later enlarged to a center hall plan with a gambrel roof. Numerous examples survive of this development in plan, as well as the shift from gable roof to gambrel.

What makes this house unusual, however, is the use of vertical planks as structural wall members. This is virtually unknown in Tidewater Maryland. Forman illustrates a house in Talbot County, "The Ending of Controversy", which is the only other known example of vertical plank walling in Tidewater Maryland. Although this house is much earlier than the Conyer House, Forman's illustrations appear to describe an almost identical system of wall construction,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

consisting of heavy vertical planks with narrow battens to seal the spaces between the planks.

Historic photograph of this house, "Slippery Hill," in  
Mary Bourke Emory, Colonial Families and their  
Descendants (c. 1900), opposite page 120.

Orlando Bidant 1-23-97

**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

7/13/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

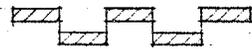
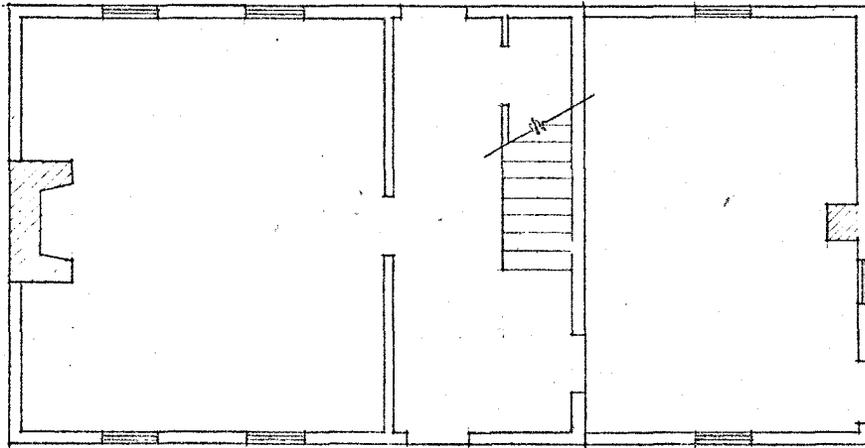
STATE

Maryland

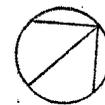
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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



SCALE:  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$

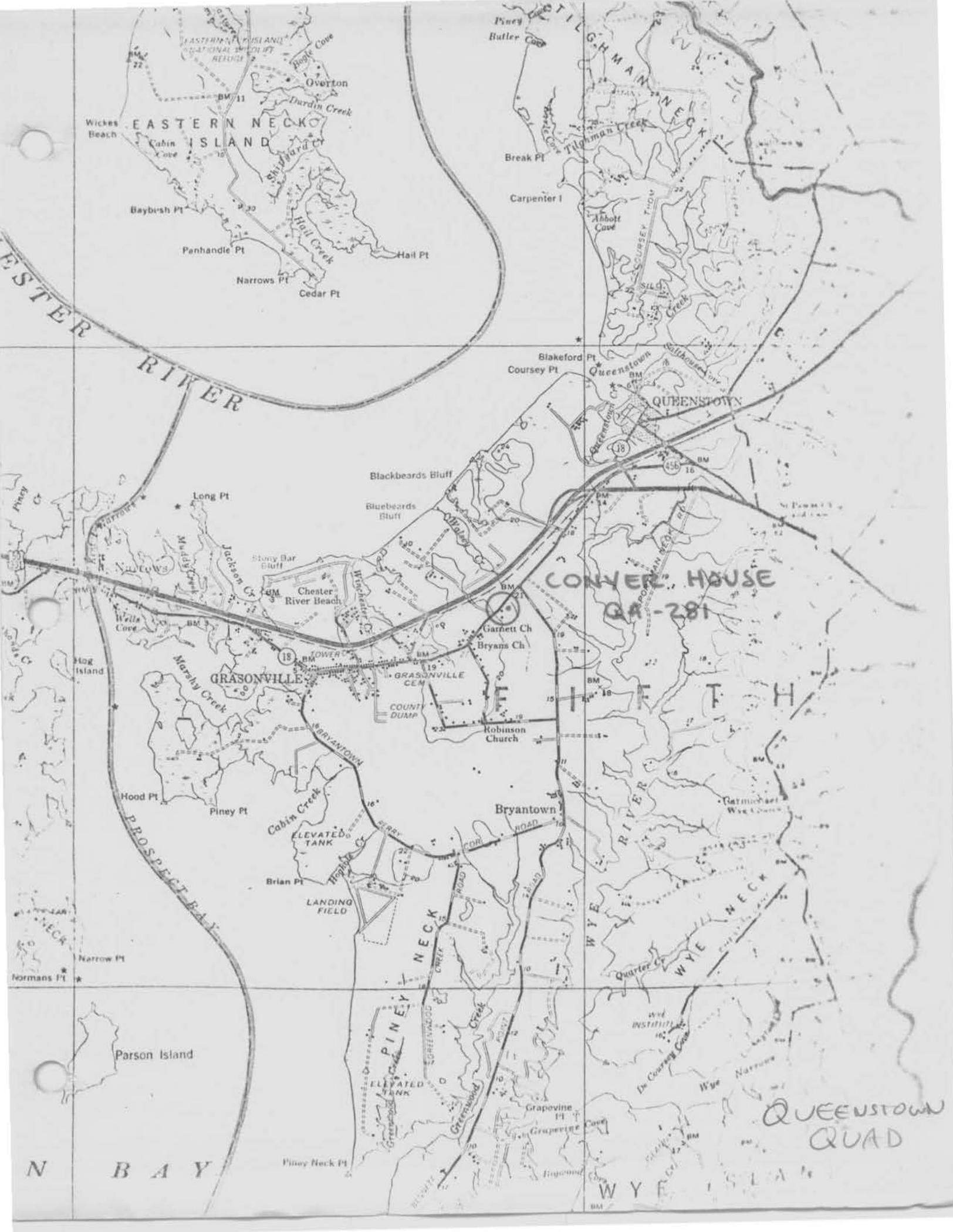


ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-281

CONYER HOUSE  
GRASONVILLE, MARYLAND

APRIL 19, 1978



EASTERN NECK ISLAND

CONYER HOUSE  
GA-281

QUEENSTOWN

GRASONVILLE

WYEFIELD

QUEENSTOWN  
QUAD

N B A Y

WYE ISLAND



QA-281

Conyer House

NW (front) facade

GRV 4/23/78

Neg @ MHT

QA-281 Mabel Conyer House  
Grasonville, Md.  
Orlando Ricout V, 1978 (MHT)  
Front Elevation, camera facing SE



QA-281

Conyer House

ORV 4/23/78

Nog@MHT

View from East



QA-281

Conyer Gambrel Roof House

ORV 4/23/78

neg. @MHT

SW gable