

QA-284
Pennyworth Farm
Stevensville vicinity
Private

3rd quarter 19th century

The main house at Pennyworth is the largest surviving Victorian dwelling recorded in the county, and is among the grandest buildings of its type on this part of the Shore. Though relatively simple in overall form and plan, the care evident in the design and detailing makes it a pleasing building with many refinements. Evidently originally planned and constructed as a vacation hotel, the grand two story galleries provide magnificent views of the surrounding creeks and fields, while the glass observatory on the peak of the roof offers more distant views across the island. Segmentally arched windows, cross gables, bracketed cornices, and decorative Victorian chimneys all contribute to the overall effect of romantic simplicity and rural taste. The first floor interior of the main house is equally charming, with spacious rooms enhanced by large windows, handsome Victorian trim and marble mantels.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Brightwood Inn

AND/OR COMMON

Pennyworth Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West side of Thompson Creek on Kent Point Road (MD Rt 8)

JLK
9/14/93

CITY, TOWN

Stevensville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Thomas W. Jamison III

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

210 Goodale Road

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21212

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: TSP 56

Folio #: 277

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

QA-284

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

Pennyworth Farm is located on the west side of Thompson Creek approximately one mile south of Stevensville on Kent Island. A long driveway leads in to the farm from Route 8, opposite the airport.

The main house is located within a few hundred yards of the Creek. It faces south down Thompson Creek toward Cox Creek and Eastern Bay. Other buildings associated with the farm include a mid-19th century tenant house to the northeast and a series of 20th century barns and outbuildings to the west.

According to tradition, this large house was originally constructed sometime after the Civil War as a vacation hotel for people from Baltimore. The main structure is 2 1/2 stories high on a raised granite foundation. It is five bays wide and two rooms deep with a pitched gable roof on an east west axis, cross gables facing north and south, and an octagonal glass observatory centered on the roof. Two story porch galleries stretch across the north and south walls, and a

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

two story frame wing projects from the west gable wall.

The front facade faces north. It is five bays wide, with an entrance door in the center bay framed with sidelights and a five-light transom. The entrance is flanked by two large 6/9 windows on either side. On the second floor, a combination window and door in the center bay allows access to the second story of the gallery, flanked by two 6/9 windows on either side. The two story gallery is incorporated under the main roof, with a large cross gable centered over the three middle bays. Plain posts and simple ballustrades have replaced the original elaborately scrolled Victorian porch trim. A bracketed cornice on the gallery and the cornice survives intact, and the walls are sheathed with German siding. A 6/6 window with segmentally arched upper sash is centered in the cross gable. A pair of handsome chimneys with chamfered corners, shouldered shafts and corbeled caps flank the center hall on this side of the roof.

The octagonal observatory is centered on the ridge of the main roof at the junction with the cross gables. A single segmentally arched 6/6 window is

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

centered on each facet of the octagonal cupola.

Further decoration is provided by scalloped shingle siding below the windows, a bracketed cornice above, and a wooden finial at the peak.

The west gable facade is four bays wide with four large 6/6 windows ranged across the first and second floors and two arched 6/6 windows in the upper gable. The foundation is cut granite; the sheathing consists of German siding. The gable eaves are boxed-in with brackets below a deep soffit and a broad, complex crown mold. The cornice returns across the top of the north and south porches, and is stopped at the corners of the house.

The south facade is similar to the north facade. The entrance is centered on the first floor, framed with sidelights and transom, and flanked with two large 6/6 windows on each side. A French door with transom is centered on the second floor, flanked by two 6/6 windows to either side. A single arched 6/6 window is centered in the cross gable. The two story gallery is virtually identical to the north gallery, except that the original chamfered posts have survived. The foundation, siding, cornice and chimneys all match

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

the north facade.

The east gable is almost entirely covered by the two story east wing. The north and south walls of the wing are set back approximately five feet from the corresponding walls of the main house, but the only openings are a pair of small arched windows overlooking the roof of the wing.

The north facade of the wing is four bays wide, with a two story porch stretching across the entire facade. There is a door with sidelights and transom in the west bay on the first floor with three 6/6 windows to the east. The same pattern is repeated on the second floor, with a similar door with transom but no sidelights. The granite foundation, German siding and bracketed cornice are all similar in detail to the main house. The porch is set back under the main roof of the wing, and a single three-light shed roof dormer is located near the center of the north slope of the roof.

The east gable wall is partially covered by a one-story shed roof lean-to at the south end of the first story. There are three 6/6 windows to the north of this lean-to on the first floor, five 6/6

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

windows ranged across the second story, and two arched 6/6 windows in the upper gable. The foundation, siding, and bracketed cornice all match the south facade.

The south facade of the wing is similar to the north facade except that the east end of the porch is enclosed (evidently an original feature). There is a door with sidelights and transom in the west bay of the first floor and two 6/6 windows to the east opening onto the porch. A third 6/6 window is centered in the enclosed east bay of the porch, with a door opening onto the porch from the enclosed section. The second floor is essentially identical except that the door in the west bay lacks sidelights. A three-light shed roof dormer is centered on the south slope of the roof.

The interior of the main house consists of a center passage plan with two flanking rooms on each side of the stair passage. A broad Victorian stair rises against the west wall of the hall to a stair hall at the south end of the second floor. The front or north room on the west side of the hall is larger than the back (south) room and serves as a more formal

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

room. The two rooms on the east side of the hall are equal in size. Single doors in the east wall of each of these rooms opens into the wing. The trim throughout the house is typical of the Victorian period but tends to be very bold in tribute to the size and relative grandeur of the houses. Added refinement is provided by marble mantel pieces in all of the first floor rooms.

The first floor of the wing consists of a relatively broad entrance hall at the west end with a stair against the east wall of the north hall. A narrow hall bisects the wing on an east west axis, providing access to a pair of heated rooms on the north side of the hall, two service rooms to the south and a large kitchen to the east. A door in the east wall of the kitchen opens into the east lean-to, which probably served as storage and pantry.

The upper floors are divided into numerous sleeping chambers and service rooms and were not examined in detail.

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

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
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
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The main house at Pennyworth is the largest surviving Victorian dwelling recorded in the county, and is among the grandest buildings of its type on this part of the Shore. Though relatively simple in overall form and plan, the care evident in the design and detailing makes it a pleasing building with many refinements. Evidently originally planned and constructed as a vacation hotel, the grand two story galleries provide magnificent views of the surrounding creeks and fields, while the glass observatory on the peak of the roof offers more distant views across the island. Segmentally arched windows, cross gables, bracketed cornices, and decorative Victorian chimneys all contribute to the overall effect of romantic simplicity and rural taste. The first floor interior of the main house is equally charming, with spacious

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

rooms enhanced by large windows, handsome Victorian trim and marble mantels.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

QA-284

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

4/7/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XVI; Recorded May 15, 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 18I 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-284
Pennyworth Farm

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





Pennyworth

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QA-284 Pennyworth Farm
Stevensville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1980
View from Northwest



QA-284

Pennyworth Farm
Stevensville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1980
View from Northeast