

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
part of Cloverfields
AND/OR COMMON
John Benton farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
approx. 1 3/4 miles northeast of Stevensville
CITY, TOWN
Stevensville
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
4th
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 checked="" 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 | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input 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
John C. Benton
Telephone #:
STREET & 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 #: WHC 6
Folio #: 17
STREET & NUMBER
Wills#: WTB 3
Folio#: 468
CITY, TOWN
Centreville
STATE
Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE

QA 298A

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

18th Century House Foundation:

The present dwelling house on the Benton Farm is a late 19th century farmhouse typical of much of the rural Tidewater. It is built on the foundation of an earlier house which was probably demolished just prior to the construction of the second house. The foundation encloses a full cellar, and rises from two to three feet above ground level. A number of alterations have been made above ground level, and an additional section of foundation was necessary at the north end to accommodate the present two story frame wing. Much of the original form can still be observed in the cellar itself, however.

The foundation walls are laid in English bond, averaging 18 to 19 inches thick. Access is gained through a bulkhead entrance on the southeast corner of the south gable. It would appear that there may have been some type of similar opening in the northeast corner of the north gable, though the latter of these was enclosed by later work. Both of these entrances have cleanly finished sides and corners, and were not broken through at a later date. One side of the southeast entrance was apparently

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

relined and made slightly narrower in the 19th century, as indicated by a vertical seam in the brickwork.

The cellar is presently a single large room. A separate storage area has been created by erecting a wooden screen at the north end of the room by nailing boards in a vertical position with spaces between them for air to move through. Light is provided by two window openings on each facade. The original frames for these have been replaced by 19th century sash windows.

The original configuration of the cellar (and probably the floors above as well) consisted of a single room at the south end, and two smaller rooms at the north end. This can be determined by the remains of both chimney bases and evidence of an original summer beam that bisected the cellar from east to west. This beam presumably also marked the partition between the south room and the two north rooms. The south room retains the remnants of two brick piers approximately centered on the south gable wall. These were chiseled off and replaced by a second pair of piers that support the present chimney. Only the lower courses of the original piers remain, but they would appear to have formed a shallow

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

arched recess that is quite common in this area.

The chimney base on the north gable wall is somewhat unusual. This has also been largely demolished, but sufficient evidence remains to show that the base was triangular in form, allowing two corner fireplaces. What is surprising is that there were two such fireplaces in the cellar. Only the first few courses remain above ground level, but the hearths are clearly visible, as well as two or three courses above the hearths. These fireplaces are rather small in size, and neither seems large enough to have served for a kitchen. One would expect to find a single large fireplace in the cellar, with the triangular base merely serving as a support for fireplaces on the main living floors. The presence of these cellar fireplaces suggests a rather unexpected pattern of use in this rural dwelling, and raises some questions about the intended use of both the cellar and the upper floor of the house. It is unfortunate that more evidence does not remain.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| 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 checked="" 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

This early house foundation raises a number of puzzling questions and unfortunately offers few answers. The surviving evidence suggests a side hall, double parlour plan house with a single chimney on the south gable and a shared chimney serving both of the north rooms. If the heavy summer beam that bisects the cellar is accepted as the location of the first floor hall partition, then the hall was unusually large, perhaps segregated into a front entrance hall and a large open stair hall to the rear, evidently with a single fireplace on the gable wall. The double fireplace found in the cellar remains a mystery, having no apparent function, yet bearing evidence of at least occasional use.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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

6/26/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

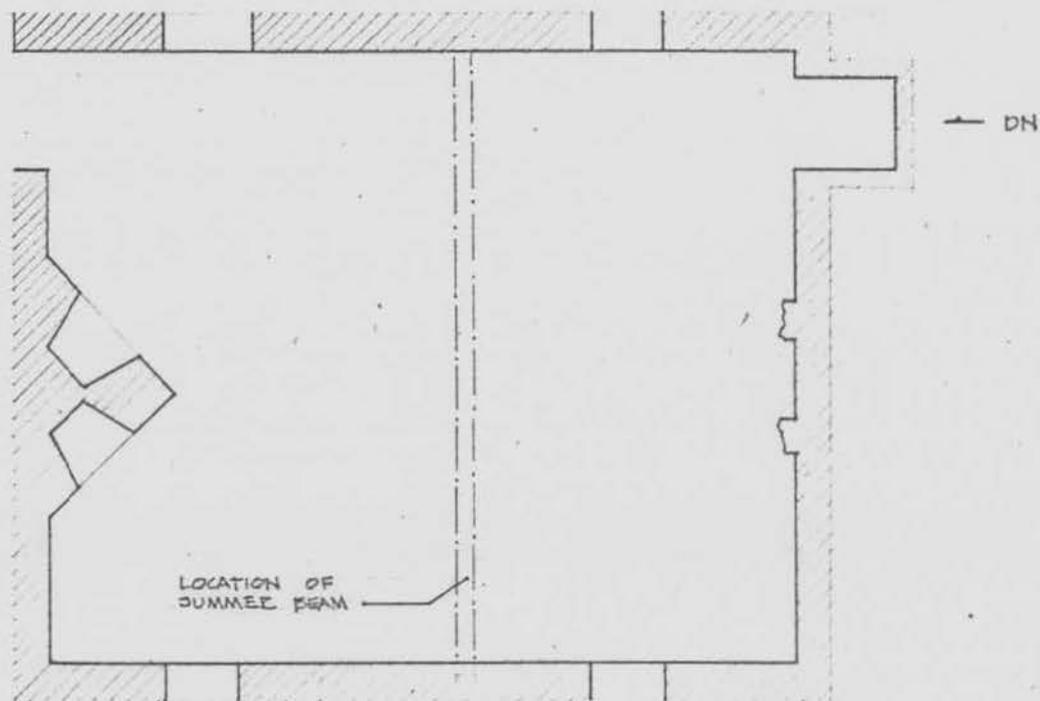
STATE

Maryland

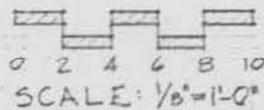
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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



FIRST FLOOR



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-298 A

FOUNDATION AT CLOVERFIELDS
KENT ISLAND, MARYLAND

MAY 26, 1978.

