

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

VICINITY OF

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

Wills#: WTB 3

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

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

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

Smokehouse:

The smokehouse is located to the northeast of the house and faces south. It is fourteen feet square, with a pyramidal roof covered with weathered shingles and surmounted by a weathered, pyramidal finial. The exterior is covered with random width unbeaded boards secured with machine nails and later wire nails.

A crude foundation consisting of a single soldier course of bricks laid directly on the ground without mortar supports hewn 7 1/2 x 8 inch sills. The corner posts average 6 1/2 x 6 inches, and are mortised into the sill and top plate. The top plates run from corner to corner, with the side wall plates mortised into them. One intermediate post is centered on each wall except the front wall, where two intermediate posts flank the door. These are laid against the interior face of the sawn log planks, and are mortised into the sill and the top plate. The planks are laid horizontally, set into the corner posts in individual mortises, with a single peg driven into each corner post and intermediate post. The pegs are sawn off flush with the face of the intermediate posts, but the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

pointed ends of the pegs are allowed to protrude from the inner faces of the corner posts. The planks have been pit sawn from hewn logs, and range in size from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick by $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. They are surprisingly regular, however, and most are almost exactly 9 x 3. The spaces left between the planks range from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 inches, and show no indication of having been chinked or plastered.

The roof framing is almost identical to the smoke-house at Cabin Neck (QA-204), and appears to be fairly common for buildings of this type having pyramidal roofs. The ceiling joists run in both directions, with a single heavy, sawn 9 x 3 joist bisecting the building from side wall to side wall, and three similar regularly spaced joists running from front to back. Where the joists cross, each has had a notch $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep cut in either the top or the bottom edge, so that they are all in the same plane. Where the joists intersect at the center of the building, they support a six-inch square center post that rises to the peak of the pyramidal roof. The roof is framed by four $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ rafters, one rising from each corner of the building, and meeting at the apex of the roof. Shorter jack rafters, four to each section of the roof, rise from the top plates and are mitred

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

and nailed to the four corner rafters with machine-made nails. Narrow nailing strips are nailed to the top face of the rafters, and support a shingle roof. Although blackened by smoke, the present nailers are probably not original.

The door is centered on the south facade, and consists of a batten door constructed of random width beaded boards secured to two wide beaded battens with machine nails. The nails have been placed in a regular order, the heads creating a pattern on the exterior face of the door. Though presently hung on modern hinges, ghosts remain of two 34-inch wrought strap hinges that once supported the door. Iron pintels remain on the inner face of the door jamb, but the lower pintel does not line up with the corresponding hinge, suggesting that either the pintel was shifted, or the door has been reused from another building.

It is interesting to note that a similar but probably earlier door, constructed with hand-wrought nails remains in use on a nineteenth century granary elsewhere on the Benton Farm.

It is generally difficult to establish an approximate date for log buildings. The use of machine

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

nails to secure the jack rafters to the corner rafters combined with the careful craftsmanship of the post and plank construction would suggest a date of circa 1815-1835.

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

The smokehouse on John Benton's farm is one of the most important farm buildings remaining in Queen Anne's County. Although log construction was probably the most common mode used for small farmbuildings in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, few examples remain. Rarer still are examples in which the logs are incorporated with corner posts and intermediate posts in an unusual form known as post and plank construction. Though similar to the smokehouse at Content, near Centreville (QA-11), this building is somewhat larger, requiring intermediate posts on the rear and sidewalls and on either side of the door.

The decorative batten door and the pyramidal finial at the roof peak add pleasing touches of refinement to this utilitarian building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

QA-2980

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

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



Q4-2986 Benton Farm Smokehouse

Kent Island

ODV 1978