

QA-314
Queen Anne's Building
Centreville
Private

1873

The Queen Anne's Building was constructed in 1873 by John W. Perry, a prominent Centreville businessman. It was known for many years as the "Perry Building" and served as a newspaper office from 1912 until 1958. It is significant for its association with John W. Perry, the Centreville Record and, following a merger, the Centreville Record-Observer. It is one of the largest Victorian commercial structures in Centreville and is among the earliest surviving buildings on Lawyers Row.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Queen Anne's Building, Perry Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

115 Lawyers Row

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Vachel A. Downes, Sr.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

115 Lawyers Row

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: TSP 39

Folio #: 419

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-314

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

CONDITION

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Queen Anne's Building is located on the south side of Lawyers Row in Centreville, facing Court House Square.

This large brick building was probably constructed in the late 19th century, and once served as the office for the Centreville Record. Today the first floor is used as a law office by the firm of Downes and Gregory; the upper floors are being renovated.

The Queen Anne's Building is of brick construction, 2 1/2 stories high, with an imposing mansard roof. The principal entrance is located in the center bay facing Lawyers Row, with two 2/2 windows and a single door to the left and three 2/2 windows and a door to the right. There are three pairs of 2/2 windows on the second floor and three dormer windows on the third floor. The center dormer is relatively large with paired 2/2 sash and a pitched gable roof, flanked by single 2/2 dormers on each side.

The front facade is laid in very smooth machine-made brick using stretcher bond. The door and window

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" 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 Queen Anne's Building was constructed in 1873 by John W. Perry, a prominent Centreville businessman. It was known for many years as the "Perry Building" and served as a newspaper office from 1912 until 1958. It is significant for its association with John W. Perry, the Centreville Record and, following a merger, the Centreville Record-Observer. It is one of the largest Victorian commercial structures in Centreville and is among the earliest surviving buildings on Lawyers Row.

The Queen Anne's Building rests on a lot purchased in 1873 by John W. Perry from William T. McClyments for \$426. The deed notes that the lot was intended to be sold to Perry in 1866 and grants a right of way to Perry for the use of an alley "between the Store House on the land herein excepted and the building now being erected upon the land herein conveyed".⁽¹⁾ The building passed out of the Perry family in 1909, when Ernest

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

12/14/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XIX; Recorded October 10, 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 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

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

openings have segmental lintels with decorative terra cotta tiles used as keystones and end blocks. A bold, projecting cornice crosses this facade at the base of the mansard roof. It consists of a box cornice with complex crown mold and scrolled brackets below a deep soffit. The mansard roof is covered with asphalt shingles and is capped with a second cornice. This one is less elaborate, with a shallow soffit and no brackets.

The first story of the east gable wall is concealed by the Bryan Law Office. A single 2/2 window in the north bay is the only opening on the second floor. On the third floor, there is one 1/1 window in the north bay and a paired 2/2 window in the south bay. The brickwork is laid in seven-course bond using a common grade of brick. The shed roof eave is finished with a crown mold applied to a series of molded frieze boards.

On the west gable wall, there is a single 2/2 window to left of center and a door in the south bay of the first floor. Single 2/2 windows are placed in the north and south bays on the second floor; there are no openings on the third floor. The brickwork is laid in seven-course bond using common grade brick.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

A later furnace chimney has been added against the center of this wall on the first floor. This flue corbels into the wall and evidently joins an existing chimney flue inside the wall.

A modern shed-roof addition covers the entire first floor of the rear facade. There are three 2/2 windows on both the second and the third floor. The eaves are trimmed with a simple molded frieze board.

The interior of the building has been renovated. The first floor serves as a law office, the upper floors are at present unoccupied.

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Perry sold the lot "improved by a three story brick building known as The Perry Building" to J. Walters Russell for \$3880.⁽²⁾ In 1912 Russell sold the building to three local men, co-owners of the Centreville Record. The principal owner was Edwin H. Brown, a Centreville attorney, who owned a 3/5 interest. His partners were James T. Bright and W.C. Orrell, each owners of a 1/5 interest. The price of \$3800 included \$1000 in cash and the balance by the assumption of a mortgage for \$2800.⁽³⁾ In the ensuing 25 years, the paper seems to have periodically encountered financial difficulties, as mortgages are recorded for both the building and the mechanical equipment.⁽⁴⁾ In 1958, the merged Queen Anne's Record and Observer Publishing Company sold the Perry or Queen Anne's Building to Vachel Downes, the present owner.⁽⁵⁾ Since that time it has served primarily as a law office.

Footnotes

- (1) Deeds JW 4, folio 73. May 1, 1873. The 1866 deed was found to be lacking the signature of a witness.

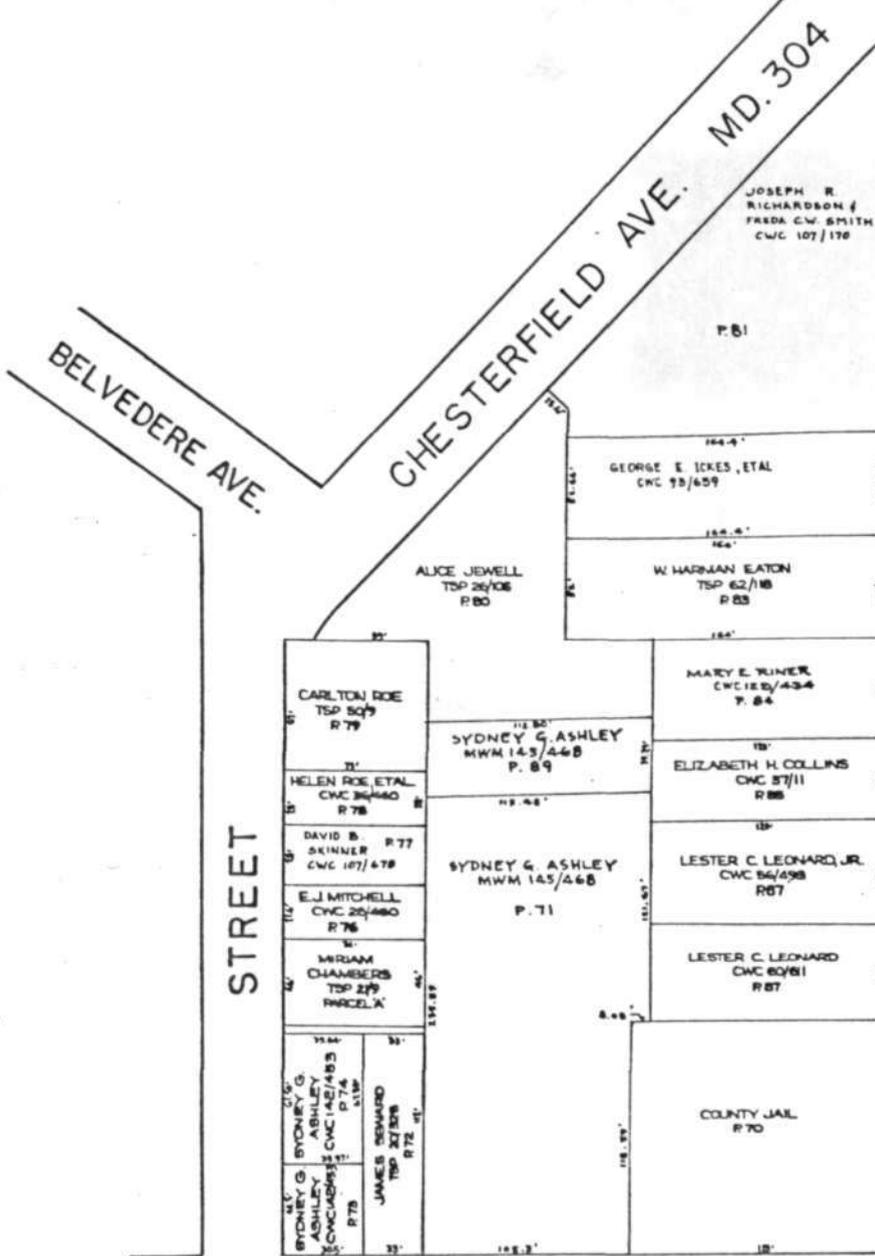
- (2) Deeds SS 5, folio 532. January 5, 1909. Also see Wills FR 2, folio 76.
Deeds WHC 10, folio 522. June 29, 1900.

- (3) Deeds WFW 1, folio 198. February 1, 1912.

- (4) See Deeds WFW 2, folio 121. August 6, 1912.
JFR 7, folio 362. August 29, 1921.
JFR 11, folio 272. September 26, 1923.
BHT 15, folio 393. November 11, 1932.
BHT 17, folio 53. December 14, 1933.
WHC 4A, folio 459. March 17, 1937.

- (5) Deeds TSP 39, folio 419. February 21, 1958.

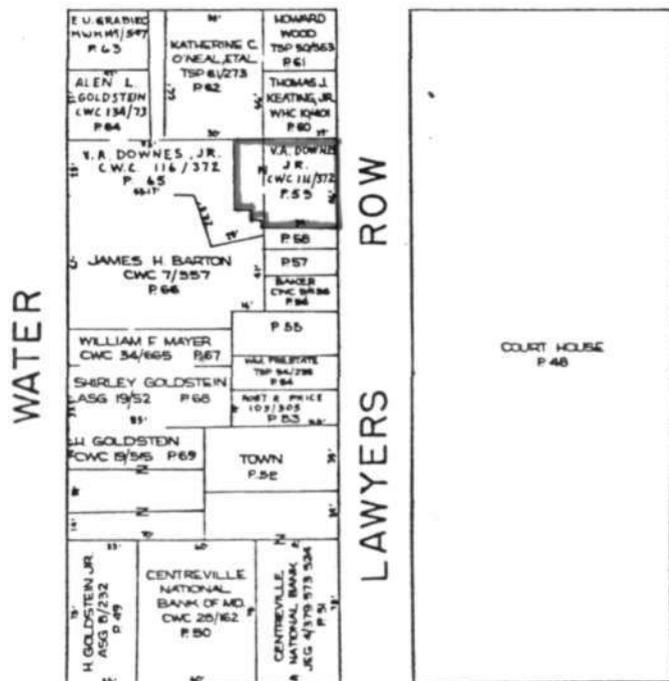
QA-314
 Vachel Downes
 office Building
 115 Lawyers Row
 Centreville



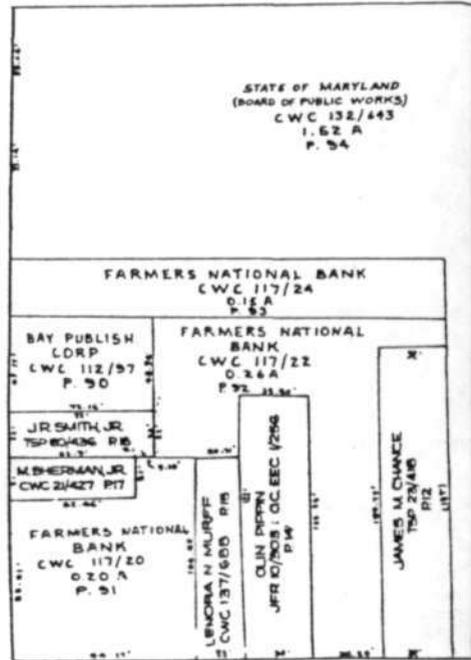
STREET



LIBERTY



LAWYERS ROW

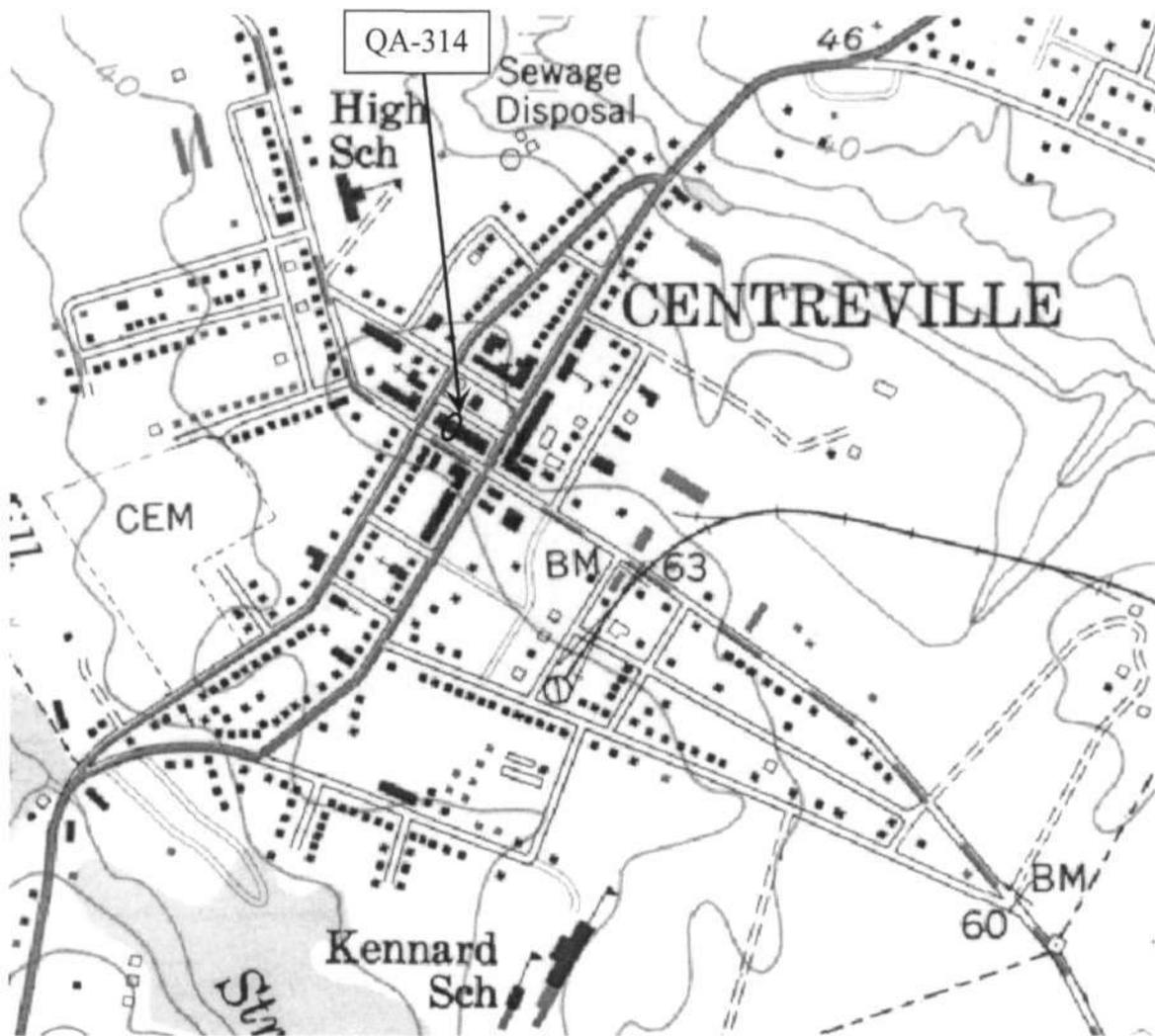


BROADWAY

COMMERCE

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
 TAX MAP DIVISION
 REVISED TO JUNE 1 '79 MWM:ISO

QA-314
Queen Anne's Building (Perry Building, Vachel Downes Office)
115 Lawyers Row
Centreville
Centreville Quad.
Queen Anne's Co.



QA-314
Yachel Downes
office
115 Lawyers Row
Centerville

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





QA-314 Queen Anne's Building
115 Lawyers Row
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1980
View from North