

Maryland Historical Trust
Addendum to
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-369

Sylvester Farm Tenant House
Queen Annes County

7. Description

The Sylvester Farm Tenant House, the mid-nineteenth-century, frame farmhouse that was located on the north side of Queen Annes Highway (MD 404) just west of Norwich Creek, is no longer extant.

11. Form Prepared By

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July 2001

QA-369

Sylvester Farm Tenant House

circa 1870-90

Queen Anne vicinity

Private

This frame dwelling with rear kitchen wing is typical of the rural farmhouses and particularly tenant houses which proliferated throughout Maryland and Virginia in the latter half of the 19th century. The major distinguishing feature of this particular house is the survival of the original grained mantel, stairway and interior doors. In addition to the house there is a small frame dairy that retains the original riven clapboard siding on three exterior walls. The clapboards are secured with machine nails, and the building appears to date to the mid-19th century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Sylvester Farm tenant house

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Md. Route 404 about one mile west of Queen Anne

CITY, TOWN

Queen Anne

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Sylvester Farms, Inc.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Queen Anne

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21657

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

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

Liber #: TSP 71

Folio #: 473

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CA-369

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 tenant house on the Sylvester Farm is located on the north side of Maryland Route 404 approximately one mile west of Queen Anne. The house is sited on high ground on the west side of Norwich Creek, and faces south toward the road. There is a small, 19th century dairy to the east of the house and a 20th century barn to the rear.

The house is of frame construction, three bays wide, two stories high, and one room deep, with a one story frame wing that projects from the east end of the rear facade. The house rests on a continuous brick foundation with flush brick chimneys centered on both gable ends of the main house and on the north gable of the wing.

The principal facade faces south, with the entrance door located in the center bay, flanked by a pair of two-over-two windows. Three two-over-two windows are symmetrically arranged on the second floor. A small entrance hood projects over the door, probably replacing an earlier one story porch. The door is paneled, with a three-light transom but no sidelights. Siding consists of plain horizontal weatherboards with

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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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
<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

The main house is typical of the rural farmhouses and particularly tenant houses which proliferated throughout Maryland and Virginia in the latter half of the 19th century. The major distinguishing feature of this particular house is the survival of the original grained mantel, stairway, and interior doors. Also of interest is the built-in cupboard in the east room. The rear wing may be earlier than the main house, and could prove to be of interest if the roof and wall construction were known.

In addition to the house, there is a small frame dairy that retains the original riven clapboard siding on three exterior walls. The clapboards are secured with machine nails, and this, combined with framing details, suggests a date in the mid-19th century. This is a relatively late survival of clapboards and suggests that they

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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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

11/16/78

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

in the center and south bays, with a six-over-six window in the north bay. A one story porch with turned posts covers the entire east facade. The siding is plain horizontal weatherboarding and the eaves are finished with a plain box cornice. A flush brick chimney is located on the north gable, which is uninterrupted by windows or doors. The rear facade has a door in the center bay flanked by six-over-six windows. The north and west walls have been covered with asbestos shingle siding, the roof is tin.

The interior of the main house is a typical example of the center hall plan, with a single room on each side of the hall. The stair rises along the west wall of the hall to a landing at the rear, then turns and ascends to the second floor. It has an open string carriage, turned newels, square ballusters, and a plain railing. The stair ends are decorated with scrolled brackets, and the space below the carriage is finished with raised panels that retain the original painted and grained finish. The mantel in the west room also retains the original grained finish, as do most of the interior and exterior doors. In the east room, a built-in cupboard with raised panel doors remains in place to the left of the fireplace.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

The second floor plan is similar to the first floor, but is extremely plain. The stair originally continued up to the third floor, but has been sealed off, and is no longer accessible.

The wing is divided into a large room at the north end, with a short hall and bathroom at the west end. The interior is quite plain, with a crude brick fireplace on the north gable wall of the north room. The walls in this room are finished with unbeaded horizontal wainscoting. There is no access to the attic.

Dairy

Directly to the east of the house is a small frame dairy with an overhanging pyramidal roof. It is 8 feet square and rests on a continuous brick foundation. There is a plain batten door located in the west facade, and louvered ventilator windows in the north and south walls. Four holes have been drilled in the batten door to increase air movement. The roof is tin, and the eaves are left exposed, with a fascia board nailed to the mitred rafter ends. The interior is plastered, using machine sawn lath and machine nails.

CONTINUATION SHEET

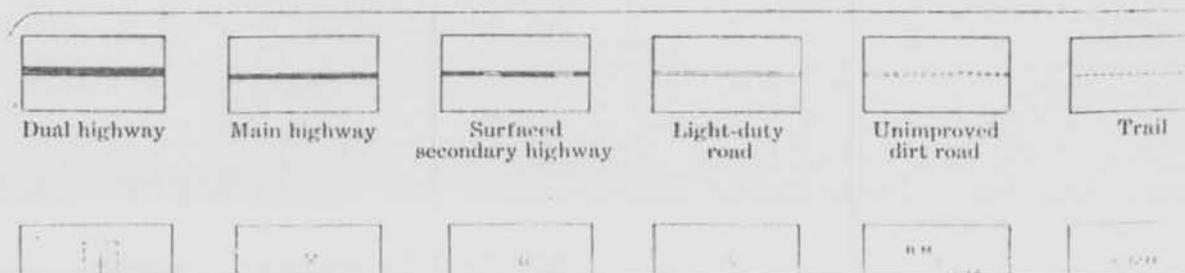
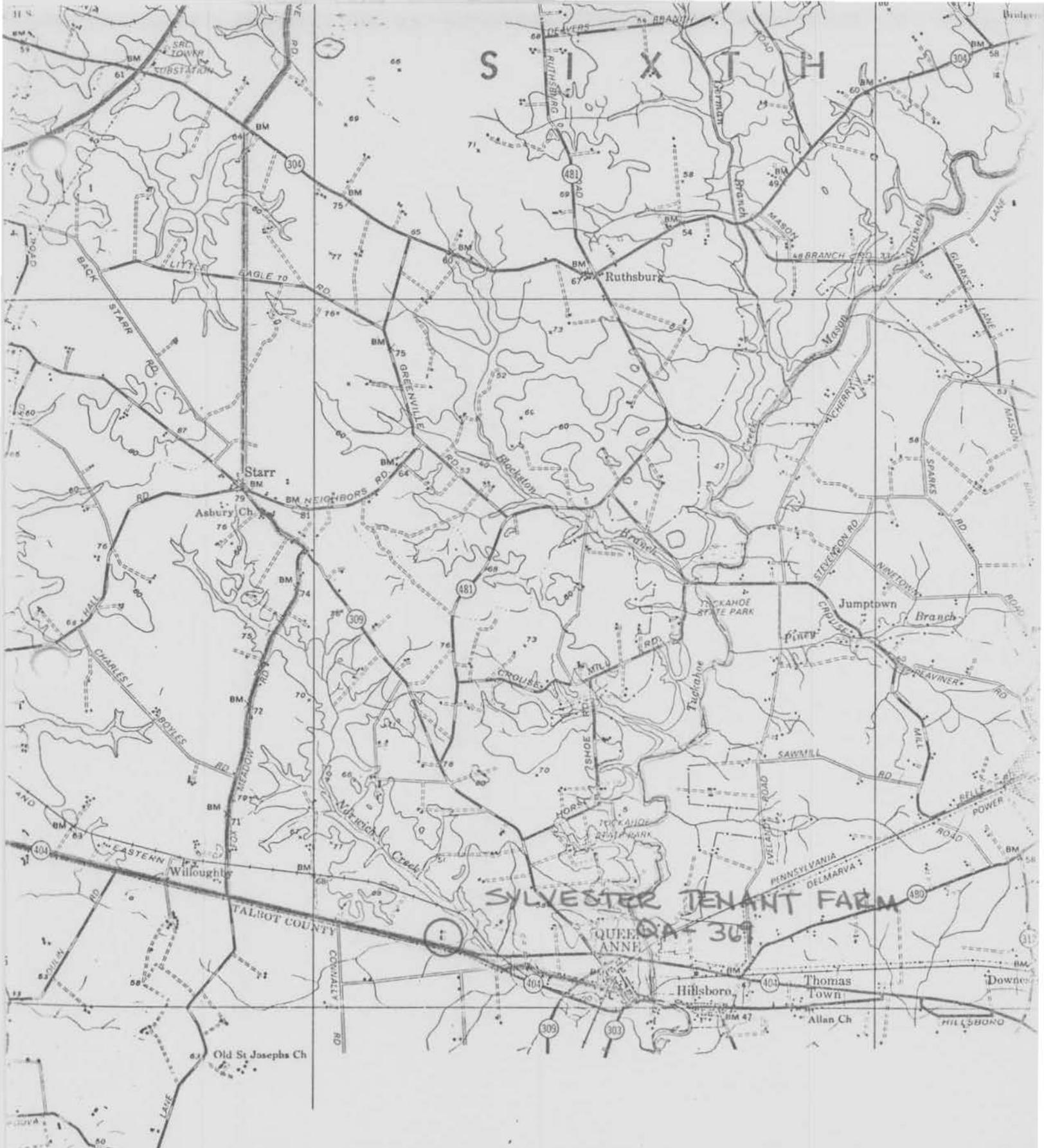
7.4 DESCRIPTION

What is distinctly unusual about this building is the form of siding. The east wall is covered with plain, machine sawn horizontal weatherboard. At first glance, the remaining three walls appear to be similarly covered, though with slightly narrower boards. A closer examination, however, reveals that these three walls are actually covered with riven clapboards secured with machine nails. These are very finely made, and are sufficiently smooth and regular to be mistaken for sawn boards. They average only four feet in length, however, and the numerous vertical seams on an 8 foot wall are the first clue that this is not typical siding.

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

continued to be used on minor buildings long after they had passed out of use on dwellings.





Sylvester Tenant House

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View From Southeast

ORU 2/1980

Neg. on file @ MHT



Sylvester Tenant House

View from NW

ORV 3/1980

Neg. on File @ MHT

QA-369



Sylvester Tenant House

RV 3/1980

QA-369

Dairy w/ riven clapboard siding

Neg. on file @ MHT