

QA-390  
Finley Farm  
Church Hill vicinity  
Private

late 19th century

The large frame house on the Finley Farm is typical of a house type that was widely used throughout the Tidewater region from the mid-19th century until the early part of the 20th century. The most significant feature of this house is the painted and grained woodwork. Also of note is the handsome closed-string stair and the paneled and grained front door.

Probably of greater importance is the simple frame meat house next to the kitchen wing. This building is constructed of heavy vertically sawn planks half-lapped against hewn corner posts. This is a technique not previously recorded in the county and clearly is an outgrowth of the similar post-and-plank method of building found throughout this area.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Finley Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

North side Ben's Point Road

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

James A. Brown et al

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Madison Bordley, Jr.

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21623

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: TSP 24, folio 284

Folio #: TSP 40, folio 128

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

GR-20

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 Finley Farm is located on the north side of Ben's Point Road approximately one mile north of Church Hill.

The house is sited on high ground between Brown's Branch and the main branch of Southeast Creek. Several late 19th and 20th century farm buildings are located to the north of the house.

The main house faces east, toward Maryland Route 213. It is of frame construction, 2 1/2 stories high, five bays wide and one room deep, with small flush chimneys centered at opposing ends of a pitched gable roof and an original 2 story frame wing projecting from the north end of the rear facade.

On the front facade, there is a central door with sidelights and transom flanked by two 2/2 windows on each side on the first floor and five 2/2 windows on the second floor. A cross-gable is centered on the roof flanked by a single 2/2 pitched roof dormer on either side. A peaked 2/2 lancet window is centered in the cross gable. The facade is covered with asbestos shingles nailed

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

4-390

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

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The large frame house on the Finley Farm is typical of a house type that was widely used throughout the Tidewater region from the mid-19th century until the early part of the 20th century. The most significant feature of this house is the painted and grained woodwork. Also of note is the handsome closed-string stair and the paneled and grained front door.

Probably of greater importance is the simple frame meat house next to the kitchen wing. This building is constructed of heavy vertically sawn planks half-lapped against hewn corner posts. This is a technique not previously recorded in the county and clearly is an outgrowth of the similar post-and-plank method of building found throughout this area.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

QA-390

**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 DATE  
Queen Anne's County Historical Society 9/9/80

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN STATE  
Centreville Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XV; Recorded February 21, 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

over the original plain horizontal weatherboards. The foundation is brick, the eaves are boxed in with a crown mold, and the roof is covered with "beaver tail" tin. A one story porch with turned posts and scrolled brackets is carried across the first floor.

On the south gable, there is a single 2/2 window to the right of the chimney on the first and second floor and a pair of small windows flanking the chimney in the upper gable. There is a bulkhead cellar entrance in the west corner of the foundation.

The original rear L covers the two north bays of the rear facade, leaving a door in the center bay, two 2/2 windows to the right of the door, and three 2/2 windows on the second floor. The window on the second floor above the door is downset to throw light onto the stair landing. A small open porch protects the door.

There is a seam in the foundation of the north wall between the main house and the wing, but the roof framing clearly shows that the wing is original. There is a single 2/2 window to the left of the gable chimney and a pair of smaller windows in the upper gable. There are doors in the left and center bays on the

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

first floor of the wing and a window to the right. Three windows are ranged across the second floor. A single 2/2 window to the left of the kitchen chimney in the upper gable is the only opening in the west gable of the wing. Three 2/2 windows are ranged across each floor of the wing on the south facade.

The interior of the main house is laid out in a center hall plan, with a handsome Victorian stair rising against the north wall of the hall. It is a closed-string stair with square newels with turned urns for caps, turned ballusters and a heavy molded rail. The front door is a particularly nice paneled door with many small panels. Virtually all of the interior trim and doors remain, and the majority of the woodwork is painted and grained. One unusual feature to survive is the turned spindle screen across the front of the second floor hall.

The rear wing is divided into a kitchen, pantry, and hall on the first floor, with an enclosed stair next to the pantry leading to the second floor. At one time a tight stair to the right of the kitchen chimney allowed separate access to segregated servants quarters over the kitchen.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

Meat House

To the north of the wing is an unusual plank and frame meat house. It is 10 feet wide and 12 feet long, with a pitched gable roof and a single door in the center of the east gable. It is constructed in a manner that may be unique in the county. Square hewn corner posts are mortised into hewn sills, and gang-sawn planks averaging two inches thick and 8 to 11 inches wide are half-lapped against the exterior of the posts and are nailed with machine nails. The cracks between the planks are covered with horizontal battens with beveled edges. Hewn joists are notched over the wall plates and support flat false plates. The rafters are half-lapped and machine nailed at the ridge. Collar beams are scabbed on and nailed, also with machine nails.



QA-390  
Finley Farm

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





QA-390

Finley Farm  
Church Hill vicinity  
Orlando Ridout V 1980  
Front facade from Northeast



QA-390

Finley Farm  
Church Hill vicinity  
Orlando Ridout V 1980  
View of rear from Southwest



QA-390

Finley Farm  
Church Hill vicinity  
Orlando Ridout V 1980  
Outbuilding