

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hogg Harbor

AND/OR COMMON

Vachel Downes Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side Neighbors Road

CITY, TOWN

Starr

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Vachel Downes

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 #: ASG Jr. 8

Folio #: 298

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-431

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Vachel Downes Farm is located due south of the intersection of Greenville Road and Neighbors Road approximately 1 1/2 miles east of Starr.

The house on the Downes Farm is sited on a low rise surrounded by open farmland, with several farm buildings flanking the driveway to the north.

The house consists of two sections, both of frame construction. The main section is 2 1/2 stories high, three bays wide and one room deep with a flush brick chimney at the west end of the pitched gable roof. To the east, a 1 1/2 story wing projects from the east gable wall, consisting of two rooms on each floor flanking a brick stove chimney.

The principal facade of the main house faces south, away from the road. There is a door in the east bay, with two 6/6 windows to the west on the first floor and three 6/6 windows ranged across the second floor. There are no dormer windows on the third story. The building rests on a low, continuous brick foundation and is covered with horizontal weatherboards nailed with machine nails and a later covering of wood shingles. The roof

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

oversails and is boxed in at the eave, and is now covered with asphalt shingles.

The only openings on the west gable are a pair of four-light openings flanking the chimney in the upper gable. The foundation, siding and overshoot eaves all match the front facade.

On the north facade, a door in the east bay of the first floor has been blocked and replaced with a small 6-light window. There are two 6/6 windows to the west and three 6/6 windows on the second story.

The majority of the east gable wall is concealed by the wing. A pair of four-light openings in the upper gable are the only openings in this wall.

On the south wall of the wing, there are two 2/2 windows on the first story and a pitched roof dormer window in the west bay of the second story. This dormer has mid-19th century detailing and later 2/2 sash.

A door in the north bay of the east gable opens onto an enclosed lean-to porch. One 2/2 window is located in the south bay of the first story, a second 2/2 is centered in the upper gable.

The north facade is virtually identical to the south facade, with two 2/2 windows on the first floor and one mid-19th century pitched roof dormer in the west bay of the second story.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

The wing is covered with wood shingle siding, a plain box cornice and rakeboards and an asphalt shingle roof.

The interior of the main house consists of a side stair passage across the east gable wall and a larger parlor to the west. The flooring has been removed from the parlor, revealing crudely hewn joists set parallel to the gable under the parlor and similar joists set parallel to the facade under the passage. The corner posts are hewn L-section timbers, an unusual occurrence in what is clearly a mid-19th century building. The north end of the stair passage has been partitioned to form a bath. The open-string stair rises against the east wall of the passage to a landing at the north end.

On the second floor, there is a large chamber to the west, over the passage, a small chamber to the southeast, and the stair hall to the northeast. An enclosed winder stair in the northwest corner of the stair hall continues up to two plain, plastered rooms on the third floor. A small door in the east gable wall of the southeast chamber opens into the second floor of the wing. The trim throughout the house is typical of the mid-19th century.

The first floor of the wing consists of two nearly equal sized rooms. Both rooms have been completely

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

renovated and offer few clues to the early appearance or finish.

The second floor is also divided into two rooms. Originally there was a stair opening in the northeast corner of the east room, suggesting these two rooms were originally segregated, with no connecting door. The only access to the second floor at present is through the second floor of the main house. Where flooring has been removed, the first floor ceiling joists are now visible. These are whitewashed and were clearly exposed originally.

Outbuildings

To the north of the house is a two story granary and crib dating to the late 19th or early 20th century and a 20th century concrete block dairy barn. Other outbuildings include a tool shed and poultry house.

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 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 frame house on the Vachel Downes Farm incorporates a typical side-passage, single parlor plan dwelling with an original story-and-a-half wing. Dating to the mid-19th century, the house illustrates the persistence of traditional building methods on the Eastern Shore. The principal parts of the building are hewn by hand and the corner posts of the main house are hewn L-section timbers, a feature only occasionally found in this area. The house was always relatively plain, with simple interior trim and exposed, whitewashed ceiling joists in the wing.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

QA-431

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

STREET & NUMBER

DATE

11/4/81

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-25; Recorded June 5, 1981.

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



QA-431 Vachel Downes Farm
Starr vicinity
Orlando Ridout V, 1981
View from North



QA-431 Vachel Downes Farm
Starr vicinity
Orlando Ridout V, 1981
View from South