

QA-434

Ruthsburg Blacksmith and
Wheelwright Shop

Ruthsburg
Private

late 19th century

These two simple frame buildings were at one time used as a blacksmith and wheelwright's shop. While references can be found to at least one blacksmith's shop in the Ruthsburg area as early as the late 18th century, these buildings appear to date to the latter part of the 19th century. The smithy is now abandoned and in very poor condition, with little significant evidence left for analysis. The wheelwright shop has been incorporated into the crossroads store and now serves as a storage area. Subsequent renovations have concealed or removed much of the early fabric of the building.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Ruthsburg Blacksmith and Wheelwright Shop

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NW corner Rts. 304 and 481

CITY, TOWN

Ruthsburg

___ 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: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ashley Brothers Inc.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

107 South Commerce Street

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 #: CWC 71

Folio #: 543

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-434

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

This blacksmith and wheelwright's shop was housed in two separate buildings located on the northwest corner of Maryland Routes 304 and 481 in the town of Ruthsburg. The wheelwright's shop has been incorporated into the Ruthsburg Store, and now serves as a storage area. The blacksmith's shop is a separate building to the rear of the store, facing east to Route 481.

All that remains of the wheelwright's shop is the basic frame, which has been reworked over the years. The first floor ceiling joists are hewn and hand sawn, while the majority of the wall framing is gang-sawn or circular-sawn. Wide vertical sheathing boards remain on the exterior of the frame but have been covered with metal and asbestos siding. A sliding barn door centered on the east gable wall was removed in recent years and replaced with a smaller door.

The blacksmith's shop is a small, rectangular one story frame structure that appears to date to the late 19th century. It is constructed of rough cedar posts resting on heavy wood sills, and is framed in with circular sawn timber and covered

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

with vertical board siding and a corrugated tin roof. There is a wide door in the east wall and a smaller door in the west wall. A 20th century brick chimney constructed on a concrete base was located in the northeast corner, but has collapsed in recent years.

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"/> 100-1499	<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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These two simple frame buildings were at one time used as a blacksmith and wheelwright's shop. While references can be found to at least one blacksmith's shop in the Ruthsburg area as early as the late 18th century, these buildings appear to date to the latter part of the 19th century. The smithy is now abandoned and in very poor condition, with little significant evidence left for analysis. The wheelwright shop has been incorporated into the crossroads store and now serves as a storage area. Subsequent renovations have concealed or removed much of the early fabric of the building.

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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

12/8/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

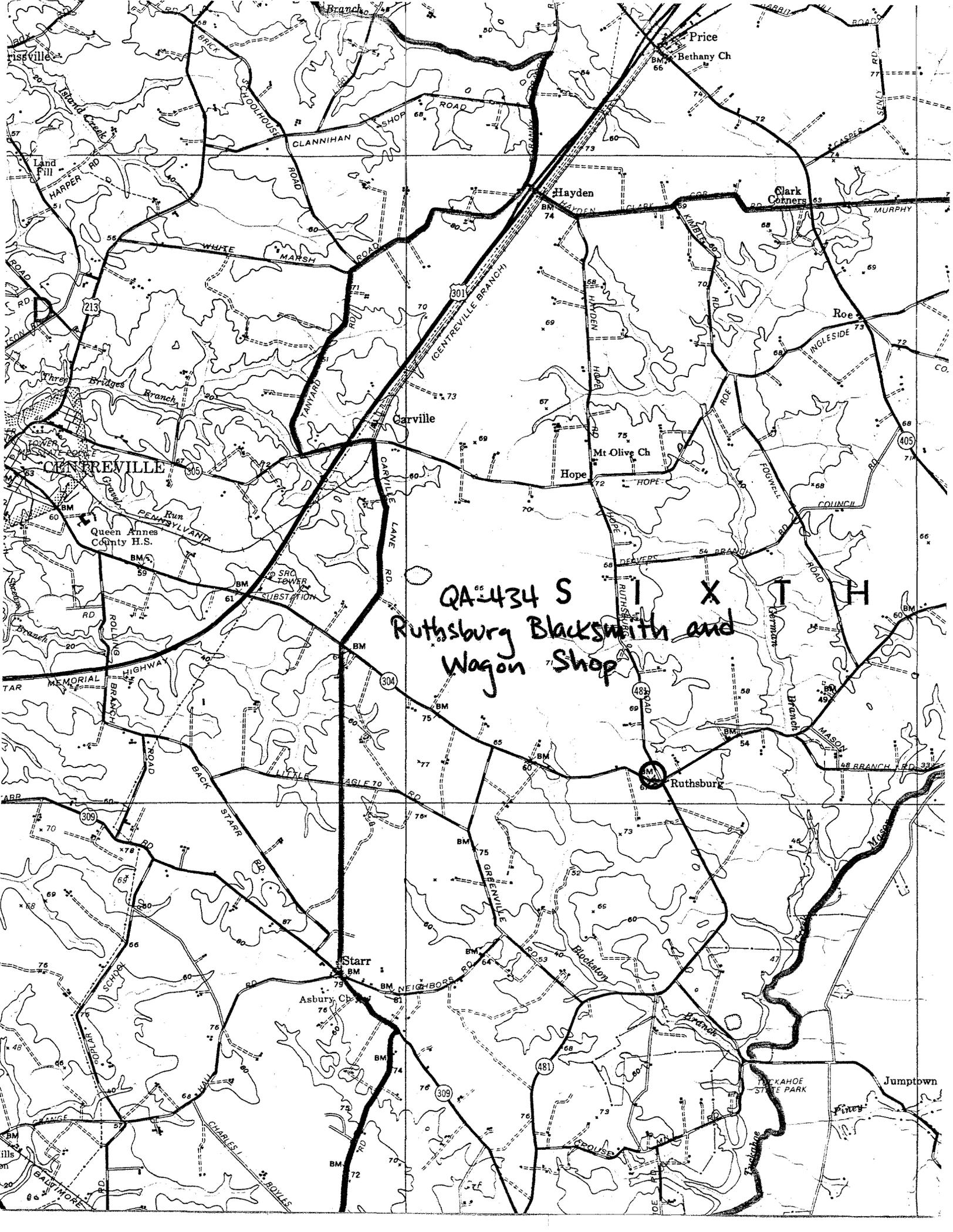
Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XX; Recorded October 27, 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



QA-434 S
Ruthsburg Blacksmith and
Wagon Shop



QA-434 Ruthsburg Blacksmith Shop
Ruthsburg, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1981
View from Southeast