

QA-46

Medford Baxter Log House
Pondtown vicinity
Private

early 19th century

The Baxter House was moved to the present location in 1965 from a site east of Church Hill. The surviving dwelling consists of two sections, a log plank section to the southwest and a post-and-nogging section to the southeast. Together they form a three bay, 1 1/2 story house with a gambrel roof and a hall parlor plan. This is one of the few log dwelling houses to survive in Queen Anne's County, and both the exposed post-and-nogging walls of the parlor and the exterior riven clapboard siding are rare survivals of relatively common pre-industrial building materials and methods.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Med Baxter Log House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West side of Maryland Route 290

CITY, TOWN

Pondtown

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Medford B. Baxter, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

RT#1, Box 60-A

CITY, TOWN

Sudlersville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21668

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

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

Liber #: CWC 51

Folio #: 438

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-46

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1965</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Baxter House is a small log house that was moved in 1965 from its original location on the southeast corner of Md. Rt. 300 and Johnny Powell Road, east of Church Hill, to a new site on Red Lion Branch. This site is on a wooded tract of land on the west side of Maryland Route 290 just south of U. S. Route 301 near Dudley's Corners. The house was placed on high ground on the west bank of Red Lyon Branch overlooking the site of the mill pond for McFadden's Mill (also known as Roberts' Mill, see QA-391).

The house is 1 1/2 stories high, three bays long, and one room deep. A single flush brick chimney rises on the southwest gable of a gambrel roof. The exterior of the building was covered with riven clapboards before it was moved, and many of these were salvaged and reused on the southwest gable and the south end of the southeast facade. New siding for the rest of the house was rough sawn to match the original clapboards in length and exposure. The roof is covered with wood shingles.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

The two facade walls are virtually identical with a door offset to northeast of center, flanked by a single 3/6 window on each side on the first floor and two 6/6 shed roof dormers above. On the northeast gable there is a single door in the left bay on the first floor and a 6/6 window centered in the upper gable. Before the house was moved, the southwest gable was covered by an early frame addition. A door to the right of the chimney connected the two buildings. Mr. Baxter recalls that this frame wing had a pitched gable roof and was constructed with post-and-nogging walls covered on the exterior with riven clapboards nailed to a layer of flush shiplap sheathing. This section of the building was too badly damaged by termites to be salvaged, and was left on the old site, where it remained for several years before being demolished. After the house was moved, the connecting door was framed in and covered. Many of the clapboards on this wall still hold the original machine made nails.

The interior is divided into a hall-parlor plan, with the larger, heated hall to the southwest and a smaller unheated parlor to the northeast. The hall section is log plank construction, with roughly hewn

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

and beaded ceiling joists. The fireplace on the southwest gable was rebuilt when the house was moved and has been faced with stone. An enclosed winder stair to the right of the fireplace rises to the second floor. The door that once connected this house with the now-demolished wing was located in the alcove to the left of the fireplace. A small cupboard in the left cheek wall of the fireplace was relocated facing into the room to the left of the fireplace, with a wood storage area below. The log walls are constructed of hewn and pit sawn planks that average 4 x 8 to 4 x 10 and are said to be dovetail notched, the most common form of notching found in this area. The stair is constructed with machine nails.

The smaller parlor is unheated and is constructed of vertical studs mortised into the sill and top plate, infilled with brick nogging set in a clay mortar. This contrast of wall construction would ordinarily indicate that the hall was an addition to a single cell log house, but the wall plates are continuous from one end of the house to the other, and the beaded ceiling joists are essentially identical in both rooms. The most likely explanation is that the parlor is an

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

addition, but it signals a complete rebuilding on the scale of the Cray House (QA-259), in which the original house was stripped down to the top of the first floor walls. In this case, new wall plates and ceiling joists were added and a new roof constructed. The roof framing is not accessible, but Mr. Baxter believes the roof is later even than the addition of the parlor. Certainly it seems likely that the now-demolished post-and-nogging wing at the opposite end of the house was probably constructed at the same time the parlor was added.

The second floor is divided into a large chamber at the northeast end, a smaller chamber in the south corner, and a short stair hall in the west corner. The walls and ceilings are sheathed with wide one-inch gang-sawn boards. These were whitewashed, but have been cleaned to expose the bare wood.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-46

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 Baxter House is typical in overall form of a house type popular in the 18th and early 19th century throughout the central Eastern Shore. Three bay hall-parlor plan houses with gambrel roofs were built in considerable numbers, with many examples dating to the early 19th century. The Baxter House in detail, however, is notable for several unusual features. It is one of the few surviving log dwelling houses in the county, and is one of two recorded examples of exposed riven clapboards. Even more interesting is the post-and-nogging wall construction of the northeast end of the house. The only previously recorded example of this form of construction occurs in the kitchen wing of the nearby Roberts House (QA-45). Although other examples of this walling are presumed to survive elsewhere in the area, it is unusual for the nogging to have remained exposed.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The complex growth of the house and disturbances due to the moving and renovation have made dating difficult. Most of the visible fabric of the house appears to date to the early-19th century. The clear evidence of changes and at least one enlargement suggest the possibility of an 18th century single room log house expanded in the early 19th century to form the present hall-parlor house with a now demolished wing.

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

4/22/80

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

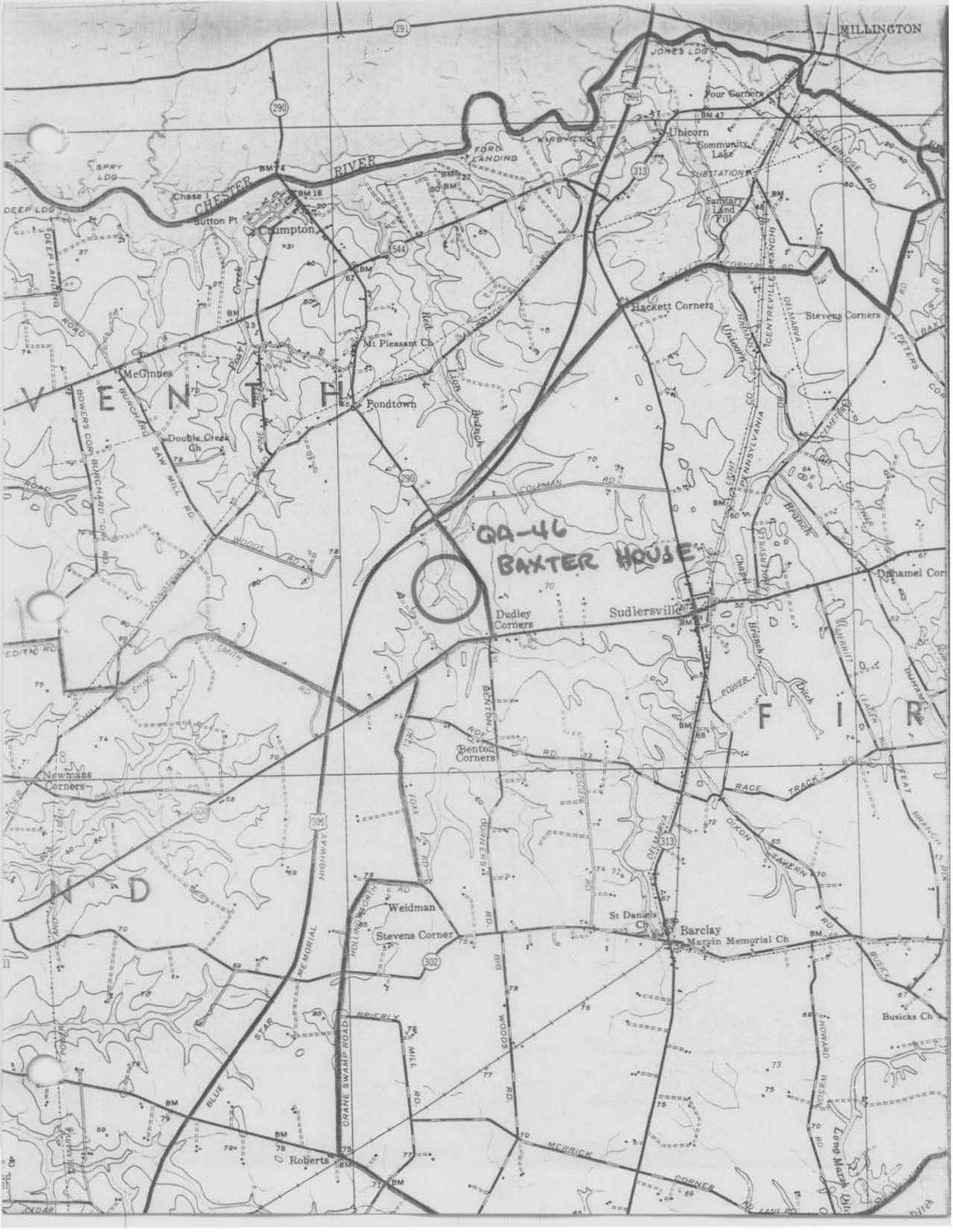
Maryland

Field Note Book QA-XV, Recorded February 18, 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



GA-46
BAXTER HOUSE

CHESTER RIVER
Champton
Sutton Pt
McGimpes
Fondtown
Mt Pleasant Ch

Hackett Corners
Stevens Corners

Dudley Corners
Sudlersville

F I R

Weidman
Stevens Corner

St Daniels Ch
Barclay
Margin Memorial Ch

W E N T H
D

Roberts

Busicks Ch

Long Marsh Mill



QA-46

Baxter Log House
Pondtown vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1980
East facade



QA-46

Baxter Log House
Pondtown vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1980
West facade