

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. QA-473

Magi No. 1804655504

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ringgold House

and/or common

2. Location (SEE SURVEY FILE MEMORANDUM DTD 10 FEBRUARY 1990) attached

street & number East Side Cox Neck Road, Turkey Point not for publicationcity, town Chester vicinity of congressional district First

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 type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" 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 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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Louis B. Anthony

street & number Route 2, Box 820, Lot 27, telephone no.: (o) 263-2651
Section I, Southwind (h) 643-3003

city, town Chester state and zip code Maryland 21619

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Courthouse liber

street & number Courthouse Square folio

city, town Centreville state Maryland 21617

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. QA-473

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		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Ringgold House is located on the east side of Cox Neck Road on Kent Island, approximately four miles south of Chester and 1 1/2 miles north of the tip of Turkey Point. The house is sited within 50 yards of the shore of Crab Alley Bay, with sweeping views of Eastern Bay. The property is now part of a large housing development, and the Ringgold House had been scheduled for demolition. The destruction of the vacant house was initially delayed to allow a family of ospreys nesting in the chimney to reach maturity, and in the interim, the house was acquired by Lewis Anthony of Chester on condition that the house be moved to a new site. The Ringgold House, which should take place in late fall of 1987.

The Ringgold House is a 2 1/2 story frame house, three bays wide and two rooms deep, with a pitched gable roof oriented on a north-south axis. The principal facade faces west, away from the water, with the entrance door located in the south bay, framed by sidelights and a transom. There are two large 2/2 windows to the north of the door (presumably originally fitted with 9/6 or 6/6 sash) and three windows ranged across the second story. A continuous common bond brick foundation extends across this facade; the house is sheathed with horizontal weatherboards concealed behind wood shingles. The eave is finished with a box cornice trimmed with a simple crown mold and a wide plain frieze below the soffit. The roof has been covered with sheets of standing seam barn roofing.

There are two flush brick chimneys on the north gable; the east chimney stack has been rebuilt above the roof. There are two window openings on each story, utilizing 2/2 sash on the first story and 6/6 sash on the second story and in the upper gable. The foundation on this facade was not originally continuous, but the spaces between the piers were later filled in. The foundations extend five courses below grade and rest directly on the subsoil with no footing, as revealed by construction work in preparation for the move. The early wood siding is partially exposed, revealing a wide, flat version of German siding secured with machine nails. The name James Dorrell (or Donnell?) is written in pencil on one piece of siding, evidently dating to the application of the shingle covering. The gable eaves are trimmed with a plain, tapered rakeboard.

The rear or east facade, facing the water is similar to the front but the six-panel rear door lacks sidelights and transom and the south window on the second story is downset over the stair landing. The foundation is infilled, the siding, windows, cornice and roof match the front facade.

On the south gable, a door is centered on the first story, a single 6/6 window is centered on the second story, and two 6/6 windows are symmetrically placed in the upper gable. The foundation, siding and eaves match the north gable in general detail, but on close examination reveal evidence of a major change to the house.

According to oral tradition, this house was considerably larger until relatively recently. Descriptive details of the earlier part are sketchy, but apparently the present three-bay dwelling extended at least one additional room to the south. There is a considerable amount of evidence of this change, some of it contradictory in detail. Most convincing is the fragmented end of the west foundation wall, which extends about 12 inches beyond the present house. A section of the rear foundation wall for the missing section is also visible, but curiously there is not evidence of that foundation keying into or even touching the southeast corner of the surviving building. No other evidence could readily be found to offer an alternative foundation plan and function. Other evidence of the missing section includes the siding on the south gable, a seam in the frieze board on the west facade and the front porch. The siding matches that found elsewhere on the house but is secured with wire nails, suggesting that it was salvaged from the demolished section and reused to enclose the new south gable exposed by demolition. The porch is Victorian in character and now extends across two bays of the west facade and turns 90 degrees to protect much of the south gable. It is significant to note that the west portion of the porch is Victorian, however, and that this porch once extended across the north bay of the larger house and was then altered after the south section of the house was demolished.

The interior consists of a side-passage, double parlor plan with the stair passage to the south. The stair rises against the south gable wall to a landing at the rear, turns 180 degrees and continues to the second floor. It is an open-string stair with large turned walnut newel, simple walnut rail and tapered chestnut balusters. The rail is ramped; the upper newels are more delicate in scale than the base newel. The carriage is decorated with plain flat trim; the spandrel is plastered. The passage and the front or northwest parlor are somewhat more elaborately trimmed than the rear parlor, but the latter is the larger of the two parlors. A relatively simple mid-19th century mantel survives in the front parlor; the rear parlor fireplace has been blocked and the mantel removed. The first floor door openings are fitted with six-panel doors with flattened Greek ogee panel molds; the architrave trim and rabbeted baseboard are also typical of the mid-19th century. The first floor plan is repeated on the second story but with the west end of the passage partitioned to form what was originally an unheated chamber, now adapted for a bathroom and storage. Mantels similar (but smaller) to the first floor mantel survive in both of the principal chambers. The architrave trim and doors are similar to the first story except that the corner blocks are plain rather than trimmed and the doors lack a panel mold.

The stair continues up to the third story with no reduction in detail, though the roof pitch does encroach on the landing, and the third story rooms are plastered and finished with plain trim that has never been finished.

8. Significance

Survey No. QA-473

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 checked="" 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**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

In its present form, the Ringgold House is representative of a typical mid-19th century side-passage, double parlor plan frame dwelling. Architectural evidence suggests a date of construction in the period circa 1840s to 1860s, most likely circa 1850s. There is sufficient evidence to conclude that the house originally extended at least one additional room to the south, either in the form of a small wing or in a full five-bay Georgian plan. This portion of the house was demolished sometime in the 20th century. The surviving house is largely undisturbed, otherwise, and includes a handsome Greek Revival stair, three period mantels, and a full complement of interior trim.

The house is sited on land historically associated with the Ringgold family and appears on the 1877 Atlas map, identified as the house of Edward Ringgold.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. QA-473

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Orlando Ridout V	Field Notebook MD-14
organization	Maryland Historical Trust	date Recorded October 8, 1986
street & number	21 State Circle	telephone (301) 269-2438
city or town	Annapolis	state Maryland 21401

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
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Survey File
From: Orlando Ridout V
Date: 10 February 1990

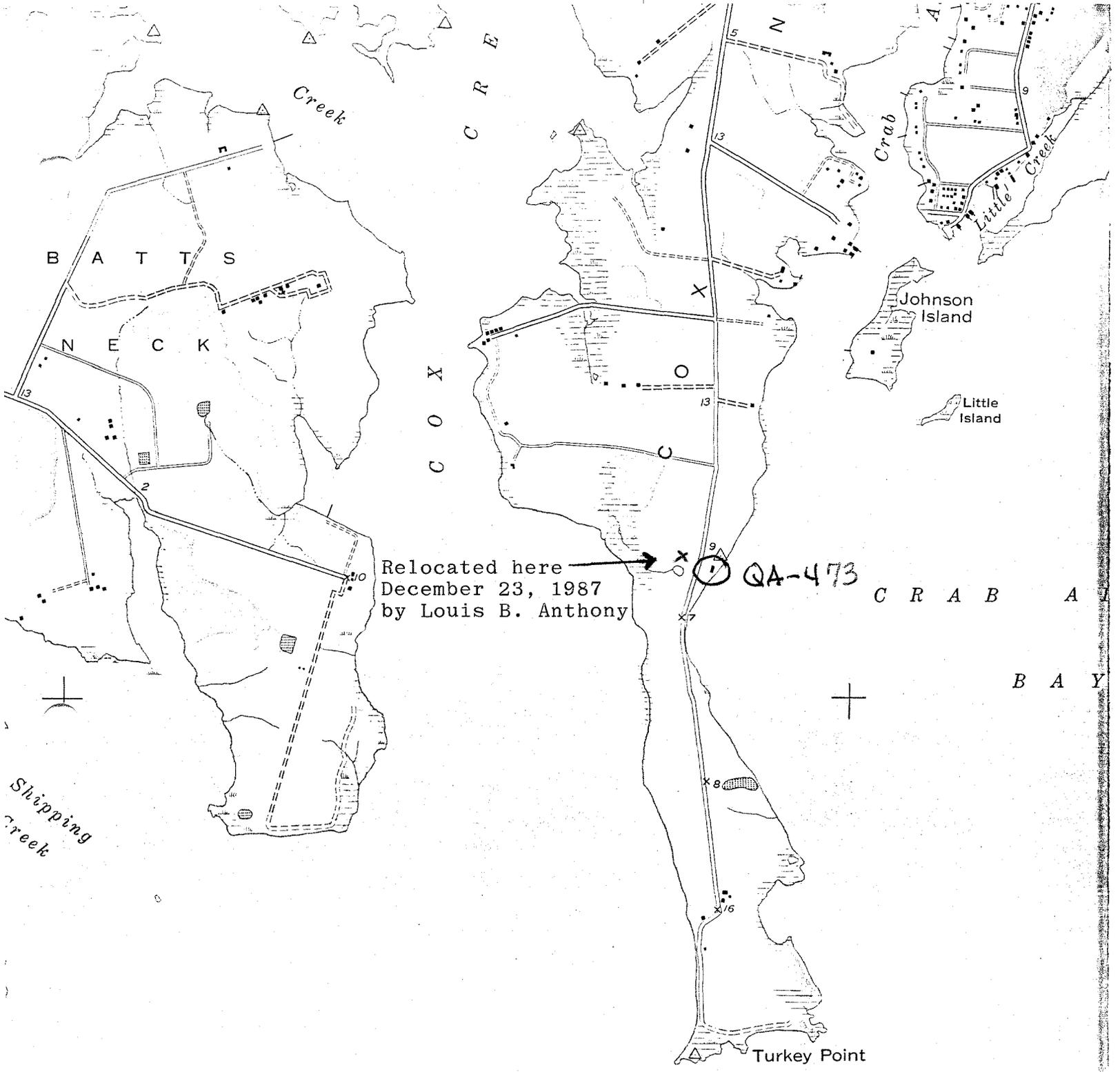
Re: QA-473 Ringgold House Chester vicinity

On December 23, 1987 the Ringgold House was moved a short distance to a new site on the west side of Cox Neck Road. The house is now located on Lot 27, Section I of the community of Southwind.

The house remains in the ownership of Louis B. Anthony and is now his residence. The new mailing adress is:

Louis B. Anthony
Route 2, Box 820
Chester, Maryland 21617

home phone: (301)643-3003
office: 263-2651



Relocated here
 December 23, 1987
 by Louis B. Anthony

QA-473

Kent Island Quad

E A S T E R N

Philpots
 Islands

Long Marsh
 Island

Bodkin