

QA-88  
Emerson Farm  
Roe vicinity  
Private

circa 1800-1815

Constructed circa 1800-1815, the large brick house on the Emerson Farm is typical of the 2 1/2 story, five bay, center passage dwellings found throughout the Tidewater region. The exterior of the main house remains virtually untouched except for a late 19th century Eastlake porch on the principal facade. The interior has had minor cosmetic alterations, but retains much of the early woodwork. This includes a handsome closed string stair, a crosssetted Federal mantel, and fielded paneling on the second story. Lesser details worthy of note include a set of early "raising hinges" on an interior door, crosssetted architrave moldings, and paneled window and door embrasures.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Emerson Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Northeast side of Maryland Route 405

CITY, TOWN

Roe

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS           | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                   | <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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:                          |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Marjorie Emerson

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

c/o John P. Emerson

909 South Beechfield Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21229

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

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

Liber #: TSP 5

Folio #: 428

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-88

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" 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 Emerson Farm is on the northeast side of Maryland Route 405 approximately 1 1/2 miles south of Roe's Crossroads. The house faces due south.

This is a large 2 1/2 story brick house, five bays wide and one room deep, with flush brick chimneys at either end of a pitched gable roof. A 1 1/2 story frame wing projects from the east gable, and a one story modern addition extends from the north wall of the wing.

The front facade, facing south, has a center door with a four-light transom flanked by two Victorian 4/4 windows on each side. There are five 4/4 windows on the second floor and no dormers on the third floor. Small cellar windows pierce the foundation below the first floor window openings.

The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond above a plain water table and a three-course bond foundation. A three-course belt course extends the length of the facade. The eaves are finished with a box cornice with complex bed mold. The roof is now covered with asphalt shingles.

A handsome Eastlake porch extends across the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

center three bays on the first story of this facade. Chamfered posts with decorative stops and geometric Eastlake brackets support a scrollwork frieze. The ghost outline of an original entrance porch is visible around the center door. This porch was supported by thin half-columns or pilasters. The soffit and jambs of the entrance door are paneled.

The west gable wall is laid in Flemish bond above a plain water table and a three-course bond foundation. The upper gable is also laid in three-course bond and belt courses cross the gable at both the first and second floor ceiling level. Put-log holes have been filled in but can still be picked out with careful examination. The only openings in this wall are a pair of small windows flanking the chimney in the upper gable. The rakeboards have been replaced.

The east gable wall is partially covered by the frame wing. Paired windows in the upper gable are the only visible openings. The water table and belt course are not carried across this gable, and the brickwork is covered with a thin coat of stucco, all suggesting an original wing.

On the rear facade, there is a door in the center

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

bay flanked by two 4/4 windows on the first story; five 4/4 windows are ranged across the second story. The cellar windows have been reworked and are fitted with six-light sash. The brickwork is entirely three-course bond with a plain water table and a three-course belt course. The box cornice has been rebuilt, utilizing the original bed mold.

The interior consists of a center passage plan with a single room on either side of the stair hall. The stair rises against the east wall of the hall to a landing at the rear. It is a closed-string stair with a molded carriage, delicate turned newels and balusters and a molded and ramped rail. The area below the carriage is finished with a single large triangular raised panel. A four-panel door with fully raised Federal panels opens onto an interior stair to the cellar.

The front and rear doors and both interior hall doors have paneled soffits and jambs. The original crossetted architrave trim has survived on the interior door openings but has been replaced on the exterior doors. The original flooring has been covered with modern flooring, and modern paneling and a tile ceiling have been added.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

In the west parlor, a handsome Federal mantel survives on the gable fireplace. It is a large board surround with a crossetted backband framing the opening. Reeded sideblocks and a small paneled center block support a molded shelf dominated by a drilled dentil course and a cove/astragal nosing. The shelf breaks forward above the sideblocks. Small two-door cupboards are built into both cheek walls of the fireplace. These have beaded batten doors constructed with wrought nails. The windows in this room have splayed reveals and paneled soffits and jambs, trimmed with crossetted architraves.

The east parlor is somewhat simpler than the west parlor and the fireplace has been blocked. The window reveals are splayed but are not paneled and the architrave trim is not crossetted. An original 6-panel door opening into the hall has been rehung on modern hinges. A door to the right of the fireplace leads to the wing.

The second floor plan is modified by a small unheated chamber at the south end of the hall, now fitted as a modern bath. The shelf of a two-piece chairrail survives in the hall. The architrave trim is not crossetted.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

The fireplace has been blocked in the west chamber but original fielded paneling survives to either side. This paneling frames fielded four-panel closet doors on each side of the fireplace. The windows are splayed but not paneled; the architrave trim is not crossetted. The shelf of the chairrail remains in place. The paneled door to the hall is hung on "raising hinges", an unusual early example of this rare hinge type.

There are two chambers to the east of the stair hall. The door opens from the hall into a small rectangular room to the south-east, and a second door opens in the north wall of this room into a larger rectangular room to the northeast. Originally these two rooms shared a triangular chimney stack centered on the partition wall. The outlines of the hearths remain visible in the floor, but the fireplaces have been blocked. The windows have splayed openings but are not paneled. The window architraves have been partially altered. The shelf of the chairrail survives, as well as both of the six-panel doors.

The third floor has been renovated in the 20th century. Surviving original fabric includes the roof framing and the studs for the knee walls, which

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.5 DESCRIPTION

are secured with wrought nails.

The story-and-a-half frame wing has been completely renovated and now opens into a large one story frame addition to the rear.

QA-88

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

| 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"/> 400-1499             | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 500-1599             | <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

Constructed circa 1800-1815, the large brick house on the Emerson Farm is typical of the 2 1/2 story, five bay, center passage dwellings found throughout the Tidewater region. The exterior of the main house remains virtually untouched except for a late 19th century Eastlake porch on the principal facade. The interior has had minor cosmetic alterations, but retains much of the early woodwork. This includes a handsome closed string stair, a crossetted Federal mantel, and fielded paneling on the second story. Lesser details worthy of note include a set of early "raising hinges" on an interior door, crossetted architrave moldings, and paneled window and door embrasures.

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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  
8/25/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN  
Centreville

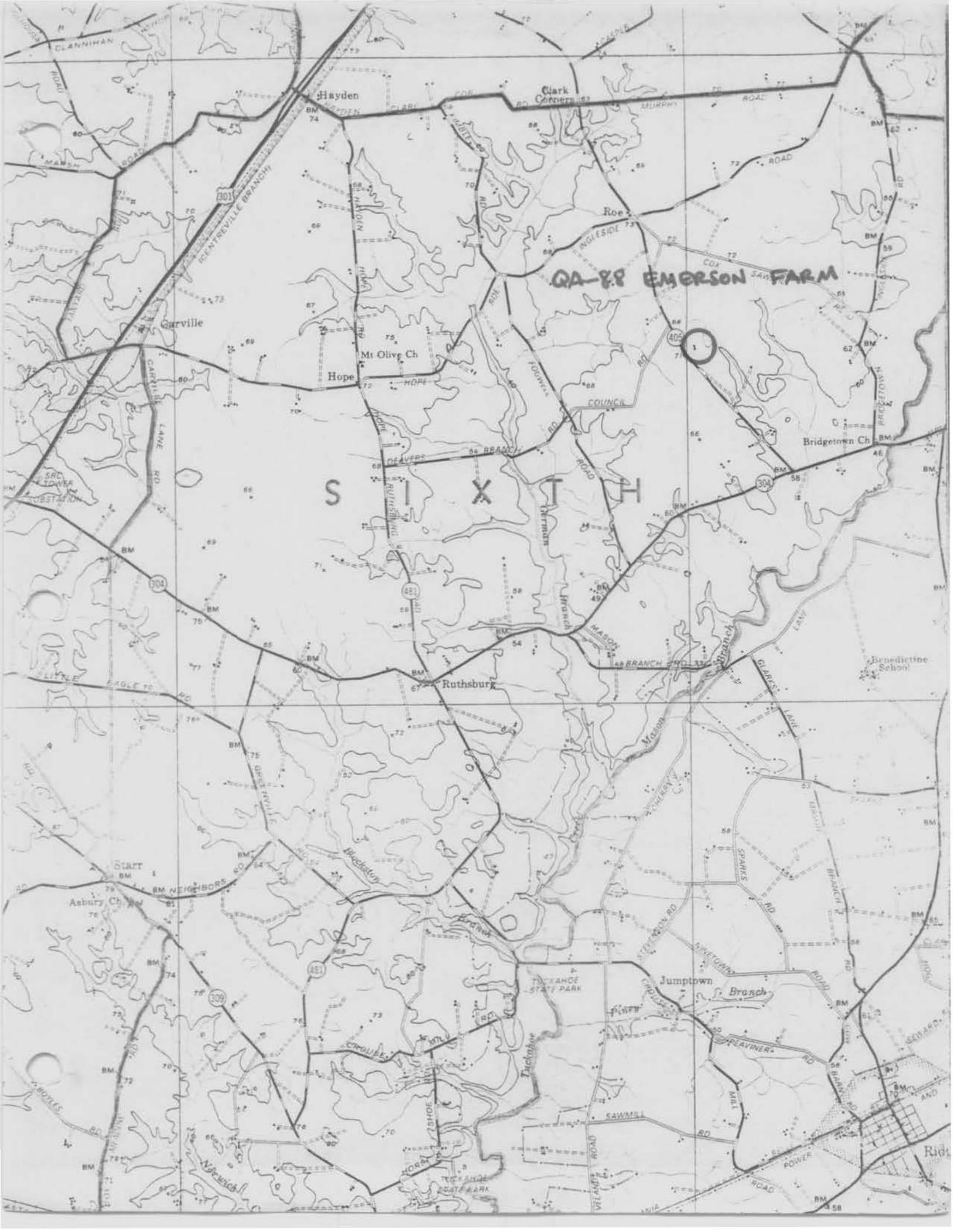
STATE  
Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XVII; Recorded June 23, 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



SIXTH

QA-88 EMERSON FARM

1

Hayden

Garville

Hope

Ruthsburg

Roe

Bridgetown Ch

Jumptown

Asbury Ch

Jumptown Branch

Benedictine School

Ridg

Emerson House Farm

QA-88



QA-88

Emerson House Farm

**Mary McCarthy**

**Spring/Summer 2003**

**Digital color photo on file at MHT**



QA-88

Emerson Farm  
Ruthsburg vicinity  
Orlando Ridout V 1980  
Front facade



QA-88

Emerson Farm

Ruthsburg vicinity

Orlando Ridout V 1980

Rear facade



Emerson House

QA. #88