

WI-394
Benjamin T. Hearn Farm
Salisbury vicinity
Private

c. 1897

Historically identified as the Benjamin T. Hearn farm, this Pemberton Drive property was originally part of the land associated with "Handy Hall," a large agricultural estate that encompassed over seven-hundred and fifty acres during the mid to late nineteenth century. (See WI-34) On December 4, 1897, L. Sidney Bell, William S. Bell and John B. Parsons sold a portion of the farm bordering what was then known as Anderson Road to Benjamin Thomas Hearn for \$1,250. The tee-shaped plan and Victorian decorative features of the exterior—the extended eaves with decorated rafter ends and the fishscale shingles with the front gables—suggest the Benjamin T. Hearn financed construction of this house around the time he acquired the farm. Standing off the southeast corner of the house is a two-story, common bond brick potato house, one of three brick potato houses remaining in Wicomico County.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Benjamin T. Hearn Farm

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST INVENTORY NUMBER: WT-394

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s):
 - Farm Complex
 - Farmhouse
 - Barn
 - Potato House
 - Chicken House

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Benjamin T. Hearn Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1354 Pemberton Drive not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

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	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 checked="" 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 Whaley Farms General Partnership

street & number 1354 Pemberton Drive telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21804

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 37, P. 339
liber 1372

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 217

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-394

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 of move _____
<input 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 Benjamin T. Hearn farm is located at 1354 Pemberton Drive west of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-story, tee-shaped frame house faces north with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1897, the two-and-a-half story frame house is supported by a concrete block foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a single-story kitchen wing. Joining the house on the lot is a c. 1920 brick potato house, a c. 1900 frame barn, a shed roofed frame chicken house, and a couple of other frame outbuildings.

The north (main) elevation of the farmhouse is an asymmetrical facade with a projecting front pavilion and a recessed entrance wall. The projecting bay, pierced on each floor by single-pane replacement windows, is topped by a gable front trimmed with spindle eave decoration and fishscale shingles across its front. The eaves of the roof are extended, and the rafter ends are decorated. The front entrance is sheltered by an enclosed shed roof porch. The second floor is pierced by single-pane sash windows. Centered on the roof is a cross gable sheathed with fishscale shingles and pierced by a two-over-two sash window.

The east gable end is a single room deep with replacement windows lighting each floor. Delicate sawn corner brackets embellish the bottom corners of the eave.

The back wall of the house is partially covered by the single story kitchen wing. Single-pane replacement sash windows light the second floor, and the eave is finished with open soffits and decorated rafter ends.

The house is surrounded on three sides by early twentieth century outbuildings. Principal among the farm buildings is a two-story seven course common bond brick potato house, a gable-front frame barn, and a long single-story chicken house. The c. 1920 potato house is a rectangular structure with seven-course common bond brick walls that rise to steeply pitched gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The gable ends of the roof are sheathed with wood shingles. The west gable end, the principal elevation, is defined by a two board doors that provide access to the first and second floors. The other three walls are marked by small segmental arched window openings. Each opening is spanned by a single course rowlock arch.

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"/> 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

Historically identified as the Benjamin T. Hearn farm, this Pemberton Drive property was originally part of the land associated with “Handy Hall,” a large agricultural estate that encompassed over seven-hundred and fifty acres during the mid to late nineteenth century. (See WI-34) On December 4, 1897, L. Sidney Bell, William S. Bell and John B. Parsons sold a portion of the farm bordering what was then known as Anderson Road to Benjamin Thomas Hearn for \$1,250.¹ The tee-shaped plan and Victorian decorative features of the exterior—the extended eaves with decorated rafter ends and the fishscale shingles with the front gables—suggest the Benjamin T. Hearn financed construction of this house around the time he acquired the farm. Standing off the southeast corner of the house is a two-story, common bond brick potato house, one of three brick potato houses remaining in Wicomico County.

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 21/355, 4 December 1897.

WI-394
Benjamin Thomas Hearn Farm
1354 Pemberton Drive
Salisbury vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 37, Parcel 339

1372/217

Lillie Mae Whaley

to

12/30/1993

Whaley Farms General Partnership
29.08 acres as shown on plat of property survey for
Ruth T. Hearn, 1/19/1952

MSB 1204/667

Lillie Mae Whaley
Personal Representative of the Estate of Ruth T. Hearn

to

12/20/1989

Lillie Mae Whaley
being property conveyed unto Walter and Ruth T. Hearn

1. from Benjamin T. Hearn and Alverta Hearn, 11/1/1921,
JCK 124/131

2. from Homer D. Kelly, et al., 7/31/1924, JCK 134/453

121/131

Benjamin T. Hearn and Alverta Hearn and
Mary McCormick

to

11/1/1921

Walter C. Hearn
Ruth Hearn
\$5500 (mortgage held by Mary Houston McCormick)
12 73/100 acres

WI-394
Benjamin Thomas Hearn Farm
1354 Pemberton Drive
Salisbury vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

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JTT 21/355

L. Sidney Bell and others (William S. Bell and wife,
John B. Parsons and wife)

to

12/4/1897

Benjamin Thomas Hearn
\$1,250 ...being a portion of the land known as
'Handy Hall' ...the property hereby conveyed being a
portion of the same property which was conveyed to
Henrietta H. Stewart from Milton A. Parsons by
mortgage, 3/20/1882, SPT 4/464, and which was sold
under the said mortgage in No. 1138 Chancery in the
Circuit Court and which was conveyed by George W.
Bell, trustee, to make said conveyance to said L.
Sydney Bell, William S. Bell, and John B. Parsons,
8/21/1897

Mortgage
SPT 4/464

Milton A. Parsons

to

3/20/1882

Henrietta H. Stewart
...all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in
Wicomico County...whereon the said Milton A.
now resides, it being all that tract called Handy Hall
which was devised to the said Milton A. Parsons by
his father Jehu Parsons deceased by his last will and
testament...and is situated on the Wicomico River
about two miles west of Salisbury containing 780
acres...and adjoining the lands of George W. Parsons,
James Cannon, and others....

Graveyards and Gravestones of Wicomico County, Jehu Parsons, b. 11/6/1780
John E. Jacob, 1997, p. 68. d. 8/8/1859

EDEN QUADRANGLE

MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOMAP (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5980 INE
(DEL/MAR)

40' 42

43

44

1 990 000 FEET

45

75°37'30"

38°22'30"



47

46

45

190 000
FEET

44

42

CONVERSION
SCALES



WI-394

Benjamin T. Hearn Farm
Salisbury vicinity

Eden, Maryland Quadrangle
1983



W1-394

BENJAMIN THOMAS HOWARD FARM
SALISBURY, VERMONT

NEW EDITION

6/99, PAUL THOMAS, PHOTOGRAPHER
MAY 1912, THOMAS THOMAS

1 of 9





161-394

BENJAMIN THOMAS HERON FARM
SALISBURY VIL., WILTSHIRE, ENGLAND
NORTH ELEVATION OF BURNHAM
6/99, PAUL THOMAS, PHOTOGRAPHER -
MCC. J. 112 11-1-1902 T. 112-112

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