

WI-60

Late 18th Century

Raymond Weisner House and Log Barns, site  
Jersey Road (MD 404)  
Salisbury  
DEL MAR quad

North of Salisbury, between West and Jersey Roads stands an early frame 1 1/2 story dwelling house not already included in the lists of Wicomico County dwellings.

It stands on a brick foundation and is 3 bays long (5 bays on west) and 3 bays deep (2 rooms). 3 dormers are located on both sides of the "A" roof. One original brick chimney stands outside the north gable end and recent concrete block chimneys stand outside the south gable.

The frame is covered with beaded clapboard in fair condition. Sash on the 1st story have 9/6 panes and those on the 2nd story, including dormers, have 6/6 panes. At the top of the gables is a 4-pane casement lighting the "supra-attic."

The house is presently occupied by 2 tenant families.

West of the house stand 4 small barns constructed of rounded logs.

The Weisner House  
and Log Barns

Anne Kennerly Morris Clay

WI-60

October 23, 1974 and

June 9, 1977

The Byrd Homestead, on which the Raymond Weisner house with outbuildings stands, lies on the northerly side of a dirt lane connecting Jersey and West roads, a short distance north from Salisbury. The property and buildings were in the Byrd family from the early twentieth century back 'til at least the eighteenth century. As of October 23, 1974, there were still standing an old frame dwelling and several round-pole, log barns. It is the purpose of this report to determine, so far as is possible, the approximate age of said structures from the Land Records of Wicomico and Somerset Counties.

The 1896 Tax Assessments in the Wicomico County Courthouse mention that Mrs. Annie T. Byrd Morris owned part of "Denwood's Den," known as the Byrd Homestead, on Spring Hill Road, consisting of 830 acres and five tenant houses and outhouses, a mill building and improvements. This information is valuable in that one first notices the tract name, "Denwood's Den," by which one can identify the property in earlier records.

The Atlas of 1877 of Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester Counties shows Mrs. A. T. Morris with a dwelling to the east of the end of the northeast branch of the Wicomico River and to the west of the road toward Delmar. This road is presently Jersey Road and is also known as Delaware Street Extended, Lake Street Extended, and Charity Church Road.

According to FMS 2/446 in Wicomico County, Annie T. Byrd Morris was the (grand)daughter of Henrietta Byrd, who died around 1890. In Somerset County, there is an Administration Account, filed circa 1857 in SCL 4/63 and SCL 9/354, naming Henrietta Byrd as the widow of Benjamin Harvey Byrd, who left his estate to said Henrietta, to his son, Earnest V. Byrd, who subsequently died circa 1866, and to his (grand)daughter, Anna Byrd. Mention is also made of Henrietta's grandson, Harvey Byrd Morris. Said Harvey is actually said Annie's son, so reference to her as Benjamin's granddaughter could possibly mean daughter also.

It may further be seen, from the Probate Records of Somerset County, that Benjamin Harvey Byrd was the son of Thomas Byrd, Sr.,

and inherited from his father in JP 4/42 several tracts of land, including "Denwood's Den," of about 790 acres, circa 1822. This same Thomas is in all likelihood the same person who is mentioned as the son and heir of Benjamin Byrd, who died circa 1793. By EB 17/254, Thomas Byrd, son of Benjamin, inherited "New Haven," "Denwood's Den," and a still.

Thus, it would appear that Thomas Byrd was the owner of the Byrd Homestead at the time of the 1796 Federal Tax Assessment Records of Somerset County, found on microfilm in the Wicomico County Library in Salisbury. The area of the county where the property is was probably in the Broad Creek Hundred of Somerset County. One understands, of course, that Wicomico County was formed from Somerset County in 1867.

From the records, it may be seen that Thomas Byrd owned about 562 acres in Broad Creek Hundred, valued at \$1500.00, improved by one dwelling house and four outhouses. A more particular description of the buildings is as follows: 1 framed (sic) dwelling house, one storey (sic), of wood 32' x 16' with a shed, framed (sic) of wood 20' x 11'; 1 cook house of round poles 28' x 11'; 1 meate (sic) house of round poles 8' x 8'; 1 framed (sic) milk house 8' x 7'; 1 round pole stable 15' x 15'. Under the particular list of land in Broad Creek Hundred, the following is described: 1 round-pole sypress (sic) log barn 22' x 18', 1 corn house of round-pole cypress poles 12' x 6' and 1 ditto 12' x 7'. Said Thomas Byrd was also a slave owner, having charge of eight slaves.

As the Weisner house concerned is of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  stories and as the above-mentioned Thomas Byrd house was 1 story, the conclusion may be drawn that they are not the same dwellings. It could be, however, that a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -story section was added later to the existing 1-story structure. In any event, the descriptions of Thomas Byrd's four outbuildings closely match those of the present-standing four barns. Therefore, perhaps they are older than the Weisner house itself.

In the same Hundred, there also lived a certain John Byrd, who owned property in this area on the road from Salisbury to Broad Creek about 1 mile from Parker's Mill. This person, however, is probably not applicable in consideration of the Byrd Homestead

as his name never appears in the chain of title and as the Broad Creek Road was further to the east.

October 23, 1974

In 1975, the Weisner house was completely demolished and the four log barns sold to persons out of Wicomico. As no known measurements of those outbuildings were made, it would be very difficult now to determine if they matched in size the structures mentioned in 1796. It is a shame that more time was not afforded the researcher to possibly prove that they were indeed the same and to establish them as relics of the eighteenth century rare to Wicomico County.

June 9, 1977

As this report is not an official one for the Maryland Historical Trust, I have not footnoted it but have given most of the references in the body of the report itself. Gary Hutchison of Princess Anne, Maryland, for whom I did the research, handled the sale of the four log barns in 1975. Since this property is listed in the Historic Sites Inventory, I thought it would be valuable for the Trust to have what research I have done as the basis for a possible future, and more in-depth, history.

(Weisner)

wi-60

(Raymond Wisnor House)

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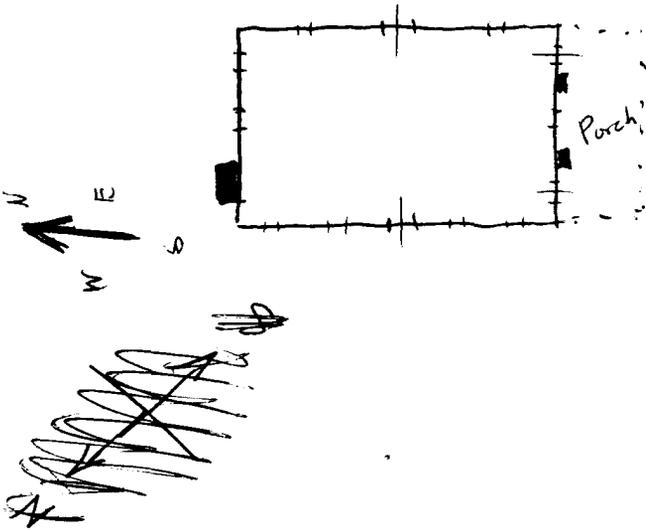
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The frame is covered with beaded clapboard in fair condition. Sash on 1<sup>st</sup> story have 9/6 panes and those on 2<sup>nd</sup> story, including dormers, have 6/6 panes. At the top of the gables is a 4-pane casement lighting the "supra attic".

The house is presently occupied by 2 tenant families.

West of the house stand 4 ~~small~~ small barns constructed of rounded logs.

Raymond Wisner - owner  
 office on St 13 -



1 1/2 frame  
 3 (or 5) bays long  
 and 2 rooms deep

9/6 soch ( )  
 6/0 in 3 "A" roq columns on  
 each side - A roq - 4 in gable  
 4-pane coxemt - each supra-altic gable

Beaded clapboard in good  
 condition -

Brick foundation

one brick chimney on N gable  
 west side - pyramidal type

2 concrete block chimneys

on S. gable & porch - w/ 1  
 window between on 1st story &

2 btw on 2nd story.

late 18<sup>th</sup> Cent.

Mechanical canyon

(occupied by  
 2-tenant families)

4 rounded log cent bldgs - barrens mostly



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WI-60 Raymond Weisner House, North of Salisbury

1974

PHOTO --  
O. V. WOOTTEN  
323 BREWINGTON DRIVE  
SALISBURY, MD.

Wilsner Home. Sal



WI-60 Log Barns, Weisner House

PHOTO—  
O. V. WOOTEN  
323 BOSTON DRIVE  
SHELTON, MD.



WI-60 Detail of Log Barn, Weisner House

PHOTO—  
O. V. KOTTEN  
313 BETHINGTON DRIVE  
SALISBURY, MD.

*Weiser*



WI-60 Log Barns, Weisner House

PHOTO—  
O. V. WOOTEN  
323 BIRMINGHAM DRIVE  
SALISBURY, MD.