

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-223

Magi No. 2402235404

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Ashmeade House

2. Location

street & number 9 Bay Street not for publicationcity, town Berlin vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Worcester

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 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 Earnest O. Brittingham, Jr.

street & number 323 North Main Street telephone no.: 641-2704

city, town Berlin state and zip code MD 21811

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Courthouse liber

street & number Market Street folio

city, town Snow Hill state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" 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 Ashmeade house, situated on the north side of Bay Street is a gable-roofed, wood frame dwelling built in two sections. The front and principle section is 2½-story, gable-fronted, two by two bay, situated on a poured concrete foundation. It's size, roofline and fenestration are markedly similar to the Walker house, a probable Federal house adjacent on the west. Behind this lies a 1½-story, four by four bay section atop a block foundation.

The principle facade facing south features a flat-roofed verandah with half walls and flat-sided columns above. The entrance is in the right bay and contains a door with ten large glass panes arranged in a decorative pattern. The remaining bay is a double 3/1 window. Windows throughout the house are 3/1 except for a small single sash marking stairway on the west side and notably, the small 2/2 pair of windows in the gable end. These windows and surround molding are identical to the Walker house. On the gable side, the cornice is boxed with a beaded edge, and a frieze board with additional molding lies adjacent.

The interior of this house, as well as much of the exterior, is early 20th century in origin. The stairs are located on the west side, the entrance in the east bay so that no side hall floor plan is evident. Upstairs, however, there are two doors having six raised panels with molding similar if not identical to doors existing in documented Federal Berlin houses. In addition a door to the attic is beaded shiplap with a iron latch with brass knob; again, known to Federal Berlin houses.

The rear section, built atop a concrete foundation is of early 20th century origin.

To the rear of the house, two gable-roofed, wood shingle and frame outbuildings are situated. Both appear to rest on the ground. The larger, whose only opening is a wide shiplap door with imposing strap hinges, has a loft whose joists extend through the exterior wall. The inside is floored and walls covered with horizontally placed white washed boards. The smaller second building has window openings in the gable ends, decorative end boards and a shiplap door with strap hinges and iron hook closure. The gable sides have a deep boxed cornice overhang.

8. Significance

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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 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.

The site of the Ashmeade house on a street known to be the east/west road through Berlin in the 19th century as well as being located adjacent to the Walker house, together with the physical evidence of Federal details and early outbuildings, makes this property of great interest in the investigation of early 19th century Berlin. In the Sanborn maps of 1897 and 1904, the property is shown with the location of the outbuildings on the east side of the house.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WO-223

Name Williams Stevenson House (Ashmeade House)

Addendum Section 7

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The historic outbuildings on the lot of 9 Bay Street, Berlin, MD consist of two, one-room frame structures. The structures appear to date earlier than the dwelling house on the lot-- a third quarter of the nineteenth century, two-story, gable-fronted structure—but they are aligned with the house, with the lot lines and with a concrete block garage dating to the second quarter of the twentieth century. This conflict of date and orientation suggest that the structures are not in their original location.

The first structure sits closer to the house and is a 10' 3" by 10' 4" one-story, frame building set on concrete piers. The materials and construction of the structure suggest that it was built in the second quarter of the 19th century and thus the concrete piers cannot be the original foundation; the building was either moved to this location or it was given a new foundation in situ. Given its size, construction and date, the structure was most likely a slave house or quarter. The south elevation of the building has a doorway offset to the east; the west gable end has one window offset to the north; the north side features a window on line with the doorway; the east gable end is blank. There is evidence of white wash or paint on the exterior.

The walls of the quarter are covered with cypress shingles measuring 4"-6" wide by 2' 2" long with an 11" - 1' exposure and secured with mature cut nails. The walls lack corner boards, but feature rake boards in the gable. The framing of the lower walls was inaccessible, but the sash-sawn gable studs measure 3" by 3 1/2". The rafters are also sash-sawn, measuring 3" by 4", half-lapped and pegged at the ridge. They sit upon a board false 1" by 10" board false plate at a pitch of 47 degrees.

The main or south side of the quarter has a doorway set toward the east end. The door is of board-and-batten construction, consisting of 5 boards (the largest of which is 10" wide), secured to two 16" wide battens, beveled all around. The door is hung with two wrought-iron strap hinges, 2' 2" long and is secured with an iron latch and staple. The door opening is finished with a plain board architrave which is face nailed. The west gable end has a 2' by 3' foot window opening boarded over on the exterior. The window framing is wire nailed indicating that it is not original. There is no sash. The north wall features an original 1' 9" square window that contains a 4 light fixed sash.

The interior of the walls of the quarter is sheathed with circular sawn boards that are cut nailed. Window and door architraves are all plain boards. The floor is also of boards. The two, sash-sawn tie beams are exposed and measure 2 3/4" by 7 3/4". They appear to have been tarred or painted black, but the coloration does not appear to be the darkening associated with a smokehouse. The interior pitch of the quarter is 6' 1 3/4" to the bottom of the tie beams.

The garret is floored by sash sawn boards, with widths ranging from 14" to 8". In the southwest corner of the room an unframed opening for a stair is cut through the floor boards; the original size of the opening is unclear due to the presence of some replacement boards. There is a ghost of a ladder stair along the front wall, ascending from the west corner at an angle of 73 degrees. A circular hole for a stove chimney is cut through the garret floor at the center point of the west gable wall; a terracotta stove pipe remains in place. A square opening apparently for a chimney is cut through the roof above the stove pipe.

The second building, a 6' 4" x 8' 3 1/2" frame, one-story structure with a side-gable roof sits about ten feet to the east of the quarter. Like the adjacent quarter, this structure was set on concrete piers, indicating that it was either moved here or was given new piers in place. The south façade features a center door; single window pierce the east and west gable ends; the north side has no openings.

The walls are sheathed with cypress shingles measuring 1' 6"- 1' 7" by 5"- 5 3/4" with an exposure of 6 1/2"- 8". The shingles are secured with mature cut nails. The walls feature corner boards on both faces of the corners; the corner boards terminate at the height of the cornice. There are no rake boards. There is white wash or paint preserved under the cornice of the south wall. The wall framing is sash sawn with up braces. Corner posts measure 4" by 5". 2 3/4" by 3/4" nailers are secured to the exterior of the wall

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framing to provide a level surface for the wall shingles. Rafters measure 2" by 3" at the foot and are mitered and nailed at the ridge. They sit on a 1" by 1' 4" false plate. The pitch of the roof is 36 degrees.

The south elevation has a centered doorway with a batten door made of 2 plain, tongue-and-groove boards (one of which is 14 3/4" wide) secured with cut nails to three, five-inch-wide battens that are beveled on all sides. The door is hung on two 13 1/2" long rolled-iron strap hinges although the doorframe shows evidence of an earlier generation of hinges. A hand-made iron hook secures the door, but there is keyhole and nail evidence for a lock on the inside face of the door; the doorjamb is cut with a bolt mortise. The door frame is made of plain boards ornamented with only a beveled backband.

Single window openings (1' 6" by 2' 3 1/2") are centered in the gable ends. They are finished identically to the doorway. The side jambs of the windows have a row of 11 5/8" circular holes meant to receive horizontal bars spaced 2 1/2" apart. There is no evidence that the openings ever held sash. There is evidence that both openings had shutters at one time, but the only preserved shutter hinge looks late 19th or early 20th century.

The interior is open to the roof, although all wall and roof framing, with the exception the structure's single 3 1/2" by 2 1/2" tie beam, is covered by horizontally laid planks secured by a mix of immature and mature cut nails. Battens are nailed into the corners and over the break between the walls and the roof. The structure has a board floor. The interior sheathing would suggest use as a smokehouse, but there is no additional evidence to support this notion. No use, therefore, can be posited at this time.

Prepared by Thomas Reinhart, MHT Administrator of Architectural Research, based on field work conducted by Marcia Miller, Scott Whipple and Thomas Reinhart on July 11, 2007.

WO-223
Ashmeade House
9 Bay St.
Berlin
Berlin Quad.
Worcester County

