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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

AA-212

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
"Arden"

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
West Side of Harwood Road

CITY OR TOWN:
1 1/2 Miles North of Harwood

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Anne Arundel

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☒ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Cmdr. and Mrs. Eric S. Purdon (Phone 867-0355)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Harwood

STATE: Maryland

20776

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE

Map #63, A.D. #1, Parcel #2, Liber/Folio #1381/27

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

PS-709

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Arden" was built in 1842 by James Murray, a young and prominent physician of West River.

Dr. Murray had built a fine house in Owensville in 1838 ("Smith's Purchase", AA-36-Q-e); he had set up his office there and had married a Miss Belt from Howard County. In about 1840 a tragedy occurred; his wife was killed by a fall down the cellar steps.

Dr. Murray married again, this time to one of the daughters of Dr. James Cheston of "Hawthorne Ridge" (AA-34-N-a). The couple were given, by Cheston, a piece of land on which to build.

The new house, "Arden", was designed to be all on one floor, to prevent a possible recurrence of the first Mrs. Murray's accident. The source of the design is not known though it is reminescent of a Louisiana style plantation house. It is a radical departure from the traditional styles of Southern Maryland Architecture. From a critical point of view it was an interesting and relatively successful architectural experiment, though still better suited to hotter climates.

The main roof covers a deep verandah which extends around the front and sides of the house. The entrance opens into a wide center hall with the living room on its south side and the dining room on the north. The hall is divided toward the back of the house by a pair of shutter doors. Beyond them are the steps to the attic (now finished into bedrooms and storage space). The first floor bedrooms are on either side of the rear hall, and the breezeway to the kitchen is reached at the end of the hall. The floor plan of the house is simple and nearly symmetrical. The interior details are elegant; very high ceilings, black marble mantels and floors of wide planks of Georgia Pine. The front windows in the living and dining rooms have jib doors which give access to the verandah. The bedrooms also have doors onto the verandah.

The kitchen is reached by a breeze-way containing a pantry. The kitchen fireplace has been rebuilt but its chimney is original. The small room above the kitchen is reached by a narrow enclosed stair.

Dr. Murray built an office near the house. It is heated by a small iron stove. A stable was also built at the same time. The occupants of "Arden" have been "gentleman farmers" if farmers at all so the argicultural character of many rural homes is missing here. The house is reached from the road through dense woods and there are no distant views of fields. The very suitable same "Arden" was chosen at a dinner party at "Lothian" (AA-38-O-b) soon after the house was built. Dr. Murray preferred it over the other choice, "Longwood", so he raised both hands when the vote was taken. (The source of this story is a letter written by Murray and still in the possession of a member of the family. The list of materials for the house and other records have also been preserved.)

Continued on separate page

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☐ 18th Century
- ☒ 19th Century
- ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1842

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - ☐ Prehistoric
  - ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☒ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1) Conversation: Cmdr. & Mrs. Purdon, 11/74
2) Conversation: E. Churchill Murray, 11/74

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY									OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE						LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds				Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"				°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"									
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"									
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"									

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF ~~NOMINATED~~ PROPERTY: 83 acres

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

ORGANIZATION | DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: | STATE

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

AA-212

"Arden"
West Side of Harwood Road
1 1/2 miles North of Harwood
Maryland Anne Arundel

OWNER:

CMDR. and Mrs. Eric S. Purdon
Harwood, Maryland 20776 Phone 867-0355

7 continued

James Murray's daughter, Miss Meta Murray, lived in the house until 1940. It was then sold three times before the present owners bought it in 1960. Major improvements such as electricity, central heat, plumbing and insulation were made in the 1940's but the house retains its original appearance and character.

[illegible] Wetherill

AA-212(A)

Survey of "Arden Slave House", Harwood. Md

Oral history claims it to be a "slave-occupied house", ie. pre-1864 in Md.

"Miss Meta" was the last Murray to live here, house built by her grandfather Js., then occupied by his son Dan, then Dan's daughter Meta until 1940. In 1960 Purdons bought it.

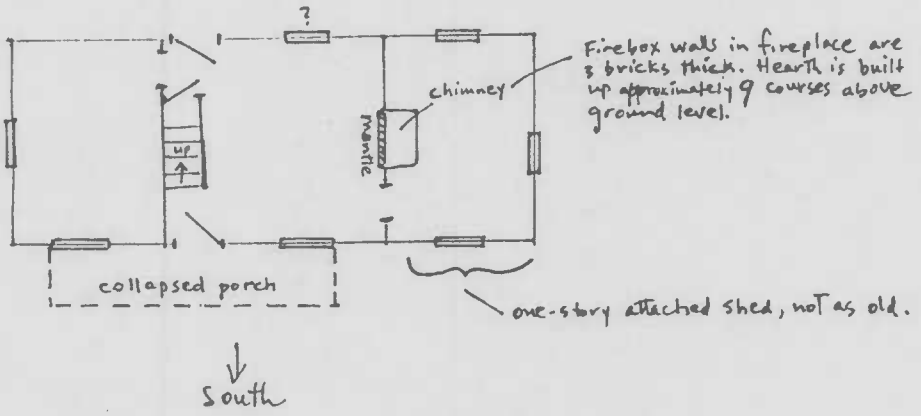
This, according to Miss Meta who related much of her story to Ellen Shepherd Sr., a neighbor across the road (who died 1984); Miss Meta also gave Mrs Shepherd her old photo album of Arden. (Check with daughter Ellen Shephd Hol re: info she may have or know);

Per Miss Meta - per Mrs Shepherd - per Mrs. Purdon: the "slave house" was occupied (until the 1940's) by "Uncle Wes", who had been a slave ~~there~~ at Arden before emancipation:

"SLAVE HOUSE"

Physical survey: located some distance north of main house facing toward it, south

Dimensions: 14' x 22' (main block)



FIRST FLOOR PLA
(2nd floor, same room layout exc no attached shed east side.)
NOT TO SCALE

The house is sheathed in clapboards which appear to be original, attached with cut nails, includ'g the clapboards which are on the cross-gabled dormer over front door.

Clapboards are circular-sawn except for a couple of newer

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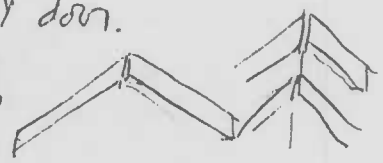
replacement clap boards over the front door.
Roofing timbers are butt-jointed,
Covered with wood shingles.

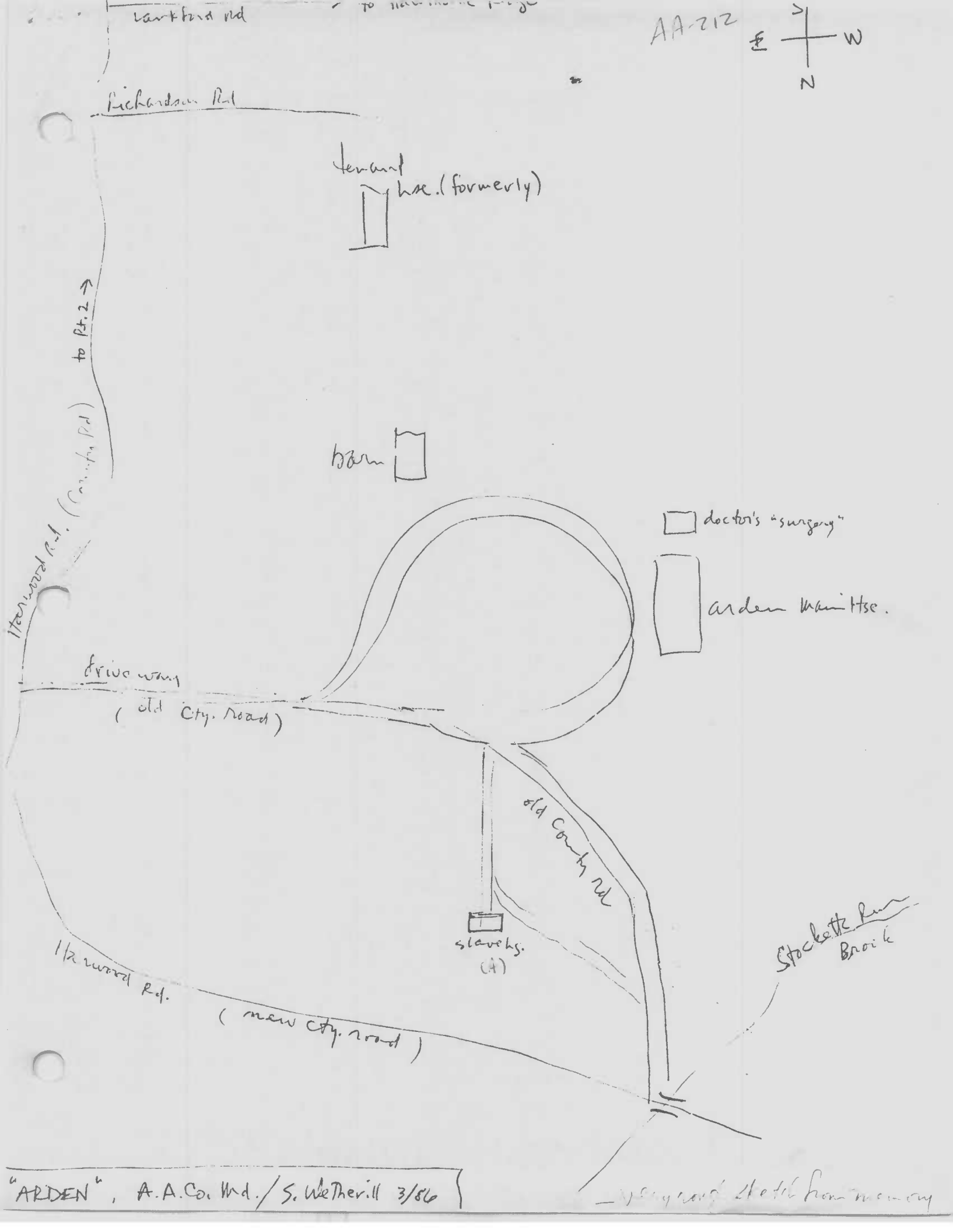


All interior walls were originally plastered over machine cut laths. After turn-of-century, plaster was covered with horizontal beaded tongue-and-groove paneling (2 rows per board, painted white (or white washed?)
The building is raised up on brick piers, 9 courses high, 4 evenly spaced along the long sides, 3 along short sides.
The stairway (boxed in below with a short closet door underneath) hugs the interior partition wall, no railing.
Windows are double hung 6 over 6, except 2nd story dormer window which is 6 over 3. There's a 1-story shed-roof addition, east end.

Analysis: Open hearth fireplace with simple wood mantle suggests pre-1880 as do the modern cut nails in claphds. and structural members.
Circular sawn clapbds could date to 1860?

The building is badly deteriorated and barely still standing. In fact, the only thing preventing the beams in the large 1st floor room from collapsing onto the floor is a wooden ~~chest~~ cupboard (6 feet high made of very wide boards) which is standing in center of room - it is a free-standing piece of furniture on which the center ceiling beam has settled. The floors ~~and~~ are rotten, not safe.

*This is only the 4th "black" house I've found with an open fireplace. I found none in Galesville, two in Cumberstone: "Daniel I" c.1787 (Ivy Neck) and Cedar Park c.1840-18 and the Collinson Farm log house c.1850.



"ARDEN", A.A.Co. Md. / S. Wetherill 3/86

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(map 25)

Arden
N.E. Corner

Amliatt 12/74

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~~Ad-33-N-a~~ (map 25):

AA-212

"Arden"

Kitchen and breezeway

amh 12-74

AA-212

(map 25)

~~AA-33 N a~~

AA-212

"Arden"

the stable

amh 12-74

AA-
212

212 (map 25)

aa-~~33 N-a~~

"Arden"

Dr. Murray's Office

amh 12-74

AA — 212A
ARDEN SLAVE HOUSE
circa ~~1940~~?
Harwood, A.A. Co. MD
SE corner

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