

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Nathan P. Watts House Survey Number: AA-727

Project: handicapped accessibility Odenton Station tunnel Agency: FTA/MTA

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name Elizabeth Hannold Date 10/18/94

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Parts of the large, rambling house, located at 1401 Odenton Road in Odenton, are said to date to the 1860s. However, its current appearance is in large part established by additions and alterations dating to 1881 and later. The resulting picturesque combination of stylistic elements, rooflines, porches and bays is characteristic of the eclectic architecture of the late 19th century. Located within the Odenton Survey District (AA-869), the Watts House is an Odenton Landmark which lends visual distinction to the station area. It is an unusually intact example of late 19th century eclecticism for this part of Anne Arundel County. It is particularly distinguished by the multiplicity of roof types it exhibits. The size and location of the Watts House, adjacent to the Odenton railroad station, suggest that it may have served as a boarding house or hotel. Further investigation is required to confirm this supposition.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project file, AA-869 and AA-727

Prepared by: Marion Morton Carroll (AA-727)

Elizabeth Hannold
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

April 3, 1995
Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable

Orlando P. Reinitz
Reviewer, NR program

April 21, 1995
Date

gms

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic, single family residence

Known Design Source: na

AA-~~727~~ 727
N. P. Watts House
Odenton

mid-19th cent.
to late 19th cent.
private

This dwelling displays a combination of styles, fooflines, porches and bays characteristic of the eclectic styles of the late 19th century, although it is believed that parts of the house were built in the 1860's. Seen from across the Conrail Railroad tracks, the house is an Odenton landmark.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AA-~~727~~ 727
MAGI # 0207275504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
(Nathan P.) Watts House
AND/OR COMMON
Schurr Residence

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1401 Odenton Rd., directly across from the Conrail passenger shelter at the Odenton Railroad Station.
CITY, TOWN Odenton CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Maryland COUNTY Anne Arundel

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 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 Walter W. Schurr Telephone #:
STREET & NUMBER 1401 Odenton Rd.
CITY, TOWN Odenton STATE, zip code MD 2113

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Anne Arundel Liber #: 2739
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. map21, blk.22, p.507 Folio #: 755
STREET & NUMBER Church Circle
CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 dwelling is on the west side of the Conrail tracks, across from the passenger shelter. It is reached by crossing over the rail road tracks on Rt. 175 and taking Lokus or Morgan Rd. south to Odenton Rd.

The dwelling displays a combination of styles, rooflines, porches and bays. The main block, facing north, is two stories high on a low ironstone foundation. It has a gable roof with a center gable and a large pentagonal bay on the west side. On the east elevation, between the main block and the two-and-half story wing on the rear is another pentagonal bay which is plainer and narrower than the one on the front. The wing, having a gambrel roof with dormers and end chimneys is, curiously, only two bays wide. A connected summer kitchen on the west elevation completes the assemblage. All sections of the dwelling are covered with German siding, and are painted white with green trim.

A seven bay veranda extends across the front ~~of the~~ and wraps around the east elevation of the main block. The porch has a low shed roof supported by turned posts with curved brackets, perforated by floral designs, and a Chinese lattice railing. The above grade entrance porch on the wing's east elevation has plain posts, perforated brackets and railing.

The main entrance is in the center bay of the front (north) elevation. It has a three light transom above a four panel door.

Windows through^{out} the house contain 2/2 light sash. A small ocellus with four lights in it is centered below the front gable.

The main block has a gable roof with overhanging eaves and a plain fascia board. It is covered, as are all the roofs, with slate. A small interior end chimney is on the west side of the roof. The pentagonal bay on the front has a conical slate roof with a copper knob on top. The roof of the pentagonal bay on the east elevation is flattened. As noted before, the wing has a gambrel roof with a steeply pitched lower section and wide eaves. The dormers are faced with imbricated shingles and the exterior chimneys have corbelled caps.

The house, surrounded by a hedge in some sections, sits on an acre of land. It is right next to the railroad tracks. Both the regular Conrail and Metroliner go through approximately 50 feet from the house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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 *c. 1880*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An eclectic blend, the Watts House has a distinctly late 19th century (Carpenter Gothic) appearance, although it is believed that some of the main block and the wing were built prior to 1865. The owner has done research on the property which shows that Nathan Peter Watts sold land to the Baltimore and Potomac Railway in 1867, and that a house of similar plan to this one is shown on the railway's survey of 1867. The massing, scale, fenestration and sheathing of the house suggests that it was "finished" in the 1880's or 90's, and the wing appears to have been influenced by the Colonial Revival. The dwelling seen from the train or across the tracks is an Odenton landmark, lending distinction to the area around the train station. It is unusual to find a late 19th century dwelling such as this one with its original porch, octagonal bays and decorative mill work intact. In addition, the combination of roof lines must be unique in Anne Arundel County.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA 1

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 Marion Morton Carroll Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION A. A. Ct. Dept of Planning and Zoning DATE Oct. 1978

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis STATE

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



AA-727

AA-869

Odenton Survey District

Anne Arundel Co., Md.

Photo: D.Ware

Watts House, 1401 Odenton Rd.,

facade & N. elev.



AA-869

AA-727

NATHAN PETER WATTS HOUSE
Odenton, Maryland



AA-727

AA-869

Odenton Survey District

Anne Arundel Co., Md.

Photo: D. Ware, 2/84

Watts House, 1401 Odenton Rd.

East elev.



AA-727

AA-869

Odenton Survey District

Anne Arundel Co., MD

Photo: D. Ware, 2/84

Watts House, 1401 Odenton Rd,

West Elev.