

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Discovery

and/or common Carr House

## 2. Location

street & number Riva Road  not for publication

city, town Riva  vicinity of congressional district Fourth

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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 George C. Carr and Eva M. Carr

street & number Riva Road telephone no.:

city, town Riva state and zip code Maryland 21140

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse liber 2320

street & number South Street folio 81

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

postitory for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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 Discovery is located approximately 100 feet north of the intersection of Beards Point Road and Riva Road. The entrance to the Discovery is on the west side of Riva Road. The house is situated on a steep hill up a long gravel drive. In the summer it is obscured by trees.

This plain two story frame house has a steeply gabled roof with a wide simple box overhang. There is an interior chimney set at each end of the house and another exterior at the rear of the south gable end. The interior chimney on the southern end is built off center to the rear of the ridge. The opposite chimney is centered on the ridge and its bricks and mortar appear to be later. The exterior chimney is also brick and is a modern addition.

The east or front facade has three bays. The main body has been modified by a central projection with a nearly flat roof. The first floor area of this addition is a screened porch set on a concrete slab. The second level of this addition has an enclosed chamber in its central area. This is surrounded on three sides by an open porch with a plain railing. The front portion of this open porch overhangs the screened porch.

The main entrance into the house has a narrow fifteen-pane glass door with a fixed two-light transom. The windows on either side are within the porch area. They are six-over-six as are the second floor windows on the front. A door on the south side allows entry to the open porch.

The south elevation has two six-over-six windows on each floor. the first floor window on the southeast corner is larger than the other three windows. The exterior Chimney is located adjacent and to the rear of the window on the left side.

The rear or west facade has three bays. However, two thirds of the rear now has a shed-roofed, one story addition, which extends to the south corner. The southwest portion of this is open and is supported by an untrimmed cedar log. The remaining area forms a sheltered entryway to the rear door as well as a small service room beyond. This entry has a door on its south side flanked by an eight-paned fixed window on each side. The rear windows are two sets of paired, out-swinging, eight-paned, casement windows. To the left is a six-over-six window. There are three asymetrically spaced windows on the second floor.

The north side of the house has the same window arrangement as the opposite gable end; these windows are identical six-over-six. The foundation in this area is exposed for about eight inches and shows a mixed stone construction with corner brick piers.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. AA-852

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 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 whole exposed area of the exterior now has asbestos shingles. However, the outside wall of the rear entryway shows the original weatherboards. The wall to the north of this shed addition has a broken shingle exposing German siding. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The boxed-in overhang has circular saw marks.

The plan is a central passage type with living room, dining room and kitchen on the first floor, and three bedrooms plus bath on the second floor. In addition, a screened porch extends across the front with a bedroom above, plus a service room and entryway are at the rear. It appears that the original house was very small, consisting of a side passage and one room on the first floor with two rooms above. Later the living room was added along the north side with a bedroom on the second floor. The original room on the south side was partitioned and the hall blocked at the rear to create a kitchen. A shed-typed addition was added to the rear to create the entryway and service room. Recent additions include the front screened porch with bedroom above and a bath partitioned from the upstairs north bedroom.

Along the north wall of the passage, a narrow single flight of stairs rises to the second floor. The balustrade is very plain and completely encloses the stairwell. The rail abutts the wall on the second floor where the door molding has been cut to fit around the rail. The newel posts are simple rectangles with flat tops. There are two square balusters per riser. The rail is slightly rounded. A closet was added to the left of the stairs at the rear of the hall. It appears the trim for the doorway was reused because there is a ghost of a box lock. Doorways from the passage lead to the living room on the north side and to the dining room on the south side.

The south wall of the living room also has a doorway to the kitchen. Both doors are four raised panels with box locks, with wide wood thresholds. Centered in the north wall is an interior chimney with a thimble. It is flanked by windows in the east and west walls. The floor is of uniform width boards. The ceiling is acoustical tile. The door and window trim in the living room and the bedroom above is more elaborate than the trim in the remainder of the house. It is Greek Revival style with bulls eye corner blocks. The baseboards are wide with an ogee molding on the top and quarter round toe molding.

The dining room is located to the south of the passage. The rear (west) section of the room was partitioned with modern material to create the kitchen; this wall cuts into the mantel of the fireplace. The fireplace which would have been slightly off center on the south wall of the room has an interior chimney. It has an old-brick hearth. The original opening has been reduced in size with ceramic tile. It has a plain beaded surround. The pilasters are simple boards, beaded on both sides. The fascia board is plain and beaded. The mantel shelf is a plain rounded board.

The walls and ceiling in the dining room have been redone with drywall. The floor, as well as the floors in the hall and kitchen have been tiled. The doorway from the hall has ghosts of hinges and a box lock. All the window and door trim on the first floor, except in the living room, is made with plain boards which butt at the corners. All the baseboards, except in the living room, are plain boards that vary in width.

The kitchen is a mid-20th century style. On the west wall is a door to the rear entry-porch. The door has three horizontal panels at the bottom with a large single light. To the right is a door to the service room. It has five horizontal raised panels and a box lock. At the northeast end of the kitchen is a closet built under the stairs. It has a plywood door with latch lock.

The second floor consists of the central passage with the stairwell, a large bedroom and bath on the north side, two smaller bedrooms on the south side and a bedroom on the east side above the screened porch.

Generally the larger bedroom has the same window and door trim as the living room except for the closet doorway in the southwest corner, which has plain boards with butt corners. The door has four raised panels with a box lock. To the left of the closet is a doorway to the bath. In the center of the north wall is an interior chimney with a thimble flanked by windows. The baseboards are plain with a toe molding. The walls are papered over plaster. The floors in all the second floor rooms, except the bedroom above the porch, are uniform width, thick boards. In the ceiling of this bedroom is an opening to the attic. It was observed that there had been a fire in the attic and the burnt timbers are still in place and plywood sheathing has been applied to the exterior. According to the owner, this fire occurred in 1929.

The walls and ceiling of the bedroom on the southeast side have been redone with drywall. The window and door trim in this bedroom, as well as in the other small bedroom, consists of plain boards with butt corners. An extra board has been added above the top trim so that the top trim extends to the ceiling. The bedroom does not have a door, but there are ghosts of hinges and a box lock.

The bedroom on the southwest side has not been redone; it has wallpaper on the walls. The door from the hall has four raised panels and a box lock.

At the west end of the hall at the top of the stairs is a window. Opposite it, in the east wall, is a door to a recently constructed bedroom above the porch. This door was probably originally a window. The walls are paneled; the ceiling is acoustical tile. In the southwest corner is a closet. To the left of the closet is a door to an open porch above a section of the screened porch. The door has two panels at the bottom with three horizontal lights on the top.

A trap door in the floor of the rear entryway leads down to a dug out earthen basement. There are seven steps with open risers. The stairwell walls are lined with local ironstone and fossil bearing limestone boulders. They flank the stairwell walls for six feet on either side. The current resident relates that in his youth this area served only as a root cellar. In recent times the dug out area has been enlarged just enough to accommodate heating and plumbing equipment.

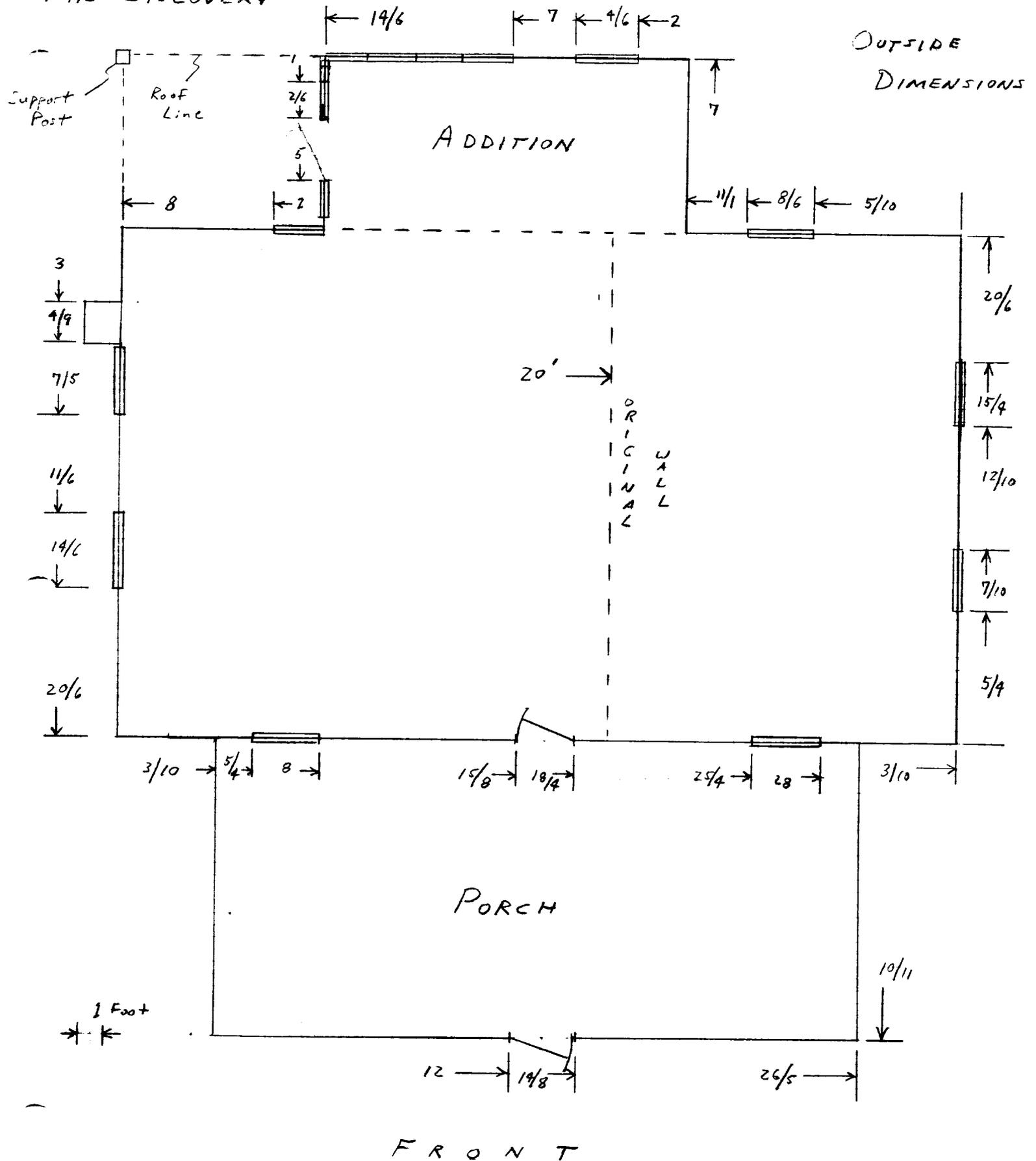
The cellar reveals that the original house had been enlarged by approximately a third. The older section was constructed on hewn, six inch by seven inch, sills. Upon these were set pine log joists (two feet on center) which still retain their bark. Only the top of these are leveled off to support three inch wide flooring boards. The floor boards have a very rough underside.

Closer examination of the unexcavated area to the north reveals a different type of joist. These are gang sawn and apparently reused lumber since they retain the white marks of earlier lathing and plaster and have nails protruding. Flooring in this area has a more finished underside. Where it is possible to observe, the sills are supported by brick piers.

EVA CARR HOUSE

AA-852

"THE DISCOVERY"



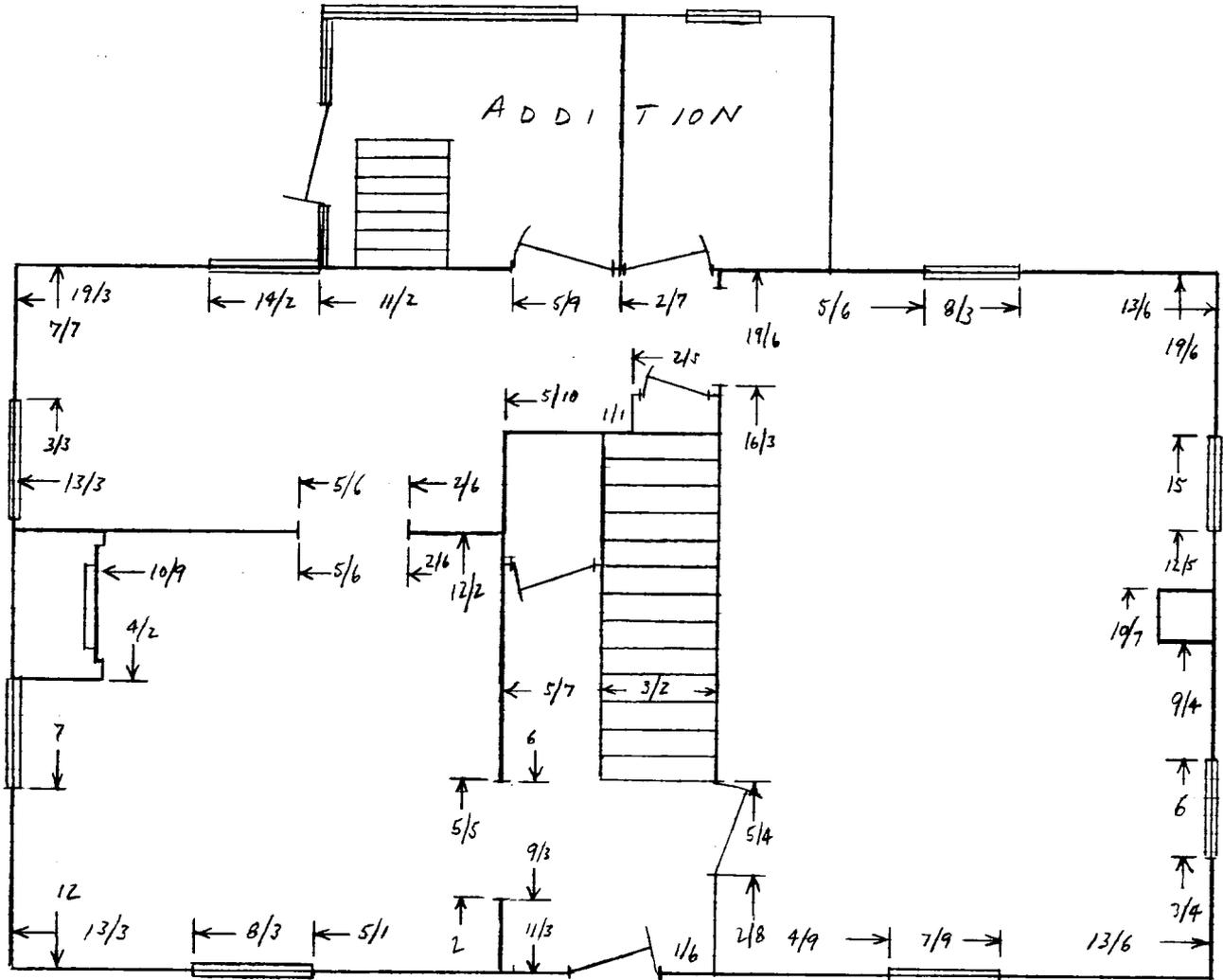
AA-852

EVA CARR HOUSE

- "THE DISCOVERY"

INTERIOR

DIMENSIONS



1 Foot  
→ ←

FRONT

The Discovery  
Eva M. Carr  
Deed Reference 2320/81  
Riva Road  
Riva, Maryland 21140

2320-81 11/28/1969  
TO: GEORGE C. CARR  
FROM: EVA M. CARR

### Deed Information

Eva M. Carr, Widow  
1<sup>st</sup> Assessment District Anne  
Arundel Co. all that lot or  
parcel of ground containing  
86 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres described in  
Deed to Benjamin Carr from  
Conrad Miller & Fannie Miller  
his wife in 5/3/1919 & recorded  
in Land Record WNW 4-476

The Discovery  
Eva M. Carr  
Page 2

WNW 4-476 - 5/3/1919

TO: Benjamin C. Carr  
FROM: Conrad Miller & Fannie Miller

Misc Deed Information: \$2500.00  
Two lots of land in 1<sup>st</sup> Election  
District.

All Land known and called  
The Discovery & being the identical  
property conveyed to Conrad  
Miller & wife from James  
M. Munroe trustee by deed  
4/22/1903 & recorded in land  
record G W 30-295 63 acres  
more or less.

Second tract of land containing  
23 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres conveyed to Conrad  
Miller by Joseph Phillips  
5/16/1914 recorded in land  
record G W 106-94-

Mortgage paid 3/17/1934 -

Recorded 5/16/1919

Colorado Piedmont Co. held  
Mortgage.

The Discovery  
Eva M. Carr.

GW 30-295

4/22/1903

To: James M. Munroe  
From: Annapolis Savings Institution

Misc Deed Information:

Execute of power of sale contained in Mortgage to Annapolis Savings Institution from Edward C. Hall & Henrietta Hall his wife to Annapolis Savings Institution 6/5/1886 and recorded in land records SH 28-425 to said Munroe, attorney sold property in said Mortgage to George W. Hall which said sale was duly recorded & whereas George W. Hall defaulted, subsequently Munroe sold property to Conrad Miller & Fannie Miller for \$535 and said sale was recorded in equity which appears in proceeding of equity # 2421, in the matter of Sale of Mortgaged

The Discovery  
Eva M. Case

GW 30-295 4/22/1903

Misc Deed information Continued 1:

Real estate of Edward C. Hall.  
63 acres more or less of land  
called "The Discovery" situated  
near Taylorsville in 1st  
Election District which were  
conveyed to Edward Hall by  
John Ireland, trustee, title of Deed  
fully appear by reference to said Deed  
from John Ireland trustee in the  
Equity Case proceeding in Case of  
Margaret Stockett et al against  
Joseph Phelps & others #884  
Equity.

Recorded 4/28/1903

The Discovery  
Eva M. Carr.

# 884 Equity

Miss Information from Case:

Deed of which a copy was  
made & filed with case -

To: Sarah Stockett

From: Walter Phelps

FILED: 5/5/1882

The deed was made 7/24/1860 by  
Walter Phelps in consideration of  
natural love & affection Walter  
Phelps hath unto his sister  
Sarah Stockett as also for the  
better maintenance, support  
livelihood & preferment of her, the  
said Sarah Stockett the said  
Walter Phelps doth grant unto  
the said Sarah Stockett all that  
tract or parcel of land situated  
lying & being in AA Co. being part  
of tract of land called "The  
Discovery" which was conveyed

The Discovery  
Eva M. Cant

# 884 Equity Continued 1

Misc Information from Case Continued:  
to the said Walter Phelps  
by Robert Welch of Ben, by deed  
dated 5/26/1847 & recorded in  
JHN 2-405 with the following  
Description.

Beginning where the line between  
the said tract of land & the land  
formerly owned by the heirs of  
the late Robert D. Kent (and by  
them sold to M.S. Robinson) strikes  
the public road from South River  
Ferry to Davidsonville & running  
with said road south to a gate  
past about 57 paces, thence in  
a straight line Northwest to a  
pecan tree standing at a  
head of a drain thence North to  
a red oak tree standing on the  
South side of said drain thence  
with said drain Northeast where

The Discovery  
Eva M. Carr

#884 Equity Continued 2:

Misc Information from Case Continued:  
The Ranch passes in said  
land of M. S. Robinson as above  
described & which said tract  
to the beginning. Recorded in  
land records NHC 9-310 7/24/1860

Scaled 5/5/1882

In the Case record also is a  
Survey map dated 3/10/1883 on the  
map is the following.

Beginning at the tract of land  
called Beards Habitation to the  
11<sup>th</sup> line of a tract of land called  
"Hilden" to a gutter called "Gray's or  
Day's Cutter" & Public road leading to  
"Queen Anne" - Part of Discovery 63 acres

The Discovery  
Eva M. Carl

JHN 2 - 405

5/26/1847

To: Walter Phelps  
FROM: Robert Welch, Sen &  
Patty Welch, wife of A.A. Co.

Miss Deed Information:  
For #500 Discovery situated  
63 acres 2 rods 20 perches  
Patented to Robert Welch, Sen  
by Patent dated 9/18/1829  
GGB 1-111, all land, buildings, etc.

Recorded 5/28/1847

The Discovery  
Eva M. Call

GGB 1-111

12/17/1827

~~Patent~~ Patent Information:

The State of Maryland be it known that whereas Robert Welch of Benj Anne Lundell Co. on 12/17/1827 obtained out of the West Shore land office a Special Warrant of S. Heat (?), to resurvey & appo(?) part of the following tract or parcel of land lying in the County aforesaid and contingent to each other Chaney's Purchase, Chaney Resolution & "The Discovery for want of heirs of a certain Elizabeth Day who do so the estate & within(?) heirs. In Pursue thereof a resurvey was made and Certificate thereof returned when the same was found to contain the quantity of  $63\frac{5}{8}$  acres called "The Discovery"

The Discovery  
Eva M. Carl

GGBI-111

12/17/1827

Patent Information Continued 1:

and have fully Compond (?)  
for said land according to law.  
The State of Maryland doth  
therefore hereby grant unto  
him the said Robert Welch  
of Ben the said tract or parcel  
of land called "The Discovery"  
lying in Anne Arundel Co.  
Beginning at Cedar post and  
stone heretofore planted in  
place where formerly stood  
the original boundary tract  
called "Stards Habitation" &  
running from thence south and  
boundary on land and run  
with an allowance of  $4^{\circ}$  of  
Correct Variation as follows  
North  $70^{\circ} 15$  minutes East  
25 perches North  $71^{\circ} 30$  minutes  
West  $20 \frac{1}{4}$  perches to end of

The Discovery  
Eva M. Carr

GGBI- 111      12/17/1827

Patent Information Continued 2:

instead of the 11<sup>th</sup> line of  
land called "Hilder" made  
for Richard Mackubin on a  
about 11/24/1809 running &  
bounding land follows with  
North 29° East 115 perches to  
gutter called Major Dags  
Gutter still reversing & bounding  
land & running up said gutter  
as follows ~~then~~ South 43° East  
46 perches South 75° East 26 perches  
South 49° East 18 perches to stone

planted in place of a bounded  
Pickory tree at head of said  
gutter near the original  
boundary of Hilder the South  
18° 30 minutes West 12 perches  
to public main road leading  
to Queen Anne thus running  
with bounded on said as follows

The Discovery  
Eva M. Carr

GGB 1-111 12/17/1827

Patent Information Continued 3:

South 16° West 28 puches  
South 35° 15 minutes West  
6 2 3/4 puches to stone planted  
on top of hill on south edge  
of said road then with a  
straight line to 1<sup>st</sup> berry, containing  
9 rods laid out 63 acres 2 rods,  
20 puches more or less.

Recorded in Western Shore land office  
6/21/1829

Certificate 142

Only other information in Certificate:

2 Very old houses  
5 Peach Trees  
3 Apple Trees  
4 Damson Trees  
3 Cherry Trees

1 Pear Tree  
500' old fence  
Railings.