

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic HENRY BEHLKE HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3919 Whitmarsh lane (Germantown) ___ not for publication

city, town Mayo ___ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county AA

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 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"/> 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 Judson H. Bell map 60/ parcel 471 (.34 acre)

street & number % Catamaran 2231, 2400 S. Ocean Drive telephone no.:

city, town Fort Pierce state and zip code Florida 33449

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber 2499

street & number folio 744

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AA-2075

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This large frame house with many wings and protrusions has the look of a rooming house. It was originally built as a two-bay two-story side-gabled farmhouse, facing SE. Later, two nearly identical two-story front-gabled wings were added, one at each gable end, flush with the facade wall and rear wall of the original block. The SW wing was later doubled in size by an extension at the rear. Partial-width enclosed porches with shed roofs were added which extend across the central block and NE wing, both front and rear elevations.

The NE wing has an exterior chimney on the NE wall.
Asbestos shingle siding.
Brick foundation under original block.
6/6 windows.

8. Significance

Survey No.

AA-2075

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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.

A house stood at the NW end of Germantown Road in 1906 according to the USGS map. Sometime after 1906 Henry Behlke, one of five brothers who grew up south of Germantown Rd. at the site of the present Rhode River Marina, bought this house and enlarged it, according to his nephew Ralph Behlke (70-ish).

The house that Henry Behlke bought was probably a two-story two-bay side-gabled frame house with shallow pitched roof, the central portion of the present house. The design and dimensions of this original house are similar to those of other c.1890's houses in the Germantown area (eg. AA-2074 and AA-2078). Over the years six separate additions were made to the original house.

Background
information on
"Germantown" in Mayo.

Oral history 7/87

Bernice Witt Cummings' mother was a Behlke. Her mother's parents came from Germany and settled west of Carr's Wharf in 1888 on land purchased from Sam Carr. They had at least 6 children: Bernice's mother plus 5 sons (Albert, Fritz, Henry, John and Willy.)

Next door, to the east, there lived another German family, The Witts (Bernice's father's family) who settled there in the 1890's (per Helen Taylor Harris, owner of the orig. Witt family house).

This area, west of Carr's wharf, became known as "Germantown". Bernice's 5 uncles stayed in the area when grown: ¹Fritz married and lived in the family house and operated a marine railway for hauling/preparing workboats (he didn't like pleasure ~~yachts~~ yachts! Today his waterfront property is site of the Rhode River Marina which caters to pleasure-boaters!) His son Ralph's 1937

(cont'd)

jerkin^{head}-roofed bungalow is marina property; the old, family house has been torn down. Ralph lives in a new brick rancher next door (to the west). 1888 Behlke.

② Albert never married and lived at home in family house until his death in 1930.

③ Henry bought a small, ^{pre-1906} house at end of Germantown Rd (AA-2075) and enlarged it; he bought it sometime after 1906.

④ Willy married and built a jerkin-roofed bungalow in 1915 when his oldest child was 6 mos. His daughter Helen Parris lives there now. (AA-2076)

⑤ John built his house in 1915 too, per Ralph Behlke. It is a side-gabled 1-story with protruding cross-gable wings front and back, now quite substantially altered. (South of Willy's hse.)

The Behlke family gravestones are in St. Andrews Church cemetery, corner of Carrs Wharf Rd. and Mayo Rd.

[The above oral information comes from interviews with Bernice Witt Cummings, Ralph Behlke, and Helen Taylor Harris, owner of the Witt Hse. AA-2078.]

Notes by S. Wehrill 6/30/87



AA-2075

HENRY BEHLKE HOUSE

German town, Mays
A.G.Co. MD.

S. Wetherill, 6/87

Facade, SE elev.



AA-2075

HENRY BEHLKE HOUSE

German town, Mayo

A.A.Co. Md

S. Wehrill, 6/87

N. corner



AA - 2075

HENRY BEHLKE HOUSE

German town, Mayo

Q-Q. Co. MD

J. Wetherill 6/87

~~Faces~~, ~~SE~~ elev. NW



AA-2075

HENRY BEHLKE HOUSE

German town, Mayo

G.A.Co. MD

S. Wehrill, 6/87

W. corner