BA-1746

ADDENDA

In 1984 the Department of Natural Resources contracted with Joe Getty to conduct a follow-up survey of selected historic properties on DNR lands. DNR funded the field survey and photography but did not prepare finished copy. The attached photocopy pages were forwarded to the Maryland Historical Trust to supplement existing files. All original material and photographs remain in the possession of the Department of Natural Resources under the supervision of Ross Kimmel (x3771).

DRAFT

BA-1746

MEMO

TO: Ross Kimmel, State Historian

From: Joe Getty, Architectural Surveyor

Date: March 23, 1984

Subject: Gwynnbrook House, Gwynnbrook National Resources Management Area

At your request, I visited this property and reviewed the documentation in the 1979 inventory form on the house. I was unable to view the interior of the house because no one could find keys that would gain access to the interior.

The original inventory form is accurate except for one area. The structure consists of a three-bay main block and a two-bay wing constructed along a sloping site. The inventory form refers to the wing as an addition, but it is actually an original part of the house. There is no seam in the brickwork between the two sections. This main block and wing on a sloping site arrangement is a typical Federal-style characteristic for central Maryland farmhouses.

BA 1746
DNR 1
MAGI # 0317463307

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON
Gwynnbrook House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
north side of Gwynnbrook Avenue east of Bonita Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Reisterstown

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	X PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
Tawes State Office Building

CITY, TOWN
Annapolis

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 2146
Folio #: 167

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Towson, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-1746

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Gwynnbrook house located on the north side of Gwynnbrook Avenue east of Bonita Avenue and the Western Maryland Railroad is a curious two-storey, three bay wide, one bay deep structure constructed of brick which is laid in flemish bond. A slightly lower two-storey two bay wide, one bay deep wing also of brick laid in flemish bond extends from the west gable facade. A two-storey, german-sided addition of equal height to the main block projects from the central bay of the rear (north) facade of this section. The frame section has a one storey lean-to addition along its two-bay east facade. On the second storey in the southern bay of this section a flat-roofed one bay addition has been constructed. Both these sections are also sheathed with german-siding. A screened porch projects from the rear (north) facade of the lower brick addition. The over-all configuration of this dwelling yields an "L" shaped plan.

The principle (south) facade of the main block is defined by a central doorway flanked by 12/2 sashed windows of the first storey. On the second storey from east to west the three corresponding openings yield 6/6, 6/6 and 9/6 sashed windows respectively. All but the second storey 9/6 sashed window are replacement sash in one form or another. Windows on both levels are framed by architraved surrounds with projected wooden sills. Pegging is still evident on most of the window frames. A three-course brick belt course projects between the first and second storeys.
A one-storey, one-bay screened portico shelters the main entrance. Tucson columns serve as supports. The door, framed by a molded surround and single light transom, is six-paneled.

The main block rests on a low brick foundation defined by a molded brick water table. Due to the westward slope of the land the water-table is higher towards the western bays.

An asphalt-shingled-over-wood-shingled gable roof ends in a box cornice with a molded fascia beneath. This band stops approximately eight inches short of both ends of the main facade.

Corbel-capped interior brick chimneys are found at both gable ends.

On the rear (north) facade, because of the network of frame additions, only the first and second storey windows of the western bay are visible to exterior view. The first storey window is 9/6 sash; the second storey window is 6/6. Both are framed by an architraved surround with projecting wood sill.

The east gable end, laid in common bond brick is distinguished by two, four-light, five-sashed windows at attic level and boxed cornice returns.

The west gable facade yields only the boxed cornice returns.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

BA-1746

The lower two-storey brick wing also laid in flemish bond is defined by a doorway in the eastern bay and a window in the western bay of the first storey. Two windows occupy the corresponding openings of the second storey. The windows are universally 2/2 sashed with plain wooden surrounds and projecting timber sills. The slightly recessed, six-paneled door is framed by a plain wooden surround. Jamb and head areas are blanks.

The asphalt-shingled-over wood-shingled roof ends in a boxed cornice with a molded fascia beneath which, like that of the main block, stops approximated eight inches short of the end.

A corbel-capped interior brick chimney is located in the west gable facade.

The west gable facade is without fenestration except for two, four light, fixed sashed windows at attic level. This area is further defined by boxed cornice returns.

The interior has suffered little alteration. The main entrance leads into the hall and secondary parlor. To the east of this room is the primary parlor. The hall/parlor yields a molded chair rail and basebaords as well as architraved window and door surrounds. Windows are also framed by eight-inch reveals. An elaborate multi-molded mantel is located on the west wall.

The main parlor also yeilds molded chairrail and baseboards. Windows are framed by architraved surround. The south window is recessed in an eight inch reveal while the north window is blocked up. An elaborate multi-molded mantel is located on the east wall. It is flanked by built-in cupboards possessing four open shelves above paneled cabinets.

Access to the brick addition is found in the southern end of the west wall of the main block. A six-paneled door was cut to fit the newer expanded entry. (Quite possibly this was originally an exterior door.) Three steps lead down to the one room brick addition.) This room yields planer window and door surrounds. The door on the south wall is six-paneled. Windows are recessed in shallower reveals. A less elaborate mantel is found on the west wall. Enclosed stairs are located in the northeast corner.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1746

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A chain of title search yields little conclusive information with regard to the history of this structure.

The tract of land on which this dwelling sits is known as "Thomas Advancement" was surveyed by Thomas Wells September 15, 1732.[1] In 1734 he received a patent for his fifty-acre parcel.[2]

Shortly thereafter Wells married Elizabeth Howard at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Baltimore County on September 16, 1736. (Elizabeth Howard was a daughter of Joshua and Joanna Howard a prominent early eighteenth century family of Green Springs Valley. Their house Grey Rock is located along Reisterstown Road near Pikesville.) Their children were Francis who married Ann Tevis, Joseph who married Susanna Tevis then Betsy Owings, John who married Dinah Cromwell, James, Thomas, Jr. who married Mary Major, Richard who died young and Ann, their only daughter who married Robert Crawford.[3]

Wells appears to have been very active in the Episcopal Church. In May of 1741 Reverend Benedict Bourdillon proposed to the vestry of Saint Paul to build "by free subscription a chapel of ease...", Thomas Wells was listed as a private and voluntary subscriber for the building of the new parish, St. Thomas.[4]

The 1850 J. C. Sidney Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland from Original Surveys shows the dwelling owned by a Cardiff Tagart. Land records confirm the ownership. He acquired the property 297 1/4 acres in 1834 from the estate of John Tagart. Cardiff Tagart also owned a sizeable nearby parcel of land included in the tract known as "Risteau's Garrison."[6] It was on this piece of property where he resided, for at his death in 1881 his estate appraised the 225-acre tract called "Garrison" which included a two-storey stone and frame house. This house refers to his the one located on his Fort Garrison Farm Property.[8] Tagart was also involved in the activities of Saint Thomas Church. He was a vestryman in 1841, 1843, 1844 and 1852 and a church warden in 1846. Upon his death he gave a generous sum of money to the church.[9]

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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[probably incorrect; recheck 1877 atlas "Mrs." - Nelson instead 6-11-96]

The G. M. Hopkins 1877 Atlas of Baltimore County indicates that the Gwynnbrook dwelling was occupied by Charles A. Reese. He is listed as a farmer from Baltimore County. Land Records information however shows that the property is owned by John Gingrich of Daufsin County Pennsylvania.[9] Charles A. Reese is also cited on George W. and Walter S. Bromley's 1898 Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland, from Actual Surveys & Official Plans.

Throughout the 20th century, until the State of Maryland purchased the property in 1952 the property remained in the Dolfield family.[10]

Architecturally, the house dates from possibly as early as eighteenth century with later additions and alterations. A surprising amount of original interior trim remains intact despite the building's current unoccupied status. The building however is in need of immediate attention. The west gable end is severely bowed. The east gable end at ground level is threatened by the continual erosion of the surrounding hilly terrain.

1) E. 1 #2/93 Hall of Records Annapolis, Maryland.
2) IBID.
3) Maryland Historical Magazine XL 1945, Baltimore, Maryland, p. 322.
4) Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Baltimore City and County, Baltimore, Maryland, p. 857.
5) Land Records of Baltimore County, J. K. 239/181
6) Thomas, Dawn; The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, Volume One. Baltimore, Maryland, p.269.
7) IBID.
8) IBID, p.270.
9) Land Records of Baltimore County HMF 4/506.
10) Land Records of Baltimore County 518/44.

BA-1746

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See footnotes

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
Bridget M. Deale, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION DATE
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE
21 State Circle 269-2438

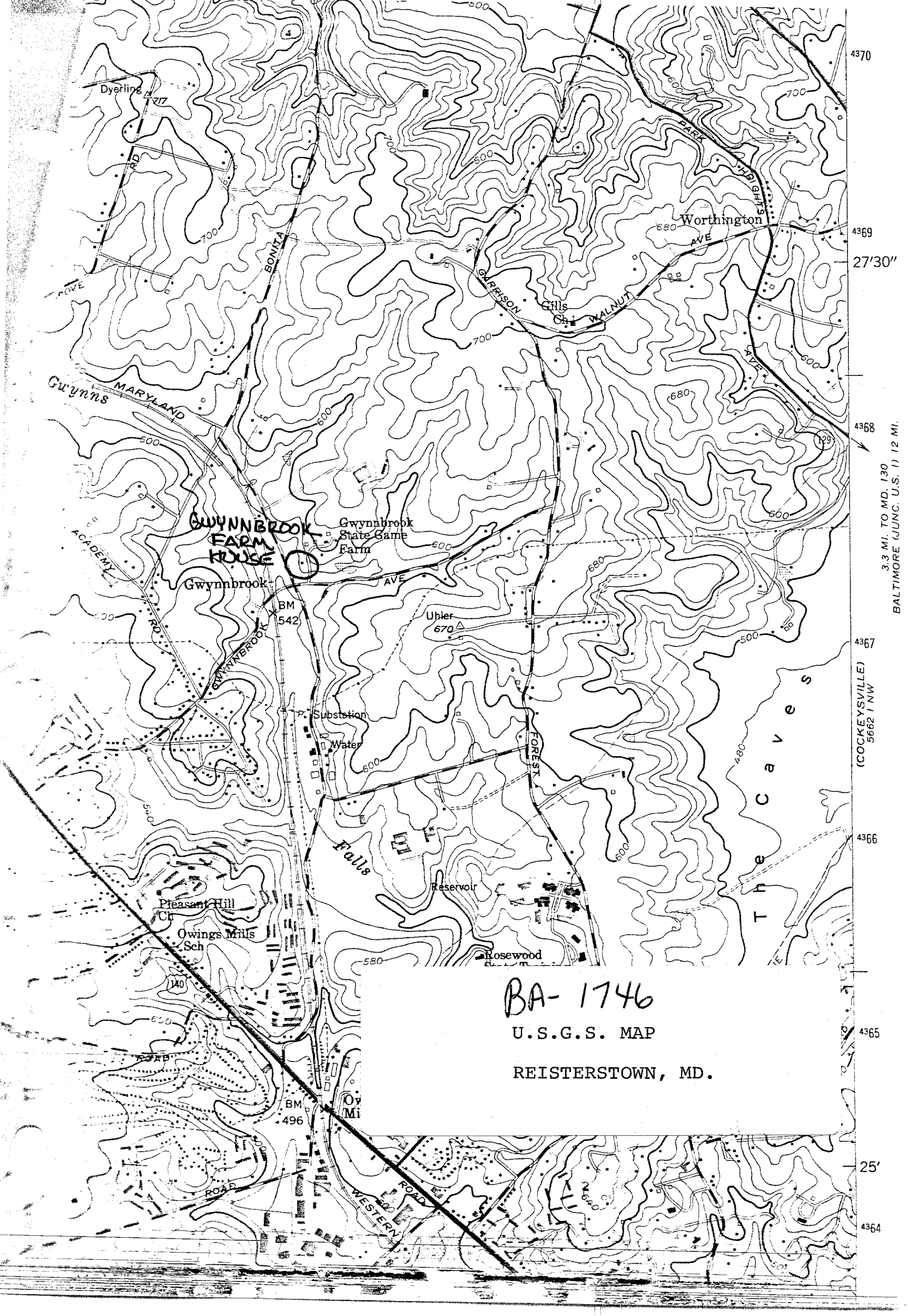
CITY OR TOWN STATE
Annapolis, Maryland

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

PS-1108



BA- 1746

U.S.G.S. MAP

REISTERSTOWN, MD.

GWYNNBROOK HOUSE BA 1746
NORTH SIDE OF GWYNNBROOK AVE. DNR 1
REISTERSTOWN, MARYLAND

GWYNNBROOK WMA

SOUTH ELEVATION 5/79 BMD

BA 1746
PNR 1

GWYNNBROOK HOUSE
NORTH SIDE OF GWYNNBROOK AVENUE
REISTERSTOWN, MARYLAND

GWYNNBROOK WHA
EAST ELEVATION 5/79 BMD

BA-1746
DNR-1

GWYNNBROOK HOUSE
NORTH SIDE OF GWYNNBROOK AVENUE
REISTERSTOWN, MARYLAND

WINDOW DETAIL

BMD; 5/79

BA-1746
DNR-1

GWYNNBROOK HOUSE
NORTH SIDE OF GWYNNBROOK AVENUE
REISTERSTOWN,MARYLAND

EXTERIOR DOOR(MAIN WING) BMD;5/79

BA-1746
DNR-1

Gwynnbrook House
North side of Gwynnbrook Avenue
Reisterstown,Maryland

Molding Detail

BMD;5/79

BA-1746
DNR-1

GWYNNBROOK HOUSE
NORTH SIDE OF GWYNNBROOK AVENUE
REISTERSTOWN,MARYLAND

PARLOR MANTEL,CUPBOARD

BMD 5/79

BA-1746
DNR-1

GWYNNBROOK HOUSE
NORTH SIDE OF GWYNNBROOK AVENUE
REISTERSTOWN,MARYLAND

EXTERIOR DOOR(ADDITION)

BMD 5/79