CE-954 Biggs-Ernest House C. 1850

Joseph Biggs appears to have resided here in 1877 after having come from New Castle County, De. in 1856. He also owned an earlier brick house across Route 282 but the word "Residence" designated this house. The traditional 2½ story five bay center hall frame house is enlivened by a second floor "Palladian" window which seems to be a mid 19th Century imitation of the "Palladian" window across the road in Frisby's Prime Choice.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CE-954

MAGI #0809545535

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

File 1-110

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON: Biggs-Ernest House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Maryland Route 282 ¼ mile east of Earleville

CITY, TOWN: Earleville — x VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Cecil

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	X AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X 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: Douglas E. Ernest — Telephone #: 275-2242

STREET & NUMBER: Maryland Route 282

CITY, TOWN: Cecilton — x VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 21913

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clerk of the Circuit Court

Liber #: WAS 11

Folio #: 109

STREET & NUMBER: Cecil County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN: Elkton

STATE: Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CE-954

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
GOOD	RUINS	X ALTERED	MOVED DATE_____
FAIR	UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Biggs-Ernest House c. 1850 is a 2½ story 5 bay single pile center hall frame house on Md. Route 282 southeast of Earleville. The house faces northeast with the main gable running on a northwest/southwest axis.

The house rests on a fieldstone foundation and is totally covered with aluminum over weatherboard. There is a medium pitch to the composition tile roof. A 20th century frame addition extends to the south.

The main facade has symmetrical fenestration with a central double door with molded arch panels. The surrounds have been replaced with modern stock "brick"molding. The 4/4 sash are flanked by new louvered wooden shutters. The entrance has three light sidelights and a 4 light transom. Located over the entrance on the second floor is a 4/4 sash with 2/2 sash sidelights and arched lunette overhead with radiating muttins. The boxed cornice is covered with aluminum. Three 6/6 sash dormers light the attic and have plain pilasters that support an arched pediment.

Interior end brick stacks rise out of each gable end and are flanked by first and second floor lights on the east and end.

The interior has retained some of its mid 19th century woodwork. A heavily turned newel supports a continuous oval handrail with turned balusters. The door surrounds are widely molded and frame 4 panel door. A slate mantel with an incised spandral decoration, central keystone and curved and molded shelf is found in the west parlor. The fireplace opening is arched.

Located in the recent addition is an 18th century Federal mantel with an elaborate molded cornice, mantel shelf, and intricate gouge work. The mantel supposedly came from a house in Middletown, Delaware.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CE-954

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	X AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Biggs-Ernest House is immediately recongizable as a mid 19th century structure although it has been covered with aluminum and the earlier rear wing removed. The more elaborate central window seems to be an imitation of the palladian window across the road in Frisby's Prime Choice. The interior woodwork described is typical of the period. The 1877 map lists a Joseph Biggs owning the house along with 360 acres. His name is also on the brick house across the road but the "wood" residence is associated with this house. The patron list also mentions that Joseph Biggs came from New Castle County, Delaware around 1856.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CE-954

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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
Paul B. Touart Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION
Cecil County Committee

DATE
10/16/79

STREET & NUMBER
Cecil County Courthouse

TELEPHONE
398-7568

CITY OR TOWN
Elkton

STATE
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

EARLEVILLE MD.
QUAD.
Camp
Red Mill
Pond
Mill
SCOTCHMAN
ROAD
St Pauls
Ch
Cem
St Stephens
Ch
S A S S A F R A S N E C K
Earleville
BM
CE-954
Cecilton
APPROX BDY
Dowdel
Cr
Creek
Gravel
Pit

CE-954

V

(19) NORTHEAST ELEVATION
(PHOTOGRAPH REVERSED)
IN DEVELOPMENT

NR
EARLEVILLE, MD.
6/79 PBT

DEV. BY
Elizabeth E. Booth