

HA-815
SENECA MANSION
Havre de Grace, Md.

c. 1885

The Seneca Mansion, is one of several grand Victorian houses in Havre de Grace. It is unusual for its proliferation of copper covered turrets, bay windows, dormers and porches. It is similar in size and style to the Spenser Silver Mansion (HA-549) a granite house combining similar Chateausque and Queen Anne features. The Seneca Mansion is believed to have been built for Stephen J. Seneca after 1869 and extensively remodeled in c. 1901, at which time the turrets, dormers and copper covering were added. The north elevation differs from the others in that it retains features common to a vernacular Queen Anne house including multi-paned windows with stained glass transoms and is without copper features except for the edging on the main roof.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Seneca Mansion

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
200 N. Union Ave.

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
John N. Wolbert

Telephone #: 939-3039

STREET & NUMBER
200 N. Union Ave.

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Havre de Grace, ___ VICINITY OF

Maryland 21078

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: 265

Folio #: 189

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Seneca Mansion is located at 200 N. Union Avenue, on the corner of Pennington Ave., facing east. It is a two and a half story, four bay turreted, frame mansion which combines the Queen Anne style with later Chateausque additions on the street elevations. Aluminum siding covers the rounded edge weatherboards with which the building was originally sided. Presently the house is painted white with green trim and the porch and many of the windows on the south elevation have white and green metal awnings. A random rubble foundation is visible on the north elevation. Many of the rooms in the mansion are used for Dr's offices. The structure has a two story wing on the southwest and several additions on the rear.

Extending across the front and around the south elevation is a one story, eight bay veranda with a flat roof broken by a gable on the front. The off center entrance is crowned by a pediment with a raised wreath in the center, painted green. Flanking the entrance are Tuscan columns arranged in groups of four and placed on light colored brick piers with sandstone coping. In front of the entrance piers are smaller, shorter piers of similar design which serve as plant pedestals. On the south elevation the porch has a wooden balustrade topped by Tuscan columns whereas, at the front a low brick wall, having a recessed panel bordered with a greek key and egg and dart terra cotta molding in the center replaces the wooden balustrade. The porch is enclosed on the north end to provide another entrance for a Dr's office. A metal canopy leads from the porch entrance to the street. There are two porches on the south elevation; one in the roof of the main block and the other on the second story of the wing. The porch in the roof is one bay with a hipped roof sheltering a door with multi-light windows on either side and a wooden balustrade. The wing porch is recessed and two bays wide with an aluminum awning under a flat roof. A one bay porch with a wide opening and a wooden balustrade is found in the jerkin headed gable on the south elevation. The gable is faced with vertical boards and brackets flank the windows within it. A modern entrance porch shelters the door on the rear kitchen addition.

Most of the windows have 1/1 light, double hung sash. On the front the windows are assymetrically arranged. The southeast turret has curved sash containing one light on the third floor and oval sash with one light in the conical roof. In addition the roof dormer on the front has one light, stationary sash, as does the third floor of the northeast turret. In the second floor of the northeast turret the windows are divided into many small panes while in the north elevation the upper sashes only are borded with small squares. The windows on the first floor, north elevation are the same as those on the second floor with the additional of art leaded stained glass transoms, and louvered shutters. All of the fenestration above the

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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. 1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Seneca Mansion is one of several grand victorian houses in Havre de Grace. It is unusual for its proliferation of copper covered turrets, bay windows, dormers and porches. Architecturally the house is similar in size and style to the Spenser Silver Mansion (HA-549) a granite house combining similar Chateausque and Queen Anne features. The two houses share an additional similarity; both were built on corner lots, facing Union Ave. The Secena Mansion is believed to have been built for Stephen J. Seneca after 1869 and extensively remodeled in c. 1901, at which time the turrets; dormer and the copper covering them were added. The north elevation differs from the others in that it retains features common to a vernacular Queen Anne house including multipaned windows with stained glass transoms and is without copper features except for the edging on the main roof.

Stephen J. Seneca was a wealthy tin can manufacturer and fruit packer. His factory located at the foot of Pennington Ave. was an extensive complex including the American Cyanamid Building (HA-814). Seneca, who was Mayor of Havre de Grace 1893-1894 had a considerable influence on the architecture of Havre de Grace in the late 19th and early 20th century. He donated the granite Methodist Church 1901 (HA-1125) for which he probably chose the architect and remodeled the old church into apartments (HA-110). S.J. Seneca was also an officer in the First National Bank when they built their new offices, (HA-113) which is also constructed of granite and appears to have been designed by an architect.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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	Marion Morton Historic Sites Surveyor	
ORGANIZATION	Maryland Historical Trust	DATE 3/12/77
STREET & NUMBER	21 State Circle	TELEPHONE
CITY OR TOWN	Annapolis	STATE Md.

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

roof line on the front of the house is decorated with rolled copper. Both the turrets display recessed copper panels with raised wreath designs in the center and the front dormer, having a wreath centered in the middle of the pediment and pilasters between the windows is also sheathed in copper.

The main entrance is located in the second bay of the facade. It has an elaborately carved door with a wreath in the lower panel and one light in the upper. Above the door is a three light transom with one light on either side of it. The original floral decorated brass hardware, including the doorbell mount, is still present. The south window in the north bay window has recently been made into a door to provide access for a Dr's office.

The main block has a high slate roof with a broad base containing a balcony on the south slope, a turret with a tall conical roof in the southeast corner, a dormer on the east slope, another turret with a shorter hexagonal roof on the northeast corner, another balcony on the north slope and a skylight in the west slope. Each of the roofs has a slate roof edged with copper and a decorative cast iron finial on top. On the northeast corner and north elevation the roof is bracketed. The wing and the addition have flat roofs while on the north end of the rear a narrow two story section with a gable remains.

INTERIOR:

Although a complete description of the interior of the building is not possible because many of the rooms on the first and second floors are used for office space, the building is reported to have twenty-two rooms. The house has a center hall plan with an oak paneled dining room at the end of it. The ceiling in the dining room is plaster overlaid with wooden beams dividing it into squares and rectangles. The floor here is parquet as it is in most of the house. The front and back stairs are similar, having mahogany newel posts with turned cherry balusters. Two of the bedrooms on the second floor have stained glass transoms above the doors and carved hardwood mantels faced with illustrated glazed tiles. The ceiling in the front bedroom is canvas decorated with a plaster relief design. An upstairs sitting room is located on the southeast side. The north wall of the room, paneled in oak, has a fireplace with a mirrored overmantel which is flanked by built in closets and drawers.

OUTBUILDINGS:

West of the house on the corner of Freedom Alley is a large board and batten carriage house with a clipped gable on the south elevation and a jigsaw barge. The louvered vent on top of the gable roof repeats the clipped gable and jigsaw barge motif of the structure. The building, known as 201 Pennington Ave., is used for rental housing. Between the main house and the carriage house are two or three small cottages which are also rented out.

LANDS RECORDS SENECA MANSION

GCB 265 189 April 4, 1941

Grantor: Home Owners Loan Corporation
 Grantee: Dr. Frank Wolbert

GCB 263 417 December 31, 1940

Grantor: J. Glasgow Archer, Assignee for Annie Seneca Sharp and
 Clifford C. Sharp
 Grantee: Home Owners Loan Corporation

DGW 181 151 December 30, 1922

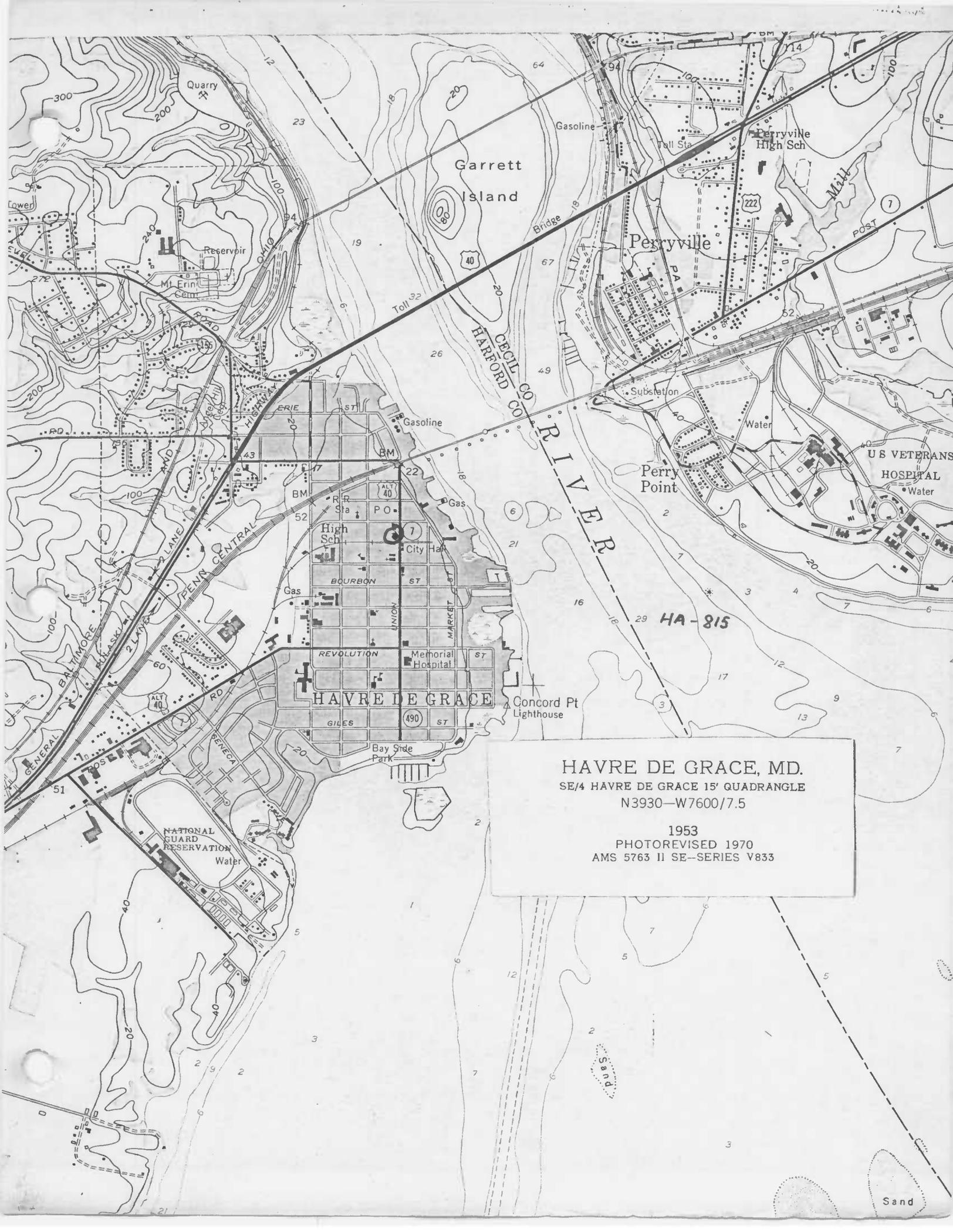
Grantor: Annie E. Seneca
 Grantee: Annie Seneca Sharp

WHD 19 327 November 18, 1867

Grantor: Stephen G. Seneca
 Grantee: Annie E. Seneca
 \$600.00 no lot description

WG 13 219 August 8, 1862

Grantors: William R. Blackwell, Joseph G. R. Blackwell and Charles
 Burr, executors of Samuel Blackwell, deceased
 Grantee: Stephen Seneca
 \$300.00 lot 124 in square 233



HAVRE DE GRACE, MD.

SE/4 HAVRE DE GRACE 15' QUADRANGLE

N3930—W7600/7.5

1953

PHOTOREVISED 1970

AMS 5763 II SE—SERIES V833



6

SENECA MANSION
200 N. UNION AVENUE
HAVRE DE GRACE
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

HA - 815

MARION MORTON

JAN. 77