

Start Here

Scan One Time Only

And

Copy for Multiple Numbers

HA-854

AND

HA-855

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House
other names/site number Methodist Parsonage HA-854

2. Location

street & number 3604 Philadelphia Road N/A not for publication
city, town Abingdon N/A vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Harford code 025 zip code 21009

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature] STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 12/21/90

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

HA-854

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingDOMESTIC/single dwellingDOMESTIC/secondary structureDOMESTIC/secondary structure**7. Description**Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

FEDERALfoundation STONEwalls WOODroof SLATEother WOOD, BRICK

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House faces south towards Old Post Road (Maryland Route 7; anciently Paca Street) in the unincorporated village of Abingdon in southern Harford County, Maryland. The two-part frame house has a c.1785 five-bay, two-story front section and a three-bay, one-room rear service wing; the wing was originally 1-1/2 stories tall but was raised to two in the late 19th century. The principal entrance forms the center bay of the front section and is centered between two six-over-nine sash windows; five regularly placed windows light the second story; all windows appear to have their original framing, shutter dogs, and glass. Exterior walls in both sections are covered with their original random-width beaded weatherboards except the added second story of the rear wing which is sheathed in its original German siding. A six-post porch spans the front of the house; it is signed JB, is thought to be the work of Harford County mastercraftsman Jacob Bull, and is among the oldest documented porches in the County. Inside, the main section has a center stairhall plan with one room to each side. All rooms have architrave trim, and simple chairrail and baseboards; side rooms have original mantels; the dining room is flanked by an original cupboard with panelled doors; stairs have scrolled step ends. All this trim is typical of the local restrained Federal style and is original and in place. Flooring is new but was placed over and without removing the original. The rear wing has one room per floor with a pantry/storeroom and a simple back stair. Just west of the house is a 10' by 10' brick springhouse/dairy. Laid in common bond, the structure has a hip roof and the date 1802 carved in the slate doorsill.

8. Statement of Significance

HA-854

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
c.1785-1888

Significant Dates
c.1785
c.1888

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bull, Jacob, builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House is architecturally significant as an intact example of a Federal period I house, and as the oldest documented frame dwelling in Harford County. This house form would have once housed a significant number of middle-class Marylanders throughout the state but, in part at least because it is seemingly unexceptional, few examples remain in Harford County in such unaltered condition with floor plan, plaster walls, mantel and other woodwork still in place. Additional architectural significance comes from the front porch, built c.1888, which is one of the few documented examples of the work of Harford County master builder Jacob Bull.

See continuation sheet 8.1

For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

See continuation sheet 9.1

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

acreage of property 2.45 acres
 USGS Quad: Edgewood, Maryland

UTM References

A

1	8
---	---

3	8	9	9	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	6	8	8	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property consists of Parcel 333, on State Tax Assessment Map No. 62 for Harford County.

See continuation sheet 10.1

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the town lot upon which the resource stands.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher Weeks, Preservation Planner
 organization Department of Planning and Zoning date August 1, 1990
 street & number 220 S. Main Street telephone (301)838-6000 x103
 city or town Bel Air state Maryland zip code 21014

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetNelson-Reardon-Kennard House
Harford County
Maryland

HA-854

Section number 7 Page 1GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House faces south towards Old Post Road (Maryland Route 7; anciently Paca Street) in the unincorporated village of Abingdon in southern Harford County, Maryland. The house sits on the southwestern half of Lot #3 of the original plat of Abingdon as laid out by John Paca in 1779. The lot is dotted with plantings of mature trees and shrubs all placed in an informal manner fully in keeping with the restrained character of the house.

Built c.1785, the frame house has a five-bay, two-story I-house front section. There is a three-bay service wing to the rear (north); built contemporaneously with the front section, the rear wing was originally 1-1/2 stories; it was raised to two in the late 19th century. The principal entrance forms the center bay of the front section. The panelled door appears to be original as does its hardware. It is placed between two six-over-nine sash windows; five regularly placed six-over-six windows light the second floor; all windows appear to have their original simple framing and are flanked by louvered shutters held in place by original shutter dogs.

A six-post, shed-roofed porch spans the front of the house. The porch is supported by deeply chamfered wooden posts and has squared baluster railings and simple scroll trim. One board is incised JB, a signature widely believed to be that of Jacob Bull, Harford County's mid and late 19th century "Master-Builder;"¹ it appears to be unchanged and is one of the oldest documented porches in the County, according to restoration architect James Wollon, AIA.²

Exterior walls in both sections are sheathed in original random-width beaded weatherboards except for the second story of the rear wing which is covered in German siding; the German siding dates to the late 19th century, when the house was used as a Methodist parsonage and the service wing was raised from 1-1/2

¹Marilynn M. Larew, Bel Air: The Town Through its Buildings. (Bel Air: privately printed, 1981, p.68.

²Conversation between James Wollon and Christopher Weeks, July 1990.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House
Harford County
Maryland

HA-854

Section number 7 Page 2

stories to 2; the porch was probably added at about the same time.

Inside, the main section has a center stairhall plan with one room to each side. All major rooms on both floors have architrave cornices and door surrounds and simple chairrails and baseboards; many have original six-panel doors; all trim is original. The stair, placed against the west wall, has scrolled step ends. This trim is apparently original as are the simple rail and square balusters.

Each of the two side rooms has a projecting chimney breast on the outside wall; the fireplaces are centered in the wall and each has a simple mantel consisting of plain shelf, molded cornice, panelled center and end blocks, and pilasters. That in the parlor is somewhat more elaborate. Both fireplaces have chimneys with corbelled caps which are good examples of 19th-century masonry and are probably contemporaneous with the porch and with the service wing enlargement. The dining room (west room) has built in double-level cupboards filling the space south of the fireplace (see plan); presumably original, they have two panel doors in their upper level and one-panel doors below.

Floors throughout the house are modern but are placed directly over the original planks, which are still in place and which the present owners plan to expose and restore.

Upstairs, there are two rooms to the west, one to the east, and a modern bathroom to the south. All rooms have simple chairrails and beaded vertical board doors. The two west rooms have small blocked-in fireplaces but it is likely that in the original configuration the two rooms were one. The large west bedroom retains its original mantel and other trim.

The rear service wing has one, modern, large room per floor. The ground floor has a pantry/storeroom and a back stair which may be original to the house (see significance). A modern one-story, shed-roofed screened in porch shades the western wall of the service wing. All rooms upstairs and down have plain plastered walls which appear to be original as does the lathing beneath.

Placed about 15 feet west of the rear wing is a common bond brick springhouse/dairy. It has a hip roof, slit-like louvered windows on the east and west sides, and a slate doorsill with the date 1802 inscribed on it.

See Continuation Sheet 7.3

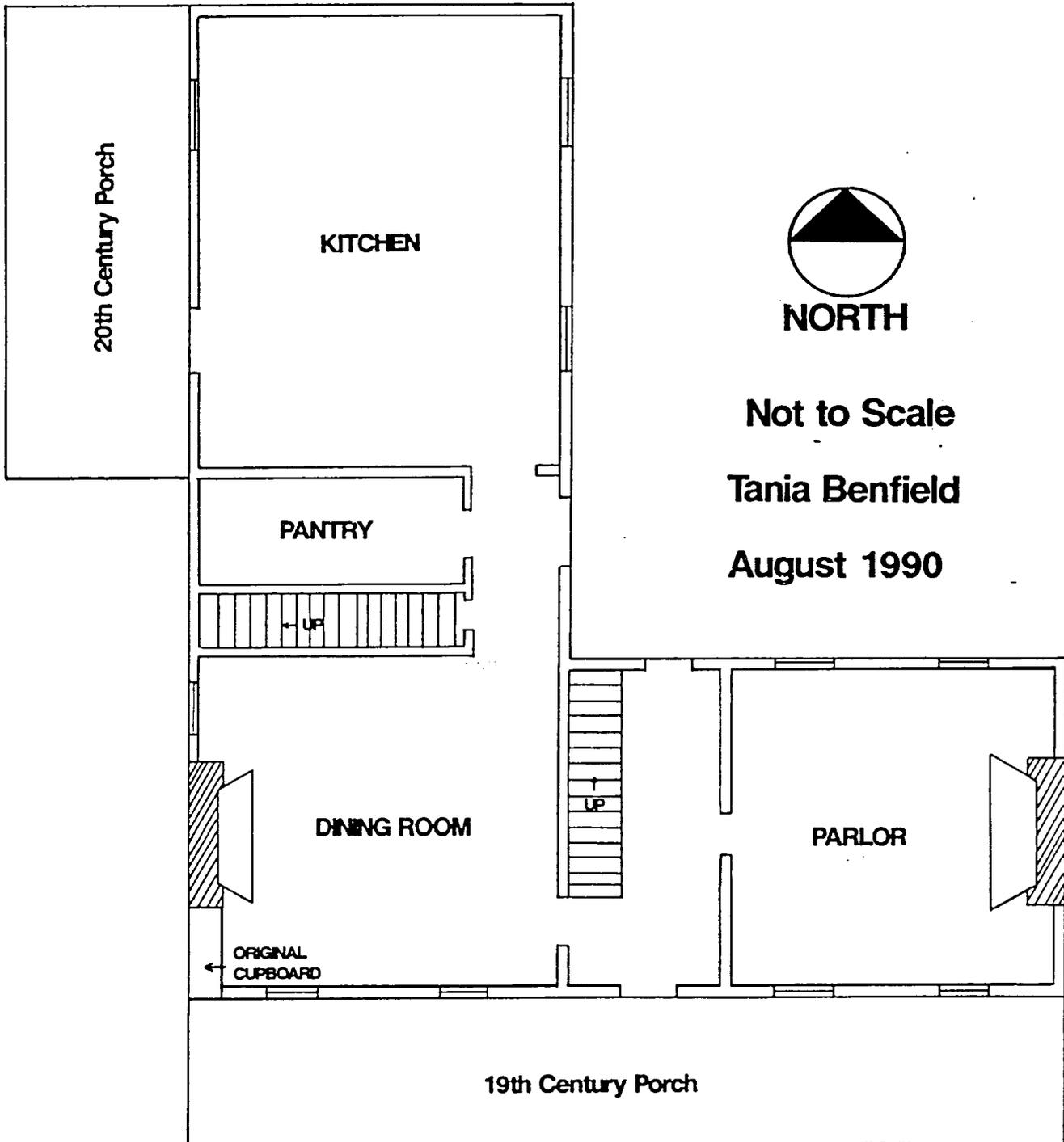
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House
Harford County
Maryland

HA-854

Section number 7 Page 3



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House
Harford County
Maryland

HA-854

Section number 8 Page 1

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Rural Agrarian Intensification - A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition - A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance - A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Religion

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) or Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Known Design Source: None

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetNelson-Reardon-Kennard House
Harford County
Maryland

HA-854

Section number 8 Page 2

NOTE: Numbers given in this section which have an HA prefix refer to Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

The town of Abingdon was laid out by John Paca in 1779. Its reason for being was the Old Post Road (Maryland Route 7) laid out as the major 18th-century colonial road to connect Philadelphia with Alexandria but which closely follows, at least in Harford County, a post road laid out as early as 1687. The Pacas had been large landowners in the area since the early 18th century and William Paca, one of John's sons, was a future Governor and Signer of the Declaration of Independence. Paca's plat for Abingdon, recorded in the courthouse in Bel Air, contains 66 lots laid out around seven streets; Prospect and Washington streets ran north-south while High, Market, Harford, Johnson, and Paca (most important of all as the Post Road) streets ran east-west. Paca and Washington streets were to be 66 feet wide; the others 33 feet.

Artisans, educators, and all the other professions associated with villages quickly appeared in Abingdon. The town was Harford's center of silversmithing: Joseph Toy, Isaac Nicholas Toy, and William Wilson were all Abingdonians and examples of their work may be seen in the American Wing of the Baltimore Museum of Art. (It was in fact with the lot sold to "Joseph Toy, Silversmith" that Paca recorded the official town plat in December 1780, see deed book JLG d page 39.) William Dorney operated a gunsmith shop in Abingdon "said to be unsurpassed anywhere in the colonies."³ In addition, there were three cabinetmakers, a pottery, and a funeral parlor (the latter established in 1808); Abingdon was also the home of The Abingdon Patriot, established in 1805 as the first newspaper in Harford County. So thriving was Abingdon that the compilers of the first (1790) census used it to mark "the center of the United States" insofar as an equal number of people lived north and south of town. In sum, the second (1799) edition of Joseph Scott's U.S. Gazetteer observed that Abingdon contained "51 dwellings and 240 inhabitants of which 66 are black. It is situated on a lofty Eminence...[and]has 8 stores filled with West India produce and the various manufacturers of Europe, a tanyard, and several shops in which all the useful and mechanical arts are carried on...Here are

³Harford County Directory, 1953, p.337.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetNelson-Reardon-Kennard House
Harford County
Maryland

HA-854

Section number 8 Page 3

two schoolhouses and a Methodist Episcopal Church.⁴

That last mention refers to what was undoubtedly Abingdon's greatest institution, namely the Methodist Episcopal Church and the various activities associated with it, particularly the founding of Cokesbury College. John Wesley appointed an Englishman, the Reverend Thomas Coke, to be Superintendent of Methodism in America. Coke came to the United States around 1780 to meet with Francis Asbury and the two chartered the course of that faith. The two men quickly agreed on the need for a college, to be modeled after Wesley's famous Kingswood School in England and "the Christmas Conference of Methodism in America authorized the organization of Cokesbury College in 1780."⁵ At a church conference in 1783, Coke and Asbury decided that the college should be located in Harford County, a geographic midway point in the country, and that it should be called Cokesbury after their combined names. Abingdon was newly-founded, its future seemed promising, so they settled on this for the new institution, Coke himself writing, "the place delights me more and more..."⁶

The church purchased ground from John Paca on July 3, 1784, and after fund-raising, the cornerstone was laid on June 5, 1785, Bishop Asbury giving a keynote speech. The resulting building was brick, quite large (108 feet by 40 feet and three stories tall) and built in a provincial Georgian manner with five bays in a projecting pedimented center section and four bays to each side all crowned by a curious steeple. One contemporary described the college as being in "dimensions and style of architecture fully equal if not superior, to anything of the kind in the country." John Wesley outlined the curriculum in a 1788 letter and it was to be traditional: "I pray you not to adopt any of the modern innovations; Do not throw away the accents in Greek or the vowels in Hebrew."⁷

⁴Quoted in "Harford Historical Bulletin," No. 44, Spring 1990.

⁵"Bulletin."

⁶C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage, (Bel Air: privately printed, 1967), p.236.

⁷"Bulletin."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetNelson-Reardon-Kennard House
Harford County
Maryland

HA-854

Section number 8 Page 4

Despite these grand beginnings, Cokesbury College didn't have a very long career. As early as 1788 its president was fired for being inefficient in teaching Latin; debt continued to mount, totalling \$6,000 by 1794; finally in December 1795 the building burned, the result of suspected arson. There was no attempt to rebuild. As Bishop Asbury wrote in his Journal on January 5, 1796, "Cokesbury College is consumed to ashes...Its enemies may rejoice, and its friends need not mourn. Would any man give me 10,000 pounds per year to do and suffer again what I have done for that house, I would not do it. The Lord called not...the Methodists to build colleges."⁸ The college bell, however, was saved; it remained in Abingdon until 1888 when President John F. Goucher moved it to his new Woman's College of Baltimore (now Goucher College).

But that was not to be the end of education in town for the Abingdon Academy opened in 1828; this was succeeded by the public school system in 1850.

Abingdon would gain some further fame in the 1820s as the site of Charles Sewell's silk hat factory, one of a few such establishments in America. Begun in 1821 on the northwest corner of Paca and Washington Streets, Sewell's factory flourished with customers recorded, thanks to the nearby dock at Otter Point in the Bush River, from as far away as the West Indies. The factory's best year was its first, 1821, when 1689 hats were manufactured; demand slacked off quickly until by 1824 only 40 hats were produced every other month. The factory closed late that year. (Sewell went on to serve in the state legislature from 1823, the U.S. Congress in 1832, and as President of the Board of Trustees of the Abingdon Academy from 1829 until his death in 1848.)⁹

All of Abingdon, in fact, generally suffered a lengthy decline during the 19th century; an account published by the county's Historical Society wryly noted that Scott's 1799 account of the town "reads like a dream when we think of the Abingdon of the present day [c.1980]." This decline is certainly borne out in the various state Directories and Gazetteers that were so popular a century ago. If an observer was able to gaze at the town

⁸"Bulletin."

⁹"Bulletin."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetNelson-Reardon-Kennard House
Harford County
Maryland

HA-854

Section number 8 Page 5

rhapsodically in 1799, noting the "lofty eminence," the "stores filled with West India produce," and the shops "in which all the useful and mechanical arts are carried on," by 1851 R.S. Fisher, in his Gazetteer of the State of Maryland could only note of Abingdon that it was in "Harford Co. Situate on the w. side of the Bush r., 6 m. s. of Bel-Air, and 52 N.N.E. of Annapolis." That was all Fisher had to say about the town; but if Abingdon was thus summarily dismissed, other Harford County villages of similar size were able to draw complimentary adjectives and adverbs: note Darlington whose "vicinity is a very cultivated district" or Bel Air, "a pleasant village...[in] a fine agricultural district" or villages which today seem more states of mind than actual places such as Sandy Hook, "the vicinity has excellent farm lands and is being improved rapidly...there is an abundance of fine stone, of which the houses are mostly built" or Pylesville, located "in the midst of a flourishing neighborhood, where, besides agricultural pursuits, many of the mechanic arts are successfully engaged in."¹⁰

Driving through Abingdon today, one sees very little to remind one of the village's boom years, from its founding in 1779 until c.1830. In fact, the only standing structure which is visibly intact (one or two others may be beneath remodelings and layers of vinyl and asbestos) is the Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House. On May 9, 1785, Aquila Paca sold Lot #3 in Abingdon, amounting to one acre, to John Reardon for "5 shillings sterling."¹¹

Reardon presumably built the extant frame house shortly after purchasing the lot since, when property owners were assessed for the Federal Direct Tax in 1798, it was noted that Reardon's lot "in Abingdon" was improved by a "2-story wood house" worth \$180. (Unfortunately no dimensions for the house are given.) This seemingly low figure is about right for "urban" dwellings in Harford County at the time; some comparable freeholders include Peregrine Browning with his 80 perches lot in Abingdon, and his 20' by 10' wood house all valued at \$100.50; Francis Crawford (80 perches in Abingdon, a 22' by 16' wood house with a 10' by 10' wood kitchen and 2 slaves for a total of \$240); David Maulsby (80 perches in Bel Air with an 18' by 15' 2-story wood house and a 20'

¹⁰R.S. Fisher, Gazetteer of the State of Maryland, (Baltimore: James S. Watters, 1852), pp. 47, 56, 67, 90.

¹¹Harford County Deed Book JLG No. G, Page 41.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetNelson-Reardon-Kennard House
Harford County
Maryland

HA-854

Section number 8 Page 6

by 16' stable, \$215); and Jason Moore (Lot #39 in Bel Air with a brace of wooden houses--one 31-1/2' by 18', the other 30' by 27'-as well as a 15' by 18' kitchen and a 20' by 15' stable all worth \$500).

Some further evidence to support the contention that Reardon built the present house is given by his estate inventory, made when he died in April 1819. While the appraisers did not describe the house in the room-by-room manner so often used in larger establishments, it is possible to read through Reardon's possessions as listed and draw some conclusions. First cited were things which obviously stayed outside ("one pig...\$1.50," "13 dung hill fowl," "5 Ducks," and other livestock); then come what sound like kitchen goods (kettles, pots, mortar and pestle, tea canisters, "2 sugar Scoops and Sausage Stuffer" and so forth) and one might assume they began in the back wing. Then an abrupt shift to more high-style goods such as tea cups, "green edged plates," salt cellars and mustard pots, silver tumblers, a dozen silver teaspoons, "7 winsor [sic] chairs," "1 large tea board" and "3 old waiters" suggests they were in the dining room; then a shift to a formal bedroom (a "raizer [sic] case," bedsteads, bolsters, quilts, etc.) makes one today assume they had gone upstairs to the present main bedroom while another shift in the groupings of goods suggests a store room presumably over the kitchen (a churn, "5 whiskey barrels," some stone jugs, a warming pan, and "1 lot old flour barrels") and items such as "1 old carpet" and "1 bedstead" and a pair of knee buckles suggest a secondary bedroom (the latter bed worth \$2; the one cited earlier, \$26) while the concluding goods (a looking glass, corner cupboard, desk, chairs, etc.) lead to the conclusion that they ended in the parlor.

In all, the furnishings suggest a prosperous, unflashy, upper middle class lifestyle. The house itself suggests that Reardon was way above average economically since of the 80 houses included in the Bush River Lower Hundred on the 1798 tax rolls (the hundred that included Abingdon and the county seat, Bel Air) Reardon's was one of only 26 that were two stories; one was 1-1/2 stories and the vast majority--64--were one story.

Such evidence as exists suggests that Reardon's c.1786 house would have fit in perfectly with other dwellings built by Harford County's more prosperous citizens at the time. Moreover, the house also holds its own important place in the county's overall architectural history. The earliest extant houses in Harford

See Continuation Sheet 8.7

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetNelson-Reardon-Kennard House
Harford County
Maryland

HA-854

Section number 8 Page 7

County date roughly to the 1740s and include Webster's Forest (HA-442), Joshua's Meadows (HA-356), the John Norris House (HA-881), Broom's Bloom (HA-1075), and Woodview (HA-1228 which are all either already listed in the National Register or are National Register-pending. All these houses are variations on Henry Glassie's "British Cabin" form, that is, a stone dwelling with one room per floor each with an enclosed end wall fireplace and a corner winder stair. More prosperous citizens in Harford County simply built two of these cabins side by side to create a two-room plan.

A generation or so later sensibilities had shifted and the stair was moved out from its hidden corner and was placed in a stair hall; smaller houses would have one room beside the stairhall (note the Hays House, HA-225, in Bel Air; c.1788; National Register) and larger houses, such as the Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House, would have a room to each side of the stair. The larger version might be taken as representing Glassie's two-story I-house, popular throughout the Mid-Atlantic and the South at that time.¹² The form would in Harford County persist well into the 19th century and high-style Federal examples include the Col. John Streett House (HA-1517; c.1805; National Register) and Woodside (HA-693; 1823; National Register). Both these later houses differ from Reardon's house in that they are larger in scale and possess items of refinement Reardon's lacks (such as marbled woodwork), but they resemble the house in Abingdon in plan at least.

The Streett house is brick and Woodside is stone; the house Reardon built is frame and it is significant that while Harford County presumably had at least a few similar frame houses from c.1800 (the 1798 tax rolls support this conclusion) only a figurative handful remain. One of the oldest documented frame houses is, as noted, the Hays House, generally dated c.1788, making it an almost exact contemporary to Reardon's house, if a smaller scale one. The Harford County countryside is today characterized by five-bay, center hall, two-story frame farmhouses dating to the mid 19th century; it would be reasonable to view them all as descendants of Reardon's c.1785 house in Abingdon.

¹²Henry Glassie, Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968), pp. 66-71.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetNelson-Reardon-Kennard House
Harford County
Maryland

HA-854

Section number 8 Page 8

After John Reardon died, James Reardon sold the southwest half of Lot #3 to John M. Nelson in 1825 for \$125. (James's relationship to John is unknown; the Historical Society of Harford County does contain much material such as letters concerning a Dr. James Reardon, fl. 1820-1840, who lived in Magnolia, a hamlet about 3 miles from Abingdon.) But perhaps James had been renting the house to Nelson during the four years after John Reardon's death since Nelson's mortgage says it is "the lot where John M. Nelson now resides." In 1838 the lot and house were purchased at public auction by Richard F. Hollis for \$500.

In 1850 Hollis sold the property to Howard Kennard for \$800 and the latter is shown as living at this site on the very accurate 1878 Martinet map of the county. Kennard was something of an entrepreneur for he had put together nine acres around the house and also owned a 372-acre farm on the Bush River. When he died in 1888 his estate inventory valued the Abingdon property at \$1500 (for nine acres and the house) while his farm was thought to be worth \$7500. The personal property appraisal was not done in any detail, but it does indicated that Kennard's house generally had the same configuration the house does today--and that it seems to have had in Reardon's day--for it lists in the main section a Dining Room, Parlour, and Hall on one floor with "Front Chamber" and Room over Dining Room" above. The only departure would be the "Front Chamber," now divided into two small bedrooms (see Description). It is not known how the bachelor Kennard occupied his time, for his inventories personalty gives no clues; the only item out of the ordinary is "35 Hives of Bees" worth \$25. He did, however, own over \$9000 worth of Baltimore City stock, \$2470 worth of Maryland bonds, and \$11,520 worth of "U.S. Consolidated," thus suggesting that the house had maintained its upper middle class associations.

These associations would continue--and would perhaps be strengthened--over the next 40 years when the Methodist Episcopal Church reentered the scene by purchasing the house and lot (for \$120) and using it as a parsonage. The church, as noted above, was a crucial force in the history of Abingdon; that its trustees would choose this house as a parsonage suggests the esteem in which the dwelling was viewed in the 19th century for the county land records show that several other properties were changing hands in town at about the same time.

See Continuation Sheet 8.9

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetNelson-Reardon-Kennard House
Harford County
Maryland

HA-854

Section number 8 Page 9

The church kept the house basically intact but made two significant modifications: they raised the height of the kitchen wing from 1-1/2 to 2 full stories and, it is assumed, they added the present front porch. One porch board is incised JB and restoration architect James Wollon, AIA, believes that to be the signature of Jacob Bull, a man recently described as "Harford County" Bull (1848-1899) was a son of Edmund Bull, a "successful and prominent carpenter...well known throughout the state as one of its most efficient and extensive builder." Young Bull attended the Bel Air Academy for a time and, "when twenty years of age he commenced to learn the trade of a carpenter."¹³ Bull's papers, on file at the Steppingstone Museum near Bel Air, reveal that his first dated project in Bel Air came in 1872. His practice grew during the 1880s and he is documented to have worked throughout Harford County--"most of the fine buildings of Harford County have been erected under his supervision"-- and he is known to have designed whole houses as well as additions such as mantels and porches for older dwellings. Stylistically the porch at the Abingdon house is similar to others known to have come from Bull's pen and saw and certainly the carved initial would add credence to such an attribution.

Church trustees sold the house and 3-1/2 acres from \$4000 in 1929. In sum, the building was one of the first substantial houses built in Abingdon and is more or less all that is left of that once-prosperous late 18th-century village; it remained intact and in prosperous hands throughout the 19th century with the one major modification--the porch--being import in its own right as a product of the county's leading master builder; and for 40 years it was the parsonage for the Methodist Episcopal Church, the leading institution in the area.

The period of significance begins with the date of building of the house, includes construction of the front porch, and ends with 1900 by which point this house was the only evidence of the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century commercial center.

¹³Portrait and Biographical Record of Harford and Cecil Counties. (New York: Chapman Publishing Company), pp. 151-152.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House
Harford County
Maryland

HA-854

Section number 9 Page 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land, Equity and Probate records, Harford County. Courthouse, Bel Air, Maryland.

C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage. (Bel Air: privately printed, 1967).

"Harford Historical Bulletin," No. 44, Spring 1990.

Harford County Directory, 1953.

R.S. Fisher, Gazetteer of the State of Maryland. (Baltimore: James S. Watters, 1852).

Marilynn M. Larew: Bel Air: The Town Through its Buildings. (Bel Air, privately printed, 1981).

Maryland Inventory of Historic Places: Harford County. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

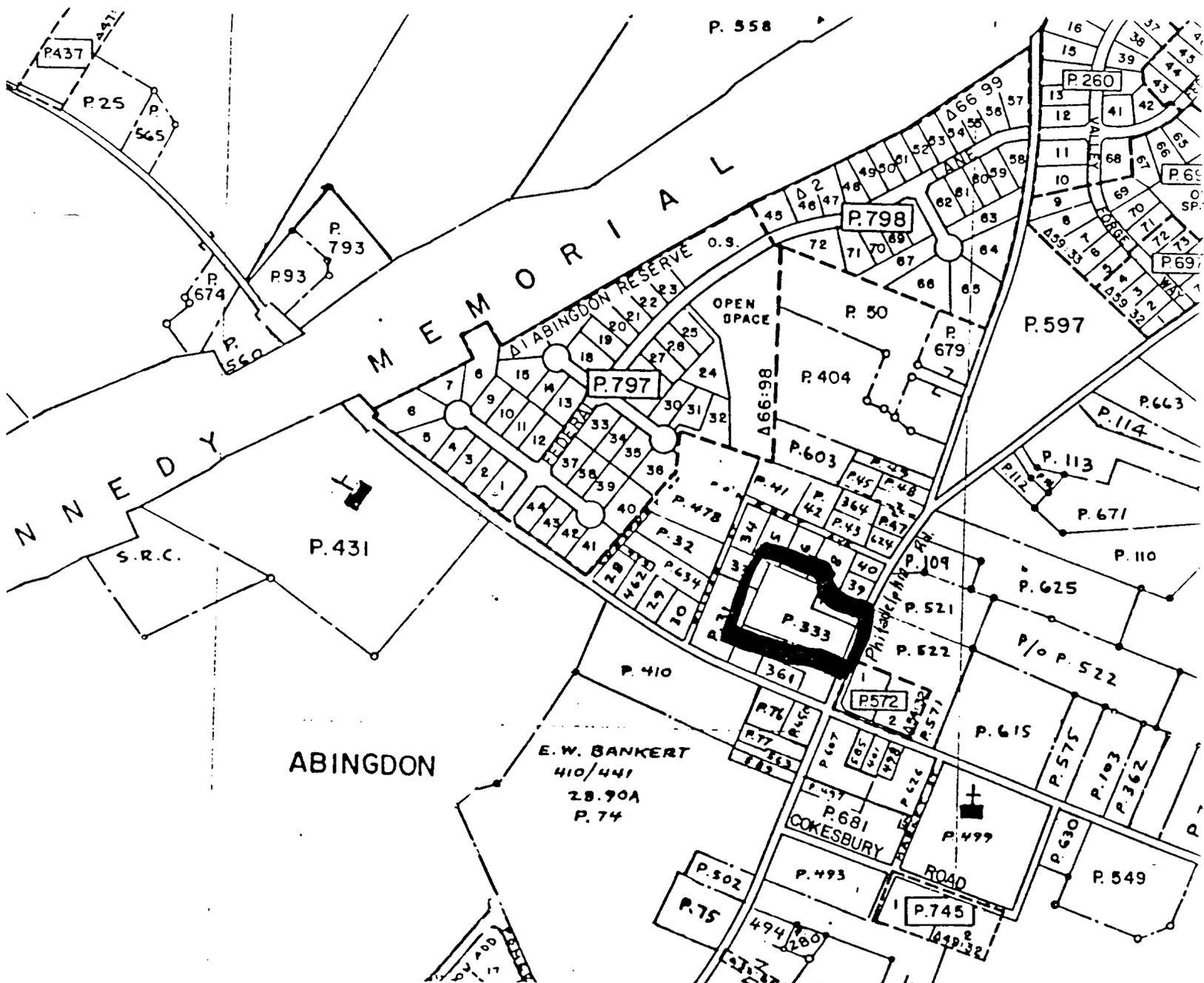
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House
Harford County
Maryland

HA-854

Section number 10 Page 10.1

The property consists of Parcel 333, on State Tax Assessment
Map No. 62 for Harford County.



EDGEWOOD QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE/4 GUNPOWDER 15' QUADRANGLE

1010 000 FEET

5763 II SW
(ABERDEEN)

17°30"

390

CHURCHVILLE 4.3 MI.
CRESWELL 0.5 MI.

391

CRESWELL 0.6 MI.

392

76°15'

39°30'



20 MI TO U.S. 40
ABERDEEN 5.6 MI.

600 000
FEET

BELCAMP 7 MI.
ABERDEEN 5.6 MI.

Nelson-Reardon-
Kennardon House

HA-854

Harford Co.
Maryland

18/389960/4368860

27°30"

4368

4367

53
130854 4104 HA 854

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Merritt house

ANO/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: North side of Old Philadelphia Road about 100 yards

CITY OR TOWN: Abingdon east of Abingdon Road

STATE: Md CODE: COUNTY: 21009 CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> No:

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: Mrs James B (Jacqueline) Merritt

STREET AND NUMBER: Old Philadelphia Road

CITY OR TOWN: Abingdon STATE: Md CODE: 21009

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

STREET AND NUMBER: HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE 40 S. MAIN ST.

CITY OR TOWN: BEL AIR STATE: MARYLAND CODE:

ACREAGE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ^{utilized} added	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Frame house finished in beaded clapboard. L shaped, it faces south, 2 stories, 5 bays by 2 with the 2 story wing running north along the west wall. The peaked A roof/ridgepole runs east-west. There is an inside chimney flush with each end wall.

Windows have 6 lights over 9 downstairs, 6 over 6 upstairs and in the wing.

There is a one-story porch along the south (front) of the house and an enclosed 1 story porch has been added to the south of the wing.

Wainscoting in two front rooms and hall, paneled doors, fine mantelpieces and graceful stairway mark this house as being of very good quality workmanship.

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
Architecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Fine old house built on the conventional center-hall plan. Well maintained. Said to have been built for the headmaster of the Wesleyan College.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

[Faint background map with a diagonal line and an arrow pointing towards the top right corner.]

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: *JEAN S. EWING*

ORGANIZATION: *1 Mayfield Historical Trust, Esq. 1704 Annapolis, Md. 21404* DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____



J. Thomas Barranger
County Executive

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

Guy W. Hager, AICP
Director

March 26, 1981

Memorandum

To: Mark Edwards, Maryland Historical Trust
From: Phillip Lord, Harford County Historic Site Survey
Re: Merritt House change of name.

Attached is a copy of the memorandum explaining the change of name of the Merritt House to The Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House.

Sent
TO M. EDWARDS

HA-854, 855

MEMORANDUM

RE: CHANGE OF NAME

MERRITT HOUSE to THE NELSON-REARDON-KENNARD HOUSE

It is recommended that the official name of the proposed Landmark be The Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House. This name is based on information produced by archival research in June, 1979 by Natalie Shivers. Her report cites land records etc. as proof that these were the principal families involved with this site during the 19th century. Current owners names are generally not used as historic names of buildings.

Wayne L. Nield II
Historic Sites Surveyor

March 9, 1981

This house is on the HARTFORD County Landmarks List - under the new "revised" name

HA-854,855

Merritt House
3604 Philadelphia Road
Abingdon, Maryland 21009

This ca. 1820 two-story, gable-roofed house, located on the old Post Road between Baltimore and Philadelphia, is an excellent example of the modest-but-substantial Federal house in Harford County. The random width beaded clapboards, 6/9 sash windows, center hall plan, and interior ornament make this house a rare survival of the once-thriving town of Abingdon.

The house was built by John Nelson or James Reardon on the southwest half of Lot #3 in Abingdon. Howard Kennard lived here from 1850 until his death in 1888, and it was then used as the parsonage for the East Harford Circuit Methodist Episcopal Church until 1929.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Merritt House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3604 Philadelphia Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Abingdon,

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland 21009

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jacqueline Merritt

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

3604 Philadelphia Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Abingdon,

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21009

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: GRG 425

Folio #: 1

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air,

STATE

Maryland 21014

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 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This Federal el-shaped frame house with a gable roof is located on Philadelphia Road (RTE. 7), just east of Abingdon Road in Harford County, Maryland. Set on a low stone foundation and built in two parts, the west end of the south or main section and the west side of the north section are flush. Both are covered in random-width beaded clapboards and have a plain boxed cornice, with corbelled brick interior chimneys in both ends of the south section. There is a one-story, shed-roofed porch across the south facade. Except for the windows in the first story of the south facade, which have 6/9 sash, the windows have 6/6 sash and narrow beaded trim. The windows on the south and west sides have louvered shutters.

The south or front section is five bays wide and one room deep. In the south facade, the entrance is in the center bay, flanked by two windows on both sides, with five windows spaced evenly across the second story. The five-bay porch is raised on brick piers and cement blocks with latticework in between, and has chamfered posts and square balusters. The porch roof ends have small scrolls.

The west end of the south section has one window in each story, north of center, and two nine-light gable windows. The east end is blank except for two gable windows.

The south side is partially covered by the north wing, but has three windows in the first and second stories. The door and window in the first and second story west bays, respectively, are on a lower elevation than the others, coinciding with the stair landing.

The north section is two bays long and one room deep, with a new, shed-roofed porch along the west side. Originally 1 1/2 stories with an end chimney, the blocked-up mid-level windows are apparent on both sides. Also the second stories of both sides as well as the west end are covered in German siding, while the first stories of the sides are covered in random width beaded clapboards, like the south section.

The west side has two windows in the second story and an entrance flanked on the north by a window in the second story. The east side is similar with the addition of a blocked-up doorway in the south bay. (The windows on this side have no shutters.)

The central hall plan, architrave trim, and six panel doors are typical Federal elements. All rooms have a charrail and baseboard and new floors.

In the hall, the staircase is against the west wall, and there is a door to the basement underneath it. In the middle of both side walls are entrances to the flanking rooms. The stairs have scrolled step ends and square balusters, and a slightly-turned newel on a square base with a square cap.

The east room has a fireplace in a projecting chimney breast in the east wall. The mantel has a U-shaped shelf, a moulded cornice, panelled center and end blocks, and pilasters flanking the new brick opening.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

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 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 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 _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The town of Abingdon was laid out by the Paca family-specifically, John Paca-in, 1779. The lot this house is on was conveyed by Aquila Paca to John Reardon in 1785.¹ The house itself may not have been constructed until after the first quarter of the 19th century. The 1814 Tax List credits John Reardon with a half acre lot in Abingdon and a two-story brick house, 28' x 18', which is obviously not the one standing here now. (He also owned several other pieces of property-1½ acres in Bel Air and 32 acres (unimproved) of "Mary's Delight".)

In 1825 James Reardon sold the southwest half of Lot #3 in Abingdon to John M. Nelson for \$125.00.² Apparently there was a house here since in Nelson's mortgage held by Joseph Cox and Sons, Hatters, the parcel is referred to as "the lot where John M. Nelson now resides."³ It was purchased at a public auction in 1838 by Richard F. Hollis for the price of \$500.⁴

In 1850, the lot was conveyed to Howard Kennard for \$800,⁵ and he is shown as the resident on both the 1858 Herrick's and the 1878 Martenet's Maps. Not much is known about Howard Kennard except that he was the son of Matthew and Mary Kennard, born in 1803 and died in 1888, unmarried, owner of several lots in Abingdon as well as a 372 acre farm on Bush River (Otter Creek, Surveyors Creek, and Swan Creek).⁶

The Parsonage Trustees of the East Harford Circuit Methodist Episcopal Church purchased Kennard's Abingdon property, which comprised nine acres, for \$1250.⁷ In 1929, they sold 3½ acres, including the lot this house is on, to Charles and Viva Andrus for \$4000.⁸

The house is an excellent example of a modest-but-substantial Federal house in Harford County. The random width beaded clapboards, 6/9 sash windows, center hall plan, and interior ornament make this house a rare survival in the area. It has hardly been altered and that alone makes it worth preserving-especially in the Route 40-I-95 corridor.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 HD 8/228
- 2 HD 8/228
- 3 HD 12/275
- 4 HD 23/17
- 5 HDG 36/63
- 6 Equity Records WSF 93/145

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 WSF 117/18
DGW 213/23

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land, Will, and Equity Records of Harford County
 1798 & 1814 Tax Lists
 1858 Herrick Map
 1878 Martenet's Map
 Our Harford Heritage, C. Milton Wright, 1967
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

Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Historic District Commission

DATE

May, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main St.

TELEPHONE

301-879-2000, Ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air,

STATE

Maryland 21014

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

The west room has a similar arrangement, except with cupboards south of the fireplace. The cupboards have double-leaf, two panel doors in the upper section, and double-leaf, single panel doors in the lower. The mantel is like the one in the east room, except with an E-shaped shelf and a plain center block.

The second floor has two rooms on the east, one on the west, and a bathroom on the south. The rooms have chairrails, and there are beaded vertical board doors. The two west bedrooms have small blocked-up fireplaces. The wood mantels have baseboards, giving rise to questions about whether these were ever actual fireplaces, or whether there was just one west room with a single fireplace at one time instead of two rooms with two fireplaces.

In the attic the rafters are overlapped and tenoned together. The basement has log beams with bark on them.

The north wing has one large room with a dog-leg staircase in the southwest corner, flanked on the north by a bathroom. In the north wall are early 20th century cupboards with beaded board doors and decorative butterfly hinges.

West of the house is a brick springhouse laid in five stretcher bond with small windows in the east and west sides. The date 1802 is carved in slate at the doorsill.

TITLE SEARCH

HA- 854-

HA- 855

Merritt House

GRG	425/1	November 13, 1954	Grantor: Edwin P. & Virginia Ruth Wrightson Grantee: James B. & Jacqueline E. Merritt
GCB	271/267	March 14, 1942	Grantor: Charles V. & Viva J. Andrus Grantee: Edwin P. & Florence B. Wrightson Acreage: 3 1/2 Acres
DGW	213/23	May 29, 1929	Grantor: Parsonage Trustees of East Harford Circuit, Methodist Episcopal Church Grantee: Charles & Viva J. Andrus Acreage: 3 1/2 Acres Sum: \$4000
WSF	117/18	October 30, 1905	Grantor: Stephenson Williams, Trustee Grantee: Parsonage Trustees of East Harford Circuit Methodist Episcopal Church (Equity Records WSF 93/145): J. Howard Watters vs. Mary T. Watters et al) Acreage: 9 Acres, including lot 3 Sum: \$1250.
HDG	36/63	April 6, 1850	Grantor: William B. & Amanda Norris Grantee: Howard Kennard Acreage: 1/2 Acre, southern 1/2 of lot #3 Sum: \$800
HDG	36/64	April 2, 1850	Grantor: William B. Bond, Trustee (Public Sale of property of Richard Hollis) Grantee: William B. Norris
HD	23/17	November 29, 1838	Grantor: George M. Gill, Trustee, James G. Cox & George M. Cox, surviving partners of the late Joseph Cox Grantee: Richard F. Hollis Acreage: 1/2 Lot #3 Sum: \$500.
HD	12/275	October 12, 1829	Grantor: John M. Nelson Grantee: Joseph, James & George Cox (Joseph Cox & Sons of the City of Balto., Watters) Acres: 1/2 Lot #3
HD	8/228	July 12, 1825	Grantor: James Reardon, Robert & Margaret Richardson Grantee: John M. Nelson Acreage: 1/2 Lot #3 Sum: \$125. Same as lot conveyed by Aquila Paca to John Reardon, May 9, 1785

INVENTORY NO. HA-854,855

ELECTION DISTRICT _____

DATE: 5/79

TAX MAP NO. _____

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

PARCEL NO. _____

NAME OF PROPERTY: Merritt House

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 3604 Philadelphia Rd., Abingdon

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: south

NAME OF OWNER: Jacqueline Merritt

ADDRESS: 3604 Philadelphia Rd., Abingdon, Md. 21009

STORIES: 1[] 2[] 3[] 4[] 5[] 6[] BAYS:

WINGS, ADDITIONS:

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten(type?)
- BRICK: Bond type- ~~common~~, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
- STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- LOG

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS _____

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1[] 2/2[] 6/6[] 9/6[] 9/9[] other[] 0/9
louvered pegged[] nailed[] wide[] narrow[]
original[] replaced[]

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: center bay south side

HARDWARE: original[] replaced[]

FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES:

boxed cornice original[] replaced[]

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, MANSARD, FLAT, DORMERS

MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original[] replaced[]

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed[] hip[] gable[]

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 3 BRICK[] STONE[] CORBELED[] original[] replaced[]

LOCATION: ends of south section

ARCHES:

COMMENTS:

EDGEWOOD QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1:63,150 SW
(ABERDEEN)

NE 1/4 GUNPOWDER 15 QUADRANGLE
1010 000 FEET

17°30'

390

91

92

76°15'

39°30'



4372

600 000
FEET

4370

43730'

4368

4367

Bynum Run

Run

Reservoir

Norris Corner

St Francis De Sales Church

HA-854-855
Abingdon

Bush

Run

Bush River

Sewell Station

OHIO
HIGHWAY

Harford Boat
Club

OTTER
CREEK

BALTIMORE
AND
ANNAPOLIS
RAILROAD

PHILADELPHIA
ROAD

Haha

Branch

ROAD

OLD

James

Run

BM
151

Bynum

ROAD

7

136

101

256

194

200

100

310

100

100

100

100

100

75

100

100

100

100

100



Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House

HA-854

Hartford Co., MD

E. Week,

Aug 1990

Hartford Co Planner, Dept.

SE facade with springhouse



Nelson - Reardon - Kennard House

Hartford Co., MD

C. Weeks

Aug. 1990

Hartford Co. Planning Dept.

SW facade



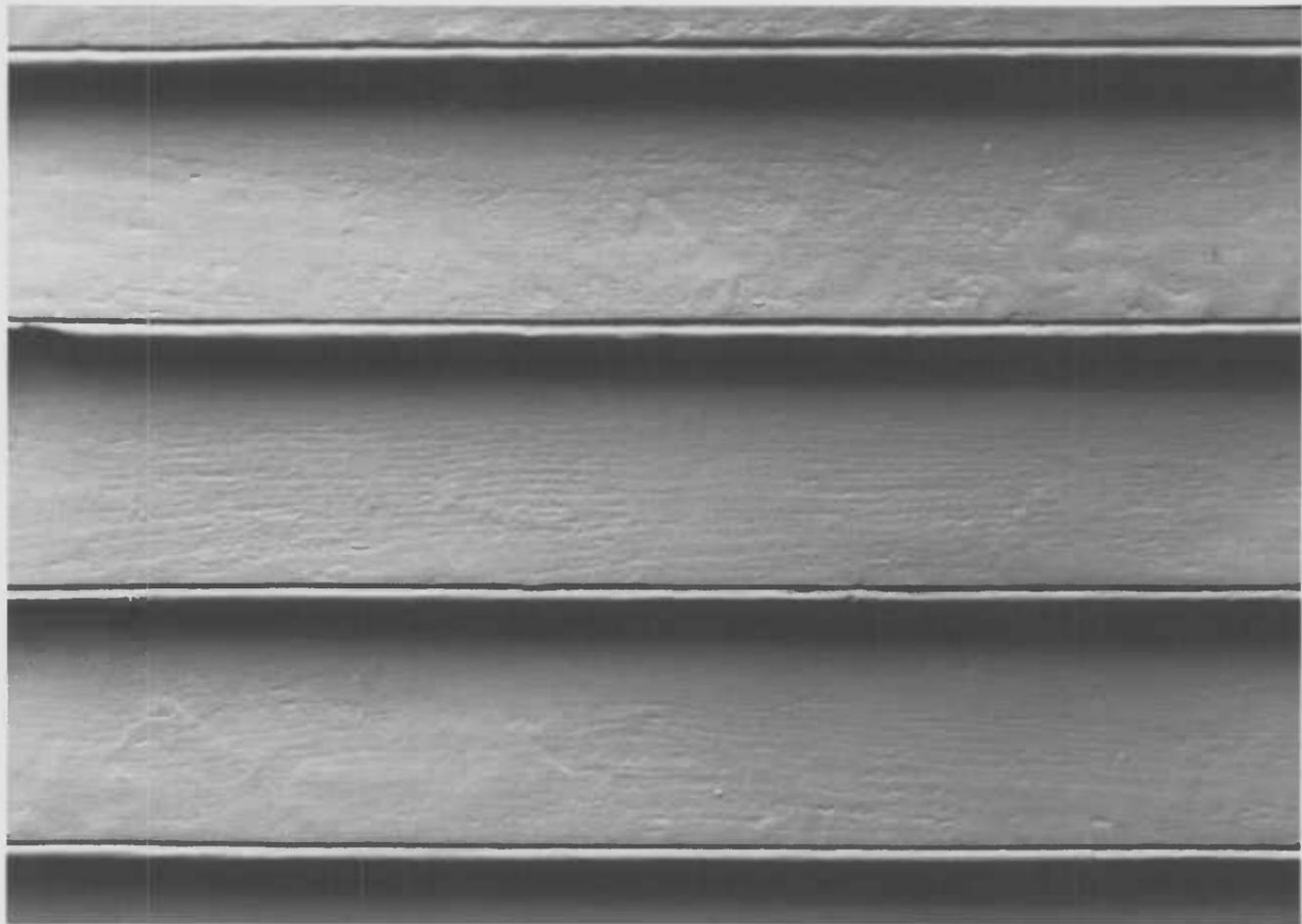
Nelson - Records - Kennard House
Hartford Co., MD

C. Weeks

Aug. 1990

Hartford Co. Planning Dept.

Rear wing (N.) detail



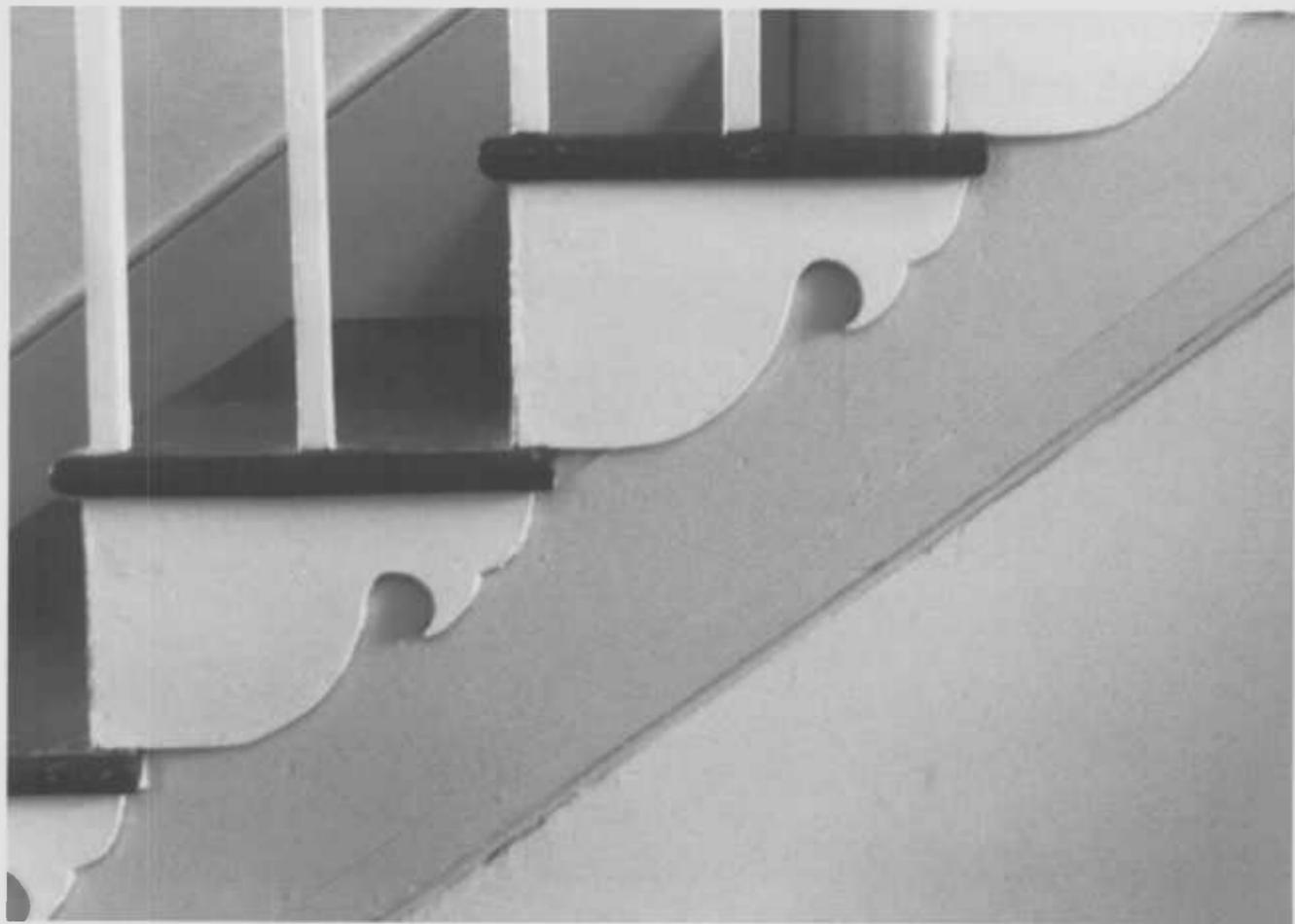
Nelson - Reardon - Kennard House
Hartford Co., MD

C. Weeks

AUG 1990

Hartford Co. Planning Dept.

Siding detail



Nelson-Rendon-Kennard House

Hartford Co., MD

C. Weeks

AUG 1990

Hartford Co. Planning Dept.

Step ends - detail



Nelson-Reardon Kennard House
Hartford Co. MD

C. Week,

Aug 1990

Hartford Co. Planning Dept.

Siding detail (and window)



Nelson - Rendon - Kennard House

Hartford Co., MD

C. work,

AUG 1990

Hartford Co. Planning Dept.

Parlor mantel



Nelson - Reardon - Konner) Hwy
Hartford Co, MD

C. Weeks

Aug. 1990

Hartford Co Planning Dept.

Entrance Detail



Merritt house HA-854, 855
Abingdon, MD 21009
Natalie Shivers
February, 1979
South side, west end



Merritt house HA-854, 855
Abingdon, MD 21009
Natalie Shivers
February, 1979
North side, east end of south
section; east side, north end
of north section

HA-855

1/14/81

FOR NEWER INFORMATION ON HA-855, MERRITT MILKHOUSE AND
PUMPHOUSE, SEE SURVEY FORM FOR HA-854, MERRITT HOUSE

1308554404 HA 855

Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968) HISTORICAL TRUST BOX 1704 ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404 MD. HISTORICAL TRUST BOX 1704

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE N. R. FIELD SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Derritt milkhouse - pump house

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: North side of Old Philadelphia Road about 100 yards

CITY OR TOWN: Abingdon east of Abingdon Road

STATE: Md COOE: COUNTY: Harford CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Travel utility</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: Mrs James B (Jacqueline) Derritt

STREET AND NUMBER: Old Philadelphia Road

CITY OR TOWN: Abingdon STATE: Md COOE: 21009

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

STREET AND NUMBER: HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE 40 S. MAIN ST.

CITY OR TOWN: BEL AIR STATE: MARYLAND COOE:

ACREAGE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: COOE:

STATE: COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Brick building about 10 x 10,
 one story, hip roof. Door faces
 the house to the east. Small
 lowered and barred windows in
 three other walls.

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> | Education <input type="checkbox"/> | Political <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry <input type="checkbox"/> | Science <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>House Lnd history</u> |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| <u>Architecture</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

This shelter was to protect the pump, ~~the~~ cover the well, and hold troughs that kept cool water circulating around crocks of milk and cream and other dairy products and perishable foods.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(This section is currently blank with a large diagonal line drawn across it.)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	COOE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **JEAN S. EWING**

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland State Department of Conservation, Box 1704, Annapolis, Md. 21404** DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ COOE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

INVENTORY NO. HA-854,855

ELECTION DISTRICT _____

DATE: 5/79

TAX MAP NO. _____

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

PARCEL NO. _____

NAME OF PROPERTY: Merritt House

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 3604 Philadelphia Rd., Abingdon

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: south

NAME OF OWNER: Jacqueline Merritt

ADDRESS: 3604 Philadelphia Rd., Abingdon, Md. 21009

STORIES: 1[] 2[] 3[] 4[] 5[] 6[] BAYS:

WINGS, ADDITIONS:

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten(type?)
- BRICK: Bond type- ~~common~~, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
- STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- LOG

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS _____

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1[] 2/2[] 6/6[] 9/6[] 9/9[] other[] 0/9
 covered [] nailed [] wide [] narrow []
 original [] replaced []

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: center bay south side

HARDWARE: original [] replaced []

FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES:

boxed cornice original [] replaced []

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, MANSARD, FLAT, DORMERS

MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original [] replaced []

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed[] hip [] gable []

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 3 BRICK[] STONE [] CORBELED [] original [] replaced []

LOCATION: ends of south section

ARCHES:

COMMENTS:

EDGEWOOD QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 GUNPOWDER 15 QUADRANGLE
1:101 000 FEET

57°53' 11" S.W.
(ABERDEEN)

17°30"

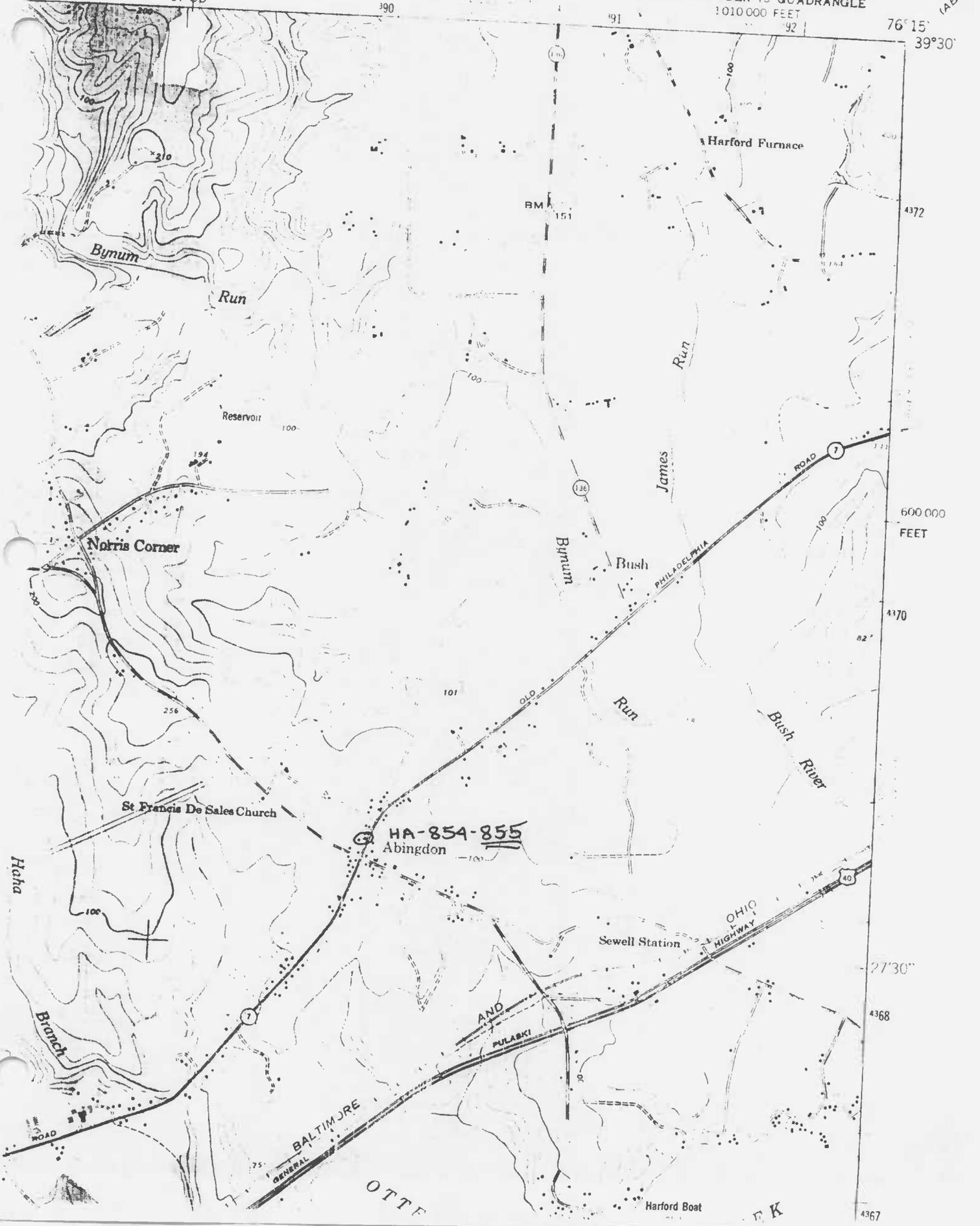
390

91

92

76° 15'

39°30'



4372

600 000
FEET

4370

27°30"

4368

4367

BALTIMORE
GENERAL

OTTE

T K



Nelson - Reardon-Kennan House

Hartford Co, MD

C-Weeks

AUG 1990

Hartford Co. Planning Dept.

Spring house

End Here

Scan One Time Only
And
Copy for Multiple Numbers

HA-854

AND

HA-855