

SUMMARY

HA-1278

Finney-Somerville House
Glenville Road
Churchville, MD 21028

Probably built between 1858 and 1878 by Dr. John M. Finney, this two-story frame house has been altered substantially on the exterior but is significant for its association with the Finney family. The son of Rev. William Finney of Churchville Presbyterian Church fame, John Miller Finney was a doctor in Churchville for 50 years. He never married, although is said to have been engaged for 40 years to a woman who was an invalid, but would not release him from his pre-nuptial responsibilities. (Some say she feigned her 40-year illness because she was afraid he had lost his heart to another woman and knew a gentleman would never leave a sick woman.)

This house is the third in a group of Finney houses on Glenville Road: Oak Farm (HA-149), built in 1821, Greenwood (HA-1279) built in 1841, and Little Greenwood (HA-1277), built in 1906. Together they witness the progression of tastes through the 19th century.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Finney-Somerville House

2 LOCATION West side of Glenville Road, north of Md. Rte. 155, nr. Churchville

STREET & NUMBER

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. Ian Somerville

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Glenville Road

Maryland 21028

CITY, TOWN

Churchville, MD

STATE, zip code

___ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

40 S. Main Street

Maryland 21014

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

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 type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 two-story, el-shaped frame house is located on the west side of Glenville Road, north of Level Road (Md. Rte. 155).

Set on a low stone foundation and covered in clapboard, the three-bay by two-bay house faces east and the three bay long ell extends to the west; the south end of the east section has a one-room addition. The east section has a hipped roof with a center front gable and wide eaves and two exterior end brick chimneys. Most windows have 6/6 sash, narrow beaded trim, and louvered shutters.

The front or east facade is spanned by a one-story, hipped-roof porch with doric columns. The entrance in the center bay is flanked by one window on each side, with three windows in the second story. The gable contains a triangular window.

The north end of the east section has 4/4 sash windows and a casement window in the western bay of the first story.

The addition on the south end with a gable roof and center front gable, echoes the treatment of the main facade with wide eaves and a triangular gable window. Set on a brick foundation, it has a bay window in the east side.

The house appears to have been T-shaped originally. A two-story, partially-enclosed porch has extended the south side of the stem of the "T" to be flush with the south end of the east section.

The north side of what is now the "ell" has windows in the three bays of both stories, with the exception of the entrance in the first story east bay. The latter has a gable-roofed portico and a glassed-in vestibule.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) LOCAL HISTORY
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is said to have been built sometime between 1858 and 1878 by Dr. John Finney, son of the Reverend William Finney. John Miller Finney (b. 1823, d. 1896) was a doctor in Churchville for 50 years, during which time, it is said, he made all his house calls on horseback.

John Finney also owned a house at the corner of Glenville and Level (Rte. 155) roads, which burned in the 1920's. He is said to have lived in the house described here with his father, who moved here after his wife died in 1865, and his sister, Susan Finney. The 19-acre parcel of land--"Old Dan's Lot" -- was deeded from William to John Finney in 1867.¹ When John Finney died in 1896, unmarried and without issue (although with a 40 year engagement to his credit) this lot was sold to Priscilla Wilson for \$1200.² She owned it until her death in 1913, when it was sold to Mary Lee, wife of James Lee for \$3100.³ By 1919, when James G. Crockett purchased the house and 19 acres, the price had jumped to \$8500.⁴ From 1924 until 1943, the property was owned by George C. Umbarger, whose family also owned "Greenwood," another Finney place, across the road.

The house is interesting for its association with the Finney family--one of Harford County's most illustrious. Rev. William Finney was pastor of Churchville Presbyterian Church for 41 years (1813-1854), and John M. Finney's brother Reverend Ebenezer D. Finney was the first pastor of Bel Air Presbyterian Church in 1852 (when it was in the Odd Fellows Hall) and again from 1872-1895.

Another of his brothers, George J. Finney, lived in "Greenwood" and was a county commissioner, a clerk of the board of county commissioners, and chief judge of the orphans court. His nephew, John M. T. Finney, also a doctor, was a leading surgeon in America, tending to President Theodore Roosevelt and helping to found the Union Protestant infirmary, later the Union Memorial Hospital, in Baltimore.

1. Liber WHD 15, Folio 247
2. Liber WSF 91, Folio 328
3. Liber JAR 142, Folio 279
4. Liber JAR 164, Folio 237

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land, Will, & equity records of Harford County
 Interview with Mary Barada, 9/79
 Finney family records in possession of Mary Barada
 Wright, C. Milton, Our Harford Heritage, 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 Site Surveyor	9/79	
ORGANIZATION		DATE	
Historic District Commission		838-6000	
STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHONE	
45 South Main Street		Maryland	21014
CITY OR TOWN		STATE	
Bel Air			

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

FINNEY-SOMERVILLE HOUSE

Title Search

HA-1278

1. 1067/299 June 23, 1978 Grantor: Thomas P. & Carol O. Hackett
Grantee: Ian Douglas & Sally L. Somerville
Acreage: 40 Acres
2. GCB 276/122 January 19, 1943 Grantor: George C. Umbarger, widower
Grantee: Thomas P. & Carol O. Hackett
Acreage: 2 lots: $\frac{20 \text{ Acres} - \text{DGW } 186/428}{20 \text{ Acres} - \text{JAR } 162/54}$
3. DGW 186/428 April 7, 1924 Grantor: James G. & Iantha Crockett
Grantee: George C. Umbarger
Sum: \$8000
Acreage: 19 Acres, 3 Roods, 3 Square Perches
4. JAR 164/237 July 5, 1919 Grantor: Mary E. Lee, widow
Grantee: James G. Crockett
Sum: \$8500
Acreage: 19 Acres, 3 Roods, 3 Square Perches
5. JAR 142/279 November 5, 1913 Grantor: Laura M. Wilson, et al (heirs of
Priscilla G. Wilson)
Grantee: Mary E. Lee, wife of James Lee
Sum: \$3100
Acreage: 19 Acres, 3 Roods, 3 Square Perches
7. Equity Records
WSF 51/1 August 2, 1897 J. Edwin Webster vs. Ebenezer D. Finney, et al
(Settlement of John M. Finney's estate)
6. WSF 91/328 July 12, 1897 Grantor: Wm. H. Harlan & Frederick R. Williams,
Trustees
Grantee: Priscilla G. Wilson
Sum: \$1200
Acreage: 19 Acres, 3 Roods, 3 Perches
8. WHD 15/247 June 20, 1867 Grantor: Wm. Finney
Grantee: John M. Finney
Acreage: "Old Dan's Lot" = 19 Acres, 3 Roods,
13 Perches

ABERDEEN
USGS
QUADRANGLE

Hopewell
Ch

Level

HA-1278

HA-1276

HA-1279

HA-1277

Churchville

HA-994

Smith Chapel

HA-1276

Boat Corner

HA-1284

HA-1288

HA-1053

HA-1286

HA-1287

HA-1285

HA-1054

HA-1300

Carpenter

Jefferson Sch

Gravel Pit

Baker Cem

Grays

HA-1278



Finney-Somerville House HA-1278
Churchville, MD 21028
Natalie Shivers 8/79
Northeast