

Watkins House
HA 1889

Located at the convergence of Ridge Road and Old Pylesville Road, the original two-story stone house has had several additions which more than triple its size. Built on a one-room plan, the original stone house is a small, squat structure. Little is known about the origins of the small stone house. Believed to have been built around the time of Nathan Pyle's gristmill which was in operation as early as 1813, land records show that the house and land were part of Nathan Pyle's property holdings.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HA 1889

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Watkins House

2. Location

street & number 931 Old Pylesville Road N/A not for publication

city, town Pylesville vicinity of congressional district 5th

state Maryland county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mrs. William E. Watkins

street & number same telephone no.: (410)452-5070

city, town Pylesville state and zip code MD, 21132

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber HDC 1151

street & number 20 W. Courtland Pl. folio 1082

city, town Bel Air state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Located at the convergence of Ridge Road and Old Pylesville Road, the original two-story stone house has had several additions which more than triple its size. Built of coursed stone, the original house is 2 bays wide with a blind west endwall and a shallow east-west gable slate-shingled roof. The main facade of the original house, the north facade, is overshadowed by a large white clapboard addition that was built onto the east endwall early in this century.¹ Larger than the original house, the addition is two stories high, is one bay by two bays, and has a shallow north-south gable slate-shingle roof. An L-plan is created by this large addition and the original stone house. Two one-story subsidiary additions were made to the rear of the main house twenty eight years ago² which obscure the original house further.

Containing two rooms, one upstairs and one down, the original stone house is a small, squat structure. Regular cut granite blocks make up the quoins of the two still-visible western corners of the original house. The remaining substance of the exterior walls is irregular fieldstone, recently re-pointed. A small brick chimney rises at the gable peak, internal to the west endwall.³ On the east end gable, the old slate roof has been blended into the eaves and slate roof of the taller addition. The cellar, which is beneath the original house, is accessed through external double cellar doors on the west end. The first-story east bay of the main facade is defined by the early main entrance, with a large single granite block as a lintel. 6/6 sash windows delineate the remaining first- and two second-story bays. Inside, the twenty inch stone walls remain exposed on the first floor and the original stairs are still used despite the interior modifications over the years. No sign of a fireplace remains.

Void of decoration, the large east-side wing is stark against the textured stone walls of the original house. 6/6 sash windows are centered on the first and second story at the north gable wall. The east side contains windows in the upper two and lower south bays, with a minor entrance and stoop in the north lower bay. One window on the rear wall second-story is offset to the right of center. Two shed-roof projections were added at the rear of the building: a spacious living room was built making use of the intrinsic beauty of the stone exterior wall and a one-story shed-roofed kitchen/utility addition slopes into the backyard from the older, large addition in a series of shallow pitched roofs.

¹According to Mr. Famous Watkins in a telephone conversation, May 30, 1990. Mr. Watkins was born in this house in 1921; this addition existed at that time. The slate roof attests to the age of the addition, as slate shingle production ceased in the 1930's.

²As stated by Mrs. William E. Watkins in a conversation, March 14, 1995. These lesser additions were built after they were married.

³A modern wood stove has replaced an old cook-stove at the west end, and the chimney was replaced. The first floor was the kitchen until the kitchen/utility addition was built off the back. Conversation with Mrs. William E. Watkins, June 7, 1995.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This house is known as the Watkins house for the family who have occupied the house for at least 74 years⁴, first renting it then owning it. Oleato Watkins raised her eight children here and her son, William E. Watkins, a long-time postmaster of Pylesville, eventually came to own the house. His widow still resides here.

Little is known about the origins of the small stone house. Believed to have been built around the time of Nathan Pyle's gristmill which was in operation as early as 1813⁵, it is mentioned in Betty Ann Greider's report of Pylesville: "Two hundred years ago Nathan Pyle owned a store and a mill in Pylesville. The mill house and a small stone house near the mill are being used as residences today."

⁶ Land records show that the house and land were part of Nathan Pyle's property holdings. Nathan Pyle was a Virginian who settled in the area about 1778 and was the town's namesake.⁷ Aside from operating the mill, he owned and operated a grocery store in the small settlement and built a large house on a nearby rise in 1802. The Watkins house is located directly across Old Pylesville Road from the gristmill site and was most likely one of the original buildings in this complex of structures.

⁴As mentioned in a telephone conversation with Famous Watkins, May 30, 1995. Mr. Watkins was born in this house in 1921.

⁵Our Harford Heritage, C. Milton Wright. 1967.

⁶An essay, The History of Pylesville, Betty Ann Greider. Circa 1962.

⁷As documented in a letter from David G. Harry, great, great, great, great, grandson of Nathan Pyle, to his granddaughter, Sally DeRan. Circa 1950.

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: William E. Watkins' house

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Old Pylesville Road at Ridge Road

CITY OR TOWN: near Pylesville

STATE: Maryland CODE: COUNTY: Harford 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"/>	<u>Occupied</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>	<u>Private Residence</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	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: William E Watkins

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: Pylesville STATE: Md 21160 CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

CITY OR TOWN: BEL AIR STATE: MARYLAND 40 S. MAIN ST.

ACREAGE

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)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<u>None</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This fine little house is of a warm grey-tan stone under a slate roof. Two additions are both detrimental.

Two stories high, 2 bays wide, the end walls once contained large fireplaces upstairs and down. The slate roof ridgepole runs east-west, the house formerly faced south but that facade is altered by a lean-to of frame, one storied. Another addition, larger than the stone house faces east, the ridgepole running north-south. Two stories high, 3 bays by 1, its ~~block~~ plainness is made ugly by asphalt shingle covering the clapboard of the frame construction.

SIGNIFICANCE				
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input type="checkbox"/>		
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)				
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Aboriginal	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	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"/>			
Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Music <input type="checkbox"/>			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)				
<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">A simple farm house of beautiful materials cramped by two roads and the road bed of the Ma & Pa (Maryland and Pennsylvania) Railroad. The postmaster lives here.</p>				

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mrs Watkins at site May 1972.

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	COOE
STATE:	CDDE	COUNTY:	CDDE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	COOE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: **MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST** DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: **2525 RIVA RD**

CITY OR TOWN: **ANNAPOLIS** STATE: **MARYLAND** COOE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 _____

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 _____



HA 1389

Nathans House

Hoford Court, Maryland

Dinner table

3/95 MHT, Maryland State

~~Chris Wecker Hoford Court, Dept. of Planning & Zoning~~

View south from: Old Poplar Hill Road

1/2



HA 1889

State House

Stafford County, Maryland

Dianne Klein

3/95

MIT

Maryland HPD

~~Chris Wickes, Stafford County Dept. of Planning & Zoning~~

View east from Old Pylesville Road

28



HA 1889

Macleans House

Harford County, Maryland

Dianne Klein

3/95 PHT Maryland SHPE

Chris Weeks, Harford County Dept. of Planning & Zoning

View Southeast from Nathan Pyle House

3/8



HA 1889

Shafter, Iowa

Hartford County, Maryland

Lianne Kline

3/95

MHT

Maryland State

~~Chris Weeks, Hartford County Dept of Planning & Zoning~~

View South at Broadcreek from Old Pylesville Road

4/8



#2 1857

Matheson House
Stanford County, Maryland
Dianne Kla -

3/95

Mitt

Maryland Hill

~~Chris Weeks, Hill and Court, Dept. of Planning & Zoning~~

View west from Ridge Road

58



HA 1771

Mathews House

Hartford County, Maryland

Dianne Klum

3/95

Maryland STATE
Ethel Weeks, Hartford County Dept. of Planning & Zoning
Interior Detail of original MS, wad from [unclear]

6/8



#A 1889

Nathaniel Heuse

Harford County, Maryland

Danne Kien

3/95

MHT

Maryland SHIP

~~Chas. Webb's, Harford County Dept. of Planning - 9200~~

~~Interior Detail of original rear wall from original
house first-story room.~~

7/8



HA 234

Watkins House

Harford County, Maryland

Dance Floor

3/95

11/11

Maryland SHPO

~~Chris Weeks, Harford County Dept. of Planning & Economic~~

Interior Detail of original stairs on east end wall

8/8

WATKINS HOUSE
Title Search

HDC 1151/1082	September 1, 1981	Confirmatory Deed, correcting acreage of parcel to 2.58 Grantor: Helen L. Lanius Grantee: Annie B. Watkins
HDC 993/964	March 15, 1976	Grantor: Annie B. Watkins (widow) and Marshall S. Watkins (co-representatives for estate of William E. Watkins) Grantee: Annie B. Watkins Acreage: 3.02
GRG 308/14	August 4, 1947	Grantor: Adelaide F. Lanius (widow) Grantee: Oleato A. Watkins (widow) and William E. Watkins (her son) Acreage: 3.02
DGW 216/444	October 9, 1930	Grantor: Harry F. Kilburn (widower) Grantee: J. Henry and Adelaide F. Lanius Acreage: 124.41
DGW 216/442	October 9, 1930	Grantor: J. Henry and Adelaide Lanius Grantee: Harry F. Kilburn (widower) Acreage: 124.41 (3.58 acres less the original 128, some small lots sold by J. Henry Lanius, DGW 198/340, DGW 189/307, DGW 216/62, JAR 176/397)
JAR 176/383	January 21, 1922	Grantor: J. Springer Lanius et al (interest of James B. Stansbury via mesne deed, WSF 108/342) Grantee: J. Henry Lanius Granted: 1/2 interest of 2 tracts totalling 128 acres; the Pylesville Mill Property (12 acres) and tract of 116 acres
WSF 109/138	April 1, 1903	Grantor: Edward E. Pyle Grantee: J. Henry Lanius and James B. Stansbury Acreage: 116
WSF 109/136	April 1, 1903	Grantor: Thomas L. Pyle et al. Grantee: J. Henry Lanius and James B. Stansbury Acreage: 12, the Pylesville Mill Property
WSF 74/488	September 26, 1892	Grantor: Edward E. Pyle Grantee: David L. Pyle Granted: 1/2 interest of Pylesville Mill Property

WSF 74/280	July 18, 1892	Grantor: Stevenson Williams and Thomas Robinson (trustees, as assigned in Equity Case Hannah G. and John Ramsey v. Phoebe J. Pyle et al., November 10, 1891 Grantee: Edward E. Pyle Acreage: 125
ALJ 67/483	May 6, 1890	Grantor: Margaret C. Pyle et al. Grantee: Edward E. Pyle Acreage: 3
ALJ 64/338	March 27, 1883	Mortgage Grantor: John H. Price (trustee, as decided in Equity case Samuel M. Bayless et al v. Bettie M. Bayless) Mortgage Grantee: Margaret C. Pyle et al. Acreage: 125
Will Records WSR 9/291	February 13, 1880	Nathan Pyle, Jr. devises property to his wife, Margaret C. Pyle.
ALJ 9/158	June 16, 1857	Grantor: Nathan and Grace Pyle Grantee: Nathan I. Pyle, Jr. Granted: all of tracts called "Pine Grove", "Wright's View", "The Little Pine Hill", "Trapezium". Also imparted were the lands sold by to Nathan Pyle by Samuel Brown and partial pieces of tracts called "Genoa" and "Independence"
HD 26/217	April 1, 1842	Grantor: Amos and Jane Carmen Grantee: Nathan Pyle Granted: 120 acres of tracts "Genoa" and "Independence"
HD 26/177	March 1, 1842	Grantor: Dr. St. Clair Street and wife, Ariel Grantee: Amos and Jane Carmen Granted: 119 acres of "Genoa" and "Independence"
HD 16/105	March 26, 1833	Grantor: Samuel Brown et al. Grantee: Nathan Pyle Granted: "Trapezium", 19 and 1/2 acres
HD 16/103	March 26, 1833	Grantor: Samuel Brown et al. Grantee: Nathan Pyle Granted: "The Little Pine Grove", 13 and 3/4 acres

HD 8/232	April 20, 1825	Grantor: Samuel and Elizabeth Brown Grantee: Nathan Pyle Granted: 35 and 1/2 perches, for the purpose of conveying the water and rights of Broad Creek for Nathan Pyle's Mill
HD 5/391	July 30, 1822	Grantor: John Wright Grantee: Nathan Pyle Granted: 13 acres and 21 perches of "Wright's View", which John Wright acquired from a Maryland patent in 1787
HD W/393	March 5, 1812	Granted: Michael Whiteford Grantor: Nathan Pyle Granted: "Pine Grove", 32 and 1/2 acres

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Conversations with Mrs. William E. Watkins, March 14 and June 7, 1995.

Conversation with Mr. Famous Watkins, May 30, 1990.

Our Harford Heritage, C. Milton Wright. 1967.

An essay, The History of Pylesville, Betty Ann Greider. Circa 1962.

Letter by David G. Harry. Circa 1950.

Land Records, Harford County Courthouse.

Harford County Historical Society Archives.



**THE
M**

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HA-1889

Photo from The Ma & Pa by Hilton
Watkins House

150 000 FEET
(PA.)

P E A C H B O

PENNSYLVANIA
CREEK 338

4399

4398

33 PENNSYLVANIA MARYLAND 32

YORK CO HARFORD CO

ROB AND STREET

Delta

Slate Ridge Cemetery

BM 413

3.16 FOLKNS 3 MI
UNSCALE 1:100 000 MI

WHITEFORD ROAD 135

Cardiff

Slate Ridge School

Fire Observation Station No. 77
803 Whiteford

42/30"
4396

Whiteford

WHEELER

SCHOOL ROAD

GRADE ROAD 474

653

4395

165

OLD PYLESVILLE

QUARRY

RED ROAD

763 IN NW
(FAWN GROVE)

Pylesville

BM 559
HA 1889

RIDGE

ROAD

HA-1889

USGS Delta Quadrangle
1: 24000
Watkins House

4.16 0.4 MI
UNSCALE 1:100 000 MI

374

131