

Richard Roberts House
HA 1903

Built for Richard Roberts, owner and co-founder of the Roberts and Wilhelm metal foundry, this decorated, circa 1891 French-stylized house is located on the east side of Main Street at the north end of Cardiff, Maryland. The two-story frame structure is square, three bays by three, with a bell cast mansard, patterned slate roof. The house is replete with ornamentation and as the only mansard roof structure in Cardiff, it stands out among the more vernacular late Victorian structures in town. The region's slate was used in both the roof and foundation. Relative to many of the houses in Cardiff, this house was opulent, indicating the wealth of the Roberts family.

As owners of the foundry (first Roberts and Wilhelm, then R. Roberts and Son after Wilhelm sold his interest in the business), the Roberts' were a prominent Welsh family. The early Roberts and Wilhelm foundry had a distinct and important place in the inter-workings of the town's slate industry, supplying invaluable components to the slate quarry industry, building cranes and machinery for the quarries.

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HA 1903

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Richard Roberts House

2. Location

street & number 1649 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Cardiff

vicinity of

congressional district 5th

state Maryland

county Harford

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both
Public Acquisition
 in process
 being considered
 not applicable

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 (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Philip J. and Cathy Manzie

street & number same

telephone no.: unlisted

city, town Cardiff

state and zip code MD, 21024

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse

liber CGH 1804

street & number 60 W. Courtland Pl.

folio 452

city, town Bel Air

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date

federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. HA 1903

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 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	(S. 1918)		

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

This decorated, French-stylized house is located on the east side of Main Street at the north end of Cardiff, Maryland. The two-story frame structure is square, three bays by three, with a bell cast mansard roof and a long porch running the length of the west and north sides. Two evenly spaced dormers project on all sides of the steep-pitched, bell portion of the roof, with decorative slate patterns serving as embellishment and roofing in between. A chimney rises from the central peak of the shallow-pitched portion of the roof. The use of the region's renowned slate as foundation as well as roof attests to the dominance of the slate industry as the town's life-blood. The house has been re-covered in light blue vinyl.

Exposed and in full view on both the west and north sides, the house has a two-sided main facade addressing the northwest. The main entrance is located at the first-story south bay of the west facade fronting Main Street, with an additional entrance at the middle bay of the north first-story side. The long, shed-roofed, L porch is entered at the main entrance and has a clipped, diagonal corner with a gable softening the northwest corner of the L. A one-story three-sided bay window projects onto the porch at the east bay of the north side. Long 1/1 windows in the remaining west and north first-story bays further represent French influence. All bays of the upper west and north sides are articulated by standard sized 2/2 windows.

The south side of the house has standard and a double window in the lower and upper east bays, respectively. The vacant west and middle bays indicate placement of the interior stairwell. A full length, shed-roofed appendage extends from the rear of the building.

The building is beautifully detailed with a variety of decoration. Carved, pedimented lintels and working shutters accent facade windows. The entrances are also pedimented, the main one having a transom and sidelights. Lacy gable finish, edging, and cut-out porch railing embellish the porch. Capping the highly decorated house, the slate roof is patterned with hexagonal, triangular, and rectangular cut slate, the triangular pieces being imported red slate patterned into 6-pointed stars. Cut-out brackets "support" the bell cast mansard roof at the angle of the soffit and walls.

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 checked="" 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 circa 1891 house was built for Richard Roberts, owner and co-founder of the Roberts and Wilhelm metal foundry. Replete with ornamentation and as the only mansard roof structure in Cardiff, it stands out among the more vernacular late Victorian structures in town. The region's slate was used in both the roof and foundation, with decorative patterning in the roof. Relative to many of the houses in Cardiff, this house was opulent, indicating the wealth of the Roberts family.

As owners of the foundry (first Roberts and Wilhelm, the R. Roberts and Son after Wilhelm sold his interest in the business), the Roberts' were a prominent Welsh family. Richard Roberts was originally from South Wales where the iron industry predominated over the slate industry. The first site of the business was located at the northwest intersection of Slate Ridge Road and Main Street as identified on the Delta 1888 map. The foundry was later moved to a site just below this house on the west side of Main Street. The early Roberts and Wilhelm foundry had a distinct and important place in the inter-workings of the town's slate industry, supplying invaluable components to the slate quarry industry, building cranes and machinery for the quarries. The foundry continued to maintain its significance throughout the operating years of the various slate quarries and the Maryland Green Marble quarry. Now in its fifth generation of family ownership under Gary Thompson, R. Roberts and Son continues to operate in metal fabrication.

Originally owned by Thomas Hawkins (farmer) in a patented land grant known as "Hawkins Chance", this land was part of the tract sold by the Hawkins family to Rowland Parry, a Welsh quarry owner who operated one of the first prominent commercial quarries in the area. It was Parry who exhibited Peach Bottom slate in the London Crystal Palace exposition in 1850, winning it international recognition as the world's finest slate. "Hawkins Chance" was divided and sold in pieces, passing through the hands of Parry's relatives and countrymen. This lot was received from Humphrey R. Lloyd, a prominent quarryowner and land owner who was heavily involved with the development of north Cardiff in late 1800's (no plat found).

RICHARD ROBERTS HOUSE
Title Search

CGH 1804/452	March 31, 1992	Grantor: Randall L. and Barbara Mumaw Grantee: Philip J. and Cathy A. Manzie Granted: town lot of 42 perches with improvements
CGH 1329/301	May 16, 1986	Grantor: Lynn W. Nelson Grantee: Randall L. and Barbara Mumaw Granted: same
HDC 1129/567	October 7, 1980	Grantor: Mervyn G. and Gloria R. Thompson Grantee: Lynn W. Nelson Granted: same
GRG 773/413	April 4, 1968	Grantor: Zero, Inc. Grantee: Blodwen Harvey, Mervyn G. and Gloria Thompson Granted: same
GRG 773/411	April 4, 1968	Grantor: Blodwen Harvey (widow) Grantee: Zero, Inc. Granted: same
DGW 181/366	April 4, 1923	Grantor: Robert L. Roberts, executor of Last Will of Richard Roberts Grantee: Blodwen and James Harvey Granted: same
ALJ 70/365	May 2, 1891	Grantor: Humphrey R. and Jane H. Lloyd Grantee: Richard Roberts Granted: town lot of 42 perches
ALJ 36/192	December 22, 1877	Grantor: Richard and Mary Hughes et al. Grantee: Humphrey R. Lloyd Granted: acreage unknown This deed describes the following unrecorded transactions:
	October 18, 1864 (unrecorded)	Grantor: Edward R. Edwards and wife Grantee: Richard Hughes
	(date unknown) (unrecorded)	Grantor: Rowland Parry Grantee: Edward R. Edwards Rowland Parry sold this land to Edward R. Edwards but never gave him legal title. Rowland Parry died and named Owen Parry and John Michael as owners of his land in trust.

HDG 36/212	January 22, 1850	Grantor: Archibald A. and Nancy Hawkins Grantee: Rowland Perry Granted: part of "Hawkins Chance" for \$850.00, acreage unknown
HDG 34/492	February 9, 1849	Grantor: Edward Proctor et al. Grantee: Archabald A. Hawkins Granted: "Hawkins Chance", being part of Thomas Hawkins landholdings; 74 acres 5 perches
HD 14/336	August 3, 1831	Grantor: Isaac Hawkins, heir to Thomas Hawkins Grantee: Thomas Proctor, heir to Edward Proctor Granted: The eighth part of land tracts "Hawkins Chance", "Williams Birthright", Mount Pleasant", and "Montgomerys Delight" . The four tracts contain 188 acres total. No mention of "eighth part" acreage.
Land Tract, Patented	After March 1774, when Harford est.	"Hawkins Chance", tract of 74 acres 5 perches granted to Thomas Hawkins. Located on the Maryland and Pennsylvania line at the north end of present day Cardiff. Divided, sold, and reworked often.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture 1890-1930, Alan Gowans.
1986

Common Houses in America's Small Towns: The Atlantic Seaboard to the Mississippi Valley,
John A. Jakle, Robert W. Bastian, and Douglas K. Meyer. 1989.

Land Records, Harford County Courthouse.

Delta Centennial, A souvenir book from the 1953 centennial celebration which was organized by the
Delta-Cardiff Fire Company.

History of York County, Gibson. 1880.

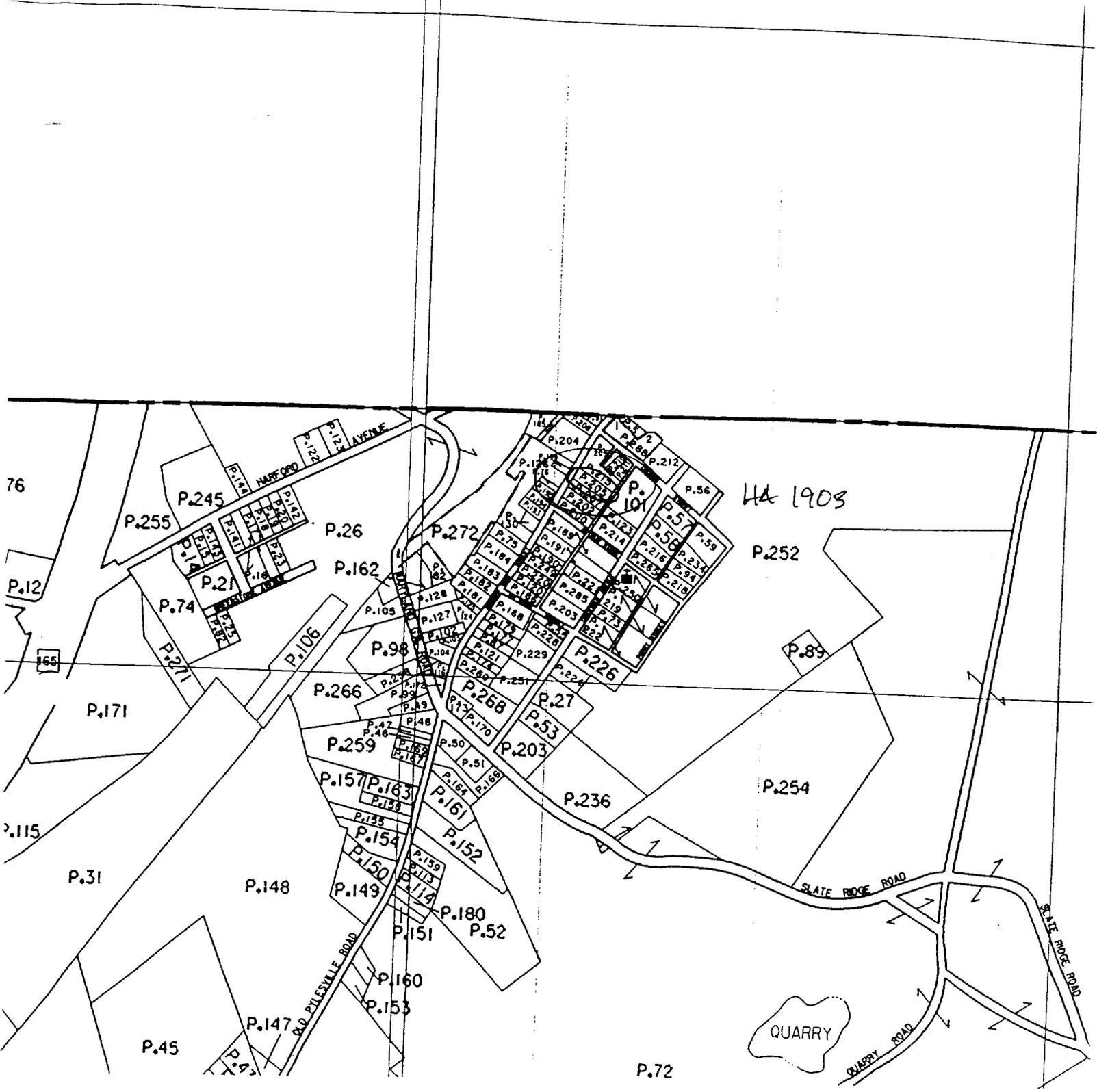
Conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn Thompson, May 2, 1995.

Conversation with Mrs. Darcy Lloyd, April 11, 1995.

Conversations with Mrs. Marion Scaborough, June 20, June 22, July 25, and August 1, 1995
regarding Parry family history.

Harford County Historical Society Archives.

Various conversations with area residents for a contextual history of the inventory structures.



HA 1903

HA-1903

Richard Roberts House
Parcel 205, Tax Map 5

150 000 FEET
(PA.)

4399

4398

33

PENNSYLVANIA
MARYLAND

32

YORK CO
HARFORD CO

FIVE FORKS 3 MI.
GRACEION 0.6 MI.

WHITEFORD

136

42°30'

4396

WHEELER

SCHOOL ROAD

RAILROAD

185

OLD

PYLESVILLE

Pylesville

BM
352

500

RIDGE

ROAD

165

543

HILL 6.4 MI
WYNER 2.1 MI

P E A C H B O

Creels Creek

338

402

462

600

BORO

Sub Sta

AND

STREET

Delta

Slate Ridge
Cemetery

BM
413

East
358

Quarry

HA-1903

Cardiff

165

165

SLATE RIDGE

55d

Slate Ridge
School

Fire Observation
Station No. 77
Whiteford

Whiteford

QUARRY

653

GRADE

ROAD

ROAD

SCHOOL ROAD

RAILROAD

QUARRY

RED ROAD

HA-1903

USGS Delta Quadrangle
1: 24000
Richard Roberts House



4 1963

Forest Ridge House
Harford County, Maryland
L. Anne King

3/95

Maryland - HPC

~~Chris Weiss, Harford County Dept. of Planning & Zoning~~
View Southeast from Main Street

1/2



HA 1903

Richard Robertson
Harford County, Maryland
Diana Klau

3/95

~~Chris Weeks, Harford County, Dept of Planning & Zoning~~
Maryland SHPE
View east from Main Street

2/2