

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #82-A31 Building Date: 1923

Building Name: Brooks-Cox House

Location: 9601 Croom Road, Croom, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Cox House is on a hillside 300 feet west of Croom Road. It is a local landmark because of its siting. It is a two-story frame structure of three-by-two-bays, with a "T" shaped plan, and a center front cross gable. The three-bay east (main) facade has central entrance through a modern door flanked by plain pilasters surmounted by corner blocks. There are five-light sidelights. The door surround appears to be original fabric. Windows throughout the structure are 2/2 double hung sash, with modern shutters. A hipped roof entrance porch rests on turned and chamfered wood posts. The porch is wood floored, reached by a three-step stair. Above the entrance at attic level is a cross gable with a louvered lunette opening. The house is covered with vinyl siding resembling German siding. The gable roof is corrugated metal, the foundation is poured cement. The north and south gable ends have an interior corbelled brick chimney at the gable ridge. Centered on the west (rear) facade is a one-by-one-bay two-story frame kitchen wing, the same roofline, siding and foundation as the main block. There is a concrete block interior chimney at its west gable ridge. A gable roof one-story, one-bay portico on the northwest corner of the wing contains entrance to a small basement. The interior has a center-hall-two-parlor plan. The kitchen opens at the rear of the hall. The door and window surrounds are wide molding with bull's-eye corner blocks. There are crown molded base boards. The kitchen has narrow vertical boards as wainscot. The enclosed stair has ceiling pendants at the corners of the stair well.

Significance

The Brooks-Cox House is on what was a 300 acre farm, composed of tracts called Pitchcraft and Simm's Delight. Pitchcraft is old, patented in 1672 by Edward Fitzherbert. It was owned during the 19th century by the Dr. Richard H. Osbourn family and by Elizabeth E. Hardy. Thomas B. Hardy acquired 208 acres of the property in 1896. The property was sold to James E. Brooks in 1922. Brooks, a black farmer, probably built the house in 1923. The house is significant for its late 19th century Victorian vernacular style. It is a late example of the center front cross gable "I" house with Victorian entrance porch, popular in the County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Acreage: 2.53 acres.

7. Description

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input 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.

The Brooks-Cox House is situated on a hillside approximately 300 feet west of Croom Road. It is highly visible to those traveling south on Croom Road and is a local landmark because of its siting. The house is a two-story frame structure of three-by-two-bays, with a "T" shaped plan, and a center front cross gable.

The three-bay east (main) facade has central entrance through a modern door flanked by plain pilasters surmounted by corner blocks. There are five-light sidelights. The door surround appears to be original fabric. Windows throughout the structure are 2/2 double hung sash, with modern plastic louvered shutters. A three-bay hipped roof entrance porch shelters the first story. The roof rests on turned and chamfered wood posts. The balustrade has plain rectangular balusters. The porch is wood floored, reached by a three-step stair. The base of the porch is screened by a screen of vertical wood slats. Centered above the entrance at attic level is a cross gable with a louvered lunette opening.

The house is covered with plastic siding resembling German siding. The house originally was covered with German siding. The gable roof is covered with a corrugated metal covering. The foundation is poured cement. The two-bay north and south gable ends have an interior corbelled brick stove chimney at the gable ridge.

Centered on the west (rear) facade of the main block is a one-by-one-bay two-story frame kitchen wing, given the house a "T" shaped plan. The wing has the same roofline, siding and foundation as the main block and appears to be contemporary with it. There is a concrete block interior chimney at its west gable ridge. A gable roof one-story, one-bay enclosed entrance portico projects from the northwest corner of the wing. This contains the entrance to the small basement beneath the wing. On the north facade of the wing is a three-by-one bay, one story shed roof addition with new 1/1 windows and an entrance into the kitchen.

The interior of the Cox House has center-hall-two-parlor plan. The kitchen opens at the rear end of the hall. The door and window surrounds throughout the interior are a wide wood molding with bull's-eye corner blocks. There are crown molded base boards. The kitchen has narrow vertical boards as wainscot, surmounted by a modern chair rail. The enclosed stair has a plain rectangular balustrade and newel post. The stair has ceiling pendants at the corners of the stair well. The floor and ceilings are of modern material.

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/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local History |

Specific dates 1923 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

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

The Brooks-Cox House is located on what was a 300 acre farm, composed of tracts called Pitchcraft and Simm's Delight. Pitchcraft is an old tract, patented in 1672 by Edward Fitzherbert.¹ The property was owned during the 19th century by the Dr. Richard H. Osbourn family² and late in the century by Elizabeth E. Hardy. Her son, Thomas B. Hardy, acquired 208 acres of the property at public auction in 1896.³ Ten acres was sold to James E. Brooks in 1922.⁴ Brooks, a black farmer, built the house in 1923. The Brooks-Cox house is significant for its late use of 19th century Victorian vernacular style elements. It is an example of the center front cross gable "I" house with Victorian entrance porch, popular in the County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Notes

¹ Louise Joyner Hienton, "Tracts Laid Out in Calvert County Prior to April 23, 1696," Prince George's Heritage, Maryland Historical Society, 1972.

² Land Records of Prince George's County, WAJ 1:832.

³ Ibid. JWB 38:662.

⁴ Ibid. 182:247.

Chain of Title
Brooks-Cox House
P.G. #82A-31

- 4598:895
Mar 1976
Deed
G. W. Zierden Landscaping to Theodore F. and Portia J. Cox. For \$10.00 grantors convey that parcel described in 4537:593 contains 2.52 acres.
- 4537:593
30 Sept 1975
Deed
Jenning C. and Edith A. Bowman to G. W. Zierden Lanscaping, Inc. For \$10.00 grantors convey 9.88 acres, same conveyed in 4173:822. A part of land conveyed to Thomas H. Hardy by Thomas M. Underwood, Sheriff, November 11, 1896 recorded JWB 38:662 and 1 acre a second parcel.
- 4173:822
29 Dec 1972
Deed
Albert W. Kapp and Florence E. Kapp to Jennings H. Bowman and Edith A. Bowman for \$10.00 grantors convey 2 parcels. Parcel 1 - 8.88 acres. Same conveyed to Thomas and Herbert Hardy by Thomas M. Underwood, Sheriff, November 11, 1896, JWB 38:662. Parcel 2: approximately 1 acre.
- 1353:227
14 April 1951
Deed
David T. and Harriet R. Brooks, George H. and Pearl H. Brooks, Geraldine R. Brooks Cook and John T. Cook, Georgianna Brooks Sanders and Calvin Sanders, all heirs of James E. Brooks deceased and Zacharia Brooks deceased to Albert W. Kapp and Florence E. Kapp. Parcel 1 - at southeast corner of R. W. Windsor's land and running with Croom Road, 8.88 acres - part of same conveyed to Thomas H. and Herbert M. Hardy by Thomas M. Underwood, Sheriff, 11/11/1896, JWB 38:662 - Parcel 2 - about 1 acre, same area.
- 182:247
12 Aug 1922
Deed
Thomas B. Hardy to James E. Brooks, a parcel in Mellwood District, a part of same which Hardy obtained from Herbert M. Hardy in April 1920, 153:152. Beginning at a stone where lands of Brooks and Hardy join on road for Marlboro to Croom and southwest 35 yards. Land approximately 1 acre.
- 153:152
20 Sept 1919
Deed
Herbert M. Hardy, unmarried and Florence V. Hardy, unmarried to Thomas B. Hardy. For \$10.00 grantors convey that parcel beginning at gate to Hardy's residence and running along southwest side of road - including the 2 acres now owned and occupied by Thomas B. Hardy - contains 58 acres in all. Excepting from conveyance 2 acres already owned by Hardy.

JWB 38:662
11 Nov 1896
Deed

Thomas M. Underwood, Sheriff, to Herbert M. Hardy and Thomas B. Hardy, part of a tract called "Pitchcraft" and part of a tract called "Simms Delight" contains 208 acres. Same upon which Elizabeth E. Hardy, presently resides. Conveyed to her by George N. Osborne; WAJ 3:380. Bought for \$1,000.00 at public auction.

WAJ 3:380
17 Dec 1881
Deed

Eugenia and George H. Osborn to Elizabeth E. Hardy, wife of G. Thomas Hardy. For \$3,600 grantors convey that parcel known as "Pitchcraft" and "Simms Delight" 300 acres. Same conveyed to Osborne by C. C. Magruder and Samuel Hance, Trustees for sale of real estate of Richard H. Osborne, deceased. Deed dated June 7, 1880, WAJ 1:532.

WAJ 1:832
7 June 1880
Deed

Caleb C. Magruder and Samuel B. Hance, Trustees - by Equity dated February 15, 1871. Levin Gardner of Gardner and Sons vs. Eugina Osborne, #749 Equity. Trustees to sell real estate, sold to George H. Osborne that land Richard H. Osborne died possessed of, 275 acres of "Pitchcraft" and "Simms Delight."

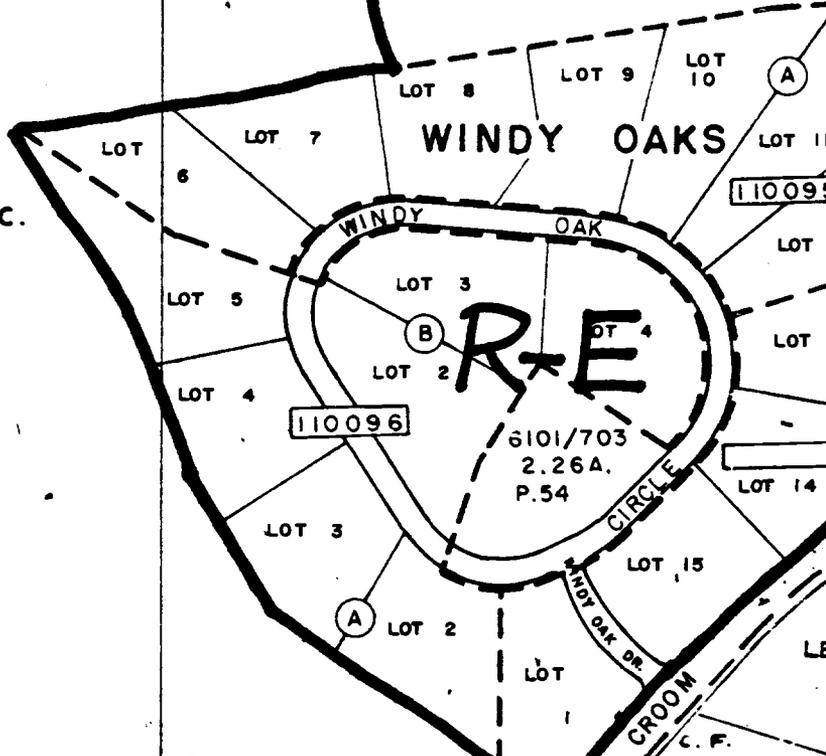
R-T

4072/803
45.96 A.
P.112

LARWIN ATLANTIC, INC.
4072/803
104.17 A.
P.108

R-R
R-80

R-R



ORVILLE C. DEMAREE
1082-107
34.70 A.
P.38

R-A

4072/803
32.11 A.
P.110

R-T

O-S

BROOKRIDGE

8782

LARWIN ATLANTIC, INC.

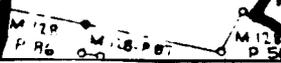
C-1

JOHN H. MCKENZIE
2955/47
5.32 A.
P.69

R-A

C-A

R-R





P.G.#82A-31

Brooks-Cox House
Prince George's County, MD
December 1985
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#82A-31

Brooks-Cox House
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
December 1985
North elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#82A-31

Brooks-Cox House
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
December 1985
South elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#82A-31

Brooks-Cox House
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
December 1985
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD