S-85
Turpin's Purchase
Manokin vicinity
private

Mid to late eighteenth century

Located along the south shore of Back Creek facing an expansive cove is this two-story stuccoed brick dwelling scored to imitate large stone construction. Beltcourses and glazed brick patterns as well as remnants of mid eighteenth-century woodwork suggest this house was heavily reworked during the early nineteenth century when the property was held by Whitty Turpin Fontaine.

Through the 1794 will of John Mason Fontaine, Whitty along with his brothers and sisters inherited part of their uncle's land known as "Turpin's Purchase." Four years later Whitty was listed on the federal tax assessment as owning a 446-acre tract of land called, "Turpin's Purchase," which was improved by,

1 Dwelling house built of brick, 30 feet square, two stories high 6 windows 5 1/2 feet by 2 1/2 feet, 1 milk house 12 feet square, 1 kitchen 24 feet by 18 feet, the above buildings out of repair.

After the turn of the century Whitty evidently reworked his uncle's old house by applying a coat of stucco and introducing a center stair. The second floor remained less altered. Whitty Fontaine occupied the Back Creek plantation until the mid nineteenth century, when he bequeathed to his daughter, Margaret Hall, "my dwelling house." By 1877, a William H. Ross is designated as owner on the county atlas with 800 acres. Mary A. Ross acquired full interest in the property in 1892, and passed it to her son, Charles A. Lankford, in 1917.
Whitty Fontaine house
near Manokin
Private

Located along the south shore of Back Creek is the Whitty Fontaine house, a significant stuccoed brick dwelling scored to imitate ashlar construction. Belt courses divide the first and second floors, while the windows are filled with twelve over twelve or nine over nine sash windows. The floor plan has been altered with the relocation of the stair.

Through the 1794 will of John Mason Fontaine, Whitty Fontaine and his brothers and sisters inherited parts of their uncle's land known as "Turpin's Purchase" (EB 17/744). Four years later Whitty Fontaine was listed on the Federal Direct Tax Assessment as owning a 446-acre tract of land called "Turpin's Purchase" with,

- 1 Dwelling house built of brick, 30 feet square, two stories high, 6 windows, 5½ feet by 2½ feet, 1 milk house 12 feet square, 1 kitchen 24 feet by 18 feet, the above buildings out of repair

--$ 450.00

Whitty Fontaine occupied his Back Creek farm until the mid nineteenth century when in 1850 he left to his daughter, Margaret Hall, "my dwelling house" (JP 5/176). In 1877, a William H. Ross was designated on the county atlas as owning the house and 800 acres. Mary A. Ross acquired full interest in the property in 1892 and passed it to her son, Charles A. Lankford, in 1917 (73/58).
Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name  
(indicate preferred name)

historic  
Whitty Fontaine House

and/or common  
Ochletree House

2. Location

street & number  
Farm Lane off Fountain Road  
____ not for publication

city, town  
Manokin  
___ vicinity of congressional district  
1

state  
Maryland  
county  
Somerset

3. Classification

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<td>x not applicable</td>
<td>___ yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>___ industrial</td>
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4. Owner of Property  
(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name  
Charles and Thelma Sheetz

street & number  
224 Homewood Terrace  
telephone no.:  

state and zip code  
Maryland 21218

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.  
Somerset County Clerk of Court  
liber

street & number  
Somerset County Courthouse  
folio

city, town  
Princess Anne  
state Maryland 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date  
1967  
___ federal  x state  ____ county  ____ local

repository for survey records  
Maryland Historical Trust

city, town  
Annapolis  
state Maryland 21401
### 7. Description

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

The Whitty Fontaine House (also known as the Ochletree House) is a c. 1790-1798 two-story three bay by two-room stuccoed brick house which stands on the south shore of Back Creek and west of Fountain Road; the nearest town being Manokin, Maryland.

Facing west, the two-story four-room plan house is covered by a medium sloped asphalt tile roof and rests on a minimal brick foundation. A coat of stucco covers most of the house and is struck to imitate ashlar construction. Belt courses divide the house between levels and are stuccoed as well. The west (or main facade) is divided into three evenly spaced bays with two 12/12 sash windows flanking a center entrance. The door has been replaced. Piercing the second floor are three 9/9 sash windows and stretching above the windows is a plain boxed cornice.

The south gable end is slightly asymmetrical with three openings on the first floor and two on the second. Two 12/12 sash windows and a back door are located on the first floor and two evenly spaced 9/9 sash windows pierce the second floor. The attic is lighted by two four-pane windows. Rising from the gable end is a chimney pile with a four-course corbelled cap.

The east facade is similarity detailed as the front with 12/12 sash windows on the first floor and 9/9 sash windows on the second.

The north gable end is partially covered by the modern addition. Despite the addition, a scar is visible which indicates the location and height of the earlier service wing. A twin chimney stack rises from this end.

The north end frame addition was attached within the last fifty years and consists largely of an old barn which was moved up to the house and joined to it by a short hyphen.

The interior has been significantly altered with the removal of most late 18th-century woodwork. A simple Federal period mantel survives in the south room, and a raised six-panel door opens to a closet below the stair.

On the second floor a c. 1790-1800 bedroom mantel survives in the southeast room. The stair to the attic appears to be rebuilt but is in its original location.

The attic space has never been finished and contains a common rafter roof system. The poplar rafters are hewn whereas the collar beams are sawn and fixed to the rafters with a half-dovetailed lap. A partially wrought nail holds each collar in place.

The only significant outbuilding is a pyramidal roofed dairy with pointed wooden spire. The interior has been covered with modern materials.
## 8. Significance

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### Specific dates

**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 c. 1790-1798 Whitty Fontaine House is a significant stuccoed brick dwelling with its early 12/12 and 9/9 sash windows surviving. Beltcourses divide the scored stucco walls. The floor plan has been with a relocation of the stair. Much of the 18th-century woodwork has been removed. Attached to the north end is a small brick hyphen which connects the remodeled frame barn that was moved up to the house. The only significant outbuilding is a small frame dairy with pyramidal roof and wooden spire.

### History and Support

Through the 1794 will of John Mason Fontaine (E.B. 17/744), Whitty Fontaine and his brothers and sisters inherited parts of their uncle’s land known as "Turpin's Purchase". Four years later Whitty was listed on the Federal Assessment as owning a 446 acre-tract of land called "Turpin's Purchase" with,

- 1 dwelling house built of brick, 30 feet square two storey high, 6 windows 5½ feet by 2½ feet, 1 milk house 12 feet square
- 1 kitchen 24 feet by 18 feet the above buildings out of repair

$450.00

Whitty Fontaine lived until the mid 19th century when, in his will, he left to his daughter Margaret Hall, "my dwelling house" (J P 5/176). By 1877, a William H. Ross is designated as owner and farmer with a total of 800 acres. (Lake, Griffing and Stevenson Atlas). Mary A. Ross acquired full interest in the property in 1892 and passed it to her son, Charles A. Lankford in 1917 (73/58).
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property  
Quadrangle name  
Quadrangle scale  

UTM References  do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title           Paul B. Touart - Architectural Historian
organization         Somerset County Historical Trust  date  12/15/83
street & number      424 North Somerset Avenue  telephone  651-1094
city or town          Princess Anne  state  Maryland  21853

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
              Shaw House
              21 State Circle
              Annapolis, Maryland 21401
              (301) 269-2438
G.J.B. 207/595

3/15/1962

Alex. G. Jones and Catherine M. Jones

to

Charles H. Sheetz, Jr.

G. J. B. 207/591

12/26/1961

Arthur L. Ochletree and Bonnie B. Ochletree

to

Alex. G. Jones

200 acres

B.L.R. 127/22

3/16/1944

Edgar A. Jones, trustee

to

Arthur and Bonnie Ochletree

"whereon Mary A. Ross resided South side of
Back Creek adjoining lands of Chas. M. and
William Fontaine"

240 acres

73/58

2/28 /1917

Mary A. Ross

to

Charles A. Lankford (son)

First parcel of land described in a deed to the
Somerset Mortgage and Certificates Corp.

1. to Mary A. Ross by Charles F. W. Hall,
   George W. Tull and Sallie Tull--9/5/1892
   LW 14/29 $ 5300.

2. to Mary A. Ross by Alexander Bozman--7/22/1857
   O.T.B. 21/407 $ 450.

Deed LW 14/29 refers to Will of Whitty Fontaine, Agriculturist--JP 5/176
May 29, 1850 " I give to my daughter Margaret Hall my dwelling house..."

Will of John Mason Fontaine--E.B. 17/744---5/10/1794---bequeaths to his
brother, William's children Whitty, Peggy, Henry, William, Hennyritta, and
John Turpin Fontain his property.
1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment—Great Annemessex Hundred
Particular List of Dwelling Houses—

Whitty Fontaine

1 Dwelling House built of brick, 30 feet square two story high, 6 windows 5½ feet by 3 feet, 9 windows 5½ feet by 2½ feet, 1 milk house 12 feet by 8 feet, 1 smoke house 10 feet square 1 kitchen 24 feet by 18 feet, the above buildings out of repair $450.

Particular List of Lands—

Whitty Fontaine

1 tract of land called Turpins Purchase 446½ acres on which are 1 barn 32 feet by 40 feet, 1 granary 24 feet by 18 feet, 1 corn house 20 feet by 7 feet $1780.
The Ochletree House is a large two story brick structure located near Manokin on the south side of Back Creek, a tributary of the Manokin River. The walls are covered with stucco and painted white. There is a stepped water table and a three-brick belt course around the house, as well as at attic level. The first story windows are now closed by shutters and the second story windows have 9/9 sash. Two small four-pane casements flank the chimney on each gable. The ridge of the "A" roof runs north-south. The center bay of each facade is a door. On the north side of the house is a hyphen and wing of twentieth century date and of no architectural merit.

In many ways, the shell of this 18th century house resembles the main part of Kingston Hall, also in Somerset County.
S - 85
Whitty Fontaine House
Monie Quadrangle, 1972

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Unimproved road
- Trails
  - Interstate Route
  - U. S. Route
  - State Route

MONIE, MD.
N 38° 07' 30" — W 75° 45'
1972

AMS 5860 III NE—SERIES Y8330
Whitty Fontaine House  
(Ochletree House)  
Near Manokin, Somerset County  
West Elevation  
11/83 Paul Touart  
Neg./MD Historical Trust
Whitty Fontaine House (Ochletree House)  S-85
Near Manokin, Somerset County
South Elevation
11/83  Paul Touart
Neg./MD  Historical Trust
Whitty Fontaine House
(Ochletree House)
Near Manokin, Somerset County
North Gable end
11/83 Paul Touart
Neg./MD Historical Trust
Whitty Fontaine House
(Ochletree House)
Near Manokin, Somerset County
Mantel
11/83  Paul Touart
Neg./MD Historical Trust
Whitty Fontaine House  
(Ochletree House)  
Near Manokin, Somerset County  
Smoke House - Southeast Elev.  
11/83  Paul Touart  
Neg./MD Historical Trust