

S-96

c. 1780

Charles Jones House
(MacVeigh House, Owner's Choice)
Princess Anne
Private

Long thought to be one of the few dwellings to survive from the earliest years of Princess Anne's history is this three-bay, story-and-a-half house, located at the corner of Somerset Avenue and Broad Street, originally part of Lot 3. The fact that a house stood on this site as early as 1743 is documented in an early deed detailing the boundaries of the first lot for the county courthouse across the street. The deed reads, "on the south by a streight line drawn cross the main street from the south end of a house in the said Town belonging to Capt. Robert King and Capt. David Wilson...." From this reference it was reasonably assumed the extant house and the dwelling referred to in the deed were one and the same. However, the few original architectural features to survive in the current story-and-a-half frame house suggest the 1740s building was destroyed sometime before the Revolution and replaced by the present house. Sections of eighteenth century feather-edged partitions reused as doors and beaded floor joists reused as studs indicate the extant structure was built with materials probably taken from the earlier house. Also, this later dwelling originally had a complicated plan with corner hearths heating three or four rooms, not unlike that of the Glebe house south of Princess Anne, which vestry minutes date to 1784.

Construction of this house is estimated to date to the 1780s, probably during the ownership of Charles Jones, who acquired title to the property in 1782. Jones is designated in the land records as an inholder and may have operated an ordinary or tavern on the site. He died intestate several years later, and in 1788 Lot 3 was sold to Dr. John Woolford. Three years later Woolford partitioned the lot and transferred ownership of the southern part to Parker Selby, who, according to the deed, was living in the house. In 1798 Selby was assessed for Lot 3, which was then improved by

1 Dwelling House 36 by 30 feet wood one story 7 windows 3 feet 8 Ins long 2 feet 4 Ins wide 4 [windows] 3 feet 8 inches long 2 feet 4 Ins wide 1 Cook house 14 by 12 feet 1 Smoke house 12 by 10 feet 1 Milk house 14 by 12 feet 1 Cariage house 32 by 12 feet all in good repair.

The dimensions cited in 1798 agree with the size of the current building. After the turn of the nineteenth century the property changed hands several times. More recently, during the 1940s, the exterior and first floor interiors were heavily reworked. Owner's Choice--a name often associated with the property--is taken from the earliest history of the lot. David and Rebecca Dent Brown, owners of the Beckford tract from which twenty-five acres were taken to lay out Princess Anne, were granted first choice of two lots, one of which was Lot 3.

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Maryland

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

COUNTY Somerset

INVENTORY S-96

TOWN Princess Anne VICINITY
STREET NO. Somerset Ave.

2. NAME *Mac Veigh House*

DATE OR PERIOD 18th or 19th century

ORIGINAL OWNER

STYLE

ORIGINAL USE

ARCHITECT

PRESENT OWNER

BUILDER

PRESENT USE *dwelling*

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

WALL CONSTRUCTION *frame*

NO. OF STORIES *1 1/2*

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC *no*

The small white frame house located on the northwest corner of Somerset Avenue and Broad Street appears to be a 20th century bungalow, but Mr. John Jeffries has reported that the frame of the building was of an early structure. For this reason it is included in our survey. At least there will be a record of there having been some knowledge of its antiquity.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered *no* Interior Exterior *fair*



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
*Michael Bourne
Maryland Historical Trust*

DATE OF RECORD *Summer 1972*

BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTO