

Capsule Summary  
SM-451  
Herman Hewitt House  
Valley Lee  
Private

Circa 1850

The Herman Hewitt House is significant as an example of a modest farm house dating to the mid nineteenth century and possibly earlier. In contrast to the small scale of the structure is its distinctive first floor mantel. It is unclear whether this mantel is original to the house or whether it was added at a later date. Although many of the original exterior and interior finishes of the Hewitt House have been replaced, the main block of the house retains its original side hall/single pile plan. Around 1935, Herman Hewitt funded the construction of a two-story addition, front porch, and kitchen wing to the house.

The construction date and use of the Hewitt House remains a bit of a puzzle. The chain of title shows that the house was certainly standing by 1873 when it appears in descriptions of contiguous property. The house may have originally been a tenant farm house on William Cole's farm. It is also possible that the house served as his home for a period of time.

SM-451, Herman Hewitt House  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870.

Historic Period Theme: Agriculture

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Residence

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. **SM 451**

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common **Herman Hewitt House**

## 2. Location

street & number **East side of Piney Point road ( Rte 249)**  not for publication

city, town **Valley Lee**  vicinity of congressional district **5**

state **Maryland** county **St. Mary's**

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input 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 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 **J. Phillip Hewitt**

street & number **Box 184** telephone no.:(301) 994 1762

city, town **Valley Lee** state and zip code **Maryland 20692**

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. **St. Mary's County Courthouse** liber **EA 848**

street & number folio **372**

city, town **Leonardtwn** state **Maryland**

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Herman Hewitt House is located on the east side of Piney Point Road near Valley Lee in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The house stands at the end of an unpaved drive and is surrounded by corn fields. The main block of the Hewitt House is a two-story, three-bay frame structure with a side hall/single-pile plan. A slightly shorter two-story addition was added onto the house when Herman Hewitt purchased the property around 1935. This construction was done by John Lynch. One tobacco barn and two other outbuildings stand on the property. A large satellite dish is located in the front yard. The house faces west with the roof oriented on a north/south axis.

The Hewitt House has a cinderblock foundation. The exterior is sheathed with artificial siding material. The shallow pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The west (main) elevation has a porch supported by Doric columns which extends across its full width. Both the tongue-in-groove wood floor and the wainscoted ceiling of the porch survive intact. The main block of the house is pierced by a modern entrance door and two six-over-six sash windows with narrow surrounds. The second floor is lit by three six-over-six sash windows. The two-story, southern wing is pierced on the first floor by a partially glazed central entrance door flanked on either side by one six-over-six sash window. The second floor is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows. A brick chimney, once located on the exterior of the main block, projects from the roof ridge line between the main block and the southern addition.

The north elevation is blind except for a vent which pierces the eave. An exterior cinderblock chimney stands against this exterior wall.

The east elevation of the main block is pierced by three six-over-six sash windows with narrow surrounds on both the first and second floors. The southern wing is pierced by one six-over-six sash window on both the first and second floors. A one-story kitchen wing projects from the two-story addition, acting as its southern-most bay. The kitchen is lit on the north side by one six-over-six sash window. It is blind on the east gable end. A one-story, shed roof addition extends south of the kitchen wing. This addition is lit by a pair of one-over-one sash windows.

The south elevation of the c. 1935 wing is blind on the first floor and lit by two six-over-six sash windows on the second floor. The shed roof addition which extends from the eastern kitchen wing is pierced by a modern entrance door and two one-over-one sash windows. One six-over-six sash window is located on its west side.

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

Specific dates  Unknown Builder/Architect  Unknown

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 Herman Hewitt House is significant as an example of a modest farm house dating to the mid nineteenth century and possibly earlier. In contrast to the small scale of the structure is its distinctive first floor mantel. It is unclear whether this mantel is original to the house or whether it was added at a later date. Although many of the original exterior and interior finishes of the Hewitt House have been replaced, the house retains its original side hall/single pile plan.

This property is comprised of five tracts of land. Two of these tracts are known as "Part of a part of Mount Olive." The remaining three are Timber Swamp, Addition to Timber Swamp, and Part of Oak Farm. "Part of a part of Mount Olive," "Timber Swamp," and "Addition to Timber Swamp" were purchased by John Cole of George Watts in 1823. At that time, the property now known as "Mount Olive" was part of "Jones Woods" and "Guythers Grange." John Cole died in 1835, and all his property passed to his children Ann W. Cole, Violetta G. Cole, Elizabeth G. Cole and William E. Cole. Ultimately, William E. Cole became possessed of all of his father's property.

William E. Cole is listed as a merchant living in the second district in the Census of 1850. Ten years later he is listed as a farmer. Cole dies in 1864 and his property is sold by a decree of the court in 1870. In 1870 the property which comprises Mount Olive is purchased by Ann C. Wilson and sold immediately to John L. Milburn and Eliza O. Milburn who appear to be siblings.

John W. and Mary E. Clements become possessed of this property in the 1870s. John Clements, who appears in the third district as an overseer in the 1860 Census, is listed as a farmer in the second district by 1870. Also resident in his household at this time are two farm laborers and a housekeeper.

In two separate deeds, both dated 1873, the Milburns sell a "Part of a part of Mount Olive" to John W. Clements and to his wife Mary E. Clements. Both deeds mention the existence of the Clements' dwelling in the metes and bounds descriptions and note that the Clements own contiguous property known as "Maj. Cole's Old

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM 451

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 Acre

Quadrangle name Piney Point

Quadrangle scale 1: 24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Zone    Easting                    Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Acreage Surrounding House.

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

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Planning & Zoning

date September 1994

street & number 328 Washington Street

telephone (301) 475 4662

city or town Leonardtown

state Maryland

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

SM-451, Herman Hewitt House  
St. Mary's County  
7.1 Description

The interior of the main block consists of a hall and a parlor on the first floor. The hall stair has a chamfered newell post with a diamond-shaped cap. The balusters are square. A four-panel door opens onto the parlor which is finished with a large mantel on the south wall. The mantel, which measures about five feet in height by six feet in width, consists of plain pilasters surmounted by a wide, five-part frieze and mantel shelf. The two rooms located above the parlor were not seen.

Outbuildings on the property include a modern gable roof storage shed which stands on a cinderblock foundation and faces west. The shed is sheathed with vinyl siding and roofed with asphalt shingles. A gambrel roofed barn with an attached stripping shed is located in the northeast corner of the property next to a gable roofed storage shed. Both were built after 1940.

SM-451, Herman Hewitt House  
St. Mary's County  
8.5 Significance

Place." It remains unclear where the Clements' dwelling is located and what is meant by "Maj. Cole's Old Place." Based on the property descriptions, the house does not appear to stand on the "Part of a part of Mount Olive" parcels.

In 1869, John Clements purchased "Part of the Oak Farm" from John H. Milburn who had purchased it from the Cole estate. This 11 3/4 acre tract was purchased by William Cole of John Guyther in the 1850s. It would seem unlikely that such a recent acquisition by Cole would be referred to as "Maj. Cole's *old* place."

Sometime between 1867 and 1872, Mary E. Clements purchased "Timber Swamp" and "Addition to Timber Swamp" from the estate of William Cole. This property had belonged to William's father, John Cole. It may be that the dwelling is located on this tract.

John W. Clements' property was sold by a decree of the Orphan's Court in 1883. A description of the property in the newspaper noted that the land was "improved by a comfortable Dwelling and necessary Out-Houses." Charles and Ruth Pomeroy purchased the 123 9/10 acre tract in 1884.

Herman Hewitt purchased the land from Pomeroy's heir in 1935. He then hired John Lynch to construct the southern two-story wing, a front porch, and the kitchen wing. Of the two barns which stood on the property at the time of Hewitt's purchase, one was destroyed by a storm, and the other was torn down. The current owner has a painting of one of these barns. In 1941, electricity was installed in the house.

The construction date and use of the Hewitt House remains a bit of a puzzle. The chain of title shows that the house was certainly standing by 1873 when it appears in descriptions of contiguous property. The house may have been a tenant farm house on William Cole's farm, although it is unclear whether it predated the arrival of the Clements in the 1860s.

The description of property occupied by the Clements as "Major Cole's Old *Place*" rather than "field" may also suggest that Cole actually lived in this house prior to his move to Mount Olive. Following his move, the house may have reverted to tenant use. Though the house is small, the mantel in the first floor parlor is a substantial decorative feature. The restrained moldings of the mantel suggest that it could date to the Federal period, though the two-dimensional qualities of the shallow panels are more typical of the Greek Revival style. It seems unlikely that a mere tenant farmer could afford such a luxury, although it is also possible that this transition period piece was salvaged from an earlier structure and reused here.

SM-451, Herman Hewitt House  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: J. Phillip Hewitt  
FROM: Timothy D. Hewitt, Diane M. Hewitt, Patricia Lois Hewitt, Lawrence K. Hewitt, Linda Hewitt Buffenbarger.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EWA 848, folio 372.  
DATE: December 20, 1993.  
NOTES: Transfer of 584 acres being the same as that devised in MRB 5/95.

TO: J. Phillip Hewitt  
FROM: Herman W. Hewitt  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Liber MRB 5, folio 95.  
DATE: August 23, 1966.  
NOTES: "I give and devise my said residence, yard, and garden unto my son J. Phillip Hewitt."

TO: Herman W. Hewitt Sr.  
FROM: J. Bernard Love, Sheriff  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 9, folio 339.  
DATE: November 12, 1935.  
NOTES: Transfer of "Part of a part of Mt. Olive," "Timber Swamp," "Addition to Timber Swamp," "Part of Oak Farm" being 123 9/10 acres and the same as that devised to Campion M. Pomeroy in MLC 1/98.

TO: Campion M. and Bessie Pomeroy  
FROM: William G. Fenwick  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 7, folio 81.  
DATE: August 2, 1930.  
NOTES: Transfer of those tracts mentioned above.

TO: William G. Fenwick  
FROM: Campion M. Pomeroy and Bessie Pomeroy  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 7, folio 81.  
DATE: August 2, 1930.  
NOTES: Transfer of those tracts mentioned in JFF 7/249.

TO: Campion Pomeroy  
FROM: Charles H. Pomeroy  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Testamentary Record, Liber MLC 1, folio 98.  
DATE: April 9, 1929.  
NOTES: "I give...to my son Campion M. Pomeroy...all the real estate of which I die

SM-451, Herman Hewitt House  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Significance

possessed know as 'Part of Mt. Olive' containing 123 9/10 acres." (Note: While Pomeroy refers to the entire 123 9/10 acre tract as "Part Mt. Olive" it is actually composed of five separate tracts, only two of which were originally referred to as "Part of a Part of Mt. Olive.")

TO: Charles H. Pomroy and Ruth V. Pomroy  
FROM: Joseph F. Morgan, Trustee  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 7, folio 249.  
DATE: May 9, 1884.

NOTES: Transfer of property including "Part of a part of Mt. Olive" being 12 9/10 acres, "Timber Swamp" being 56 acres, "Addition to Timber Swamp" being 50 acres, "Part of Oak Farm" being 11 3/4 acres, and "Part of a Part of Mount Olive" being 11 acres as a result of a decree in Orphan's Court dated September 19, 1883 in the case Charles H. Pomroy and Ruth V. Pomroy vs. Agnes Clements and J. Annie Clements. Agnes and J. Annie Clements are heirs of John W. Clements. An ad in the St. Mary's Beacon of September 1883 notes the above described property for sale as "the farm formerly belonging to John W. Clements...and are improved by a comfortable Dwelling and necessary Out-Houses." There are no probate records for John Clements.

TO: Annie Clements  
FROM: J. Frank Smith, Sherriff  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF, folio 254.  
DATE: August 10, 1880.

NOTES: Transfer of property as a result of a judgement in the Circuit Court case George Combs vs. Jeannette A. Abell, Benjamin Hewitt, John B. Pursel, John J. Allston, John M. Brome, George Thomas, Thomas A. Lynch, Benjamin J. Abell, and J. Frank Greenwell dated June 26, 1880. Transfer of "Manor Swamp and Addition" being 106 acres, "Part Mt. Olive" being 22 acres, and "Forrest Land" being 11 3/4 acres. It remains unclear on which parcel the house stands.

Part Mt. Olive: Consists of Two Parcels

TO: John W. Clements  
FROM: Eliza O. Milburn and J. Morris Milburn  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JAC 6, folio 399.  
DATE: September 23, 1873.

NOTES: Transfer of "Part of a part of Mt. Olive" being 11 acres. "Beginning for the same at a stob on the north side of Mary E. Clements dwelling..." Price: \$200

TO: Mary E. Clements  
FROM: J. Lewis Milburn and Charlotte E. Milburn  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JAC 6, folio 294.  
DATE: June 10, 1873.

SM-451, Herman Hewitt House  
St. Mary's County  
8.3 Significance

NOTES: Transfer of "Part of a part of Mount Olive" being 12 9/10 acres. Mention of John W. Clements' dwelling in property description. Price: \$258

TO: John L. Milburn and Eliza O. Milburn  
FROM: Edwin A. Wilson and Ann C. Wilson  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JAC 5, folio 113.  
DATE: October 8, 1870.

NOTES: Transfer of "Jones Woods" and "Guyther's Grange" being 219 acres and a portion of the real estate of which William E. Cole died possessed and is more generally known as Cole's Mount Olive farm or home place. Price: \$3000

TO: Ann C. Wilson  
FROM: Robert C. Combs and James S. Downs, Trustees  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JAC 4, folio 464.  
DATE: October 4, 1870.

NOTES: Transfer of "Jones Woods" and "Guyther's Grange" being 219 acres and a portion of the land of which William E. Cole died possessed generally known as Cole's Mt. Olive Farm or home place as the result of a judgement in a Court of Equity case of James H. Miles Admin D. B. N. of William B. Taylor and John S. Guyther vs. Eliza A. Cole and James A. Miles, executors of William E. Cole et al. See Decree Record JAC 3/72.

TO: Ann W. Cole, Violetta G. Cole, Elizabeth G. Cole, William E. Cole, children and heirs of John Cole, deceased.

FROM: Robert Crane  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JH 9, folio 269.  
DATE: June 26, 1832.

NOTES: Richard H. Watts was appointed Trustee in Court of Equity to sell the real estate of George Watts for the payment of debts. On April 1, 1823 Watts sold to John Cole the real estate of George Watts being "Part of Jones Woods" and a part of "Guythers Grange," "Part of Timber Swamp," "Part of addition to Timber Swamp," "Part of Maids Right," and "Part of Watts Discovery" being 218 3/4 acres more or less. Both Richard Watts and John Cole are now deceased, so the court ordered on March 15, 1826 to appoint Crane as Trustee to complete the sale to Cole's heirs.  
Price: \$2016

Manor Swamp and Addition

TO: Mary E. Clements  
FROM: Robert C. Combs and James S. Downs, Trustees  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JAC 6, folio 72.  
DATE: August 21, 1872.

NOTES: Transfer of "Timber Swamp" being 56 acres and "Addition to Timber Swamp"

SM-451, Herman Hewitt House  
St. Mary's County  
8.4 Significance

being 50 acres as the result of a judgement in a Court of Equity case of James H. Miles Admin D. B. N. of William B. Taylor and John S. Guyther vs. Eliza A. Cole and James A. Miles, executors of William E. Cole et al. See Decree Record JAC 3/72. Property was sold to Martha A. Miles who resold it to Mary E. Clements.

TO: Ann W. Cole, Violetta G. Cole, Elizabeth G. Cole, William E. Cole, children and heirs of John Cole, deceased.

FROM: Robert Crane

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JH 9, folio 269.

DATE: June 26, 1832.

NOTES: Richard H. Watts was appointed Trustee in Court of Equity to sell the real estate of George Watts for the payment of debts. On April 1, 1823 Watts sold to John Cole the real estate of George Watts being "Part of Jones Woods" and a part of "Guythers Grange," "Part of Timber Swamp," "Part of addition to Timber Swamp," "Part of Maids Right," and "Part of Watts Discovery" being 218 3/4 acres more or less. Both Richard Watts and John Cole are now deceased, so the court ordered on March 15, 1826 to appoint Crane as Trustee to complete the sale to Cole's heirs.

Price: \$2016

Forrest Land

TO: John W. Clements

FROM: John H. Milburn and Caroline Milburn

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JAC 3, folio 448.

DATE: January 25, 1869

NOTES: Transfer of 11 3/4 acres being "Part of the Oak Farm"





LM-451

Herman Hewitt Hooper

of King's County, MS

E. Hughes

10/14

MS. 2000

NW elevation

$\frac{1}{2}$







