D-57

1000575904

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Garden of Eden

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Garden of Eden Road, .8 mile north of Md. Rt. 343

CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Dorchester

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☒ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Howell

STREET AND NUMBER: R.F.D. 3

CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge

STATE: Maryland 21613

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Dorchester County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: High Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge

STATE: Maryland 21613

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 158/339

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)		
	☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed		
	(Check One)	(Check One)	
	☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved ☒ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (*if known*) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Garden of Eden is one of the great Ante-bellum houses of Dorchester County. The main portion of the house is built over a high brick basement. The walls are framed and covered with beaded weatherboard. It is five bays long with a central entrance, and two storys tall. On each side is a 20th century one and one-half story wing, one housing the kitchen, the other a porch.

A covered porch over the door with its sidelight and transom appears to be original, a very simple version of the Greek Revival style. Each of the windows have 6/6 sash and louvered shutters, though the first story windows are slightly longer than those above. On each side of the roof are two dormers. There is a deck upon the roof with balustrade extending between the four tall chimneys. On the water side of the house is a screened porch which looks down a partial allee of maples to the waters of the Great Choptank.

The interior is divided into four rooms with central stair-hall. The hall and west half of the house have simple Greek Revival architraves around the doors and windows, similar to Ridgeton Farm, Taylor's Island. The openings of the other half of the house and upstairs have bold trim with corner blocks and four-panel doors. The original partition between the front and back rooms on the west has been removed, creating a large living room. Between the two east rooms are closets, which are beneath the corridor and stair to the attic.

The stair is deviod of the usual ornamentation of Ante-bellum millwork. It is made of mahogany while most of the period is walnut and oak. The secondary newels are smaller than the main one and their drop finials are delicate acorns.

The house has seven fireplaces - only the southeast bedroom lacks a fireplace. It has an openness and rich simplicity not found in other houses of the period.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☐ 18th Century
- ☒ 19th Century
- ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - ☐ Prehistoric
  - ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☒ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Garden of Eden is one of the best Ante-Bellum houses of Dorchester. Only Ridgeton and Liberty Hall rival its detail, but neither has the lightness of interior detail which make Garden of Eden so impressive.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Flowers, Thomas A., Dorchester Trecentenary, 1969.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Map 19, p.46

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust

DATE: May 1, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER: Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland 21401

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

.12 x 1.66 75% D-57

Garden of Eden

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M. Bourne May 1975