

K-83

The Plains
Near Fairlee
c. 1766

John Ringgold was bequeathed part of the Plains by his father James in 1766. He is the likely builder of the house which stands on the property today. In its original form the house was a 1-1/2 story gambrel roof structure, built of brick and laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. The plan was a simple hall parlor plan. Like many houses in Chestertown, its water table jogged above the basement windows. These windows, as well as those of the first floor and the entry were topped by segmental arches & the west gable had a decorative brick pattern running along the pitch of the roof. Two small windows flanked the chimney which was built within the west wall. On the opposite gable there was a kitchen wing, probably made of frame or log.

The entry opened into the hall and on its west wall, beside the fireplace, a winder stair was partially enclosed behind a paneled wall. The windows here had splayed jambs and it is likely that this room had a bold cornice, as well as chair rail and baseboard in its original form. The parlor also had a fireplace, with a door to its south side which originally led to the kitchen wing.

John Ringgold and his wife had only one child, Ann, who married John Carvill (III). Upon her father's death in 1780 The Plains was bequeathed to Ann.¹ In her will, written that same year, she directed that her mother continue to live at The Plains and that after her own death, The Plains become the property of her son, Thomas Carvill. Ann lived until

1801.²

Thomas, as a citizen of Kent County, fought at the Battle of Caulk's Field. He married Mary Ringgold, his second cousin and had several children. In 1835, after the death of their father, the Carvill children sold 197 acres to Bartus Trew (of Providence Plantation).³ Within four years, Trew died without having paid off the mortgage, and the Carvill heirs, Mary Freeman and Harriett Carvill were subsequently in a position to sell the farm again – this time to Edward Ringgold, a relative.⁴

It was most likely during the ownership of Thomas Carvill that the original house was altered. The remodeling involved the removal of the gambrel roof and the heightening of the brick walls to 2-1/2 stories. The entire main block was then covered with a steeply pitched 'A' roof. It was this house which Edward Ringgold purchased in 1839.

When Ringgold died in 1854, the farm passed on to his son John Fletcher Ringgold and it is his name which appears on Martinet's Map of 1860.⁵ Before the Atlas was printed in 1877, however, John had died and the farm was in the next generation of the Ringgold family (John Edward Ringgold).⁶

In 1880 Charles H. Baker was a trustee in the sale of John Ringgold's real estate. He sold the farm to William Vannort who lived on Front Street in Chestertown and owned several other farms in Kent County.⁷ This farm has remained in the same family ever since, continually being used as a tenant farm. In the early 20th Century, a large frame wing was added

behind the parlor and the old kitchen was removed. In the late 1920's, the paneling was sold to Henry Francis duPont, who incorporated it into his summer house in South Hampton, New York.

1. Schoch, Mildred C. Inggold in America.
2. Wills, Lib. 8, fol. 114.
3. Land Records, Lib. JNG 4, fol. 130.
4. Land Records, Lib. JNG 6, fol. 151.
5. Wills, Lib. JF 1, fol. 23.
6. Wills, Lib. JF 1, fol. 34.
7. Land Records, Lib. SB 1, fol. 173.

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Montgomery</u> TOWN <u>Chesapeake</u> VICINITY <u>Fairlee</u> STREET NO. <u>Baker's Lane, 1 mile S 3 RT 20</u> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>S. Bennett Chapman</u> PRESENT USE <u>dwelling</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2</u>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>K-K-83</u> 2. NAME <u>Chapman Farm</u> <u>Baker's Lane</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>mid 18th Century</u> STYLE <u>Colonial</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u>	
<p>The old house on Baker's Lane is a 2 story brick house with steep 'A' roof and tall chimneys on the gables. On the north side of the house is a 2 story frame wing of little interest. This house has a stopped water table which goes over ^{above} the basement windows, which have segmental arches. The first story is laid - Finish board with glazed headers (was painted yellow). It is 3 bays long and 2 bays deep. The panelled door is in the center of the ^{south} facade. One of the flanking windows has 1 1/2 sash and the other has panelled shutters with a club-like cut-out design in the top panel. These also have segmental arches. On the 2nd story the brick is smaller and has no glazed work. Also there are 1/2 sash & board shutters. On the west gable, at 2nd story are 2, 4-pane casements. In the attic there are larger windows with a 1 brick string course between them. Apparently the house had a gambrel roof and was later raised to a 2 full stories with large attic. The exterior of the 18th century</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE		Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior Exterior <u>fair</u>	
portion is very good work and the cut-out design in the shutters is the 1st located in Mont County.			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Oct 2, 1968</u>	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

Chesapeake

SD-1-72



The old house on Baker's Lane is a two story brick house with steep A roof and tall chimneys on the gables. On the north side of the house is a two story frame wing of little interest.

This house has a stepped water table which jogs above the basement windows, which have segmental arches. The first story is laid in Flenish bond with glazed headers (now painted yellow). It is three bays long and two bays deep. The paneled door is in the center of the south facade. One of the flanking windows has 12/12 sashes and the other has paneled shutters with a club-like cut-out design in the top panel. These also have segmental arches. On the second story the brick is smaller and has no glazed work. Also there are 6/6 sashes and louvered shutters. On the west gable, at second story level are two, four-pane casements. In the attic there are larger windows with a one brick string course between them. Apparently the house had a gambrel roof and was later raised to two full stories with large attic. The exterior of the eighteenth-century portion is very good work and the cut-out design in the shutters is the first located in Kent County.

Chapman House

K-83



March 16, 1970

Mr. Michael Bourne
Great Hopes
Sudlersville, Maryland 21668

Dear Michael:

It was very good to see you today, and I hope that I was able to give you some information that was helpful to you. I am listing below what information we have about the woodwork bought in Maryland for Mr. du Pont's house at Southampton. You may recognize the names of the houses. Most of this woodwork was bought through Mr. H. L. Lindsey, who lives somewhere near you in Maryland. It might be worth while talking with him.

1/21/24--Paneling and woodwork from old Wilmer house, Chestertown, Maryland.
Bought through H. L. Lindsey (Pine Room).

--Woodwork, old house at Georgetown, Maryland, 1766. Also bought through Mr. Lindsey.

K-83 — 9/3/24 --Paneling, Chapman house, 1762.

7/20/24--Paneling from Brown house, Chesterown, Maryland. Bought through Mr. Lindsey. This house is further described as "Violet Grove on the road from Chestertown to St. Paul's Church." It was owned by a Mr. Hynson Rodgers, and the tenant was Charles M. Brown. (Thus there are references to two Brown houses in the files.)

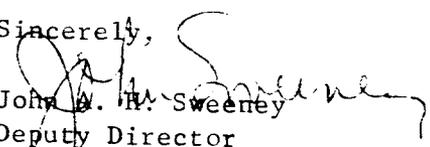
12/4/24--Paneling from Fairlee Creek house. Bought through Mr. Lindsey.

6/18/25--Woodwork in house at Quaker Neck, Kent County, near Chestertown.
Bought from Mrs. Harold Baker.

There is a further reference to correspondence with a Mrs. Lea Tomlinson Stine re Serena Smith property. Apparently this is a house near Georgetown, and a further note says that the woodwork was used in the reception room at Southampton.

Please let me know if you have any further questions about the graduate work, and I shall be glad to talk with you at any time.

Sincerely,


John W. Sweeney

Deputy Director
Collections and Interpretation

JAHS:mew

The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware 19735 Tel. 302 656-8591

K-83

4343

510 000
FEET

