K-228
Plain View Farm, Ralph Williams Farm, Muddy Branch Farm 19th Century
Lynch
Private

Plain View Farm house is a vernacular building, circa 1800, which has several unusual elements including a very small front room, double entrance doors, a huge chamfered summer beam in the first floor ceiling, and shaped rafter ends. Certainly, these are adaptations of the usual two story gable roofed, rectangular, brick house form to the needs of an individual builder. The house is brick with a frame wing.

[redacted]

K-228

MACI #1502285204

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Ralph Williams Farm

AND/OR COMMON
Plain View Farms, Muddy Branch Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Lynch

x VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Ronald Wessel (Mr. & Mrs.)

Telephone #:(301) 778-1065

STREET & NUMBER
Box 14

CITY, TOWN
Worton

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21678

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: EHP 69
Folio #: 699

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Kent County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Chestertown

STATE
Maryland 21620

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-228

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
_GOOD	_RUINS	X ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The main house of Plain View Farms is a four bay, two story brick vernacular farm building which closely resembles its neighbors, Duncan's Folly (K-107) a much earlier building and Terra View (K- The house, once called Muddy Branch Farm, faces south, on a hill overlooking fields and distantly, the old Muddy Branch. Tall, old trees are the only striking vegetation. Only one outbuilding remains, a steep gable roofed frame shed with a batten door hung with penny-end strap hinges.

The house has Flemish bond brick on the front facade with Liverpool bond used elsewhere. The brick walls are painted white. Original windows are located in the second and fourth bays (from the west.) The main entrance is in the third bay. The first bay also contained a door, now converted into a tall window with Victorian trim. Windows have 6/6 sash, slightly projecting wooden sills and beaded frames with a backband molding. Segmental brick arches are used above first floor window openings on both front and rear facades. Second floor windows with sash, similiar trim and sills are situated above the windows below. The fenestration of the rear facade resembles that on the front except that there is only one door in the same, third from the west bay.

There were two small attic windows in the east gable until a recent remodeling. A former window in the west gable near the front wall of the building was long ago closed.

The cellar entrance with its arched opening is located in the bay west of the main entrance. The building has no belt courses or water table but stands on a field stone foundation. There is a cellar under the west half of the house.

A four bay modern porch shades the front of the house, obscuring window and door arches. At the rear of the house is a one bay entrance porch with turned posts, wooden benches, and very attractive and unusual sawn wooden brackets and pendents.

The gable roof of the main house has exposed rafter ends which are shaped to resemble brackets. This unusual roof finish appears to be quite early. Enclosed chimneys with rebuilt caps rise at each gable.

North east of the house is a two story wing which appears to be contemporary with the main house. Although it may have once been one and one-half storys in height, it had a shed roof over a full two storys until recently. It rests on a stone cellar and has an enclosed corner stair in the northwest corner. It originally had two rooms on the second floor with a passage leading from the stair to the front room. A recent remodeling replaced the ungainly shed roof with a gable roof and removed the second floor partitions. In the remodeling fragments of beaded weatherboarding were found.

The interior floor plan is somewhat unusual and may indicate changes. The building now has a central stair entrance hall with stair, which, by its details, posts-dates the house. South of the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-228

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Early 19th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Plain View Farms house which appears to be a very typical vernacular farm house of c. 1800 has in fact several unusual elements: The plan with the small front room, the double entrance doors, the chamfered structural beam inside and the shaped rafter ends. Certainly these are adaptations of the usual gable roofed, rectangular, vernacular form to the needs and tastes of an individual builder.

Little is known of the history of the building, its unusual elements could make its research an interesting project.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-228

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

ORGANIZATION
Kent County Historical Society

DATE
August, 1977

STREET & NUMBER
Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Chestertown

STATE
Maryland 21620

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

PS-1108

K-228

7 Continued

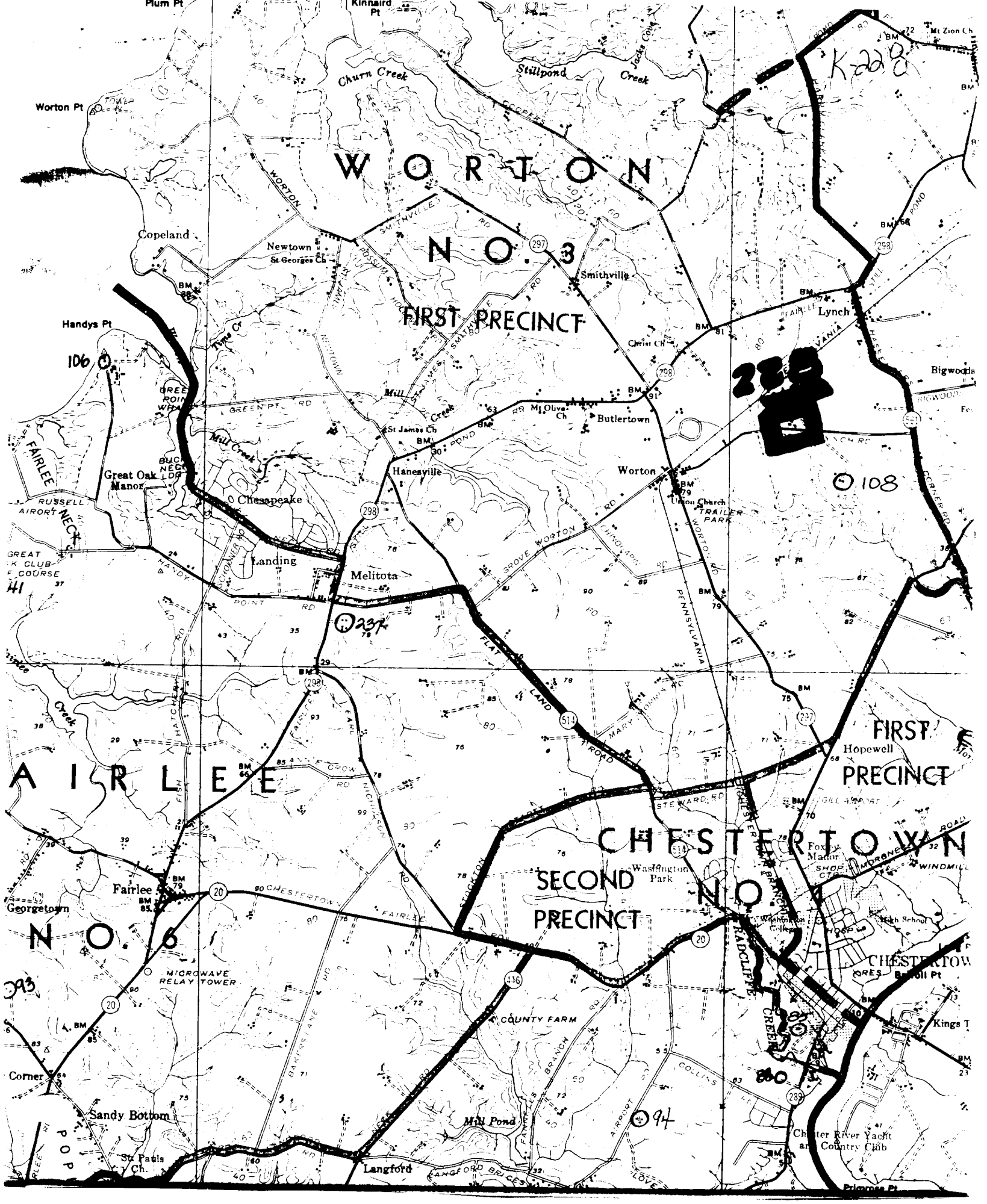
present stair the first floor is divided into a long narrow front room (into which was a door) and parlor. Portions of this wall, now plastered, show it is vertically boarded and beaded facing the parlor. There is a large mantle with surround consisting of quarter round backband, wide fillet, cyma recta, wide fillet & bead. There is a plastered panel above the fireplace. A closet left of the mantle has a beaded batten door.

Other window and door trim on the first floor is simple and appears to date from the mid to late 19th century.

The most unusual feature of the house is a large structural beam which runs the length of the house beneath the roof ridge and supports the second floor. The beam has wide chamfers with lamb's tongue chamfer stops. Whether it was original or added for structural stability can only be determined by examination of the pockets in the brick walls in which it is let and other structural elements.

The central stair, certainly a later addition, has a mahogany newel and handrail and plain rectangular balusters.

The second floor of the house has original trim on most windows and doors. It is identical to that on the mantle surround and certainly dates the house to the Federal period, probably the early 19th century. Doors are six panel, raised and beveled on the front and recessed at the rear. Old pine floors are found on the second floor.



K-228
WORTON
NO. 3
FIRST PRECINCT
228
106
108
237
FIRST
PRECINCT
CHESTERTOWN
NO. 4
SECOND
PRECINCT
AIRLEE
NO. 6
Plum Pt
Kinnaird Pt
Churn Creek
Stillpond Creek
Jacks Cove
Worton Pt
Copeland
Newtown
St Georges Ch
Smithville
Handys Pt
Lynch
Christ Ch
Bigwoods
Mill Creek
Mt Olive Ch
Butlertown
St James Ch
Hanesville
Worton
Union Church
TRAILER PARK
Great Oak Manor
Chesapeake
Landing
Melitota
FAIRLEE NECK
RUSSELL AIRPORT
GREAT OAK CLUB
FLAT LAND ROAD
PENNSYLVANIA
Hopewell
Foxley Manor
Washington Park
Washington College
High School
CHESTERTOWN
Fairlee
Georgetown
MICROWAVE RELAY TOWER
COUNTY FARM
RADCLIFFE CREEK
Kings T
Corner
Sandy Bottom
Mill Pond
St Pauls Ch.
Langford
Chester River Yacht and Country Club
Primrose Pt

PLAIN VIEW

MHT-K228

WORTON-LYNCH RD.

LYNCH, MD

FRONT FROM SOUTH

C. ENGSTROM AUG 1977

PLAIN VIEW MHT-K 228

WORTON-LYNCH RD.

LYNCH, MD.

REAR FROM NORTH

C. ENGSTROM AUG. 1977

PLAIN VIEW
WORTON-LYNCH RD.
LYNCH, MD.
LIVING ROOM MANTEL
C. ENGSTROM AUG. 1977

MHT - K 228