

K-232

Big Meadows
Worton
1784

When Galloways Chance was patented to William Galloway in 1684 the 200 acre parcel was then within the boundaries of Cecil County.¹ A warrant and resurvey was granted to Joseph Everett in 1734 for the same 200 acres plus 22 additional acres of vacancy under the name of Everett's Double Purchase.² Everett died in 1750 leaving the farm to his three sons, but Augustine died young and John sold his half interest to his brother Benjamin. In the same year, 1753, Benjamin purchased 45 acres adjoining called Rich Meadows.³ Benjamin's son, Hales, acquired the property from his siblings in 1783 consisting then of 293 acres.⁴ The following year Hales built the house for his family, recording the year of the event, 1784, in large glazed headers on the southwest gable.

The Everett house was constructed similarly to the John Williams House, a 1770 three bay brick house east of Lynch. Each of the two houses has a large glazed date in the gable opposite their kitchen. At Big Meadows the 8 is on the face of the protruding chimney, whereas the 1770 flanks the chimney on the Williams house. Neither has initials like Bungay Hill or the Violet Farm. Big Meadows is the latest house in Kent County to have a glazed date.

Although many of the sash and frames have been altered, the sizes of the openings appear original. There would have been 12/8 sash originally on the first floor with 6/6 sash on the second. The northeast gable had a 2/2 sash to light the attic. Possibly the house began life with a hall-parlor plan

and continued with an enclosed corner stair until the present central hall was installed in the 1830's. At that juncture another window would have been added at the stair landing on the northeast side of the house. The dormers were probably added to each side of the 'A' roof at the same time.

The present kitchen is a 1 1/2 story leanto structure, nearly square. It appears to be early 20th century and most likely replaces an earlier structure. One of the original outbuildings, a plank smokehouse with 'A' roof, remains behind the house today.

In addition to entries in the land records of the county, the name of Hales Everett occurs in the records of I. U. Church in 1768 as having acquired one third of Pew No. 30 in the newly constructed church. Everett's daughter, Mary Everett Walker inherited the farm from her father and maintained it until 1816 when she sold it to John Bowers. Bowers owned several farms in the immediate vicinity. Upon his death, the farms were resurveyed and distributed amongst his children. The "Walker Farm" went to son James L. Bowers in 1841, the same man who owned what is now called Friendship. Since J. L. Bowers' ownership, the farm has been the subject of multiple transactions. Beginning in the 1860's the name "Big Meadows" appears along with earlier names.⁵

1. Patents, Lib. 22, fol. 342.
2. Warrants, Lib. EI 5, fol. 310.
3. Land Records, Lib. 7, fol. 401.
4. Land Records, Lib. EF 6, fol. 177.
5. The author would like to express his gratitude to Carolyn Cooper for the research she has provided on Bit Meadows.

BIG MEADOW
Worton, Maryland
(1784)

K-232

Big Meadow is a two story brick house with a date, 1784, laid in black glazed headers in one gable. The original section is three bays wide and two bays deep and has a central stair hall and entrances. The interior of the building has undergone many changes, but a simple stair with turned newels remains. Also on the property is a small gable-roofed outbuilding made of squared log construction.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

BIG MEADOW

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Northeast side of Grove-Worton Rd.,
1 mile west of Worton

1st

CITY, TOWN

Worton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED occasionally	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER hunting club

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Big Meadow, Inc.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Major M.D. Burgee

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Hall

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20622

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Court House

Liber #: EHP 7

Folio #: 366

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust, Survey of Kent County

DATE

1968

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust, The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Big Meadow is located on the northeast side of Grove-Worton Road, about one mile west of Worton. Set back off the road the house faces southeast overlooking ponds and rolling farmland. Behind the main house are frame barns and one log outbuilding. There are no formal gardens or plantings although several old trees are standing in the yard.

The brick section of the building is three bays long and two stories tall, and has central entrances. The building has a gable roof and is constructed above a full basement, which is fieldstone below grade. On the northeast gable is a 1½ story, shed roof kitchen wing which is two bays long and nearly as deep as the brick portion. It is frame covered with aluminum siding and is of fairly recent date.

The bricks of the main house are laid in Flemish bond on the front facade and Liverpool bond elsewhere. The bricks are dark pinkish orange in color and regular in shape. The bricks average 2 3/8" by 8¼" by 4¼" and 3 courses measure about 8½". All mortar joints are struck with the horizontal being wider than the vertical. The only decorative detailing is a plain, stepped water table on the front facade. The walls were once painted white.

Chimneys are partially enclosed within each gable. Both have plain caps which replace corbelled caps shown in an old photograph. The chimney on the southwest gable has stepped shoulders. Also in this gable is the date, 1784, in black-glazed headers.

The roof, now covered with wooden shingles, is finished against replacement verge-boards and a box cornice with composite crown and bed moldings, possibly original. The gable dormers have 6 over 6 sash and shingled cheeks and are later additions.

A variety of sash sizes are used in the windows, and all frames appear to have been rebuilt at various times. Two 8 over 12 sash remain on the first floor rear but 6 over 6 sash are used elsewhere. Probably the building originally had 6 over 6 sash on the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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 1784

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Big Meadow house is significant because it is a dated 18th century building and can serve as a guide for dating other houses in Kent County. Because it has undergone extensive interior remodeling, however, the overall form and brick work are its most significant features. Also of importance is the outbuilding. Square-log or plank construction, sometimes with carefully dovetailed corners, was a common construction material in the 18th and 19th centuries, but few buildings have survived to today.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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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, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

778-4600, ext.67

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

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

second floor, 8 over 12 or the reverse on the first, and 2 over 2 sash or a four-pane casement in the two little attic windows in the northeast gable. There is an additional window in the northwest wall, off-center, but at the stair landing level. Now rebuilt, it probably had a 4 over 4 sash window. The basement is lit by small windows with horizontal bars in the window bays. Two windows on the first floor, southwest gable have been closed in. Front and rear entry doors have been changed. That on the front has a four light transom. Both are sheltered with modern porches. Now leading to the kitchen but formerly an leading outside, is a board door with diagonal boarding on the inside. It is hung on penny-end strap hinges.

The interior of the building has undergone many alterations. It has a simple, central, dog-leg stair with a round walnut handrail, plain balusters, 2 per step, and very simple turned newels and intermediates.

Most doors have 6 panels and trim which consists of a Greek ogee and fillet. Flooring is 6"-8" random yellow pine. The remaining mantles are no older than the late 19th century.

There is a squared-log outbuilding on the property. Covered on the outside with vertical boarding it has a gable roof with rafters that are half-lapped and pegged. The only opening is a doorway in the southwest gable; its door is board and batten and it is hung on wrought penny-end strap hinges.

STATE **md**
 COUNTY **Kent**
 TOWN **worton** VICINITY
 STREET NO. **Grove-Worton Rd - 1/2 mile west of worton north side**
 ORIGINAL OWNER
 ORIGINAL USE **dwellin**
 PRESENT OWNER **Big Meadow Inc.**
 PRESENT USE **dwellin**
 WALL CONSTRUCTION **Brick**
 NO. OF STORIES **2 1/2**

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 INVENTORY **K-232**
 2. NAME **Big Meadow**
 DATE OR PERIOD **1784**
 STYLE **Colonial**
 ARCHITECT
 BUILDER
 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

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

Big Meadow is a 2 1/2 story brick house, 3 bays long & 2 bays deep with an A roog. ~~There~~ S. facade is laid: Flemish bond & the other sides: common bond. There are horizontal bars over the small basement windows. The 1st story windows are very large and have 1/2 oak except for an on the north facade which has 3/12, apparently original. There are no arches above the windows except on the 2nd story west gable, besides the chimney which ~~has~~ have flat arches of vertical headers, these windows are now bricked up, to see the 2 that were: the attic. The center window on the north facade is at ^{stair} landing level & has 1/4 oak. There is a single wood ^{box} cornice with moldings. There ~~are~~ are 2 'A' roog down on each side of the room with 1/6 oak. The 'A' roog is covered with wood shingle. On each gable is a partially protruding chimney - the one on the west side has the date 1784: glazed headers very

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

Crucially done - the "17" is to the ~~1st~~ north side of the chimney, the 4 on the ^B side & the B on the chimney itself.

There is a 2 story frame lean-to on east gable with porch.

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 Bonner
 DATE OF RECORD **Oct 1, 1968**

Dead - EHP 7/366
 SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE
 Aprs - Geo Wheat -
 former owner
 8/12
 1/4 - 1/6 diam.
 1/4
 1/6

Big Meadow is a two-and-one-half story brick house, three bays long and two bays deep with an A roof. The south facade is laid in Flenish bond and the other sides in common bond. There are horizontal bars over the small basement windows. The first story windows are very large and have 6/6 sash except for on the north facade which has 8/12, apparently original. There are no arches above the windows except on the second story west gable, beside the chimney which have flat arches of vertical headers. These windows are now bricked up, as are the two that were in the attic. The center window on the north facade is at stair landing level and has 4/4 sash. There is a single wood box cornice with moldings. There are two A roof dormers on each side of the house with 6/6 sashes. The A roof is covered with wood shingles. On each gable is a partially protruding chimney - the one on the west side has the date 1784 in glazed headers very crudely done - the "17" is to the north side of the chimney, the "4" on the south side and the "8" on the chimney itself.

There is a two story frame leanto on the east gable with a porch.



K-232

J. Tyler Campbell
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

JAN 28 1980

M. L. Fritz
7/1980

A

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
LIBRARY**

K-232

Big Meadows

1784



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Big Meadow
Southwest gable
w/date

M.L. Fritz
7/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

JAN 28 1980



Brother 1919.

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Big Meadow in 1919

Southeast Facade

Photo donated by:

Helen Taylor Munger
Worton, Maryland