

K-250

Suydam House  
Near Pomona  
c. 1860

Joseph S. Trew acquired this part of Thomas's Purchase after Thomas W. Trew's (his father's) estate was settled in 1859.<sup>1</sup> Upon his inheritance he built a fine three bay, three story frame, Italianate house with back wings. It was very similar to the house built on the adjoining farm called Pentridge, except that Pentridge had five bays across the facade. Joseph sited his house near the center of the farm.

From the brackets used on the wide cornice and the porch to the interior stair balustrade, the house contains many of the millwork details which were readily available through catalogues of the day. Like Pentridge and the Spry Home Farm, Trew's house had a deck on the roof with balustrade all around. From this deck he could view all parts of his farm.

In 1962, the house was moved nearer the east branch of Langford Creek and restored. In the process the old back wing was demolished and in its place a two bay, two story wing was built in good proportion to the old section. During the restoration the owners found the inscription "J. Trew, May 1869" on a third floor window.

1. Land Records, Lib. JFG 5, fol. 120.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Trew House

and/or common Suydam House

## 2. Location West side Langford-Pomona Road 3/4 mile South of Route 20

street & number RD 3  not for publicationcity, town Chestertown  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

## 3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership  | Status                                     | Present Use   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public                    | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied          | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private        | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both                      | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress  | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                          | <b>Accessible</b>                          | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process                | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted   | <input type="checkbox"/> government                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered          | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                   |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no     | <input type="checkbox"/> military                     |
|   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
|   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
|   |  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
|   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                    |
|   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. &amp; Mrs. Joseph W. Suydam

street &amp; number RD 3 telephone no.: (301) 778-1715

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland 21620

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber WHG 77

street &amp; number folio 156

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No.K-250

|                                    |                                       |                                    |  |                    |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| <b>Condition</b>                   |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                   | <b>Check one</b>                       |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input 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.

Three stories in height with a central hall plan and a shallow hipped roof, this frame structure shows the influence of both the Italianate & Greek Revivals styles in its design. Typical of the 1850 period, the house has a gallery on the roof, a rear ell, and a wide front porch.

# 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 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/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

| Specific dates   | Builder/Architect |
|--|-------------------|
| check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D<br>and/or  |                   |
| Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G |                   |
| Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local   |                   |

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The 1850's and 1860's saw a significant change in the design of vernacular country houses in Kent County as the first of the Victorian revivals began having its impact. The gable roofed houses with side wings began to be replaced by buildings with more decoration, that were taller and more spacious in feeling. This period also saw the first wide-spread use of factory made building parts such as brackets, stairs, windows, & mantles. An excellent example of the new buildings of the mid 19th century, this house was constructed in 1869 by a James or John Trew. It was moved to its present location & restored in 1962.



## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Building Form and Material

1. Size - Main Section: + 3 stories; 3 bays wide, 2 bays deep  
                                     Wing A 2 stories; 2 bays deep (later)  
                                     Wing B 1 story; 2 bays wide, (later)
2. Plan type - (main section) Central hall, one room deep
3. Roof Type-Main Section - shallow hip with platform  
                                     Wing A - shallow gable  
                                     Wing B - Shed
4. Chimney - in side of main house & gable of Wing B  
                                     Material-Brick  
                                     Decorative elements - corbelled cap; chimneys built in 1962
5. Material/Walls - Main Section - Frame; type ca. 6" weatherboard, wood  
                                     Wing A-Frame; type-same; Wing B-Frame; type-same
6. Material/Roofs - Main section standing seam metal; Wing A same; Wing B same
7. Material/Foundation - Main section-Brick; Wing A same; Wing B same
8. Age - Main section 1869. When the present owners restored the house, they found the name, J. Trew, and date, May 1869, inscribed on a window frame. Wings/additions - 1962. Earlier wings were demolished and not moved. Both Wing A & B were built by the present owner.
9. Style - Italianate - Greek Revival

+ Wing A is a 2 story structure immediately behind the main house with its north wall continuous with the north wall of the main section.

Wing B is behind A & projects slightly to the north; a modern porch fills in the resulting corner.

## BUILDING ELEMENTS AND DETAILS

1. Doors - Main entry: Center of east facade. Double with 2 raised panels with Greek ogee & bevel moldings and double screen doors. There is a 4 light transom & 3 light sidelights with red & blue glass & lower panels.  
  
                                     Secondary entries: In wings; a one-bay side entry porch leads to an entry on the south side of the wing A. It is covered with a one-bay entry porch with hipped roof & square columns.
2. Windows - Main section: type Double hung; lights 6/6 on first 2 floors, 3/3 on third; details-trim Greek ogee & bevel backband, inside bead, plain sills. Narrow sidelights used on central windows of main facade. Shutters louvered.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Wings(s) type-modern double hung  
 lights-6/6 in larger windows  
 details-brick molding  
 Shutters-where used similiar to main house

3. Dormers - None

4. Roof details - Main Section: The roof has a built-in gutter with a bevel and square crown molding. There are scroll-type bracket with drops on the frieze and a bed molding made up of a fillet, Greek ogee and bead

Wings: Simple box with hung gutter

5. Porches - flat - roofed, one story porch extends across the front of the house. It's cornice details are similiar to the roof, but the brackets are shallower. The columns are square.

6. Color current - white/black roof/green trim

7. Other

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

1. Plan Type - Central Hall

2. Major stair - Dog leg with bold turned newel and turned balusters

3. Major mantles - Greek Revival mantles with plain frieze & pilasters

4. Major trim- Windows/doors Greek ogee and bevel with inside bead.  
 Baseboards - Greek ogee and bevel upper molding

5. Major doors - 4 -panel

6. Floors - Random medium width pine

7. Walls/ceiling finishes plaster, some wallpaped

OUTBUILDINGS/SITE DESCRIPTION

1. Major outbuildings:

A. Original use - garden shed; Form-gable roofed; Material-wooden, board & batten

2. Site description - Before being moved from a site near the road to the shore of the Creek, the house was a part of a farmstead with barns & outbuildings. Hedge rows bordered neighboring fields. Now the hedgerows have grown into tree lines along the long lane leading to the house. A modern block machine shed, designed to resemble a 19th century industrial building marks the approximate site of the farmstead. The house is surrounded by well-tended lawns that are planted with ornamental trees, shrubbery, and flowers. There is a rose garden to the south of the house and a "turn around" for the graveled lane to the north. The garden shed is located to the west of this "turn around."

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION (continued)

3. Views to/from site - The primary views are to cultivated fields and to the head waters of the East Fork of Langford Creek to the west. From the road the upper stories of the house are barely visible.

USE OF BUILDING

1. Current - Residence
2. Historic - Residence

HISTORY OF BUILDING/PAST OWNERSHIP

Built by Joseph or James Trew, May 1869, date with Bible verse on 3rd floor trim. Part of Thomas' Purchase. Moved & restored by present owners in 1962

1502905604

K-250

## Slydam House

Slydam house is a three story mid-nineteenth-century farm house, very similar to the "Spry House" (K-185) also in Kent County. It is three bays long and two bays deep and has a chimney on each end of a nearly flat hipped roof with deck and balustrade in center. The center door has sidelights and transom. Those windows directly above also have sidelights. Across the east facade is a one story porch with brick floor. The cornice has brackets with drops. The entire house is covered with clapboard and there is a heavy overhanging cornice which contains the rain gutter. Inside is a central stair hall flanked by one room on each side, all trim with heavy woodwork of that period. To the west has been added an addition for convenience. The house was moved from its original location on this farm, closer to the east fork of Langford Creek by the present owners. It has been very well restored by Mr. Slydam.

Mid  
Kent

Chestertown - Pomona

Pomona Rd. 3/4 mile North Pomona.  
west side of Rd.

1502505604

Suydam House K-250

~~Hill Farm~~ -

c. 1860 -

Italianate/Victorian

built by James Trew

~~Two~~

James Trew -

dwelling

Jos. Suydam

dwelling

frame

3 stories

Suydam House

~~Hill Farm~~ is a 3 story mid 19th Century farm house, very similar to the "Spy House" (K-185) also in Kent County. It is 3 bays long and 2 bays deep and has a chimney on each end of a nearly flat hipped roof with ~~decorative~~ <sup>decorative balustrade</sup> in center. The center door has side lights and transom. These windows <sup>doors</sup> also have side lights.

Across the east facade is a one story porch with brick floor. ~~The~~ cornice ~~of which~~ has brackets with drops. The entire house is covered with clapboard and there is a heavy overhanging cornice which contains the rain gutter. ~~On~~ this side is a central stair well flanked by one room on each side, all finished with heavy woodwork of that period. To the west has been added ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> addition for ~~the~~ convenience. The house was moved from its original location on this farm, closer to the east fork of Longford Creek by the present owner. It has been very well restored by Mr. Suydam.

Int ND Int good Ext good

Michael Bourne

Oct 22, 1968







View to West

SUYDAM HOUSE (K-250)

Chestertown, Kent County

Photograph: M. L. Fritz, June 1981