QA-5

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Queen Anne's
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Reed's Creek Farm
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Wright's Neck Road, 2.7 miles NW of Maryland Rt. 18
CITY OR TOWN: Centreville
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First
STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24
COUNTY: Queen Anne's — CODE: 035

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building	☐ Public	Public Acquisition:	☒ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site ☐ Structure	☒ Private	☐ In Process	☐ Unoccupied	☐ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Considered	☐ Preservation work in progress	☐ 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. and Mrs. Bradford Smith, Jr.
STREET AND NUMBER: Reed's Creek Farm
CITY OR TOWN: Centreville
STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Queen Anne's County Court House
STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse Square
CITY OR TOWN: Centreville
STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

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: — CODE:

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Queen Anne's
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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

Reed's Creek is a late Georgian style brick mansion reputedly begun in 1775. It is composed of two portions, the larger of the two being a five bay structure laid in Flemish bond above a quarter round molded water table. Basement windows have segmental arches with wood grills, with vertical bars, to fit the contour of the opening. The central entrance retains its original architrave, only the pediment being a restoration. Original raised panel jambs emphasize the semi-circular fanlight and original door.

Each window of the house has six over six sash and louvered shutters. The window frames and sash were replaced in the nineteenth century, but two original frames are stored in the attic with some of their walnut sash which had twelve panes in each sash. Above each window is a thirteen inch deep gauged brick flat arch. Between the stories is a five-brick belt course. Beneath the overhang of the wide 'A" roof is a modillion cornice, similar to that at Oak Lawn, Caroline County, Maryland, reputedly built in 1783. (The window frames of the two houses are also similar, the majority of the frame being set behind the outer facing of brick). A massive chimney rises from each gable wall. The building measures approximately fifty feet by thrity-four feet.

On the northeast side is a four bay long, two story brick wing, contemporary with the main structure. It measures approximately thirty-eight by twenty-four feet and, like the main portion, is laid in Flemish bond above a molded water table. It lacks a basement, belt course, and gauged brick arches, but the plain flat arches possess the refinement of a segmentally arched underside, like some houses in Annapolis. Many of the windows retain original frames and sash, the latter having twelve over twelve panes on the first story and twelve over eight on the second. New six panel doors occupy the two middle bays of the wing, one opening into the dining room, the other into the kitchen. The cornice has a series of agee-shaped modillion or dentil blocks, not unlike the kitchen wing at Oak Lawn, Caroline County.

On the gables, original bold barge boards continue along the roof and beneath a projecting water table at the base of the chimneys. Each of the three gables have six pane casement windows flanking the large chimney. An aperture on the first floor of the kitchen gable was bricked in years ago, apparently an exterior door.

The river side of the house is almost identical to the approach facade, except for two differences; the central door lacks a fanlight and pediment and there is only one door into the wing.

(See continuation sheet No. 1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

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

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

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

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Reed's Creek is significant chiefly because of its original architectural quality and integrity. With the exception of the replaced window frames and sash, the exterior is largely intact. What was originally completed inside is still in place and in good repair.

Above the fireplace in the den is an overmantel painting depicting the mythological story of Rinaldo and Armida It is dated and signed by William Clarke, 1792, and is hailed in Winterthur Portfolio 5 as an extremely rare case of classical nudity in eighteenth century American painting.

Another reason for Reed's Creek's importance is that its builder, Colonel Thomas Wright, was active in church, politics and education. He was a vestryman for Chester Church of St. Paul's Parish between 1761 and 1784. In 1781 he served as a visitor of the Queen Anne's County School and in 1782 pledged thirty-two pounds, ten shillings to the founding of Washington College, Chestertown. In the political realm, Colonel Wright was a member of the Committee of Correspondence in 1774 and between 1774 and 1776 he was a delegate to the Provincial Convention. In 1775 he signed the proclamation of the Association of Freemen of Maryland and in 1776 was the commandant of the militia reginent for Queen Anne's County.

There has been some conjecture concerning the lack of completion of the interior of Reed's Creek, some saying it was economic difficulties other, pre-occupation with the war cause. In all likelihood, the reason is that he died before it could be completed and his heirs did not wish or could not afford to complete the undertaking (although it was his heirs who had the overmantel painted). Judging from other houses on the Eastern Shore, the interior seems to date from the post-Revolutionary period. After his death the farm was held by his wife, Rachel (d. 1810), then passing to his son Thomas, in whose possession it remained until 1835. In the Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798, the building is listed under the name of Rachel Wright and was valued at $1,000. Richard Alexander Wright inherited Reed's Creek from his father in 1835 and owned it

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(See continuation sheet No. 4)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

An Account of Washington College in the State of Maryland. Joseph Crunkshank, Philadelphia, 1784.
Earle, Swepson, Chesapeake Bay Country, Remington Putnam, Baltimore, 1938.
Earle, Swepson, Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore, Baltimore, Maryland, 1916.
Emory, Frederick Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1950.
Forman, H. Chandlee, Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland, 1934.

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	39°	03'	20"	76°	10'	04"		° ' "		° ' "	
NE	39°	03'	37"	76°	09'	44"					
SE	39°	02'	59"	76°	08'	48"					
SW	39°	02'	41"	76°	09'	09"					

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 153.26

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Michael Bourne, Restoration Consultant

ORGANIZATION

DATE
Nov. 15, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
Great Hopes

CITY OR TOWN:
Sudlersville

STATE: Maryland
CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name
Arthur C. Townsend

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973—729-147/1442 3-1

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE
Maryland
COUNTY
Queen Anne's
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER | DATE

(Number all entries)

Reed's Creek Farm

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

On the southwest gable of the main portion there were originally three windows (other than the two in the attic) placed assymetrically. Another window was installed on the second story level during the recent restoration (1961-69). Beneath the stair landing window, a bulkhead for the basement entrance was reconstructed.

Inside, the floorplan consists of a large stair hall occupying the three southeast bays of the house; a back hall and parlor beyond the stair hall; and two rooms on the northeast side of the house occupying the remaining two bays. Its plan is similar to Bloomingdale (1792), closeby.

Prior to the restoration, the hall was unfinished, lacking woodwork, an appropriate balustrade, the ceiling, and some plaster on the second story. A reproduction early Georgian balustrade replaces the Victorian newel and hand-rail, but the structure and treads are original, as well as the risers and step-ends. Chair rail, cornice, window trim and arch between back hall and stair hall, as well as the mantel of the fireplace beneath the stair and the book-cases in the back hall date from the restoration. Both front and back doors with trim are original, the former retaining its original huge iron box lock and key. The principal doors throughout are composed of six raised panels with wide central stile having bead down the middle, simulating double doors.

All walls have been furred out and new plaster applied. A paneled chimney breast with dentil molded mantel and broken pediment above the crosetted overmantel is the focal point of the living room. Four windows and door have original crosetted trim. Due to the need for heating units, the full impact of the recessed panels beneath the windows is diminished, however the remainder of the raised paneled dado, as well as the dentil and modillion cornice tie the room together with their horizontal lines. Original square hearth bricks were taken from other hearths at Reed's Creek.

Across the hall from the living room, the den possesses one wall of original paneling with overmantel very similar to the living room. A painting on wood of Rinaldo and Armida (see Significance, #8) occupies the overmantel panel. Its broken pediment is a replacement. Flanking the fireplace are closets with recessed panels above which match the recessed paneled dado. The closet doors, windows, door to hall, and newly introduced door to sitting room all have crosetted trim. There is a cornice with dentils.

Adjoining the den and stair hall is the sitting room.

(See continuation sheet No. 2)

GPO 921-724

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Queen Anne's
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER | DATE

(Number all entries)

Reed's Creek Farm

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

It, too, has a handsome late Georgian broken pediment overmantel, the pediment being a replacement. A secondary stair ascends six steps in the north corner to a door; its balustrade is original, but handrail and top of newel are restorations. A recessed panel door, beside the stair, leads down three steps to the dining room. On the opposite side of the fireplace is a closet with similar door. The wall area between the tops of the doors and ceiling was originally plastered, but now possesses baluster-shaped grills (for stereo components). The cornice has a row of dentils resembling wall of Troy work and two cove moldings. There is a recessed panel dado around the room and up the stair. A panel in the window soffit of several rooms suggests that there were originally paneled jambs and/or shutters prior to the replacement of the window frames in the nineteenth century.

Access between the sitting room and dining room is gained down three steps in the north closet. Originally, there were two sets of steps in the dining room, one leading to each of the northeast rooms, with a door to the cellar between. Access to the den has been eliminated and access to the basement has been placed in the passage between the sitting room and dining room. A diagonal fireplace in the west corner of the dining room retains its original recessed panel chimney breast. An original corner cupboard balances the fireplace in the south corner. Much of the trim and chair rail is a replacement of the deteriorated original.

Between the dining room and kitchen is a back stair which ascends in a straight run to the second floor. The kitchen fireplace has an eight foot wide span with segmental arch. Above the huge arch are two original features rarely existing in an old kitchen: a wooden back plate from which to hang a clock jack and the rack for spits. An outline in paint on the brick gave the precedent for the restored shelf. Crane and iron pots were found in the fireplace when the restoration began. The remainder of the kitchen has been adapted for modern use.

Floorplan of the second floor main section was the same as the first floor. In order to accomodate facilities for modern living, the back hall was eliminated and two baths installed in its place. Like the first story hall, the second story had little interior finish. All of the woodwork of the hall dates from the restoration. Since the bath occupies the original entrance to the guest room (above the living room), a new door was introduced from the hall. Like the hall, the guest room woodwork, paneling, and finish dates from the restoration.

(See continuation sheet No. 3)

GPO 921-724

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Queen Anne's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Reed's Creek Farm

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

The dressing room (above sitting room) retains original wainscot, mantel, closets, and cornice. The mantel has sold crosetted trim with a central plinth block between the trim and shelf. A row of tiny modillions is the focal point of the cornice. An original overdoor with pulvinated frieze is the only such element in the house. The window trim is also unique in having crosettes at both bottom and top of the windows. On the northwest wall a series of closets were installed during the restoration, as well as a door to the master bedroom.

Flanking the fireplace in the master bedroom (above den) are two closets. The fireplace possesses a mantel of lighter composition than that of the dressing room. No ornamentation was employed on either the cornice or trim. The flush board dado is like that in the dressing room.

Above the dining room are two rooms, the southeast room being accessible from both secondary stairs, and the northwest room being a laundry. Originally, the northwest room extended from the back stair to the principal wall and access thereto was gained from both secondary stairs; the southeast room being accessible only from the secondary stair of the principal block. When the corridor was installed along the back stair for access to the southeast room, the wall between the two rooms was found to have a truss system to support the wide span above the dining room. Most of the trim in the two rooms is orignial, although some closets are new. Northeast of the back stair (above the kitchen) is a small back hall with open-string winder stair to the attic, and two rooms, one now a bath. The stair ascends to the attic in three runs with winders at the turns. Its original balustrade, with turned newels and rectangular balusters and swagged handrail is in fine condition. In the east bedroom is a small fireplace with board closet adjoining. The fireplace wall slopes to accommodate the large throat of the kitchen chimney. With the exception of the dining room and kitchen, all floors are original loblolly pine.

Although the main attic is unfinished, it appears that the builder intended to install at least a ceiling, since the girders have mortise holes to receive ceiling joists. The roofing system divides the house into five bays by queen-post trusses which are joined at two places on each slope of the roof by alternating purlins. This system of roof framing appears in many of the design books of the time. As mentioned previously, two original window frames are stored in the attic along with original walnut sash, a pit saw and walnut plank said to have been stored there since the house was erected.

(See continuation sheet No. 4)

GPO 921-724

Reed's Creek Farm

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

Rubble stone was used for the walls of the cellar below grade, whereas the interior bearing walls which correspond to the floorplan above are brick. The cellar has a concrete floor and contains the heating system, a work shop and storage area. As usual, there are arch supports below the first floor fireplaces.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

until 1865, when, for financial reasons, he had to mortgage and finally sell the farm. From 1890 to 1961, the farm was owned by collateral descendants of the Wright family. Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Smith, Jr., are the present owners of Reed's Creek Farm and it was during their ownership that the house was finally brought to completion under the guidance of Albert Kruse, AIA.

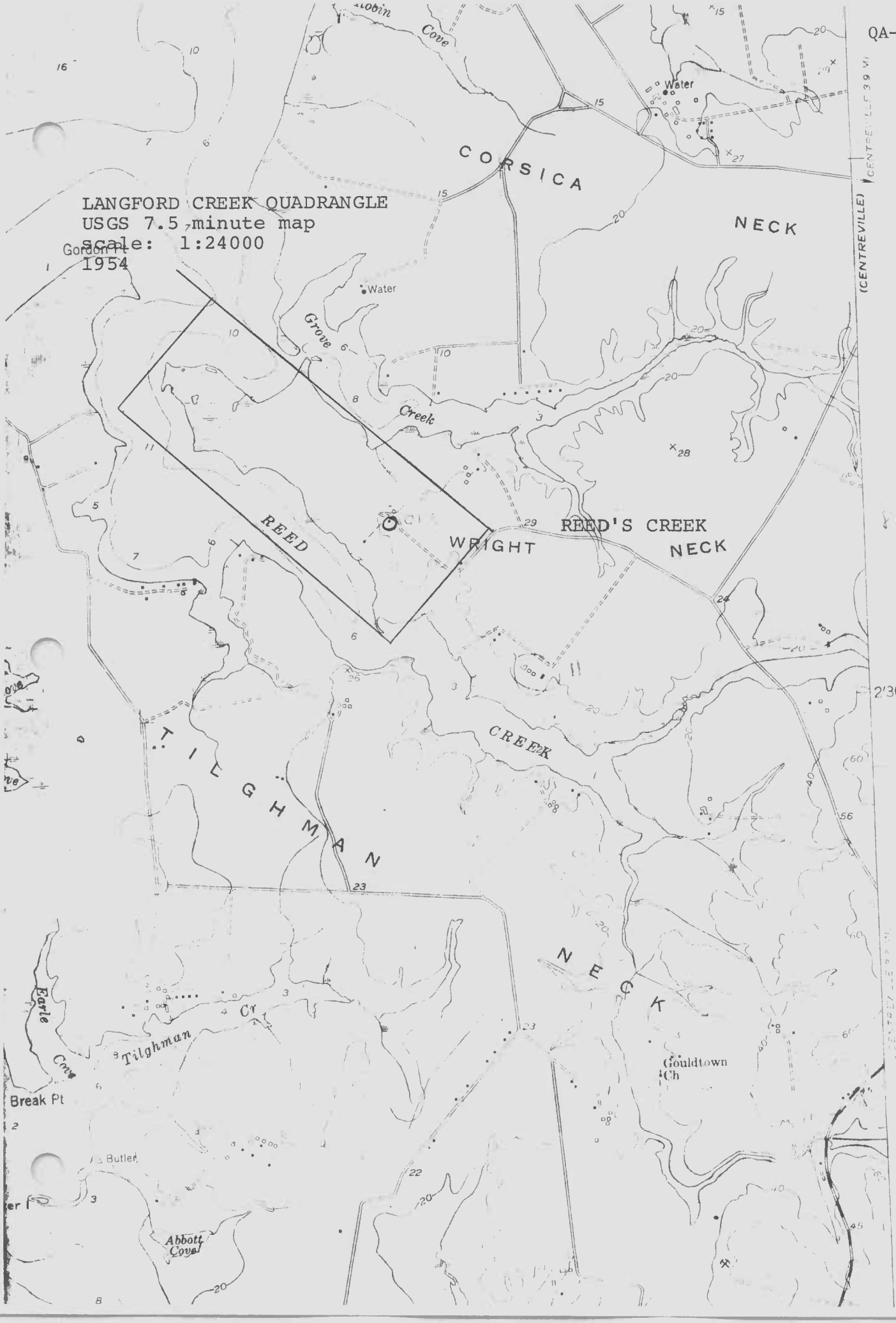
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Fowble, E. McSherry, "An Example of Classical Nudity in Eighteenth Century American Painting, Rinaldo & Armida," Winterthur Portfolio 5, University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, 1969.

Maryland, Guide to the Old Line State, Oxford University Press, New York, 1940.

Queen Anne's County Records, (Wills, Inventories, Deeds, etc.) Queen Anne's County Courthouse, Centreville, Maryland, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Searborough, Katherine, Homes of the Cavaliers, Macmillan, New York, 1930.


LANGFORD CREEK QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale: 1:24000
1954
Gordon Pt
Robin Cove
Water
CORSICA NECK
(CENTREVILLE)
Water
Grove Creek
REED
WRIGHT
REED'S CREEK NECK
TILGHMAN CREEK
TILGHMAN NECK
Earle Cove
Tilghman Cr
Break Pt
Butler
Abbott Cove
Gouldtown Ch
2'30"

QA-5
Reed's Creek
Centreville vicinity
Private

circa 1775

Begun circa 1775 by Colonel Thomas Wright, Reed's Creek is one of the finest high style Georgian houses in the county. The exterior remains in almost pristine condition except for the window sash, which was replaced in the 19th century. The interior is distinguished by a somewhat unusual floor plan and handsome decorative woodwork. The floor plan consists of an L-shaped stair hall and three rooms on the first floor, similar to the plan of Bloomingdale, a large brick house built in 1792 near Queenstown. The three first floor rooms are distinguished by finely paneled chimney breasts and double crossetted architrave trim. In the northeast room there is an overmantel painting depicting the story of Rinaldo and Armida signed by William Clarke and dated 1792. Other features of interest include the massive principal rafter roof, an early frame pit saw stored in the attic, and two original window frames with walnut sash that have survived intact. The massive kitchen fireplace in the wing is outfitted with many cooking implements found in situ when the house was restored.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

QA-5

MAGI # 1800052204

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Reed's Creek Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Wright's Neck Road, 2.7 miles NW of Maryland Rt. 18

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	X 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

Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Smith

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Reed's Creek Farm

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-5

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Reed's Creek is a late Georgian style brick mansion reputedly begun in 1775. It is composed of two portions, the larger of the two being a five bay structure laid in Flemish bond above a quarter round molded water table. Basement windows have segmental arches with wood grills, with vertical bars, to fit the contour of the opening. The central entrance retains its original architrave, only the pediment being a restoration. Original raised panel jambs emphasize the semi-circular fanlight and original door.

Each window of the house has six over six sash and louvered shutters. The window frames and sash were replaced in the nineteenth century, but two original frames are stored in the attic with some of their walnut sash which had twelve panes in each sash. Above each window is a thirteen inch deep gauged brick flat arch. Between the stories is a five-brick belt course. Beneath the overhang of the wide "A" roof is a modillion cornice, similar to that at Oak Lawn, Caroline County, Maryland, reputedly built in 1783.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

(The window frames of the two houses are also similar, the majority of the frame being set behind the outer facing of brick). A massive chimney rises from each gable wall. The building measures approximately fifty feet by thirty-four feet.

On the northeast side is a four bay long, two story brick wing, contemporary with the main structure. It measures approximately thirty-eight by twenty-four feet and, like the main portion, is laid in Flemish bond above a molded water table. It lacks a basement, belt course, and gauged brick arches, but the plain flat arches possess the refinement of a segmentally arched underside, like some houses in Annapolis. Many of the windows retain original frames and sash, the latter having twelve over twelve panes on the first story and twelve over eight on the second. New six panel doors occupy the two middle bays of the wing, one opening into the dining room, the other into the kitchen. The cornice has a series of ogee-shaped modillion or dentil blocks, not unlike the kitchen wing at Oak Lawn, Caroline County.

On the gables, original bold barge boards continue along the roof and beneath a projecting water table at the base of the chimneys. Each of the three gables have

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

six pane casement windows flanking the large chimney. An aperture on the first floor of the kitchen gable was bricked in years ago, apparently an exterior door.

The river side of the house is almost identical to the approach facade, except for two differences; the central door lacks a fanlight and pediment and there is only one door into the wing.

On the southwest gable of the main portion there were originally three windows (other than the two in the attic) placed assymetrically. Another window was installed on the second story level during the recent restoration (1961-69). Beneath the stair landing window, a bulkhead for the basement entrance was reconstructed.

Inside, the floorplan consists of a large stair hall occupying the three southeast bays of the house; a back hall and parlor beyond the stair hall; and two rooms on the northeast side of the house occupying the remaining two bays. Its plan is similar to Bloomingdale (1792), closeby.

Prior to the restoration, the hall was unfinished, lacking woodwork, an appropriate balustrade, the ceiling, and some plaster on the second story. A reproduction early Georgian balustrade replaces the Victorian newel

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

and handrail, but the structure and treads are original, as well as the risers and step-ends. Chair rail, cornice, window trim and arch between back hall and stair hall, as well as the mantel of the fireplace beneath the stair and the bookcases in the back hall date from the restoration. Both front and back doors with trim are original, the former retaining its original huge iron box lock and key. The principal doors throughout are composed of six raised panels with wide central stile having bead down the middle, simulating double doors.

All walls have been furred out and new plaster applied. A paneled chimney breast with dentil molded mantel and broken pediment above the crosetted overmantel is the focal point of the living room. Four windows and door have original crosetted trim. Due to the need for heating units, the full impact of the recessed panels beneath the windows is diminished, however the remainder of the raised paneled dado, as well as the dentil and modillion cornice tie the room together with their horizontal lines. Original square hearth bricks were taken from other hearths at Reed's Creek.

Across the hall from the living room, the den

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

possesses one wall of original paneling with overmantel very similar to the living room. A painting on wood of Rinaldo and Armida (see Significance, #8) occupies the overmantel panel. Its broken pediment is a replacement. Flanking the fireplace are closets with recessed panels above which match the recessed paneled dado. The closet doors, windows, door to hall, and newly introduced door to sitting room all have crosetted trim. There is a cornice with dentils.

Adjoining the den and stair hall is the sitting room. It, too, has a handsome late Georgian broken pediment overmantel, the pediment being a replacement. A secondary stair ascends six steps in the north corner to a door; its balustrade is original, but handrail and top of newel are restorations. A recessed panel door, beside the stair, leads down three steps to the dining room. On the opposite side of the fireplace is a closet with similar door. The wall area between the tops of the doors and ceiling was originally plastered, but now possesses baluster-shaped grills (for stereo components). The cornice has a row of dentils resembling wall of Troy work and two cove moldings. There is a recessed panel dado around the room and up the stair. A panel

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

in the window soffit of several rooms suggests that there were originally paneled jambs and/or shutters prior to the replacement of the window frames in the nineteenth century.

Access between the sitting room and dining room is gained down three steps in the north closet. Originally, there were two sets of steps in the dining room, one leading to each of the northeast rooms, with a door to the cellar between. Access to the den has been eliminated and access to the basement has been placed in the passage between the sitting room and dining room. A diagonal fireplace in the west corner of the dining room retains its original recessed panel chimney breast. An original corner cupboard balances the fireplace in the south corner. Much of the trim and chair rail is a replacement of the deteriorated original.

Between the dining room and kitchen is a back stair which ascends in a straight run to the second floor. The kitchen fireplace has an eight foot wide span with segmental arch. Above the huge arch are two original features rarely existing in an old kitchen: a wooden back plate from which to hang a clock jack and the rack for spits. An outline in paint on the brick gave the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

precedent for the restored shelf. Crane and iron pots were found in the fireplace when the restoration began. The remainder of the kitchen has been adapted for modern use.

Floorplan of the second floor main section was the same as the first floor. In order to accommodate facilities for modern living, the back hall was eliminated and two baths installed in its place. Like the first story hall, the second story had little interior finish. All of the woodwork of the hall dates from the restoration. Since the bath occupies the original entrance to the guest room (above the living room), a new door was introduced from the hall. Like the hall, the guest room woodwork, paneling, and finish dates from the restoration.

The dressing room (above sitting room) retains original wainscot, mantel, closets, and cornice. The mantel has sold crosetted trim with a central plinth block between the trim and shelf. A row of tiny modillions is the focal point of the cornice. An original overdoor with pulvinated frieze is the only such element in the house. The window trim is also unique in having crosettes at both bottom and top of the windows. On

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

the northwest wall a series of closets were installed during the restoration, as well as a door to the master bedroom.

Flanking the fireplace in the master bedroom (above den) are two closets. The fireplace possesses a mantel of lighter composition than that of the dressing room. No ornamentation was employed on either the cornice or trim. The flush board dado is like that in the dressing room.

Above the dining room are two rooms, the southeast room being accessible from both secondary stairs, and the northwest room being a laundry. Originally, the northwest room extended from the back stair to the principal wall and access thereto was gained from both secondary stair of the principal block. When the corridor was installed along the back stair for access to the southeast room, the wall between the two rooms was found to have a truss system to support the wide span above the dining room. Most of the trim in the two rooms is original, although some closets are new. Northeast of the back stair (above the kitchen) is a small back hall with open-string winder stair to the attic, and two rooms, one now a bath. The stair ascends to the attic in three runs with winders at the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.8 DESCRIPTION

turns. Its original balustrade, with turned newels and rectangular balusters and swagged handrail is in fine condition. In the east bedroom is a small fireplace with board closet adjoining. The fireplace wall slopes to accommodate the large throat of the kitchen chimney. With the exception of the dining room and kitchen, all floors are original loblolly pine.

Although the main attic is unfinished, it appears that the builder intended to install at least a ceiling, since the girders have mortise holes to receive ceiling joists. The roofing system divides the house into five bays by queen-post trusses which are joined at two places on each slope of the roof by alternating purlins. This system of roof framing appears in many of the design books of the time. As mentioned previously, two original window frames are stored in the attic along with original walnut sash, a pit saw and walnut plank said to have been stored there since the house was erected.

Rubble stone was used for the walls of the cellar below grade, whereas the interior bearing walls which correspond to the floorplan above are brick. The cellar has a concrete floor and contains the heating system, a work shop and storage area. As usual, there are arch supports below the first floor fireplaces.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
00-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	X EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	X ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Reed's Creek is significant chiefly because of its original architectural quality and integrity. With the exception of the replaced window frames and sash, the exterior is largely intact. What was originally completed inside is still in place and in good repair.

Above the fireplace in the den is an overmantel painting depicting the mythological story of Rinaldo and Armida. It is dated and signed by William Clarke, 1792, and is hailed in Winterthur Portfolio 5 as an extremely rare case of classical nudity in eighteenth century American painting.

Another reason for Reed's Creek's importance is that its builder, Colonel Thomas Wright, was active in church, politics and education. He was a vestryman for Chester Church of St. Paul's Parish between 1761 and 1784. In 1781 he served as a visitor of the Queen Anne's County School and in 1782

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

pledged thirty-two pounds, ten shillings to the founding of Washington College, Chestertown. In the political realm, Colonel Wright was a member of the Committee of Correspondence in 1774 and between 1774 and 1776 he was a delegate to the Provincial Convention. In 1775 he signed the proclamation of the Association of Freemen of Maryland and in 1776 was the commandant of the militia regiment for Queen Anne's County.

There has been some conjecture concerning the lack of completion of the interior of Reed's Creek, some saying it was economic difficulties; others, pre-occupation with the war cause. In all likelihood, the reason is that he died before it could be completed and his heirs did not wish or could not afford to complete the undertaking (although it was his heirs who had the overmantel painted). Judging from other houses on the Eastern Shore, the interior seems to date from the post-Revolutionary period. After his death the farm was held by his wife, Rachel (d. 1810), then passing to his son Thomas, in whose possession it remained until 1835. In the Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798, the building is listed under the name of Rachel Wright and was valued at $1,000. Richard Alexander Wright inherited Reed's Creek from his

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

father in 1835 and owned it until 1865, when, for financial reasons, he had to mortgage and finally sell the farm. From 1890 to 1961, the farm was owned by collateral descendants of the Wright family. Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Smith, Jr., are the present owners of Reed's Creek Farm and it was during their ownership that the house was finally brought to completion under the guidance of Albert Kruse, AIA.

QA-5

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

An Account of Washington College in the State of Maryland. Joseph Crunkshank, Philadelphia, 1784.
Earle, Swepson, Chesapeake Bay Country, Remington Putnam, Baltimore, 1938.

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

Michael Bourne, Restoration Consultant

ORGANIZATION | DATE

STREET & NUMBER | TELEPHONE

Great Hopes

CITY OR TOWN | STATE

Sudlersville | Maryland

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

9.1 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Earle, Swepson. Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore, Baltimore, Maryland, 1916.

Emory, Frederick Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1950.

Forman, H. Chandlee, Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland, 1934.

QA-5 REEDS CREEK
Johnsontown
Melton Pt
Orchard Pt
Rock Pt
East Fork
Deep Pt
Hawbush Pt
Cacaway I
Cacaway Pt
Wann Cove
Kings Cr
Comegys Cr
Comegys Bight
Oeep Pt
Cliffs Wharf
Cliffs Pt
Cliffs Bight
Nichols Pt
Spaniard Pt
Conquest
Spaniard Neck Road
Emory Creek
Quaker Neck Landing
Shippen Creek
Oyster Cove
Quaker Neck Ldg
Dookers Wharf
Shell Pt
Boathouse Cove
Mummys Cove
Ashland Ldg
Indian Town
White Cove
Windmill
Silo
Jarrett Cr
Johnstown Road
Kent County
Burrsville
Mt Zion Ch
Island Creek
Corsica River
Cedar Pt
Ship Pt
Wash Pt
Rocky Pt
Holton Pt
Town Pt
Earle Ldg
Middle Quarter Cove
Robbins Cove
Tilghman Cove
Corsica Ldg
Pusey Ldg
Jacobs Nose
Green Pt
Gunston School
Fort Pt
Alder Branch
Ferrick Cr
Corsica Neck
Gordon Pt
Reed Creek
Grove Creek
Earle Cove
Centreville Landing
Three Bridges Branch
Brownsville
Earls Chapter Ch
Centreville
Queen Annes County H.S.
Gravelly Run
Pennsylvania
Tilghman Neck
Tilghmans Neck
Tilghman Creek
Goldtown Ch
Goldtown Rd
Railroad
Perlee Road
Rolling Mill Branch
Taylors Mill Rd
Blue Star Memorial Highway
Break Pt
Carpenter I
Abbott Cove
Joseph Bowles Rd
Coursey Thom Rd
John Brown Rd
Old Road
Back Branch Road
Blakeford Pt
Coursey Pt
Queenstown
Queenstown Cr
Saltthouse Cove
Earle Cove
Long Cove
Hornet Cove
Island Pt
Eyville
Creek
Dicatson Rd
Windmill
Phillip Creek
Old Town Road
Island Creek
Friel Farm Rd
Brick Schoolhouse Rd
Ferrick Rd
Watson Rd
Spaniard Neck Rd
Burrsville Rd
Box
Coon
Yacht
Rd
289
661
304
213
18
301
309
305

QA-5
Reed's Creek Farm

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT

QA #5

Reedis Creek

QA-5
Reeds Creek,
Centreville

Reed's Creek QAS
M.L. Regimenti
10/74

Reed's Creek at -5
10/74
M. L. Requienti

Reed's Creek GA-S
N.C. Regiments
10/24