

QA-39  
Sledmore  
Sudlersville  
Private

18th century

Sledmore is one of the most intriguing houses in Tidewater Maryland. The 1 1/2 story gambrel roof form combined with an early stair tower bears a striking resemblance to Troth's Fortune, an early 18th century house in Talbot County. The attributed date for Sledmore of 1713 has not been substantiated, but the stair tower and brickwork are not inconsistent with this date. Alterations in the 19th century included raising the house to 2 1/2 stories and extensive renovation of the interior.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Sledmore

AND/OR COMMON

Herb Willis' brick house

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Northwest edge of Sudlersville

CITY, TOWN

Sudlersville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Herbert A. Willis

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Sudlersville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21668

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

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

Liber #: TSP 8

Folio #: 438

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Sledmore is located on the western edge of Sudlersville, just north of Maryland Route 300. The house sits back from the road, surrounded by trees and flowering shrubs. A number of small farm buildings, a carriage house, and a family cemetery lie to the north and west of the house.

The house has a very long and somewhat complicated history. The earliest house was reputedly built in 1713, and was brick, one-and-one-half stories high, with a gambrel roof. The house has undergone numerous changes in the ensuing years, and little evidence can be found to date either the original house, or the subsequent additions and alterations. These additions include a brick stair tower apparently added to the northwest facade of the house during the 18th century. In the mid-nineteenth century the gambrel roof was torn off, and the entire house raised to two-and-one-half stories. This alteration was executed in brick, and the outline of the smaller, earlier house is still clearly visible. Perhaps at the same time, or at some later date, a two story frame addition was made to the northeast end of the rear addition

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

and in recent years a frame, shed roof addition was made to the northeast gable of the wing.

The original gambrel roof house was three bays wide and a single room deep, with flush brick chimneys centered on each gable. The brickwork is laid in English bond below a plain, beveled watertable, and Flemish bond above the watertable on the front and rear facades. The southwest gable is laid in a similar fashion except that the Flemish bond only extends up to the first floor eave level, and is English bond above that point. The northeast gable has been stuccoed over, leaving the watertable expressed, though covered with stucco.

The principal facade of the house faces southwest. The door is located in the center bay, and is flanked by a single window on each side. These windows have been enlarged, and now have very large two-over-two Victorian sash. The door opening has also been reworked, and is now fitted with a modern paneled door.

The southwest gable originally had a bulkhead entrance to the cellar in the west corner and a small window in the upper gable to the left of the chimney.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

Both of these were bricked up at a later date, and a cellar window was inserted where the cellar entrance was. A second cellar window is located in the south corner. This has been reworked, but is probably an original opening.

Later additions have covered all but the south bay of the northwest facade. A single two-over-two window is located in this bay.

The northeast gable has a pair of six-over-six windows flanking the chimney. These windows may be original, but seem rather large for such an early house.

The interior of the house was laid out in a hall-parlour plan, with the northeast room the larger hall, and the southwest room the parlour. Each room was heated by a single fireplace centered on the exterior gable wall. Evidence suggests that the original stair consisted of an enclosed winder in the west corner of the southwest room, next to the fireplace.

This arrangement was apparently found to be unsatisfactory, and at an early date a one-and-one-half story stair tower was added to the rear of the house. The evidence of this alteration is limited and somewhat ambiguous. The rear facade of the tower is laid in

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

both Flemish bond and common bond, while the southwest facade is laid entirely in common bond. The brickwork is not keyed into the original house. A ghost of a stair carriage is still visible in the cellar on the northeast wall of this wing, confirming that the principal purpose of the addition was to provide a more practical stair than the earlier winder. The interior plan of the house remained essentially the same, but the improved circulation made the house more formal and more practical.

The next major alteration probably did not occur until the third quarter of the nineteenth century, when the main house was raised to two-and-one-half stories and the stair tower was raised to two stories. At this time the window openings were enlarged and two-over-two sash was installed. Similar two-over-two windows were used on the second floor of the enlarged house, three on the front facade, one in the south bay of the rear facade, and one in the east bay of the northeast gable. A pair of two-over-four windows flank the chimney in the upper gable at each end of the house. There are three gable roof dormer windows symmetrically arranged on the front facade of the house and a single dormer

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

in the south bay of the rear facade. The center dormer on the front facade is larger, with four modern windows under a wide gable roof, while the two flanking dormers on the front and the dormer on the rear have twelve-over-twelve sash.

A large bay window on the first floor of the rear addition probably also dates to this renovation. This consists of a pair of four-over-four windows on the principal facade of the bay, with a single four-over-four window on either side, separated by slender engaged columns with mushroom capitals. Large decorative brackets, punched scrollwork capitals, and decorative Eastlake panels add further embellishment.

The frame addition is two stories high, three bays wide, and has a gable roof. There are three six-over-six windows on each floor of both facades. A one story, shed roof addition was added to the northeast gable of this addition in recent years. Both of the frame additions have been covered with modern horizontal headed weatherboards.

The interior of the house has been through several alterations and was recently renovated and restored. Due to the earlier renovations, however, no original

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.5 DESCRIPTION

fabric remains on the interior.

Carriage House

To the rear of the house there is a large Victorian carriage house. It is twenty-four feet by twenty-eight feet, with two large doors facing south. The most distinguishing feature of the building is a bell cupola with the bell still in place. This is centered on the peak of the roof at the south end of the building. The building is relatively plain otherwise, with horizontal siding relieved by a crown mold fascia board and a gothic-arched two-over-two window centered above the south doors. A four-panel door on the rear facade and a single six-over-six window on the north and the east walls are the only other openings.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-39

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the attributed date of 1713 for Sledmore seems exceptionally early for a gambrel roof house in this region, the architectural evidence makes it clear that the house is certainly one of the earliest surviving examples of that roof form on the Upper Eastern Shore. Of particular interest is the early stair tower on the rear facade, a feature not generally associated with gambrel roof houses. In this respect Sledmore bears a striking resemblance to Troth's Fortune in Talbot County, the only other recorded example on the Eastern Shore of a gambrel roof house with a stair tower. It is also worth noting that the two houses share similar hall-parlour plans, with access to the stair tower located on the rear wall of the hall. Unfortunately, later alterations and the enlargement of Sledmore have left little of the early detail intact. The original plan remains

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

undisturbed, and evidence of the original stair remains in the cellar of the stair tower, but otherwise the interior dates to the 19th and 20th century.

**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

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

7/28/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

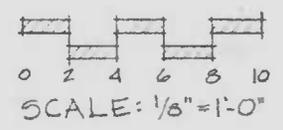
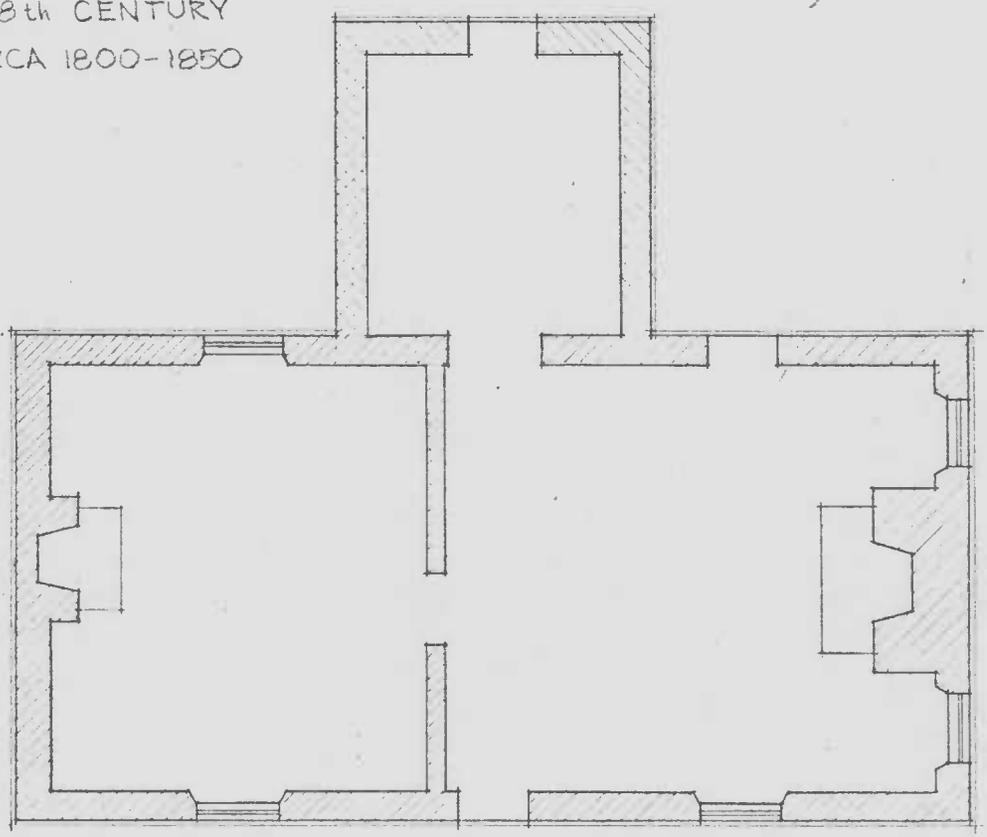
Maryland 21617

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

- PERIOD I: CIRCA 1715
- ▨ PERIOD II: 18th CENTURY
- ▩ REBUILT CIRCA 1800-1850



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-39

SLEDMORE  
SUDLEYSVILLE, MARYLAND

APRIL 25, 1978.



QA-39  
Sledmore

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





Q. A-39



Q 433-1



Q. 24



QA 3.51