

QA-57  
Cohey Farm  
Church Hill  
Private

early 19th century

The early house on the Cohey farm is primarily notable as an example of early 19th century brick architecture. Considerable alterations have occurred over the years, in particular a large brick addition made in the mid-19th century and numerous interior changes undertaken in the post-Civil War period. The early section appears to remain structurally sound, but the mid-19th century addition has partially collapsed and is beyond preservation.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Allen and Charles Cohey farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Rolph's Wharf Road

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: vacant

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Allen H. and Charles E. Cohey

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: BP 28

Folio #: 117

STREET & NUMBER

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-57

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Allen and Charles Cohey farm is located on the south side of Rolph's Wharf Road approximately two miles northwest of Church Hill. The house rests on a low hill surrounded by open agricultural land, and faces Southeast Creek, which lies to the south, hidden from view by trees. No significant outbuildings have survived, but there is a small family cemetery enclosed by an iron fence to the northwest of the house.

The house was built in two separate periods, and has been through a complex and confusing series of changes that leaves ambiguous evidence of its original appearance. The original house is brick, three bays wide and one room deep with a single flush chimney centered on each gable. Though now only two stories high, it was originally two-and-one-half stories, with a fairly steep gable roof. The house displays a number of characteristics typical of the last quarter of the eighteenth century, but dating evidence suggests a date of circa 1815-1830.

The second major period of construction occurred in the mid-nineteenth century. A brick

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

addition was made to the east gable of the house, roughly doubling it in size. The roof pitch was reduced to a very moderate gable roof, and numerous changes were made to the overall appearance of the earlier house. It would appear that a second renovation may have occurred later in the nineteenth century.

As a result of these alterations and additions it is extremely difficult to sort out the original appearance of the first house. This task is complicated by thick undergrowth and heavy paint on much of the exterior of the building. It would appear, however, that the original house consisted of a hall/parlour plan, with a central door flanked by six-over-six windows on the first floor and three similar windows symmetrically arranged on the second floor on each facade. There were two small windows flanking the chimney in the upper gable of the east and west walls, and an exterior door in the north bay of the east gable.

The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond on the facade walls and three-course bond on the exposed gable. A plain water table is carried around all four sides of the house, and a two-course belt course

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

extends across both facades. The foundation is constructed of rough fieldstone below ground level, and is laid in three-course bond up to the water table.

The roof was originally about forty-one degrees in pitch, and was probably covered with shingles. There is no evidence of dormer windows. The cornice and rakeboards are all gone, but probably consisted of a box cornice with crown mold and bed mold, and tapered, beaded rakeboards.

Very little remains of the original interior. The hall/parlour plan has survived, but with considerable adaptation. The larger hall was to the west, and a smaller parlour to the east. Each room was heated by a fireplace centered on the gable wall. An enclosed winder stair to the right of the fireplace in the west room led up to the second floor.

The second floor repeated the first floor plan, and the winder stair continued up to the attic. Although the attic must have been relatively spacious, and was lighted by two windows in each gable, it was apparently only used for storage. The reused rafters show no evidence of plastering, and there

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

is no evidence of dormer windows or interior partitions.

The cellar is divided into two rooms by a brick wall directly below the first floor partition. There is a bulkhead entrance on the south wall of the west room, but this has been bricked up. The chimney bases are of rough fieldstone, with brick relieving arches. The cellar floor still has brick paving visible in several places. When the brick wing was added, an interior cellar stair was constructed in the southeast corner of the east room. From this stair it is possible to see the outline of the original east fireplace now hidden by the main stairway.

The east addition is also brick, with Flemish bond facades above a three-course bond foundation and a plain water table. The gable wall is laid in three-course bond, and a two-course belt course extends across both facades. The floor levels are slightly lower than the original house, and both the water table and belt course are correspondingly lower.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

The majority of both facade walls on this part of the house have collapsed, and the fenestration is no longer clearly discernible. A photograph taken by Michael Bourne in 1969 shows the south facade before its collapse. There are two doors on the first floor, in the center and east bays, and a large window opening, probably nine-over-six, in the west bay. There are two six-over-six windows on the second floor, and two three-over-three windows on the third floor.

On the east gable, a stove chimney projects about five inches from the center of the wall. A nine-over-six window on the first floor and a six-over-six on the second floor, both to the left of the chimney, are the only openings on the gable facade. Little remains of the north facade.

The interior of this section was not examined because of the condition of the building. It would appear, however, that this part of the house consisted of two rooms on each floor. A steep enclosed stair along the east wall of the east room gave access between the first and second floor, and a stair in the west room on the second floor allowed access

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.5 DESCRIPTION

to the third floor. A small opening in the east gable of the original house is the only access to the attic.

When the east addition was made, a major renovation was undertaken in the original house. The roof was reduced from forty-one degrees to twenty-one degrees, the gable windows were bricked up, and the interior floor plan was transformed. The center doors on both facades were bricked up, and new doors were cut into the east bay of each facade. The orientation of the house was reversed, and the north door became the principal entrance, emphasized with sidelights and a transom. The first floor windows were apparently enlarged to reach to the floor, and a two story porch was constructed across the south facade of both buildings. Although retaining the two room floor plan, the rooms were changed, with the east room becoming a stair hall, and the west room a parlour. The fireplace in the east room was blocked, allowing an open string stair to rise along the east wall to a landing on the south wall. This landing provides access to the east addition, while the stair continues up to the second floor of

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.6 DESCRIPTION

the main house. The earlier enclosed stair was removed on both the first and second floor. The west room on the second floor remains relatively unchanged, but the east room is partitioned longitudinally, with the stair hall to the south and a small, unheated chamber to the west.

The original interior woodwork of the main house has been completely replaced. The window and door architraves are rather odd, consisting of a very wide board with a gentle ogee molding planed into the face of the architrave, and a beaded edge. The stair appears to be rather late, and adds further confusion to an already muddled picture. The architraves suggest a mid-nineteenth century date, while the stair appears to be Victorian. Whether these were put in simultaneously or sequentially, and at what date, cannot be determined.

One last renovation occurred, in which the porches were removed, the second floor porch door was bricked up, and the first floor windows were reframed, closing up the lower part of the openings to allow smaller windows to be used.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-57

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
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<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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The early house on the Cohey farm is primarily notable as an example of early 19th century brick architecture. Although considerably altered and now derelict, the house appears to remain structurally sound. The mid-19th century addition has already partially collapsed and is beyond preservation. Both portions of the building can be readily identified with numerous other similar houses in the county, sharing typical plan and form with other contemporary examples. Little original detail survives, but interesting trim remains from the second phase of construction and a Victorian staircase survives in the earlier house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

QA-57

# 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

8/23/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

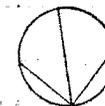
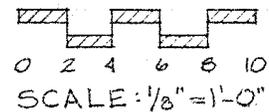
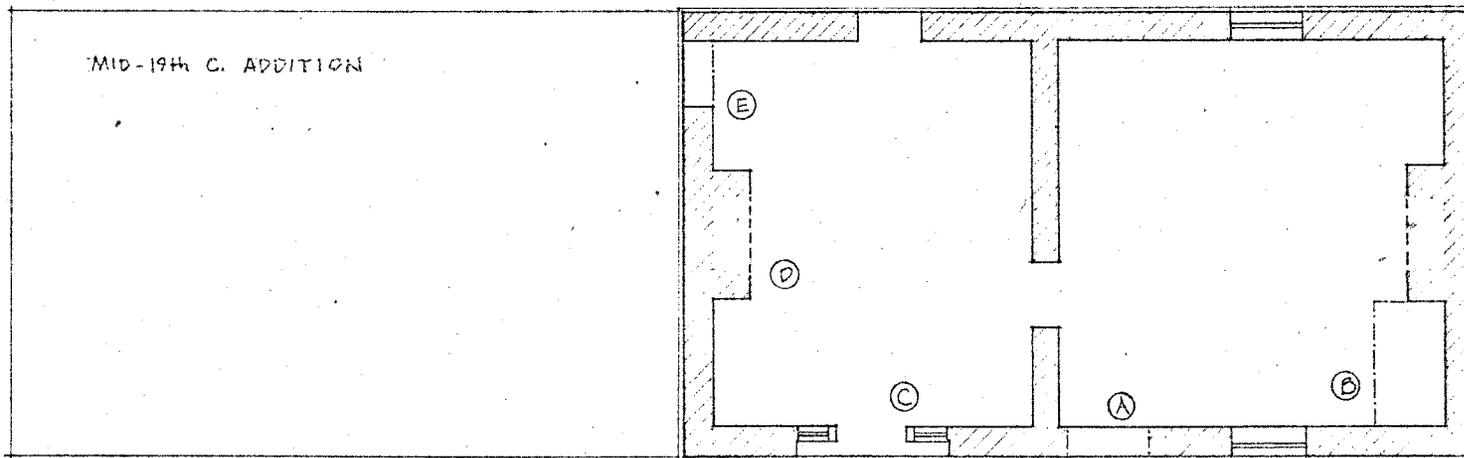
Maryland

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

- A LOCATION OF ORIGINAL EXTERIOR DOOR.
- B LOCATION OF ORIGINAL STAIR.
- C MID-19th C. EXTERIOR DOOR.
- D ORIGINAL FIREPLACE CONCEALED BY  
MID-19th C. STAIR (NOT SHOWN).
- E CONNECTING DOOR CUT IN FOR ADDITION.



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-57

COHEY FARM  
CHURCH HILL, MARYLAND

MAY 9, 1978



CHESTER TOWN  
High School

Ewingtown

COHEY FARM  
GA-57

SOUTHEAST CREEK

Church Hill

Price

Hayden

Clark

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QA-57

Allen & Charles Cohey Farm

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



QA-57

Allen & Charles Cohey Farm

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

