QA-79
Upper Heathworth
Burrisville vicinity
Private

mid-19th century

Upper Heathworth is one of the largest and most imposing 19th century houses in the county. The main block combines a side hall, double parlor plan with three story height and shallow hip roof, a composition that was widely used on the Eastern Shore in the mid-19th century. A pair of rectangular two story flanking wings, one original, the other an early addition, combine to transform the house into a massive if somewhat awkward composition. An original dentil block cornice and later Victorian porches serve to relieve the heaviness of the building somewhat, but the overall feeling of simplicity and size remains dominant on the exterior. The interior of the main house is almost equally plain, with a Victorian stair and a simple mantel the only surviving evidence of 19th century trim. Notable outbuildings include a dairy with pyramidal overhanging roof and a post-and-plank meat house.

Adenda

Upper Heathworth was demolished in the late summer of 1978, not long after the survey of the house was completed. Some of the materials were salvaged by the present owners, who plan to construct a new house on the sight. The dairy building and the post-and-plank meat house were not destroyed.

QA-79

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MAGI # 1800796404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Upper Heathworth

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Northwest side of Lands End Road on Spaniards Neck

CITY, TOWN
Burrisville X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	X AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
William B. Wheeler

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
930 Bonifant Street

CITY, TOWN
Silver Spring ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 20910

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

Liber #: CWC 63
Folio #: 662

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-79

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Upper Heathworth is located on Spaniard Neck, overlooking the Chester River. The house surveys a broad sweep of agricultural land that slopes down to the river in front, and two small coves on either side. There are a number of small outbuildings, a granary, and several barns to the east and northeast of the house. A long driveway flanked by an allee of pine trees approaches from the southeast, and terminates in a circle in front of the house.

The three-part house is of frame construction, consisting of a three story central block with a hip roof flanked by two story gable roof wings. A pair of flush brick chimneys rise on the northeast gable wall of the main house, and single flush chimneys rise at the gable end of each wing. The central portion of the house is three bays wide and two rooms deep, and dates to the mid-nineteenth century. The wings are four bays wide and only one room deep. The northeast wing appears to be original, while the southwest wing was added soon after the original house was completed. These wings are shifted forward, so that they are flush with the river facade of the main house. There are one

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

story porches with Doric columns and scrolled fretwork railings on both facades of the main house, and similar porches with diagonal lath railings on the southeast facade of each wing.

The river facade of the main house has a large double door with sidelights and transom in the southwest bay and large six-over-six windows in the center and northeast bay. There are three six-over-six windows on each of the upper floors. The second floor windows are the same size as the first floor windows. The third floor windows are the same width, but are considerably shorter in height.

The southeast facade, facing the driveway, is identical to the river facade except that the entrance consists of a single door with a three-light transom, but no sidelights.

There are no openings in the gable walls of the main house, but seams in the siding and and evidence inside indicates that there were windows on each floor in the southeast bay of the southwest gable.

The southwest wing is more carefully ordered than the northeast wing. The river facade has four six-over-six windows on each floor. On the land facade,

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

there are doors in the second and fourth bays from the left, and windows in the first and third bays. Four six-over-six windows are symmetrically arranged on the second floor. There are no openings in the gable wall of the southwest wing.

The river facade of the northeast wing is almost identical, but one window has been omitted on the first floor, in the second bay from the right, and a seam below the third window suggests it was once a door. The land facade is also similar, with doors in the second and fourth bays, but the latter of these doors is offset to the left, placing it right next to a window. Both of the irregularities in this wing can be attributed to two winder stairs inside. There are two two-over-four windows flanking the chimney in the upper gable of this wing.

Based on framing evidence, it would appear that the northeast wing is original, and that the southwest wing was added at an early date. All three sections of the house have original, unbeaded horizontal weather-boarding and a flat modillion block cornice consisting of two different size blocks alternating against a wide fascia board.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

The house rests on a brick foundation. A covered bulkhead entrance on the southeast corner of the northeast gable allows access to a cellar under the main house.

The interior plan of the main house consists of a side hall with two parlours. A steep stair rises from the southeast corner of the hall along the southwest gable of the house. This is not the original stair, as it cuts across the location of the now-removed gable windows. The lower part of the first floor window frame remains visible in the closet under the stairs, and ghosts of the second and third floor windows are evident in the interior plaster. The location of the original stair is uncertain, but the northwest end of the hall seems the most likely possibility. The present stair consists of an open string carriage decorated by scrolled brackets on each step, with turned walnut newels, walnut rail, and turned oak balusters. The railing has evidently been changed, as the tenons of earlier newels remain in each floor, where the newels were cut off and replaced. The turned drops from these newels remain in the ceiling of the first and second floor.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

Other alterations are also evident on the first floor. The wall between the two parlours has been removed, creating one large room with two fireplaces. The fireplace in the room facing the river has been blocked and fitted for a stove, the other fireplace remains open. The mantel has been removed from the former, while the latter retains a simple 19th century mantel. A single door gives access to the wing.

The hall has also been altered. Seams in the plaster walls and ceiling indicate the hall was once divided, and the presence of two bolts in the wall suggest there was a pilastered arch to divide the two spaces. As mentioned, the stair has been moved, and a small bath has been inserted below the second floor landing. A large doorway opens off the hall into the southwest wing.

Etched into the glass of one of the river facade sidelights is the name "J. F. Reeves, Jr. 1860".

The second floor repeats the first floor plan, but with a small, unheated room worked into the northwest end of the stair hall. There are small fireplaces in each of the two chambers, and doors leading to the second floor of each wing.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

The third floor is identical to the second floor, but the two larger chambers were heated with stoves, having no fireplaces.

The northeast wing is divided into two rooms on the first floor. The northeast room has a large exposed brick fireplace on the center of the gable wall, and a winder stair in the corner to the right of the fireplace. The inner room has a false fireplace on the center of the southwest wall, and a winder stair in the northeast corner of the room. Several steps lead up to a door leading into the front parlour of the main house.

The second floor of this wing is divided into three rooms and a narrow hall. A steep ladder-stair leads to a large loft room with plastered walls and ceiling.

The southwest wing consists of a single large room on the first floor with a fireplace on the center of the southwest gable wall. This wall has been paneled in recent times, but rather crudely. It appears that raised panel doors were cut up and reused as wall paneling, and other panels were salvaged and set into modern two-inch frames to serve as cupboard doors. Although reasonably convincing from the far end of the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

room, closer examination betrays the horizontal seams of the lock rails breaking across the vertical styles of the doors, creating a most unsettling effect.

The interior trim of the house is relatively simple. Door and window architraves are rabbetted, but otherwise plain. The mantles that remain are also rather plain and undistinguished.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

Dairy

To the east of the main house, directly behind the northeast wing, there is a small frame dairy with a large overhanging pyramidal roof. The dairy building is approximately eight feet square, with a beaded batten door centered on the northwest facade, toward the house, and a single six-over-six window centered on each side wall. It sits on a brick foundation that encloses a springhouse or ice-house, with access through a hinged trap door in the floor.

The roof overhangs about four feet on each side, and is supported by squared, chamfered posts set in the ground. The roof is covered with wood shingles, and surmounted by a weathered finial. Exterior siding consists of unbeaded horizontal weatherboards secured with machine nails. All visible framing is circular sawn and secured with machine nails.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.8 DESCRIPTION

Smokehouse

The smokehouse is located to the east of the house, and is the first of a line of more recent farm buildings that lie in a line roughly parallel to the driveway.

This building is of post and plank construction, approximately twelve feet wide by fourteen feet long. The exterior is covered with horizontal beaded siding on the upper gable and vertical unbeaded siding on the lower gables and side walls. The gable roof is approximately 45 degrees in pitch, and covered with wood shingles. Beaded, tapered rakeboards and a box cornice with beaded fascia board remain intact. The door is located on the center of the southeast facade. The door is gone, but one iron pintel remains on the front face of the right door jamb.

Although this building is constructed in similar fashion to other post and plank buildings in this area, it is unique in its use of slab-wood or kerf-wood for the plank walls and roof. The corner posts, plates, and rafters are all hewn or pit sawn, and show a certain amount of care in construction. The planks and several of the intermediate posts, on the other hand, are all pieces of kerf-wood left over after logs are cut into

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.9 DESCRIPTION

planks. The rounded face is on the inside, and has been notched out to allow the intermediate posts to lie flat against them. Other pieces of kerf-wood have been used for nailers in the roof. They are laid across the rafters in a horizontal position with the rounded face down, and notched out so they lie flat on the rafters. One-inch boards have been nailed in a vertical position on top of the nailers, and the shingles are nailed to the boards.

The combination of kerf-wood members and machine nailed collars suggests a mid-nineteenth century date for this building.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Upper Heathworth is one of the largest and most imposing 19th century houses surviving in the county. The main block combines a side hall, double parlour plan with three story height and shallow hip roof, a composition that was widely used on the Eastern Shore in the mid-19th century. Although only one of the two-story wings is original, the other was added at an early date, and together they transform a relatively simple three story house into a massive if somewhat awkward composition. An original dentil-block cornice and later Victorian porches serve to relieve the heaviness of the building somewhat, but the overall feeling of simplicity and size remains dominant on the exterior. The interior of the main house is almost equally plain, with a Victorian stair and a simple mantel the only surviving evidence of 19th century trim.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Two outbuildings of particular note have also survived. A small frame dairy with an overhanging pyramidal roof is located to the east of the main house, and a post-and-plank meat house is located at the eastern edge of the yard, adjoining the more recent farm buildings.

QA-79

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
7/18/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

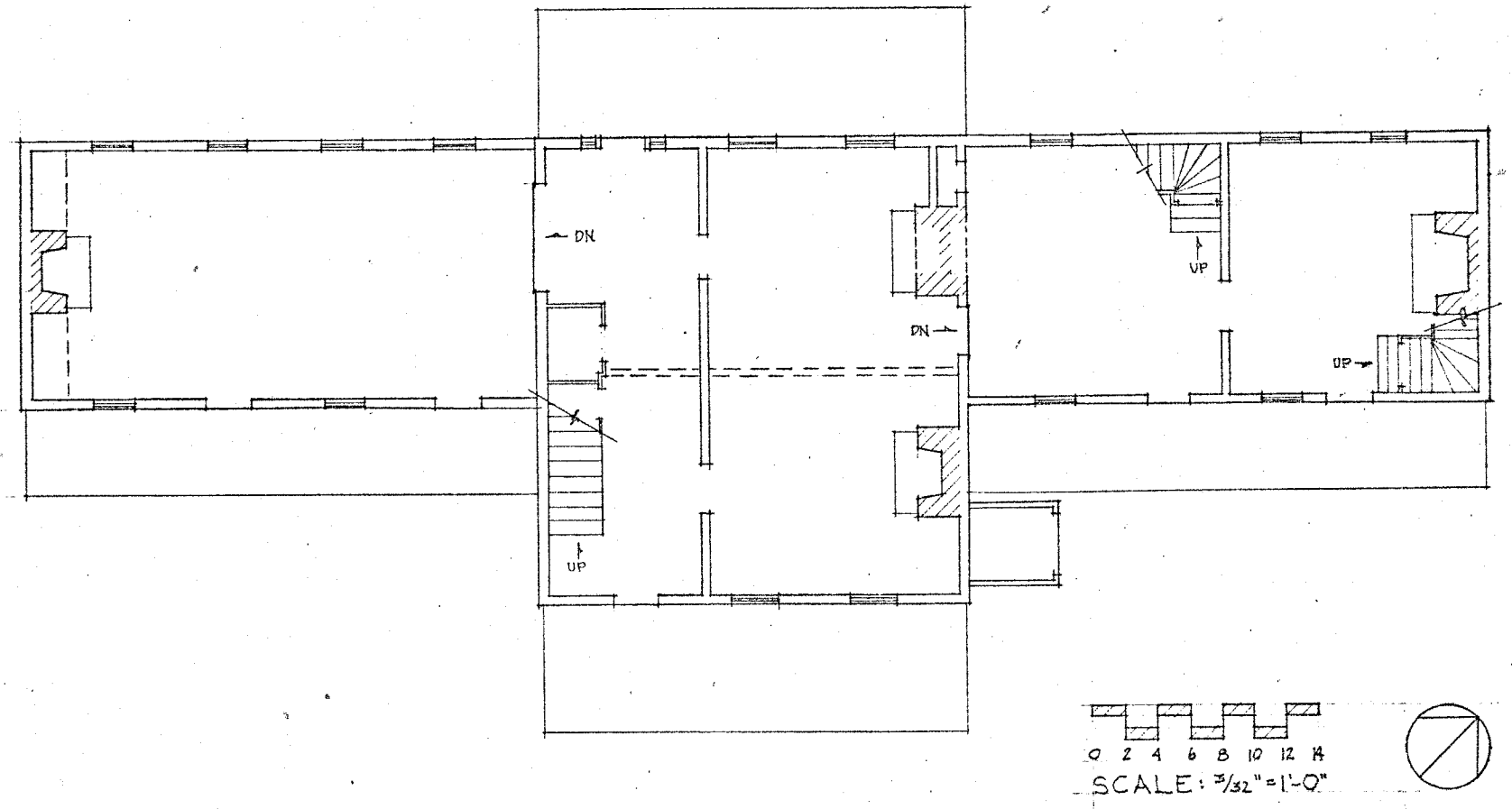
CITY OR TOWN
Centreville

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



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-79

UPPER HEATHWORTH

BURRISVILLE, MARYLAND

JUNE 23, 1978.

UPPER HEATHWORTH
QA-79
Primrose Pt
Piney Grove
Skillet Pt
Hollow Marsh Pt
Pomona
Deep Pt
Flat Pt
Bond Chapel
Dam Cr
RIVERSIDE WHARF
NEWMAN'S WHARF
Deep Pt
Wilmer Pt
SOUTHEAST CREEK
Wilmers
Millers I
CHESTER RIVER
Northwest Pt
Riverview
WINDMILL
Old Town
Philip Creek
OLD TOWN ROAD
Johnsontown
Melton Pt
QUAKER NECK LDG
Shell Pt
BOOKERS WHARF
Oyster Cove
Boathouse Cove
Mummys Cove
ASHLAND LDG
Indian Town
White Cove
Comegys Bight
WINDMILL
Deep Pt
WINMER NECK
ISLAND
SPANIARD NECK
Burrissville
Mt Zion Ch
Island Creek
CONQUEST
Emory Creek
CORSICA RIVER
Cedar Pt
Ship Pt
Wash Pt
Rocky Pt
EARLE LDG
Middle Quarter Cove
PUSEY LDG
Jacobs Nose
Green Pt
Gunston School
Fort Pt
CORSICA NECK
Three Bridges Branch
Brownsville
Earle Chapter Ch
CENTREVILLE
Queen Annes County H.S.

Upper Heathworth

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QA-79
Upper Heathworth
Summer '78 ORV

QA-79 Upper Heathworth Dairy
Burrisville vicinity, Md.
Orlando Ridout V, 1978 (MHT)
NW facade, camera facing SE

QA-79 Upper Heatworth: Meathouse
Burrisvile vicinity, Md
Orlando Ridout V, 1978 (MHT)
SW Gable, camera facing NE