

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Providence

AND/OR COMMON

Mary Brown Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

South of Maryland Route 304

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mary F. Brown, et al

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Mary F. Brown

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 76

Folio #: 617

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

QA-104

**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 type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mary Brown Farm, historically known as Providence, is located on the south side of Maryland Route 304 directly south of the intersection with Kidwell Avenue.

The following description is based on a brief examination of the building on May 31, 1978. A more complete survey has not been possible.

The early house on the Brown Farm is of brick construction, five bays long and one room deep with flush brick chimneys at either end of the gambrel roof. The date "1746" is incorporated into the east gable wall in glazed bricks. A two story frame addition was made to the west gable end in the late 19th or early 20th century. This addition is set at a right angle to the main house to form a T plan.

The front facade of the house faces south, toward the Mill Stream Branch of Corsica Creek. The door is in the center bay flanked by two 6/6 windows on each side. Three 6/6 shed roof dormer windows are ranged across the second story. The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond above a

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

molded water table. The window openings have arched brick lintels. The center door is framed with 19th century sidelights and transom. The eaves are boxed in and trimmed with a handsome complex crown mold and bed mold; the roof is covered with wood shingles. A simple entrance porch and concrete block bulkhead cellar entrance have been added in the 20th century.

There are no openings in the east gable wall. The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond in the first story and English bond in the upper gable above a molded water table and Flemish bond foundation. The date "1746" is incorporated into the upper gable wall using glazed header bricks. The gable rakeboards are replacements.

On the rear or north facade, the door is offset to left of center, flanked by a single 6/6 window on each side. Three 6/6 shed roof dormer windows are ranged across the second story. The molded water table, segmental brick window openings, molded cornice and shingle roof match the front facade.

The west gable wall is completely covered by the later frame addition.

The interior consists of a center passage plan with one large room on either side of the stair passage. The stair rises against the west wall of the passage

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

to an intermediate landing at the north end of the passage.

The west room is relatively plain. The most significant decorative feature in this room is a large mantel consisting of a board surround with backband molding framing the opening below a molded shelf. The window openings in this room are splayed and have paneled soffits and jambs. The baseboard and chairrail survive intact. Flanking the fireplace on the west gable wall are a pair of doors. The door to the right replaces an original pedimented cupboard with glass doors. Although the cupboard has been removed, the pediment and doors remain stored on the second floor.

The east room is the most important room in the house. The entire east gable wall is richly paneled with original fielded paneling, and arched cupboards flank the center fireplace. The cupboards have richly molded architraves and paneled doors; the fireplace opening is framed with an ornate mantel and fluted pilasters. A large complex interior cornice, baseboard and chairrail all encircle the room.

On the second floor, the west room <sup>was</sup> ~~has~~ been partitioned longitudinally to form two rooms and the fireplaces <sup>ve</sup> ~~has~~ been removed. A small storage closet

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

has been built into the second story stair passage. The east room remains relatively intact, with an original mantel <sup>and</sup> flanking pilasters setting off the fireplace. It appears that original paneling on either side of the pilasters has been removed.

A trap door in the northwest chamber opens into the attic crawl space but this door is sealed with plastic at present.

The cellar plan is identical to the first floor plan, with brick partition walls below the first floor passage dividing the cellar into three rooms. The east chimney base is arched with no fireplace. The west chimney base has been altered. A wide batten door that originally separated two of the cellar rooms remains stored in the west room. It is constructed of wide vertical boards secured to the battens with wrought nails, and was hung with wrought strap hinges.

Meat House

To the south of the house is a dovetailed log plank meat house which has been incorporated into a later building. The log walls are reinforced with wood pegs driven down through the planks, a typical feature of this construction form in the Tidewater region.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

Kitchen

Mrs. Brown reports that within her life time there was a brick kitchen that projected from the southwest corner of the house.

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	
400-1499	<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	
<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 1746

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The brick house on the Mary Brown Farm, constructed in 1746, is one of the earliest positively dated buildings in Queen Anne's County. It is the earliest dated example of a gambrel roof house in the county and one of the earliest surviving in the Tidewater area. The interior includes some of the finest woodwork to survive from the mid-18th century and is in an excellent state of preservation.

Also of interest is a dovetailed log plank meat house incorporated into a later outbuilding.

**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

2/24/82

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-III; Recorded May 31, 1978.

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



QA 104 Providence  
of Mary Brown Farm

Providence

QA-104



QA-104

Providence

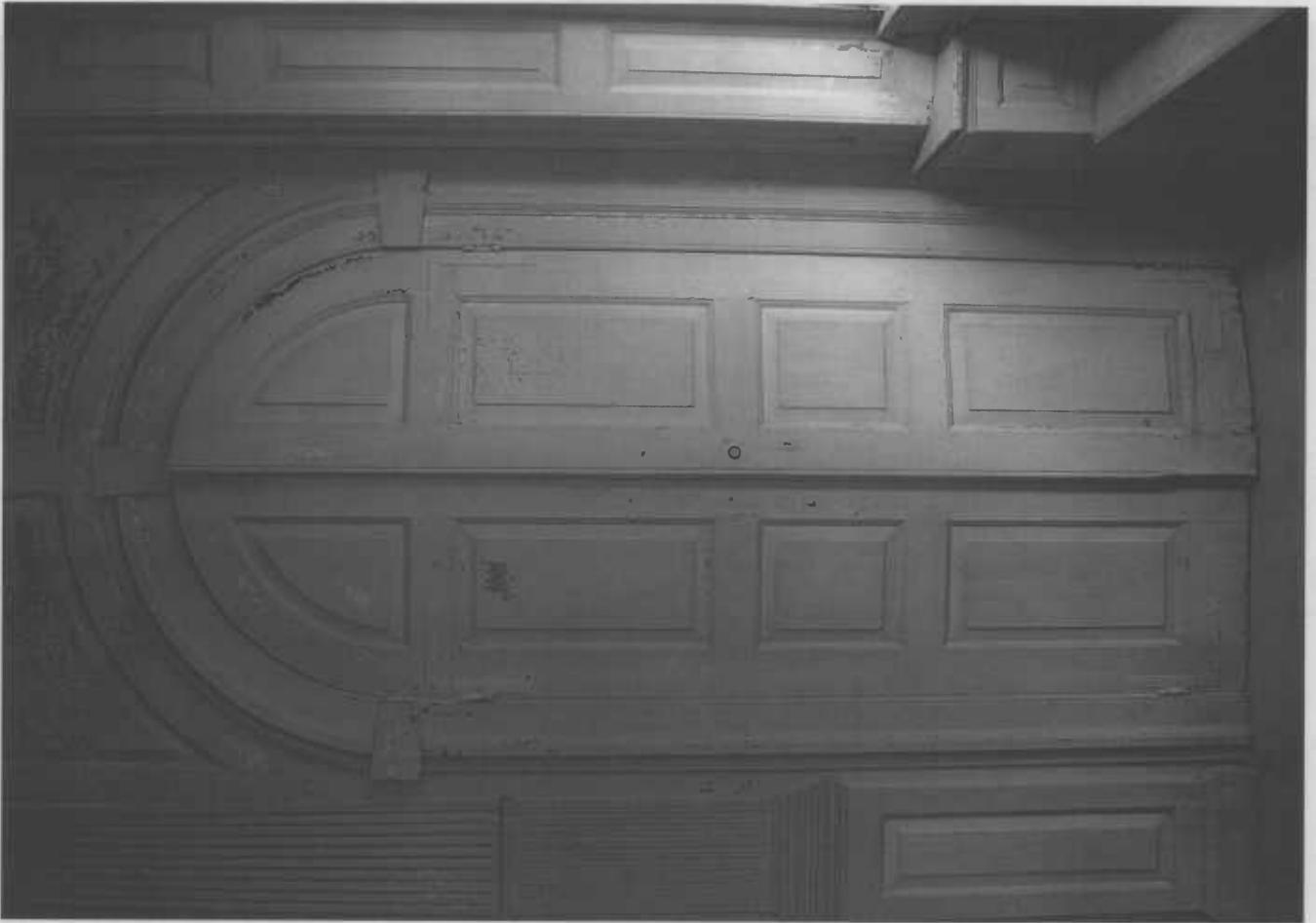
**Mary McCarthy**

**Spring/Summer 2003**

**Digital color photo on file at MHT**

Providence

QA-104



QA-104  
Providence

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

Providence

QA-104



QA-104  
Providence

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



QA-104

#104

Mary Brown Farm  
Centerville vicinity  
View from NE

April 1974  
JWU



QA-104

# 104

Mary Brown Farm  
Centerville vicinity  
View from NE

April 1974  
JWU



QA. - 104

#104

Mary Brown Farm  
Centerville vicinity  
View from SE

April 1974  
JWV



PA-104

# 104

Mary Brown Farm  
Centerville vicinity  
North facade

April 1974  
JWU



QA-104 Providence (1746)

Centreville vicinity

Orlando Ridout v 8.14.01

View from south