

QA-136  
The Glebe Farm  
Stevensville vicinity  
Private

late 19th century

This 135 acre farm was purchased by Christ Church Parish in 1718 and used as a glebe until 1826, when it was sold to raise money for a new church. Church vestry minutes include extensive records of several early glebe houses that were constructed in the 18th century on this site. The present dwelling dates to the late 19th century, and incorporates a somewhat earlier chimney.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The Glebe Farm, also "Little Ease"

AND/OR COMMON

The Lillian Tanner Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Stevensville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

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 checked="" 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 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

Thomas C. Tanner

Telephone #: 643-5166

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Stevensville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21666

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

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

Liber #: TSP 40

Folio #: 310

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

QA-136

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

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

The present house stands in a small grove of trees surrounded by open cornfields on the west side of Cox Creek on Kent Island. Of frame construction, it is a two story, two bay house with a story-and-a-half wing on the east gable end. The main, two story section is almost square, resting on brick piers and covered with narrow, bevel-edged weatherboard siding. Each facade has a simple, four panel door in the west bay and a six-over-six window in the east bay. Two six-over-six windows are symmetrically placed on each facade. The only openings on the gable ends of the house are a pair of small, two-over-two windows in the west gable that provide light for the attic.

The roof is of common rafter construction, covered with wood shingles and a second layer of asphalt shingles. The box cornice is embellished with a simple crown molding above the fascia board, with gable returns.

The east wing extends the full depth of the main house, with one exterior entrance in the east bay of the south facade. One six-over-six window

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

on each facade provides light for the first floor kitchen, and one gable roof dormer of six-over-six sash on each facade provides light for the chamber over the kitchen.

A large, exterior brick chimney of three-course American bond rises against the east gable wall of the main house.

The interior is laid out in a single pile, side-passage plan. The through passage runs along the west gable wall of the main house, with a gentle stair rising against the exterior wall. At the north end of the hall, opposite the foot of the stairs, a door leads to a large parlour extending the full depth of the house. A fireplace in the center of the east wall of the parlour has been blocked off and fitted with a stove pipe. A door to the right of the fireplace opens into the kitchen addition, one step lower than the parlour. A steep, narrow stair rises against the north end of the east gable wall. A small pantry is tucked into the alcove to the right of the exposed chimney mass.

The second floor of the main house is divided into two rooms and a short hall. The east room

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

extends the full depth of the house, with a blocked fireplace centered on the east gable wall. The unheated west room is smaller, and allows for a short hall running from the top of the stairs in the southwest corner to the larger east chamber. A stair to the attic is reached through the smaller room, and runs along the west gable wall.

A beaded batten door to the right of the fireplace in the east room leads down one step to the chamber above the kitchen. This room may also be reached using the previously described stair in the kitchen.

The interior finish of the house is very plain, almost all of the hardware and trim is standard "mail order" stock common in the last quarter of the 19th century. The mantels are plain board surrounds surmounted by a shelf supported by a quirked ovolo molding. The only outstanding detail in the house is the batten door on the second floor of the wing. This door is constructed of random width beaded boards, secured with beaded battens and wrought nails, and hung on large wrought strap hinges. The hinges

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

are secured to the door with screws, and to the jamb with wire nails. This, coupled with heavy weathering on the "exterior" face of the door, would indicate that the door has been reused in its present location.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
REHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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
<input 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 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 present farm known as Glebe Farm consists of a 135 acre tract of land on Cox Creek. The present house and two barns are of late 19th century date and replace a number of earlier buildings documented in Emory's history of the county. It is interesting to note that both historical names associated with the property have remained in use in the title deeds for the property right up to the most recent transaction.

The name Glebe Farm dates back to the 18th and 19th centuries, when the same 135 acre tract served as a glebe for Christ Church Parish in Stevensville. The property was purchased by the vestry in 1718 from Benjamin Ball and Elizabeth Ball for twelve thousand pounds of tobacco. In the deed for the purchase the property is described as being:

All that grant or parcel of land...called  
or known by the name of Littell Ese--containing

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

one hundred fifty acres by estimation...  
being part of a grant of land containing  
three hundred acres, which was formerly  
in the tenure or occupation of Ant. Workman. (1)

Emory notes that the parish has<sup>d</sup> been without  
a minister for some years, citing two petitions to  
the governor requesting that the parish be expanded  
in order to support a minister. The purchase of a  
glebe must have been part of that effort to attract  
a permanent minister.

In 1721 the Reverend Thomas Phillips became  
rector of the parish, and in 1724 Phillips reported  
that there was a freehold belonging to the parish  
upon which he lived; and a new house had been built  
for him which was then scarcely finished. (2)

In 1729 there is a report that there are two old  
dwelling houses on the glebe, and that a good frame  
dwelling house built by the parish had been recently  
destroyed by fire.

In 1738 the clerk of the parish reported to the  
governor:

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The church is of brick, 25 feet by 40. The altar and stairs want repairing with some other small repairs. The glebe has a new dwelling house half-finished, one tobacco house and one house almost useless. (3)

The church seems to have prospered through the middle years of the 18th century, but declined with the outbreak of the Revolution. There was no rector for the remainder of the 18th century; and in June, 1802, the glebe was rented out. This practice continued up into the 1820's when an effort was mounted by Bishop Kemp to revive the vacant parishes of the Diocese. In 1820 the Bishop requested that a Reverend Smith visit the vacant parishes of the Eastern Shore. Smith reported the church was in a "deplorable state" and that livestock used the building for shelter. He continued:

There is a glebe of about 130 or 140 acres of land, which now rents for only \$60. With a part of this sum they are under the necessity of buying timber annually for the use of the

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.3 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

glebe, it having no timber on it. The balance of the rent for the last year was laid out in repairs, but the house is now in bad order and there are but few out-buildings. The land is not considered valuable. It formerly rented for \$100.<sup>(4)</sup>

In 1825, Reverend Jackson of Chestertown visited the parish, and submitted a similar report to the Bishop.

On November 1, 1825, Mr. Matthias Harris wrote to Bishop Kemp and reported the collapse of the entire church during an attempt to demolish the oldest section of the building. He suggested selling the glebe to raise money for a new church, and Bishop Kemp apparently agreed, for Emory notes that the glebe was offered for sale in April, 1826, but only \$900 being bid, was not sold. Later that same month, the land was sold to John Denny for \$1,000.<sup>(5)</sup>

The property changed hands four more times in the ensuing forty years. In 1865, Edmund Carville left the Glebe Farm to his daughter, Sarah A. E. Tolson. The property did not change hands again until

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## B.4 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1903 when Sarah Tolson left the farm to her daughter, Mary Elizabeth Stevens. It would therefore seem likely that the present house was built sometime during the tenure of Sarah Tolson, probably during the 1880's or early 1890's.

Although quite plain in appearance, the house is notable for a number of reasons. The long history of the property as a glebe farm, including historical references describing its condition and progressive changes, makes this one of the few tracts on Kent Island for which a clear historical picture may be developed.

The use of the single pile, side-hall plan and the three course American bond chimney are both features generally associated with the early 19th century. This, combined with the use of hand-sawn and hewn joists beneath the first floor, and numerous evidence of reused material, would suggest that the present house may have been built on the site of an earlier house, taking advantage of the earlier chimney and any reuseable materials.

**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

STREET &amp; NUMBER

DATE

1/29/78

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

Title Search

April 14, 1958. Liber TSP 40, Folio 310.

Lillian V. Tanner to Thomas C. Tanner, her son,  
and Mary F. Jewell, her daughter...tract known  
as "The Glebe Farm" or "Little Ease", containing  
135 acres, more or less.

October 23, 1929. Liber BHT 10, Folio 226.

William W. Carter and wife to Marion N. Tanner  
and Lillian V. Tanner, his wife...for \$7200...  
that tract called "The Glebe Farm" or "Little  
Ease" containing 135 acres.

January 4, 1911. Liber SS 9, Folio 307.

Mary E. Stevens and John C. Stevens, her husband,  
to William W. Carter...for \$5300...tract called  
"The Glebe Farm" containing 135 acres.

May 18, 1903. Liber JEG 5, Folio 421.

Sallie E. Tolson to daughter Mary Elizabeth  
Stevens...for sum of \$1 and assumption of \$1200  
mortgage...tract called "The Glebe Farm" or  
"Little Ease" containing 135 acres. Left to her  
(Sallie Tolson) by her father, Edmund Carville,  
which said will and testament is of record.

## Title Search (cont'd)

August 10, 1865. Wills STH 1, Folio 329-33.

Edmund Carville leaves to his daughter, Sarah  
A. E. Tolson, tract called "Glebe Farm".

April 10, 1854. Liber JP 2, Folio 87.

Charles Stevens and wife to Edmund Carville...  
for \$1461.87...all that tract part of a parcel  
of land called "Little Ease" and commonly known  
as "The Glebe"...containing 58 acres.\*

December 18, 1852. Liber JP 1, Folio 281.

Jacob W. Legg to Edmund Carville for \$1495.75  
all that part of the tract of lands called  
"Little Ease" but more commonly known as the  
"Glebe Farm"...containing 74 acres.

May 18, 1839. Liber JT 2, Folio 608-609.

Vestry of Christ Church Parish to Jacob W.  
Legg...for \$1000...all that tract or parcel  
of land so as aforesaid described called  
"Little Ease"...containing by estimation 150  
acres, which land was granted to the vestry  
of Christ Church by a deed bearing date the 29th  
day of August, 1718 from Benjamin Ball and  
Elizabeth Ball.

## Title Search (cont'd)

July 18, 1839. Liber JT 2, Folio 609.

Whereas a sale of the Glebe land called "Little Ease" situated on Kent Island belonging to Christ Church Parish in Queen Anne's County was made to John Denny on the 22nd day of April in the year Eighteen hundred and twenty six for the purpose of rebuilding the church fabric and whereas the vestry of said church did give a bond to convey the said glebe lands to the said Denny on his paying the sum of one thousand dollars as the amount of the purchase money which he has since paid, that during the lifetime of the said John Denny he effected a sale of the same Glebe lands to a certain Hans (?) Legg and received the money therefor and gave the said Legg his bond bearing date 1st day of October in the year Eighteen hundred and twenty six to convey the same lands to the said Hans Legg the said Hans Legg has since deceased leaving his son Jacob W. Legg his sole heir, now we the undersigned heirs of the said John Denny do hereby agree to cancel and make null the bond given for the conveyance of the said Glebe lands by the Vestry of Christ Church Parish, provided they the said

## Title Search (cont'd)

Vestry will execute a deed of the said Glebe lands to the said Jacob W. Legg, heir of Hans Legg deceased; witness our hands this 18th day of May, Eighteen hundred and thirty nine.

Witness Wm. Tanner

John E. Gibson

Thomas H. Kemp, Agent

for the Execution of

John Denny

August 29, 1718. Liber IK No. A, Folio 199.

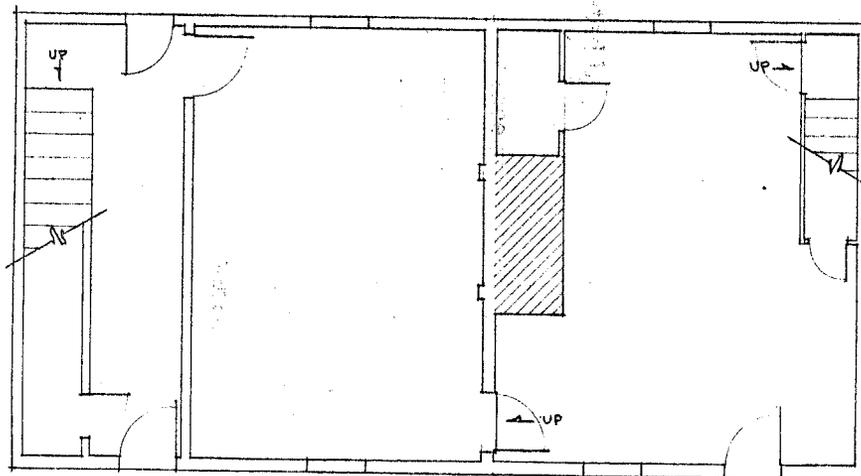
Benjamin Ball and Elizabeth Ball for 12,000 pounds of tobacco...all that grant or parcel of land... called or known by the name of Littel Ese - containing 150 acres by estimation...being part of a grant of land containing three hundred acres, which was formerly in the tenure or occupation of Anthony Workman.\*\*

\*How Charles Stevens acquired this piece of property is not clear. No deed reference to locate the purchase is included. Charles Stevens was quite active in real estate transactions in the 1840's and 1850's. No transaction is listed between Jacob Legg and Stevens. The most likely explanation is a sale by "Eliza Owens, formerly Eliza

## Title Search (cont'd)

Stevens to Charles Stevens, for \$1000 200 acres known as Stevens Delight...adjoining land of Jacob W. Legg. (See JT 4, folio 424, see also JT 3, folio 571).

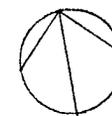
\*\*Land records in the Queen Anne's County Courthouse begin in 1706. There is no evidence to determine how Benjamin Ball acquired the property prior to 1718.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SCALE:  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-136

THE GLEBE FARM  
STEVENSVILLE, MARYLAND

JAN. 24, 1978





QA-136 Glebe Farm  
OR V 1978  
Stevensville rd



QA-156 Glebe Farm

OKV 1978

Stevensville vic.



QA#136

The Glebe Farm  
(Lillian Tanner Farm)