

QA-144

227 North Commerce Street

1798

Centreville

Private

A brick in the chimney dated 1798 establishes this as one of the earliest houses in Centreville. The present appearance of the house dates principally to the second period of construction, circa 1820-1830. Further alterations and a rear wing date to the late 19th century. Details of interest include a paneled stair and Federal woodwork on the first floor and a cooking fireplace in the cellar with a bake oven and the original iron crane.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

227 North Commerce Street

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West side of North Commerce St. between Broadway and Academy Lane

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

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 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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

Rulie Boyles

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

227 North Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

___ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

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

Liber #: TSP 70

Folio #: 88

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-144

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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

This house on North Commerce Street is one of the earliest surviving buildings in Centreville. A dated brick in the east face of the chimney establishes that it was built in 1798, only a few years after the town was laid out.

The house has been through an unusually complex series of alterations and additions. The original, story-and-a-half house was of frame construction on a high brick foundation. It was three bays wide and one room deep, with a steeply pitched gable roof and a single flush brick chimney centered on the south gable. During the second quarter of the 19th century the house was enlarged by adding a frame addition to the rear. The roof was rebuilt, with a gambrel on the front and a cat slide or salt box roof on the rear. In the late 19th century, it was again enlarged, this time by raising the rear addition to a full two stories. The roof was raised correspondingly. The gambrel was simply extended to a new, higher peak, and the catslide on the rear was raised to meet it. Either simultaneously or at a later date, a two story frame ell was also added to the rear, projecting from the north end of the west

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

facade.

Despite the complexity of this development, the street facade, facing east, remains much the same as it was following the first alteration. The high foundation is laid in two and three-course common bond, and is pierced by three cellar windows. The three bay fenestration is probably original, but the first floor windows have late 19th century sash. The door is located in the north bay, with two-over-two windows in the south and center bays. There are three six-over-six shed roof dormers on the second floor.

The north gable has been altered considerably over the years, but architectural evidence remains to trace most of the changes. There is a bulkhead entrance to the cellar at the east end of the foundation. This is enclosed by a frame entrance with a gable roof and narrow double batten doors. There is no evidence of early windows on the first floor at this end, but a seam near the center of the gable on the second floor suggests the location of an early six-over-six window. The rear addition has a modern double window on the first floor and a single six-over-six window on the second floor. There is also a six-over-six window in

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

the center of the enlarged upper gable.

On the rear facade of the addition, there is a modern picture window in the left (north) bay and a six-over-six window in the second bay on the first floor. Two six-over-six windows are similarly placed on the second floor. The remainder of the rear facade is covered by the rear ell, a two story frame structure that is three bays long and one room deep, with six-over-six windows and german siding.

The brick chimney back is exposed on the south gable up to the first floor eave. There is an original six-over-six window on the west side of the chimney on the first floor and a pair of four-light windows flank the chimney on the second floor. The south gable of the rear addition has one six-over-six window in the west bay on the first and second floor and a two-over-two window in the upper gable.

Apparently the earliest siding dates to the second period of construction. It consists of beaded horizontal weatherboards secured with machine nails. These are generally obscured by rust and/or paint, but appear similar to transitional machine-made nails with hand-struck heads. If so, they could date to the original house. This early siding is carried across the entire

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

street facade and extends up partially into the upper gables of the gable ends. It also remains on the first floor and both the gables and the rear facade of the first addition. When the rear addition was raised, similar beaded siding was used for the second floor and upper gables, but this siding is distinctly different in that it clearly displays machine saw marks on the exterior face. The use of beaded siding on such a late addition would ordinarily be surprising, but evidently it was used here in an attempt to match the existing siding. The disregard for the saw marks suggests that beaded siding was no longer available, and this stock was rather carelessly produced from plain boards either at the mill or on the site.

Early beaded corner boards and tapered and beaded rakeboards remain on the front section of the house. The upper pitch of the front gambrel roof does not have beaded rakeboards, so these evidently date to the second period of construction.

An early cornice also remains on the front facade, with a crown mold applied to the fascia board and a bed mold below the soffit.

The interior plan of the house appears to be

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

original, but all interior trim dates to the second period of construction. The original house has a side hall, single parlour plan with the stair hall to the north. The stair rises along the north wall of the hall to a landing at the rear. It is an open string stair with a square newel with chamfered edges, square ballusters, and a simple rail. The stair ends are decorated with scrolled brackets, the carriage piece is beaded, and the area below the carriage is paneled. Beaded baseboard and a simple chairrail remain intact throughout the first floor. The front door is an early six-panel door with a four light transom. A second six-panel door remains between the hall and the parlour. The fireplace surround in the parlour is a very fine example of a Federal mantel. It consists of a board surround with the fascia broken into two fields by a fine molding. A bold ogee molding defines the fireplace opening, and is surmounted by two narrow side blocks and a large center block, all embellished with vertical reeding. These blocks support a molded shelf dominated by a cyma-astragal molding. The shelf breaks forward above each block.

All interior architraves have survived on the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

exterior openings as well as the door between the hall and the parlour and both doors leading to the rear addition.

The rear addition is slightly lower than the original house, and the interior has been altered considerably. Based on the recollections of the present owners, the rear wing probably originally consisted of two rooms with a later, enclosed winder stair in the southwest corner of the north room. Both the stair and the partition were removed, however, opening up the rear into a single large room. The fireplace on the south wall retains an early mantel which is clearly a simplified version of the mantel in the front parlour. This consists of a molded board surround with two plain blocks and a molded shelf. According to Mrs. Boyles, there was a chairrail and baseboard in both rear rooms before they were modernized.

The second floor of the early house is divided into three rooms. A heated sleeping chamber is located at the south end of the house, while a longitudinal partition wall divides the north end into an unheated chamber on the street facade and a stair hall to the rear. The early railing and balusters around the stair opening have survived, as well

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

as the beaded baseboard, molded chairrail, and two interior six-panel doors. A door has been cut through to directly connect the two sleeping chambers, probably in the late 19th century. The mantel has also survived, and is almost identical to the mantel in the rear parlour on the first floor. Door openings have been cut through the rear wall of both the south chamber and the stair hall to allow access to the two bedrooms created when the rear addition was raised. These two openings may have once been rear dormers, in which case the roof of the first rear addition could not have come up above the rear cornice. If this is the case, then the second stage of the house would have consisted of a gambrel roof house with a rear lean-to, rather than the rear cat slide described earlier. Framing evidence necessary to resolve this conflict is not visible.

The roof framing above the main house is typical of gambrel roof houses in this area. The upper set of rafters rest on a flat curb plate and are secured at the ridge with a pegged, center-cut mortise-and-tenon joint. The curb plates rest on top of the collars, which also serve as ceiling joists. These

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

are mortise-and-tenoned to the lower rafter pairs, which presumably rest on flat false plates supported by the second floor joists. All visible nails in the roof frame are machine made, except for scattered wrought nails that are probably left over from the earlier roof. The primary evidence for the earlier gable roof is the original drip course on the chimney. This is now located inside the attic, but clearly served the earlier roof. The dated brick is located approximately eight courses above the drip course, and is still visible from outside. The chimney was raised several feet higher when the roof was changed to a gambrel. Although the presence of an earlier drip course is relatively positive evidence of the earlier roof, this assumption is further supported by the consistent use of machine made nails in the existing roof. These should not have been available in Centreville before about 1815, and could not have been used in a house built in 1798.

The cellar under the original portion of the house is extremely interesting. Although the present board partitions and plastered ceiling appear quite early, these are later features. Seams in the front

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.8 DESCRIPTION

foundation wall indicate that a bulkhead entrance was located on the center of the street facade. A cellar window to the south of the door has also been blocked up. The ceiling joists are hewn and were originally exposed and whitewashed. A large cooking fireplace is located on the center of the south gable wall. There is an original oven built into the left side of the chimney, and the early iron fireplace crane remains in place, secured to the west wall of the firebox with iron pintels. Brick pavers are still evident on the floor in the south end of the cellar. The partitions all appear to be later additions, and the ceiling was plastered with machine lath and machine nails. An interior stair along the north gable wall was cut in and is constructed with machine nails. A door in the rear wall at the south end leads to a dark, unused cellar below the rear addition. The ceiling joists in this room are exposed and whitewashed, however, suggesting that this space may have been used at one time. There is no fireplace, however, only a brick chimney base on the south wall.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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
<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 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

Architecturally, this is one of the most interesting houses in Queen Anne's County. It has evolved through a series of relatively complex changes, yet sufficient evidence remains of each period of construction to allow analysis. A brick in the chimney dated 1798 establishes this house as one of the earliest surviving buildings in Centreville. The present appearance of the house dates principally to the second period of construction, circa 1820-1830. Further alterations and a rear wing date to the late 19th century.

Exterior details of note include the early beaded weatherboards, corner boards, and rakeboards as well as the front cornice, dormers, and front door. The interior is virtually intact to the second building phase, and features a paneled stair, a handsome Federal mantel, and all of the early baseboard, chairrail, door and window surrounds, and two simple mantels. Also of interest

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

is an unusual bake oven in the cellar, and the original fireplace crane.

QA-144

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

11/13/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

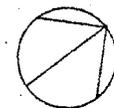
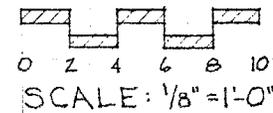
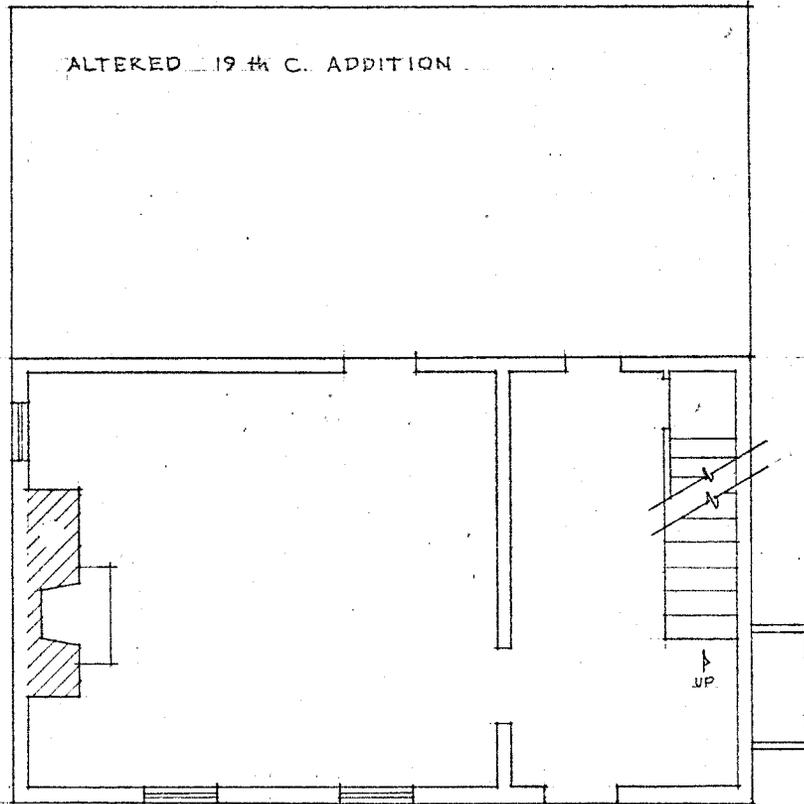
STATE

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-144 227 NORTH COMMERCE STREET
CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND

AUGUST 7, 1978

QA-144
Rolie Boyles House
227 N. Commerce St
Centerville

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





QA-144

227 North Commerce Street
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1979 (MHT)
Front facade and north gable



QA-144 227 North Commerce Street
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1979 (MHT)
View from south



QA-144 227 North Commerce Street
Centreville, Md.
Orlando Ridout V 1979 (MHT)
View from north