

QA-152
Holton House
Centreville
Private

1824

Constructed in 1824 by Daniel Newnam, this house is one of the few surviving houses in Centreville dating to the period 1815-1830. This followed a tremendous boom in building in the first twenty years following the establishment of the town, and marked a period of relative stability that may have amounted to stagnation for the building trades. Constructed in three distinct stages, the two earliest sections are notable as a study of the transitional elements found in a late Federal house. The mantel in the south parlor is distinctly Federal with some Greek details, while the mantel in the north parlor, added circa 1830, is quite similar but more distinctly Greek in detail. Other features of interest include a handsome stair with delicately ramped balustrade, several original Federal doors, and much of the original baseboard, chairrail, and architrave trim.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Newnam House, Holton House

AND/OR COMMON

Holton House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

202 South Commerce Street

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Grace B. Holton

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

202 South Commerce Street

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 #: O. C. 3532

Folio #:

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-152

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Holton House is located on the southwest corner of South Commerce Street and Godwin Lane.

There are three major periods of construction readily apparent, with several additional changes undertaken in the 20th century. The main house is frame, 2 1/2 stories high, five bays wide and one room deep, with flush brick chimneys at either end of a pitched gable roof and a two story rear L on the north end of the rear facade.

The front facade, facing South Commerce Street, is not quite symmetrical in fenestration. There is a door with transom in the center bay with two 2/2 windows on either side, five 2/2 windows on the second floor and three 2/2 pitched roof dormers on the third floor. The two south bays are more closely spaced, however, suggesting a side hall, single parlor plan house that has been enlarged to a center hall plan. An examination of the cellar confirms this evolution of the house, though the two north bays appear to be an early addition. The front facade is covered with beaded horizontal weatherboards, beaded cornerboards, and an asphalt

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

shingle roof. The eaves are boxed in with a deep soffit and complex crown and bed molds. A one story porch dating to the early 20th century stretches across the middle three bays. According to Mrs. Holton, this porch used to continue across the south bay and wrapped around the south gable wall as well. The outline of an earlier entrance porch can be seen in the center bay, protected by the later porch.

On the south gable, there is one 2/2 window in the west bay on the first floor, a pair of 2/2 windows flank the chimney on the second floor, and two small four-light windows are similarly positioned in the upper gable. Early beaded siding has survived on the entire south wall. The front and rear cornice returns at the corners and is carried up the gable eave. The chimney has a Victorian profile and is wider than the north chimney, suggesting an extra flue for a cellar fireplace.

The two story rear L and a 20th century addition have covered the majority of the rear facade. A single 2/2 window in the south bay is the only opening on the first and second floor. On the third floor, there is one 2/2 shed roof dormer in the south bay and a 2/2

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

pitched roof dormer in the center bay. The beaded siding and cornice remain, but the crown mold has been replaced.

The back of the chimney is exposed on the north gable up to the second floor level. There is a single 2/2 window to the right of the chimney on the first and second floor and a pair of four-light windows flanking the chimney in the upper gable. There are also two cellar windows, one of which retains the early wood frame with diamond-section horizontal bars. The siding is beaded; the cornice matches the front facade except the crown and bed molds have been replaced with beveled strips.

The rear L probably dates to the late 19th century. It is two stories high and one room deep, with the north wall flush with the north gable of the main house. There is a door in the east bay on the first floor with a small modern 6/6 bathroom window immediately to the right and two large 6/6 windows farther to the west. This pattern is repeated on the second floor, with a large 6/6 window above the door, a 6/6 bathroom window to the right and two 6/6 windows to the west. A one story entrance porch with built-up columns

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

protects the first floor door. The siding is plain, the cornerboards are beaded. The box cornice has a beveled crown and bed mold.

A screen porch covers the first floor of the west gable wall of the wing. There is a flush brick stove chimney in the center of this wall, with a door in the north bay on the first floor, 6/6 windows flanking the chimney on the second floor, and a pair of 3/3 attic windows in the upper gable.

A 20th century frame addition covers the majority of the south wall of the wing. A single 6/6 window remains exposed in the west bay on each floor, and a door to the right of the window on the second floor opens onto a deck.

As previously noted, the original side hall, single parlor floor plan was expanded at an early date by the addition of a second parlor to the north. The open-string stair rises against the north wall of the center hall to a landing at the rear. It has a chamfered and reeded newel at the base, and a ramped continuous walnut rail dating to the early 19th century, with square balusters and turned newels. The carriage piece is beaded and rabbeted and is embellished with

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

solid, scrolled wave-pattern brackets on the stair ends and raised paneling below. A four-panel door below the landing opens onto the cellar stairs. The front and rear door are early 19th century, with raised panels and ogee-astragal panel molds. The panels above the back rail in the front door have been replaced with glass. The original beaded baseboard, two-piece chairrail and beaded architraves with ogee-astragal backband have all survived in the hall. A coat rail has been removed from the south wall.

In the south parlor, the original mantel and all of the architrave trim has survived. The mantel is an excellent example of a late Federal surround, typical of the 1820's, in that Federal moldings predominate but are interspersed with Greek details. It is a board surround with reeded Greek pilasters, a paneled frieze, and a complex molded shelf dominated by Federal components. The wide baseboard has a Victorian molding applied to the top edge, and the chairrail was removed in the late 19th century. The floor in this room and in the hall dates to the Victorian period. It is made of narrow strips of oak flooring with a strip of dark walnut encircling the room about four inches from the baseboard.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

The north parlor used to serve as the dining room but in recent years has been adapted for a first floor bedroom. The mantel in this room is similar to the mantel in the south room, but with more Greek Revival detail. A modern closet has been inserted in the alcove to the right of the fireplace. Two features in this room raise questions about the sequence of construction. A two piece chairrail survives intact, matching the chairrail in the stair hall, and a door in the rear wall, leading to the wing, is trimmed with an architrave matching the rest of the first floor. The latter feature implies the existence of an original wing, replaced in the late 19th century by the present structure, and the chairrail and architrave trim, as well as the mantel imply that the north addition was made almost immediately after the original house was built. Documentary evidence tends to reinforce this conclusion (refer to section 8, following).

On the second floor, the center hall plan has been modified to accommodate a separate apartment in the rear wing and the north end of the main house. The north chamber and an unheated chamber at the front (east) end of the hall have been sealed off and are only

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

accessible from the other apartment. The south chamber is quite plain. The stair continues to the third floor, but the continuous rail changes to an interrupted rail on the third floor, a common device allowing economy on the upper floor detailing.

The third floor is divided into a center stair hall with flanking chambers. A beaded batten door on the south wall of the stair opens into a small storage cupboard now used for dishes. The door is hung on Baldwin butt hinges. A later closet was added on the west wall of the stair hall next to the smaller cupboard. An original beaded board partition at the rear of the closet is painted grey-green. The stair hall and both chambers are plastered and trimmed with beaded baseboard, architraves, and beaded batten doors. The plaster is applied against riven lathing secured with machine nails.

The roof appears to be all of one build, evidently dating entirely to the second period of construction. It has been heavily charred at some point by fire. The rafters are joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints; all visible nails are either machine-made or wire. The roof of the rear L is late 19th century.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

The rafters are mitred and nailed at the ridge; all nails are machine-made.

The cellar is divided into two rooms, clearly defining the two periods of construction. The foundation under the north parlor clearly is butted against the earlier foundation and is not keyed-in. The connecting door between the two rooms has been cut in and framed for a door. An original fireplace in the south chimney has been bricked up and now serves as a furnace flue. Evidently there was at one time a small room partitioned off in the northwest corner of the original cellar, probably serving as a store room. The ceiling joists are hewn and whip-sawn and lie parallel to the gable. The joists were originally whitewashed, but machine plaster lath was later applied to the underside of the floorboards and plastered between the joists. The brickwork, sill system and joists in the north section are all clearly independent of the original house. The seam between the two sections is also clearly visible from a crawl space below the 20th century rear addition, but a beaded weatherboard that has survived at the base of the rear wall crosses the seam and clearly dates to the second period of construction.

QA-152

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
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 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 **1824**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1824 by Daniel Newnam, this house is one of the few surviving houses in Centreville dating to the period 1815-1830. This followed a tremendous boom in building in the first twenty years following the establishment of the town, and marked a period of relative stability that may have amounted to stagnation for the building trades. Constructed in three distinct stages, the two earliest sections are notable as a study of the transitional elements found in a late Federal house. The mantel in the south parlor is distinctly Federal with some Greek details, while the mantel in the north parlor, added circa 1830 is quite similar but more distinctly Greek in detail. Other features of interest include a handsome stair with delicately ramped balustrade, several original Federal doors, and much of the original baseboard, chairrail, and architrave trim.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dr. Joseph A. Holton, who moved to Centreville in 1853, noted in an interview published in 1912 that this house was constructed in 1824 by Daniel Newnam and served as his residence for many years.⁽¹⁾ This attributed date is reinforced by a tax assessment of Centreville for 1824, which establishes Newnam as the owner of part of Lot No. 6, improved, valued at \$1500.⁽²⁾ By 1830 the lot was valued at \$2200, suggesting that by that year Newnam had already constructed the north addition.⁽³⁾ In 1840 the lot was valued at \$2500, an increase that simply reflects a general rise in appraisals over the course of a decade.⁽⁴⁾

Following the death of Newnam about 1865, the property passed to Mary Goldsborough, who granted the property in 1874 to John B. and Edwin H. Brown.⁽⁵⁾ In 1878 the Browns sold the property to Joseph A. Holton for \$1645.⁽⁶⁾ In 1890 Holton was able to purchase a second lot to the south from the Methodist Protestant Church for \$1410.⁽⁷⁾ In 1894, Joseph and Catherine Holton sold the two lots combined to William L. Holton for \$3000.⁽⁸⁾ The property has remained in the Holton family to this day.

Footnotes

- (1) Edwin Brown Papers, Vol. 6, p. 18-20. Undated newspaper interview with Dr. Joseph Holton (b. 1825), circa 1912. (Queen Anne's County Public Library).
- (2) Centreville Tax Assessment, 1824. Hall of Records.
- (3) Centreville Tax Assessment, 1830. Hall of Records.
- (4) Centreville Tax Assessment, 1840. Hall of Records.
- (5) Deeds, Liber JW 4, folio 359. January 16, 1874.
- (6) Deeds, Liber JW 8, folio 164. April 5, 1878.
- (7) Deeds, Liber WD 4, folio 177. March 24, 1890.
- (8) Deeds, Liber WHC 1, folio 68. March 5, 1894.

QA-152

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edwin Brown Papers, Vol. 6, p. 18-20.

Undated newspaper interview with Dr. Joseph Holton,
circa 1912. (Queen Anne's County Public Library).

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

9/23/80

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XIII; Recorded November 6, 1979.

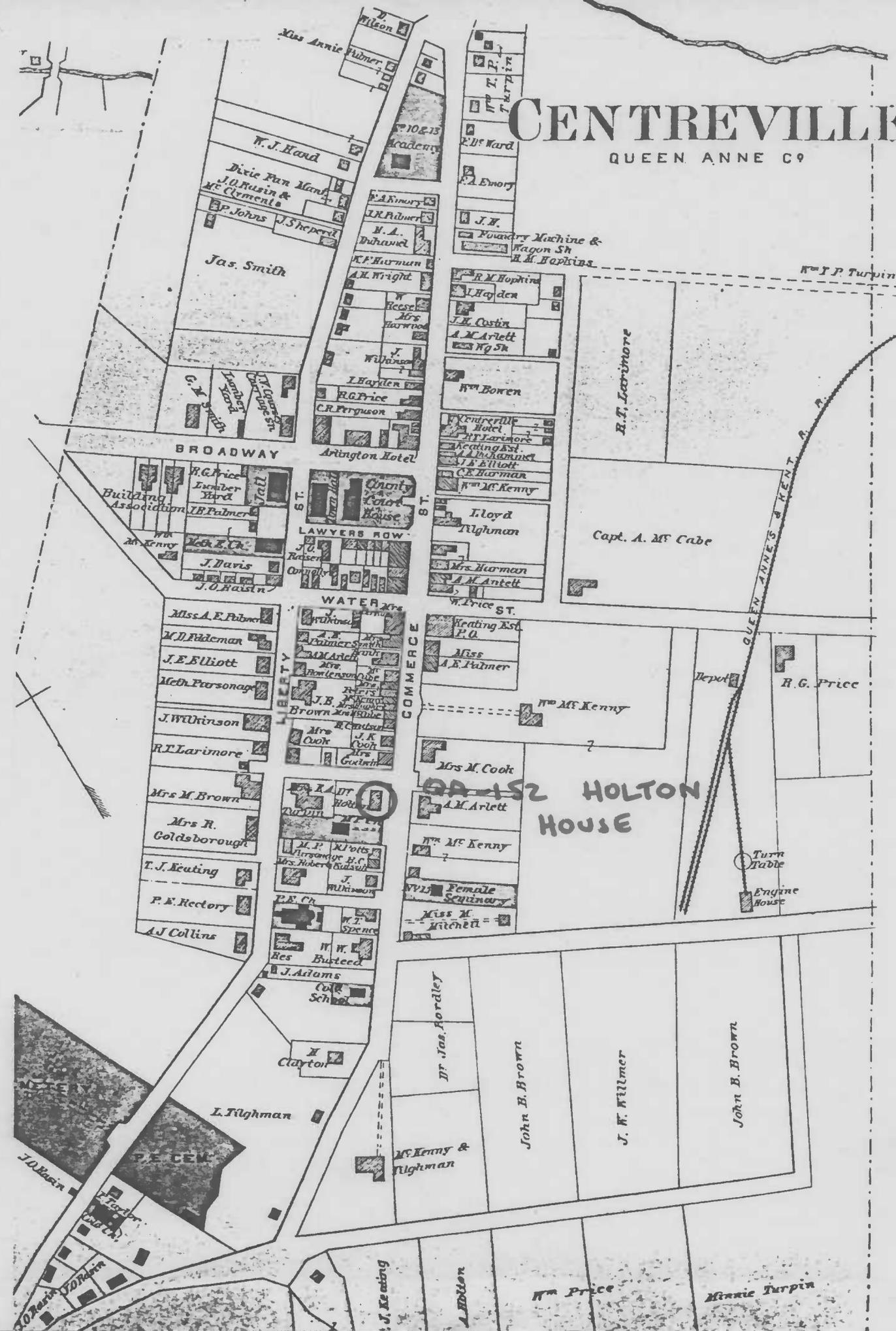
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

CENTREVILLE

QUEEN ANNE C⁹



QA-152
Holton House

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





QA-152 Holton House
 South Commerce Street
 Centreville, Maryland
 Orlando Ridout V 1980
 Front facade from Northeast



QA-152

Holton House
South Commerce Street
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1980
Rear facade from Southwest



QA 152

Holton House
202 South Commercial St.

EBD, Jr



202 S. Commerce St., Centreville, VA. - 152
Holton House

MOB 1/72