NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Keating House
other names/site number OA-153

2. Location

street 208 South Liberty Street
not for publication n/a city or town Centreville vicinity n/a
state Maryland code MD county Queen Anne's code 035 zip code 21617

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide x locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

9-28-99
Signature of certifying official Date

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register _____
____ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register _____
____ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
____ removed from the National Register _____

____ other (explain): _____

_____ _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

_x_ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

_x_ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
3	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in National Register 0
Name of related multiple property listing n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

DOMESTIC Sub: secondary structures

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub:

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal
MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Asphalt
walls Brick; wood
other Wood

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

____ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
_x_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
____ B removed from its original location.
____ C a birthplace or a grave.
____ D a cemetery.
____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
____ F a commemorative property.
____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance ca. 1806-1909

Significant Dates ca. 1806; ca. 1837-38; 1909

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a
Architect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
_x_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre
USGS quadrangle Centreville, MD
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	407530	4321890	C			
B				D			

__ See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Orlando Ridout V and Thomas Reinhart
organization Maryland Historical Trust date May, 1980; April, 1999
street & number 100 Community Place, 3rd floor telephone (410) 514-7600
city or town Crownsville state MD zip code 21032-2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state ____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Keating House is located on the west side of South Liberty Street in Centreville, near the intersection with Church Alley.
The house was constructed in several stages, beginning with a large, Federal side passage dwelling constructed circa 1806 by Ebenezer Covington. This early house is of brick construction, 2-1/2 stories high, three bays wide, and two rooms deep with paired flush chimneys on the south end of the steeply pitched gable roof. Later in the 19th century, the house was enlarged first by the construction of a two-story brick wing projecting from the south gable wall and later by a two-story frame wing to the rear.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The front facade of the main house faces east to Liberty Street. The door is in the north bay on the first floor with two windows to the left and three 6/6 windows on the second floor. The first floor windows probably had 9/6 sash originally, but have been enlarged and are now fitted with 1/1 sash. The door has an arched, semicircular transom above a reeded frame. The jambs and soffit are paneled; the original six-panel door remains in place. The plain architrave with a simple keystone presumably replaces a more elaborate Federal surround. Two cellar windows with horizontal bars pierce the foundation below the first floor windows; a large dormer window has been added on the third story.

The brickwork on the front facade is laid in Flemish bond above a three-course bond foundation with no water table. The eaves are finished with a box cornice with a deep soffit and a small bed mold applied against a wide frieze board. The cornice returns at the corners and is carried up the gable eaves.

A one-story open porch with square chamfered posts is carried across the front facade of the house and around the south gable. This porch was constructed in 1909. The south end, adjacent to the south gable and the wing, was later enclosed to serve as a law office for Thomas J. Keating.

The majority of the south gable wall of the main house is concealed by the two-story brick wing. There are 4/4 windows in the east bay of the second and third story: the roof of the wing blocks the lower half of a similar window in the west bay of the third story.

On the north gable wall, there are two 6/6 windows on the first and second story, two smaller 6/6 windows in the upper gable, and a tiny four-light window in the peak of the gable to light the loft. A pair of six-light cellar windows pierce the foundation directly below the first floor openings. The brickwork on this facade is laid in five-course bond.

The cornice, as noted previously, returns at the corners and is carried up the gable eaves.

The two south bays of the rear facade were opened up in 1909, when a small two-story extension was made to that part of the rear of the brick wing. The original rear door survives in the north bay of the first floor. This door does not have a transom but is trimmed with paneled soffit and jambs. There is no window opening in the south bay of the second story. A shed roof dormer with paired 2/2 sash has been added on the third story.

The brick wing is two stories high, three bays wide, and one room deep, with a single flush chimney on the south end of the pitched gable roof. The front facade is set back from the main house approximately sixteen feet, and the rear facade is set flush with the rear wall of the main house.

On the front facade of the wing there is a door in the north bay that opens onto the enclosed porch/law office, with two 1/1 windows to the south and three 1/1 windows on the second floor. The brickwork is laid in common bond, six to eight courses of stretchers between each course of headers. The eaves are finished with a box cornice, complex crown mold and a plain bed mold applied to a wide frieze-board.

There are two 1/1 windows on the first and second floor of the south gable wall. The cornice returns at the corners and is carried up the gable eaves. A single 1/1 window in the south bay of the first floor is the only opening on the rear facade, which is almost entirely covered by the two-story frame wing added in 1909.

The interior of the main house consists of a side stair hall across the north end of the first floor with two rooms to the south. The stair rises against the north wall of the hall to an intermediate landing at the rear. It is an open-string stair with delicate turned newels, a ramped walnut rail, rectangular balusters, and scrolled stair brackets applied to the carriage piece. The space below the carriage is paneled; a small cupboard occupies the lowest third under the stair. The framing for an original interior cellar stair remains visible from the cellar, but the opening has been closed.

Original trim survives throughout the hall. This includes a three-piece chairrail, molded baseboard, and architrave trim. The architrave trim has a broken-field fascia with a beaded edge, a small ogee with fillets dividing the fascia into two planes, and a rich ogee/astragal backband. The front door architrave has a slightly different backband and is embellished with a molded keystone at the peak of the arch above the transom. Original six-panel doors also remain for the front entrance and both interior openings, which also have paneled soffits and jambs. The interior face of the front door features flush panels. Two elaborate,

turn-of-the-century century radiators marked "Reading Radiator" stand along the north wall.

In the front room on the first floor, the fireplace is centered on the south gable wall with an original 4/4 window to the right, now opening onto the enclosed porch/law office. This window has reeded jambs and a broken-field architrave with beaded edge. The fireplace is framed with a band of molding surmounted by a Federal shelf with drilled dentil blocks below, supported by richly scrolled brackets on either side and a fluted center block. An ornate, complex cornice with drilled dentil course encircles the room . When the front windows were enlarged they were trimmed with Victorian architraves and gilt-and-grained curtain valances similar to the valances in the Harrison House in Crumpton (QA-291) constructed circa 1883.

The rear first-floor room is joined to the front room by a large door opening trimmed with a Greek Revival architrave and paneled soffit and jambs; it is fitted with large four-panel doors. The fireplace is set off-center on the south gable wall with a door to the south wing to the left and a built-in cupboard to the right. The mantel consists of a beaded-board surround with fluted pilasters and an ovolo backband framing the opening and a richly-molded Federal shelf with a Wall-of-Troy dentil course above a reeded-lozenge center block and a plain frieze. The west wall of this room was opened up when the rear wing was added in 1909.

The second floor plan is similar to the first floor except that the east end of the stair hall is partitioned to form a small, unheated chamber, and a narrow cross passage runs between the two south chambers to permit access to the second floor of the wing. The small hall chamber is not original, as evidenced by the use of later moldings in the cross-partition wall. The narrow cross passage also appears to be inserted.

The fireplace in the front or east bedroom is located on the south gable wall. The mantel on this fireplace is superb. It consists of a board surround with reeded, paneled pilasters, reeded sideblocks and a complex shelf with lozenge dentil course. The center block is vertically reeded with a diamond-reeded pattern in the center. A built-in four-door cupboard to the left of the fireplace appears to be original, trimmed with a beaded architrave and ogee backband. The architrave of the doorway presents its more elaborate face to the interior of the room.

A plain arched opening in the stair hall opens into the narrow cross passage to the wing, and a door in the west wall of the passage opens into the rear or west chamber. This opening is framed with a Federal architrave and fitted with a six-panel Federal door. As in the front chamber, the architrave presents a simpler face to the passage. Seams in the baseboard and plaster of the north wall of the rear chamber appear to mark the location of an original door from the stair hall into the west chamber, and

it seems probable that the door and architrave from this opening were reused when the cross passage was added. The fireplace in the west chamber is fitted with an original Federal mantel with paneled pilasters and sideblocks, a reeded center block, and a plain frieze below a complex molded shelf. To the right of the fireplace is a two-door cupboard with an ogee/astragal architrave, to the left is a narrow modern cupboard. The rear or west wall of this chamber has been opened up to incorporate the early-twentieth-century frame addition.

The stair continues up to the third-floor landing with no change in detail. At this landing, the balustrade is simplified, with the rail interrupted by plain square newel posts. On the third floor, there are two relatively large chambers to the south and a smaller chamber at the east end of the stair hall. These rooms are formed by partitions constructed of vertical beaded boards, some of which have been plastered over. Original four-panel doors survive. The doors to the south rooms are fitted with early, metal box locks with small brass knobs, while the door of the small chamber at the end of the stair hall retains an original, wooden box lock. Grey-brown paint survives on several of the partitions and doors.

The southeast chamber was heated. This room also preserves an original 4/4 window in the gable end. The sash features exceptionally thick vertical muntins. The lower half of the gable window of the southwest room is blocked by the roof of the brick wing; the original upper sash has been fixed in place with nails.

A small trap door in the southwest chamber allows access to the unfinished loft. The common rafter roof is joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints; the collars are half-dovetailed and nailed with wrought nails. A small loft window in the south gable wall has been blocked from outside, but remains visible from the loft.

The cellar plan is identical to the first floor, with brick-paved floors in the hall and the southwest room and a plank floor in the southeast room, which has been partitioned to form three smaller storerooms. The ceiling joists in the hall and the southeast room are heavily whitewashed; the southwest room has a plaster ceiling. Framing for an original interior stair remains intact in the hall. The chimney base in the southwest room has been rebuilt; the southeast chimney base has been altered to serve as an ash pit. Two cast-iron parlor stoves, one with mica windows and labeled "Domestic Jewell", are stored in the cellar. These are in excellent condition.

The first floor of the brick wing now consists of a single large room with a fireplace centered on the south gable wall. Originally, the first floor was divided into two rooms, a kitchen to the south and a dining room to the north, with a center chimney on the partition wall. The floor level was one step lower than the main house. When the first floor was opened up

into a single room, the original fireplace was taken down and shifted to the gable wall and the floor level was raised to the level of the main house. The Federal mantel on the south gable fireplace is presumably original, reused from the dining room fireplace. Other decorative features include paneled wainscot below the chairrail and gilt-and-grained curtain valances.

The second floor of the brick wing consists of a narrow hall across the north wall and a large chamber to the south. The only significant feature on this floor is a plain nineteenth-century mantel in the chamber.

Meat House

To the rear of the main house is a brick meat house, 11 feet square with a pitched gable roof oriented on an east-west axis and a door in the east gable wall. The brickwork is laid in six-course bond; the east wall has been covered with stucco. The roof is covered with wood shingles; the eaves are boxed in and have three pigeon holes cut in the fascia board on each facade. Early, beaded-and-tapered rakeboards survive on the gable eaves. The batten door is constructed of beaded vertical boards and is hung on wrought strap hinges. A small door has been cut in on the south wall for coal storage.

The interior walls are plastered and whitewashed, the floor is concrete. Machine sawn joists support flat false plates and common rafters joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. One set of collars are scabbed onto the rafters, nailed with, nailed with machine nails.

Carriage House

On the south side of the driveway, to the west of the house, is a large board-and-batten carriage house. Probably dating to the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century, this building is 18 feet wide and 30 feet long.

Significance Summary

The Keating House is significant under Criterion C for its architectural merit. Constructed circa 1806-1809 by Ebenezer Covington, the house is one of several large, brick Federal townhouses constructed in Centreville in the first decade of the 19th century; the Keating House stands out among its contemporaries in Centreville by virtue of its outstanding degree of integrity; it has undergone relatively few alterations, and those changes that have been made are non-intrusive in nature. Other similar houses of this date, such as the Layton House (see QA-160) and the Robinett House (see QA-156), have been radically altered through the addition of entire bays or upper stories. Likewise, significant exterior architectural details, particularly windows, were often changed, as is the case with all of the first floor windows of the John Sause, Jr. House (see QA-154). Such changes in the Keating House are few and were undertaken in such a manner as to have kept the original Federal house intact. All of the Keating House's windows, save two on the front façade are original. Most significantly, the wing added in the late 1830's was set far back and to one side, affecting only one bay on a secondary façade; the 1909 wing opened only two bays on the rear façade.

The overall plan and form of the Keating House is typical of the Federal period and was quite popular in the county. The high quality of the interior finish of this particular house marks this as one of the finer houses in the area, however. Particular features of interest include the handsome Federal stair, several Federal mantels, and original interior trim throughout much of the house. Also of note is the preservation of the original partitioning of the third floor. Such light, board-and-plaster walls rarely survive, and these are an extremely important example.

Later additions and alterations include the two story brick wing, probably added circa 1837-38 by Pere Wilmer, and the rear wing added by the Keating family in 1909. These additions necessitated slight alterations to the second-floor plan of the house, but these alterations are of historical significance themselves. The original door trim of the second floor was installed with the more elaborate face to the bedroom interiors. This arrangement reveals the system of spatial hierarchy within which the builders of the house worked. The reuse of the Federal trim on the bedroom doorway created in the 1837-38 transverse passage and the replication of the original arrangement of that trim evidences a great degree of sensitivity to the original hierarchical system of the original house on the part of the remodelers.

History

Ebenezer Covington purchased the lot in question in August 1806 from Joseph H. Nicholson for $250.[1] The tax assessment for that year noted the new owner and valued the lots at $150. The large Federal brick house was constructed soon thereafter, for in 1809 a tax assessment noted that the property was "improved" and valued at $1500. Covington may have built the house himself, as there is evidence that he was a builder and surveyor.[2]

The property value remained steady at $1500 for several years and then gradually rose in value, fluctuating between $2800 and $3800 between the years 1818 and 1828.[3] It is unclear if the changes in value indicate further improvements to the property or reflect a similar trend for the entire town assessment.

Some increase may be due to the construction of outbuildings and other secondary improvements. It is possible that the brick two-story wing was constructed during this period, but architectural evidence suggests a date circa 1830's, a date reinforced by later tax data. In 1824, the property is charged to Ebenezer Covington's heirs, indicating the he had died.[4] In 1834, John E. Covington and the heirs of Ebenezer sold to Peregrine Wilmer "the houses and lots…in Centreville on the Back Street and which descended to the said John Ebenezer and Elizabeth A. L. Clark from their father Ebenezer Covington and from their brother Henry Covington." The purchase price was $3000.[5]

Between 1835 and 1837, the property was assessed to Pere Wilmer for that amount, but on the 1837 assessment the figure $5500 was added in the margin and the following year the value was assessed at the new figure, while other properties belonging to Wilmer remained unchanged. It seems clear that this increase marks the construction of the two story brick wing in 1837-38.[6]

The identity of Peregrine Wilmer can not be established with absolute certainty because a father and son of that name were both extremely active in Centreville in the 1830's. A Peregrine Wilmer was active in business and politics in the area as early as 1812; he was a county commissioner in 1816.[7] In 1817, he purchased the Spread Eagle Tavern from Samuel Chaplin,

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1 Deeds STW 8, folio 232. August 2, 1806.
2 Emory, Frederic, *Queen Anne's County, Maryland*, Baltimore: The Maryland Historical Society (1950) pp. 346, 347.
3 Proceedings of the Centreville Town Commissioners, 1797-1876. (Hall of Records)
4 Centreville Tax Assessments, 1820-1860. (Hall of Records)
5 Deeds JT 1, folio 189. April 23, 1834.
6 Centreville Tax Assessment, 1820-1860.
7 Emory, p. 419, 429, 344.

continuing to own it out for some years.[8] In 1823, he forfeited the position of commissioner and removed from town, but continued to play an active civic role. He was part of the committee created to welcome Lafayette in 1824.[9] No record of his death could be found.

In 1820, Peregrine Wilmer, Jr. entered public life, joining his father as a Trustee of the poor. In 1829, he became a commissioner, and, with his father, was very active in the Democratic party during the 1830's and 1840's. During the Civil War, he signed the Call for Peace, a document calling for the Federal government to allow the southern states to secede. He opposed the new Maryland state constitution of 1864 and the abolition of slavery it brought about. It appears he died about 1866, when a replacement was needed for his seat on the railroad commission.[10] It is likely that Peregrine, Jr. purchased the Keating House from the heirs of Ebenezer Covington as there is no record of the property being passed from father to son.

The value of the property dropped from $5300 to $3200 in 1845, but this decrease was part of a consistent revaluation of properties throughout the town. This new value was maintained throughout the ensuing decade.[11]

In March 1865, Wilmer sold the property to John M. Robinson for $1500. The deed noted that the property was improved by a brick dwelling house "now in the occupancy of the said Robinson."[12] Robinson was born in Caroline County, MD, on December 6, 1827. He studied law at Dickinson College and became the Attorney General of Kent County in 1851. In that capacity, he prosecuted one of the Eastern Shore's most infamous murder cases of the nineteenth century: the Cosden murders. He was appointed Chief Justice of the State Appeals Court in 1867 and made an unsuccessful bid for a seat in the U. S. Senate in 1884. He died in 1896.[13]

Robinson owned the property for only three months when he sold it to John W. Wilmer for $4000. Robinson's dramatic profit indicates that the $1500 he paid to Peregrine Wilmer was not a reflection of the property's true value. The deed noted that the lot, located on the west side of Back Street, was "improved by a two-story brick dwelling house with wing and with other improvements thereon..."[14]

John Wilmer retained the property for thirteen years, selling it in 1878 to Thomas J. Keating for $4500. Keating was an attorney and one-time

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[8] Emory, p. 405-406.
[9] Emory, p. 346, 450.
[10] Emory, p. 262, 347, 468-470, 490, 500, 502, 512, 553.
[11] Centreville Tax Assessments, 1820-1860.
[12] Deeds, SED 1 folio 498. March 28, 1865.
[13] *Portrait and Biographical Record of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, New York: Chapman Publishing Co. (1898) 823; Emory, p. 480-485, 517, 527.
[14] Deeds, SED 1 folio 543. June 7, 1865.

publisher. Born on May 3, 1829, he graduated from Princeton in 1848, served as a delegate to the constitutional convention in 1867, and held the position of State's Attorney for sixteen years. He served three terms as State Comptroller beginning in 1878. His descendants owned the property until 1999.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

Rural Agrarian Intensification, A. D. 1680-1815

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A. D. 1815-1870

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A. D. 1870-1939

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Known Design Source: none

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see footnotes

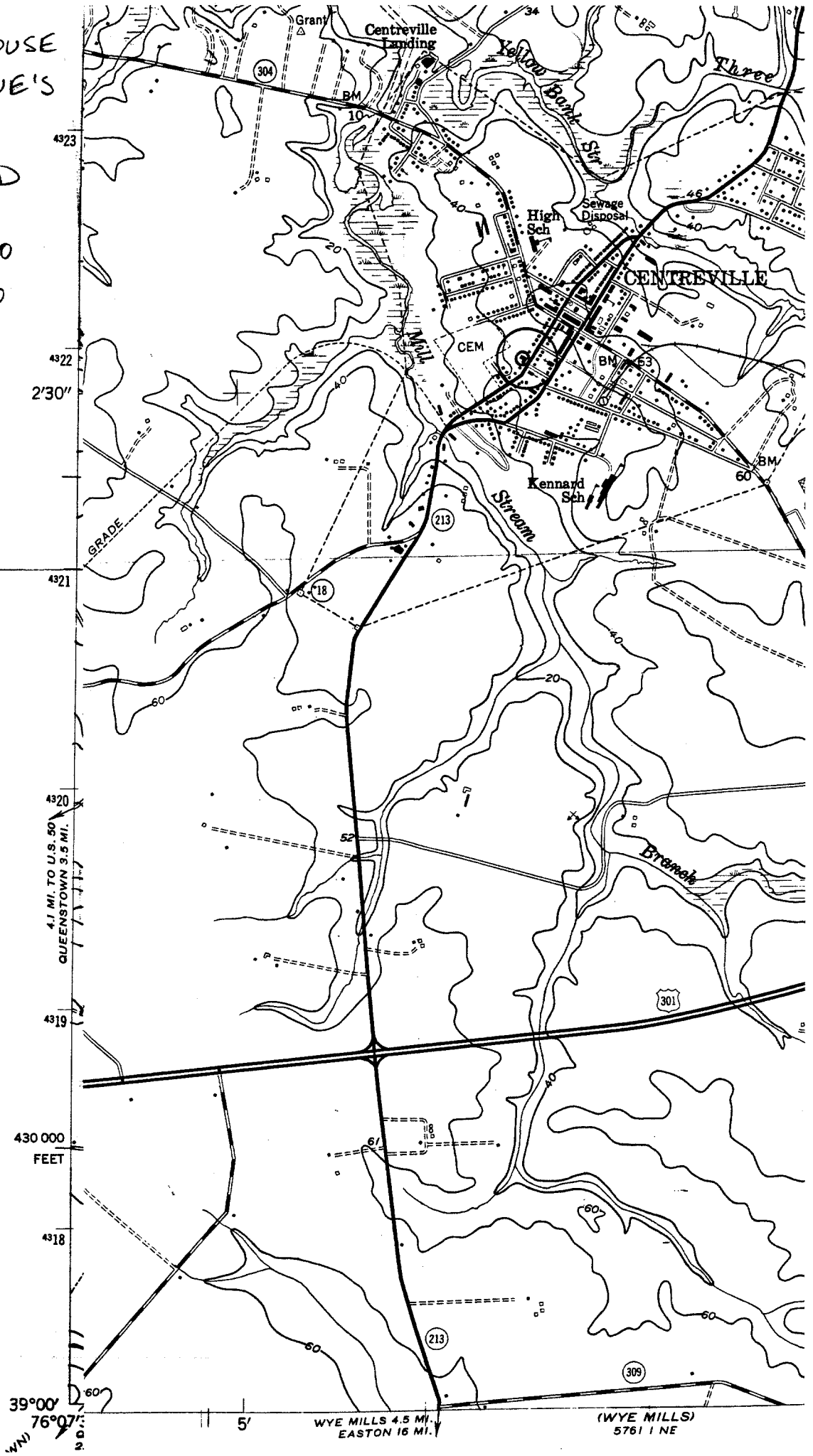
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is described in Liber S. M. 676, folio 22, among the land records of Queen Anne's County.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property comprises the entire parcel historically associated with the resource, which encompasses the various contributing elements within their historic setting.

QA-153
KEATING HOUSE
QUEEN ANNE'S
COUNTY,
MARYLAND

18 - 407530
4321890



QA-153
KEATING HOUSE
QA CO MD
P.E.KURTZE 4/99
NEG @ MHT
EAST FACADE
#1 OF 7

QA-153

KEATING HOUSE

QA CO MD

P.E. KURTZE, 4/99

NEG @ MHT

VIEW FROM SE.

#2 OF 7

QA-153

KEATING HOUSE

QA CO, MD

P.E. KURTZE, 4/99

NEG @ MHT

STAIR

3 OF 7

QA-153

KEATING HOUSE

Q A CO, MD

P.E. KURTZE, 4/99

NEG @ MHT

PARLOR FIREPLACE

#4 OF 7

HL
H
H

QA-153

KEATING HOUSE

Q.A. CO., MD

P.E. KURTZE, 4/99

NEG @ MHT

DINING ROOM FIREPLACE

#5 OF 7

QA-153

KEATING HOUSE

Q.A. CO., MD

P.E. KURTZE, 4/99

NEG @ MHT

MEAT HOUSE, FROM S.E.

#6 OF 7

QA-153

KEATING HOUSE

Q.A. CO., MD

P.E. KURTZE, 4/99

NEG @ MHT

CARRIAGE HOUSE, FROM N.E.

#7 OF 7

QA-153
Keating House
Centreville
Private

1806-1809

Constructed circa 1806-1809 by Ebenezer Covington, the Keating House is one of the finest Federal period houses in Centreville. Much of the original interior woodwork has survived, including a handsome Federal stair, several mantels, and most of the trim. The two story brick wing was added circa 1837 by Pere Wilmer and in 1909 the Keating family added a second wing to the rear and a larger front porch. An antebellum brick meat house and a Victorian carriage house are located to the rear of the house, a stone mounting block remains in place at the front curb.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST QA-153

MAGI # 1801535304

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Covington House, Keating House

AND/OR COMMON
Keating House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
208 South Liberty Street

CITY, TOWN
Centreville ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1st

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X 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
L. Parker Keating and Mary Ker Keating Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
208 South Liberty 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 #: CWC 90
Folio #: 287

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-153

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Keating House is located on the west side of South Liberty Street in Centreville, near the intersection with Church Alley.

The house was constructed in several stages, beginning with a large, Federal side passage dwelling constructed circa 1806 by Ebenezer Covington. This early house is of brick construction, 2 1/2 stories high, three bays wide, and two rooms deep with paired flush chimneys on the south end of the steeply pitched gable roof. Later in the 19th century, the house was enlarged first by the construction of a two story brick wing projecting from the south gable wall and later by a two story frame wing to the rear.

The front facade of the main house faces east to Liberty Street. The door is in the north bay on the first floor with two windows to the left and three 6/6 windows on the second floor. The first floor windows probably had 9/6 sash originally, but have been enlarged and are now fitted with 1/1 sash. The door has an arched, semicircular transom above a reeded frame. The jambs and soffit are paneled; the original six-panel door remains in

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

place. The plain architrave with a simple keystone presumably replaces a more elaborate Federal surround. Two cellar windows with horizontal bars pierce the foundation below the first floor windows; a large dormer window has been added on the third story.

The brickwork on the front facade is laid in Flemish bond above a three-course bond foundation with no water table. The eaves are finished with a box cornice with a deep soffit and a small bed mold applied against a wide frieze board. The cornice returns at the corners and is carried up the gable eaves.

A one story open porch with square chamfered posts is carried across the front facade of the house and around the south gable. This porch was constructed in 1909. The south end, adjacent to the south gable and the wing, was later enclosed to serve as a law office for Thomas J. Keating.

The majority of the south gable wall of the main house is concealed by the two story brick wing. There are 4/4 windows in the east bay of the second and third story; the roof of the wing blocks the lower half of a similar window in the west bay of the third story.

On the north gable wall, there are two 6/6 windows on the first and second story, two smaller 6/6 windows

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

in the upper gable, and a tiny four-light window in the peak of the gable to light the loft. A pair of six-light cellar windows pierce the foundation directly below the first floor openings. The brickwork on this facade is laid in five-course bond. The cornice, as noted previously, returns at the corners and is carried up the gable eaves.

The two south bays of the rear facade were opened up in 1909, when a small two story extension was made to that part of the rear of the brick wing. The original rear door survives in the north bay of the first floor. This door does not have a transom but is trimmed with paneled soffit and jambs. There is no window opening in the south bay of the second story. A shed roof dormer with paired 2/2 sash has been added on the third story.

The brick wing is two stories high, three bays wide, and one room deep, with a single flush chimney on the south end of the pitched gable roof. The front facade is set back from the main house approximately sixteen feet, and the rear facade is set flush with the rear wall of the main house.

On the front facade of the wing there is a door in the north bay that opens onto the enclosed porch/law office, with two 1/1 windows to the south and three 1/1

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

windows on the second floor. The brickwork is laid in common bond, six to eight courses of stretchers between each course of headers. The eaves are finished with a box cornice, complex crown mold and a plain bed mold applied to a wide frieze board.

There are two 1/1 windows on the first and second floor of the south gable wall. The cornice returns at the corners and is carried up the gable eaves.

A single 1/1 window in the south bay of the first floor is the only opening on the rear facade, which is almost entirely covered by the two story frame wing added in 1909.

The interior of the main house consists of a side stair hall across the north end of the first floor with two rooms to the south. The stair rises against the north wall of the hall to an intermediate landing at the rear. It is an open-string stair with delicate turned newels, a ramped walnut rail, square balusters, and scrolled stair brackets applied to the carriage piece. The space below the carriage is paneled; a small cupboard door under the stair opens into a small closet. The framing for an original interior cellar stair remains visible from the cellar, but the opening has been closed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

Original trim survives throughout the hall. This includes a two-piece chairrail, molded baseboard, and architrave trim. The architrave trim has a broken-field fascia with a beaded edge, a small ogee with fillets dividing the fascia into two planes, and a rich ogee/astragal backband. The front door architrave has a slightly different backband and is embellished with a molded keystone at the peak of the arch above the transom. Original six-panel doors also remain for the front entrance and both interior openings, which also have paneled soffits and jambs.

In the front room on the first floor, the fireplace is centered on the south gable wall with an original 4/4 window to the right, now opening onto the enclosed porch/law office. This window has reeded jambs and a broken-field architrave. The fireplace is framed with a band of molding surmounted by a Federal shelf with drilled dentil blocks below, supported by richly scrolled brackets on either side and a fluted center block. An ornate, complex cornice with drilled dentil course encircles the room. When the front windows were enlarged they were trimmed with Victorian architraves and gilt and grained curtain valances similar to the valances in the Harrison House in Crumpton (QA-291),

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

constructed circa 1883.

The rear first floor room is joined to the front room by a large door opening trimmed with a Greek Revival architrave and fitted with large four-panel doors. The fireplace is set off-center on the south gable wall with a door to the south wing to the left and a built-in cupboard to the right. The mantel consists of a beaded board surround with fluted pilasters and an ovolo backband framing the opening and a richly molded Federal shelf with a Wall-of-Troy dentil course above a reeded lozenge center block and a plain frieze. The west wall of this room was opened up when the rear wing was added in 1909.

The second floor plan is similar to the first floor except that the east end of the stair hall is partitioned to form a small, unheated chamber, and a narrow cross passage runs between the two south chambers to permit access to the second floor of the wing. The hall chamber is presumably original, the narrow cross passage appears to be inserted.

The fireplace in the front or east bedroom is located on the south gable wall. The mantel on this fireplace is superb. It consists of a board surround with reeded, paneled pilasters, reeded sideblocks and a complex Federal shelf with a lozenge dentil course.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

The center block is vertically reeded with a diamond reeded pattern in the center. A built-in four-door cupboard to the left of the fireplace appears to be original, trimmed with a beaded architrave and ogee backband.

A plain arched opening in the stair hall opens into the narrow cross passage to the wing, and a door in the west wall of the passage opens into the rear or west chamber. This opening is framed with a Federal architrave and fitted with a six-panel Federal door. Seams in the baseboard and plaster of the north wall of the rear chamber appear to mark the location of an original door from the stair hall into the west chamber, and it seems probable that the door and architrave from this opening were reused when the cross passage was added. The fireplace in the west chamber is fitted with an original Federal mantel with paneled pilasters and sideblocks, a reeded center block, and a plain frieze below a complex molded shelf. To the right of the fireplace is a two-door cupboard with an ogee/astragal architrave. The rear or west wall of this chamber has been opened up to incorporate the early 20th century frame addition.

The stair continues up to the third floor landing

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

with no change in detail. Above this landing, the ballustrade is simplified, with the rail interrupted by plain square newel posts. On the third floor, there are two relatively large chambers to the south and a smaller chamber at the east end of the stair hall. These rooms are formed by partitions constructed of vertical beaded boards, some of which have been plastered over. Original four-panel doors survive, fitted with early metal box locks with small brass knobs. Grey-brown paint survives on several of the partitions and doors.

A small trap door in the southwest chamber allows access to the unfinished loft. The common rafter roof is joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints; the collars are half-dovetailed and nailed with wrought nails. A small loft window in the south gable wall has been blocked from outside, but remains visible from the loft.

The cellar plan is identical to the first floor, with brick paved floors in the hall and the southwest room and a plank floor in the southeast room, which has been partitioned to form three smaller storerooms. The ceiling joists in the hall and the southeast room are heavily whitewashed; the southwest room has a

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.8 DESCRIPTION

plaster ceiling. Framing for an original interior stair remains intact in the hall. The chimney base in the southwest room has been rebuilt; the southeast chimney base has been altered to serve as an ash pit. Two cast-iron parlor stoves, one with mica windows and labeled "Domestic Jewell", are stored in the cellar. These are in excellent condition.

The first floor of the brick wing now consists of a single large room with a fireplace centered on the south gable wall. Originally, the first floor was divided into two rooms, a kitchen to the south and a dining room to the north, with a center chimney on the partition wall. The floor level was one step lower than the main house. When the first floor was opened up into a single room, the original fireplace was taken down and shifted to the gable wall and the floor level was raised to the level of the main house. The Federal mantel on the south gable fireplace is presumably original, reused from the dining room fireplace. Other decorative features include paneled wainscot below the chairrail and gilt and grained curtain valances.

The second floor of the brick wing consists of

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.9 DESCRIPTION

a narrow hall across the north wall and a large chamber to the south. The only significant feature on this floor is a plain 19th century mantel in the chamber.

Meat House

To the rear of the main house is a brick meat house, 11 feet square with a pitched gable roof oriented on an east-west axis and a door in the east gable wall. The brickwork is laid in six-course bond; the east wall has been covered with stucco. The roof is covered with wood shingles; the eaves are boxed in and have three pigeon holes cut in the fascia board on each facade. Early beaded and tapered rakeboards survive on the gable eaves. The batten door is constructed of beaded vertical boards and is hung on wrought strap hinges. A small door has been cut in on the south wall for coal storage.

The interior walls are plastered and whitewashed, the floor is concrete. Machine sawn joists support flat false plates and common rafters joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. One set of collars are scabbed onto the rafters, nailed with machine nails.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.10 DESCRIPTION

Carriage House

On the south side of the driveway, to the west of the house, is a large board-and-batten carriage house. Probably dating to the late 19th or early 20th century, this building is 18 feet wide and 30 feet long.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-153

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	X 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
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1806-09 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ebenezer Covington

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Keating House was constructed circa 1806-1809 by Ebenezer Covington on a lot purchased from Joseph H. Nicholson. Little is known of Covington, but the large size and handsome interior of his house implies that he was among the more prominent citizens of Centreville. The house is one of several large brick Federal townhouses constructed in Centreville in the first decade of the 19th century. The house bears many similarities with several of these, including the John Sause, Jr. house, constructed circa 1805 by the Hackett family (see QA-154) and the Carmichael House on Railroad Avenue, constructed circa 1804 (see QA-197).

The overall plan and form of the Keating House is typical of the Federal period and was quite popular in the county. The high quality of the interior finish of this particular house marks this as one of the finer houses in the area, however. Particular features of interest include

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

the handsome Federal stair, several Federal mantels, and original interior trim throughout much of the house. Later additions and alterations include the two story brick wing, probably added circa 1837-38 by Pere Wilmer, and the rear wing added by the Keating family in 1909.

History

The Keating House stands on a lot purchased from Joseph H. Nicholson by Ebenezer Covington in August 1806 for $250.(1) The tax assessment for that year noted the new owner and valued the lots at $150. The large Federal brick house was constructed soon thereafter, for in 1809 a tax assessment noted that the property was "improved" and valued at $1500.

The property value remained steady at $1500 for several years, and then gradually rose in value, fluctuating between $2800 and $3800 between 1818 and 1828.(2) It is unclear if the changes in value indicate further improvements to the property or are indicative of a similar trend for the entire town assessment. Some increase may be due to additional outbuildings

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

and other secondary improvements. It is possible that the brick two story wing was constructed during this period, but architectural evidence suggests a date of circa 1830's, a date reinforced by later tax data. In 1824 the property is charged to Ebenezer Covington's heirs, indicating that he had died.(3) In 1834, John E. Covington and the heirs of Ebenezer sold to Peregrine Wilmer "the houses and lots...in Centreville on the Back Street and which descended to the said John Ebenezer and Elizabeth A.L. Clark from their father Ebenezer Covington and from their brother Henry Covington". The purchase price was $3000.(4)

Between 1835 and 1837, the property was assessed to Pere Wilmer for that amount, but on the 1837 assessment, the figure $5500 was added in the margin and the following year the value was assessed at the new figure, while other properties belonging to Wilmer remained unchanged. It seems clear that this increase marks the construction of the two story brick wing in 1837-38.(5)

In 1845 the value dropped from $5300 to $3200, but this change marks a consistent revaluation throughout the town. This new value continued throughout the ensuing decade.(6)

CONTINUATION SHEET

B.3 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In March 1865, Pere Wilmer sold the house and property to John M. Robinson for $1500. The deed noted that the property was improved by a two story brick dwelling house "now in the occupancy of the said Robinson".(7) Three months later Robinson sold the house and lot to John W. Wilmer for $4000, indicating that the earlier price was not a true indication of the value of the property. This deed was more specific, and noted that the lot was located on the west side of Back Street, "improved by a two story brick dwelling house with wing and with other improvements thereon..."(8)

In 1878, John Wilmer sold the property to Thomas J. Keating for $4500. The property has remained in the Keating family ever since.(9)

Footnotes

(1) Deeds STW 8, folio 232. August 2, 1806.

(2) Proceedings of the Centreville Town Commissioners, 1797-1876. (Hall of Records)

(3) Centreville Tax Assessments, 1820-1860. (Hall of Records)

(4) Deeds JT 1, folio 189. April 23, 1834.

(5) Centreville Tax Assessments, 1820-1860.

(6) ibid.

(7) Deeds, SED 1, folio 498. March 28, 1865.

(8) Deeds, SED 1, folio 543. June 7, 1865.

(9) Deeds JW 7, folio 420. January 3, 1878.
Also see: WHC 5, folio 115. Sept. 21, 1896.
WHC 5, folio 116. Sept. 21, 1896.
Chancery Cause No. 1
TSP 10, folio 486. May 19,1953.
CWC 90, folio 287. January 11, 1975.

QA-153

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
9/22/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Centreville

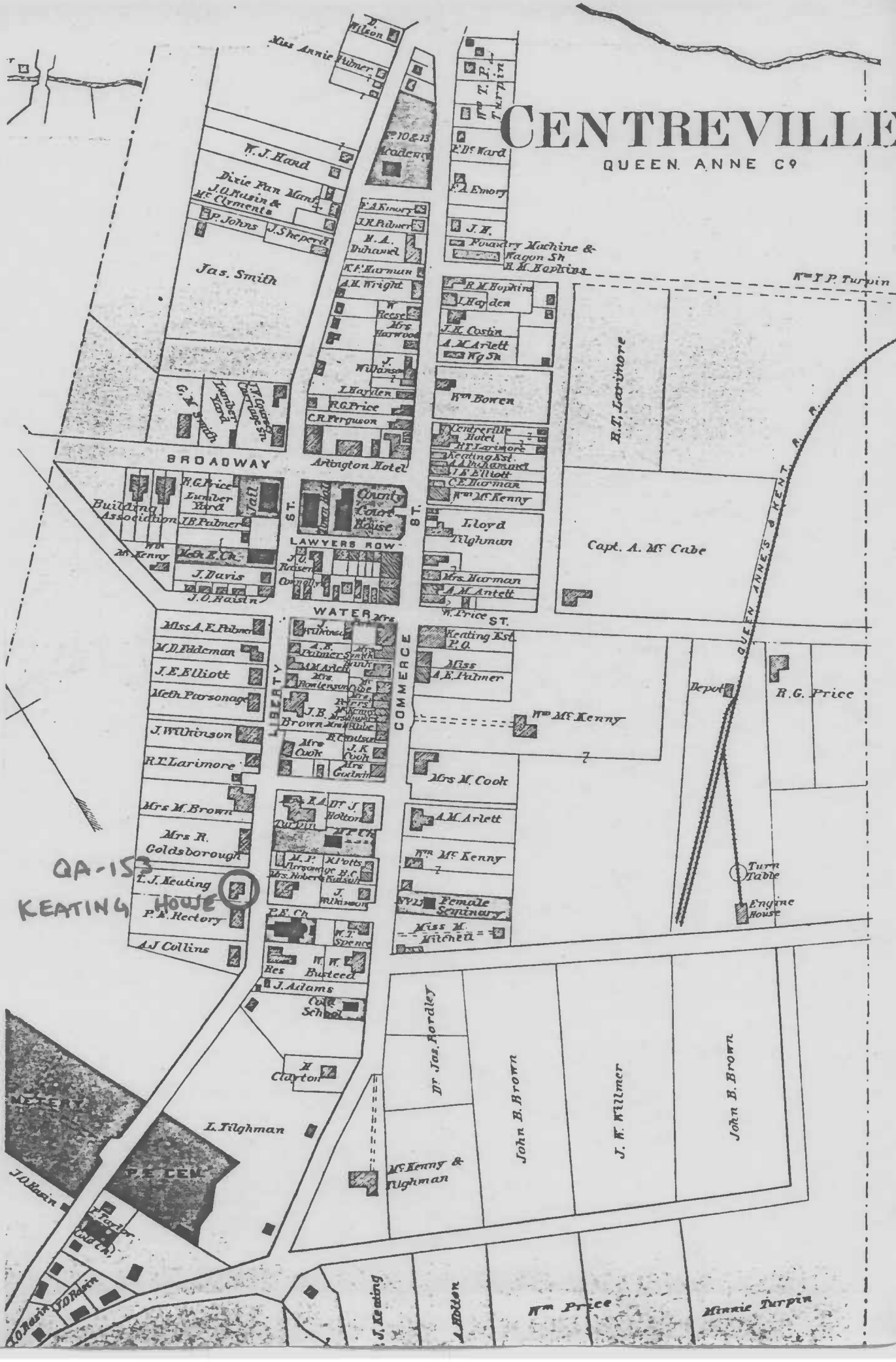
STATE
Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XVI; Recorded May 27, 1980.

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 Co
Miss Annie Palmer
D. Wilson
Wm T. P. Turpin
Co 10 & 13 Academy
E. De Ward
F. A. Emory
J. H.
Foundry Machine & Wagon Sh
R. M. Hopkins
W. J. Hand
Dixie Fan Manf
J. O. Rasin & Mc Clements
P. Johns
J. Sheperd
Jas. Smith
F. A. Emory
J. R. Palmer
H. A. Duhamel
K. F. Harman
A. H. Wright
W. Reese
Mrs Harwood
J. Wilkinson
L. Hayden
R. G. Price
C. R. Ferguson
Arlington Hotel
R. M. Hopkins
L. Hayden
J. H. Costin
A. M. Arlett
Wg Sh
Wm Bowen
Centreville Hotel
R. T. Larimore
Keating Est.
A. A. Duhammel
J. E. Elliott
C. E. Harman
Wm Mc Kenny
Lloyd Tilghman
Mrs. Harman
A. M. Antett
W. Price
R. T. Larimore
Capt. A. Mc Cabe
QUEEN ANNE'S & KENT R. R.
G. M. Smith
Lumber Yard
J. W. Coursey Carriage Sh
BROADWAY
Building Association
R. G. Price
Lumber Yard
Jail
J. B. Palmer
Wm Mc Kenny
Meth. E. Ch.
J. Davis
J. O. Raisin
County Court House
LAWYERS ROW
J. O. Raisen
Cowgill
ST.
WATER
ST.
Miss A. E. Palmer
M. D. Fiddeman
J. E. Elliott
Meth. Parsonage
J. Wilkinson
R. T. Larimore
Mrs M. Brown
Mrs R. Goldsborough
T. J. Keating
P. E. Rectory
A. J. Collins
LIBERTY
J. Wilkinson
A. E. Palmer
Mrs Smith
Mrs Rowlenson
J. B. Brown
Mrs Cook
J. K. Cook
Mrs Godwin
COMMERCE
Keating Est. P. O.
Miss A. E. Palmer
Wm Mc Kenny
Mrs M. Cook
A. M. Arlett
Wm Mc Kenny
Female Seminary
Miss M. Mitchell
Depot
R. G. Price
Turn Table
Engine House
Dr J. Holton
M. P. Ch.
M. P. Parsonage
Mrs Robert
K. Potts
B. C. Kalsoff
J. Wilkinson
P. E. Ch.
W. T. Spence
Res
W. W. Busteed
J. Adams
Cold School
H. Clayton
L. Tilghman
P. E. CEM.
J. O. Rasin
Dr Jos. Bordley
John B. Brown
J. W. Willmer
John B. Brown
Mc Kenny & Tilghman
J. Keating
A. Holton
Wm Price
Minnie Turpin
QA-153
KEATING HOUSE

QA-153
Keating House

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

QA-153 Keating House
Centreville
Orlando Ridout V 1981
View from Northeast

keating

QA 153

208 S. Liberty St.

208 S. Liberty St., Centreville, O.A. - 153

Keating House

M&B - 1/72