

QA-156
Robinett House
Centreville
Private

circa 1800

This house reflects an interesting development in plan and form over the course of the 19th century. The original house had only two rooms on each floor, one behind the other, with a shared chimney on the north gable. This plan type has been identified in five early Centreville houses, and evidently enjoyed some popularity in other parts of the Tidewater as well. In the mid-19th century, it was enlarged by the addition of a side stair hall and a third story. This was also a common development for that plan type, and can be observed in similar form in at least three other houses in the area. Later in the 19th century a large frame wing was added, and in 1910-12 a major renovation was undertaken based on plans by William Draper Brinkle, a Wilmington architect. Brinkle's design incorporated a number of classical revival elements that were quite successful in transforming what was doubtless a relatively plain frame wing into an elegant new living space.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Robinett House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

110 South Liberty 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

Blair Robinett

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

110 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 #: **TSP 59**

Folio #: **352**

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-156

7 DESCRIPTION

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 Robinett House is located on the west side of South Liberty Street between Water Street and Godwin Lane.

This large brick and frame house was constructed in at least three stages, with one major renovation. The original house was probably built in the first decade of the 19th century. It was brick, two stories high, two bays wide, and two rooms deep, with a flush brick chimney centered on the north gable wall. The interior plan consisted of two rooms on each floor, one behind the other, a plan that seems to have enjoyed considerable favor in the early history of Centreville. In the mid-19th century, the house was extended one bay to the south to accommodate a side stair hall, and was raised to three full stories. The pitched gable roof was replaced with a shallow hip roof surmounted by a widow's walk. A large, two story frame addition to the rear may have been added at the same time, or was added soon thereafter. In 1910-1912 the interior of the frame addition was renovated under the direction of

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

William Draper Brinkle, a Wilmington architect who evidently specialized in colonial revival work.

The principal facade, facing Liberty Street, is now three bays wide. The entrance door with sidelights but no transom is in the left or south bay on the first floor. There are two 6/6 windows to the right of the door, three 6/6 windows on the second floor, and three 3/3 windows on the third floor. A pair of three-light cellar windows pierce the foundation below the first floor windows. The brickwork of the original house is laid in Flemish bond with no watertable. The added bay to the south and the third story are laid in seven-course common bond. Both first floor window openings have been reworked. The jambs and splayed lintels date to the second period of construction and were presumably part of the renovation which included converting the original door to a window. The eaves are finished with a broad, overhanging cornice with guttae below the soffit and wide frieze broken into two fields by a small horizontal ogee band of molding. An ogee crown mold is applied to the fascia of the cornice. In 1910-12 a one story open porch was added, covering the entrance door on the front facade

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

and wrapping around the south gable of the house. A widow's walk is centered on the hip roof. The molded box cornice of the deck has survived, the railing is gone.

The entire south gable is laid in seven-course bond, dating to the second period of construction in the mid-19th century. There are two 6/6 windows on the first and second floor, and three 3/3 windows on the third floor.

In contrast, the north gable is laid in three-course bond up to and outlining the pitched roof of the original 2 1/2 story house. Above this point the brick is laid in seven-course bond. The lower part of the chimney shaft is original, the upper part was added in the mid-19th century. There are two 6/6 windows on the first and second floor and two 3/3 windows on the third. A bulkhead cellar entrance in the west bay offsets a three-light cellar window in the east bay.

The first two stories of the rear (west) facade are covered by the frame addition. Two 3/3 windows remain exposed on the third floor. The highly decorative cornice is carried along both gable walls and across the rear facade without any loss of detail.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

The frame addition is two stories high, three bays long, and is the same width as the earlier brick house. A two story porch with fluted columns at the rear of the wing has been enclosed. A handsome secondary entrance door with sidelights in the east bay of the north facade opens onto the driveway between this house and the old Methodist Episcopal Parsonage next door (QA-157). There is a triple 6/6 above the door on the second floor, and two 6/6 windows to the right on each floor. Multiple 6/6 windows were used to enclose all three walls of the porch, which now forms the west end of the wing. On the south facade, there are three 6/6 windows on each floor. The wing rests on a low, continuous brick foundation and is covered with plain narrow weatherboards. The hip roof is tin; the eaves are finished with a deeply overhanging cornice, crown mold and a bed mold applied against a wide plain frieze.

An old photograph in the possession of the present owners was probably taken circa 1912, following the renovation undertaken by William Brinkle. Taken from the southeast, the photograph offers a relatively clear view of the front facade and the entire south

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

wall. Aside from the considerable increase in vegetation, few changes have occurred. The most significant alteration has been the removal of the ballustrade from the widow's walk, the roof of the side porch, and the roof of the wing. This ballustrade consisted of two horizontal rails with diamond latticework between the widely spaced vertical balusters.

The interior of the main house consists of a side hall, double parlor plan, with the hall nominally divided into a front entrance hall and a rear stair hall by a pair of pilasters supporting a simple cornice. The open-string stair rises against the south gable wall to a landing at the rear of the hall. It has massive turned walnut newels, delicately turned balusters and a simple walnut rail. The stair ends are decorated with fine scrollwork brackets; the area below the carriage is plastered. Doors open off the hall into the two heated parlors to the north, a large double door connects the parlors. The trim throughout the first floor dates to the mid-19th century, when the side stair hall was added. The baseboard and architrave trim is rabbeted, with a strip of ogee molding applied to the top edge of the baseboard and bullseye corner

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

blocks in the architraves. All of the six-panel doors date to the mid-19th century. The mantels are probably 20th century. They are relatively heavy, with rabbeted pilasters, large projecting side blocks and a plain shelf.

The side hall plan is repeated on the second floor but with an original unheated chamber at the east (front) end of the hall. A pilastered "screen" divides the second floor stair hall in two, but it would appear that these features were added on both the first and second floor in the 20th century. The architrave trim is beaded rather than rabbeted, with turned corner blocks. The fireplaces in the two north chambers are fitted with plain mantels.

The second floor plan is repeated on the third floor, except that the south wall of the northeast chamber is shifted to the north to allow room for two closets. The north chambers were evidently heated by wood or coal stoves. Plain mantels are applied to the chimneys in each room. A trap door in the northwest room opens into the attic.

There is a full cellar below the original two room house. A new summer beam bisects the room and

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

supports the ceiling joists. The joists and floorboards are exposed and whitewashed. The chimney base has been rebuilt; other alterations include reducing the cellar windows from six-lights to three and blocking several apparent bulkhead entrances.

The frame addition is divided longitudinally on the first floor, with a single large living room along the south wall and a dining room and entrance hall to the north. The kitchen was at one time on the north side of the wing, but was later moved to the enclosed rear porch. A handsome open-string stair in the side entrance hall rises to the second floor. Certainly the most interesting room on the first floor, however, is the large living room which formed the center piece of Brinkle's renovation in 1910-12. The east end of this room is raised to the level of the main house, while the majority of the room is three steps lower. The transition between these two levels is emphasized with a screen of fluted pillars and a high ballustrade consisting of a simple molded rail and square ballusters. Paneled wainscoting lines the walls of the room, and the ceiling is embellished with boxed-in beams decorated with a fine cove molding. The crowning touch to this

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

warm and elegant room is a handsome mantel shelf with triglyphs and metopes.

On the second floor, the stair opens into a relatively large hall that stretches across most of the east end of the wing. There is a large bedroom to the southwest and a smaller bedroom to the northwest with a modern bathroom in between. The principal decoration on the second floor consists of a 20th century Federal style mantel and a pilastered screen in the southwest bedroom.

Carriage House

Immediately to the rear of the house is a small frame carriage house with a hip roof, believed to date to the mid-19th century.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-156

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 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

This house reflects an interesting development in plan and form over the course of the 19th century. The original house had only two rooms on each floor, one behind the other, with a shared chimney on the north gable. This plan type has been identified in five early Centreville houses, and evidently enjoyed some popularity in other parts of the Tidewater as well. In the mid-19th century, it was enlarged by the addition of a side stair hall and a third story. This was also a common development for that plan type, and can be observed in similar form in at least three other houses in the area. Later in the 19th century a large frame wing was added, and in 1910-12 a major renovation was undertaken based on plans by William Draper Brinkle, a Wilmington architect. Brinkle's design incorporated a number of classical revival elements that were quite successful in transforming what was doubtless a relatively plain frame wing into an elegant new living space.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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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	DATE
Queen Anne's County Historical Society	7/2/80
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Centreville	Maryland

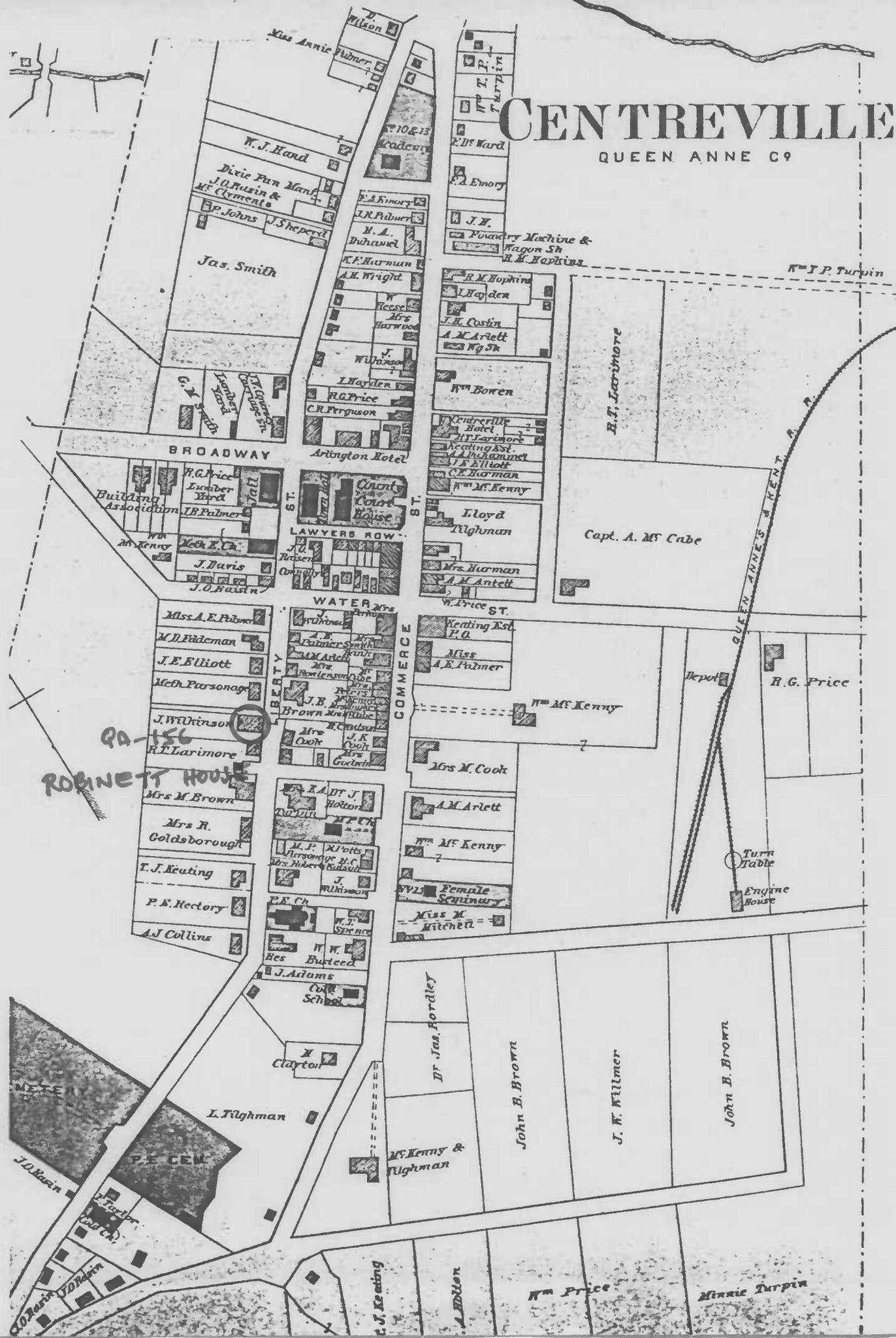
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

CENTREVILLE

QUEEN ANNE C9



PA-156
ROBNETT HOUSE

BROADWAY

WATER

COMMERCE

W. P. Turpin

QUEEN ANNE'S KENT

METE

P. CEN

C. O. B. B. B.

J. D. B. B.

QA-156
Blair Robinett
Residence

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





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Robinette House
110 South Liberty Street
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1980
View from Northeast



QA-156

Robinette House
110 South Liberty Street
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1980
View from Southeast



110 S Liberty St., Centerville - Q.A. - 156

Blair Robinette Residence

MOB - 1/72