

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fort Point Farm

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side Corsica Neck Road

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Max C. Sherman

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

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 93/338

Folio #: CWC 19/378

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-225

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

Fort Point Farm is located on the north side of Corsica Neck Road (Md. Route 304) approximately two miles northwest of Centreville, on the southeast bank of Corsica Creek.

The house and farm buildings are sited on high ground, surrounded by open farm land. The original house is of brick construction, two stories high, five bays wide and one room deep with flush brick chimneys centered at each end of the pitched gable roof. A two story frame wing was added to the east end of the rear facade circa 1900, replacing an earlier frame kitchen wing on the east gable end of the house. This early wing was evidently destroyed by fire.

The front facade faces south, toward the road. The door is in the center bay, flanked by two 9/6 windows on each side. There are five 6/6 windows on the second floor and four cellar windows piercing the foundation, one below each first floor window.

The brickwork on the front facade is laid in Flemish bond above a plain water table and a four-course bond foundation. The windows are set in

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

heavy pegged wood frames with an applied ovolo backband molding and have heavy wood sills and splayed brick jack arch lintels. The door and four-light transom above are framed with plain soffits and jambs and a broken-field architrave with an ogee/astragal backband. The outline of an original entrance porch with delicate columns, an arched ceiling and a pitched gable roof is clearly visible in the whitewashed finish of this facade. Hand-wrought rat-tail shutter dogs also survive on two of the first floor windows. The eaves are boxed in and trimmed with a large, complex bed mold that stops and returns just short of each gable end. A beveled crown piece appears to be 20th century. The boxed soffit was later extended around the corners to return on each gable wall. This was probably done in the post-Civil War period. The wood shingle roof has been covered with a modern asphalt shingle roof.

The west gable wall is laid in three-course bond above a plain water table and a three-course bond foundation. There are two 9/6 windows flanking the chimney on the first floor and two 4/2 windows in the upper gable. The gable eaves are boxed and return at the corners, replacing original flush rakeboards. The chimney is covered with a thin coat of stucco.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

The two story frame wing covers the eastern two bays of the rear or north facade. There is a door in the center bay on the first floor with two 9/6 windows to the right, and three 6/6 windows on the second floor. The brickwork is laid in three-course bond above a plain water table and a three-course foundation. A patch in the foundation to the right of the door identifies the location of an original bulkhead cellar entrance. A single cellar window pierces the foundation in the west bay. The original complex crown mold survives intact on the cornice on this facade, but the backband window trim and the original door architrave are gone.

The east gable wall has undergone a number of changes. An early 1 1/2 story wing once projected from this end of the main house; the outline of the roof is still visible. The section of the gable wall that was not covered by the wing was at one time covered with stucco, but this has been removed. When the wing was torn off, doors in the north bay on each floor were bricked up, and windows cut in. There are two 9/6 windows on the first floor, two 6/6 windows on the second floor, and two 4/2 windows in the upper gable. The first and second floor windows are set in frames that undoubtedly coincide with the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

construction of the existing rear wing. The brickwork is laid in three-course bond above a plain water table and three-course bond foundation. The gable eaves and stuccoed chimney match the west gable.

The interior plan consists of a center stair passage flanked by a single room on each side. The stair rises against the east wall of the passage to a double intermediate landing at the rear. It is a closed-string stair with square newels and balusters and a molded walnut rail. A six-panel door under the landing opens onto an interior cellar stair. This door was originally grained to resemble mahogany, with stenciled inlay on the panels. The area below the stair carriage is paneled with a single large triangular panel. This is a flat recessed panel, feathered on the reverse side and wedged in place with wrought nails toe-nailed into the back of the carriage. It is interesting to note that a semi-circle with bisecting lines is scratched into the reverse side of the uppermost stair riser. This was probably a template used for some unknown lay-out job during construction and was then used to construct the stair. Surviving early trim in the stair passage includes broken-field architraves, a broad two-piece chairrail with a cove/astragal molding below the nosing, and beaded

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

baseboard on the stair. It is interesting to note that the interior door architraves have beaded edges, an ogee molding breaking the fascia into two fields, and a bold ovolo backband, while the front and rear door architraves are beaded but have a rabbeted fascia and an ogee/astragal backband. The front door and both interior hall doors are original, with 6 fully fielded panels and traces of mahogany graining and stenciled inlay still visible under later coats of paint. The rear door is a later replacement. Both the front doors are fitted with large Carpenter's Company locks.

The west room on the first floor now serves as the living room. The fireplace projects from the center of the west gable wall, trimmed with an original mantel and paneled overmantel. The mantel is Federal in style, with an ovolo backband framing the opening, surmounted by plain sideblocks, center block and frieze, and a complex molded shelf that breaks forward above the sideblocks. A single large, recessed panel is framed above the mantel, with a complex interior cornice that is carried across the chimney breast and returns against the cheek walls. Original trim in this room includes all of the broken-field architrave trim, a broad two-piece chairrail, and some of the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

beaded baseboard. The architrave trim in this room matches the interior doors in the stair passage. The windows have plain splayed jambs and are set in channels behind beaded fascia pieces. One curious feature is the use of poplar floorboards along the facade walls in this room and on either side of the chimney.

The east room is used as the dining room and is slightly smaller than the west room. The gable fireplace is framed by an original Federal mantel with a recessed plaster panel forming a simple overmantel. The mantel is a board surround with a broken-field fascia and a bold ovolo backband framing the opening, surmounted by small, plain sideblocks, a plain frieze, and a complex molded shelf. The window trim matches the west room but the jambs are not splayed. The two-piece chairrail is as wide as in the stair passage but lacks the band of molding below the nosing. Beaded baseboard survives on two of the four walls. A door at the east end of the rear wall of this room was cut in when the rear wing was added. From the stairway in the wing it is possible to see the filled openings of both the first and second story windows in the east bay of the rear facade.

The second floor plan was originally identical to the first floor, but a modern bath has been added at

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

the south end of the stair hall. The west chamber is heated by a fireplace offset to right of center on the gable chimney. The original Federal board surround survives intact. A built-in four-door cupboard remains to the right of the chimney, a closet has been added to the left. The fireplace in the east room is also offset to right of center, but has a reproduction mantel. Doors have been cut in the rear wall in this room, one opening into a closet, the other leading to the wing. Virtually all of the original trim has survived on the second floor, including two six-panel doors with fully fielded panels and traces of mahogany graining.

The attic is unfinished except for the floor. The roof is constructed with hewn and pit sawn common rafters set at a pitch of approximately 39 degrees (a nominal 5/8 pitch). The rafters rest on a flat false plate and are joined at the ridge with a pegged mortise-and-tenon joint. Heavy collar beams are half-dovetailed and pegged to each rafter pair. The majority of the collar connections are also reinforced with wrought nails. The original shingle nailers remain in place with wrought nails readily evident. A vertical board partition encloses the stair opening.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

Wrought, double-struck and early machine-made nails are all evident in this partition. A batten door is hung on H-L hinges with early machine nails and leather washers.

The cellar is divided into two rooms by a brick bearing wall directly below the east wall of the stair passage. A large batten door between the two rooms is hung on wrought strap hinges that replace earlier H-L hinges. Both of the chimneys have arched bases without fireplaces. The foundation wall is laid in local fieldstone below ground level. The present cellar stair probably replaces a smaller winder stair. The hewn and pit sawn ceiling joists remain exposed in both rooms, coated with whitewash.

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"/> 400-1499	<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

The large brick house on Fort Point Farm is an excellent example of a large, center passage plan Federal house. The exterior has remained relatively untouched, including much of the exterior trim and the cornice on both facades; the outline of the original vaulted entrance porch is clearly outlined in whitewash on the front facade. The interior woodwork is particularly well preserved and includes a handsome mantel and overmantel in the west room of the first floor, two other original mantels and virtually all of the architrave, baseboard and chairrail trim. Other details of interest include the Carpenter Company locks, the beaded stair partition in the attic, and a scribed construction drawing on the underside of one stair tread. The architectural evidence suggests a date of circa 1800 to 1820.

Of equal importance are the remnants of an

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

earthen fort on the farm, overlooking Corsica River. These earthworks were prepared during the War of 1812 as a defense against British naval operations in the area. British forces engaged in skirmishes in nearby Queenstown and across Chester River in Kent County but are not known to have entered Corsica River. In later years the fort site became a favorite picnic site on the Fourth of July.

QA-225

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Byron, Gilbert. The War of 1812 on the Chesapeake Bay.
Baltimore, 1964.

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

10/29/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XXII; Recorded December 10, 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

CONTINUATION SHEET

9.1 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Earle, Swepson. The Chesapeake Bay Country.

New York, 1923.

Emory, Frederick. Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

Baltimore, 1950.

Marine, William M. The British Invasion of

Maryland: 1812-1815. Hatboro, Pa. 1965.



QA-225 Fort Point Farm

CORSICA

RIVER

CORSICA NECK

HOIR D

WRIGHT NECK

TILGHMAN NECK

QUEENSTOWN

CENTREVILLE

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QA-225
Fort Point Farm

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





QA-225 Fort Point Farm
Centreville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1981
View from Southwest



QA-225 Fort Point Farm
Centreville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1981
South (front) facade



QA-225 Fort Point Farm
Centreville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Rear (north) facade



QA-225 Fort Point Farm
Centreville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Farm Buildings