

QA-228

Benjamin Lee Farm  
Church Hill vicinity  
Private

circa 1820-40,  
circa 1830-50

The earliest part of the frame house on the Benjamin Lee Farm was constructed circa 1820-40 and consisted of a story-and-a-half dwelling with a side passage, single pile plan and a gambrel roof. Shortly thereafter, circa 1830-50, the house was enlarged two bays to the west to form a center passage plan. The story-and-loft kitchen wing was probably added at the same time to the east gable wall of the original house. A fire caused extensive damage to the roof and east gable wall of the main house a few years ago, but fortunately the building was repaired. Significant details include the late Federal and Greek Revival interior woodwork, the original closed-string stair, and the early louvered window opening on the north wall of the wing.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Benjamin Lee Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Southeast side Maryland Route 300

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Benjamin Lee etal

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

RT#1, Box 33

CITY, TOWN

Sudlersville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21668

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

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

Liber #: CWC 113

Folio #: 678

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-228

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Benjamin Lee Farm is located on the southeast side of Maryland Route 300, approximately 2 1/2 miles northeast of Church Hill and 1 1/2 miles southwest of the intersection of Route 300 and U.S. Route 301. The gravel driveway that leads in from Route 300 continues through the farm to the old Barclay Road.

The early house on the Lee Farm is of frame construction, 1 1/2 stories high, five bays wide and one room deep with flush brick chimneys at each end of the gambrel roof. A small, frame story-and-loft wing projects from the east gable of the main house.

The principal facade of the house faces south. The door with four-light transom is located in the center bay, flanked by two large 6/6 windows to the west and two 9/6 windows to the east. Four 6/6 shed roof dormers are asymmetrically ranged across the second story. The building rests on a continuous brick foundation and is now covered with wood shingle siding. The eaves are boxed in, the roof is covered with asphalt shingle siding.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

On the west gable wall, two large 6/6 windows flanking the chimney on the first floor are the only openings. The shingle siding and rakeboards are 20th century; the chimney shaft has been rebuilt above the roof.

On the rear facade, the door is offset slightly to west of center due to the interior stair, with two large 6/6 windows to the west and a single 9/6 window in the far east bay. There are four 6/6 shed roof dormer windows on the second floor. The slightly asymmetrical spacing of the windows, the 9/6 sash in the east bay, and a seam in the brickwork to the west of the rear door suggest that the house originally consisted of the three bays to the east and was enlarged by two bays circa 1830 to 1850. The foundation below the three east bays has been reworked and two modern cellar windows have been installed. The siding, cornice, and roof match the front facade.

The majority of the east gable wall is concealed by the wing. The siding and rakeboards are replaced; the chimney shaft has been rebuilt and reduced in size.

The frame wing is about two feet lower than the house and rests on large field stones and brick piers. On the south facade, there are 9/6 windows in the center

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

and west bays; the east bay is not expressed. The siding is wood shingle; the cornice is boxed in with plain boards. The roof is asphalt shingle.

On the east gable wall of the wing, there is a door in the south bay of the first floor and a large 6/6 window offset to left of center in the upper gable. The flush gable chimney has been completely rebuilt.

A one story lean-to porch supported with posts set in the ground stretches across the gable wall and continues around the north facade of the wing.

The north facade of the wing is set back approximately two feet from the main house. There is a door in the west bay and a 4/4 window in the east bay. The sash of this window is set in sideways, and the frame has routed grooves for louvered shutter slats. One slat survives at the top of the frame. The size and proportion of this slat indicates it is a relatively early feature.

The interior of the main house consists of a center passage plan. The original section includes the passage and the east room, while the floor of the west room is several inches higher than the passage and dates to the mid-19th century enlargement.

The stair rises against the east wall of the stair hall to an intermediate landing at the north end. It

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

is a closed-string stair with simple square newel posts, a molded rail, and square-section balusters. The area below the carriage piece is paneled with narrow, beaded vertical boards. There is a small closet under the stair; the door is now gone. Wrought H hinges survive on this door jamb, but they are secured with wire nails. Early trim in the passage includes the architrave trim on the front and rear door and on the door to the east room. Beaded baseboard survives throughout the passage. The early architrave trim consists of a beaded fascia board with an unusual complex backband consisting of a cove and an ovolo separated by fillets. The four-panel front and rear doors are typical of the latter half of the 19th century; the door to the east room is Greek Revival, with two vertical panels with beveled, "pyramidal" surfaces. The door in the west wall of the passage was cut in when the west room was added. It is framed with simple, rabbeted trim and plain corner blocks, typical of the mid-19th century. The door is a relatively unusual six-panel door with two small square panels in the center.

In the east room, the fireplace on the east gable wall has been replaced with a small stove chimney. There is a door to the right of the chimney leading to

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

the wing and a four-door built-in cupboard to the left. This cupboard has a banded Greek Revival architrave with plain corner blocks; the upper doors each have two tall narrow panels side by side, a feature typical of the Greek Revival period. The door to the wing is also an example of a two-panel Greek Revival door. The window trim in this part of the house consists of a beaded fascia with an ogee backband. There are two types of chairrail in this room. On the south wall, there is a simple two-piece chairrail consisting of a beaded fascia with a half-round shelf nosing above. On the west and north walls, the shelf nosing is flat on the bottom and is supported by a band of cove/astragal molding. Modern paneling conceals the fascia piece from view. Beaded baseboard has also survived in this room, but the floor has been replaced.

In the west room of the first floor, there is a fireplace with a simple, mid-19th century mantel centered on the west gable wall, flanked by large 6/6 windows. All of the windows and the door are trimmed with routed, mid-19th century architrave trim; the baseboard is plain.

The first floor plan is repeated on the second floor, but the south end of the stair hall is partitioned to form a small, unheated chamber. The northeast

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.5 DESCRIPTION

corner of the hall has also been partitioned to form a small closet. The stair balustrade is much plainer around the second floor landing, but it appears to be original. A serious fire three or four years ago caused considerable damage on the second floor. The damage is heaviest around the east chimney, presumably the source of the fire. Early details surviving on the second floor of the original section of the house include Federal period, fully raised six-panel doors from the passage into the passage chamber and the east chamber. The doors and dormer window openings are framed with plain beaded trim; the baseboard is also beaded. It should be noted that the two Federal doors are hung on unmarked, early butt hinges, while the four-panel, mid-19th century doors to the passage closet and to the west room are hung on Baldwin Patent butt hinges typical of circa 1840.

In the west room, there is a small fireplace on the west gable wall with a simple Greek Revival mantel. To the right is a closet with rabbeted Greek trim and a four-panel door hung on Baldwin hinges. The dormer trim is beaded; the baseboard is plain.

A small trap door in the ceiling of the passage allows access to the roof. This trap door is framed with the same early 19th century trim used as the

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.6 DESCRIPTION

architrave in the first floor passage. The fire damage is clearly evident in the attic. The east end of the roof and the east gable wall have been completely rebuilt with modern materials. Above the passage, the rafters are badly charred and have been reinforced. To the west, the roof is charred but intact. The roof of the original section was constructed with common rafters joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. The original west gable wall framing has been taken out but remains in the attic. The gable studs were nailed in place with machine nails and the gable wall was sheathed with plain, random width weatherboards. The siding was nailed with machine nails; there is no evidence of earlier nail holes or siding. The roof of the later section is framed in the same fashion but with one inch collars scabbed onto each rafter pair with machine nails.

There is a full cellar under the three east bays of the main house. An original bulkhead cellar entrance in the east gable wall leads up into the northwest corner of the wing. Early siding on the east gable wall of the house is visible from the cellar stairs. It is plain random width siding secured with machine nails.

Part of the arched base survives from the east

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.7 DESCRIPTION

chimney, centered on the east wall of the cellar. The ceiling joists are hewn and are coated with whitewash.

The first floor of the wing is divided into a large kitchen to the east, a short hall and pantry to the southwest, and an enclosed cellar stair to the northwest. The hall and pantry are formed by narrow, beaded vertical board partitions. The cellar stair is enclosed with plain vertical boards and a batten door. The kitchen has plain vertical wainscoting below a simple chairrail. Modern paneling above the chairrail and a new ceiling have been added in recent years. There is a small closet with a Victorian door in the northeast corner of the kitchen, adjacent to the modern stove chimney. Early plaster over the cellar stairs is applied to machine lathing with machine nails.

The second floor of the wing consists of a single room that has been completely renovated following the fire. Early seams in the east end of the floor suggest a stair location and larger chimney; a seam in the west end dates to the fire.

Outbuildings

To the northeast of the kitchen wing is a frame meat house, 12 feet wide and 14 feet long. The pitched gable roof is oriented on a north-south axis with the

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.8 DESCRIPTION

door centered in the south gable wall. The building is constructed of heavy circular-sawn timber and is covered with vertical board-and-batten siding and a wood shingle roof. It probably dates to the third quarter of the 19th century.

To the east of the meat house is a 10 by 12 foot dairy, probably dating to the early 20th century.

Other 20th century farm buildings, including a small barn, two implement sheds and three metal silos, are located to the east of the house.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-228

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> REHISTORIC	<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

The earliest part of the frame house on the Benjamin Lee Farm was constructed circa 1820-40 and consisted of a story-and-a-half dwelling with a side passage, single pile plan and a gambrel roof. Shortly thereafter, circa 1830-50, the house was enlarged two bays to the west to form a center passage plan. The story-and-loft kitchen wing was probably added at the same time to the east gable wall of the original house. A fire caused extensive damage to the roof and east gable wall of the main house a few years ago, but fortunately the building was repaired. Significant details include the late Federal and Greek Revival interior woodwork, the original closed-string stair, and the early louvered window opening on the north wall of the wing.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**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

12/10/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

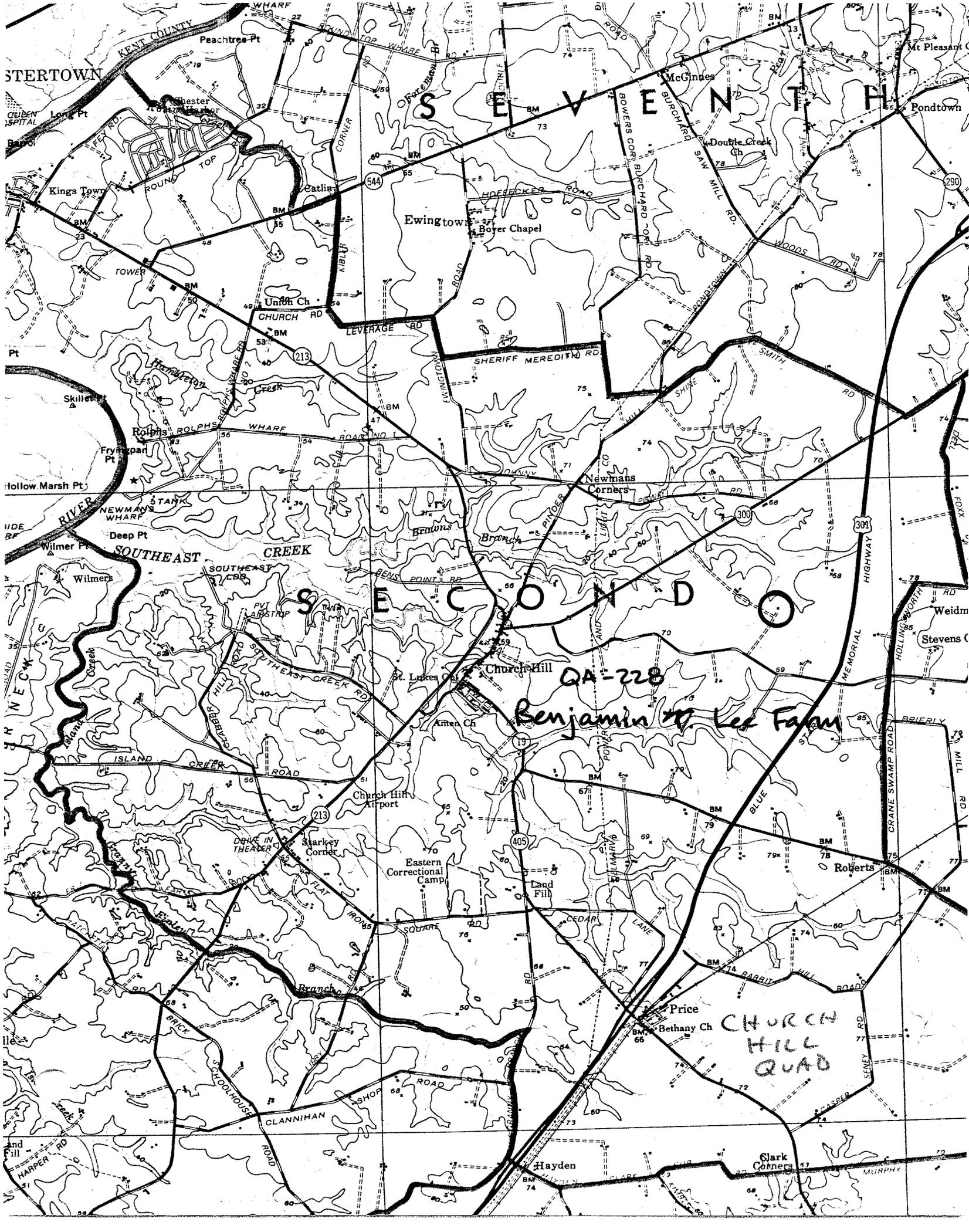
Maryland

Field Notebook QA-25; Recorded June 26, 1981.

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



SEVENTH SECTION OF THE SECOND DIVISION

QA-228

Benjamin W. Lee Farm

CHURCH HILL QUAD



QA-228

Benjamin Lee Farm

Church Hill vicinity

Orlando Ridout V 1981

Rear facade from north



QA-228 Benjamin Lee Farm  
Church Hill vicinity  
Orlando Ridout V 1981  
Front facade from south



QA#-228