

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Madison Brown House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

111 South Liberty St.

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

--- 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 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<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"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Lester C. Leonard, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 218

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 56

Folio #: 497

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-242

**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 Madison Brown House is located on the east side of South Liberty Street in Centreville between Water Street and Godwin Lane.

The original house that comprises the core of the Brown House is of frame construction, 2 1/2 stories high, three bays wide and two rooms deep, with paired, flush brick chimneys at the south end of the pitched gable roof. The house was later enlarged by at least three additions. A two story frame wing on the north gable of the main house is the only early addition. Large, two story frame wings now project from the rear or east wall of the early wing and from the north gable wall of the main house. The majority of the rear facade of the house is also concealed by a small two story addition.

The front facade of the original house faces west to Liberty Street. The entrance door is in the north bay, framed with sidelights and a transom. There are two 6/6 windows to the south of the door, three 6/6 windows on the second story, and two pitched roof 6/6 dormer windows

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

on the third story. The house rests on a continuous brick foundation and is covered with asbestos shingle siding over earlier bevel edge siding; the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The window and door openings are framed with simple architrave trim and peaked wood lintel pieces. The eaves are boxed in and the frieze board is decorated with alternating square and diamond pattern applied blocks. A one story porch with simple, late Victorian posts extends across the front facade.

The north and south gable walls are almost entirely concealed by later additions. The gable eaves remain exposed on the north wall; they are boxed in and return at the gables. The first two stories of the rear facade <sup>are</sup> is almost concealed by a later addition, leaving the two 6/6 pitched roof dormers intact on the third story.

The early wing to the north is also of frame construction, two stories high and two bays wide with a pitched gable roof. The front facade is set back approximately six feet from the front wall of the main house. There are two tall 2/2 windows on each story, opening onto a two story porch with square, tapered posts and a simple ballustrade. There are two 6/6 windows on the first and second stories of the north

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

gable wall and two 4/2 windows in the upper gable.

A flush brick chimney is centered on the north gable wall of the wing.

The interior of the main house consists of a side passage, double parlor plan with the passage extending across the north gable end of the building. The passage is nominally divided into a front entrance hall and a rear stair hall, with the stair rising from the east end of the back hall, against the north gable wall. It is an open-string stair with turned newels, tapered balusters and a plain walnut rail. The only decoration on the carriage is a band of flat plain trim that outlines the treads and risers. The area below the carriage is plastered. A door under the stairs opens onto a stair to the cellar. The original rear door with three-light transom survives in place at the east end of the hall, opening into a later addition. Later doors have been cut into the north wall of the hall to provide access to the north additions.

The two parlors to the south of the hall are joined by a large original doorway in the interior partition wall. Fireplaces with original mantels are centered on the south gable wall of both parlors. In the west or front parlor, the mantel consists of a

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

large board surround with an ogee backband framing the opening below paneled sideblocks and a complex shelf with late Federal and Greek Revival moldings. A window to the right of this fireplace has been blocked up. In the west or rear parlor, the mantel has rabbeted pilasters, a paneled frieze, and a molded shelf with Greek Revival details. The fireplace is flanked by a window to the left and a modern door to the right. The original openings on the rear or east wall have been blocked and a door cut in to the rear addition. The original architrave trim survives on all early door and window openings. This consists of a rabbeted, broken-field fascia with an ogee backband molding typical of the late Greek Revival period. Plaster medallions add embellishment in the center of the ceiling in both parlors.

The second story was not accessible, but appears to repeat the first floor plan.

The cellar consists of a single large room with two chimney bases on the south gable wall. Evidently both bases included working fireplaces. The arch has collapsed in the east base, exposing the iron trammel bar used for cooking. The west fireplace has been blocked up and the flue is utilized by the furnace. Access to the cellar was possible via an interior

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

cellar stair and an exterior bulkhead entrance in the east corner of the south wall. The joists are gang-sawn, the sills and girts are hewn and pit-sawn. Some original cross-bridging is evident between the joists and the ceiling was at one time plastered with machine-sawn lathing and machine-made nails.

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

The Madison Brown House is typical of a house form that was widely utilized in the Tidewater region throughout the first half of the 19th century. Architectural evidence indicates that this building was probably constructed circa 1840-60. The most significant feature of the house is the plan, which breaks with tradition by placing the stair in the rear of the stair passage, rising from back to front. Other significant features include the Greek Revival mantels and original architrave trim on the first floor and the plaster medallions in the parlor ceilings. Also worthy of note are the two cellar fireplaces and the evidence of original bridging between the cellar ceiling joists. The latter feature is generally not found before the 1840's or early 1850's.

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

11/3/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XVIII; Recorded July 29, 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



QA-242 111 South Liberty Street  
Centreville, Maryland  
Orlando Ridout V 1981  
West (front) facade



QA-242 111 South Liberty Street  
Centreville, Maryland  
Orlando Ridout V 1981  
Rear facade from East