

QA-316

Howard Wood III Law Office
Centreville
Private

circa 1870

This two story frame building has served a variety of uses over the years, ranging from a law office to a feed mill office. It stands out in sharp contrast to the other buildings on Lawyers Row due to the frame construction, high granite foundation, and distinctive rectangular form, surmounted by a hip roof and widow's walk.

The early history of the building is unclear, complicated somewhat by the confusing land transactions that have occurred on Lawyers Row and by the overall form of the building. The basic plan and exterior massing of the building are most typical of the mid-19th century, thus it is somewhat surprising to find that the building was probably not constructed until 1870. There is no evidence that the building was moved from another site however, and it seems safe to assume that this was a relatively late example of the side hall plan and Greek Revival style. Regardless, it is believed to be the earliest surviving building on Lawyers Row.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Howard Wood III Law Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

119 Lawyers Row

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

Howard Wood III

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 #: TSP 50

Folio #: 553

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-316

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 law office of Howard Wood III stands on the southeast corner of Lawyers Row and Liberty Street in Centreville, facing the west end of the Court House green. It is believed to date to circa 1870 and is possibly the oldest building on Lawyers Row.

Of frame construction, this building is two stories high, three bays wide, and one room deep, with a shallow hip roof surmounted by a widow's walk. The exterior shows little evidence of alteration, while the interior has been modified to some extent over the years to accommodate a variety of uses.

The principal entrance door, with a two-light transom, is located in the east bay of the front (north) facade, with two 6/6 windows to the right on the first floor and three 6/6 windows on the second floor. The interior side hall plan is reflected in the fenestration, in that the east bay is offset slightly to the left, and the center and right bays are more closely spaced. A pair of four-light cellar windows pierce the granite foundation in the center bay. This facade is covered with beaded horizontal weatherboards and

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

plain cornerboards. The eaves are finished with a box cornice with a complex crown mold, a deep soffit and a small bed mold. The deck of a widow's walk has survived along the ridge of the standing seam hip roof; the ballustrade is no longer in place.

On the west gable wall, facing Liberty Street, there are two 6/6 windows on the first and second floor, a covered, pitched roof bulkhead cellar entrance in the north bay of the foundation and a two-light cellar window in the south bay. The granite foundation, beaded siding, and box cornice match the front facade.

The fenestration on the rear facade does not line up with the front facade. There are two 6/6 windows on each floor, one in the west bay and one between the center and the east bay. The foundation on this facade is brick, not granite, and the weatherboards are unbeaded. A pair of two light cellar windows pierce the foundation.

On the east gable wall, there is one 6/6 window in the north bay on the first and second floor and two 2-light cellar windows. The foundation is brick; the siding is unbeaded.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

The interior plan has been altered to some degree, leaving the original plan unclear. At present, there is an enclosed stair immediately inside the front door rising against the east gable wall of the building. A door opens from a small vestibule hall at the foot of the stair into the remainder of the first floor, which is partitioned into two rooms, an outer reception room and a more private office to the west. The exterior form and overall arrangement of space suggests the original plan was a side hall, single parlor, but no confirming evidence can be found. A safe under the stairs in the reception room is identified as a product of the Mosler Bahmann Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio. On an inner drawer are the initials of Edwin H. Brown, who owned the building and used it as a law office at the turn of the century. To the right of the safe is a cupboard with a four-panel door. A brick stove chimney is located on the south wall. There are no other details of particular significance on the first floor. It is unclear if the stair has always been enclosed. The ballustrade on the first floor consists of a turned newel at the foot of the stair and a plain rail without ballusters. On the second floor landing,

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

the newels are chamfered, with a plain rail and square ballusters.

The second floor plan consists of a stair hall across the east gable and two rooms to the west. The north end of the hall has been partitioned for a modern bathroom. The partition between the two west rooms appears to be 20th century, adding credence to an original side hall, single parlor plan. A hatch in the ceiling of the middle room permits access to the attic and the widow's walk.

From the cellar it is possible to determine that the foundation is granite on all four walls, but that on the rear and east gable walls, the granite does not extend above ground level, giving way to a lighter brick foundation. The vertically sawn floor joists are laid parallel to the gable walls and are stabilized with original diagonal bridging secured with machine nails. The cellar was at one time plastered, but most of the plaster is gone, leaving evidence of machine lathing nails.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-316

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 checked="" 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 two story frame building has served a variety of uses over the years, ranging from a law office to a feed mill office. It stands out in sharp contrast to the other buildings on Lawyers Row due to the frame construction, high granite foundation, and distinctive rectangular form, surmounted by a hip roof and widow's walk.

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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

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

10/10/80

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XI; Recorded September, 1979.

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.

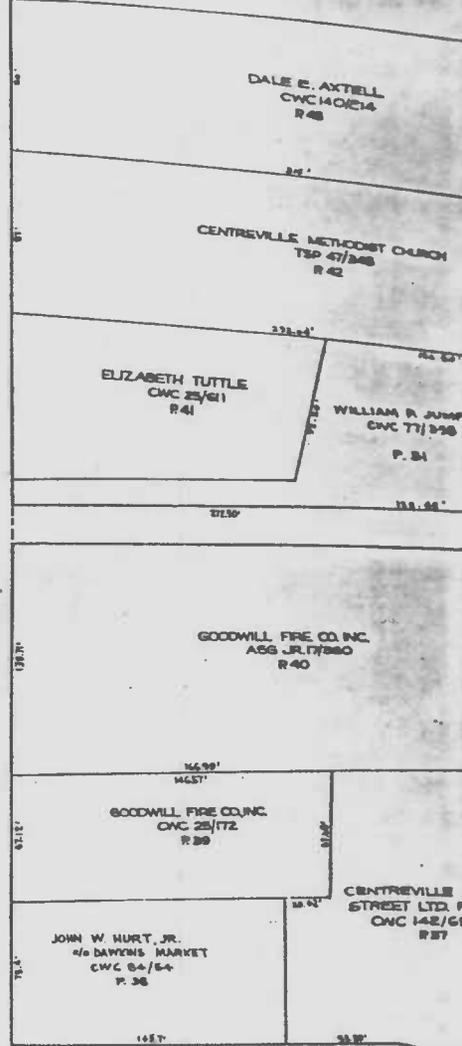
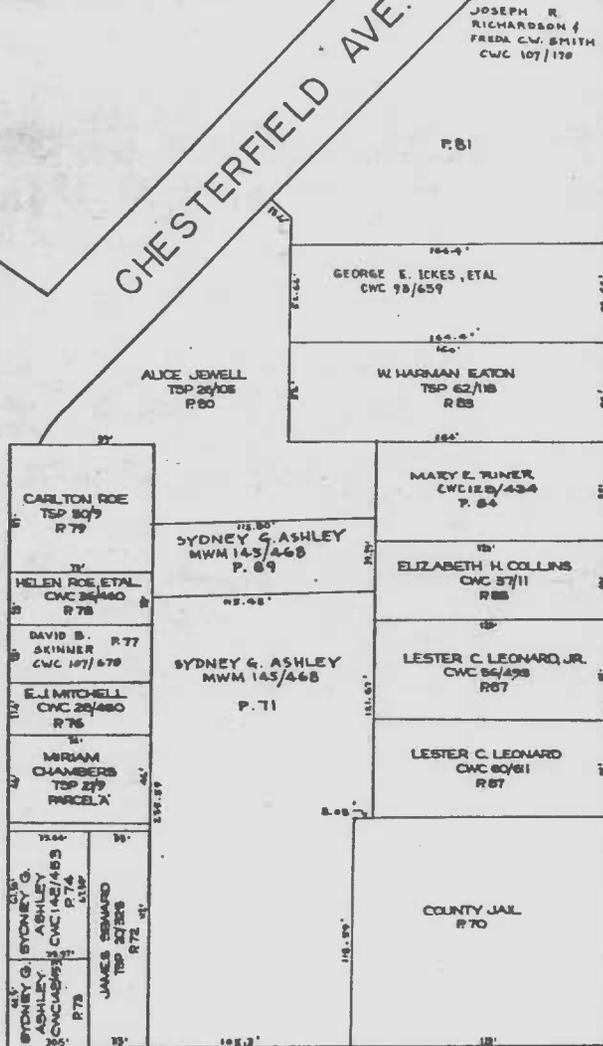
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

BELVEDERE AVE.

CHESTERFIELD AVE. MD. 304

STREET

STREET



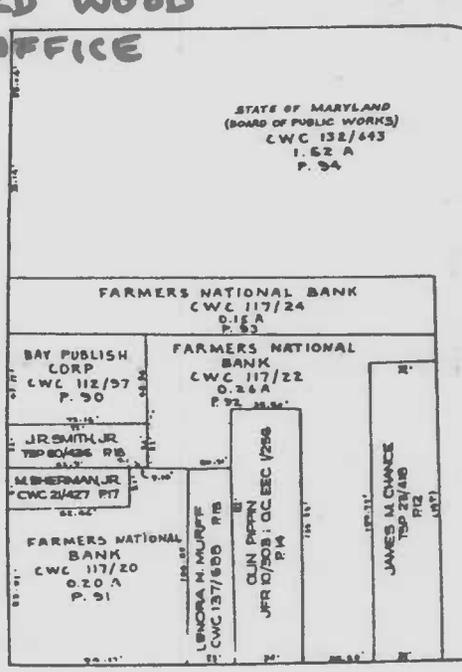
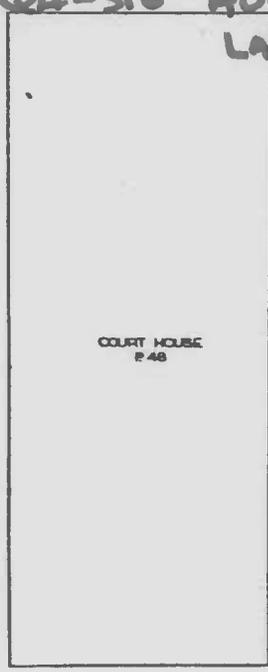
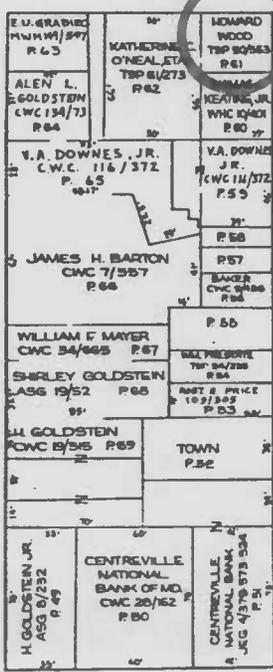
LIBERTY

QA-316 HOWARD WOOD LAW OFFICE

WATER

LAWYERS ROW

BROADWAY



DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
 TAX MAP DIVISION
 REVISED TO: JUNE 1 '79
 DATE: JUNE 1 '79
 USER: MWM/ISO

COMMERCE

QA-316
Howard Wood III
Law office
119 Lawyers Row
centreville

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





QA-316 Howard Wood Law Office
 Lawyers Row
 Centreville, Maryland
 Orlando Ridout V 1980
 Front facade from Northwest



QA-316

Howard Wood Law Office
Lawyers Row
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1980

~~Front~~ facade from ~~Northwest~~

Rear

Southwest