QA-374
Milton Stant House
Church Hill vicinity
Private

circa 1872-80

According to local tradition, this small brick house was constructed in the post-Civil War period by James Brown, a deaf black man, using bricks made by him on the site.

A search of the historical records substantiates this tradition. The land was purchased by Brown's mother, Matilda Brown, in two separate parcels from white landowners in 1872 and 1876. In 1911, Lena (Brown) Price sold the property to Frances Usilton for $600. This deed notes that the lot is the same "whereon James Brown, the old deaf colored man lived for so long and recently died".

This house is one of the earliest surviving buildings in the county that can be positively tied to a black owner. It also is a rare example of a surviving early house built by a black rather than a white contractor, and with homemade bricks.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST QA-374

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
James Brown House

AND/OR COMMON
Milton Stant House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
North side of Flat Iron Road

CITY, TOWN
Starkey Corner X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1st

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Milton Stant

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Church Hill __ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21623

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

Liber #:
Folio #:

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

CT-374

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Milton Stant House is located on the north side of Flat Iron Square Road just east of the intersection with Lieby Road, approximately one mile east of Starkey Corner.

The house was constructed in three separate stages. The original house was of brick construction, 1 1/2 stories high, three bays wide and one room deep. According to local tradition, this section of the house was constructed by James Brown, a black man who made his own bricks in the field to the east of the house. The general character of the brickwork and the reused and generally crude framing visible in the cellar seem to reinforce this tradition. Later additions include a two story frame wing to the rear and an added second story to the main section.

The front facade of the original house faces south to the road. The door is in the center bay, flanked by single windows on each side. These probably were originally 6/6 sash, but are now fitted with modern 2/2 sash. There is a large cellar window in the west bay and a small opening in the east bay. The latter opening and all three

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

9A-374

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to local tradition, this small brick house was constructed in the post-Civil War period by James Brown, a deaf black man, using bricks made by him on the site.

A search of the historical records substantiates this tradition. The land was purchased by Brown's mother, Matilda Brown, in two separate parcels from white landowners in 1872 and 1876. In 1911, Lena (Brown) Price sold the property to Frances Usilton for $600. This deed notes that the lot is the same 'whereon James Brown, the old deaf colored man lived for so long and recently died'.

This house is one of the earliest surviving buildings in the county that can be positively tied to a black owner. It also is a rare example of a surviving early house built by a black rather than by a white contractor, and with homemade bricks.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

QA-374

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
1/6/82

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Centreville

STATE
Maryland

Field Notebook QA-24; Recorded May 21, 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

PS-1108

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

first floor openings have splayed jack arch lintels. A transom window over the door has been blocked with plywood. The brickwork is laid in random bond with unusually wide joints and is coated with whitewash. In general, the masonry work is relatively crude and amateurish, reinforcing the tradition that Brown built it himself.

Two features of the front facade are of particular interest. The front door is framed with paneled soffit and jambs with Greek ogee/astragal panel molds and a large molded piece forming the bar between the two-light transom and the door opening. Also of interest are a series of decorative details in the jack arches over all of the first floor window openings. These consist of a projecting spherical "dish" similar to a bearing plate for a tie rod flanked by smaller bolt-sized projections. These may serve some structural purpose but appear to be primarily decorative.

On the east gable wall, there is a bulkhead cellar entrance in the north bay and a 2/2 window in the south bay, with a small cellar window to left of center. A modern furnace chimney has been added in the center of this wall, probably replacing an original flush brick chimney.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

The north or rear facade is completely covered by later additions.

There are two 2/2 windows on the first floor of the west gable wall, with a modern stove chimney in the center.

The added second story is frame, covered with wood shingles and a standing seam metal roof. The fenestration repeats the original first floor pattern in most details.

The rear addition projects from the west end of the north facade. It is of frame construction, two stories high and one room deep. The exterior is covered with wood shingle siding and a standing seam metal roof. On the west wall, there is a 6/6 window in the center on the first floor and a 3/3 window on the second floor. On the north gable wall, the only opening is a 6/6 window in the east bay of the first floor. An exterior brick stove chimney rises in the center of this wall. The first story of the east wall is concealed by a lean-to addition. A six-light window is centered on the second story of this facade.

The interior of the main house originally consisted of a hall-parlor plan, with the smaller parlor to the west and the hall to the east. The brick wall that divided these rooms was removed by the present owners.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

An enclosed winder stair in the northeast corner of the hall was also removed and replaced with a modern open stair. Surviving early detail includes the paneled soffit and jambs on the front door, similar decoration on the original north door, now opening into the rear wing, and beaded baseboard on the south wall of the hall. An original 6/6 window also remains in place on the north wall of the hall.

The cellar was originally divided into two rooms by a brick partition wall that has been partially removed, leaving a nine-inch seam in the floor above. The joists are very rough and irregular. Much of the framing material is reused hand hewn timber mixed in with later circular sawn pieces.

A small brick chimney base is centered on the west gable wall; evidence survives of a larger chimney base and hearth centered on the east gable wall. A piece of a paneled door jamb has been reused next to the bulkhead door.

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

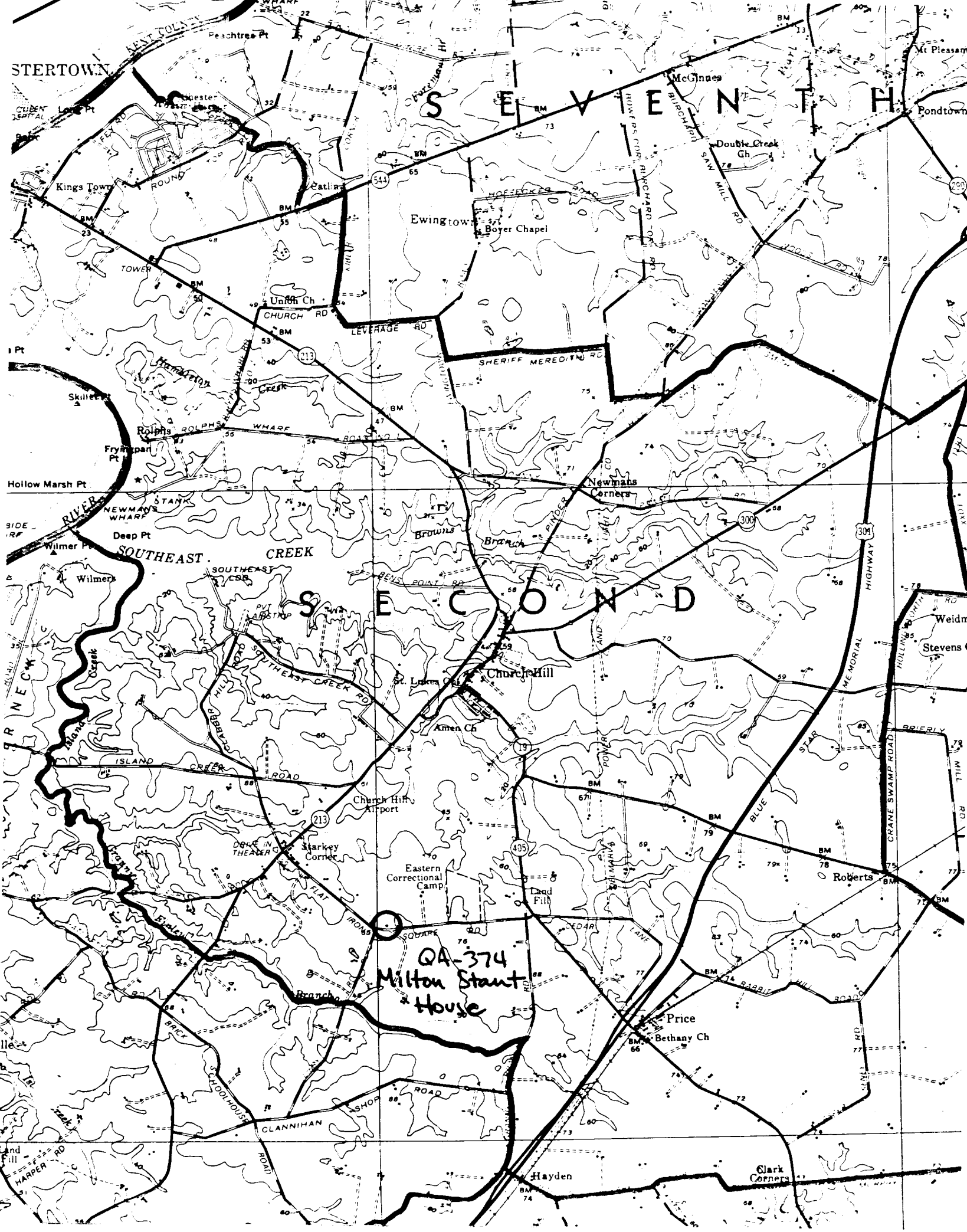
The 16 by 24 foot story-and-a-half form and hall-parlor plan are traditional for small dwellings in this region. The decorative woodwork, in particular the Greek Revival paneled soffits and jambs on several openings, are also traditional and were presumably salvaged from an earlier building. The most unusual feature is the use of bolts and bearing plates in the splayed window jack arches. These have no apparent function and are assumed to be decorative.

SS 10, folio 225. July 25, 1911.

Lena Price of New Castle Co., Delaware, temporarily residing in Queen Anne's Co. and John W. Price, her husband... for $600 to Frances Usilton of Queen Anne's Co....all that lot...on the left side of the public road running from Starkey's Corner to Price's Station adjoining the lands of Israel Woodring and across the road from the farm of Mary E. Cole...containing 5 1/2 acres of land...

The land hereby granted and conveyed is known as the James Brown Lot and the Matilda Brown lot and is the same land whereon James Brown, the old deaf colored man, lived so long and recently died, and is also the same land devised by Matilda Brown, by her last will and testament duly recorded in Liber WAJ No. 1, folio 153, a will record book,...unto her son James Brown, for his lifetime and at his death to Lena Brown, who is now the said Lena Price, the grantor of this deed, the same James Brown having departed this life in the lifetime of the said Lena Brown or Lena Price.

The land hereby granted and conveyed was granted and conveyed unto the said Matilda Brown by two deeds, each deed conveying a separate parcel of land, one deed being from Charles N. Anthony, dated Jan. 25, 1876, recorded in JW 6/19, the other deed being from R.E.C. Downes and wife dated Jan. 6, 1872, recorded in JW 8/225...



STERTOWN
Peachtree Pt
Long Pt
Kings Town
Catlin
Ewingtown
Boyer Chapel
McGinnes
Double Creek Ch
Pondtown
Mt Pleasant
Union Ch
CHURCH RD
LEVERAGE RD
SHERIFF MEREDITH RD
Skillet Pt
Rolphs
ROLPHS WHARF
Frying pan Pt
Hollow Marsh Pt
NEWMANS WHARF
Deep Pt
Wilmer Pt
Wilmers
SOUTHEAST CREEK
Newmans Corners
Browns Branch
BENS POINT RD
SECOND
Church Hill
St. Lukes Ch
Amen Ch
SOUTHEAST CREEK RD
ISLAND CREEK ROAD
Church Hill Airport
Starkey Corner
Eastern Correctional Camp
Land Fill
FLAT IRON
SQUARE RD
CEDAR LANE
QA-374
Milton Stant House
Price
Bethany Ch
Roberts
Weidm
Stevens
CRANE SWAMP ROAD
BLUE STAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY
BRIERLY
CLANNIHAN SHOP ROAD
SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD
Hayden
Clark Corners
HARPER RD

QA-374 Milton Stant House
Flat Iron Road
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Front facade from Southeast

QA-374 Milton Stant House
Flat Iron Road
Orlando Ridout V 1981
View from West