

QA-376
Little Wye
Queenstown vicinity
private

late 18th century

This small brick dwelling on Wye Plantation is interesting both as an example of late 18th century architecture and as an example of the restoration work of the architectural firm of Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn, best known for their work at Williamsburg.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Little Wye

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Wye Plantation

CITY, TOWN

Queenstown

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Arthur A. Houghton, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Queenstown

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21658

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: WHC 7A

Folio #: 168

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-376

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

Little Wye is located on Wye Plantation, and lies to the east of the main house and the associated outbuildings. It faces south across open fields toward a branch of the East Wye River. The house was fully restored in 1938 under the direction of the architectural firm of Perry, Shaw, and Heburn. A series of 24 black-and-white photographs taken during the winter of 1937-1938 are the only known surviving documentation of the building prior to and during restoration. Based on these photographs and an examination of the restored house, it is possible to establish the general appearance of the exterior. Unfortunately, no documentation can be found of the interior previous to restoration, and little if any early interior fabric has survived.

The original house is of brick construction, laid in Flemish bond above an English bond foundation without a watertable. It is one-and-one-half stories high, three bays wide, and one room deep, with flush brick chimneys centered at each end of a steeply pitched gable roof.

The principal facade faces north, with the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
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

Little Wye is typical of the small brick dwelling houses built throughout the 18th century in Tidewater Maryland. Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn proposed a date of circa 1690 for the house, but such an early date seems highly unlikely. No clearly dateable fabric has survived, but both the general form of the house, the flush chimneys, and the absence of a watertable all suggest a date considerably later, probably after the middle of the 18th century. The complete lack of early fabric and insufficient documentation make it impossible to suggest a more precise time-frame.

Architecturally, the house is of interest both as an example of 18th century brick architecture, and as an example of the work of the prominent architectural firm of Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn, best known for their work at Williamsburg.

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

1/29/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

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

7.1 DESCRIPTION

door located in the center bay flanked by a single nine-over-six window on each side. Six-over-six pitched roof dormers are located above each first floor window, but not above the door. On the west gable there are two small window openings flanking the chimney on the second floor. The south facade is identical to the north facade, with a central door flanked by nine-over-six windows on the first floor and two six-over-six dormers on the second floor. The east gable is now partially covered by a hyphen added in 1938. Several photographs illustrate this portion of the house before the renovation and addition. These show that there is only one original opening in this wall, an exterior door in the south corner on the first floor.

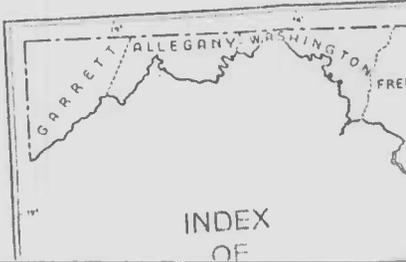
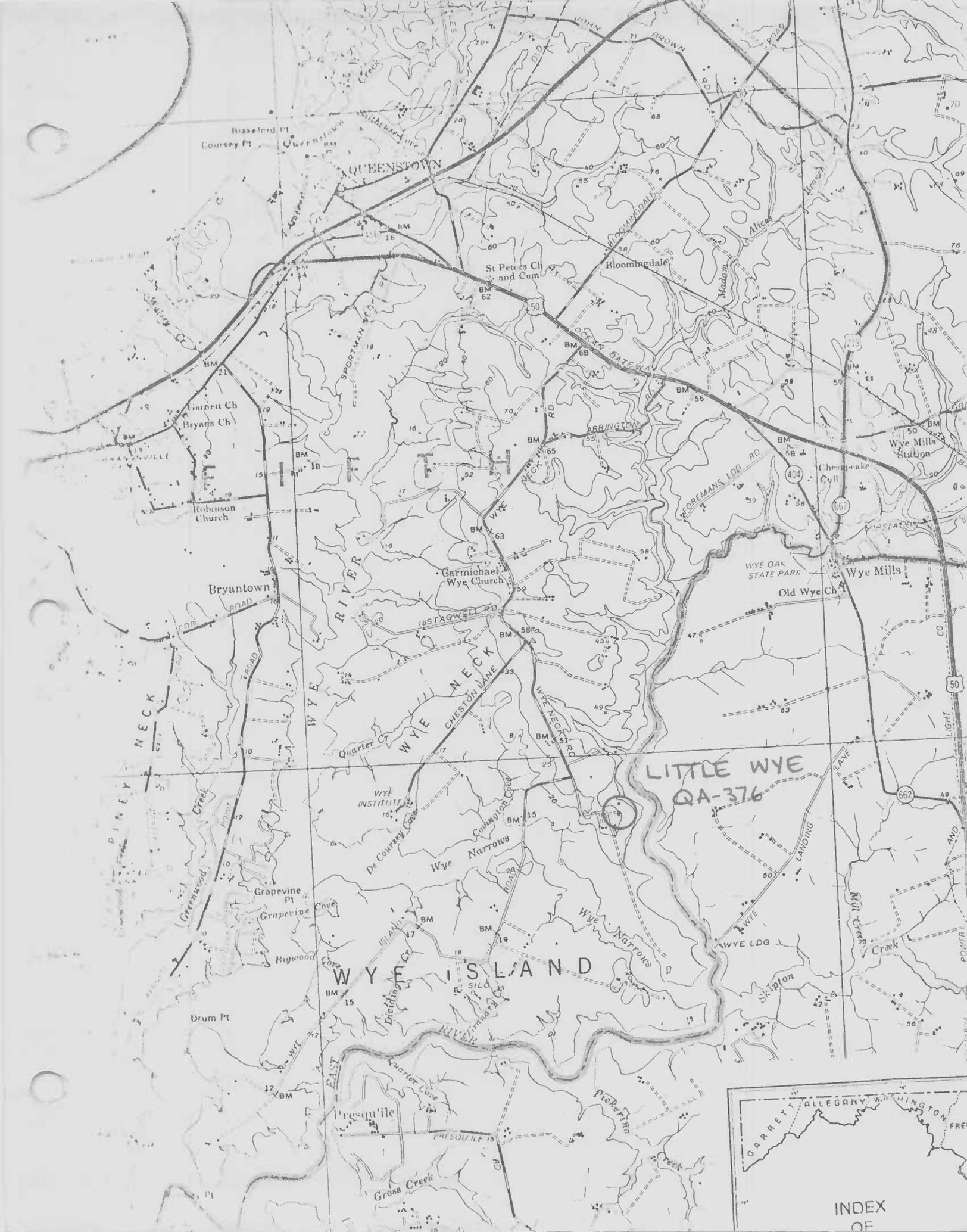
Other details visible in the photographs, but replaced during the restoration, are the early beaded and tapered rakeboards and an early box cornice with crown mold and bed mold.

The restoration, as executed by Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn, appears to be less than faithful to the original building. Interior woodwork and details all tend to be exceptionally bold and heavy, and

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

appear far too elaborate for this building. It is possible that these design decisions were made based on some architectural evidence, but lacking documentation to substantiate this, it seems unlikely. In addition to restoring the house, a brick hyphen and two stall garage were added to the east gable.



INDEX
OF



QA-376 little Wye
Wye Plantation
OKV 12/1978
neg. on file @ MHT

View from south



QA-376

Little Wye Plantation

West Gable

ORV 12/78

neg. on file @MHT