

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Site of Bennett's Chapel

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side of Bennett's Point Road, on Ice House Point Drive

JUL 9/16/87

CITY, TOWN

Grasonville

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

multiple ownership

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-437

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" 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 site of Bennett's Chapel is located on the east side of Bennett's Point Road approximately 1/2 mile north of the southern terminus of the road. This area has recently been divided into building lots overlooking Wye River, and the chapel site lies on the south side of a small cul de sac, adjacent to a modern house.

The above-ground evidence includes a series of brick and stone tombs dating to the 18th century. These tombs were once within the walls of a brick chapel constructed in the mid-18th century by the Bennett family.

Excavations have been undertaken in recent years under the direction of Father Edmund Carley of Centreville. These excavations have located the foundation wall of the chapel, stone floor pavers within the chapel walls, fragments of tombstones, and evidence of the collapsed west wall of the chapel. It is also evident that additional burials are present.

The chapel foundation is oriented on an east-west axis. It is approximately 38 1/2 feet long and 28 feet wide. The foundation walls

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

average 18 to 20 inches thick, indicating that the building was entirely of brick, presumably one or 1 1/2 stories high. Within the walls of the chapel, there are four tombs, two of which have been rebuilt overtop of and at a right angle to the original tombs. The floor area of the chapel remains partially paved with 18 inch square stone pavers.

A brief description of the four tombs is included below:

Tomb A: Located in the northwest corner of the chapel, this tomb consists of a marble table-top slab supported on a continuous, rebuilt brick base. The inscription is readable but at this time is covered with several hundred artifacts. The complete text has been recorded by Father Carley.

Tomb B: Located near the center of the south wall of the chapel, this tomb consists of four heavily carved Baroque side pieces, with the top missing. The four surviving pieces have been resupported by a rebuilt pad. There is no evidence of the original top or any other inscription.

Tombs C and D: These two tombs have been rebuilt and now overlay the original vaults at a 90 degree angle. The original vaults lie side by side at the center of the east end of the chapel, oriented on an east-west axis. When they were rebuilt, they were reoriented on a north-south axis, parallel to the east wall. Most of the surviving stone flags are in the vicinity of tomb C. Both tombs consist of table top slabs on rebuilt brick bases.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

Tomb C is incised: "Here Lies
Interred the Body of Elizabeth wife of
Richard Bennett Esq. She was the daughter
of John Rousby Esq. by Barbara his wife and
Dyed the third day of April Anno Domini
1740 in the 58th year of her age.

Very much Lamented
Requiescat in pace

Tomb D is incised: "Here Lieth the
Body of Richard Bennett Esq. Who was born
the 16 September 1667 and Died ye _____
October 1719 (?) His Grandfather, who was
also named Richard Bennett was governor
of Virginia.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 400-1499 | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input checked="" 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

This archeological site marks the location of the Bennett family cemetery and of a mid-18th century chapel that was constructed over the tombs of Richard Bennett and his wife Elizabeth, as well as several other tombs dating to the first half of the 18th century. These tombs are among the earliest known marked burials in Queen Anne's County, and the unmarked Baroque tomb is one of the most elaborate examples of carved stone on the Eastern Shore. The chapel site is associated with the Bennett house site, which has been located several hundred yards to the east. The house site has also been located but no structural evidence is visible on the surface.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

QA-437

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

1/5/82

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XXI; Recorded December 4, 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-437 Bennett Chapel Site
Grasonville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Facing Southeast



QA-437 Bennett Chapel Site
Grasonville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Facing West