WI-394 c. 1897
Benjamin T. Hearn Farm
Salisbury vicinity
Private

Historically identified as the Benjamin T. Hearn farm, this Pemberton Drive property was originally part of the land associated with "Handy Hall," a large agricultural estate that encompassed over seven-hundred and fifty acres during the mid to late nineteenth century. (See WI-34) On December 4, 1897, L. Sidney Bell, William S. Bell and John B. Parsons sold a portion of the farm bordering what was then known as Anderson Road to Benjamin Thomas Hearn for $1,250. The tee-shaped plan and Victorian decorative features of the exterior–the extended eaves with decorated rafter ends and the fishscale shingles with the front gables–suggest the Benjamin T. Hearn financed construction of this house around the time he acquired the farm. Standing off the southeast corner of the house is a two-story, common bond brick potato house, one of three brick potato houses remaining in Wicomico County.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Benjamin T. Hearn Farm

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST INVENTORY NUMBER: WT-394

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s):

Farm Complex
- -Farmhouse
- -Barn
- -Potato House
- -Chicken House

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-394

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Benjamin T. Hearn Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1354 Pemberton Drive ___ not for publication

city, town Salisbury x vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

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
	x not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Whaley Farms General Partnership

street & number 1354 Pemberton Drive telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21804

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 37, P. 339 liber 1372

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 217

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-394

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Benjamin T. Hearn farm is located at 1354 Pemberton Drive west of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-story, tee-shaped frame house faces north with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1897, the two-and-a-half story frame house is supported by a concrete block foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a single-story kitchen wing. Joining the house on the lot is a c. 1920 brick potato house, a c. 1900 frame barn, a shed roofed frame chicken house, and a couple of other frame outbuildings.

The north (main) elevation of the farmhouse is an asymmetrical facade with a projecting front pavilion and a recessed entrance wall. The projecting bay, pierced on each floor by single-pane replacement windows, is topped by a gable front trimmed with spindle eave decoration and fishscale shingles across its front. The eaves of the roof are extended, and the rafter ends are decorated. The front entrance is sheltered by an enclosed shed roof porch. The second floor is pierced by single-pane sash windows. Centered on the roof is a cross gable sheathed with fishscale shingles and pierced by a two-over-two sash window.

The east gable end is a single room deep with replacement windows lighting each floor. Delicate sawn corner brackets embellish the bottom corners of the eave.

The back wall of the house is partially covered by the single story kitchen wing. Single-pane replacement sash windows light the second floor, and the eave is finished with open soffits and decorated rafter ends.

The house is surrounded on three sides by early twentieth century outbuildings. Principal among the farm buildings is a two-story seven course common bond brick potato house, a gable-front frame barn, and a long single-story chicken house. The c. 1920 potato house is a rectangular structure with seven-course common bond brick walls that rise to steeply pitched gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The gable ends of the roof are sheathed with wood shingles. The west gable end, the principal elevation, is defined by a two board doors that provide access to the first and second floors. The other three walls are marked by small segmental arched window openings. Each opening is spanned by a single course rowlock arch.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-394

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**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B X C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Historically identified as the Benjamin T. Hearn farm, this Pemberton Drive property was originally part of the land associated with "Handy Hall," a large agricultural estate that encompassed over seven-hundred and fifty acres during the mid to late nineteenth century. (See WI-34) On December 4, 1897, L. Sidney Bell, William S. Bell and John B. Parsons sold a portion of the farm bordering what was then known as Anderson Road to Benjamin Thomas Hearn for $1,250.[1] The tee-shaped plan and Victorian decorative features of the exterior–the extended eaves with decorated rafter ends and the fishscale shingles with the front gables–suggest the Benjamin T. Hearn financed construction of this house around the time he acquired the farm. Standing off the southeast corner of the house is a two-story, common bond brick potato house, one of three brick potato houses remaining in Wicomico County.

[1] Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 21/355, 4 December 1897.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-394

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	6/21/99
street & number	B. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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~~
~~Shaw House~~
~~21 State Circle~~
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746

WI-394
Benjamin Thomas Hearn Farm
1354 Pemberton Drive
Salisbury vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 37, Parcel 339

1372/217	Lillie Mae Whaley
	to
12/30/1993	Whaley Farms General Partnership 29.08 acres as shown on plat of property survey for Ruth T. Hearn, 1/19/1952
MSB 1204/667	Lillie Mae Whaley Personal Representative of the Estate of Ruth T. Hearn
	to
12/20/1989	Lillie Mae Whaley being property conveyed unto Walter and Ruth T. Hearn 1. from Benjamin T. Hearn and Alverta Hearn, 11/1/1921, JCK 124/131 2. from Homer D. Kelly, et al., 7/31/1924, JCK 134/453
121/131	Benjamin T. Hearn and Alverta Hearn and Mary McCormick
	to
11/1/1921	Walter C. Hearn Ruth Hearn $5500 (mortgage held by Mary Houston McCormick) 12 73/100 acres

JTT 21/355	L. Sidney Bell and others (William S. Bell and wife, John B. Parsons and wife)
	to
12/4/1897	Benjamin Thomas Hearn $1,250 ...being a portion of the land known as 'Handy Hall'....the property hereby conveyed being a portion of the same property which was conveyed to Henrietta H. Stewart from Milton A. Parsons by mortgage, 3/20/1882, SPT 4/464, and which was sold under the said mortgage in No. 1138 Chancery in the Circuit Court and which was conveyed by George W. Bell, trustee, to make said conveyance to said L. Sydney Bell, William S. Bell, and John B. Parsons, 8/21/1897
Mortgage SPT 4/464	Milton A. Parsons
	to
3/20/1882	Henrietta H. Stewart ...all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Wicomico County...whereon the said Milton A. now resides, it being all that tract called Handy Hall which was devised to the said Milton A. Parsons by his father Jehu Parsons deceased by his last will and testament...and is situated on the Wicomico River about two miles west of Salisbury containing 780 acres...and adjoining the lands of George W. Parsons, James Cannon, and others....

Graveyards and Gravestones of Wicomico County, John E. Jacob, 1997, p. 68.

Jehu Parsons, b. 11/6/1780
d. 8/8/1859

EDEN QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOMAP (TOPOGRAPHIC)

WI-394
Benjamin T. Hearn Farm
Salisbury vicinity

Eden, Maryland Quadrangle
1983

WI-394

Benjamin Thomas [illegible]

Salisbury, [illegible]

[illegible]

6/99, Paul [illegible]

[illegible]

1 of [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]-394

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]