Richard Rees House  
HA 1923

This circa 1905 two-story frame house is one of four similarly designed houses on the uphill, east side of Chestnut Street. An impressive structure with delicate porch detailing, the house is representative of the waning Victorian era and the return to simpler, neo-colonial lines of the early twentieth century. With a spindle porch frieze and scroll brackets, turned posts and simple balustrade, the remnant Victorian decoration creates a sense of elegance on an otherwise plain house. Coursed slate and cast iron stair rail further enhance the structure's grandeur. The use of slate in the building's foundation, roof and decoration truly manifests slate's significance as the primary industry and life-blood of this region.

The adjacent towns of Whiteford, Cardiff, and Delta (PA) developed primarily from the region's tremendous slate industry, which attracted workers and their families from the slate quarries of Wales. The three linear, connecting towns developed rapidly during the second half of the nineteenth century, resulting in the construction of Chestnut Street in 1890 and its subsequent development. This house was built for Richard Rees, owner of one of the many quarries situated on the ridge above town.
1. Name  (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Richard Rees House

2. Location

street & number  1629 Chestnut Street

N/A not for publication

city, town  Cardiff

vicinity of congressional district 5th

state  Maryland

county  Harford

3. Classification

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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<tr>
<td>district</td>
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<td>building(s)</td>
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<td>unoccupied</td>
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<tr>
<td>structure</td>
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<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>in process</td>
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<td>not applicable</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>military</td>
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4. Owner of Property  (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name  Elra M., Sr. and Gloria L. Carter

street & number  1308 Ontario Street

telephone no.: (410)939-4261

city, town  Havre De Grace

state and zip code  MD, 21078

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse

liber CGH 1538

street & number  20 W. Courtland Pl.

folio 674

city, town  Bel Air

state  MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  none

date

 federal  state  county  local

repository for survey records

city, town  state
7. Description

Located on the uphill, east side of Chestnut Street overlooking the town of Cardiff, Maryland, this large two-story frame house is three bays wide by a deep two bays, with a short service ell to the north of the building's rear wall. The roof of the main house has a north-south ridge paralleling Chestnut Street, with a perpendicular gable roof on the ell. The main part of the house has a shed-roofed porch runs the length of the first-story west, main facade and a two-story three-paneled bay window located on the east bay of the south side. An unusual and apparently modern addition in the angle is of a first-story open porch and a second-story enclosure supported by slate pilings. An original flue runs internal to the south endwall. As typical of and unique to this world-famous slate region, the foundation is of coursed slate and the roof is slate shingled.

The main entrance, delineating the first-story north bay of the main facade, is surrounded by a three-light transom and two-light sidelights. Windows decorate this house in every available space. All remaining main facade bays are articulated by the 6/6 sash windows of this structure. The three-panels of the two-story bay on the east bay of the south side have 1/1 sash, however, the south side upper and lower story west bay, the second story angle enclosure, and two small windows flanking the chimney at the gable return to multi-light sash. All windows of the north side, the two upper and lower bays of the north side and the ell's one upper and lower bay have 6/6 windows. All standard windows are highlighted by shutters.

Resting on the high side of Chestnut with and evenly stepped front yard, the imposing nature of this house is heightened. Two courses of steps lead to the main entrance which are made stately by a rail of coursed slate and cast iron. Decoration of the structure is limited to the porch, with a spindle porch frieze and scroll brackets, turned posts, and a simple balustrade. The spindle frieze and balustrade creates an ethereal look to an otherwise weighty house.
### Significance

#### Period
- Prehistoric
- 1400–1499
- 1500–1599
- 1600–1699
- 1700–1799
- 1800–1899
- 1900–

#### Areas of Significance—Check and justify below
- Archaeology-prehistoric
- Archaeology-historic
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communications
- Conservation
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering
- Exploration/settlement
- Industry
- Invention
- Community planning
- Landscape architecture
- Law
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Philosophy
- Politics/government
- Religion
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Other (specify)

#### Specific dates

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<td>Level of Significance: National State Local</td>
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</table>

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

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The adjacent towns of Whiteford, Cardiff, and Delta (PA) developed primarily from the region's tremendous slate industry, which attracted workers and their families from the slate quarries of Wales. The three linear, connecting towns developed rapidly during the second half of the nineteenth century, resulting in the construction of Chestnut Street in 1890 and its subsequent development. This house was built for Richard Rees, owner of one of the many quarries situated on the ridge above town.

Originally owned by Thomas Hawkins (farmer) in a patented land grant known as "Hawkins Chance", this land was part of the tract sold by the Hawkins family to Rowland Parry, a Welsh quarry owner who operated one of the first prominent commercial quarries in the area. It was Parry who exhibited Peach Bottom slate in the London Crystal Palace exposition in 1850, winning it international recognition as the world's finest slate. "Hawkins Chance" was divided and sold in pieces, passing through the hands of Parry's relatives and countrymen. The land for this relatively small came from two sources who had ultimately received it from Parry, as indicated by the title search. One piece of the lot was platted and subdivided following the Equity Case of William H. Harlan v. Annie H. Whitaker in 1889 (plat included as documentation). The other piece was received from Humphrey R. Lloyd and his wife, who were heavily involved with the development of north Cardiff in late 1800's (no plat found).
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 345 acres

Quadrangle name Delta

Quadrangle scale 24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
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</table>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 216 on tax map 5, as provided in accompanying map

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
<th>code</th>
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<tr>
<td>state</td>
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<td>county</td>
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</table>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dianne Klair

organization Harford County Planning and Zoning date September 1995

street & number 220 S. Main Street telephone (410)638-3103

city or town Bel Air state MD

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.
RICHARD REES HOUSE
Title Search

Grantee: Elra M., Sr. and Gloria L. Carter
Granted: (no description)

HDC 909/7  October 10, 1972  Grantor: Richard L. and Mary A. Rees
Grantee: Gary D. and Cheryl L. Williams
Granted: town lot with improvements, plat included here

GRG 572/607  June 19, 1961  Grantor: Richard Rees
Grantee: Richard L. and Mary A. Rees
Granted: town lot of .391 acres with improvements

GCB 292/28  November 12, 1945  Grantor: Spencer K. Heaps
Grantee: Richard, Jr. and Adele B. Rees
Granted: same

GCB 292/27  November 12, 1945  Grantor: Richard, Jr. and Adele B. Rees
Grantee: Spencer K. Heaps
Granted: same

WSF 113/7  April 13, 1904  Grantor: Humphrey R. and Jane H. Lloyd
Grantee: Richard Rees, Jr.
Granted: town lot of .391 acres for $250.00. This lot
described in 2 deeds.

WSF 113/4  April 13, 1904  (1)
Grantee: Humphrey R. Lloyd
Granted: lot 16 for $75.00.

WSF 89/454  December 12, 1896  (1)
Grantor: William H. Harlan, Trustee (in Equity Case WSF 60/475, William H. Harlan v. Annie H. (Whitaker) McConkey et al., January 1889)
Grantee: Rachel A. McComas and G. Jordan McComas
Granted: remaining lands after some lots purchased of the 25 acres sold to Annie Whitaker, for $2000.00. Lots
platted for and included in the equity case.

ALJ 50/343  May 28, 1884  (1)
Grantor: William H. Harlan et al
Grantee: Annie H. Whitaker
Granted: 25 acres, of "Hawkins Chance"
ALJ 32/84 (mortgage) (1)
May 26, 1875
Mortgagor: John Feruley, Executor of Estate of James Whitaker
Mortgagee: Oliver and Mary E. Whitaker
Granted: 25 acres, of "Hawkins Chance"
Oliver Whitaker indebted to estate of James Whitaker for $6400.00.

ALJ 25/346 (2)
April 1, 1871
Grantor: Richard Hughes and wife
Grantee: Jane H. Lloyd (wife of Humphrey R. Lloyd)
Granted: two parcels of "Hawkins Chance"; 1). 5 acres 105 perches, 2). 2 acres 1 perch for $1800.00

ALJ 23/474 (1)
April 6, 1870
Grantor: David Swope et al.
Grantee: Oliver Whitaker
Granted: 25 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for $12,000.00

WHD 15/362 (1)
September 14, 1864
Grantor: Alexander Garrett et al.
Grantee: West Bangor Mining Company (Alexander Garrett, David Swope part of this company)
Granted: same

WHD 15/361 (1)
September 14, 1864
Grantor: I. Holmes Grover
Grantee: Alexander Garrett and David Swope
Granted: same

WHD 15/261 (1)
May 31, 1864
Grantor: Rowland Parry
Grantee: I. Holmes Grover
Granted: same

ALJ 9/29 (2)
May 29, 1857
Grantor: John and Eleanor Parry
Grantee: Richard Hughes
Granted: two parcels of "Hawkins Chance"; 1). 5 acres 105 perches, 2). 2 acres 1 perch for $500.00

HDG 36/424 (2)
July 27, 1850
Grantor: Ro(w)land and Anne Parry
Grantee: John Parry and Richard Hughes
Granted: 3 1/2 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for $350.00

HDG 36/215 (2)
February 5, 1850
Grantor: Rowland Perry
Grantee: John Perry and Richard Hughes
Granted: 12 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for $600.00

HDG 36/214 (indenture) (2)
February 5, 1850
Grantor: Benjamin Williams
Grantee: John Perry et al.
Granted: 12 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for $200.00
HDG 34/492  February 9, 1849  Grantor: Edward Proctor et al.
Grantee: Archabald A. Hawkins
Granted: "Hawkins Chance", being part of Thomas Hawkins landholdings; 74 acres 5 perches

HD 14/336  August 3, 1831  Grantor: Isaac Hawkins, heir to Thomas Hawkins
Grantee: Thomas Proctor, heir to Edward Proctor

Land Tract,  After March 1774,  "Hawkins Chance", tract of 74 acres 5 perches granted to
Patented   when Harford est.  Thomas Hawkins. Located on the Maryland and Pennsylvania line at the north end of present day Cardiff. Divided, sold, and reworked often.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Land Records, Harford County Courthouse.

Delta Centennial, A souvenir book from the 1953 centennial celebration which was organized by the Delta-Cardiff Fire Company.

History of York County, Gibson. 1880.

Conversation with Mrs. Darcy Lloyd, April 11, 1995.

Conversations with Mrs. Marion Scaborough, June 20, June 22, July 25, and August 1, 1995 regarding Parry family history.

Harford County Historical Society Archives.

Various conversations with area residents for a contextual history of the inventory structures.
HA-1923

Richard Rees House
Parcel 216, Tax Map 5
Ha 1923
Richard Reed House
Harford County, Maryland
Dwight A. Klein

3/95

Chris Wexler, Harford County Dept of Planning & Zoning
View northeast from Chestnut Street

1/3
Mar, 1923
Richard Rees House
Harford County, Maryland
Dianne Klein
3/95
Maryland SHPO
Chris Weeks, Harford County Dept. of Planning Zoning
View: Southeast from Chestnut Street
3/3
HA 923
Richard Dreyfuss
Harford County, Maryland
Diane Klein
3195 Maryland State
Chris Wecks, Harford County Dept. of
View East from Chestnut Street