Located at the southern end of Kent Island, approximately 1.5 miles southwest of Romancoke, the 18.5-acre property at 200 Keene Farm Lane incorporates a circa 1910-1915 house; the remnants of a nineteenth-century springhouse; a large, twentieth-century dairy barn; two mid-twentieth-century secondary dwellings; and a non-historic swimming pool. The house is a substantial, two-and-a-half-story, two-bay, wood-frame four-square that faces west, towards the intersection of Keene Farm Lane and Kent Point Road. Aside from the springhouse, the secondary resources were not accessible during the survey.

Located on the east side of Kent Point Road and on Eastern Bay, the Keene-Bright Farm illustrates the shift from general farming to dairy farming in Queen Anne's County between the 1920s and 1940s. The four-square house exemplifies a commonly used form for Queen Anne's County rural residences in the early twentieth century. The house and dairy barn replaced an earlier dwelling and barn used by John E. Bright and his family from the 1860s through the early twentieth century.
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)
   historic
   other Keene-Bright Farm (preferred)

2. Location
   street and number 200 Keene Farm Lane
   city, town Stevensville, MD 21666-3830
   county Queen Anne’s County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)
   name Michael J. and Laura O. Keene
   street and number 200 Keene Farm Lane
   city, town Stevensville
   state MD
   zip code 21666

4. Location of Legal Description
   courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne’s County
   liber SM 487 folio 297
   city, town Stevensville
   tax map 76
   tax parcel 35
   tax ID number 04-099338

5. Primary Location of Additional Data
   Contributing Resource in National Register District
   Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
   Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
   Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
   Recorded by HABS/HAER
   Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
   Other:

6. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Current Function</th>
<th>Resource Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>X private</td>
<td>X commerce/trade</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X site</td>
<td>X both</td>
<td>X defense</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X object</td>
<td></td>
<td>X domestic</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X funerary</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X government</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X health care</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X industry</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X landscape</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X recreation/culture</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X religion</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X social</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X transportation</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X work in progress</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X vacant/not in use</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X other</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory 0
### Condition

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>deteriorated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X good</td>
<td>ruins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fair</td>
<td>altered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summary

Located at the southern end of Kent Island, approximately 1.5 miles southwest of Romancoke, the 18.5-acre property at 200 Keene Farm Lane incorporates a circa 1910-1915 house; the remnants of a nineteenth-century springhouse; a large, twentieth-century dairy barn; and two mid-twentieth-century secondary dwellings; and a non-historic swimming pool. The house is a substantial, two-and-a-half-story, two-bay, wood-frame four-square that faces west, towards the intersection of Keene Farm Lane and Kent Point Road. Aside from the springhouse, the secondary resources were not accessible during the survey.

### Description

#### Primary Resource

The property at 200 Keene Farm Lane sits on a level, grassy, low-lying lot. Keene Farm Lane is a gravel drive that runs east from Kent Point Road along the north side of the house; it terminates in a circular drive behind the house. Several large trees are scattered around the property, plantings line the house's foundation, and a wood picket fence runs along the southern property line. A non-historic in-ground swimming pool is located to the southwest of the house. One of the secondary houses sits approximately 100 feet to the northeast of the main house, with a rose garden and some trees separating the two. The other secondary house sits further away, approximately 200 feet to the southeast of the main house, and is separated from it by trees and the picket fence. The dairy barn is situated about 200 feet to the east of the house, and the springhouse sits on the north side of Keene Farm Lane, about halfway between the house and Kent Point Road.

Facing west, the two-and-a-half-story, two-bay, main block of the house presents a standard four-square house profile. It has a hipped roof, a central brick chimney with a corbelled cap, and sits on a continuous brick foundation. Hipped-roof dormers pierce the roof on each side, and a hipped-roof porch with wood Tuscan columns spans the width of the façade. The porch has been screened. The house is clad in vinyl siding, but the current owner stated that the vinyl covers the original wood clapboards. A non-historic, one-story, shed-roofed, wood-frame addition has been attached to the south elevation of the main block, and a one-story, side-gabled concrete block addition of indeterminate age extends from the northeast corner of the house.

The two-bay façade incorporates a side-passage entrance located in the northermost first-story bay; it contains a replacement, cross-braced and multi-light door. The southermost bay consists of a paired window opening. The windows throughout the main block have been replaced with one-over-one, vinyl sash. The second story of the façade contains two symmetrically placed, paired windows that align with the first story bays below. The dormer is lit by paired, two-over-two, double-hung, wood sash windows. The dormers on the north and south elevations match the façade dormer, while the rear dormer – on the east elevation – is narrower, and is pierced by one, one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash window.

The house's north elevation consists of three bays, with one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows occupying each of them. The east (rear) elevation features a screened, one-story, shed-roofed porch that spans the width of the main block of the house; the northern third has been enclosed. Three single, asymmetrically placed windows occupy the second-story east elevation of the main block.

A non-historic, one-story, shed-roofed addition extends from the south elevation of the main block. The wood-frame addition is clad with vinyl siding, and features a vinyl-sided chimney on its south, exterior end. Two, one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl windows are evenly spaced on the second story. The concrete block addition that is attached to the northeast corner of the house has six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows, and a parged flue chimney on its eastern side.

#### Outbuildings

The nineteenth-century springhouse predates the construction of the current house. It is a one-story structure constructed of six-course American bond brick. The original roof is missing, however the remaining structure is sheltered by a new, pyramidal-roofed pavilion...
8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-591

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance</th>
<th>Check and justify below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1600-1699</td>
<td>X agriculture</td>
<td>economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>archeology</td>
<td>education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>architecture</td>
<td>engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700-1799</td>
<td>art</td>
<td>entertainment/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>commerce</td>
<td>recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X 1900-1999</td>
<td>art commerce</td>
<td>ethnic heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>community planning</td>
<td>exploration/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>conservation</td>
<td>settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-</td>
<td>X art</td>
<td>entertainment/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>communications</td>
<td>recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>community planning</td>
<td>exploration/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>conservation</td>
<td>settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-</td>
<td>commerce</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>communications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>community planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>conservation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specific dates

Construction dates circa 1910-1915

Architect/Builder

Evaluation for:

National Register
Maryland Register X not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary Statement of Significance

Located on the east side of Kent Point Road and on Eastern Bay, the Keene-Bright Farm illustrates the shift from general farming to dairy farming in Queen Anne's County between the 1920s and 1940s. The four-square house exemplifies a commonly used form for Queen Anne's County rural residences in the early twentieth century. The house and dairy barn replaced an earlier dwelling and barn used by John E. Bright and his family from the 1860s through the early twentieth century.

Historical Narrative

The Keene-Bright Farm is situated in roughly the same location as a mid-nineteenth-century farm known as Kent Fort Manor, which was owned by John E. Bright. Located at the southern end of Kent Island on the east side of Kent Point Road, the 246-acre farm was larger than the average Queen Anne's County farm. In 1889 John E. Bright died; his will bequeathed the farm, known thereafter as the John E. Bright Farm, to his wife, Georgeanna. Situated on Eastern Bay, the farm may have had a private wharf. Many Queen Anne's County farms on the bays and rivers had wharfs that provided immediate access for sea-going ships to transport the farm's produce to market in Baltimore or other destinations.

It is likely that the John E. Bright Farm produced some type of fruit during this period in addition to the grain crops. During the second half of the nineteenth century, wheat and corn were the chief crops being raised in Queen Anne's County, and Eastern Shore farms were known for the fine bloodlines of their herds of cattle, horses, and flocks of sheep. By the third quarter of the nineteenth century, Eastern Shore grain farmers had difficulty competing with the Great Plains states for the national market, so farmers increasingly turned to fruit production. The springhouse is the only outbuilding surviving from the nineteenth-century farm operations.

---

1 J. G. Strong’s Map of Queen Anne’s County (n.p.: J.G. Strong, 1866).
4 Scharf, p. 85.
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acreage of surveyed property</td>
<td>17.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acreage of historical setting</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadrangle name</td>
<td>Claiborne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadrangle scale</td>
<td>1:24,000 (7.5 minute)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property boundary is defined by the current parcel boundaries shown on tax map 76, grid 14, parcel 35 in Queen Anne’s County, Maryland.

11. Form Prepared by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Title</th>
<th>Kathryn Gettings Smith and Gerald M. Maready, Jr., Architectural Historians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>History Matters, LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>November 16, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street &amp; number</td>
<td>1502 21st Street, NW, 2nd Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>202-223-8845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City or Town</td>
<td>Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>DC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600
that is supported by square, bracketed wood posts set three to four feet out from the walls of the springhouse. A four-panel wood door provides entry to the springhouse on its south elevation.

The remaining outbuildings were only minimally documented from a distance at the time of the survey:

The large, arched-roof dairy barn that likely dates to the 1930s or 1940s is constructed of concrete block and incorporates a milk house attached to the north end and a concrete stave silo attached to its south end. Two secondary dwellings also occupy the property; both appear to date to the 1950s. One is a one-story, frame structure with a gable roof and clad in asbestos shingles. The other is a one-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed building with a wing, and is clad in asbestos shingles.
Georgeanna H. Bright owned the farm from 1889 until her death in 1918. Circa 1910 to 1915, the residence identified in the 1866 and 1877 maps of the county was replaced by the two-and-one-half-story, four-square house that currently occupies the property. The archetypal four-square house is a two- to two-and-one-half-story, hipped-roofed dwelling, with a square footprint and generally boxy shape. Four-squares generally feature a full-width front porch, wide eaves, and prominent dormers. Typically, the interior plan is composed of four rooms on each main floor. The four-square had its genesis in the 1890s, and was popular nationally through the first decades of the twentieth century. Stylistically, it often displays some combination of modest Craftsman or Colonial Revival detailing, a characteristic it shared with another popular form of the era, the bungalow. Also like bungalows, four-square houses were sometimes purchased from mail-order companies such as Sears, Roebuck and Company, which shipped a kit of construction materials to the local buyer. However, there is nothing to indicate that the Keene-Bright House was a mail-order house as it does not conform to any known standardized plan. Like the earlier I-house form, the four-square was a commonly used house form for farmhouses and rural residences. In Queen Anne’s County, however, the form seems to be most common in towns. This may be due to the towns’ proximity to the railroad, which made it easy to order and receive a house from a catalog, and also to see examples of the latest style.

In February 1919, the trustees of Georgeanna Bright’s estate advertised the farm for sale at auction. The Centreville Observer advertisement highlighted the “good dwelling house in good repair, barn, and all other outbuilding necessary to a farm.” It also mentioned the location on Eastern Bay as convenient for fishing, crabbing, oystering, bathing, and boating. James E. Kirwan purchased the property at the auction; the terms of purchase included Kirwan receiving a portion of the interest in the growing wheat crop, and paying the same proportion of the phosphate fertilizer and seed wheat costs. The remainder of the crop and expenses were reserved to Georgeanna Bright’s heirs, who were life tenants of the farm. Her heirs were the children of James B. Bright, John E. Bright’s brother. One of the children, Benjamin Harrison Bright, farmed property on the west side of Kent Point Road and may have supervised the operations on the John E. Bright Farm.

James E. Kirwan (1848-1938) was a prominent resident of Kent Island. A former oyster boat captain, he operated and lived above his store on Crab Alley Neck (QA-550, James E. Kirwan House and Store) until his death. He was elected to the Maryland State Senate as a Democrat in 1900 and 1904. Kirwan’s 1935 will bequeathed the Bright Farm to his daughter, Sophia L. Coleman, and her husband, Franklin Whitefield Coleman, a salesman at the general store. They owned the property until 1950 when it was sold to the parents of the present owner. From 1919 to 1950, the farm was operated by tenants; some of these tenants may have been members of the Bright family. Renting farmland was common practice in Queen Anne’s County in the early twentieth century—tenants farmed more than twice as much land as owners, and most tenant farmers in the county were white.

In the 1930s or 1940s, a concrete block dairy barn that incorporated a concrete silo and a milkhouse was constructed, reflecting the addition of dairy operations to the farm. After World War I, prices for wheat and corn dropped, so Maryland farmers diversified their crops and increased dairy production. Between 1880 and 1920, the number of dairy cattle in Queen Anne’s County nearly tripled.
The construction of dairy barns with silos for cattle feed and milking sheds to store the milk altered the county’s agricultural landscape. The presence of the railroad and the development and improvement of roads beginning in the 1920s provided ready access for transporting the milk to market. During the 1930s and 1940s, the trend toward the mechanization of agriculture meant that milk production changed from hand milking to milking by machine. Milk cooperatives purchased pipeline, tanks and other equipment and rented it to farmers who could not afford their own equipment for a percentage of the monthly income from milk production. The result was an increase in milk production in Queen Anne’s County from 1,688,434 gallons in 1920 to 7,077,561 gallons in 1945.

Two secondary dwellings were added to the property in the 1950s by Anthony and Katharine Keene, parents of the current owners. The dwellings are a one-story, frame cottage and a one-and-one-half-story frame house.

12 “Queen Anne’s County Tricentennial: Celebrating 300 Years of Queen Anne’s County History,” Bay Times, April 5, 2006, p 11.
Chain of Title

24 February 1997  Michael J. Keene to Michael J. Keene & Laura O. Keene
Liber SM 561, folio 885

10 February 1995  Michael J. Keene to Michael J. Keene & Laura O. Keene
Liber SM 487, folio 297
18.49 acres

2 March 1992  Deed of Trust: Michael J. Keene (borrower), J. Robert Barton & Daniel T. Cannon (trustees) & The Centreville National Bank of MD
Liber MWM 388, folio 849
Exhibit A has description of parcel #17: 18.22 acres
50 foot r-o-w for ingress, egress, utilities dated 1989

4 December 1986  C. Edward Jones, trustee under will of Anthony W. Keene of Baltimore to Michael J. Keene
Liber MWM 268, folio 110
73.1878657% interest in lots under Anthony Keene trust when Michael turned forty years old.
Two lots: “Kent Fort Manor” or “The John E. Bright Farm” of 257.87 acres; second lot 10.120 acres

4 December 1986  Michael J. Keene, trustee under will of Katharine A. Keene of Baltimore to Michael J. Keene
Liber MWM 268, folio 115
Anthony W. Keene (co-trustee) died October 10, 1979; Michael got 26.812135% interest in two lots

5 January 1950  Sophia L. Coleman & Franklin Whitefield Coleman to Anthony W. Keene & Katharine A. Keene
Liber NBW 5, folio 39
Tract of land “Kent Fort Manor” or “the John F. Bright Farm”; 246 acres and 29 perches; metes & bounds except parcel devised to Charles Clarence Heath, (“colored”), by John E. Bright & graveyard reserved by Bright’s will with right of ingress & egress
18 January 1939

Harry M. Miller to Sophia L. & Franklin Whitfield Coleman of Queen Anne’s County, Mary Kirwan Coleman of Baltimore, Bertha Mae Abbott of Baltimore, and Reba Kirwan Coleman of Chester
Liber WHC 7A, folio 573
Property conveyed to Sophia & Franklin Coleman for their use, to sell, lease, mortgage or dispose of except by will; if not disposed of prior to their deaths, property goes to use of others. Two lots. Lot 2—“Kent Fort Manor” or “The John E. Bright Farm”; 246 acres.

3 January 1939

Sophia L. Coleman & Franklin Whitefield Coleman to Harry M. Miller
Liber WHC 7A, folio 571
Two lots. Lot 2—“Kent Fort Manor” or “The John E. Bright Farm”; 246 acres.
Will of James E. Kirwan (deceased) Orphan’s Court NSC 1/51 bequeathed to Sophia L. Coleman (will—March 18, 1935)

6 May 1919

James T. Bright, trustee to James E. Kirwan
Liber JFR 2, folio 238
Property sold at auction of Bright estate to James E. Kirwan for $15,264.30; described as “Kent Fort Manor” or “The John E. Bright Farm”; 246 acres.

25 January 1919

Ida M. Bright, Benjamin Harrison Bright & James T. Bright, executors of James B. Bright & of J. Bright Kelly employed James T. Bright & Madison Brown to carry out will & testament of John E. Bright
Chancery Docket #2286
John E. Bright Will: 2) “should I die before house is erected on lot of land devised to Charles Clarence Heath, colored...bequeath $300 to erect/or aid in erecting house”
4) gives to Charles Clarence Heath a lot of land in northern & eastern part of farm & in woodland
5) graveyard on farm where I now reside shall not pass by devise of farm; reserved to descendants of deceased father James Bright with right of ingress & egress (1/2 acre)
6) farm to wife Georgeanna H. Bright
7) upon death of wife or Bright (if he survives wife) farm to be valued & offered to brother James Benjamin Bright at value; if he does not buy it, farm to be sold at public auction.
John E. Bright died August 1889
Georgeanna H. Bright died December 1918
James B. Bright (brother) died September 13, 1913
Legacy now vested in Ida M. Bright, Benjamin Harrison Bright & James Thomas Bright. Auction: 25 February 1919 tract called “Kent Fort Manor” or “The John E. Bright Farm” of 246 acres sold to James E. Kirwan for $62.05/acre; purchaser to receive a portion of the landlord’s interest in growing wheat crop not reserved for life tenant (Georgianna Bright’s heirs) & purchase to pay same proportion of the phosphate & seed wheat.
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name: Keene-Bright Farm

Continuation Sheet

Number 9  Page 1

Major Bibliographical References


J. G. Strong's Map of Queen Anne's County. N.p.: J.G. Strong, 1866.

Queen Anne's County Chancery Court Papers, Chancery Docket #2286.

"Queen Anne's County Tricentennial: Celebrating 300 Years of Queen Anne's County History." Bay Times, April 5, 2006.

Site Plan
QA-591
Keene-Bright Farm
200 Keene Farm Lane
Stevensville vicinity
Queen Anne's County, Maryland
QA-591
KEENE-BRIGHT FARM
200 KEENE FARM LANE, KENT ISLAND
QUEEN ANNE'S CO., MD
HISTORY MATTERS, LLC
MD SHPO
NORTHWEST ELEVATION (FACADE)
LOT 3
QA-591
KEENE-BRIGHT FARM
200 KEENE FARM LANE, KENT ISLAND
QUEEN ANNE'S CO., MD
HISTORY MATTERS LLC
MD SHPO
REAR ELEVATION - LOOKING SOUTH WEST
20F3
QA-591
KEENE-BRIGHT FARM
200 KEENE FARM LANE, KENT ISLAND
QUEEN ANNE'S CO., MD
HISTORY MATTERS LLC
MD SHPO
SPRINGHOUSE - LOOKING NORTHEAST
3 of 3