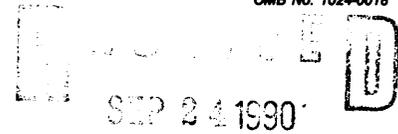


1574

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gibson's Ridge
other names/site number Woodview (preferred) HA-1228

2. Location

street & number 1236 Somerville Road
city, town Bel Air
state Maryland code MD county Harford code 025 zip code 21014

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [] public-local, [] public-State, [] public-Federal
Category of Property: [X] building(s), [] district, [] site, [] structure, [] object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 2, Noncontributing 1 buildings, 1 sites, 1 structures, 1 objects, Total 2

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature]
Date: 9/11/90
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official:
Date:
State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[X] entered in the National Register.
[] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register. [] See continuation sheet.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register.
[] other, (explain:)
Entered in the National Register stamp
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature]
Date of Action: 10/25/90

6. Function or Use

HA-1228

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls stone

roof slate

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Woodview is a two-section, 2 1/2-story stone house. The main section reads as five bays wide beneath a slate covered gable roof but it actually consists of two still-discernable parts: the older dates to c. 1744, and is three bays wide with a two-room plan; each room had a gable-end chimney and a corner enclosed winder stair. The newer part, dating to c. 1820 and built to the west, is two bays wide and contains a stair hall and one large room per floor; the two sections are discernable on the exterior due to a seam in the mortar, to the latter sections's slightly larger scale and somewhat more sophisticated masonry, that is, more careful coursing and the presence of bold quoins and large lintels. Both sections' exterior wooden trim such as louvered shutters with their hardware, window framing, and beaded box cornice, is intact and dates to the c. 1820 period; the same is true on the interior since the older section was apparently remodelled when the newer section was added; the old floor plan was changed slightly (see below) and both sections were given unity by fine and uniform late federal wooden trim. This is intact and consists of delicately molded chairrails and reeded door surrounds with bulls'-eye blocks. There is a small-scale, 2 1/2-story stone wing extending to the east of the older section; dating to the 18th century and probably the contemporaneous kitchen wing for the c. 1744 section, it is likewise two bays wide beneath a slate gable roof and contains one room per floor. The property also contains two outbuildings. The first is an extensively remodelled 18th-century one-story stone structure located about 50 feet northeast of the kitchen wing; it originally had a frame second story and the entire building is believed by the present owners to have been a slaves' quarters; it has been remodelled into a garage and is non-contributing. There is also a stone spring house. Located at the foot of a hill about 150 yards south of the house, the spring house, probably nineteenth century, resembles, with its barrel-vaulted roofline, a modern stone Quonset hut and is unique in Harford County.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 7 Page 7.1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Woodview is a two-section, 2 1/2-story stone house in a rural section of generally suburban central Harford County, Maryland, about three miles south of the county seat, Bel Air. The house is built to crown a grassy man-made terrace overlooking both the densely wooded Winter's Run and Plum Tree Run valleys. An ancient grove of both mixed and native trees and shrubs (Chinese larch, chestnut, maple, locust, spruce, ash, magnolia grandiflora, and holly) shade the house to the southwest with a modern orchard and grape arbor beyond to the west.

The main section now reads as five bays wide beneath a slate covered gable roof (with the roofline running generally east-west), but it consists of two parts. The older part dates to c. 1745¹, is built of randomly coursed native stone, and is three bays wide with a two-room plan. The two rooms were originally reverse mirror images of each other; each room had a gable-end chimney and a corner enclosed winder stair; one stair was in the northwest corner of the present dining room (and was probably removed during the c. 1820 remodelling); the other was in the southeast corner of the present kitchen (and was removed c. 1934).

There is a smaller scale two-bay, 2 1/2-story, 18th century stone wing extending from to the east wall of the old section. Its stone walls are laid in random courses and it contains one room per

¹Conversation between Michael Pue Crocker and Christopher Weeks, April 10, 1990.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 7 Page 7.2

floor with a simple open stair running up the west wall; the large fireplace that all but fills the east wall is further support for the family-held assertion that this room was the house's original kitchen; within, this wing's stone walls are coated roughly with plaster; window and door trim is very simple and, in its simplicity, may have matched the original treatment in the main rooms of the house.

The newer part, or western one-third, dates to c. 1820. Built in a somewhat larger scale, the newer wing is two bays wide and contains a stair hall and one large room on the ground floor; the two sections are discernable on the exterior by a seam in the mortar and by the latter section's somewhat more sophisticated masonry, that is, more careful coursing and the presence of bold quoins and, at the windows and doors, large stone lintels. Exterior wooden trim (original louvered shutters with their hardware, window framing, beaded box cornice, panelled entrance recesses, and so on) is intact and dates to the c. 1820 period; windows of the 18th-century section were remodelled at that time and have remained unchanged since. The main windows in the parlor (one in the north facade and one in the south facade) have eight-over-eight panes suitable to the parlor's elegance and formality. The c. 1820 addition contains a wide stairhall and formal parlor.

On the interior, the older section was apparently remodelled when the new section was added; the old floor plan was changed slightly: the former kitchen became a store room, the old east room became the kitchen, and a new hallway was constructed to simultaneously provide an interior wall to the new kitchen and to provide passage to the old kitchen wing from what became and still remains the dining room. (In addition, the old kitchen received a one-story simple porch across its

See Continuation Sheet 7.3

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Woodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 7 Page 7.3

west facade.)

Four regularly placed dormers punctuate the south roof and probably date to c. 1820.

The main entrances (both in the 1820 section) are placed within panelled door surrounds. A beaded box cornice--a locally unusual refinement--crowns the north and south facades; all windows retain their original louvered shutters. (The end--west--wall has a beaded cornice flush with the roof; the smaller section has a plain box cornice; that facade has two windows per floor, regularly placed around a central protruding stone chimney; the windows are two-thirds versions of the six-over-six windows on the main facades, that is, they measure four-over-four but would be identical to the others if all were six-over-six.

The exterior is given unity by beaded box cornices, repeated window treatment, and other devices; the interior is given unity by fine and uniform late federal wooden trim including delicately molded chairrails, reeded door surrounds with bulls'-eye blocks, and six-panel doors between all rooms. Virtually all of this trim remains intact. In addition, the stair, with its square balusters and simply carved step-end trim, is a good example of Harford County federal design dicta; it closely resembles the stairhall at Woodside (National Register), a stone house about two miles away built in 1823. The mantle in the parlor, with its carved pilasters and suggestion of a full entablature in the mantle shelf, is also a good example of its time and place and is similar in spirit to mantels seen in nearby Mount Adams (built in 1817 and listed in the National Register). Flooring throughout much of the

See Continuation Sheet 7.4

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Woodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 7 Page 7.4

house is made of uniform-width white pine boards and is unchanged from the 1820s.

Two stone outbuildings stand on the property. A one-story structure, located about 50 feet northeast of the old kitchen, is thought to have been slaves quarters. It has been remodelled--it originally had a frame second story--and is now a garage and storage room and is non-contributing. Unchanged (but of uncertain date) is a still-functioning spring house built into the foot of a hill about 150 yards south of the main house. Of native stone (and so carefully coursed as to suggest that it might be a contemporary of the 1820s addition) its barrel-vaulted roof makes it resemble a modern Quonset hut in design. No similar stone construction is known to exist in Harford County.

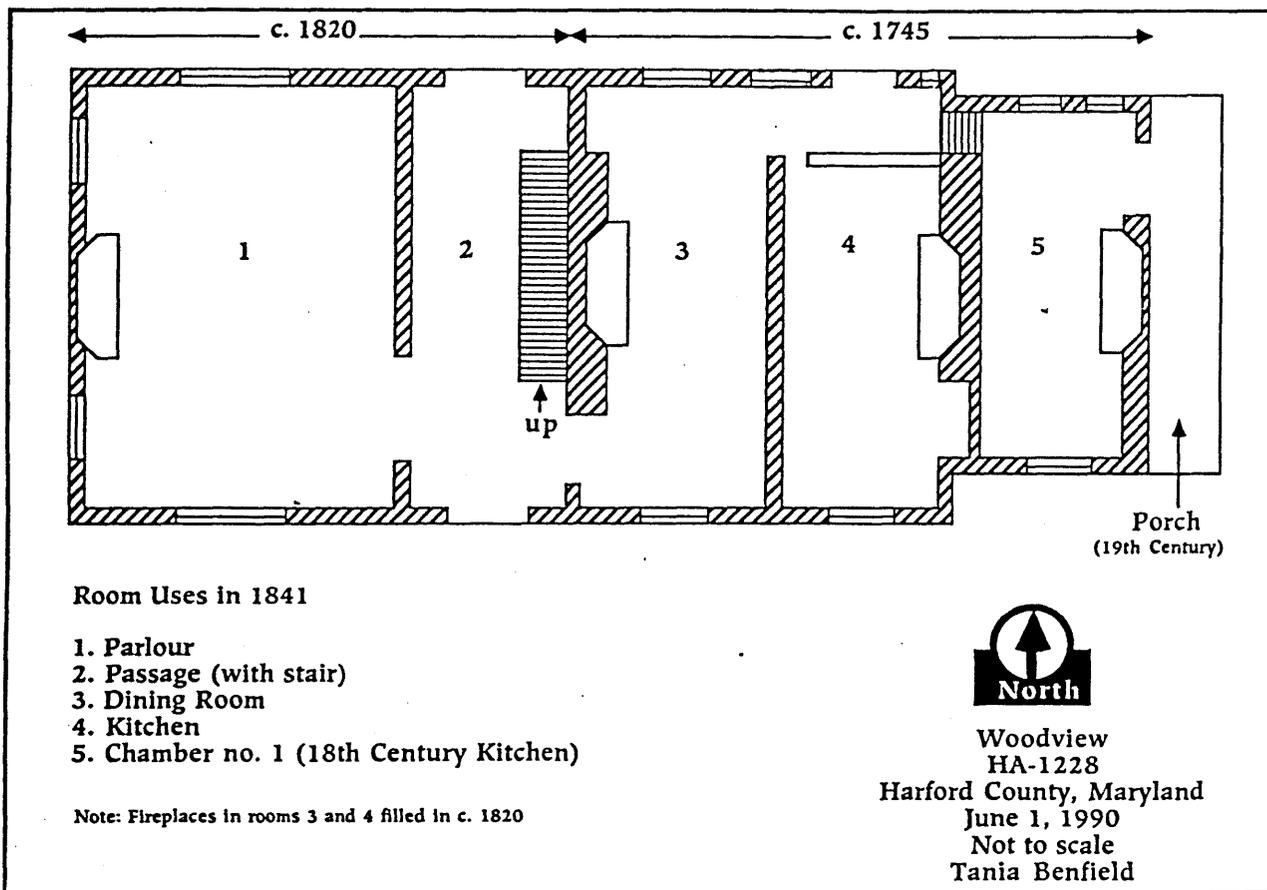
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Woodview HA-1228
Harford County
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 7.5

first floor plan



8. Statement of Significance

HA-1228

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1744, c.1820

Significant Dates

1744
c.1820

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Woodview, significant for its architecture, is a superior example of two distinct periods of Harford County building. The still-discernable older section, probably built c. 1745 after the locally prominent Norris family acquired the land in 1744, is one of a handful of remaining examples of the sort of mid-18th century vernacular house constructed in Harford County by prosperous second-generation residents, that is, by those men and women, generally children of patentees, whose financial success at farming or milling raised them above the subsistence level but who were unfamiliar with or chose not to follow the more high style Georgian design precepts favored by their worldlier, wealthier neighbors. Eighty years later the house was purchased by the Pue family (six generations of whom have lived there and owned it ever since); the Pues were doctors and industrialists endowed with greater capital and more travelled than the earlier agriculturalist owners had been. Familiar with more formal design dicta, the Pues remodelled and expanded the house in accordance with those principles (although the earlier house is still visible) resulting in one of Harford County's best examples of federal architecture--and finest examples of the stone mason's art--comparable to two federal stone houses built within five years of Woodview's second stage and already listed in the Register.

See continuation sheet 8.1
for HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet 9.1

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 37.87 acres

USGS quad: Edgewood, MD

UTM References

A

1	8	3	8	4	2	8	0	4	3	7	2	6	9	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

1	8	3	8	3	9	5	0	4	3	7	2	2	3	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

1	8	3	8	4	2	1	0	4	3	7	2	3	5	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

1	8	3	8	3	6	7	0	4	3	7	2	7	8	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property consists of parcels 9 and 434 on State Assessment Tax Map No. 56 for Harford County.

See continuation sheet 10.1

Boundary Justification

Boundaries encompass the main home, outbuildings, field, forest, and stream valley that have historically been the setting of Woodview since the nineteenth century.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cristopher Weeks, Preservation Planner

organization Dept. of Planning and Zoning date May, 1990

street & number 220 South Main Street telephone (301)838-6000

city or town Bel Air state Maryland zip code 21014

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Woodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.1

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Contact and Settlement Period	1570-1750 A.D.
Rural Agrarian Intensification	1680-1815 A.D.
Agricultural-Industrial Transition	1815-1870 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Known Design Source: none

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.2

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Generations of historians have observed that while Maryland's Chesapeake Bay coast line was quickly and densely settled in the 17th century, "nothing of especial interest occurred"¹inland and "much of the region inland was not known to white men until well after 1700;"²even though absentee landlords had patented much of the forested interior in the 17th century the land would remain uninhabited for a generation or two. The Bay shoreline of present day Harford County (originally a part of Baltimore County) is pierced by two broad, tidal rivers, the Bush and the Gunpowder. The banks of these rivers were so thoroughly settled at such an early date so as to make them the logical sites of the earliest county seats, Old Baltimore (on the Bush, seat from 1669 until 1691) and Gunpowder (on the Gunpowder, 1691 until 1709). Once the desirable waterfront land had been claimed, colonists used those streams, as well as Winter's and Bynum Runs, to move inland, taking up "land along water courses...gradually extending up into the forests" so that by the time of the Revolution, "the population of Harford County [erected out of Baltimore County in 1773] was about 13,000."³

¹Walter W. Preston, History of Harford County, (Baltimore: Sun Book Office, 1901), p.29.

²C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage, (Bel Air, Maryland: privately printed, 1967), p.28.

³Preston, History, p.29.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.3

Woodview may be read as an embodiment of that upland-settling process. It is built on a part of a 500-acre parcel of land patented as Gibson's Ridge by Miles Gibson in the 17th century.⁴ Based on examination of Restoration-era documents in the Maryland Hall of Records, Gibson appears to have been a typical colonial land speculator; he first enters the records as a patentee in what would become central Harford County in 1668; he acquired more land in the area in 1674, 1676, 1677, 1678 (seven tracts), 1679 (six tracts), 1680, and 1683 (four tracts)⁵. But these are of little but academic interest since there is no evidence to suggest that any settlers filtered into these remote interior reaches; instead, 17th-century colonists stayed on farms and in hamlets such as Old Baltimore and Joppa close to the Chesapeake Bay and the broad, estuarial streams which feed it.

The 500 acres of Gibson's Ridge remained intact (and undeveloped) as the parcel passed back and forth among other land speculators, eventually ending up, in 1742, in the ownership of Thomas White⁶. White was a lawyer born in London in 1704⁷, who sailed to Maryland in 1732, part of "the retinue of Charles Calvert [5th Lord Baltimore], who came out to the province in that year to

⁴Patent in Book TW #26, page 13; copy in the Land Records of Harford County, Bel Air.

⁵Microfilmed records in the Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis.

⁶Baltimore County Deed Book TB #C, page 576.

⁷Historic American Buildings Survey report on Sophia's Dairy made in June 1936; originally recorded as HABS No. MD. 8; reclassified as HABS MD. 13-Belca-1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.4

become governor.⁸ Doubtless aided by his friendship with the Lords Baltimore, White became one of the largest landowners in the colony, amassing over 7700 acres in Baltimore (now Harford) County beginning with his 1730 patent, Polecat Neck.⁹ His lands (including Gibson's Ridge) generally stretched up the still-undeveloped valleys along Winters, Plum Tree, James, and Bynum Run. They also included the tract called Sophia's Dairy, at present day Belcamp.

Then White, presumably seeing possibilities of greater financial reward, moved to the burgeoning city of Philadelphia in 1745. There he married in 1747 and his children achieved some renown: son William became the post-Revolutionary Bishop of Pennsylvania, the first bishop in the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, while a daughter, Mary, married Robert Morris, Signer of the Declaration and widely remembered as the "Financier of the Revolution." White had held on to some of his Maryland lands, including Sophia's Dairy on the then-navigable Bush River at present day Belcamp; he eventually gave that tract to his daughter, Sophia, on the occasion of her marriage to Aquilla Hall in 1768 and on which the Halls (with White's help) built Sophia's Dairy, one of the undisputed great high-style houses of Maryland. Other, more remote, lands were expendable to White, including Gibson's Ridge; he subdivided that tract in 1744 (the year before he moved to Philadelphia) and sold 270 acres of it that year to Benjamin Norris.¹⁰

⁸Walter W. Preston, History of Harford County, (Baltimore: Sun Book Office, 1901), pp. 33, 34.

⁹Preston, History, p. 33.

¹⁰Baltimore County Deed Book TB #D, page 159.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.5

The Norrises lived in an entirely different manner from the comparatively glamorous White. Benjamin Norris, purchaser of part of Gibson's Ridge and the progenitor of the family in America, settled in Harford County around 1690 taking up tracts "extending from Bynum's Run...to the Little Gunpowder Falls"¹¹, turning the virgin land into productive farms and erecting mills along the swift streams. Benjamin Norris also begat a family of sturdy farmers and millers who would continue to clear and use the land along the Bynum Run and Winter's Run valleys for growing grain and for then milling the grain into flour. They also would build, on their productive acres, simple stone houses, a few of which still stand. These survivors include the oldest house on the Olney tract, built by Edward Norris and sometimes dated 1758, sometimes 1765 (HA-881; National Register) and Mount Pleasant or the Norris-Stirling House built by Benjamin Norris's grandson "early in the eighteenth century"¹²; (HA-153; National Register); both of these are close to Winter's Run and less than a half-mile from Woodview.

The Edward Norris house at Olney is particularly instructive since its unaltered plan is a half-scale version of the older section of Woodview. Edward's stone house has one room per floor with a fireplace centered on one end wall and corner winder stair; Woodview originally had two rooms per floor each with a fireplace centered on one end wall and each with a corner winder stair.

¹¹Preston, History, p. 210.

¹²Preston, History, p.210.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.6

Nearby houses with plans and histories similar to Woodview include Joshua's Meadows (HA-356; National Register; standing by 1747) built on a terrace hilltop--a site nearly identical to Woodview--less than a mile and half up the Winter's Run Valley and Broom's Bloom (HA-1075; determined to be National Register-eligible) which is believed to date from the 1740s) and which was built between the Bynum Run and James Run valleys.

The Bonds who built Joshua's Meadows and the Websters who built Broom's Bloom were prosperous millers who played important roles in local activities; the same could be said of the Norrises. Benjamin Norris's grandson Bradford signed the famous Bush Declaration in 1775, one of the earliest declarations of independence in the colonies; he "was also a soldier in the Revolutionary Army, and served with a company raised and operated by his brother," Jacob.¹³ Jacob established "a grist and saw mill on Winters Run 4 miles from Bel Air" which descendants kept running into the 1880s.¹⁴; similarly, Webster and Bond mills dot the area on the 1794 Griffith map of Maryland. "One of Jacob Norris's sons was a commander in the United States Navy, and was lost at sea on the Hornet during the Revolution." Another of Benjamin's grandsons "was very highly esteemed by the people of his community and was appointed to represent them in the first Legislature that was convened after the State government was established."¹⁵ In all, the Norrises,

¹³Preston, History, p. 210.

¹⁴John McGrain, Molinography of Harford County, unpublished typescript in the Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning, Bel Air.

¹⁵Preston, History, p. 211.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.7

prominent Quakers, "by intermarriage with the Tysons and other Quaker families in the Gunpowder Falls Quaker district of Northern Maryland" would remain important in the county's history well into the 19th century¹⁶ just as would the Bonds of Joshua's Meadows and the Websters and Dallams of Broom's Bloom. While these families were prominent, they clearly operated on a different level from Thomas White, and their houses are just as clearly different from--but no less important than--White's magnificent Sophia's Dairy at Belcamp (originally Bull's Camp).

In 1771 Norris's grandson, also named Benjamin, sold 125 acres of the diminished Gibson's Ridge tract as well as 75 acres of "Addition to Gibson's Ridge" to Isaac Whitaker,¹⁷ a member of another prominent milling family. (See, for example, the National Register Whitaker Mill Historic District, HA-1089, 1117, and 1237, located where Whitaker Mill Road crosses Winter's Run, about one-third of a mile upstream from Woodview.) On August 31, 1790, Isaac Whitaker "of Harford County, Farmer" sold the same parcel (125 plus 75 acres) to "John Swinyard Whitaker of Harford County, Farmer."¹⁸ (Four months earlier, on that April 3, Isaac had been involved with a boundary dispute involving various "tracts on Winter's Run" with Jacob Norris.¹⁹) The Federal Direct Tax of 1798, one of the earliest reliable records of what was built in America, notes that John S. "Waittaker"

¹⁶J. Alexis Shriver, History of Old Olney, privately published pamphlet, copy Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning.

¹⁷Baltimore County Deed Book C, page 110.

¹⁸Harford County Deed Book JLG #K, page 488.

¹⁹JLG #I, page 124.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.8

was assessed for a "2 story stone house" measuring 39' by 25' and a "24 x 25 kitchen, stone", dimensions which line up nicely with the oldest sections of Woodview. "Waittaker" was also assessed for a pair of matching stone "outhouses", each 30' by 22', one of which could be the one-story stone structure near the house. (The springhouse--see Description--does not remotely come close to these dimensions.)

John S. Whitaker lived on into the early years of the Republic (there was a John Whitaker listed as an enlisted man in "Captain Robert Harris's Company of Harford Rifles" in the Revolution²⁰) to die in 1815 and on March 15, 1815, one Henry Martin bought the "goods, chattels and tenements of John S. Whitaker, deceased" which had to be sold at a Sheriff's Sale to pay off the estate's debts.²¹

Actually, Whitaker had sold the property to Martin in 1812 for \$1500²², so perhaps the 1815 sale was merely some sort of confirmatory action. Martin was listed as owner of "Lands part of Gibson's Ridge and Addition Do." in the 1814 Direct Tax; the appraisers then noted "whereon are erected a dwelling house of stone 3-? by 2-? two story high" and "one kitchen 21 by 28 of stone." (Hard-to-decipher handwriting it impossible to determine whether the house dimensions are 39 by 29 or

²⁰Preston, History, p. 211.

²¹HD #Y, page 259.

²²HD #W, page 309.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.9

30 by 20; either would be reasonably close to what was noted in 1798 and to what stands now. The kitchen dimensions are 3 feet off length and width--would that represent the difference between measurements of a thick-walled stone structure taken internally and externally?) The 1814 appraisers also assessed a "one cooper shop 35 by 16 stone" which may be one of the 1798 outbuildings. They also observed three other outbuildings, a smokehouse, a stable, and a log barn and described them as "old", "very sorry", and "not good for much" respectively.

The metes and bounds descriptions for both the 1812 and 1815 sales (the property is identical) begins at the poplar tree that was the original beginning of Gibson's Ridge. Martin quickly passed from the scene for he turned around and sold the same land (125 acres plus 75) on December 10, 1817, to Caleb Pue (1780-1841) for \$3000 (a 100% profit in two years).²³

With the more worldly Pues, whose descendants have continuously owned and lived in the property to this day, Woodview's history takes a shift from the Norris-Whitaker occupancy. The Orphan's Court papers for John S. Whitaker show a total estate valued at \$307.90, with the two largest items being "5 hogs at \$10 each" and "a small quantity of corn...\$49;" furnishings in the old two-room plan house (by then the dwelling was over 70 years old) were grouped together in a jumbled manner making a room-by-room comparison impossible, but nonetheless making it easy to see that Whitaker lived simply: except for a bed valued at \$22.50, no furniture was worth more than "5 old

²³HD #1, page 175.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.10

chairs, \$3.12." (For comparison, a "barrell dried peaches" was valued at \$4.00.)²⁴

The Franco-Irish Huguenot Pue family had for some generations lived with concerns beyond five hogs and a barrel of dried peaches. In the 17th century one of Caleb Pue's ancestors had established Pue's Occurrences,[sic] the first newspaper in Ireland. Caleb's father, Dr. Michael Pue (1742-1795) was a Dublin-born physician who immigrated to America and settled in Baltimore City in the 1760s;²⁵ he evidently prospered there for a Dr. Pue "was the largest taxpayer in the city [Baltimore] in 1765" and "his descendants have long been associated with the history of Maryland."²⁶ In 1769 Caleb Pue (a son of Dr. Michael Pue) married Priscilla Dorsey (b. 1725), whose parents, Caleb and Priscilla Hill Dorsey, had begun the house known as Belmont in Elkridge, Howard County, in the 1730s. Priscilla Dorsey Pue's sister, Rebecca (1739-1812), married Charles Ridgley;²⁷ this is of more than genealogical interest for the Ridgleys, Dorseys, and Pues were not only connected by blood, they were also in the iron business together: Dr. Michael Pue established "extensive ironworks in Anne Arundel County" which he operated with the help of his

²⁴Harford County Estate No. 1392.

²⁵Material in possession of Michael Pue Crocker, Woodview, Bel Air, Maryland. See also Robert Hunter, The History of the Irish Newspaper 1685-1760, (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1967) at pp. 26,34,38,58-60,63,131-133,159, and 166-167.

²⁶Portrait and Biographical Record of Harford and Cecil Counties, (New York: Chapman Publishing Company, 1897), p. 153.

²⁷Crocker papers. See also Edward C. Papenfuse et al, A Biographical Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature, 1635-1789, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979). pp.275,682-684.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.11

sons-in-law, Pue and Ridgley. Of course Ridgley went on to even greater success in the iron business than his relations enjoyed as his mansion Hampton, built just after the Revolution, evinces.

Caleb Pue, fifth child of Dr. and Mrs. Michael Pue, was born near Elkridge in present day Howard County but moved to Harford County in the early 19th century; upon his arrival in Harford, he settled down to lead the life of a successful entrepreneur, buying and selling lands throughout the county; when he died in 1841 he owned, in addition to Woodview/Gibson's Ridge, three tenant farms fronting the Chesapeake in the Gunpowder Neck (totalling 530 acres and regarding the sale of which he had exchanged several letters with the Philadelphia sportsman General George Cadwalader), two lots in the then flourishing town of Abingdon on the Old Post Road, and adjacent to the Woodview farm "where Caleb Pue lived"²⁸, what is now known as Whitaker Mill and its surrounding farm. His capitalistic ventures led him into Baltimore City, too, for at his death he owned four improved and rent-producing lots in town, valuable property near the harbor. He also owned a good deal of stock in various Baltimore banks and he invested in such public-spirited ventures as "737 shares Reisterstown Road stock, \$856" and "8 shares Baltimore Water Stock" and "376 shares Frederick Town Road stock, \$1,974;" all these shares were valued at \$8,690.²⁹

In 1822, five years after he purchased Woodview, Caleb Pue married his second wife (his first wife

²⁸Harford County Equity Case No. 565.

²⁹Harford County Estate No. 2224.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.12

having died); born Harriet Bond, the second Mrs. Pue was a descendant of the well-to-do milling and land-owning Bond family, whose seat, Joshua's Meadows, is, as has been discussed, located less than two miles up Winter's Run from Woodview. It is not impossible that Woodview's remodelling marks the occasion of the marriage. It is also worth noting that at approximately the same time the Bonds were remodelling Joshua's Meadows with trim--chairrails, mantels, door surrounds with bulls-eye block--that closely resembles the trim in Woodview.

If it is certain that Caleb Pue may be credited with the present appearance of Woodview, it is easy to assume that the old and largely astylar Norris-Whitaker house would not have suited his tastes, scion as he was, of several high-style houses in the Baltimore area. (In addition to his grandparents' Belmont and his aunt's Hampton, there is Temora, an Italianate villa built by a cousin, Dr. Arthur Pue [born around 1807], to the design of architect Nathan G. Starkweather.³⁰) To make Woodview grander, and possibly to keep up with what his Bond in-laws were doing at Joshua's Meadows, Pue added the hall and parlor wing to the west.

Even though Pue took care to keep the old roofline intact, his work is easy to separate visually from the older dwelling: on the exterior it is marked by more refined stone work (defined coursing, large quoins, and notable stone lintels) and wood trim (window framing, beaded box cornice, and elaborate panelled entrance doors) all of which had been absent in the older section. Moreover,

³⁰Joetta M. Cramm, A Pictorial History of Howard County, (Norfolk, Virginia: Donning Company, 1987), p. 76.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.13

Pue's addition is more generously scaled than the Norris-Whitaker house had been, a fact quickly suggested by the window paning: six-over-six in the old wing; eight-over-eight in Pue's wing. On the interior, Pue gave his new rooms up-to-date wood trim (scroll step ends, beaded and multipart chairrails, six-panel doors, beaded baseboards, door surrounds with bulls-eye blocks) and he carried these motifs into the older wing as well. His new, elegant, open stair rendered the old winder stairs obsolete and he removed the one from what became his dining room, turning the space into a closet. The winder stair in the room Pue made over into a kitchen remained until the 1930s; doubtless such an old-fashioned stair would have been satisfactory for a service space.

Pue's work at Woodview compares favorably with other stone federal houses in Harford County. Perhaps its closest peer, both geographically and chronologically, is Woodside (HA-693, 694, 695, 696; National Register); located about two miles away and built in 1823, the 2 1/2-story, sidehall/double parlor Woodside suggests Woodview in massing, in exterior stone work, and in interior trim (although Woodside has one touch--marbleized baseboards--missing from Woodview). These similarities may also be seen at Oak Farm (HA-169; listed in the National Register as part of the Finney Houses Historic District), an 1821 stone, sidehall/double parlor house built about eight miles away. It is worth noting that Woodside and Oak Farm were built by professional men (the former by a doctor, the latter by a minister) who would have enjoyed a similar economic (and presumably cultural) status as the sophisticated Pue.

In addition to the house and remodelled slaves quarters, the Woodview property contains one

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.14

outbuilding--the springhouse-- that is unusual even in Harford County, a county rich in idiosyncratic dependencies. One comparable structure might be the D.H. Springhouse (HA-44; National Register) a quirky one-story stone springhouse near Deer Creek. Woodview's springhouse, built entirely of stone, is just as interesting for it is of arched construction and resembles a modern Quonset hut in form. Still functioning with a spring that has never failed, it is believed to be unique in appearance and manner of construction.

There is no question but that the main house's configuration may be credited to Pue: it was not standing in 1814, just before he bought the property, yet it was in place at the time of his death, a fact proven by his estate inventory, made in 1841. The appraisers carefully listed the household furnishings in a room-by-room manner (unlike their rather slapdash method when dealing with Whitaker) making it easy to compare the house then with the house as it now stands. They included the Parlour (with elegant touches such as "1 pr. card tables \$20" and "1 pair Seegar Tongs \$2" as well as fireplace equipment such as brass andirons, fender, shovel, and tongs. The parlor also contained three decanters and roughly four dozen glasses of various sorts, possibly for the "50 bottles Port Wine @ 25 cents" or the "Large stone Jug with Whiskey" or "1 demijohn with Whiskey" also noted. Next came (and comes) the Passage which held "14 yds Carpeting" as well as "17 yds ditto on the stair" along with "18 stair rods." Progressing, one comes to the Dining Room (as one would today) which was appropriately furnished. The came--and comes--the Kitchen; then "Chamber No. 1" which was probably the present small wing, the 18th-century kitchen; it served as a sort of store room with dozens of pairs of sheets, towels, blankets, quilts, and table cloths.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.15

There follows a sequence of four rooms, presumably the upstairs bedrooms with, as "Room No. 5" the small second-story room in the wing since; like the old kitchen below, it seems to have been for storage since it contained, among other bric-a-brac, "1 Side Saddle", "1 Spinning Wheel", "1 Post Auger", "72 Bushels Timothy Seed", "1 large butter tub", and "1 Bushel Salt" in addition to a bedstead.

The Inventory also listed 11 slaves (valued from \$475 to \$100), giving support to the family oral tradition that the one-story stone outbuilding near the house was a slaves quarters. In all, Caleb Pue's personal property was valued at \$4,856.72, certainly for then a respectable figure.³¹

With Pue's death, his many parcels of real property were divided among his heirs (although it required a complicated equity case to do so); son Michael E. Pue (1817-1890) received Woodview "where Caleb Pue lived."

Caleb Pue's death may be said to mark the end of the period of significance for the property and the buildings have not been appreciably altered since. Some account might be taken of his immediate descendants since they lived in the house in a manner that continued to evoke his own background. Michael Pue, who moved to Woodview his parents (Caleb Pue and Caleb's first wife), became "one of the best known and most estimable citizens of Harford." He seems to have rested

³¹Estate No. 2224.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.16

on his family's economic laurels and lived, at Woodview, the quiet life of "an eminent farmer and horticulturalist, and took great pride in his farm, vineyards, and orchards." His obituary noted that "though taking a proper interest in public affairs he avoided active participation in politics;" the obituary writer went on to quote, apropos Michael Pue, Horace's well-known lines Beatus ille, qui procul negotiis/Ut prisca gens mortalium/Paterna rura bobus exercet Suis.³² (Loosely, "Fortunate is he who, like the former race of men, works with his cattle on his paternal land, far from mercantile concerns.")

Michael's son, Edward Hill Dorsey Pue (1840-1905), who would inherit Woodview (and is the present owner's grandfather) was, according to the Portrait and Biographical Record of Harford and Cecil Counties, born in Woodview. His mother was "Elizabeth Bull..a member of an old Harford County family," one of whose brothers was a doctor and another was "state's attorney of Harford County."³³

When the Civil War broke out "his decided southern sympathies led him to enlist in the Confederate army;" an officer, "Captain Pue", commanded Company K of J.E.B. Stuart's First Virginia Cavalry and took "an active part" in "every battle of the eastern army under General Lee,

³²Crocker papers.

³³Portrait, p. 153. Elizabeth Bull's family had settled at what was called Camp, since elided to "Belcamp;" and site at present day Sophia's Dairy.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetWoodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.17

amounting to two hundred and fifty battles and skirmishes³⁴, commanding Company K of J.E.B. Stuart's First Virginia Cavalry." The Baltimore Sun observed that this "gallant Maryland Confederate soldier" believed that "the invasion of the South was born of the devil, unwarranted, and a desecration...[and] believed it to be his duty to aid in repelling the invaders." Consequently, "he was always in the advance of his command, meeting the first shock of the Federal charge...until he assumed the appearance of a gladiator."³⁵ After the war E.H.D. Pue spent seven years in Virginia before "he returned to Harford County, where he...occupied his beautiful country home. Like his father, he is a Democrat in politics and an Episcopalian in religious connections."³⁶

In 1879 Capt. Pue married Cornelia Dunn, born in New Orleans and "a lady of fine education; " her father, an Episcopal minister, had been a "colonel on General Polk's staff and chaplain of the Louisiana Rifles. Her maternal grandfather (General Tobias Stansbury)...was a general in the army and assisted in defending Baltimore during the War of 1812. One of her uncles...was chief engineer in the army and a colonel in Beauregard's staff. The family is of aristocratic southern lineage and its members have been cultured and well educated"³⁷, thereby continuing the manner

³⁴Portrait, p. 153.

³⁵Crocker papers.

³⁶Portrait, p.153.

³⁷Portrait, p.154. Jefferson Davis, Mrs. Pue's godfather, had enrolled his sons in a church school conducted in conjunction with nearby St. Mary's Church (HA-168; National Register), where Michael E. Pue had been the first communicant; Davis often visited Mr. and Mrs. E.H.D. Pue at Woodview when he visited his sons at school.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Woodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 8 Page 8.18

of life Caleb Pue brought to Harford County when he purchased and remodelled Woodview in the 1820s. The house has remained in the possession of Caleb's descendants, the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Pue Crocker, taking title from his mother, Berthenia Stansbury Pue Crocker and her two sisters the late Clara Pue Graham and Elizabeth Pue Williams, in 1951.³⁸

³⁸Deed GRG 364, page 234.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Woodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 9 Page 9.1

Land, Equity, and Probate records of Harford County, Maryland; Court House, Bel Air. (For Documentation before the erection of the county in 1773)

Land Records of Baltimore County; microfilm in the Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis. (For material before 1773)

Interviews with and material in possession of Michael Pue Crocker, Woodview, Bel Air, Maryland.

Material in the archives of the Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Walter W. Preston, History of Harford County, (Baltimore: Sun Book Office, 1901).

John McGrain, Molinography of Harford County, unpublished typescript in the Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning, Bel Air.

Edward C. Papenfuse et al., A Biographical Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature, 1635-1789, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979).

Robert Hunter, The History of the Irish Newspaper 1685-1760, (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1967).

Portrait and Biographical Record of Harford and Cecil Counties, (New York: Chapman Publishing Company, 1897).

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties: Harford County, Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Woodview
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1228

Section number 10 Page 10.1

Harford County Tax Map No. 56

