

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 12 1976  
DATE ENTERED JUN 17 1976

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC   Knocks Folly; Janvier House, Barro11 House  
AND/OR COMMON  KNOCKS FOLLY (preferred)

### 2 LOCATION

*West of Kennedyville on N D 480*  
STREET & NUMBER East side of Turner's Creek Road (Route 448), 2.3 miles north of its intersection with Md. Route 566  
CITY, TOWN Kennedyville  
STATE Maryland  
VICINITY OF First  
CODE 24  
COUNTY Kent  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
CODE 029

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP  | STATUS  | PRESENT USE                                      |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED                   | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH                          | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS           | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE      | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT           |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED              | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED          | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT              |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                         | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL              |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY                |
|   |  |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: to be |

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland used as museum or rented  
STREET & NUMBER Kent County Courthouse  
CITY, TOWN Chestertown  
STATE Maryland  
VICINITY OF 21620

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Chestertown  
STATE Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE  
\_FEDERAL \_STATE \_COUNTY \_LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>CONDITION</b>                         |                                       | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                              | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD            | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED              | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Janvier House, or Knocks Folly Farm, is an unusual combination of a small, one and one-half story, mid-eighteenth century log house with a three-story, Federal brick wing. The log portion, on a stone foundation 25 feet by 31 feet, is covered with wide beaded clapboard and has a shed roof extending from the dormer window sills over a large brick-paved porch. It is a true one and one-half story structure, having walls that continue above the second floor joists, and dormer windows set directly above the wall. There is a large, square brick chimney in the center of the building with baffle to deflect the rain from the flues. The fenestration is irregular, having a single six-panel door onto the porch and one window in each of the two rooms with 6/6 sash and two-panel shutters. There are two doors on the east side, one on the south, and a window on the north gable. There are two dormers on each side of the A-roof, a single window on both gables, and a vent to the supra-attic.

The interior is divided into two long, narrow rooms, i.e., dining room and kitchen with fireplace and stair between. Beneath the enclosed stair is a closet with a small pass-through to the kitchen. There is also an enclosed stair in the kitchen. What little woodwork exists in the log portion of the house closely resembles that of the Federal portion. Apparently the interior of the log portion was remodeled either before or during the construction of the brick portion.

On the second story, the room above the kitchen has been divided into a bath and small bedroom, the latter having log walls with the chinking exposed and the small segmentally arched fireplace exposed to its natural brick. Above the dining room, the bedroom has plastered and papered walls, a mantel above the small fireplace, and a closet of vertical beaded boards. A door atop a short flight of steps opens into the stair landing of the brick portion. On the first story the steep steps ascend to the hall beneath the main stair.

Architecturally, the brick portion of the house is more significant, being a good example of Federal architecture with well executed detail. Its west facade is on the plane with the porch of the log portion and its south side joins the log portion by about ten feet. A one-story, Ante-bellum porch with tin ogee roof extends across the three-bay facade. The entrance on the south side of the west facade has a fine architrave with fluted, entasized pilasters, paneled jambs, and a series of gougework, rope, fluted and drill-hole carving beneath the semi-circular fanlight with swag muntins. The pediment above the fanlight was removed when the Victorian porch was installed, but stored in the attic where it still exists. Its detail has the same refinement as the other parts of the architrave. The main cornice has shaped modillions and a fascia consisting of gougework rosettes separated by vertical rows of drill-holes. The facade is laid in Flemish bond and the other sides in common bond. The sash decrease in height on the second and third floors, there being 12/12 on the first, 8/12 on the second and 8/8 on the third, each with louvered shutters dating from the Victorian period. Two chimneys centered on the gables give even more height to the tall house. The south chimney is decorative. Two small, four-pane casements flank the chimneys in the gables. The north gable wall also has two windows on each story, probably placed for the superior view over Turners Creek and the Sassafras River. The basement entrance is located on the east side of the building.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899            | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Knocks Folly is an unusual combination of a mid-eighteenth century log building and a turn of the nineteenth century brick townhouse. The 1 1/2 stories and steep A-roof slanting sharply into a porch of the earlier, vernacular structure contrast dramatically with the narrow verticality of the three-story, Federal style building. This difference is a reflection of the economic situation and social status of the men who built the two structures. Architecturally, the log house is dated to the mid-eighteenth century. In the records, no improvements are mentioned in the patent and it seems likely that the building was constructed circa 1753. Because the property was owned by nonresident merchants, it is probable that this part of Knocks Folly was built by a tenant farmer. The brick house, on the other hand, was constructed by the family of a very wealthy merchant, and its Federal style reflects their prosperity.

The buildings are situated on a tract of land called Knocks Folly<sup>1</sup> which was surveyed in 1738 for John Redgrave, who two days later gave it to Henry Knock, Junior. The certificate for seven acres was approved in 1743, but the land was not patented until ten years later, just after Thomas Crosby purchased it from Henry Knock. Crosby, probably a merchant, was at that time living in Pennsylvania. When he died in 1763, he was living in Bristol, England, and he left "all such Real Estate as he should die Seized with or possessed of . . . as well in the Kingdom of Great Britain as in Jamaica Pensylvania North America or elsewhere," to be sold by Harford and Edward Lloyd, merchants of Bristol. In 1770 Harford Lloyd duly sold the seven acres of Knocks Folly, with buildings, to Tobias Rudulph of Cecil County and Donaldson Yeates of Delaware, both merchants.<sup>2</sup>

In the 1783 Tax Assessment for Kent County, Donaldson Yeates had 1792 1/2 acres with fifty-six slaves and sixty white inhabitants. He died in 1796, by then a resident of Kent County, and left his three sons their choice of the different properties he owned. George Yeates, his eldest son, chose to take possession of his father's land in Kent County, including Knocks Folly. A statement in the supplement to the will of Donaldson Yeates indicates that the construction of the brick wing of Knocks Folly was initiated by him and probably completed by his wife, Mary Yeates, after his death. In this supplement, he wrote, "It is my Will and desire that the building that I am about projecting shall be fully finished and this to be done at the expense of my Estate." In 1807 George Yeates, then a merchant living in Baltimore, deeded a half share in Knocks Folly to his cousin, John Lathim of Kent County, as security in a business dealing. Five years later he sold the other half part to Lathim's daughter, Elizabeth Medford, who left it to her daughter Hannah in her will of 1827.<sup>3</sup>

see continuation sheet #2

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land and Probate Records of Kent County, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.  
 Tax Assessment of 1783, District 4, Kent County, Hall of Records.  
 Barringer, Brandon, and Barroll, L. Wethered. The Wethered Book. Peterborough, New  
 Hampshire: Richard R. Smith, Publishers, 1967.  
 Forman, H. Chandlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland:  
 By the Author, 1934.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 21 acres

UTM REFERENCES NO UTM TICKS ON QUADRANGLE, SEE BELOW FOR LATITUDE/LONGITUDE

|   |      |         |          |   |      |         |          |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 18   | 115000  | 181000   | B | 18   | 115000  | 181000   |
|   | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |   | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | 18   | 115000  | 181000   | D | 18   | 115000  | 181000   |
|   | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |   | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A (NW) lat. 39° 21' 23" long. 75° 59' 04"  
 B (NE) lat. 39° 21' 22" long. 75° 59' 00"  
 C (SE) lat. 39° 21' 06" long. 75° 58' 59"

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

|        |                  |                   |       |      |        |      |
|--------|------------------|-------------------|-------|------|--------|------|
| D (SW) | lat. 39° 21' 08" | long. 75° 59' 13" | STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|        |                  |                   | STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant; Pamela James, Assistant Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

July 1972, October 1975

STREET & NUMBER

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*John M. Pearce*  
SHPO

DATE

1/7/76

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6/17/76

DATE

6.16.76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Knocks Folly  
Kent County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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PAGE

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Description, continued

The interior of the Federal portion of the house is divided into stair hall and parlor. The stair ascends to the attic, commencing on the south wall to a landing extending across the east wall and a short flight on the inside (north) wall. The triangular wall enclosing the basement stair has three recessed panels. The steps have wave-like fretwork applied to the fascia. The balustrade has turned newels, very thin, turned balusters, a natural finished poplar handrail over the newels, and a half rail along the inside wall supported by fluted pilasters. The half rail is used for chair rail in the stair hall only. A large window on the south wall with recessed paneled jambs lights the hall. Carved keystone and impost blocks add refinement to the arched door trim. Original brass box locks exist on several of the doors throughout the house.

All six windows of the parlor have trim and jambs extending to the floor with raised panel jambs and two panels beneath the windows. The mantel is the best in the building, having a series of small carved pineapples between dentils in the molding of the shelf, recessed panel pilasters boasting egg and dart molding around the panels, rows of flutes between the pilasters and shelf, and the three blocks between filled with gougework carving. Although the cornice of the room is bold, its gougework rosettes and flutes appear weak in comparison to the superior workmanship and profusion of detail on the mantel. The second story floor plan is identical to the first. The jamb and trim stop at the chair rail and the mantel has a painted scene between the fluted plinth blocks. The third floor has three small rooms, each with a closet except the east room which has two. Door and window trim is simpler than that of the first and second stories. In the attic is an open space at the head of the stair and a partially finished storage area.

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Knocks Folly  
Kent County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Significance, continued

Hannah Medford married Peregrine Wethered shortly after her mother's death in 1827. The Wethereds were a well-known family in Kent County and Peregrine farmed the land on Turners Creek while maintaining close ties with his relatives and the business world in Baltimore. He died in 1858 and left his property at Turners Creek to his daughter Mary Elizabeth, later Mrs. William Janvier. In his will, the property is described as "consisting of the Granary, wharf, store house, dwelling houses, lots, gardens and all other out houses thereon with the brick Mansion House [presumed to be the brick portion of Knocks Folly] and all the lands, houses, and appurtenances thereto attached and belonging . . . ."<sup>4</sup>

Knocks Folly Farm and twenty-one acres surrounding it were deeded to the Kent County Commissioners in 1974 by the descendants of Mrs. Janvier.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>This building, known in the second half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century as the Janvier House after its then occupants, is now commonly called Knocks Folly. However, because the original tract called Knocks Folly was only seven acres in size and because the men who owned it also owned parts of other tracts surrounding Turners Creek, it is impossible to be absolutely certain on which particular tract this building stands. Donaldson Yeates acquired six acres of Broad Oak in 1789 (Kent County Deed EF 7/504), and his wife, Mary Yeates, purchased another 28 5/8 acres just after his death, in 1797 (Kent County Deed BC 4/637). Broad Oak was situated to the southeast of the road to Turners Creek landing and could be the location of this building. However, nothing can be definitely proven unless the boundaries of the patented tracts in this area can be plotted on a map to show which buildings are included within which tracts.

<sup>2</sup>Patents GS 1/178 and BY & GS 3/473; and Kent County Deed DD 3/528; Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

<sup>3</sup>Kent County Will 7/547; Kent County Deeds BC 5/16 and BC 7/205; and Kent County Will 11/20; Hall of Records.

<sup>4</sup>Kent County Will JF 1/103.

<sup>5</sup>Kent County Deed 60/1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
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| DATE ENTERED     | JUN 17 1976 |

Knocks Folly  
Kent County  
Maryland

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on Turner Creek Road (Maryland Route 448) 600 feet from the end of said road, running east 200 feet to the west shore of Turner Creek, then following the shoreline south for 1900 feet, then running west to Turner Creek Road and following the said road 1700 feet to the point of beginning, containing 21 acres.

Addition to the DESCRIPTION

The other buildings on this property are two barns, not of particular interest to the nomination of Knocks Folly.

pmj  
2/23/76