

PH 0300055

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 11 1975
DATE ENTERED NOV 20 1975

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

Bennett's Adventure

(Bennett's Adventure)

LEBEN 2-75

AND/OR COMMON

Dr. Paul Jones Farm. Westfield

DASHIELL'S LOT

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Clifford Cooper Road, 3 miles west of Allen

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Allen

VICINITY OF

First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Wicomico

CODE

045

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Thomas Horner

STREET & NUMBER

Cooper Road, P. O. Box 151

CITY, TOWN

Allen

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wicomico County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Salisbury

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the north bank of Wicomico Creek three miles west of Allen on Clifford Cooper Road is Bennett's Adventure. This gambrel roof house is one and one half stories, five bays wide and two deep. It is built of brick laid in English bond. On the north side is a central doorway with a pedimented portico supported by square fluted columns. There is a twelve over twelve light window with three panel shutters in each of the remaining four bays. Between the windows glazed headers form interlocking diamonds. Above the door and the end bays are tall, narrow, pedimented dormers with nine over six sash windows. There is a modillion cornice along the slate roof. The house also has a brick watertable. The original segmental arches over the windows have been replaced by twentieth-century brickwork.

The west end has two windows on the first story, each with four over two sash and two panel shutters. Between these windows is a small, projecting, pedimented entrance. There is a two course belt between the first and second stories. In the gambrel are two windows also with four over two sash and two panel shutters. There is an inside end chimney in both the east and west ends. The common bond on this end has three courses of stretchers to every one of headers.

The south, or river, side has a screened porch which extends across the first story to within approximately three feet of the east end and has a railing along the roof edge. The brick that was visible was laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers and whitewashed to approximately the ceiling line of the present porch. There are five pedimented dormers on this side.

The east gambrel is identical to the west, a one-story hyphen connects the one and one half story wing with a gambrel roof, to the main block. Both the wing and hyphen are twentieth-century additions. The hyphen is one bay wide and is covered with beaded clapboard. Along the edge of the gable roof is a dentil cornice. The wing is two bays wide, and constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond. There is a six over six sash window in each bay on the north and south sides with a six over six light dormer directly above each window. There is a screened porch across the east end of the wing.

Bennett's Adventure is a two-room plan with central hall. The west room has full paneling on two sides. Fluted pilasters flank the mantelpiece which has dentil molding on the soffit of the mantel shelf. Closets flank the fireplace. The central hall is paneled on three sides.

gambrel

8 SIGNIFICANCE

6601-4-75

| 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

Bennett's Adventure¹ gains architectural significance from the interlocking diamond patterns in the brickwork and the original paneling in the west room and central hall, and historical significance from its association with one of the governors of the Virginia colony and with the prominent Dashiell family of Maryland.

In 1665 Major Richard Bennett patented a tract called Bennett's Adventure, 2500 acres on the north side of Wicomico Creek. It was one of the few grants issued in what later became Somerset County that contained the required acreage to become a manor.²

Richard Bennett had emigrated to the Virginia colony after the massacre of 1622 to take charge of the plantation of Edward Bennett. A moderate Puritan, he joined the Puritan colony in Maryland for a short time in 1649, at a time when religious persecution in Virginia discouraged Puritan settlement. After his return to Virginia, he became very active in the affairs of the colony, serving as a Major General in the Virginia militia and holding the offices of Justice of the Peace, Burgess and Councilor. In 1652 when the first General Assembly met at Jamestown after the fall of the royal government, Bennett was appointed Governor, holding the office until 1655 when he became the agent for the Virginia colony in England.

¹Bennett's Adventure was renamed Bryan's Manor by its circa 1935-1974 owner, Charles J. Bryan. The new owner, Mr. Thomas Horner, is again calling the house Bennett's Adventure. Other names the house has gone by in the past are Westfield and the Dr. Paul Jones Farm.

²"Lord Baltimore desired to establish . . . a landholding aristocracy after the pattern of feudal England. He offered to constitute manors for his chief tenants with the trappings of a medieval fief Some few manors were actually laid out . . . but feudalism never flourished The land holding pattern from the earliest years was . . . the smaller plantation unit." Morris L. Radoff, The Old Line State (Baltimore: Twentieth Century Printing Company, Inc., 1971), p. 14.

see continuation sheet

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dashiell Family Records. 3 volumes. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Forman, Henry Chandlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland: By the Author, 1934.

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 24
 UTM REFERENCES

*UTM of wall
10 22 75*

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|------------------|--------------------|
| <u>A</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>43,565,0</u> | <u>42,3,75,8,0</u> | <u>A</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>43,59,4,0</u> | <u>42,3,75,2,0</u> |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| <u>B</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>43,58,6,0</u> | <u>42,3,71,4,0</u> | <u>C</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>43,55,5,0</u> | <u>42,3,72,1,0</u> |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ann E. Hill, Summer Intern; Lois Snyderman, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trsut

DATE

February 1975

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

William C. Stinson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

April 10, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/20/95

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11.12.75

Acting

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Bennett's Adventure

8. Significance, continued

In 1721 George Dashiell (1790-1748) bought the land from one of Richard Bennett's grandchildren and had it resurveyed and patented for 1740 acres under the name of Dashiell's Lot. The patent, issued in 1734, mentions "a marked pine standing west from the aforesaid Dashiell's dwelling house,"³ and additional research on the chain of ownership indicates that the house referred to (which was probably erected by George Dashiell), is the one now standing.

Dashiell, a wealthy planter, was a member of the Lower House of the Assembly in 1724, 1745, and 1746. He attained the rank of Colonel in the Maryland militia by 1736.

In 1791 John Stewart, a Colonel in the Salisbury Battalion during the Revolution, acquired the property. Ownership passed to his son, Alexander Stewart, who is listed in the 1798 tax record as the owner and occupant of a house on the north side of Wicomico Creek:

a dwelling house of brick with a cellar. 52 feet by 22 feet one story Hep'd roof with an Ell of wood one story 17 by 20 feet with six windows 64 inches by 36 inches Seven ditto 54 inches by 28 inches Seven ditto 34 inches by 20 inches. In the L three windows 64 inches by 28 inches two ditto 44 inches by 28 inches inside out of repair of the whole (except two rooms) Cook house 16 by 16 feet of wood with two windows 34 inches by 28 inches. One ditto 44 inches by 28. Milk house 11 by 13 feet, Smoke House 16 by 12 feet, Poultry house 12 X 10 feet, carriage House 18 by 15 feet, Erected on 2 acres of land. The whole valued at 1200 dollars.⁴

Bennett's Adventure is now situated in Wicomico County, which was erected by the Assembly in 1867, from sections of both Somerset and Worcester Counties.

³Somerset County Patent Records, Liber EI#1/237, March 7, 1734. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

⁴Federal Direct Tax of 1798 for Somerset County, Wicomico Hundred. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

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Bennett's Adventure

9. Major Bibliographical References, continued

Land and Tax Records for Somerset and Wicomico Counties, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Morton, Richard L. Colonial Virginia. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1960.

Radoff, Morris L. The Old Line State. Baltimore: Twentieth Century Printing Company, Inc., 1971.

Research by Ann Clay, Wicomico County Courthouse, Salisbury, Maryland.