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MHT WO-3

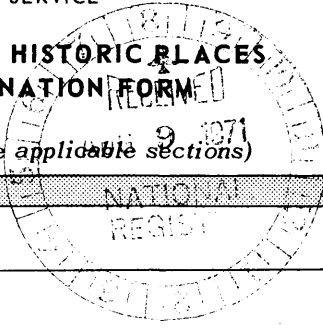
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Worcester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.9.24.0015	DATE 9/17/91



**1. NAME**

COMMON: Genesar

AND/OR HISTORIC: Genezir

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Maryland Route 611, 9 miles south of U.S. Rt. 50 (west 100 yds)

CITY OR TOWN: Berlin (SD)

STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24      COUNTY: Worcester      CODE: 047

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Vacant</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. & Mrs. Donald F. Humphrey

STREET AND NUMBER: 2601 Mason Street

CITY OR TOWN: Wheaton      STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Worcester County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: West Market Street

CITY OR TOWN: Snow Hill      STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1963       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: Dist. of Columbia      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Worcester

ENTRY NUMBER: 71.9.24.0015

DATE: 9/17/91

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the north side of Stephen Decatur Memorial Road, Maryland Route 611, on Lower Sinepuxent Neck in Worcester County, approximately nine miles south of United States Route 50, stands a two-and-one-half story brick building on "Genesar" tract. The house is in very poor condition but is being stabilized for future restoration.

The Architectural Historian and authority on transitional Maryland architecture, Dr. Henry Chandler Forman, FAIA, frequently cites this building as having some of the most unique pattern brickwork diapering in Maryland. It has extensive diamond and chevron glazed brickwork patterns, which are covered with a nineteenth century thin coat of stucco. As transitional architecture, it represents the hold-over forms of mediaeval work and the earliest development towards the more formal Georgian ideals in plan and design. Dr. Forman records drawings of the unique interior woodwork which has been removed. Because of these unusual architectural features it is considered an important early Maryland building.

Its 1971 appearance is little more than a ruin. The south facade is braced with poles extending from a trench in front of the house to the second floor level. A portion of brickwork in the east corner has fallen away, from the ground level to the roof; only a few frames remain at the windows and doors. Temporary supports have been installed to deter further decay. Large portions of the main cornice remain in place and the chimneys are structurally sound above the roof.

Originally, the south facade, forty-five feet in length, had four bays at the first floor level and three bays at the second floor level, symmetrically placed. The two center bays of the first story were formerly doors, one leading into the stair passage, the other into the "Great Room". The first story of the north side was similar, but had only two windows on the second story. It had one small window at the stair landing level.

Each gable end, 19 feet 3 1/2 inches wide, had small windows at the first and second floor levels flanking the fireplaces at each floor level. On the gable at the attic floor level there is a projecting belt course, above which is glazed diapering. The "A" roof, pitched 51 degrees, has a "kick" to the eave. Originally there were three dormers on the south front, matching the one existing dormer on the north side of the roof.

*central hall plan*

The interior originally had two large rooms, approximately 15 feet by 16 feet and 18 feet by 16 feet, opening from either

-see continuation sheet-

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## SIGNIFICANCE

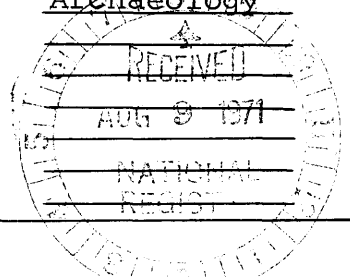
## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | Archaeology   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                      |   |   |



## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house is the only currently known structure of its type on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. It is in very poor condition and is in danger of vandals and the elements. The present owner plans to form an organization to restore the building. It is only two miles from the visitors' center of the Assateague National Seashore, therefore the structure could be a potential tourist attraction as well as a creditable addition to the annual Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage.

The original Genezir land patent, consisting of 2,200 acres was granted to Colonel William Stevens in 1676. He was appointed one of the eight commanders of the Eastern Shore in 1665; one of eight justices for Somerset County in 1666, which county then consisted of the present counties of Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico. In 1669, he was the representative for Somerset County to the Maryland General Assembly. He is sometimes referred to as the first citizen of Somerset County. Although a member of the Church of England, he was partially responsible for the introduction of Presbyterianism in Maryland. He resided at his plantation "Rehoboth", on the Pocomoke River.

In 1681, Colonel Stevens sold Genezir to Edward Whaley and Charles Ratcliffe, who in turn divided the land into two equal parts of 1,100 acres each, Ratcliffe taking possession of the part on which the house now stands. Charles Ratcliffe left his dwelling plantation (700 acres) to his son Charles Jr. in 1696, who later left it to his only daughter, Elizabeth (1709).

John Purnell and Elizabeth Ratcliffe were married in 1719, thus bringing the property into the Purnell family. It is believed that the present brick house was constructed during this period, c. 1732. In 1754 John Purnell willed the property to his son Zadock, who at his death, willed it to his daughter, Sally M. Spence, and after her death, to his grandson, Zadock Spence. In 1867 it was sold to Zadock P. Henry, in

-see continuation sheet-

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Recorder: Michael Bourne June 1970

Sources:

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

Forman, Henry Chandlee. "Genesar on 'The Sea Board Side.'" Maryland Historical Magazine. Vol. L (March 1955), 1-10.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 14' 09"	75° 11' 28"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38° 14' 09"	75° 11' 18"				
SE	38° 14' 01"	75° 11' 18"				
SW	38° 14' 01"	75° 11' 18"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 16 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust      DATE: July 2, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis      STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>    State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Orlando Ridout IV</u> Orlando Ridout IV</p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer for Maryland</u></p> <p>Date <u>July 6, 1971</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Connally</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historical Preservation</p> <p><b>SEP 17 1971</b></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William H. Pringle</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p><b>SEP 14 1971</b></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Worcester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 119240015	DATE 9/17/71

(Number all entries)

Genesar

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

1969

Maryland Historical Trust  
94 College Avenue  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

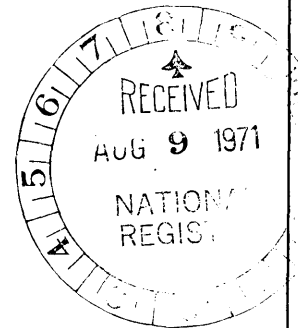
Code: 24

Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn Survey

1951

Maryland Historical Trust  
94 College Avenue  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Code: 24



#7. DESCRIPTION continued.

side of a central passage from which a staircase rises. The ceiling joists were exposed with molded edges. There was probably a partition parallel with the front of the fireplace, creating closets beside the fireplace, which would have been lighted by the small windows in the gable wall, according to local practice. The second story rooms had similar treatment but had plaster ceilings, as the beams are unmolded. Photographs and drawings are extant for the "Great Room Chamber" (second story west room), which had three walls with raised paneling. The fireplace wall was plastered, with closet doors and a Federal style mantel.

The main staircase was enclosed, creating a need for the small window recently discovered beneath the stucco on the north facade. The brick wall is one brick thinner in the east corner, and formerly had a small enclosed winding staircase. The small windows were placed so that each closet and passage had a source of light.

In the early nineteenth century, the east staircase was removed. At the same time the enclosure of the central staircase was removed and it was refitted with Federal style spandrels and balustrade. The fireplaces appear to have been altered and

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Maryland	
COUNTY	
Worcester	
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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Genesar

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

the decorative ceiling beams covered with a board ceiling. The two exterior doors in the "Great Room" were bricked-up, made into windows, and trimmed accordingly. Several of the small gable windows were also bricked-up. An ornate moulded cornice with dentils and swags was installed on the south facade, as it appears today.

At the East end of the house lie the foundations of an early kitchen. Photographs taken in the 1930s show a brick structure of later date than the main house.

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

whose family it remained until 1939.

The present owner purchased a few acres and the house in 1966 from the Lamar Corporation.

#9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES continued

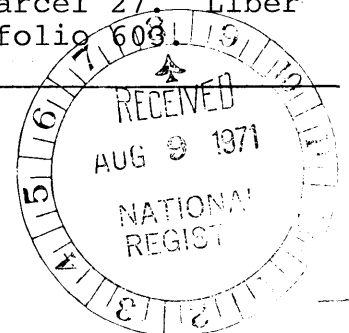
Forman, Henry Chandlee. Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens. New York: Bonanza Books, 1956.

Torrence, Clayton. Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. reprint. Baltimore: Regional Publishing, 1966.

Worcester County Land Records. Worcester County Court-house, Snow Hill, Maryland.

Works Progress Administration. Maryland A Guide to the Old Line State. New York: Oxford, 1940.

Worcester County Tax Assessors map #50, Parcel 27. Liber FWH 233 folio 153, Liber FNH 206 folio 608



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

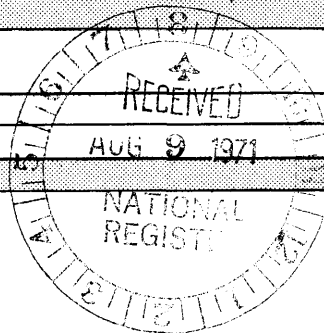
## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## PROPERTY MAP FORM

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Worcester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71,9,24,0015	DATE 9/17/71

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Genesar			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Genezir			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Maryland Route 611, 9 miles south of U.S. Rt.50 (west 100 yds)			
CITY OR TOWN: Berlin			
STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Worcester	CODE 047
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: USGS 7.5 minute map; Tingles Island Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1: 24 000			
DATE: 1964			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B  
A  
Y

Gibbs  
Pond

Golf and  
Yacht Club

lat. 38° 14' 09"  
long. 75° 11' 28"

lat. 38° 14' 09"  
long. 75° 11' 28"

lat. 38° 14' 01"  
long. 75° 11' 28"

lat. 38° 14' 01"  
long. 75° 11' 18"



Knot  
Point

Rum  
Point

Green  
Point

TINGLES ISLAND QUADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map  
scale: 1: 24 000  
1964

Newport Neck

NECK

Spence

STEPHEN  
SINEPUXENT

LOWER

SINEPUXENT

BM 5

Birch 2

South  
Point

Lights

Goose  
Point

Tidal  
Flat

Light

Tidal  
Flat

Little  
Egging Beach

Great Egging  
Beach

