

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

QA-11

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JAN 16 1986

date entered FEB 13 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Content (preferred)

and/or common C. C. Harper Farm

**2. Location**

street & number Maryland Route 305 near Tanyard Road N/A not for publication

city, town Centreville X vicinity of First Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county Queen Anne's code 035

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. Daryle R. Stuckey

street & number Route 1, Box 19

city, town Centreville N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21617

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

street & number Centreville

city, town Maryland state Maryland 21617

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Maryland Historical Trust

Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions and uses:  
residential, agricultural

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The late 18th century house known as Content is of brick construction, two stories high, five bays wide and one room deep. The front facade faces northwest. The entrance is in the center bay of the first story, flanked by two 12/12 windows on each side. The six-panel door is framed with paneled soffit and jambs, a four-light transom and a simple molded surround. Five 12/12 windows are ranged across the second story; three-light cellar windows are located directly below each of the four first story windows. The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond above a molded water table and a Flemish bond foundation. The windows are set in beaded frames with rowlock lintels. The eaves are boxed in with a cornice with complex crown and bed mold. In the 19th century the original presumably pitched gable roof was altered to form the present hip roof. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A single flush chimney is centered on the southwest end; a matching chimney on the northeast end was demolished in the 19th century and replaced with a shared chimney stack between the main house and an original wing, which projects from the northeast end of the rear elevation of the main house. The interior consists of a center passage plan with a single room on either side of the stair passage. The house retains practically all of its original decorative detailing, including paneled doors, hearth walls, dado and window embrasures; cornice, baseboard, chair rail, and architrave moldings; elaborate mantels and overmantels; and an open-string stair with turned newell and scrolled step ends. Also on the property are a brick dairy and a post-and-plank meathouse. Both outbuildings are in good condition, and are probably the earliest surviving examples of their functional types in Queen Anne's County.



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Emory, Frederic. Queen Anne's County, Maryland. (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1950).

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10 acres

Quadrangle name Centreville, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>411860</u>	<u>4321680</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>18</u>	<u>411540</u>	<u>4321470</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>18</u>	<u>411440</u>	<u>4321950</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Survey Coordinator

organization Maryland Historical Trust date December 1981; revised Sept. 1985

street & number 21 State Circle telephone (301)269-2438

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 *J. Smith* 1-3-86

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*for Melissa Byers* Entered in the date 2-13-86  
 Keeper of the National Register National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Content is located on the southeast side of Maryland Route 305 approximately one-half mile southwest of the intersection with U. S. Route 301 and two miles east of Centreville.

The late 18th century house is of brick construction, two stories high, five bays wide and one room deep, with a single flush brick chimney centered on the southwest end of the shallow hip roof. A matching chimney on the northeast gable end was demolished in the 19th century and replaced with a shared chimney stack between the main house and the wing. An original rear wing projects from the northeast end of the rear or southeast facade of the main building. This wing was originally constructed as a single story structure but at an early date, perhaps even while the house was still under construction, the wing was raised to a full two stories.

In the 19th century the original, presumably pitched gable roof of the main house was modified to form the present hip roof with a widow's walk. The latter feature was removed when the house was renovated and restored in recent years. Probably at the same time, the rear wing was raised an additional 12 or 18 inches to allow headroom on the second story.

The front facade of the house faces northwest toward Route 305. The door is in the center bay of the first story flanked by two 12/12 windows on each side. The six-panel door is framed with paneled soffit and jambs, a four-light transom and a simple molded surround. Five 12/12 windows are ranged across the second story; three-light cellar windows are located directly below each of the four first story windows. The brickwork is laid in very fine, regular Flemish bond above a molded water table and a Flemish bond foundation. There is no belt course between the first and second story. The windows are set in simple beaded frames with plain rowlock lintels above and reproduction paneled exterior shutters. The eaves are boxed in with a handsome cornice with complex crown and bed mold. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

There are no openings in the southwest gable wall. The brickwork matches the front facade, including the molded watertable. The front and rear cornice is carried across most of the gable, stopping on either side of the chimney shaft, which evidently was rebuilt in the 19th century.

The rear wing completely covers the two northeast bays on the rear facade of the house. The rear door is in the center bay, with two 12/12 windows to the left. On the second story, there is one 12/8 window in the center bay, above the door, and a blocked 12/8 window opening in the far left or southwest bay. The window was blocked and a larger 12/12 window was cut in immediately to the right, centered on the interior room. The six-panel rear door is set in a deep

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

frame with paneled soffit and jambs and a broken-field architrave. The brickwork is laid in three-course bond above a molded water table and a three-course bond foundation pierced by three cellar windows. The header bricks forming every fourth course are all glazed, creating a striking banded pattern in the brickwork similar to the gable walls at Bordlington (QA-95), a large brick house of the same period nearby.

When the roof of the original house was changed to a hip, the original flush chimney centered on the northeast gable wall was taken down and shifted to the rear facade, centered on the axis of the rear wing. Two small windows on the second story of the northeast gable wall were bricked up and a larger 12/12 window was cut into the center of the second story. The brickwork on this gable wall is laid in Flemish bond above a molded water table and three-course bond foundation. A bulkhead cellar entrance is located at the southeast end of this gable wall.

The northeast wall of the rear wing is flush with the northeast gable wall of the main house. The brickwork is continuous between the main house and the wing on the first floor but is interrupted by a seam on the second floor, indicating that the second story is an early addition. The molded water table drops down six courses where the wing joins the main house, and is carried around all three walls of the wing. The first story brickwork is laid in Flemish bond, the foundation is three-course bond. The early second story addition is also laid in Flemish bond but with a slightly darker brick with numerous glazed headers. Five courses of 19th century brickwork are visible just below the eave, indicating the roof was later raised slightly. There is a single door in the center on the first floor flanked by a single 6/6 window on each side. Two 6/6 windows on the second story are centered directly above the first story windows. The roof and cornice match the main house.

The southeast gable wall of the wing is also laid in Flemish bond above a molded water table and three-course bond foundation. The outline of the original pitched gable eave line is clearly visible approximately 15 inches below the present rakeboards. A pair of early window openings in the upper gable, flanking the flush center chimney, have also been blocked. A brick repair in the center of the foundation wall is evidence of a modern repair to the kitchen fireplace.

The first story brickwork on the southwest wall of the wing is bonded into the main house while the second story is not. Both the first story and the added second story are laid in three-course bond with bands of glazed headers above a molded water table and three-course bond foundation. Two courses of later brickwork are visible just below the cornice. The fenestration on this wall of the wing originally corresponded to the northeast wall, with a center door flanked by two 6/6 windows on the first story and two 6/6 windows on the second story.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The center door was later bricked up and a 6/6 window cut in immediately to the left. The left or northwest windows were also bricked up on both the first and second story and a smaller 6/6 window was cut in farther to the left on the first story.

Interior The interior of the main house consists of a center passage plan with a single room on either side of the stair passage. The stair rises against the northeast wall of the passage to a landing at the southeast end, then turns 180 degrees and continues up to the second floor. It is an open-string stair with delicate, turned newels, square balusters and a simple molded rail. The stair ends are decorated with solid scrolled brackets; the area below the carriage is enclosed with plain horizontal boards. A six-panel door with fully fielded panels under the landing opens onto an interior cellar stair. The interior doors opening from the hall into the flanking rooms have paneled soffits and jambs, bold architrave trim, and fielded six-panel doors. The architrave trim, has a broken-field fascia and an ogee backband. A two-piece chairrail and molded baseboard encircle the room. The restored front door is particularly wide, with unusual reeded panels set flush with the stiles and rails. The architrave trim consists of a broken-field fascia with a very steep ogee molding breaking the fascia; the backband is Italianate. The restored rear door has plain flush panels; only part of the architrave survives.

In the southwest room, the fireplace is centered on the gable wall. The fireplace opening is framed with a bold, crossetted molding applied directly to the plaster wall. Above this molding, a pair of simple scrolled brackets support a molded mantel shelf. This shelf is composed of a series of moldings typical of the last quarter of the 18th century, accented by a dentil course with unusual, slightly triangular dentils virtually identical to the dentil course found at Wharf House (QA-196), a house in nearby Centreville constructed in 1771 for William Hopper. Above the shelf is a crossetted overmantel surmounted by an elaborate broken pediment. A complex molded cornice completely encircles this room, repeating the unusual dentil course found in the mantel and the overmantel pediment. Further refinement in this room is derived from the window embrasures, which are splayed and have richly paneled soffits and jambs and paneled window seats. The paneling is continued around the room below a bold two-piece chair-rail with a broken-field fascia below the nosing shelf. The window seats have been adapted to conceal the modern heating system.

The fireplace in the northeast room was originally located on the northeast gable wall, but at an early date it was shifted to the southeast wall, backing onto the rear wing. Seams in the flooring and plaster and framing evidence in the cellar and roof verify this alteration. The relocated fireplace is centered on the southeast wall, flanked by a closet to the left and a door to the right

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

leading through a small vestibule and down several steps to the wing. This entire wall is paneled with very handsome fielded paneling. This paneling was evidently moved from an original position on the gable wall when the chimney was relocated. The fireplace in this room is framed with a crossetted surround below an elaborately molded shelf with a Wall-of-Troy dentil course. The remainder of the wall consists of fielded paneling in addition to the matched six-panel doors. A complex molded cornice encircles this room as well. The two windows on the northeast wall are similar to the windows in the southwest room, with glazed and paneled reveals and paneled window seats. Other significant trim includes the broken-field architrave trim, two-piece chairrail and molded baseboard.

The center passage plan is repeated on the second floor as well. The stair continues up to the attic but with a closed-string carriage. The stair passage is not partitioned to form a passage chamber.

The southwest chamber on the second floor is quite elaborate. The fireplace is centered on the southwest gable wall, flanked by closets on either side. The entire gable wall is paneled and the closets are fitted with four-panel doors hung on wrought H-L hinges. The fireplace has been partially reworked and the surround is a reproduction, but the fielded paneling is all original. The window openings have splayed and paneled jambs and paneled window seats. Other original detail includes the complex interior cornice, two-piece chairrail and molded baseboard.

The northeast chamber is somewhat simpler in finish but has been reduced in size by inserting a partition wall to allow room for a small bathroom and a clothes cupboard across the southeast side of the original room. Significant trim in this room includes the paneled window seats, simple interior cornice, a two-piece chairrail, molded baseboard and the architrave trim. A seam in the flooring at the northeast end of the room outlines the location of the original chimney and suggests that this room may have been paneled as well.

The attic is partitioned to form a finished stair passage flanked by unfinished storage areas. The original roof framing survives in the center of the building but was replaced at either end in the 19th century. The original roof framing consists of common rafter pairs set at a pitch of approximately 32 degrees. The ridge connections were sawn off during the later alteration, but the collar beams survive in place. These are half-dovetailed into the rafter pairs and secured with wrought nails. It is not clear, however, whether the original roof was a shallow pitch gable roof similar to the roof at Bordlington (QA-95), a house nearby with many similar features, or if it was a roof similar to the existing roof. The gable end chimneys are most likely indicative of a pitched gable roof.

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The cellar plan reflects the first floor plan, with brick bearing walls below each first floor interior hall partition. Heavy wood door frames survive in both interior cellar door openings, with pintels or pintel holes to indicate door orientation. The arched chimney base survives on the southwest gable wall, while the original base on the northeast gable wall has been demolished. The later chimney on the southeast wall is supported by a base constructed of two brick piers and a heavy wood lintel, a feature not generally found before the mid-19th century. This evidence combined with the mature machine nails found in the altered roof framing suggests the chimney and roof changes were made between circa 1850 and 1890.

The first floor of the wing is divided into two rooms, a large kitchen at ground level to the southeast and a smaller service or informal dining room to the northwest, adjacent to the main house. This smaller room is two steps up from the original kitchen and several steps below the first floor of the main house. In this century, the kitchen was shifted to the smaller room. Both rooms have brick paved floors. A large cooking fireplace is centered on the gable wall of the original kitchen, flanked by a cupboard to the left and an enclosed stair to the right. This stair rises to a short hall on the second floor.

The second floor is divided into a large sleeping chamber to the northwest and a smaller chamber to the southeast, with access via the hall. Significant details include the beaded vertical paneling of the hall partition, a small mantel in the southeast chamber, and a handsome six-panel door with graining and stenciling.

Dairy

Immediately to the northeast of the house is a small brick dairy, ten feet square with a pitched gable roof set parallel to the axis of the main house. The Flemish bond brickwork is virtually identical to the main house and the building is presumably contemporary with the house. A single batten door is centered on the southwest gable wall; small four-light windows are centered on each of the remaining three walls. These openings are fitted with reproduction heavy beaded frames with horizontal diamond-section wood bars. These replace early frames with fixed wood slats which were badly deteriorated but still in place (and are now stored in the meat house). The plain box cornices and rakeboards are later replacements; the roof is covered with shakes.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The interior walls are plastered and whitewashed and the ceiling is plastered using machine lath and machine nails. There is no access to the roof. A small concrete cooling trough in the north corner of the building probably dates to the turn of the twentieth century.

Meat House

Located to the northeast of the dairy, this building is 12 feet square, with a pitched gable roof oriented on a northwest-southeast axis. It is constructed of hewn and pit sawn log planks tenoned into hewn corner posts and reinforced with diagonal downbraces in each corner. This method of building evidently enjoyed some popularity in this area, and was particularly useful for meat houses due to the solid wall construction. This particular example is probably the earliest surviving in the county. It is constructed with wrought nails and employs a tilted false plate roof, one of the few recorded examples in Queen Anne's County. Carved ogee caps on the interior corner posts are also an unusual feature and add considerably to the charm of the building. It is raised up off the ground and has a heavy plank floor with a square hole in the center, presumably to facilitate fires needed for curing meat. The exterior siding, roofing, and the door have been replaced; otherwise the building is pristine and in unusually good condition. It is also interesting to note that the original door opening remains undisturbed. This opening is 5 feet high and 3½ feet wide, with original iron hinge pintels on the inside of the southeast jamb. It is unusual for the door opening to remain undisturbed due to the low clearance.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on the southeast side of Maryland Route 305 and running by and with the southeast side of Maryland Route 305 North 52° 38' 30" East, 200.37 feet;

thence South 33° 52' East; 15.00 feet;

South 33° 52' East, 681.10 feet;

North 56° 08' East, 300.81 feet;

South 33° 52' East, 405.00 feet;

South 56° 08' West, 734.81 feet;

North 33° 52' West, 405.00 feet;

North 56° 08' East, 234.00 feet;

North 33° 52' West, 668.90 feet;

North 33° 52' West, 15.00 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 10.000 acres more or less.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, 10.000 acres, comprises the resource within its immediate setting. The boundaries are drawn to include the driveway which has historically provided a formal approach to the house, and the land immediately surrounding the house and outbuildings, while excluding the outlying agricultural fields which do not make a specific contribution to the significance of the resource.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Content is believed to have been constructed in the last quarter of the 18th century for Nathaniel Wright, a prominent landowner in the Centreville area. Wright served several terms on the vestry of St. Paul's Parish; held the position of coroner in 1772 and was elected trustee of the Queen Anne's County almshouse in 1794. During the Revolution, he was commissioned Captain in the Queen Anne's County Militia. After 1830, the property passed to Dr. Christopher C. Harper; a vestryman of St. Paul's and Town Commissioner of Centreville, Harper is presumed responsible for the mid-19th-century alterations to the house.