

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Cecil
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 2 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Perry Point Mansion House and Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Veterans Administration Hospital Grounds

CITY OR TOWN:
Perryville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
1

STATE:
Maryland

CODE
24

COUNTY:
Cecil

CODE
015

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. AGENCY

Veterans Administration Central Office

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

STREET AND NUMBER:
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.

CODE
11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Elkton

STATE:
Maryland

CODE
24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

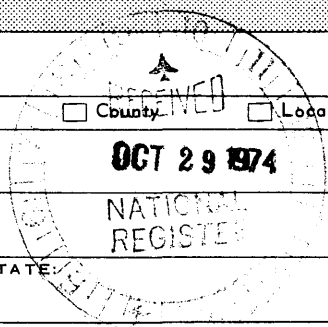
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mansion

This fine center-hall house sits among holly, beech and sycamore trees on a low bluff beside the Susquehanna River at Perryville with a long view over the boxwood-edged garden south across the Chesapeake Bay.

Built of brick (covered now with grey stucco) under a hip roof, two-and-a-half stories high, the house is oblong with a smaller oblong two-storied wing at the east end. The main section is five bays by two, the wing two bays by one. Entrance to the hall is from the north, with the garden door at the south, while the ridgeline of the hip roof runs east-west.

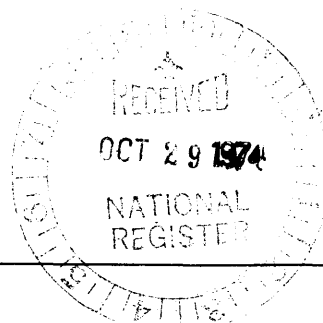
Peaked dormer windows are in each face of the roof, two on the north and south slopes, one at each end between the pairs of chimneys rising inside the end walls from four heating fireplaces on each floor. A fifth chimney rises from the east end of the wing. Windows throughout the house have six lights over six, in plain pegged frames except in the rather fancy dormers, where the eaves have a moulding, the sides have low-relief pilasters, and the windows facing north or south have an arched top sash.

The floor plan, two rooms on either side of the wide hall, is similar on the first and second floors. The wing now has a very well-equipped large modern kitchen.

There are many alterations besides the stucco that covers the old brick walls, hiding some type of pattern in the water table at the first floor level. Floors have been replaced or covered over with narrow planking. There may have been panelling or wainscoting in each downstairs room, and mantels have been poorly replaced in three of the rooms downstairs. A very ugly metal sun-porch mars the south entrance, and modern millwork covers the old north entrance with its lighted panels on either side of the door. A simple portico once undoubtedly sheltered the north door. Most of the original hardware is gone.

The proportions of the house are balanced and graceful, while the setting has dramatic appeal. Much of its beauty, as in the material of brick, is there to be restored, while a scrupulous attention to authenticity of detail in elements that need replacement will prove highly rewarding. This may again become one of Maryland's finest houses.

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7. Description (cont.)

The Mill

This stone gristmill is located on the Susquehanna River at the head of the Chesapeake Bay near Perryville. Oblong, it faces west, three bays by two, the peaked roof ridgeline runs north-south. Perched on the bank two stories high on the land side, the basement story opens west onto the shore, with a door in the center bay of each story, the top one to hoist in un-milled grain, the middle level door for machinery and other supplies, the lower level to deliver finished meal to the beach, accessible by flat-bottomed boat or by a cart from a ramp running south of the mill.

This is a small mill, about 30' by 20' with well-cut stone masonry still firmly in place. The overshot wheel is now gone, but early pictures show it as about 8' in diameter, about 5' wide, turning beside the north wall, fed by a small island branch with a small watershed dependent on two or three confluent springs. Inside, with the machinery removed, the space is used for garden supplies and tools. Rafters and beams are hand-hewn and pegged, with joists fitting firmly into the large (9" X 12") beams having a well cut bevel. Inch thick floorboards are of random width. Windows firmly shuttered from the outside have six lights over six.



B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The recorded history of Perry Point goes back to the early 1600's. Captain John Smith is known to have explored the Chesapeake and the lower Susquehanna River, mapping and describing the shores that form the beautiful setting of this fine old house and mill. An Englishmen named Edward Palmer planned, in vain, a college on the nearest island before he died in 1625. William Claiborne was one of the many traders who swapped trinkets with the Indians for furs of otter, mink, and beaver. Yet during these decades this point of land remained the ancestral stronghold of the powerful Susquehannock Indians.

In 1661 Captain James Neale set up a second trading post and fort and it was another nineteen years before the era of the forest was over and the decimated Susquehannocks relinquished their land in the face of a string of blockhouses set up by Lord Baltimore's cousin George Talbot. Susquehanna Point became Susquehanna Manor.

In 1658 Lord Baltimore had patented this tract to a John Bateman, unsuccessful at holding the land, but the patent bore the name "Perry Point" for reasons we do not understand because it was not until 1710 that one Richard Perry purchased the land, holding it with his two sons until 1729. Then it was bought by the Thomas family, of whom little is known except that their span of ownership covers the time that both the mill and the brick house were built.

From 1800 to 1918 the manor and its farm of about 1800 acres belonged to the Stump family, whose history mirrors the remarkable era in which they lived. During the war of 1812 while John Stump's mill at Lapidum and the whole town of Harve de Grace across the river burned, and the iron works at Principio were destroyed by the British, Perry Point remained untouched. Was this the John Stump records show sold grain to the British? The reported price of the transaction was a layer of silver coin across the head of the barrel. He and his wife Mary Alicia were both descendants of Augustine Hermann of Bohemia, said to be the first man in Maryland to become a naturalized citizen. Mary

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic Perry Point, Kathryn H. Walker, Head Aide, Occupational Therapy Department, Veterans Administration Facility, Perry Point, Maryland. 1935

Miller, Alice E., Cecil County, Maryland, C & L Printing Specialty Elkton, Maryland. 1949

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	39° 33' 03"	76° 04' 20"				
NE	39° 33' 03"	76° 04' 08"				
SE	39° 32' 49"	76° 04' 08"				
SW	39° 32' 49"	76° 04' 20"				
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 18 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: Jean S. Ewing		DATE: August 22, 1974
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Maryland Historical Trust		
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road		PHONE:
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes
 No
 None

 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State Local.

J. J. Mollenhoff 10-16-74
 Federal Representative Signature Date
 Federal Agency Representative
 Title

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/2/75

ATTEST:

W. J. Smith
 Keeper of the National Register

JUL 1 1975

Date _____

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8. Significance (cont.)

Alicia was the daughter of Col. George E. Mitchell who carried the news of the treaty of the war of 1812 from Fort Niagara to the British in Canada.

In 1848 John Stump II sold part of the farm for the right-of-way for the country's major east-coast railroad, now the Penn-Central. Cars were ferried across the river to meet another engine at Havre de Grace. In the bitter winter of 1858 the river froze over solid enough for the tracks to be laid on the ice.

In the 1860's John Stump II patriotically turned his farm over to the Union Army for training the essential source of power, the army mule. Officers quartered at their house nearly tore it apart, and seriously neglected the farm. After the war many of the family's former slaves stayed on voluntarily to rebuild the property. Besides their farming operation and the little gristmill that was used also as a granary, the Stumps engaged in the lucrative fishing industry in the river at their door, drawing nets hundreds of feet long with a capstan on the shore below the house, and selling tremendous catches of fish to Norfolk and to York markets to be salted. They also cut and hauled ice from the river for the icehouses and iceboxes of the neighboring farmers and townspeople.

A second major change occurred in 1918 when the Stump family sold their farm, by then only 516 acres, to the United States Government for \$150,000, to be used for the site of a "modern" explosives plant. The town of more than 300 families, with a clubhouse, a theatre, and school, was quickly but substantially built. After the Armistice Perry Point was used as a rehabilitation center, a supply depot, and a psychiatric hospital, the latter use surviving and expanding to the present.

The mansion house, now vacant, has been lived in by past Directors of the Hospital, and hopefully will be used again. Worthy of scrupulously accurate restoration, it can become one of the Government's most beautiful possessions in a magnificent natural setting. Both the mansion house and the mill, which was built about 1750, serve as fine reminders of a past era.

