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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Handwritten 'A' and 'D' in a box, with a date stamp 'MAR 09 1990'.

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Benson-Hammond House
other names/site number Ann Arrundell Historical Society Headquarters AA-118

2. Location

street & number Poplar Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Linthicum Heights X vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Anne Arundel code 003 zip code 21240

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local, X public-State, public-Federal
Category of Property: X building(s), district, site, structure, object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0 buildings, sites, structures, objects. Total 1.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 3/6/90
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
Entered in the National Register
X entered in the National Register.
See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 4/5/90

6. Function or Use

AA-118

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

roof metal

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

The Benson-Hammond House, a 2½ story, 6 bay by 2 bay, 19th century brick dwelling, constructed in the Greek Revival style, is located in north Anne Arundel County, Maryland, at the northeast corner of the Baltimore-Washington International Airport. The main block of the house is brick, laid in common bond, and faces east. A frame, 2-story shed addition extends from the north end of the rear, west elevation of the main block. A 1-story wooden porch with a hip roof covers the central bays of the facade. Recently restored/renovated by the Ann Arrundell County Historical Society, the Benson-Hammond House was built in two stages. The earlier section, comprising the southern 3 bays of the house, consists of a 2-story, central passage plan dwelling constructed c. 1820 or c. 1830. Sometime after the Civil War, the house was lengthened 3 bays to the north. The half story appears to have been added at that time, reminiscent of the Greek Revival style. The frame ell addition was reconstructed in 1982, replacing a late 19th century one of similar dimensions. The main block of the house has a masonry foundation and no water table. There is a cellar under one-third of the house at the south end. The gable roof is covered with standing seam metal, painted brick red, as is the shed roof of the ell. There are three brick chimneys, two of which are flush gable end chimneys, and the third is a central one, marking the gable end of the earlier central passage section. There is a plain corbeled brick cornice. The house has recently been painted off-white as it was historically. Windows on the first and second stories are 6/6 sash with single course brick jack arches. The windows at the half-story level are small 6-pane windows. Much of the interior is intact, including the plaster walls and most of the interior trim.

See continuation sheet for
GENERAL DESCRIPTION

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Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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Section number 7 Page 7.1GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Benson-Hammond House, an imposing 19th century, 2½ story brick structure, is situated in the northeast portion of the Baltimore-Washington International Airport property, in north Arundel County. It stands in the southwest corner of the intersection of Hammonds Ferry Road and Poplar Avenue, and faces east towards Hammonds Ferry Road. It is surrounded by post-World War II residential development to the north and east and by the BWI Airport to the south and west. The house is leased by the Airport (State Aviation Administration) to the Ann Arrundell Historical Society.

It was recently restored/renovated by the Ann Arrundell Historical Society using their own funds and some from the Maryland Historical Trust and the Anne Arundel County Office of Community Development. From a near ruinous condition, the Society has completed a careful restoration/renovation, maintaining and enhancing the original integrity of the house.

The main block of the house is 2½ stories and measures 6 bays by 2 bays, the overall dimensions being 19 x 58½ feet. It is constructed of brick laid in common bond. A frame, 2-story shed addition extends from the rear, west elevation, of the house at the north end.

The house was built in two stages. The earlier section, comprising the southern 3 bays of the house, consists of a 2-story, central passage plan dwelling constructed c. 1820 or c. 1830.¹ Sometime after the Civil War, the house was lengthened 3 bays to the north. The half story appears to have been added at that time, reminiscent of the Greek Revival style. The frame ell addition was reconstructed in 1982, replacing a late 19th century one of similar dimensions.²

The main block of the house has a masonry foundation and no water table. There is a cellar under one-third of the house at the south end. The gable roof is covered with standing seam metal, painted brick red, as is the shed roof of the ell. There are three brick chimneys, two of which are flush gable end chimneys and the third is a central one, marking the gable end of the earlier central passage section. There is a plain corbeled brick cornice. The house has recently been painted off-white as it was historically. Windows on the first and second stories are 6/6 sash with single course brick jack arches. The windows at the half-story level are small 6-pane windows.

The central three bays of the facade, east elevation, are covered by a wood porch with a hip roof. The roof is covered with standing seam metal, painted brick red, and is supported by four Doric columns. It covers the two main entrances into the house: the southern one enters into the earlier central passage section and the northern one into the later addition. This porch is a recent reconstruction of a similar, late 19th-century porch which had collapsed.³

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Section number 7 Page 7.2GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The entrance into the central passage section is composed of a six-panel door with a box lock. It is surmounted by a five-pane transom and flanked by three-paned sidelights. This passage contains the stair and a rear door at the end of the hall/passage. The stair rises to the half-story level, with landings against the rear wall. It has been blocked at the second story. It consists of plain slender newel posts and square balusters.

There is a single room on either side of the passage at both the first and second stories.

The first story architrave trim in this section appears to date from the post-Civil War additions, with the use of bulls-eye corner blocks and a beveled ogee molding profile. The second story architraves, however, are earlier, with the use of a Greek Revival ogee and astragal profile. An original plain wooden mantel, with Greek Revival moldings supporting the shelf, is located in the second story, north room of this section. The one in the south room is a replacement. The two mantels on the first floor of this section are late 19th-century marbelized slate mantels, consistent with the architrave changes made to the first floor during that period.

The post-Civil War addition at the north end has an entrance in the southern bay of this addition. It consists of a six-panel door with a box lock and is surmounted by a three-pane transom. It leads into a single room with the rear of a boxed beaded board stair directly inside the door. The staircase is approached from the rear of the room. An opening immediately to the left upon entering this section connects it with the central passage section. A door, located at the foot of the stair on the west wall, provides access to the first floor of the ell. The stair rises to a landing on the facade, east wall, at the second floor. A door at the landing leads into the north room. There is an opening into the second floor of the ell on the west wall. A door leading to the stair passage which provides access to the half-story level is located on the south partition wall within the north room.

The architrave trim in the addition is very plain, consisting of plain boards with no cornerblocks. The chair rail is more elaborate - a beveled ogee profile.

The half-story level is presently unfinished; however, there is evidence that it was once finished with lath and plaster. Rafters are mitred at the top over the central passage section and are half-lapped and pegged over the north addition. At this level, evidence of two small gable end windows, now filled with brick, can be seen flanking the northern chimney of the central passage section.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.3

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Benson-Hammond House
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Section number 7 Page 7.3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

An archeological investigation conducted in 1979 by the Archeological Services, Inc., found that there were two rear additions: one dating from the latter half of the 19th century, which was replaced by a smaller ell in the late 19th century. Also, two porch phases were found - a smaller and earlier one covering the entrance into the central passage section of the house, followed by a larger one covering the central three bays of the entire house. The latter was the one which was recently reconstructed for the restoration. The area surrounding the cellar entrance was also examined.

An earlier log house once stood southeast of the house. Other outbuildings also stood east and southeast of the house, none of which are extant.

Footnotes

¹Family tradition holds that Thomas Benson constructed this section in c. 1820. However, based on an architectural analysis of the house conducted in 1975, James Wollon, Jr., a restoration architect, has dated this section c. 1830.

²Interview with Mark Shatz, President, Ann Arrundell County Historical Society, December 14, 1983.

³Ibid.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1820-c. 1870

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Benson-Hammond House is significant as an unusual and atypical 19th century brick farmhouse in northern Anne Arundel County, an area which was once predominantly farmland. Rapid post-World War II residential and industrial development combined with extensive highway construction have changed this area dramatically. As a result, few 19th century rural structures have survived, making the Benson-Hammond House an important visual and interpretive link with the north county's architectural, social, and economic past. The Benson-Hammond House is an unusual example of the Greek Revival style, with the c-1870 Greek Revival addition being constructed many years after the popularity of that style. Based upon a survey of the area, it is doubtful that the Benson-Hammond House represents the type nineteenth century farmhouse in northern Anne Arundel County.

See continuation sheet for

HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

See footnotes for Section 8.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet No. 8.3

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.602 acres
USGS quad Relay, MD

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	_____	_____	_____

B	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet No. 10.1

Boundary Justification

The property is bordered by two roads and Baltimore Washington International Airport.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna Ware
 organization Anne Arundel Co. Office of Community Dev. date 1989
 street & number Arundel Center telephone 222-1270
 city or town Annapolis state Maryland zip code 21401

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Benson-Hammond House
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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): DOMESTIC/single family

Known Design Source: none

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Section number 8 Page 8.2HISTORIC CONTEXT:

The Benson-Hammond House and the surrounding 2 acres are owned by the State Aviation Administration and are currently being leased to the Ann Arrundell County Historical Society. It was built in two stages, c. 1820 or c. 1830, and c. 1870. It is believed that the earlier portion of the house, a two-story central passage plan dwelling, was built by Thomas Benson, a farmer in north Anne Arundel County.¹ Sometime after the Civil War, Joseph Benson, the son of Thomas, added to the house, resulting in its present appearance.

Thomas Benson acquired the farmland, portions of three tracts - "Andover," "Buck's Luck," and "Addition to Timber Ridge" - in 1809 and 1815.² According to family tradition, the Bensons occupied a log house on the property before building the two story brick central passage plan dwelling.³ In 1838 and 1854, these parcels were conveyed to his son, Joseph, who owned the farm until his death in 1882.⁴ Joseph and his wife, Mary, expanded the modest farmhouse in c. 1870, to its present size in order to accommodate their growing family of 11 children.

In 1882, Joseph Benson died. In his will, he requested that the farm be split because he felt that his debts would exceed the worth of his personal property.⁵ It was sold in 1887 for \$13,600.00 to John T. and Rezin Howard Hammond, prominent farmers and landholders in the vicinity.⁶ One of Joseph Benson's daughters, Mary Susanna, was married to Rezin Hammond, father of John T. and grandfather of Rezin Howard, which may also explain why the Hammonds purchased the 152 acre farm. The grandson, Rezin Howard Hammond, apparently made his home there.

In 1947, the house and farm were purchased by the City of Baltimore from the estate of Rezin Howard Hammond to be developed as the then Friendship Airport. Thirty-one years later, the Ann Arrundell County Historical Society obtained a long-term lease from the State Aviation Administration (Friendship was purchased by the State in 1972) and began restoration/renovation of the house.

The Benson-Hammond House is significant for its vernacular architecture. Few brick 19th century houses, which incorporate an early 19th century dwelling, survive in north Anne Arundel County, an area which has grown rapidly since World War II as a suburban bedroom community for Baltimore and as a prime industrial park area. The few late 19th and early 20th century structures that do survive are primarily frame, two-story ell farmhouses that have been greatly altered.

The Benson-Hammond House is an unusual example of the Greek Revival style, with the c. 1870 Greek Revival addition being constructed many years after the popularity of that style. It is doubtful that this dwelling represented the typical 19th century farmhouse in north Anne Arundel County.

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Section number 8 Page 8.3HISTORIC CONTEXT:

While the existing (original and restored) character of the Benson-Hammond House holds the architectural significance described above, it nevertheless is situated on land belonging to the owner and operator of Baltimore-Washington International Airport, a major domestic and international facility. The current Master Plan for the Airport does not propose any actions which would affect the future of the Benson-Hammond House, however, as changes in Airport needs occur, the owner of the structure cannot guarantee its continuity in situ. The State Aviation Administration is quite cognizant of the perceived architectural and historical significance of the Benson-Hammond House and has demonstrated this awareness through the long-term (at nominal cost) lease with the Ann Arrundell Historical Society.

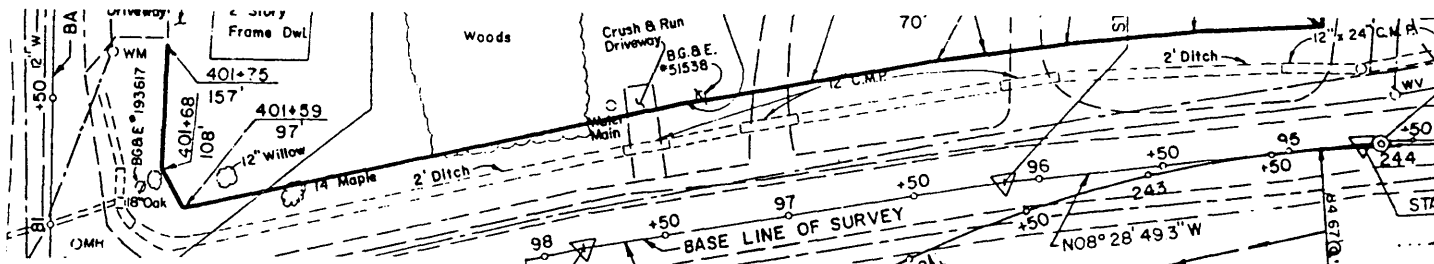
Footnotes

- ¹ Ann Arrundell County Historical Society, Inc., "Benson-Hammond House Restoration Project," unpublished paper, June 20, 1979, p. 1.
- ² Anne Arundel County Land Records, Liber WNG No. 4, Folio 37, and Probate Records Box 123, Folder 57.
- ³ Ann Arrundell County Historical Society, Inc., p. 1.
- ⁴ Land Records, Liber WSG No. 23, Folio 15, and Liber WNG No. 4, Folio 37.
- ⁵ Will of Joseph Benson, Liber R.J.D. No. 1, Folio 486.
- ⁶ Land Records, Liber SH No. 31, Folio 608, and G.M. Hopkins, C.E., Atlas of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Fifth District, (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1878).

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STATE AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
LEASED TO THE ANNE ARUNDEL CO.
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
REVISED 5/27/88

LIBER R.D.	FOLIO
1	S 67° 36' 29" E 207.25'
2	S 53° 00' 47" E 24.05'
3	S 49° 21' 11" E 134.96'
4	S 22° 12' 33" E 63.50'
5	S 20° 29' 02" E 135.62'
6	N 89° 12' 51" W 333.56'
7	N 62° 09' 37" W 169.27'
8	N 19° 09' 39" E 300.16'

LEASE AREA
113,330 S.F. OR 2.602 A.C. ±
SHOWN THUS

CURVE DATA

$\Delta = 91^{\circ}19'56.76''$
$D_s = 11^{\circ}27'32.96''$
$R = 50000'$
$T = 511.77'$
$L = 797.03'$
$E = 215.47'$

