

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000080 Date Listed: 3/12/92

White House Farm Kent MD
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

3/12/92
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The Verbal Boundary Description needed to be clarified, because it begins with a fence post (an impermanent feature). Ron Andrews with the MD SHPO says that the fence post is located at the northeast corner of the property, as recorded in the property deed contained in Libra RAS 38, folio 493, in the Kent County Land Records. This reference to a legal description is sufficient to clarify the verbal boundary description.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 WHITE HOUSE FARM
other names/site number K-203

2. Location

street & number State Route 213 N/A not for publication
city, town Chestertown vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Kent code 029 zip code 21620

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>3</u> Total

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 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
[Signature] STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER 1/22/92
Signature of certifying official Date
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. Patrick Anderson 3/12/92
 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 Date of Action

6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof WOOD

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The property known as White House Farm is located on the west side of Maryland Route 213, about five miles northeast of Chestertown in Kent County, Maryland. It derives its name from a 1½-story stuccoed brick house, the original section of which was built in 1721; the construction date is worked in glazed bricks in the gable end. This section conformed to the traditional two-room, hall-parlor plan typical of the better class of rural dwellings of the period in the region. At a later date, the building was extended by a four-bay-wide brick wing of the same depth, wall height, and roof pitch, practically doubling its length. A coat of rusticated stucco was applied to unify the different periods of construction, and the building has received numerous subsequent coatings of paint and whitewash. The building retains its early form and plan, and features a variety of significant architectural details relating to its various periods of construction. It is located on an elevated site, within an informally landscaped yard which retains evidence of historic terracing. A late 19th/early 20th century brick dairy and a mid-20th century swimming pool and poolhouse do not contribute to the significance of the resource.

8. Statement of Significance

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

 nationally statewide locallyApplicable National Register Criteria A B C DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1721-c.1831

Significant Dates

1721

c.1831

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:

White House Farm is significant for the architectural character of the early brick house. Dated 1721 with glazed bricks in the gable end, it is among the earliest surviving dwellings on the Eastern Shore, and the earliest known house in the region bearing such conclusive dating evidence. In form, it is typical of the traditional hall-parlor house type, 1½ stories high, three bays wide, with two rooms on each level. The house retains a high degree of integrity. Although it was extended and remodeled in one or more building campaigns into the early nineteenth century, its essential form and plan are intact; in addition, many interesting early details survive on the interior and exterior to represent both periods of construction. Especially noteworthy are handsome late Federal period mantels, doors, and architraves; several examples of unusual handwrought hardware; and unique vented batten doors in the upper level of the wing. The period of significance extends to ca. 1831, when the house presumably achieved its present character.

 See continuation sheet No. 6

For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Biographical Cyclopedia of Representative Men of Maryland and District of Columbia. Baltimore: National Biographical Publishing Co., 1879.

Hanson, George A. Old Kent: the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1967.

Land and Probate Records of Kent County.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Kent County. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Approximately 1 acre
USGS Quad: Betterton, MD

UTM References

A

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4	3	4	8	5	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet No. 10

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Historian
organization _____ date August 6, 1991
street & number 109 Brandon Road telephone (410) 296-7538
city or town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21212

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Section number 7 Page 1GENERAL DESCRIPTION:¹

The early brick house on White House Farm was constructed in two principal stages. The original house, dated 1721 with glazed bricks in the north² gable, consists of a 1½-story brick house with a pitched gable roof oriented on a north-south axis. It is three bays long and one room deep, with a traditional hall-parlor plan typical of better built houses of this period in the region. The overall dimensions of the original house are 20 feet deep and 38 feet 9 inches long. This two-room plan house was enlarged at a later date by a brick addition to the south. This addition was the same width, wall height and roof pitch, and extended the house an additional 33 feet 7 inches for an overall length of more than 72 feet. The addition provides an additional two rooms on the first floor and chamber space above.

The brickwork of the house is partially obscured by stucco rendering. The entire east facade of both parts is covered in this way, but the plain watertable remains evident. Faint traces of rustication are visible in the stucco, largely obscured by thick coats of whitewash, paint, and later plaster. The stucco also provides the outline of a lower gable-roofed wing, approximately 17 feet 6 inches wide, that at one time projected from the north gable of the main house. When this wing was demolished (long ago), it revealed the original Flemish bond brickwork and plain water table of the original north gable, as well as the date 1721 in glazed bricks. A cut-in door that permitted direct access from the original house to the former wing was bricked up but remains visible today.

¹ Prepared by Orlando Ridout V, June 20, 1989.

² The building is not directly oriented to the cardinal points; for clarity in description, the northwest gable is called north, the northeast (principal) facade is called east, the southeast gable is called south, and the southwest elevation is called west.

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The rear or west facade of the main house has been partially rebuilt, probably in the second quarter of the 19th century. This rebuilt section is not immediately apparent due to the heavy accumulation of whitewash and paint, but a comparison of original work at the south end of this facade, above the bulkhead cellar entrance, reveals early Flemish bond and a plain water table in contrast to the later work, laid primarily in stretcher bond with occasional header courses.

The brickwork of the wing appears to have been primarily 3:1 common bond but also shows signs of nineteenth century repair work.

The fenestration of the original house is typical of early hall-parlor plan houses in this region. The entrance doors are located near the center of the facades, each flanked by a single window to either side. The entrances are fitted with six-panel doors with late Federal or early Greek Revival panel molds. The early window sash was replaced in the 19th century with 4-over-4 sash. There are two pitched dormers on each facade of the main house, each aligned with a first-floor window. The dormers retain 6/6 sash and are decorated with routed pilasters, Greek Revival cap pieces, and cornices that return at the pilasters. Other significant exterior features include a handsome complex cornice with bed mold and crown mold that extends the entire length of both facades, three different periods of shutter dogs including one early hand-wrought rat-tail dog, and a clear outline of the gable-roofed structure that once protected the bulkhead cellar entrance.

The interior of the main house consists of a hall-parlor plan with the larger hall to the north and the parlor, or "inner room," to the south. Fireplaces are centered on the exterior gable wall of each of these rooms, and each room also originally had an enclosed winder stair next to the chimney. The stair in the hall has been removed to accommodate a modern bath, but the stair enclosure, door and door trim have been retained on both the main floor and in the hall chamber above.

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The interior trim in the original house is consistently late Federal in detail. The door architraves consist of a two-part fascia with beaded edge and an applied ogee-astragal backband. The doors are six-panel with similar panel molds. The window architraves are identical to the doors but with a single-field fascia.

The mantel in the hall is the largest and most refined in the house. It consists of a board surround with ogee-astragal backband framing the opening. Plain side blocks frame a plain frieze and support a complex molded shelf with late Federal and early Greek Revival details.

The parlor mantel is virtually identical to that in the hall in form and detail but is several inches narrower. This fireplace opening has been fitted with a handsome cast iron fireback and sidepieces embellished with Classical ornament, including fluted pilasters and acanthus motifs. Cast into the center piece is the inscription, "Thomas Chambers, Southampton Furnace." This fireback was found on the premises and installed during the stabilization and repair of the house by the present owners in the 1940s.

An enclosed winder stair to the left of the parlor fireplace leads up to the second story chambers. The second story was originally divided into two bed chambers, each apparently with a separate stair. The door between the two chambers is framed with the same architrave trim as found on the first floor. A two-panel door with fully raised panels is hung on unusual hand-wrought H hinges with three of the four ends foliated. An early 19th century metal box lock with brass knob remains in use.

The north chamber fireplace is fitted with a mantel comparable to the first floor mantels but smaller in scale. This fireplace is flanked by the original stair enclosure (now a closet) to the left and a small, early closet to the right. These closets are fitted with doors and architrave trim consistent with the first floor.

In the south chamber, the fireplace has been closed up and a small bathroom added. The room remains otherwise unchanged.

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The wing, four irregular bays wide, extends to the south. The main floor of the wing consists of a dining room one step down from the floor level of the main house, and a kitchen at the south end, now with a brick paved floor set level with the dining room. The trim in both rooms is consistent with that found elsewhere in the house; the kitchen fireplace has been rebuilt. The window in the south bay of the east wall retains early 9/9 sash.

An enclosed winder stair to the left of the kitchen chimney leads up to a room above the kitchen. This space is partitioned off from the room above the dining room by a beaded board partition. Originally, it was divided into two rather plain chambers for the kitchen servants. The ghost of the original partition remains visible on the ceiling. An interesting feature of the servants' rooms are the doors, which are of beaded batten construction with louvered vent panels fitted into the upper portion of each door.

A full cellar with whitewashed walls and exposed joist ceilings extends under most of the original house. There is no evidence to indicate that the cellar functioned as a kitchen, but brick-paved floors, batten flooring above, and the whitewash finish suggest that the area was used for food storage.

The house is located on an elevated site which is prominent amid the relatively flat surrounding countryside, and is situated within an informally landscaped domestic yard, which retains evidence of historic terracing. This yard is surrounded by agricultural fields; several modern horse barns are located to the immediate west of the nominated property.

A small brick dairy of late 19th- or early 20th century date stands to the northeast of the house. There are no other outbuildings. Also on the property are a mid-20th century pool house and an in-ground swimming pool. These elements do not contribute to the significance of the resource as they fall outside its theme and period of significance.

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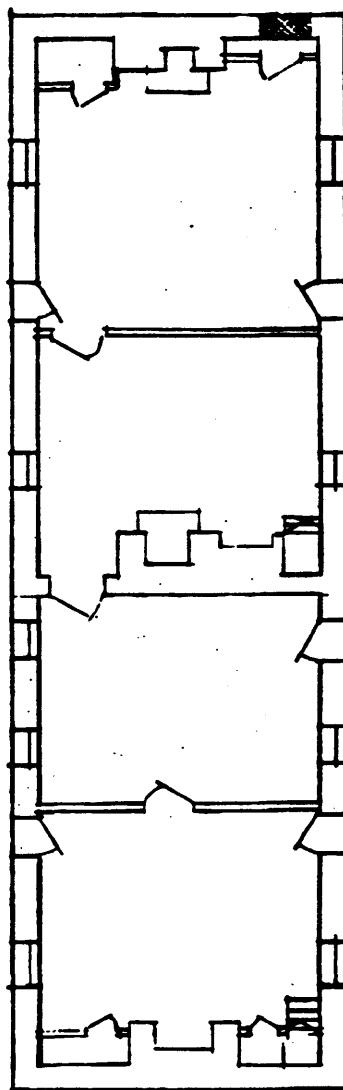
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WHITE HOUSE FARM (K-203)
Kent County, Maryland

Period 1
Period 2



sketch plan
not to scale

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HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification, 1680-1815;

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Functions and Uses: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Known Design Source: None

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Section number 8 Page 7HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:³

Construction of the early brick house at White House Farm is attributed to Daniel Perkins (1685-1744), a prominent miller and planter. A native of Wales, Perkins arrived in Kent County around 1700; by 1710, he had acquired milling rights at the head of Morgan's Creek. Nine years later, he purchased a 300-acre tract near the mill site, known as "Ridgely," which included the site of the present White House Farm. Perkins accumulated extensive land holdings in the area; upon his death in 1744, the portion of "Ridgely" containing White House Farm passed to his son Thomas.

Thomas Perkins (1720-1768) married Ann Hanson in 1751; the couple had four children, but only their last child, Mary (born in October 1763), survived when Thomas Perkins died in February 1768. Mary inherited her father's holdings; four guardians were appointed to look after the interests of the minor heiress, not yet five years old.

An inventory of the holdings of Mary Perkins dated February 18, 1778 describes "a brick dwelling house, the orphan part forty nine feet by twenty with three rooms over head all in good repair, there is likewise part of a brick shed adjoining the said dwelling house twelve feet by ten in good repair the whole building covered with good cypress shingles;" this building was the centerpiece of an extensive plantation which comprised, in addition to the brick house,

one log kitchen twenty feet by sixteen with a new oak shingle roof, a frame cyder house forty feet by twenty covered with oak shingles in tolerable good repair, a log quarter twenty six feet by eighteen in midling repair covered with oak shingles, a log meat house twelve feet by ten in midling good repair, a bake house with posts in the ground twenty five feet by twenty feet with an oven in it midling good the house worth little, a log corn

³ This section incorporates extensive research by Thomas J. Lutz on the history and genealogy of the Perkins family of Kent County and their association with the White House Farm property.

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house nineteen feet by nine in good repair, a frame still house twenty six feet by seventeen in bad repair, part of an old frame dwelling house with a brick chimney twenty feet by eighteen in bad repair, a frame milk house ten feet by sixteen in bad repair, two thirds of a frame barn forty feet by twenty two in bad repair, two thirds of another frame barn forty feet by twenty two about one half of it floored in bad repair, two thirds of a frame Grist Mill forty feet by twenty one being part of it a brick wall one side of the roof bad and the remainder in midling repair, two thirds of a frame fulling Mill thirty five feet by sixteen in good repair, a framed dwelling house twenty feet by eighteen with a brick chimney but in indifferent repair, a framed dwelling house thirty feet by eighteen with brick chimneys in good repair, a frame barn fifty feet by twenty four in bad repair, an orchard with two hundred apple trees the most of [th]em very indifferent enclosed with a good oak fence. There is on this plantation about Four hundred and ninety five acres of land, about two hundred and thirty acres of it cleared laid out in seven inclosures four of [th]em very small the whole inclosed with a midling oak rail fence (Wills, Box 13, Folder 253).

The dimensions recorded in this inventory suggest that the south wing was in place by 1778. Field measurements record the length of the original, hall-parlor section of the house as 39 feet, and 72 feet overall. The evaluators in 1778 noted that Mary held two-thirds interests in two barns and two mills; assuming that the "orphan part" of the house referred to the same fraction, the 49-foot figure mentioned in the inventory corresponds to two-thirds of a 72-foot building. Furthermore, the inventory notes that the "orphan part" contained "three rooms over head," rather than the two chambers that would correspond to the original section of the house.

One year after this inventory was taken, Mary Perkins married John Wilson of Old Field Point, Shrewsbury Parish. The couple took up residence at White House Farm and had five children. In 1794, following John Wilson's death, Mary Perkins Wilson remarried Dr. Alexander Stuart and moved to Delaware. She had four children by

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her second marriage. Mary Perkins Wilson Stuart died January 8, 1803. The division of her estate was the subject of litigation among the Stuart children; the case was settled in January, 1822, and the "Ridgely" tract passed to her namesake, Mary Stuart Corse.

On April 29, 1831, Robert Constable purchased 216½ acres of the property, including the house site, from the estate of Mary Stuart Corse, for \$1850. The character of the interior decorative detailing suggests that the late Federal/early Greek Revival retrimming of the house took place during Constable's ownership. It later passed to John Holliday Cummins, who sold it to his brother-in-law, Maj. John Gustavus Black, in January, 1859. Black's daughter, Susan Cummins Black Waters, subsequently conveyed it to J. Waters Russell. On July 20, 1912, Russell sold White House Farm to Clara E. Dudley. The property was purchased on May 2, 1916 by William P. and Mary D. Cahall, who sold it to the present owner and her late husband on March 27, 1946.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Boundaries are delineated as an irregular quadrilateral defined by the right-of-way of Maryland Route 213 on the southeast and by fence lines surrounding the property on the southwest, northwest, and northeast. Beginning at a point defined by a fence post located at the northeast corner of the property, the line runs approximately 200' in a southwesterly direction along the right-of-way of Maryland Route 213 to a hedgerow; turns and runs in a northwesterly direction along the hedgerow and fence approximately 170' to an intersecting fence; turns and runs in a northeasterly direction along the fence approximately 230' to a fence; turns and runs approximately 100' in a southeasterly direction along the fence to the beginning point. These boundaries correspond to the area of the domestic yard which provides the immediate setting for the house.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property comprises approximately one acre, including the early brick house within its immediate environment and excluding modern agricultural outbuildings and surrounding property which do not contribute to the significance of the resource.