

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Early, William W., House
other names/site number PG:85A-9

2. Location

street & number 13907 Cherry Tree Crossing Road not for publication
city, town Brandywine vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Prince George's code 033 zip code 20613

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>2</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>2</u>	<u> </u> objects
			<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 of certifying official *[Signature]* Date 5-26-88
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. *[Signature]* 6-30-88
 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

PG:85A-9

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

single dwelling

single dwelling

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

foundation brickwalls weather boardshingleroof metal

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The William W. Early House, constructed in 1907, is a Queen Anne style frame dwelling. It is large and roughly square, with hip roofed two-and-one-half-story main block, and asymmetrical gable-roof extensions, projecting bays and corner tower. It is distinguished by jig-sawn vergeboards and patterned shingle siding in the gable ends, wide verandas with spindle-work frieze courses, and ornamental acroteria at the peaks of its patterned sheet metal roof. The house is clad in German siding. It stands on a 3-3/4 acre lot set back from the main street through the village of Brandywine, with two small outbuildings, a garage and well-house, on its immediate grounds. Only the house and well-house contribute to the significance of the property.

See continuation sheet for
General Description

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Prince George's County, Maryland

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The William W. Early House is a frame Queen Anne style dwelling. It stands on a 3½ acre lot set back from the main road through the village of Brandywine and accessible by Cherry Tree Crossing Road. The house is large and roughly square (40 by 50 feet), with hip-roof two-and-one-half-story main block, and assymmetrical gable-roof extensions, projecting bays and corner tower, all decorated with fine jig-sawn and shingle detail.

The principal facade faces south, and consists of an irregular four bays. The first bay is a three-window semi-octagonal projecting bay, two stories high and surmounted at third level by a pedimented gable with four-pane single sash window, patterned shingle siding, and jig-sawn vergeboards at the apex. At the peak of the gable is a terra cotta acroterion in the form of a marine spiral. In the second (near central) bay of the south facade is the entrance, through a five-panel door with three-pane transom and one-pane sidelights. In the third bay is a wood frame double hung sash window (two lights over two, with inserts), and the fourth bay consists of a tall two-story octagonal tower set into the southeast corner of the house; it has a tall and steep eight-faceted roof surmounted by a molded terra cotta cap and an acroterion in the shape of a cross.

Across the main south facade is a one-story veranda, with turned posts, jigsaw brackets, a railing of turned balusters, and an eave-course frieze of turned spindles. Above and framing the entrance on the south, the porch roof has a shallow pediment, with jigsaw vergeboards and siding of scalloped shingles. This veranda turns and wraps around the first bay of the west facade, and the first three bays of the east facade. It rests on brick piers infilled with white lattice.

The east facade, which faces Cherry Tree Crossing Road, is four bays across, the first being filled by the octagonal tower, and the third being a door with a one-pane transom. The fourth bay consists of a semi-octagonal three-window projecting bay, one story high. Above the projecting bay at third level is a highly decorated pedimented gable. The siding within its returned cornice consists of alternating courses of fishscale and scalloped shingles. At the apex are vergeboards with jigsaw tracery and pendants, and at the peak another marine spiral acroterion. Centered in the gable is a four-pane window with pedimented surround. A board frieze course below the cornice forms the pediment.

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Extending to the west from the basic square of the building is a two-and-one-half-story cross-gable wing, one bay by two bays. The gable end treatment here is identical to that of the easterly gable, with frieze, novelty shingle siding, acroterion, vergeboards and pedimented window surround. On the north facade of the building, the hip roof of the main block slopes to form a gable roof with a plain gable end and acroterion at the peak. Extending north from this gable end is a lower two-bay-wide twostory gable-roof kitchen wing. An identical acroterion tops the peak of its north gable end.

Filling the corner formed by the north and west wings is a two-story porch. In the 1940's the second story of this porch was enclosed to form a small kitchen for an upstairs apartment. In the late 1970's, the second story was rebuilt as a second level porch, accessible by a door into the room above the kitchen. Antique materials were used in the late 1970's to rebuild the second story; its turned posts and balusters are similar but not identical to those of the principal south veranda. The first story of this northwest corner porch has square posts and jigsawn balustrade. The porch rests on brick piers and is accessible by a flight of steps to the west.

East of the kitchen wing and flush with its north gable end is a small two-bay-by-two-bay one-story addition, which now serves as a breakfast room. It was built in the late 1970's and replaces a deteriorated kitchen porch. A small utility space was excavated under this addition, accessible by a bulkhead door which opens to the east. The breakfast room addition is covered with German siding, and the paired windows are 6/6 double hung sash.

The entire building is sheathed with German siding painted white. Cornices are boxed with crown molding, and are returned at all gable ends. There is a frieze course beneath the cornice around all sides of the house, and jig-sawn brackets support the cornice at corner points on the south facade. Windows are 2/2 double-hung sash on the facades, and 1/1 on projecting bays and tower; they have plain board surrounds with a narrow molding at the lintel, and dark red louvered shutters. The building rests on a high brick foundation; there is no basement. There are four tall asymmetrically-placed interior corbelled brick chimneys: two rise from the west plane of the main hip roof flanking the west wing, a third rises from the north plane of the main roof near the northeast corner, and a fourth rises from the east plane of the roof of the north wing. The roof is of patterned metal shingle, and the ridge of the hip is embellished with two acroteria.

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Interior plan consists of a stairhall with double parlor on the right (east), office on the left (west), and kitchen to the rear (north). The south door opens into a small vestibule with inner double door surmounted by a single-pane transom; each leaf of the double door consists of a tall glazed panel above two square molded panels. The double door leads into a wide stairhall, warmed by a fireplace on its west wall; the mantel is of dark marbled slate, its frieze course decorated with incised geometric patterns, and surmounted by a plain shelf. North of the mantel, where the hallway narrows, a closed-string staircase rises along its west wall, turns 90 degrees at a landing, and then continues eastward to the second story hall. The staircase has a square panelled newel with spherical cap, and turned balusters. The wall side of the staircase has panelled wainscoting, and the spandrel is identically panelled. The stairhall leads to the rear, into the (north) kitchen wing.

Surrounds of doors and windows are Classical Revival in style, with crown molding over squared molded bands. Ornamental grillework which originally adorned the bay in the stairhall has been removed.

To the west (in the crossgable wing) is a large office. The mantel in its east (interior) wall is of dark marbled slate, with incised patterns on its frieze, and a carved arched opening to the firebox. This office once had a separate entrance from the west end of the south (main) veranda; this entrance has been closed. To the east of the stairhall there were originally two parlors; the partition which divided the parlors has been removed, creating a large living room. The original marbled slate mantel at the north end of this room was removed in the late 1970's, and replaced by a mantel made of marble salvaged from a Victorian theater in Colorado.

There are two small outbuildings immediately west of the house. The northerly building is a gable-roof well-house, probably contemporary with the dwelling; it has entrance in the south gable end. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation, has an asphalt shingle roof, and a 3/3 double hung sash window in its east facade. Siding is of horizontal board. There was a windmill-and-pumphouse (no longer standing) immediately north of the well house. To the north of the windmill was a brick-bordered herb garden.

South of the well house is a gable-roof garage built circa 1950, with opening in its south gable end. This garage also rests on a poured concrete foundation, and has an asphalt shingle roof. The siding is of wall board, in board-and-batten pattern. In the east facade is a 1/1 double hung sash window, to the north of which is a four-panel door.

The 3 1/4 acre lot is bordered on the north by woods. At the edge of these woods is a deteriorating shed-roof storage shed with board-and-batten siding. South of this shed an above-ground swimming pool has recently been installed.

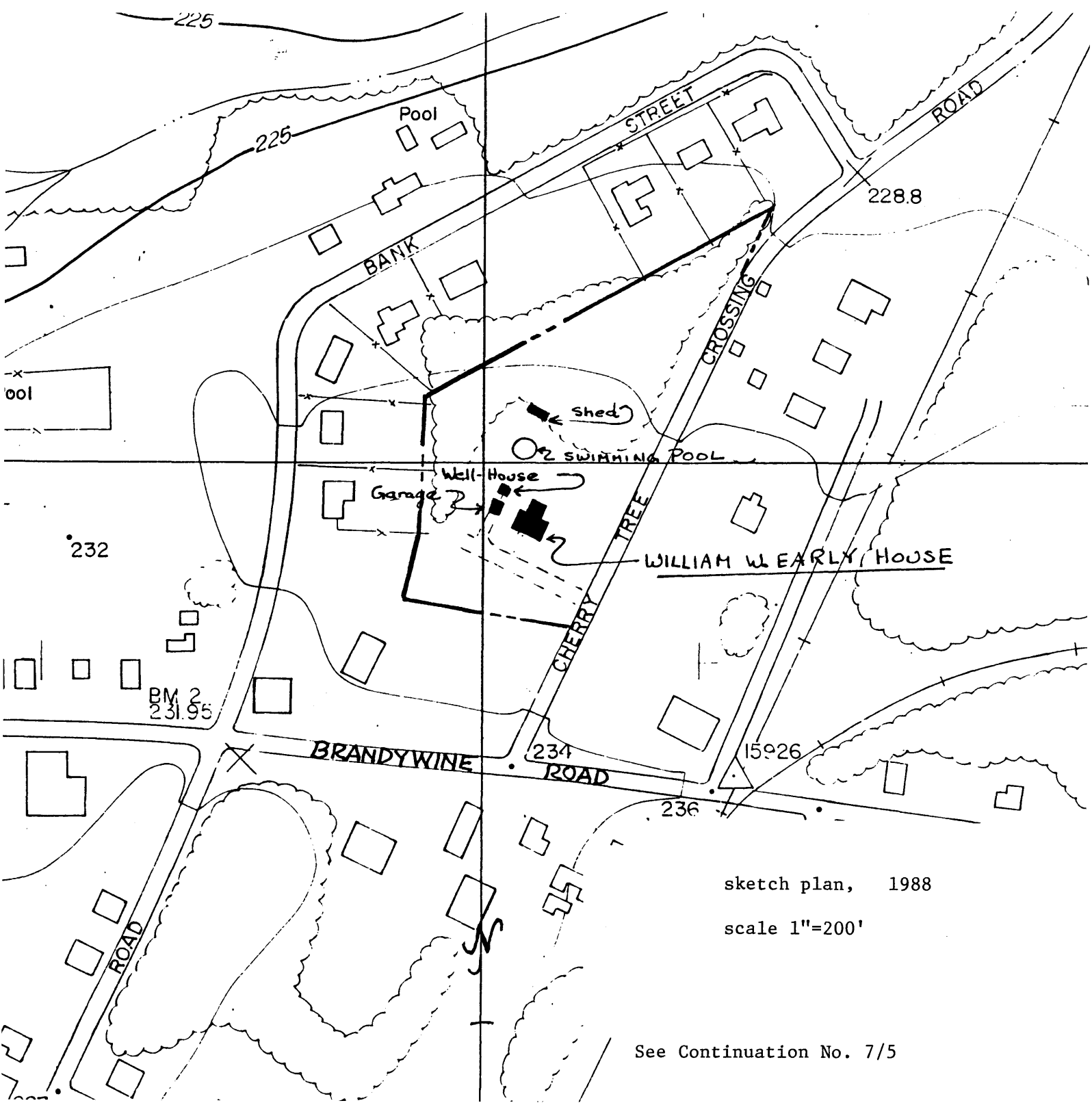
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sketch plan, 1988

scale 1"=200'

See Continuation No. 7/5

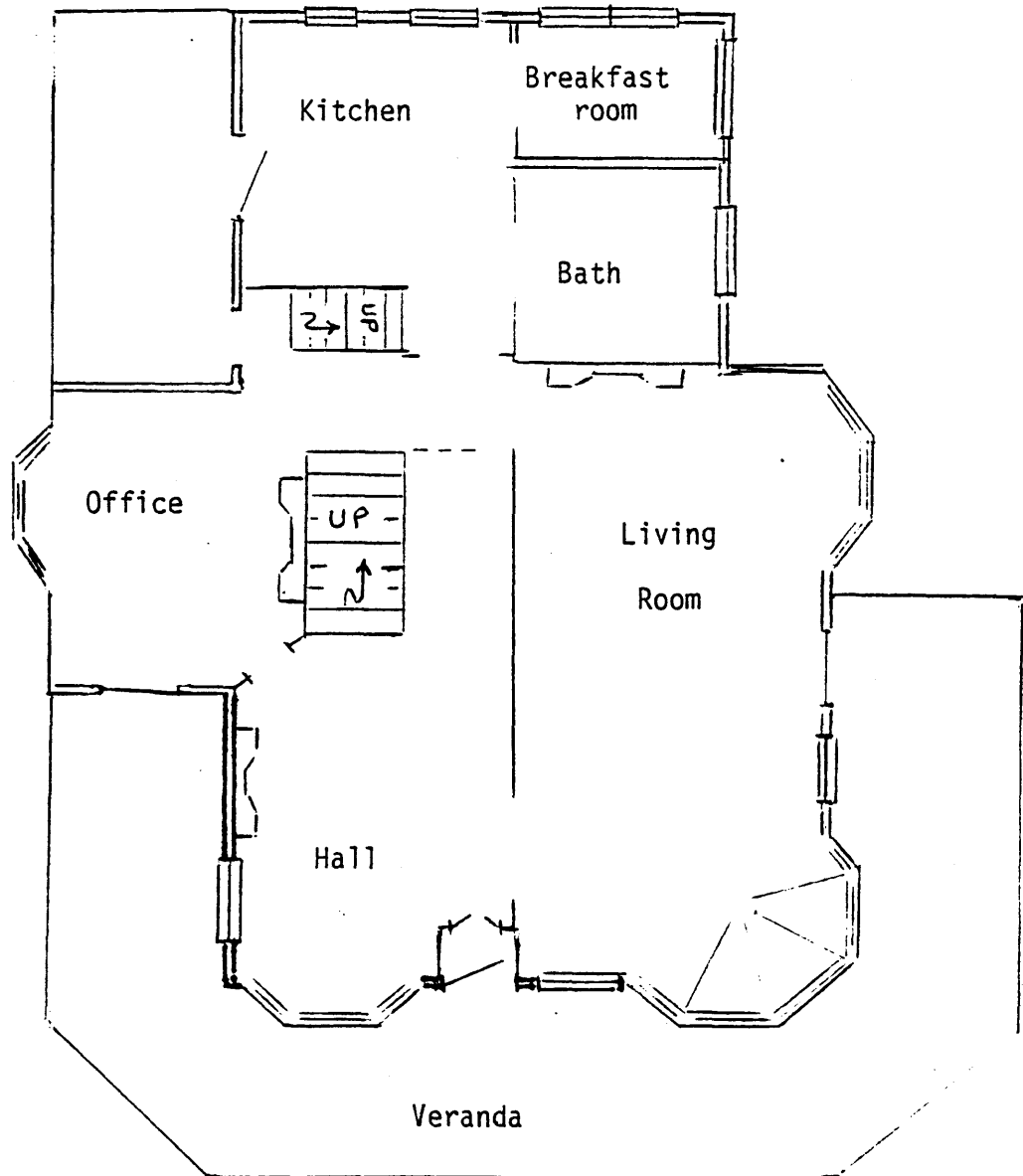
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Maryland

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first floor plan

scale 1"=10'

sgpearl
9/86

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)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1907

1907

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 William W. Early House is significant for its architectural character. Built in the Queen Anne style, the frame structure embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style that is commonly found in the urban and suburban regions of the state but rarely built in the rural regions. In the context of Prince George's County, the William W. Early House is one of the most elaborate examples and of particular importance because it remains essentially intact with a high level of integrity of the interior and exterior decorative detailing. Significant original features of the house are a polygonal tower, shingled gables, a wrap-around porch with turned balusters and posts, decorated sheet metal roof, and classically influenced interior woodwork.

See continuation sheet for

Historic Context and Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan data.

Prince George's County Land, Tax, and Court Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, MD.
Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Prince George's County. 1878.

Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory: Prince George's County (PG:85A-9)
Annapolis, MD.

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:

Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission, Upper Marlboro

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 3.2718 acres
Brandywine, MD USGS quadrangle _____

UTM References

A

1	8
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3	3	9	2	1	0
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4	2	8	4	6	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet No. 10/1

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet No. 10/1

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Principal Investigator, Historic Survey Project
organization Historic Preservation Commission date 1986; Nov. 1987
street & number c/o County Planning Division, MNCPPC telephone 952-3521
city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland zip code 20772

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Historic/Prehistoric Theme(s):

Architecture

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

1870-1930 Industrial/Urban Dominance

Resource Type:

domestic architecture/rural setting

Prince George's County has had an agriculture-based economy since the period of its earliest settlement. By the early years of the nineteenth century, a small settlement had developed at Brandywine in the southeast section of the County, at the intersection of the old roads to Woodville and to Indian Head in Charles County. The first store and post office were established by 1846 and, on the eve of the Civil War, were operated by William H. Early; the area all around it was dotted with small farms and large plantations. The construction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad through this area after the Civil War changed the face of southeastern Prince George's County. Farmers now had a means of transporting their produce to market in volume, and real estate speculators began to develop new communities along the railroad line. In 1872 William H. Early purchased land which lay along the tracks where they crossed the public road between Washington and Woodville, and this land became the nucleus of the railroad village of Brandywine. Early bought up more and more of the neighboring land, and had it surveyed and platted into 56 residential blocks, with cross streets and formal parks. In the early 1880's, during the construction of the Southern Maryland Railroad (which formed a junction with the Baltimore and Potomac Line at Brandywine), the population peaked at 250, but the envisioned development of the town never materialized. By the end of the century the population had dropped to 60, and remained at that level well into the twentieth century. After Early's death in 1890, his land was divided among his children and grandchildren; many of them built houses in this small railroad village, and those family dwellings that survive remain noticeable landmarks. Although Brandywine has maintained a nucleus of light commercial activity, the area around it remains rural and agricultural.

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The William W. Early House has importance in architectural, transportation, and community planning themes. It is a fine example of Queen Anne style domestic architecture, distinguished by its projecting corner tower, wraparound veranda and great variety of surface detail. It is closely connected with the development of the railroad in Prince George's County, and served as the home office of the railroad manager. It is also connected with the planning and development of the village of Brandywine, having been built for a member of the family of William H. Early, an important landowner and developer of this railroad village.

The William W. Early house is an elegant high-style frame dwelling in the Queen Anne style. It was built at the end of the Victorian period, by a successful and prominent businessman, in a conscious attempt to utilize the best features of a style which was already on the decline. The house resembles several plans available through mail-order pattern books in the 1890's, but the exact pattern has not been identified. In any case, the house is one of the best examples of its type in Prince George's County.

William W. Early was a grandson of William H. Early, a farmer and merchant who had established himself in the Brandywine area before the Civil War, and who profited by the construction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad in the 1870's. By the time of his death in 1890, William H. Early owned 3,000 acres including most of the land which has been platted into the lots of the village of Brandywine.¹ His real estate was divided after his death among his heirs, with approximately equivalent thirds going to his son, Charles, his daughter, Margaret, and the children of his deceased son, James. William W. Early was the oldest of James' children, and his inheritance included Lot #7 of Brandywine, a 23-acre parcel on which James Early had built his home soon after his marriage in the early 1870's.²

Like many others in his family, William W. Early worked for the railroad, first as a conductor, then advancing to become general manager of the Southern Maryland Railroad. In 1907 he dismantled his childhood home, and began construction of what was to become the most prominent residence in Brandywine. His cousins and brothers followed his example within the year (cf. #85A-10, -28 and -29), dotting the railroad-junction village with fine late Victorian dwellings, of which William W. Early's was the most outstanding example. The west wing of the house served as his

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office during his management of the railroad, while the remainder of the large house was his family home. Early retired in 1917 due to poor health, and died in 1920. The house and property remained in the possession of William W. Early's son until 1946.³

During the later 1940's, part of the second story of the house was converted into an apartment, and the second story of the northwest porch was made into a small kitchen. In the late 1970's, this kitchen was rebuilt with antique materials into an open porch. Subsequent owners have undertaken minor alternations in the house, e.g., closing off a doorway, and building a one-story breakfast-room addition in the northeast corner.⁴ Essentially all of the exterior decorative elements (novelty shingles, spindle work, acroteria, and jigsaw brackets and vergeboards) survive in good condition. The house stands on the remaining 3-1/4 acres of William W. Early's land near the center of the village of Brandywine, an outstanding example of high-style Queen Anne domestic architecture. It is the most outstanding of the surviving dwellings of the Early family, a family which had great social and economic influence in the Brandywine community.

Recent survey work in Prince George's County has identified seven other late Victorian dwellings constructed between 1888 and 1910, which can be compared to the William W. Early House. The closest parallels are the Lake-Wearyt House (P.G. #66-18) built in 1894, and the William C. Duley House (P.G. #82B-28) built in 1900. Both have corner towers, and wraparound verandas with spindle work frieze courses. Another close parallel is the house of Early's cousin, William Berry Early (P.G. #85A-10), which was enlarged and Victorianized in 1910, and which incorporates some of the same (e.g., corner tower and spindle frieze veranda) decorative features, but which has lost some of its original detail. Other fine Victorian dwellings in Prince George's County which are similar in concept but quite different in design are: the O'Dea House (P.G. #67-11) built in 1888 from a Robert W. Shoppell design, and listed on the National Register; the Kleiner-Dillon House (P.G. #67-17) also built in 1888 from a Shoppell design; the Traband House (P.G. #79-21) built circa 1895 from an Arthur F. Nicholson design and listed on the National Register; and the Smith House (P.G. #68-4a) built circa 1898 in the railroad suburb of Riverdale. With the possible exception of the Lake-Wearyt House, the William W. Early House is probably the best surviving example in Prince George's County of this type of turn-of-the-century Queen Anne style domestic architecture.

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Notes

1 Census, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, for Prince George's County, Brandywine District; tax assessments for Brandywine Election District; G.M. Hopkins Atlas of Prince George's County, 1878; Prince George's County Equity #1904; conversation with Early family members, July 1985 and February 1986.

2 Prince George's County Equity #1904.

3 cf. Chain of Title; Census for Prince George's County; Prince George's County Tax Assessments; conversation with Early family members, July 1985 and February 1986.

4 Conversation with property owners from 1940's to 1970's, November 1987.

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Chain of Title

William W. Early House
P.G. #85A-9

#5287:288 31 July 1980 Deed	Frederick and Susanne Hodgdon to Guy P. and Rhoda Clark, 3.27 acres in Brandywine, same acquired by #4721:596.
#4721:596 7 June 1977 Deed	Ralph and Doris Pardee to Frederick and Susanne Hodgdon, 3.27 acres, part of Meinhardt-Walder property described in #4163:508.
#4280:390 18 Sept. 1973 Deed	H. Meinhardt and J. Walder to Ralph and Doris Pardee, 3.27 acres as per Meekins survey, 1973.
#4163:508 16 Dec. 1972 Deed	Kenneth Smith to H. Meinhardt and J. Walder, 4.37 acres, part of Lot #7, (a) all of land acquired by #1775:170 (.68 acre), and (b) residue of 10 acres acquired by #1150:355.
#1150:355 18 Aug. 1949 Deed	Richard and Madeline Bennett to Kenneth and Susan Smith, 10 acres, part of Lot #7, acquired from William W. Early by #826:413.
#826:413 27 March 1946 Deed	William W. Early, Jr. (sole surviving son and heir of William W. Early, deceased) to Richard and Madeline Bennett, 19 acres, part of Lot #7 (23 acres) which William W. Early, Jr. obtained by inheritance, and which William Warren Early obtained by Equity #1904.
#3182 1920 Estate File	William W. Early died in 1920, leaving widow, Maria H. Early, and children, Chesley and William W. Jr.
#1904 1893 Equity	Charles S. and Georgia Early vs. Sarah A. M. Early, for purpose of dividing real estate of William H. Early, who died in 1890 possessed of real estate comprising the village of Brandywine. A commission was appointed to divide real estate among his heirs: (a) one part to son, Charles S. Early (b) one part to daughter, Margaret Early Bowie (c) one part to be divided among four children of deceased son, James A. Early: (1) William W. Early (including Lot #7, 23 acres) (2) Mary J. Early (3) Leonard Early (4) James A. Early, Jr.

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10. Verbal Boundary description and justification

The nominated property consists of 142,518 square feet or 3.2718 acres, all of that parcel of land described in Prince George's County deed #5287:288, parcel #199 on Tax Map #145. The property has an irregular shape, coming to an acute angle in the northeast; it has a 686.17 foot frontage on Cherry Tree Crossing Road to the east. The grounds are level, and the northerly section of the lot is wooded. The house is approached by a drive which runs in a northwesterly direction from Cherry Tree Crossing Road. The nominated property includes the dwelling house, one other contributing building (the well-house), two non-contributing buildings (garage and shed) and one non-contributing structure (the swimming pool). The boundaries of this 3.2718 acre parcel preserve the immediate grounds of the dwelling and its historic environmental setting.