PH0026204 MHT QA-7

Form 10-300 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
Maryland	
COUNTY:	
Queen Anne's	County
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
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	☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Cons	sidered	Preservation work	Unrestric	ted
			i!		in progress	□ No	
	PRESENT USE (Check One or !	More as Appropriate)				·	
	☐ Agricultural ☐ G	overnment	Park		Transportation	Comments	
	☐ Commercial ☐ In	ndustrial 💃	Private Residence		Other (Specify)		
	☐ Educational ☐ M	ilitary	Religious				
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4.	OWNER OF PROPERTY						
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Bowlingly was built in 1733 by Ernault Hawkins, the fifth owner of the property which had been patented in 1658 to James Bowling, an Englishman. (There is no record to show what, if any, dwelling stood here prior to 1733.)

The brick house stands on a high bluff facing a wide expanse of water on the east side of the Chester River at its mouth. It is an example of an early type of Maryland plantation architecture. Similar to its Dutch forebears, it stands two stories with an attic and depends for decoration on the balance of its fenestration and the skilled elaboration of its brickwork. Nine windows, nine-over-six panes, with ornamental brick arches are flanked on each end of both stories by a narrow window. There is a chamfered water table and an ornamental string course, part of which was destroyed about 1900 during Bowlingly's brief period as a hotel. The outstanding feature of the western (main) front is the brickwork laid up in Flemish bond with all headers glazed. High on the south end, the date 1733 is laid in glazed headers above diamond shaped patterns in a darker brick below.

In the 1798 Federal Direct Tax, Bowlingly is described as follows: "Brick dwelling house, 55' x 20', with a one-storey addition 45' x 20'," thus giving Bowlingly its length of 100 feet. The inventory also mentioned another addition of 17' x 17'.

By the time of the War of 1812, Bowlingly had been inherited by Richard Hall, who, being a man of property and owning several estates, retired to a less exposed inland dwelling and lent Bowlingly to the local militia for its headquarters. At dawn on August 2, 1813, a surprise British landing party appeared on the west lawn; the militia fled forthwith; and Bowlingly was left defenseless. The invaders vandalized it so thoroughly—the stairs and doors were ripped out, paneling was torn away, paintings slashed, etc.—that it apparently remained uninhabitable for several years. It is known that Mr. Hall was unable to get reparations from Congress for his war damages to Bowlingly.

Bowlingly changed owners again in 1817 when it was conveyed to James Massey. Between then and 1820, as attested by coins found in a later restoration and by certain architectural details of the reconstruction, Bowlingly entered on a new phase of its existence. A graceful antler starrgast was installed. The main doorway was rebuilt, and a second convey was added to the long addition. A two-story service 1 1972 wing has been added on an east-west axis at the north end, thus giving the house its present "L" shape.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as A Pre-Columbian) 15th Century	Appropriate) 16th Century 17th Century	early 18th Century 19th Century	☐ 20th Century
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known) Paten	ted, 1658; House	built, 1733;
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che Abor iginal Prehistoric Historic Agriculture Architecture Art Communications Conservation	ck One or More as Approp	Political Political Religion/Philosophy Science Sculpture Social/Humanitarian Theater Transportation	sh attack 8 Urber Planning Other (specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bowlingly holds a significant place in architectural history owing to its undisputed date of construction: "1733" appears in glazed header brick on the southwest gable. Its scale and size are indicative of the significance of the house at the time of its construction. Bowlingly has a further importance to architectural historians as an example by which to date other structures in the region.

Bowlingly--according to the contemporary account of a local militia officer, Major Thomas Emory--was pillaged by the British during the War of 1812. At dawn on August 13, 1813, a flotilla of English ships landed at Bowlingly's The British troops severely damaged the house before encountering the local militia north to Centreville. accounts maintain that the British landed across the creek from Bowlingly at Blakeford. The local militia, separated from the numerically superior British force by Queenstown Creek, had enough time to retreat toward Centreville. account appears in Frederick Emory's Queen Anne's County, Maryland Its Early History and Development (Baltimore, 1950), 430-436, and J. Thomas Scharf's History of Maryland from Its Earliest Period to the Present Day, 3 vols., reprint (Hatboro, Pennsylvania, 1967), III, 48-51.

The 1733 house, built by Ernault Hawkins as a dwelling, was located on a tract called Bowlingly that his father had purchased in the seventeenth century. He chose a site for his house in close proximity to the eighteenth-century county seat, Queenstown, laid out in 1709 on the same tract of land.

Hawkins died in 1738 investing his estate with his wife who remarried almost a decade later. Her husband, Edward Neale, consolidated her inheritance into one tract: Neale's Residence. After Neale's death the house and land became the property of his daughter and son-in-law. Neale added two one-story wings indicated in his inventory of 1763 and in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment. Neale's grandson Richard Hall was the owner during the War of 1812. Hall sold it to James Massey in 1817.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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Society, 1950.

Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798. Queen Anne's County. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

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	Date May 23, 1972						Date						

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Queen Anne's	County
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ENTRY NUMBER 72	DATE
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(Number all entries)

Bowlingly

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Queen Anne's County Historic Buildings Survey $\sqrt{\frac{8 + \sqrt{8}}{2}}$

1970-71

Local

c/o James W. Valliant Corsica Neck Centreville, Maryland Code:

24

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

In about 1895, Bowlingly began a brief period of use as a hotel, and became known as "The Ferry House." It served to take care of the passengers who arrived from Baltimore by ferry to the Bowlingly wharf, whence transportation to Easton existed via a narrow gauge railroad. The hotel management did great damage by installing 220 feet of covered porch around the house at the level of the string piece, knocking off the two top courses to hold the roof of the "piazza."

Either at this time or shortly before, in order to conform to the fashion of the time, Bowlingly was painted yellow so that the decorative brickwork was entirely covered. Thus observers had no idea of the beauty that lay beneath it. accounts for several references during this period that the brickwork at Bowlingly was unduly simple or "plain."

Bowlingly reverted to private ownership at the turn of the century, but it was not until the present (1972) owner took possession in 1953 that the disfiguring yellow paint was finally scrubbed off with muriatic acid and the original brilliance of the brickwork reappeared unimpaired. It was also in 1953, under the guidance of the architectural historian, William Dewey Foster, that other work was undertaken to restore Bowlingly so far as possible to its original appearance. The remaining sections of the hotel porch were removed, and so was an elaborate Victorian cornice which, with a flat roof, had been added to the two long wings. By restoring this to the sharply pitched roof line of the 1733 original building, the roof of the whole house was brought back into balance. Details for the front door (west), which had never been replaced since the British



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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Bowlingly

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

attack in 1813, were worked out in accordance with drawings of Maryland architecture of the early eighteenth century.

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Whether or not Bowlingly was pillaged by the British, the house was altered after the War of 1812 during the occupancy of James Massey. He purchased the house and its considerable acreage in 1817. Massey was a county politician and sometime minor office holder. He belonged to the Federalist and later to the Whig parties. After Massey's death (1847) Charles J. B. Mitchell, another large land owner in the county, held Bowlingly. After Mitchell's death the house became a hotel serving passengers of the Baltimore-Queenstown ferry.

In the mid-twentieth century, Bowlingly was returned to its earlier appearance under the skilled direction of Mrs. W. Randolph Burgess.

The chain of ownership of Bowlingly begins with the original 200 acre patent on January 7, 1658, to James Bowling and continues unbroken to the present (1972) owner--a period of over three centuries.

While the overall size of the property has varied from time to time as successive owners bought or sold off separate parts of it, the original area of 200 acres where the house stands has never been interfered with. This has resulted in a park-like area where some of the greatest trees in the country have been able to grow and attain majestic size. These are described in Besley's "Big Tree Champions." He refers to the largest willow oak in the United States of America, now 21 1/2 feet in circumference, the largest catalpa, and the largest American linden. Unfortunately, the linden was uprooted and destroyed by a severe windstorm three years ago (1969).

The chain of ownership is as follows:

1658, James Bowling -- 1668, John & Stephen Tully -- 1680, John

Hawkins -- 1717, Ernault Hawkins -- 1737, Elizabeth Hawkins,

his wife -- 1746, Edward Neale, her second husband (buried at

Bowlingly) -- 1761, Martha Hall, his daughter (buried at

Bowlingly) -- 1767, Francis Hall, her husband -- 1789, their

children -- 1790, Francis Hall, Jr., acquired her other children's

interests -- 1798, Richard Hall, son of above -- sold to - 1817,

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Bowlingly

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

James Massey -- 1843, William Stevens & Louisa Massey Stevens, widow and son-in-law of above -- 1851, Charles Mitchell -- 1884-97, various children of Mitchell's, inheritance -- 1897, bought by Queenstown Land and Development Company of Baltimore City, hotel period began -- 1914, S. E. W. Friel -- 1941, Friel's widow and children -- 1944, Caroline Jelke -- 1953, Helen Hamilton Woods.

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