

HA-1240

## Mary Risteau House

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 02-18-2004***

## SUMMARY

HA-1240

Mary Risteau House  
Jarrettsville Road  
Jarrettsville, MD 21084

The home of Mary Risteau, the first female member of both the Maryland House of Delegates and the Maryland State Senate, this house and neighboring store, dairy, privy, and grainery are currently in the process of being nominated to the National Register. Aside from its association with Mary Risteau, the complex is notable as the only remains of a planned town here, and the store is the earliest remaining unadulterated commercial structure in the County. The dwelling and store, early for the area, retain an unusual amount of original and unaltered detailing.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Mary Risteau House

2 LOCATION (North and south sides of Old Jarrettsville Road, east of Rigdon Road, near Jarrettsville, Maryland.)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. George B. Rigdon

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

1320 Rigdon Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Jarrettsville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21084

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mary Risteau house is a two-story brick house representing three periods of construction: the original of ca. 1815-1820, enlargement in ca. 1850 and another enlargement of ca. 1940.

It is possible that the original sections are of two close periods, described in greater detail below.

The house is closely oriented to the road, facing west; with the flagstone-paved sidewalk next to the road, a wrought-iron fence enclosing a small front yard, the adjacent store and a tenant house\*similarly oriented to the road to the north and across the road a grainery, the setting seems urban but these are the only structures in this immediate vicinity. Surrounding land is farmland.

The earliest portions are:

- Parlor: the three northerly bays, two stories in height,
- Dining Room: the two southerly bays, originally one and one-half stories in height,
- Kitchen: the south wing, two bays in length, originally one and one-half stories in height.

It is possible that the south wing (Kitchen) is slightly later than the other two early sections, the single room of the two southerly bays serving as the Kitchen for a few years.

The absence of a vertical joint in the west front brickwork between the parlor and the dining room indicates a single construction effort; the vertical joint in the upper story together with a slight change in brick color indicates the addition. The presence of a vertical joint the full height on the rear or east elevation is inexplicable. When first constructed, the south wing had a shed roof falling to the east; the taller west wall's being two stories in height. This shape is indicated internally on the north and south walls of the second story room in the south wing and the low wall which divides the second story room into two areas is the full height of the original east wall. In almost every detail, each section remains as constructed, without subsequent change.

In the second story, a room was added above the original south room and the two story east wing was added probably at the same time. The east wing originally had a shed roof falling to the north, indicated by its existing and original south wall's extending higher than the north wall.

Shortly before the second World War, the last owner added a small room filling out the corner formed by the south and east wings with a full second story above extending over the south wing. The added roof is hipped at the southwest corner

(See Continuation Sheet #1.)

\*Recently demolished.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mary Risteau, first female member of both the Maryland House of Delegates and the Maryland State Senate, lived in this house from 1938 until her death in 1978. Born in 1890 in Towson, Mary Risteau moved to Harford County in 1917. Her achievements were many and she was one of Harford County's--and Maryland's-- true luminaries.

A recent local newspaper article by Deborah Bowers documents her career:

"Mary Risteau was a loyal servant of her rural constituency. Her first concern was the low quality of education in Harford County schools. While campaigning for her first election to the House of Delegates, she proclaimed a need to raise money for Harford County schools by selling bonds, an unpopular issue in 1920. She cleverly offered herself as commencement speaker at the county schools and used the occasion to speak upon the need to improve education, and, of course, the merits of the bond system. After each commencement, Miss Risteau's campaign workers handed out pamphlets.

While some regarded her techniques as scandalous, Mary Risteau's clever and conscientious campaign won her a seat in the Maryland General Assembly. Later in her second term, she worked for the passage of the Equalization Plan, which set a minimum teacher's salary by subsidizing poorer counties. After its passage, Maryland was noted as having the best method of equalizing revenues in the nation.

After serving three terms in the House of Delegates, Mary Risteau in 1934 went on to win a place in the Senate, at which time she found it safe to announce 'the old prejudice against women in public office is surely overcome,' and that the Democrats were 'willing to accord the same importance to women in public affairs as men.' Later an article in The Baltimore Sun would quote a former colleague of Miss Risteau's as saying she had the 'largest individual following of anyone in public life in Maryland today,' except, of course, for Governor Herbert O'Conor.

That was 1937. In the years following, Mary Risteau would acquire a law degree from Baltimore Law School, become the first woman floor leader in the House of Delegates and speaker in the Senate. She would be appointed Administrator of Loan Laws, and would serve a brief term as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Harford County."

(See Continuation Sheet #7.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land, Will, and equity records of Harford County  
"Remembering Miss Mary," by Deborah Bowers, Aegis, 11/30/78.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor  
James T. Wollon, AIA

ORGANIZATION Harford County Historic District Commission DATE 11/11/78 10/79

STREET & NUMBER 45 South Main Street TELEPHONE 838-6000 X207

CITY OR TOWN Bel Air STATE Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Maryland Historical Trust  
Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey

MARY RISTEAU HOUSE

7. DESCRIPTION

and forms a broad east gable with the roof of the earlier east wing. A large concealed valley seems to have resulted from these additions, its shape not completely clear from the ground, its results (bad leaks) perfectly clear from within the house.

A one-story shed-roofed porch shelters the principal entrance on the west front and it extends over two bays to the south. The porch dates from the second construction period. A one-story shed-roofed porch formerly extended across the entire east side, now collapsed and decomposed.

The entire west front of the main house is of Flemish bond with closers only at the northwest corner. The south wall of the main house is of stretchers with only occasional headers. Other walls are of common bond with headers every sixth course. Unbonded jack arches support the masonry above openings. The cornice is of corbeled brick. A flush chimney rises centered above each gable of the main house, and two rise from the south end of the south wing, one in the original section, one above the twentieth century addition. A chimney formerly was flush above the east gable of the east wing, now removed; a twentieth century external single-flue chimney rises against the north side of the east wing.

The corbeled brick cornice consists of three courses, the top two being flush on one plane, the single lower course being at its own plane. The corbeling terminates short of the corners, in effect a self-return. Tapered barge boards are beaded.

All roofs are covered with slate.

An entrance is centered in the west and east facades of the parlor, the original northerly three bays, and 6/6 windows are in each flanking bay. In the second story are 6/6 windows in each bay. All windows had blinds on cast-iron hinges and some fragments with moveable louvres remain. Door and window frames are of plain beaded stock, of moderate width, mitered at the head. The west entrance has a four-light transom.

In the southerly two bays--the original one and one-half story section--the northerly bay was a door but it is now a typical window, like the original to the south. Two similar windows are in the second story. The change from door to window appears to be contemporary with the addition of the second story and the partial refinishing of the first story room. The east wall was identical. An exterior door is in the northerly bay and in the southerly bay is a door to the east wing.

In the south wing, also two bays in length, the northerly bay is an entrance and a typical 6/6 window is in the southerly bay. The east facade is identical to the west but it is covered by the twentieth century addition. In the second story of the west front are windows of square proportions, probably 3/3 originally, now with twentieth century wood casements.

The east wing is also two bays in length with 6/6 windows to the north and doors to the south, the southwest opening into the south wing; the southeast opening into the twentieth century addition to the south wing.

(See Continuation Sheet #2.)

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A single large Parlor is in the first story of the three northerly bays. Walls and the ceiling are plastered on handsplit lath fastened with cut nails. A fireplace is centered in the north wall; to its west are cupboards having pairs of doors above and below the chair rail which extends around the entire room at windowsill height. East of the chimney an enclosed stairway pivots about a single newel to the second and thence to the attic floor levels. A small closet is beneath the staircase. A door to the south room is centered on the south wall. All doors have six panels in the usual arrangement, two small ones above four taller ones. The upper cupboard doors together form a typical six panel arrangement and the under-stair closet door has two panels. Panels are partially raised; the stiles and rails are edged with a small recessed cyma recta. The two-plane architraves have an astrigal at the inner edge, a bead at the change of plane and a quirked cyma reversa-with-astrigal backband. The chair rail has a cap with a recessed cyma recta over a beaded fascia. The baseboard is simply beaded. The fireplace has a single plane architrave surround with a triple bead and a backband typical for the room. It supports a paneled frieze and each of the three panels is edged with a double bead; an additional vertical bead is between panels. The bed moulding has gouge carving to suggest dentils and the shelf is moulded. The hearth is of brick.

The west door has a wrought-iron rim lock with small brass knobs; the east and south doors have wrought-iron Carpenter locks without the monarch's initials. Hinges are cast-iron butts. Two brass jamb hooks remain on the fireplace surround.

A single room is also within the southerly two bays. Centered on its south wall is a fireplace; east of the fireplace is an enclosed stair like the northeast stair, extending to the attic; a small closet is beneath. The chair rail, at windowsill level but interrupted at windows by a separate sill and apron, has a cap with a shallow recessed cavetto and a beaded fascia below. The windows and doors are trimmed with a two plane architrave having a bead at the inner edge and no backband. Plain corner blocks correspond to the outer plane of the architrave and plain plinths correspond to the height of the baseboard. Window and door trim probably date from the addition of this section's second story. As noted above, the west door was converted to a window at this time; the east door remains, opening to the former east porch. It is identical to the doors of the Parlor, including its lock. Another door in the east wall opens to the east wing; it has four unmoulded, partially-raised panels and a cast-iron rim lock. The mantel has an architrave surround consisting of an applied astrigal at the inner edge, a single plane and an applied backband having a cyma recta-with-astrigal profile. The architrave supports a paneled frieze having two bold astrigals rising directly from the top of the architrave surrounding three sides of each panel. The door to the stair is similar to the parlor doors but with fully-raised panels.

The ceiling is plastered on circular sawn lath fastened with cut nails but another set of nail holes indicates earlier lathing.

(See Continuation Sheet #3.)

Maryland Historical Trust  
Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey

MARY RISTEAU HOUSE

7. DESCRIPTION

The south wing was the original kitchen and access between it and the main house appears originally to have been by way of the east porch. The west exterior door has six panels, identical to other original doors of the house. The east exterior door is of vertical beaded boards. A large arched fireplace is at the south end, fitted with a wrought-iron crane having a twisted diagonal brace. An enclosed staircase is east of the chimney, pivoting about a single newel to the second floor. A cupboard is beneath the stair. A deep cupboard is enclosed west of the fireplace, possibly not original because the mantel shelf mouldings are self-returned as though not intended to stop against a projecting element such as the existing cupboard. The fireplace has an architrave surround like that of the south room, but with a plain frieze and a bed-moulding of the same backband profile doubled with a smaller quirked cyma reversa-with-astrigal; the shelf is beaded. Walls are sheathed with plain vertical boards installed by the last owner. Exposed ceiling joists were plastered originally.

A single room is in the east wing without a fireplace. An enclosed winding staircase, similar to the others, is in the northeast corner and a closet is beneath. Doors are of vertical boards with cast-iron rim locks. Architraves are of plain beaded material and there is no chair rail. The single-flue east chimney has been removed and a later stovepipe hole is cut through the north wall to the later chimney there. A board partition at the west end forms a small corridor leading to the south wing (kitchen).

The brick infilling structure within the corner formed by the east wing and the south wing is unfinished internally.

Above the parlor are three small rooms and a small square hall at the stairs. West of the stair hall the largest room has a small fireplace and two windows. The southwest room has but one window while the southeast room, identical in width to the stair hall, has two windows. The stair hall itself has one window. Door architraves are of one plane with a beaded inner edge and an applied backband consisting of a cyma recta-with-astrigal. Doors are of vertical boards hung on cast iron butt hinges and having small rim latches with rising bolts and small brass knobs. Windows are trimmed with the backband only and there are no chair rails. The northwest room's fireplace has an architrave surround like the doors with a frieze having paneled end blocks, a moulded bed and shelf. A large closet is west of the chimney, enclosed with a pair of board doors, the easterly door having a wooden latch to fasten it to a shelf, and a turn-button to hold the west door closed. The doors have the same architrave surround.

Leading south from the southwest room is a door to a large south room. The door has four partially-raised unmoulded panels. The chimney projects as a single flue, without a fireplace. Windows and doors are trimmed with plain beaded trim with plain plinths and corner blocks. The southwest staircase continues enclosed to the attic, its door having four partially raised unmoulded panels. Doors have cast-iron rim locks with mineral knobs.

From the south bay on the east side a similar four-panel door leads to the east wing where the single room is similarly and plainly finished. The stair down is

(See Continuation Sheet #4.)

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MARY RISTEAU HOUSE

7. DESCRIPTION

protected by a plain rail mortised and tenoned into the extended newel post from the first floor and plain rectangular balusters support the rail. The outline of the removed east chimney, a single flue projecting only slightly from the plane of the wall, may be seen centered on the east wall next to the staircase.

A modern partition forms a short hall at the west end of this room giving access to the large space above the kitchen or south wing, a space created from the former loft by the twentieth century addition above and behind the kitchen. The six-panel door hung on BALDWIN PATENT cast-iron butt hinges between the east and south wings was an exterior door, contemporary with the earlier additions to this house but apparently salvaged from elsewhere. The interior of this enlarged space is unfinished and incomplete. A low brick wall, about three feet high, is the original east wall of the south wing and the west wall was only slightly lower than its present height. The former single-pitch roof is outlined on the north and south walls. A door leads through the east wall, apparently intended for a porch or an exterior entrance stair, never constructed or now missing.

The attic above the original northerly section is unfinished. The straight-sawn chestnut rafters are mortised, tenoned and pegged at the ridge. The straight-sawn pine sheathing is tight for the slate roof. The attic above the raised south room is finished with plaster on circular-sawn lath fastened with cut nails. A board door between the two attics is hung on BALDWIN PATENT cast-iron butt hinges.

A cellar extends beneath the main house only, accessible from a bulkhead entrance in the south end near the southwest corner. No interior stairs to the cellar are indicated. First floor joists under the parlor are straight-sawn; under the south room they are both hewn and straight-sawn. Walls of the northerly section are all brick while the lower walls beneath the southerly section are stone, the upper walls brick.

The fence along the road has round wrought-iron balusters extending through iron angles bottom and top, each top finished as a flattened arrow. The gate is similar but with a segmentally-arched top. Gate posts are cast iron with small applied panels cast in each face, a simple finial at the top.

Outbuildings

Immediately southwest of the kitchen wing is a one-story stone outbuilding, its cantilevered gabled roof facing north. A single door is in its north end, under the cantilevered gable. Its roof form and its floor level below grade indicate its original construction as a dairy, but it was converted to a smoke house many years ago. There is an outer and an inner door at the single opening. Both are of vertical board construction and the outer one is hung on wrought-iron strap hinges and it is locked with a wrought-iron hasp. The inner door is hung on cast-iron butt hinges and it is locked with a large wooden-cased rim lock.

(See Continuation Sheet #5.)

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MARY RISTEAU HOUSE

7. DESCRIPTION

A frame privy is overturned and in ruins east of the dairy-smokehouse. Apparently contemporary with the original section of the dwelling, of frame construction, originally measuring about 4 by 8 feet, its roof shape can no longer be determined. Its long side appears to have faced north with a door in the east end at the northeast corner, facing away from the dwelling. A continuous seat extended along the south side with two holes toward the southwest corner. Interior walls were plastered over handsplit lath fastened with cut nails.

A well is east of the kitchen wing.

Store

The store is oriented with its gable facing south, facing the small front yard of the house, the west wall of the store being quite close to the road. It is probably contemporary with the original house construction.

The store is one story in height, of brick laid in common bond, every sixth course headers; the roof is slate. Unbonded jack arches support the masonry above openings. A small single flue chimney rises flush with the north gable. The corbelled brick cornice similar to that of the house stops short of the corners in a self-return. The roofing projects over all four walls in a moderately-wide overhang, a slight change from the original which undoubtedly had a minimal overhang at the eave with only a barge board at the rake.

A doorway with double doors is centered in the south wall flanked by a 6/6 window on either side. (The east window is boarded up.) A single 6/6 window is centered in the north end. A small six-light casement is in the south gable to light the attic and a pair of smaller windows in the north gable flank the north chimney, the latter originally with four-light sash. Horizontal square iron bars, set diagonally, protect the attic windows and similar bars protect two small windows in the east wall near grade, lighting the cellar, accessible through a bulkhead under the southwest window. Windows of the principal story have board shutters hung on cast-iron butt hinges, secured closed with a diagonal iron bar having a lock-bar to extend through the wooden jamb, pinned or keyed in place internally. The doors are late nineteenth century replacements, of vertical wainscot externally, horizontal wainscot internally.

Within is a single large room with plastered walls and exposed joists in the ceiling. The north chimney commences on corbeling above the window. An enclosed stair pivots about a single newel post in the southeast corner, its door and enclosure formed of plain boards. An outline of shelving and its vertical supports remains on the two long side walls. The attic and cellar are unfinished. The straight-sawn chestnut rafters are mortised and tenoned at the ridge and the circular-sawn chestnut sheathing is tight for slate. The sheathing is probably a mid-nineteenth century replacement for the slate roof, hence the circular texture and wide overhangs. Originally the roof was probably shingled on lath.

(See Continuation Sheet #6.)

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MARY RISTEAU HOUSE

7. DESCRIPTION

Grainery

The braced-frame grainery stands across the road from the store, its gable oriented to the south. Its walls are sheathed with straight-sawn vertical pine siding attached with cut nails and the roof is slate. A driveway extends through at grade from south to north, flanked by corn cribs. The driveway is closed with pairs of very large doors. The west door at the south end has a smaller passage door within the large door. All doors are hung on large wrought-iron strap hinges swinging on driven pintels.

The grainery is constructed of a hewn timber braced frame, all joints mortised and tenoned. The vertical structural members forming the corn cribs extend to the roof to support a purlin.

The corn cribs are enclosed with straight-sawn chestnut slats fastened vertically with cut nails. Several small access doors of the same material, at various heights, are hung on wrought-iron strap hinges. The principal framing members are hewn, including corner posts, intermediate posts, diagonal braces, joists, sills and plates. The second floor is accessible by a winding stairway at the south end of the west crib. The center aisle is flanked by grain bins formed of board partitions; the space above the corn cribs is open to the roof. In the floor of the center aisle are double doors opening above the driveway below, hung on wrought-iron strap hinges.

A low lean-to shed is against the west wall, all of circular sawn material, nailed. It probably replaces a similar earlier shed. The west wall of the grainery has always been protected, clearly retaining its straight saw marks and red paint. A series of unused mortises in the vertical siding at the second floor line probably relate to an earlier shed.

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MARY RISTEAU HOUSE

8. SIGNIFICANCE

From 1951-1954 she served another term in the Maryland House of Delegates.

The architectural significance of the house and outbuildings is also remarkable. The urban-like setting of these structures may be the only remains of a town planned for this location; indeed they may be the only structures which were ever erected in that planned town. The dwelling and store are quite early for the area and they retain an unusual amount of original and unaltered detailing. In spite of the small size of the dwelling, it had a large parlor of unusual sophistication in its symmetrical layout and fine detail. Otherwise the dwelling clearly illustrates the way of life in this prosperous merchant-farmer family, undoubtedly fairly typical of the day.

The store is undoubtedly the earliest remaining commercial structure in the county without extensive later alterations; it may be the only unaltered nineteenth century commercial structure and as such it provides a valuable insight into commercial design standards of the day.

In a region quickly changing from rural agricultural to urban and suburban, the grainery is a rare survivor of a vanishing building type.

Title Search  
 HA- 11-41

Mary W. Risteau

Will Records JGM37/307 1978

Will of Mary Risteau

	251	472	6/2/1938	Grantor: Samuel W. Galbreath and Mary C. Galbreath, his wife Grantee: Mary E.W. Risteau Acreage: 198.98 acres
CSW	17	400	3/27/1923	Grantor: Last Will and Testament of James Wilson Galbreath Grantee: Samuel Galbreath Acreage: 151 acres more or less
ALJ	41	480	11/9/1880	Grantor: Martha M. Galbreath and others Grantee: James Wilson Galbreath Acreage: 150 acres more or less including buildings
ALJ	29	288	6/7/1873	Grantor: Shadrach Streett, Jr. and William Rampley, Executors for Shadrach Street, Sr., deceased Grantee: James Galbreath Acreage: 152 acres more or less buildings
Mortgage			6/9/1868	Grantor: Last Will and Testament of Shadrach Street, Sr. Grantee: Henry W. Archer and Henry D. Farnandis, trustees Acreage: 152 acres more or less buildings
Mortgage			1/15/1872	Grantor: Last Will and Testament of Shadrach Street, Sr. Grantee: John Sawyer Acreage: 152 acres more or less buildings
HD	16	22	2/2/1832	Grantor: James Streett Grantee: Shadrach Streett, Sr. Acreage: 174 acres more or less buildings

