CH-340

Holly Cut

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) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 11-21-2003

CHAS-340
HOLLY CUT
Vicinity of Waldorf
Private

Early nineteenth century

Holly Cut, despite its ruinous state, is deserving of landmark status, being a particularly valuable building for any study of the county's regional architectural heritage. Buildings such as this are often of greater interest to architectural historians since they frequently provide more information on early building methods, materials and decorative treatments than do fully or partially restored structures. One reason for this is that they usually have had fewer alterations to adapt them to modern living and, due to their condition, are generally more easily examined and documented.

A two part house, its oldest section is of one story with a large end chimney and probably of late-eighteenth or early nineteenth century date. This wing has attractive interior woodwork, including molded chairrails of unusual design, a high mantel with reeded diamond shaped inset panels on the frieze, and molded window and door trim that is a variation of a traditional eighteenth century profile. In about the first quarter of the nineteenth century a two story section was added to the original house, its exterior and floor plan a mirror image of the earlier house. This part has sophisticated interior woodwork superior in design to the woodwork of many above average Federal houses in the region. Particularly noteworthy is the fanciful and delicate decorations of the stepends and facings of the landings of the staircase. An especially significant feature of Holly Cut is the fact that despite the refinement of the interior, both parts of the house are sheathed with beaded riven clapboards. This form of exterior sheathing was used throughout the colonial period and into the early nineteenth century; however, after about the middle of the eighteenth century its use was generally limited to that of small houses, sheds and barns. Its use on a early nineteenth century house as refined on the interior as Holly Cut is without known or at least existing precedent, therefore giving Holly Cut a special degree of importance.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CHAS-340

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY MHT # CHAS-340

1 NAME

HISTORIC: HOLLY CUT

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: On Holley Lane, North side of Md. Rte. 5, approx. 2 miles East of Waldorf

CITY, TOWN: Waldorf __ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X NO	__MILITARY	X OTHER ABD.

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: James A. Doyle Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER: Holly Cut Farm

CITY, TOWN: Waldorf __ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 20601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 163
Folio #: 52

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Charles County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER: Charles Street (P. O. Box B)

CITY, TOWN: La Plata

STATE: Maryland 20646

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE:

DATE:

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

CITY, TOWN:

STATE:

CH-340

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	X_UNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL SITE
_GOOD	X_RUINS	_ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Holly Cut is an abandoned and ruinous two-part house of which the oldest and smallest section was built in the late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century.

The front elevation faces east onto an early roadbed and what were once open fields. The main portion of the house is at the south end and is of basic Federal styling. Three bays wide on the front side, its transomed entrance door occupies the third bay from the south end. All of the windows and door are framed by narrow beaded surrounds. The windows, of which there are two on the first floor and three on the second of both side elevations, formerly framed sash of six-over-six panes and had louvered shutters, although only fragments of these now remain. The same fenestration and door placement is repeated on both sides of the house. At the south end stands a brick exterior chimney with stepped shoulders and free-standing stack. Two small gable windows flanking the chimney stack constitute the only openings in this elevation. The main block stands on brick foundation walls. It is probable that one or both sides had one story porches or, at the very least, stoops fronting the doors, but no evidence of such remains. All of the exterior is sheathed with beaded riven clapboards except the first floor area of the front wall which is covered with German (novelty) siding.

Extending out from the north end of the main block is a one story plus attic frame section three bays in width on both sides and of the same depth as the main block. This part of the house has a centered transomed door on the east side. On the west side the door, also transomed, occupies the third bay from the north end. Each of the two windows on the east and west sides had louvered shutters and six-over-six sash. On both sides of the high, tin covered gable roof are two pedimented dormers. At the north end stands a single exterior chimney with stepped shoulders and free-standing stack. Flanking the chimney stack are two small gable windows. To the right of the chimney is a first floor door with late nineteenth century trim. All three exterior walls are sheathed with beaded riven clapboards. Like those of the main block, the clapboards are secured to the wall framing with cut nails; there is no evidence on either section of an earlier sheathing. As the door sills of the north section are at least 30 inches off the ground it is likely that both side doors were once fronted by stoops or porches. The north end chimney retains evidence of a one story wing that formerly stood here. Positioned off-center of the existing house, it is said by members of the family that formerly owned the property to have been the oldest part, but it is more likely that it was the old kitchen. It apparently once stood independent of the rest of the house and then was later joi[ned] to it by a small hyphen, and had a large chimney at its north end.

(continued on the attached sheet)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
_PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	_RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	_CONSERVATION	_LAW	_SCIENCE
_1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	_ECONOMICS	_LITERATURE	_SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	_EDUCATION	_MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	_ART	_ENGINEERING	_MUSIC	_THEATER
X 1800-1899	_COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	_PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
_1900-	_COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Holly Cut, despite its ruinous state, is deserving of landmark status, being a particularly valuable building for any study of the county's regional architectural heritage. Buildings such as this are often of greater interest to architectural historians since they frequently provide more information on early building methods, materials and decorative treatments than do fully or partially restored structures. One reason for this is that they usually have had fewer alterations to adapt them to modern living and, due to their condition, are generally more easily examined and documented.

end

A two part house, its oldest section is of one story with a large chimney and probably of late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century date. This wing has attractive interior woodwork, including molded chairrails of unusual design, a high mantel with reeded diamond shaped inset panels on the frieze, and molded window and door trim that is a variation of a traditional eighteenth century profile. In about the first quarter of the nineteenth century a two story section was added to the original house, its exterior and floor plan a mirror image of the earlier house. This part has sophisticated interior woodwork superior in design to the woodwork of many above average Federal houses in the region. Particularly noteworthy is the fanciful and delicate decorations of the stepends and facings of the landings of the staircase. An especially significant feature of Holly Cut is the fact that despite the refinement of the interior, both parts of the house are sheathed with beaded riven clapboards. This form of exterior sheathing was used throughout the colonial period and into the early nineteenth century; however, after about the middle of the eighteenth century its use was generally limited to that of small houses, sheds and barns. Its use on a early nineteenth century house as refined on the interior as Holly Cut is without known or at least existing precedent, therefore giving Holly Cut a special degree of importance.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Holly Cut is located on a 160.23 acre tract of land identified as Parcel 15, Map 16 of the Charles County Tax Maps (revised January 1976).

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: J. Richard Rivoire

ORGANIZATION: Charles County Planning Department

DATE:

STREET & NUMBER: Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE: 645-6537

CITY OR TOWN: La Plata

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

The interior of Holly Cut was initially simply but handsomely finished. Unfortunately, vandalism and deterioration from neglect has taken its toll. The main block contains a single room at the south end of both floor levels and an adjacent through passage containing the stair. The stair, with a paneled first floor closet, rises in four flights to the attic and had turned mahogany newel posts. The balustrade had a mahogany rail, rounded on the top, and square balusters. The stepends were embellished with fancifully cut, tracery-like applied trim that in terms of design were truly remarkable. The step ends on all four flights, as well as the face boards of the three landings, were all similarly treated, although those of the landings were somewhat more elaborate. The windows and doors of the first floor retain their molded, Federal-style surrounds with turned "bulls eyes" decorating the corner blocks. The mantel in the south room is large and has turned columns, a molded frieze with Empire-style, ogee-shaped console brackets at the ends, and a diamond shaped raised panel in the middle. The mantel shelf is decorated by graduated bedmoldings. The two interior doors (one opening from the hall into the south room and the other from the hall into the north wing) and two outside doors, were of a six panel design. Basically, the trim of the second floor is a simplified version of that of the first, but is equal in design sophistication to that found in the main rooms of many above average examples of Federal architecture throughout the county. The room arrangement of the attic is the same as the lower floors, but it has very simple woodwork.

The room configuration of the north wing is a mirror image of the main block with the stair hall paralleling that of the latter; however, in the mid-nineteenth century (but probably before the existing main block was built) a partition was installed at the east end of the first floor hall to create a small storage room. A winding stair rises to the attic level in the southwest corner of the hall and has and has a paneled stair closet. The stair balustrade consisted of square mahogany posts, rounded mahogany rail and square balusters. The stepends were unornamented. The hall and adjacent north room retains very attractive three-piece chairrails that appears to be a completely original design not seen elsewhere in the county. The faceboards of the door and window surrounds is of a basic eighteenth century profile but with a standard early Federal-style outer molding. The mantel in the north room has a high shelf over a deep frieze, the latter decorated by diamond shaped panels at the ends with inset reeding, and reeded molded pilasters. The attic plan repeats that of the first floor and has simple two-piece trim facing the door and windows. Small paneled doors in the knee walls provide access to the eaves.



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HOLLY CUT
NW View J.R.Rivoire,1978



CHAS-340
HOLLY CUT. W. Front, N. Wing.
J.R.Rivoire, 1978



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HOLLY CUT
E. SIDE, N. LOING

R Ritter, 1978



CHAS-340
HOLLY CUT. W. Front, Main Block. J.R.Rivoire, 1978



CHAS-340
HOLLY CUT. E. Side, N. Wing.
J.R.Rivoire, 1978