

HO-41

8. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) <u>Mid 1700's</u>			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- losophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>The significance of the Joshua Barney House lies in both its history and its architecture.</p> <p>Built by the Ridgelys of Howard County, and located on Harry's Lott, the house may well date from the mid seventeen hundreds. Colonel Henry Ridgely in his 1749 will, bequeathed 700 acres of Harry's Lott to his son Charles Greenberry Ridgely, Sr. On August 5, 1789 Charles G. Ridgely, Jr. and Sarah, his mother, sold to Thomas Coale approximately 300 acres of Harry's Lott "containing the dwelling plantation" (NH 4-354, Anne Arundel County) for the sum of 351 pounds.</p> <p>In the 1797 will of Thomas Coale there is a reference to 22½ acres of Harry's Lott containing the dwelling plantation. From 1789-1811 a Mr. Nathan had been trying to collect money loaned to Mr. Coale. In a court case against Thomas Coale's children, Alfred, Maria and Harriet, (second wife of Joshua Barney whom he married in 1809) the house went up to the highest bidder. Joshua bid for it and made the deal. In chancery papers in the Records of Anne Arundel County, the trustee gives an explanation to the Chancellor of why he sold it to Barney, husband of Harriet.</p> <p>On February 18, 1811 Joshua Barney sold 300 acres. Families often inherit very little when the property has liens upon it for payment of just debts. Joshua Barney paid \$2250 or \$7½ an acre but evidently borrowed the money from a Nathaniel Williams with whom he had dealings. In 1818, the record gets sketchy. Somewhere there was a transferal of land to the Savage Manufacturing Company through whom it was acquired by Nathaniel Williams on October 27, 1832 (17-297) Ann Arundel County Record's Office with 218 acres.</p> <p>Nathaniel Williams sold the property to John Cronmiller on May 23, 1843 with approximately 214 acres of Harry's Lott.</p> <p>Nathaniel Williams was one of several Williams brothers who were involved in the Savage Manufacturing Company in the early 1830's, which owned a great deal of acreage in the area. During the 1840's, the Company ran into difficulties and had to sell property. The Baltimore American ran three successive advertisements of the sale of "the former home of Joshua Barney". Mr. Cronmiller's father left him money to buy a farm in Howard County for his grandchildren. John Cronmiller thus acquired the property for this purpose. (4-234, Record's Office, Howard District of Ann Arundel County).</p> <p>In 1900 we find litigation involving the Cronmiller heirs and on January 5, 1901 a sale of approximately 76 acres, designated at Lot C on a survey plat, to T.W. Linthicum. (73-165) Howard County Land Office. The survey plan found in the Cronmiller case is of interest as it refers to</p>			

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HO-41

## Joshua Barney House - Significance (Continued)

Harry's Lott, originally Ridgely's Forest.

On March 29, 1909 Thomas W. and Sarah J. Linthicum sold the property to William E. Carr with 76 acres (87-111) Howard County Land Office.

M. J. Carr and heirs sold 13/15 of approximately 26 acres to Ralph and Mrs. Cahall on June 9, 1941 (171-62) Howard County Record's Office. The first plumbing, heat, electricity and hot running water occurred during the ownership of Mr. & Mrs. Cahall. They called the house Elmwood Manor and used the building as a residence and academy for boys. They are also responsible for the square frame two story high west wing which replaces an older frame addition used for the kitchen, and a frame north wing which pushes out and down the slope of the north wall. Both feature hipped roofs and double-hung windows with six-over-six lites.

We find through the deeds and wills that this home of Commodore Barney was built by the Ridgely's of Howard County in the mid 1700's, on a tract of land called Harry's Lott.

Commodore Barney was the hero of two wars and retired to his home in Elkridge after his marriage to Harriet Coale in 1809. Captured three times in the Revolution, he was exchanged once and escaped twice. In the War of 1812 he again volunteered and with his forces stood between the British and the nation's Capital at the Battle of Bladensburg. He retired again to Elkridge in 1815 after 41 years in the navy but three years later decided to move to Kentucky. Enroute he became ill and died on December 1, 1818.

The original structure, three bays wide, three bays deep, two and a half stories high with central chimney is notable architecturally. Its tent roof features an intersecting east gable lying flush with the east wall and round arched dormer windows on the south and west roof elevations.

Another notable architectural feature is the decorative brick work found in the first floor splayed brick flat arched lintels, the south wall English garden wall brick bond and the decorative brick course separating the first and second floors of the south facade.

A west bay rectangular south entrance and transom enclosing a fan light is flanked by narrow vertically aligned windows inset into the south wall covered with diamond patterned decorative wrought iron grates.

The interior has interesting woodwork and floors of random width 2-4" to 6" wide. A spiral stairway was taken out during the late fifties or early sixties when it became a rental unit with one room apartments.

On February 14, 1975, Bob G. and Wava Skaggs acquired the house along with approximately 10.174 acres more or less. (711-689-Howard County Land Office) from Mrs. Cahall, and are in the process of restoring it.

Associated with a national naval hero of the calibre of Commodore Barney and presenting the unique architectural features outlined, this house is of national as well as state-local interest.

Its proximity to I-95 and the new Murray Hill Park along the Little Patuxent north of the house, has already taken or is in the process of taking acreage. Neither of these projects have affected the integrity of the site.

This has been most fortunate. The house, however, should be protected against any future encroachment and placed on the national register of historic places.