

c. 1900

BA 1648

Skyfield
4001 Stewart Road
Stevenson, Maryland 21153
private

Skyfield is a large example of the early twentieth century Colonial Revival style of architecture. Built around the turn of the century by Redmond C. Stewart, a prominent Baltimore attorney, member of the Maryland House of Delegates, one of the founders of the Green Spring Valley Hunt Club and avid horseman, Skyfield remains in the hands of the Stewart family.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA-1648
 x-874.920
 y-570.490

MAGI # 0316482604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

SKYFIELD

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4001W Stewarts Road

Second

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Stevenson

___ VICINITY OF

Baltimore

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Latimer S. Stewart

Telephone #: 486-4292

STREET & NUMBER

4001 Stewart Road

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Stevenson

___ VICINITY OF

Maryland 21153

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Baltimore
 County Courts Building

Liber #: 1349

Folio #: 199

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Towson

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-1648

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SKYFIELD was built about 1904, originally a symmetrical house of the Colonial revival, three bays in width, two storeys in height, having a deck-on-hip roof, wide shingled dormers and a wood balustrade around the roof deck; a one storey porch extended across the principal or north front; and a kitchen wing extended south behind the easterly portion of the main block with east wall and roofs aligned. Modest later additions toward the north and another toward the east have disguised the original simplicity and the design of this early twentieth century house; while those additions are not large they create an assymetrical composition, one which tends toward the picturesque.

The principal entrance was centered in the north front and the window above it had intersecting muntins suggesting Gothic tracery; this window is partially covered by the one and one-half storey north addition and the addition covers the entire doorway.

A wide central hall extends through the house with a large open staircase to the second floor at its south end; an intermediate landing is between the floors. A single large room is to the east; a large room and a very small room are to the west, the latter being at the south facade. The original north entrance opens into the north wing, its floor level below that of the house itself; the east wing is a large living room, also at a lower floor level, the interior steps adding greatly to the picturesque quality this house has acquired. Most detailing is original, boldly recalling the American Colonial.

The small frame barn set into the hillside south of the house is constructed of circular-sawn material, probably contemporary with the house. In its lower level the box stalls have horizontal wood plank lower walls with vertical iron bars above to a wood rail. An internal ramp (for the horses) connects the lower level with the upper, both opening to grade.

REPRODUCED FROM THE ORIGINAL SURVEY

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The early twentieth century Colonial revival style, of which SKYFIELD is an example, was an original interpretation of Colonial forms, a development which followed the Romanesque and Queen Anne styles of the late nineteenth century, tempered by the Centennial period of 1876. SKYFIELD is a large example in this style and its modest later additions have masked its origins, tending toward the assymetrical picturesque.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

SKYFIELD was built on approximately 16 acres carved out of the Stewart family estate, Cliffeholme.¹ It was constructed by Redmond Conyngham Stewart between 1902-1904, following his 1902 marriage to Katharine Latimer Small of York, Pennsylvania. The house was originally a boxlike building with a porch across the front. In the mid-1920's, the Stewarts had the porch removed and a large living room was added.²

Like his older brother Charles, Redmond graduated from Johns Hopkins University, and then he earned a law degree from the University of Maryland in 1894. Three years later he was one of the charter members of Baltimore's Politico-Literary Club. In attendance at the founding was Woodrow Wilson, who was also present at the Club's fifth and tenth birthdays.³

A prominent Baltimore attorney, Stewart was also a member of the Maryland House of Delegates in 1900. During his brief political career, he was one of the framers of the State Aid Road Law and served as a Lieutenant in the Maryland National Guard at the time of the Spanish-American War. During the First World War he served in France with the First Division as the Judge Advocate General. He was decorated with the United States Distinguished Service Medal and the French Croix de Guerre.⁵

This Stewart and several of his neighbors maintained an informal hunting field in the Valley in the 1880's. The group expanded and in 1892 formally organized the Green Spring Valley Hunt Club. At the club's first meeting, Stewart, then 19, was elected Master of the Fox Hounds, a post he held for 25 years. Second only to foxhunting was Redmond's love of racing. He rode in 16 of the annual Maryland Hunt Cup races, although only once coming home a winner.⁶

Redmond C. Stewart died in 1936. His wife, Katharine continued to live at Skyfield until 1952 when she remodelled the gardener's house on the property. Ownership of Skyfield then passed to her son Latimer Small Stewart and his wife, Eleanor Clark Wesley, the present owners.⁷

Footnotes

1. Baltimore County Land Records, Liber 489, Folio 397, Liber 280, Folio 406 Liber 116, Folio 71, Liber 822, Folio 557, NBM 266/270, Towson.
2. Concersation with Josephine S. Finney.
3. Ibid.
4. Sun, 2 February 1936.
5. See Note 1.
6. Ellinor Stewart Heiser, Days Gone By (Baltimore, Waverly Press, 1953.) p pp. 38-39; Stuart Rose, The Maryland Hunt Cup (New York, Huntington Press, 1931) p. 16; Gordon Grand, Redmond C. Stewart (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1938) p. 22.
7. See note 2.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dawn F. Thomas and Thomas W. Barnes. The Green Spring Valley, Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. (Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, 1978)
 Stuart Rose, The Maryland Hunt Cup (New York, Huntington Press, 1931)
 Ellinor Stewart Heiser, Days Gone By (Baltimore, Waverly Press, 1953)
 Gordon Grand, Redmond C. Stewart (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1938)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 19.18

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	DATE
James T. Wollon, Jr., A.I.A./Dawn Thomas, Cassandra Naylor - Research Historians	2-20-80
ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE
Valleys Planning Council	828-7807
STREET & NUMBER	STATE
212 Washington Avenue	Maryland
CITY OR TOWN	
Towson.	

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

BA-1648





BA 1648
Skyfield
Stewart Rd.
GSVHD
JTW
1/3/80
Md. Hist. Tr
from NW