

S-278
 Aden Davis House
 Marion vicinity
 private

c, 1825-1850

The Old Aden Davis house is one of the few "telescope" style houses surviving in lower Somerset. It appears that the main two-story, three-bay block was erected initially with the shorter two sections added at the same time or later. The interior of the main house retains portions of its second quarter of the nineteenth-century woodwork.

Due to the proximity of this tract of land to Coulbourn's Creek, it has passed through the hands of several prominent Somerset families. Known in the land records as "Part of Promfret", and "Ferry Bridge," these two tracts are recorded in a transfer of land between William Williams and Hance Croswell in December of 1814 (JD1/12). The deed describes the land as,

"....lying and being in Somerset County in Little Annessex and on the head of Coulbournes Creek... standing on the divisional line between said William Williams and William Miles and also on a road that formerly ran down from the county road to said Williams wind mill, thence running down towards Coulbourns Creek."

Hance (or Hans) Croswell is recorded as living on Jones Creek as a ship carpenter. He apparently never lived on the Coulbourn Creek property. In December of 1829 Hans Croswell transferred to his son, Hope Croswell, 135 acres "near the head of Coulbourns Creek and "Part of Promfret," and "Ferry Bridge", and another tract known as "Horsey's Conclusion," (GH5/134). Hope Croswell evidently lived on this property until his death circa 1841. Due to the architectural details of the house, it is believed the extant dwelling dates from Hope Croswell's ownership. In 1841 a commission was established to settle Hope Croswell's estate. The commissioners, Benjamin Lankford and William H. Curtis, transferred the Coulbourn Creek farm to Hance Croswell (LH 467-469). By the late 1850's the property was in the hands of William Miles, Southey A. Miles and Christina Miles. The three

grantors sold the 150-acre farm to Aden Davis, Sr. on September 22, 1859 (LW 6/346). Aden Davis owned the property for the next fifty-eight years. His name is designated on the 1877 Somerset County atlas. In 1927 the farm passed out of the Davis family (96/34), and four transfers have occurred since that time.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-278

Magi No. 2002785404

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Davis House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number NW Side of MD 413 - Back dirt lane (Crisfield-Westover Road) not for publication

city, town Marion vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Billie Rae Webb

street & number P.O. Box 130 telephone no.:

city, town Marion Station state and zip code Maryland 21838

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-278

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Old Davis House is a c. 1825-1850 telescope style frame house which stands at the end of a dirt lane that intersects MD 413 southwest of Marion, Somerset County, Maryland. The three-part house faces southeast with the gable roof running on a northeast/southwest axis. A small Webb family cemetery and a few insignificant outbuildings accompany the dwelling.

The two-story three-part house is supported by a minimal brick foundation and is fully clad with asbestos over weatherboard siding. A medium pitched gable roof covers the three parts and is sheathed with asphalt tiles.

The southeast (main) elevation of the main house is three bays across with a center entrance flanked by 9/6 sash windows. The front door is a replacement. Two 6/6 sash windows, located above the first floor windows, light the second floor. A simple boxed cornice stretches across the base of the roof.

Extending to the northeast are the two slightly shorter sections. The second part is two bays across with a bay window on the first floor and two 6/6 sash on the second. A brick chimney rises against the exterior face of the middle portion, but is largely covered by the single-story kitchen. The southeast facade of the kitchen has been altered with the addition of modern sash windows.

The remaining sides of the house are treated in a similar manner. An interior end brick chimney rises from the main house and has two flanking 6/6 sash on the second floor and two four-pane attic windows.

The interiors have been remodeled with the addition of modern paneling. The first floor of the main house contains surviving elements of an 1830s late Federal style mantel as well as a corner winder stair. Several steps are exposed within the room, and the slender square newel post and square balusters remain intact.

The outbuildings consist of a frame wagon shed, a concrete block garage and a shed-roofed outbuilding of undetermined use. The Webb cemetery contains 20th-century markers.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Old Davis House is one of a few telescope style houses surviving in lower Somerset. It appears that the main two-story three-bay block was erected first with the shorter sections added sometime later. A full inspection was not made of the attic spaces, so a definite chronology of construction was not possible on the first visit.

History

Due to the proximity of this tract of land to Coulbourn's Creek, it has passed through the hands of several prominent Somerset families. Known as part of "Pomfret", and "Ferry Bridge", these various tracts are recorded in a transfer of land between William Williams and Hance Croswell in December of 1814 (JD 1/12). The deed describes the land as, "...lying and being in Somerset County in Little Annemessex and on the head of Coulbourns Creek... standing on the divisional line between said William Williams, and William Miles and also on a road that formerly ran down from the county road to said Williams wind mill, thence running down toward Coulbourns Creek". Hance (or Hans) Croswell is recorded as living on Jones Creek as a ship carpenter. He apparently never lived on the Coulbourn Creek property. In December of 1829 Hans Croswell transferred to his son, Hope Croswell, 135 acres "near the head of Coulbourns Creek and part of "Pomfret", "Ferry Bridge", and another tract known as "Horsey's Conclusion". (GH 5/134). Hope Croswell evidently lived on this property until his death circa 1841. Due to the architectural details of the house, it is believed the extant dwelling dates from Hope Croswell's ownership. In 1841 a commission was established to settle Hope Croswell's estate. The commissioners, Benjamin Lankford and William H. Curtis, transferred the Coulbourn Creek farm to Hance Croswell (LH 467-469). By the late 1850s the property was in the hands of William Miles, Southey A. Miles and Christina Miles. The three grantors sold the 150-acre farm to Aden Davis Sr. on 22 September 1859 (LW 6/346). Aden Davis owned the property for the next fifty-eight years. His name is designated on the 1877 Somerset County atlas. In 1927 the farm passed out of the Davis family (96/34), and four transfers have occurred since that time.

CHAIN OF TITLE

S- 278

I.T.P. 312/679 Charles Webb
to
1/30/1979 Billie Rae Webb
54.5 Acres

I.T.P. 275/80 Billie Rae Webb
to
Charles Webb

I.T.P. 220/197 Estate of Harry B. Coulbourn
to
3/20/1964 Chas. and Billie Rae Webb
Same land conveyed unto Thomas Paul Coulbourn
by George Earl Parsons and Mary Hall Parsons -
12/23/1942 B.L.B. 123/566

B.L.B. 123/566 George Earl Parsons
Mary Hall Parsons
to
12/23/1946 Thomas Paul Coulbourn -
"Aden Davis Farm" 60 acres of arable land,
eighty of woodland - 140 acres.

96/34 Carrie T. Davis, widow of Aden Davis
to
10/3/1927 George Earl Parsons

W.J.S. 73/418 Arzah Davis and others - heirs at law of
Aden Davis, Sr.
to
10/11/1917 Aden Davis, Jr.
"known as the homeplace of the late Aden
Davis, Sr.

L.W. 6/346 William Miles of Henry and Southey A.
Miles, Christina Miles.

to

9/22/1859 Aden Davis
\$4,500 - "All that lot or parcel of land
whereon Smith Lankford now resides situated
in Annemessex Neck Somerset County, and at
the head of Coulbourns Creek the same being
the land which the said parties of the first
part purchased of Hope Crowell deceased
and John C. Horsey containing 150 acres.

W.P. 2/172 John C. Horsey

to

7/31/1847 Southey A. Miles
\$500.00 "all that tract of land called "Pomfret"
and "Ferry Bridge" which the said Henry S.
Crowell deeded to said John C. Horsey containing
19 acres situated at the head of Coulbourne's
Creek.

Administration
Account
S.W.J. 11/312
1858 of Joshua H. Miles
executor Luther Miles

B.H. 15 Joshua H. Miles
Henrietta Miles

to

7/9/1843 William Miles of Henry
\$1,500. A parcel of land called Pomford
situate and being on the west side of
Coulbourns Creek in said county - reserving
the houses and lot the said William Miles
conveyed to said Joshua H. Miles heretofore. . .
containing sixty acres, also one-hundred and
forty acres called "Pomfert" lying on the
head of Coulbourns Creek which was conveyed
by Hance Crowell to Hope Crowell and after
the death of said Hope Crowell to Hance
Crowell Junior, it being part of the same land
that was conveyed to Joshua H. Miles by
Stephen D. Coulbourn and Hance Crowell Jr.

A.H. 290 Stephen D. Coulbourn
Hans Crowell Jr.

9/26/1842 to
Joshua H. Miles
\$3,000 "Pomfret," "Ferry Bridge," and
"Horsey's Conclusion." 280 acres

A.H. 173 Hance Crowell Jr.
to

5/18/1842 Stephen D. Coulbourn
\$3,500 "all that plantation tract or parts
of tract of land called "Pomfret," "Ferry
Bridge," and Horsey's Conclusion" containing
one-hundred and fifty-five acres which was
conveyed to Hance Crowell Jr. by Hance Sr.
12/19/1829

L.H. 467-469 Commission to settle real estate
of Hope Crowell
to

1/14/1841 Hans Crowell Jr.

G.H. 5/134 Hans Crowell
to

12/19/1829 Hope Crowell
\$250.00 "Pomfret," "Ferry Bridge," and
"Horsey's Conclusion." Beginning at a marked
cedar post standing on the south side, and
near the head of Coulbourns Creek. . .
containing 135 acres.

J.B. 1/12 William Williams
to

12/29/1814 Hance Crowell
\$3,328. Part of two tracts called and known by
the name of Pomfret and Ferry Bridge lying and
being in Somerset County in Little Annemessex
and on the Head of Coulbourns Creek. 1 beginning
at the westernmost gate post of said William
Williams standing on the divisional line
between said William Williams and William
Miles and also on a road that formerly ran down
from the county road to said Williams Wind Mill,
thence running down towards Coulbourns Creek. . ."



1/2 S-278
 Aden Davis House
 Marion, MD Quadrangle, 1972



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Trails	
○ Interstate Route	○ U. S. Route
	○ State Route

MARION, MD.
 N3800—W7545/7.5

1972

AMS 5860 III SE—SERIES V8330

HUDSON CORNER 2.7 MI.

4209

4208

4207

4206000m N.

38°00'

4340000m E. 75°45'

(SAXIS) NW 5859



Old Davis House S-278
Near Marion, Somerset County, Maryland
Southeast Elevation
Photographer-Paul Touart 10/84
Neg/Md. Hist. Trust



Old Davis House S-278
Near Marion, Somerset County, Maryland
East Elevation
Photographer-Paul Touart 10/84
Neg/Md. Hist. Trust