

K-185

Spry Home Farm
Near Chesterville
c. 1852

William T. Spry purchased the 253 acre farm from the estate of Lancelot Moffett in 1852 and built his house soon thereafter.¹ Like the other antebellum houses of Kent County, the form of the Spry Home Farm is that of a main block with wing set perpendicularly out the back so as to emphasize the symmetry of the front facade. There are numerous examples of such form in the County: Maple Grove, Thomas' Purchase, Fairfield (on the Bay), Brampton and Stepney – all similar in form, their differences lay mainly in their details.

William T. Spry owned this as well as another farm south of Chesterville. This farm, however, as the name implies, was his residence where he and his wife, Mary Ann raised their 10 children. Their oldest daughter, Vermadilla, married Robert B. M. Massey, who owned and occupied Godomar, north of Massey and their youngest daughter, Eliza Jane, married Samuel Ford and lived at Fair View near Lambson's Station. Other daughters married into the Hurlock, Jarman, and Ireland families.²

In 1872, the farm was rented to William E. Jarrell, a young energetic farmer from Queen Annes County. When Spry's estate was being settled after his death in 1874, Jarrell purchased the farm and resided there with his wife and son, Frank. He was to be very successful not only in farming, but in the sale of farm machinery and phosphates for the land. By the time of his death he owned 1500 acres.³

The farm was later acquired by Albert and Julia Jervis in whose family it remains. The house was partly demolished in the 1960's and the rest burned in the 1970's.

1. Land Records, Lib. JR 2, fol. 365.

In the 1822 Tax Assessment, Lancelott Moffett was listed with the following parcels:

"Flower of the Forest	100 acres
Part of Cumwhilting	150 acres
Moffett's Lott	30 acres
Murphy's Chance	60 acres
Huckleberry	60 acres
Free Gift	40 acres

	440 acres

from the heirs of Jesse Moffett"

2. Wills, Lib. EC 1, fol. 118.
3. Portraits and Biographical Record, Chapman Publishing Co., NY 1898.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. K-185

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Spry Home Farm (site)

and/or common Spry Home Farm

2. Location

street & number Chesterville-Lambson Road ___ not for publication

city, town Galena Chesterville vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Eloise Weer

street & number 6601 Mt. Vista Rd. telephone no.:

city, town Kingsville state and zip code MD 21087

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber WHG 38

street & number Cross Street folio 395

city, town Chestertown state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Kent County Windshield Survey

date 1968 federal state county local

pository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD

7. Description

Survey No. K-185

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input 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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

North of the intersection of Rt. 290 and Bolton Road stood a handsome Italianate style frame dwelling standing three full stories over a full brick foundation. It was a great contrast to the very level farmland surrounding. Near the edge of the road on a slightly elevated corner of the farm was the resting place of at least two generation of Moffetts.

Its five bay facade looked southeast and had a one story porch with large square columns supporting a low hipped roof with overhanging cornice with brackets and a built-in gutter, repeating the design of the main cornice and roof. Its central entrance had double doors with bolection molding around raised panels, transom and sidelights. All windows had 6/6 sash and louvered shutters, but the third story windows were smaller than the first and second floors. Both end walls had two windows flanking the fireplace on the first floor. The walls were covered with plain weatherboard.

Off the northwest back of the house was a one and one half story frame building which looked as though it could have been built as early as the 1830's, but may have been contemporary with the front. It has a plain porch off its southwest facade, extending from the central back door. The wing was removed around 1960, and the basement filled in.

The plan of the house was typical of the ante-bellum houses of Kent County, with central stairhall and two flanking parlors. The back room plan was not remembered in detail but had at least two rooms: kitchen and dining room.

The stair had a large mahogany turned newel post with rail ascending to the third floor carried on turned oak balusters without the use of intermediate newels. Pierced work scroll decorations was applied to the step ends and landings. Window and door trim was typical of the period with Greek ogee backband and plain rectangular corners. Each of the doors had four panels and porcelain handle hardware.

From the northernmost room, there was access thru a low door to the second story of the wing. Each of the four bedrooms had one closet near the chimney. In the northernmost third floor room was an enclosed stair adjacent the stair well ascending to a hatch in the roof. In the center of the hip roof was a large widows walk with pierced splat balustrade having square newels with finials.

In many respects it was similar to Maple Grove near Langford, but the plan was reversed. It was burned around 1970. The only building remaining at this former homestead is a concrete block garage, a fitting reminder of the lack of care that many farm owners have had for their tenant housing.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-185

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Bourne

organization Historical Society of Kent County, Inc. date March 1995

street & number P.O. Box 663 telephone 410-778-3499

city or town Chestertown 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
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 2100 STATE STREET
 100 COLLEGE PLACE
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
 514-7600

1. STATE Maryland
 COUNTY Kent
 TOWN Chesterville VICINITY
 STREET NO. Rt. 290, 2 miles north of town
 (west) (Bolton Road) ^{JUL} 2/3/99

ORIGINAL OWNER Spry
 ORIGINAL USE dwelling
 PRESENT OWNER Eloise J. Weer
 PRESENT USE vacant
 WALL CONSTRUCTION frame
 NO. OF STORIES three

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 INVENTORY K - 185

2. NAME Spry Home Farm
 DATE OR PERIOD 1850 - 1860
 STYLE Italianate
 ARCHITECT
 BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC no

The house on the Spry Home Farm is a mid 19th century frame dwelling built on a high brick foundation-basement (basement under ^{north} half of bldg.). It stands three full stories, with a low hipped roof, having a Captain's ^{walk} ~~watch~~ with pierced splat railing. It is five bays long and two bays deep (only one room) and has a one story porch with large square columns supporting the hipped roof with overhanging cornice with brackets and built-in gutter, repeating the design of the main cornice. The central entrance has double doors with applied bolection molding, transom and sidelights. All windows have 6/6 sash and louvered shutters, though the third story windows are small than the other two floors.

The dwelling is divided into stair hall, living room and dining room. There was previously a 1 1/2 story wing on the west side which was torn down about ten years ago. The stair has a great turned newel with rails continuous to the third story, turned oak balusters, applied pierced-work decoration along the stair end and fascia, all typical of the middle 19th century. Window and door trim is very heavy but has no distinctive details. The mantels are a plain carry-over of the late Georgian design. The four panel doors have white porcelain knobs and key hole escutcheons.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered yes Interior poor Exterior poor

Unfortunately the building is in very poor repair; many of the windows are broken out; the siding on the west facade is nearly all gone; the porch is partially collapsing; and plaster is falling off the ceilings and walls. It could be salvaged, however, as was done on a house of similar design by Mr. Joseph Suydam, near Chestertown. (K-250)



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
 Michael Bourne

DATE OF RECORD Sept. 11, 1968

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

Name Spry Home Farm MHT# K-185

Location Kent COUNTY Chesterille town

Rt 290 - 2 miles north of Chesterille
address or road#

First owner of record Spry DATE 1850's

Present owner Eloise S. Weer DATE _____

Address Baltimore Md.

Parcel or Deed # WTG 38/395 | 235 acres

Original use dwellings

Present use Vacant - denelit

Md. Map Coordinates _____

Long. & Lat. reading _____

Style Italianate

Date(s) of construction c. 1850 - 60

Architect _____

Builder _____

DESCRIPTION:

3 NUMBER of stories frame type wall construction

Foundation-basement Brick - basent under north half of house; Slits - foundation of other portion

Wall construction- Frame covered with clapboard

Water table, string course, other decorative work essential to walls

Chimneys on each narrow end - N + S

Name Spm Home Farm MHT# K-185Entrance type & placement Central - double door with
applied balustrading - w/ side lights + transomWindows 6/6 on all floors - 5 bays long x 2 bays deep -
variations on back + N sideShutters louvered throughoutRoof type flat hipped w/ built-in gutter covering tin
Cornice, eaves bracketed eave with gutterDormers, cupolas open spiral balustrade around a
captain's watchPorches on East - flat with built-in gutter, like house,
and large square postWings, hyphens formally a 1 1/2 story frame wing on
west side of house - torn down about 10 years agoInterior:
Stairway winds to 3rd floor - open string - ^{huge} turnedNewel - typical 3rd mil century balusters - continuous rail - ^{applied tracery} facing stairDoors 4 panel with panel knobs + key holeTrim heavyOther notable work mouldings very plain - carry over
of simple Georgian design.

Name Spy home Farm MHT# K-185

Physical condition Very poor

Environment in middle of field with block garage

References:

MHT Color slide # _____

MHT B & W # _____

Owner contacted _____

OTHER: _____

Recorder Michael Bourne

Date Sept 11, 1968

Summary: _____

Enclosures: e.g. Map, Historical significance, sketch of floor plan, and angle of photos, etc.

Kent County, Maryland
Lake, Griffing, Stevenson Atlas
1877 (1976 Reprint)
First District



