K-240

Fairfield
Great Oak Manor
1854

The Frisby family is associated with this farm on Great Oak Manor from the early 18th Century until 1872. Upon his death in 1779, William Frisby bequeathed it to his wife, Elizabeth, for her lifetime, after which time it was to go to one of his three children (Joseph, James or Martha).[1] When Elizabeth died 20 years later, she named her son James as her sole heir.[2]

Local folklore tells of this house, as well as its neighbor, Handy Point, being destroyed by the British in 1814. Recent research however, confirms that this story refers to another Frisby house which was located south of Fairlee Creek.

After the death of James Frisby (1830's), John B. Anderson began acquiring the farm in 1839 from the three heirs. Since he had married Elizabeth Frisby, he had only two thirds to acquire. The first part was from William and Ellen Frisby who had moved to Peoria, Illinois.[3] In 1852 he acquired the last third from his sister-in-law Susan R. Frisby.[4] In this last deed the property was referred to as that "on which Anderson resides."[5]

In the 1852 Tax Assessment there is mention of a "frame house & other buildings in good repair," on Anderson's farm. Sometime between this tax assessment and the printing of the Martinet Map in 1860, Anderson constructed a new house typical of the antebellum period.

Although similar to Brampton and Stepney in style, Fairfield (or

Mount Airy as it is sometimes referred to in the records) differed from the other buildings in that it was built all at one time. The entire structure was built of brick atop a stone foundation in a simplified Greek Revival form with italianate details. The front section of the two part building is three stories with the third story being shorter than the first two. Beside the bracketed cornice and window shutters, the chief decorative feature of the facade was the entry porch. It was only as wide as the central bay and had bracketed cornice, pierced brackets at the tops of the square posts and a pierced splat balustrade. Typical of the period and style, the low pitched roof was topped with a small monitor centered between the two chimneys. The entry had double doors with transom and sidelights, but no external architrave. The second floor central bay had a three-part window to balance the entry below.

A two story back wing continued on the plane of the southwest side. Like the facade, it was five bays long. On the northeast side a porch extended from the back door of the main hall to the end of the wing.

The plan of the house consisted of central stairhall with two large parlors in the front section and a narrow central stairhall with kitchen and dining room in the wing. In the front, all windows and doors were trimmed with simple Greek Revival architraves. The fireplaces were trimmed and fitted with marbleized wood mantels with arched openings. The main stair had a huge turned mahogany newel post and two turned balusters per step with wide handrail rising to the third floor. Plaster medallions were installed in the ceilings of the two front parlors and stairhall. The remainder of the house was trimmed with plain beaded trim with corner blocks. Only the mantels in four of the other rooms were similar to the

architectural trim of the principal rooms. The rear stair had a turned newel, plain rectangular balusters and a round handrail.

The biggest difference between the first and second floor plans was the addition of a narrow corridor connecting the main stair landing with the back hall and two rooms above the kitchen (one of which was a bathroom). At one time the western most room of those two had been divided into two rooms with its original access from the kitchen being a ladder-stair. This room was intended for use by servants. On the third floor the ceilings were just slightly over six feet and there were two rooms flanking the central stair.

The Andersons raised six children at Mount Airy (the name used during their ownership) and died in the 1860's. As a result of an equity case in 1865, George Vickers was appointed to sell the property for the benefit of the children, which he did on May 3rd, to William Overend of Ohio.[6]

William and Elizabeth Overend owned the farm from 1854 until they returned to Cincinnati in 1881. They, like the Andersons, had six children to fill the house. The children apparently enjoyed living on the farm for their youngest child, Lizzie Overend Hart wrote the following to a niece, Cecil Overend on December 15, 1930 about her visit after many years absence:

" . . . Although there were many new roads and very bad ones at that, we got there all right and found the dear old home still standing and well preserved for the 50 years that I had not seen it. I recognized it from the roadside, but the land was very much changed, and very much impaired, nothing like it was when we lived there. Stables and grannerys moved up

around the house. Oh, but that made me feel sick, but the dear old home was there and when I got inside I was full of old memories and had a good cry. There was an old Jew and his wife there, that knew Father, Charlie, Ed, Sam, Rob and Sherrie and me, as a little girl, but I could not place him. They let me go in all the rooms even up in the third story, and you don't know, or could you imagine, how I felt – so alone, and no one of the family to tell of the many changes that had taken place."

"We too stopped in Chestertown and I thought I would know just how to get to the old home, but there were so many new roads, I gave up, but I said I would know when we got to the cross roads near Buckneck, but some people we inquired of never heard of that place, so then I said it was somewhere between Worton and Fairlee, so when we got to the oil station Will got out and asked them and he told him just where it was. When Will got back in the machine he told to me to "keep your eyes open," and I did, but did not know we were so near. They had changed the entrance to the place. No front gate, no peach orchard, nothing but corn fields as far as the eye could reach, but when we got to the opening I spied the house and I cried "there it is," it didn't take so long to get there, but oh the change in the ground around the house. Horses and cows running all over the lawn. It made me feel awfully bad, and the old oak tree that it got its name from—gone. The real old land mark "Great Oak Manor."[7]

The Overends may have called the place by its oldest name – Great Oak Manor Farm – as that is the name which appears in the 1877 Atlas.

For seven months in 1881 the farm was owned by Samuel W. Thomas, a Methodist minister living in Philadelphia with roots in Kent Count.[8] He owned several other properties in and around Chestertown at this period.

In October of 1881 he sold the farm to Lucas Alrich of New Castle County, Delaware[9] who mortgaged it to Samuel Dunn in 1892. Dunn's attorney foreclosed on Alrich in 1897 after which time it was sold to Benjamin Ferris.[10] Ferris sold the farm to George L. Bowers and Harry Stavely in 1900, but Bowers sold his share to Stavely in 1902.[11]

In need of financing the construction of a new barn, Harry and Florence Stavely sold the farm to Rufus Parks,[12] a Chestertown lawyer, but remained as tenants. Frances Stavely (1900-1996), Harry and Florence's daughter was born in the house and shared the same fondness for the place as Lizzie Overend. She frequently visited the farm and told stories of how things used to be. The photograph was taken while her father lived on the farm.

After the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Parks, the farm was sold by their heirs to Alice and Bramwell Geddes in 1944.[13] The Geddes had also purchased Handy Point earlier and had established their residence there as well as an important stock farm. Buying the adjoining farm enabled them to increase their operation considerably. They improved the old residence which had been allowed to disintegrate and installed the farm manager and his family therein. The Plummer family lived there until 1979, 13 years after the Geddes heirs had sold the farm to Louisa Copeland and her brother Gerret.[14] The Copelands placed the farms in scenic and agricultural easement which will serve to protect it from uncontrolled development in perpetuity.

In 1982 the author and his wife purchased the house and five acres after having rented it for two years. During their occupancy the kitchen was fitted with cupboards made of old pine and an additional bath was installed on the second floor of the rear wing. The Bourne children, Mark and Sarah, were born during these years and spent their early childhood at Fairfield. Like Lizzie Overend and Frances Stavely, they remember Fairfield and its surroundings with fondness.

The house and five acres were sold again in 1987 and drastically and insensitively remodeled. Once again the house was the subject of a foreclosure in the 1990's at which time it was bought again by Gerret Copeland who has undertaken its revitalization.

1. Wills, Lib. 6, fol. 94.
2. Wills, Lib. 8, fol. 87.
3. Land Records, Lib. JNG 6, fol. 155.
4. Land Records, Lib. JR 2, fol. 392.
5. Ibid.
6. Land Records, Lib. JKH 11, fol. 525.
7. Letter from Lizzie Overend Hart to her niece Cecil Overend dated Dec. 15, 1930. Thanks to Mr. Robert Hart (grandson of Lizzie Hart) and to Marian Quick.
8. Land Records, Lib. SB 2, fol. 111.
9. Land Records, Lib. SB 2, fol. 364.
10. Land Records, Lib. SGF 6, fol. 9.
11. Land Records, Lib. JTD 3, fol. 531; JTD 6, fol. 579.
12. Land Records, Lib. JTD 8, fol. 182.
13. Land Records, Lib. RAS 33, fol. 497.
14. Land Records, Lib. EHP 20, fol. 306.

MANOR SHORE FARM
Chestertown, Maryland
(ca 1857)

K-240

In the 1850's the impact of the Greek Revival and Italianate style began to be seen in both building form and detail. The introduction of the hipped roof, the front porch, and the rear kitchen wing are all important features that, introduced in this period, were to be aspects of buildings during the entire Victorian period.

Built about 1857, the house is five bays wide and three stories tall. Constructed of brick it has a shallow hipped roof with an ornate cornice and an elaborate front porch.

MAGI # 1502405535
K-240

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: FAIRFIELD (MANOR SHORE)

AND/OR COMMON: Manor Shore Farm (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: About 1¼ miles southwest of Handy's Point

CITY, TOWN: Chestertown XX VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	X OTHER: rented

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Louise Copeland Biddle — Telephone #: 202-337-9174

STREET & NUMBER: 2720 Dumbarton St.

CITY, TOWN: Washington __ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: D.C. 20007

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Kent County Court House

Liber #: EHP 20 — EHP 66
Folio #: 306 — 140

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Chestertown, Maryland

STATE:

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Maryland Historical Trust, Survey of Kent County

DATE: 1968 — __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust, The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN: Annapolis, Maryland

STATE:

7 DESCRIPTION

K-240

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Manor Shore Farmhouse is located about 1¼ miles southwest of Handy's Point. The house faces southeast with the Bay about a quarter mile to the north.

The house is brick. Five bays wide and three stories tall, it has a five bay, two story rear ell. On the front of the house, and along the north side of the ell are one story wooden porches. The roof of the main house is a shallow hip while that of the rear is a shallow gable. Brick chimneys rise along either side of the central stair hall walls, from the rear gable of the ell and along the central transverse wall of the wing.

The brick walls are laid in 1 to 7 running bond and are purplish-orange in color. They measure 2¼"X8"X4"and three courses measure 7 3/4". Mortar joints are flush and untooled; vertical joints are about 3/8" and the horizontal somewhat wider. There are gauged brick flat arches above the first and second floors windows.

Windows have 6 over 6 sash on the lower two floors and 3 over 3 sash on the third. All have slender muntins and fillet and bead frames. Sills are plain and the windows had louvered shutters. Some cast iron shutter dogs remain in place. There are basement windows in the window bays along the front facade.

The main entry has a three square transom lights and four rectangular side lights. The double entry doors have bolection-molding panels on the exterior and panels with Greek ogee and bevel moldings on the interior. And this same interior detail is used on the four-panel doors throughout the house.

Simple and massive in form, the chief ornament of the house is its decorative woodwork on its porches and cornice. The front porch is three bays wide and one deep with a flat roof and square columns. Console-type bracketts are used on the porch roof cornice with scroll-bracketts on the top of the posts. The roof of the main house ha-

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-240

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
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca 1855 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the 1850's the impact of the Greek Revival and Italianate style began to be seen on Kent County buildings, in both building form and detail. The introduction of the hipped roof, the front porch, and the kitchen wing, located on the rear instead of at the side, are all important features that, introduced in this period, were to be aspects of buildings during the entire Victorian period.

Manor Shore is one of the few brick structures built in this style in Kent County* or this period saw a shift to wooden construction, accompanied with an exploration of the decorative possibilities inherit in that material. It was built about 1857.

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* Bloomfield (K-422) is another.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-240

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION
Kent County Planning Commission

DATE
778-4600, ext.67

STREET & NUMBER
Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

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

PS-1108

wide overhang and deep frieze and resembles the porch roof.

The interior of the building is characterized by large, high-ceilinged rooms with bold, if simple detailing that shows strong Greek Revival influence. Window and door trim are enriched by use of the Greek ogee and bevel moldings. The mantles in the front rooms of the house reflect the same motif with plain pilasters and simple mantle shelves. In the dining room, is an ornate white marble mantle.

The central hall stair contains a stair which rises to the third floor. It has simple but bold turned balusters and newel post, an elliptical handrail and scroll-step bracketts.

In the kitchen wing is another simpler service stair which leads from the side entry hall to the rear rooms of the second floor.

Flooring is medium width yellow pine and all walls are plastered. In the stair and front parlours are molded plaster ceiling ornaments.

The house has undergone limited alteration with changes to the kitchen, bath, and fireplaces.

15024055 PM 35

Form 10-45
(5/62)

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY K-240

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Kent
TOWN Chestertown VICINITY Melitota
STREET NO. Handy Point Rd. — [redacted]
2½ miles west of Melitota — west side of Rd.
ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE dwellin
PRESENT OWNER L. DuPont Copeland
PRESENT USE dwellin (manager)
WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick
NO. OF STORIES 3

2. NAME (Mano Shores) Fairfield
DATE OR PERIOD 19th Cent.
STYLE [redacted] Italianat Victorian
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

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

Fairfield is a massive 3 story brick dwellin said to have be built: 1815 but appears to date from the middle of the 19th Century. It is five bays long with central entrance. It has a very low pitched hipped roof which is pierced by 2 brick chimneys. Above the windows are flat brick arches and the windows have 6/6 sash on 1st + 2nd stoneys and 3/3 on 3rd story and louvered shutters throughout. There are no windows on the side walls and the fireplaces are located on the interior wall, beside the stair hall. To the rear of the house is a large 2 story wing with porch. Both sections have bracket cornice.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered NO Interior Exterior good

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 Bowen

DATE OF RECORD Oct 8, 1968

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

Fairfield is a massive three story brick dwelling said to have been built in 1815 but appears to date from the middle of the nineteenth century. It is five bays long with central entrance. It has a very low pitched hipped roof which is pierced by two brick chimneys. Above the windows are Flat brick arches and the windows have 6/6 sashes on the first and second stories and 3/3 sashes on the third story and louvered shutters throughout. There are no windows on the side walls and the fireplaces are located on the interior wall, beside the stair hall. To the rear of the house is a large two story wing with porch. Both sections have bracket cornice.

K-240
MILITARY RESERVATION
Channel dredged to 24½ feet as of June 1947
spoil area
rocky
hard
soft
Tower
240
FAIRLEE
Airstrip (Private)
Fairlee
Creek
241
277

K-240
Manor Shore Farm
View to North
Chestertown
Kent County
M.L. Fritz
7/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND
JAN 15 1980