

K-401

Stephens Farm
Melitota
c.1860

This handsome Italianate farmhouse sits atop the long slope southeast of the Melitota crossroads. Probably built about 1860 for William Stephens and his second wife Margaret, the farm had been inherited by his first wife, Jane Gamble from her grandfather, Darius Gamble.¹ In the 1852 Tax Assessment, William W. Stephens is listed as owner of 278 acres of "Coney Warren" with "Frame House in good repair formerly Jane Gamble."² Jane bequeathed the farm in trust to her children, but William and Margaret purchased it from the trust in 1860 and replaced the house listed on the assessment.³ The Stephens apparently went overboard on their dreamhouse and lost it in 1881 to the creditor.⁴ Between 1896 and 1941, the farm was owned by Jennie and Arthur Rivers.⁵ In 1941, it was purchased by Carroll and Hazel Dulin,⁶ in whose family it remained for three generations before being sold to the present owners.

The central hall plan house is five bays wide, two bays deep and two stories tall. Its roof is a shallow hip that terminates in a tall roofed belvedere, like 201 Front Street in Chestertown. Behind the house there is a period wing which had been larger but was modified by the Dulin's after 1941. The present owner has installed a new wing in its place. The centrality of the facade is emphasized by the three-part door and second story window as well as the placement of the columns on the belvedere. During the Dulin occupancy, the porch had been reduced to the central bay, but it originally had full length, to which it has been restored.

1. Land Records, Lib. JKH 2, fol. 21.

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2. 1852 Tax Assessment.
3. Ibid No. 1.
4. Land Records, Lib. SB 2, fol. 202.
5. Land Records, Lib. JTD 5, fol. 234.
6. Land Records, Lib. RAS 28, fol. 32.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC STEPHENS FARM (preferred)

AND/OR COMMON Dulin House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Southwest ^{east ?} corner of Rt. 298 and Melitota Road

CITY, TOWN Fairlee Still Pond Road (MD 298)

Melitota

VICINITY OF

1st

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Miriam & Charles W. Dulin

Telephone #: 301-778-0917

STREET & NUMBER RD #4 Box 489

CITY, TOWN Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

Liber #: EHP 34
Folio #: 766

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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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 wing	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dulin House is located on one of the highest points in Kent County; it faces west, overlooking the village of Melitota and the surrounding fields. The house is sited in a grassy yard, shaded by large trees.

The central-hall-plan house is five bays wide, two bays deep and two stories tall. Its roof is a shallow hip that is surmounted by a tall cupula. Behind the main house is a two-story ell with a one-story shed addition.

The cornice of both the main house and wing are enriched with curved brackets and acorn pendants at the corners. There is a cyma recta molding at the roof edge and built in gutters. The same cornice detailing, but at a smaller scale, is used on the hipped roof of the cupula. This latter roof is supported by 8 square columns. The cupula has no exterior walls, windows or cresting.

There was originally a wide front porch that extended across three bays of the house front. It has been rebuilt to a one-bay entrance porch with square columns and fencing on the flat roof. Some of the original porch bracketts and the acorn corner pendants were reused.

The centrality of the building organization is reinforced by the location of three over three sash side-lights on either side of the middle window on the second floor. Elsewhere the windows are quite large and have 6 over 6 sash with slender, Gothic-bead-shaped muntius. The window trim is illustrated below. Windows are located in each exposed bay on the main house. In the wing the windows also have 6 over 6 sash but are smaller. On the north and south facades they have been altered.

The main entry has two-panel double doors; a four-pane transom light with molded transom bar, and sidelight assemblies with bolection molded lower panels.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input 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 ca 1865-70 BUILDER/ARCHITECT William & Margaret Stephens

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dulin residence is an example of a popular house of the years immediately following the Civil War. These buildings are rectangular in form; they have shallow hipped roofs with cupula's or widows walks, and central entries. Only a few of these structures remain in Kent County. * Of these Morton Hall (K-126) and 201 Front Street, Chestertown (K-7) are very elaborate examples. The Dulin House is a simple building in the same late Greek Revival Style. The house was built by William W. and Margaret A.T. Stephens.

* Several of these houses were also built near Middleton, Delaware.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kent County Land Records, Kent County Court House, Chestertown, Maryland

Waite, Diana, Architectural Elements, (Princeton: The Dyne Press, ca 1975.)

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

The house has short brick chimneys enclosed in the end walls and a brick foundation. Three-light basement windows are located beneath other windows and are protected by three horizontal wooden bars.

Changes in the structure include installation of aluminum storm windows and asbestos-shingle siding. The rear wing was formerly longer, but was altered by Carroll K. and Hazel B. Dulin, parents of the present owners.

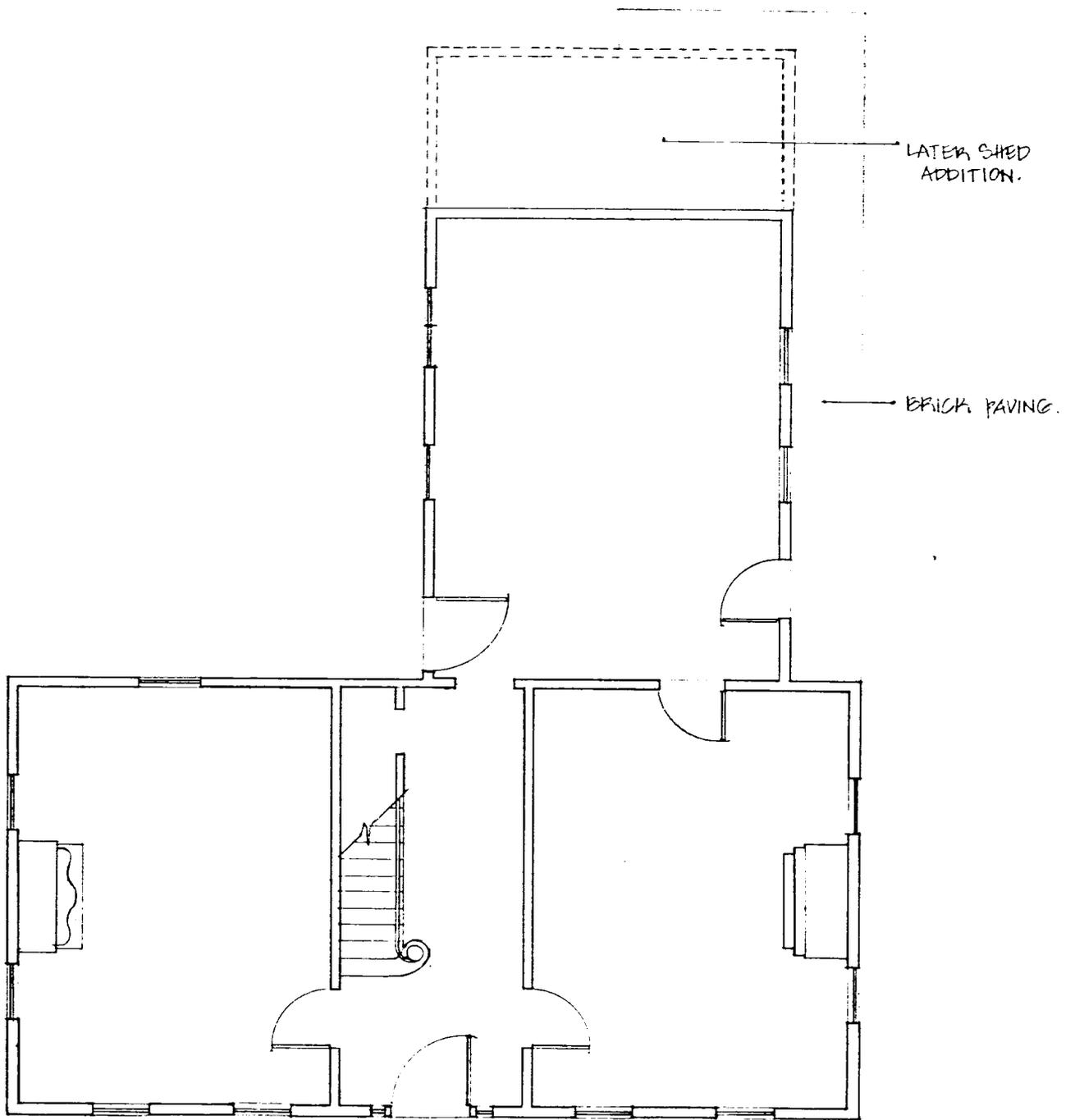
Inside, the Dulin house has graceful, spacious rooms and examples of the best of mid-19th century woodwork. A profile of the window and door trim used in the major downstairs rooms and the stair hall is drawn below. The baseboards in these areas are 8½" in height including the bold Grecian ovolo and bevel cap. Four panel door panels are also illustrated.

The major stair is large in scale and generous. The walnut newel has carved octagonal shaft and is similar to the a newel advertised by George O. Stevens, a millwork company in Baltimore. The balusters are turned oak, also with an octagonal shaft. There are also foliated step brackets.

The mantle in the north room, first floor, is marbelized slate in a "Grecian" style. In the south room, a simple marbelized slate mantle is used. On the second floor, the detailing is simpler and the mantles are wooden with curved shelves and chamfered pilasters with lamb's tongue stops.

Behind the three-part central window is a small room and the enclosed stair to the cupola.

The interior of the wing and the first floor has been modified for a modern kitchen.



STEPHENS FARM (K-401) MELITOTA, MARYLAND.
SCALE 1/8" = 10'

DULIN HOUSE (K-401)
Chain of Title

Land Records of
Kent County

Transaction

EHP 34
766

TO: Charles W. & Miriam A. Dulin
FROM: Elroy G. Boyer, Trustee
DATE: April 28, 1970

94.77 acres of land deeded to Charles & Miriam after death of Carroll in Sept. 10, 1969.

WHG 62
266

TO: Carroll K. Dulin, Widower & Charles W. & Miriam A. Dulin, joint tenants
FROM: Elroy G. Boyer, Trustee
DATE: October 20, 1959

RAS 28
32

TO: Carroll K. & Hazel B. Dulin
FROM: Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Maryland, etal
DATE: September 2, 1941

381.85 acres on both side of the Rt. 298. Survey plat is shown; the "Stephens Farm" included the lands to the Corey Farm & south to the stream & Fish Pond. Jennie B. Rivers died intestate on Oct. 22, 1922 & the lands descended to her husband, syblings, nieces, & nephews. When her husband, Arthur D. Rivers died, he willed his half to the Masons.

JTD 5
234

TO: Jennie B. Rivers
FROM: Charles T. Westcott, Attny.
DATE: May 19, 1897

The Stephens had defaulted on a mortgage to the Fire Insurance Company of Kent County made in 1881 and the land was sold in a public sale in 1896 for \$9,338.00; 250 acres near Melitota (formerly Willis' crossroads) were in this parcel. Also sold were two other parcels making up 322 acres. The first parcel included the house.

Land Records of
Kent County

Transaction

SB 2
202
(mortgage)

TO: Mutual Fire Insurance Co. of Kent Co. Md.
FROM: William W. & Margaret A.T. Stephens
DATE: June 29, 1881
(Margaret is William's second wife.)

The Stephens borrowed \$4,500 from the company and the farm is being taken in lieu of payment. It contained the 250 acres noted above and other parcels. If the debt was paid this deed was to be void. The Stephens had tenancy.

JKH 2
21

TO: William W. & Margaret A.T. Stephens
FROM: James B. Ricaud, Trustee
DATE: May 7, 1860

William W. Stephens is acquiring this land from a trustee for his own under-age daughters for \$6,500.00 in a public sale in 1854. He paid \$2,000.00 then asked the court to allow him to grant a mortgage for the rest, payable when each girl reached 21.

Davis Gamble had willed the property to his granddaughter Jane E.S. Gamble who married William W. Stephens. She died leaving the farm to her daughters.

BC 5
274

TO: Davis Gamble
FROM: Starling Thomas
DATE: June 1, 1808

The 250 acres where the house stands plus other property.

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Stephens Farm

View to East

Melilotá

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

3/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

JAN 15 1980