

OLD MORRIS HOUSE (K-403)
Chestertown, Maryland
(18th, late 19th)

The Old Morris House is an L-shaped Victorian brick building with a new skin of aluminum siding. Examination of the foundation shows, however, that the house includes portions of a very early structure which had an enormous corner fireplace. The house is located on Mary Morris Road near the western branch of Radcliffe Creek. It now faces south although the earlier structure apparently faced east. The house is 2½ stories tall.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC OLD MORRIS HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North side Mary Morris Road, 1/2 mile east of junction with Flatland Road

1st

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

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 Theodore Bulynko

Telephone #: 301-778-5492

STREET & NUMBER RD#4, Box 631

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 105
Folio #: 251

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Mistakenly identified at K-320 on some MHT survey maps.

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-403

| 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 _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Morris House is an L-shaped Victorian brick building with a new skin of aluminum siding. Examination of the foundation shows, however, that it includes portions of a very early structure which had an enormous corner fireplace. The house is located on Mary Morris Road near the western branch of Radcliffe Creek. It now faces south although the earlier structure apparently faced east. The house is 2½ stories tall.

The front facade is five bays wide with a three bay porch. Three gable dormers with overhanging eaves project from the roof. These dormers have 2 over 2 double hung windows with round upper sash and ornamental faces.

The house has one brick chimney in its gable and another chimney situated between the two northernmost bays. Both chimneys are located at the ridge and have corbelled caps.

The front porch has a flat hipped roof and chamfered square posts with simple triangular wooden bracketts. There is a cyma recta molding at the edge of the roof and a row of flat, carved bracketts on the fascia.

Windows on the front facade and in the gables are evenly spaced and have 2 over 2 sash. Window trim is covered with siding; window sills are plain. The central main entry has a transom light but no sidelights and a door with four panels.

On the interior of the structure is a nice dog-leg stair in the central hall; it is typical of the late 19th century and has a bold, turned newel, a molded handrail and turned balusters. There are ornamental step bracketts on the open string. Window and door trim includes of Grecian ogee and bevel molding and the same profile is used as panel moldings on the four-panel doors and as the upper molding of the baseboards.

The mantles in the front first floors rooms were recently removed; they were marbelized slate. In the second floor rooms and the attic there are mantle shelves

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-403

| 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 checked="" 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 late 19th century/18th BUILDER/ARCHITECT
century

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Morris House is significant for its Victorian design and because it incorporates portions of an 18th century structure.

This house was a part of Brick House Farm (K-233) until it was sold to the present owners. In 1877 it was owned by William Morris and it is likely that the modifications in the house were made by him.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

K-403

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 |
|-------|--------|
| | |
| | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

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

above heating grates. Flooring throughout the building is tongue and groove 4" to 6" random yellow pine, blind-nailed.

This structure is the second house to stand here and the stone foundation of the earlier building can be seen in the north east portion of the cellar. The first floor joists, edged members about 2' on center, remain and the original wide pine flooring can be seen from the basement. The base of the very wide corner fireplace is located in the northeast corner of the cellar room and has portions of a segmental arch about 5' wide. Bricks used for this arch are large and very irregular and have occasional blue-grey glazed headers. The framing for the original first-floor hearth also survives. When the house was remodeled, in the 1870's or 1880's, the hearth, firebox, and chimney were removed and a new chimney stack (the eastern) was constructed.

Other portions of the old walls were probably included in the present structure and the stucco, now visible only at the foundation, was an attempt to make the wall surface uniform.

East of the house is a stone well house which was recently rebuilt. A two-story frame carriage house stands northeast of the house. It has a cupola and wide front doors and dates from the late 19th century. It is in very bad repair. There are ruins of a large barn on the property. This structure had heavy, adzed timber framing but is too deteriorated to describe further. It appears to date from the mid-to-late 19th century because its hardware and its nailed roof framing are typical of that period.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

K-403

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





K-403

Old Morris House

View to North

Chestertown

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

3/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

JAN 15 1980