

OLD HARPER HOUSE
Still Pond, Maryland
(ca 1878-80)

K-435

The town of Still Pond experienced its period of major growth in the second half of the 19th century, and most of the larger houses built at that time almost resembled small farms, with space provided for gardens and livestock. The Harper House, built about 1878-80, is the best preserved of these houses, retaining its stables and a rare three-story water tower. The central gable house has outstanding wooden sawn-work and a fine porch with lattice columns.

For Photo - see HABS Collection

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC OLD HARPER HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER South side Route 298 near west edge of Still Pond

1st

CITY, TOWN

Still Pond

___ 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 Francis R. & Conleth A. Ciesielski

Telephone #: 301-348-2125

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Still Pond

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21667

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

Liber #: EHP 83

Folio #: 809

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

K-435

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Harper House is located on the south side of Route 292, Still Pond's Main Street, facing north. It is in a truly suburban area, that is, as suburbs were built in the late nineteenth century. On its one acre lot stands a barn and stables, and it once includes chicken houses, gardens, orchards, and barnyards. Other houses in Still Pond had a similiar assembly of support buildings, but the Old Harper House is the best preserved.

The building is 5 bays wide and two bays deep with a 4 bay to rear ell, which continues the west wall. The main house is 2 stories tall and a two bay central gable; the wing is also two stories but with a low attic. There is a brick foundation and a cellar under both sections of the structure. The exterior sheathing is German Shiplap. Along the overhanging eaves of both portions of the structure are sawn wooden scallops.

There are three brick chimneys in the building: two enclosed in each main house gable and one between the room of the ell. All three have corbelled caps and bases.

There are three remarkable porches on the house. The front porch is one story tall, three bays wide, and one bay deep; it stretches across the entire front of the building. Its lattice posts are made up of three x-shaped panels and very delicate, flat bracketts. Between the bracketts are wooden pendants, and at the edge of the flat roof's cornice is a row of leaf-shaped ornaments sheltering the west side entrance is a small lattice porch with a tent-like roof finished with the same leaf decoration. On the east side of the ell is a long porch with details similiar to that of the front porch; it has been enclosed and made a part of the kitchen.

Windows throughout the house have 2 over 2 sash and louvered shutters, although those in the wing are smaller. The trim and sills are plain. In the front gable is a Tudor-shaped window, and in the attic gables a pair of four-light casements.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-435

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 1878-80 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Mary & George Washington Harper

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Still Pond experienced its period of major growth in the second half of the 19th century. Most of the larger houses built at that time almost resembled farms, with space provided for gardens & livestock. The Harper House was one of the larger and grandest of the Still Pond houses and included the unusual water tower shown in the photograph.

The house was constructed about 1878-80 by Mary and George Washington Harper, prominent residents of the town and owners of the Harper (later Medders) Store (K-432.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-435

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mr. Walter B. Harris, grandson of builder.

Lake, Griffing & Stevenson. An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne (sic) Counties, Md. (Philadelphia: 27 South Sixth Street, 1877.)

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 main entry has a transom light and three pane sidelights. The door has round-headed upper panels and pilastered jambs.

The interior stair is open to the attic. It has a turned walnut newel post and turned balusters. The handrail is round and there are decorative slip bracketts. Window and door trim have a fillet and Greek ogee back band and a split fascia. Doors have four panels with applied Greek ogee moldings. Floors are meduim width yellow pine.

On the first floor are marbelized slate mantles, but the mantles on the second floor are wooden. A remarkable item in the house is a radiator in the dining room which has a cast iron compartment used for warming plates or storing crackers.

The only major change in the floor plan is a two story, six foot extention off the rear wall of the west rooms.

The house is painted olive green with white trim and black shutters. In the past it has been painted red with white trim and even earlier all green.

A most remarkable structure on the property is the wooden water tower. Nearly, three stories tall the building measures about 12' at the base but its sides slope inward. The pyramidal roof is quite shallow with eaves which overhang about 12". On the first level there are doors on the north and west walls; on the second level are 6 over 6 sash windows on the north, west, and east, but on the third level are round windows with 8 pie-shaped panes. The building is covered with 4 3/4" lapped weatherboard finished against narrow corner boards; the roof is wooden shingles. The tower stands over the well and once contained an open cypress water tank at the top. The tank was filled daily by an Ericcson Hot Air Pump Engine.

The barn is located south west of the main house. It is frame, two stories tall, and covered with a gable roof topped by a louvered capula. There is a gable-roofed storage shed on the north gable. The exterior siding, windows, and doors are board and batten. The structure is bay frames with a central passage and stair, a carriage barn in the north bay, and horse stalls in the south. Formerly there was a gable-roofed manure pit on the south gable behind the horse stalls.

All buildings are in good condition.

Chain of Title

OLD HARPER HOUSE
Still Pond, Maryland

Land Records of
Kent County

Transaction

EHP 83 809	TO: Francis R. & Conleth A. Ciesielski FROM: Warren W. & Elise R. Matlack DATE: October 16, 1978
EHP 48 211	TO: Warren W. & Elise R. Matlack FROM: Contess Britta Armfelt DATE: October 30, 1972
EHP 44 692	TO: Countess Britta Armfelt FROM: Oscar and Clela Hardy DATE: April 8, 1972
EHP 35 716	TO: Oscar and Clela Hardy FROM: Elizabeth C. Stirling, widow DATE: July 13, 1970
WHG 4 509	TO: O. Mathiot & Elizabeth C. Stirling FROM: John & Edith R. Van Winkle DATE: November 1, 1947
RAS 37 595	TO: John & Edith R. Van Winkle FROM: Helen Harper Davis DATE: December 20, 1945
RAS 13 45	TO: Helen Harper Davis FROM: Mary Harper Harris & Walter B. Harris DATE: July 3, 1934
RAS 1 174	TO: Mary Harper Harris FROM: George W. Harper, Jr., Executor & Mary Harper Harris, Executrix DATE: February 15, 1927

Purchased the property from her fathers estate.

Land Records of
Kent County

Transaction

DCB 3
484

TO: George W. Harper
FROM: Lewis S. & Mary E. Hepbron
DATE: December 31, 1877

\$400.00 for a one acre lot in Still Pond,
a part of the lands devised to Lewis Hepbron from
Johns S. Hepbron.

DCB 3
485

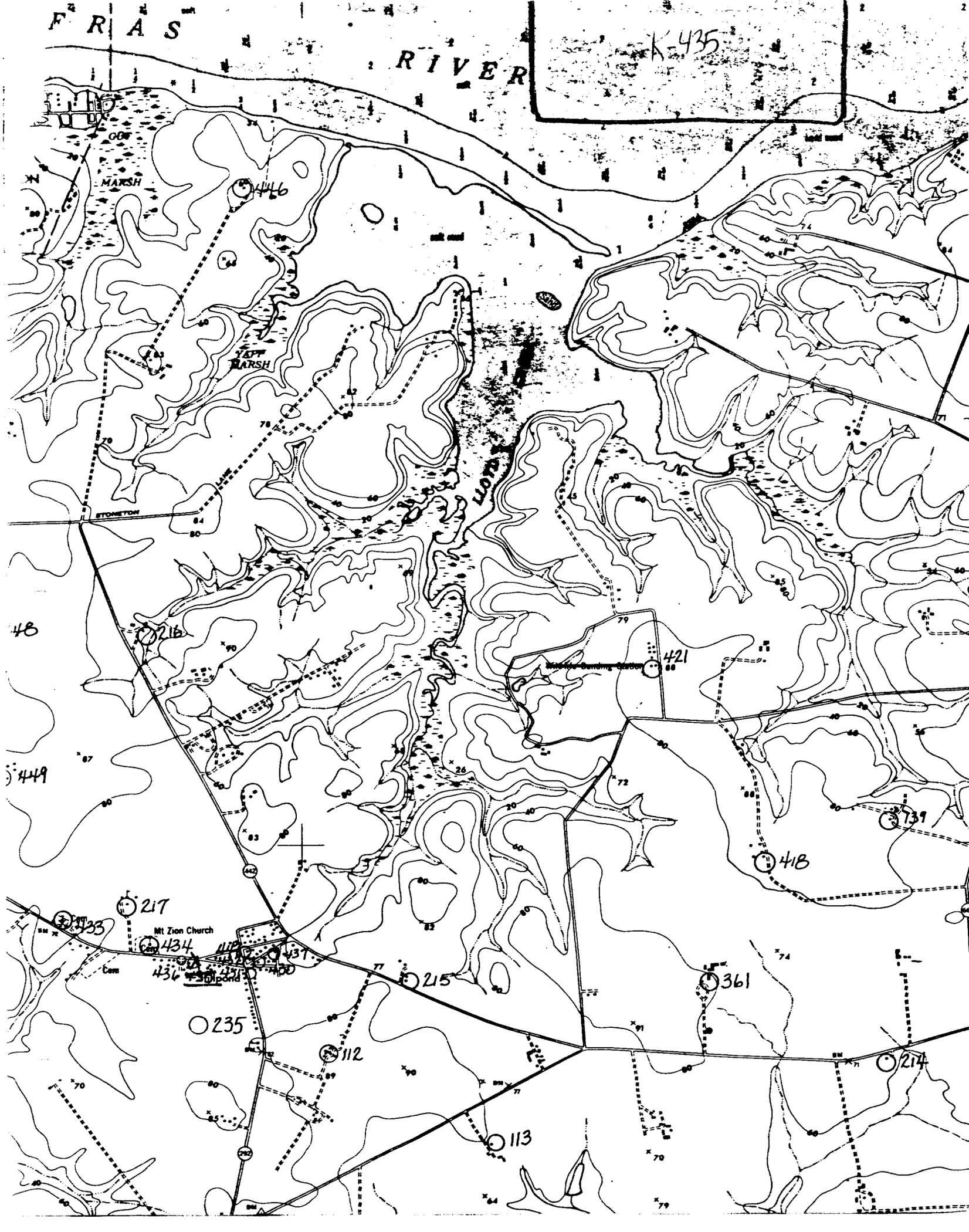
George W. Harper & Mary E. Harper used the lot &
premises--presemably still to be constructed--to
secure \$1,000.00. They were borrowing from J.
Frank Wilson.

1877 Atlas shows no house on the lot. Evidently this
house and the houses between it and the crossroads
were sold off the Hepbron Farm about this time.

F R A S

RIVER

K-435





K-435

old Harper House

View to Southeast

still Pond

Kent County

M. L. Fritz

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CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

JUN 19 1980



K-435

Old Harper House Horse Barn & stables

View to Northwest

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JUN 19 1980



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Old Harper House Water Tower

View to Northeast

M.L. Fritz

7/1980

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CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

JUN 19 1980