

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Little Bell Farm

and/or common Robinson Farm

## 2. Location

street & number East side Baker's Lane 3/4 mile south of Route 20  not for publication

city, town Chestertown  vicinity of congressional district FIRST

state Maryland county Kent

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Estate of  
Walter Robinson c/o Clara P. Robinson

street & number telephone no.: (301) 778-0612

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland 21620

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber (no deed

street & number folio reference)

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

state  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No.K-472

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved    date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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

This house is a gambrel-roofed structure of frame construction. Measuring 16' by 32' in plan it is three bays long, two deep and 1½ stories in height. There is a simple 1½ story, gable-roofed kitchen addition against the east gambrel wall.

# 8. Significance

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This small house appears on first glance to be one of Kent County's colonial gambrel houses. In fact the house dates from the late 19th century & probably derives its form from the Colonial Revival that swept the East after the 1876 centennial. Taller & narrower than the early gambrel houses, Godlington Manor (K-88 ) for example, the house reflects the colonial form in its fenestration and roughly in size. Although this house is extremely simple in design, it is an unusual and picturesque structure.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-472

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A            
 Zone Easting Northing

B            
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Marsha L. Fritz, Surveyor		
	County Commissioners of Kent County		
organization	Historical Society of Kent County	date	7/81
	The Court House	telephone	778-4600
street & number	Church Alley	telephone	778-3499
city or town	Chestertown	state	Maryland 21620

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

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Building Form and Material

1. Size - Main Section: 1½ stories, 3 bays wide, 2 bays deep  
Wing A: 1½ stories, 1 bay wide, 1 bay
2. Central hall modifies by removal of west enclosing wall of stair
3. Roof type - Gambrel  
Wings - Shallow gable
4. Chimney - Enclosed in gambrel walls of main house  
Materials - brick - simple flue  
Decorative elements - Simple corbelled cap.
5. Material/Walls  
Main Section: Frame; medium-width weatherboard  
Wing A: Frame; same
6. Roof/Materials - Main Section: wooden shingles  
Wing A: same
7. Material/Foundation - Main Section brick (originally piers)  
Wing A: same
8. Age - Main Section: ca. 1880 (research by owner; buildings are not shown on 1877 Atlas)  
Wing Additions - later, possibly early 20th. (Exterior siding that has been weathered is clearly visible in the east gable).
9. Style Not easily categorized in a style, the gambrel roof form probably derives from early American Colonial architecture. With interest in those buildings stimulated by the Centennial of 1876, adaptations of early forms were built throughout the country at the end of the 19th century. Gambrel-roofed houses were common in the upper Eastern Shore in the 18th century.

Building Elements and Details

1. Doors - Main entry: Center of south facade. Four panel with glass lights in place of upper panels. A two-light transom above. Trim-narrow fillet & bead.

Secondary entries: Located in east gable of wing - four-panel door, plain trim.

2. Windows - Main Section: type - double hung  
lights - 6/6 with later 1/1 in west gambrel  
details - narrow fillet and bead trim  
shutters - removed  
Wings - type -double- hung  
lights - 6/6  
details - same as main house

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

3. Dormers - Shed with 2/2 sash; fairly wide overhang with cyma recta & fillet crown mold
4. Roof details - Main Section - box cornice with wide overhang; cyma recta crown molding. No verge boards; cornice overhang continues along gambrels.  
Wings - plain box; no moldings
5. Porches - None
6. Color - current - unpainted; historic - white
7. Other - Blank

## INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

1. Plan type - central hall
2. Major stair - enclosed
3. Major mantles - curved shelf, spiral pilasters, set against flat pilasters, rectangular opening, oak. An unusual mantle with late 19th century motifs, it was used with a stove, not a fireplace.
4. Major trim:  
Windows/doors - Plain or with a half round - cove- and square backband in major rooms  
Baseboards - plain  
Cornices -  
Chair rails -
5. Major doors - 4 panel
6. Floors - narrow yellow pine
7. Walls/ceiling finishes - plaster

OUTBUILDINGS/SITE DESCRIPTION

1. Major outbuildings: sheds & barn & corn crib & water tower
2. Site description - The house is set perpendicular to Baker's Lane but very close to it. A lane runs to the south of the dwelling & on to barns arranged around a court directly east of the house. Near the house is a well & wind mill. Lawns with some ornamental shrubbery & two enormous copper beach trees surround the house.
3. Views to/from site - Across cultivated fields to the Theodore Redman house to the north & to "Bon Air" (K-485) and the Chapman Farm (K-83) across the road.

USE OF BUILDING

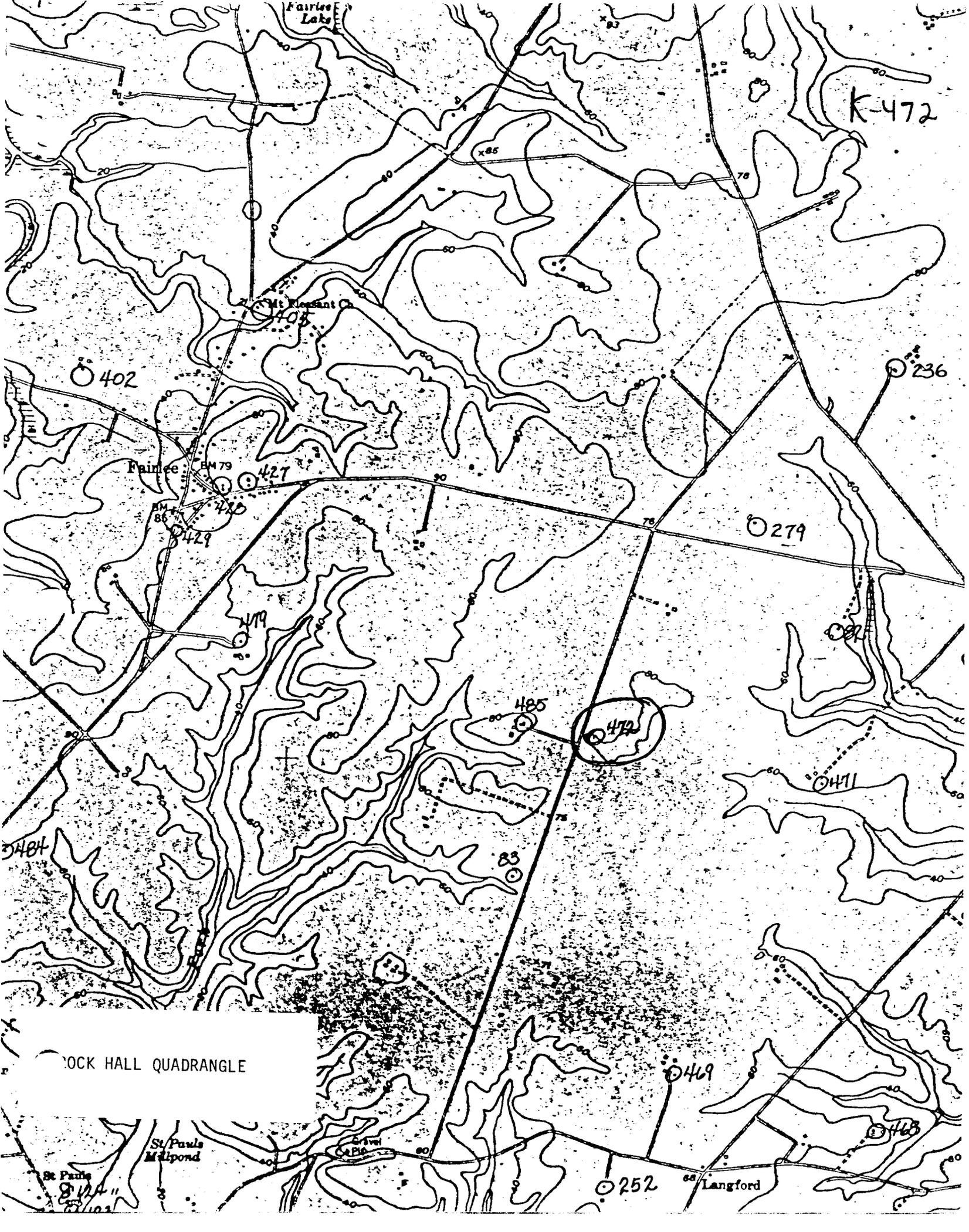
1. Current - Residence
2. Historic - Residence

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION (continued)

HISTORY OF BUILDING/PAST OWNERSHIP

This house was constructed by a Mr. Bell as a second residence for his nearby farm. Whether it was intended as a tenant house is unknown, but the property came to be called the "Little" Bell Farm. The house passed into the Anderson family and then, in 1929, to the Robinsons. The house was used primarily as a summer residence by this family. The house is currently being restored.



K-472

Fairlee Lake

Mt Pleasant Ch

Fairlee

BM 79

BM 86

402

405

427

428

429

479

485

472

471

279

236

5484

83

ROCK HALL QUADRANGLE

469

463

252

Langford

St Pauls Millpond

Gravel Cap Pile

St Pauls

8174

82103



View to Northeast

ROBINSON FARM (K-472)

Bakers Lane, Chestertown, Maryland

Photograph: M.L. Fritz, July 1981