

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Oakland Farm House

AND/OR COMMON

Elmlea, also Ross Pearce House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 2720 Corbett Road 3rd Councilmanic

CITY, TOWN Monkton VICINITY OF 2nd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Anna F. Pearce, President
Oakland Farms, Inc.

Telephone #: 472-2495

STREET & NUMBER 2720 Corbett Road

CITY, TOWN Monkton VICINITY OF MD STATE, zip code 21111

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building

Liber #: EHK JR. 6159
Folio #: 242

STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN Towson STATE Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Maryland Historical Trust Inventory

DATE Since 1965 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS 21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland 21401

7 DESCRIPTION

B7-120

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Oakland Farm House is a two-part house set on a slight rise above Corbett Road, fairly close to the road. It is now covered with white vinyl siding but the cornice details have not been lost. The house was well described by Andrew C. Clemens in a 1976 term paper from which we quote the architectural and aesthetic paragraphs:

It is hard to convey the feeling of peace and tranquility that one feels when visiting this house. The old barns and outbuildings, the immaculate garden, the fields and hedgerows, all contribute to a sense of timelessness and the heritage of good productive land.

The smaller section of Mr. Pearce's house was probably built before 1800. The shape is rectangular, three bays in length, with a gable roof. It is of wood construction with very old narrow weatherboarding and has plain box cornices. The original house had two inside chimneys and the windows are six over six. There is no basement to this two-story-high section, which faced east with entrance from a three bay porch.

Of the first floor rooms, one was a kitchen and remains as a kitchen today with the installation of modern equipment. The central feature is still the large cooking fireplace with wooden lintels. To the left of the fireplace is a narrow winding staircase that leads to two tiny servant's rooms above.

The other downstairs room is now used as a dining room. It has the same seven-foot ceilings as the kitchen, a built-in corner cupboard and a simple fireplace. Once there was a dog-leg staircase in the corner of this room, leading to space above divided into two bedrooms and a hall. Subsequent modifications included the removal of the staircase, the widening of the room to include the original porch and the construction of a series of windows, making a rectangular bay. The upstairs partitions were removed so that there is one large bedroom over this room but the ceiling beams give the dimensions of the original plan.

That the addition to Ross Pearce's house was built in 1810 is a visible fact as the present owners have found carved on a basement wall, "I. Prosser, Shrewsbury, York Co., 1810." The cellar is now reached by an outside entrance bulkhead, the interior stairs under the main stairway were removed to make way for a small powder room in the hall.

The 1810 wing matches the original house in its gable roof and weatherboarding but it has an attic and its cornice has a beautifully carved fret band frieze. The windows are again six over six, two were added by the present owner to lighten the hall but are in exact keeping with the rest of the house.

Completing the house to a size appropriate for a 19th Century working farm, the new wing added two large parlors and a hall on the first floor and two bedrooms and a tiny "nursery" on the second floor, plus three small finished rooms in the attic.

The parlors are identical, separated by folding doors, with twelve foot ceilings and simple black Italian marble fireplaces. It has been said that people came from miles around to admire the marble fireplaces, which would have been unusual in an early 19th Century house.

Both parlors open to a wide stair hall running from the front to the back of the house. The stairs are two-run, open well and of cherry and extend to the third story. The east or main entrance door has a plain rectangular transom of glass and both doors are six paneled. There are plain white marble fireplaces in each bedroom and also built-in wardrobes.

In all, the house has thirteen rooms including the two bathrooms and the rooms on the third floor. It is at present painted white with black shutter trim.

On the wall in the front parlor are the pictures of the four Pearce men who have lived in the house, John Bacon Pearce, Jacob Myers Pearce, Edwin Laurence Pearce and Edwin Ross Pearce, the present owner. Mr. Pearce has a son and a grandson who live in another house on the property so the future of this lovely home is quite certain. (1)

NOTES:

1. Andrew C. Clemens, "Studies of Three Houses in Baltimore County", MS., 1975.

OAKLAND/TXTMJM

BA-120



View of main entrance door has a plain cover
and a small porch and each door has a
small window.



37-20

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

Main Block 1810, Small wing 1798

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Isaac Prosser, 1810 part

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oakland Farm or Pearce House or Elmlea has been in the same family since 1831 when John Bacon Pearce purchased about 300 acres of the Clynmalira Manor from Henry Hill Carroll and Sarah Carroll, the builders of the 1822 Clynmalira mansion (MHT Site No. BA 112). (1) Clynmalira was one of twelve manors surveyed in Baltimore County in colonial times and, like the others, it never functioned as a manor with its lord of the manor conducting court of the manor. (2) The Baltimore County manors were merely large tracts of land, Clynmalira being 5,000 acres, very little developed until the 1820s when Henry Hill Carroll settled there and began a building program. (3)

Possibly the costs of building Clynmalira mansion led the Carrolls to sell some of the eastern acreage to John B. Pearce.

Mrs. Elmore Hutchins, the most thorough genealogical researcher of the adjoining manor, My Lady's, wrote that the Pearces purchased an existing house from the Carrolls. (4) The structure had started with a kitchen wing and to that had been added a well detailed frame and clapboard main block bearing the date 1810 scrawled on a timber by contractor Isaac Prosser of Shrewsbury, York County, Pennsylvania. (5)

The question arises whether Henry Hill Carroll used Oakland Farm as a quarter house for some overseer before Clynmalira was completed. The smaller house is centrally located on the large manor whereas the Clynmalira mansion is at the western edge of that vast tract. (6)

The small house would not have been needed as Henry Hill Carroll's own residence because he lived in the excellent brick 18th Century house called Quinn or Sweet Air (MHT Site No. BA 111). (7)

The 1798 tax list of Mine Run Hundred showed Carroll with 5,793 acres, the only dwelling other than the brick mansion being a one-story log quarter house, 20 by 40 feet. (8)

Thus, Oakland Farm house came on the scene between 1798 and 1810, even if built in two phases.

The 1850 map by J.C. Sidney and also the 1857 Taylor map show this as the T. (sic) Pearce house. The 1877 Hopkins atlas showed Jb. M. Pearce, who was also an atlas patron. In the patron list, he identified himself as a native of the county and gave his "date of settlement" as 1834, actually the year of his birth. (9) This was Jacob Myers Pearce, son of the first Pearce owners; he had been left in possession of the farm in 1856 when his parents moved to "Clifford", a house on present "J. Myers Road" within the confines of My Lady's Manor. (10) Clifford is MHT Site No. BA 122.

John Bacon Pearce was one of those mentioned as supporters of President John Quincy Adams against Andrew Jackson in the hotly contested campaign of 1828. Neal A. Brooks remarks that Adams' stronghold was the north county where members of old families opposed Jacksonian democracy. (11)

Scharf's 1881 county history presented a full-page engraved portrait of John B. Pearce and noted that five of his ancestors served in the Revolution without injury and all five were present at Cornwallis' surrender. His father, Thomas Pearce, served at the Battle of North Point, leaving fourteen-year-old John B. to run the farm. In fact, John B. Pearce witnessed the glare from the Bombardment of Fort McHenry while driving the family farm cart back from the city. John B. Pearce married Sophia Myers in 1832; Mrs. Pearce's brother was in the tobacco business in Baltimore and had a warehouse in Richmond that was later pressed into service as the Confederacy's Libby Prison.

Scharf describes Pearce as an "Old Line Whig" who joined the Union Party on the collapse of the Whigs. He served in the Maryland General Assembly as a Union Party member in 1862 and 1864. He later switched to the Democratic Conservative Party. (12)

Scharf noted that Pearce was a life-long militia member and had made captain at an early age. Family papers in the Maryland Historical Society contain his commission as Major of the 41st Regiment of Maryland Militia, October 14, 1836. He was promoted lieutenant colonel by Governor Thomas Watkins Ligon on June 25, 1857, and brigadier general by Governor Thomas H. Hicks on July 8, 1861. Governor Hicks had just recently managed to prevent Maryland's secession from the Union. (13) Pearce was in command of the Eleventh Brigade, Maryland Militia (14)

Pearce was not a sessionist but had been a slaveholder. The family papers show his purchase of two slaves: Esther, age 12, in 1832, and Edward in 1848. A draft for a run-away advertisement was signed by both John B. and William Pearce, offering a reward for nine escapees plus some infant children. Wesley, age 13, was described as "very intelligent".

A printed list of members of the January 1862 session of the General Assembly shows that Pearce identified himself as a farmer and was staying at "Mrs. Munroe's Boarding House" in Annapolis. Another document is an original survey of a private lane, now Irish Avenue, made in 1830 to run southwesterly from "the road leading from Monkton Mills to Slade's Tavern."

Pearce's Unionist sentiments may explain the \$32,100 in Maryland Defense Loan bonds found in his post-mortem inventory; the sum was slightly more than half of his non-real estate assets. (15)

John Bacon Pearce died on December 16, 1874, and left all his real estate in the county to son Jacob Myers Pearce; he left \$500 to Clynmalira Methodist Episcopal Church. A bequest of \$60 per year went to "Benjamin Williams (coloured), one who has been a most faithful servant for many years." (16) His obituary described him as 74 years of age and gave him the rank of General. (17)

Jacob Myers Pearce, whose main residence became Clifford, bequeathed a life interest to the Oakland farm property to his son Edwin Lawrence Pearce in 1917. (18) Edwin Lawrence Pearce passed it on to his four children in 1930. Edwin Ross Pearce (1896-1976), one of the four heirs, operated the farm and also assembled a noted collection of Indian artifacts. The property remains in the same family, although held as a corporate farm since 1970. (19)

NOTES:

1. Baltimore County Deeds, WG 211:449, Hall of Records, Annapolis (hereafter, HR).
2. Patents, Liber DD No. 5, f. 717, HR.
3. Harriet Winchester Jones, "A Childhood at Clynmalira", Maryland Historical Magazine, 51 (June, 1956): 101.
4. Elmore Hutchins, "Nicholas Hutchins of My Lady's Manor," MS., ca. 1976, privately distributed, p. 116.
5. Andrew C. Clemens, "Studies of Three Houses in Baltimore County", typescript, July 31, 1975, copies at Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, and Baltimore County Historical Society, Cockeysville.
6. Hutchins, "Nicholas Hutchins", p. 116.

7. Jones, "Childhood at Clynmalira", 53:113-115.
8. Federal Direct Tax List, Baltimore County, Mine Run Hundred, Entries No. 1516, 1928, microfilm in Office of Planning. (The second page is almost illegible.)
9. G.M. Hopkins, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, 1877).
10. Hutchins, "Nicholas Hutchins", p. 116.
11. Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, A History of Baltimore County (Towson, 1979), p. 125.
12. J. Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County (Philadelphia, 1881), pp. 907-908. Governor Hicks served January 1858 to January 1862.
13. Dennison Papers, Maryland Historical Society, MS. 1258.
14. Baltimore County Advocate, August 3, 1861.
15. B.C. Inventories, JBM 12:390.
16. B.C. Wills, OPM 4:427.
17. Baltimore County Union, December 26, 1874.
18. B.C. Wills, WJP 21:309.
19. B.C. Deeds, EHK JR. 6159:242.

Maryland
Baltimore County
District X
E. Corbett Road

BA-120

Oakland

Q. 11111111

1810

Owner E. Ross Pearce.

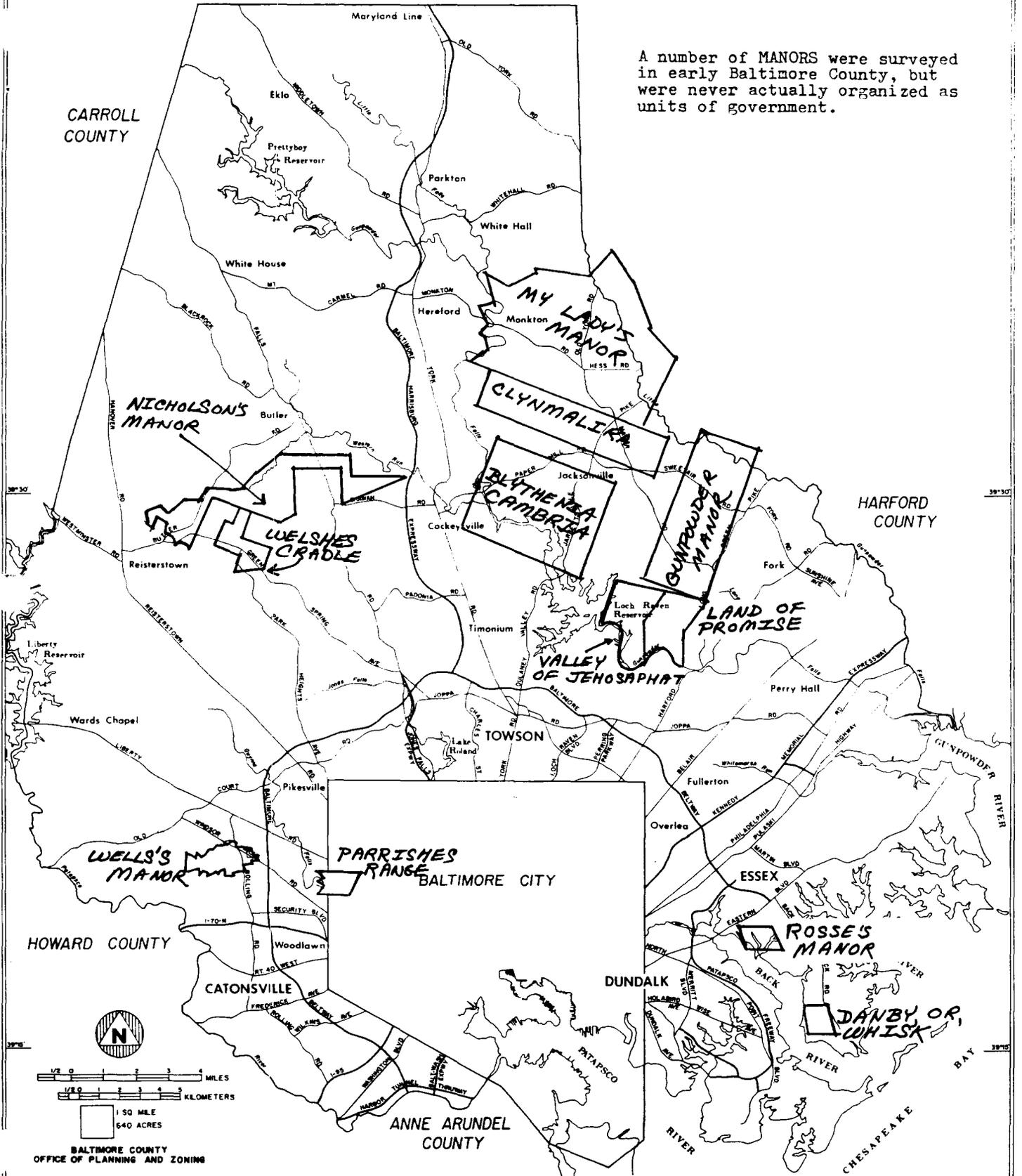
(First HABS Report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 29, 1965

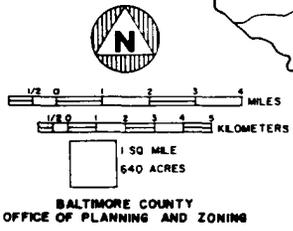
APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF COLONIAL MANORS

PENNSYLVANIA

A number of MANORS were surveyed in early Baltimore County, but were never actually organized as units of government.



NOTE: We are unable to locate "Solitude"



Sun, August 5, 1990

Monkton collector's passion

for artifacts breathes life into Indian lore

By Robert A. Erlandson
Baltimore County Bureau of The Sun

American Indians who have visited the Pearce family's Monkton-area farm purty themselves ritually to stand before the spirits of their ancestors, which they believe are embodied in thousands of artifacts displayed there in a tiny museum.

The museum, in a converted chicken coop, features shelves,

drawers and glass cases brimming with arrowheads, spear tips, hammer and ax heads, pottery, jewelry, pestles and mortars to grind grain. Many were found locally, and others represent tribes from across North America.

It represents the lifelong passion of Edwin Ross Pearce, who started the collection in the 1930s. His widow, Anna, maintains the museum in memory of her husband, who died in

MARYLAND LIFE

1975 at age 79.

Mr. Pearce had an uncanny ability to find Indian relics as he walked through the fields of his family's 185-acre farm and, later, along northern Baltimore County roads as a highways supervisor, Mrs. Pearce said.

"He could find them, but I never found one in my life," she laughed.

As Mr. Pearce's interest in Indians and their lore grew — including helping to support an Indian child through a special program — he expanded his collection, haunting antique and junk shops, trading with other collectors and asking friends to bring him things from their travels.

Like all collectors, he was constantly adding something new. He

kept his collection in the house for 20 years but moved it to the coop in the 1950s "after it finally got so big that I chased him out of the kitchen," Mrs. Pearce said.

Although Mr. Pearce focused on Indian artifacts, his private museum became eclectic. Subcollections came to include old pipes and pocket knives, antique farm tools and kitch-

See MUSEUM, 5B, Col. 1

Artifacts breathe life into Indian lore

MUSEUM, from 1B

en equipment.

Many pieces hang from nails in the overhead beams. One case contains bits and pieces of stone marked from such exotic places as Rome's Medici Gardens, Pompeii, and Abu Simbel and Karnak of ancient Egypt.

Most of the Indian artifacts found locally were from the Piscataway tribe and others that lived along the

MARYLAND LIFE

Susquehanna River and in what is now northern Baltimore County; the rest represent Indians from across North America.

Hundreds of arrowheads are mounted on boards according to tribe to show the different, distinctive styles and sizes for various uses: hunting, fishing or war.

Among the subcollections are stone ceremonial pipes carved in various shapes, including a double-headed animal that allows two people to smoke simultaneously, a human face and a tomahawk.

The prized piece is an ancient pipe from Ohio in the shape of a long-billed duck atop a fish. It was carved from a block of black steatite soapstone and weighs 11½ pounds.

Two legendary names from the Old West are represented in the collection: William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, buffalo hunter and later Wild West showman, and Sitting Bull, the Dakota Indian chief whose braves wiped out U.S. Army Gen. George A. Custer and his 7th Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in southern Montana.

Ann deMurguondo, Mr. Pearce's daughter, held up a horse bit shaped with twin six-shooters and marked "William F. Cody. Lookout Mountain." It is attached to a bridle and reins woven of colored horsehair by Indians that were being held prisoner at Fort Yuma, Ariz.

Buffalo Bill gave the bit to Augustus Riggs, a Howard County man who had been a large-scale horse trader out West before World War I and who was a distant relative, Mrs. deMurguondo said.

The Sitting Bull collection con-



THE SUN/WALTER M. McCARDELL JR.

Anna Pearce displays Indian artifacts collected by her late husband.

sists of a bow, a ceremonial pipe carved in red stone and a war hammer — a stone shaped to a double point and held by a springy, leather-covered wooden handle that would allow the user to swing a fearful blow from horseback.

Sitting Bull gave the items to a government Indian agent whose grandson, a Pearce family friend, added them to the collection, Mrs. Pearce said.

Among the items hanging up are two small lacrosse sticks, which Mrs. deMurguondo said were used long ago by Indians, inventors of what is now one of Maryland's premier outdoor sports. On a shelf nearby sits a small, rounded stone that she said was used as the ball.

Although the family maintains a low profile about the collection, Mrs. Pearce said she does open it to special visitors such as school classes and Boy and Girl Scout groups studying Indian lore and history.

The Pearces are well-aware that Indian tribes around the country have complained that much of their history and cultural heritage is being held captive by whites in museums and other exhibitions.

The loss of Indian culture, much of it because of government decisions, was among the sorest points

of discussion last week as Indians from across the country met in Annapolis for the 41st meeting of the Governors' Interstate Indian Council.

Indians have been making some progress in reclaiming sacred artifacts and skeletal remains from museums, including the Smithsonian Institution, which has a massive collection.

The way the Pearce family sees it, they are holding the items in trust. While there are no plans to disperse the collection, if such a decision is ever made, "we'll give it back to the Indians," Mrs. deMurguondo said.

