

BALTIMORE COUNTY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME** Cockey Homestead  
 HISTORIC  
 AND/OR COMMON ---

**2 LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER 10,899 York Road 3rd Councilmanic District  
 2nd Congressional District  
 CITY TOWN Cockeyville VICINITY OF 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 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 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** c/o Attorney,  
 NAME Estate of Mrs. H. Bayly Johnson, Jr. Robert E. Carney, Jr.  
 Telephone #: 828-7100  
 STREET & NUMBER Jefferson Building  
 CITY TOWN Towson VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Md. 21204

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Liber #: RJS 1341  
 Folio #: 171  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building  
 STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue  
 CITY TOWN Towson STATE Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE Baltimore County Historic Sites Inventory MHT Inventory No. BA 76  
 Maryland Historical Trust  
 DATE On-going since 1964  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS 21 State Circle  
 CITY TOWN Annapolis STATE Md. 21401

# 7 DESCRIPTION

B 7-26

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

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cockey Homestead is a solid stone house, 2- $\frac{1}{2}$  stories high, in the same tradition as the Cockeysville Hotel across the road. The house is five bays wide and two bays deep in the main block. The back building is also two bays deep. The main block has a gable roof with two dormers, overhanging eaves, box cornice, and inside end chimneys. There is a center entrance, a paneled door flanked with side lights. A Georgian door frame with a broken pediment has been added to the house as part of its restoration from the Victorian--however the house is not of the Georgian era. Windows are 6-on-6 double hung sash types in the main stories. Two small square attic windows characteristic of the 19th Century are found in the gable ends. There is a one-story side porch on the north end.

The Limestone Valley (p. 146) recorded in 1976:

The cellar under the kitchen has beams fashioned of hand-hewn logs with the bark still on. The front portion of the house, also built of stone, is said to have been added in about 1812. A stone structure adjacent to the house is believed to have been used as quarters for household slaves .... Water for the house was obtained from a spring located on the hill above the property. It flowed by gravity from the spring to a holding pond in the front yard. From there it was pumped to a cistern, then carried by natural flow to the Cockey Homestead and several adjacent dwellings.

As advertised in the papers, the house is presently three stories, with three bedrooms, one with a fireplace; swimming pool, bath house, 2-car stone garage; living and dining room, each with fireplace; family room, kitchen, pantry, powder room; two rooms and storage in the third floor. The date of construction was advertised as 1798. (1)

1 Real estate adv., Jeffersonian, May 12, 1977.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

Bf-76

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		(local history)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The age of the Cockey Homestead dwelling house is uncertain. No such dwelling can be found among Thomas Cockey Deye's holdings on the 1798 tax list. Later testimony showed that Deye's vast acreage was "in great measure without improvement." (1) On Deye's death in 1807, the tract passed to nephew Joshua Frederick Cockey (1765-1821).

Cockey, the first of a series of persons named Joshua F. Cockey, left a mansion to his son of the same name in 1821; however, the inventory taken after his death suggests that his possessions were stored in the Joshua Cockey Tavern and that the inn also doubled as his home. A plat was made in 1832 to settle the first Cockey's estate and it showed the tavern and a house assigned to the widow, Elizabeth Cockey, but the present "homestead" was not shown. Lot No. 1 in that subdivision included the hotel or tavern and also the spot where the homestead now stands. (2) Lot No. 1 passed to Joshua F. Cockey (2nd), who lived 1800-1891.

Three county maps show the present house, each giving the owner as J.F. Cockey: Sidney's 1850 map, Taylor's 1857 map, and the Cockeyville inset map in the Hopkins 1877 atlas.

A recent local history claims a much earlier date for this house:

According to the present owner, the oldest portion of the house, the kitchen wing built of native stone, dates back to 1798, possibly to the time of the marriage of Joshua F. Cockey and Elizabeth Fowble that year. (3)

Joshua F. Cockey (2nd) supposedly donated the land for the Baltimore and Susquehanna railroad to pass through the property c. 1837; three times he was appointed postmaster at Cockeyville. He served six years as a county commissioner and for 24 years was chief judge of the Orphans' Court.

About 1880, a frame addition in Victorian style, complete with cupola, was tacked on to the front of the plain stone house, and the masonry walls were disguised by frame sheathing. (4)

In his will, Judge Cockey left "a portion of the farm ... on which the mansion house is located" to his daughter Comfort M.W. Cockey (1830-1904). (5) The judge's daughter's name by marriage was Comfort M. Worthington Cockey

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Morrison. On her death, the property passed to Mrs. Morrison's neice, Mrs. Comfort M.W. Offutt, the daughter of Joshua F. Cockey III.

The 1918 tax ledger listed the property as the estate of Comfort M.W. Offutt, enumerating 40 acres, two houses of 2- $\frac{1}{2}$  stories each, and two small houses:

Dwelling No. 1	(2 $\frac{1}{2}$ )	36 x 32	\$4556	
	(2)	20 x 18		
No. 2	(2 $\frac{1}{2}$ )	45 x 23	4537	
		20 x 16		(6)

After Mrs. Offutt's death, the house was rented for about 20 years and from 1932-33, it was used as St. George's Home, an institution for boys founded by the Rev. H. Priestly Brock, a British veteran of the first World War. In March, 1933, Mr. Brock and two students left for an excursion to President Roosevelt's inauguration, and were next heard of from London. Mr. Brock telephoned that the school should be closed and shortly thereafter, the Diocese of Maryland announced that Mr. Brock had never submitted any credentials and that his fund raising activities were not sanctioned by the church. (7)

In 1940, Noah E. Offutt, Sr. sold the house to Henry B. and Evelyn B. Johnson. (8) The Johnsons began a restoration of the house, tearing down the Victorian additions and taking the structure back to the natural stone. In 1944, H.B. Johnson, as a widower, conveyed the house to son H. Bayly Johnson, Jr. and his wife. (9)

In 1977, the house was part of the estate of Mrs. H. Bayly Johnson, Jr. A tenant was in possession of the house, which was offered on the real estate market as a "Hunt Valley Executive Home." Mrs. Charles Wier was executrix and Robert E. Carney, Jr. of Towson, attorney for the estate.

Notes:

1. Cockey-vs-Owings, Chancery Papers No. 1206, Hall of Records.
2. Chancery Records, Liber B148, f. 354j, Hall of Records.
3. The Greater Timonium American Bicentennial Committee, Inc., The Limestone Valley (Timonium, 1976), p. 145. The 1798 date seems to stem from an article by Bennett Bussey Cockey in the Sunday Sun, February 9, 1930.
4. Limestone Valley, p. 146.
5. B.C. Wills, BWA 9, f. 299.
6. 1918 Tax Ledger, District 8, f. 425.
7. "Home for Boys Is Discontinued," Sun, April 27, 1933. Limestone Valley, p. 146.
8. B.C. Deeds, CWB, Jr. 1084, f. 454.
9. B.C. Deeds, RJS 1341, f. 171.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Greater Timonium American Bicentennial Committee, The Limestone Valley  
(Timonium, Md., 1976).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.08

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE none COUNTY none

STATE COUNTY

**FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME/TITLE John McGrain

ORGANIZATION Office of Planning and Zoning DATE August 29, 1977

STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue TELEPHONE 494-3495

CITY OR TOWN Towson STATE Md. 21204

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