

BA-76

Cockey Homestead

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 06-23-2004

BALTIMORE COUNTY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cockey Homestead

AND/OR COMMON ---

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 10,899 York Road

3rd Councilmanic District
2nd Congressional District

CITY, TOWN

Cockeysville

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	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 Estate of Mrs. H. Bayly Johnson, Jr.

c/o Attorney,

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

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: RJS 1341
Folio #: 171

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Baltimore County Historic Sites Inventory
Maryland Historical Trust

MHT Inventory No. BA 76

DATE

On-going since 1964

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Md. 21401

7 DESCRIPTION

34-26

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.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8. SIGNIFICANCE

B4-76

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

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 Cockeysville 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 Cockeysville. 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.

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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
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