

DeCoursey-Foulks House
"Town Point Farm
CE-1051
Near Port Herman
Private

C. 1855 - 1863

The industrial age wrought a permanent change for ~~many~~ many aspects of early 19th century culture, and its effect on architecture and building tradition was extensive. The introduction of mass produced architectural pattern books brought to many of the undisclosed revival architecture of the mid 19th century. This fact, coupled with popularity of water front property provided the circumstances for the construction of the DeCoursey-Foulks House on the Elk River Peninsula of Town Point. Samuel W. DeCoursey and Sarah his wife purchased 99 acres from Jeremiah and Mary Ann Starr in December of 1855. (HBM 5/655) Eight years later Samuel and Sarah sold the same 99 acres to Colonel Joshua Clayton of New Castle County, Delaware for \$13,000.00 (WHR 4/688 - Samuel paid \$3,713.67 for the property in 1855). This ten thousand dollar difference indicates the construction of a house between 1855-1863. Samuel and Sarah DeCoursey were recorded in Cecil County land records as Philadelphians, which reveals how this unusual two story board and batten frame house would be built on remote Town Point. The building definitely displays atypical architectural design and applied detail for Cecil County, and implies that some other design source besides a Cecil County builder was consulted. For 19th century pattern book designs the DeCoursey-Foulks house is rather tame in overall massing of house shape. The peculiarities appear in the lotus leaf capitals on the porch columns and chain link cornice decoration. The house was once graced with a rooftop lantern which has been removed.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CE-1051

MAGI # 0801515504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

File 284

1 NAME

HISTORIC DeCoursey-Foulks House Tract Names "Town Point" "Cecil Town"
 AND/OR COMMON Town Point Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1560 Town Point Farm
 CITY, TOWN Chesapeake City VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1
 STATE Maryland COUNTY Cecil

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 Wayne Benner Telephone #: 885-5513
 STREET & NUMBER 1560 Town Point Farm
 CITY, TOWN Chesapeake City VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21915

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk of the Circuit Court Liber #: WAS 67
 Folio #: 317
 STREET & NUMBER Cecil County Courthouse
 CITY, TOWN Elkton STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
 DATE
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
 CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CE-1051

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" 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 DeCoursey-Foulks House c. 1855 is a two story three bay by two room center hall board and batten frame house at the end of Town Point Road and overlooking the Elk River. The house faces west with the main gable running north/south.

The main house rests on a granite foundation and is sheathed with imitation board and batten siding which is exposed under the front porch. A shallow seamed tin hip roof covers the main house with a heavy projecting eave. The house was once graced with a cupola that has been removed. A shorter two story kitchen wing is attached to the south end and is simialarly detailed.

The west (main) facade has a central entrance that is flanked by 6/6 sash windows. The multi-pane door is a replacement of the original paneled door. A two light transom remains over the entrance. The window surrounds have a rectangular strip backband with a inside corner bead. Extended and molded lintels with a row of identical sash illuminate the second floor and a decorative frieze stretches across above them. Lined with above window is an applied decoration that consists of a three link chain motif with stypized floral additions. This continues around the entire house just below the cornice. The three bay front porch also adds enrichment to the main facade with chamfered square columns with lutus type capitals. A scrolled decorative board with more foliate applique enlivens the space between capital and cornice across the front and sides of the porch.

The north end has a cellar entrance along with two 6/6 sash on each floor that flank the interior brick stack. The same decorative detail is found on this end along with the east (back) side of the house. The east side has a single bay porch with hip roof. The other details remain the same as the other sides.

The south end has the two story kitchen wing which has much of the same detailing only without the extra decoration. Another interior end stack does rise out of the end of the main house along with the south wall of the kitchen wing.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

DeCoursey-Foulks House

Page Two

Mid 19th century woodwork is found throughout the house. Beginning with the center hall. The stair has a very heavily turned newel post with a much smaller handrail and supporting turned balusters. The open stringer has an elaborate scroll for each step end. An elaborate circular plaster ceiling decoration with shell and cable motifs provides a spot for the hall chandelier. The door surrounds are crossetted at the top with a molded cap. The surrounds taper slightly towards the top.

The north room is the main parlor which is the full depth of the house. A colonial revival mantel is centered on the north wall with pairs of fluted columns that support a fully molded entablature and cornice.

The south side of the hall is divided into two rooms with a similar mantel in the southwest room. Single fluted columns flank its opening and support a full entablature with egg and dart molding under cornice.

The southeast room is the present dining room and the mantel has been removed. The kitchen wing has been extensively remodeled on the first floor.

The second floor has very similar woodwork without bedroom mantels. Five bedrooms are found on the second floor and have access to a spacious second floor hallway which used to be lighted by the cupola.

| 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There are not many mid 19th century houses in Cecil County that exhibit lively variations in decorative detail. The DeCoursey-Foulks House however is obvious exception to the rule. The unusual frieze ornament and porch support capitals are very uncommon elements for county buildings and offers some insight into the background of the builder. ^{who} It is most likely had some exposure to popular architectural trends of the second quarter of the 19th century. Samuel and Sarah DeCoursey were in fact from Philadelphia and probably responsible for building the house after buying 99 acres from Jeremiah Starr (HHM 5/565) in 1855.

PATTERN BOOK House ?

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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 |
|-------|--------|
| | |
| | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul B. Touart Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Cecil County's Committee

DATE

9/24/80

STREET & NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

398-0200 ext. 156

CITY OR TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland

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

WAS 67/317 Spenser Sharpless, Virg. Sharpless, Vincent Rado,
 Rose Rap. and Wm. E & Rose Pearry
 To
 3/7/1915 Wayne M. Benner and Edith

WAS 5/371 Ralph E. Bower
 To
 3/24/1955 Grantors
 Plat entitled Towne Point Farms Plat No. 2 91 Acres

SRA 21/341 Albert D. Mackey
 To
 7/18/1934 Ralph E. & M. Bower

SRA 21/340 Megaree Bower & Husband
 To
 Albert Mackey
 Beginning for the first of said parcels of land known as
 "Town Point" and "Cecil Town"
 99 Acres, 6 acres tract

SRA 10/121 Mary E. Megaree
 To
 5/14/1930 M. Bower
 99 Acres, 6 acre tract

HWL 14/104 Stella Rusling Whitaicer Brothers
 trustees of N. Price Whitailer
 Will of P 23/288
 To
 9/30/1924 Mary E. & Morris B. Megaree
 \$15,000.00

CSP 1/202 Sarah Yarnall Abbott
 To
 10/2/1916 N. Price Whitaker
 99 Acre tract, 6 acre tract

AWM 7/112 Orson D. Foulks & Mae
 To
 7/2/1877 Wm. H. Abbott
 15,000.00 "Town Point" or "Cecil Town"
 99 Acres

DS 10/474 Chas. T. Foulks & Martha D.
 To
 9/12/1873 Orson D. Foulks
 13,300 "Town Point" & "Cecil Town"
 99 Acres 6½ acres

HRT 1/327 Joshua Clayton of Thomas & Martha E.
 To
 12/6/1866 Chas. T. Foulks
 \$16,000.00 "Town Point"
 99 acres "Cecil Town"
 6½ acres

G. T. Foulks
Page Two

1877

CE-1051

WHR 4/688

Samuel W. DeCoursey & Sarah his Wife city of Phila.
To

9/14/1863

Colonel Joshua Clayton, New Castle Co.
\$13,000.00
99 Acres , 6½ Acres

HHM 5/655

1. Jeremiah Starr & Mary Ann
To

12/20/1855

Samuel DeCoursey
99 Acres \$3,713.67

HHM 7/445

2. 6½ Acre Tract Humphery Craig
To

/19/1857

Samuel DeCoursey

HHM 2/310

3. Benjamin Foulks & Wife
To

11/29/1853

Jeremiah Starr

EARLEVILLE QUAD EARL

CE-1051 7.5 MINU
NW

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

5863 III SW
(NORTH EAST)

1:110,000 FEET POINT REAMAN 0.2 MI





1/11/79

Town Point Farm

CE-1051

De Coursey - Francis Farm

WEST ELEVATION

NR City of's CORNER, MD.

CECIL

9/79 PBT NEG. MHT

2

DEV. BY
Elizabeth E. Booth

12/1/79



12/1/79

Black & Booth
Dev. B-1

Town Point Farm
DeCoursey - Fowles
Farm

CE-1051

PLASTER CEILING ORNAMENT

NE CHAYOT'S CORNER, MD CELIL

9/79 PBT

NEG - MITT

1/2 R



TOWN POINT AREA.
DE COURSEY - BOULIER HOUSE

CE - 1051

7 151

STAIR NEWEL POST

NK
CAYOT'S CORNER, ND.

CECIL

9/29 PBT NEG. - MHT

12/1/79

DEV. BY
CHARLES E. BOULIER