

CE-864 Bell Manor

c. 1865

Bell Manor is a grand example of colonial revival buildings from the mid 19th Century. The basically "Georgian" structure is highlighted by corner pilasters, a heavily bracketed eave, and three gabled dormers. The outbuildings both intact and ruinous reflect a once extensive complex. James Heriot Bell assembled the sprawling estate after retiring from a career in New York State shipping and banking in 1859.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

File #846

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bell Manor / Shadowbrook

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

South of Pilottown overlooking the Susquehanna River

CITY, TOWN

Pilottown

~~\*~~ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input 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: <b>Camp</b>

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland Inc. Telephone #: 889-2861

STREET & NUMBER

128 West Franklin St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

~~---~~ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21001

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Liber #: WAS 112

Folio #: 263

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**

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

Bell Manor c. 1860-1870 is a grand example of a mid to late 19th century colonial revival structure. The structure is located about a mile from Old Conowingo Road and high above the Susquehannah River. The main axis of the structure runs on a northeastern/southwestern compass axis while the main facade has a southeastern exposure.

The house is of every large proportions as is true with most colonial revival houses. The full 2 1/2 story structure rests on an elevated granite foundation. The main block is 5 bays across by two rooms deep. A gabled two story addition is connected to the east gable end. Extending to the north on the back of the main block is a two story flat roofed addition, 2 bays across by one room deep. A single story glazed front porch covers two bays on the main facade. A later single story flat roofed addition is attached to the north side of the wing addition.

The southern (main) facade is five bays across but with only four openings on the second floor. The exterior is sheathed with narrow weatherboard siding with corner pilasters. There is a molded wooden division below the pilasters which separates the main block from the basement. The pilasters support a heavy bracketed open eave. The brackets are heavily scrolled with circular cut-outs. The slate roof is of medium pitch with three 6/6 sash dormers with extended eaves and slate sides. Two massive stretcher bond chimney stacks protrude through the roof. One is located in the northern gable end and the other off center, and to the south. The fenestration is slightly asymmetrical with five bays on the first floor and four on the second. The window sash have 4/4 lights with a slightly beaded surround. Louvered shutters are found on all the windows of the main facade. The glazed front porch has similar corner pilasters supporting a molded box cornice. The gable end addition is contemporary to the main block since it has identical foundation work and exterior details. The north side of this smaller addition has a rather irregular placement of smaller and regular size windows.

The north western side of the structure has two additions. The first is attached to the gabled addition and is only a single story shed extension of the kitchen. The other <sup>is a</sup> two story flat roofed addition <sup>that is</sup> attached to the main block. This section may be assumed to have the same date as the main block due to identical construction details. It has a heavy molded cornice on the northern and southern sides. Three dormers are found on the northern slope of the roof and are identical to the others. A fire escape is also found on this facade.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The southern gable end has three openings with 4/4 sash windows on the first and second floors. Two smaller 6/6 sash illuminate the attic space. The heavily bracketed cornice is found on the gable ends as well as the main and back facades.

The interior was not personally seen but assumed that to the untouched condition of the exterior to be fairly well intact.

The house also possessed a once extensive array of out-buildings and stables. Many of these have fallen into ruin but enough remains to determine their usage. Just north of the main house is a fieldstone springhouse with a shingle roof. It is located on the eastern slope of the rise the house was built on. Below the spring house is a definite courtyard with a standing barn building of uncoursed stone and frame construction. It is located on a slope with the basement exposed. Other stone walls are located in the central area and are the remains of carriage houses and storage structures.

To the north of the house complex, approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile, is a fieldstone forge stack. The stack is constructed of semi-coursed fieldstone. The sides opposite the opening are rounded. The side with the fireplace opening is flat. It is approximately the shape of a sliced cone with a flat top.

# 3 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/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		

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SPECIFIC DATES \_\_\_\_\_ BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bell Manor is an extremely significant house for the area. ~~It was probably built by James Heriot Bell in the 1860's. James Bell was a Philadelphia Gas and Electric retiree. (Information from present owners)~~

The house is a prime example of colonial revival architecture of the mid 19th century. The basically "georgian" ~~is~~ <sup>is a</sup> structure highlighted on the exterior by corner pilasters, a heavy bracketted cornice, and gabled dormers. The outbuildings reflect a once grand complex of barns and stables.

Although the interior of the main house was not open for inspection a rather grand statement of interior detail would be expected. The house along with hundreds of acres belong to the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. The structure is in excellent shape and well taken care of. An interior inspection should be sought for further record, although it is unlikely that anything will be changed.

**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

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Paul B. Touart      Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Cecil County Committee

DATE

7/25/78

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

398-7568

CITY OR TOWN

Elkton

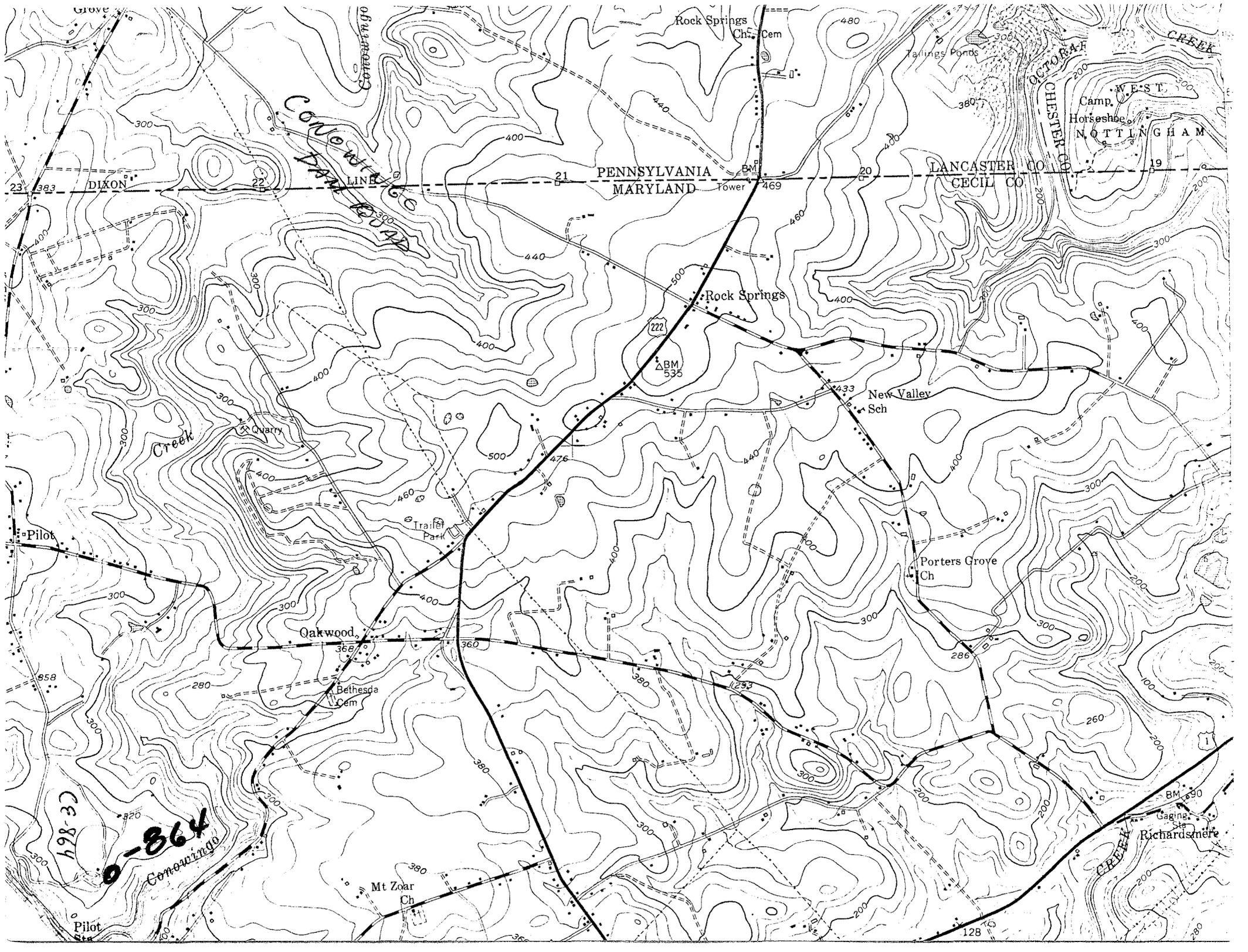
STATE

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



Rock Springs  
Ch  
Cem

Tailings Ponds

WEST  
Camp  
Horseshoe  
NOTTINGHAM

PENNSYLVANIA  
MARYLAND

LANCASTER CO  
CECIL CO

Rock Springs

New Valley  
Sch

Porters Grove  
Ch

Oakwood

Bethesda  
Cem

Richardson  
Gaging  
Sta

Mt Zoar  
Ch

DIXON

Pilot

Pilot

0-864  
0-864

CONOWINGO DAM - MD. - PA



N  
N  
A

Q CE-86A

NORMAL POOL ELEV 100

CECIL CO  
HARFORD CO

R E S E R V O I R  
R I V E R

CONOWINGO DAM

CONOWINGO STA

BM 294  
CONOWINGO (PO) Kilby Corn

Bald Friar

Pilot

Creek

Quarry

Oakwood

Bethesda Cem

Pilot Sta

Mt Zoar Ch

Mount Zoar

Conowingo Ch

Stleton

Glen Cove

Berkley

Hosanna Ch

Hopkins Cove

State Police Sta

Radio Tower

Power Plant



Bell Manor

CE-864

NR

PILKITTOWN, MD.

EAST ELEVATION

PBT 7/28

NEG. / MD. HIST. TRUST



CE-864

BELL MANOR

NR

PILOT TOWN, MD.

EAST ELEVATION

PBT 7/28

NEG. / MD. HIST. TRUST



CE-864

BELL MANOR  
WEST ELEVATION

NA

PILOT TOWN, MD

PBT 7/78

NEG. / MD. HIST. TRUST



CE-864

BELL MANOR

NR

PILOT TOWN, MD.

EAST ELEVATION

P1ST 7/78

NAC. / MD. HIST. TRUST



CE- 864

BELL MANOR

NK

PILOT TOWN, MD.

~~NK~~

FORCE STACIL WEST OF HOUSE

PST

7/78

WEG. / MD. HIST. TRUST



CE-864

Bell Manor

NR

PILOT TOWN, MD.

~~WATER PARK WASTEWATER PLANT~~

SPRING HOUSE - SOUTH ELEV.

PST

7/98

NEG. / NO HIST. TRUST