

HA-1269

Elmer Anderson House  
1601 Fountain Green Road  
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Built on the tract "Cooper's Park", this farmhouse comprises a two-story, gable-roofed log section on the east and a two-story frame section with a center front gable on the east, with several more recent additions on the north and south sides of the log part.

The farm was part of the huge land holdings of Henry Dorsey and his daughter, Mary Farnandis, between 1846 and 1896, when it was sold to John Barnett of Delta, Pennsylvania.

The frame section, built after the log section, probably dates to the early twentieth century when the Minnicks owned the property. The arrangement, i.e. the old log section hidden behind a larger and more modern frame addition, is one of the most typical in Harford County. It was common in the second half of the 19th century for property owners to modernize their houses by adding a new facade and several extra rooms. This house, whereby the frame addition contains only one room on the first floor, is a particularly good illustration of this.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Elmer Anderson House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1601 Fountain Green Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air,

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Md. 21014

COUNTY

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

\_\_\_ SITE

\_\_\_ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

\_\_\_ PUBLIC

PRIVATE

\_\_\_ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_ NO

**PRESENT USE**

AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

\_\_\_ PARK

\_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Elmer Anderson

Telephone #: 1-301-838-4955

STREET & NUMBER

1601 Fountain Green Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air,

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 21014

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 954

Folio #: 890

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air,

STATE

Md. 21014

**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 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

This frame and log house built in five parts is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Fountain Green Rd. (Md. Rte. 543) and Prospect Mill Rd. The original two-story, gable-roofed section covered with clapboards is flanked by one-story, shed-roofed additions on both the south and north sides. Attached to its west end, the two-story gable-roofed frame section with a central pedimented gable constitutes the main or front part of the house. There is a new 1 1/2-story stuccoed wing on its north end.

The two-bay by one-bay log section has an interior brick chimney in the west end and an exterior brick chimney on the east end. On both the north and south sides, the shed-roofed additions cover the first story. In the second story are two 1/1 sash windows in each side. In the east end is a replaced window in the first story, south of the chimney.

The front or main section faces west and has a one-story hip-roofed porch with square tapered posts that enclose the west side and south sides. Three bays by three bays, this section is covered in clapboards and has 2/2 sash windows with beaded trim, with four-light windows in the gable ends. The porch has square tapered posts, <sup>and</sup> in the east end, saw-tooth ornamental trim. The east facade has an entrance in the first story center bay, flanked by a window on both sides. In the second story are two windows aligned with those in the first, and in the gable is a round-arched window. The south end also has an entrance on the first story center bay flanked by a window in each side. In both the second story and the gable are two windows.

On the north end, the stucco wing covers the east bay. Otherwise, it is similar to the south end except that there is no center entrance.

The interior plan of the log section consists of two rooms—one in the west and one in the east—with a winder staircase in the southeast corner of the east room. Flanked by one room on each side, the log section's <sup>east</sup> room has doors in three walls to the three adjacent rooms. In the west room, the fireplace in the center of the west wall has been blocked up, and there is a set of steps to the frame section in the north corner. In the east corner of the south wall is a door to the south wing.

In the second story are two rooms with slightly curved ceilings and beaded board doors. In the east room, there is a shelf in the end wall where the gable begins and the log wall ends.

The frame section has one room in the first floor with a two-run staircase with a landing in the northeast corner. The doors have four panels and plain, square-cut trim. The closed-string stairs have square balusters and a square newel post with a pyramidal cap.

Entered from the north side of the landing is a bathroom in the north stuccoed addition.

**8 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		

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

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Originally part of Henry Cooper's land, "Cooper's Park", this property was then owned by Edmund & Margaret Bull, who sold 67-3/4 acres and 27 perches to Henry Dorsey for \$450 in 1841<sup>1</sup>. In an equity case settling the estate of Mary Farnandis (daughter of Henry Dorsey), who owned a tremendous amount of property in Harford County and Baltimore City, the property was sold to John Barnett of Delta, Pa., for \$1200 in 1896<sup>2</sup>. By that time the log portion and perhaps the main house as well were in the property.

(The architectural features date the latter to the period 1890-1920.) Barnett soon sold the property to William and Sarah Minnick for \$800 plus a \$625 mortgage<sup>3</sup>. Between that transaction in 1901 and 1914, when Mary and S. Archer Minnick sold the property to R. Medrem and Ella P. Street<sup>4</sup>, the deed changed hands between several Minnick families as mortgages were negotiated and exchanged<sup>5</sup>. The Streets then sold the property to John and Effie Anderson in 1947<sup>6</sup>, who sold it to Elma Bower (later Elma Bower Blevins) in 1953<sup>7</sup>, who sold it in pieces to the present owner, Elmer Anderson<sup>8</sup>.

This house farm is one of the most typical in Harford County: the four-room, gable-roofed log section hidden behind the larger, later frame section with a gable roof and central pedimented gable. It was common in the second half of the 19th century for property owners to update their houses by building impressive new structures on the front of the old ones, thus appearing progressive and the possessor of an entirely new house to the passerby, while in reality having added only a new facade and several extra rooms. This house is a particularly good illustration of this, since it appears to be quite substantial from the exterior and actually contains only one room in the first story of the frame structure.

**Footnotes:**

- 1 Liber HD 25, Folio 208
- 2 Equity Records Liber WSF 54, Folio 1
- 3 Liber WSF 102, Folio 419
- 4 Liber JAR 145, Folio 225
- 5 Liber WSF 122, Folio 365;  
Liber JAR 142, Folio 419
- 6 Liber GRG 303, Folio 230
- 7 Liber 405, Folio 546
- 8 Liber 954, Folio 890

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land and Will Records of Harford County

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 52 acres

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

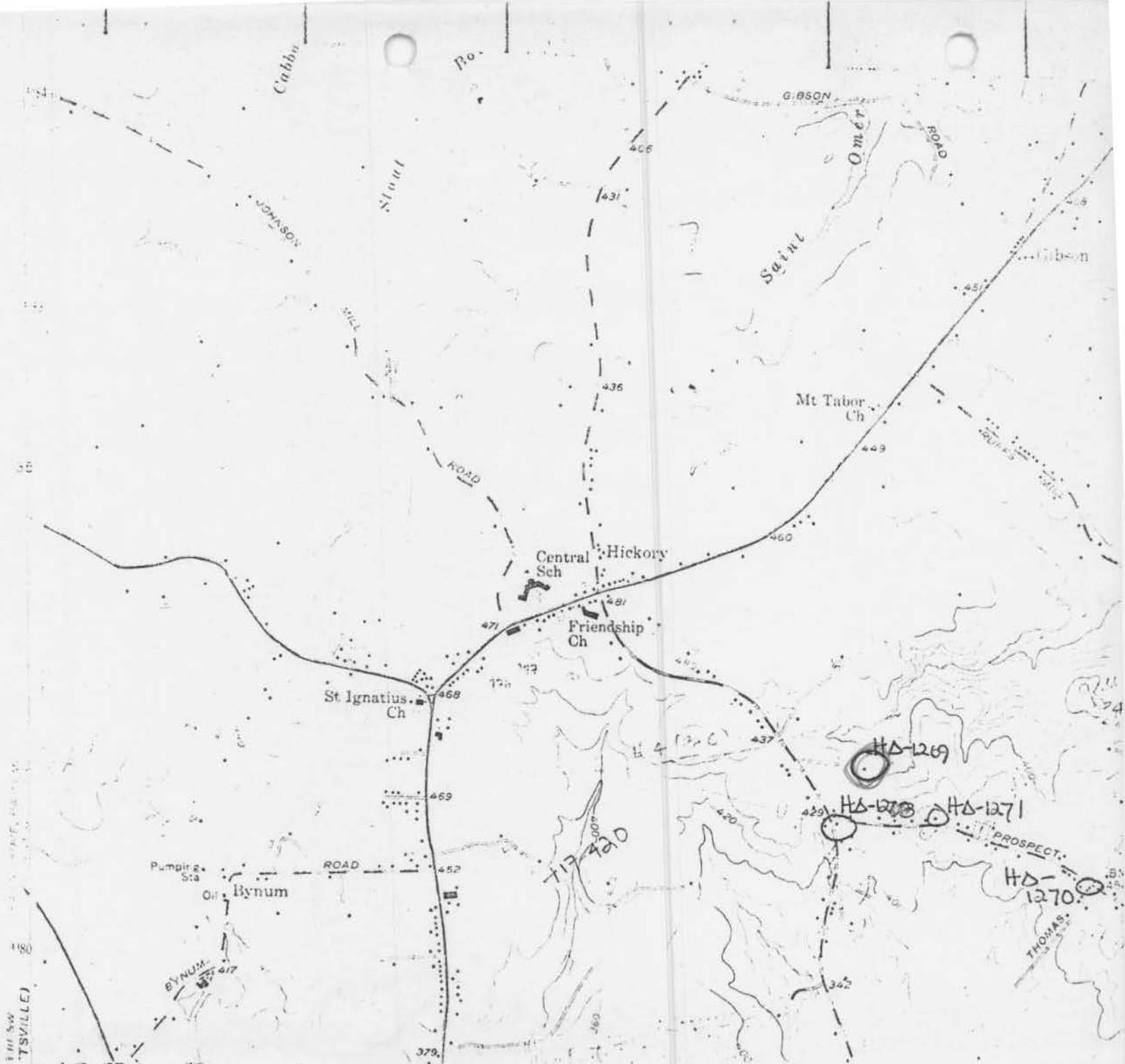
NAME / TITLE	DATE
Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor	January, 1979
ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE
Harford County Historic District Commission	301-879-2000, Ext. 207
STREET & NUMBER	CITY OR TOWN
45 S. Main Street	STATE
BEL AIR	Md. 21014

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

Bel Air  
USGS Quadrangle Map





Anderson House      HA-1269  
Bel Air, MD 21014

Natalie Shivers

January, 1979

West side, south end



Anderson House  
Bel Air, MD 21014

HA-1269

Natalie Shivers

January, 1979

Northside, east end