

HA-542
SILVERSTEIN HOUSE
Havre de Grace, Md.

c. 1865

One of the grand old residences in Havre de Grace, the Silverstein House is the only house built of brick in the Italianate style. One of its noteworthy details is the repeated use of the segmental arch form in the window shutters and entrance door. It is a two and a half stories high and four bays wide and, until recently, it was surmounted by an unusual rectangular glass belvedere from which there was a splendid view of the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Silverstein House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

414 Congress Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Havre de Grace

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Joseph Silverstein

Telephone #: 939-3727

STREET & NUMBER

414 Congress Avenue

21078

CITY, TOWN

Havre de Grace

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 284

Folio #: 174

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

HA-542

X <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	CHECK ONE <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	CHECK ONE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Silverstein House is a two-and-a-half story, four-bay by two-bay, detached brick dwelling built in the Italianate style. It stands on a spacious lot at 414 Congress Avenue with a yard on three sides, facing north. The main block is rectangular; it has a one-story rectangular bay with a hip roof on the west elevation and a two-story two-bay elevation at the rear. Attached to the elevation is a one-story kitchen addition, also of brick.

The house is built of brick laid in common bond with a stone foundation.

Across the three central bays of the facade there is a one-story, three-bay porch with a second floor deck and balustrade. Supported by columns, it was added in 1962, replacing an earlier one of similar design. According to old photographs, the house had two one-story porches with pierced wood balusters on top, almost identical in design. One was located on the facade, the other on the east elevation.

Window openings on the first and second floor facade are tall, segmental arches with four-over-four light, double-hung sash windows filling them. Radiating brick arches are present above them. The shutters, paneled on the first floor, louvered on the second, are shaped so that when they are closed they form segmental arches also. The third floor facade has small, segmental-arched casement windows with louvered shutters. The windows in the elevation and rest of the building are similar or identical to those on the facade with the exception of those on the one-story addition, the surrounding brickwork of which would indicate alteration.

The entrance door has a segmental arched opening with a three-light transom and a radiating brick arch in the wall above it. The present door is of modern design. There are several additions to the rear of the building. In addition to the two-story elevation, which has a bracketed slate covered gable roof, there is a one-story addition with a slate, hip roof and joined to it on the east elevation a one-story addition covered with brick-tex. The latter structure contains round arched windows which were originally part of the square cupola seen in old photographs that once crowned the roof of the house. At the northeast corner, a one-story cinder-block addition with shed roof was added by the present owner.

The interior of the house contains notable woodwork and trim, present throughout the house, consisting of wide oak framing around doors and windows. The window and door heads are segmental pointed arches. Trim in the west parlor is alleged to be mahogany but it has been painted white.

The main block has a low hip roof with a tin roof, painted red, while the roof of the wing is gabled with the ridge running north to south; both are bracketed. Some of the chimneys have been removed; one tall brick chimney remains on the south end of the elevation. The outbuildings consist of a cinder block garage only.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 *C. 1865*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This 2½ story, brick vanacular Italian Villa built c. 1865 is one of the finest buildings in Havre de Grace. Although simple and unpretentious when compared with other buildings of this style, it is in Havre de Grace somewhat of a showplace. Many of its details, exterior and interior, are noteworthy--especially the repeated use of the segmental arch form in the window shutters and entrance door. Regrettably, one of the best features of the house, a rectangle belvedere, has been removed from the roof; but the windows may still be seen in the small addition near the kitchen. Internally on all the floors, every window and door is bordered by hardwood enframements with triangular heads.

For community planning almost any building located between Stokes Street and Market Street on Congress Avenue is of particular interest because of the historical and visual importance of the Avenue and its closeness to the Central Business District. In addition, Congress Avenue and Union Avenue (north and south) are the only two streets in town 132' wide; the others are 70'. The town was laid out by Robert Young Stokes in c. 1781. It was on Congress Avenue that sites were chosen in 1809 for the market and Episcopal Church, whose construction was financed by lottery. Recently the city of Havre de Grace opened a small park overlooking the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay at the foot of Congress Avenue. In the 800 block of Congress Avenue are three buildings included in this survey: the Silverstein mansion, the Cobourn House and 452/454 Congress Avenue. Each building, although different in material and style, is similar in scale and enhances the presence of its neighbor. The proximity of the central business district means that whatever direction the revitalization of that area takes will have an effect on this neighborhood as well.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harford County Land Records HD 23 60
Hauducoeur Map - C.P. Hauducoeur, Engineer. 1799
A. proposed plan of the town of Havre de Grace
Meigs, Cornelia - A History of St. Johns Church, 1809-1959
The Democratic Ledger, 1959

Interview with Mrs.
Helen Lawder, nee Cobour
(she grew up in the house)

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

Marion Morton - Architectural Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

September, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

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

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Silverstein House

Land Records

GCB 284 174 June 30, 1944
Grantors: Harry Vator and Helen, his wife
Grantees: Joseph D. Silverstein and Gussie, his wife
"being part of lot 177, lot 186 in square 251"

GCB 276 376 April 1, 1943
Grantors: G. Arnold Pfaffenbach
Grantees: Harry Vator and Helen, his wife

GCB 265 151 March 24, 1941
Grantor: Omer L. Carson
Grantee: G. Arnold Pfaffenbach

GCB 265 49 February 18, 1941
Grantor: Carrie L. Cobourn, widow
Grantee: Omer L. Carson

DWG 195 247 November 20, 1925
Grantor: George H. Cobourn
Grantee: Ambrose B. Cobourn and Carrie, his wife

JAR 139 155 December 17, 1912
Grantor: Henry A Osborne, Trustee
Grantee: Ambrose Cobourn
Equity case of Edward Hall vs. Walter T. Jackson et. al., mentioned.

WSF 95 1 December 7, 1898
Grantors: John T. Moor and wife, et. al.
Grantee: Walter Jackson
assumption of \$2500.00 mortgage and \$600.00 cash

WHD 18 362 November 27, 1865
Grantor: Mortimer O'Connor
Grantee: John T. Moor
\$350.00



Garrett Island

CECIL CO. YORK RIVER
HARRFORD CO.

HA-542

HAVRE DE GRACE

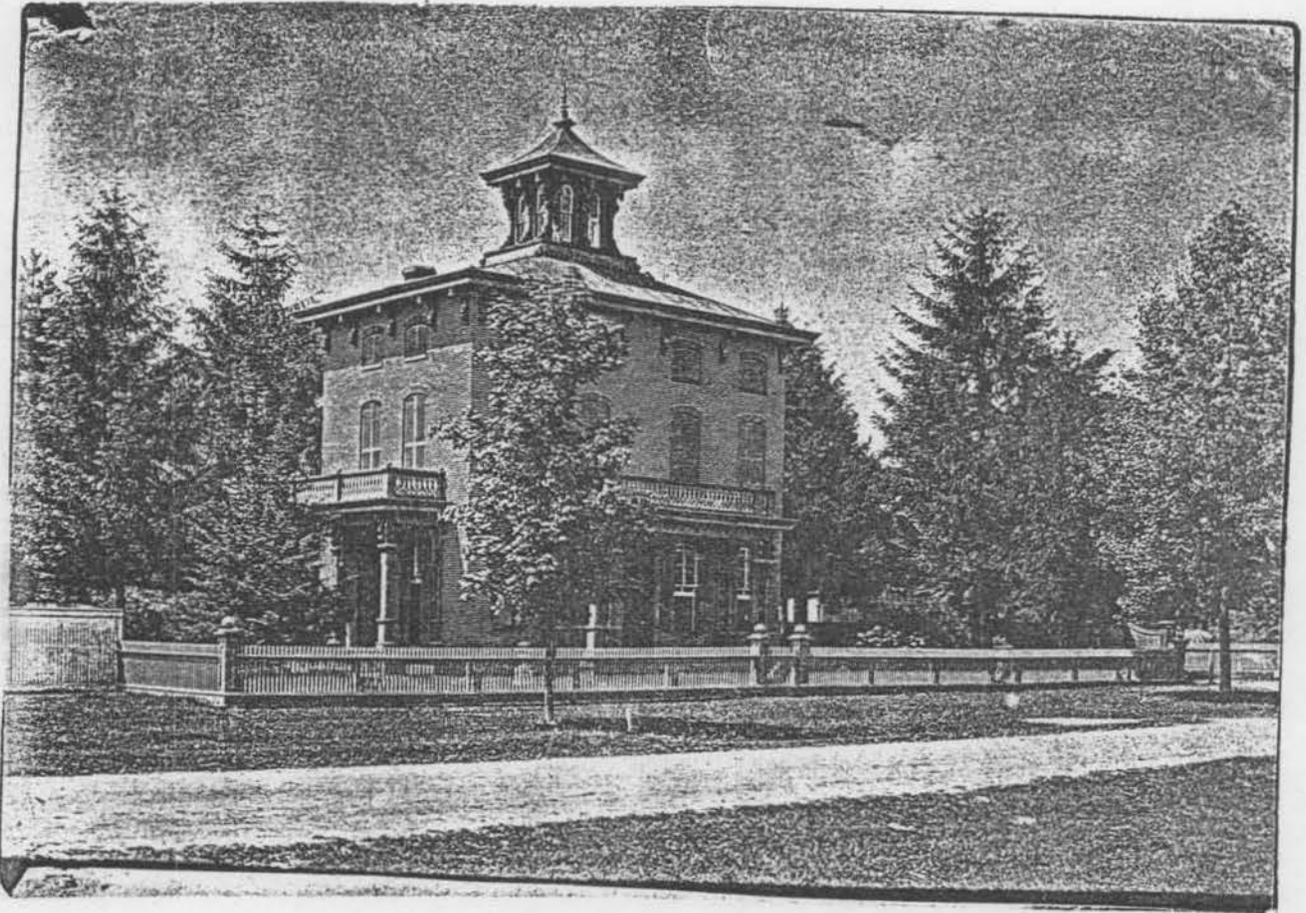
Concord Pt Lighthouse

NATIONAL GUARD RESERVATION

Oakington Sta

Havre de Grace Consolidated Sch

AA-542



Collection of Susquehanna Museum.



SILVERSTEIN HOUSE HA-542
414 CONGRESS AVE., HAVRE DE GRACE
NORTH FRONT

MARION MORTON Dec, 1976

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SILVERSTEIN HOUSE HA-542

414 Congress Ave. Havre de Grace

Marion Morton . August, 1976

north facade



SILVERSTEIN HOUSE HA-542
414 CONGRESS AVE., HAVRE DE GRACE
NORTHEAST ELEVATION, C. 1900
Marion Morton
OLD PRINT AT SUSQUEHANNA MUSEUM, H DEG

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