

OLD COOPER FARM
Kennedyville, Maryland
(ca 1800)

The house on the Old Cooper Farm is a small two-story, hall and parlour plan building with tall brick chimneys enclosed in the gable end walls. It is three bays wide and, like many other similiar frame structures, has exposed brick chimney backs. Because it has suffered two fires, the building has lost most of its original detail.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC OLD COOPER FARM

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North side Bloomfield Road

1st

CITY, TOWN

Kennedyville

(Still Road)

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

21/94

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

—DISTRICT

—PUBLIC

—OCCUPIED

—AGRICULTURE

—MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

—UNOCCUPIED

—COMMERCIAL

—PARK

—STRUCTURE

—BOTH

X WORK IN PROGRESS

—EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

—ENTERTAINMENT

—RELIGIOUS

—OBJECT

—IN PROCESS

—YES: RESTRICTED

—GOVERNMENT

—SCIENTIFIC

—BEING CONSIDERED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—INDUSTRIAL

—TRANSPORTATION

X NO

—MILITARY

—OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Cooper Farms, Inc. c/o W.N. Cooper

Telephone #: 301-778-3464

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Kent County Court House

Liber #: EHP 92

Folio #: 316

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

K-421

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old house on the Cooper Farm is a two story frame structure which is sited, facing east, in a grove of trees about ¼ mile off Bloomfield Road. The entry lane makes a curve to the north about halfway between the road and the house. In a small stand of trees west of this curve is an old graveyard, now completely overgrown and inaccessible. The lane continues running north past the house and past a row of late 19th and early 20th century barns, corn cribs, and double pitch machine sheds, most in derelict condition. Beyond the farmstead the lane continues over a pond over a small dam on a branch of Lloyd Creek; the dammed stream forms a large pond called Lloyd Creek Pond. The lane finally ends in wood lands on the bluffs overlooking Lloyd Creek. Old maps show one or two structures on this lane but none remain today.

The house was probably constructed in the late 18th or early 19th centuries, but has suffered two fires and little original material remains. It is a hall and parlour plan building that measures 30'4" by 20'1". Three bays wide, the house has central doorways. The windows in the south room, first floor, have both been replaced by wide modern windows; all other windows appear to be in their original location and have 6 over 6 sash set in plain frames. Doors are modern but their frames also appear to date from a mid-19th century remodeling. Flanking the first floor windows on the east facade are two pairs of handsome wooden shutters with flushed beaded panels; like the frames, these are probably of mid-19th century vintage or later.

The house rests on a brick foundation and there is a cellar under the south rooms. In the cellar can be seen early hewn, square floor joists about 2' on center, a wide brick arch for supporting a chimney, and remains of the arched hearth support. The floor is unpaved and below grade the walls are fieldstone.

On each gable is an exposed brick chimney back laid in one to five bond; each i-

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 ca 1800 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house on the old Cooper Farm is significant because it is one of Kent's early hall and parlour dwellings. These simple structures were generally two stories tall, with gable roofs, enclosed brick end chimneys, and hall and parlour plans. They were constructed by owners of medium sized farms from the fourth quarter of the 18th century until the second quarter of the 19th; however, most have Federal period details.

This house has suffered two fires and retains too little original details for stylistic dating. Some of its mid-19th century details are pleasantly proportioned and the building is nicely sited.

The present owner is not related to Samuel Tilden Cooper who owned the property from 1906 to 1939 and for whom the farm is named. In the nineteenth century the farm was in the Hepbron family.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kent County Land Records, Kent County Court House, Chestertown, Maryland

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

Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

778-4600, ext.67.

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown, 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

about 6' higher than the foundation and 5' to 5½' wide. The brick chimneys themselves are very tall; each contains two flues and has a plain, two course cap as well as a drip.

The gable roof was rebuilt about 1975 after a fire and the outline of the original, steeper gable roof can be seen on the chimneys.

Presently the house exterior is covered with asbestous shingles and the roof with asphalt shingles. There is a recent two story shed addition at the rear and a modern gable-roofed entry porch.

Most interior finish and trim date from no earlier than the middle of the 19th century or later. A remaining mantle in the north room, first floor, has a tall rectangular opening, plain frieze, pilasters, and pairs of curved bracketts which support the shelf. Set into the side of the chimney is a closet with doors with recessed panels and applied Greek ogee and bevel panel moldings.

The enclosed window stairs in the northwest and south east corners of the building do remain; however, their doors resemble those used for the cupboards.

Some random yellow pine flooring is also original. Interior walls of the little house are plastered.

Also on the property is an interesting wooden outbuilding with a metal covered hipped roof and side walls which slope in toward the cornice. The base of the one-story structure measures 11 feet square at the base and 7 feet square at the top of the wall. The roof overhang about 10" and is finished with a plain box cornice. In one wall is a board door. Opposite the door is a 2 over 2 sash window and in another wall is a wooden shutter which slides down, as does the window. The exterior of the building is covered with 4½" - 5" wide lapped siding and the interior walls and ceiling with narrow, catalog, beaded boarding. There are three small wooden shelves inside and remnants of wooden plumbing in one wall. The function of this strange building is unknown.

At the time of the surveyor's visit the building was vacant and had in recent years been badly mistreated by its tenants. The owner is aware of the antiquity of the structure, however, and plans repairs.

Chain of Title

OLD COOPER FARM
(K-421)

Land Records of
Kent County

Transaction

EHP 92
316

TO: W.N. Cooper & Son, Inc.
FROM: Cooper Farms, Inc.
DATE: July 2, 1979

EHP 8
268

TO: W.N. Cooper & Son, Inc.
FROM: Arthur Martin Beachy & Mary M. Beachy
DATE: July 20, 1964

EHP 4
467

TO: Arthur Martin Beachy & Mary M. Beachy
FROM: John F. & Margaret M. Wilson
DATE: September 21, 1963

WHG 33
500

TO: John F. & Margaret M. Wilson
FROM: Harry Rudnick, et al
DATE: May 26, 1954

WHG 15
449

TO: Harry Rudnick, et al
FROM: DeHaven & Moselle W. Butterworth
DATE: July 12, 1950

WHG 14
208

TO: DeHaven & Moselle W. Butterworth
FROM: Glenn L. Martin
DATE: February 23, 1950

In this deed are recorded the other two farms (Green Oak and Green Forest) G.L. Martin purchased at the same time.

WHG 1
439

TO: Glenn L. Martin
FROM: A. Lee Towson, Jr. & Isabel T. Towson
DATE: February 7, 1947

RAS 23
180

TO: A. Lee Towson, Jr.
FROM: S. Tilden Cooper
DATE: December 30, 1939

Land Records of
Kent County

Transaction

JTD 14
135

TO: S. Tilden Cooper
FROM: Marion deK. Smith, Trustee
DATE: September 29, 1906

248 + acres

excepting:

JTD 14
138

TO: Louise C. Hamman
FROM: S. Tilden Cooper
DATE: September 29, 1906

71 acres

mortgage
SB 6
454

TO: Richard Hynson
FROM: William T. Hepbron & Mary F. Hepbron
DATE: April 30, 1885

The Hepbrons lost the property and Smith was authorized to make the sale. It was sold for \$6,800, for 280 acres, then called the Hepbron 3rd Farm.

JKH 6
35

TO: William T. Hepbron
FROM: Joseph Howard & James Gale, survivors
DATE: November 26, 1866

William T. Hepbron bought the land from the estate of his father Thomas Hepbron the 3rd; it was assessed at \$4,263.75 and contained 280 acres. This appraisal was done in 1853 and here William takes title to the land.



View to Southwest

OLD COOPER FARM (K-421)

Kennedyville, Kent County

Photograph: M.L. Fritz, July 1980

ORIGINAL Photo out to MOB 11/97