

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Little Bell Farm

and/or common Robinson Farm

2. Location

street & number East side Baker's Lane 3/4 mile south of Route 20 not for publication

city, town Chestertown vicinity of congressional district FIRST

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Estate of
Walter Robinson c/o Clara P. Robinson

street & number telephone no.: (301) 778-0612

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland 21620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber (no deed

street & number folio reference)

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

state federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No.K-472

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This house is a gambrel-roofed structure of frame construction. Measuring 16' by 32' in plan it is three bays long, two deep and 1½ stories in height. There is a simple 1½ story, gable-roofed kitchen addition against the east gambrel wall.

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
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This small house appears on first glance to be one of Kent County's colonial gambrel houses. In fact the house dates from the late 19th century & probably derives its form from the Colonial Revival that swept the East after the 1876 centennial. Taller & narrower than the early gambrel houses, Godlington Manor (K-88) for example, the house reflects the colonial form in its fenestration and roughly in size. Although this house is extremely simple in design, it is an unusual and picturesque structure.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Building Form and Material

1. Size - Main Section: 1½ stories, 3 bays wide, 2 bays deep
Wing A: 1½ stories, 1 bay wide, 1 bay
2. Central hall modifies by removal of west enclosing wall of stair
3. Roof type - Gambrel
Wings - Shallow gable
4. Chimney - Enclosed in gambrel walls of main house
Materials - brick - simple flue
Decorative elements - Simple corbelled cap.
5. Material/Walls
Main Section: Frame; medium-width weatherboard
Wing A: Frame; same
6. Roof/Materials - Main Section: wooden shingles
Wing A: same
7. Material/Foundation - Main Section brick (originally piers)
Wing A: same
8. Age - Main Section: ca. 1880 (research by owner; buildings are not shown on 1877 Atlas)
Wing Additions - later, possibly early 20th, (Exterior siding that has been weathered is clearly visible in the east gable).
9. Style Not easily categorized in a style, the gambrel roof form probably derives from early American Colonial architecture. With interest in those buildings stimulated by the Centennial of 1876, adaptations of early forms were built throughout the country at the end of the 19th century. Gambrel-roofed houses were common in the upper Eastern Shore in the 18th century.

Building Elements and Details

1. Doors - Main entry: Center of south facade. Four panel with glass lights in place of upper panels. A two-light transom above. Trim-narrow fillet & bead.

Secondary entries: Located in east gable of wing - four-panel door, plain trim.

2. Windows - Main Section: type - double hung
lights - 6/6 with later 1/1 in west gambrel
details - narrow fillet and bead trim
shutters - removed
Wings - type -double- hung
lights - 6/6
details - same as main house

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

3. Dormers - Shed with 2/2 sash, fairly wide overhang with cyma recta & fillet crown mold
4. Roof details - Main Section - box cornice with wide overhang; cyma recta crown molding. No verge boards; cornice overhang continues along gambrels.
Wings - plain box; no moldings
5. Porches - None
6. Color - current - unpainted; historic - white
7. Other - Blank

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

1. Plan type - central hall
2. Major stair - enclosed
3. Major mantles - curved shelf, spiral pilasters, set against flat pilasters, rectangular opening, oak. An unusual mantle with late 19th century motifs, it was used with a stove, not a fireplace.
4. Major trim:
Windows/doors - Plain or with a half round - cove- and square backband in major rooms
Baseboards - plain
Cornices -
Chair rails -
5. Major doors - 4 panel
6. Floors - narrow yellow pine
7. Walls/ceiling finishes - plaster

OUTBUILDINGS/SITE DESCRIPTION

1. Major outbuildings: sheds & barn & corn crib & water tower
2. Site description - The house is set perpendicular to Baker's Lane but very close to it. A lane runs to the south of the dwelling & on to barns arranged around a court directly east of the house. Near the house is a well & wind mill. Lawns with some ornamental shrubbery & two enormous copper beach trees surround the house.
3. Views to/from site - Across cultivated fields to the Theodore Redman house to the north & to "Bon Air" (K-485) and the Chapman Farm (K-83) across the road.

USE OF BUILDING

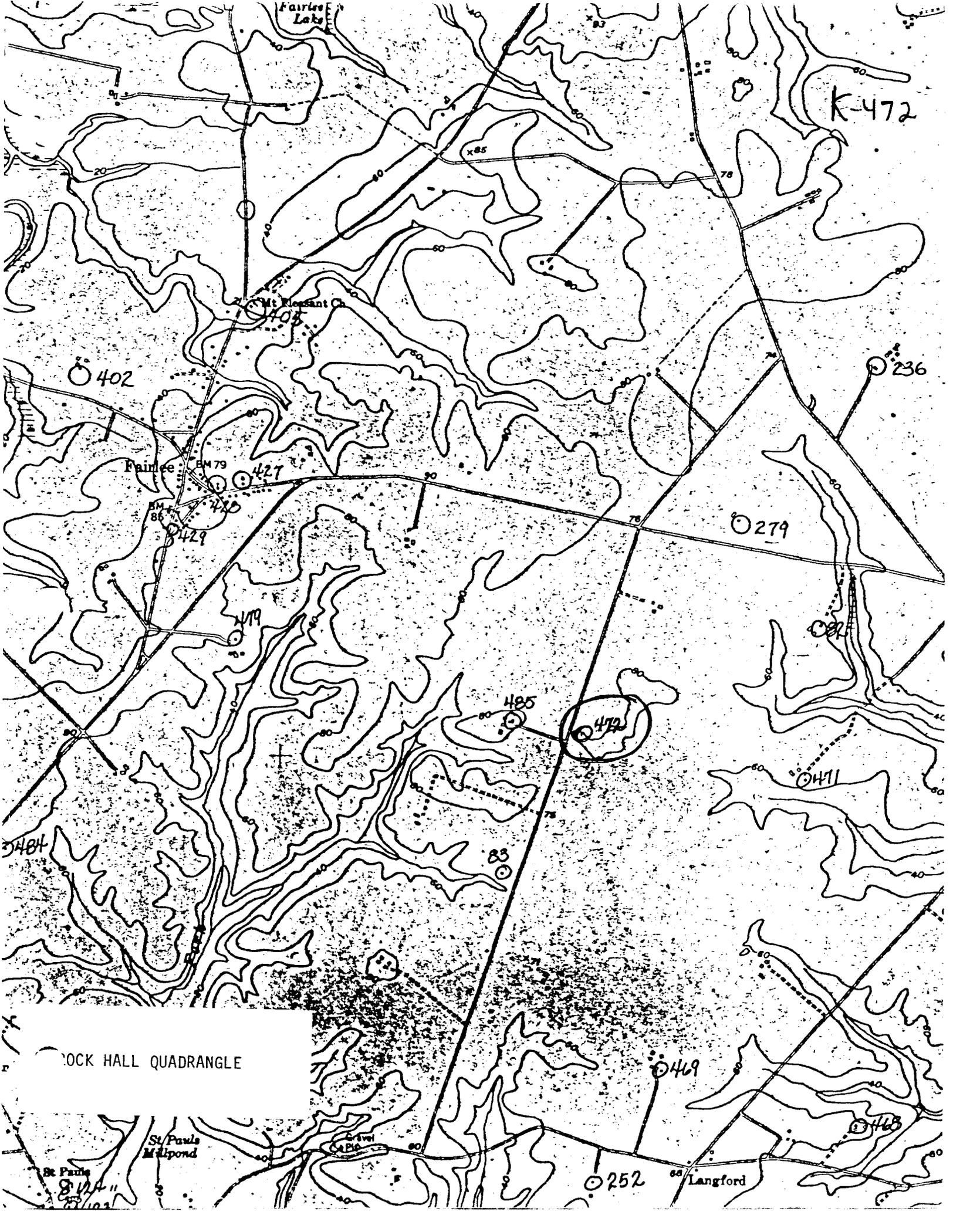
1. Current - Residence
2. Historic - Residence

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION (continued)

HISTORY OF BUILDING/PAST OWNERSHIP

This house was constructed by a Mr. Bell as a second residence for his nearby farm. Whether it was intended as a tenant house is unknown, but the property came to be called the "Little" Bell Farm. The house passed into the Anderson family and then, in 1929, to the Robinsons. The house was used primarily as a summer residence by this family. The house is currently being restored.



K-472

Fairlee Lake

Mt Pleasant Ch

Painee

402

427

BM 79
BM 86

430

429

479

485

472

471

279

236

3484

83

469

463

252

Langford

St Pauls Millpond

St Pauls

ROCK HALL QUADRANGLE

St Pauls
8124
81103



View to Northeast

ROBINSON FARM (K-472)

Bakers Lane, Chestertown, Maryland

Photograph: M.L. Fritz, July 1981