Olney Manor Farm
M:23-102
Montgomery County, Maryland

Olney Manor Farm is a grand two-story brick Georgian Revival-style manor house built in 1937. Located on a sizeable three-acre lot off of Prince Philip Drive, south of Olney, it is now well-shielded, but surrounded by a contemporary residential subdivision. Originally part of a large 114-acre estate, Olney Manor Farm occupies the site of a mid-to late 19th-century frame house, known as "Menden." The property also includes a tenant house, a large bank barn, a crib barn, several equipment sheds, and several domestic outbuildings, most of which survive from the 19th century period of construction.

Olney Manor Farm was constructed on the site of "Menden", the late 19th century home of Charles Farquhar, Jr. Charles Farquhar, a Quaker and a doctor, was the first of many generations of Farquhars--locally active residents and prominent members of the Olney-Sandy Spring community. Olney Manor Farm was constructed by John Beane, a businessman who ran a wholesale supply company in Washington, D.C., and operated dairy farms on his Montgomery County property. Despite its compromised setting, Olney Manor Farm meets Criterion C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties as an excellent example of mid-20th-century Georgian Revival-style country architecture.
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

===================================================================
1. Name of Property

historic name Olney Manor Farm
common/other name Mendon

===================================================================
2. Location FORMER ADDRESS: 17401 Georgia Avenue, Olney

===================================================================
3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

===================================================================
4. National Park Service Certification N/A

===================================================================
5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

_X_ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

_X_ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

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<th>Noncontributing</th>
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Is this property listed in the National Register?
Yes ____ Name of Listing _____________________ No ____ X
6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
- Cat: DOMESTIC
  - Sub: Single Dwelling; Secondary Dwelling
    - AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE
      - Barns; Smokehouse; Well; Garden Freezer;

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
- Cat: DOMESTIC
  - Sub: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
- Georgian Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
- foundation Brick
- roof Slate shingles
- walls Brick
- other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance mid 19th century-1937

Significant Dates mid 19th century

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1
9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


Montgomery County Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland.

Sandy Spring Museum, Vertical Files.

Maps and Drawings and Photographs

Hopkins, G.M., Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland, 1879.

Martenet and Bond, Map of Montgomery County, 1865.
10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.) Olney Manor Farm occupies Parcel 23 on Montgomery County Tax Map HT 561.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This parcel has been associated with Olney Manor Farm since the construction of the present house on the site in circa 1937.
Olney Manor Farm is a grand and impressive two-story brick Georgian Revival-style manor house built in 1937. It is located on a large three-acre lot off of Prince Philip Drive, south of Olney, and is now surrounded by a contemporary residential subdivision. Originally part of a large 114-acre estate, Olney Manor is located on the site of a mid-to late 19th-century frame house, known as "Menden." Mendon was owned, during the 19th century by the Farquhar family, Quakers and active members of the Sandy Spring community. The property also includes a tenant house, a large bank barn, a crib barn, several equipment sheds, and several domestic outbuildings, most of which survive from the 19th century period of construction.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Built in 1937, Olney Manor Farm is designed in a mid-20th century Georgian Revival style. It is a three-part brick structure, consisting of a 2-1/2-story, five-bay center block with lower 1-1/2-story flanking wings. The house, which faces west to Georgia Avenue, is covered with a gable roof with slate shingles and grand end chimneys. The house is characterized by a double-story, pedimented portico.

Exterior:

The west elevation of the central block is divided into five bays consisting of a central entry and flanking 6/6 windows. The door features a classic, Colonial Revival style broken pedimented surround. The windows feature flat-arched brick lintels with stone keystones, stone sills and louvered shutters. The double-story portico has paired Doric columns which support a plain frieze board and a tympanum decorated with a round window. The cornice and raking cornice of the pediment is articulated with modillions.

The east elevation consists of the five-bay central block and end wings. The center block is characterized by a projecting central pavilion, articulated with a central entry featuring an engaged pediment surround and, above that, a round-arched window.

The wings, to the north and south of the main block, are both 1-1/2-stories in height. They are both covered with gable roofs, framed on the east elevation and glassed-in on the other three sides.

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1 In his book, *Historic Montgomery County, MD: Old Homes and History*, Roger B. Farquhar claims that Olney Manor Farm was designed by a Washington, D.C. architect. No further information regarding the architect has been found.
The south and north elevations of the main block feature brick end chimneys flanked by quarter-round windows. The east elevation has a central, 15-light door flanked by 6/6 windows with flat-arched brick lintels and stone keystones. A round-arched window with 14/8-light sash is located in the second story of this elevation, above the central entry door.

AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS AND DOMESTIC OUTBUILDINGS

In spite of its location in a contemporary residential subdivision, Olney Manor Farm occupies a large lot and retains many of its original, 19th-century farm buildings behind the house.

Immediately behind the house in the rear garden are two brick structures with gable roofs and cupolas. One of these buildings holds a well, while the other was a garden freezer.

A drive next to the house extends past a range of four large farm buildings, including a long frame barn and a group of three smaller barns, the center one being a drive-in crib barn. These three structures are frame, clad with vertical boards and are covered with gable roofs. Beyond this grouping at the rear of the lawn is a three-bay, gable-roofed barn with silo.

Another drive, leading off of the main drive leads past this barn to another group of three, small gable-roofed frame buildings. The center building was originally the "tack room," converted in the 1980's into a playhouse. The others served as storage sheds. Finally, at the edge of the lot is the late 19th-century tenant house—a two-story, frame, L-house at the end of the lane.
Olney Manor Farm, a grand Colonial Revival manor house built in 1937, was constructed on the site of "Menden", the late 19th century home of Charles Farquhar, Jr. Charles Farquhar, a Quaker and a doctor, was the first of many generations of Farquhars—locally active residents and prominent members of the Olney-Sandy Spring community. Olney Manor Farm was constructed by John Beane, a businessman who ran a wholesale supply company in Washington, D.C. and operated dairy farms on his Montgomery County property until his death in 1941. The farm remained in Beane family hands for forty years. Olney Manor Farm meets Criterion C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

PROPERTY HISTORY

The property on which Olney Manor Farm was constructed in 1937 was part of a large tract of land owned by Roger Brooke V in the early 19th century. In the 1840s, it was inherited by his daughter, Sarah Brooke Farquhar, who was married to Dr. Charles Farquhar, Sr., an English professor and medical doctor. Sarah and Charles Farquhar had earlier moved to Mechanicsville (Olney) from Alexandria in the 1830s, where they lived at "Olney House." The Farquhars owned several hundred acres of land in the region.

Charles Farquhar died in 1844, leaving Sarah a widow for over 20 years. At Sarah Brooke Farquhar's death in 1866, her property was divided amongst her several children. Her son, Dr. Charles Farquhar, Jr. received the 121-acre Olney Manor Farm. Dr. Charles Farquhar, Jr., also a doctor, was county coroner and president of the Montgomery County Medical Society. On his inherited land, Charles, Jr. built "Menden" a small frame house, where he lived for many years as a bachelor. Around 1898, Farquhar married, and moved with his wife to "Olney House," where they raised a son, Roger Brooke Farquhar. Roger Brooke Farquhar was well noted in his lifetime as a local historian and author of the invaluable book, Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, MD.

In 1900, Farquhar sold Menden, including the frame house and 121 acres, to George E. Nicholson. Nicholson, at one time county

2 The house was named "Olney" by Farquhar, and was later, in 1851, adopted as the new name for the town of Mechanicsville. The name Olney is thought to have been inspired by the homeplace of William Cowper (1731-1800), a poet and hymn composer, whom Farquhar admired and who was from Olney, England.

3 Sandy Spring Museum, Vertical Files
sheriff, retained ownership of Menden until 1934, when he defaulted on his mortgage. John and Mary Beane purchased the property in 1935 from the Farmer's Banking and Trust Company. John Beane demolished the old frame house called "Menden" and built, in its place, an impressive Georgian Revival style house which he called "Olney Manor." Mr. Beane, who ran a wholesale supply business in Washington, D.C. ran dairy farms on his several properties until his death in 1941. His son, John Beane Jr. operated a cattle farm on the property after his father's death. The estate remained in the Beane family until Mary Beane died in 1977. Following her death, Olney Manor Farm came under the ownership of the American Security Bank. During the 1980s, the property was subdivided and developed into the residential community known as Hallowell Subdivision. After having stood vacant for several years, and been proposed for various uses, including community center of the subdivision, Olney Manor Farm, along with 3 surrounding acres was purchased by current owners, William and A.J. Boyko. The Boycos have renovated the house and all of its outbuildings.
MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-23-102
Olney Manor Farm
name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

===================================================================

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period (s):
Industrial-Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Modern Period, 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):
Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Standing Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): Domestic

Known Design Source:
MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-23-102
Olney Manor Farm
name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

===================================================================

Chain of Title:

May 9, 1840
Roger Brooke V conveys to his daughter
Sarah Brooke Farquhar and her husband Dr.
Charles Farquhar parts of "Shepherds Hard
Fortune" and "Berry's Neglect".
Containing 167 acres and 82 acres.
(Deed Book BS 10 Folio 180)

November 5, 1866
Deed of Partition of the property of
Charles Farquhar and Sarah B. Farquhar,
his widow. Their son Charles Farquhar was
allotted the tract on the left side of the
Brookeville to Washington Turnpike.
Containing 121 acres. (Deed Book EBP 3
Folio 244)

August 31, 1888
Sarah B. Farquhar died. (Sentinel, p128)

1898
Dr. Charles Farquhar (Jr.) rented Mendon
to J.W. Jones and moved to Olney (House),
which he bought from heirs of H.C.
Sherman. (Annals III p. 96)

1899
Confirmation of the Deed of Partition of
the property of Charles Farquhar, deceased
by his widow Sarah B. Farquhar, whereby
Charles Farquhar (son) was allotted 121
acres. (Deed Book TD 12 Folio 211)

April 10, 1900
George E. Nicholson bought Mendon from
Dr. Charles Farquhar (Jr.)
(Deed Book TD 14 Folio 87)

May 18, 1934
George E. Nicholson conveys to Farmers
Bank and Trust Co. (Default on Mortgage)
(Deed Book 572 Folio 93)

February 4, 1935
Farmers Banking and Trust Co. conveys to
Percy B. Pain. (Deed Book 584 Folio 257)

February 4, 1935
Percy B. Pain conveys to Ensillio B.
Lambert. (Deed Book 588 Folio 211)

June 10, 1935
Ensillio B. Lambert conveys to Grace E.
and Edward T. Jones. (Deed Book 594 Folio
211)

June 11, 1935
Grace E. and Edward T. Jones convey to
c. 1935
John M. Beane. (Deed Book 594 Folio 212)

John M. Beane tore down the house at Mendon and built Olney Manor. (SSM House Files)

November 10, 1977
Mary Estelle Beane died. She appointed John T. Beane and American Security bank to be her will's personal representatives. (From 6077/13)

April 22, 1983
John T. Beane and American Security Bank to American Security (Parcel 1--178.5 acres Parcel 2--5.66 acres, Parcel 3--3.39 acres) (Deed Book 6077 Folio 13 and 17)

December 29, 1983
American Security Bank, Trustee under will of Mary Estelle Beane to the Hallowell Corp. Containing 307.127 acres (Deed Book 6273 Folio 307)

Hallowell Corp. subdivided the land and built several single family homes on the property in a subdivision called "Hallowell."

September 6, 1985
The Hallowell Corp to William and Ann Boyko. Present Owners. 3 acres. (Deed Book 6856 Folio 706)
Mechanicsville Dist.
No. 8.
Mont. Co.

Business Notices

J. B. Harrod, Wm. A. Boyer, Joseph L. Wagner
Dealers in all kinds of Bovis, Settlers' Manures, Hardwood, Flowering Plants, Seeds, Seeds, Seeds, Seeds.

23-102
OLNEY MANOR
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
4-10-90
MARYLAND SHPO
SOUTH ELEVATION
10FT
OLNEY MANOR
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
4-19-99
MARYLAND SHPO
NORTH ELEVATION
20F8
23-102 OLNEY MANOR
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
4-10-99
MARYLAND SHPO
NORTHEAST OUTBUILDINGS, BEHIND MANHSE
80F8
23-102
OLNEY MANOR
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
4-19-09
MARYLAND SHPO
WEST ELEVATION OF TENANT HOUSE
4 of 8
23-102
Oney Manor
Montgomery Co., MD
Kim Williams
4-10-99
Maryland SHPO
View of outbuildings, located west of tenant house
5 of 8
OLNEY MANOR
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
4-19-09
MARYLAND SHPO
VIEW OF BARN BUILDINGS LOCATED WEST OF MAIN HOUSE
LOF 8
23-102
OUNNEY MANOR
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
4-19-99
MARYLAND SHPO
VIEW OF BARN BUILDINGS LOCATED WEST OF MAIN HOUSE
1 of 8
23-102
OLNEY MANOR
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
KIM WILLIAMS
4-19-90
MARYLAND SHPO
VIEW OF BANK BARN, LOCATED NW OF MAIN HOUSE
8 OF 8
## Olney Manor Farm

1. **Name:** Olney Manor Farm
2. **Planning Area/Site Number:** 23/102
3. **M-NCPPC Atlas Reference:** Map 16
4. **Address:** 17401 Georgia Avenue, Olney
5. **Classification Summary**
   - **Category:** building
   - **Previous Survey Recording:** M-NCPPC
   - **Ownership:** private
   - **Title and Date:** 1976 Inventory of Historical Sites
   - **Public Acquisition:** N/A
   - **M-NCPPC Atlas Reference:** Map 16
   - **Status:** tenant house (occupied) - main house (unoccupied)
   - **Accessible:** no
   - **Present use:** private residence - agriculture

6. **Date:** 1937
7. **Original Owner:** John and Mary Beane
8. **Apparent Condition**
   - a. excellent
   - b. altered
   - c. original site

9. **Description:** Olney Manor Farm sits back from Georgia Avenue facing west. It is a Georgian Revival style house with a two-and-a-half story, five bay central section flanked to the north and south by symmetrical one-and-a-half story wings. The house is constructed of Flemish bonded brick. There is a two story pedimented pavilion which projects forward on the west elevation and is supported by four gigantic columns. There is a pavilion on the east elevation which corresponds to that on the west. There are six-over-six double-hung windows flanked by black wooden louvered shutters. The house has a gable roof with slate shingles.

10. **Significance:** Olney Manor Farm is a 20th century mansion built on the estate of an old Montgomery County family. The building is on the site of Menden, the late 19th century home of Dr. Charles Farquhar, Jr., grandson of Roger Brooke V. Charles was county coroner and president of the Montgomery County Medical Society. When he moved to Olney, his parent's home, in 1898, he sold Menden to George Nicholson, who sold it to John and Mary Beane in 1935. The estate remains in the Beane family; John Beane, Jr. raises cattle. Some of the numerous outbuildings probably are from the Farquhar era.

11. **Researcher and date researched:** Roberta Hahn-8/79
12. **Compiler:** Gail Rothrock
13. **Date Compiled:** 10/79
14. **Designation Approval**
15. **Acreage:** 121.11 acres
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

Olney Manor Farm sits back from Georgia Avenue facing west. This is a Georgian Revival style house. It has a two and a half story central block of five bays with symmetrical one and a half story wings constructed of Flemish bonded brick.

A two story pediment pavilion porch projects forward from the west (front) facade and is supported by four massive columns. A small round window is set in the pedimented gable of the pavilion. The west door is paneled and flanked by faceted sidelights and surmounted by a broken pediment. There is a pavilion on the east elevation which corresponds to that on the west. This contains a narrow 15-light door and a six-over-six double-hung window. At the second level there is a fourteen-over-eight round headed double-hung window. This is surmounted by a small round window. The north and south symmetrical wings are one and a half stories high and are framed on the east elevation and glassed in elsewhere.

There are six-over-six double-hung windows throughout the house. These have white stone sills and flat arches with stone keystones. Each window is flanked by black louvered wooden shutters. There are quarter round windows flanking the gable end chimneys. There are two six-over-six gabled dormer windows on (west elevation) each of the symmetrical wings. There are two-six-over-six gabled dormer windows over the central block, on the west elevation. The house has a gable roof over the central and symmetrical wings with slate covering and a denticulated cornice.

The house is surrounded by boxwood, flowering trees and bushes. It is in excellent condition. There is a tenant house, barns and a shed on the property.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY
Olney Manor Farm is a 20th century mansion built on the estate of an old Montgomery County family. The site of this building was the site of Menden, the home of Dr. Charles Farquhar, Jr., during the last years of the 19th century. The land had come to Charles from his mother, Sarah Brooke Farquhar, in 1866. Sarah and her husband, Charles Farquhar, Sr., had received a total of 250 acres, including this property, from her father, Roger Brooke V, in 1840. Charles Jr. was for some time county coroner and president of the Montgomery County Medical Society. He moved to Olney, his parents' home, in 1898, and sold Menden in 1900 to George Nicholson. Nicholson, at one time county sheriff, retained ownership until 1934. It was purchased by John and Mary Beane in 1935.

In 1937 the Beanes had their massive brick Georgian style home constructed. Mr. Beane, who ran a wholesale supply business in Washington, D.C., ran dairy farms on his several properties until his death in 1941. The estate remains in the Beane family, and John Beane, Jr. raises cattle on the 121 acre property. Some of the numerous outbuildings on the property, including the tenant house, appear to predate the present manor house. One small frame shed is constructed of hand hewn beams and may date to the time of the Farquhars.

FOOTNOTES:
2 Land Records of Montgomery County, TD 14/87 (4/10/1900).
3 Ibid., 572/93 (5/18/1934).
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 121.11 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Robert Hahn Candy Reed, arch. description
ORGANIZATION Sugarloaf Regional Trails
STREET & NUMBER Box 87
CITY OR TOWN Dickerson

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) 497-1438

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
Box 87, Stronghold
Dickerson, Md. 20753
(301) 926-4510
# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

**INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY**

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC: Menden  
AND/OR COMMON: Olney Manor Farm

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Rte. 97 & Old Baltimore Road  
CITY, TOWN: Olney  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
STATE: Maryland  
COUNTY: Montgomery

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DISTRICT</td>
<td>PUBLIC</td>
<td>OCCUPIED</td>
<td>AGRICULTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUILDING(S)</td>
<td>PRIVATE</td>
<td>UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td>COMMERCIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRUCTURE</td>
<td>BOTH</td>
<td>WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td>PARK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SITE</td>
<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>EDUCATIONAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECT</td>
<td>IN PROCESS</td>
<td>YES, RESTRICTED</td>
<td>PRIVATE RESIDENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>YES, UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>RELIGIOUS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Mrs. John M. Beane  
STREET & NUMBER:  
CITY, TOWN: Olney  
STATE, ZIP CODE: Maryland

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Montgomery County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER:  
CITY, TOWN: Rockville  
STATE: Maryland

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE:  
DATE:  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
CITY, TOWN:  
STATE:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>√EXCELLENT</td>
<td>_DETERIORATED</td>
<td>_UNALTERED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_GOOD</td>
<td>_RUINS</td>
<td>_ALTERED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_FAIR</td>
<td>_UNEXPOSED</td>
<td>_MOVED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>_DATE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This present house is a 20th Century replacement for the old farm house "Menden." It is the focal-point of one of the finest estates in the County. The farm is the handsomest property to survive on rapidly-developing Georgia Ave. The structure is a five-bay, classic revival, brick house that faces west. The central door is framed by a two-story, pedimented portico. There are identical, one-story wings on the north and south ends of the house.

Behind the main house there are a number of older farm buildings. These include a tenant house, and a large frame barn with a shingle roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY
PERIOD

PREHISTORIC
1400-1499
1500-1599
1600-1699
1700-1799
1800-1899
1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

Built in 1937

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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
for a number of the eleven years he lived there, was the postmaster. Letters to his son in Alexandria bear his signature, "A. Farquhar, P. M. Free." When the name was changed to Olney, it is reported that the widow, Sarah B. Farquhar, did not desire to have the name of her home thus publicized.

The Farquhars and Elgars were great admirers of poetry, especially that of Cowper, and the name "Olney" given the home was so designated after the village of that name in Buckinghamshire, England, where Cowper lived for many years. Charles Farquhar, Sr., left a number of poems of some merit written in his own hand.

It is believed that Whitson Canby, an ancestor of that well-known Montgomery County family, built the Olney house about the year 1800. Before 1836, Roger Brooke, V, bought Olney and wrote his daughter Sarah in Alexandria, "The little house in Mechanicsville is now vacant."

He suggested that she and Charles come to Mechanicsville to live. They moved to the Olney home in 1837, and remodelled the place with some additions.

In a deed recorded June 12, 1840, Roger Brooke, V, conveyed to his daughter, Sarah, and son-in-law, Charles Farquhar, for a consideration of ONE DOLLAR, ($1.00) one tract of 167 acres, another containing eighty-two acres, and a "lot on which the said Sarah and Charles now reside," a total of over 250 acres. These tracts were parts of "Shepherd's Hard Fortune," and "Charles and Benjamin," and "Brother's Content."

The large chimney on the extreme left was built in 1841. The stone in its corner shows the initials "C. F.," and the date. In the kitchen a large fireplace was included with bake oven and crane, and above this was the "carding" or "spinning" room with its rafters left exposed. The whole right half of the house, to be seen between the two main chimneys, was built at a cost of $400. It had a parlor on the first floor, a bedroom on the second floor, each with a fireplace, a cellar, and an attic. A front hall with a stairway was included.

A year or more after the above additions, a rear "T" was added. This contained one room on the first and second floors, each with a fireplace. This wing was occupied by Dr. Farquhar's mother, Mary (Elgar) Farquhar, where she continued to live until her death in 1853.

While in Alexandria, Dr. Farquhar wrote a letter to his brother, "Granville Farquhar, druggist, Washington City," asking where he could obtain "The whole apparatus, including a handsome slab and silver fountain, as I have been thinking it would be an advantage to keep soda water."

The massive cast door knocker, showing the face of Juno with a bright brass plate inscribed "Dr. Farquhar," which he brought from Alexandria over a century ago, is now on the front door of his great-grandson, Roger B. Farquhar III's home Riverton.

In 1844 Dr. Farquhar's life was cut short at the age of forty-four. Death was due to pneumonia which he contracted on a trip to Baltimore. His young widow was left with five children and a large farm to care for, but her father took charge of her affairs, and she continued to live at Olney for forty-four more years, and raised all her children to maturity. A sixth child was born shortly after the death of the father. Sara B. Farquhar died in August, 1888, at the age of eighty-three. In her will, probated in September, 1888, the daughters were devised seventy acres of land on Rock Creek, and equal shares in the home and furnishings.

In 1866 Sarah Farquhar divided her property among her children. Eight acres were retained with the Olney home, at the time appraised at $2,000. Her son, Granville, received 121 acres immediately south of the home which he named Mt. Olney when he built a house there later. The latter is now the site of the Olney Inn. Charles, Jr., received the same acreage south of Granville's part, where he built a house he called "Menden." Roger, the oldest son, was assigned 229 acres along both sides of Rock Creek near Norbeck, which, with an addition made later, became known as "Rock Spring," containing 400 acres. The daughters received mortgage notes from their brothers to equalize the divisions.

Anna Farquhar, the oldest daughter married Charles H. Brooke, in 1865, and lived thereafter at Falling Green the old Brooke home inherited by Charles. The other two daughters Miss Eliza and Miss Edith, after the death of their mother and the sale of Olney, made their homes with the brothers.

The land in the Olney farm, when divided, extended from the village south along the east side of the highway toward Washington for
over a mile to the Old Baltimore Road. The old Menden farm south of the Olney Inn, was for many years owned by George ("Bud") Nicholson, a highly regarded county farmer, and one-time sheriff, and about twenty years ago he sold the place to John M. Beane, a successful business man of Washington. Mr. Beane removed the original frame farm house and built a handsome modern Colonial type brick house on the old site, one of the finest houses in the whole area, and has developed Menden into a really handsome estate.

During the War between the States, many stirring scenes were witnessed around the quiet village. Thousands of soldiers marched along the highways, horses by the score were taken, and supplies requisitioned. On one occasion General Hooker had dinner with Mrs. Farquhar in her home, and she reported him to be courteous and gentlemanly. On another day, her son Roger rode on horseback along with General McClellan and supplies requisitioned. The highways, horses by the score were taken, and supplies requisitioned. On one occasion General Hooker had dinner with Mrs. Farquhar in her home, and she reported him to be courteous and gentlemanly. On another day, her son Roger rode on horseback along with General McClellan from Norbeck to Olney and wrote in his diary that McClellan was "a fine looking man."

In 1898 the home was purchased by Dr. Charles Farquhar, Jr., who had married Cornelia Strain in 1892. He had been a farmer at his Menden farm for years, but late in life obtained a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and began to practice. He was for some time county coroner and president of the Montgomery County Medical Society.

Dr. Farquhar, Jr., died in 1916 at the age of seventy-five. In 1924 his widow sold the home to Estelle M. Gilmore (Mrs. Robert C.) of North Carolina whose husband was a retired Presbyterian minister. They completely modernized the house, added two bathrooms, heating, and put the whole place in excellent condition. The large central section to the left of the front hall contains large rooms on both floors, each with a fireplace, and an attic room.

In 1946 the Olney home was purchased by Mrs. Clara May Downey. Mrs. Downey has further beautified and improved the interior with tasteful decorations, furnishing the house with a wealth of antiques appropriate to its period. The old stone springhouse has been retained and adds its pleasing rustic touch as it nestles below the extensive box walks.

Mrs. Clara May Downey has continued to own the dear, cherished old Farquhar home, and has spent large sums in improving and beautifying the house and grounds. For a few years, it has been leased to the Catholic Diocese as a Rectory for the local priests.

**Olney Manor**

The land upon which this handsome Georgian Colonial manor house was built was part of the estate of Sarah Brooke Farquhar, wife of Dr. Charles Farquhar, Sr., of "Olney."

In the division of her lands which she inherited from her father, Roger Brooke V of Brooke Grove, this farm containing 121 acres was passed to Dr. Charles Farquhar, Jr., by a committee which met in June 1866 to divide the property of the widow, Sarah Brooke Farquhar. According to the Diary of Roger B. Farquhar, Sr., father of the Author, the Committee was composed of George E. Brooke of Brooke Grove, William Henry Farquhar of The Cedars, Richard Kirk of Fair Hill, and Henry C. Hallowell of Rockland.

Charles Farquhar’s portion was valued at $40.00 per acre. Granville, another son, was assigned the same acreage valued at $40.00 per acre; and Roger, the eldest son, was assigned 229 acres fronting on both sides of Rock Creek, valued at $25.00 per acre. This last portion was developed by Roger into the Rock Spring farm where land recently has been sold at an alleged price of $1,500 per acre.

The portion which Charles received ran along the east side of the Olney Pike from the portion Granville received—now the famous Olney Inn—to the Old Baltimore Road. He built a small frame house, where he lived for many years as a bachelor, called his home "Menden," studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and practiced for some years. Late in life he married, and sold his Menden farm to George Nicholson, a highly regarded citizen, and bought Old Olney, home of his mother.

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Beane bought the place