

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**FOR**

**CHARLES OURSLER JR. FARMHOUSE**

**15435 GOOD HOPE ROAD, CLOVERLY**

Montgomery County Survey Prefix & Site Number: M-28/29

Approximate Building Date: circa 1890, altered 1990s

Town or Vicinity in which Resource is Located: Cloverly

Access: Private

The Charles Oursler House, built ca. 1890, is a heavily altered three-story frame house located on an approximately two-acre site just off Good Hope Road. The overall symmetry and tall side-gabled form of the Oursler house resembles the "Spencerville Style," a local identification of buildings characterized by their three-story height and half-windows at the third level. However, the integrity of the design has been significantly impaired by modern alterations and additions. The construction of a large modern Colonial Revival two-story garage/guest house just to the south of the original farmhouse further diminishes the building's integrity by significantly altering the immediate physical setting of the building and the remaining open acreage of the farmstead.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

DOE  yes  no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Charles Oursler House

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 15435 Good Hope Road  not for publication

city, town Silver Spring  vicinity of congressional district 8

state MD county Montgomery

### 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Alan Williams and Cheryl Talar-Williams

street & number 15435 Good Hope Road telephone no.: \

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code MD 20904

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 6084

street & number 51 Monroe Street folio 840

city, town Rockville state MD

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Montgomery County Locational Atlas of Historic Sites

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records M-NCPPC

city, town Silver Spring state MD

# 7. Description

Survey No.

M: 28 29

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Charles Oursler House, built ca. 1890, is a heavily altered three-story frame house located on an approximately two-acre site just off Good Hope Road. The building may have had a design similar to the Spencer-Carr House (Master Plan Site #15-55). The overall symmetry and tall side-gabled form of the Oursler house resembles the "Spencerville Style," a local identification of buildings characterized by their three-story height and half-windows at the third level. However, the integrity of the design has been significantly impaired by modern alterations and additions.

The present Oursler house has a simple rectangular ground plan with a two-story rear shed addition. It is a side-gabled, three-story house with clapboard walls (now covered with aluminum siding) and has a standing seam metal roof. A covered walkway connects the original farmhouse to a large new Colonial Revival two-story, three bay garage/guest house.

The building's principle elevation faces Good Hope Road to the west and is dominated by a massive three-story colonnaded porch. The facade is three bays wide and has four full-length aluminum columns supporting the shed roof of the porch. The double-door entry has a simple transom surmounted by a decorative balcony and has fixed louvered side shutters. The flanking first floor and tripartite rank of windows on the second and third stories of the main three-bay facade are rectangular and have double-hung sash with two-over-two lights and louvered shutters.

The north gable end facade has paired windows at each level with the same two-over-two window design as the principal facade. A two-story addition with a shed roof has been attached to the rear facade of the house. This addition has been surrounded by a veranda on the first level and has flanking balustraded porches on the second level. There are doors with fixed louvers on each side of the addition on both levels leading out to these outdoor spaces. One two-over-two window with louvered shutters is placed on the third level and on the rear of the addition on the second floor.

# 8. Significance

Survey No.

M: 28-29

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates**      ca. 1890      **Builder/Architect**      Unknown

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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

Summary: The Oursler farmhouse has been extensively remodeled into a modern Colonial Revival suburban house and and no longer represents a distinctive type, period and method of design or construction. The construction of a large modern Colonial Revival two-story garage/guest house just to the south of the original farmhouse further diminishes the building's integrity by significantly altering the immediate physical setting of the building and the remaining open acreage of the farmstead.

Farmer Charles Oursler, Jr. probably built the house around 1890 as equity records indicate that a "... three story house recently built..." was sold to Charles Shaffer in 1891.<sup>1</sup> The house had been advertised at auction as a large three story house with eleven rooms including a kitchen, pantry, cellar and milk vault. The property also included a large bank barn and a complement of outbuildings that were not described.<sup>2</sup> The barn and the small outbuildings are no longer extant.



Continuation Sheet  
M: 28-29 - Charles Oursler House

Preservation Planning Data:

- a) Geographic Organization: Piedmont
- b) Chronological/Development Periods: Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
- c) Historic Period Themes: Architecture
- d) Resource Type: Farmhouse

Chain of Title/Owner Information:

Farmer Charles Oursler, Jr. built the house sometime between 1883 when he purchased 73 1/2 acres of land from John and Mary Phair for \$5,000 and 1891 when he defaulted on the mortgage. In that year the farm was purchased at auction by Charles Shaffer for \$4,405. Shaffer sold the property in 1897 and it went through a series of owners before James and Adaording bought the land in 1909 and lived until 1941. After another series of short-term owners, the property was purchased by Robert and Dorothy Fiske. They sold the house to the current owners Alan Williams and Cheryl Talar-Williams.

Cited Land Records from Crawford, MHT Form (1/83).

Equity 974/1891	Montgomery County Judgment Records
Deed EPB 29/25	Montgomery County Land Records
Equity #947, Ja 7/110	Montgomery County Judgment Records
Deed Ja 60/116	Montgomery County Land Records
Deed 202/320	Montgomery County Land Records
842/231	
Deed 3265/69	Montgomery County Land Records

**Endnotes**

- 1 Equity #947-1891, Montgomery County, Judgment Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, MD.
- 2 Equity #947, Ja 7/110, Montgomery County, Judgment Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, MD.

Continuation Sheet

M: 28-29 - Charles Oursler House

Section 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Page 9.1

Unpublished Sources

Crawford, Catherine. Maryland Historical Trust Form for the Charles Oursler House, 1983. (MHT)

Deeds, Land Records Office. (Montgomery County Courthouse)

Equity Records (Montgomery County Courthouse)

Robinson & Associates. Locational Atlas Historical Survey of 400 Resources, Survey Form, Summer 1989.

Published Sources

Hiebert, Ray Eldon and Richard K. MacMaster. **A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland.** Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Oursler Farmhouse

and/or common 15505 Good Hope Rd.

### 2. Location

street & number 15505 Good Hope Rd.    not for publication

city, town Silver Spring    vicinity of    congressional district 5th

state Maryland county Montgomery

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture	<u>  </u> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial	<u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment	<u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government	<u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial	<u>  </u> transportation
	<u>  </u> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<u>  </u> military	<u>  </u> other:

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

name Robert H. & Dorothy L. Fisk

street & number 15505 Good Hope Rd. telephone no.: 384-5665

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code Md., 20904

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mont. Co. Court House 3265

street & number       liber 69

city, town Rockville state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MNCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

date 1976    federal  state  county    local

pository for survey records Park Historian's Office

city, town Rockville state Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

M:28-29

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a three-and-a-half story, three-bay frame house with an interior chimney on the north end and an exterior chimney on the south end. It has an enclosed porch running across the main (west) facade.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8. Significance

Survey No.

M. 28-29

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates circa. 1890

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

The Oursler Farmhouse is significant as an example of vernacular farm architecture typical of that constructed in Montgomery County from the mid-nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries. Its architectural styling and full three stories in height is particular to the Spencerville area (see William Spencer Hs., #15-55). The house was probably built by Charles Oursler, Jr., a farmer, about 1890.<sup>1</sup> Charles built his house on 73 1/2 acres of land which he purchased from John and Mary Phair in 1883 for \$5000.00.<sup>2</sup>

In 1891, Charles and his wife, Amelia, defaulted on their mortgage and the house was put up for sale. It was advertised as a farm on 73 1/2 acres on the road leading to the Laurel Rd. about one mile from Spencerville. The improvements consisted of a recently built, large, three story house of eleven rooms, kitchen, pantry, cellar and milk vault. Also on the property was a large bank barn and all the necessary outbuildings. Most of the property was under cultivation with the balance in orchards and woodland. The farm was purchased by Charles Shaffer for \$4405.00.<sup>3</sup>

Shaffer sold the house in 1897 and it went through a succession of owners.<sup>4</sup> It was owned for 32 years by James and Ada Harding from 1909 until 1941 after which time it again passed through a succession of owners.<sup>5</sup> It was purchased in 1964 by the present owners, Robert and Dorothy Fisk.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The date given is based on the equity case in which Oursler's house was sold to Shaffer #974-1891 which states, "...three story house recently built.."

<sup>2</sup>Deed EBP 29/25, Mont. Co. Land Records.

<sup>3</sup>Equity #947, Ja 7/110, Mont. Co. Judgement Records.

<sup>4</sup>Deed Ja 60/116, Mont. Co. Land Records.

<sup>5</sup>Deed 202/320, " "

842/231, " "

<sup>6</sup>Deed 3265/69, " "





**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**  
**STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FORM**  
**LOCATIONAL MAP**

**SURVEY NO.:** M. 28/29  
**PROPERTY NAME:** Oursler Farmhouse  
**TOWN:** Silver Spring  
**COUNTY:** MONTGOMERY  
**QUADRANGLE:** Beltsville, MD



M-

28-29, DUNSTON HOUSE, KENT ST, W

MAY 1994, Mrs. EDWARDS

VIEW EAST (WEST ELEV.)

NEG.: MD SHPO

1 OF 3



M-

28-29, OURSLER HOUSE, MONTGOMERY CO, MD

MAY 1994, WM. BUSHONG

VIEW SOUTHEAST (NORTHWEST  
ELEV.)

NEG: MD SHPO

2 OF 3



M-

28-29 JORSLER HOUSE, Mountain View, VA

MAY 1994, WM. BUSHONG

VIEW SOUTHWEST (NORTHEAST  
ELEV.)

NEG. 1 MD SHPO

3 OF 3



#28-29

NAME

LOCATION 15505 GOOD HOPE Rd. SPENCERVILLE, Md.

FACADE W.

PHOTO TAKEN 3/27/73 M. DWYER