Easement

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 11-90)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to compete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Avery, Capt. Salem, House

Other names/site number: National Masonic Fishing and Country Club, AA-65

2. Location

Street & Number: 1418 East West Shady Side Road [N/A] Not for Publication

City or town: Shady Side [N/A] Vicinity

State: Maryland Code: MD County: Anne Arundel Code: 003 Zip Code: 20764

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [✓] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [✓] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [✓] locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

11-4-05

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
[ ] entered in the National Register.		
( ) see continuation sheet		
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register		
( ) see continuation sheet		
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register		
[ ] removed from the National Register		
[ ] other, (explain:)		

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
[X] Private	[X] Building(s)	4	1 Buildings
[ ] Public-Local	[ ] District		Sites
[ ] Public-State	[ ] Site	1	Structure
[ ] Public-Federal	[ ] Structure		Objects
	[ ] Object	5	1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing
N/A

Number of contributing Resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling	RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum
DOMESTIC/Seasonal residence	
SOCIAL/Clubhouse	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Other: I-house	foundation: BRICK
Other: Early-twentieth century	walls: WOOD: Weatherboard
	roof: ASPHALT
	other: METAL

Narrative Description

Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets

[X] See Continuation Sheet

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.)

[X] **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 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)

RECREATION/CULTURE
MARITIME HISTORY

Periods of Significance

1860-1950

Significant Dates

1860
1923

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A
N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

[X] See Continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographic References

[X] See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

[ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
[ ] previously listed in the NR
[ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
[ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
[ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____

[ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of add. data:
[ ] State SHPO office
[ ] Other State agency
[ ] Federal agency
[X] Local government
[ ] University
[X] Other
Specify repository:
Shady Side Rural Heritage Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately ¾ acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	368790	4301212	3	///	///////	////////
2	///	///////	////////	4	///	///////	////////

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is identified among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Maryland as Lot 24, Allview Manor, Parcel 594, Block 5, Map 69.

[ ] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property, approximately ¾ acre, represents the property historically associated with the Captain Salem Avery House since the original construction of the building in 1860.

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Janet L. Emery and Laura H. Hughes, Architectural Historians
Organization EHT Traceries, Inc. Date May 2004
Street & Number 1121 Fifth Street, NW Telephone (202) 393-1199
City or Town Washington State District of Columbia Zip code 20001

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Shady Side Rural Heritage Society
street & number 1418 East West Shady Side Road, PO Box 89 telephone (410) 867-4486
city or town Shady Side state Maryland zip code 20764

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of the Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Currently operated by the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, the Captain Salem Avery House is a two-story frame building dating to 1860 with later additions. The property is located near McKinley Point on the southern bank of the West River at 1418 East West Shady Side Road, in Shady Side, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The property is situated in the center of a ¾- acre rectangular lot, and its northern edge fronts on the West River with a view of the Chesapeake Bay. The water's edge is built up with stone and an L-shaped pier extends into the water. The lots surrounding the Captain Salem Avery House are developed with residential structures varying in age, placement, and design.

The property consists of the main house with additions; three sheds formerly used as bath houses; and a modern boathouse built in 1993, featuring the locally built *Edna Florence*, a 1937 deadrise workboat. The two-story house comprises two major portions: the original residence, constructed c. 1860 and expanded later in the 19th century, and the large east wing added c. 1927 by the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club, a subsequent owner. Resting on a brick pier foundation covered with pressed metal that imitates rusticated concrete block, the exterior of the building is covered in weatherboard and void of ornamentation. The gable roof of the house is covered in asphalt shingles and runs on an east-west axis. One, interior-end brick chimney is at the west elevation.

EXTERIOR

Captain Salem Avery House

Built c.1860, the original residence consisted of a single-pile house with a stair passage and loft above, and a detached kitchen located to the east of the house. During Avery's occupation a one-story addition was built onto the east side of the house which connected it to the detached kitchen. By c.1880 this addition was raised to a full two-story height, giving the house a hall-and-parlor plan. The original Avery house was moved several times since its construction, due to the erosion from the bay and its rivers.[1] Renovations and additions made to the house likely coincided with when the house was moved.

A screened porch added c.1923 extends the full length of the first story at the north elevation and remains flush with the adjacent c. 1927 wing. The shed roof of the porch is supported by square posts. A two-foot high knee wall covered in weatherboard runs the perimeter of the porch. A wood-screened door serves as the entrance to the porch and faces north towards the West River. Once inside the porch, an entrance to the house is gained through a modern, two-light, four-panel door which is set slightly off-center. The

second story of the north elevation is pierced by four bays. These four openings are symmetrically placed 6/6 windows flanked by wood louvered shutters with squared edge wood surrounds, and are protected by metal storm windows.

The east elevation of the Avery House is now covered by the c.1927 National Masonic Fishing and Country Club addition.

A shed addition is present at the first floor of the south elevation in this portion of the Avery House. Openings within the shed addition are an off-center modern door with a screen door that is flanked by two, single-paned, casement windows with square edged wooden surrounds. Based on historic photos, the c.1860s/1880 Avery House once had an open porch with turned posts and chamfered stops on this elevation of the house, before it was incorporated into the enclosed shed addition. The second story at the south elevation is pierced by four, 6/6 windows with square edged wood trim.

The west elevation consists of the gable end of the 1875 portion of the building, a section of the screen porch at the north elevation, as well as a section of the shed addition at the south elevation. Clad in weatherboard, this elevation is pierced by one window at the first story and two windows at the second story. All of the windows are four-paned fixed windows, each surrounded with square edged wood trim. Historic photos reveal that these windows were added by c. 1927. A brick chimney is located within the interior gable end of this elevation. The shed addition is built on a concrete block foundation and is clad in weatherboard. The roof of the shed addition and porch are covered in asphalt shingles.

National Masonic Fishing and Country Club Additions

Beginning c.1923, a series of additions was made to the original Avery house by the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club, including a large, two-story wing built on the east elevation c. 1927. Resting on a brick pier foundation covered in pressed metal to imitate concrete block, the exterior is covered in weatherboard. Symbolic of the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club occupation, an engraved cornerstone depicting a fish is located at the northeast corner of the north elevation. Four bays pierce both the first and second stories of the north elevation. These openings are 6/6 windows with squared edge wood surrounds. The principal gable of this addition runs on an east-west axis, and its roof is covered in asphalt shingles.

The east elevation consists of the gable end of the c.1927 wing addition and a portion of the 1998

addition. Two, 6/6 windows pierce the first story, and one, 6/6 window pierces the second story of the east elevation. The ghost of an exterior door is also visible on this elevation, in between the windows on the first story.

The first story at the south elevation in this portion of the house consists of the c.1923 shed addition. It was later expanded to encompass the full width of the south elevation. Three, single-paned, casement windows and an offset modern door are located within the shed addition. The door is accessed on the exterior by a handicap ramp. The second story at the south elevation is pierced by four, 6/6 windows.

The west elevation is largely made up of the original section of the house, with the exception of the windows. Historic photographs indicate that the three windows within the original section were likely added around the same time as the c.1927 addition by the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club. One, 6/6 window is visible at the second story of the west elevation of the large c.1927 wing addition.

1950s Additions
In the 1950s, changes were made to the building such as the addition of asbestos shingle siding, decorative wood work, sliding glass doors on the north elevation, and an in-ground swimming pool at the water's edge. These changes were removed during the 1989-1992 Shady Side Rural Heritage Society renovation.

Shady Side Rural Heritage Society Additions
In 1989 the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, Inc. purchased the property and began a large renovation that lasted until 1992. After consulting numerous historic photographs, oral histories, and the historic sites planner for Anne Arundel County, the building was restored to its c. 1927 appearance. At the same time, the building was fitted with modern heat and electricity. Following its restoration, the house opened as the Captain Salem Avery House and Museum, and in 1998 the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society added a two-story section to the south elevation.

In 1998, a two-story addition with a gable roof was constructed on the southeast corner of the south elevation, giving the overall plan of the Captain Salem Avery House and Museum an L-shape. Built on a concrete block foundation, the exterior walls are clad in weatherboard. The gable roof of this addition runs on a north-south axis, perpendicular to the principal gable of the rest of the house, and is covered in asphalt shingles. Two, 6/6 windows pierce the second story of the south elevation. The windows have squared edge wooden surrounds and are protected by metal storm windows. A flight of open wooden stairs with wooden railings and plain balustrade, leads to a modern door at the east elevation of the second

story and opens into the library.

OUTBUILDINGS

Bath Houses/Sheds

Southeast of the building are three sheds that were constructed and used as bath houses during the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club occupation. They are one-room structures clad in vertical boards with gable roofs covered in asphalt shingles. Wooden plank doors serve as the only openings to the sheds. During the 1992 renovation, concrete slab floors were poured to serve as the foundations.

Boat Shed

The boat shed was constructed in 1993. The frame building is open on its west elevation. The building is clad in weatherboard and the salt-box shed roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The boat shed houses one of the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society's principal exhibits, the *Edna Florence*, a 40-foot Chesapeake Bay deadrise work boat. Constructed by Parrish Creek Captain Perry Rogers in 1937, the boat was built for Herbie Sadler of Eastport, a well known waterman and seafood dealer, who used the boat for harvesting all types of seafood.[2] The shed also houses a sneak boat and waterman's tools.

INTERIOR

Captain Salem Avery House

The interior of the Avery House section of the building is based on a single pile, hall and parlor plan with an enclosed stair. A wood-turned handrail runs the length of the stairs, adorned with a square newel post and square balusters. A closet fills the space beneath the stair on the first floor and opens into the hall. Within this room are period antiques and a Franklin stove that no longer functions.

The hall is located to the east of the front entrance and is slightly larger than the parlor. It houses a non-functioning wood stove and kitchen furnishings of the period. Architectural evidence suggests that there used to be a larger hearth area associated with a previous chimney and fireplace on the eastern interior end of the room. Eventually, the chimney and hearth were converted to a flue, which serviced a stove for heating. Most likely, this change occurred when the house was moved (c.1870). Flooring throughout this section of the house is random-width, painted wood boards. Interior detailing is modest, yet functional,

such as square-edged window surrounds, corner blocks, butt door hinges, and box locks with porcelain knobs typical of the late 19th century.

Approximately eight feet wide, the shed addition is accessible on the interior by doors from both the hall and parlor rooms, and is now used as a gift shop for the museum.

The second floor of the Avery House section of the building has three rooms, one above the hall and two smaller rooms above the parlor, used today by the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society for exhibits. The larger room above the hall in this section has a small door leading to the c.1927 east wing.

Ceilings in the second floor are seven feet high. Floor boards at the second floor are larger on the west side than they are on the east side, further substantiating that the west portion of the house is older than the east portion. In addition, a cut-out in the wall of the small room in the northwest corner reveals that the original wall system of the house was circular sawn lath, secured with machine-cut nails and covered with plaster made of horse hair and oyster shells.

National Masonic Fishing and Country Club Additions

The interior of the large c.1927 east-wing addition consists of a large great room accessible from the front porch and the rear shed wing. This room measures 40' x 30' and has a ceiling height of ten feet. The great room displays an open wood-truss ceiling. The flooring is two-inch wide oak boards. Open-string stairs are located in the northeast and southwest corners of the room and are adorned with square balusters and a square newel post. Originally used by the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club to play games on a large pedestal table,[3] the c.1927 great-room addition is now used for educational programs, special events, and exhibits.

The rear shed wing is accessible by two doorways and was used as a kitchen by the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club. This area is now used as a commercial kitchen for the museum.

The second floor area directly above the great room once accommodated eight dormitory rooms for the members and their families.[4] In 1992, it was renovated to serve as offices, collections storage for the museum, as well as a two-room private apartment.

Shady Side Rural Heritage Society Addition

The 1998 addition houses bathrooms, closets and utility closets on the first floor, as well as office and library space on the second floor.

ENDNOTES

[1]Erwood Avery. Oral History. As transcribed to the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society. Shady Side, MD: Shady Side Rural Heritage Society.

[2] Barbara Owings, Correspondence to Donna Ware regarding the proposed boat shed, May 22, 1992, Shady Side Rural Heritage Society.

[3] Virginia White Fitz, *Captain Salem Avery House* (Shady Side, MD: Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, 1991), p. 28.

[4] Fitz, *Captain Salem Avery House*, p. 28.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Captain Salem Avery House is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the maritime history and recreational development of the Chesapeake Bay region. The property is associated with the small-scale, water-based industries which typified rural communities on the Western Shore of the Chesapeake Bay in the latter half of the nineteenth century, and its subsequent transition to recreational use represents a trend which began to affect the region in the early 20th century.

From its earliest use as a waterman's home, to its later use as a clubhouse, the transition of the property over time reflects the growth of Shady Side, Maryland as both a waterman's village in the late-nineteenth century and a resort town during the twentieth century. The lives of Shady Side residents have always revolved around the water. Shady Side watermen have relied on the water for their livelihood, while residents and visitors have turned to the water for recreational purposes. Alterations and modifications to the property reflect the changing tastes and needs of its residents, whether it was the Captain Salem Avery family, the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club, members of "Our Place", or the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society. Suggestive of the continuous occupation of the property, the period of significance of the Captain Salem Avery House is 1860-1950, a testament to the versatility, adaptability and value of the property.

Captain Salem Avery is an example of a typical Shady Side resident from the nineteenth century. Originally from Long Island, Avery moved to the area and worked as an oysterman, contributing to the total of nearly 20 million bushels of oysters harvested annually in the late-nineteenth century in the Chesapeake Bay.[1] Like others, Avery did what he could to supplement his income, including operating a buy boat, and teaching his sons to also become watermen. Avery's home presents a good illustration of a late-nineteenth century waterman's residence along the Western Shore of Maryland. Its simple construction and vernacular design reflect the utilitarian focus on function rather than form typical of the waterman lifestyle.

The Chesapeake Bay area, and specifically Shady Side, became a profitable location for a waterman to make a living in the nineteenth century because of the proximity to the canning operations in nearby Annapolis and Baltimore, and the high demand Washington, D.C. market. Gradually, a small, yet fruitful

industry developed as people moved to the area to work in the various maritime enterprises. A major contributor to the growth of Shady Side was steamboats. At a time prior to paved roads or automobiles in the area, steamboats kept Shady Side viable by transporting large quantities of produce and livestock from the area to the Baltimore factories, and by bringing people from Baltimore and Washington to the peninsula.

Shady Side was well known by the end of the nineteenth century not only as a port for watermen, but also as a summer resort. Once the automobile replaced the steamboat as the primary means of transportation, Shady Side and the rest of the Western Shore region continued to thrive because it was, geographically, the closest beach from Baltimore and Washington. The use of the Captain Salem Avery House as a clubhouse for over sixty years reflects the importance of water, recreation, and leisure-time activities in relation to the development of Shady Side as a resort area in the twentieth century.

CAPTAIN SALEM AVERY and AVERY FAMILY OCCUPATION (1860-1921)

The Avery family emigrated from England and settled on Long Island, where they were associated for many generations with seafaring and land ownership. Salem Avery was born in Blue Point, New York, in 1831, one of nine children born to William and Mary Ann Avery. Growing up in a family of watermen, Salem learned how to make a living from other members of his family. Salem's uncle, Joseph Avery, was known for introducing the Blue Point oyster to Long Island; it eventually became a leading Long Island export before it was largely depleted by parasites, and starfish.[2] Like others in the family, Salem and his brothers were raised to become sea captains.

Oystering in Long Island was a profitable business for much of the first half of the nineteenth century. Oystermen brought in as many as 200 bushels per day.[3] By the end of the century however, the northern oyster stock was largely depleted. Many northern oystermen thus began extending their operations south to the Chesapeake Bay. They would then transport the oysters back north to meet their demands as well as supplement and increase the existing oyster supply.[4] In 1857 Salem Avery, aged 26 years, left Blue Point in search of land along the east coast where he could settle. Avery chose to settle in an area on the Chesapeake known as "The Swamp," near McKinley Point on the southern bank of the West River. As

the name implies, land in this area was difficult to traverse, forcing people to use the water as their primary means of transportation.

Salem Avery married Lucretia Weedon in 1857. Three years later, they bought an 8 4/5- acre parcel from Peter Evans, originally part of a 250-acre patent known as "Parrishes Park," named after the area's first pioneer, Edward Parrish, a Quaker.[5] In 1860 they built a one-room house with a loft above and a detached kitchen. Salem and Lucretia had nine children of which two died in infancy. To accommodate the size of their family, the house eventually became a full two-story I-house with a hall and parlor plan. Salem Avery died in 1887 leaving his entire estate to Lucretia. In 1896, the Avery's youngest son, Andrew Nelson Avery, inherited the homestead, while the other pieces of land were divided among his brothers and sisters. Andrew Avery lived in the house with his wife, Augusta, until he began selling off the property in 1900. Mary Griffith bought the homestead in 1921 from Andrew Avery, and later sold it to James A. Coates, her son. One year later James Coates sold the property to the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club, Inc. of Washington, D.C.

The Life of a Waterman

The fishing and oystering industry has long been critical to the economic stability and development of the area. During the eighteenth century, the economy of Anne Arundel County was diverse-- based on grain, tobacco, and fishing. Tobacco production ultimately contributed to the decline of the economy however, because it largely wore out the soil and thus prohibited the harvest of other crops. Eventually, as farmers experimented with the application of lime, the soil was restored and successfully reaped many fruits and truck products.[6] During these times of agricultural misfortune and resurgence, the waterman of Anne Arundel County helped to keep the economy afloat by their continued and successful seafood harvests.

In the late-nineteenth century most men of "The Swamp" were employed in farming or maritime professions because it enabled them to live off the land.[7] Land in "The Swamp" proved difficult to farm because of its name-sake conditions. Families supplemented their farming enterprises with maritime-related work. Residents also needed to be self-sufficient because other markets were largely inaccessible by land. Salem Avery for example, owned a 70-acre plot of land known as "Swamp Farm," located in the

center of the peninsula. By owning the farm, Avery was able to feed his family with what he caught at sea and harvested from the farm.

A waterman made his living by fishing, crabbing, and oystering according to the season. Days were long for a waterman, and the work was labor intensive. The Salem Avery house is a good example of an intact and well-preserved watermen's residence. Others examples are known to exist in St. Michaels, Tilghman, Cambridge, Hoopers Island, Crisfield, Solomons, and many other bayside towns.[8] Most watermen were independent fishermen that owned their own boat and equipment. During their off seasons, some watermen were boat builders or carpenters, making new vessels for their subsequent season.[9] Watermen in Anne Arundel County for example, were known to build log canoes, skiffs (before 1900), and "bateaus," recognized today as modern deadrise workboats.[10]

Captain Salem Avery was a waterman because it was a tradition of his family. Avery also passed the tradition on to his sons, William Edward, Alonzo and Salem Walter, listed as "oystermen" in the 1880 census.[11] Together, the Avery men ran a four-man operation; Captain Avery would fish in areas further north and south, while his sons would stay in local waters.[12] Operations were easily divided because Avery owned two boats. Although Avery began his career as an oysterman, he later became a buy boat captain. As a the operator of a buy boat, Avery bought the catch from other boats and transported them to Baltimore, Norfolk, Crisfield or Annapolis where they would be sold or canned by another operation. This enabled Avery to work year-round because he was no longer limited by the eight-month-long oyster season. Merchants and residents alike would pay Avery for transporting cargo of all kinds to and from nearby ports to Baltimore and Annapolis.

Although oysters were canned as early as 1820, it did not become a significant industry in Baltimore until 1850.[13] The industrialization of the United States after the Civil War brought about widespread mechanization of systems, as well as motorized vehicles and watercraft, all of which allowed for the further expansion of the fisheries market. Goods could be packed, shipped, and canned more efficiently than ever before, further increasing production. Families throughout the area opened independent packing and picking businesses as Shady Side became known as an established fishing and port village.

SHADY SIDE IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

Steamboats and the Resort Community of Shady Side

Although the first steamboat to sail the Chesapeake Bay crossed the Bay from Baltimore to Annapolis in 1813, it was not until after the Industrial Revolution that steamboats became a common sight on the Chesapeake Bay and in its tributaries.[14] The *Emma Giles* steamboat made her inaugural trip to Annapolis, South River, and West River on March 27, 1891, and eventually served as the main boat operating on the West River connecting the various ports to Annapolis and Baltimore.[15] Steamboat landings were often located in proximity to railroads, allowing people from varying distances to connect with water transport. Not only did the steamboat bring visitors to the area, but also, as David Holly writes, "brought urbanity, style, new cultural patterns, to the slowly changing rhythm of rural existence."[16]

Just as the fishing and oyster industry was a catalyst for the development of Shady Side as a waterman's village, the steamboat was largely responsible for the development of Shady Side as a resort town in the twentieth century. Following the celebration of the nation's centennial in 1876, "the mood along the eastern seaboard was to capitalize on the experience of Coney Island and other resorts in the New York, Delaware, and New England areas."[17] The emerging middle class populations of Baltimore and Washington were enjoying their newly-afforded leisure time, and sought "escape excursions" such as public beaches, steamboat rides, and other social activities. Officially named Shady Side in 1888, visitors came to the area by steamboat for all of the amusements the water afforded, such as swimming, boating, and crabbing.

As the demand for lodging increased, many year-round occupants of Shady Side took on summer boarders or built new "boarding houses" specifically for housing visitors to the area. By the beginning of the twentieth century there were eight boarding houses on the peninsula.[18] Much like hotels, these houses contained rooms that were available by the day or by the week, with meals available for a small fee. Local resident Robert Nowell for example, operated a boarding house with rooms available for "ten dollars per week, two dollars per day, and a daily boat trip to Beverly Beach for swimming included."[19]

As the oyster industry began to decline, there began a steady growth "in the business of providing

recreation to 'outsiders.'"[20] Automobiles became more prevalent, and eventually replaced the steamboat as the primary means of transportation for Shady Side visitors. The village began to change because of its easier accessibility; it became a permanent location for families that were formerly only temporary visitors. In a 1941 *Baltimore Sun* article columnist Folger McKinsey described that "the purpose" of Shady Side was "to furnish Baltimore, Washington, Pennsylvania, and Virginia tourists with a place to fish and swim and keep cool and have fun."[21]

New housing developments along the waterfront became common in the 1920s and 1930s. Communities such as Idlewilde, Snug Harbor, Avalon Shores, and Cedarhurst all emerged along the Western Shore during this time. In addition to average citizens, Washington politicians and well-known celebrities would come to the shore for vacation. Babe Ruth, for example, was known to vacation in Cedarhurst,[22] while Paul Robeson, Langston Hughes, and Booker T. Washington were all known to have vacationed in Highland Beach.[23]

Despite its welcoming reputation, many beaches along the Western Shore barred Jewish visitors and African Americans. Such discrimination was common even in Baltimore and Washington during the period. In response, many Jewish families visited public beaches such as Tolchester, Bay Shore, Fort Smallwood, Bay Ridge, and Fairwood.[24] It was at this time that areas such as Columbia and Highland Beaches were created specifically as "developments for colored people."[25] Restricted beaches continued to exist in southern Anne Arundel County through the 1950s.[26]

The National Masonic Fishing and Country Club

In 1920 a group of members of the National Masonic Lodge #12 in Washington, D.C., formed a fishing club[27] whose purpose was to "promote good fellowship, and to assist in enforcing the laws governing fishing and hunting."[28] Named the National Lodge Fishing Club, it was limited to 30 members; all were middle-class professionals, and were considered prominent Washingtonians. Two of the members in the early years of the club were brothers Henry J. Gompers, who served as President, and S.J. Gompers. Their father was Samuel Gompers, first President of the American Federation of Labor (1886-1924).[29] In 1927 the name of the club was changed to the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club.

Grand Master J. Claude Kriper took the first official notice of the growing activity of Masonic clubs in Washington, D.C in the early twentieth century.[30] These clubs owed their existence to the Grand Lodge for granting permission to organize and meet independently from regular Mason meetings. Although the Grand Lodge encouraged clubs that brought together Masons from different lodges in the District of Columbia, the Grand Lodge looked with less favor upon the establishment of clubs subordinate to national or regional club organizations with headquarters outside of the area, such as the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club. Nevertheless, the National Masonic Fishing Club received permission to hold meetings as well as use the Masonic name in their club title.

A 1927 *Washington Times* article reported that recreational and social clubs such as this "own and operate to the general uplift and health of many citizens," and that "within the past ten years more than a thousand members of fishing clubs were registered."[31] Social clubs such as the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club offered their members an opportunity for recreation, camaraderie, and association that many people at this time enjoyed. Members had much in common in that they had similar backgrounds, were from the same geographic location, were of the same class, and were all professionals.

After looking at many different locations for their clubhouse, the Club settled on the Captain Salem Avery property in Shady Side, Maryland because it offered precisely what they were looking for in terms of space and setting. In order to raise money for the purchase of the clubhouse, they incorporated, issued stocks, and secured a loan. According to the by-laws, each member had to acquire "one share of stock of the par value of $100.00 before being entitled to the privileges of the club."[32] By 1927 the mortgage was paid, and subsequently burned in celebration.[33]

Because most of the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club members were Jewish, [34] they were prohibited from fishing on many public beaches. Discrimination was handled in different ways. According to one author, "the Washington Jews solved the problem to some extent by organizing their own clubs."[35] By joining together and buying property, members ensured themselves the same freedoms as non-Jews, such as enjoying the water related activities of the bay. Similar to the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club, the Town and Country Club of Montgomery County, Maryland bought a house on a golf course in Petworth, Maryland so that the facility would also be available to their family members. [36] The Town and Country Club organized in 1916 with membership also limited to only men.

Initially only "long-established" Jews were members of fraternal organizations. They were thought to have "thoroughly adapted to the values and morés of the local non-Jewish population and had given up the external signs of Jewish difference."[37] By the mid-twentieth century Jews began to challenge the existing barriers that prohibited them from aspects of mainstream society. Jews became active in public life and likewise, fraternal organizations like the Masons were asked to welcome more Jewish members.[38] These groups allowed a release from the pressures of daily life, and were social or recreational in nature. Many organizations such as the Masons, had local units almost wholly Jewish in composition, and were still considered non-sectarian.[39]

After buying the Shady Side clubhouse, several changes were made to provide accommodations for members and their families. One of the changes was out of necessity: the house needed to be moved because of the rising river water. Wilbur Dunn, a son of one of the original National Masonic Fishing and Country Club members, related that during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, the house "was about a quarter mile out in the bay, out in the river, and they kept moving it back as the land washed away."[40] According to Dunn, the house has remained in its same location since at least 1926. Since then, efforts to protect the waterfront have been put in place.

Changes to the house also included the construction of a two-story addition on the east elevation of the house. All of the changes highlighted the communal and campy feel of the clubhouse. For example, the first floor of the original house was the kids' dormitory; the boys were on one side and the girls were on the other. The area above the great room was a space for families. Each family had a double bed with a partition in between their space and that for another family.[41] Likewise, a shed addition was added to the south elevation and served as a kitchen, with as many as ten refrigerators and sets of cabinets in the room, one for each family.

Indicative of their Masonic heritage, during the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club occupation, a cornerstone was laid in the northeast corner of the north elevation. The concrete cornerstone depicts a fish, symbolic of the club's primary activity. The tradition of laying cornerstones by the Masons goes back to the tenth century in England. Stone masons rebuilt hundreds of cites that were destroyed by war and left special marks in buildings to identify them as works of the Masons.[42]

SHADY SIDE IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

"Our Place"

Eventually, the relationship of the Club with the Masons diminished, and by the 1950s there were no longer any references to Masons in its by-laws. As a result, the members changed the name of the club to "Our Place." The focus of the organization became more family oriented, with an emphasis on family activities and recreation. In the 1970s a swimming pool was added in front of the house. Another modification to the clubhouse was several sliding glass doors on the north elevation. During the 1970s renovations the clubhouse finally received indoor plumbing.[43]

By 1977, the club was still well attended. An example of a motion from that time requested that the "club on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays limits each member to a maximum of ten guests…," a member being classified as "selves, wives, and dependent children under 25."[44]

Similar to National Masonic Fishing and Country Club members, Our Place members were also considered prominent citizens in society. For example, Our Place members Albert Sheinbaum and Mel Foer were the originators of Melart Jewelers, a chain of jewelry stores in the Washington, D.C. area.[45]

Ultimately, interest and membership in Our Place decreased as original members passed away. Ron Sheinbaum, son of past President Art Sheinbaum, explained that Our Place was his "parents' place," and that the camaraderie was gone.[46]

Shady Side Rural Heritage Society

In 1988 owners of Our Place contacted Anne Arundel County Councilwoman Virginia Clagett and Historic Sites Planner, Donna Ware, about the potential sale of the property. The Our Place articles of incorporation required that the property be conveyed to a non-profit organization. The Shady Side Rural Heritage Society was subsequently contacted about buying the property. Dedicated to the preservation,

documentation, and education about Shady Side, Maryland, the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society acquired the Our Place property in 1989. The Society was able to purchase the property with financial support from individuals and agencies such as the Maryland Historical Trust and Anne Arundel County.

During 1989-1992, the Captain Salem Avery House underwent a restoration to return the house to its 1920s appearance. The historic sites planner for Anne Arundel County oversaw the restoration effort to ensure its accuracy. In 1992 the house opened as the Captain Salem Avery House and Museum. That same year, the area above the great room was converted into an apartment to sustain income for the museum, and in 1998, a two-story addition was made to the east elevation of the building, to create space for the library, bathrooms and utility rooms.

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[2] Virginia White Fitz, *Captain Salem Avery House Its History: 1860-1990* (Shady Side, MD: Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, 1991), p. 6.

[3] Virginia White Fitz, *Captain Salem Avery House*, p. 7.

[4] MacKenzie, Jr., "The History of the Oyster Fishery in U.S. Canadian Waters," p. 6.

[5] Fitz, *Captain Salem Avery House*, p. 4.

[6] David C. Holly, *Steamboats on the Chesapeake: Emma Giles and the Tolchester Line* (Centreville, MD: Tidewater Publishers, 1987), p. 263.

[7] Adjutant General, Enrollment Record AA: Election District 6, (Annapolis, MD: Maryland State Archives, 1862), {MSA s352-26, MD HR4042, 2/8/3/36}. As cited in Fitz, *Captain Salem Avery House*, pp. 9-11.

[8] Correspondence with Pete Lesher, Curator of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. June 23, 2004. Author's files.

[9] Scott Albright, "Watermen: Their Lifestyle's Fading, But Not Forgotten," *The Sunday Capital*, February 27, 2000.

[10] Correspondence with Pete Lesher.

[11] U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1880*.

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[13] Hugh M. Smith, "Oysters: The World's Most Valuable Water Crop" National Geographic Vol. 24 No. 3 (1913), p. 258.

[14] Holly, *Steamboats on the Chesapeake,* p. 8.

[15] Holly, *Steamboats on the Chesapeake*, p. 164.

[16] Holly, *Steamboats on the Chesapeake*, p. 245.

[17] Holly, *Steamboats on the Chesapeake*, p. 267.

[18] Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, "The Captain Salem Avery House and Museum: A Project by the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society," Shady Side Rural Heritage Society Library.

[19] Holly, *Steamboats on the Chesapeake,* p. 169.

[20] Richard J. Dodds, *Solomons Island and Vicinity: An Illustrated and Walking Tour*, (Solomons, Maryland: Calvert Marine Museum, 1995.

[21] As cited in Virginia White Fitz, *Spirit of Shady Side: Peninsula Life 1664-1984* (Shady Side, MD: Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, 1991), p.79.

[22] Liz Atwood, "Commuters Find Haven in Waterfront Refuge," *The Baltimore Sun*, August 21, 1994.

[23]Maryland Historical Trust, *Frederick Douglass Summer House National Register Nomination.* Obtained from www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net, accessed June 21, 2004.

[24]Gilbert Sandler, *Jewish Baltimore: A Family Album* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000), p. 116.

[25] Queenstown, Riviera Beach, Severn, Severna Park, Shady Side, Solley, Stanton, Town Neck, and Tracy's Landing Elementary Schools, *Discovering our School Communities,* Volume V, 1952-1953.

[26] Karen Falk and Avi Y. Decter, eds, *We Call This Place Home* (Maryland: The Jewish Museum of Maryland, 2002), p. 66.

[27] Gail T. Judd, "Growth of Club Traced," *Washington Times, Fisherman's Edition*, June 11, 1927.

[28] National Masonic Fishing and Country Club, *By-laws and Constitution of the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club, Inc.* (Washington, D.C.: National Masonic Fishing and Country Club, 1923).

[29] Fitz, *Captain Salem Avery House*, p. 24.

[30] Ray Baker Harris, *Sesqui-Centennial History of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia 1811-1961* (Washington, D.C.: Grand Lodge F.A.A.M, 1962), p. 93.

[31] "Club Holds Opening Today," *Washington Times, Fisherman's Edition*, June 11, 1927.

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[34] Erwood. Avery, Oral History, as transcribed by the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society. (Shady Side, MD: Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, 1984).

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[36]Jewish Museum of Maryland, "We Call This Place Home: Jewish Life in Maryland's Small Towns," exhibit presented by the Montgomery Country Historical Society (2004), Waters House at Pleasant Fields, Germantown, Maryland.

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[38]Falk and Decter, *We Call This Place Home*, 65.

[39] Stanley K. Bigman, *The Jewish Population of Greater Washington in 1956: A Report on an Interview Survey of Size, Social Characteristics, Residential Mobility, Community Participation, and Observance of Some Jewish Practices* (Washington, D.C.: The Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, 1957), 66.

[40] Also according to Dunn, the house used to be "out in the river a considerable distance," and "a well ring that used to be in the backyard" was visible in the water in front of the existing location of the house. Dunn Oral History, as transcribed to the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, Shady Side, MD: Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, 1988.

[41] Dunn Oral History.

[42] Ray Baker Harris, *The Laying of Cornerstones: Freemasonry's Part in Preserving the Practice of One of the World's Most Ancient Customs* (Washington, D.C.: Supreme Council 33° Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, 1961), p. 9.

[43] Dunn Oral History.

[44] Fitz, *Captain Salem Avery House*, p. 27.

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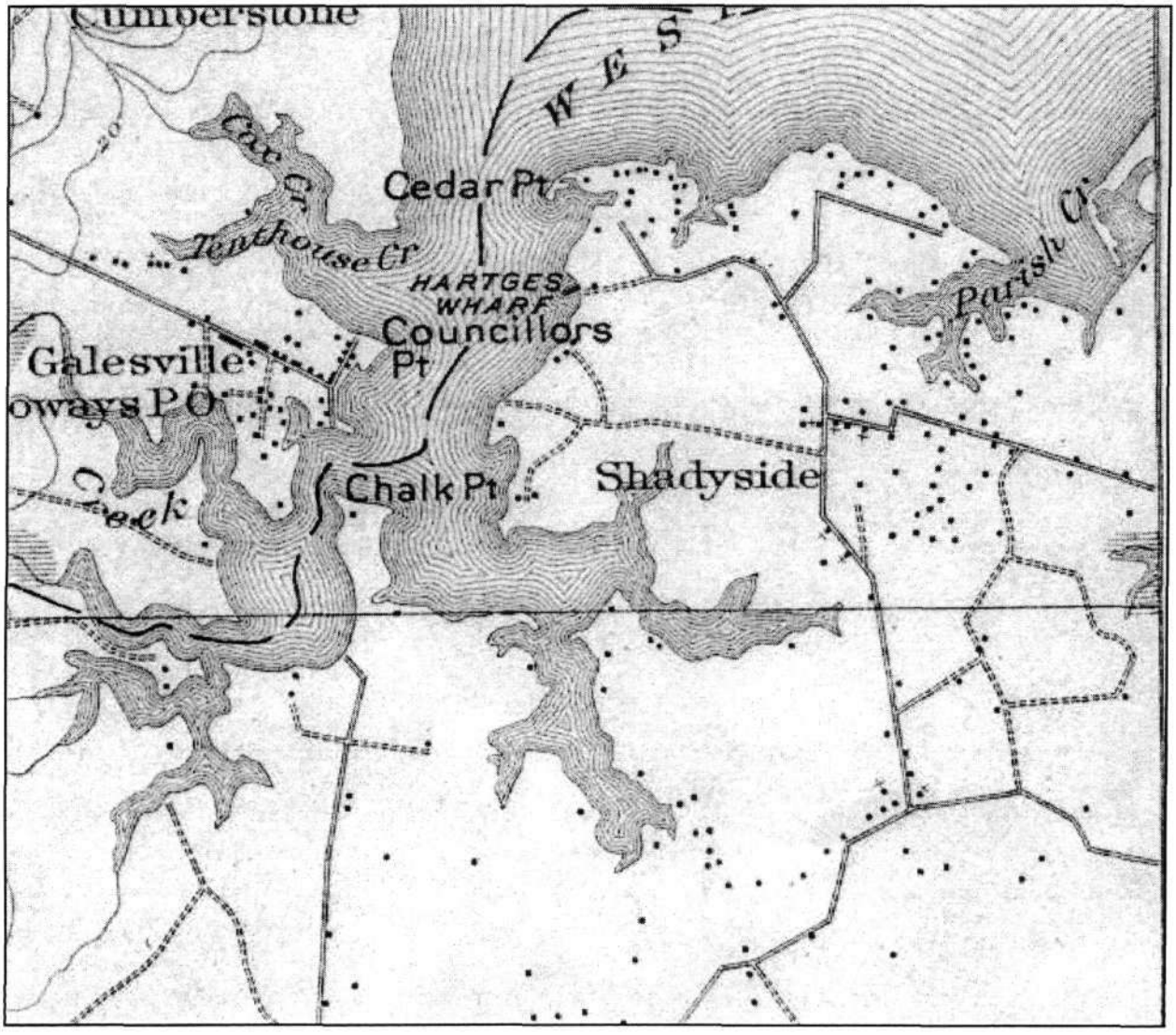

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