

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Addendum

MIHP Number: S-278

Property Name: Aden Davis House

Property Address: South Side of Davis Road; Marion, MD

A consultant working on a compliance project (200500858) reports that no standing buildings remain at this location.

4/25/2005

S-278
Aden Davis House
Marion vicinity
private

c, 1825-1850

The Old Aden Davis house is one of the few "telescope" style houses surviving in lower Somerset. It appears that the main two-story, three-bay block was erected initially with the shorter two sections added at the same time or later. The interior of the main house retains portions of its second quarter of the nineteenth-century woodwork.

Due to the proximity of this tract of land to Coulbourn's Creek, it has passed through the hands of several prominent Somerset families. Known in the land records as "Part of Promfret", and "Ferry Bridge," these two tracts are recorded in a transfer of land between William Williams and Hance Croswell in December of 1814 (JD1/12). The deed describes the land as,

"...lying and being in Somerset County in Little Annessex and on the head of Coulbournes Creek... standing on the divisional line between said William Williams and William Miles and also on a road that formerly ran down from the county road to said Williams wind mill, thence running down towards Coulbourns Creek."

Hance (or Hans) Croswell is recorded as living on Jones Creek as a ship carpenter. He apparently never lived on the Coulbourn Creek property. In December of 1829 Hans Croswell transferred to his son, Hope Croswell, 135 acres "near the head of Coulbourns Creek and "Part of Promfret," and "Ferry Bridge", and another tract known as "Horseys Conclusion,"(GH5/134). Hope Croswell evidently lived on this property until his death circa 1841. Due to the architectural details of the house, it is believed the extant dwelling dates from Hope Croswell's ownership. In 1841 a commission was established to settle Hope Croswell's estate. The commissioners, Benjamin Lankford and William H. Curtis, transferred the Coulbourn Creek farm to Hance Croswell (LH 467-469). By the late 1850's the property was in the hands of William Miles, Southey A. Miles and Christina Miles. The three

grantors sold the 150-acre farm to Aden Davis, Sr. on September 22, 1859 (LW 6/346). Aden Davis owned the property for the next fifty-eight years. His name is designated on the 1877 Somerset County atlas. In 1927 the farm passed out of the Davis family (96/34), and four transfers have occurred since that time.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-278

Magi No. 2002785404

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Davis House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number NW Side of MD 413 - Back dirt lane (Crisfield-Westover Road) not for publicationcity, town Marion vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input 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 Billie Rae Webb

street & number P.O. Box 130 telephone no.:

city, town Marion Station state and zip code Maryland 21838

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-278

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

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

The Old Davis House is a c. 1825-1850 telescope style frame house which stands at the end of a dirt lane that intersects MD 413 southwest of Marion, Somerset County, Maryland. The three-part house faces southeast with the gable roof running on a northeast/southwest axis. A small Webb family cemetery and a few insignificant outbuildings accompany the dwelling.

The two-story three-part house is supported by a minimal brick foundation and is fully clad with asbestos over weatherboard siding. A medium pitched gable roof covers the three parts and is sheathed with asphalt tiles.

The southeast (main) elevation of the main house is three bays across with a center entrance flanked by 9/6 sash windows. The front door is a replacement. Two 6/6 sash windows, located above the first floor windows, light the second floor. A simple boxed cornice stretches across the base of the roof.

Extending to the northeast are the two slightly shorter sections. The second part is two bays across with a bay window on the first floor and two 6/6 sash on the second. A brick chimney rises against the exterior face of the middle portion, but is largely covered by the single-story kitchen. The southeast facade of the kitchen has been altered with the addition of modern sash windows.

The remaining sides of the house are treated in a similar manner. An interior end brick chimney rises from the main house and has two flanking 6/6 sash on the second floor and two four-pane attic windows.

The interiors have been remodeled with the addition of modern paneling. The first floor of the main house contains surviving elements of an 1830s late Federal style mantel as well as a corner winder stair. Several steps are exposed within the room, and the slender square newel post and square balusters remain intact.

The outbuildings consist of a frame wagon shed, a concrete block garage and a shed-roofed outbuilding of undetermined use. The Webb cemetery contains 20th-century markers.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-278

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

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 Old Davis House is one of a few telescope style houses surviving in lower Somerset. It appears that the main two-story three-bay block was erected first with the shorter sections added sometime later. A full inspection was not made of the attic spaces, so a definite chronology of construction was not possible on the first visit.

History

Due to the proximity of this tract of land to Coulbourn's Creek, it has passed through the hands of several prominent Somerset families. Known as part of "Pomfret", and "Ferry Bridge", these various tracts are recorded in a transfer of land between William Williams and Hance Croswell in December of 1814 (JD 1/12). The deed describes the land as, "...lying and being in Somerset County in Little Annessex and on the head of Coulbourns Creek... standing on the divisional line between said William Williams, and William Miles and also on a road that formerly ran down from the county road to said Williams wind mill, thence running down toward Coulbourns Creek". Hance (or Hans) Croswell is recorded as living on Jones Creek as a ship carpenter. He apparently never lived on the Coulbourn Creek property. In December of 1829 Hans Croswell transferred to his son, Hope Croswell, 135 acres "near the head of Coulbourns Creek and part of "Pomfret", "Ferry Bridge", and another tract known as "Horseys Conclusion". (GH 5/134). Hope Croswell evidently lived on this property until his death circa 1841. Due to the architectural details of the house, it is believed the extant dwelling dates from Hope Croswell's ownership. In 1841 a commission was established to settle Hope Croswell's estate. The commissioners, Benjamin Lankford and William H. Curtis, transferred the Coulbourn Creek farm to Hance Croswell (LH 467-469). By the late 1850s the property was in the hands of William Miles, Southey A. Miles and Christina Miles. The three grantors sold the 150-acre farm to Aden Davis Sr. on 22 September 1859 (LW 6/346). Aden Davis owned the property for the next fifty-eight years. His name is designated on the 1877 Somerset County atlas. In 1927 the farm passed out of the Davis family (96/34), and four transfers have occurred since that time.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

 A

Zone

Easting

Northing

 B

Zone

Easting

Northing

 C

 D

 E

 F

 G

 H

Verbal boundary description and justification
List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paul Touart- Architectural Historian		
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organization	Somerset County Historical Trust	date	12/17/84
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street & number	424 North Somerset Avenue	telephone	651-0077
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city or town	Princess Anne	state	Maryland 21853
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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
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

CHAIN OF TITLE

S- 278

I.T.P. 312/679

Charles Webb

to

1/30/1979

Billie Rae Webb
54.5 Acres

I.T.P. 275/80

Billie Rae Webb

to

Charles Webb

I.T.P. 220/197

Estate of Harry B. Coulbourn

to

3/20/1964

Chas. and Billie Rae Webb
Same land conveyed unto Thomas Paul Coulbourn
by George Earl Parsons and Mary Hall Parsons -
12/23/1942 B.L.B. 123/566

B.L.B. 123/566

George Earl Parsons
Mary Hall Parsons

to

12/23/1946

Thomas Paul Coulbourn -
"Aden Davis Farm" 60 acres of arable land,
eighty of woodland - 140 acres.

96/34

Carrie T. Davis, widow of Aden Davis

to

10/3/1927

George Earl Parsons

W.J.S. 73/418

Arzah Davis and others - heirs at law of
Aden Davis, Sr.

to

10/11/1917

Aden Davis, Jr.
"known as the homeplace of the late Aden
Davis, Sr.

L.W. 6/346

William Miles of Henry and Southey A.
Miles, Christina Miles.

to

9/22/1859

Aden Davis
\$4,500 - "All that lot or parcel of land
whereon Smith Lankford now resides situated
in Annemessex Neck Somerset County, and at
the head of Coulbourns Creek the same being
the land which the said parties of the first
part purchased of Hope Crowell deceased
and John C. Horsey containing 150 acres.

W.P. 2/172

John C. Horsey

to

7/31/1847

Southey A. Miles
\$500.00 "all that tract of land called "Pomfret"
and "Ferry Bridge" which the said Henry S.
Crowell dedeed to said John C. Horsey containing
19 acres situated at the head of Coulbourne's
Creek.Administration
Account
S.W.J. 11/312of Joshua H. Miles
executor Luther Miles

1858

B.H. 15

Joshua H. Miles
Henrietta Miles

to

7/9/1843

William Miles of Henry
\$1,500. A parcel of land called Pomford
situate and being on the west side of
Coulbourns Creek in said county - reserving
the houses and lot the said William Miles
conveyed to said Joshua H. Miles heretofore. . .
containing sixty acres, also one-hundred and
forty acres called "Pomfert" lying on the
head of Coulbourns Creek which was conveyed
by Hance Crowell to Hope Crowell and after
the death of said Hope Crowell to Hance
Crowell Junior, it being part of the same land
that was conveyed to Joshua H. Miles by
Stephen D. Coulbourn and Hance Crowell Jr.

A.H. 290

Stephen D. Coulbourn
Hans Crowell Jr.

9/26/1842

to

Joshua H. Miles
\$3,000 "Pomfret," "Ferry Bridge," and
"Horsey's Conclusion." 280 acres

A.H. 173

Hance Croswell Jr.

to

5/18/1842

Stephen D. Coulbourn
\$3,500 "all that plantation tract or parts
of tract of land called "Pomfret," "Ferry
Bridge," and Horsey's Conclusion" containing
one-hundred and fifty-five acres which was
conveyed to Hance Croswell Jr. by Hance Sr.
12/19/1829

L.H. 467-469

Commission to settle real estate
of Hope Croswell

to

1/14/1841

Hans Croswell Jr.

G.H. 5/134

Hans Croswell

to

12/19/1829

Hope Croswell
\$250.00 "Pomfret," "Ferry Bridge," and
"Horsey's Conclusion." Beginning at a marked
cedar post standing on the south side, and
near the head of Coulbourns Creek. . .
containing 135 acres.

J.B. 1/12

William Williams

to

12/29/1814

Hance Croswell
\$3,328. Part of two tracts called and known by
the name of Pomfret and Ferry Bridge lying and
being in Somerset County in Little Annemessex
and on the Head of Coulbourns Creek. 1 beginning
at the westermost gate post of said William
Williams standing on the divisional line
between said William Williams and William
Miles and also on a road that formerly ran down
from the county road to said Williams Wind Mill,
thence running down towards Coulbourns Creek. . ."



1/2
 S-278
 Aden Davis House
 Marion, MD Quadrangle, 1972



- ROAD CLASSIFICATION
- Primary highway, hard surface _____
 - Secondary highway, hard surface _____
 - Trails _____
 - Light-duty road, hard or improved surface _____
 - Unimproved road _____
- (SAXIS) 5859 / NW
- Interstate Route
 - U. S. Route
 - State Route

MARION, MD.
 N3800—W7545/7.5

1972

AMS 5860 III SE—SERIES V8330



Old Davis House

S-278

Near Marion, Somerset County, Maryland

Southeast Elevation

Photographer-Paul Touart 10/84

Neg/Md. Hist. Trust



Old Davis House

S-278

Near Marion, Somerset County, Maryland

East Elevation

Photographer-Paul Touart 10/84

Neg/Md. Hist. Trust