

T-201
Solitude
St. Michaels vicinity
Private

Circa 1820; 1943

Solitude is a large two-and-one-half-story frame structure probably built by the Spencer family in the first quarter of the 19th century. In the 1840s, Dr. John Spencer conducted here his "Academy for Young Men." In 1846 the property passed to the Hammond Family, who held the property for about one hundred years and who made additions to the house. Although most of the interior woodwork is of recent construction, the largest section of the house still retains its original staircase and some trim.

1. STATE *Maryland*
COUNTY *Talbot*
TOWN *St. Michaels* VICINITY *Newcomb*
STREET NO. *Solitude Rd., 8 miles S.W*
of Rt 33.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY T-201

2. NAME *Solitude*

DATE OR PERIOD
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE *dwelling*
PRESENT OWNER *Wm L. Lane*
PRESENT USE *dwelling*
WALL CONSTRUCTION
NO. OF STORIES

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE *Endangered* *Interior* *Exterior*



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

Mors
5/69

DATE OF RECORD

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

A FEW NOTES ON THE CENTURY SPENT AT SOLITUDE
 BY SOME OF THE HAMMOND HOUSEHOLD

The following notes were gleaned from the Bicentennial Edition of the 1877 Atlases and other old maps published by the Wicomico Bicentennial Commission a few years ago and from the headstones in the Solitude Manor graveyard. They are not meant to provide even a sketch of the history of the Hammond family at Solitude but rather to raise pertinent questions about ^{members of} that household to which answers are quite likely easily available in Easton and St. Michaels.

According to the Bicentennial Edition of the Atlases O. Hammond whose residence is shown on page 94 was one of the sponsors of the Atlas for the St. Michaels District No. 2. At that time his farm comprised 163 acres and was served by the Royal Oak Post Office. Ormond Hammond, a native of Frederick County, Maryland, had settled at Solitude in 1847. (page 103).

A preliminary survey of the Hammond graveyard on the Southern edge of the present Solitude Manor property reveals at least thirteen graves. The headstones of two of these are quite small -- about the size of the footstones on the other eleven graves. Their small size and position would tend to indicate that they mark the graves of small children buried at the feet of their parents. These two small headstones, unfortunately, are overgrown, sunken between the roots of the cherry tree which has grown in the middle of the cemetery. I could not clear them sufficiently to read them in the time I had. The vital statistice on the other eleven headstones are, for the most part, quite legible. The prayers and/or poems on them, however, are not always easy to decipher. I did not have time to complete this portion of the task. The eleven people who lived at Solitude from the middle of the nineteenth Century to nearly the middle of the twentieth and were buried there are listed below.

Charlotte and John Wesley Everist

The oldest grave in the cemetery is that of Charlotte Worthington who was born in 1805 and died on January 7, 1850, at the age of "44 years, 10 mos. and 19 days." Her remains lay alone in the graveyard for nearly 39 years, until 1889, when Ormond Hammond's wife Mary Matilda joined her. For 46 years Charlotte was identified only as:

CHARLOTTE W.

Consort of

Rev. John W. Everist

Finally, in 1895, the gravesite which had been left vacant on her right was filled and Charlotte's identity was clarified somewhat. The headstone to the right of hers reads:

JOHN WESLEY EVERIST

Beloved husband of

CHARLOTTE WORTHINGTON

On the footstone of John Wesley Everist's grave we find the initials J W E W which, I suppose, should lead us to the conclusion that his family name was Worthington and that the Charlotte W. buried next to him had been his wife as well as his "consort". In any event John Wesley Everist was born Oct. 22, 1810 and died nearly 85 years later August 22 1895. On his headstone is carved: "All my trust on Thee is stayed." On his wife Charlotte's headstone we find: "Remember me when Thou comest to make up thy jewels."

Ormond and Mary Matilda

Next to John Wesley Everist and Charlotte we find the graves of the sire of the Hammonds of Solitude, Ormond, and of his wife, Mary Matilda. Mother of ~~most~~^{five} of the people buried in the cemetery, Mary Matilda was the second person to be buried there. Born in 1825 she "departed this life" February 12, 1889 "at the age of 63 years, 8 months and 12 days". On her headstone is chiseled:

Jesus Lover of my soul

Let me to Thy bosom fly

Some eight years after Mary Matilda flew to Jesus' bosom her husband, Ormond, followed, May 2, 1897. Born the same year as his wife, he had managed to avoid the flight for "71 years, 5 months, and 23 days." I don't recall seeing any inspiring words carved on his headstone. Perhaps no one thought of appropriate words to put there or perhaps they are overgrown. Suffice it to say in his memory that it seems safe to assume that he was the one responsible for assuring that all the headstones before and after his were paid for.

Ormond Jr. and Annie E (or Fannie W?)

As seemed to be the expected rule for married women in the Hammond family in the 19th century the first member of this couple to die was the wife, Annie E. Born March 11, 1854, four years after her husband, ^{Ormond} died at the age of 49, May 10, 1903. On her headstone she is named : "Annie E. Beloved wife of Ormond Hammond Jr." But when Ormond Jr. filled the waiting grave next to her some 24 years later, he was called the "beloved husband of Fannie W." Was Fannie W. another name for Annie E? Or was she a second wife? Anyway, ^{Ormond Jr.} the husband of Annie E. and/or Fannie W. was born on March 1, 1850, three years after his father, Ormond Sr., settled in Talbot County and three months after Charlotte Worthington (his aunt, perhaps?) was buried a few feet from where he ended his physical stay at Solitude. He lived more than 77 years, dying between Christmas and New Years Day ,Dec. 30 ,1927 .

Harry H

Perhaps the most thought provoking headstone in the cemetery is that of Harry H. He was apparently the youngest son of Ormond and Mary Matilda. His mother was well over 37 when he was born, Nov 26, 1862, and one can speculate that he was the baby of the family and remained so in more ways than one. Harry died December 3 1903, a few months after his brother Ormond Jr.'s wife, Annie E. His own mother, Mary Matilda, had died fourteen years before. The prayer on his head-

stone is poignantly childish for a 41-year-old man . But was ~~it~~ lovingly appropriate for a perpetually innocent and gentle child? We all know the prayer:

Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord my soul to keep
And if I die before I wake
I pray the Lord my soul to take
And this I ask for Jesus sake

With the exception of the two infants whose headstones I have not yet deciphered, Harry was the youngest of the Hammond household to be buried in the cemetery.

Charlotte Cox

Next to the youngest member of the household we find the oldest. Charlotte Cox, described on her headstone as the wife of J. Wesley Bordley (or Bardley), was born January 14, 1818 and died March 22, 1915 at the age of 97. Her husband is not buried in the cemetery. At least there is no headstone bearing his name. Charlotte's relationship to the Hammond household is not spelled out.

Eden Francis

Next to Charlotte Cox we find the most recent grave, that of Eden Francis, son of Ormond and Mary Matilda Hammond. He was born March 4, 1854, six years after Charlotte Everest Hammond , his oldest sister, and eight years ^{before} ~~after~~ Harry H, his youngest brother. He was nearly 80 years old when he died, January 7, 1934/

Mary Susannah and Charlotte Everest

In the second row of graves , placed directly in front of the graves of ~~Mr~~ Harry H and Charlotte Cox, we find two daughters of Ormond and Mary Matilda Hammond. No husband is mentioned on either of their headstones. Mary Susannah was born December 18 1856 and lived to see her 73rd birthday. Her older sister, Charlotte Everest (this is the way the headstone is carved but I wonder if her name is not Charlotte Everist?) was born December 6, 1848, 13 months before Charlotte, wife of John Wesley Everist Worthington, died. Charlotte Everest Hammond lived more than 81 years.

Mary Susannah died, April 2, 1930
Charlotte Everest died, April 4, 1930.

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S/69

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ST MICHAELS T-201

Dist. No 2
TALBOT CO.

Lake, Cr. King & Steuerson Atlas 1877

Ormond & Harmon's Residence 1877

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