

Chart Comparing Content of Stubbs House Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form to Research Undertaken by Department of Parks, Montgomery County, Cultural Resources Stewardship Section, 11/01/2013

Stubbs House MIHP Form and Addendum	Dept. of Parks' Cultural Resources Research
"Shorefield, also referred to as the Stubbs House and Avon, was built in 1850." (p. 7 Description of the Stubbs House)	Shorefield was built <i>after</i> February 1860. Reports in both the <i>Montgomery Sentinel</i> and the <i>Baltimore Sun</i> details the fire of the "country dwelling" owned by William E. Stubbs in Wheaton in early February of 1860. At the time, Stubbs was still employed by the federal government and living in Washington, D.C. The <i>Montgomery Sentinel</i> also notes that the house, which was "entirely destroyed," was "insured."
"Edward Stubbs' son, William Stubbs, was given a parcel of land in 1844 from his father's larger property after William was married in 1843, but not turned over to him until he had built a house on the property." (p. 7 Description of the Stubbs House)	No known documentation to support this latter statement has been found.
"The extant barn on the farm was constructed in 1843 by either William or his father." (p. 7 Description of the Stubbs House)	Based on land ownership and the youthful age of William E. Stubbs (approximately 18-19 years and likely in college) at the time of construction, it is believed that Edward Stubbs built the barn in 1842-1843.
"The house and barn are the only buildings remaining from the mid-19th century community of Mitchell's Crossroads, later absorbed into Wheaton." (p.7 Description of the Stubbs House)	The Hardy House/Mt. Calvert, built ca. 1853-1858, still stands in Wheaton on Cory Terrace right off Georgia Avenue. This privately owned dwelling/farm house was removed from the Locational Atlas in 1981 because of integrity.
"The 2.5 story house is in the late Federal style." (p. 7 Exterior)	Originally, it was a vernacular farmhouse. If it has any stylistic influence, it would be Gothic Revival.
"The frame house was covered with brick veneer about 1954." (p. 7 Exterior)	The brick veneer was applied in 1942 when the Melikians owned Shorefield. The tax assessments show the value increased from \$1000 to \$4000 in that year.
"The porch on the front façade, originally covering three bays, has been extended to cover all five bays and completely enclosed under the ownership of Parks." (p. 7 Exterior)	The house's original porch was "bricked-in" by the Melikians in 1942, covering three bays. Parks extended the brick porch to its full width after 1985.
"The addition in the rear, with a kitchen downstairs and servants' quarters upstairs, was added ten years after the house was built." (p.7 Interior)	The kitchen rear ell was likely constructed at the same time the new house was built after the February 1860 fire. In the 1860 article on the fire, it was reported "the overseer (Mr. Musgrove Beall) and family, who resided in a part of the house..."
Footnote 4: "Other improvements were probably made to the house at that time [1861] as well. The house value went from \$1500 to \$2500."	The increase in insurance value probably reflects the construction of a new house, which replaced the earlier ca. 1848-1850 building that burnt down in early February 1860.
"Architecturally the house typifies the transition from Federal to the more functional and economical Gothic Revival style..." (p. 7-1 Architecture)	Today, the building has a heavily altered brick Colonial Revival appearance. Originally, the house was a mid-19 th century wood-clad vernacular farmhouse with center gable.
"The fireplaces and plaster walls of the interior lie behind the 1950s veneer paneling. (p.7-1 Architecture)	The fireplace mantels are new. They were built in the 1980s by Department of Parks carpenters
Under the Statement of Significance, 1a, it is noted that Shorefield "represents the first development of summer retreats in the countryside of Montgomery County by federal government employees in Washington, D.C." (p.8 Significance)	There is no cited documentation for this far-reaching statement. Francis P. Blair and his estate, "Silver Spring," share a similar story of development and use.

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<p>Under the Statement of Significance, 1a, it is noted that "many [prominent national political figures] visited the house." (p.8 Significance)</p>	<p>No such individuals are identified in the nomination form to substantiate this claim. The nomination form only notes that social gatherings with political figures occurred at the "Stubbs House on K Street at Franklin Street" in Washington, D.C. (It has been speculated that President Jackson was a family friend of the Stubbs, but former Parks Historian Nancy Brown refuted this claim in a 1991 letter, noting that the dates are off with regard to Jackson spending time at Shorefield, as the original Stubbs house was built in the early 1840s - in her estimation - and Jackson retired to Tennessee in 1836.)</p>
<p>Under the Statement of Significance, 1a, it is noted that the Stubbs family "was involved in prominent and controversial Irish-American politics of the early 19th century." (p. 8 Significance)</p>	<p>No such individuals or political controversies are identified in the nomination form.</p>
<p>"The kitchen wing in the rear was added at this time [1861]..." (p. 8-4)</p>	<p>If the kitchen wing was added in 1861, it is attached to the post-February 1860 main house.</p>
<p>"A guard was posted at the gates of the Stubbs Farm..." in 1864. (p. 8-4)</p>	<p>No stated documentation for this assertion; footnote 29 only references information pertaining to Dr. Cornelius Boyle.</p>
<p>"The family actually experienced Civil War action on Monday, July 11, 1864 when the Confederate army of General Jubal Early passed by the house en-route to attack Washington...A unit of the army camped at the creek on the southeast side of the Stubbs' property." (p. 8-4 and 8-5)</p>	<p>The nomination notes Mr. Larry Stubbs' file as the source of the encampment statement. Parks has not reviewed Mr. Stubbs' file. The primary source document is Jubal Early's statement in an 1874 letter: "...my command, moving from its camp four miles northwest of Rockville, arrived in front of the fortifications on the Seventh Street Road, on Monday, the 11th of July." The encampment he refers to in Rockville was Summit Hill in Gaithersburg. This site is identified in Susan Soderberg's <i>A Guide to Civil War Sites in Maryland</i> and Charles T. Jacobs' <i>Civil War Guide to Montgomery County, Maryland</i>. Shorefield, however, was not listed in either of these publications. Neither was Shorefield included in Laura-Leigh Palmer's book, <i>Wheaton</i>, which identifies Confederate camps at the Brown House and the [William] Batchelor House. The latter property was identified on an 1864 Map of "Tenallytown to Rockville," sitting just south of Leesboro (today's Viers Mill and Georgia intersection). Jacobs also notes that Early's troops advanced south from Rockville, past Viers Mill to Leesborough, and then down the Brookeville Turnpike (today's Georgia Avenue) towards Washington, and Early used the same route in his retreat back to Virginia. This route completely bypasses the Shorefield property, which is further north and east.</p>

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<p>“It was the Wurzbacker family, of Armenian descent, who covered the house with brick veneer [between 1953 and 1959].” Footnote: Letter to Mike Dwyer, Montgomery County Department of Parks, from Ted Gurney, Oct. 5, 1971, in Parks Department files.” (p. 8-6, and the Addendum)</p>	<p>The brick veneer and three-bay bricked-in porch were completed in 1942 based on tax assessment records. In the 1971 letter authored by Ted Gurney, he states the brick veneer was added by the last owner of Shorefield who was Armenian. The person in question was Louis Melikian, a farmer of Armenian descent born in Turkey (as identified in Census and military records) and a naturalized American. Frank Wauzbacher, the last private owner of Shorefield, was of German descent.</p>
<p>“At this time [1946] the land surrounding the house had been reduced to five acres and the property re-named ‘Shorefield’.” (p. 8-6)</p>	<p>The acreage of Shorefield decreased on 20 October 1945 when the Melikians sold the house and 5 acres of land to Norman Hearn (as the property was advertised in March/April 1945 to be sold either as a 5 acre parcel or as the entire 66 acre farm). The remaining 61 acres at Shorefield were retained by the Melikians until 1959 when they sold to M-NCPPC (as recorded in Montgomery County Land Records).</p>
<p>“Advertisement for Stubbs House in 1959: (MHT Inventory Form Illustrations for 31-3, p. 4)</p>	<p>The advertisement dates to March 31, 1945 or shortly thereafter, based on the information found on that back of the original house sale advertisement. This advertisement is located in the Shorefield research file in the Historic Preservation Section of the Department of Planning.</p>
<p>“The 1959 house demonstrates the transition from a Gothic Revival style to a Colonial Revival style that corresponds to the popular architectural trends of the times. This transition is described in <u>The Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States</u> by Kenneth T. Jackson (1985) where he explains how the architectural trends after World War II demonstrate the culture turning inward to the isolation of the family and away from the community and neighborhood.” (Addendum, p.1)</p>	<p>The significant exterior alterations at Shorefield were implemented during World War II.</p>
<p>“Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) was founded in 1927, but the Parks did not really take until the 1950s, under the leadership of John P. Hewitt, Director of Parks.” (Addendum, p. 2)</p>	<p>The Commission, founded in 1927, has consistently played a prominent role in protecting the watersheds of the Anacostia and Potomac and their stream valleys and in creating recreational spaces for diverse uses. The history of the Department of Parks reflects marked and continuous evolution; Parks did not “take off” in the 1950s.</p>
<p>“Today the [Police] Headquarters is at Woodlawn Manor in Sandy Spring.” (Addendum, p. 2)</p>	<p>Saddlebrook is the Parks Police Headquarters. Only the mounted units are stationed at Woodlawn.</p>