

CE-171

Armstrong House, (Little Elk Farm, Little Elk House)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 04-05-2004

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Cecil
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Little Elk Farm

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
East side of Little Elk Road, one mile north of Maryland Route 273

CITY OR TOWN:
Near Providence

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Cecil CODE: 015

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Richard D. Mackie

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 5

CITY OR TOWN:
Elkton

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
St. John's College Campus

CITY OR TOWN:
Annapolis

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Cecil
ENTRY NUMBER:	
DATE:	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>Little Elk Farm House is a two and a half story stone structure, three bays long and two bays deep, with a two story stone wing on the east side, set two feet below the level of the larger part. The south facade of the building has more uniform stone except the wing which is covered with stucco; the other sides have rough stone work, (the arches above the windows are composed of three large stones, the center one being a keystone.) Across the facade of the main part and around the corner is a one-story porch of 20th Century date. Off the northwest corner is an earlier Victorian porch with turned balustrade and fretwork. The door, set on the east side of the main part, has a single large pane of glass above a multipaneled base. There is also a transom. Sash throughout the house have 2/2 panes;...there are paneled shutters on the first story and louvered shutters on the second story. There are two small dormers on each side of the "A" roof. One brick chimney is located on the west gable. A small patch of brick marks the former place of a date plaque in the apex of the west gable.</p> <p>The present floor plan of the house consists of an entrance stair hall, with a large living room on the west and a bath on the north; down three steps is the dining room and north thereof is the kitchen. From evidence in the cellar the original floor plan can be ascertained to have had two rooms with corner fireplaces in place of the present large living room.</p> <p>A corner fireplace was also situated in the room now a bath. The only original woodwork on the first story is the open-string stair with its well-shaped handrail and square balusters and attractive carved spandrels, some doors trim and flooring. The ceiling of the dining room originally had exposed beam with ogee molded edges.</p> <p>The house stands on a small ridge adjacent to the Little Elk Creek.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Little Elk is important to Cecil County as a good example of the type architecture used in the late 18th Century and is also important as the home of a member of the House of Delegates to the Maryland General Assembly. Also of great importance is the geographic make-up of the area north of Route 273. It is the only wide valley in the upper part of Cecil County used for agriculture, the other valleys in the area are narrow and steep.

It appears that the Mackey family has been settled on this tract at least as early as the 1720's. Robert Mackey, who died in 1771, had amassed a great deal of land between 1723-71, most of which was in and around the aforesaid valley.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cecil County Land and Probate Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Michael O. Bourne, Coordinator of Field Services mh

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: May, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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Deed #s included
in 3rd research notes
in the MHT files.

Lois Snyderman
2/74

Little Elk Farms

CE-171

The history of Little Elk Farm has special interest in its relation to the Mackie (also spelled Mackey) family of Cecil County. The present farm, consolidated in the 1870's, contains two tracts that the present owner's ancestors occupied in the eighteenth century.

The larger of the two parcels of land consists of part of a tract called Hopewell, originally patented in 1716 for 544 acres to Mathias Van Bibber, who served as chief justice of Cecil County at the time of the erection of the courthouse at Court House Point in 1719. Within a generation over half the tract belonged to members of the Mackie family. (Two separate parts of the Hopewell tract descended through the family; one of these, consisting of 125 acres, is the part upon which the house "Hopewell" is located.) The section related to "Little Elk Farm" was devised to James Mackey, Sr. by his father's will in 1771, and he in turn willed it, in 1786, to his son James Mackey, the probable builder of Little Elk Farm, a late eighteenth century structure.

James Mackey, Jr. was a member of the group which established the Cecil Manufacturing Company on Little Elk Creek in 1794, for the manufacture of linen, wool, and cotton goods. It is said that the company presented President Jefferson with a sample of its cloth, and that he had it made into a suit which he wore for his inauguration.¹

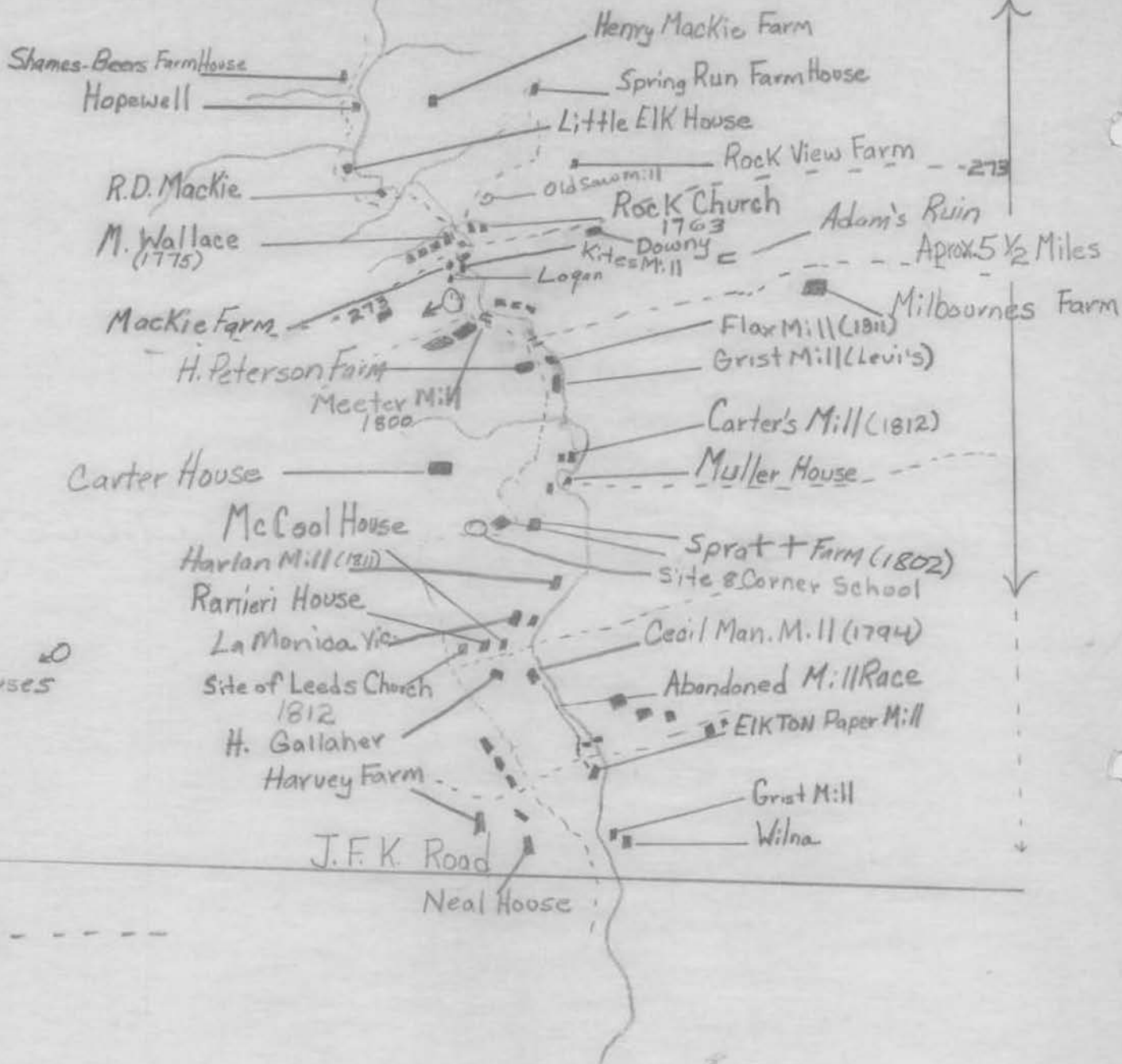
In 1818 the younger Mackey, identified in Jeffersonian terms in the deed as a yeoman, sold 100 acres to William Mackie, yeoman. It was probably this William Mackie who is listed as the captain of a company of Cecil County militia during the Revolution, and who in 1782 procured sixteen horses for the Continental Army, delivering them to Henry Hollingsworth.²

In 1874, with the deeding of 156 acres from William Armstrong to Walter Armstrong, the farm took on approximately its present size. In 1964 it was acquired by Mr. Richard D. Mackie, Delegate to the Maryland General Assembly from Cecil County.

¹History of Cecil County, Maryland, George Johnston, Elkton:
Published by the author, 1881. p. 382.

²Revolutionary Records: Army Accounts, #1, p. 138. Hall of Records,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Little Elk



9 Houses

Road - - - - -

Little Elk #2 house CE-171

The main house is a late Federal brick structure built on a bank overlooking the Little Elk creek. It is 3 bays wide and 3 stories tall. It has a brick cornice above the small 3rd story windows. It appears to be 2 rooms deep. Presently it is not occupied.

12003 3/14/10

Adjacent the brick house is a 2 story log or plank building now used as a garage. It is worth studying as an example of log building with interior detail — i.e. the ceiling joists are exposed and beaded, as is the flooring above. It is in a decayed state of repair.

Coln 4017



ARMSTRONG HSE CE-171

NR Fair Hill

NORTH EAST ELEV.

DECEMBER 1977 GWL

HEG. / MD. HIST TRUST



Little Elk #2

CE-171