

PH0143375

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Maryland

COUNTY:
Baltimore

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
JUN 18 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Ballestone Mansion *us. this*

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Cedar Point Mansion

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rocky Point Park, Back River Neck Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Essex *mic*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Second

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Baltimore CODE: 005

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"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural
 Commercial
 Educational
 Entertainment

Government
 Industrial
 Military
 Museum

Park
 Private Residence
 Religious
 Scientific

Transportation
 Other (Specify)
vacant, soon to be restored

Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks

STREET AND NUMBER:
301 Washington Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Towson

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Baltimore County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
200 Washington Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Towson

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Landmark List, Baltimore County

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

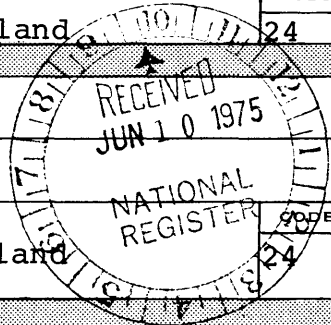
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Heritage Society of Essex and Middle River, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
113 Riverside Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Essex

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Baltimore

ENTRY NUMBER: JUN 18 1975

DATE: JUN 18 1975

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
		<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered		<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ballestone Mansion, located on Cedar Point between Back and Middle Rivers in Essex, Baltimore County, Maryland, is presently a part of the Rocky Point Park and is owned by Baltimore County. The house, built during the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, has been enlarged twice. The original portion was of two floors each measuring 20.2 feet by 17.5 feet or approximately 350 square feet per floor. A major addition of one floor was built adjacent to the northwestern gabled end. Being 20.6 feet by 24.6 feet, this increased the first floor by 506 square feet. It appears that the Miller family increased the total floor area to about 1,362 square feet circa 1870-80 by placing a second story above the addition.

The original, three-bay portion of the house, and all of its additions are brick except for a concrete block shed attached to the rear of the oldest part. The brickwork is of no distinct type on any elevation. At the second floor level of the northwest elevation, each four rows of stretchers are separated by a row of alternating header-stretcher-header. Mostly common bond is found on the southwest with a few rows of headers. A modern wall of common bond has been recently attached to the 1870 addition. Both gable ends possess a series of rows of stretchers, usually seven on the northwest and five on the southeast, which are separated by a single row of headers. Sometimes rows of stretchers of random lengths can be found incorporated within the northwest brickwork. New brick sills are present on both gable ends, but there are wooden sills on the other facades.

Characteristic of the eighteenth century, the original roof had a pitch of more than 45°. The original rafters were lapped at the ridge and pinned together with pegs. Collars held them with a dovetail joint. The attic was never plastered. When the second floor and two-story porch were added circa 1870-80, the roof pitch toward the front was diminished significantly so as to form a roof for the porch. The cornice of the new full-length porch has an Ogee cove molding, saw tooth dentils and squared brackets. Three dormers were also included in the Victorian expansion.

The first floor plan of this house consists of a center hall and stair with two large rooms on either side. On the second level, there is one bedroom to the left of the stair and two interconnected rooms to the right, but the partition dividing the latter is recent. A mahogany stairway which was in the central hall has recently been removed.

The front entrance in the third bay from the left is an opening of 5 feet 4 inches, including a full width transom light and two raised panels below. When the door was enlarged, an original jack arch was removed and the space covered by a framing member of the second floor porch.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th 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 type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Community use</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Area artifact</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>display</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Back River Neck in Baltimore County, situated between Back River to the south and Middle River to the north, was a rural district populated mainly by farmers in the nineteenth century. Today, just across the river from the Baltimore Beltway, it is becoming increasingly suburban. Ballestone Mansion is one of the few farm-related buildings to have survived in this area of rapid twentieth-century development.

Ballestone has had a long life full of alterations. Although part of it was built circa 1800, little of this now remains and the house as it stands today is illustrative of the large farmhouses of the 1870's and 80's. Restoration to and furnishings of this period, now planned by the Essex-Middle River Bi-Centennial Committee, will preserve Ballestone as a reminder of the life of that time. Most importantly, it will be an example made accessible to the public by its location in county-owned Rocky Point Park.

The history of the land called Ballestone is entangled in the complicated relationships of the Stansbury family. In 1659, 420 acres of Ballestone were patented to William Ball of Virginia, great-grandfather of George Washington. This land was sold to Major Thomas Long, High Sheriff of Baltimore County, in 1678. When he died, it was inherited by his grandson, John Long, who sold it in three parts to Thomas Sheredine, Joseph Ward, and Stephen Body. Ward's and Body's tracts came into the Stansbury family in the middle of the eighteenth century, and it is on the latter parcel of land that Ballestone Mansion stands.¹

Stephen Body, who married Susannah Long, bought 170 acres of Ballestone in 1733. At his death eleven years later, he left this, which he called "my dwelling plantation" to his son Alanson Body and his personalty to his daughter

¹Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. Patents 16/268, 16/456B. Deeds IR#PP/24, HWS#M/29.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PRIMARY SOURCES:

Hall of Records; Annapolis, Maryland.
 Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798, Baltimore County.
 Land Records of Baltimore County.
 Probate Records of Baltimore County
 Tax Assessment of 1783, Baltimore County.

(See continuation sheet No. 2)

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	° ' "	° ' "		39 ° 15 ' 08 "	76 ° 25 ' 03 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Architectural Historian
Pamela James, Research Assistant and George Andreve, Assistant/
 ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust DATE January 1975
 STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle
 CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE Maryland CODE 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

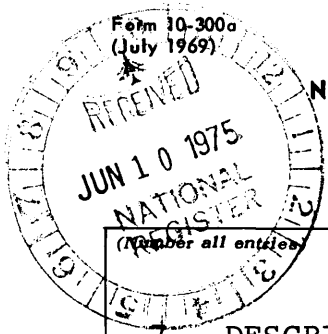
Name John N. Pearce
 Acting Title State Historic Preservation Officer
 Date June 6, 1975

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

A. Huortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/18/75
 ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date JUN 17 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	Maryland	
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Ballestone Mansion

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

Evidence of cutting and patching in the brickwork for the second floor porch rafters can be seen. The brick porch wall was whitewashed and later painted gray. The rear wall of the later addition was rebuilt circa 1950's and would have to be restored to be consistent as to brick type and window openings.

Sash windows on the northeast elevation measure 5 feet 6 inches by 3 feet 6 inches with 6 over 6 lights. The window frames are narrow (2 1/2 inches) with a half-round face. A second-floor bedroom door has flush raised panels. Other doors appear to date from 1820 or later. However, one mantel dates from after 1850. Typical of Maryland houses of the earlier period, Ballestone has wide random-width floor boards in the attic, probably tulip poplar, and narrower random-width floor boards on the first and second floors. Pine trim is also a characteristic feature.

A graveyard is located across the road to the southeast. It has one Stansbury gravestone, but others, including that of Thomas Stansbury, were removed and later recovered. They are presently guarded by the local historical society and will eventually be replaced.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Penelope, wife of Dixon Stansbury. Elizabeth Body, Stephen's wife, paid the quitrent on this property in 1768. In 1776, Dixon Stansbury obtained a warrant to survey Ballestone's Support, an adjoining small tract which runs between the present house and Back River. Then in 1783, he paid taxes on both this and the Body portion of Ballestone, suggesting that Alanson Body had died and Stansbury was farming the land for his mother-in-law. It is possible that he built a small house at this time which has since been incorporated into the present Ballestone Mansion.²

²Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. Deed HWS#M/29. Will 1/336. Rent Roll 5(22)79-86. Patent IC#B/243.

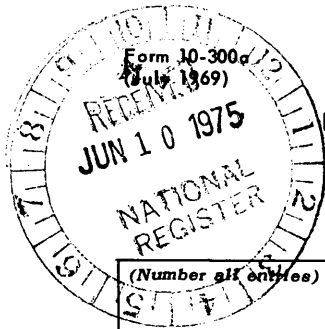
(See continuation sheet No. 2)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE <u>Maryland</u>	
COUNTY <u>Baltimore</u>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<u>JUN 18 1975</u>



(Number all entries)

Ballestone Mansion

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

This Body-Stansbury parcel of Ballestone was again divided in 1786, this time between John Watts, Stephen Body's grandson, and Penelope Stansbury, his daughter. Mrs. Stansbury's portion was granted to her daughter, Elizabeth Slade, in 1796. Mrs. Slade also inherited Ballestone's Support with her father Dixon Stansbury's death in 1805. Records after this time become obscured, but it is possible that Elizabeth and her husband William Slade owned this part of Ballestone for a good many years and that they made many of the initial changes in the house.³

Much land was sold for taxes in the lower part of Back River Neck in the first half of the nineteenth century. This was the case with the part of Ballestone which descended through Joseph Ward and was probably also true of the part belonging to the Body's and Stansbury's. Edward Miller obtained the property in 1855, and it was during his ownership that the alterations giving the house its present form were made. The house and surrounding lands were sold by Miller's heirs in 1969 to the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, to become Rocky Point Park.

³Hall of Records. Deeds WG#2/257 & 259; WG#XX/642.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

SECONDARY SOURCES:

Johnston, Christopher, "Stansbury Family." Maryland Historical Magazine, IX (March, 1914), 72-88.

In files of Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle, and Maryland Research compiled from Primary Sources by:

Mrs. Kenelm Dallam, Certified Genealogist
Burrage's End
Route 1, Box 208
Lothian, Maryland 20820

Essex--Middle River Bi-Centennial Committee
10504 Vincent Road
White Marsh, Maryland 21162

[Mrs. Eleanor Romadka, Chairman]

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 18 1975

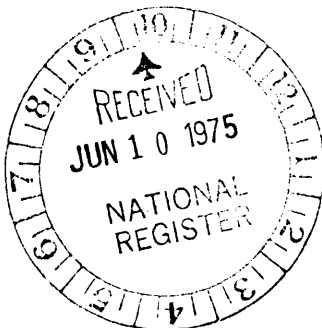
(Number all entries)

Ballestone Mansion

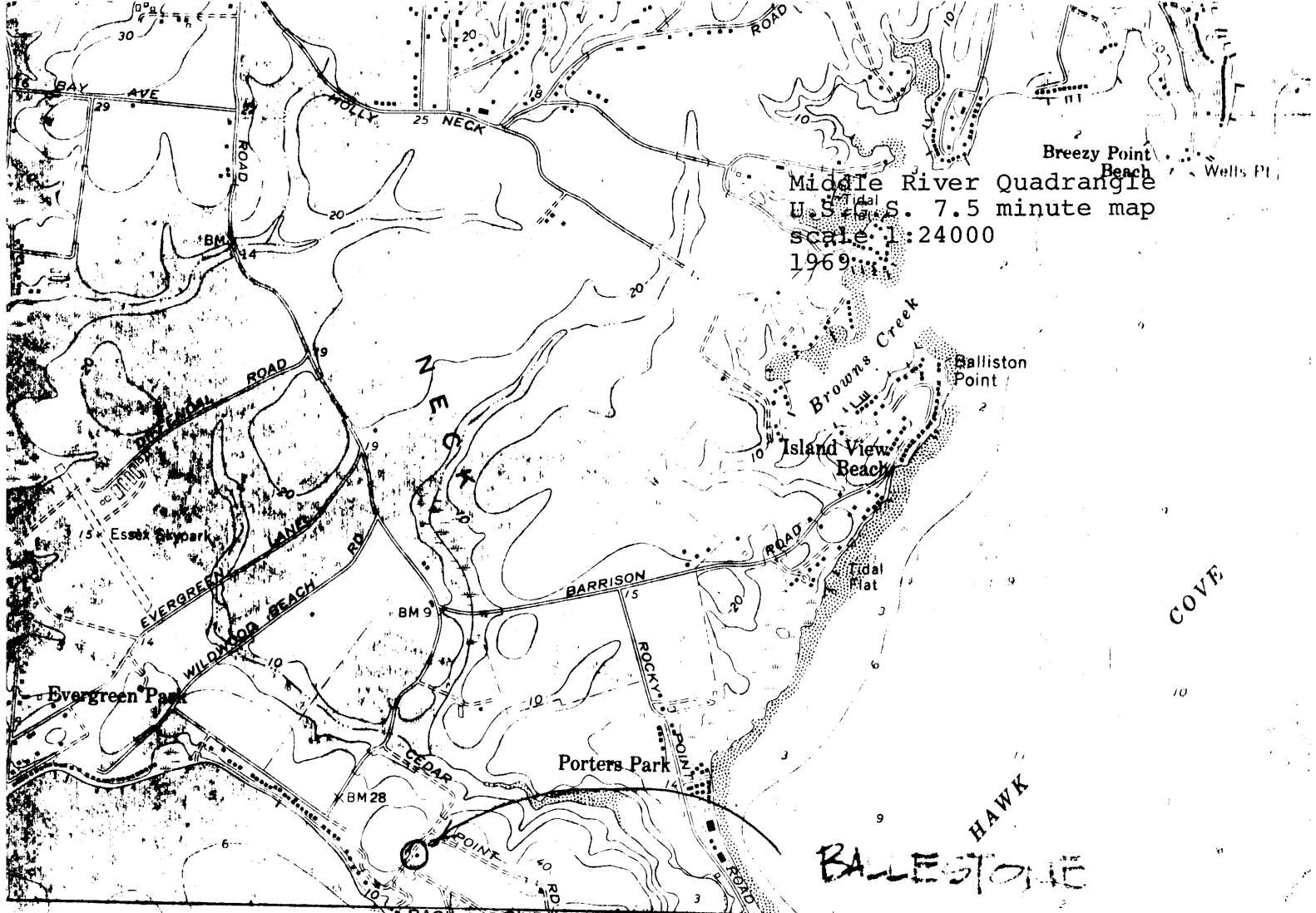
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Peter Powell, AIA
Mark Beck Associates, Inc.
762 Fairmount Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

Heritage Society of Essex and Middle River, Inc.
113 Riverside Road
Essex, Maryland



Middle River Quadrangle
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map
scale 1:24000
1969



BALLESTONE

Sparrows Point Quadrangle
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map
scale 1:24000
1969

