

MANSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SURVEY OF OLD HOUSES

Date of Visit: March, 1963 Present Owners: Paul G. Merrow

Location of House (street): <sup>86 + 90</sup> Forest Road Map:

Descriptions: Stone <sup>✓</sup> Brick <sup>✓</sup> Wood Shingle Clapboard Other:

Roof: Gable Gambrel Hip Saltbox Other:

Chimney: Stone or Brick: Location: Central Other: <sup>at each end</sup>

Type: 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  Story 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  Story <sup>✓</sup> Approximate Size:

Ell: Foundation: Brick Rough <sup>✓</sup> ~~or~~ Cut Stone

Overhang: Physical Conditions:

Cornice: Doorway: see pictures

Windows: Type: Arrangement:

Interior Description:

Note panelling, floorboards, stairways, fireplaces & mantels, hardware, doors, etc.

Photo Trial Version. Unregistered Copy

Grounds: Direction house faces:

Setting:

Gardens:

Old trees:

Outbuildings, etc.: PHOTOGRAPH

Origin: Date:

Source of information:

Owner in 18<sup>69</sup>~~67~~ Survey: H. Starkweather

Past Owners: (Indicate sources)

Attach other information of interest:

Shown on 1869 map as owned by

VI-9

H. STARKWEATHER

In the early 1900's this house had sixteen rooms, eight up and eight down with several fireplaces. There was a cellar under the whole house, which was partitioned off into rooms for storage. The big beams in the attic were put together with wooden pegs. The fireplace in the kitchen had a Dutch oven. The walls were brick plastered and Mr. Hallock recalls that in real cold weather the frost showed on the inside walls. He also recalls the good spring "in the pasture below the elm tree." The building near the barn - across the road from the house - was at that time a fully equipped slaughter house. (It has since been made into apartments). Mr. Hallock, who is a son of Bert C. & Mary I. Hallock also recalls the good apple and peach orchards. His parents made the first Hallock's icecream while they were living here.

At the present time, on the barn across the road from the house is a sign reading:- "Guilford Park, named from Guilford, England, near London. The north boundary is known as Tolland Turnpike, route of General George Washington and his staff in the year 1789.

Back Rd.

"In the nearby village of Merrow was established in the year 1838, by Joseph Makens, of Merrow, the first knitting mill in the United States, and gunpowder was made under U. S. Patent signed by James Monroe, President and John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State of the United States."

The present owner, Paul Gurley Merrow, son of George and Elizabeth (Gurley) Merrow was born at the Crystal Spring Farm, now owned by Helen Merrow, widow of John G. G. Merrow. The Merrow family has been in Mansfield since 1835.

In talking with Mr. Merrow, he emphasized that the first knitting mill referred to above, was the first to be established as a knitting mill.

The front porch on the house was added in 1941 or thereabouts, and came from the Clement Scott house in Hartford. New floors have been laid over the ones of wide oak boards. The inside chimney with fireplaces back to back between the rooms, has been removed and there is a small fireplace in the east end of the house. The casings are still the older wide ones, however. The S-shaped blind fasteners of metal were made by Robert Baxter's father.

removed 1941

1991 S. P. blinds

In the bedroom is a window with small diamond-shaped panes that Mr. Merrow had brought from a chapel in Wales.

Part of the house has now been converted to apartments and a newer brick apartment house built on the west side of the main house, as well as the apartments in the former slaughter house across the road.

- Apr. 15, 1929 - v. 57 p. 132 (recorded May 4, 1929)  
 Paul G. Merrow purchased from George & Agnes Wheeler  
 228 acres
- Jan. 7, 1923 - v. 53 p. 265  
 George A. & Agnes E. Wheeler Bert C. & Mary I. Hallock
- Mar. 31, 1911 - v. 49 p. 106  
 Bert C. & Mary I. Hallock Herman Meyer and  
 Gustave Lemke
- Sept. 29, 1909 - v. 49 p. 21  
 H. Meyer & G. Lemke Emanuel Cerveny
- Feb. 21, 1907 - v. 41 p. 348  
 Emanuel Cerveny Frank Wrana
- June 19, 1906 - v. 41 p. 316  
 Frank Wrana Frank Mucha
- May 20, 1904 - v. 44 p. 104  
 Frank Mucha Henry Starkweather
- Nov. 12, 1849 - v. 27 p. 430 QC  
 George Starkweather released all claim on the estate of  
 his father - Jabez, who died November 8, 1849
- Aug. 6, 1801 - v. 13 p. 485  
 Jabez Starkweather, Jr. purchased from Samuel Turner  
 land and buildings
- Whether the buildings Jabez, Jr. purchased in 1801 included  
 the house now standing on the property is questionable, as the  
 date "1828" cut into the stone doorstep of the present house  
 might well indicate the date when it was built.
- Sept. 9, 1799 - v. 10 p. 279-80  
 Samuel Turner purchased from Elnathan Brigham  
 land and buildings thereon.