PARSON THORNE MANSION ON SILVER HILL

Silver Hill Plantation was carved out of a grant made to Henry Bowman in 1680 of 1,750 acres of land called Saw Mill Range. In the early 1730s, Joseph Booth, an early Sussex County Magistrate and a local miller, acquired 510 acres of this tract and built the first known dwelling house on Silver Hill, at the highest point of what would become Milford. From its location, the early mansion had a commanding view of acres of farmed fields and of the silvery Mispillion River.



In 1746, John Cullen purchased 263 acres of the part of the tract on which Mr. Booth had dwelt. Circa 1750, he built the main brick house, five bays in width and two stories in height with a full garret. Attached to the back of the main house was a smaller two-story and two-room frame

service wing sheathed in weatherboard, and believed to predate the main house as the Booth residence. Attached to either side of the main house are two brick arcades, each with storage rooms that connected to east and west one-room brick wings. The east wing appears to have been used as a kitchen and the west wing as a plantation office. A unique structure in Delaware, this dwelling parallels construction of houses for the gentry of eighteenth-cennity Chesapeake region.

The Rev. Sydenham Thorne, the first resident rector of Christ Church Mispillion (the local Anglican parish), purchased the plantation in 1785. Parson Thorne, as he was known, arrived in the Milford area in 1774. He was one of only two Anglican clergymen who remained in Delaware throughout the Revolutionary War. Thorne began construction in 1791 of today's Christ Church in Milford. He also erected a dam across the Mispillion and constructed a mill, which aided in the development of Milford. Parson Thorne died in 1793 and is buried in the stone-walled cemetery behind the plantation house, beneath an ancient Red Oak tree.

In the nineteenth century, the property became the boyhood home of John M. Clayton, Secretary of State under President Zachary Taylor. It was also the home of Col. Benjamin Potter, an early philanthropist, as well as Dr. William Burton, Governor of Delaware during the Civil War. Col. Henry B. Fiddeman, the first president of the First National Bank of Milford, remodeled the plantation house in 1879, updating the early Colonial Georgian architecture in the Victorian Gothic style. A landmark in Milford, the Parson Thorne Mansion represents both eighteenth- and nineteenth-century architecture as well as the history of its famous occupants.

George H. Draper, Sr., purchased the property in 1916. For many years, the Draper family farmed the property with the farm manager living in the mansion. During the 1950s, the house sat vacant for several years, until James Richard Draper, a grandson of George Draper, wanted to see the house preserved. A handful of preservation-minded people rallied to the cause and founded the Milford Historical Society in 1961 as a Delaware nonprofit corporation in order to accept the gift of the mansion from Mr. Draper. The founders of the Society were Miss M. Catherine Downing (now Mrs. T. Moore Holcombe, IV), Mr. Edw. Millis Hurley, and the Rev. E. John Dyer. They began the long-term project of restoring and preserving this eighteenth-century Georgian plantation house.

Today, the Milford Historical Society maintains the mansion as a house museum open to the public to illustrate life in Delaware in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Situated on about two acres of land, the oldest house in Milford retains the character of a plantation house. Although the exterior was modified in a Victorian fashion, the Georgian Colonial interior of the house remains intact. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.

The Board of Trustees of the Milford Historical Society wants to expand the educational use of the property as a teaching tool for Delaware history by allowing more of the plantation house to be used for display. First, however, the Trustees have sought to correct structural problems and to take care of long-deferred maintenance by launching a strategic restoration and preservation program. The Trustees have retained the services of Weymouth Architects and Planners of Wilmington and of Baker Ingram Associates of Dover to assist in the restoration and preservation project. The Trustees have also retained the services of Roberts Construction Company of Frederica for the restoration and preservation work. The work completed to date consists of the extensive reinforcement of the house foundation; reinforcement of the floor joists; installation of covers on the chimneys to prevent future water damage; and installation of a new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system. Restoration work is scheduled to start up again within the month. This will involve repointing the bricks of the west wing, the most critical portion of the house in need of this work, as well as some interior restoration. In addition, propane gas tanks will be installed following archeological testing,



The Phase One restoration project is estimated to cost \$594,000. The Society has received grant funding from state and private foundations and financial gifts from friends and members. A 40th Anniversary Capital Campaign was launched in July of this year as the Society continues to seek funding for the restoration and preservation work at the mansion. Further contributions are welcomed.

Parson Thorne Mansion is located on Silver Hill at 501 Northwest Front Street in Milford, Delaware. The museum is open (2-4 p.m.) April through October on the first Saturday and Sunday of each month. It is also open for special events and by appointment. The mailing address is Milford Historical Society, P.O. Box 352, Milford, DE 19963. For further information or to make an appointment to see the mansion, please contact F. Brooke Clendaniel at 302-422-3569 or Ralph W. Prettyman at 302-424-1789.

(Consributed by Ralph Prettyman, Trustee and Treasurer of the MHS, and Brooke Clendaniel, Trustee of the MHS.)



Milford Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Volume 42

Summer / Fall, 2005

IN MEMORIUM Mary Catherine Downing Holcombe 1909 - 2005



M. Catherine Downing Hocombe in front of her beloved Parson Thorne Mansion circa early 1970s.

Mary Catherine Downing Holcombe, a charter Trustee and first President of the Milford Historical Society, passed away January 1, 2005. Mrs. Holcombe was a gracious lady, who guided the society and the preservation of the Parson Thorne Mansion for over forty-three years.

Mr. James Richard Draper made the offer to her for the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to restore the Parson Thorne Mansion. She felt it was too big a project for the DAR and asked if the donation would be made to a local historical society, if one would be established.

In December of 1961, the Milford Historical Society was incorporated with Mrs. Holcombe as one of the original three Trustees. She served as a Trustee, the first President, and editor of the newsletter. When she retired as an active Trustee, due to her health, the Board of Trustees made her Trustee Emeritus.

A committal service was held at the Parson Thorne Mansion on January 12, 2005, and her ashes were interned in the retaining wall of the east arcade. A small bronze marker with just her name on it is set into the bricks of the east arcade floor (see page 5). If you seek her monument, you must look around you, as the Parson Thorne Mansion is her monument.

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH CELEBRATES 300 YEARS

The year 2004 marked 300 years of existence for Christ Church Mispillion. It was the second parish in Delaware established by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Rev. Thomas Crawford, a missionary priest of the Church of England, first held services in lower Kent County in 1704. The original church was located at Church Hill about three miles west of Milford.

The Rev. Sydenham Thorne, the first resident rector, was instrumental in the relocation of the church to the new town of Milford. Construction was started in 1791, was interrupted by the death of Parson Thorne in 1793, and was oot completed until 1835.



This sketch of the church was done by Frederick Polley in the 1930s as part of a series of historic churches in America. The original artwork, now in a local collection, is reproduced with kind permission of the owners.

Trustees and Officers

Officers -2004

President	Marvin P. Schelhouse
Vice President	Edward L. Hendel
Secretary	Susan J. Emory
Asst. Secretary	Carolyn M. Humes
Treasurer	Ralph W. Prettyman
Asst. Treasurer	F. Brooke Clendaniel

Officers -2005

President	Marvin P. Schelhouse
Vice President	. Edward L. Hendel
Secretary	.Susan J. Emory
Asst. Secretary	.Carolyn M. Humes
Treasurer	.Ralph W. Prettyman
Asst. Treasurer	.F. Brooke Clendaniel

Board of Trustees

F. Brooke Clendaniel	- 2006
Ralph W. Prettyman	- 2006
Susan J. Emory	- 2007
Richard M. Johnson	- 2007
Barbara W. Jones	- 2008
Edward L. Hendel	- 2008
Carolyn M. Humes	- 2008
Marvin P. Schelhouse	- 2008

In 2004, the general membership returned Susan Jackson Emory and Richard M. Johnson to the Board of Trustees for three-year terms. The year 2005 marked 25 years of service by Emory. The Society is very appreciative of her long-term dedication, and she has been granted life membership.

In 2005, the general membership returned Barbara W. Jones, Dr. Edward L. Hendel, Carolyn M. Humes, and Marvin P. Schelhouse to the Board of Trustees for three-year terms.

David W. Kenton Resigns

In 2004, David W. Kenton did not seek re-nomination to the Board of Trustees after nearly 18 years of service. Kenton was first elected as a Trustee in 1986. The Trustees appreciate his past dedication and wish to thank him for his many contributions of time and talent to the Society's activities.

The Antiques Market in 2004 on the mansion front lawn. The weather was beautiful.



STATE OF DELAWARE GRANT-IN-AID

The Milford Historical Society has once again been awarded grant-in-aid funding by the State of Delaware for state fiscal years 2005 and 2006. These funds are used for operating expenses incurred by the Society in running the house museum. Such funding cannot be used for restoration and preservation work on the mansion; however, this funding frees up other funds for restoration. The most recent grant was \$5,715.

The Trustees are grateful for the support of State Representative V. George Carey (R-36th) and State Senator F. Gary Simpson (R-18th) for their continued support. The Society has received a total of \$32,763.00 since 1999 as grant-in-aid funds.

The Society also thanks Trustee F. Brooke Clendaniel for his continued efforts in securing this financial support.

Antiques Market

The Historical Society held an antiques market in June of 2004. The modest-sized market enjoyed a modest success. After having been essentially rained out in 2003, "Mother Nature" granted beautiful weather in 2004. Needless to say, the market was not a financial success. Were it not for generous donations from Richard M. Johnson and David W. Kenton, who underwrote the cost of the tent, the loss would have been greater.

The market in June of 2005, was another story. The weather was absolutely beautiful and more vendors participated. Attendance was up and many people that came left with purchases. The Society purchased eight tents for this year's market that can be used in the future. Even with this cost, the Society made a small profit this year with the proceeds going towards the exterior painting.

Thanks to everyone who helped plan and run the event, the vendors, and members who stopped by in support of the Society.

A fall antiques market will be held on Saturday, October 1st, 9 AM to 3 PM, with plans to hold another the first Saturday in June 2006 and then again the first Saturday in October of 2006.



The Antiques Market in June of 2005. Another beautiful day.

Historic Markers Have Arrived

The State of Delaware sponsors a historic markers program. These bronze or blue and gold markers are seen peppered throughout the State. Due to its historic significance, Parson Thorne Mansion was in need of one. Members of the Trustees drafted text for such a marker and worked with Russ McCabe, historic markers program manager and now Director of the Delaware Public Archives, to have a bronze marker created to be placed at Silver Hill (Parson Thorne Mansion).

A dedication ceremony was held on July 31, 2005. Further, the blue and gold Milford marker that was next to the Citizens Bank building at the intersection of routes 14 and 113, was refurbished and relocated to the lawn of Parson Thorne Mansion. This is a fitting tribute to Parson Thorne who has been credited as being one of the founding members of Milford.

The Society is very appreciative of the efforts of Senator F. Gary Simpson for funding and sponsoring our new Parson Thorne Historic Marker.



The refurbished Milford State Historic Marker at its new location.

Additional photographs from the M. Catherine Downing Holcombe Memorial Service



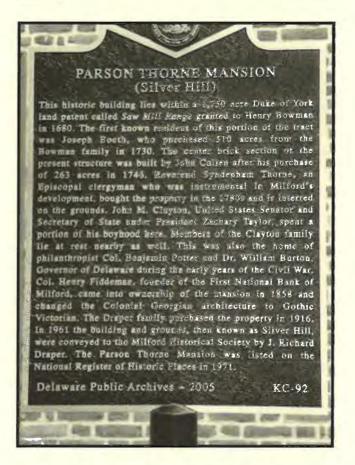
Site of the Catherine Downing Holcombe Memorial Service and the location of her remains.



Marker placed at Parson Thorne Mansion in memory of M. Catherine Downing Holcombe.



The new Parson Thorne Mansion State Historic Marker. From left to right: Director of the Delaware Public Archives, Russ McCabe; Representative V. George Carey; President Marvin Schelhouse; Secretary, Susan Emory; Trustee, F. Brooke Clendaniel; Treasurer, Ralph Prettyman; and Senator F. Gary Simpson.



Text details of the new Parson Thorne Mansion State Historic Marker.

Mansion Restoration Continues

The Trustees would like to report that further progress with mansion restoration efforts continues. Since our last issue, the re-pointing of bricks in the east arcade was completed during the spring of 2004. Also, the east arcade floor and retaining wall were rebuilt. Following this was repair work on exterior wood trim and siding that was either damaged or partially decayed. This work was performed by Roberts Construction Company.

Lastly, the exterior woods and metals received a new coat of paint (by Randy Mitchell of Milford and his crew) using historic colors found on the house during paint analysis research. Read more about this on page 7.



Bill Emory of Roberts Construction repoints the east arcade brick wall.



East arcade after completion of brick repointing.



East arcade floor removed. Notice the pockets where wooden floor joists were once used.



East arcade floor prior to renovation.



East arcade floor during construction.



East arcade floor and retaining wall after reconstruction.

Lecture Series Reactivated

The Lecture Series began again this Spring. More events will follow in the fall and winter of 2005. Mr. Harry Humes has volunteered to coordinate the next series. These events are for Society members and the general public. We hope that members will remember that these events are provided as a part of membership and we encourage everyone to attend future functions and enjoy the information shared.

The Society was pleased to host Catherine Adams Masek at the Milford Public Library on Wednesday, June 8th, at 7:00 PM. She gave a wonderful presentation on paint analysis and the stories paint can tell as part of the work she has done throughout the States of Delaware and Maryland. The event was well attended and the audience was captivated by her slides and information.



Catherine Adams Masek presenting her topic on paint analysis and the history that can be discovered through it.

McCabe Russ (DOS)

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject: Clayton Info

Russ.

The Cullen ownership was interesting in that John Cullen subdivided the farm to his sons, William, George, and Jonathan in 1772 and 1773. George Cullen brought it all back together when his brothers and father predeceased him, George agreeing to sell the whole thing to Sydenham Thorne on 9 Feb 1785 but died before making sufficient deed. His son, John, completed the sale on 16 Aug 1787. Thorne died in 1793. He left the mansion and farm to his nephew, Peter Caverly. Caverly is said to have been a member of the Delaware House of Representatives in 1797. He was also said to be Delaware Auditor of Accounts as early as 1799 and held that position until his resignation in 1815.

According to the Governor's Register, Peter Caverly was appointed Lieut. Col. Commandant of the 6^{th} Regiment of the Delaware Militia in June of 1803. The Register confirms Caverly was Auditor of Accounts in 1812 and that he resigned in 1815.

He moved to Dover in 1807 to assume the role of Cashier for the Farmer's Bank after having been appointed Director of this same institution along with many others like Jesse Green of Sussex. My thought is that Caverly moved and needed a tenant for the mansion. Clayton may have been that person.

John M. Clayton was born in 1796. He is said to have entered Yale at age 15. That would be 1811. He is said to have graduated from Yale in 1815 and that he began law practice in Dover in 1819.

James Clayton purchased the Thorne property from Peter Caverly on 11 Nov 1811. Caverly was living in Dover at the date of the indenture. At the time, Clayton was described as a Milford tanner. This means to me that Clayton was established in the Milford area prior to his 1811 purchase. If James Clayton and his family were at the mansion say by 1808, then John M. Clayton would have spent a couple of boyhood years there.

James Clayton died intestate on 24 Nov 1820. His widow, Sarah, went before Kent County Orphan's Court on 20 Feb 1821 seeking her 1/3 dower in his lands.

Col. Benjamin Potter and his son, Edmund S. Potter, purchased the Thorne lands from the Commercial Bank of Delaware on 9 Sep 1825. The land had been seized by the Kent County Sheriff and sold at public auction on 25 Sep 1821 to the Commercial Bank of Delaware. They obviously were a major creditor of Clayton.

I reviewed Becky's report again and can accept a 1760s construction or we just say mid-18th century.

Let me know if you have more questions to be answered. Also, let me know about 6/11 and/or 6/12 date. What is best for you? How do you feel about competing with the Antiques Market. Do you think we should wait until the place is painted? The painter we had lined up back out. I am having Tom Taylor look at the place on Friday. If he were to do it, he will not be able to tackle it until the fall. I

learned to paint with Tom having worked with him one summer when I was in high school but it did not occur to me to ask him until just this weekend.

Ralph

McCabe Russ (DOS)

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject: Re: Silver Hill/Parson Thorne Marker

Russ.

Sorry it has taken so long to get this together but your questions were good and made me dig more. My information is not complete with this response but this will give you something to think about while I gather more.

>>Was the "first dwelling here" constructed by Booth a portion of the present structure? Is >>the support for the 1730 date circumstantial or the result of architectural analysis?

Some background information:

Joseph Booth, who became styled as Gentleman, and who had been a Sussex County Magistrate, purchased 510 acres of Saw Mill Range from John Bowman, Jr., grandson of Henry Bowman, in May of 1730 (Kent Co. Deed Books K-1, p. 33.

Volume K, p. 33 – 5 May 1730 deed between John Bowman son & heir of John Bowman late of Kent Co, yeoman, decd, for 20 pounds heretofore paid to John Bowman the father and 2 pounds like money paid to John Bowman the son, sold to Joseph Booth, Senr of same county, gentleman, a tract of land in Mispelion Neck called the Saw Mill Range ... to Three Runs Branch ... to Clarks Branch ... 510 acres ... shall defend against claims of the heirs of Henry Bowman the grandfather and the heirs of John Bowman the father. Witnesses: Jno Edmonds, DAD Rees. Acknowledged 13 May 1730.

The second wife of Joseph Booth, Sr, was Elinor, and they lived in Kent County as described in a 1729 deed for the purchase of two lots in Dover. Vol. I, p. 204. The first wife of Joseph Booth had been Frances Spencer.

Booth made his will on 10 Dec 1732. This was more than two years after he had purchased part of Saw Mill Range. His wife must have been dead by this time for he did not mention her in his will. He bequeathed to his son, also Joseph Booth, "my dwelling plantation which I now live on." He left his grandson, Thomas Booth, 100 acres "lying over the branch, being part of the land belonging to my dwelling plantation." Thomas received an additional 80 acres "commonly known by the name of the point." Son, Joseph Booth, Jr., received the remainder of the lands. This seems to clearly describe the lands at and in the vicinity of Parson Thorne Mansion today. The point may be the peninsula poking into Silver Lake. The branch is probably Mullet Run.

Based upon the above information we can gather that Joseph Booth, Sr. had built a house upon the Parson Thorne Mansion site by the time of his death at the end of 1732 (I assume it was around this time he died, I have not found a probate date). He passed on all the land to his son Joseph, and grandson, Thomas.

Joseph Booth, Junior, died between January 4th and 8th of1736 of smallpox. He had become a Kent County Justice of the Peace. One witness to the will in a deposition stated that Booth made his will at his house in Murderkill Hundred. In his 1/4/1736 will, he gave son, Thomas Booth, 500 acres of Pemberton Savannah. He gave to son, John Booth, the plantation that lay on Murther kill brook called Maidens Dowry. He then mentions his son, Joseph Booth [the third], who was to receive half of "this plantation" and the arable land upon it. The other half was to go to his wife, Mary. Whoever lived the longest, was to get the whole tract including arable land, marsh, houses, and other items. Joseph Booth, III, was to also receive the remainder of the estate. The Saw Mill Range portion did not appear to be mentioned specifically but it must have been a part of the estate remainder.

A 174_ administration on the Booth estate shows that his widow, Mary, had married George Morgan and that Mary had died. Also, it showed that Booth had a mortgage with the Loan Office for part of Saw Mill Range.

Thomas Booth, died intestate prior to November of 1745.

A 1746 deed shows that Joseph Booth, Jr.'s daughter, Anna, married George Morgan, Jr. Joseph Booth, Junior, had died and he had mortgaged the property to the General Loan Office of Kent County. Thomas Booth had died. Also, Joseph Booth, III, had died. Son, John Booth, was the only surviving son. The land then fell into the hands of the remaining heirs of Joseph Booth, Junior. The lean was 120 pounds so the loan office had the Sheriff seize the land and sell it at public auction. John Cullen was the highest bidder at 70 pounds in August of 1746. The land was described as being 263 acres of Saw Mill Range in Mispillion Hundred of Kent County.

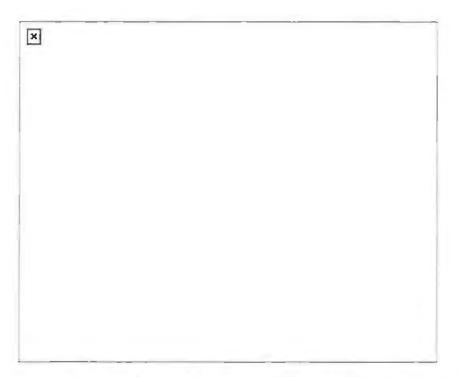
Word handed down is that the frame wing (which is attached at the rear) is the original Booth dwelling. Becky Shepard was here several years ago and I have a copy of her draft report (however, it contains several factual errors). Although not conclusive, she felt it dated to more around the same time as the main house or Cullen construction.

Perhaps Becky is correct regarding Cullen construction of both freme section and main house section. Joseph Booth, Senior, did build a dwelling house here between 1730 and 1732. After his death, it is difficult to say who lived in the house. It could be that the rear wing of today was the first house of John Cullen after he purchased the land in 1746. He could have removed the Booth house or made it a kitchen or slave quarters. Then, perhaps with a growing family, he built the brick section 15 or so years later attaching it to the older frame house.

Anyway, there were modifications over the years. I sent Becky photographs of architectural features that she did not have access to when she visited the site. These showed the hand hewn timbers and brick nogging. The architecture of the rear of the main house gives no evidence that it was ever a freestanding brick building but rather was constructed such that it fit with the frame section. In other words, there is no indication that the frame section was moved adjacent to the brick section but the other way around – that construction of the brick section accommodated the frame section. Artifacts were found beneath the brick portion of the house when footers had to be dug and poured in restoration work a couple of years ago.



The above photo from circa 1962 shows the rear wing. Notice there is no evidence that there were more windows than what you see above. The little bump out on the rear wing connected the rear door of the parlor to a door on the wing. It was long ago removed.



This is the second floor of the frame wing. Look how it was tied to the back wall of the main brick section.

>>If Cullen added the center section circa 1750, what is the supporting documentation for >>that statement and when/by whom was the third section added?

That circa 1750 date was another date handed down. Becky's report suggests a 1760s date based upon architectural evidence (plan and ornamentation). A 1775 orphan's court record for John Cullen just shows the main house when looking at it from the front. It is a very poor depiction of the house but it suggests five bay wide and two stories in height and one chimney. There are two chimneys on the main house now. One can tell the one on the right appears to have been a later addition based upon architecture.

The wings and arcades were constructed at different times. The architectural differences were observed during restoration work over the last couple of years. The west wing appears to be the oldest wing and was clearly freestanding at one time. We found a slew of artifacts beneath this wing. Also, the chimney is constructed such that it suggests it was once the chimney of a frame wing that was replaced by the present brick wing. The east wing is built differently from the west wing and I feel it (east wing) is "newer."

I'll provide you some more information along these lines. I wish I could get Becky to get her butt in gear and provide some real assistance. I had here down to Georgetown and sent her numerous photos for that project as well as PTM all to get no response. I would love to show you the photos of PTM and take you through the whole place. We do know from the inventory of Col. Benjamin Potter in 1843 that the rooms were configured in the same manner as they are today.

>>As concerns chronology – did Fiddeman make the switch to Gothic Victorian before or >>after Burton's residence?

Burton was living in the place well before Fiddeman purchased it. Burton was a guardian of Benjamin Potter, the grandnephew of Col. Benjamin Potter, the tanner. Young Benjamin inherited the place from his granduncle, Col. Potter. Young Potter became a physician, I imagine under the tutelage of his mentor, Dr. Burton. Dr. Benjamin Potter sold the house to his father-in-law, Col. Henry Fiddeman, on 5/1/1858. The young Benjamin was the son of John R. Potter. Burton gained guardianship in 1849. The orphan's court report cites that the farm and buildings were in the tenure of Doct. William Burton at that time. In addition to the dwelling house, it mentions a carriage house, Negro quarters, barn, stables, fencing, and gardens.

In the small manuscript collection on Burton is a lease agreement between him and Mease Smith, Esq. of Accomack County, VA. It is dated September of 1845 and is for a five-year period (1846 – 1851) where Burton

agrees in finite detail to the lease requirements. Mease Smith was guardian of young Benjamin Potter at this time as well as Benjamin's brother and two sisters. Benjamin and his brother came back to Delaware.

The Society has in its possession an 1863 "Map of the Fiddeman Farm" surveyed by John Stockley, Esq., of Smyrna, Del. This shows a depiction of the house and the Gothic "A" gable is shown on the main part of the house. So, we know part of the work was done by that time. Further, exterior paint analysis has revealed that much of the exterior wood (especially that used in the change to Gothic Victorian dates to mid 19th century.

An August 1860 Kent County Mutual Insurance Company application by Henry B. Fiddeman shows that the house was occupied as a dwelling by Gov. Wm Burton.

>When was the name Silver Hill "adopted/established", and by whom?

Good question. Certainly by the late 1800s. We have a photo of the mansion that clearly dates to 1870 – 1890 time period that describes it as Silver Hill Farm (that I emailed you previously). Fiddeman and his daughter, Mary Fiddeman Lofland, wife of Dr. Mark G. Lofland, owned it during this time (Dr. Benjamin Potter, Mary's first husband, died shortly after their marriage). She married Dr. Lofland, second, and had children by him but none by Potter. The Lofland's son, Henry Fiddeman Lofland, owned it after his mother.

>Is the property listed in the National Register?

Yes, it only has local significance but should have State significance at a miniumum.

>Any additional information you can provide would be much-appreciated.

I will follow up with some additional info – especially regarding the Cullens.