

The Ballestone-Stansbury House has had a centuries old history in eastern Baltimore County, Maryland with name changes and construction additions down through the years. In September 1814, the sounds of the Battle of North Point and the firing of guns at Fort McHenry, the birthplace of the Star-Spangled Banner, resounded across the waters of the Back River to those living there at the time. Known in earlier days as the Cedar Point House as well as the Miller farm, the house received another name chosen during the fervor of the 1976 Bicentennial. In recognition of a supposed George Washington connection, the house became known as Ballestone Manor. An erroneous interpretation of a Lord Calvert deed placed the site on a 1659 land grant to William Ball, great-grandfather of George Washington. However, a later 1671 correction to the location of the Ball property, re-enforced by a stone marker existing even into the 20th century, proved otherwise. Since two versions of the deed existed, the error can be understood. Again a name change was in order.

The Ballestone Preservation Society considered the loss of identity and resulting confusion. It seemed prudent to incorporate the name "Ballestone", while also honoring landowners of the past. The name became the Ballestone-Stansbury House in 2006.

The land upon which the Ballestone-Stansbury House stands was first patented in 1659 to Walter Dickenson, who named the property with his own name "Dickenson". On October 30, 1663, Dickenson sold the property to Daniel Jones, who later sold the property to John Dixon in 1664. The land passed from Abigail Dixon Scudmore to John Hayes who willed it to his son-in-law Thomas Stansbury in 1725-the beginning of a long Stansbury connection. In 1745, Thomas Stansbury had "Dickenson" resurveyed into a new configuration, which he named "Stansbury's Claim". During those early years, almost every settler, including the residents of Ballestone-Stansbury House would have been involved in growing tobacco to trade abroad until 1750 when wheat became an important export.

In the 1760's a family cemetery was established where Thomas and Jane Stansbury were interred. Possibly the house was built by another generation, that of Isaac Stansbury who had \$200 worth of improvements recorded on a tax list of 1813 when property values were

low. There is no doubt the two-story brick house stood on this 180-acre tract when listed by trustees of the late Isaac Stansbury in 1836. The house blossomed as a 2½-story structure in the Federal style, three bays wide, and its brick walls laid in Flemish bond. Sometime during its life, the house acquired a 1½-story brick wing addition, which was incorporated within the 19th century modification, and a 2-story frame addition, which has not survived.

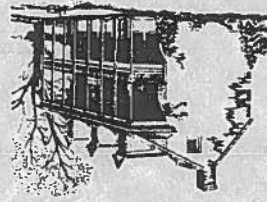
In 1855 Edward Miller purchased the Stansbury property after it had passed through several owners. It was probably the Miller family who expanded the house to a full 2½ story dwelling as well as adding a 2-story portico.

In 1969, Baltimore County purchased the property to develop as a park. The deserted farmhouse fell victim to vandals. The Heritage Society of Essex and Middle River began research and warranted that the house should be saved. Adopted by the Essex-Middle River Bicentennial Committee, restoration began in 1974. By the summer of 1977, the Ballestone-Stansbury House was ready to receive visitors.

Presently, the Ballestone-Stansbury House is administered by the Ballestone Preservation Society. Within the house are period room settings, which depict each phase of architectural development of the site. A Federal period dining parlor, circa 1780-1820, begins the tour, which leads the visitor through the next one hundred years of American decorative arts. Furnished to document a middle-class family, the Ballestone-Stansbury House becomes an enlightening experience for visitors of all ages.

Special events are planned throughout the year. These include an Easter Egg Extravaganza, a Civil War Re-Enactment, Tea Plate Luncheon, Halloween Haunted House and the Christmas Holly Tour. The Ballestone-Stansbury House is also open Sundays during most of the summer months. Periodically, special exhibits are on display. The House is also available at other times by appointment. The House is operated under the auspices of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks, Back River Neck Council and is a non-profit institution cared for by a volunteer staff.

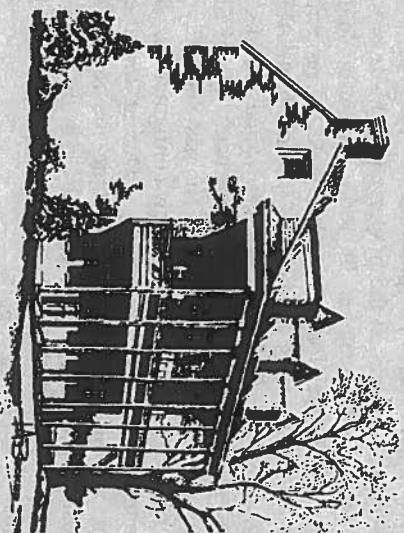
Ballestone Preservation Society
19 Lindsay Court
Baltimore, Md 21221



Welcome

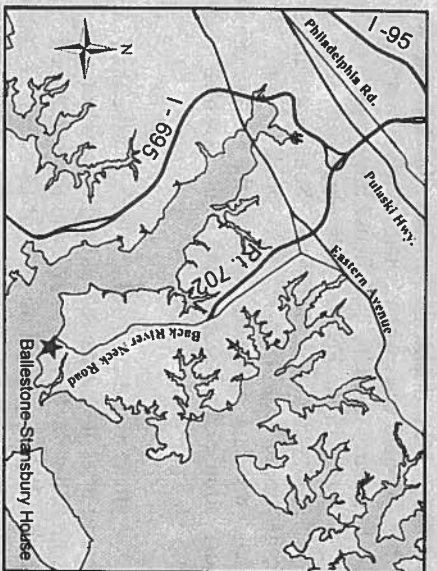
to

Ballestone -
Stansbury
House



Ballestone Preservation Society
In conjunction with Back River Neck
Recreation and Parks Council

Baltimore County Department of Recreation & Parks



For special requests or information, call
410-887-0218, 410-686-5821, 410-687-3945
Tdd/Voaf 410-887-5319

Address:

Ballestone - Stansbury House
Rocky Point Golf Course
1935 Back River Neck Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21221

or

Mail to:

Back River Recreation and Parks Council
Back River Recreation Center
801 Back River Neck Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21221

I would like to become a member of The Ballestone Preservation Society

Type of Membership

- Individual (\$10.00)
- Husband and Wife (\$15.00)
- Family (\$20.00)

All dues are used to help our work to preserve Ballestone - Stansbury House. Enclose check payable to "Ballestone Preservation Society".

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____