

Mexico Farm  
AL-111-A-154  
ca. 1852

Mexico Farm was built around 1852 on a highly productive farm on the fertile Potomac River flood plain south of Cumberland. An early owner of the farm was a slave owner who grew wheat, indian corn, oats, hay, and tobacco in great quantities. The farm was sold in 1822 to a business man from Baltimore County who later sold two-thirds of it to two merchants from Baltimore. Together the three operated the farm for profits and may have been involved in milling the grain. In 1852 a third of the farm was bought by Margaret S. Duncan of Baltimore County who built the large brick house. The Long family owned the farm from 1866 until 1974. At one time during that period it was a tavern serving traffic on the nearby C & O Canal and a public highway which forded the Potomac River on the farm. Early in the 1920's the Army Air Corps established an emergency landing field on the Long farm which consisted of barracks of five men, gasoline storage facilities, and two radio transmission towers. When private citizens opened another landing strip on the adjacent Johnson farm the army field was abandoned.

The brick house is one of the finest example of the Pennsylvanian Vernacular style house in Allegany County. It is a "L" shaped, two and one-half stories tall, five bays wide structure with a gabled ribbed tin roof and flush end chimneys. The main facade is laid in flemish bond brick with gauged flat brick arches over the first floor windows and doors. The brick cornice is unique for this area with both dentils and mouse-tooth designs. The interior of the building contains original woodwork and columned wooden fireplaces and built in cupboards also in original condition.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Mexico Farm

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Mexico Farms Road

Sixth

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Bill L. Smith

Telephone #: 777-0990

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Mexico Farms

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21502

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County courthouse

Liber #: 484

Folio #: 215

STREET &amp; NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland,

STATE

Maryland 21502

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

60-11-151

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mexico Farm is located north of Mexico Farms Road approximately four miles south of Cumberland.

The building consists of a two and one-half story, five bays wide "L" shaped structure. Wall construction is of brick, laid in Flemish bond on the principal, or southwestern facade, and in american common bond in a variation of five to one elsewhere. It rests on a low foundation of coursed rubble sheathed in cement with a beveled cement water table. The gable flank roof of the main block and the gabled roof of the wing are covered with ribbed tin. Eaves consist of a boxed cornice with a short sloped soffit, and a brick frieze decorated with bricks laid in a "mouse tooth" design and brick dentils. Three brick chimneys are located flush end, a larger brick chimney with a corbeled cap is in the center of the win .

The main entrance located in the center of the southwestern facade includes double doors of three panels each, paneled jambs, and an original four light transom. Three entrances to additions now removed have been bricked shut. Three entrances, one on the second floor, lead to a porch on the southeast of the wing. Original pegged six over six light windows have replaced cement lugsills on the main block and wooden lugsills on the wing. Wooden shutters are on the southwestern windows. Two casement windows surround each of the flush end chimneys. Gauged flat brick arches are over the windows and entrance of the southwestern first floor, other windows and entrances have flat brick arches. A two tiered shed roofed porch is on the southeastern flank of the wing. A gabled "summer kitchen" addition abutting the wing on the northeast has been removed. Another removed addition was on the inside corner of the "L" shaped building. A log out building is on the property.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mexico Farm is one of the finest example of the Pennsylvanian Vernacular style house in Allegany County. In both interior and exterior design the building conforms to the general pattern of the style and has been subject to little alteration.

The land on which the house was built was purchased in 1812 and 1813 by John Burbridge. (1) Burbridge became heavily indebted and his property was sold at public sale in 1822. (2) Lists of goods and property sold present a picture of thriving agriculture on the fertile Potomac River flood plain south of Cumberland, Included were four slaves, twelve horses, twenty stacks of wheat, fifteen hundred bushels of indian corn, three hundred bushels of oats, five stacks of hay, and an entire crop of tobacco, "new and old". (3)

The highest bidder at the sale was Edward Day of Baltimore County who paid more than fifteen thousand dollars for Burbridges farm and produce. (4) The tracts conveyed to Day were "Cresaps Kindness", " Cow Pasture", "Conclusion", and "Dispute" which together with "vacant lands" formed a twelve hundred and ninety-two acre farm known as "Mexico". (5) It is apparent that Burbridge applied this name to honor Mexico's rise to independence which was then a cause with much popular support in America. (6) Day's interest in the farm and the high price he paid for it may have been the result of the proposed extension of slack water navigation of the Potomac River to Cumberland. This scheme caused land speculation in Cumberland and along the river but was never carried out. (7)

Edward Day was a wealthy man who in 1813 built a stone church and rectory "at his own expense" at Kingsville in Baltimore County. (8) In 1824 he sold an undivided two-thirds of "Mexico" to Alexander MacDonald and Nicholas C. Ridgely of the city of Baltimore. (9) Trading under the firm of MacDonald and Ridgely they operated a general store in Baltimore and were obviously involved with Day in grain and milling enterprises. (10) The two Baltimoreans also owned a house on lot thirty-seven on Mechanic Street in Cumberland. (11)

(cont.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

John M. Blum, et al. The National Experience Vol. L (New York Horcourt, Brance & World 1968)  
 Lowdermilk, Will H. History of Cumberland, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971  
 Wright Milton, C. Our Harford Heritage (published by author)  
 Scharf, J.T. History of Baltimore City and County (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881)  
 Weeks Christopher, The Building of Westminster in Maryland (Annapolis, Md. :Fishergate Publishing Co.1978)  
~~CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY~~

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.75 Acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE		David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Coordinator	
ORGANIZATION	Allegany County Historic Sites Survey	DATE	July 24, 1979
STREET & NUMBER	County Office Building, 3 Pershing Street	TELEPHONE	(301) 777-5944
CITY OR TOWN	Cumberland,	STATE	Maryland 21502

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

In 1852 a trustee for MacDonald's estate sold his one third share of the farm and its profits to Margaret S. Duncan of Baltimore County.(12) It was soon after this date that the brick farmhouse was built. The fact that Duncan sold the same sized property fourteen years later at more than double her purchase price is indicative of a major improvement. (13) The deed by which she conveyed her portion of the farm to Henry F. Weber mentions a brick house. (14) Less than a year later Weber sold the property to William Long. This deed referred to the brick house and right of way for a canal ferry road to the C & O Canal and for a public highway fording the Potomac which led to the town of Frankfort (Fort Ashby, W Va.), (15) An equity case of 1900 described a "two story brick dwelling in good repair." (16)

The Long family owned the farmhouse from 1866 until 1974. (17) Early during this period the building was used as a tavern along the public road.(18) In 1920 or 1921 the Army Air Corps established an emergency landing field on the flat fields bordering the Potomac River. Barracks for five men, gasoline storage facilities, and radio transmission towers were erected on the Long farm. (19) Among the planes to use the landing strip were World War One Martin Bombers and fighter planes. Eventually the airport, under civilian control, was moved to the adjacent farm of Jerome Johnson and the Army facilities were removed. (20)

The farmhouse was built with many features characteristic of the Pennsylvanian Vernacular style and others that are somewhat unique. The "L" shaped building is two and one-half stories tall and five bays wide with a gabled ribbed tin roof and flushed end chimneys. The main facade is finished in Flemish bond with gauged flatbrick arches over first floor windows and doors. An interesting feature is the brick cornice with dentils and mouse-tooth designs similar to buildings constructed early during the nineteenth century in Westminster, Maryland. (21) A two tiered shed roofed side porch and the pegged six over six light sash windows appear to be original.

The interior is arranged with a central hallway with an open well stairway with one large room on either side. Original woodwork is largely intact. This includes high baseboards, chair rails, symmetrical moulding with bullseye blocks on doors and windows, and sawed reeding on the string of the central stairway. Built in cupboards and columned wooden fireplaces with moulding are in original condition.

The story of Mexico Farm is a varied one which illustrates the gradual change in the character of Allegany County. Early in the nineteenth century it was a farmstead which later became the source of profits for enterprising merchants of Baltimore who tapped Western Maryland's agrarian bounty. The farmhouse, built during the early 1850's, was an early example of a style which gained acceptance in this area later than it did in the rest of Maryland. At one time during the 104 years it was owned by the Long family the building was a tavern serving traffic of the nearby C&O Canal and a public highway. Early in the 1920's it was the site of the second military airfield established in Maryland. Throughout the years of changing lifestyles and surroundings the

Mexico Farm  
AL-111-A-154

### Interior Description

The house is arranged with a central hallway with one large room on each side. This hallway originally led to a rear entrance now blocked shut. Walls are finished in plaster with a high baseboard and a chair rail. Windows and doors have symmetrically moulded trim with cornerblocks.

An open well stairway in the central hall is of two and one-half flights and two landings. The closed string is decorated with pendants, fluted trim, and sawed decorative reeding. The original handrail and plain newell are intact. A steep enclosed one flight stairway with a winder is located behind the flue of the northwestern-most chimney.

Eight wooden fireplaces are parallel to the walls. Those on the first floor have wooden moulding and columns and masonry hearths. Built in dining room cupboards include three sets of double doors of different sizes. Further interior description is included in an enclosed letter.

building has remained in virtually original, but slowly poorer, condition.

- (1) Allegany County Land Records, Liber G, Folio 127 and Liber G, Folio 76
- (2) Ibid, Liber L, Folio 487-488
- (3) Ibid, Liber L, Folio 486-487
- (4) Ibid, Liber L, Folio 482-489
- (5) Ibid, Liber L, Folio 482
- (6) John M. Blum, et al, The National Experience, Vol I (New York Harcourt, Brace and World, 1968), p.200
- (7) Will H. Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co.)p.304
- (8) C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage (published by author) p.57 and J.T. Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881) p.921
- (9) Allegany County Land Records, Liber M, Folio 403
- (10) Telephone interview, Diana Diggs City of Baltimore Committee for Historical and Architectural Preservation, 9-6-79
- (11) Allegany County Assessments, 1825-1832 p.351
- (12) Allegany County Land Records, Liber 11, Folio 246
- (13) Ibid, Liber 23, Folio 620
- (14) Ibid
- (15) Ibid, Liber 25, Folio 329
- (16) Allegany County Equity, #5046
- (17) Allegany County Land Records, Liber 469, Folio 771
- (18) Interview, Floyd Johnson, Mexico Farms Airport, 8-27-79
- (19) Ibid, and photographs (see M.H.T. Inventory AL-111-A-153, Mexico Farms Airport)
- (20) Ibid
- (21) Christopher Weeks, The Building of Westminster in Maryland (Annapolis, Maryland: Fishergate Publishing, 1978) p.23

TITLE SEARCH

Mexico Farm  
AL-111-A-154

Allegany County Deed: Liber 484, Folio 215  
Grantee: Bill L. Smith and Sandra L. Smith  
Grantor: Paul H. Davis and Betty Davis  
Date: January 14, 1976

Allegany County Deed: Liber 473, Folio 90  
Grantee: Paul H. Davis and Betty Davis  
Grantor: John A. Miltenberger Jr. & Hilda G. Miltenberger  
Date: July 12, 1974

Allegany County Deed: Liber 464, Folio 771  
Grantee: John A. Miltenberger and Hilda G. Miltenberger  
Grantor: Rosella L. Thompson  
Notes: 162.45 Acres  
Date: March 24, 1974

Orphans Court of Allegany County: Estate #9419  
Grantee: Rosella L. Thompson  
Grantor: Michael H. Long (deceased)

Allegany County Deed: Liber 152, Folio 211  
Grantee: Michael H. Long  
Grantor: Ida L. Crites and James Crites  
Date: January 5, 1926

Allegany County Deed: Liber 127, Folio 636  
Grantee: Ida L. Crites  
Grantor: Michael H. Long  
Notes: 162.45 Acres  
Date: June 9, 1919

Allegany County Deed: Liber 104, Folio 95  
Grantee: Michael H. Long  
Grantor: Sallie L. Cunningham and James Cunningham  
Notes: Estate of Michael M. Long  
Date: December 23, 1908

Allegany County Deed: Liber 89, Folio 50  
Grantee: Sallie L. Cunningham  
Grantor: James W. Thomas and D.J. Blackison, trustees  
Notes: Equity #5046 mentions 525 acre Mexico Farm with two story brick dwelling in good repair  
Date: December 28, 1900  
Consideration: \$2,535.00

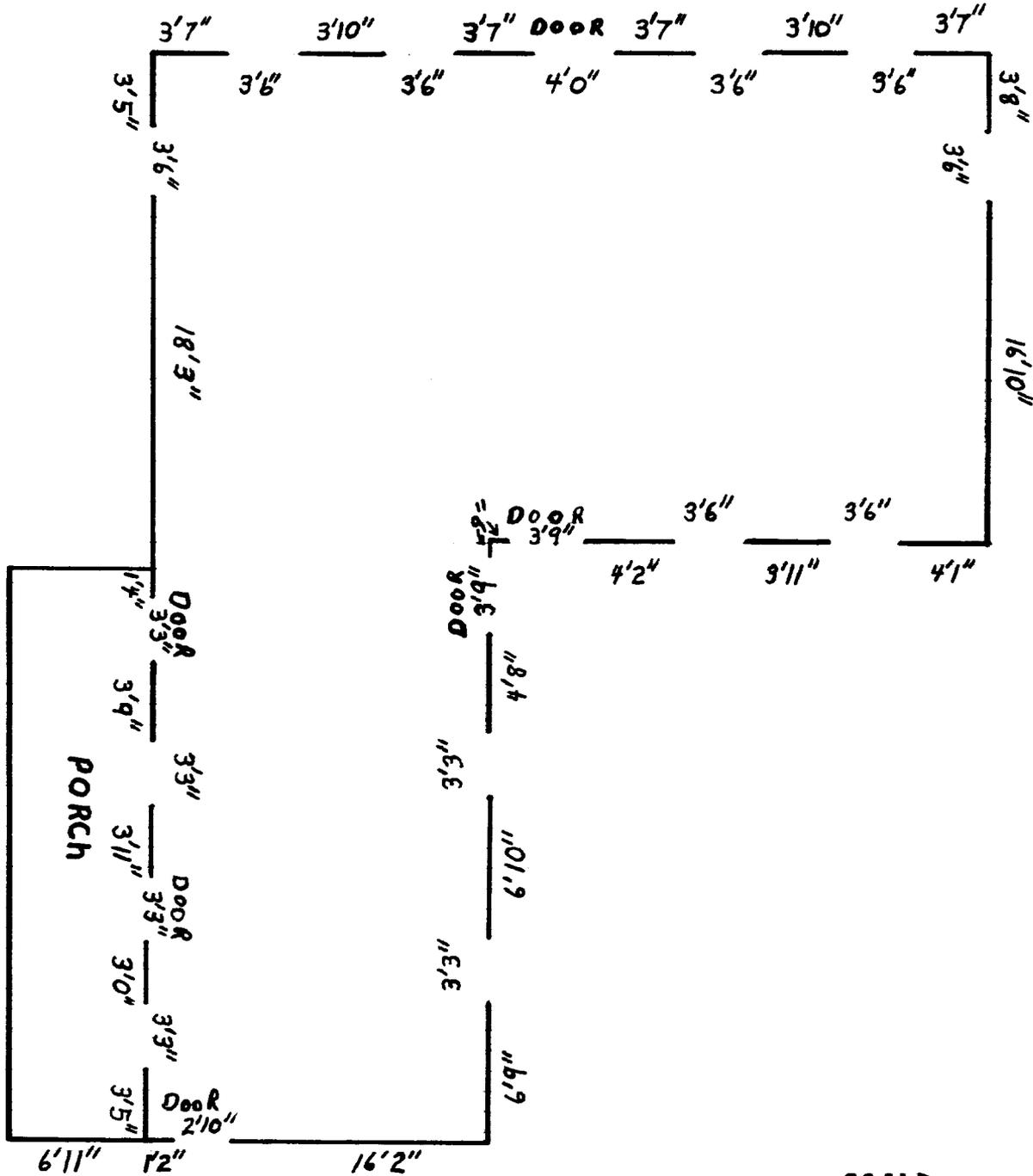
Allegany County Deed: Liber 25, Folio 329  
Grantee: William Long  
Grantor: Henry F. Weber, et ux  
Notes: Mentions brickhouse and right-of-way for Canal Ferryroad and public highway leading to Frankfort (Fort Ashby, W, Va.)  
Date: December 14, 1866  
Consideration: \$12,875.00

- Allegany County Deed: Liber 23, Folio 620  
 Grantee: Henry F. Weber, et ux  
 Grantor: Margaret S. Duncan  
 Notes: 425 acres, mentions brickhouse  
 Date: March 1, 1866  
 Consideration: \$10,625.00
- Allegany County Deed: Liber 11, Folio 246  
 Grantee: Margaret S. Duncan  
 Grantor: Robert Lemmon, trustee  
 Notes: Conveyed one-third share of land and profits of Alexander MacDonald, deceased survivor of the firm of MacDonald and Ridgely  
 Date: June 25, 1852  
 Consideration: \$4,500.00
- Allegany County Deed: Liber M, Folio 403  
 Grantee: Alexnader MacDonald and Nicholas C. Ridgely  
 Grantor: Edward Day  
 Notes: Conveyed undivided two-thirds of negros, premises, lands, and horses.  
 Date: April 30, 1824  
 Consideration: \$8,066.66
- Allegany County Deed: Liber L, Folio 482  
 Grantee: Edward Day (of Baltimore County)  
 Grantor: John Burbridge  
 Notes: Total 1292 acre tract known as "Mexico" comprised of four tracts known as "Cresap Kindness", "Conclusion", "Dispute", and "Cow Pasture, and "Vacant lands". Reconveyed by Andrew Bruce, esq., Sherriff, October 23, 1822, Liber L, Folio 488 with bills of sale.  
 Date: October 11, 1822  
 Consideration: \$12,100.00
- Allegany County Deed: Liber G, Folio 127  
 Grantee: John Burbridge  
 Grantor: Heirs of Carlton Belt (of Montgomery County)  
 Notes: Moiety of "Conclusion" and "Dispute"  
 Date: May 11, 1813  
 Consideration: \$100.00
- Allegany County Deed: Liber G, Folio 76  
 Grantee: John Burbridge  
 Grantor: Samuel Ridout  
 Notes: All of "Cresap's Kindness"  
 Date: December 14, 1812  
 Consideration: \$950.00

# Mexico Farm

AL-III-A-154

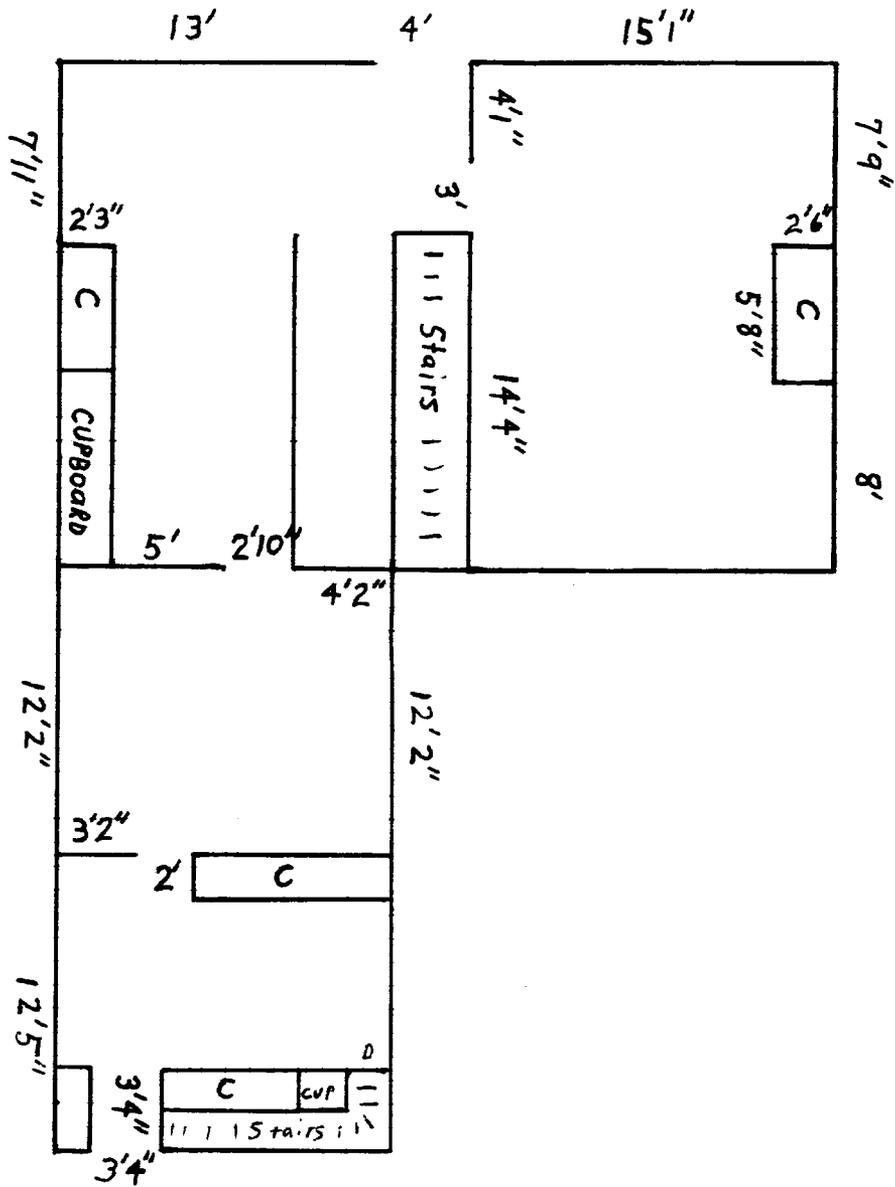
Exterior Dimensions



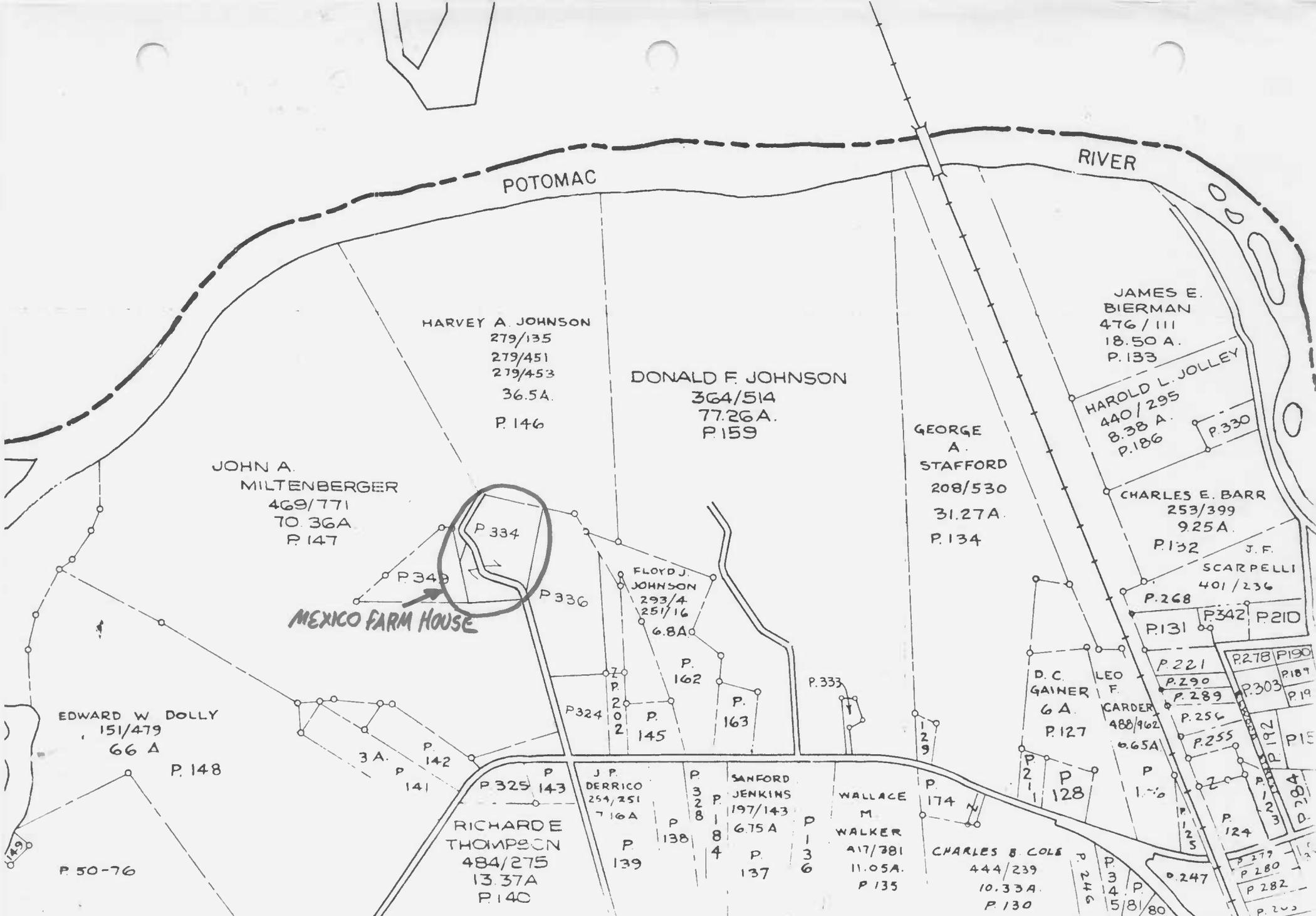
SCALE

1 Square = 1 Foot

Mexico Farm  
 AL-III-A-154  
 1st Interior Floor



SCALE  
 1 Square = 1 Foot



POTOMAC

RIVER

HARVEY A. JOHNSON  
 279/135  
 279/451  
 279/453  
 36.5A.  
 P. 146

DONALD F. JOHNSON  
 364/514  
 77.26A.  
 P. 159

JAMES E. BIERMAN  
 476/111  
 18.50 A.  
 P. 133

HAROLD L. JOLLEY  
 440/295  
 8.38 A.  
 P. 186

GEORGE A. STAFFORD  
 208/530  
 31.27A.  
 P. 134

CHARLES E. BARR  
 253/399  
 9.25A.  
 P. 132

JOHN A. MILTENBERGER  
 469/771  
 TO 36A  
 P. 147

MEXICO FARM HOUSE

FLOYD J. JOHNSON  
 293/4  
 251/16  
 6.8A

J.F. SCARPELLI  
 401/236  
 P. 268

EDWARD W. DOLLY  
 151/479  
 66 A  
 P. 148

D.C. GAINER  
 6A  
 P. 127

LEO F. CORDER  
 488/962  
 6.65A

RICHARDE THOMPSON  
 484/275  
 13.37A  
 P. 140

J.P. DERRICO  
 254/251  
 7.16A  
 P. 139

SANFORD JENKINS  
 197/143  
 6.75A  
 P. 137

WALLACE M. WALKER  
 417/381  
 11.05A.  
 P. 135

CHARLES B. COLE  
 444/239  
 10.33A.  
 P. 130

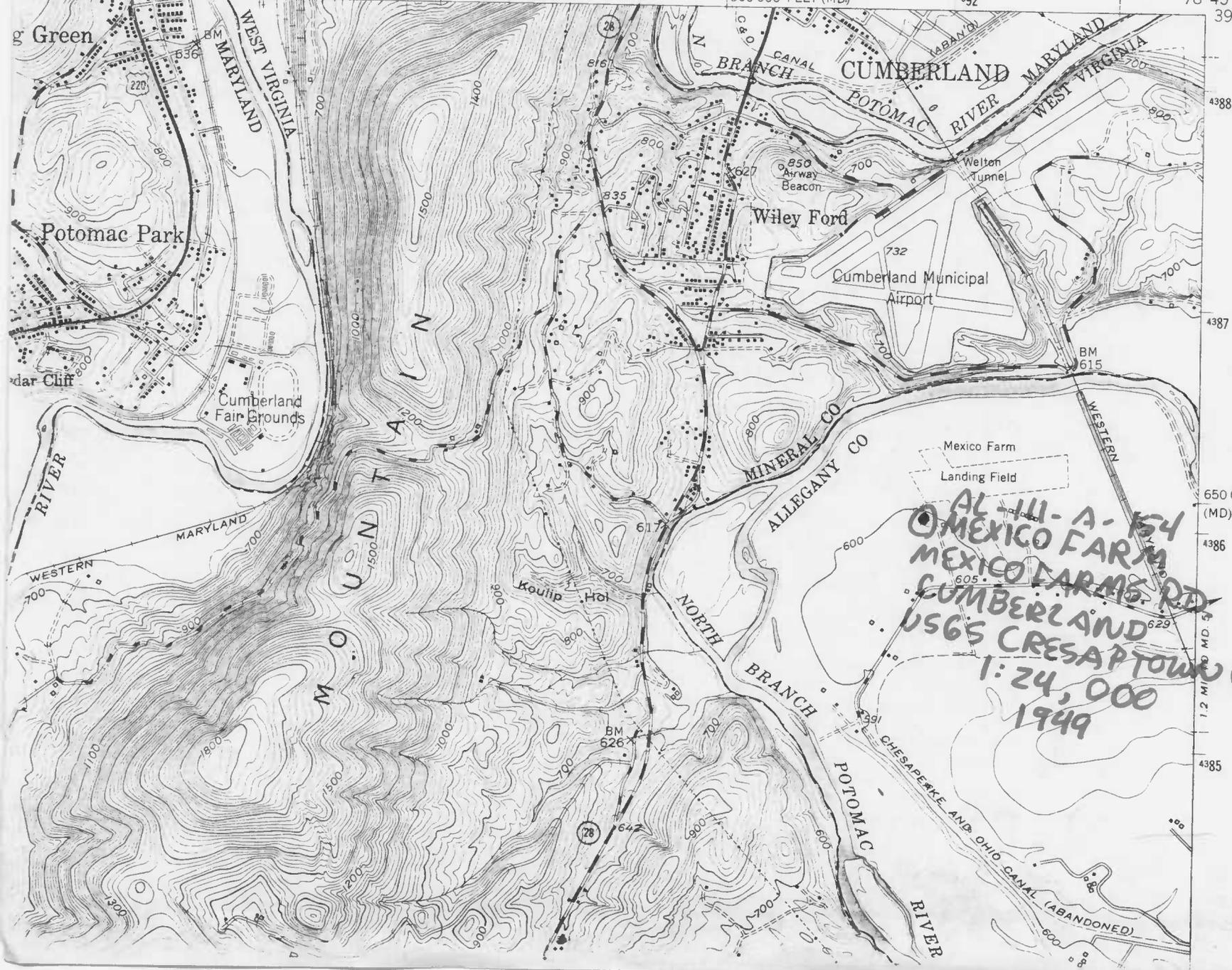
COMPILED BY  
**DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION**  
**TAX MAP DIVISION**  
**ALLEGANY COUNTY MAP # 38**  
 SCALE: 1" = 600'

AL-III-A-154

CRESAPTOWN QUADRANGLE  
WEST VIRGINIA-MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SE/4 FROSTBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

5263 11 NW  
(EVITTS CREEK)

688 CUMBERLAND (JUNC U.S. 40, 3.9 MI 47'30" CUMBERLAND, MD. 1.9 MI 300 000 FEET (MD) 692 78°45' 39°37'30"



AL-111-A-154  
MEXICO FARM  
MEXICO FARMS RD.  
CUMBERLAND  
USGS CRESAP TOWN QUAD  
1:24,000  
1949

154-11



AL-111-A-154

MEXICO FARM

MEXICO FARMS RD

CUMBERLAND

DAVID A. DORSEY

8/25/78

East



AZ-111-A-154

MEXICO FARM

MEXICO FARMS ROAD

CUMBERLAND

DAVID A. DORSEY

8/25/78

SOUTH



AL-111-A-154

MEXICO FARM

MEXICO FARMS RD

CUMBERLAND

DAVID A. DORSET

8/25/78

West



AL-III-A-154

MEXICO FARM

MEXICO FARMS RD.

CUMBERLAND

DAVID A. DORSEY

8/2/79

INTERIOR

DINING ROOM FIREPLACE

ON S. E. OF MAIN BLOCK



AZ-111-A-154

MEXICO FARM

MEXICO FARMS RD

CUMBERLAND,

DAVID A - DORSEY

8/2/79

INTERIOR - CENTRAL STAIRCASE



AZ-111-A-154

MEXICO FARM

MEXICO FARMS RD

CUMBERLAND

DAVID A. DORSEY

8/2/79

INTERIOR

PARLOR FIREPLACE

ON N.W. OF MAIN BLOCK



AL-III-A-154  
MEXICO FARM  
MEXICO FARMS RD  
CUMBERLAND  
DAVID A. DORSEY

8/2/79

INTERIOR  
DINING ROOM CURBOARD



AL-III-A-154

MEXICO FARM

MEXICO FARMS RD

CUMBERLAND

DAVID A. DORSEY

8/2/79

INTERIOR

THUMB CATCH