

AL-V-A-061
Bruce House Farm (Site)
Off Rt. 36, Between Mt. Savage and Murrantown
Ca. 1780

The Bruce House Farm Site is the original location of a large plantation known as "Mt. Pleasant" which was constructed by Andrew Bruce ca. 1780. The original farmhouse was constructed of stone and contained 25 rooms. Unfortunately, it was destroyed by fire in 1940. The frame house which now stands on the site was erected in 1942 and built within the foundation of the original Bruce House. Several outbuildings, from the original farm, including a dairy house and a fruit cellar still remain.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bruce House Farm (Site)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 36

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Savage

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Theodore Thorig

Telephone #: 264-4619

STREET & NUMBER

Bruce House Farm P.O. Box 532

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Savage

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland, 21545

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 255

Folio #: 17

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

ALV-A-061

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bruce House Farm Site is located on the west side of Rt. 36 near Mt. Savage, Allegany County and is situated between the towns of Mt. Savage and Marrantown.

The original Bruce House Farm, which completely burned in 1940, consisted of a large two and a half story, three bay wide, square shaped structure. The picture which accompanies this sheet was taken in the 1930's and it portrays a large remodeled house covered with stucco. Cut stone quoins and walls supported by a low stone foundation are also exhibited. The roof of the house featured a large offset gable shape, and included several small gable roof dormers. The eaves of the roof included wide soffits and frieze which were supported by large scrolled brackets and architrave. Large finials were placed in either of the offset gables. Windows in the house included double hung wooden sash frames with pediments and shutters on the second story level, while the first story exhibited full length French windows with shutters. The house also had a one story wrap around porch with a hipped roof. The roof was supported by turned columns and brackets which formed an ogee arch between columns. One high corbeled brick chimney appears to have been located on the outside end.

The present house, which sits within the foundation of the original Bruce house, was built in 1940 and consists of a simple two story, three bay wide, rectangular shaped frame structure. The house is supported by a low stone foundation and is covered by a gable roof.

Several outbuildings remain standing from the Bruce farm; among them are the dairy house which consists of a two story rectangular shaped brick structure. The structure features a gambrel roof which is covered by the original slate materials. Windows in the building exhibit double hung wooden sash frames with six-over-six lights and jack arches. Two semi-elliptical openings are apparent on the northwest end of the structure however these doors have been closed with cement blocks. A flight of stairs leads to the second story level on the northwest side. One corbeled brick chimney is found on the inside end of the southeast side.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

ALV-A-061

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

ca. 1780

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bruce House Farm Site is found on the location of the original farm which was built and developed by Andrew Bruce. Andrew moved to the Cumberland area after the Revolution and bought a tract of land called Mount Pleasant from his brother Normand. ¹ The tract included six military lots comprising 1,191 acres. ² Upon this tract Bruce built a large and handsom stone mansion which included twenty five rooms. ³ The house was built circa 1780, and as the farm developed, numerous tennant houses and outbuildings were constructed. Within the history of the house many additions and renovations were made by different owners. Finally in 1940 the house was completely destroyed by fire. ⁴ The frame house that now stands on the site was erected circa 1942 and is built within the foundation of the original Bruce House. ⁵ "The Bruces were well connected with important families in eastern Maryland; Normand Bruce's wife was the aunt of Francis Scott Key. ⁶ Andrew Bruce became one of the most influential citizens of the Cumberland area. Andrew was appointed one of five commissioners in 1787, served as the first circuit court judge in Cumberland between 1793 and 1838, and also served as a member of the Maryland General Assembly. ⁷

Andrew Bruce was typical of the new wealthy breed that came to the area in the 1780's. He had the characteristics of ambition, vision, aggressiveness and of course the money to invest which caused the Cumberland region to grow rapidly.

1. Harry Stegmaier, Jr., Allegheny County-A History (Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing, Co., 1976) p.p. 73-74

2. Ibid

3. Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Thoerig 5/23/77

4. Ibid

5. Ibid

6. Op-Cit- Stegmaier p. 74

7. Ibid p. 74

8. Ibid p. 75

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany Count Land Records Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Stegmaier Jr., Harry. Allegany County-A History. Parsons, W. Va.: McClain Printing, Co., 1976

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Theodore
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 54.21

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

John Nelson and Joan Baldwin

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

5/23/77

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-5967

CITY OR TOWN

La Vale

STATE

Maryland

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

INVENTORY NO: AL-V-A-061

DATE: 5/23/77

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

255/17
54.21 Acres

NAME OF PROPERTY: Bruce House Farm (site)

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Off Rt. 36

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: Southeast

NAME OF OWNER: 1952 Theodore Thorig 264-4619

ADDRESS: Bruce House Farm P.O. Box 532

Mt. Savage, Maryland 21545

Field Sheet is for Bruce House Farm Dairy House
STORIES: 1() 2(X) 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3() 4(X) 5() 6() 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS:

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- () FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
- (X) BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants. **Stretcher**
- () STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- () LOG
- () OTHER: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others _____

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6(X) 9/6() 9/9() other()
pegged() nailed() wide() narrow() mitred() pediment()

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: East
HARDWARE: original() replaced()
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)
original() replaced() rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers # _____
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original() replaced()

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable()

CHIMNEYS: Number: 2 Brick(X) Stone() Corbeled(X) original() replaced()
Location: Flue end() Inside end(X) Outside end() Central() Interior()

ARCHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

USE: Private Home

SIGNIFICANCE: Site

DATE CONSTRUCTED: Original house-ca. 1780/present house-1940

CONDITION: _____

I N T E R I O R

FLOOR PLAN:

- () CENTRAL HALL: Two rooms, each side; double parlor, one side
- () SIDE HALL: One room deep, two rooms deep
- () IRREGULAR

STAIRWAYS:

- () ENCLOSED: Single flight, two flights with landing
- () OPEN: Single flight, two flights - one landing, three flights - two landings
- () DOG-LEG
- () DOG-LEG with WINDERS
- () SPIRAL
- () ROUNDED
- () SYMMETRICAL DIVIDED FLIGHTS

WALL FINISH:

- () PLASTER
- () PANELED: original; replaced
- () BOARD PARTITION: baseboard, cornice, chair rail, wainscot

FIREPLACES:

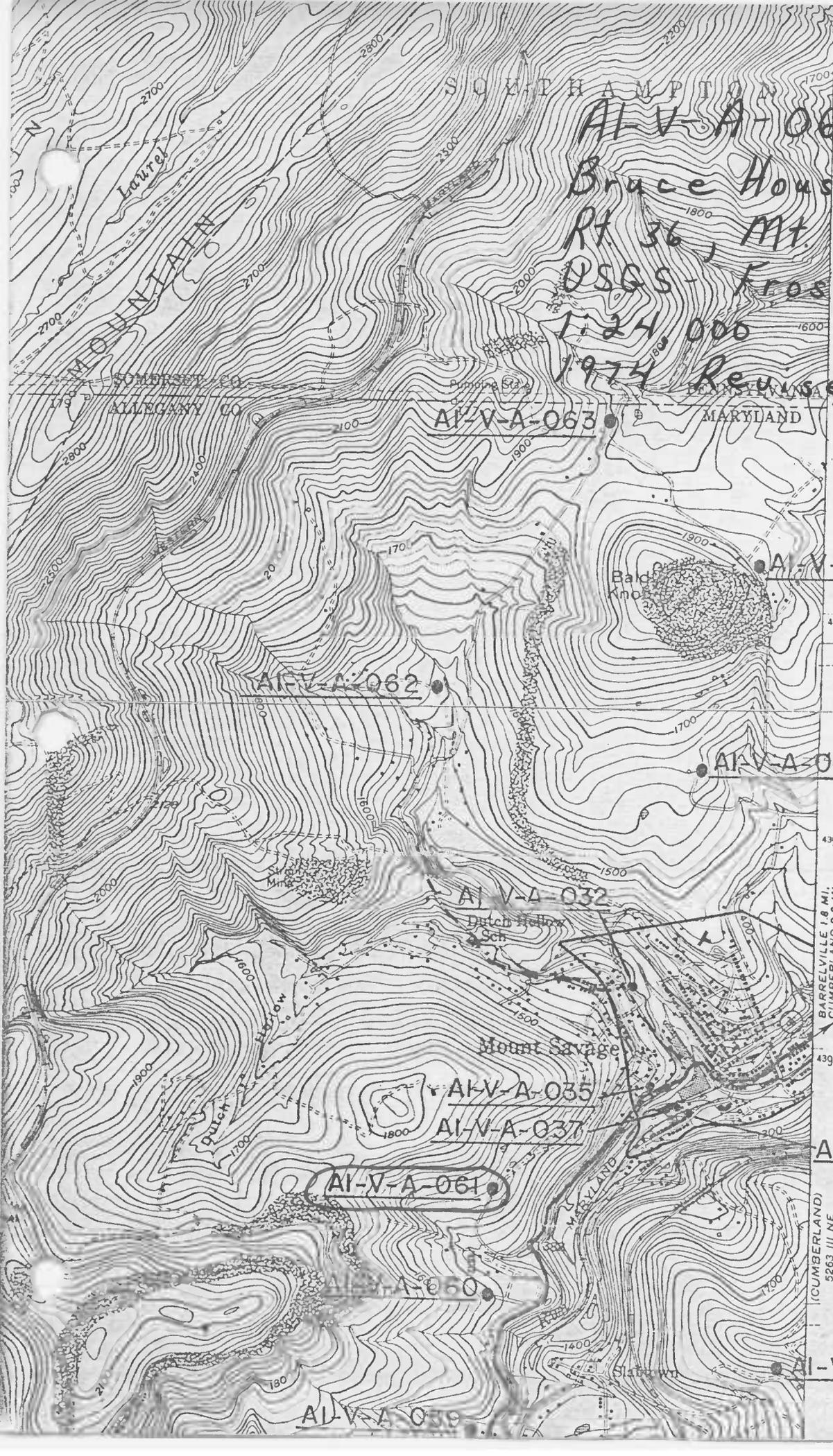
NUMBER _____
LOCATION: parallel to walls, diagonal
MANTELS: wood mouldings, pilasters, columns, masonry, marble

DOORS: paneled, board and batten, flush
HARDWARE: original; replaced

DOOR & WINDOW TRIM:

- () PLAIN
- () ARCHITRAVE
- () SYMMETRIC with CORNER BLOCKS
- () FLUTED
- () FLUTED with CORNER BLOCKS
- () ARCHED OPENINGS: elliptical, tudor

NOTES:



AL-V-A-061

Bruce House Farm Site
Rt. 36, Mt. Savage

USGS - Frostburg Quad

1:24,000

1974 Revised

AI-V-A-063

MARYLAND

AI-V-A-064

AI-V-A-062

AI-V-A-065

AI-V-A-032

AI-V-A-010

AI-V-A-035

AI-V-A-037

AI-V-A-036

AI-V-A-061

AI-V-A-060

AI-V-A-039

AI-V-A-031

BARRELVILLE 1.8 MI.
CUMBERLAND 9.3 MI.

CUMBERLAND
5263 III NE



A1-V-A-061

Original BRUCE HOUSE

OFF RT. 36, MT. SAVAGE

photo copy

JOHN E. NELSON

5/23/77



AI-V-A-061

Brooks House Farm (site)

Off Rt. 36, Mt. Savage

John E. Nelson

5/23/77

North



A1-V-A-061

Bruce, House Farm (dairy house) .

Off Rt. 36, Mt. Savage

John E. Nelson

5/23/77

Southwest



FIGURE 43

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BRUCE HOUSE (SITE)