

AL-VI-C-281

Barton Survey District  
Barton  
Private

1853

The Barton Survey District is located approximately 3 miles south of Lonaconing in the Georges Creek coal region of western Maryland. Prior to the founding of the town two farmhouses occupied the site of Barton. The architecture of Barton is characterized by frame vernacular and Victorian-styled dwellings and commercial buildings.

In 1853, William Shaw, Jr., laid out the town of Barton to accommodate miners employed in the new mines opened around his 1200 acre estate south of Lonaconing. Unlike the many company towns of the mining region, the 66 building lots of Barton were made available to the general public.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Barton Survey District

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Maryland Route 936 approximately 3 miles south of Lonaconing

CITY, TOWN

Barton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY  
Allegany County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY                                     | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS  | PRESENT USE  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> SITE                | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                   | <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

Multiple Ownership

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

AL-VI-C-120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193 and 194.

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>CONDITION</b>                         |                                       | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                              | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" 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**

The Barton Survey District is located approximately 3 miles south of Lonaconing in the Georges Creek coal region of western Maryland. Maryland Route 936 travels NE to SE through the town in a series of curves. Georges Creek flows NE to SW on the eastern and southern edge of the survey district. The Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad runs NE to SW through the center of the survey district. The terrain of the survey district consists of hills sloping towards the flat southern section of Barton.

Prior to the founding of the town two farmhouses occupied the site of Barton. The Hoffa House (AL-VI-C-120, Map #178) was originally a two story brick house based on the ell plan. Additions have altered the shape of the building and the gabled roof replaced with a hipped roof. The other early farmhouse (Map #41) is a 2 story five bay frame house based on the ell plan. The building has low stone foundation and a gabled roof.

The architecture of Barton's characterized by frame vernacular-styled dwellings are typical examples of styles found throughout the mining region. Most are two story single family or duplex dwellings which are rectangular or based on the ell plan. They rest on stone foundations and have gabled roofs and hip roofed porches sheltering their facades. Examples are AL-VI-C-124 (Map #24) and House #196 on the attached map. The latter building features decorative elements such as bracketed eaves, a central gable with jigsaw "gingerbread" decoration and bracketed porch posts which are characteristic of many examples of the style found in Barton.

The saltbox house is another vernacular style of architecture found in Barton. The 2 story single family and duplex frame houses rest on stone foundations and have gabled roofs. Shed roofed additions added to the rear elevations of these buildings give them the saltbox shape seen throughout the mining region. Two bay saltbox houses like the Tichnell House (AL VI-C-187, Map #198) maybe the first half of unfinished duplex houses. Evidence of this common practice is the blank NE elevation of the house. Duplex saltbox houses like the Mowbray Home place (AL-VI-C-194, Map #266) generally have central chimneys which serve both halves of the duplex building. The Green Brick House (AL-VI-C-121, Map #177) is an example of Pennsylvanian vernacular architecture. The 2 story 5 bay brick dwelling is based on the ell plan and has a hipped roof. Most of Barton's commercial buildings are examples of vernacular-styled architecture. An example is Willism's Store and Barton Post Office Building (AL-VI-C 292, Map # 58), a duplex saltbox building.

The Victorian-styled buildings exhibit the fine detail and various roof shapes characteristic of several styles of Victorian architecture. The earliest of these is the I.O.O.F. Hall (AL-VI-C-123, Map #208). The 2 story frame building rests on a stone foundation and exhibits the

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

| 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION                         |   |  |

SPECIFIC DATES 1853 BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Barton is one of the larger towns in the Georges Creek coal region of western Maryland. The Georges Creek Valley between Lonaconing and Westerport was farmland prior to the opening in 1853 of the Georges Creek Coal and Iron Company's railroad between the two towns.<sup>1</sup> Once this vital outlet for the coal trade was opened the area developed rapidly.<sup>2</sup>

In 1853 William Shaw, Jr. laid out the town of Barton to accommodate miners employed in the new mines opened around his 1200 acre estate south of Lonaconing.<sup>3</sup> Unlike the many company towns of the mining region, the 66 building lots of Barton were made available to the general public.<sup>4</sup> Miners from Barton were employed at the Swanton, Caledonia, Pickell, Piedmont, Barton and Potomac Mines.<sup>5</sup>

Augmented by the two Morrisson additions the town grew rapidly.<sup>6</sup> In 1854 the site of the town contained two farmhouses and three railroad shanties. By 1887 the town's population of 1,200 supported 6 general stores, 7 saloons, 3 hotels and 4 churches. The town was incorporated 1918.

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

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 Surveyor

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE April 1982

STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle, Shaw House

TELEPHONE (301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis

STATE Maryland 21401

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

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(continuation of #7 description)

symmetry, overhanging bracketed eaves and gently pitched gabled roof characteristic of the style. Other Halianate-styled buildings in Barton are the Beveredge House (AL-VI-C-186, Map #150), and the Ayers House and store (Map #91 & 92). The Ayers House is a 2 story frame dwelling with a shed roof with a projecting bracket cornice and an unusual central gable with jigsaw trim. The Ayers Store is a 2 story frame commercial building with a store-front facade surrounded by a projecting bracketed pediment.

The First National Bank of Barton (AL-VI-C-193, Map #54) is a small example of Neo-Rationalistic architecture. The symmetrically designed building has walls of brown glazed bricks. Its steeply hipped roof, hipped dormers, and round-headed entrance archway are common elements of Neo-Rationalistic architecture. Examples of the Bungalow in Barton are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  story frame dwellings with the dormers, gently pitched gable roofs and dormers characteristic of the style. Examples are #'s 26 and 211 on the attached map.

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Barton Survey District

Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland Vol. I, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1969, pp. 538-539.

<sup>2</sup>Thomas Scharf, The History of Western Maryland, Vol. II, Philadelphia; Louis H. Everts, 1882, p. 1466.

<sup>3</sup>  
Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Katherine Harvey, The Best-Dressed Miners, Life and Labor in the Maryland Mining Region, 1835-1910. Ithica: Cornell University Press, 1969, p. 79.

<sup>5</sup>Scharf, p. 1466

<sup>6</sup>See MHT Inventory, AL-VI-C-194

<sup>7</sup>Scharf, p. 1466

<sup>8</sup>The Maryland Directory and State Gazetteer, 1887, Baltimore: Baltimore Printing Company, p. 11.

<sup>9</sup>Thomas and Williams, p. 499.





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Barton Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 2/82

photo #1 looking northeast



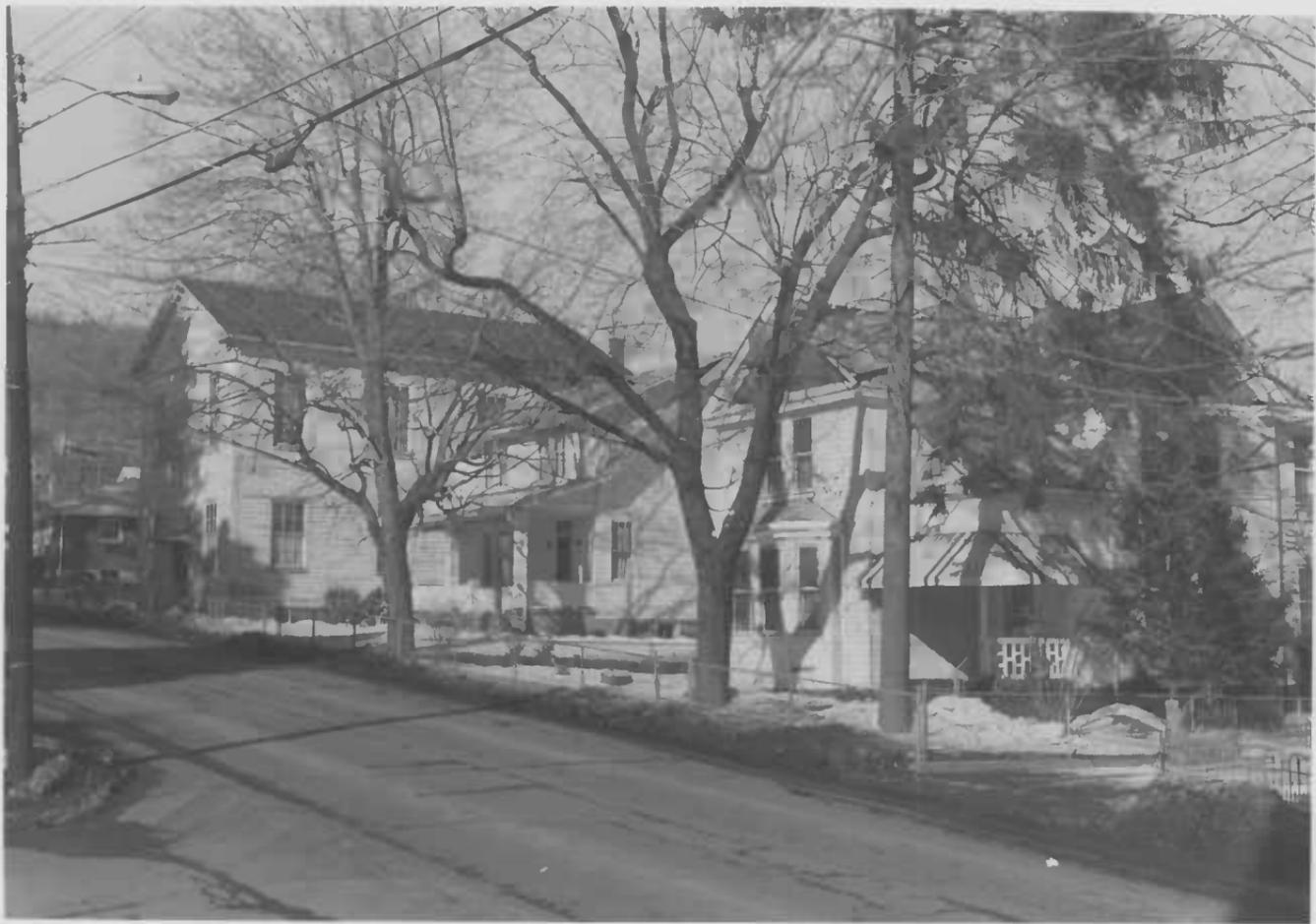
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Barton Survey District

Allegheny Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 2/82

photo #2 looking northeast



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Barton Survey District

Allegheny Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 2/82

photo #3 looking north



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Barton Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 10/81

photo #4, looking northeast



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Barton Survey District  
Allegany County, MD

David A. Dorsey            10/81

photo #5, looking south



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Barton Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

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photo #6 looking east



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Barton Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 10/81

photo #7, looking north



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Barton Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 10/81

photo #8, looking North



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Barton Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 10/81

photo #9, looking west



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Barton Survey District

Allegany Co., MD 2/82

Mark Edwards, Photocopy: Art

Work of Allegany Co., 1897