AA-1026 **Between 1885 and 1895**
Reigle Farm (Crawford Property)
Waugh Chapel Road, Odenton
Private

The Reigle Farmhouse (Crawford Property) is a rare, perhaps unique, Anne Arundel County example of a 19th-century German kreuzehaus. This dwelling type, commonly called the "Pennsylvania Farmhouse" type is found in large numbers in areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia heavily settled by German immigrants in the 18th century. The kreuzehaus, however, did not achieve popularity in Anne Arundel County, where English building traditions dominated.

The Reigle Farm occupies 10 acres. The dwelling, complete with its classic, kreuzehaus, double front door arrangement, is in very good condition, but has been altered with artificial siding. A collection of outbuildings that date to the first half of the 20th century are present. They appear unaltered, but are deteriorating.

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AA-1026

Magi No.

DOE ____ yes ____ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Reigle Farm (preferred)

and/or common Crawford Property

2. Location

street & number 720 Waugh Chapel Road ____ not for publication

city, town Odenton ____ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
____ district	____ public	x occupied	____ agriculture	____ museum
x building(s)	x private	____ unoccupied	____ commercial	____ park
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational	x private residence
____ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	____ entertainment	____ religious
____ object	____ in process	____ yes: restricted	____ government	____ scientific
	____ being considered	____ yes: unrestricted	____ industrial	____ transportation
	____ not applicable	x no	____ military	____ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Hilda Crawford

street & number 720 Waugh Chapel Road telephone no.:

city, town Odenton state and zip code: Maryland 2

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse liber FSR 120

street & number Franklin Street folio 476

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ____ federal ____ state ____ county ____ local

ository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AA-1026

Condition		Check one	Check one
x excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	x original site
good	ruins	x altered	moved date of move
fair	unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Reigle Farm is located in Odenton, Maryland in a rapidly developing section of northwestern Anne Arundel County. This intact and well-maintained, late 19th century farmhouse, with later outbuildings, sits on the south side of Waugh Chapel Road approximately midway between Piney Orchard Parkway and U.S. Rt. 3.

The land features 10 acres of gently rolling hills. The fallow fields are bordered on the south and west by thick stands of woods, while a recently constructed residential subdivision is situated directly north of the farm. The subdivision sits on land formerly part of the Reigel Farm.

Contributing resources include a two-story, German-plan dwelling, meathouse, privy, corncrib, machine shed and large tobacco barn. Except for the barn, all outbuildings appear to date to the first half of the 20th century and show little alteration. The south section of the tobacco barn appears similar in age to the other buildings. An addition was added to the north side in the 1950s, which roughly doubled the barn's size. A family cemetery is located on the property, behind the house.

The farm's dwelling, though quite plain, is a classic synthesis of traditional English and German vernacular traditions. Its distinctly Germanic qualities are common in the German-settled regions of the Shenendoah Valley, western Maryland and Pennsylvania, but are unusual for Anne Arundel County.

Built between 1885 and 1895, the Reigel Farmhouse is an east facing, 2-½ story, frame dwelling. The house displays four building episodes. The oldest section is the 2 -½ story, rectangular, single pile, side-gable front block. This portion sits on a rubble ironstone foundation and is fronted by an extensively rebuilt/replacement shed-roof porch. Early additions include the 2 1/2-story, two-bay, rear ell, and enclosed rear shed porch, both of which rest on a very low brick foundation. The large plate-glass windows contained in the one-story room, located in the southeast corner between the ell and main house, indicate this to be the most recent addition.

The entire mass is sheathed in artificial siding, applied over older weather boards The narrow-gauge, corrugated metal roof appears relatively new, and is pierced at the ridgeline on either end by a corbelled interior stove chimney. A third chimney projects from the roof of the ell. It is short, plain and built of dark machine-made brick. The cornice of both the main pile and rear ell is boxed and the narrow frieze board unembellished.

With respect to fenestration, 2/2 sash windows predominate. Exceptions include the six-light window installed in the rear shed-porch and the modern 1/1 aluminum sash windows found in the southeast corner addition.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-1026

Period	Areas of Significance----Check and justify below			
____ prehistoric	____ archeology-prehistoric	____ community planning	____ landscape architecture	____ religion
____ 1400-1499	____ archeology-historic	____ conservation	____ law	____ science
____ 1500-1599	____ agriculture	____ economics	____ literature	____ sculpture
____ 1600-1699	x architecture	____ education	____ military	____ social/ humanitarian
____ 1700-1799	____ art	____ engineering	____ music	____ theater
x 1800-1899	____ commerce	____ exploration/settlement	____ philosophy	____ transportation
____ 1900-	____ communications	____ industry	____ politics/government	x ethnic
		____ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

Check: Applicable Criteria: x A ____ B x C ____ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ____ A ____ B ____ C ____ D ____ E ____ F ____ G

Level of Significance: ____ national ____ state x local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

Built between 1885 and 1895, Reigel Farmhouse is architecturally significant as a rare, perhaps unique, Anne Arundel County example of a vernacular 19th-century German kreuzehaus. Twin, juxtaposed front doors and open floor plan identify the Reigel house as a kreuzehaus. This 19th-century dwelling type is also frequently identified as the "Pennsylvania Farmhouse" due to the large number of this form built in the German-settled regions of rural Pennsylvania. More recent survey work by Ken Short and others reveals that the so called "Pennsylvania Farmhouse" is also found in large numbers in the German-settled regions of western Maryland and Virginia's Shenendoah Valley.

In early America the dominant Anglo-American culture influenced the material culture of ethnic groups. 19th-century German architecture in Pennsylvania, Maryland and parts of Virginia clearly displays an acculturating process resulting from this influence. The Reigle House is a rare local example of how this process played out.

Both the kreuzehaus and flurkuchenhaus, the other common German house type have antecedents in Europe, and were brought to America in the 18th century by German immigrants. 18th-century kreuzehaus examples feature a squarish plan divided into four rooms of different sizes with a center stack stove chimney (Bergengren, 1991). By way of comparision, the traditional flurkuchenhaus plan is divided into three different size rooms and a central stove chimney. A signficant corpus or information exists on the origins of and changes over time to traditional German architecture (Wuse, 1962; Glassie, 1978; and Chapel, 1982).

The 19th-century kreuzehaus variant (or Pennsylvania Farmhouse) differes considerably from the 18th-century ancestor. The 19th-century type synthesizes both customary German and dominant English building traditions. The symmetrical, balanced façade, though transmuted by the utilization of two front doors, represents a concession to Anglo preference for symmetry. German features include the seemingly redundant, two front doors, an open floor plan, and rear-facing stair (Bergengren, 1991).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No AA-1026

(1) This thesis is widely accepted and the theories expressed here are drawn from several sources. In particular:
Edward A. Chappell, "*Acculturation in the Shenandoah Valley: Rhenish Houses of the Massanutten Settlement*" in Common Places : Readings in Vernacular Architecture, edited by Dell Upton and John M. Vlach. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986.
Henry Glassie, "*Eighteenth-Century Cultural Process in Delaware Valley Folk Building*" in same
Charles Bergengren, "*The Cycle of Transformations in Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania, Houses*" in Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, edited by Thomas Carter and Bernard L. Herman. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1991.
(2) Federal Agricultural Production Schedule, Anne Arundel County, dist. 4, 1880. MD State Archives, Annapolis, MD.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10.24 acres

Quadrangle name Odenton

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UTM References Do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Legal boundary of property as shown on Anne Arundel County tax map 29, block 16, parcel 298

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

e	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Sherri M. Marsh		
organization	Anne Arundel County Historic Sites Survey	date	December 1999
street & number	Department of Planning and Code Enforcement, 2664 Ri		
city or town	Annapolis	stat	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
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Description Continued

In addition, the attic-level is illuminated at each end by a single, four-light fixed-sash window, placed west of center. This alignment is not echoed on the first level.

An unusual fenestration pattern provides the most telling exterior clue to the dwelling's Germanic associations. The second story posses three evenly spaced bays, each containing a single 2/2 window. The house, however, is characterized by its first floor fenestration. This level is divided into four bays, with the first two being a mirror image of the third and forth. Specifically, openings alternate window-door, door-window, with a disproportionately large wall space existing between the entrances. The doors are typical, four-panel types; each is fronted by a wooden screen door.

It is the presence of two front door openings (and the concomitant open plan) that distinguishes the Reigel House from the common and widely popular I-house. The I-house, which featured a single, centrally placed front entrance remained in favor among rural homebuilders during most of the 19th-century and into the early part of the 20th. The kreuzehaus, which the Reigle House represents, occurred far less frequently and is strictly a German vernacular form.

Two secondary entrances provide access to the inside. One is a somewhat deteriorated 4-light over 2-panel door, located on the left side of the ell's north wall. A wooden screen door is also present. A window is located immediately to the right of the door. Two second-floor windows align with the openings below. The remaining entrance is located on the left side of the enclosed rear shed porch. This opening is fitted with a modern wooden door and aluminum storm door.

The gable-end walls of the main block lack openings, except for the previously noted attic windows. The south wall of the small one-room addition contains two modern rectangular windows.

With respect to internal arrangement, the Reigle House possesses a classic 19th-century Kreuzehaus internal arrangement that fuses Anglo-American and Germanic building traditions. The house's front block is divided into two, roughly equal size rooms forming a double-parlor plan. Each of these two rooms communicates directly with the outside via front door opening with out benefit of an intermediate center passage.

The center passage, or more commonly center hall, containing a front-facing staircase leading to the second level is a classic feature of the American I-house. The Reigle House lacks this key feature. In German fashion, the Reigle house staircase is de-emphasized. The entire staircase is boxed in, and in keeping with German tradition, oriented to the back of the house.

The kitchen is contained in the rear ell. The current ell either replaces an earlier attached wing or detached kitchen.

The Reigle House is well maintained and in very good condition. Associated out buildings display some deterioration, but overall are in fair condition.

Significance Continued

To the casual observer, the kreuzehaus' double door configuration may seem curious, but the plan and stair would probably go without notice. Taken collectively, however, these features are esoteric, but significant and separate the kreuzehaus, and therefore the Reigle House from the English-American building tradition.

The development of the center passage or, as it is known in contemporary parlance, hall is an architectural element given much attention by scholars. First appearing in England in the 17th century, the center passage is literally the centerpiece of Georgian architecture and is a standard feature in the vast majority of the later style popular in England and America. The center passage found its way into the Anglo-American vernacular tradition, most notably the I-house (McMurry, 1988).

Architectural historians associate the development of the passage with the increased value society placed upon privacy. In this context the passage or hall is seen as a controling space. It provided a transitional space between the outside and private living areas. Vistors were received here, and if accepted allowed inside.The hall also served as the location for the staircase. The stair was visible to all visitors entering the house. As a result, it was frequently the locus for elegant and expensive finish and trim (Bushman, 1993).

The passage and the stair are important and lasting elements in the English building tradition that were transmitted into American architecture. By contrast, the German architectural tradition brought to 18th century America did not emphasize either the stair or the passage. This is not to say that after a certain date all English-American houses of a certain size had a passage, while German-built dwellings did not. Yet, the importance of the passage, the finish treatment it received, and the frequency with which it occurred in houses of the English tradition is well documented, as is its rarity and when present mean treatment in the German tradition.

German vernacular architecture typically rejects the "closed plan" created by the passage, instead preferring an "open plan" allowing unhindered access from the outside into the private living space of the house. In keeping with the German tradition, the stair is not emphasized. The staircase is boxed in and oriented toward the rear of the house.

The two front doors provide direct, unhindered access from the outside into the dwelling's private space. In the original flurkuchenhaus, these were the kitchen (kuche) and living room or parlor (stube). Later, in both the flurkuchenhaus and the kreuzehaus, the kitchen was frequently relocated to a rear ell, leaving the front two rooms as formal living room/parlor spaces (Chappel, 1986).

As Charles Bergengren states, "the kreuzehaus/Pennsylvania type represents a compromise between the openness of the flurkuchenhaus and the closure of the Baroque Georgian house". The Reigle Farmhouse is a classic example of this arrangement.

Significance Continued

The kreuzehaus reached the height of popularity in the first half of the 19th century, and declined in frequency as families of German extraction became increasingly acculturated and opted for more mainstream buildings. The I-house, the quintessential "American" farmhouse, most frequently supplanted the kreuzehaus, and other regional or ethnic building forms (Chappel, 1982).

The kreuzehaus rarely appears in an Anne Arundel County context. Its rarity is explained by the fact that the kreuzehaus generally appears in rural communities with a well-established German presence. It is an evolved rural form generated over time by the co-mingling of different ethnic groups.

While large numbers of Germans came to Anne Arundel County in the later part of the 19th century and early 20th century, most were recent immigrants who came to Anne Arundel via urban Baltimore. As a result, most Anne Arundel County residents of German extraction had little exposure to this amalgamated building form.

Farm History

The Reigle Farm encompasses 10 of the 16 acres Charles D. Reigle purchased from William Joyce in 1885. Charles Reigle's name first appears in county tax assessments in 1896, and appears well established at that time. The assessment values the dwelling, almost certainly the present farmhouse, at $300, and also makes mention of a stable, cornhouse and chicken house. In that year Charles is also assessed for a gun and furniture with a total value of $63.

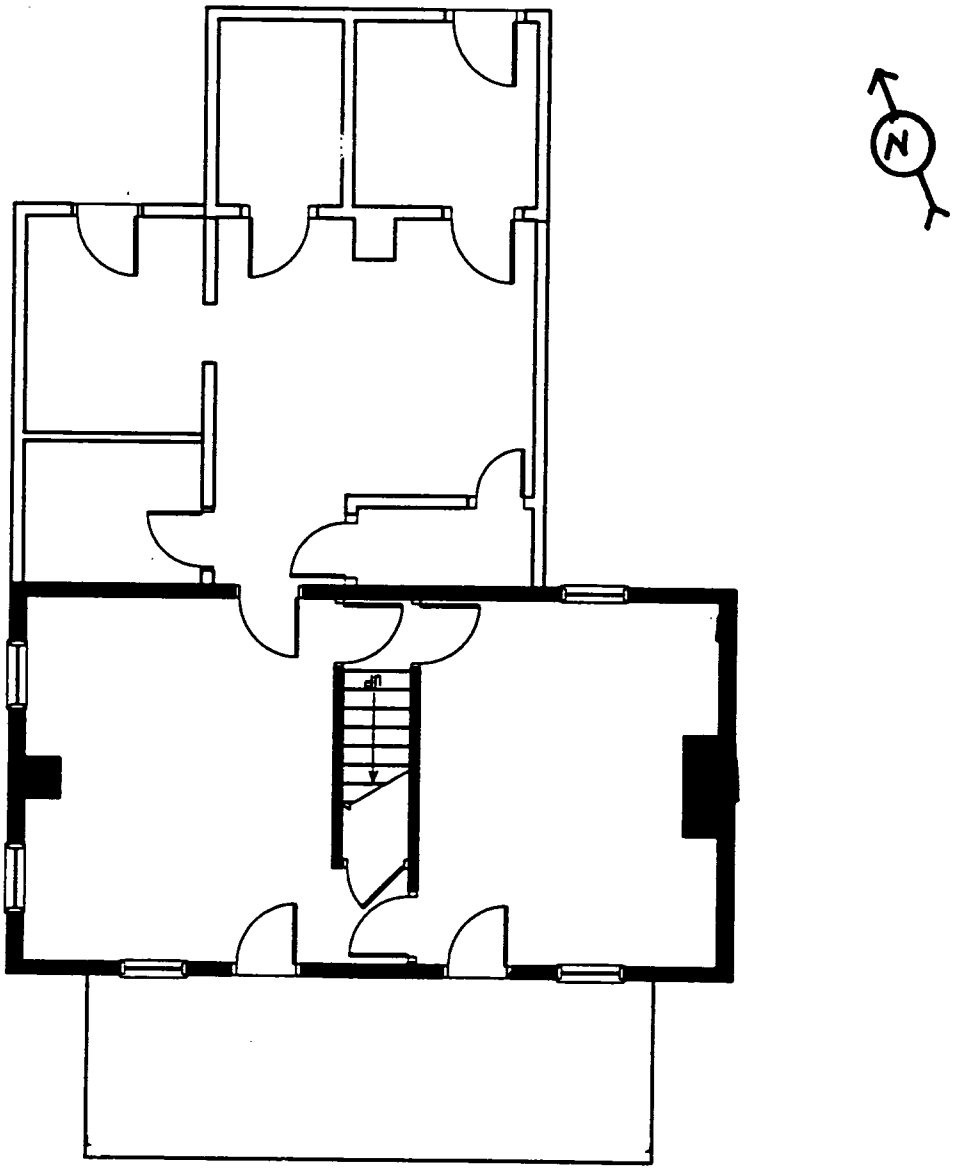
Charles Reigle does not appear in the agricultural census. Charles' father, John, is listed in the 1880 agricultural census and identifies him as a tenant farm cultivating an impressive 800 acres. This is eight times larger than the average 100-acre farms of his immediate neighbors. Much of the farm, however, was left uncultivated and was comparatively less profitable on an acre to acre basis than other farms in the area. Compared with neighbors, John's farm emphasized corn, peaches and wheat, while his neighbors, while diversified to some extent, continued to rely on tobacco.

Unfortunately, 1880 is the last year the Agricultural Census was taken in Anne Arundel County so a lot is unknown about the independent operation of Charles Reigle. The presence of a large tobacco barn, expanded in the 20th century, indicates that he and his successors continued to grow tobacco even as much of the regions was converting to truck farming.

After Reigle's death, the farm passed to his wife Mary, who in turn left it to their children. Charles and Mary's grand daughter, Hilda Crawford, currently owns the property.

The John Robert's House, located in Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania, is a classic "Pennsylvania Farmhouse" or, more correctly, kreuzehaus. Note the similarity of this dwelling and the Reigle Farmhouse. (source: Charles Bergengren, The Cycle of Transformations in Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania, Houses, in Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, Vol. IV, Univ of Missouri Press, 1991).

Above: John Robert's House
Below: Riegle Farmhouse



Reigle House, 1st Floor Plan
Note double front doors and reversed stair

AA-1026
Reigle Farm (Crawford Property)
Waugh Chapel Road, Odenton
Private

Built between
1885-1895

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

I. Geographic Organization: Western Shore

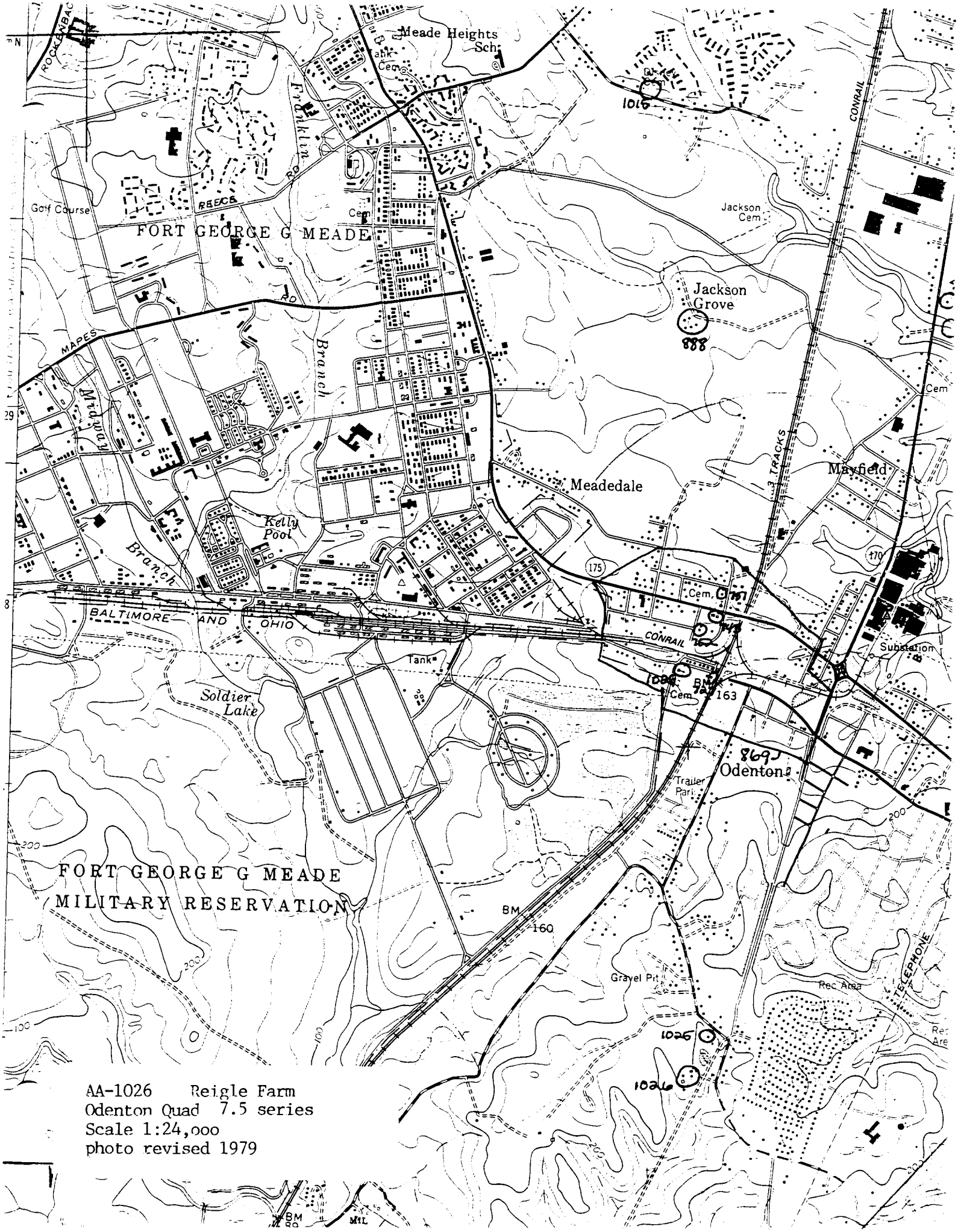
II. Chronological/Development Periods: Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes: N/A

IV. Historic Period Themes: 1) Agriculture 2) Architecture 7) Cultural

V. Resource Type

Category: Building
Historic Environment: Rural
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): private residence and farm
Known Design Source: German vernacular tradition



AA-1026 Reigle Farm
Odenton Quad 7.5 series
Scale 1:24,000
photo revised 1979

AA-1026
Reigle farm (Crawford Property)
Anne Arundel County
Sherr. Marsh
December 1999
Negative location Unknown
EAST farade
1 of 4

AA-1026
Reigle Farm (Crawford property)
Anne Arundel Co MD
by Sherry MARSH
December 1999
Negative location uncertain
Photo 2 of 4
Southeast perspective

AA-1026
Reigle Farm (Crawford Property)
Anne Arundel Co, MD
by Sherri Marsh
December 1999
Negative location Uncertain
NW perspective
photo 3 of 1

AA-1026
Reigle Farm (CRAWFORD Property)
Anne Arundel Co., Maryland
by Sherry Marsh
December 1999

Sheds

photo 4 of 4