

BA-94

BA-94

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

2300945335

1 NAME

HISTORIC Hayfields
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER West Side of Western Run Road North of Shawan Road. 3rd Councilmanic
2nd Congressional

HEDEFORD QUADRANGLE
ELECTION DISTRICT 8

CITY, TOWN (near) Cockeysville

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. John M. Franklin

Telephone #: 666-2388

STREET & NUMBER c/o Nicholas B. Merryman Hayfields Farm, Western Run Road

CITY, TOWN Cockeysville

X VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code Maryland 21030

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building

Liber #: CWB 1090
Folio #: 59

STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN Towson,

STATE Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS *

TITLE BALTIMORE COUNTY HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY

DATE (ongoing since 1964)

entered 7/29/65 as BA-94

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CITY, TOWN 21 STATE CIRCLE ANNAPOLIS

STATE Maryland : 21401

* NR pending (in Western Run Historic District, BCC approved)
* HABS, US DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, DC.

DESCRIPTION

B4-9-1

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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

Hayfields is an L-shaped house, 2½ stories high, built of limestone found on the property. Its design has been attributed to the builder himself, Colonel Nicholas M. Bosley, who supposedly drew the plan in the sand with his cane. Construction is variously dated as having begun in 1800 or 1805 and completion date has been published as 1808 or 1810; however deeds show that Colonel Bosley acquired the ground by three deeds in 1811, including one from William Bosley.

The house was originally built without dormers in a plain Federal style. The main facade faces south and is five bays wide. "The front is approached by a short flight of steps which lead to an uncovered stone platform, while a frame porch extends the depth of the east end of the house; a two-story frame porch once ran along the rear of the main house from the east to the angle of the ell formed by the north wing." (2) That arrangement has been replaced by a glass-enclosed vestibule. The front door is topped by a transom with lights and flanked by pilasters and sidelights.

Two broad end-chimneys rise at each extremity of the main block. There is also a central chimney in that block.

The ell, or wing, extends northward from the main block, flush with the west wall of the main block, and is three bays long. At the northern extremity of the wing, an inside end chimney is located on the center line.

Tax ledger dimensions of 1918 were 60 by 38 feet in the main block and 42 by 20 in the smaller wing.

Decorative features are simple, consisting of exposed end rafters and box cornices. The three dormers on the south front were added c. 1939. Windows in the main walls are double-hung sash types, six-on-six, with stone lintels and stone sills.

The estate contains a number of outbuildings, most of them built of limestone. There is also a brick barn. The granary is equipped with outside stone steps. Some of the dwellings are traditionally described as slave houses. A total of 25 structures was listed in 1918 (Tax Ledger, District 8, f. 391.)

Notes:

1. "Hayfields . . . , " Jeffersonian, c 1932.
2. Swepson Earle, Chesapeake Bay Country, p. 237.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

81 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PRE-HISTORIC	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY:)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES C. 1808 - 1810 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown, possibly N.M. Bosley

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hayfields is an excellent stone house with rich associations in the history of agriculture. The large house and its first generation of farm buildings were put up between 1805 and 1808 by Colonel Nicholas Merryman Bosley. Some of the estate had been William Bosley's property before, but the Colonel purchased other tracts, particularly the Nailor farm, in 1811. These farmlands had been worked in colonial times and Bosley found everything in ruin and the fields much gullied, as was recorded in the American Farmer of December 24, 1824.

The name Hayfields reflects Bosley's emphasis on raising Timothy Hay -- the main Maryland Forage crop before alfalfa came into use -- and in addition to feeding his own stock, he had cash sales of \$6,500 worth of timothy in a good year. The trustees of the Maryland Agricultural Society visited Hayfields on October 15, 1823, and wrote up a report. They found the grass-growing operation perhaps the best in Maryland, but reported that the colonel had not yet started to build a herd of blooded cattle. The next year, Hayfields won first place in the Agricultural Society's contest for the "premium farm." At the annual cattle show ceremonies when the winners were honored, Bosley was awarded a silver tankard from the hands of the Marquis de Lafayette, who was officially there on his triumphal tour of the United States as "the Nation's Guest." All writers of the time state that the entire program for restoring the fertility of Hayfields has been devised by Bosley himself. Much limestone had been quarried on the property and burned into lime and spread on the depleted fields, mixed with manure.

"... Declivities the most precipitous, and Ravines the most forbidding, have been subjected and over run by his dreadnaught plows," wrote the visitor of 1823. A neighbor, Alexander Nisbet, in 1824, wrote about the change wrought by Bosley on the former Nailor farm. A writer in the American Farmer had stated a few weeks before that all of the progress had been made since the spring of 1812.

Sidney's 1850 county map shows John Merryman as owner of Hayfields, having inherited it from his uncle Colonel Bosley. Merryman added "of Hayfields" to his name. He is credited with bringing the first Hereford cattle to Maryland in 1852 (a date also published as 1856), having purchased stock from Messrs. A. and H. Bowen of Watertown, N.Y., and from William H. Sothan of Owego, N.Y. By 1859, Merryman had developed cattle worth transporting to agricultural fairs in Saint Louis and New York, and his first great bull was Calatpa. Following the Civil War, he began to import stock from breeders in Herfordshire itself. In 1876, he exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. The Merryman specimens began to command high prices after about twenty years of breeding and substituting various prize bulls at the head of the herd. Some of the animals were purchased to start new herds in Illinois.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

John Merryman of Hayfields was involved in same public events at the outbreak of the Civil War, and as a 1st Lieutenant in the Baltimore County Horse Guards, he executed Governor Hicks' order to burn the Northern Central Railroad bridges between Cockeysville and Parkton as a measure to prevent northern troops from being brought to Baltimore and provoking further riot (April, 1861). Subsequently, Merryman was arrested under a Federal charge of treason and was confined in Fort McHenry by General Cadwallader in spite of a writ of habeas corpus issued by Chief Justice Taney. Taney cited the general and President Lincoln with contempt in his opinion, Ex Parte Merryman, but Federal authorities ignored the order and left Merryman locked up in the fort for several weeks. He was later released and never brought to trial. He died in 1881 and was buried at Sherwood Episcopal Church, Cockeysville. His son, E. Gittings Merryman took over management of the farm. The 1911 and 1918 tax ledgers show 444 acres charged to N.B. Merryman.

The main house stood empty for practically thirty years. In 1939, the late General John Franklin bought the estate from his Merryman cousins. The General was associated for several decades with the United States Lines and became chairman of the board. He and his wife began a refurbishing program and added a number of dormer windows to the house. The farm was managed by Nicholas B. Merryman of the original family and continued to produce polled Hereford cattle until a few months ago (1977). General farming is still carried on by Mr. Merryman.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kathryn Geraghty, "Hayfields, 162 Years in One Family," Sun Magazine, October 28, 1962
"Maryland Agricultural Society," American Farmer, Baltimore, 5 (October 24, 1823): 248

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 317.57

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE John W. McGrain DATE 1977

ORGANIZATION Office of Planning & Zoning

STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue TELEPHONE 494-3495

CITY OR TOWN Towson STATE Maryland ZIP 21204

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

not dated

ND
S. 100. 10

FARM BUILDINGS
"HAYFIELDS"
Baltimore County
Maryland

OWNERS

NO

The five children and heirs of Nicholas Bosley Merryman of whom Nicholas Bosley Merryman, Jr., Ruxton, Baltimore County, Maryland is the oldest.

DATE OF ERECTION

Old farm house and first group of farm buildings prior to 1811. The newer dwelling and the second group of farm buildings after 1811

ARCHITECT

Unknown

BUILDER

Unknown

PRESENT CONDITION

Fair

NUMBER OF STORIES

One, two and three

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION

Stone and brick, wood roof and floor construction, and shingle roof.

OTHER EXISTING RECORDS

"History of Baltimore City and County" by J. Thomas Schanz, 1881

"The Chesapeake Bay Country" by Swepson Earle.

Land records

Records, Sherwood P.M. Church Cockeyville, Maryland.

FARM BUILDINGS
"HAYFIELDS"
Baltimore County
Maryland

HISTORICAL DATA:

William Nicholson took up a tract of 4200 acres of land which he called Nicholson Manor in what is now Baltimore County June 20, 1719. It is described as along the western run of the Gunpowder between Waterspout Branch and the Shawan Cabin Branch (now Oregon Branch). It was at somewhat later date acquired by Roger Boyce and in part in 1764 by Joseph Bosley.

In the early years of the nineteenth century Nicholas Merryman Bosley purchased four distinct pieces of land, all parts of the original Nicholson Manor. The first of these 159-1/4 acres he acquired in 1811 for \$ 6348.00, from Joseph and William Bosley; the second, 187 acres in 1812 for \$ 6500.00 from John Naylor who had earlier acquired it direct from Roger Boyce. This parcel was known as Naylor's Field. In 1813 and again in 1819 he acquired more land from William Bosley, et al, one of these pieces was called West Lodge another Hayfields, combining all into one estate of more than five hundred acres he called it "Hayfields". Later West Lodge was willed separately, but the remaining land consisting of over five hundred acres has come down intact to the present owners.

Nicholas Merryman Bosley built the second and larger dwelling and the second group of farm buildings. From his time also date the walled garden, the green houses and the lemon tree pit, and under his administration the estate reached its highest development.

In 1824, during the visit of General Lafayette to the United States, he was presented by the hand of the General with a silver "Can" inscribed;

By the hand of LAFAYETTE from the Md. Ag. Soc.

"Best cultivated farm"

to COL. N. M. BOSLEY

November 24th 1824

Sic pura florebunt

He died February 16th 1847 at the age of 73 years and bequeathed "Hayfields" to his nephew John Merryman and in succession to his next male heir. Nicholas Merryman Bosley's mother had been Rebecca Merryman, his father Amon. His nephew was henceforth known as John Merryman of "Hayfields". He was born August 9th, 1824.

FARM BUILDINGS
"HAYFIELDS"
Baltimore County
Maryland

HISTORICAL DATA- Continued;

The Merrymans had settled in Maryland from Herefordshire, England under the first Lord Proprietor, about 1650. They lived in a tract called by them "Hereford" some eight miles north of Hayfields on the old Baltimore and York Turnpike. John Merryman as first lieutenant of the Baltimore County Horse Guards, accompanied his command to the city after the attack on the Massachusetts troops on April 19, 1861. The next day he was detailed with a small force to establish a post at Hayfields, and was in communication there with Major Belger, of the Federal Army, who was trying to turn back to Pennsylvania the Union soldiers enroute to Washington along the line of the Northern Central Railroad near Hayfields. On May 25, 1861 he was arrested, imprisoned in Fort McHenry, and indicted for treason in connection with the burning of bridges along the Railroad. His defense was he had only executed his sworn duty as an officer of Militia of Maryland. The affair came to the attention of President Lincoln and caused great excitement at the time. Merryman was eventually declared improperly held by Chief Justice Taney. During his life time he held many state offices and was always greatly interested in agriculture. He changed the property into a stock farm, importing, according to the family legend, the first Hereford cattle into this country. He also imported other blooded stock from England, as indicated by his letter head. He was asked by the City of Baltimore to obtain blooded sheep for Druid Hill Park on one of his trips to England and the present sheep there are the decendants of these sheep.

He died November 15, 1881. The property decended to Nicholas Bosley Merryman of Hayfields and is now held by his five heirs.

A copy of the will of Nicholas Merryman (Bosley) and an inventory of his estate, including the live stock, crops in the barns, ice in the icchouse and furniture in the house and farm implements is now in the possession of Nicholas Bosley Merryman, Jr.

FARM BUILDINGS
"HAYFIELDS"
Baltimore County
Maryland

HISTORICAL DATA - Continued;

At his death the following live stock were listed in the inventory of his property;

5 yoke of oxen
10 cows
40 hogs
6 breed sows
55 sheep
17 lambs
10 horses
4 men slaves
4 women slaves
2 children slaves

It is the belief of the family that all of the buildings of the first period existed prior to the purchase of the property by Col. Nicholas Merryman Bosley, and that he built the others. The wooden buildings were built about 1900 by a tenant farmer.

The light grey crystalline marble used in the buildings by Col. Bosley was quarried in the field in front of the house. The quarry was then filled with field stone and covered with earth so that no sign of it remained and its location had been forgotten until it was uncovered a few years ago when a gas line was laid through the property. The marble is similar to that from the nearby Beaver Dam Quarry.

The lemon tree pit shown on the plans is approximately 9 feet deep and originally was covered with glass roof. It was used for the winter storage of lemon trees that were placed in large jardinières (during the summer) in the locust avenue approach. The green house has completely disappeared except for marks on the wall showing its extent and the patched coping which verifies the statement that the wall was carried higher to form the back of the green house.

It is the family tradition that the large house was designed and built by Col. Bosley between the years 1800 and 1808, but the land records show the first property was acquired by Col. Bosley in 1811. The writer thinks the details of the large residence indicate even a later date.

NO.
10/10/36

FARM BUILDINGS
"HAYFIELDS"
Baltimore County
Maryland

HISTORICAL DATA - Continued;

Today the still beautiful farm is little cultivated. The buildings are empty and neglected. The spring house is surrounded by tall weeds and the green house and the lemon tree pit are but things of memory. The big house looks out over the smiling Maryland landscape and the fields await another cultivator.

John H. Scarff



Rev. Sept. 26. 1936 T.W.

VOL. 5 p. 248

AMERICAN FARMER.

[October 24, 1823.]

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1823.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Last Monthly Session of the Trustees.

The trustees of this institution assembled on Wednesday the 15th inst. at HAYFIELDS, the residence of Col. N. M. Bosley. The weather was very fine and after talking over the affairs of the Society, they rambled over the farm, which is divided into fields of Indian corn, small grain, just sowed on summer fallow, artificial meadows, and pasture.

One of the trustees has been good enough to hand us the following rough sketch of their observations—made, we have no doubt impartially, and somewhat after the manner of the examining committees appointed by the agricultural societies in the Eastern States, to make excursions of review over the farms of their members.

"THE INDIAN CORN, promises a fine crop for the appearance of the land which, notwithstanding the indefatigable pains of the owner, is still very stony—we were sorry to see that Col. B. had sustained a heavy loss by the entire destruction of his *corn fodder*—both tops and blades by *frost*.—This is a blow which that enemy occasionally inflicts by *stolen marches*, on the most wary commander. In this case fine weather like a flag of truce, seemed the harbinger of peace, but General Frost stole on Col. Bosley as a thief, *in the night*, and scathed every thing in his route like a desolating fire.—There is no provender for any stock superior to the tops and blades of Indian corn when well cured—an old Farmer present, whose word is authority, observed that for *milk cows*, nothing is preferable to *corn tops*.

"GRAIN ON FALLOW—This consists of Rye, which Col. B. prefers to Wheat for a general crop, and as a protector of young grass—against Oats he sets his face, as the greatest of exhausters, drawing the land like blister plasters, except that they draw out the good humours of the soil and leave the bad behind.—We were gratified and instructed by the complete farmer-like manner in which this important operation had been performed.—The land had been well broken at a proper season, and put in the best condition to receive the grain and grass seeds. The owner had well done his part—may a beneficent Providence consummate his labors with a plentiful harvest.

"GRASSES, CLOVER and TIMOTHY.—These valuable grasses, especially the latter, are obviously the great staples of Hayfields.—To this, he has for some years given his chief attention, and the result is a gratifying evidence of what may be done in a few years, with the roughest land, by

the energies of an individual, under the guidance of *good judgment*. Hills high and steep, declivities the most precipitous, and ravines the most forbidding, have been subjected and overrun by his dread-nought ploughs, until, on spots which lately presented the aspect of poverty and barrenness, heavy swarths of timothy now fall before every sweep of the scythe—*as a grass farm*, for its size and original condition, perhaps none in Maryland equals Col. Bosley's, and to his credit be it said, it is the work of his own hands, or rather of his own head—we saw on his books accounts of sales of timothy in one year, amounting to upwards of \$6,500, but that article then sold as high as \$30 per ton—LIMESTONE, quarried and burned on the land, appears to have been the magic wand by which this enterprising cultivator has changed the face of his estate, and caused the roughest hills to rival the smoothest vallies in verdure. The course of his culture is generally Indian corn, with lime, at the rate of 100 bushels to the acre to be fallowed the next fall for rye and timothy, which are sowed about the 10th of September, to be finished before the equinox. The effect of the lime is prodigious as is obvious from the aftermath of clover and timothy at this time.

"DOMESTIC ANIMALS—Totally neglected, except for his own table, the best eaten, and the worst left for breeders. The tail ends of all breeds without the good points of any—the Colonel seems to have been laying the foundation of all good farming, clearing off stone, and putting the land in good heart, with the maxim in his mind's eye, "one thing at a time." He intends now to turn his attention to his stables, his cow yard, his sheep fold and his piggery, and experience will soon teach him that it costs less to keep good animals beautiful in all their points and profitable in all their qualities, than to keep bad ones, unseemly to the eye, and unthrifty in constitution—in short, any thing but what they should be.—He means to commence the improvement of his stock, by some purchases from General Ridgely, of one or two beautiful Bergami heifers, &c. Choice cattle and hogs, would appear to be the spontaneous growth of a fine grass farm, and an overflowing dairy, its most interesting appendage, especially where watered by lime stone springs cool and copious—when the Colonel has provided a better race of milkers, he will, we predict, no longer monopolise the honors of Hayfields. The dairy will yield its trophies to other and fairer hands, judging from the bounteous repast which awaited us on returning from our excursion; but which, on account of its great variety and exceeding elegance, we resolved it would not be good policy to praise in public while each gave the best practical "proof" of his admiration."

Such is the report we received: of its impartiality there can be no question. The trustees adjourned in the evening to hold their next monthly session at Bloomsbury, the residence of H. V. Somerville, Esq.

CANTON RACES—FIRST DAY.

The first purse of \$250 was taken yesterday by Gen. Winn's mare *Vanity*—she ran against Mr. Howard's filly, *Miranda*. *Vanity* took the lead and kept it throughout the heat. This was the first trial of *Miranda*, and when called for the second heat she was withdrawn.

SECOND DAY.—Col. Johnson's horse Washington, and Gen. Winn's horse Childers, contended for the purse of \$300—both heats were won with great ease by Washington.

17 Baltimore Prices same as last week.

PUBLISHED BY J. S. SKINNER.

(AF, October 24, 1823; 5:248)



Hayfields (Western Paen NR Hist Dist)

BA-94

Preservation Mel. Negatives

1184



BA-94