

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC LONG GREEN FARM

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Long Green Pike

CITY, TOWN

Hydes

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

VICINITY OF

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" 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 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 Robert B. Deford, , Jr.

Telephone #: (301) 592-2502

STREET & NUMBER
Long Green Pike

CITY, TOWN

Hydes

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21082

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 2883

Folio #: 2

STREET & NUMBER
401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Baltimore County Historic Sites Survey BA 139

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Baltimore County Office of Planning & Zoning

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-139

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

The LONG GREEN FARM includes an important dwelling, an overseer's dwelling, two important barns, numerous other historic outbuildings and a large family cemetery.

The Principal Dwelling is of stone covered with stucco scored as ashlar, two and one-half stories in height, its principal south front five bays in length; a two story north wing of similar construction is four wide bays in length. The entire house was constructed in one period, ca. 1820-1835. While the exterior and plan are of traditional and straightforward design, rich interior detailing represents the best of the early Greek Revival. Nearly every original exterior and interior detail remains including the stucco scored in imitation of ashlar, louvered blinds, leaded transoms, staircases, paneled doors and window jambs, hardware, architrave trim with carved corner blocks, onyx and marble mantels, plaster cornices and ceiling elements, naming but a few which so often are changed in time.

Closely associated with the Principal Dwelling is a frame Ice House having a cupola upon its roof ridge. Its walls, sheathed internally, probably were filled with sawdust for insulation.

A small stone Outbuilding with a very steep roof stands northeast of the dwelling, traditionally a survivor of the eighteenth century complex which stood here.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

See page 7-2

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
100-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The LONG GREEN FARM includes an important dwelling, an overseer's dwelling, important barns, other historic outbuildings, a large family cemetery, and the site of a mill. Most structures date from the early nineteenth century. The exterior and plan of the dwelling are traditional in design, but the rich interior details are among the best of the Greek Revival period in America. Many barns and other outbuildings were required to support rural life in the nineteenth century, and earlier, most relating to the preservation of food. An unusual number of such early structures remains here, some contemporary with the dwelling, some with slightly later touches of the picturesque Gothic Revival. The family cemetery is one of the largest private cemeteries in the state, its collection of table-gravestones unusual in such cemeteries.

The present mansion at LONG GREEN FARM was built either by James Gittings, Senior (1735-1823) at the end of his life, or by one of his heirs immediately thereafter. It is located on the tract Gittings' Choice, part of His Lordship's Manor in the Forks of the Gunpowder, surveyed in 1720-21 for Thomas Gittings (or Giddens) of Kent County. Like their colonial neighbors, the Gittings began by raising tobacco, but later converted to grain and cattle. James Gittings was a

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 217.54

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

James T. Wollon, Jr. A.I.A.; Elmer R. Haile, Jr.

ORGANIZATION

Historic Long Green Valley Inc.

DATE

August 3, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Julia Randall 5539 Hillrise Road

TELEPHONE

(301) 592-2629

CITY OR TOWN

Glen Arm

STATE

Maryland 21057

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

LONG GREEN FARM

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Immediately behind the stone outbuilding is a frame Privy with a hip roof above two compartments, one for ladies and one for gentlemen. Probably dating from the late nineteenth century, it was probably moved to this location after plumbing was installed in the principal dwelling.

A small stone Barn or Carriage House stands southeast of the principal dwelling, now adapted and extensively refinished internally as a dwelling.

Some distance east of the principal dwelling is a group of buildings closely associated with the principal Barn, a large stone structure retaining its original hewn braced-frame interior although the rafters are replacements. Very early loft wings of hewn braced-framing extend north and south and a pent-roof shelters the lower story of the east wall. Two louvred cupolas are atop the roof ridge. The barn is contemporary with the principal dwelling, or very slightly later.

A large braced-frame Grainery and a similar Piggery are closely associated with the barn, each retaining much original construction and detailing, each with cross-gabled roofs and ornamental louvred cupolas.

Representing the early twentieth century is an early gasoline pump.

Near the Barn is the Overseer's House of frame construction, now covered with wooden shingles. Two stories in height and generally of traditional construction and detailing, label lintels above the

Continued - See page 7-3

LONG GREEN FARM

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7-3

windows, a steep cross-gable centered in the roof, a pointed window within it and a closely-spaced pair of paneled brick chimneys above place this mid-nineteenth century house in the Gothic-revival tradition, relating it to the many picturesque cupolas on the barn and other outbuildings. Within, the mantels are firmly in the Greek Revival tradition.

West of the Overseer's House is a stone Spring House of great length containing several rooms beneath a hipped roof. A fireplace in one room provided heat for warmth and hot water, needed to accomplish the tasks which once took place here.

The Overseer's Chicken House is a framed structure having vertical board-and-batten siding, jig-sawn eave and rake fascias and a cupola, all in the Gothic Revival tradition.

The Gittings Family Cemetery is within a wrought-iron fence northeast of the Dwelling, northwest of the Barn. Its earliest gravestone dates from 1776 and a group of table-gravestones having turned baluster or fluted columnar legs is one of the largest groups anywhere of this sophisticated form to be found in a private cemetery.

At the south corner of this property is the site of Gittings Mill, marked by an early-to-mid nineteenth century Barn and a Dwelling house. The Barn is of braced-frame construction retaining virtually all of its original hewn oak framing including rafters pegged at the ridge. The two-story dwelling house is of frame, of a very simple design, extensively remodeled, its age indeterminable without destructive investigation.

Lieutenant-Colonel, Gunpowder Battalion, Baltimore County, 1777-1780,¹ a vestryman of St. John's P.E. parish (Kingsville),² and was active in Maryland politics. As a Federalist, he lost (along with John Eager Howard, Harry Dorsey Gough, and John Cradock) the election of 1788 for Maryland delegates to decide upon the fate of the new Constitution.³ Among visitors to Long Green was the British traveller Richard Parkinson, who praised Gittings as the best timothy-hay farmer in America.⁴

The 1798 tax list for Gunpowder Upper Hundred assigns James Gittings 2005 acres assessed at \$12,670; improvements \$1600; 50 slaves. Improvements included: mansion, stone part 30 x 37, including kitchen, nursery, and wash house, 2 stories; frame addition 17 x 37, 1 story. Also negro house, 2 barns, 1 granary, 1 poultry house, 1 spring house, and 1 stone mill 50 x 25, 2 stories, much out of repair. His son Thomas had a stone mansion, and his son James a stone house under construction.

Gittings' 2000 acres were not all contiguous, some lying in the Baldwin area (Brooke's Cross, Brown's Farm, and Standiford's Claim, purchased after the Revolution), some on the Hill's Forest and Thompson's Choice tracts on either side of the Harford Turnpike. It is therefore uncertain where his two elder sons' houses were located. Thomas's is most likely THE HOMESTEAD (BA 386) on the Hill's Forest tract. Other major Gittings family houses of the eighteenth century include PROSPECT HILL (BA 138, a brick house built by son-in-law Thomas Ringgold), AVONDELL (BA 522, a frame house built by brother-in-law John Chamberlain), and the GITTINGS-BALDWIN HOUSE (BA 265, a stone house eventually occupied by Archibald Gittings, and probably the stone house under construction in 1798).

At any rate, the original house at Long Green burned or was otherwise demolished sometime after 1798, and was replaced in the first quarter of the nineteenth century by the present mansion. The stone wash house survives from the earlier plantation. Other numerous nineteenth-century outbuildings are discussed in section 7. Gittings Mill, on Long Green Creek, is barely distinguishable in the portrait of James Gittings and his wife Elizabeth Buchanan by Charles Willson Peale (Peale Museum, on loan to Walters Art Gallery). It is not known when the mill disappeared. At one point in the mid-nineteenth century, it was operated by Moses Miller, then the owner of PROSPECT HILL. The earliest stone in the family cemetery marks the grave of one John Smith, 1732-1776, who had married a Gittings daughter.

The present owners, collaterally allied to the Gittings, have established a vineyard and winery at Long Green, in addition to raising grain and cattle.

LONG GREEN FARM is a significant early nineteenth century building, sometimes said to be in the general style of Mills, although no architect can be verified. The Gittings were allied by marriage to many of the first families of Baltimore County. Two of James Gittings' sons, for instance, married daughters of John Sterett and Deborah Ridgely Sterett. Archibald married Elizabeth Bosley; Mary married Thomas Ringgold; Ann married William Patterson, brother of Betsy Patterson Bonaparte. The family and its in-laws were among the major landholders in Long Green Valley throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Notes

1. Pennsylvania Magazine, XXV, p.581: Maryland Militia Officers. Cited in 2.
2. Gittings, vertical file, Maryland Historical Society.
3. Brooks and Rockel, A History of Baltimore County. Friends of the Towson Library, 1979, pp. 110-112.
4. John McGrain, Grist Mills. Baltimore County Public Library, 1980, p.17. Quoted from Parkinson's Diary.

Maryland
Baltimore County
District XI
Long Green Pike
1721

BA-139
Gittings Choice

03-11-1965

Built by Thomas Gittings who purchased the land from Lord Baltimore. Frame and stone house. Restored in 1800. Federal woodwork and mantels. Pre-Revolutionary stone stable with cupola, now a home. From 1768 to 1823, the family's holdings increased from 900 acres to 3,000.

(First HABS Report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 29, 1965

