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BA-426

Thistle Down Farm  
West side of Quaker Bottom Rd.  
south of Priceville Rd.  
Not accessible  
First quarter of the 19th century

This early Quaker house appears on the 1823 tax assessment of Baltimore County. It was the home of Isaac Haines and was erected on land purchased from Samuel Price, a relative, in 1799. Although it has been altered several times, the house retains the original enclosed winding stair and closet beneath it in the dining room.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Thistle Down Farm +

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

West side of Quaker Bottom Road near Priceville Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

W.H. Holden Gibbs

Telephone #: 472-4772

STREET & NUMBER

Thistle Down Farm

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21152

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 5270

Folio #: 825

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

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

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Thistle Down Farm is a three-bay, two-storey stone house, its original principal facade to the southeast, hereinafter called south; it probably dates from the first decade of the nineteenth century. A two-bay, two-storey east kitchen addition (expressed on the rear or north facade as a single wide bay) extends the original form exactly; even its moulded wood cornice was matched, original work remaining in place today. The type and character of stonework is noticeably different: The earlier is of a browner hew with larger stones, particularly as quoins at the corners and as lintels; the later is light gray and of smaller pieces.

Added in recent years is a slightly lower two-storey, two-bay stone west wing (also expressed as one bay on the north facade) and a one-storey shed-roofed screened porch at the east end.

The north is considered the front today but the south was probably the original front, a conjecture based on the typical exposure given farmhouses in this region and the absence of a window in the central bay of the north facade's second storey.

Entrances were in the middle bay of both facades of the original house with windows in flanking bays; however entrances are now in the easterly bay of both facades (of the original house),

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

BA-426

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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

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SPECIFIC DATES	Unknown	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Thistle Down Farm is located on the west side of Quaker Bottom Road south of Priceville Road. It dates from the very early 19th century, and appears on the 1823 Baltimore County tax assessment. It was known, at that time, as Haines' Farm and was owned by Mary Haines, presumably the widow of Isaac Haines who purchased the land from Samuel Price in 1799. These people were all members of the Gunpowder Quaker meeting which is nearby and, as the families intermarried, the farm remained in the possession of descendants until 1940. At that time it was purchased by the mother of the present owner and completely remodelled.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Baltimore County Tax Assessment of 1823.

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. (Philadelphia, 1877).

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 124 acres ±

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

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

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

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 continued

the earlier doors having been altered into window openings. Windows only are in the east wing, an exterior doorway being in the east end, now giving access to the recent porch. Roughly-worked stone lintels support masonry above openings.

All windows are 6/6, those of the original house having wide frames with applied ovolo backband, those of the addition narrow beaded frames. Two dormers of recent vintage on each roof slope light the attic storey and flush chimneys of stone rise at each gable end, including that of the modern west wing, each flanked by small attic windows.

Internally a hall occupies the easterly bay of the original house, with exterior doors at either end and with an open staircase to the second floor. The stair is of twentieth century construction, however, and as described above the door openings were originally windows. The present hall was originally a smaller room, one bay in width and without a chimney, while the westerly room, always its present size, contained both entrances and an enclosed winding stair to the upper floors, still in place north of the chimney breast. The enclosed closet beneath the winding stair has been modified, using old materials, to allow space for a doorway to the twentieth century west wing.

The log joists visible in the cellar are the originals. A linteled recess in the cellar is beneath the westerly fireplace, and there is no evidence of an east chimney in the original house.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

## Continuation Sheet #2

Question #7 continued

Three stone walls of a former bank barn remain in the slight hillside northeast of the house, now covered with a modern tall gambrel roof. A small one storey stone spring house stands some distance from the house to the east, its doorway and spring being in its southerly gable end, with small window openings in the other walls.

BA-426

Thistle Down Farm  
Valleys Historical District

Continuation Sheet #3

Question #9 continued

Sidney, J.C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland.  
(Baltimore, 1850).