

BA-420

SMITH HOUSE - Before 1850 - North side of Belfast Road, 0.4 mile east of Wheeler Lane. Built jointly by John B. and son William C. Ensor before 1850. Shown on Sidney's 1850 map and was the Wm. C. Ensor house of 1877 atlas. Passed to Sarah C. Brooks in 1882. Various additions in 20th Century. Also called Belfast Farm. Belfast Road has been relocated since Sidney's map. Stone, stucco-covered house, 2-½ stories, three bays wide, with gable roof. In vernacular style. Dwelling of a small but prosperous farm. Owner: John Marshall Smith.

BA-420A

J. MARSHALL SMITH HOUSE GRANARY - Stone, north and south walls support a hewn, log-braced second story of frame. Frame corn-crib on north wall. Stone steps and frame stair lead to upper floor, sheltered by a cantilevered east gable.

BA-420B

J. MARSHALL SMITH HOUSE SPRINGHOUSE - stone structure with gabled roof; overhanging roof portion; small end-windows.

BA-420C

J. MARSHALL SMITH HOUSE BANK BARN - Frame structure built c. 1900. Tall upper loft story is accessible at grade at the north.

0304215905

BA-420

Belfast Farm
North side of Belfast Rd.
between Wheeler Land
and Priceville Rd.
Not accessible
Ca. 1850

Belfast Farm was the small, but substantial home of a farmer of moderate means. Although the exact date of construction is not known, testimony in an equity case* between the survivors of John B. Ensor indicates that William C. Ensor and his father jointly purchased the farm and erected the house, a barn and outbuildings. The house appears on the 1850 map of Baltimore County (Belfast Road has since been relocated around it) and on the Agricultural Census of that year.

William C. Ensor occupied the dwelling until 1882 when it was sold to Sarah C. Brooks as a result of the lawsuit. There have been several additions made during the 20th century.

* See Judicial Liber WMI 90 folio 114 (1882), Baltimore County Courthouse.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Belfast Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Belfast Road between Wheeler Lane and 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John Marshall Smith

Telephone #: 771-4343

STREET & NUMBER

Belfast 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 #: 4122

Folio #: 94

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

BA-420

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Belfast Farm is a two and one-half storey stuccoed stone house, three bays in length facing south, dating from the mid-19th century; a five bay frame addition of the early 20th century extends to the east, its walls and roof coincidental with those elements of the original house and a two and one-half storey frame addition, three bays in length, extends north behind the adjacent bays of the front portions of the house, added in the mid-20th century. A one-storey hipped roof porch extends across the south front and three dormers in the southerly roof light the attic storey. A single-flue brick chimney rises flush with the west gable and another rises internally in the east wing; an external chimney rises from the north end of the north wing. A small stone-walled, gable-roofed cellar entry extends from the middle of the west end. Windows are 6/6 in narrow beaded frames, flanked with louvred blinds. Frame walls are covered with German siding.

The principal entrance, in the westerly bay of the stone section, opens into a hall which contains the principal stair; it rises only to the second floor, its turned newel of moderately hefty proportions and its rectangular balusters supporting the round poplar rail. A single room is west of the hall in each storey. Original doors throughout are of two tall raised, unmoulded panels; architraves at windows and doors are of two planes, unmoulded with a bead around the inner edge. A modern fireplace has been built

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-420

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				

SPECIFIC DATES Unknown

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on the north side of Belfast Road between Wheeler Lane and Priceville Road, Belfast Farm was the small, but substantial home of a farmer of moderate means. Although the exact date of construction is not known, testimony in an equity case between the survivors of John B. Ensor indicates that William C. Ensor and his father jointly purchased the farm and erected the house, a barn and outbuildings. The house appears on the 1850 map of Baltimore County (Belfast Road has since been relocated around it) and on the Agricultural Census of that year.

William C. Ensor occupied the dwelling until 1882 when it was sold to Sarah C. Brooks as a result of the lawsuit. There have been several additions made during the twentieth century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

BA-420

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Judicial Liber WMI 90 folio 102 etc. Baltimore County Courthouse.

Agricultural Census of Baltimore County (1850), State Library.

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

(Baltimore, 1850)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.8 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

Question #7 continued

beneath the west chimney but the flue is within the thickness of the wall (it does not project from the wall in the second or attic storey) indicating its having been designed for a closed stove. Moreover there is no structural support for a fireplace in the cellar.

First floor joists are of log, exposed within the cellar; rafters of the cellar entry are log, their mortise-and-tenon joints at the ridge pegged. Attic floor joists and rafters of the house are of the 20th century, contemporary with the east wing, a replacement of an earlier wing which burned.

A stone springhouse stands immediately west of the house; its gabled roof extends over the entry north of the dairy room, supported by the stone retaining wall in the hillside which encloses the spring. Small window openings are in each wall of the dairy room.

A grainery stands southeast of the springhouse, a modified version of many in the region. Stone north and south walls support a hewn log braced-frame second storey and roof structure; framed corn cribs extend north of the north wall in lieu of stone buttresses and a wide extension of the southerly roof, together with a stone west wall, forms a small barn or horse stable. A few stone steps in turn support a wooden stair with open risers to the upper floor at the east end, the stair and its associated entry balcony being sheltered by a cantilevered east gable.

Adjacent to the grainery-stable, a framed bank barn was constructed early in the 20th century. Its tall upper loft storey is accessible on grade at the north and the several doors and windows to the stalls within the ground storey are flush with the loft's south wall.