

BA 1955

GEMMILL STORE

1838-1850

FREELAND

PRIVATE

This large, plain, residential structure was originally the "S. Freeland" house shown along the Northern Central Railroad in 1850 by J.C. Sidney's 1850 map. It probably sprang up after 1838 when the rail line came through. It later served as James S. Gemmill's first store and was the Freeland's post office. This house also served as a hotel according to the present owner. The present full-width porch facing the railroad route once had scroll-sawn bracketing but never had a second-story gallery. This is a plain vernacular style house, gable-roofed, with walk-in basement under the front porch. Wall covering is white composition shingles.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

GEMMILL STORE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1042 FREELAND ROAD

CITY, TOWN

FREELAND

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore Co.

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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John Paul & Margaret Krout

Telephone #: 357-5145

STREET & NUMBER

1042 Freeland Road

CITY, TOWN

Freeland

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21053

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: GLB 1981

Folio #: 90

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-1955

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gemmill Store, now only a residence, is an extremely plain, vernacular style frame structure of two stories and attic, now covered with composition shingles. This house is four bays wide and has a full-width front porch that faces the former railroad line and wraps around the south end. The porch is perched above a high, walk-in basement, and is only accessible from the south end--the end of the house aligned with the north side of Freeland Road. The railings are plain planks of fairly recent origin. The posts, a total of eight, are square, replacements of more decorative 19th Century materials. One solid paneled door faces the porch on the railroad side and the two windows on its left (north) and the one on its right (south) are 6-over-6 double-hung sash types.

Four double-hung sash windows, also of 6-over-6 format face the porch roof on the railroad side of the house at second story level.

The wrap-around porch meets a one-story southern extension of the main block, and the first story is four bays deep at this level: two bays opening onto the extension of the house (or enclosed extension of the porch).

At second story level on the south end of the house, there is only one window; there are two small square attic windows in the gable peak.

The rear facade is four bays wide, with irregularly spaced windows of various sizes.

The gable roof is covered with standing seam tin and the stump of an inside end-chimneys barely emerges through the roof line. Another inside end chimney rises at the rear wall of the house. There is a shed-roofed rear wing flush with the south end-wall of the house.

Foundation is of stone. This house is kept in repair but all its maintenance is without style or taste.

There are two small out buildings, one is a square, hip-roofed spring house, recently repointed, still supplying water.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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	
<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input 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 1838-1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gemmill store is apparently the "S. Freeland" house shown on the east side of the Northern Central Railroad on Sidney's 1850 map and on Taylor's 1857 map. Aligned as it is with the railway route, the structure probably sprang up after 1838 when service to York was provided by the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad. Stephen Freeland, for whom the town was named, made his will in March of 1850 and mentioned some tract names in assigning the land on the north or east side of the railway. "Lot Number Six," "Morris Town, and Long Chance." (1) Freeland bequeathed his property to his daughter Sarah Jane Gemmill, and the 1866 business directory for Maryland listed James Gemmill as operator of a store at Freelands, which was usually spelled with a final "s". (2) Stephen Freeland lived another 24 years after making his will. The Freeland post office was established January 21, 1851, with James Gemmill as postmaster; he served until 1907, when succeeded by James S. Gemmill.

The 1877 atlas is somewhat puzzling because it shows "J.L. Gemmill's store close to the railroad tracks and also another dot for a house. The tax ledger of the year before showed that J.L. Gemmill was in charge of the property (then in District 6) and there was 90 acres, including:

Improvements, dwelling house	\$600
" Barn	400
Stock in trade merchandise	3000
Promissory Notes	600

plus live stock, buggy, and harness, farm tools, and an organ. (3) By 1896, the tax ledgers and a newspaper item about building a new store and dwelling allow us to deduce that the retail activity had been moved to the south side of Freelands Road to a structure now an antique shop. The tax ledger showed that the new place was worth \$2000 and evaluated the "dwelling house" at \$700. (4) The 1898 Bromley atlas showed J.L. Gemmill on Plate 31 and J.S. Gemmill on Plate 30. In 1910, Mrs. Sarah J. Gemmill, widow, conveyed the property to her daughters, Agnes J. and Ann M. Gemmill. (5)

The Misses Gemmill apparently did not keep a store. The dwelling as listed in the 1918 tax ledger measured 34 by 40 feet; the following years, the owners were taxed for a new Studebaker car. (6) The sisters held the property until 1946, selling to George P. and Lillian G. Zill, who owned it five years, selling to Paul and Margaret Krout. (7)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

BA-1955

This is a house that has seen considerable social and transportational history, covering the period when Freeland sprang up as a train stop, and then seeing the town lose its population, business activities, post office, railroad service, and roadbed.

The present owner, Mrs Kraut, believes that the house was once a hotel. There is little documentary history of this town and its natives are of too recent origin to provide much data. The railroad station was directly west of this house, store, or hotel, and it was illegally sold by a railroad employee after the discontinuation of train service, and the buyer removed the building to a nearby farm. The railroad's assigns were unable to recover the structure, which was due for demolition under any circumstances.

NOTES:

1. B.C. Wills, OPM 4:327
2. The Maryland State Business Directory (New York, 1866).
3. B.C. Tax Ledger, 1876, District 6 (N.P.).
4. " " " " District 6, Account No. 204-39.
5. B.C. Deeds WPC 357:271
6. B.C. Tax Ledger, 1918, District 7, f.533.
7. B.C. Deeds RJS 1507:202 and GLB 1981:90

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Deeds and Tax Ledgers.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.658

map 6 p179

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N29° 30'E 615.5 along road
N52° 43'W 30 ft along fence to w/s of road
N52° 43'W 300 ft
S38° 37'W 545 ft to NCRS right of way
S44° 13' 30"E 434.8 ft along NCRS right of way to BEGINNING

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

STATE	COUNTY
None	None
STATE	COUNTY
None	None

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J.W. McGrain Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

DATE

July 1980

TELEPHONE

494-3495

STATE

Maryland 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

GEMMILL STORE

BA 1955

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quad

NEW FREEDOM



BA 1955



GEMMILL STORE BA 1955
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, Oct 1979
Neg. located at MHT
West or trackside facade



GEMMILL STORE BA 1955
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, Oct 1980
Neg. located at MHT
West and south facades from SW



GEMMILL STORE
Baltimore County, Md.
J. McGrain, Oct 1980
Neg. located at MHT
Rear or east facade

BA 1955