

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-2771

Merrick Log House

2177 Cromwell Bridge Road

Lutherville, Baltimore County

Public

1783 ca.

The Merrick Log House is located in Cromwell Valley Park, east of Lutherville in Baltimore County. The Merrick Log House is significant for its association with the Long Island tract owned by the Risteau and the Jenifer families. In addition, the Merrick Log House is significant for its association with the large lime kiln complex near the dwelling that dates to the early 19th century. The log house situated behind the Long Island House (BA-102) possibly to serve as a slave cabin associated with the property and the lime kilns to the southwest. The log dwelling most likely served as the kiln overseer's residence. It appears the large two-story wood-frame addition to the log dwelling was done under the ownership of Dr. Risteau. In 1865, Dr. Risteau conveyed the property, Long Island, to his son-in-law, Daniel Jenifer, Sr., to hold in trust for his grandson, Thomas Risteau Jenifer. The property remained in the Jenifer family from 1865 to 1960.

The dwelling was constructed in four distinct phases with the log section dating to circa 1783. The two-and-a-half story log dwelling has an interior-end random-rubble stone chimney, a side-gable roof, a random-rubble stone foundation, and V-notched logs. Architectural evidence suggests the southwest elevation was the original façade featuring two single-leaf doors on the first story. The façade was re-oriented to the southeast when the two-story wood-frame addition was constructed on the southwest elevation circa 1840 to 1860. This addition contains an interior-end brick corbeled chimney. Other additions to the log dwelling include a two-story section on the northeast elevation, circa 1890, a 1950s shed-roof section on the southeast elevation, and a one-room shed-roof addition, circa 1980, on the northeast elevation of the 1950s section.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2771

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Merrick Log Cabin

other

2. Location

street and number 2177 Cromwell Bridge Road not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Park

street and number 301 Washington Avenue telephone 410/887-3809

city, town Towson state MD zip code 21204

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 62/197

city, town Towson liber folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other

6. Classification

Category		Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/>	district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
			<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total
			<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
			<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
			<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
					Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
					<u>1</u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2771

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Merrick Log House is located in Cromwell Valley Park, east of Lutherville in Baltimore County. The dwelling is sited on a large sloping tract of land that is owned and operated by Baltimore County as a public park. The house is surrounded by mature trees, and of significant importance are the lime kilns situated to the southwest of the house. The dwelling was constructed in four distinct phases with the log section dating to circa 1783. The two-and-a-half story log dwelling has an interior-end random-rubble stone chimney, a side-gable roof, a random-rubble stone foundation, and V-notched logs. Architectural evidence suggests the southwest elevation was the original façade featuring two single-leaf doors on the first story. The façade was re-oriented to the southeast when the two-story wood-frame addition was constructed on the southwest elevation circa 1840 to 1860. This addition contains an interior-end brick corbeled chimney. Other additions to the log dwelling include a two-story section on the northeast elevation, circa 1890, a 1950s shed-roof section on the southeast elevation, and a one-room shed-roof addition, circa 1980, on the northeast elevation of the 1950s section. The house has been vacant and the double-hung wood-sash windows have either been boarded over or are covered with paneled wood shutters. The roof has been replaced in the late 1990s and is covered with asphalt shingles. The log dwelling features overhanging eaves and exposed roof rafters. The first addition has overhanging eaves and a wood soffit.

Each of the additions made to the house are visible on the southeast elevation. The first story of the log dwelling is covered by the shed-roof 1950s addition. The second story of the log house has two 6/6 windows covered over with boards. The upper half story is clad with weatherboard siding and features a center 6/6 window. The first story of the first addition is three bays wide with a center entry flanked by two 6/6 windows. The second story is pierced with two 6/6 windows. Across the full-width of this addition is a shed-roof porch supported with square-chamfered posts and a poured concrete porch deck. The second addition is the two-story shed-roof section on the northeast elevation of the log dwelling. The only opening visible on the southeast elevation is a 6/6 window. The 1950s addition is the third addition to the house. This section rests on a concrete-block foundation and is three bays wide pierced with 6/6 windows. The fourth addition adjacent to the 1950s section rests on a concrete-block foundation and features one 8/8 window, now boarded over.

The northeast elevation of the log dwelling does not exhibit any openings, however, the second and fourth additions have one opening each. A 6/6 window pierces the random-rubble foundation (first story) of the second addition and a single-leaf door provides entry to the fourth addition.

The upper-half story of the log dwelling on the rear elevation contains a 2-light wood-casement window and is clad with German weatherboard siding. The first addition is pierced with one 6/6 window on the second story.

One single-leaf entry is visible on the southwest elevation of the log dwelling. The second story of the main block contains a 6/6 window. The first addition features a single 6/6 window on the first and second stories on the southwest elevation. The third story is pierced with a 6-light wood-casement window. The 1950s addition has one 6/6 window boarded over on the southwest elevation. The gable-roof bulkhead entrance to the basement was built circa 1950s. It is wood-frame construction and sits on a concrete block foundation. A vertical-board door provides access to the descending stair.

INTERIOR

Much of the interior of the dwelling has been covered with replacement materials. The log dwelling is single-pile with a rectangular footprint and a one-over-one room plan. The random-rubble stone chimney breast projects from the wall and features an off-center canted fireplace flanked by non-historic shelves. Interestingly, the brick hearth projects a foot from the chimney breast and extends the full-width of the room from the southeast to the northeast walls. Three of the doorways in this room feature curvilinear openings on the interior. The stair to the second floor has been removed most likely during the expansion with the first addition. It is possible that a winder stair existed on the right side of the fireplace. This space is wide enough to accommodate a

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stair and the attic stair exists on this side of the fireplace as well. It is common for a stair case in a building of this type to exist adjacent to the chimney. However, it is possible that a ladder stair existed in another area of the room. The exposed half-hewn ceiling joists do not all appear original because only several of the joists exhibit adz marks. The original ceiling joists are near the fireplace whereas the replaced joists are towards the other side of the room. The two-panel four-light exterior replacement door has a brass knob with a lock box. Dry wall has been applied between the ceiling joists and to the walls. The floor is covered with pressed wood tiles. A non-historic three-inch-high baseboard has been applied to one wall and a non-historic cyma reversa crown molding has been nailed to several of the walls.

The first floor of the addition on the southwest elevation contains a living room with a straight-flight stair to the second floor. The exterior entry contains a single-leaf 8-raised panel door and the door casings in the living room are square-edged. The original window casings are comprised of a fascia, a half-round concave molding, and an ovolo. A dentil band details the molding profile of the window sill, the crown molding, and the lower shelf sills flanking the fireplace. The open-stringer stair features tapered balusters on square plinths. The thin tapered newel post stands on a high plinth and is capped with a round ball detail. Replacement materials include three-inch-wide wood floorboards, pressed vertical boards covering the walls and fireplace, and drywall covering the ceiling. Original vertical board doors are used on the closet underneath the stair and to the room in the main block.

The addition on the northeast elevation contains a bathroom on the first floor. Replacement materials include vinyl-tile flooring, drywall covering the walls and ceiling, and a five-inch wood baseboard with a shoe molding. Unlike the other openings in the log section, the doorway to the bathroom was squared off. This suggests the opening is not original. The walls of the 1950s kitchen to the northeast of the log section are covered with grooved vertical boards. The floor is covered with pressed wood tiles and the single-leaf wood door to the utility room is six panels. The walls of the utility room are covered with horizontal siding and the exterior door is missing.

A total of four rooms are on the second floor of the Merrick log house, three bedrooms and one bathroom. The walls and fireplaces in the log section and the southwest addition have been covered over with pressed vertical boards. The walls of the northeast addition are clad with drywall. Access to the attic in the log section is a closed-stringer winder stair. Access to the attic in the first addition has been removed. The wide wood floorboards and the lath and plaster on the walls and ceiling remain intact in the attic of the log section. The unfinished basement is associated only with the addition on the southwestern elevation. The ceiling joists are circular sawn and the walls that are visible are random-rubble stone.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2771

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1783 ca., 1840c

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1783 ca., 1840c

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The Merrick Log House is significant for its association with the Long Island tract owned by the Risteau and the Jenifer families. In addition, the Merrick Log House is significant for its association with the large lime kiln complex near the dwelling that dates to the early 19th century.

HISTORY

The Merrick Log House is sited back from Cromwell Bridge Road northeast of Lutherville in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. The Ninth District joins Baltimore City on the north and is bounded on the east by the Eleventh and Twelfth Districts, and on the north by the Eighth District, and on the west by the Third District. In 1877, the Ninth District was considered the richest and most populous.(1) The Northern Central Railroad extends through the entire western side of the district. The conduit line from Gunpowder Falls to Baltimore City traverses through the Ninth District.

The land on which the Merrick log house is originally associated with is called Long Island. This tract was surveyed in 1719 for Samuel Stansbury.(2) Isaac Risteau acquired sections of the Gay's Inspection, a neighboring tract, in 1759. Five years later Risteau acquired twenty-one acres of the Long Island tract from Stansbury. Risteau willed his property to his son, John Talbott Risteau in 1777.(2) According to the previous MIHP form for Long Island, the property passed hands numerous times in the mid-to late 18th century. At the time of the 1783 tax assessment much of the Long Island tract was the property of Samuel Stansbury. He was listed as the owner of 80 acres of Long Island and 140 acres of the Long Island Addition. The first tract contained improvements worth 220 pounds and 10 pounds on the addition.(3) This same year, 1783, Stansbury conveyed the Long Island tract to John Talbott Risteau and his brother-in-law, James Amos, at a cost of one thousand pounds.(4) In 1810, John Talbot Risteau received full title to thirty-three acres of Long Island from James Amos. Dr. Thomas Cradock Risteau, heir to John Talbot Risteau, purchased Long Island, a total of 110 acres, from his brothers, William W., Charles W., and Richard Risteau.(5)

The log house situated behind the Long Island House (BA-102) possibly to serve as a slave cabin associated with the property and the lime kilns to the southwest. Lime kilns (BA-2566) were built in the early 19th century. As early as 1826 the kilns are mentioned in a deed to the property on Satyr Hill Road.(6) The log dwelling most likely served as the kiln overseer's residence. It appears the large two-story wood-frame addition to the log dwelling was done under the ownership of Dr. Risteau. In 1865, Dr. Risteau conveyed the property, Long Island, to his son-in-law, Daniel Jenifer, Sr., to hold in trust for his grandson, Thomas Risteau Jenifer. The property remained in the Jenifer family from 1865 to 1960.

Thomas Risteau Jenifer and John W. Shanklin became partners of the lime kiln business. According to the previous MIHP form,

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the kiln complex next to the log house on the Long Island tract is the most advanced type of oven on the entire county Cromwell Valley Park property.

The 1918 tax list of Ninth District assesses Thomas R. Jenifer's estate and his two tenant houses. The first tenant house measuring 14 feet by 28 feet was valued at \$640 and the second house was valued at \$315 measuring slightly larger at 36 feet x 14 feet.(7) The previous MIHP form suggests that the second tenant house was most likely the log dwelling.

In 1960, Robert G. Merrick under the family corporation, Summerfield, Inc., bought the section of land on which the log dwelling was sited. Forty-two years later Baltimore County purchased the land from the Merrick heirs to develop Cromwell Valley Park.(8)

ENDNOTES

1. John McGrain. Cromwell Bridge Valley: Historic Background, Baltimore County Planning Office: August 3, 1993, p. 3.
2. Baltimore County Wills, Baltimore County Courthouse, Liber 32, Folio 193.
3. Baltimore County Tax List of Back River Upper Hundred, 1783.
4. Baltimore County Land Records, Maryland State Archives, W.G. Liber 174, Folio 410.
5. Baltimore County Land Records, Maryland State Archives, W.G. No. M, Folio 360.
6. Baltimore County Land Records, Maryland State Archives, T.R. Liber 245, Folio 544.
7. Baltimore County Tax Ledger, 1918, District 8, Folio 747.
8. Baltimore County Land Records, Baltimore County Courthouse, W.G.R. Liber 3777, Folio 747.

CHAIN OF TITLE

- September 1, 1824 William W., Charles W., and Richard Risteau to Dr. Thomas Cradock Risteau
Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber WG 174 Folio 410
- June 11, 1865 Dr. Thomas C. Risteau to Daniel Jenifer, Sr., Trustee for Thomas Risteau Jenifer
Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber 47 Folio 58
- January 30, 1888 Daniel Jenifer, Sr. Trustee and Daniel Jenifer, Jr. to Thomas Risteau Jenifer
Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber JWS 166 Folio 422
- November 7, 1960 H. Courtenay Jenifer and Clinton P. Pitts to Summerfield, Inc.
Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber WJR 3777 Folio 387
- 1992 Summerfield, Inc. to Baltimore County, MD

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 2.036

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Cockeysville, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Merrick Log House is located in Cromwell Valley Park near Lutherville along Cromwell Bridge Road in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been association with tax map 62 parcel 197.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristie Baynard, Architectural Historian

organization E.H.T. Tracerics, Inc.

date 1/1/03

street and number 1121 Fifth Street, NW

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Merrick Log Cabin

Continuation Sheet

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Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

McGrain, John. Cromwell Bridge Valley: Historic Background. Vertical Files at the Baltimore County Office of Planning. Towson, MD: August 3, 1993.

McGrain, John. Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form: Long Island. Maryland Historical Trust, 1986.

McGrain, John. Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form: Merrick Log House. Maryland Historical Trust, 1996.

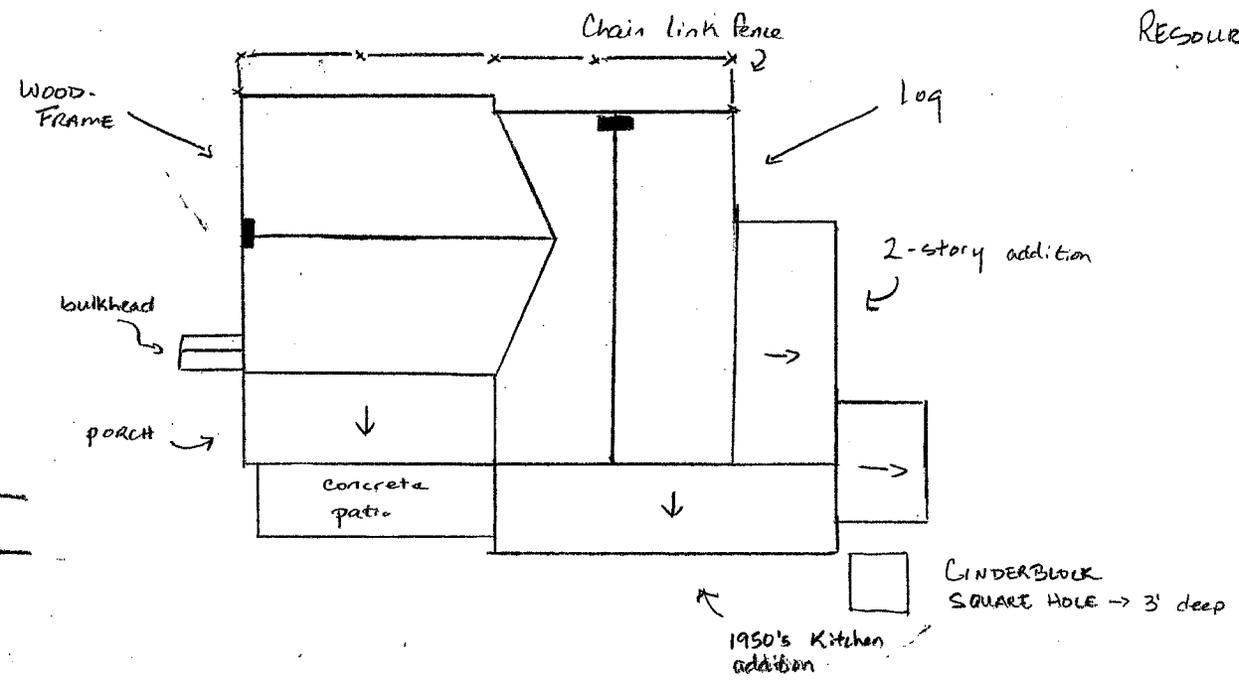
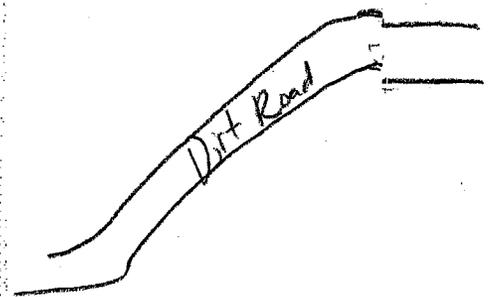
Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

WOODS

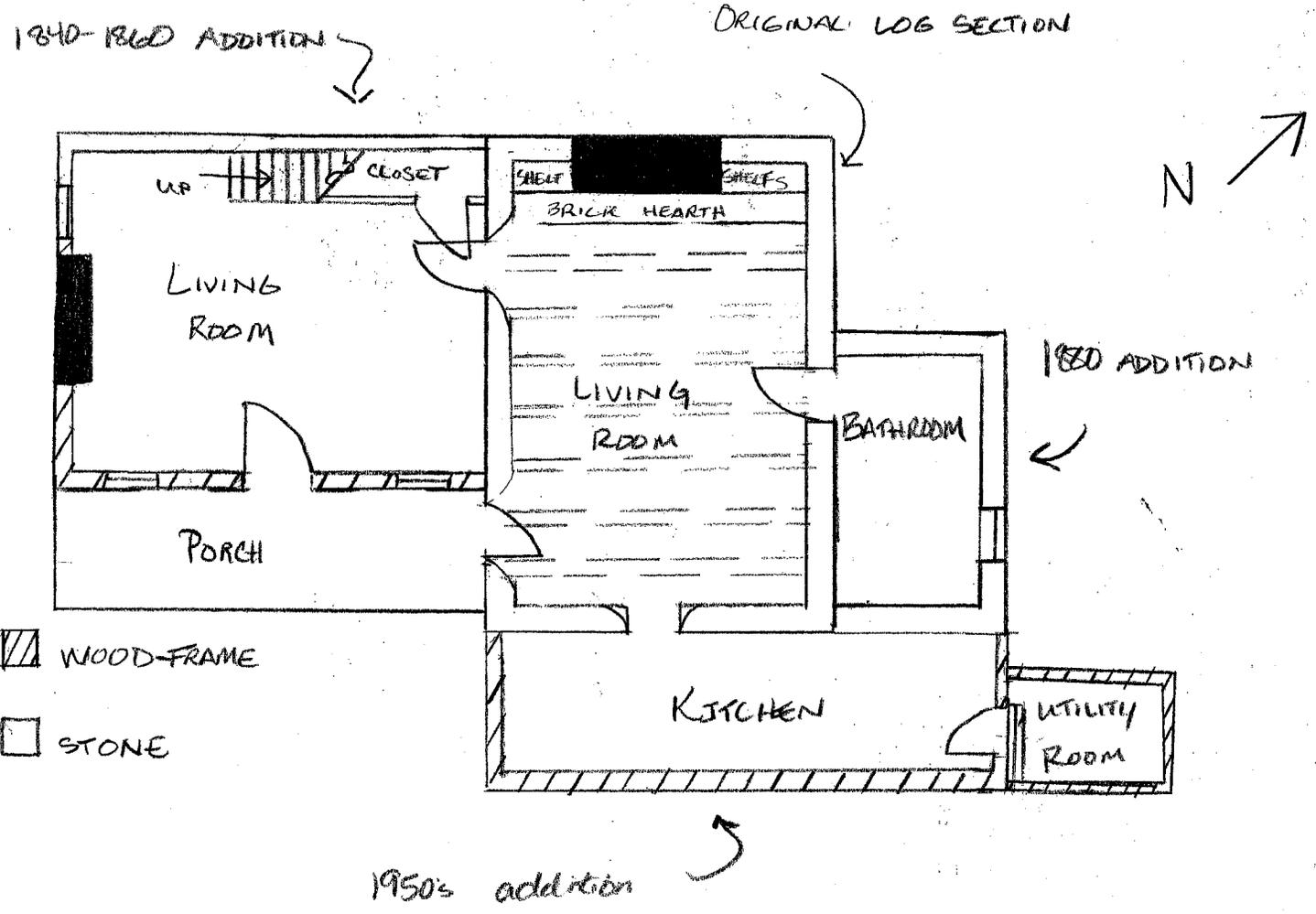
BA-2771
MERRICK LOG HOUSE
2177 CRAWWELL BRIDGE ROAD
LUTHERVILLE, BALTIMORE COUNTY
RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

LIME KILNS
BA-2566



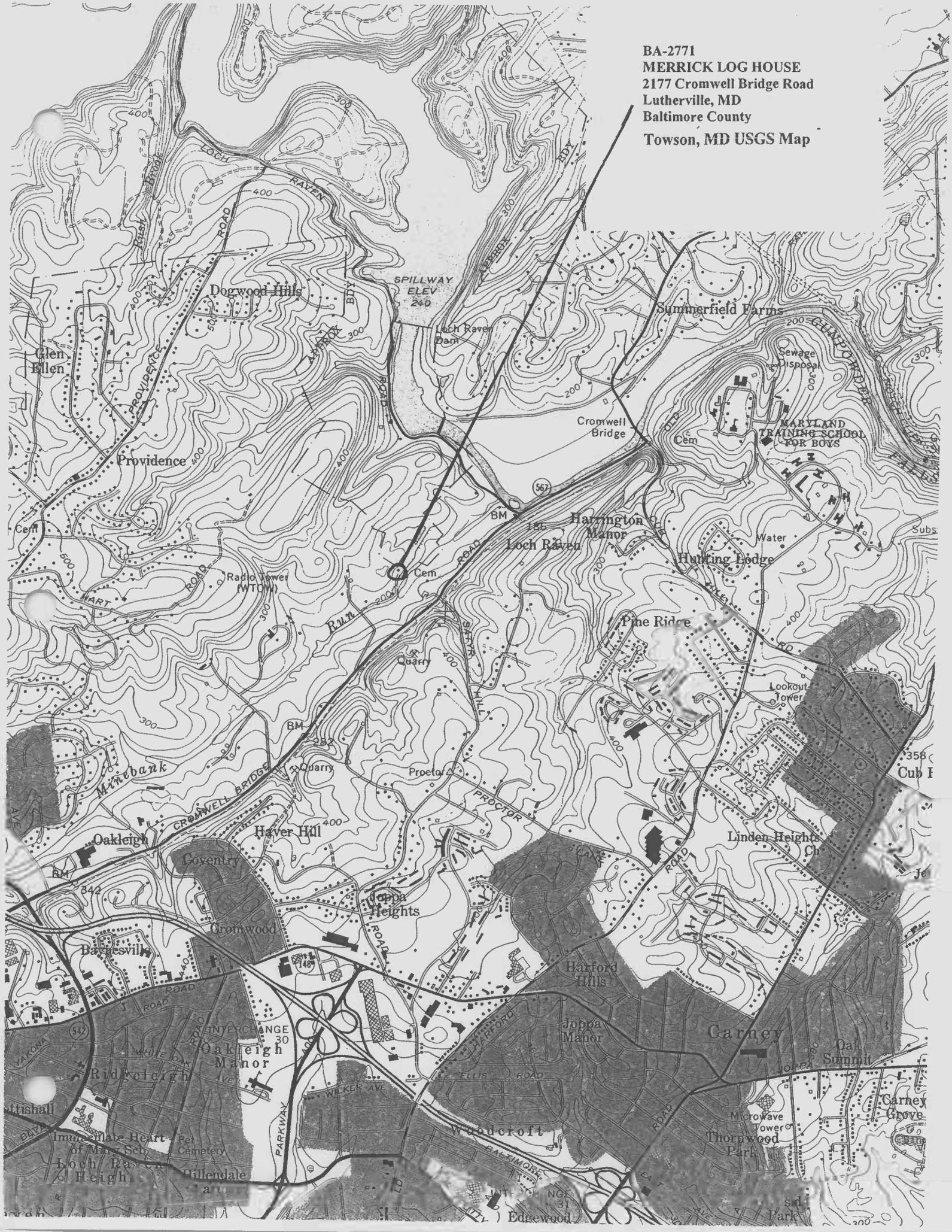
BA-2771

BA-2771
MERRICK LOG HOUSE
2177 CROMWELL BRIDGE
ROAD
LUTHERVILLE, BALTIMORE CO.
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



BA-2771

BA-2771
MERRICK LOG HOUSE
2177 Cromwell Bridge Road
Lutherville, MD
Baltimore County
Towson, MD USGS Map





BA-2771

MERRICK LOG HOUSE

2177 CROMWELL BRIDGE ROAD

LUTHERVILLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

✓2003

MD SHPO

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

1 of 10



BA-2771

MERRICK LOG HOUSE

2177 CROMWELL BRIDGE ROAD

LUTHERVILLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

1/2003

MD SHPO

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

2 of 10



BA-2771

MERRILK LOG House

2177 CROMWELL BRIDGE ROAD

LUTHERVILLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

1/2003

MD SHPO

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

3 of 10



BA-2771

MERRICK LOG HOUSE

2177 CROMWELL BRIDGE ROAD

LUTHERVILLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

✓ 2003

MD SHPO

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

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BA-2771

MERRILL LOG HOUSE

2177 CROMWELL BRIDGE ROAD

LUTHERVILLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

V2003

MD SHPO

FIRST FLOOR, ORIGINAL BLOCK, VIEW LOOKING WEST

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BA-2771

MERRICK LOG HOUSE

2177 CROMWELL BRIDGE ROAD

LUTHERVILLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

1/2003

MD SHPO

FIRST FLOOR, LIVING ROOM ADDITION, VIEW LOOKING WEST

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BA-2771

MERRICK LOG HOUSE

2177 CROMWELL BRIDGE ROAD

LUTHERVILLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

1/2003

MD SHPD

1st FLOOR, KITCHEN, 1950s ADDITION, VIEW LOOKING EAST

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BA-2771

MERRICK LOG HOUSE

2177 CROMWELL BRIDGE ROAD

LUTHERVILLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

✓ 2003

MD SHPO

2nd FLOOR, ORIGINAL BLOCK, VIEW LOOKING NORTH

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BA-2771

MERRICK LOG HOUSE

2177 CROMWELL BRIDGE ROAD

LUTHERVILLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRALERIES

1/1003

MD SHPO

ATTIC, ORIGINAL BLOCK, VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST

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BA-2771

MERRICK LOG HOUSE

2177 CROMWELL BRIDGE ROAD

LUTHERVILLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

1/2003

MD SAPO

LIME KILNS, VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST

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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. BA 2771

Magi No. 0327713504

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Merrick Log House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2177 Cromwell Bridge Road ___ not for publication

city, town Towson vicinity of Councilmanic District 4th
congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Baltimore County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks: George Klunk

street & number 301 Washington Avenue telephone no.: (410) 887-3809

city, town Towson state and zip code MD 21204

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building liber

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio

city, town Towson state MD 21204

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title No prior study.

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. BA 2771

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input 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 of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Merrick Log House is a substantial squared-log structure of two stories with a frame and clapboard wing and a small one-story room that seems to be a filled-in porch. No two-story log houses were shown in the 1798 tax list for any of the owners of Lime Kiln Bottom property. The log portion has a massive stone chimney, suggesting a house dependant on fireplace heating, while the two-story frame wing has a slender brick inside-end chimney suggesting the mid-century method of heating by stoves. There are no tax records specific enough to suggest a date for this house. Log houses were built into the 1860s as a county newspaper advertisement demonstrated. The link between the log tenant house and the nearby lime kiln suggests that a residence for the kiln manager would have been needed by at least 1860 when the lime business was going strong with the adjoining neighbors in partnership. The rear wall of the log portion is close to the steep hillside into which the kilns were built. The rear wall is blank, where a window would have provided no views. The builders used logs from crooked trees on the back facade where they would not show. The rear chinking forms wavy lines to fill the spaces between the crooked logs. All the present chinking is fairly old Portland cement which is holding in place although not very accurate historically.

The house looks out into the pastures of Cromwell Valley Park and onto the Long Island or Jenifer estate. The northermost corner of the house is only 50 feet from the watershed property,



8. Significance

Survey No. BA 2771

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Merrick Log House probably spent most of its life as a property of the interrelated Amos-Risteau-Jenifer families, not being detached until 1960 when Baltimore banker Robert G. Merrick bought it from the trustees of the Jenifer family to expand his Satyr Hill Farm.

It is certain that the house stands on the irregular hexagon-shaped colonial patent called "Long Island," surveyed for Thomas Stansbury in 1719. (1) Some of the lines of Long Island appear in G.M. Hopkins' 1876 atlas. The deed to Robert G. Merrick's family corporation made in 1960 proves that the "given line" of the old Long Island survey runs through a concrete monument on the north bank of Minebank Run. (2) The "given line" from the 1719 survey survived until 1992 as a boundary of Parcel P197 on Tax Map 62, putting the Merrick Log House inside the original Long Island boundaries. (3)

We do not find the tract Long Island or any two-story log house mentioned in the 1798 tax list for any of the possible owners of that time. Long Island was in a legal Limbo for many years due to an unsettled estate. Catherine Amos, widow of Isaac Amos, was found in the 1823 tax list of Old District 2 which showed her as the owner of \$400 worth of unspecified improvements on the tracts Vulcania, Gays Good Fellowship, Long Island, and Gays Inspection. (4) Thomas C. Risteau had another 55 acres of Long Island and \$60 worth of improvements. The large stone house that survives today under the name Long Island probably accounted for most of Mrs. Amos' taxable improvements.

Charles Risteau was listed in the 1833 tax assessment with 100 acres of Long Island and \$400 worth of improvements. (5) The house is not found on any map until the 1876 city and suburban atlas was published by G. M. Hopkins of Philadelphia. The house was shown just to the northeast of a symbol marked "LK." for "limekiln."

Registration Form: include in this title block the property name, county, and site/inventory number

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

The Long Island farm was then in the possession of Thomas Risteau Jenifer while the owner of the kiln was Jenifer's partner John W. Shanklin. Even if the kiln belonged to Shanklin, the Jenifer farm was a source of raw material, its underlying limestone. Lime burning in this valley had been mentioned in the early years of the 19th century; for example, an advertisement in the Baltimore American pointed out the steady market for cord wood at limekilns adjoining General Charles Ridgely's estate. (6)

The 1860 census of manufactures showed the output of both Shanklin and Jenifer. (7) Advertisements in 1893 were placed in the Baltimore County Democrat by the partners, who had just "increased their facilities for burning lime." (9) The kiln complex SE of the log house is the most advanced type of oven on the entire county park property and obviously is the last set built (MHT Site Number BA 2566). The kilns were not listed as assets in either the 1911 or 1918 tax ledgers, although the A. W. Shanklin kilns were still shown in Bromley's 1915 atlas. These kilns had been equipped with elaborate brick vaulting and the output of roasted lime exited through iron hoppers set into the bottom arch. The location of the log house suggests that it was the residence of the kiln manager, since the fires ran all night in productive periods.

The 1918 Tax Ledger of District 9 listed Thomas R. Jenifer's estate with the present Jenifer mansion and some outbuildings, including:

Tenant House No. 1	14 x 28	\$640
Tenant House No. 2	36 x 14	\$315,

the second tenant house being the most likely match to the "Merrick Log House." (9)

Robert G. Merrick bought the log house parcel in 1960 via his family owned corporation, Summerfield, Inc. (10) Baltimore County acquired the property from the Merrick heirs in 1992.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceRegistration Form: include in this title block the
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A small adjoining parcel was owned by Baltimore City from 1875 to 1963. The city sold it to William Merick as surplus property. The parcel was a small polygon marked "Shaft No. 1" on the 1876 map in the G. M. Hopkins atlas. The city had resorted to condemnation to acquire the parcel from John W. Shamklin and used the site to sink an access shaft to a water tunnel being bored from the Loch Raven lower dam to Lake Montebello.

NOTES;

1. Patents, Liber IL No. A, folio 24, hall of Records, Annapolis.
2. Baltimore County Deeds, WJR 3777:387.
3. Old versions of Tax Map 62 (in the 1980s) showed these small parcels, but the 1995 edition rolls all the county park land into one parcel.
4. Baltimore County Tax Ledger, 1823, Old District 2, Hall of Records No. T-1481-8238.
5. Baltimore County Tax Ledger, 1833, Old District 2, Hall of Records No. T-1481-
6. Baltimore American, August 23, 1801.
7. Census of Manufactures, 1860, microfilm, Maryland State Library, Annapolis.
8. Baltimore County Democrat, June 3, 1893.
9. Baltimore County Tax Ledger, 1918, District 8, folio 747.
10. Baltimore County Deeds, WJR 3777:387.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA 2771

No prior publications.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.036

Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Tax Map 62, Grid 19, Parcel P197 on obsolete editions. Part of an irregularly shaped public park, Tax Map 62, Grid 19, P216.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
None			
state	code	county	code
None			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>John McGrain</u>	date	<u>September 18, 1996</u>
organization	<u>Office of Planning</u>	telephone	<u>(410) 887-3495</u>
street & number	<u>401 Bosley Avenue</u>	state	<u>MD 21204</u>
city or town	<u>Towson</u>		



City of Baltimore

Cromwell's Bridge

Thos. R. Jenifer

Run

NEW YORK

Thos. Jenifer

Smith

0.9 miles S

DISTRICT

CONDENSED BY CITY IN 1825

SHAFTELLOTT HILL

TOWSON

T. R. Jenifer

LONG ISLAND

R.R.

Road