

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CE 867

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Rock Springs Hotel

and/or common The William E. Riddle, Jr., House

### 2. Location

street &amp; number Northwest corner of Highway 222 and Old Mill Rd. not for publication

city, town Rock Springs \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 1

state Maryland \_\_\_\_\_ county Cecil

### 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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 William E. Riddle, Jr.

street &amp; number 43 Gutman Lane telephone no.:

city, town Port Deposit state and zip code Maryland 21904-1370

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of the Circuit Court liber WAS 308

street &amp; number Cecil County Courthouse folio 641

city, town Elkton state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Rock Springs Hotel

date September 6, 1978 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county  local

pository for survey records Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 7. Description

Survey No. CE 867

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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

SEE ATTACHED

# 8. Significance

Survey No. CE-867

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 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.

SEE ATTACHED

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CE 867

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Conowingo Dam

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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

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

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ATTACHED                      The surveyed property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Rock Springs Hotel.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cydney E. Millstein and Charlene K. Roise (Hess Roise, Minneapolis)

organization Architectural & Historical Research/Hess Roise      date February 8, 2000

street & number P.O. Box 22551      telephone 816.363.0567

city or town Kansas City      state Missouri 64113-0551

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**  
**DHCP/DHCD**  
**100 COMMUNITY PLACE**  
**CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023**  
**514-7600**

**Exterior**

The property located at the northwest corner of Highway 222 and Old Mill Road in Rock Springs, Cecil County, Maryland, commonly known as the Rock Springs Hotel, is a 2 1/2 story side gabled, uncoursed stone building measuring seven bays by two bays. The main façade faces east and the main gable has a north/south orientation. It is visually apparent that the building was constructed in two phases as the division between the original four-bay wide building and the subsequent addition, between the fourth and fifth bays (moving south to north), is very conspicuous. Evidence of the addition can also be seen at the rear façade where a definite seam is visible beneath the stucco.

Although the building was originally constructed of uncoursed field stone, the secondary facades (north and south) were clad in imitation ashlar and the rear was covered in stucco. Sometime after 1978, the building was again remodeled and the north and south facades were covered in stucco.<sup>1</sup>

Fenestration of the east façade is six-over-six, double-hung, sash with wood sills.<sup>2</sup> The first and third bays of the first story (moving south to north) feature doors with raised panels and four light transom; the door at the sixth bay is similarly styled, but without a transom. A one-story shed-roof unit supported by four square-section wood posts has replaced the original two-story, full-width porch.

The window configuration of the main façade is also featured at the west, north and south façades of the main block. The gable ends also feature paired, two-over-two, single-hung attic window units. The north end also features a single-leaf door at the western-most bay.

At an undetermined date, an uncoursed stone shed roof wing, measuring one bay by two bays, was added to the west of the original building. Vertical board has obscured fenestration at the west and south facades of this addition, while a vertical board double-door with strap hinges is featured at the south façade.

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<sup>1</sup> At an undetermined date, the main façade had been covered in stucco.

<sup>2</sup> As described in an inventory prepared in 1978, the second story featured doors at the second and sixth bays, similar to the first story units. These have been replaced with the six-over-six windows. The remaining openings were infilled with stone to match the original.

Additional features include gable end chimneys covered in stucco and a third chimney, constructed of brick, and centrally placed at the roof ridge. A modern brick stove stack was added at the northern (extended) unit of the rear façade. The roof is slate.

**Interior**

(Description gleaned from the 1978 survey; physical condition of the interior was not verified as of January 2000 due to limited access to the property.)

The original four-bay wide house was a four-room plan featuring a large fireplace in the southern end and two corner fireplaces in the northern rooms. Original mantels are embellished with Federal style detailing; pilasters are fluted and support a plain frieze. The original staircase, featuring rectangular balusters and an oval handrail, is located at the northern half of the original unit. The original three-room north unit, as it appeared in 1978, had been divided into two rooms. The original fireplace is no longer extant and the mantel has been removed. The rear room, however, still exhibited the taproom's barred cage where drinks were distributed. The fireplace of the north unit remained intact in 1978.

**Condition and Integrity**

The Rock Springs Hotel appears to be in good condition. It has maintained the majority of its historic features to convey its significance. Despite minor alterations to the exterior and the addition of a one-story porch, the building's integrity of location, design, setting, materials workmanship, feeling and association has been retained.

**Surrounding Environment**

Old Mill Road is located immediately to the south and continues to the east, across Highway 222, as Old Bridge Road. A modern residence is sited directly south of the Old Mill Road. A single-story gable roof barn with partially deteriorated, weathered, board and batten siding, and poured concrete foundation, lies immediately to the north of the Rock Springs Hotel. To the east are two non-significant wood-frame residences and a modern convenience store. The Conowingo Dam and Power Plant are sited approximately 2 1/2 miles to the south.

It is important to note that the introduction of prominent transmission line towers, power lines, a radio tower with gas line, and the presence of non-conforming buildings, all within a 1/4 miles radius, has diminished the integrity of the rural setting.

**Summary**

According to the 1978 inventory form of this property (State Historic sites survey, Maryland Historical Trust CE 867, File #849), "The Rock Springs Hotel is extremely important to both the town of Rock Springs and Cecil County." The tavern or hotel is the main attraction for this crossroads and historically served as a stopping place for drovers en route from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to the Susquehanna River crossing further south. The tavern reveals how known typical Cecil County house forms were converted for commercial uses. Originally, the Rock Springs tavern was a modestly designed, four-room central stair plan<sup>3</sup>. When the residence was converted to a tavern by 1858, a hall/parlor section was added to the north.

**Elaboration**

From examining county records, it appears that Martha Lowe, mother of Jesse, Joshua, Ruth, Rebecca, and Elizabeth Lowe, of Cecil County, Maryland, originally owned the site where the Rock Springs Hotel is presently located. As heirs of her estate, Martha's children owned in equal shares two tracts of land totaling approximately 440 1/4 acres, known by the name of Huckleberry Meadows [sic] and Clearview. While a lengthy legal description of the said property, filed on September 27, 1828, did not name exact improvements, it did refer to "the lands and premises therein."<sup>4</sup> Thus, it may be concluded that a building (or buildings) was situated on the Lowe property, possibly for use as a residence, in 1828.

By 1858, the Lowe's residence had been converted to a Hotel, as established by an 1858 atlas of Cecil County.<sup>5</sup> This source clearly illustrates the Rock Springs Hotel at its current location. The conversion of the house to a hotel more than likely necessitated the additions to the north and west. The hotel was later depicted on an 1877 map of Cecil

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<sup>3</sup> At Rock Springs, the home was designed without a full center passage; instead the central stair was sandwiched between the two front rooms. This was not an uncommon construction practice in Cecil County during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries where there are many variations of the double-pile, four-room format. See Pamela James Blumgart, ed. *At the Head of the Bay: A Cultural and Architectural History of Cecil County, Maryland*. (Elkton, Maryland: The Cecil Historical Trust, Inc., 1996).

<sup>4</sup> Premises (the archaic definition) are defined as a specified piece or tract of land with the structures on it.

<sup>5</sup> In 1838, the Lowe family sold acreage to Benjamin Gibson and, according to one source, the building became known as Gibson's Tavern. See: *At the Head of the Bay*, 452.

County. As the property passed to new owners, barns and outbuildings were constructed behind the hotel. Unfortunately, none of these survive.

Often converted from farmhouses, taverns/hotels like Rock Springs were not uncommon to Cecil County. Due to Cecil County's inferior road conditions during the 1800s, travelers frequently found themselves stuck between towns without lodging. As Cecil County continued to develop its connections between neighboring Pennsylvania to the north and across the Susquehanna River to the south, and while local stagecoaches serviced customers between Rock Springs and bustling Port Deposit, it became necessary to cater to the needs of the constant stream of laborers and travelers.<sup>6</sup> Consequently, many farmers chose to convert their homes into taverns/hotels to accommodate the masses. The County Court granted licenses to operate a tavern and often, farmers located along well-traveled stretches of road petitioned for formal authorization. An 18<sup>th</sup> century Cecil County commuter remarked that these taverns were " 'much the same stile [sic], with a porch in front the entire length of the house.'"<sup>7</sup>

Examples of similar farmhouse conversion to a tavern/hotel operation include the following properties in Cecil County: Blue Ball Tavern (mid- to late 18<sup>th</sup> century), Calvert vicinity; Red Ball Tavern (c. 1800), Fair Hill vicinity; The Mitchell House/Fair Hill Inn (before 1769), Fair Hill; Krauss's Tavern/Cross Keys Tavern (c. 1802), Harrisville; Cummings Tavern (c. 1820); Port Deposit vicinity; Rodgers Tavern (c. 1760-70); Perryville; Cross-Keys Tavern (1744, c. 1800-20), Calvert; and Indian Queen Tavern (c.1740s), Charleston.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> The construction of the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal in Harford County (completed in 1839) was responsible, in part, for the establishment of Port Deposit, Maryland, which, in turn, brought much activity and prosperity to the area.

<sup>7</sup> As quoted in *At the Head of the Bay*, 43.

<sup>8</sup> These properties were inventoried as part of the historic sites survey of Cecil County conducted by the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, from 1966 through 1986.

Blumgart, Pamela James. *At the Head of the Bay: A Cultural and Architectural History of Cecil County, Maryland*. Elkton: The Cecil Historical Trust, Inc., 1996.

Deed of Trust. Jesse Lowe, et. al. J.S. 26/319.323. September 27, 1828. Office of Registrar, Cecil County Court House, Elkton, Maryland.

Estate Files. William C. Mullen. Dated January 2, 1892. Office of Registrar, Cecil County Court House, Elkton, Maryland.

Historic Inventory Collection, Cecil County. Files. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Lake, Griffing & Stevenson. *An Illustrated Atlas of Cecil County Maryland, compiled, drawn, and published from actual surveys by Lake, Griffing & Stevenson*. Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, 1877.

Martenet, Simon J. *Martenet's Map of Cecil County, Maryland from the Coast and Original Surveys*. Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1858.

Miller, Alice E. *Cecil County, Maryland, A Study in Local History*. Port Deposit, Maryland: Port Deposite Heritage, Inc. 1949.

Touart, Paul B. "Rock Springs Hotel." Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey, Maryland Historical Trust. No. CE-867, File No. 849.

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### Key to Slides

**Date: January 21, 2000**

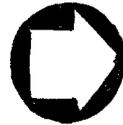
**Photographer: C. Millstein**

1. Main façade, view facing west.
2. Main and south façades, facing northwest.
3. Main and north façades, facing southwest.

CE-867	ROCK SPRINGS TAVERN (HOOTS HOUSE)	8-23-78 PBT
--------	--------------------------------------	----------------

25'6"

26'7"



0 2 4 6 8 10

$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$

INTERIOR WALLS - NOT MEASURED  
BUT APPROXIMATE POSITION PLOTTED

NOT  
ENTERED

32'2"

28'6"

CE-867

192 250

THIS DEED, made this 1st day of April , 1986, by and between WILLIAM E. RIDDLE, JR. and DEANE RIDDLE, his wife, GRANTORS and WILLIAM E. RIDDLE, JR., GRANTEE.

WITNESSETH: That for and in consideration of the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000.00) and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said William E. Riddle, Jr. and Deane Riddle do hereby grant and convey unto the said William E. Riddle, Jr., his heirs and assigns, forever in fee simple, all that lot or parcel of land situate in the Sixth Election District of Cecil County, Maryland and more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING for the same at an iron pipe set at the intersection of the division line between the lands now or formerly of Marian H. Poist (see R. R. C. 9/397) and the herein described lands, with the westernmost side of Hopewell Road (50 foot wide), THENCE, leaving said beginning point so fixed and binding on the first mentioned division line, which is also an existing fence line, North 83 degrees 55 minutes 28 seconds West 3,166.02 feet to a granite stone found; THENCE, leaving said stone and binding on the division lines between the lands now or formerly of James W. Freeman (see W. A. S. 315/251) and the herein described lands, which is also an existing fence line, the following two (2) courses and distances: North 15 degrees 51 minutes 58 seconds West 599.55 feet to an iron pipe set and North 11 degrees 02 minutes 21 seconds East 613.21 feet to an iron pipe found; THENCE, leaving said iron pipe and said Freeman lands and binding on the division lines between the lands now or formerly of Swiss Dale Farms, Inc. (see W. A. S. No. 271/425) and the

REC-FIN 19.00  
TOTL 19.00  
COMAR. 17 074CHCK 19.00

CE-867

102 231

herein described lands, which lines are also along an existing fence line, the following four (4) courses and distances: South 84 degrees 13 minutes 33 seconds East 1,175.44 feet to a corner post found, North 51 degrees 01 minutes 35 seconds East 212.80 feet to a point, South 79 degrees 52 minutes 34 seconds East 1,237.50 feet to a corner post found and North 73 degrees 07 minutes 26 seconds East 244.40 feet to an iron pipe set in the aforementioned westernmost side of Hopewell Road; THENCE, leaving said iron pipe and said Swiss Dale Farms, Inc., lands and binding on the aforesaid Hopewell Road, the following two (2) courses and distances: with the arc of a curve to the left 426.76 feet to a point of tangency, said curve being scribed by a chord of South 15 degrees 26 minutes 53 seconds East 426.72 feet and having a radius length of 8,772.25 feet and South 16 degrees 50 minutes 31 seconds East 1,014.89 feet to the place of beginning. Containing in all 86.710 acres of land, more or less as surveyed by J. R. McCrone, Jr., Inc., Registered Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors in June of 1977.

BEING the said land and premises conveyed to the said Grantors by deed of Louis B. Gutman dated August 22, 1980 and recorded among the Land Records of Cecil County at Liber N. D. S. No. 55, folio 665.

TOGETHER with all the improvements thereon and the rights, ways, privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above granted premises unto the said William E. Riddle, Jr., his heirs and assigns, forever in fee simple.

LAW OFFICES  
 JOSEPH I. MATHONEY  
 208 EAST MAIN STREET  
 ELKTON, MARYLAND 21921

102 832

AND the said Grantors hereby covenant that they will warrant specially the property hereby conveyed and that they will execute such further assurances of said land as may be requisite.

WITNESS the hands and seals of the said Grantors.

WITNESS:

[Signature]

William E. Riddle, Jr. (SEAL)  
William E. Riddle, Jr.

[Signature]

Deane Riddle (SEAL)  
Deane Riddle

STATE OF MARYLAND, COUNTY OF CECIL, to wit:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 13 day of April, 1986, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public of the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared WILLIAM E. RIDDLE, JR. and he acknowledged the foregoing Deed to be his act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.

[Signature]  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: 7/1/86



STATE OF MARYLAND, COUNTY OF CECIL, to wit:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 27th day of August, 1986, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public of the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared DEANE RIDDLE and she acknowledged the foregoing Deed to be her act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.

[Signature]  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: 7/1/86



102 233

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the transaction evident by this deed is exempt from transfer taxes and recordation by virtue of Article 81, Section 277 and Article 81, Section 278A, Annotated Code of Maryland, Tax Property Section 12-108, Subsection d, being pursuant to a separation agreement

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph J. Mahoney

RECEIVED  
MAR 15 8 07 PM '87  
MDS 192 F 280  
CLERK

Agricultural Transfer Tax in the  
Amount of \$ Declaration  
Signature [Handwritten]

NEED TO PAY TRANSFER  
MAR 16 1987  
Supervisor of Assessments

A.D. NO. 208429

LAW OFFICES  
JOSEPH J. MAHONEY  
208 EAST MAIN STREET  
ELKTON, MARYLAND 21821

DELIVERED TO:  
JOSEPH J. MAHONEY  
ATTY.  
ELKTON, MARYLAND  
3.30-87



CE 867

1 of 9

The Rock Springs Hotel  
NW corner of Highway 222 and Old Mill Road  
Rock Springs, Cecil County, Maryland

main or east facade  
view facing west

January 21, 2000

C.E. Millstein, photographer



The Rock Springs Hotel CE 867 2079  
NW corner of Highway 222 and Old Mill Road  
Rock Springs, Cecil County, Maryland

main (east) and south facades  
view facing northwest

January 21, 2000

C.E. Millstein, photographer



The Rock Springs Hotel

CE 867

309

NW corner of Highway 222 and Old Mill Road  
Rock Springs, Cecil County, Maryland

South facade  
view facing north

January 21, 2000

C.E. Millstein, photographer



4089  
The Rock Springs Hotel CE 867  
NW Corner of Highway 222 and Old Mill Rd  
Rock Springs, Cecil County, Maryland

South end portion of west facade  
View facing east, northeast

January 21, 2000

C.E. Millstein, photographer



The Rock Springs Hotel CE 867 5079  
NW corner of Highway 222 and Old Mill Rd  
Rock Springs, Cecil County, Maryland

West facade  
view facing east

January 21, 2000

C. E. Millstein, photographer



The Rock Springs Hotel CE867 6089  
NW corner of Highway 222 and Old Mill Rd  
Rock Springs, Cecil County, Maryland

West facade  
view facing east, southeast

January 21, 2000

CE. Mullstein, photographer



The Rock Springs Hotel CE 867

7069

NW Corner of Highway 22 and Old Mill Rd  
Rock Springs, Cecil County, Maryland

north facade and west facade  
view facing southeast

January 21, 2000

CE. Millstein, photographer



The Rock Springs Hotel CE 867 8089

NW corner of Highway 222 and Old Hill Rd  
Rock Springs, Cecil County, Maryland

north and east facades

view facing south, southwest

January 21, 2000

CE. Millstein photographer



The Rock Springs Hotel      CES67      9069  
NW corner of Highway 222 and Old Mill Rd  
Rock Springs, Cecil County, Maryland

east facade and north facade  
view facing southwest

January 21, 2000

C.E. Millstein, photographer

CE-867  
Rock Springs Hotel  
Rock Springs  
Private

c. 1825

The Rock Springs Hotel has been the main attraction of the crossroads community of Rock Springs since its construction c. 1825, and has served as a stopping place for various guests throughout the 19th century. The tavern structure reveals how house forms were modified to serve commercial uses. A small four-room plan with central stair is attached to a second section to the north which exhibits a hall/parlor plan. The bar room retains its original tap room with vertical bar spatial division.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CE - 867

File # 849

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

R

1 NAME

HISTORIC Rock Springs Hotel

AND/OR COMMON Hoots House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Northwest corner of Rock Springs crossroads

CITY, TOWN Rock Springs VICINITY OF 1 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maryland COUNTY Cecil

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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Hoot Telephone #: 658-4245

STREET & NUMBER Route 222

CITY, TOWN Rising Sun VICINITY OF  STATE, zip code Maryland 21911

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk of the Circuit Court Liber #: WAS 308

STREET & NUMBER Cecil County Courthouse Folio #: 641

CITY, TOWN Elkton STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

CE-867

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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

c. 1820-1830

The Hoots House is located on the north west corner of the Rock Springs crossroads. The main facade has a southern exposure, and the main gable has a north/south orientation. The 2<sup>1/2</sup> story uncoursed stone house appears to have been built in two sections which probably date ~~to~~ close ~~proximity~~ to each other. Slight evidence for this can be found on the back of the house where a definite seam is visible under the stucco, and the cornice absoutly ends and an extension begins.

The main section of the house is four bays across by two <sup>rooms</sup> deep. This section has a rear <sup>11' Plow</sup> wing to the west two bays across by one deep. The section to the north continues the same gable of the main block and is three bays across by two deep. A two story porch is found across the entire facade of the structure. The 1877 Lake Atlas locates a hotel at this spot and old photographs substantiate this.

The entire house is constructed of uncoursed stone most definitely similar to the exposed rear section. It was later covered with a imitation ashlar on all sides except the back which is stuccoed. The slate roof has a medium pitch. There are interior end chimneys on each end of the house and one located off center which used to be the end of the house. The central <sup>STAKE</sup> one has been left ~~uncovered~~ <sup>EXPOSED.</sup>

The east (main) facade is a total of seven bays across. The first, third and sixth bays from the south are doors while the rest are 6/6 sash windows. The trim has been covered over with the sheathing. The exterior doors have 6 raised panels and a four light transom. There are also paneled reveals. The door into the north section is a replacement. There are doors on the second floor in the second and sixth bays that open on to the second story porch. The porch is a replacement of an earlier iron porch seen in photographs. The present porch appears as if it were built of used barn timbers. The first floor has a few Victorian turnposts while the rest are square.

The north gable end has a back door in its western most bay. There is no window on the first floor due to the large cooking fireplace inside. There are two 6/6 sash on the second floor and two four pane sash that flank the chimney stack. The eaves have not been extended.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The west side has not been covered with imitation ashlar. It has been stuccoed. A modern stove stack was added between the first and second bay. The early cornice does appear on this end and is typical of early 19th century cornices, with a box enclosure and bed molding. The west side also has the rear wing extending from it. This was probably added when the structure was made into a tavern. It <sup>has a</sup> half gable which slopes downward from the south wall. A small window covered with tin is located on the west end wall. The south wall to the ell has a double door entrance and a 6/6 sash next to it. The door has strap hinges. The window has its 3 panel shutters closed. The surrounds have a simple bead. The south gable end to the main block has two 6/6 sash on each floor and two 4 pane attic lights. The main section of the house was previously a three room plan with a large fireplace in the south room and two corner fireplaces in the north rooms. The stair is located in the north front room. The newel is slightly swollen and the balusters are rectangular. The handrail is oval. The mantels in the northeast and northwest rooms have Federal characteristics. The pilasters are fluted and support a plain frieze. The mantel shelf is fairly wide. The <sup>fluted</sup> windows surrounds date from the same early 19th century period.

The south room has been divided into two rooms and the fireplace has been covered over and the mantel removed. The back room, however, has the early barred cage where beverages were distributed. There is a six panel door immediately to the left of the cage. The doors and trim were grained at one time and later shellaced to a glossy finish. Another door is found in the west will which allows access into the rear ell addition.

The northern section is divided into two rooms, one of which entry was not allowed. The northern most room has a ~~large~~ large fireplace with wrought iron crane. The walls have been covered with sheet paneling in recent years.

According to the owner the property contained many out-buildings, barns and stables.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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/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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" 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 \_\_\_\_\_ BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rock Springs Hotel is extremely important to both the town of Rock Springs and Cecil County. The tavern or hotel is the main <sup>attractive</sup> reason for this crossroads ~~town~~ and served as a ~~stopping~~ stopping place for drovers en route to the Susquehanna River crossings further south. The old fieldstone structure previously had an elaborate wrought iron double porch across the main facade. (old photo in Cecil County history - Alice Miller). The tavern structure reveals how known house forms were converted for commercial uses. Here we have a small four room central stair plan with a hall/parlor section to the north. The bar room retains its original tap room with vertical bar divisions. According to the owner numerous barns and outbuildings were located to the west of the main structure for the stabling of animals.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	<b>Paul B. Touart</b>	<b>Historic sites Survey</b>	<b>9/6/78</b>
ORGANIZATION	<b>Cecil County Committee</b>		<b>398-7568</b>
STREET & NUMBER	<b>Cecil County Courthouse</b>		
CITY OR TOWN	<b>Elkton</b>		<b>Maryland</b>

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

Hoots House - Rock Springs Hotel

WAS 308/641 E. Jean Hoots  
to  
Feb. 6, 1973 Robert C. and E. Jean Hoots  
33,000 Square ft. "The Rock-Springs Hotel Property" Parcel 1

RHT 2/195 Emma Grace Burkins  
Will to  
Oct. 19, 1966 E. Jean Hoots

Y 32/458 Paul E. Burkins  
Will to  
April 24, 1958 Emma Grace Burkins

Jan. 24, 1939 James T. Burkins (1/2 interest)  
to  
Paul E. Burkins (son)

SRA 14/480 Walter B. Cooney and Ella M. Conny  
July 30, 1931 to James T. Burkins and Paul E. Burkins  
(each 1/2 interest) tenants in common

SRA 14/195 Edward E. Dawson (executor of Thomas Cochran)  
July 28, 1939 to  
Walter B. Cooney

HWL 1/460 Henry A. Call  
Sept. 18, 1920 to  
Thomas B. Cochran \$1600000

CSP 3/310 Amos S. Moore  
Oct. 1917 to  
Henry A. Call \$14,500.00  
Edgar M. Call  
"Rock Springs Property"  
3 tracts of land

CK 4/568 Omar D. Crothers (Attorney)  
June 17, 1912 to  
Amos S. Moore  
"Rock Springs Property" 80 acres  
Mary C. Mullen  
to  
Omar D. Crothers

WHR 7/342 J. L. Pettinger  
Dec. 26, 1860 to  
Mary C. Mullen \$60000.00 Boundary  
80 acres Description

AWM 1/331 Kersey A. McVey  
to

CE-867

43 acres

William C. Mullen

Then devised to Mary C. Mullen  
By last will and testament

Jan. 13, 1893

Parcel from Austin Crothers  
to  
Mary C. Mullen

Elizabeth Pettinger  
to  
S. L. Pettinger

Ben Gibson (Deceased)  
to  
Elizabeth Gibson Pettinger

JS 42/300  
2,200.00

Joshua Lowe and Sarah  
to  
Ben Gibson (Deceased)  
(draw out property description)

"Beginning at a stone set in the ground a few perches northerly from Jesse Lowe's Barn and running from the said stone north sixty four degrees west 20 perches to a stone at the east side of the road leading. From Port Deposit to Lancaster, thence along the side of said road south 23 degrees west sixteen  $\frac{8}{10}$  perches and to a stone in the middle of a road leading to Levi Brown's Mill: Thence along the middle of said road north  $65\frac{1}{2}$  west  $81\frac{4}{10}$  perches, to a stone, thence 290 east  $100\frac{1}{4}$  perches to a stone in the south boundary line of the state of Pa. thence easterly by and with said state line  $105\frac{1}{4}$  perches to a stone thence by a straight line to the place of beginning and now laid off for 80 acres of land - it being part of two tracts of land the one called "Huckleberry Meadows" and the other clear view buildings, improvements etc.

JS 26/319.320  
9/26/1828

Jesse Lowe  
to  
Joshua Lowe

Full property descriptions of three tracts  
Huckleberry Meadow, Clearview

CE-867

ROCK SPRINGS TAVERN  
(HOOTS HOUSE)

8-23-78  
PBT

25'0"

16'6"



0 2 4 6 8 10

1/8" = 1'

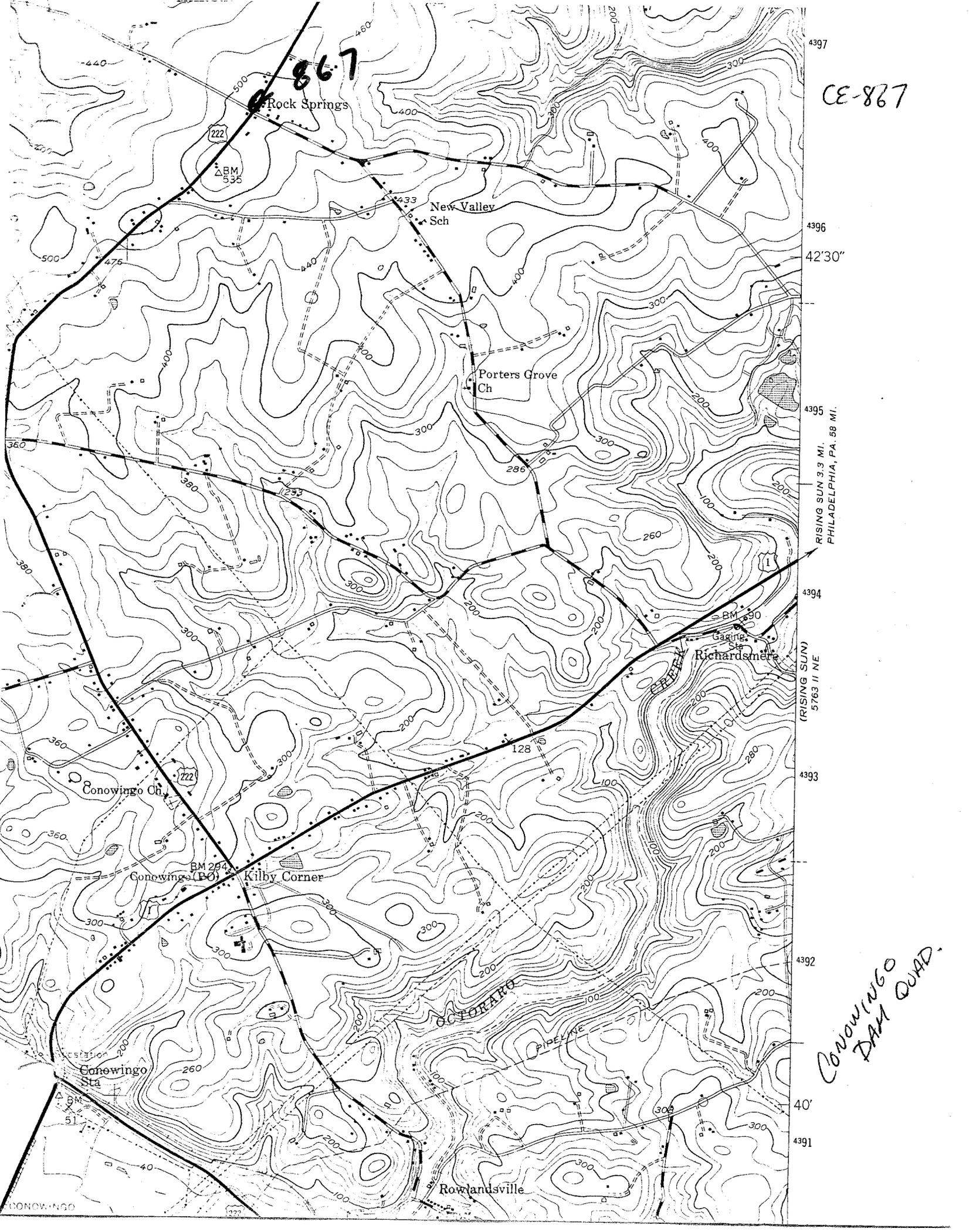
INTERIOR WALLS - NOT MEASURED  
BUT APPROXIMATE POSITION PLOTTED.

26'7"

NOT  
ENTERED

32'2"

28'6"



867

CE-867

RISING SUN 3.3 MI.  
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 58 MI.

(RISING SUN)  
5763 II NE

CONOWINGO  
DAM QUAD.

Rock Springs

New Valley  
Sch

Porters Grove  
Ch

Conowingo Ch

Conowingo (PO)

Kilby Corner

Richardsmere

Conowingo  
Sta

Rowlandsville



ROCK SPRINGS HOTEL

CE-867

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

ROCK SPRINGS, MD.

P13T

7/28

NEG. / MR. HISS. TRUST



CF-867

ROCK SPRINGS HOTEL

ROCK SPRINGS, MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

PBT 7/28

NEG./NO. INST. TRUST



CF-867

ROCK SPRINGS HOTEL

ROCK SPRINGS, MD.

NORTHWEST ROOM

PBT 7/28

NEG. / MD. INST. TELIST



CE-867

Rock Springs Hotel

Rock Springs, Md.

Southwest Room -

1BT 7/70

NEG. / dup. inst. TRUST



Old Tavern near Pa. Line Rock Springs Hotel

CE-867  
MICHIGAN G 908-08-00598