

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: Mrytle Hill Inventory Number: CARR--924
 Address: 1340 Bruceville Road City: Bruceville Zip Code: 21757
 County: Carroll USGS Topographic Map: Union Bridge
 Owner: Patricia Phares Is the property being evaluated a district? ___ yes
 Tax Parcel Number: 168 Tax Map Number: 35 Tax Account ID Number: 10-00912
 Project: MD 194, Bridge No. 6035 over Big Pipe Creek Agency: MD SHA
 Site visit by MHT staff: X no ___ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
 Is the property is located within a historic district? X yes ___ no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: CARR-923
 NR-listed district ___ yes Eligible district ___ yes Name of District: Bruceville Historic District
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource X yes ___ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ___ yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ___ yes ___ no

Criteria: X A ___ B X C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Mrytle Hill, built by Normand (a.k.a. Norman, Normond) Bruce, the founder of Bruceville, is significant for its architectural components--the large stone and frame house, the stone meathouse, and the remains of the large single span stone arch bridge, no longer extant, which connected it, within the town of Bruceville, on the south side of Big Pipe Creek, with Good Intent on the north side. It is most significant for its association with the original settlers and founders of Bruceville, and the neighboring community of Keymar, namely the Key and the Bruce families.

It is a component of the Bruceville Historic District, which is located in Middleburg district, about one-half mile north of the junction of the Western Maryland and Frederick and Pennsylvania Line Railroads. Bruce laid out the town and named it for himself in the eighteenth century. The earliest accounts of the history of Normand are that he emigrated from Scotland, settling on Pipe Creek. In 1763 the state of Maryland granted to Bruce and Edward Diggs 5,301 acres, extending from Keysville along Big Pipe Creek (and north of the area that became Bruceville). The whole region was called "Bedford" at the time.

At the same time the land south of the creek belonged to John Ross Key. Normand Bruce desired the Key property for the purpose of erecting a mill on Big Pipe Creek, thus he entered into negotiations with Key, which resulted in an exchange of their estates. In 1764 Normand Bruce married Susanne Key, daughter of a Philip Key of St. Mary's County, the first settler of that

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <u>X</u>	Eligibility not recommended ___
Criteria: <u>X</u> A ___ B <u>X</u> C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None
MHT Comments	
<u>Andrew Lewis</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>2/5/03</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, NR Program	<u>2/27/03</u> Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Mrytle Hill

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CARR-924

name in America. Philip Key had six children the third of which was the grandfather of Francis Scott Key. Susanna received from her father by will 1,400 acres of land, being one-half of "Terra Rubra". Bruce continued to add to the first grant of 5,301 acres, ultimately acquiring 14,089 acres. This contained several villages, about five flour and grist mills, several factories, shops of various kinds, two railroads passing through this land, with stations and warehouses. He was the sheriff of Frederick County, an officer in the Revolutionary War, one of the first Justices of the Peace, and Justice of the Levy Court in 1803.

Normand Bruce built Mrytle Hill for himself in the late 18th century as the centerpiece of a considerable estate which included at least one mill, housing and many ancilliary structures. The 1798 Particular Assisment Lists for Baltimore and Carroll Counties of 1798 lists, for Upton Bruce, 1067 acres, two dwelling houses, and a stone mill house. This was a re-assessment of the first one, done for Normand Bruce. In the land transaction of 1820 in which it is conveyed by Bruce's daughter, it was noted as including a gristmill, sawmill, outhouses, improvements, water courses, etc. In a transaction of 1833 it was further noted as containing a miller's house, cooper's house and shop, stabling, and water courses, plus a tavern, along with the gristmill and sawmill. In sum, it continued to be important economically throughout the 19th century.

Prepared by: Rita M. Suffness

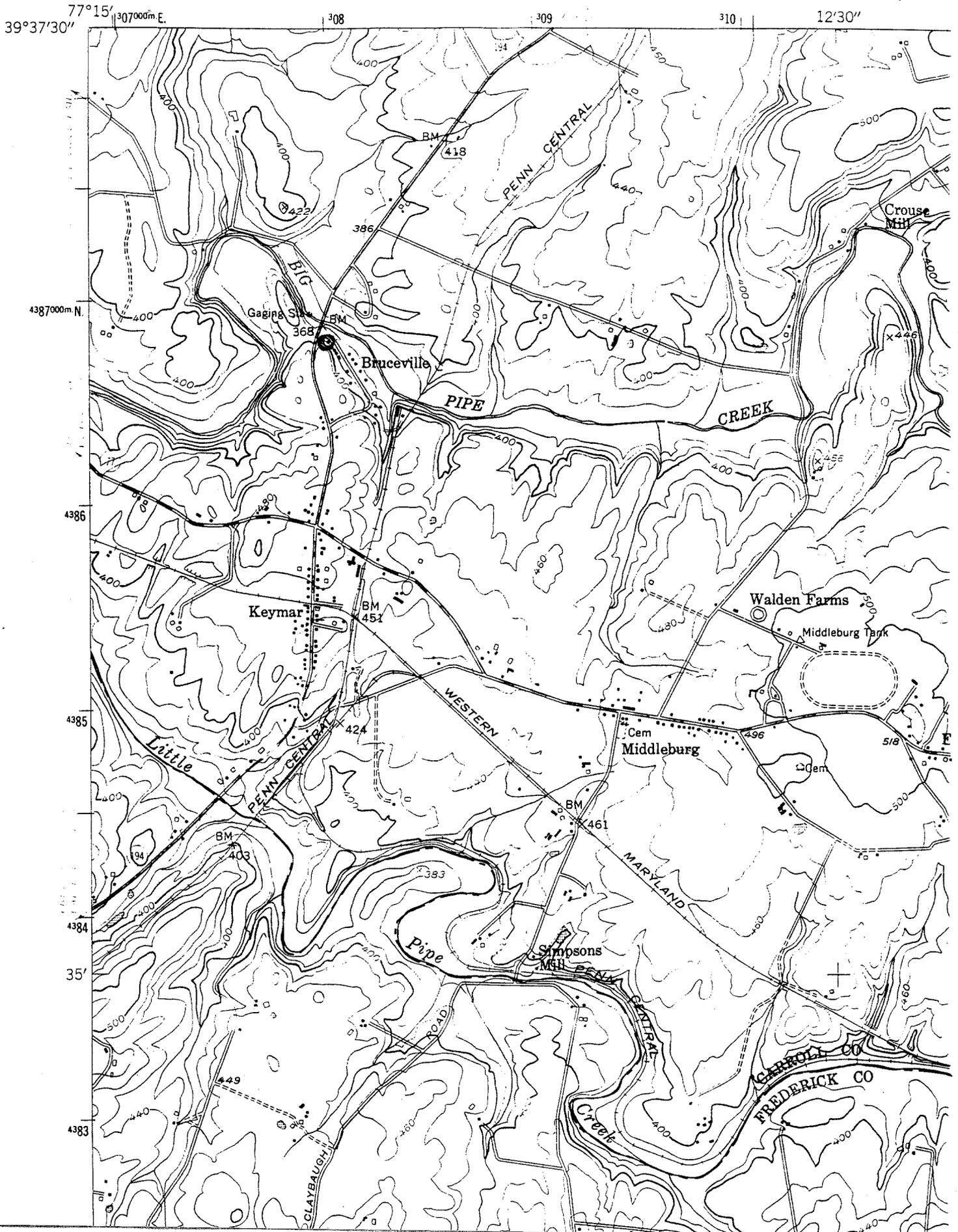
Date Prepared: 12/05/2002

* SEE BRUCEVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT (CARR-923) FORM
FOR PHOTOGRAPH OF RESOURCE

5583 II NE
(EMMITSBURG)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CARR 924
Myrtle Hill
UNION BRIDGE QUAD



CARR 924

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Middleburg District

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

MYRTLE HILL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Last house on Bruceville Rd. on the east side of Md. Rt. 194

CITY, TOWN

Bruceville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES RESTRICTED
- YES UNRESTRICTED
- NO

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Donald J. and Hazel Detwiler

Telephone #: 756-6402

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 14

CITY, TOWN

Keymar

XX VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21757

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New County Office Building

Liber #: 304

Folio #: 564

STREET & NUMBER

225 Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CARR-924

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

"Myrtle Hill" is located in Bruceville, Maryland, being the last house on the section of the Bruceville Road that is east of Md. Route 194.

Built into the side of a hill, the house is two and one-half stories with a full basement. The bank form of the house allows ground level entrances to the basement on the front, to the first floor on the inner side of the ell, and on the second floor in the back of the house. The house is ell-shaped and is constructed of wood frame with clapboards and brick nogging infill on a stone foundation. The rear of the main section of the house has a wide rough siding with a bead edge, but this has been replaced on most of the other sides of the house. A double-tiered porch exists on the main facade as well as on the ell's inner side where the second tier of the porch continues around the back of the house at ground level.

The gable roof has a variation in that on the side of the house from which the ell extends, the roof is hipped, thereby giving the house an unbalanced appearance from the front. A chimney stack rises from the ridge of the ell roof where the ell meets the main section. This stack serves back-to-back fireplaces on the first floor. Another chimney stack is located further back in the ell for the kitchen fireplace.

The main section of the house is three by two bays. The main facade has a central doorway and 6/6 sash windows in the other two bays of the first floor and the three bays on the second floor. The gable end side of this section has two windows on the main floor and one on the second floor, with a small window in the gable. The opposite side has a balanced fenestration along the main section and the ell. The windows have wood sills and blinds with beveled panels. These beveled panels are repeated in the front porch ornamentation below the railing balusters. The basement facade is masked by lattice work along the ground level of the porch. It has a central doorway and a window to each side. In the front section of the basement is a large hearth and a hand water pump with a trough. The back of the basement has an arched retaining wall for the kitchen fireplace. This arch encloses a niche with stone shelving. Also in the basement is a drainage system for water that flows from a spring below the house. This system has troughs that run along the inner edges of the walls, carrying the water towards the front of the house and then out-the side.

The far rear section of the ell is built of stone and sets into the bank. There were some boulders in the bank in the path of the wall which could not be moved, so the wall was just built over them and they protrude into the room. This section was probably

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architecture of "Mrytle Hill" is representative of other farmhouses in Carroll County. The floor plan with the two rooms flanking a central passage in the main section and an ell service wing was the most popular arrangement of space in the area. This plan allowed for a symmetrical facade, although "Mrytle Hill" varies in the use of a three bay facade instead of the later, more commonly found five bay. The bank form of the house was a practical development found in barn architecture in the area as well as in domestic forms. Also unique in this farmhouse is the partially hipped roof and the basement drainage system. Local tradition considers the style of the house and the design of the porches as a West Indies influence, which Normand Bruce acquired during a trip there.

In a newspaper article, "History of Bruceville" by E.H. Sharett printed in the "Carroll Record," the following data is reported concerning Normand Bruce and Bruceville: "The town was laid out by Norman Bruce and named Bruceville about the eighteenth century. The earliest accounts of Norman Bruce are that he emigrated from Scotland about the year 1762 and settled on Pipe Creek. In 1763 the state of Maryland granted to the above named Bruce and Edward Diggs five thousand three hundred and one acres of land, extending from Keysville along Big Pipe Creek north of Bruceville--the whole region was called 'Bedford'....the land south of the creek belonged to John Ross Key. Norman Bruce desiring the Key property for the purpose of erecting a mill on the Big Pipe Creek, entered into negotiations with Key, which resulted in an exchange of their estates. Norman Bruce married in 1764, Susanna Key, daughter of Phillip Key, of St. Mary's County,....Susanna received from her father by will, fourteen hundred acres of land, being one half of 'Terra Rubra.' Bruce took up large grants in Frederick County, (now Carroll) and became a large landholder, having in possession...fourteen thousand eighty-nine and one-quarter acres. He was sheriff in Frederick County, an officer in the Revolution, one of the first Justices of the Peace, who formed the court of Frederick County, of the new government in 1777, and Justice of the Levy Court in 1803. Norman Bruce died April 25, 1811."

excerpts from the Deed "race-- MYRTLE HILL.

1 "ten acres of land more or less upon which is erected a mill, sawe mill, bone mill and dwellings."

2 Carroll County Wills 9/11/1860 Mill Property "parcel in town of Bruceville, adjoining lands of Upton Scott, George Mering, and Nicholas Koontz."

3 "lot in and adjoining Bruceville conveyed to Nathen Hendricks by William P. Farquhar and Hugh Shaw and others. Together with the grist mill and saw mill and all appurtenances and machinery and privileges thereunto belonging or appertaining together with the Tavern House and lots in said Nathen Hendrick's Possession on the thirteenth day of September in the year eighteen hundred and twenty six together with the miller's house, cooper's house and shop, and stabling and all the improvements and appurtenances belonging to said tract or parcel of land and lots owned, held or possessed by the said Nathan Hendricks and Daniel Haines to John McKaleb by deed of mortgage bearing date the day and year last aforesaid and recorded in Liber JS 26/ Folio 122"

4 "containing $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres and 32 perches more or less with all and singular the grist mill and swa mill, dwelling houses, out houses, and other improvements, waters, water courses, rights..."

5 "That tract of land lying and being on Big Pipe Creek in County aforesaid whereon are a mill and dwelling houses purchased by the said Jessee Cloud of Upton Bruce and Elizabeth Key Scott."

6 conveyed all land to son Upton Bruce, with certain rights granted to daughter Elizabeth Key Scott.

MYRTLE HILL Description--cont.

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an early outbuilding to which a later addition was built to connect it to the rear of the ell. Evidence that this ell extension occurred is found in the change in the roof framing over this area, and some bead-edged siding in the attic at the spot where the original ell ended. A stone outbuilding of one room with a narrow bared window was built to serve as a one-cell jail.

The interior has a mixture of doorway moldings. The ornamental trimwork and mantelpieces have a provincial character. The staircase is located in the central hall and rises in two directions from its landing. The plaster walls have a curve at the top where they gently slope in at the corners (which may be an indication of a hewn flare in the post to strengthen its joint with the girt).

MYRTLE HILL Significance--cont.

Norman Bruce is an enlightening personality who characterizes the wealthy rural landowner during the Revolutionary Period. His versatility as a farmer, miller, soldier, sheriff and judge reveals the diverse interests and knowledge necessary for the colonial and pioneer settlers. Towards the end of his life, however, the economic conditions of the country caused financial problems for Bruce. After his death, Myrtle Hill was sold and converted to use as a tavern. Later it became the home of the Lerhing family, who developed the community into a centralized milling town.

"Myrtle Hill," with its representative architectural form plus its individual characteristics, presents an historical resource for understanding the life and culture surrounding a citizen of the Revolutionary Period, and the later development through industrialization of a small rural neighborhood to a milling center which supported the community into the 20th Century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records and Wills of Carroll and Frederick Counties
"History of Bruceville" by E.H. Sharette "Carroll Record" copy
in the collection of the Historical Society of Carroll County

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

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph Getty

May 1976

ORGANIZATION

Carroll County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

848-6494

STREET & NUMBER

Westminster

TELEPHONE

Maryland 21157

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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

CARR-924

