

CARR-1339

William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm
Sykesville (vicinity)

c. 1878-1888

The William P. Gorsuch Farm was apparently first assembled by Nathan Gorsuch in 1835-37 from three different tracts. It is not possible to determine if any of them were improved. In early December 1840 the local newspaper noted that he had died recently. The following September, the farm was advertised for sale. At this time it was 162 acres. "The improvements are a two-story Dwelling House, a large double Log Barn and other necessary Out-Buildings." At a public sale in October 1843, the farm was purchased by Nathan's brother, Stephen Gorsuch. Stephen sold the farm in 1855 to Nathan's son, William Pearce Gorsuch, (1819-7/20/1888). Ten years later, William added two additional tracts, one of 102 acres. The 1862 map, however, shows him clearly residing at the current site, as does the 1877 atlas. By 1879 Gorsuch had added a new barn worth \$700. After William Gorsuch died intestate in 1888, his estate landed in Chancery Court for settlement. The court ordered the sale of the farm. The sale advertisement gives a clear portrait of the farm. It was: ". . . improved by a large and comfortable Dwelling House, with large parlor and sitting room on either side of the hall. The house contains large and comfortable chambers above, and has back building and kitchen annexed. There is a large porch, 12 feet in width, extending along the entire front of the house. The outbuildings consist of a large and convenient bank barn with granaries attached, corn house, dairy and other necessary outbuildings; all the buildings have been erected since 1878." It seems likely that the house was constructed circa 1875, and the outbuildings added after 1878. The construction techniques, with a mill-sawn heavy timber frame and lapped, pegged joints at the rafter ridge, are consistent with an 1870's construction date.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CARR-1339

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm

and/or common Cauthorn Farm

2. Location

street & number 1481 Arrington Road ___ not for publication

city, town Sykesville vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Carroll

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 type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name State of MD, Department of Natural Resources

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex liberLWS 1092

street & number 55 North Court Street folio 558

city, town Westminster state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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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 of move _____
<input 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.

Resource Count: 6

Summary:

The William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm is located about two miles east of Sykesville in southeastern Carroll County, Maryland. The land slopes steeply down to the east, toward the stream. The farm complex consists of a log and frame house, a bank barn, a wagon shed, a spring house, a log shed or smokehouse, and a frame laborers cottage. The house faces east and is a five-bay by one-bay, two-story structure with a rear ell. The house has a rubble fieldstone foundation, aluminum siding over German siding in the main block, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a north-south ridge on the main block; the ell ridge runs east-west and part of the ell has clapboard. The east elevation on the first story has a central door with two lights over two panels. There is a deep one-story, five-bay porch with a flat-seam metal shed roof of very slight slope. It has five Greek Doric columns. The house is laid out on a single-pile, center passage plan, with two rooms in the ell. The south room in the main block is an earlier, one-room, one-story log structure that the rest of the house is built around. The south room is of log hewn on top and bottom, with V-notch cornering and stone chinking set in mortar. There was originally a door centered on the east elevation, between the two windows. Several hundred yards east of the house, down the hill, is a springhouse with a rubble stone foundation, board-and-batten siding, and an asphalt shingle gable roof with a southwest-northeast ridge. About 40 feet southeast of the springhouse is a wagon shed with corn crib. The crib is set just south of center, with a shed on both the north and south sides. North of the wagon shed about 50 feet is a bank barn with a forebay that faces east. The gable roof has a north-south ridge. Centered on the ridge is a ventilator box. The upper story has board-and-batten siding. The battens have a cavetto moulding run on each side. The upper story has a center threshing floor with a hay mow on each side. There are four hewn bents with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. The roof truss is a purlin post system.

The William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm is located about two miles east of Sykesville in southeastern Carroll County, Maryland. The farm is south of Slack's Road, west of Gorsuch Switch Road, and north of the old Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks that run along the south branch of the Patapsco Falls. The farm is at the end of a long dirt drive that runs south from Slack's Road, curves around the house, winds between the barn and other farm buildings, and crosses a small stream before linking up with Gorsuch Switch Road. The land slopes steeply down to the east, toward the stream. The farm complex

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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Description (continued)

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consists of a log and frame house, a bank barn, a wagon shed, a spring house, a log shed or smokehouse, and a frame laborers cottage.

The house faces east and is a five-bay by one-bay, two-story structure with a rear ell. The house has a rubble fieldstone foundation, aluminum siding over German siding in the main block, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a north-south ridge on the main block; the ell ridge runs east-west and part of the ell has clapboard under the aluminum siding. The east elevation on the first story has a central door with two lights over two panels. These panels have sunken, double fields with bolection mouldings. The southern two bays have widely spaced 6/6 sash, while the northern two bays have more closely spaced 6/6 sash. The frames have been wrapped. These windows have blinds with cast-iron holdfasts that have a sea-shell pattern on their face. The second story has five 6/6 sash; the two in the southern bays do not align with the bays on the first story. The cornice is now wrapped. There is an interior brick chimney at each gable end. That on the south has been rebuilt. There is a deep one-story, five-bay porch with a flat-seam metal shed roof of very slight slope. It has a rubble stone foundation and five Greek Doric columns.

The south elevation of the main block has a new opening in the foundation, east of center. There are no other openings. The west elevation of the main block has several courses of CMU infill just above the foundation. There is one 6/6 sash centered on the first story, and two 6/6 on the second story. The south elevation of the ell is four bays, with the floor level of the two western bays raised. On the first story the west bay has a 6/6 sash with blinds. The wall of the three remaining bays is recessed about four feet, with a covered porch on the south side. The west-central bay has a door with one light over three lying panels. There are five steps down from the porch at this level to the porch in front of the east-central bay. This bay has a door that was originally four panels, but the upper two have now been glazed. The panels are sunk and flat, with no panel moulds. The east bay has a 6/6 sash. There is a cellar hatch door in the deck of the porch, in the east bay. The second story has two six-light sash to the west and two 6/6 sash, with blinds, to the east. Two posts support the overhanging second story, which was originally a porch. There is a brick chimney centered on the ell and on the ridge. Despite the offset floor levels, the eave and ridge of both halves of the ell line up. The west elevation of the main block, where the porch is attached on the first story, has a four-panel door with flat, sunk panels and no panel moulds.

The west elevation of the ell has a boarded-up window, with blinds centered on the first story and a 6/6 sash with blinds, centered on the second story. The north elevation has, from east to west on the first story, a 6/6 with blinds set east of center in the main block, then two 6/6 in the ell, a dry laid stone wall running north-south that abuts the ell, and west of it, in the raised section of the ell, two more 6/6 sash with

Description (continued)

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blinds. The second story mirrors the first, but the two western bays have 6/3 sash. The gable end of the main block has two four-light sash.

The house is laid out on a single-pile, center passage plan, with two rooms in the ell. The south room in the main block is an earlier, one-room, one-story log structure that the rest of the house is built around. The south room is of log hewn on top and bottom, with V-notch cornering and stone chinking set in mortar. There was originally a door centered on the east elevation, between the two windows. The door and frame were removed, but the hewn jambs survive. They are 2¼ by about 6 inches, with pegs driven through them into the end of each log. The logs were originally whitewashed inside and out. On the south wall there are some horizontal nailers on the logs, with hand-split lath attached to the nailers with cut nails, and plaster. Much of the plaster in this room is attached to horizontal, circular-sawn lath that is nailed to vertical nailers attached to the logs. The lath covering the original east doorway was not attached to the rest of the lath and thus must have been a later alteration. Also on the south wall there is a large section cut out of the logs where there was apparently a fireplace, but there are no holes in the ends of the logs where the jambs would have been pegged to them. The existing fireplace is narrower than the opening. It is small and has a stone ashlar firebox with straight jambs. The stone is painted grey, but appears to be granite underneath. The top of the fireplace opening has been patched and was apparently altered. The brick hearth appears to be rather recent. There is a wood mantel with pilasters that have a tripartite field. The center of the field has three reeds, and the ends of the field are raised, with an ogee moulding in the transition. The mantel frieze has the same details. Above the pilasters are sawn rosettes. The mantel shelf has a moulded edge, and the top of the shelf is treated like a fielded panel. The room has a plain baseboard. The door surround on the north has a beaded interior edge. The east window surrounds have a beaded interior edge and an ovolo on the outer edge. The sills are sloped toward the exterior. The west wall has been studded out and sheet rocked. There is a crawl space only under this room. The joists are ¾ round logs that run east-west. The flooring is 2¼-inch pine that runs north-south. The ceiling is plastered and has circular-sawn lath. The joists above are about 3¾-4 by 5-5½ inches, are hewn and whitewashed, and run east-west. The floor above is random-width butted boards.

The center stair passage has a straight run of stairs on the south wall. The stairs have an open stringer with no brackets. The balusters are rectangular in plan and the hand rail is round. The newel is a round column with a pronounced entasis, and the hand rail laps over the top of the newel. The floor is 2¾-inch wide pine that runs east-west. The front (east) door has double-fielded panels on the interior as well as the exterior, and has a cast iron box lock with "BLW" marked on it. The door surrounds have a beaded interior edge and a pediment at the top. The doors have four sunk, flat

Description (continued)

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panels with no panel moulds. Beneath the stairs is a random-width, beaded-edge vertical board door to a closet. There is a four-panel door at the west end to the rear covered porch. This section has a heavy-timber frame with mill-sawn vertical posts that are 5 x 5½ inches.

The northeast room has a fireplace centered on the north wall. The firebox is of several pieces of large granite ashlar and the jambs were splayed. The jambs and rear of the fire box have since been roughly cut back. The brick arch of the fire box has a steel lintel. The fireplace originally had a granite surround, as the firebox was exposed on the outer face, and may have had a thin veneer piece at the top, though the drastic alterations make this unclear. The wood mantel has simple pilasters, a plain frieze, and a bed mould with a torus above a cavetto. The brick hearth apparently has been painted. The flooring is 3¼-inch pine that runs east-west. The baseboards match those in the passage. The ceiling lath is mill sawn. The east side of the fireplace jamb, above the level of the mantel shelf, has a cupboard. The door has two side-by-side panels that are flat and sunk, and is hung on cast-iron butt hinges. The surround has a beaded interior edge.

The central room, in the east end of the ell, is one step up from the northeast room. The west wall has a fireplace to the south that has been bricked in and now partially re-opened. The surround was plastered, and there is a plain wood mantel. Above the mantel is a plaster wall with circular-sawn lath. To the north of the fireplace is a small, short closet with a random-width board door. Above the closet is a wood door about 16 by 19 inches that is hinged on the bottom. Below the door is a hinged bracket that folds out of the way, and folds over for the door to rest on. The door opens into the room to the west. In the northwest corner of the room is an enclosed winder stair. There are two steps in the room, then a tongue-and-groove, random-width, beaded-edge vertical board door with a Norfolk latch. Inside the stairs on the west elevation at the north corner, is a doorway into the west room. The door has beaded-edge vertical boards. The treads are new and are wire-nailed. There is a closet under the stairs. The floor is 2½-inch wide pine that runs north-south. Beneath it, exposed in the closet, is random-width pine flooring that runs east-west. The baseboards and surrounds match those in the northeast room.

There is a cellar under this center room only, and it is accessible only from the stairs under the porch to the south. The rubble stone walls are whitewashed. The stone cheek walls for the cellar steps are toothed into the foundation. The circular-sawn wood steps are new, and the south wall of the stairway is battered stone. The cellar has a dirt floor. The joists are mill sawn, are 2½ x 6-7 inches, spaced 24 inches on center, run north-south, and have X-bracing. They rest on a wood board sill approximately 1 inch thick and are not tied into the sills. The east wall has a hewn sill that is whitewashed. It

Description (continued)

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is mortised to hold the sawn studs; no saw marks were visible. The studs are numbered, starting with I in the northeast corner, then II to the south of it, and so on. There is a corner brace on the south side of the northeast post that is pegged to the sill.

The west room floor is raised about five feet above the level of the central room. The joists run north-south and are hewn on top and bottom. There are two layers of tongue-and-groove floor. Both have 2½-inch wide boards that are ¾ inch thick. This floor is now covered by masonite and linoleum. The room has beaded-edge, vertical-board, tongue-and-groove wainscot with a chair rail. The boards are circular-sawn on the back and fastened with cut nails. The fireplace in the central room projects into this room. The lower portion is enclosed by wainscot and the upper half, with the corbelled throat that connects the fire box to the narrow chimney, is exposed and plastered, rather than being boxed in. The chimney is of brick, but the remainder of the fireplace is stone. In the northwest corner is an enclosed winder stair with a beaded-edge vertical board door that has a brass knob. There is a closet under the stairs. South of this room is a small pantry or similar attached room. The second-story joists are 3 by 6 inches, and are mill-sawn. Originally, they were covered by lath, attached with cut nails, and plaster. The floor above is tongue-and-groove, circular-sawn, random-width boards. There is some scorching near the chimney. A girt in the west wall of the central room is exposed in this room. It is mill sawn and is 5½ inches wide by 6½ inches deep. It aligns with the ceiling level of the central room, and is only several feet above the floor level of the west room.

The second-story plan is slightly different than the first. The center passage is open above the first flight of stairs. To the north, the straight run of stairs to the attic run from west to east and are enclosed with plaster and have a random-width, beaded-edge board door. North of this is one chamber, and south of the passage is a cross-passage along the west wall, with a chamber to the east and a chamber to the south. The flooring throughout is 2½-inch pine that runs north to south. The surrounds are identical to those in the northeast room. The north chamber has a chimney centered on the north wall, and it has a mantle shelf on three sides that is supported by plain brackets. The south wall has a door to the east into a closet under the attic stairs. On the west is a door to the central chamber. The central chamber is divided, with a room across the west and two on the east. The southern half of the west and southeast rooms has a dramatically-sloped floor, indicating that this was a porch that has been enclosed, and the original south wall of these rooms removed. The central section is not connected to the western chambers, which are only accessible from the northwest winder stair. This section is divided into three chambers, one on the east and two on the west. The rafters in this section are sawn and mitered at the ridge, and are covered with circular-sawn lath and plaster.

Description (continued)

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The attic over the main block is floored only on the north half. There is lath attached to the rafters south of the stairs to prevent access to the unfloored southern half. The joists here are sawn, but no clear marks were visible. They are 2½ by something over 6 inches though it was not possible to determine the exact depth. The rafters are 2½ by 3½ inches and sawn, but again no marks are visible. They are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge, and have sawn numbers inscribed on them. The rafter feet have a birds-mouth cut and fit over a plate that is approximately 1 by 4 inches. The rafters support lath. The rafters over the central section are 3 by 4 inches, circular-sawn, and mitered at the ridge. They have tie beams nailed to their sides. The rafters support tongue-and-groove boards. The joists run east-west, are 2½ to 3 inches wide, and the depth was not determinable.

About 12 feet south of the ell of the house is a small structure that is probably a well house. It has a concrete foundation, German siding with corner boards, and a shed roof with asphalt shingles that slopes off to the west. The east elevation has a door. About 30 feet southwest of the house is a log outbuilding that was used at one time as a smokehouse, though this may not have been its original function. It has a rubble stone foundation. The logs appear to be sawn on all four sides, and are squared off on the ends and merely stacked at the corners. The gable roof has a north-south ridge and inverted-V-seam metal over wood shingles. There is a beaded-edge, vertical-board door on the north elevation, and board-and-batten siding in the gable end here. The south gable end has clapboard siding. The rafters are sawn, are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge, and have log tie beams nailed to their sides.

Several hundred yards southwest of the house is a structure that may have been a laborers cottage. It is a one-story, one-bay by one-bay, rectangular structure with a rubble stone foundation, German siding with corner boards, and an asphalt shingle gable roof with an east-west ridge. It has a six-panel door on the east elevation that has sunk fielded panels with ogee panel moulds. There is a shed-roof porch on the east elevation with three posts. The north and west elevations each have a 6/6 sash with a slightly pedimented surround. There is a shed-roof addition attached to the south elevation that has a 6/6 sash on the east, south, and west elevations. The 2¼-inch wide flooring runs north-south. On the west wall, south of the window, is an interior CMU chimney.

Several hundred yards east of the house, down the hill, is a springhouse with a rubble stone foundation, board-and-batten siding, and an asphalt shingle gable roof with a southwest-northeast ridge. There is an opening in the northeast and southeast, and a vertical board door on the southwest. The roof is cantilevered about four feet on the southwest. The 4 by 4 corner posts and the plates are circular-sawn, and the braced frame is nailed. The board siding is also circular-sawn and the battens are made of

Description (continued)

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tongue-and-groove floorboards. West of the springhouse is an ell-shaped stone wall with an opening in the corner that is filled with water and covered over by stone slabs on top.

About 40 feet southeast of the springhouse is a wagonshed with corn crib. It is set on stone piers, has vertical-board siding, and has corrugated metal on the gable roof, with an east-west ridge. The crib is set just south of center, with a shed on both the north and south sides. The west elevation has a vertical-board door in the center, with a door above, and is open to either side. The east elevation is open to the north shed, with a wood louvered vent centered on the gable end. The shed is built with five bents of circular-sawn, braced, mortised, tenoned and pegged heavy timber. The posts on the north side of the crib extend up to the roof just north of the ridge. The rafters are approximately 2 x 4 inches.

North of the wagon shed about 50 feet is a bank barn with a forebay that faces east. The gable roof has a north-south ridge and a wood shingle roof under the asphalt shingles. Centered on the ridge is a ventilator box with wood louvers on each side and a gable roof with north-south ridge. The lower story of the east elevation has horizontal-board siding and five tongue-and-groove vertical board dutch doors on strap hinges. There are stone cheek walls under the north and south ends of the forebay. The upper story has board-and-batten siding. The battens have a cavetto moulding run on each side. There was originally a central door on strap hinges above another door on straps, but these have deteriorated. The opening is flanked by two vents above two other vents, on each end. The south elevation is three bays and has, on the lower level from west to east, two six-light sash in pegged mortise-and-tenon frames with holes for wood louvers and a vertical board dutch door on strap hinges in a pegged mortise-and-tenon frame. The upper level has three vents, with three vents above it, and in the gable end a vent on each end and a large vent in the peak. The west elevation has a wood vent in a pegged mortise-and-tenon frame in the south bay of the lower story. The upper story has central double wagon doors on strap hinges, with two vents over two vents to each side. The north elevation matches the south.

The lower story has one central summer beam, hewn on all four sides, that is supported by five posts. The joists are hewn on top and bottom, and span from the west wall to the summer beam and from the summer beam to the end of the forebay. The ends of the joists closest to the summer have been axed off in a "V". The east wall structure is hewn. The stall arrangement has been altered. The south wall has a narrow wood beam set into it that appears to be sawn and has wood pegs. The upper story has a center threshing floor with a hay mow on each side. There are four hewn bents with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. The bents have four posts each, with a single braced girt between the east and west posts. The roof truss is a purlin post system. The rafters are sawn and are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge. There is a hay track in the ridge.

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Description (continued)

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Just west of the barn, north of the ramp, is a circular, rubble stone foundation, probably for a silo.

KS/lh:1-10-93:CARR1339.des

8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-1339

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1878-1888 **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.

Summary:

The William P. Gorsuch Farm was apparently first assembled by Nathan Gorsuch in 1835-37 from three different tracts. It is not possible to determine if any of them were improved. In early December 1840 the local newspaper noted that he had died recently. The following September, the farm was advertised for sale. At this time it was 162 acres. "The improvements are a two-story Dwelling House, a large double Log Barn and other necessary Out-Buildings." At a public sale in October 1843, the farm was purchased by Nathan's brother, Stephen Gorsuch. Stephen sold the farm in 1855 to Nathan's son, William Pearce Gorsuch, (1819-7/20/1888). Ten years later, William added two additional tracts, one of 102 acres. The 1862 map, however, shows him clearly residing at the current site, as does the 1877 atlas. By 1879 Gorsuch had added a new barn worth \$700. After William Gorsuch died intestate in 1888, his estate landed in Chancery Court for settlement. The court ordered the sale of the farm. The sale advertisement gives a clear portrait of the farm. It was: ". . . improved by a large and comfortable Dwelling House, with large parlor and sitting room on either side of the hall. The house contains large and comfortable chambers above, and has back building and kitchen annexed. There is a large porch, 12 feet in width, extending along the entire front of the house. The outbuildings consist of a large and convenient bank barn with granaries attached, corn house, dairy and other necessary outbuildings; all the buildings have been erected since 1878." It seems likely that the house was constructed circa 1875, and the outbuildings added after 1878. The construction techniques, with a mill-sawn heavy timber frame and lapped, pegged joints at the rafter ridge, are consistent with an 1870's construction date.

Geographical Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period: Agricultural-Industrial Transition A. D. 1815-1870;
Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes: Agriculture, Architecture

Resource Types: Small Family Farm; Rural Vernacular

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Significance (continued)

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The William P. Gorsuch Farm was apparently first assembled by Nathan Gorsuch (b. 1792) in 1835-37 from three different tracts. It is not possible to determine if any of them were improved. Nathan Gorsuch did not have long to enjoy his farm, however. In early December 1840 the local newspaper noted that he had died recently after a lingering illness. The following September, the farm was advertised for sale. At this time it was 162 acres, with 40-45 acres in woodland and about 6 acres in meadow. There was an orchard with around 80 apple trees. "The improvements are a two-story Dwelling House, a large double Log Barn and other necessary Out-Buildings."

The inventory taken for his property indicates a fairly successful farmer. His livestock included two mares, a horse, two colts, seven heifers, two steer, three yearlings, sixteen fattening hogs, several stock hogs, fifteen shoats, and fifteen sheep. This was above the average number for all types of livestock. There were also two hives of bees. He was growing wheat, corn, oats, rye, clover, and potatoes. There was salted meat in the meat house and a fodder house with husks stored in it. His farm tools included three two-horse ploughs, a single shovel plough, two double shovel ploughs, several harrows, a cultivator, several scythes and numerous smaller items. The house was fairly well appointed, too, for this period. There were five low beds and one high bed, as well as a rocking cradle. Other furniture included a corner cupboard, a bureau, a mahogany dining table, a breakfast table, six Windsor chairs, six old chairs, a kitchen cupboard, a chest, a Yankee clock, a looking glass, brass candlesticks, brass andirons, iron andirons, a ten-plate stove, and a carpet.

At a public sale in October 1843, the farm was purchased by Nathan's brother, Stephen Gorsuch (b. 1799). The deed was not executed until 1850, but the 1852 tax assessment suggests that Stephen Gorsuch was not living on the farm, since there is no other personal property listed with the farm in the tax record. Stephen sold the farm in 1855 to Nathan's son, William Pearce Gorsuch, (1819-7/20/1888). Ten years later, William added two additional tracts, one of 102 acres. The 1862 map, however, shows him clearly residing at the current site, as does the 1877 atlas. Like his father, William was a successful farmer. In 1866 his livestock was valued at \$355 and his furniture at \$339. Ten years later he had four horses, twenty-two cows, and fourteen hogs, worth a total of \$685. His farm implements were worth an additional \$220 and his buggy and harness \$125. The 225-acre farm had a frame dwelling worth \$700, a frame stable and corn house worth \$200, and a wagon shed, tenant house, and other buildings worth another \$400. By 1879 Gorsuch had added a new barn worth \$700.

After William Gorsuch died intestate in 1888, his estate landed in Chancery Court for settlement. It was the testimony of Elias Brown, a 63-year-old farmer and neighbor, that ". . . the buildings are large and valuable and would require more land to go with

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1339

Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 3

them than could be allowed in any partition of said property, considering the number of heirs. . . ." The court agreed and ordered the sale of the farm. Unfortunately, we do not have an inventory to describe in detail how the Gorsuch's lived. The sale advertisement, however, gives a clear portrait of the farm. It was located right on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and had its own station, known as Gorsuch's Switch. Two county roads passed through the tract. The farm was 215½ acres, was well limed, and covered in clover and timothy. The fields were fenced, and of course there was an apple orchard. It was

. . . improved by a large and comfortable Dwelling House, with large parlor and sitting room on either side of the hall. The house contains large and comfortable chambers above, and has back building and kitchen annexed. There is a large porch, 12 feet in width, extending along the entire front of the house. The outbuildings consist of a large and convenient bank barn with granaries attached, corn house, dairy and other necessary outbuildings; all the buildings have been erected since 1878. The dwelling is well located and surrounded by a number of shade trees. There is a never failing spring of most excellent water near the dwelling and barn.

The description clearly identifies the existing house, thus dating it before 1889, and really before Gorsuch's death in 1888. The reference to "all the buildings" having been built since 1878 would seem to indicate that the house does not predate that. Of course, one room of the house is a log structure that apparently was a one-room, one-story building with a fireplace on the south gable end. The logs were originally exposed and whitewashed on the interior. At a later date, when the additions were made, the fireplace was dismantled and replaced with the existing one. A central passage, north room, rear ell, and second story were added. Why such lengths were gone to incorporate the old structure is not clear. It's age and history are also problematic. Nathan Gorsuch had a two-story dwelling. Thus, this was probably not it. Either this structure served as William P. Gorsuch's first dwelling circa 1855, or it was not a dwelling at all. It could have been a summer kitchen for either Nathan or William. William had a frame dwelling in 1876. This would suggest that either the existing house does predate the 1878 date (perhaps the 1878 date refers only to the outbuildings), or there was another one on the farm. If the latter is true, the fate of that dwelling is unknown. The tax record noted the new barn in 1879, but did not note a new house. Since the 1866-76 tax book did not mention a new house, either, it seems likely that the house was constructed circa 1875, too late to be added to the old tax book, and the outbuildings added after 1878. The construction techniques, with a mill-sawn heavy timber frame and lapped, pegged joints at the rafter ridge, are consistent with an 1870's construction date.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM**

Survey No. CARR-1339

Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 4

In 1891, Otto F. Leist and Glencoe W. Leist, both from Baltimore City, purchased the farm for \$6,096.50. They defaulted on their mortgage and in 1896, it was again sold. John T. Cauthorn purchased a $\frac{2}{3}$ interest and Daniel W. Cauthorn bought the other $\frac{1}{3}$. Daniel apparently lived in Howard County, and in 1906 sold his interest to John, who must have been living and farming here. The house remained in the Cauthorn family until recently, when the State of Maryland purchased it. The house is now in the resident curatorship program and is undergoing restoration.

KMS/lh:2-2-94:Carr1339.sig

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-1339

Carroll County Land Records
1862 & 1877 maps
Tax assessments, 1852, 1866, 1866-76, 1876, 1876-96, 1896-1910
"Gorsuch" genealogy, HSCC
Carrolltonian, 4 Dec. 1840; 24 Sept. 1841, p. 3
Democratic Advocate, 29 June 1889, p.4
Nathan Gorsuch inventory, JB1-534

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 109 acres

Quadrangle name Sykesville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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	Zone	Easting	Northing
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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"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short, Historic Planner

organization Carroll County Department of Planning date April 11, 1994

street & number 225 North Center Street telephone (410) 857-2145

city or town Westminster state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: ~~Maryland Historical Trust
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

CARR-1339
William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm
1481 Arrington Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
John L. Clark, exec. to Margaret C. Cauthorn	Carroll	Agnes V. Cauthorn, et al	?	5-6-1988	LWS 1092	984	Deed fee simple	200 acres, 90 acres = 109 acres, \$1.00, Margaret resided here
John L. Clark	Howard	Margaret C. Cauthorn, et al	?	11-27-1973	CCC 558	675	Deed fee simple	Agnes, Margaret & Helen Cauthorn have resided here for years, \$5.00, 220 acres - 20 acres
Agnes, Margaret & Helen Cauthorn	Carroll	John L. Cook	?	11-27-1973	CCC 558	673	Deed fee simple	\$5.00, 222 acres - 20 acres
Theodore F. Brown, trustee	Carroll	Agnes V., Margaret C. and Helen S. Cauthorn, et al, Alexander H.	?	5-10-1949	EAS 201	452	Deed	222 acres
Alexander H. Cauthorn, et al	Carroll	Theodore F. Brown, trustee	?	5-10-1949	CCC 201	451	Deed	222 acres, Equity #7236
Corinne C. Bordley & Ralph O. (husband)	Baltimore City	Alexander H. Cauthorn, et al	?	3-9-1942	LDM 178	236	Deed fee simple	\$10.00, 222 acres, 1/7 interest
John T. Cauthorn	Carroll	Alexander H. Cauthorn, Corrine C. Bordley, et al		probated 9-24-1940	<u>wills</u> HGB 15	189	Bequest	left to his children
Daniel W. Cauthorn	Howard	John T. Cauthorn	Carroll	5-8-1906	DPS 104	123	Deed fee simple	1/3 interest, \$1,000

CARR-1339
 William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm
 1481 Arrington Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
Louis P. Hennighausen, agent for S. Paca St. Bldg. Assoc.	Baltimore Corp.	John T. Cauthorn Daniel W. Cauthorn	?	4-21-1896	BFC 82	377	Deed fee simple	JTC $\frac{2}{3}$ DWC $\frac{1}{3}$ a default on mortgage Equity #3420, sold 3-9- 1896, \$6,025 several tracts (1) 119 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, Hunters Chance, Dorsey's Neglect, Dorsey's Dilemma (2) 102 acres - $\frac{1}{8}$ acre burial ground (3) 136 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres (4) 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres, Hunters Chance, Dorsey's Neglect, Dorsey's Dilemma, Dorsey's Interest

CARR-1339
 William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm
 1481 Arrington Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
William Gorsuch, Jr., trustee	Carroll	Otto F. Leist Glencoe W. Leist	Carroll	2-24-1892	BFC 74	107	Deed fee simple	Equity Court 6-11-1889, \$2,720 farm - 215 acres, c improve, 7-6-1889 & 8-4-1890 offered for sale - no good bids, 2 private sales, (1) \$2,175, 100 acres, 1/8 acres burial ground, Benjamin B. Gorsuch, et al v. Sallie E. Davis, et al (2) 102 acres (3) 136 1/4 acres (4) 6 1/4 acres (2),(3),(4)
William Gorsuch, Jr., trustee	Carroll	Otto F. Leist Glencoe W. Leist	Carroll	1-7-1891	BFC 72	182	Deed fee simple	Equity #2720 \$6,096.50, 119 1/2 acres lists 3 deeds for parcels (2), (3), & (4) (1)

CARR-1339
 William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm
 1481 Arrington Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

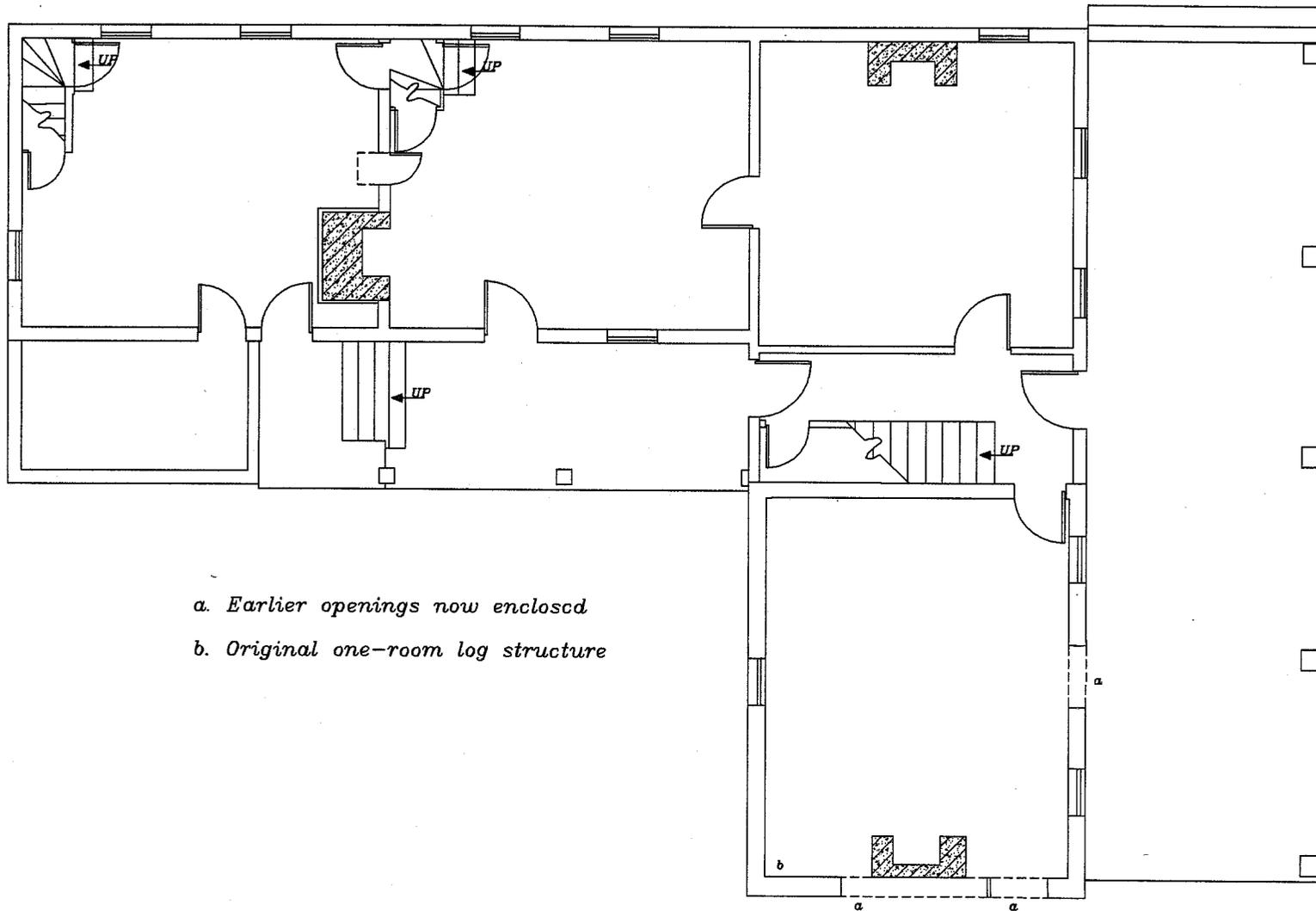
GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
John H. Shipley & Mary E, et al (wife)	Howard	William P. Gorsuch	Carroll	4-22-1865	WAMcK 32	106	Deed fee simple	\$3,570, 102 acres except 1/8 acre burial ground [no previous reference] (1),(2)
Stephen Gorsuch and June (wife)	Carroll	William P. Gorsuch	Carroll	10-13-1855	JBB 22	127	Deed	\$2,400, 136 1/4 acres & improve [no previous reference] (1),(3)
Henry B. Shipley & Susan R. (wife)	Carroll	William P. Gorsuch	Carroll	4-22-1865	WAMcK 32	105	Deed fee simple	\$400, 6 1/2 acres [no previous reference] [not in indexes] (1),(4)
Joseph J. Speed, trustee, estate of Nathan Gorsuch, deceased	Baltimore City	Stephen Gorsuch	Carroll	7-11-1850	JBB 11	247	Deed Indenture	Equity, Stephen Gorsuch v. Pelitia Gorsuch, et al, 9-9-1841, William P. Gorsuch was trustee public sale 10-12-1843 to Stephen Gorsuch, \$2,518.75, trustee removed & Speed took his place before payment of money

CARR-1339
 William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm
 1481 Arrington Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
Charles A. Warfield & wife		Nathan Gorsuch		12-15-1836	<u>Baltimore Co.</u> T. K. 266	248		
Otho Shipley Robert T. Shipley, execs. to Robert Shipley of Adam	Baltimore County	Nathan Gorsuch	Carroll	8-22-1837	WW 1	594	Deed Indenture	94¼ acres, \$1,320 Dorsey's neglect, Shipley's will, 3-15-1831, Baltimore County along B&O railroad
Ann Boring	Baltimore County	Nathan Gorsuch	Baltimore County	10-3-1835	<u>Baltimore County</u> T. K. 253	1	Deed Indenture	\$525 Hunters Choice, 46 acres [no previous reference]

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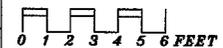
Prepared by: Carroll County Department of Planning

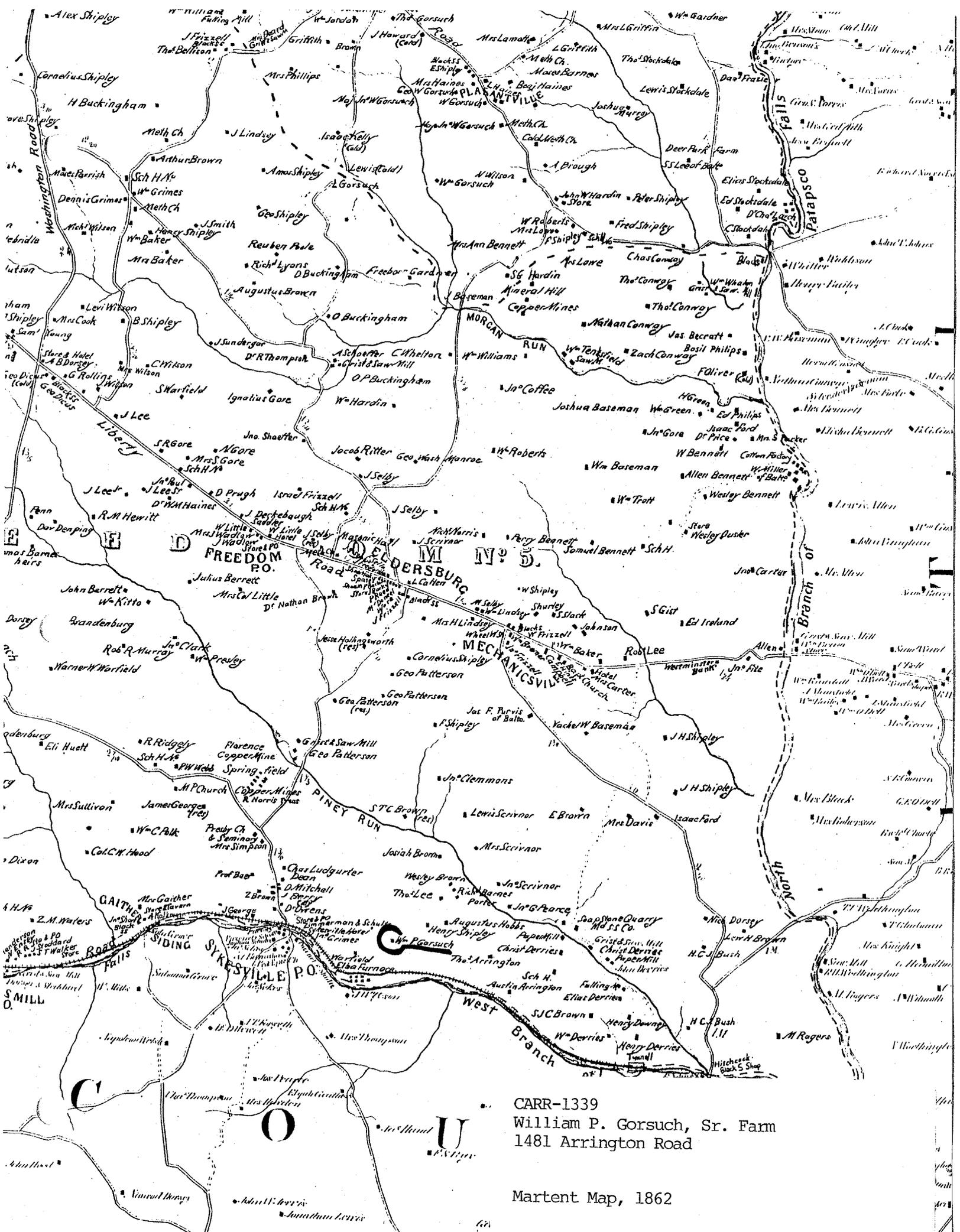
CARR
1339

William P. Gorsuch Sr. Farm
1481 Arrington Road

First Floor
Plan

November 1993
Kenneth M. Short





CARR-1339
William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm
1481 Arrington Road

Martent Map, 1862

FREEDOM

DISTRICT NO. 5

Scale 1/4 Inches to the Inch
Morgans

LOUISVILLE P.O.

FREEDOM

DISTRICT NO. 5



FREEDOM BUSINESS REFERENCES.
 John Dechbaugh, Manufacturer of Saddles, Harness, and Collars. Shop on Liberty Road, one mile west of Freedom Post-office.
 Wm. M. Hines, Physician and Surgeon. Office at residence, one mile west of Freedom.
 Capt. Thomas Paynter, Geologist, Geological Surveyor.

John M. Berry, Proprietor of Hotel, Sykesville.
 William Davis, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions and General Merchandise. Also, Manufacturer of Flour, Feed, and Meal, and Dealer in Grain. Mariottsville.

CARR-1339
 William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm
 1481 Arrington Road

Gorsuch Farm Site Plan

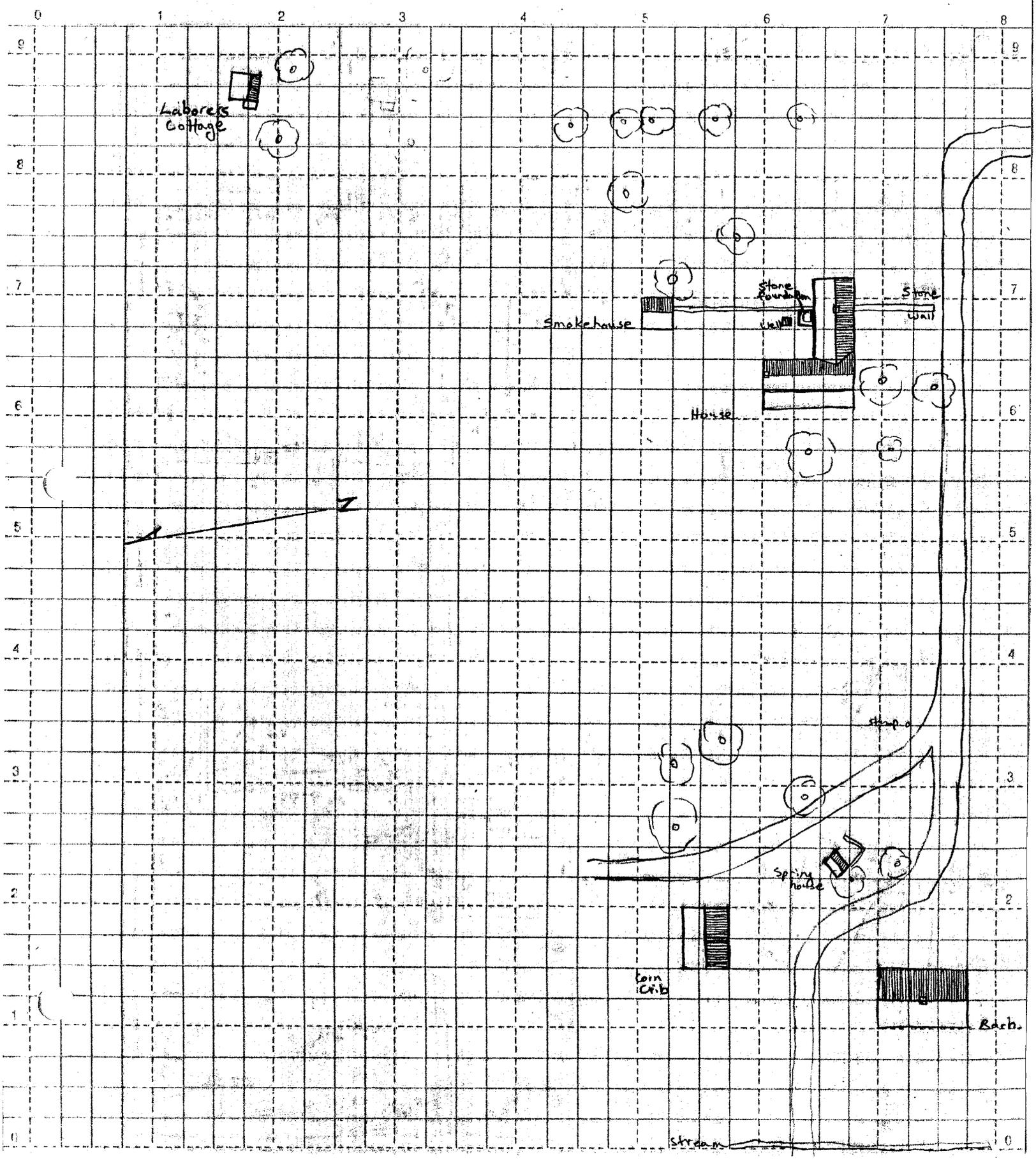
CARR-1339

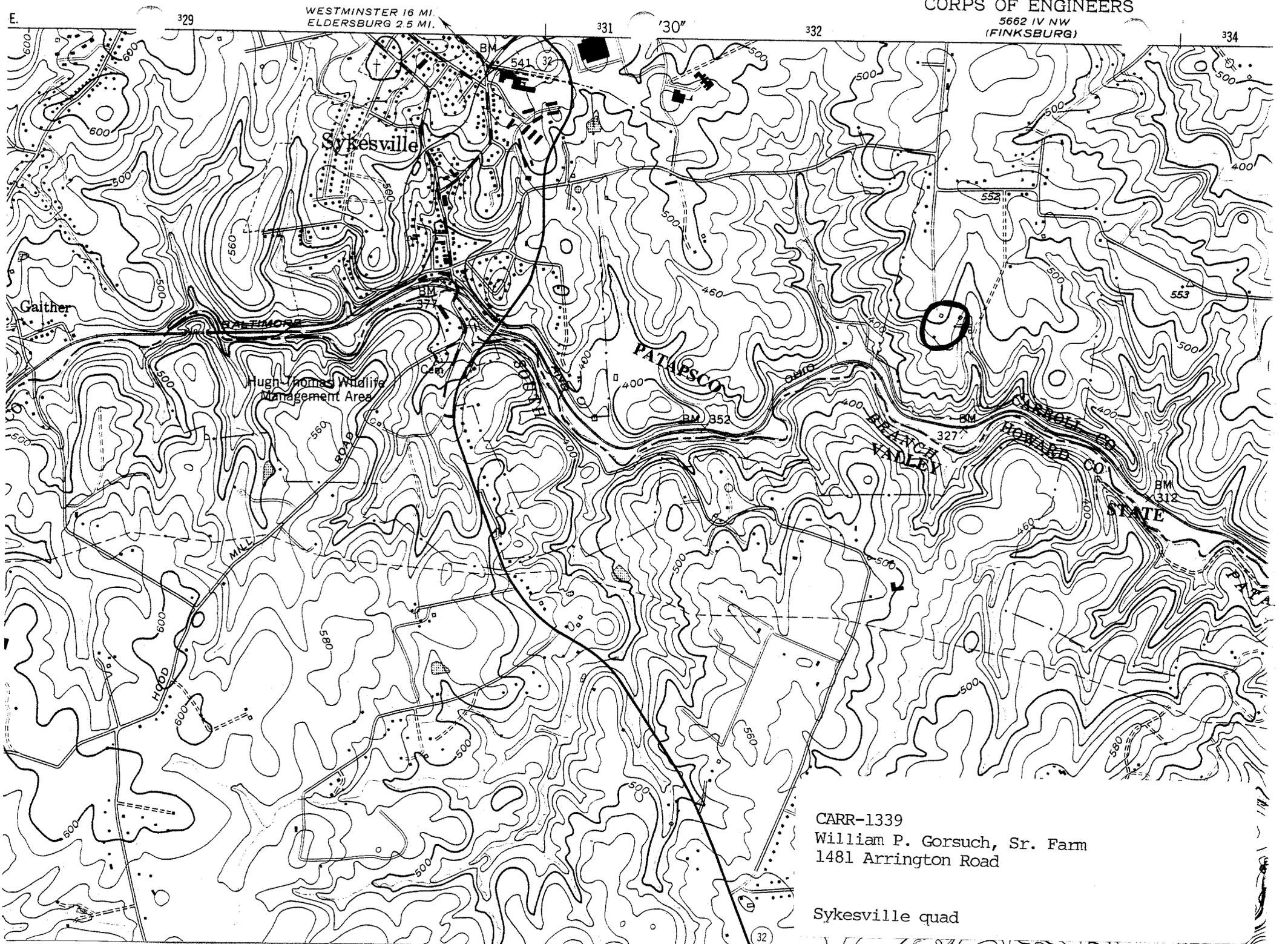
PREPARED BY

KMS

DATE

11 Nov. '93





WESTMINSTER 16 MI.
ELDERSBURG 2.5 MI.

329

331

'30"

332

334

Sykesville

Gaither

Hugh Thomas Wildlife
Management Area

PATUXENT
RIVER

BEAUCHAMPEL
VALLEY

HOWARD CO.

MARYLAND
STATE

CARR-1339
William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm
1481 Arrington Road

Sykesville quad

32



CARE-1339

William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm
Slack's Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: November 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

house - east elevation

1/7



William P. Gorsuch, Sr, Farm
Slack's Road
Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: November 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland

house - west $\frac{1}{2}$ South elevations

2/7



William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm
Stack's Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: November 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
south room fireplace

3/7



William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm
Slack's Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: November 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
house - center ell room, west elevation

4/7



William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm

CARR-1339

Slack's Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: November 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

South & east elevations

5/7



William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm

Slack's Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: November 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Springhouse - northwest elevation & corn crib -
north & west elevations

6/7



William P. Gorsuch, Sr. Farm
Slack's Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: November, 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

barn - south & east elevations

7/7