

SEBASTIAN DERR HOUSE
Frederick, Maryland

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Number: F-3-16

- Building Name:** Sebastian Derr House
- Location:** Sebastian Boulevard
Dearbought
City of Frederick
Frederick County, Maryland
- Date(s) of Construction:** ca. 1750 – ca. 1820
- Present Owner:** Natelli Communities
806 West Diamond Avenue, Suite 300
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878
- Present Use:** The dwelling was demolished in November 1998.
- Significance:** The Sebastian Derr House was constructed in three major phases between ca. 1750 and ca. 1820 by three generations of the Derr family. The dwelling illustrated the evolution of a traditional German house form to a Mid-Atlantic regional house type characteristic of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century Frederick County, Maryland.
- Project Information:** The Sebastian Derr House was documented by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. on behalf of Natelli Associates, Inc., in partial fulfillment of a Memorandum of Understanding among Natelli Communities and the City of Frederick. The Frederick County Landmarks Foundation, Inc., and the Maryland Historical Trust were concurring parties to this agreement.
- The documentation for the dwelling includes written, graphic, and photographic data. Original recordation materials and field notes are archived in the collection of the Maryland Historical Trust,

Crownsville, Maryland. Copies of the complete documentation have been provided to the City of Frederick, the Frederick County Landmarks Foundation, Inc., and the Frederick County Historical Society.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Sebastian Derr House was an eighteenth-century dwelling located near Maryland State Route 26, a quarter mile west of the Monocacy River and within the current boundaries of the City of Frederick, Maryland. The house historically was part of the Derr family farm known as Dearbought. Dearbought was located in rural Frederick County in an area settled by German-born immigrants and dominated by single family farms. The landscape of the farm was defined historically by rolling fields delineated by bands of deciduous trees and two, multi-building domestic and agricultural complexes. These building complexes included the Sebastian Derr House (ca.1755) and the extant John Derr House (ca. 1795). The former was referred to as the "old" house in the historical record, while the latter was referenced as the "stone" house.

The Sebastian Derr house, a prominent local landmark, was demolished in November 1998. The house site now is occupied by open space. The historic farm is the planned residential community known as Dearbought.

Project Background and Previous Investigations

The Sebastian Derr House was a two-story, log and masonry building constructed in three major stages. The earliest part of the house was built in the mid-eighteenth century and comprised a two-story, two-room log dwelling. The house was enlarged ca. 1760 through the construction of a two-story, masonry addition west of the original dwelling. A two-story, masonry south wing was added and interior renovations were completed during the third phase of construction, undertaken in the early nineteenth century. The dwelling was unoccupied for approximately twenty years prior to its demolition in 1998.

Scholarly interest in the house dates to 1979 when data first were collected to include the building in the Inventory of Historic Properties, the state's archive of historic properties maintained by the Maryland Historical Trust. Although the house was not listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the nation's inventory of historic properties worth of preservation, the dwelling was recognized as a locally significant landmark of architectural and historical importance.

The Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, College of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, University of Delaware recorded the Sebastian Derr House in greater detail in November 1994. The resulting report contained an architectural analysis, which traced the evolution of the house through three periods of construction. These data were incorporated into the Inventory of Historic Properties housed at the Maryland Historical Trust.

Residential development of the Derr family farm first was proposed in the 1980s. Retention of the Sebastian Derr House was a condition placed upon site plan approval by the City of Frederick Planning Commission for the subdivision of the historic property by Milliner Construction in 1989. No work was completed on the Sebastian Derr House by Milliner Construction.

NALP/Natelli Associates Limited Partnership succeeded Milliner Construction as developers of the Dearbought planned community in 1993. The firm commissioned several intensive planning studies for the rehabilitation of the Sebastian Derr House. These studies included *A Restoration Feasibility Report* (Renaissance Restorations 1994), and the *Derr Farm House Reuse Dearbought Feasibility Study* (Quinn Evans/Architects 1994). Both studies identified the building as architecturally and historically significant, while documenting extensive structural deterioration. The study by Quinn Evans/ Architects also noted that a high degree of intervention and modification would be required to rehabilitate the house for reuse as a residence.

Rehabilitation of the Sebastian Derr House as a single-family house was assessed by the development company as prohibitive due to the deteriorated condition of the building. NALP/Natelli Associates Limited Partnership petitioned the City of Frederick Planning Commission to identify alternatives to the retention of the building to fulfill the condition to the earlier approval of the development. The City of Frederick directed the development company to work with the Frederick County Landmarks Foundation, Inc., a local historic preservation, private, non-profit group to seek solutions appropriate to the project. In addition, the City of Frederick directed the developer to consult with the Maryland Historical Trust, the state agency charged with overseeing historic preservation activity in the state.

Despite numerous discussions, NALP/Natelli Associates Limited Partnership and the Frederick County Landmarks Foundation, Inc., failed to reach consensus on a treatment for the Sebastian Derr House. The preservation group strongly advocated the restoration of the Sebastian Derr House due to its historical significance and association with the early history of Frederick County. The Maryland Historical Trust formally commented on the historical importance of the house. In a July 12, 1995, letter to Mr. Joseph A. Adkins, City Planner with the City of Frederick, noted architectural historian Orlando Ridout V, summarized the importance of the building to understanding the process of German acculturation in Maryland,

and indeed, to understanding Maryland's development in the larger context of the cultural history of the eastern United States.

R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., was retained by NALP/Natelli Associates Limited Partnership in 1997 to assess the current condition of the building and to identify appropriate treatment strategies. That investigation found that the historical significance of the Sebastian Derr House was indisputable; however, the high degree of intervention required to address the severe deterioration of the original log dwelling and the 1820s wing would destroy the historical integrity of the resource. This assessment was confirmed in April 1998 by A.G. Pecora, P.E. of Pecora Engineering, Inc., a structural engineering firm that inspected the dwelling on behalf of *Save The Derr House Committee*, a private preservation advocacy group.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to mitigate the removal of the dwelling was executed in January 1998 among Natelli Communities and the City of Frederick. The Frederick County Landmarks Foundation, Inc. and the Maryland Historical Trust were concurring parties to this agreement. The preparation of written, photographic, and graphic documentation of the Sebastian Derr House was among the stipulations of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Methodology

The documentation of the Sebastian Derr House was completed through an integrated program of archival research, site investigation, and data analysis. All work was completed to the guidelines of Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Historic Preservation* by historians and architectural historians meeting the professional qualifications established by the Department of the Interior in the field of history and architectural history.

The archival search investigated both primary and secondary sources. Data on the structure and comparable historic sites in the vicinity were obtained from the Maryland Historical Trust, the Maryland State Archives, the Maryland Historical Society, the Frederick County Historical Society, and the Frederick County Courthouse. In addition, a thorough literature search was completed of references in local history as well as the recent literature on vernacular architectural history.

Thorough measurements of the dwelling were completed sufficient to develop a nine-page set of measured drawings. An AutoCAD 14 Computer Graphics program was used to generate the final drawing set to the standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey. This drawing set includes elevations, plans, sections, and details.

Field recording also included the execution of comprehensive 35-mm black and white and color slide photography. Complete photo indexes, prints, negatives, and slides are included

in the original documentation package. Archival data, a narrative description of the dwelling and its evolution, and an analysis of the architectural context for the building's construction are presented below.

II. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF DEARBUGHT

Land Tenure

The parcel of land known as "Dearbought" originally was part of "Tasker's Chance," a 7,000-acre tract patented to Benjamin Tasker in 1727. By 1737, six German immigrants were among the settlers on Tasker's Chance; these German-born settlers negotiated with Tasker the title to the entire property. The terms of the land sale included a down payment of 2,000£ with the balance of the payment extended over seven years (Tracey & Dern 1987:257-258; Schultz 1896:47). Unable to meet the terms of payment after seven and a half years, the contract purchasers negotiated to sell their equity to Daniel Dulany, a prominent land speculator in western Maryland. The title of Tasker's Chance transferred to Dulany in 1744-45 with the provision that established German settlers retained the right to purchase their homesteads. In July 1746, Dulany issued 21 deeds on Tasker's Chance (Tracey and Dern 1987:258-259).

The location of the "Dearbought" tract was distinguished by a curve in the Monocacy River. "Mill Pond" and "Bear Den," properties owned by Jacob Stoner, were located north of the tract, while land owned by Abraham Miller adjoined "Dearbought" to the west. Miller and Stoner were among the six German settlers who had attempted the Tasker's Chance purchase. Neither Stoner nor Miller was documented as residing in Maryland before 1736. Both settlers secured the deeds to their property in 1746 from Dulany. The transfer of Dearbought was not recorded among the initial deed actions.

Period documents suggested that the Dearbought tract may have been associated historically with Johann Melchior Werfel (1707-1755) (also spelled Warfield, Wharfield, Wheyfield, Wherfield, Wherefield). Werfel arrived in Philadelphia from Germany in 1732 (Tracey and Dern 1987:288). While the Werfel name is referenced in the 1746 deed issued to Abraham Miller, no deed has been uncovered to tie title to Dearbought directly to Werfel. Werfel appears to have been associated with the Dearbought property until 1763. Werfel (listed as Melcar Wherfield) was included among the German settlers who were named in Stephen Ramsburg's petition concerning excessive taxation in 1748. Werfel also appeared on the Maryland rent rolls for the 353 acre Dearbought tract and in Frederick County debt books from 1753 through 1762 (Frederick County Debt Books, 1753-1762). These records enumerated acreage and the corresponding tax; property improvements, such as dwellings, were not noted.

In 1753, Daniel Dulany transferred the Werfel parcel to Stephen Ramsburg (c.1711-1789) (Tracey and Dern 1987:291-293). The deed included land and improvements. Although the reference to "land and improvements" was a standard deed provision, direct reference to "improvements" occasionally was omitted when the legal transfer was limited to land. Surviving eighteenth-century Frederick County records, however, do not confirm that improvements were made to the Dearbought property during this period.

Stephen Ramsburg (also spelled Ramsberger, Ramsburger) owned Dearbought between 1753 and 1755. Ramsburg's principal property, known as Mortality, was a 473-acre parcel of the Tasker's Chance patent purchased from Dulany in 1746. Ramsberg's farm and house were located at Mortality and the property passed to his heirs upon his death (Tracey and Dern 1987:291). It is possible that Ramsberg acquired Dearbought to encourage continued development of the German ethnic community in the area. In 1755, Ramsberg sold the 307.25-acre Dearbought tract to Sebastian Derr (also spelled Darr, Dorr, Doerr, Durr) (Frederick County Land Records [FCLR] Liber E:764). The Derr family owned the property until the 1980s.

Sebastian Derr, born in 1727, was a cooper from Ibesheim in Kreis Landau southwest of Speyer in the Palatinate area of Germany. He emigrated from Germany in 1749 and may have landed in the colonies through the Port of Alexandria, Virginia. No records have been uncovered to document Derr's activities between 1749 and 1755 (Wampler 1987).

Derr married Elizabeth Loy (d.1765), the daughter of Johann Georg Loy, in the same year that he acquired Dearbought. Johann Georg Loy had settled on a parcel divided from Tasker's Chance in 1737 and was one of the signers of the constitution of the Lutheran Church at Monocacy (Tracey and Dern 1987:293).

Sebastian Derr became a naturalized citizen in 1761 (Wampler 1987:433-438; Tracey and Dern 1987). Four children were born to Sebastian and Elizabeth Derr: Sebastian, Jr. (b. 1756), Rosina (b. 1758), Elizabeth (b. 1761), and John Jacob (b. 1762). Sebastian Derr was listed as widower in the 1765 will of Johann Georg Loy. In 1765, Sebastian Derr, Sr., married Catharine Brengle (Wampler 1987:433-438). Four more children were born: Maria Susanna (b. 1767), John (b. 1774), George (b. 1777), and Thomas (b. 1780).

Sebastian Derr was a farmer and a cooper. In the 1790 U.S. Census, Sebastian Derr was recorded along with two free white males of 16 years and upwards (probably Sebastian, Sr., and John Jacob), three white males under 16 years of age (John, George, and Thomas), three white females (possibly wife and two daughters), and seven slaves (U.S. Bureau of Census 1952). Upon his death in 1802, Sebastian Derr's estate included nine slaves (Frederick County Wills [FCW], Liber G.M.3:554).

Derr added to his initial Frederick County land holdings in 1779. Additional parcels of land acquired by Derr included a 100-acre farm east of the Monocacy River known as "Resurvey of Middle Plantation" (FCLR, Liber W.R.1:294). He also purchased 24 acres (Lot 36) from George Schnetzell in 1782. Schnetzell had bought the land at a public sale of confiscated Tory property (FCLR, Liber W.R.30:124). The 24-acre parcel consisted of a strip of land five to ten perches in width, which began north of the mouth of Addison Run along the north bank of the Monocacy, and encircled the large island at the southwest corner of Dearbought.

The 1798 Frederick County Tax Assessment valued the 331-acre Dearbought property at \$1,200. The assessment was recorded for John Derr; a reference to Bostian Derr appeared under the "Remarks" column. No improvements had been added since the last tax assessment (date unknown) (Frederick County Tax Assessment 1798). The 1800 United States Census recorded John Derr as the head of a household that included two white males, two white females, and five slaves (Seubold 1977).

Sebastian Derr died in 1802. The Lutheran Church burial records noted his death: 1802, November 27. Sebastian Doerr died from stone pains. Born January 12, 1727 in Europe. Parents John Jacob Doerr and wife Maria Catharina....Aged 75 years, 10 months, 15 days" (Wampler 1987:434).

Derr's will, written in 1796, assigned the major portion of Dearbought, including the "old" house to his son John Derr (1774-1838), on the condition that John pay the sum of 1200£ current money to the other direct heirs. Thomas Derr (1780-1845) inherited the "stone house, kitchen, stables, yard garden" and 70 acres of land. Money and slaves were conveyed to the other children (Frederick County Wills G.M.3:554).

The estate inventory of Sebastian Derr was filed in 1803. The property, appraised at \$196.25, comprised mainly household goods and included: wearing apparel, two feather beds and bedstead furniture, one large Bible and other books, one desk, five chairs, one walnut chest, six knives and forks, one six-plated stove with pipe, one stand, one shovel and tongs, one case of five bottles, one old looking glass, four bottles, one jug, glass tumblers, one gold scale, candlesticks and snuffers, one slate (?) and razor, two pairs of stilliards?, two house clocks, one corner cupboard, two walnut tables, one woolling wheel, one hand saw, one cross cut saw, one saddle and saddlebags, one little gray horse, two chisels and some old iron (Frederick County Inventories 1803-1805). The inventory represented personal property, rather than goods associated with farm operation.

In 1825, both John and Thomas Derr were assessed with "stone house(s) and log buildings" (Frederick County Tax Assessment [FCTA] 1825). Thomas subsequently purchased an additional five acres near his farm (FCLR, Liber J.S.33:505). By 1825, Thomas's 75 acres with improvements were assessed at \$675, while John's farm was assessed at \$2,349 (FCTA

1825). John Derr also owned 10 slaves, while Thomas Derr held 5 slaves. By 1835, improvements to John's farm included a frame house and stone barn; his entire real estate was assessed at \$3,111. In 1835, John Derr owned 11 slaves (FCTA 1835).

John Derr, Sr., was an active proponent of public improvements. He was one of the founders of the Frederick and Woodsboro Turnpike. During the early nineteenth century, John Derr and Captain Campbell, who owned over 1,000 acres on the east bank of the Monocacy River, attempted to improve the river for navigation. Schildnecht claims that the two men built several dams for this purpose before abandoning on the project. In later years, these dams were interpreted as fishing weirs (Schildnecht 1985).

John Derr also purchased several agricultural properties during his lifetime. One of these properties, "Mackey's Luck" was located east of the Monocacy near the Shriner Mill. Upon his death in 1838, John Derr bequeathed his 273-acre interest in Dearbought and "Mackey's Luck" to his only son, John Derr, Jr. His widow, second wife Elizabeth (1779-1855) received a "dower estate during her life in my real estate as law allows." He also made provisions for his slaves; many of them were freed in return for a stipulated number of years of labor (FCW, Liber G.M.E.2:304).

In 1830, John Derr, Jr. (1798-1866), purchased the 75 acres of Dearbought inherited by his Uncle Thomas (FCLR, Liber J.S.33:505). Thomas Derr and his family removed to Ohio. That same year, John, Jr., married Elizabeth Lugenbeel (1808-1883), and the couple moved into the "stone house." In 1835, John Derr, Jr.'s holdings, then 75 acres, were assessed at \$813. This figure represented an increase in the value of the property of \$138 in ten years. By 1835, a frame barn had been built on the property. John Derr, Jr., owned six slaves (FCTA 1835). Following John Derr, Sr.'s death, the entire Dearbought tract was united under John Derr, Jr.'s ownership.

The 1850 United States Census listed John Derr, Jr., age 50, as a farmer owning property valued at \$35,055. The Derr household included his wife, Elizabeth, age 42; eight children; and eleven slaves. John Derr, Jr., owned 400 acres of improved land and 30 acres of unimproved land with a total value of \$32,250. Farm equipment and machinery were valued at \$600. Livestock was valued at \$1,332 and included 18 horses, 14 milk cows, 38 cattle, and 80 swine. Production for the farm was recorded as 3,500 bushels of wheat, 3,000 bushels of Indian corn, 600 bushels of oats, 200 bushels of Irish potatoes, 2,000 pounds of butter, 80 tons of hay, 30 bushels of clover seed, and 75 pounds of beeswax and honey. The Dearbought orchards and gardens produced \$100 worth of fruit and \$25 of produce (Hitselberger and Dern 1978). In 1852, John Derr, Jr.'s total property, which included 100 acres in addition to Dearbought, was assessed at \$30,450 (FCTA 1852).

The labor requirements of the Derr agricultural operation influenced the number of slaves held by the family. Extra farm hands frequently were added during the harvest (Derr 1853-

1863). In her diaries, Mary L. Derr frequently mentioned African Americans who worked in the dairy. Elizabeth Derr's household in 1850 included a thirty-year-old free black woman, Mary James. An African American family, Baker James and three young children inhabited the dwelling next to the old house (Hitselberger 1978). Mary Derr also alluded to a white family, who lived on the farm in 1852.

In addition to farming, John Derr, Jr., also was a director of the Frederick and Woodsboro Turnpike and a director in the Farmer's and Mechanics' National Bank of Frederick. By his death in 1866, John Derr, Jr., owned substantial property. Dearbought was assessed at \$38,956. While this figure was not a substantial increase over the 1852 assessment, the fact that the farm held its value during the Civil War reflected favorably upon Derr's abilities.

John Derr, Jr., died without a will. The Derr heirs continued to farm Dearbought. Four years after his father's death, John P. Derr was killed in a farming accident at Dearbought. The following year, John P. Derr's widow released her dower share of Dearbought to John's remaining siblings, since the marriage was without issue (FCLR, Liber C.M.8:58). The surviving children of John Derr, Jr., were Mary, Alice, William, Charles, Eugene, and Ezra.

In 1877, Eugene L. Derr and Ezra Derr, the two youngest sons of John Derr, Jr., filed a bill of complaint against their mother, Elizabeth Lugenbeel Derr (d. 1883) and against the other siblings in a court of equity (FCCC, Equity Number 4281). Surveyors subsequently were retained to define the boundaries and acreage of the property.

Dearbought consisted of 341 acres valued at \$45,792.96. It was divided into three separate parcels. Lot Number One contained the central farm and comprised 168.3.03 acres. Eugene L. Derr, who had been appointed an estate trustee during the court proceedings, offered Lot Number One for public sale.

Lot Number Two was divided into northern and southern sections. The northern division contained 97.0.05 acres and included the extant stone house farm complex. This parcel was awarded to Elizabeth, widow of John Derr, Jr., as a dower. The southern division contained 76.1.35 acres and also was offered for public sale.

Edward A. Shriner, brother-in-law to the Derr heirs, and owner and operator of the Ceresville Mill, bought Lot One and 137 acres of "Mackey's Luck" at public sale for \$18,324.24 (FCLR, Liber T.G.9:556). The following day, Eugene Derr purchased Lot One from Shriner for \$17,973.87 (FCLR, Liber T.G.9:558). Elizabeth, John Derr Jr.'s widow, purchased the southern division of Lot Two for \$6,882.19 (FCLR, Liber T.G.9:558). The remainder of the land acquired by Sebastian Derr and John Derr, Sr., was sold at that time (FCCC, Equity Number 4281).

In 1876, Elizabeth's two lots were assessed at \$15,522; Eugene's farm was assessed at \$12,120 (FCTA 1876-1896). By 1896, both farms had dropped in value below \$7,000, but rose to more than \$10,000 each in 1910 (FCTA 1896, 1910). The improvements to the stone house were assessed at a higher value than those to the old farm throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century and through the twentieth century. The tax records suggested a 1910-1917 date for the replacement of the original stone barn with the frame structure that survived into the 1990s. A new house was added to the John Derr House lot during the early twentieth century; tax assessments for 1926 listed an additional house on the property valued at \$2,500 (FCTA 1923-1927).

In 1883, Elizabeth Derr bequeathed her two farm lots to her children (FCW, Liber J.P.P.1:470). That same year, Eugene sold the central farm to his sisters Alice and Mary for \$18,000 (FCLR, Liber A.F.9:80). Although farmed by different people, both lots remained under the ownership of family members. The central farm became known as the "Alice Derr Farm," due to her 43-year ownership of that property. Lot Two continued as the common property of Elizabeth's heirs. In 1885, William sold his interest to his siblings [FCLR, Liber A.F.9:612]; Charles died in the same year as his mother [Wampler 1987:437]).

Eugene L. Derr was the last member of the Derr family actively to farm Dearbought (Malinda Cecil, personal communication 1988). After his father's death in 1866, Eugene retired from his law practice in New York and returned to Frederick (Williams and McKinsey 1910:1247). Eugene died in 1921 without issue and bequeathed his share of the farm to Alice and Ezra (FCLR, Liber A.M.P.1:465).

Alice Derr was the last child of John Derr, Jr., to live on the property. Upon Ms. Derr's death in 1926, she bequeathed the "Alice Derr Farm," Lot Number One, to her nephew, Edward Derr Shriner, Sr., to be held in trust for two nieces. Following the death of her nieces, the trust provided that the property was conveyed to John Sebastian Derr, the only son of Ezra, to be held in trust for his son, John Sebastian Derr, Jr.

Ms. Alice Derr willed the other farm, Lot Two, to Ezra, her youngest sibling (FCW, Liber G.E.S.1:570). Ezra retired to Dearbought following a career as a U.S. Navy surgeon and he lived there until his death. Ezra's son, John Sebastian Derr, a doctor practicing in Atlanta, Georgia, returned to Frederick to manage the family's affairs following Ms. Derr's death (Malinda Cecil, personal communication, 1988).

Dr. Ezra Derr died in 1935. Dr. John S. Derr inherited the remainder of Dearbought (FCW, Liber M.F.S.1:556). The three separate lots designated in the 1877 equity hearing were united under the management of one person. John S. Derr did not farm Dearbought. He established a medical practice in the Frederick area and leased the property.

In 1958, John Sebastian Derr bequeathed the farm to his wife Jennette (FCW, Liber H.D.R.3:567). Their only son, John Sebastian Derr, Jr., inherited the property in 1963 (FCW, Liber T.M.E.2:570). Upon his death in 1976, Malinda Derr, John Sebastian Derr, Jr.'s daughter, was appointed executor of his will (FCW, Liber T.M.E.9:64). In a deed dated 23 April, 1979, Malinda Derr Cecil and Betty C.O. Derr, John S., Jr.'s widow, were appointed trustees of the property (FCLR, Liber 1080:516). Malinda Derr Cecil and her family resided in the stone house at Dearbought until 1989. A 1978 land survey established the farm as containing 333 acres. That same year, 35 acres of the northwest corner of the farm were sold to Charles Main (FCLR, Liber 1049:1037).

Historic Occupation of Dearbought

The parcel known as Dearbought historically contained two separate farmsteads associated with the Derr family. The original farmstead was located near the center of the property. This farmstead comprised a log and stone dwelling house, known as the Sebastian Derr House, a stone cooperage, a smokehouse, a dairy barn, two machine sheds, five feeder sheds, a silo, a general shed, and a garage. A second farmstead was located on the northeast corner of the property adjoining current Maryland Route 26. This farmstead comprised a stone dwelling, an exterior bakeoven, a smokehouse, a dairy barn, a garage, and a smaller frame dwelling. Many of the barns and outbuildings were constructed during the twentieth-century (Goodwin et al. 1989). The history of the two farmsteads is intertwined as members of the Derr family moved between the two main houses.

Dating the two principal dwellings through archival sources is problematical. Few archival records exist that described buildings constructed in Frederick County during the eighteenth century. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax records, which frequently prove an invaluable source of data to historians, do not exist for Frederick County. The 1798 Frederick County Tax records only noted improvements completed since the last county tax assessment. The date for the earlier assessment is not documented.

No Certificates of Survey were issued for the parcels contained within Tasker's Chance, since early settlers leased land rather than directly patenting parcels. Early deeds for Dearbought contained standard language conveying land and improvements; however, the nature of any such improvements was not described.

As in the case of many vernacular buildings, the majority of the historical data related to construction on Dearbought was found in secondary sources and in oral tradition. Much of this information is anecdotal in nature.

Sebastian Derr House

Sebastian Derr, who purchased Dearbought in 1755, was the first documented, owner-occupant of the farm. Dearbought was Derr's first and largest land purchase in Frederick County and became his primary place of residence. However, the early records suggested that the property was associated with Johann Melchior Werfel (1707-1755) in the late 1730s and 1753. While Werfel never held title to Dearbought, primary source evidence suggested that he maintained at least an economic interest in the parcel. Werfel's name appeared in the Maryland Rent Rolls for Tasker's Chance (Maryland Rent Rolls, Maryland Archives).

Local historians Tracey and Dern (1987) questioned whether Werfel lived at Dearbought. Werfel's daughter was baptized in Earl Township (New Holland) near the Conestoga region in Pennsylvania in 1745. In 1755, Mechoir Werfel died intestate in Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania, with an estate of 150 acres. Werfel resided with his wife Katharine and seven young children (Tracey and Dern 1987:288-289). If Werfel improved the Dearbought property, those improvements were most likely minor in nature.

Derr family tradition maintains that Sebastian Derr (1727-1802) built the first house on Dearbought in 1755 near the center of the farm (Williams et al. 1910). This early house was most likely limited to the log portion of the dwelling. This first period of construction was a substantial building that reflected a commitment to property and to the German community in Frederick County. The house was referred to in nineteenth-century tax records as the "frame house," and by family members as the "old house." The stone "cooper's shed" north the main house was built during the same period.

As documented in his 1796 will, Sebastian Derr lived in the first house until his death in 1802. Sebastian Derr's long-time residence in the initial house was further confirmed by the 1798 Frederick County tax assessment. These records referenced two households on the Dearbought property. John Derr inhabited the extant "stone" house facing State Route 26, while Sebastian Derr lived in the older log and stone house near the center of the property.

The "old" house was the main dwelling for the Dearbought property and was inherited by John Derr, Sr. (1774-1838), along with most of the land. John Derr, Sr., occupied the "old" house shortly after 1802 and lived there until his death in 1838. John Derr, Jr. (1866-1898), and his family next took up residence in the old house in about 1843 or 1844. The John Derr, Jr., family lived in the house until ca. 1856 (Derr 1853-1863).

In 1853, Mary L. Derr, daughter of John Derr, Jr., wrote in her diary of the improvements to the dwelling. A Mr. C. Stoner had come to visit: "Papa took him through the house to show him the alterations made since they left here, I suppose about 20 years ago." The house, she

claimed, was worth five times more than it was when Mr. Stoner lived in the area (Derr 1853-1863).

Which members of the extended Derr family resided in the "old" house during the late nineteenth century is unknown. Potential candidates include John Peter Derr (1835-1869), who was married in 1859. John Peter Derr operated the farm from 1866 until his death in 1869.

Eugene Derr (1844-1921), a lawyer who practiced in New York City, also may have resided in the homestead. Derr returned to manage the Derr family farm following the death of his father. Eugene Derr acquired the portion of the property containing the original house in 1878 as a result of the court action over the estate. The advertisements promoting the public sale in 1878 described the farm as "one of the Finest Limestone Farms in Frederick County." Lot One was improved with a ten room, two-story house, part stone and part weatherboard; a large stone switzer barn; a wagon shed, corn cribs, a stone tenant's house; and all necessary outbuildings, water well, and six divided fields. The farm was located "on the best Turnpike in Frederick County," and within one mile of churches, schools, a Post Office, a Pennsylvania R.R. station, and within one quarter mile of grist and sawmills (FCCC, Equity Number 4281).

The original house was inhabited by the Derr Family until the early twentieth century. The house then was maintained as a tenant house. In 1950, Jeannette Derr reported that "though the house was still owned by the family, no member of the family has lived in it for many years."

The John Derr House

The second house built on the property was the "stone house," adjoining Maryland Route 26 on the crest of a hill near the Monocacy River. According to family tradition, this house was built in 1775 for one of Sebastian Derr's sons, possibly John, as a wedding gift (Williams 1910; Jeannette Derr 1950). Other evidence used to date the stone house included a missionary's journal written during the 1740s and a 1794 map that depicted a tavern in the vicinity. Examination of this evidence revealed discrepancies.

No member of the Derr family married in 1775. Sebastian Derr, Sr., remarried in 1765, but resided in the original homestead until his death in 1802. John Jacob, the second son, was married in 1787 in Frederick County. Both Sebastian, Jr. and John Jacob left Frederick County during the late 1780s or early 1790s for Rock Bridge County, Virginia, then moved to Kentucky. John Jacob purchased property in Rock Bridge County, Virginia, in 1794, then moved to Mercer County, Kentucky, in 1813. The name Sebastian Derr is recorded on the 1810 census in Bourbon County, Kentucky (Wampler 1987).

The “stone” house may have been built as a wedding present for John Derr in 1795. The earliest archival reference to the stone house was contained in the will of Sebastian Derr, Sr., written in 1796 and probated after his death in 1802. Sebastian Derr, Sr., left the “stone house, kitchen, stables, yard garden” and 70 acres to his son, Thomas Derr (Frederick County Will G.M.3:554). The United States Census for 1790 suggested that there was only one household on the Derr property; no other members of Sebastian Derr’s family were listed as head of household in the census (U.S. Bureau of Census 1952). In contrast, the 1798 county tax listed the Dearbought property under the name of John Derr, with Sebastian Derr noted in the remarks columns. This record may be interpreted as indicating two households on the property, with John Derr inhabiting the stone house nearest current State Route 26, while Sebastian Derr resided in the original log and stone house.

The Griffith’s 1794 map of Maryland depicted a “Smith’s Tavern” on the east side of the road leading north of Frederick City (Griffith 1794). This tavern has been interpreted through local tradition as occupying the site of the stone house. Derr family tradition also holds that an earlier tavern was incorporated into the stone house. Dr. John S. Derr, a mid-twentieth century owner of the property, is recounted to have discovered evidence of an older structure within the walls of the extant house (Malinda Cecil, personal communication 1988; Derr 1950:4). A 1747 reference by missionaries to a small tavern west of the Monocacy River was cited to corroborate family tradition (Cecil n.d.).

Local historians, Tracey and Dern (1987), however, argued that the eighteenth century Monocacy River ford was located north of Dearbought near the mouth of Tuscarora Creek (Tracey and Dern 1987:281,285). Tracey and Dern also cite the 1743 journal of the Moravian missionaries, Leonhard Schnell and Robert Hussey. As the missionaries crossed the Monocacy River, the first house noted belonged to Abraham Miller, who owned land west of Dearbought (Tracey and Dern 1987:52, 142, 285 ff). In 1749, Abraham Miller was presented to the grand jury of the county for keeping a tippling house (Tracey and Dern 1987:286).

Analysis of historic maps also suggested that the route of the road across the Monocacy River shifted southward substantially between the eighteenth century and the nineteenth centuries. The road depicted as crossing the Monocacy River in the 1794 Griffith map was 0.5 miles north of the mouth of Israel Creek. By 1796, the “main road leaving from Frederick Town to the late General Williams Ferry on the Monocacy” ran along the northern boundary of Dearbought (Frederick County Wills [FCW], Liber G.M.3:554). The 1808 Varle map depicted the crossing 0.25-mile north of the mouth of Israel Creek. Mary L. Derr wrote in her diary entry for 22 May 1854 of a visit from cousin Ezra Derr, son of Thomas Derr, who lived in the John Derr house as a child. Mary recounted a visit to the stone house and noted that the turnpike and the bridge were constructed since Ezra Derr left the area in 1830 (Derr 1853-1863). The 1858 Bond map showed the turnpike crossing as two-tenths of a mile north of the mouth of Israel Creek.

Thomas Derr (1780-1845) occupied the "stone house" until 1830, when he sold the property to his nephew, John Derr, Jr. and moved to Ohio. In 1825, Thomas Derr was assessed with a "stone house and log buildings" (Frederick County Tax Assessment [FCTA] 1825). Thomas also purchased an additional five acres near his farm (FCLR, Liber J.S. 33:505). By 1825, the 75 acres with improvements were assessed at \$675 (FCTA 1825).

In 1830, John Derr, Jr. (1798-1866), purchased the 75-acre parcel of Dearbought containing the stone house from his Uncle Thomas (FCLR, Libre J.S. 33:505). That same year, John Jr. married Elizabeth Lugenbeel (1808-1883) and he and his wife moved into the stone house. In 1835, John Derr, Jr.'s 75 acres were assessed at \$813, an increased value of \$138 in ten years. By 1835, a frame barn had been built in the property. John Derr, Jr., owned six slaves (FCTA 1835).

The entire Dearbought farm was united under the ownership of John Derr, Jr. in 1838 following the death of the senior Derr. John Derr, Jr., lived in the stone house until 1843 or 1844, at which time, the family moved into the original "old house" (Derr 1853-1863). Eight of the family's twelve children were born in the stone house (Wampler 1987:437).

Elizabeth Derr (1779-1855), the widow of John Derr, Sr., and the stepmother of John Derr, Jr., moved from the old house into the stone house as her portion of the dower. She lived in the house until her death in 1855. The 1850 census recorded Elizabeth Derr in close proximity to the John Derr family. Diarist Mary L. Derr wrote of "grandma's farm" between the old house and the bridge.

In the United States Census of 1850, Elizabeth Derr, age 67, was listed as a farmer. She lived with Susan Tripler, another white female aged 50, and Mary James; a free black woman aged 30. The value of her real estate was recorded as \$7,128. She was not listed as owning slaves. Elizabeth Derr's holdings included 90 improved and 5 unimproved acres with a cash value of \$7,125. Agricultural implements were valued at \$600. She owned 1 horse, 5 milk cows, and 12 pigs at a combined value of \$100. Her farm yielded 500 bushels of wheat, 625 bushels of Indian corn, 20 bushels of potatoes, 50 bushels of orchard products, 6 tons of hay, and garden produce valued at \$25. The farm products included 520 lbs. of butter; the value of slaughtered animals was \$75 (Hitselberger and Derr 1978).

John Derr, Jr., and his family moved back into the "stone house" after the death of his stepmother Elizabeth Derr. Mary L. Derr recorded the move in her diary in May 1856. Following John's death in 1866, his wife Elizabeth Lugenbeel Derr lived in the house as her dower right until her death in 1883. The unmarried daughters resided in the stone house until their deaths. Members of the family continued to occupy the stone house until the late 1980s.

III. Architectural Development of Sebastian Derr House

The Sebastian Derr House was a two-story, log and masonry dwelling built in three major stages of construction. The earliest part of the house was constructed ca. 1750 and comprised a two-story, "German plan" log dwelling with an interior brick chimney. The house was enlarged ca. 1760 through the construction of a two-story, masonry addition west of the original building. The west addition created a formal entrance, the construction of which may have resulted in a reorientation of the house from east to west. A two-story, two room masonry wing was added to the south elevation of the main block ca. 1820. The interior of the principal block was extensively renovated during this phase of construction. No major modifications to the building were made after ca. 1820.

The Sebastian Derr House incorporated a main block and wing, which formed an L-shaped footprint. The main block of the house was three bays wide and two rooms deep. The primary entrance was located in the northernmost bay of the principal (west) elevation. The wing adjoined the south wall of the main block and extended the principal (west) elevation of the house. The side wing was four bays wide and one room deep.

The building terminated in a gable roof over the main block and an offset gable roof over the wing. A common rafter roofing system was employed throughout. All roof planes were sheathed with standing seam metal. A simple wooden box-cornice with gable returns defined the eaves of the main block. The building featured simple half-round metal gutters with downspouts.

Two brick interior-end chimneys with corbelled caps rose from the ridge of the main block; a central brick interior chimney rose from the ridge of the wing. A massive, interior-end chimney originally was located on the south wall of the wing. This wall was collapsed at the time of the recordation.

The majority of the house was constructed of rubble masonry and quarried limestone. The north, east, and south elevations of the main block were clad in wood novelty siding. The west addition and wing were constructed of rubble and quarried limestone and were once parged in stucco. The house was supported by a partial basement constructed of coursed rubble limestone.

The principal (west) elevation of the main block housed the primary entrance, which featured a six-paneled door enframed by a simple wood surround and was surmounted by a transom. The door opening was marked by a robust wood frame and defined by a brick segmental arch.

A one-story wrap around porch spanned the west, north, and east elevations of the main block. The porch featured a shed roof sheathed with standing seam metal supported by regularly spaced boxed columns. The porch ceiling featured widely spaced wooden battens. The porch was supported by a poured concrete foundation and floor.

The house exhibited symmetrically aligned four-over-four-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows on the first floor of the primary (west) elevation. The first floor window openings featured brick segmental arches and simple wood sills. The remainder of the windows in the main body of the house were six-over-six-light, double-hung, wooden-sash units. A pair of four-over-four-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows were located on the north gable-end of the main block attic. The attic windows were surmounted by gable hoods with scrolled side brackets that were added in the late nineteenth century.

The two-story, four-bay wing extended from the south wall of the main block flush with the primary (west) elevation of the house. The wing was constructed of rubble and quarried limestone. A one-story, shed porch spanned the central two bays of the primary (west) elevation of the wing. The porch featured a shed roof sheathed with standing seam metal supported by regularly spaced square wood columns. A poured concrete foundation and floor supported the porch. A concrete bulkhead with a vertical board door was located in the porch floor and provided exterior access to the partial basement below the wing. A below-grade concrete cistern was located south of the porch. A brick three coursed corbelled cornice marked the eave of the wing.

The interior plan of the main block was four rooms over four rooms. The main block featured early interior finishes, which included plaster, flooring, decorative moldings, and minimal hardware. The window surrounds featured simple moldings.

The primary (west) entrance led directly into the hall. The stairs rose along the north wall to a landing and the second floor. The adjoining parlor contained a fireplace with fluted wood pilasters. The mantle had been removed. All the other fireplace surrounds within the house were missing, as were the majority of the interior doors. The floor plan of the second floor reflected the plan of the first floor. Second-floor interior finishes included plaster walls, chair rails, and door casings.

The formality of the main block contrasted with the less formal spatial arrangements and decorative finishes of the wing. The side wing contained two rooms on each floor. The dining room and kitchen comprised the first floor. A brick partition clad with plaster separated these two rooms. A staircase in each room led to the second floor level.

Architectural Evolution:

Period I. The original house was constructed ca. 1755 and comprised a two-story, two room, log building with an interior brick chimney. The east façade was divided into two bays. The northern bay contained the primary entrance. The hewn log walls of the house were joined by dovetail notches. The log walls were chinked with split lath, stone, and straw in clay mortar. The logs primarily were poplar and oak. The exterior log walls originally were unpainted. The original roof was raised on a common rafter system.

The interior of the house consisted of two rooms in the German building tradition: the Kuche (kitchen) and the Stube (parlor or “stove room”). The house was accessed through a single door located on the east wall of the Kuche (Room 101). No evidence of the original door survived. A ladder stair was located in the northeast corner of the Kuche and originated near the base of the east wall and rose along the north wall. The header for the stairs was mortised into the second floor joists. The stairs most likely were removed during the third renovation of the house and the ceiling opening was infilled with lath and plaster. A brick cooking fireplace is thought to have occupied the south interior wall of the room. No evidence of the fireplace foundation was found in the crawl space below the Kuche. The Kuche was lit by a single window located in the center of the north gable wall.

The Kuche (Room 101) and Stube (Room 102) were separated by a hewn timber partition infilled with wattle and daub paling. The western third of this wall was constructed of roughly laid brick. This brick infill marked the logical location of the original interior chimney. An interior doorway located on the eastern third of the north wall accessed the Stube. Windows located in the center of each exterior wall (east, south, and west) lit the Stube. The east and south window openings later were expanded to accommodate larger windows. The window located on the west wall was infilled with wattle and daub paling during the construction of the Period II addition. Physical evidence of the original window framing was uncovered following removal of the later plaster.

A jamb stove probably heated the Stube. Such stoves were fueled by hot coals shoveled through the back of the Kuche fireplace. Evidence of the early whitewash survived on the Stube walls.

The ceilings of the Kuche (Room 101) and Stube (Room 102) incorporated hewn joists with a layer of plaster applied to the exposed face. The cavities between the joists and the floorboards of the second floor were infilled with daub panels. The daub consisted of compacted clay and straw and is commonly known as “Dutch biscuit.” The spaces between the joists were spanned by split boards secured by rabbits cut into the side of each joist. The daub was packed into the cavity from above and held in place by the horizontal split boards. The second floor floorboards then were installed.

An exposed summer beam spanned the ceiling of the Kuche and Stube. The summer beam was planed and dressed to create a finished appearance.

The house was supported by a shallow footer beneath the Kuche and a coursed limestone rubble basement (Room 001) below the Stube. The sloping stone walls of the basement were whitewashed. The basement was accessed from the exterior by a bulkhead adjoining the east wall. The wood stairs into the basement were missing. Two stone shelves with flared walls were inset into the south wall of the basement (Room 002). Remnants of original Dutch biscuit and split boards were uncovered in the cavity between the hewn joists and floorboards. The floor of the basement was dirt. The unexcavated area under the Kuche consisted of a shallow coursed limestone footer; the north-south floor joists rested directly on packed earth.

The second floor of the original house was open (Rooms 201 & 202 combined). The partition wall separating Rooms 201 and 202 was added during the Period III construction phase. The walls of the Period I second floor were whitewashed logs. The ceiling comprised unpainted joists and the under face of the attic floorboards.

A ladder stair located in the northeast corner originated near the base of the east wall and rose along the north wall to the attic. The ghost of the stairs survived on the log wall. The stairs were removed during the Period III construction phase and the ceiling opening was infilled with lath and plaster. The open second-floor was lit by windows located in the center of the north and east walls. A window also was located on the west wall of Room 104 in the location of the current door. Remnants of the original window framing survived in the openings of the north and east walls. No evidence of a second floor heating system survived from Period I. It was likely that the open floor was heated by radiant heat from the interior chimney.

The attic was accessed by a ladder stair located along the north gable wall, east of the current chimney. Based on the survival of the original Phase I roof rafters, it is possible to extrapolate the appearance of the attic space. The original roof was steeply pitched (12' rise to 12' run) with a ceiling to ridge height of approximately ten feet. The roof framing system consisted of hewn roof rafters pinned with tongue and fork joints at the ridge and secured with bird's mouth joints at the top plate. Gable-end windows probably lit the original attic space. Roof sheathing was attached to regularly spaced horizontal nailers. A layer of wood shingles was fastened to the nailers.

Period II. The original two-story log house was enlarged ca. 1760 through the construction of a two-story, coursed rubble limestone addition, which adjoined the west elevation of the original log building. The construction of the masonry addition may have reoriented the front of the house from east to west. The primary entrance was located in the northern bay of the three-bay, west façade. The coursed rubble stone walls of the addition originally were parged

with stucco as evidenced by remnants of both scratch and finish coats on the north and west elevations.

The original log house was clad with clapboards sometime after its construction. The recladding may date to the Period II expansion. Original sawn wood clapboards were found in the partition wall between the Period II and Period III attics. These clapboards were covered with a layer of wood lath and stucco, suggesting that the entire house may have been stuccoed at the time.

The interior of the house was expanded on the first floor with the addition of an entry hall (Room 103) and chamber (Room 104). An additional room was added to the second floor (Room 203 & 204 combined). The front hall was entered through a single door housed in the northern bay. The six-raised panel wooden door was hinged on a pair of pintle spikes with large, forged strap hinges. The interior of the door was clad with horizontal boards attached by rose head nails. The outline of a boxlock plate was found on the interior of the door. The entry hall was unheated and lit by transom above the entrance. The surround of the transom was discovered beneath the ceiling of the Period III stair landing during the building documentation. The transom unit had been removed. The stairway in Room 103 was added to the house during the Period III construction campaign.

The entry hall provided access to the Kuche (Room 101) and the new west chamber, which may have served as a formal parlor (Room 104). The entry hall was separated from the parlor (Room 104) by a hewn timber partition infilled with wattle and daub paling. The east hall wall, adjoining the Kuche, was an original exterior wall, which was refaced with lath and plaster.

The parlor (Room 104) was lit by two windows located on the front (west) elevation and a single window on the south elevation. The south elevation window was enlarged to a door during the Period III expansion to provide access from the main house to the wing. The windows located on the front (west) elevation were altered sometime after the Period III construction. The eastern wall of the parlor was constructed in hewn logs dating to the original house. During the Period II expansion of the house, an original east wall window was infilled with wattle and daub paling. A portion of the log west wall on the first floor was replaced with brick to accommodate a stove. The brick and log portions of the west wall were covered with a layer of plaster. Evidence in the brickwork, which was uncovered following the removal of the plaster, suggested that a stove may have spanned the wall between Room 102 and Room 104. The stove was vented through the interior brick chimney.

A pintle spike with leather washer was uncovered projecting from the western interior door surround of the parlor (Room 104). Holes for the pintle spikes were found on the southern jambs of Rooms 103 and 104 under the Period III door surround. This evidence indicated the

location of the doors dating from the Period II construction phase. The door and hardware were removed during the Period III construction phase.

The kitchen may have remained in the Kuche (Room 101) or may have been housed in a separate building located somewhere near the house following the Phase II renovations. The Kuche (Room 101) appeared to have been unchanged during the Period II construction phase with the exception of the addition of a doorway. This doorway was added in the west wall of the Kuche (Room 101) and provided access to the entry hall (Room 103). A door also was found in the west wall of the Stube (Room 102) providing access to the parlor (Room 104). The stove, as discussed above, may have pierced the west wall of the room. Lath and plaster were applied over the white washed log walls of the Period I Stube (Room 102).

The Phase II addition was supported on a shallow footer located beneath Room 103 and a portion of Room 104. The basement of the Period II addition was expanded below Room 104 using similar techniques to the Period I basement. The basement was constructed of coursed rubble limestone with a dirt floor. A heavy vertical plank door on the eastern wall separated the basement (Room 002) from the Period I cellar (Room 001). The sloping stone walls of the basement were whitewashed. The ceiling of Room 002 was unfinished and composed of exposed floor joists and flooring. The eastern end of the south wall incorporated a later coursed stone footer, which supported the Period III chimney. The basement was lit by windows located in the west and south walls. The west wall window was removed during the Phase III construction.

The second floor of the Period II addition originally adopted an open plan (Rooms 203 & 204 combined). The partition wall separating Rooms 203 and 204 was added during the Period III construction phase. The walls of the Period II second floor addition were plastered. The floors in Room 203 & Room 204 were butted with 8 to 14 inch poplar boards. With the exception of the Period III partition walls, all baseboards and chair rails dated to the Period II construction phase. A peg rail dating from this second period also survived and spanned a portion of the east wall between Rooms 203 and 204. The peg rail was partially covered by a Period III partition wall. The second floor of the Period II addition (Rooms 203 & 204 combined) was lit by three windows on the west elevation and single windows on the north and south elevations. The room was accessed from the Period I second floor through a doorway located on the wall between Rooms 204 and Room 202. The doorway was constructed by enlarging the Period I window on the exterior log wall.

The second floor of the house was accessed from the original stairs located in the Kuche (Room 101). The attic also was accessed by the original Period I ladder stair located in Room 201. Lath and plaster were applied over the whitewashed log walls of the Period I second floor (Room 201 & 202 combined). Evidence suggested that the ceiling probably was not plastered; the plastered walls extended to the area between the joist and attic floorboards. The joists and

attic floorboards were unpainted. During Period III, lath and plaster were installed on the ceiling of these rooms. The interior brick chimney was retained during Period II.

The roofline of the house was changed during the Period II construction to unify the original log dwelling and stone addition. The medium pitched roof was added (10' rise to 12' run east elevation & 9' rise to 12' run west elevation) with a ridge height of 14'-5". The original roof rafters were reused as nailers in the construction of the Period II second floor ceiling.

The attic featured random width (6" to 14") boards of varied lengths, which ran north to south. The floorboards were yellow pine and poplar. During the investigation of the attic, the floorboards were removed to reveal the log wall of the Phase I house and attic floor joists. The hewn, Period I and Period II, attic floor joists were supported by the center log wall of the original house. The floorboards and roof framing system all dated to the Period II phase of construction.

Period III. A two-story, coursed rubble limestone wing was added to the south elevation of the main block ca. 1820 during the Period III construction phase. The interior of the main block (Period I & Period II) was renovated extensively. These renovations included the removal of the interior chimney and the construction of interior-end chimneys that vented shallow fireplaces. A dog-leg stair was added to the entry hall, the Period I kitchen stairs were removed, the second floor rooms partitioned, and the interior finishes were updated. Interior spatial use of the house was changed during this period. The kitchen was relocated to the south wing, as was the dining room. New room partitions were added.

The Period III wing was constructed as a continuation of the west elevation. The coursed rubble limestone wing walls originally were parged with stucco as documented by evidence of a scratch coat.

The four bay, west façade of the wing was accessible by way of a door located in the end kitchen. The wing terminated in a side gable roof with slightly projecting eaves. A central brick interior chimney with a corbelled cap rose from the roof ridge of the wing. A second brick interior-end chimney was located on the south gable end. The chimney and south gable-end of the wing were collapsed at the time of the building documentation. The roof framing system consisted of hewn common rafters, which were lapped and pinned at the ridge. The rafters were attached to the top plate with bird's mouth joints. The top plate rested on the attic floor joists. Roof sheathing consisted of wood shingles attached to regularly spaced horizontal nailers. The shingles later were sheathed with standing seam metal. The corbelled cornice of the wing comprised three header courses of brick.

The interior of the wing featured a dining room (Room 105) and kitchen (Room 106) on the first floor level. A bedroom (Room 205) and quarters (Room 206) were located on the

second floor of wing. All the rooms featured tongue and groove flooring. The dining room (Room 105) was accessed from the main block through a doorway connected to the parlor (Room 104). The doorway featured a paneled reveal with raised fields. The doorway was created through the enlargement of a Phase II window bay. The dining room featured a central fireplace that projected from the south wall. The original mantle and surround were missing.

A boxed winder staircase on the north wall of the dining room led to the second floor. An exterior door with transom was located on the east wall at the base of the stair. The door most probably was a wooden six-paneled unit. The element, along with the transom, was missing. The dining room (Room 105) was accessed from the kitchen (Room 106) through a door located on the north wall west of the fireplace. The six-paneled door located between the dining room and kitchen was the only surviving interior door in the house at the time of the documentation. The dining room was lit by a pair of windows on the west elevation and a single window on the east elevation. The ghosts of the original baseboards and chair rail survived below the windows and were discovered upon the removal of the wainscoting. The wainscoting featured a decorative base and cap; it was added during the late nineteenth century.

The kitchen (Room 106) was separated from the dining room (Room 105) by a brick partition wall. The kitchen featured a massive brick cooking fireplace on the south wall. The chimneybreast was approximately six-and-one-half feet wide, two-and-one-half feet deep and three-and-one-half feet tall. A heavy wood lintel and brick hearth delineated the feature. The chimneystack had collapsed into the fireplace. Built-in wooden cabinets flanked the fireplace. An open steep straight stair rose along the north wall of the kitchen to the second floor quarters (Room 206). The east and west walls of the kitchen featured exterior doors with transoms flanked by windows. The doors, transoms, and windows had been removed. The interior finishes included simple wood door and window moldings accented by half-round profiles.

An open banister separated the stairwell from the chamber above the dining room (Room 205). The banister had been removed at the time of the building documentation. Circulation from the bedroom (Room 205) to the main block of the house was provided by doorway connecting to Room 204. The reveal of the doorway featured a decorative raised paneled field. The doorway was housed in the enlarged window opening associated with the Phase II addition. The bedroom (Room 205) was lit by two windows on the east and west elevation. The flue of the dining room chimney passed through the south gable-end of the room. A hole for a stovepipe was cut into the chimney flue.

The bedroom (Room 205) was separated from the quarter (Room 206) by a wood partition wall. The servant's quarter (Room 206) was only accessible from the kitchen. The quarters were lit by two windows on the east elevation and a single window on the west elevation. The ghost of a central partition wall running north to south in the room survived; the date of the partition construction or removal is unknown. The quarter featured simple beaded

window surrounds and baseboards. The flue of the kitchen chimney passed through the south gable-end of the room. The chimney has collapsed into the kitchen below; no evidence as to how the room may have been heated survived.

The attic of the Period III wing featured random width (6" to 14") floorboards of varied lengths running north to south. The floorboards were yellow pine and poplar. The Period III attic was accessed on the north gable-end from the attic of the main block. The medium pitched roof (9' rise to 12' run) rose to a ridge height of approximately seven feet. The attic was lit by two, four-light casement windows located on either side of the chimney flue. The original window casings were found in the attic during investigations.

The Phase III wing rested on an excavated basement (Room 003) below the dining room (Room 105) and shallow footer wall beneath the kitchen (Room 106). The basement was constructed of coursed rubble limestone with a dirt floor. The sloping stone walls of the basement were whitewashed. The basement was accessed from an exterior bulkhead on the west elevation. A common wall divided the Phase III basement (Room 003) and the Phase II basement (Room 002). The ceiling of Room 003 was unfinished and consisted of exposed floor joists and flooring. The basement was lit by a window located in the west wall north of the stairs. A shallow coursed limestone footer supported the crawl space beneath the kitchen (Room 003).

The interior of the main block was renovated extensively during the Period III construction phase. The most extensive modification to the house was the removal of the interior brick chimney and the construction of interior end chimneys, which vented shallow open fireplaces. A formal stairway in the entry hall (Room 103 & 203) was constructed and partition walls were constructed between the second floor rooms. All the interior moldings including baseboards, chair rail, door and window surrounds were updated. Windows and doors were replaced throughout the house. The plaster ceilings and walls throughout the main block were refinished. Every room throughout the main block was modified in some way during the Period III construction phase.

The original central cooking fireplace of the Period I Kuche (Room 101) was replaced by a brick fireplace vented through an interior chimney located on the north exterior wall. Kitchen functions were relocated to the wing. The small fireplace in Room 101 projected into the room and featured a brick hearth. The fireplace surround was missing and a portion of the chimney had collapsed within the room. The fireplace adjoined a built-in wood cabinet on the north wall. The Phase I stair was removed. A window was added on the north wall of the room where the stair had risen. The room also was plastered and moldings were installed during the Period III renovation.

A fireplace was constructed on the south wall in the west corner of the Period I Stube (Room 102). No evidence survived to document the design of the fireplace surround. The brick firebox and chimney flue were built directly against the interior log wall. Removal of the west wall plaster revealed charred timbers indicating a fire within the wall cavity. The Period II stove, theorized as located on the wall between Room 102 and Room 104, was removed during Period III and the area infilled with brick and sheathed in plastered. Windows were added to the east and south walls of Room 102 adjoining the existing windows. The existing windows also were replaced.

The entry hall (Room 103) also was renovated extensively during the Period III construction phase. A dog-leg stairway rose along the north wall before rising along to the second floor. The stair featured a closed stringer with turned balustrade and newel posts. An oval handrail surmounted the balustrade. The original baluster, balustrade, and handrail survived on the second floor. A small closet was located beneath the stairs. The original Period II door and moldings were retained in the entry hall. Removal of plaster from the west wall of the stair landing exposed the original second floor joist. These joists were sawn off for the construction of the landing, which was lower in height than the second floor level. The surround of the Phase II entrance transom also was uncovered beneath the ceiling of the Period III stair landing. The transom was missing. The floor of the entry hall was replaced during the Period III renovation.

A fireplace was constructed along the south wall of the Period II parlor (Room 104). This element retained the only surviving fireplace surround within the house. The surround featured fluted wood pilasters; the mantle had been removed. The south wall window of the room was expanded into a doorway during the Period III renovation to provide access to the adjoining wing. The doorway featured a paneled raised-field reveal. The plaster ceilings and walls also were refinished. The room retained the Phase II chair rail. Flooring was replaced during the Phase III renovation. The first floor windows, originally six-over-six light double hung sash units, were replaced with one-over-one double hung sash in the late nineteenth century.

During the Period III construction phase, the second floor bedrooms were partitioned into individual rooms and interior finishes were updated. The partition walls were constructed of vertical planks with rived lath nailed to the surface. The lath was covered with plaster. Shallow open fireplaces vented by the interior-end chimneys were installed in Room 201 and Room 202. Flooring in Rooms 201 and 202 were replaced with tongue-and-groove boards during this last phase of major construction.

A fireplace was constructed against the north wall in the west corner of the Room 201. The fireplace in Room 201 projected into the room and featured a brick hearth. The fireplace surround and mantle had been removed. A window was added to the east wall of Room 201. The most dramatic change to the room was the removal of the stairs descending to the Küche (Room

101) and rising to the attic. The entry hall stairs (Rooms 103 and 204) provided access to second floor and attic. Room 201 was accessed from the stair hall through a door on the west wall. A door pierced the center partition between Rooms 201 and 202. Lath and plaster were added to the ceiling of room. Baseboards, chair rails, floorings, and door and window surrounds date to the Period III construction phase.

The fireplace in Room 202 was located on the south wall in the west corner. The fireplace projected into the room and featured a brick hearth. The fireplace surround and mantle had been removed. A built-in ceiling to floor cabinet was attached to the east wall adjoining the chimney. The two-part cabinet featured paired raised-field doors on both upper and lower halves. Ghosts of fluted pilasters were noted on the upper half of the unit. A window was added to the east wall of Room 202. A second window was placed in the south wall of the room west of the existing window. Room 202 accessed Room 204 through the Period II doorway. Lath and plaster were added to the ceiling of room. Baseboards, chair rails, floorings, door and window surrounds dated to the Period II construction phase.

Room 204 was separated from Room 203 by a partition. The partition wall spanned an east wall peg rail that dated to the Period II construction phase. A south wall window was enlarged to a doorway in Room 204 and provided access to Room 205, which was located in the wing. The doorway featured a raised field reveal. Period II chair rails, baseboards, and floorboards were retained in the room.

IV. Architectural Analysis

Architecture is a complex process that reflects the functional requirements, economic and social status, and cultural expectations of a building's designers, builders, and occupants. In some cases, the intentions of those involved in the building process are well documented in the archival record. In other cases, the historical record anchors a building in time but provides limited insight into the factors influencing design and construction. In these latter cases, the building and its context serve as the primary sources of information in an architectural investigation.

The Sebastian Derr House was a dwelling of both architectural and historical importance to Frederick City and County. The house provided an unusual record of architectural design, modification, and adaptation by a single family between ca.1750 and ca.1820. The recordation of the Sebastian Derr House provided a unique opportunity to examine the evolution of the dwelling through three major periods of construction.

The German Community

Through the purchase of Dearbought in 1755, Sebastian Derr joined a German-born community united by language, family, religion, and the challenges of first-period settlement. German immigration to North America dates to 1683, when thirteen German families arrived in Philadelphia intent upon leading a "quiet, godly, and honest life" (Cunz 1948). This immigration was prompted by unrest in Germany. Life in the Palatine area was disrupted by war and the threat of religious persecution throughout the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. The area was ravaged by the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), the War of the League of Augsburg (1688-1697), and the War of the Spanish Succession (1702-1713).

In 1709, 10,000 refugees fled Germany and sought asylum from Queen Anne of England. While some refugees were resettled to Ireland, the majority immigrated to the British Colonies of North America (Lap 1977; Cobb 1897). The first wave of immigrants entered the colonies through the port of New York and settled in the Hudson and Mohawk River valleys (Cobb 1897). In 1710, several Palatines settled in the Province of Maryland. John Peter Zenger (1697-1747), for example, lived in Chestertown, Kent County, between 1710 and 1722 (Cunz 1948). Other colonies, including New Jersey, Virginia, and North Carolina, also received German refugees. By the 1720s, Pennsylvania became a popular destination.

As the Philadelphia area was settled, the new arrivals pushed westward. German settlers reached the Susquehanna River by 1731 and entered territory claimed both by Maryland and Pennsylvania. Between 1736 and 1738, a series of armed clashes over disputed land led to a Royal Decree, which established a temporary boundary between the colonies; the permanent boundary line was established by the Mason and Dixon survey of 1767. The Maryland claim was supported by a number of German immigrants, including Michael Reisner, Anthony Bancuff, and Bernard Weymer, who had settled in the disputed territory. The border unrest prompted these Germans to move into the Monocacy Valley in 1738 and occupy land along the German Monocacy Road in what is now northern Frederick County (Tracey and Dern 1987:16-19).

The German Monocacy Road through western Maryland was a route traveled by many German settlers from Pennsylvania into the Shenandoah Valley. This migration began when John and Isaac Van Metre obtained a grant of 40,000 acres with the condition that forty families move into the region. In 1731, the Van Metres transferred the land to Hans Justus Heyd, a German who had emigrated from the Kraichgau area of the Palatine in 1710. Heyd originally settled in New York, and subsequently moved to Pennsylvania. The availability of the Heyd land encouraged German settlement in the Shenandoah Valley (Tracey and Dern 1987; Cunz 1948).

The Lord Proprietary of Maryland offered land grants of 200 acres in fee simple to settlers in the western colony of Maryland. Tracey and Dern (1987:35) argued that the German

immigrants remained largely unaware of this land offer. The first Maryland land directly conveyed to German immigrants was transferred in 1738.

Land Patents frequently were held by established colonial landowners, who, in turn, leased or sold parcels to settlers. The settlement of Tasker's Chance illustrated this pattern. The 7,000 acres of Tasker's Chance was patented by Benjamin Tasker in 1727. After an attempt by a group of German settlers to acquire the whole patent, Daniel Dulany assumed control of the land. In July 1746, Dulany issued 21 deeds to established settlers for parcels in the tract; the average land transfer was 233 acres.

The settlers of Tasker's Chance were primarily German immigrants who landed in Philadelphia between 1728 and 1733. A few Swiss settlers also were among the group. Most had settled in Pennsylvania before relocating to the Monocacy Valley. Tracey and Dern's 1987 history provided substantial biographical data on the 21 original settlers of Tasker's Chance. The core of the group comprised the Sturm, Brunner, Getzendanner, and Thomas families who immigrated from Klein Schifferstadt. The Sturm family was established in the German town since the fifteenth century, while the Brunner, Getzendanner, and Thomas families, originally from Switzerland, had moved to the city by the late seventeenth century.

The Monocacy Valley was the frontier during the 1730s. Frederick City, founded in 1746, remained a modest community during the eighteenth century. German settlers owned over 4,000 acres of Tasker's Chance from 1737 through the Revolutionary War. The first sale of German settled land out of the German community occurred in 1776, when Hans Peter Hoffman's heirs sold Rose Garden, located near the middle of Tasker's Chance. The parcel was purchased by Thomas Johnson in 1778. Johnson also acquired Indian Fields by the end of the eighteenth century from the Sturm family (Tracey and Dern 1987).

The pattern of acculturation for eighteenth-century German immigrants has been hypothesized to be similar to that experienced by other immigrant groups. First generation immigrants spoke German as a first language and acquired English as a second language to the degree necessary to function in their adopted country. German was spoken at home, in church, and in schools (Cunz 1948:121ff). First generation immigrants became naturalized citizens in order to own property and to ensure clear land titles for their heirs. Land ownership was emphasized in the German community as a means of status and economic security. Kessel (1989) noted that most farmers in Germany rented land; direct ownership of 10 to 12 acres was substantial. Requirements for naturalized citizenship included a seven-year residence in the colonies as well as Protestant communion (Cunz 1948; Tracey and Dern 1987).

Limited participation in political affairs characterized the German communities in both Pennsylvania and Maryland and has been attributed to a general unfamiliarity with the prevailing

laws and language (Wolf 1947; Cunz 1948). Few first-generation German immigrants held county appointed offices during the eighteenth century.

Direct representation in the colonial legislature was minimal. In 1771, Jonathan Hager, a German immigrant and founder of Hagerstown, was elected to the General Assembly of Maryland. The majority of the Assembly refused to recognize Hager, a naturalized citizen. An Act of the Assembly affirmed Hager's civil rights and he served a two-year term in the Assembly (Cunz 1948:83-85).

Widespread support for the Revolutionary War within the Frederick County German community served as an impetus for greater political participation (Cunz 1948:130ff). The Maryland colonial government attempted to facilitate interaction between the German and English settlers. During the French and Indian and the Revolutionary wars, Germans were mustered into their own regiments under German-speaking officers (Cunz 1948:122, 136). In 1779, the major laws of Maryland were published in the German, and, in 1789, copies of the proposed U.S. Constitution also were published in German (Cunz 1948:153).

By the second generation, German may have been spoken in the home, but English was adopted as the primary language in the larger community. The second generation generally participated in community activities outside the German-speaking population. By the third generation, the German language frequently was not spoken in the home or in church. In the churches, German-language services were abandoned in favor of English-language services and records were kept in English. This transition occurred in the churches in Frederick City around 1830 (Wentz 1990);(Cunz 1948:205-207).

In 1790, the population of Frederick County numbered 30,791, including 26,937 free white persons, 213 other free persons, and 3,641 slaves (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1952). Based on an inspection of names in the 1790 United States Census, persons of German descent accounted for approximately 5.9 per cent of the total white population of Maryland. In 1790, the German population in Maryland accounted for the 7.9 per cent of the total white population in the United States (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1909). Kessel (1981) estimated that the German population accounted for 50 per cent of the white population in Frederick County.

First Period Buildings

Few buildings associated with the initial settlement of Frederick County are documented in official inventories. This phenomenon may be explained, in part, by the low survival rate of these early structures, by changes in architectural fashion and living patterns, and by later additions that may make the identification of original buildings difficult. The pattern of

settlement and the German origins of many of the initial settlers to the area argue for an early domestic building stock influenced by German prototypes.

A greater number of dwellings associated with early German communities in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina have been recorded and analyzed in detail. A pattern of domestic design emerges from an examination of studies focusing in southeastern Pennsylvania and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Work in these areas is relevant to Frederick County due to similarities in the southern German and Swiss-German cultural backgrounds of the builders, pattern of community settlement, religious affiliations, and family ties. In addition, many settlers to the Frederick area initially settled in German communities in Pennsylvania.

Houses identified as following German folk prototypes were not standardized designs but varied in size, materials, and plan, as did dwellings associated with other ethnic groups. Despite the acknowledged variation between individual examples, common characteristics tied to building use, construction, and architectural heritage emerge.

Design was, in large part, influenced by use. Old world farmsteads often incorporated agricultural and domestic functions under one roof. Thirteen German-built examples of single structures incorporating dwellings, stables, and threshing floors have been extrapolated from Philadelphia area tax records for the late seventeenth century; however, by the eighteenth century, German-born settlers generally constructed buildings specialized by use (Weaver 1996:249). Building specialization frequently did not extend to food preservation and storage. As a result, main dwellings often incorporated insulated storage cellars, which frequently were arched, and attics, designed for food preservation and curing. The latter area also sometimes incorporated smoke chambers.

Living spaces generally dominated the first and second floors. The Kuche, or kitchen; Stube, or stove room; and Kammer, or chamber; generally formed the basic unit of the German folk house in North America. The Kuche was related to the undivided medieval German dwelling where the hearth defined the house as both a building type and for taxation. German old world examples often included raised hearths and references to buildings in Pennsylvania that included this feature can be found into the early nineteenth century. Cooking hearths, often located on the interior wall of the Kuche and vented by an interior chimney that also served a stove in the adjoining Stube, appear to have been a common practice (Weaver 1986:248).

Stoves were a character-defining feature of the Stube and of the German house. Stoves, often fueled through the bake oven in the Kuche, were an established old world domestic feature making possible smokeless rooms, white wall treatments, and better furnishings. Stubes often were divided functionally into three areas. The stove, often a jamb type, was located on the interior wall at one end of the room. Tables and benches often were placed at the opposing,

well-lit end. Four poster beds with hangings established the third functional area, which might be screened from the main living space by curtains.

Sleeping areas were specialized in the separate Kammer in larger dwellings. This room was often the most secure and private room in the dwelling. The three-room plan, incorporating Kuche, Stube, and Kammer, typically defines the plan type that is commonly classified as the Continental Plan.

Interior spatial use influenced the exterior appearance of the German house. Ranging from rectangular to square in footprint, most examples were distinguished by a vertical emphasis in design resulting from functional cellars and attics. Building materials also varied and included examples in stone, log, and less frequently Fachwerk, an exposed heavy timber frame. While availability may have influenced material selection, log and stone appear to have been favored. In Pennsylvania, masonry construction was viewed as a characteristic of German farmhouses, as noted in 1784 by Benjamin Rush (Swank 1983:4).

Variations in framing and roofing systems also are found. Structure frequently was expressed in interior spaces and included such elements as dressed summer beams. Roofing systems were steep and often employed common rafter systems or complex variations on the common rafter system with multiple collar beams and braces.

Period records for the area that is now Frederick County contained references to early building practices. However, these references provided limited data on domestic architectural design. Early domestic buildings in the area were noted in the Certificates of Surveys that noted improvements for taxation (Tracey and Dern 1987:48). Tracey and Dern cited several building descriptions in their text from these surveys. In 1725, John van Metre (1683-1745), a trader of Dutch descent, patented "Meadow", a land tract located near the southeastern section of the City of Frederick. He lived on the property until about 1735, then moved to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. His property contained a "Dutch frame house 18 x 14 feet, clay and white-washed outside with a stone chimney, a log house 20 x 16 ft, a frame house covered with shingles, a house raised four feet from the ground 18 x 14 feet covered with boards" (Tracey and Dern 1987:69-70).

The Certificate of Survey for "Chestnut" patented in 1741 by Adam Stull in the Lower German settlement of Frederick County (Tracey and Dern's designation) described "a large log house and one old one and two large wheat fields well fenced" (Tracey and Dern 1987:48, 170). In 1753, Jacob Neff's property in northern Frederick County was a "good dwelling house 24 x 18 with a stone chimney (sic) and a stove, covered with shingles, two old log cabins 14 x 10, each covered with puncheon and a very good roof" (Tracey and Dern 1987:48). Bernard Weymer who also settled in the northern Frederick County between 1735 and 1738, recorded in his patent for "Addition" (1743), a "large log house and a barn and a stable and a dairy and two wheat

fields" (Tracey and Dern 1987:192). A Certificate of Survey for Henry Six in 1741 noted a "logg [sic] house, logs round, and a turnip patch" on the property (Tracey and Dern 1987:218).

Improvements noted in the Certificates of Survey for Monocacy Manor provide greater detail of the terms of the land leases. Monocacy Manor was a landholding owned by the Proprietor of Maryland. Lots were leased to both English and German settlers. Tracey and Dern describe a typical lease as requiring the construction of a substantial dwelling house measuring 30 x 20 feet with a brick chimney. In addition, leaseholders were required to plant and maintain 100 apple trees. A subsequent study undertaken on the eight manors located in Maryland revealed that the houses on Monocacy Manor averaged in size 20 x 28 feet, larger than at other manors located in the Tidewater region of Maryland. The houses generally were of log. Seventy-one per cent of the lots included barns and eighteen parcels contained stables (Tracey and Dern 1987:305-307).

Documentation has been compiled on several early dwellings built by German settlers in Frederick County. Schifferstadt, built by Elias Brunner in ca. 1756, is among the best preserved and well documented of this select group. Elias Brunner was the youngest son of Joseph Brunner. Restored as an architectural museum by Frederick County Landmarks, Inc., the substantial, two-story sandstone dwelling retains many of its original features. These features include a distinctive "German" plan incorporating Kuche (hearth room), Stube (stove room), and Stubenksammer (safe room or chamber); vaulted cellar; and complex roofing system incorporating a primary system of common rafters tied with bowed collar beams, and secondary system of truncated principal rafters with braced lower collar beams. Additional features of note include original hardware, an elaborate arched central chimney, and waddle and daub paling. Modifications to the original house include a two-story brick wing added to the building in ca.1840 (Historic American Buildings Survey, 1974: Sheets 1-11).

Two other houses associated with early German settlers to Tasker's Chance include the Stephen Ramsburg House (demolished) and Mill Pond (archeological site). In their book, *Pre-1800 Houses of Frederick County*, authors Lebherz and Margrabe describe the Ramsburg house as constructed of log and covered with wood siding. The floor plan featured one large and two small rooms on the first floor (Lebherz and Margrabe 1997:128).

The three-room plan recorded for the Ramsburg House may have followed Kuche-Stube-Kammer organization, also known as flurkuchenhauser. The log construction utilized for the structure was common in the area. While Federal Direct Tax Records for 1798 do not exist for Frederick County, these records survive for the hundreds in the portion of Baltimore County that became Carroll County. Carroll County adjoins present day Frederick County. Joseph Getty (1987) in his work, *Carroll's Heritage: Essays on the Architecture of a Piedmont Maryland County* identified that 1,031 houses were reported in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax for Carroll County. Of these, 924 (90± per cent) were log, 53 (5 ± per cent) were stone, 32 (3± per cent)

were frame, 11 (1± per cent) were brick, and 11 were a combination of materials (Getty 1987: 42,187).

A third example of an early dwelling constructed by German settlers is Mill Pond. Builder Jacob Stoner was one of the original 1746 settlers to Tasker's Chance. The parcel, "Mill Pond," was the location of his house, now an archeological site. Henry Chandlee Forman recorded the dwelling in 1953, when the building was a standing ruin. In *Old Buildings, Gardens and Furniture in Tidewater, Maryland*, Foreman described the structure as a three-story, masonry, and Fachwerk dwelling. The building measured approximately 42 x 30 feet. A rubble stone foundation supported a limestone first floor. A barrel vaulted cellar was located under one half of the house. The vented cellar included three recessed wall niches. The second story and the gables originally were Fachwerk infilled with paling. The exterior daub was scored and coated with lime plaster. Beaded clapboards were nailed over the half-timbered upper story by the end of the eighteenth century. The interior plan followed the characteristic German divisions and contained three rooms on the first floor and six rooms on the second floor (Forman 1967:285f-292).

The original Sebastian Derr House contained many of the architectural features noted in dwellings constructed by German born settlers to Frederick County. A native of the Palatinate region settling in a German community, Derr constructed a dwelling similar to those found in southern Germany. This house type, frequently defined by a two-room Küche (hearth room) and Stube (stove room) floor plan, was identified by nineteenth century, German architectural historians as the Oberdeutches Haus.

The Oberdeutches Haus is similar in plan to the two-room house types developed in other European countries. The most familiar of these plans is the English "hall and parlor," which was constructed throughout the North American colonies. The German form, however, differs in several significant ways. The German form frequently includes an interior chimney, which vents the kitchen fireplace and adjoining stove. Storage cellars and functional attics also are common.

The first period Derr House was a rectangular log dwelling with a steeply pitched, common rafter roof. The dwelling incorporated the characteristic interior chimney that serviced both the kitchen fireplace and the Stube stove. The excavated cellar, accessible from an exterior bulkhead, included a ceiling insulated with straw and clay panels inset between the ceiling joists. A massive, dressed summer beam was exposed in both the Küche and the Stube. Access to the upper levels of the dwelling was gained by way of a steep, straight stair located on the exterior north wall of the Küche. The second floor of the dwelling appears to have been open and undivided. A straight, steep stair located on the north exterior wall rose to the attic.

Second Period House

Frederick County land records and data recorded for the 1790 United States Census reflected Sebastian Derr's prosperity during the second half of the eighteenth century. Derr expanded his land holdings, became a naturalized citizen, and increased the size of the Derr household. The late eighteenth-century renovation of the Sebastian Derr House reflected this economic prosperity and status.

A major building campaign was undertaken ca.1760 that transformed the original Kuche and Stube-plan house to a closed-plan, double-pile structure (2-rooms deep). The two-story, limestone rubble addition required the replacement of the original steep gable roof with a second common rafter roofing system and the excavation of a second room in the storage cellar.

The addition was parged and the original log dwelling was unified in the design through the addition of beaded weatherboards. The principal elevation of the house, which now faced west, presented a balanced three-bay design, similar in exterior appearance to popular side-hall plan houses. Exterior ornamentation appears to have been limited to a multi-light transom over the main entry and segmental arches over the first floor, west elevation windows.

Despite an exterior design that suggested that Derr abandoned German domestic architectural forms in favor of an interpretation of the Georgian Style, examination of the interior of the dwelling suggested the opposite. The two rooms added to the first floor of the structure included an unheated north entrance hall and a west chamber, which may have served as a formal parlor. The interior chimney was retained in the renovation. The pattern of later brick infill suggested that a stove heated the new west chamber. This stove may have been a pipe stove, rather than the jamb type most likely found in the Stube. This theory was supported by the 1803 inventory of Sebastian Derr's estate, which included "a six-plated stove with pipe."

Windows removed during the remodeling were infilled with traditional paling. The steep straight stair to the second story was retained in the Kuche. Archeological investigation of the house lot undertaken in 1989 failed to uncover evidence of an early kitchen wing or freestanding kitchen building (Goodwin et al. 1989). It is plausible that the Kuche remained in service after the addition.

The pattern of expansion also was interesting. The original house was not abandoned or relegated to a service wing. Rather, the house was enlarged and a more formal face imposed upon the existing dwelling. The house was refined rather than replaced.

Cynthia G. Falk (1998) in her article *Symbols of Assimilation or Status? The Meaning of Eighteenth-Century Houses in Coventry Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania* documented the retention of ethnic characteristics in substantial German houses of the late eighteenth century.

Falk noted, as have other architectural and social historians, that “Italian Renaissance” concepts of architectural design were widely adopted in the age of enlightenment throughout western Europe. These design theories, emphasizing proportion and symmetry, often were disseminated through architectural design books, such as the German published designs of Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola, and builder’s manuals, such as Johann Wilhelm’s *Architectura civilis, oder Beschreibung und Vorreissung vieler vornehmer Dachwerch* (Nuremberg: Paul Fursten seel, Wittib und erben, 1668). The classical symmetrical designs, often classified as the Georgian Style and associated with English Palladianism, were not exclusive to England, but rather were part of an international movement related to the late Renaissance. A dwelling can, therefore, retain elements of ethnicity while manifesting late Renaissance features (Falk 1998).

The second period Sebastian Derr House was an example of such a house. The renovated building retained its ethnicity while expressing the status and prosperity of its owner. While emphasizing balance and symmetry, the spatial organization, construction materials, interior chimney, and stoves are characteristic of German domestic design. The late eighteenth-century Sebastian Derr House contrasted sharply with the design of the extant John Derr House (ca. 1795). The latter dwelling, also built by the Derr family, is a fully acculturated design with center hall plan, service ell, and fireplaces, similar to numerous examples found throughout the Maryland Piedmont.

Third Period House

The third, and final, major renovation of the Sebastian Derr House was undertaken ca.1820, approximately twenty years after the death of the Derr patriarch. The second and third generations of the Derr family occupied the Dearbought property during this period. Nuclear units of the extended family moved back and forth between the “old” house and the newer “stone” house. This pattern continued until about 1900, when the original Sebastian Derr House was abandoned for family use.

The nineteenth-century renovations to the “old” house increased its size and reorganized spatial use. The new south wing housed a dining room and kitchen on the first floor. The wing was constructed as an extension of the earlier west addition to the principal block and realigned the internal circulation pattern to the more formal end of the house.

Also notable was the removal of architectural features associated with the “German” house form from the main house. The interior chimney was removed and replaced with interior-end chimneys. The stoves, physically and symbolically associated with German domesticity, were replaced by shallow fireplaces.

Interior space was refined, specialized, and formalized. The main stair, historically located in the Kuche, was moved to the entrance hall and reinterpreted in a formal dog-leg design embodying functional and ceremonial value.

An internally closed plan was developed. The kitchen, originally the focal point of the historic house plan, was moved to the extreme end of the new south wing. The segregated work area also included a second story quarter, which was separated physically from the remainder of the house. A secondary stair was incorporated into the north end dining room and provided access to the second floor of the main block.

Interior finishes were renewed and supplemented during the renovation. While limited building fabric survived to document these decorative treatments fully, evidence uncovered during the architectural recordation suggested that these elements incorporated refined, classically derived motifs.

The final renovation of the Sebastian Derr House resulted in the creation of a culturally assimilated house that was consistent in overall architectural design with the majority of the substantial rural houses constructed in Frederick County during the period. As noted in 1853 by diarist Mary L. Derr, the redesigned house was a source of pride to the family "worth five times more" than the Period II dwelling.

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INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS**Derr House
Frederick County, Maryland
June/July 1998**

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F-3-16

1 of 17 View west, east elevation



2 of 17 View north, south elevation



F-3-16

View northeast, west and south elevations

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View east, west elevation

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View south, north elevation

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View west, smokehouse, east and north elevations

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F-3-16

7 of 17 View northwest, cooperage, south and east elevations



8 of 17 View southwest, north elevation, detail of log and stone construction



9 of 17 View northeast, room 101, north east corner

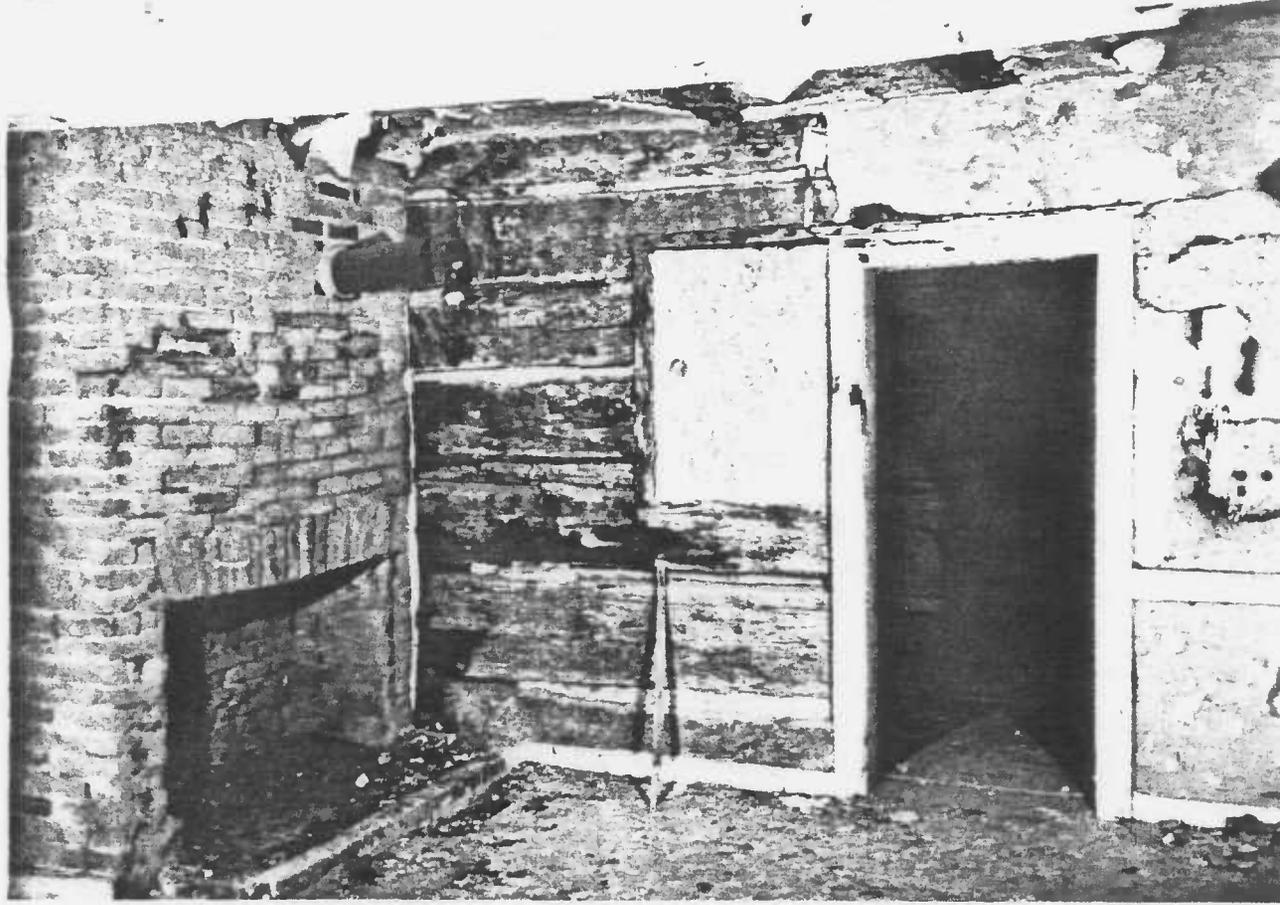


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10 of 17 View east, room 101, detail of brick infill



11 of 17 View southwest, room 102, fireplace, wattle-and-daub infilled window, and door

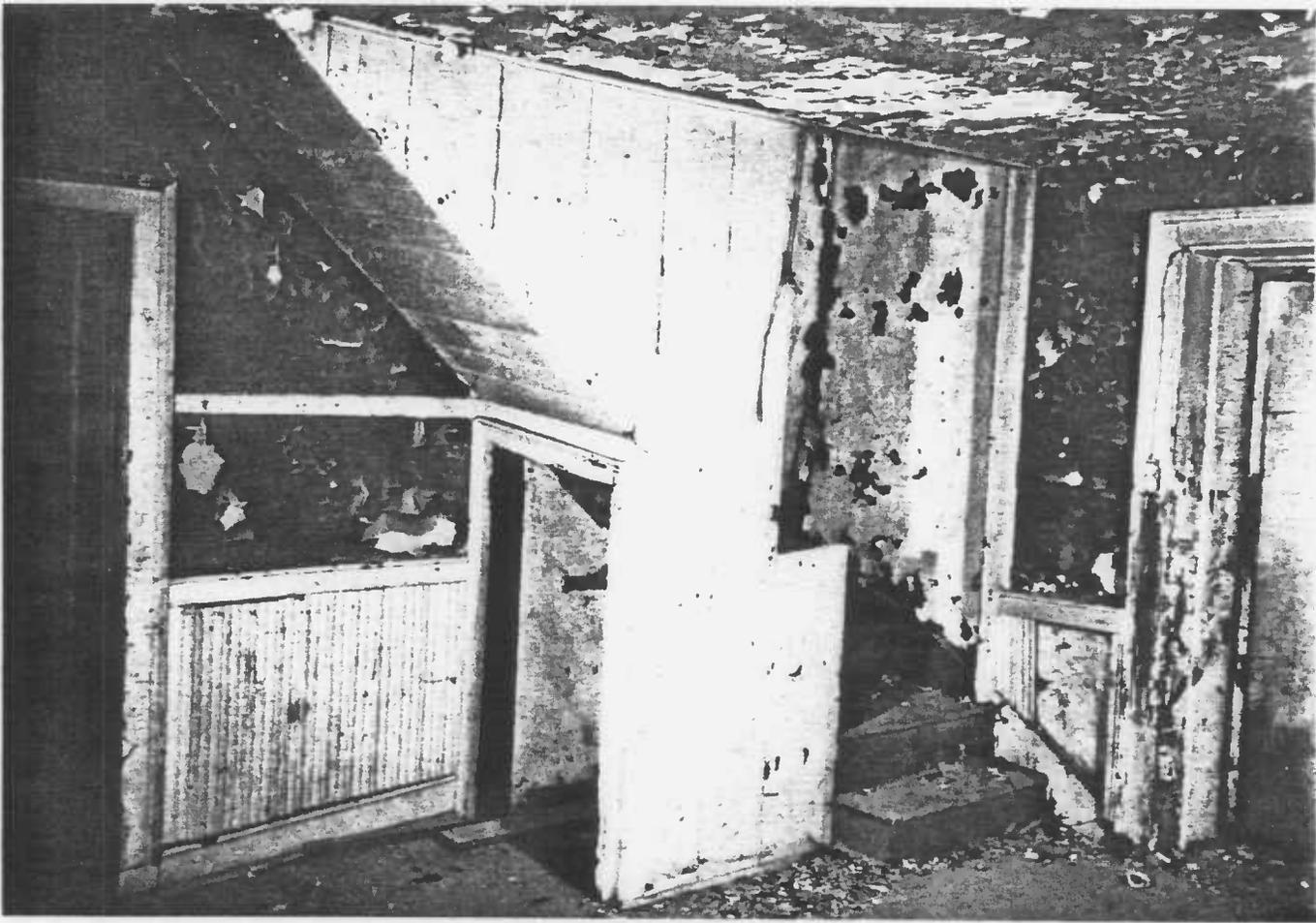


F-3-16

12 of 17 View northwest, room 103, front door and stairs



13 of 17 View northeast, room 105, staircase

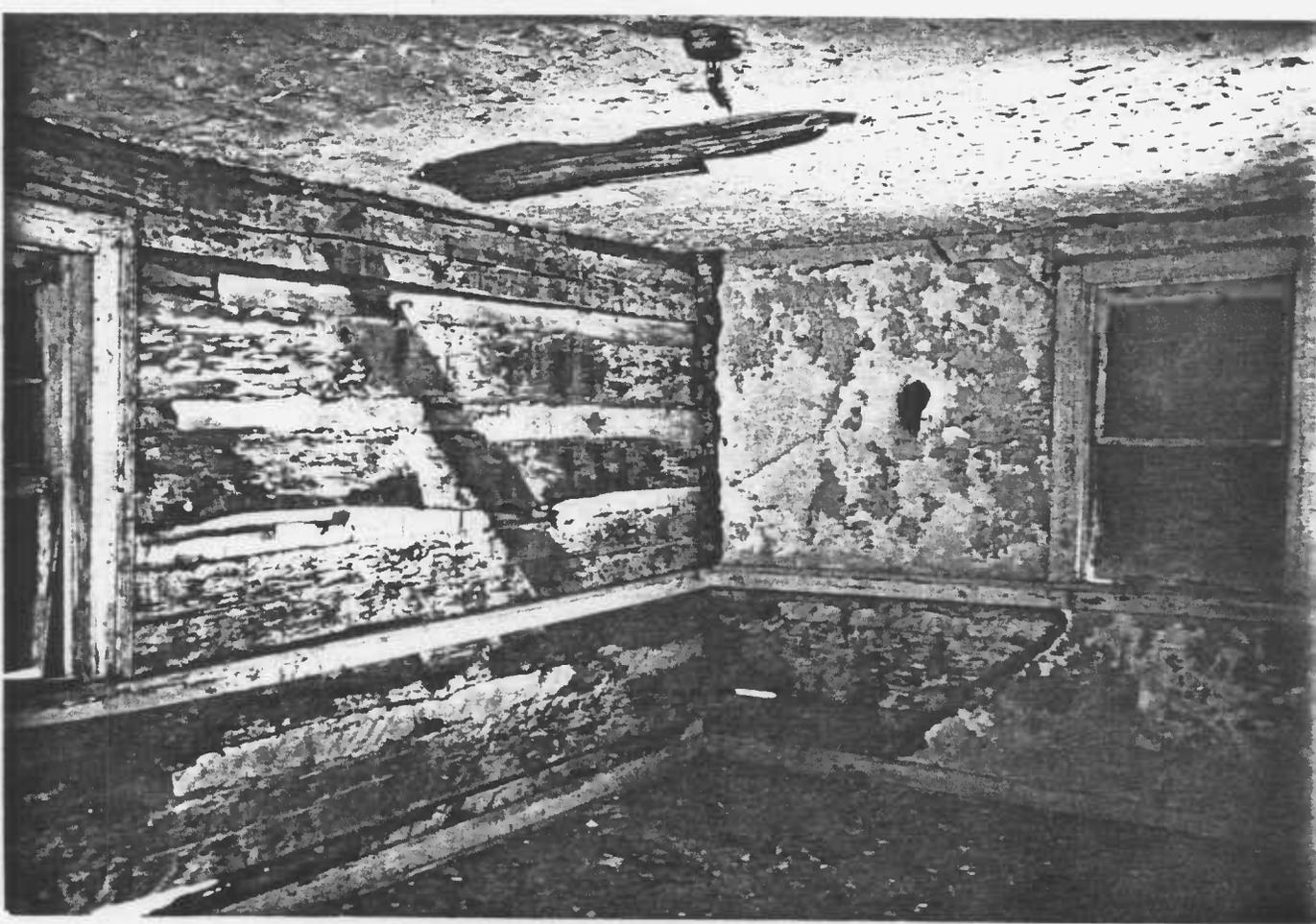


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14 of 17 View south, room 106, fireplace and south wall



2
15 of 17 View northeast, room 201, ghosting of stair in northeast corner

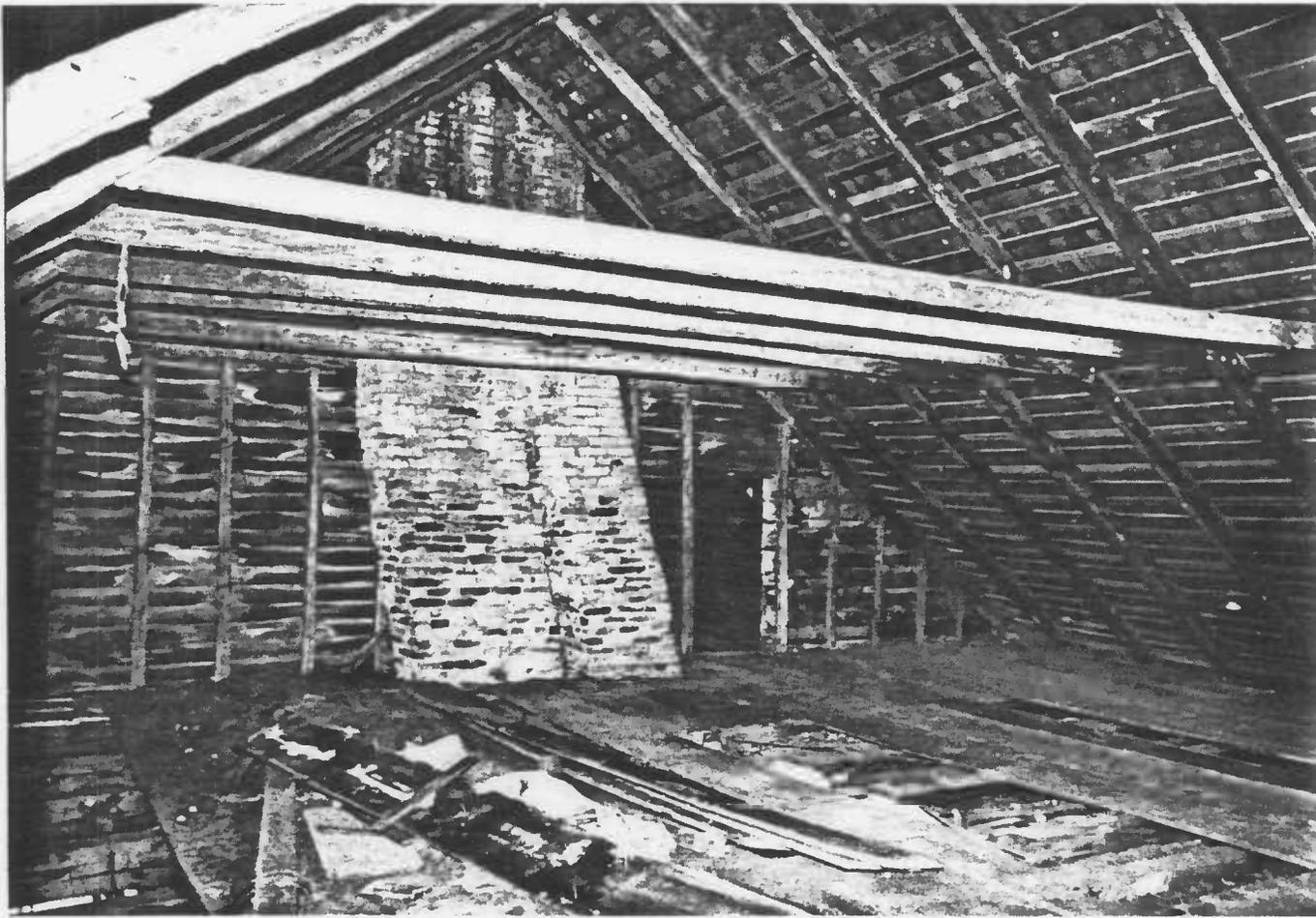


2
16 of 17 View southwest, room 202, fireplace, cabinet, and door surround



F-3-16

17 of 17 View southwest, main attic



F-3-16

F-3-16
Dearbought
Ceresville
Private

1755
Sebastian Derr

Dearbought, a two and a half story stone structure located on Route 26 near Ceresville, was built in 1755 by Sebastian Derr, a German immigrant. Dearbought has passed through the Derr family and has been owned by a procession of Derr men and women, all prominent citizens of the Frederick County area. The land remains in the hands of the Derr family today.

Dearbought was built in two separate sections. The oldest and principal wing is the north wing. The principal facade of the north wing is two bays wide. The main entrance, a recessed doorway with replacement door, is located in the first bay. The remaining bays are occupied by 6/6 windows. An encircling porch spans the east, north, and west sides of the structure. It is supported by plain wooden columns and covered by a standing seam tin roof. The north wing is constructed of stone covered with stucco on the east side and partially on the west. The north side of the north wing is covered by German or novelty siding, added along with the pedimented lintels on the third floor windows, and supportive brackets in the nineteenth century.

The south wing, more English in appearance and style, is constructed of both rubble and quarried stone. It is four bays wide with original 6/6 windows crowned by brick lintels. Board and batten doors with original hardware are located in the second and fourth bays of the east side and third bay of the west side. Both the north and south wings are covered by a standing seam tin roof and rest on a stone rubble foundation. Four chimneys rise from the structure, two from each wing. A number of interesting outbuildings lend further distinction to this excellent example of German architecture.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Dearbought

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Route 26

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth (M 68/ P 53)

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Frederick

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

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

OWNERSHIP

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

STATUS

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

PRESENT USE

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. John Derr

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #: M.F.S./1

Folio #: 556

STREET & NUMBER

North Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

F-3-16

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dearbought, a two and a half story stone residence, faces east on the south side of Route #26. Dearbought, like many rural residences was built in two separate sections. Both sections are constructed of stone. The north wing, the original section of the house, was covered with novelty siding in the nineteenth century.

The principal facade of the northern wing is two bays wide. The main entrance is located in the first bay. It consists of a recessed doorway in which is set a replacement door. Occupying the remaining bays are original 6/6 windows.

An encircling porch spans the east, north, and west sides of the northern wing. It is supported by plain wooden columns. The porch is covered by a standing seam tin roof.

The north side of the northern wing casts the most imposing appearance of any located in the house. This facade is three bays wide with 6/6 windows occupying all three bays. The windows on the third floor or level are six pane windows with an interesting pedimented lintel effect with decorative carved sides. These pedimented lintels were added at the time of the novelty siding which covers the north side of the structure. Above the third story windows are found a row of supportive brackets lining the gable.

The northern wing rests upon a stone rubble foundation. It is covered by a standing seam tin roof. Below the roofline is a wooden boxed cornice with return. A row of cast iron snow stops are located above the boxed cornice. Two large corbeled brick chimneys rise from the north wing, one from the north, and one from the south gable end. The east and west sides of the structure are stuccoed over the original stone construction.

The south wing also constructed of stone, was a later addition more English in appearance and architectural style. The structure is two stories high and four bays wide. Occupying the second and fourth bays are board and batten doors crowned by brick flat arches. Occupying the remaining bays are 6/6 windows crowned by flat arches as well.

The structure is covered with an original standing seam tin roof with a row of cast iron snow stops above the original stepped brick cornice. Two brick chimneys rise from the structure, one from the south gable end and one from the center of the structure. The entire structure rests on a stone rubble foundation. The stone of which the structure is constructed is a mixture of quarried and rubble stone.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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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

Deborah Sheetenhelm, Intern

clh

ORGANIZATION

Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

9/19/79

STREET & NUMBER

12 East Church St., Winchester Hall

TELEPHONE

694-1063

CITY OR TOWN

Frederick

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
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

DESCRIPTION

Dearbought (continued)

The west side of the south wing features a two bay entrance porch. The porch is supported by plain wooden columns and covered by a standing seam tin roof. This facade, like the east facade, is four bays wide with an entrance located in the third bay. The entrance, a board and batten door, features original hardware and is topped by a painted brick flat arch.

The Dearbought farm features a number of outbuildings of interest. A frame outbuilding is situated to the rear of the main structure. The structure is constructed of log covered with wood siding. The structure rests on a stone rubble foundation and is covered with a replacement standing seam roof.

Leading to the main outbuildings of the farm, the main drive leads first to a stone outbuilding. The structure is two bays wide. The windows which once filled these bays are now missing. The outbuilding is constructed of coursed, quarried stone and rests upon a stone rubble foundation. The structure is covered by a standing seam tin roof lined with a row of cast iron snow stops directly above the stepped brick cornice.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dearbought

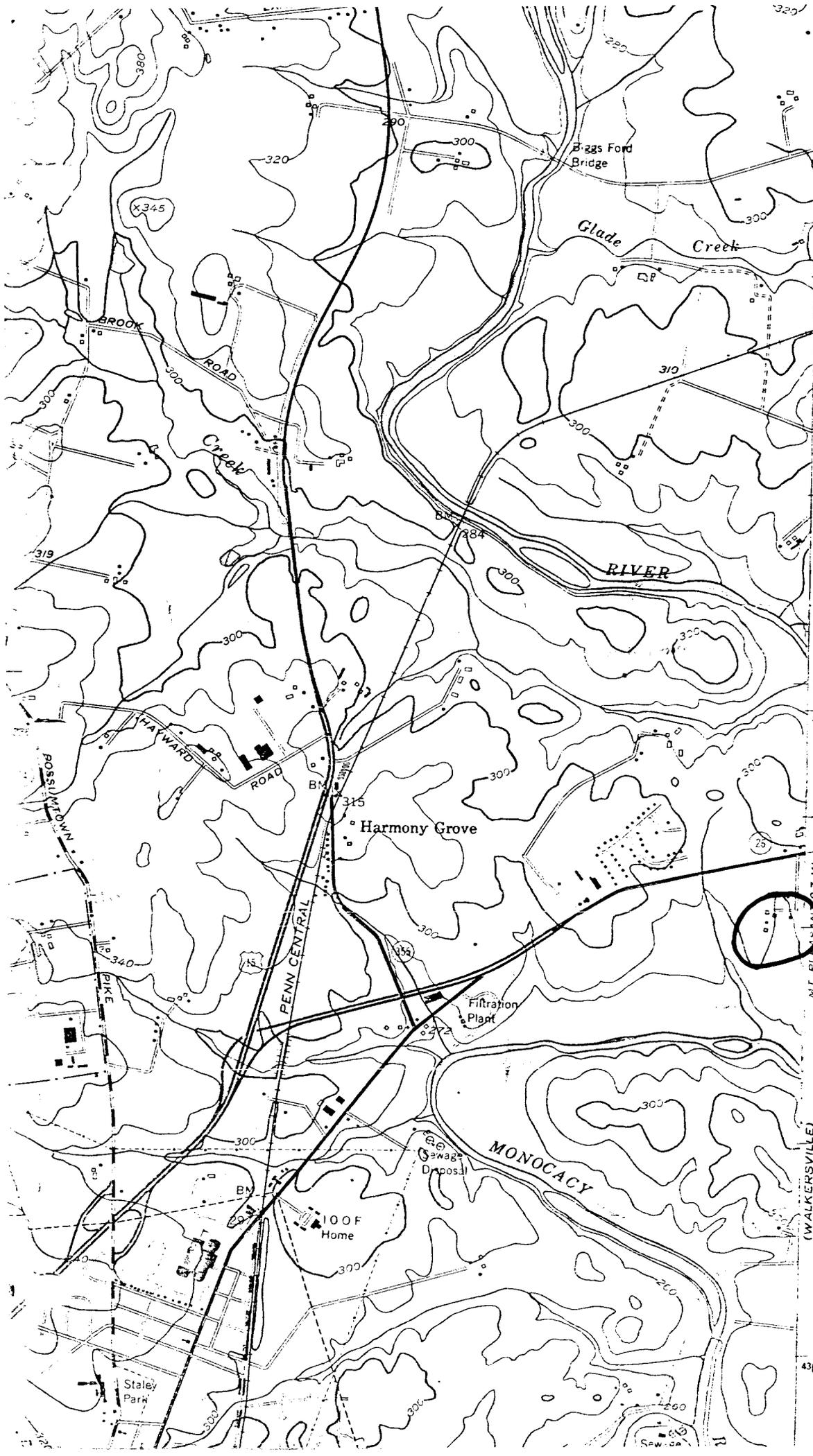
Footnotes (continued)

⁴Frederick County Record of Wills, Liber G.M.E 2; Folio 304.

⁵T.J.C. Williams, Vol. II, page 1247.

⁶Frederick County Record of Wills, Liber G.E.S. 1; Folio 570.

⁷T.J.C. Williams, Vol. II, page 1247.



Topographic

4373

600 000
FEET

4372

4371

27°30"

4370

MT. PLEASANT 97 MI
BALTIMORE 46 MI

5-2-16

(WALKERSVILLE)
5562 IV NE

4367



F-3-16

Dearbought

northeast

election

3/5 Route #26

DES 7/27/79



F-B-16
Dearbought
West Uvation
Detail
3/5 Route #26
DES 1/27/79



F-3-16
Dearbought
southeast
elevation

Stone outbuilding
5/5 Route 456

JES 7/27/79



F-3-16
Dearlight
northeast
elevation
log outbuilding
S of Route #26
DES 7/27/79