MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

I-A-014 to 021
G-~~B9477~~

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

USGS Quad: Avilton, Md.;Pa.

1 NAME

HISTORIC

New Germany (SWAUGER GRAVES, G-I-A-019)

AND/OR COMMON

New Germany State Park

120069 3804
120020 3701
120021 3809
120022 3807
120025 3908
120026 3515
120027 3702

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2

CITY, TOWN

Grantsville — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
X DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	_ AGRICULTURE	_ MUSEUM
_ BUILDING(S)	_ PRIVATE	_ UNOCCUPIED	_ COMMERCIAL	X PARK
_ STRUCTURE	_ BOTH	_ WORK IN PROGRESS	_ EDUCATIONAL	_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
_ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	X ENTERTAINMENT	_ RELIGIOUS
_ OBJECT	_ IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	_ GOVERNMENT	_ SCIENTIFIC
	_ BEING CONSIDERED	_ YES: UNRESTRICTED	_ INDUSTRIAL	_ TRANSPORTATION
		_ NO	_ MILITARY	_ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

580 Taylor Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:
Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

_ FEDERAL _ STATE _ COUNTY _ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

G-1-A-019

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

New Germany State Park near Grantsville in Garrett County is the site of a 19th century milling complex and an attendant village, and later the site of a 1930s Civilial Conservation Corps camp. New Germany is located on the east slope of Meadow Mountain about six miles south of Grantsville. Improvements include a dammed lake on Poplar Lick Run, ten log cabins and an office and superintendent's residence for the Park built by the CCC, a frame school, a frame building formerly a doctor's office, a gazebo and other structures dating from the 1930s onward.

The log cabins, now used as seasonal recreational residences, stand along a gravel road which forms a loop at the south end of the lake. The cabins are one-story, two- or three-bay structures of stacked logs cut smoothly on the top, bottom and inside surfaces. The exterior surfaces of the logs are stripped of bark and formed in a peaked curve. The logs rest directly upon each other with alternate logs overlapping at the corners. No chinking or daubing is used. Windows are trimmed with curved sections of logs. Some of the cabins have centrally placed stone chimneys while others have exterior end-wall chimneys also of coursed stone construction.

On a rocky cliff above Poplar Lick Run just south of the lake is an octagonal gazebo constructed of log posts and rails. Northwest of it at the southwest corner of the lake are two graves which belong to John and Elizabeth Swauger, who resided at New Germany and died in 1878 and 1888, respectively.

At the southeast end of the lake is a larger log building; a two-story, four-bay structure with two stone chimneys. Also a CCC stone building, now a park office and superintendent's residence. It is constructed in the same manner described for the other cabins. Near it is an early 20th century German-sided frame building, two stories high which is said to have served as a doctor's office, residence and post office. It has a high porch extending across the front end wall. The porch is sheathed with wooden latticework between the ground and first story levels.

Southeast of the main group of buildings is a late 19th century one-story, three-bay frame school which has received an early 20th century two-bay addition. The older part of the building has a Victorian door with four panels, two of which have molded arched tops. The door has a symmetrically molded architrave with decorated corner blocks. The building is now used as a display area and interpretive center for the park.

The breast of the dam is said to have been built originally in 1854 for the grist mill which operated on the site during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was reworked during the CCC occupation in the 1930s and rebuilt again in 1954.

Among the log buildings is a site at the southern tip of the complex consisting of foundations for an eleventh cabin. Several rotted wooden beams lie on the ground near the foundations. According to park personnel, the cabin was begun by the CCC, but the WPA program ended prior to its completion and it was left unfinished.

The remaining buildings appear to be in good condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

G-1-A-019

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
_PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	_RELIGION
_1400-1499	X ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	X_CONSERVATION	_LAW	_SCIENCE
_1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	_ECONOMICS	_LITERATURE	_SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	X_EDUCATION	_MILITARY	X_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	_ART	_ENGINEERING	_MUSIC	_THEATER
X_1800-1899	X COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	_PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
X_1900-	_COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The complex at New Germany State Park is significant as the site of three important settlements during the 19th and 20th centuries. The first was the New Germany community which included a mill, post office and school. It was followed by a Civilian Conservation Corps encampment on the site in the 1930s. Later New Germany became a state park.

Although there are said to have been settlers at the New Germany area during the early 19th century, a community actually developed around a mill there during the late 1800s. John Swauger, who is buried in the park owned and operated a sawmill and grist mill said to have been in operation by 1859. According to a written history of New Germany, the sawmill went out of use about 1890. The Swauger family is said to have had a residence which stood near the mill and the dam. No evidence of the house or the mill remains today although a depression below the dam shows the course of the raceway.

The frame building on the hill above the dam is said to have been used for doctors' offices. Beside it was another building used as a general store and post office. It no longer stands. Apparently there were other structures in the community now also gone.

The school seems to have been built during the late 1800s. It burned about 1902 after which it was rebuilt.

Most of the buildings standing at New Germany today date from the CCC occupation. They reflect the type of architecture associated with the WPA programs, a form of log construction which came to suggest a basic American housing tradition. Although the CCC log houses were not at all like the early log construction, they have become popularized as representing the traditional forms. The CCC buildings have merit in their own right as a valid type of log construction.

The CCC was an important force during the depression years in Western Maryland where many camps were established in the forested area.

Attached is a history of the New Germany region supplied by park staff.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

RECOMMENDATIONS

New Germany State Park is a multifacited historic site. Two major aspects of its past are the New Germany village of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the CCC encampment there during the years of the Great Depression. Physical evidence of both of those communities remains. At the park there seems to be a recognition of the historical significance of New Germany with adaptive use of most of the structures there. The school house of the turn-of-the-century period now serves as a nature center and the CCC cabins are recreational housing.

The pattern of adaptive use established at New Germany is encouraged, and it is suggested that the historic value of the site might be enhanced by additional interpretive measures for the public. The enthusiasm of Park personnel about history of the New Germany area might be channeled into preparation of a historical program for campers or a brochure outlining a historic hiking tour perhaps combined with a nature trail. More research might be done among old photographs, memories of elderly area residents and existing records about the appearance of the Swauger mill, dwelling and other structures that might have been located at New Germany.

G-1-A-019

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION DATE
Preservation Associates, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE
P. O. Box 202

CITY OR TOWN STATE
Sharpsburg Maryland 21782

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.

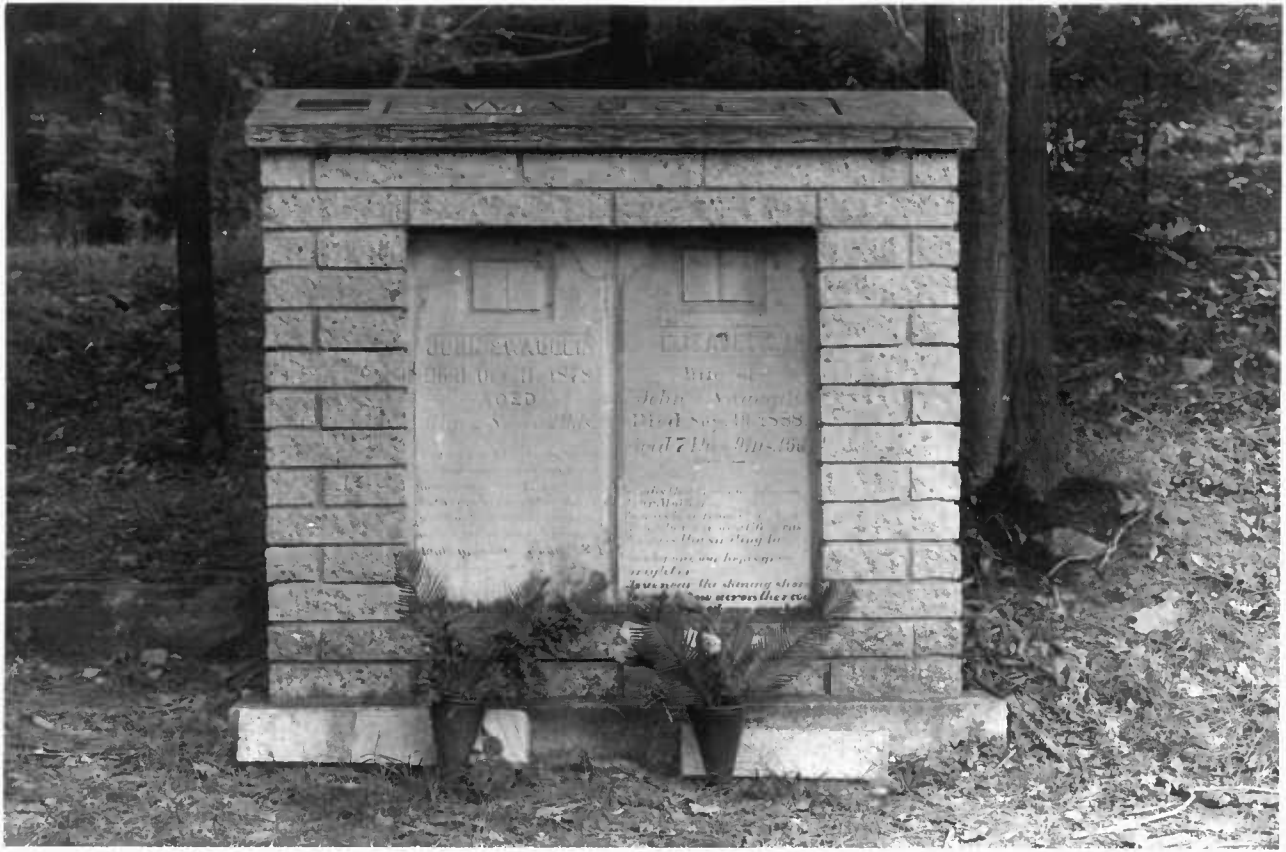
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

PS-1108

Avilton, MD-PA Quad
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series
1948, photorevised 1974
scale 1:24000

site no. : G-I-A-014 to G-I-A-021
New Germany State Park

G-I-A-019



G-I-A
New Germany St. Park
Gordon's Stone
W. New
August 1976

Drift Survey

Paula Stoner
Preservation Associates