

G-IV-C-168

John Beckman House
Swanton
Private

original block ca. 1843

The John Beckman House is a log and frame saddlebag building constructed in three stages. The original block is a circa 1840's two story, three bay by one bay, log structure with a massive exterior stone chimney on its west endwall. A two story, two bay by one bay section was later added to this chimney end, log on the first floor and frame on the second. The last addition was a two story, vertical plank wing that abuts the facade of the log/frame section, and is now mostly deteriorated. The building in its completed stage resembles an ell plan with the wing extending from the facade. Ruins of a stone cave (root cellar) lie approximately 25 feet west of the house. The house is significant as an early dwelling in Garrett County and as a good example of the saddlebag building form.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
 John Beckman House
 AND/OR COMMON
 John Beckman House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
 Off MD Route 495 , .6 mi. off of S side, .9 mi. W of Pine Hill Rd.

CITY, TOWN Swanton CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6th
 STATE Maryland VICINITY OF COUNTY Garrett County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE <i>vacant</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Thomas M. Beckman Telephone #: _____
 STREET & NUMBER _____
 CITY, TOWN _____ STATE, zip code _____
 VICINITY OF _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: 291
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC FOLIO #: 167
 STREET & NUMBER Garrett County Courthouse
 CITY, TOWN Third and Alder Streets STATE _____
 Oakland Maryland 21550

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None
 DATE _____
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS _____
 CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Beckman House is a log and frame saddlebag building constructed in three stages. The original block is a circa 1840's two story, three bay by one bay, log structure with a massive exterior stone chimney on its west endwall. A two story, two bay by one bay section was later added to this chimney end, log on the first floor and frame on the second. The last addition was a two story, vertical plank wing that abuts the facade of the log/frame section, and is now mostly deteriorated. The building in its completed stage resembles an "L" plan with the wing extending from the facade. Ruins of a stone cave (root cellar) lie approximately 25 feet west of the house.

The main block (24½' x 17'), rests on a foundation of dry-laid, dressed stone and is constructed with V-notched logs chinked with a mixture of clay and small stones. The vertical lath and weatherboard siding appear to be a later addition. Its facade (S elevation) is pierced by three evenly spaced bays. Doors occupy the center and eastern bays, while the other openings are for sash windows, some 2/2 and some 1/1. The rear wall (N elevation) has only one opening: a window at the western end of the first floor. Three windows pierce its exposed endwall (E elevation) one on either floor and the third in the attic. The first floor window has been boarded over. The second floor window contains the remains of 6/3 sash window.

A vertical plank partition wall divides the interior of the original block into two rooms of unequal size. The west room, which has the fireplace, is the main living space since it occupies 2/3 of the first floor area. An enclosed staircase is located on the partition wall, rising six treads from the north wall. Its two bottom steps project into the room at right angles to the main staircase. The fireplace is a 3'6" wide by 3'3" high opening in the rough-cut stone chimney. Its lintel is formed by an iron bar topped by a row of bricks. Originally, the stones were exposed and white-washed, but later a wooden surround with two raised panels below its mantel was placed over the stone. The log walls and ceiling joists were originally exposed and white-washed, but they have since been covered with cut lath and plaster. The original baseboards, flat board with a simple bead, were also covered when the room was remodeled. The second floor was inaccessible.

There is a five foot space between the original block and the first addition, the chimney occupying the center third. A passage between the two sections exists on the south side of the chimney, while the space north of the chimney is a storage area with exterior access only.

The first addition (18' x 17') sits on a stone foundation and is constructed with V-notched logs 2/3 of the way up. The second floor is raised in frame from the window-sills to the roofline, and is covered with weatherboard on the exterior and lath and plaster on the interior. The first floor of the interior is a single room with an opening in the ceiling at the northwest corner where the staircase was located. A hearth was opened on this side of the chimney and is framed by the same type of surround that is found on the other fireplace. The walls in this room are covered with vertical board and the whitewashed ceiling joists are covered with tongue and groove board.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES original block ca. 1843 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Beckman House is significant as an early dwelling in Garrett County and as a good example of the saddlebag building form.

Beckman, born in Germany, bought this property from a Mr. Wilson in 1841. It is thought that the house was completed by 1843.¹ The 1860 census of Allegany County lists John Beckman, 59, as a farmer with \$3,000.00 worth of real estate and \$1,481.00 worth of personal estate. At that time his wife Mary, 60, and five children lived in the house.²

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

¹W.W. Price, "Altamont-The Village", The Glades Star, Vol. 2, No. 31, December 1958, p. 486-7.

²Allegany County Census, 1860, roll 456, District No. 1, p. 317.

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

Valerie Cesna, Historic Sites Surveyor

January 1982

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

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

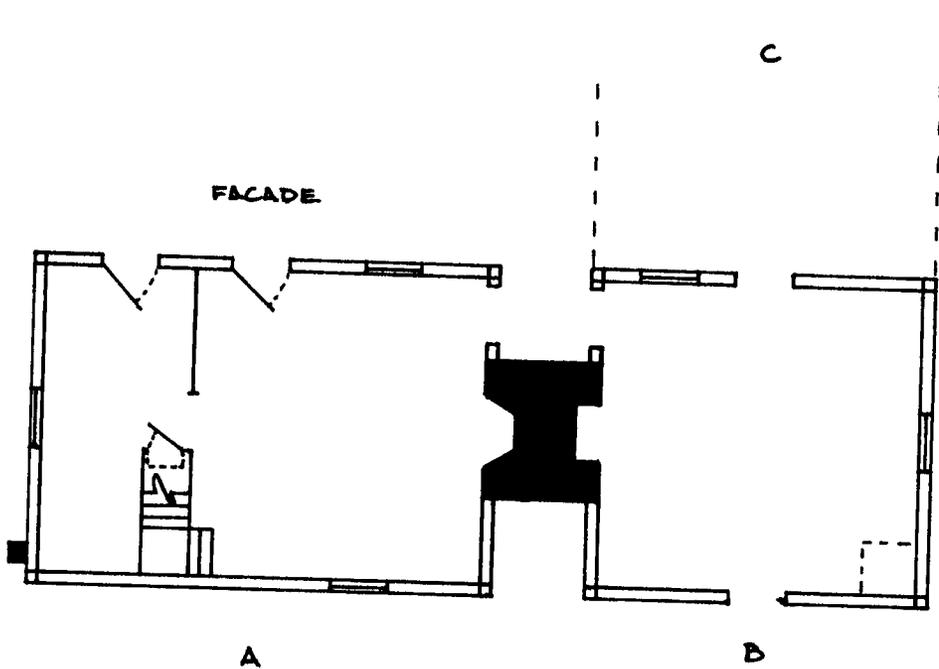
G-IV-C-168

John Beckman House

Continued #7 Description

The size of the second addition is undetermined since most of it has deteriorated. An undated photograph of the building reveals it to have been a two story, shed-roofed wing.

Although there is a seam in the roof between the two main sections, the roofline appears continuous. A plain box cornice finished the eaves of both sections and several layers of tarpaper sheath the roof's surface.



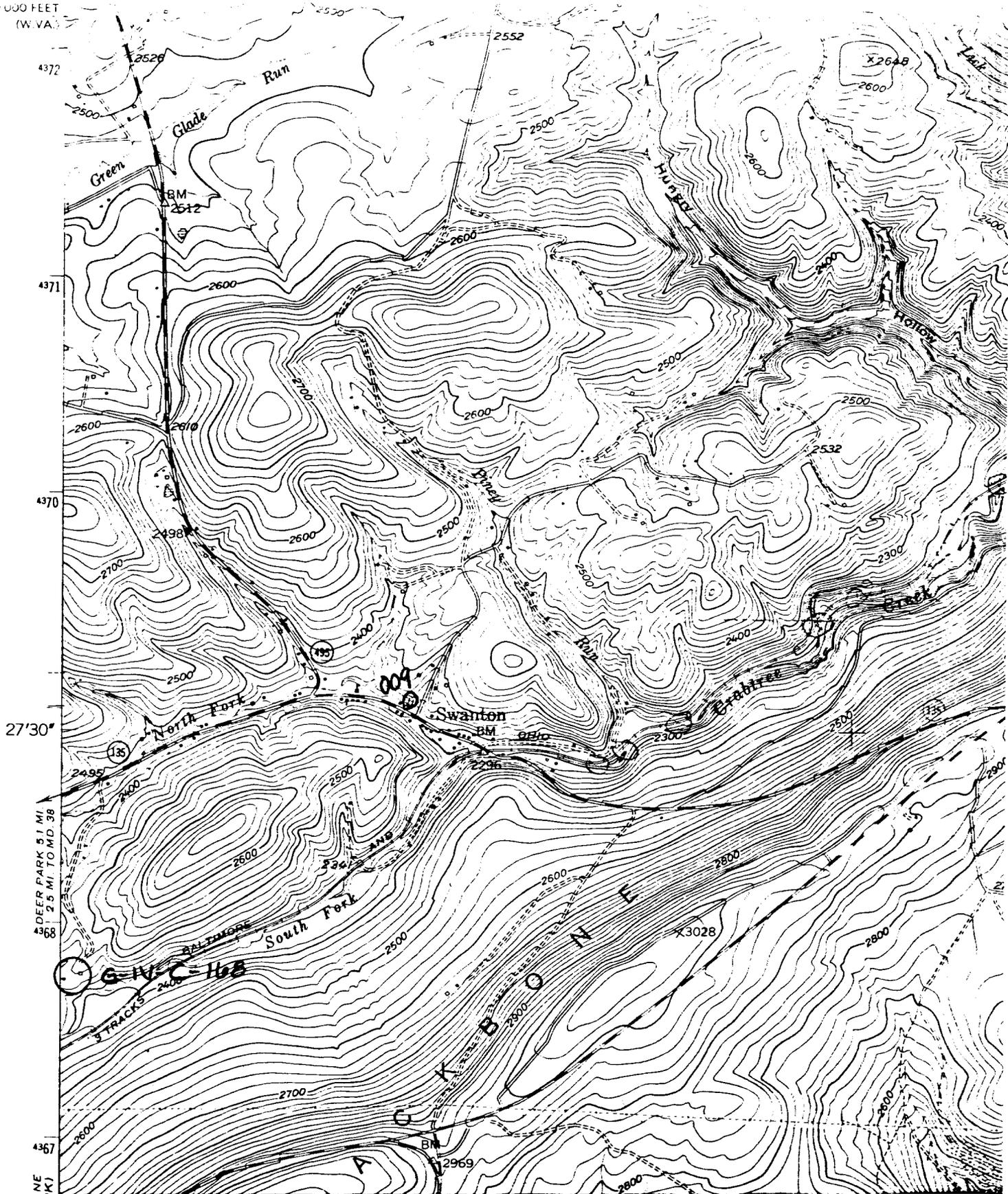
- A- ORIGINAL BLOCK, CA. 1840'S LOG STRUCTURE
- B- 1ST ADDITION, LOG/FRAME STRUCTURE
- C- 2ND ADDITION, VERTICAL PLANK STRUCTURE - DIMENSIONS UNCERTAIN



EXTERIOR WALL LENGTH TO SCALE
DIVISIONS AND DETAILS NOT TO SCALE

G-IV-C-168
JOHN BECKMAN HOUSE
SWANTON, GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

VALERIE CESNA 1/29/82



Kitzmiller, MD:WV
7.5 Minute Series
Scale 1:24,000
1948; photorevised 1974

G-IV-C-168
John Beckman House
Off MD Route 495, .6 mile
off of S side, .9 mile W
of Pine Hill Road



G-IV-C-168

John Beckman House

Garrett County, MD

Valerie Cesna 10-12-81

S & E elevation



G-IV-C-168

John Beckman House

Garrett Co., MD

V. Cesna, 10/12/81

N. elevation

FIGURE 103



G-IV-C-168

John Beckman House

Garrett County, MD

Valerie Cesna 10-12-81

N & W elevation



G-IV-C-168

John Beckman House

Garrett County, MD

Valerie Cesna 10-12-181

Fireplace: West Wall