

G-V-A-128

Dave Slabach Farm I

Gortner

Private

ca. 1870's

The Dave Slabach Farm I consists of a circa 1870's two story, frame dwelling and a frame bank barn. The house originally was composed of a gable-ended section with an intersection side wing, forming a T-plan with a porch filling the recessed facade area. Later, the side wing was widened, becoming flush with the gable end section. At the rear, another wing was added to the side wing.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Dave Slabach Farm I

AND/OR COMMON

John C. Yoder House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Gortner Rd., .4 mi. SE of US Route 219 S

CITY, TOWN

Gortner

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

**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

John C. Yoder

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #: 394

Folio #: 754

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland 21550

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

B-V-A-128

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

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Dave Slabach Farm I consists of a circa 1870's two story, frame dwelling and a frame bank barn. The house originally was composed of a gable-ended section with an intersecting side wing, forming a T-plan with a porch filling the recessed facade area. Later, the side wing was widened, becoming flush with the gable end section. At the rear, another wing was added to the side wing.

Supported on a foundation of coursed, squared stone, the original section is weatherboarded and lit by 6/6 sash windows with plain board surrounds and molded dripboards on the first floor, and by a pair of round-arched, elongated sash windows in the second floor of both gable ends. The side wing sits on a poured concrete foundation, and is lit by 2/2 sash with plain board surrounds and simple dripboards. A shed-roofed porch with four square posts and a turned baluster railing extends across the facade of both wings.

The rear addition is a two story, gable-roofed wing on a poured concrete foundation. It is lit by a combination of 6/6 sash and multi-light fixed windows, and is sheathed with German siding.

The gable-roofed bank barn has a hewn, mortise and tenoned frame, some of the lumber having been reused from an earlier log building. On the walls of the animal stalls on the ground level, one of Dave Slabach's sons carved the profiles of several Civil War generals.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES                      ca. 1870's                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      David Slabach

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1872 Dave Slabach bought his father's 700 acre farm at Gortner, and built this house and barn on it soon afterwards. In the early twentieth century, he built another house and barn on his property, northwest of this side, and sold them to the Swartzentruber's son-in-law. (See G-V-A). Later he built another house east of the Swartzentrubers for one of his daughters.<sup>1</sup>

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

<sup>1</sup>The Glades Star, "The Slabaugh Family", Vol. 2, No. 22, p. 333-4.

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

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

August 1981

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

THE  
**Glades**  **Star**

PUBLISHED BY  
**THE GARRETT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 NO. 22, VOL. 2 OAKLAND, MD. SEPTEMBER, 1956

### *The Slabaugh Family*

It was a Bible display that a great great granddaughter, Mrs. Grace Gnegy White had in her class. It was loaned to her by S. W. Slabach. It created so much interest among the fourth generation that this article came to be written.

Joseph Slabaugh's naturalization papers read Joseph Slabach, Kidell, Germany. It was the year 1832 when he was 43 years of age he renounced forever, all allegiance to any foreign prince or potentate whatsoever, particularly the King of France.

In 1825, he married Elizabeth Hershberger of Grantsville. To this family were born fifteen children, namely: Peter married Barbara Shoemaker, who resided at Springs, Pa.; Elizabeth married Samuel Gnegy who lived at Gnegy Church, Md. Henry married Magdalena who lived at Wellman, Iowa; Samuel married Christena Durst of Bit-



tinger, Md.; Joel married Fran Gnegy, Gnegy Church, Md.; Mary married Henry Miller, near Dobbin, W. Va.; Susan married William Irwin, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Christine married Crist Yutzy of Arthur, Ill.; Crist married Hannah Miller of near Crellin, Md., and two children died in Shertz, of Lorraine, France; Daniel married Mary Brenneman; Joseph married Hannah Miller of near Crellin, Md., and two children died in infancy, their names being Jacob and Gideon.

Grandfather was a small man, weighing 125 pounds. Grandmother weighed 225 pounds. In 1852 they bought 700 acres at Gortner. It was

a court sale. The land belonged to James Swan who fled after killing a man. They paid \$1,000.00 for these acres that are now the farms of Simon Swartzentruber, Sam W. Slabach, Edwin and Ell Beachy, Ernest Spoerlein, Mrs. Anna Bittinger, Walter and Elwood Schlosnagle; Lichty sisters, Daniel Peachy; Emmanuel Miller, the Union Church and Henry Swartzentruber.

Grandmother Elizabeth walked from Gortner's spring to visit her daughter and new born son, Sol Yutzy, over on the Paul Welch farm. Fate struck her. As she entered the door she ask, "Does anyone know of a cure for heart trouble?" And at that moment, she fell over dead. Her and grandfather's graves were in the orchard on the home farm until the year 1912. At that time, their bodies were removed to the Union Cemetery by their daughters, Susan Irwin and grandsons Sol, Joel, Noah and Sam Slabach.

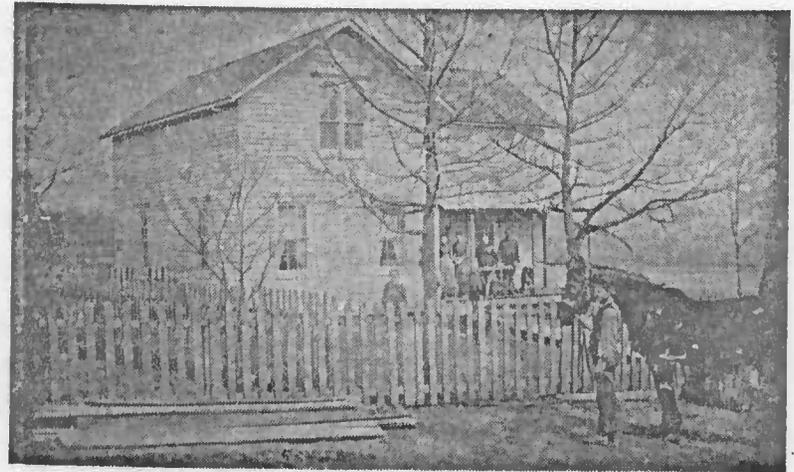
Some of the traits of their children and grand-children were originality, perseverance and humor.

Peter never sat up, if he could lie down. One noon he was stretched on the porch for a siesta. A neighbor rushed up to him and asked, "Could you help me to put in hay?" He said "I could if I wanted to but I don't want to." Daniel moved from Maryland to Bloomington, Ill., over a wagon trail, and his brother David accompanied him. From Illinois he rode home horseback for a visit. Water troughs and people's hospitality were all travelers could depend upon in those days.

In 1872 David returned from Illinois. At that time he bought the home farm for \$1,800.00. His son Sam now owns the remaining acres. He pays as much tax yearly as his grandfather paid for one hundred acres. His father was so discouraged with the run-down condition of the place he would have gone back to Illinois had the transportation been as easy as now. But he persevered and built a new house and barn. His brothers and sisters had a lot of fun catching old cavalry horses of the Civil War that had broken out of the pasture on General Kelley's neighboring farm. They rode them for pleasure going to Aurora, W. Va., where they attended apple cuttings and singing schools.

In 1900, David sold part of the farm to the Swartzentrubers. He built another barn and house nearby. Seven years later he sold it to the Swartzentruber's son-in-law and built another house and barn on his east eighty which is now owned by his son and daughter Lena. David also donated the land and interested his neighbors in building the Union Church. He and his son Sam stood by this church in leadership for 58 years. Only eternity will reveal the good accomplished in serving the community so faithfully.

Joseph Slabach had a grandson, Joel Gnegy, who could narrate the most humorous stories, mostly about himself with a sparkle to hold you breathless, that was climaxed by a hearty laugh. One story: They, as newlyweds living in Kansas, were awakened by a burglar. Jennie pleaded, "Joel, don't go out." But he rushed out, grabbing a horse on their porch. Calling for her to bring a light, he said, "I got the burglar's horse." She said, "Why Joel! That is our old Nancy." "Well, by frost, I thought it was the burglar's horse."



Slabach Homestead, 1876. Now know as Simon Swartzentruber's

Grandson Joel Slabach was superstitious, a firm believer in ghosts pow-wow-ing. He was versatile on mystery tales. In our age of electricity, to light grandfather's old grease lamp you can easily understand with a live imagination that the four corners of the room would move with weird shapes and shadows.

Joel's next door neighbor was a cousin, Elwood Slabach, age 12, with nothing to do but pick tea berries and think up pranks with the help of a brother, Clayton, and sisters Clara and Orpha. He could pull tricks like magic. On one of his jaunts in the woods he ran across an abandoned old saw mill. It had a pipe buried in the sawdust pile. By hiding under the slab he discovered he could talk and sing through this pipe to make it sound like some hobogobleinksur. He decided to scare Joel, so the sisters went and related the tale to Joel. Something awful in the woods by the old mill. Joel went but was skeptical. When he heard for himself his eyes looked like fried eggs. Joel spread the rumor by mid-day. Folks gathered in, like going to a fire. Elwood found himself cramped and trapped under the slab pile but he carried on, talking through the pipe any old nonsense he could spontaneously think up. When he said, "Death in the family," some conjectured a man had been buried alive and began digging, while others who caught on would kick the sawdust back in. Some of the more nervous type ladies present wrung their hands and cried, "Oh my, keep on digging." The ladies saw to it that the pipe was removed. Scaring Joel turned out to be a bigger affair than Elwood had foreseen. He was a born actor. He had a way without being pinned down. His father, Sam, once fooled deer hunters by walking backward in the snow. He, Elwood, was a chip off the old block.

This genealogy was written by Mrs. Albert Sisk, David Slabach's adopted daughter. Gortner, Md., July 25, 1956.

G-V-A-128

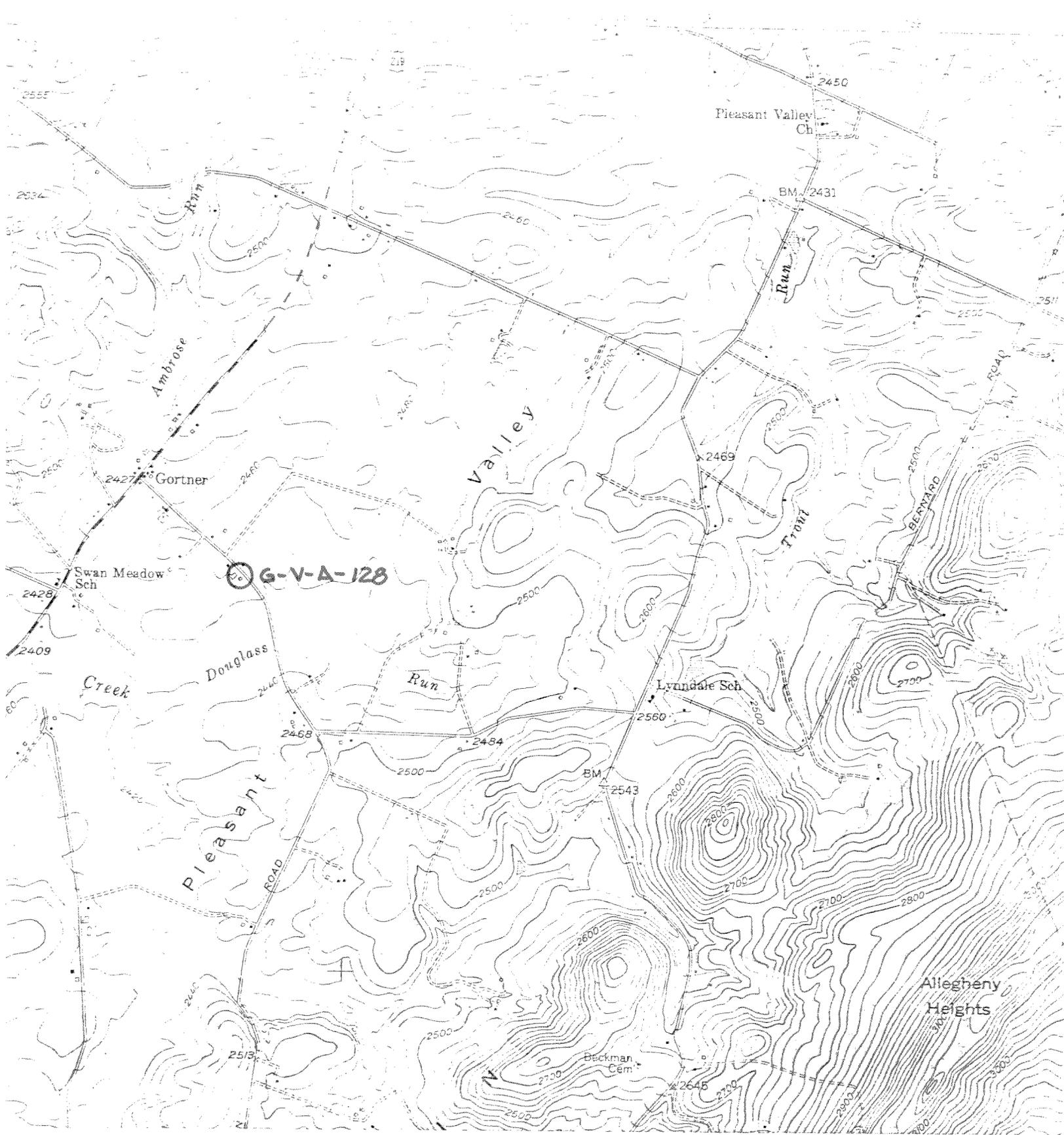


Table Rock, MD-WV  
 7.5 Minute Series  
 Scale 1:24,000  
 1948; photorevised 1974

Site #: G-V-A-128  
 Dave Slabach Farm I  
 Gortner Rd., .4 mile southeast of  
 US Route 219 S



G-V-A-128

Dave Slabach Farm I

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 8/21/81

Facade - SW elevation



G-V-A-128

Dave Slabach Farm I

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 8/21/81

Rear: NW & NE elevation



G-V-A-128

Dave Slabach Farm I

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 8/21/81

SE elevation