

G-V-B-065

ca. 1865

John George Steyer Farm  
Gorman  
Private

The John George Steyer Farm consists of a circa 1870 frame farmhouse and vertical plank springhouse, and a frame bank barn of uncertain date. The house is a two story, gable-roofed building on a stone foundation. Its basic configuration is a five bay by one bay, center hall plan with a two story rear ell. A full length facade porch that extends around to the rear wing, 6/6 sash windows, and the fine stone work manifested in the foundation and exterior chimney, are its distinguishing features.

The house is an early example of the type of dwelling that was the most popular house form in Garrett County from the late nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries. The features that distinguish this building from its later counterparts are its 6/6 sash windows, which were outmoded by more elongated 2/2 sash, later in the century, and the massive exterior stone chimney that was later replaced by slender, interior brick stacks.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

John George Steyer Farm

AND/OR COMM

Waitman T. Steyer Farm "Willie"

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

White Church-Steyer Rd., E side, .8 mi. N of Steyer-Gorman Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Gorman

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

VICINITY OF

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Lee Emory Shillingburg, Elizabeth Betty Shillingburg Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #: 364

Folio #: 312

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

G-V-8-065

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The John George Steyer Farm consists of a circa 1870 frame farmhouse and vertical plank springhouse, and a frame bank barn of uncertain date. The house is a two story, gable-roofed building on a stone foundation. Its basic configuration is a five bay by one bay, center hall plan with a two story rear ell. A full length facade porch that extends around to the rear wing, 6/6 sash windows, and the fine stone work manifested in the foundation and exterior chimney, are its distinguishing features.

The facade of the house (NW elevation) has a symmetrical, five bay, center door arrangement with a central cross gable. The door has a large rectangular window outlined by a border of small stained glass lights in its upper half, and two molded panels in its lower half. A three light transom and three-pane sidelights over single, molded panels compose the door frame. Windows on this elevation are 2/2 sash with the exception of the second floor, center bay which has been changed to a very small 1/1 sash. A shed-roofed porch supported by square posts with jigsaw brackets extends across the full length of the facade, then continues around to the northeast endwall and rear ell.

The northeast endwall is lit by 6/6 sash windows, one per floor, and a small, single-light casement in the gable. A door and a bay of 6/6 sash windows pierce the northeast side of the rear wing, actually a continuation of the endwall. The southwest endwall is unfenestrated.

The rear (SE elevation) is pierced by three bays of 6/6 sash windows. Its first floor level is entirely masked by an enclosed, shed-roofed porch that extends to the southwest side of the wing. A shouldered, exterior chimney made of pecked-finish ashlar is located on the southeast endwall of the rear wing. A 6/6 sash window flanks the chimney on its east side at the first floor level.

The interior of the house is arranged around a center hall, one room on either side. The staircase rises twelve treads along the southwest wall of the hall in an open, straight run with turned balusters placed two per tread. The rear wing contains only one room per floor.

The house rests on a stone foundation of coursed ashlar with a chiseled finish. Asbestos shingles sheathe all elevations, obscuring the original siding. German siding covers the first floor level of the facade, however, this may not be the original siding, as the facade appears to have undergone some alteration. The elongated 2/2 sash and ornate doorway differ proportionately and stylistically from the 6/6 sash and the plain doorways on the other elevations. Due to the inability to observe actual construction pieces, it is uncertain whether the house was designed to present a different image on the facade, or if the facade was later modernized.

The roof is covered with corrugated metal on the facade side of the ridgeline, and with standing seam metal at the rear of the house. In addition to the exterior stone chimney, an interior brick chimney is located between the wing and the main block, and a cinderblock chimney rises through the interior of the southwest endwall.

The springhouse, located approximately twenty-five feet southwest of the dwelling house, has a high stone foundation with a gable-roofed, vertical plank structure above it.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

conti.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

B-V-B-065

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      circa 1865      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      masonry by Lycurgus Brown, Gladesville, WV

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house on the John George Steyer Farm is an early example of the type of dwelling that was the most popular house form in Garrett County from the late nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries. Two story, gable-roofed, center hall, frame dwellings with or without a rear wing became the norm. The features that distinguish this building from its later counterparts are its 6/6 sash windows, which were outmoded by more elongated 2/2 sash later in the century, and the massive exterior stone chimney that was later replaced by slender, interior brick stacks.

In 1857, John George Steyer bought the old John Irons Farm. Steyer was a blacksmith and a farmer, and also ran a sawmill on Locust Run. He built this house soon after the Civil War with lumber sawn on his own mill. Lycurgus Brown of Gladesville, West Virginia did the stonework on the house and springhouse.<sup>1</sup>

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

<sup>1</sup> Merritt Wilson, Jr. The Wilson Family. (Athens, Ohio: Lawhead Press, 1971),  
excerpt from Capt. Charles E. Hoyer's writings, p. 492.

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

January 1982

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-V-B-065

John George Steyer Farm

#7 Description Continuation

The foundation, which houses the spring, is made of coursed ashlar with chiseled faces. A rectangular window protected by vertical wooden bars pierces the southeast end of the foundation, and a batten door at the northwest end provides the entrance to the springhouse. The upper story is constructed of straight-sawn lumber sided with weatherboard. A shed-roofed porch supported by square posts, with jigsawn brackets and a jigsawn railing, shelters the door on the northeast brackets and a jigsawn railing, shelters the door on the northeast elevation. A 6/6 sash window pierces each endwall.

The gable-roofed bank barn, approximately 300 yards east of the house, is supported by a hewn frame that is mortise and tenoned together. A shed wing and a brick silo were later added to the rear.



Gorman, MD-WV  
USGS 7.5 Minute Series  
Scale - 1:24,000  
1949; photorevised 1974

Site #: G-V-B-065  
John Geroge Steyer Farm  
White Church-Steyer Road, E side  
.8 mile N of Steyer-Gorman Road



G-V-B-065

John George Steyer Farm

Garrett County, MD

Valerie Cesna 8/13/81

Facade: NW elevation



G-V-B-065

John George Steyer Farm

Garrett County, MD

Valerie Cesna 8/13/81

Rear: SE elevation



G-V-B-065

John George Steyer Farm

Garrett County, MD

Valerie Cesna 8/13/81

Springs.: NE & NW elevs.