HA-976

John S. Smith Barn ca. 1870
1331 Deer Creek Church Road
Chestnut Hill vicinity
Private

The John S. Smith Barn is significant for its Gothic Revival details. Agricultural buildings in the late 19th century were often decorated with scroll-sawn bargeboards, brackets, and cupolas, but the Smith Barn is the only such outbuilding in Harford County yet surveyed that retains Gothic style ornamentation.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST HA-976

MAGI # 1309765506

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
John S. Smith Barn

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1331 Deer Creek Church Road

CITY, TOWN
Chestnut Hill X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2nd

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	X AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
	X not applicable	__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Wanda L. Esler et al. Telephone #: 879-0695

STREET & NUMBER
1331 Deer Creek Church Road

CITY, TOWN
Forest Hill __ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
MD 21050

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 1073
Folio #: 587

STREET & NUMBER
20 West Courtland Street

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

STATE
MD

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

HA-976

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John S. Smith Barn is a frame bank barn built about 1870 with a Gothic-arched cupola and vents which is located on the south side of Deer Creek Church Road about 200 yards southwest of Walter's Mill (HA-16) near Chestnut Hill, Harford County, Maryland. The upper level doors face northeast.

The ridge of the main section runs northwest-southeast. In the center of the slate roof is the cupola, each face of which has a small gable and three Gothic-arched, louvred vents. In the northwest gable end is a vent with paired Gothic-arched louvres. An early 20th century silo with a domed cap stands near the northwest corner. The vertical exterior siding was once whitewashed, but is now weathered. The foundation of the main section is stone. The main interior posts and beams are hand-hewn and joined by mortise and tenon and the minor framing members are machine-sawn. On the south and east sides of the barn are some shed additions on both stone and concrete block foundations.

The original farmhouse associated with the barn is about 50 yards to the west. It is now on a separate parcel and has been extensively altered. The exterior is covered in brick veneer. Compared to the barn, the house retains little historical integrity.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

HA-976

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1870 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John S. Smith Barn is significant for its Gothic Revival details. Agricultural buildings in the late 19th century were often decorated with scroll-sawn bargeboards, brackets, and cupolas, but the Smith Barn is the only such outbuilding in Harford County yet surveyed that retains Gothic style ornamentation.

NOTE: HA-976 was originally assigned to the Quinn House. This form was later duplicated by HA-1239, Castle Blaney.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

HA-976

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
Janet Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION
Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning

DATE
May 1984

STREET & NUMBER
45 So. Main St.

TELEPHONE
(301) 838-6000, ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN
Bel Air

STATE
MD 21014

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

JOHN S. SMITH BARN

HA-976

CHAIN OF TITLE (PARTIAL)

1073/587 10 August 1978	Grantor:	Charles J. Esler, Wanda L. Esler, and Frances J. Leitkowski
	Grantee:	Wanda L. Esler, Frances J. Leitkowski, and Alison Bridget Esler
	Acreage:	10.08
790/180 11 September 1968	Grantor:	Walter O. Simons and Dorothy H. Simons
	Grantee:	Charles J. Esler, Wanda I. Esler, and Frances J. Leitkowski
	Acreage:	10.08
286/250 25 November 1944	Grantor:	Gretta H. Smith et al.
	Grantee:	Walter O. Simons and Dorothy H. Simons
	(J. Hamilton Smith died June 20, 1927 intestate, leaving all property to Gretta, his widow and children. J. Hamilton Smith acquired two tracts as one of the devisees of his father John Stone Smith, by his will dated May 24, 1886, probated November 17, 1911 (HTB 14/262) and two tracts by will from his mother Christine Smith (139/151) January 2, 1913.	
139/151 2 January 1913	Grantor:	Christine Smith
	Grantee:	J. Hamilton Smith

John S. Smith Barn HA-976
Martenet's Map of Harford County, 1878

UNITED STATES
RTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

John S. Smith Barn HA-976
Harford County
Photographer: Janet Davis
April 1984
Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust
East elevation
1/2

John S. Smith Barn HA-976
Harford County
Photographer: Janet Davis
April 1984
Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust
North elevation
2/2