

Samuel Riggs Farm  
M:23-27  
Montgomery County, MD

The property known as the Samuel Riggs House, or alternatively as the Oaks I, is located on a 44-acre parcel of land at 5310 Riggs Road in rural northeastern Montgomery County. The property includes a circa 1882 farmhouse, set back from the road with a large expanse of lawn and mature shade trees in front, and two domestic outbuildings at the rear. Adjacent to the main house, and included on the property, is a large complex of seven or more non-contributing farm structures, including several barns, equipment sheds and other agricultural buildings, as well as a contemporary dwelling, trailers and other make-shift structures. The Italianate-style house was built by Samuel Riggs II on property that had been in the Riggs family since the late 18th century, and which remained in the Riggs family as a working farm until the 1930s. Samuel Riggs II built the Italianate house to abut a circa 1800 two-story log structure, no longer standing, and built by, Samuel Riggs I, a county commissioner, state legislator, and one of the county's wealthiest citizens. The Samuel Riggs property provides an illustration of the evolution of rural domestic building in Montgomery County and provides an historical link to one of the founding members of the county. The property meets Criterion C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places.



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6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
DOMESTIC Smokehouse  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
roof Cross Gable: Asphalt Shingles  
walls Frame: Aluminum Siding  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance  
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance circa 1882-1930  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates circa 1800  
circa 1882  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References  
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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*Annals of Sandy Spring*, Vols. I-V, Sandy Spring, MD.: Privately Printed.

Boyd, T.H.S., *History of Montgomery County*, 1879. Reprint. Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Comp., 1989.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, MD.* Silver Spring, MD., 1952, 1962.

MacMaster, Richard K. and Ray Eldon Hiebert. *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1776-1976.* Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, MD., Vertical Files.

Montgomery County Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland.

Mutual Assurance Society Records, Montgomery County Historical Society.

Nesbitt, Martha C. and Mary Reading Miller. *Chronicles of Sandy Spring Friends Meeting and Environs.* Sandy Spring, MD., 1987.

Noble, Allen G. and Richard K. Cleek. *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and other Farm Structures.* New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1995.

Sandy Spring Museum, Sandy Spring, Maryland, Vertical Files.

Genealogical Abstracts, *Montgomery County Sentinel 1855-1899.*

Maps and Drawings and Photographs

Hopkins, G.M., comp. *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland*, 1879. Reprint. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.

Martenet, Simon L. *Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County*, 1865.

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10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property 60 acres

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)** The Samuel Riggs House occupies Parcel 303 on Montgomery County Tax Map HV.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

This parcel is part of a larger parcel of land that was associated with the property since the 18th century.

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11. Form Prepared By  
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name/title Kimberly Williams/Michele Naru, Architectural Historians  
organization M-NCPHC date January 14, 1999  
street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone 301/563-3403  
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910  
=====

12. Property Owner  
=====

name Meryl L. Mayne and Helena Mayne  
street & number 5310 Riggs Road telephone 301-926-2184  
city or town Brookeville state MD zip code 20833  
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Section 7 Page 1

Samuel Riggs Farm  
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county and state

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The property known as the Samuel Riggs House, or alternatively as the Oaks I, is located on a 44-acre parcel of land at 5310 Riggs Road in rural northeastern Montgomery County. The property includes a circa 1882 farmhouse, set back from the road with a large expanse of lawn and mature shade trees in front, and two domestic outbuildings at the rear. Adjacent to the main house, and included on the property is a large complex of seven or more non-contributing farm structures, including several barns, equipment sheds and other agricultural buildings, as well as a contemporary dwelling, trailers and other make-shift structures.

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

Built circa 1882, the Samuel Riggs House is a 2-1/2-story, three-bay, cross-gable frame structure. The house is designed in an Italianate style and characterized by its original bracketed porch, its bracketed cornice, and its pedimented windows. A two-story rear ell was built circa 1974 on the footprint of a circa 1800 log house which originally occupied the site.

Exterior Description:

Main Block:

Set upon a stone foundation, the 2-1/2-story frame house is clad with aluminum siding and is covered with a cross-gable roof with a projecting central gable. The roof, sheathed with asphalt shingles, features two brick chimneys (one inside end brick chimney and one chimney at the back wall) with recessed brick panels. A full-width porch extends across the front elevation of the house.

The principal (north) elevation is divided into three bays consisting of a central entry and flanking windows on the first story and three windows on the second story. The entrance door, located on center, is well defined by its double, two-paneled wood doors, side-lights and transom, all set within a broken pediment surround. The door panels have round-arched upper panels, while both the side lights and transom are divided into two lights. To either side of the doors are long, 2/4 windows which open onto the porch floor and feature broken pedimented window surrounds.

The second story features a partite window on center above the entry door and two, single, 2/2 windows to either side. The partite window includes a narrow central with a 1/1 sash and two, smaller sidelight windows, also with a 1/1 sash. Each of these three windows is capped by broken pediment surrounds. The single windows to either side similarly have broken pediment surrounds.

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A single 1/1 window with a broken pediment surround is located in the attic level within the central projecting gable. Above this rises the bracketed cornice with large paired brackets interspersed with three smaller brackets.

The single-story porch, which extends across the north elevation, is set upon a concrete slab foundation, but retains its original bracketed porch posts and knee brackets. The porch roof is clad with standing seam metal.

The east elevation is two bays deep and features a two-story, three-sided projecting bay window. This window bay has long and narrow 1/1 windows on each of its three faces (two single windows on the front face, and single windows on side walls). All of these windows have broken pediment surrounds and, at their lower corners, bracketed trim work. The bay is covered with a flat roof, supported by a bracketed cornice. Above the bay in the attic level of the gable-end are two, single, 1/1 windows with broken pedimented surrounds. The gable end is articulated with bracketed cornice returns and a bracketed raking cornice.

The west elevation has an inside end brick chimney and no openings on the first and second stories. Two, 2/2 windows with broken pedimented surrounds, pierce the attic level in the gable end.

The south elevation includes a two-story rear ell projecting from the east half of the house, and single 2/2 windows with broken pediments in the center and west end bay of the house.

Rear ell:

The rear ell, built circa 1974, was constructed on the footprint of the original dwelling on the site--a circa 1800 log dwelling.<sup>1</sup> This ell is a two-story frame structure covered with a gable roof and set upon a concrete slab foundation. The south end wall of the ell has an enclosed and pedimented entry porch.

Outbuildings:

There are two contributing domestic outbuildings and a group of seven or more non-contributing agricultural buildings.

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<sup>1</sup> Hand-written notes located in the house files at the Sandy Spring Museum indicate that the log house may have been moved at that time to the Lathrop E. Smith-Meadowside Nature Center and Environmental Education complex.

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Domestic outbuildings: The two domestic outbuildings are immediately behind the house. One is a small, gable-roofed log structure, possibly dating to the 19th century. The other is a frame structure, also covered with a gable roof, and probably from the early 20th century.

A two-story, gable-roofed frame barn with a hay hood is located just beyond the domestic complex, between it and the non-contributing group of buildings. The walls are clad with board and batten, painted red. The non-contributing complex included cement block structures, mobile homes, and a pre-fabricated metal "harvest store."

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Samuel Riggs Farm, also known as The Oaks I, is located at 5310 Riggs Road, in rural northeastern Montgomery County on property that was historically associated with the prominent Riggs family. The property includes a circa 1882 Italianate-style dwelling that was built onto an older two-story log structure, dated circa 1800. This log structure, no longer standing, was built by Samuel Riggs, a county commissioner, state legislator, and one of the county's wealthiest citizens. The 1882 house was built by his direct descendant, Samuel Riggs, II, and the first Riggs resident of the site. The Samuel Riggs property provides an illustration of the evolution of rural domestic building in Montgomery County and provides an historical link to one of the founding members of the county. The property meets Criterion C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Context

The tract of land on which the Samuel Riggs Farm stands was originally part of the extensive "Addition to Brooke Grove" tract resurveyed for James Brooke in 1762. The land remained in the Brooke family until near the end of the 18th century, when Isaac Briggs (who married a Brooke) purchased the 222-1/2-acre tract from his wife's father, Roger Brooke, IV. Isaac Briggs, a Quaker who came to Montgomery County in 1795, became an accomplished engineer and scientific farmer, and active member of the Sandy Spring-Brookeville community. In two separate transactions dated March 1796, and December, 1797, Isaac Briggs sold the tract of land to Samuel Riggs.<sup>2</sup> Samuel Riggs was a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War in Col. Zadok's Militia and a prominent man in the community.<sup>3</sup> Samuel Riggs is said to have built the original, and now-demolished, two-story log house, known as Oaks I, on the property around 1800. Riggs, however, never actually resided in this house.

Following Samuel Riggs' death, his son, Reuben Riggs acquired the property, according to his will. The will, processed June 15, 1814, lists his wife, Amelia (Dorsey), as deceased and names six surviving sons--Thomas, Reuben, George Washington, Romulus, Remus, and Elisha--and three daughters--Polly Griffith, Henrietta Gaither,

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<sup>2</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book Liber G Folio 161, Liber H Folio 82.

<sup>3</sup>Samuel Riggs IV, interview, 4/15/85 by Margaret Coleman, Maryland Historical Trust.

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and Julia Riggs. In that will, Reuben Riggs was left 222 ½ acres "where he now lives" (presumably the two-story log house designated as Oaks I). Upon inheriting the land, Reuben built a new house, which is called The Oaks II (M:23-26), near the Oaks I. Reuben Riggs lived at the Oaks II with his wife, Mary Wilson Thomas Riggs.<sup>4</sup> Reuben Riggs was a prosperous farmer and a wealthy businessman who by his death, in 1829, owned over 800 acres of land in Montgomery County.<sup>5</sup> Reuben and Mary Riggs had seven children, though at Reuben Riggs' death in 1829, only one of his seven children had reached adulthood. Accordingly, he left directions that his land should be divided when his oldest son, Samuel (Samuel Riggs of R), reached 21 years of age. At that point, Samuel and Mary, the widow, were to select two or more respectable neighbors to divide the land fairly.

Five years later, Samuel Riggs of R and Mary chose two of Reuben's brothers, Thomas and Remus, as well as a local farmer, Ephraim Gaither. This "committee" divided Reuben's land equally between Samuel Riggs of R, his son, and his wife, Mary W. Riggs. Samuel received Lot 1, which is the wooded area north and west of the present Riggs Road, bordering on the golf course. Lot 1 consisted of 188.25 acres of land, including the two-story log Oaks I. Mary received Lot 2, a tract of 282.25 acres which included the Oaks II. This division was recorded in court on August 5, 1835.<sup>6</sup> By that time, two of the daughters and Samuel Riggs of R had married. Samuel Riggs apparently renovated the Oaks I, moving into it with his new bride. This was the first time a Riggs is known to have lived in this house. Mary apparently lived in the Oaks II with the single children.

In 1849, Samuel Riggs of R insured the Oaks I with the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County against fire.<sup>7</sup> The fire insurance policy included insurance on the "frame" dwelling house, frame and stone barn, log servants' house, a wagon house, and a corn crib. The dwelling was described as a "two-story frame dwelling 42-1/2 feet by 20 feet" and as having four rooms and a passage on the first story and four chambers on the second story.

The 1850 census listed household 174 (Oaks I) as Samuel Riggs of R with a wife, six children, and a value of \$3,500.

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<sup>4</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book Liber P Folio 510.

<sup>5</sup>Farquhar, Roger Brooke. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland, Judd & Detweiler, Washington D.C., 1962, p.310-311.

<sup>6</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book Liber BS 7 Folio 283-285. (Includes Map)

<sup>7</sup> Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Policy 241.

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The census also lists household 173 (Oaks II) as Mary W. Riggs, 62, and Hezekiah Riggs, 32, farmer, and value of \$2,240 for the property.

Samuel Riggs of R was one of the county's wealthiest citizens. He served as county commissioner from 1856-1861 and twice served in the state legislature.<sup>8</sup> By his death on November 3, 1882, Samuel Riggs of R had built the estate's acreage up to over 1000.<sup>9</sup>

Samuel Riggs willed Oaks I to his son, Samuel Riggs II and his wife Laura H. Riggs (Elizabeth Hamilton Riggs).<sup>10</sup> Upon inheriting the property in 1882, Samuel Riggs II and his wife began construction of the large Italianate-style dwelling, incorporating the original Oaks I structure as a rear wing. They also began to "modernize" the house by adding interior bathrooms with hot and cold running water provided by a mechanical ram that pumped water from a spring a half mile from the house to an approximately 200- gallon wooden tank on the third floor. Water was heated by the coal burning furnace, and electricity for the house, barns, and chicken house was provided by the coal cell battery attached to a gasoline fired engine. Together with four other neighbors, Samuel Riggs II and Laura Riggs installed a private telephone lines to serve the five farms.<sup>11</sup>

Samuel Riggs II died in 1915 and the property was willed to his wife, Laura.<sup>12</sup> Laura V.H. Riggs et al (heirs of Samuel Riggs) deeded the property to her son, Samuel Riggs Jr., III (also known as Samuel Riggs of S) in 1922.<sup>13</sup> Samuel Riggs Jr., III, was a member of the county board of commissioners and a judge in the police court.<sup>14</sup> Seven years after acquiring the Oaks I, he died leaving the estate to his wife, Mary Darrington Christopher Riggs.<sup>15</sup> Mary Riggs was the daughter of James Carstairs Christopher and Henrietta Griffith Christopher, a descendant of the Hon. Henry Griffith.

Mary Riggs sold the farm to Dr. James E. and Theresa Catherine Ament in 1930, in the midst of the Depression.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>Geological Abstracts, Montgomery County Sentinel, 1855-1899.

<sup>9</sup>Farquhar, op. cit.

<sup>10</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Will Book RWC 6 Folio 306.

<sup>11</sup>Samuel Riggs IV op. cit.

<sup>12</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Will Book HCA 19 Folio 41.

<sup>13</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book Liber 320 Folio 188.

<sup>14</sup>Farquhar, op. cit.

<sup>15</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Will Book PEW 14 Folio 282.

<sup>16</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book Liber 502 Folio 265.

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Mrs Riggs, widow, was unable to farm alone and was in need of money. Dr. Ament was president of the financially ailing National Park Seminary Company of Montgomery County, located at Forest Glen, sought land where he could save money by growing produce for the school, and also provide a horsemanship program for his students.<sup>17</sup> The transaction thus served their mutual needs.

In 1957 Dr. Ament's Widow, Teresa Catherine Ament, sold the house and 60.24 acres of land to the present owners, Meryl and M. H. Mayne.<sup>18</sup> According to Mrs. Mayne, she and her husband (now deceased) attempted to repair the log part of the house, but found extensive termite damage and razed all but one room, replacing it with a new addition. They use the land and barns for hog farming.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>Samuel Riggs IV, op. cit.

<sup>18</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book Liber 2315 Folio 579.

<sup>19</sup>M.H. Mayne, interview, 4/26/85.

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**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Piedmont

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Rural Agrarian Intensification, 1680-1815  
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** Domestic  
Agriculture/Subsistence

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

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**Chain of Title:**

In 1797 Isaac and Hannah Briggs deeded the Land to Samuel Riggs. Will Book 1 Folio 26.

C. 1800 the original two story log house was built on the property. But Samuel Riggs never lived in it.

In 1812 Samuel Riggs gave the property to his son, Reuben in 1812. Reuben built another house on the property called Oaks II. Liber P Folio 510.

August 5, 1835 Reuben Riggs, deceased, divided his lands equally between his son, Samuel Riggs of R and his wife Mary Riggs. Division of Real Estate, Liber BS 7 Folio 283. A plat map in deed and dated April 28, 1835 shows Lot 1 (Samuel Riggs' part--188 acres) and Lot 2 (Mary Riggs' part ---282 acres.) The land contained two dwellings--The Oaks I and The Oaks II. Samuel Riggs of R and his wife Milcah lived in the Oaks I.

1882 Samuel Riggs of R died. His property was willed to his son, Samuel Riggs II and his wife Laura V.H. Riggs. Will Book RWC 6 Folio 306.

1915 Samuel Riggs II died. Laura V.H. Riggs , his wife, was willed the property. Will Book HCA 19 Folio 41.

August 21, 1922 Laura V. H. Riggs et al (heirs of Samuel Riggs)gave the property to her son Samuel Riggs Jr., III. Liber 320 Folio 188.

1925 Samuel Riggs III died. Mary Darrington Christopher Riggs, Samuel Riggs III wife was willed the property. Liber PEW 14 Folio 282.

April 1,1930 Mary Riggs sold the property to Dr. James E. Ament and Teresa Catherine Ament, wife. Liber 502 Folio 265.

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James Ament dies. The property is willed to his wife Teresa.

February 15, 1957

Teresa Catherine Ament, widow sold the property to Meryl L. Mayne and M. Helena Mayne, Present Owners. Liber 2315 Folio 579.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Oaks I

and/or common Samuel Riggs Farm

## 2. Location

street & number 5310 Riggs Road  not for publicationcity, town Gaithersburg  vicinity of  congressional districtstate MD  county Montgomery

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Merhle L. and M. H. Mayne

street &amp; number 5310 Riggs Road telephone no.: 926-2184

city, town Gaithersburg state and zip code MD 20879

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 2315

street & number  folio 579

city, town Rockville state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MNCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Park Historian's Office

city, town Rockville state MD

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This 2 1/2 story victorian house has narrow aluminum siding. One room of the original 18th century log house remains. There is an "L" built by the current owner on the site of the original house which follows the outline of the original, 11 room, log house. There are 8 outbuildings including one log cabin. The house is painted white with black trim, and the outbuildings are mostly red, board and batten, set in a bend of the public road which curves around the house so that both the north and the east facades face Riggs Road. West of the house is a field of growing farm crops. Landscaping includes fourteen mature oaks, two huge maples, fragrant old lilacs and miscellaneous plantings.

The north (front) facade has a 1-story porch with squared columns and ornamental pendants at either end; the porch ends are decorated with ornamental brackets. Above the porch roof is a cluster of three narrow windows, two short and the center one taller, all having Tudor arched openings. Above these windows the roof is pierced with a center gable.

The east side has a 2-story bay window with 1 over 1 windows with arched, Tudor openings. At the lower corners of each window on this facade is bracketed trim. This is the side where the original house was built and forms the L of the new, 2-story addition. Originally the main entrance with a portico was on this side. The windows of the addition are aluminum sash and horizontal, 2 over 2 pane.

On the south side is the original portico which has been moved to this location and enclosed with clapboards. The two original pillars are Roman Doric and the original Tudor trim of the arched opening has been retained. All the openings on this facade are Tudor arched. A 15-pane, fixed glass window is set halfway between the ground and the roof.

The west side has 2, 2 over 2 windows with Tudor arches in the gable.

The roof is black asphalt shingles trimmed with scroll brackets. Eaves are boxed and there are 2 brick, interior chimneys.

The foundation is uncoursed stone in the original and the victorian parts, brick at the bay window and cement in the new addition.

Windows in the victorian section are mostly 2 over 2.

There are 8 outbuildings. One is of log construction, 5 are frame, 1 is cement block, and 1 is a cylindrical, corrugated metal, Long "harvestore." The log cabin has wooden pegs, an asphalt shingled roof, cement floor, no window openings and one, short door, approximately 5 feet high. The largest barn is a 3-story bank barn with a metal, gambrel roof with 3 loopers which are pierced metal, ornamented with metal scrolls. The first story is of cement block with 8 paned, fixed windows; there is a drive-in ramp into the 2nd floor. The exterior is painted red, board and batten.

The house interior has a 3 flight, geometrical stair, open string, with ornamental brackets. There are etched marble fireplaces and vertical tubed radiators.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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** 1797 & 1882      **Builder/Architect** Samuel Riggs & Samuel Riggs II

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This commodious house with spiral staircase and marble fireplaces, and its numerous farm outbuildings reflect the lucrative harvests possible in the prime farmland of the Laytonsville region of Montgomery County. The original log house and its Victorian addition were built by one of the county's founding families to whom it belonged through five generations. Through a total of six generations of this family, five men were named Samuel Riggs, the first of whom built it before the turn of the 19th century, and sold it in 1930 as a casualty of the Great Depression. The current owner has maintained the Victorian architecture and built an addition following the lines of the 18th century log structure.

On part of the 222 1/2 acres of land deeded to him in 1797 by Isaac and Hannah Briggs,<sup>1</sup> Samuel Riggs built the original, 2 story loghouse. Samuel Riggs was a lieutenant in Col. Zadok Magruder's militia during the revolution.<sup>2</sup> His house was 2 stories, 5 bays by 3 bays with covered entrance portico. Touches of luxury included handmade glass and imported locks with brass stamps depicting the Lion and Unicorn of Great Britain.<sup>3</sup>

Lt. Samuel Riggs did not live at The Oaks. His son, Reuben Riggs, was deeded the land in 1812,<sup>4</sup> and built Oaks II where he lived with his wife, Mary Willson Thomas Riggs. Their son, Samuel Riggs, married Milcah W. Griffith, a descendant of the Hon. Henry Griffith, a county founder; the couple was deeded The Oaks I and The Oaks II, and lived at The Oaks I.<sup>5</sup> This was the first Samuel Riggs to live at this house, and was known as Samuel Riggs of R or Samuel Riggs of Reuben. Samuel Riggs of R built up the estate to around 1000 acres and served as a county commissioner from 1856-1861.<sup>6</sup>

Samuel Riggs of R's son, Samuel Riggs II (actually the third Samuel Riggs of this account), and his wife, Laura Virginia Howard Riggs, received the property in the will of Samuel Riggs of R, 1882.<sup>7</sup> The same year they built the Victorian addition and added modern conveniences as soon as they were available. According to their grandson, Samuel Riggs IV, the house had bathrooms before 1908 with hot and cold running water provided by a mechanical ram that pumped water from a spring a half mile from the house to an approximately 200-gallon wooden tank on the third floor. Water was heated by the coal burning furnace, and electricity for the house, barns and chicken house was provided by a "Delco" wet cell battery attached to a gasoline fired engine. Together with four other neighbors, Samuel II and Laura Riggs installed a private telephone company to serve the five farms.<sup>8</sup>

Laura Virginia Riggs was willed the property in 1915.<sup>9</sup>

The next owner was Samuel Riggs III, son of Laura and Samuel II, who was born at The Oaks I in 1880<sup>10</sup> and was deeded the property in 1922.<sup>11</sup> He married Mary Darrington Christopher, the daughter of James Carstairs Christopher and Henrietta Griffith Christopher, another descendant of the Hon. Henry Griffith. Samuel Riggs III was a judge of the police court and enjoyed foxhounds and horsemanship. Samuel Riggs III (also known as Samuel Riggs of S) willed the property to his wife, Mary Riggs.<sup>12</sup> Their son, Samuel Riggs IV, was born at The Oaks I.

Mary Riggs sold the farm to Dr. James E. and Teresa Catherine Ament in 1930.<sup>13</sup>

Dr. Ament as well as Mrs. Riggs, was suffering from economic trauma caused by the Great Depression. She was a widow unable to farm alone. Ament was president of the financially ailing National Park Seminary Company of Montgomery County, located at Forest Glen, and sought land where he could save money by growing produce for the school, and also provide a horsemanship program for his students.<sup>14</sup>

In 1957 Dr. Ament's widow, Teresa Catherine Ament, sold the house and 60.24 acres of land to the present owners, Merhle and M. H. Mayne. According to Mrs. Mayne, she and her husband (now deceased) attempted to repair the log part of the house, but found extensive termite damage and razed all but one room, replacing it with a new addition, and moving the portico from the east facade to its present location on the south facade. They use the land and barns for hog farming.<sup>16</sup>

#### Footnotes

1. Montgomery County Register of Wills, 1/26, 1814.
2. Samuel Riggs IV, interview, 4/15/85.
3. Roger Brooke Farquhar, Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, MD., p. 310.
4. Montgomery County Land Records P/510, 1912.
5. Land Records, BS 7/233, 1935.
6. Farquhar, op. cit.
7. Wills, RWC 6/306, 1882.
8. Samuel Riggs IV op. cit.
9. Wills, HCA 19/41, 1915.
10. Samuel Riggs IV op. cit.
11. Land Records, 320/188 - 190, 1922.
12. Wills, PEW 14/282, 1925.
13. Land Records, 502/265, 1930.
14. Samuel Riggs IV, op. cit.
15. Land Records, 2315/579, 1957.
16. M. H. Mayne, interview, 4/26/85.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M.23/27

Montgomery County Land Records and Register of Wills.  
Farquhar, Roger Brooke; Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland; Brookeville, MD,  
American Historical Research Association, 1981.  
Interviews: Mrs. M. Mayne and Samuel Riags IV, April, 1985.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 60.24 acres

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

*Handwritten notes*

*Handwritten notes*

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

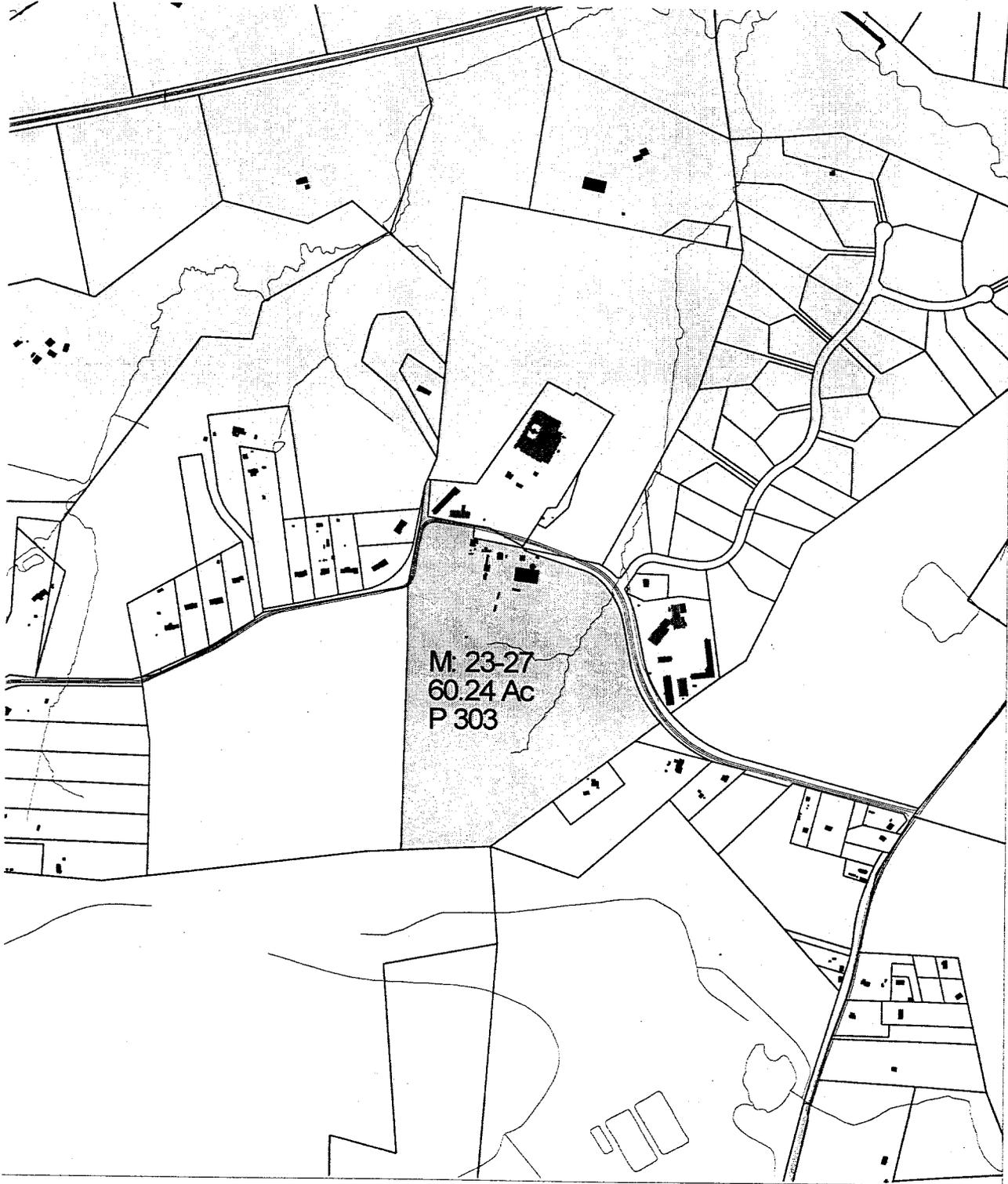
name/title Margaret M. Coleman  
 organization Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1985  
 street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 city or town Rockville state MD

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

# SAMUEL RIGGS FARM (M: 23-27)



General User Application



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760



Scale 1" = 1000'



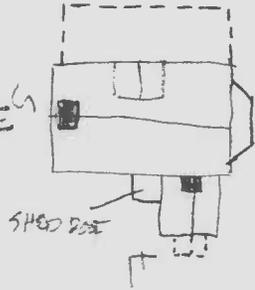
M: 23/27  
SAMUEL RIGGS  
FARM



N

BOUNDARY MARKER

MAIN HOUSE



SABLE W/ EXTENDED ROOF



TRAILER HOME



LOG OUTBUILDING  
(SMOKE SHED)  
W/ WOOD CHIMNEY



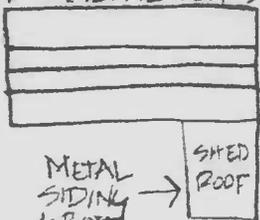
WOOD SIDED SHEDS W/ METAL ROOFS

BOARD + BATTEN  
WOOD SIDED SHED W/ METAL ROOF

WOOD SIDED BARN



VERTICAL WOOD SIDED BARN W/ GAMBEREL ROOF + METAL ROOF SYSTEM



METAL SIDING + ROOF

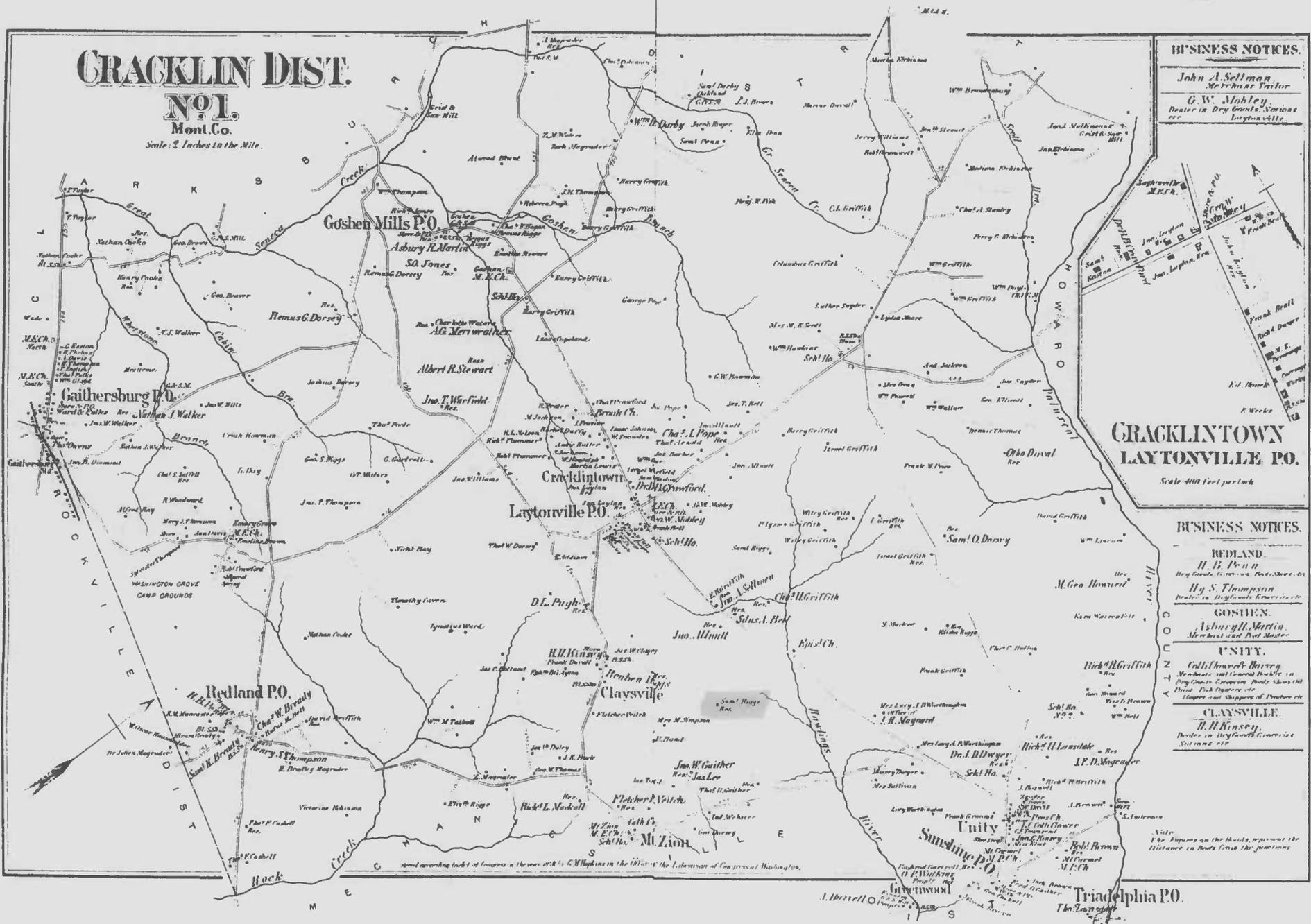


GAMBEREL  
YIN/YANG



Silo - METAL

RIGGS ROAD



**BUSINESS NOTICES.**

John A. Sellman  
 Weir Bros. & Traylor  
 G. W. Mobley  
 Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions  
 &c. Laytonville.

**CRACKLINTOWN  
 LAYTONVILLE P.O.**

Scale 400 Feet per Inch

**BUSINESS NOTICES.**

**REDLAND.**  
 H. B. Proun  
 Dry Goods, Groceries, &c.  
 My S. Thompson  
 Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, &c.

**GOSHEN.**  
 Asbury R. Martin  
 Merchant and Post Master

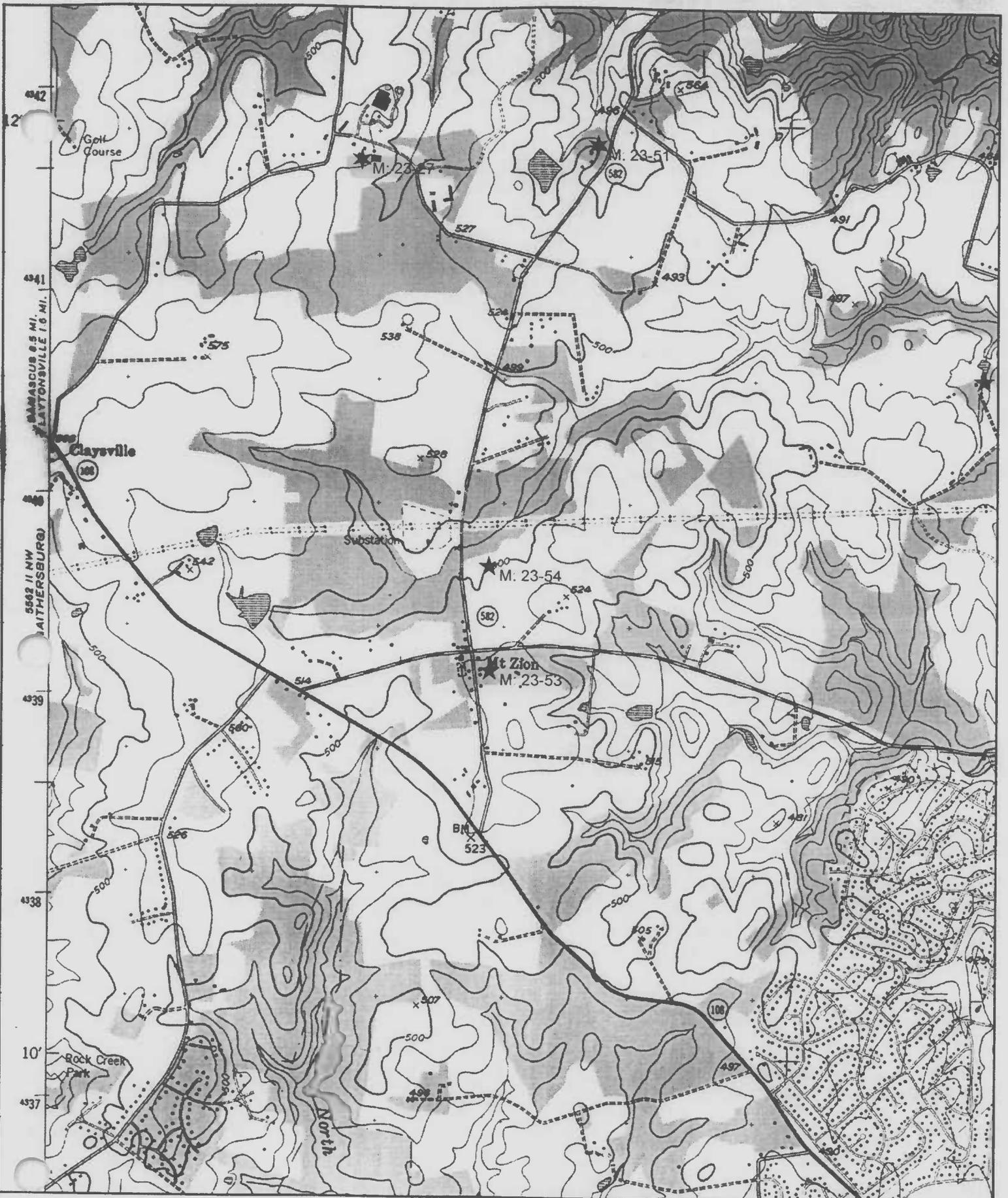
**UNITY.**  
 Callaway & Harvey  
 Merchants and General Dealers in  
 Dry Goods, Groceries, &c. Also  
 Dealers in Fish, Game, &c.

**CLAYSVILLE.**  
 R. H. Kinsey  
 Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries,  
 &c. Notions, &c.

Note: The Figures on the Maps represent the  
 Distances in Rods from the junctions

M:23-27

Hopkins, G.M., comp. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of  
 Montgomery, Maryland, 1879. Reprint. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.



Name: SANDY SPRING  
 Date: 7/13/99  
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 11' 12.9" N 077° 05' 58.4" W  
 Caption: SAMUEL RIGGS FARM (M: 23-27)  
 5310 Riggs Rd.



SANDY SPRING

LAYTONSVILLE 12 MI

30"

341

LAYTONSVILLE 16 MI

10

MILLERSBURG

BM Intity

Sunshine

BM 520

BM

518

585

478

445

546

497

500

481

97

471

452

486

Hunting RIVER

496

564

582

491

446

477

471

478

527

493

497

400

432

400

400

Camp Bennett

PARK

Claysville

108

Substation

528

538

524

499

500

463

400

400

400

489

429

582

23/53

Mt Zion

514

M:23-21



M:23-27  
Samuel Riggs Farm (The Oaks I)  
5310 Riggs Road, Laytonville

**Jennifer K. Cosham**  
**March 7, 2004**  
**Digital color photo on file at MHT**



M:23-27  
Samuel Riggs Farm (The Oaks I)  
8310 Riggs Road, Laytonville

**Jennifer K. Cosham**  
**March 7, 2004**  
**Digital color photo on file at MHT**



M  
23-27

SAMUEL RIGGS FARM  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

7-14-99

MARYLAND SHPO  
WEST ELEVATION

1 OF 4



<sup>Mi</sup>  
23-27

SAMUEL RIGGS FARM  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

7-14-09

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTHWEST OBLIQUE

2 OF 4



M 23-27

SAMUEL RIGGS FARM  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD  
MICHELE NARU

7-14-99

MARYLAND SHPO  
NORTH ELEVATION

3 of 4



<sup>Mi</sup>  
23-27

SAMUEL RIGGS FARM

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

7-14-99

MARYLAND SHPO

CORN CRIB BARN; LOCATED SE OF MAIN HOUSE

40F4



MJ 3-27 THE OAKS I

MMC  
4-85  
15a



M23-27 THE OAKS I

MMC  
4-85  
11a



<sup>M</sup>23/27 THE OAKS 1

MMC  
4-85  
7a



M: 23/27 THE OAKS I

MMC  
8a 4-85