

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME

COMMON: Ridenour Farm

AND/OR HISTORIC: Spessard Farm

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Old Forge Road, south side, 1 mile northwest of Chewsville

CITY OR TOWN: Chewsville vicinity

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Washington

3. CLASSIFICATION

Table with 4 columns: CATEGORY (Check One), OWNERSHIP, STATUS, ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC. Includes checkboxes for Building, Private, Occupied, etc.

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
Agricultural, Commercial, Educational, Entertainment, Government, Industrial, Military, Museum, Park, Private Residence, Religious, Scientific, Transportation, Other (Specify), Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Van C. Ridenour

STREET AND NUMBER: Route 5

CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown STATE: Maryland

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown STATE: Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 258/581

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: [ ] Federal [ ] State [ ] County [ ] Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION		
CONDITION	(Check One)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	
	(Check One)	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50% <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE		
<p>This house is located on the south side of Old Forge Road, about one mile northwest of Chewsville and approximately one-half mile west of the intersection of Old Forge Road and Maryland Route 62. It is situated on a rise of ground and faces north.</p> <p>The structure is a one-and-half story, three-bay frame dwelling sheathed with white aluminum siding. Trim is painted black. A two-bay el extends to the rear, with leanto additions on its west and south elevations.</p> <p>The wall construction is frame with brick nogging over which weather boarding and later aluminum siding have been placed.</p> <p>Windows appear to be spaced evenly in the front elevation. Those at the first story have six-over-six light double-hung sashes ehdl within narrow frames. Three-over-three light sashes are set in upper story openings.</p> <p>The main entrance is located in the center bay of the front elevation. The entranceway is simple in appearance and is framed similarly to the windows. A narrow four-light transom is present over the door.</p> <p>The roof is covered with modern asphalt shingles and extends beyond the end walls of the house. The eaves are finished with plain boxing.</p> <p>A one-story porch supported by chamfered square posts extends along the front elevation. A modern exterior brick flue is attached to the north elevation of the leanto. An inside end chimney is brick is located in the south gable of the el.</p> <p>The name Oswald and the date 1863 are inscribed on the inside wall of a closet. A photograph of the house, apparently taken during the late 19th century, shows the structure without the front porch and with a central chimney in the front section.</p> <p>A large barn is located west of the house. The dwelling is in excellent condition and stands on a tract containing 65.52 acres.</p>		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginol	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Plonning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Lonscope	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sociol/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literoture	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communicotions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportotien	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The area of significance of this house is its architecture. It is said to have been a hide-out during the Civil War and is, therefore, significant from a military standpoint. As an example of a frame house dating from the second half of the 19th century, it is presentative of a sizable number of dwellings in the area. Frame houses dating from before 1850 are rare in Washington County.

According to tradition, a group of Civil War soldiers hid in the foundations of the house as it was being built. The present owners have in their possession a cannon ball which is said to have been shot through the barn roof.

In the Washington County atlas of 1877, the property is listed under the name S. K. Oswald. Samuel Kempfer Oswald was born December 21, 1831. In 1854, he married Lydia Ann Spessard and began farming. An 1859 map of Washington County lists this property and several surrounding parcels as belonging to the Spessard Family.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Williams, Thomas J. C., History of Washington County, Vol. 2, Hagerstown: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 65.52 acres

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant	
ORGANIZATION Washington County Historical Sites Survey	DATE October, 1974
STREET AND NUMBER: Court House Annex	
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown	STATE Maryland

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



WA-E-103

N. E.

Jan. 19 1941

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON, D. C.  
HISTORICAL SITES DIVISION



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Jan 1974

**PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY**