

ABSTRACT

WA-I-271

1802

Castle Plains Farm

Cearfoss Vicinity

private

This farm complex includes a two story brick house, a stone and frame bank barn and domestic structures such as a brick smoke house and a wooden cucumber pump. The house is particularly worthy of note as an example of an unusually early brick dwelling in Washington County. Presumed to have been built about 1802, it is older than most brick houses in the area, where the majority of such structures date from after 1820. The house has a number of exterior characteristics which suggest its relatively early date, such as the molded brick water table at all four elevations, the use of Flemish bonding at the end walls in addition to the front elevation. Also indicative of its age is American or common bond with three instead of the customary five courses of stretchers between header rows. The house follows the five bay, central entrance plan which was prominent in Maryland and Pennsylvania during the 18th and 19th centuries.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-I -271
District 13
Map 9
Parcel 3
M&C # 220-~~48~~5885
580

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Castle Plains Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Maryland route 63, the Greencastle-Williamsport Pike

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF **Cearfoss**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

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

Castle Plains Farm

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Route # 6

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21740

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 628

Folio #: 288

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust Survey # 4090

DATE

Summer 1967

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 < 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This farm is located on the east side of Maryland route 63, the Williamsport-Greencastle Pike, south of the Mason-Dixon Line near Cearfoss in Washington County.

The house rests on fairly level ground parallel to the road and faces east. The structure is a two story, five bay brick dwelling on low fieldstone foundations. Attached to its north end wall is a stone, brick and frame two story shed roofed addition. A one story enclosed porch has been added to the rear of the main section.

Flemish bonding is displayed at the front or east elevation and the two end walls as well. The rear or west wall has American or common bonding with three courses of stretchers between header rows. A water table of quarter round bricks is present at all four walls, seven courses above the foundation. High flat arches of brick are present above the windows and doors. The entire surface of the structure has been painted red.

Windows appear to be spaced evenly in the front wall. They have wide frames with butt joints and no pegs showing. The frames are trimmed with a bead at the inside edge and hold single pane, double hung sashes which have replaced the originals. Windows at the front elevation are flanked with shutters. At the upper story, louvered shutters are used; at the first story shutters have paneled lower sections while their upper portions are louvered. Windows at the other elevations which have no shutters do have hinge pins suggesting that shutters were sent at one time.

The main entrance is located in the center bay of the front elevation. The door is framed similarly to the windows and includes a narrow transom. The central three bays of the front wall at the first story are sheltered with a flat roofed porch supported by heavy chamfered square posts with Victorian brackets. A similar porch with turned posts and a shed roof extends across the front elevation of the wing.

The roof of the main section is covered with modern asphalt shingles and extends beyond the end walls of the house. Late 19th century eaves and barge boards appear to have replaced the original work. Large brick chimneys with several courses of corbeling at their tops are located inside the gable ends.

A brass door knocker in the possession of the present owner of the farm which is said to have been removed from the house is inscribed with the name Dr. H. Scheffely and the date 1802.

Just southwest of the dwelling is a square brick smoke house resting on low fieldstone foundations. It is constructed in common bond with three courses of stretchers between header rows. The hipped roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles like those used on the house.

A wooden cucumber pump stands in front of the north wing of the house.

Behind the domestic structures is a large bank barn with stone ends below frame gables. It faces west.

The buildings are in excellent condition on a farm which contains 130.79 acres.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> early 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 Dr. H. Schnebely 1802 BUILDER/ARCHITECT
 (On brass door knocker)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This farm complex includes a two story brick house, a stone and frame bank barn and domestic structures such as a brick smoke house and a wooden cucumber pump. The house is particularly worthy of note as an example of an unusually early brick dwelling in Washington County. Presumed to have been built about 1802, it is older than most brick houses in the area, where the majority of such structures date from after 1820. The house has a number of exterior characteristics which suggest its relatively early date, such as the molded brick water table at all four elevations, the use of Flemish bonding at the end walls in addition to the front elevation. Also indicative of its age is American or common bond with three instead of the customary five courses of stretchers between header rows. The house follows the five bay, central entrance plan which was prominent in Maryland and Pennsylvania during the 18th and 19th centuries.

According to the present owner the farm has been in the Hoffman family for seven generations. Part of the land grant, "Castle Plains;" the farm which originally included 265 1/8 acres was owned by Daniel Schnebely during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The property was resurveyed at the time it was sold to John Felker in 1818 (CC/754). In his will, probated August 29, 1846, John Felker left the portion of the farm which includes this complex to his son Abraham (Will Liber D/621). In April of 1855, Abraham Felker and Catherine, his wife sold the farm to Christian Hoffman (IN10/274). It has descended through the Hoffman family to the present. (LBN2/484, 127/47, 211/250).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Land Records.

Washington County Probate Records.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 130.79 acres

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

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE

March 1977

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street

TELEPHONE

791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

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



WA-1-271

Castle Plains Farm

From northwest

[Faint, illegible handwritten notes or a sketch, possibly describing the farm's layout or features.]



WA-1-271
Castle Plains Farm
From southwest

Castle Plains Farm

WA-1-271

From southwest

Castle Plains

WA-1-271

From southwest



WA-1-271

Castle Plains Farm

From east

[Faint handwritten notes, possibly including "1947", "1948", "1949", "1950", "1951", "1952", "1953", "1954", "1955", "1956", "1957", "1958", "1959", "1960"]





WA-1-271
Castle Plains Farm
From south

By the way, I have
143.41
C. Cook's
1938-39
Cook's



WA-1-271

Castle Plains Farm

Smoke House on south side
of house from north



10/1/20

7/1/20

6/1/20

5/1/20

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



100-1000
100
100

PAULA STONER DICKER
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON DC
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



1975 10-22

1975 10-22

1975 10-22

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY