

ABSTRACT

WA-I-278

1798

Bowstetter-Martin Farm  
Cearfoss-Hagerstown Vicinity  
private

This farmhouse, dated 1798, and built of native limestone is a two story, three bay structure with a side entrance in the front elevation. Architecturally it is significant as a well documented example of an 18th century dwelling. Constructed of local stone, the building is representative of a major construction tradition in Washington County and the Cumberland Valley where limestone is plentiful.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI # 220445235  
584

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bowstetter-Martin Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

South of Cearfoss Pike, Maryland route 58

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Cearfoss-Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

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

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Wilmer E. Martin

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Route # 6, Box 34

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 #: 497

Folio #: 196

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

WA I-276

CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED < 50%

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This farm is located at the end of a long private lane which extends in a southerly direction from Maryland route 58, the Cearfoss Pike, southeast of Cearfoss in Washington County. The house is situated on high sloping ground above a spring and faces east.

The structure is a two story, three bay dwelling built of coursed local limestone. A one story, two bay wing which appears contemporary with the main section extends to the rear or west. To the end of this has been added a small one story frame structure.

Notable features associated with the masonry include finely cut flat arches of stone above openings in both sections. High in the south gable is what appears to be a single large circular stone with projections at its quadrants. Indented in the center of the stone is a plastered area inscribed with the initial B. below which are the letters A. & E. and the date 1798.

Windows are aligned with each other in the walls. They have wide frames joined with wooden pegs at the corners and trimmed with quarter round molding. First story windows have nine over six pane double hung sashes while those at the second story have six over six light sashes. Hinge pins remain in the frames suggesting that shutters were present at one time.

The main entrance is located in the north end bay of the front or east elevation. The framing is similar to that of the windows and includes a four light transom over the door. Other doors lead into the wing from the north and south elevations. Extending across the front wall is a hipped roof porch resting on high foundations of old concrete block. The porch is supported by square wooden pillars. A low porch at the south elevation of the ell is included in part of the main roof span.

The roof is sheathed with modern asphalt shingles and extends beyond the end walls of the house. A course of molding finishes the eaves boxing. A modern concrete block flue is attached to the north gable wall.

A resident of the house reported that an old springhouse just southeast of the dwelling had been torn down recently. It was of stone and wood construction and had one room at each story. Modern dairy barns are located west of the house. The buildings appear to be in good to excellent condition and stand on a tract containing 138.5 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input 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				

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SPECIFIC DATES      <sup>B.</sup>  
                          A. & E. (Datestone)      BUILDER/ARCHITECT  
                          1798

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This farmhouse, dated 1798, and built of native limestone is a two story, three bay structure with a side entrance in the front elevation. Architecturally it is significant as a well documented example of an 18th century dwelling. Constructed of local stone, the building is representative of a major construction tradition in Washington County and the Cumberland Valley where limestone is plentiful. In addition to indicating the date, the large circular cut stone in the south gable also has the initials A. & E. B. According to Washington County Land Records. Andrew Bowstetter sold 12 3/4 acres of land to Jacob Bowstetter for £453 in 1798 (I./323). In 1800, Jacob Bowstetter sold 175 3/4 acres, part of the same land grants to Andrew Bowstetter for £853. (N/130). Later, in 1808, executors for Andrew Bowstetter sold 252 1/4 acres to David Martin. In 1820, the farm was conveyed to Jacob Angle (HH/436) and remained in the Angle family until 1831 (KK/791, MM/212). After ownership by the Keerl, Kershner, Eavey, Hartranft and Horst families, the farm was purchased by the present owner in 1969. (ZZ/351, IN1/695, 81/608, 91/167, 154/27, 229/377). The farm contains parts of the land grants, "Baker's Lookout," "Baker's Lot," "Shoemaker's Purchase," "Alback's Folly" and "Walnut Bottom"

According to T.J.C. Williams' History of Washington County, Andrew Bowstetter, the presumed builder of the house came to this country from Germany at an early date and settled in what is now Washington County. His son was Jacob Bowstetter, a distiller by trade, who built a large brick house near the village of Bostetter on the Broadfording Road in 1807 (See WA-I-331).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> T,J,C, Williams, History of Washington County. Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Co., (1906) p. 824.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Land Records.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 138.5 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

April 1977

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street

TELEPHONE

791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

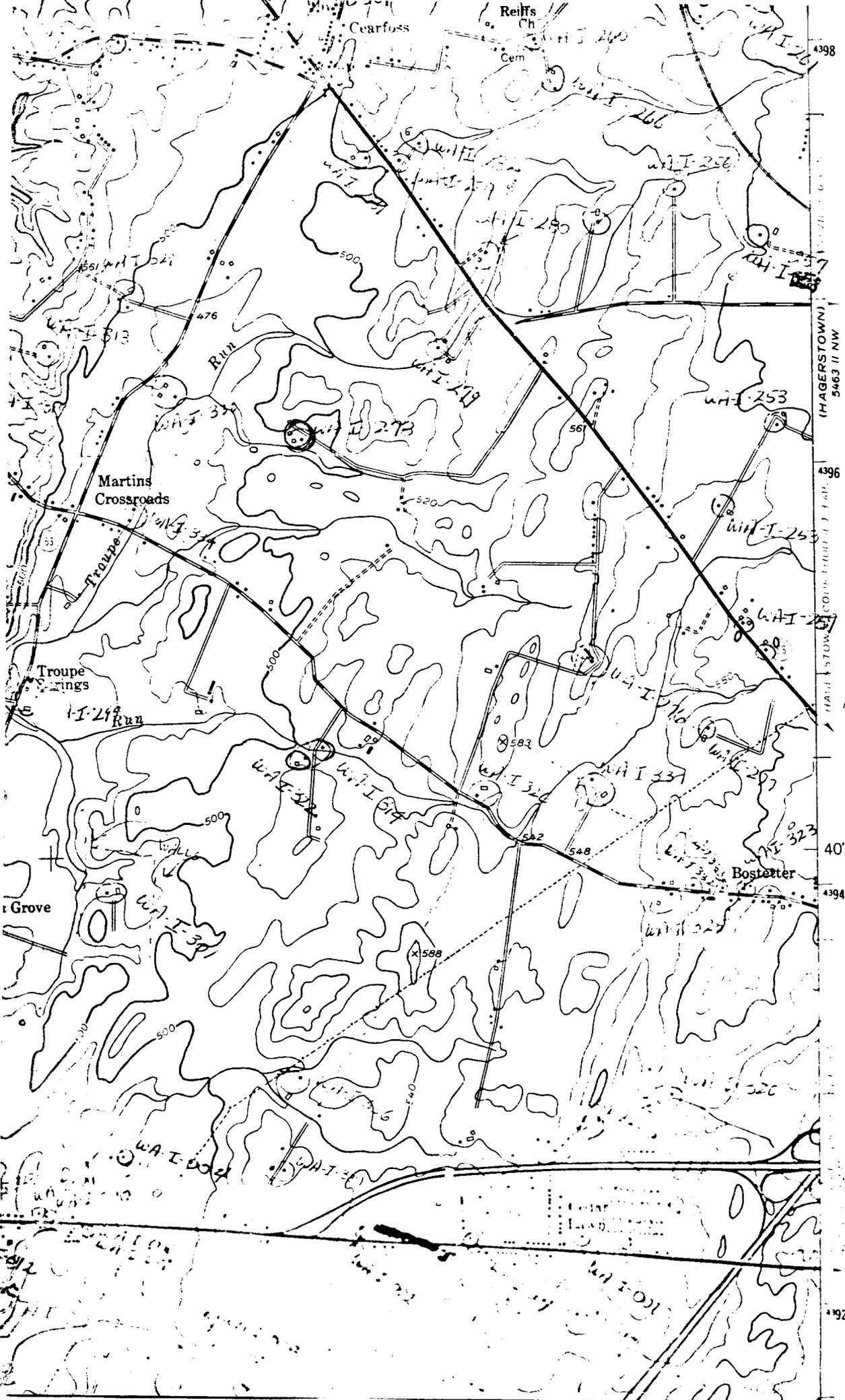
STATE

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-I-278

*Handwritten notes:*  
M...  
P...

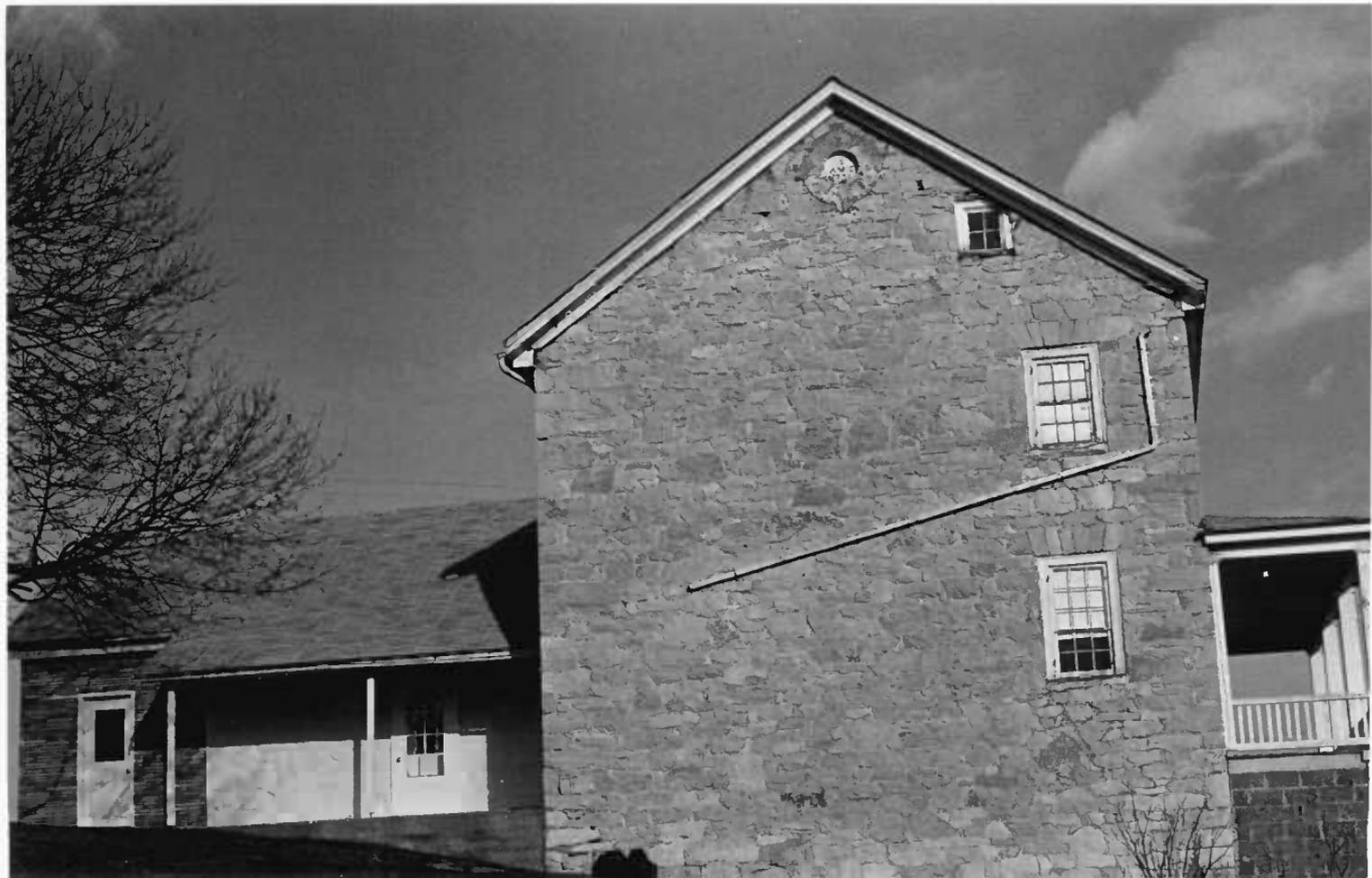
*Handwritten note:*  
O...

(HAGERSTOWN)  
5463 II NW  
4398  
4396  
4394  
4392



BOWSTETTER - MARTIN FARM

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



10/13/2006  
E  
2006

BOWSTETTER-MARTIN FARM

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