ABSTRACT
WA-I-390
Linden Hall 19th Century
Hagerstown Vicinity
private

This large two part, stucco-covered stone house is significant for its architecture as representing stone building during the early and mid 19th century and for its association with the Civil War as a Signal Corps Post used by the Confederate Army during the retreat from Gettysburg in July, 1863.

Copy II

WA-I-390
District 2
Map 56
Parcel 138

2202635304

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Linden Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Downsville Pike (MD 632)

CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown Vicinity

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Washington

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☒ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☒ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Roy S. Byers

STREET AND NUMBER: Route # 2

CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown

STATE: Maryland

21740

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

21740

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 348/51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Historical Trust Survey # 4111

DATE OF SURVEY: Summer 1967 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

21401

WA-I-390

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☒ Altered < 50% ☐ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (*If known*) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This farm complex known as Linden Hall, is located west of the Downsville Pike, Maryland Route 632, about 4 1/2 miles southwest of Hagerstown in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on a high ridge of ground with numerous limestone outcroppings west of the road and faces east.

The dwelling is a large two part stone structure. The main or front section is a high hip-roofed rectangular block, two bays in width at its front elevation and four bays in length. Extending to the west from this is an elongated rectangular structure six bays in length and two stories high. The rear extension is lower in height than the main structure. The walls of the entire house are covered with white rough cast or stucco above fieldstone foundations. The stucco at the front elevation is incised with horizontal and vertical lines to give the impression of cut stone or block construction. No other decorative work is associated with the exterior masonry.

Openings in the front section of the house appear to be spaced symmetrically except at the front elevation where they are off set to the north. Windows in this portion of the house are large with narrow frames holding six over six pane sashes. The southernmost windows of the front or east elevation are set partially beneath a chimney which is located inside the east wall. These windows have louvered shutters. A gable roofed dormer with a six over six pane sash extends from the south slope of the roof. Windows in the rear section are much smaller in size than those in the front section. In moderately wide frames are held six over six pane sashes. Some lower story openings are flanked with paneled shutters.

The main entrance is located in the north bay of the front elevation. It is rather elaborate, consisting of a six panel door surrounded by a high seven light transom and side lights. Fluted pilasters flank the door while paneled jambs line the opening. The entrance is sheltered by a one bay, one story porch with a low hipped roof. A second entrance in the front section is located in its north elevation. The six panel door is without decorative trim. Other entrances are located in the north and south elevations of the rear section of the house. In the north wall a simple entrance is sheltered by an elaborate Victorian porch. At the south elevation entrances are protected by a shed roofed porch.

The roof of each section is covered with sheet metal. Crowning the hipped roof of the front section is a flat deck with a wooden balustrade. A trap door in the roof allows access to the deck from the attic. Chimneys rise from inside the east and west elevations of the front section. The eaves are finished with several courses of molding.

The gable roof of the rear portion of the house terminates with eaves boxing trimmed with a course of simple molding. Chimneys are located inside its west end and at its interior just west of the center of the structure.

Among the most notable interior features of the front section is a spiral stair which is open to the attic. Decorative work has been applied at the ends of the risers. Doors with six low relief panels and large box locks are held within frames with symmetrically molded trim and decorated corner

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(Continued)

WA-I-390

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [x] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [x] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [x] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [x] Other (Specify) Local History

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Linden Hall is significant for its architecture and for its association with the Civil War as a Signal Corps Post after the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

Architecturally Linden Hall displays more than one period of building and so reflects the development of vernacular architecture during the 19th century in Washington County. The front or main section of the house appears to be newer and displays decorative work and construction details which have been associated with buildings erected during the middle third of the 19th century in Washington County. Hipped roof dwellings are rare in 19th century architecture of the County.

The long rectangular extension to the rear may have been built in two parts and appears older than the front section. Its form is more typical of Cumberland Valley architecture from the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Both portions of the house are of stone construction and thus represent an important architectural group in the Cumberland Valley.

The property has been in the Byers and related families since 1875. (Deed Liber 73, Folio 578). Prior to that time it was involved in complicated litigation in the equity case of George W. Smith and John W. McKee, creditors of James Wason VS. Robert Wason (Chancery Records 12/301). A sale bill for this real estate dated 1867, and included in the court record reveals that the house appeared much as it does today: "...a 335 acre farm with 40 acres of good timber on the Manor Road. Improvements are a large two story stone rough cast dwelling house with an extensive back building in good repair, a very large bank barn, a small tenant house and other necessary out buildings, two never failing wells of water, a fine orchard of choise apple trees, also a fine peach orchard and a variety of other choise fruit..."

On January 24, 1842, William and Ann C. Schley of Baltimore sold the property, then containing 271 1/4 acres, to Richard T. Holliday for $10,000 (YY/831). Schley (listed as a resident of Washington County) purchased the farm on April 12, 1827 from Frisby Tilghman (II/328). Tilghman who had sizable land holdings south of Hagerstown had purchased the land on May 21, 1824 from Samuel Ringgold, Jr. and Isaac L. Swearingen for $9578.75 (GG/936). In a deed of trust made April 1, 1824, General Samuel Ringgold conveyed 6,000 acres of his 17,000 acre "Conococheague Manor" to Samuel Ringgold,Jr.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(Continued)

WA I-390

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Western Maryland. Vol. II, Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882.

Tracey, Arthur G., Research compiled on Maryland Land Grants, 1954.

Washington County Land Records.

Williams, T.J.C., History of Washington County, Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY							OR	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: 172.79 acres.

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE: February 1976

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

blocks. The ceilings in this portion of the house are 12 feet in height. Written on plastered partitions in the attic are signatures of several Confederate Soldiers, Members of the Signal Corps in Major General McLaws' Division of Lt. General Longstreet's Army Corps and the date July 10,1863.

West of the house is a large frame bank barn and numerous other buildings related to agricultural use. The property contains 172.79 acres.

and Isaac L. Swearingen. (The Ringgold, Tilghman and Schley families were related by marriage. General Samuel Ringgold, a Veteran of the American Revolution was one of the wealthiest men in Washington County. He died in 1845).

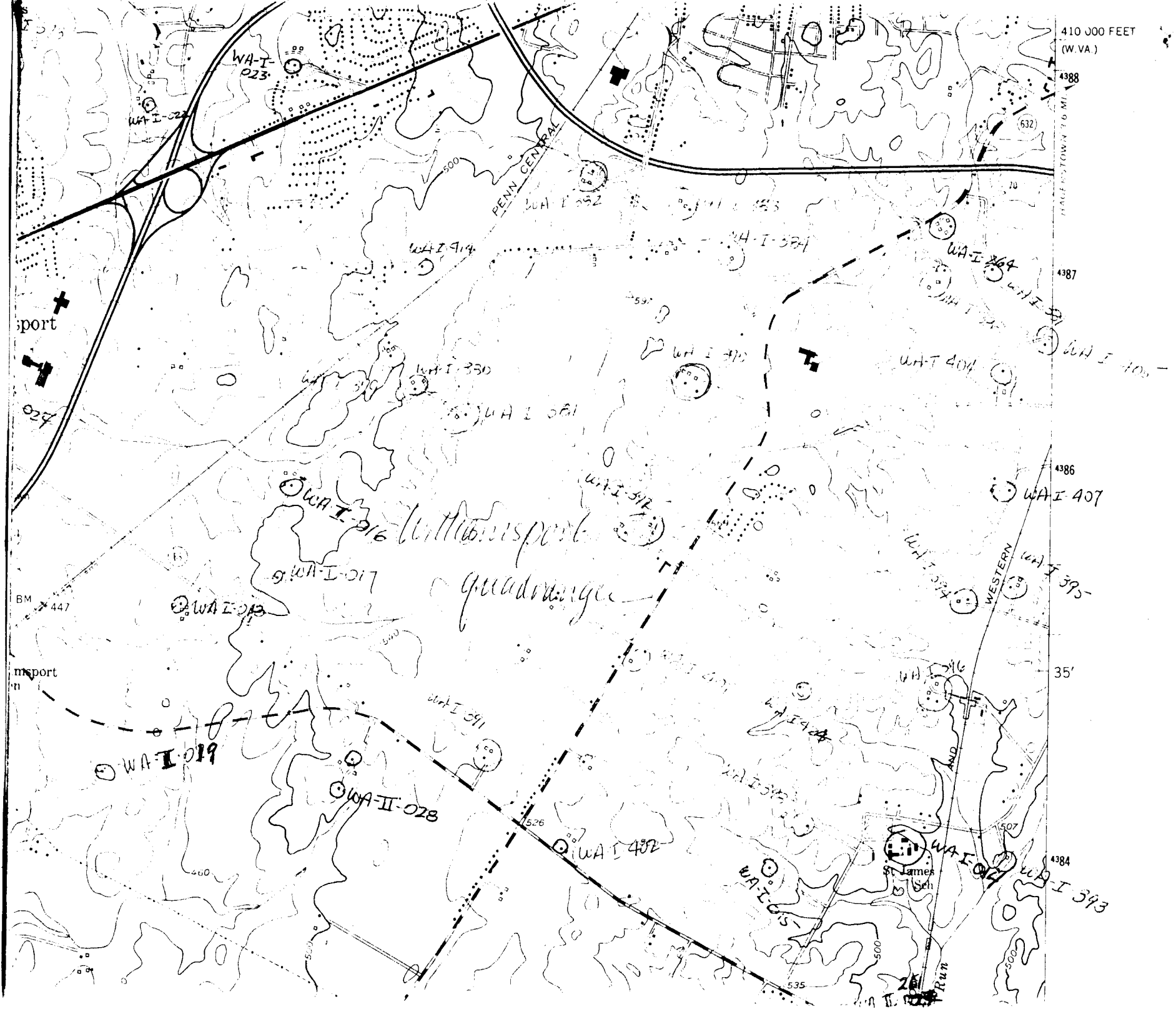
Linden Hall is made up of lands which were parts of two land grants, "Conococheague Manor" and "David's Contentment." David's Contentment was surveyed for David Funk on September 3, 1796. It consisted of 388 acres and was a resurvey of parts of earlier grants including several such as "Marsh Head" which were surveyed for other members of the Funk family. By 1802, David's Contentment had passed from David Funk to David Hammett who was presumably related to the Funk family by marriage. (O/288,291). On May 9, 1803, David Hammett sold 57 3/4 acres of David's Contentment to Samuel Ringgold for £395. (P/318). It has not been determined whether the buildings at Linden Hall are located on David's Contentment or Conococheague Manor.

A 1800 description of the Williamsport Election District printed in William Scharf's History of Western Maryland gives the district's eastern boundary as the "road by David Hammetts to the mouth of the Opeckon Creek."[1]

Linden Hall also derives Military significance as a Signal Corps Post in 1863. The deck on the roof of the house affords an extensive view of all directions making it a prime location for a signal operation. The signatures on the attic wall were dated July 10, 1863, indicating that the Confederates had stopped at Linden Hall during the retreat from the Battle of Gettysburg. The names were Alwyn Grant Wilkins, Signal Sergeant, David Hugh Crawford and Calhoun Wallen. One other name could not be read clearly.

The Center Hall School was located on land along the Downsville Pike donated from this property by David Long in 1901. The School is no longer standing.

[1] Thomas J. Scharf, History of Western Maryland, Vol. II Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, (1882) p. 1220.


410 000 FEET
(W.VA.)
4388
4387
4386
4384
35'
632
PENN CENTRAL
WESTERN
AND
St James Sch
Run
WA-I-023
WA-I-022
WA-I-414
WA-I-330
WA-I-381
WA-I-392
WA-I-384
WA-I-364
WA-I-404
WA-I-407
WA-I-395
WA-I-016
WA-I-017
WA-I-018
WA-I-019
WA-II-028
WA-I-402
WA-I-393
WA-I-391
WA-I-396
WA-I-394
Williamsport
quadrangle
BM 447
500
526
535
507
460
sport
msport

WA-I-390

WA I-390

S.E.

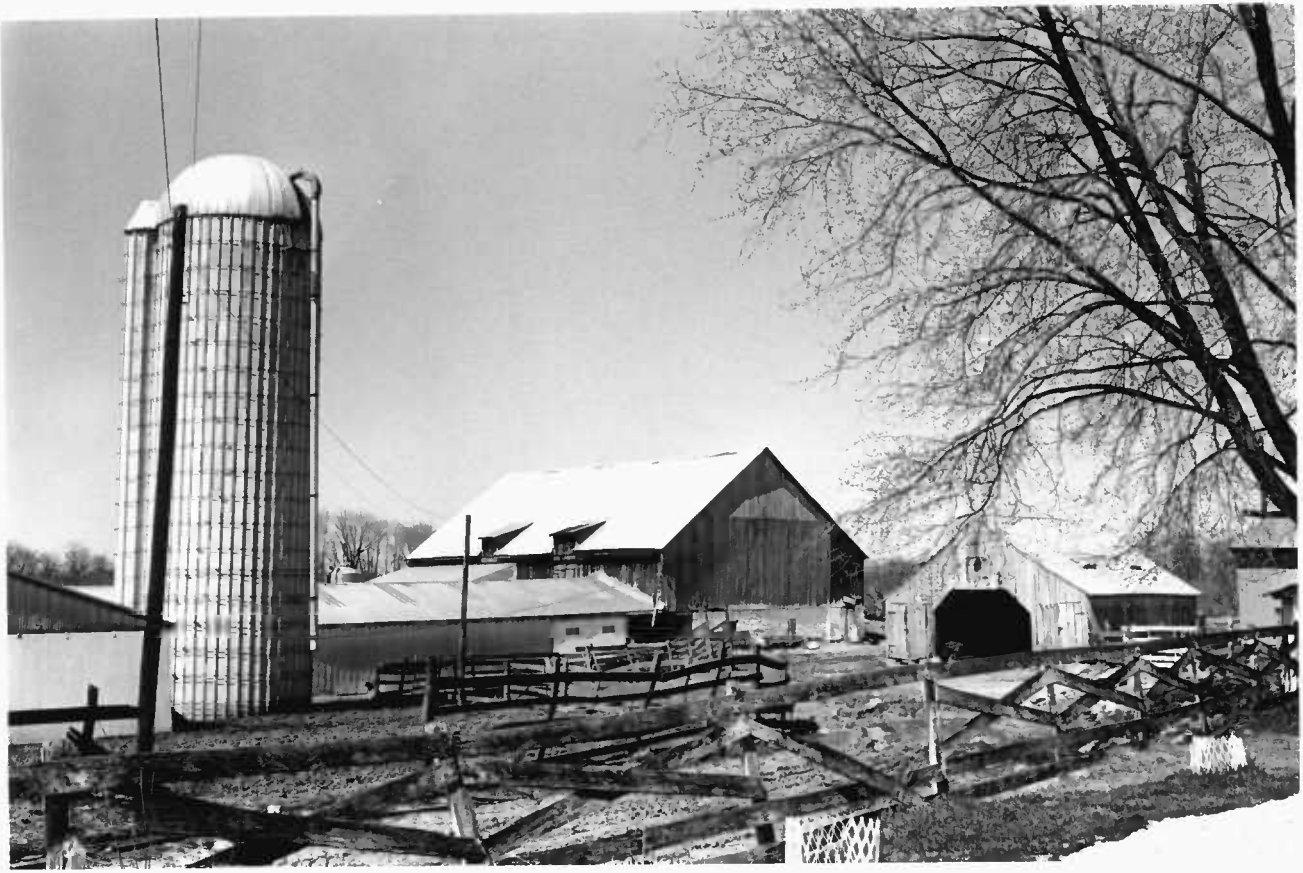
[illegible]

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY