

ABSTRACT

WA-I-394

**Rowland-Keeley Farm
Williamsport Vicinity
private**

Early 19th Century

This complex of buildings is primarily significant for its architecture. The two story, four bay dwelling built of native limestone is representative of a major architectural group in the area. Houses following the four bay plan with off-center front doors occur in great numbers in southern Pennsylvania, northern and western Maryland, eastern West Virginia and northern Virginia. The use of limestone as a building material is prevalent in the same area, coinciding with the geological incidence of limestone and with the cultural influence of Pennsylvania. Houses of this type in Washington County date from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The exact building date of this house has not been determined. The carefully executed exterior stonework is associated with late 18th century buildings in Washington County. The interior and exterior woodwork and hardware, however, appear to date from the second quarter of the 19th century. Among the most unusual features of this house are the barrel vaults in the cellar which display an outstanding stone working technique.

220 2645-304

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Rowland-Keeley Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Off College Road near St. James School

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF Williamsport

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

~~James G. Keeley~~ John C. Keeley

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

~~Route #3, Box 168-G~~ 17700 Carter Lane

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 #: 548

Folio #: 628

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-394

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 complex is located at the end of a long private lane extending in a north-westerly direction from College Road near St. James School east of Williamsport in Washington County, Maryland. The house is situated on gently sloping ground and faces south.

The dwelling is a two story, four bay structure constructed of coursed local limestone cut in fairly uniform size and shape. There is no decorative masonry associated with the exterior of the house. Attached to its rear elevation is a two story modern frame addition.

First and second story windows are aligned with each other at the front and side elevations. All windows have narrow rounded frames which hold nine over six pane double hung sashes at the first story level and six over six light sashes at the second floor. At the front elevation first story windows are flanked by pairs of three panel shutters while openings at the second story display louvered shutters.

The main entrance to the house is located in the third bay from its west end. The door is framed similarly to the windows and includes a four light transom. Surrounding the six panel door are paneled jambs with matching trim. A small shed roofed porch shelters the door.

The roof of the house is covered with sheet metal and terminates with barge boards set directly against the end walls. Deep returns are cut into the end walls at the eaves which are finished with boxing trimmed with a simple course of molding. Brick chimneys with one course of corbeling at their tops are located inside each gable end.

The interior of the house is divided into four rooms at the first story level. The main entrance opens into a large room from which a stairway enclosed behind a partition with a doorway leads to the second floor. At the first story level, fireplaces are located in the southwest and northeast rooms. Oval panels and colonettes trim the parlor fireplace mantel. In the southwest room symmetrical molded trim with decorated corner blocks is applied to the door and window frames. Carpenter locks appear on first story interior doors while lift latches are used at the second story level.

In the cellar of the house double barrel vaults of carefully cut radiating stones support the house. The vaults are set parallel to the front and rear elevations and are entered through an archway located toward its east end. The original purpose of the vaults other than support for the house and as root cellars has not been determined.

Located immediately east of the house is a two bay, one and a half story stone spring house with a stone chimney located inside its west gable end. West of the house are ruins of stone foundations of a large bank barn. A small wooden outbuilding is located northwest of the house.

The main buildings on the property are in excellent condition. The farm contains 100 acres.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

JA I-394

2-B

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 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 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		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This complex of buildings is primarily significant for its architecture. The two story, four bay dwelling built of native limestone is representative of a major architectural group in the area. Houses following the four bay plan with off-center front doors occur in great numbers in southern Pennsylvania, northern and western Maryland, eastern West Virginia and northern Virginia. The use of limestone as a building material is prevalent in the same area coinciding with the geological incidence of limestone and with the cultural influence of Pennsylvania. Houses of this type in Washington County date from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The exact building date of this house has not been determined. The carefully executed exterior stonework is associated with late 18th century buildings in Washington County. Interior and exterior woodwork and hardware, however, appear to date from the second quarter of the 19th century. Among the most unusual features of this house are the barrel vaults in the cellar which display an outstanding stone working technique.

During and perhaps prior to the early 19th century this property was owned by members of the Rowland family who had considerable land holdings in the immediate vicinity. After the death of Jonathan Rowland in 1853, the farm was sold to Joseph Gehr of Berkeley County, Virginia (I.N.10/89). In quick succession the farm passed from Joseph Gehr to Samuel Hoover in 1862 (I.N.16/117), who sold it to Henry Gantz in 1865 (L.B.N.I./47), who in turn sold it to F. Dorsey Herbert in 1868 (L.B.N.2/527). In 1881, the farm was purchased by Elias Young (80/472). It remained under Young ownership until 1917 (151/24). In 1919, it was purchased by Edwin B. and Ida G. Carter and remained in that family until 1972.

The farm includes parts of the land grants "Conococheague Manor" and "Agreed in Peace." Conococheague Manor was a tract of nearly 11,000 acres in the Williamsport vicinity which was held by Lord Baltimore until about 1767.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Land Records.

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

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 100.00 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

May 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Court House Annex

TELEPHONE

791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland

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



1971 5 27
S.W.
April 1975

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



W113.308

56
April 1971

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-I-391

Nov.

7th 1935

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WAI-307
Bullpen of 56
April 1975

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-I-394

Box 11112, Mt. Rainier

April 1975

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WH I 374

Continuing (11)

April 1965

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY