

ABSTRACT  
WA-II-103  
Bikle House  
Sharpsburg Vicinity  
private

Early 19th Century

This log and timber frame house is of unknown date. It is located on a bluff with a commanding view of the Potomac River and provides an example of an important vernacular house type.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bikle House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Rensburg Road

CITY, TOWN

Sharpsburg

 VICINITY OF Fairplay

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mark Bikle

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Rensburg Road

CITY, TOWN

Sharpsburg

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21782

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 540

Folio #: 817

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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 log house is located on a rocky bluff above the Potomac River at Taylor's Landing or Mercerville, south of Fairplay in Washington County, Maryland. It is reached by a private lane which extends in a westerly direction from Remsburg Road. The house is situated on sloping ground and stands on a north-south axis with entrances in the east and west elevations.

The building is a one and a half story, five bay log and timber frame house on stone foundations which become almost a full story in height at the north and west elevations. The three northern bays are of log construction and the two southern bays are a frame addition. The entire surface of the building is sheathed with board and batten siding.

Windows have narrow frames with six over six sashes. Entrances are located in the second and fourth bays of the south end of the east elevation and in the third bay from the south end of the west wall. The doors have no transoms.

The roof is sheathed with corrugated sheet metal and a small brick chimney extends from the interior at the point where the log and frame sections join.

The inside of the house at the first floor level is divided into two rooms, one in the log section and the other consisting of the frame addition. In the log section the interior surface of the walls has been exposed revealing hewn logs with the spaces between them filled with wood chips and cement. Doors in the east and west walls of the log section are of hand planed board and batten fastened with wrought nails. The west door has wrought strap hinges while the east door has hinges with round wrought flanges. The door also has a wooden slide bolt. The placement of the hinges on the door has changed. Hewn joists for the second floor are exposed.

The house appears to be in excellent condition and stands on a parcel containing slightly more than 11 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 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This log and timber frame house is of unknown date. It is located on a bluff with a commanding view of the Potomac River and provides an example of an important vernacular house type. The pair of batten doors in the log section with their wrought hinges are characteristic of the late 18th or early 19th century. It appears to have been part of a sizable property consisting of almost 200 acres belonging to William P. Rensburg and then to his son, Charles E. Rensburg from 1866 to 1893, (IN19/437, 100/99). It was then in the Thomas family from 1893 to 1922, being purchased by Thomas F. Miller. It remained in the Miller family until 1946. (100/315, 161/667, 192/306, 235/401). The portion of land on which this house stands appears to be part of that which William Ullum sold to William P. Rensburg in 1866.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Washington County Land Records.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11.03 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

February 1978

STREET &amp; 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

# SHEPHERDSTOWN QUADRANGLE

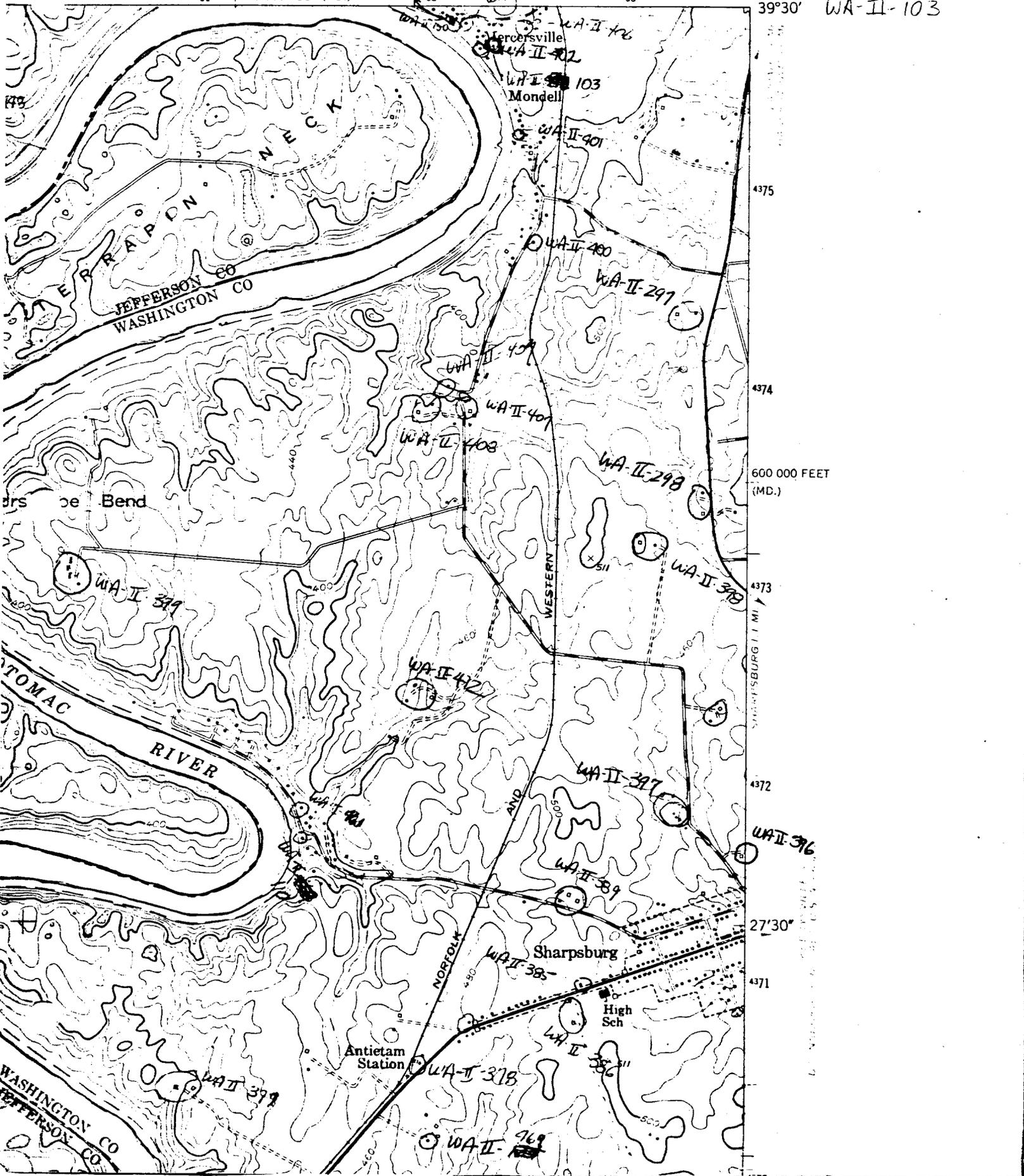
WEST VIRGINIA-MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE/4 MARTINSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

5463 II SW  
(FUNKSTOWN)

47' 261 580 000 FEET (MD.) WA-II-162 263 77°45' 39°30' WA-II-103



600 000 FEET  
(MD.)

MARTINSBURG 1 MI

27'30"

WASHINGTON CO  
JEFFERSON CO

JEFFERSON CO  
WASHINGTON CO

WESTERN

NORFOLK

AND

SHARPSBURG

ANTIETAM

STATION

HIGH SCHOOL

SHARPSBURG

ANTIET



WA-II 103

S.W.

April, 1977

**Bikle House**

**Remsburg Road**

**Sharpsburg-Fairplay Vicinity**

PAULA STEVER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT WASHINGTON, D.C.  
1977



WA-11-103

NE.

April, 1977

Bikle House

Rensburg Road

Sharpsburg-Fairplay Vicinity

DR. J. W. DICKEY  
HALL TOWN, WASHINGTON, DC  
HISTORICAL GALE SURVEY



WA-II-103

Int. door

Apr, 1977

**Bikle House**

**Rensburg Road**

**Sharpsburg-Fairplay Vicinity**

RESEARCH CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
P.O. BOX 38  
COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND 20742



WA-II-103

lit. doc

April, 1977

**Bikle House**

**Rensburg Road**

**Sharpsburg-Fairplay Vicinity**

PATRICIA STUBBS - IN CHARGE  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY