

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Big Spring Farm
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Maryland Route 56
CITY OR TOWN: Big Spring
STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Washington

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One): District, Building, Site, Structure, Object
OWNERSHIP: Public, Private, Bath, Public Acquisition: In Process, Being Considered
STATUS: Occupied, Unoccupied, Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes: Restricted, Unrestricted, No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate): Agricultural, Commercial, Educational, Entertainment, Government, Industrial, Military, Museum, Park, Private Residence, Religious, Scientific, Transportation, Other (Specify), Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Herbert and A. Fay Kahl-Winter
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Big Spring STATE: Maryland

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
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 554/297

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Historical Trust Survey #4026
DATE OF SURVEY: Summer, 1967 [] Federal [X] State [] County [] Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The Big Spring Farm is located just east of the village of Big Spring, along the north side of Maryland Route 56 in Washington County. The house faces south and is situated very close to the road.</p> <p>The structure is a five-bay, two story log and stone dwelling with black and white trim. A small, two-story utility structure which dates from the early 20th century is attached to the northeast corner of the stone section of the house. The house appears to have been built in two sections. The western end containing three bays is of log covered with siding while the two east bays are stone.</p> <p>Since the walls of the log section are sheathed with wooden and aluminum siding the method of joining cannot be fully examined. The interior wall between the two sections of the house is log indicating that the stone part of the structure was an addition. The front wall of the stone section displays coursed local fieldstone while rubble or uncoursed stone is used in the side and rear walls.</p> <p>The gable roof is covered with corrugated sheet metal which is not original. At the stone end of the house, the roof terminates with a plain board. An overhang of several inches is present in the west gable end. The eaves are finished with boxing under which is a simply designed strip of cornice molding. Chimneys are present inside the two gable ends. At the east end of the house, a large brick flue with a corbeled cap is present. A smaller chimney, also of brick is located at the west end. Neither flue appears to be original. Chimneys are usually associated with houses of the period of the Big Spring Farm structure tend to be larger and without decorative work at their tops.</p> <p>Windows are located on all sides of the building. The window openings are rather small in relation to the wall area and are framed very simply with little decorative trim. The first floor windows are longer than those on the second level containing upper sashes with five long narrow panes over a single large pane. These sashes date from the 20th century. Other windows contain six-over-six lights or two-over-two pane sashes.</p> <p>The house has numerous doors. The main entrance which opens into a wide stair hall, is located in the third bay from the west end. A door in the stone section is located immediately east of the main entrance. A third door which does not appear to be original is located near the center of the east gable end. At the rear of the house, two entrances are located in the second and third bays from the west end. One door is present at the second story level in the front wall of the house. It has recently been enclosed and covered with siding. During recent interior remodeling, parts of the front wall structure were exposed, providing evidence that a window was originally present which was converted to a door, probably late in the 19th century when other alterations were made. Except for the entrance in the east gable end, all doors in the main story have transoms. Also worthy of note is the entrance to the basement, located at the west gable end of the house. The door is of sturdy wooden slats placed approximately two inches apart. The original purpose of such a door has not been determined, but the entrance does provide the only light source for the basement. A similar door enters into a lightless vault below a nearby smokehouse. It is possible that the slatted doors were used to emit light and allow ventilation while closing off the entrance.</p>	
(CONTINUED ON ATTACHED SHEET.)	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginol	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Palitical	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losaphy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sociol/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The importance of this house is its architecture. Although there is no substantiated date indicating the year that this house was built, the structure does represent a significant early building type in Washington County. Log construction was common in the County from the earliest days of settlement until well into the 19th century. It was widely used by settlers in the frontiers of Maryland because trees were readily available and could be converted into durable building material very easily.

The type of log house construction which was used in western Maryland appears to have been brought to this country by German settlers who traditionally followed this method of building. Other groups adopted the log house and it became the main type of dwelling used by settlers in the wooded areas of Pennsylvania, western Maryland and the Shenandoah Valley. Although stone and brick were replacing log as a major construction material by the beginning of the 19th century in western Maryland, heavily wooded and remote areas still used the most easily obtained building material, which was log.

There was probably settlement in the Big Spring area at a very early date since a constant fresh water supply was located nearby. A 1794 map of Washington County shows a tavern at the head of the spring, while an 1808 map depicts the tavern as well as two grist mills between the spring and the Potomac River. (The mills are discussed in forms WA-V-038 and Wa-V-049.)

The proximity of this house to the Big Spring and Route 56, a very old road, would suggest that the log section of the structure could have been built during the late 18th century. According to an unsubstantiated local legend, Hessian prisoners from nearby Fort Frederick were held at or near this house during the Revolution.

Although the historical significance of this house is undocumented, the structure does appear to be one of the oldest in the area and is worthy of note both for its age and as an example of Washington County's early vernacular architecture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **25.08 acres**

Acreage Justification:

Blank area for Acreage Justification.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Washington County Historic Sites Survey** DATE: **October, 1973**

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

wa-V-035 Significance (Continued)

At the rear or north side of the house a deep double porch extends along the entire length of the structure. The porch is supported by heavy square posts which do not appear to be original. A plain balustrade encloses the second level of the porch. A modern shed roof entrance porch shields the doors at the facade of the house.

Much of the interior woodwork of the log section of the house appears to be original to the structure, although there is evidence that the main stair was originally located in the southeast corner of the present hallway. An important feature of the interior of this house is its diagonally placed fireplaces which are located in the basement and in the southwest room of the main floor. Although such fireplaces are not common, they are present in several Washington County houses.

The property contains 25.08 acres and is used for agriculture. The house is in fair to good condition. Restoration is planned for this structure which has been acquired recently by the present owners.

WA-V-035 -- Deed Records

Liber 554, Folio 297, January 7, 1973, 25.08 acres

Grantor: Roy McClay Corwell

Grantees: Herbert and A. Fay Kahl-Winter

Liber 452, Folio 262, March 10, 1967, 147 acres, 78 perches

Grantor: Anna B. Corwell, widow

Grantees: Roy McClay and Frances G. Corwell

a property is referred to as "part of a tract known as Big Spring Farm."

Liber 260, Folio 237, December 28, 1950, 147 acres, 78 perches

Grantors: Harry E. and Blanche S. Newkirk

Grantees: Charles W. and Anna B. Corwell

Liber 153, Folio 122, March 27, 1918, \$8,400, 147 acres, 78 perches

Grantors: Charles and Kate Spitler

Grantees: Harry E. Newkirk

Liber 150, Folio 702, March 27, 1918, \$12,100, 147 acres, 78 perches

Grantor: John B. Martin, widower

Grantee: Charles Spitler

Liber W.McK,K,6, Folio 558, April 22, 1874, \$5,324, 147 acres, 78 perches

Grantors: Jacob and Elizabeth Martin

Grantees: John B. Martin

Liber I.B.N. 1, Folio 701, December 3, 1867, \$11,976.25

Grantors: John and Amelia Leshar, Susanna Leshar

Grantee: Jacob Martin

Liber I.N. 18, Folio 94, March 8, 1864, \$11,055, 185 acres, 20 perches

Grantors: Abraham Leshar, trustee

Grantee: John Leshar

Liber I.N. 7, Folio 482, March 14, 1853, \$18,596.68, 186-3/4 acres

Grantors: Samuel N. and Eliza Jane Callendar

Grantee: Isaac Leshar

The property is listed as part of two tracts of land, "Lads and Lasses" and "Smith's Lot Resurveyed."

Liber L.N. 7, Folio 402, October 2, 1852

Grantors: John Harbine et al, heirs of Daniel Harbine

Grantees: Eliza Callendar

Liber B.B., Folio 178, April 10, 1816, \$4,867.50, 81-1/8 acres

Grantor: Isaac White

Grantee: Daniel Harbine

The property is listed as part of a tract called "Perseverance" granted by patent to Richard Barnes of St. Mary's County and part of a tract "Lads and Lasses" granted by patent to Simon Bowman. The tracts are described as near the Big Spring and contiguous to each other.

Liber P, Folio 67, May 17, 1803, 1,000L, 350 acres

Grantor: Peter Harbine of Bucks County, Pa.

Grantee: Daniel Harbine

The property is described as "all the land which Rowland Chambers had right to which he conveyed to Peter Harbine." "Lads and Lasses" and other tracts were listed.

Liber P, Folio 65, May 2, 1803, 3,300L, 350 acres

Grantor: Rowland Chambers

Grantee: Peter Harbine

In this deed the property is described as part of several tracts where Rowland Chambers now resides, including "Lads and Lasses" and adjoining land held by Richard Barnes, called "Perseverance."

Liber H, Folio 354, August 25, 1793, 1,800L, 366-3/4 acres

Grantor: Simon Bowman

Grantee: Rowland Chambers

The property is described as the land where Rowland Chambers now lives called "Lads and Lasses" patented to Simon Bowman, August 24, 1792, excepting three acres sold to Thomas Prather by Bowman.

WA-V-035

APPROXIMATE FLOOR PLAN

N. ↑



WA-V-035







