

WO-228

c. 1890 and earlier

Slaughter Ridge Farm

St. Martin vicinity

private

Slaughter Ridge farm, located in the vicinity of the St. Martin crossroads, contains a complete group of early twentieth-century outbuildings. A large hay barn, three corn cribs, two wagon houses, three chicken houses, a pump house, a garage, and a smoke house stand within a short distance of the two-story farmhouse. The late Victorian farmhouse has been reworked extensively during the recent past, but a series of molded joists on the first floor indicate the rear portion of the dwelling dated from the early nineteenth century.

According to the owner the house and farm buildings stand on a tract of land patented in 1702 as "Slaughter Ridge," named for an Indian massacre that occurred on this site. Early owners of the property included members of the Powell and Galt families.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: SLAUGHTER RIDGE FARM

MHT Inventory Number: WU-228

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE, AGRICULTURE

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

1870-1930 INDUSTRIAL-URBAN DOMINANCE

4) Resource Type(s):

1. STANDING STRUCTURES

a. SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING

b. OUTBUILDINGS

1. BARN

2. SMOKE HOUSE

3. CORN CRIBS

4. WAGON HOUSES

5. CHICKEN HOUSE

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic SLAUGHTER RIDGE FARM

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number North side of Carey Road  not for publication

city, town Berlin  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Al Melson

street & number telephone no.: 289-3526  
289-8464

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WO-228

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Slaughter Ridge farm is situated on the north side of Carey Road east of the village of St. Martin and north of Berlin, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story farmhouse and a group of twelve early twentieth-century outbuildings stand at the end of a long dirt farmlane. The house faces south with the gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in at least two principal periods, the tee-shaped frame house has been completely reworked by the current owners. Although ninety percent of the original fabric has been removed, some original features of the house have been preserved. A series of molded, black gum floor joists, original to the house, are exposed in the northern room in their original location, which suggests part of the house dated to the early nineteenth century. The molded lower edges follow a slightly indented ovolo profile. The two-story, center hall front block, however, was erected during the late nineteenth century and fitted with Victorian style finishes. During the past year the house has been thoroughly rebuilt and refitted in colonial revival taste. Exterior brick chimneys with paved shoulders rise on each gable end, and the south (front) elevation has been realigned to a five-bay facade with a center colonial revival pedimented entrance. Three gabled dormers have replaced the center cross-gable that originally marked the south roof slope.

The group of early twentieth-century outbuildings have been resheathed with vertical siding that imitates the original. Centered in the north end of the complex is a bi-level frame hay barn supported by a poured concrete foundation and sheathed with a new layer of board and batten siding. The steeply pitched gable-front roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The south (main) elevation is marked by a center entrance that opens into a center aisle with animal stalls to each side. Fixed in the upper gable is a large door used when loading hay bales with the movable fork fixed in the peak of the roof.

East of the barn is a row of outbuildings that includes two horizontal slate corn cribs, a large wagon shed and a one-car garage. The cribs are supported by concrete or ceramic tile piers and covered by an asphalt shingle roof. The two cribs stand to each side of a long, open front wagon shed, and the one-car garage stands at the south end of the row.

Across the farmyard are two other outbuildings, a third corn crib and a large gable-front frame wagon shed. The horizontal slat crib is similar to the other two cribs, while the wagon shed was erected with a gable facing front and shed additions to each side. Also on the west side of the yard are several other smaller buildings including a weatherboarded frame pump house, and three chicken houses.

(continued)

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Slaughter Ridge farm contains a complete group of early twentieth-century outbuildings which includes a large hay barn, three corn cribs, two wagon houses, three chicken houses, a pump house, a garage, and a smoke house. While the outbuildings retain a large amount of original features, the tee-shaped farmhouse has been extensively rebuilt to align with colonial revival tastes. An effort was made to salvage a few original features which indicates the the house was built in at least two principal stages. The back end of the dwelling contained one room that was distinguished by a series of molded floor joists and a tight winder stair. The ovolo molded joists and the cut nails found in old framing members suggest the oldest section dated to the early nineteenth century. Around 1880-1890, the the two-and-a-half story center hall front section was attached. During the recent renovation, ninety percent of the original house was replaced.

According to the owner the house and farm buildings stand on a tract of land patented in 1702 as Slaughter Ridge, named for an Indian massacre that occurred on this site. Early owners of the property included members of the Powell and Galt families.



## SLAUGHTER RIDGE FARM DESCRIPTION (continued)

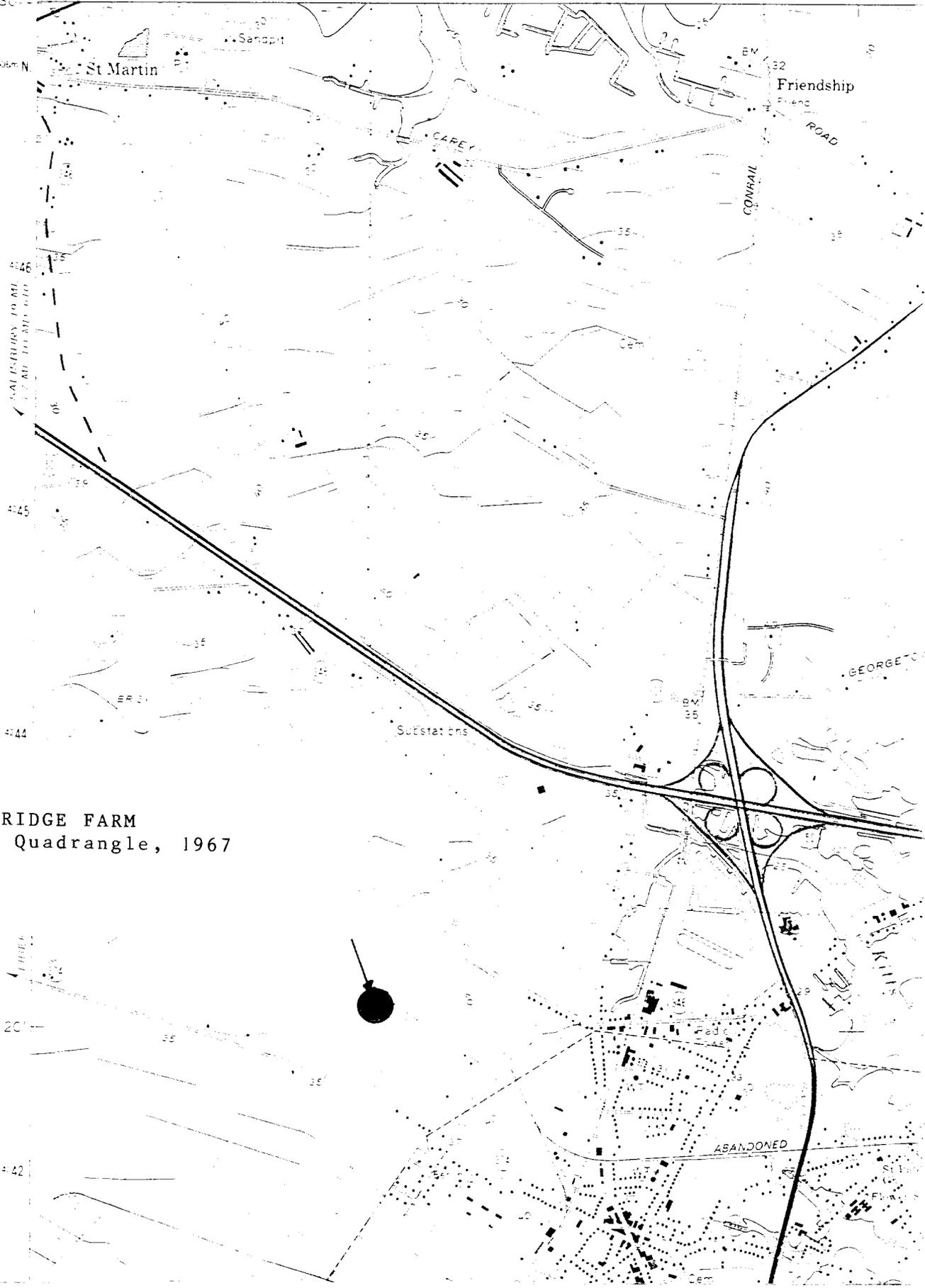
The pump house is sheathed with weatherboard siding, and it is covered by a gable-front asphalt shingle roof. The chicken houses, on the other hand, are enclosed with vertical board walls and covered by corrugated tin roofs.

Standing near the house is a weatherboard frame smoke house. As with the other buildings, the smoke house is supported by a concrete foundation. The squarish, gable-front building is sheathed with plain weatherboards and covered by a asphalt shingle roof. A board-and-batten door opens through the east gable end. Inside the walls and roof structure retain a blackened smoke finish.

5360 IN THE  
C/WHALEYSVILLE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

76° 15' 479000m E 480 481 12' 30" 480  
38° 22' 30" 427000m N



WO-228  
SLAUGHTER RIDGE FARM  
Berlin, MD Quadrangle, 1967