

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes no

Property Name: 601 Priceville Avenue Inventory Number: BA-3214
Address: 601 Priceville Avenue Historic district: yes no
City: Sparks Zip Code: 21152 County: Baltimore County
USGS Quadrangle(s): Hereford
Property Owner: Catherine Bennett Tax Account ID Number: 0802023680
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 204 Tax Map Number: 34
Project: I-83 SB Belfast Road Noise Wall Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration
Agency Prepared By: Maryland State Highway Administration
Preparer's Name: Stacey Streett with Melissa Blair Date Prepared: 10/05/2007

Documentation is presented in: _____

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District

Inventory Number: BA-2214 Eligible: yes no Listed: yes no

Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Description:

The residence at 601 Priceville Avenue (BA-3214) is situated on over one-and-one-half-acres in Priceville, in the vicinity of Sparks Glencoe, Baltimore County. The dwelling was constructed circa 1876. It faces slightly northeast, with a deep setback from Priceville Avenue; however, the façade will be referred to in this form as the east elevation for the sake of clarity. The as-built plans prepared by the Maryland State Roads Commission (SRC) in 1952 for the construction of the Baltimore-Harrisburg Expressway (I-83) corridor reveal that the dwelling was originally oriented to face southeast (it was sited to its current orientation sometime after 1952). The dwelling forms a rectangular footprint. It is a two-story, five-bay-wide by two-bay-deep, side-gable, frame building. A concrete-stuccoed foundation supports the dwelling, which is sheathed in asbestos shingles. The moderately pitched, side-gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles, with wide overhanging eaves. Two interior, brick chimneys punctuate the ridge line; one of the chimneys has a corbelled cap. The two bays on the northern half of the building are set slightly lower than the remaining portion of the dwelling. According to the current owner, the middle portion of the dwelling between the chimneys is the original log structure.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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MHT Comments: CONTRIBUTES TO HISTORIC DISTRICT

Jim Janowski
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

11/30/07
Date

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

12/3/07
Date

The dwelling is fenestrated by a combination of single and paired, symmetrically hung, original and modern, vinyl replacement windows. The façade (east elevation) consists of nine single, six-over-six, double-hung windows, some of which are wood-sash windows, while others are vinyl replacements with faux muntins. Inoperable, vinyl, louvered shutters flank each of the windows on the façade. The main entry is located in the southernmost portion of the façade beneath a modest, one-bay, pedimented portico, which is supported by two square, wood posts. A modern, vinyl and glazed entry door has been installed below the transom, and porch lights flank the entry door. Sets of paired, double-hung, wood-sash windows light the first and second stories of the north elevation. A secondary entry is also located on the north elevation. This entry contains a paneled and glazed wood door, which is reached by a modern, wood deck. A small attic vent pierces the apex of the north gable.

The west (rear) elevation, like the façade, contains five bays on the first and second stories, but there are nine single windows and one paired window and no entry. The basement level is fully exposed on four bays of the west elevation; the northernmost bay does not reveal a basement level. Modern fenestration, including a sliding-glass door, has been installed in the foundation's west wall. A chain-link dog pen extends west from the basement level. The south elevation does not mirror the north elevation. It features four symmetrically hung, single, double-hung, vinyl, replacement windows with faux muntins. However, an original six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window lights the partially exposed basement level on the south gable end, while an original, arched, four-pane, wood-sash, attic window pierces the south gable's apex.

A driveway extends from Priceville Avenue to the north side of the dwelling. There are two modern, frame sheds alongside the end of the driveway: one is a one-bay-wide, side-gable structure with double wooden doors; the other is a one-bay-wide, gambrel-roof structure. The as-built plans from 1952 by the SRC for the I-83 corridor also reveal that a turkey yard, frame shed, and a house were located on the southern portion of the property; however, these buildings are no longer extant. The property is heavily shaded and buffered from the nearby corridor of I-83 by a variety of mature coniferous and deciduous trees, including sycamore, maple, ash, and oak. The landscape also includes decorative shrubs.

Historic Context:

Priceville and the Price Family:

The small village of Priceville is located within the eighth election district in northern Baltimore County, about a mile west of Spark's Station on the Northern Central Railway (NCR), which was originally the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad at the time it was constructed in 1838. Spark's Station [Sparks] was named by the railroad in 1821, but it formerly went by any of the following village names: Philopolis, Belfast, Priceville, Verona, Bacon Hill, and Piney Hill, all of which are encompassed within the Sparks Glencoe area (Ms. on file at the HSBC). Priceville is also located less than a quarter of a mile south of the alignment of Belfast Road, which runs east-west, connecting Priceville and York Roads. Quaker Bottom was the name frequently associated with Priceville and Philopolis, because Quakers settled in the area during the early-eighteenth century (Redcay, Ed. 1979; Scharf 1881:883).

Priceville is named after its initial inhabitants, the Price family. The Price family settled in the area in the early-seventeenth century, and married into the Cole and Merryman families. The Prices were of Welsh descent and members of the Society of Friends, attending the Gunpowder Meeting House on Priceville Road, which is located approximately one-quarter mile south from Priceville Avenue. Mordecai Price was the first of the family members to settle in the area during the early-eighteenth century. He lived most of his life in Anne Arundel County and was a member of the West River Friends Meeting (Price Family Lineage 3/2/93:1). In 1723, Mordecai Price purchased 160 acres of land in Priceville, which he named "Price's Chance." His brothers, Thomas and John, also settled in the vicinity of Priceville: one settled east of Glencoe, while the other settled a few miles north of Priceville (BA-2214; Redcay, Ed. 1979; Scharf 1881:883). Heirs of Mordecai established successful businesses in Priceville and

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

the surrounding vicinity of Sparks Glencoe during the first half of the nineteenth century, such as Ezra Price, Mordecai's great grandson. During the first half of the nineteenth century, he operated a Tannery near Priceville. Ezra was greatly esteemed within the community; he died in 1877 (Scharf 1881:883).

Dr. Elias Price, another great grandson of Mordecai, was born in 1826. He attended local public schools. In 1844, he studied medicine under the mentorship of his cousin, Dr. Mahlon C. Price. In 1845, Elias began teaching school. He graduated from the Medical School of the University of Maryland in 1848, and established a practice with his cousin in Priceville. Dr. Elias Price initially practiced allopathy, until he became interested in and vigorously studied the practice of homeopathy. Allopathy is a medical practice that uses remedies that produce different effects than those produced by the disease being treated, while homeopathy treats disease by administration of minute doses of a remedy that, in a healthy person, produces similar symptoms of the disease being treated. Dr. Price concluded that homeopathy was founded on the principles of true medicine and subsequently dissolved his medical partnership with his cousin. He formed his own practice as a homeopathic physician, and was the only homeopathic physician in the county during the mid-nineteenth century (Scharf 1881:756). Dr. Price married Martha Cowman of Alexandria, Virginia, in 1852. Both Elias and his wife Martha were members of the Society of Friends. They had a son, Eldridge C. Price, who later joined his father's medical practice. In 1865, Dr. Price relocated to Baltimore City. He was a highly esteemed physician by his colleagues and the local community, particularly heralded for his counsel and assistance in obstetrics and general medical practice. On September 2, 1874, he became the first president of the Baltimore Homeopathic Medical Society. He also was the president of the State Homeopathic Medical Society, which was organized in December 1875. Furthermore, Dr. Price was one of the founders of the Homeopathic Free Dispensary of Baltimore City and served three years as the obstetrical editor for the American Observer (Scharf 1881:756-757).

Several residences and institutional buildings remain extant from the nineteenth-century village of Priceville. These include the Gunpowder Friends Meeting House (BA-80) at the corner of Priceville Road and Quaker Bottom Road, the Bland House (BA-423) on Priceville Avenue, the dwellings at 601 and 605 Priceville Avenue (BA-3214 and BA-3215, respectively), the Carroll House (BA-374), and the Kenneth Fisher House (BA-422). A mill and blacksmith shop appear along present-day Priceville Avenue on nineteenth-century maps of the area; however, these structures are no longer extant (Sidney, J. C. 1850; Hopkins 1877). During the early-twentieth century, the Bland family reported that a blacksmith shop was on the right side of the entrance to Priceville Avenue, in addition to four houses and a grist mill along Priceville Avenue (Redcay, Ed. 1979). In 1847, John Emerson Lamb, a Quaker, founded the Lamb's School, which operated in a dwelling in Priceville during the early- to mid-nineteenth century. He converted a stone inn on York Road in Sparks, Maryland, into the Milton Academy for boys sometime during the mid-nineteenth century. Many of Mr. Lamb's students commuted approximately one mile east from Priceville to attend his school on York Road (Redcay, Ed. 1979; Ms. on file at the HSBC; Van Den Beemt 1987). Prior to 1739, Quakers in Baltimore County traveled to the Monthly Meeting at the Clifts in Calvert County. Some time after 1739, Quakers living in the Western Run and Belfast valleys constructed the Gunpowder Friends Meeting House, which was initially located along Beaver Dam Road near Cockeysville. In 1821, the members constructed a new meeting house on part of a tract of Sammy's Meadows Enlarged (owned by Mordecai Price) near Priceville, because it was much closer and more convenient to their homes. The present Gunpowder Friends Meeting House was constructed in 1866 following the destruction by fire of the original 1821 building. The cemetery surrounding the meeting house contains the graves of generations of the Price family. The meeting house continues to serve its modern congregation (BA-80; Ms. on file at the HSBC; Scharf 1881:886).

Local Industry:

Milling was an important industry in the region and throughout Baltimore during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Grain mills in northern Baltimore County transported their product to ports in Baltimore via the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) and the Northern Central Railroad (NCR). By 1880, receipts of grain for these railroads were each over 20 million dollars (Scharf 1881:

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| MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW | |
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| Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services | Date |
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| Reviewer, National Register Program | Date |

373-377). Early historic maps of the area indicate that a mill was present near Priceville; however, it is no longer extant. This mill dates back to 1823 and was originally owned by Samuel Price, Jr., who operated it as a fulling mill. Samuel then sold it and three acres of Samuel's Meadows to Jehu Price in 1844. Land records of Baltimore County from 1844 describe the "Factory or Mill" together with the head race and mill dam at the end of a road running through Samuel Price's land and leading from the "Turnpike Road by the Friends Meeting House (Liber GHC 25, Folio 454-455; Liber 346, Folio 281-282)." In 1850, the mill is listed as Price's woolen factory and sawmill on Piney Run at Priceville Road, under the ownership of John Price, woolen manufacturer. Additionally, the 1850 census of manufacturers lists Ezra Price as operating a tannery near Priceville (McGrain, Jr., Jr., Jr. 1980: 61; Sidney, J.C. 1850).

In 1859, the factory and mill functioned as a grist and saw mill under the ownership of Daniel Marks (ibid: 61-62; 1877 Hopkins atlas). Daniel Marks was a native of Pennsylvania, who settled in the county in 1829. Marks is listed as the owner of a custom mill in the 1880 census of manufactures. In 1887, Marks' widow sold the mill to William McKelvy, who then sold it to Robert Lloyd in 1888. McKelvy sued for default of mortgage in 1892. A trustee's advertisement described the property as occupied by Robert F. Stabler and improved by a stone grist mill. Frances A. Ensor purchased the mill and property, and, in 1905, she sold it to Albert and Harry Hahn. John McGrain, Jr., Jr., Jr., Baltimore County historian, identified this mill as the Price-Marks mill, located at 707 East Belfast Road. However, a review of historic maps and the as-built plans prepared by the State Roads Commission (SRC) in 1952 for the construction of the Baltimore-Harrisburg Expressway (I-83) indicate that this mill was located at the end of present-day Priceville Avenue. The Price-Marks mill appears to have been demolished by the construction of the I-83.

Members of the Price family still reside and conduct business in the Sparks Glencoe area, such as Mr. Nicholas Price, proprietor of Price's Store at 14821 York Road. The store is adjacent to the property occupied by the former Milton Academy. This store was originally part of a one-acre lot in 1883, when Israel Price bought part of a tract of land called "Alfred" from Christopher C. Love. It appears on the 1850 map as I. Price's Store. The store has continued to remain in the ownership of the Price family (HBSCF, BA-430).

Significance:

The property at 601 Priceville Avenue (BA-3214) in Priceville, Baltimore County is within the Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District (BA-2214), a rural historic district significant in the areas of agriculture, architecture, and industry. The district was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in January 1979. The district adjoins the eastern boundary of the Worthington Valley Historic District (BA-2215) at Falls Road and terminates along the western edge of the I-83 corridor. Primarily, the district includes late-eighteenth century to late-nineteenth century buildings constructed of frame, brick, and stone, with few log structures extant; many of the nineteenth-century dwellings remain relatively unaltered and retain integrity of design and historic building materials. The dwellings are traditional forms that have few stylistic embellishments.

601 Priceville Avenue is not eligible for the NRHP and it does not contribute to the Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District.

The property does not have an association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history and is not eligible under Criterion A. The property is not associated with significant persons in the local, regional, or national history, and is therefore not eligible under Criterion B.

601 Priceville Avenue is not eligible under Criterion C, due to a loss of historic integrity. The property has been subjected to alterations during the second half of the twentieth century, including the reorientation of the building's placement on the property, and the installation of replacement vinyl fenestration throughout the dwelling. Buildings moved within the past fifty years generally do not contribute to rural historic districts, as they affect the historic integrity by altering the historic relationship of

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

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Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

buildings and land areas, and by disrupting historic patterns of land organization.

The property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this survey.

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| Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services | Date |
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| Reviewer, National Register Program | Date |

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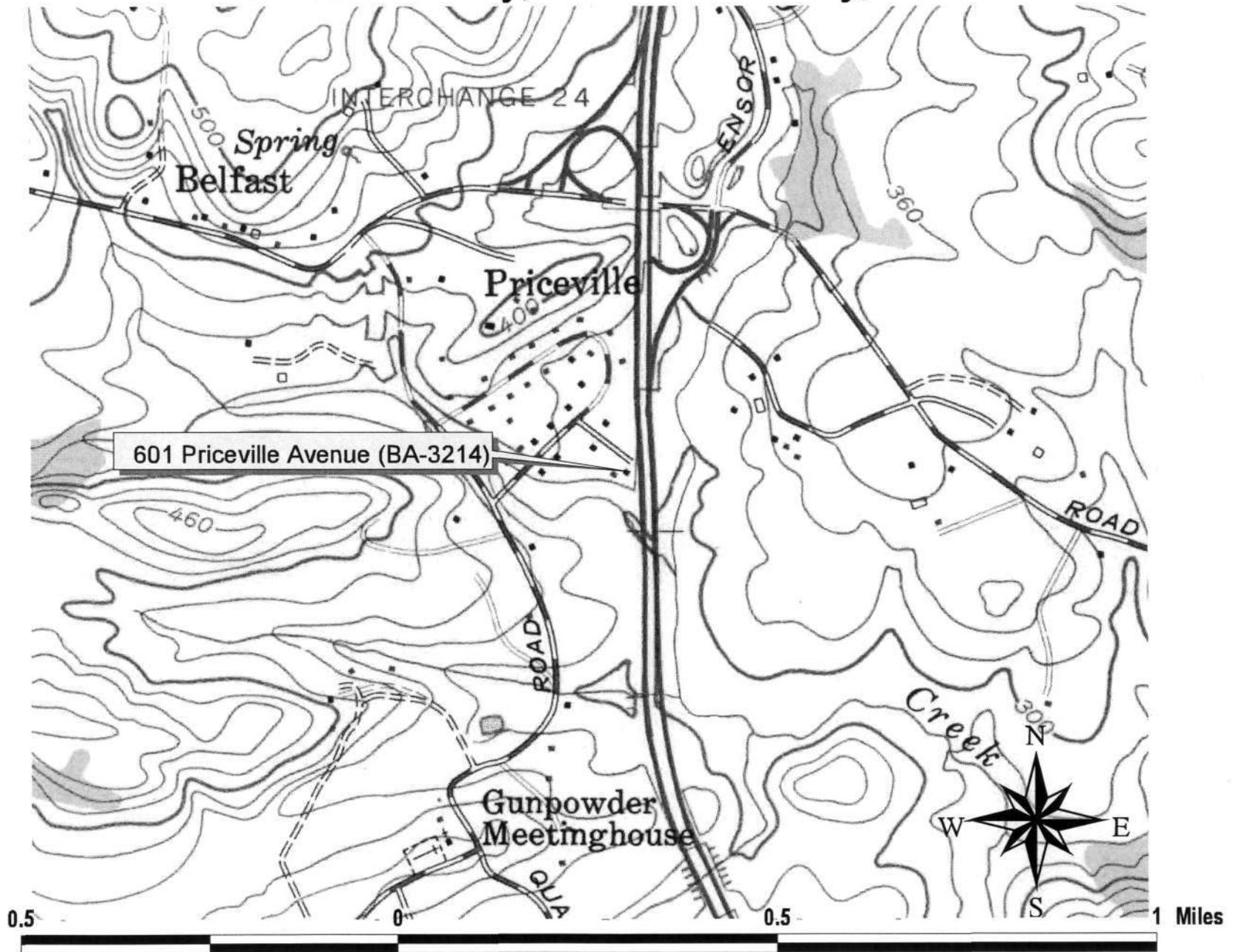
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Locator Map: 601 Priceville Avenue (BA-3214) Priceville Vicinity, Baltimore County, MD



USGS 7.5' Hereford Quadrangle
1:12,000



BA-3214

601 Priceville Avenue

Baltimore County

Melissa Blair

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August 2007

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East Elevation, View Southwest

Photo 1 of 5

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BA-3214

601 Pricerville Avenue

Baltimore County

M. Blair

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South and East Elevations, View West

Photo 2 of 5

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BA-3214

601 Priceville Avenue

Baltimore County

M. Blair

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West & South Elevations, View North

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Photo 3 of 5

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601 Pricerville Avenue

Baltimore County

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West Elevation, View Northeast

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Photo 4 of 5

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BA-3214

601 Priceville Avenue
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North Elevation, View Southeast

Photo 5 of 5

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