

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no \_\_\_

Property Name: Oakland Road Tenant House Inventory Number: CARR-1688  
Address: Oakland Road-Liberty Reservoir City: Eldersburg Zip Code: 21784  
County: Carroll USGS Topographic Map: Finksburg  
Owner: Unknown Is the property being evaluated a district? \_\_\_ yes  
Tax Parcel Number: Unknown Tax Map Number: Unknown Tax Account ID Number: Unknown  
Project: 239 Pleasant Valley Road Demolition/Carroll County Agency: Carroll County Department of Planning  
Site visit by MHT staff: X no \_\_\_ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property is located within a historic district? \_\_\_ yes X no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
NR-listed district \_\_\_ yes Eligible district \_\_\_ yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_  
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context \_\_\_ yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible \_\_\_ yes X no

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:  
CARR-1688

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*  
The house was never very distinguished, and had suffered serious vandalism and deterioration due to long-term abandonment.

Prepared by: Kenneth M. Short Date Prepared: 1/31/2005

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended ___	Eligibility not recommended <u>X</u>
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None
MHT Comments	
<u>Andrew Lewis</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>3/14/05</u> ✓ Date
<u>Blumenty</u> Reviewer, NR Program	<u>3/11/05</u> Date

200500289



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## 7. Description

Inventory No. CARR-1688

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

The Oakland Road Tenant House is located on the south side of Oakland Road on what is believed to be Liberty Reservoir property, and has been vacant for many years. The house faces west, and is set on a hill that slopes down to the southwest and south and slopes up behind the house to the northwest. There is a large rock outcropping at the northwest corner of the house and a small stream to the south that runs down to the reservoir on the southeast. The site is heavily wooded and the house has been vandalized.

The house is a two-story, two-bay by one-bay log structure with a rubble stone foundation, asbestos shingles over vertical boards with wire nails, and a gable roof with a north-south ridge and V-seam metal. The chinking has whitewash. The west elevation has a doorway on the first story, in the north bay, and a window in the south bay. There was once a one-story, one-bay porch added at the doorway after the siding had been put on. The second story has two window openings and the eaves are open. The north elevation has one window opening on both the first and second stories. The gable end has brick-pattern asphalt shingle siding over weatherboards, with no window opening. The north elevation of the east addition has a small window opening. The east elevation of this addition has a doorway to the south and a window to the north. The roof has V-seam metal. The east elevation of the log house, on the second story, has no openings. The south elevation of the addition has a window opening, and the south elevation of the log house has a window opening on both the first and second stories. The siding is mostly missing from the gable end and the eaves are open.

There is no cellar to the building, merely a crawl space. The first story has  $\frac{3}{4}$ -round log joists that run east-west and are set on top of a 1-inch-thick board on the stone foundation. The tongue-and-groove floor is blind-nailed with cut nails. The boards are random-width pine or fir, 3 inches to 4 inches wide, and run north-south. The house has a two-room plan with a partition wall that runs east-west, though much of the wall is now missing. It is constructed of beaded-edge, vertical, tongue-and-grooved boards that are  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, are nailed to the joists at the top with cut nails, and are toe nailed to an approximately 1-inch square board at the bottom. This board is, in turn, nailed to the floor above the joist. The board wall is painted an olive green. There was a door opening at the west end of this partition wall. The logs are hewn on their sides, have V-notch corners, and are heavily whitewashed. The chinking is all of wood, with pieces of tongue-and-groove board and slab wood, some with the bark, mostly laid horizontal and set in mortar. The walls and ceiling were furred out and sheet rocked at an unknown period. The flooring above and the joists were originally exposed and painted. The north room was painted blue and the south room a forest green. Both rooms have two shades of this color so there are at least two layers of paint. The flooring above is circular-sawn. The first story baseboard is plain. There was a small brick chimney in the center of the house, on the north side of the partition wall, and it was only large enough for a stove. It has been taken down to the floor level. The bricks are stored in the closet and have whitewash, suggesting that the chimney was never plastered. There is an enclosed winder stair in the northeast corner, and the boards are identical to the partition wall and have chatter marks. The stringer is nailed to the board wall from the exterior with cut nails. The doors to both the stairs and the closet beneath them are missing. There are stamped iron hinges that survive; they have three knuckles and loose joints. The stairs are constructed with cut nails. The window frames are constructed with wire nails. The sash and sills are missing. There is plain head cut trim. The jamb boards on the window frames are 1-inch thick and are toe nailed with cut nails at the bottom. The front door is missing. The south end window is much taller than the other openings and the plain trim is side cut. The frame has wire nails. The upper floor is patched in the center of the south end.

The second story joists run east-west and are sash-sawn. They are  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 5 inches, are spaced 24 inches to 25 inches on centers, and most have a waney edge. There is a door on the east side of the south room that leads to the east addition. It has head cut trim, hinges that match those on the stairway, and wire nails. The addition was constructed in two stages. The south end has dimensional 2 by 4 studs and 2 by 5 rafters that are circular-sawn. There is vertical-board sheathing on the exterior, sheet rock on the interior and horizontal-board sheathing on the roof. At the north end of the addition, the roof has two 1 by 4s that run north-south and support vertical-board sheathing that is collapsing. All of this timber is circular-sawn. There are vertical boards fastened to the logs with wire nails. The floor runs north-south with a break between the two ends. The south flooring is  $5\frac{1}{4}$

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## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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inches while the north flooring is only 5 inches wide.

The second story has a two-room plan with the same flooring, baseboard, and walls as the first story. The north end is painted red and the south end painted white. There is a board ceiling that matches the board wall of the first story, and it is blind-nailed. There is a break in the ceiling in the center where a board partition wall was located, but most of it is now gone. There is no evidence that the stairs were closed off from the north chamber. The second story was also furred out and sheet rocked, and there were never windows on the east elevation. There was also no access to the attic. The rafters are sawn and are mitered at the ridge. They support rough board shingle lath and wood shingles.

The window trim on the interior of the first story is nailed over earlier trim. The earlier trim is plain and is nailed to the window frame with cut nails, but the window frame is constructed with wire nails. The sills were nailed with wire nails but it appears the window was prefabricated and fastened in place with cut nails.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CARR-1688

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:
<b>Specific dates</b>	N/A	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	N/A	
<b>Construction dates</b>	c. 1880-1900			

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The history of this log tenant house on Oakland Road is unclear because it is not certain on which of three or four parcels it stands. It is believed, though not certain, that the house is on part of the Liberty Reservoir land, though it is close to several privately owned parcels that adjoin the reservoir property. Most of this reservoir land is not delimited on the tax maps as separate parcels, though it was acquired as numerous individual tracts. One parcel in the immediate area of the tenant house that is noted on the maps (p. 254) was originally part of the Bennett-Kelly Farm (CARR-1672). However, the present owner of the Bennett-Kelly Farm believes that this house was part of the farm to the east. According to her, a Mr. James White moved into the house after he married and lived there with no running water or electricity, raising two sons and working as farm manager for the dairy farm to the east, which is now under the reservoir. The City of Baltimore acquired 32 acres of the Bennett-Kelly Farm in 1947, and in the same period purchased numerous other tracts of land in the area. The house has not been vacant since that time, however, since the interior was renovated by adding sheet rock and the exterior covered with asbestos shingle siding, which was likely done after World War II. It is not known how long the building has been vacant, but during that time it has been vandalized and allowed to deteriorate. (1)

The house is constructed with v-notch corner logs, a technique that was being replaced after the Civil War with corner post log construction at the same time that log construction was fading away. The use of logs seems to have ended generally in the 1870s. The house is constructed with cut nails, except for the window frames, which seem to have been built with wire nails, but fastened into their openings with cut nails. Since the frames were probably pre-made in a factory in the late nineteenth century, it would seem that the house was built locally by builders still using the older technology in cut nails, but using pre-manufactured items made in a factory that employed the newer wire nail technology. This would place the construction of the house after c. 1880, making it a very late example of log construction. It is possible that the log structure was built earlier and altered after 1880, but there is no physical evidence to suggest this.

The two-room plan used was a common one dating back to the eighteenth century in the region, and even earlier in the Tidewater area. It was generally phased out in the nineteenth century for farmhouses, as the rise in popularity of privacy led to the wholesale adoption of passages. In some cases the two-room plan was transformed into what is often referred to as the "Pennsylvania Farmhouse" plan, with two front doors. The two-room plan remained popular for tenant houses in the nineteenth century. Given the small size of the house, it is not surprising to find the use of a traditional winder stair in the corner of one room. The existence of only a small chimney for a stove, and no fireplace, suggests that the house was built well after the Civil War, by which time stoves had become ubiquitous.

Endnotes:

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

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(1.) Carroll County Land Records, EAS 196-483.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CARR-1688

See continuation sheet.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 1/4 Ac  
Acreage of historical setting unknown  
Quadrangle name Finksburg Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Because the actual parcel is not known, the boundaries of the survey area extend fifty feet on each side of the house.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Kenneth M. Short  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 11/3/04  
street and number 610 Register Avenue telephone 410-377-4953  
city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21212

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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 not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. CARR-1688

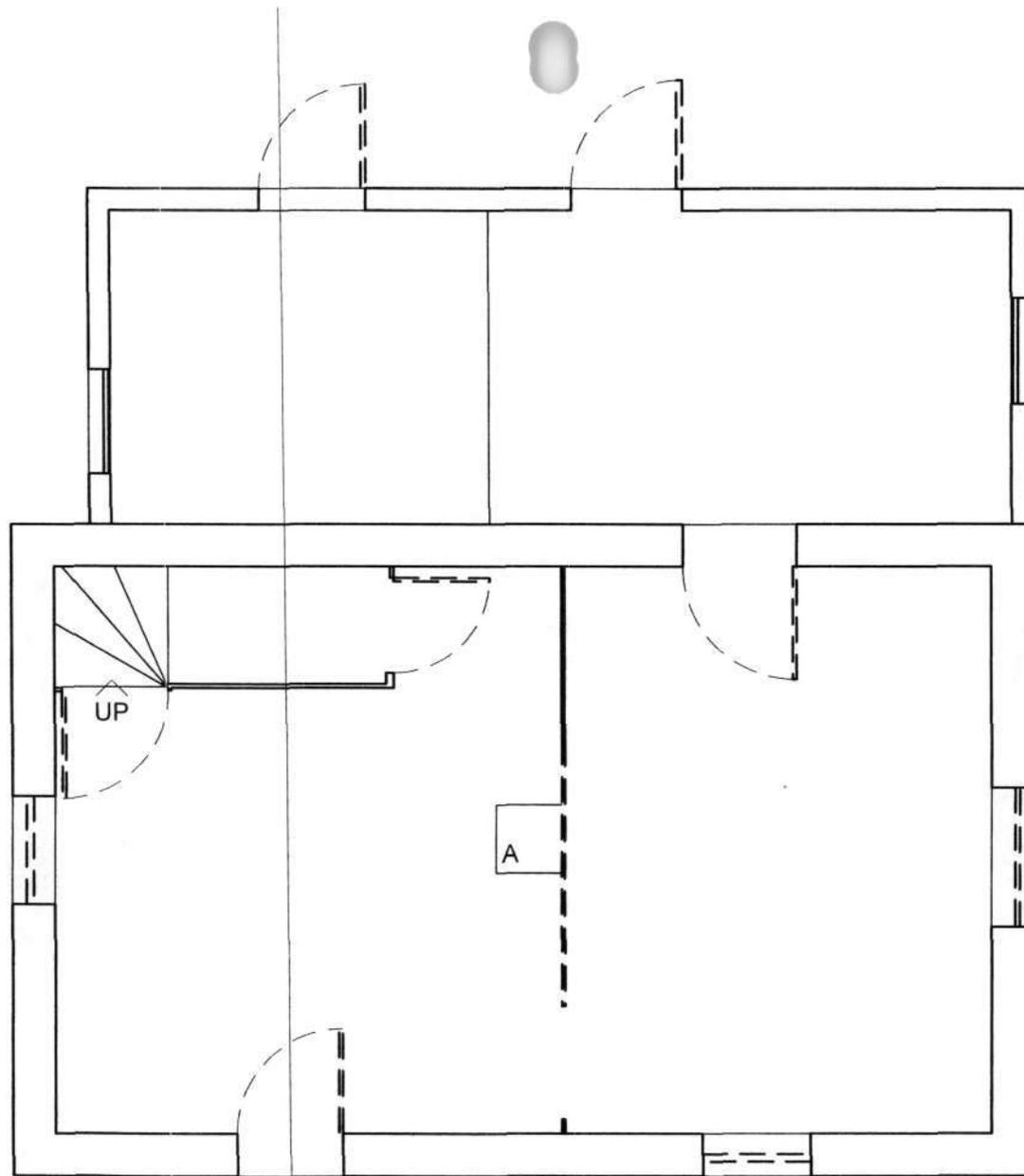
Name Oakland Road Tenant House

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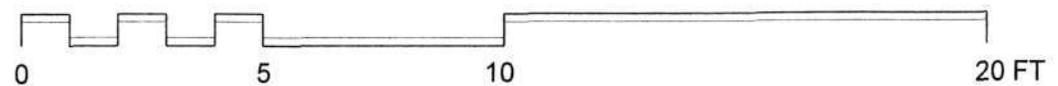
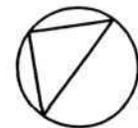
See endnotes



NOTES:

A. BASE OF CHIMNEY  
STACK SURVIVES, FLUSH  
WITH FLOOR.

B. PORCH AND STEPS  
MISSING.



# CARR-1688 OAKLAND ROAD TENANT HOUSE OAKLAND ROAD

FIRST FLOOR PLAN - MEASURED BY MARCIA MILLER AND KEN SHORT - DRAWN BY KEN SHORT - JANUARY 2004



27'30"

4369  
DELIGHT (JUNC. U.S. 140) 3.9 MI.

(REISTERSTOWN)  
5662 IV NE

4366

4365

25'

4364

CARR-1688  
Oakland Road Tenant House  
Oakland Road  
USGS Quad - Finksburg



CARR-1688

Oakland Rd Tenant House

Oakland Rd

Carroll Co, MD

Ken Short

Jan. 2004

MD SHPO

West elevation

1/4

ART-2614 <NO. 19 >B3B  
635 1717 - 1 11 11-2 103 (0443)



CARR-1688

Oakland Rd. Tenant House

Oakland Rd

Carroll Co, MD

Ken Short

Jan. 2004

MD SHPO

South & east elevations

2/4

ART-2611 <NO. 28 >048  
635 1212 -1 11 N-2 02 04450



CARR-1688  
Oakland Rd. Tenant House  
Oakland Rd  
Carroll Co, MD  
Ken Short  
Jan. 2004  
MD SHPO  
First story, vw. NE  
3/4

ART-2614 <NO. 21 >042  
635 1217 - 1 14 11 7 30 (MAY 04)

RODOLPH PUCK  
PAPER & PAPER



CARR-1688

Oakland Rd Tenant House

Oakland Rd

Carroll Co, MD

Ken Short

Jan. 2004

MD SHPO

Second Story, NW SW

4/4

ART-2611 <NO. 22 >B44  
635 1717 - 1 11 11-2 22 114405