CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House — circa 1830

New Windsor — private

The Simon Murdock house is significant for its association with black Civil War veteran Simon Murdock (sometimes spelled Murdoch). Murdock played an important role in the post-war New Windsor area African American community. Murdock hosted Sunday School meetings at his home and may have donated land for Strawbridge Methodist Church, built in 1916-18 just a few hundred yards from his house. Although the original structure has seen substantial additions, this two-story, c. 1830 log home remains mostly intact. Built into the side of a hill, it has a full, white-washed basement and two rooms on each of the main floors with a boxed corner staircase, a floorplan linking it to a German building tradition typical of northern Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-1716

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Simon Murdock House
other	

2. Location

street and number	2824 Wakefield Valley Road	__ not for publication
city, town	New Windsor	__ vicinity
county	Carroll County	

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

name	Bruce J. Jones				
street and number	2824 Wakefield Valley Road			telephone	
city, town	New Windsor	state	MD	zip code	21776-9004

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Carroll County Courthouse			liber	3863	folio	606
city, town	Westminster	tax map 50	tax parcel 98		tax ID number		11-005640

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

_____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
_____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
__X__ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other:_____

6. Classification

Category
_____district
__X__building(s)
_____structure
_____site
_____object

Ownership
_____public
__X__private
_____both

Current Function
_____agriculture
_____commerce/trade
_____defense
__X__domestic
_____education
_____funerary
_____government
_____health care
_____industry
_____landscape
_____recreation/culture
_____religion
_____social
_____transportation
_____work in progress
_____unknown
_____vacant/not in use
_____other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
		Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. CARR-1716

Condition

X excellent	___ deteriorated
___ good	___ ruins
___ fair	X altered

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

Although there have been substantial additions to the original structure, this two-story, c. 1830 log home remains mostly intact. Built into the side of a hill, it has a full, white-washed basement and two rooms on each of the main floors with a boxed corner staircase, a floorplan linking it to a German building tradition typical of northern Maryland. A late 20th century frame addition to the back of the house has added a kitchen, family room and two additional bedrooms, about doubling the size of the house, but the original home is intact. The lower level includes a dining room and a living room, where an exposed area of the wall reveals the original log framing. The kitchen, although part of the addition, is floored in hemlock planks taken from the attic. A corner stair in the living room, a pre-Victorian feature, leads up to two bedrooms. Another staircase leads down to a whitewashed basement.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CARR-1716

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philosophy
X 1800-1899	__ architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
__ 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce		__ law	__ science
	__ communications	X ethnic heritage	__ literature	X social history
	__ community planning	__ exploration/ settlement	__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__military	__ other: ____

Specific dates circa 1830 **Architect/Builder** N/A

Construction dates circa 1830

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register ___X___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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The house is significant for its association with black Civil War veteran Simon Murdock (sometimes spelled Murdoch). Murdock's mother was a resident of a free black enclave near New Windsor, just over the Carroll County line in Frederick County, at the intersection of what is now MD 97 and 26. Simon Murdock was 26 years old and a farmer in the New Windsor area when he enlisted in the Union Army on August 4, 1863. He served as a private in Company F of the 4th Regiment, United States Colored Troops (USCT). On June 15, 1864 at the battle of Deep Bottom, Virginia, near Petersburg, Murdock suffered a shell wound to the head and was sent to Summit House General Hospital in Philadelphia. A fellow soldier's post-war pension application provides poignant details of this day. John Wesley Cole was a fellow soldier in Murdock's company, and enlisted at age 20 on the same day as Murdock. Cole was a rather unlucky soldier and was wounded several times, including a bayonet wound, two different wounds from shell fragments, and a bullet wound. In one of Cole's post-war pension applications, filed in 1892, Simon Murdock testified that he was with Cole at Petersburg when they marched side by side while charging the Confederate lines on June 15, 1864. Cole was struck by a bullet, and asked Murdock to look at his wound. Murdock testified that he pried the bullet out of Cole's chest with his fingers, and that they both then continued the charge and succeeded in taking the Confederate position. Murdock never fully recovered from the wound he received that day, and he was discharged from the army early, on May 5, 1865, with a Certificate of Disability.[1]

After the war, Murdock returned to Carroll County and played an important role in the post-war African American community. By 1870, he had married Cecilia Murdock and was living in New Windsor, working as a farm laborer. They had nine children, seven of whom lived to adulthood, and took in many of their grandchildren. Murdock was active in the local African American veterans' organization, the Thaddeus Stevens Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Post in New Windsor; he served as Commander of the Post at one point. A photograph in the collection of the Historical Society of Carroll County shows Murdock in later life wearing his GAR medal and holding his hat so that the shadow of the wound is visible on his forehead. He hosted Sunday School meetings at his home and may have donated land for Strawbridge Methodist Church, built in 1916-18 just a few hundred yards from his house. The Strawbridge congregation was a consolidation of at least four

[1] *U.S. Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1861-1865*, <http://www.ancestry.com/>

historically black churches in southwestern Carroll and northeastern Frederick counties. Several of those churches were founded in the 1850s. Murdock lived into his 90s, and died in April 1933.[2] Murdock is buried in Fairview Methodist Cemetery (CARR-57), along with many other USCT veterans.

[2] *U. S. Population Census*: 1900, New Windsor, Carroll County, MD.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CARR-1716

Civil War Service Records, and Civil War Pension Applications, National Archives, Washington, DC.

Reynolds, Diane. "Behind these walls, historic house of black Civil War vet is a common style throughout Carroll." *Carroll County Times*, July 28, 2009. <http://www.carrollcountytimes.com/articles/2007/09/21/features/at_home/athome986.prt>. Also in the Vertical Files of the Carroll County Historical Society.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	.43 acres		
Acreage of historical setting	.04 acres		
Quadrangle name	New Windsor	Quadrangle scale:	1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

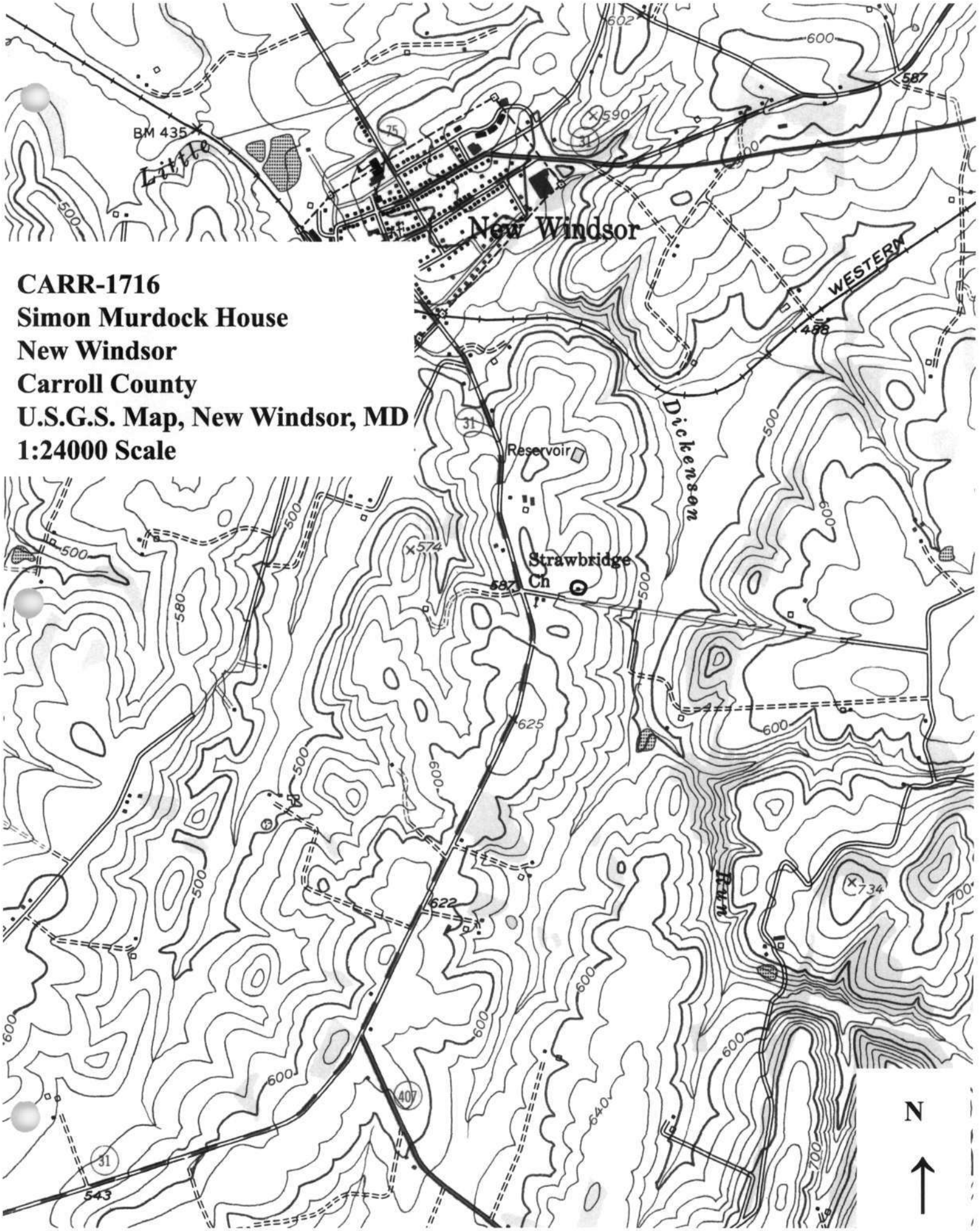
name/title			
organization	The Catoctin Center for Regional Studies	date	7/31/2009
street & number	7932 Oppossumtown Pike	telephone	301-624-2773
city or town	Frederick	state	MD

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 do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



CARR-1716
Simon Murdock House
New Windsor
Carroll County
U.S.G.S. Map, New Windsor, MD
1:24000 Scale

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-1716

Property Name: Simon Murdock House
Digital Photograph File Log

Ink Used: Epson UltraChrome pigmented inks
Paper Used: Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper
Date: September 4, 2009

File Name	Photo Description	Photographer
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_01	North view, façade	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_02	Northwest view, side and façade	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_03	Northeast view, side and façade	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_04	Southwest view, side and rear of house	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_05	South view, rear of addition	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_06	Southeast view, rear of addition, chimney, and corner of front porch	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_07	East view, side, chimney, and corner of front porch	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_08	Northeast view, section of front porch, side, and chimney	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_09	Northwest view, section below front porch; includes boarded-up window that conceals a hollow space inaccessible from interior	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_10	View from dining room of living room and front door	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_11	View from living room of front door	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_12	View from dining room of dining room wall that divides the dining room and living room	Jenna Gianni

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-1716

Property Name: Simon Murdock House
Digital Photograph File Log

CARR-1716_2009-07-22_13	View from living room, basement door	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_14	View from living room, ceiling beams above front door	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_15	View from living room, staircase to second level	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_16	View from second level, top of staircase leading to living room	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_17	View from basement, mantel and door below staircase from living room	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_18	View from basement, ceiling, ceiling beams, and metal grate	Jenna Gianni

CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

N view, façade

1/18

CARR-1716
Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.
Carroll County, MD
Jenna Gianni
07/2009
MHT Digital Archive
NW view, west side + façade
2/18

CARR-1716
Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.
Carroll County, MD
Jenna Gianni
07/2009
MHT Digital Archive
NE view, east side + façade
3/18

CARR-1716
Siman Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.
Carroll County, MD
Jenna Gianni
07/2009
MHT Digital Archive

SW view, west side + rear of house

4/18

CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

S view, rear of addition to house

5/18

CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

SE view, rear of addition, chimney, + corner of front porch

6/18

CARR-1716
Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.
Carroll County, MD
Jenna Gianni
07/2009
MHT Digital Archive

E view, east side of house, chimney,
corner of Front porch

7/18

CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

NE view, east section of front porch, east side of house, + chimney

8/18

CARR - 1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

NW view, west section below front porch;
includes boarded-up window
that conceals a hollow space
inaccessible from interior

9/18

CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

View from dining room of living room + front door

10/18

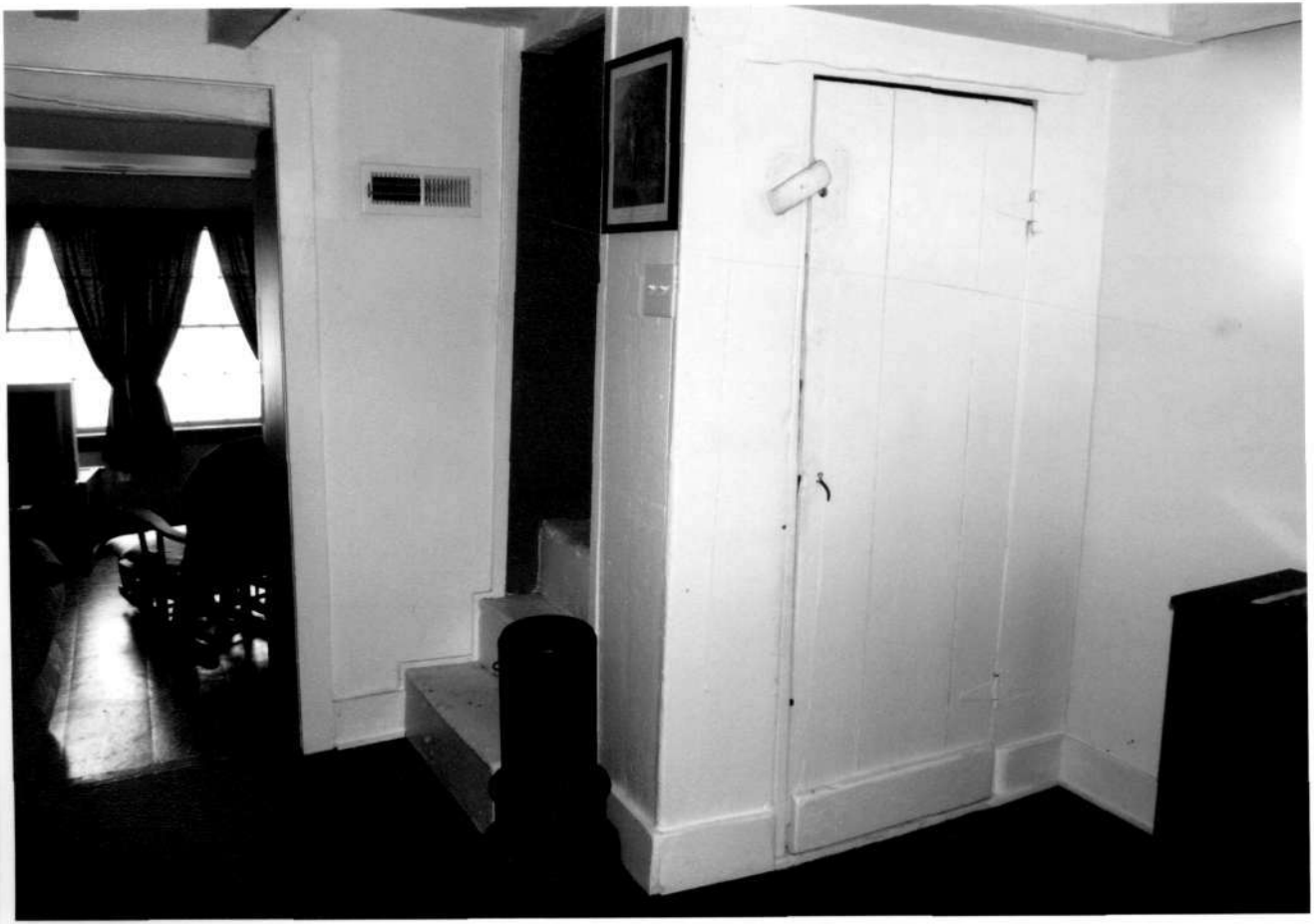
CARR-1716
Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.
Carroll County, MD
Jenna Gianni
07/2009
MHT Digital Archive
view From living room of Front door

11/18

CARR-1716
Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.
Carroll County, MD
Jenna Gianni
07/2009
MHT Digital Archive

View from Dining room of dining room wall that divides the dining room & the living room

12/18



CARR-1716
Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.
Carroll County, MD
Jenna Gianni
07/2009
MHT Digital Archive
View from living room, basement door

13/18

CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

Viewe from livingroom, ceiling beams above front door

14/18

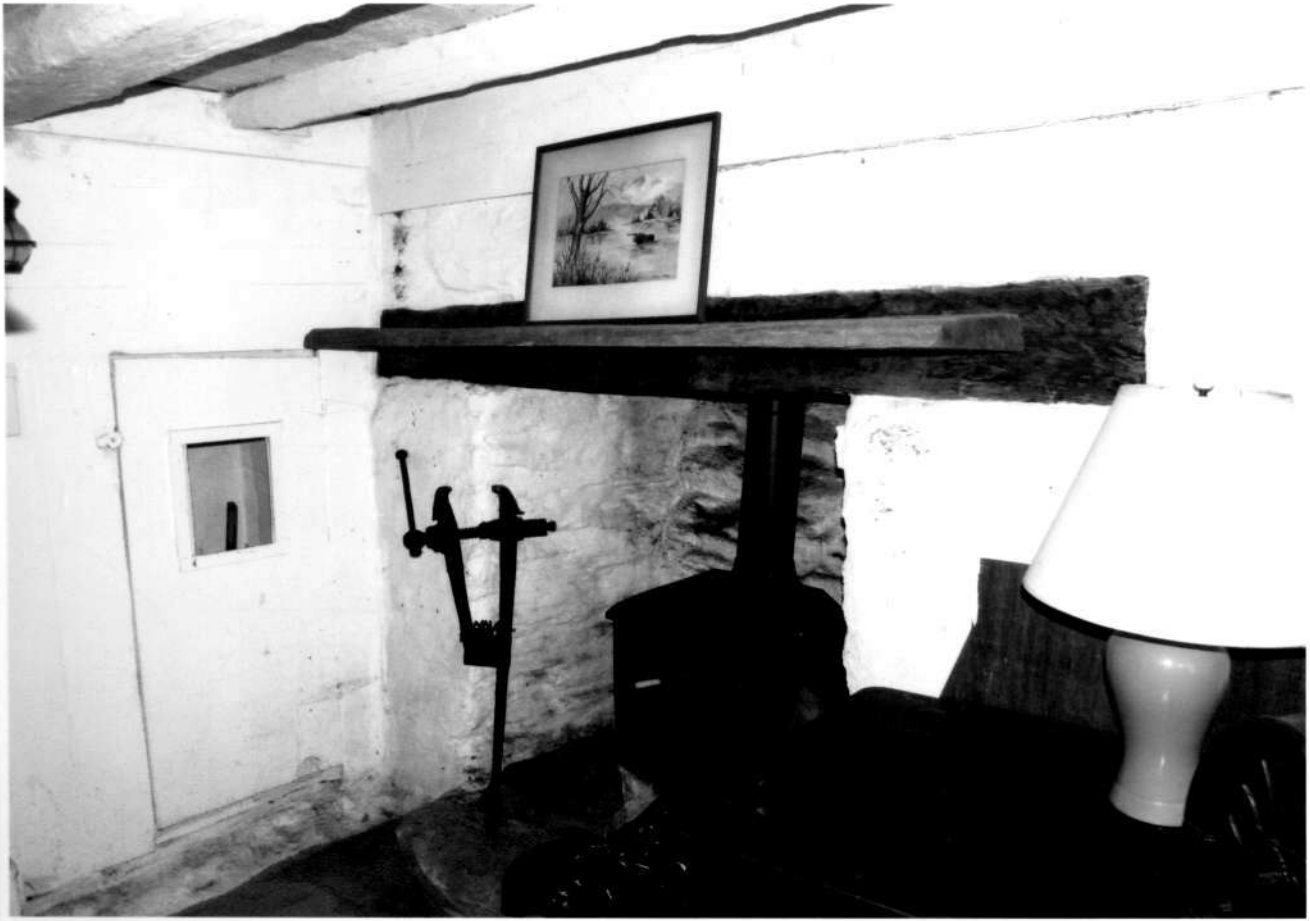
CARR-1716
Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.
Carroll County, MD
Jenna Gianni
07/2009
MHT Digital Archive
View From living room, staircase to second level

15/18

CARR-1716
Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.
Carroll County, MD
Jenna Gianni
07/2009
MHT Digital Archive

View from second level, top of staircase leading to living room

16/18



CARR-1716
Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.
Carroll County, MD
Jenna Gianni
07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

View from basement, mantel + door below
Staircase from living room

17/18

CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

View from basement of ceiling, beams & grate

18/18