The Jacob Coffman House WA-II- 1136
Sharpsburg, MD

Between the house and Sharpsburg Pike, north of Spring Woods Farm, there is a small cemetery enclosed by a stone wall. A plaque on the south side of the stone wall adjacent a stee, which gives access to the mid 19th century graves of the Coffman family. It reads:

1834
JACOB COFFMAN HEIRS
BURIAL GROUND AND LANE
WALL REBUILT BY
WILLOUGHBY D. COFFMAN
1934

To the west is the house, a log building constructed c. 1820, composed of a 3-bay x 2-bay, 2-story main section with 2-story, 2-bay long 'L'. The L was originally 1 1/2/ storys but was heightened to 2-stories in late 19th century.

There is a cellar beneath the 'L' and a crawl space under the main section. The cellar entrance was nearly centered on the south side of the 'L', over which there was a porch roof, now collapsed. Some original window trim remains in the 'L' which has ovolo back bank. The 'L' originally had board partition between the kitchen and pantry(?).

In mid-19th century, the window appear to have been re-trimmed (maybe later). The exterior was originally exposed and whitewashed, but it was covered with German siding and the windows were trimmed on the exterior with pediment-like crossetted window frames. The frotn entrance had a stone foundation with wood deck covered with a hip roof. There is a side porch with similar c. 1880 brackets, etc. To the rear of the 'L', covering part of the kitchen chimney, is a leanto which was built when the second story was added onto the 'L' It had a door to the porch and one on the opposite wall behind the chimney, opposite a stone root cellar, which is in a stone wall behind.

The plan of the house consists of on large room on the north side of the house, into which the central door on the west facade opens, and two rooms on the south side of the main section. The easterly room contains a fireplace. The enclosed stair is located between the rooms and is accessible from both, ascending from the back or east wall. The 'L' contains one room now, but originally was divided into two rooms by a board partition, as stated above. The pantry or dining room has a window on the south and a door to the above mentioned porch, while the kitchen has the opposite fenestration. To the best of my memory (10/11/96), the second story had the same plan as the first. The rear section was so deteriorated that it was inaccessible. The similarities between the Coffman log house and the adjoining Spring Woods farm house are

striking, even though the latter is built on a hill and is of stone. Both houses are now owned by the same person and are under easement to the Maryland Environmental Trust.

South of the main gable a stone and brick cistern has collapsed upon itself. East of the cistern and on line stretching easterly with the door of the root cellar is the remains of a log and stone smokehouse/dairy(?). In the field north of the house is a remarkable small frame two-pen stable, with a wide overhang on its west side. It is in a good state of preservation. Still farther north, on the brow of the hill is the stone foundation of a large bank barn.

North of the barn remains is a small stream which drains westerward, when it meets a larger stream that flows to the south. Between this farm and the adjoining farm the stream meets up with a bountious spring, near which are the remains of small stone building which had a fireplace. There is a series of weir-like stone enclosures around an enlargement of the stream. Although the building and its environs are in ruinous condition, they are salvageable.

Michael Bourne :notes taken at the site 12/22/95; typed 10/11/96.