



March 9, 2006

TO: Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Robin D. Ziek, Historic Preservation Planner

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Significance to Rockville of 16100 Frederick Road
King Farm Park

DESCRIPTION: Parcel A (5 acres) King Farm, Bailey's Commons North
P. No. 20357
Parcel B (remainder of environmental setting)

OWNER: City of Rockville

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Based on an assessment of the history and architecture of the site, Staff finds that this property meets the adopted Rockville criteria for a local historic district. The recommended environmental setting is the remnant of the farm property that extends from Frederick Road to Piccard Drive, and from Ridgemoor Avenue to the west survey line of Parcel A extended. The total acreage will be seven to eight acres of land, to be determined with an engineering survey and to be recorded as a plat.

Architectural Significance: The property exemplifies the 20th century dairy farms in Montgomery County. The collection of farm buildings illustrates this once important industry in the Rockville area. Of particular interest is the large scale Dairy barn, with its complex and unified design that incorporates architectural detailing such as cast stone concrete block and decorative wood trim in a utilitarian structure. However, all of the buildings played a role and illustrate the farm as an industry, with a design layout along the north-south axis of the farm lane.

Cultural and Social Significance: From its inception until ca. 1960, Rockville was surrounded by farmland. The King Farm was one of the largest farming operations in the county, and William Lawson King exemplifies the high farming standards that were required to meet the challenges of producing food in a sanitary and healthy environment. In addition, Mr. King made multiple contributions to the county and city through his involvement in local governmental, civic and social institutions, as well as a variety of business ventures.

Archeological resources: Because of the lengthy occupation at this site in the historical period, there is a high potential for resources related to eighteenth – twentieth century farming, including the potential for identifying variations in status amongst the residents of the property who contributed to the successful farming industry at this site. In addition, there is a low potential for pre-historic remains, as one site has been identified and determined to be in too disturbed a condition to warrant further study.

**CITY OF ROCKVILLE
HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION CRITERIA**

16100 Frederick Road

Standing structures and sites, including archeological sites, must be determined to be significant in one or more of the following criteria to be found eligible for designation:

I. Historical and cultural significance:

A. Is the site of a significant historic event.

No, this is not the site of a significant event.

B. Is identified with a person or a group of persons who influenced society.

Yes, this property is identified with William Lawson King, an influential farmer and local politician who operated a large dairy farm at this site from 1924 to 1960. The property is also associated with the Graff Family, who illustrate the migration of German farmers from Pennsylvania, bringing their German traditions with them.

C. Exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political or historic heritage of the County and its communities. (Refer to Historic Contexts #6, 7, and 8 in Rockville's Historic Resources Management Plan)

Yes, this property exemplifies the farming heritage of the greater Rockville area, with large working farms surrounding the county seat. It illustrates and offers the potential for further discoveries regarding the different social and cultural groups that worked and lived at the property, including slaves, indentured servants, and farm workers. The King Farm also illustrates the 20th century dairy industry, which was especially important in the first half of the 20th century.

D. Has character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, County, State, or Nation.

Yes, it illustrates the farming industry with the collection of remaining buildings associated with many aspects of farming life. Residential life is illustrated with a large family house and two tenant houses, as well as the premier dairy barn and experimental structures such as the hay-drying shed.

II. Architectural and design significance:

A. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction.

Yes. This property illustrates the building techniques of the 20th century, including the use of stone-faced cast concrete blocks (often cast on site); balloon framing for the gambrel hay mow in the dairy barn, and pole barn construction in the hay-drying shed. The house is an excellent example of early 20th century Colonial Revival style architecture, on a scale that accommodated the extended farming family (including farmer and worker).

B. Represents the work of a master.

The builder and/or architect are unknown.

C. Possesses high artistic values.

Yes. The dairy barn and the house both are fine examples of their building type.

D. Represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

As a multi-site historic district, some of the buildings have more architectural significance than others. However, the collection of farm structures is significant to illustrate the variety of buildings required in a large dairy farming operation, and each building has its significance within the group.

E. Represents an established or familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.

Yes. The King Farm family house and dairy barn with its large sign advertising "Thompson's Dairy" has been a landmark along Frederick Road throughout the 20th century. The area has been redeveloped from farmland to suburbia, with the King Farm as a steady presence in the area.

III. Structural Integrity: There is a high level of integrity overall.

- "Substantially Altered" (basic shape, original façade plan, windows and doors have been obscured or changed.)
- Minor alterations (porch removal or enclosure, roof material replacement, siding added over old siding, basic mass and fenestration intact.**
- Original or near original condition (all changes reversible)**
- Outbuildings present and recognizable**
- Original site and setting largely preserved. (Lot size, environmental character, trees, setbacks, streetscape)**

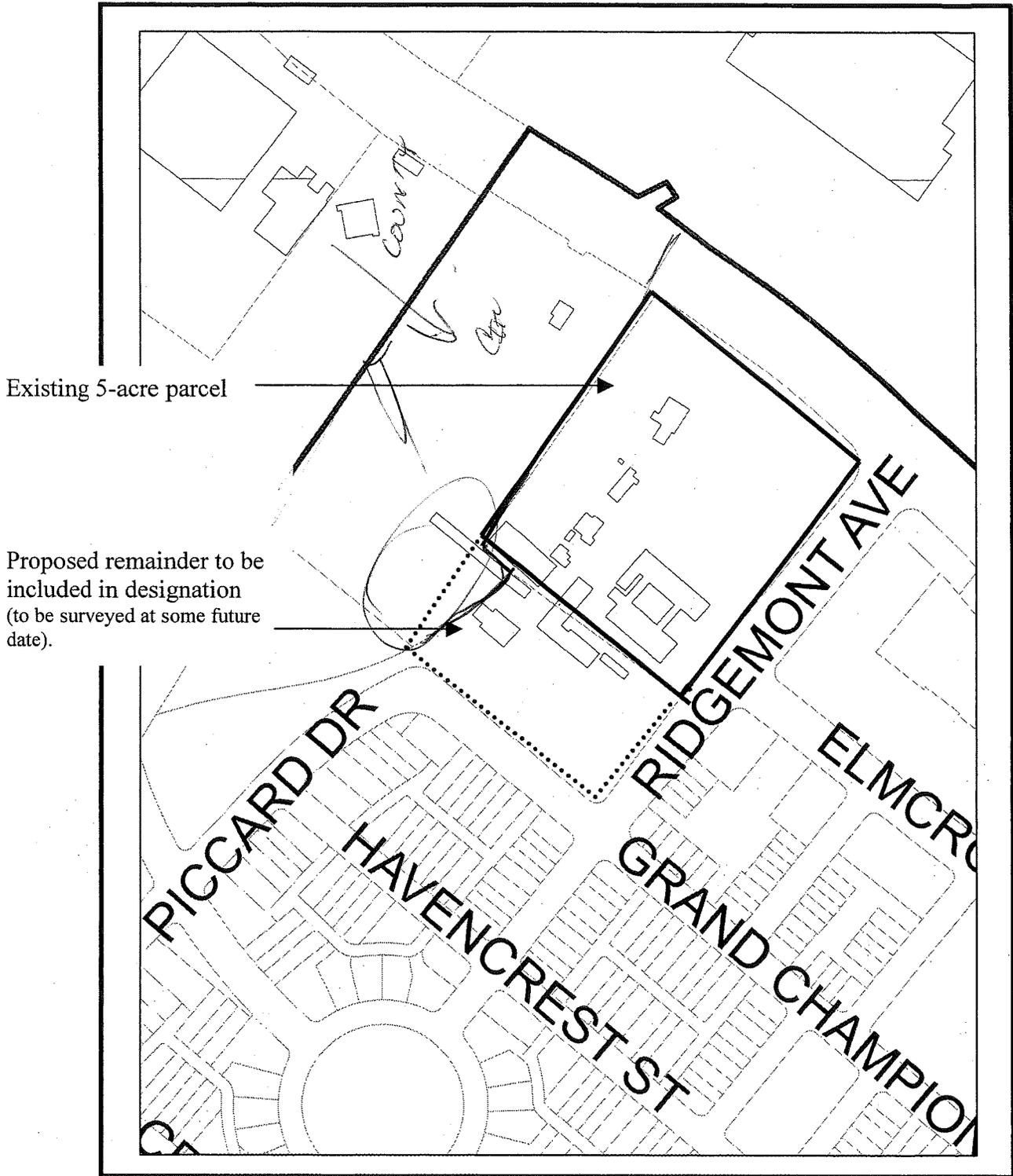
If the site is found to meet one or more criteria and possesses sufficient integrity, it is eligible to be recommended to the Mayor and Council as a potential historic district or landmark site. Determine the level of site significance and list the applicable criteria for the recommendation.

IV. Level of site significance: (Check those that apply)

Local: *Yes* I B, C, D; II A, C, D, E

State: *Yes* I B, C, D; II A, C, D

National:



Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M

Name
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Resource count:

Buildings (associated with human occupancy):

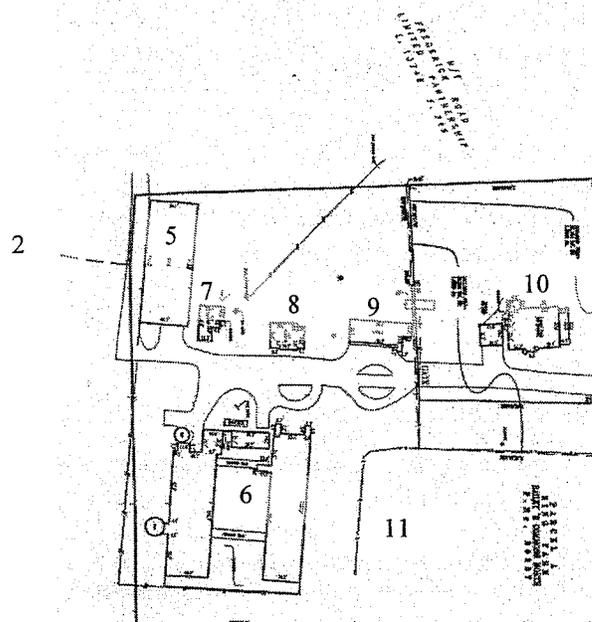
- (#10) Main House
- (#9) Garage w/apartment
- (#8) Farm shed/Tenant House
- (#7) Tenant House

Structures:

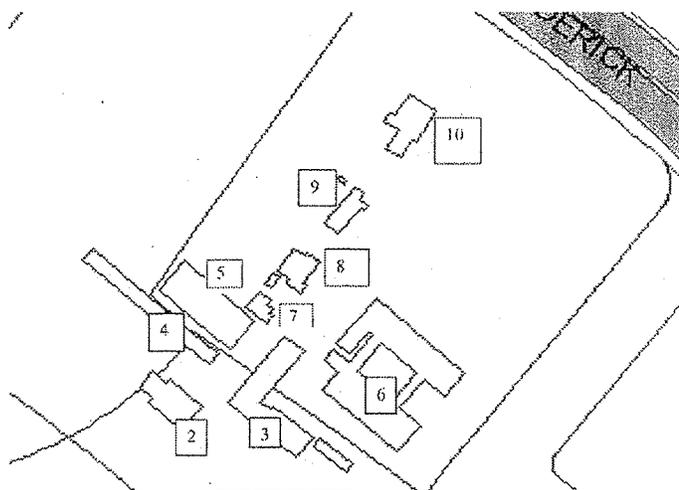
- (#6) Dairy Barn Complex
- (#5) Horse Barn
- (#2) Hay Drying Shed

Sites:

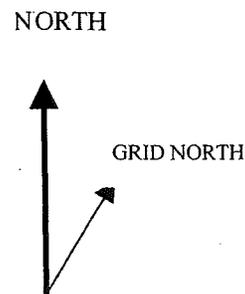
- (#11) [Purported] Site of 19th c Bank Barn
- (#3) [Calf Barn and truck storage, demolished]
- (#4) [Show Barn, demolished]



Survey Plat of front five-acres, 2005



King Farm, existing conditions, 1990



7. Description

Inventory No.

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

SUMMARY

The King Farm Park is a remnant of the 122 acre farm known to the King Family as "Irvington Farm." The Park preserves the original setting of the house and associated farm buildings to the south on approximately seven acres. Irvington Farm was part of the largest dairy operation in the county (500 cows milked daily), and accommodated 100 dairy cows. Although some farm buildings have been demolished, the remaining buildings are a significant grouping that contributes to an understanding of the 20th century farming industry in the immediate vicinity of Rockville, the county seat. The extant buildings are: the 1914 house, the dairy barn complex, a garage with a 2nd floor apartment, a farm shed renovated as a 1-1/2 story dwelling, a small 1-story tenant house, a large English barn, and the hay drying shed. The property also includes the probable location of a 19th century bank barn, which was destroyed by lightning in 1932. There is a high potential for archaeological remains of the multiple outbuildings associated with the long-term farming operations at this site, as well as remnants of 18th and 19th century occupation at this site.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING FOR THE KING FARM HOMESTEAD PARK

The King Farm Park, consisting of two parcels, is now in a congested suburban area at the north end of the City of Rockville. The park is bounded by the Frederick Road (north), Ridgemont Avenue (east), Piccard Drive (south) and the King Pontiac-GMC Truck at 16200 S Frederick Ave (west). The large farm was annexed into the City of Rockville in 1995, and all of the farmland (except for the park) has been developed as a residential community with an urban density. The park is located on high ground, above all the surrounding development. Across the Frederick Road, Montgomery County has developed a waste transfer station, and the City of Gaithersburg begins just north of the 370 Overpass. The cluster of farm buildings, including the King family home and the large dairy barn, is highly visible in the landscape because of the topography, as well as the contrast between high and low density development. Although the original wide farmland setting has been lost, the low density of the parkland stands out in marked contrast to its surroundings. The proposed park boundaries are sufficiently large to represent the lost farmstead.

THE HAY DRYING SHED

Building #2)

The Hay drying shed is a pole barn. It sits on the west side of the farm lane, towards the south end. Its front-facing gable faces east. Three sides (north, east and south) are open to the roof plate, while the west end has an enclosed area for the hay drying machinery. A middle range of poles divides the shed into north and south bays. The attic area is fully enclosed with vertical siding in the gable ends. An angled vent sent hot air from the furnace into the attic. Hatches in the ceiling, evenly placed in both the north and south bays, for access to the attic space. The concrete floor was poured with channels designed to guide the wagons through each of five column bays that were defined by the range of exterior poles along the north and south sides. These channels matched up with the hatches in the ceiling.

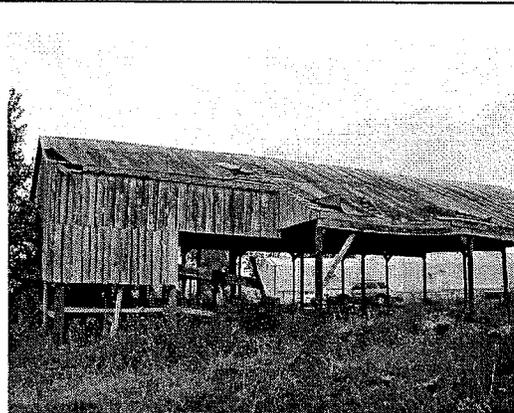
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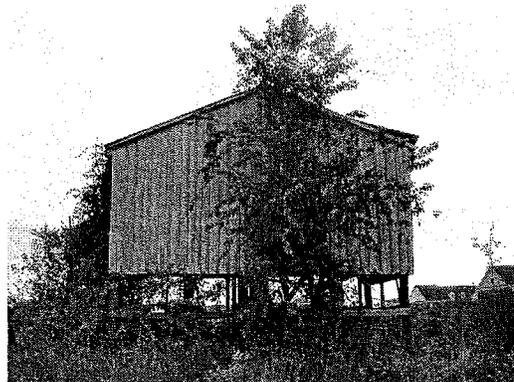
Name
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South Façade: The south façade shows the two distinct parts of the structure, with the east portion being the hay storage shed through which the wagons would pass to collect the hay. The west portion is the attached drying loft, with vertical siding to protect the machinery.



West (rear) Façade: The west-facing gable end has no windows or vents. It is clad with vertical wood siding. The siding starts approximately three feet off the ground, providing additional ventilation and air circulation.



North Façade: The north façade is similar to the south façade, with its five wagon bays, and two additional bays for the hay loft. Wagons were prevented from entering in the bay closest to the hay drying loft with a board nailed between posts (in the second bay from the west end), as the vertical board siding only extends a little lower than the ceiling level.



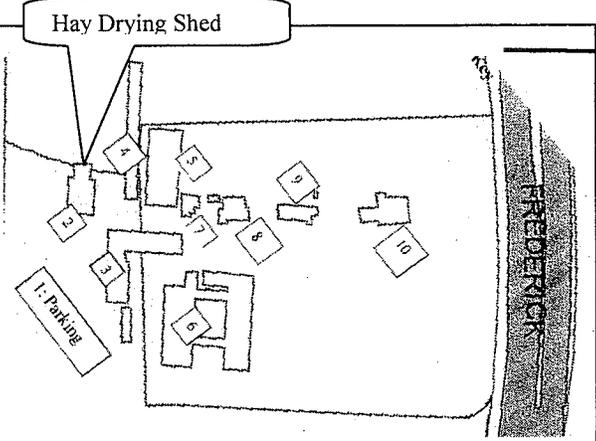
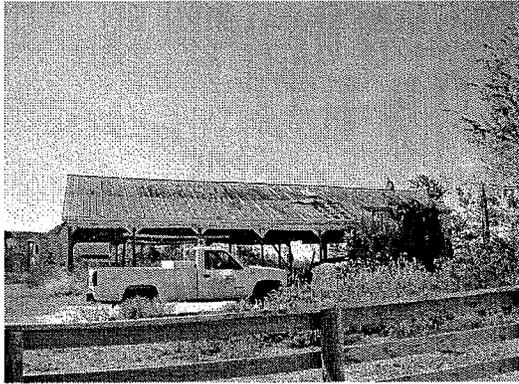
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<p>General: The Hay Drying Shed sits on a flat area, with overgrown weeds and shrubs. The metal roof is in poor condition, and the sagging plate indicates some structural deficiencies. The shed is open on three sides, but has a drying loft or room at the north end, supported by metal pipes to carry the weight of the machinery inside.</p> <p>Character-defining elements: Massing, materials, functional design elements including ceiling hatches and wheel channels, machinery.</p>	 <p>Hay Drying Shed</p> <p>Grid North</p>
<p>Surrounding Environment: The barn sits on a gradually rolling hill, which falls towards the north façade. Landscaping around the drying barn consists of brush and scrub trees that encroach on the building. Vines are climbing on the north façade.</p>	
<p>East Façade: The wood frame is open below the ceiling plate. The front-facing gable end is clad with vertical wood siding, painted white. The roof is covered with standing-seam metal. The three poles on this façade are notched to hold the built-up beam and plates. In the exterior ranges, these plates are nailed on the exterior side of the poles. In the central range, the beam is nailed on the east side of the poles. The beam and plates are built-up, and consist of two - 2x10s.</p>	

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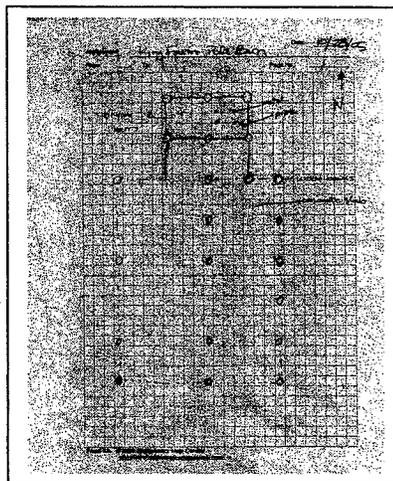
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Interior: The Hay Drying Shed consists of three ranges of poles spaced east-west along the concrete floor to accommodate the specific use of this building. The six sets of poles were spaced to provide five wagon bays. The additional two bays at the west end accommodated the hay drying loft, with its machinery.

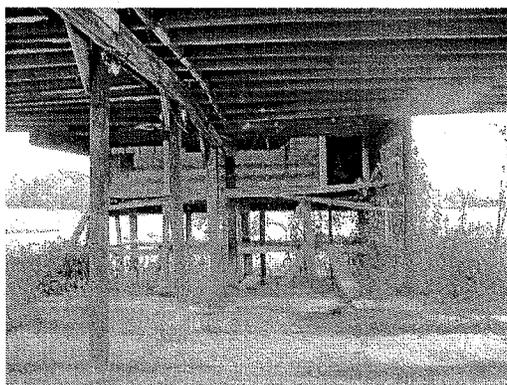
The hay drying loft includes two bays: the west bay housed the machinery, while the adjacent bay provided access to this rear storage space via a raised platform leading to a door. The angled vent that directed warm air from the furnace to the enclosed attic area is clearly visible from the ground.

The platform was built approximately 5 feet above grade, leaving only about four feet to the ceiling. The doorway measures 2-1/2 x 4 feet. The platform measures approximately 21' long (the entire width of the hay loft structure) x 11-1/2' deep.

The machinery consisted of a gas-fired boiler, and associated gas and electric power. There is a gas pipe to this system, visible above grade. The heavy weight of the machinery was supported by metal posts.



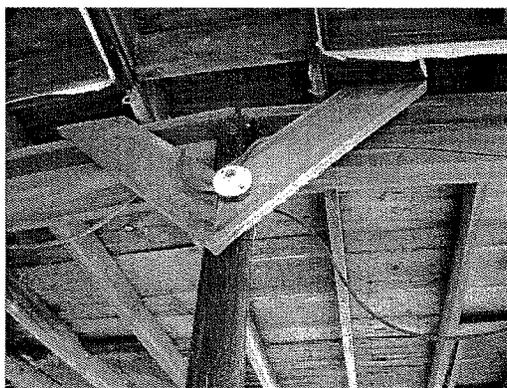
Grid
North



Details:



V-notches where beams meet rafters



V-braces

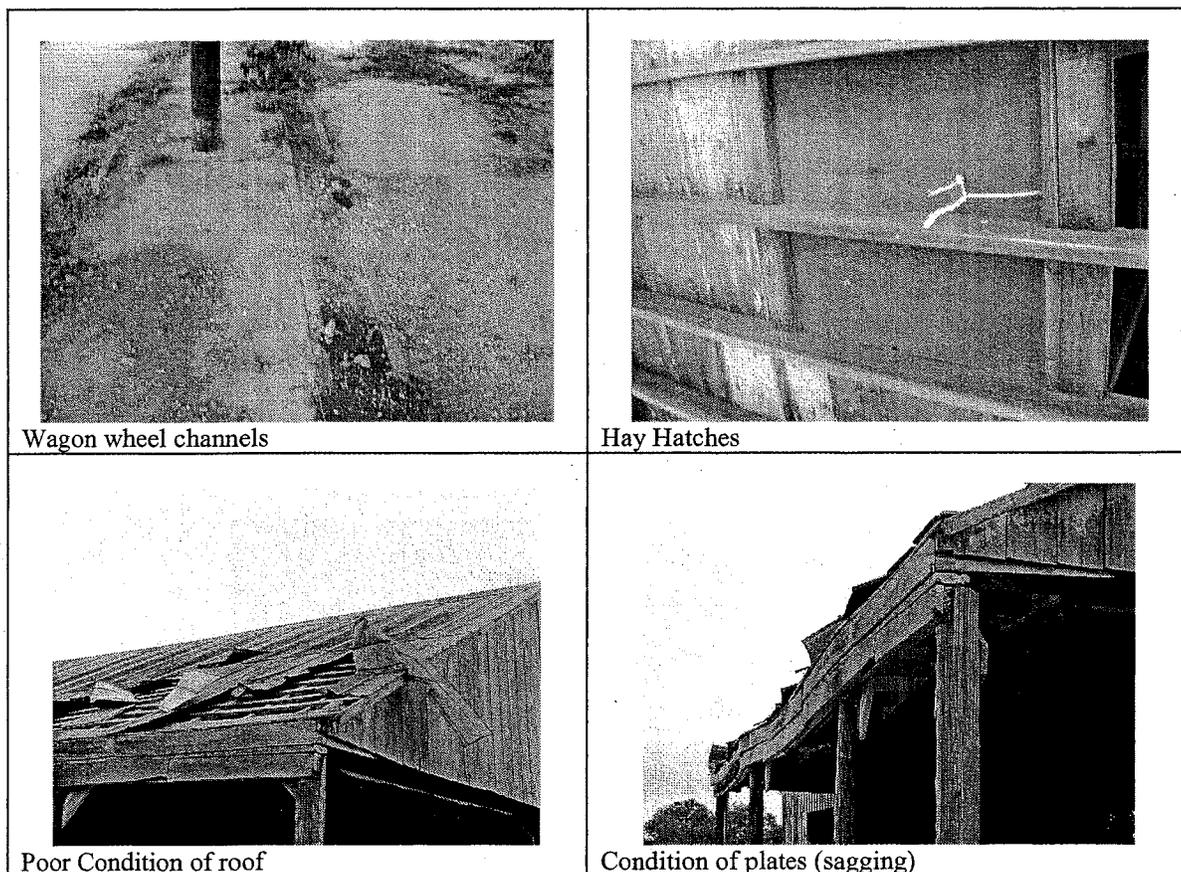
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[See below for Buildings #3 and #4, which have been demolished]

HAY BARN Building # 5

The hay barn is similar to an English barn (being a single level), and is located on the west side of the farm lane. It sits on a concrete block perimeter foundation. The wood frame is clad with horizontal, wood German siding. The front gable roof is clad with standing-seam metal. 6/6 double-hung wood windows have been added in the north elevation. The rafters are exposed at the eaves. The interior is a center-aisle plan, with various divisions of the side-aisles including raised platforms for hay storage.

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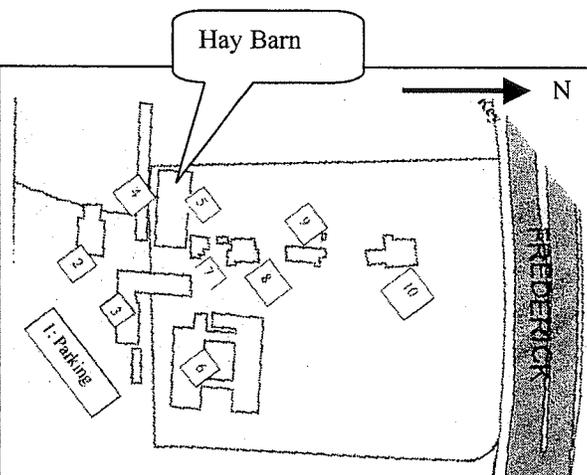
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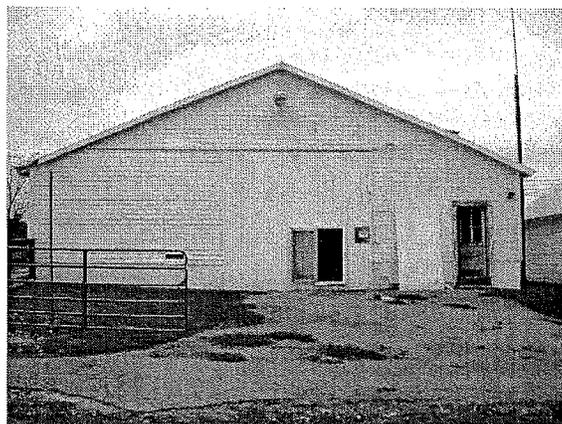
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Environmental setting: The Hay Barn sits on a gradually rolling hill, which falls towards the east. An asphalt driveway leads to the farm lane, running N-S through the site. A post and plank wood fence extends eastwards from the southeast corner of the barn to separate portions of the farm complex. The building is a simple rectangle, and its roof has a shallow slope.

Character-defining features: Simple massing, simple materials; internal framing with bents.



East (front) Façade: The main façade has two entrances: one for the main portion of the barn, and the other to the farm office, with a small kitchen area. For the barn entrance, a large sliding wood door accommodated machinery and animals. Within the frame of this sliding door, there is a single-leaf door. The office entrance has a single-leaf, half-glaze (2/2) wood paneled door. There is a rectangular, slatted vent at the gable peak. The German siding has been patched in places.



South Façade: The south façade lacks any voids or windows. It has wood German siding, and sits on a block foundation. There is a single pipe in the roof slope, with a wire attached.



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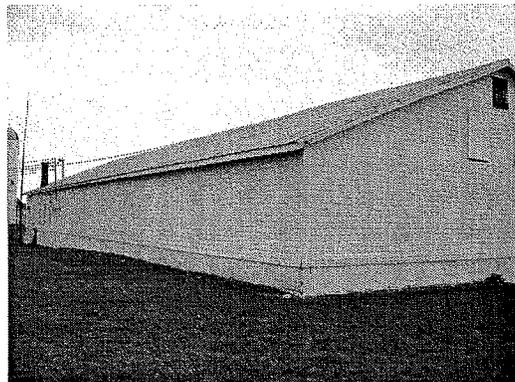
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West (rear) Façade: The rear façade has two windows symmetrically placed high in the wall. A large louvered vent with a fan sits close to the eaves, under the peak of the roof.



North Façade: The north façade has five windows towards the south end. Three of these light a room within the main portion of the barn, while the other two light the office/kitchen room. An internal brick chimney is located between these two internal spaces.



Interior: Timber-framed bents are evenly spaced in the barn, and support heavy timber perlins which brace the mid-point of the rafters. The interior is laid out with a central aisle, with stalls and hay storage along the sides. The west end is separated from the main part of the barn with board walls extending to the central aisle.



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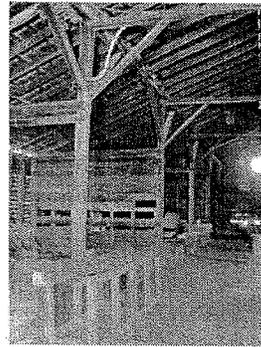
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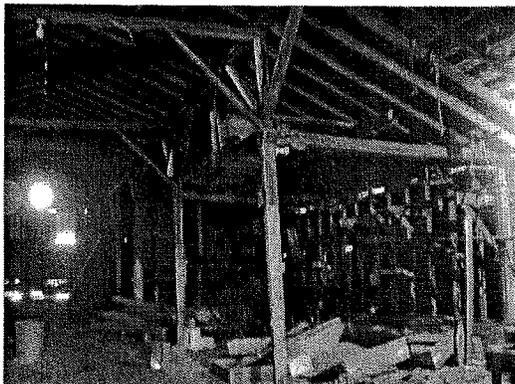
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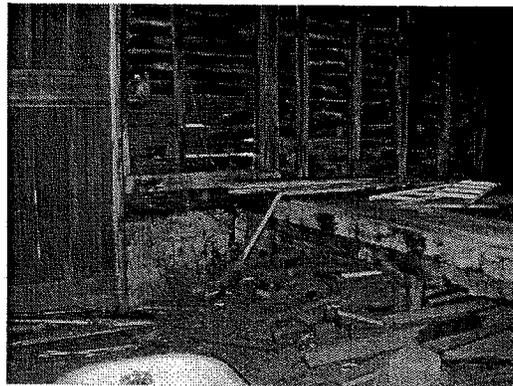
Within the east two-thirds of the barn, the south side has a raised timber platform which was designed for the storage of hay. Both the north and south sides are further separated into individual areas that follow the framing, for the most part. There is a small, tack room on the north side at the entrance, abutting the office/kitchen wall.



Details:



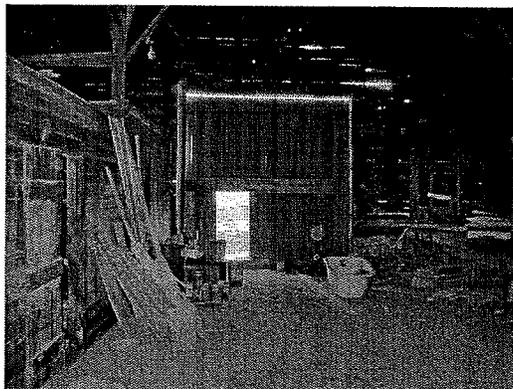
Central and side-aisle framing



Raised platform along south side



Tack room interior

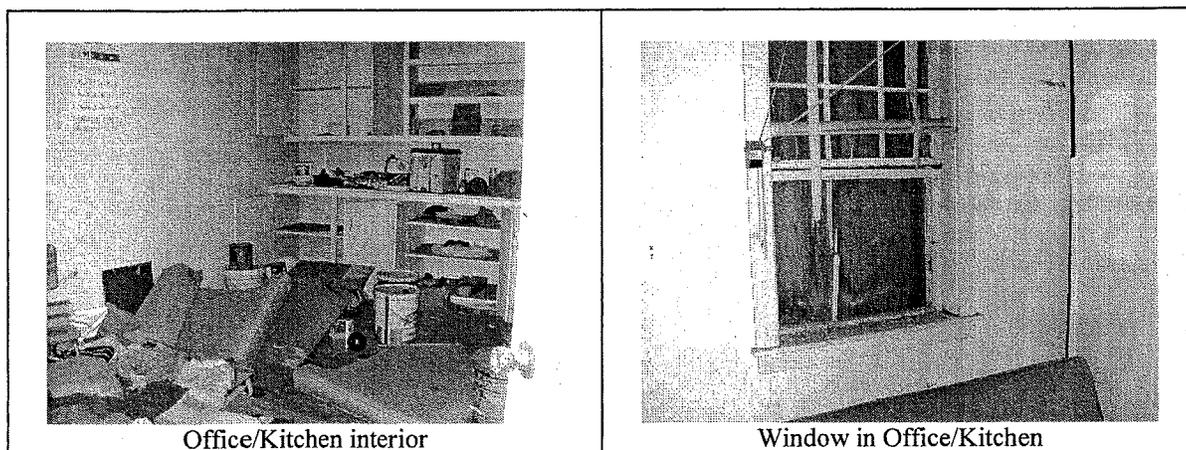


Interior, looking east towards entrance

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Office/Kitchen interior

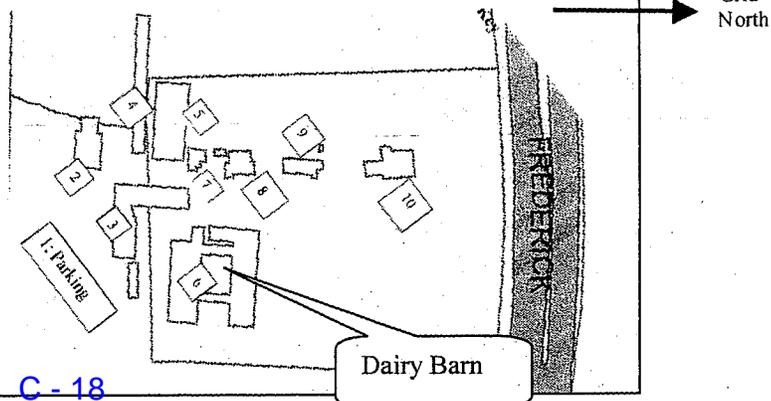
Window in Office/Kitchen

THE DAIRY BARN (1932)

Building #6

The Dairy Barn was built in 1932 to replace the 19th century Bank Barn, which was destroyed by fire. The Dairy Barn reflects the sanitary conditions required by law, and was built of cast, stone-faced concrete block, with wood German siding in the gable ends. The Barn consists of several buildings joined together with two covered walkways. The largest structures are the two milking barns, with gambrel roofs, set at the east and west ends. A small storage building and the milk house are aligned with the north façade of the east milking barn, and connected to it with a concrete block wall. The west milking barn was constructed south of this line, providing an entryway defined by the milk house to the east and a silo to the west. Each milking barn had two silos attached to the sheds with narrow, flat-roofed concrete block extensions. Two of the original four silos remain standing, while the locations of the removed silos are evident. The two covered walkways link doorways in each cattle shed, and form an enclosed “cloister” in the middle and an open cattle plaza at the south end.

General: The Dairy Barn sits at the crest of a hill, which falls to the north (to Frederick Road) and to the east (to Ridgemont Avenue). It is the largest structure on the property, and consists of several individual components functionally linked with walkways and courtyards. The building, with the “Milk for Thompson’s Dairy” sign on the north roof panel, is a prominent feature along Frederick Road.



C - 18

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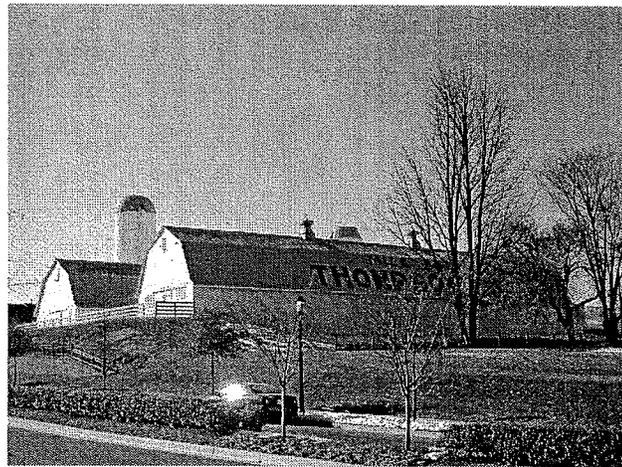
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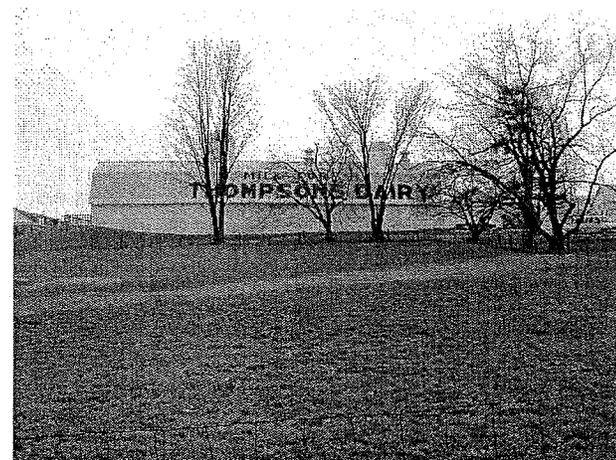
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Character-defining Features: Massing, with individual components including courtyards, walkways, and silos; cast stone-faced concrete block; wood barn doors; multi-light wood windows; decorative elements including letters and dates on west façade; and decorative trim; advertising sign for Thompson's Dairy on north roof slope.



East Façade: The east façade of the milking barn is parallel to Frederick Road. The gambrel roof, with kicked eaves, sports a painted sign "Milk for Thomson's Dairy", centered on the original concrete block building. A later plain-faced concrete block addition was added to the south end, at some time after the sign was painted. The addition matches the original in roof and wall planes. There are three ventilators at the ridge of the original structure. Hopper windows are evenly spaced along the entire length of the original façade; while smaller windows were added under the eaves on the new addition. All of the windows are currently boarded up.



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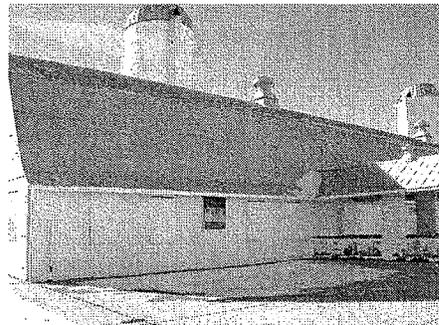
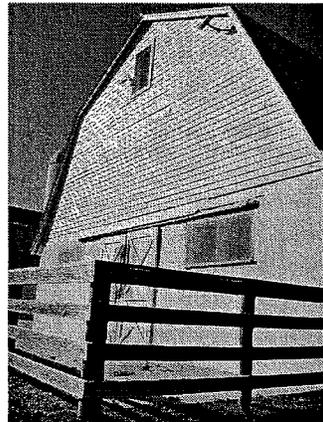
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South (rear) Façade: The rear façade of the dairy barn consists of the mid-20th century rear block additions to the two milking barns, and the paved concrete plaza between them. Both milk barns were enlarged with new block additions, but the rooflines match the original.

A sliding double door provides entry to each milking barn.



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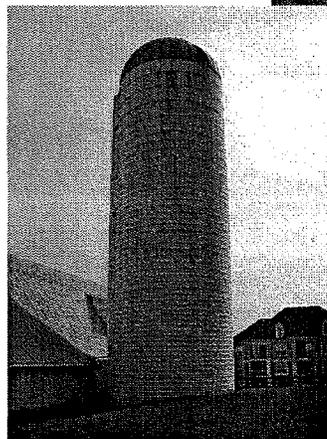
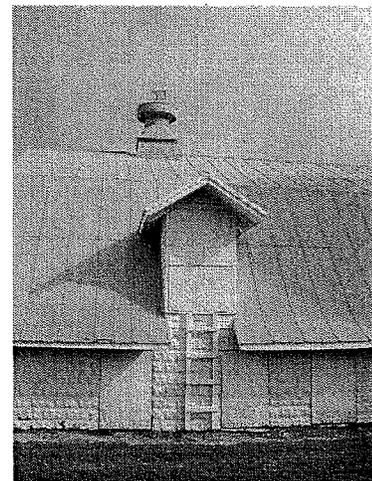
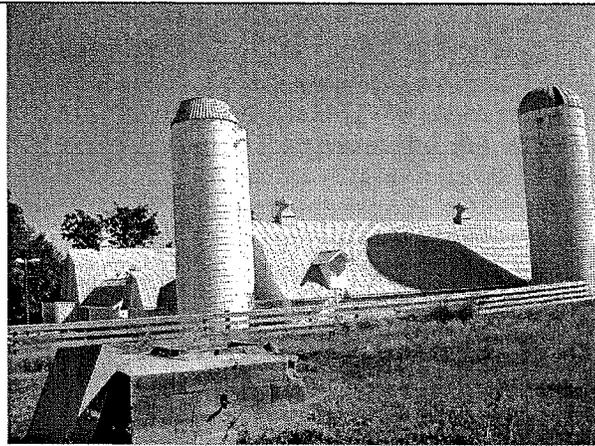
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West Façade: The west milking barn is shorter than the east milking barn, providing room for a silo on the northwest corner of the building. The west façade of the west milking barn includes the silo at the north end, the associated connecting block section, the original stone-faced cast block portion, and the smooth-faced concrete block addition at the south end. There is a second silo at the southwest corner of the original portion of the milking barn, with its connecting block wing. The mid-20th century smooth-faced block addition extends the same distance as the east milking barn.

The original block portion has one gable dormer in the lower roof slope, with a fixed ladder on the wall leading up to the gable opening. There is a shed-roof dormer in the later addition, south of the silo. There are two ventilators at the roof ridge of the original portion of the milking barn.

The silo is cast concrete with adjustable metal ties, spaced as needed to offset the internal pressures. The silo at the southwest corner has a rounded roof cap, while the silo at the northwest corner has a mansard roof cap.

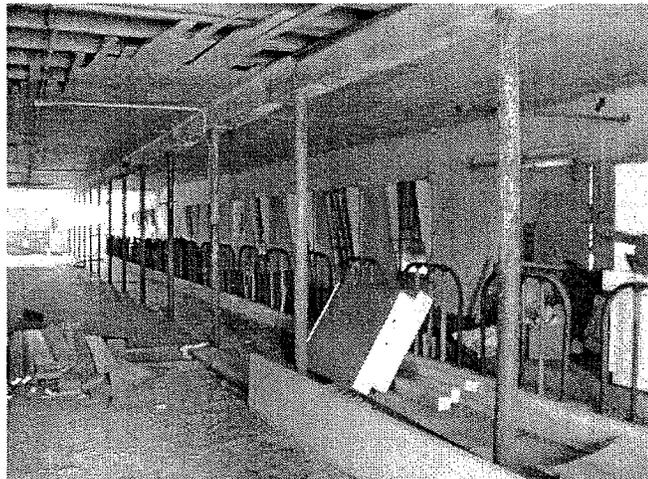


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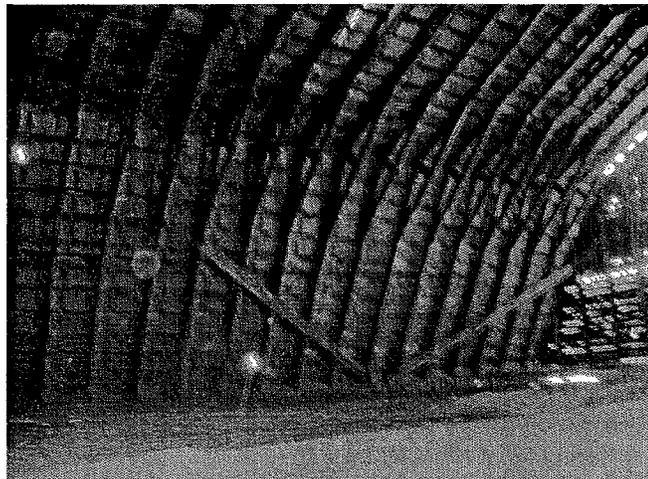
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Continuation SheetNumber 7 Page 12**Interior:**

The two milking barns are long, narrow buildings with a central aisle separating two rows of metal cattle stanchions. The side aisles along the window walls are raised approximately 15" above the level of the center aisle. There are two rows of pipe columns framing the center aisle. The ceiling was clad with tongue and groove boards, painted white. The hopper windows were evenly spaced along both sides of each cattleshed, with cheekwalls projecting approximately 5" into the space, to both guide and protect the 12-light wood window sash.



The hay lofts, at the second floor level of the milking barns, were large open spaces made possible with balloon-framed clear-span gothic arch trusses, strengthened with "v" braces. Hay would have been stored in these large open spaces.



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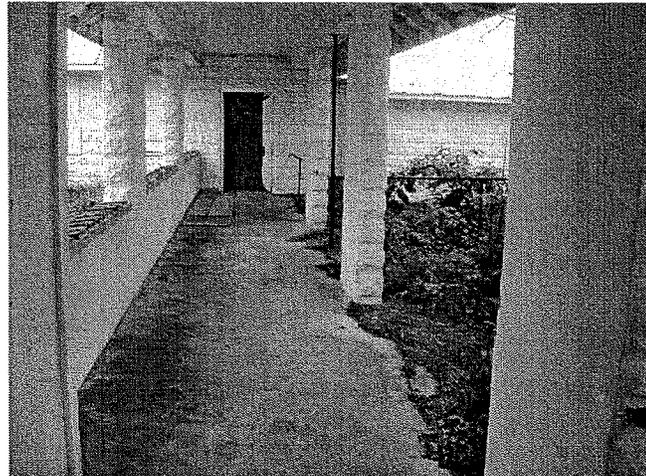
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Doors in the opposing elevations of the two milking barns led to connecting covered walkways that delineated three distinct courtyard areas in between the milking barns. At the north walkway, there was a 3'-high wall on the south side only, separating off the central courtyard. On the north side of this walkway, a small yard area was created by the small storage building, the milk house, and the connecting walls between them.



A central grassy courtyard was fully enclosed with low walls and the two milking barns. Access to the central courtyard was from a central doorway in the west milking barns. There were windows opening on to this area in both milking barns. Each walkway had four large openings framed by its columns and walls. At the north walkway, the east bay was covered with the addition of a small storage building.



The walkways had simple gable roofs, with wide eaves and exposed rafter tails. The south walkway had three ventilators at the ridgeline.

At the south end, the paved concrete courtyard was left open. Today, there a board fence about 10' from the building.

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M

Name
Continuation Sheet

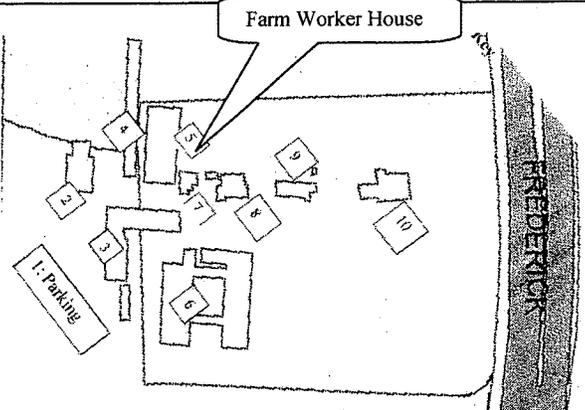
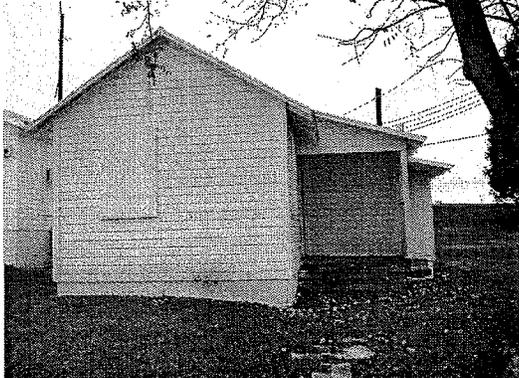
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FARM WORKER HOUSE

Building #7

The single-story farm worker house is situated along the north side of the farm lane. The small house exhibits vernacular craftsman elements in its deep eaves and exposed rafters. It consists of three aligned rooms in addition to a kitchen and a bath which each project on the east façade. There is no basement. The house is sheathed in horizontal drop siding of varying widths and it has a standing seam tin roof. The 6/6 double-hung windows have wood sills and casings but are presently covered with plywood. A single brick chimney emerges from the roof ridge, approximately 2/3 of the distance from the south façade. The south bay and the kitchen projection are on perimeter concrete block foundations, while the northwest corner and the bathroom projection are on concrete piers with crawl spaces below.

→ N

<p>General: This mid-20th century residential structure is south-facing along the east-west axis of the farm lane. The wood-frame house is ell-shaped, with several additions. The house is clad with wood German siding, and is painted white.</p> <p>Character-defining elements: Small massing, materials, use of additions to enlarge space.</p>	
<p>East: The east façade includes projections for both the bathroom (with one window) and the kitchen (with one window). The left bay also includes one double hung window. The roofline is stepped on this façade. There is a secondary door that faces east and leads from the left side of the kitchen projection but it is covered with plywood. There are two concrete block steps from this door. Two wide wooden steps lead to the porch.</p>	

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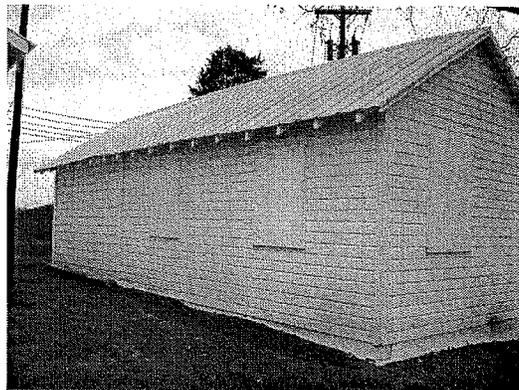
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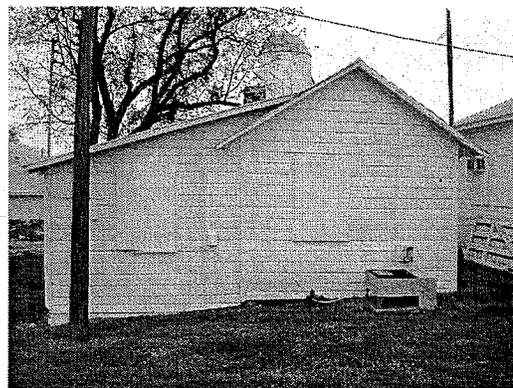
North: The main entrance is on the north façade, set perpendicular to the farm lane. A small porch enclosure, formed by a thin wood wall, which contains a window for additional light, provides weather protection at the entrance. This window sash appears to be reused from another location. A front door is wood paneled, with a single fixed glass pane for the top half. There is also a screen door.



South: The south façade is in a single plane, with a continuous roofline, although it consists of the original building and an addition at the west end. The wider siding is evident on the left bay and slightly narrower on the right. A vertical trim board separates the two. Two identical 6/6 windows are in the original portion. A concrete block foundation supports the right side and concrete piers support the left addition.



West: The dual roof lines reflect the additions added to this small cottage, to accommodate residents. The gable roof reflects the massing of the original cottage, while the shed roof provided additional living space. There is a single window in each portion.



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FARM WORKER HOUSE

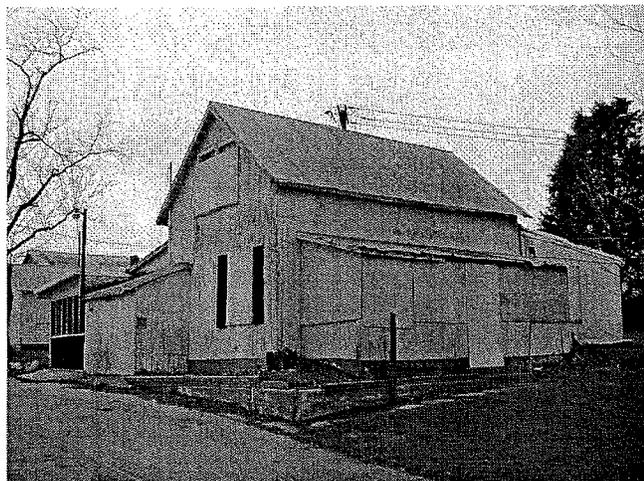
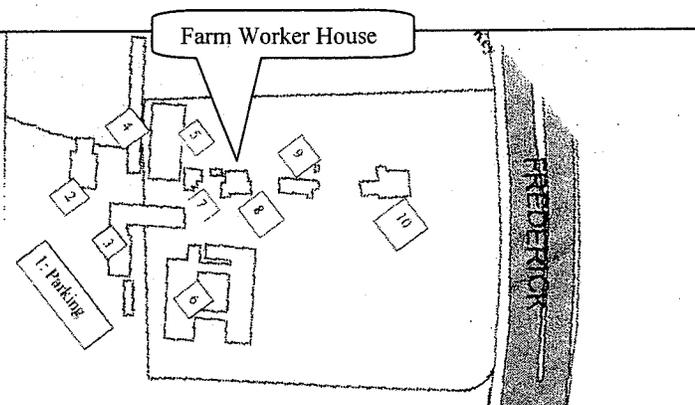
Building #8

This farm worker house is a converted horse barn. The barn was original a single rectangular form, with vertical siding. It now has a concrete block foundation, to accommodate its new use as a residence. Several shed-roof additions were added, on the south, east and west sides, for additional living space, and a stairway was inserted to provide access to a second story with two connecting rooms. The addition on the south side has been removed, exposing the front entrance door. The building is clad with vertical beaded board siding, and painted white. The front gable roof has a standing-seam metal roof.

Environmental Setting: The building sits on the north side of the farm lane, facing south. There is a slight slope to the land, to the east. The building site was leveled with the addition of a small retaining wall, at the southeast corner.

Character-defining elements: Massing, materials, use of one-story additions and salvaged materials.

View of building with all the additions, ca. 1995
[north and east elevations, looking northwest.



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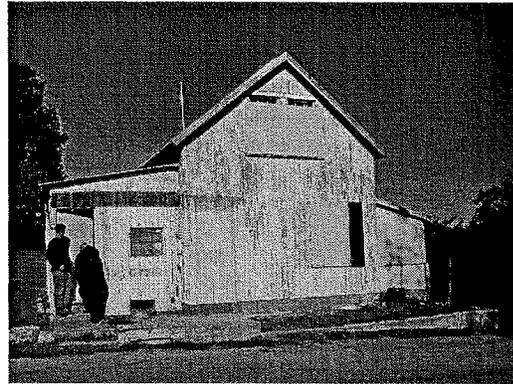
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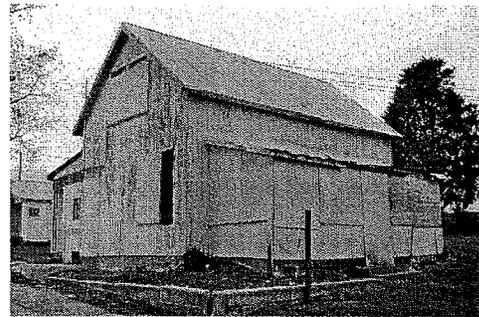
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East: The front elevation includes the original front-facing gable building, with a shed-roof addition on each side. The original 1-1/2 story building has two bays, with a boarded-up doorway on the south side, and a 6/6 double-hung window in the north bay. At the second floor level, a pair of 6/6 double-hung wood windows were inserted under the eaves. The south side addition has two bays, with the entrance door on the south side, and a 6-light fixed sash on the north.

The right- side addition has plywood cladding painted white. There are two windows in this east façade.



North: The 1-story addition has a roof with a shallow slope. There are several windows with a half-wall, and a centrally-placed doorway. The concrete block foundation is exposed to a height of approximately 18”.



South: The south façade has a one-story shed roof addition constructed below the eaves of the main gable roof. The main entrance to the residence is through this addition, with its entrance on the east façade.



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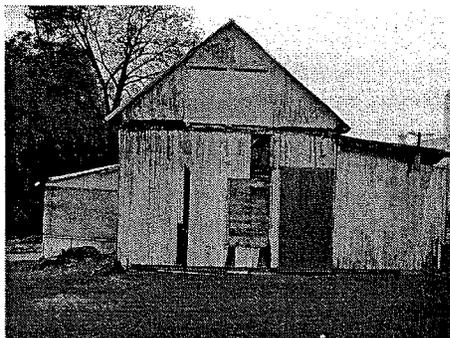
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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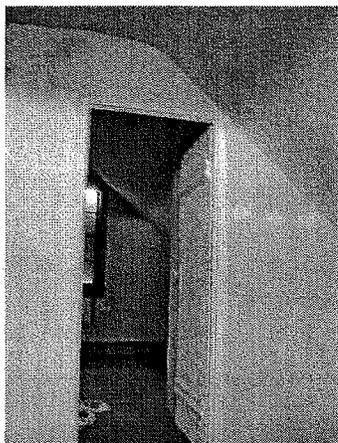
Name
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West: The west façade shows the original farm building with its simple gable roof, and the one-story shed additions on both the north and south sides. A pair of 6/6 double-hung wood windows were re-used in the gable end, providing light for a second-story bedroom.

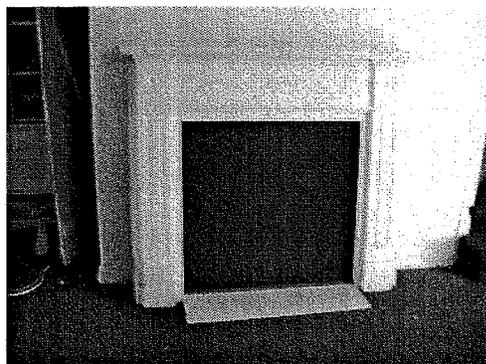


Interior details: Many salvaged materials were reused here to adapt the farm building to residential use.



Board door at second story bedroom

Victorian-era mantle, with bull's eye corner blocks



GARAGE Building #9

The Garage building is a 1-1/2 story wood frame structure on a concrete slab foundation, with a small side-gable addition on the east side. It consists of two distinct elements – the five-bay garage with its entry hall leading to the residential apartment above, and an attached one-story side-gable building on the east façade. The small side-gable structure may have once been a meat house which predates the garage portion of the building. The entire structure is clad with wood German siding, painted white. The roof is painted standing-seam metal.

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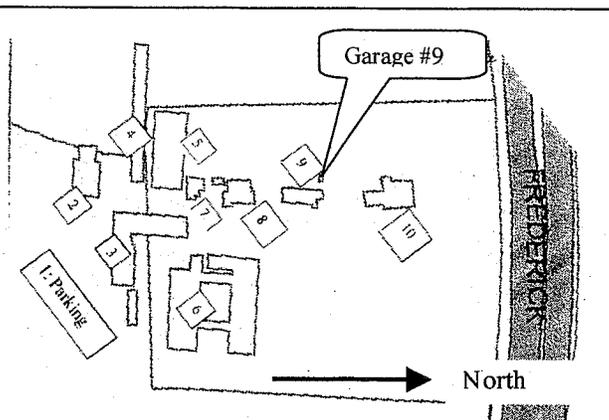
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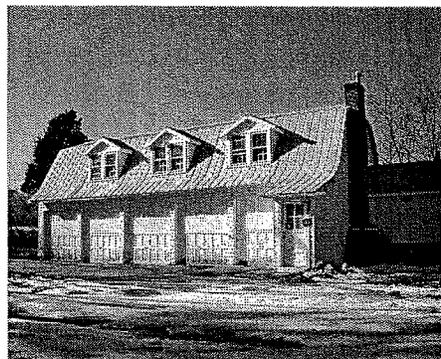
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General: It sits on a generally flat site, with a grassy incline rising on the west side (and draining to the building), and an asphalt parking area along the east side. There are some large overgrown shrubs in the immediate vicinity. A deteriorated outdoor brick hearth is attached to the chimney that sits in the corner between the garage and the one-story addition on the north façade.

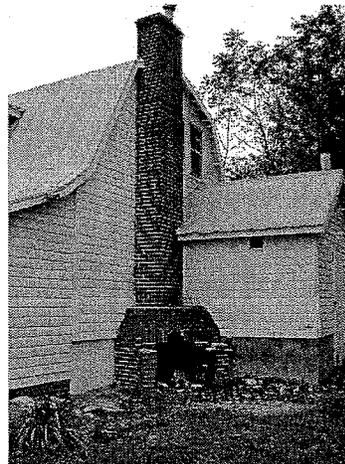
Character-defining features: Massing, materials, garage bays; and, associated massing and materials for north gable addition.



East Façade: The garage building has five parking bays with wood paneled overhead doors. The five bays of the garage portion have overhead wood paneled doors. The second story, with its side-gable gambrel roof with flared eaves and metal roofing, features three large gabled dormers with 6/6 paired double-hung wood windows.



The small one-story side-gable building attached on the north façade is accessible only from its doorway on the north façade. The wood German siding is painted white, and there is a small opening (vent) high on the wall just under the eaves. The foundation is exposed to a height of approximately two feet, and is parged with concrete. An outdoor brick fireplace was built to use the exterior brick chimney as its flue. The fireplace is deteriorated. This small addition is also roofed with painted standing seam metal.



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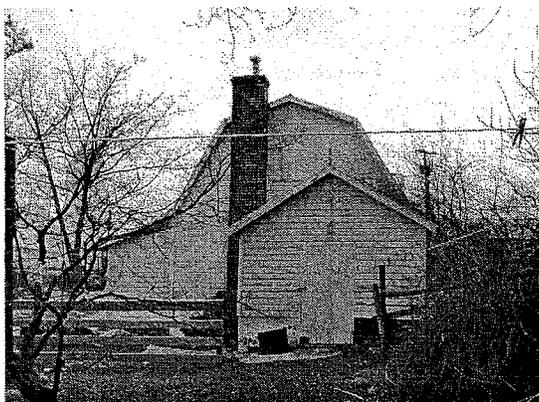
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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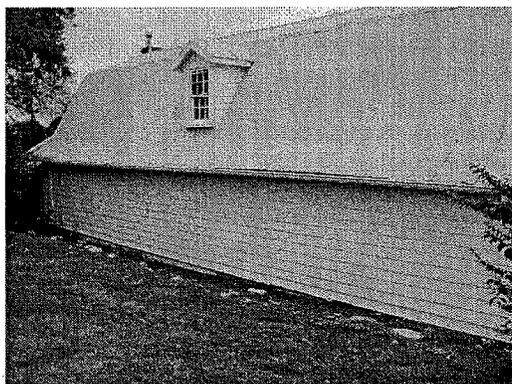
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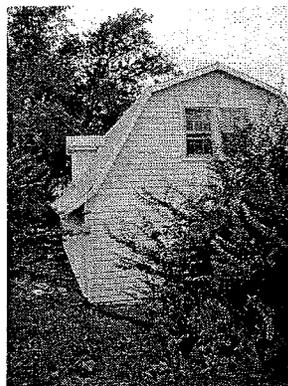
North Façade: The entrance to the second floor of the main garage building extends out from the main garage façade to the east. An exterior brick chimney breaks through the eaves of the east roof panel. Paired 6/6 double-hung wood windows are offset in the façade. Three different foundation materials are seen on this façade: brick and concrete block for the main structure, and parged concrete block for the attached structure, also known as “the meat house.” The one-story meat house is only accessible through the exterior door centered in this north façade.



West Façade: The West façade has a solid wall, clad in wood German siding. A small amount of the foundation is exposed above grade. A single gable dormer with a 6/6 double-hung wood window is centered in the expanse of roof.



South: The south façade has a pair of 6/6 double-hung wood windows centered in the gable end at the second floor level. There are no other voids on this façade. The Dutch gambrel roof shape is apparent.



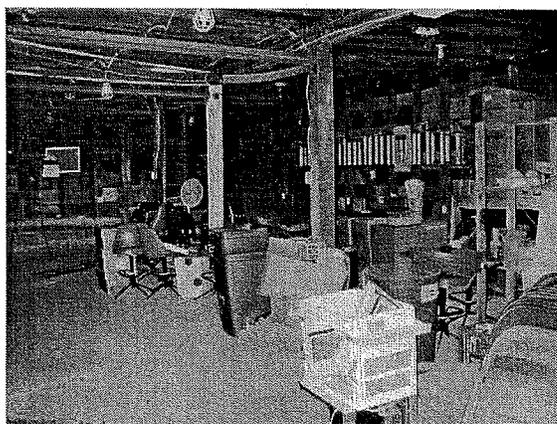
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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

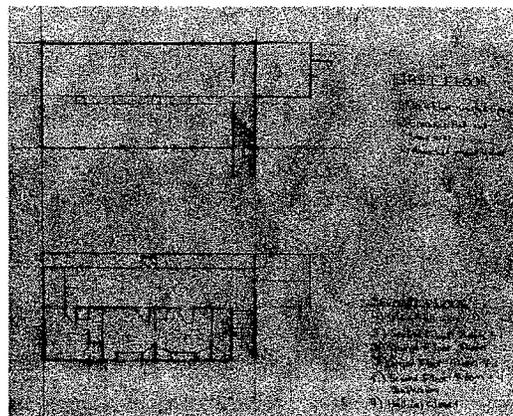
Inventory No. M

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Interior - First Floor: The garage is a large open room with a concrete floor. The stud walls have no interior finish so that the back of the exterior wood siding is exposed. There are four column supports running east-west down the center of the room, supporting a beam.



Along the east wall, underneath the stairway, there is a narrow closet for the heating system, and storage.



The second story of the garage has been developed as residential quarters. The single-door entry way has a single flight of stairs along the east side of the building. The entry hallway has a vinyl tile floor, and the stairs are carpeted.

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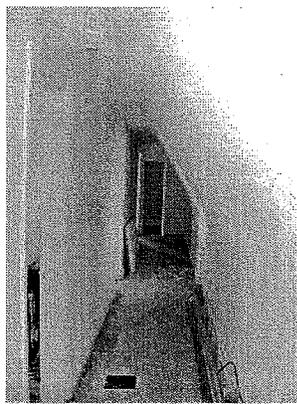
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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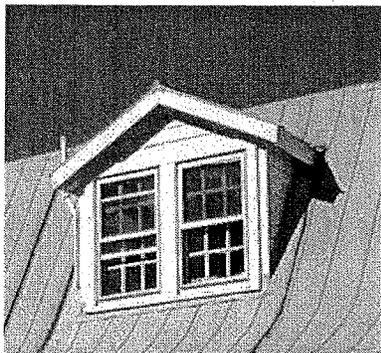
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Interior (Second Floor): The residence has a narrow hallway with a slanting ceiling along the north side, terminating in a closet at its west end. Openings include the dormer window in the north roof and openings to four rooms that range along the south side. The room closest to the stairs is a narrow bathroom. The next two rooms are connected with a single doorway. The fourth room at the southwest corner has a closet. The flooring is vinyl in the two connected rooms, and wood in the others.



Details:

South Gabled Dormer



North Gabled Dormer



Foundation near chimney along East elevation



Entry hall doorway



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THE KING FARM HOUSE (1914)

Building #10

The main residence is a 2-1/2 story Colonial Revival style wood frame structure, with a full-width porch and a hipped roof. It has a full basement, with stone and concrete block foundation materials. It has German siding, and 6/1 double-hung wood windows, with shutters at each window. There is a hipped roof dormer with paired 6/1 double-hung wood windows in each roof slope. The roof is clad with stamped metal shingles. The full-width front porch is supported by four Tuscan columns, with a square-picket railing spanning between the columns, and along the central steps leading up to the porch from the front walk. A one-story bay window is centered on the first floor, south elevation. There are three internal brick chimneys: one on the south slope towards the ridge line, one in the north slope, close to the hipped dormer, and one in the west slope, close to the roof's edge.



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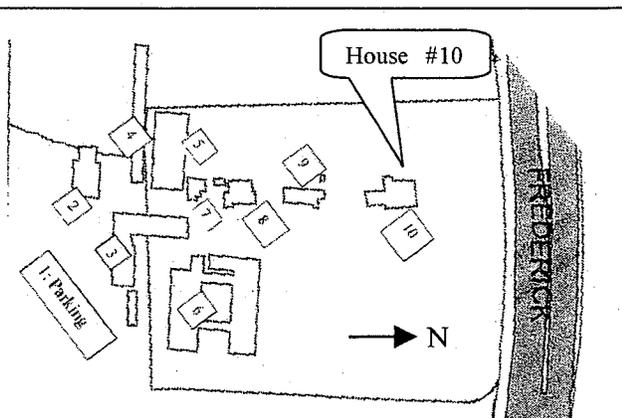
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General: The King Family house was built at the top of a slope that falls east and south to the Frederick Road. The driveway crosses in front of the house and leads along the south side of the house to the farm lane, which extends to the west. There are mature trees in front of the house, and shrubs at its perimeter.

Character-defining Features: Massing, front porch, dormers, windows (6/1), siding, bay window, metal shingle roof, wide eaves, interior brick chimneys; siting with surrounding mature trees, fronting Frederick Road, but well set back.



North Façade: This is a five-bay façade, raised above grade with parged concrete block foundation. It has a central doorway with sidelights and transom, flanked by two 6/1 double-hung wood windows to either side, each with operable wood shutters, at the first floor level. At the second floor level, the five windows with operable shutters are paired above the first floor openings.



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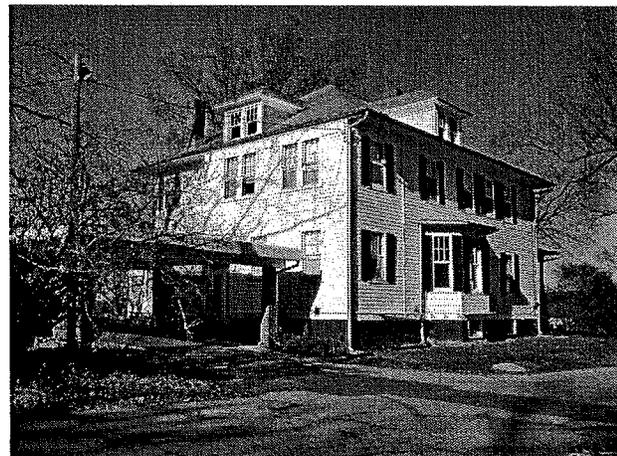
Name
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East Façade: This four-bay façade has irregularly placed openings, including the first floor polygonal bay at the living room. A two-story sleeping porch at the south end has been enclosed and sided with wood clapboard to match the rest of the siding. There is a single window at the first and second floors of the enclosed sleeping porch. The remainder of the facade includes four windows at the second floor level, and two windows at the first floor level. All the windows, including those in the bay, have operable shutters. In the attic level, there is a single hipped dormer, with paired 6/1 double-hung windows, placed off-center. There is an internal brick chimney high on the roof hip.



South Façade: The South façade has three bays, with three sets of paired 6/1 double-hung windows at the second floor level. On the first floor level, there are two single windows in the enclosed sleeping porch, and an opening with a storm door that leads to an enclosed exterior hallway. This leads to steps leading up to the back door. To the left of this, there is a weather enclosure over the basement steps. At the west side, there is a one-story sun porch, with large glazed openings, and an exterior door with its flight of steps. A hipped-roof dormer with paired 6/1 double-hung wood windows is centered in the rear roof hip. There is an interior brick chimney just to the left of the dormer. A low carport with brick columns and a flat roof was built just south of the house. It has a roof extension connecting to the rear entrance to the house.



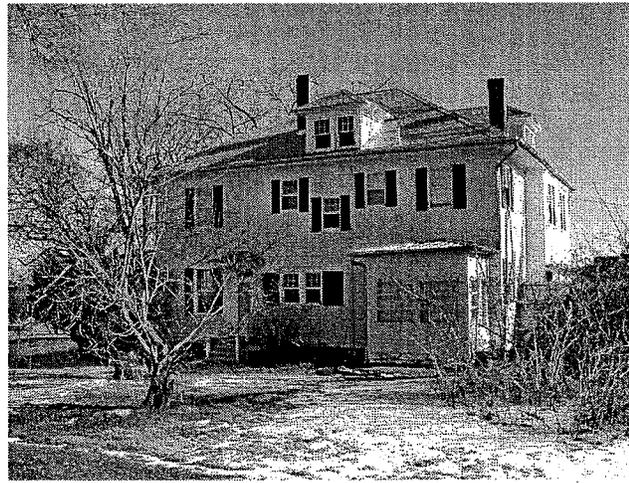
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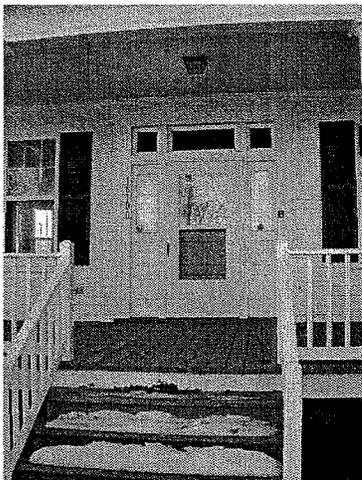
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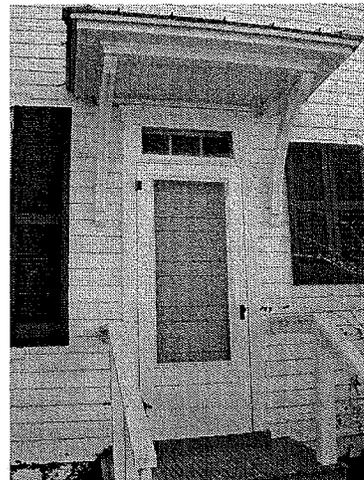
West: The west façade has irregularly placed openings. At the first floor level, there are four bays. A single window sits to the left of the side door, with transom above. This side entry and steps are protected with a hipped roof, supported by large curving brackets. The bay to the right includes a pair of small windows, with operable folding shutters on either side. The south bay consists of a small, one-story sunroom addition, with a flat roof and a pair of large jalousie windows. At the second floor level, there are five irregularly placed windows, including one dropped to match an internal stair landing. At the attic level, there is one hipped dormer, set off-center. To the left of a dormer, there is an internal brick chimney.



Details:



FRONT DOOR, NORTH FACADE



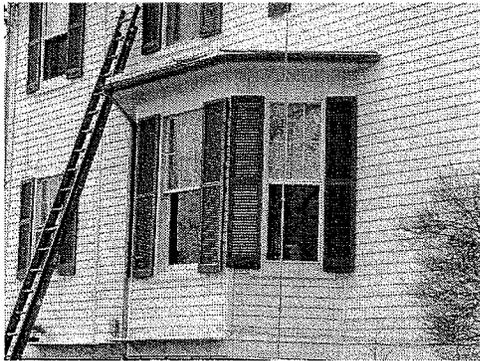
SIDE DOOR, WEST FACADE

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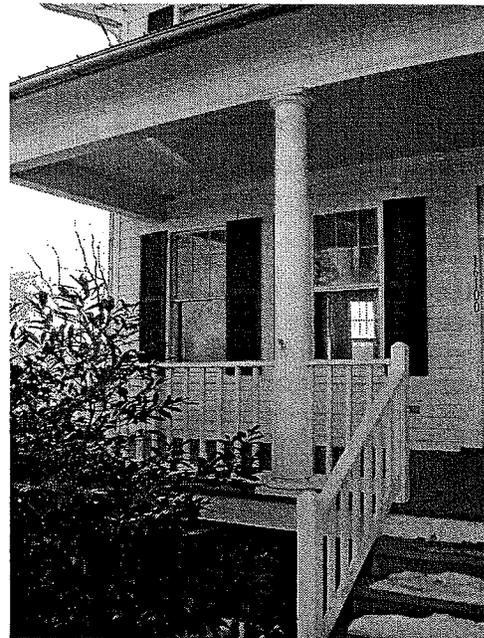
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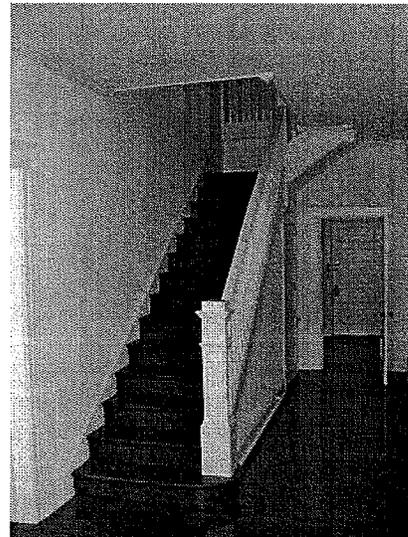
BAY WINDOW, EAST FACADE



PORCH COLUMN, NORTH FACADE

Interior - Plan: The house has a center-hall plan, with front door and back door opening to this center hall. The dining room and kitchen sit to the right of the hallway, with the side door entry hall separating them. A basement door opens off of this entry. To the left of the center hallway, there is a double-pile living room, with access to the sleeping porch at the south end.

The center hall includes a wide staircase, with a landing just a few steps short of the second floor. The wide second floor hallway provides access to five bedrooms, and one full bath. Separate steps lead to the attic, with its dormer windows in each hip.



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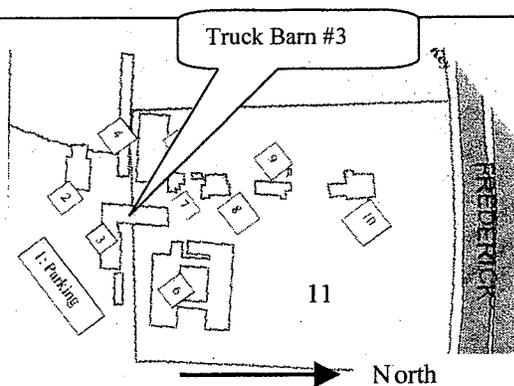
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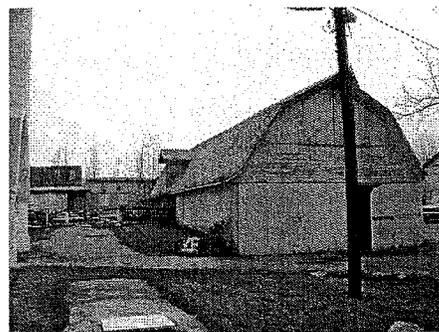
Reported site of 19th century Bank Barn (#11): This has been described as the open field area just north of the Dairy Barn (see small map below).

Buildings that have been demolished due to ruinous condition: When the City took over maintenance at the King Farm Homestead, many of the buildings were in ruinous condition. Subsequently, the Truck Barn was hit by lightning, and was removed, along with the associated Calf Barn and Pig Yard. The narrow Show Barn extended off of the City property and was also in such poor condition that salvaging a portion of it was not an option.

Truck storage and Calf Barn (#3): These two buildings were located west and south of the Dairy Barn, in close proximity to the south milking shed. A farm yard was formed by these structures, with the addition of fencing. The paved area in front of the main doors to the Truck Barn was a widening of the farm lane to accommodate the building's entry, which faced north while all the other buildings faced east and west to the farm lane.



North: The north elevation shows the dutch gambrel roof of the Truck Barn, with the large doors at the second story for hay storage, complemented by the roof hood for a hitch or pulley to facilitate bringing hay to the second floor. The large doors are flanked by two smaller windows for light. The gable end has horizontal German siding, while the first floor level is a series of barn doors.



East: The barn doors in the center of the east elevation of the Truck Barn opened into the farmyard where bulls were kept. There was a gable dormer centered in the second story over the large central opening.



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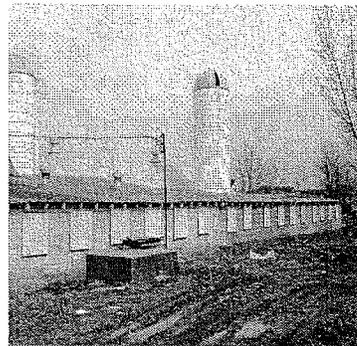
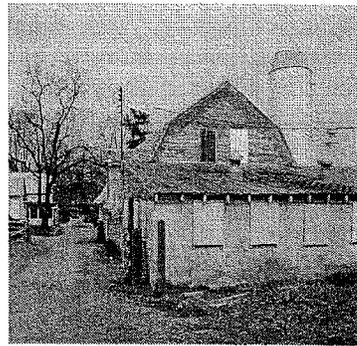
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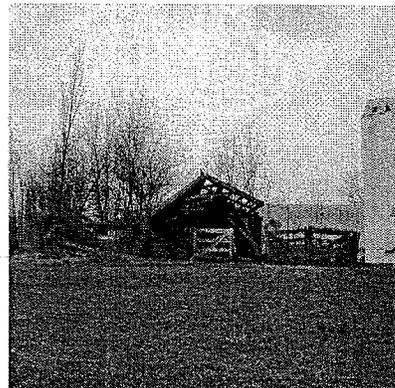
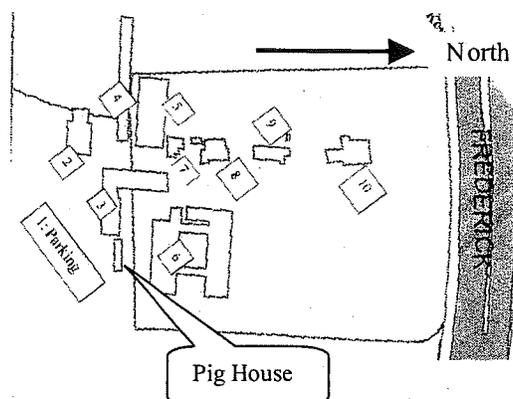
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South: The south elevation of the Truck Barn illustrates how the one-story Calf Barn was attached to the Truck Barn.

The Calf Barn was a one-story shed-roof structure, constructed of concrete block. Windows were evenly spaced along the entire south elevation. The rafter tails were exposed at the eaves. There were ventilators spaced along the roof.



Pig House: View of east elevation, of the dilapidated structure. This was a narrow gable-roofed structure placed just south of the Calf Barn.



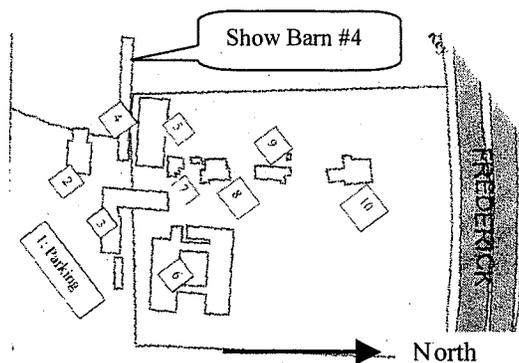
Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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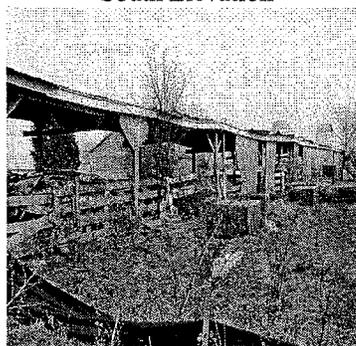
Number 7 Page 30

Show Barn (#4): This narrow, open-air gable-roofed structure was used to house the animals being raised by the King Family children for 4-H competition at Montgomery County's Agricultural Fair.

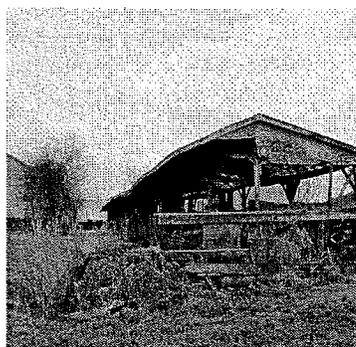


The building was constructed partially on property of King Automotive to the north, and was demolished as non-conforming as part of the King Farm development.

South Elevation



West Elevation



8. Significance

Inventory No.

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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
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<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates	N/A	Architect/Builder
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Construction dates	1914, 1925, 1932	
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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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY:

The small remnant of Irvington Farm which is preserved as the King Farm Park is representative of both the 19th century Graff farmstead (122 acres), and the 20th century King Farm. Located at the original Graff Farm site, these ca. 8 acres also serve to illustrate the much larger King Farm, which included the Graff Farm as well as three other separate, but contiguous, farms purchased at different times from 1925 – 1942 by William Lawson King. (Graff Farm -122 acres purchased in 1925; Frank Ricketts farm - 100 acres on the east side of MD 270; the Watkins Farm - purchased in 1940; and the Fields Farm - purchased in 1942). The property is significant under National Register Criteria B and C. Under Criterion B, the property is associated with the Graff, King, and Fulks families, Montgomery County families of long-standing. In particular, William Lawson King was involved in many aspects of Montgomery County agriculture, business and politics and was recognized for his various contributions. And under Criterion C, this farm remnant embodies the distinctive character of 20th century dairy farming, an important economic sector in Montgomery County at that time. While the chain of title for this farm property can be traced back to the Graff Farm of 1822, the existing farm buildings are all 20th century structures. Firm dates include the construction of a new family home in 1914 by James W. Graff; the garage and smokehouse in 1925; and the dairy barn in 1932.

Historic Context #6: Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

[Graff Family]

Theme #1: Agriculture

More farmers moved into this piedmont area, as lower tobacco lands were depleted. Farms were home to people of differing status and cultural backgrounds, reflecting a complex social organization. Montgomery County was in the forefront of innovative farming practices, and created agricultural societies, and fairs to promote their industry. Farms included the farmers' houses and multiple specialized accessory buildings, including granaries and corn cribs.

Historic Context #7: Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

[Graff and King Families]

Theme #1: Agriculture

There is increased farm prosperity due to easier access to markets (rail, auto/trucks), and new artificial fertilizers. New homes are built, and additional specialized farm buildings, such as dairy barns and equipment sheds.

Historic Context #8: Modern Period 1930-present

[W. Lawson King dairy farm]

Theme #1: Agriculture

Dairy farming becomes a predominant local industry. [King Farm is not specifically mentioned as it was in Montgomery County, at the edge of the City of Rockville.] A Montgomery County dairy program was approved in 1936 to support the dairy farmers, which set milk prices and inspection standards for the Washington market.

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NARRATIVE

The Piedmont in Montgomery County is characterized by rolling hills, pasture and fertile farmland. Hunting, gathering and fishing practices have been documented with varying tool kits found on archaeological surveys. In the Late Woodland Period (AD 900-1600), large village settlements were established along the Potomac River, marked by the manufacturing of ceramic vessels.¹ An archaeological survey in 1995 of King Farm in the vicinity of the farm house and farm buildings found "a scattering of artifacts, predominantly debris associated with tool making."² Therefore, while there is evidence of Native American activity at the site, the materials are either so disturbed or transient in nature that little additional information would be expected from further archaeological investigations into the prehistory of the site.

Farmers of European origin moved into this piedmont area in the 18th century, as lower-lying tobacco lands were depleted. A large group of English-related people moved west from Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties. In addition, a large number of German-related people moved south from Pennsylvania. Both groups contributed different architectural and cultural ideas, including different designs for barns.³ Montgomery County was in the forefront of innovative farming practices in the 19th century, and created agricultural societies and fairs to promote their industry. Farm properties included owner and tenant homes, and specialized accessory buildings such as granaries and corn cribs.

Occupation of the site is lengthy, including pre-historic activity. In the early 19th century, there's some indication that the property was farmed and that there was a tavern as well, to serve travelers along the Frederick Road. Ownership by local and prominent families changed several times, until the land was purchased by Andrew Graff in 1822.

Historic Context #6: Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870
Theme #1: Agriculture

[Graff family]

The subject property was surveyed in land grants dating to 1717 (Two Brothers), 1726 (Valentines Garden and Hobsons Choice), and Conclusion (1731). It was sold to Thomas Lamar in 1748. Throughout the 18th century, this property was part of larger parcels and not a distinct entity. Records indicate that George Riley sold parts of two of the above tracts (Valentines Garden Enlarged and Hobson's Choice) in 1812 to Robert P. Magruder.⁴ In 1822, Magruder sold that land, with another tract called "Crabb's Redoubt," to William W.C. Veirs, totaling 122 acres. Six months later, in July 1822, Veirs sold this property at public auction to Andrew Graff for \$12.51/acre.⁵

¹ Archaeological Survey of Proposed Watershed Improvements along Watts Barnch at Carnation Drive, City of Rockville, URS Corporation, Inc., Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., January 2005, chapter 3, Culture Context.

² Letter dated 17 November 1995, from Daniel Koski-Karell (Karell Archeological Services) to Mr. Larry A. Goldstein (Helios/Towle, LLC.). Letter dated 1/27/98 from E. Cole of MHT to Mr. George Harrison of US Army core of Engineers, that there are two archaeological sites: 18MO405 (historical farmstead) and 18MO406 (prehistoric camp).

³ The English Barn is typically ground-level all around, while the German Bank Barn utilizes a change in grade to provide at-grade entrances for both upper and lower stories.

⁴ Liber P, Folio 659, April 8, 1812.

⁵ The property included burial ground for the Belmeor Family, and Veirs executed a bond of conveyance in October, 1822, to assure that the Belmeor Family descendants might visit the graveyard without special leave or permission.

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Andrew Graff was born in Lancaster, PA.⁶ He had a business in Frederick prior to the War of 1812. After the war, it is noted that he lived 2-1/2 miles from Rockville.⁷ After 1822, he bought the subject property and lived here. He married Jane [Graff] ca. 1810, and they had 6 children. When Andrew Graff died in 1838 without a will, the property was conveyed to his entire family.⁸ Because the property could not be divided without ruining some of its value, George M. Graff bought out the other seven heirs for \$1,550 in 1842.⁹ He lived at this farm, and had eleven children with his second wife, Mary Brown Graff (1826 – 1905; married in 1844).

The mid-19th century was a time of innovative farming activities, which arose as a necessity to address the loss of soil fertility through earlier farming practices. The new technologies including the use of imported fertilizers.¹⁰ In addition farmers gathered together to share ideas. They participated in cattle shows as early as 1822 and formed societies, such as the Montgomery County Agricultural Society which was formed in 1846. Soon after that, the first County Fair was held in Rockville.

Historic Context #7: Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930
Theme #1: Agriculture

[Graff and King Families]

The time period from 1870 – 1930 saw major changes in transportation, and technology. George M. and Mary Graff lived at this property during this time of transition for agriculture in Montgomery County. An advertisement in 1893 for a public auction of the property after George Graff's death¹¹ provides a good idea of the modern farming practices followed by the Graff family.

“about 110 acres of this farm is cleared and the remainder is in good oak and chestnut timber. All the cleared land is in a high state of cultivation. It has been limed, is well watered and very productive. Improvements – a substantial frame dwelling house containing [seven] rooms, a new bank barn 36 x 50, a new double corn house and wagon shed, hen/kine house and smoke house, well of good water in yard with pump attached, fine apple and pear orchard in full bearing and the entire farm is substantially fenced. This property has a frontage of about one third of a mile on the Frederick Road, one of the main thoroughfares of Montgomery County. It is in full view of the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O RR and is located convenient to three railroad stations, the county seat, churches, schools, mills, stores, hay balance, and a large cannery, and is one of the most desirable farms that has been offered at public sale in this county for many years.”¹²

The advertisement illustrates the assets of the farm, including its location and proximity to the railroad. The land was apparently well managed and productive, with attention paid to soil management (with use of lime). The new farm buildings and farm features such as the orchard and wells, were substantial elements in the farm economy.¹³ At the public auction, James paid \$56 per acre for his

⁶ His father, George, apparently, joined an independent artillery company as a lieutenant during the Revolutionary War, and was sent off by his parents with a man-servant named Shadrach Nugent. Mr. Nugent became a well-known historic figure in Georgetown, as the “Moon Man.” See Scharf, Thomas, *History of Western Maryland*, Vol II 683-683; Baltimore MD reprint, 1968, Regional Publishing Co.

⁷ 1814, _____

⁸ BS9 212-214.

⁹ BS11 297-298, 1842.

¹⁰ Historic Resources Management Plan, p. 84.

¹¹ When George died in 1887, he didn't leave a will. Equity court records note that his son James W. brought suit against the other heirs for title to the farm. His parents were buried in Germantown, Maryland.

¹² The property was sold September 19, 1893, and the sale was advertised for three consecutive weeks in the *Sentinel* prior to that.

¹³ None of these elements (except the location) survey today

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family's farm, and made it his home.¹⁴ An article in the *Sentinel* notes that James Graff built a new home in 1914 at his farm.¹⁵ The large new house, which stands today, was built in the popular Colonial Revival Style with a generous center hall for the wide stairway. Oral tradition says variously that the new house was built up the hill from the original Graff house, or that the original house was substantially altered and a portion of the original foundation remains.¹⁶

Historic Context #8: Modern Period 1930-present
Theme #1: Agriculture

[W. Lawson King dairy farm]

James Graff sold the farm to William Lawson King, a dairy farmer from Cedar Grove, Maryland, in 1925.¹⁷ Soon after the sale, several outbuildings were destroyed by the 1925 tornado: a carriage and stable building, and a chicken coop. These were replaced by a garage and smokehouse directly behind the house. W. Lawson King converted an existing horse barn into a living place for two farm hands (building # 8), expanding it with several additions. The small farm worker house (building #7) and the hay barn (building #5) were also constructed by King. The King family were farmers (Cedar Grove area and also Clarksburg area) and held many farm properties around the county. When W. Lawson King purchased the Graff farm, his wife renamed it "Irvington Farm." Irving was the name of one of Mrs. Cordelia Fulks King's brothers (Irving Fulks). Her son, Billy King (born 1921), was also given Irving as a middle name after his mother's brother.

Further early losses at the property were caused by a lightening strike on May 30, 1932. At that time, the Graff bank barn, corn house, the new chicken coop, and smokehouse were all destroyed in the fire.¹⁸ After this fire, King made substantial investments in the farm and built the double dairy barn with its pair of silos for each milking shed. The 1932 construction date of the barn is memorialized on the front façade along with Mr. King's initials. This barn was initially designed for 40 cows, but was extended to eventually accommodate the milking of 100 cows.

Whereas the Graff Farm was not specialized, W. Lawson King transformed the farming operation into a dairy farm. The early 20th century was a prosperous time for dairy farming. Starting with a mixed herd of only 20 cows, King experimented with Guernseys (because of the cream and butterfat) and then eventually settled on Holsteins (disease resistant and productive milkers). With his extensive land holdings, including the farms contiguous to Irvington Farm that he subsequently purchased, King developed the largest Holstein herd in the world. He raised champion stock, and sold cows internationally. He was a pioneer in the field of artificial insemination of cattle. He served on the Maryland-Virginia Milk Producers Association Board of Directors, and worked for the planning and construction of the Montgomery County Cooperative Agricultural Center. He was personally honored by the Maryland Dairy Shrine, located in Frederick, Maryland. Irvington Farm was proclaimed a "model dairy farm" in 1964 by the National Holstein Association.

In addition, Lawson King was a wide-ranging businessman. He established King Motor Company in Gaithersburg in 1928, and eventually owned and operated dealerships in Gaithersburg and Rockville. These were later consolidated into King Pontiac (located

¹⁴ JA40 376, 8/19/1893.

¹⁵ *Sentinel*, 5/16/1914; at a cost of \$5,000.

¹⁶ Billy King interview by J. Christensen and G. Littlefield, 1998. Billy King thought the Morris House down the hill and west of the King house had been the old Graff house. The Morris House was still standing at the time of the interview.

¹⁷ Billy King interview, 1998.

¹⁸ *Washington Post*, 1932. Billy King reminisced that these buildings were in close proximity to the house, and he and his sister, Betty Jeanne, were locked into the sleeping porch to keep them out of the way.

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due west of Irvington Farm along the Frederick Road). He also established numerous retail stores, including Gaithersburg Farmers Supply in 1945.

Further, Mr. King was active in Montgomery County politics. He unsuccessfully ran for County Commissioner in 1942, but he was appointed to the Montgomery County Council in the 1950s. He also served on the Montgomery County Planning Board.

His legacy includes his support of the local 4-H program. His children and grandchildren have many memories of raising animals for the Montgomery County Fair; and Lawson King endowed a \$500 annual scholarship, that is administered by the local 4H chapter.

The 20th century Dairy industry

The 20th century dairy industry was the focus of both public and private efforts to improve the quality of American dairy products in order to assure healthy and safe food, as well as to develop products that could compete in the international markets. Locally, the dairy industry found an increased market in growing cities, as people moved from rural areas to the cities. Advertising in magazines and newspapers promoted milk as a healthy food, with support from the Division of Agrostology and the Dairy Division that was set up in 1895 as part of the federal USDA.

The growth in markets, from strictly local areas to a broader regional focus, was matched by improved production machinery such as the automated Mehring milking machine (widely used by the 1890s), and advances in refrigeration. Production increases were matched by faster transportation methods (railroad and automobiles/trucks), which helped support the regional growth of the industry. Governmental policies emphasized "(1) healthy cows; (2) careful grooming of the cows; (3) clean hands and clean clothing; (4) clean, dust-free barns (5) thoroughly washed and sterilized milking utensils; (6) prompt and effective cooling of the milk. The USDA sponsored farm inspectors and advisors to help assure the quality of the nation's food, and assure compliance with governmental ordinances and statutes designed to safeguard the health of the milk supply.¹⁹ The King Farm Dairy Barn illustrates the enforcement of these policies, with white-washed interiors, separate Milk house, and easy to clean interiors (concrete block and floors).

The Dairy Barn at King Farm Park reflects this transformation of 20th century dairy farming into a large industry. For the first 14 years at the property, all the milking was done by hand.²⁰ But with the new dairy barn and with the increased scale of milk production, machinery was introduced into the process.

Unlike the earlier bank barns, the dairy barn was strictly designed for the production of milk. The first floor was designed to accommodate moving cows in and out daily for the milking. The cows were fed at their stanchions, while the milk was collected and directed through pipes to the Milk House. The second floor was designed for hay storage. The clear-span gothic arch truss gambrel roof, constructed with balloon framing, provided the maximum storage area for the hay. The pair of silos for each milking shed held silage [a high energy feed consisting of a chopped corn and/or grains], which was delivered directly into the milking sheds through the small connecting blocks. The cows were herded in to the milking barns twice daily and milked with machinery. The milk was collected and piped to the Milking House where it was cooled and then could be shipped in to a distributor by truck.

¹⁹ <http://www.nal.usda.gov/speccoll/images1/dairy.htm>; Dr. Charles North.

²⁰ Interview, Billy King (1998).

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Mr. King initially trucked milk in 10-gallon cans to his distributor in Washington. It is unclear whether King used one or more distributors, or whether he started with one distributor and switched to the Milk Producer's Association. This dairy association was begun in 1920, and currently helps nearly 1,500 dairy farmers by collecting and processing/distributing their milk. Both Lawson King and Billy King served on the Board of Directors of the Maryland-Virginia Milk Producer's Association in Washington, D.C.²¹

However, the well-known sign on the north slope of the dairy barn roof is prominent advertising for Thompson's Dairy, located in Washington, D. C. Thompson's Dairy began when a local dairy farmer, John Thompson, had problems with his own distributor and decided to sell his own milk. With his own farms in Alexandria, Virginia and Landover, Maryland, Thompson invited other dairy farmers to bring their milk to him for distribution to the local Washington market. In 1881, he rented space in Washington and began to retail milk. With success and growth of the business, Thompson built a dairy at Four-and-a-Half Street in SW Washington, where he could be close to the river freight steamers for milk that was shipped by river as well as receive milk coming in by truck. All the milk he distributed came from farms inspected yearly by representatives of the District Health Department. The dairies were scored on the condition of the farm and the cleanliness of the milking operation, and payment reflected the ranking.²²

Thompson's Dairy was still in operation in 1965,²³ but W. Lawson King sold his dairy cows in the 1960s, and brought in beef cattle instead.²⁴ The farming operation up to King's death in the 1980s consisted of beef cattle and hay. With the death of W. Lawson King, farming operations ceased entirely at the property. Development pressures were catching up with the farming industry around the City of Rockville, and the land was eventually annexed into the City of Rockville for the site of a planned unit development, with the King Farm Park as a public amenity.

²¹ Interview with Billy King (1998).

²² *The Washington Post* 1877, Nov. 7, 1927, "Thompson's Dairy Started in Small Store Back in 1881"; material provided by the Washington Historical Society.

²³ *The Washington Post*, February 26, 1965, "Thompson Dairy Chief Retiring after 48 years," p. B7.

²⁴ Interview with Billy King (1998), and with King's granddaughter, Betsy Rippion (2006).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. _____

Judy Christensen and Gail Littlefield, notes from interviews and research, 1998.

Photographs and plan drawing by city staff (2005).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 7+ acres

Acreage of historical setting 7+ acres

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Robin D. Ziek		
organization	City of Rockville	date	March 10, 2006
street & number	111 Maryland Avenue	telephone	240-314-8200
city or town	Rockville	state	Maryland

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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

