Mexico Farm was built around 1852 on a highly productive farm on the fertile Potomac River flood plain south of Cumberland. An early owner of the farm was a slave owner who grew wheat, Indian corn, oats, hay, and tobacco in great quantities. The farm was sold in 1822 to a business man from Baltimore County who later sold two-thirds of it to two merchants from Baltimore. Together the three operated the farm for profits and may have been involved in milling the grain. In 1852 a third of the farm was bought by Margaret S. Duncan of Baltimore County who built the large brick house. The Long family owned the farm from 1866 until 1974. At one time during that period it was a tavern serving traffic on the nearby C & O Canal and a public highway which forded the Potomac River on the farm. Early in the 1920's the Army Air Corps established an emergency landing field on the Long farm which consisted of barracks of five men, gasoline storage facilities, and two radio transmission towers. When private citizens opened another landing strip on the adjacent Johnson farm the army field was abandoned.

The brick house is one of the finest example of the Pennsylvanian Vernacular style house in Allegany County. It is a "L" shaped, two and one-half stories tall, five bays wide structure with a gabled ribbed tin roof and flush end chimneys. The main facade is laid in Flemish bond brick with gauged flat brick arches over the first floor windows and doors. The brick cornice is unique for this area with both dentils and mouse-tooth designs. The interior of the building contains original woodwork and columned wooden fireplaces and built in cupboards also in original condition.
INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Maryland Historical Trust
AND/OR COMMON
Mexico Farm

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
Mexico Farms Road
Sixth
CITY, TOWN
Cumberland
CITY, TOWN, VICINITY OF
Cumberland
STATE
Maryland
CITY, TOWN,
VICTORY OF
Cumberland
STATE
Maryland
COUNTY
Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
DISTRICT
BUILDING(S)
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
X OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES RESTRICTED
YES UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
MUSEUM
COMMERCIAL
PARK
EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT
RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT
SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Bill L. Smith
STREET & NUMBER
Mexico Farms
CITY, TOWN
Cumberland
CITY, TOWN,
VICTORY OF
Cumberland
STATE, zip code
Maryland 21502

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Allegany County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
30 Washington Street
CITY, TOWN
Cumberland
CITY, TOWN,
VICTORY OF
Cumberland
STATE
Maryland
CITY, TOWN,
VICTORY OF
STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
DATE
FEDERAL
STATE
COUNTY
LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
Mexico Farm is located north of Mexico Farms Road approximately four miles south of Cumberland.

The building consists of a two and one-half story, five bays wide "L" shaped structure. Wall construction is of brick, laid in Flemish bond on the principal, or southwestern facade, and in American common bond in a variation of five to one elsewhere. It rests on a low foundation of coursed rubble sheathed in cement with a beveled cement water table. The gable flank roof of the main block and the gabled roof of the wing are covered with ribbed tin. Eaves consist of a boxed cornice with a short sloped soffit, and a brick frieze decorated with bricks laid in a "mouse tooth" design and brick dentils. Three brick chimneys are located flush end, a larger brick chimney with a corbeled cap is in the center of the wing.

The main entrance located in the center of the southwestern facade includes double doors of three panels each, paneled jambs, and an original four light transom. Three entrances to additions now removed have been bricked shut. Three entrances, one on the second floor, lead to a porch on the southeast of the wing. Original pegged six over six light windows have replaced cement sills on the main block and wooden sills on the wing. Wooden shutters are on the southwestern windows. Two casement windows surround each of the flush end chimneys. Gauged flat brick arches are over the windows and entrance of the southwestern first floor, other windows and entrances have flat brick arches. A two tiered shed roofed porch is on the southeastern flank of the wing. A gabled "summer kitchen" addition abutting the wing on the northeast has been removed. Another removed addition was on the inside corner of the "L" shaped building. A log out building is on the property.
Mexico Farm is one of the finest example of the Pennsylvanian Vernacular style house in Allegany County. In both interior and exterior design the building conforms to the general pattern of the style and has been subject to little alteration.

The land on which the house was built was purchased in 1812 and 1813 by John Burbridge. (1) Burbridge became heavily indebted and his property was sold at public sale in 1822. (2) Lists of goods and property sold present a picture of thriving agriculture on the fertile Potomac River flood plain south of Cumberland. Included were four slaves, twelve horses, twenty stacks of wheat, fifteen hundred bushels of Indian corn, three hundred bushels of oats, five stacks of hay, and an entire crop of tobacco, "new and old". (3)

The highest bidder at the sale was Edward Day of Baltimore County who paid more than fifteen thousand dollars for Burbridge's farm and produce. (4) The tracts conveyed to Day were "Cresaps Kindness", "Cow Pasture", "Conclusion", and "Dispute" which together with "vacant lands" formed a twelve hundred and ninety-two acre farm known as "Mexico". (5) It is apparent that Burbridge applied this name to honor Mexico's rise to independence which was then a cause with much popular support in America. (6) Day's interest in the farm and the high price he paid for it may have been the result of the proposed extension of slack water navigation of the Potomac River to Cumberland. This scheme caused land speculation in Cumberland and along the river but was never carried out. (7)

Edward Day was a wealthy man who in 1813 built a stone church and rectory "at his own expense" at Kingsville in Baltimore County. (8) In 1824 he sold an undivided two-thirds of "Mexico" to Alexander MacDonald and Nicholas C. Ridgely of the city of Baltimore. (9) Trading under the firm of MacDonald and Ridgely they operated a general store in Baltimore and were obviously involved with Day in grain and milling enterprises. (10) The two Baltimoreans also owned a house on lot thirty-seven on Mechanic Street in Cumberland. (11)
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Wright Milton, C. Our Harford Heritage (published by author)
Scharf, J.T. History of Baltimore City and County (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881)
Weeks Christopher. The Building of Westminster in Maryland (Annapolis, Md.:Fishergate
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

GEOPHICATIONAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.75 Acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME / TITLE
David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Coordinator
ORGANIZATION
Allegany County Historic Sites Survey
STREET & NUMBER
County Office Building, 3 Pershing Street
CITY OR TOWN
Cumberland,

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438
In 1852 a trustee for MacDonald's estate sold his one third share of the farm and its profits to Margaret S. Duncan of Baltimore County. (12) It was soon after this date that the brick farmhouse was built. The fact that Duncan sold the same sized property fourteen years later at more than double her purchase price is indicative of a major improvement. (13) The deed by which she conveyed her portion of the farm to Henry F. Weber mentions a brick house. (14) Less than a year later Weber sold the property to William Long. This deed referred to the brick house and right of way for a canal ferry road to the C & O Canal and for a public highway fording the Potomac which led to the town of Frankfort (Fort Ashby, W Va.). (15) An equity case of 1900 described a "two story brick dwelling in good repair." (16)

The Long family owned the farmhouse from 1866 until 1974. (17) Early during this period the building was used as a tavern along the public road. (18) In 1920 or 1921 the Army Air Corps established an emergency landing field on the flat fields bordering the Potomac River. Barracks for five men, gasoline storage facilities, and radio transmission towers were erected on the Long farm. (19) Among the planes to use the landing strip were World War One Martin Bombers and fighter planes. Eventually the airport, under civilian control, was moved to the adjacent farm of Jerome Johnson and the Army facilities were removed. (20)

The farmhouse was built with many features characteristic of the Pennsylvanian Vernacular style and others that are somewhat unique. The "L" shaped building is two and one-half stories tall and five bays wide with a gabled ribbed tin roof and flushed end chimneys. The main facade is finished in Flemish bond with gauged flatbrick arches over first floor windows and doors. An interesting feature is the brick cornice with dentils and mouse-tooth designs similar to buildings constructed early during the nineteenth century in Westminster, Maryland. (21) A two-tiered shed roofed side porch and the pegged six over six light sash windows appear to be original.

The interior is arranged with a central hallway with an open well stairway with one large room on either side. Original woodwork is largely intact. This includes high baseboards, chair rails, symmetrical molding with bullseye blocks on doors and windows, and sawed reeding on the string of the central stairway. Built in cupboards and columned wooden fireplaces with molding are in original condition.

The story of Mexico Farm is a varied one which illustrates the gradual change in the character of Allegany County. Early in the nineteenth century it was a farmstead which later became the source of profits for enterprising merchants of Baltimore who tapped Western Maryland's agrarian bounty. The farmhouse, built during the early 1850's, was an early example of a style which gained acceptance in this area later than it did in the rest of Maryland At one time during the 104 years it was owned by the Long family the building was a tavern serving traffic of the nearby C&O Canal and a public highway. Early in the 1920's it was the site of the second military airfield established in Maryland. Throughout the years of changing lifestyles and surroundings the
The house is arranged with a central hallway with one large room on each side. This hallway originally led to a rear entrance now blocked shut. Walls are finished in plaster with a high baseboard and a chair rail. Windows and doors have symmetrically moulded trim with cornerblocks.

An open well stairway in the central hall is of two and one-half flights and two landings. The closed string is decorated with pendants, fluted trim, and sawed decorative reeding. The original handrail and plain newell are intact. A steep enclosed one flight stairway with a winder is located behind the flue of the northwestern-most chimney.

Eight wooden fireplaces are parallel to the walls. Those on the first floor have wooden moulding and columns and masonry hearths. Built in dining room cupboards include three sets of double doors of different sizes. Further interior description is included in an enclosed letter.
building has remained in virtually original, but slowly poorer, condition.

(1) Allegany County Land Records, Liber G, Folio 127 and Liber G, Folio 76
(2) Ibid, Liber L, Folio 487-488
(3) Ibid, Liber L, Folio 486-487
(4) Ibid, Liber L, Folio 482-489
(5) Ibid, Liber L, Folio 482
(7) Will H. Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co.) p.304
(8) C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage (published by author) p.57 and J.T. Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881) p.921
(9) Allegany County Land Records, Liber M, Folio 403
(10) Telephone interview, Diana Diggs City of Baltimore Committee for Historical and Architectural Preservation, 9-6-79
(11) Allegany County Assessments, 1825-1832 p.351
(12) Allegany County Land Records, Liber 11, Folio 246
(13) Ibid, Liber 23, Folio 620
(14) Ibid
(15) Ibid, Liber 25, Folio 329
(16) Allegany County Equity, #5046
(17) Allegany County Land Records, Liber 469, Folio 771
(18) Interview, Floyd Johnson, Mexico Farms Airport, 8-27-79
(19) Ibid, and photographs (see M.H.T. Inventory AL-111-A-153, Mexico Farms Airport)
(20) Ibid
Mexico Farm
AL-111-A-154

Allegany County Deed: Liber 484, Folio 215
Grantee: Bill L. Smith and Sandra L. Smith
Grantor: Paul H. Davis and Betty Davis
Date: January 14, 1976

Allegany County Deed: Liber 473, Folio 90
Grantee: Paul H. Davis and Betty Davis
Grantor: John A. Miltenberger Jr. & Hilda G. Miltemberger
Date: July 12, 1974

Allegany County Deed: Liber 464, Folio 771
Grantee: John A. Miltenberger and Hilda G. Miltenberger
Grantor: Rosella L. Thompson
Notes: 162.45 Acres
Date: March 24, 1974

Orphans Court of Allegany County: Estate #9419
Grantee: Rosella L. Thompson
Grantor: Michael H. Long (deceased)

Allegany County Deed: Liber 152, Folio 211
Grantee: Michael H. Long
Grantor: Ida L. Crites and James Crites
Date: January 5, 1926

Allegany County Deed: Liber 127, Folio 636
Grantee: Ida L. Crites
Grantor: Michael H. Long
Notes: 162.45 Acres
Date: June 9, 1919

Allegany County Deed: Liber 104, Folio 95
Grantee: Sallie L. Cunningham and James Cunningham
Grantor: Michael H. Long
Notes: Estate of Michael M. Long
Date: December 23, 1908

Allegany County Deed: Liber 89, Folio 50
Grantee: Sallie L. Cunningham
Grantor: James W. Thomas and D.J. Blackison, trustees
Notes: Equity #5046 mentions 525 acre Mexico Farm with two story brick dwelling in good repair
Date: December 28, 1900
Consideration: $2,535.00

Allegany County Deed: Liber 25, Folio 329
Grantee: William Long
Grantor: Henry F. Weber, et ux
Notes: Mentions brickhouse and right-of-way for Canal Ferryroad and public highway leading to Frankfort (Fort Ashby, W, Va.)
Date: December 14, 1866
Consideration: $12,875.00
Allegany County Deed: Liber 23, Folio 620
Grantee: Henry F. Weber, et ux
Grantor: Margaret S. Duncan
Notes: 425 acres, mentions brickhouse
Date: March 1, 1866
Consideration: $10,625.00

Allegany County Deed: Liber 11, Folio 246
Grantee: Margaret S. Duncan
Grantor: Robert Lemon, trustee
Notes: Conveyed one-third share of land and profits of Alexander MacDonald, deceased survivor of the firm of MacDonald and Ridgely
Date: June 25, 1852
Consideration: $4,500.00

Allegany County Deed: Liber M, Folio 403
Grantee: Alexander MacDonald and Nicholas C. Ridgely
Grantor: Edward Day
Notes: Conveyed undivided two-thirds of negroes, premises, lands, and horses.
Date: April 30, 1824
Consideration: $8,066.66

Allegany County Deed: Liber L, Folio 482
Grantee: Edward Day (of Baltimore County)
Grantor: John Burbridge
Notes: Total 1292 acre tract known as "Mexico" comprised of four tracts known as "Cresap Kindness", "Conclusion", "Dispute", and "Cow Pasture", and "Vacant lands". Reconveyed by Andrew Bruce, esq., Sheriff, October 23, 1822, Liber L, Folio 488 with bills of sale.
Date: October 11, 1822
Consideration: $12,100.00

Allegany County Deed: Liber G, Folio 127
Grantee: John Burbridge
Grantor: Heirs of Carlton Belt (of Montgomery County)
Notes: Moiety of "Conclusion" and "Dispute"
Date: May 11, 1813
Consideration: $100.00

Allegany County Deed: Liber G, Folio 76
Grantee: John Burbridge
Grantor: Samuel Ridout
Notes: All of "Cresap's Kindness"
Date: December 14, 1812
Consideration: $950.00
Mexico Farm

Al- II-A-154

Exterior Dimensions

SCALE
1 Square = 1 Foot
AL-111-A-154
MEXICO FARM
MEXICO FARMS RD
CUMBERLAND

DAVID A. DORSEY
8/25/76
East
AZ-111-A-154
MEXICO FARM
MEXICO FARMS ROAD
CUMBERLAND
DAVID A. DORSEY
8/25/78
SOUTH
AL-111-A-154
MEXICO FARM
MEXICO FARMS RD
CUMBERLAND
DAVID A. DORSET
8/25/78
WEST
At 111-A. 1521
Mexico Farm
Mexico Farms Rd.
Cumberland
David A. Deasey
8/2/79
Interior
Dining Room Fireplace
On S. E. Of Main Block
AL-111-A-154
MEXICO FARM
MEXICO FARMS RD
CUMBERLAND,
DAVID A. DORSEY
8/2/79
INTERIOR - CENTRAL STAIRCASE
AC-111-A-1541
MEXICO FARM
MEXICO FARMS RD
CUMBERLAND
DAVID A. DORSEY
8/2/79
INTERIOR
PARLOR FIREPLACE
ON N.W. OF MAIN BLOCK
AL-111-A-154
MEXICO FARM
MEXICO FARMS RD
CUMBERLAND
DAVID A. DORSEY
8/2/79
INTERIOR
DINING ROOM CUPBOARD
AL-111-A-154
MEXICO FARM
MEXICO FARMS RD
CAMBERLAND
DAVID A. DORSEY
8/2/79
INTERIOR
THUMB CATCH