Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AL-III-C-175
Magi No.
DOE ____ yes ____ no

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Valley Road Cross Gable Farmhouse

2. Location

street & number 13600 Valley Road ____ not for publication

city, town Cumberland ____ vicinity of ____ congressional district

state MD county Allegany

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
____ district	____ public	x occupied	____ agriculture	____ museum
x building(s)	x private	____ unoccupied	____ commercial	____ park
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational	x private residence
____ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	____ entertainment	____ religious
____ object	____ in process	____ yes: restricted	____ government	____ scientific
	____ being considered	____ yes: unrestricted	____ industrial	____ transportation
	x not applicable	x no	____ military	____ other ____

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

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allegany Co. Liber

street & number Folio

city, town Cumberland state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ____ federal ____ state ____ county ____ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition			Check one		Check one		
____	excellent	____	deteriorated	____	unaltered	x	original site
x	good	____	ruins	x	altered	____	moved date of move _____
____	fair	____	unexposed				

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

Description:

Summary:

This two story frame farmhouse features a central cross gable. The l-shaped building has an enclosed front porch.

Description:

This two story frame farmhouse stands at the edge of Valley Road to the west. The land drops down to the origins of a small stream at the back, beyond which a wooded hill forms the east side of this narrow valley. A small yard and uncultivated fields surround the house. The area is rural in character.

The three bay structure has a central cross gable and a modern enclosed front porch. An ell extends to the rear. The building has no original chimneys. Asphalt shingles cover the roof and aluminum siding sheathes the walls. Modern 1/1 sash windows light the house. The building has been almost completely altered by modern alterations and materials. The house is in fairly good condition.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
___ prehistoric	___ Archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	x agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
x 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D

and/or

Applicable Exceptions: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Level of Significance: ___ national ___ state ___ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance:

Summary:

This two story frame farmhouse features a central cross gable. The building has been altered by modern materials.

Significance:

This farmhouse appears to date from the late 19th or early 20th century. No other outbuildings from the farm are extant and the land is no longer farmed. The house , which was a typical farmhouse, has lost its character due to alterations by modern materials.

Historic Context:

The city of Cumberland, Maryland was laid out in 1785. With the topography around the city, it became a point through which most westbound traffic passed. Cumberland by the late 19th century had become a major rail and transportation center with easy access to the Georges Creek Coal resources. The excellent transportation facilities and the availability of coal for fuel attracted industries such as Kelly-Springfield and Celanese Corporation to the Cumberland area, swelling the population during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and increasing development in those time periods. Today most of these manufacturing industries are gone.

A few pioneering farmers and fur traders initially settled western Maryland in the 1730s and 1740s. At that time Lord Baltimore had just opened Maryland's frontier or "back country" for settlement, and Germans were migrating through the area to create settlements in Virginia. Speculators from eastern Maryland responded by acquiring large tracts for subdivision and resale to German farmers. As settlement progressed, political divisions of the frontier occurred. Until 1748,western Maryland was part of Prince George's County. Afterward it was Frederick County until 1776 when Washington County, and 1789 when Allegany County were formed.

Settlement was sparse until the close of the French and Indian War in 1763, and the end of Pontiac's rebellion the following year. Thereafter, settlement progressed rapidly as

transportation routes improved and word of the rich farmland, particularly in the Cumberland and Shenandoah valleys, spread. The English speculators who had acquired large grants of land as investments began to subdivide and sell into smaller lots of 100-300 acres, which were ideal for a profitable family farm. These farms were divided into fields of 20-40 acres and planted with small grains and corn or clover. Other lands were left in pasture and woodlots, as the process of clearing the land was slow. Woodlot and pasture functions were often combined in areas where rock outcrops or step slopes made cultivation difficult. Allowing cattle and hogs to forage through woodlands helped to keep them open and clear. As farms developed and inhabitants prospered, towns and villages grew to support the local population.

The area prospered, achieving a high level of cultivation and development during the period from 1760-1860. Most of the substantial farmhouses and "Swisser" barns common to the larger region were constructed between 1790 and 1850. Favored building materials for houses were log (nearly always covered with siding or stucco), native stone, or brick (most brick farmhouses in the area date from after 1820). The earliest barns were log with timber framing favored after the 1830s.

By the time of the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the area was well established. Farms were characterized by fields and boundaries marked with wood or stone fences, orchards and small herds of cattle, hogs and sheep, and flocks of chickens and geese. Farms had carefully maintained woodlots kept to supply firewood, building materials and fencing. Demand for wood was great in the 19th century with the need for construction material and fuel (most households consumed about 10 cords of wood per year for heating). Historic photographs affirm the massive consumption of wood, revealing that the landscape at the time of the Civil War had far fewer trees than are seen today. The need for wood also promoted logging as an important agricultural-related industry in western Maryland throughout the 19th century. Sawmills were plentiful, often attached or adjacent to grist and flour mills.

Leading industries in Maryland, determined by value of product in 1860 included 1) Flour and Meal; 2) Men's Clothing; 3) Cotton Goods; 4) Sugar, Refined; and 5) Leather. By 1870, the list had changed: 1) Sugar, Refined; 2) Flouring and Grist Mill Products; 3) Men's Clothing; 4) Cotton Goods; and 5) Iron, Forged and Rolled. The leading industries had shifted again by 1880: 1) Men's Clothing; 2) Flouring and Grist Mill Products; 3) Fruits and Vegetables, Canned; 4) Fertilizers; and 5) Cotton Goods. Ten years later in 1890, flour milling products had dropped to fourth place in value of product, behind men's clothing, brick and stone masonry, and canning and preserving fruits and vegetables. In 1900, flour and grist mill products had dropped again to the number five position behind men's clothing, fruit and vegetable canning, iron and steel, and foundry and machine shop products. Thereafter, flour and grist mill products don't appear among Maryland's major products at all.[1]

[1] Eleanor Bruchey, "The Industrialization of Maryland, 1860-1914," in Walsh and Fox, p. 483,484.

The value of product trends shown above indicates that Maryland was shifting from an agricultural based economy to one based on manufacturing and factory produced goods. In Maryland, by 1914, more people were working in industry than in agriculture, and more were living in urban areas than in the country.[2] As the urbanization and industrialization process gradually transformed the economy of Maryland, farmers responded by shifting to dairy products, fruit and vegetable production. Corn and wheat were still major agricultural products, but milling changed from production for market to custom work for local farmers and planters. Competition from Midwestern grain resulted in Maryland sharing a smaller percentage of the whole amount of grain produced in the US.

Cumberland at the turn of the 20th century was at its height. The network of railroads radiating from Cumberland which had begun to take shape in the 1840s and 1850s, along with the development of the C&O Canal, stimulated the mining boom of coal and iron ore in the second half of the 19th century in western Maryland.[3] The railroads also attracted a variety of industries, accelerating the influx of rural families to work in Cumberland. Writing in 1911, Clarence Weaver described the character of the expanding city:

> CUMBERLAND is a City of thirty odd thousand inhabitants with its suburbs a large share of whom are supported by the railroads and manufactories.
>
> There are many factories, mills and plants of various kinds, among which are N. & G. Taylor Tin Plate Company; U.S. Rail Company; Potomac Glass Company; Wellington Glass Company; Eastern Glass Company; Maryland Glass Etching Works, Cumberland Gas Light Company, Edison Electric Illuminating Company, Klots Throwing Company, Silk Mills, McKaig Foundry and Machine Works, Cumberland Steel and Shafting Works, Footer's DyeWorks, United States Tannery, four large Milling Companies, several Planing Mills, Sash and Door factories, Candy Factories, Distilleries, Breweries, Brick Yards, Garages, etc.

Activity on the National Road picked up as well in the early 20th century with the advent of the automobile, becoming a major transcontinental route by the 1920s. The well-developed network of roads and rails enhanced suburban growth around Cumberland. A profusion of modest bungalows and four-square houses lining the National Road (US Route 40) and the secondary roads radiating from Cumberland attest to the population boom associated with the first decades of the twentieth century.

The Depression of the 1930s, and a drought in 1930, brought more woes to Maryland farmers, with agricultural losses estimated at $38,000,000. While federal loans were available for relief to farmers, as many as 25% of Maryland's farmers were so destitute that they were

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[2] Bruchey, p. 396, citing U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census of Manufactures: 1914, I, 553.
[3] Donna M. Ware, *Green Glades and Sooty Gob Piles,* Crownsville: Maryland Historical Trust, 1991, p. 22-28.

unable to pull together the required collateral to qualify for the loan money.[4] In 1931, one of the major bank failures in Maryland was the Central Trust Company of Frederick and its 11 branches. When it collapsed, it affected 14 smaller banks in Western Maryland. This troubled the already depressed farming area in central and western Maryland even more. The bleak economic outlook for farmers in the region encouraged even more people to leave the land and try to turn their fortunes in the city.[5]

World War II industrial needs brought a fresh infusion of manufacturing work for Cumberland's largest industries, Kelly-Springfield Tires and Celanese Corporation (est. 1924), and continued the suburban expansion of Cumberland. Low-cost, quick construction 'shot-gun' style houses may be representative of war-era housing. Post-1950s housing, also associated with corporate industrial employment are represented by modest ranchers and split-level houses.

[4] Ibid. p. 735.
[5] Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc. developed this historic context for use with properties in central and western Maryland.

Historical Context:

Maryland Comprehensive Preservation Plan Data

Geographical Organization:

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Resource Type:

Category:

Historic Environment:

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Known Design Source:

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See attached Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nomination property

Quadrangle name Evitt's creek Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References DO NOT COMPLETE UTM REFERENCES

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Merry Stinson, PhD, Architectural Historian		
organization	Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc.	date	Sept. 5, 2001
street & number	105 N. Potomac Street	telephone	301-739-2070
city or town	Hagerstown	state	MD

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
People's Resource Center
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7000

Major Bibliographical References:

Bibliography

Bruce, Robert, "*The National Road,*" (National Highway Association, 1916), as reproduced on http://www.rootsweb.com/~mdallegn/national.htm, 2001.

Reed, Paula S., "Final Report, Historic Property Evaluations, Washington, Allegany and Garrett Counties, Maryland," March 7, 2000 (Revised July 11, 2000).

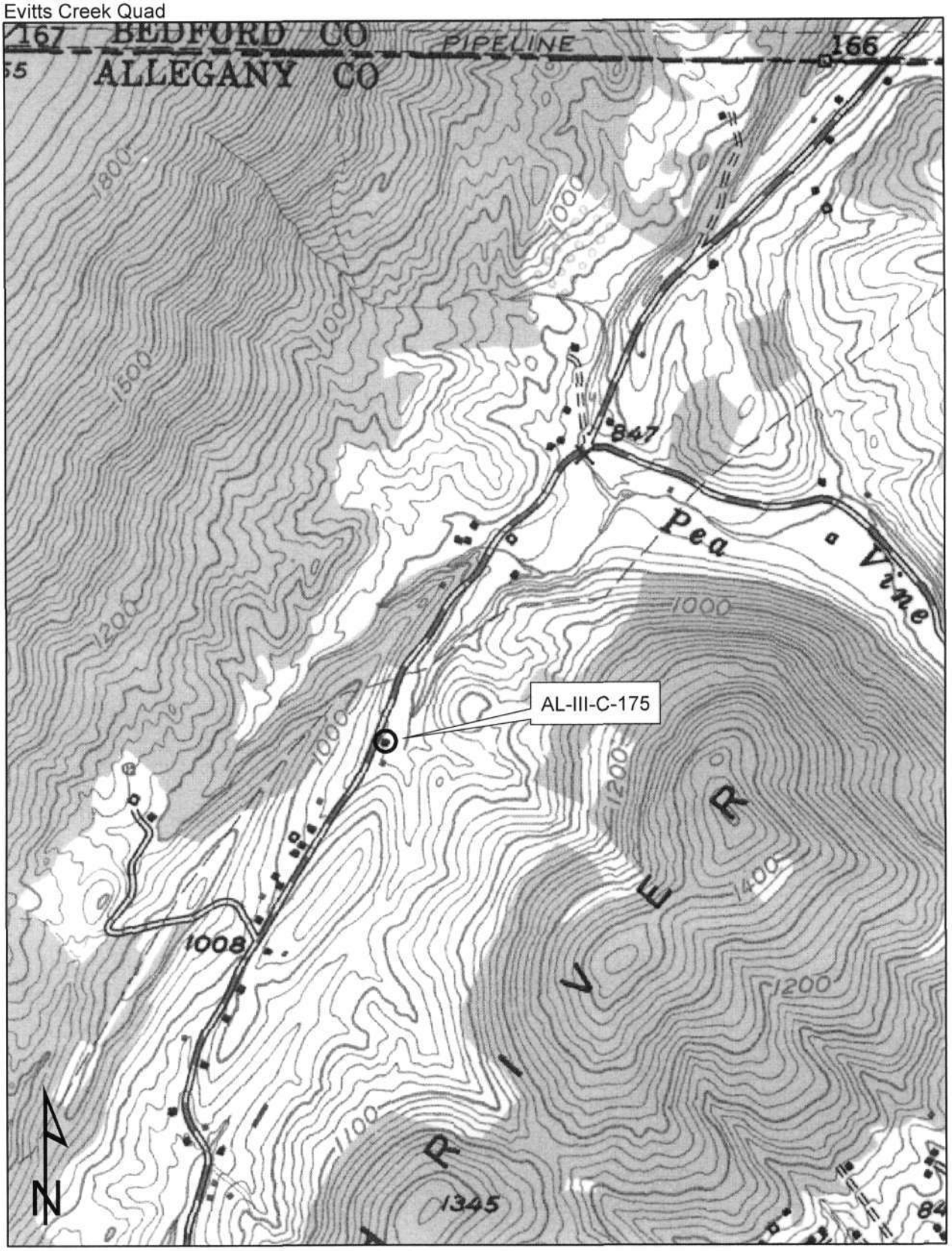
Schwartz, Lee G., Albert L. Feldstein, and Joan H. Baldwin, *A Pictorial History, Allegany County*, Virginia Beach, VA: Donning, 1980.

Ware, Donna M., *Green Glades and Sooty Gob Piles,* Crownsville: Maryland Historical Trust, 1991.

Weaver, Clarence E. *STORY OF CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND;THE QUEENCITY OF THE ALLEGHANIES*, The Eddy Press Corporation, **1911**, as reproduced on http://www.rootsweb.com/~mdallegn/cumberla.htm, 2001.

Williams, T.J.C., *History of Allegany County*, (1923); reprint, Baltimore: Regional Bublishing Co., 1969.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Verbal Boundary Justification:

AL-III-C-175
13600 Valley Road
Cumberland
Evitts Creek Quad