

AL-VI-B-269

Vale Summit Survey District
Vale Summit
Private

mid-19th century
early 20th century

The Vale Summit Survey District is located on Maryland Route 55 east of Maryland Route 36, south of Frostburg. Maryland Route 55 runs east to west through the survey district. The architecture of Vale Summit is characterized by vernacular-styled frame dwellings. Many buildings in the survey district are 2 story, 3 bay by 1 bay dwellings based on the ell plan.

Vale Summit is a small town in the Georges Creek coal region of Allegany county. The town's original name, Pompey Smash, refers to the fact that the town was built on the site of the crash of a coal wagon driven by a black slave named Pompey. Unlike the many company towns of the Maryland mining region, Vale Summit was laid out in 1851 by miners "...who bought the lots and built the town."

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Vale Summit Survey District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Md. Rt. 55 east of Md. Rt. 36

CITY, TOWN

Vale Summit

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6th

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple ownership

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MHT Inventory, AL-VI-B-055,056, and 059

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Vale Summit Survey District is located on Maryland Route 55 east of Maryland Route 36, south of Frostburg, Maryland. Maryland Route 55 runs east to west through the survey district. The abandoned Georges Creek and Cumberland Railroad bed is north of the town. The terrain of the survey district is hilly.

The architecture of Vale Summit is characterized by vernacular-styled frame dwellings. Many buildings in the survey district are 2 story, 3 bay by 1 bay dwellings based on the ell plan.

They rest on stone foundations and have gabled roofs. An example, #7 on the attached map, has shingle-covered gable ends and central gable with decorative jig-sawn trim work. Several buildings in the survey district are typical saltbox houses. The 1½ and 2 story frame buildings are 3 bays wide and one bay deep. They rest on stone foundations and have gabled roofs. Shed-roof additions abutting their rear elevations give these buildings the saltbox shape found throughout the mining region. An example is the Cain Saltbox House, AL-VI-B-055, map #38. A store building in Vale Summit is a 1½ story frame building with a typical 3 bay store front facade. Additions to the building have obscured much of the original structure, see #14 on the attached map. The Booth Frame House, AL-VI-B-055, map #25, is a saltbox house with a gable roofed wing. The gable roofed wing has dentilated eaves. The saltbox section of the building housed a saloon at one time.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Vale Summit is a small town is the Georges Creek coal region of Allegany County. The town's original name, Pompey Smash, refers to the fact that the town was built on the site of the crash of a coal wagon driven by a black slave named Pompey. Unlike the many company towns of the Maryland mining region, Vale Summit was laid out in 1851 by miners "... who bought the lots and built the town." ¹

In 1880 Thomas Scharf described Pompey Smash as "... the home of several hundred miners of Welsh, Scotch and Irish extraction...", who were employed at the Grant Coal and Iron Company and the Consolidation Coal Company's mines in the area.² In 1880 the town's population was 535 people.³ In 1887 the town supported 3 saloons and 5 general merchandise and grocery stores. The town was a station on the Georges Creek and Cumberland Railroad. ⁴

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harvey, Katherine, The Best-Dressed Miners, Life and Labor in the Maryland Mining Region, 1835-1910, Ithica: Cornell University Press, 1969.
"The Maryland Directory and State Gazeteer, " Baltimore: Baltimore Publishing Company, 1887.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

May 1982

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle, Shaw House

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

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

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Vale Summit Survey District
(#9 continuation Bibliography)

Scharf, Thomas, History of Western Maryland Vol.II, Philadelphia:
Louis H. Everts, 1882.
Stegmaier, Harry, etal, Allegheny County-A History, Parsons: McClair
Printing Company, 1976

Footnotes

1
Harry Stegmaier etal, Allegheny County-A History, Parsons: McClain
Printing Company, 1976, p. 140.

2
Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland Vol. II, Philadelphia:
Louis H. Everts, 1882, p. 1495.

3
Katherine Harvey, The Best-Dressed Miners, Life and Labor in the Maryland
Coal Region, 1835-1910, Ithica: Cornell University Press, 1969, p. 84

4
"The Maryland Directory and State Gazetteer", Baltimore: Baltimore
Publishing Company, 1887, p. 33.

AL-VI-B-269
VALE SUMMIT SURVEY DISTRICT
ALLEGANY COUNTY
SCALE: 1"=200' ○ → PHOTO VIEWS





Lonaconing, MD;WV
USGS 7.5 Minute Series
Scale 1:24,000
1950; photorevised 1974

AL-VI-B-269
Vale Summit Survey District
MD Rt. 55 east of MD Rt. 36



AL-VI-B-269

Vale Summit Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

Dave Dorsey, 2/82

photo #1, looking SE



AL-VI-B-269

Vale Summit Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

Dave Dorsey, 2/82

photo #2, looking E



AL-VI-B-269

Vale Summit Survey District

Allegany Co., MD

Dave Dorsey, 2/82

photo #3, looking E