

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. BA 1148  
Magi No. 0301485304  
DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Robin's Range

and/or common Rolling Side

**2. Location**

street & number 1911 Altavue Road  not for publication

city, town Catonsville  vicinity of Councilmanic District 1st congressional district 7th

state Maryland county Baltimore County

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other: rental

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

name C. Godfrey and Joan Peters Garvey

street & number 3011 Woodberry Lane telephone no.: (410) 465-5054

city, town Ellicott City state and zip code MD 21042

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building liber SM 9381

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio 129

city, town Towson state MD 21204

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Inventory

date March 20, 1968  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records 100 Community Place

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

## 7. Description

Survey No. BA-148

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Robin's Range is a small 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  story house, not a bungalow, that was built up from a log house supposedly dating from 1810. The house probably appears on the 1850 map by J. C. Sidney and P. J. Browne. The owner in 1980 described the structure as having a "Maltese-cross" footprint. Actually the shape as shown in the 1986 200-scale topo map is a Roman cross, 60 feet in length, maximum width of 50 feet (Sheet SW-2-G). The most visible parts of the house are clapboard covered with bay windows characteristic of the Queen Anne style. Some sash windows are 6-over-6 types, others are vertically divided 2-over-2 types, while gable peak windows in the upper story are round-topped in the late Victorian manner. The porch posts are round columns in the Colonial Revival style. A formal garden with pool and boxwood dates from the 1920s. There was once a stable, but it was demolished by the family who owned the place from 1964 to 1992. A kennel of the 1920s was converted to a guesthouse by the Furnary family as reported in the 1980 interview.

The log section is enveloped in the center of the house. Mrs. Furnary was quoted in 1980:

"The center of the house is log," she continued, "and when we had an electrician come to put light fixtures in, he said he couldn't because the wood had become so hard over a period of years that he couldn't get into it."

Jean S. Walsh of Catonsville recalled in 1996 that Adela Keidel DeFord hired an architect about 1922 to redesign the stairway and add dentiled moldings and other revivalist elements.

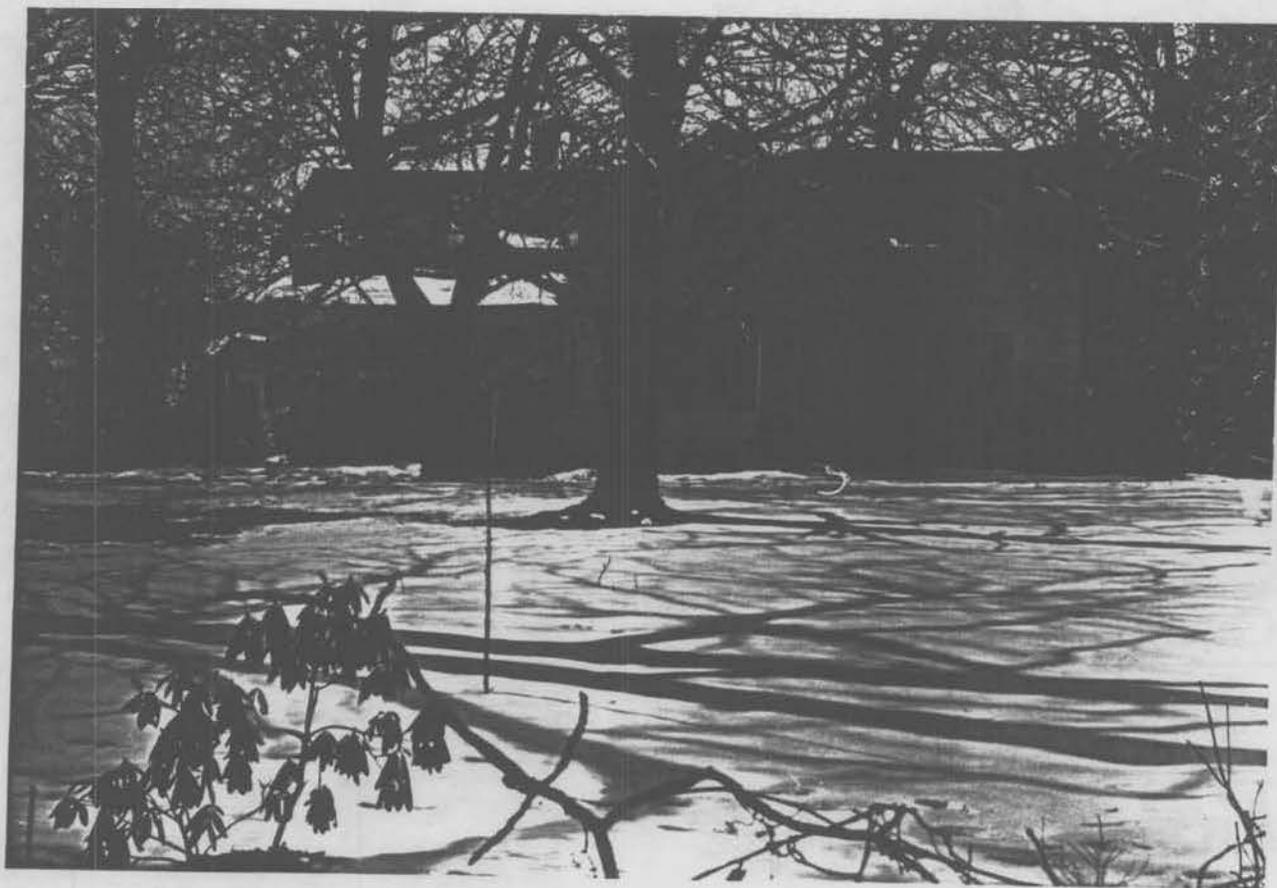
Maryland Historical Trust/  
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

BA-148  
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Robin's Range

Section number 7 Page 2

---



Robin's Range, 1978 Photo by LPC.

Maryland Historical Trust/  
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

BA-148  
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Robin's Range

Section number 7 Page 3



Catonsville's Historic Homes

*Home on the  
Robin's Range*

Catonsville Times,  
April 16, 1980:



# 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates**

**Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  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.

"Robin's Range" is a name derived from two adjoining colonial land surveys: "Robin's Camp" and "Buck Range." The actual name of the land grant here is "Dorsey's Terra Firma" as revealed by title search. Ed H. Parkison's map of Catonsville, however, shows that this neighborhood was within the large original survey called "The Tanyard." Parkison's book explains that "Dorsey's Terra Firma" was a late survey, made in 1823 for Reuben Dorsey, who had 428 acres of accumulated land surveyed into a new package to combine his purchases of part of "The Tanyard" and adjoining land. Dorsey was not listed in the assessments of 1813 and 1818. 1

The deed index shows that Dorsey had acquired parts of The Tanyard, Traps for the Old Fox, and Teal's Meadow from Isaac McPherson in 1820 (Deeds WG 157:554). In 1818 McPherson had owned 400 acres on which the improvements were only assessed at \$50.

The deed index shows that Reuben Dorsey was selling off his large holdings from 1842 to 1849. Some of the buyers had houses shown in the Rolling Road-Old Frederick Road vicinity on J.C. Sidney's 1850 map.

By 1848, 40 acres of Dorsey's Terra Firma were in the hands of Noah Worthington of John who conveyed to Rezin H. Worthington (Deeds AWB 408:285). Rezin H. Worthington lived near Granite in the Second Election District and probably only bought this parcel as an investment.

For many years, the Robin's Range house was part of a 40-acre farm, shown in the 1877 G. M. Hopkins atlas as "Rolling Side." The farm was embraced by the SW intersection of North Rolling Road and Old Frederick Road. Sidney's 1850 map of the county seems to show a house in that angle, labeled as the residence of John Mohr, a person not found in the chain of title, presumably a tenant.

Maryland Historical Trust/  
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

BA-148  
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Robin's Range

Section number 8 Page 2

---

Title search further shows that in 1850 the farm passed from Rezin H. Worthington to Robert Feinour (AWB 444:59). In 1859, Feinour and wife sold to James Solon S. Linthicum (GHC 26:233).

Linthicum sold to Charles Coblens in 1863 for \$5000 (GHC 37:150). Coblens sold in 1867 to Cornelius Stribling for \$9000 (GHC 54:332). Stribling sold in 1872 for only \$1000 (GHC 54:332). Stribling sold the property, then called "Rolling Side" in the deed to William Gerwig in 1872 (EHA 76:38). Gerwig and wife leased the property the same day to Mary Ann Berger, creating a ground-rent (EHA 76:39). Two years later, Mrs. Berger acquired a fee simple interest from Cornelius Stribling (JB 90:1440. Mrs. Berger was the wife of the Rev. A. L. Berger. The 1877 atlas labeled Rolling Side as the property of the Rev. A. L. Berger. This tract remained in the Berger family until 1921 when Bertha Dalrymple Berger and other heirs sold to Walter B. Lang for \$30,000 (WPC 546:363).

Lang subdivided the farm into ten lots and sold the place by bond of conveyance to Adela Keidel DeFord in 1922, reserving the right to control the plans and color of any houses to be built, prohibiting stores, factories, hospitals, and "swine." (WPC 556:245). Later in 1922, Lang and wife conveyed their entire interest in the property to Mrs. DeFord (WPC 560:491).

Louis L. and Adela Keidel DeFord retained the old house parcel for over 40 years. Mrs. Keidel hired an architect to alter the stairway and add moldings and Colonial Revival details. 2

Mrs. DeFord died February 13, 1964. Her executor sold the parcel to Dr. Joseph C. and Dorothy T. Furnary later the same year (RRG 4333:503).

The Furnarys were interviewed and their house featured in the Catonsville paper. 3 The house looked substantially as it does in 1996, most of the visible sections looking like an assemblage of Queen Anne era building materials. The Furnarys acquired a "dilapidated barn" with the property and soon demolished it. They believed that the starter house was log and dated from 1810. The Furnary's reported that the boxwood plantings dated from the ownership of the Langs, who were said to have lived on a grand scale with two gardeners, a cook, laundress, and lady's maid. The DeFords had built a kennel that the Furnarys had converted too a guest house. The Furnarys considered demolishing Robin's Range at first, but an engineer had advised them that the house was so solid he would "come here in an air raid."

Maryland Historical Trust/  
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

BA-148  
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Robin's Range

Section number 8 Page 3

---

Mrs. Furnary noted that in spring, the lawn at Robin's range is actually full of robins.

When the 1920s subdivision was carried out, the north boundary of the house parcel became Altavue Road. A further subdivision was filed in recent years as "The Furnary Property." The present owners acquired from the Furnarys on September 2, 1992, for \$437,000 (Deeds SM 9381:129).

NOTES:

1. Ed H. Parkison, Keidel's Colonial History of Catonsville (Catonsville, 1976), pp. 74, 75, 159.
2. Jean S. Walsh, Catonsville, to John McGrain, November 24, 1996.
3. Elliott Finklestein, "Home on the Robin's Range," Catonsville Times, April 16, 1980.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA-148

Elliott Finkelstein, "Home on the Robin's Range," Catonsville Times, April 15, 1980.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.652Quadrangle name Baltimore West, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 4, 5, and 6 of "Furnary Subdivision." See Tax Map 100, Parcel P93.

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

state	None	code	county	code
state	None	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	John McGrain		
organization	Office of Planning	date	November 20, 1996
street & number	401 Bosley Avenue	telephone	(410) 887-3495
city or town	Towson	state	MD 21204

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

