

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. BA 2114
 Magi No. 0321145504
 DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic HUNT-SCHMIDT HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 12656 Manor Road not for publication

city, town Phoenix vicinity of Councilmanic District 6
 congressional district 2nd

state Maryland county Baltimore Co.

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	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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Jeffrey M. Dillon & Barbara S. Bonhage

street & number 12656 Manor Road telephone no. (w) 828-4211

city, town Phoenix state and zip code MD 21131

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building libeSM 11405

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio 533

city, town Towson state MD 21204

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MHT Inventory

date February 27, 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust 100 Community Place

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

7. Description

Survey No. BA 2114

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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.

The Hunt-Schmidt house is a middle-sized dwelling in vernacular style, L-shaped in footprint, built a frame and clapboard and set on a stone foundation. The house is y two stories, three bays wide in the main block, with a center-hall floor plan. The front porch is hip roofed, full-width, with Greek Revival square porch posts with plain square capitals.

The roof of the main block is gabled on the south end (left) and hipped at the north end (right). The two chimneys are inside types, the one at the south end being an is inside end-chimney, the one on the north not exactly balanced in location.

The back building or rear wing is two stories and four bays deep, providing a rear entrance facing Long Green Road. Most windows are double-hung sash types with 6-over-6 lights. The house is painted yellow. The front lawn is mostly open, on a slight rise from Manor Road, with well sited trees and shrubs. The rear wing and side are neatly fenced.

The house has obviously expanded in a somewhat irregular manner, which adds to its interest. Removal of many layers of paint reveals the good quality of the German siding and the timber from which it was planed. This is an authentic "vernacular style" house because it was not constructed in one of the fashionable styles of the mid-19th century. Any house of that era that shows details of its construction and craftsmanship is a textbook of historic methods and possibly significant for that reason as well as for its outward design and its connection with the broad patterns of history.

The house was well crafted of good materials, reflecting the modest prosperity of country blacksmiths. The accompanying smithy and wheelwright shop were a long building on the diagonally opposite corner, still standing when the 1953 aerial photos were made as the base maps of the 200-scale topo maps that can still be consulted in the "house numbers" office in the County Office Building. The structures were demolished in November 1963 according to the anonymous "Historical Map, Long Green & Dulaney's Valley" drawn in 1964. Ermer R. Haile, Jr., past president of the Baltimore County Historical Society, recaued on September 8, 1996, that the shops had a second story that was used as a place for dinners by Wilson's United Methodist Church. He also recalled that the location was the NE corner lot, a site long owned by the Long Green Volunteer Fire Department.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Registration Form: include in this title block the
property name, county, and site/inventory number

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the
name of the multiple property listing

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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HUNT-SCHMIDT HOUSE, September, 1996. Manor Road facade.

8. Significance

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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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

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

The proponents of the Long Green National Register Historic District gave an MHT site number to this house but left it outside the final lines of the district. The house was the residence first of the storekeeper and then of the blacksmith who served the crossroads of Unionville. The village was apparently named for the landsurvey of "Union," a large tract that included the Ravenshurst home of Confederate General Isaac Ridgeway Trimble, who moved there when "Union" was not yet a fighting word.

The 1850 county map by J. C. Sidney and P. J. Browne showed no road intersection here and no smithy. But in early 1859, an advertisement in the Towson paper mentioned that the "Land of Promise" house was near Slade's Shop at Unionville. (1) By at least 1858, there was a road bounding this property on the north; it was described in a deed as "the road from Dulaney's Valley to Long Green Valley." (2)

A house belonging to J. D. Slade was shown on the 1850 map on the opposite side of the street and still exists. James Dixon Slade (1820-1891) was apparently the first practising smith at that corner.

Three partners bought 7 acres at the SW corner in 1854: James D. Slade, Joshua Riddle, and Elisha Riddle. (3) Slade became sole owner in May 1857. (4) George R. Hunt bought this corner in 1858, and his residence is shown by name in the 1877 Hopkins atlas at the SW corner formed by the newer side road: the present Long Green Road, which is an eastern extension of Dance Mill Road. Hunt carried on the general store and was postmaster of Unionville, 1861-1863, until replaced by James Dixon Slade. (5)

A caption in From Pig Iton to Cotton Duck quotes the Towson paper's report that James D. Slade hanged himself in 1891, believing himself to be deep in debt, which was not the case. The business passed to John and Elisha Slade. (6) The various Slade heirs sold 7 acres to George H. Schmidt on July 28, 1891. (7) Schmidt had started in 1885 as Slade's apprentice and he put in over 50 years at the smithy.

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Mrs. Henrietta Schmidt Astin, daughter of the smith, wrote about the property in her manuscript history of Long Green Valley:

George H. Schmidt, a life long resident of Long Green, served sixty-four continuous years as the village blacksmith in this shop. He watched the buggy and carriage business come and go and the peak of the horseshoeing business was reached in his days.

Many times on winter days when roads were slippery and hazardous for horses when it was necessary to haul ice to ice houses, he was called out early by farmers who wanted to be served first. The writer well remembers when he arose at 3:30 or 4 a.m. and going to the shop with an oil lantern he would sharpen the shoes and reshoe horses with only the light from his lantern until daybreak. He often continued "sharpening horses" as we called it, all day and into the night again with a lantern.

With two helpers, he sharpened 39 horses one winter day. After a few hours rest, began working again on another set of horses.

In summertime when roads were dry and dusty, the shop yard was filled with buggies, carriages and farm wagons. There were vehicles of every description all waiting to have their steel tires cut. Cutting a tire meant taking it off the wooden rim, heating it and shrinking it back on the dried-out wooden rim. The heaviest tires were 4 inches wide and almost an inch thick and weighed 700 pounds to the set. These tires were stacked in the shop yard with wood piled around them and covered with kerosene; a roaring fire raged until the iron was at a white heat. When the red hot tires were put on the wooden rims, the men had to move fast to get the wheel in water. The wheel swung and revolved from a frame over a trough of water to cool it. Mr. Schmidt saw many changes unfold before his eyes as he worked behind his anvil, he watched and saw many children grow into man and womanhood as they walked past his doorway on their way to school. Like Longfellow's poem of the village blacksmith, the children loved to watch the sparks fly from his lively hammer on the anvil.

He wanted to die in harness and he almost did it. He only lived five weeks after his last trip to the shop. He died in July 1945 at the age of 82. (8)

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Schmidt was written up in the Jeffersonian in 1933 when he and Moses Nafsinger walked nine miles to the Timonium Fair to repeat their boyhood excursion to the first fair ever held there 55 years before. (9)

Strangely enough, the Bromley atlases of 1898 and 1915 continued to show the SW corner as belonging to the Slade heirs rather than George Schmidt.

NOTES:

1. Baltimore County Advocate, Towson town, March 5, 1859.
2. Baltimore County Deeds GHC & HMF 21:189. The metes and bounds in this deed when platted out prove the site to be the SW corner lot.
3. Baltimore County Deeds, HMF 8:148.
4. Baltimore County Deeds, HMF 20:140.
5. Elmer R. Haile, Jr., "Post Offices in the Long Green Area," History Trails, 10 (Autumn, 1975):1.
6. John W. McGrain, From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck (Towson, 1985), 1:186.
7. Baltimore County Deeds, JWS 186:441.
8. Henrietta Schmidt Astin, "The Village Blacksmith," ms., n.d., Office of Planning files.
9. "Long Green Blacksmith and Pal Walk to Timonium Fair As They Did 55 Years Ago," Jeffersonian, September 5, 1933.

BA-2114

LONG GREEN BLACKSMITH AND PAL WALK TO TIMONIUM FAIR AS THEY DID 55 YEARS AGO

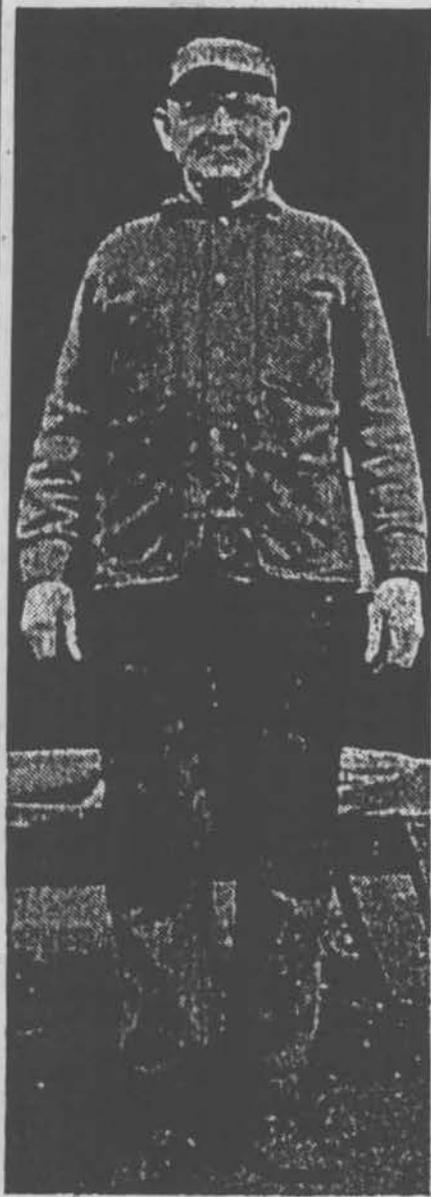
George H. Schmidt And John Nafzinger Refuse "Lifts"

Last Friday morning, William H. Carroll, Assistant County Agent, driving toward Towson, on the Dulaney Valley road, overtook two aged men trudging along the highway, coats awung over their shoulders and perspiration coursing down their faces at every stride, and, recognizing them, offered to give them a lift.

"No, thanks," answered the heavier of the two, with a merry twinkle in his eye, "we are particular who we ride with." Carroll insisted, but the pair only shook their heads and trudged on. Carroll, however, kept alongside and continued to urge them to get into his car, until finally they stopped and George H. Schmidt, 71-year-old "mayor" and blacksmith of Long Green, explained.

"Son," he said, "we appreciate your offer, but you see it's like this. I and my partner here, Moses Nafzinger, who has me beat for years by five, Mose is seventy-six, are celebrating an anniversary. Fifty-five years ago to this very day, we were two of six boys who walked from Long Green to the first Timonium Fair, and Mose and I are doing the stunt again just in remembrance of that occasion. In the party then was Mose and John Nafzinger, Samuel Shetzler, Conrad Eicholtz, John Bakie and myself. The other four are gone; only Mose and I are left; we're walking to the Fair, and we don't want to ride. Much obliged just the same."

A little farther on, Major G. L. Stryker, driving to the Fair, met the pair and insisted on taking them in. But they would have none of his hospitality either, and, under his insistence, had to tell him the story also. The two men had left Long Green Post Office at 7.30 that morning, and by 11 o'clock they had covered the nine miles between Long Green and



GEORGE H. SCHMIDT

The two old cronies had a wonderful day at the Fair and were taken back home in the car of a friend. "No, we didn't walk back home," explained "mayor" Schmidt; "nor did we walk back fifty-five years ago. We caught a ride in a wagon then."

Mr. Schmidt has stood at the same forge, in Long Green, for more than fifty years, while Mr. Nafzinger is a farmer and still lives on the place where he was born, near the village. Both men are wonderfully preserved, strong and healthy, and their walk didn't seem to tire them in the least.

Timonium, and were on the grounds, where Matthias L. Daiger, secretary of the Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society of Baltimore County, who had been tipped off to their coming, was waiting for them to make them his guests in the grand stand during the racing.

- THE JEFFERSONIAN, Towson

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA 2114

Henrietta Schmidt Astin, History of Long Green, Maryland," n.d.,
typescript, Office of Planning, Towson.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4.16Quadrangle name TowsonQuadrangle 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

Located at SW corner of Manor Road and Long Green Road. See Tax
Map 53, Grid 3, Parcel P248.

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

state	code	county	code
None			

state	code	county	code
None			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	John McGrain		
organization	Office of Planning	date	August 26, 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.