

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: Koch Property Inventory Number: BA-3141
Address: 11204 Lilac Lane Historic district: ___ yes no
City: Perry Hall Zip Code: 21128 County: Baltimore County
USGS Quadrangle(s): White Marsh
Property Owner: Henry William Koch Tax Account ID Number: 1103003410
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 88 Tax Map Number: 72
Project: Section 100: I-95, I-895(N) Split to North of MD 43 Agency: Maryland Transportation Authority
Agency Prepared By: A.D. Marble & Company
Preparer's Name: Stephanie Foell Date Prepared: 8/4/2004
Documentation is presented in: See Key References List
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility recommended ___ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ___ A ___ B C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ___ yes Listed: ___ yes
Site visit by MHT Staff ___ yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description

The residence at 11204 Lilac Lane is a field stone house that was among the earliest residential building type in northeastern Baltimore County and present-day Harford County. Constructed of uncoursed, uncut rubble (irregularly laid fieldstone bound with courses of mortar), the original portion of the two-story building forms a rectangular footprint. The simple house is three bays wide and is lacking in ornamentation. The main (east) façade is symmetrical, and the first story features a centrally placed entrance (now a replacement storm door) flanked by a single window on each side. Windows throughout the building are one-over-one, double-hung replacements and are topped with stone lintels.

The south elevation has a single irregularly placed window on the second story, and two, four-pane casement windows are located in the apex of the gable. The side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has a brick chimney on the ridgeline.

A small, single-story addition is located on the south elevation. It is clad in clapboards and its fenestration consists of one-over-one windows with nonfunctional shutters. An entrance is located on its south elevation and is reached by way of a small wood deck with stairs.

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MHT Comments:

Tom Tomlinson
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

8/24/04
Date

Blumentz
Reviewer, National Register Program

9/16/04
Date

200401247

Another unobtrusive, single-story addition projects from the rear (west) of the building and is scarcely visible from the street.

The grounds of 11204 Lilac Lane contain a collection of mature hardwoods, evergreens, and boxwoods, and a pond is located south of the building. Despite its proximity to Interstate 95, the residence retains much of its original setting.

History/Significance

General Regional History

The area surrounding 11204 Lilac Lane is part of Perry Hall in northeastern Baltimore County. The area derives its name from Harry Dorsey Gough's nearby estate of the same name. Lilac Lane is located just off of Joppa Road and near Philadelphia Road, which followed the paths of early Native American trails (Brooks and Rockel 1979:134).

The Susquehannock Indians were the most prominent tribe to inhabit this area of Baltimore County. Captain John Smith encountered the tribe during his 1608 expedition, which was the first European exploration of the Gunpowder River Valley. Twenty six years later, in 1634, the first settlers of Maryland arrived in St. Mary's County.

In 1659, the colonial legislature established Baltimore County, a huge expanse of land that included parts of present-day Cecil, Harford, Carroll, Howard, and Kent Counties. However, despite abundant natural resources which included vast stands of timber and rich outcroppings of iron ore, the area did not have enough fertile, flat, cleared land ready for colonists to farm.

Little is known about the earliest European settlers of northeastern Baltimore County. Allegedly, James Denton was one of the first to explore the area after Smith. In 1665, he discovered saltpeter, an ingredient of gunpowder, along the banks of the river, which is how the Gunpowder River acquired its name, which is one of the oldest place names in Maryland (Marks 2000:7).

Philadelphia Road

The area of Baltimore County that is now Perry Hall developed largely as a result of its proximity to Philadelphia Road/Maryland Route 7, a road that originated as a Native American trail (Brooks and Rockel 1979:134). In 1729, the City of Baltimore was platted as a future port and commerce center. During that time, surveyors laid out the Philadelphia Road, linking Philadelphia, the New World's largest port city, with points south and west, including Baltimore.

The roadway's importance grew over time as interstate commerce became more prevalent. By the 1740s, commercial thoroughfares were being constructed to move farm produce, mill products, lime, and iron castings to the port city of Baltimore, and taverns and hotels sprang up along the Philadelphia Road. After several attempts to establish a turnpike, the Baltimore and Havre de Grace Turnpike Company received a charter to construct a toll road on the bed of the Philadelphia Road in 1814. The turnpike company initially enjoyed a period of prosperity. However, after only 20 years, railroads began offering intense competition for the Philadelphia turnpike (Hollifield 1978:81-82).

As Baltimore continued its expansion eastward, portions of the turnpike were ceded to the city. In 1888, Harford County assumed control of the turnpike contained within its boundaries. The end of the turnpike came in 1894, when Baltimore County assumed control of the remaining roadway within its jurisdiction.

During the twentieth century, traffic continued to increase on Philadelphia Road, particularly when automobiles became prevalent. Businesses arose along the former turnpike to serve the traveling public and many thought the road would continue to be the

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Date

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Koch Property

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avored route for those traveling between Philadelphia and points south. However, in the late 1930s, the state held discussions regarding Works Progress Administration funds available for highway construction. A decision was made either to improve the existing Philadelphia Road, by then designated as Maryland Route 7, or construct a new roadway parallel to the old one. The businesses along the existing route fought to retain their source of business, but constructing a new, parallel road became the final decision, and work commenced on the new road, the Pulaski Highway, which eventually replaced Philadelphia Road as the primary thoroughfare through the area.

Agricultural and Industrial Development in Northeastern Baltimore County

European settlement of northeastern Baltimore County likely began circa 1660. Because of the costly and complex land grant process, many wealthy landowners purchased parcels of land in Baltimore County, viewing these holdings as either investments in the future or potential bequests for heirs. Even land that had been purchased remained vacant (Marks 2000:7).

Consequently, during the early eighteenth century, land patterns consisted of small settlements, trails, and wilderness. Small-scale farmers, woodcutters, and miners were the primary residents, not the structured society of the southern Maryland gentry. This trend continued into later centuries as farmers continued to cultivate smaller plots of land than their Southern, plantation-owning counterparts (Marks 2000:11).

The Nottingham Company operated several iron furnaces in this area of Baltimore County, and collectively the business was referred to as the Nottingham Iron Works. Established in 1745 by Alexander Lawson, the company was named after investor James Russell's estate in Prince George's County, Maryland. Although the Nottingham Iron Works enjoyed several decades of prosperity, its holdings were seized after the Revolutionary War because of Lawson's strong ties to Great Britain. At this time, the company was subdivided among multiple landowners, although the Nottingham Forge remained productive until the late nineteenth century. The furnace, however, ceased production, although the actual date of cessation is somewhat in dispute as is the exact location of the ruins. Some early residents of Baltimore County may have been lured to the area because the iron works promised employment (Marks 2000:20-22).

By the mid-nineteenth century, many landowning residents of northeastern Baltimore County were German, Polish, or Irish immigrants. Other residents were tenant farmers who occupied land held by the descendants of the original landholders. Generally, farms were small in size and produced relatively minor amounts of what were known as "stoop crops," vegetables which required bending over to harvest. These included carrots, parsnips, beans, etc. These crops were either sold at markets throughout Baltimore City (usually the Belair Market, the closest to the area) or by the farmers themselves, a practice known as truck farming which was prevalent throughout the area. Also at this time, as greenhouses came into widespread use, this area of Baltimore County became an important center for the production of year-round cut flowers for weddings, funerals, and bouquets (McGrain 1990:17).

Early Masonry Domestic Architecture

A survey of literature pertaining to stone residences with similar characteristics to 11204 Lilac Lane in northeastern Baltimore and Harford Counties indicates several comparable buildings with construction dates ranging from 1775 to 1860. These buildings were residences for middle-class citizens or tenant farmers and are consistent with residences built in Harford County by workers in mills and forges (Weeks 1996:284). Smaller examples which display similar construction methods and materials were possibly used as slave quarters. Relatively few of these early houses survive, and of that group, few retain a high degree of integrity.

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Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

Vernacular stone houses such as 11204 Lilac Lane were sometimes referred to as British Cabins, and are derivative of the Postmedieval English style of Colonial houses which were symmetrical with little or no rake or eave overhang. Both frame and masonry examples of the style were constructed (McAlester and McAlester 1984:105-106).

History of 11204 Lilac Lane

The property that presently contains 11204 Lilac Lane was originally part of the Nottingham Lands owned by T. Parker Scott. In 1867, Scott sold a parcel of land of unknown size (although seemingly large for agricultural purposes) to Gibbons Moore, who in turn bequeathed the property to his son George Moore in 1888 (Baltimore County Land Records Liber 53, Folio 440 and Liber 171, Folio 42).

According to tax records, the residence was constructed in 1900, and the 1898 Bromley Atlas seems to support this date, as no property appears to be located on the parcel at that site. No building permit was issued for the property, which is not unusual in a rural part of Baltimore County at that time.

The property remained in the Moore family until 1936, when portions of it were sold off, and the parcel containing the house was sold to partners named Borgerding and Brookers (Baltimore County Land Records, Liber 978, Folio 97), who in turn sold the property to the Caldwell family in 1947 (Baltimore County Land Records, Liber 1621, Folio 519). The Caldwells retained ownership of the property until 1975, when the present owner Henry Koch purchased the property (Baltimore County Land Records, Liber 5560, 166).

While tax records indicate that the house was constructed in 1900, a nearby stone house built by a member of the Moore family dates to 1853 and displays similar materials and design. The other house is located at 9130 Peach Blossom Lane. It is possible that the Lilac Lane property was modeled after the preceding Moore property. This would explain the relatively late date for a stone building such as the Lilac Lane property, which was more typical of an earlier era in both Baltimore and Harford Counties.

The house at 11204 Lilac Lane has been used continuously as a residence since its construction in 1900.

Determination of Eligibility

Constructed of uncoursed, uncut fieldstone laid with irregular mortar courses, the architecture of 11204 Lilac Lane has its roots in some of the earliest building traditions in northeastern Baltimore County despite its relatively late construction date of 1900.

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of significant persons in or past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

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_____ Reviewer, National Register Program	_____ Date

The residence at 11204 Lilac Lane is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an example of an early field stone house in Baltimore County. Residences such as these were constructed during the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries, although the Lilac Lane property dates to 1900. Although the house has two small additions, the property still retains a high degree of integrity. The additions are small in size and do not compromise or obscure the original features of the house. Furthermore, 11204 Lilac Lane still retains much of its site integrity. Although other houses have been constructed in the vicinity, a substantial amount of open space surrounds the residence. Although Interstate 95 has been constructed in reasonably close proximity to the residence, a substantial buffer zone of deciduous trees exists and visually shields the residence from the intrusion. At this preliminary stage of historic investigations, 11204 Lilac Lane does not appear to have any associations with significant historic events or persons which would make it eligible for the National Register under Criteria A or B, respectively. Furthermore, the property has not been evaluated under Criterion D at this time, although it seems possible that the property could yield historical archaeological information.

The proposed boundaries for the National Register property are inclusive to the current legal boundary. This boundary encompasses the historic house and grounds, which are integral to the eligibility of the property. The property contains two contributing elements: the house and the surrounding landscape. There are no non-contributing elements on the Lilac Lane property.

- 8.25 ACRES -

Key References

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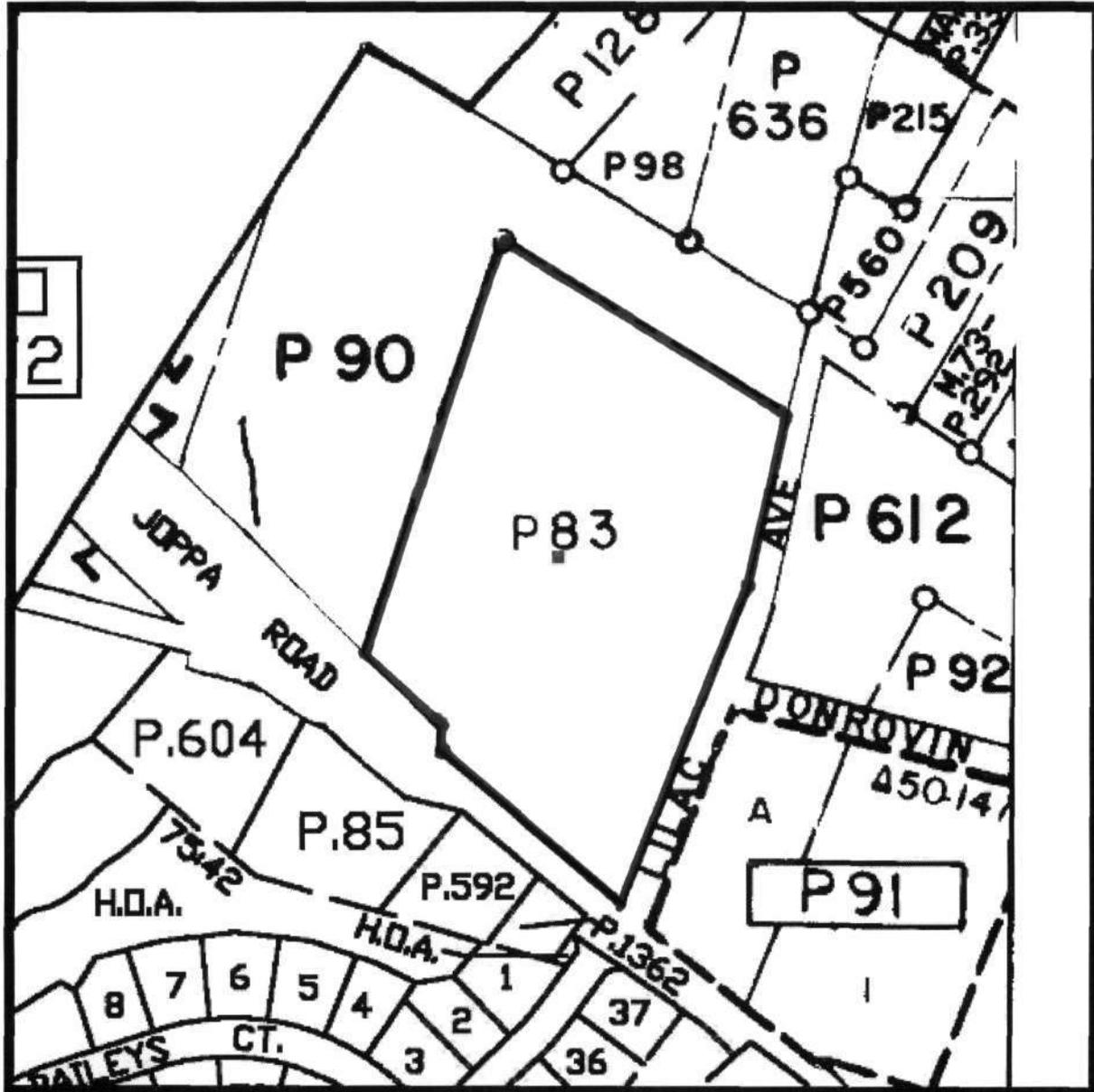
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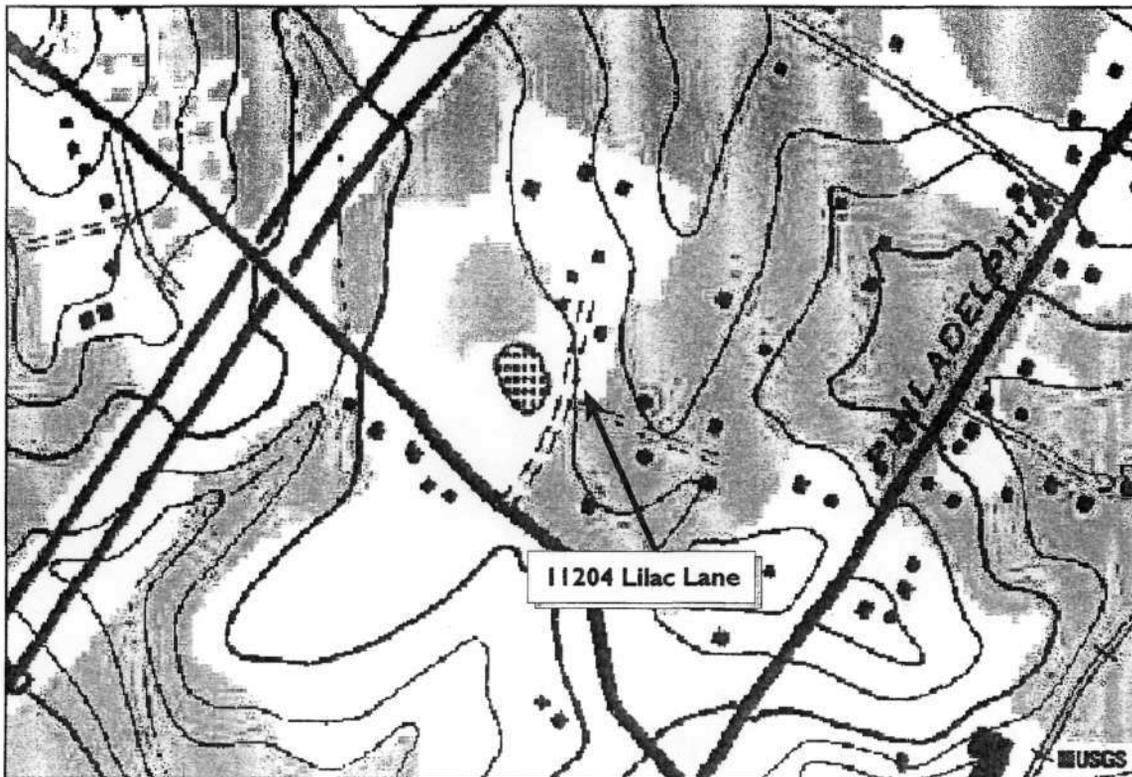


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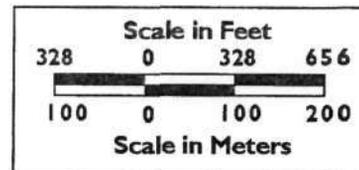
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BA - 3141
KOCH PROPERTY
11204 LILAC LANE
PERRY HALL VICINITY
WHITE MARSH QUAD
NR BOUNDARY - 8.25 ACRES

BA-3141
Resource Location Map
Section 100: I-95, I-895 (N) Split to North of MD 43
Baltimore County, Maryland



Map Source: U.S.G.S Topographic Quadrangle; Middle River, MD





BA-3141

11204 Lilac Lane

Baltimore County, MD

S. Foell

10/2003

MD SHPO

Front + right facades, view to the West

1/2

ART-2611
888 7817



BA-3141

11204 Lilac Lane

Baltimore County, MD

S. Foell

10/2003

MD SHPO

Front & left facades; view to the NW

2/2

ART-2611 888 7817
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