

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-0380
Jones' Contrivance
1109 Cockey's Mill Road
Reisterstown, Baltimore County
1830, 1943
Private

Although the main house at Jones' Contrivance dates to 1943, the earliest outbuildings associated with this expansive rural property were constructed during the first half of the 19th century. The land surrounding Jones' Contrivance was, in the mid-19th century, only sparsely populated. This rolling farmland was bordered on the west by the North Branch of the Patapsco Falls. Although the extant tenant house does not appear on the 1850 county atlas, architectural evidence suggests that the structure was constructed in the early to mid-1800s. By the late 19th century, a second dwelling, known as Brentwood, was constructed on the property. This building appears to be the G.S. Norris House depicted in the 1877 county atlas. This atlas does not indicate the presence of the tenant house, which certainly had been constructed by the late 1870s. Through the early 20th century, additional outbuildings were added to the property. In 1915, the land associated with Jones' Contrivance had reached 217 acres. Additionally, the tenant house is finally depicted on the county atlas from that year. Occupancy of the late 19th century main house was attributed to Mary Keyser. In 1941, the Keyser family demolished the Victorian era dwelling and, in 1943, erected a Colonial Revival style house, making partial use of the earlier structure's foundation and parterre walls. The new dwelling was designed by Baltimore architect Lawrence Fowler. The rural property, which continues to be used for agricultural purposes, remains in the Keyser family.

This dwelling fronts southwest toward a sloping valley with stone walls to the south and east. The random rubble stone foundation supports a Flemish bond brick structure. The T-shaped building stands three stories tall and five bays wide with a cross hipped roof clad in slate tiles. A number of different glazing patterns distinguish the façade. For example, nine 12/12 windows pierce the second and third stories, five 8/8 windows pierce the first story plus a 3/6 window, a 20/25 window and a 16-light fixed round window accent the facade. All the windows have molded wood surrounds and sills. Located in the first story, the main entry is marked by a single-leaf paneled door with 2/2 sides and a molded wood surround and cornice. The façade has a three-story projecting bay and an interior-end brick chimney with a corbeled cap. Each end has a one-story, three-sided bay with multi-light fenestration and a dentiled cornice. Other details include a corbeled string-course between the second and third stories, a molded cornice, and a central-interior brick chimney. Twenty-one dependencies, including a circa 1830 tenant house of solid random rubble stone construction, are associated with this property.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0380

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Jones' Contrivance

other

2. Location

street and number 1109 Cockey's Mill Road __ not for publication

city, town Reisterstown __ vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name W. Fenwick and Barbara L. Keyser

street and number 1109 Cockey's Mill Road telephone Not Available

city, town Reisterstown state MD zip code 21136

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 1109 folio 368

city, town Towson tax map 47 tax parcel 15 tax ID number 0411015400

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>15</u>	<u>6</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
			<u>1</u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0380

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

Constructed in 1943 on a pre-existing foundation, this Colonial Revival style dwelling fronts southwest toward a sloping valley with stone walls to the south and east. The random rubble stone foundation supports a Flemish bond brick structure. The T-shaped building stands three stories tall and five bays wide with a cross hipped roof clad in slate tiles. A number of different glazing patterns distinguish the façade. For example, nine 12/12 windows pierce the second and third stories, five 8/8 windows pierce the first story plus a 3/6 window, a 20/25 window and a 16-light fixed round window accent the facade. All the windows have molded wood surrounds and sills. Located in the first story, the main entry is marked by a single-leaf paneled door with 2/2 sides and a molded wood surround and cornice. The façade has a three-story projecting bay and an interior-end brick chimney with a corbeled cap. Each end has a one-story, three-sided bay with multi-light fenestration and a dentiled cornice. Other details include a corbeled string-course between the second and third stories, a molded cornice, and a central-interior brick chimney.

Twenty-one dependencies are associated with this property.

The oldest building on the property is a circa 1830 tenant house. Constructed with random rubble stone, the building stands two-and-a-half stories tall with an asphalt shingle side gable roof. The façade is pierced with three 1/1 windows, two 2/2 windows, and two 6/6 windows. All of the windows have square-edged wood surrounds and sills. Also, on the façade are two single-leaf doors, one that is paneled with lights and another that is flush vertical board. A one-story-high and five-bay-wide porch with a shed roof spans the façade. Above this porch projects a two-bay-wide second-story addition clad in wood shingles.

Associated with the tenant house is a circa 1830 icehouse and springhouse. The two-story icehouse is constructed with random rubble stone and a front gable roof. The second story is a wood frame structure clad in board-and-batten siding. The façade is pierced by two single-leaf board-and-batten doors and two one-light fixed windows. The springhouse also has a front gable roof, a random rubble stone foundation and board-and-batten siding. It is located in a valley next to an in-ground pool constructed with concrete.

Dating from 1880-1890 are six outbuildings. These include a shed, bank barn, tractor shed, and smokehouse. Each of these has a random rubble stone foundation, board-and-batten siding, and a gable roof. Mixed among the wood frame buildings is a random rubble stone icehouse with a pyramidal wood shingle roof and a single-leaf vertical board door. Of particular interest is a carriage house dating to this period. Also with a random rubble stone foundation and a gable roof, the carriage house has wood German siding and five gabled dormers. It has recently been turned into a residence.

There are approximately six buildings from the circa 1940 era. Three animal shelters and a shed feature wood frame structures, concrete foundations, and gable roofs. Also, there is a pump house constructed with stretcher bond brick and a gable roof. One unusual building is an octagonal wood frame shed with a wood post foundation. All of the buildings are one story tall.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0380

Name Jones' Contrivance, 1109 Cockey's Mill Road, Reisterstown, Baltimore County
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

The non-contributing outbuildings include a tractor shed, a chicken house, a garage, a hay barn, and a shed. All of the buildings were built in the second half of the twentieth century. All the buildings have gabled roofs, wood frame construction and concrete foundations (except the barn which has a wood post foundation). Also, there is a metal silo that stands about two-and-a-half stories tall with a metal cap.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-0380

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1830 ca.-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1830 ca., 1943

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Although the main house at Jones' Contrivance dates to 1943, the earliest outbuildings associated with this expansive rural property were constructed during the first half of the 19th century. Located west of the fourth district community of Reisterstown, the land surrounding Jones' Contrivance was, in the mid-19th century, only sparsely populated. The Bennet and Norris families owned significant amounts of land at the end of what became known as Cockey's Mill Road. This rolling farmland was bordered on the west by the North Branch of the Patapsco Falls, which formed the boundary between Baltimore and Carroll Counties.¹ Although the extant tenant house does not appear on the 1850 county atlas, architectural evidence suggests that the structure was constructed in the early to mid-1800s. By the late 19th century, a second dwelling, known as Brentwood, was constructed on the property. This building appears to be the G.S. Norris House depicted in the 1877 county atlas. This atlas does not indicate the presence of the tenant house, which certainly had been constructed by the late 1870s.² Through the early 20th century, additional outbuildings were added to the property. In 1915, the land associated with Jones' Contrivance had reached 217 acres. Additionally, the tenant house is finally depicted on the county atlas from that year. Occupancy of the late 19th century main house was attributed to Mary Keyser.³ In 1941, the Keyser family demolished the Victorian era dwelling and, in 1943, erected a Colonial Revival style house, making partial use of the earlier structure's foundation and parterre walls.⁴ The new dwelling was designed by Baltimore architect Lawrence Fowler.⁵ The rural property, which continues to be used for agricultural purposes, remains in the Keyser family.

¹ J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

² *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877); see also Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

³ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

⁴ Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

⁵ Annie McDonald and Amanda Didden, interview with current owner (10 April 2001).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-0380

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 163.91 Acre

Acreage of historical setting 217 Acres

Quadrangle name Finksburg

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1943, Jones' Contrivance has been associated with the 163.81 acres of land known as tax parcel 15 of map 47 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office. The earliest outbuildings extant on the property have been associated with this parcel of land since circa 1830.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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.

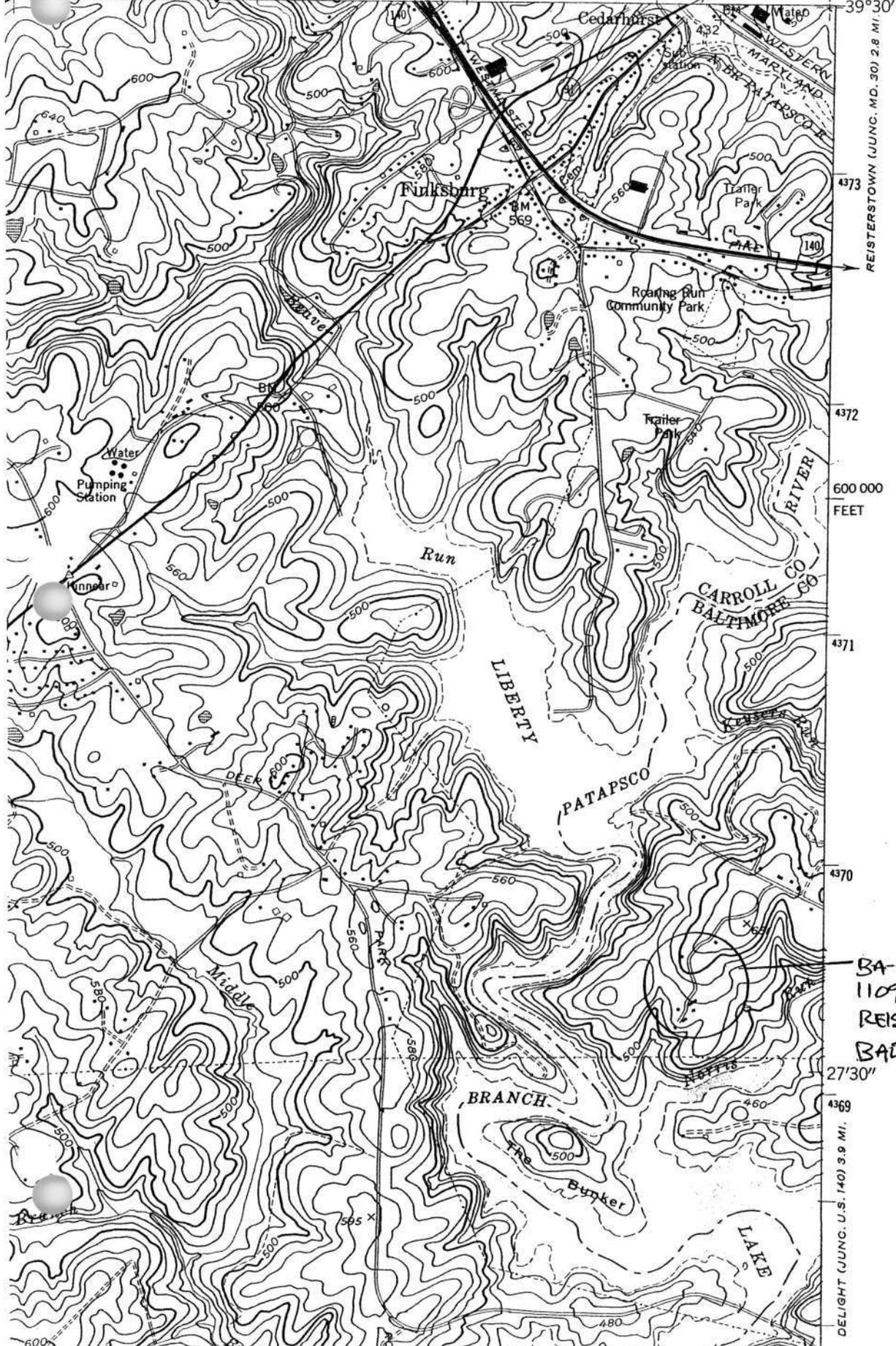
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

FINKSBURG QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5663 III SE
(HAMPSTEAD)

55' GETTYSBURG, PA. 32 MI. WESTMINSTER (JUNC. MD. 31) 7.6 MI. 137 1830 000 FEET FOWBLESBURG 4 MI. 76°52'30" 39°30'



REISTERSTOWN (JUNC. MD. 30) 2.8 MI. 4373
4372
600 000
FEET
4371
4370
4369
DELIGHT (JUNC. U.S. 140) 3.9 MI. 27'30"

BA 0350
1109 COCKEYS MILL
REISTERSTOWN
BALTIMORE COUNTY



BA-0380

1109 COCKEY'S MILL ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TREASURER

4/2001

MD-SHPD

SCANNER

1 of 9



BA-0380

1109 LOCKEY'S MILL ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERS

4/2001

MD-SHPD

E CORNER

2 of 9



BA-0380

1109 COCKEY'S MILL ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILER

4/2001

MD-SHPD

W CORNER

3 of 9



BA-0380

1109 LOCKEY'S MILL ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD-SHPD

CARRIAGE HOUSE

4 of 9



BA-0380

1109 LOCKEY'S MILL ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

4/2001

MD-SHPD

OUTBUILDINGS

5 of 9



BA-0380

1109 COLKEYS MILL ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRALELIES

4/2001

MD-STPD

TENANT HOUSE + ICE HOUSE

6 of 9



BA-0380

1109 COLKEY'S MILL ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERES

4/2001

MO-SHED

SHED

7 of 9



BA-0380

1109 LOCKEY'S MILL ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD-SHPD

OUTBUILDINGS

8 of 9



BA-0380

1109 COLLEY'S MILL ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILER

4/2001

MD-SHPD

SPRINGHOUSE

.9 of 9

BA 380

JONES' CONTRIVANCE - 1943 - South side of Cockey's Mill Road, 0.3 mile west of Gore's Mill Road. Until 1968, the home of William Fenwick Keyser, publisher of the Union News and prominent investor and raiser of Charolais beef cattle. Mr. Keyser wrote humorous articles under the name of Uncle Dudley. House not

DISTRICT 4 - continued -

visible from road. Replacement of the Victorian or Queen Anne frame house Brentwood that was razed in 1941.