

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The HOMESTEAD

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Harford Road, south of Glen Arm Road

CITY, TOWN

Glen Arm

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

J. Howard Eager III

Telephone #: (301) 244-6230

STREET & NUMBER

Maryland National Bank, P.O.Box 987

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21203

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 5646

Folio #: 56

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Baltimore County Historic Sites Survey

BA 386

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE  COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Baltimore County Office of Planning & Zoning

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE
 

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Prominently situated in a deep, flat but narrow valley beside an important road leading to the nearby city the HOMESTEAD is a two and one-half story stone house of two principal periods; its main facade is to the south. Exterior stucco is scored in imitation of ashlar. The main block measures approximately  $28\frac{1}{2}$  by  $48\frac{1}{2}$  feet, dimensions close to those recorded in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records. Extensive original detailing indicates eighteenth century construction. The west or kitchen and service wing measures approximately  $18\frac{1}{2}$  by 44 feet; it, the two stories of galleries across the south facade of the original section, the tri-partite windows in the westerly room of the original section, the entrance features, stucco and other minor details all date from ca. 1825-1840.

A stone wall through the house, east of the central hall which extends through/the single rooms on either side, may mark the limits of a much earlier structure,  $28\frac{1}{2}$  by 24 feet; if so it probably pre-dates the sophisticated late eighteenth century detailing which is in place throughout the interior.

The galleries are prominent features, extending the full length of the house, superimposed, of the Greek Doric order with fluted columns. The other early nineteenth century details are of a quality equal to the original detailing which includes: a staircase in the central hall with turned balusters rising from a closed string to support a moulded handrail; in the parlor fluted Tuscan pilasters

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

See page 7-2

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

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Prominently situated in a deep, flat, but narrow valley beside an important road leading to the nearby city, THE HOMESTEAD is one of four structures in this Historic District identified in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records, hence among the oldest structures remaining. In this oldest group it is singular because of its sophisticated original detailing adapted directly from early and mid-eighteenth-century design books. The conservative Greek Revival details superimposed on the earlier house in the early nineteenth century are equally good. Many early structures remain of those which were required to support eighteenth and nineteenth century rural life, the most significant being the unusual round Gothic Revival spring house, now falling into ruins but not beyond restoration.

THE HOMESTEAD was built on the Hill's Forest tract, 631 acres purchased by James Gittings (1735-1823) from George Buchanan, his father-in-law. On this property, Buchanan is said to have built a stone house between 1784 and 1789.<sup>1</sup> Presumably James Gittings intended to transfer Hill's Forest to his son Thomas. In 1798 Thomas was assessed for 731 acres, \$2221; improvements \$890; 14 slaves. Improvements included mansion, stone, 46 x 26, 2 stories; kitchen 34 x 26, 1 story; 2 stone houses 20 x 14 not occupied; barns, stables, corn

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7

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

James T. Wollon, Jr. A.I.A.; Elmer R. Haile, Jr.

ORGANIZATION

Historic Long Green Valley Inc.

DATE

August 3, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Julia Randall 5539 Hillrise Road

TELEPHONE

(301) 592-2629

CITY OR TOWN

Glen Arm

STATE

Maryland 21057

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

HOMESTEAD

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extending to a cornice having wall-of-Troy dentils and modillions, a mantel with an overmantel having an architrave with crossettes and a dentiled inner backband, semi-circular arched niches on either side of the fireplace (formerly cupboards enclosed with two stories of paneled doors and having shelves), at the entrance door in the parlor an architrave with crossettes within fluted pilasters supporting a broken pediment having dentils and modillions, windows with paneled jambs and architraves with crossettes, a paneled wainscot; similar but slightly simpler detailing in the chamber above.

The house has been on the market for sale for many years and it is subdivided into several apartments. In an ill-conceived attempt to refinish the parlor woodwork it was sandblasted, giving it an incorrect texture.

A stone smoke house is immediately north of the kitchen wing. A frame tenant house with board-and-batten sheathing is immediately north of the smoke house. Across Haystack Branch is a frame corn house having cribs on either side of a driveway and a small frame barn. These structures all date from the early-to-mid nineteenth century.

Southwest of the house is a frame octagonal barn constructed in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century out of older hewn materials with many unused mortises.

Also southwest of the house, across Haystack Branch, is a round stone spring house, a most unusual structure, unique in this Historic District, of great importance and approaching a ruinous condition but not beyond restoration. The several windows are

HOMESTEAD

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pointed (Gothic Revival) lancets and the door is arched with a louvred transom. The conical roof boldly projects beyond the walls to shelter them from the sun. Internally curving timber chords of a low truss spring from the stone walls to support a king post having a drop-finial; the king post supports radiating ceiling joists and the roof rafters. A short wing extends into the hillside west of the spring house to enclose the spring itself.

house, meat house, spring house, etc. Thomas died in 1806. In 1813, James Gittings, Junior, had taken over Hill's Forest, and in 1823 James of John.

The house remained in the family until 1889, when it was sold by trustees of Lambert Gittings. In 1892, it was purchased by Charles J. Bonaparte, grandson of Betsy Patterson and Jerome Bonaparte, who subsequently built his mansion, Bella Vista, on the hill across Harford Road to the west.

The house with seven acres has recently been purchased, and the new owner hopes to restore it.

1. Willie Marye. Gittings, vertical file, Maryland Historical Society.  
For further reference, please see section 8 of Long Green Farm (BA 139)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WHITE MARSH QUAD

563 11 SE  
(PHOENIX)

