

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-492
Ventura Farm
Sparks, Baltimore County
Circa 1850
Private

The Ventura Farm is located near the historic villages of Coopersville and Butler in the Fifth District of Baltimore County. The Fifth District has very few towns and its population is sparse compared to other neighboring districts. In 1881, it had a population of 2,241. During the late 19th century, this area was considered a highly industrial section of Baltimore County, due to its numerous saw-mills, paper-mills, and flour-mills. The village of Butler is located at the southern edge of the district. In 1881, the Black Rock Methodist Episcopal church and the J.H. Millender mills. This dwelling is seen on the 1850 Atlas as Mrs. Benson's, and then on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas and the 1915 Bromley Atlas as denoted with J. Benson.

Constructed circa 1850, this brick vernacular dwelling is located along Falls Road facing southwest towards the road. It is sited in a rural landscape on a sloping grassy lot with foundation plantings, and a paved driveway. It is two-and-a-half stories in height with an L-shaped footprint. It is five bays wide and sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation. The façade is constructed in a Flemish bond and the side and rear elevations exhibit a five course American bond. A one-story wrap around porch is supported with chamfered Tuscan posts and square balusters on a stone pier foundation. The center entry contains a single-leaf wood paneled door and is illuminated with a 2-light transom and 3/2 single-hung wood sash sidelights over a paneled dado. There are nine 6/6 double-hung vinyl sash windows with splayed lintels. Seen above the cross-gable standing-seam metal roof are two interior-end corbeled brick chimneys, and one exterior-end brick stretcher chimney. The roof also features slightly overhanging eaves with a corbeled cornice. A one-story circa 1990 addition is seen on the rear elevation. It is clad with a brick stretcher-bond veneer and is capped with a standing-seam metal roof. A circa 1930 corn crib and a 1991 reconstructed barn are associated with this property.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-492

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Ventura Farm

2. Location

street and number 15183 Falls Road not for publication

city, town Sparks vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Sallie M. Waller

street and number 15813 Falls Road telephone Not Available

city, town Sparks state MD zip code 21152

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 5831 folio 932

city, town Towson tax map 26 tax parcel 157 tax ID number 1600005047

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	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____ structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>2</u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
				<u>1</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-492

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 circa 1850, this brick vernacular dwelling is located along Falls Road facing southwest towards the road. It is sited in a rural landscape on a sloping grassy lot with foundation plantings, and a paved driveway. It is two-and-a-half stories in height with an L-shaped footprint. It is five bays wide and sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation. The façade is constructed in a Flemish bond and the side and rear elevations exhibit a five course American bond. A one-story wrap around porch is supported with chamfered Tuscan posts and square balusters on a stone pier foundation. The center entry contains a single-leaf wood paneled door and is illuminated with a 2-light transom and 3/2 single-hung wood sash sidelights over a paneled dado. There are nine 6/6 double-hung vinyl sash windows with splayed lintels. Seen above the cross-gable standing-seam metal roof are two interior-end corbeled brick chimneys, and one exterior-end brick stretcher chimney. The roof also features slightly overhanging eaves with a corbeled cornice. A one-story circa 1990 addition is seen on the rear elevation. It is clad with a brick stretcher-bond veneer and is capped with a standing-seam metal roof.

A circa 1930 corn crib and a 1991 reconstructed barn are associated with this property. The corn crib/shed is one-story high and five open bays wide. It sits on a concrete foundation and is clad with board-and-batten siding. It is capped with a front gable roof sheathed with standing-seam metal. Next, is a metal frame barn one-story high and two bays wide. It is clad with aluminum siding and the front gable roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. It sits on a solid concrete block and a random rubble stone foundation. It has one single-leaf flush metal door and one double-leaf metal sliding door. A sign in the foundation explains that it was reconstructed in 1991 from an 1830 barn.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-492

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 1850 ca. **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1850 ca.

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.)

The Ventura Farm is located near the historic villages of Coopersville and Butler in the Fifth District of Baltimore County. The Fifth District has very few towns and its population is sparse compared to other neighboring districts. It covers over 47 square miles and is bounded on the west by Carroll County, on the north by the Sixth District, on the east by the Seventh and Eighth Districts, and on the south by the Eighth and Fourth Districts. In 1881, it had a population of 2,241. During the late 19th century, this area was considered a highly industrial section of Baltimore County, due to its numerous saw-mills, paper-mills, and flour-mills. The village of Butler is located at the southern edge of the district. In 1881, the Black Rock Methodist Episcopal church and the J.H. Millender mills.¹ This dwelling is seen on the 1850 Atlas as Mrs. Benson's, and then on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas and the 1915 Bromley Atlas as denoted with J. Benson.

¹ Thomas J. Scharf, *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), p. 869.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-492

- 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.
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.31 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Hereford, MD Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

This house constructed circa 1840, is located at 15813 Falls Road in Sparks in the Fifth District of Baltimore County. It has been historically associated with tax map 26, parcel 157 since its construction.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	K. Baynard, Architectural Historian		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 22, 2002
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



BA-492

VENTURA FARM

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

4/2002

MD SHPD

MAIN HOUSE, WEST CORNER

1 of 5



BA-492

VENTURA FARM

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

4/2002

MD SHPO

MAIN HOUSE, SOUTH CORNER

2 of 5



BA-492

VENTURA FARM

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

4/2002

MD SHPD

MAIN HOUSE, SOUTHEAST CORNER

3 of 5



BA-492

VENTURA FARM

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2002

MD SHPO

MAIN HOUSE, NORTHEAST ELEVATION

4 of 5



BA-492

VENTURA FARM

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

4/2002

MD SHPO

OUTBUILDINGS, VIEW LOOKING EAST

5 of 5