# BA-1669

# Lystra Meadows

**Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 06-23-2004***

BA 1669,

1941

LYSTRA MEADOWS
10801 Greenspring Avenue
Lutherville, Maryland 21093
Private

The early nineteenth century barn on this property is one of the oldest barns in the region, built into the hillside possibly as early as 1853. A Bottling Factory probably dating from 1870 remains from an early commercial venture and has been adapted for use as a bathhouse. Two tenant houses remain and date from c. 1880.

x-887.970
y-578.150
BA 1669
1669 A
1669 B
(A)x-887.390
y-578.250
(B)x-887.310
y-578.450

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

MAGI #0316692835

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC
LYSTRA MEADOWS

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
10801 Greenspring Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Lutherville (Brooklandville) — VICINITY OF

STATE
Maryland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

COUNTY
Baltimore

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __DISTRICT | __PUBLIC | X OCCUPIED | __AGRICULTURE | __MUSEUM |
| X BUILDING(S) | X PRIVATE | __UNOCCUPIED | __COMMERCIAL | __PARK |
| __STRUCTURE | __BOTH | __WORK IN PROGRESS | __EDUCATIONAL | X PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| __SITE | **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** | **ACCESSIBLE** | __ENTERTAINMENT | __RELIGIOUS |
| __OBJECT | __IN PROCESS | __YES: RESTRICTED | __GOVERNMENT | __SCIENTIFIC |
| | __BEING CONSIDERED | __YES: UNRESTRICTED | __INDUSTRIAL | __TRANSPORTATION |
| | | X NO | __MILITARY | __OTHER: |

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. Robert Levi

Telephone #: 653-1727

STREET & NUMBER
10801 Greenspring Avenue

CITY, TOWN
LUtherville __ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
21093

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Baltimore County Courts Building

Liber #: 1099
Folio #: 274

STREET & NUMBER
401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Towson, 21204

STATE
Maryland

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

BA-1669

## 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| X EXCELLENT | __DETERIORATED | __UNALTERED | X ORIGINAL SITE |
| __GOOD | __RUINS | X __ALTERED | __MOVED DATE_____ |
| __FAIR | __UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A BARN and several other structures remain at LYSTRA MEADOWS from periods before the present 1941 dwelling. The barn, measuring approximately 40 by 65 feet, and probably dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century, is built into a hill. Stone walls extend into approximately half of the taller upper storey which extends over the lower storey on the south side to shelter five entrances to stalls. The tall upper storey is accessible by large doors opening on higher grade on the north side. Wood framing is mostly straight-sawn but some is hewn; the braced frame is joined with wood-pinned mortise-and-tenon joints. Cut nails secure original boarding.

In the taller upper storey the south facade contains two storeys of doors for access to the lofts, three in the intermediate "storey" and one in the uppermost "storey". Louvred openings flank the central doors in each "storey". A louvred cupola is centered on the roof. Three small openings light the lower storey through the stone end walls, each with a stone jack arch above.

A BOTTLING FACTORY for the spring water formerly bottled here has been adapted as a bath house for the pool associated with the dwelling. Probably dating from ca. 1870-1890 it is a two storey frame structure, four bays in length, its exterior walls covered with wood shingles. An entrance tower projects from its east gable, its gabled roof barely below the roof of the principal structure. A large dormer on the northerly slope of the roof contains a door with a hoist beam above for access to the third floor. Within all surfaces are finished with wainscotting and the interior is adapted as a bath house and recreation room.

A small brick SMOKE HOUSE is west of the Bottling Factory, its walls laid in common bond, its entrance in the south and beneath a framed gable.

Two TENANT HOUSES are on the property, each of frame, three bays in length, two storeys in height, each with a small rear kitchen wing. They date from ca. 1880-1900.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1669

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __PREHISTORIC | __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | __COMMUNITY PLANNING | __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | __RELIGION |
| __1400-1499 | __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | __CONSERVATION | __LAW | __SCIENCE |
| __1500-1599 | __AGRICULTURE | __ECONOMICS | __LITERATURE | __SCULPTURE |
| __1600-1699 | X ARCHITECTURE | __EDUCATION | __MILITARY | __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| __1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER |
| X 1800-1899 | __COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| __1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | X INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | __OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The early nineteenth century LYSTRA MEADOWS BARN is one of the oldest barns in the region, built into the hillside, its stall in the lower storey opening to the south, the taller loft storey projecting forward to shelter them. The BOTTLING FACTORY remains from an early commercial venture on the property, adapted as a bathhouse for the dwelling's pool.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Lystra Meadows

Although the present rambling stone structure known as Lystra Meadows is of contemporary origin, having been built in 1941, it does have some strong ties with the Valley's past. Its name was derived from the land tract on which it stands, Lystra, a resurvey of three original land grants - Cockey's Folly, Cockey's Trust, and Helmore - surveyed in 1802 for Ruth (Cockey) Owings, wife of Samuel Owings, III. The Cockey and Owings families were among the original settlers of the Valley.[1]

In the mid-1800s, the property was actually called Lystra Springs because of the pure spring water on the land which would later be bottled and sold commercially. When Dr, and Mrs. Robert H. Levi bought the 21 acres of land in 1940 from Thomas and Dorothy Hildt, mementoes of the water company were still in evidence.[2] They found old bottles and labels with "Lystra Spring Water Company" printed on them. Even the company's factory itself remained, although it had been converted into a playhouse and later a summer cottage for the family of Thomas Hildt about 1925.

It was the Rogers family, who owned the estate from 1858 to 1923, who started the water company in 1891, one of three such bottling plants developed in the Green Spring Valley.[4] They built their factory overtop the spring and utilized the nearby railroad to ship their product to Baltimore, Their enterprise was short-lived, however. Unable to compete with the nearby Chattolanee Spring Water Company, the Lystra company went broke in 1895. The firm's 5 acres and plant machinery were sold for $800 at public auction on 11 November 1845 to Maria B. Rogers.[5]

Lystra Meadows is the third house to be built on the Lystra property.[6] The first was built in 1852 for owner Judge Aquila P. Giles. He had acquired the 220½ acres from Frances T. Montell who in turn had originally purchased 245 acres from Charles Ridgely Owings.[7] Owings had inherited the land from his parents, Ruth and Samuel.[8] The builder of the house was David Carlisle, who also built nearby Green Spring Punch and Rockland.[9]

The property which had increased to 245 acres and the house were sold by Giles to Nathan Rogers on 15 May 1856.[10] The Rogers family called the place Lystra Springs. It was during the ownership of Nathan's youngest son, Charles, that the house burned, c.1920-1923.[11] Charles then sold the estate in 1923 to Thomas and Dorothy Hildt. Hildt was a banker with Alexander Brown and Sons.

Mr. and Mrs. Hildt built a new house on their Valley land, only to have it, too, destroyed by fire between 1933 and 1935.[12] Apparently embers from an untended fire in an upstairs fireplace was the culprit. For the next five years, Hildt's family lived in Baltimore, using the remodelled factory as a cottage during the summer months.[13]

When Dr. and Mrs. Robert H. Levi bought the 21 acre property in 1940, they also acquired outbuildings, two tenant houses, a big barn, stables, garage, and the old factory.[14] It is possible that the old barn dates from 1853, for a newspaper advertisement of 1856 stated that the barn on the land had been built "three years since by John Edwards of Pennsylvania and has all the modern improvements."[15]

The Levis set about building a new home on the exact site of

Hildt's Lystra Farm residence. They moved into their house, which they called Lystra Meadows, in September 1941.[16]

Lystra Meadows
(Robert H. Levi, home)
Footnotes

1
Patent Liber I. C. no. Q, fol. 335, Hall of Records, (HR) Annapolis, Maryland.

2
Baltimore County Land Records (BCLR), Liber 1099, fol. 274, Towson Court House, Towson, Maryland; interview with Mrs. Robert H. Levi, 9 January 1973.

3
Interview with Mrs. Levi.

4
Ibid.; interview with Mr. Osborne Beall, 26 November 1972.

5
BCLR, Liber L. M. B. no. 217, fol. 112, Towson.

6
American and Commercial Advertiser, 12 April 1856.

7
BCLR, Liber A. W. B., no. 446, fol. 326, Towson; Baltimore American and Commercial Daily Advertiser, 12 April 1856 (The ad states that Montell was selling "the former Owings Property". )

8
Baltimore County Wills, Liber 13 fol. 115, H. R.

9
See note 6.

10
BCLR, Liber H. M. F. no. 15, fols. 221, Towson.

11
See note 3; BCLR, Liber W. P. C. no. 567, fol. 542, Towson.

12
See note 3.

13
Ibid.

14
BCLR, Liber 1099, fol. 274, Towson.

15
See note 6.

16
See note 3.

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## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dawn F. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes, The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. (Baltimore; Maryland Historical Society, 1978)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 21

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 Thomas Wollon, Jr., A.I.A. and Dawn F. Thomas — 2-8-80

ORGANIZATION — DATE

Valleys Planning Council — 828-7807

STREET & NUMBER — TELEPHONE

212 Washington Avenue, Towson — Maryland

CITY OR TOWN — STATE

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.

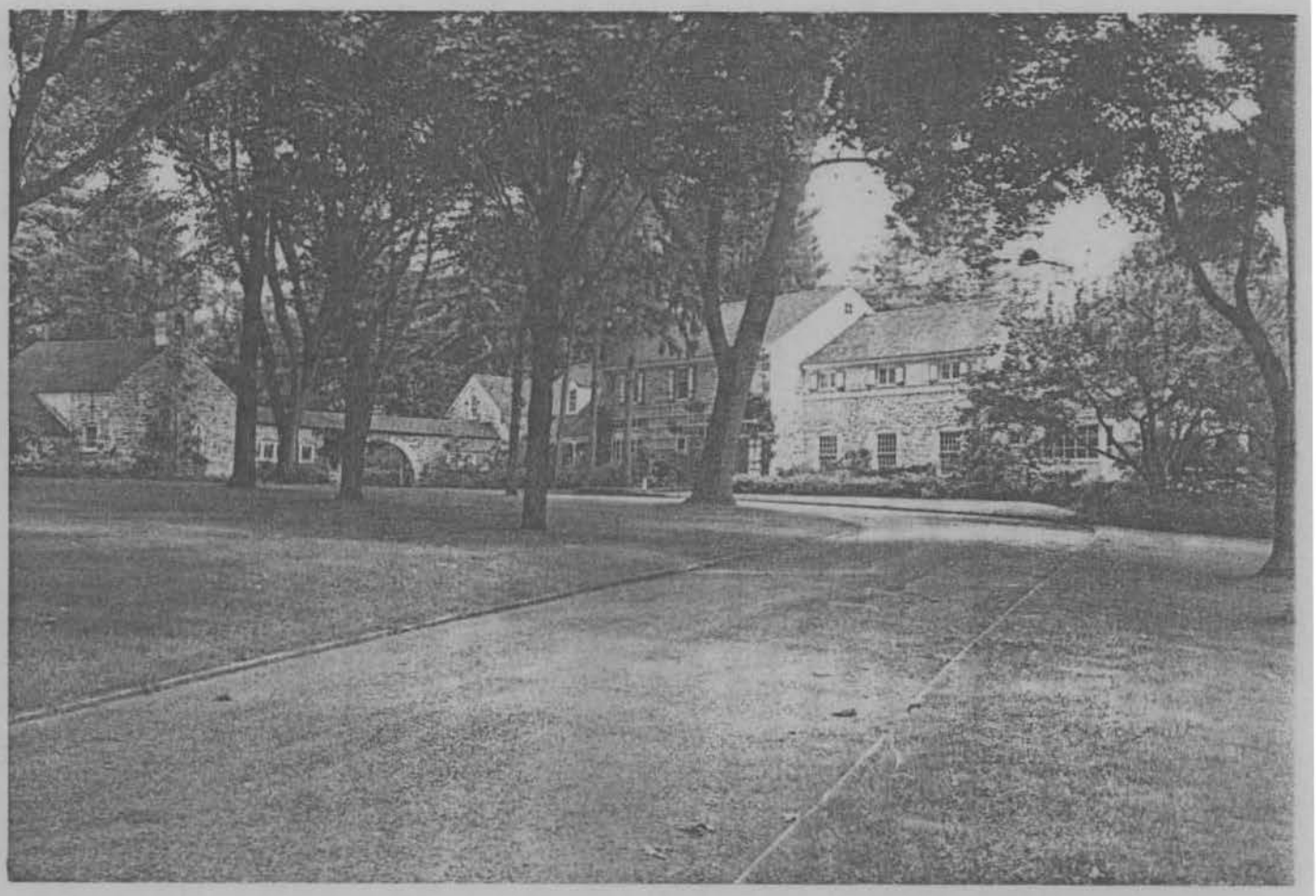
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

PS-1108

BA-1669





Lystra Meadows

"where he now resides" stated that the 245½ acres were situated about ten miles from Baltimore and three miles below Green Spring, on the "Westminster [Green Spring] branch of the [Baltimore and] Susquehanna Railroad." The Jones Falls flowed through the land, and at that time the improvements consisted of "a comfortable dwelling, large barn, stabling, blacksmith shop, ice house."[3]

There were no immediate buyers, and Montell must have been in some financial difficulty for in 1846 he mortgaged the land to Samuel Stone for $5,000. In 1850 Stone released the note he held to Montell, who at the same time sold the farm to Aquila P. Giles for $12,127.50. This transaction was not completed until 27 November of that year; for at least the preceding eleven months the property was occupied by Henry H. Montell, age forty-eight, born in the West Indies; his wife, Isabella, age forty-two, also born in the West Indies; their eight children; and one other adult. Henry Montell was no doubt a relative of Francis T. Montell. A year after selling 220½ acres of *Lystra*, Francis T. Montell sold the remaining 25 acres, part of *Green Spring Punch* and *Severn*, to David Carlisle for $625.[4]

The 1850 map of Baltimore County shows Montell's residence on the west side of Green Spring Avenue, diagonally across from the present Lystra Meadows. Both 1857 and 1877 maps show the Lystra Springs residence in the same general locale.

Aquila Giles owned the land for only six years, but during his proprietorship he entered into Valley society. He and his wife Rebecca had at least two children, both of whom died in infancy, two months apart, before the Giles

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Marywale Prep Sch
Villa Julia Jr College
Spring Valley
Green Falls
Camp Milldale
Glenmar
Canterbury Estates
Long Meadows Estates
Slaughterhouse
Valley Stream
Summit Park
Dumbarton
Wellwood
Ranchlegh
Jones
Stevenson
Keyser
Halcyon
Green
Private
Hillside
Timothy
Spring
Moores
Branch
Run
Valley
Road
Abandoned
Rd
Ct
(WCAO)
North
Fork
Rich
Brook
Rock
Creek
Cranwick
Moore
Rice
Rd.

BA 1669
Lystra
Bottling
Factory
GSVHD
JTW 8-79
Md. Hist.Tr.
from NE

lling factory
8/30/79

BA 1669 A
Lystra
Outbuilding
GSVHD
JTW 8-79
Md. Hist.Tr
from SW

outbuilding
130/29

BA 1669
Lystra
Meadows Barn
GSVHD
Gr. Sp. Ave.
JTW
2-19-80
Md.Hist.Tr.
from SE