

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John Diggs Copper Mine (site)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1 1/4 miles south of Middleburg on Johnsville Road not for publication

city, town Middlesburg vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Carroll

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll Couty Courthouse Annex liber

street & number 55 N. Court Street folio

city, town Westminster state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CARR-11

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

see #8. Significance

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1740's **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SUMMARY:

Documentary records show that John Diggs was operating a copper mine in the vicinity of Middlesburg as early as 1742. Evidentce of the mine operations were present on the Charles Diehl Farm in the 1950's.

STORY:

The June 1952 Newsletter of the HHistorical Society of Carroll County provides the following documentation of the John Diggs Copper Mine: "Situatued on a tract of land called Clarks Discovery; surveyed on June 14, 1734 for Nathaniel Wickham, Jr. Assigned by Wickham to John Diggs on August 14, 1736; and patented to John Diggs on November 20, 1737 for 100 acres; now the farm of Charles Diehl, of Middleburg, Carroll County, MD.

This copper mine is located on the northeast side of Little Pipe Creek, at about one and one quarter miles south of the Village of Middleburg in Carroll County.

This copper mine was apparently in operation as early as October 11, 1742 as on that date John Diggs petitioned the Assembly of Maryland praying leave to bring in a bill to exempt such hands as are actually employed about his copper works, from the payment of levies, from training or mustering, and clearing the highways, for such a term of years as shall be thought reasonable. (Maryland Archives No. 42, folio 281).

According to the statements of the present owner, Mr. Charles Diehl, this was a very extensive operation judging from what he had seen several years ago when he was able to enter the mine and explore it. He was then able to penetrate some of the tunnels as far as two hundred yards.

The entrance to the mine is now closed, and apparently the tunnels are caving in in several places as large funnel shaped impressions are to be found in the woodland above the mine.

in Maryland Archives No. 42, folio 431 is stated as follows: "An act encouraging the raising of copper ore, erecting of stamping mills and copper works and making of copper, within this Province:

