

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Rinehart-Gecell House Survey Number: ^{CARR.}~~CR~~-1356

Project: Westminster Bypass Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The property known as the Rinehart-Gecell House/Farm, located off of a long farm road southeast of Westminster and west of the small settlement of Reese, in Carroll County, MD., is not considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The property, which once included ten or more related agricultural and domestic structures now consists of three principal buildings, including a late 19th-century farmhouse, a late 19th-century bankbarn, and a corncrib/machine shed. Remains of the stone foundation of a small domestic outbuilding are also on the property. The large, two-story, three-bay frame farmhouse was built to abut the original, two-story log dwelling, now demolished, and is itself no longer inhabited. The dwelling is a representative example of its type and lacks the architectural distinction and integrity necessary to qualify it for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

The property as a whole does not retain sufficient integrity to be considered for listing under Criterion A and is not known to have any associations with persons significant to our past, making it ineligible under Criterion B.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review and Compliance Files

Prepared by: Rita Suffness, Leader, Cultural Resources Group, SHA

Elizabeth Hannold and Kim Williams 2/26/96
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable
BK 4/21/97
Reviewer, NR program Date

Jmg

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling; Subsistence/Barn

Known Design Source: _____

Rinehart-Zahner-Gecell House
Westminster
Carroll County

CARR-1356

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery Counties,
and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870 A.D.
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Agriculture
Architecture

Resource Type:
Category: Buildings

Environment: Rural

Function & Use:
Domestic/Single dwelling/residence

Agriculture/Subsistence/storage/granary
Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility/barn

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Rinehart-Zahner-Gecell House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number near 1264 Old Westminster Road not for publication

city, town Westminster vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county

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

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

name Mr. Maurice Stanley Miller

street & number 1251 Old Westminster Pike telephone no.:

city, town Westminster state and zip code Maryland 21157

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber 276

street & number folio 97

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

ate federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CHAR-1356

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site

moved date of move _____

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

SEE CONTINUATION 7.1

8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-1356

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates mid-to-late 19th C. **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.

SEE CONTINUATION 8.1

Rinehart-Zahner-Gecell House
Continuation Sheet 7.1

Description

The Rinehart-Zahner-Gesell Farm, located southeast of Westminster, Carroll County, and west of the small settlement of Reese, is reached by means of a long farm road which extends to the south from the Old Westminster Road just west of its intersection with Arnold Road. Although the existing acreage is used for pasture, the dwelling has been unoccupied since 1960, according to the owner, Stanley Miller. From 1933 when Mr. Miller acquired it, until 1960, it was utilized by tenant farmers. As a result, the structures are in poor condition, especially the dwelling.

The large German sided frame house, sited in a hollow, is all that remains of a once much larger dwelling, as a hurricane removed a reportedly two-story log section which was located on its north end. Two stories high, with very deep boxed cornices and regular fenestration, the probable mid-to-late nineteenth century frame building is oriented to the east, with the standing seam metal roof paralleling the principal elevation. The owner reports that it has no fireplaces, was built for stoves and has one room on the north and south on the first floor opening into the centered staircase.

The centered entrance, with a transom, is located under a full width one-story porch, which is partially collapsed, and is supported by brick posts. Windows have unmolded architraves, and 2-over-2 lights.

Built into the south elevation of the structure is a one-story, gable-roofed kitchen. The kitchen has no basement level, unlike the main part, which has a bulkhead entrance to the basement near the northeast corner. This kitchen wing, which is shallower than the main block, is reached by means of a four panel door on the east side and a simple plank door on the west. It features 6-over-6 lights. According to a descendant, Mrs. Gilbert Gecell, the kitchen was added onto this wing, which in turn was built to supplement the original structure.

The remains of the stone foundation of a small domestic outbuilding are located south of the house. A bankbarn, north of the dwelling and built into a hill on the western long side, has an unsupported forebay on the east elevation accessing an enclosed pen. Built in the 1860's, the barn is supported by a stone foundation, and has characteristic Carroll County louvered windows at three levels on the gable ends. Across the entrance road from the barn and northwest of the dwelling is a combination corncrib and wagonshed.

7.2 Description Continued

According to the Gecell family members who grew up at this farm in the early decades of the twentieth century, most of the farm buildings extant at that time have disappeared, such as the silos, one wagon shed, hog pen, smokehouse, and springhouse. In an ad for the property which appeared in the Democratic Advocate of January 16, 1869, the 107 acre farm is described as having a two-story dwelling house, new bank barn, with wagon shed attached, carriage house and spring house.

The farm is located on portions of land grants known as Ellis Folly, Rochester Resurveyed, Jordens Delight and Charles Mistake.

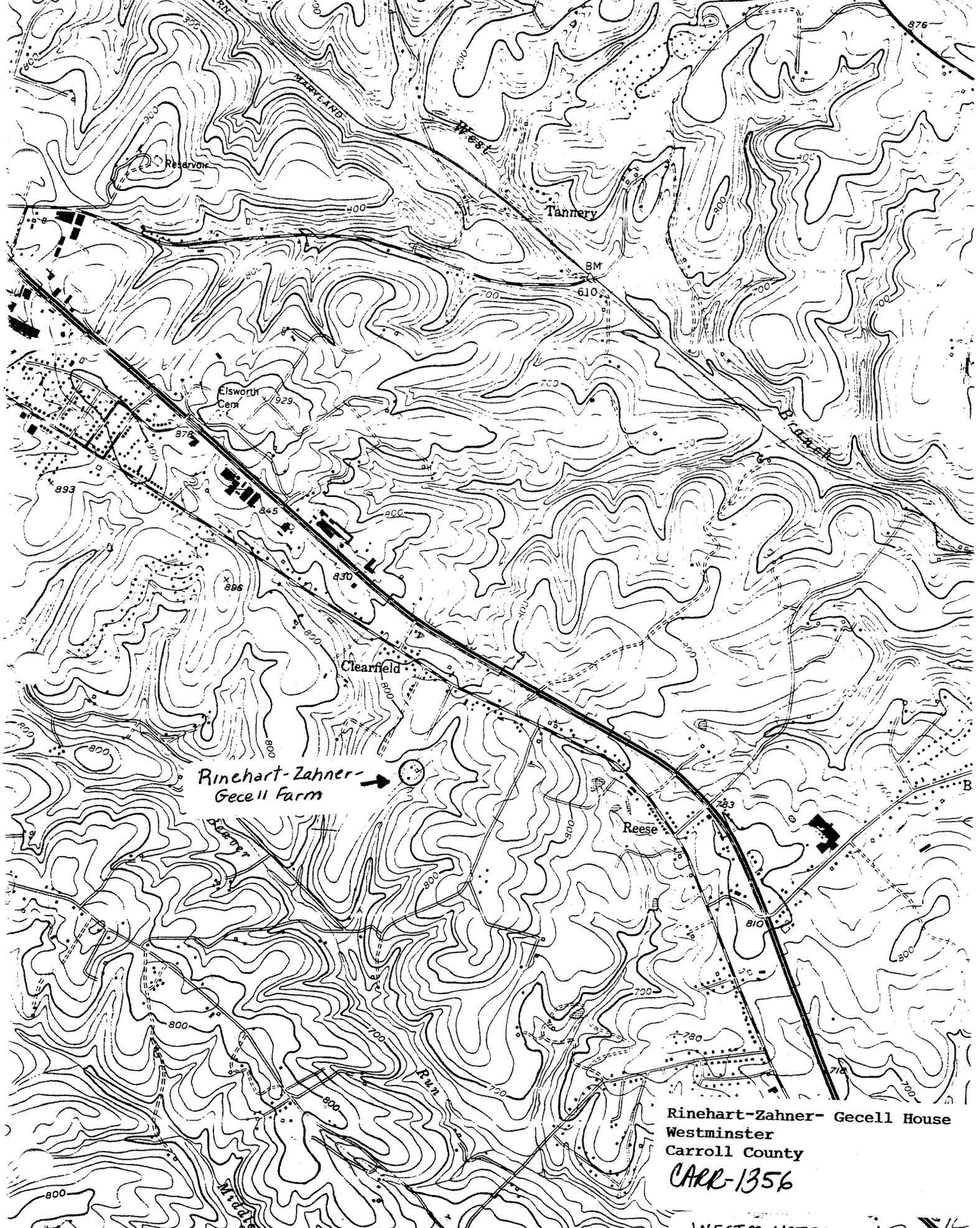
Rinehart-Zahner-Gecell House
Continuation Sheet 8.1

Significance

The Rinehart-Zahner-Gecell Farm is a remnant, at the current acreage of 104 acres, of the property acquired by John Rinehart in the middle of the nineteenth century. Only three of the ten or so structures which comprised the farm in the early decades of the twentieth century are extant: one section of the two-part dwelling, a bank barn, and combination corncrib/machine shed. The original two-story log dwelling, which constituted the north wing of the existing dilapidated dwelling, was removed some decades ago. The dwelling was inhabited by tenants in the second quarter of the twentieth century, and has been unoccupied since 1960. Utilized as a farm for corn, tomatoes, hay and wheat by the Gecells who owned it from 1902 to 1933, it is currently used as pasture for cows. The farm does not retain enough integrity to be considered for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Chain of Title

Norman Boyle Assignee	to	Maurice Miller	Equity #6370	\$4,650	104 A.	4/29/33	158\434
John Zahner (Zehner)	to	John Gecell (Gesell)	Will	-----	-----	4/17/02	JJS 10/47
Gertrude Grimes	to	John Zahner	Deed	\$5,000	138 A.	9/9/1886	65/10
Jacob Rinehart	to	John Zahner	Deed	-----	7 A.	11/22/1898	88/96
Isaac Green, Jr.	to	Gertrude Grimes	Deed	\$5,000	138 A.	4/6/1883	58/512
John Baumgartner Trustee	to	Isaac Green, Jr.	Deed	\$1,268	138 A.	4/3/1870	39/361
Maggie Little, et. al.	to	Jacob and Wm. Rinehart	Equity #1027	-----	----	2/17/1869	Equity 2/124
John Fisher and Jacob Reese Trustees	to	John Rinehart	-----	\$2,912.50	205 A.	4/5/1855	17/521



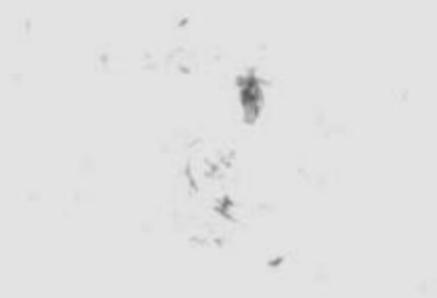
Rinehart-Zahner-Gecell Farm →

Rinehart-Zahner-Gecell House
Westminster
Carroll County
CARR-1356

WESTMINSTER
QUADRANGLE



CARR-1356





CARR-1356





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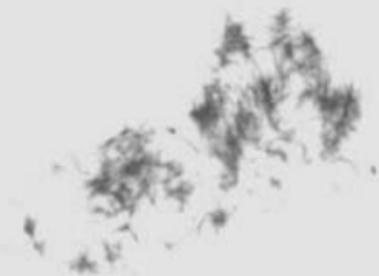


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