

CARR-1392

Mary Jane & John Stair Farm
Silver Run (vicinity)

1891-1898

The Mary Jane and John Stair Farm was originally half of the farm of her father, J. Henry Weimer. Weimer had purchased the property in 1868. According to local tradition, the house and barn burned. Presumably, the fire struck in 1890 or early 1891. Weimer split his land in half and sold $57\frac{1}{4}$ acres to his son, Josiah Augustus Weimer, for \$2,700 on 2 April 1891. On the same day he sold the remaining $57\frac{3}{4}$ acres to his daughter, Mary Jane, and her husband, John N. Stair, for \$2,700. The tax assessments note a new house worth \$1,000 in 1892, and a new barn worth \$500 the following year. The summer kitchen was apparently constructed in 1895, judging from the initials in the plaster that read "J.N.S. 1895". The construction of the house illustrates the curious admixture of traditional building techniques with more current technological change.

7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1392

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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Contributing Resources: 6

Summary:

The Mary Jane and John Stair Farm is located at 2201 Blacks Schoolhouse Road, on the south side of the road, about 2½ miles northwest of Silver Run in north-central Carroll County, Maryland. The farm is set back from the road, and the ground slopes fairly steeply down from the road southward to a stream south of the house. The complex consists of a frame house, a bank barn, a spring house, a wagon shed, and several other sheds. The house faces north, and is a two-story, five-bay by two-bay structure. The house has a rubble stone foundation, aluminum siding over top of German siding, and a standing-seam metal gable roof with an east-west ridge. The first story is a modified Pennsylvania Farmhouse plan structure with a blank center bay flanked by two doors. There is an original three-bay, one-story, hipped-roof porch. It is now enclosed and has a center doorway. The second story has five 2/2 sash. The joists are 1⅞ by 7¾ inches, are circular sawn, and run east-west. They are tenoned into the summer beam and pegged. The first floor plan has a wide enclosed center stairway. There is one room on the west, with rooms in the northeast and southeast corners. The rafters support circular-sawn lath and a slate roof. About 12 feet south of the house is a two-story banked springhouse with a rubble stone foundation, aluminum siding, and a corrugated metal gable roof with a north-south ridge. It is banked into the hill on the north elevation. The lower story has plastered walls inscribed with "JNS 1895." West of the house is a bank barn with a forebay that faces south. The barn has vertical-board siding and a standing-seam metal gable roof with an east-west ridge. The joists are hewn top and bottom and are tenoned into both summer beams. The upper story has a center threshing floor with a hay mow on each side and a granary in the southeast corner. The four bents are of hewn timbers with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. Each bent has four posts, with a queen post truss to support the roof purlins. About 30 feet northwest of the house is a wagon shed with a CMU foundation, vertical-board siding, and a corrugated metal gable roof with an east-west ridge. The shed has a heavy-timber braced frame with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints.

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The house faces north, and is a two-story, five-bay by two-bay structure. The house has a rubble stone foundation that is partly dressed and coursed, aluminum siding over top of German siding, a box cornice with returns, and a standing-seam

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

The house faces north, and is a two-story, five-bay by two-bay structure. The house has a rubble stone foundation that is partly dressed and coursed, aluminum siding over top of German siding, a box cornice with returns, and a standing-seam metal gable roof with an east-west ridge. There is an interior brick chimney with a corbelled cap centered on the ridge of each gable end. The north elevation has a three-light sash in the east and west bays of the foundation. The first story is a modified Pennsylvania Farmhouse plan structure with a blank center bay flanked by two doors. There is an original three-bay, one-story, hipped-roof porch with asphalt shingles. It is now enclosed and has a center doorway. The original two doorways have a one-light transom and four-panel doors that have been cut in half to create double doors and were probably moved here from another location. They have sunk, fielded panels with small ogee panel moulds. The surrounds are plain, with the top trim lapping over the side trim. Flanking each side of the porch is a 2/2 double-hung sash with a wood sill and wood lintel with an ogee-moulded cornice. There are new, fake blinds, but old shutter hinges survive. The second story has five 2/2 sash.

The west elevation has a three-light sash in the north bay of the foundation and new hurricane doors in the south bay. The first story has a 2/2 sash in the north bay and a later 1/1 sash in a small opening in the south bay. The second story has two 2/2 sash. The gable end has two new metal louvered vents and a later one-light casement window. Both of the later sash have a broken field surround with a small ogee at the break. The east elevation has two three-light sash in the foundation, two 2/2 sash on both the first and second stories, and the gable end matches that on the east. The south elevation has a 2/2 sash in the west bay and an enclosed porch to the east. The rubble stone foundation of the porch is not tied into the house foundation at either end. The porch now has a door with three lights over three lying panels, and a 1/1 sash to the east. The surrounds match those on the later windows on the west elevations. The south elevation of the house has a Queen Anne door in the west-center bay that is not original but was moved here. The ghost of the original strike plate on the door frame does not line up with this door. Above it is a one-light transom. In the east center bay is a 2/2 sash.

The cellar retains some plaster and whitewash on the stone walls. There is a summer beam running north-south and it is set off center. It is 7³/₄-inches square and is mill sawn. The summer beam is in two pieces and is scarfed together. It is supported by two posts. The north post is tenoned into the summer beam but not pegged. The south post is set under the scarf, and has a shoulder block between the post and the summer. The post is tenoned into the shoulder block and pegged. The joists are 1⁷/₈ x 7³/₄ inches, are circular sawn, and run east-west. They are tenoned into the summer beam and pegged. There are X-braces between the joists that are fastened with cut nails. The stair header is 4 by 8 inches, is mill sawn, and has a center tenon into the summer beam. The flooring above is 7-inches wide, tongue-and-grooved, and appears to be pine. There is a

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 3

beaded-edge vertical board door to the outside on the west elevation, south bay.

The first floor plan has a wide enclosed center stairway, and appears to have a summer beam running north-south on the west side of the stair. This makes the stair opening at floor level of the second story narrower than at the first story. There is one room on the west, with rooms in the northeast and southeast corners. The west room appears to have always been one large room. There is a fireplace centered on the west wall. It is now enclosed. This room has beaded-edge vertical board wainscot below a chair rail with a quirked ogee moulding. The surrounds have a single reed in the center of the field, and a beaded-interior edge. They are mitered at the corners. The door to the cellar stairs, which are under the center stairway, is in this room since the southern half of the east wall is east of the stairs and is in common with the southeast room. The west bay of the south wall has a door into the enclosed section of the porch, which was probably a pantry.

The northeast room has a closed-off fireplace centered on the east wall. The surrounds in this room have a broken field with a quirked ogee moulding at the break, and a squared-off bead on the interior edge. They are mitered at the corners. The southeast room is narrow and has the same trim as that in the northeast.

The second-story passage has turned balusters with a moulded handrail around the stair opening. The newel post is also turned, and has a bail on top. There are four chambers around the central passage. The four-panel doors are identical to those on the first story; they are hung on cast-iron butt hinges that have a foliate design. The surrounds are identical to those in the northeast room.

The stairs to the attic are enclosed. The rafters are $1\frac{3}{4}$ x $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 inches and are circular-sawn. The attic is now finished, but probably wasn't originally. The ridge joists are not visible. The rafter feet are toe-nailed with cut nails to a wide floor board. There is also a narrow board nailed to the outer edge of this floor board, and the rafter feet are notched to lap over this small board, which keeps the feet from kicking out. The rafters support circular-sawn lath and a slate roof.

About 12 feet south of the house is a two-story banked springhouse with a rubble stone foundation, aluminum siding, and a corrugated metal gable roof with a north-south ridge. It is banked into the hill on the north elevation. The upper story of this and the south elevation have a new central door with a new vent above. The east and west elevations of the upper story have two new 1/1 sash. The lower story of the east elevation has a beaded-edge-and-center vertical board door in the south bay and a boarded-up window in the north bay. The south elevation of this story has a later, projecting concrete enclosure. The upper story interior has been completely remodeled.

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 4

The lower story has plastered walls inscribed with "JNS 1895". There is a later opening on the south wall that heads to the projecting concrete enclosure.

About 7 feet east of the spring house is a structure that may have been built as a smokehouse but was used to house a generator, and may have also been built for that purpose. The foundation is of roughly-laid bricks that have been parged. There is corrugated metal siding and a beaded-edge-and-center vertical board door on the west elevation. The gable roof has corrugated metal and an east-west ridge. There was formerly a window or vent opening on the east elevation. The building is built of circular-sawn 2 by 4's. It has a pipe inside it, at the eave level, that projects out through the west wall and reportedly used to connect to the spring house.

West of the house is a bank barn with a forebay that faces south. The lower story of the south elevation has a part CMU and part T1-11 wall. The upper story has central double doors over another pair of double doors. To the west are two vents over two vents, and to the east are two vents over two 6/6 sash. The barn has vertical-board siding and a standing-seam metal gable roof with an east-west ridge. The east elevation has a CMU milk room attached to the south and a new shed on the north that covers two four-light metal sash. The upper story has four vents, with four vents above them, two vents in the gable end, and a 6/6 sash in the peak that is flanked by a vent on each side. Above this last vent is sawn trim that creates a Palladian motif.

The north elevation of the barn has a four-light wood sash in the east bay of the lower story. The upper story has central double wagon doors on strap hinges, with two vents over two vents on each side of the doors. On the west elevation, the lower story has three 2/2 wood sash with wood sills and mitered wood frames. The upper story matches that on the east, but there is no trim above the window and vent in the peak. There are two re-used doors on the CMU addition and alteration to the barn that may have been the original front doors of the house. They have four panels with bolection panel mouldings that have bulls-eye corner blocks. There are chamfers cut on the edges of the rails and stiles next to the mouldings. The centers of the panels have three reeds, with the middle reed wider than the other two. The center rail of the door has two horizontal mouldings run on it. Each of these mouldings has a bead on the outer sides and a single bead in the center, with a Greek-profile ogee between each of the outer beads and the center bead.

The east half of the lower story of the barn has new stalls and has been converted for a dairy operation, with a wood ceiling. The western half has a board wall on the south with three vertical-board dutch doors on strap hinges and a small door, hinged at the bottom, between the west and center doors. There are two hewn summer beams that are very regular in finish, and run east-west. They are each supported by two hewn posts,

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 5

which are placed under the pegged scarf joints. The joists are hewn top and bottom and are tenoned into both summer beams, but are not pegged. The joists rest on top of a board on the north wall and lap over the sill on the south wall. The center joists on the north side, under the threshing floor, have been replaced.

The upper story has a center threshing floor with a hay mow on each side and a granary in the southeast corner. The four bents are of hewn timbers with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. Each bent has four posts, with a queen post truss to support the roof purlins. The rafters are sawn, are about 2½ x 4 inches and are mitered at the ridge. They support sawn lath and wood shingles. Some of the frame work appears to be re-used timbers. Over the threshing floor is a windlass with a wood axle and a large wood wheel about 3 feet in diameter attached to it. There is a hole in the board wall of the threshing floor, near the floor, and painted above it is "WEIS & HALL Williamsport, PA". There is a metal rod with three different size wood wheels on it that is no longer in situ, but apparently was connected to the hole in the wall. This device reportedly had a rope from the large wheel to the smaller ones, and was used to haul wagons into the threshing floor because horses could not turn around in there.

Southwest of the house is a shed that has circular-sawn vertical board siding now covered by T1-11. The gable roof has inverted-V-seam metal and an east-west ridge. The hewn frame with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints is now set on concrete blocks. Little survives beyond some portions of the frame.

About 30 feet northwest of the house is a wagon shed with a CMU foundation, vertical-board siding, and a corrugated metal gable roof with an east-west ridge. The east elevation is open below, with no evidence that there were ever doors, and there is a nine-light sash in the gable end. The west end was also apparently open; it now has a CMU addition. The shed has a heavy-timber braced frame with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. The 2 x 4 sawn rafters are mitered at the ridge and support lath. There were formerly stairs to the loft on the south wall, at the east end.

About 100 feet south of the barn is another shed set on stone piers, with circular-sawn vertical board siding and an inverted-V-seam gable roof with an east-west ridge. There are no openings on the north, south, or west elevations. The east elevation had double wagon doors on strap hinges, but only the north door survives. The shed has a braced frame with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints, and appears to be built of re-used timbers. The 2 x 4 sawn rafters are mitered at the ridge and support lath.

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 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 1891–1898 **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:

The Mary Jane and John Stair Farm was originally half of the farm of her father, J. Henry Weimer. Weimer had purchased the property in 1868. According to local tradition, the house and barn burned. Presumably, the fire struck in 1890 or early 1891. Weimer split his land in half and sold 57¼ acres to his son, Josiah Augustus Weimer, for \$2,700 on 2 April 1891. On the same day he sold the remaining 57¼ acres to his daughter, Mary Jane, and her husband, John N. Stair, for \$2,700. The tax assessments note a new house worth \$1,000 in 1892, and a new barn worth \$500 the following year. The summer kitchen was apparently constructed in 1895, judging from the initials in the plaster that read "J.N.S. 1895". The construction of the house illustrates the curious admixture of traditional building techniques with more current technological change.

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
Chronological/Development Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930
Historic Period Themes: Agriculture, Architecture
Resource Types: Small Family Farm, Rural Vernacular

The Mary Jane and John Stair Farm was originally half of the farm of her father, J. Henry Weimer. Weimer had purchased the property in 1868. According to local tradition, the house and barn burned and the son rebuilt both, and at the same time built a house and barn for his sister. While no account has as yet been found concerning the fire, the rest of the story is generally true, and there seems no reason to discount the occurrence of a fire. Presumably, the fire struck in 1890 or early 1891. Weimer split his land in half and sold 57¼ acres to his son, Josiah Augustus Weimer, for \$2,700 on 2 April 1891. On the same day he sold the remaining 57¼ acres to his daughter, Mary Jane, and her husband, John N. Stair, for \$2,700. The tax assessments note a new house worth \$1,000 in 1892, and a new barn worth \$500 the following year. The summer kitchen was apparently constructed in 1895, judging from the initials in the plaster that read "J.N.S. 1895". In 1898, the addition of a hog pen worth \$50 was noted.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1392

Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 2

The construction of the house illustrates the curious ad mixture of traditional building techniques with more current technological change. The largest members are sawn with an up-and-down millsaw, while the smaller joists were cut with a circular saw. Already, the builder has adopted X-braces, fastened with cut nails, but he is still tenoning the joists into mortises in the summer beam, and is pegging them. The barn provides further contrast, as the frame bents are entirely hewn, rather than sawn.

In 1925, John Stair sold the farm to Annie Nusbaum (presumably his daughter) and her husband for \$6,500. It remained in their possession until 1977, after their death, when it was sold and subsequently subdivided. The farm buildings all seem to date from the first ten years of the Stair's occupation.

The companion farm to this is reportedly located to the east, and judging from the 1877 Atlas, Weimer's house and barn were located there, not here.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-1392

Carroll County Land Records
Tax assessments, 1876, 1876-96, 1896-1910

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10.235 acres

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short, Historic Planner

organization Carroll County Planning Department date April 6, 1994

street & number 225 North Center Street telephone (410) 857-2145

city or town Westminster state Maryland

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438~~

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

CARR-1392
Mary Jane and John Stair Farm
2201 Black's Schoolhouse Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
William Douglas Dowdy (Elsie Thomas, atty.) & Kathryn Lawson Dowdy (wife)	Carroll	Michael J. & Cheryl Craig	?	11-16-1992	LWS 1404	798	Deed fee simple	10.235 acres \$160,000
Perry A. & Denise Levin (wife)	?	W. Douglas & Kathryn Lawson Dowdy (wife)	?	5-30-1986	LWS 951	452	Deed fee simple	10.235 acres \$129,500
Larry E. Haines, atty. for Jerry O. & Shirley Ann Koontz (wife)	Kaneohe, Hawaii	Perry A. & Denise Levin (wife)	?	11-15-1985	LWS 926	60	Deed fee simple	10.235 acres \$111,000
Carl H. & Nancy G. Swiger (wife)	Carroll	Jerry O. & Shirley Anne Koontz (wife)	Carroll	6-23-1981	LWS 790	911	Deed fee simple	10.235 acres \$111,000
Freestate, Inc.	MD Corp.	Carl H. & Nancy G. Swiger (wife)	?	11-23-1977	CCC 687	380	Deed fee simple	\$10.00, part of below
Katherine L. Bortner & David H. Taylor personal reps. of estate of W. Ellwood Nusbaum	Carroll	Freestate, Inc.	MD Corp.	10-20-1977	CCC 683	505	Deed fee simple	58.713 acres \$151,000
Virginia R. Yingling, single	Carroll	Annie C. & W. Ellwood Nusbaum (husband)	Carroll	5-16-1930	EMM 154	102	Deed fee simple	\$10.00, part of Ohio & Fair Hill 57¼ acres
Annie C. & W. Ellwood Nusbaum (husband)	Carroll	Virginia R. Yingling	Carroll	5-16-1930	EMM 154	101	Deed fee simple	57¼ acres \$10.00

CARR-1392
Mary Jane and John Stair Farm
2201 Black's Schoolhouse Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

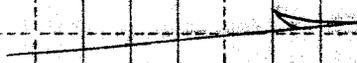
GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS-ACTION	COMMENTS
John N. Stair	Carroll	Annie C. Nusbaum, wife of W. Ellwood Nusbaum	Carroll	11-9-1925	EMM 146	395	Deed fee simple	57¼ acres \$6,500
Samuel J. Messenger	Carroll	Mary Jane Stair & John N. (husband)	Carroll	12-10-1909	DPS 113	178	Deed fee simple	57¼ acres \$2,700
Mary J. & John N. Stair (husband)	Carroll	Samuel J. Messenger	Carroll	12-10-1909	DPS 113	177	Deed fee simple	57¼ acres \$2,700
J. Henry Weimer & Lydian (wife)	Carroll	Mary Jane Stair, wife of John N. Stair	Carroll	4-2-1891	BFC 72	411	Deed fee simple	57¼ acres part of below
Joseph Blunkert & Catherine (wife)	Carroll	J. Henry Weimer	Carroll	4-1-1868	JBB 39	184	Deed fee simple	98¼ acres (1) 15 acres (2)
Jacob Hesson		Joseph Blunkert		12-8-1858				(1)
Jacob Wantz		Joseph Blunkert		4-2-1859				(2)
J. Henry Weimer & Lydian (wife)	Carroll	Josiah Augustus Weimer	Carroll	4-2-1891	BFC 72	399	Deed fee simple	57¼ acres \$2,700, part of JBB 39-184

KMS/lh:2-14-94:1392td

2201 Black's Schoolhouse Rd

Site Plan

Z



Stream



Shed



Barn



Shed



Wagon shed

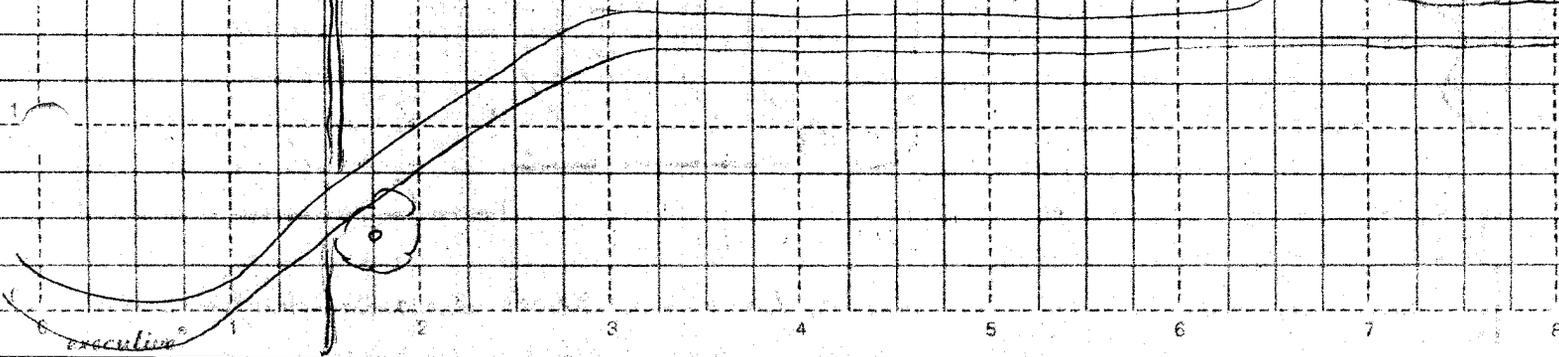
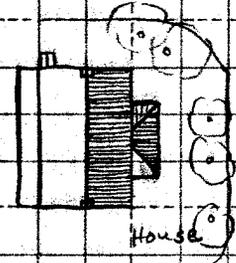


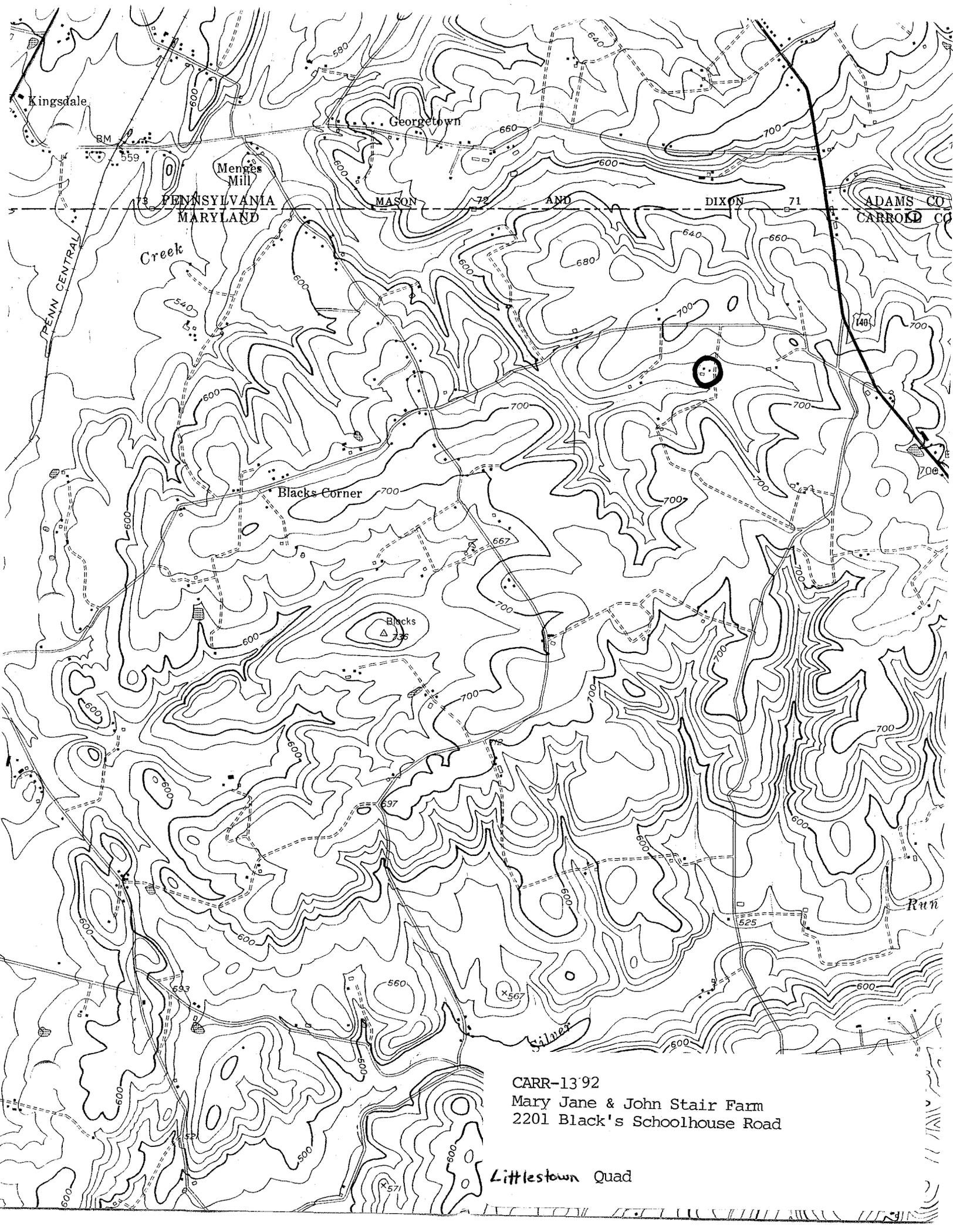
Recent Additions omitted for clarity

Springhouse



House





Kingsdale

Georgetown

Menges Mill

PENNSYLVANIA
MARYLAND

MASON

AND

DIXON

71

ADAMS CO
CARROLL CO

Creek

Blacks Corner

Blacks
736

Run

CARR-1392

Mary Jane & John Stair Farm
2201 Black's Schoolhouse Road

Littlestown Quad



CARR-1392

Mary Jane & John Stair Farm
2201 Black's School house Rd.

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: December 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

House - E & N elevations

1/4



Mary Jane & John Stair Farm
2261 Black's Schoolhouse Rd.

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: December 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Barn - N & W elevations

2/4



CARR-1392

Mary Jane & John Stair Farm

2201 Black's Schoolhouse Rd.

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: December 1993

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
winch in barn

3/4



Mary Jane & John Stair Farm
2201 Black's Schoolhouse Rd.

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: December 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Horsepower ?

4/4