

CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House

circa 1830

New Windsor

private

The Simon Murdock house is significant for its association with black Civil War veteran Simon Murdock (sometimes spelled Murdoch). Murdock played an important role in the post-war New Windsor area African American community. Murdock hosted Sunday School meetings at his home and may have donated land for Strawbridge Methodist Church, built in 1916-18 just a few hundred yards from his house. Although the original structure has seen substantial additions, this two-story, c. 1830 log home remains mostly intact. Built into the side of a hill, it has a full, white-washed basement and two rooms on each of the main floors with a boxed corner staircase, a floorplan linking it to a German building tradition typical of northern Maryland.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-1716

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Simon Murdock House

other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street and number 2824 Wakefield Valley Road      not for publication

city, town New Windsor      vicinity

county Carroll County

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

name Bruce J. Jones

street and number 2824 Wakefield Valley Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city, town New Windsor state MD zip code 21776-9004

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County Courthouse liber 3863 folio 606

city, town Westminster tax map 50 tax parcel 98 tax ID number 11-005640

## 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	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	_____	_____ Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<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>0</u>	

---

## 7. Description

---

Inventory No. CARR-1716

### 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.

Although there have been substantial additions to the original structure, this two-story, c. 1830 log home remains mostly intact. Built into the side of a hill, it has a full, white-washed basement and two rooms on each of the main floors with a boxed corner staircase, a floorplan linking it to a German building tradition typical of northern Maryland. A late 20<sup>th</sup> century frame addition to the back of the house has added a kitchen, family room and two additional bedrooms, about doubling the size of the house, but the original home is intact. The lower level includes a dining room and a living room, where an exposed area of the wall reveals the original log framing. The kitchen, although part of the addition, is floored in hemlock planks taken from the attic. A corner stair in the living room, a pre-Victorian feature, leads up to two bedrooms. Another staircase leads down to a whitewashed basement.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CARR-1716

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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** circa 1830 **Architect/Builder** N/A

**Construction dates** circa 1830

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 house is significant for its association with black Civil War veteran Simon Murdock (sometimes spelled Murdoch). Murdock's mother was a resident of a free black enclave near New Windsor, just over the Carroll County line in Frederick County, at the intersection of what is now MD 97 and 26. Simon Murdock was 26 years old and a farmer in the New Windsor area when he enlisted in the Union Army on August 4, 1863. He served as a private in Company F of the 4th Regiment, United States Colored Troops (USCT). On June 15, 1864 at the battle of Deep Bottom, Virginia, near Petersburg, Murdock suffered a shell wound to the head and was sent to Summit House General Hospital in Philadelphia. A fellow soldier's post-war pension application provides poignant details of this day. John Wesley Cole was a fellow soldier in Murdock's company, and enlisted at age 20 on the same day as Murdock. Cole was a rather unlucky soldier and was wounded several times, including a bayonet wound, two different wounds from shell fragments, and a bullet wound. In one of Cole's post-war pension applications, filed in 1892, Simon Murdock testified that he was with Cole at Petersburg when they marched side by side while charging the Confederate lines on June 15, 1864. Cole was struck by a bullet, and asked Murdock to look at his wound. Murdock testified that he pried the bullet out of Cole's chest with his fingers, and that they both then continued the charge and succeeded in taking the Confederate position. Murdock never fully recovered from the wound he received that day, and he was discharged from the army early, on May 5, 1865, with a Certificate of Disability.<sup>1</sup>

After the war, Murdock returned to Carroll County and played an important role in the post-war African American community. By 1870, he had married Cecilia Murdock and was living in New Windsor, working as a farm laborer. They had nine children, seven of whom lived to adulthood, and took in many of their grandchildren. Murdock was active in the local African American veterans' organization, the Thaddeus Stevens Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Post in New Windsor; he served as Commander of the Post at one point. A photograph in the collection of the Historical Society of Carroll County shows Murdock in later life wearing his GAR medal and holding his hat so that the shadow of the wound is visible on his forehead. He hosted Sunday School meetings at his home and may have donated land for Strawbridge Methodist Church, built in 1916-18 just a few hundred yards from his house. The Strawbridge congregation was a consolidation of at least four

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1861-1865, <<http://www.ancestry.com/>>

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. CARR-1716

Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

---

historically black churches in southwestern Carroll and northeastern Frederick counties. Several of those churches were founded in the 1850s. Murdock lived into his 90s, and died in April 1933.<sup>2</sup> Murdock is buried in Fairview Methodist Cemetery (CARR-57), along with many other USCT veterans.

---

<sup>2</sup> *U. S. Population Census*: 1900, New Windsor, Carroll County, MD.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CARR-1716

---

Civil War Service Records, and Civil War Pension Applications, National Archives, Washington, DC.

Reynolds, Diane. "Behind these walls, historic house of black Civil War vet is a common style throughout Carroll." *Carroll County Times*, July 28, 2009. <[http://www.carrollcountytimes.com/articles/2007/09/21/features/at\\_home/athome986.prt](http://www.carrollcountytimes.com/articles/2007/09/21/features/at_home/athome986.prt)>. Also in the Vertical Files of the Carroll County Historical Society.

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of surveyed property .43 acres  
Acreage of historical setting .04 acres  
Quadrangle name New Windsor Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

---

## 11. Form Prepared by

---

name/title			
organization	The Catoctin Center for Regional Studies	date	7/31/2009
street & number	7932 Oppossumtown Pike	telephone	301-624-2773
city or town	Frederick	state	MD

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.

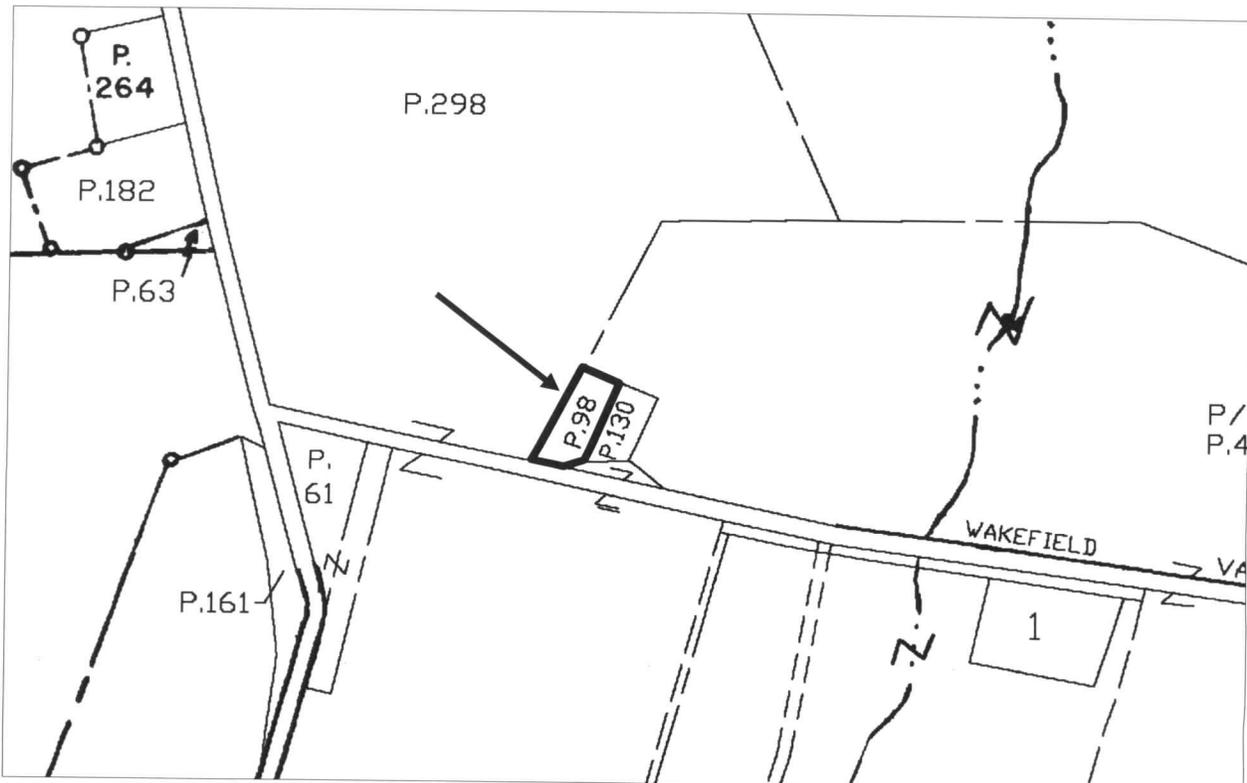
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

CARR-1716  
Simon Murdock House  
2824 Wakefield Valley Road, New Windsor  
National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2011-13



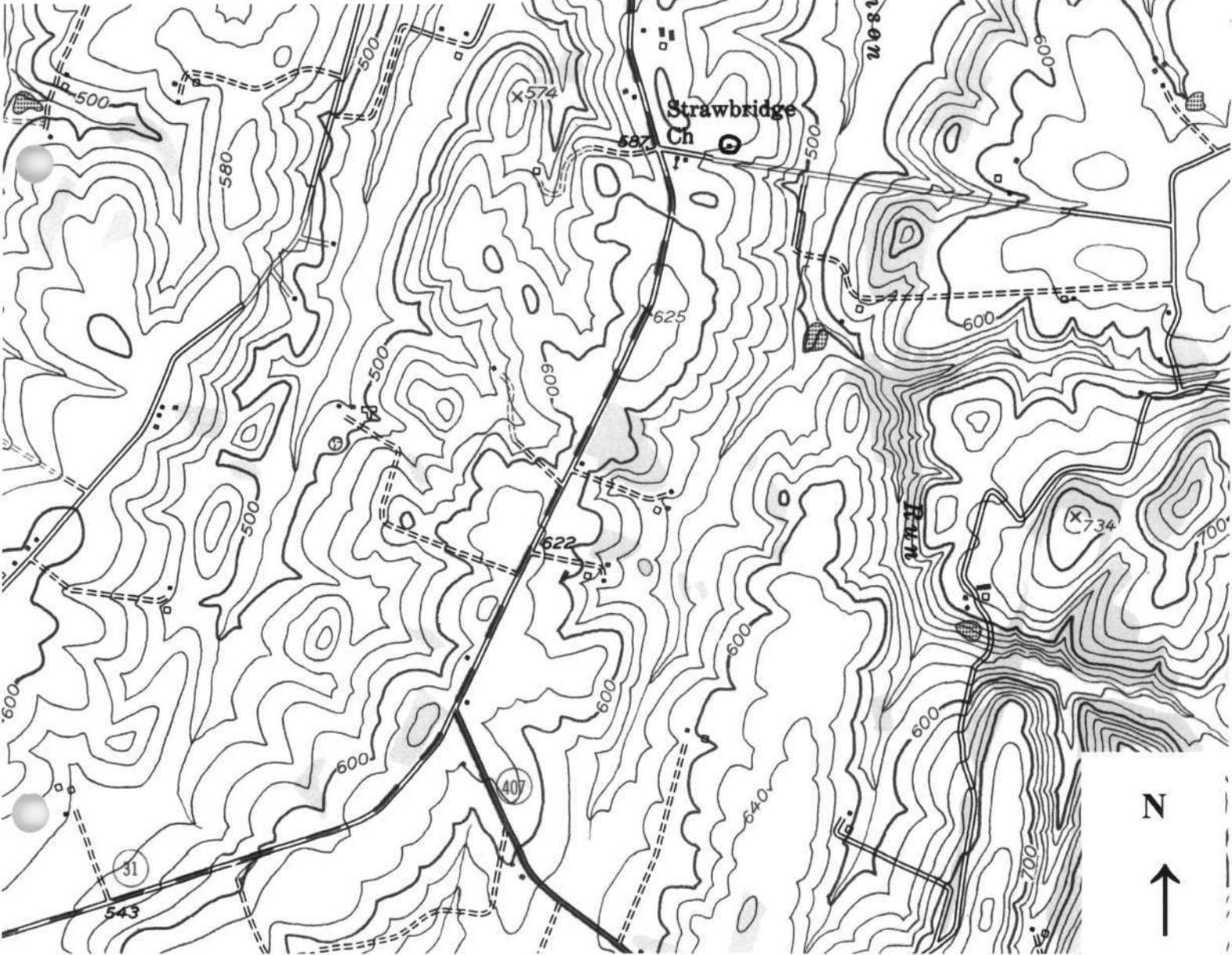
Carroll County Tax Map 50, Parcel 98



JKC 1/28/2015



**CARR-1716**  
**Simon Murdock House**  
**New Windsor**  
**Carroll County**  
**U.S.G.S. Map, New Windsor, MD**  
**1:24000 Scale**



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-1716

Property Name: Simon Murdock House  
**Digital Photograph File Log**

Page 1 of 2

---

**Ink Used:** Epson UltraChrome pigmented inks  
**Paper Used:** Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper  
**Date:** September 4, 2009

File Name	Photo Description	Photographer
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_01	North view, façade	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_02	Northwest view, side and façade	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_03	Northeast view, side and façade	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_04	Southwest view, side and rear of house	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_05	South view, rear of addition	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_06	Southeast view, rear of addition, chimney, and corner of front porch	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_07	East view, side, chimney, and corner of front porch	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_08	Northeast view, section of front porch, side, and chimney	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_09	Northwest view, section below front porch; includes boarded-up window that conceals a hollow space inaccessible from interior	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_10	View from dining room of living room and front door	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_11	View from living room of front door	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_12	View from dining room of dining room wall that divides the dining room and living room	Jenna Gianni

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CARR-1716

Property Name: Simon Murdock House  
**Digital Photograph File Log**

Page 2 of 2

---

CARR-1716_2009-07-22_13	View from living room, basement door	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_14	View from living room, ceiling beams above front door	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_15	View from living room, staircase to second level	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_16	View from second level, top of staircase leading to living room	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_17	View from basement, mantel and door below staircase from living room	Jenna Gianni
CARR-1716_2009-07-22_18	View from basement, ceiling, ceiling beams, and metal grate	Jenna Gianni



CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.  
Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

N view, facade

1/18



CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.  
Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

NW view, west side + porch

2/18



CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

NE view, east side + facade

3/18



CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.  
Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

SW view, west side + rear of house

8/18

Epson  
Professional Print



CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.  
Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

S view, rear of addition to house

5/18



CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.  
Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

SE view, rear of addition, chimney, + corner of  
front porch

6/18



CARR - 1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

E view, east side of house, chimney,  
corner of front porch

7/18



CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.  
Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

NE view, east section of front porch, east side  
of house, + chimney

8/18



CARR - 1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.  
Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

NW view, west section below front porch;  
includes boarded-up window  
that conceals a hollow space  
inaccessible from interior

9/18



CARR - 1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield  
Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

View from dining room of living  
room + front door

10/18



CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

view from living room of front door

11/18



CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield  
Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

View from Dining room of dining  
room wall that divides  
the dining room + the living  
room

12/18



CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Giannini

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

View from living room, basement door

13/18



CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.  
Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

View from livingroom, ceiling beams above  
front door

14/18



CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield  
Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

View From living room, staircase  
to second level

15/18



CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

View from second level, top of staircase leading  
to living room

16/18



CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield Valley Rd.  
Carroll County, MD

Jenna Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

View from basement, mantel, + door below  
staircase From living room

17/18



CARR-1716

Simon Murdock House, Wakefield  
Valley Rd.

Carroll County, MD

Jennz Gianni

07/2009

MHT Digital Archive

View from basement of ceiling, beams  
& grate

18/18