CARR-64

Friendship Valley Farm, (Long Farm)

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: 11-08-2012
Friendship Valley Farm was originally known as Long Farm and was the homestead of the Gist family from 1774 to 1938. The first house was a log structure that was destroyed by fire during the early 1790s. It was replaced by a T-shaped brick house that was remodeled during the third quarter of the nineteenth century to its present H-shape plan. The inset portions of the hypen contain double-tiered porches. Original features of the house include period chairrails, mantels, wrought strap hinges and box locks. A unique feature on the main door is that instead of having a key and lock, the exterior door handle unscrews from the box lock preventing entry to the house by anyone except the person who possesses the handle. The architecture of the house is an outstanding example of late eighteenth century design in Carroll County.

The most prominent resident of the house was Colonel Joshua Gist who served in the Maryland Militia during the Revolutionary War. Colonel Gist also served in the Maryland House of Delegates and was an instrumental figure in organizing
the area's citizens to procure the formation of Carroll County from sections of Frederick and Baltimore Counties in 1836.
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME
HISTORIC Long Farm
AND/OR COMMON Friendship Valley Farm (Preferred)

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER 950 Gist Road, approximately one mile south of Westminster
CITY, TOWN Westminster xx VICINITY OF Sixth
STATE Maryland xx CODE 24 COUNTY Carroll 013

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY XX BUILDING(S) BUILDING(S)
__ DISTRICT __ PUBLIC __ OCCUPIED
__ STRUCTURE __ PRIVATE __ UNOCCUPIED
__ SITE __ BOTH __ WORK IN PROGRESS
__ OBJECT __ PUBLIC ACQUISITION __ ACCESSIBLE
__ IN PROCESS __ YES: RESTRICTED
__ BEING CONSIDERED __ YES: UNRESTRICTED
__ NO __ NO

PRESENT USE
__ AGRICULTURE __ MUSEUM
__ COMMERCIAL __ PARK
__ EDUCATIONAL __ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__ ENTERTAINMENT __ RELIGIOUS
__ GOVERNMENT __ SCIENTIFIC
__ INDUSTRIAL __ TRANSPORTATION
__ MILITARY __ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME Nicholas A. Samios Telephone #: (301) 876-2600
STREET & NUMBER 950 Gist Road
CITY, TOWN Westminster VICINITY OF Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. New County Office Building
STREET & NUMBER 225 Center Street
CITY, TOWN Westminster STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE
Friendship Valley Farm is located approximately one mile south of Westminster, Maryland on the northwest side of Gist Road.

The farm was established by Joshua Gist in the late 18th century. About that time a two and one-half story T-shaped main house was built of brick on a stone foundation. This house has gone through a series of changes before attaining its present form. In the third quarter of the 19th century a symmetrical wing and inset double-tiered porches were added completing the H-plan of the present house, and the gambrel roof was re-built to a gable form. Other alterations are indicated by blocked-in windows and surface alterations on the brick surfaces. During a 1937 remodelling, stucco was removed from the exterior walls and the roof was again rebuilt to a higher pitch.

The main facade faces northeast towards the City of Westminster. The outer wings have a single bay with sash windows (9/9 panes on the first floor; 6/9 on the second) while the inset hyphen has six bays with entrances in the second and fifth bay on the first floor and one doorway in the end bay on the second floor, and windows in the other bays. The porch is supported by square wood pilasters and the second floor wood railing has small square balusters. The southwest elevation has a similar double-tiered porch but different fenestration. The old wing has windows identical to those on the main facade, but the new wing has two 6/9 windows to each floor. The main floor of the hyphen has a central doorway flanked by a 9/9 window to one side and a three-bay window to the other. The second floor has two windows irregularly spaced and a doorway in the end bay.

The gable end of the original wing has a double chimney that protrudes from the exterior surface of the wall in one large well on the first floor and then separates to form two narrow stacks—one rising to each side of the ridge. Chimneys also exist at each end of the hyphen and there are two in the new wing—one central and one on the interior of the rear side of the gable end. The southeast gable attempts a symmetrical window placement with sash windows on the outer sides of the chimney stack on the first floor; windows above these and one in between the two narrow stacks on the second floor; and small half-story windows on the northeast side of the chimney stacks.

The gable end of the new wing, facing the northwest, has two windows on each floor and the half-story, and has a pantry shed built on to the rear corner.

The plan of the ground floor has two large rooms in the hyphen, one room in the old wing, and two rooms in the new wing (see floor plan). The second floor is similarly divided and the half-story has a full length garret. Some early woodwork exists in the form of chair rails and some of the mantels. The living room mantelpiece is of a later date with a curved bolection molding and a paneled
Description continued

overmantel. There is also some original hardware, especially notable on the batten doors which have wrought strap hinges and box latches. On the main door, there is no box lock, but the exterior door handle unscrews from the box to prevent entry to the house by anyone except the person who possesses the handle.

Sources state that there were once a number of outbuildings to the estate. One of the small log cabins still standing near the house was once a slave cabin and later used as a smoke-house. This cabin has saddle notched corners with wide chinking. A large brick wash-house and summer kitchen built in 1860 stands behind the main house off the present kitchen. This building is two stories in height and has a bell tower on the roof.
The architectural changes that have occurred at Friendship Valley Farm display the development of an early building remodelled in stages to suit the needs of later owners. This is a characteristic of many American buildings which were converted to changing tastes as well as enlarged to accommodate family growth. In Friendship Valley Farm, the building's design was easily adaptable for providing additions to the house, and in the process of rebuilding many of the original features were untouched. The final H-shape plan of Friendship Valley Farm is the only example of this floor plan in Carroll County, even though it is a form that had a long tradition in England. The evidence of the original lay-out seems to indicate that the building was planned to be an H-shape, although it was not completed until the 1860's.

Friendship Valley Farm's architectural significance as an example of the development of a transplanted H-shape house form in America is further enhanced by the details that remain from the original house. The texture of the wall surface is marked by smooth, unevenly sized bricks, some as long as 22 inches, that were fired on the estate. The wrought iron hardware includes strap hinges on the batten doors and a door latch that locks on the inside by a bolt and on the outside by unscrewing the handle. The interior has four-to-six inch wide oak floor boards and molded chair rails. The mantelpieces are carved wood of various designs; the mantel in the second floor hall has interesting gouged provincial ornamentation.

The earliest survey of the land where Friendship Valley Farm is located was completed by Captain Thomas Gist in 1741 for the patent of "Fells Dale" for Edward Fell. It was later owned by Allen Pearson of Liverpool from whom Captain Gist and his son bought it in 1774. Captain Thomas Gist's will of 1787 (Balt.Co. Wills L 4, F 297) bequeathed the property to Joshua Gist who was already living there. A resurvey was made December 6, 1791 and patented on June 4, 1793 as "Long Farm". The log house in which Joshua Gist was then living burned down sometime between 1790 and 1795—tradition states that a woman slave set it on fire hoping that the family would move to Baltimore. The present structure was begun at that time. Gist's incomplete account book indicates that construction work probably continued into the beginning of the 19th century (See Appendix I). The estate remained in the Gist family until 1937.
The first inhabitant of Friendship Valley Farm (called Long Farm at that time) was Joshua Gist. His family was prominent in the colonial and early republic periods of American history—Joshua's father, Captain Thomas Gist, fought in the French and Indian wars and was present at Braddock's defeat; Joshua's uncle, Christopher Gist, in 1753 was the guide for George Washington on his mission to establish trade with the Indians in western Virginia and the northwest; Joshua's cousin, Nathaniel Gist, was a frontiersman and father of Sequoyah, the Cherokee linguist; and Joshua's brother, General Mordecai Gist, was a Revolutionary War hero who distinguished himself at the battles of Long Island and Camden.

Joshua himself carried on the tradition of public service as a Colonel in command of the 20th Maryland Militia which guarded the state against Tory uprisings during the American Revolution. He also served in the Maryland House of Delegates and was an instrumental figure in organizing the citizens and procuring the formation of Carroll County from sections of Frederick and Baltimore counties in 1836. Colonel Gist's service was recognized by the citizens when at the age of eighty-nine he was selected to assist in the laying of the cornerstone of the Carroll County Courthouse.

An earlier incident, recounted in Scharf's History of Western Maryland, reveals the prestige of Colonel Gist in the community: "He was an active partisan in the Revolutionary War, and during the administration of President John Adams, near the close of the last century, was marked in his disapproval of the riotous and insurrectionary proceedings of those opposed to the excise duty laid upon stills. The disturbance, known in history as the "Whiskey Insurrection," became so formidable, especially in Western Pennsylvania, that Mr. Adams appointed Gen. Washington commander of the forces raised to suppress it. The excitement extended to this region, and the Whiskey Boys in a band marched into Westminster and set up a liberty-pole. The inhabitants of the town becoming alarmed sent out for Col. Gist, who then commanded a militia regiment. The colonel, a very courageous man, mounted his horse, rode into town, drew his sword, and ordered the pole to be cut down, which was at once done, and placing his foot on it, he thus remained until it was hewn in pieces. The Boys, concluding discretion to be the better part of valor, stole out of town, and the incipient revolution was stayed by the coolness and judgement of a single individual." (pp. 791-792)
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records and Wills of Carroll and Baltimore Counties

Lynch, Branford Gist. A Hundred Years of Carroll County Westminster: (continued)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Joseph Getty

ORGANIZATION Carroll County Committee, Maryland Historical Trust

DATE April 1976

STREET & NUMBER 210 East Main Street

TELEPHONE 848-6494

CITY OR TOWN Westminster

STATE Maryland

21157

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL [ ] STATE [ ] LOCAL [ ]

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

DATE

GPO 892-453
Appendix:

Joshua Gist's Personal Account and Orderly Book exists and though it does not fully document the construction of the house, there are a few references to household furnishings and construction materials, of which several are recorded below. Like his contemporaries, Gist kept a business account of loans and debts and records of farming transactions, but invariably these books are not precise in their entries. Gist's book also includes muster rolls of his regiment, a listing of draftees and their substitutes, and conscientious objectors. Towards the journal's end, remedies for illnesses such as "rumitizen," "disintary," "biles," and "canser" are jotted in the margins. This account book either began after the major work of the house was completed, or else those expenses were not entered in this book. The most obvious entries relating to the house are entered below; most of the entries concerning bricks are not transcribed here since Gist dealt in bricks for several years afterward.

December 17, 1795 Mr. Thomas Clinger Dr to one plate stove 7=10=0
25 of January 1797 Thomas Bowring Dr to 1 Iron Fry at 6/8
Sept. 12 (1801) J. Gist Dr to Matthias Dolock to build my house 27=6=7
Oct. 7. 1801 cash Dr to Matthias Dolock his amount for the Sciant building of my house as for settlement this day
Dec. 24. 1801 A memorandum of schantling to be got for the porch or balcony, 10 posts 16 feet long & 8 inches square 30 posts 7 1/2 feet long & 4 inches square 27 rafters 7 feet long 3X4 inches this bill by Andrew Reese
Jany 1, 1802 cash paid Mathias Dolock in part of his amount this day 18 pounds 2 shillings and sixpence
Andrew Rees of the Joiner worke of my house
Jan 20 1802 cash dr to Erehart Winters for making brick 32,500 38,000 to molding big brick and some other work
July 27 John Gist Heirs Dr to 1000 nails to cover the house 13=6
Bibliography Continued

Democratic Advocate Co. 1939.


from "Friendship Valley Farm" by Ruth Gist Pickens
CARR-64
Friendship Valley Farm (Long Farm)
950 Gist Road, Westminster
A Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, State of Maryland, 1808, Charles Varlé
**COUNTY:** CARROLL  
**TOWN:** WESTMINSTER VICINITY  
**LOCATION:** 950 Guist Road  

**COMMON NAME:** Friendship Valley Farm (NR Site)  
**FUNCTIONAL TYPE:** residence  
**OWNER:** Nicholas A. Swaim  
**ADDRESS:** 950 Guist Road, Westminster, MD 21157  

**ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:** Yes ()  
**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Local () State () National (X)  

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**  
- **Structural System**  
  - **Foundation:** Stone (X) Brick ( ) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )  
  - **Wall Structure**  
    - **Wood:** Log ( ) Post and Beam ( ) Balloon ( )  
    - **Wood Bearing Masonry:** Brick (X) Stone ( ) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )  
    - **Iron ( ) D. Steel ( ) E. Other**  
  - **Wall Covering:** Weatherboard ( ) German Siding ( ) Board and Batten ( )  
    - **Wood Shingle ( ) Shiplap ( ) Novelty ( ) Stucco ( ) Sheet Metal ( )**  
    - **Aluminum ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( ) Brick Veneer ( ) Stone Veneer ( )**  
    - **Bonding Pattern:** Stretched  
  - **Roof Structure**  
    - **Truss:** Wood (X) Iron ( ) Steel ( ) Concrete ( )  
    - **Other:**  
  - **Roof Covering:** Slate ( ) Wood Shingle ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( ) Sheet Metal (X)  
    - **Built Up ( ) Rolled ( ) Tile ( ) Other:**  
  - **Engineering Structure:**  
  - **Other:**  
  - **Appendages:** Porches (X) Towers ( ) Cupolas ( ) Dormers ( ) Chimneys ( ) Sheds ( )  
    - **Ells ( ) Wings ( ) Other:**  
  - **Roof Style:** Gable (X) Hip ( ) Shed ( ) Flat ( ) Mansard ( ) Gambrel ( ) Jerkinhead ( )  
    - **Saw Tooth ( ) With Monitor ( ) With Bellcast ( ) With Parapet ( )**  
    - **With False Front ( ) Other:**  
  - **Number of Stories:** 2  
  - **Number of Bays:** 8  
  - **Approximate Dimensions:**  

**THREAT TO STRUCTURE:**  
- No Threat (X) Zoning ( ) Roads ( )  
- Development ( ) Deterioration ( )  
- Alteration ( ) Other:  

**LOCAL ATTITUDES:**  
- Positive (X) Negative ( )  
- Mixed ( ) Other:
ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:
H-shape plan evolved through remodeling in the 19th century
period hardware and ornamental trim

Entered on National Register 9/16/1977
property unchanged from that time

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)
1860s brick westhouse
log smokehouse

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:
history - significance of Gist family
architectural - unusual H-shape plan in this region, retains many period features

REFERENCES:
1862 Martenet's Map:
1877 LG & S Atlas: M. Gist
National Register nomination form - prepared by Joe Getty, Apr. 1976
Pickens, Ruth Gist "Friendship Valley Farm" Maryland Historical Magazine Vol. 61 No. 2, 1962, pp. 121-127

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
Open Lane ( ) Woodland ( ) Scattered Buildings (X)
Moderately Built Up ( ) Densely-Built Up ( )
Residential ( ) Commercial ( )
Agricultural ( ) Industrial ( )
Roadside Strip Development ( )
Other:

RECORDED BY:
Joe Getty

ORGANIZATION:
Lan. 6. Planning Dept

DATE RECORDED:
June 11, 1983
Friendship Valley Farm, Ulster County