

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes no

Property Name: Lowe/Ayers House/Moore Farmstead Inventory Number: CE-1570
 Address: 239 Old Mill Road City: Conowingo Zip Code: 21918
 County: Cecil USGS Topographic Map: Conowingo Dam
 Owner: Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) Is the property being evaluated a district? yes
 Tax Parcel Number: 10 Tax Map Number: 2 Tax Account ID Number: 08-005745
 Project: Wildcat Point Generation Facility Project Agency: Maryland Department of Natural Resources
 Site visit by MHT Staff: x no yes Name: _____ Date: _____
 Is the property located within a historic district? yes x no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes District Name: _____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context _____

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible yes x no

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

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Phase I Reconnaissance Survey of the Moore Farmstead (Dutton + Associates 2014)

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Property Description

The Moore Farmstead is located at 239 Old Mill Road in Conowingo, Cecil County, Maryland. The property sites on the north side of Old Mill Road roughly one-half mile from its intersection with Rock Springs Road which formed the center of the Rock Springs community. The Moore Farmstead currently sits on an 8.8-acre property parcel, although it was likely associated with additional acreage historically. The 8.8-acre property is set back roughly 500 feet from Old Mill Road with a separate property between it and the road. This property historically associated with the Moore Farmstead; however it has been partitioned off and is currently part of the ODEC Wildcat Point Generation Facility property. The building complex for the Moore Farmstead which consists of the main house, two medium-sized barns, and a small unidentified outbuilding is located along the southern edge of the property parcel adjacent to the separate property to the south. The building complex is accessed by a gravel driveway that traverses the west side of the front bordering property before doglegging along the southern edge of the Moore property. This driveway leads past the southern façade of the main house before proceeding to the associated barns and outbuildings. Roughly 60 feet to the east of the house is a medium-sized barn with an attached open shed storage building. Just east of this building is a small unidentified outbuilding. Another 100 feet beyond these buildings is a second medium-sized

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

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

Comments: _____

Jonathan Sage
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

11/19/14
Date

NA
Reviewer, NR Program

Date

201405875

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

CE-1570

barn that is set near the southeastern corner of the 8.8-acre parcel. To the north of the building complex and occupying the majority of the 8.8-acre parcel is open agricultural field delineated from the building complex by a post and rail fence.

The Moore Farmstead main house is located centrally along the southern edge of the property and faces south towards the adjoining property and Old Mill Road. It is a two-story irregularly-shaped building with a variety of additions and modifications lending to its organic form. The original mass of the house appears to be a basic rectangular structure such as an I-house or similar. It has been enlarged by a full-width two-story addition to the south side that was integrated into the overall form of the house with a Saltbox type roof. On the north side of the house is a full-width one-story mass that may have historically been a porch that was later enclosed. A projecting gable-roof covered screened porch has been appended to the east side of this mass. These additions in conjunction with a variety of other modifications and building material replacements make it difficult to visually discern the construction date and original form of the house. Cecil County property records indicate the building was constructed in 1900; however, a building is revealed in the same general location on maps from both 1877 and 1858. A vernacular form such as that indicated from this house could plausibly date from the mid-nineteenth century through the early twentieth century and more definitive details such as windows, trim, and porch elements have all been removed or obscured by later modifications.

The wood frame structural system and presumably original cladding have been covered with vinyl siding. The side-gable (now Saltbox) roof is covered with composition shingles. The building rests on a continuous foundation that appears to have been covered with a concrete/stucco veneer. The primary entrance is located offset on the south elevation on the saltbox addition and consists of a single door not sheltered by any porch or portico. A second entrance is located within the screened porch and leads into the one-story northern mass. Windows around the house are vinyl double-hung sash replacements with one-over-one light configurations. All of the window, door and roof trim has been either replaced or enclosed within vinyl sheathing. A single exterior brick chimney which also appears to be a replacement is located on the east side of the house adjacent to the saltbox addition.

All of the associated outbuildings present on the Moore Farmstead are agricultural-related and appear to date to the twentieth century. The larger barn set adjacent to the house was constructed in the 1960s. This building appears to function as a combination garage, general storage, and workshop and consists of a two-story square main block with a long rectangular addition to the east. The main block has an exposed concrete block first-floor with a board-and-batten clad wood frame second level. It is topped by a side-gabled roof covered with corrugated sheet metal. Two single-width garage bays pierce the west side while a pedestrian door is offset on the south side. Windows are located adjacent to this door, on the north side, as well as around the second level. Appended to the east side is a long, one-and-a-half story addition enclosed with corrugated metal on the north and east and left open on the south side. It is topped by a gable roof covered with corrugated sheet metal. A narrow shed roof-covered corn crib with slat siding is attached to the east end of this addition.

Set just beyond the long barn is a small outbuilding that serves(ed) an unknown function. Historic aerial photographs indicate the building was set in this location in the 1970s, but its construction details indicate it is likely older and relocated to this site from another location. This building has a wood frame structural system clad with vertical board siding and topped by a gabled roof covered with corrugated sheet metal. It rests on a pier foundation of unobserved material. A single wood door is set centrally on the north end and individual windows are located on each of the other three sides.

The third outbuilding is another medium-sized barn that is located beyond the small unidentified building. This barn was constructed post-1970 and appears to serve as storage space. It consists of a two-story main block with several small one-story additions appended to the north side. The two-story main block is composed of exposed concrete block on the first story with a vertical board clad wood frame second level. It is topped by a gabled roof covered with corrugated sheet metal. This westerly-oriented barn has two open bays on the front flanking an enclosed central bay with a single pedestrian door. A single narrow opening on the second level is offset above the northerly open bay below. The two small additions to the north side are both wood frame with horizontal board siding set on continuous poured concrete foundations. The inward addition is topped by a gabled roof while the outward addition is topped by a gambrel roof. The inward mass has no exterior openings and is accessed from inside the main barn. The outward addition has a single pedestrian-sized doorway on the front.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 2

CE-1570

Regional Historic Context

By the early eighteenth century, the population of the Mid-Atlantic colonies began to push inward through interior Maryland and Pennsylvania, and up the Susquehanna Valley in search of more arable land. At that time, many of the earliest settlers to enter the region were the Swedish and German farmers, as well as the English Quakers who established communities in Chester County, Pennsylvania; Cecil County, Maryland; and Delaware.

During this period, Cecil County developed as an important shipping center, both within the colonies and abroad. It exported not only its own agricultural products, but also animal skins from the west and tobacco from the south. The Principio Furnace, founded in 1719, became an important exporter of pig iron (Cecil County n.d.). Throughout the eighteenth century, the population of the county grew dramatically, consisting mostly of farmsteads along the emerging network of roads. Despite the growth, the population density remained low, reflective of the agricultural nature of the area.

In the years following the Revolutionary War, additional improvements were made to local infrastructure including bridges, canals, and ferry crossings, to aid in the commercial and industrial growth in the region. While the fishing and mining industries grew in the southern part of Cecil County near the head of the river, the largest economic driver throughout the interior of Cecil County remained agriculture. A market for agricultural export was less developed in the Mid-Atlantic region compared to the longer established markets in Virginia and the Chesapeake, and therefore farming families followed a diverse set of strategies to obtain their necessities and amenities while producing some extra for export and trade. Growth and development of the agriculture market occurred quickly in the first few decades of nationhood though, and during the years of the Napoleonic Wars, demand from Europe burgeoned, and American farm families responded quickly.

The agriculture, fishing, and mining industries were all aided in the 1830s when several railroads came to Cecil County, enabling residents to get their crops and merchandise to larger commercial centers. In 1831, the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad linked Cecil County to ports in Delaware and in 1832 the Baltimore and Port Deposit Railroad was chartered connecting the county to Baltimore (Cecil County n.d.). By about 1830, turnpike roads also crossed the countryside, although most were north in Pennsylvania. Few of these roads sufficed for year-round long-distance shipping, though, and transport was still highly seasonal.

By the antebellum period, the divide over slavery had grown to a breaking point in the region. Maryland in general tended to be pro-slavery while Pennsylvanians were predominantly opposed to the institution. The mixed population of Quakers and others in the Cecil County region meant the county was divided on the issue. The border area between Maryland and Pennsylvania served as an important segment of the Underground Railroad for escaped slaves on their way to freedom in Pennsylvania. Just across the border, Lancaster County's large population of Quakers and other members of non-violent religious groups sheltered escaped slaves and assisted them in their search for new homes. Many in Maryland detested this, and as early as 1818, the Maryland legislature sent a resolution to the US House of Representatives requesting retribution from Pennsylvanians who protected escaped slaves (Cecil County n.d.).

In addition to the religious and cultural beliefs that reviled slavery, shifts in agricultural practices throughout the mid-nineteenth century began to rely less on slave labor making the institution less or even sometimes, unprofitable. Wheat had been the primary crop in the area for most of the nineteenth century, but new settlement in the Midwest mounted a strong challenge to grain farmers in the Mid-Atlantic. Many farmers in the area turned to producing beef cattle, butter, hay, garden produce, and pork for sale to city dwellers and townfolk. Their farming system reoriented away from a diversified crop based system, to a diversified livestock based system that was also less labor-intensive. Between 1790 and 1850, slavery had declined in Cecil County from 3400 slaves to just 800 (Cecil County n.d.).

This period also marked the establishment of a number of small towns and crossroad communities throughout Cecil County fueled by population growth and the need for commerce and industry. In 1849 Chesapeake City was incorporated and a year later, the town of North East was established. Rising Sun followed a decade later in 1860. Just southeast of the project area, the Lowe family began operation of a tavern and hotel circa 1858 along the road leading from Lancaster Pennsylvania to the Susquahanna. The crossroads community came to be known as Rock Springs (Millstein 2000).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 3

CE-1570

The lack of heavy action in the area during the Civil War allowed a relatively quick recovery in Cecil County. The county also was not so affected by emancipation as it has already begun a transition away from slave labor. The continued agricultural success was aided by the enlarged infrastructure and industrial network following the war. In 1866, the Columbia and Port Deposit Railroad opened, largely symbolizing the end of the Susquehanna Canal, but leading to improved transport of goods and produce. The increased rail network improved the opportunity for small towns, particularly those located along the rail lines.

In addition to assisting in the continued success and growth of the agricultural economy of the region, the rail network also aided in the growth of milling and mining in the area. Milling of various sorts provided a nucleus for community growth in the Maryland/Pennsylvania area. From a mill in the small community of Rock Springs to the concentrations of industrial mills in towns such as Rowlandsville, mills of all sorts supplemented local agriculture and provided a basis for future industrial growth. Rowlandsville, on the road from Lancaster to Port Deposit, included an iron rolling mill and a merchant mill (Blumgart 1996).

Despite influxes of various industries and the commercial growth of small towns along the road and rail network throughout the region, Cecil County and Northeastern Maryland remained largely rural into the twentieth century (Figure 15). Although the rail lines had aided in growth and recovery of the county through the mid- and late-nineteenth century, by the twentieth century, they ultimately reduced the county's importance as a trading center as the trains increasingly bypassed the county en route to and from larger commercial centers.

The late-1920s brought revolutionary change to the county and its residents with the construction of the Conowingo Dam in 1928. The structure built across the Susquehanna River near the village of Conowingo flooded dozens of homes and entire communities in the process of creating a 14-mile long, 9,000-acre lake stretching into Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The loss of these properties ultimately brought the creation of electricity for the county and its residents (Arnett et al. 1999; Blumgart 1996; Cecil County n.d.).

The Depression of the 1930's followed soon thereafter and brought reduction in the number of farms in the region and lowered property values (Klein 1955). Many farmers across the nation struggled to make a living, but those in Cecil County and throughout the Mid-Atlantic were not affected as greatly because of the proximity to major commercial centers in Baltimore and Philadelphia.

By World War II, economic recovery was occurring and new technologies assisted in the renewed success of many area farms. The shift from horse-driven field work to the gasoline motor and tractors greatly increased agricultural production as well as facilitated the shipment of crops to market (Blumgart 1996). Just as the economy was recovering though, major changes in the financial and cultural character of the region were taking place. The large east coast cities were growing at exponential rates and families were increasingly becoming unable to support themselves on small farms. While people continued to live on the farmsteads, they worked in nearby offices or plants. The shift was propagated further in 1965 when I-95 opened running through the county connecting it and its residents to Baltimore and Wilmington.

Unlike counties and areas closer to the major cities, the interstate did not bring widespread suburbanization to Cecil County. Although the number of farms and farmers has decreased in Cecil County in recent decades, it still remains mostly rural and agriculture continues to dominate the economy.

Property Specific History

The Moore Farmstead property was originally part of a 350½-acre tract called Clearview that was purchased by Joshua and Martha Lowe in 1806. Together with the 135-acre Huckleberry Meadows tract to the south purchased by Joshua and Martha Lowe in 1793, the entire Lowe family property totaled 440½ acres. The Lowe family was from Pennsylvania, and became a well-established family in Cecil County throughout the early nineteenth century with the family seat being at "Prospect Hill," surrounded by the Clearview tract, and still standing at 35 New Road (CE-867). At an unknown date in the early nineteenth century, the property was passed down to the Lowe family children, Jesse, Joshua, Ruth, Rebecca, and Elizabeth. In 1828, the children divided the property with Jesse Lowe inheriting the family seat. Sisters Ruth and Elizabeth received property just to the north, while the property west of the road leading from Port Deposit to Lancaster, PA (current Rock Springs Road/U.S.222) containing 142.5 acres and including the property on which the Moore Farmstead lies, went to Joshua and his wife Sarah. At an

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 4

CE-1570

unknown date, the portion of the property at the intersection of the Port Deposit to Lancaster Road and "the road leading to Levi Brown's mill" (current Old Mill Road) seems to have been sold to Ben Gibson who established a tavern (Rock Springs Hotel CE-868) (Cecil County Records: JS 42/300). According to the property description associated with the sale to Ben Gibson, the property on which the tavern is located consisted of 80-acres, and did not contain the property on which the Moore Farmstead currently sits. In 1838, Joshua and Sarah sold the remaining 62.5 acres containing the current Moore Farmstead property to Andrew Lowe.

Presumably Andrew Lowe was related to Joshua Lowe and the original Lowe family of Clearview and Huckleberry Meadows, although his exact relation cannot be determined. It also cannot be determined whether Andrew Lowe established a home on the property during his ownership. A map from 1858 depicts a home in roughly the same location as the current Moore Farmstead home and identifies it as "And Lowe" implying he did; however, an inspection of the federal census from 1850 identifies Andrew Lowe living in the home of William Dunge- a shoemaker. This home was apparently somewhere near the tavern and likewise the current Moore Farmstead property as evidenced by its close proximity in the inventory that was generally taken in a geographic progression. Andrew Lowe himself was listed as a 47-year old cooper. In the 1860 federal census, Andrew Lowe is identified as a 54-year old cooper living on the same property as John Thompson, an innkeeper. Although John Thompson is identified as the "head of the household" interestingly, Andrew Lowe is noted as owning \$1,400 worth of real estate, while the John Thompson is not listed as owning any real estate. A variety of other tenants were listed as living on the property as well including a laborer, a potter, and an ostler (a man employed to look after the horses of people staying at an inn). It cannot be determined therefore whether Andrew Lowe was living at the same property as the tavern, indicating there was not a home on his property, or if there was a home and all of these tenants were living on Andrew Lowe's property.

In the 1870 federal census, Andrew Lowe is listed as a laborer, living on the same property as Patrick Boyle, a farmer who does not appear to be near the Rock Springs Tavern or current Moore Farmstead property. This implies that there may still not have been a home on Andrew Lowe's property or on the current Moore Farmstead. The next year, in 1871, Andrew Lowe sold his 62.5 acres of land to Thomas Ayers. The 1877 Official Atlas of Cecil County depicts a home in the same location as the current Moore Farmstead house (as well as the home labeled "Andrew Lowe" on the 1858 map). Thomas Ayers is identified in the 1880 federal census as a farmer although an agricultural schedule from that year to assess type of production is not available. Thomas Ayers passed away in 1887 at which time his estate was probated and sold to pay debts. The probate inventory shows that most of Ayers' agricultural-related property consisted of cattle and oxen, and wheat as the primary produce (Cecil County Records: Estate Inventory of Thomas Ayers, Deceased 1887- Liber REJ No.1, Vol 33, Folio 7108). It also notes that the property is that on which he resided, therefore implying that the standing home was likely there by that time.

The property was held in default of the mortgage for an extended period of time, but eventually sold in 1896 to a James Hanna. Hanna appears to have been a speculator or investor, as he sold the property the following year in 1897 to a J. Harlen Hess. Hess owned the property until 1917, presumably farming it during his ownership. That year, he sold 50 acres (containing the current Moore Farmstead) to James Berkins. When he sold the remaining 12.5 acres and what portion of the property that was is not known. James Berkins owned the 50 acre property until 1942, again presumably farming it during this period. In 1942, a relative of Berkins sold off 6 acres of the property that contained the current Moore Farmstead and retained the remainder of the property.

From 1942 through 1974, the 6 acre property was sold and purchased numerous times. It was during this period (specifically the 1960s) that the barn closest to the house was constructed. In 1974 (by which time the property consisted of 8.83 acres probably reflecting the addition of the driveway easement and reflecting the current size and configuration) was purchased by the Moore Family who remained owners of the property until 2014. The Moore family was responsible for constructing the second large barn located at the eastern edge of the property. The Moore family also apparently moved the small third outbuilding to its current location; however, this building appears to be older and was likely moved from another location.

Chain of Title

Unknown date

Joshua and Martha Lowe > Jesse, Ruth, Elizabeth, Rebecca Lowe – equal shares of Clearview and Huckleberry Meadows totaling 440.5 acres

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 5

CE-1570

- 1828 Jesse, Ruth, Elizabeth, Rebecca Lowe > Joshua Lowe (JS No. 26 Folio 319) – subdivision of property: Joshua’s share received was 142.5 acres
- 1838 Joshua and Sarah Lowe > Andrew Lowe (JS No. 42 Folio 302) - part of two tracts of land called Clearview and Huckleberry Meadow containing roughly 62.5 acres (also agreeing to respect the agreement between Joshua Lowe and George Weaver for sale of 8 acres of said land in 1831)
- 1871 Andrew Lowe > Thomas Ayers (AWM No. 1 Folio 149) – part of two tracts of land called Clearview and Huckleberry Meadow containing 62.5 acres
- 1885 Thomas Ayers > Charles Crothers (executor and administrator) (JAD No. 11 Folio 162) – roughly 62.5 acres
- 1896 Charles Crothers > William Evans (Trustee for Cecil County) > James Hanna (JTG No. 11 Folio 386) – sold at auction to satisfy mortgage from Thomas Ayers
- 1897 James Hanna > J Harlen Hess (JGW No. 1 Folio 127) – 62.5 acres
- 1917 J Harlen Hess > James Berkins (CSP No. 3 Folio 21) - 50 acres
- 1942 Paul Berkins > Herbert Scroggins (WEB No. 27 Folio 136) - 6 acres
- 1945 Herbert Scroggins > Donald McCullough (RRC No. 9 Folio 168) - 6 acres
- 1948 Donald McCullough > Charles Daughton (RRC No. 35 Folio 58) - 6 acres
- 1949 Charles Daughton > Robert Fitzpatrick (RRC No. 40 Folio 23) - 6 acres
- 1952 Robert Fitzpatrick > Raymond Scheib (RRC No. 74 Folio 213) – 6 acres
- 1961 Raymond Scheib > Samuel J Herman (WAS No. 111 Folio 466) - 6 acres
- 1966 Samuel Herman > George Underwood (WAS No. 193 Folio 46) - 6 acres
- 1973 George Underwood > Frank Schofield (WAS No. 318 Folio 106) – 8.83 acres
- 1974 Frank Schofield > Cecil Moore (WAS No. 338 Folio 327) – 8.83 acres
- 2009 Cecil Moore > Cecil Moore and wife (Liber 2724 Folio 147) – 8.83 acres
- 2014 Cecil Moore and wife > Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (Book 3568 pg. 103) – 8.83 acres

Assessment of Integrity

The Moore Farmstead and all buildings present on the property all appear to have a moderate to high degree of alteration and retain a low level of historic integrity. The property itself has been reduced in size from subdivision and while it continues to function agriculturally, no longer reflects its original size or configuration. The main house has been heavily modified through addition and renovation to the point that it is difficult to discern its construction date, historic form, or appearance. These manipulations include a combination of reversible and nonreversible changes. The historic character of the property is further diminished by the fact that no original and/or historic outbuildings remain in place and those outbuildings that are present date to the second half of the twentieth century or were moved to their present location during this time.

Location: The Moore Farmstead house and two primary barns retain integrity of location as they remain in place where constructed. One of the outbuildings on the property, a small building of unknown original use, appears to have been moved to its current location in the 1970s.

Design: The design of the Moore Farmstead house has been greatly compromised, particularly from recent alteration and renovation. The building appears to originally have been a typical two-story, center-passage home, although it can no longer be discerned which way the home was oriented. Presumably the front was always to the south and facing Old Mill Road, however this façade of the building has a full-width, two-story addition that obscure the original façade. A full-width, one-story addition or enclosed porch stretches along the north (presumably rear) façade. The fenestration pattern does not help to clarify the historic form of the house as all doors and windows, along with their openings, appear to be replaced and modified. The original design is further diminished by the replacement of the original chimney(s) with a non-historic stack in what appears to also be a nonoriginal location.

Setting: The setting of the Moore Farmstead has also been partially compromised. While the building continues to be set in a mostly rural surrounding with historic homes and farms in the vicinity, a large power generation facility and substation has been constructed next to the property. This facility is set on a ridge just to the east of the house and therefore not only obscures the viewshed in this direction, but interrupts and intrudes on the historic field and forest patterns. In addition to the plant are prominent transmission lines

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 6

CE-1570

and towers, and a variety of nonhistoric buildings. Additionally, the Moore Farmstead property itself has been reduced in size over the years as a result of subdivision and sale. When originally patented by the Lowe family in the late-eighteenth/early-nineteenth century, the property was part of a 440-acre tract of land. In 1828, 142.5 acres containing the Moore Farmstead property was subdivided off to one of the family members, who subsequently sold 62.5 acres containing the current property in 1838. The property remained roughly that size until 1942 when the 6-acre plot containing the Moore Farmstead was subdivided from the rest of the property. It has remained this size (with the addition of 2 acres comprising the access road) through the present day.

Materials: The Moore Farmstead house retains very little historic building material and fabric. Inspection of the home reveals that along with reconfiguration and modern additions to the original building form, the entire exterior has been clad with vinyl. It cannot be determined whether the original foundation, siding, or trim remains under the replacement materials or not, but it is clear that all doors and windows have been completely replaced, and in many cases reconfigured or otherwise altered. The location and original materials of a chimney or chimneys are likewise not known, as the current chimney is constructed of modern brick and located adjacent to a later addition. An inspection of the interior to assess for the retention of materials and details was not permitted.

Workmanship: No historic workmanship remains evident on the Moore Farmstead house. The entire exterior has been reclad with vinyl obscuring the siding as well as any historic trim, embellishment, or other construction details. An inspection of the interior to assess for the retention of materials and details was not permitted.

Feeling: The historic feeling of the Moore Farmstead has been partially compromised from the nonhistoric alteration to the house as well as the diminished historic setting. Further, the standing outbuildings appear to date from the twentieth century and do not assist in conveying the character of the property in the nineteenth century when the home was assumed to have been built. Despite these facts, the property does retain the overall character of a small farmstead property with the home and outbuildings clustered in a tree-filled, grassy, and fence-enclosed yard with agricultural fields beyond.

Association: The Moore Farmstead retains a moderate level of integrity of association. The home continues to be at the center of an agricultural property as it was when constructed. However, the property size has been reduced overtime, from 142.5 acres in the early nineteenth century, to 62.5 acres from the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century, and finally to 6 acres in the 1940s. Any associated historic agricultural outbuildings have also been replaced. Historic maps, censuses, and other records indicate that the property and/or its owners may have been associated with the nearby Rock Springs Tavern during the mid-nineteenth century; although the properties are no longer adjoined.

NRHP Eligibility

The Moore Farmstead is a typical example of a mid- to late-nineteenth century rural vernacular home with later agricultural buildings in the northeastern Maryland/southeastern Pennsylvania region. Beginning in the eighteenth century, Cecil County emerged as a significant agricultural producer with a large number of homes, farms, and plantations lining the early transportation routes. By the mid-nineteenth century, a number of small towns developed at the intersections of these roads to serve travelers as well as the surrounding community. One such community grew up around the intersection of a road leading from Port Deposit to Lancaster and another road leading towards a prominent mill on the Susquehanna River. This crossroads was located within a property owned by the Lowe family, who had come from Pennsylvania to Maryland in the late eighteenth century. The family operated a post office called "Rock Springs", and may have been responsible for establishing a tavern/hotel by the same name. By 1828, the Lowe family property was divided amongst the children who each established their own homes/farms in the area. In 1838, the property on which the Moore Farmstead is now located was transferred to Andrew Lowe who may or may not have taken part directly in the agricultural economy. Andrew Lowe was a cooper by trade, and while may have sold his barrels to other local farmers, he also appears to have been at least somewhat involved with the

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 7

CE-1570

operation or functioning of the Rock Springs Tavern, which by that point in time was being run by Ben Gibson and later John Thompson. Whether or not the currently standing Moore Farmstead home was present during this period is unclear.

By 1871, it appears the property was documented as operating as a farm by owner Thomas W. Ayers. Throughout Ayers' ownership, the farm was 62.5 acres, representing a fairly typical family farm. The exact nature of the farm is not known, although a probate of Ayers property indicates that he was cultivating wheat and may also have tended a small herd of cattle or dairy cows. Both wheat production and dairying were typical of the agricultural economy in the region at that time. The currently standing Moore Farmstead house also appears to have been present on the property by this time. Although the house is now heavily obscured by nonhistoric alterations and additions, inspection reveals that the historic core of the house as originally built, was likely a two-story, single-pile, center-passage building; a typical vernacular form for the region from the mid-nineteenth through early-twentieth century.

The property continued to be farmed throughout the twentieth century, although it underwent a series of rapid sales and purchases between 1942 and 1974, likely reflecting the waning agricultural economy during that period. All of the outbuildings that remain on the property were built or moved to the property during this period reflecting either the changing storage needs of farmers during that time and/or possibly indicating that any older agricultural outbuildings had by that time become rundown or otherwise obsolete. The property continues to be operated as a small family farm to this day.

Farmstead properties such as the Moore Farmstead remain a typical part of the landscape in rural Cecil County. Currently, there are a number of other contemporary and similar homes and farmsteads in Cecil County, and even within the Rock Springs area that are recorded in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places. The vast majority of other recorded properties retain a higher level of historic integrity and more readily convey their historic character and association.

It is therefore concluded that while the Moore Farmstead is representative of the mid-nineteenth century through present day agricultural development and legacy of the region, it does not embody any particular or noteworthy aspect of agricultural heritage. The property and/or house may have been associated with the Rock Springs Hotel/tavern in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, however, that exact relation of the property or its occupants to the operation of the tavern are unclear; and by 1838 when Andrew Lowe acquired the property, it was on a separate parcel. The farm has continued to be operated as a small family-run farm throughout the twentieth century, although has been reduced in size and no longer conveys its historic farm character. The Moore Farmstead therefore is not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under criterion A.

The Moore Farmstead also does not have any known associations or relations to any significant persons or people in the history of Cecil County, Maryland, or the nation at large. Andrew Lowe, one of the earliest known persons associated with the property may have been related to the prominent Lowe family in the region; although his exact relationship is unclear and is not known to have risen to any particular prominence or esteem himself. Likewise, no other owners or occupants are known to have held any positions or regards in local, state, or national history. The Moore Farmstead is therefore not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under criterion B.

Architecturally and physically, the Moore Farmstead has been heavily compromised and altered over the years to the point that its original character and appearance are no longer evident. The house appears to have been, in its original form, a typical *vernacular rural residence* and whether it ever exhibited any particular distinction of design or construction cannot be determined. The property as a whole also has been compromised through subdivision and sale of historically associated acreage. The property is now only 8.83 acres, a fraction of the 142.5 acres it was when first subdivided to Joshua Lowe, and even of the 62.5 acres it was throughout the second half of the nineteenth century through the first half of the twentieth century. The Moore Farmstead is therefore not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under criterion C.

Limited archaeological testing has been conducted on those portions of the Moore Farmstead property not fenced in around the homesite and no intact sites, deposits, or features were identified. The domestic yard has not been formally tested due to prohibited access. The Moore Farmstead is therefore not evaluated for inclusion in the NRHP under criterion D.

Because of the lack of any known historic or architectural significance, coupled with the severely diminished historic physical integrity of the property, the Moore Farmstead is recommended to be considered not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 8

CE-1570

Bibliography

Arnett, Earl, Robert J. Brugger, Edward C. Papenfuse

1999 *A New Guide to the Old Line State*. Second Edition. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland.

Blumgart, Pamela James, compiler

1996 *At the Head of the Bay: A Cultural and Architectural History of Cecil County, Maryland*. With contributions by Mark Walston, Paul Baker Touart, and others. The Cecil Historical Trust Inc., Elkton, Maryland, and the Maryland Historical Truss Press, Crownsville, Maryland.

Cecil County

n.d. "Cecil County History: An Introduction." From Cecil County Tourism website. Available online at:
<http://www.ccgov.org/tourism/history.cfm>

various Court and land records. Available online at <http://mdlandrec.net/main/>

Danson, Edwin

2001 *Drawing the Line: How Mason and Dixon Surveyed the Most Famous Border in America*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York.

Johnson, George

1881 *History of Cecil County, Maryland and the Early Settlements Around the Head of the Chesapeake Bay and on the Delaware River*. Published by the Author, Elkton, MD. Manuscript available from the U.S. National Archives.

Koterski, James R.

2011 *Potters and Firebrick Makers of Cecil County, Maryland and Nearby*. History in Print, Mendenhall, Pennsylvania.

Mason, A.H. (editor)

1969 *Journal of Charles Mason [1728-1786] and Jeremiah Dixon [1733-1779]*. Transcription edited by A. Hughlett Mason published by the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia. On-line in The Mason & Dixon Line Preservation Partnership website at <http://www.mdlpp.org/?page=library>.

Millstein, Cydney

2000 "The Rock Springs Hotel" *Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form*. Manuscript on file at the Maryland Historical Trust. Inventory Number CE-867.

Mombert, J.I., D.D.

1869 *An Authentic History of Lancaster County*. J.E. Barr & Co., Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Reprinted in 1988 by Southwest Pennsylvania Genealogical Services, Laughlintown, Pennsylvania.

Robinson, Morgan Poitiaux

1902 *The Evolution of the Mason and Dixon Line*. Reprinted from The Oracle Magazine, April & May 1902, by Oracle Publishing Company, Richmond, Virginia.

Rupp, I. Daniel

1844 *History of Lancaster County*. Gilbert Hills, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Prepared by: Robert J. Taylor, Jr. M.A. (D+A)

Date Prepared: November 6, 2014

Moore Farmstead (MIHP# CE-1570)
239 Old Mill Road, Conowingo, MD
Cecil County, Maryland

The Moore Farmstead is a historic farmstead located at 239 Old Mill Road, in the Conowingo vicinity of Cecil County, Maryland. The name "Moore" reflects the property's most recent owners and not the historic name. Historically, the property has been associated with the Lowe and Ayers families. The property appears to originally have been settled by the Lowe family in the late-eighteenth century as part of a 440-acre acquisition that included two separate tracts of land, Huckleberry Meadows and Clearview. This portion of the property was first subdivided from the rest in 1828, at which time it consisted of 142.5 acres. In 1838, it was subdivided again and totaled 62.5 acres. It remained as such until the 1940s when just the small portion of the property with the home and barns and a field to the north were sold off. Since that time, and through the present day, the property consists of 8.8 mostly open and agricultural acres. Located on the property is the main house, two barns, and a small outbuilding of unknown function.

Cecil County property records indicate the main house was constructed in 1900; however the presence of a building in roughly the same location on maps from 1877 and 1858 reveal that it may be older. Extensive alteration and modification to the building make it difficult to discern a period of construction. It is a two-story irregularly-shaped building with a variety of additions. The original mass of the house appears to be a basic rectangular structure although it has been enlarged by a full-width two-story addition to south side integrated into the form with a Saltbox type roof. On the north side of the house is a full-width one-story mass that may have historically been a porch that was later enclosed and a projecting gable-roof covered screened porch has been appended to the east side of this mass. The wood frame structural system has been clad with vinyl siding and rests on a continuous concrete foundation. All of the doors and windows have

Moore Farmstead (MIHP# CE-1570)
239 Old Mill Road, Conowingo, MD
Cecil County, Maryland

been replaced and reconfigured. A single exterior brick chimney which also appears to be a replacement is located on the east side of the house adjacent to the saltbox addition.

The Moore Farmstead and historic buildings present on the property all appear to have a moderate to high degree of alteration and retain a low level of historic integrity. The property itself has been reduced in size from subdivision and while continues to function agriculturally, no longer reflects its original size or configuration. The main house has been heavily modified through addition and renovation to the point that it is difficult to discern its construction date, historic form, or appearance. These manipulations include a combination of reversible and nonreversible changes. The historic character of the property is further diminished by the fact that no original and/or historic outbuildings remain in place and those outbuildings that are present date to the second half of the twentieth century. Although historic maps indicate that the property was developed as early as the mid-nineteenth century and is therefore related to the early development of the area; the existing property configuration and building stock is not representative of that period.

7. Description

Inventory No. CE-1570

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.

The Moore Farmstead is located at 239 Old Mill Road in Conowingo, Cecil County, Maryland. The property sits on the north side of Old Mill Road roughly one-half mile from its intersection with Rock Springs Road which formed the center of the Rock Springs community. The Moore Farmstead currently sits on a 8.8-acre property parcel, although it was likely associated with additional acreage historically. The 8.8-acre property is set back roughly 500 feet from Old Mill Road with a separate property between it and the road. This property may likely have been historically associated with the Moore Farmstead; however has been partitioned off and is currently part of the ODEC Wildcat Point Generation Facility property. The building complex for the Moore Farmstead which consists of the main house, two medium-sized barns, and a small unidentified outbuilding is located along the southern edge of the property parcel adjacent to the separate property to the south. The building complex is accessed by a gravel driveway that traverses the west side of the front bordering property before doglegging along the southern edge of the Moore property. This driveway leads past the southern façade of the main house before preceding to the associated barns and outbuildings. Roughly 60 feet to the east of the house is a medium-sized barn with attached open shed storage building. Just east of this building is a small unidentified outbuilding. Another 100 feet beyond these buildings is a second medium-sized barn that is set near the southeastern corner of the 8.8-acre parcel. To the north of the building complex and occupying the majority of the 8.8-acre parcel is open agricultural field delineated from the building complex by a post and rail fence.

The Moore Farmstead main house is located centrally along the southern edge of the property and faces south towards the adjoining property and Old Mill Road. It is a two-story irregularly-shaped building with a variety of additions and modifications lending to its organic form. The original mass of the house appears to be a basic rectangular structure such as an I-house or similar. It has been enlarged by a full-width two-story addition to south side integrated into the form with a Saltbox type roof. On the north side of the house is a full-width one-story mass that may have historically been a porch that was later enclosed. A projecting gable-roof covered screened porch has been appended to the east side of this mass. These additions in conjunction with a variety of other modifications and building material replacements make it difficult to discern the construction date and original form of the house. Cecil County property records indicate the building was constructed in 1900; however a building is revealed in the same general location on maps from both 1877 and 1858. A vernacular form such as that indicated from this house could plausibly date from the mid-nineteenth century through the early twentieth century and more definitive details such as windows, trim, and porch elements have all been removed or obscured by later modifications.

The wood frame structural system and presumably original cladding have been covered with vinyl siding. The side-gable (now Saltbox) roof is covered with composition shingles. The building rests on a continuous foundation that appears to have been covered with a concrete/stucco veneer. The primary entrance is located offset on the south elevation on the saltbox addition and consists of a single door not sheltered by any porch or portico. A second entrance is located within the screened porch and leads into the one-story northern mass. Windows around the house are vinyl double-hung sash replacements with one-over-one light configurations. All of the window, door and roof trim has been either replaced or enclosed within vinyl sheathing. A single exterior brick chimney which also appears to be a replacement is located on the east side of the house adjacent to the saltbox addition.

All of the associated outbuildings present on the Moore Farmstead are agricultural-related and appear to date to the twentieth century. The larger barn set adjacent to the house was constructed in the 1960s. This building appears to function as a combination garage, general storage, and workshop and consists of a two-story square main block with a long rectangular addition to the east. The main block has an exposed concrete block first-floor with a board-and-batten clad wood frame second level. It is topped by a side-gabled roof covered with corrugated sheet metal. Two single-width garage bays pierce the west side while a pedestrian door is set offset on the south side. Windows are located adjacent to this door, on the north side, as well as around the second level. Appended to the east side is a long, one-and-a-half story addition enclosed with corrugated metal on the north and east and left open on the south side. It is topped by a gable roof covered with corrugated sheet metal. A narrow shed roof-covered corn crib with slat siding is attached to the east end of this addition.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CE-1570

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

Set just beyond the long barn is a small outbuilding that serves(ed) an unknown function. Historic aerial photographs indicate the building was set in this location in the 1970s, but its construction details indicate it is likely older and relocated to this site from another location. This building has a wood frame structural system clad with vertical board siding and topped by a gabled roof covered with corrugated sheet metal. It rests on a pier foundation of unobserved material. A single wood door is set centrally on the north end and individual windows are located on each of the other three sides.

The third outbuilding is another medium-sized barn that is located beyond the small unidentified building. This barn was constructed post-1970 and appears to serve as storage space. It consists of a two-story main block with several small one-story additions appended to the north side. The two-story main block is composed of exposed concrete block on the first story with a vertical board clad wood frame second level. It is topped by a gabled roof covered with corrugated sheet metal. This westerly-oriented barn has two open bays on the front flanking an enclosed central bay with a single pedestrian door. A single narrow opening on the second level is set offset above the northerly open bay below. The two small additions to the north side are both wood frame with horizontal board siding set on continuous poured concrete foundations. The inward addition is topped by a gabled roof while the outward addition is topped by a gambrel roof. The inward mass has no exterior openings and is accessed from inside the main barn. The outward addition has a single pedestrian-sized doorway on the front.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CE-1570

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 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 N/A **Architect/Builder** unknown

Construction dates unknown

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 Moore Farmstead and historic buildings present on the property all appear to have a moderate to high degree of alteration and retain a low level of historic integrity. The property itself has been reduced in size from subdivision and while continues to function agriculturally, no longer reflects its original size or configuration. The main house has been heavily modified through addition and renovation to the point that it is difficult to discern its construction date, historic form, or appearance. These manipulations include a combination of reversible and nonreversible changes. The historic character of the property is further diminished by the fact that no original and/or historic outbuildings remain in place and those outbuildings that are present date to the second half of the twentieth century.

Although historic maps indicate that the property was developed as early as the mid-nineteenth century and is therefore related to the early development of the area; the existing property configuration and building stock is not representative of that period. Coupled with the low historic physical integrity of the house and recent-nature of the existing outbuildings; the Moore Farmstead does not appear to meet eligibility requirements for listing in the NRHP.

A DOE form for the Moore Farmstead, complete with a historic context, property specific history, and discussion of NRHP eligibility and historic integrity has also been prepared.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CE-1570

Millstein, Cydney

2000 "The Rock Springs Hotel" *Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form*. Manuscript on file at the Maryland Historical Trust. Inventory Number CE-867.

Martenet's Map of Cecil County, Maryland from the coast, and original surveys. 1858. Digitized online at the Library of Congress.

An illustrated atlas of Cecil County. 1877. Digitized online at the Library of Congress.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>8.8</u>		
Acreage of historical setting	<u>unknown</u>		
Quadrangle name	<u>Conowingo Dam</u>	Quadrangle scale:	<u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The survey of the Moore Farmstead included the current 8.8-acre parcel of land located at 239 Old Mill Road, Conowingo, Maryland 21918. The property is depicted on Cecil County Tax Map 2, Parcel 10 and identified as Tax Id number 08-005745. The property was originally associated with a 440-acre acquisition by Martha Lowe in 1828 that was comprised of two separate tracts, Huckleberry Meadows and Clearview, however the existing size and configuration of the property represents several subdivisions of the property, the most recent of which was in 1942.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Robert J. Taylor, Jr.- Architectural Historian		
organization	Dutton + Associates, LLC	date	11-7-14
street & number	812 Moorefield Park Drive, Suite 126	telephone	804-644-8290
city or town	Richmond	state	VA

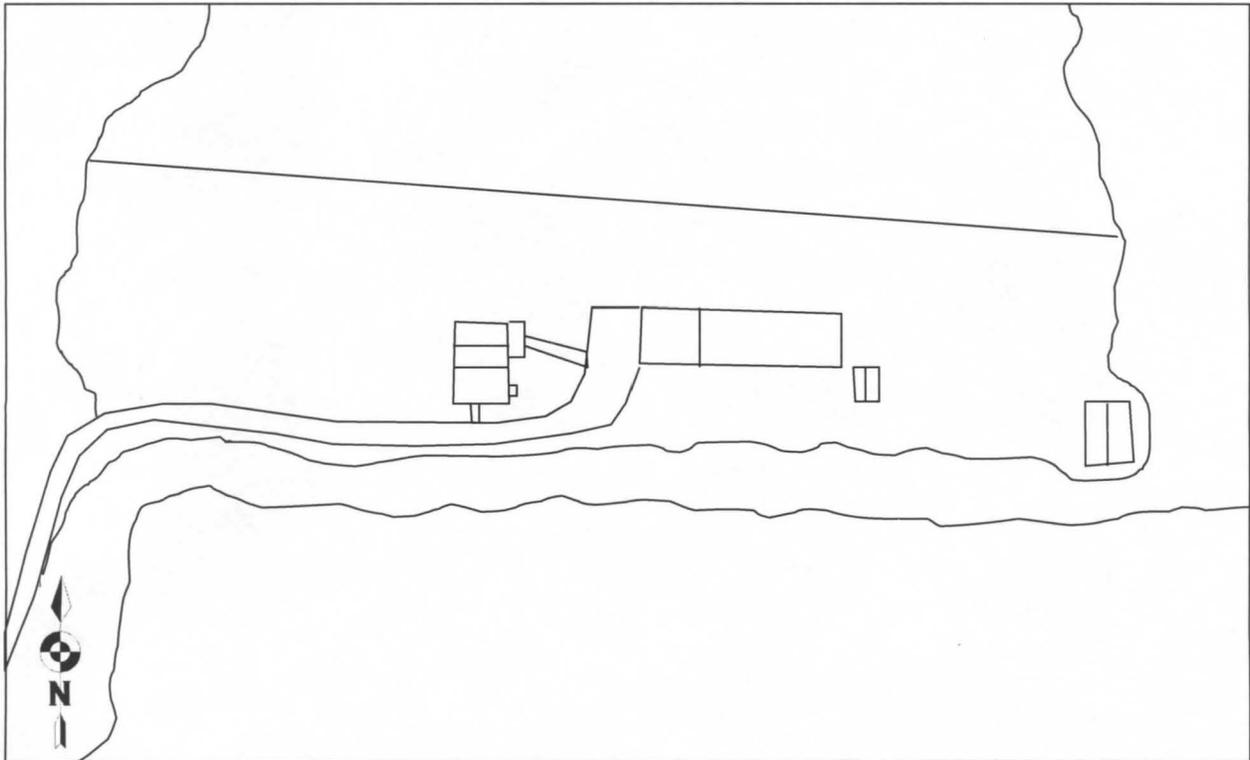
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

CE-1570

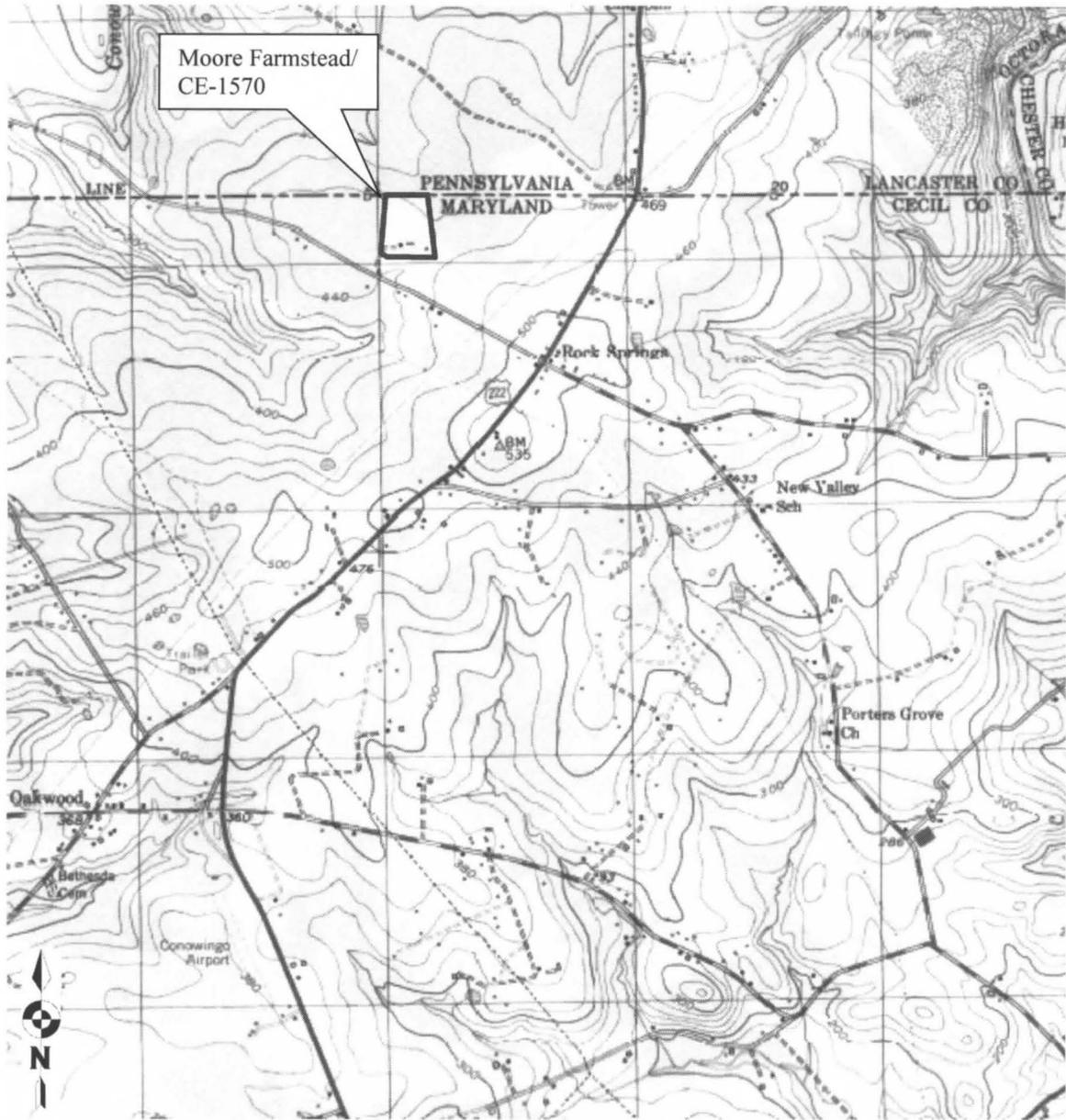


Site Plan: Moore Farmstead/239 Old Mill Road (MIHP # CE-1570)
Sketch Map, 2014 (Not to Scale)



Aerial Photograph: Moore Farmstead/239 Old Mill Road (MIHP # CE-1570)
Google Earth, 2013

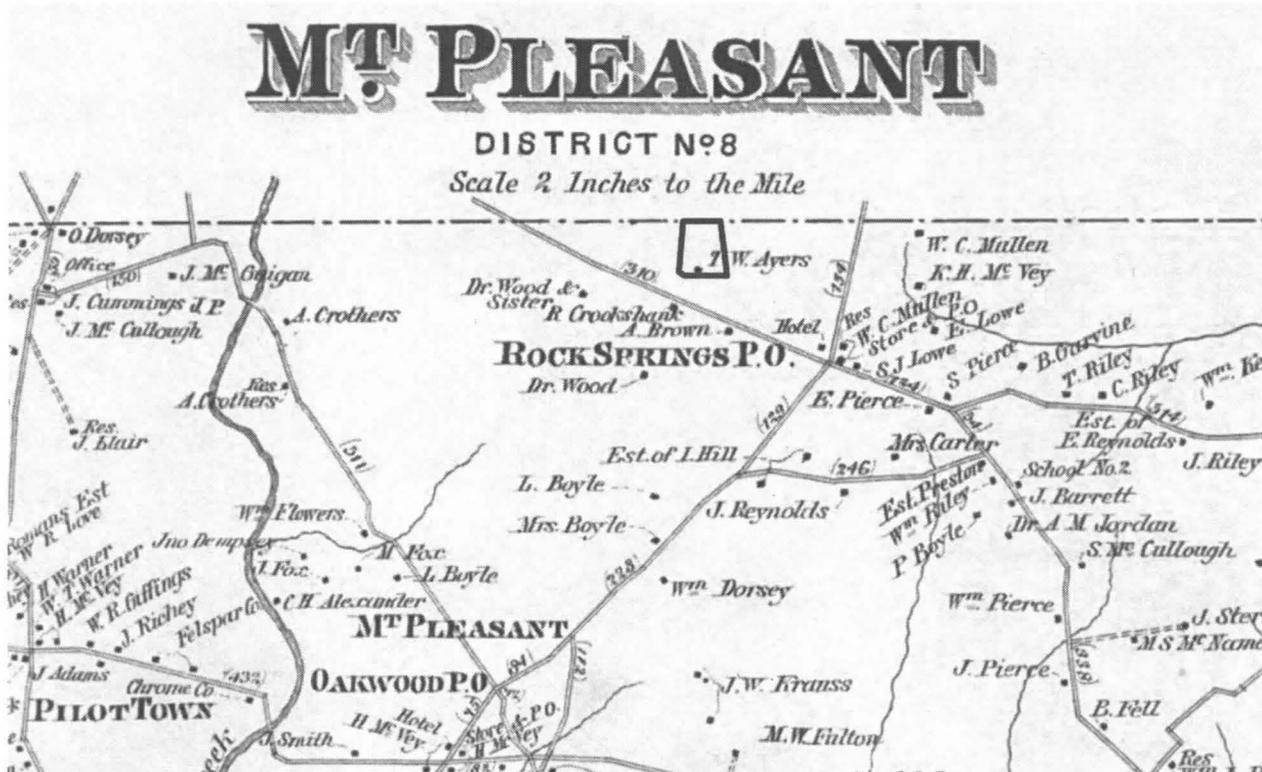
CE-1570



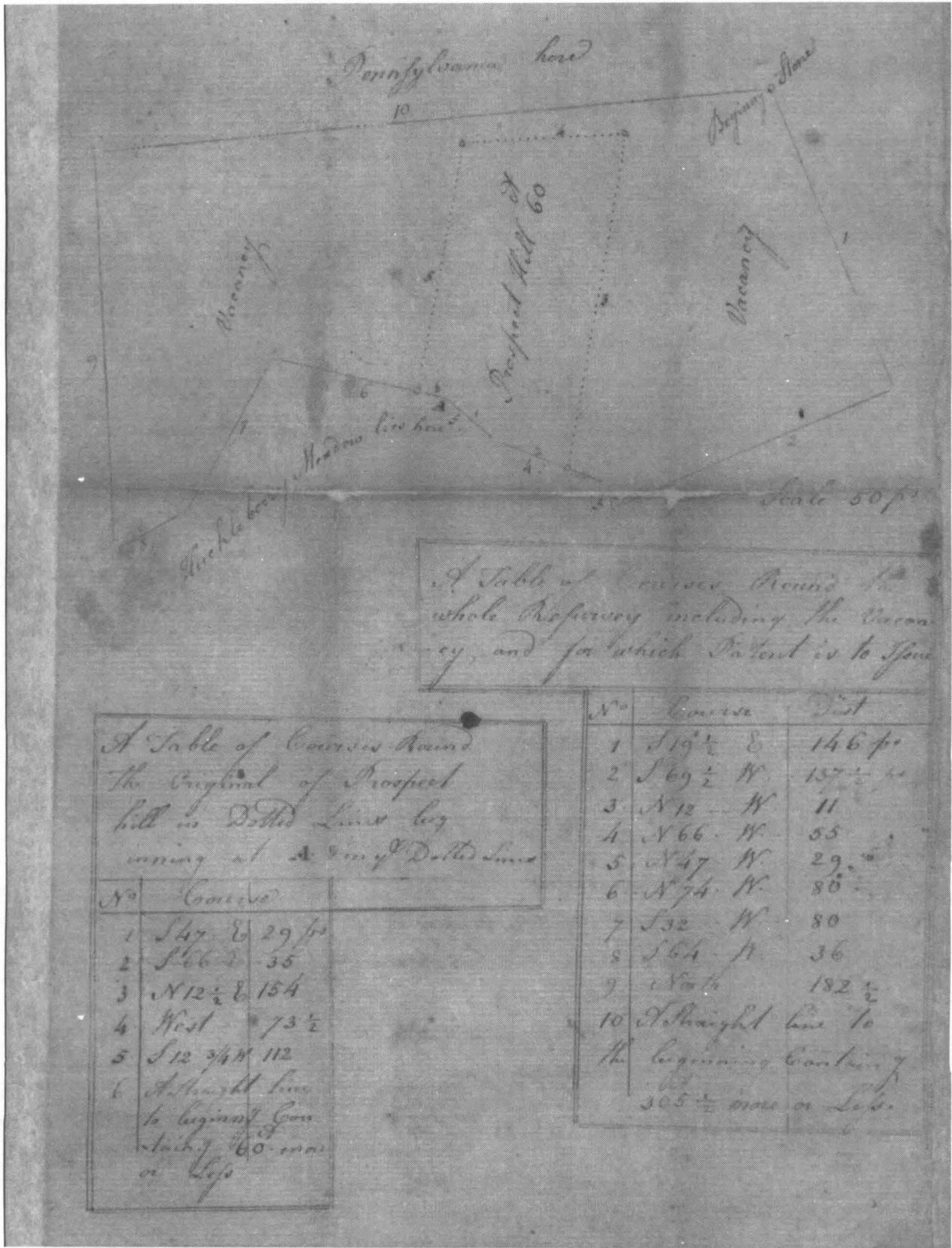
Moore Farmstead/239 Old Mill Road, Conowingo, MD (MIHP # CE-1570)
Conowingo Dam USGS Quadrangle 1995



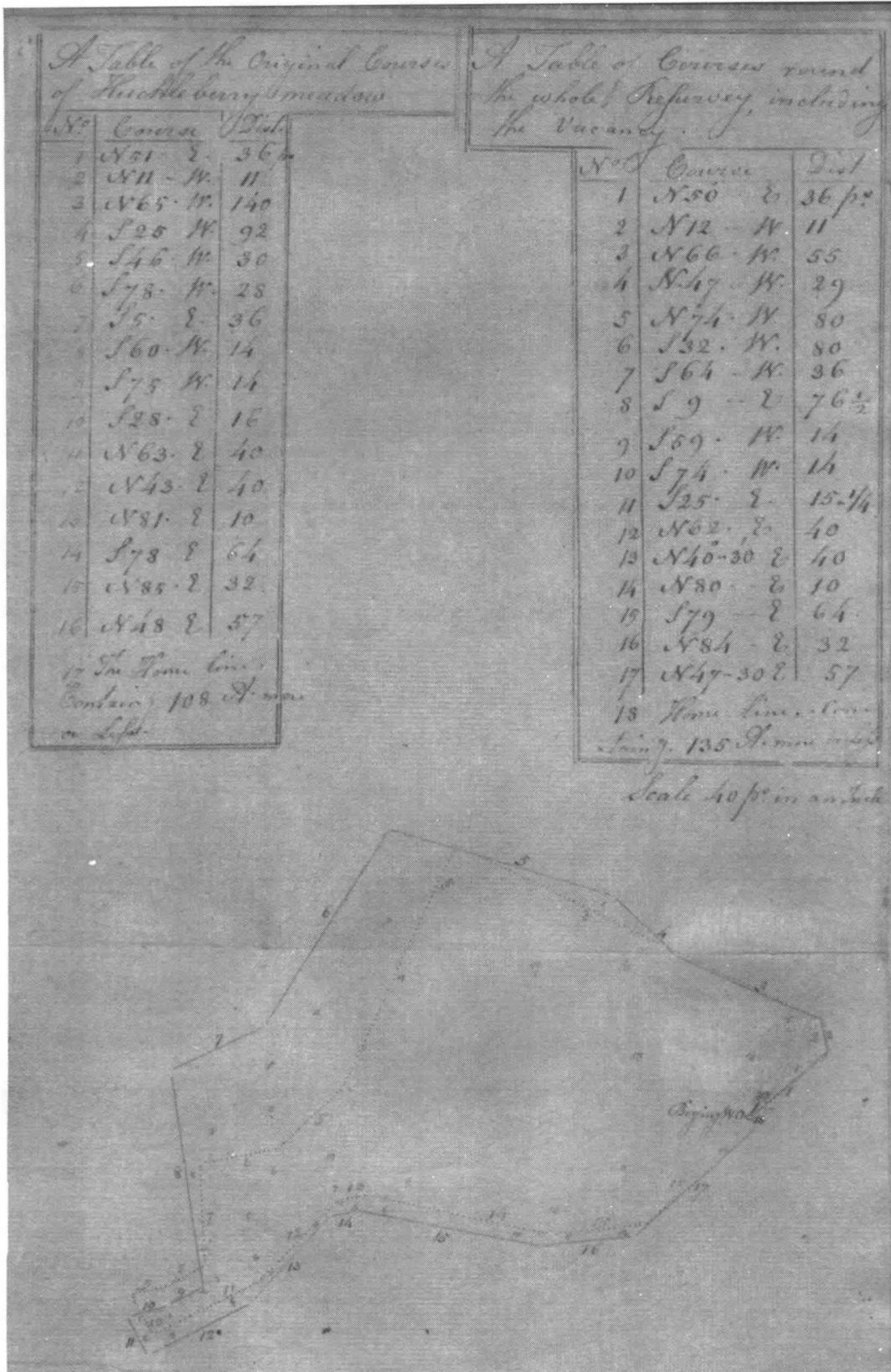
Historic Map: Moore Farmstead/239 Old Mill Road (MIHP # CE-1570)
 Martenet's Map of Cecil County, Maryland from the coast, and original surveys, 1858



Historic Map: Moore Farmstead/239 Old Mill Road (MIHP # CE-1570)
 An Illustrated Atlas of Cecil County 1877 District 8, Mount Pleasant



Historic Map: Moore Farmstead/239 Old Mill Road (MIHP # CE-1570)
 Plat of Clearview Tract, 1806. Patented Certificate 174. MSA S1194-182, p. 5



Historic Map: Moore Farmstead/239 Old Mill Road (MIHP # CE-1570)
 Plat of Huckleberry Meadow Tract, 1793. Patented Certificate 462. MSA S1194-478, p. 4

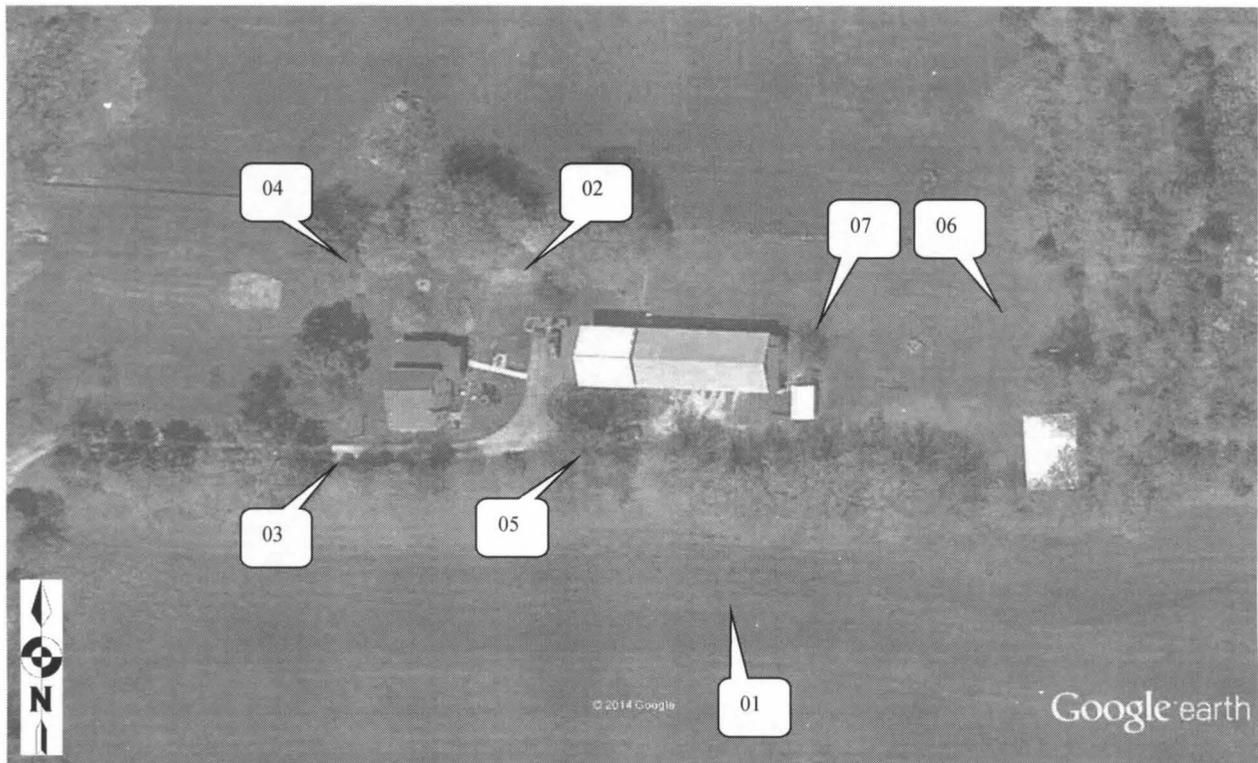


Photo Key Map: Moore Farmstead/239 Old Mill Road (MIHP # CE-1570)
Aerial Photograph, 2013

PHOTO LOG

- CE-1570 _2014-04-23_01: Moore Farmstead, Overall Setting, Facing North
- CE-1570 _2014-04-23_02: Main House, Rear and East Side, Facing Southwest
- CE-1570 _2014-04-23_03: Main House, Front and West Side, Facing Northeast
- CE-1570 _2014-04-23_04: Main House, Rear and West Side, Facing Southeast
- CE-1570 _2014-04-23_05: Barn and Garage, West End and South Side, Facing Northeast
- CE-1570 _2014-04-23_06: Barn, Front and North Side, Facing Southeast
- CE-1570 _2014-04-23_07: Small Outbuilding, Front and East Side, Facing Southwest



CE-1570

Moore Farmstead
Cecil County, Maryland

Robert Taylor Jr.

4/23/2014

MD SHPO

Overall setting, facing north

#1 of 7



CE-1570

Moore Farmstead

Cecil County, Maryland

Robert Taylor Jr.

4/23/2014

MD SHPO

Main house, rear and east side, facing southwest

2 of 7



CE-1570

Moore Farmstead

Cecil County, Maryland

Robert Taylor Jr.

4/23/2014

MD SHPO

Main house, front and west side, facing northeast

3 of 7



CE-1570

Moore Farmstead
Cecil County, Maryland
Robert Taylor Jr.

4/23/2014

MD SHPO

Main House, rear and west side, facing southeast

4 of 7



CE-1570

Moore Farmstead

Cecil County, Maryland

Robert Taylor Sr.

4/23/2014

MD SHPO

Barn and garage, west end and south side, facing southeast

5 of 7



CE-1570

Moore Farmstead

Cecil County, Maryland

Robert Taylor Jr

4/23/2014

MD SHPO

Small outbuilding, front and east side, facing southwest

#7 of 7



CE-1570

Moore Farmstead
Cecil County, Maryland
Robert Taylor Jr.

4/23/2014

MD SHPO

Barn, front and north side, facing southwest

#6 of 7