

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CE-886

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

File 642

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

McCullough Iron Workers HUses

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

north of Rowlandsville along the Octoraro Creek

CITY, TOWN

Rowlandsville (Conowingo) VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE

 BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple owners (see attached list)

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Liber #: (See owners  
Folio #: list)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McCullough Mill Workers' houses probably date to the second quarter of the 19th century and stand up the Octoraro (north) from the Ruinous Mill (CE-42). The three remaining (structures originally four) face the stream with a western exposure while the main gable run north to south.

The three structures are similar in general massing and construction. They are 2½ story three or four bay by two rooms semi-coursed ~~shaped~~ fieldstone structures with shaped quoins. The southern most of the three is an obvious duplex with four 6/6 windows across each floor and separate side entrances. The other two buildings to the north are 2½ story three bay by two rooms with a central door opening and flanking single pane sash windows. Side entrances are also found in these structures which points to a multiple family dwelling, however, the interiors have been extensively stripped so original room configurations are not evident.

The three buildings rest on partial fasements and are covered with medium sloped composition shingle roof. The eaves are not extended and a simple bargeboard and boxed cornice protect the exposed framing members of the attic. Internal stone chimney piles once rose out of each building but only remains visible in the northern and southern most houses. The southern structure (No. 1) has an additional dormer that dominates the roof slope. Two double single pane sash pierce the south face along with a peak ventilator. As described before No. 1 has four 6/6 sash on each floor. The surround that frame each window consists of a half round molding.

The north and south gable ends are pierced by various openings. Each opening by the way is supported by a large granite lintel. A southern door opening and adjacent window comprise the first floor openings and a single 6/6 sash lights the second floor above the door. Two third floor windows are centered below the roof. This same configuration is true for each of the remaining gable ends although some openings have been altered.

The other two houses differ only in the number of openings across the main facade. A central entrance has sidelights and three light transoms. The central second floor windows also differ since they repeat the wider first floor door opening. A double window of single pane sashes fills the enlarged window opening. An off axis internal chimney rises out of the northern most house.

The interiors as noted have been extensively altered but a few remnants of original second quarter of the 19th century fabric. One six panel front door with spoon handled box luck remain on structure No. 3. The half round window

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

McCullough Mill  
Page Two

structure No. 3. The half round window backbands on building No. 1 and ovolo molded backbands on the other two houses point to a second quarter of the 19th century date. The general configuration and construction of the structures is more typical of the second quarter of the 19th century than other periods of Mill housing in Cecil County.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

CE-886

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McCullough Mill workers houses have been converted to single family dwellings and have remained useful long after the mill stopped production in the early 20th century. They are most importantly the only intact statement of the iron mill's activity since the mill itself is a burnt out remnant. The three of the original four structures are some of the earliest mill housing in Cecil County. The only other of comparable date is the row of two story stone structures in Providence and along the Little Elk Creek. The McCullough Mill buildings are of much larger proportions. The basic form and fenestration of these structures is not unlike many single family dwellings in Cecil County. The two story three or four bay double pile house is found throughout the county. This may be viewed as an attempt to transfer traditional and familiar living spaces to a mill community and upgrade a mill workers apparent existence. It is not exactly known how many families occupied one of these structures. From the exterior it would appear as a single or at most double family dwelling.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Paul B. Touart Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Cecil County Committee

DATE

8/20/80

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

398-0200 ext 150

CITY OR TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Md. 21921

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

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

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

CE-886

McCullough Iron Workers Houses Owners List

1. Jerrald and Christine Simmers  
P. O. Box 71  
Conowingo, Maryland 21918  
WAS 376/25  
.64 acres
2. Avril Lyon  
1701 Mountain Road  
Joppa, Maryland 21917  
WAS 257/417  
.47 acres
3. Mark Coulson  
224 Octoraro Road  
North East, Maryland 21901  
NDS 15/692  
1.04 acres

## Rowlandsville

CE-42, CE-789, <sup>CE-881</sup> CE-882, CE-883, CE-884, CE-885, CE-886, CE-887

Rowlandsville derives its name from the Rowland family who have lived along the banks of the Octoraro Creek since their first purchase of a tract of land called "Glass House" in 1749. A number of factors have contributed to the economic and community development of the town. Grist and saw mills have operated on both the Octoraro Creek and its tributary Bason's Run (Beeson's Run) in the 18th Century along with the manufacture of iron in the very late 18<sup>th</sup> Century and most of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Nineteenth Century continuation of grain processing remained under the name of Davis Christy and Co. The McCullough Iron Company continued the manufacture of iron in mid century after buying the property in 1859. Extensive remains of the factory attest to the importance this iron manufacturer played in boosting Rowlandsville to more than a grist mill community. Like many industrial complexes, mill housing was constructed to house company workers and their families. Three sturdy granite and fieldstone structures (CE-886) once housed iron company employees along the east bank of the Octoraro Creek.

Residential and commercial structures were built on both sides of the Octoraro Creek which are now connected by a late 19th Century Pratt Through Truss Bridge. Steep hillsides restricted extensive town development but did not contain construction to the relatively few flat plots of ground. Frame structures with elevated and exposed basements compensated for the drastic change in slope. (CE-882) Rowlandsville was also blessed with the presence of a town railroad depot for the Phila. Balt. Central R.R. This

asset undoubtedly provided Rowlandsville the exposure it needed to remain vital through the 19th and early 20th Centuries. Morocoto Paper Co. bought the iron mill complex in 1892 and produced roofing paper into the early 20th Century, until the operation burned and left the structures in ruin. Trains no longer pass through Rowlandsville and like many of its kind, the town is a quiet residential community. Two elevated train bridges were built south of Rowlandsville to cross the Octoraro. The first one was built by A and P Roberts Company at Pencoyd Iron Works in 1901. (CE-881) It is a single lane reinforced iron wall bridge with supporting granite piers that runs through the mammoth reinforced concrete arches of the higher two lane Penn Central Bridge (CE-883). These two structures, although dramatically placed, do not bring commerce to Rowlandsville only over it.





McCULLOUGH IRON CE-886

WORKERS' HOUSES

WEST ELEVATION

NK ROWLANDSVILLE

NEG./MP. INST. TRUST

3/80 PBT



McCullough Iron CE-886  
WORKERS' HOUSES  
WEST ELEVATION  
NR ROWLANDSVILLE  
NEC. / MD. HIST. TRUST  
3/80 PBT

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McCULLOUGH IRON WORKERS' HOUSES CE-886

NEW ELEVATION

ROWLANDSVILLE, MD.

2/80 PPT

NEG. / MD. HIST. TRUST



McCullough IRON WORKERS' HOUSES CE-886

WEST ELEVATION

ROWLANDSVILLE, MD.

2/84 PBT

NEG. / MR. HIST. TRUST



CE-886

McCURLOUGH IRON WORKERS HOUSES

WEST ELEVATION

ROWLANDSVILLE, MD.

2/80 RBT

NEG. / MD. HIST. TRUST



McCULLOUGH IRON WORKERS' HOUSES CE-886

WEST ELEVATION

ROMANOSVILLE, MD.

2/80 PBT

NEG. / MA. HIST. TRUST