

D-818  
Robertson's Prospect  
Woolford vicinity  
c. 1825-40  
Private

The Zachariah Linthicum farm, known more recently as the Asplen farm, is comprised of a tract of land called "Robertson's Prospect." The complex of farm buildings includes a second quarter of the nineteenth century farmhouse, and other structures dating from the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. The house has features characteristic of the 1830s or 1840s and was probably built in stages due to its uneven fenestration of nine-over-six sash windows and Greek Revival style two-panel doors. Late nineteenth century modifications include the shed roofed, chamfered post porch with decorative brackets and the boxed cornice with extended eaves. Also located on the property is a small brick dairy dating to the early twentieth century. Built of stretcher bond brick, the diminutive brick structure features a small interior milk well below grade, and a whitewashed walls. A large louvered vent in the rear wall aided in cooling the dairy products that were stored inside.

The fields and timber lands along the west side of the Blackwater River and its tributaries was opened up for better access with the creation of a new road during the early nineteenth century. The road that fronts the Robertson's Prospect farm was created after a petition in 1814 from landowners, Anthony Thompson, William M. Robertson, Charles Jones, Horatio Jones, and Ezekial Fitzhugh. They petitioned the general assembly as those willing to incur the cost of creating a road from the "Baptist Meeting House to the Indian Landing on Blackwater River." William M. Robertson, one of the petitioners, owned Robertson's Prospect among other tracts. After his death around

1817, the Robertson's Prospect parcels passed through several hands until purchase by Joseph Stewart. Joseph Stewart figures prominently in the history of the Peters Neck region as a large landowner who also pursued the financing of Stewart's Canal during the 1820s and 1830s as another means to expedite forest timber out of the region. In September 1843, James A. Stewart was empowered to sell the real estate of Joseph Stewart, and two years later, the Robertson's Prospect plantation was sold to Zachariah Linthicum for \$1,307.87. Portions of the extant dwelling likely stood on the property at the time of transfer. Zachariah Linthicum owned this Peters Neck plantation during the second quarter of the nineteenth century and until his death. In 1863 a land commission was organized to survey his estate holdings for his heir Levin L. Linthicum (b. 1832). Levin L. Linthicum was a large landholder in his own right, and in 1877 he is listed in the Lake, Griffing and Stevenson patron list as owning 525 acres. Levin L. Linthicum retained the title to the Robertson's Prospect farm until 1906 when it was transferred to W. Alvin Linthicum. W. Alvin Linthicum and his wife Ella sold the farm four years later to J. Purnell Asplen for \$3,800. Asplen family ownership has been maintained to the present time.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-818

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

historic                      Zachariah Linthicum Farm                      "Robertson's Prospect"  
 other                              Asplen Farm

## 2. Location

street and number      4511 Harrisville Road                       not for publication  
 city, town                      Cambridge    vicinity  
 county                              Dorchester

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

name                              Harold L. and Eleanor D. Asplen.  
 street and number      P. O. Box 1072    telephone  
 city, town                      Cambridge    state MD                      zip code 21613

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.      Dorchester County Clerk of Court                      liber 87                      folio 411  
 city, town                      Cambridge                      tax map 60                      tax parcel 27                      tax ID number 9-194215

## 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 checked="" 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	4	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	4	1
		<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:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				_____	

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. D-818

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Zachariah Linthicum farm, known more recently as the Asplen farm on a tract known as "Robertson's Prospect," is located at 4511 Harrisville Road. The complex of farm buildings includes a second quarter of the nineteenth century farmhouse and other structures dating to late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The farm is situated on the east side of Harrisville Road, which in past times has been known variously as the White Marsh Road, or Anthony Thompson's New Road; the last name refers to when the road was created in 1814 as part of a petition to the General Assembly.<sup>1</sup> The two-story, four-bay frame dwelling is centered in the complex and it is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with asbestos shingles. The medium pitched roof is covered with corrugated metal. The other buildings on the farm include a small brick dairy dating to the early twentieth century, a frame garage, and a wagon shed.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Zachariah Linthicum farm, located at 4511 Harrisville Road, is situated about 1 ¼ miles south of the community of Woolford in the Church Creek Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-story, four-bay frame farmhouse stands at the end of a dirt lane with a group of other buildings, a small, early twentieth century brick dairy, a frame garage, and a wagon shed. The two-story farmhouse, now abandoned, is supported on a low brick foundation and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with corrugated metal.

The west (main) façade is an asymmetrical four-bay elevation that suggests several periods of construction, beginning during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The first floor façade is defined by two door openings and flanking nine-over-six sash windows. Most of the door and window openings are boarded up, but the southernmost door opening is not and it has a two-panel door with a flush bead framing the panels. The two door openings are sheltered by a shed roofed porch supported by chamfered posts fitted with decorative Victorian brackets. The second floor window openings are boarded over except for the southernmost opening which has a nine-over-six sash window. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice trimmed with a crown and bed molding.

The north gable end is a blind wall on the first floor, and two six-over-six sash windows light the second floor. A single four-pane window pierces the gable end to light the attic. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave with returns at the base of the roof. Evident in the peak of the gable is a patched section of eave boxing that indicates the former location of an exterior, single-flue brick stove chimney.

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<sup>1</sup> Laws of the State of Maryland, Chapter CXXIX. "An Act to lay out and open a Road in Dorchester County" Liber TH. No. 4, folio 162. See also, Dorchester County Land Record, WJ 4/54, 31 December 1847, James A. Stewart, Trustee to Zachariah Linthicum, "Robertson's Prospect," 229 ½ acres, "to the new road that leads from the Baptist Meeting House to Anthony Thompson's late residence."

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The south gable end retains its exterior brick stack with a single flue piercing the extended eave. Six-over-six sash windows light the second floor.

The east (rear) wall is partially covered by an open and enclosed shed roofed porch. A raised two-panel door opens into the north end of the house, and nine-over-six sash windows light the first floor rooms.

Standing off the northwest corner of the house is a small stretcher bond brick dairy building featuring a partially excavated milk well and a whitewashed interior. A narrow board door pierces the south wall, and a louvered vent defines the rear wall. The brick dairy has a low pitched gable-front roof features framed front and rear gable end walls covered with plain weatherboard siding. The roof has extended eaves on each side with exposed rafter tails.

Located off the south gable end is a single-story frame garage covered with vertical board siding. A large metal clad implement building is also located on the site in addition to a travel trailer.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-818

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 checked="" 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	entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	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**

**Architect/Builder**

**Construction dates**

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.)

**SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY**

The Zachariah Linthicum farm, comprising part of the tract known as Robertson’s Prospect, is improved by a second quarter of the nineteenth century farmhouse that survives with Greek Revival two-panel doors and nine-over-six sash windows. Due to the uneven fenestration of the four-bay frame house, is most likely was erected in two or more stages. Late nineteenth century features include the chambered post porch with sawn brackets and the extended eaves that finish the gable ends. Also located on the farm is a small brick dairy dating to the early twentieth century. Built of stretcher bond brick, the diminutive brick structure features a small milk well and is below grade and a whitewashed interior. A large louvered vent on the rear wall aided in cooling the dairy products stored inside.

**HISTORY AND SUPPORT**

The fields and timber lands along the west side of the Blackwater River and its tributaries was opened up for better access with the creation of new roads during the early decades of the nineteenth century. One of the new roads was ordered for survey in 1814 as a means to access the timber resources and farmland along the Blackwater River drainage in Peters Neck. Petitioners Anthony Thompson, William M. Robertson, Charles Jones, Horatio Jones, and Ezekial Fitzhugh were the individuals willing to incur the cost of a new road from the “Baptist Meeting house to the Indian Landing on Blackwater River.”<sup>2</sup> Part of the land that was accessed was “Robertson’s Prospect,” which figured in the lands holdings of one of the petitioners, William M. Robertson, who died around 1817.<sup>3</sup> The “Robertson’s Prospect” parcels passed through several hands until purchase by Joseph Stewart, who purchased hundreds of acres in Peters Neck and who also pursued the construction of what became known as Stewart’s Canal during the 1820s and 1830s.<sup>4</sup> In September 1843, James A. Stewart was empowered to sell the real

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, WJ 2/513, 22 October 1845, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

<sup>4</sup> Kate Clifford Larson, *Bound for the Promised Land; Harriet Tubman: Portrait of An American Hero.* New York; Ballantine Books, 2204, p. 60-61.

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estate of Joseph Stewart, and two years later the Robertson's Prospect plantation was sold to Zachariah Linthicum for \$1,307.87.<sup>5</sup> Portions of the extant dwelling likely stood on the property at the time of transfer. Zachariah Linthicum owned this Peter Neck plantation during the second quarter of the nineteenth century until his death, and a land commission was organized in 1863 to survey his lands<sup>6</sup> for his heir Levin L. Linthicum (b. 1832). Levin L. Linthicum held title to this farm until 1906 when it was transferred to W. Alvin Linthicum.<sup>7</sup> W. Alvin Linthicum and his wife Ella sold the farm the four years later to J. Purnell Asplen for \$3,800.<sup>8</sup> Asplen family ownership has been maintained to the present time.

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<sup>5</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, WJ 2/513, 22 October 1845, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

<sup>6</sup> Dorchester County Court Commission, FJH 1/295, 1863, Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

<sup>7</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, CL 32/71, 1 May 1906, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

<sup>8</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, WLR 2/714, 14 June 1910, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

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Robertson's Prospect (Zachariah Linthicum Farm)  
Church Creek vicinity  
Dorchester County, Maryland

Chain-of-title Map 60 Parcel 27

87/411 Sarah Charlotte Asplen, Elsie C. Asplen, Executrices of William Kirkland and  
Eva K. Kirkland, Walter W. Claggett, Agnes S. Claggett

to

8.27.1954 Harold L. Asplen and Eleanor D. Asplen

246 acres—formerly the home farm of Levin L. Linthicum inherited from his  
father Zachariah Linthicum, and which was allotted to him by Commission to  
divide the real estate of Zachariah Linthicum, FJH 1/291, 1863

WLR 2/714 W. Alvin Linthicum and Ella Linthicum

to

6.14.1910 J. Purnell Asplen

\$3,800

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CL 32/71

Levin L. Linthicum and wife and William W. Linthicum

to

5.1.1906

W. Alvin Linthicum

1877 Lake, Griffing, &  
Stevenson Atlas

Levin L. Linthicum    Nativity 1832    Owned 525 acres

Dorchester County Court  
Land Commission  
FJH 1/295

Estate of Zachariah Linthicum

to

1863

Levin L. Linthicum

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WJ 4/54

James A. Stewart, Trustee

to

12.31.1847

Zachariah Linthicum

\$1,375. 227 ¼ acres "Robertson's Prospect"

Whereas by a decree of the High Court of Chancery of Maryland bearing date the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September 1843, the above named James A. Stewart was appointed a Trustee and authorized and empowered to sell and dispose of the real estate of Joseph Stewart, late of Dorchester County

WJ 2/513

James A. Stewart

to

10.22.1845

Zachariah Linthicum

\$1,307.87

Whereas by a decree of the High Court of Chancery bearing date the sixth Day of September 1843, the above named James A. Stewart was appointed a Trustee and authorized and empowered to sell and dispose of the real estate of Joseph Stewart, late of said County, deceased; Three certain parcels of land, all called Robertson's Prospect and containing 213 ¾ acres...being all that part of the said tract Robertson's Prospect which was sold by Dr. John Murray, Trustee for the sale of the said lands belonging to the Heirs of William M. Robertson, to Elijah Tull, a part containing sixty nine and one quarter acres; and another part to William Wiles, containing one hundred and forty four and a half acres, according to a survey made by Arthur Bell on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 1817, and which said lands were afterwards conveyed to Joseph Stewart...It being the intention of this deed to embrace those parcels of Robertson's Prospect which was sold as aforesaid by Murray to Elijah Tull and William Wiles, lying contiguous to each other and containing the aforesaid quantity of Two hundred and thirteen acres and three quarters of an acre...lying and being in Peters Neck, and situated on the road leading from the Baptist meeting house to Black Water River...

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.  
Laws of Maryland after 1799, Maryland Archives Online.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 10 acres  
Acreage of historical setting 313 acres  
Quadrangle name Golden Hill MD Quadrangle Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	9.11.2012
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

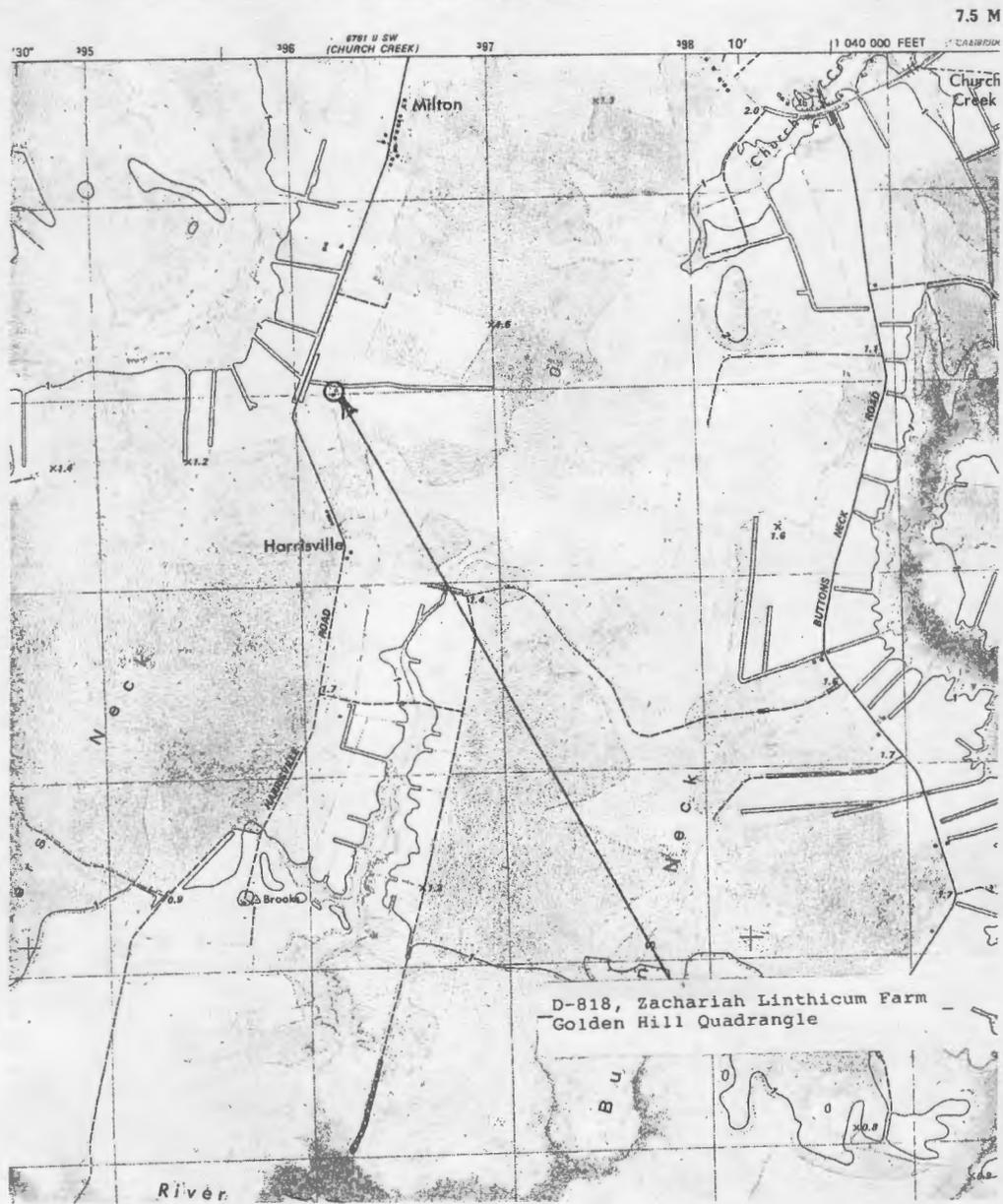
# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-818

Name Zachariah Linthicum Farm (Robertson's Prospect)  
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D-018

ROBERTSON'S PROSPECT

HARRISVILLE VICINITY, DORCHESTER  
CO. MD.

WEST ELEVATION

9/2012, PAUL B. TOUANT, PHOTO.

WEL. / MD. HIST. TRUST

#1 OF 5



D-818

ROBERTSON'S PERSPECT

HARNSVILLE VII., DOUGHERTY CO., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

9/2012, PAUL B. TOWNSEND, PITTSO.

NEB. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

#2 OF 5



D-818

ROBERTSON'S PROSPECT

HARRISVILLE VIC. DORCHESTER  
CO., MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

9/2012, PAUL B. TORANT,  
PICTOR.

NEG. / MD. HIST. TRUST

# 3 OF 5



D-818

ROBERTSON'S PROSPECT  
HARRISVILLE VIC., DORCHESTER CO., MD

DARY - SOUTHWEST ELEV.

9/2012, PAUL B. TONANT PHOTO.

W.E. / MD. HIST. TRUST

# 4 OF 5



D-818

ROBERTSON'S PASSPORT  
HARRISVILLE VIC, DORCHESTER Co. MD.

DAIRY - NORTH BLEN.

9/2012, PAUL B. TOWANT, PHOTO.

NEE/MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

#5 OF 5