

F-6-94

1812, ca. 1870

Rouzer House

Thurmont

Private

The Rouzer House, located on Rouzer Avenue, is encircled by a newly built housing development adjacent to Route 15 in Thurmont, Maryland. There is only one surviving outbuilding, a drive-through corncrib, located several feet west of the house. The house is significant as a substantial dwelling house of the region. Constructed in two building stages, it demonstrates differing architectural influences in each section. The original section (1812) has elements of the Federal and Georgian periods in architecture; the later section (circa 1870) reveals the Second Empire and other late nineteenth century influences. The house is also connected to a local family of historical importance in Frederick County, the Rouzer family. The Rouzers were prominent in the region as tannery owners. A tannery was formerly located on the property from the late 1700s into the twentieth century. The property exemplifies an increasingly common trend in Frederick County: the construction of a housing development around a historic building.

F-6-94
Rouzer House
Thurmont
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery Counties,
and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Rural Agrarian Intensification 1680-1815 A.D.
Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870 A.D.
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
Economic (Commercial & Industrial)

Resource Type:
Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Agriculture/Subsistence/storage/drive-through corn crib
Industry/Processing/Extraction/processing site/tannery site

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. F-6-94

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Rouzer House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1 Rouzer Lane not for publication

city, town Thurmont vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name M.J. Sponseller, Inc. c/o Michael J. Sponseller

street & number P.O. Box 78 telephone no.: 301-662-7720

city, town New Market state and zip code MD 21774

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Anthony James Survey

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records Frederick County Dept. of Planning & Zoning

city, town Frederick state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. F-6-94

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved date of move _____

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

(Typed on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-6-94

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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

(Typed on separate sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-6-94

- Atlas of Frederick County, Maryland, C.O. Titus and Co., Philadelphia, 1873.
- Map of Frederick County, Maryland, Isaac Bond, Baltimore, 1858.
- Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland, Louis H. Everts, Philadelphia, 1882.
- Williams, T.J.C. History of Frederick County, Maryland, L.R. Titsworth & Co., Frederick, 1910.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.16 acres
 Quadrangle name Blue Ridge Summit MD Quadrangle Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
	Zone	Easting		Northing			Zone	Easting		Northing	
C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
E	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
G	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	H	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Map 19, Part of Parcel 25, Plat 2, Lot 8, Thurmont West Subdivision

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Kendall Shipe, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date July, 1991

street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958

city or town Frederick state MD 21701

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
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 DHCP/DHCD
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
 301-514-7600

7.1 Description:

The Rouzer House, located on Rouzer Avenue, is encircled by a newly built housing development adjacent to Route 15 in Thurmont, Maryland. There is only one surviving outbuilding, a drive-through corncrib, located several feet west of the house.

The house was constructed in two sections. The original section, built in 1812, is a 2 & 1/2 story brick building with flemish bond and 4:1 common bond. It has a mansard roof of slate shingles with paired exterior end brick chimneys on the north gable end and one exterior end brick chimney on the south gable end. There is a molded cornice with a wide frieze band. The later section, circa 1870, is also a 2 & 1/2 story brick building that covers 3 bays of the east elevation of the original section. It has 4:1 common bond brickwork and a mansard roofline of slate shingles. There is one exterior end brick chimney on the east gable end. Both sections rest on stone foundations. The intersecting mansard roofs are decorated with segmentally arched dormer windows.

The main elevation of the original section is presently the west facade but was originally the east facade. The west elevation is three bays wide with 4:1 common bond brickwork. A slightly off-center entrance opening is covered with an enclosed pedimented entry porch, one bay wide. Windows are 9/6 with jack arches. On the second story, the middle window is placed below the other two, above the door opening. The roofline has three dormers with 6/6 windows and segmental arches. The east elevation was originally a 5 bay facade. It has flemish bond brickwork. The two bays to the north are the only ones not covered by the other section. They have 9/6 windows with gauged arches on the first floor and 6/6 windows with jack arches on the second. There are two dormer windows (6/6) with segmental arches.

The north gable end of the original section has flemish bond. It is 2 bays wide with 9/6 windows. The first story windows have gauged arches; the second, jack arches. Two dormered windows with segmental arches are placed on either side of the paired exterior end brick chimneys.

The main elevation of the circa 1870 section faces north. It has a 2 story recessed porch, enclosed with weatherboard on the second story and screened-in on the first. There are ribbons of windows on the second story. The porch includes all but one bay which has 6/6 windows with jack arches. The east gable end of this section has no openings.

The south elevation connects both sections and has 4:1 common bond. The original section has three 9/6 windows on the first floor, asymmetrically placed, and two 9/6 windows on the second floor. There are also two dormers with segmental arches on either side of the exterior end brick chimney. The later section has three 6/6 windows and a door opening on the first floor; the door is covered with a pedimented open entry porch on a raised stone foundation. The second floor has two 9/6 windows and one 6/6 windows. There are also two dormers with 6/6 windows and segmental arches. Throughout the elevation, all the window openings have jack arched lintels.

The drive-through corncrib, located to the west of the house, is covered in weatherboard and has a standing seam tin roof. The drive-through opening faces north. The building rests on concrete piers.

8.1 Significance:

The Rouzer House is significant as a substantial dwelling house of the region. Constructed in two building stages, it demonstrates differing architectural influences in each section. The original section (1812) has elements of the Federal and Georgian periods in architecture; the later section (circa 1870) reveals the Second Empire and other late nineteenth century influences. The house is also connected to a local family of historical importance in Frederick County, the Rouzer family. The Rouzers were prominent in the region as tannery owners. A tannery was formerly located on the property from the late 1700s into the twentieth century. The property exemplifies a increasingly common trend in Frederick County: the construction of a housing development around a historic building.

Within its historic context, the Rouzer House is important as one of the few high style houses surviving in the region. As one of the few of these houses, it has retained a good level of integrity with much remaining of its original historic fabric. It stands out among the others as being unusual because it connects architectural influences from the early nineteenth century into the late nineteenth century in one building. The historic setting of the house has been marred by the encircling housing development and the close proximity of Route 15.

Many elements of the Rouzer House differentiate it from the more commonly seen vernacular architecture of the region. These elements include the use of Flemish bond brickwork, 9/6 windows, gauged arches and jack arches and a wide frieze band in the original section and the use of segmentally arched windows and a mansard roof in the later section.

Daniel Rouzer moved to Maryland from New Jersey and learned the tanning profession. By 1793, he had established himself on the property and operated the first tannery in the region. The tannery became a successful business, and, by 1812, he was able to construct his sizeable brick residence, "being one of the finest homes in Frederick County." (Williams, Vol.II, p.751)

Daniel's son, John Rouzer, succeeded him as tannery operator by 1850. It was probably during John's occupancy that the later Second Empire-influenced section of the house was built. By 1882, the property included a main house, two bark sheds, two wagon sheds and a scale house. The tannery yard was located several yards east of the main house. There was also a rail "switch" that connected to the Western Maryland Railroad for shipping and receiving goods. On the average, 3,000 hides were tanned per year at the Rouzer Tannery. It was considered "one of the most important industries of Western Maryland" (Scharf, Vol.I, 630). John Rouzer resided in the house and operated the tannery yard until his death in 1894.

F-6-94
 Rouzer House
 Thurmont vicinity
 Frederick County
 Atlas of Frederick County, Maryland, C.O. Titus and Co., Philadelphia, 1873.

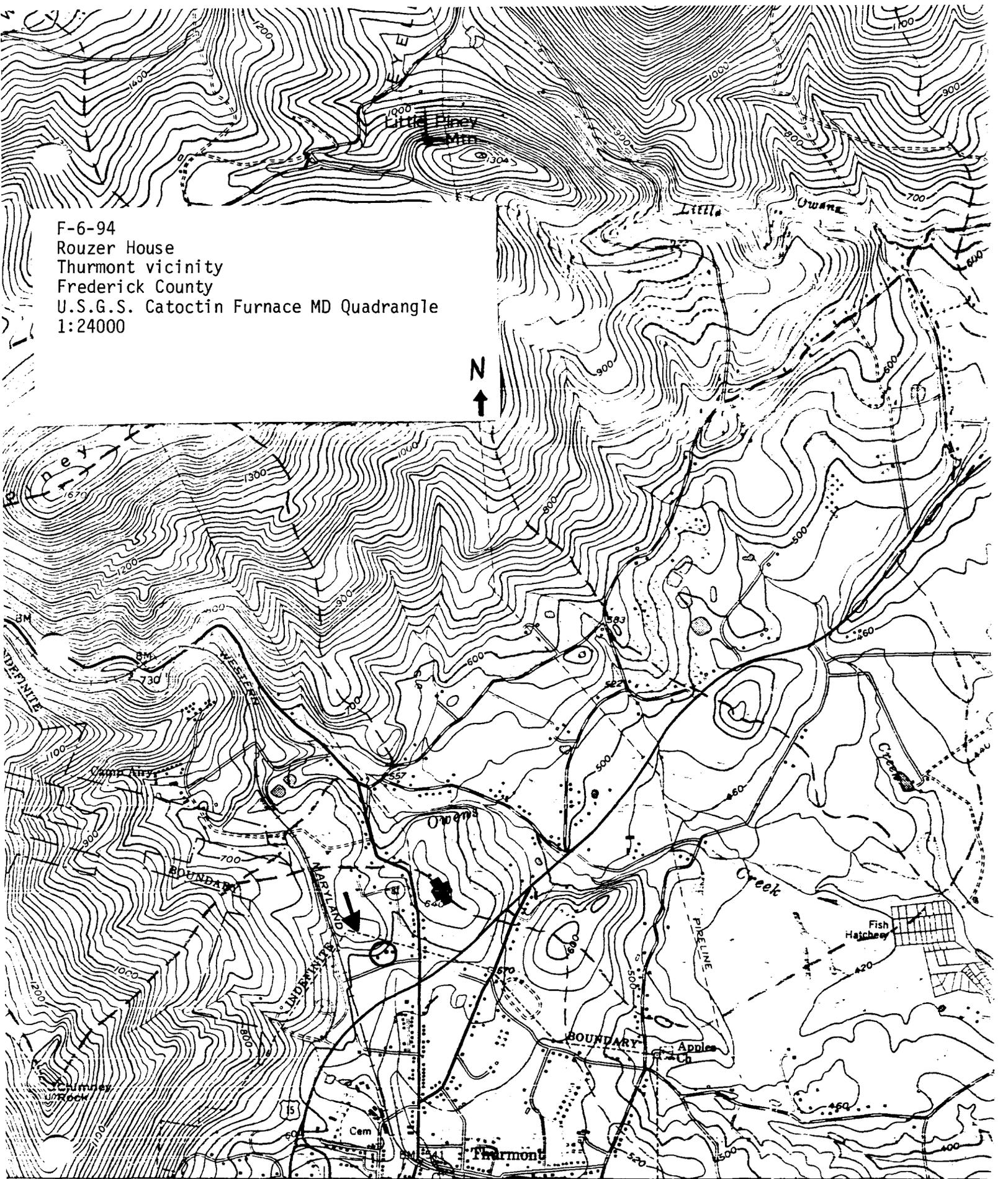


MECHANICSTOWN

DIST. No. 13

Scale 1/4 inches to the mile

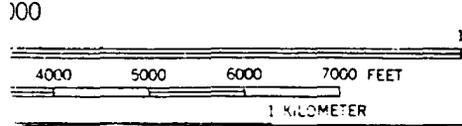
F-6-94
 Rouzer House
 Thurmont vicinity
 Frederick County
 U.S.G.S. Catoctin Furnace MD Quadrangle
 1:24000



URMONT 2.4 MI.
 292 25' 293
 0.1 MI. TO PA. 77
 FREDERICK 16 MI.

2 100 000 FEET (P.A.)

● INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 2950000 E.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty - - - - -
- Light-duty ————
- Unimproved dirt - - - - -



F-6-94

ROUZER HOUSE

1 ROUZER Lane

Thurmont

Frederick County

photo: MARCIA MILLER

JUNE 1991

Neg. loc: MHT

West elevation

1/3



F-6-94

Rouzer House

1 Rouzer lane

Thurmont

Frederick County

Photo: MARCIA MILLER

JUNE 1991

Neg. loc: MHT

North elevation

2/3



F-6-94

Rouzer House

1 Rouzer Lane

Thurmont

Frederick County

Photo: MARCIA MILLER

June 1991

Neg. loc: MHT

South elevation

3/3