

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic McMurry House

and/or common N/A

## 2. Location

street & number South side of Gas House Pike  not for publication

city, town Frederick  vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Frederick

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Golf Course</u>

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

name City of Frederick, Maryland c/o Public Works

street & number City Hall 101 N. Court Street telephone no.: (301) 694-1469

city, town Frederick state and zip code Maryland 21701

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1044

street & number North Court Street folio 872

city, town Frederick state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Inventory of State Historic Sites

date 8/6/79  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

# 7. Description

Survey No. F 8-31

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The McMurry Farm was a 312 acre agricultural complex located 0.75 km east of the Monocacy River on Gas House Pike in Frederick County, Maryland. The site encompassed a nine building farmstead surrounded by farmland. The farmstead was oriented to the north towards Gas House Pike. It incorporated a dwelling, a bank barn, a dairy barn, a milk house a dairy house, an ice house, a garage, a pump house, and a shed. These buildings were constructed between ca. 1800 and ca. 1960, and were sited in a modified courtyard plan that commonly is associated with mixed agriculture use.

The complex occupied a landscaped site defined by mature shade trees and curvilinear access roads. The dwelling occupied a slight rise overlooking rolling agricultural land. The barns and support structures were located east and west of the principal dwelling occupied lower elevations. Evidence of a stone lined pedestrian approach to the primary entrance of the main house survives. This approach was not in use in May 1990.

Documentation of the McMurry Farmstead was undertaken by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., on behalf of Golf, Inc. for the City of Frederick, Maryland. The former agricultural site will be redeveloped as a city golf course. The McMurry House was removed from the site in May 1990, as part of this redevelopment. The proposed golf course will retain the bank barn, stone dairy silo, ice house, and dairy.

The following is a description of the nine buildings included in the McMurry Farmstead. These descriptions are keyed to the accompanying site plan.

Please see attached sheets.

# 8. Significance

Survey No.

F-8-31

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1880-ca. 1960 Builder/Architect unknown

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.

The McMurry Farm was an intact example of a Piedmont region agricultural complex; it was representative of the historical development of mixed agricultural sites in Frederick County from the late eighteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries. The complex encompassed a nine-building farmstead surrounded by open farm land. The nine buildings included in the complex were constructed between ca. 1800 and ca. 1960.

The farmstead was a distinguishable architectural entity, and it was locally important for the quality of its overall design. This design was characteristic of the approach to residential-agricultural complexes in the region. It integrated specialized vernacular building forms, high style ornamentation, functional materials, and pragmatic construction techniques.

### Historical Context

European settlement in Frederick County dates from the first half of the eighteenth century. Explorers and traders were the first Euro-Americans to enter the Piedmont region; major Indian trails provided routes into the interior. Although several

Please see attached sheets.



## 7. Description (Continued)

The **McMurry House** was a two-and-one-half story masonry and log dwelling. The design of the structure adopted an L-shaped ground plan, a symmetrical main facade, and a gable roof, characteristics associated with late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century farmhouses in the Pennsylvania cultural region. A first floor plan for the building accompanies this documentation. The McMurry dwelling was erected in three major stages of construction. These sequential stages included: (1) a freestanding three-bay log dwelling; (2) a freestanding five bay brick dwelling; and (3) a two-bay log hyphen that connected the log and the brick building units.

The first major building episode resulted in the construction of a one-and-one-half story, three bay, dressed log building supported by rubble piers and terminating in a gable roof. The corners of the building were secured by V-notches. The exterior of the log dwelling was clad in siding. A massive interior-end chimney with a straight stack and a corbelled cap dominated the south elevation of the dwelling. The roof of the dwelling was a pegged common rafter system. The principal entrance to the first period log house was located in the center bay of the east elevation. Structural evidence indicated that the log dwelling originally adopted a two room ground plan. Access to the second story loft was gained by way of a straight stair located on the north interior wall of the southernmost chamber. Interior finishes included simple moldings and interior plaster applied to vertical lath.

A substantial, two-and-one-half-story brick dwelling (ca. 1850) was erected during the second major period of construction. This symmetrical five-bay, single pile building was supported by a full random rubble basement and rose to a gable roof sheathed in standing seam tin. The roof structure was not accessible for inspection. The north and south elevations of the building were marked by a corbelled brick cornice. The gable ends were defined by boxed gable returns and beaded raking boards. Brick interior-end chimneys rose from the east and west elevations of the structure. These elements included straight stacks and corbelled caps. The north and south planes of the gable roof were punctuated by three symmetrically

## 7. Description (Continued)

placed gable dormers incorporating corbelled parapets. These stepped parapets are a common feature of nineteenth century Frederick County domestic and commercial architecture.

The north elevation of the brick building was spanned by an open two-story gallery. This porch was supported by simple wooden posts; it terminated in a shallow shed roof. The junction between the porch posts and first story cornice was delineated by paired brackets and incorporated drop pendants. The Victorian period design of this element suggests that it was added to the building ca. 1870. The principal access to the dwelling was through the central bay of the north elevation. This entry included a recessed six-panel wooden door. The reveals of the door surround were panelled. The entrance incorporated two-light sidelights and Doric columns. These columns supported a six-light transom. The windows of the building were six-light-over-six-light sash enframed by simple surrounds.

The brick structure adopted a center hall plan flanked by single chambers. An open dog-leg stair was located in the center hall and rose the height of the structure. This stair included a delicate balustrade with simple balusters and a continuous handrail. The balusters were continued through the handrail on the landing of the third floor level, creating a guardrail between the hall and the open stairwell. The interior plaster finishes were applied directly to the exterior brick walls. Interior partitions between the hall and the chambers were frame with plaster wall finishes applied to horizontal lath. Interior details surviving at the time of demolition included simple beaded baseboards, and fluted window and door surrounds incorporating corner blocks. The east room of the first floor incorporated a dado between the baseboard and window sills. This dado included diamond pattern relief panels.

A one-by-one-bay, frame kitchen addition was appended to the east elevation of the brick structure ca. 1950. This minor addition terminated in a shed roof. The exterior wall planes of this kitchen addition were clad in asbestos siding.

A two-and-one-half story log hyphen (ca. 1870) connected the original log dwelling with the brick house. This two-bay hyphen employed a log and post structural system in which squared wall logs were keyed to corner posts through a mortise and tenon system. These mortise and tenon joints were secured

## 7. Description (Continued)

by massive iron spikes. A drawing detail of this construction is included with this documentation. The corner posts of the east and west walls abutted both the brick house and the original log dwelling. As a consequence, no north and south walls were constructed as part of the hyphen. As in the case of the original log dwelling, the exterior wall planes of the hyphen were faced in siding. An interior brick chimney with a straight stack divided the two-room plan. The interior finishes of the building were simple plaster applied to vertical lath. Wall planes were accented by simple moldings. An open two-story gallery spanned the east elevation of the hyphen. The interior wall planes of this porch were plastered.

A **bank barn** (ca. 1920) was located northeast of the principal dwelling. This post and beam structure, which will be retained in the redevelopment of the site, is oriented with its long axis parallel to the hilltop. The building is supported by a random rubble and cinder block foundation, and rises to a gable roof clad in standing seam tin panels. The bank barn adopts the common disposition of spaces, with animal stalls on the ground level and an upper loft used for hay storage. The upper loft, or threshing floor, is divided into a central nave with flanking aisles. The cantilevered forebay is located on the south elevation while the north elevation provides ground level access to the mow floor. The exterior planes of the structure are sheathed in vertical barn boards.

A seventeen-by-three bay **dairy barn** (ca. 1920) was located west of the principal dwelling. This structure originally served as the northern terminus of an agricultural courtyard. The western terminus of this courtyard was occupied by frame equipment sheds (removed 1990), while the eastern terminus incorporated an ice house and dairy. This twentieth century barn incorporates a random rubble first story, and a post-and-beam upper level. The structure is supported by a concrete slab and rises to a gambrel roof sheathed in asbestos shingles. A massive circular, random rubble silo adjoins the east elevation to the north. The silo is connected to the barn by way of a stone hyphen. A common bond brick silo adjoins the east elevation to the south. The north and south elevations of the building include nine-light-over-six-light sash windows enframed by simple board surrounds. The first floor of the barn is divided into a central nave

## 7. Description (Continued)

with flanking aisles. The aisles are fitted with stanchions. Access to the upper story hay loft is gained by way of an interior ladder. Gambrel-end loading doors are located on the east and west elevations. The mow floor is divided in a similar fashion to the main floor, with a central nave and flanking aisles. The roofing system of the dairy barn utilizes a common rafter system supplemented by purlins. The rafters are connected at the ridge line by metal anchors.

A one-by-two bay cinder block **milk house** (ca. 1960) is located southeast of the dairy barn. This twentieth century structure is rectangular in ground plan. The building is supported by a concrete slab and terminates in a shallow gable roof. The upper levels of the structure's gable ends are clad in weatherboards and incorporated prefabricated vents. The roof line of the building is accented by a boxed cornice. The building includes two-light-over-two-light steel sash windows.

Two nineteenth century agricultural outbuildings survive intact. These are a single-bay, random rubble **ice house** (ca. 1850) and a one-by-three bay, random rubble **dairy** (ca. 1850). These structures were sited to the west of the McMurry House along the principal drive to the dwelling. Both structures will be retained in the proposed development of the site. The ice house is supported by an excavated foundation, and terminates in a shallow gable roof accented by simple raking boards. Roof planes are clad in standing seam tin sheets. The building adopts a single cell rectangular plan. The principal entrance to the building is located on the east elevation and includes a simple frontier door housed beneath a wooden lintel. The west elevation includes a gable end loading door and a ground level bay that has been infilled. The interior floor of the structure is obscured by trash. The structure extends below grade to an undetermined depth. Interior walls are parged below the ground level. Access below grade is by way of metal ladder rungs fixed to the west interior wall. The roofing structure of the building incorporates a common rafter system keyed to a massive ridge pole. This ridge pole also served as an ice hoist.

The west elevation of the ice house is connected to a dairy by a low rubble wall. The dairy is similar in overall construction to the ice house; it is supported by a rubble foundation and rises to a gable roof

## 7. Description (Continued)

accented by extended eaves. The roof planes of the building are clad in asbestos shingles. The symmetrical building incorporates nine-over-six sash windows on its north and south elevations. Access to the building is gained through gable end doors located on the east and west elevations. These openings have been infilled with plywood sheets. The interior of the structure currently is divided into two sequential chambers by narrow tongue-and-groove partitions. The masonry interior walls are parged plaster.

Three outbuildings are located to the south of the primary dwelling. These are a **garage**, a **tool shed**, and a **pump house**. The garage (ca. 1940) is a single-bay poured concrete structure terminating in a gable roof. The roofing system of the building includes a common rafter system. The interior of the rectangular building is unfinished.

A modest single-bay concrete block shed (ca. 1960) is located behind the dwelling. This shed, which is supported by a poured concrete foundation, terminates in a gable roof clad in tin sheets. Access to the building is by way of a gable end entry fitted with a simple frontier door. The interior of the structure is unfinished and includes rough lumber work tables on the north, east, and south elevations.

A single-bay pump house (ca. 1940) is located north of the shed. This frame structure is built on grade and terminates in a shed roof. The building's exterior walls and roof planes are sheathed in tar paper. Access to the building is through a simple board door located on the west elevation. The interior of the building is unfinished; it houses a well pump.

## 8. Significance (Continued)

traders built log cabins in the area, Pennsylvania Quakers formed the first permanent settlement on Pipe Creek in 1721 (Tracey and Dern 1987:130). English settlement in the Piedmont intensified between 1720 and 1730 (Tracey and Dern 1987:130). Indentured servants who completed their terms of service moved west to acquire land of their own. Wealthy landowners sought to increase their holdings and to replace worn-out tobacco fields by purchasing land on the frontier. Land speculators also purchased large tracts of land to sell at a profit. Ten parcels, all over 5000 acres, were surveyed within the present boundaries of Frederick County before 1732 (Tracey and Dern 1987:23). During the decade following initial English settlement, Pennsylvania Germans and German immigrants began moving into the area, buying land from speculators.

The two waves of immigration, English and German, resulted in two distinct forms of agriculture. English settlers transplanted their tidewater tobacco culture to the rolling, well watered meadows of Frederick County. Slave labor and large plots of land located near water routes were necessary for this kind of agriculture. German settlers generally settled in the hills and farmed smaller plots devoted to subsistence farming (Tracey and Dern 1987:131). Both corn and wheat were common staples during this period.

The early English and German settlers to Frederick County also brought with them two distinctive vernacular building traditions. These were the Palladian-influenced design common to the Tidewater region, and the Pennsylvania German forms that originated in the Rhineland region of Germany (Chappell 1986:68). The Pennsylvania German and Tidewater architectural traditions were distinctive in their respective building forms, their use of materials, and their construction techniques.

The population of Frederick County grew steadily after the Revolutionary War. The success of Frederick County agriculture was noted as early as 1755, when British and colonial troops moving through Frederick found a plentiful supply of foods such as meat, milk, and eggs (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:13). The differences between English and German farming practices continued throughout this period. While the English from the Tidewater region raised tobacco, German grain farmers produced a surplus of corn and wheat for the European and West Indian markets. By 1790, Frederick County was the largest wheat

## 8. Significance (Continued)

producer in the United states (Miller 886:132). Other crops raised at this time were flax, which supported a linen factory in the county, and orchard products (Scarf 1968:363). The slave population also continued to grow, even among those who were not tobacco producers. By 1790, the slave population formed over ten per cent of the county's total population (Scarf 1968:369).

After the War of 1812, commerce and industry gained importance throughout the state of Maryland. Agriculture and industry became interdependent as farmers supplied raw materials to manufacturers, and as industries produced goods for agricultural use. Increased mechanization also gave rise to new farming techniques and generated interest in sound agricultural practices. The introduction of the railroad and of new transportation routes expanded markets for both agricultural and manufactured products.

By the early nineteenth century, a Piedmont vernacular architectural tradition that exhibited both Tidewater and Pennsylvania German influences had developed. Farmhouses of this period were characterized by an L-shaped floor plan, a symmetrical main facade, intersecting gable roofs, interior end chimneys, and two to two-and-one-half story heights. The building ells frequently included double-tiered porches (Getty 1987:93).

During the second decade of the nineteenth century, farmers began to experiment with a variety of crops and livestock. Dairying became more common, and sheep raisers supplied raw materials for local woolen mills. Production of fruits and vegetables remained popular as improved transportation methods provided viable markets. Tobacco production also remained important in some areas of the county (Hitselberger 1978:502,503).

Transportation facilities improved dramatically during the first half of the nineteenth century. In 1828, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company began construction of a canal along the Potomac River from Georgetown in the District of Columbia to Cumberland, Maryland. The canal passed along the southwest border of Frederick County (Miller 1886:136-2). That same year, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company also began to lay track between Baltimore and Frederick. The railroad was completed in 1830, and a depot opened in Frederick one year later (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:38). More railroad lines were introduced

## 8. Significance (Continued)

to the county later in the century. The introduction of the railroad, in turn, increased the need for improved roads so that farmers could transport goods to the rail lines.

By 1860, Frederick ranked first in the state of Maryland in wheat, corn, rye, and butter production, and in the number of milk cows (Wesler et al. 1981:143). Emphasis was placed on the importance of proper farming techniques during this period, and new machines became available to aid in achieving improvements. Farmers began to take soil maintenance and improvement seriously. Marl and lime, both of which were available in Frederick County, were used for enriching soils (Wester et al. 1981:143). In 1843, a fertilizer manufacturer, J. Tyson and Son, began business in Frederick City (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:40). Mechanized agricultural implements also appeared during this period.

Maryland's economic expansion was interrupted temporarily by the Civil War. Agricultural and industrial laborers went into military service, and the productivity of local farms and factories diminished.

In the years following the Civil War, the Federal government reimbursed farmers for their crops and livestock losses, and banks gave lot loans to aid recovery. Frederick County farmers, benefiting from high-quality farmland and good transportation facilities, quickly regained their previous success (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:62). Agricultural output continued to increase; by 1870, more than one million bushels of corn and wheat were produced county-wide (Scarf 1968:370). Interest in agricultural improvement also resumed, and the first County Fair was held in Frederick in 1878 (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:64).

Wheat and corn continued to be the principal cash crops. By the early twentieth century, more corn was grown than wheat, and tobacco production had dropped (Wester et al. 1981:144). At the same time, dairying increased. The growing population in nearby urban centers increased the demand for agricultural goods, especially dairy products (Grisby and Hoffsommer 1949:12).

Farming continued as a lucrative business until the end of World War I, when foreign markets closed. Over-production of agricultural products resulted, and many farmers were forced out of business (Whitmore and Cannon 1981:100). Rising costs brought on by increased mechanization and by new government health regulations also brought additional hardship to some area farmers. However, Frederick

## 8. Significance (Continued)

County maintained its level of agricultural output. Between 1920 and 1930, Frederick County was the only county in the state of Maryland that did not suffer a drop in agricultural production (Wesler et al. 1981:144). Frederick County has remained primarily agricultural until the present day.

### Historical Development of the McMurry Farmstead

The three-story McMurry House (F-8-31) was listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Sites in 1979. The structure stands on the Richlands tract of the original Addison's Choice land grant. Originally a portion of the massive land holdings of Col. Thomas Addison in the early eighteenth century, this productive Monocacy Valley farm supported the agricultural ventures of several successful farmers and businessmen in the Frederick area for over 250 years.

The Lords Baltimore originally granted the 2,300-acre Addison's Choice tract to Col. Thomas Addison in 1724 (Howard 1919:394). Addison, a loyal Englishman who held various governmental posts in the Maryland colony, received the commission of Surveyor General of the Western Shore in 1718 (Hopkins 1979:4); therefore, he was able to select some of the choicest land for his own speculation, Addison surveyed and owned several tracts on the fertile eastern shore of the Monocacy River. However, he never inhabited these large tracts, and they remained largely undeveloped (Tracey and Dern 1987:54, Hopkins n.d.:4). Addison died in 1727, leaving the property to his sons Thomas, Henry, and Anthony (Tracey and Dern 1987:31).

The Addison heirs maintained the property for several years; John Addison was listed as caretaker of the property in 1734, while Henry Addison paid quit rents in 1759. The Addisons probably did not inhabit the property. Local historian Hanford Hopkins speculated that a tenant probably occupied a portion of the land during the heirs' tenure, paying a modest rent and cultivating tobacco or wheat (Hopkins 1979:9).

In 1771, Addison's widow Eleanor and daughter Anne sold 1,500 acres of the tract to Col. Joseph Sim for £2000 (Howard 1919:388, Tracey and Dern 1987:31). After the Revolutionary War, the state confiscated property owned by British sympathizers. These lots were sold at auction, usually to well-paid

## 8. Significance (Continued)

Army officers who could afford the steep prices. The Addisons, staunch Tories, lost the remainder of Addison's Choice to Sim after the war (Tracey and Dern 1987:31). Sim developed the property into a working plantation, building an addition to the manor house on the northern section of the tract and improving the rest of the property with dependencies, planted fields, and orchards (Hopkins 1979:12). The 1790 Census listed Sim as a Frederick County resident; the Sim household included two other white males, one white female, and 34 slaves. Col. Sim died in 1793 (Martz 1979).

In 1794, Captain William Campbell purchased 1,400 acres of the tract from Thomas and Baker Johnson, trustees of the Sim estate (Hopkins 1979:10). The property included a manor house, which was depicted on Varle's map (1808) north of Addison Branch as the residence of "W. Campbell." The map indicated no structures elsewhere on the property; Varle concentrated on industrial sites and the mansions of major landholders. This suggests that the early inhabitants of the McMurry house were probably tenant farmers or employees of Campbell, living in a structure too insignificant to be recorded on the county map. Hopkins mentions that this house was known as the Old Campbell Inn; however, there is no other evidence that the structure was utilized for anything other than residential purposes (Hopkins 1979:16).

Campbell, born in Charles County in 1756, became a surveyor in Annapolis during the early part of his career. He enlisted in the Maryland Flying Camp in 1776, and was promoted to captain the following year (Martz 1979). Campbell acquired the Richlands tract of Addison's Choice after he retired from military service (Hopkins 1979:12). Through a combination of land speculation and inheritance, Campbell accumulated a sizable fortune. In the second district of Frederick County alone, Campbell owned 2,035.5 acres of land in 1798, including several lots of Monocacy Manor. According to the 1798 assessment record, Campbell made \$150.00 in improvements on his "Addison's Choice" property, including repairs to a barn, the stables, a corn house, and an overseer's house (Assessment Record 1798).

However, at his death in 1821, William Campbell also had amassed a considerable debt. He left his estate to his friend John McHenry and his son Edward Campbell as trustees, stipulating that all his land in

## 8. Significance (Continued)

Baltimore County should be sold to pay off his debts. Campbell granted his Frederick County residence and its surrounding 460 acres to his daughter Catherine (Will Book HS2:506).

In 1827, the court appointed John Donaldson trustee of the Campbell estate, empowering him to mortgage the remaining property to Marian Gilmore for \$20,000, to be paid in five years. The land granted to Gilmore was located south of the Campbell manor house; this tract contained the McMurry farm and dwelling. A second loan of \$10,000 to Gilmore was approved in 1835, extending the mortgage to 1840. The property became enmeshed in a legal dispute in 1841, when the surviving heirs of the Campbell estate demanded payment (Equity Case 8171). The court reappointed John Donaldson as trustee, authorizing him to sell the mortgaged property at a public sale. On December 21, 1841, a portion of the Richlands tract, totaling 312 acres, was sold to Joseph Schell for \$16,078.39. However, the sale was not finalized until July 15, 1843 (Deed Book HS 20:201).

Joseph Schell was probably the first resident of the McMurry house to own the dwelling and surrounding farmland. The 1850 census listed Joseph Schell, 49, as a farmer, with a wife, Catherine, and six children. Two servants or laborers also resided on the Schell farm. The 1850 Agricultural Records indicated that Schell operated a productive farm on his 312 acres of land; he produced 700 bushels of wheat and 1,000 bushels of corn on 290 acres. He also owned a modest assortment of farm animals, including seven horses, 10 milk cows, 13 additional cattle, 12 sheep, and 40 swine.

Bond's 1858 *Map of Frederick County* named a standing structure on the property as the dwelling of "J. Schell." By 1873, the house passed into the hands of Mrs. Schell, according to the Lake atlas of that year. A private road leading from what is now the Gas House Pike Bridge over the Monocacy to the Schell home was in place by this time.

By 1880, the property had passed to the youngest Schell son, Benjamin. Benjamin Schell had increased crop production and the value of the farm; in 1880, the farm yielded 2,750 bushels of corn and 2,205 bushels of wheat, as well as 50 bushels of oats and 150 bushels of potatoes. The Schells maintained an apple orchard of four acres, and a woodlot of 25 acres, which produced 15 cords of lumber. Benjamin

## 8. Significance (Continued)

Schell increased the farm's livestock holdings, including the addition of poultry. The Schells ran a substantial farm, valued at \$25,000, requiring a total of 320 man-weeks of hired labor (Agricultural Record 1880).

The heirs of Joseph and Catherine Ann Schell, including Benjamin Schell, sold the 312-acre estate to Louis McMurry in 1883 (Deed Book AF7:527). McMurry needed the additional acreage to increase corn production for his Frederick-based cannery. Tenants cultivated the corn fields for the McMurry plant. This land was only a portion of the approximately 3,000 acres of farmland that McMurry purchased in the Frederick area during the late nineteenth century. McMurry had established a site for the packing of "sugar corn" and tomatoes in 1869. By 1886, the plant produced 3,000,000 cans of corn annually (Williams 1911:401). McMurry was a major Frederick employer, hiring as many as 1,000 workers during the fruit season and enlisting the support of local farmers (Scarf 1882:492). The common name for the farm dates from the McMurry ownership.

Louis McMurry died five years later. His considerable estate was left to his widow, Jane, and to his two sisters. A portion of his vast land holdings, including the 312 acres in the Mt. Pleasant district formerly owned by Joseph Schell, was sold to Joseph D. Baker on August 12, 1889 (Deed WIP9:418). However, Baker sold the Schell portion of the property to Jane McMurry on August 17, 1889, for \$23,452.02 (Deed WIP9:421).

Charles N. Hahn, Aaron Rosenstock and Jacob Rosenstock acquired the property in the following year (Deed DHH7:426). The Rosenstocks purchased Hahn's interest in the property in 1903 (DHH17:232). The land remained in the Rosenstock family until the late 1970s; the McMurry house was inhabited by tenant farmers who raised corn on the Rosenstock farm (Martz 1979).

## 8. Significance (Continued)

### Architectural Development

The development of the McMurry farmstead was parallel to the agricultural and architectural development of the rural Piedmont region. This development was reflected in the design, use, materials, and construction of the complex as a whole, as well as of each component building.

The original three-bay log dwelling was characteristic of first settlement houses in the region that were influenced by tidewater vernacular traditions. A rectangular footprint, a two-room ground plan, an interior-end chimney, and a gable roof are diagnostic of this late eighteenth - early nineteenth century period. The construction of the building reflected regional traditions in its use of squared logs keyed by V notches and exterior siding. The additive quality of regional architecture was documented in the number, orientation, and design of the subsequent additions to the dwelling.

The substantial two and one half story brick addition to the structure successfully changed the building's primary orientation from east to north. The classical influence made popular by Palladian and period revivals was reflected in the brick addition's symmetry, materials, elaborate entrance, center hall plan, and interior finishes. The final stage of house construction documented a regional innovation in construction. This innovation was the construction of free standing, post-and-timber, "infill" walls that abutted the existing structural units.

The mixed agricultural use of the overall site was reflected in the number and specialization of farm buildings. These buildings also documented innovations in technology and advancements in food processing. The ice house was a building type developed in response to specific functional requirements. The degree of specialization exhibited in this design is reflected in the structure's abandonment rather than reuse once technology rendered its design obsolete. The dairy house and the milk house similarly document successive changing agricultural technologies. The original dairy house, with its massive random rubble walls, reflected functional cooling requirements. In contrast, the later cinder block milk house was designed to create and maintain a sterile environment for milk processing.

## 8. Significance (Continued)

The massive, random rubble dairy barn with flanking brick and stone silos was particularly notable. Although this barn adopted a common design in its nave and aisle plan, its construction in load bearing masonry was unusual, and was thought to be a unique example of twentieth century barn construction in Frederick County.

### Conclusion

The McMurry Farmstead was an intact residential-agricultural complex documenting nearly two hundred years of regional residential and agricultural design. The site and its component buildings reflected the additive nature of local rural design and the use of scale, balance, proportion, materials, massing, ornamentation, and functional specialization characteristic of Piedmont regional vernacular design.

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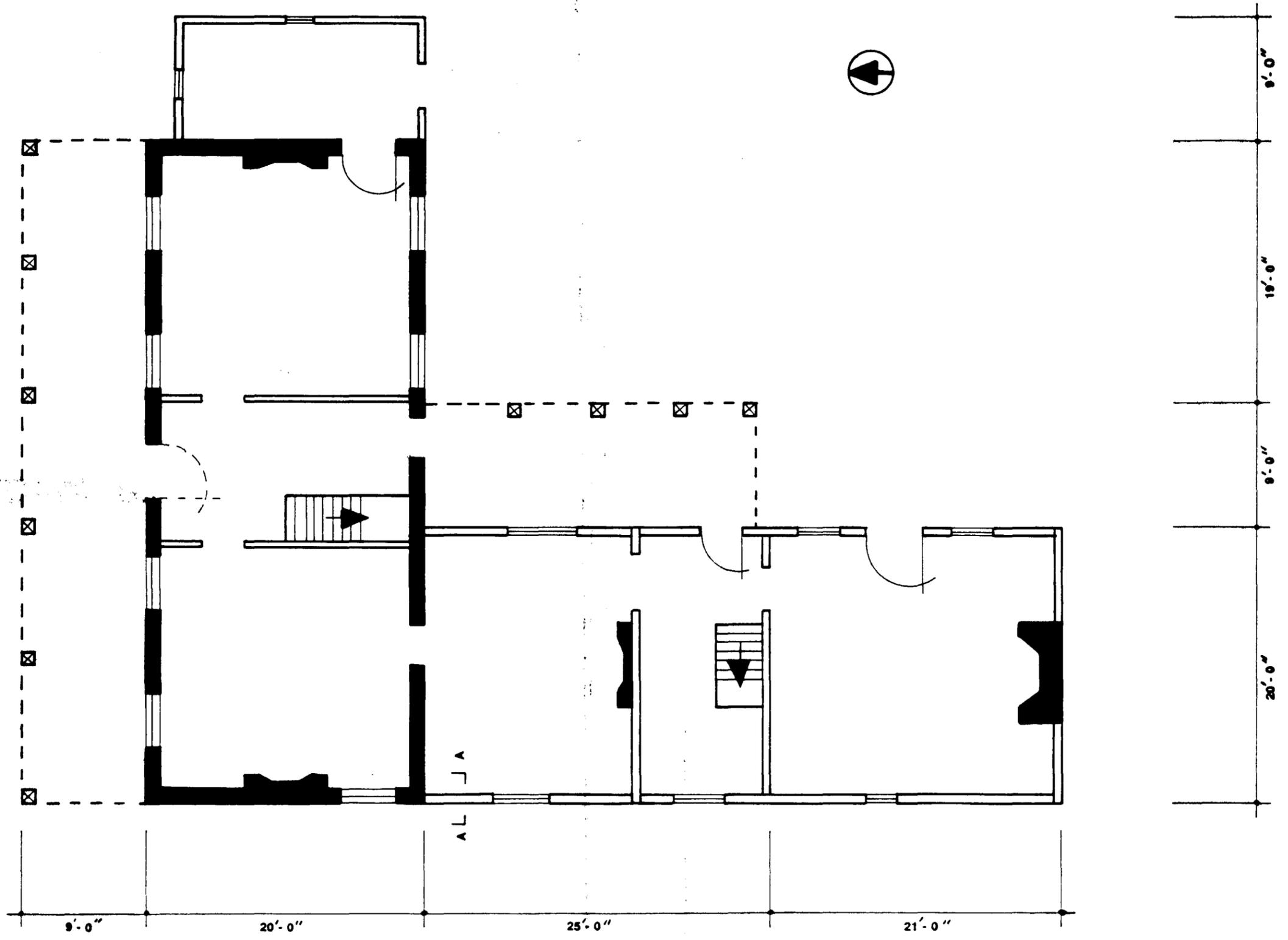
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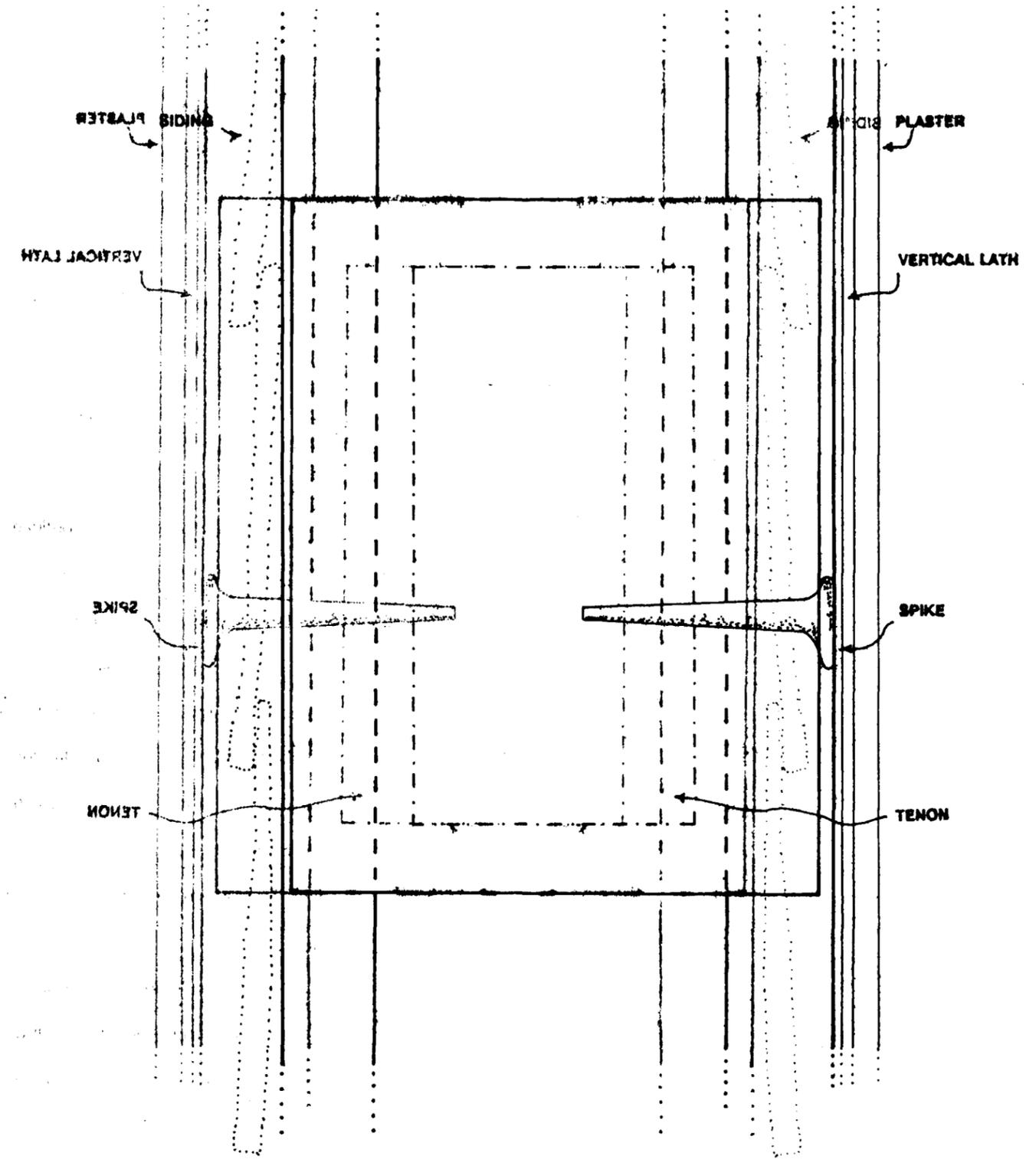
R. CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
 FREDERICK, MARYLAND

MCMURRY FARMSTEAD  
 FREDERICK COUNTY

FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
 SCALE - 1/8" = 1'-0"

SHEET 2 OF 3  
 13 JUNE 1990

# SECTION A-A



## INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

McMurry Farmstead  
Gas House Pike  
Frederick County  
Maryland

F-8-31

Photographer: Harriet Wise

August 1990

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 1 OF 24  | VIEW SOUTHEAST LOOKING AT NORTH AND EAST ELEVATIONS, MCMURRY HOUSE       |
| 2 OF 24  | VIEW WEST LOOKING AT EAST ELEVATION, MCMURRY HOUSE                       |
| 3 OF 24  | VIEW NORTHWEST LOOKING AT EAST AND SOUTH ELEVATION, MCMURRY HOUSE        |
| 4 OF 24  | VIEW NORTHEAST LOOKING AT SOUTH AND WEST ELEVATIONS, MCMURRY HOUSE       |
| 5 OF 24  | CONSTRUCTION DETAIL, LOG DWELLING, LOG & POST HYPHEN, MCMURRY HOUSE      |
| 6 OF 24  | CONSTRUCTION DETAIL, LOG & POST HYPHEN, BRICK DWELLING, MCMURRY HOUSE    |
| 7 OF 24  | VIEW SOUTHEAST LOOKING AT NORTHWEST AND SOUTHWEST ELEVATIONS, BANK BARN  |
| 8 OF 24  | VIEW SOUTHEAST LOOKING AT NORTHWEST ELEVATION, BANK BARN                 |
| 9 OF 24  | VIEW NORTHEAST LOOKING AT SOUTHWEST ELEVATION, BANK BARN                 |
| 10 OF 24 | VIEW NORTHWEST LOOKING AT SOUTHEAST AND NORTHEAST, BANK BARN             |
| 11 OF 24 | VIEW NORTHWEST LOOKING AT SOUTHEAST ELEVATION, BANK BARN                 |
| 12 OF 24 | VIEW SOUTHWEST LOOKING AT NORTHEAST ELEVATION, BANK BARN                 |
| 13 OF 24 | VIEW SOUTHEAST LOOKING AT NORTHWEST ELEVATION AND STONE SILO, DAIRY BARN |
| 14 OF 24 | VIEW SOUTHWEST LOOKING AT NORTHEAST AND NORTHWEST ELEVATIONS, DAIRY BARN |
| 15 OF 24 | VIEW NORTHEAST LOOKING AT SOUTHWEST ELEVATIONS, DAIRY BARN AND DAIRY     |

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS  
McMurry Farmstead  
F-8-31  
Page 2

- 16 OF 24 VIEW SOUTHEAST LOOKING AT NORTHWEST AND SOUTHWEST ELEVATIONS, DAIRY BARN
- 17 OF 24 VIEW SOUTHEAST LOOKING AT NORTHWEST ELEVATION, DAIRY BARN
- 18 OF 24 VIEW NORTHWEST LOOKING AT SOUTHEAST ELEVATION, DAIRY BARN
- 19 OF 24 DETAIL, INTERIOR MAIN FLOOR DAIRY BARN LOOKING SOUTHWEST
- 20 OF 24 DETAIL, INTERIOR DAIRY BARN LOFT LOOKING SOUTHWEST
- 21 OF 24 VIEW WEST LOOKING AT EAST ELEVATIONS, ICE HOUSE & DAIRY
- 22 OF 24 VIEW EAST LOOKING AT WEST ELEVATIONS, DAIRY & ICE HOUSE
- 23 OF 24 VIEW SOUTH LOOKING AT NORTH ELEVATION, DAIRY
- 24 OF 24 VIEW NORTH LOOKING AT SOUTH ELEVATION, ICE HOUSE



1-1  
F-8-31

McMurry House

1 of 24



J-B

F-8-31

McMurry House

2 of 24



1-C

F-8-31

McMurry House

3 of 24



1-D  
F-8-31

Mc Murry House

4 of 24



F-8-31

Mc Murry House

5 of 24



F-8-31

McMurry House

6 of 24



2-A

F-8-31

Mc Murry House

7 of 24



2-13

F-8-31

Mc Murry House

8 of 24



5-2

F-8-31

McMurry House

9 of 24



F-8-31

Mc Murry House

10 of 24



F-8-31

Mc Murry House

11 of 24



2-F  
F-8-31

McMurry House

12 of 24



3-X  
F. 8-31

Mc Murry House

13 of 24



B-AB

F-8-31

McMurry House

14 of 24



F-8-31

McMurry House

15 of 24



3-15-77  
F-8-31

Mc Murry House

16 of 24



3-1

F-8-31

Mc Murry House

17 of 24



B-F

F-8-31

Mc Murry House

18 of 24



m-6

F-8-31

Mc Murry House

19 of 24



5-H

F-8-31  
McMurry House

20 of 24



F-8-31

McMurry House

21 of 24



F-8-31

Mc Murry House

22 of 24



m  
n

F-8-31

Mc Murry Farm

23 of 24



F-8-31

McCurry House

24 of 24

F-8-31  
McMurray House  
Gas House Pike  
Private

1780's  
1860's

The McMurray House, a three story brick, stone, and frame residence was built in various stages. The southern wing constructed of stone covered with novelty siding was built in the eighteenth century and remodeled in the nineteenth century. The center section was next built featuring a two story open porch. The porch is supported by plain wooden columns with plain railing on the second story level. A third story dormer window located in the center section or addition was added at the building of the principal facade brick addition.

The brick facade, forming the northern wing of the structure, was built in the 1860's. The principal facade is five bays wide. Occupying the third bay is a six panel wooden door set in a recessed panelled doorway. The doorway is crowned by a six light transom. Framing the door are two light side lights and Doric columns, one on either side of the door. Occupying the remaining bays are original 6/6 nailed windows. A third story row of pedimented dormers with 6/6 windows complete the facade. A two story open plantation style porch spans the brick facade. It is supported by plain wooden columns with plain brackets. Both porches feature plain boxed cornices. A row of drop pendants line the second floor level of the first floor boxed cornice. A stepped brick cornice is partially obscured by the porch, directly below the standing seam tin roof which covers the entire structure.

Brick chimneys rise from the structure; two from the brick addition, on the east and west gable ends and two from the original southern wing and center addition. The structure rests on a stone rubble foundation.

Found on the property are a number of distinctive stone outbuildings. Two stone sheds to the west of the house are constructed of quarried stone and feature 9/6 pegged windows and board-and-batten doors. A distinctive English style stone silo is unique to the Gas House Pike area and to the county.

The McMurray House lies on a tract of land called Richlands, part of the plantation, Addison's Choice. The land originally obtained by Thomas Addison in 1724 from the Lords Baltimore, has been in continual agricultural use for over two hundred and fifty years.<sup>1</sup> The original sections of the house were built in the late eighteenth century. The property was in the ownership of the heirs of Thomas Addison at this time. Joseph Schell, the owner of the property from 1843 until 1883 was the builder of the imposing brick facade addition in the 1860's.<sup>2</sup> The property is significant agriculturally and architecturally to the Gas House Pike area.

<sup>1</sup>Frederick County Land Records, Liber P.L. 7; Folio 192.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., Liber H.S. 20; Folio 201.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC McMurray House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Gas House Pike

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Frederick

**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
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. Samuel Rosenstock

Telephone #: 663-6170

STREET & NUMBER

303 West 2nd St.

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21701

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #: 1044

Folio #: 872

STREET & NUMBER

North Court St.

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

4-8-31

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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

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

The McMurray House, a three story brick, stone, and frame residence, faces north from the south side of Gas House Pike.

The farmhouse like many homes in the vicinity, was built in sections. The oldest sections of the house are found in the rear, the southern most wings. The original sections of the structure were built of stone in the late eighteenth century and covered with novelty siding in the nineteenth century. The northern wing, the commanding brick facade, was built in the 1860's.

The principal facade is five bays wide. Occupying the third bay is the main entrance. It consists of a six panel wooden door set in a recessed panelled doorway. The door is crowned by a six light transom. Framing the door are found two light side lights and Doric columns, one on either side of the door. Occupying the remaining bays are 6/6 original nailed windows. There is evidence of wooden shutters which once framed the windows but are now missing. Plain wooden lintels crown both the windows and the main entrance. The third story features a row of pedimented dormers with 6/6 original windows.

A two story open porch spans the principal facade. It is supported on both floors by plain wooden columns decorated by plain brackets. An arched design railing frames the columns on the second floor. A row of drop pendants is suspended from the second story floor to the cornice line of the porch below. Both porches feature plain boxed cornices.

The entire north wing is laid in common bond brick with a row of headers every six rows of brick on the facade and side. The structure is covered by a standing seam tin roof. Beneath the roof is a stepped brick cornice partially hidden by the porch cornice. Two brick chimneys rise from the structure, one from the east and west gable ends. A one story asbestos shingle addition extends from the east side of the structure. The entire structure rests on a stone rubble foundation.

The original section, the southern wing of the structure, is constructed of stone covered with novelty siding. From the southeast elevation the structure is five bays wide. Occupying the second, fourth, and fifth bays of the first floor are entrances. The main entrance is located in the fifth bay. It consists of a double door set in a recessed doorway. It is crowned by a double light transom. A two story open porch spans the center section of the structure. It is supported by plain wooden columns framed by plain wood railing on the second story.

The entire structure is covered by a standing seam tin roof. A row of cast iron snow stops line the roof of the southern wing. A dormer window, a later addition, is found on the third floor of the center section of the structure. Two brick chimneys rise from the original section of the house; one from the southern gable end and one from the center of the middle addition.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 McMurray House, a three story brick, stone and frame residence was built in three stages. The original section was built in the late eighteenth century. The property was owned at this time by the heirs of Thomas Addison, the original owner of the plantation Addison's Choice; a three thousand acre tract of land acquired in 1724 from the Lords Baltimore.<sup>1</sup>

The second prominent owner of the property was Captain William Campbell, a Revolutionary War hero who acquired the property from Thomas and Baker Johnson, executors for the estate of Joseph Sim in 1794.<sup>2</sup> Captain Campbell retained the property until his death in 1821. At this time his will recorded an inventory of over fourteen hundred acres, manor house, and over forty slaves.<sup>3</sup>

The land was next acquired by Joseph Schell in 1843.<sup>4</sup> The property remained in the Schell family until 1883. The imposing brick facade was built by Joseph Schell in the 1860's.

The McMurray House is significant both architecturally and agriculturally. The land tract on which the house is situated is part of the Richlands tract, part of the original Addison's Choice plantation. As such it has been in continual agricultural use for over two hundred and fifty years. Architecturally the house is significant due to its eighteenth century origins and imposing nineteenth century additions. The distinctive stone outbuildings are unique to the area. The stone silo, English in design is a particularly unique feature to the heritage of German architecture in the Frederick County area.

<sup>1</sup>Frederick County Land Records, Liber P.L. 7; Folio 192.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., Liber W.R. 12; Folio 173.

<sup>3</sup>Record of Wills, Frederick County Courthouse, Liber W.S. 2; Folio 506.

<sup>4</sup>Frederick County Land Records, Liber H.S. 20; Folio 201.

F-8-31

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Frederick County Land Records.  
Frederick County Record of Wills.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 312 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	Deborah Sheetenhelm, Intern	clh
ORGANIZATION	Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation	DATE 8/6/79
STREET & NUMBER	12 East Church St., Winchester Hall	TELEPHONE 694-1063
CITY OR TOWN	Frederick	STATE Maryland

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

## DESCRIPTION

F-8-31

The McMurray House (continued)

The McMurray House features a number of distinctive outbuildings in addition to the main structure. A row of small stone outbuildings lie to the west of the residence. The stone outbuildings are constructed of quarried stone. The entrance to each buildings is a board-and-batten door. A distinctive feature of the northern outbuilding are the 9/6 pegged original windows taken perhaps from an earlier structure. The asbestos tiled roof is a replacement of an earlier roof.

A second distinctive structure located on the property is a stone silo. The silo is unique in design to the area. It is English in design resembling a medieval tower or keep. It is partially covered by a tin roof.

The McMurray House is approached down a long entrance lane which affords an excellent view of the structure on the left, and an obstructed view of the Monocacy River on the right hand side.

---

4-8-31



5662 IV NW  
(FREDERICK)

4367

4366

25'

4365

4364

570,000  
FEET

MILL

Old Quarry

Addison

POTOMAC RIVER

Frederick Wastewater Treatment Plant

Linganore

Frederick Wastewater Plant

Lynch

Run

ROAD

Frederick Run

FREDERICK, M.D.



F-8-31

McMurray Hse

Stone - northeast elevation  
on building

DES 6/22/79

3/5 East Horse Pike



F-8-31

McMurray

House

North elevation

DES 6/22/79

5/5 East House

Dike



F-8-31

McMurray Ab.

North elevation

DES 6/22/79

3/5 Das Horse  
Dike



F-8-31

McMurray

Hbl.

stone silo

northeast elevation

DES 6/22/79

5/5 Gas House

Dike



F-8-31

McMurray  
Hse

east elevation

DES 6/22/79

3/5 Gas Horse  
Pike