

G-I-A-135
Halfway House
Finzel
Private

House: ca. 1880
Barn: 1890

The location of this dwelling on the National Road midway between Frostburg and Grantsville gave this site its nickname "Halfway House." It is a frame, two story, T-plan building with a cross gable roof, typical of many rural dwellings in the area dating from the late nineteenth century. This building is a good example of this house type since it retains its original weatherboard siding, fishscale shingle trim, and ornate window surrounds. It is situated on a farm that also includes an 1890 frame bank barn and several late nineteenth to early twentieth century outbuildings.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Halfway House

AND/OR COMMON

James O. Meese House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

US Route 40-N side, 1.1 miles east of Green Lantern Road

CITY, TOWN

Finzel

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Garrett County

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

James O. Meese

Telephone #: (301) 689-3831

STREET & NUMBER

Box 27. National H ghway

CITY, TOWN

Frostburg

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21532

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #: 260
Folio #: 563

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland 21550

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Halfway House is a frame, two story, T-plan building with a cross gable roof. It is situated on a farm, that also includes an 1890 frame bank barn and several late nineteenth to early twentieth century outbuildings.

The house rests on a coursed, roughly squared stone foundation and measures three bays wide by one bay deep with a two bay by one bay rear wing. Its facade has a symmetrical three bay center door arrangement with a central cross gable and a remodeled hip-roofed porch that shelters the three bays but does not extend the full length of the facade. A shed-roofed porch supported by turned posts shelters the rear of the main block and continues around to the east side of the rear wing, terminating in a small enclosure. All first and second windows are 1/1 sash; additionally, each of the three gables in the main block is pierced by a small rectangular window. The transom topped facade door and all of the windows are trimmed with plain board surrounds and ornate cornices that consist of a heavy molding and a scalloped border supported by two small scroll brackets. The louvered shutters flanking each window are a recent addition. Weatherboard with cornerboards sheathes the exterior walls on all surfaces except the facade cross gable which is covered with fishscale shingles. Large diamond-shaped asphalt shingles cover the roof. A box cornice with partial gable end returns and a plain board frieze surrounds the eaves on the main block; the rafter ends on the rear wing are enclosed without being boxed. The house has two interior brick chimneys: one on the ridgeline of the rear wing, and the other on the north side of the ridgeline on the main block. Alterations to the building include the installation of a picture window on the first floor western bay of the facade and a set of sliding glass doors on the east elevation of the rear wing.

The barn, which is located on the south side of U. S. Route 40, has a datestone set in the northeast side of its stone foundation that reads: T. H. L. 1890, June 3. The hewn sills are half-lapped at the corners and its circular sawn frame is mortise and tenoned together. Asphalt siding over the original vertical board sheathing alters the barn's appearance, as does the glazed brick silo that was added to the northeast elevation.

Two frame machine sheds sit on the south side of U. S. Route 40 across from the house. Three small frame outbuildings are located behind the house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" 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 House: ca. 1880
 Barn: 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The location of this dwelling on the National road midway between Frostburg and Grantsville gave this site its nickname "Halfway House." The deed actually refers to the building as "Halfway House," it being previously owned by George Layman who bought the property in 1877.¹ In his History of Western Maryland, J. Thomas Scharf mentions "Layman's Half-way House" as a point of reference in describing the area.² By virtue of its location on this heavily traveled road, Halfway House seems to have become a landmark.

Thomas H. Layman acquired the property from his father in 1886. They are most likely his initials on the barn datestone since he owned the land in 1890.

The house itself is representative of the type of dwelling that was most popular in Garrett County from the late nineteenth through early twentieth centuries. The majority of houses built in rural areas during this period follow this two story, three bay by one bay form with rear wing. This house is a particularly good example because its original siding and trim are still intact.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- ¹ Garrett County Land Records: Deed Book 260, Folio 563: and Deed Book 3, Folio 452.
 - ² Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western MD, (1882 reprint, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968), p. 1532
 - ³ Garrett County Land Records: Deed Book 11, Folio 674.
- CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Valerie Cesna, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

1981

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

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.

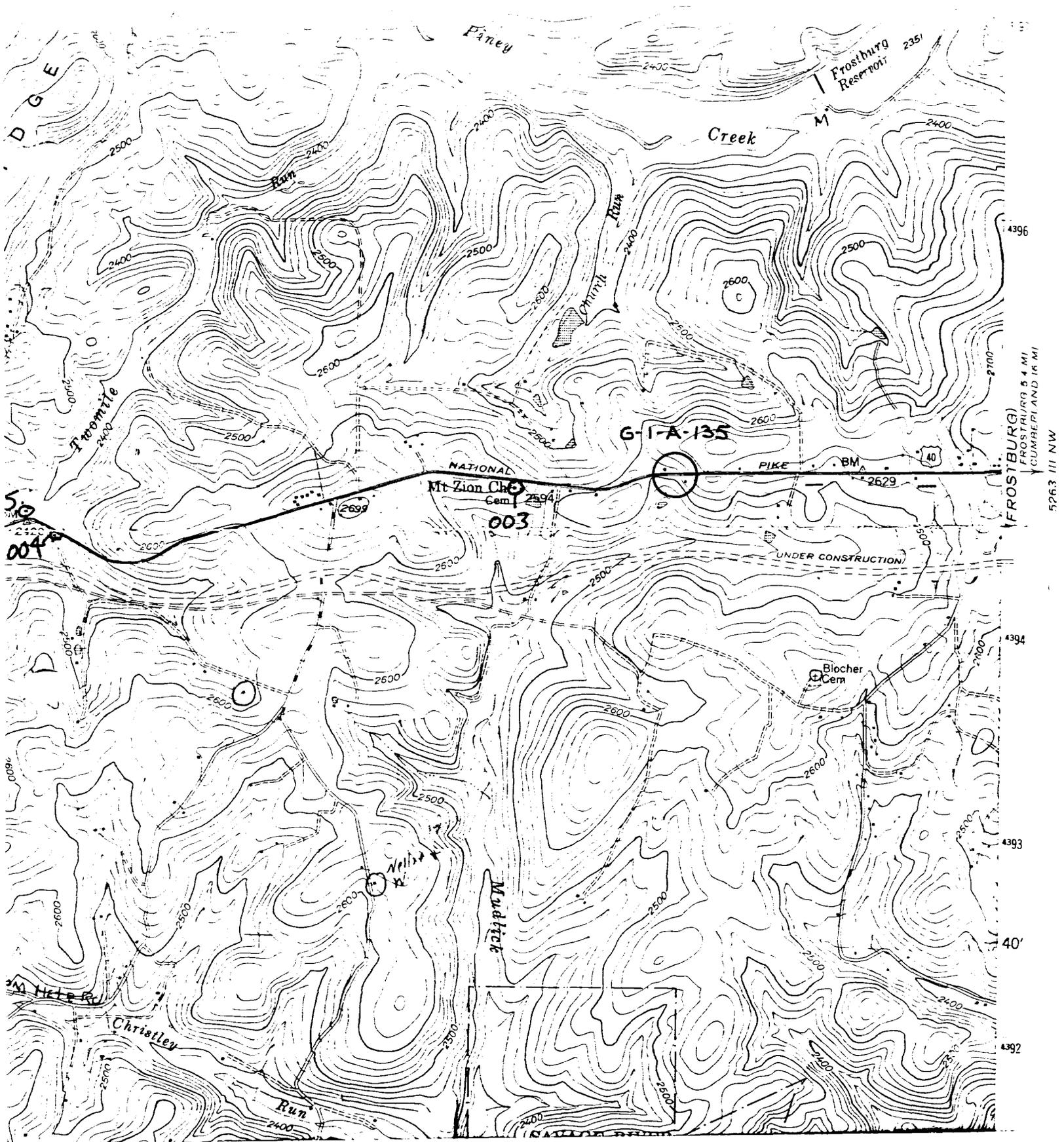
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Chain of Title

G-I-A-135

"Halfway House" Layman

260/563	Grantor: Ora E. Layman widow
11/3/1964	Grantee: James O. & Marjorie K. Meese
	Note: "Halfway House" late George Layman 100 acres more or less.
117/214	Grantor: Odell P. Layman
1/26/1938	Grantee: Winfield Scott and Ora E. Layman
	Note: 100 acres + Farm animals and machinery
62/1	Grantor: Thomas H. & Elizabeth Layman
1/24/1911	Grantee: Winfield Scott Layman
	Note: 100 acres, more or less
11/674	Grantor: George L. Layman & Elloi Layman
5/1/1886	Grantee: Thomas H. Layman
3/452	Grantor: William R. Getty
6/19/1877	Grantee: George & Eloi Layman
	Grantor: Thomas Graham
1/12/1864	Grantee: William R. Getty (Allegany County)



Avilton, MD-PA
 USGS 7.5 Minute Series
 Scale 1:24,000
 1947; photorevised 1974

Site #: G-I-A-135
 Halfway House
 US Route 40 - N side, 1.1 miles
 E of Green Lantern Road.



G-1-A-135

Halfway House

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 6/15/81

Facade: S elevation



G-I-A-135

Halfway House

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 6/15/81

Rear: E & N elevations