G-I-A-165
Orville Stark Farm

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 02-04-2016
The Orville Stark Farm is an agricultural complex located on the south and west sides of Avilton-Lonaconing Road, approximately one-quarter mile east of Pea Ridge Road. The farm is comprised of a total of eight structures, including a circa 1922 dwelling, springhouse, barn, and milk house, a circa-1960 machine shed, a circa-1990 shed, and two circa-2000 metal sheds. The dwelling and earlier outbuildings were constructed by Orville and Mary Warrick Stark circa 1922.

Dwelling (Circa 1922)
The dwelling is a two-story wood-frame American Foursquare house constructed circa 1922 on a cut stone foundation that is partially exposed on the southeast and southwest elevations. The house is clad in vinyl siding and capped with an asphalt shingle hipped roof featuring hipped roof dormers on the façade (northeast) and northwest elevation. An exterior brick chimney is located on the southwest elevation. The façade features a one-story full-width porch that wraps around along the northwest elevation. The porch is covered with a hipped roof supported by tapered square columns and is partially enclosed on the northwest elevation.

Fenestration consists of paired and single twelve-over-twelve, nine-over-nine, eight-over-eight, and six-over-six double-hung vinyl sash replacement windows. The dwelling stands in good condition.
Springhouse (Circa 1922)
Immediately to the southwest of the dwelling stands a circa-1922 one-story wood-frame springhouse constructed upon a concrete block foundation. The structure is clad in weatherboard, and capped with a corrugated metal front gable roof featuring exposed rafter tails. The northeast elevation features a roof overhang enclosed on the sides by vertical wood boards and a batten door. The springhouse stands in good to fair condition.

Barn (Circa 1922)
A large two-and-a-half-story wood-frame barn stands to the northeast of the dwelling near Avilton-Lonaconing Road. The circa-1922 barn is constructed upon a cut stone or concrete block foundation, clad on the lower level with standing-seam metal and on the upper levels with vertical wood boards, and capped with a gable roof covered in tar paper. Fenestration consists of several modern fixed windows in the lower level, as well as a three-pane fixed window in the upper level of northeast elevation. The northwest elevation also features evidence of several alterations to the barn, such as new bay doors and boarded rectangular window openings. Two silos are appended to the southwest elevation of the barn.

Milk House (Circa 1922)
A one-story glazed tile brick milk house stands on the southeast side of the barn. The milk house is capped with a corrugated metal gable roof and features weatherboard and faux brick asphalt siding in the gables. An exterior corbeled brick chimney is located on the southwest elevation. Fenestration consists of one-over-one double-hung metal windows.

Machine Shed (Circa 1960)
To the south of the dwelling stands a one-story circa-1960 machine shed clad in standing-seam metal and capped with a corrugated metal front gable roof. The façade features wood panel folding garage doors with six-pane windows in each panel, and faux brick asphalt siding in the gable.

Several modern buildings are also located on the property, including a circa-1990 shed to the south of the dwelling clad in standing seam metal and capped with a gambrel roof; two circa-2000 metal sheds to the east of the dwelling, and circa-1990 secondary dwelling to the east.

History and Significance
The first Europeans began to arrive in the area around Avilton, Maryland in the mid-eighteenth century. There is little record of those who settled in the area first, as they did not file patents or commission surveys, but built cabins and cleared small portions of land. However, after the Revolutionary War development in the area greatly expanded. The forests that covered the mountains were slowly but surely cleared. Pine forests largely made up the land between Savage and Negro Mountains, with a few other varieties like spruce and hemlock intermixed (Brown 1896:54). These large wood-covered miles attracted many hunters to the area, including Meshach Browning, who wrote a book about the many years he spent living as a pioneer in the area around Avilton and directly west. Hunters like Browning who populated the area used the National Road, which was constructed through the area in the early nineteenth century, to get their hides and meats back to eastern markets (Browning 1942:195). While the hunters settled early, it was not long before additional lots were readied for settlement. Many of the earliest lots in the area were surveyed for veterans of the Revolutionary War. Some of these lots went to men like Thomas Johnson, who eventually became Governor of Maryland. There were also land speculators who made their mark on the area, including men like Brooke Beall and William Deakins (Rowland 2009:39).

The earliest land records of the area typically consist of people with large tracts of land selling those tracts to other speculators.
But, starting in the mid-1800s that began to change, as smaller portions of land were sold off, and more and more farms were raised in the valleys between the mountains. As land was freshly cleared, many farmers from east of the Appalachians began to plant tobacco. However, they learned quickly that the soil was made too poor by tobacco farming in this area (Brown 1896:300). The settlement that would later become Avilton was originally known as "The McKenzie Settlement" for the many numbers of Scottish immigrants, particularly McKenzies, who settled there. The early farmers of this area grew primarily wheat, rye, oats and potatoes. A partial listing of the founding families of this area was included in Garrett County: A History of Maryland's Tableland and includes: Garlitz, Blocher, Wilhelm, Broadwater, Miller, Crowe and Merrill among others. By 1885, the area was known as Avilton, and a post office was opened under that name (Schlosnagle 1978:65).

In the second half of the nineteenth century, railroads made their way through Garrett County, connecting the area like never before. As the railroads arrived, the many pine forests that surrounded area farms were looked at with a new sense of their value. While they had been used as a source of building materials for years, the forests were now logged and the timber was shipped to larger markets on the railroad. On Savage Mountain, it was the Juniata Lumber Company that took advantage of the fine timber of the area (Brown 1896:264,275). Increasingly, the agricultural area was dotted throughout by people who worked in the industry. As Jacob Brown described the area "she grew from a county of crude backwoods settlements and small self-sufficient farms to a county of coal towns, timber towns, resort towns, trade towns, and increasingly fertile fields and meadows (Brown 1896:304)."

While the area was still largely rural, times were slowly changing.

By the first half of the twentieth century, more and more people were working both on their farms and in various industries. By the 1940 Census, many household heads were listed as working in mining or timbering, while it is also indicated that many continued to pursue agriculture (Ancestry.com). While they produced goods for local markets, the demands of an increasingly connected society drew more and more residents off their farms. The effects of the great depression were also seen in the 1940 Census of the area, with many people listed as road builders or general laborers who were employed in emergency government work (Ancestry.com). After World War II, some farms began to not be used for agriculture. This has led to the decline of some of the properties, and the destruction of others. Many families, descendants of the original settlers at McKenzie Settlement, continue to use the fields around Avilton to raise cows and some grains, continuing some of the traditions that were started so many years ago.

The Orville Stark Farm is located in Lonaconing, an agricultural community in Garrett County, on the southwest side of a bend in Avilton-Lonaconing Road and to the east of Pea Ridge Road. The property is made up of two parcels: Parcel 1 contains approximately 200 acres of land from a tract known as "Walnut Hills;" Parcel 2 contains approximately 15 acres. It is unclear based on the property descriptions in the deed references which parcel the extant structures are located on, but according to oral history information gathered during the 1981 survey of the Orville Stark Farm, the dwelling and several outbuildings were constructed in 1922 by Orville Stark, and therefore located on Parcel 1.

The earliest deed reference for Parcel 1 is in February 1863, when Daniel and Sarah Blocher sold approximately 223 acres of the "Walnut Hills" tract to Hanson and Elizabeth Blocher Brown (Allegany County Deed Book 20:706). According to the mortgage deed, the property consisted of a house and springhouse at that time, and there was also a schoolhouse on the property. In December 1863, the property was conveyed solely to Elizabeth Brown (Allegany County Deed Book 20:415). According to the obituary for his son, Samuel, Hanson Brown died sometime between 1880 and 1891 (The Republican 13 March 1891).

In 1893, Elizabeth Brown conveyed 15 acres of the property (Parcel 2) to Stephen and Louvenia Broadwater (Garrett County Deed Book 22: 491; 56:563). Stephen and Louvenia Broadwater sold the 15-acre property back to Elizabeth Brown in 1899 (Garrett County Deed Book 38:114). Elizabeth Brown died in 1901 (Find a Grave 2009a). In 1902, Hanson and Elizabeth's daughter, Keziah, and her husband Simon Hamilton, a coal miner, purchased the 200-acre property (Garrett County Deed Book 40:415). It is unlikely that Simon and Keziah Hamilton ever resided on the property however, as the 1900 and 1910 United States Census lists...
them as residing in Somerset County, Pennsylvania (United States Census Bureau 1900; 1910). In April 1908, Simon and Keziah Hamilton conveyed the 200-acre property to William Frederick Custer, a farm laborer (Garrett County Deed Book 56:562). In July 1908, George B. Brown, the youngest son of Hanson and Elizabeth Brown, purchased the 15-acre Parcel 2 property from the Elizabeth Brown estate (Garrett County Deed Book 66:44).

In the 1910 United States Census, George B. Brown and William F. Custer are listed together, George’s brother Henry is listed as a boarder in William Custer’s household, and all three are listed as farmers (United States Census Bureau 1910). In 1911, William F. Custer sold the 200-acre property to Orville Grafton and Mary Etta Stark (Garrett County Deed Book 62:19). According to oral history information gathered during the 1981 survey of the property, Orville G. Stark constructed the dwelling, springhouse, milk house, and barn in about 1922, and continued to farm on the property until 1949, when he and his wife conveyed the property to his son Ira Monn Stark (Garrett County Deed Book 154: 369). In 1955, Orville and Mary Stark purchased the 15-acre Parcel 2 from the George B. Brown estate (Garrett County Deed Book 190: 322). Mary E. Stark died in 1959, and Orville remarried a woman named Ethel soon after (Find a Grave 2009b). In 1963, Orville and Ethel Stark conveyed Parcel 2 to Ira Monn Stark (Garrett County Deed Book 252: 437). Orville Stark died in 1967, and Ethel Stark died in 1977 (Social Security Administration 2011). According to his obituary, Ira Monn Stark was a farmer and U.S. Navy veteran who served in the Pacific Theater during World War II (The Republican 9 February 2004). Ira Monn Stark owned the entire Orville G. Stark Farm property until 1995, when he sold it to his son Ray E. Stark (Garrett County Deed Book 653: 693). Ira Monn Stark died in 2004 (The Republican 9 February 2004).

NRHP Evaluation

No information could be located that connects the Orville G. Stark Farm to significant events or themes in local, state, or national history. While a circa 1922 dwelling and a handful of associated agricultural buildings are extant, they currently stand in an altered or deteriorated state. Several modern buildings have also been constructed on the property as well. As such, the property no longer reflects the agricultural practices that historically took place on the farm, and is therefore recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. The dwelling and extant agricultural structures are associated with Orville G. Stark, who likely constructed the buildings circa 1922. Local historical and genealogical sources provide no information related to Orville G. Stark or any other individuals associated with the property, and there is no evidence that any individuals associated with the property were significant in local, state, or national history. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion B. The Orville G. Stark Farm stands as a common and altered example of rural vernacular architecture in western Maryland in the early twentieth-century, and several better preserved examples exist in the region. The dwelling has undergone several changes, including the installation of vinyl siding and vinyl replacement windows, and the barn has been altered with the installation of modern windows as well. In addition, several modern structures have been built on the property, including a number of circa-1990 and circa-2000 metal buildings, and a circa-1990 secondary dwelling. Therefore, the Orville G. Stark Farm is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion C. Eligibility under Criterion D cannot be determined as the resource has not undergone archaeological testing.

References

Allegany County Land Records

Brown, Jacob
1896 Brown’s Miscellaneous Writings Upon a Great Variety of Subjects. J. J. Miller: Cumberland, MD.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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<th>Eligibility recommended</th>
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MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services [Date]

Reviewer, National Register Program [Date]
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

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Page 5

Browning, Meshach
1942 44 Years of the Life of a Hunter. Winston Printing Company: Winston-Salem, NC.

Find a Grave

Garrett County Land Records

H., W. A.
1935 Map of Military Lots, Tracts, Escheats, &c. in Garrett County, MD and Allegany County, MD. West of Cumberland: Prepared Under Act of 1874 Chapter 322 &c.

Rowland, Tim
2009 Maryland's Appalachian Highlands. History Press: Charleston, SC.

Schlosnagle, Stephen and the Garrett County Bicentennial Committee

Social Security Administration

The Republican

United States Census Bureau

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

Orville Stark Farm
6247 Pea Ridge Road
Avilton, Garrett County
Previously Recorded Resources within Indirect APE – Fourmile Wind Energy Project
Garrett County, Maryland

Epson Premium Glossy Paper/Epson UltraChrome pigmented inks

G-I-A-0165_2013-06-23_01 – Main dwelling, northeast façade, facing southwest
G-I-A-0165_2013-08-23_02 – Main dwelling, northeast and southeast facades, facing west
G-I-A-0165_2013-08-23_03 – Garage and shed, facing southwest
G-I-A-0165_2013-08-23_04 – Springhouse, facing northwest
G-I-A-0165_2013-08-23_05 – Main dwelling, southwest façade, facing northeast
G-I-A-0165_2013-08-23_06 – Springhouse, facing southwest
G-I-A-0165_2013-08-23_07 – Main dwelling, northwest façade, facing southeast
G-I-A-0165_2013-08-23_08 – Barn and silos, facing northeast
G-I-A-0165_2013-08-23_09 – Modern warehouse, facing southeast
G-I-A-0165_2013-08-23_11 – Barn, facing southwest
G-I-A-0165_2013-08-23_12 – Shed, facing southwest
G-I-A-0165_2013-08-23_13 – Modern dwelling, facing southeast
G-1-A-165
Orville Stark Farm
Garrett County, Maryland
Liz Williams
8-23-13
MD SHPO
Main dwelling, northeast facade, facing southwest
1/14
Orville Stark Farm
Garrett County, Maryland
Liz Williams
9-23-13
MD SHPO
Main dwelling, northeast and southeast facades, facing west
2/14
Orville Stark Farm
Garrett County, Maryland
Liz Williams
8-23-13
MD State Police
Garage and shed, facing southwest
3/14
GR-1-4-165
Orville Stark Farm
Garrett County, Maryland
Liz Williams
8-23-13
MD SHPD
Springhouse, facing northwest
4/14
G-1-A-165
Orville Stark Farm
Garrett County, Maryland
Liz Williams
8-23-13
MD SHPD
Main dwelling, Southwest facade, facing northeast
5/14
Orville Stark Farm
Garrett County, Maryland
Liz Williams
8-23-13
MD SHPO
Springhouse, facing southwest
6/1/14
Orville Stark Farm
Garrett County, Maryland
Liz Williams
8-23-13
MD SHPD
Main dwelling, northwest facade, facing southeast
7/14
G-1-A- 165
Orville Stark Farm
Garrett County, Maryland
Liz Williams
8-25-13
MD SHPO
Barn and silos, facing northeast
8/14
G-1-A - 165
Orville Stark Farm
Garrett County, Maryland
Liz Williams
8-23-13
MD SHPO
Modern warehouse, facing Southeast
9/14
Orville Stack Farm
Garrett County, Maryland
Liz Williams
8-23-13
MD SHPO
Modern garage, facing Southeast
10/14
G-1-A-165
Orville Stark Farm
Garrett County, Maryland
Liz Williams
8-23-13
MD SHPO
Barn, facing southwest
11/14
G-1-A-165
Orville Startz Farm
Garrett County, Maryland
Liz Williams
8-23-13
MD SHPO
Shed, facing Southwest
12/14
G-1-A-165
Orville Stark Farm
Garrett County, Maryland
Liz Williams
8-23-13
MO SHPO
Modern dwelling, facing Southeast
13/14
G-1-A-165
Orville Stark Farm
Garrett County, Maryland
Liz Williams
11-05-13
MD 74
Overview, facing Southwest
14/14
The Orville Stark frame farmhouse is a two story, three bay by two bay hip roof structure with shed dormers extending from the roof on the facade and rear southwest elevations. The house rests on a rubble and poured concrete foundation. Aluminum siding covers the house with asphalt shingles on the roof.

A barn and milk house are located to the northeast of the house, a garage and springhouse to the southwest and a machine shed to the southeast.

This farm is known as the Stark homeplace; built by Orville Stark and Mary Warnick Stark circa 1922.
INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
HISTORIC AND/OR COMMON
Orville Stark Farm

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
Avilton School Rd., approximately ¼ mile east of Pea Ridge Road
CITY, TOWN Avilton
STATE Maryland

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
DISTRICT □ BUILDING(S) □ STRUCTURE □ SITE □ OBJECT
OWNERSHIP □ PUBLIC □ PRIVATE □ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION □ IN PROGRESS □ BEING CONSIDERED
STATUS □ OCCUPIED □ UNOCCUPIED □ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE □ YES: RESTRICTED □ YES: UNRESTRICTED □ NO
PRESENT USE □ AGRICULTURE □ MUSEUM □ COMMERCIAL □ PARK
□ EDUCATIONAL □ PRIVATE RESIDENCE □ ENTERTAINMENT
□ RELIGIOUS □ GOVERNMENT □ SCIENTIFIC □ INDUSTRIAL
□ TRANSPORTATION □ MILITARY □ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Telephone #: 
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN _ VICINITY OF STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Garrett County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER Third and Alder Streets
CITY, TOWN Oakland
STATE Maryland 21550

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE None
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS 
CITY, TOWN
STATE
This frame farmhouse is situated on a slight slope in a hilly, sem-wooded area on Avilton School Road approximately ½ mile east of Pea Ridge Road. The house faces northeast. It is a two story, three bay by two bay, hip roof structure with shed dormers extending from the roof on the facade and rear southwest elevations. A porch, supported by tapered square wooden posts, runs across the facade, along the northwest elevation and along the rear southwest elevation where there is an enclosure at the far south end. The house is entered centrally from the facade and from the rear porch (which is screened in).

An exterior brick chimney is located at the northwest elevation. One over one sash windows light the house. The cellar is entered at ground level (due to the slope) at the southeast elevation. The house rests on a rubble and poured concrete foundation. Aluminum siding covers the house with asphalt shingles on the roof.

A barn and milk house are located to the northeast of the house, a garage and springhouse to the southwest and a machine shed to the southeast.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY
### SIGNIFICANCE

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

### SPECIFIC DATES
circa 1922

### BUILDER/ARCHITECT
Orville & Mary Stark

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is an example of a common western Maryland type. Houses of this general square configuration in the Neo-rationalistic style were constructed in Garrett County in the early twentieth century. This farm is known as the Stark homeplace; built by Orville Stark and Mary Warnick Stark circa 1922.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY
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
Avilton, MD-PA
USGS 7.5 Minute Series
Scale - 1:24,000
1947; photorevised 1974

Site #: G-I-A-165
Orville Stark Farm
Avilton School Road, approximately ½ mile east of Pea Ridge Road
G-I-A-165
Orville Stark Farm
Garrett Co., MD
Valerie Cesna 7/15/81
Rear, Hs. & Springhs, SW elev.
G-I-A-165
Orville Stark Farm
Garrett Co., MD
Valerie Cesna 7/15/81
Facade - SE & NE elevations