

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: St. John Rock Inventory Number: G-I-B-143
 Address: Frostburg Road Historic district: yes no
 City: Frostburg Zip Code: 21532 County: Garrett
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Frostburg
 Property Owner: State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources Tax Account ID Number: 009817
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0196 Tax Map Number: 0021
 Project: Fourmile Ridge Wind Energy Project Agency: USACE
 Agency Prepared By: GAI Consultants, Inc.
 Preparer's Name: _____ Date Prepared: 12/3/2013
 Documentation is presented in: MIHP form
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
 Name of the District/Property: _____
 Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes Listed: yes
 Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Physical Description

St. John's Rock is a rock outcrop located on the Big Savage Mountain in Garrett County, approximately two miles west of Frostburg, Allegany County. The rocks at the summit are from the Pottsville geologic formation, and rise to 2,904 feet.

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments: *Documentation of recreational use is not sufficient to establish/support significance*

Smith Sage
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

1/14/14

[Signature]
 Reviewer, National Register Program

Date
1/13/14
 Date

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 Tangleland 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.

St. John's Rock has historically been a recreational area since the late 19th century, offering visitors picturesque views of the town of Frostburg and surrounding Appalachian Mountains. Many names have been inscribed into the large rocks since the early 1900s, and at least one postcard of the rocks was created at the turn of the century. The area surrounding St. John's Rock is now popular among locals for hunting and for all terrain vehicle trails. St. John's Rock and nearby Sampson's Rock were historically owned by the Borden Mining Company of Frostburg. The company was responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the area. Presently, the area is owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

NRHP Evaluation

While St. John's Rock has historically been a gathering point for local members of the community, and from the community of Frostburg, no evidence could be located that connects St. John's Rock with significant events or themes in local, state, or national history. Thus, it is recommended not eligible for NRHP listing under Criterion A. Local historical and genealogical sources

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW													
Eligibility recommended				Eligibility not recommended									
Criteria:	A	B	C	D	Considerations:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
MHT Comments:													
_____ Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services							_____ Date						
_____ Reviewer, National Register Program							_____ Date						

provide no information relating to any individuals possibly associated with St. John's Rock, and there is no evidence that any individual possibly associated with the resource is significant in local, state, or national history. Therefore, the resource is recommended not eligible under Criterion B. There is no architectural or engineering record on the site, so it is not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C. It is unknown if there is archaeological potential for this property that could qualify it for listing on the NRHP under Criterion D at this time.

References

Allegany County Land Records

Various years Recorder of Deeds. Retrieved from <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

Brown, Jacob

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

Browning, Meshach

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

Garrett County Land Records

Various years Recorder of Deeds. Retrieved from <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

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

1978 Garrett County: A History of Maryland's Tableland. McClain Printing Company: Parsons, WV.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

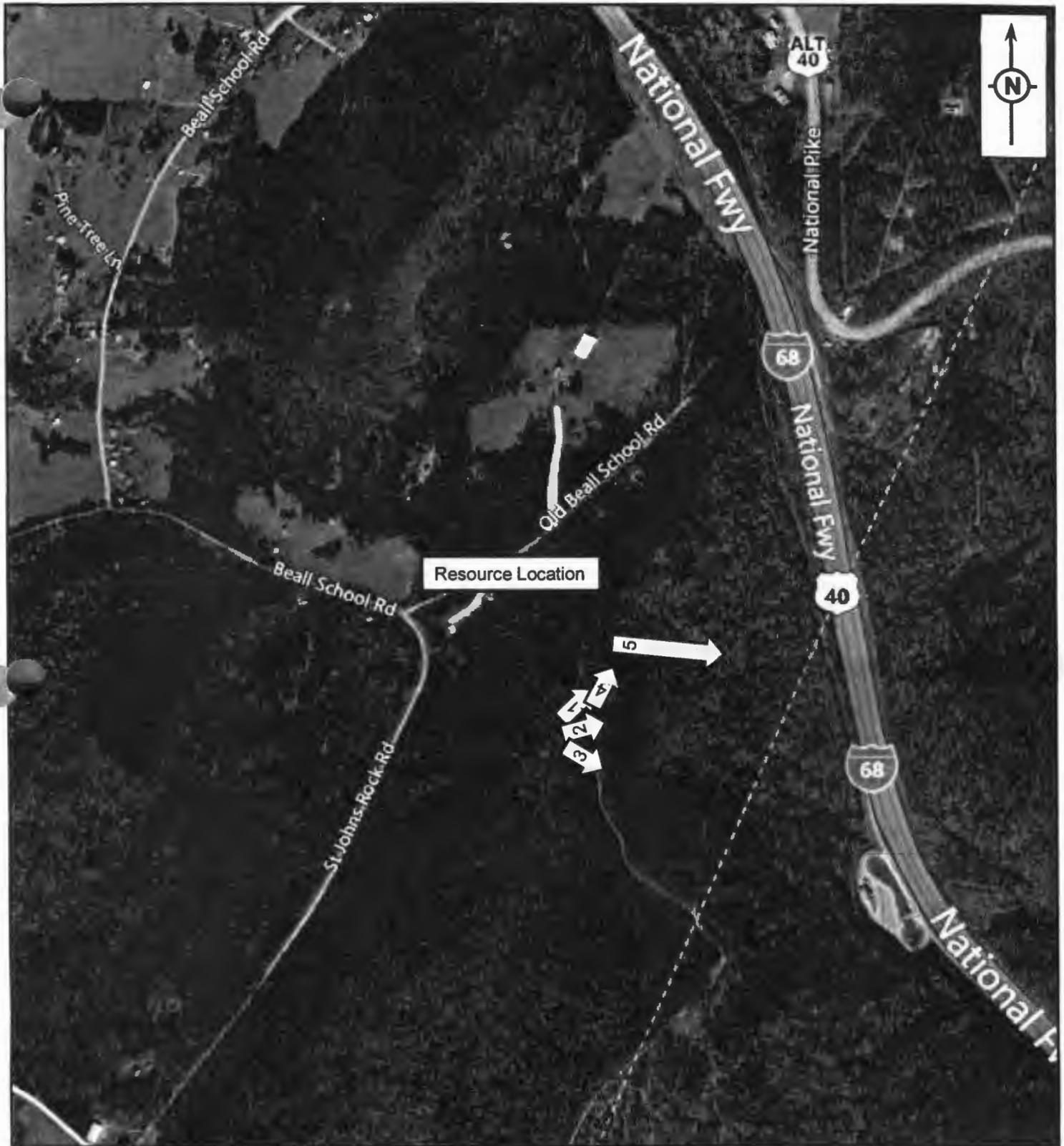
MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date



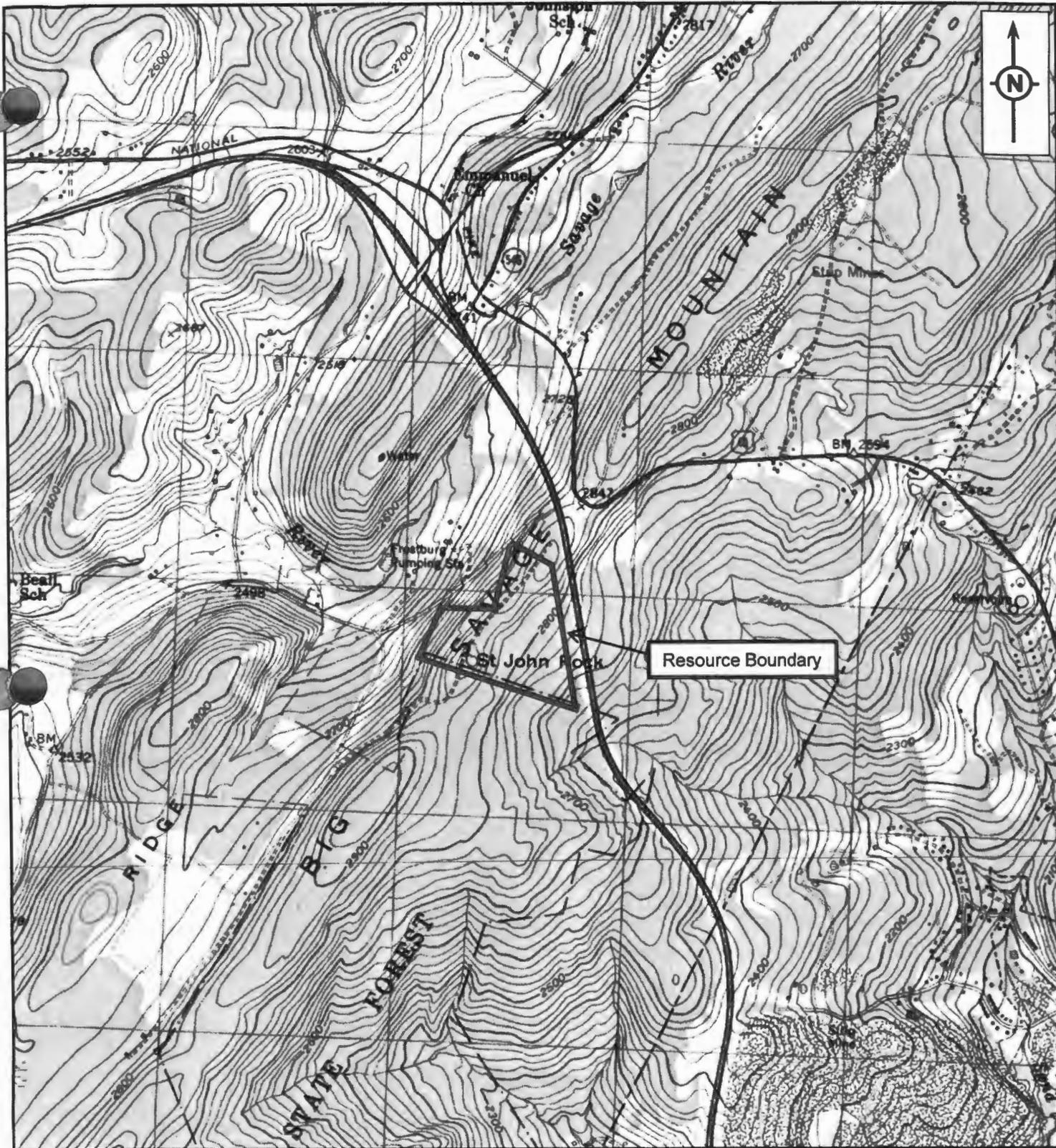
SOURCE: MICROSOFT CORPORATION, 2013.



gai consultants

G-I-B-143
Resource Sketch Map

St. John's Rock
Off of St. John's Rock Road
Frostburg, Garrett County



Resource Boundary

St. John Rock



gai consultants

SOURCE: USGS 7.5 MINUTE FROSTBURG QUADRANGLE MAP (1998).

G-I-B-143

St. John's Rock
Off of St. John's Rock Road
Frostburg, Garrett County

G-I-B-143
St. John's Rock
GAI Consultants, Inc.
Previously Recorded Resources within Indirect APE – Fourmile Wind Energy Project
Garrett County, Maryland
Epson Premium Glossy Paper/Epson UltraChrome pigmented inks

G-I-B-0143_2013-08-22_01 – Looking toward resource, facing northeast

G-I-B-0143_2013-08-22_02 – Resource vicinity, facing northeast

G-I-B-0143_2013-08-22_03 – Looking toward Frostburg, MD south of resource, facing east

G-I-B-0143_2013-11-04_04 - Resource, facing north

G-I-B-0143_2013-11-04_05 – Looking toward Frostburg, MD from resource, facing east



G-1-B-143

St. John's Rock

Garrett County, Maryland

Liz Williams

8-22-13

MD SHPo

Looking toward resource, facing northeast

1/5



G-1-B- 143

St. John's Rock

Garrett County, Maryland

Liz Williams

8-22-13

MD SHPD

Resource vicinity, facing northeast

2/5



G-1-B-143

St. John's Rock

Garrett County, Maryland

Liz Williams

8-22-13

MD SHPO

Looking toward Frostburg, MD south of resource, facing east

3/5



G-1-B-143

St. John's Rock
Garrett County, Maryland

Liz Williams

11-04-13

MD SHPD

Resource, facing north

4/5



G-1-B- 143
St. John's Rock
Garrett County, Maryland
Liz Williams

11-04-13
MD SHPO

Looking toward Frostburg, MD from resource, facing east

5/5

G-I-B-143

St. John Rock
Frostburg
Private

late 19th century

St. John Rock is a natural recreational spot located on Big Savage Mountain, approximately 2 miles west of Frostburg. It is a resistant sandstone outcrop of the Pottsville geologic formation.

It has been a tourist/recreational attraction since the late 19th century because of the scenic vista overlooking Frostburg, Maryland.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI #~~1202715635~~
ML

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY 1202715607

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

St. John Rock

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Off St. John Rock Rd., east side, approx. 1/2 mile S of Rt. 48 on crest of Big Savage

CITY, TOWN

Frostburg

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

Mt

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Borden Mining Company (Henderson, N.C.)

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Paul Nickel (Resident Agent) 157 W. First St.

CITY, TOWN

Frostburg

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21532

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

St. John Rock is a natural recreational spot located on Big Savage Mountain, approximately 2 miles west of Frostburg. It is a resistant sandstone outcrop of the Pottsville geologic formation.

It has been a tourist/recreational attraction since the late 19th century. Several names of visitors and the dates of their visits have been inscribed into the rock.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) <i>Recreation</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES late 19th century

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John Rock is significant as a natural recreational/tourist spot overlooking Frostburg, Maryland. Its popularity dates from the late 19th century when other such spots, such as nearby Dans Rock and Sampsons Rock were popular lookout points.

St. John Rock and Sampsons Rock, located north of St. John Rock on Big Savage Mountain, are owned by the Borden Mining Company. Incorporated in 1846, the company was a major coal producer in the Frostburg vicinity until the 1920s. They still maintain both recreation spots and lease other land holdings for surface coal mining.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Paul Nickel, Resident Agent, Borden Mining Company.

Al Feldstein Postcard Collection.

Lovell, Arthur. Borden Mining Company: A Brief History, Frostburg, MD 1938.

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

Donna Ware, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

September 1981

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

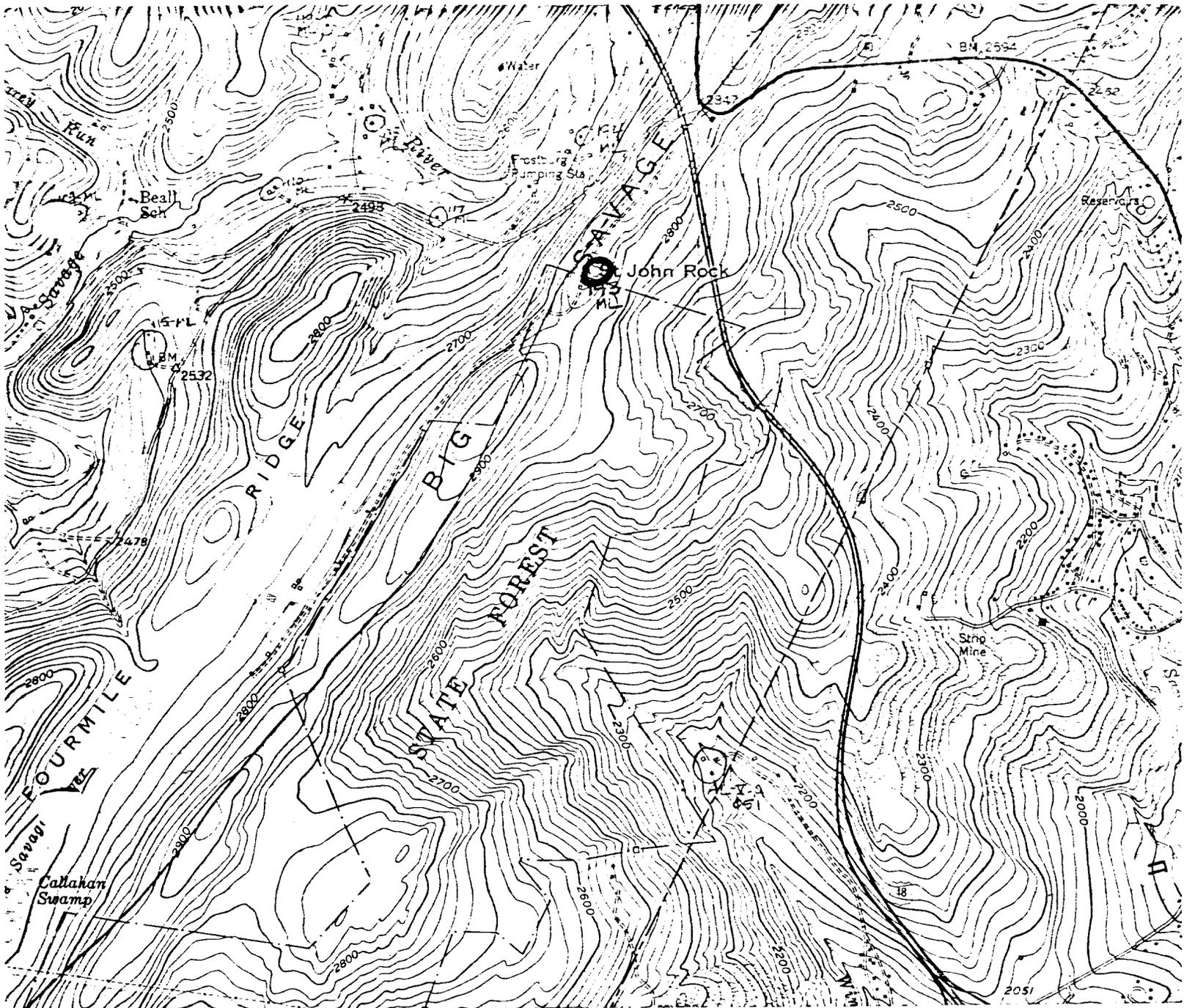
STATE

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



Frostburg, MD-PA
USGS 7.5 Minute Series
Scale 1:24,000
1949; photorevised 1974

G-I-B-143
St. John Rock
Off St. John Rock Road
east side, approx. 1/2 mile
south of Rt. 48 on crest
of Big Savage Mountain



G-I-B-143

St. John Rock

Garrett County, MD

Donna Ware 9/81

Looking N



G-I-B-143

St. John Rock

Garrett County, MD

Donna Ware 9/81

Looking W Detail



No. 15

St. John Rock, Big Savage Mountain, near Frostburg, Md

Photo copyright, 1906,
by E. A. Miller

G-I-B-143
St. John Rock
Garrett County, MD
Donna Ware 9/81
Photocopy of c. 1900

Postcard Al Feldstein Collection

ST. JOHN'S ROCK (ALTITUDE 2930 FEET)



ON THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY AT TOP OF BIG SAVAGE MOUNTAIN, WEST OF FROSTBURG, MD.

103345

G-I-B-143

St. John Rock

Garrett County, MD

Donna Ware 9/81

Photocopy c.1900 Postcard

Postcard Al. Feldstein

Collection