

G-IV-C-168

John Beckman House  
Swanton  
Private

original block ca. 1843

The John Beckman House is a log and frame saddlebag building constructed in three stages. The original block is a circa 1840's two story, three bay by one bay, log structure with a massive exterior stone chimney on its west endwall. A two story, two bay by one bay section was later added to this chimney end, log on the first floor and frame on the second. The last addition was a two story, vertical plank wing that abuts the facade of the log/frame section, and is now mostly deteriorated. The building in its completed stage resembles an ell plan with the wing extending from the facade. Ruins of a stone cave (root cellar) lie approximately 25 feet west of the house. The house is significant as an early dwelling in Garrett County and as a good example of the saddlebag building form.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
 John Beckman House  
 AND/OR COMMON  
 John Beckman House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
 Off MD Route 495 , .6 mi. off of S side, .9 mi. W of Pine Hill Rd.

CITY, TOWN Swanton VICINITY OF  CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6th  
 STATE Maryland COUNTY Garrett County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE <i>vacant</i>
<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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Thomas M. Beckman Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
 VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: 291  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Folio #: 167  
 Garrett County Courthouse  
 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**

<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The John Beckman House is a log and frame saddlebag building constructed in three stages. The original block is a circa 1840's two story, three bay by one bay, log structure with a massive exterior stone chimney on its west endwall. A two story, two bay by one bay section was later added to this chimney end, log on the first floor and frame on the second. The last addition was a two story, vertical plank wing that abuts the facade of the log/frame section, and is now mostly deteriorated. The building in its completed stage resembles an "L" plan with the wing extending from the facade. Ruins of a stone cave (root cellar) lie approximately 25 feet west of the house.

The main block (24½' x 17'), rests on a foundation of dry-laid, dressed stone and is constructed with V-notched logs chinked with a mixture of clay and small stones. The vertical lath and weatherboard siding appear to be a later addition. Its facade (S elevation) is pierced by three evenly spaced bays. Doors occupy the center and eastern bays, while the other openings are for sash windows, some 2/2 and some 1/1. The rear wall (N elevation) has only one opening: a window at the western end of the first floor. Three windows pierce its exposed endwall (E elevation) one on either floor and the third in the attic. The first floor window has been boarded over. The second floor window contains the remains of 6/3 sash window.

A vertical plank partition wall divides the interior of the original block into two rooms of unequal size. The west room, which has the fireplace, is the main living space since it occupies 2/3 of the first floor area. An enclosed staircase is located on the partition wall, rising six treads from the north wall. Its two bottom steps project into the room at right angles to the main staircase. The fireplace is a 3'6" wide by 3'3" high opening in the rough-cut stone chimney. Its lintel is formed by an iron bar topped by a row of bricks. Originally, the stones were exposed and white-washed, but later a wooden surround with two raised panels below its mantel was placed over the stone. The log walls and ceiling joists were originally exposed and white-washed, but they have since been covered with cut lath and plaster. The original baseboards, flat board with a simple bead, were also covered when the room was remodeled. The second floor was inaccessible.

There is a five foot space between the original block and the first addition, the chimney occupying the center third. A passage between the two sections exists on the south side of the chimney, while the space north of the chimney is a storage area with exterior access only.

The first addition (18' x 17') sits on a stone foundation and is constructed with V-notched logs 2/3 of the way up. The second floor is raised in frame from the windowsills to the roofline, and is covered with weatherboard on the exterior and lath and plaster on the interior. The first floor of the interior is a single room with an opening in the ceiling at the northwest corner where the staircase was located. A hearth was opened on this side of the chimney and is framed by the same type of surround that is found on the other fireplace. The walls in this room are covered with vertical board and the whitewashed ceiling joists are covered with tongue and groove board.

**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 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 original block ca. 1843 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The John Beckman House is significant as an early dwelling in Garrett County and as a good example of the saddlebag building form.

Beckman, born in Germany, bought this property from a Mr. Wilson in 1841. It is thought that the house was completed by 1843.<sup>1</sup> The 1860 census of Allegany County lists John Beckman, 59, as a farmer with \$3,000.00 worth of real estate and \$1,481.00 worth of personal estate. At that time his wife Mary, 60, and five children lived in the house.<sup>2</sup>

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

<sup>1</sup>W.W. Price, "Altamont-The Village", The Glades Star, Vol. 2, No. 31, December 1958, p. 486-7.

<sup>2</sup>Allegany County Census, 1860, roll 456, District No. 1, p. 317.

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

January 1982

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

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

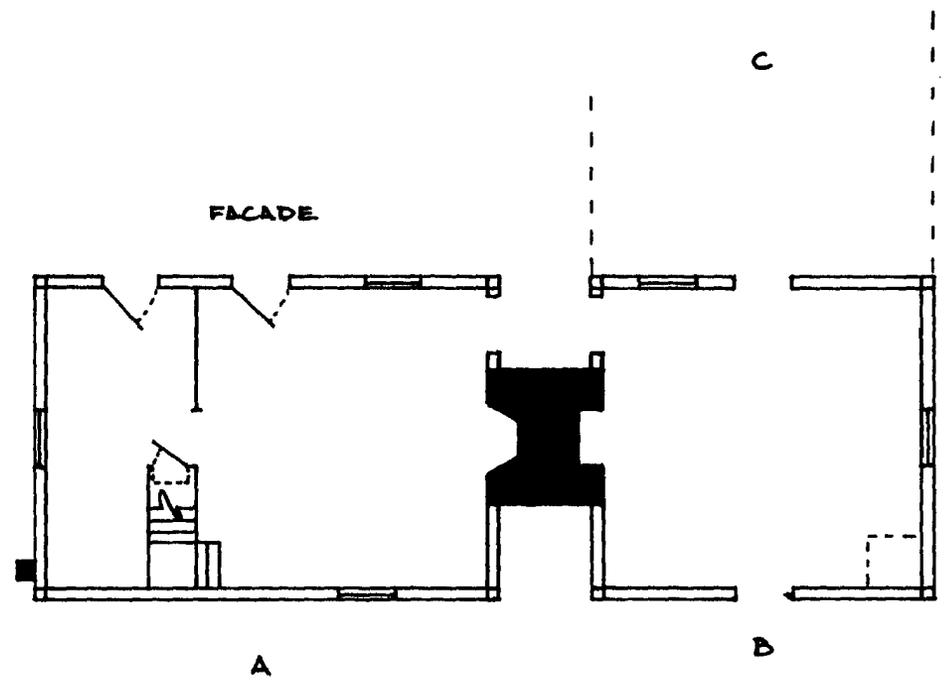
G-IV-C-168

John Beckman House

Continued #7 Description

The size of the second addition is undetermined since most of it has deteriorated. An undated photograph of the building reveals it to have been a two story, shed-roofed wing.

Although there is a seam in the roof between the two main sections, the roofline appears continuous. A plain box cornice finished the eaves of both sections and several layers of tarpaper sheath the roof's surface.



- A- ORIGINAL BLOCK, CA. 1840'S LOG STRUCTURE
- B- 1ST ADDITION, LOG/FRAME STRUCTURE
- C- 2ND ADDITION, VERTICAL PLANK STRUCTURE - DIMENSIONS UNCERTAIN



EXTERIOR WALL LENGTH TO SCALE  
DIVISIONS AND DETAILS NOT TO SCALE

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G-IV-C-168  
JOHN BECKMAN HOUSE  
SWANTON, GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

VALERIE CESNA 1/29/82



Kitzmiller, MD:WV  
 7.5 Minute Series  
 Scale 1:24,000  
 1948; photorevised 1974

G-IV-C-168  
 John Beckman House  
 Off MD Route 495, .6 mile  
 off of S side, .9 mile W  
 of Pine Hill Road



G-IV-C-168

John Beckman House

Garrett County, MD

Valerie Cesna 10-12-81

S & E elevation



G-IV-C-168

John Beckman House

Garrett Co., MD

V. Cesna, 10/12/81

N. elevation

FIGURE 103



G-IV-C-168

John Beckman House

Garrett County, MD

Valerie Cesna 10-12-81

N & W elevation



G-IV-C-168

John Beckman House

Garrett County, MD

Valerie Cesna 10-12-181

*Fireplace: West Wall*