

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes   
no

Property Name: John Roth Farm Inventory Number: G-V-A-016  
 Address: 908 Garrett Highway Historic district:  yes  no  
 City: Oakland Zip Code: 21550 County: Garrett  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Table Rock MD/WV  
 Property Owner: John P. Roth Tax Account ID Number: 08-007039  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 6 Tax Map Number: 100  
 Project: Roth Rock Wind Power Project; Garrett Co. Agency: MD Public Service Comm.  
 Agency Prepared By: Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc.  
 Preparer's Name: Paula Reed Date Prepared: 4/27/2006  
 Documentation is presented in: MIHP# G-V-A-016, Maryland Coal Region Historic Sites Survey, 1981  
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation:  Eligibility recommended  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  no Listed:  yes  no  
 Site visit by MHT Staff  yes  no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Roth farm is located on the east side of US Route 219, about 2 miles south of Redhouse and about 1/2 mile from the West Virginia line. This farm was settled by the Roth family in 1847. The current gable-roofed frame farmhouse was built in 1896 to replace the original dwelling.

The two-story frame dwelling includes a front porch sheltering two semi-hexagonal projecting bay windows and a rear ell flanked by one-story additions. The house is finished with 2/2 sash windows, aluminum siding, and asphalt shingles. An exterior concrete block chimney appears in the north end. Both the 1896 datestone and the 1847 datestone from the original house are incorporated in the stone foundation.

A frame bank barn built in 1906 stands south of the house. Modern silos and farm sheds complete the agricultural complex. The barn has an attached concrete block dairy barn with a curved roof. Additionally there are equipment sheds, a corn crib and cattle sheds. All buildings have metal sheathing.

Evaluation:

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
MHT Comments:	
<u>Andrew Lewis</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>6/2/06</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, National Register Program	<u>6/23/06</u> Date

200601643

The farmstead is typical of many in Garrett County, but it retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling and association to its period of initial construction, despite additions and application of metal sheathing over all of the buildings. The farmstead remains in the Roth family whose ancestor settled on the farm in 1847. Roth Rock for which this project is named is nearby, on the summit of Backbone Mountain. This grouping like many in southern Garrett County is the second generation of buildings on the farm. The farmstead and surrounding lands retain association with the initial developer/settler on the farm, and the fact that the family still owns the property some 160 years later provides significance under Criterion A for the agricultural development of the project area. Although metal siding covers or replaces the original surface treatment, farmstead grouping remains essentially intact and continues in use for a dairy operation. Thus, despite the alteration of surface treatments, this farmstead serves as a good example of a regionally common type located in the project area, deriving significance under Criterion C. Therefore, the property is recommended as eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. Archaeological assessment for Criterion D was not done as part of this evaluation of above-ground resources.

History/Context:

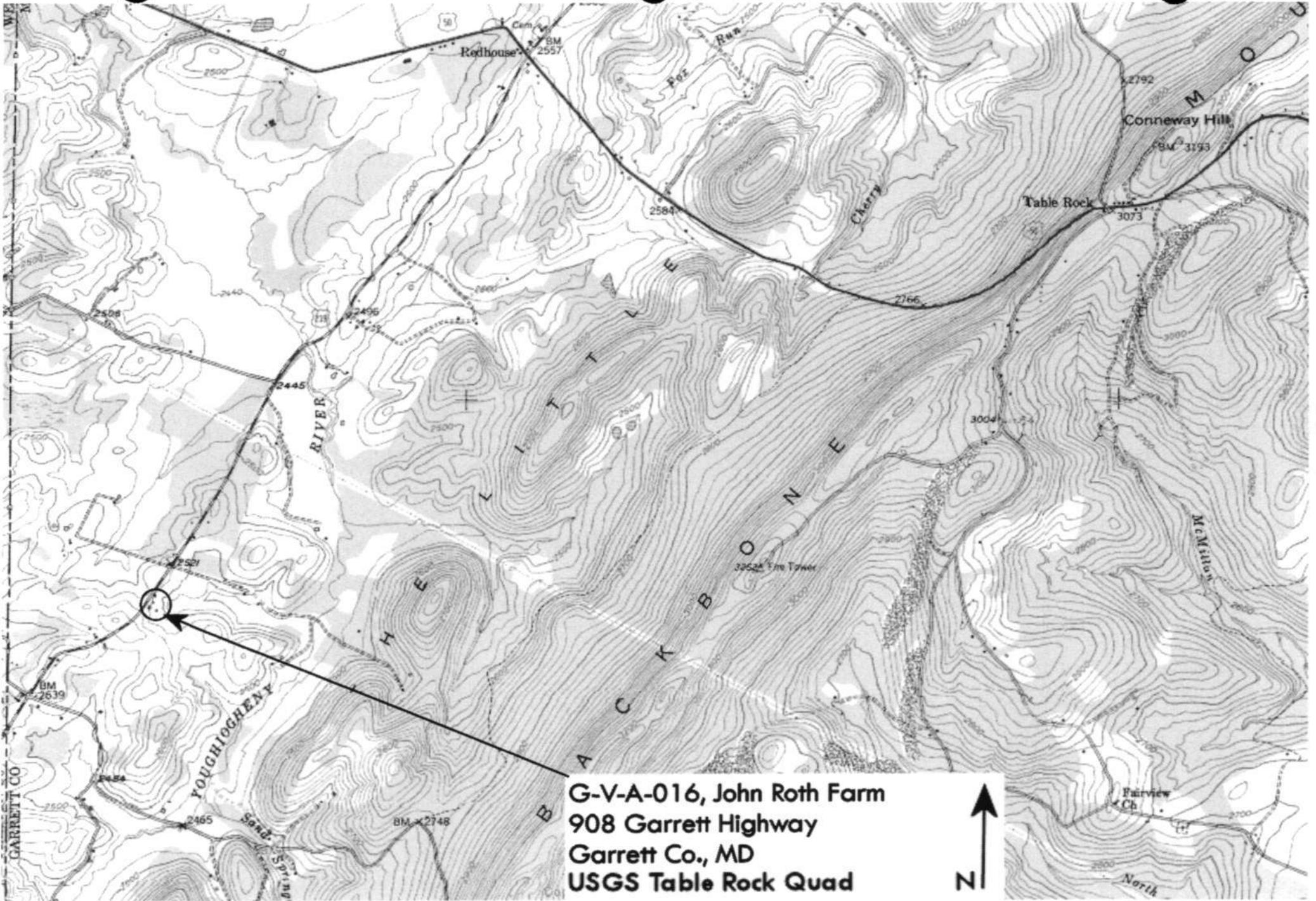
The predominant occupation in the Redhouse area was grain and livestock farming throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, although lumbering was also prominent, especially in the last quarter of the 19th century. In 1912, coal mining began in southwestern Garrett County, but the landscape on the west side of Backbone Mountain, along the Youghiogheny River remained agricultural. In 1910, close to the time that this farmstead was built, oats, corn, buckwheat, wheat, rye and barley were the most widely cultivated crops and combined with livestock production which thrived on good pastureland in the area's grassy glades.

The area surrounding Redhouse remains a rural farming community. Original mid-nineteenth century farmstead buildings of log or timber frame built by early settlers were replaced with larger buildings constructed with lighter framing or vertical planks in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as was the case with this property. This process of replacing older first or second period log dwellings with late nineteenth or early twentieth century frame or vertical plank buildings occurred throughout the mountainous far western Maryland region, and is linked to the prominent saw milling industry which ascended around the same time. These late nineteenth century and early twentieth century replacement buildings, interspersed with a few modern buildings, (the next generation of replacements), are found on the farms in the Redhouse vicinity in Pleasant Valley. While a few small lots with modern houses adjoin these farms, there is no extensive development in the area. In part the reason that the area has changed little in the last quarter of the twentieth century is that once again other transportation corridors have bypassed the area. The construction of I-68 across northern Garrett County carries most traffic through the region and provides easy access to the Deep Creek Lake resort area north of Oakland, where development has focused. Thus this property has changed little since it was evaluated in 1981.

In the Pleasant Valley area near Redhouse in the southwestern tip of Garrett County, where the area was settled mainly by conservative German sectarians whose names are still attached to the land, buildings are simple and traditional. There is not much in the way of acknowledgement of architectural style, except for embellishments to porches and entrances, and occasional gingerbread trim at the eaves. The German imprint is clearly evident in the type of barns used by the farmers of the region, large structures of frame construction with a bank or ramp at the back and a cantilevered forebay at the front. Known in the nineteenth century as "Swiss" barns, the term leaves little doubt as to their origins.

The Roth family of German descent settled on this property in 1847, according to information gathered as part of the 1981 Maryland Coal Region Historic Sites Survey. This property remains in the Roth family.

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
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



**G-V-A-016, John Roth Farm**  
**908 Garrett Highway**  
**Garrett Co., MD**  
**USGS Table Rock Quad**





G-V-A-016

John Roth Farm

Garrett Co., MD

Paula Reed

4/06

MDSHPO

S E view

1 of 3



G.V.A.016

John Roth Farm

Garrett Co MD

Merry Stinson 8/29/05

MD SHPO

N $\frac{1}{2}$ W elevations

2 of 3



G.V.A.016  
John Roth Farm  
Garrett Co. MD

Merry Stinson 8/24/05

MD 1STPO

barn: N. elevation

3 of 3

G-V-A-016  
John Roth Farm  
Redhouse  
Private

1896

The John Roth farmhouse is typical of turn-of-the-century Garrett County farmhouses, a frame two-story, three bay by one bay dwelling based on the ell-plan.

The facade faces NW, towards Rt. 219 and has a central entrance. A one-story porch with a hipped roof, supported by four posts runs across the facade.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

John Roth Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Route 219, east side, 2 1/2 miles south of Redhouse

CITY, TOWN

Redhouse

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

John P. Roth

Telephone #: (301) 334-2062

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Redhouse

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #: 396

Folio #: 880

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**

G-V-A-016

<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 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		

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 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE
 

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The John Roth Farm is located west of Backbone Mountain on the east side of Route 219, 2¼ miles south of Redhouse. The Roth farmhouse is typical of turn-of-the-century Garrett County farmhouses, a frame 2-story, three bay by one bay dwelling based on the ell-plan.

The facade faces NW, towards Route 219 and has a central entrance. A one-story porch with a hipped roof, supported by four posts runs across the facade. There are two bay windows under the porch, on either side of the entrance. There is a one-story enclosed shed addition on the SW elevation of the ell.

The house rests on a stone foundation and has aluminum siding; original siding is weatherboard. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There is an interior brick chimney on the NE elevation. Windows are 2/2 sash.

The aluminum siding and the shed addition were added in 1968, according to the present occupant, John Roth.

There are two date stones in the foundation, on either side of a cellar entrance at the rear, SE elevation of the ell. The date on the east side (right) of the entrance marks the date of construction for the present house; it reads: "D.O. Roth/ July XII 1896." Another date stone on the south side (left) of the entrance came from an earlier house on the same site; it reads: "July 1, 1847/ T.R. J.G." John Roth believes the "G" stands for Gower, another pioneer family in this area.

A frame bank barn lies SW of the house. It was built in 1906; a date stone reads: June 20, 1906. The balloon frame addition to the SE elevation of the barn was added in 1963. (interview, John Roth).

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

1896

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Roth house and barn represent common forms of building construction found in western Maryland - the 2-story, 3 bay by 1 bay frame dwelling based on the ell-plan, and the frame bank barn.

According to the present occupant, John Roth, his great-great-great grandfather settled on the western slope of Backbone mountain, approximately 1 mile east of this site. Later, presumably in 1847, as the cornerstone from the previous structure reads, Roth's great-great-great grandfather moved to and constructed a house on the present site. This earlier house was replaced in 1896 by the present house.

Descendents of the early Roth settler still live on several farms within 2 or 3 miles of the original settlement.

One of the crests of Backbone Mountain just east of the original Roth settlement bears the name Roth Rock, indicating the importance of this family in the settlement of Garrett County.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Interview with John Roth, August 18, 1980

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

July 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

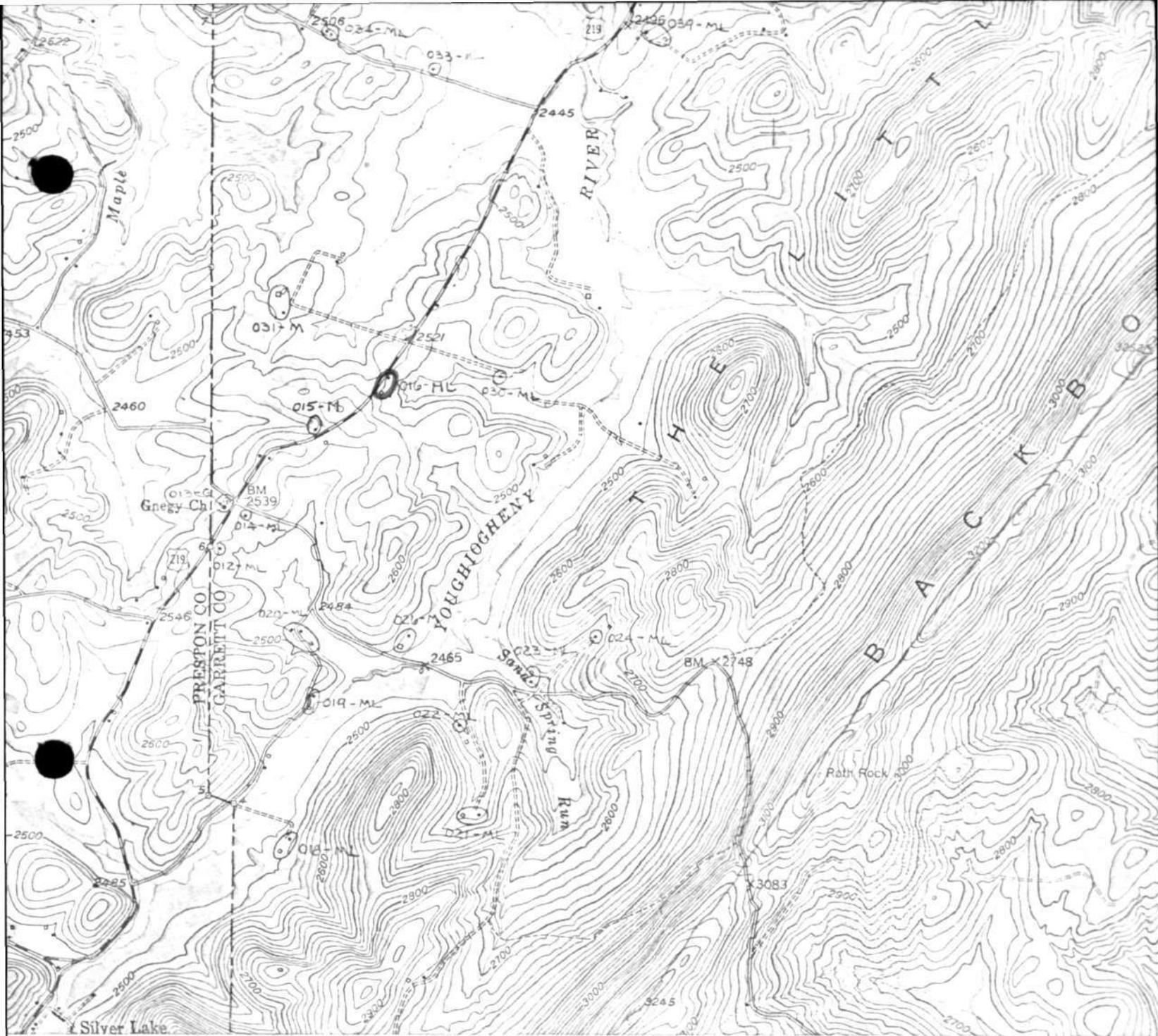


Table Rock, MD WV  
 USGS 7.5 Minute Series  
 Scale 1:24,000  
 1948; photorevised 1974

G-V-A-016  
 John Roth Farm  
 Route 219, east side,  
 1½ miles south of Redhouse



G-V-A-016

John Roth Farm

Garrett Co., MD

Donna Ware 8/18/80

NW elev, *Facade*



G-V-A-016

John Roth Farm

Garrett Co., MD

Donna Ware 8/18/80

SW elev.



G-V-A-016  
John Roth Farm  
Garrett Co., MD  
Donna Ware 8/18/80  
NE elev.

#18A

016