

G-V-A-082

Peter Gortner Farm
Gortner
Private

1868

The Peter Gortner Farm is located on the north side of Silver Knob Road, approximately .2 mile northwest of its intersection with US Route 219. The farm is situated on rolling hills and is composed of a house, a barn, and several outbuildings.

The house is a two-story, ell-plan, frame dwelling built in two sections by Peter Gortner. Gortner was a central figure in Sunnyside, an early German-Amish settlement in southern Garrett County. Gortner also built the barn on the property and is buried in a small graveyard on the farm.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Peter Gortner Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N side, Silver Knob Rd, approximately .2 mile NW of junction with US Rt, 219

CITY, TOWN

Gortner

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Alvin & George Breuninger

Telephone #: 301-334-3678

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 155

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21550

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #: 221

Folio #: 600

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-082

| 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

The Peter Gortner Farm is located on the north side of Silver Knob Road, approximately .2 mile northwest of its intersection with US. Route 219. The farm is situated on rolling hills and is composed of a house, a barn, and several outbuildings.

The house is a two-story, gable-roofed, ell-plan dwelling constructed in two parts. The main block measures three bays by one bay and the facade points southwest. The wing was originally a separate dwelling which was moved from another part of the property between 1893 and 1903 and attached to the northeast elevation of the main house. The wing measures two bays by one bay, and its original facade points northwest.

A one-story, enclosed shed porch runs the length of the facade. A one-story shed porch fills the ell on the northeast elevation of the main block and the southeast elevation of the ell. At the northeast elevation of the ell, the porch is enclosed to form a room that runs the length of the elevation. A small shed porch shelters a door on the northwest elevation.

The house rests on a cut stone foundation. The walls are constructed of hand-hewn studs and are covered with german siding which has subsequently been covered with beige asbestos shingle. The windows in the main block are the original six over six sash, with crown glass lights, on the southeast and northeast elevations. On the southwest and northwest elevations the windows are modern one over one replacements. The windows in the ell are two over two sash. All windows have plain board surrounds. The gable roof has undulating eave trim on the southwest and northeast elevations and is covered with corrugated metal.

The house has two interior brick stove chimneys; one near the northwest end of the main block, and one near the center of the ell. The rear and side porches are supported by turned posts and the side porch also exhibits jigsaw brackets. On the southeast elevation of the facade porch hangs a heart-shaped wooden plaque with raised characters: PG 1868.

The main portion of the house has a center-hall plan with a central staircase. The first floor has two rooms, one on each side of the hall. The walls are constructed of vertical tongue and groove beaded boards and all rooms have board ceilings.

In the first-floor hall, the southwest and northwest walls are covered with horizontal beaded boards. All walls in the hall have a simple chair rail painted dark blue under later wood-graining. The walls are painted green above the chair rail and orange below. The open-string stair has a dark brown hand-turned newel post and balusters and the step ends appear to have been grained with dark brown stain. The facade door has a square glass pane in its upper half with an etched windmill scene on it.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY): local history | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1868 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Peter Gortner

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Peter Gortner Farm is significant in two principal areas; local history and architecture. Peter Gortner was a local farmer and artisan who through his industry and expertise contributed to the settlement of the Sunnyside area and became one of its prominent citizens. The farmhouse and barn, despite certain cosmetic alterations, remain excellent examples of mid-nineteenth century vernacular architecture of the time and area.

History and Support

Peter Gortner, born in Langenau, Germany in 1819, settled in Somerset County, PA. in 1848, occupied as a miller. In 1849 he moved to the Sunnyside area of Garrett County (then Allegany County), Maryland after purchasing a 200 acre farm from a Nicholas Gauer. In twenty years, Gortner prospered as a farmer and tradesman, and expanded his land holdings and built the main block of the present Gortner farmhouse.

The Sunnyside area of Garrett County was first settled at the end of the 18th century, but remained largely uncultivated into the mid-nineteenth century. Gortner helped to clear the area and raised large herds of cattle. He also earned his living as a miller, cabinetmaker, and blacksmith, essential trades to a growing community. His excellence at these trades made him a vital and well-known figure in southern Garrett County. An active member of his Amish congregation, Gortner was nominated to the ministry of his church in 1865, indicating his prominent standing with the community. He also provided educational opportunity to the Sunnyside community by refurbishing the Nicholas Gauer log house located on his property (demolished 1907) for a school in the late 1860's or early 1870's.

Peter Gortner died in 1903 at the age of 83 and is buried with his wife, Barbara and daughter Ann in a small grave yard northeast of the house.

The Peter Gortner farmhouse and barn represent an excellent collection of relatively intact hand crafted-vernacular buildings. Gortner built the main block of the existing 2-story, 3 bay by 2 bay house in 1868. He laid the stone cellar and foundation himself and records indicate that he was the primary carpenter for the remaining construction. Several of the exterior and interior decorative elements in the house were handcrafted by Gortner, such as the eave trim on the southwest and northeast elevations and the hand-turned newel post and balusters. Gortner's German background is best represented by the heart-shaped maker's plaque which hangs on the southeast elevation of the enclosed facade porch.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Breuninger, Rev. J.C. "Life Story of Peter Gortner," The Glades Star, No. 3, (Oakland, MD: The Garrett County Historical Society, September 30, 1950), pp. 33-35, 39.

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

Ann Burns, Historic Sites Surveyor

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

G-V-A-082

Peter Gortner Farm
(#7 - Description Cont'd)

The southeast room on the first floor retains its original treatment; wainscoting of horizontal beaded boards, simple chair rail, and wallpaper above. The room has a narrow board floor and ceiling. The wainscoting, chair rail and ceiling are painted blue. On the southwest wall is a built-in bookcase with a solid, raised-panel door and a wide, moulded surround. The shallow bookcase is painted blue on the exterior. On its back wall is Peter Gortner's signature in white chalk.

The northwest first floor room has been remodeled with new wall, ceiling and floor coverings. A built-in bookcase once occupied the southwest wall of this room, but was removed when the room was renovated. It is now stored in the barn.

On the second floor, three of the rooms have been renovated. However, the east corner room still retains its original treatment, including a row of clothes hooks on the northeast wall which were hand-carved by Peter Gortner.

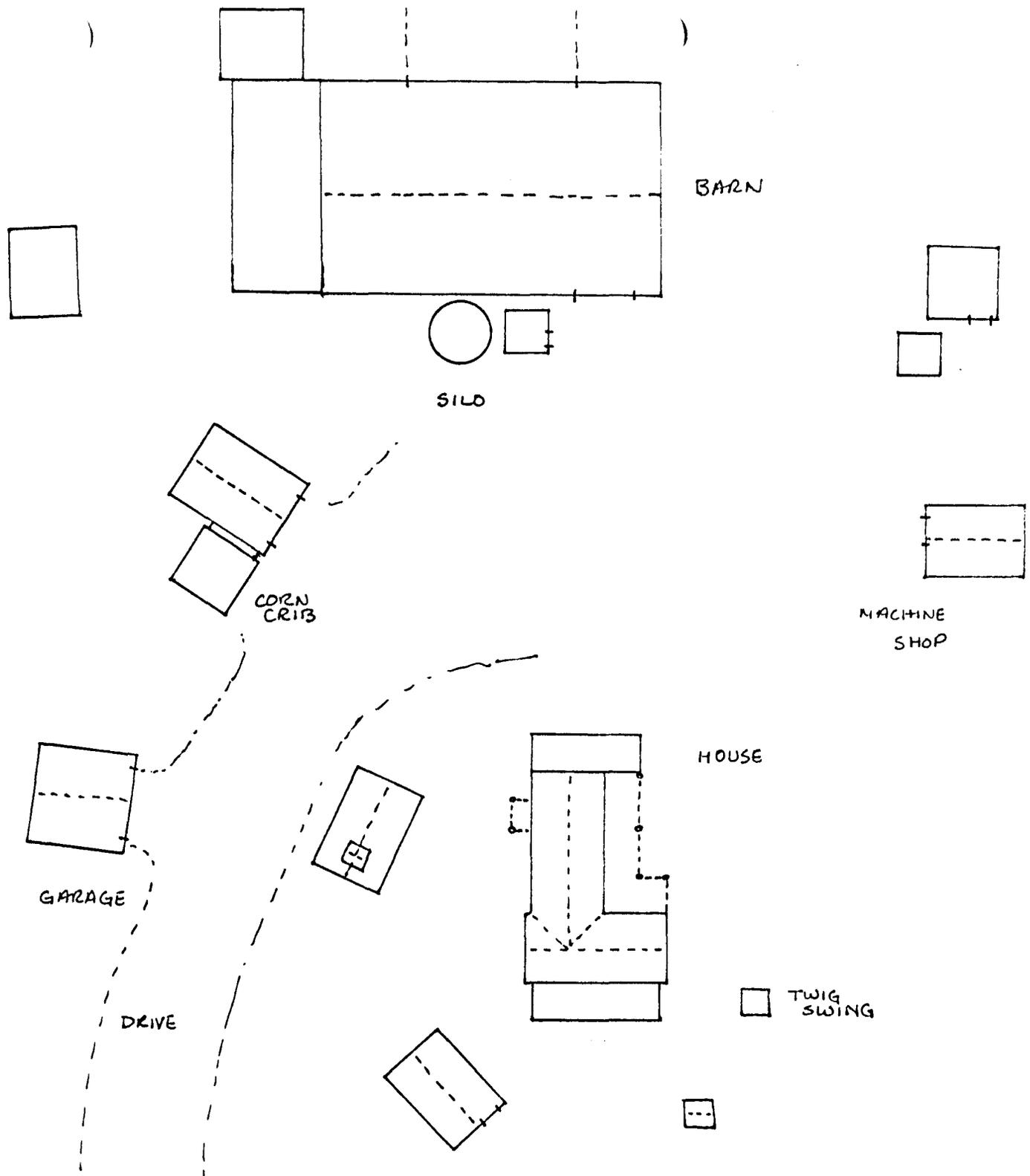
The attic stair runs directly above the main staircase and is given access through a batten door. The date "1868" is written on the inside of the door. The first attic stair tread is hinged to conceal a small storage area.

The wing has two rooms on the first floor with a central enclosed staircase. The northeast room is used as a kitchen.

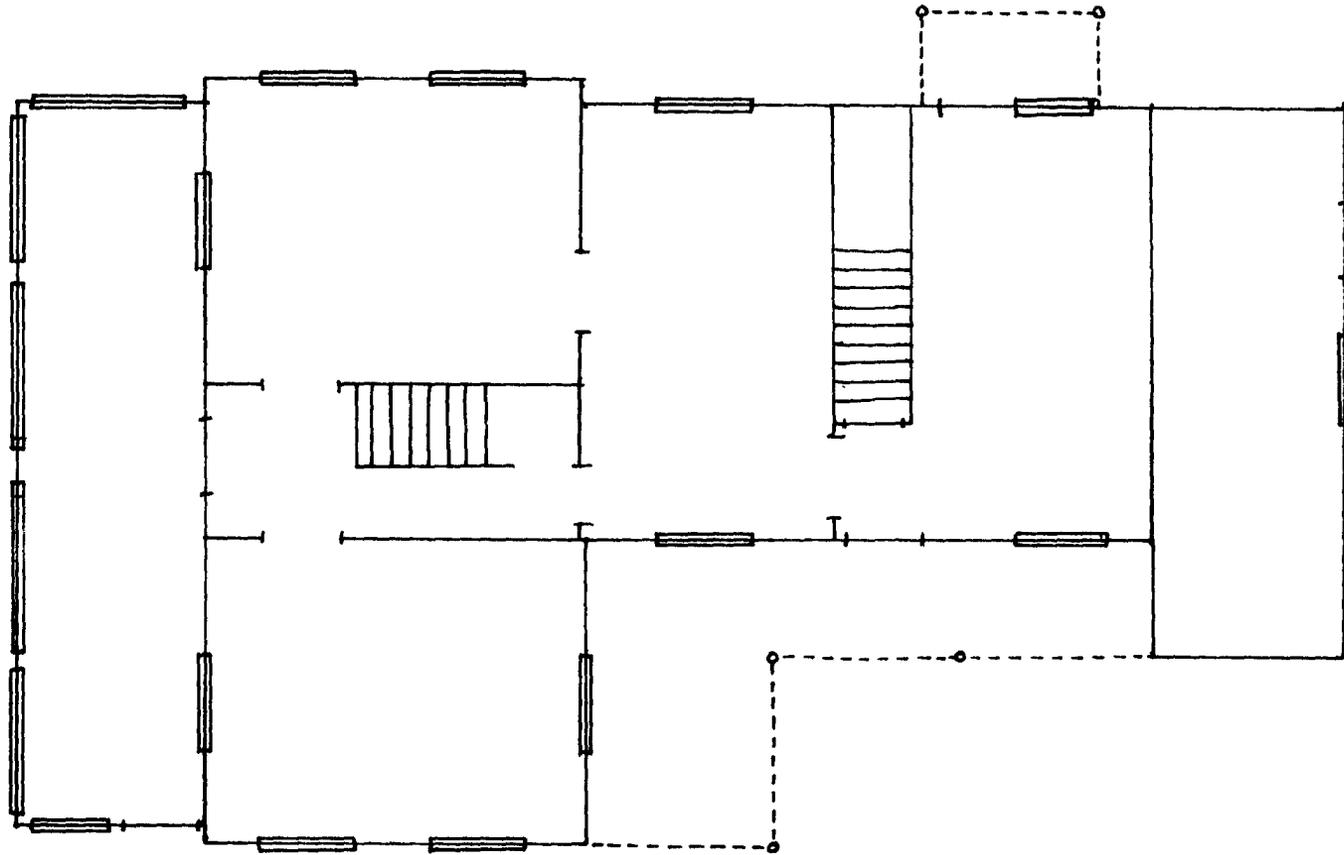
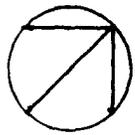
To the northeast of the house is a frame bank barn. The barn has six bays and rests on a stone foundation. The overhang, on the southwest side, has been walled in with corrugated metal. Carved into the foundation on the northeast interior wall are the letters PG and the date, 1880.

Several frame outbuildings are placed north, west, and east of the house. They include a machine shop containing tools belonging originally to Peter Gortner. South of the main house is a gable-roofed twig swing. Behind the farm, some way to the east, is a small fenced graveyard. Within are the graves of Peter, his wife Barbara, and Anna Gortner, interred under a small stone monument.

GRAVE YA ↗



G-V-A-082
PETER GORTNER FARM
SKETCH SITE PLAN
NOT TO SCALE



G-V-A-082
HOUSE PLAN - FIRST FLOOR
NOT TO SCALE

PETER GORTNER FARM
SILVER KNDB ROAD, GORTNER
GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

ANN R. F. BURNS
SURVEY DATE 9-24-80
PLAN DATE 10-27-81

Chain of Title

G-V-A-082 Peter Gortner Farm

221/600 From: Daisy M. Lohr, widow
7-13-59 To: Alvin C. Breuninger
Deed Consideration: \$2000

"All her undivided 1/6 interest, as heir at law of John G. Breuninger and Mary Breuninger, deceased, in and to all those lots... which are... designated as Military Lots numbers 2526, 2527, and 2528"

221/598 From: Mildred G. Stark
7-13-59 To: Peter F. Breuninger, Alvin C. Breuninger, and George W.
Deed Breuninger
Consideration: \$1.00

"An undivided one-half interest in and to all those lots... which are... designated as Military Lots numbers 2526, 2527, and 2528."

221/596 From: Peter F. Breuninger, Alvin C. Breuninger, and George W.
7-13-59 Breuninger
Deed To: Mildred G. Stark
Consideration: \$1.00

150 acres

19/423 From: Peter Gortner and Barbara Gortner
4-20-1892 To: John G. Breuninger
Deed Consideration: \$3000

"all the four lots or tracts of land...known by the numbers 2526, 2527, 2528, and 2530, supposed to contain in the whole 200 acres more or less"

Allegany County

5/12 From: George H. A. Kunst and Sarah his wife
5/308 To: Peter Gartner (sic)
4-26-1849 Consideration: \$700
Deed

Military lots numbers 2526, 2527, 2528, 2530

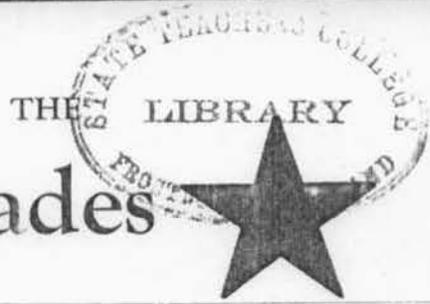
METHODIST
CH

congregation in
this county was
Old Grantsville.
church on the
built about 1816
and served until
of the neigh-
e log house on
Salisbury, ind-
d school. It was
by all denomi-

val took place
he preaching of
n. The Wesley-
e modern church
f town, which
1894, when the
ected and dedi-
1895, under the
H. Enlow. Wil-
donated the lot
ground for the
posite site of the
t end of town.
Compton, Noah
roadwater, Sam-
any others gave
means for this
h was remodeled
itchen added. In
eople was torn
elfry and addi-
Sunday School

have served the
among them Rev.
he early 50's; J.
70; Joseph Lee,
1882 and 1887;
0-1895; D. A.
V. Gillum,
bs, 1946 to this

tsville charge is
ches; Emmanuel,
, Mt. Zion, State
any.



Glades

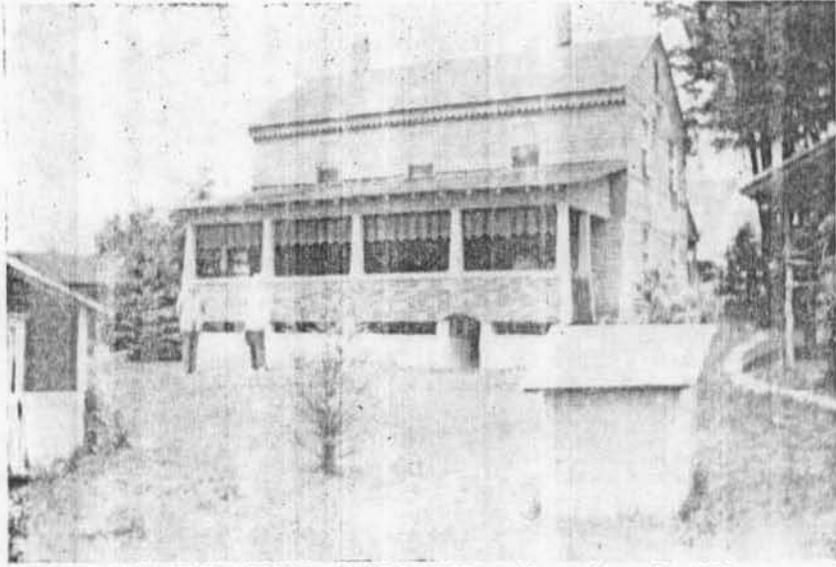
Star

G-Y-A-082

PUBLISHED BY
THE GARRETT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NUMBER 3. OAKLAND, MARYLAND. SEPT. 30, 1950.

Life Story of Peter Gortner

By REV. J. C. BREUNINGER



GORTNER HOME, BUILT 1868. —Photo June 7. 1950

Peter Gortner, a native of Langenau, Germany, was born September 14, 1819. He departed from this good earth at Sunnyside, Maryland, January 14, 1903. The ancestors of his father, Benedict Gortner (1770-1819), had emigrated from Switzerland to the Prussian Rhine in the 17th century. Benedict was a merchant and cabinet maker. Peter Gortner's mother, Anna M. Gortner (1788-1851), was a thrifty home builder; a woman of wisdom and good understanding.

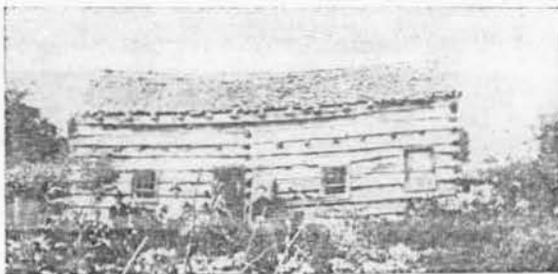
Benedict and Anna were united in holy wedlock in 1816, and to this union two children were born: Helen and Peter.

Peter Gortner attended school near his village eight years, and completed a prescribed course at Bushitten; he acquired the fundamentals of an education, and wrote a beautiful hand.

From 1832 until 1844 Peter was employed in the grist mill, distillery and shop in his native village. In the latter year he became manager of the Brennemen farm at Marburg, where, in 1847, he met and married Barbara,

daughter of Peter Schoenblack. Barbara Gortner was born August 14, 1817. A diligent woman: she could mend, spin, knit, sew, weave and cook; motherly to all who came into her home, always fearful lest one should not get enough to eat.

The Gortners emigrated to America in 1848, arriving at New York aboard an old sailing ship, after a stormy passage of more than four months. They went directly to Somerset County, Pa., where they had relatives and friends. Peter worked for a time as a miller at 50c per day, but from his meager wages he saved enough to make a small down payment on his purchase of the Nicholas Gauer homestead at Sunnyside, Maryland, which at that time was owned by George H. A. Kunst, who resided in Virginia. This



GAUER CABIN, SUNNYSIDE

property consisted of 200 acres of excellent farm land, only a small part of which was then cleared.

In 1849 the Gortners moved by ox cart to their new home in Maryland. They lived in the old Gauer cabin, repaired by Peter. In 1849 but little of the Sunnyside neighborhood was under cultivation. Wolves were numerous in the forests and destructive of flocks and herds.

Peter Gortner was industrious and enterprising; he prospered. He raised large herds of cattle, which pastured in the green glades. During the construction of the B. and O. railroad and during the Civil War he sold fat cattle at fancy prices. Thus he was able to meet his payments on the home place and to purchase nearby tracts of land, including John Swan's "Prospect," 992 acres. By 1870 his vast domain extended north from Sunnyside to the Great Warrior Path of Indian times and General Washington's travels.

Mr. Gortner was a Democrat, sympathetic to the South during the Civil War. However, when warned that a force of Confederate cavalry was on its way to capture Oakland in April, 1863, Peter and his sons hastily rounded up all their stock, except a mare and her foal, and drove them into the sugar brush and thorn thicket under the hill. When the soldiers arrived and demanded his horses, Peter led from the log barn the old mare, followed by her colt. "Are these all the horses you have?" "All," he replied. The soldiers rode away, disgruntled.

In Germany the Gortners were members of the Mennonite church, and at Sunnyside Peter and his wife joined the House Amish congregation. In 1865 he was nominated for the ministry.

It is said that when Peter purchased a covered buggy the matter was brought to the attention of his congregation. He explained that his wife needed covering to protect her from the hot summer sun and the cold winter rains. He kept the new fangled conveyance. Today Sunnyside has a large Amish settlement, and their old style horse drawn vehicles are often seen on the streets of Oakland.

In 1877 the Gortners attended the memorial service for William W. Ashby, held in the old Ashby log cabin at Underwood.

The Gortner children attended the log school house of Susan, taught by

Rev. John Phillips during the dark days of the Civil War. Later Peter converted his comfortable log cabin into a school house. Two of the teachers in it were Major Charles G. Best and Ralph Thayer.

The strong arms of Peter Gortner hewed down the Sunnyside forest.

"Oft did the harvest to his sickle yield,
His furroughs oft the virgin soil have broke.
How happy did he drive his team afield!
How bowed the woods beneath his sturdy stroke!"

The grain that grew luxuriantly in the fertile field of the newcomer furnished food for the hungry and seed for the sower.

In harvest time Peter would be in the fields at dawn. After breakfast he was joined by three or four hands from the valley of Frozen Camp Run. He was a progressive farmer; he owned the first mowing machine, the first reaper and the first horse-powered threshing machine in his community.

Peter Gortner was also a skillful workman. An excellent cabinet maker, he made weather vanes, flax and spinning wheels, hand lathes, work benches, chairs, beds, sleds, plows, harrows, wagons, coffins, secretaries. As a stone mason he built the cellar and foundation of his house, and the rock wall for his barn, all of which are in good condition today. He was a millwright and blacksmith—did all his own smithing and much for the community.

In 1868 Mr. Gortner built his frame home, and in 1880 the large bank barn, both of which are in excellent condition. The old Gortner homestead now belongs to the pioneer's six grandchildren, the children of Rev. John G. and Mary Gortner Breuninger.

The children of Peter and Barbara Gortner were:

- (1) Jacob, b. Sept. 20, 1848, d. October, 1848.
- (2) Elizabeth, b. March 28, 1850, d. Dec. 12, 1852.
- (3) Frederick, b. June 26, 1852, d. June 30, 1928, m. (1) Lydia Beachy, (2) Emma Lyons.
- (4) Anna, b. April 24, 1854, d. Nov. 2, 1891. Unmarried.
- (5) Mary, b. July 28, 1856, d. Feb. 28, 1934, m. Rev. J. G. Breuninger.
- (6) Peter P., b. July 21, 1858, d. July 7, 1935, m. Delphia Bramble.
- (7) Louis, b. June 24, 1860, d. Sept. 4, 1931, m. Mary McClosley.

Peter Gortner's soul passed from earth in his 83rd year. His memorial service was held on Sunday, January 18, 1903, conducted in German by Rev. Peter Miller, of the House Amish church, with a tribute in English by Rev. Tobias Fike of the Church of the Brethren. His body was laid to rest in the

(Continued on Page Thirty-nine)

VICTOR E. ALBRIGHT, son of Edmond and Nancy Jane Albright, was born October 11, 1878, near Cranesville and died July 19, 1950, at his home in Madison, Wisconsin. He was president of the Randal State Bank of Madison. Mr. Albright's grandfathers came from York County, Pa., and settled near the site of the village of Albright, W. Va. His father was a farmer on Salt Block Run on the Maryland side of the State line.

Victor Albright retained his interest in his native county, Garrett, and

in adjoining Preston County. Several years ago he provided funds for two college scholarships for students of these counties. He also offered to give \$10,000 for construction of a county library in Oakland, but withdrew the offer when informed that Mr. E. E. Enlow's donation had been accepted. He was a life member of the GCHS.

SHADES OF DEATH SAWMILLS

Shade Run, January 13, 1849.
Owners were Frost and Wright.

G-V-A-082

and was granted us in

quality of work in the community can point with pride to the High School who have been doing, homemaking and other respected citizens.

Grantsville

National Road, was built as the "Starner House" or tavern, and later as the "Farmer's Hotel." The building of substantial construction, has been used as an inn or hotel since its erection, except during the period 1880 to 1894. During the busy days of the 1840's Starner's was a "cattle stop" with a large corral nearby.

owned by several persons, including Gnagey (1893-1899), who bought the property in

1895 and the Sselman Hotel in 1925

Starner

born in Salisbury, Pa., in Grantsville. This was in 1797 by Christian's

from Maryland for \$2,208.00, on the National Road, including the Starner family moved to Grantsville. Starner's garage is now

located on the site, but he got the site now known as the site of an inn until his death in a lonely graveyard by

was an innkeeper at Salisbury. He was a red-cheeked

lady, who always wore plain, black and green plaid linsey dress. She survived her husband several years and returned to her people in Salisbury.

Solomon Starner was obliging, generous and industrious. Jacob Brown tells this story of him:

He was not much of a church goer, but on a certain occasion, brother Henry Knepper was to preach a special sermon to the sinners of Grantsville ("Good God, what will become of you?" was his favorite expression). Our subject was in a quiet corner of the little white church in 1847. The sermon was long, truthful and pointed. The hotel man became restive and walked up to the Godly man, and laid down two half dollars on the pulpit, remarking, "I always pay as I go," and he suited the remark to the act of leaving.

Solomon Starner's will was signed only six days before his death. To his wife he bequeathed her dower interest in his estate. To his son Archibald he left the "Cornucopia" plantation, including the Starner tavern, and all personal property. His daughter Elizabeth, wife of Edward Dively, and his daughter Lydia, wife of Joseph Dively, had already been given property to the value of \$4,000. His old farm on the State Line he had deeded to Edward and Joseph Dively.

Archibald Starner thus came into possession of a valuable property, though the inn business on the National Road declined rapidly after the B. and O. railroad was completed to Wheeling. But Archibald had become the best customer of his father's bar, and responsibility for the business did not sober him. "He killed himself drinking," and in a few years followed his father to the family graveyard.

Life Story of Peter Gortner

(Continued from Page Thirty-five)

Gortner was buried in the Gortner burying ground on the hillside above the house, by the side of his beloved Barbara, who preceded him into the Eternity of God on October 15, 1894.

Peter Gortner's diary, kept by him in German since he was twenty-one years of age, has recently been translated into English by Dr. Kolmar, Dr. Lenz and the author of this article. It gives an interesting account of his life: his work, travels, the weather, and regular attendance at church services. His religious convictions are indicated by such quotations from his diary as these:



PETER GORTNER AT HIS CABIN, 1893

- (a) All is well that ends well.
- (b) Whatever God dooth is well done.
- (c) Happy is he who can forget that which cannot be changed.
- (d) Early morning hours bring golden showers.
- (e) All depends on the blessing of God.

The village of Gortner is so named in honor of Peter Gortner.

Now the laborer's task is o'er
Now the battle's day is past,
Now upon the farther shore
Rest the voyagers at last,
Father in Thy gracious keeping
Leave we now Thy servants sleeping.

G-V-A-082

SOCIETY FINANCE COMMITTEE

Our president has appointed three prominent business men as a Special Committee on Finances, viz. Paul B. Naylor, Harvey Gortner, Jesse J. Walker.

When our Constitution was drafted ten years ago we realized that a regular membership fee of \$1.00 (now \$2.00), with no annual dues, would not be sufficient to finance permanently an historical society, but it was considered desirable to avoid annual contributions and to build up a large membership. To this date members have not been asked for money, other than the initial fee.

However about 100 members have voluntarily taken out life membership at \$10 each. The \$1.00 membership dues have been spent, and the society is now operating on money from life memberships.

In accepting life membership fees the society assumes a certain moral responsibility to operate during the lives of life members; it is so intended. Therefore part of life membership fees should be invested or kept in reserve. Recently the Board of Directors ordered the Treasurer to deposit \$500 in Postal Savings certificates, paying 2 percent interest, but he states that our balance on hand in bank is only \$644; he does not think it advisable to buy savings certificates.

To increase the funds of the society it has been suggested that—

- (1) Regular members pay annual dues, or that
- (2) The Glades Star be placed on a subscription basis, or that
- (3) Special assessments, as needed, be placed on regular members.

Many historical societies, including our State society, depend for support chiefly upon interest from endowment funds, established thru gifts in wills or otherwise. Our society is legally incorporated, but, as yet, has

THE TOMLINSON-STANTON MILL

The oldest grist mill in Garrett County is the mill built about 1797 by Jesse Tomlinson on the Casselman River at the Little Crossings. On March 3, 1797, Thomas Stanton decided to Jesse Tomlinson certain water privileges for a grist mill on "Indian Spring Run," site of the present Stanton mill.

In 1856 Perry Shultz, who at that time owned the property, rebuilt the Tomlinson mill, using the frame and most of the original timber in the reconstruction.

In 1862 Shultz deeded the property to William Stanton, who, five years later, conveyed it to his son Eli. Eli Stanton operated the mill for forty-three years, and during his ownership in 1900 he enlarged it to its present size. In 1888 the old stone buhrs were replaced by rollers for grinding wheat. The water power was augmented by steam in 1893, but in recent years steam has been replaced by electricity.

In 1910 William E. Stanton acquired title to the mill and operated it until his death in 1942, when Mr. and Mrs. Byron H. Bender took over the property and still operate it.

DIVINE SERVICES were held in the home of Peter Gortner for 42 years; in the log cabin from 1849 to 1868, and in the present dwelling from 1868 to 1891. New benches for church services were made by Peter Gortner in 1868. Leah Beachy, now ninety three years of age, recalls that the benches in the old log cabin were split logs, the flat side smoothed with wooden pegs driven in the underside for legs.

no endowment fund. Members having suggestions for improving the financial standing of our society should contact or write Paul B. Naylor, Oakland, or another member of the Finance committee.

AS CURRIE, 04, in Scotland, 0, at his home to the United ed in the 154th World War I. en stationed in e Police since a efficient and

CEMETERY.

s said to have ld part of the metery. It prob- 6, the M. in Grants- cemetery were many years." f the cemetery per lot by Mrs. nerson Sebald. w in good care- caretaker, Wil- ed during the Miss Christina rtie Hone and r served on the or many years. he Grantsville ided to sponsor e cemetery. The aned, old trees ve markers re-

re elected to ry committee: ry Livengood; ge Diefenbach; Mrs. Irva Mick- Edwards. families buried s, Winterberg, thews, Gettys, uhl en berg, ngoods, Slicers, lls, chy and

Nicholas Gower, Sharpless, John ; Marcus, Jacob

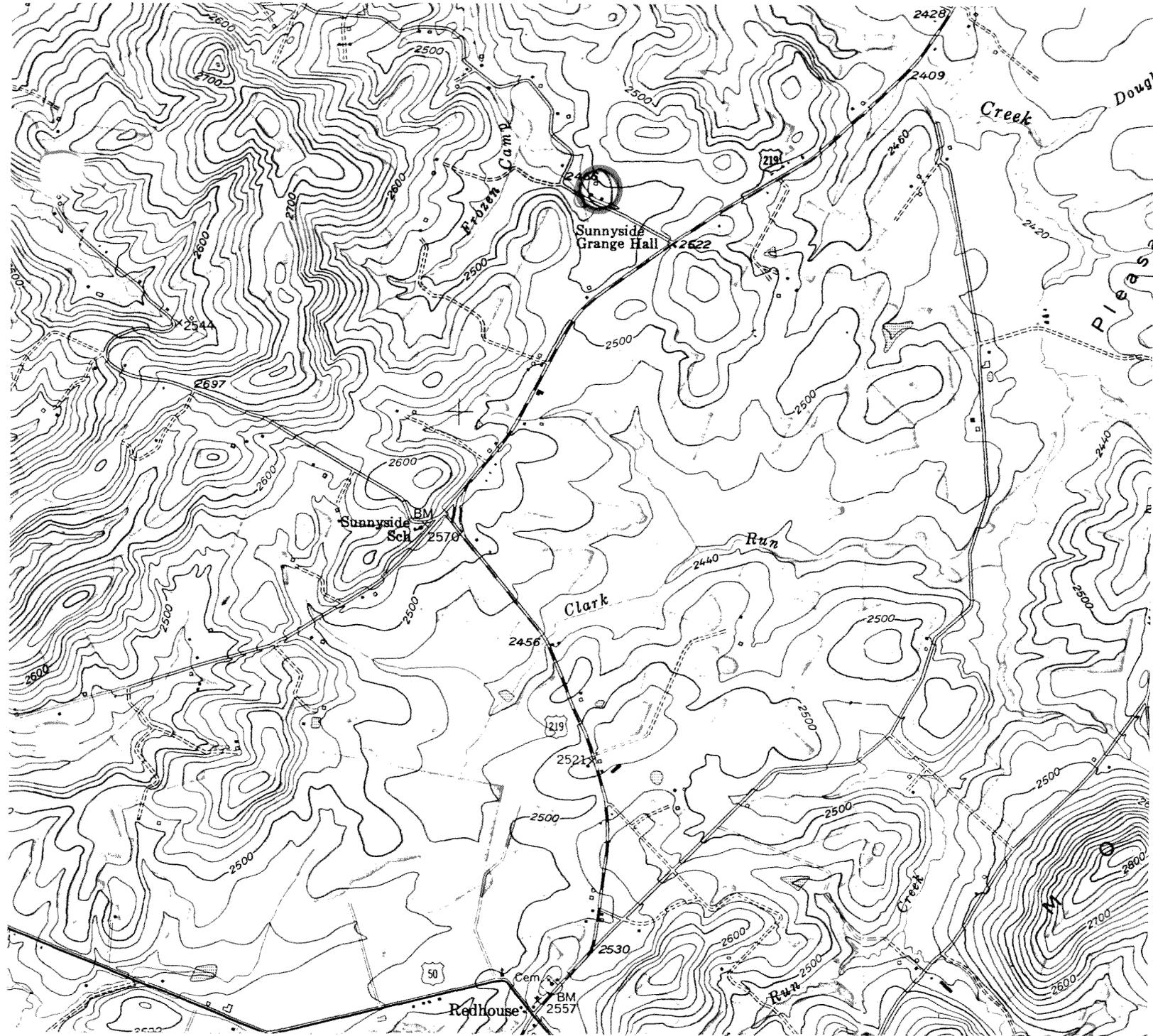


Table Rock, MD.-WV.
USGS 7.5 minute series
Scale - 1:24000
1948; photorevised 1974

Site #: G-V-A-082
Peter Gortner Farm
North side, Silver Knob Road,
approximately 2/10 miles northwest of
its intersection with MD Rt. 219 South



G-V-A-082

G V A 082

Peter Gortner Farm

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 9/23/80

Facade: SW elev.



G-V-A-082

Peter Gortner Farm

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 9/23/80

NW elev.

G.V.A. 082



G-V-A-082

Peter Gortner Farm

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 9/23/80

Rear Porch NE elev.

G V A 082



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Peter Gortner Farm

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 9/23/80

SE elev. (Date plaque)

G. J. A. CEZ



G-V-A-082

Peter Gortner Farm

Garrett Co., Md.

Valerie Cesna 10/9/81

Int: staircase



G-V-A-082

Peter Gortner Farm

Garrett Co., Md.

Valerie Cesna 10/9/81

Int: staircase



G-V-A-082

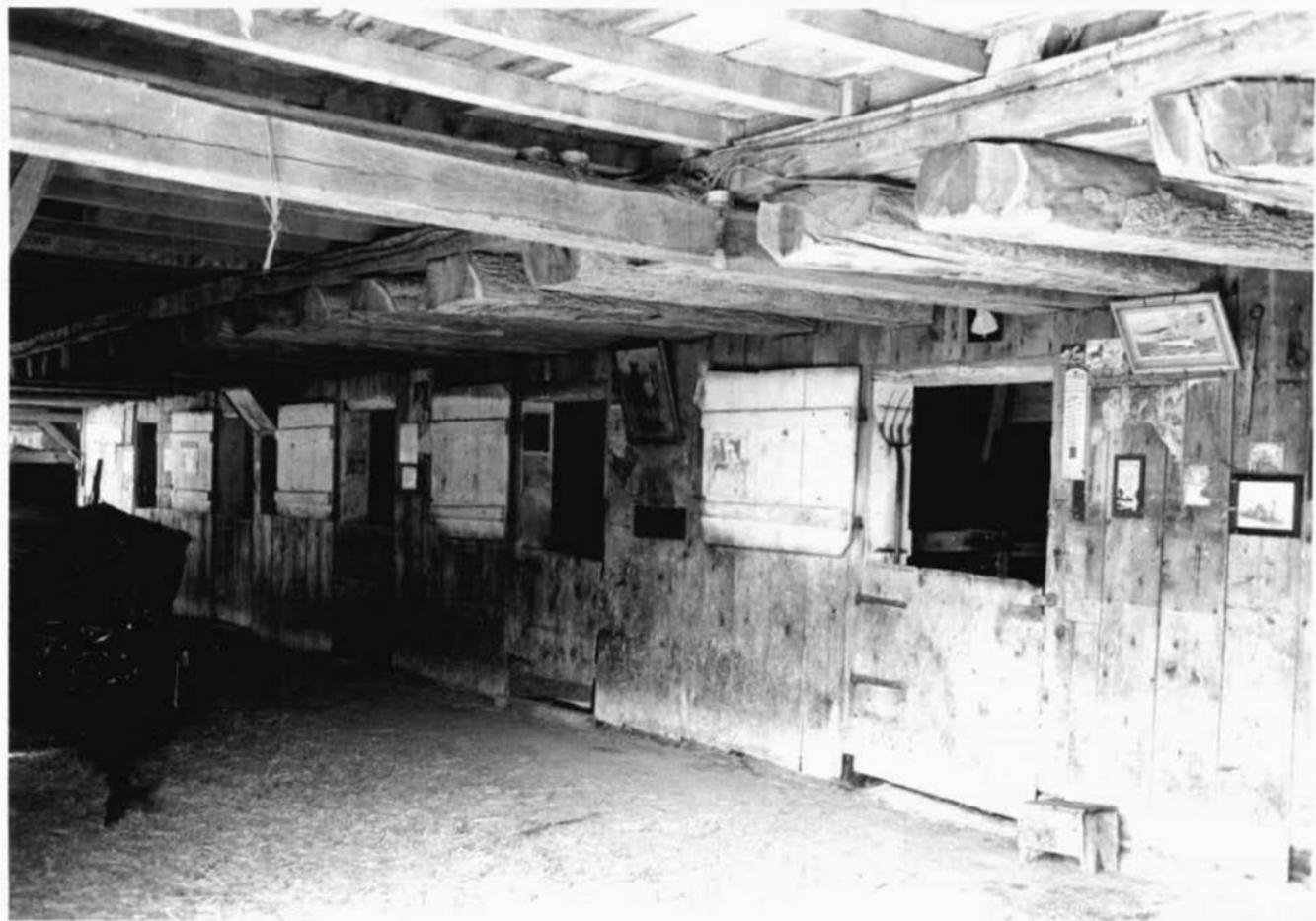
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Garrett Co., MD

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Bank Entrance: N elev.



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Peter Gortner Farm

Garrett Co., MD

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Barn Interior: Orig. S wall

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Garrett Co., Md.

Valerie Cesna 10/9/81

Int: Bookcase, 1st fl. SE room