

G-V-A-100

Alex Lower Farm
Gortner
Private

1878

The Alex Lower Farm consists of a circa 1878 frame dwelling, and an 1890's frame bank barn. The house is a two-story, gable-roofed building on a stone foundation with a basement level. Its basic configuration is a four bay by one bay rectangular plan with a full length, two-tiered facade porch.

The facade and rear elevations have the same pattern of openings: three evenly spaced bays of 6/6 sash windows with a raised four-panel door between the two eastern bays. The facade porch is a shed-roofed extension of the gable roof, supported by six chamfered posts on each level. Both end walls are unfenestrated.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Alex Lower Farm

AND/OR COMMON

Mary A. Queer Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Jasper Riley Rd., .4 mile off E side, .4 mile N of Pleasant Valley Church

CITY, TOWN

Gortner

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

VICINITY OF

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

Mary A. Queer

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #: 168

Folio #: 207

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-100

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Alex Lower Farm consists of a circa 1878 frame dwelling, and an 1890's frame bank barn. The house is a two story, gable-roofed building on a stone foundation with a basement level. Its basic configuration is a four bay by one bay rectangular plan with a full length, two-tiered facade porch.

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The present occupant reports that the frame of the building is sheathed with heavy board on each side, then covered with weatherboard on the exterior. The roof was originally covered with white pine shingles; these have been removed and replaced with asphalt roll roofing material. Its box cornice has partial gable end returns and a plain board frieze.

The first floor rooms have been rearranged. Originally, the center room contained an enclosed corner staircase on its rear wall and a stone fireplace on its west wall made of stones hauled from Backbone Mountain. The kitchen, on the west side of the center room, had a cookstove attached to the back side of the stone chimney. Two small bedrooms occupied the area on the east side of the center room. The major changes have been the removal of the stone fireplace and its chimney, and the two bedrooms.

The interior doors are hand planed batten doors. Vertical tongue and groove board panels the walls and forms the room partitions. The walls are now wall-papered, but were originally painted golden yellow with brown trim on the first floor, and light green with a black ceiling border on the second floor.

The barn, located approximately 75 yards northeast of the house, has a frame of circular sawn lumber with mortise and tenon joints. It is covered with vertical board siding and supported by a foundation of coursed, roughly squared stone. The first floor level served as a granary.

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	house, ca.1878 barn, late 1890's	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Alex Lower
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is thought to have been built by Alex Lower. Several of his relatives in the vicinity built houses on this same pattern. This one was built after "Aunt Jane's" house, which was located in the Bethlehem Settlement approximately four miles east of this site (The house no longer stands.)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Pearl Nault, current resident and relative of Alex Lower, 19 August 1981.

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	
ORGANIZATION	Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines	DATE	January 1982
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-100
 Alex Lower Farm
 Jasper Riley Rd., .4 mile off
 E side, .4 mile N of Pleasant Valley
 Church



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Alex Lower Farm

Garrett County, MD

Valerie Cesna 8/19/81

Rear: NW & NE elevations