

SUMMARY

Bechtold-Lohr House
3212 Snake Lane
Churchville, Maryland 21028

The Bechtold-Lohr House does not appear on the 1878 Martenet Map of Harford County, but archival evidence suggests it may have been built prior to 1878. There are log joists in the west bay of the south section, and on the grounds, there is a smoke house that incorporates several hand hewn beams. In terms of architectural styling, the house resembles other Harford County Farmhouses built in the last quarter of the 19th century. The house stands on a portion of the "Stony Ridge" tract purchased by Frederick Bechtold in 1867 from George W. Baker. Today it is the residence of Andrew Lohr Jr., whose father owns Lohr's Orchard in Joppatowne (see HA-1601).

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bechtold-Lohr house

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3212 Snake Lane

CITY, TOWN

Churchville,

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21028

COUNTY

Harford

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

Andrew Lohr, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

3212 Snake Lane

CITY, TOWN

Churchville,

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21028

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 953

Folio #: 898

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air,

STATE Maryland 21014

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

HA-1289

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two story, T-shaped frame house covered with asbestos shingles is set on a high stone foundation and has a gable roof with a plain, boxed cornice. The south or main section with brick interior end chimneys is five bays wide and one room deep with a one-story porch spanning the south facade. Remodelled at least once, now the north section-or stem of the T-has a central brick chimney and is three bays long on the west side and one room deep, with a one-story, shed-roofed porch along the east side. The south section has 6/6 sash windows; the windows in the north section have 2/2 sash.

In the south section, the first story of the south facade has an entrance in the center bay flanked by two windows with louvered shutters on both sides; the second story has four windows. The hip-roofed porch is set on rock-faced concrete block piers with lattice work in between them. The door is one light over two panels.

Both ends are blank except for two four-light gable windows. There are gable-roofed enclosures on both ends, the east one containing an entrance to the basement.

On the north facade, the north section covers the center bays, leaving one window in each story in the west bay and a second story window in the east bay.

In the north section, the west side has three windows--aligned but irregularly spaced--in each story. The east side is similar except the first story is covered by a porch and one room addition.

The north end has one window in each story (the one in the first story is replaced) and one in the gable.

The interior plan of the south section consists of two rooms with a central staircase in the east room. The west room of the basement has full log joists with the bark still on them.

West of the house is a stone and frame, gable-roofed smokehouse. The high base is stone with board and batten siding in the ends and clapboards on the sides. Inside, several of the beams are hand-hewn.

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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house was probably built by Frederick Bechtold in the last quarter of the 19th century, on 37 acres of "Stony Ridge" tract which he acquired from George W. Baker in 1867.¹ (There is no house here on the 1878 Martenet's Map but in the mortgage dated 1877 this property is described as "all that tract where Frederick and Catherine Bechtold now reside."²) Reserving "a home on and a comfortable support of" the land, Frederick Bechtold sold the property to Adam Bechtold (b. 1857, d. 1917) in 1891 for \$2000.¹

In 1915, this parcel plus other parcels Adam Bechtold had acquired were sold to Clifford, Dorothy, and James Magness,² after Bechtold defaulted on his mortgage.³ James Magness became the sole owner⁴ and in 1927 sold the property to Anton Louch,⁵ who remodelled the property extensively.

Comparison with the house built by Ernest Bonnett across the road, which was copied from this house, indicates the later changes. On the Bonnett house, the back wing is 1½ stories and two bays long, with an interior end chimney. Apparently, then, Louch made the back section a full two stories and added an extra bay to the north end, so the end chimney is now in the center of the section.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land and Will Records of Harford County
Mitchell family records.

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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE		Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor	
ORGANIZATION	Harford County Historic District Commission	DATE	May, 1979
STREET & NUMBER	45 South Main Street	TELEPHONE	838-6000 ext. 207
CITY OR TOWN	Bel Air,	STATE	Maryland 21014

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

TITLE SEARCH

Bechtold-Lohr House

HA- 1289

WHD	18/146	January 3, 1867	Grantor: George W. Baker Grantee: Frederick Bechtold Acreage: 37 Acres, 8 perches "Stony Ridge" Sum: \$1900
ALJ	44/248	January 10, 1882	Grantor: Henry D. Farnandis and Edwin W. Webster, Trustee Grantee: Adam Bechtold Acreage: 2 parcels "Montrial", "Abbott's Forest" = 124 acres, 1 road and 6 perches
ALJ	72/116	September 24, 1891	Grantor: Frederick and Annistisia Bechtold Grantee: Adam & Veronica Bechtold Acreage: 37 Acres, 8 perches Sum: \$2000
WSF	89/378	November 15, 1896	Grantor: Frederick Bechtold Grantee: Adam Bechtold Acreage: 37 Acres, 8 perches
JAR	147/183	March 11, 1915	Grantor: Philip H. Close, Trustee Grantee: P. Tevis Baker, A. Lynn Baker (C.W. Baker & Sons) Acreage: 90 Acres (equity case C.W. Baker & Sons vs. A. Bechtold) Sum: \$7827.10
JAR	162/343	March 8, 1915	Grantor: P. Tevis Baker, A. Lynn Baker Grantee: James A. Magness, Clifford T. Magness, Dorothea L. Magness Acreage: 90 Acres, 3 parcels "Montrial", "Abbott's Forest", "Stony Ridge"
DGW	186/24	1926	Grantor: Dorothea Magness Grantee: James Magness
DGW	198/224	May 1, 1926	Grantor: Clifford Magness Grantee: James Magness
DGW	203/30	March 1, 1927	Grantor: James & Lillian Magness Grantee: Anton Louch Parts of "Montreal", "Abbott's Forest", "Stony Ridge".
	953/898		Grantor: Anton Louch Grantee: Andrew Herbert Lohr Acreage: 86.40 Acres

Architectural Significance of Mitchell Properties in Snake Lane vicinity

Although unimpressive singly, this cluster of houses in the Snake Lane vicinity represents a good cross-section of Harford County's small farmhouses built in the second half of the 19th century. Each is ordinary and, thus, together they represent the surprising variety of vernacular forms built at that time. None seems distinctive, but, on closer examination, no two are the same (although at least one house was a deliberate imitation of its neighbor).

There are certain common denominators among these buildings. They are all two story frame structures with gable roofs. Most are L or T shaped, with 6/6 sash windows and brick end chimneys (for stoves). They are of various construction: clapboard, shingle, board-and-batten. (However, most have been covered in asphalt shingles or aluminum siding, so the original materials are not apparent.) There is minimal exterior ornament: the shutters, gable returns, and carved porch brackets on the Winfield Mitchell house represent the height of fancy; the Wakeland-Gorrell house with its projecting vestibule and colored glass windows is an anomaly. Similarly, the interior plans are functional: one or two rooms in each story of the main section, one or two rooms in the el, with a staircase tucked in between. Or, if the staircase is in the center of the main section as in larger houses, it is not given undue prominence by being set apart in a hallway (again, except for the Wakeland-Gorrell house); it is against one wall of one of the rooms. Utilitarian, functional, with few conceits--these are the underlying themes of these houses.

Other motifs are subtler--the relationships between formal and informal elements, for instance. This dichotomy is represented in various ways: the symmetrical fenestration on the front facade versus the haphazard arrangement on the rear; the ambiguous relationship between the facade and the interior arrangement, wherein the former formalizes the latter. Perhaps the best way to discuss this cluster of seemingly non-descript buildings is to group them on this basis.

All houses have a front porch--less one for sitting than one to announce the entrance. It is the way visitors are introduced to the house and is often the one element that is decorated. The porches on these houses are of different shapes--their scale and ornament in direct proportion to the size and prosperity of the house: The George Jones house (HA-1053) is absolutely straightforward: three parts built side by side with an entrance in each. The formal entrance, in the west section, has a one bay wide, gable-roofed portico--and that is the only exterior element that could be considered extraneous. The Markline house and the Mitchell Tenant house #2 both having two parts, each two bays wide and two bays deep have undecorated shed-roofed porches spanning their front facades. The Markline house represents a slightly more formal arrangement than the other two--with its additions annexed to the rear, leaving the front facade symmetrical and singularly autonomous.

The Mitchell Tenant house #1, which is wider than the Markline house by one bay and has a central entrance, correspondingly has a more ornate porch with gable returns and collared posts. Likewise, instead of the stair being tucked between the front and rear sections as in the Markline house, the stair is in the center, against the east wall of the parlor.

The Winfield Mitchell house and the Mitchell-Magness house--both four bays wide, with entrances in the two center bays--illustrate well the formal-informal dichotomy that the other houses suggest. The symmetrical facades, the porches with carved brackets, collared or turned posts, and central flights of steps represent the public gestures; and the rear elevations, haphazardly arranged, are for residents' eyes only. The two entrances--one leading into the family parlor, the other into the formal part--manifest the duality.

The Bechtold-Lohr and Bonnett-Mitchell houses are both five bays wide--and the latter was copied deliberately from the former. The porch of the Bechtold-Lohr house with its

massive rock-faced concrete block piers, tapered columns, and hipped roof was constructed after the house was built but is appropriately-and symbolically-prepossessing for a house of this breadth. Its cousin, the Bonnett-Mitchell house, has a relatively scaled-down porch with square Doric posts covering the central three bays. Both houses have central entrances and central sets of porch steps-but no center hall on the interior. The formal symmetry of the exteriors bely the simply, functional interiors. Inside of both are two rooms, the room with the staircase (which is aligned with the entrance) larger than the other.

Finally-with the ultimate formal arrangement-the Gorrell house is three bays wide, with floor-length windows in the first story. Spanning the facade, the hipped-roofed porch with square posts shelters the projecting three-sided vestibule with a double-leafed door in the center, flanked by windows with colored glass borders. Inside, the house has a central hall plan. The principal facade of the Gorrell house has all three formal elements present in varying degrees in the other houses of this area: the extroverted porch, the inflected entrance, and relatively elaborate ornament.

Background Information on Mitchell properties in Snake Lane vicinity

On October 4, 1779, Amos Cord conveyed 150 acres of "Stony Ridge Enlargement" to John Mitchell for the sum of 500 pounds.¹ In a description of the boundaries of Mitchell's land, this property was referred to as part of "Stony Ridge" and "Paca's Enlargement".² Originally, this land had belonged to John Paca, who in 1775 conveyed it to John Blackburn,³ Blackburn then sold it to Thomas Perigrine Farsby who exchanged it with Amos Cord in 1776.⁴

Also, on December 17, 1783, John Stevenson sold 243 acres of "Stony Ridge" to John Mitchell for 486 pounds.⁵ And in 1800, Captain James Philips of Baltimore City conveyed 100 acres of Stony Ridge, which he had inherited from his father, to John Mitchell.⁶ This parcel had been confiscated from James Christie after the Revolution and sold by commissioners appointed to preserve confiscated British property to James Philips on October 1, 1782 for 100 pounds.

John Mitchell (b. 1737, d. 1801), has been described as "a respected and thrifty millwright." He married Mary Tidball in 1765 and had eight children. The property we are concerned with here-i.e. on the north side of Snake Lane-presumably passed to John Mitchell's son, Elijah, and then to Elijah's three sons William, Robert, and Elisha.⁷

It is said that in 1831 Elisha Mitchell possessed the land on which the Bechtold-Lohr house and the Mitchell-Lauterbach (HA-1286) house now stand.⁸ William's house burned. Robert owned the property where the Winfield Mitchell house (HA-1286), the Mitchell Tenant house #1, the Markline house, and the Mitchell-Magness house are now situated. Robert probably lived in the house now owned by William Craig, located behind the Mitchell-Magness house. However, that structure has been altered extensively, and the house as Robert Mitchell would have known it is unrecognizable.

Robert Mitchell married Averilla Hawkins and together they had seven children: Robert Louis, Mary Jane, Samuel, George, John Thomas, Catherine, and Margaret. In the last quarter of the 19th century, Robert Louis Mitchell built the Winfield Mitchell house⁹, Samuel built the Markline house (HA-1283)¹⁰ and eventually occupied his father's house; John Thomas built the Mitchell Tenant house #1,¹¹ and Margaret lived in the Mitchell-Magness house.

John Thomas Mitchell had two sons, George and Alonzo. George's house burned; Alonzo lived in what is called the Mitchell tenant house #1 and inherited Robert Louis Mitchell's house. John Winfield Mitchell, son of George Mitchell, then inherited the property of Alonzo Mitchell who had no children of his own.¹²

Thus, most of the Mitchell houses on Snake Lane were built during the last quarter of the 19th century by the children of Robert Mitchell.

Footnotes

- 1 Liber JLGC, Folio 239
- 2 Liber JLGD, Folio 16
- 3 Ref. Liber JLGC, Folio 239
- 4 Liber JLGA, Folio 257
- 5 Liber JLGE, Folio 416
- 6 Liber JLGP, Folio 430
- 7 Mitchell family archives
- 8 HD 14/87
- 9 ALJ 32/190
- 10 ALJ 32/464
- 11 ALJ 36/186
- 12 ALJ 64/373

ABERDEEN
USAS
QUADRANGLE

HA-1289



HA-1277

HA-1279

HA-994

Smith Chapel

HA-1276

Boat Corner

HA-1284

HA-1300

HA-1053

HA-1285

HA-1285

HA-1054

A-300

Churchville

Aldino Airport

Aldino

Carsons

Jefferson Sch

Gravel Patti

Baby Cem

Grays

Kun

GILBERT

Cem

HA-994

Level

Hopewell Ch

Rail

340

300

400

375

387

400

397

382

360

400

360

339

300

220

380

300

328

300

300

300

352

300



HA- 1289

Bechtold-Lohr house
Churchville, MD 21028
N. Shivers
February, 1979
Southeast



HA- 1289

Bechtold-Lohr house
Churchville, MD 21028
N. Shivers
February, 1979
West



HA- 1289

Bechtold-Lohr house
Churchville, MD 21028
N. Shivers
February, 1979
Smokehouse