

## SUMMARY

William Woolsey Farm  
706 Glenville Road  
nr. Churchville

HA-1538

The William Woolsey farm exhibits a remarkable array of outbuildings dating from the middle of the 19th century to the early 20th century including a blacksmith shop, barn and tool shed, dairy/smokehouse, privy/wash house, carriage house, a log tenant house, and the stone ruins of an unidentified structure. Except for the barn and tool shed, most structures date from the time William Woolsey owned the farm between 1844 and his death in 1888. Woolsey was one of Harford County's great philanthropists, providing the money for paving Churchville Road (MD. Rte. 22), Level Road (MD Rte. 155), Glenville Road and Calvary Road (MD Rte. 136).

The farm is much as it was described by Jacob Baer in 1910, "the 'Woolsey Home Farm'....(lies) about a mile and a half from Churchville on the road leading to Wilson's Mill and Glenville. The land is of strong quality, although some parts of it are hilly. Mr. William Woolsey, who lived on the farm for a number of years as I have been informed, was an excellent farmer and brought the land up to a high state of fertility...the present barn which was built by me after the old barn was burned is very large and substantially built...There is also another tenant house on the place and all necessary outbuildings...including an implement house, barrack dairy, ice house, cistern, etc.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
 William Woolsey Farm

AND/OR COMMON  
 Umbarger Farm

**2 LOCATION** (West side Glenville Rd., south of Cool Branch Rd.)

STREET & NUMBER  
 706 Glenville Road nr. Churchville

CITY, TOWN  
 Churchville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
 Maryland

COUNTY  
 Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gene Umbarger

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER  
 706 Glenville Road

CITY, TOWN  
 Churchville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
 MD 21028

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

MD 21014

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

HA-1538

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" 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

## Woolsey Farm

Located on the west side of Glenville Road, West of Cool Branch Road, the Woolsey Farm comprises a remarkable range of outbuildings that illustrate the development of the farm over the past 150 years. The farm operations took place in a complex ( a barn, shed, & blacksmith shop) southeast of the house (rebuilt on the foundations of the earlier house, which burned). Behind the house are clustered the domestic outbuildings - a dairy & 2 unidentified buildings, stables to the north, and a privy/washhouse north of the stables.

"A" The remains of the 1-story rubblestone/blacksmith shop with large stone quoins measure 20'2" by 18'2", with a gable flank roof ( the roof itself is no longer extant). There may have been a chimney in the north end, where there are several bricks below the gable peak. The large entrance opening is located in the east side, while there is a window in the west side, and a small rectangular opening in the lower portion of the north end; the south end is blank.

"B" North of the blacksmith shop is located an early 20th century gambrel-roofed ell-shaped barn with a rubblestone ground story and frame vertical board upperstory. The inside of the ell faces the road so that the south section is on a north-south axis, and the north section extends east-west with its west end flush with the west side of the south section. Both sections are 6 bays long and 2 bays wide. The milking parlor is located in the south section, stalls for the cows in the north section. The frame structure has circular/sawn timbers. At the northwest corner of the juncture is a round 2-story stone silo with a gable-roofed projection for the loading dock in the roof. The date 1932 is carved in the entrance jamb where the silo joins the barn.

"C" The 2-story board and batten shed, located west of the barn and connected to it by a 1-story link, opens to the south and has windows in the 2nd story and gable, with sliding doors are located in the north end and west side as well. Set on a low stone foundation, its frame has hewn posts, circular sawn joists, and sawn rafters.

"D" A drive extends from this farm complex to the residential complex and the remaining outbuildings are located west of this drive, while the house (new) is on the east. In the southeast corner of the domestic outbuilding complex is the 2-story rubblestone dairy, with a cartilevered gable roof and a 1-story shed-roofed smokehouse addition to the north. The dairy faces east and has an exterior staircase to the 2nd floor entrance. There is another entrance in the 1st story and 1 window in each story of the west end. An interior brick chimney is located in the southwest corner. The dairy is plaster over riven lath, and the 2nd floor joists are log with bark on them. The smokehouse has an entrance and window with a vertical board shutter in the north side; the interior of the smokehouse addition still has hooks for hanging meats and a staircase leading to the storage cellar.

"E" West of the dairy/smokehouse are 2 structures of undetermined function. Immediately west of the dairy is a gable-roofed 1-story log building set on a low stone foundation and measuring 11' by 12'11", with clapboard sheathing. The building faces north and the ridge line runs on an east-west axis. The entrance is located in the north side, while each gable contains a small square window.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

See Continuation Sheet #1

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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

Records of the history of the William Woolsey Farm provide an astounding compendium of information about 18th, 19th, and 20th Century habits and styles of living. Almost every transaction was accompanied by a ream of estate inventories and accounts, and the wills are extremely explicit. This wealth of information plus the remarkable state of preservation of the entire range of outbuildings make the Woolsey Farm an excellent case study of Harford County civilization in the late 18th, 19th, and 20th Centuries.

Except for the barn and silo, most of these farm buildings date from the time William Woolsey owned the farm - from 1844 until his death in 1888. The house burned in the 20th Century, but there is a picture of it in the Aegis, Historical and Industrial Edition published in 1920 (p. 41), and the executors of Rebecca Woolsey, William's sister, give a full account of the interior in her inventories as it was in 1901.

William Woolsey was responsible for the paving of the roads around Churchville. He instructed the executors of his will to pay the county commissioners \$0,000 for "Macadamizing" the road from Bel Air to Churchville (MD Rt. 22), \$10,000 for the road from Churchville to Havre de Grace (MD Rt. 155), \$8000 for the road from Churchville to Aberdeen (MD Rt. 22), \$15,000 for the road from Churchville to Darlington (Glenville Road), and \$5000 for the road from Churchville to Calvary Church (MD Rt. 136).<sup>2</sup> He also gave \$500 to Churchville Presbyterian Church for the erection of an iron railing around the churchyard, which is probably the one there now. Woolsey's home farm containing 308 acres was valued at \$30,800 at his death. He also had a 315 acre farm on Deer Creek, a store, and a house and stable at Churchville; altogether his real estate was assessed at \$37,628.33. The list of farm workers whose salaries Woolsey's executors continued to pay after his death and the inventory of Woolsey's farm implements give a picture of the complex workings of this large farm, not unlike the antebellum southern plantation in its scope of activity and apparent self-sufficiency. (The list of workers also is a good directory of Harford County's craftsmen and laborers in the last quarter of the 19th Century.) By the time of Rebecca Woolsey's death in 1901, the depression of farm real estate (noted by the estate evaluators) had caused the value of the farm to drop severely, so that Rebecca's 1/3 interest was worth only \$7000, while the value of the Churchville store had increased to \$2000, and the house and stable at Churchville to \$3000.

Jacob S. Baer purchased the Woolsey farm in 1903<sup>3</sup> for \$21,750 and in an equity case of 1910 describes it as it was there:

\* His home farm was assessed at 2/3 of its full value, the Deer Creek farm was assessed at 1/3 its full value.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land, will and equity records of Harford County  
Wright, C. Milton, Our Harford Heritage, 1967

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

Natalie Shivers

July, 1980

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

45 S. Main Street

TELEPHONE

838-6000 X207

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

WILLIAM WOOLSEY FARM  
HA-1538

DESCRIPTION (Cont.)

(Continuation Sheet #1)

The interior is finished with plaster and is open from the dirt floor to the log rafters with the bark still on them. Only one log floor joist remains.

West of the log structure are rubble stone ruins of another unidentified structure.

"E"  
"G"  
The privy/wash house marks the northwest corner of this complex. The privy, measuring 8'9" x 11'2", is part cut stone, part rubble stone. It has 2 beaded board doors ( one marked "For Ladies", the other "For Gents"). On the south end is a stone chimney and exterior fireplace with a flat brick arch composed of a double row of what was said to be the wash house.

"H"  
The structure having the stables and carriage house is located at the northeast corner of this complex. The 2-story, gable-roofed building is 3 bays long and 2 bays deep with a rubblestone ground story and clapboard upperstory. On the east side, the ground story is blank and the upperstory has a full-length entrance in the center bay flanked by one window on each side. The south end is open in the ground story and has a 6/6 window in the gable and a louvered opening in the 2nd story. The north end has an opening with double leaf louvered shutters in the gable and one window in each story. The west side has 3 louvered openings in the 2nd story.

## 8. Statement of Significance

"The Woolsey Home Farm consists of 312 acres of land, lying about a mile and a half from Cville on the road leading to Wilson's Mill and Glenville. The land is of strong quality, although some parts of it are hilly. Mr. William Woolsey, who lived on the farm for a number of years, as I have been informed, was an excellent farmer and brought the land up to a high state of fertility, and this practice seems to have been continued by Mr. Williams, who was the executor of Mr. Woolsey, and by Mr. Lee who bought the property a short time before it was sold to me, for I found the land in very good condition when I took possession of it. The dwelling house is an unusually good one, and the present barn which was built by me after the old barn was burned is very large and substantially built. I have also built a new tenant house across the road from the new barn. There is also another tenant house on the place and all necessary outbuildings...including an implement house, barrack, dairy, ice house, a cistern, etc..."

The barn here now is the one built by Jacob Baer between 1903 and 1910 and the outbuildings are intact as Woolsey built them.

William Woolsey had purchased the 308 acre farm made up of the tracts "Aquilla's Inheritance" and "Good Neighborhood or Good Neighborhood Enlarged" with Jason M. Woolsey in 1844 for \$11.27 per acre.<sup>4</sup> It had been in the possession of Joseph Husband since 1812 and prior to that had belonged to the heirs of Samuel Wilson, whose executors had sold the farm to Husband for \$6.50 an acre.<sup>5</sup>

Samuel Wilson had apparently acquired 300 acres of "Aquillas Inheritance", which consisted of his father's dwelling plantation and 189 acres of "Good Neighborhood Enlarged" by William Wilson's will dated 1774.<sup>6</sup> The will stipulates that William's wife Cassandra is to have her choice of one of the rooms in the dwelling house, "one Negro woman named Sarah one feather bed and one chest of drawers 6 chairs her choice of one of the tables as much pewter and chania (sic) as she chooses a riding chair and geares theretwo (sic) belonging and the 2 horses which goes (sic) in the chair and my son Samuel is to find a boy to drive the chair and my will is that my sons William and Samuel pay to their mother each of them 10 pounds and 10 shillings current passing money yearly and every year during her life and a sufficient (sic) of provisions yearly out of there (sic) own estates..." Each child was given several hundred acres of land, at least half a dozen Negroes (although William Wilson directed that at least 5 were to be set free and his sons William and Samuel were to build them houses, give them 20 acre lots and a complement of cows, ewes, and pigs)- an interesting insight into what were considered the necessities to start off an independent life in 1774.

William writes of his debt to John Harris and a later deed refers to the part of "Good Neighborhood Enlarged" sold by Harris to Wilson in 1773 (apparently before Harford County became independent of Baltimore County since the land records of Harford County have no record of this transaction). The portion of Aquilas Inheritance that made up his dwelling plantation is unclear. In 1803, Henry Ridgely sold to Samuel Wilson's heirs that part of the tract that Thomas Hall had sold to him in 1789<sup>9</sup> and instructed to be conveyed to Samuel Wilson. Hall refers to it as the land he holds under his grandfather Thomas White's will. Dated 1773, Thomas White's will devises 5 tracts to his daughter Sophia and then to her son Thomas including "the part of Aquilas Inheritance I purchased of Aquila Hall". White also directs that his executors +0

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3)

William Woolsey Farm

## 8. Statement of Significance

procure "suitable rings" (mourning rings?) for his wife, son and daughters, Mr. Aquila Hall, Mr. Robert Morris, his two sisters in England, and his son's wife. The question arises as to how William Wilson acquired this part of "Aquila's Inheritance" if it was sold to his son's heirs in 1803 - although he may have been in possession of the land without an official deed.

1. Estate Records #6058
2. Will Records WSR/10/421
3. WSF 109/149
4. HD 30/190
5. HD X/87
6. Will Records AJR/180
7. HD X/87
8. HD R/100
9. JLG K/403
10. AJR/167

## TITLE SEARCH

HA-1538

## William Woolsey Farm

1. 1051/8                      Dec 30, 1977                      Grantor: Worley N. & Louise F. Umbarger  
Grantee: W. George & K. Louise Umbarger  
Acreage: Westerly side of Glenville road=  
75 A.
2. 1017/1024                      Dec 30, 1976                      Grantor: Worley N. & Louise F. Umbarger  
Grantee: W. George & K. Louise Umbarger  
Acreage: 74.63 A.
3. GRG 344/84                      June 26, 1950                      Grantor: George C. Umbarger, widower  
Grantee: Worley N. & Louise K. Umbarger  
Acreage: "Woolsey Farm" = 292 A.
4. JAR 162/54                      Dec 7, 1918                      Grantor: John S. & Edna Woodrum  
Grantee: George C. Umbarger of Smyth Co.,  
Va.  
Sum: \$40,000  
Acreage: "Aquilla's Inheritance" "Good  
Neighborhood and Good Neighborhood  
Enlarged", known as the "Woolsey  
Home Place"
5. JAR 147/393                      May 29, 1915                      Grantor: Jacob S. Baer  
Grantee: John S. Woodrum, Roanoake Co., Va.  
Sum: \$35,000  
Acreage: "Acquilla's Inheritance" "Good  
Neighborhood", "Good Neighborhood  
Enlarged", also known as  
"Woolsey Home Place"
6. Jar 134/266                      Sept 27, 1911                      Grantor: Margaret & J. A. Graeme Allen  
Grantee: Jacob S. Baer  
Sum: \$15,000  
Acreage: "Woolsey Home Farm"=312 A  
"Good Neighborhood or Good  
Neighborhood Enlarged"
7. JAR 130/125                      Apr 1, 1910                      Grantor: Jacob S. Baer, Trustee  
Jacob S. Baer vs. Wm. Geo. Baer  
et al
8. WSF 109/149                      May 19, 1903                      Grantor: James & Mary E. Lee  
Grantee: Jacob S. Baer  
Sum: \$21,750  
Acreage: "Woolsey Home Farm":  
"Aquila's Inheritance", "Good  
Neighborhood or Good Neighborhood  
Enlarged"
9. WSF 109/147                      May 19, 1903                      Grantor: Stevenson A. Williams, Trustee of  
Wm. Woolsey, Rebecca Woolsey

William Woolsey Farm HA-1538

Grantee: James Lee  
 Sum: \$19,975  
 Acreage: "The Home Farm"=312 A.: "Aquila's Inheritance", "Good Neighborhood", "Good Neighborhood Enlarged"

10. Will WSR10/421 1889

William Woolsey

11A. HD 30/190 Nov 23, 1844

Grantor: Augustus W. Bradford of Balt. City  
 Grantee: Wm Woolsey & Jason M. Woolsey (Samuel Bradford vs. Joseph Husband et al)  
 Sum: \$11.27/acre =3471.66  
 Acreage: "Acquilla's Inheritance", "Good Neighborhood or Good Neighborhood Enlarged" = 308 A. 7 P (was in possession of Joseph Husband)

11B. HD 30/167 Oct 14, 1844

Grantor: Joseph & Sarah G. Husbards  
 Grantee: Jason M. Woolsey, Wm. Woolsey  
 Sum: \$400  
 Acreage: "Aquilla's Inheritance", "Good Neighborhood" or "Good Neighborhood Enlarged" = 308 A. (Saml. Bradford vs. Jos. Husband)

12. HD X/87 Sept 9, 1812

Grantor: John Moores, Richard Kroizen, Thomas Jeffery (Samuel Wilson, Deceased)  
 Grantee: Joseph Husband  
 Acreage: "Aquilas Inheritance", "Good Neighborhood", "Wind Mill Hills"= 558-1/4 A. (Aquillas Inheritance sold by John Hall to Wm. Wilson father of Samuel Wilson & conveyed by Henry Ridgely to heirs of of Samuel Wilson 8/24/1803. Good Neighborhood or Good Neighborhood Enlarged sold by John Harris to Wm. Wilson 4/19/1773 = 186 A) total 558-1/4 A.

13. HD R/100 Aug 24, 1803

Grantor: Henry Ridgely of Anne Arundel Co.  
 Grantee: Wm. Lee Wilson et al, heirs of Samuel Wilson.  
 Acreage: "Aquillas Inheritance"

14. JLG K/403 Mar 28, 1789

Grantor: Thos. Hall  
 Grantee: Henry Ridgely of Balto. Co.  
 Sum: 3707 pounds  
 Acreage: Jericho & Aquillas Inheritance (Ridgely to convey Aquillas Inheritance to Samuel Wilson)

15. Will Records  
AJR/167 1779

Will of Thos White - aged 68 on 3/15/1773,  
of Phila., formerly of Balt. Co.  
devised to daughter Sophia as tenant for life  
& "not intail remainder" to her son Thos.  
Hall - 5 tracts nr. Deer Creek: Halls  
Rich Neele (val. 1550 pounds), 1st  
add to Halls Rich Neck, 2nd  
add to Halls Rich Neck, the Wind  
Mill Hill and the part of Aquilas Inheritance  
purchased of Aquila Hall.

16 16. Will AJR/180 Will of Wm. Wilson

1774 - to youngest son Samuel - my dwelling  
plantation called Aquillas Inheritance=300A.  
and 189 A. of Good Neighborhood Enlarged  
which I bought of John Harris, and 12  
Negroes





William Woolsey Farm HA-1538  
Churchville, MD 21028  
Natalie Shivers  
Jan., 1980  
Silo Barn and shed-West sides



William Woolsey Farm HA-1538  
Churchville, MD 21028  
Natalie Shivers  
Jan., 1980  
Barn, Blacksmith Shop- South



William Woolsey Farm HA-1538  
Churchville, MD 21028  
Natalie Shivers  
Blacksmith shop-South West  
Jan., 1980



William Woolsey Farm HA-1538

Churchville, MD 21028

Natalie Shivers

Jan., 1980 - South East

Log house, Dairy, Carriage Shed



William Woolsey Farm HA-1538  
Churchville, MD 21028  
Natalie Shivers  
Jan., 1980  
Privy & Wash house-South East