

SUMMARY

HA-1557

Jesse Hoskins Farm/The Old Fresh Air Camp
701 Whitaker Mill Road
Joppa, Maryland

This 30-acre farm was the site of the Fresh Air Camp from 1908 until 1972 and, prior to that, Jesse Hoskins' farm. A number of rustic frame structures including 15 campers' cabins, a rec hall, a church, two lodges, an infirmary building, and a dwelling, were built for the Fresh Air Camp and date from the second and third decades of the 20th century. With their use of natural unfinished materials, low broad proportions, large porches and concern for ventilation, and the frank expression of their structure, these buildings are typical of the architectural style popularized by architects like Green & Greene in California. This radical style was quite suitable for the radical idea of giving urban ghetto families a rural experience for two weeks in the summer--the purpose of the Fresh Air Society when it was incorporated in 1896.

The stone barn and springhouse probably date from the mid 19th century when the farm, part of the tract "Duncale", was owned by Jesse and Angeline Hoskins. Although the barn has been remodeled, it is still an imposing structure and is one of only a few stone barns left in Harford County.

The farm is now privately owned and rented out to various community groups.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Jesse Hoskins Farm

AND/OR COMMON
The Old Fresh Air Camp

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
701 Whitaker Mill Road (east side of Whitaker Mill Rd, east of Old Joppa Rd)

CITY, TOWN
Joppa

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 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<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
Bruce J. and Mary Margaret Hegstad

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 700

CITY, TOWN
Aberdeen

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21001

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
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN
STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

7-557

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

This 39-acre farm/camp is located on Whitakers Mill Road, east of Old Joppa Road.

The farm, the site of the Fresh Air Camp from 1908 to 1972, has a number of early-to-mid 20th century rustic frame structures (dormitories, dining hall, etc.) erected for the camp and at least two structures, a barn and a springhouse, that seem to antedate the camp.

The Driveway bisects the camp into a residential half on the north with 12 campers' cabins and a director's cabin arranged in a semi-circle around the main dwelling closest to the drive, and, on the south, the community buildings including the church, infirmary, dining hall, two lodges, a structure containing two fountains, and an unidentified brick and clap-board structure. Also in this area is a stone and clapboard springhouse that probably antedates the camp and a 1-1/2 story frame dormitory. At the east end of the drive is the stone barn--a modified bank barn--with additions on the north, east and south sides. Further south on Whitaker Mill Road and in the southwest corner of the farm are located the early 20th century Whitaker Mill School and two frame cabins.

Most of the frame structures seem to date from the first quarter of the 20th century and are exemplary of the rustic vernacular that was popularized by architects like Greene & Greene at the beginning of the 20th century. This style was characterized by natural materials; low, broad proportions; large porches; numerous window and door openings; and frank expression of structure. True to type, these particular camp buildings are frame sheathed in unpainted shingles, clapboards, or boards and battens, with gable roofs and exposed eaves; most are 1 or 1-1/2 stories, sometimes with louvered clerestories for ventilation, with porches on many, entrance porticos on others. Interiors reveal exposed framing--no plaster on the walls and no ceilings.

"A" More specifically, the 12 campers' cabins are one story, 2 bays wide and 5 bays long, clapboard with gable roofs and exposed eaves; they measure 19' x 39' x 12' and have one or two entrances sheltered by shed-roofed porticoes (i.e. 1-bay extensions of the gable roof), and two have exterior stone chimneys. Most windows have 6/6 sash. The director's cabin, located at the northeast edge of the semi-circle of cabins, is slightly more sophisticated: L-shaped with German siding, two bays wide and two bays deep, with 2/2 sash.

"B" The L-shaped main dwelling is two stories with a hipped roof with wide eaves. The house faces west and the western section is three bays wide and one room deep; the ell is two bays long and three bays wide with a recessed porch in the south side. Most windows have 6/6 sash and either plainwide or narrow beaded trim.

"C" The community buildings illustrate variations on the rustic theme introduced by the cabins. The church, with a gabled hip roof, is shingled with a German siding "wainscot", set on a concrete foundation. Three bays wide and eight bays long, the structure has a recessed porch and two sets of double doors in the west end and 12 light windows. On the interior, the rafters are arranged in a sort of triangular "D" web system. The rec hall with a bell in the center of the gable is board-and-batten

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 checked="" 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 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

The Fresh Air Society of Baltimore City purchased 33 acres of the tract "Dunkale" in 1908 from Benjamin W. Amoss for \$3500¹, and most of the frame structures belong to the second or third decade of the 20th century. The Fresh Air Society, which had begun as a project of the First Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, was incorporated in 1896 and was originally intended to provide farm experiences for family groups in the summer. The focus was changed to children soon after purchase of this site. This site on Whitaker Mill was run as an actual farm until 1972 when a larger site was purchased in Street (also in Harford County) and this site sold.

The architecture of the camp buildings-the use of natural materials (in this case, unpainted shingles, clapboards, boards and battens), the broad low proportions, the large porches and attention to ventilation, the exposed construction and the picturesque layout that exploit the topography and natural landscape reflect larger movements in American architectural and sociological thinking. The ideas introduced by Frank Lloyd Wright in his prairie houses and by the Greene brothers in their California bungalows were eminently suitable for a camp such as this. The radical idea of a rustic experience for underprivileged urban families required a radical rustic style, and the characteristics now typical of summer camps were novel at that time.

The stone barn and springhouse date from the mid-19th century, although the barn has been remodeled so drastically that its original configuration is difficult to determine. The barn and springhouse probably belonged to the estate of Jesse Hoskins, who purchased 119 acres for \$1678 in 1837.² The 1878 Martenet's Map notes the presence of Jesse Hoskins in this area (the 1858 Jennings and Herrick Map, however, does not) and when Jesse and Angeline Hoskins sold the farm to their son, Joseph, in 1890, it is referred to as the parcel on which "they now reside".³

According to the Biographical Cyclopedia of Harford and Cecil Counties, Jesse Hoskins, son of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Cheyney Hoskins, was born in 1810, married Angeline Johnson in 1840, with whom he had nine children, was a Quaker and a successful farmer.

Prior to Hoskins ownership, the farm was owned by Samuel R. Smith of Baltimore City.⁴ He had purchased 500 acres of "Dunkale" for \$5 per acre in 1812 (minus a small part sold to Elijah Fell), in a forced sale of James Trapnell's property (a mortgage default). Trapnell, a farmer, in turn had purchased the farm from Harry Gough, "gentleman", of Baltimore County in 1781. Trapnell's 1792 mortgage with Gough encumbers 40 acres of the "End" and "Addition to the End" he bought from Edward and

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

HR-557

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Bruce J. Hegstad, owner, July 1980
Interview with Paul Mitzel, director of Fresh Air Society, July 1980
1878 Martenet's Map
1858 Jennings & Herrick Map
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, Historic Sites Surveyor

July, 1980

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

45 S. Main Street

TELEPHONE

879-2000 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

7. Description

(Continuation Sheet #1)

E, F on brick piers with a stone chimney on the east and a porch on the south. The two lodges are similar, although one is covered in German siding, the other in clapboard. Eleven bays long and two bays wide, they have bellcast hip roofs with porches on three sides.

"G"
"H"
"I" Behind the northern lodge are two brick structures, one semi-enclosed with a roof supported on plain posts and brackets containing two fountains dedicated to Frederick Bauern Schmidt. The other, brick and clapboard, with two entrances, had an interior that was inaccessible and hence its function undetermined. The dorm is 1-1/2 stories, board-and-batten, with a bellcast gable roof and two dormers in each slope of the roof.

"J" "K" The two frame buildings (17' x 20' x 10') behind (i.e. southeast of) the old school (for information on the Whitaker Mill school see HA-1558) are one-story, three bays by two bays with German siding and, in the gable, board-and-batten siding.

"L" The 2-1/2 story gable-roofed modified bank barn (57' x 64' x 32') is of fieldstone frame additions on three sides, leaving the west side exposed. The north side has a central banked entrance. Most windows are casements and have flat brick arches. The ground story of the west side has (from north to south): a 9-light window with a pegged frame and no brick arch; a 9-light window with a brick segmental arch and a double-doored opening, also with a segmental arch. The first story has three windows, the center bay containing a tripartite window consisting of a casement window with sidelights. In the gable is a narrow slit window.

The south side has two entrances in the center bay of the ground and first stories. The latter is covered by a shed-roofed portico and reached by a flight of wooden steps. In the first story west bay is a casement window with flat brick arch and in the second story center and east bays are 6/6 sash windows. A frame addition covers the east bays of the ground and first stories.

The shingled addition on the north side is two stories with a center gable with uneven slopes. There is one 9/6 sash window in the west end, but in general windows have 6/6 sash. There are two brick exterior chimneys on this side.

The interior of the barn contains, in the upper story, one large room with sawn rafters in a scissors truss, fastened at the joints with iron braces. The lower story has been broken up into a number of smaller utility rooms.

The addition on the north containing a kitchen has log rafters hewn on the bottoms.

"M" The two-story rubble stone springhouse, southwest of the barn, has a gable roof with cedar shakes. The gable ends are sheathed in clapboards and the corners of the stone section have large quoins. On the interior, the roof rafters and floor joists are sawn.

8. Statement of Significance

(Continuation Sheet #1)

Thomas Norris and 12 slaves, listed by name and age, including nine under age 13.⁵ Although there is no deed recording Gough's sale of "Dunkale" to Trapnell, the mortgage states that Trapnell purchased "Dunkiel" from Gough in 1781 for 7 pounds, 15 shillings per acre, and that this "painful" debt was reduced by Gough to 1500 ppunds.

"Duncale" was purchased by Gilbert Scott in 1699. Subsequent ownership is unclear until, according to a 1777 deed,⁶ Samuel Chase of Anne Arundel County sold "Dunkiel" to Benjamin Burgess Cheney, planter, in 1770 (deed reference noted as Liber DD No. 4, Folio 676 and 677 in the land records of the provincial court) and Cheney sold the tract to Harry Gough Esq. in 1777 for 2000 pounds.⁷

Thus, the farm represents two phases in the development of rural America--first, a farm used for agriculture and life support and second, a farm used for recreation and life support of another sort (i.e. escape from urban ills and, hence, of social benefit). The structures are well-preserved and of interest to the social and architectural historian.

1. WSF 122/480
2. HD 20/190
3. HD 20/190
4. HD W/375
5. JLG K/376
6. JLG A/34
7. JLG A/34

J

HA-1557

Jesse H6skins Farm/The Old Fresh Air Camp

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Continuation Sheet #1)

Portrait and Biographical Record of Harford and Cecil Counties, Chapman
Publishing Co., New York, 1897

Land, will and equity records of Harford County

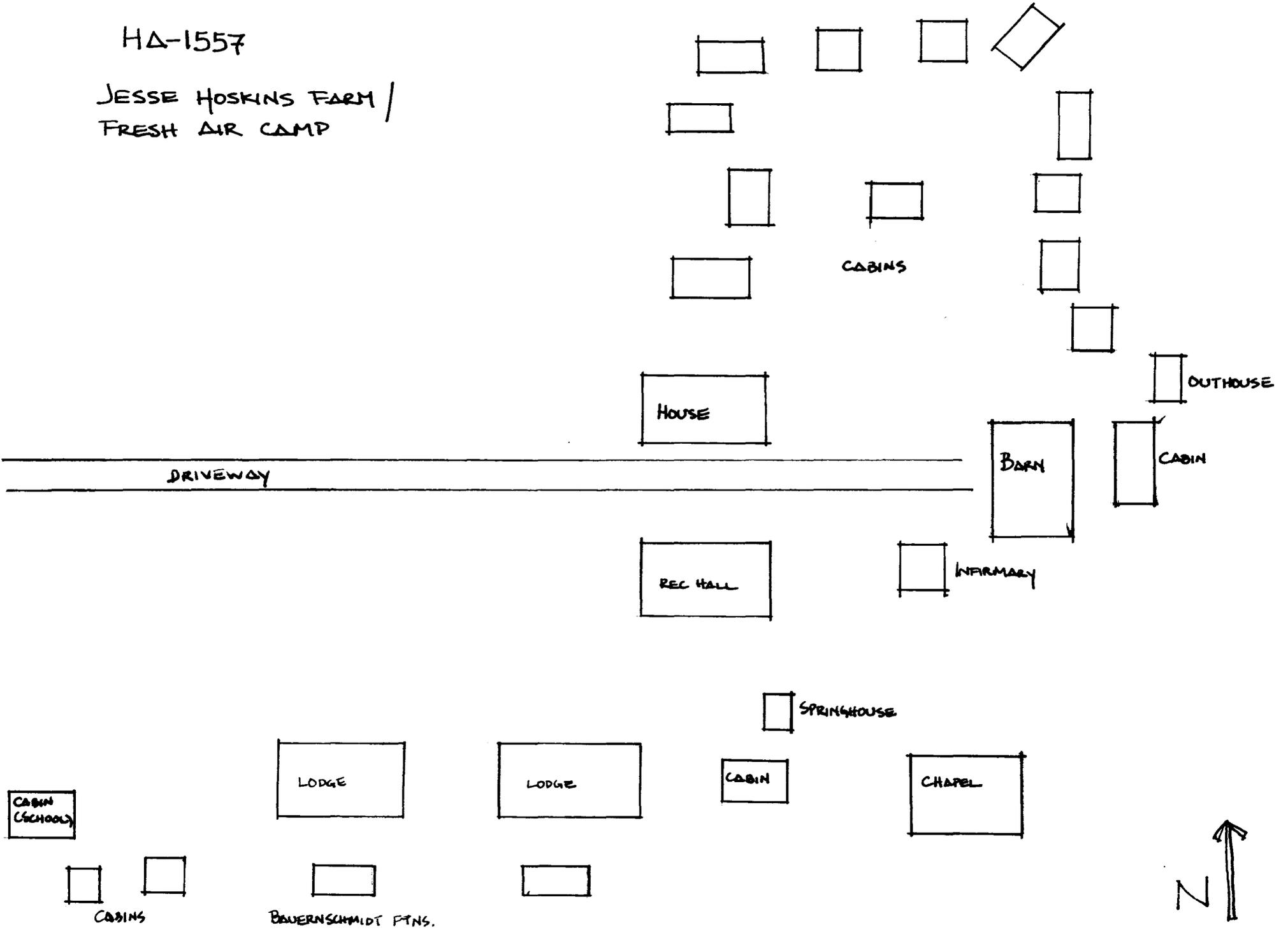
JESSE HOSKINS FARM/THE OLD FRESH AIR CAMP

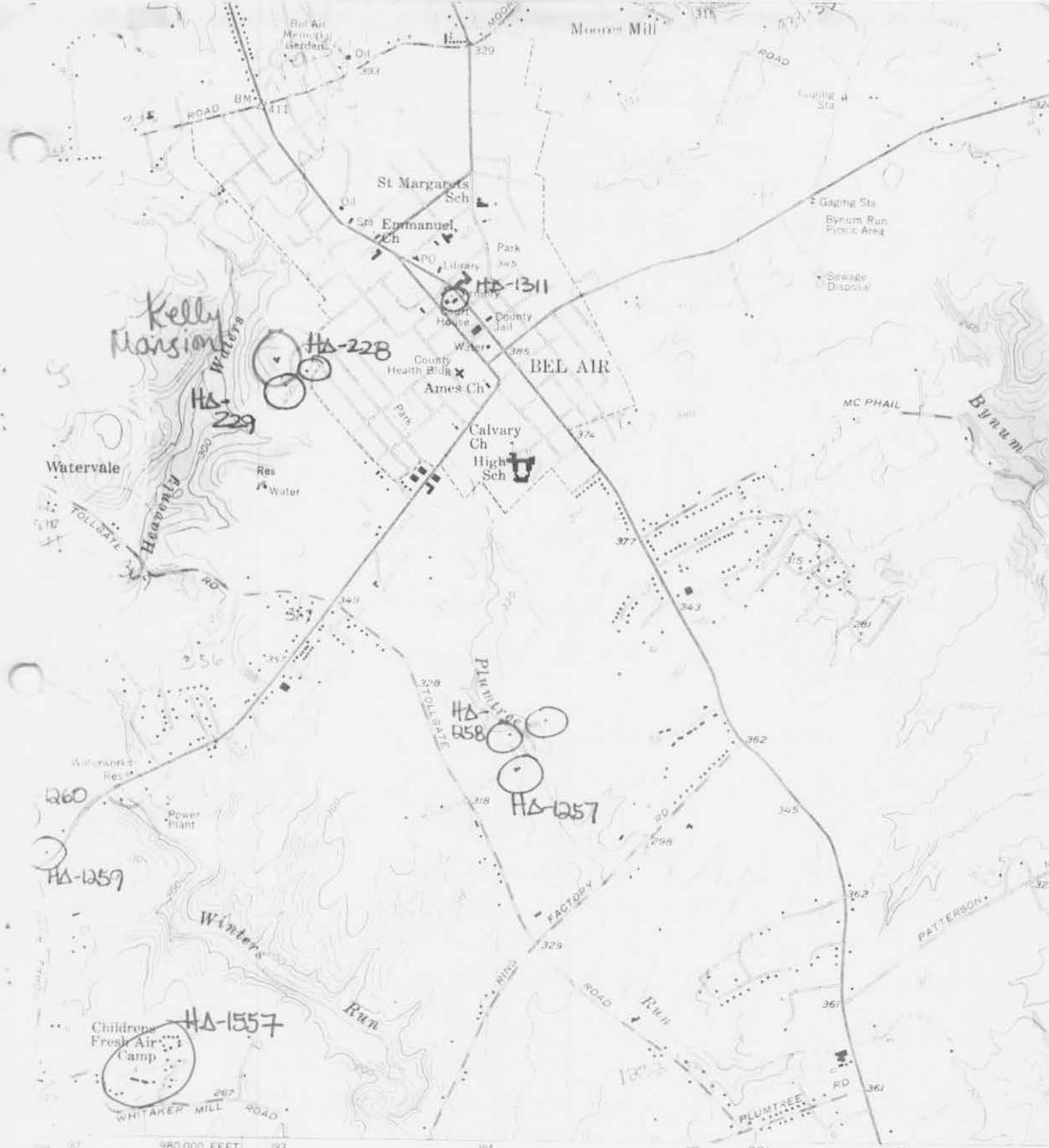
Title Search
HA-1557

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---|
| 1. 890/878 | Feb 2, 1972 | Grantor: The Children's Fresh Air Society
Grantee: Baptist Bible Church
Acreage: 39.37 A. |
| 2A. WSF 122/480 | May 5, 1908 | Grantor: Benjamin W. Amoss
Grantee: "Children's Fresh Air Society of
Baltimore City"
Sum: \$3500
Acreage: 33 A. 2R 10P, part of "Dunkale" |
| 2B. 367/21 | Dec 4, 1951 | Grantor: Board of Education of Harford County
Grantee: The Children's Fresh Air Society of
Baltimore City
Acreage: 1 A. |
| 3. WSF 120/336 | Mar 13, 1907 | Grantor: Hamilton & Lida R. Amoss
Grantee: Benjamin W. Amoss
Acreage: 33 A. 2R 10P, "Dunkale" |
| 4. WSF 109/13 | Feb 10, 1903 | Grantor: Joseph B. & Annie H. Hoskins
Jesse Hoskins
Grantee: Hamilton Amoss
Sum: \$3800
Acreage: "All that land on which grantors lately
resided" = 78 A. |
| 5. ALF 70/34 | Dec 13, 1890 | Grantor: Jesse & Angeline Hoskins
Grantee: Joseph B. Hoskins, Son
Acreage: "Parcel on which grantors now reside"
= 79 A. |
| 6. HD 20/190 | Oct 9, 1837 | Grantor: John H. B. Latrobe, Trustee
Grantee: Jesse Hoskins
(William Smith, George S. Dickey &
Michael F. Keyser et al vs. Edward Dickey, George
S. Dickey the Younger and Anne Smith)
Sum: \$1678
Acreage: 79 A. + 40 A. of Bonds Forrest |
| 7. HD W/375 | May 8, 1812 | Grantor: Dr. Adam Clerdiner, Trustee
Grantee: Samuel R. Smith of Baltimore City
(sale of estate of James Trapnall, dec.;
Mortgage debt owed by Trapnall to Harry D. Gough)
Sum: \$5/acre
Acreage: "Dunkale" = 500 A. (except small part
by Harry Gough to Elijah Fell 12/19/1804) |

HA-1557

JESSE HOSKINS FARM /
FRESH AIR CAMP





Compiled, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

BEL AIR USGS QUADRANGLE

Produced by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
 Derived graphically from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1956
 Conic projection. 1927 North American datum
 100-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
 31-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks.
 1:50,000 scale, shown in blue
 Shaded relief indicates areas in which only sketch buildings are shown





Jesse Hoskins Farm/The Old
Fresh Air Camp (HA-1557)
Joppa, Maryland
Natalie Shivers
April, 1980
Main Dwelling & Barn, fr. West



Jesse Hoskins Farm/The Old
Fresh Air Camp (HA-1557)
Joppa, Maryland
Natalie Shivers
April, 1980
Barn: Southwest



Jesse Hoskins Farm/The Old
Fresh Air Camp (HA-1557)

Joppa, Maryland
Natalie Shivers

April, 1980

Barn: Interior



Jesse Hoskins Farm/The Old
Fresh Air Camp (HA-1557)
Joppa, Maryland
Natalie Shivers
April, 1980
Barn: roof truss



Jesse Hoskins Farm/The Old
Fresh Air Camp (HA-1557)
Joppa, Maryland
Natalie Shivers
April, 1980
Springhouse