

SUMMARY

HA-1596

J. Street Farm
Rt. 24
Rocks, Maryland

In understanding Harford County culture one can not over stress the importance of the evolutionary farm complex.

On the farm for instance there is physical evidence of its beginning with a 1-1/2 story log house to which a large Victorian house was added. A post-and-beam barn with a stone walled courtyard grew by a bank barn addition as well. In fact it was but the first of three dairy barns to be built with the latest being a large 1980's one-man dairy operation.

Corncribs and other buildings of different periods help to make this farm a living example of an ongoing agricultural community that is centuries old.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC J. Street Farm

AND/OR COMMON Martin Farm Complex

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Rt. 24

CITY, TOWN Rocks

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Milton Martin

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER Rt. 24

CITY, TOWN Rocks

STATE, zip code Maryland

___ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: GRG 642

Folio #: 380

STREET & NUMBER 45 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

NA-1596

	CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This residence began as a 1-1/2 story log house to which a Victorian frame house was added. The log house has been destroyed survived only by its foundation and the empty Victorian addition. This 2-story residence is located atop a rise, west of Md. Rte. 24, north of Rocks State Park. It is accessible via a short dirt lane, and stands facing South, in the midst of a working dairy farm complex, the later notable for its 3 periods of agricultural and dairy barns. The house has been abandoned; the west half is used for the storage of feed corn, and east for miscellaneous items.

The house sits on a rubble foundation and is 5 bays wide (42'3") by 2 bays deep (18'3") with a slate shingle gable end roof. An interior brick chimney rises through the east gable peak. A 2-story log bank house, measuring 22'x19' was attached at the northeast corner, but has been demolished, with some of the materials left lying in the basement space. A 1-story polygonal swell with 3 1/1 windows and a shallow pitch metal roof was added at the southeast corner. This has a concrete foundation, and is covered with wooden covebutt shingles.

The demolition of the older log section has revealed the skeleton of the later house. It has a transitional framing system incorporating hewn corner posts and beams with sawn 2"x5" studs 16" on center in between the posts. The studs are mortised into the sill and plate. The exterior is sheathed with bevel siding, with 6-1/2" reveal. All windows are 6/6 pane double hung wood sashes, trimmed with flat plain boards. All windows (except the 2 vents at each gable end) have functional pairs of louvred blinds. The rakeboards appear to be a cyma reversa moulding and the eaves is treated with a plain box cornice including a 6" frieze board.

The southwest elevation has a center entrance window-window-door-window-window plan, with 5 symmetrically aligned windows in the 2nd story. Above the door is a 4 light transom with a simple architrave moulding. A one story shed roof porch runs across the southwest elevation, supported by 4 1/2" x 6 1/2" chamfered posts which are mortised into the porch sill and plate. There are decorative sawn wood brackets at the juncture of the posts and the plate. The porch floor is supported by 4 rubble knee walls, and the floor is of 3" tongue and groove planks. The porch steps are large stone monoliths 9" x 14" x 5', laid on top of one another. The porch sills, plate, and joists are all hewn. The entire porch area was painted "barn red".

The basement, dug out in the east end only, is accesible from the northeast and southern corners. There is a modern concrete floor, and it is clear this area was used for storage. Puncheons 9' thick were observed, with whitewash over their bark. They are mortised into the sill on the north wall, but are lapped at the south. The walls of the frame portion abut the original walls of the log section on the north. No chimney foundation exists in the east end of the house, nor is there any evidence of alterations (i.e. 'cut' joists) in this respect. The basement is vented by trapezoidal windows measuring 4'3" x 2' inside. These have horizontal wooden bars.

(See Description Continuation Sheet #1)

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 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 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

In understanding Harford County culture one can not over stress the importance of the evolutionary farm complex.

On the farm for instance there is physical evidence of its beginning with a 1-1/2 story log house to which a large Victorian house was added. A post-and-beam barn with a stone walled courtyard grew by a bank barn addition as well. In fact it was but the first of three dairy barns to be built with the latest being a large 1980's one-man dairy operation.

Corncribs and other buildings of different periods help to make this farm a living example of an ongoing agricultural community that is centuries old.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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
Wayne L. Nield II / Phillip R. Lord, Historic Site Surveyors

ORGANIZATION
Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning

DATE
April, 1981

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

Description Continuation Sheet #1

HA-1596
J. Street Farm
Rt. 24
Rocks, Maryland

The west elevation is blind except for 2 gable lights. The east elevation, besides the added polygonal swell, has 1 window in the 2nd story of the north bay, as well as 2 gable lights.

The north elevation has symmetrical fenestration in the west bay (door-window-window) but in the east half, has only entrances at first and second floors, which served to connect the later house with the now demolished log section. This log section was approximately 22' X 19', 2 stories in height, and apparently had a longitudinal plan (see HA-1585). The remains of a massive interior end chimney, 4' X 8' 6" are visible in the north end. Wall logs measuring 10" - 11" wide by 8" thick, with V-notches were also observed. A portion of the mantle trim was found, and it contained cut nails. A double struck nail was found in one log, which probably held an earlier piece of trim. Plaster was observed at the first floor level. In the vicinity of the log section, many pieces of a fused glass-like substance were found, ranging in color from dark green to black, and having apparently been created by some man-made process. The current owner as well as his son recall these objects as always having been there.

The interior reflects a balanced center hall plan, with a 6'X8' chamber (converted to a 3 piece bathroom) occupying the south half of the center bay in the second story.

The interior walls of the house are hair lime plaster over riven lathe. Interior ceiling heights are 9' on the 1st floor, and 8'4" on the second. The flooring throughout is 5" tongue and groove planking. All trim is quite plain, such as the windows which are trimmed with plain 4" boards and corner blocks.

The west half of the house is used for bulk storage, and the second floor has been removed. In the west parlor, a wide mantelpiece remains which incorporates flat pilasters with distinct entasis. This mantel was first painted blue and later grained. It was apparently nothing more than a decorative backdrop for a wood stove, since there is only a small flue behind it, and no evidence of there ever having been a larger opening.

The center hall has a 3 level switchback stairway which uses a 3/4 round 3" thick stair rail, with 2 balusters per tread. The latter were grained initially and later painted white.

The east parlor may have been the less formal of the two, connected as it was to the older dwelling, meaning there would have been more traffic. This room has a unique wrap-around mantelpiece attached to two sides of the chimney that projects into the room. There is a stone top over the mantle, and a warm air vent in the ceiling. A recessed china closet in the Northwest corner, measuring 3'9" wide X 6'10" high; as well as a modern sink indicate this room was used as a kitchen.

See Description continuation sheet #2.

HA-1596
J. Street Farm
Rt. 24
Rocks, Maryland

The attic is partially finished, being plastered on the east, but showing exposed rafters on the west. The latter are vertically mechanically sawn 3" X 4" S mitred at the ridge, and probably nailed, although this could not be verified. The east half has riven lathe attached with cut nails covered with a thin coat (1/8") of hair-lime plaster. The chimney in the east end is of brick, and flares from 31" to 37", the width of the cap. Sawn gable studs are attached with cut nails. A chimney on the west was removed, probably when the roof was replaced.

The center hall is framed with hewn timbers, but the joists are of sawn lumber. Attic flooring is of random widths board, no wider than 14", attached with cut nails. Floor to ridge height is 6'11". Alternate joists contain trunnel holes, whose precise purpose cannot be explained.

Set in the middle of a working farm complex that incorporates 3 periods of farm structures, this abandoned house is a veritable monument to a prosperous 19th century farm family. As their income and family increased, they moved from the adequate quarters provided by the log dwelling into a more spacious and certainly more stylish frame house, placed prominently on the top of the hill. Perhaps the most imposing element in the new house is the scale, for it is all on a rather huge and grand order. In this sense, it is an honest reflection one of the more successful farming endeavors in the 19th century Harford County.

Outbuildings

In addition to the old house there are ten other structures on this farm many of which are historic.

Barn #1 (see plan)

There are at least two periods to the oldest barn represented by two distinct sections. Section "A" is a two story post-and-beam structure which has much replacement material. Its lower portion was designed for milking cows while the upper level was/is a mow. Alterations to the north end and physical evidence along the south wall of section "B" suggests that this building may have been moved.

Section "B" is a bank barn with a tripartite mow entered from the north and a byre below. It is also a post-and-beam structure on a full story stone foundation. The east-west ridge of this section is at a right angle to the north-south direction of "A". Paint on vertical siding attached with cut-nails is visible on the south wall of "B" both below, above and behind the north plate of section "A". This evidence suggests that this wall was once exposed.

Perhaps the most impressive feature of this complex is its barnyard which is enclosed by a ten foot high stone wall which is 57' long on its south side and 75' on its east side. This latter side has two large access openings. The north, east and south sides are capped by a shed roof supported on the inside of the barnyard by wood posts resting on 2' high stone piers. This partially enclosed area sheltered animals and stored hay.

Description Continuation Sheet #3

HA-1596
J. Street Farm
Rt. 24
Rocks, Maryland

Fifteen yards east of the old barn is a 1940's concrete block and sheet metal building. It too is a dairy barn and has the distinctive "gothic" shape or quanset-hut appearance of its period.

Fifteen yards south of the old barn is a brand new 1980's milking barn made of red aluminum, kiln dried two-by-fours with two silos. One is poured concrete and the other is fiberglass. While extremely modern and full of electronic lime and labor saving devices it maintains a traditional layout of stalls and a semi-enclosed southward oriented work area. All three dairy barns are still being used in one fashion and another.

While there are many other outbuildings in this complex the remaining notable structure is a drive through crib and granary. It is a large board-and-batten structure utilizing mechanically sawn siding attached with cut-nails and triangular battens. It appears to have always been painted red. Its plan provides for a south orientation of a central drive with corn storage on either side. Inside stairs on the west side lead to a loft where finer grains were kept.

Standing next to this building in its east side is a later and smaller crib using wire nails. It is a minor structure that is painted white contrasting to the drive through crib in both scale and colour.

HA-1596
J. Street Farm
Martin Farm Complex

TITLE SEARCH

Tax Map 17 Parcel 6 GRG 642/380	March 16, 1964	Grantor: Zero, Inc. Grantee: August and Elsie Martin
GRG 642/378	Jan. 16, 1964	Grantor: August and Elsie Martin Grantee: Zero, Inc. Acreage: all those two farms in the 4th election district 4 miles west of Cardiff on or near the State Road leading from Rocks to Bush's Corners. The two tracts comprised of 178.19 and 25.4 acres.
GRG 459/332	May 7, 1956	Grantor: Ray and Lorraine Osborne Grantee: August and Elsie K. Martin Acreage: Two tracts as surveyed by Glenn C. Deaton on Feb. 10, 1943
GCB 276/203	Feb. 12, 1943	Grantor: Robert and Myrtle Livesay Grantee: Ray and Lorraine Osborne Acreage: Same lands that were conveyed to Livesay in Deed (I) JAR 166/468 and (II) DGW 211/412 except the following out conveyances March 14, 1921 JAR 173/35 (13.2A) February 11, 1938 SWC 251/88 (1/3 A) and Feb. 11, 1938 SWC 251/465 (2.3A)
JAR 166/468	March 1, 1920	Grantor: Edmund I and Alice Oldfield Grantee: Robert and Myrtle Livesay Sum: \$16,500.00 Acreage: 230 A. Livesays are to assume two mortgages totalling \$6,500.00 (JAR 140/465, JAR 154/200) This land was devised to Edmund Oldfield by Father William's will- See Will Records GSN 12/443. The land was assembled via the following Deeds,
A. ALJ 60/301	June 25, 1988	Grantor: Fannie Streett Grantee: William Oldfield Acreage: 200 A. Sum: \$7,500.00

Title Search Continuation Sheet #1

HA-1596

J. Street Farm
Martin Farm Complex

FROM:

ALJ 62/164	June 11, 1888	Grantor: William H. Waters, William Oldfield George Maynardier, Trustees Grantee: Fannie Streett Sale arises from Equity Case, (Wm. Waters Wm. Oldfield and others, Defs. vs Isaac Amos, Compl.) Court orders sale of land which is sold on March 9, 1885 to Fannie Streett for \$7,500.00
ALJ 35/226	May 16, 1877	Grantor: John J. Street Grantee: Elizabeth Street 2 year mortgage for \$675.00 133 acres from tracts "Paca's Pleasure", "Lot #2 of McCreary's Hard Purchase," "Genoa" "Billy's Portion" (ALJ 5/213) and 61 acres from "McCreary's Hard Purchase (ALJ 22/295)
ALJ 5/213	Jan. 8, 1955	Grantor: James and Elizabeth Streett Grantee: John J. Street Acreage: 133 A. Sum: \$3,000.00
ALJ 22/295	June 8, 1869	Grantor: William and Josephine Walters Grantee: John Joshua Streett Acreage: 61 A 29 P Sum: \$3,059.60
From: HD19/321	Nov. 26, 1836	Grantor: William B. Bond, James (/) and Mary McCreary Grantee: Abraham Streett Acreage 61A 29P Sum: \$610.00
B.		
ALJ 66/455	May 14, 1880	Grantor: William and Emma Woods Grantee: William Oldfield Sum: \$600.00
from ALJ 58/132	Nov. 3, 1886	Grantors: Elizabeth Baldwin (widow of James Baldwin, Henry Clay Steward and wife Mary, Marian Streett and wife Barbary, Daniel Walker and wife Martha, James Baldwin and wife Amanda, John Baldwin and wife Emma, John Swift and wife Jeraldine, Emma and Sarah Baldwin.

Title Search Continuation Sheet #2

HA-1596
J. Street Farm
Martin Farm Complex

Grantee: William Woods
Sum: \$600.00

From

ALJ 4/380 April 25, 1854 Grantor: Roger and Louisa Street
Grantee: James Baldwin
Acreage: 12 acres - 38 perches
Sum: \$184.56
part of tract "Sarah's Garden"

C.

WSF 102/358 Sept. 2, 1901 Grantor: Charles and Laura Rampley and
Stephen Seneca
Grantee: William Oldfield
part of McCreary's Hard Purchase
Acreage : 16 acres, 3 roods, 20 square
perches.
Sum: \$524.28

From:

WSF 100/422 Dec. 29, 1900 Grantor: Cordelia Butler
Grantee: Charles Rampley
Sum: \$1,574.00
Cordelia Butler's husband Thomas died in
house that Charles Rampley is buying.
Thomas' Will JMM 11/324, May 13, 1893
Rampley is to feed and water stock on farm
until Feb. 1, 1901 at his expense.

from 4 smaller tracts ALJ 5/272, 10/391 WHO 1t/74, ALJ 67/473

1- ALJ 5/272 Jan. 30, 1855 Grantor: Clement and Isabella Butler
Grantee: Thomas Butler
Acreage: 72 1/2 acres
Sum: \$500.00

2. ALJ 10/391 March 4, 1859 Grantor: Clement and Isabelle Butler
Grantee: Thomas Butler
Acreage: 25 A 29P
Sum: \$400.00

from:

HD 19/334 Dec. 7, 1836 Grantor: James and Mary McCreary
Grantee: Clement Butler
writing is somewhat hard to read but
apparently reads
46 1/2 acres and 14 perches
Sum: \$310.00

Title Search Continuation Sheet #3

HA-1596

J. Street Farm
Martin Farm Complex

3. WHD 16/74 May 1, 1890 Grantor: Robert Archer, Trustee
Grantee: Thomas Butler
Equity Case decision on July 13, 1883, Robert
Archer apptd to sell lands of E. Stanley
Rogers
Sum \$245.00
Acreage: 25 A. 1R 4 Square Perches

being part of HD30/39 May 18, 1844 Grantor: Rogers and Catherine Streett
Grantee: Isaac and Evans Rogers
Sum: \$1,255.00
Acreage: 53 A

II- DGW 211/412 March 27, 1929 Grantor: O. Ray and Rose Livesay
Grantee: Robert and Myrtle Livesay
Acreage: 80 A.

from
JAR 171/244, JAR 173/33, DGW 203/156

JAR 171/244 Nov. 3, 1920 Grantor: Robert and Myrtle Livesay
Grantee: O. Ray and Rose Livesay
part of lands described in JAR 166/468
80 A.

JAR 173/34 Grantor: Robert and Myrtle Livesay
Grantee: O.R. and Rose Livesay

DGW 205/156



HA-1596

J. Streett Farm
Rocks, Maryland

Phillip R. Lord 11/80

Abandoned Farmhouse - South



HA-1596

J. Streett Farm

Rocks, Maryland

Phillip R. Lord 11/80

Abandoned House - Northeast Corner



HA-1596

J. Streett Farm
Rocks, Maryland
Phillip R. Lord 11/80
Barn Complex - South



HA-1596

J. Streett Farm
Rocks, Maryland
Phillip R. Lord 11/80
Barn - Bier looking north



HA-1596

J. Streett Farm
Rocks, Maryland
Phillip R. Lord 11/80
Courtyard - stone pilings

5