

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA 378  
DNR 47-A

MAGI # 1303784204

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Viridin House

AND/OR COMMON  
Watts House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Lapidum & Stafford Road

CITY, TOWN  
Lapidum

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
First

STATE  
Maryland

COUNTY  
Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER  
Tawes State Office Building

CITY, TOWN  
Annapolis

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Md. 21401

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: GRG 361  
Folio #: 168

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE  
Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

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

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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		

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Virdin House, located on a dirt road off Stafford Road in Lapidum is a two storey, three bay wide, two bay deep, heavily quoined fieldstone house dating from the first half of the nineteenth century. This house, like the nearby Watts-Virdin Schoolhouse is constructed into a terrace and therefore rest on a high fieldstone foundation. Interior brick chimneys are located in both gable end. The roof is sheathed with standing seam tin with rake boards and a molded boxed cornice.

The main (east) facade is defined as follows: On the first storey a central doorway is flanked by 6/6 sashed windows, on the second storey three 6/6 sashed windows mark the corresponding openings. A raised first-storey, balconied porch spans the central and northern most bays. A wrought iron open stairs winding along the southern end of the porch provides access to the main entrance. The porch supports and railing are also wrought iron. A wooden latticed porch base obscures any evidence of a cellar entrance or windows.

The rear (west) facade is identical to the east facade. A similar porch shelters the first storey entrance which because of the irregular terrain is at ground level on the side. The lean-to roof of this porch is of corrugated plastic.

The north gable facade is marked by 6/6 sashed windows flanking the interior brick chimney on the first and second storeys. Smaller, fixed sashed windows are found at the attic level. A third entrance is located in the exposed basement in the east bay.

Two fixed-sashed attic windows punctuate the otherwise undistinguished south gable facade.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION		
—1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE		
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE		
—1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		—INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The following information was collected by Paul Penrod in 1976. The attached title search was also executed by him.

"This house is located on a site that has figured significantly in the settlement and development of this portion of the Susquehanna River valley. An Indian village may have once been on the hill where the Virdin House now stands, as this area was close to productive fishing grounds. Albert P. Silver, in his paper presented in 1888, remarked that arrowheads and spearpoints had been found on this property.

The property was part of a larger tract called "Eaton", patented in 1679. Daniel Johnson was one of the earliest settlers on or near the site, having lived there from 1698 until 1715. After his death, his wife, Frances, married Edward Harris in 1719 and the 115 acres where the present house stands became known as Harris' Landing and was utilized as a shipping point for tobacco.

After Harris' death in 1725 the property was retained by the again-widowed Frances until 1733 when William Perkins took over the operation of the ferry. His son, Reuben, ran the ferry from 1760 until 1772 when he sold the 157 acres, patented as "Perkins' Valley", to Nathaniel Giles.

At this time the place became known as Smith Ferry after the new proprietor, Thomas Smith, who built part of the existing house in the 1770's or 1780's. Smith proved to be of some help to the American cause during the War of Independence, transporting American soldiers across the river. In 1781, he assisted in the movement of Rochambeau's French army across the Susquehanna as it made its way to Yorktown. Smith died in 1791, just as a new road linking his crossing with Bel Air was completed. His son Hugh supervised the ferry until 1793, when Robert Bell bought the property and ran it until 1807 when his son, Robert Jr., took over.

The younger Bell brought the development of the ferry to its zenith, moving the actual ferryhouse to a place near the small bridge that spans Herring Run in Lapidum, using it as an inn as well. The ferry boats consisted of two craft lashed together, one being for passengers and cargo and the other having the horse-powered paddlewheel and auxiliary sails. The opening of the Rock Run Bridge upstream in 1818 crippled the success of Bell's business, although he continued to operate

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Wright, C. Milton, Our Harford Heritage, 1967, French Bay, Baltimore  
Harford County Directory 1953  
Harford County Land Records  
Martemet's Map of 1878  
Mason, Samuel, Historical Sketches of Harford County, 1955  
Silver, Albert P. Lapidum, 1888

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

Bridget M. Deale, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

DATE

August 1979

TELEPHONE

STATE

Maryland

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

Viridin House

Page Two

Significance

up to his death in 1828.

In 1837, the Archer family had renamed the settlement, changing it from Bell's Ferry to Lapidum. The 1858 plat of Lapidum showed the ferryhouse in use as a hotel, while the 1878 Martemet map has Dr. W.W. Viridin occupying the existing house and using Bell's old ferryhouse as an office. The more recent significance of the property has been diminished by the decline of Lapidum at the turn of this century.

## SUSSEHANNA STATE PARK PROPERTY

## Watts-Virdin Home and Schoolhouse

<u>Libre</u>	<u>Folio</u>	
GRG 361	168	In 1951, J. Avery Stainback, widower, sold to Bonnie T. Watts and Cricket S. Tubbs as joint tenants the 83 acres, more or less, of Perkins' Valley or Bright Water. The land was once owned by Mary D. Stainback.
SAC 237	482	Joseph D. Virdin, Elizabeth Virdin Evans, Mary Love Virdin and others sold to Mary D. Stainback the farm called Bright Water, consisting of 91 acres, more or less, and being part of a tract once called Perkins' Valley. This transaction took place in 1935.
JAR 137	45	In 1911, Peter Lesley Hopper acted as a trustee for a tract involved in a suit between Joseph D. Virdin and Martha Lee Virdin Fitzgerald. Hopper sold the land to Mary Virdin Stainback, it being of 91 acres, more or less, and known as Perkins' Valley and Bright Waters.
ALJ 57	353	In 1883, John McCoy sold to Kate E. Virdin, Martin Lee Virdin, Mary D. Virdin, John McCoy Virdin and Joseph D. Virdin a tract known as Perkins' Valley, totalling 91 acres, more or less. This deed also gave the breakdown for the previous ownership of the land, of which there were three distinct divisions.
ALJ 7	24	1. In 1856, Henry D. Farnandis was appointed as a trustee after a court case between Walter Farnandis and William W. Virdin. Henry D. Farnandis sold to Virdin the 91 acres of Perkins' Valley, also known as the Bell's Ferry Property.
Court Equity Case 1162 D 75		
ALJ 12	494	In 1855, Walter Farnandis, Joseph Coudon, Otho Scott and others filed a suit against Henry D. Farnandis and William W. Virdin. A sale resulted from an 1841 case pending between Otho Scott and John Donahoo. In 1842 the land was sold to Coudon, Virdin and Walter Farnandis, this transaction being ratified and confirmed and the purchase money being paid to Henry D. Farnandis. However, the deed was not executed for Perkins' Valley or Bell's Ferry, comprising 91 acres, more or less. Since the lands could not be partitioned and Virdin refused to sell, Henry D. Farnandis was appointed as trustee and sold all of the parcel to William W. Virdin.

<u>Page</u>	<u>Folio</u>		
HE	24	92	John Donahoo was deeply in debt to Walter Farnandis and among other properties, he mortgaged the 91 acres of Perkins' Valley to Farnandis in 1840. Farnandis had sold the tract, as a trustee, to Donahoo and others in 1837.
Court Equity Case			
134 B 64			
HD	5	271	In 1837, a case evolved, involving William Sappington and Phebe Bell. Phebe Bell's late husband, Robert, died in 1829 owing a great debt to Sappington. The 91 acres, more or less, of Perkins' Valley had been purchased by Robert Bell's father, Robert, Sr., from John Stump and Samuel Gover. John Donahoo was eventually sold the property by the trustees.
HD	2	315	In 1814 a land partition was made of the estate of Robert Bell, Sr., who had died in 1807 and had willed that his land be divided in equal portions among his heirs. Since there were so many heirs that such a process was infeasible, the court decided to allow Robert Bell, Jr., to buy it all- an amount said to be less than 100 acres.
HD	18	49	2. In 1866, Samuel Hopkins, a free black, sold 2 acres, more or less, to William W. Viridin. There is no clear-cut prior reference to this plot of land, probably because Samuel Hopkins was illiterate (He signed the deed with an "X"). However, the land might have been in the more prominent Hopkins family, from which Samuel may have gotten his surname. In JLG L 215, a 1792 deed describes a sale of land in the same area to the Hopkins family from a Robert Smith, with a one and three-quarter acre lot "to be laid off for Negro Casar where most convenient". This lot may have been retained in the Hopkins family until Samuel's time.
ALJ	7	78	3. In 1856, Henry D. Farnandis sold to William W. Viridin $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of Perkins' Valley which he in turn had bought from Henry W. Archer, a trustee who had held the land during a court case involving executor Herman Stump for Cassandra Stump and William W. Viridin.
Court of Equity Case			
1078 D 45			
ALJ	3	66	An 1853 suit involved Herman Stump, executor for the estate of the late Cassandra Stump, who complained that Viridin, John W. Stump, Allen Anderson and John Donahoo had not followed procedure in an 1823 purchase of a $\frac{1}{2}$ acre part of Perkins' Valley from Jane Bell. This same piece contained a dwelling house and was purchased in that same year by Jane Bell from a Thomas Smith.
HD	W	243	In 1811, Benjamin Johnson of Virginia sold the $\frac{1}{2}$ acre parcel to Thomas Smith. This is the earliest recorded reference to this part.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1303784204 HA-378  
See revised form

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Smith Ferry House

AND/OR COMMON Watts-Virdin House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Lapidum and Stafford Roads

CITY, TOWN Havre de Grace VICINITY OF Lapidum CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" 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**

(In process)

NAME Maryland Department of Natural Resources Telephone #: 267-5656

STREET & NUMBER Tawes State Office Building

CITY, TOWN Annapolis VICINITY OF Maryland STATE, zip code 21101

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: GRG 361  
Folio #: 168

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

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 house is in a rather sylvan setting and is located at the end of a lane that runs south of the intersection of Lapidum and Stafford Roads. It is a two-story, coursed rubble stone structure with heavily quoined corners and it faces towards the east. The bays measure three by two, with 6 X 6 windows that have retained some of their original frames. There are two small attic windows on either end of the house. There is also evidence of iron caps that hold the iron support rods that run east to west through the walls of the house. The main doors are opposite each other on the eastern and western sides and there is a third entrance in the exposed cellar on the northern end of the building. The roof is gable-flank and is of more recent vintage- tin. The three chimneys include two original brick flush-ends on the northern and southern extremes, and a new block outside-end stack on the southern end. The box cornices and the eaves are older than the roof, but not as old as the house. Stone steps are situated before the cellar entrance, but two recently-added porches festoon the doors on the eastern and western facades. The eastern piazza is a double-decked, two-bay iron affair with tall brick piers, while the other one is a wood and plastic shed structure.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" 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

This house is located on a site that has figured significantly in the settlement and development of this portion of the Susquehanna River valley. An Indian village may have once been on the hill where the Virdin House now stands, as this area was close to productive fishing grounds. Albert P. Silver, in his paper presented in 1888, remarked that arrowheads and spearpoints had been found on this property. The property was part of a larger tract called "Eaton", patented in 1679. Daniel Johnson was one of the earliest settlers on or near the site, having lived there from 1698 until 1715. After his death, his wife, Frances, married Edward Harris in 1719 and the 115 acres where the present house stands became known as Harris' Landing and was utilized as a shipping point for tobacco. After Harris' death in 1725 the property was retained by the again-widowed Frances until 1733 when William Perkins took over the operation of the ferry. His son, Reuben, ran the ferry from 1760 until 1772 when he sold the 157 acres, patented as "Perkins' Valley", to Nathaniel Giles. At this time the place became known as Smith' Ferry after the new proprietor, Thomas Smith, who built part of the existing house in the 1770's or 1780's. Smith proved to be of some help to the American cause during the War of Independence, transporting American soldiers across the river. In 1781, he assisted in the movement of Rochambeau's French army across the Susquehanna as it made its way to Yorktown. Smith died in 1791, just as a new road linking his crossing with Bel Air was completed. His son Hugh supervised the ferry until 1793, when Robert Bell bought the property and ran it until 1807 when his son, Robert Jr., took over. The younger Bell brought the development of the ferry to its zenith, moving the actual ferryhouse to a place near the small bridge that spans Herring Run in Lapidum, using it as an inn as well. The ferry boats consisted of two craft lashed together, one being for passengers and cargo and the other having the horse-powered paddlewheel and auxiliary sails. The opening of the Rock Run Bridge upstream in 1818 crippled the success of Bell's business, although he continued to operate up to his death in 1828. In 1837, The Archer family had renamed the settlement, changing it from Bell's Ferry to Lapidum. The 1858 plat of Lapidum showed the ferryhouse in use as a hotel, while the 1878 Martenet map has Dr. W. W. Virdin occupying the existing house and using Bell's old ferryhouse as an office. The more recent significance of the property has been diminished by the decline of Lapidum at the turn of this century.

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Harford County Directory- 1953  
 Harford County Land Records  
 Martenet's Map of 1878  
 Mason, Samuel; Historical Sketches of Harford County, 1955, Intelligencer, Lancaster.  
 Silver, Albert P.; Lapidum, 1888.  
 Wright, C. Milton; Our Harford Heritage, 1967, French Bray, Baltimore.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 83

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The property is located on a lane running southeast from the intersection of Stafford and Lapidum Roads. It bounds along the old canal ditch and the rail spur line on the east and along the property of Bonnie T. Watts to the south and the west. This parcel was obtained by the park from Miss Watts.

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Paul L. Penrod / site surveyor	
ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust	DATE May 18, 1976
STREET & NUMBER Shaw House, 21 State Circle	TELEPHONE 267-1212
CITY OR TOWN Annapolis	STATE Maryland

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK PROPERTY

Watts-Virdin Home and Schoolhouse

<u>Libre</u>	<u>Folio</u>	
GRG 361	168	In 1951, J. Avery Stainback, widower, sold to Bonnie T. Watts and Cricket S. Tubbs as joint tenants the 83 acres, more or less, of Perkins' Valley or Bright Water. The land was once owned by Mary D. Stainback.
SWC 237	482	Joseph D. Virdin, Elizabeth Virdin Evans, Mary Love Virdin and others sold to Mary D. Stainback the farm called Bright Water, consisting of 91 acres, more or less, and being part of a tract once called Perkins' Valley. This transaction took place in 1935.
JAR 137	45	In 1911, Peter Lesley Hopper acted as a trustee for a tract involved in a suit between Joseph D. Virdin and Martha Lee Virdin Fitzgerald. Hopper sold the land to Mary Virdin Stainback, it being of 91 acres, more or less, and known as Perkins' Valley and Bright Waters.
ALJ 57	<del>383</del>	In 1883, John McCoy sold to Kate E. Virdin, Martin Lee Virdin, Mary D. Virdin, John McCoy Virdin and Joseph D. Virdin a tract known as Perkins' Valley, totalling 91 acres, more or less. This deed also gave the breakdown for the previous ownership of the land, of which there were three distinct divisions.
ALJ 7	24	1. In 1856, Henry D. Farnandis was appointed as a trustee after a court case between Walter Farnandis and William W. Virdin. Henry D. Farnandis sold to Virdin the 91 acres of Perkins' Valley, also known as the Bell's Ferry Property.
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ALJ 12	494	

<u>ibre</u>	<u>Folio</u>		
HD	24	92	John Donahoo was deeply in debt to Walter Farnandis and among other properties, he mortgaged the 91 acres of Perkins' Valley to Farnandis in 1840. Farnandis had sold the tract, as a trustee, to Donahoo and others in 1837.
Court Equity Case			
484 B	64		
HD	5	271	In 1837, a case evolved, involving William Sappington and Phebe Bell. Phebe Bell's late husband, Robert, died in 1829 owing a great debt to Sappington. The 91 acres, more or less, of Perkins' Valley had been purchased by Robert Bell's father, Robert, Sr., from John Stump and Samuel Gover. John Donahoo was eventually sold the property by the trustees.
HD	2	315	In 1814 a land partition was made of the estate of Robert Bell, Sr., who had died in 1807 and had willed that his land be divided in equal portions among his heirs. Since there were so many heirs that such a process was infeasible, the court decided to allow Robert Bell, Jr., to buy it all- an amount said to be less than 100 acres.
WHD	18	49	2. In 1866, Samuel Hopkins, a free black, sold 2 acres, more or less, to William W. Viridin. There is no clear-cut prior reference to this plot of land, probably because Samuel Hopkins was illiterate (He signed the deed with an "X"). However, the land might have been in the more prominent Hopkins family, from which Samuel may have gotten his surname. In JLG L 215, a 1792 deed describes a sale of land in the same area to the Hopkins family from a Robert Smith, with a one and three-quarter acre lot "to be laid off for Negro Casar where most convenient". This lot may have been retained in the Hopkins family until Samuel's time.
ALJ	7	78	3. In 1856, Henry D. Farnandis sold to William W. Viridin $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of Perkins' Valley which he in turn had bought from Henry W. Archer, a trustee who had held the land during a court case involving executor Herman Stump for Cassandra Stump and William W. Viridin.
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1078 D	45		
ALJ	3	66	
HD	W	243	In 1811, Benjamin Johnson of Virginia sold the $\frac{1}{2}$ acre parcel to Thomas Smith. This is the earliest recorded reference to this part.

W 3 DAM) 399 DARLINGTON 2.4 MI 10' 400 401 1040 000 FEET 3.4 MI. TO U.S. 1 OCTOBER 2.4 MI. RISING SUN 7.5 MI. 5.8 MI. TO MD. 378







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Watts-Virdin House    HA-378  
Lapidum Road  
Havre de Grace, MD  
Paul Penrod            4/76  
Westside



HA 378;DNR 47-a

VIRDIN HOUSE  
LAPIDUM AND STAFFORD ROADS  
SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK

NE ELEVATION

BMD 9/78



HA 378;DNR 47-A

VIRDIN HOUSE  
LAPIDUM AND STAFFORD ROADS  
SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK "

SW ELEVATION

BMD 9/78