

HO-837, Jacob Fuchs House
6160 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge vicinity
Howard County
1876
Private

CAPSULE SUMMARY

This two story frame house faces south on the north side of Rockburn Hill Road bordering on State Park property. The wooded and hilly 2 acre lot contains several very old oak trees and several outbuildings in addition to the main house. This secluded area of the county contains several late 19th century buildings along both sides of the road climbing Rockburn Hill. HO-836, the Humphries-Clarkin House, is located on the lot immediately east of Jacob Fuchs House. Fuchs' two-story, balloon frame house is built in an asymmetrical T-plan with a front, side gabled section consisting of two rooms and a center hall and a rear kitchen wing with a cross gabled roof slightly offset from center.

The Jacob Fuchs House is significant under criteria C in the area of architecture. It is a good example of a common vernacular form and style and it is located in close proximity to several other late 19th century properties along Rockburn Hill Road. In addition, it is significant that Jacob Fuchs wrote his memoirs at a late age and mentioned several details about the construction of his house.

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-837

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This two story frame house faces south on the north side of Rockburn Hill Road bordering on State Park property. The wooded and hilly 2.5 acre lot contains several very old oak trees and several outbuildings in addition to the main house. This secluded area of the county contains several late 19th century buildings along both sides of the road climbing Rockburn Hill. HO-836, the Humphries-Clarkin House, is located on the lot immediately east of Jacob Fuchs House.

Fuchs' two-story, balloon frame house is built in an asymmetrical T-plan with a front, side gabled section consisting of two rooms and a center hall and a rear kitchen wing with a cross gabled roof slightly offset from center. The exterior of the house is now entirely stuccoed with a half-timbered Tudor look to it and the first story of the front elevation has an applied stone facade. The current owner, Mr. Fischer, had this work done in 1976 to unify the appearance of the exterior because the existing wall coverings were a mixture of different types of clapboarding and asbestos shingles. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and is pierced by two interior brick chimneys in the front section of the house, both located at the ridge on either side of the central hall, and one interior brick chimney is located on the back wall of the rear kitchen wing. The house has several porches, one across the front façade, one across the east façade of the rear wing, and a two story porch across the rear façade of the rear wing. The two story porch has been enclosed on both the first and second stories.

The front (south) façade of the Fuchs house is three bays wide with a cross-gabled projecting central bay. The front entrance is located in the projecting bay on the first floor. The existing door is a 1930's or 1940's replacement and is surrounded by glass blocks to form a transom and sidelights. The door is flanked on the right by a large 2/2 double hung wood window and on the left a vinyl replacement window. On the second story, three more windows, two 2/2 wood and one replacement, are vertically aligned above the first story openings.

The west side façade of the front section of the house features one window centered in each story. The west side façade of the rear wing has two windows on the second story. The first story contains a large, bay window probably added in the last 30 years. A one story shed roofed addition was made on the north side of the front section of the house abutting the west wall of the rear wing. This addition contains a bathroom and was done in the 1960's. An exterior cinder block chimney rises up the rear of the west wall of the rear wing and dates to the installation of the oil furnace in the 1960's.

The east side façade of the front section mirrors the west façade with one window centered on each story. The east side of the rear wing has two windows on the second story and an enclosed porch with an applied stone façade along the first story.

The rear façade of the front section is visible to the right of the rear wing since the wing is not centered on the wall. There is one window on the second story of the rear (north) façade of the front section of the house. The first story is concealed behind the 1960's bathroom addition. The rear façade of the rear wing is concealed behind enclosed porches on both the first and second stories.

The interior of the house has been altered over the years but it does retain the original door and window moldings consisting of a molded architrave and bulls eye corner blocks and many of the original four-panel doors. The floor plan is essentially intact with two rooms flanking a center hall in the front section and the kitchen in the rear wing. The original stair and its large turned newel post are still in place. The kitchen is now located in the enclosed rear porch on the first story and the original kitchen in the wing is now the dining room. The floor plan of the second floor originally mirrored the first with two rooms flanking a hall in the front section and one room in the wing. The room in the wing has been partitioned into a bathroom and a small library. The front section of the house measures 38 feet wide by 16 feet deep and the original section of the rear wing measures 16 feet by 16 feet. Originally, the two first floor rooms in the front section of the house had fireplaces while the two rooms above had stoves. The stoves have been removed and the fireplaces reworked. The house was originally constructed without a basement but a cellar was partially dug out at a later date.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-837

Name Jacob Fuchs House
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

A two-story frame building directly behind the main house was originally a barn, then a carriage house, and was converted into a residence in the 1930's or 1940's according to an elderly neighborhood resident. The front of this building is now best described as the west façade where there is an entry door centered on the first story of the three bay façade. It is flanked by a window on either side and three more windows (apparently 6/1 double hung wood windows) are vertically aligned on the second story. An enclosed porch spans the first story of this front façade. The building is clad in aluminum siding and capped by a very low pitched side gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. Two chimneys rise up the outside of the north wall; one is a metal stovepipe with a large cement base and one is a narrow, single flue brick chimney.

Another small frame building is now located southwest of the main house and was supposedly moved from its original location somewhere directly behind the house. This one story, one room building has a loft beneath the gable front roof and rests on a log foundation that has now been raised off the ground on concrete piers. The building originally had 6/6 windows and a stovepipe chimney. The double, paneled doors are located on the east façade and sheltered with a pent roof. The building has been essentially rebuilt by the current owners and now has vinyl siding and replacement vinyl windows. It was supposedly built in the early 20th century by a property owner who owned and trained racehorses as a residence for his African-American jockey. During the Depression, it housed a family of five.

A dilapidated frame building close to the front edge of the property line is a former chicken coop.

Notable landscape features of the property include several large, old oak trees probably at least 200 years old, a stone wall running along the north side of Rockburn Hill Road in front of the house, and several old rose bushes supposedly planted by Jacob Fuchs.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-837

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1876 **Architect/Builder** unknown

Construction dates 1876

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Jacob Fuchs House is significant under criteria C in the area of architecture. It is a good example of a common vernacular form and style and it is located in close proximity to several other late 19th century properties along Rockburn Hill Road. In addition, it is significant that Jacob Fuchs wrote his memoirs at a late age and mentioned several details about the construction of his house.

Jacob Fuchs moved to Rockburn Hill from Baltimore City some time around the early 1870's. He wrote and privately published his memoirs when he was around 80 years old and much of the following information comes from those memoirs. Fuchs was a goldsmith and moved to Rockburn Hill because of a desire to escape the booming city. When he first moved to the property, there was a log cabin sitting where the rear wing of the house is now located. Fuchs lived in this cabin and planned the construction of his house. He states in his memoir that the house is located where it is because he wanted to disturb as few of the massive old oak trees around the cabin as possible. The existing house was built in two stages. Around 1876, Fuchs built the front, side gabled section of the house and when that was finished, he tore down the log cabin and built the rear wing. Fuchs also talks about building the stone wall in front of the house and planting several rose bushes. It is unusual to have access to such details about the construction of the house and the thought process that went into where it was sited. These details were related to the surveyor by the current owner of the property who was allowed to look through a copy of Fuchs memoirs owned by a family member many years ago. Attempts by this surveyor to track down a copy of the memoirs were unsuccessful.

Architecturally, the house takes a very common form found in vernacular rural and semi-rural construction of the late 19th century. Though houses like Fuchs used to dot the landscape, they are becoming increasingly rare in the face of Howard County's rapid and continued suburban development over the last 40 years. Though the exterior materials have been changed, the form remains the same with a projecting center bay, center hall with rear wing plan, and three interior chimneys. Interior details also remain intact including the original stair and the original door and window trim. This house is significant as a representative example of a middle class dwelling of the late 19th century and because it can be directly associated with a specific individual and his written memoirs. Jacob Fuchs was probably not an extraordinary person, but that is what makes the fact that his memoirs exist all the more interesting.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-837

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 2
Acreage of historical setting 1
Quadrangle name Relay Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax map 32, Parcel 1.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kristin H. Hill, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning	date	1/29/04
street and number	3430 Court House Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state MD	zip code 21043

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-837

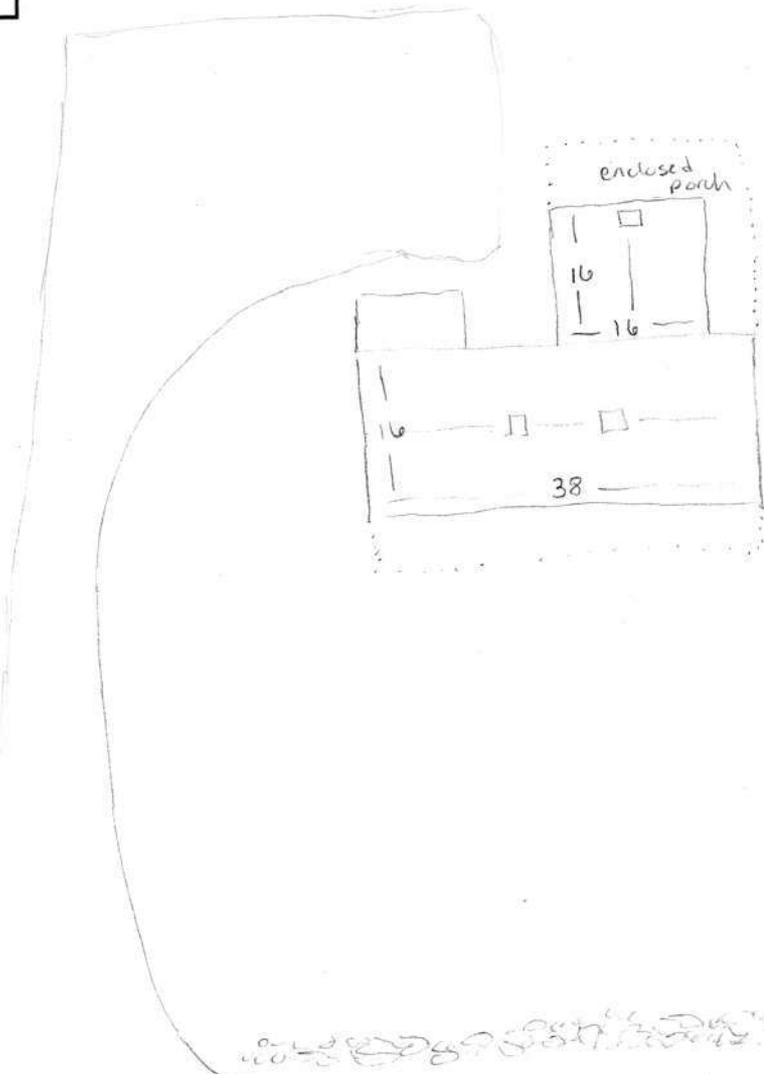
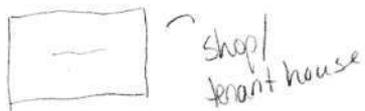
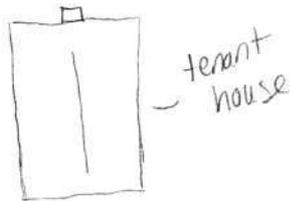
Name Jacob Fuchs House

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

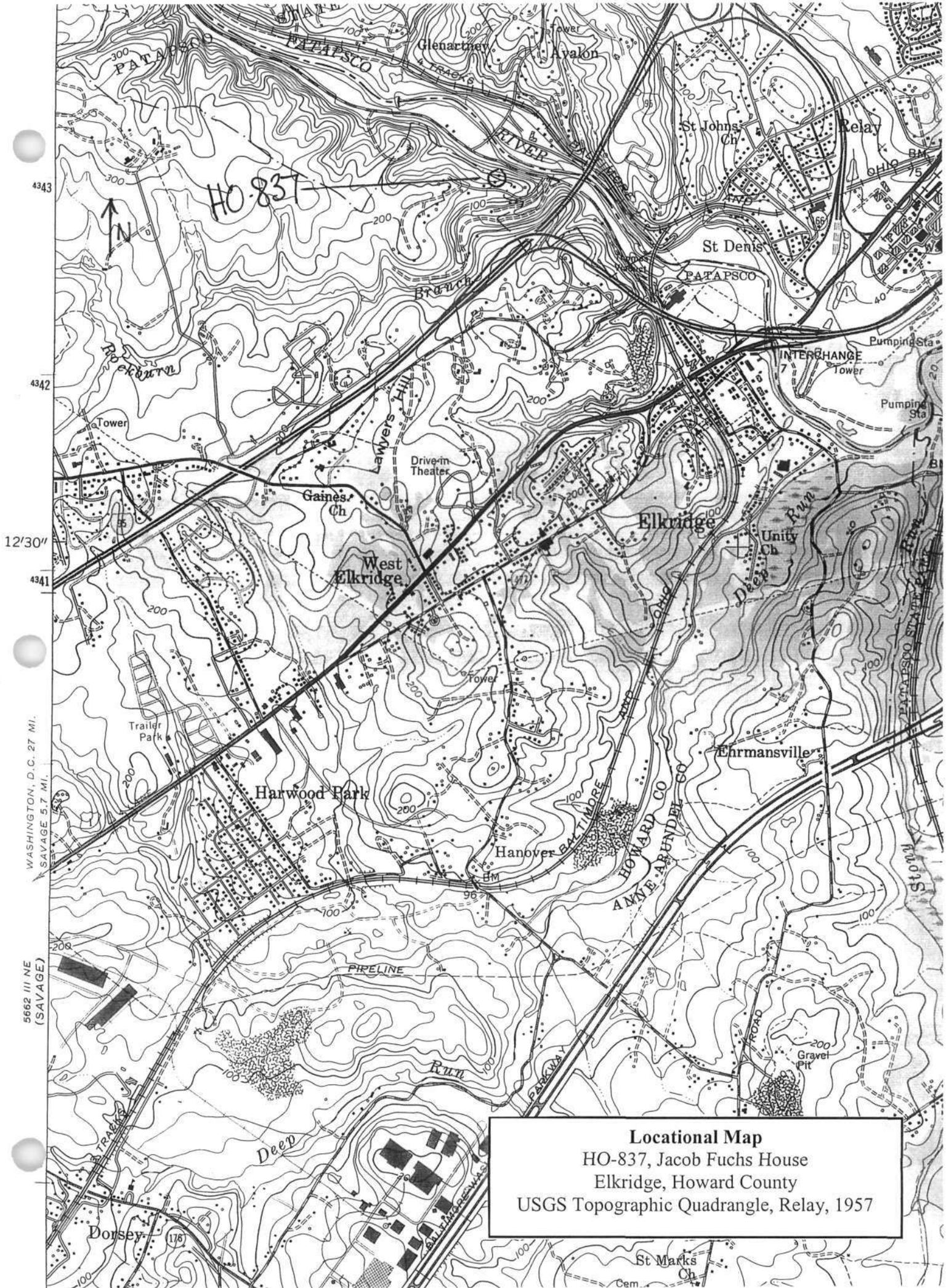
Conversation with Mr. Leonard Fischer, January 20, 2004. Mr. Fischer has had the opportunity to look through Fuchs' memoirs for references to his house. Attempts by this surveyor to locate a copy of the memoir were unsuccessful.

Resource Sketch Map
HO-837, Jacob Fuchs House
Elkridge, Howard County
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE



Rockburn Hill Road

stone wall



Locational Map
HO-837, Jacob Fuchs House
Elkridge, Howard County
USGS Topographic Quadrangle, Relay, 1957



HO-837, Jacob Fuchs House

16160 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge Vic.
Howard County, Maryland

Kristin Hill, 1/04

Negative at MDSHPO

29 21+01 NNNNN 698

South (front) elevation showing rock wall along
road

1/12



HO-837, Jacob Fuchs House

6160 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge vic.

Howard County, Maryland

Knight Hill, 1/04

28 21+01 NNNNN 698

Negative at MDSHPO

South (front) elevation

2/12



Ho. 837, Jacob Fuchs House

6600 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge Vic.

Howard County, Maryland 33 21+00 NNNNN 698

Knstn Hill, 1/04

Negative at MDSHPO

SW elevation

3/12



HO-837, Jacob Fuchs House

6160 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge vic

Howard County, Maryland

Kristin Hill, 1/04

31 21+00 NNNNN 698

Negative at MDSHPD

West elevation

4/12



Ho. 837, Jacob Fuchs House

6160 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge vic.

Howard County, Maryland

30 21+00 NNNNN 698

Kristin Hill, 1/04

Negative at MDSTPO

West elevation

5/12



Ho. 837, Jacob Fuchs House

6160 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge vic.

Howard County, Maryland

Kristin Hill, 1/04

35 21+02 NNNNN 698

Negative at MDSHPo

North (rear) elevation

6/12



HO-837, Jacob Fuchs House
6160 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge vic.
Howard County, Maryland

Kristin Hill, 1/04

27 21+00 NNNNN 698

Negative at MDSHPO

East elevation

7/12



HO-837, Jacob Fuchs House

1660 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge vic.

Howard County, Maryland

Kristin Hill, 1/04

26 21+00 NNNNN 698

Negative at MDSHPO

East elevation main house and SE elevation tenant house

8/12



HO-837, Jacob Fuchs House
6160 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge vic.
Howard County, Maryland
Kristin Hill, 1104
Negative at MDSHPO 37 21+00 NNNNN 698
tenant house, west elev.

9/12



HO-837, Jacob Fuchs House

6160 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge vic.

Howard County, Maryland

Kristin Hill, 1104

36 21+00 NNNNN 698

Negative at MDSTPO

NW elev., tenant house

10/12



HO-837, Jacob Fuchs House

6160 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge vic.

Howard County, Maryland

Kristin Hill, 1/04

32 21+01 NNNNN 698

Negative at MD SHPO

Chicken coop + shop/tenant house, SE elevations

11/12



HO-837, Jacob Fuchs House

6160 Rockburn Hill Road, Elkridge vic.

Howard County, Maryland

Kinstin Hill, 1/04

34 21+01 NNNNN 698

Negative at MDSHPD

Shop/tenant house, NE elevation

12/12