

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:10-56
(date entered 5-4-80)

1. Name: Stone House Farm (Zeigler Stone House)
2. Planning Area/Site Number: 10/56 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 1
Coordinate J-11
4. Address: Prescott Road
Clarksburg, Md.
5. Classification Summary
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Category <u>building</u> | Previous Survey Recording <u>MNCPPC</u> |
| Ownership <u>public</u> | Title and Date: <u>Historic Sites Inventory</u>
1976 |
| Public Acquisition <u>N/A</u> | |
| Status <u>unoccupied</u> | |
| Accessible <u>yes: unrestricted</u> | Federal <u> </u> State <u> x </u> County <u> x </u> Local <u> </u> |
| Present use <u>abandoned</u> | |
6. Date: c. 1821 7. Original Owner: Hezekiah Ricketts
8. Apparent Condition
- a. ruins b. altered c. original site
9. Description: This end-gabled stone house of 2½ stories with cellar at ground level on the east side resembles a slope barn or a mill building in its general form. The front facade has three bays with a center entrance. The rear facade is of two stories with three bays and heavy wooden lintels near the entrance, suggesting that the row of headers on the left side was left exposed as a decorative string course.
- The entrance to the living quarters is on the second level. A notched plate at the upper floor level suggests a covered porch the length of the front of the house.
- At either end internal fireplaces remain. At the north end, the fireplace is deeper than the thickness of the wall and is supported by a stone arch, while the south chimney is the thickness of the wall and is carried on a heavy beam. On the north end, the exterior work is of stone, but on the south end both stone and brick are exposed as if the building had been partially rebuilt. The difference in the quality of the stonework between the first and second floors may indicate a double building campaign; this might also explain the admixture of brick and stone in the end walls and the plates between first and second floors.
10. Significance: Stone House Farm is representative of upper Montgomery County farms of the early 19th century.
- In 1821 Hezekiah Ricketts bought 45 acres of the tract, "Resurvey of Wildcat Spring", and built the stone house. Several years later David Zeigler, who had been an innkeeper, bought Stone House Farm and began farming the surrounding land. He also owned the mill down the road, yet it is believed that he concentrated on farming and contracted out the mill business.
- In 1879-80 David Zeigler's property was sold at Sheriff's sale to Levi Zeigler. Zeigler and later owners resold Stone House Farm at ever-increasing prices. After ownership by these speculators, a succession of farmers owned the property and tilled its fields. In the mid-20th century the house fell into disrepair and when the land was acquired by the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission in the 1960s, the stone house had partially collapsed. Park employees dismantled part of the house and discovered a newspaper dated 1829 behind one of the walls. Today the remains of Stone House Farm rest within the boundaries of the proposed Little Bennett Regional Park
11. Researcher and date researched: Don Leavitt 8/79 Christopher Owens-Arch.
Desc.
12. Compiler: Margaret Coleman 13. Date Compiled: Sept. 1979 14. Designation
Approval
15. Acreage: 31.13 acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 10/56
Magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Stone House Farm

AND/OR COMMON

David Zeigler House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Prescott Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF Hyattstown

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER abandoned

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Maryland-National Park & Planning Commission Telephone #: 565-7402

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20910

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MNCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE

Maryland 20855

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" 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 end-gabled stone house of 2½ stories with cellar at ground level on the east side resembles a slope barn or a mill building in its general form. The rough stonework is marked by large, irregular quoining, heavy wooden lintels over first and second story windows, and an irregular admixture of brick and stone walls. The east (front) facade has three bays with a center entrance; on the ground floor the low center entrance has a heavy lintel, while the flanking windows have flat brick arches. The entrance to the living quarters is on the second level and a plate at the upper floor level with notches to receive rafters suggests a covered porch the length of the front of the house. The plate rests on the wooden lintels of the central entrance and flanking windows. Below the upper story windows is a course of headers and above the windows wooden lintels below the plate. The structure above the level of the lintels has largely collapsed, but a photograph (MHS) shows a cornice consisting of three identical moldings telescoping from the wall to the roofline. The doorway itself has paneled jambs with the beveled edge of the center panel mortised into the surrounding frame; there was a transom light over the doorway.

The west (rear) facade is of two stories with three bays and heavy wooden lintels over the openings. Evidence of external plastering is found near the rear entrance. This suggests that the row of headers on the east facade was left exposed as a decorative string course.

At either end internal fireplaces remain. At the north end, the fireplace is deeper than the thickness of the wall and is supported by a stone arch, while the south chimney is the thickness of the wall and is carried on a heavy beam. On the north end, the exterior work is of stone, but on the south end both stone and brick are exposed as if the building had been partially rebuilt. The use of such materials in a random manner also suggests possible external plastering at some past time. At the lower east corner of the south wall is a small, segmented arch window opening and in the gable are two square windows flanking the chimney.

The remaining interior elements are a chair rail, window moldings, jamb facings of slightly-raised paneling, and second-story closets at the north end of the house. The flooring, ceiling and staircases have collapsed. Evidence of blue paint is found on the interior plaster. On the second floor, the central window is lower than the flanking windows, perhaps being a staircase window. Another photograph (MHS) shows the north first-floor "window" as a door with transom, and a staircase from the center doorway to the cellar remains. A reconstruction of the west facade would thus include a north doorway to the house, a plainer central doorway to the stairs leading to the cellar, and a south window for the room with the smaller fireplace. The staircase to the second floor would, reasonably, run above the staircase to the cellar with, perhaps, a landing or a turning at the center window.

The difference in the quality of the stonework between the first and second floors may indicate a double building campaign; this might also explain the admixture of brick and stone in the end walls and the plates between first and second floors.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1821

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Hezekiah Ricketts

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Stone House Farm is representative of upper Montgomery County farms of the early 19th century.

The land in the section of the county where Stone House Farm is located was once part of a large tract called "Resurvey of Wildcat Spring". In 1783 much of this land was owned by Brice Worthington and was described as "wooded thin stony saplin land".¹ Hezekiah Ricketts bought 45 acres of his tract in 1821.² It is believed he built the stone house at that time, as the following year when he sold the property the deed mentions improvements.³ Several years later David Zeigler, who had been an inn-keeper, bought Stone House Farm⁴ and began farming the surrounding land. He also owned the mill down the road, yet it is believed that he concentrated on farming and contracted out the mill business.

Over the succeeding years Zeigler ran up a record of debts. He was rich enough to become a patron in the 1879 G.M. Hopkins Atlas, yet he didn't pay his taxes. This might have gone unnoticed except for the fact that a new tax collector came into office in 1879 and discovered that Zeigler hadn't paid taxes since 1875 and owed the county \$90.58. Part of his property, including Stone House Farm, was seized and sold off at public auction. Apparently Zeigler still couldn't pay off his debts, as one year later the remainder of his property was seized by the sheriff and sold to pay off Zeigler's creditors.⁵

Levi Zeigler bought Stone House Farm for a fraction of its worth⁶ and then one year later sold it to James Davis for almost four times what he paid for it.⁷ Davis couldn't consummate the deal and Levi Zeigler took possession of the property and sold it again, this time to Sarah Luttons for only twice what he originally paid for it.⁸ Sarah Luttons sold the property two years later, almost doubling her initial investment.⁹

After ownership by these speculators, a succession of farmers owned the property and tilled its fields. In the mid-20th century the house fell into disrepair and when the land was acquired by the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission in the 1960s, the stone house had partially collapsed. Park employees dismantled part of the house and discovered a newspaper dated 1829 behind one of the walls.

Today the remains of Stone House Farm rest within the boundaries of the proposed Little Bennett Regional Park.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Land and Assessment Records

Maryland Historical Society Photographic Collection, Baltimore, Md.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 31.13 acres

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

Don LeavittChristopher Owens
Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional TrailsDATE
8/79

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

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

Attachment Sheet A
Stone House Farm

M: 1C/56
Magi #

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Assessment Records of Montgomery County, Md. (1783).
- 2 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. V/528 (8/16/1821).
- 3 Ibid., W/387 (8/20/1822).
- 4 Ibid., JGH 4/103 (1850).
- 5 Ibid., EBP 23/101 (8/11/1880).
- 6 Ibid., EBP 20/363 (7/16/1879).
- 7 Ibid., EBP 22/281 (5/10/1880).
- 8 Ibid., EBP 26/86 (8/12/1881).
- 9 Ibid., EBP 28/406 (5/7/1883).

STONE HOUSE (~~FORMER MILL?~~)

LITTLE BENNETT

Note: House is presently in ruined condition with exterior walls standing but weakened. West wall bowed inwards.

This end-gabled stone house of 2½ stories with cellar at ground level on the east side resembles a slope barn or a mill building in its general form. The rough stonework is marked by large, irregular quoining, heavy wooden lintels over first and second story windows, and an irregular admixture of brick and stone walls. The east (front) facade has three bays with a center entrance; on the ground floor the low center entrance has a heavy lintel, while the flanking windows have flat brick arches. The entrance to the living quarters is on the second level and a plate at the upper floor level with notches to receive rafters suggests a covered porch the length of the front of the house. The plate rests on the wooden lintels of the central entrance and flanking windows. Below the upper story windows is a course of headers and above the windows wooden lintels below the plate. The structure above the level of the lintels has largely collapsed, but a photograph (MHS) shows a cornice consisting of three identical moldings telescoping from the wall to the roofline. The doorway itself has paneled jambs with the beveled edge of the center panel mortised into the surrounding frame; there was a transom light over the doorway.

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stone and brick
 two stories and basement a la slope barn
 plaster-hair and mud
 fireplaces at each end-internal chimneys
 fireplace stone arch E. end-brick chimney
 beam support W. end-brick chimney
 three bays-center doors with wooden lintels
 W. end-stone arched window on S. side, basement floor
 interior-chair rails, blue paint, window moldings, door moldings
 and paneling
 front entrance-transom
 S. facade-porch evidence
 quoining
 flat brick arches on basement level
 over first floor window-wooden lintel with notches for porch
 below second story windows-string course of headers.

-Chris Owens, Park Historian

7 May 1974

informant Bill Whetzel (M-NCPPC)

stone Ruins in Little Bennett Regional Park

newspaper dated January 1829 found in
wall when house being dismantled; Civil
War slugs also found on site.

Chris



NAME # 10-56 ZEIGER STONE HOUSE (M-NCPPC)

LOCATION PRESCOTT RD., HYATTSTOWN, MD.

FACADE SW

M: 10-56

PHOTO TAKEN OCT. 1972 M. AWYER