

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name: John Leaman House

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 13/10/10 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 7  
 Clarksburg H.D. A-4

4. Address: 23415 Frederick Road, Clarksburg

5. Classification Summary

Category <u>building</u>	Previous Survey Recording <u>M-NCPPC</u>
Ownership <u>private</u>	Title and Date: <u>1976 Inventory of</u>
Public Acquisition <u>N/A</u>	<u>Historical Sites</u>
Status <u>occupied</u>	
Accessible <u>no</u>	Federal <u>    </u> State <u>x</u> County <u>x</u> Local <u>    </u>
Present use <u>private residence</u>	

6. Date: c. 1801 (addition c. 1890) 7. Original Owner: Thomas Kirk/Mrs. John Leaman

8. Apparent Condition

a. fair b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This T-shaped, two-and-a-half story frame and log structure is built on a stone foundation with a concrete floored basement. It consists of a log front section facing west, and a rear section with a new one story addition behind it. An open entry, with sides made of assorted glass panels, is attached on the north side of the addition. The front section has 6" wood drop siding, the rear section has been resurfaced with asphalt shingles, and the new addition has aluminum siding. There are two brick chimneys, and the cross gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingle. There is a hipped roof over the front porch, and a shed roof over the rear addition. Window sizes and types are varied throughout the house. Boxed eaves overhang the house by 8". The original log house is today used as a front parlor, and opens up into the Victorian back of the house. The remains of a large, brick chimney can still be seen on the southeast side. Outbuildings are a 20' by 8' wooden chicken coop and a 20' by 26' cinderblock garage.

10. Significance: The John Leaman house is an interesting example of the integration of 18th century log construction and 19th century Victorian frame addition, providing a visual capsule of the County's architectural history. The log section of the house dates back to at least 1801 when Thomas Kirk sold his property "with improvements" to Arnold Warfield. The early 1800s witnessed a rapid turnover in property ownership in Clarksburg, and this property was sold four times by 1818 when Wattee Williams bought it. The Williams family, who were carpenters, owned it until 1853. In this period it became part of the business center of Clarksburg, a shoe business being on one side and a smithy on the other, a hotel directly across the street and a machine shop further up the road.

John Williams sold the house in 1853 but in 1858 it was sold back to his son, after being "improved", and John Jr. sold it in 1866 to Dr. Rezin R. Thompson, one of the town's leading physicians. In 1871 Dr. Thompson sold it to John Leaman, carpenter, cabinet and coffin maker. Leaman died in 1883, but his wife and daughter added the Victorian section about 1890. The property remained in the family until 1961.

11. Researcher and date researched: Kevin J. Parker-9/79 Lynn Gallagher - arch.

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled: 10/79

14. <sup>description</sup> Designation  
 Approval     

15. Acreage: 62,000 sq. ft.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 13/10/10  
 Clarksburg HD  
 Magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

John Leaman House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

23415 Frederick Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" 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

Mr. & Mrs. Wilbert T. Duncan

Telephone #: 972-3081

STREET & NUMBER

23415 Frederick Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
 Maryland 20734

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 2908

Folio #: 565

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

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

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE

Maryland 20855

M. 12-10-10

# 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 type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This T-shaped, two-and-a-half story frame **and log** structure is built on a stone foundation with a concrete floored basement. It consists of a log front section (2 bays by 2 bays, 15' x 22') facing west, and a rear section (1 bay by 2 bays, 20' x 16') with a new one story addition (1 bay by 1 bay, 8' x 22') behind it. An open entry, with sides made of assorted glass panels, is attached on the north side of the addition.

The front (west) section has 6" wood drop siding, the rear section has been resurfaced with asphalt shingles, and the new addition has aluminum siding.

The roof over the 8' x 22' front porch is supported by three 4" x 4" turned wood posts. It has a wood floor 6" above grade. There is a stone bulkhead, with metal doors, on the north side of the front section.

An exterior brick chimney (partly covered with stucco) is centered on the south side of the front section. A second brick chimney is centered within the rear section.

The wood paneled doors, with glass in their upper halves, have plain wood frames. The windows on the lower level of the front section are one-over-one double-hung wood. Those at the upper level are six light wood casements on the north and south sides and an **eight light (1 high & 8 wide)** casement in the front dormer. There are two-over-two double-hung wood windows in the rear section. The new rear addition has jalousie windows.

The ridge of the asphalt shingle gable roof over the front section runs north-south. The ridge of the gable roof over the rear section runs east-west, 6' higher and forms a hop as it slopes down to meet the front roof. There is a hip roof over the front porch and a shed roof over the new rear addition. The box eaves overhang the house by 8" and return 2' around the gable end on the east side of the rear section.

The front (west) facade has a door on the left, balanced by a pair of windows on the right, at the lower level and a shed dormer centered upstairs. The north facade has two windows at the upper level of the front section, and four windows (2 up and 2 down) and a door in the rear section. The east side has one window upstairs and the jalousie windowed addition below. The open side of the glass entry faces east. The south elevation shows three windows (2 up and 1 down) and the chimney, in the front section, and four windows (2 up and 2 down) in the rear section. There is a jalousie window in the rear addition.

The house is 20' back from Frederick Road, and faces west on a 1½ acre lot. There is a 20' x 26' cinderblock garage with an asphalt shingle roof on the northeast corner, and a 20' x 8', partly tarpapered, wooden chicken coop on the southeast corner.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

M: 13-10-10

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input 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 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. 1801  
c. 1890, addition

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thomas Kirk  
Mrs. John Leaman

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Leaman House is important for its historical associations with the growth of Clarksburg as a center of trading and commerce in 19th century Montgomery County. The home is an example of the fusion of 18th and 19th century architectural styles and one of the most recognizable illustrations of log construction in the area.

Though John Leaman and his family lived in the house longer than any other occupant, he did not actually purchase the property until 1871.<sup>1</sup> The first mention of the house occurs 70 years earlier in 1801 when Thomas Kirk sold his property to Arnold Warfield; the deed mentions a lot in Clarksburg with "improvements"<sup>2</sup> and the 1804 tax assessment for the town records Arnold Warfield as owning "3 houses and lots in Clarksburg." When Warfield sold the property for \$100 in 1807 to William King, the deed once again mentioned "buildings and improvements".<sup>3</sup>

The early 1800s witnessed a rapid turnover in property ownership in Clarksburg,<sup>4</sup> and this property was no exception. William King was forced to mortgage the property because of debt in 1812,<sup>5</sup> and upon his death in 1814 the house and lot were sold at auction to Peter Sowers.<sup>6</sup> The property again changed hands in 1817 when Sowers sold the land to Aquilla Burnside,<sup>7</sup> who in turn sold it in 1818 to Wattee Williams.<sup>8</sup> The Williams family owned the property until 1853.

It was during the era of Williams occupancy that the property became part of the industrial and business section of Clarksburg. On one side of the property the Hurley family operated a shoe business and on the other side the Dronenburg family established a smithy. A hotel stood directly across the street and a machine shop further up the road. The Williams family practiced carpentry, which would have been a welcome addition to the surrounding enterprises.<sup>9</sup>

John Williams sold the property in 1853 to Thomas Nicholls for \$130.<sup>10</sup> Nicholls, in partnership with John Gibson opened a new store in Clarksburg in the 1850s.<sup>11</sup> He did not hold the property long, however, and in 1858 he sold it back to the Williams family for \$350,<sup>12</sup> after improving the house.

John Williams Jr. did not keep the property long either. In 1866 he sold the house and lot to Dr. Rezin R. Thompson, one of the town's leading physicians.<sup>13</sup> In 1871 Dr. Thompson sold the house and land to John Leaman, another carpenter who worked in the town.<sup>14</sup> The property remained in the family until 1961.<sup>15</sup>

John Leaman was also a cabinet and coffin maker who supplied local undertakers. He died at the age of 48 in 1883. His wife and daughter held on to the property, however, and it was under their direction that the house assumed its present form.<sup>16</sup>

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land, tax and census records for Montgomery County  
 Boyd, T.H.S., The History of Montgomery County, Md. Clarksburg; 1879.  
 Maps: Martenet and Bond Map (1865); Hopkins Atlas (1879)  
 Maxwell, Mrs. Lois. Interview, 1979.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 62,000 sq. ft.

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	Lynn Gallagher
Kevin J. Parker	Arch. Description
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Sugarloaf Regional Trails	Sept. 1979
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Box 87	926-4510
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Dickerson	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

Architecturally the house is interesting. When Mrs. Leaman constructed her modern (c. 1890) house on the property, she did not demolish the original log structure. This section instead became the present-day front parlor and opened up into the newer addition. In form, the front "cabin" is easily recognizable as an example of a late 18th century "Virginia House" type that was common throughout tidewater area. The remains of a large, brick chimney can still be seen on the southeast side of the building. This log section of the house dates back to at least 1801, and may be much older.

The Victorian back of the house, though much newer, well exemplifies the 19th century farmhouse architecture common in Montgomery County. It is the juxtaposition of the early cabin with the late farmhouse that makes the structure so interesting, for it provides a visual history of the county dating back to settlement days.

#### FOOTNOTES

- 1 Land Records of Montgomery County. EBP 8/395 & 456. (June 16, 1871).
- 2 Ibid., K/148, (November 28, 1801.)
- 3 Ibid., N/387, (October 20, 1807)
- 4 Montgomery County Tax Assessments, 1800-1830.
- 5 Land Records, Q/187, (December 14, 1812.)
- 6 Ibid., S-19/404, (November 27, 1815).
- 7 Ibid., T/427, (June 11, 1817).
- 8 Ibid., U/121, (March 17, 1818).
- 9 Martenet & Bond Map of 1865; Hopkins G.M. Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County of Montgomery (Philadelphia 1879) reprint by the Montgomery County Historical Society, p. 28  
1850 Census of Montgomery County
- 10 Land Records, JGH 2/354, (July 26, 1853).
- 11 Assessment Records 1857 & 1859. Land Records, JGH 6/237 (9/26/1857).
- 12 Land Records, JGH 6/570 (May 17, 1858).
- 13 Ibid., EBP 2/552 (March 3, 1866).
- 14 Boyd, T.H.S., The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, (Clarksburg, 1879): reprint by the Regional Publishing Co. Baltimore, 1972. p. 124.
- 15 Land Records, 2908/565 (November 13, 1961).
- 16 Telephone Interview with Mrs. Lois Maxwell. Long-time local resident. (9/20/79).

**NOTICES.**

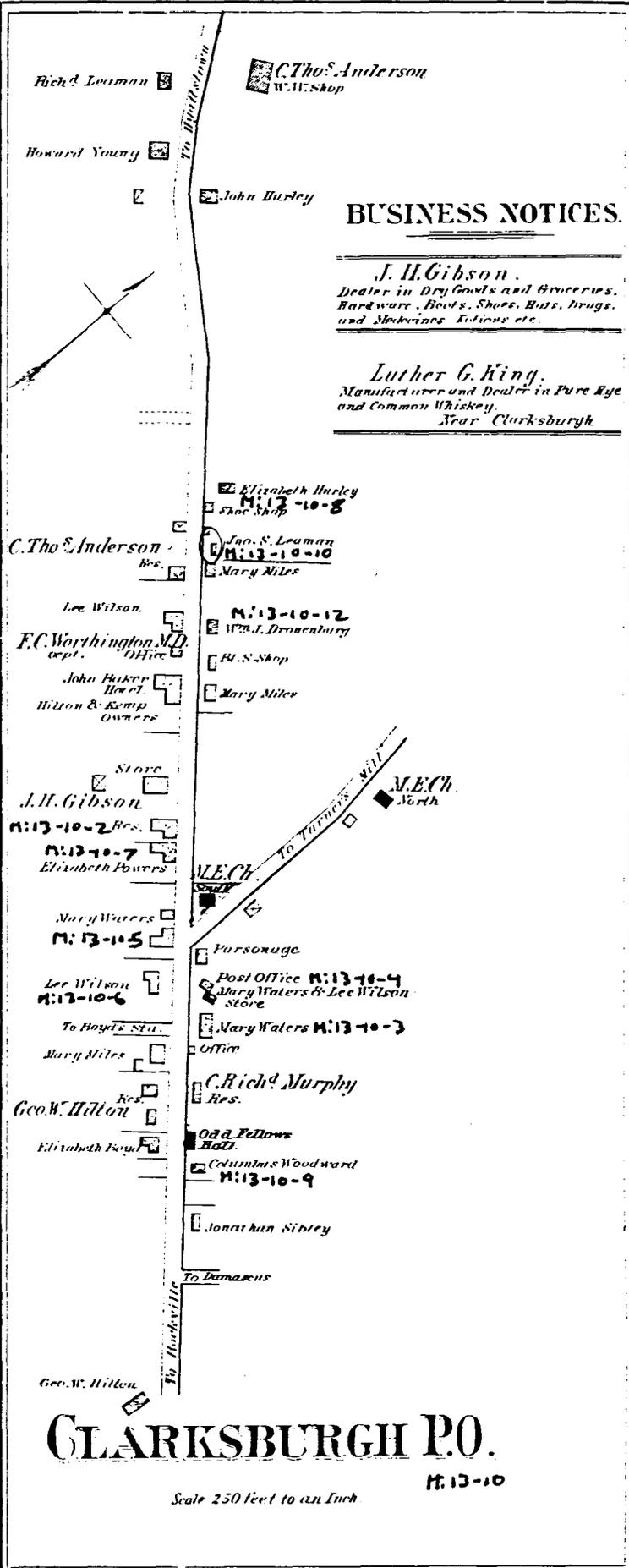
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**Darby.**  
Her.  
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Kinds & Lumber:

FOR W.  
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**TOWN P.O.**

et to an Inch.



M: 13-10-10  
John Leaman House

660

M: 13-10  
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659

M: 13-10-8  
M: 13-10-10

BM

658

Clarksburg

M: 13-10-2  
M: 13-10-7  
M: 13-10-5  
M: 13-10-6

M: 13-10-4  
M: 13-10-3

M: 13-10-9

M: 13-10-11

M: 13-52

Clarksburg  
Sch

GERMANTOWN  
QUAD, 1953

