

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Thomas D. Riggs House Survey Number: M-23-68

Project: MD 97: Gold Mine Rd to Camp Bennett Agency: FHWA/SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on the available information, the Thomas D. Riggs property, located off of MD 97 north of Brookville, does not appear to meet the National Register criteria for individual listing. The property has had two major periods of use. The structures which relate to the use of the property as a nineteenth century farm are clustered around a multi-part dwelling, now utilized as an office. This dwelling apparently was begun before 1865. However, the original cabin has since been subsumed by numerous later building campaigns and alterations. The present building does not convey any sense of the 19th century character. Several later outbuildings associated with the farm use remain in the vicinity of the house, but there is no sense of the original farmstead. The second use of the property began with its sale to the Central Union Mission in 1933. A cluster of buildings associated with this use are found to the north of the farmstead. These buildings were constructed between 1934 and c. 1950 and include sleeping cabins, a guest lodge, dining hall, chapel, and crafts lodge.

The property does <sup>not</sup> appear to be eligible under criterion C as the buildings do not exhibit any particular significance in terms of style or type. The lack of integrity of the farm complex negates eligibility under criterion A for agriculture. The 19th century farmstead has a connection with a member of the Riggs family, prominent in the history of the county and state, but the significance of this particular member is not clear and the lack of integrity of the house and farmstead further weaken the likelihood of eligibility under criterion B. The significance of the association with the Central Union Mission is not clear and may warrant further study. However, the use by the Mission does not appear to have left significant stamp on the property in terms of built resources and probably would not meet Criteria A or C. Lastly, the property is not located in any known historic district.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project file, Maryland Inventory

Form M-23-68

Prepared by: Rita Suffness, Catherine Crawford (1982 form), Michael Dwyer (1975 form)

Elizabeth Hannold September 29, 1995  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

Charles Robert v 10-2-95  
Reviewer, NR program Date

*Handwritten initials*

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic-Single dwelling, Agricultural-Outbuilding  
Domestic-Camp, Religion-Mission

Known Design Source: na

M: 23-68  
Thomas D. Riggs House  
Montgomery County, MD

The Thomas Riggs House, located on the east side of Route 97, near Sunshine, is now part of Camp Bennett of the Central Union Mission. The property includes the mid-19th-century Thomas Riggs House, a 19th century crib barn, a chicken house, and several non-contributing buildings and structures associated with the camp, including sleeping cabins, crafts cabins, a chapel, and a swimming pool. The Riggs family cemetery, which is located within the boundaries of the adjacent property, is located east of the dwelling, in a wooded area. The Thomas Riggs House currently serves as the residence/office for the director of the camp. This structure is the surviving, much altered, remnant of a productive 19th-century farming operation in this part of Montgomery County. The farm was begun and run for much of its history by Thomas Riggs, great-grandson of the founding member of the Maryland line of the prominent Riggs family, and nephew of George Riggs of Washington, D.C., founder of the Corcoran, Riggs and Company, predecessor of the Riggs National Bank of Washington. However, the property lacks the integrity necessary to meet the Criteria of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. M-23-68

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Thomas Riggs House  
common/other name Camp Bennett

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 20501 Georgia Ave Not for publication   
city or town Brookeville vicinity  state Maryland code MD  
county Montgomery code \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 20833

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing		
<u>2</u>		<u>4</u>		buildings
<u>1</u>				sites
				structures
				objects
<u>3</u>		<u>4</u>		Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes  Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_ No

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE Crib Barn

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
RELIGIOUS Church Office

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
roof Gable: Asphalt shingles  
walls Log and frame with vinyl siding  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Thomas Riggs House  
Montgomery County, Maryland

Inventory No. M-23-68  
Page 4

=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance circa 1865-circa 1879  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates circa 1865  
circa 1879  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*Annals of Sandy Spring*, Vols. I-V, Sandy Spring, MD.: Privately Printed.

Boyd, T.H.S., *History of Montgomery County*, 1879. Reprint. Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Comp., 1989.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, MD.* Silver Spring, MD., 1952, 1962.

Grzeszkiewicz, Margaret. "Olney's Camp Bennett holds annual open house," *The Olney Courier Gazette*, August 15, 1990.

MacMaster, Richard K. and Ray Eldon Hiebert. *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1776-1976.* Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, MD., Vertical Files.

Montgomery County Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland.

Mutual Assurance Society Records, Montgomery County Historical Society.

Nesbitt, Martha C. and Mary Reading Miller. *Chronicles of Sandy Spring Friends Meeting and Environs.* Sandy Spring, MD., 1987.

Noble, Allen G. and Richard K. Cleek. *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and other Farm Structures.* New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1995.

Sandy Spring Museum, Sandy Spring, Maryland, Vertical Files.

Genealogical Abstracts, *Montgomery County Sentinel 1855-1899.*

Maps and Drawings and Photographs

Hopkins, G.M., comp. *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland*, 1879. Reprint. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.

Martenet, Simon L. *Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County*, 1865.

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10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreege of Property 219.57 acres

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)** The Thomas Riggs House occupies a 219.57 acre tract of land on the east side of Georgia Avenue north of the city of Brookeville.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

This 234-acre parcel has been associated with the Thomas Riggs House since its construction circa 1865.

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11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Kimberly Williams/Michele Naru, Architectural Historians  
organization M-NCPPC date 7-14-99  
street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone 301/563-3403  
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910  
=====

12. Property Owner  
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name Central Union Mission  
street & number 1350 R Street, N.W. telephone 301-774-4420  
city or town Washington, D.C. state DC zip code 20009  
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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Inventory No. M-23-68

Thomas Riggs House

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

=====  
The Thomas Riggs House, located on the east side of Route 97, near Sunshine, is now part of Camp Bennett of the Central Union Mission. The property includes the mid-19th-century Thomas Riggs House, a 19th century crib barn, a chicken house, and several non-contributing buildings and structures associated with the camp, including sleeping cabins, crafts cabins, a chapel, and a swimming pool. The Riggs family cemetery, which is located within the boundaries of the adjacent property, is located east of the dwelling, in a wooded area. The Thomas Riggs House currently serves as the residence/office for the director of the camp.

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

The Thomas Riggs House was built in two distinct phases in the mid-19th century and has been significantly altered during the second half of the 20th century. The dwelling consists of a small, one-room, gable-roofed stone structure with a massive stone and brick end chimney, built circa 1865, and now serving as a kitchen/dining wing; and a two-story, two-bay, gable-roofed frame structure abutting the original stone structure and built circa 1879. These two sections of the house are enveloped by a one-story, wrap-around, shed-roofed addition built in the mid-20th century.

Exterior Description:

The stone wing:

The stone wing is the oldest part of the house. Probably originally built as a dwelling when constructed circa 1865<sup>1</sup>, this stone structure became the kitchen, when the frame house now adjoining it was built in 1879.<sup>2</sup> The original house has been significantly altered on the exterior and interior by modern additions, leaving only the roofline and end chimney wall intact and visible.

The south elevation is the only exposed exterior wall of the house. It consists of the gable end wall with the chimney. The stone wall is parged with concrete or stucco and its attic level windows to either side of the end chimney have been blocked up. The chimney has a large stone and brick shaft. It has been heavily parged and the brickwork reworked.

The east and west elevations of the stone wing are behind the one-story, wrap-around addition, while the north elevation abuts the

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<sup>1</sup>A house is indicated on the 1865 Martenet and Bond Map at this site.

<sup>2</sup>Montgomery County Judgement Records, Equity #327, EBP 9/70

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Inventory No. M-23-68

Thomas Riggs House

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

=====

larger frame structure. The steeply pitched gable roof, however, is visible above the wrap-around addition, providing a view of the building's original massing.

The interior of the building reveals partially exposed hewn rafters and a large stone fireplace surround.

The main block:

The main block of the house--the two-story frame structure--was built by 1879, as described in an 1879 deed. This deed describes the frame house as having five rooms and a kitchen (the stone wing). It is today encased on the first story by a contemporary wrap-around addition, and features all new doors and windows, vinyl siding and a standing seam metal roof. The interior retains no historic fabric.

The west (front) elevation of the house is two bays wide with two single, 1/1 windows in the second story and the wrap-around shed-roofed porch on the first story. The shed-roof extension has banks of vinyl windows and a single entry door.

The north elevation is three bays deep with a tri-partite replacement window towards the rear bay on the first story and three, single 1/1 replacement windows on the second story. The attic level has a single 1/1 replacement window on center.

The east elevation has a one-story, shed-roof addition against the first story and wood deck above, corresponding with the second story. The shed-roofed addition is, here, set upon a stone foundation, and though clad with vinyl siding and featuring new windows, was an original shed wing to the house.

Outbuildings and Cemetery:

**Crib Barn:** The crib barn and attached chicken house is located to the north of the house and is in deteriorating condition. The crib barn is a timber frame, mortise-and-tenon structure with a side-drive crib, covered with a gable roof. The walls are clad with the vertical wood boards, and the roof with standing seam metal. The attached chicken house abuts the west end of the crib barn, making the drive-through crib unusable for vehicles. It is a frame, make-shift type addition with vertical board siding and a standing seam metal roof.

**Riggs Family Cemetery:** The Riggs family cemetery is located several hundred yards east of the dwelling in a patch of woods located on adjacent property. The cemetery is overgrown with vegetation, and

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Inventory No. M-23-68

Thomas Riggs House

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

=====  
includes several inscribed tombstones, both upright and fallen. The most notable tombstone is that of Remus Riggs (1790-1867) and his wife Catherine (1811-1893). It is a stone obelisk set upon a stone base with the name RIGGS embossed on it. One face of the obelisk includes the name, birth and death dates of the couple, an epigraph, and at the top and bottom of the obelisk, decorative stonework. Thomas Riggs (died 1889) is not buried in the cemetery, but was apparently laid to rest in a cemetery on adjacent property.

**Non-Contributing Buildings:**

There are several non-contributing buildings which are part of the camp facility. One of these structures is a low-lying concrete block living facility northwest of the house and barn. The other buildings are clustered at the end of the long drive that leads from Georgia Avenue to the house and beyond to the camp. These buildings include log sleeping cabins, mess cabin, swimming pool and other facilities.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Inventory No. M-23-68

Thomas Riggs House

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

=====

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Thomas Riggs House, located at 20501 Georgia Avenue is presently a part of Camp Bennett and standing in a much altered state. This structure is the surviving remnant of a productive 19th-century farming operation in this part of Montgomery County. The farm was begun and run for much of its history by Thomas Riggs, great-grandson of the founding member of the Maryland line of the prominent Riggs family, and nephew of George Riggs of Washington, D.C., founder of the Corcoran, Riggs and Company, predecessor of the Riggs National Bank of Washington. However, the property lacks the integrity necessary to meet the Criteria of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Context:

The Thomas Riggs House appears on the 1865 *Martenet and Bond Map of Montgomery County* as the home of Thomas Riggs. Thomas Riggs was the son of Remus Riggs (1790-1867) and Catharine Riggs (1811-1893), both of whom are buried in the family cemetery located on adjoining property to the Thomas Riggs House.

The house was built by 1865 by either Thomas Riggs, or his father, Remus Riggs. Remus Riggs was the grandson of John Riggs (1687-1762), who established the Maryland line of the Riggs family in the 18th century. Remus Riggs was also the brother of George Riggs of Washington, partner of the Washington banking firm of Corcoran, Riggs and Company, predecessor of the Riggs National Bank of Washington.

Remus Riggs owned the property on which he and his son, Thomas, both had houses until his death in December 1867. As stated in his will, "to my son, Thomas D. Riggs, I bequeath the farm on which he now resides."<sup>3</sup> Although it is not certain when Remus Riggs came to Montgomery County, the 1879 G.M. Hopkins Map indicates that Thomas Riggs, listed as a farmer in the directory, had settled there in 1833.<sup>4</sup>

In 1876 Thomas Riggs conveyed a mortgage on his farm to Robert H.

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<sup>3</sup> Will book JWS 1 Folio 249.

<sup>4</sup> The 1879 G.M. Hopkins *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including Montgomery County, Maryland*, includes a list of patrons, their occupation and when they settled in the county, as well as other information.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Inventory No. M-23-68

Thomas Riggs House

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

=====  
 MacGill, his brother-in-law. The following year, MacGill died leaving his wife and Thomas' sister, Amelia Riggs MacGill, as the recipient of this mortgage. In 1879, Amelia MacGill foreclosed on the mortgage and offered the farm for sale. The notice of the sale described the farm as being 275-1/4 acres and improved by a "frame dwelling of five rooms and a kitchen (probably the stone section), a stable accommodatng eleven horses with 70 feet of shed attached, a corn house, wagon sheds, blacksmith shop, dairy, two tenant houses and all the other necessary outbuildings." Orchards of apples, pears and peaches were also found on the farm, which was reported to be one of the most productive farms in the area. Receiving no acceptable bids on the farm, Amelia MacGill purchased it herself for \$6,055.50 in October of 1879.<sup>5</sup> That same year, Thomas Riggs was listed as the owner of 275-3/4 acres of land in the area.<sup>6</sup> Thomas Riggs died in 1889; his obituary in the *Sentinel*, identifies him as a "young farmer" and son of Remus D. Riggs.<sup>7</sup>

In 1902, Amelia MacGill died. In her will, she stated that the farm was to be held in trust for the use of Thomas D. Riggs, during his lifetime<sup>8</sup>, and then sold and the proceeds to be divided between the children of John A. Riggs. In August of 1920, the executor of Amelia's will conveyed the "Thomas Riggs Farm" to Susan, Robert, Anna, Lawrason and John Riggs and Elizabeth Howard. Five months later, the heirs sold the 276 acre farm to Charles Thomas Nicholson.

Charles and his wife, Mamie, defaulted on their mortgage, and in 1932, the property was put up for sale at public auction. It was purchased by a Ober W. and Mary C. Daily, who the following year, sold 234 acres to the Central Union Mission for the establishment of Camp Bennett. Dedicated in July 1934, camp Bennett provided work for unemployed men, and provided garden produce for the Emergency Children's Home and Homeless. Over the years, thousands of children from inner-city neighborhoods in Washington, D.C. have

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<sup>5</sup> Catherine Crawford, Maryland Historical Trust State Inventory of Historic Sites form, 1982.

<sup>6</sup> G.M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including Montgomery County, Maryland*, 19. Based upon the acreage, it appears to be the same land in question.

<sup>7</sup> *The Sentinel*, Nov. 1, 1889

<sup>8</sup> This must be another relation, because Thomas Riggs, son of Remus, died in 1889 (see above).

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Inventory No. M-23-68

Thomas Riggs House

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

=====  
attended summer camp sessions at Camp Bennett. The camp is supported by donations from individuals, churches and other interested groups and supports about 235 or more campers each summer.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-23-68  
Thomas Riggs House  
name of property  
Montgomery County, MD  
county and state

=====

**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Piedmont

**Chronological/Development Period (s):** Agricultural-Industrial  
Transition, 1815-1870

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

Agriculture;  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Standing Structure

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** Domestic

**Known Design Source:**

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M#23-68

Magi No. 1605735904

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas D. Riggs Farmhouse

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Camp Bennett, Rt. 97, north of Brookeville  not for publication

city, town Brookeville  vicinity of congressional district 8th

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"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> government
			<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Central Union Mission, Camp Bennett

street & number 613 C St. NW telephone no.:

city, town Washington, D.C. state and zip code 20004

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Court House liber 560

street & number folio 172

city, town Rockville state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MNCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Park Historian's Office

city, town Rockville state Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

M:23-68

**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR               UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Part of this building may be quite old, but most of it has been obscured from view by various remodelings. The main house is a square, two-story frame building, of two bays on its main (west) facade. It may have been built in its present shape, but the presence of an old brick chimney stack at the SW corner (and a number of other older features) indicates an earlier dwelling underneath. Affixed to the south side of this house is a low, one-story-with-loft, fieldstone wing. This wing has a massive, stone fireplace chimney on the outside south wall, and there is a pair of tiny attic windows here, also.

Most of the house is further obscured by an enclosed, jalousie porch, that covers the first floor on the west and south facades.

There are several, rough-sawn-lumber farm buildings on the property.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8. Significance

Survey No.

M.23-68

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** \_\_\_\_\_ **Builder/Architect** \_\_\_\_\_

check: Applicable Criteria:    A    B    C    D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:    A    B    C    D    E    F    G

Level of Significance:    national    state    local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Thomas D. Riggs farmhouse is significant as an example of vernacular architecture typical of that constructed in Montgomery County from the mid-nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries. The single story stone wing (with a large stone chimney) at the south elevation of the later frame structure is very old. It appears on the 1865 map of the county, as the home of Thomas D. Riggs, but may be older than 1865. It was probably built by either Thomas or his father, Remus Riggs, who owned the property until his death in 1867 when the farm became the legal property of his son. As stated in his will, "to my son, Thomas D. Riggs, I Bequeath the farm on which he now resides."<sup>1</sup> Thomas, who first settled in the area in 1833, was a Brookeville farmer.<sup>2</sup>

In February of 1876, Thomas conveyed a mortgage on his farm to Robert H. MacGill.<sup>3</sup> In 1879, Amelia Riggs MacGill, wife of the late Robert MacGill, foreclosed on the mortgage and offered the farm for sale. The notice of the sale described the farm as being 275 1/4 acres located on the road from Brookeville to Westminster (1 1/2 miles from Brookeville) near the intersection with the Union turnpike. The property adjoined the lands of A.B. Davis, Rev. Hutton and B.W. Howard. It was reported to be one of the most productive farms in the area. At this time, it was improved by a frame dwelling of five rooms and a kitchen (probably the stone section), a stable accommodating eleven horses with 70 feet of shed attached, a corn house, wagon sheds, blacksmith shop, dairy, two tenant houses and all the other necessary outbuildings. Orchards of apples, pears and peaches were also found on the farm. Amelia MacGill, receiving no acceptable bids on the farm, purchased it herself for \$6055.50 in October of 1879.<sup>4</sup>

In March of 1902, Amelia died. In her will she stated that the farm was to be held in trust for the use of Thomas D. Riggs, during his lifetime, and then to be sold and the proceeds to be divided between the children of John A. Riggs.<sup>5</sup> In August of 1920, the executor of Amelia's will conveyed the "Thomas D. Riggs Farm" to Susan, Robert, Anna, Lawrason and John Riggs and Elizabeth Howard.<sup>6</sup> Five months later, the heirs sold the 276 acre farm to Charles Thomas Nicholson.<sup>7</sup>

see attachment sheet A

## attachment sheet A

In 1932, Charles and his wife, Mamie, defaulted on their mortgage and the farm was offered at a public sale. The property was described as a farm of 240 acres adjoining the lands of Harry Musgrove, Austin Powell and others, including 160 to 170 acres of cleared, farmable land. The improvements to the farm consisted of a seven room stone and frame house with a pantry, three porches and a cellar. Also on the farm were a corn house with a wagon shed attached, a large hog house, machine shed, meat house, two tenant houses and other necessary outbuildings. The farm was sold to Ober W. Daily for \$8000.<sup>8</sup> A year later, Daily sold the farm (then consisting of 233.4 acres) to the presentowner, Central Union Mission.<sup>9</sup> The house serves as the private residence of the director of this still operating farm.

<sup>1</sup>Will JWS 1/249, Mont. Co. Register of Wills.

<sup>2</sup>Hopkins Atlas of 1878, p.19.

<sup>3</sup>Mtg. EBP 14/377, Mont. Co. Land Records.

<sup>4</sup>Equity #327, EBP 9/70, Mont. Co. Judgement Records.

<sup>5</sup>Will HCA 14/175, Mont. Co. Register of Wills.

<sup>6</sup>Deed 300/491, Mont. Co. Land Records.

<sup>7</sup>Deed 305/115, " "

<sup>8</sup>Equity #6468, 58/427, Mont. Co. Judgement Records.

<sup>9</sup>Deed 560/172.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:23-68

- Mont. Co. Land Records
- Mont. Co. Judgement Records
- Mont. Co. Register of Wills

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 219.57 acres

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A            
 Zone Easting Northing

B            
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Catherine Crawford

organization M.C. Hist. Preservation Commission date 10/82

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Rockville 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  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1605735904

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Thomas D. Riggs House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Camp Bennett-Rte. 97, north of Brookeville

CITY, TOWN

Brookeville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Central Union Mission-Camp Bennett Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Rte. 97

CITY, TOWN

Brookeville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Liber #:

Folio #:

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:23-68

**CONDITION**
 EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

 DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED
**CHECK ONE**
 UNALTERED  
 ALTERED
**CHECK ONE**
 ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_
**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Part of this building may be quite old, but most of it has been obscured from view by various remodelings. The main house is a square, two-story frame building, of two bays on its main (west) facade. It may have been built in its present shape, but the presence of an old brick chimney stack at the SW corner (and a number of other older features) indicates an earlier dwelling underneath. Affixed to the south side of this house is a low, one-story-with-loft, fieldstone wing. This wing has a massive, stone fireplace chimney on the outside south wall, and there is a pair of tiny attic windows here, also.

Most of the house is further obscured by an enclosed, jalousie porch, that covers the first floor on the west and south facades.

There are several, rough-sawn-lumber farm buildings on the property.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

M: 23-68

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD

- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799 ?
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION

- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**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

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

8/15/75

STREET &amp; NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-23-68  
Thomas Riggs House  
name of property  
Montgomery County, MD  
county and state

=====  
**Chain of Title:**

December 18, 1867            Remus Riggs died. (Tombstone located in cemetery on Thomas Riggs Farm)

1868                         Remus Riggs leaves the property to his son, Thomas D. Riggs. (Will Book JWS 1 Folio 249)

February 8, 1876            Thomas D Riggs to Robert H. MacGill and Amelia J. (Riggs) MacGill.

                               Robert H. MacGill died.

                               Robert H. MacGill to Amelia J. MacGill.

                               "For value received and by order of the Order of Orphans Court for Frederick County, we the undersigned, Executrix and Executor of Robert H. MacGill, late of Frederick County died, hereby transferred, assign the withsenth and foregoing mortgage to Amelia J. MacGill the same being devised to her by the last will of said R.H. MacGill, deed dated January 24, 1877." (Written along the margin of Deed Book EBP 14/377)

January 26, 1880            Hattersly W. Talbott, trustee, to Amelia J. MacGill. (Deed Book EBP 21 Folio 452)

August 5, 1920             Richard P. Tippett, executor of Amelia J. MacGill's will, to Lawrason B. Riggs et al. (Deed book 300 Liber 491)

January 26, 1921            Lawrason B. Riggs et al to Charles Thomas Nicholson (Deed Book 302 Folio 115)

1921                         Charles T. and Mamie F. Nicholson defaulted on their mortgage. Property went up for sale at a public auction on July 2, 1932. Mr. Ober W. Dailey was the highest bidder and bought the property. Albert M. Bouic was the attorney. (Referenced to in Deed Book 540 Folio 326)

August 1, 1932             Albert M. Bouic, Attorney, to Ober W. and Mary C. Dailey. (Deed Book 540 Folio 326)

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-23-68  
Thomas Riggs House  
name of property  
Montgomery County, MD  
county and state

=====

September 20, 1933

Ober W. and Mary C. Dailey to Central  
Union Mission (Present Owners).  
(Deed Book 560 Folio 172)

# THOMAS D. RIGGS HOUSE & CEMETERY (M: 23-68)



Casual User Application



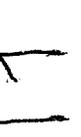
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760



Scale 1" = 1000'

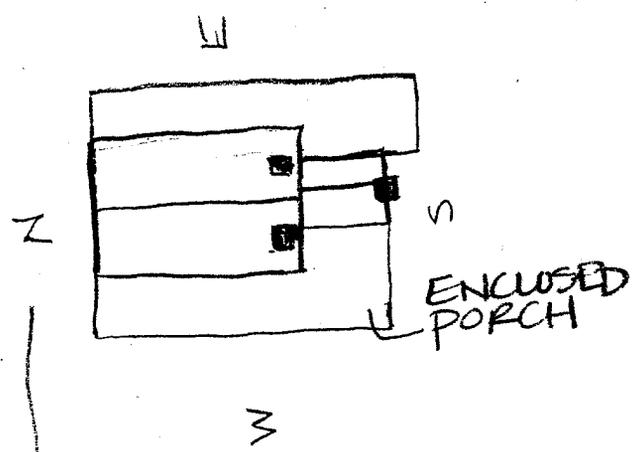
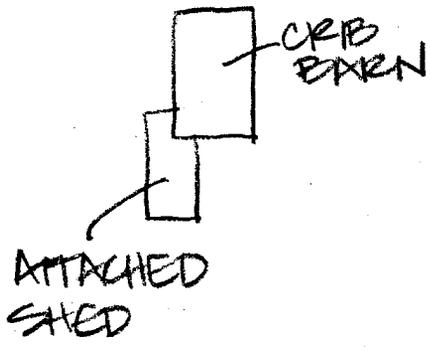


M 23-68  
THOMAS REEFS CEMETERY  
HOUSE



ON SEPARATE  
PARCEL IN  
WOODS

↖ Z



GEORGIA AVE

# MECHANICSVILLE DIST.

## No. 8.

Mont. Co.

Scale 2 inches to the Mile

# MECHANICSVILLE OLNEY P.O.

Scale 600 feet to the Inch

## BUSINESS NOTICES

**J. D. Barnsley**, **Williams & Boyer**, **Joseph L. Wagner**  
Dealers in all kinds of Groceries in Dry Goods,  
Merchandise, Stationery, Hardware, Books,  
Mechanicsville, Md. Mechanicsville,  
Md. Mechanicsville

## BUSINESS NOTICES

### BRIGHTON.

**Isaac Hartshorn**,  
Agent for the Iron Works of  
the U. S. of Philadelphia  
Manufactured 1877. Iron Works  
Philadelphia and other Iron Works  
**E. Berry & Co.**  
Dealers in Merchandise, Stationery,  
Dry Goods, Hardware, Books, etc.  
**Henry Wadler**,  
Dealers in Groceries, Stationery,  
Books, etc.

### MT. ZION.

**J. S. Snowden**,  
Dealers in Dry Goods, Stationery,  
Books, etc.  
**Thos. Brown**,  
Dealers in Groceries, Stationery,  
Books, etc.

M: 23-68

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1878 by G. M. Hopkins, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington D.C.

Hopkins, G.M., comp. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland, 1879. Reprint. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.



Name: SANDY SPRING  
Date: 7/13/99  
Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 11' 42.5" N 077° 03' 54.6" W  
Caption: THOMAS D. RIGGS HOUSE (M: 23-68)  
20501 Georgia Av.



Mi  
23-68

THOMAS RIGGS HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-12-99

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST ELEVATION LOOKING EAST  
1 OF 9



M:  
23-68  
THOMAS RIGGS HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD  
KIM WILLIAMS

4-12-99

MARYLAND SHPO  
SOUTH ELEVATION  
2 OF 9



12 4 '99

M:  
23-68

THOMAS RIGGS HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-12-99

MARYLAND SHPO

EAST ELEVATION

3 OF 9



M.  
23-68

THOMAS RIGGS HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-12-99

MARYLAND SHPO  
NORTH ELEVATION

4 of 9



M:

23-68

THOMAS RIGGS HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-12-99

MARYLAND SHPO

STONE FIREPLACE; LOCATED IN ORIGINAL  
SECTION OF HOUSE

5 OF 9



12 4 '99

M:

23-68

THOMAS RIGGS HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-12-99

MARYLAND SHPO

BARN, LOCATED NORTH OF MAIN HOUSE

6 OF 9



M:

23-68

THOMAS RIGGS HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-12-99

MARYLAND SHPO

CEMETERY, LOCATED SOUTHEAST OF  
MAIN HOUSE

7 OF 9



REMUS RIGGS

Jan. 24, 1790.

Dec. 15, 1892.

CATHARINE

His Wife.

June 22, 1811.

Dec. 12, 1893.

In my Father's house  
are many mansions.

RIGGS

M:  
23-68

THOMAS RIGGS HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS  
4-12-99

MARYLAND SHPO  
CEMETERY, REMUS RIGGS' GRAVE  
LOCATED SOUTHEAST OF MAIN HOUSE  
8 of 9



SON OF GEORGE W.

SAMUEL.

son of George W.

and his wife Eliza

born June 20 1841

died June 9 1899

18 3 99

M:

23-68

THOMAS RIGGS HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-12-99

MARYLAND SHPO

CEMETERY, SAMUEL RIGGS' GRAVE  
LOCATED SOUTHEAST OF MAIN HOUSE  
9 of 9



NAME M;#23-68 THOMAS D. RIGGS HOUSE (STONE WING  
ON RIGHT)

LOCATION RTE. 97, BROOKSVILLE, MD (CAMP BENNETT)

FACADE W

PHOTO TAKEN OCT. 1972, M. DWYER