NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rich Mountain

other names F-4-9; Sines Farm; Holter Farm; Home Farm

2. Location

street & number 6434 S. Clifton Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Frederick ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Frederick code 021 zip code 21703-5834

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying office/Title — Date 11-10-05

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying office/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as 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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
5	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls STONE
WOOD: Weatherboard
roof METAL
other WOOD

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Description Summary:

Set on the edge of a bowl-like crease in Catoctin Mountain just below Braddock Heights in Frederick County, Maryland, Rich Mountain occupies a ten-acre tract which remains from the original farm. The complex consists of a a two-story, five-bay stone dwelling dating from 1810-1820 with a central entrance and a one-story, two bay kitchen wing, a frame Pennsylvania style forebay bank barn from the mid-to-late 19th century, a hog barn, wagon shed/corn crib, equipment shed and chicken coop. The house faces east, while the barn faces northwest into the sheltering cove of the mountain. A lane leads at an angle off South Clifton Road past the barn and on to the house. The surrounding landscape is hilly with ridges in all directions. Just over the crest of the ridge to the west and north, but not visible from the farmstead, lies the village of Braddock Heights.

General Description:

House:

The house is a two-story, five-bay stone dwelling with a central entrance and a one-story, two bay kitchen wing addition attached to the north gable end. The expanse of yard between the driveway and the front door is nearly level, but the land slopes downward behind the house leaving a walk-out cellar on the west or back side of the house. A nailing course just under the upper story windows at the back facade, extending nearly the length of the back wall, marks the roof attachment location of a porch that once sheltered the entrances at the cellar and main story levels. The roofing material is currently standing seam sheet metal, installed by the present owners in 1977 or 1978.

Roughly coursed local stone of the type found in the mountainous regions of Frederick County forms the walls of the house. Stone chimneys with corbels at their tops extend from inside each gable end of the building. A plastered date tablet with an arched top lined with brick is set into the south end chimney at the peak of the gable. Unfortunately, an inscription is not discernable. There is no particular decorative masonry associated with the exterior of the building, although above most of the windows are either two flat stones that meet near the middle of the span, or a single flat stone extending across the opening.

Windows have wide mortised and tenoned frames secured with pegs at the corners. At the front facade only the original sash were replaced, probably around 1870, with two-over- two-pane sash. The rear facade and the back half of the south side wall retain the original nine-over-six-light windows. Shutter hardware remains. At the front facade replacement louvered shutters

are in place. Three added gable-roofed dormers extend from the east face of the roof. Original attic windows have four-over-two-light sash.

The main entrance is in the central bay of the front facade. The door has six low-relief molded panels hung within deep paneled jambs with matching molding. Above the door is a diamond pane transom, which may be a later alteration from the 1860s or '70s. A secondary front entrance opens into the kitchen wing. It also is a six panel door hung beneath a transom with five rectangular panes of glass. At the west facade there are two entrances from the cellar in the central and south bays and another at the main level which would have opened onto the high porch across the back of the house. The porch roof originally was attached to the nailer course, which remains to mark the original presence of that porch. The main level entrance had six molded panels, but no transom. Another rear entrance leads into the lower level of the kitchen. The lower level entrances have battened doors.

The front door opens into a central stair and entrance passage, with a back door at the rear of the space. An unusual feature of this and other first floor rooms in the house is the use of oak flooring, typically associated with 18th century construction and fairly rare in Frederick County, unlike the very common pine flooring. The passageway walls are trimmed with chair rail and architraves have delicate ogee moldings. The staircase rises along the south wall of the passageway with the stairs to the cellar descending beneath. The stair has scroll cut trim at the ends of the risers, a turned newel post and round handrail. Rectangular balusters, two per step, stabilize the handrail. Doors from the passageway lead into one large room on the north side and two rooms on the south side. A modern bathroom has been added in the corner of the north room with an entrance off the passageway.

The north room has a fireplace in its north wall. Its mantelpiece has a molded shelf, pilasters and a central tablet. The original brick hearth remains, laid traditionally with a perimeter rim of bricks. Chair rail encircles the room and paneled jambs embellish the windows. In the front wall of the room, as well along the front wall in the other rooms, are unusual beaded inverted T-shaped nailer blocks, a refinement for unknown purpose. (The Henry Shoemaker House, a brick National Register property approximately the same age as Rich Mountain and located west of Middletown in Frederick County, has similar beaded blocks).

On the south side of the passageway are two smaller rooms. The southeast room has a fireplace with a mantelpiece similar in character to the one in the north room and the decorative nailer blocks in the front wall. Behind the southeast room is a small chamber.

The second floor follows a similar floor plan, except that the area north of the passageway is divided into two rooms. Front walls have the decorative nailer blocks like those on the first floor. Flooring on the second level is tongue and groove yellow pine, differing from the oak floors of the first level, but typical of most early and mid 19th century dwellings in central Maryland. Baseboard in the upper level passageway retains original marbleized finish. The door that opens into the second floor southwest room from the southeast room retains its original grain painted finish.

The cellar of the main part of the house is divided into two large rooms. The main room, consisting of the area beneath the north room and the stair and entrance hall, is a brick-paved kitchen, which may have served as the main kitchen for the house prior to construction of the separate kitchen wing.

Attached to the north end wall of the house is a one-story kitchen, constructed of stone but covered with stucco. A deeply recessed work porch extends across the front, and the rear facade, because of the topography, has an exposed cellar story. The interior contains one room with a large service fireplace in the north end, two nine-over-six-light windows in the east and west walls and a door to the front work porch. In the southeast corner of the kitchen an enclosed staircase leads to an attic. The kitchen wing appears to be an addition to the main part of the house and probably dates from a short time after initial construction.

According to the property owners, the house was altered in the late 19th or early 20th century with the application of German siding across the front facade.

Barn:

Approximately 200 feet east of the house stands a frame Pennsylvania style bank barn with its forebay facing north. It rests on stone foundations, which enclose the forebay end walls. Recesses in the stone forebay walls provide storage space for small items. Latticework screens the interior of the barn from its attached yard. The barn's framing system consists of a blend of hewn, sawn and reused timbers covered with vertical siding. The frame has five bents. It has an interior granary adjacent to the threshing floor. The barn appears to date from the 1860s-1880s period.

Hog Barn:

Just northwest of the barn is a frame hog barn. In typical fashion, it sits approximately perpendicular to the barn and faces into the barnyard.

Wagon shed/Corn crib:

Up the hill, behind (south of) the barn is a frame wagon shed and corncrib. Its roof ridge runs parallel with that of the barn and both ends are open to allow machinery to drive through. Corn cribs are constructed into the side walls.

Equipment Shed:

A second wagon or equipment shed stands southeast of the house. It is a framed gable-roofed building with an extended shed roof and bay on its west side. It has a metal roof and is covered with vertical board siding.

Chicken Coop:

Between the house and the equipment shed is a small framed chicken house with a shed roof.

Resource Count:

5 Contributing buildings: House, Barn, Hog Barn, Wagon Shed/Corn Crib, Equipment Shed.

8. Statement of Significance

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 pattern of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property 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)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Ca. 1810 – 1906

Significant Dates

Ca. 1810; ca. 1870

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:
MD Hist. Trust; Fred. Co. Preservation Office

Statement of Significance:

Rich Mountain is significant under Criterion C as a representative example of the 19th century vernacular building traditions of west-central Maryland. The stone house, said by local tradition to have been built by mason James John Wells, is unusually elegant for its rural mountainside location. It combines Federal style elements of symmetry and delicate moldings with such regionally typical vernacular features as stone construction, the arched date stone in the gable and the attached one-story kitchen with recessed porch. The beaded wooden nailers, shaped like an inverted "T", on the interior front walls are an unusual feature. Such nailers are found in a few other masonry houses in the area, and may be associated with a single builder. The barn is a well-maintained "Pennsylvania Standard" bank barn. The barn, hog barn and wagon sheds are typical of 19th century agricultural buildings in the region. The barn, still in use today, is in good condition and its relatively uncommon closed-end forebay adds to its architectural interest. The period of significance, ca. 1810-1906, covers the time from the approximate construction of the stone house through the sale of the farm by Mahala Holter to the Braddock Heights Development Company, after which time the land was subdivided.

Historic Context

The lands comprising Frederick County were in that part of Maryland which was often, in colonial period records, referred to as "the Barrens." The early landscape was not fully forested and contained areas of relatively open meadow and occasional rock outcrops. These rocky, open areas were perceived as infertile and described as barrens. As a result of the concept that the backcountry was not fertile, settlement at first was not encouraged. Initial contact occurred when land grants were made to leading tidewater area citizens and when Germans and Dutch from Pennsylvania and places further north passed through Maryland's Piedmont and Great Valley sections en route to settle lands in Virginia. These early contacts occurred in the 1720s, and involved little in the way of actual settlement.

As settlement progressed from the initial interests of fur trading and subsistence farming there developed more substantial farms. Grain farming was prominent, and as a result many gristmills were established. The mills took advantage of the ample waterpower in mid-Maryland to convert grain into more easily transportable and marketable flour or meal. The prominence of milling was a significant feature of the local economy. It reflects the influence of Pennsylvania in that Frederick and Washington Counties developed a general agricultural economy with emphasis on small grains, rather than the staple economy focusing on tobacco that developed in eastern Maryland.

Eventually the region became known for grain production. Grain was sold in bulk, or processed into flour and meal, or distilled into whiskey. These commodities were shipped to

markets in Baltimore or Philadelphia. Shipping from central and western Maryland and the grain growing regions of Pennsylvania and the Shenandoah Valley was a problem, and hindered the growth and prosperity associated with grain production. There was no inland water route to the farming areas, although navigation of the Potomac and Susquehanna were promoted or opposed by various factions. Rail service did not develop until the 1830s, so highway transportation had to serve the freight hauling needs of the region. Maryland promoted turnpike development, although most of these toll routes were privately funded. The output and growth in population in the western areas of Maryland encouraged construction and improvement of roads, which were generally described as "miserable and worst in the union" in the late 18th century.[1] Baltimore officials in 1787 laid out 20-foot wide roads to Frederick, Reisterstown and York, Pennsylvania. However, it was private turnpike companies, and in some cases mill owners, who actually constructed the roads.[2]

In 1806 the Federal government began the construction of a highway that would lead to the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase lands comprising much of the central portion of the United States. The National Road began in Cumberland, Maryland following the old Braddock Road, a rough wagon track established by explorers and traders, and led to Wheeling in Virginia (West Virginia) and later on to Terre Haute, Indiana. The main wagon road from Baltimore to Cumberland, a collection of privately owned and operated turnpike segments, was eventually upgraded and consolidated to become part of the National Road. The National Road became one of the most heavily traveled east-west routes in America with traffic passing all hours of the day and night. Stagecoaches, freight wagons, herds of swine, geese and cattle headed to market along the road, and individual traffic passed along the pike. Taverns, inns and hotels were an important part of the travel-generated economy. Also important were blacksmith shops, wagon shops, and leather and harness shops.

Despite the advent of the C & O Canal and B & O Railroad in the 1830s as alternate forms of transportation, the National Road continued to be a major thoroughfare between Frederick, Hagerstown and points west. The road also served as a primary route during the Civil War for the invading Confederate army of General Robert E. Lee in 1862 and 1863, as well as the Union defenders throughout the war.

The turn of the 20th century was punctuated in Frederick and Washington Counties with the development of the Frederick to Hagerstown interurban electric railway, a boon not only to the farmers transporting produce to the Frederick and Hagerstown markets, but also for passenger travel and summer resort businesses. However, the electric railway struggled through the Depression of the 1930s and, after a brief resurgence during WWII, most lines were discontinued.

The demise of the interurban railway followed the popularization of the automobile and road surface improvements in the 1920s. Faster speeds and increased traffic led to alternate highway construction beginning in the 1930s. After World War II, with the advent of the post

war booming manufacturing economy and the emerging Cold War, population began to shift once again. This time, with the encouragement of the government's new interstate highway system, the defense highways developed in the Eisenhower administration, upwardly mobile and automobile owning city dwellers left the urban environments of Washington DC and Baltimore to create suburban neighborhoods on the edges of the cities. With the suburbs came stores, restaurants and other services to support the growing residential communities where workers commuted to jobs in the cities. Since the late 1940s, suburban development has sprawled outward into and throughout mid-Maryland, substantially reducing agriculture and profoundly altering the rural scene.[3]

Mid-Maryland Architecture

William Eddes, Lord Baltimore's Commissioner of the Land Office at Annapolis, made a trip through Frederick County in the late summer of 1772 and gave the following report quoted in Williams' History of Frederick County:

> I am just returned from an excursion to the frontier of this province, in which my curiosity was highly gratified. It is impossible to conceive a more rich and fertile country than I have lately traversed; and when it becomes populous in proportion to its extent, Frederick County will, at least be equal to the most desirable establishment on this side of the Atlantic.
>
> ...The habitations of the planters in this remote district of the province, are in general of a rude construction; the timber with which they frame their dwellings seldom undergoing the operation of any tool except the axe. An apartment to sleep in, and another for domestic purposes, with a contiguous store-house, and conveniences for their live-stock, at present gratify their utmost ambition.[4]

During the century from 1763-1860, this first period architecture was gradually replaced or enlarged into more substantial and permanent form. The large "Swisser" barns with cantilevered forebays and a ramp or bank at the back, hallmarks of central Maryland and south central Pennsylvania, replaced small log-crib stables and shelters for livestock and crops. Small log houses were improved with siding and additions, or replaced with stone, brick or larger log or timber frame dwellings.[5]

The people of mid-Maryland built according to the materials that were available to them, sometimes drawing upon long-established traditions based upon European and British patterns and upon their own interpretations of current styles and construction techniques, adapted to local conditions. Elements of fashionable styles were incorporated into the region's buildings along with traditional features. With the exception of exterior applications of stylistic door treatments and symmetrical fenestration, typically, the more fashionable architectural elements were found

on the interior in the form of moldings, mantels, and stairs. Although there are pure stylistic examples, particularly dating from the later 19th century, the vast majority of the region's buildings are vernacular structures.

Farmhouses: Farmhouses from the 18th through the mid 20th century exhibit great variety in mid-Maryland, yet all are readily identifiable to the region. Little housing remains from the settlement period. Dwellings that do survive represent the more durable buildings and not the general population of houses. Log was the preferred building material, although probably a disproportionate number of early period survivors are of stone construction. These very early stone houses use the type of stone found in the nearby landscape, often limestone in the Cumberland Valley section of Washington County and parts of Frederick and Carroll Counties. Elsewhere, along the Monocacy River for example, the stone in early period houses is the local shale-like rock in flat layers, which separate easily. In addition, a few surviving early period dwellings are timber framed, such as the Beatty-Cramer house near the confluence of the Monocacy River and Israel's Creek. Later farmhouse builders introduced brick and lightweight framing systems with various milled sidings or shingles. Brick houses were much less common on mid-Maryland's farms in the 18th century than they were in urbanized areas like Frederick, Hagerstown and Westminster. When 18th century brick farmhouses do occur they are distinguished by the presence of water tables, Flemish bond facades and common bond secondary walls with three or four courses of stretcher rows to each header row. Much more common among mid-Maryland brick farmhouses are those from the 1820-1900 period. Those constructed before approximately 1850 display Flemish bond facades and thereafter, common bond or all-stretcher facades.[6]

Farmhouse form followed several traditional paths. Among the earliest buildings were Germanic central chimney dwellings with one or two stories and three or four rooms clustered around a massive group of fireplaces. British settlers more frequently constructed one- or one and a half-story buildings with a hall and parlor plan, one-room deep with inside or exterior end fireplaces. Generally farmhouses spanned three to five bays, sat on cellars and had side gables. By the second quarter of the 19th century, porches began to appear with frequency, either across the entire front or recessed in an inset containing two or three bays along the front facade at the kitchen wall. Another variation is an L-extension to the rear of the main part of the house, almost always with a recessed double porch along one side. This L configuration accommodates a kitchen wing, and these rear wings were consistently referenced in 18th and 19th century records as "back buildings," even though they were attached to the main part of the dwelling.[7]

Typical floor plans consisted of center passages with one or two rooms on either side, or a two or four room plan where the main entrance opened directly into a room. A common arrangement attributed to Germanic traditions exhibits two central front doors, side by side, which open directly into two front rooms. Houses were almost universally roofed with wooden shingles, often long and double-lapped, top to bottom and side to side. This shingle type seems

to be associated with German traditions. Otherwise, top-lapped thin wooden shingles prevailed with staggered joints and there is evidence that thatch was used, along with "cabbin" or clapboard roofs. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries roofs of slate or standing seam metal appeared.[8]

Barns: Mid-Maryland's barns originated in Pennsylvania, springing from German and English precedents. The region's first barns were the small log structures, described in the 1767 inventory of Conococheague Manor and other 18th century documents.[9] By the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the barns familiar to us as hallmarks of the region appeared. These bank barns, built of log, stone, brick, or frame covered with vertical siding typically, have a ramp at the back providing access to the upper threshing floor and an overhanging forebay at the front. Animals stayed in the lower level in stalls arranged in rows perpendicular to the front and rear walls. Designed for grain farming, bank barns accommodated threshing and grain processing as their primary function. In a large area of the central upper floor, farmers threshed grain with flails or later with horse or steam powered threshing machines. "Flailing walls" or boards nailed about four feet high to interior bents bordering the threshing floor kept loose grain and chaff from drifting uncontrolled across the barn floor. Heavy tongue and groove planks floored the threshing area, often double-layered or thick-splined at the joints to prevent grain and dust from sifting through the floor during threshing as well as to support the vibration and weight of the threshing activity.[10]

The gable-end profile of barns varies among subtypes. Symmetrical gables and closed-end forebays tend to be a bit later than extended forebays. Log barns and stone barns tend to be earlier than brick barns. Bents linked by double top plates tend to date from the 18th century. Stone barns fall into a particular date range, principally 1790-1850. Brick barns, always embellished with geometric patterned open-work ventilation holes, generally date from 1830-1870s. Frame barns abounded throughout the period, although few retain their original exterior siding; many are found with elaborate decorative additions from updates done in the late 19th century or the stylized painted windows and doors done in the early 20th century. Most historic barns that were still in use through much of the 20th century were altered to accommodate a hay track, used to transport hay bales through the barn. Other datable features include the style of date tablets. Even if illegible, those with arched tops are from the 18th and early 19th centuries, while rectangular ones are later, after 1810. Barns usually have built-in or attached granaries, box-like rooms for grain storage located on either side of the threshing floor or in outshots extending back from the rear wall.[11] In advertisements and other descriptions from the 19th century, bank barns appear to be referred to universally as "Swisser" barns regardless of whether or not their forebays are extended or integral, enclosed or open. The term "Swisser" leaves little doubt as to the origin of these large farm buildings.[12]

Wagon sheds (with or without corncribs): Certainly from the mid 19th century forward, and perhaps earlier, most farms had wagon sheds, usually with corncribs forming the side walls.

The slatted corncribs allowed plenty of air to pass through the corn to dry and preserve it for winter feed for livestock. The front and rear walls were left open so that wagons could be driven through the building. These were gable-roofed frame buildings, although a variation was to have the wagon shed/corn crib attached to one end of the barn, in which case it had a shed roof. Wagon sheds frequently had a winch and pulley in the roof truss system to allow wagons to be unloaded of their corn, which was then dropped into the cribs on either side through hinged hopper doors. The winch also provided the leverage to change the bed of the wagon by lifting it off its gear and storing the unused bed under the roof trusses.[13]

Hog barns: Usually adjacent to, either on an axis or perpendicular to barns, were separate hog barns, smaller in scale than the main barn. Those arranged perpendicular to the main barn faced into the barnyard. These were usually framed buildings in mid-Maryland with small hog-sized doors opening into separate exterior enclosures from interior pens. In the pens a V-shaped trough extended across one end of the space. Hog barns were equipped with grain storage space and usually some sort of entryway or walkway for access.[14]

Resource History

The Catoctin Mountain range, serving as the north and west "green walls" of Frederick since it was platted in 1745, was the first substantial physical barrier to early migrants traveling south and west. Many chose to settle in the fertile Monocacy valley rather than to continue across the mountain, forming the initial settlements of the future Frederick County. While the low land was carved into manors, plantations, and smaller leaseholds by land speculators and by farmers seeking to settle, the early Monocacy residents at first divided the relatively rugged Catoctin Mountain terrain into smaller wood lots for individual use, although the owners of the Catoctin Iron Works patented massive tracts to the north, using the wood to produce charcoal for the furnaces. Tract names like "Stoney Land" and "Stoney Spring," located on the part of the range that would later be called Braddock Mountain, implied the hardscrabble nature of the land. The nearby tract called "Out Lot," patented by the prominent Frederick County Scottish immigrant Normand Bruce in 1791, was surveyed for only 47 acres, probably a fairly typical woodlot.[15] All three of these tracts adjoined the 135-acre parcel called "Rich Mountain," granted to William Deakins in 1768.[16] Located within a narrow, relatively level valley on the mountainside, the name "Rich Mountain" indicated that it was among the few fertile and arable parcels in the area.

Normand Bruce and William Deakins, both of British lineage, were among the wealthier and larger landowners of early Frederick County. Much of their amassed acreage was destined for subdivision and resale, at a profit. With a large number of Pennsylvania German farmers migrating through or settling in Frederick County during the mid to late 18th century, it is not surprising that Bruce and Deakins' mountain lands passed into the ownership of Martin

Keplinger. His neighbor, owner of Stoney Land, was Peter Coblentz, an emigrant from Prussia.[17] In 1806, Keplinger sold the parcel to Henry Liter (Lighter, Leiter), third son of Henry Lighter, blacksmith in Middletown Valley.[18] The conveyance included four tracts of mountain land for a total of 231 ½ acres for £1,035, a price that indicates possible improvements already on the property. Both Thomas Griffith's 1794 map and Charles Varlé's 1808 map show the nearby road over the mountain from Frederick to Middletown and Hagerstown beyond, soon to be part of the National Road system, was well developed with taverns on either side of the mountain.

Perhaps occupying an earlier house already located on the property, it appears that by 1810, Henry Lighter (Leiter) was living on his mountainside farm, just a mile south of the National Road.[19] At this time, Henry and his wife had only two young children, and apparently one slave. By 1820, much had changed in the Lighter household. Henry Lighter was listed in the 1820 census for Frederick District No. 2 "outside town," including himself and a wife, both over 45, eight children, four of them under the age of ten, and two slaves.

Lighter's large and formal stone house was probably constructed between 1810 and 1820. Local tradition relates that James John Wells designed and constructed the house. No conclusive information could be found about Wells, the presumed builder. There was a John Wells living in Frederick County on the western outskirts of Frederick Town, however, the 1810 and 1820 census records did not include the occupation of the head-of-household. In 1796 John Wells, a bricklayer of Baltimore County, died, leaving a wife and six children, although none of them was named James John.[20] Whomever the mason was that constructed the Lighter house, he was familiar with both the local, mostly rural, stylistic traditions, as well as the more sophisticated Federal style architecture popularized primarily in the cities and towns. The house's symmetry and detailing show the builder's awareness of current trends. The builder also incorporated unusual and perhaps signature features to make the house distinctive. The exposed, roughly coursed stone presents a regional feel. The attached kitchen with recessed porch, added a short time later, was a purely vernacular form found on nearly every farm in the region. The side facades of the house culminate in substantial corbelled chimneys. Set into the south chimney face is a traditional arched date stone, common among the German-descendent farmsteads of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Its arched form suggests construction in the early 19th century at the latest.

Lighter and his family remained at their home on the Rich Mountain tract for nearly fifty years. In 1855, Henry Lighter, Sr. sold the farm to John Remsburg for $8,466.[21] John Remsburg, a successful farmer in the Middletown District west of the Catoctin range in Frederick County, may never have lived on his mountainside farm. Although the 1858 Isaac Bond map shows "J. Ramsburgh" at the farm's location, with "Mrs. Lighter" his neighbor on the county road leading from Shookstown to Feaster's mill near Jefferson, the 1860 census seems to indicate that this may have been Josiah Ramsburgh, probably a relative of John Remsburg the owner. Listed in

Frederick District, Josiah Ramsburgh was a farmer with a wife and five children; his immediate neighbor on the census list was Charles Lighter. John Remsburg, in the Middletown District, was a 58-year old farmer with no wife and six children. He owned $23,460 worth of real estate, a substantial amount. His oldest son, John H. was listed separately in a nearby household. The elder John Remsburg's deceased wife was Catherine Coblentz, sister of Philip Coblentz who owned property in Middletown District and on the mountain adjoining Remsburg's newly acquired land.[22]

As early as 1861, John Remsburg began selling parcels of his mountain land to his brother-in-law, Philip Coblentz.[23] Coblentz lived in the Middletown Valley just west of Braddock Mountain. He was listed in the 1860 census in the Middletown District as a farmer with a wife and six children; among them was Mahala aged 14, and Ellen aged 13. In 1867, following John Remsburg's death, sons John H. and Joshua P. Remsburg sold the 131 acres remaining of the Rich Mountain farm to Philip Coblentz.[24] That same year, Peter Holter and his wife, Mahala Frances (Coblentz) Holter, had their second child, according to T.J.C. Williams' History of Frederick County (1910).[25] It was probably around the time of Holter's marriage to Mahala Coblentz, that he "began work for himself on the old Lighter farm," described by Williams as "owned at that time by his father-in-law Philip Coblentz." But in fact, the farm was still owned at the time by Mahala's aunt Catherine (Coblentz) Remsburg, widow of John Remsburg. Williams also noted that Holter improved the 133-acre farm, "with a new house and barn." Although Holter probably did build the barn sometime after 1867, the house was not new but was covered with German weatherboard siding, which would have completely altered its appearance. In 1870, the Holter family included Peter, a 32-year old farmer, his wife Frances M. (Mahala), age 25, and two children, Charles E., age 4, and William P., age 3; their neighbors were Samuel Lighter and his wife Ellen (Coblentz), younger sister of Mahala.[26]

Philip Coblentz retained ownership of the farm until 1883 when he sold it to his daughter Mahala Holter. Noted Williams: "After her husband's death, Mrs. Holter remained on the farm, and with the aid of her children, cultivated the place successfully until three years ago, when she disposed of the property to the Braddock Heights Development Company."[27] Mahala Holter sold the land in 1906 to her brother Emory L. Coblentz, the founder of the Braddock Heights Development Company and member of the Board of Directors of the Frederick & Middletown Railway.[28] The railway, established in 1894, and the first of a number of interurban electric railways established in Frederick and Washington Counties, served as an important artery between Frederick, Middletown, and eventually Hagerstown into the 1930s.[29] The Braddock Heights development was designed as a summer resort, directly accessible via the railway along the ridge of the mountain, from its main line along the National Road. The development was laid out on Coblentz land, including part of the Holter farm.

Coblentz subdivided out nearly half of the Holter Farm, forming part of Coblentz' Addition to Braddock Heights, including building lots, alleys, and an extension of Maryland

Avenue (now called Jefferson Blvd.) and the railway. The remaining 64 ½ acres were then sold by The Braddock Building and Development Company, including the house, barn, and outbuildings, to Joseph W. Sines in 1910.[30] The farm immediately adjoined the development, beginning "on the Eastern margin of a twenty foot alley lying in the rear of the lots on the East side of the railroad tracks." Despite its proximity to the popular summer resort, Sines continued to operate his small mountainside farm, which he called the "Home Farm," until his death around 1975. The farm, reduced to 62.8 acres by rights-of-way for the two county roads Clifton and Old Swimming Pool roads, was then sold to Harry H. Wolfe, Jr. and his wife Mary Rose.[31]

Harry and Mary Rose Wolfe apparently subdivided the farm into three sections with as many as twelve lots; a subdivision they called "Somerset." In 1976, they sold the 10-acre Section 1, with the house and farm buildings, to Patton and Jacqueline Allen.[32] The Allens removed the German siding from the stone house. The barn remains in agricultural use under a lease agreement.

Evaluation

The buildings on Rich Mountain illustrate a pattern typical in the history of Frederick County and mid Maryland where investors bought up large tracts of land and subdivided them into farms sold to German agriculturalists. The German farmers developed the farmsteads with houses that combined current styles with traditional materials and details. Swisser barns and a variety of agricultural and domestic outbuildings completed the scene. Rich Mountain is an excellent illustration of this story, retaining a high degree of visual integrity, including some original paint finishes and most woodwork. In addition, the house contains a very unusual feature, the T-shaped beaded nailing blocks in the front walls, found thus far on one other house in Frederick County, a few miles west of Rich Mountain. Whether these are a regional detail or the signature mark of the builder, who tradition identifies as John Wells, they are noteworthy. Therefore the Rich Mountain farmstead is significant under National Register Criterion C for architectural expression and distinctive details.

Major Bibliographical References:

Brugger, Robert J. Maryland a Middle Temperament. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985.

Ensminger, Robert F. The Pennsylvania Barn. Baltimore, MD: John Hopkins University Press, 1992.

Frederick County Land and Survey Records, Frederick County Courthouse, Frederick, MD.

Harwood, Jr., Herbert H. Blue Ridge Trolley, The Hagerstown & Frederick Railway. San Marino, CA: Golden West Books, 1970.

Potter, Frank. In *The Archivists' Bulldog*, Vol. 13, no. 4, Feb. 22, 1999, available online at <www.mdarchives.state.md.us>

Reed & Assoc., Paula S. "Mid Maryland: An Agricultural History and Historic Context." Frederick, MD: The Catoctin Center for Regional Studies, 2003.

U.S. Population Census Records.

Williams, T.J.C. History of Frederick County, Maryland. Baltimore, MD: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, reprint of 1910 original.

Rich Mountain (F-4-9)
Name of Property

Frederick County, MD
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 10 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	284405	4365409	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian; Edie Wallace, Historian

organization Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc. date 20 April 2004

street & number One W. Franklin Street, Suite 300 telephone 301-739-2070

city or town Hagerstown state Maryland zip code 21740

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Patton and Jacqueline Allen

street & number 6434 S. Clifton Road telephone 301-371-5978

city or town Frederick state Maryland zip code 21703

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Verbal Boundary Description:

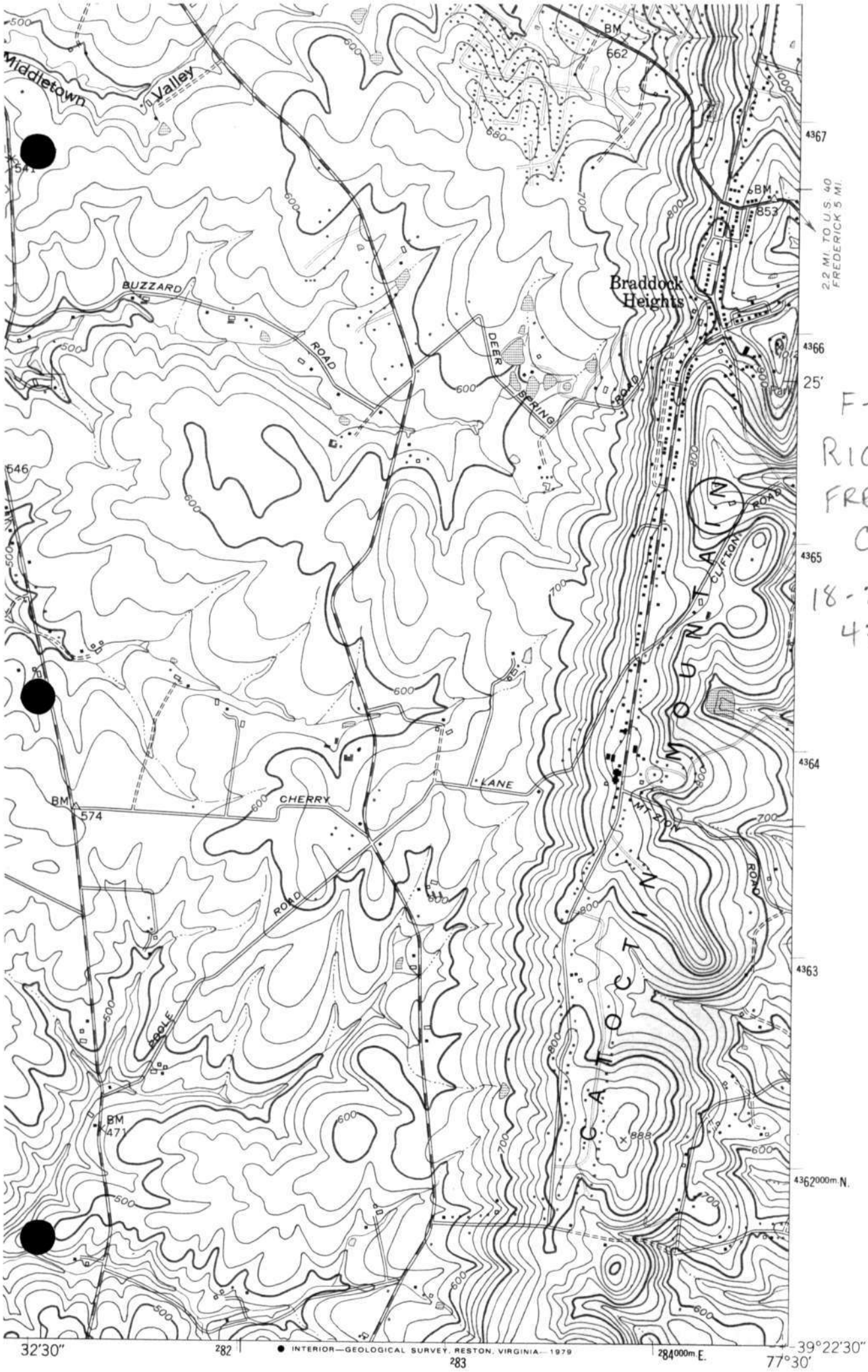
The nominated property is described among the Land Records of Frederick County, Maryland, as Map 76, Parcel 381, also known as Lot 1, Section 1 of the "Somerset" subdivision on the west side of South Clifton Road.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property, approximately 10 acres, includes the remnant of the property historically associated with the farmstead, and encompasses the historic buildings within their immediate surrounding landscape.

Endnotes

[1] Robert J. Brugger, Maryland a Middle Temperament, (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins, 1985), p. 153.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Paula S. Reed & Assoc., "Mid Maryland: An Agricultural History and Historic Context." (Frederick, MD: The Catoctin Center for Regional Studies, 2003), p. 110.
[4] T.J.C. Williams, History of Frederick County, Maryland, (Baltimore, MD: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, reprint of 1910 original), p. 73.
[5] Reed & Assoc., p. 26.
[6] Reed & Assoc., p. 113.
[7] Ibid.
[8] Ibid.
[9] Original located in Canadian Archives.
[10] Reed & Assoc., p. 117-118.
[11] Robert F. Ensminger, The Pennsylvania Barn, (Baltimore, MD: The John Hopkins University Press, 1992). This book provides a typology of Pennsylvania barns.
[12] Ibid.
[13] Reed & Assoc., p. 118.
[14] Ibid, p. 119.
[15] Frederick Co. Survey Book, HGO 1, folio 511.
[16] Referenced in Frederick Co. Land Record (FRLR), Liber WR 28, folio 473; Peter Coblentz' *Stoney Land* (Survey book HGO 1, folio 275 and 567), *Rich Mountain* adjoining *Stoney Spring*, *Out Lot*, and *Nothing Venture, Nothing Gain*.
[17] Williams, p. 1288.
[18] FRLR, Liber WR 28, folio 473; Williams, p. 889.
[19] 1810 US Population Census. This is somewhat imprecise since no district were given on the 1810 census of Frederick County, however, judging by the names listed nearby, it appears that H Leiter (as written in the census) was on his Braddock Mountain land.
[20] From *The Archivists' Bulldog*, Vol. 13, no. 4, Feb. 22, 1999, by Frank Potter, available online at <www.mdarchives.state.md.us>
[21] FRLR, Liber ES 7, folio 147.
[22] Williams, p. 1288.
[23] Cited in FRLR, Liber STH 276, folio 52.
[24] FRLR, Liber DSB 1, folio 45.
[25] Williams, p. 1293.
[26] 1870 US Population Census.
[27] Williams, p. 1293.
[28] FRLR, Liber STH 276, folio 52; Williams, p. 776.
[29] Herbert H. Harwood, Jr., *Blue Ridge Trolley, The Hagerstown & Frederick Railway*, (San Marino, CA: Golden West Books, 1970), p. 11.
[30] FRLR, Liber 292, folio 76.
[31] FRLR, Liber 969, folio 7.
[32] FRLR, Liber 983, folio 600.



F-4-9
RICH MOUNTAIN
FREDERICK
COUNTY, MD
18-284405-
4365409

THE TRAIL HOUSE
IS0142MD
'ETOWN, MD

$4.00

0022