

CARR-213

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Ludwick Rudisel Tannery House

and/or common Motter Place

**2. Location**

street & number 65 Frederick Street (MD 194) \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Taneytown \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Carroll code 013

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>

**4. Owner of Property**

name Donald L. and Virginia D. Stenley

street & number 65 Frederick Street

city, town Taneytown \_\_\_ vicinity of state Maryland 21787

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court, Room 200, Carroll County Office Bldg.

street & number 225 N. Center Street

city, town Westminster state Maryland 21157

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Maryland Historical Trust  
title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date October, 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Ludwick Rudisel Tannery House is located at 65 Frederick Street (south side of Maryland Route 194), approximately one-half mile southwest of the center of Taneytown, Carroll County, Maryland. The house and outbuilding complex sits on a small hill overlooking the roadway, which cuts in front of the house.

The main block of the house, which sits on a coursed fieldstone foundation is constructed in brick laid in Flemish bond on the front (north) facade and American or common bond on all other facades. This section is five bays in length, two deep, with an original slate roof. Attached to the southeast corner of the house is a two story, two bay long brick kitchen, with standing seam tin gable roof. Both sections have massive internal chimneys.

The front (north) facade features a 20th century one story porch, supported by four Ionic columns on brick piers, which in turn is supported by a concrete base. The porch stretches across the central three bays. The six panel front door with five light transom is original, and is now covered by a modern glass storm door. All windows are original and contain nine over six lights, and are double hung. A wooden box cornice with delicate frieze of alternating blank metopes and fluted blocks graces the eave line.

The gable ends (east and west facades) contain identical fenestration and decoration. First and second floor windows are identical to those previously described and also have splayed brick lintels and wooden sills. Two attic windows, each with original four over two double hung sash, can be found in each gable, and light the attic space.

The rear (south) facade is constructed in a different manner than the front facade. Here the coursed rubble foundation wall is built up to a one story level. In the first floor of the southwest corner can be found another original nine over six window. Aligned above this window on the floor above is another identical window. Moving towards the center of the facade, a second nine over six window is found. A third such window is found directly above the shed roofed enclosed addition (originally a porch and whose first floor now functions as a laundry and enclosed entranceway to the rear of the house) which now intersects the rear facade and the west facade of the brick kitchen. This enclosed addition is covered with wood weatherboarding, and contains modern six over six windows and a storm door, and has a shed roof with composition shingles.

The brick kitchen's south facade is similar to that previously described. It sits on a stone foundation and is laid in American bond. The wall is blank, except on the second floor, southeast corner, where an original six over six double hung sash window in the southwest corner lights the attic. The east facade of the kitchen is two bays wide, and displays aligned six over six windows with splayed brick lintels. The cornice here consists of two rows of corbeled header bricks.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

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(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The interior floor plan of the main block suggests the typical early 19th century "I" house form: central hallway, with two parlors, one room deep. The central hallway is notable for a fine openstring stair with thin turned balusters, typical attenuated newel post, and decorated step ends. Fine chairrail is intact, as are simple baseboards. A painted mural depicting Taneytown in the 19th century has been added. Under the stair, six panel door with fine wrought iron thumb latch leads to the basement below.

Original six panel doors with replacement box locks and deep mahogor graining allow entry into each parlor. To the west, the parlor retains all original woodwork and ornate mantel with central elliptical inset central panel. To the east, this parlor has lost its chairrail decoration, but retains its original fireplace, with highly ornate mantel. In the fire-box can be found a fireback which reads "Mary Ann Furnace 1762" reportedly found in the hearth when restoration took place in 1979. A paneled cupboard is found in the southeast corner of the room. The room itself has been subdivided with a later partition wall. The southeast room (on the other side of the wall) has retained its original small fireplace, but has been completely modernized through the insertion of a modern kitchen.

Through a doorway in the modern kitchen one enters the original brick kitchen addition, dominated by a massive cooking fireplace, six feet wide, four feet deep. This has been sandblasted and some repair work attempted. Here, as with the other fireplace, two firebacks were unearthed in the 1979 restoration effort. One with German inscription dates to 1762; the second, with the partial readable inscription "WILLEM", dates to 1756. The fireplace has a late 19th century plain mantel shelf supported by gunstock-shaped pieces of wood. Paneled cabinets are found flanking the fireplace.

From the central stairway, one enters the second floor of the main block. Directly ahead a partition wall has been added to insert a bathroom. As on the first floor, all doors are six panel with later post-1860s boxlocks and are deeply mahogany grained. The northeast room contains another ornate mantel and paneled closet. It now serves as a bedroom. Behind it, the southeast room (unheated) is now used for storage, and offers access down one step into the second floor of the brick kitchen. The northwest bedroom contains a mantel identical to the parlor below it, but here original marbelizing decoration remains.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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(DESCRIPTION, continued)

Moldings are painted black with all other surfaces painted gray and white, in a marble pattern. A thin closet, with mahogany graining, is found in the northwest corner.

The rear northwest parlor, also unheated, retains original dark green paint on window surrounds, chairrail, and baseboards. Most importantly the original light brown with pumpkin-color undercoat paint colors exist on the back of the door leading into the room. As well, the fine graining pattern--a pattern which probably exists under later layers of paint on all other doors in the house--exists in excellent condition.

The second floor of the brick kitchen is reached by a tightwinder stair in the northeast corner of the kitchen below. This section of the house has been restored, and has new paint colors and stenciling. A thin hall which runs east to west allows access into a bedroom in the southeast corner, and a bathroom in the southwest corner.

From the second floor of the main block the stair doglegs and leads to the attic above. At the dogleg, original paint colors, with folk decoration remain. The southwest corner of the attic has been subdivided with vertical board partitions and used as a storage area for curing meat. Rafters are mortised, tenoned and pegged. They are supported by massive purlins which are scarfed and pegged at regular intervals. To support the purlins, downbraces, placed at 90 degree angle to the pitch of the roof, and 45 degree angle braces, transfer the weight of the roof to the plates below. Downbraces, following the roof pitch are supported in turn by secondary posts, mortised into each plate. Lastly, a regional characteristic in chimney construction is found in the east chimney. Rather than combining both chimney flues under a flush wall, each flue remains separate through the roof. Outside, the chimney is capped by a piece of slate. The void created between the flues allows for cooling of the attic space during warm summer months.

Approximately fifteen feet to the south of the house is an outbuilding complex consisting of a mid-19th century brick smokehouse with a corrugated iron shed roof and stone foundation, two late 19th century board and batten sheds, and a 20th century board and batten garage which wraps the complex into one visual unit.

The tannery stood to the south of the house on a site now included in the neighboring property. No structures of the tannery complex remain and insufficient artifactual material was found when tested by an archeologist for inclusion in the nomination for archaeological significance.

# 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1807 Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### SIGNIFICANCE

The Ludwick Rudisel Tannery House is an excellent example of a typical Carroll County early 19th century farmhouse, its type popularized as the "I" house by Henry Glassie in his seminal book Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States. Carroll County architecture during this period reflects the interaction of two regional style types, the first, from the mid Atlantic region (representing a composite English/German tradition) and the second, from the southern tidewater area (representing the English tradition). The result of this interaction is a house form exemplified by the Rudisel house--a two story dwelling with a central hall, one room deep and two in length, with internal gable end chimneys. The Rudisel house reflects a house in transition, with Georgian massing and fine Federal detailing, but also with a decorative naive depicted through the use of marbleizing, graining, and other folk decoration on mantels, newel posts and balusters. The house is also significant as it remained in the possession of the original owners heirs until 1977.

### HISTORY.

In 1807, Ludwick Rudisel purchased 16 acres of "The Resurvey on Brother's Agreement",<sup>1</sup> a part of a patent granted to Edward Diggs and Raphael Taney in 1754 containing 7,900 acres.<sup>2</sup> This parcel of land, which adjoined his father's farm, was situated along one of the southeastern boundaries of Taneytown, Maryland, on "Monocacy Road", a well-traveled road leading from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania through Frederick, Maryland onward to Virginia. On this site he established a successful tannery, an industry in great demand, and he built his spacious brick home. In 1841 this lot of ground was assessed at \$170.00 per acre,<sup>3</sup> when most of the surrounding real estate was valued from \$12 to \$30 an acre.

At the time of his death in 1842, Ludwick was indebted to his creditors for a sum larger than his cash inventory. In order to repay his debts, his real estate holdings were offered at public sale. A May 1843 edition of the "Carrolltonian" newspaper carried the bill of sale. The fourth parcel was described as:

"desirable TANYARD PROPERTY situated in the precincts of Taneytown, on the public road leading from Frederick to York, 23 miles from the former and 35 miles from the latter place, CONTAINING 16 ACRES, more or less, of superior red land, adjoining the lands above mentioned. The

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(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

improvements are a large two-story BRICK HOUSE and BRICK KITCHEN attached, a good BRICK SWITZER BARN, GRANARY, WAGON SHED and CORN CRIB, all in complete order, with a YOUNG ORCHARD of choice fruit trees, and a never failing spring of water near the house. The improvements of the TANNERY are a LARGE STONE SHOP, BARK SHED, and BARK MILL, all under one roof. The yard consists of 19 lay-away vats; 4 Handlers; 2 Leaches; 2 Limes; 2 Baits and a near-failing Spring of Water in the Shop with a Pump of never failing water in the yard."<sup>4</sup>

The property was purchased by one of his sons, Thomas. Thomas was Ludwick's successor in the business and evidently had taken charge<sup>5</sup> when his father purchased and moved to a house in town circa 1838.

It is speculated that around 1850 a second floor was added to the kitchen wing, probably to accomodate the servants or hired hands needed for the tannery. As with most things, however, the tanning business soon reached its zenith and began to decline to a point that in the later tax records it had become obsolete.<sup>6</sup> The 16 acres and it's improvements were incorporated into the other adjacent holdings of its owner, and their way of life became focused on farming and local business investments. The land was bequeathed by will to Thomas' only son, William. William, who died young and without issue, bequeathed it to his only sister, Mary Louise Motter, wife of Dr. George Motter, in 1882.

It was probably at this time, since the Motters were well established in another home in Taneytown, and later Washington, D. C., that the house was first rented. This continued to be the case as the property passed to their two daughters, and finally to their only grandchild, George Motter Cunningham. The property, then consisting of 147 acres more or less, was sold in total to a developer, Taneytown Associates, in 1977.<sup>10</sup> The Tannery House with 9.7950 acre was the first sub-division of the property to be conveyed in 1978 to its present owners, Donald L. and Virginia D. Stenley.<sup>11</sup>

Fortunately, due to its long years as a rental property belonging to out-of-town landlords, there was little change in the interior and exterior aspects of the house. The original 9 over 6 window sashes, door graining, fireplace mantel marbelizing, and stove-plate firebacks

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

FHR-8-300A  
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(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

dating 1726, 1754, and 1762 are among some of its unique features that still can be found. Missing are the exterior part of the bake oven, exterior shutters and most of the original door hardware. However, most of this can easily be reconstructed or replaced. The most extensive alteration on the exterior is a back porch which has evolved from an open porch to an enclosed porch to its final incorporation with the interior living area.

Of the original buildings on the 16 acres, the house and several lesser out-buildings remain. The original barn was destroyed by fire around the turn of the century and the speculated site of the tannery is now involved in electric power line and sewerage line right-of-ways and a flood plain area. The wagon shed/corncrib was intact but had to be removed because of the developer's new placement of property lines.

Local historians have long ignored this western end of Taneytown, possibly due to the fact that its later owners failed to promote any interest in the property. It is significant that this house was once home to successful business men who were important to the financial, religious and social aspects of the community and provided the local citizens with a service much needed in the early days of our country's development.

<sup>1</sup>Liber W.R. 31, folio 146 etc. Frederick County Land Records.

<sup>2</sup>Liber E.A.S. Vol. II, folio 517 Land Patents of Carroll County.

<sup>3</sup>District I - 1841 Tax Assessments of Carroll County.

<sup>4</sup>Equity #99, Circuit Court Records of Carroll County.

<sup>5</sup>Liber W. W.2, folio 189 etc. Carroll County Land Records.

<sup>6</sup>District I - 1853, 1873 and 1876 Carroll County Tax Assessments.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5.

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(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

<sup>7</sup>Will #1473 Liber J.O.W. 5, folio 74 etc. Carroll County Orphan Court Records.

<sup>8</sup>Will, Liber J.O.W. 5, folio 261 etc. Carroll County Orphan's Court Records.

<sup>9</sup>Will, Liber W.F.B. 14 folio 469 etc. Carroll County Orphan's Court REcords.

<sup>10</sup>Liber C.C.C. 680, folio 98 etc. Carroll County Land Records.

<sup>11</sup>Liber C.C.C. 718, folio 300 etc. Carroll County Land Records.

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## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records, Clerk of Court, Carroll County Office Building,  
Westminster, Maryland 21157.

Circuit Court Records, Clerk of Court, Carroll County Court House,  
Westminster, Maryland 21157.

Orphan's Court Records, Carroll County Court House, Westminster,  
Maryland 21157.

Tax Records, Carroll County Office Building, Westminster, Maryland  
21157.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Boundary of the Ludwick Rudisel Tannery House is shown as a dotted line on the accompanying map entitled "Outline Survey and Division of Property of Taneytown Associates off Maryland Route 194 near Taneytown," September 13, 1978, and drawn at a scale of one inch to fifty feet. The boundary is more particularly described in the land records located in Carroll County Courthouse, Liber 718, Folio 300, dated September 15, 1978, (Grantor: Taneytown Associates; Grantee: Donald L. and Virginia D. Stenley).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #6

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.7950 acre

Quadrangle name Taneytown Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	8	3	1	3	0	4	0	4	3	9	1	8	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #7

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

state code county code

ate code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia D. Stenley, owner/ Mark R. Edwards, Historic Sites Survey Coordinator

organization Maryland Historical Trust date March 17, 1980

street & number 21 State Circle, John Shaw House telephone (301) 751-1318/269-2438

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*J. Little* 8-19-80

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration





Stanley House (Rudisill's)

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N/W front elevation

fredi E



Stanley House (Redissail's)

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N/E elevation

fredi 2.



Stanley House (Rudreills)

March - 79

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s/w elevation

Fred E.