FHR-8-300 (11-78)

AL-III-C-044

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic: Big Bottom Farm (preferred)

and/or common: Clauson Farm

2. Location

street & number: Hazen Road — n/a not for publication

city, town: Cumberland — X vicinity of — congressional district: Sixth

state: Maryland — code: 24 — county: Allegany — code: 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	X agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	X no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name: Doctors James and Sue Raver

street & number: Route 2, Box 841

city, town: Cumberland — X vicinity of — state: Maryland 21502

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Allegany County Courthouse

street & number: Washington Street

city, town: Cumberland — state: Maryland 2150

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title: Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory — has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date: February 1980 — ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records: Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town: Annapolis — state: Maryland 21401

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date n/a
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
0	0	sites
3	0	structures
0	0	objects
7	0	Total

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions and uses: agriculture; residential

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

Big Bottom Farm or the Clauson Farm, is located east of US Route 220, on the east side of Hazen Road, about five miles north of Cumberland, in Allegany County, Maryland. It is situated in a narrow strip of flat bottom land along Evitts Creek, between Evitts Mountain and Pine Mountain. The farm complex consists of a mid 19th century brick house, a late 19th century frame barn, and late 19th/early 20th century agricultural outbuildings including a machinery shed, two chicken coops, a corn crib, and a wash house, all of frame construction. The house is unusually refined for an Allegany County farm dwelling of the mid 19th century, with several relatively sophisticated Greek Revival-influenced features. It is a two story, five-bay, gable-roofed building with an original two story, two bay extension to the rear. A late 19th century addition to the rear ell extended it by yet another bay. The main or west elevation is formal with evenly aligned openings and flemish bond brickwork. Accenting the front elevation are central entrances at both the first and second stories and a porch inspired by the Greek Revival style, onto which the second story entrance opens. The main entrance consists of a four panel door surrounded by a transom and sidelights. The interior plan has a central stair hall with one large room on either side. The woodwork is typical of the mid 19th century, inspired by the Greek Revival style, and shows knowledge of the style's characteristics. The interior decorative detailing consists primarily of symmetrical moldings, fluted in the principal parlor, with simple mantels of flat pilasters supporting deep shelves.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

"Big Bottom Farm" or the "Clauson Farm," is located east of US Route 220, on the east side of Hazen Road, about five miles north of Cumberland. It is situated in a narrow strip of flat bottom land along Evitts Creek, between Evitts Mountain and Pine Mountain. The farm complex consists of a mid 19th century brick house, a late 19th century frame barn, and late 19th/early 20th century agricultural outbuildings including a machinery shed, two chicken coops, a corn crib, and a wash house, all of frame construction. The house is unusually refined for a mid 19th century Allegany County farm dwelling. It is a two story, five bay building with an original two story, two bay extension to the rear. A late 19th century addition to the rear ell extended it by yet another bay. The main or west elevation is formal with evenly aligned openings and flemish bond brickwork. Accenting the front elevation are central entrances at both the first and second stories and a porch inspired by the Greek revival style, onto which the second story entrance opens. The main entrance consists of a four panel door surrounded by a transom and sidelights.

The house has a gable roof, whose unusually low pitch may be attributed to its Greek Revival stylistic origins. The roof is covered with standing seam sheet metal. Brick chimneys are located inside the gable ends.

The main entrance features a four-panel door flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a transom. Among the more notable features of the house is the front porch, which appears to be part of the original construction, although it has been reworked, noticeably at the column bases. The porch is clearly reminiscent of the Greek Revival style and is in keeping with the rest of the stylistic motifs used in the house. The porch is supported by pairs of fluted doric columns, upon which rests a full entablature. It is flat roofed, with roof area enclosed by a cast iron railing and balustrade, which may be original, but is more likely an early 20th century addition. The ironwork is elaborate with mixed motifs including semi-eliptical fans and curved and scrolled designs forming the infill. Some of the patterns suggest art neuveau designs. The second-story door which opens onto the porch is original; it has four panels and is hung beneath a five-light transom.

The interior plan has a central stair hall with one large room on either side. The main staircase is a simple structure. It has a turned newel post and a plain handrail which curves upward at the top with a "gooseneck." To the north of the stair hall is the parlor. Approximately centered in its north wall is a fireplace with a Greek Revival mantel consisting of a shelf and symmetrically molded pilasters. Door and window architraves are also decorated with symmetrical molding similar to that used on the mantel. Corner blocks are decorated with a square or Greek Key pattern. No other woodwork in the house is as elaborate as that found in the parlor and first floor hall.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

South of the hallway is a less formal room containing a fireplace with a very simple mantelpiece with the merest suggestion of pilasters at its sides. Adjacent to the fireplace is a built-in cupboard behind a pair of plain four panel doors.

The ell to the rear originally had a two story porch which was enclosed with wooden siding during the mid twentieth century.

The house appears to be in excellent condition. It retains nearly all of its original woodwork, and its floor plan has received only minimal alterations. The barn and outbuildings are in fair to good condition.

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	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates c. 1845 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criterion: C
Applicable Exceptions: none
Level of Significance for Evaluation: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Big Bottom Farm is significant for its architecture. The house exhibits the symmetrical five-bay elevation and center-hall plan which characterize farm dwellings in Western Maryland throughout the 19th century, in combination with Greek Revival stylistic features whose degree of sophistication is highly unusual in such a rural context. Its brick construction, flat-roofed entrance porch with fluted doric columns supporting a full entablature, and Greek Revival-influenced mantels and architrave trim contribute to its architectural refinement, which is matched by few other Allegany County farmhouses of the period. According to local tradition, the house was built ca. 1845 by John Jacob Smouse, whose family had land holdings in the Evitt's Creek area; architectural evidence confirms a mid-19th-century construction date. The house retains considerable integrity, with the majority of its original detailing intact.

For History and Supporting Documentation, see Continuation Sheet No. 3

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

The standard local reference works on Allegany County, HISTORY OF ALLEGANY COUNTY by James W. Thomas and T. J. C. Williams, and Thomas Scharf's HISTORY OF WESTERN MARYLAND have no reference to the property or to the two families (Smouse and Clauson) who owned the farm during most of its history. It is known from county land and probate records that the Smouse family owned the property during the mid 19th century, John Jacob Smouse having inherited the farm from Henry Smouse (Will Liber A, Folio 685). It was purchased by William T. Clausen in April of 1888 (Deed Liber 65, Folio 9). The Smouse family, according to local tradition, was prominent in the area and was responsible for several brick houses in the Evitts Creek vicinity.

Although little is known about the Smouse family, this substantial brick farmhouse with refined Greek Revival detail, located in a relatively isolated rural setting, clearly reflects the prosperity of its builder. Most farmhouses in Allegany County are of log or frame construction. Where brick houses are found, they are usually associated with prominent or well to do farmers of the 19th century. Most of the brick dwellings located outside of the towns are found along the National Pike and many of them served as inns or were related in some way to the traffic which passed along the highway. This house, located as it is away from major 19th century highways, is thus particularly unusual.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated property consists of approximately 5 acres to include the house, barn, outbuildings and immediate surroundings. The boundaries are described as follows: beginning at a point on the east side of Hazen Road, 100 feet south of the entrance lane to the property and leading in a straight line in a southeasterly direction to a fence located at the bottom of a slope a short distance southeast of the house; then turning 90 degrees and proceeding in a straight line to the northeast, along said fence to a point opposite the northeast corner of the barn; then turning 90 degrees to the northwest and proceeding in a straight line to the east edge of Hazen Road; then following the east edge of Hazen Road in a southwesterly direction to the place of beginning (see attached sketch plan).

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated area includes all of the buildings of the farmstead and the immediate surrounding area that contributes to the rural agricultural setting historically associated with the house. Excluded are the surrounding fields that are not felt to be necessary to retain the setting.

9. Major Bibliographical References

AL-III-IV-C-044

Hinkle, Helen, MHT worksheet, 1970
Kurtze, Peter E., MHT Inventory Form, 1980
Thomas, James W. & Judge TJC Williams. History of Allegany Co., MD., 1923
Scharf, Thomas J., History of Western Maryland

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 5 acres

Quadrangle name Evitts Creek, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	697660	439880
B	17	697550	439740
C	17	697420	439830
D	17	697500	439960
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

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

state	code	county	code
n/a			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paula Stoner Reed		
organization	Preservation Associates, Inc.	date	5 January 1984
street & number	207 S. Potomac Street	telephone	301-791-7880
city or town	Hagerstown	state	Maryland 21740

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

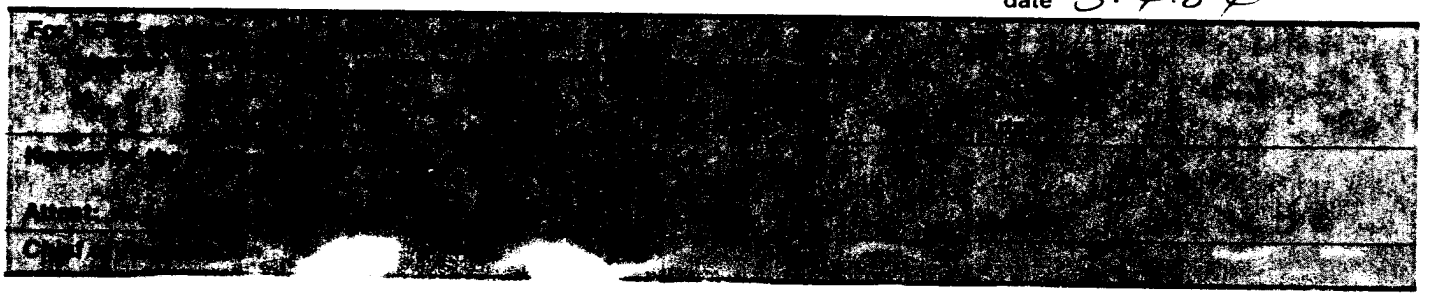
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date 5.4.84



Addendum to AL-III-C-044 Big Bottom Farm

This addendum to the National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, completed in 1984, is based on correspondence with Jack Smouse in October 1990.

History and Support:

The Smouse family came to Allegany County in the 1790s, purchased land in 1800, became community leaders and have remained prominent in the area.

Bibliographic note:

A Smouse history book is located in local public libraries.

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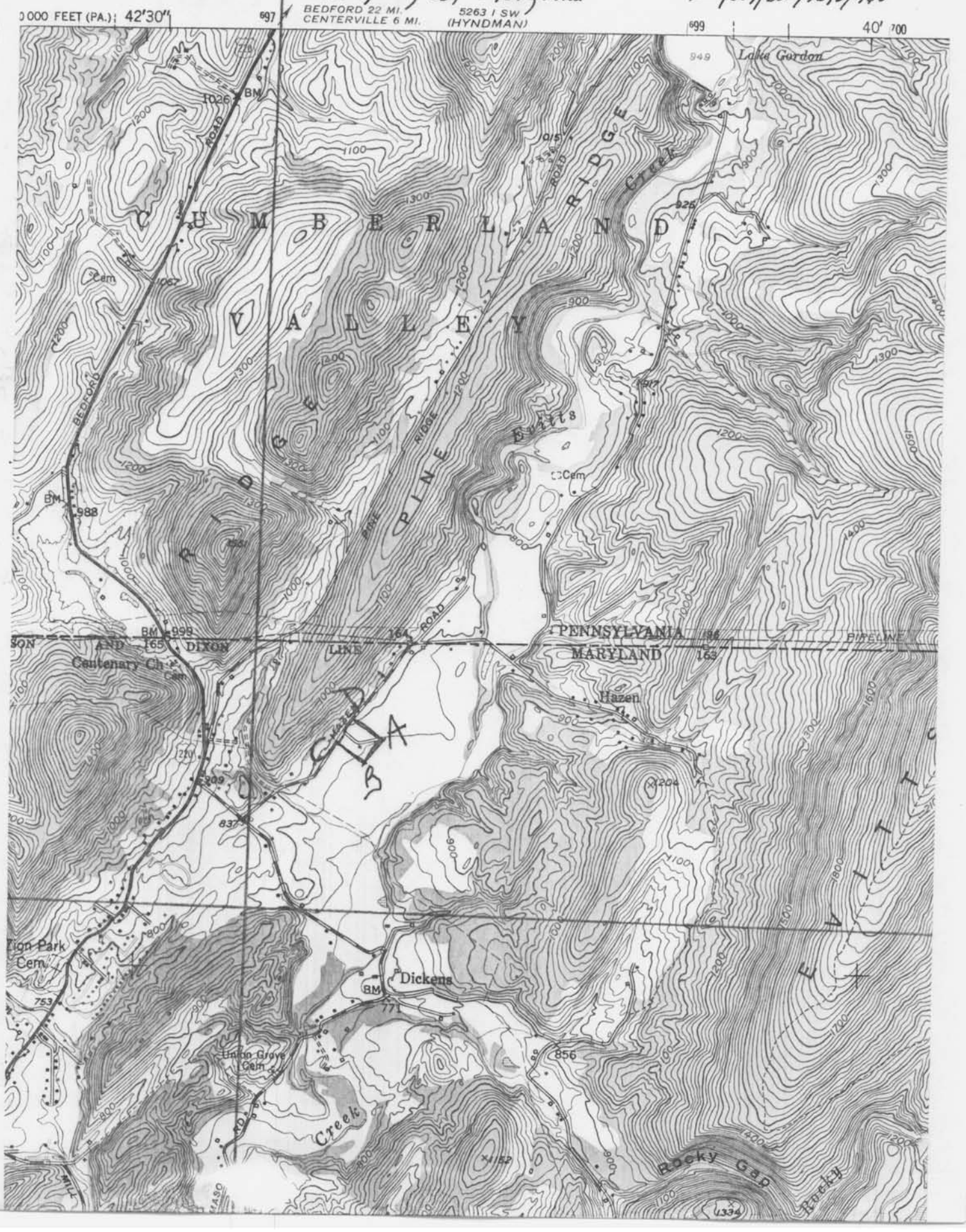
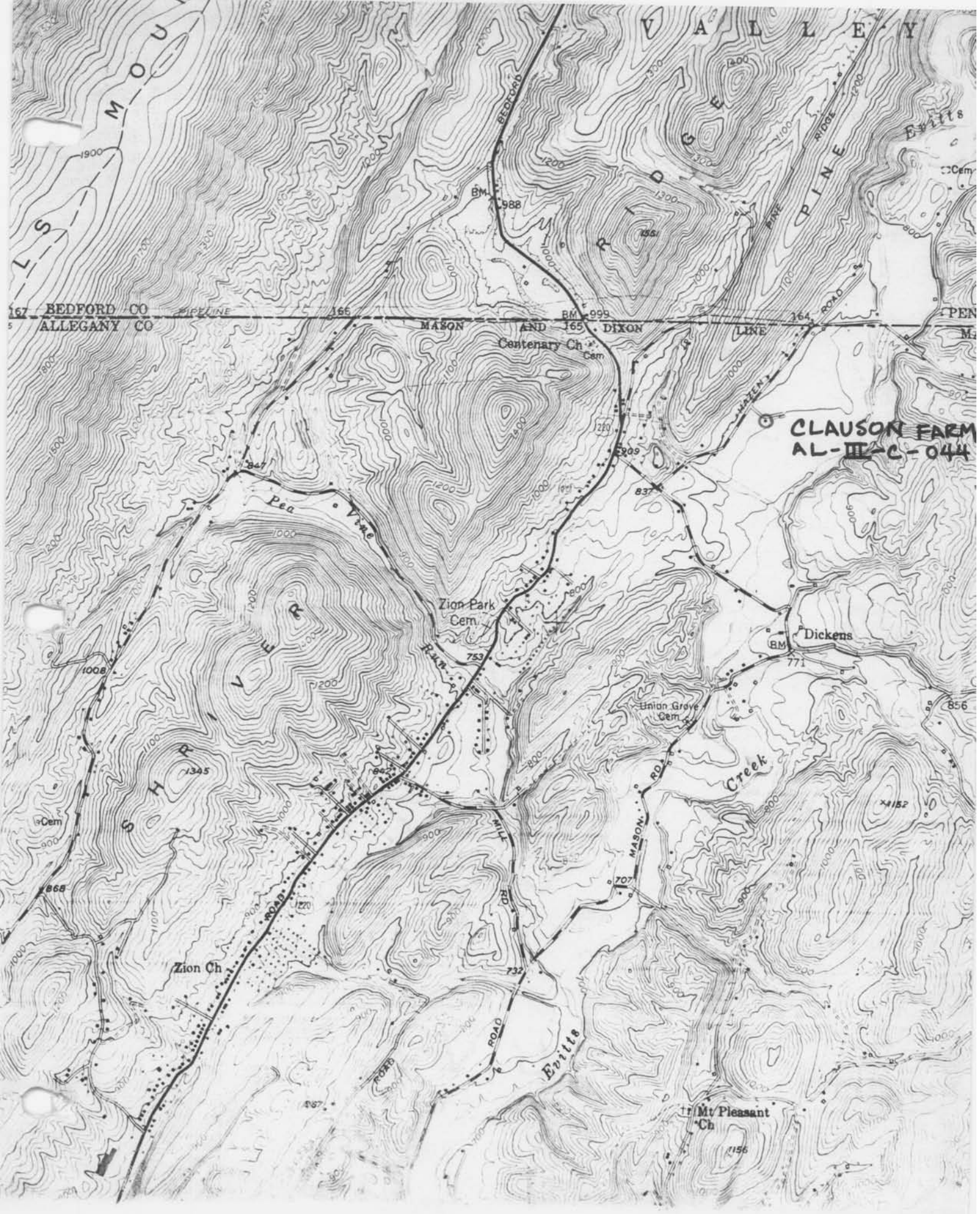
A 17/697/660/4398880
B 17/697/550/4398740
C 17/697/420/4398830
D 17/697/500/4398960

Big Bottom Farm
Allegany Co, Maryland





EVITTS CREEK QUAD

Clauson farm (BIG BOTTOM FARM) AL-111-C-044
West facade

A2-111-C-044

1. Big Bottom Farm
2. Cumberland vic., Allegany Co., MD
3. Photo Date: Dec. 1983
4. Photo by Paula S. Reed
5. Neg. Location: Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD
6. View: E.
7. Photo # 1

1

1. Big Bottom Farm
2. Cumberland vic., Allegany Co., MD
3. Photo Date: Dec. 1983
4. Photo by Paula S. Reed
5. Neg. Location: Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD
6. View: NE
7. Photo # 2

AL-111-C-044

2

1. Big Bottom Farm
2. Cumberland vic., Allegany Co., MD
3. Photo Date: Dec. 1983
4. Photo by Paula S. Reed
5. Neg. Location: Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD
6. View: SW
7. Photo # 3

AL-III-C-044

3

AL-III-C-044

1. Big Bottom Farm
2. Cumberland vic., Allegany Co., MD
3. Photo Date: Dec. 1983
4. Photo by Paula S. Reed
5. Neg. Location: Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD
6. View: SW
7. Photo # 4

4

1. Big Bottom Farm
2. Cumberland vic., Allegany Co., MD
3. Photo Date: Dec. 1983
4. Photo by Paula S. Reed
5. Neg. Location: Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD
6. View: SE - WASH HOUSE
7. Photo # 5

AL-III-C-044

5

1. Big Bottom Farm
2. Cumberland vic., Allegany Co., MD
3. Photo Date: Dec. 1983
4. Photo by Paula S. Reed
5. Neg. Location: Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD
6. View: NE - BARN & OUTBUILDINGS
7. Photo # 6

AL-111-C-044

6

1. Big Bottom Farm
2. Cumberland vic., Allegany Co., MD
3. Photo Date: Dec. 1983
4. Photo by Paula S. Reed
5. Neg. Location: Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD
6. View: N. BARN & OUTBLDGS
7. Photo # 7

A2-111-C-044

7

1. Big Bottom Farm
2. Cumberland vic., Allegany Co., MD
3. Photo Date: Dec. 1983
4. Photo by Paula S. Reed
5. Neg. Location: Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD
6. View: DETAIL, FRONT ELEVATION
7. Photo #8

AL-111-C-044

8

1. Big Bottom Farm
2. Cumberland vic., Allegany Co., MD
3. Photo Date: Dec. 1983
4. Photo by Paula S. Reed
5. Neg. Location: Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD
6. View: DETAIL - PORCH
7. Photo # 9

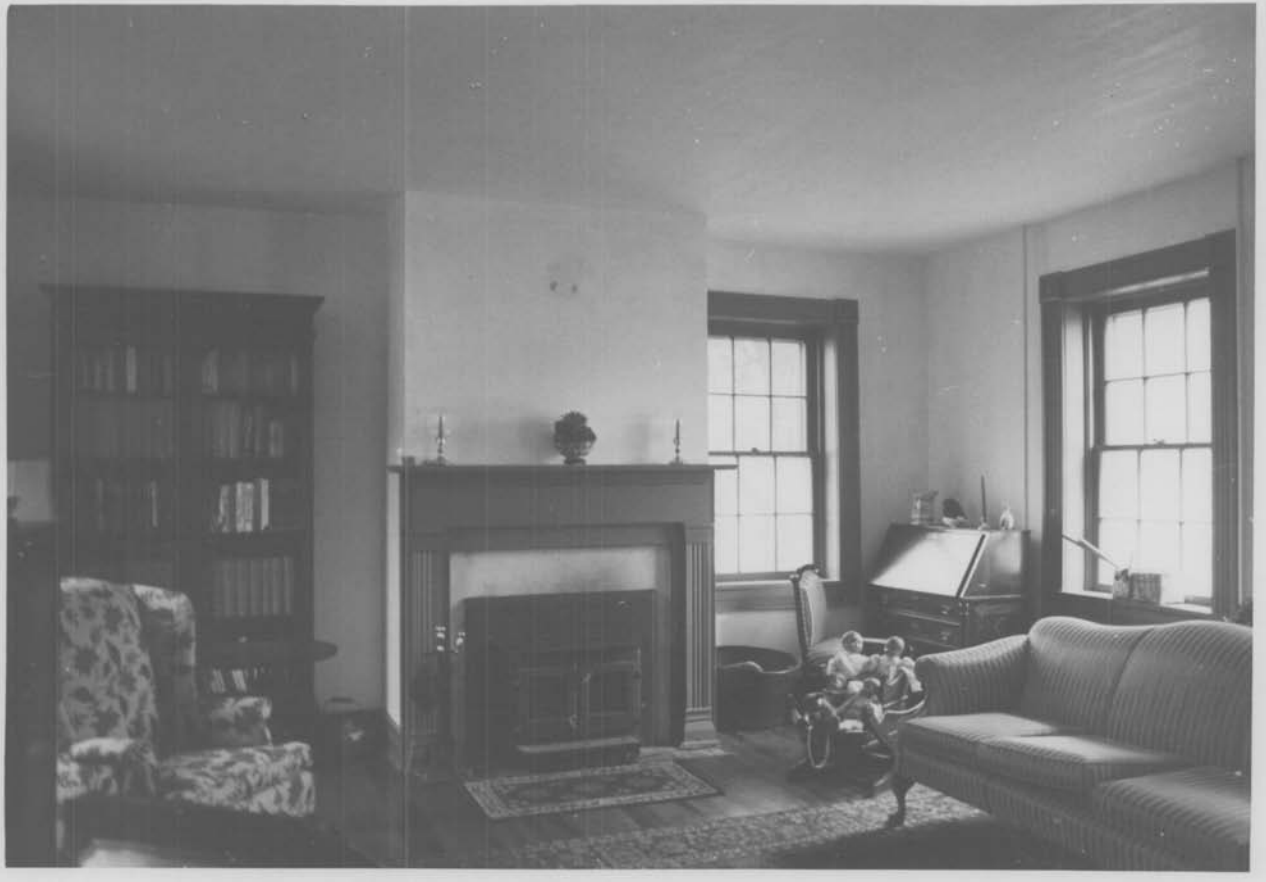
AL-111-C-044

9

1. Big Bottom Farm
2. Cumberland vic., Allegany Co., MD
3. Photo Date: Dec. 1983
4. Photo by Paula S. Reed
5. Neg. Location: Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD
6. View: MAIN STAIR
7. Photo #10

A2-111-C-044

10



1. Big Bottom Farm
2. Cumberland vic., Allegany Co., MD
3. Photo Date: Dec. 1983
4. Photo by Paula S. Reed
5. Neg. Location: Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD
6. View: PARLOR N. ROOM 1ST FLOOR
7. Photo #11

AL-111-C-044

11

1. Big Bottom Farm
2. Cumberland vic., Allegany Co., MD
3. Photo Date: Dec. 1983
4. Photo by Paula S. Reed
5. Neg. Location: Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD
6. View: PARLOR - N. ROOM, 1ST FLOOR
7. Photo #12

A2-111-C-044

(12)

1. Big Bottom Farm
2. Cumberland vic., Allegany Co., MD
3. Photo Date: Dec. 1983
4. Photo by Paula S. Reed
5. Neg. Location: Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD
6. View: PARLOR & ENTRANCE HALL
7. Photo #13

AL-111-C-044

13

1. Big Bottom Farm
2. Cumberland vic., Allegany Co., MD
3. Photo Date: Dec. 1983
4. Photo by Paula S. Reed
5. Neg. Location: Preservation

   Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD
6. View: S. ROOM, 1ST FL.
7. Photo # 14

AL-111-C-044

14

1. Big Bottom Farm
2. Cumberland vic., Allegany Co., MD
3. Photo Date: Dec. 1983
4. Photo by Paula S. Reed
5. Neg. Location: Preservation Associates, Inc., Hagerstown, MD
6. View: 2nd Fl. Door to Porch
7. Photo # 15

AL-III-C-044

15

Clauson farm
South facade

AZ-111-C-044

Clauson barn
view from southwest

AL-111-C-044