

ABSTRACT  
WA-I-329  
Hoffer-Eby Farm  
Cearfoss Vicinity  
private

Early 19th Century

This early 19th century farm is improved with a one and a half story stone house, a two story, four bay house possibly of log construction sheathed with composition siding and a large frame bank barn. The exterior appearance of the first house suggests a building date during the 1820's, while the possible log house with its early brick wing may have been built during the first quarter of the 19th century. The barn appears much later. The complex is significant as an illustration of Washington County's 19th century construction. The group is also significant as the site of a distillery which operated here during the first quarter of the 19th century. The distillery was owned by Michael Hoffer whose family held this farm until 1841.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

MAE 11/20/69

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**Hoffer-Eby Farm**

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

**Maryland Route 63, Greencastle Pike**

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF **Cearfoss**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**6**

STATE

**Maryland**

COUNTY

**Washington**

**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

**Glenn L. Eby**

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

**Route # 2**

CITY, TOWN

**Hagerstown**

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**Maryland 21740**

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

**Washington County Court House**

Liber #: **307**

Folio #: **272**

STREET & NUMBER

**West Washington Street**

CITY, TOWN

**Hagerstown**

STATE

**Maryland 21740**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

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

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

WPA-I-329

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 < 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This farm group is located on the west side of the Williamsport-Greencastle (Pa.) Pike, Maryland route 63, about one mile south of Cearfoss in Washington County, Maryland. The complex includes two houses and a barn. One house faces south, the other north and the barn faces southeast.

The first building to be described is a one and a half story stone dwelling which is situated on an area of level ground and faces south. It is a two bay structure built of roughly coursed native limestone. Attached to its east end wall is a two story, one bay frame addition covered with composition siding. A porch included under the main roof span extends along the entire front or south elevation.

Windows in the stone section have very wide frames joined at the corners with wooden pegs. Most hold two over two pane late 19th century period double hung sashes. One six over six light sash is used. A half window at the ground story in the rear or north elevation has been closed with brick. There is no decorative masonry or woodwork trim associated with the windows and doors.

The roof is sheathed with sheet metal and extends beyond the end walls. At the west end where the roof overhangs the porch, the area between the return and the rafters is filled with brick. Brick chimneys extend from inside the end walls.

The second building in the complex is a two story, four bay dwelling sheathed with composition siding. Although its wall construction was not observed, thickness of door and window jambs suggests that it may be built of logs. It rests on stone foundations and faces north. Extending to the south is a one story brick wing. To the east end wall is attached a long, narrow, one story, three bay brick extension set on high fieldstone foundations. The wing apparently was built in two sections as shown by a break in the walls between the first and second bays from its west end. The eastern two bays of the wing would appear to be older as evidenced by the earlier type of door and window frames used in the foundations. Flemish bond brick work is used in the north and east elevations. Double windows in its north elevation each having single pane sashes, have replaced the original openings. A brick chimney is located inside the east end wall while a smaller brick flue extends from the point where the addition linking the wing to the main house is attached.

The exterior appearance of the main house is essentially turn of the century, as indicated by the style of window architraves, the two over two sashes, the small brick chimneys and the porch supported by turned posts with brackets. It would seem, however, that these features are not original. The main entrance is located in the west end bay of the front elevation. Above the door is a transom with radiating muntins.

North of the two houses on the side of a hill is a large frame bank barn with decorative metal ventilators. It appears much newer than the two houses and may date from the late 19th or early 20th century.

The buildings appear to be in good condition and are located on a farm containing 87.55 acres. The property includes parts of the land grants, "Marlborough Fields" and "Friendship."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

WA-I 329

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 Early	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This early 19th century farm is improved with a one and a half story stone house, a two story, four bay house possibly of log construction sheathed with composition siding and a large frame bank barn. The exterior appearance of the first house suggests a building date during the 1820's, while the possible log house with its early brick wing may have been built during the first quarter of the 19th century. The barn appears much later. The complex is significant as an illustration of Washington County's 19th century construction. The group is also significant as the site of a distillery which operated here during the first quarter of the 19th century. The distillery was owned by Michael Hoffer whose family held this farm until 1841.

It is will made in 1823, Michael Hoffer provides his wife Elizabeth with the use of three rooms in the "wing" until such time as the property was sold. There is no further description of the building, but the wing could refer to the brick structure attached to the main dwelling. Michael Hoffer's widow and heirs held the property until 1841 when it was sold to Christian Negley and George Fouke, who owned it briefly, selling to John P. Stotler in 1843. For most of the second half of the 19th century, the property was owned by Christian Keefer and then during most of the first half of the 20th century by George W. Shinham. It was bought by the present owners in 1956. (YY/443, OHW1/105, IN5/32, 98/236, 100/212, 260/202).

It cannot be determined from information available at present whether the distillery continued to operate after Michael Hoffer's death.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Washington County Land Records.

Williams, T.J.C., History of Washington County, Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 87.55 acres

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

**Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant**

ORGANIZATION

**Washington County Historical Sites Survey**

DATE

**August 1977**

STREET & NUMBER

**County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street**

TELEPHONE

**791-3065**

CITY OR TOWN

**Hagerstown**

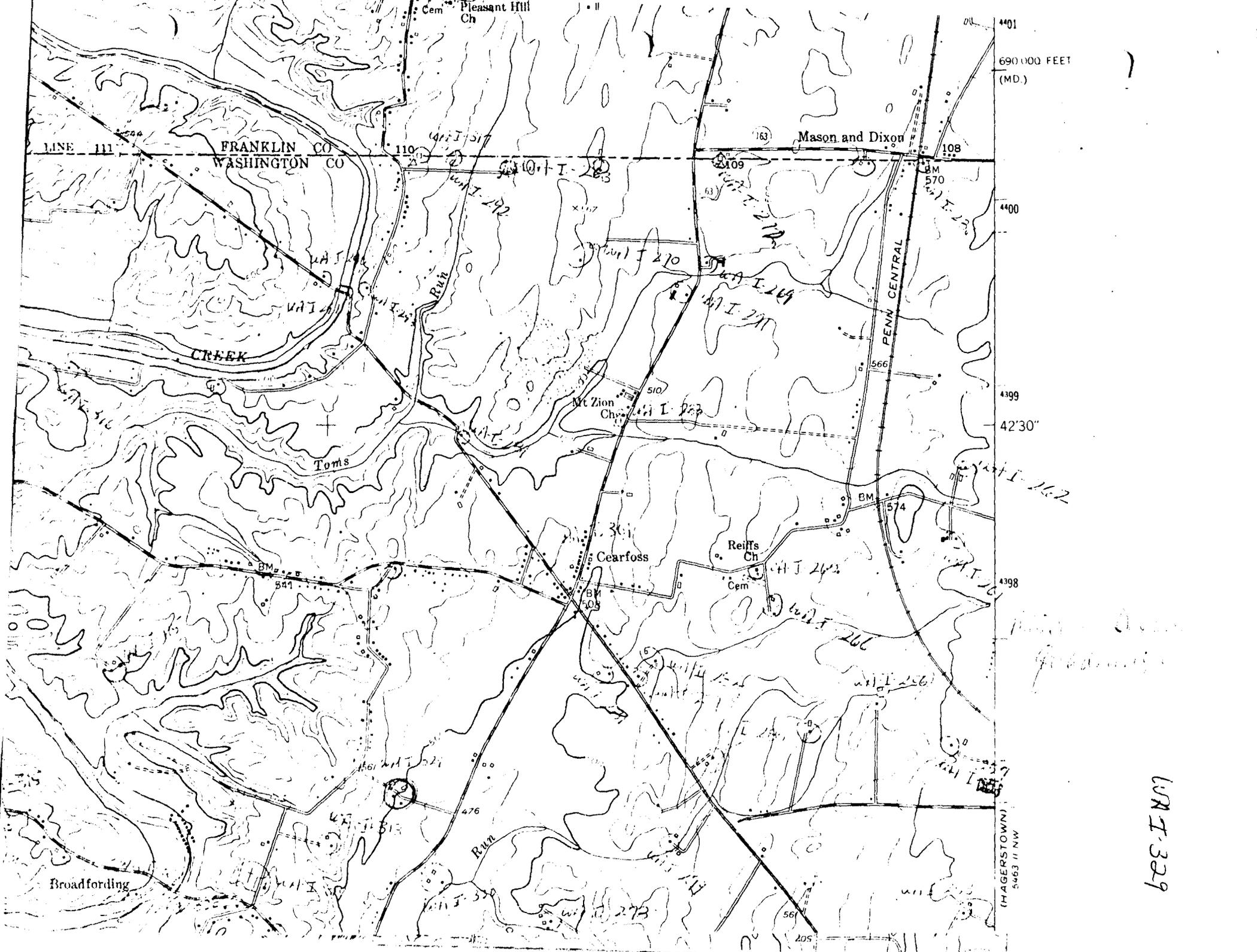
STATE

**Maryland 21740**

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



690 000 FEET  
(MD.)

LINE 111

FRANKLIN CO  
WASHINGTON CO

Mason and Dixon

CREEK

Toms

Mt Zion Ch.

S Cearfoss

Reiffs Ch

Broadfording

HAGERSTOWN  
5463 11 NW

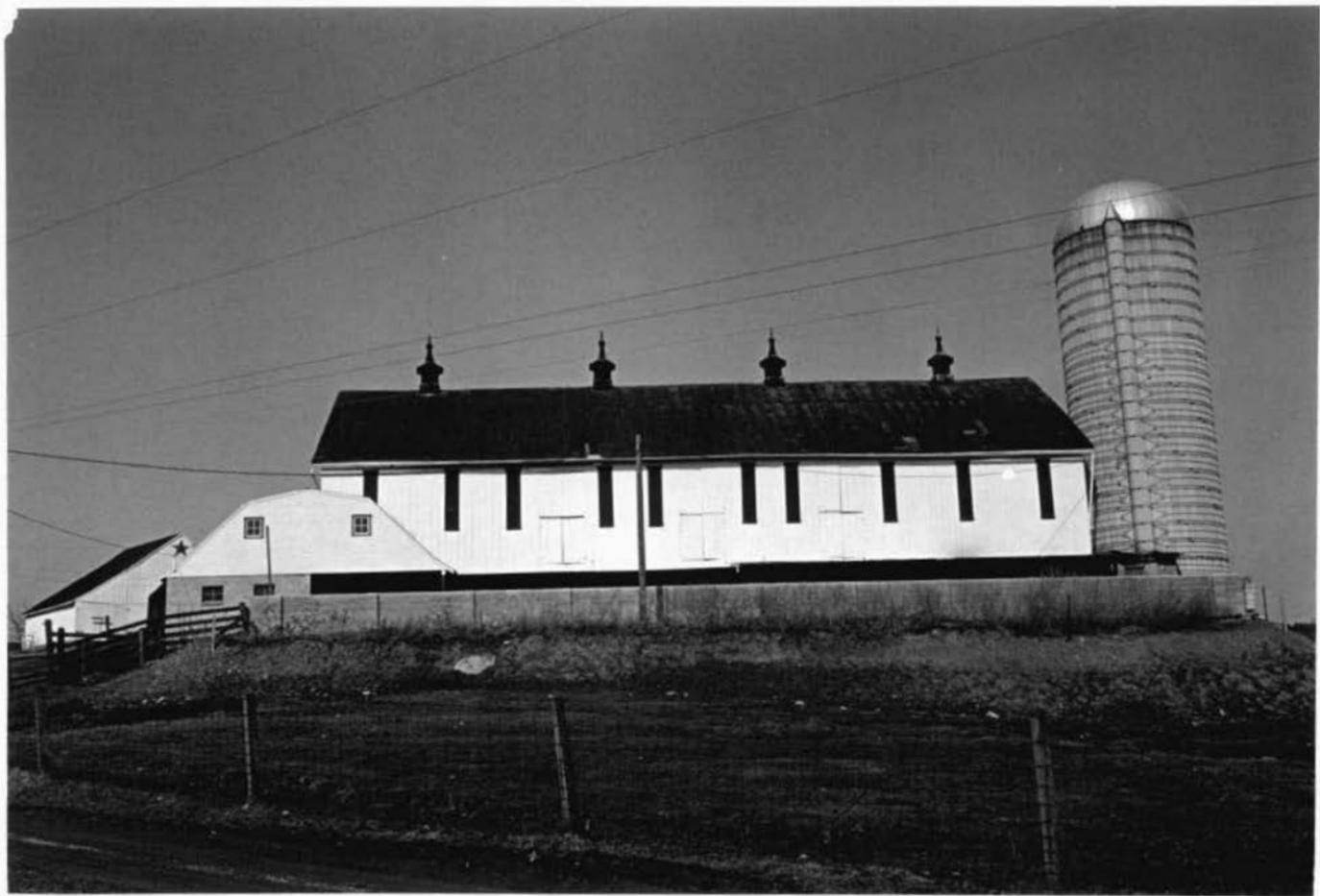
LOR I-329



144-1 2:9. Ridge 1. 1/E

Feb. 1975

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA 1-374

Form 6

1-10-77

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100 I.S. 2

Edg. 1

See 100 I.S. 2

**PAULA STONER DICKEY**  
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WA-F 220

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