

ABSTRACT
WA-II-103
Bikle House
Sharpsburg Vicinity
private

Early 19th Century

This log and timber frame house is of unknown date. It is located on a bluff with a commanding view of the Potomac River and provides an example of an important vernacular house type.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bikle House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rensburg Road

CITY, TOWN

Sharpsburg

VICINITY OF Fairplay

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mark Bikle

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Rensburg Road

CITY, TOWN

Sharpsburg

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21782

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 540

Folio #: 817

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

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 log house is located on a rocky bluff above the Potomac River at Taylor's Landing or Mercerville, south of Fairplay in Washington County, Maryland. It is reached by a private lane which extends in a westerly direction from Remsburg Road. The house is situated on sloping ground and stands on a north-south axis with entrances in the east and west elevations.

The building is a one and a half story, five bay log and timber frame house on stone foundations which become almost a full story in height at the north and west elevations. The three northern bays are of log construction and the two southern bays are a frame addition. The entire surface of the building is sheathed with board and batten siding.

Windows have narrow frames with six over six sashes. Entrances are located in the second and fourth bays of the south end of the east elevation and in the third bay from the south end of the west wall. The doors have no transoms.

The roof is sheathed with corrugated sheet metal and a small brick chimney extends from the interior at the point where the log and frame sections join.

The inside of the house at the first floor level is divided into two rooms, one in the log section and the other consisting of the frame addition. In the log section the interior surface of the walls has been exposed revealing hewn logs with the spaces between them filled with wood chips and cement. Doors in the east and west walls of the log section are of hand planed board and batten fastened with wrought nails. The west door has wrought strap hinges while the east door has hinges with round wrought flanges. The door also has a wooden slide bolt. The placement of the hinges on the door has changed. Hewn joists for the second floor are exposed.

The house appears to be in excellent condition and stands on a parcel containing slightly more than 11 acres.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This log and timber frame house is of unknown date. It is located on a bluff with a commanding view of the Potomac River and provides an example of an important vernacular house type. The pair of batten doors in the log section with their wrought hinges are characteristic of the late 18th or early 19th century. It appears to have been part of a sizable property consisting of almost 200 acres belonging to William P. Rensburg and then to his son, Charles E. Rensburg from 1866 to 1893, (IN19/437, 100/99). It was then in the Thomas family from 1893 to 1922, being purchased by Thomas F. Miller. It remained in the Miller family until 1946. (100/315, 161/667, 192/306, 235/401). The portion of land on which this house stands appears to be part of that which William Ullum sold to William P. Rensburg in 1866.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Land Records.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11.03 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

February 1978

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

SHEPHERDSTOWN QUADRANGLE

WEST VIRGINIA-MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE/4 MARTINSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

5463 II SW
(FUNKSTOWN)

47'

261 580 000 FEET (MD.)

WA-II-462

WA-II-151

263

77°45'

39°30'

WA-II-103



4375
4374
600 000 FEET (MD.)
4373
4372
4371
27'30"

WASHINGTON CO
JEFFERSON CO



LVA-II-103

S 10.

April, 1977

Bikle House

Remsburg Road

Sharpsburg-Fairplay Vicinity

PAULA STEVER DICKEY
CONSULTANT WASHINGTON, DC
HISTORICAL SURVEY



WA-II-103

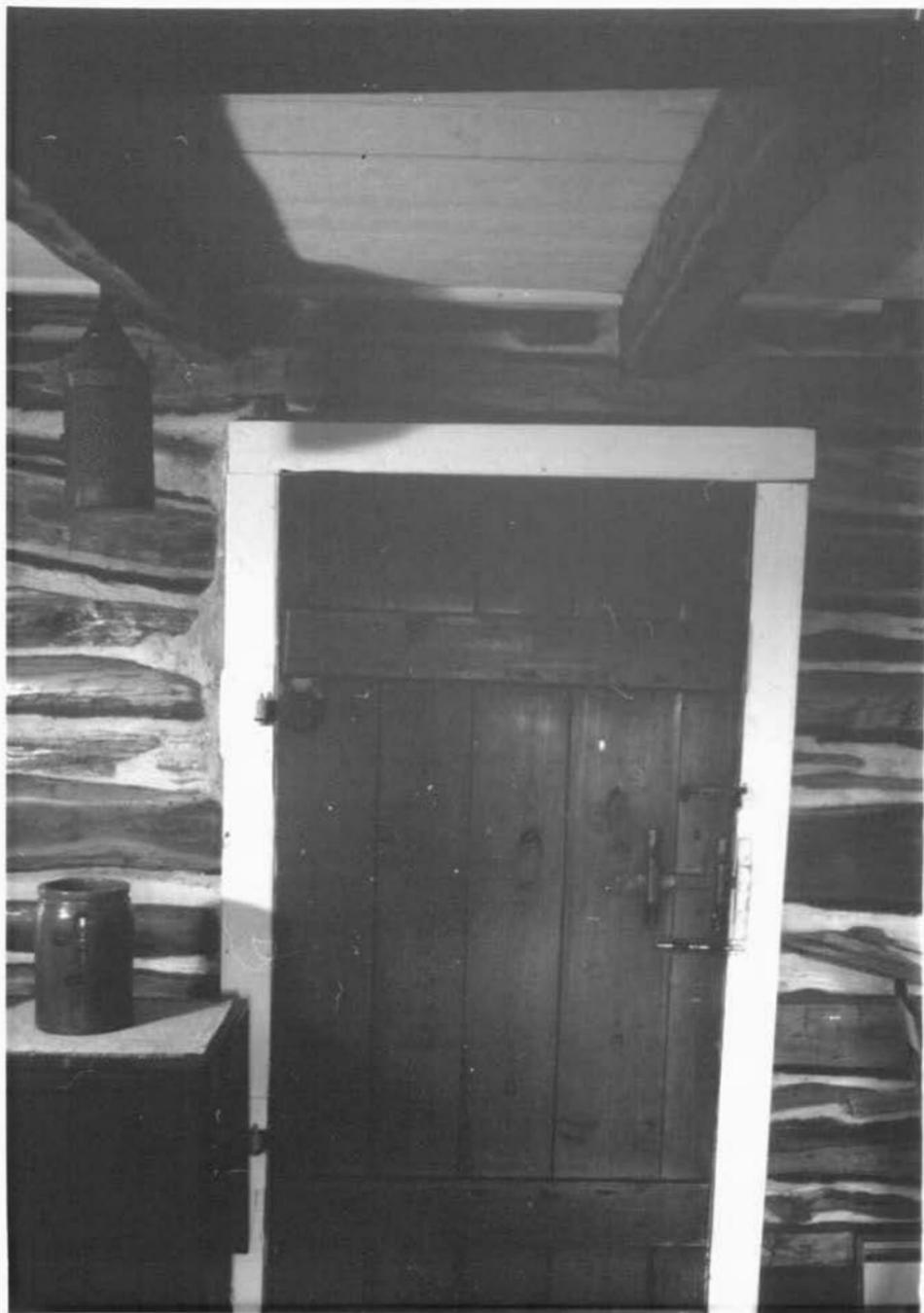
NE.

April, 1977

Bikle House

Rensburg Road
Sharpsburg-Fairplay Vicinity

WALTER SENIOR DICKEY
CONSULTANT WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-II-103

Int. door

April, 1977

Bikle House

Remsburg Road

Sharpsburg-Fairplay Vicinity

page 20 1977 TURKEY

page 21 1977 TURKEY

page 22 1977 TURKEY



WA-F-102

Int. doc

April, 1977

Bikle House

Rensburg Road

Sharpsburg-Fairplay Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY