

9401697

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Angus MacDonald Property Survey Number: WA-II-1109

Project: ISTEA Easement Acquisition Agency: FHWA/SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on the information provided, the barn on the Angus MacDonald property meets the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. The house which was formerly located on the property burned in mid-1994. Only ruins remain. The large bank barn constructed of squared logs with wood sheathing on a stone foundation is believed to date to 1820. The barn alone is eligible under Criteria A and C, for its association with the development of agriculture in Washington County and as an early example of a bank barn in Washington County.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project File, inventory # WA-11-1109

Prepared by: Engineering-Science, Inc.

Elizabeth Hannold November 22, 1994  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

[Signature] 1-5-95  
Reviewer, NR program Date

*[Handwritten mark]*

Survey No. WA-II-1109

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Agricultural storage

Known Design Source: na

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WA-II-1109

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Mac Donald Barn

**2. Location**

street & number Shepherdstown Pike

N/A not for publication

city, town Sharpsburg

vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Washington

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Angus W. MacDonald

street & number 16318 Canal Road

telephone no.:

city, town Sharpsburg

state and zip code Maryland 21782

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

liber

street & number West Washington Street

folio

city, town Hagerstown

state Maryland 21740

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WA-II-1109

<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This property is located on Shepherdstown Pike near the Potomac River and the C and O Canal. This location on or near to three major transportation arteries was undoubtedly beneficial in transporting the farm's products to market. The farm currently encompasses approximately 180 acres although it was larger in previous years. The mid-nineteenth century farmhouse burned to the ground in January 1994. All that remains of the house is the foundation, the cellar, a chimney and an interior staircase. Archaeological remains associated with the house may be present on the property.

There remains on the property, at some distance from the house, a large bank barn constructed of squared-off logs with wood sheathing, typical of the Pennsylvania German settlers in western Maryland. It has a stone foundation and a standing seam metal roof. What is believed to be the construction date of 1820 is incised in one of the foundation stones. Another date incised in a foundation stone, 1877, is believed to be that of a renovation (Conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Angus MacDonald, April 11, 1994). The MacDonald farm is still a working farm, and the barn is still used to house livestock. The barn is in excellent condition and retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WA-II-1109

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	<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** 1820 **Builder/Architect** unknown

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The barn was evaluated under National Register Criteria A and C under the rubric Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815-1870) of the Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan. It is significant on the local level as an early example of a rural vernacular barn. It meets National Register Criterion A for its association with the development of agriculture in Washington County. It meets National Register Criterion C for its distinctive characteristics of type, period, and construction method.

Washington County was first settled in 1730, and incorporated in 1776. At that time it included what later became Allegany and Garrett Counties. The first settlers in Washington County were Germans who migrated south from Pennsylvania, settling first along the Conococheague Creek, and later, by 1739, along the Antietam Creek (Henninghausen 1891:14).

Early settlement was impeded by an inadequate transportation system and hostile Native Americans and was further discouraged by the French and Indian War--some early settlers even left the area for a safer location--but movement into the frontier picked up again after the war (Henninghausen 1891:14-21). Apart from a preference for locations along Potomac tributaries, the settlement distribution followed no regular pattern. Small factories were soon established, for example, the Antietam Iron Works and the Green Spring Furnace. The town of Sharpsburg was laid out in the 1760s (Williams 1906:24).

By 1730 an early route from Virginia to Pennsylvania was in use that followed a wilderness trail. The trail entered Maryland through the Monocacy River Valley, continued on to Frederick and from there northwest to Williamsport (originally called Conococheague) in Washington County on Conococheague Creek. Eventually known as the Monocacy Road, it was an active route only until about the 1780s (LeViness 1958:11). Washington County also could be reached from the south by way of the Potomac River.

By the 1780s, soil depletion from tobacco production had become a serious problem in eastern and southern Maryland. Some English settlers relocated to Washington County where the soil was more fertile, and briefly attempted producing tobacco. The county's inadequate transportation system lessened the profitability of tobacco as a cash crop (Craven 1965:76). That, coupled with the strong tradition of the majority of German settlers for more diversified agriculture, ensured an economy based on the production, processing, and transport of grain and grain products (Karinen 1958:144). Livestock and orchard products also were important to the local economy. The creeks and rivers provided water power for mills, most of which in Washington County were grist mills (Williams 1906:64).

### 1776 to 1860

Between the years 1776 and 1860, Washington County became an agricultural force within the state. It also saw the layout of the county's settlements completed, the creation of major systems of transportation networks as well as a fledgling industrial base that primarily supported the county's agrarian economy. At this time, land routes became more important than water routes, facilitating more dispersed settlement (Wesler, et al 1981:74,77).

Two other transportation systems became important for Washington County, the canal and the railroad. By 1842 the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was completed to the far western edge of Washington County, to the city of Hancock. Although the canal offered a means for local farmers to ship some of their produce to eastern markets, the canal never rivaled the road system (Sanderlin 1946:139).

Initially the railroad had little impact on Washington County, almost bypassing it. An 1859 map shows only one railroad extending from Hagerstown to the north. The effect of the railroad on shaping settlement patterns was negligible, but it did contribute to the demise of the canal (Wesler, et al 1981:78).

Between the Revolution and the Civil War, the population of Washington County showed a slow but steady pattern of growth increasing in 1860 to 31,417, 90 percent of whom were white. The low number of blacks indicates that agriculture was dominated by

grain producing farms and that tobacco and other labor intensive crops were not grown (Wesler, et al 1981:78). Also, as America's frontier was pushed westward, Washington County did not experience any great movements of outmigration as the did the rest of the state of Maryland (Karinen 1958:168). The availability and type of land meant that the land was rich enough to support a relatively high and prosperous population. Between 1840 and 1860, Washington County grew grain crops--oats, rye, wheat, corn, and some barley--which averaged between 5 percent and 10 percent of the state's total production. In 1850, Washington County was first in wheat, second in rye, and fourth in livestock production. The county's land value was rated third in the state (Wesler, et al 1981:79).

Supporting the agricultural business were local industries; for example, there were 55 grist mills in 1808. There were also flour mills, sawmills, forges, a few furnaces, and pottery manufacturers (Rice and Standt 1929:26). By 1840, Washington County's industries employed about 5 percent of the State's workers producing 10 percent of the State's total production (Wesler, et al 1981:81).

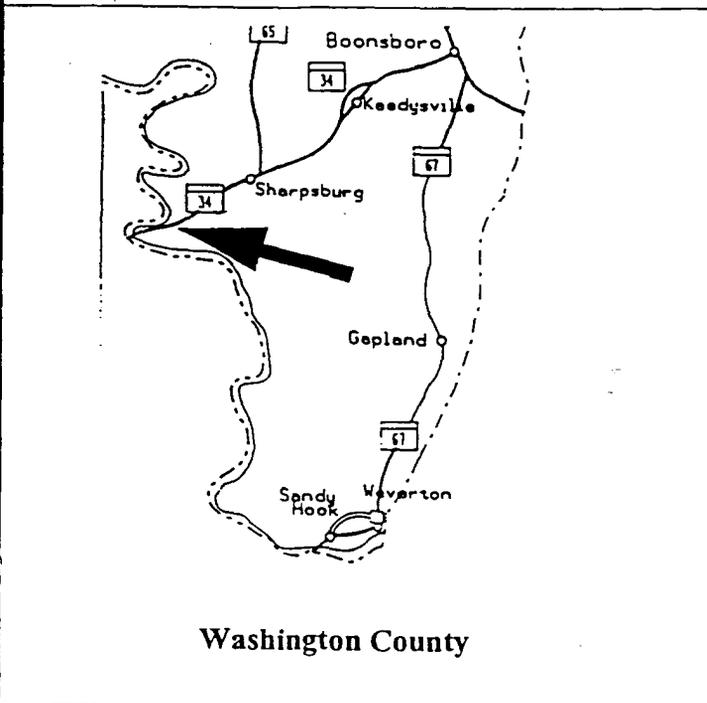
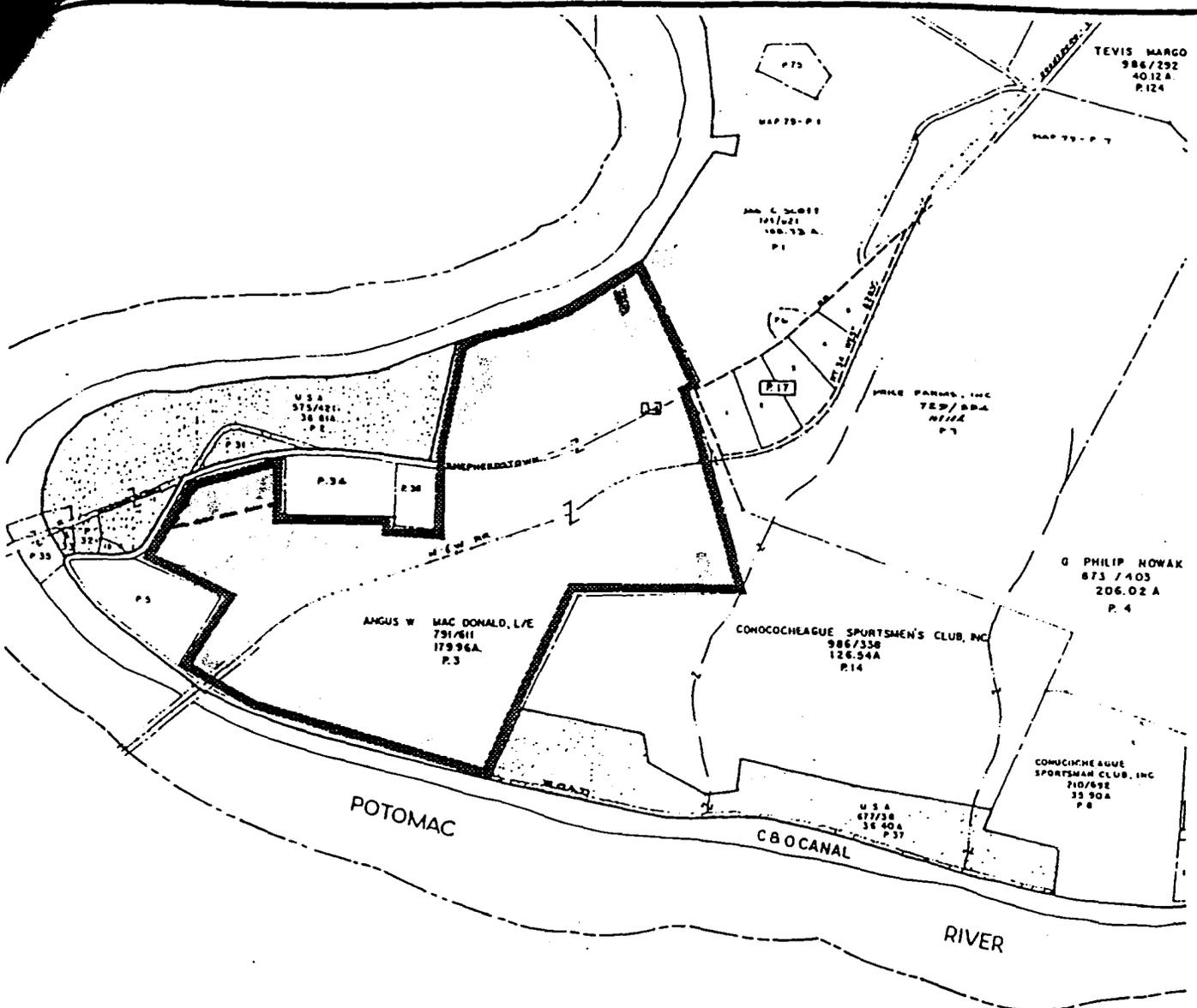
### 1860 to 1930

During the Civil War, much of Washington County became a battleground, although no substantial changes to it could be detected once the war was over. Between 1860 and 1930 the population of Washington County more than doubled from 31,417 to 65,882. And although the size of farms dropped after the war, the amount of grain produced between 1860 and 1880 rose steadily. Yet during the period of 1890 and 1930, corn and wheat production fluctuated due to economic depressions (Wesler, et al 1981:81-82).

After the Civil War, the nature of manufacturing changed with mills combining production previously found in single process mills. Other industries emerged such as distilleries, lime kilns, and brickyards. From 1870 to 1930, the number of industries dropped, while the number of employees rose steadily showing that the establishments were consolidating and expanding (Wesler, et al 1981:82).

During this same period, railroads expanded and road systems spread throughout the county thereby assuming the major transportation burden and reducing the need for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (Sanderlin 1946:258).





Also: Wash. Cnty Map 33

MD - DNR - Program Open Space  
 MD Department of Transportation  
 Antietam  
 Angus W. Mac Donald Property  
 S.P.M. 79, Parcel 3  
 179.96 Acres



WA-II-1109  
MacDonald 1

=A2:35

Chimney, staircase, and foundation  
of MacDonald house which  
burned in Jan. 1994.

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In.

June 3, 1994



WA-II 7109  
MacDonald 2

= A2:36

Photo of MacDonald house  
Salvaged from the fire debris.

Alice Crampton - Engineering Science,  
Inc.

June 3, 1994



WA-#-1109  
MacDonald 3

= A3:7

North elevation of MacDonald  
bank barn.

Alice Crampton - Engineering  
Science, Inc.

June 3, 1994



WA-II-1109  
MacDonald 4

= AZ:36A

West and south elevations of  
MacDonald bank barn.

Alice Crampton - Engineering, Science,  
Inc.

June 3, 1994



WA-II-1109  
MacDonald 5  
=A3:B

wall detail beneath overhang  
of south elevation of MacDonald  
bank barn.

Alice Crampton-Engineering Science,  
Inc.

June 3, 1994



WA-II-1109  
MacDonald 6

= A3:6

west elevation of gable end of  
MacDonald bank barn showing bank  
entrance.

Alice Crampton - Engineering Science,  
Inc.  
June 3, 1974



WA-II-1109  
MacDonald 7  
=A3:5

Date stone showing date of 1820  
on west wall of Mac Donald  
bank barn.

Alice Crampton Engineering Science,  
Inc.

June 3, 1994