

Spring Woods Farm - WA-II-1121
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Spring Woods Farm is located near the Potomac River east of the settlement called Mondell, in the vicinity of Sharpsburg. It is secluded from view from both Sharpsburg Pike and Mondell Rd. The farm is in easement to the Maryland Environmental Trust because of its inclusion within the Antietam National Battlefield Site. On the farm are two historic dwellings, one a stone bank house; the other, a log or plank house. Between the two dwellings is a large spring from which the farm name is derived. South of the main house is a large frame bank barn on a stone foundation. East of the barn is a stone bridge over the stream formed from the aforementioned spring.

The stone bank house is a three bay long, two bay deep structure, three stories tall on the west and two on the east. It appears to have been constructed at the beginning of the second quarter of the 19th century. On the east side of the stone building is a four bay long frame two story flat roof addition, built in the last quarter of the 19th century.

The plan of the stone house consists of two nearly equal size rooms on the ground floor, separated by a stone wall. The north room contains a large kitchen fireplace with window on the north gable and another on the west facade, north of the exterior door. The south room, accessible only from a door near the west entry, is a storage room, lighted by a single barred window in the west facade, smaller than the kitchen window. Another smaller window was located on the south gable.

On the first floor the plan consists of a central stair hall with living room on the south extending the full depth of the building. On the north side are two rooms, the westernmost room being a small room originally, lighted by one west and one north window (the west window is now blocked by a bathtub surround). The second room contains the fireplace and has a door to the stair hall from the kitchen. A second kitchen door is located in the hall, opposite the latter. When the frame addition was constructed late in the 19th century, one of the two dining room windows was lengthened to a door. The addition is one step higher than the stone house and contains two rooms separated by a chimney and secondary stair, the latter being accessible from both rooms.

The second floor of the stone section has a plan that is reverse from the first floor plan, with two rooms on the south and one on the north, none of which was fit with a fireplace. The southeast bedroom contains a built-in clothes press, where it adjoins the chimney. The frame wing has two rooms, both of which have doors opening onto the south porch, a feature than is very common throughout 19th century Washington County houses.

The main stair ascends to the attic, where a board wall

encloses the stair well. The remainder of the attic level is unfinished. The roof structure is composed of common rafters mortised and tenoned at the apex, with tie beams of varying dimension lumber nailed into half dovetail recesses. Several of the rafters lack tie beams.

The unusual features of the house include the following: In the basement or ground level storage room original shelving still exists hanging from the exposed joists. Each unit of shelving is composed of two pair of c. 5" boards nailed to the joists and hanging vertically from the joists, the lower ends rounded. In the center of the rounded ends are holes, approximately 1 1/2 inches in diameter, through which extend rounded bars. A board sits loosely on top of the two bars. Another type of shelf is made with two round bars doweled into the lintels of the two windows and the wooden lintel beneath the first floor fireplace, on which rests another board.

The kitchen is, or was, completely plastered. The fireplace has a wooden lintel and an iron crane. It is located slightly west of center on the north gable. The stair ascends along the central partition in an easterly direction.

In the first floor hall, settlement is evident sloping away from the center of the floor which rests on the stone partition below. The stair itself has recessed beaded panels in the spandrel and a six panel door to the basement. It's balustrade is open string and contains two small square balusters per step with a nearly round handrail. The newel posts have bulbous turnings with turned final on top of the square section into which the rail is mortised. There is a half rail in the plaster wall, echoing the balustrade. Both the hall and living room trim is composed of a greek ogee with bead backband on a base with intermediate bead and raised terminal bead. The beaded baseboard retains its original marbled finish. The dining room and small front room have trim that is less refined than the former, with a basic beaded board with a larger super-imposed bead in place of a back band. The mantels in both rooms have the same detail as the corresponding trim. Several of the rooms retain original marbled baseboards.

When constructed, the main door on the west side of the house opened onto a porch which extended across the facade. The lower level was protected by that porch. The entry has a six panel door with transom and paneled jambs.

High in the south gable is a plastered arched recess which bore the date of construction. The date is not currently visible.

Off the southwest corner of the house stands a small brick smoke house with "A" roof and corbeled cornice. Part of the walls have been re-built recently. Its door is located on the north side, facing in the direction of the kitchen door.