

ABSTRACT  
WA-II-211  
Bowers Farm  
Boonsboro Vicinity  
private

19th Century

This complex of buildings is primarily significant for its architecture. It is also important as a working farm which has been agriculturally productive for many years.

The most important factor concerning this grouping of buildings is that it provides a complete set of domestic structures; house, barn and outbuildings all of which are in good condition and have received relatively few exterior alterations. Examples of 19th century outbuildings such as the smoke house and bake house on this property are becoming rare.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

2203625504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

"Chance on Beaver Creek"

AND/OR COMMON

Bowers Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Newcomer Road

CITY, TOWN

Benevola

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF Boonsboro

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Richard L. Bowers

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

128 South Potomac Street

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 #: 519

Folio #: 166

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

WA-II-211

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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 farm complex is located on the south side of Newcomer Road approximately one half mile west of route 40-A near Boonsboro in Washington County, Maryland. The buildings are situated on sloping ground near a small spring stream, a tributary of Beaver Creek. The house faces in a westerly direction.

The dwelling is a two story brick structure three bays in width across the front elevation. A one and a half story, two bay ell extends to the rear or east. The walls, are set on low fieldstone foundations which become a full story in height at the north elevation. All brickwork is in American or common bond.

Windows appear to be aligned with each other but are not placed symmetrically in the walls. Window frames are narrow and finished with a bead at the inside edge. They hold six over six pane double hung sashes. Small gable roofed dormers extend from each slope of the roof of the ell extension.

The front entrance of the house is located in the center bay of the west or principal elevation. The door, located beneath a three light transom has an unusual arrangement of six panels with small sections centered between pairs of larger rectangular insets. A pair of entrances are located side by side in the south elevation, one opening into the main structure and the other into the ell. Each entrance displays a three light transom and framing similar to that observed at the windows. Small shed roof entrance porches shelter the doors.

Sheet metal covers the roof structure which extends beyond the end walls. Brick chimney, with corbels at their tops are located inside each gable end.

A pair of small brick outbuildings, a smoke house and a bake oven are located northeast of the house. Each of these buildings is one story in height and displays American or common bond Brickwork. The smoke house is painted red. Decorative features include diamond shaped geometric pattern work ventilators set in the side and end walls, and brick cornice work in the form of corbeling on the smoke house and brick dentils on the bake house. Exterior oven doors are still in place on the bake house.

Just north of the dwelling and its accompanying service buildings is a stone structure which appears to have been a dwelling. Constructed of coursed local limestone this three bay, one and a half story building stands directly over a spring of water. Situated on low sloping ground, the dwelling faces south. At the ground story of the front elevation three openings provide light and access to the spring room. The second story level displays a door flanked by a pair of windows. The rear elevation has three windows at the upper or main story and one opening partially below ground at the lower level. One small window is present at ground level and another in the gable of the south elevation. All openings have wide frames joined with wooden pins. The only decorative work associated with the masonry is a circular arrangement of small radiating stones set in the north gable.

A brick chimney is located inside the north gable wall. The roof is covered with sheet metal and terminates with barge boards set against the end walls. Plain boxing finishes the eaves. Deep returns are set into the end walls. The roof structure barge and eaves have been repaired or replaced recently in an effort to stabilize the building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(Continued)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

WA-II-211

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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
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

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This complex of buildings is primarily significant for its architecture. It is also important as a working farm which has been agriculturally productive for many years.

The most important factor concerning this grouping of buildings is that it provides a complete set of domestic structures; a house, barn and outbuildings all of which are in good condition and have received relatively few exterior alterations. Examples of 19th century outbuildings such as the smoke house and bake house on this property are becoming rare.

The main house and its surrounding dependencies would appear to date from the mid 19th century. A more specific date has not been found. Also architecturally significant is the small stone dwelling which appears to predate the other structures on the property. Constructed of stone and built directly over a spring, this building is an important representative of a major architectural group in the Cumberland Valley. Houses of this type generally date from the late 18th or very early 19th centuries.

The history of ownership of most of the land comprising this farm can be traced back nearly to the date of the original survey in August of 1747. It would appear that most of the land held within this farm is part of a grant called "Chance on Beaver Creek." A tract of land by that name containing 100 acres was initially surveyed for James Dawson. In August of 1756, the property was transferred from James Dawson to Henry Charlton. The boundary description relates that the tract began at the head of a spring which runs into the Beaver Creek. It further indicates that the land was improved with "one log cabin." Bordering on "Chance on Beaver Creek" are other grants, "Cheney's Parcels," containing 17 acres, "Resurvey on Jerico Hills," with 829 acres and "Well Meant" containing 265 1/2 acres. Apparently "Chance on Beaver Creek" was included within another grant, "Low Germany."<sup>1</sup>

In April of 1800, Jonathan Rowland sold to Andrew Eavey a tract of 140 3/8 acres made up of four parcels and including "Chance on Beaver Creek." The price of this purchase was \$1650. (M/428). Later, in various transactions Eavey acquired other small parcels and at the time of his death held a farm of 227 acres along Beaver Creek. (Equity Court Proceedings 2/1089).

Samuel Newcomer, trustee for the sale of Andrew Eavey's real estate conveyed 152 1/8 acres of Eavey's farm to Elizabeth Emmert and Leonard Emmert in 1844 (OHW2/611). The farm remained in the Emmert family until December of 1911 when it was purchased by Henry Newcomer, (IN5/695, 81/21, 137, 584). Otho A. and Cora Bovey purchased the farm in February 1912 and sold it in 1930 to Alvey R. and Maude I. Dubel, (138/106, 185/344). In 1959, the farm was purchased by Oliver G. Dickinson and Edith S. Dickinson, (351/782) who sold it to the present owners in 1971.

<sup>1</sup> Arthur G. Tracey, Unpublished Research on Early Land Grants of Western Maryland, Microfilm copy available at the Washington County Court House.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Tracey, Arthur G., Unpublished Research on Early Land Grants of Western Maryland,  
1954.  
Washington County Equity Court Records.  
Washington County Land Records.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 145 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

June 1976

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

On a bluff west of the house is a large frame bank barn with projecting dormers on the east slope of its roof. Native stone walls enclose the barn yard.

The buildings in this complex are in excellent condition. The farm contains 145 acres.

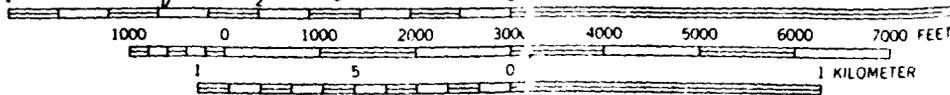
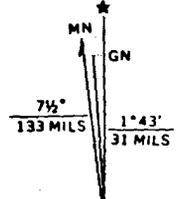


266 267 268 (KEEDYSVILLE) 5462 11W KEEDYSVILLE 1.6 MI

*Funkston quadrangle*

SCALE 1:24000

WA II-211



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



WH # 311

S.W.

Oct. 1975

PAULA STORER DEKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



116 11-211

116

Oct. 1972

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



Cont # 2-21

Dist. map. is 7.6.100

5-1-10

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

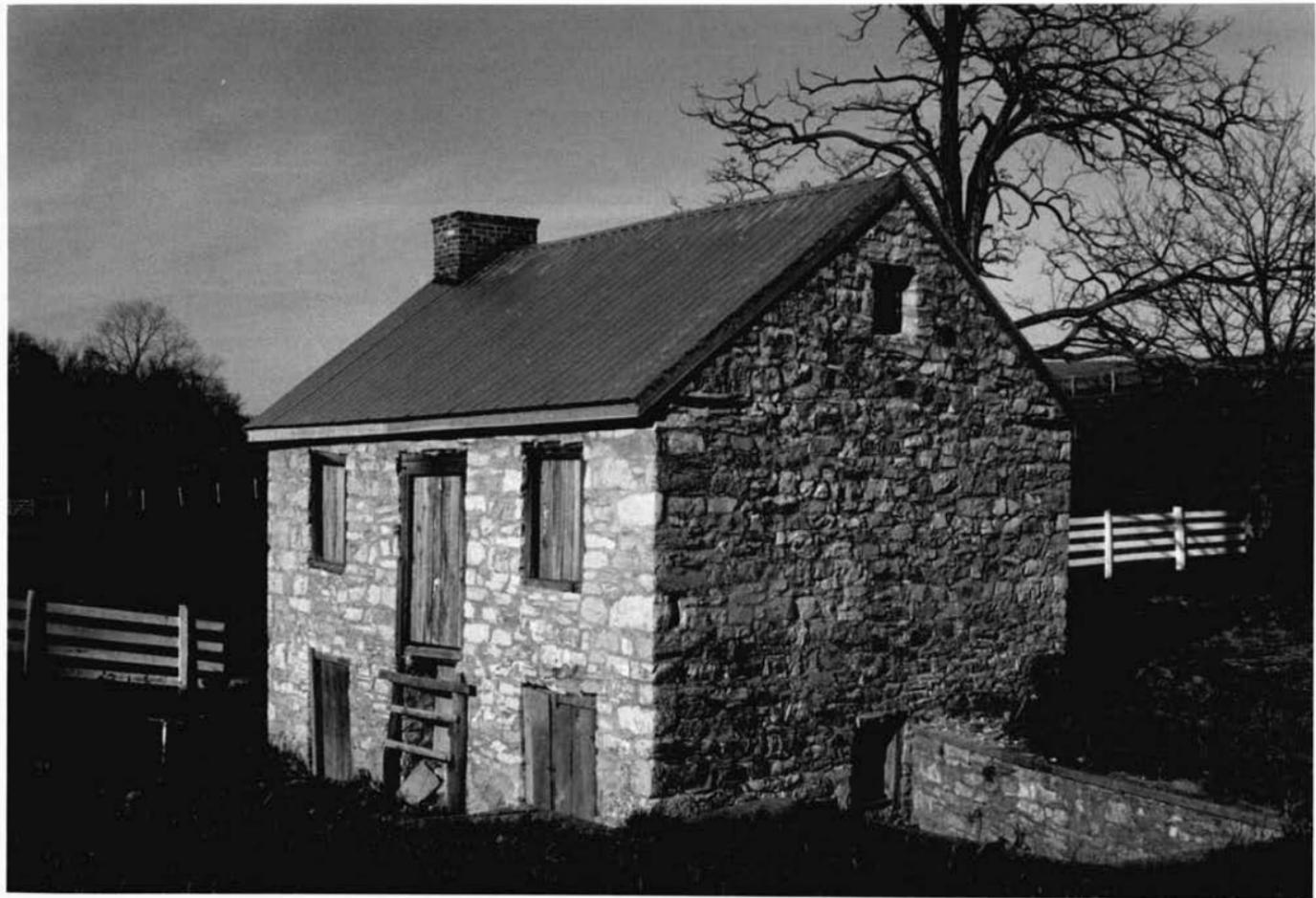


02/20/51

Washington N. V. D. D. D.

Oct 1951

PAULA STOVER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

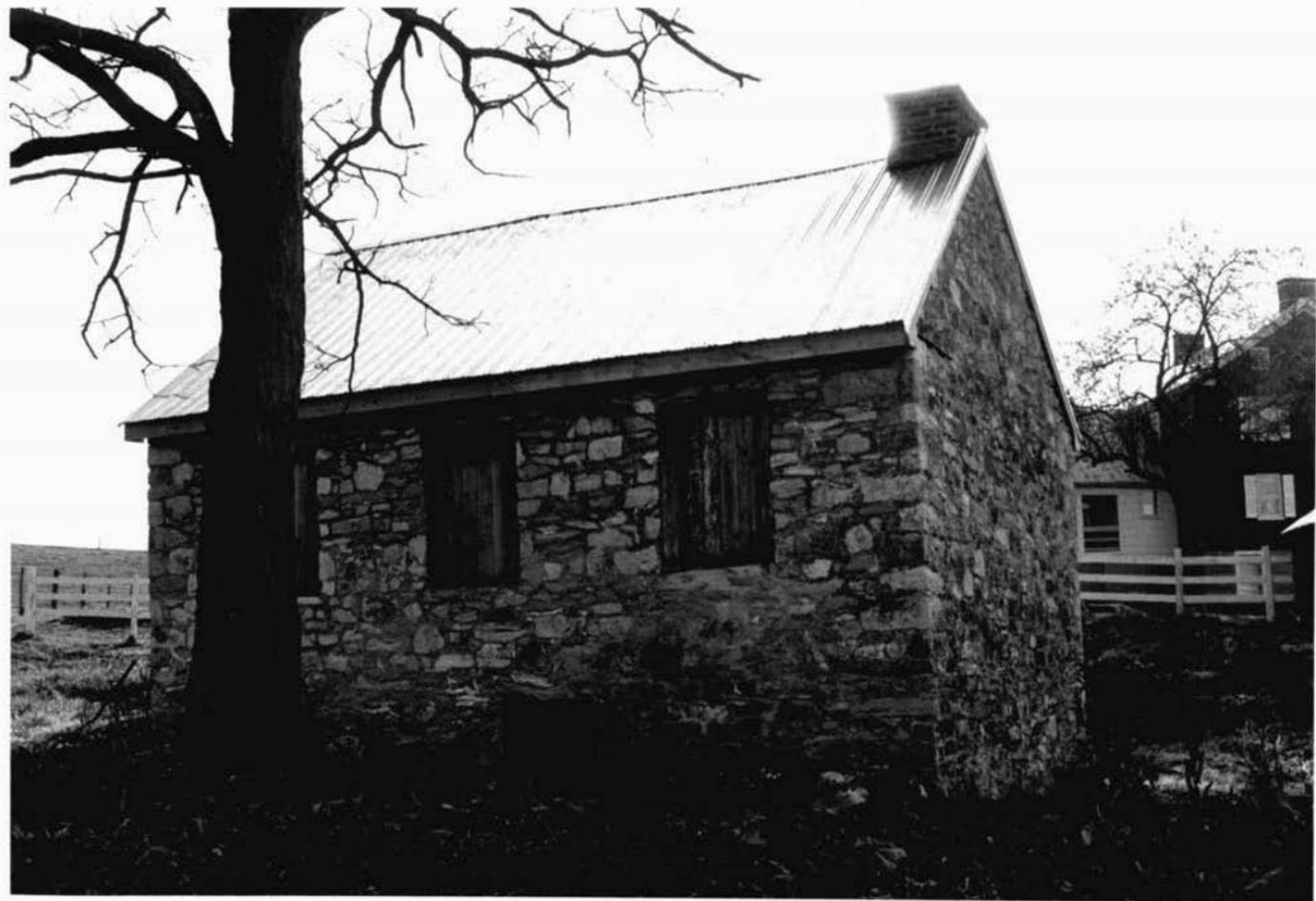


100-11-241

Secondary Weathering Shed

Oct. 1994

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



W.H. II-311

Secondary Settlements

Oct. 1915

WILLIAM STOWER DICKEY  
LEADERSHIP, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA II-211

11

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY