

ABSTRACT

Rocky Fountain Farm

WA-V-065

Clear Spring Vicinity  
private

Ca. 1800

Rocky Fountain Farm consists of a large stone dwelling, built in two sections; a log house sheathed with German siding; a stone spring house and a large stone end bank barn. The complex of buildings is important as representing several aspects of vernacular architecture indigenous to Western Maryland and Southern Pennsylvania.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

2204155304

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

<b>1. NAME</b>					
COMMON: Rocky Fountain Farm					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
<b>2. LOCATION</b>					
STREET AND NUMBER: South Of Route 40 near Spickler					
CITY OR TOWN: Clear Spring Vicinity					
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Washington		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____	
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>					
OWNER'S NAME: Norman A. Halteman					
STREET AND NUMBER: Route # 1, Box 133					
CITY OR TOWN: Clearspring			STATE: Maryland		21722
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Court House					
STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street					
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown			STATE: Maryland		21740
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 327/479					
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
DATE OF SURVEY:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <50%	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Rocky Fountain Farm" is located south of U.S. Route 40 about one mile west of the Conococheague Creek near Spickler in Washington County, Maryland. It stands on sloping ground and faces north.

The structure is a two story, three bay stone dwelling with a four bay, one and a half story addition extending to the south from a point just east of the west end of the main section, giving the overall structure a "T" shape. Along the east elevation of the addition is a deep porch included under the main roof span. Although the principal entrance is in the north elevation, it is readily apparent that the main section of the house originally faced south.

The walls are constructed of roughly coursed local fieldstone. Flat arches of stone are present over most first story windows of the main section. The east elevation of the addition has been sheathed with rough cast or stucco. A major portion of the original front elevation of the main section is concealed by the addition. It would appear, however, that openings there are spaced evenly. First story windows retain what appear to be original frames and possibly original sashes have nine over six lights held within wide wooden frames joined with pegs and displaying quarter round trim. Upper story windows have similar wide frames with six over six pane sashes. Replaced frames in the main section and those employed in the addition are quite narrow. Openings in the addition are topped with broad wooden lintels. On the east slope of the roof of the addition are three gable roofed dormers, each with a six over six light window.

The present principal entrance is located in the center bay of the north elevation. The entranceway is treated simply with a narrow transom over the door. There is no decorative stone or woodwork associated with this opening. Another entrance is located in the east gable end of the main section. What appears originally to have been the main entrance in the south elevation is partially concealed by the addition. Other entrances are located at the ground and main floor levels of the addition.

The roof of each section is covered with corrugated sheet metal terminating with plain barge boards set directly against the end walls. The eaves boxing is finished with a course of molding.

A large brick chimney with several courses of corbeling at its top is located inside the east gable end. A smaller flue, also of brick extends from inside the west gable end. Other brick chimneys are located at the interior of the addition and inside its north gable end.

At the interior of the house a mid 19th century stair ascends from the entrance area behind the front or north door. Original or early doors have six raised panels and show evidence of having been held with long strap hinges. Mantels display reeded trim. In the cellar, overhead joists carry planks on which rest a layer of mortar. Above this are the floor boards.

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering               | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-<br>losophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br>_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape<br>Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-<br>itarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                     |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |  |   |   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rocky Fountain Farm is significant for the various types of architecture present, and for its association with Martin Kershner, an important early settler and soldier.

The main dwelling is important as an example of stone vernacular architecture typical of Western Maryland and Southern Pennsylvania. Built in sections, the house reflects two distinct periods of building. The main section of the stone house with its massive window frames, cellar joist construction and interior woodwork and hardware would appear to date from Ca. 1800, perhaps between 1790 and 1810. The addition may have been added during the middle third of the 19th century.

The nearby log house is also an example of the area's vernacular architecture. Log was a prominent building material in the area from the early days of settlement until late in the 19th century. Although this house appears old, it was not examined closely enough to allow for an estimate of age.

The spring house and barn are also important as examples of such structures. Many early houses in Washington County are built directly over or near springs. This spring house with its finished interior may have been used as a dwelling. According to tradition, it was used to house slaves. The spring house does not appear to predate the original section of the main dwelling.

The name of the land grant of which this farm is a part is "Rocky Fountain." Containing 1124 3/4 acres, it was surveyed for Martin Kershner on November 15, 1801. According to Arthur G. Tracey's Research on Maryland Land Grants, Rocky Fountain is a resurvey on an earlier grant, "Amendment On Trouble With Contentment," granted January 6, 1772 for Jonathan Hager and Martin Kershner and containing 1076 3/4 acres. Doctor Tracey further reports that "Amendment On Trouble With Contentment" is a resurvey on a still earlier grants "Trouble With Contentment," 1007 acres granted to Martin Kershner on September 29, 1763, and "Contentment" 126 acres granted on the same date, also to Martin Kershner.

Major Martin Kershner died in November of 1817 at the age of 74. In addition to having been a Veteran of the Revolution, he was a member of the State Legislature and served as Justice of the Peace. No evidence has

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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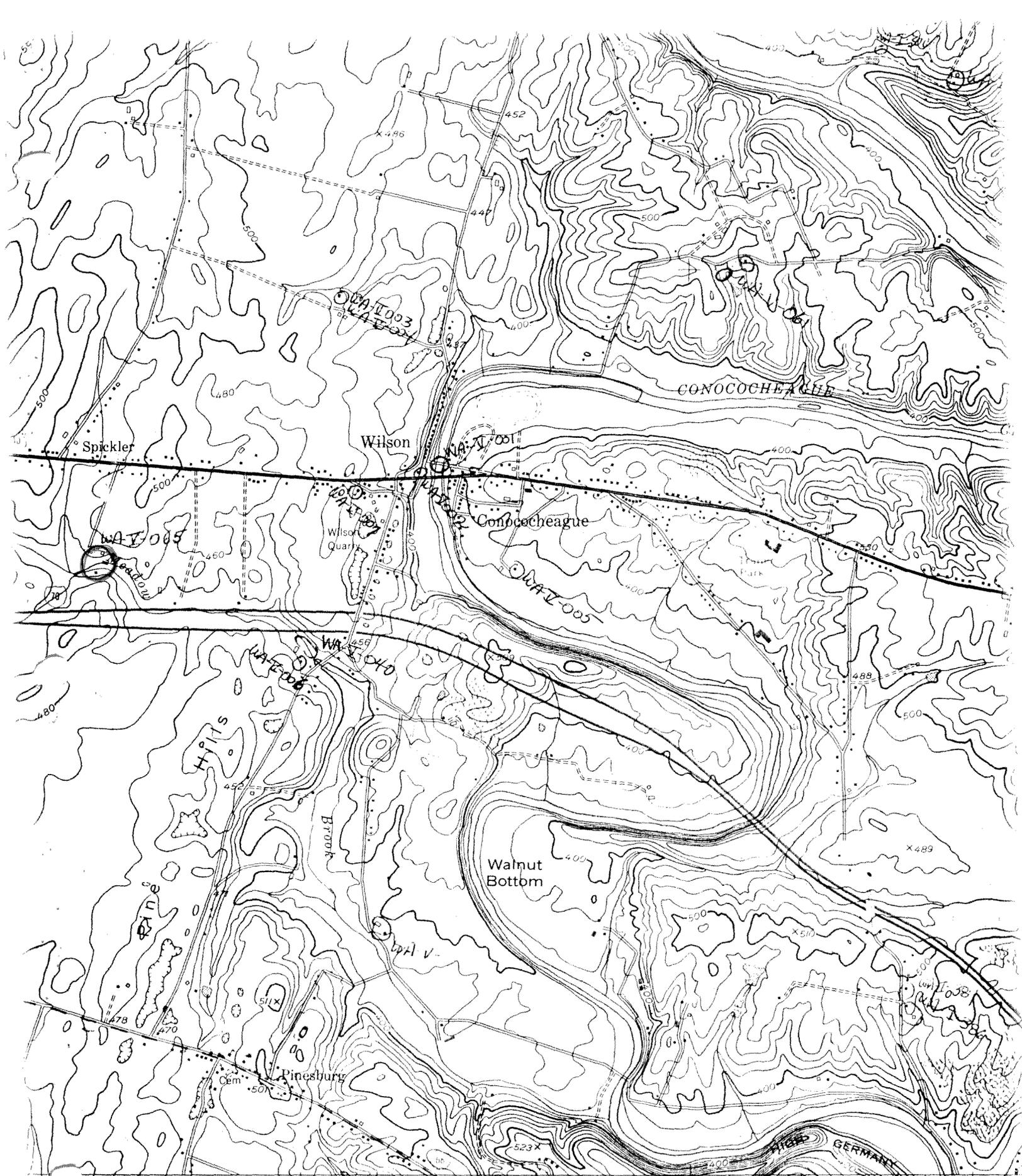
Just south of the stone dwelling is a three bay, one and a half story spring house, also constructed of roughly coursed stone. With an out-shot entrance on its east wall, the structure has a finished interior with a fireplace. Its windows display narrow framing with six over six pane double hung sashes. A rather large spring emerges from the east wall of the structure.

Southeast of the house and spring house is a two story, four bay log dwelling sheathed with German siding. A one and a half story, two bay extension is attached to the rear or south elevation. The structure has two entrances located side by side in the front elevation and sheltered by a shed roofed entrance porch. A central chimney of brick with corbeling at its top extends from the roof peak. Also on the property is a large stone and frame bank barn and other buildings related to agricultural use.

The buildings on Rocky Fountain Farm are in good to excellent condition. The property contains 134.72 acres.

been found to prove or disprove that Major Martin Kershner was the same Martin Kershner who was granted the lands on which Rocky Fountain Farm is located. The Kershner family had vast land holdings in Washington County, Maryland and Ohio.

Land transactions concerning this property are not clear. No deeds or wills have been located which show when the property left the Kershner family and who received it. Rocky Fountain was apparently owned by Samuel Miller sometime prior to his death about 1847 (Will Liber E, Folio 30). In a deed dated January 18, 1859, Edward Stake, Trustee and Ann Elizabeth Stake, Samuel Miller's daughter, sold the property containing 221 acres, one rood and 34 perches to John Zeller. It was in the Zeller family until 1944.

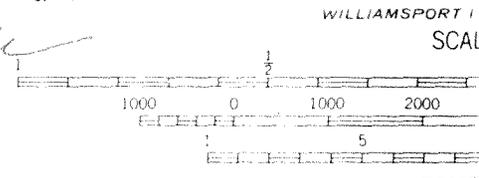
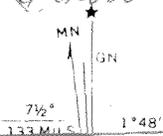


ed by Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army  
 and published by the Geological Survey

l by USGS and USC&GS

aphy from aerial photographs by KEK plotter  
 hotohographs taken 1943  
 revised by the Geological Survey 1953

*Mason-Dixon Quadrangle*  
 WA-V-065



WILLIAMSPORT 1  
 SCAL



WA-V-065

Dwelling #1 N.E.

Nov. 1975

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N.W. Dwelling #1

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WA. V-065  
dwelling #1  
S.E  
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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-V-065

Barn S.W.

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Dwelling #2 N.W.

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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA V-065  
Dwelling #2 N.E.

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Spring house N.E.

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