

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96000300

Date Listed: 3/26/96

Bowlus Mill House Frederick MD
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name _____

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Patrick Anders
Signature of the Keeper

7/10/96
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

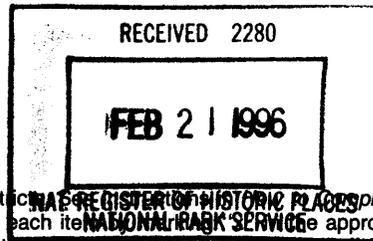
This Supplementary Listing Record is issued to clarify the defined Period of Significance. The SHPO has informed us the end of the Period of Significance (1920) was selected to insure that the two contributing outbuildings (the bank barn and shed), whose exact construction dates are unknown, are within the Period of Significance. The form is amended to add this explanation.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. Complete each item in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name BOWLUS MILL HOUSE

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 8123 Old Hagerstown Road N/A not for publication

city or town Spoolsville N/A vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Frederick code 021 zip code 21769

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

1-26-96

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

3/26/96

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
3	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone

roof Wood shingle

other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1

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BOWLUS MILL HOUSE
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DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The stone house known as the Bowlus Mill House at 8123 Old Hagerstown Road in the village of Spoolsville in Frederick County, Maryland is part of an early 19th century farm complex which includes the house, a frame bank barn on a stone foundation, and a small frame shed. The house is a 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ story stone structure with an exposed basement. Its bank siting and three-room plan reflect Germanic influence typical of the region in the period. The coursed rubble masonry exemplifies a distinctive local building tradition. The interior retains its original plan and detailing nearly intact, and features an array of well-crafted woodwork reflecting the stylistic transition from 18th to 19th century design, including a collection of Federal-style mantels with gouge-work and carved ornament. Also on the property is a frame bank barn with a cantilevered forebay, a small frame shed, a ca. 1950 concrete block dairy which tradition holds is located on the site of an early 19th century flour mill, and a deteriorated frame wagon shed.

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BOWLUS MILL HOUSE
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Bowlus Mill House is located along the east side of Old Hagerstown Road and west of Little Catoctin Creek, in the village of Spoolsville near Middletown in western Frederick County, Maryland. It is situated on sloping ground facing south. The 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ story, three bay stone dwelling is constructed of coursed rubble masonry employing local flat-cut stones in a technique which is distinctive to the east slopes of South Mountain. The exterior of the house is characterized by very narrow courses of stone without keystones or arches at the window and door openings.

Windows have six over six light sash and original frames, wide mortised and tenoned pieces secured at the corners with pegs. The house has three front entrances and one rear entrance. The sloping topography results in a fully exposed basement on the south facade. Two of the front entrances are at the ground level, and one is at the main story level, accessed by a two-level porch which spans the facade. The door's framing is similar to that of the windows, and the main story entrance has a four light transom. The rear entrance now opens onto a screened porch, a modern feature. There is also a basement entrance in the east end wall. A brick interior chimney rises from each gable end.

Across the front of the house is a two story porch which appears at least in part to be a replacement of an original porch as evidenced by a stone drip course running below the level of the second-story window sills which formed the coping for the earlier porch roof. The main floor level is accessed by an external stairway on the east side of the porch.

The house has three levels of living space and an attic that was finished in recent years. The interior retains its original configuration nearly unaltered. At the ground level, the west front door opens into a large kitchen taking up approximately half of the interior space. A large stone fireplace spans much of the west wall. It includes an arch topped recess which once opened into a bake oven which was probably an exterior beehive type. A cast iron crane completes the fireplace detailing. The kitchen also contains stairs to the main level running against and parallel to the rear wall.

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To the east of the kitchen is a room now used for dining in the southeast corner of the house. Here there is original chairrail with bolection molding and a stone fireplace. The original segmentally arched fireplace opening with stone voussoirs remains. There is a narrow ogee molded shelf above the fireplace. A third room in the northeast corner of the ground level is used for storage and as a laundry.

Above the ground level, the main floor is divided into three rooms with a central passageway and recessed staircase. There is one large room east of the north-south passageway. The area west of the passageway is divided into two rooms. The large east room and the southwest room each has a fireplace with an arched firebox opening. Each mantel is distinctive, and notable for its decorative detailing. One shows reeded trim in a swag pattern and another has neoclassical molded panels. Mantel shelves are narrow as is typical of late 18th and early 19th century construction.

The staircase has turned newel posts and balusters and a flattened handrail, characteristic of 18th century construction.

At the upper level, there are four rooms with the stairs and landing located at the rear wall. All rooms are accessed from the stair area; there is no passageway on this floor. The two south rooms have fireplaces, each with a plastered arched firebox. Mantels have reeded patterns, oval medallions and swags with high, narrow molded shelves. Chairrail and original flooring is present throughout the house.

South of the house is a frame bank barn with a cantilevered forebay. Typical of early- to mid-19th century barns in south central Pennsylvania and central Maryland, this structure shows Germanic influence in its bank siting and forebay. The barn faces southeast, like most barns in this region. A frame wagon shed in severely deteriorated condition is sited south of the bank barn. A concrete block dairy complex, apparently dating from the 1950s, is located northeast of the frame barn and is said to be on the site of the original flour mill. A small frame shed is located directly east of the house. The buildings are situated on a tract containing 14.965 acres, once part of a large farm of 154 acres. The house, frame barn, and shed are considered contributing

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resources; the dairy complex and the wagon shed are non-contributing.

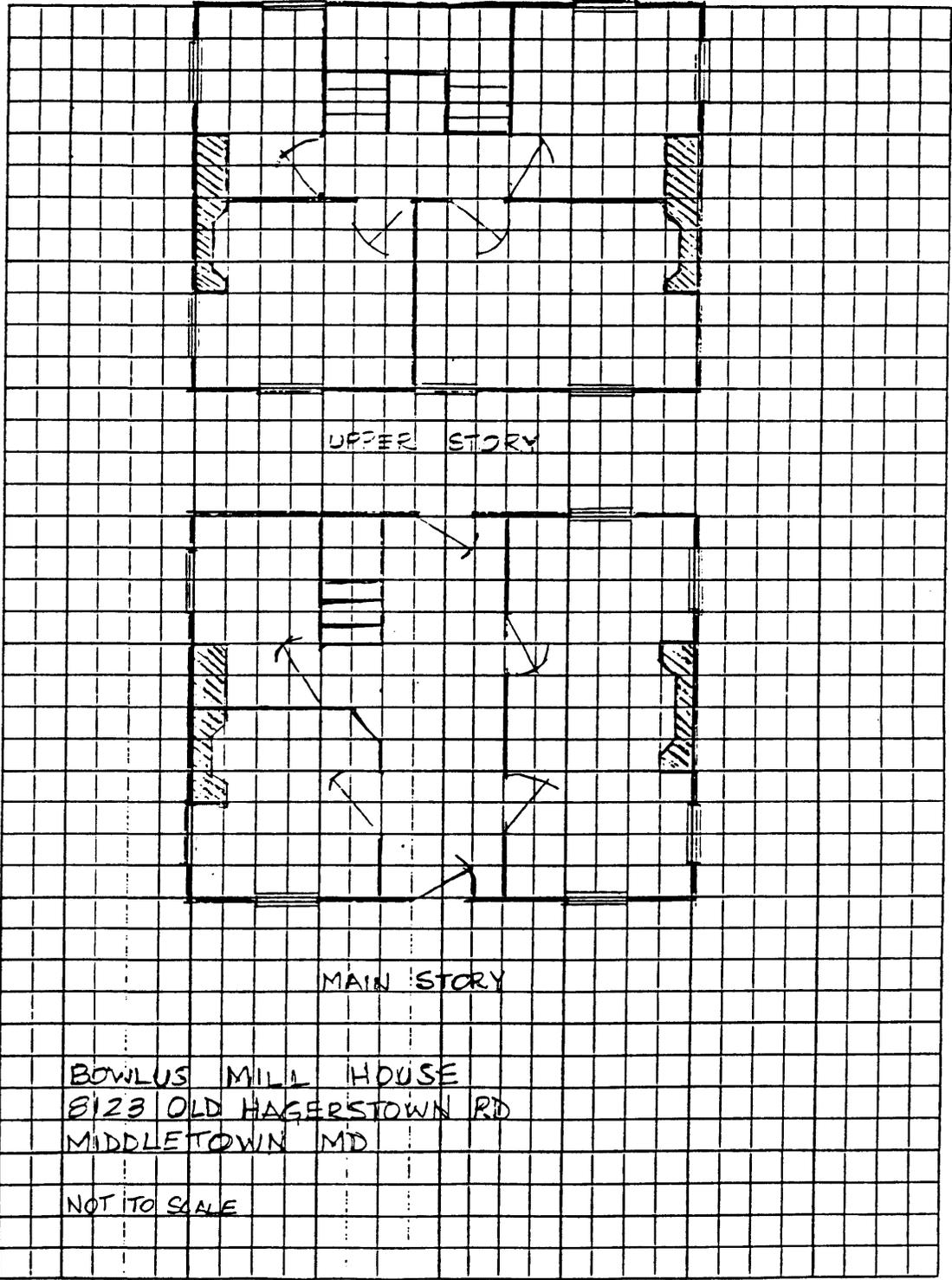
See Continuation Sheet No. 5

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BOWLUS MILL HOUSE
Frederick County
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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1800-1920

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 6

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 11

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Frederick Co. Planning and Zoning Dept.

Bowlus Mill House F-4-101
Name of Property

Frederick Co., MD
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 14.965 acres

USGS quad: Middletown, MD quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	2 7 9 8 5 0	4 3 7 0 3 7 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 8	2 8 0 0 2 0	4 3 7 0 0 4 0

3	1 8	2 7 9 7 9 0	4 3 6 9 8 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 8	2 7 9 6 8 0	4 3 7 0 0 0 0

See continuation sheet no. 12

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 12

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 12

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula S. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Preservation Associates, Inc. date 11/17/94

street & number 19942 Lehmans Mill Road telephone 301-791-7880

city or town Hagerstown state MD zip code 21742

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. & Mrs. George Little

113 The Keep

street & number Portchester Near Fareham telephone _____

city or town Hampshire P 0169PR state UK zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Bowlus Mill House is significant under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of a type of dwelling characteristic of the region in the ca. 1800 period, with noteworthy features of construction and detailing. Its stone masonry exemplifies a distinctive local building tradition, employing narrow courses of flat cut stones; this technique is distinctive to the east slopes of South Mountain. The house is also significant for its outstanding architectural detailing representing the stylistic transition between 18th and 19th century design preferences. Eighteenth century elements include the traditional three-room floor plan, the segmentally arched fireplaces, the raised panel doors, pegged mortise-and-tenon window and door frame construction, and the detailing of the stair. Nineteenth century features show the influence of the Federal style, particularly evident in the mantelpieces with delicate reeded trim in swag patterns and applied floral decoration and oval medallions. The building retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification, A.D. 1680-1815

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community
Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

Known Design Source: None

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Frederick County and central Maryland in general were settled during the second half of the 18th century although there were habitations in the region as early as the 1730s. Although land was initially held by English entrepreneurs from eastern Maryland, the majority of settlers who actually lived in Frederick County were Germans who had migrated south from Pennsylvania. The area developed into a prime agricultural region with emphasis on the production of small grains. With grain farming dominating, related industries and transportation networks soon developed. Grist and flour milling was prevalent, as was distilling. Central Maryland along with south central Pennsylvania grew in importance as an agricultural region. In Maryland, Frederick and adjoining Washington County led the state in wheat and corn production throughout most of the 19th century. The greater central Maryland/south central Pennsylvania region was the nation's bread basket until large scale grain production in the midwest overtook it in the later 19th century.

Resource History

The Bowlus Mill property is located on the east side of Old Hagerstown Road. The house appears to date from about 1800, and apparently the flour mill was developed about the same time. The Old Hagerstown Road has been known by that name at least since 1858 when it was so identified on Isaac Bond's Map of Frederick County. This road probably became known as "old" after the development of the early 19th century system of turnpikes that eventually became the National Pike and later Alternate U.S. 40. Dennis Griffith's Map of the State of Maryland, made in 1794, shows the Old Hagerstown Road as the only route from Frederick to Hagerstown and points west. However, by the time Charles Varlé's Map of Frederick and Washington Counties was published in 1808, the main stage road from Baltimore west through Frederick to Hagerstown had been constructed along the present alignment of Alternate U.S. 40, relegating the earlier route to the status of "Old" Hagerstown Road.

It was along this "old" Hagerstown Road that the Bowlus Mill House was built. The name of the builder and exact date of

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construction are not known; architectural evidence suggests a ca. 1800 construction date. Charles Varlé's 1808 map indicates a merchant mill at this location, operated by one Sweringen; this was one of three merchant mills located along the length of the present Little Catoctin Creek, called Mill Creek by Varlé.

Deeds for the property were traced to October 21, 1843 when John Bowlus sold the property to Isaac Michael. At that time John Bowlus turned most of his real estate holdings over to Isaac Michael in a deed of trust for the purpose of "arranging his affairs and of distributing the proceeds of sale of his real estate among his children." (Deed book H.S. 21/31). Then, on December 13, 1854, Isaac Michael, as trustee sold the property to John Miller of H.[sic]. In that transaction, there were two parcels, one containing approximately 192 acres and the second, referenced as "John Bowlus' Lower Mill," containing about eight acres. The property sold for \$13,583.47, and refers to "the old grist mill and premises situated near Catoctin Creek which belonged to the late John Bowlus and was usually called John Bowlus's Lower Mill." (Deed book E.S. 6/196). In April of 1866, John Miller of H. sold 154 acres which included the mill property to Daniel Keller. The mill property remained in the Keller family (although with difficulty since several in-family transactions were recorded to gain revenue to satisfy creditors) until 1910. The financial difficulties experienced by owners of this property in the late 19th century is typical of the fate of many mill operators in Maryland at that time as competition from western producers and grain processors tightened. During this time period the mill and dwelling house property containing a little over four acres was separated from the rest of the farm. On June 7, 1888, Henry Biser and John C. Motter, trustees for George W.M. Keller, sold the mill property to Keller's wife, Virginia A.R. Keller, which allowed the mill to remain in the Keller family. In this transaction, the property was referred to as the "National Steam Mills." (Deed book W.I.P. 6/317). In April 1910 Virginia A.R. Keller, then a widow, sold "Keller's Mill Property" to Charles C. Biser. (Book 292/89). Charles Biser had previously acquired the rest of the farm land, 150 acres, in 1888 from Daniel Keller. The 154 acre property remained in the Biser family until 1937.

The area encompassing the Bowlus Mill property south to the

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Old National Pike was historically known as Spoolsville, and comprised a rural industrial community focusing on the Bowlus or Keller flour mill, which operated over the approximate period 1800-1920. The mill was demolished about 1950, and a concrete block barn was constructed on the site.

Resource Analysis

The Bowlus Mill House is an excellent example of regional vernacular architecture reflecting the stylistic transition from the 18th to the 19th century. Eighteenth century elements include the overall floor plan of the house, the segmentally arched fireplaces, the raised panel doors, window and door frame construction and configuration of the stairway handrail with its flattened top and bolection molded chairrail. Nineteenth century features show Federal style and neoclassical influence, particularly evidenced in the mantelpieces with delicate reeded trim in swag patterns and applied floral decoration and oval medallions. These delicate items seem almost incongruous with the massive appearance of the other elements. Rare or unusual features include the staircase configuration, tucked in a recess at the main floor and set within a square stair area at the upper level. The ground floor fireplace retains some early hardware and the outline of an opening to a bake oven. The property retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

The period of significance, ca. 1800-ca. 1920, corresponds to the approximate period of activity of the Bowlus Mill which provided the impetus for the development of the present farm complex.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

"An 1800s Millhouse in Maryland," Country Living, January, 1994.

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1868.

Davis, Janet. Frederick County Planning and Zoning Dept.
"Spoolsville Survey District," March, 1992.

Frederick County Land Records.

Griffith, Dennis. Map of the State of Maryland, 1794.

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

Varlé, Charles. Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, 1808.

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UTM REFERENCES continued:

5: 18-279640-4370320

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundaries are described in the Land Records of Frederick County in Liber 1494, Folio 245, and are shown in the accompanying house location survey and plat, dated August 25, 1993.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property, 14.965 acres, comprises the complex of buildings within the remnant of the property historically associated with them. The property formerly was the nucleus of a 154-acre farm; the outlying lands have been subdivided over time, leaving the present parcel to provide the historic setting for the resource.

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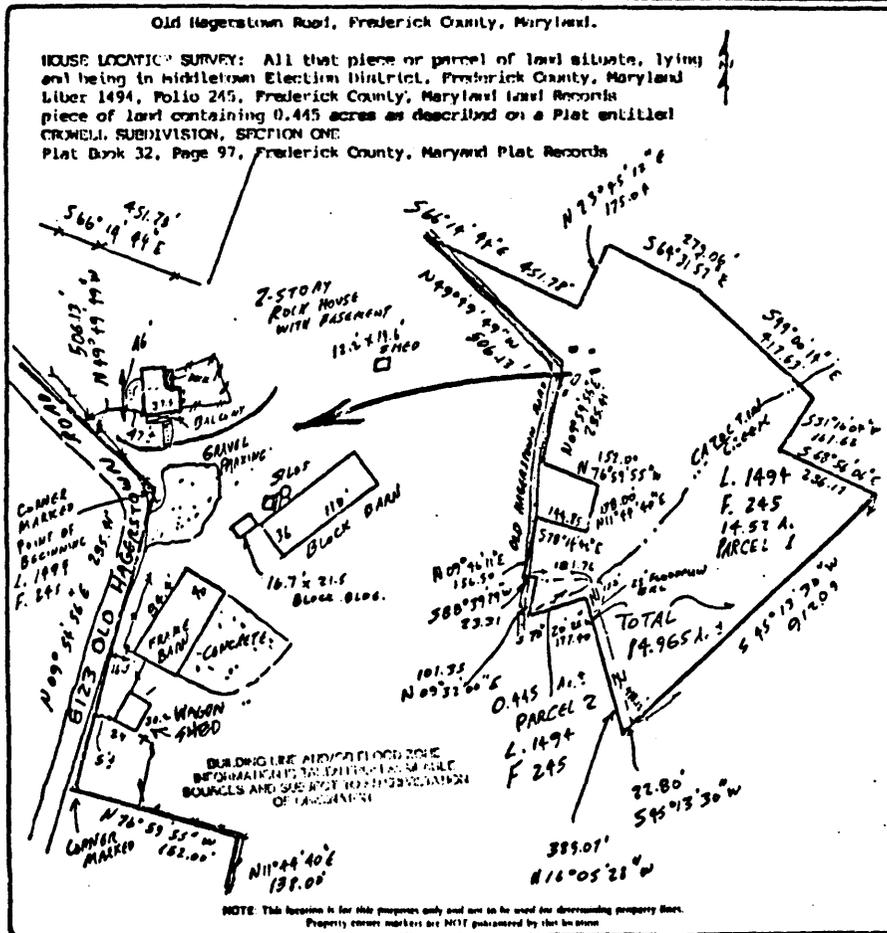
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NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARIES:

SELLER: DAVID A. FAULKNER and wife, PATRICIA FAULKNER

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: All that piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Middlestown Election District, Frederick County, Maryland as recorded in Liber 1494, Folio 245, one of the Land Records of Frederick County, Maryland and as piece of land containing 0.445 acres of land as described on a Plat entitled CRUMELI, SUBDIVISION, SECTION ONE as recorded in Plat Book 32, Page 97, one of the Plat Records of Frederick County, Maryland, also locally known as B123



STATE OF MARYLAND *A PORTION OF THE LOT IS IN ZONE A; HOWEVER
COUNTY OF FREDERICK THE HOUSE AND ALL STRUCTURES ARE IN ZONE C.

I certify the property herein is in accordance with the plat of subdivision and/or deed of record, that the improvements were located by accepted field practices and include permanent visible structures. Fences and/or walls shown are for picture purposes only. The exact location can only be determined by a boundary survey with the corners being set.

The above legally described property is located in Zone C and Zone A* within a special flood hazard area as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Administration P.O. Box 1047, Washington, D.C. 20541 on Community Panel No. 240020100A of Frederick County, Maryland dated June 1, 1978.

FILE # 53-575 DATE August 25, 1983 SCALE 1" = 200' ± 10'

DATE BY
FIELD WORK 8-23-81 R/S
DRAWING 8-25-81 RS
FINAL CHECK 8-25-81 RS