

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Big Bottom Farm (preferred)  
and/or common Clauson Farm

## 2. Location

street & number Hazen Road, n/a not for publication  
city, town Cumberland vic.  vicinity of congressional district Sixth  
state Maryland code 24 county Allegany code 001

## 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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Doctors James and Sue Raver  
street & number Route 2, Box 841  
city, town Cumberland  vicinity of state Maryland 21502

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allegany County Courthouse  
street & number Washington Street  
city, town Cumberland state Maryland 2150

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date February 1980  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle  
city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

AL-III-C-044

<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 <u>n/a</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources		Number of previously listed
Contributing	Noncontributing	National Register properties
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> buildings	included in this nomination: <u>0</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites	
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> structures	Original and historic functions
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects	and uses: agriculture; residential
<u>7</u>	<u>0</u> Total	

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

Big Bottom Farm or the Clauson Farm, is located east of US Route 220, on the east side of Hazen Road, about five miles north of Cumberland, in Allegany County, Maryland. It is situated in a narrow strip of flat bottom land along Evitts Creek, between Evitts Mountain and Pine Mountain. The farm complex consists of a mid 19th century brick house, a late 19th century frame barn, and late 19th/early 20th century agricultural outbuildings including a machinery shed, two chicken coops, a corn crib, and a wash house, all of frame construction. The house is unusually refined for an Allegany County farm dwelling of the mid 19th century, with several relatively sophisticated Greek Revival-influenced features. It is a two story, five-bay, gable-roofed building with an original two story, two bay extension to the rear. A late 19th century addition to the rear ell extended it by yet another bay. The main or west elevation is formal with evenly aligned openings and flemish bond brickwork. Accenting the front elevation are central entrances at both the first and second stories and a porch inspired by the Greek Revival style, onto which the second story entrance opens. The main entrance consists of a four panel door surrounded by a transom and sidelights. The interior plan has a central stair hall with one large room on either side. The woodwork is typical of the mid 19th century, inspired by the Greek Revival style, and shows knowledge of the style's characteristics. The interior decorative detailing consists primarily of symmetrical moldings, fluted in the principal parlor, with simple mantels of flat pilasters supporting deep shelves.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Big Bottom Farm

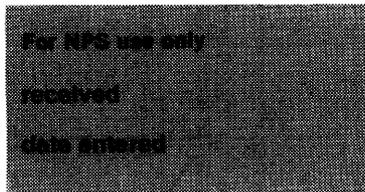
Continuation sheet Allegany County, Maryland

Item number

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Page

1



GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

"Big Bottom Farm" or the "Clauson Farm," is located east of US Route 220, on the east side of Hazen Road, about five miles north of Cumberland. It is situated in a narrow strip of flat bottom land along Evitts Creek, between Evitts Mountain and Pine Mountain. The farm complex consists of a mid 19th century brick house, a late 19th century frame barn, and late 19th/early 20th century agricultural outbuildings including a machinery shed, two chicken coops, a corn crib, and a wash house, all of frame construction. The house is unusually refined for a mid 19th century Allegany County farm dwelling. It is a two story, five bay building with an original two story, two bay extension to the rear. A late 19th century addition to the rear ell extended it by yet another bay. The main or west elevation is formal with evenly aligned openings and flemish bond brickwork. Accenting the front elevation are central entrances at both the first and second stories and a porch inspired by the Greek revival style, onto which the second story entrance opens. The main entrance consists of a four panel door surrounded by a transom and sidelights.

The house has a gable roof, whose unusually low pitch may be attributed to its Greek Revival stylistic origins. The roof is covered with standing seam sheet metal. Brick chimneys are located inside the gable ends.

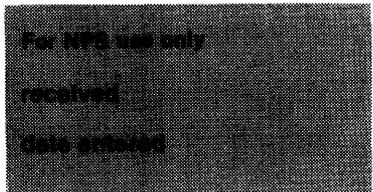
The main entrance features a four-panel door flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a transom. Among the more notable features of the house is the front porch, which appears to be part of the original construction, although it has been reworked, noticeably at the column bases. The porch is clearly reminiscent of the Greek Revival style and is in keeping with the rest of the stylistic motifs used in the house. The porch is supported by pairs of fluted doric columns, upon which rests a full entablature. It is flat roofed, with roof area enclosed by a cast iron railing and balustrade, which may be original, but is more likely an early 20th century addition. The ironwork is elaborate with mixed motifs including semi-elliptical fans and curved and scrolled designs forming the infill. Some of the patterns suggest art nouveau designs. The second-story door which opens onto the porch is original; it has four panels and is hung beneath a five-light transom.

The interior plan has a central stair hall with one large room on either side. The main staircase is a simple structure. It has a turned newel post and a plain handrail which curves upward at the top with a "gooseneck." To the north of the stair hall is the parlor. Approximately centered in its north wall is a fireplace with a Greek Revival mantel consisting of a shelf and symmetrically molded pilasters. Door and window architraves are also decorated with symmetrical molding similar to that used on the mantel. Corner blocks are decorated with a square or Greek Key pattern. No other woodwork in the house is as elaborate as that found in the parlor and first floor hall.

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Continuation sheet Big Bottom Farm Item number 7 Page 2  
Allegany County, Maryland

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

South of the hallway is a less formal room containing a fireplace with a very simple mantelpiece with the merest suggestion of pilasters at its sides. Adjacent to the fireplace is a built-in cupboard behind a pair of plain four panel doors.

The ell to the rear originally had a two story porch which was enclosed with wooden siding during the mid twentieth century.

The house appears to be in excellent condition. It retains nearly all of its original woodwork, and its floor plan has received only minimal alterations. The barn and outbuildings are in fair to good condition.

# 8. Significance

AL-III-C-044

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 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** c. 1845 **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Applicable Criterion: C  
Applicable Exceptions: none  
Level of Significance for Evaluation: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Big Bottom Farm is significant for its architecture. The house exhibits the symmetrical five-bay elevation and center-hall plan which characterize farm dwellings in Western Maryland throughout the 19th century, in combination with Greek Revival stylistic features whose degree of sophistication is highly unusual in such a rural context. Its brick construction, flat-roofed entrance porch with fluted doric columns supporting a full entablature, and Greek Revival-influenced mantels and architrave trim contribute to its architectural refinement, which is matched by few other Allegany County farmhouses of the period. According to local tradition, the house was built ca. 1845 by John Jacob Smouse, whose family had land holdings in the Evitt's Creek area; architectural evidence confirms a mid-19th-century construction date. The house retains considerable integrity, with the majority of its original detailing intact.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

AL-III-IV-C-044

- Hinkle, Helen, MHT worksheet, 1970
- Kurtze, Peter E., MHT Inventory Form, 1980
- Thomas, James W. & Judge TJC Williams. History of Allegany Co., MD., 1923
- Scharf, Thomas J., History of Western Maryland

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 5 acres

Quadrangle name Evitts Creek, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

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

B 

1	7	6	9	7	5	5	0	4	3	9	8	7	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

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

D 

1	7	6	9	7	5	0	0	4	3	9	8	9	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula Stoner Reed

organization Preservation Associates, Inc. date 5 January 1984

street & number 207 S. Potomac Street telephone 301-791-7880

city or town Hagerstown state Maryland 21740

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *[Signature]*

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date 5-4-84

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>[Signature]</i>	date 6-7-84
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior  
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AL-III-C-044

For NPS use only

received

Date entered

Continuation sheet Big Bottom Farm Item number 8 and 10 Page 3  
Allegany County, Maryland

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

The standard local reference works on Allegany County, HISTORY OF ALLEGANY COUNTY by James W. Thomas and T. J. C. Williams, and Thomas Scharf's HISTORY OF WESTERN MARYLAND have no reference to the property or to the two families (Smouse and Clauson) who owned the farm during most of its history. It is known from county land and probate records that the Smouse family owned the property during the mid 19th century, John Jacob Smouse having inherited the farm from Henry Smouse (Will Liber A, Folio 685). It was purchased by William T. Clausen in April of 1888 (Deed Liber 65, Folio 9). The Smouse family, according to local tradition, was prominent in the area and was responsible for several brick houses in the Evitts Creek vicinity.

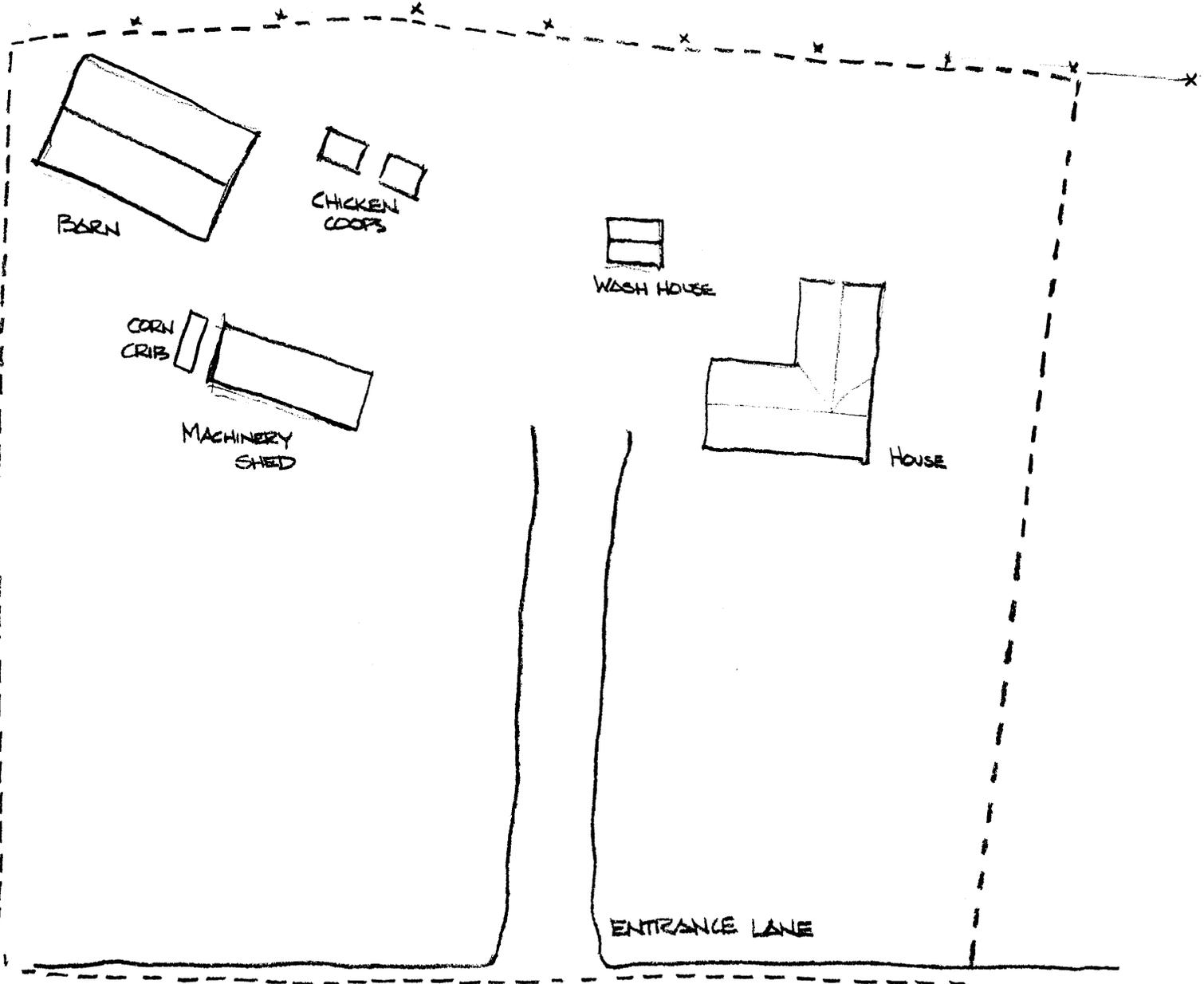
Although little is known about the Smouse family, this substantial brick farmhouse with refined Greek Revival detail, located in a relatively isolated rural setting, clearly reflects the prosperity of its builder. Most farmhouses in Allegany County are of log or frame construction. Where brick houses are found, they are usually associated with prominent or well to do farmers of the 19th century. Most of the brick dwellings located outside of the towns are found along the National Pike and many of them served as inns or were related in some way to the traffic which passed along the highway. This house, located as it is away from major 19th century highways, is thus particularly unusual.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated property consists of approximately 5 acres to include the house, barn, outbuildings and immediate surroundings. The boundaries are described as follows: beginning at a point on the east side of Hazen Road, 100 feet south of the entrance lane to the property and leading in a straight line in a southeasterly direction to a fence located at the bottom of a slope a short distance southeast of the house; then turning 90 degrees and proceeding in a straight line to the northeast, along said fence to a point opposite the northeast corner of the barn; then turning 90 degrees to the northwest and proceeding in a straight line to the east edge of Hazen Road; then following the east edge of Hazen Road in a southwesterly direction to the place of beginning (see attached sketch plan).

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated area includes all of the buildings of the farmstead and the immediate surrounding area that contributes to the rural agricultural setting historically associated with the house. Excluded are the surrounding fields that are not felt to be necessary to retain the setting.

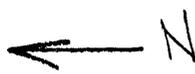


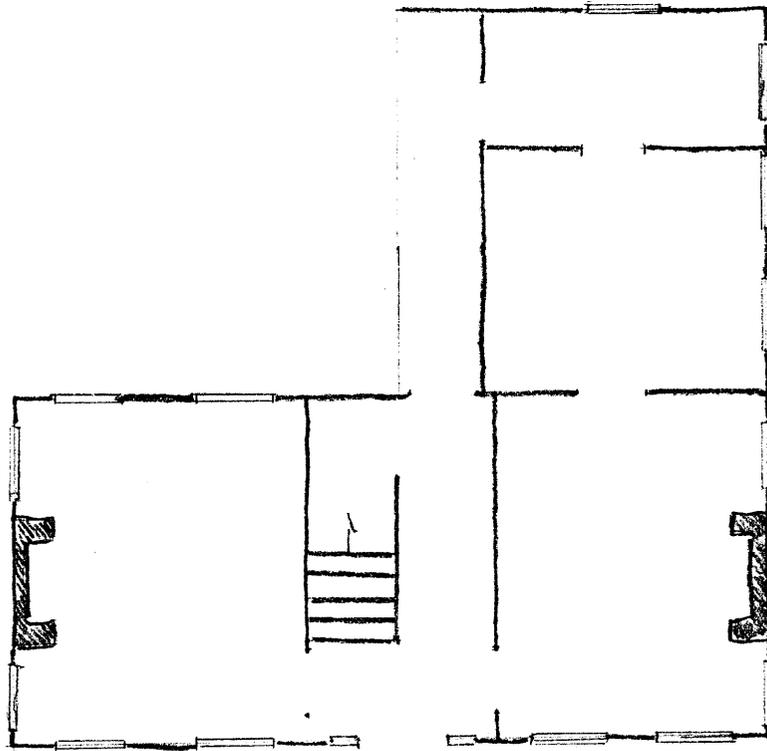
HAZEN ROAD

BIG BOTTOM FARM, ALLEGANY CO. MD

APPROXIMATE SITE PLAN

----- NOMINATION BOUNDARY





APPROXIMATE 1ST FLOOR PLAN - NOT TO SCALE

BIG BOTTOM FARM



HAZEN ROAD, CUMBERLAND VIC. ALLEGANY CO. MD.