

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. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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 Johnson-Wolfe Farm (MIHP # M: 12-18-1)

other names Comus Inn (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 23900 Old Hundred Road not for publication

city or town Comus vicinity

state MD code MD county Montgomery code 031 zip code 20842

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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).

Signature of certifying official/Title

9-22-03
Date

State or 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 this 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

11/8/03

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

- building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 4 | | Buildings |
| | | Sites |
| | | Structures |
| | | Objects |
| 4 | 0 | Total |

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

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Subsistence/agricultural outbuilding

Commerce/Trade/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

foundation N/A (Not visible) Stone (presumed)
walls Log
Wood
roof Wood
other Asphalt
Asbestos

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

Description Summary:

The Johnson-Wolfe Farm, commonly known as the Comus Inn, encompasses a four-building complex that occupies a 5.26-acre site located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Comus Road and Old Hundred Road (MD Rte 109), in Montgomery County, Maryland. The vernacular dwelling and assemblage of three agricultural outbuildings visually defines the crossroads community of Comus, historically known as Johnsonville. The rural crossroads village of Comus is characterized by low scale, low-density development dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The main house of the Johnson-Wolfe Farm is oriented east and south towards Old Hundred Road (MD Rte 109) and is slightly recessed from the road front. A landscaped parking area adjoins the two-lane secondary road in front of the dwelling. The house lot immediately adjacent to the rear of the inn incorporates a landscaped slate patio that is defined by a low retaining wall, and a small pond. The rear elevation and landscape amenities afford sweeping views towards Sugarloaf Mountain. This viewshed is unobstructed and incorporates open fields, whose preservation is assured through agricultural easements. Outbuildings included in the complex include a two-story, log-and- frame barn (ca. 1862, with addition ca. 1885), a log smokehouse (ca. 1862), and a frame chicken house (ca. 1936).

The dwelling and associated outbuildings embody a pattern of design and modification common in rural domestic complexes in northwestern Montgomery County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The dwelling was documented as "typical of the architecture found in rural Montgomery County" in the 1986 Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Site Inventory Form for the village of Comus (Crawford *Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form* 1986: Description Summary).

The Johnson-Wolfe House and related outbuildings retain their overall integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association from the period ca. 1862 to ca. 1936. The complex occupies its original corner location in the rural crossroads community of Comus.

The dwelling is the result of four periods of major construction, which are clearly read in the existing exterior design, structure, interior plan, and ornamentation. These additions survive intact and are characterized by differences in design, materials, and workmanship. Three periods of construction, ca. 1862, ca. 1885, and ca. 1900, are historic and exhibit a pattern common to rural Montgomery County dwellings of the period. This pattern includes the initial construction of a modest two-bay log dwelling, expansion of the initial dwelling to a five bay house, and extension of the principal block to a double pile form through a rear addition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

The overall integrity of each phase of construction of the Johnson-Wolfe House has been retained through the discrete design and placement of the additions. The original log structural core (ca. 1862) was incorporated into the five-bay, single-pile building with a north kitchen wing that forms the principal block of the current house (ca. 1885). The ca. 1885 design is expressed in the current façade through its orientation, two-story scale, nearly symmetrical design, two-over-two wood windows enframed in simple surrounds, gable-front peak with round arch window, and central entry. A two-story, wood frame rear addition was added to the building ca. 1900 resulting in a double pile form. This addition is clearly delineated through changes in roof height and structure. The ca. 1900 addition included an open rear elevation porch, affording views to Sugarloaf Mountain. The addition adjoins the secondary elevation of the earlier house.

The final modification of the building is non-historic and was associated with its conversion to the Comus Inn. The existing rear elevation porch, added as part of the ca. 1900 addition, was enclosed, and the exposed basement created by the sloping site was enhanced; at the same time, an addition was made to the north kitchen. A false wall was constructed along the façade to create a service alley. The 1970s addition is consistent in scale, materials, and proportion with the historic dwelling and is clearly differentiated from the earlier building. The three outbuildings associated with the dwelling, barn (ca.1862, ca. 1936), smokehouse (ca. 1862), and poultry house (ca.1936); survive intact.

The complex retains an unusually high degree of integrity of setting, feeling, and association within the village of Comus. The intact assemblage of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings in Comus and the surrounding open space, which is preserved through easements and in perpetual conservation areas, contribute to the identity of the Johnson-Wolfe House as representative of a class of rural Montgomery County dwelling that evolved during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 3

General Description:

Construction Sequence of Main House

The main house of the Johnson-Wolfe Farm comprises a two-story, five-bay, double pile principal block and rear addition. Examination of the building reveals a complex construction sequence incorporating four periods of major addition and expansion. The original log house constructed ca. 1862 by Robert Johnson was a two-story, two-bay, single pile building. This log dwelling occupies the north end of the principal block. The log core currently is exposed on the interior of the building. The log construction employs squared, hand-hewn logs keyed with steeple corner notches. The wide width between the log courses and their good state of preservation suggests that the log walls of the original dwelling were not exposed to the weather. The pattern of nail holes on the interior face of the logs suggests that the interior walls likely were sheathed in lath and plaster.

The size, scale, and construction technology employed in the first period building additionally is documented in the existing roof structure. The common rafter gable roofing system is comprised of peeled log rafters secured with lap joints and tree nails at the ridgeline. The exterior faces of the rafters supporting the roof cladding were worked with an adze to a smooth plane. The log rafters are keyed to the roof plate with bird's eye joints.

The second major period of construction was undertaken ca.1885 by Joel Hamilton Wolfe and the prominent local builder William T. Hilton. The addition resulted in the current configuration of the main elevation of the principal block. The two-story core was expanded three bays to the south at that time. The interior plan of the principal block was modified to include a central hall with straight stair flanked by north and south chambers.

The substantial frame addition and core structure were unified through a single gable roof that retained the height and pitch of the earlier building. The main elevation further was enhanced through the addition of a central gable accented by a two-light-over-two-light, round arch window. A one-and-one-half story, two-bay, frame wing also was added to the north end of the dwelling and most likely served as a kitchen. The existing roofing system documents this addition through the extension of the common rafter framing system. The original and ca.1885 roof structures differ in construction technique and materials. The rafters contained in the later common rafter system are standardized and bear the imprint of circular saw milling. These rafters are lapped and nailed at the ridgeline.

The principal block was enlarged further ca. 1900 through the addition of a two-story rear extension that integrates a two-story, polygonal wall bay on the south elevation of the dwelling. This addition

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 4

increased the dwelling to a double pile plan. Corner boards visually delineate the exterior corners of the west elevation walls of the ca.1900 addition.

The ridgeline of the gable roof of the ca.1900 addition is oriented perpendicular to the ridge of the principal block. The roof of the rear addition is higher in scale than the ca. 1885 structure and includes a full attic level. The roof structure accommodates the increased height of the rear addition through a roof hip that intersects with the framing of the gable front peak and intersects with the ridgeline of the rear gable.

The building assumed its current configuration ca. 1973, when the dwelling was converted to a restaurant. Work during this commercial conversion included the enclosure of an existing porch to create a dining room; multi-light metal casement windows were used. The west elevation (rear) on the basement level was expanded to the porch plane to accommodate a banquet room with gable entry. A one-story extension was added to the north kitchen wing.

Exterior Description

The Johnson Wolfe House is a two-story, five-bay, frame building. The exterior walls of the dwelling are currently clad in asbestos shingle siding, which was applied over historic wood siding. The historic wood siding survives intact and in good condition beneath the asbestos cladding. The roof is sheathed with wood shingles. The wood shingles were applied over an existing asphalt roof. The east elevation features a center gable that contains a two-over-two-light, round arched window. The original box cornice of the principal block features gable returns; raking boards further delineate the gable ends of the side elevations (north and south). The south gable of the main block features two original wood-frame, round arched windows containing two-over-two-lights. The windows in the front (east) elevation are two-over-two-light, wood-frame double-hung sash windows that date to ca. 1885. Three windows on the first floor of the east elevation are identical, while a slightly smaller fourth window marks the location of the door into the original log core.

A one-and-a-half story extension also was added to the north gable end ca. 1885 and most likely served as a kitchen. This addition is sheathed with asbestos shingles. The windows are wood-frame, two-over-two-light units. This portion of the building is screened along the east elevation by a false wall constructed to create a service alley for the ca. 1973 restaurant.

The main entry to the building currently occupies the central bay of the ca. 1885 principal block. This bay houses a contemporary wood panel door with twelve upper panel lights. A brick exterior end chimney rises along the exterior north wall of the center block of the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 5

Historic photographs indicate that an open porch with shallow shed roof originally spanned the five-bay facade. The current enclosed porch is a non-original element. Photographic documentation is sufficiently detailed to enable restoration of this element.

A two-story wood-frame rear addition was appended to the west elevation ca. 1900. This addition features a two-story polygonal bay with a polygonal roof at its southwest corner. This addition rests on a concrete block foundation. This addition is clad with asbestos shingles installed over the original with the exception of the west gable, which retains earlier horizontal wood siding. A wood-frame, two-over-two-light window is located in the attic level of the west gable. The windows in the second floor are contemporary single-light wood casements.

The single-family dwelling was converted to a restaurant in 1973. Construction undertaken during this conversion included a one-story kitchen addition onto the north side of the ca. 1885 extension to the building. The rear (west) elevation was expanded through the enclosure of the porch, and the expansion of the basement elevation to the vertical plane of the porch elevation. The shed roof of the porch is sheathed in standing-seam metal. The basement level window units are fixed. The first story window units are steel casements. Two one-story, gable roof, projecting vestibules provide access from the basement to the rear slate terrace.

Freestanding walk-in coolers currently are located north of the building. These coolers were installed to support restaurant operations; they are partially screened with a lattice fence and vegetation.

The dwelling retains its overall design integrity. The additive design of the building is clearly reflected through fourth distinct phases of construction. The principal block (east) and north wing document the ca. 1862 and ca. 1885 building episodes. The south and west addition clearly reads as an ca. 1900 expansion, and the west porches and north kitchen additions read as ca. 1973 improvements. Each of these additions is compatible in overall scale, proportion, and materials.

The ca. 1862 period building retains its scale, massing, proportion, and wall and roof structure. The pattern of bay openings, including windows and doors, also has been retained as depicted in a ca. 1890 photograph of the dwelling (Cuttler 1999). From the ca. 1885 addition, the building retains its wood-frame construction and weatherboard siding (underneath the asbestos shingle siding). The design of the symmetrical five-bay front, which was unified under a front gable peak with its arched window, also dates from this period. The pattern of window and door openings is also original, as are the two-over-two-light windows as depicted in ca. 1890 photograph, including the windows in the ca. 1862 portion of the building (Cuttler 1999). The simple box cornice along the eave is also original.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 6

The elements retained from the ca. 1900 addition include the wood frame construction, the design of the polygonal bay on southwest corner, and the fenestration pattern with its original windows openings and windows surrounds. This addition also retains simple ornamentation along eave.

Interior Description

The interior of the log core retains its original spatial divisions. Currently, the hewn logs structural system is exposed on the first and second stories above later chair rails. The logs are widely spaced with chinking, except on the second story where the chinking has been removed from one of the four walls, to create an interior screen. The windows on the east elevation feature simple wood casings. The log core contains two rooms: one lower room and one upper room. The floors are pine. Eight – inch baseboards with simple moldings are featured in the second story room. Two built-in cupboards are located in the second-story room.

The southern three bays of the house include the original ca. 1885 straight stair that features a newel post, turned balusters, and a continuous curved wood handrail. The balusters and the handrail continue along the upper portion of the second-floor hallway. The open stringer is unornamented. The first and second floor of this section of the building feature 8-inch baseboards with molding and a ceiling cornice with picture molding. The windows and door surrounds in this section of the house are plain square casings. The second story room also has chair rails and two built-in cupboards. One cupboard on the south wall has narrow beaded board cupboard doors. These elements appear to be original to the time of the addition.

The first and second floor of the polygonal bay addition contains the most elaborate casement moldings around the door and window openings consistent with a ca. 1900 date of construction. These rooms also contain 8-inch baseboards with molded base molding, chair rails, and cornice moldings with picture molding. The cornice molding on the first floor room is lowered about a foot below the ceiling. The original north wall of this section has been exposed to show the circular sawn wood uprights supporting a hand-hewn beam supporting the second story. The upstairs room contains a closed straight stair to the attic. The door to the attic stair is constructed of narrow beaded boards with a thumb latch. This door appears older than the rest of the addition and may indicate the reuse of an older door from an earlier part of the house.

The finishes used in the basement and additions constructed during the 1970s are non-historic. Throughout the remainder of the building, original pine floors survive intact.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 7

Outbuildings

The property contains a smokehouse, a barn, and a large chicken coop. The smokehouse is contemporary with the original log dwelling and exhibits similar construction techniques. The smokehouse is a one-story, rectangular log building located north of the house. The ca. 1862 log smokehouse has steeple-notched chinked logs. The gable roof is sheathed with wood shingles. A fixed six-light window is located in one side.

The barn was constructed in two stages. The original log core was built ca. 1862 during the establishment of the farmstead. This small, two-story barn is located west of the main house. The foundation of the barn is rubble stone and may be the remnants of an older building (Cuttler, personal communication 9/17/2002). The first floor of the building was constructed ca. 1862 of hand-hewn steeple-notched logs, which are exposed on the north elevation. The upper portion of the barn and the shed addition along the south elevation appear to be frame and were added by Joel Hamilton Wolfe ca. 1885 (Cuttler, personal communication 9/17/2002). These portions of the barn are clad with vertical board and batten siding, which also dates from this period. The entire building is unified under a gable roof that is sheathed with standing seam metal. Paired and single hinged doors are evident on the east and north elevation. The east elevation of the barn was modified to accommodate double lead doors for automobile storage, ca. 1936. The upper story has been modified with many bird holes to accommodate pigeons. A photograph located in the Comus Inn depicted the building without the bird holes.

The ca. 1936 chicken coop is a long, low one-story building constructed in three sections to conform to a gradual slope. The wood-frame building is clad with horizontal wood siding. The foundation is supported by wood and cinderblock piers. The gable roof is sheathed in standing seam metal and features four wood-frame ventilators. Small rectangular window openings are located under the eave line along the north elevation; larger window openings are located along the south elevation. Door openings are located in the end gables and along the south elevation. The building served as an antique store during the 1970s.

Integrity

The dwelling included in the Johnson-Wolfe Farm is the result of three periods of major construction associated with residential occupation and one period of major construction associated with its conversion to the Comus Inn. Major work was undertaken ca. 1862, ca. 1885, ca. 1900, and ca. 1970. Each period of construction is distinguished clearly in the current building through variations in materials, construction, and design. The dwelling retains its overall historical integrity from the period ca. 1862 to ca. 1900 despite the additive quality of the design. Each phase of construction is compatible in scale, proportion, materials, and ornamentation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 8

The sequence and placement of each of the additions contributes to the building's continued ability to convey its local significance and to be read clearly as a residential design. The original log structural core (ca. 1862) was incorporated into the five-bay redesign of the dwelling (ca. 1885). The resulting single-pile dwelling forms the principal block of the building. The ca. 1885 design is expressed in the current façade through its orientation, two-story scale, symmetrical design, two-over-two wood windows enframed by simple surrounds, gable-front peak with round arch window, and central entry. A two-story, wood frame ell was added to the building ca.1900. This rear addition incorporates a two-story polygonal bay at the southwest corner. The addition adjoins a secondary elevation of the earlier house and did not affect its overall design.

The additions to the building completed during its conversion to the Comus Inn were focused on the rear elevation of the building. The sloping site made possible the extension of the basement to the vertical plane of the ca. 1900 porch. The rear-elevation porch was enclosed; the exterior wall of the ca.1900 addition was retained with windows intact. While the ca. 1970s additions were substantial, they made possible the segregation of kitchen and banquet rooms outside the historic core, thus retaining the overall spatial divisions of the plan and interior finishes. These most recent additions, while adopting a residential scale and compatible materials, read clearly as later additions to the historic dwelling. In addition to the original plan, the core retains its original first and second story staircases, wide plank flooring, the majority of original plasterwork, baseboards, window surrounds, chair rails, and mantels.

Modifications within the historic core that are incompatible to its architectural character are reversible and include asbestos shingles applied to early wood siding, the addition of an enclosed shed porch to the façade, and the location of commercial mechanical systems. Historic photographs of the dwelling dating from the late nineteenth century along with structural evidence enable the accurate rehabilitation of these later modifications. The Comus Inn operated from 1973 through 2001. The building is currently vacant.

An extensive rehabilitation applying the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation* is proposed by the current owners. Federal, state, and local tax incentives for historic rehabilitation will enable the appropriate treatment of the historic fabric of the local Comus landmark, including the restoration of elements that have been inappropriately modified over the years.

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 pattern of our history.
- B** Property 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1862-1936

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on files (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:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Johnson-Wolfe Farm, commonly known as the Comus Inn, occupies an important corner in the crossroads community of Comus, formerly known as Johnsonville, located in western Montgomery County. This four-building complex possesses the qualities of local significance and integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C and A. The house and associated outbuildings embody the distinctive characteristics of type, period, and method of construction associated with a rural domestic complex dating from ca. 1862 though ca. 1936. The main house illustrates, through its additions and modifications, the pattern of evolution in domestic design common in rural western Montgomery County. The main house contains a log core built ca. 1852 by Robert Johnson of Johnsonville that was expanded to incorporate contemporary domestic designs of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries through the addition of a Gothic Revival style front gable and the Queen Anne style ell with polygonal bay. The agricultural outbuildings also exhibit the distinctive characteristics of their types, periods, and methods of construction as representative of farm buildings of their eras.

The Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn) also represents a locally significant broad pattern of developmental history in the evolution of crossroads communities in Montgomery County under Criterion A. The Johnson-Wolfe Farm illustrates this pattern through its history as the domestic component of a modest, small-scale family farm through its evolution into a domestic rural lot that formed the nucleus of the rural crossroads community of Comus. The property was the first domestic complex constructed on a corner of the intersection of two rural roads and formed the nucleus for the development of the late nineteenth-century community. The typical pattern of settlement as illustrated by the history of the Johnson-Wolfe property is the evolution from initial agricultural settlement, through a period of early growth in which larger farms were subdivided to accommodate family members, then rural community expansion, which ultimately evolved into a small vibrant rural community complete with school, town hall, and post office. Comus remains an intact rural crossroads community surrounded by a rural setting that has been preserved through land easements and conservation areas.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

Resource History and Historic Context:

The Johnson-Wolfe House, commonly known as the Comus Inn, is located in the crossroads community of Comus, formerly Johnsonville. The house and outbuildings occupy a 5.26-acre lot that contains parts of the original land patents "Happy Choice" and "Self Defense." The tracts "Happy Choice" and "Self Defense" were parts of Johnson family landholdings assembled during the early nineteenth century. In 1835, the landholdings of Benjamin (deceased) and Mary Johnson were divided between their sons Joseph and Benjamin (Montgomery County Land Records (MCLR) BS 7:118). The latter, at his death in 1902 was described as "one of the wealthiest and best known citizens of the county" (*Frederick News Post* 6 September 1902). The brothers lived near one another. Joseph farmed 34 acres, while Benjamin farmed 205 acres (Montgomery County Tax Assessment books 1858-1863, 1864-1868).

In 1862, Robert Johnson, son of Joseph, purchased ten acres of "Happy Choice" from his uncle Benjamin Johnson (MCLR JGH 9:200). In the 1860 census, Robert was listed as living with his father. He was 23 years old and worked as a farm laborer (Hurley 1998). By 1870, Robert, age 32, lived at the property with his wife Narcissa, age 29, and two children: Florida, age 6, and George W., age 2 (Hurley 1999). The ten acres that Robert acquired from his uncle in 1862 formed the nucleus of his family farm. The two-story log core of the Comus Inn, the log smokehouse, and the log core of the barn were constructed ca. 1862 under the Johnson ownership. Robert Johnson's house appeared on the 1865 Martenet and Bond map of Montgomery County. Benjamin Johnson and Joseph Johnson owned adjacent farms in "Johnsonville."

In 1865, Robert Johnson augmented his original landholdings through purchase of 60 acres of the tract known as "Mount Vernon" from Robert Sellman, a neighboring property owner located east of MD Route 100 (MCLR ERB 2:426). The 60 acres transferred with no improvements (Montgomery County Tax Assessments 1864-1868). In 1866, Robert Johnson was assessed for 70 acres of land valued at \$10 per acre and improvements valued at \$250 (Montgomery County Tax Assessments 1869-1876).

The size of Robert Johnson's initial landholdings was modest in terms of farm size in Montgomery County. In 1860, 25 per cent of the farms in Montgomery County contained between 50 and 99 acres, while 50 per cent of the farms contained between 100 and 499 acres. By 1870, 57 per cent of farms in Montgomery County contained between 100 and 499 acres, while the number of farms containing between 50 and 99 acres remained approximately at 25 per cent. The overall numbers of farms increased only slightly between 1860 and 1870, from 1,299 farms in 1860 to 1,308 farms in 1870 (Historical Census <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu>). By 1880, Robert Johnson, at the age of 43, was recorded as farming 143 acres in the vicinity of Comus (U.S. Census Bureau 1880 Agricultural Census-Montgomery County).

In 1878, Robert and Narcissa Johnson sold the ten acres of "Happy Choice" including the original ten-acre house lot and 20 acres of "Mount Vernon" to Joel Hamilton Wolfe (MCLR Deed EBP 18/54). Joel Hamilton Wolfe owned the Comus Inn property between March 1878 and October 1900. The Wolfe family originally

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

had emigrated from Germany, and, ultimately, settled in Hyattstown (Cutler personal communication 9/17/2002). Wolfe's father George was listed as a carpenter in the 1850 census (Hurley 1998). Joel Hamilton Wolfe was a blacksmith and farrier by trade (Hurley 1999). He operated a smithy on the southeast corner of the intersection in Comus near the location of the original school (Cutler 1999). Wolfe lived in the log house that forms the core of the current building and made substantial improvements to the building. The 1879 tax assessment valued the extant improvements on the Wolfe property at \$315. In contrast, the improvements on the property in 1885 were valued at \$715 (Crawford, 1986; Cutler 1999).

Two additions were made to the building under Wolfe's ownership. One addition extended the front façade of the principal block southward to form a nearly symmetrical five-bay residence ornamented with simple Gothic details. The second addition was the one-and-a-half story section added to the north end of the building that served as a kitchen. Both additions were attributed to William T. Hilton (b. 1829-d. 1909), a noted local carpenter and casket maker located in Barnesville. Buildings constructed by Hilton included Sugarloaf Mountain Chapel (1861), Mt. Ephraim (1868), Christ Episcopal Church (1878), Leonard Hays House (ca. 1890), St. Mary's Catholic Church (1900), Thomas O. White House (1903), and additions to Mary Morningstar House and the Barnesville Post Office (Getty and Gutheim 1990). The additions to the Johnson-Wolfe house are shown in historic photographs published by Cutler in the local history, *The History of Comus* (1999). Wolfe also added the shed addition to the barn on the property (Cutler personal communication 9/17/2002).

Joel Hamilton Wolfe was an active promoter of the region and served informally as a one-man chamber of commerce. He advertised the healthfulness of the area in regional newspapers, including *The Sentinel*, and rented rooms in his house during the late nineteenth century to visitors attracted to the "mountain air" and natural beauty of the Sugarloaf Mountain area. He was a charter member of the Barnesville Baptist Church. As a blacksmith, he repaired the iron railings of the Monocacy Aqueduct (Cutler personal communication 9/17/2002).

In 1897, Joel Hamilton Wolfe was assessed for 27 acres of Happy Choice and Mount Vernon valued at \$18 an acre, with improvements valued at \$604, livestock valued at \$110, household furniture valued at \$120, and other property valued at \$35 (Montgomery County Tax Assessments 1896-1908). Wolfe operated the blacksmith shop until 1902, when he retired to Forest Glen (Cutler 1999).

Under the Wolfe ownership, the property contained approximately 30 acres. In 1880, farms in Montgomery County containing between 20 and 49 acres numbered 181 or approximately 10 per cent of the total of 1,791 farms. Joel Hamilton Wolfe's primary occupation was as a blacksmith and farrier. His occupation recorded in the 1880 census was blacksmith, not farmer, and the production of Wolfe's acreage was not recorded in the 1880 Montgomery County agricultural census. The farm probably was used to augment domestic consumption, such as chickens, a few cows and horses, hay, and a garden. Therefore, the associated outbuildings to the complex were small in size and fewer in number than larger income-producing farms in Montgomery County. The large income-producing farms were typically identified by the presence of large bank barns.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 4

In 1900, Wolfe sold 5.26 acres including the house and agricultural buildings to Levin B. Johnson, the former resident of the adjacent Mountain View Farm and son of Benjamin Johnson, the original owner of the land (MCLR Deed TD 16/224). The parcel associated with the Johnson-Wolfe complex has remained 5.26 acres since 1900. Levin Johnson, the son of Benjamin Johnson, and his heirs owned the property from 1900 to 1936. The house became Levin's primary residence after his move from the adjacent Mountain View Farm, which he leased to tenants. The 1901 and 1902 tax assessments recorded a value increase of improvements at the Comus complex from \$600 to \$1000 (Crawford 1986). It is probable that the ell with its polygonal bay was constructed about this time.

Following Levin Johnson's death in 1929, the former Wolfe tract "where he resided" and his farm were conveyed to his eight children (Montgomery County Will PEW 14/283 quoted in Crawford 1986). In 1936, family members sold the Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn) property to Jessie Fitzwater, who built the large chicken coop on the property (Cuttler 1999). The addition of the chicken coop ca. 1936 illustrated the shift of small-scale agriculture in Montgomery County to supply eggs and poultry to the nearby markets, primarily Washington, D.C. Between 1945 and 1973, the property had several owners.

In 1973, the property was sold to Comus Inn Incorporated. The residence was converted into a restaurant and the chicken coop became a dance hall, then a store. The restaurant operated until 2001. It became one of the premiere places for dining and social gatherings in upper western Montgomery County. Local residents frequented the restaurant to celebrate family occasions.

The Village of Comus

The village of Johnsonville evolved as a crossroads community during the last half of the nineteenth century. The village was located at the intersection of two roads: Old Hundred Road (currently MD Route 109) and the Old Mt. Ephraim Road (currently Comus Road). The 1865 Martenet and Bond map of the area depicted two buildings at this crossroads. A schoolhouse originally constructed in 1848 occupied the southeast corner of the intersection (Cuttler 1999; Martenet and Bond 1865). Robert Johnson's farm, the property in question here, occupied the northwest corner of the intersection. Farmsteads were dispersed in the area surrounding the crossroads.

The crossroads of Comus was the site of a rearguard action during the Antietam Campaign of Civil War on the 9th and 10th of September 1862. Confederate forces had crossed the Potomac River into Maryland on 5 September 1862. The Johnson-Wolfe Farm was a venue of troop activity when, on the road to Antietam, Union forces attempted to capture the Confederate position, a former Union signal station, atop Sugarloaf Mountain. According to Susan Soderberg (personal communication, 9/17/02), the Montgomery County historian who researched actions in the area for the Civil War Trail Commission, Union artillery was set up on the property, which comprised the only ridge south of the mountain with a clear field of fire to Sugarloaf. Virginia cavalry

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 5

units, including the 9th VA, "Rooney" Lee's unit, and the 7th VA Cavalry, later complemented by the 12th and 2nd VA Sharpshooters, held the mountain. The 8th Illinois and 3rd Indiana Cavalry, reinforced by the 6th US Cavalry and other units under the command of General Hancock, proceeding from the Darnestown area, deployed in the area, fighting a running skirmish along Old Hundred Road, from Barnesville to Hyattstown. The Confederate forces pulled out from Sugarloaf on September 11th, 1862, after inflicting casualties on Union attackers (Priest 1992). The farm in question, at the old crossroads, was the site of Union artillery batteries, as well as a gathering point for Federal forces seeking to capture the Confederate signal station. A sign has been placed on the property as part of Maryland's first Civil War Trail, the Antietam Trail (Maryland Civil War Trails 2002).

By 1879, the crossroads community that became known as Comus expanded. The former Johnson house and schoolhouse remained in the same locations. Benjamin Johnson owned the farms listed in 1865 as owned by himself and Joseph Johnson. L. R. Nicholson constructed a house and store on the southwest corner of the intersection. A few other houses were erected along Old Hundred Road. The area remained agricultural; Scharf identified the area as a rich tobacco-growing region (Scharf 1882, reprint, vol 1:728).

The 1879 Hopkins Atlas of Montgomery County identified the community as Johnsonville. The town also was known as Nicholsonville (MCLR Deed EBP 18/54). The name Comus was in use as early as 1883, when the first post office in the village was established (MCLR Deed EBP 30:470 quoted in Crawford 1986; Cuttler 1999). The origin of the name has not been documented. One tradition is that the name was derived from Lewis McComas, who represented the Sixth Congressional District at the time the post office first was established (Crawford 1986, quoting MCHS files-Comus). The post office was established in 1883 and continued in operation until 1958 (Cuttler 1999).

Evaluation

The Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn) and its agricultural outbuildings possess the qualities of local significance for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The property encompasses a two-story dwelling, outbuildings, and associated house lot that embody a pattern of design and modification common in rural domestic complexes in northwestern Montgomery County during the late nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries. This pattern of initial construction, redesign, and addition reflects the aspirations of the occupants and popular architectural fashions of the period.

Robert Johnson constructed during ca. 1862 the original log two-story house, the log smokehouse, and log portion of the barn as he began his farming career. The log buildings represented a modest start-up operation for a small-scale farmer at the beginning of his career. In 1865, Johnson augmented his landholdings to farm 70 acres, an acreage that represented approximately one-fourth of the farms in Montgomery County during the period 1860-1870. By the time that Johnson reached the age of 43 in 1880, he was farming 143 acres and living on another property in the vicinity.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 6

The first period of construction for dwellings in this class of resources generally occurred during the third quarter of the nineteenth century and is characterized by economy in design and materials. Construction was often labor intensive. Single cell, one to two story dwellings frequently were constructed of hewn logs and sheathed with wood siding.

Wood was widely available in western Montgomery County and was widely used as a structural material in the western Montgomery County throughout the nineteenth century. A review of the resources contained in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties for Planning Areas 10, 12, and 13 documented 23 log buildings (MIHP forms, Maryland Historical Trust). These log buildings were identified in the 1970s survey either by condition, where the logs were exposed due to deterioration, or by oral tradition. Examples of the first period of construction included Samuel B. Watkins House (M: 10-27), the J. Soper House (M:10-51), John W. Taylor House (M:10-67), log house (M:13-5), W.H. Cecil House (M:10-63), and Sellman Farm (M:12-25). In these cases, the log construction was structural and clad with siding. The W.H. Cecil House (M:10-63) was rehabilitated with exposed logs. These houses were one to two stories and exhibited minimal ornamentation. Two other log buildings, now demolished, documented in the Comus area included the original dwellings of both Benjamin and Joseph Johnson. The Benjamin Johnson log house (M:10-72) was dated to ca. 1790s, while the house of Joseph Johnson probably was constructed ca. 1835, when Joseph acquired the property (Cutler (1999). Cutler (1999) also documented the Col. Barton log cabin on Thurston Road. A two-story log building also stands on the Stronghold property north of Comus Road.

The second period of construction frequently was undertaken during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century and incorporated first period construction into a redesigned dwelling ranging in size from three to five bays and one to two stories in scale. Often adopting symmetrical designs, these second-period, frame houses incorporated simplified late Victorian period, Gothic Revival Style ornamentation and structural embellishments. Stylistic references to popular architectural fashion are applied frequently to the façade and include such elements as center gables with pointed arch windows, cornices, and window and door hoods.

The Johnson-Wolfe Farmhouse (Comus Inn) exhibits this second period of construction through a wood-frame addition constructed ca. 1885 appended to the south wall of the original log core and a one-and-a-half story addition appended to the north wall of the log core. The main block of the house was unified by application of horizontal wood siding to form a nearly symmetrical five-bay façade, and it incorporated simple Gothic Revival ornamentation such as the front gable roof and round arched windows. This treatment of the main façade reflected popular vernacular design elements in the area. Despite the use of Gothic Revival ornamentation, the redesigned principal block emphasized symmetrical composition associated with early classical revival domestic designs. This symmetrical emphasis is reinforced through the central placement of the main entrance beneath a gable peak. In addition to regular window placement with blinds, the symmetrical composition extended to an open shallow shed porch that was supported by regularly spaced columns. Interior elements

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 7

original to this addition include the stair, newel post, turned balusters, and handrail; baseboards; and, window and door surrounds.

Examples of second-period construction located in Montgomery County, Maryland include the Richard Watkins House (M:10-53), the Becraft House (M:15-6), White-Poole House (M:12-42-2), Zeigler House and Miller's House (M:10-57), H. Gue House (M:10-46), Perry Browning House (M:10-54), New Seat Farm (M:10-66), Moneysworth Farm (M:13-14), Stephen Lewis House (M:13-11), Pickens Farm (M:13-12), and Harris Houses (M:12-2). In these examples, the log core often is not visible from the exterior because it was incorporated into later additions. In some cases, the log core became the ell. Examples of this pattern include the White-Poole House (M:12-42-2). In other cases, the log core was incorporated into side additions. The Richard Watkins House (M:10-53), Zeigler Log House (M:10-57), and one of the Harris Houses (M:12-2) contain log sections that were redesigned into weather boarded five-bay fronts with central gable peaks typical of the expression of the Gothic Revival Style in this section of rural Montgomery County. The other buildings listed above illustrated two-story, three or four bay dwellings exhibiting minimal ornamentation. In all cases, the buildings have been re-sided with synthetic siding. Cuttler (1999) documented the Cecil Farm (Cuttler 1999:40), where the house was expanded in a similar style as the Johnson-Wolfe Farm house. However, the Cecil farmhouse is now no longer extant.

The third period of construction often included the construction of frame additions to the dwelling that were appended to the secondary elevations and preserved the design integrity of the second period redesign. These additions, generally dating from the early twentieth century, often incorporate manufactured building components including such elements as window and wall bays, and turned and scrolled ornamentation. The extension of the Johnson-Wolfe main dwelling ca. 1900 through the addition of the ell is an example of this third period of construction. This addition with its pronounced polygonal bay constructed also reflected the popular mass-produced architectural elements available during the period. These interior elements included ornamental door and window surrounds, baseboards, and cornice and picture moldings.

This pattern of additive building is represented in the Johnson Wolfe House through the original modest design of the ca. 1862 dwelling, the substantial redesign in the late Victorian period Gothic Revival Style ca.1885, and the addition of a two-story ell with two-story wall bay, ca. 1900. This pattern of redesign and addition similarly is reflected in the modifications to outbuildings. The existing barn associated with the Johnson Wolfe House was constructed in two stages. The original, ca. 1862, building is constructed of hewn logs supported by a random rubble foundation. This log barn was redesigned ca. 1885 to its present two-story configuration.

The Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn) also reflects a locally significant pattern of history in that it illustrates the process of the evolution of rural crossroads communities in rural western Montgomery County under Criterion A. The intersection of old east-west and north-south roads encouraged settlement by farmers seeking ready transportation of their crops to market. The progression of generations of the farming Johnson family resulted in subdivisions of the family's large farm holdings into smaller farming units, in order to accommodate their progeny. The Johnson-Wolfe Farm began its existence as the domestic component of a modest, small-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 8

scale family farm. The area began to be called Johnsonville for its cluster of log dwellings constructed by the Johnson family. Under the Wolfe ownership, the house lot evolved into a domestic rural complex since the owner drew his livelihood from blacksmithing to support the regional economy. The Johnson-Wolfe Farm formed the nucleus for the development of a rural community of Comus during the last decades of the nineteenth century. The community came to include a school and town hall, blacksmith shop, a small general store, and residences. A communal spring just north of the crossroads provided water to the community; title to that spring still is shared between neighboring properties at the crossroads, including the Johnson – Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn).

Although the character of many of the old crossroads communities in Montgomery County has been lost to suburbanization and development, agricultural zoning in this part of the county, coupled with an active agricultural preservation program that has encompassed surrounding farms, has heretofore precluded significant suburban encroachment on Comus. In addition, the legacy of Gordon Strong at Stronghold, or Sugarloaf Mountain, has served to fortify the rural character of the area. The Johnson-Wolfe Farm is unusual in its intact physical context from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that contributes to the identify of the complex and its ability to embody the characteristics of a local rural domestic building type that evolved over time.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References:

Crawford, Catherine

1986 Comus MIHP form on file at Maryland Historical Trust and Montgomery County Maryland Capital Parks and Planning Commission.

Cuttler, Dona L.

1999 The History of Comus. Heritage Books, Inc., Bowie, MD.

2002 Personal communication, 9/17/2002.

Getty, Joseph, M., and Frederick Gutheim

1990 Sugarloaf Mountain Historic District. On file at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

Hertel, Ms. Mary

Family files, genealogical information. Resident of Rockville, MD.

Historical Census Data

Many years of historical census data are on file at www: <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu>.

Hopkins, G.M.

1879 Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland. G.M. Hopkins, Philadelphia, PA

Hurley, William

1998 Montgomery County, MD, 1850 Census. Heritage Books, Inc., Bowie, MD.

1998 Montgomery County, MD, 1860 Census. Heritage Books, Inc., Bowie, MD.

1999 Montgomery County, MD, 1870 Census. Heritage Books, Inc., Bowie, MD.

2000 Montgomery County, MD, 1880 Census. Heritage Books, Inc., Bowie, MD.

2001 Montgomery County, MD, 1900 Census. Heritage Books, Inc., Bowie, MD.

Johnson, Benjamin

1902 Death Notice published in Frederick News Post, 6 September. On file at Montgomery County Historical Society.

Langstaff, Ms. Cynthia

Family files, genealogical information. Resident of Comus, MD.

Martenet and Bond

1865 Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. Simon J. Martenet, C.E., Baltimore, Maryland.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 9 Page 2

Maryland Civil War Trails Commission

2002 Plaque prepared for Antietam Campaign for location on the Comus Inn Property.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms for Planning Areas 10, 12, and 13.

Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission

Vertical files on Comus.

Montgomery County Records

Land records on file at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville.

Tax Assessment Records on file at the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

Montgomery County Historical Society

Vertical files and genealogical records, Rockville.

Priest, John Michael

1992 Before Antietam: The Battle for South Mountain. White Mane Publishing Co., Inc., Shippensburg, PA.

Scharf, J. Thomas

1882 History of Western Maryland. Louis H. Everts, Philadelphia, PA. Reprint edition.

Soderberg, Susan

2002 Preservation Outreach Planner, Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, personal communication 9/17/2002.

U.S. Census Bureau

1880 Agricultural Census for Montgomery County. On file at the Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, MD.

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.26 acres

UTM References Germantown, MD quad
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 1 8 | 2 9 7 | 1 6 8 | 4 3 4 6 | 6 3 4 | 3 | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | | | | | | 4 | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathryn M. Kuranda, Vice President, Architectural Services, Katherine Grandine/Senior Historian
Organization R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. date October 2002
street & number 241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100 telephone 301-694-0428
city or town Frederick state Maryland zip code 21701

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 Old Hundred Road LLC
street & number 18331 Comus Road telephone 301-694-0428
city or town Dickerson state MD zip code 20842

Paperwork Reduction 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

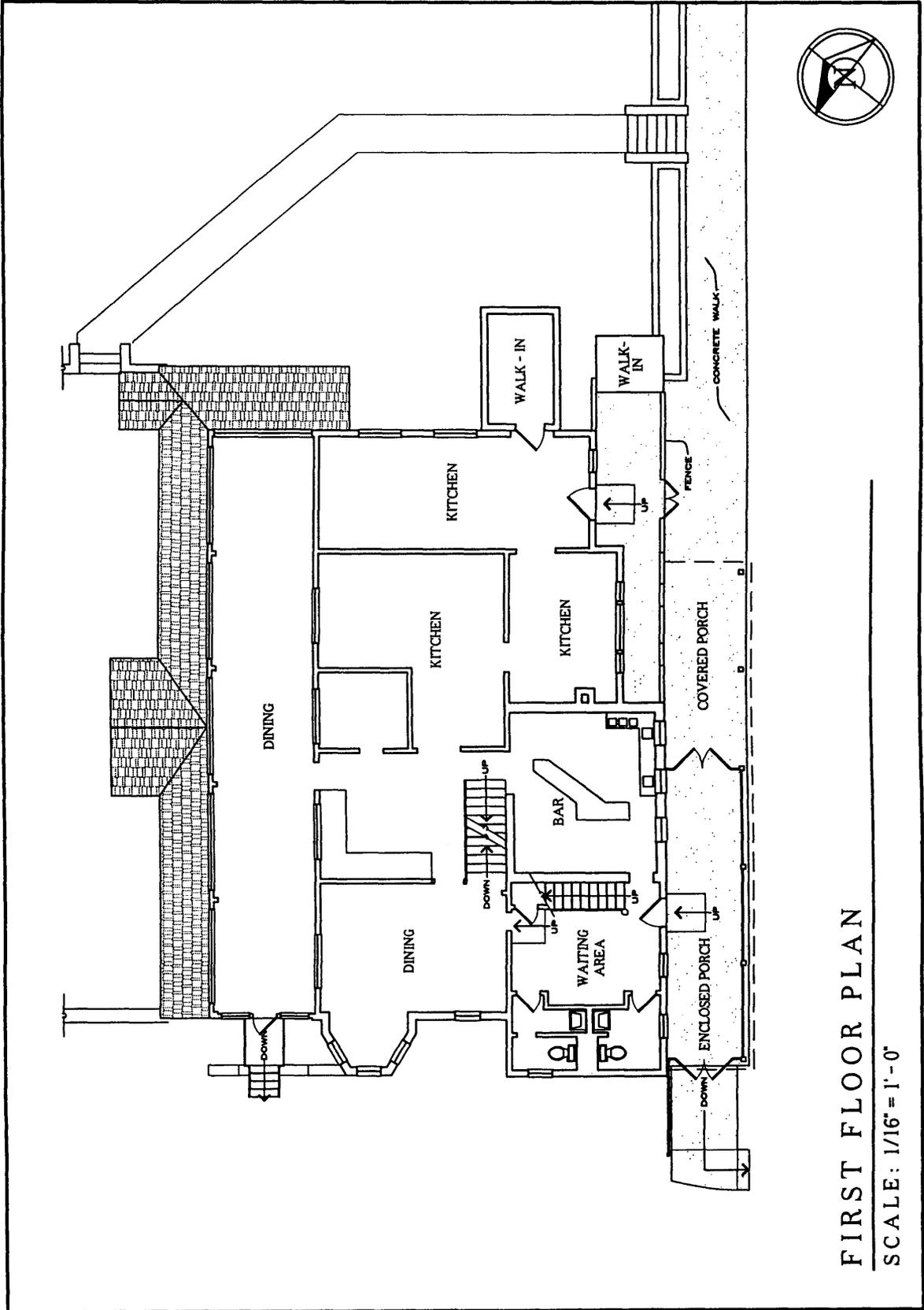
Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary is the same as the current property boundary found on tax map DW parcel 346 in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Boundary Justification:

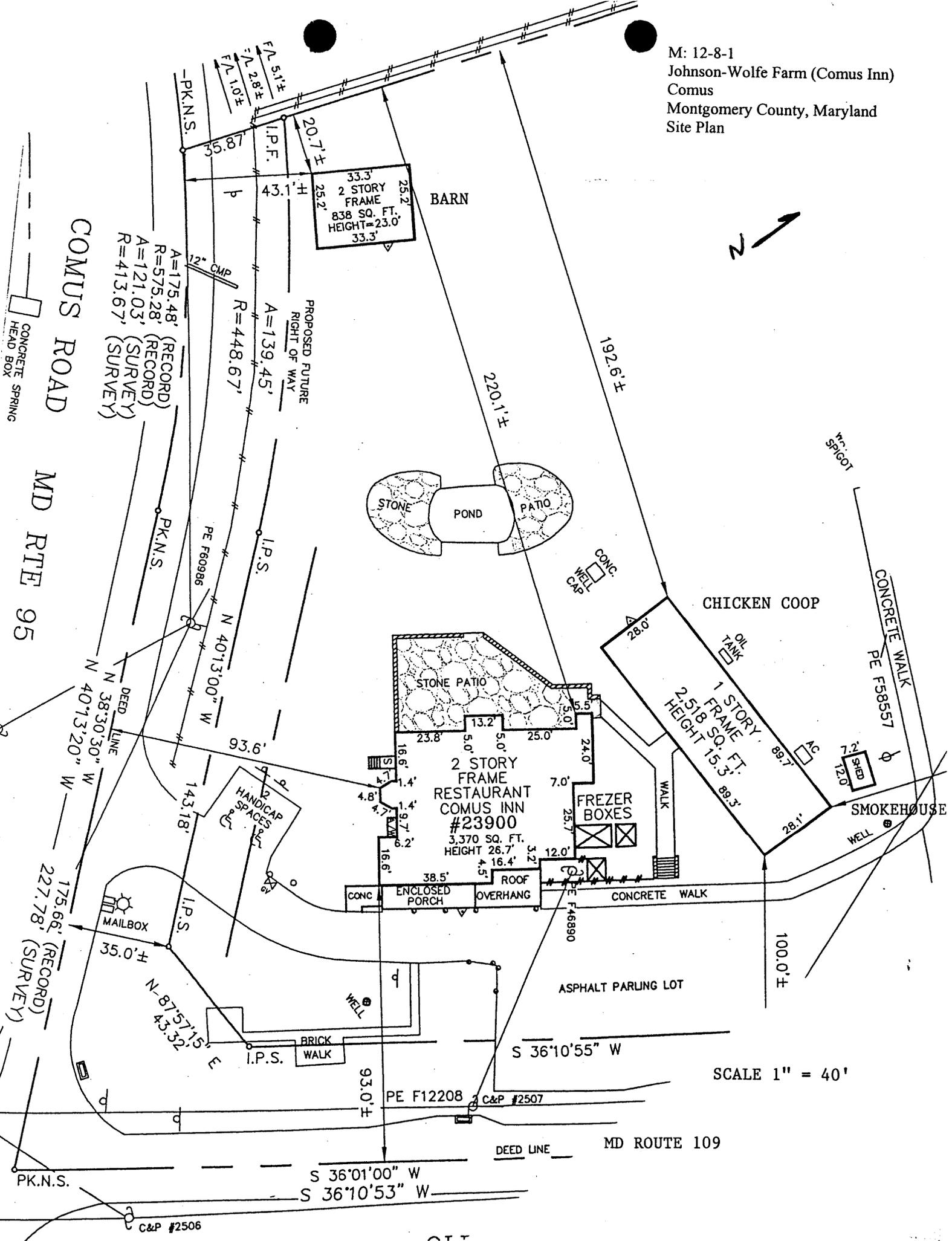
This property has contained this acreage since 1900. The nominated property, 5.26 acres, represents the remnant of the acreage historically associated with the resource.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"

M: 12-8-1
 Johnson-Wolfe Farm (Comus Inn)
 Comus
 Montgomery County, Maryland
 Site Plan



SCALE 1" = 40'

C&P #2506

C&P #2507

DEED LINE MD ROUTE 109

S 36°01'00" W
 S 36°10'53" W

S 36°10'55" W

MAILBOX
 35.0' ±
 N-87°57'15"
 E 43.32'

175.66' (RECORD)
 227.78' (SURVEY)
 N 40°13'20" W

DEED LINE
 N 38°30'30" W
 N 40°13'20" W

MD RTE 95

COMUS ROAD
 A=175.48' (RECORD)
 R=575.28' (RECORD)
 A=121.03' (SURVEY)
 R=413.67' (SURVEY)