

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 10 1986
date entered

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

MAR 13 1986

1. Name

historic Drury/Austin House

and/or common Austin House

2. Location

street & number 16112 Barnesville Road N/A not for publication

city, town Boyds N/A vicinity of Sixth Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county Montgomery code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name James S. and Margaret M. Coleman

street & number 16112 Barnesville Road

city, town Boyds N/A vicinity of state Maryland 20841

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>1804</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>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings	included in this nomination: <u>0</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures	Original and historic functions
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects	and uses: residential
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total	

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY:

The Drury/Austin House, located facing east on a wooded hillside south of Barnesville Road near the village of Boyds in rural western Montgomery, County, Maryland, is a 1 1/2 story dwelling comprising two sections: a later 18th century one-room plan log house (the southern half), which was doubled in size by the addition of a one-room timber frame section in the early 19th century. A one-story shed spans the rear elevation. The log section has a large exterior chimney on the south gable with a stone base and brick stack; the shed kitchen attached to the log-house has a similar (smaller) chimney. The original building is constructed of logs hewn on two faces, joined with V-notched corner timbering, and chinked with flat stones set in mortar. The gable above the roof plate, and the shed kitchen are sheathed with weatherboards. Corrugated metal covers the roof, replacing side-lapped wood shingles. The frame section and its shed are clad in German siding; it rests on a fieldstone foundation with a small excavated cellar accessible through a bulkhead entrance in the north end. The log house interior is whitewashed, with a boxed winder stair in the northwest corner and a broad fireplace in the south wall. The interior of the frame section is finished in plaster over sawn lath.

8. Significance

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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1768 **Builder/Architect** Thomas Drury, presumed builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: C
 Applicable Exceptions: none
 Significance Evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Drury/Austin House is significant as an essentially unaltered example of the type of dwelling that characterized western Montgomery County in the earliest phase of its settlement. Characteristic features include hewn log construction with V-notched corner-timbering, one-room plan with rear shed kitchen, 1 1/2 story height, and exterior chimneys with fieldstone bases and brick stacks. These features remain intact and clearly expressed despite the deteriorated condition of the house. The frame additions are also of interest as they reflect the changing spatial needs of the Austin family and the development of new construction techniques.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. .5 acre

Quadrangle name Germantown, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

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. 6

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret M. Coleman

organization N/A

date March 28, 1985

street & number 16112 Barnesville Road

telephone (301) 972-3452

city or town Boyd's

state Maryland 20841

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *M. Coleman*

1-31-86

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Entered in the
National Register

for Allene Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date

3-13-86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Drury/Austin House

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number

7

Page

1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Drury/Austin House is a 1 1/2 story log and frame house located on a wooded hillside near the village of Boyds in rural western Montgomery County. The house, which faces east, incorporates a late 18th century one-room V-notched log building; a one-room heavy timber frame addition was made to the north gable of this structure in the early 19th century. Each section has a one-story frame shed across the rear elevation, accommodating a kitchen behind the log section and a bed chamber behind the frame section. The east facade is five bays wide; the three southern bays are in the log section, with a central entrance flanked by window openings. The door is a Victorian 5-panel design, with the panels painted white and the stiles and rails dark green. The frame section is clad in German siding, and has a window in its northernmost bay and a door in the bay adjoining the log section; this batten door is painted to simulate four panels, in the same color scheme as the other door. The paint treatment survives from the turn of the 20th century, and is shown in a ca. 1912 photograph of the house.

The log section exhibits characteristic Anglo-American construction techniques: the logs are hewn flat on their front and back faces, joined at the corners with a notch resembling an inverted V, sawn off flush at the corners, and chinked with small, flat stones set at an angle in mortar. The exterior was formerly whitewashed, and shows no evidence of having been sided - a common treatment. The south gable is dominated by a massive chimney, with a stone base and brick stack. A smaller chimney, of similar construction, served a cookstove at the southwest corner of the kitchen shed. The upper gable and the shed are sheathed in wide weatherboards. A small square window to the right of the chimney stack lights the half-story.

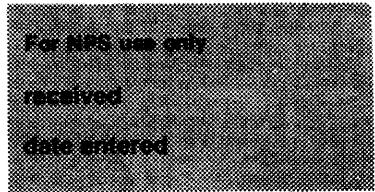
The north gable has a window centered on both stories, and the bulkhead cellar entrance. An interior brick stove stack exits from the roof slightly to the west of the ridge.

The rear elevation is spanned by a one-story shed; on the log section it is sheathed in weatherboards and has a centrally-placed window; on the frame section the shed is clad in German siding and has a batten door.

The interior of the log section consists of a single room measuring 13' 0" by 14" 9". A wide fireplace is centered on the south wall. A batten door in the west wall leads into the kitchen, and a similar door offset to the east on the north wall

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

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



Drury/Austin House

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number

7

Page 2

opens into the frame addition. A boxed winder stair in the northwest corner gives access to the half-story. The log walls are heavily whitewashed; late 19th-century tongue-and-groove boards were applied over the ceiling joists, which were originally whitewashed and left exposed. Flooring is of wide boards.

The half story is whitewashed up to the plate; the interior of the roof remains unfinished, revealing common rafters lapped at the ridge with half-lapped collar beams secured with wrought nails. The pitch of the roof was altered slightly by applying shims to the rafters when the present corrugated metal covering was installed.

The frame section also contains a single room, slightly larger than the log section. Walls are finished in plaster over sawn lath; floors are tongue-and-groove. Where deterioration has exposed major structural members (corner posts and wall plates), they are found to be of squared timbers joined with mortise and tenon, but the intermediate posts are unsquared poles. On the upper floor, a batten door in the west knee-wall gives access to the space under the rear shed roof.

The ground slopes downward from south to north, so that the south end of the log section rests directly on log sills, while the north end has a stone foundation which joins that of the frame section. A shallow cellar under the frame section is accessible through a bulkhead entrance on the north end.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Drury/Austin House

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number

8

Page 3

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

One of the oldest houses in Montgomery County, the Drury/Austin House, is a rare example in Montgomery County of early architecture untouched by modernization. This settler's log house is an excellent example of early housing and provides an important contrast with later architecture in Montgomery, one of America's wealthiest counties.

In 1768 a merchant, William Deakin, Jr., deeded to planter Thomas Drury 222 acres of unimproved land, described as being in Frederick County in the Province of Maryland.¹ Eight years later the same property would be included in a newly established county, state and nation.

Drury felled some of the abundant chestnut trees on his land and constructed a log house. For a time Drury prospered and collected household possessions. When he sold the property in 1784, improvements included two slaves, Jack and Terosia (Teresa), one each horse, mare, cow and steer with calf, three hogs, two featherbeds, two tables with six chairs, three chests, three pewter dishes, ten pewter plates, none pewter spoons, one iron pot and a dutch oven.

After Drury's experiences, however, Simon Reeder, the succeeding owner, found it difficult to prosper on this parcel of land. William Deakin and Benjamin Reeder bought the land, household goods, livestock, slaves and crop from Simon Reeder. Included in this transaction were the slaves Teresa and Jack plus George, Joseph, Moses, Ned, Phil, Sally, Bep, Jenny and Henry, as well as 15 cattle, 35 hogs, 19 sheep and miscellaneous small stock.² The buyers agreed to sell these items to settle the debts of the seller, and did so at a sheriff's sale a few years later.

The Austin family probably moved to the property at this time, renting it, and establishing³ a family graveyard for Amos Austin, the father of John Austin.

In 1795 Robert Ferguson of Charles County and Alexander Hamilton of Prince George's County bought the parcel,⁴ and sold it to John Austin in 1803 for 175 pounds, 4 shillings.⁵ Traditionally the family believed that the nation's⁶ first secretary of the treasury sold them their property.⁶ However, the existence of Alexander Hamilton, who was a major landowner in Prince George's at this time, indicates that he was more likely the owner.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Drury/Austin House

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number

8

Page

4

In 1804 John Austin moved the log house approximately 1200 feet west across the creek to its present site near an excellent, year round spring. Soon after the house settled into its permanent location, Austin built the frame section of the house and added a one story shed for a kitchen and a downstairs bedroom for himself and his wife. They had a very large family and sent them all upstairs to bed, the girls in one small bedroom and the boys in the other. The Austins used the stone fireplace in the log section for cooking and heating. This section had a dirt floor, but John Austin laid down tow-foot wide boards for flooring. Two barns, one for tobacco and one for stock, plus 8 carriage, spring and meat houses and a turkey shed were built.

In 1883 John Austin died, and the property was transferred to his son, James H. Austin.⁹ James farmed the land, eventually parceling off some of it to his children.¹⁰ James installed the tongue and groove floor and ceiling in the log house.

James Austin died in 1936 and his unmarried daughters and his grandson received the deed for the remainder of the property, consisting of 92 acres.¹¹

In 1952 the survivors, grandson J. Harrington Austin and his aunt, Edith G. Austin, built a one story masonry house on the northeast corner of this property. The farmland and the old house and barns were abandoned. In 1966 Robert Yiner and Richard Adams, investors, bought the remaining 87 acres.¹² Thirty acres of this land including the old house and ruined barns were surveyed and purchased by the current owners in June, 1980.¹³ Francis D. Lethbridge, AIA, designed for them a house overlooking and relating to the old house with the same roof pitch. A barn has been built on the fieldstone foundation of the original barn.

The Drury/Austin house and land is a microcosm of life in Montgomery County's earliest years. English settlers found the land to be rich in virgin timber and good soil. They cleared the trees, a small area at a time using their own and slave labor, and built housing and fences with chestnut logs. They planted tobacco, but the soil was thin and rapidly depleted. It was difficult to make a living; the house shows few signs of gracious living. This house provides an unusual and valuable opportunity for the study of early local vernacular architecture. Substantially unaltered from its original 1768 condition, the log section of the house provides a clue to understanding early building methods as well as a link to the 1793 John Poole House in Poolesville, approximately 15 miles west. Through the centuries the old house has retained its original character.

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

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

Drury/Austin House

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number

8

Page

5

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Montgomery's oldest known unmodernized house illustrates the painstaking craftsmanship of early settlers, intent on hewing from the wilderness a shelter for themselves and their families. Standing in one of the nation's wealthiest counties, this structure is a true touch-back to our past.

Footnotes:

1. Hall of Records, Annapolis; L/592, Frederick Land Records.
2. Hall of Records, Deed of Trust D/294, Montgomery County
3. Walters, 'Sallie D., unpublished manuscript of the Austin family, owned by Harrington Austin.
4. Montgomery County Land Records, F/152.
5. Ibid. L/97.
6. Walters, op. cit.
7. Rothrock, Gail, Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission.
8. Walters, op. cit.
9. Montgomery County Land Records, EBP 29/247.
10. Ibid., EBP 35/176, EBP 35/448; JA 36/223.
11. Ibid., 654/279.
12. Ibid., 3461/599.
13. Ibid., 5526/857.

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

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

Drury/Austin House

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Maryland Item number 10 and 9

Page 6

For NPS use only

received

date entered

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property, approximately 0.5 acre, encompasses the resource within its immediate setting. The boundaries were drawn to include the spring, located north of the house, with which the house is historically associated, while excluding recently-cleared pasture land further north and recent construction to the south and east. Boundaries are depicted on the attached topographic map, drawn to the scale 1" = 100'.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Hall of Records, Annapolis

Montgomery County Land Records

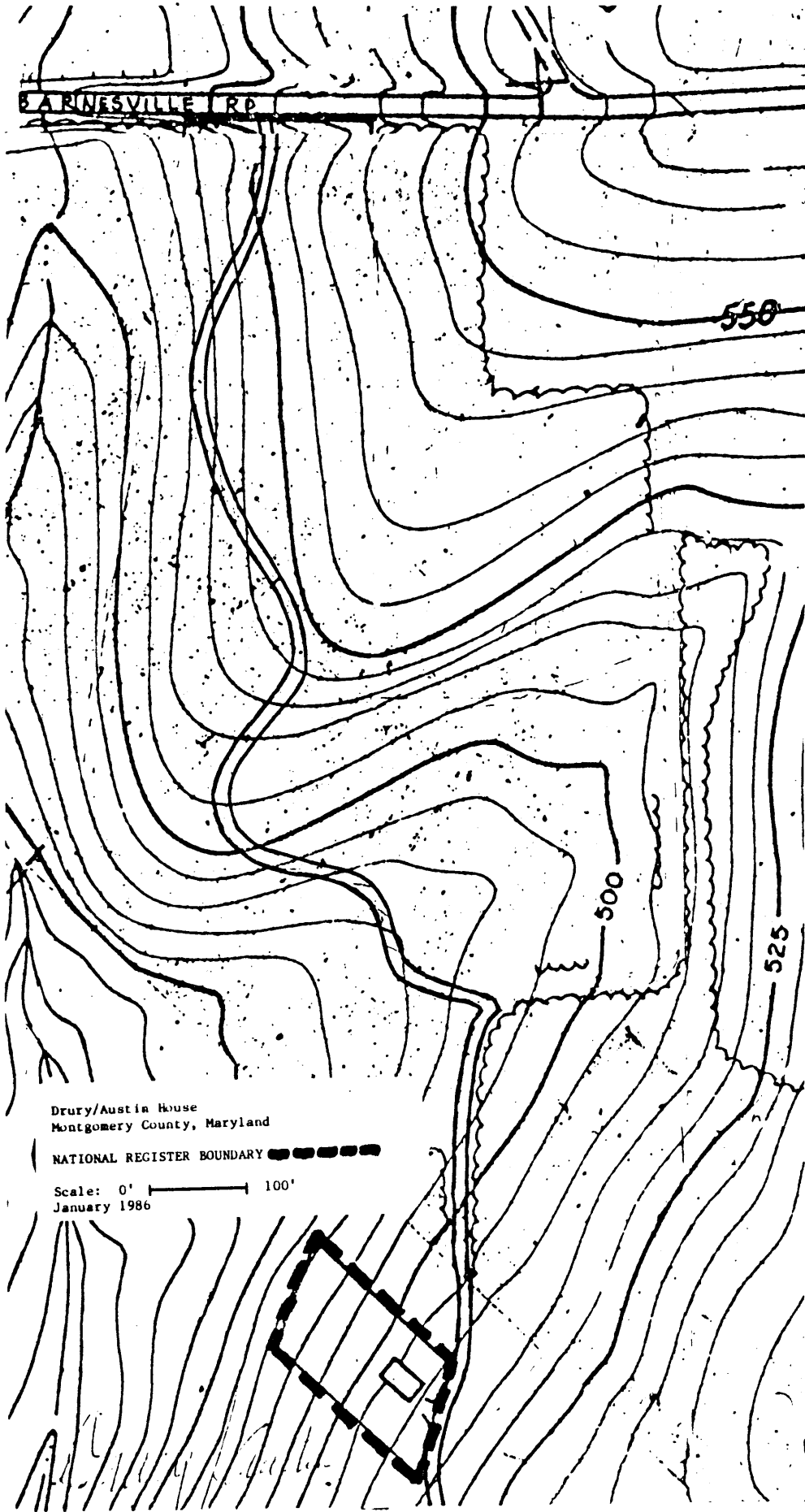
Francis D. Lethbridge, AIA

Harrington Austin, private interview, 1980

Gail Rothrock, Prince George's County Historic Preservation
Commission

Sallie D. Austin Walters, unpublished manuscript, owned by
Harrington Austin

Coleman, Margaret and Anna Lewis, Montgomery County, A Pictorial
History; Donning Company, Norfolk, 1984.



Drury/Austin House
Montgomery County, Maryland

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY

Scale: 0' ——— 100'
January 1986