

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 29 1975
DATE ENTERED	DEC 4 1975

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 *alms house and*
Carroll County Farm ~~Museum~~
AND/OR COMMON
Carroll County Farm Museum

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
500 South Center Street
CITY, TOWN
Westminster VICINITY OF
STATE
Maryland 24 COUNTY
Carroll CODE
013

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
County Commissioners of Carroll County
STREET & NUMBER
225 North Center Street
CITY, TOWN
Westminster VICINITY OF
STATE
Maryland 21157

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Carroll County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Court Place
CITY, TOWN
Westminster STATE
Maryland 21157

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE
—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Carroll County Farm Museum is located one mile southeast of the county seat of Westminster, Maryland on South Center Street on 140 acres of green fields and rolling hills.

The inner complex of main house and dependencies numbers fifteen buildings. Most of these are original; two, however, are new structures and two are rebuilt from old materials.

The most prominent of the buildings is the brick main house, around which the others are arranged. Originally designed and constructed for use as the county alms house, it is a long, three-story, rectangular structure, nine bays wide at the first and second floor levels of both the front and rear facades. The main entrance of both elevations is located in the fourth bay in from the west end; a centered door on the second floor levels open onto what were once the galleried roofs of the one-story farm porches. The nine eyebrow windows just below the roof cornices frame casement sash of 2-2 panes; the remaining windows have flat arches and frame sash of six over six panes. The gable roof is covered with tin and a single flush chimney stands at each end of the ridge. Centered on the roof is a simple frame cupola sheltering a farm bell.

The thirty room interior of the building, the first floor of which is now a museum is, like the exterior of the building, devoid of any legitimate attempts at decoration. The majority of the first floor rooms are utilized for exhibit space and house various collections of furnishings and accessories. There is a formal Victorian era parlor, music room, dining room and bedrooms, all furnished as they might have appeared had any one of them been a part of a private residence in the region during the latter part of the nineteenth century.

A separate building set at a right angle to the main house is now used to exhibit crafts of various sorts. Its original purpose is unknown but since it houses the original summer kitchen, wash room and a baking room it might be that it housed farm and domestic help. It is a two story brick structure containing fourteen rooms and has a recessed two story galleried porch across its west side, the last being a regionally characteristic architectural feature. Crafts displayed and produced here as part of the museum program include quilting, weaving, chair caning, pottery, and tinsmithing.

In addition to these two buildings, there is also a brick, one story dairy with a pyramid roof dominated by a pointed finial of exaggerated height and with Victorian Gothic "icing" decorating the eaves; a large frame and dressed stone bank barn of excellent quality and one of the better examples of its era and type in the region -- a blacksmith's shop, springhouse, smokehouse, icehouse and numerous other sheds and dependencies of various and sundry types, all in good repair and all used as part of the working farm museum activities.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) crafts preservatio
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1852-1853

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Carroll County Farm Museum's significance is twofold; the preservation of the original Carroll County Almshouse founded in 1852 and the creation of the Farm Museum established in 1965 as a tribute to the great agricultural heritage of the County and the State of Maryland and as a monument to those early pioneers who created this great enterprise.

In 1840 the Commissioners of the Tax of Carroll County were empowered to borrow a sum of money "to be applied to the purchase of a farm, and the creation of suitable buildings for the use of the poor."¹ Later the Board of County Commissioners who replaced the Commissioners of Tax were in turn given authority by a legislative act to contract on July 6, 1852, for the purchase of 307 acres at a cost of \$17,826 or \$58.06 1/2 per acre. Records indicate that the Almshouse was built in 1852 and 1853.

During the week of June 28, 1863, to July 4, 1863, the meadows and fields around the Museum were often filled with troops, mules and wagons serving the Confederate and Union troops as Westminster served as a point of entry and service center for the Battle of Gettysburg.

The numerous lofty shade trees on the front lawn were made possible on November 23, 1874, when the "County Commissioners proceeded to the Almshouse farm and laid out the grounds in front of the Almshouse to plant trees."

The Farm Museum, a creation of the Carroll County Board of County Commissioners, is the first of its kind in Maryland. The Maryland State House of Delegates, in adopting House Resolution #73, congratulated the citizens for their outstanding achievement.

The Museum is a working farm with many fine buildings that rank among central and western Maryland's best examples of pre-Civil War farm architecture. Each of the farm outbuildings has been utilized to display antique tools, and vehicles or to demonstrate crafts or yesteryear. With the exception of the log cabin the Museum remains much as it did in the 1850 period.

¹ Minutes of Carroll County Commissioners, Nov. 23, 1874.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records in Carroll County Courthouse, Westminster, Maryland 21157.

"American County Government" Official Publication of the National Association of Counties, May 1968 Operation Farm Museum.

Congressional Record, 90th Congress, Vol. 113, No. 133.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(See continuation sheet No. 1)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 140 acres

UTM REF OK - W.P. 12-28-75

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 | 3,2,8,8,3,0 | 4,3,8,0,6,2,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 1,8 | 3,2,8,6,0,0 | 4,3,8,0,0,9,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,8 | 3,2,8,3,0,0 | 4,3,8,0,2,3,0

D 1,8 | 3,2,8,5,1,0 | 4,3,8,0,7,4,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Remaining acreage of the original site containing 307 acres now developed as Museum property; maintained by Carroll County.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cindy Hofferberth (Mrs.) Director

Sao

ORGANIZATION

Carroll County Farm Museum

DATE

Jan. 20, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

500 South Center Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland 21157

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

John W. Pearce

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

Aug. 21, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

John W. Pearce
Chadwick
 Acting

DATE

12/4/95

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

11-28-75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CARROLL COUNTY FARM MUSEUM
Carroll County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Near the entrance to the museum complex and physically separating the parking area from the actual museum grounds stands an early nineteenth century, one story, one room log cabin with a massive fieldstone chimney. This small building, moved here from another location in the county, represents the type of house built and occupied by many settlers of the region in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. To the west of it is the visitors center, a board sheathed building with a fieldstone chimney that is in successful harmony with the living-museum environment.

Official Minutes of the Carroll County Commissioners.

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Carroll County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

#10 Acreage Justification

The 140 acres nominated with the Carroll County Farm Museum were a part of the original 307 acres purchased for the County Almshouse in 1852. The 140 acres are necessary to preserve the original rural setting.

The outbuildings are clustered around the centrally placed almshouse.

The property remained an almshouse until 1965.

