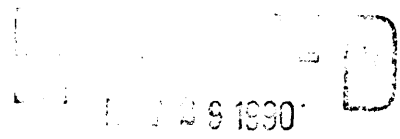


1974

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Huckleberry Hall
other names/site number Charles Mill WA-I-154

2. Location

street & number Charles Mill Road N/A not for publication
city, town Leitersburg X vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Washington code 043 zip code 21740

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public and building/district/site/structure/object, and counts for contributing/noncontributing resources.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 11/24/90

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
X entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)
Entered in the National Register
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 12/28/90

6. Function or Use

WA-I-154

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingAGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural
outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingAGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural
outbuilding**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/GermanicGEORGIAN

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation LIMESTONEwalls LIMESTONEroof METALother WOOD**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

This group of farm buildings includes a c.1784 Germanic stone house, an eighteenth century stone blacksmith shop, a frame bank barn, a mid-19th century brick secondary dwelling, and other agricultural outbuildings located on the northeast side of Charles Mill Road, southeast of Leitersburg near Hagerstown in Washington County. The house, built over a spring retains original Georgian influenced woodwork, original central chimney, floor plan, original paint colors in many areas and its original puncheon insulation system. The house is built into a slope at the head of a spring and faces south. The rear or north elevation is three stories high and had a galleried porch at each level. The barn faces north and the mid 19th century house set to the west of the other buildings faces south. The buildings are surrounded by farm and pasture land and were once part of a grist milling complex.

8. Statement of Significance

WA-I-154

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c.1784

Significant Dates

c.1784

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Huckleberry Hall is significant for its architectural character. Built about 1784, the house embodies the distinctive characteristics of eighteenth century rural Germanic domestic architecture in the middle to western sections of Maryland. Important among these characteristics as found in this house are construction over a spring, the use of puncheon logs and rocks as insulation between the basement and first floor, and arrangement of rooms around a central chimney and limestone construction which utilized a plentiful local material for building. Features unique to this house is the four room variation of the more typical three room floor plan and the fully paneled and wall of the second floor chamber in the kitchen wing. Also of note is the high amount of original interior finishes which remain. These finishes include stenciling and marbleizing. Another locally significant feature is the placement of the stair rising across a front window.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet 9.1

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property Approximately 6 acres
 USGS Quad: Smithsburg, Maryland

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet 10.1

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet 10.1

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Paula S. Reed, PhD</u>	date	<u>August 21, 1990</u>
organization	<u>Preservation Associates, Inc.</u>	telephone	<u>(301)791-7880</u>
street & number	<u>207 S. Potomac Street</u>	state	<u>Maryland</u>
city or town	<u>Hagerstown</u>	zip code	<u>21740</u>

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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Washington County
Maryland

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Section number 7 Page 1GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Huckleberry Hall is located about 9 miles east of Hagerstown, the seat of Washington County, in western Maryland, between Leitersburg and Smithsburg. The area is a broad fertile limestone valley laced with springs and streams. The Little Antietam Creek runs along part of the west border of the property and crosses Charles Mill Road. The house and outbuildings are under restoration and rehabilitation.

House: 1 contributing building

The house is a two and a half story, four bay structure with a two and a half story, two bay extension to the south probably built shortly after the main block. Evidence remains of a one and a half story addition on the west end in the form of plaster outlines on the west gable wall. This structure was removed earlier in this century. Originally there was a porch across the entire length of the main block of the house which continued along the east end wall, possibly as a pent roof. The stone corbel or drip course remains as evidence of this construction. Later the porch was extended along the front (south) elevation of the east wing. Beneath this porch the stones were stuccoed, an application probably made in the late 1820s or 1830s. Recently this stucco was removed to reveal special charcoal darkened pointing with white striping, a decorative finish occasionally done on 18th century stone houses in this county. On the painted striping is a date "May the 1, 1826," written in pencil and elsewhere a partially legible name and another date of 1829. These dates indicate that the stuccoing occurred thereafter, which is consistent with local practices. In Washington County the stuccoing of stone structures became more prevalent in the 1830-1860 period than it was either earlier or later in the 19th century.

The principal entrance is located in the third bay from the west end of the front elevation of the main portion of the house. There is also an entrance into the kitchen wing on the front elevation. Each entrance is topped with a four light transom. There are also doors at each floor level of the north elevation of the main block. They all opened onto the galleried porches. There

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was also a rear door from the east wing or kitchen, as well. Doors and their framing appear original to initial construction of the house.

Windows also retain their original massive framing with pegged joints. All main story windows have nine over six light sash while others have six over six lights.

The present roofing material is channel drain sheet metal. There are brick chimneys inside the west gable end wall and inside the east end wall of the kitchen wing. There is also a central chimney extending from the main block.

The interior of the main block of the house has four rooms on the first floor in addition to the stair and entrance area. The staircase rises parallel to the front wall of the house, extending upward diagonally across the window east of the door. The staircase is sturdy with square newel posts with turned finials. The staircase is enclosed with tongue and groove paneling which extends above the steps to form closed stringers. There are closely set turned balusters. On the upper level staircase to the attic, original marbleizing remains exposed. The same finish remains at the lower level beneath later layers of paint.

Behind or north of the entrance room is a square room which now functions and probably always functioned as a dining room. It contains a fireplace framed with a simple architrave with ovolo molding and flanking cupboards with raised panel doors beneath an ogee cornice. There are doors leading to the northwest room and to the entrance room. Another door, an early 19th century addition opens through the south wall of this room into a small passageway into the kitchen wing. A door in the north wall opens into a room in the northeast corner of the main block of the house. This room has been divided recently to accommodate a bathroom.

The west half of the main block is divided into two large rooms. The southwest room retains all original features including stenciled decoration on the walls. Prominent elements include a built-in wall cupboard with raised panel doors and decorative Germanic escutcheons. It has a cornice at its top and rests on the chairrail. There is also a finished opening from the southwest to

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the northwest rooms. This opening is topped with a molded shelf and a paneled frieze like a mantelpiece. Its jambs were plastered and finished with baseboard. Its presumed purpose was to allow heat from a cast iron stove to pass from one room to the other.

Chairrail in this room has a top rail with an astragal molding. Doors have six raised panels with ovolo trim and retain their original cast iron elbow locks. One early 19th century door in the west wall opened into the west addition which has since been removed.

The northwest room on the first floor also contains original woodwork and painted finishes including stenciled walls. This room has a fireplace with an arched opening framed with an architrave with ovolo molding. The chairrail is similar to that in the other rooms. A door with six raised panels and strap hinges opens through the north wall into the porch. Doors also opened into all of the adjoining rooms. Original paint colors in this room included dark green trim on the woodwork. Doors had this dark green on the stiles and rails with bright yellow in the panels. Stenciling on the walls was red and black.

The east kitchen wing contains one room per floor. This section appears to be an early addition to the house, prior to the 19th century. On the first floor it contains a large cooking fireplace with a bake oven opening which retains its cast iron oven door. The brick hearth extends well back into the room. Above the kitchen is a finely finished bedroom with some of the most elaborate woodwork in the house. The arched fireplace is surrounded by an architrave with a small molded mantle shelf above raised panels. Flanking the fireplace are cupboards extending across the entire chimney wall. Along the ceiling is a molded cornice with dentiled trim.

The remainder of the second floor is laid out and trimmed similarly to the first floor.

The cellar beneath the main block of the house is divided into four rooms, three of which are paved with bricks, and have insulated ceilings consisting of hewn puncheons chinked and daubed with rocks and mortar. This is a common 18th century insulation

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system found in Washington County. A spring which originates beneath the kitchen wing passes through the two northern rooms of the cellar. The northeast room has a barrel vaulted ceiling. The northwest room contains a fireplace.

Outbuildings:

A frame bank barn dating from the early 20th century stands to the southwest of the house. The barn follows traditional patterns for the area and replaces an older barn which burned. 1 non-contributing building

Adjacent to the barn are a wooden silo and two wooden hog pens. These structures also appear to date from the early 20th century. 3 non-contributing structures

A one story stone blacksmith shop with chimneys at each end stands southeast of the house. It also has opposed front and rear doors with attached windows sharing the jambs. According to tradition, this shop was a former dwelling that predates the main house. 1 contributing building

A mid-nineteenth century brick secondary dwelling or house, one and a half stories high and three bays by two bays, stands to the west of the house and north of the barn. 1 non-contributing building

Two wooden sheds, one by the secondary house and the other to the east of the entrance drive, also stand on the property. These probably date from the early 20th century. 2 non-contributing buildings

See Continuation Sheet 7.5

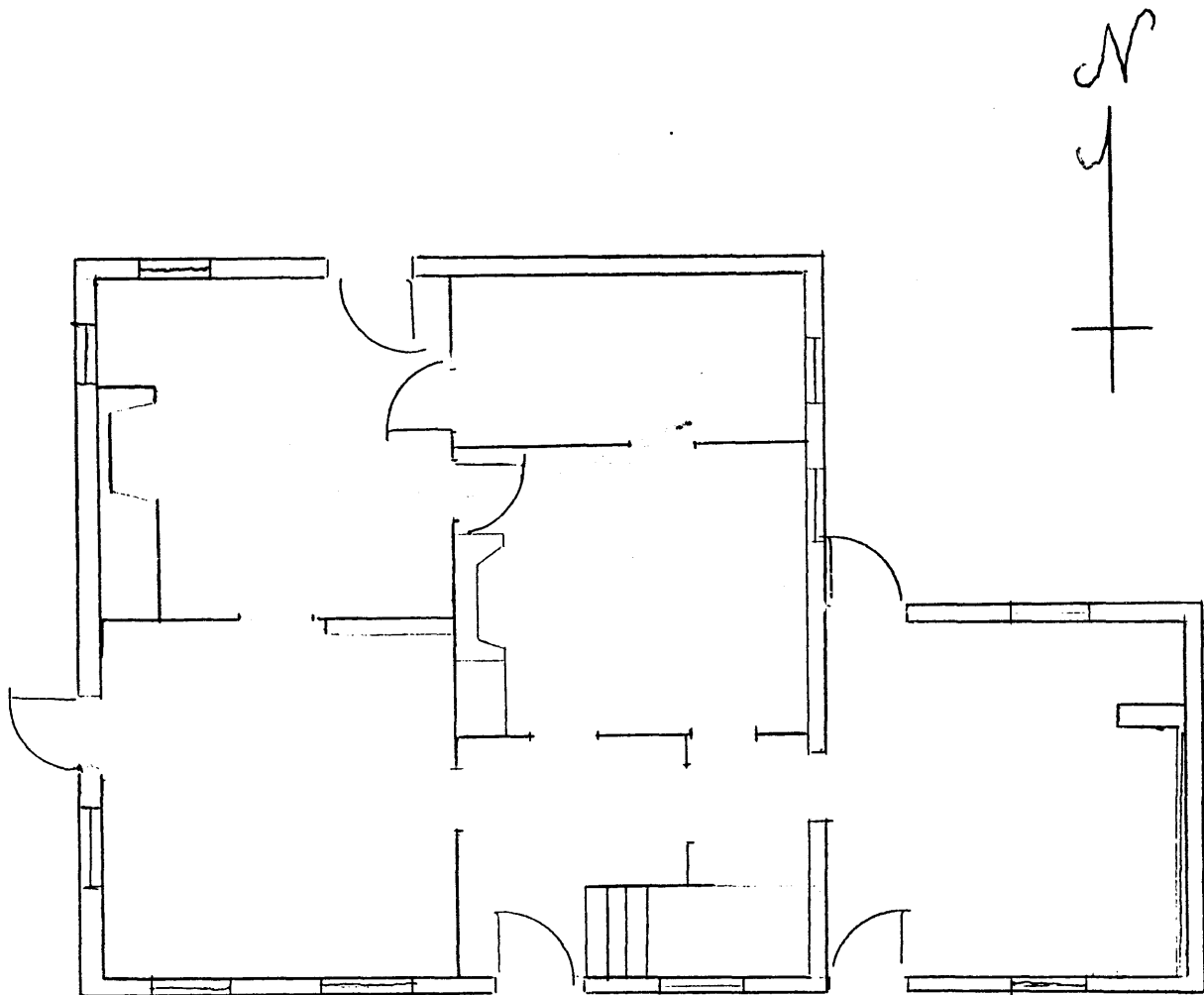
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Huckleberry Hall
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HUCKLEBERRY HALL

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

(NOT TO SCALE)

See Continuation Sheet 7.6

FIRST FLOOR

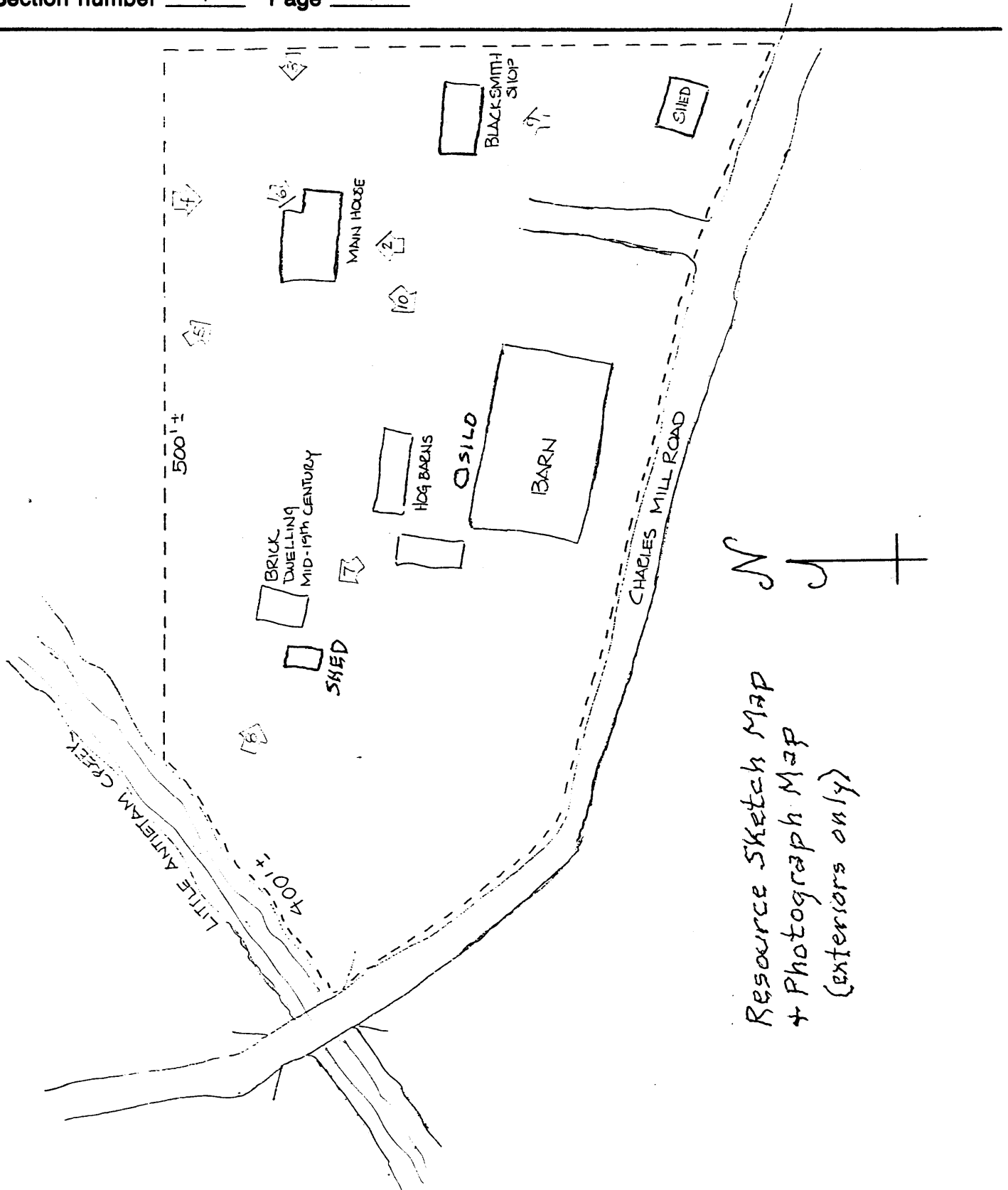
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Resource Sketch Map
+ Photograph Map
(extensors only)

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
Rural Agrarian Intensification - A.D. 1680-1815

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):
Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Known Design Source: None

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HISTORIC SETTING:

Huckleberry Hall is located about 9 miles east of Hagerstown, between Leitersburg and Smithsburg in Washington County, Maryland. The area is a broad fertile limestone valley, laced with springs and streams. From the 1730s on, the valley was settled by farmers, mostly of German origin from Pennsylvania who primarily grew small grains. Eventually, by the third quarter of the 19th century, Washington County became the leading producer of wheat in the state. As a result of the grain farming, grist and flour mills were built along the valley's waterways from the earliest days of settlement onward. This proliferation of mills extended through the 19th century until mid-western grain production cut into the grain economy of Washington County at the end of the century.

The Huckleberry Hall farm once included a mill, on the opposite side of Charles Mill Road from the farmstead. The mill, built about the same time as the house was sold as a separate parcel in 1849. The mill is shown on Charles Varle's 1808 map of Washington and Frederick Counties.

Most of the 18th and early 19th century settlers in Washington County were of German descent who came into Maryland from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Many brought with them continental traditions from their homeland. Approximately 15 18th century Germanic stone houses remain in Washington County which display continental traditions such as central chimney construction. The house on the Huckleberry Hall property is a variant of the basic continental type which consists of three main rooms utilizing the central chimney.

Another feature of the limestone valley is the network of springs which provided readily available water during the settlement period. The frequency of springs contributed to an 18th century practice in the valley of placing houses directly over them. This type of construction ended by the early 19th century.

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Section number 8 Page 3RESOURCE HISTORY:

According to Herbert C. Bell's History of Leitersburg District, the house was built by Martin Baer (also spelled Barr), who acquired the land in 1783.¹ The deed recording Martin Baer's purchase states that he was a farmer and that he was from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He paid £ 3000, a large sum of money at the time, for 658 acres. (Deed Liber C, Folio 387). By 1808 when Charles Varle's map of Frederick and Washington Counties was produced, the property which then included the farmstead and the mill was designated as owned by John Baer (Barr). On November 13, 1823, John Barr sold 310 acres of the property, including the farm buildings and the mill to Daniel Winters. (Deed Liber GG, Folio 503). In 1849, Daniel Winters split the mill and farm buildings onto two separate properties. He sold the farm which contained the nominated buildings and 163 acres to his son, Jacob for \$10,000. In this 1849 deed there was a restriction excepting a portion of the main house from the transaction, as follows: "...the said Daniel Winters doth also except and reserve for his own comfort, convenience and use the following reservations and suplies [sic] during his natural life and to continue no longer namely he the said Daniel Winters doth reserve for his use the kitchen on the eastern end of the mansion, the three rooms on the first floor of said house now occupied by said Daniel Winters, also, one room on the second story called the white room also now in his occupancy with privilege of all passages to said apartments, one half of the garden, one third of the sellar [sic] one half of the springhouse and access to all said apartments." (Deed Liber IN4, Folio 446). It was during Winter ownership that alterations such as the stuccoing of the first story front elevation were made. Perhaps they added the now absent west wing as well. Huckleberry Hall remained in the Winter family until 1882.

The land on which these buildings stand was occupied prior to Martin Barr's arrival by Joseph Perry who owned the 658 acre tract until 1779, when he sold it to Daniel Hughes a merchant who in turn sold it to Benjamin and John Crockett, merchants, of Baltimore, also in 1779. Perry purchased the land from John Darling in 1754. Darling's land patent, of 1743 makes reference to the place where George Farbush formerly lived.² This early occupation of the land may lend credibility to the stories that the blacksmith shop was a dwelling predating the present structure.

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Section number 8 Page 4RESOURCE ANALYSIS:

Huckleberry Hall is primarily significant as representing Germanic architectural traditions in the post settlement period. The house is an excellent example because it retains so many of its early features and is among few 18th century buildings in Washington County. According to the U.S. Census for Washington County for 1790, there were 2452 heads of households recorded, indicating that the probable number of houses standing at the time would have been near that figure. Many 18th century buildings were impermanent structures erected to be replaced at a later time and many have been destroyed or altered beyond recognition over the last 200 years. Thus, the remaining buildings representing the county's 18th century culture are rare. Huckleberry Hall which retains such a high degree of integrity is rarer still among the remaining 18th century houses.

The other buildings in the farmstead, although built later, reflect the process or ongoing quality of the area's rural culture. The barn, although replaced in the early 20th century follows the same plan and configuration of earlier barns. The mid 19th century brick dwelling suggests the prosperity of this farm and mill operation that could support more than one household. The stone blacksmith shop also reflects 18th century culture, and if it predates the main house would represent settlement period housing.

Complexes of buildings like Huckleberry Hall provide valuable information about the early culture and history where a blending of Germanic and British traditions took place to create by the 1780-1820 period a distinct regional architectural expression.

¹Herbert C. Bell, History of Leitersburg District. Leitersburg, MD: The author (1908) p. 26.

²Ibid. p. 26, 27.

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Major Bibliographical References:

Bell, Herbert C. History of Leitersburg District, Evansville, Indiana: Unigraphic, Inc. (reprint) 1898.

U.S. Census Records, 1790.

Washington County Land Records, Courthouse, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties: Washington and Frederick Counties. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries for the nominated area are drawn to include the historic buildings of the farmstead within natural borders provided by Charles Mill Road and the Little Antietam Creek. Beginning on the south bank of the Little Antietam Creek where it crosses under Charles Mill Road and following the south bank of the creek in a northeasterly direction for approximately 400 feet; then turning east in a straight line for approximately 500 feet to a point northeast of the main house; then turning south and continuing in a straight line to meet the north edge of Charles Mill Road and to include within the boundaries all of the sheds and outbuildings associated with the complex; then turning west along the north side of Charles Mill Road and continuing to the place of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries were drawn to utilize natural and man-made borders (road and stream) and to provide a setting reflective of this historic rural setting, but to exclude fields which do not contain known resources contributing to the significance of the property.