OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

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 Marsh Mills	=======================================
other names/site number <u>Haley's Mill, Sp</u>	oielman Mill; WA-II-130
2. Location	
street & number <u>17426, 17432 Spielman Roa</u> city or town <u>Fairplay</u> state <u>Maryland</u> code <u>MD</u> county <u>Washington</u>	not for publication <u>n/a</u> vicinity <u>n/a</u> on code <u>043</u> zip code <u>21733</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the Natas amended, I hereby certify that this determination of eligibility meets the oppoperties in the National Register of H and professional requirements set forth property X meets does not meet the that this property be considered significally. (See continuation sheet for	s nomination request for documentation standards for registering istoric Places and meets the procedural in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the National Register Criteria. I recommend ficant nationally statewide
Mille	10-21-96
Signature of certifying official	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property meets _ criteria. (See continuation sheet for	does not meet the National Register or additional comments.)
Signature of commenting or other official	l Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	

entered in the National Register — See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register — See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register — See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register other (explain): Signature of Keeper Date of Action 5. Classification Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) x private — public-local — public-state — public-Federal Category of Property (Check only one box) x building(s) — district — site — structure — object Number of Resources within Property Contributing Noncontributing — 7 _ 1 _ buildings — isites = sites	4. National Park Service Certification	
of Action 5. Classification Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	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	Entered in the
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) _x_ private public-local public-State public-Federal Category of Property (Check only one box) _x_ building(s) district site structure object Number of Resources within Property Contributing Noncontributing 7 buildings 7 buildings 7 sites		
	======================================	
Contributing Noncontributing	_x privatepublic-localpublic-Statepublic-Federal Category of Property (Check only one box _x building(s)districtsitestructure	
	Number of Resources within Property	
structures objects 7 Total		es
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register $\underline{0}$	-	_

6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (Enter categories fr Cat: DOMESTIC DOMESTIC AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/ EXTRACTION	om instructions) Sub: single dwelling secondary structure agricultural outbuilding manufacturing facility
DOMESTIC AGRICULTURE	m instructions) Sub: single dwelling secondary structure agricultural outbuilding
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter cat MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival Materials (Enter categories from instrution STONE/limestone roof ASPHALT walls STONE/limestone other WOOD	

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

one or more continuation sheets.)

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)
\underline{x} A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<u>x</u> 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.)
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a 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.
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ARCHITECTURE INDUSTRY
Period of Significance <u>ca. 1850-ca. 1920</u>
Significant Dates <u>ca. 1850</u>
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)n/a
Cultural Affiliation <u>n/a</u>
Architect/Builder <u>unknown</u>
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on

======================================
<pre>continuation sheets.)</pre>
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 #
Primary Location of Additional Data State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository:
10. Geographical Data
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing A 18 262480 4380380 C 18 262500 4379850 B 18 262900 4380000 D 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 $sheet.)$
======================================
name/title Paula S. Reed, Ph.D
organization Paula S. Reed & Associates date August 9, 1995
street & number 105 N. Potomac St. telephone (301) 739-2070
city or town <u>Hagerstown</u> state <u>MD</u> zip code <u>21740</u>

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 the SHPO or FPO.) name <u>Karen & Ben Bell-Andrews; Dennis & Wendy Hite</u>
street & number 17426; 17432 Spielman Road telephone
city or town <u>Fairplay</u> state <u>MD</u> zip code <u>21733</u>

Paperwork Reduction Act 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.

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WA-II-130 Marsh Mills Washington County, MD

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The house called Marsh Mills was constructed ca. 1850 on the north side of Spielman Road, west of the village of Fairplay in Washington County, Maryland. Constructed of stone in the regional tradition, the house stands two and one-half stories high, three bays wide, and faces east. East of the house are the remains of a grist mill which was converted to a creamery in the late 19th century. The complex also includes a barn, cooper shop, and agricultural and domestic outbuildings. There is also a house which may contain remnants of the log house which originally accompanied the mill, but which has been subjected to substantial alterations in the early 20th century.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Marsh Mills complex is located at 17426 and 17432 Spielman Road at Spielman, between Downsville and Fairplay in Washington County. It is situated on the north side of the road where it makes and S turn just east of the Norfolk and Southern rail crossing. The buildings are situated between two branches of Marsh Run which merge on the south side of Spielman Road. These streams powered the mill and the remains of the tail race can be seen passing under the road and following its south edge back to the creek.

The stone house sits at the base of a hill facing east. It has some unusual features including the grouping of openings at the front elevation, the use of a brick corbeled cornice and returns, and the interior floor plan. Built about 1850, it is near the end of the stone house building tradition in Washington County which lasted principally from 1760 to the 1840s.

The walls are constructed of large roughly coursed blocks of limestone. Above the first story openings are keystones flanked on either side by larger rectangular blocks. This masonry treatment is associated with the second quarter of the 19th century in local limestone construction. Rear and upper story windows are topped with one or two elongated rectangular blocks. Beneath the front porch where the masonry has been sheltered, original painted striping can be seen on the masonry joints. This technique was popular throughout the 19th century but appears to have been more prevalent with brick construction.

At the front (east) elevation, the house has two of its three bays grouped in the south half of the wall. One of these bays, the more central, contains the front entrance. Windows have six-over-six light sash within narrow beaded frames with mitered joints. The main entrance is framed similarly to the windows and has low relief paneled jambs. There is a three-light transom over the door. The front and rear walls are finished with two courses of brick corbeling with returns at the gables. Brick chimneys with corbels at their tops are located inside the

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end walls.

A ca. 1920s porch extends across the front of the house. It is supported by square columns connected by a balustrade. At the rear of the house is a one-bay-wide concrete block enclosure, possibly following the configuration of an earlier rear porch. At the south elevation at ground level is a full sized window and door leading into the cellar.

The interior of the house is divided into four rooms at the ground, first and second story levels. At the first story level, however, one partition has been removed between the two rear rooms, creating three rooms on this floor. The front entrance opens into the southeast room which contains a staircase to the second floor and a fireplace with adjoining cupboards. The fireplace is fitted with a relatively plain Greek Revival style mantel with square pilasters and a corbeled shelf. To the right or west of the fireplace is a cupboard with low relief paneled doors, original hardware and a turned wooden knob. The staircase has a round handrail, turned newel with knob and square balusters. The northeast room apparently originally functioned as a parlor and has a fireplace with a similar, but more elaborate mantelpiece with multiple fielded panels. The southwest room is now a kitchen, although it apparently was not so originally. The marks on the ceiling, walls, and floor are clearly visible, showing where the partition was located between this and the northwest room. The northwest room has a small fireplace with a mantel having a raised beveled horizontal panel. The rear exterior door opens into this room.

None of the four second floor rooms has a fireplace. There is a rather unusual arrangement with four doors to these four upper level rooms, all opening onto a small landing at the head of the stair. All of the doors have six low relief panels. Other second floor features include cupboards with original hardware and turned wooden knobs and peg rails.

The ground floor or cellar has two storage rooms, one a root cellar, at the north end. The south two rooms were the original kitchen and dining room. The kitchen was in the southwest corner room with a door that opens to the outside. In the south wall is a large service fireplace with a mantel shelf supported by triangular brackets. There is also an unusual storage cupboard in this room; it has a door with two vertical low relief panels. The area above the door contains four storage compartments, the two lower of which are drawers. One drawer pull remains of the turned wooden type like others in the house.

The southeast room at the front corner of the basement contained the dining room. This room also has a stair with a turned newel and rounded handrail leading to the main level stairway.

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The house is in good condition and remarkable for its intact interior.

In addition to the main house, there are several contributing outbuildings representing the late 19th-early 20th century period, and a mid-20th century frame barn which utilizes an early stone foundation. Farthest south of the house is a frame carriage shed. North of this shed is a frame building said to have been the cooperage for the mill, which may also have served as an out-kitchen. It is a two bay, one story structure with vertical board siding and a large brick exterior chimney at its south end wall. Next to the north, is a smokehouse. constructed of poured concrete, and therefore probably dating from the early 20th century, it is a square structure with a hipped roof with a vent at the top, following the form of 19th century smokehouses in the county. Farther to the north is a small agricultural outbuilding, gable-fronted and of frame construction with a steeply pitched roof. The barn is considered non-contributing as a result of extensive alterations in the mid-20th century; it is a frame structure resting on stone foundations, with a cantilevered forebay and a ramp or bank at the back to access the loft area. The original structure above the foundations was replaced, probably in the 1950s, with the present arched roof which springs from the foundation level.

The remains of the <u>mill</u> are located east of the house. The original foundations are present, capped with a low-pitched gable roof. The removal of the top of the structure probably occurred in the 1880s when the structure was converted from a merchant mill to a creamery. According to an illustration in the 1877 Atlas, the building originally was a two-and-a-half story, stone structure with a gambrel roof. The alterations to the mill reflect the historic shift from grain to dairy in the agricultural economy of Washington County, and it is considered a contributing resource. Traces of the mill race are still visible where it exits the south end of the building, passes beneath the road and runs along the south side of the road to rejoin Marsh Run. East of the mill is a (contributing) American Foursquare style <u>house</u> of frame construction which may incorporate remnants of a log house which served as the original miller's dwelling on the property.

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SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The house at Marsh Mills is significant under Criterion C for its architecture, as an example of a type of stone construction which characterized the vernacular architecture of Washington County from about 1760 through the mid-19th century. Constructed ca. 1850, the house represents the last phase of the stone building tradition in the county; by the 1840s, this method had largely been superseded by brick or frame construction. The house retains a high degree of integrity, and exemplifies stone construction techniques and architectural detailing current at the time when the stone construction tradition was waning in the region. The property derives additional significance from its association with the milling industry, which was important to the economic development of the Cumberland Valley region from the 1730s through the late 19th century. The mill was converted to a creamery about 1888; its altered condition reflects the shift from grain to dairy farming which transformed the agricultural economy of the region in the late 19th century. The period of significance, ca. 1850-ca. 1920, is defined to encompass the range of domestic, agricultural, and industrial resources which characterize the property.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification 1680-1815 A.D. Agricultural/Industrial Transition 1815-1870 A.D. Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building(s)

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Domestic/single dwelling Domestic/secondary structure Agriculture/agricultural outbuilding Industry/Processing/Extraction/mill

Known Design Source: none

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RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT

Records show that while log was the preferred building material in the late 18th and first half of the 19th centuries, the local limestone was the next most used construction material until the 1830s and '40s when brick overtook the use of stone. The frequent use of stone as a building material is associated with limestone land which provided a particularly good source of materials. Surveys of stone buildings in the Cumberland Valley reveal that there is a distinct beginning and ending to the period of stone construction with few examples dating from after 1850.

The stone house at Marsh Mills was constructed about 1850. An equity court proceeding in 1853 records an advertisement for public sale of the mill property with about 30 acres of land "with a new stone dwelling and other improvements thereon". This document confirms the age of the stone house at Haley's Mill as having been build late in the history of stone construction in Washington County, and the larger Cumberland Valley. The interior and exterior features are very intact and consistent with 1850s vernacular traditions in the area.

The decline in the use of local limestone as a building material seems to have come concurrently with the decline in the milling industry in Washington County. Washington County contains the lower portion of the Cumberland Valley, a fertile limestone basin between mountain ridges. The Cumberland Valley is a broad band of rich limestone land extending from the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to the Potomac River south of Hagerstown, Maryland. With its fertile land and other resources, the Cumberland Valley played a crucial role in initial settlement and expansion, the French and Indian War, the Civil War and the development of transportation links and industrialization. The Cumberland Valley was a breadbasket for America for nearly a century from the 1770s to the close of the Civil War resulting in its being served by some of the nation's most important transportation routes.

The Cumberland Valley area was opened for settlement in the 1730s. To the north, in the Pennsylvania portion of the valley, that colony's proprietary government established a policy to encourage Scots-Irish settlers to move into the Cumberland Valley and Germans to settle in the area east of South Mountain and east of the Cumberland Valley because of cultural friction between the two groups. Consequently, concentrated German settlement occurred in York and Adams Counties in Pennsylvania and then as Germans migrated to the south and west, Frederick and Washington Counties in Maryland.

These people of Germanic descent had entered America through the port of Philadelphia. They had been for the most part, agrarians of various Protestant religious groups who had been persecuted in their homeland. German settlers began

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arriving in Washington County in the 1730s. Jacob Rohrer had a grist mill in operation on the Antietam Creek by the late 1730s, which suggests that there were enough farms being worked at the time to keep his mill in business. Grain farming became prominent and as a result, many grist and flour mills were established. The mills took advantage of ample water power to convert grain to more easily marketable meal and flour or to provide custom work for local farmers.

The prominence of milling was a significant feature of the local economy. It reflects the influence of Pennsylvania in that the lower Cumberland Valley in Maryland developed a general agricultural economy with emphasis on wheat and other small grains, rather than the staple economy focusing on tobacco which developed in eastern Maryland. James T. Lemon in The Best Poor Man's Country asserts that Pennsylvania's economy based on general farming was largely the result of markets that opened up at the time Pennsylvania was being settled. Export trade with the West Indies, New England, southern Europe and Ireland, as well as sales to ships' provisioners, created a demand for flour, bread, wheat as well as corn, lumber and flax seed. These trade markets opened up after older colonies like Virginia and Maryland had established bilateral trade of tobacco with England which limited their ability to develop an exchange in new commodities. Pennsylvania was founded about the same time as the new extended trade markets were developed, causing its agricultural system to be significantly shaped by the contemporary market situation. In contrast to Pennsylvania, according to Lemon, the tobacco colonies to the south had a lower average living standard, a slower rate of white population growth and few subsequent towns, at least until they turned to wheat production. The long-term dominance of Cumberland Valley wheat production is illustrated by records which show that by 1870, Washington County had the highest yield of wheat in bushels per acre in Maryland. The county's average yield per acre in that year was 25-3/4 bushels, as compared with a statewide average of $14\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre.4

James T. Lemon, <u>The Best Poor Man's Country</u> (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1972) p. 26, citing Arthur L. Jensen, the <u>Maritime Commerce of Colonial Philadelphia</u> (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1963) Chap. 1, and Gordon C. Bjork, "The Weaning of the American Economy: Independence, Market Changes and Economic Development", <u>Journal of Economic History</u>, 24 (1964): 545.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid, p. 127.

⁴ J. Thomas Scharf, <u>History of Western Maryland</u>, p. 974.

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According to Susan Winter Frye, in her study on mill settlement patterns in Washington County,

Philadelphia initially provided the chief market outlet with Baltimore, Wilmington, and Richmond close behind. The leading flour marketing centers remained in the central colonies throughout the remainder of the 18th century and into the 19th century, as Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia became the foremost grain producers during this period.⁵

Much of this high production is attributable to the very fertile farms of the Cumberland Valley. The many mills which were established along waterways in Washington County were either "merchant mills" which were commercial enterprises, grinding meal or flour that was sold to brokers in the port cities, or custom mills which ground farmers' grain to their specifications for their own use.

The milling industry in Washington County and elsewhere was revolutionized by the introduction of Oliver Evans' water-powered automatic system of milling in the 1780s. In Evans' system, grain was not touched by human hands once it entered the mill. It was instead, carried from bottom to top of the mill several times by way of a system of belts and wheels and buckets. This new automated system reduced labor by half and improved the quality of flour. From the 1780s through the 1850s, Washington County and other parts of the Cumberland Valley prospered, largely due to successful agricultural production. This 60-year span coincided with the construction of farmsteads and expansion of villages and the phenomenon of stone construction.

A second revolution in the milling industry occurred about a decade after the Civil War ended when new types of mechanization took place. In the 1870s, a "New Process" was developed involving the regrinding of grain middlings and gleaning additional flour from them using a "middling purifier". The purifier was a frame containing multiple silk screens which filtered the flour. In the 1880s another technological advance took place with the introduction of steel roller mills to replace the use of grinding stones. Both the roller mills and grain purifiers were introduced from Wisconsin which after the Civil War began to eclipse Baltimore and Philadelphia as grain market centers. Roller mills were really developed to process hard red wheat grown in the plains states and were not necessary for grinding the softer winter wheat grown in the East. However,

⁵ Susan Winter Frye, "Evolution of Mill Settlement Patterns in the Antietam Drainage, Washington County, Maryland". Thesis, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, 1984, p.24.

⁶ Ibid, p. 26.

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merchant mills in Washington County and other areas of the Cumberland Valley and mid-Atlantic region made the expensive conversion to use of steel rollers in an attempt to remain competitive with western flour producers. From the 1880s into the early 1900s, the history of milling in Maryland and Washington County is a troubled one with foreclosures and failures and eventually with most mills shutting down except for local custom work. This history is reflected by Marsh Mills.

The mill was apparently established in the late 18th century by Samuel Wolgamott [also spelled Wolgamore]. He was assessed in the 1783 Tax for a mill valued at £400. In June of 1811, John Wolgamore sold to Henry Coffman 157-3/4 acres for £3116.5, including Wolgamore's Mill. Apparently, Henry Coffman encountered financial difficulties or failed to pay his taxes since the <u>Hagerstown</u> Torchlight and Public Advertiser listed a public sale to be held on November 11, 1818 for "A valuable Grist Mill and 23 acres limestone land with a two story log dwelling house thereon. The above property is well known by the name of Wolgamore's Mill, and is situated about eight miles from Hagerstown . . . ". Apparently Coffman managed to keep the property or at least a portion of it, for he sold the mill with 45 acres to James Coffman in June of 1828. property passed from Coffman to Joseph Emmert to Joseph Long, to Joshua Newcomer in 1839, '41, and '56 respectively. In 1856, the late Joseph Long's property was sold to settle his debts as described in equity court case #1212 (Chancery Record 4/736). The equity court proceeding records that public notice was given "of the sale of the merchant mill and about 30 acres of land with a new stone house and other improvements thereon...". Joseph Long died in September of 1851, which means that the house was either built by him shortly before his death or, probably more likely, by his son David just after his father's death.

The property remained in the Newcomer family from 1856 until 1871, when the mill and stone house were sold separately. The mill and five acres were sold to Cyrus F. Davis for \$2000 on August 15, 1871 (Deed Book WMCKK, Page 673). On the same date, Newcomer sold the stone house and farm buildings to William H. Banks and Jesse D. Banks (Deed Book 74, Page 412) for \$4000. The two pieces of property have remained separate to the present time. The mill was purchased by Thomas M. Haley in 1874 and he owned it until 1879. It was then sold to and operated by Allen and Mary J. Wandling until 1885 when the mill and $4\frac{1}{4}$ acres was purchased by Jonas Spielman whose name this small community now carries. In 1888, Jonas Spielman sold the mill to the Willow Grove Creamery Co. (Deed Book 92, Page 262). At this point the mill was converted to a creamery with butter-making machinery and ceased to operate as a grain mill. This conversion is significant in its own right, reflecting the historic shift from a grain- to a dairy-based economy which characterized the region during the period.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Frye, Susan Winter, "Evolution of Mill Settlement Patterns in the ntietam Drainage, Washington County, Maryland". Thesis, Master of Arts, College of William and Mary, 1984.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Washington County Land Records.

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GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is shown on the accompanying map, and corresponds to parcels 7 and 8 indicated on Washington County Tax Map number 67.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, approximately 12 acres, comprises the remnant of the acreage historically associated with the resource and provides an appropriate setting for the complex.

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National Register Boundaries

Source: Washington County Tax Map No. 67

Scale: 1"=600'

