

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Search Well

and/or common Search Well

2. Location *SE of Burtner m*

street & number *Manor Church Road* N/A not for publication

city, town Burtner *vicinity* vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland code 24 county Washington code 043

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name John M. Shank and Joseph O. Matthews, Jr.

street & number Route 1, Box 381

city, town Boonsboro N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21713

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

street & number West Washington Street

city, town Hagerstown state Maryland 21740

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date Summer 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

WA-II-156

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Search Well is a limestone farmstead dating from ca. 1800 and located along the south side of Manor Church Road in Washington County. Included in the complex is the house, a smoke house, bake oven, springhouse and servants quarters. The house is a two and one half story, four bay building with a two story, four bay ell to the rear added during the second quarter of the 19th century. The front part of the house displays coursed limestone walls with flat arches above the openings at the south elevation, and modified central keystones above the other openings. The interior of the house features an original federal style mantelpiece with reeded decoration in the southwest room, and trompe l'oeil graining of the doors and staircase. There are two architectural features which are quite unusual among Washington County farmhouses. One is the egg and dart plaster molding decorating the ceiling of the southeast room. The other distinctive feature is the movable wall between the two south rooms of the second story. Built of vertical beaded boards and attached to the ceiling on hinges, the wall can be raised and hung on hooks to turn these two rooms into one large space. Nearly all of the interior work is original to the initial construction or to the period of the major addition during the second quarter of the 19th century. The outbuildings retain their original appearance and are contemporary with the house.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The complex of buildings is oriented away from the present course of Manor Church Road which was relocated to its present route in the mid 19th century. The situation of the buildings attests to an older means of access to the farmstead.

From the front, the house appears quite imposing and its proportions are indeed elegant among rural housing in Washington County. The stones are quite evenly coursed and there is a large space between the upper level windows and the plate giving the house a long vertical dimension. Six light basement windows are also exposed above ground level.

Window frames are moderately wide, with a bead at the inner edge. Pegs securing the joints of the frames are visible. Windows at the first story level of the front section have nine over six light sashes while other windows with the exception of those in the basement have six over six light sashes.

The main entrance is located in the second bay from the west end of the front elevation. The door has a narrow frame with a beaded edge. This frame appears to be a replacement of the original material which probably matched the window frames. Above the door is a four light transom. An area around the door has been covered with stucco which was decorated with a vertical band of egg and dart molding. This plastered section is not original to the house, but apparently was done as part of a stylish modernization during the second quarter of the 19th century. The plaster was beneath a one bay Greek

8. Significance

WA-II-156

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/ 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Early 19th century **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criteria: C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Search Well is significant for its architecture, as an early 19th century farmstead which retains most of its contributing elements including a limestone farmhouse, smokehouse, springhouse, bakehouse and servant's quarters. Vernacular architecture of the early 19th century in the limestone region of Western Maryland was distinctly influenced by traditions developed in the Pennsylvania culture region; the main house at Search Well embodies this influence in its form, proportions, and plan, its carefully coursed stone construction, and the presence of a complement of outbuildings supporting specific domestic functions including a typical Pennsylvania bake oven. The house is distinguished by several architectural features which are not commonly found in buildings of its type: an original Federal-style mantelpiece with reeded decoration remains; fine trompe l'oeil grained woodwork and plaster egg-and-dart molding reflect a renovation carried out in the second quarter of the 19th century. These refinements are atypical of Washington County farmhouses of the period. A moveable partition, constructed of vertical boards and hinged at the ceiling, separates two second-story rooms; this element is unknown elsewhere in Washington County.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Any discussion of Search Well should focus on the hinged wall because it is such an unusual element. The purpose of such a wall is not clearly defined. Obviously, the wall when raised turned the two rooms it separates into one large space. According to local tradition, the house was used as a place of worship. When a church service was held, the wall was raised and the congregation met in the second floor of the house. No documentation was found to either support or deny this tradition. However, the Manor Church which is located about one and a half miles west of this house is a stone structure which post-dates the Search Well house. The Manor Church served the surrounding community and continues in use today.

Another significant feature of the house is that it shows an unusual degree of refinement among farmhouses in Washington County. This refinement is seen in the decorative plaster molding, the painted trim and the reeded mantelpiece.

Land and probate records suggest that Search Well may have been built by or for Isaac Hershey or perhaps one of his sons. The Hershey family owned a large amount of land in the Manor Church vicinity during the late 18th and

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Washington County Land Records.
Washington County Probate Records.
Williams, T.J.C., History of Washington County. Hagerstown,
Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.5 acres

Quadrangle name Funkstown, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	2	6	6	8	2	0	4	3	7	7	8	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	8	2	6	6	7	8	0	4	3	7	7	7	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	8	2	6	6	6	4	0	4	3	7	7	7	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	8	2	6	6	6	8	0	4	3	7	7	8	6	0
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 #2

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 Paula Stoner Reed

organization Preservation Associates, Inc. date October 1981

street & number Box 202 telephone (301) 432-5466

city or town Sharpsburg state Maryland 21782

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature] 12-6-82

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the
<u>[Signature]</u>	National Register date <u>1/17/83</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Search Well

Continuation sheet Washington County, Maryland Item number 7

Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Revival entrance porch which has been removed temporarily from the building for restoration.

The ell extending to the rear of the building has a double porch along its east elevation from which there are entrances into various rooms at both stories.

The interior of the house is bisected by a stair and entrance hall. To the east of the hall is a formal parlor separated from a smaller rear room by a broad archway. The focal point of the parlor is a fireplace in the east wall and decorative plaster in the form of egg and dart molding edging the ceiling. This trim is similar to that of the exterior plaster work around the front door and is probably part of the renovation from the second quarter of the 19th century.

The staircase in the hallway features decorative carved scrolls and trompe l'oeil painting on its side to suggest raised fielded panels. In addition, baseboards throughout the front section of the house are painted to resemble marble.

The room west of the hallway has a fireplace mantel with multiple reeded panels which is part of the original construction of the house.

The most outstanding element of the house is the movable wall between the two main rooms at the second story of the original section. The hooks and eyes for suspending this wall remain in place. The wall is built of vertical beaded boards attached to a frame. Chairrail and baseboard is applied to both sides of the wall.

At the exterior, a smoke house and bake house are located to the west of the house. Both are constructed of stone and retain their original interior features. The smoke house retains a central vertical post with attached side arms for hanging meats. The oven of the bake house is still in place. South-east of the house is a one and a half story secondary dwelling used to house slaves or hired help. It would appear to date from the second quarter of the 19th century. At the end of the property, several hundred feet south of the house, is a stone springhouse.

The property, which includes almost five acres, has been terraced and landscaped by the present owner.

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Search Well

Continuation sheet Washington County, Maryland Item number 8 and 10

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

early 19th centuries. In 1794, Isaac Hershey purchased from Thomas Smith 560 1/2 acres for £ 3000, (Deed Book H, page 922). In his will, made June 6, 1811, (Will Book B, page 241), Isaac Hershey mentions his sons, Isaac, David, and Christian, and refers to several houses on his property: a wooden dwelling adjoining a stone house and his "present mansion house" with an "addition built thereto". Between 1811 and 1845, there are no clear records concerning this property. Isaac Hershey's son, Christian, died about 1830, leaving several children including a daughter named Catherine. It is not known from information currently available whether Christian's daughter, Catherine, is the same Catherine Hershey who sold the farm upon which Search Well is located to Phineas Williams in 1845 (Deed Book IN 1, page 646). Williams' purchase price of \$10,815.94 suggests that the improvements on the property were substantial. By 1878, the property had descended from Phineas Williams to Samuel and Martha E. Schlosser, who sold it on April 16th of that year to Nathaniel Mumma. The farm descended through the Mumma family until 1967 when the 4.5 acre tract containing the house and domestic outbuildings was separated from the larger farm and sold. The present owners purchased Search Well in 1967 and have restored the house to its current appearance.

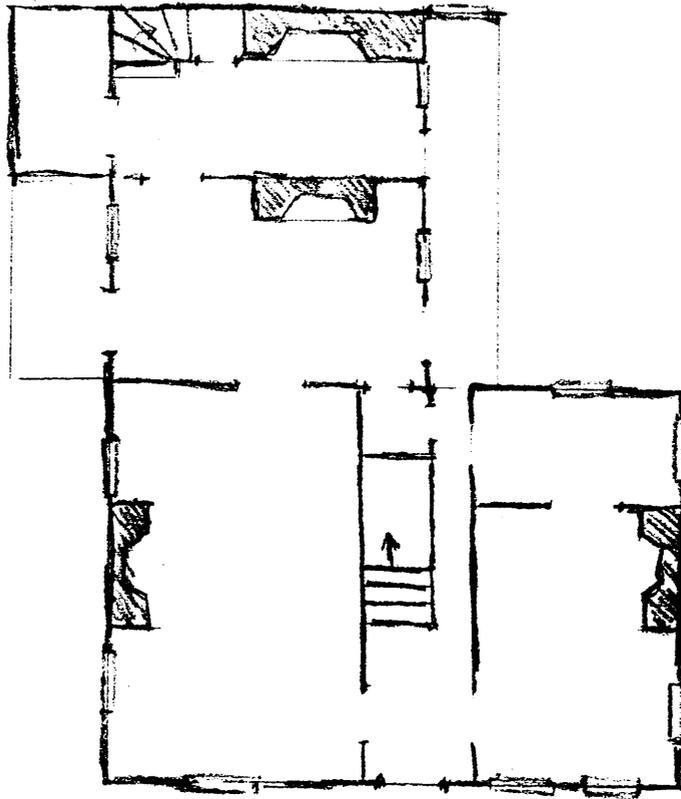
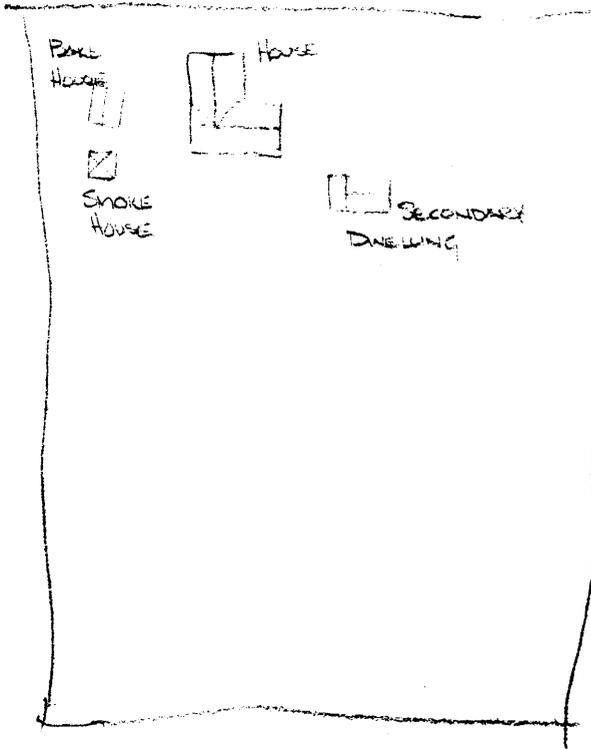
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

The nominated acreage includes the entire property held by the present owners. The acreage includes the buildings and their immediately surrounding grounds which constitute an environment for the buildings.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The 4.5 acres upon which the nominated buildings stand is a rectangular tract with Manor Church Road forming its northern side. From a point on the south side of Manor Church Road, northwest of the house the boundary extends to the south approximately 450 feet to a point; then turns east approximately 400 feet to the southeast corner of the springhouse, then north 450 about 400 feet to the south side of the road, then west along the margin of the road to the place beginning.

MANOR CHURCH ROAD



Approximate 1st Floor Plan

