

Hoffman Farm, Original House  
Keedysville Road  
Sharpsburg Vicinity  
Washington County  
Maryland

HABS NO. MD-961

HABS  
MD,  
22 SHARPSV.  
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PHOTOGRAPHS AND  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HOFFMAN FARM, HOUSE

HABS NO. MD-961

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Location: Keedysville Road, north of Upper Bridge, Sharpsburg  
Vicinity, Washington County, Maryland

Significance: These houses derive their significance from their  
status as well preserved examples of rural  
vernacular structures as well as through their  
association with the Civil War Battle of Antietam.

Description: **Original House:** Constructed of local limestone and  
situated over a spring, this structure has a long  
sloping roof with a deep overhang which forms the  
roof of a double porch at its south elevation. The  
ends of this porch are sheathed with wooden siding.  
Wide window frames are joined at the corners with  
wooden pins and hold nine-over-six-light double  
hung sashes at the main story. Six-over-six sashes  
are used at the ground floor level. The main  
entrance is located in the center bay of the south  
elevation. A door with six raised panels is held  
within a frame similar to those of the windows.  
The building is roofed with sheet metal and has an  
interior brick chimney inside its east gable end.  
**Main House:** This brick house is a two-story,  
seven-bay structure set on low fieldstone  
foundation. At all elevations, the bricks are laid  
in American bond with, generally, five courses of  
stretchers between header rows. Flat arches of  
brick are present over openings in the main facade  
of the front elevation, the northwest end wall, and  
the southwest or rear wall. In the front elevation  
of the main block, windows and doors appear to be  
placed symmetrically in the front wall, and the  
principal entrance is located in the center bay.  
The entrance is sheltered by a one story low-hipped  
porch supported by tapered square pillars. Along  
the east end of its front elevation, in what  
appears to be an addition, is a recessed double  
porch which is included under the main roof span.  
Wide wooden lintels are present over openings  
beneath the double porch and in the southeast end  
wall. The side-gabled roof is sheathed with sheet  
metal and is punctuated by three chimneys. Two  
anchor the entire structure at the gable ends and a  
third is located at the juncture between the main  
block and the addition.

History: Although no definitive dates have been established  
for these two houses, architectural evidence  
suggests two different periods of construction.  
The fact that the original house is situated over a

spring and constructed of local limestone, leads to the determination of late eighteenth or early nineteenth century construction. The main brick house with its recessed double porch along part of the front elevation is representative of a major type of house found in the Cumberland Valley. Most dated examples which have been observed were built during the mid nineteenth century. The farm has been held by the Hoffman and related families since before 1830. According to the current deed for the property, John Hoffman acquired this land in 1830 by adverse possession. According to the law, he must have held the property for at least 21 years before acquiring it in this manner.

During the Battle of Antietam in 1862, this farm appeared much as it does now. Known as the Hoffman Hospital it provided aid for over 800 federal troops, most of whom were from Sumner's Second Corps. In a report of the Sanitary Commission, an agency similar to today's Red Cross which reviewed conditions at the field hospitals, the Hoffman Hospital was rated as excellent. Doctors Dougherty and Hayward supervised this hospital.

Sources: Hoffman-Scheller Farm, Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey, July, 1976

Historian: Martha Wagner  
HABS  
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