

WILLIAM HOUSE FARM, BARN  
East side of West Wilson Road,  
approximately 0.7 mile north of  
Breakneck Road  
Flintstone vicinity  
Allegany County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1081-B

HABS  
MD  
1-FLINT  
1B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

HABS  
MD  
1-FLINT.V  
IB-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WILLIAM HOUSE FARM, BARN HABS No. MD- 1081 -B

Location: East side of West Wilson Road, approximately 0.7 mile north of Breakneck Road, Flintstone vicinity, Allegany County, Maryland

USGS Flintstone, Md.-Pa. Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates  
18.705080.4395290

Significance: The barn on the William House Farm is significant as a typical example of a timber-frame bank barn, representative of a type of structure associated with the mixed farming carried on in eastern Allegany County from the settlement period of the late eighteenth century into the twentieth century. Its two-level, three-bay form and timber-frame construction on a stone basement are characteristic features. The barn appears to be a relatively late example of the type, probably dating from the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and as such is noteworthy for its perpetuation of a traditional form and construction method into the recent period. The farm complex of which the barn is a part is a contributing resource in the Breakneck Road Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Description: The barn is constructed on a basement of uncoursed rubble, partially excavated into a bank. It is a three-bay structure of timber frame construction, measuring 52'-0" wide by 44'-9" deep. The lower level comprises cattle stalls and mangers; on the upper level, a central runway or threshing floor is flanked by haymows on both sides. The entrance to the runway is located in the east side, served by an earthen ramp. The principal framing members exhibit traditional pegged mortise-and-tenon joinery. In comparison to barns of early date, these members appear relatively small in section, and were produced with a circular saw rather than hewn, suggesting that the structure was built late in the nineteenth century. The framing system comprises symmetrical bents, with a pair of tall central posts spanned by a large girt and steadied by downbraces; these posts support purlins upon which the common rafters rest. Flanking the central pair are lower wall posts which support the plate; the perimeter posts are joined to the central posts by horizontal beams. These beams are stabilized by upbraces from the outer posts; diagonal braces run from the upper faces of these

beams, just inside the plate, to the outer face of the central posts near the purlins. Roof framing comprises light common rafters mitered to a ridge board. The roof is covered with corrugated metal; the structure is sheathed with vertical boards. The stone foundation is partially parged. Significant displacement of the east foundation wall was observed.

**History:** As was typical of the family farms in the region, the House operation spanned a broad range of agricultural pursuits. The estate inventories of Enoch and Allen House, son and grandson of William, who worked the farm in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, reflect a wide variety of crops and activities: cultivating grain crops, including white and red wheat, corn, and rye; raising cattle, horses, mules, hogs, and sheep; blacksmithing; and possibly also wheelwrighting and sawmilling.

Agricultural prosperity increased in the mid nineteenth century, fueling the expansion and redevelopment of farms in the area; another period of agricultural growth followed the end of the Civil War. This period is reflected in the bank barn on the House farm; technological evidence suggests that this structure was built in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

**Sources:** Allegany County Land Records. Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

Allegany County Register of Wills. Administration Accounts, Inventories, Wills, on microfilm at Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

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Hinkle, Helen S., "The House Farm," Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form AL-II-A-086, 1975, on file at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

J. William Hunt, "Across the Desk," Cumberland [Maryland] Sunday Times, December 17, 1950.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. 2 vols. Orig. pub. Philadelphia, 1882; rpt. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968.

Stegmaier, Harry, Jr., et al. Allegheny County - A History. Parsons, West Virginia: McClain Printing Company, 1976.

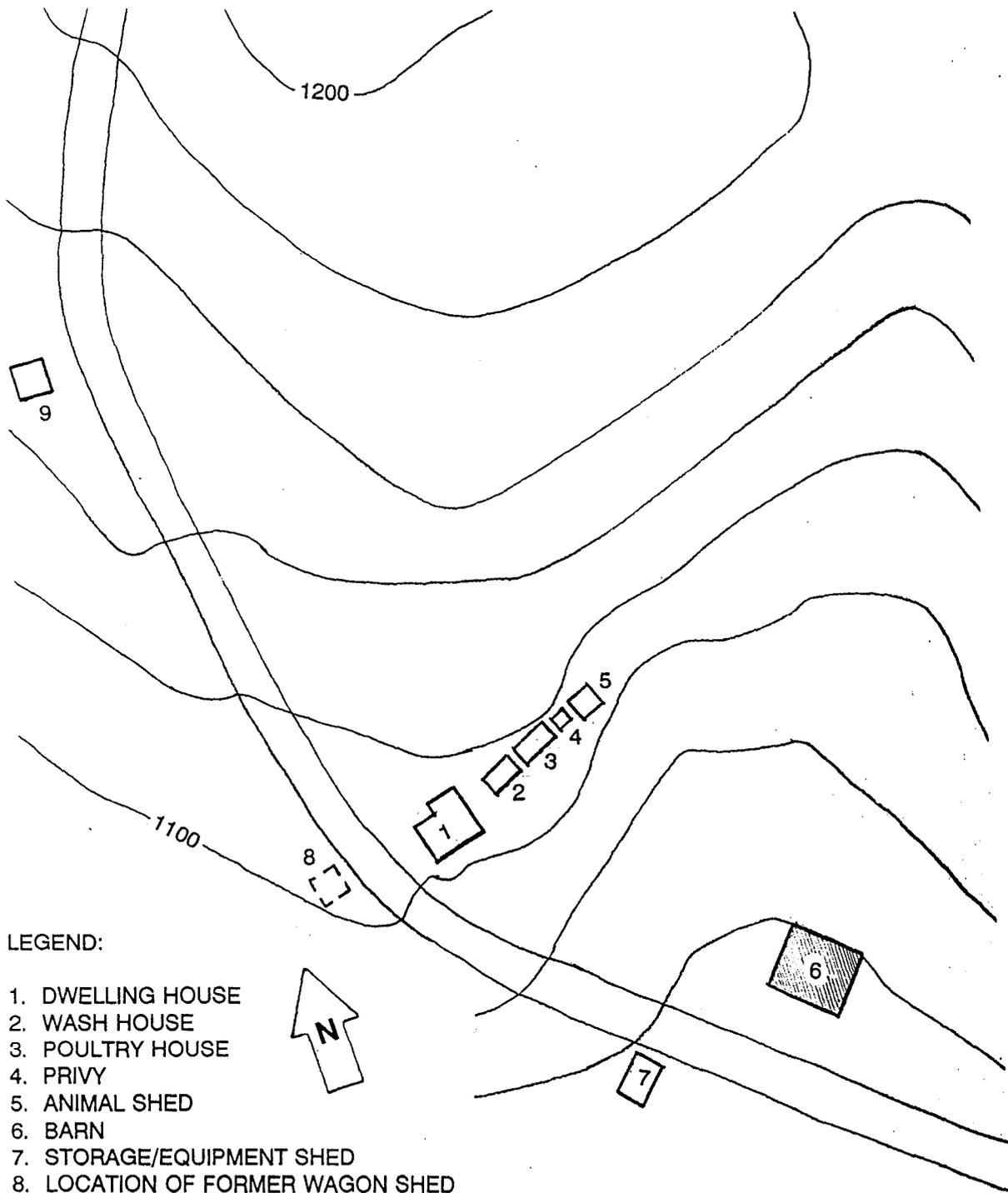
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Interviews were conducted with Mr. George E. Fellows, Jr., occupant of the property since 1970, at his home on November 3 and 8, 1993.

Historian:

This project was sponsored by the Farmers Home Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture as a condition of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The documentation was undertaken by Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Historian, with field assistance from Michael Seibert. The photography was prepared by J. Brough Schamp. The project was completed during the months of October and November, 1993.

Location Plan  
not to scale



LEGEND:

1. DWELLING HOUSE
2. WASH HOUSE
3. POULTRY HOUSE
4. PRIVY
5. ANIMAL SHED
6. BARN
7. STORAGE/EQUIPMENT SHED
8. LOCATION OF FORMER WAGON SHED
9. SHEEPFOLD