
7. Description

Inventory No. 10/3

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John Moxley Farm is a 70.9-acre farm on the east side of Kemptown Road (Route 80), about 1500 feet from the boundary of Montgomery and Frederick Counties. The address is 28800 Kemptown Road. The property derives from a tract of land described in the land records as Friendship. The property is primarily open fields that slope gently down from the eastern corner toward the western property line. The western corner is forested and contains a large wetland area. The Fahrney Branch runs along the western boundary of the property. The farmstead is set close to the road and is clustered in an area of about 1.2 acres. Aerial photos show a rectangular building at the rear of the property, close to the western property line, which was not visited during a field visit. Other buildings and structures on the property include a dwelling house, smoke house, concrete block front-gabled garage, gable-roofed concrete block dairy barn and attached milk house, a concrete block silo, a shed-roofed vehicle and equipment storage building, and the remains of a family cemetery.

Dwelling House

The two-story dwelling house is an L-shaped, side-gabled structure with a wrap-around porch and a one-story side ell. The house is oriented northeast toward the road and covered with aluminum siding. The structure appears to date from c1877. The property was acquired by Jonathan and George Moxley in 1877. The 1878 map shows "Jno. Moxley" living here. According to Buxton, there is evidence of an older dwelling.¹

The main block is 5 bays wide by 2 bays deep and is symmetrical. The roof is corrugated metal, and there are two interior corbelled brick chimneys. On the front façade, there are replacement one over one windows on the upper story, and on the lower story, there are two large replacement picture windows. There are shutters on all windows. Sidelights and a three-pane transom surround the door. A partial-width, shed-roofed replacement porch wraps around the northeastern (front) and northwestern (side) facades, and the porch roof is corrugated metal on the front facade, and corrugated metal and standing seam metal on the side. The porch has a metal railing, a concrete-block foundation, and is supported by tapered wood posts on rusticated concrete-block piers. There are two over two wood sash windows on the northwestern gable end, and in each gable there are also two fixed two over two windows.

The rear ell has two over two wood sash windows and the northwestern side, a single fixed, two over two window in the gable on the southwestern side, and replacement one over one windows on the southeastern side. The shed-roofed side ell may be an enclosed porch. The roof of the rear ell is standing seam metal, and there is a stovepipe chimney on the ridge.

Dairy Barn and Milk House

To the south of the house is a dairy barn and attached milk house. The structures likely date from after 1931 when Raymond Moxley acquired the property. The dairy barn is an unusual, one-story, gabled-roofed building of approximately 50 feet by 20 feet, topped with a corrugated metal roof. The barn is made of both panel-faced and standard plain-faced concrete blocks. Corners are articulated by quoins. Some of the concrete blocks have been painted white. Panel-faced concrete blocks are found on the west façade, which also contains a continuous row of

¹Allie May Moxley Buxton. Nehemiah Moxley.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 10-3

Name

Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

fixed three by four windows. The other facades have plain-faced concrete blocks. On the east façade are a two fixed three by four windows and a center door made of vertical wood slats. Milking stanchions can be observed through the windows.

The gable-roofed milk house sits perpendicular to the dairy barn and is attached to it by shed-roofed porch. The milk house measures about 15 by 25 feet, is made of standard plain-faced concrete blocks, and has a roof made of standing seam metal. There is an entry opening on the west side. On the north façade are two fixed three over three windows.

Both the dairy barn and milk house have lap siding in the gables.

Concrete Block Silo

There is a short, concrete block silo to the southeast of the dairy barn, in front of dairy barn door.

Smoke House

To the northwest of the dwelling house stands a rectangular, front-gabled smoke house with lap siding, a door made of narrow vertical wooden slats, and a roof covered with corrugated metal.

Vehicle and Equipment Storage Buildings

Also on the property is a front-gabled, two-bay wide garage or vehicle and equipment storage building to the south of the house, with a roof made of standing metal seam and walls of standard plain-faced concrete blocks. The northwestern gable has patterned novelty siding. To the south of the dairy barn is a flat-roofed vehicle and equipment storage building made of plywood.

Moxley Family Cemetery

Gravestones are located on the eastern portion of the property that has Kemptown Road frontage (east of Parcel N130, near 28721 Kemptown Road). Stones are propped on and near the stump of a tree. Three stones are legible, and several other slate markers are nearby. Stones that have been identified are for Sarah E Moxley, 1807-1877, and Ezekial Moxley, died 1869 in his 67th year.²

²Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory, ID 241, surveyed 4-17-2004. Transcription at www.interment.net

8. Significance

Inventory No. 10-3

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1877

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The property known as the John Moxley Farm was originally part of the Ezekial Moxley Farm. The existing house is believed to have been built about 1877 by Jonathan Moxley. The side-gable house may incorporate an earlier structure. The dwelling has diminished integrity. In 1931, the farm was conveyed to Raymond Moxley. When the house was surveyed in 1973, its significance was due in most part for a wormweed distillery operated in the early to mid 20th century. The wormweed mill was identified separately as a historic resource and has been previously evaluated and removed from the Atlas. This part of Montgomery County was one of the few areas anywhere known for growing and processing wormweed for health-related purposes.

Ezekial Moxley first established a farm in this area. Ezekial was the son of Nehemiah Moxley, a farmer from Anne Arundel County, who started purchasing land in the upper tip of Montgomery County in the last quarter of the 1700s.³ Ezekial acquired two tracts of land, one tract of 26.5 acres from Warfield and Norwood in 1854, and one from Fahrner, being 49.5 acres.⁴ The current property is 70.6 acres. A cemetery was established on or near the property by c1865. Ezekial Moxley, who died in 1869, was buried here, along with Sarah E Moxley, died 1877. The exact location of the graveyard is unknown, having been disturbed by farming operations. Several grave markers and stones are located on site. Also in the vicinity was a slave cemetery.⁵

The current house is believed to have been built about 1877. Jonathan (John) Moxley acquired the property that year with his brother George. "Jno. Moxley" is shown living here on the 1878 Hopkins map. The George Moxley Farm is 28900 Kemptown Road, Resource #10-6. The John Moxley House may incorporate an earlier dwelling. The structure, a side-gable house with rear ell, has had numerous alterations. The structure is covered with

³ Ezekial and two brothers William and Jacob each established farms in this area, on land originally acquired by their father Nehemiah. Their three homesteads were each listed on the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historical Sites in Montgomery County Maryland* (1976). William's homestead is listed as #10-1 Friendship and is located at the address noted in this form above. Jacob's homestead is listed as #15-3 Rezin Moxley House, 3597 Medd Avenue, Mt. Airy (in part not within Montgomery County). Remarkably, Moxley descendants still own and/or live on each property.

See Buxton, op. cit., for background information on Nehemiah Moxley and his family.

⁴ Deeds JGH 4:11; PBR 514:123.

⁵Montgomery County Historical Society, Cemetery Inventory. The owner of 28110 has indicated that the slave burial ground was located southwest of 28110 in a wooded area.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 10-3

Name John Moxley Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

artificial siding and vinyl soffits. The center door is flanked by tri-part picture windows. Other windows have been replaced with modern sash. A wrap-around porch has early 20th century supports with concrete piers and battered posts.

A log barn which stood when the property was originally surveyed in the 1970s does not appear to be still standing. The property includes a family cemetery. Tombstones are loose and laying against a stump in the field.

Jonathan (John) Eldridge Moxley (1847-1928) married Virginia Baker (1847-1930). His brother George Washington Moxley (1848-1936) married Virginia's sister Sarah E Baker (1843-1921). The two families lived on property they inherited from their father.⁶

Jonathan and George Moxley conveyed the property to Raymond Moxley in 1931.⁷ Raymond Moxley owned a wormweed distillery, operated by Arthur Hardy. Wormweed was grown by local farmers in the early and mid 20th century when it was used for medicinal remedies to guard against intestinal parasites. The bushy plant was cured in the fields and taken by the wagonloads to Moxley's still. Small green fruits produced black seeds from which an oil was rendered. The oil was placed in jars and used for medicinal purposes and later as a base for ship paint. The market ended in the mid-1970s due to cheaper synthetic products.⁸

Nehemiah Moxley himself (b. 12/19/1737 or 1738, d. 2/13/1836) apparently never resided in Montgomery County, but lived and died in Anne Arundel County in an area that is now Howard County.⁹ In 1786, Nehemiah Moxley purchased 200 acres from Henry Ridgely of Anne Arundel.¹⁰ This land appears to lie both to the west and

⁶Allie May Moxley Buxton, pp179-85.

⁷Deed 528:306.

⁸Wormweed mill information in Michael F. Dwyer, #10-3 John Moxley House, MHI Inventory Form, 10-25-73. Nan Norton, "A History Moment: The Wormweed Story," and Betty Moxley Jernigan, "A Recollection of Growing Wormweed." In *Damascus Heritage Society Newsletter*, Summer 2008, Vol 2, n 3.

⁹His obituary states "he was present, and assisted with many others of his fellow citizens, in throwing the tea overboard at Annapolis, at the commencement of the Revolutionary War" – a significant event in Maryland's Revolutionary War history. As related in *Nehemiah Moxley*, on 10/15/15/1774, colonists boarded the Peggy Stewart brigantine at Annapolis, dumped its tea cargo overboard, and then burned the ship. The colonists did so to protest the ship's captain actions -- paying tax on the tea to the British and then smuggling the tea into the colony despite the ban on imports from Great Britain imposed by the first Maryland Convention, which opened in Annapolis on 1774.6.22. Richard K. MacMaster & Ray Eldon Hiebert, *A Grateful Remembrance – The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland 1776 – 1976*, Montgomery County Government and Montgomery County Historical Society, page 31.

¹⁰See Deed K 188-190, dated 3/16/1802, which mentions an earlier land transaction on 1/8/1786 between Henry Ridgely and Nehemiah Moxley for land lying in Montgomery County, part of Friendship now called Prospect Hill, for which no deed was found. (Deed K 188-190 from 1802.3.16 is from Henry Ridgely, Junior, executor for Henry Ridgely deceased, to Nehemiah Moxley, for five shillings current money, for 200 acres of land lying in Montgomery County from Friendship now called Prospect Hill, beginning at the 56th line of Friendship...to Shadrach Penn's part of Friendship...to the main road leading through Montgomery County by Gaithers store known by the name of Buceys Road...to the 46th line of Friendship...to the 68th line of Henry and Elizabeth Enlarged...to the 61st line of Friendship ... to the beginning. The 1802 deed was issued because Henry Ridgely Junior was authorized by Henry Senior's will to remedy "all lands sold by the said Henry Ridgely deceased, and remaining unconveyed, including this land part of Friendship now called Prospect Hill, which was sold by Henry Ridgely Sr. to Nehemiah Moxley on January 8th, 1786.")

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 10-3

Name John Moxley Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

east of Ridge Road (Route 27), then known as Bucey's Road.¹¹ The land was from a 1575-acre tract described as "Friendship now known as Prospect Hill," which Captain Henry Ridgely had surveyed and patented as Friendship in 1760. Friendship was one of the earliest and largest patents in the area now known as Clagettsville, and Captain Henry Ridgely went on to become one of the largest land owners in what eventually became Montgomery County.¹² Captain Ridgely twice resurveyed the 1575-acre tract known as Friendship – in 1770 as Friendship Enlarged, 1915 acres (patented on 10/25/1796 to Thomas Snowden and Charles A. Warfield), and in 1775 as Prospect Hill, 3008 acres (patented on 10/31/1796, again to Snowden and Warfield).¹³ Friendship Farm, Resource #10-1, takes its name from the original and much larger land patent, Friendship, and continues to be owned by Moxley family descendants. Nehemiah died in 1836.¹⁴

Kempton Road (Route 80) was established sometime between 1748 to 1774, after Fredericktown had been laid out in 1745 and become the county seat in 1748, when Frederick County was created.¹⁵ The road ran from The City of Frederick along the Fredericktown-Baltimore Road to New Market, through Monrovia, through Kempton, over Rue's Ford (over the Monocacy), through what became Clagettsville, Damascus, Etchison, and Unity (i.e., approximately along what are now Routes 108 Laytonsville Road and Route 650 New Hampshire Avenue), to Green's Bridge above Brighton Dam Road, near Green's Bridge Road) and over the Patuxent. In 1774, the General Assembly listed this road as one of several "principal market roads to be improved." The road has been known by various names, including the "Road from New Market to Colesville," and "Road from New Market to Washington." In 1767 court records, as well as in deeds¹⁶ from the area that eventually became known as Clagettsville, the road is referred to as "Bucey's" or "Busey's" Road, perhaps because the earliest patent in the Clagettsville area was taken

¹¹ See reference to Buceys Road in Deed K 188-190 cited in the footnote above. The road may have been called Buceys Road in honor of Edward Busey, who in 1748 was granted a patented for a 100-acre tract known as Black Walnut Plains, thus became the earliest patent holder in the area of eventually known as Clagettsville. (See MSA S 1220-1653 in Frederick County plat records, which is an unpatented Resurvey of Black Walnut Plains from 1758 granted to "Edward Busey" and which refers to the original patent from 1748 granted to the same Edward Busey.) (See also Janie W. Payne, "Highlights of Early Damascus Area History, Old Quaker road, Buffalo Road," in *The Montgomery County Story*, Montgomery County Historical Society, Vol. IX, No. 4, August 1966, page 6.) The aforementioned "Gaithers store" may have been located on this same main road as it passed through Sunshine, as the 1879 Hopkins Atlas shows a Gaither and a store at this location.

¹² See the 1783 Census for Montgomery County, which show that Henry Ridgely had 2172 acres in Sugarloaf and Linganore Hundreds, and his son, Henry Ridgely Jr. had 800 plus acres. According to Richard K. MacMaster & Ray Eldon Hiebert, *A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland 1776-1976*, Montgomery County Government and Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, MD, 1976 and 1996, page 44, only 6 persons, owned more than 3000 acres at this time, namely Robert Peter, James Brooke, Richard Thomas, George Plater, Henry Ridgely, and Daniel Carroll.

¹³ Maryland State Archives Accession # MSA S 1197-1575, in Frederick County. Maryland State Archives Accession # MSA S 1189-560, in Anne Arundel County. Maryland State Archives Accession # MSA S 1189-1293, in Anne Arundel County.

¹⁴Buxton, op. cit., page 6, Nehemiah Moxley, born 12/19/1737 or 1738, died 2/18/1836. Nehemiah's will is dated 11/5/1827, page 354.

¹⁵ Information in this paragraph, aside from information on Edward Busey patent called Black Walnut Plains, is liberally drawn from Janie W. Payne, "Highlights of Early Damascus Area History," in *Montgomery County Story*, published by Montgomery County Historical Society, Vol. IX, No. 4, August 1966, pages 1-10.

¹⁶ See Deed K 188-190, 3/16/1802, from Henry Ridgely to Nehemiah Moxley, which mentions "Bucey's Road." – see footnote 13.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 10-3

Name John Moxley Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

out by Edward Busey, in 1748 for Black Walnut Plains¹⁷ (approximately where Brown's Church Road is today). From the early 1800's to the latter part of the 1800's, the road was known as the "Quaker Road" and "Old Quaker Road," because there were Quaker settlements south of New Market in Monrovia, and into Patuxent and Annapolis.

¹⁷ See MSA S 1220-1653, Frederick, an unpatented Resurvey of Black Walnut Plains dated 4/26/1758 for 1420 acres, which refers to the original survey from 10/27/1748 for 100 acres.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 10-3

Name John Moxley Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4



John Moxley House
North (front) facade, 1-2008

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 10-3

Name John Moxley Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5



John Moxley House
West façade, at left. 1-2008

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 10-3

Name John Moxley Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 6



John Moxley House
South (rear) facade, left, and east façade, right. 1-2008

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 10-3

Name John Moxley Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 7



John Moxley Farm
Concrete block barn and outbuildings, 1-2008

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 10-3

Name John Moxley Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 8



John Moxley Farm
Concrete block barn and outbuildings, 1-2008

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 10-3

Name John Moxley Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 9



Smokehouse



Tombstones

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. 10-3

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 70.6 acres

Acreage of historical setting _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Sandra Youla and Clare Lise Kelly		
organization	M-NCPPC	date	11-2009
street & number	8787 Georgia Avenue	telephone	301-563-3400
city or town	Silver Spring	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 10-3

Name John Moxley Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

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Dwyer, Michael F. "John Moxley House, #10-3," MHT Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey, 10-1973.

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas made from 1878 survey.

Jernigan, Betty Moxley. "A Recollection of Growing Wormweed." *Damascus Heritage Society Newsletter*, Summer 2008, Vol 2, n 3.

Montgomery County Historical Society, Cemetery Inventory:

Ezekial Moxley Family Cemetery, ID 241, surveyed 4-17-2004. Transcription at www.interment.net
Moxley Slave Cemetery, ID 267, surveyed 8-20-2005.

Norton, Nan. "A History Moment: The Wormweed Story," *Damascus Heritage Society Newsletter*, Summer 2008, Vol 2, n 3.