

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/6

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Becraft Farm

other

2. Location

street and number 28500 Ridge Road not for publication

city, town Mount Airy vicinity

county Montgomery

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William E & Stacy Rouse

street and number 28500 Ridge Road telephone

city, town Mount Airy state MD zip code 21771-4441

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 20720 folio 650

city, town Rockville tax map FY53 tax parcel P375 tax ID number 01613937

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	Number of Contributing Resources	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	previously listed in the Inventory	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	_____	

7. Description

Inventory No. 15/6

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.

When it was surveyed in 1973, the Becraft Farm included a two-story log dwelling and a prominent bank barn. A recently constructed dwelling stands on the foundation of the original dwelling. The bank barn is no longer standing, only foundation walls remain of the structure. Historic buildings that remain are a corn crib and a small front-gable frame structure located north of the bank barn ruins.

The corn crib rests of stone piers. It has a braced frame joined with pegs and is sheathed with vertical boards and battens.

The bank barn foundation is stone

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15-6

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1



Becraft House
Michael F Dwyer, 10-1973
Below: January 2008 view.



Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15-6

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2



Becraft Farm: Bank barn, corn crib (center) and house (far right)
Michael F Dwyer, 10-1973
Below: January 2008 view.



Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15-6

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 3



Bank barn, right, and corn crib. Michael F Dwyer, 10-1973.
Below: January 2008 view.



Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15-6

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 4



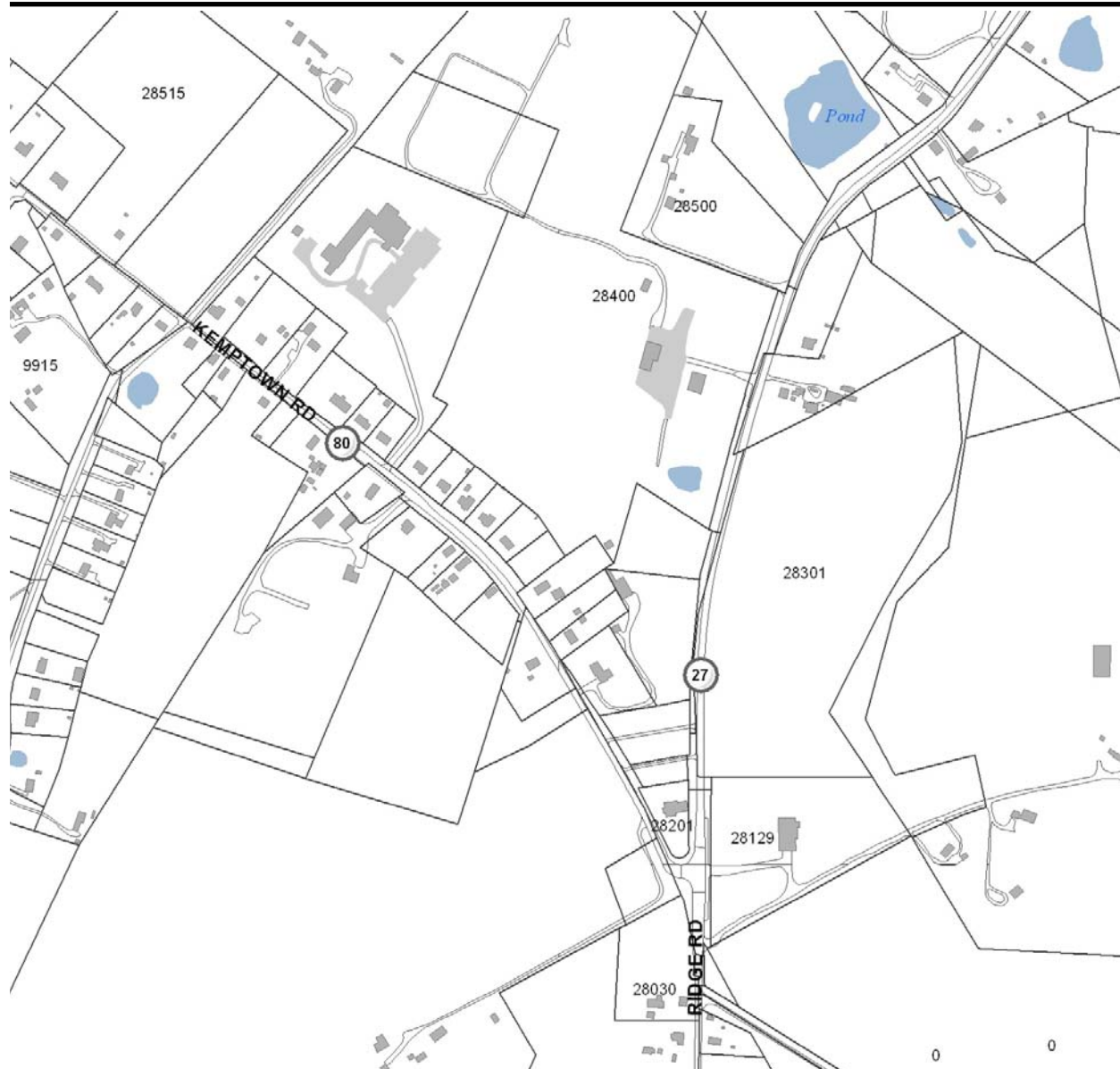
Corn crib, January 2008.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15-6

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 5



8. Significance

Inventory No. 15/6

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input 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

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.)

Generations of the Becraft family have farmed this property. The farm included the current parcel and extended south to Kemptown Road. George Becraft is shown here on the 1865 map. Deed research by a previous owner indicates that the Becrafts first acquired the property in 1855. The land was originally part of the Friendship tract. It was resurveyed and patented as Warfield and Snowden in 1812, named for Colonel Ridgely’s daughters and their spouses, Major Charles A Warfield and Major Thomas Snowden. Today’s Kemptown Road runs generally along the southern edge of Warfield and Snowden tract.¹

The historic house was said to have served as a toll house on the Buffalo Road.² Ridge Road (Route 27), established in 1829, was originally known as the Buffalo Road and, later, Ridgeville Road. The US Congress was considering laying out a proposed National Route from Buffalo, New York, through Washington, D.C., to New Orleans. While Congress was deliberating, the Maryland General Assembly in 1829 authorized laying out a portion of the road. Ultimately, however, Congress never approved the road, and the whole route was never built. The Buffalo Road ran through Ridgeville and Mount Airy in Frederick County, and a portion still forms the boundary between Frederick and Carroll County today.³

In 1871, James and Margaret Becraft conveyed an acre of their farm for construction of Montgomery Chapel, built at the fork of Kemptown and Ridge Roads. By 1878 Grafton Becraft is shown in residence on the subject property on the Hopkins map. In 1882, Grafton and Sinora Becraft conveyed a ¾ acre parcel which became the burying ground for the chapel.⁴

In 1917, Grafton Becraft conveyed the farm to Jessie and Bessie Becraft. Widow Bessie May Becraft died in 1975, age 91.⁵

¹ Martenet and Bond map, 1865. Martha K Koval correspondence with Orlando Rideout, 3-28-1973. Clare Lise Kelly, 15-8 Clagettsville MIHP form, 11-2009.

² Koval op cit.

³ Janie Payne, Montgomery County Story.

⁴ Floyd Moxley History of Montgomery Chapel, pp10-12. Floyd speculates that Easton may be one of several possibly credited with the construction of this chapel. Church burying ground 8-18-1882 deed referenced in 268:274.

⁵ *Frederick Post* obituary, 9-2-1975.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15-6

Name Becraft Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

In 1959, Darnes Acres was platted the southern portion of the Becraft Farm, located on the part of the farm that abuts Kemptown Road. A series of houses on the north side of Kemptown Road, in the 28300 block, were built progressively from 1959 to the mid 1960s.

The Becraft family sold the farm in 1966. Investors subdivided the 87 acre parcel, leaving the farmstead on 15.29 acres. From 1973 to 1986 it was owned by the Marrae family. During this period, the bank barn was destroyed by fire.⁶ The dwelling house was still standing when surveyed in 1989. It has since then been replaced by the current dwelling.⁷

⁶Sherry Sundick, "Historic Mt. Airy house at \$130,000," Montgomery Journal, 7-18-1986.

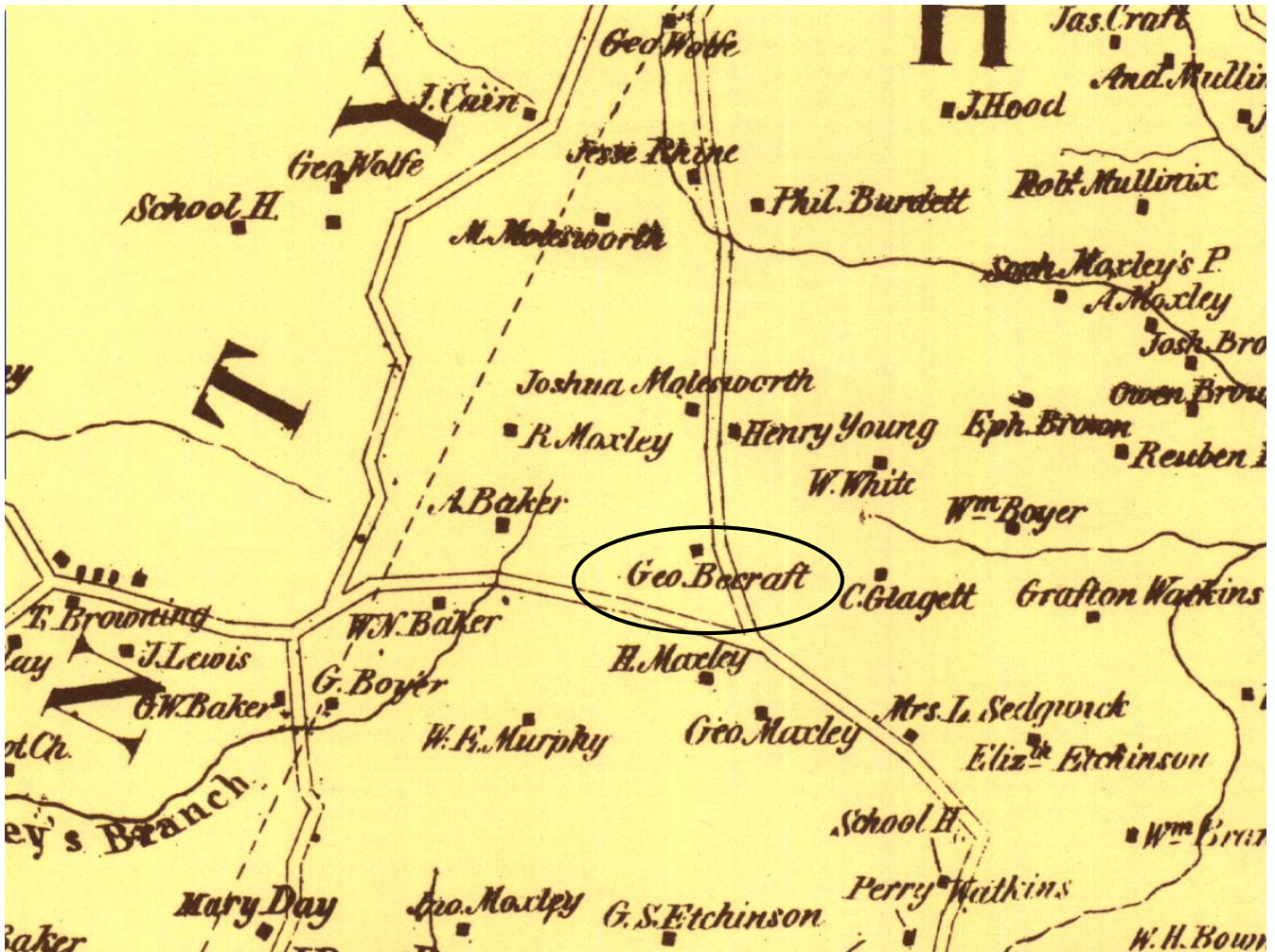
⁷Robinson and Associates Survey Form, 15/6 Becraft Farm, Summer 1989.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15-6

Name Becraft Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 2



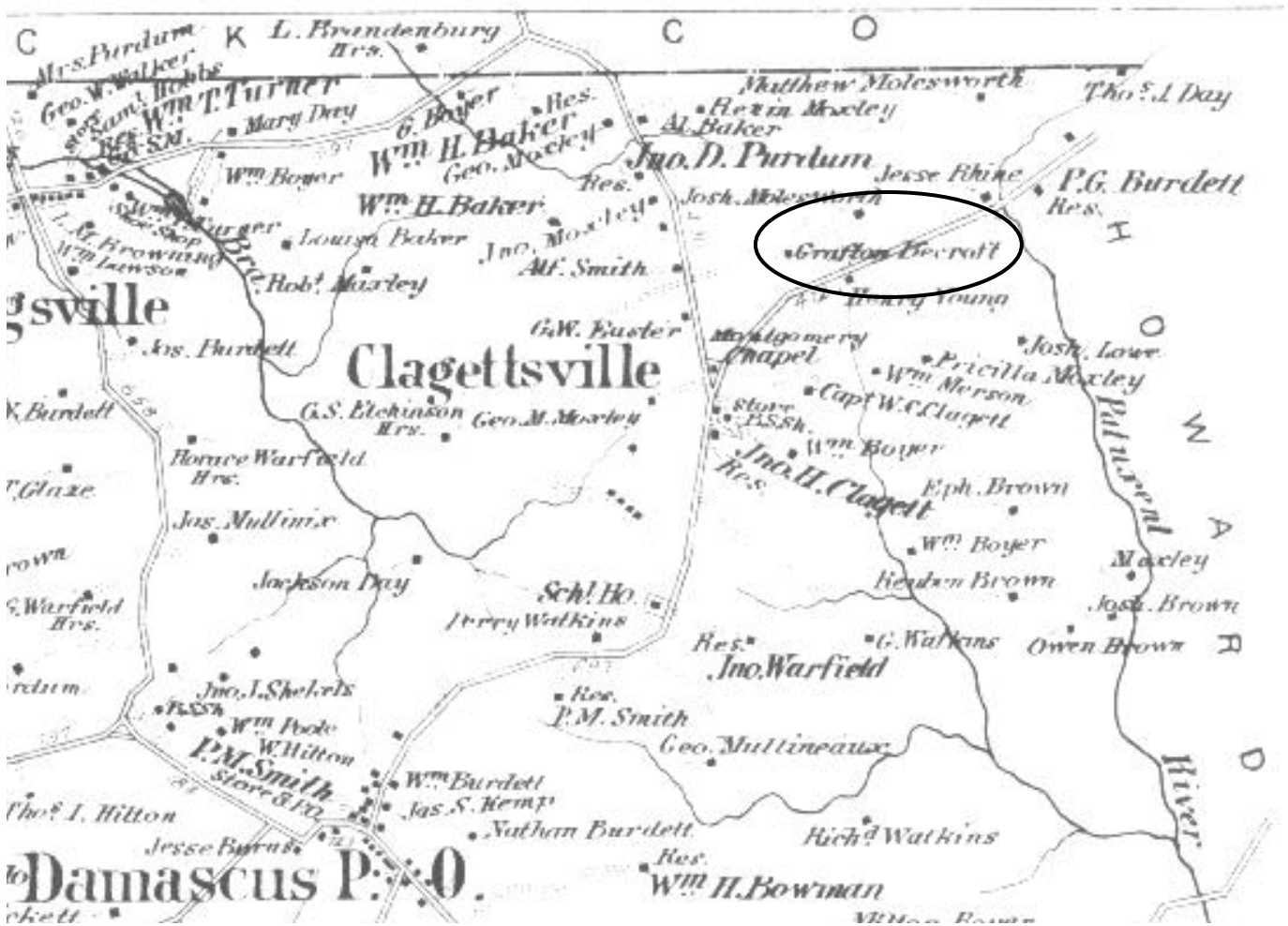
1865 Martenet and Bond map

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15-6

Name **Becraft Farm**
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 3



1878 Hopkins map (published 1879)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. 15/6

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 5 acres
Acreage of historical setting _____
Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Clare Lise Kelly and Sandra Youla		
organization	MNCPPC- Montgomery County	date	12-2009
street & number	1109 Spring Street, Suite 801	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. 15-6

Name Becraft Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Frederick Post, Mrs Bessie M Becraft, Obituary, 9-2-1975.

Kelly, Clare Lise. 15-8 Clagettsville Historic District, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form, 11-2009.

Koval, Martha K. Correspondence with Orlando Rideout, 3-28-1973.

Moxley, Floyd, *History of Montgomery Chapel*, 1971

Owens, Christopher. Becraft Farm, National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, 10-25-1973.

Robinson and Associates Survey Form, 15/6 Becraft Farm, Summer 1989.

Sundick, Sherry. "Historic Mt. Airy house at \$130,000," *Montgomery Journal*, 7-18-1986.