



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

30 North Market Street, Third Floor Frederick, Maryland 21701 (301) 600-1147



CASE NO. CR 20-01 NOMINATION TO COUNTY REGISTER STAFF REPORT

SUMMARY

Property: Jacob Smith Tavern
5707 Old National Pike, Frederick

Applicant: Leslie Allen and Michael Amontree

Public Hearing for consideration of placing the property located at 5707 Old National Pike, Jacob Smith Tavern, on the Frederick County Register of Historic Places. Submitted by Leslie Allen and Michael Amontree, property owners of record.

The public hearing for the designation to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places will be held at 7:00 p.m., or thereafter, on December 1, 2021.



Fig. 1: Subject Property

DESIGNATION STATUS

The property is listed as a contributing structure in the Braddock Survey District on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) under survey number F-3-112. The property contains the historic house and a bank barn. The property encompasses 2.6 acres of land.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

A completed County Register nomination form, the MIHP form, maps, historic documents, and photographs were submitted. Staff assisted in writing the architectural and historical significance description.

SITE VISITS

Site visit dates are scheduled for November 20 between 10 and 12 p.m. or November 28, between 1 and 3 p.m. Commissioners who cannot attend any of these dates are urged to familiarize themselves with the exterior on their own time.

REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

1) Analysis

The architectural and historical significance of the Jacob Smith Tavern is documented in the supporting materials. The house embodies characteristics typical of taverns constructed along the National Pike and is associated with early industrial and transportation history. Based on the information provided, Staff finds the property would be eligible for listing under Criteria 6B(1A), 6B(1D), 6B(2A), and 6B(2E).

2) History Summary

The Jacob Smith Tavern was built circa 1810 by Jacob Smith. The property adjoins the current boundary of the City of Frederick and is located approximately six feet south of the Old National Pike.

The Jacob Smith Tavern is a primary contributing resource to the Braddock Survey District, a turnpike village that was initially established in 1810 as “Fair View” with the establishment of a tollhouse and a tavern. Jacob Smith’s genealogy is difficult to trace due to the number of Jacob Smiths that resided in Frederick County in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Jacob Smith’s Last Will and Testament from 1816 mentions that the brick house that he “now occupies” was to be inherited by his sons Emanuel and Jacob. Jacob died sometime prior to July 30, 1817 and his sons Emanuel and Jacob took over the property. Jacob, Jr. died most likely in 1821 and

Emanuel continued the business. Emanuel is listed as a licensed tavern owner and trader in 1833 and in 1839. However, by 1841, Emanuel sold the property to Daniel Baugher. By 1858 Joseph Flemming and his wife occupied the property and was most likely utilizing the property as a residence. In 1890, the property was sold to William Summers and remained in the Summers family until 1964. John and Irene White owned the property until it was sold to the current owners in 2019.

3) Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Significance Criteria

The property is eligible for listing under this category for meeting criteria 6B(1A) and 6B(1D), as outlined in Chapter 1-23-6B(1) of the Frederick County Code:

- 6B(1A): *The property has significant character, interest, or value as part of development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the county, state, or nation.*
- 6B(1D): *The property exemplifies cultural, economic, social, political, or historic heritage of county and its communities.*

The property has significant character, interest, and value in the development and heritage of the County and is a good representation of the economic, social, and historic heritage of the County for its association with the development of the Fair View community and the National Road and its utilization as a tavern. By 1808, road connections had been made in the County to link with the National Road system. The road that passed Jacob Smith's property was to be used as part of this transportation route. By 1810, a tollhouse and Jacob Smith's tavern had been established and, with these commercial businesses, the village of Fair View was founded. Throughout the 19th century, further growth occurred to include residences, a schoolhouse, a church, additional blacksmith shops and stables, and eventually a post office in 1880. With the creation of the post office, Fair View was renamed to Braddock. The village had a linear plan with most of the buildings closely sited on both sides of the road. This pattern of development is similar to other towns and villages along the road.

In terms of the property's importance to the National Road and its economic, social, and historic heritage, the National Road was a significant and heavily traveled turnpike that extended from Baltimore through Frederick County out to the western frontier. It provided farmers and merchants a route to transport their goods to other markets and import goods for their businesses and farms. Several towns, villages, and individual businesses flourished with the enhancements made to the road because of the increased traffic routinely bringing customers by.

Taverns were an essential service along the road utilized to accommodate weary travelers with a place to sleep and/or eat. Taverns were also an important center of community life where news and other information was shared. Other vital services such as blacksmith shops, stables, and wheelwrights were typically located within close proximity to the road and sometimes

included on the same property as the taverns. Jacob Smith's tavern, for example, at one time had stables and a blacksmith shop. These services not only supported those utilizing the road but also economically supported the proprietors of these businesses.

4) Architectural and Design Significance Criteria

The property is also eligible under this category for meeting criteria 6B(2A) and 6B(2E) as outlined in Chapter 1-23-6B(2) of Frederick County Code:

- 6B(2A): *The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or architecture.*
- 6B(2E): *The property represents an established and familiar visual feature of neighborhood, community, or county, due to singular physical characteristics, landscape, or historical event.*

The Jacob Smith Tavern is an example of a turnpike tavern characterized by its masonry construction, two-story height, five-bays, rear ell, interior end chimneys, and side-gabled roof. The brick structure is built with Flemish bond and has a symmetrical façade and nine-over-nine and nine-over-six windows. Additionally, the building's proximity to the National Road is typical of the siting of many buildings built during the National Road's heyday period. Together the buildings architectural characteristics and its siting provide a familiar visual along the historic National Road throughout Frederick County.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Jacob Smith Tavern for designation to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places pursuant to Criterion 6B(1A), 6B(1D), 6B(2A), and 6B(2E) as described in Section 1-23-6B of the County Code.

If the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) recommends the property for local designation, the HPC will submit a letter of recommendation to the County Council for final action.