



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

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



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### CASE NO. DOE 22-03 / CR 23-06 COUNTY REGISTER NOMINATION STAFF REPORT

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#### SUMMARY

**Property:** William Draper Farm  
12819 Stottlemeyer Road, Myersville

**Applicant:** Stacy and Todd King

Public Hearing for consideration of nominating the property located at 12819 Stottlemeyer Road, William Draper Farm, to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places. Submitted by Stacy and Todd King, property owners of record.

The public hearing for the nomination to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places will be held at 6:30 p.m., or thereafter, on August 9, 2023.



**Figure 1: Subject Property outlined in yellow.**

## **DESIGNATION STATUS**

The property is not located within any designated historic districts. The property does have a Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) easement. The purpose of this easement is to preserve open spaces, specifically the scenic views along Stottlemyer Road, and for the protection of natural habitats. MET has stated they would have no objection to the historic designation. The property contains the main house, a summer kitchen, a springhouse, a bank barn, and two additional outbuildings. The nominated property encompasses 18.43 acres of land.

## **SUPPORTING MATERIALS**

A completed County Register nomination form, maps, a statement of significance, and photographs were submitted. Staff assisted with writing the architectural and historical description of the property.

## **SITE VISITS**

Site visit dates are scheduled for July 28 and 29, 2023 between 10 and 12 p.m. Commissioners who cannot attend any of these dates are urged to familiarize themselves with the exterior on their own time from the public right-of-way.

## **REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS**

### **1) Analysis**

The architectural and historical significance of the William Draper Farm is documented in the supporting materials. The property is associated with the agricultural history of western Frederick County. Based on the information provided, Staff finds the property is eligible for listing under Criteria 6B(1A), 6B(2A), and 6B(2D).

### **2) History Summary**

The William Draper Farm was part of a larger tract of land called “The Range about the Three Miserable Knobs.” It is located approximately one and a half miles northeast of Wolfsville. The property is bordered by farmland to the north, woods to the east and south, and Stottlemyer Road to the west.

William Draper was the first recorded property owner of the parcel in 1822, though he owned the land since at least 1818. Draper was in debt in 1818 and was ordered by the court to sell the land which did not occur until 1822. At that time, the parcel encompassed 93 ¼ acres. William

Draper was a farmer and was married to Mary Draper. They had seven children. The land transferred a couple of times before being sold to William Draper's children in 1824. It appears William and Mary Draper remained as tenants on the farm from 1822 to 1824 before their children were able to purchase the land. During the Draper children's ownership, several went into debt and were forced to sell their shares to a sibling or outside the family. Eventually, an equity case was brought forward in 1858 over the land and the parcel was sold in 1863 to Jacob and Mary Wolf. Then, Enos Moser acquired 60 acres of the property in 1874 and gifted the land to Abraham Johnson in 1892. The Wolfs, Moser, and Johnson all farmed the land during their ownership. Ernest and Mollie Harne purchased the property in 1937 from the estate of Abraham Johnson. Ernest Harne appears in the 1940 Census working as a timberman for the Works Progress Administration and by 1950 he is listed as a farmer. The Harnes sold 55 acres of the property in 1964 to Louise Gaffney. It remained in the Gaffney family until 2002 when the current owners purchased 18.43 acres. The period of significance for this property is from circa 1818 to circa 1880.

### **3) Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Significance Criteria**

The property is eligible for listing under this category for meeting criteria 6B(1A) 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.*

The property has significant character, interest, and value in the development and heritage of the County for its representation as a small mountainous farm in western Frederick County. The property has been utilized for farming since the earliest recorded landowner inhabited the property. The farm records do not appear to indicate the farm was ever a major producer but supplied enough products to support the family while providing some income. Additionally, when Frederick County began transitioning to dairy farming in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Draper farm did not. There are no dairy barns or milkhouses present on the property. Additionally, Frederick County agricultural census records from 1860 to 1880 indicate no more than 300 pounds of butter was produced and few livestock was owned on the property.

The property does maintain integrity of setting, location, feeling, workmanship, and design. The property retains its rural character and the spatial relationship between the existing buildings has been maintained. Furthermore, the materials and workmanship in the bank barn, springhouse, and smokehouse are still extant. However, the farmhouse has lost its integrity due to the substantial addition to the original house and loss of historic materials. Overall, however, the property has the integrity to convey its agricultural association.

### **4) Architectural and Design Significance Criteria**

The property is eligible under this category for meeting criteria 6B(2A) and 6B(2D) 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(2D): *The property represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*

The William Draper springhouse, summer kitchen, and bank barn embody characteristics of typical farm buildings with their gabled roofs, log and timber frame construction, and stone foundations. The large exterior stone and brick chimney of the summer kitchen is typical of that building type and is clad in board and batten siding. Additionally, the springhouse is built into the side of a hill, so the spring water flows into the below grade spring room and exits on the far end. The stone foundation of the spring house is extant as is the log cladding on the upper story. Additionally, the bank retains the vertical siding, timber framing, and banked stone foundation. The farmhouse is not recommended for meeting criteria 6B(2A) as it does not individually meet the standards for integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. Additions and loss of historic material have comprised the dwelling's integrity and its ability to convey its historic architectural character.

Together, the buildings on the William Draper farm represent a distinguishable agricultural farm complex that did not convert to dairy farming. Individually the buildings would lack distinction but as a complex their association to Frederick County agricultural history can be determined.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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