

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

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



CASE NO. CR 25-01 COUNTY REGISTER NOMINATION STAFF REPORT

SUMMARY

Property: Peter Hauver Farm
13949 Fox Tower Road, Smithsburg

Applicant: Lynne Cherry

Public Hearing for consideration of nominating the property located at 13949 Fox Tower Road, Peter Hauver Farm, to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places. Submitted by Lynne Cherry, property owner 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 February 4, 2026.

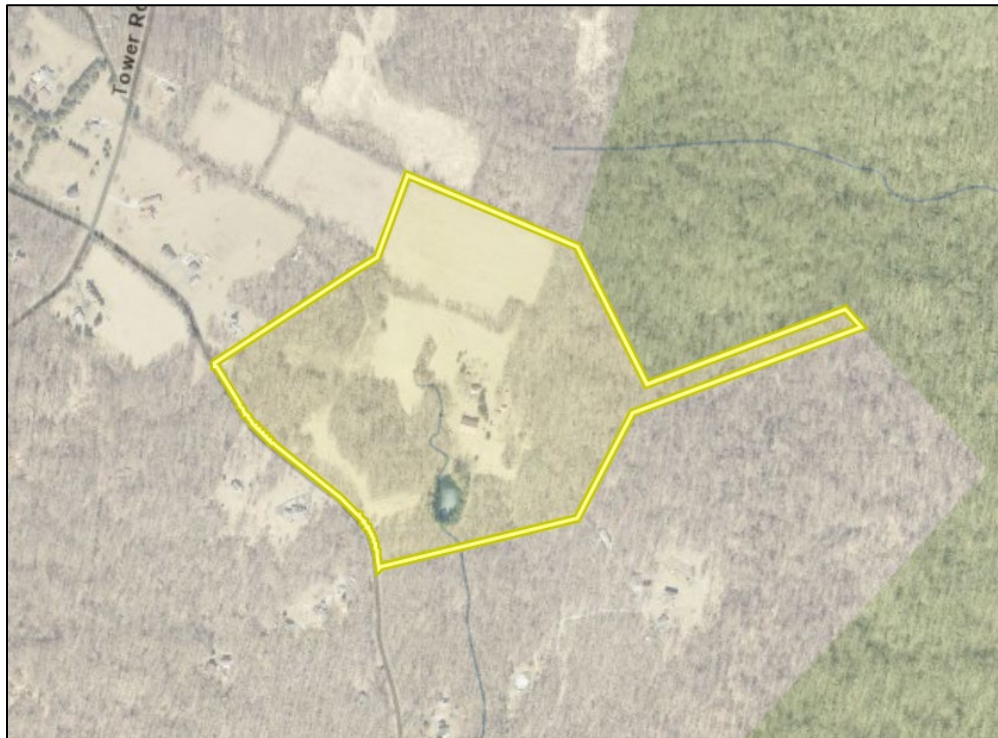


Figure 1: Subject Property outlined in yellow.

DESIGNATION STATUS

The property is listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form as F-6-153 and was determined eligible for National Register listing. The property contains the house, bank barn, washhouse/cottage, wagon shed, corn crib, and workshop/woodshed. The property encompasses approximately 53 acres of land.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

A completed County Register nomination form, maps, a statement of significance, and photographs were submitted.

SITE VISITS

Site visits were scheduled for January 10 and 11, 2026. Commissioners were notified of the pending nomination and encouraged to visit the site on these dates.

REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

1) Analysis

The architectural and historical significance of the Peter Hauver Farm is documented in the supporting materials. The property is associated with early farming history, particularly in the mountainous areas of the County and is a good representation of a 19th and early 20th century farmstead. Based on the information provided, Staff find the property is eligible for listing under Criteria 6B(1A) and 6B(2A).

2) History Summary

The Peter Hauver Farm was built in phases with the first phase of the house believed to be built shortly after Peter Hauver began acquiring the land in 1862. The house was later expanded, most likely in 1900. The outbuildings on the farm appear to have been built between the 1880s to the mid-20th century. Peter Hauver began assembling various tracts of land beginning in 1862 through 1895 and included portions of tracts known as “Timber Plenty,” “Three Mill Seats,” “Worth the Taking,” and “Snowy Mountain.” Peter transferred a large portion of his property to his son Albert in 1899. Per the preparer of the Maryland Inventory form for the property, the construction methods used in the frame addition to the original log house appear to date to this period. Peter and Albert were both farmers. In 1932, Albert sold the property to his son Stanley but continued to reside on the farm per US Census records and his obituary. Stanley is listed in the 1930 and 1940 US Census as a merchant / clerk in Smithsburg. In 1977, the property was sold to the Doering’s who sold it in 1993 to the current property owner.

3) Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Significance Criteria

Staff find 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, heritage, and culture of the County, State, and nation. The property is a good example of a mountain farmstead in the County that expanded during the 19th century into the early 20th century. Peter and his son Albert were both farmers who farmed the land. While earlier agricultural structures may have been built on the property during the time Peter was farming, the structures that currently exist date between the late 19th century to the mid-20th century. The washhouse/cottage may date earlier than the late 19th century; however, the material changes and alterations that have occurred make it difficult to date. An article in the *Catoctin Clarion* dated December 8, 1881, noted that at the raising of the barn at Peter Hauver's farm, Cyrus Smith was thrown to the ground, helping to date the bank barn. Based on the construction methods visible to the preparer of the Maryland Inventory form, the wagon shed dates to the late 19th century while the corn crib and workshop/woodshed date to the mid-20th century. Overall, the farmstead is intact and retains its integrity of setting, design, location, workmanship, and feeling.

4) Architectural and Design Significance Criteria

The property is eligible under this category for meeting criteria 6B(2A) 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.*

The property is a good example of a mountain farm in Frederick County. The farmstead includes not only the farmhouse but also includes domestic and agricultural outbuildings. The farmhouse has had some material changes, most notably the German siding has been covered with vinyl apart from the area under the porch and the windows have been replaced. Additionally, the washhouse has been converted into a cottage and most of the original material has been replaced. The property owner states that oral history from the previous owners was that this building was also used for butchering pigs and axe marks are still visible on the floor. Despite the changes to these two buildings, the property as a whole is intact and embodies the distinctive characteristics typical of these building types.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the property for designation to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places pursuant to Criterion 6B(1A) and 6B(2A) as described in Section 1-23-6B of the County Code.