

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: 18-43

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Button Farm
 other

2. Location

street and number 16820 Black Rock Road not for publication
city, town Germantown vicinity
county Montgomery within Seneca Creek State Park

3. Owner of Property

name State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources
street and number Tawes State Office Building, 580 Taylor Avenue, E-4 telephone
city, town Annapolis state Maryland zip code 21401

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Land Records liber 4264 folio 816
city, town Rockville tax map tax parcel tax ID number

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: DNR park inventory 1979/1997 and M-NCPPC, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing <u>6</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing <u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>1</u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<u>1</u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>8</u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u>0</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory <u>None</u>

7. Description

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Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Summary:

The Button Farm complex is located on the west side of rural Black Rock Road, north of Great Seneca Creek, in the area known as Germantown. The house is Colonial Revival, constructed of frame covered with stucco, and features a hipped roof and dormers, wide overhanging eaves, and a full width porch. The exterior is mostly square and symmetrical, while the interior features ten rooms with a central hall and four-square plan. The large dwelling house and its array of outbuildings retain original features as well as changes made during more than a century of use. The environmental setting of the farm complex, 271¾ acres from 1880 to the present, currently is included in Seneca Creek State Park.

Site:

Although originally a 271¾ acre farm, today the farmstead is incorporated into a 6,300-acre state park. The farmstead retains its traditional setting, with the entrance drive and dwelling house, a variety of trees, a complex of outbuildings, open fields and woodlands, and a cemetery on the bluff above Seneca Creek. The property includes rolling, tree-covered hills, overgrown pastures, some rock outcroppings, and small meandering waterways that flow into Great Seneca Creek. Many of the trees are second and third growth.

The farm complex is located on the west side of Black Rock Road, about one-half mile uphill and north of Black Rock Mill, which is located on Great Seneca Creek. The mill and Button Farm are sited in the middle of Seneca Creek State Park, which has few man-made amenities in this area. The farm is three miles from Darnestown and four miles from Germantown station (located on the B&O Railroad's Metropolitan Branch line). Black Rock Road, 2.4 miles in length and narrowly paved without shoulders, forms a winding northwest connection between Maryland routes 28 (Darnestown Road) and 118 (Germantown Road). Homes along this road range from a mid 19th century log and frame dwelling in ruinous condition and an 1870s German farmstead to well-kept 1950s-80s ranch houses and newer homes closer to Darnestown Road. The half mile closest to Germantown Road is a traditional black community known as Browntown, with homes and a church. Button farmhouse is sited approximately 125 yards from Black Rock Road and is accessed by an unpaved drive.

Main Dwelling:

The house appears as a late 19th-early 20th century Colonial Revival house with a full width porch and a general four-square plan with central hall. Of 2½ stories, the stucco-over-frame structure is three bays by three bays and nearly square. It is topped with a hipped roof and similarly hipped dormers on three of the four roof planes.

With its wide overhanging eaves, the hipped roof is a defining feature of the house; it is covered with asphalt shingles. The undersides of the roof eave, the dormer eaves, and the porch ceiling and eave are of beaded tongue and groove. At the apex of the hipped roof is a large flat surface, perhaps 14' square. Most visible from the attic, this may have been planned for either a simple cupola or balustrade deck on the roof. Two brick chimneys are located on the north and south sides of this square.

The front (east) façade is three bays wide. On the first story, the wide central entrance features a door having 12 lights above a wood panel and surmounted by a simple two-part transom; on each side of the door is a narrow sidelight above a single wood panel. Flanking the door are two 1/1 double-hung sash windows outlined with plain box moulding. On the second story are three similar windows, and on the roof is a hipped roof

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dormer with two small 1/1 windows. The two side dormers, set slightly higher than the front one, cannot be seen when viewing the house straight on; all dormers feature wide overhanging eaves. A one-story open porch with a low-pitched shed roof and square supports wraps around the east and south facades of the house.

The porch, raised two steps from the ground, has five square posts on the front façade. Its roof overhang mirrors that of the main roof and dormers. The wooden square porch columns are covered with stucco to match the exterior of the house. The porch floor and steps are made of concrete, and they sit on a cinderblock foundation. The porch wraps to cover most of the south façade and is accessed from the south side yard by way of three concrete steps.

On the south façade, there are four windows on the second story, two of which are 2/2 with two 1/1. On the first floor are two 2/2 windows and two exterior doors; the doors, each with four glass lights above three wood panels, access the kitchen and the south front room. Below the west end of the porch is an exterior cinderblock entrance to the basement. Farther east, now inaccessible under the porch, is a previous exterior basement entrance that can be seen only from inside the basement.

The plain west (rear) side of the house is the only façade that is not symmetrical. The three windows on each story are 2/2 sash. An exterior door extends from the room near the northwest corner of the house. Under this door is an underpinning of cinderblock of stones and some bricks, indicating that it has been rebuilt.

The north (side) façade is generally symmetrical, with a roof dormer, three 2/2 windows on the second floor, and four 2/2 windows on the first floor. At the basement level are window wells of cinderblock.

Interior:

Inside, the ten rooms advertised for the 1902 auction still exist, although major changes were made 1920-21. Generally laid out in a four square plan with central hall, the house counts five rooms on each of the two main levels. In the entrance foyer rises a central staircase, which continues from the second floor to the attic level. (See *floor plans* by Vineet Bhanot, 2010)

Woods used in the house are handsome in appearance and generally in good condition. The newel post, banister, and stairs are crafted of long-leaf pine, as are the downstairs floors. Upstairs floors are laid in woods of mixed grain. Throughout the house are five-panel doors, also of pine, but mostly painted. Many doors in the house are surmounted with working transoms. Window mouldings on the first and second floor are in the same box style. The attic is partly finished with wood lath. Under the house, the sawn joists are a mix of local woods.¹

¹ Hank Handler, Oak Grove Restoration, walk-through January 2011.

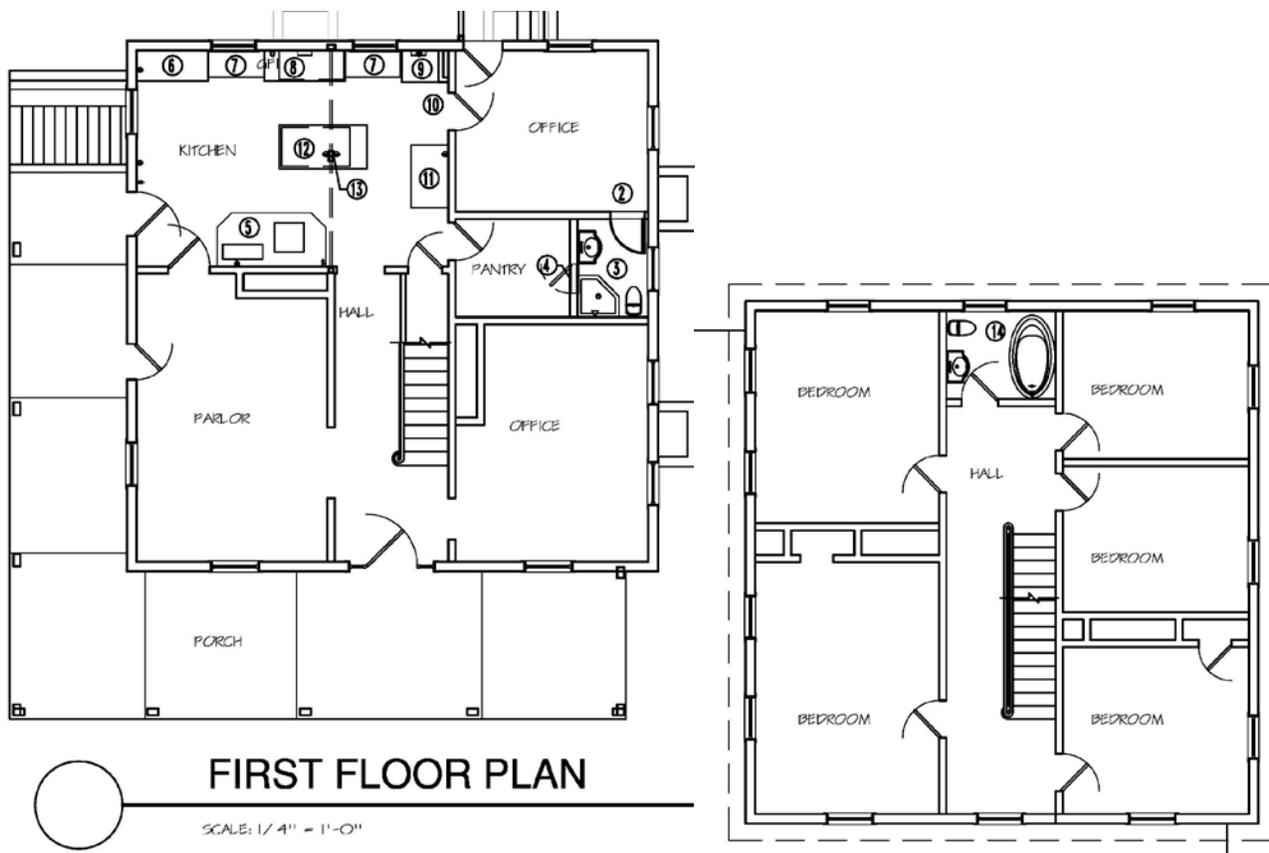
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Plaster interior walls are mostly intact; supporting lath is machine-cut wood. In the kitchen, plaster has been removed to expose tube and socket wiring, probably the first electricity in the house; a first-generation fuse box (now unused) with ceramic insulators can be seen in the attic. Wallpaper fragments hang from the wall of the stairway between the second floor and the attic.



Changes to the house:

Assessment records indicate that the value of the main dwelling more than quadrupled in 1921. Exterior changes believed to have been done at that time include the addition of stucco (which is applied up to the plane of exterior window surrounds), replacement of original wood porch posts with plain square ones, and perhaps addition of a feature at the peak of the hipped roof. It is assumed that at this time the porch was extended around the south side of the house, which now covers the original entrance to the basement. Presumably in these renovations, the center hall and ten-room floor plan was generally retained. Interior

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changes at that time are likely to have included new window and door mouldings and addition of a large attic with semi-finished walls. Electricity was installed in the house in the early 1940s.

In the 1950s, Col. Button dug out the basement and reinforced it with cinderblock walls, changing the exterior entrance to the basement. He replaced the porch floor and steps with concrete. He installed indoor plumbing and added bathrooms on three floors of the house. He established an oil-burning forced hot water heating system with radiators. The Buttons also refinished the wood floors and installed a modern kitchen with an island. In the pantry, off the kitchen, they added a modern separation wall to form a small bathroom on the first floor. Perhaps they replaced some 2/2 windows with 1/1s.²

Today, although all heating equipment has been removed, evidence of earlier heating systems can be seen throughout the house. There are openings for wood stoves, space for metal floor grates that once facilitated the vertical movement of air from the coal or wood stove in the basement to upstairs rooms, pipe holes for radiators in each room, and oil tank hook-ups in the northeast corner of the basement. Remnants of the first floor bathroom and the bathroom and laundry area in the northwest corner of the basement remain, but are no longer functional. The upstairs bath fixtures are gone. So too are the kitchen equipment, cabinet, appliances, plaster walls, and ceiling.

Other houses in the Germantown area:

Other dwellings with architectural features similar to the house at Button Farm once existed in the Germantown area. Constructed roughly between 1899 and 1926, each was similar in appearance, plan, scale, materials, and/or details to the home on Black Rock Road. While most of the related dwellings have been destroyed in the past two decades, perhaps one day their photographs can assist in telling the story of builders and/or architects working in the area.

Closest in appearance to the Button house was the James and Macie King farmhouse on Schaeffer Road, which was rebuilt in 1926 after a fire destroyed the original farmhouse and razed c.2003 for the Germantown Soccerplex; it possessed a similar plan and style but differed in scale and details. Other related dwellings identified during this survey include the frame Madeline V. Waters house on Germantown Road, the brick Hargett house on Schaeffer Road, two homes associated with Perrie Waters in Germantown, and the Young-Rhinenecker house on the former Germantown Road near Neelsville (now Boland Farm Road at the corner of Observation Drive).³

² Author emails and conversations with Carolanne Carne Anderson, granddaughter of Ronald and Carolyn Button, January 2011.

³ Photos 2000 by Marcie Stickle and George French (King house); Soderberg, Germantown, p. 68 (Madeline Waters house); MCHS photo 037-025A (Hargett house); MCHS house files (Perrie C. Waters house) and Germantown Historical Society photo 1996 (Perrie Waters house). The Young-Rhinenecker house is currently the front part of the Germantown Medical Center, which has a large rear addition.

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Outbuildings and objects (8): *(see site map)*

Large barn: The largest and oldest outbuilding is a mid-size frame barn. Although constructed on a slope, in form it is more English than German. There is no bank or ramp, but the upper section is at a higher elevation than the lower. A foundation of Seneca sandstone, with older mortar using a pinkish sand, marks it as a late 19th century structure probably contemporary with the oldest dwelling house here; much of the foundation has been bolstered with cinderblock and parged. The joists are tree trunks and sawn beams, and some vertical posts are also of log. The pine and oak siding is nailed, although some interior members are joined with pegs. The building is topped with a standing seam tin roof.

On the west side are four ventilating hinged windows, a framed window, and a door on the lower level. The west foundation is a replacement made of cinderblock, and the lower wall is of board and batten. On the south side, there are three doors and three windows on the lower level, with one door above and reinforcing concrete block at ground level. The east side features a walk-in door and a 9' sliding door wagon-high at the lower level. The southwest corner has been braced with cinderblock, while the southeast corner is in imminent danger of collapse. Inside, the upper floor is of wood and the lower floor is of cement. There are horse stalls, feed stalls for cows on the lower level, with room for hay, feed, and small machinery storage above. The building is in poor condition and in need of stabilization.

Garage and tool shed: Col. Button built this frame structure for his garage and tool shed. It seems likely that Button incorporated some of the older building, used as a dairy/milk can cooler and pump house by the Carrs 1929-39, into a larger garage and tool shed. The building is L-shaped, with two frame sections. The larger section is covered in board and batten and has a concrete floor, cinderblock foundation, and metal garage door. The smaller section has vertical wood siding and a concrete floor. A new corrugated roof replaced the same in 2010.

Pole barn: This open rectangular structure was constructed by Col. Button in the mid 1950s to store hay and machinery. Originally with a dirt floor, Menare recently added thin slate-colored brick-like flooring set in sand.

Outhouse: This frame building sits behind (west of) the dwelling house. It has a shed roof and cinderblock foundation. Inside is the concrete base for the toilet.

Hog feeding station: This is a small gable-ended rectangular structure constructed of frame in the first third of the 20th century. The long (east and west) sides of the shed are open to feeding troughs inside. At the center of the structure is a metal V-shaped feed storage area. Small windows at the upper gable ends enable feed to be moved inside. The shed roof is covered with standing seam metal.

Cemetery: Southwest of the dwelling house, west of the outbuilding grouping, across a large field, and a short distance into the woods is what seems to be a small burial ground. It was described in 1979 as about 20 stones set in a "non-random" pattern within an area of about 50 feet by 30 feet. Fifteen of the crude stones are embedded on end in the ground, while the others lie flat. They vary in thickness, size, and shape, and two

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appear to have crude markings on them. Today fewer stones are evident, several upright and one flat with a cross-like marking (under which is part of a white plate with blue-ish pattern).⁴

Log cabin: Logs moved from the Hunt property on Clopper Road were used to begin constructing a cabin here in 2010 by Our House students with help from Boy Scouts. The building, which faces east and is still under construction, does not yet have a roof or chinking. It will be used in educational programs.

Garden, chicken yard, chicken house: This area and beyond toward the barn was the site of the Buttons' garden, which was laid out in long, neat rows and fenced. The current area was delineated and constructed 2008-10 by Menare Foundation with assistance from Boy Scouts. The fencing is of vertical tree limbs and cross boards reinforced with wire. There is one surviving pear tree behind the tool shed and an ancient apple tree by the wooden gate on the entry road. Two beekeepers recently placed hives close to the spot used by the Buttons, in the hollow below the garden and barn area.

⁴ June Evans, The American University. "Preliminary Archeological Reconnaissance of Sludge Trenching Site 57," March 1979.

8. Significance

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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 checked="" 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 1881/1920 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1881/1920

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Summary significance:

An excellent representative of family farming in middle-western Montgomery County, Button Farm tells the story of the ups and downs of more than a century of agricultural history. The intact 271¾ acre farm property can be tracked from its 1880 sale to William D. Hughes to the 1972 purchase by the State of Maryland as part of Seneca Creek State Park. Through four major ownership periods – Hughes, Carr, Button, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources – the dwelling house and its array of outbuildings have been utilized, expanded, updated, loved, and neglected.

History and Narrative:

Early history

“The Barren Hill” was part of Frederick County when Lord Baltimore issued the first land patent to Ninian Beall for 100 acres in 1749. Nearly 40 years later, Henry Hilleary enlarged the parcel with 28¾ acres as “Addition to The Barren Hills.” John Briscoe received patents on “Black Rock” on “Sinicar Creek” in 1760, with a “Resurvey on Black Rock” of 355 acres in 1764. In 1789, Hilleary was granted a patent as “Sprained Ankle,” which was a resurvey of 366¾ acres made to correct errors in previous surveys. By that time, Montgomery County had been formed and this area was designated as Medley’s District.⁵

The earliest extant landmark in this area is a grist mill on Great Seneca Creek, just south of what would become Button Farm. Constructed 1815-16 by Thomas Hilleary, an heir of Henry, Black Rock Mill harnessed waterpower to grind grains and saw lumber through the 1920s. A dog-legged two-mile-long dirt road, connecting the northwest-southeast main road through western Montgomery County (today’s Maryland Route 28) and the Germantown Road (Route 118) to this vital local industry, shows on an 1865 map of Montgomery County.⁶

In the first third of the 19th century, newcomer families and their slaves carved out farms in this area of the county, initially growing tobacco and later diversifying to grains and dairy farming. By the 1840s, settlements had appeared in Darnestown and Germantown. The former grew as a crossroads community along the main road between Mouth of Monocacy on the C&O Canal and the county seat of Rockville; churches thrived, and a major Union encampment with a Signal Corps school spent the Civil War years here. Germantown was

⁵ Land Patent files and maps created by Sheila Cochran, Florence Howard, and Mary Charlotte Crook, MCHS, 1995. Button Farm has consistently been described in public documents as “Barren Hill(s).”

⁶ Simon J. Martenet, *Martenet & Bond’s Map of Montgomery County, Maryland* (Baltimore, 1865).

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named for immigrants who established stores and services at the intersection of the Neelsville-Darnestown Road (now Route 118) and Clopper Road (now 117). When the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad came through Montgomery County in 1873, local residents and entrepreneurs created a new settlement at the railroad stop. By 1890 the population of Germantown exceeded 100, and the town boasted churches, schools, and a new mill at the tracks.⁷

After the Civil War, former slaves and free blacks created communities in the area. In 1868, William Brown purchased ten acres at the intersection of Black Rock and Germantown roads. Within a generation, other families arrived in "Browntown" to build homes, and a school and church had been constructed.⁸

Hughes farm, 1878-1926

Following the death of Thomas Hilleary in 1844, his heirs sold Black Rock Mill. Nearby "Barren Hills" and "Sprained Ankle" remained in the family until 1878, when the late Thomas Hilleary's real estate was partitioned and sold to pay debts. The previous year John H. and Mary E. Hilleary, who lived in Frederick County, had signed a deed of trust to several lawyers who advanced funds for litigation. Pursuant to powers contained in this document, trustees George Peter and James B. Henderson sold 279½ acres of Hilleary land to William D. Hughes. No buildings or "improvements" were mentioned.⁹

A dwelling house was constructed on this land soon after 1880. Assessment records show William D. Hughes owning nearby land ("Aix La Chappelle" 96 acres and "Resurvey on Johnny" 60 acres) without improvements in 1876; two years later he was assessed for those lands and 280 acres of "Sprained Ankle" and "Barren Hills" with a small improvement worth \$280. That changed in 1882, when he was taxed for \$1,280 worth of improvements on the latter lands; also listed were \$760 in livestock, \$160 in household furniture, \$4 in silver plate, and \$500 in private securities. William D. (born 1830, age 50) and Elizabeth (43) Hughes showed in the 1880 census as farmers with eight children ranging from 22 to four years of age. By this time, a major product of the farm was wheat, which kept Black Rock Mill and the grain elevator at Germantown booming.¹⁰

In the following decade and a half, William and Elizabeth Hughes sold small parcels of their land to neighbors Americus Dawson and Nicholas A. Whelan, and they purchased some land from Americus Dawson; none of these transactions included improvements. They added a "stable" in 1888, likely the current barn with sandstone foundation.¹¹

⁷ Jane C. Sween and William Offutt, *Montgomery County: Centuries of Change* (CA: American Historical Press, 1999); Susan Soderberg, *A History of Germantown, Maryland* (Author, 1988).

⁸ M-NCPPC (M:18-29) and Menare Foundation files. One Browntown building was relocated in 1979 to M-NCPPC's Lathrop Smith Center. Asbury Methodist Church, built 1885, rebuilt 1962, and the cemetery are still used.

⁹ Montgomery County Land Records, EBP16/456 (Deed of Trust, 1877), EBP22/321 (Deed, 1880). G.M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington including the County of Montgomery Maryland* (Philadelphia: 1879).

¹⁰ Assessment Records, 1876-1895. U.S. Census Records, 1880.

¹¹ Land Records, deeds EBP24/109 (1881), EBP24/114 (1881), JA55/255 (1895). Assessment Records.

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By 1900, two of William and Elizabeth's unmarried children lived with them, Mary (age 32) and Wade (23). Two other sons were married with children and living nearby; eldest son (William) Arthur was a farm laborer and Charles Wallace Hughes was listed as a miller. At this time, more than 90 percent of Montgomery County's population earned their living directly or indirectly from farming and about 85 percent of county land was farmed. In the county, a dairying operation -- usually a small herd under 20 cows who were hand milked, with the milk cooled in the spring house -- was combined with various cash crops.¹²

William D. Hughes died at age 70 on his farm, in 1901. While hauling fodder to his barn and scattering it about the barnyard for the cattle, a bull known for its bad temper rushed at him. The bull struck Mr. Hughes in the back, hurling his body into the air and then attacking again. Farm hands drove away the bull and carried Hughes into the house, where he died the following morning. "Mr. Hughes had resided in the vicinity of Germantown for 25 years and was highly respected.... His wife and children, all grown, survive him." Hughes was buried at Forest Oak Cemetery in Gaithersburg.¹³

Hughes died without a will. The Equity suit that followed took months to sort out the large amount of real estate property in his name. Elizabeth Hughes agreed to sell the land free of dower and a guardian was appointed for the infant children of one of the Hughes daughters previously deceased. Arthur Hughes submitted a statement that at the time of his death his father possessed two farms: the "home farm" containing 271¾ acres and "located on the road leading from Germantown to Black Rock Mills, and the other farm lays on the road leading from Germantown to Darnestown and contains 130 acres, 2 roods and 30 square perches." "Said lands are not susceptible of partition without material loss and injury to the parties entitled, because there are so many parties to the cause and the quantity of land is not sufficient to divide into as many farms as there are heirs. It is really only two farms with one set of buildings for each farm, and to divide them up would destroy their value as farms.... I and my brother [Michael] Wade have possession of both farms until January 1, 1903. In my opinion the two farms ought to bring at least \$18 per acre."¹⁴

The Court appointed Rockville attorney Frank Higgins as trustee to advertise and sell the property and to divide the proceeds amongst the parties. Higgins advertised "valuable real estate.... consisting of two tracts of land, one of which was 271¾ acres "improved by a comfortable 10-room FRAME DWELLING HOUSE with well of water at the door; a Bank Barn with stabling for 8 horses, and other necessary outbuildings. There is an apple orchard on this place, and the farm is well watered and fenced."¹⁵

¹² U.S. Census, 1900; Richard K. MacMaster and Ray Eldon Hiebert, *A Grateful Remembrance* (Rockville: Montgomery County Government and Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976), p. 241. Author interviews with Jean King Phillips.

¹³ *Montgomery County Sentinel*, November 22, 1901.

¹⁴ Montgomery County Court, Equity #1932: summary documents and actions at Montgomery County Circuit Court; complete file with exhibits, documents, and actions at Maryland Hall of Records.

¹⁵ Trustee's sale ad in *Montgomery County Sentinel*, July 1902. Frank Higgins was nominated for Maryland Attorney General the following year by the State Prohibition Party.

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At the public auction cried by W. E. Morgan in front of Perrie Waters' store in Germantown Station, Charles Wallace Hughes (son of William and Elizabeth) bought the home farm for \$23 per acre (total of \$6,250.25). Each heir received a \$894.73 share of the proceeds.¹⁶

A few years later, William's widow Elizabeth Hughes (1837-1907) was also buried at Forest Oak Cemetery. Their son Charles Wallace Hughes (1870-1950) had married Martha (Mattie) E. Biggs (1871-1944) in 1893, and by this time most of their children (all girls with one boy, Charles Wallace, Jr.) had been born.¹⁷

Charles Wallace Hughes, Sr., cared for his land and his community. Like his neighbors, he grew wheat and brought it to Germantown Station for rail shipment. In addition to farming, he worked for years with his father-in-law, Americus Biggs, at Black Rock Mill. Biggs purchased the mill in 1895 and by 1900 had brought Hughes in to work there several days a week. Until farm prices dropped after World War I, the mill was productive and profitable with corn, rye and wheat being ground by the two huge millstones, with the up-and-down sawmill cutting raw timber. It also served as a community meeting place for families in the area. Before and after Biggs' death in 1921, Wallace Hughes may have been the last to operate the enterprise. He was recalled by a neighboring farmer as a tall man with white hair and goatee, a jovial person with an infectious laugh. A skilled butcher, he assisted the Unglesbees on Hoyles Mill Road with butchering their hogs every fall.¹⁸

In 1916, Congress passed the Federal Farm Loan Act creating 12 regional Federal Loan Banks. Through local farm cooperative associations, small farmers could obtain long-term mortgage credit at competitive rates, using their land and improvements as collateral. With others, Wallace Hughes was a founder and board member of the Western Maryland Federal Land Bank; there may have been a local association in Germantown. In May of 1919, Wallace and Mattie Hughes took out a "Maryland Amortization Mortgage" from The Federal Land Bank of Baltimore for \$7,500 at 5½ percent interest. They were to repay the debt in 68 semi-annual payments over 34 years, approximately \$500 per year. The Hughes were one farm family of hundreds in the county who borrowed funds from The Federal Land Bank of Baltimore between 1919 and 1952; in the Germantown area, mortgagors included Jacob C. Snyder, Paul and Bertha Burdette, Walter P. Johnson, John U. Leaman, and Wesley Hargett. The following year, at a time when the country was experiencing an agricultural depression after World War I, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes took out a second mortgage, for \$4,000 for two years, at 6 percent.¹⁹

¹⁶ Land Records, TD22/413 (Hughes deed, 1902).

¹⁷ Gravestones at Darnestown Presbyterian Church cemetery, Section I, plot 67; register of Neelsville Presbyterian Church, n.d. Census Records, 1900-1930.

¹⁸ In the 1900 Census Record, Wallace C. Hughes (age 30) is listed as a miller; recollection of Slagle Dorsey of Germantown in 1968, noted in "Mills on the Senecas and their Tributaries" by Doris B. Cobb, 1968, reprinted by and in files of MCHS, p. 8; Assessment Records, 6th District, 1908-10. Author interview with George Unglesbee, January 2011.

¹⁹ Wikipedia, Federal Farm Loan Act; conversation January 2011 with Laura Bailey, corporate secretary, Mid Atlantic Farm Credit and mafc.com; Soderberg, *Germantown*, p. 208; Land Records, PBR279/221 (Mortgage, 1919) and PBR299/23 (1920). Land Records, index of grantors, 1927-1952. It is unknown whether any connection existed between the bank in Germantown that was founded by Augustus Selby and Andrew Baker in 1922 and the Federal farm credit program.

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The Hughes used at least some of their loan money to modernize the farmhouse on "Barren Hill." According to assessment records, the value of the dwelling more than quadrupled, from \$864 in 1918 to \$4,000 in 1921. Exterior changes believed to have been done at that time include the addition of stucco, replacement of the original porch posts, and perhaps extension of the porch around the south side of the house with a new basement entry. While retaining the center hall and ten-room floor plan, the Hughes replaced window and door mouldings and added a large attic with semi-finished walls. Also likely upgraded were the farm buildings and equipment. By 1921, barns were valued at \$340, other buildings (such as the corn crib, hog pen, and dairy/pump house) at \$300, farm implements and tools and machinery at \$200 each, and a motor vehicle for \$600. The number of tillable acres was 143, wooded 100, barren 25, and other 3¾. The family kept horses, cattle, and hogs.²⁰

The Hughes were unable to keep up the mortgage payments. In October of 1925, John J. Bowles, holder of the second mortgage, assigned it to his attorneys for foreclosure. The following February, after having purchased the property at public auction for \$2,500, Bowles conveyed title to the attorneys. Wallace and Mattie Hughes moved a few miles east to the Hoskinson farm where they became tenant farmers.²¹

The Carr decade, 1929-1939

During 1929, a series of transactions ended with the property being conveyed to Florence M. and Deaver P. Carr. On November 7 of that year, using money from a family inheritance, Florence Carr purchased the 271¾ acre farm from Bowles. A week later she and her husband borrowed \$2,446 from Bowles, secured by a mortgage on the property. On December 19, two deeds recorded conveyance of the property from the Carrs to Ella R. Plummer and back again to the Carrs. The Carr family -- parents and two young daughters -- moved from Mr. Carr's parental farm in Burtonsville into the Hughes house in time for Deaver Caleb Carr to be born in an upstairs bedroom on March 19, 1930.²²

The census enumerator in spring of 1930 listed Deaver P. Carr age 30 as a farm laborer engaged in general farming, Florence age 28 born in Virginia, and their three young children. Four more children were born in the farmhouse between 1932 and 1937. At first Mr. Carr hand-milked dairy cows with the help of local black workers and kept pigs and chickens. He butchered the hogs and made scrapple to sell in Washington, D.C. Although born on a farm, this work was not Carr's preference. While many dairymen shipped on the daily milk train, Carr began instead hauling containers of fresh milk from local farms by wagon into Washington seven days a week; he brought the cans back the next morning. Mrs. Carr was busy keeping house and taking care of seven children born in a nine-year span. Neighbor Roger Burdette recalled that Mrs. Carr was attractive and

²⁰ Assessment Records, District 6, 1918-1922 (Maryland Hall of Records). See MCHS photo (037-030A), 1920s.

²¹ Land Records, PBR299/24; Equity #4502; PBR394/47. Author interview with George Unglesbee, January 2011.

²² Land Records, PBR487/456, PBR 494/189, PBR498/21, PBR498/22. Author interview with Eugene Carr (b. 1933), January 2011.

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that Black Rock Road was so bad that the school bus driver often left the Carr children at Burdette Farm, where they stayed until Mr. Carr picked them up on his way home.²³

During the Carr ownership, there was no indoor plumbing or electricity. Kerosene fueled their lamps. Mildred and Gene's memories of the property form the basis for the site map that is shown in Section 7.²⁴

The Carrs held on for most of the Depression, in part by renegotiating the 1919 Hughes loan from The Federal Land Bank; as of November 1, 1933, \$7,300 (with taxes and interest) of the original \$7,500 principal was still outstanding. For a time, a family named Sutphin moved in; Mr. Sutphin took over milking and dairying here, and later bought a dairy farm in Germantown. However, in 1939, the Carrs were forced to forfeit the property and move out. The Burdettes purchased their hogs and a blind mare at the auction.²⁵

After leaving their Germantown farm, the family lived in several different houses and Mr. Carr worked at finish carpentry. The family broke up in the early 1940s. The children went to live with cousins and were later adopted by family members or lived with Mrs. Carr. Deaver P. Carr passed away in 1959, and Florence died in 1987, two years after she visited the farm with some of her children.²⁶

In August of 1939, The Federal Land Bank of Baltimore, which had renegotiated the Hughes/Carr loan in 1936 in an attempt to keep the Carrs on the property, assigned Rockville attorney John E. Oxley to sell the farm. Following a public auction and repayment of the outstanding loan, the 271¾ acres were conveyed to Seymour L. Goldberg of Montgomery County on December 20, 1941. Goldberg purchased the farm for \$7,250, of which \$4,800 was secured by a mortgage from The Federal Land Bank of Baltimore. Little more than a week later, Goldberg sold the property for the same price to Lawrence E. and Marian W. Schultz. Both deeds were recorded in the Montgomery County Land Records on the last day of 1941.²⁷

When the Schultzes sold the farm less than a year later, to Edgar O. and Pearl A. Munger, the deed included a description of the "personal property and chattels now located on said farm":

A cook stove, four linoleum rugs now on the floor in the Schultz farmhouse.

Livestock: 32 heifers (Holsteins, Jersey & Guernseys), one Guernsey cow, one Holstein bull, eight hogs, about 14 pigs. (One of the eight hogs is a thoroughbred Duroc boar). Two horses (five years old, each, one mare and one horse); one colt (18 months old); all hens now on farm; one set of wagon harness, and all other harness that is now on the farm.

²³ Census Record, 1930. Author interviews with Eugene Carr and Roger Burdette (b. 1929 and lived on a dairy farm near the Carrs), January 2011.

²⁴ See photo of the 7 Carr children in wagon, taken in Spencerville a year or two after they moved from the Germantown farm, 1940-41; photo courtesy of Eugene and Mildred Carr.

²⁵ Land Records, CKW626/488 (1936). Author interview with Eugene Carr and Roger Burdette.

²⁶ Several Carr children have returned for visits over the years, most recently in October of 2010. Author interviews with Mildred and Gene Carr; Carr family photos.

²⁷ Land Records, 860/289 and 860/295 (1941).

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One John Deere tractor (1939); two tractor plows; one spring tooth harrow; one double disc; one seed drill; one mowing equipment; one manure spreader; one cultivator (John Deere); one corn planter (horse); one wagon (two-horse); all small tools now on farm; one hay fork (now in barn); one hammer mill (tractor) with belt; all corn in crib; all hay in barn; all growing and harvested crops: corn, wheat and rye on said farm as of September 18, 1942.²⁸

Button's Back Acres, 1944-1972

With their purchase of the farmstead in 1944, Ronald E. and Carolyn B. Button began to bridge the gap between traditional farming and a modern country lifestyle. Both individuals brought to the Montgomery County countryside their skills and interests: independent living, order and precision, care of animals and stewardship of the land.²⁹

Ronald Earl Button (1895-1972) was the second youngest of six brothers in a family that managed a dairy farm near Joliet, Illinois. According to his eldest granddaughter, he was a mathematical genius who enrolled at Northwestern University at age 15. He and several brothers enlisted in the U.S. Army in Illinois in 1917. Although World War I ended before he saw overseas action, Button remained in the Army reserves for the following two decades.

Carolyn Bigelow Button (1892-1984) was born in Nova Scotia to a ship-building family with three daughters. She studied at a conservatory in Chicago and became a concert pianist. She met Ron Button when her family vacationed in the Joliet area, and they married about 1919. By 1930, the Button family was in Evanston, Illinois; Ron was employed as an electrical engineer doing "business research," and Carolyn kept house and cared for their children Janet (age 9) and Ronald (age 8 months). During the Depression, Button worked as an accountant and became a financial consultant for large corporations and entities such as hospitals. For a while after his parents died, Button managed the family dairy and goat farm in Joliet, and when the brothers sold the property he decided to use his inheritance to purchase another farm.³⁰

During World War II, Button returned to active duty with the U.S. Army general staff and was headquartered at the Selective Service in the Pentagon. Janet, a gifted artist, had married and moved away, and Ronald Jr. was at West Point preparing for an Army career. Planning a return to farming after retirement, the Buttons looked around the Washington, D.C., area and purchased the former Hughes-Carr farm in Germantown in June of 1944. They took out a mortgage from the previous owners, Edgar and Pearl Munger, for \$1,813.50.³¹

²⁸ Land Records, 903/107 (1942).

²⁹ Land Records, 940/484 (deed); 940/485 (mortgage 1944 and release 1945).

³⁰ Author interviews with Ronald E. Button, Jr., and Carolanne Carne Anderson; Census Records 1900, 1910, 1930; WWI draft registration card.

³¹ Land Records, 940/484 and 940/485 (1944).

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Before Col. Button retired in the early 1950s, tenants lived in the house and farmed their land. The 1902 property description still held: a comfortable 10 room dwelling house with well of water at the door, about 170 acres cleared and arable, with balance in timber, apple orchard, barn with stabling for eight horses, and other necessary outbuildings. By 1954, the Buttons had moved to the farm, calling it "Button's Back Acres." They immediately settled into modernizing and upgrading the house, doing much of the work themselves. Initial projects were to install indoor bathrooms, to dig out and enlarge the basement, and to replace the wrap-around porch and steps with concrete.

Carolanne Carne, Janet's eldest daughter, lived with the Buttons 1954-58 and fondly recalled her teen years with her grandparents. She described Carolyn Button as round-faced, about 5'3, and usually dressed in a skirt and blouse. Mrs. Button listened to classical music on WGMS radio and most days took time to play her baby grand piano. Col. Button also was not tall, square built in the shoulders, with white hair brushed straight back. He dressed in blue jeans with a brown belt, army boots, a denim shirt open at the neck, and a small canvas cap. Carolanne described him as frugal, delivering his jokes and stories with the aplomb of George Burns, and as "my pal." Others described him as wiry and tough, very organized and no-nonsense, with lots of energy for physical activity.³²

In his management of Button Farm, Col. Button applied his penchant for detail. He kept a registered herd of 30 Hereford cows (beef cattle with "pretty white faces and curly tails"), allowing his range cattle to sleep in the woods and regularly moving them to as many as seven different pastures around the property. Button traded bulls with neighboring farmers and kept meticulous notes on each member of the herd. Twice a day, he would count his cows as well as the number of bales and flakes of hay. Attached to the barn was a small corral, where he could isolate an animal for the veterinarian or parcel out cows to various places.

At one time the Buttons also raised chickens, keeping them in a pen north of the outhouse; the family kept the hens for eggs and ate the roosters. They also adopted a registered collie and kept three hives of bees in the hollow downhill from the barn and the yard.

Col. Button harvested hay using a tractor with a hay baler and wagon behind. He hired local boys to assist with building cattle fences (at 75 cents an hour) and bringing the hay into the barn (\$1 hour). He built the pole barn with dirt floor for storage of the tractor, wagon, baler, and a manure spreader. He constructed the garage and tool shed to the south of the house; after each day's use, he greased the baler and washed off shovels and rakes before putting them away.

A fenced vegetable garden was located behind the garage, toward the barn. By hand, Col. Button planted 50' straight rows of red and yellow tomatoes, green beans, peas, turnip greens, cantelope, and asparagus. On the

³² Author interviews with Carolanne Carne Anderson and John McGraw, January 2011.

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property near the house were apple trees of unspecified varieties and one huge pear tree. In season, Mrs. Button canned every day – apples in the morning and tomatoes in the afternoon.³³

Col. and Mrs. Button continued to upgrade the house through the mid and late 1950s. They completely remodeled the large kitchen, removing the wood stove on which they had heated water and adding modern appliances, a sink under the window, an island, and red formica countertops. They retained the pantry, later dividing off a ¾ size bathroom. They installed an oil burning forced hot water heating system with long radiators in most rooms. The Buttons brought plumbing indoors, constructing a new well and a septic tank behind the house, then turning a small bedroom into an upstairs bath. In the northwest section of the newly enlarged basement, they added a shower and toilet and a laundry area. They also refinished the wood floors throughout the house.

On the first floor, Col. Button used the front northeast room as his office; in addition to a big desk, bookcases, and file cabinets there were Mrs. Button's writing desk and a cot. Across the center hall, the living room contained a sofa, chairs, an antique chest, and Mrs. Button's baby grand piano. The small northwest corner room held a daybed and Mrs. Button's typewriter where she often wrote poetry. Upstairs were four bedrooms (southeast master bedroom, two guest bedrooms, and a small middle room on the north side that was Carolanne's) and the bathroom at the top of the stairs. The northwest corner room, never finished off, was used for storage and photographs. The unfinished attic, with its three windows and wood floor, stored items such as a train set and leggings and other parts of Col. Button's WWI uniform.³⁴

Col. and Mrs. Button lived on Button Farm for more than a decade after Carolanne left in 1958. Col. Button led a campaign to gather signatures and to convince the Montgomery County Council that the 100' span over Great Seneca Creek should be rebuilt after it washed out in a spring flood in 1956. Studied and postponed for years, the bridge was finally rebuilt in 1964 to serve the farm and other residents on Black Rock Road.³⁵

Both in their 70s, Ronald and Carolyn Button sold their farm to the State of Maryland in 1972. Taking most of their belongings with them, they retired to Fayetteville, N.C. near Lt. Col. Ronald E. Button, Jr., who was stationed at Fort Bragg. Col. Button died in 1976; Mrs. Button passed away in 1984.³⁶

State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources, 1972-present

In August of 1972, the State of Maryland purchased Button Farm "to the use of the Department of Forests and Parks." Four years prior, it bought from another private owner Black Rock Mill, one of a very few mills standing in Montgomery County in a potentially restorable condition. Both properties became part of Seneca Creek

³³ Author interviews with Carolanne Anderson, John McGraw, Roger Burdette, January 2011.

³⁴ Interview with Carolanne Anderson.

³⁵ *The Post*, Frederick, MD, May 20, 1963.

³⁶ Obituary of Ronald Button in *Fayette (N.C.) Observer*, February 8, 1976; Ancestry.com-N.C. Death Collection, 1908-2004.

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State Park, today a linear park of 6,300 acres that extends along 14 scenic miles of Great Seneca Creek, as it winds its way to the Potomac River.³⁷

Local supervisors for Maryland's Department of Forests and Parks, later renamed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), took responsibility for a farm that had been well maintained by Ron and Carolyn Button for decades. Wishing to keep it in good condition, DNR rented the house to park employees and later to tenants. The State was responsible for major work and during this period replaced the asphalt roof with a similar one, updated the electrical system, and upgraded the Buttons' oil furnace with a new one. Through the decades, DNR negotiated additional leases. One allowed use of the pole barn in exchange for keeping the pastures mowed. Others were agricultural leases on the fields, often for five year contracts. Tom Kelly of Darnestown seeded wheat from an airplane for a few years, and later there was a no-till user. In more recent years, farm leases have gone to increasingly larger growers, several planting corn and soybeans in rotation.

In September of 1978, Peggy and Larry Fallon signed a lease with DNR and moved into the farmhouse. They paid "extremely reasonable rent" in exchange for cleaning out and then maintaining the house. They leased about one acre, including the garden. The Fallons mostly tended to constant plumbing leaks, and they moved the laundry to the northwest room on the first floor by running pipes up from the basement. From 1982-91, Larry Fallon operated his custom hardwood furniture-making business in the house; most of his work was done in the basement, but he also turned Col. Button's former office into a finishing room. He moved out of the house in 2002.³⁸

In 1979, DNR commissioned the Maryland Historical Trust to conduct a windshield survey of Statewide DNR properties, resulting in a brief form for Button Farm, M: 18-43. Surveyor Bridget M. Deale described the property as a "typical early 20th century farmstead of Montgomery County" and a "circa 1910 dwelling." In their presentation to DNR, the surveyors recommended that Button Farm be retained and maintained within the State park system. In 1997, an addendum to the MHT form noted that the rented house "is well kept up with no obvious changes to structure since last survey of property."³⁹

From the start of public ownership of Button Farm, staff at Seneca Creek State Park was aware of a small cemetery across the western field on the edge of the woods. It is probable that Col. Button and later an employee who lived in the farmhouse called it to the attention of P.L. "Len" Wilbur, assistant superintendent of the park. A military man, Button knew there had been Civil War activity around Darnestown and respectfully left the site alone. Wilbur corresponded with Tyler Bastian, state archaeologist at the Maryland Geological Survey, in 1973, including drawings of stones located in the grove of trees. He also mentioned an "unrecorded Civil War skirmish and bivouac area" two miles from the site and noted that locally it was known as a "slave cemetery."

³⁷ Land Records, 4264/816 (deed August 29, 1972); www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/seneca.asp

³⁸ Author's interviews with Peggy Fallon and Larry Fallon, January 2011.

³⁹ Maryland Historical Trust Inventory form M: 18-43 (1979) and addendum (1997); author interview with Bridget Deale Hartman, December 2010.

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In 1979, encouraged by Wilbur's concern that the property was being considered by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) for a sludge trenching site, June Evans of The American University led an archeological reconnaissance of the area. Her report to WSSC noted approximately 20 stones arranged in several rows; some were lying flat, but most were embedded on end in the ground. To date, none of the theories about the cemetery have been proved or disproved.⁴⁰

In 1980, the Montgomery County Council established the Agricultural Reserve. With Great Seneca Creek as its southern boundary, this arc across the northern third of the county included Button Farm within its 93,000 acres. In 1997, Black Rock Road was designated a Rustic Road by the County Council.

In 2003, the Menare Foundation obtained a right-of-entry lease on the farm. Menare, incorporated in 1999 to preserve the legacy of the Underground Railroad, began to clean up the property. The nonprofit group organized volunteers to remove abandoned vehicles, defunct machinery, and piles of refuse accumulated by previous tenants. It conducted limited school and volunteer programs. Boy Scouts earned Eagle status by clearing the barn, fences and barbed wire, brush, stumps, and invasive vegetation. They planted trees, cleared trails, fenced the garden, paved the floor of the pole barn, restored the tool shed, and constructed a fire circle, benches, signs, bird houses, log cabin, and chicken coop.

In 2008, DNR and Menare Foundation signed a long-term lease that included 34.1 acres of land and all buildings. Menare opened the property as a hands-on history museum, naming it Button Farm Living History Center. Educational programs for schools and the general public include special events such as annual Farm Tour and Heritage Days, Earth Day, Stealing Freedom Day, and Emancipation Day celebrations. Menare created office space, set weekly hours of operation and open houses, and began using the pole barn as a pavilion for performance, activity, and exhibition space. The museum garden, with 75 varieties of heirloom vegetables and plants such as fish peppers, peanuts, sweet potatoes, and tobacco, was established. Menare joined Montgomery County's Green Incubator Program, and a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm opened for public participation.

Future plans are to rehabilitate the Hughes-Carr-Button farmhouse for use by the Menare Foundation as a highlight of the Living History Center. As such, the property can still be described as it was in 1902: a comfortable 10 room dwelling house with about 170 acres cleared and arable, the balance in timber, apple orchard, barn with stabling for eight horses, and other necessary outbuildings.

⁴⁰ Letter, Len Wilbur to Tyler Bastian, June 6, 1973, with drawing; June Evans, "Preliminary Archeological Reconnaissance of Sludge Trenching Site 57, Montgomery County, Maryland," March 1979, with maps and drawings; Carolanne Anderson interview.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet 9.1

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>271 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>271 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Seneca Quad</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1: 24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Button Farm property, from 1880 to 1972, consisted of 271 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres. That acreage was purchased by the State of Maryland and included within Seneca Creek State Park in 1972.

The property is bounded on the south by Great Seneca Creek, on the east by Black Rock Road, and on the west and north by agricultural properties now part of Seneca Creek State Park.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Eileen S. McGuckian, Historian		
organization	The Menare Foundation, Inc.	date	January 2011
street & number	P. O. Box 1366	telephone	202-903-4140
city or town	Olney	state	Maryland 20830-1366

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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files and collections: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (Seneca Creek State Park), Menare Foundation, Montgomery County Historical Society (MCHS)

Maps: Land Patents (MCHS); Martenet & Bond (1865); Hopkins Atlas (1879); Map of Montgomery County and District of Columbia, MD Geological Survey (1941); aerial photo, Series I 1937-44, cartographic division (NES) DCO 12, box 2, folder 8 (1943); Black Rock Mill survey plat (1957); Button plat (1960); aerial tax map, Real Estate Atlas of Montgomery County, MD, Plate 31, District 6 (1967); drawings of Button Farm cemetery, 1973; USGS Map, Germantown, MD, with MHT form M: 18-43, 1979; DNR-Button Farm Curatorship map, exhibit A (2008)

Montgomery County Land, Judgment, Equity, and Assessment Records

Newspapers: *Montgomery County Sentinel*, *The Post (Frederick MD)*, *Fayetteville (NC) Observer*

Oral history interviews: Carolanne Carne Anderson (Button granddaughter), Ronald E. Button, Jr., Roger Burdette (neighbor, b. 1929), Eugene and Mildred Carr (children of owners 1929-39), Frank Cornelius, Bill DuVall, Peggy and Larry Fallon (tenants 1978-2002), Hank Handler (Oak Grove Restoration, walk-through Jan. 7, 2011), Bridget Deale Hartman (MHT surveyor 1979), John (worked at the farm summer 1959) and Barbara McGraw, Jean King Phillips (neighbor on Black Rock Road), George Unglesbee (farmer who knew Wallace Hughes, Sr.)

Photographs: Montgomery County Historical Society; the Carr family

Published works: Coleman, Margaret Marshall. *Mama Wears Two Aprons: Women in Farming and Farm Marketing* (N.H.: Publishing Works, Inc., 2008); MacMaster, Richard K. and Ray Eldon Hiebert, *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland* (Rockville: Montgomery County Government and Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976); Soderberg, Susan. *A History of Germantown, Maryland* (Author, 1988)

Studies: Evans, June, The American University, *Preliminary Archeological Reconnaissance of Sludge Trenching Site 57, Montgomery County, Maryland*, March 1979. MHT, *Inventory form for State Historic Sites Survey*, The Button Property, M 18-43 (DNR 19-21), 1979 with addendum 1997

U.S. Census Records, 1850-1930