Address:	9220 Damascus Hills Lane, Damascus	Meeting Date:	5/4/2022		
Resource:	Master Plan Site #11/21 (<i>Rezin Bowman Farm</i>)	Report Date:	4/27/2022		
		Public Notice:	4/20/2022		
Applicant:	Daniel Ferenczy (Sigi Koko, Agent)	Tax Credit:	Partial		
Review:	HAWP	Staff:	Michael Kyne		
Permit Number: 981848					

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

PROPOSAL: Partial demolition, comprehensive rehabilitation, building alterations, new addition

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the HPC approve the HAWP application.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

SIGNIFICANCE:	Master Plan Site #11/21, Rezin Bowman Farm
STYLE:	Farmhouse Gothic/Vernacular
DATE:	c. 1827-1939

Excerpt from Damascus-Goshen Historic Resources Master Plan Amendment:

The Rezin Bowman Farm was established at the headwaters of Great Seneca Creek. The farmstead is significant for its collection of buildings that represent an evolution of construction. By 1850, Aden Bowman (1787-1868) owned 520 acres of land and resided on this farm. He built the bank barn sometime after he acquired this land in 1827. Typical of successful farmers of the era, he grew a principal crop of tobacco, had diverse livestock, and grew corn, oats and wheat. His son, Rezin H. inherited the farm that he maintained through the century. The center cross gable dwelling represents a house type that was popular in Montgomery County from the post-Civil War era through the early 20th century. Claude Burdette continued the farm by introducing dairy cows, housed in the 16-cow dairy barn built by 1939.



Fig. 1: Subject property.

BACKGROUND:

The applicant previously appeared before the Commission for a preliminary consultation at the March 2, 2022 HPC meeting.¹

PROPOSAL:

The applicant proposes partial demolition, comprehensive rehabilitation, building alterations, and a new addition at the subject property.

APPLICABLE GUIDELINES:

When reviewing alterations and new construction at Master Plan Sites several documents are to be utilized as guidelines to assist the Commission in developing their decision. These documents include *Montgomery County Code Chapter 24A (Chapter 24A)*, the *Damascus-Goshen Historic Resources Master Plan Amendment (Amendment)*, and *the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (Standards)*. The pertinent information in these documents is outlined below.

Montgomery County Code; Chapter 24A-8

(b) The commission shall instruct the director to issue a permit, or issue a permit subject to such conditions as are found to be necessary to ensure conformity with the purposes and requirements of this chapter, if it finds that:

¹ Link to March 2, 2022 preliminary consultation staff report: <u>https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/II.A-9220-Damascus-Hills-Lane-Damascus-Preliminary-Consultation.pdf</u> Link to March 2, 2022 HPC meeting audio/video transcript: http://mncppc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=f9e5e2b8-9b0e-11ec-972b-0050569183fa

- (1) The proposal will not substantially alter the exterior features of an historic site or historic resource within an historic district; or
- (2) The proposal is compatible in character and nature with the historical, archeological, architectural or cultural features of the historic site or the historic district in which an historic resource is located and would not be detrimental thereto or to the achievement of the purposes of this chapter; or
- (3) The proposal would enhance or aid in the protection, preservation and public or private utilization of the historic site or historic resource located within an historic district in a manner compatible with the historical, archeological, architectural or cultural value of the historic site or historic district in which an historic resource is located; or
- (4) The proposal is necessary in order that unsafe conditions or health hazards be remedied; or
- (5) The proposal is necessary in order that the owner of the subject property not be deprived of reasonable use of the property or suffer undue hardship; or
- (6) In balancing the interests of the public in preserving the historic site or historic resource located within an historic district, with the interests of the public from the use and benefit of the alternative proposal, the general public welfare is better served by granting the permit.
- (c) It is not the intent of this chapter to limit new construction, alteration or repairs to any 1 period or architectural style.

Damascus-Goshen Historic Resources Master Plan Amendment

The Amendment includes the following statement regarding the Rezin Bowman Farm:

The setting includes the dwelling house, corn crib, bank barn, dairy barn, and milk house. Since the dwelling house has had many alterations, additional changes should be reviewed with leniency by the Historic Preservation Commission. The property may include a cemetery, described in Aden Bowman's 1868 will.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation:

2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

STAFF DISCUSSION:

The subject property (addressed 9190 Damascus Road, when designated to the Master Plan for Historic

Preservation as part of the *Damascus-Goshen Historic Resources Master Plan Amendment* in 2009) is an early 19th to early 20th century farmstead. The farmstead consists of a c. 1827 bank barn, c. 1939 dairy barn, corn crib, milk house, and a late 19th to early 20th century farmhouse. As stated in the *Amendment*, the house has experienced extensive previous alterations. Historic preservation staff worked with the County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) and Department of Permitting Services (DPS) to issue an abatement order for the house in Spring 2021. Housing code inspectors found nine (9) violations to be addressed. Notably, the house was condemned and found unfit for human habitation.



The applicant purchased the property in Summer 2021, with the intention of rehabilitating the farmstead, including the condemned house.

The applicant previously appeared before the Commission at the March 2, 2022 HPC meeting for a preliminary consultation regarding alterations to the house. At the preliminary consultation, the Commission was generally supportive of the applicants' proposal, but they provided the following comments and recommendations to ensure compatibility and consistency with the applicable guidelines and *Standards*:

• Additional details and better drawings should be submitted with the formal HAWP submission to provide clarity on the proposed rear addition, the proposed addition's roof form, and the proposed green roofing.

- Although not specified in the previous submission, there were concerns about the proposed number of lites for the replacement windows on the house. 2-over-2 double-hung windows to match the existing/original windows were noted as the appropriate option.
- There were concerns regarding the proposed straw and lime plaster treatment on the original house, with some preferring in-kind replacement of the existing wood clapboard siding.
 - Several commented that the most significant character-defining feature of the historic house is its form and massing (including the traditional L-shaped configuration and the center cross gable on the front elevation), and they supported the proposed straw and lime plaster treatment throughout.
 - Alternative suggestions included retaining the wood clapboard siding on original house and only using the straw and lime plaster treatment on the addition, or applying wood clapboard siding to match the existing over the proposed lime plaster on the original house, if practicable.

The applicant has returned with a HAWP application for the following work items house:

- Extend the foundation of the existing rear addition 5' x 6' to accommodate a proposed new mudroom entrance.
- Replace the existing sheathing and wooden clapboard siding with lime plaster.
- Remove the existing rear addition roof and alter the rear addition, creating a two-story rear addition.
 - Materials for the proposed addition include a living (moss and succulent covered) roof, wood casement windows, wood trim, and lime plaster siding.
- Comprehensive rehabilitation of the historic house, including repair of the existing attic windows, installation of new two-over-two double hung TDL wood windows, installation of new wood paneled doors, and in-kind repair of the existing standing seam metal roof,

Staff notes that the proposed new deck noted in the application is not part of this proposal, and the applicant intends to submit a separate HAWP application for that work.

Staff supports applicant's proposal. As noted in the *Amendment*, the house "…has had many alterations, [and] additional changes should be reviewed with leniency by the Historic Preservation Commission." Regarding the proposed siding replacement, several Commissioners remarked that the most significant character-defining feature of the house is its form and massing (which will not be altered), and they supported the proposed straw and lime plaster treatment. Additionally, there is some evidence that the existing clapboard siding is not original. Namely, there is foam insulation installed over the studs on the outside of the house, with the clapboard siding installed over it. This foam insulation is stamped with the date 1979. The clapboard siding is also unfinished, with no evidence or having ever been painted. With this, staff concludes that the proposed siding replacement will not remove original materials.

Staff finds that the proposed work items, including the new addition, siding replacement, and use of alternative materials, will not alter or remove original and/or significant character-defining materials, features, or spaces of the subject property, in accordance with *Standards #2* and *#9*. Further, these alterations could be removed in the future, leaving the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment unimpaired, per *Standard #10*.

After full and fair consideration of the applicant's submission, staff finds the proposal as being consistent with the Criteria for Issuance in Chapter 24A-8(b), (1), and (2), and with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation #2, #9*, and *#10*, as outlined above

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission <u>approve</u> the HAWP application under the Criteria for Issuance in Chapter 24A-8(b), (1), (2), having found that the proposal will not substantially alter the exterior features of the historic resource and is compatible in character with the district and the purposes of Chapter 24A;

and with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation #2, #9, and #10;

and with the general condition that the applicant shall present an electronic set of drawings, if applicable, to Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) staff for review and stamping prior to submission for the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) building permits;

and with the general condition that final project design details, not specifically delineated by the Commission, shall be approved by HPC staff or brought back to the Commission as a revised HAWP application at staff's discretion;

and with the general condition that the applicant shall notify the Historic Preservation Staff if they propose to make any alterations to the approved plans. Once the work is completed the applicant will contact the staff person assigned to this application at 301-563-3400 or <u>michael.kyne@montgomeryplanning.org</u> to schedule a follow-up site visit.

	For Staff only: HAWP#
APPLICATI	DATE ASSIGNED
HISTORIC AREA HISTORIC PRESERVATI 301.563.3	VORK PERMIT
APPLICANT:	
_{Name:} Daniel Ferenczy	E-mail:
Address: 636 River Road	City: Coxsackie, NY zip: 12192
Daytime Phone: 907-750-8306	E-mail: <u>daniel.ferenczy@gmail.com</u> City: <u>Coxsackie, NY</u> zip: <u>12192</u> Tax Account No.: <u>03815944</u>
AGENT/CONTACT (if applicable):	
_{Name:} <mark>Sigi Koko</mark>	E-mail:
	E-mail: <u>sigikoko@buildnaturally.com</u> City: <u>Fawn Grove, PA</u>
Address: 1376 W. Woodbine Road Daytime Phone: 202-302-3055	Contractor Registration No.:
LOCATION OF BUILDING/PREMISE: MIHP # of Hist	oric Property 11/021-000A
Is the Property Located within an Historic District?	_Yes/District Name
Is there an Historic Preservation/Land Trust/Environ	No/Individual Site Name <u>Rezin Bowman Farm</u>
map of the easement, and documentation from the	
Are other Planning and/or Hearing Examiner Approv (Conditional Use, Variance, Record Plat, etc.?) If YES supplemental information.	
Building Number: 9220 Street: D	amascus Hills Lane
Town/City: Damascus Nearest C	ross Street:Route 108 / Damascus Hills Lane
Lot: 119 Block: Subdivisio	n: Parcel:
TYPE OF WORK PROPOSED: See the checklist or for proposed work are submitted with this appl	ication. Incomplete Applications will not
be accepted for review. Check all that apply: New Construction Deck/Porch	Shed/Garage/Accessory Structure
□New Construction✓Deck/Porch✓Addition□Fence	Tree removal/planting
Demolition Hardscape/La	
Grading/Excavation 🖌 Roof	✓ Other: <u>Siding</u>
I hereby certify that I have the authority to make the and accurate and that the construction will comply	e foregoing application, that the application is correct with plans reviewed and approved by all necessary
agencies and hereby acknowledge and accept this	
Daniel P Ferenczy	6 April 2022

Adjacent and Confronting Properties:

Gaithersburg, MD 20882

9105 Bonny Brook Court

9109 Bonny Brook Court

9108 Bonny Brook Court

9215 Damascus Hills Lane

9203 Damascus Hills Lane

9214 Damascus Hills Lane

Seneca Ridge Development, LLC 5313 Lee Highway 2nd Floor Arlington, VA 22207

Description of Property: Please describe the building and surrounding environment. Include information on significant structures, landscape features, or other significant features of the property:

The 9.8 acre "Rezin Bowman Farm" property is one mile southeast of Damascus and adjoins the Great Seneca Stream Valley Park. The property is down a long driveway and encircled by forest land.

The terrain consists of gently sloping lawns and tree-lines to a large pond. The buildings include a 20th C dwelling, a 19th C bank barn and corn crib, and a 1930s dairy barn with milk house and silos.

The dwelling is an early 20th C vernacular farmhouse. It is a two story home with a cross-gable metal roof and wrap around porch. The foundation is in three parts: a small stone basement, larger stone crawlspace, and a newer cement block crawlspace.

Description of Work Proposed: Please give an overview of the work to be undertaken:

We intend to conduct a comprehensive rehabilitation of the entire site that returns the farm to proper order complete with restored barns, kitchen gardens, and pond.

For this HAWP we are proposing a complete farmhouse rehabilitation while retaining the original architectural features of the home. We will ensure the massing of the main block, front facade and historic windows are retained and clearly discernible. We will use a lime plaster exterior finish due to its hygroscopic nature that sucks moisture away from cellulosic materials (wood and straw) preventing rot.

Our architect is Sigi Koko, who has over 20 years experience in natural building. Our builder is Tim Stull, a local contractor with experience in natural building and working on historically preserved houses.

We are proposing the following:

- 1. Extend Rear Foundation by 30 sq ft for mudroom entrance, and re-attach a 12'x24' rear deck.
- 2. Remove deteriorated unpainted wood siding; Replace with traditional lime plaster.
- 3. Remove the patchy rear shed roof and rotted frame; replace with two-story frame / living roof.

Adjacent and Confronting properties:

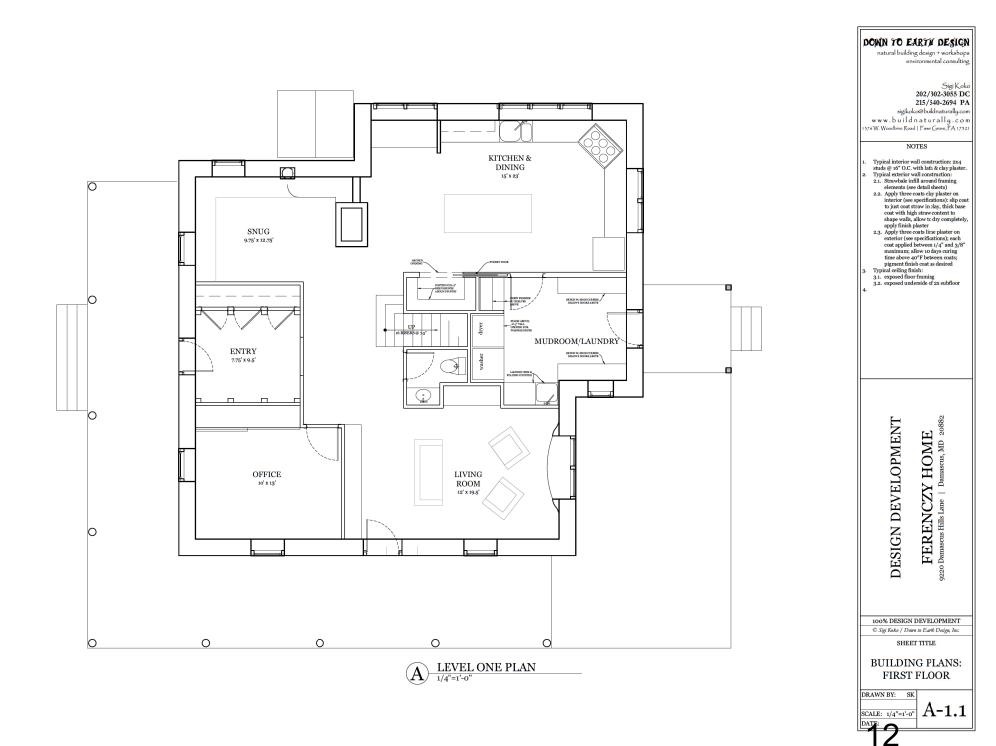
Gaithersburg, MD 20882 9105 Bonny Brook Court 9109 Bonny Brook Court 9108 Bonny Brook Court 9215 Damascus Hills Lane 9203 Damascus Hills Lane 9214 Damascus Hills Lane

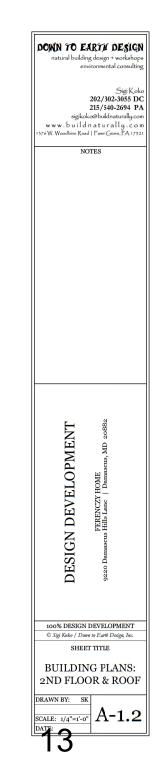
Work Item 1: Rear Addition	
Description of Current Condition: The foundation is pretty good. A deck used to exist there, but has since been removed.	Proposed Work: Extend the rear kitchen foundation to accommodate an insulated mudroom entrance. Rebuild the former rear deck.
Work Item 2: Siding Description of Current Condition: The wood siding and Celotex foam sheathing is in disrepair.	Proposed Work: Replace the sheathing and wood siding with lime plaster. The lime plaster is an optimal exterior siding for natural building, as it is breathable and adheres excellently to organic structural and insulation material, such as wood, stone, and straw.

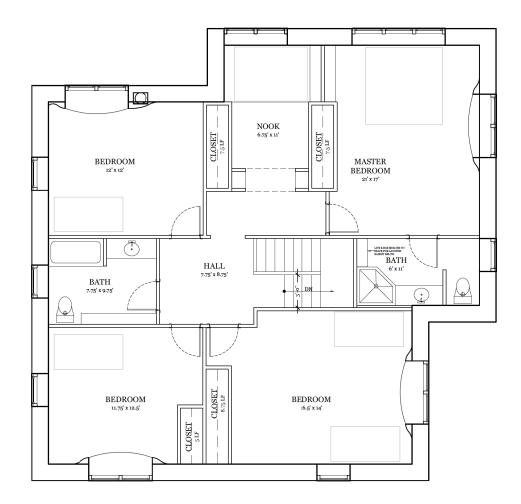
Work Item 3: Rear roof		
	Broken skylights and a hole from a removed chimney. The supporting frame of the back half of the house is mostly rotten.	Proposed Work: Remove the rear roof and rotted frame and replace with a two-story structure and living roof.

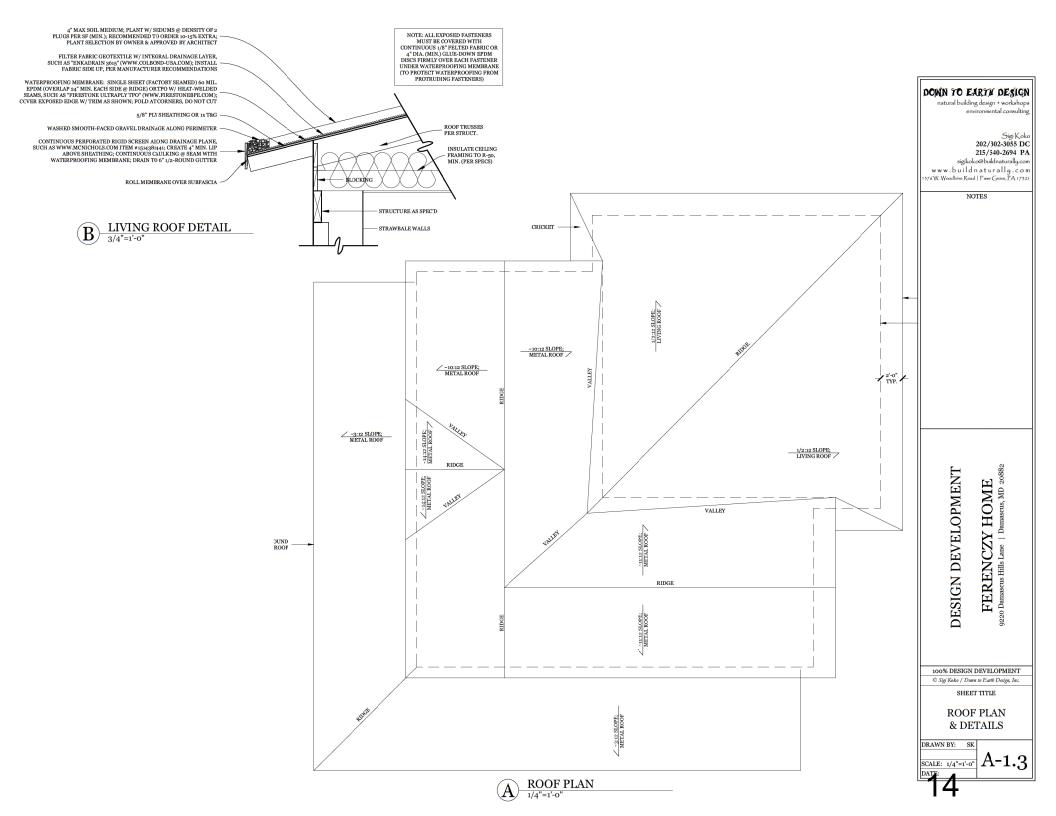
HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT CHECKLIST OF APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

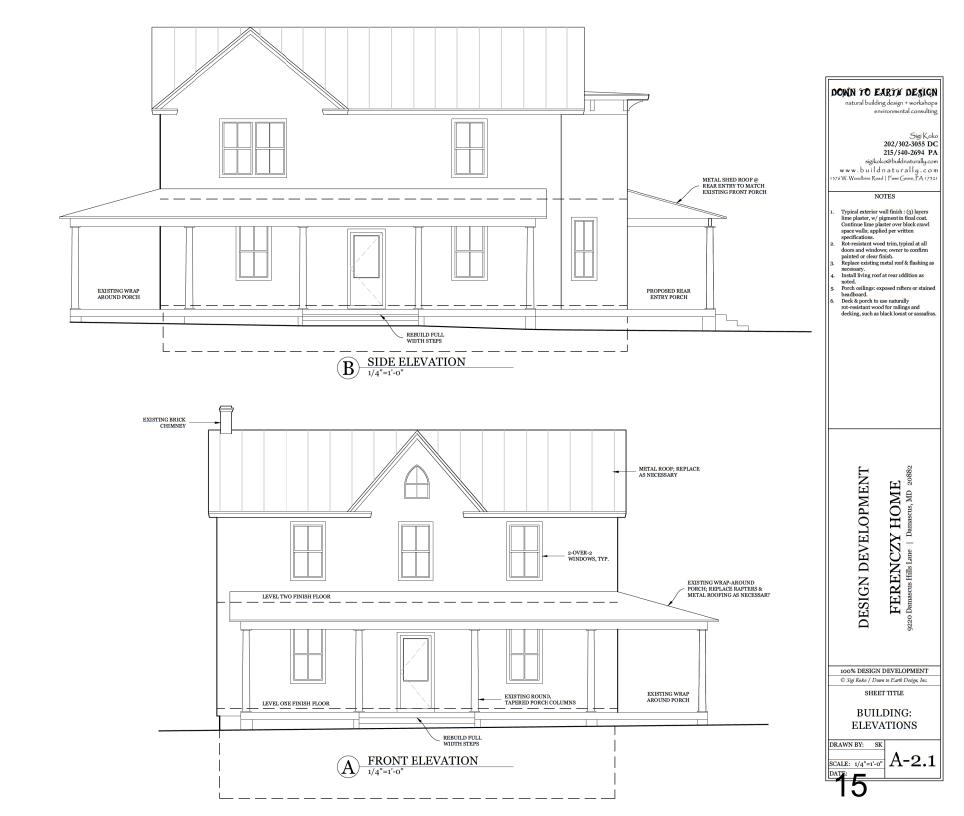
	Required Attachments						
Proposed Work	I. Written Description	2. Site Plan	3. Plans/ Elevations	4. Material Specifications	5. Photographs	6. Tree Survey	7. Property Owner Addresses
New Construction	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Additions/ Alterations	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Demolition	*	*	*		*		*
Deck/Porch	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fence/Wall	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Driveway/ Parking Area	*	*		*	*	*	*
Grading/Exc avation/Land scaing	*	*		*	*	*	*
Tree Removal	*	*		*	*	*	*
Siding/ Roof Changes	*	*	*	*	*		*
Window/ Door Changes	*	*	*	*	*		*
Masonry Repair/ Repoint	*	*	*	*	*		*
Signs	*	*	*	*	*		*













Farmstead front view near top of driveway



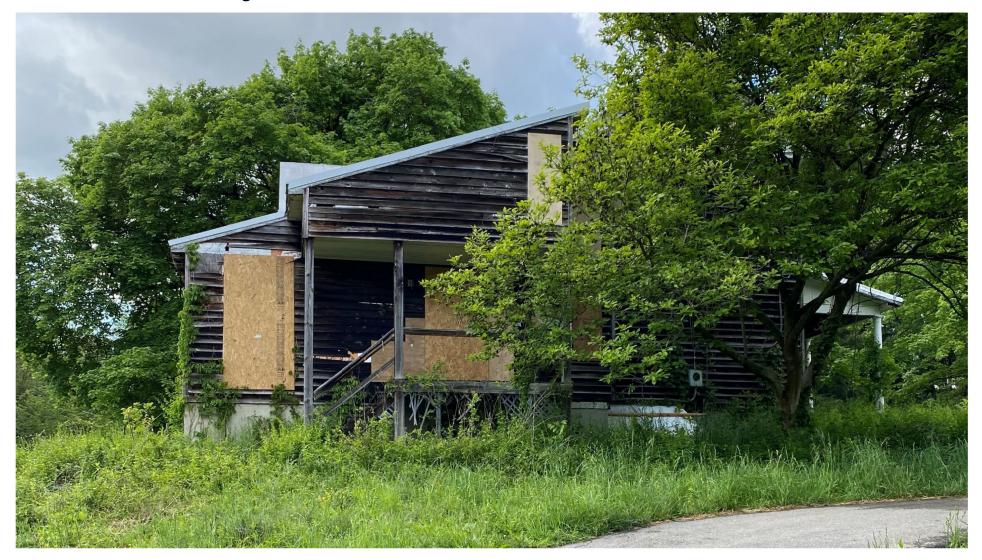
Farmstead rear view from below the pond



Dwelling North Front



Dwelling East Side



Dwelling Southeast Side



Dwelling Rear

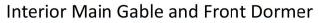


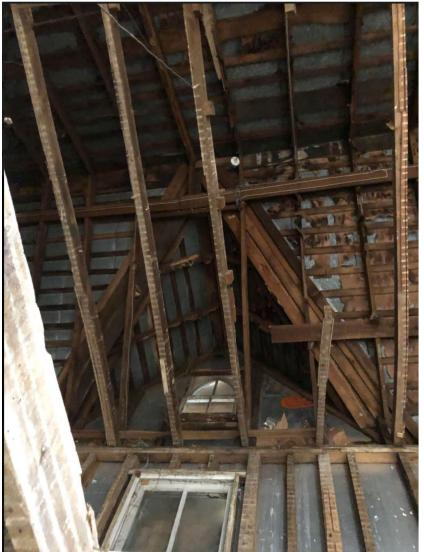
Dwelling Southwest Side

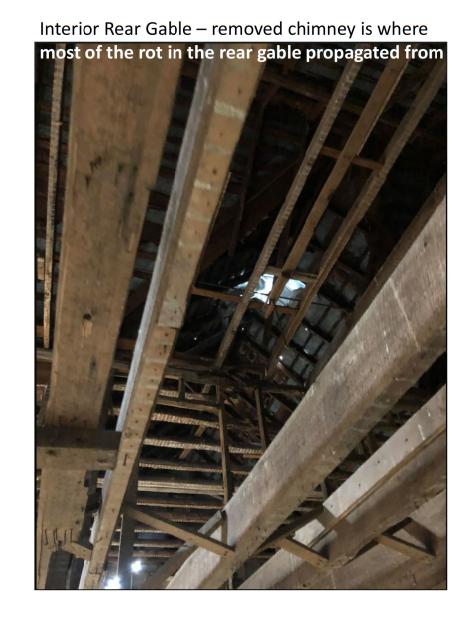


Dwelling West Side









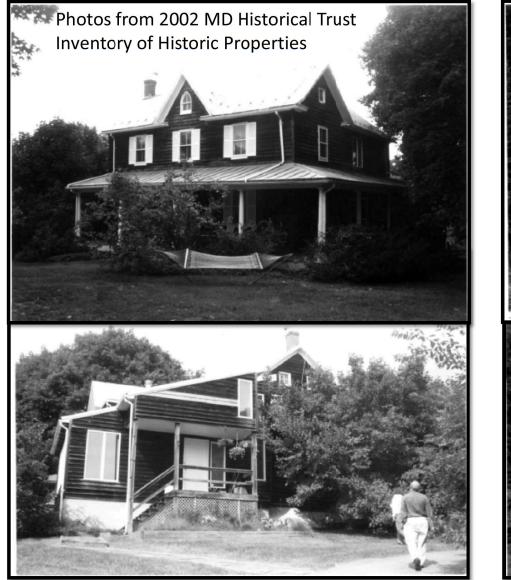




Photo from 1974. These surrounding fields are now dense 30+ year old forest

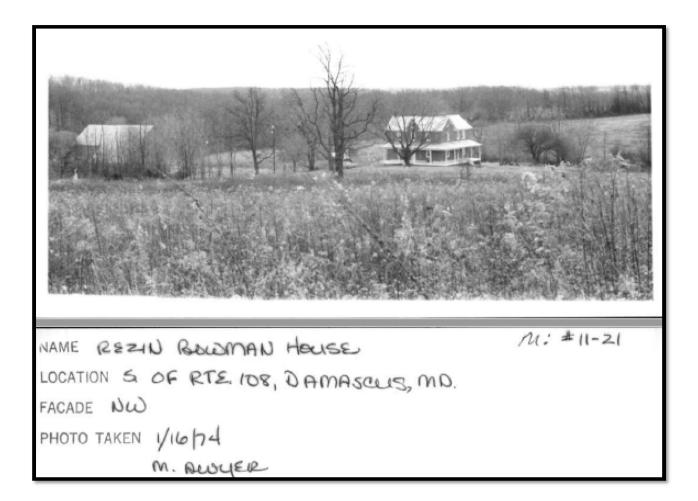


Exhibit in support of Plaster siding: a neighboring home at 27214 Ridge Road, Damascus MD is a circa 1900 cross-gable home with the same roofline, roof material, windows, and porch as our house.



Exhibit in support of Plaster siding: Master Site <u>M 23-90 Riverton</u> in northern Montgomery County has Lime Stucco Pebbledash finish



https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Montgomery/M;%2023-90.pdf

EXAMPLE Natural Built home of timber, straw bales, clay and lime plaster



(1) It starts with the Foundation and Framing



EXAMPLE "Straw Bale" insulated building



EXAMPLE Living Roof on straw bale homes. The living roof is eco-friendly



Plant life such as succulents and moss are perfectly adapted for living roofs



Natural Building: plasters are traditional surface finish materials used with timber, stone, and straw. Some of the oldest buildings in the world were built this way.



Prepare straw insulation

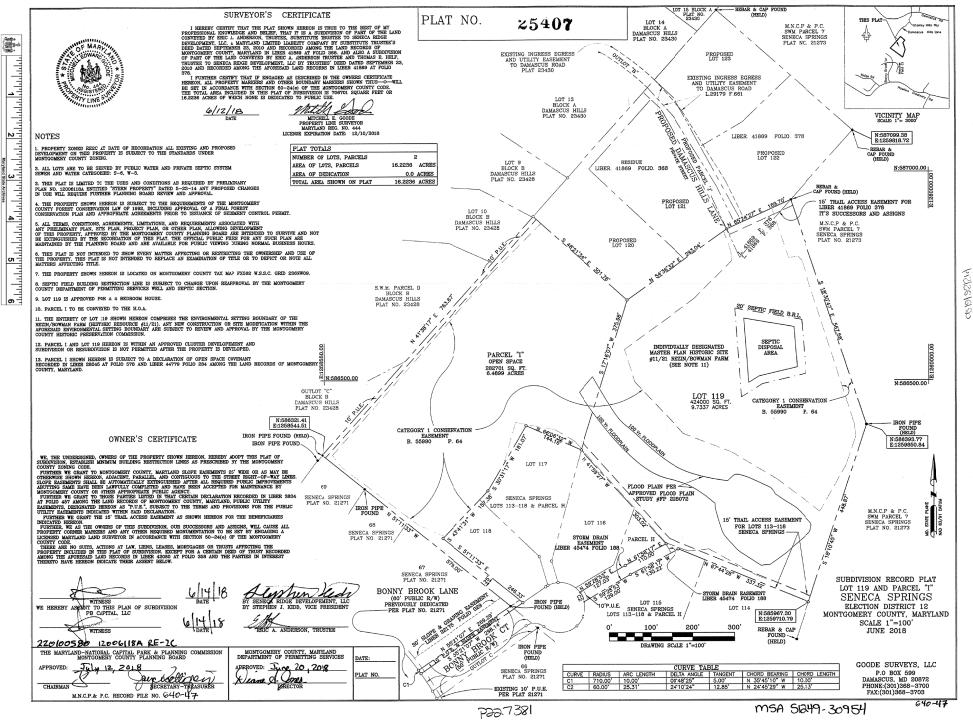
Mix plaster

Apply skim coat

Apply finish coat

Natural Building material: Straw insulation provides deep walls with exceptional insulation. The plaster provides thermal mass that reduces temperature swings, as well as a vapor permeable barrier that regulates humidity.





COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT (Subdivision Plats, MO) Plat 25407, MSA_S1249_30954. Date available 2018/07/19. Printed 05/20/202

MONTGON