

HO-987

Melvin and Catherine Brown Farm  
2020 Long Corner Road  
Mt. Airy vicinity

**Description:**

The Melvin and Catherine Brown Farm house faces south toward the road and is set back about 300 feet at the top of a hill, with a steep slope down to the road. The old house is a two-story, three-bay by two-bay structure with a rubble stone foundation, vinyl siding, and a gable roof with an east-west ridge and asphalt shingles. There is an exterior brick chimney on the east end made of 20<sup>th</sup>-century wire cut brick. On the west end of the house is a two-story addition of one bay by two bays, with a CMU foundation, vinyl siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge. The ridge of the roof is set lower than that on the main block. There is a one-story enclosed breezeway added to the east end of the house, with a one-story, two-bay by two-bay two-car garage. The garage has a CMU foundation, vinyl siding, and the breezeway has an east-west ridge while the garage has a north-south ridge; all of the roofing is asphalt shingle. There is a two-story shed-roofed addition on the north side of the house, with vinyl siding. There is also a one-story hip-roofed addition on the northwest, and it has a CMU foundation, vinyl siding, and is part of the west addition. The first story of the house has a center lobby entrance with a straight run of stairs that ascends to the north, and a single-pile, two-room plan.

**Significance:**

The Melvin and Catherine Brown Farm was a small, 22-acre farm when the Browns bought it in 1891 from the Mullin~~x~~ family. The Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation records state that the house was built in 1925, and the construction of the house, with drywall on a balloon frame with wire nails, suggests that this date, or even one later, is reasonable. The foundation may date to an earlier structure, but the only feature earlier than 1925 is the newel post and balustrade, and these may have been added more recently, along with the modern leaded glass door. The most significant feature of the house is the roof construction, which employs studs like kingposts to support the ridge beam. The house has been enlarged at least three times, with no significance to any of the changes. None of the earlier farm buildings survive, and the house is scheduled to be demolished in 2009. A large, modern house in a French Chateau style is being erected on the property, to the east.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-987

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Melvin and Katherine Brown Farm

other

## 2. Location

street and number 2020 Long Corner Road \_\_ not for publication

city, town Mt. Airy X vicinity

county Howard

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Erik De Widt

street and number P.O. Box 1087 telephone 301-587-8635

city, town Mt. Airy state MD zip code 21771

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 10387 folio 450

city, town Ellicott City tax map 6 tax parcel 56 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count		
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	0	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				0	

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## 7. Description

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Summary:

The Melvin and Catherine Brown Farm house faces south toward the road and is set back about 300 feet at the top of a hill, with a steep slope down to the road. The old house is a two-story, three-bay by two-bay structure with a rubble stone foundation, vinyl siding, and a gable roof with an east-west ridge and asphalt shingles. There is an exterior brick chimney on the east end made of 20<sup>th</sup>-century wire cut brick. On the west end of the house is a two-story addition of one bay by two bays, with a CMU foundation, vinyl siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge. The ridge of the roof is set lower than that on the main block. There is a one-story enclosed breezeway added to the east end of the house, with a one-story, two-bay by two-bay two-car garage. The garage has a CMU foundation, vinyl siding, and the breezeway has an east-west ridge while the garage has a north-south ridge; all of the roofing is asphalt shingle. There is a two-story shed-roofed addition on the north side of the house, with vinyl siding. There is also a one-story hip-roofed addition on the northwest, and it has a CMU foundation, vinyl siding, and is part of the west addition. The first story of the house has a center lobby entrance with a straight run of stairs that ascends to the north, and a single-pile, two-room plan. The old house is to be demolished.

### Description:

The Melvin and Catherine Brown Farm is located at 2020 Long Corner Road, about 4 miles southeast of Mt. Airy, in western Howard County, Maryland. The house faces south toward the road and is set back about 300 feet at the top of a hill, with a steep slope down to the road. The drive into the property is located north of the Howard Chapel Methodist Church and winds behind the church. There is a new house under construction to the east of this house, in a French Chateau style, and the old house is to be demolished. There is a new Butler building to the west of the old house, with no other buildings on the property.

### Exterior

The old house is a two-story, three-bay by two-bay structure with a rubble stone foundation, vinyl siding, and a gable roof with an east-west ridge and asphalt shingles. There is an exterior brick chimney on the east end made of 20<sup>th</sup>-century wire cut brick. On the west end of the house is a two-story addition of one bay by two bays, with a CMU foundation, vinyl siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge. The ridge of the roof is set lower than that on the main block. There is a one-story enclosed breezeway added to the east end of the house, with a one-story, two-bay by two-bay two-car garage. The garage has a CMU foundation, vinyl siding, and the breezeway has an east-west ridge while the garage has a north-south ridge; all of the roofing is asphalt shingle. There is a two-story shed-roofed addition on the north side of the house, with vinyl siding. There is also a one-story hip-roofed addition on the northwest, and it has a CMU foundation, vinyl siding, and is part of the west addition.

The south elevation of the main block, on the first story, has a center door of modern oak and leaded glass. There is a new six-over-six sash with fake blinds to each side of the center door, and the second

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. HO-987

Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 1

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story has three six-over-six fake blinds. There is a box cornice with returns. There is a one-story, three-bay porch over the entrance, with CMU piers, a rebuilt deck, four wood posts, and new railings. The soffit is now covered with vinyl, and there are five steps up to the porch. The east elevation of the main block has the first story covered by a breezeway, and the second story south bay has a new six-over-six sash. The north elevation of the north addition has a six-over-six wood sash in the east and center bays of the first story and a door in the west bay that has nine lights over a crossbuck; this door is of wood but is modern. The second story has three six-over-six sash, with the east one being wood. The east elevation of the north addition has the first story covered by the breezeway and has a new one-over-one sash on the second story. The west elevation of the north addition has the first story covered by the west addition and the second story has a new six-over-six sash. The west elevation of the main block is completely covered by the modern addition.

Interior

The first story of the house has a center lobby entrance with a straight run of stairs that ascends to the north; the stairway is enclosed to the east and is half enclosed to the west, with a railing to the bottom half of it. The house has a single-pile, two-room plan. The lobby entrance is open to the room on the west, and there is no door giving access to the east room. The flooring is 2 1/4-inch pine that runs north-south. The baseboard has an ogee on top, and the architrave is a modern broad, flat ogee and bead. The newel post is turned and tapered, appears to be walnut and does not have an urn profile. The balusters are turned oak and are slender, with one ringlet on the bottom. They appear to be late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The handrail is ovoid. The west wall of the west room has been opened up to the west addition. The northwest corner of the first story was opened up. The construction is 2 by 4s that are circular-sawn, with drywall, and they never had any lath or plaster on them. Beneath the stairway is a closet, and the door has modern architrave. There is a passage behind the stairs that leads to the north addition and the east room. The east room has typical flooring and a fireplace on the east with a raised stone hearth, a brick mantel, and knotty pine paneling and shelves on either side of the fireplace. The north addition has no historic features.

The second story floor plan mirrors the first story. It has all modern baseboard, trim, doors, and carpeting. There is a door to the east chamber that has two panels and a modern lock. The north wall of the east chamber has plaster on expanded metal lath over top of drywall. The stairs to the attic are in the center, with a hollow core door. The walls on either side of the enclosed stairway are 2 by 4s with wire nails and drywall.

The attic is completely open and unfinished. The roof has five studs down the center, of circular-sawn 2 by 4s. These studs are notched at the ridge to support a ridge beam. The rafters are 2 by 4s that are mitered and butted to the ridge beam. There is a short piece of 2 by 4 nailed to the studs at the foot with wire nails. The west gable end siding is lapped weatherboards covered with asbestos shingles, and all of this is now covered by the west addition; the west addition is constructed with wafer board.

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Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 2

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The basement was excavated after the house was constructed. The joists run north-south and are circular-sawn. Some are 6-1/2 inches deep by 5-1/2 inches wide and are spaced 24 inches on centers, others are 6 inches deep by 4 inches wide and are spaced 16 inches on centers, and still others are 7-1/2 inches deep by 6-1/2 inches wide. The sills appear to be circular-sawn and are 6-1/2 by 5-1/2 inches. The flooring above is wide, random-width boards with some broken grooves, and appears to have been taken up and re-laid.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 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** n/a **Architect/Builder** n/a

**Construction dates** c. 1925

Evaluation for:

National Register  Maryland Register  not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Melvin and Catherine Brown Farm was a small, 22-acre farm when the Browns bought it in 1891 from the Mullin<sup>x</sup> family. The Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation records state that the house was built in 1925, and the construction of the house, with drywall on a balloon frame with wire nails, suggests that this date, or even one later, is reasonable. The foundation may date to an earlier structure, but the only feature earlier than 1925 is the newel post and balustrade, and these may have been added more recently, along with the modern leaded glass door. The most significant feature of the house is the roof construction, which employs studs like kingposts to support the ridge beam. The house has been enlarged at least three times, with no significance to any of the changes. None of the earlier farm buildings survive, and the house is scheduled to be demolished in 2009. A large, modern house in a French Chateau style is being erected on the property, to the east.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See chain of title

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 20 acres  
Acreage of historical setting 22 acres  
Quadrangle name Damascus

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the driveway on the north side, the fence line on the east, the stone wall to the south of the house, and an imaginary line from the west end of the wall back to the drive, west of the house.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	June 2009
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

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.

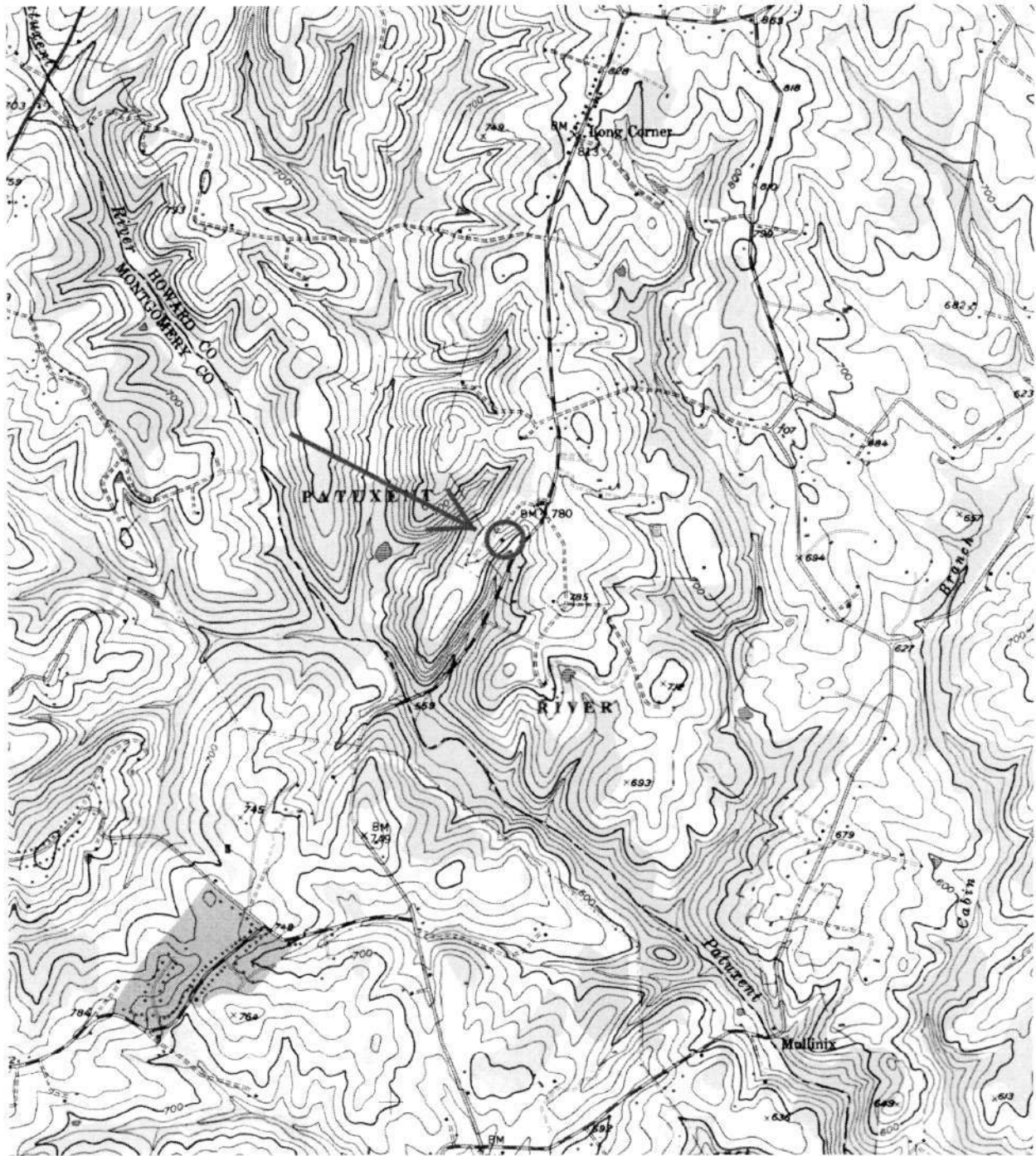
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

Melvin and Catherine Brown Farm HO-987  
2020 Long Corner Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- -ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Timothy W. Feaga/?	Evelyn M. Shukat Erik deWidt/?	20 October 2006	MDR 10387-450	Deed – fee simple	\$740,000	20 A - .8731 A	Forest Con Easement & Pres. Easement, October 2006 Plat 18575; Feaga II Property
Brian A. & Janice G. Rogers (H/W)/?	Timothy W. Feaga/?	27 August 2004	MDR 8674-284	Deed – fee simple	\$1,000,000	20 A	Rogers from Cape Girardeau Co. Missouri
Donald W. & Jean A. Morgan (H/W)/?	Brian A. & Janice G. Rogers/?	29 January 1980	CMP 986-507	Deed – fee simple	\$120,000	20 A	
Franklin Eugene & Janet Virginia Sorrels (H/W)/?	Donald W. & Jean A. Morgan (H/W)/?	22 April 1977	CMP 819-273	Deed – fee simple	\$10.00	20 A	\$75,000 mortgage
Charles E. & Barbara Jean Gath (H/W Carl W. Snider, Jr. & wf. Ruth R/?	Franklin Eugene & Janet Virginia Sorrels (H/W)/?	5 February 1965	WHH 431-604	Deed – fee simple	\$10.00	22A - 21,689 sq. ft. - 2,415 sq. ft.	
Francis A. & Martha E. Blundon (H/W)/Wash. DC	Deloris Ruth Blundon Sara Eloise (Blundon) Bralove children of F&MB/?	8 April 1955	RHM 267-66	Deed – fee simple	\$10.00 & L & A	22 A	(no metes & bounds – not clear how this connects to WHH 431-604)
Nevlon M. & Georgetta Watkins (H/W)/Howard	Francis A. & Martha E. Blundon (H/W)	14 Nov. 1950	MWB 221-133	Deed – fee simple	\$10.00	22 A	Minus 21,689.24 sq. ft. to Howard Chapel Methodist Church, 13 November 1950
Katherine R. Brown, unmarried/Howard	Nevlon M. & Georgetta Watkins (H/W)	16 Feb. 1946	BM, Jr. 188-341	Deed – fee simple	\$10.00	22 A	MBD deceased
Anna E. Curran, unmarried/Howard	Melvin D. & Katherine R. Brown (H/W)/Howard	9 February 1938	BM, Jr. 159-317	Deed – fee simple	\$5.00	22 A	
Melvin D. & Katherine R. Brown (H/W)/Howard	Anna E. Curran/Howard	9 February 1938	BM, Jr. 159-316	Deed – fee simple	\$5.00	22 A	
Randolph Mullinex & wf. Susie L/Howard	Melvin D. Brown/?	6 October 1891	JHO 58-226	Deed – fee simple	\$600	22 A	Assumption of a mortgage for \$600 Metes and bounds match WHH 431-604
John G. Rogers, trustee & committee of Joshua Mullinex, a lunatic	Randolph Mullinix	7 April 1888	LJW 53-284				





HO-987  
Melvin and Katherine Brown Farm  
2020 Long Corner Road  
Damascus Quad  
Mt. Airy vicinity

HO-987  
Melvin and Catherine Brown Farm  
2020 Long Corner Road  
Howard County, Maryland  
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera  
HP Premium Plus paper  
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-0987\_2009-04-07\_01  
South elevation

HO-0987\_2009-04-07\_02  
South and east elevations

HO-0987\_2009-04-07\_03  
North elevation

HO-0987\_2009-04-07\_04  
Stair newel





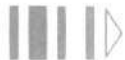
H0-987

Melvin and Catherine Brown Farm  
2020 Long Corner Rd  
Neward Co. Md  
Ken Short, photographer

4-7-09

1 of 4

South elevation





Hb-987

Melvin and Catherine Brown Farm  
2020 Long Corner Rd  
Howard Co. Md  
Ken Shurt, photographer

4-7-09

2 of 4

South and east elevations



HO-987

Melvin and Catherine Brown  
Farm

2020 Long Corner Rd

Howard Co. Md

Ken Short, photographer

4-7-09

3 of 4

North elevation





Ho-987

Melvin and Catherine Brown Farm  
2020 Long Corner Rd  
Howard Co. Md.  
Ken Shurt, photographer

4-7-09

4 of 4

Stair newel