

HO-930  
Ridgely-Riggs Farm  
Old Roxbury Road  
Howard County, Maryland

The Ridgely-Riggs Farm is located at the west side of Roxbury Road, on the north side of the bed of Old Roxbury Road, southwest of the end of Dorsey Mill Road. It is about three-quarters of a mile west of Roxbury Mills in southwestern Howard County, Maryland. The farm is a hilly, wooded site with heavy underbrush, with an open field at the east end of the site. There are the remains of two buildings in the trees about 100 feet west of this field. The buildings are a corncrib and a hog pen. The wagon shed is 1 1/2-stories tall and was three bays wide by three bays deep, but only the center bay survives. It runs three bays deep from south to north. There are two rubble stone piers that run north-south and support this center bay. The building has a mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged frame, and no siding survives. The hog pen is located about 75 feet south of the wagon shed. It is a one-story, two-bay by two-bay frame structure with no foundation, board and batten siding with wire nails, and an offset gable with corrugated metal, an east-west ridge, and a longer slope on the north. The site is scheduled for development, and these few fragments that survive will all be demolished.

In the mid-nineteenth century this was the farm of Philemon Dorsey, and after his death in 1864, his executor and son-in-law, George Ridgely, bought it. Ridgely was living in Montgomery County and it is not known if he ever moved to this farm. After Ridgely's death, his son-in-law, Elisha Riggs, bought the farm in 1901. Riggs also may not have lived here, since when his heirs sold the farm in 1924 they described Riggs as being from Montgomery County. The farm then apparently passed out of the family through several hands before the Powell family acquired it in 1929. Despite setbacks probably related to the Depression, the Powell family retained it until 1941. It became part of the Meriwether Farm when Leo Butler bought it in 1951.



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## 7. Description

Inventory No. HO-930

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.

The Ridgely-Riggs Farm is located at the west side of Roxbury Road, on the north side of the bed of Old Roxbury Road, southwest of the end of Dorsey Mill Road. It is about three-quarters of a mile west of Roxbury Mills in southwestern Howard County, Maryland. The farm is a hilly, wooded site with heavy underbrush, with an open field at the east end of the site. There are the remains of two buildings in the trees about 100 feet west of this field. The buildings are a corncrib and a hog pen.

The wagon shed is 1 1/2-stories tall and was three bays wide by three bays deep, but only the center bay survives. It runs three bays deep from south to north. There are two rubble stone piers that run north-south and support this center bay. The building has a mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged frame, and no siding survives. The sills and plates are hewn and the posts, girts, and braces are sawn but are too weathered to see clear marks. There is a gable roof with corrugated metal and a north-south ridge. The center has log joists that run east-west and is floored with the flooring running north-south. The second-story joists are sawn and rest on girts that are mortised and tenoned and pinned to the post. The joists run east-west, and the tongue-and-grooved flooring runs north-south. There are the remains of a stairway on the north end, to the east side of the center bay, and the stair ascends to the south. There are some vertical-board slats on the wall here, suggesting that the center bay must have been a corncrib. The rafters are approximately 2 by 4s that are mitered and butted at the ridge. The sides have down braces in the east and west walls, but there were never down braces into the end bays, which would have kept them open. The end bays were probably for storing wagons. There were down braces in the north and south walls in the center bay, but these are now gone, and there were studs here, too, that are also missing. The rafters support shingle lath. Pieces of the west bay roof survive, and are hanging from the center bay. The south gable end has several pieces of weatherboard. The southeast post has a pintle on the south side, to the east. The south posts have wire nails down low, and it appears to have cut nails higher up on the post. The posts are scribed to mark where the mortises and peg holes go. The north gable end also has some weatherboards and the remains of what could have been a hoist that projected outside of the north wall. There is a horizontal beam here, and the south end is nailed to a post and struts that are hanging from a rafter inside the building. The slats and the stair stringer are constructed with cut nails. The center of the southern half of the center bay has slats in the flooring. The frame is heavily rotted and is racking.

The hog pen is located about 75 feet south of the wagon shed. It is a one-story, two-bay by two-bay frame structure with no foundation, board and batten siding with wire nails, and an offset gable with corrugated metal, an east-west ridge, and a longer slope on the north. The building is constructed with 3 by 4 posts and plates and 2 by 4 rafters, all of which are circular-sawn. The south elevation has a doorway to the east and a window opening just west of the door in the east half. There is a low door to the west. There are no openings on the east, west, or north elevations. The building has open eaves. It is divided in two by a board wall that runs north-south. The west half has a dirt floor, and the east half has a board floor on sleepers with the boards running north-south.

There is a rubble stone foundation located about 75 feet north-northeast of the wagon shed. It appears to be banked into the hill on the east, and could have been a small barn or house. The site is scheduled for development, and these few fragments that survive will all be demolished.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-930

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 industry	<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

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

In the mid-nineteenth century this was the farm of Philemon Dorsey, and after his death in 1864, his executor and son-in-law, George Ridgely, bought it. Ridgely was living in Montgomery County and it is not known if he ever moved to this farm. After Ridgely's death, his son-in-law, Elisha Riggs, bought the farm in 1901. Riggs also may not have lived here, since when his heirs sold the farm in 1924 they described Riggs as being from Montgomery County. The farm then apparently passed out of the family through several hands before the Powell family acquired it in 1929. Despite setbacks probably related to the Depression, the Powell family retained it until 1941. It became part of the Meriwether Farm when Leo Butler bought it in 1951.

It is not known when the buildings on the farm were abandoned. At present, all that survives is the center corn crib-section of a wagon shed and corn crib, and a frame poultry house. The wagon shed is constructed with a mix of hewn and sawn material, with only the longest timbers hewn, and all of them mortised and tenoned and pegged. There is also considerable use of cut nails in the construction. It was probably built in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The form is common for wagon sheds in Howard County, with a large crib in the center that had a stairway to the attic area, and a wagon shed on each side of the crib.

The building to the south of the wagon shed was a hog pen built in the early to mid-twentieth century. The building now sits on the ground and probably has deteriorated as a result, but is in better condition than the wagon shed. However, it is not a particularly significant structure in itself, and has no other buildings around it that would give it context, and thus greater importance.

Notes:

Howard County Land Records, HBN 120-324. Harry Wright Newman, Anne Arundel Gentry, v. 2 (Lewes, DE: Colonial Roots, 1971), pp. 85-6. J. D. Warfield, Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland (Baltimore: Kohn & Pollock, 1905), p. 418.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. HO-930

See ~~continuation sheet~~ *footnotes*.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 5 A

Acreage of historical setting 124 A

Quadrangle name Woodbine

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The south boundary is the old road bed, the east boundary the Roxbury Road running 400 feet north of the intersection, the north boundary runs due west down the hill to the base, then due south to the old road bed.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Ken Short

organization Howard County Dept. of Planning & Zoning

date 7/23/2007

street and number 3430 Courthouse Drive

telephone 410-313-4335

city or town Ellicott City

state MD zip code 21043

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  
410-514-7600

**HO-930 Ridgely-Riggs Farm**  
 Old Roxbury Road  
 CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER -ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Leo & Celia K. Butler (H/W)?	Frances B. Devlin/?	11.7.1969	CMP 521-412	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	1) 123+ A 2) 524 A 3) 91.28 A 4) 61.461 A	4 deeds
Warren C. Pond & wf. Dorothy S. /Howard	Leo & Celia K. Butler (H/W)?	1.20.1951	MWB 222-291	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	61.461 A	NW corner of Old Annapolis Rd. & Bank's Schoolhouse Rd. 4
Horace W. & Edith Colt Peters/?	Warren C. & Dorothy S. Pond/?	12.27.1946	BM Jr. 195-33	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	? - 17.8 A	4
Pearl A. Powell, widow/?	Horace W. & Edith Colt Peters/?	5.28.1941	BM Jr. 170-332	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	a) 124 1/2 A b) 35 1/2 A c) 3+ A -15.84A d) 1 5/8 A e) 1/8 A f) 30+ A g) 19 1/2 A	4
A. Thomas & Ruth Powell (H/W)/Washington DC	Pearl A. Powell/?	3.29.1940	BM Jr. 166-255	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	a) 124 1/2 A b) 35 1/2 A c) 3+ A -15.84A d) 1 5/8 A e) 1/8 A f) 30+ A g) 19 1/2 A	4
James Clark, attorney/Howard	A. Thomas Powell/?	1.3.1934	BM Jr. 147-205	Deed - fee simple	\$4,100	a) 124 1/2 A b) 35 1/2 A c) 3+ A -15.84A d) 1 5/8 A e) 1/8 A f) 30+ A g) 19 1/2 A	Public sale 18 November 1933 Equity 3374, Clark v. William H. & Pearl A. Powell, 27 December 1933 3 deeds 4

**HO-930 Ridgely-Riggs Farm**  
 Old Roxbury Road  
 CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- -ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
John W. & Ida E. Sullivan (H/W)/Howard	William H. Powell/?	2.9.1929	HSK 135-445	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	100 A	On SE side of road from Roxbury Mills to Glenelg X
John W. & Ida E. Sullivan (H/W)/Howard	William H. Powell/?	11.23.1929	HSK 137-534	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	63+ A	On NW side of road from Roxbury Mills to Glenelg Y

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 Old Roxbury Road  
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GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- -ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
James C. Grant & wf. Laura Virginia Annie E. Ford/Howard	William H. Powell/?	3.22.1929	HSK 135-560	Deed - fee Simple	\$5.00	d) 1 5/8 A e) 1/8 A f) 30+ A g) 19 1/2 A	Z
James Clark/Howard Thomas A. Ridgely/ Montgomery, trustees	John W. Sullivan	6.9.1927	HBN 130-499	Deed - fee simple	\$4,001		Sold 5.20.1924 Equity 2885 Clark & Ridgely v. Harry & Ivy Frances Baker Farm of late George K. Ridgely 3 parcels X & Y
Pearl A. Powell	James C. Grant Annie E. Ford	3.21.1925	HBN 122-359				Z
James Clark, trustee	Pearl A. Powell	10.16.1922	HBN 116-211				Z
Annie E. Riggs Nannie H. Ruggs Execs. Of Elisha Riggs/Montgomery	Harry J. & Ivy Frances Baker/?	4.9.1924	HBN 120-324	Deed - fee simple	\$2,250	a) 124 1/2 A b) 35 1/2 A c) 3+ A	1/4 A graveyard on X and Y
Matilda W. & Jarrett M. Sheridan (H/W) Margaret D. & Richard M. Lansdale (H/W) Annie E. Riggs, wf. of Elisha	Elisha Riggs	6.11.1901	JHO 74-62	Deed - fee simple	\$2,500	?	Heirs of George K. Ridgely of Howard X and Y
William Owings/Howard	George K. Ridgely & wf. Martha Ann	12.23.1865	WWW 25-146	Deed - fee simple	\$6,480	?	P/o Friendship, Vanity Mount, Duvalls Range, Red Oak Hills, Gilpin, Alias Prisley X and Y

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 Old Roxbury Road  
 CHAIN OF TITLE

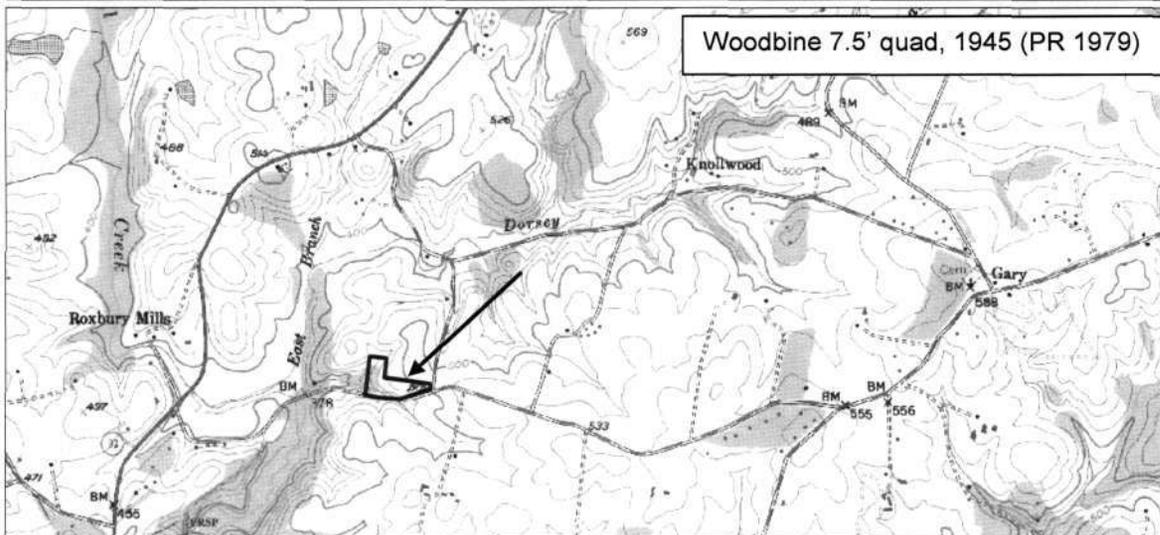
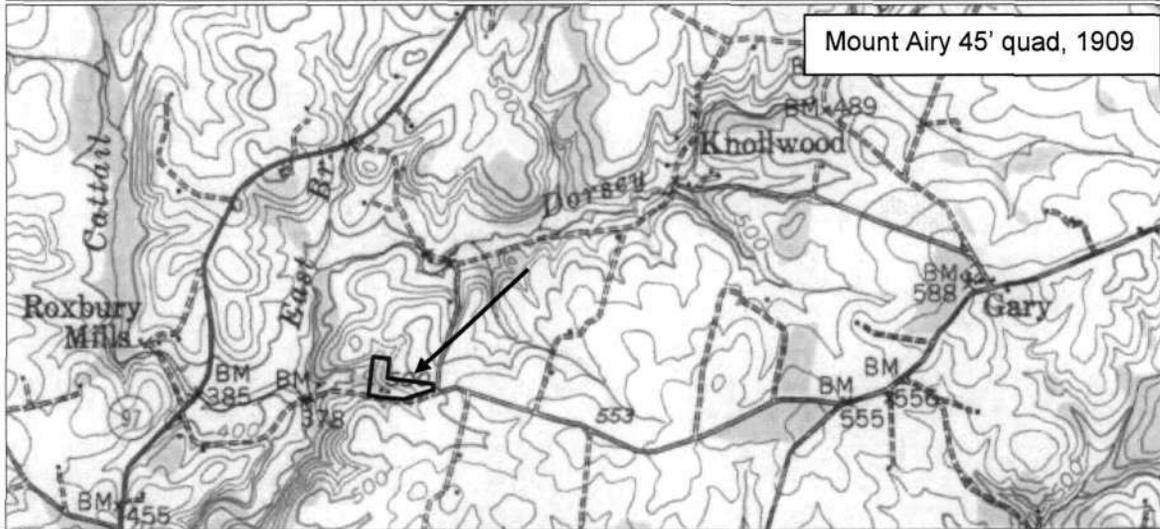
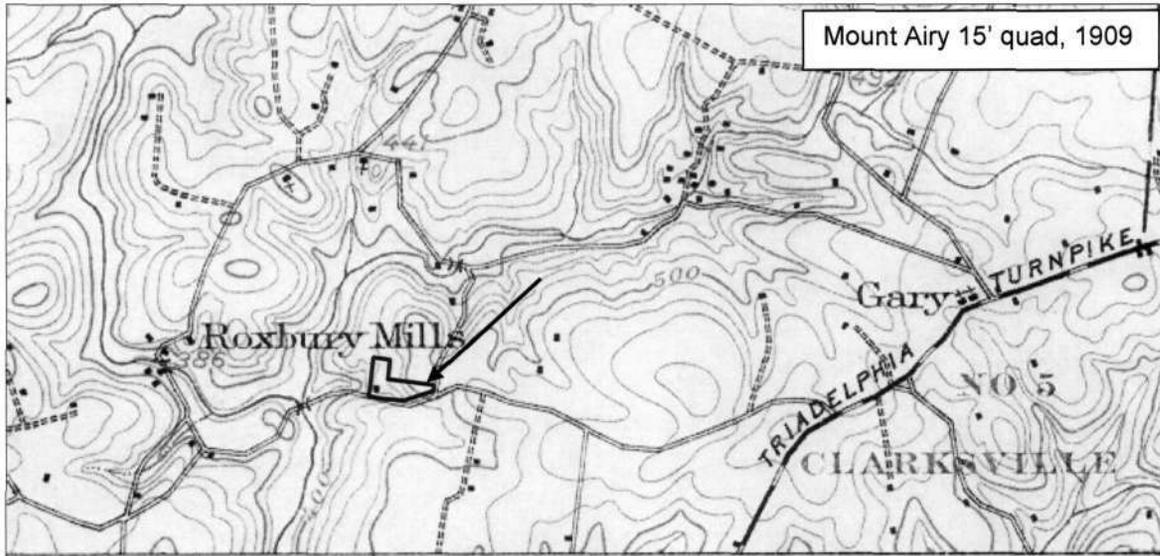
GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER -ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
George K. Ridgely/Howard exec. of Philemon Dorsey/Howard	William Owings/Howard	12.23.1865	WWW 25-128	Deed - Indenture	\$6,480	a) 120-1/2 A b) 35-1/2 A c) 3+ A	P. Dorsey will 2.27.1864 JBH 2-54 Private sale 1.2.1865 On main road from Fredericktown to Annapolis X and Y
Richard & Matilda Dorsey (H/W)	Philemon Dorsey	2.19.1852	WWW 12-87				B
George & Sarah Ann Brandenberg	Philemon Dorsey	7.20.1861	WWW 21-451				C

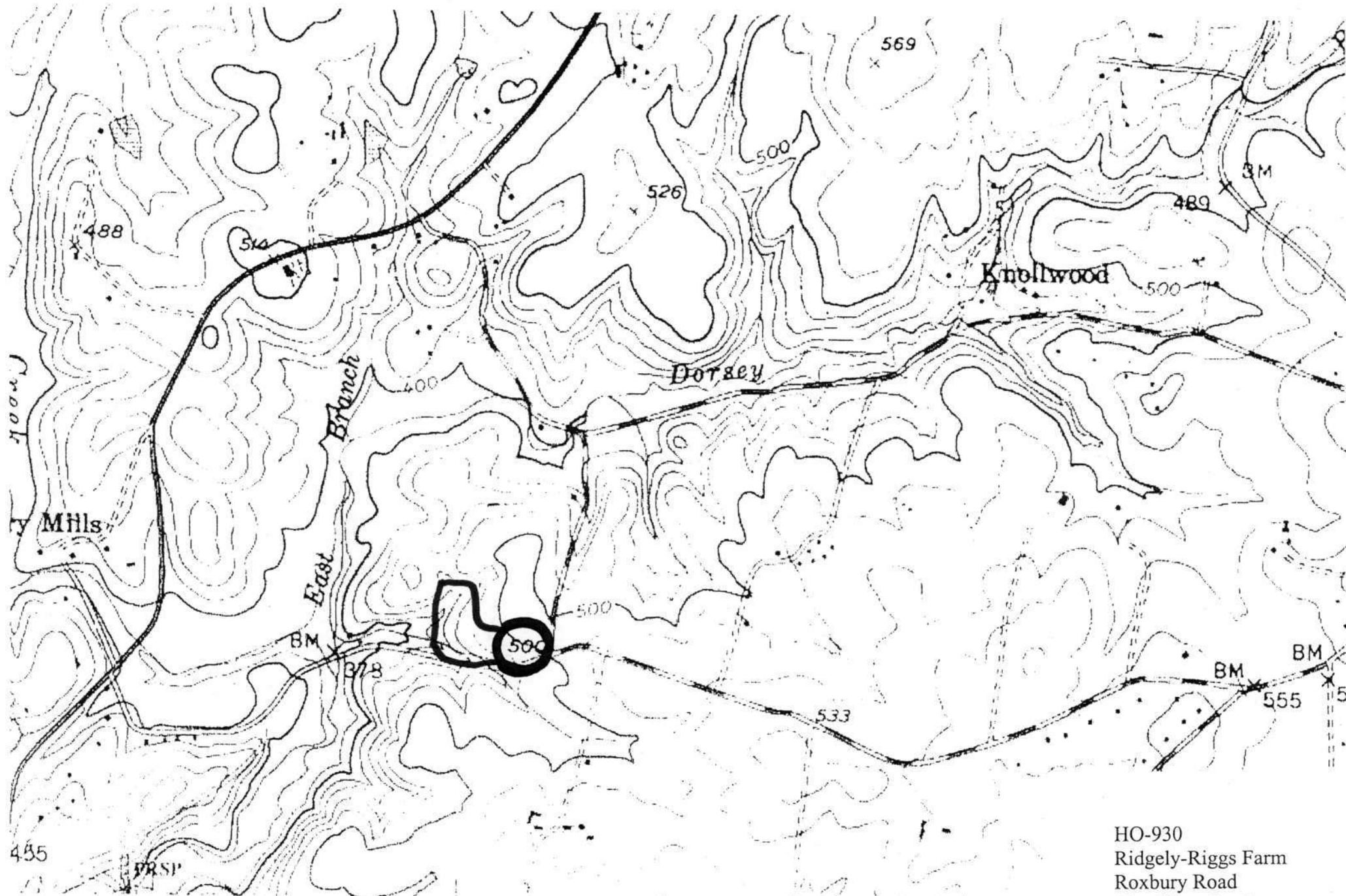
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HO-930  
Ridgely-Riggs Farm, site  
Howard County GIS  
Howard County Aerial Photography Viewer

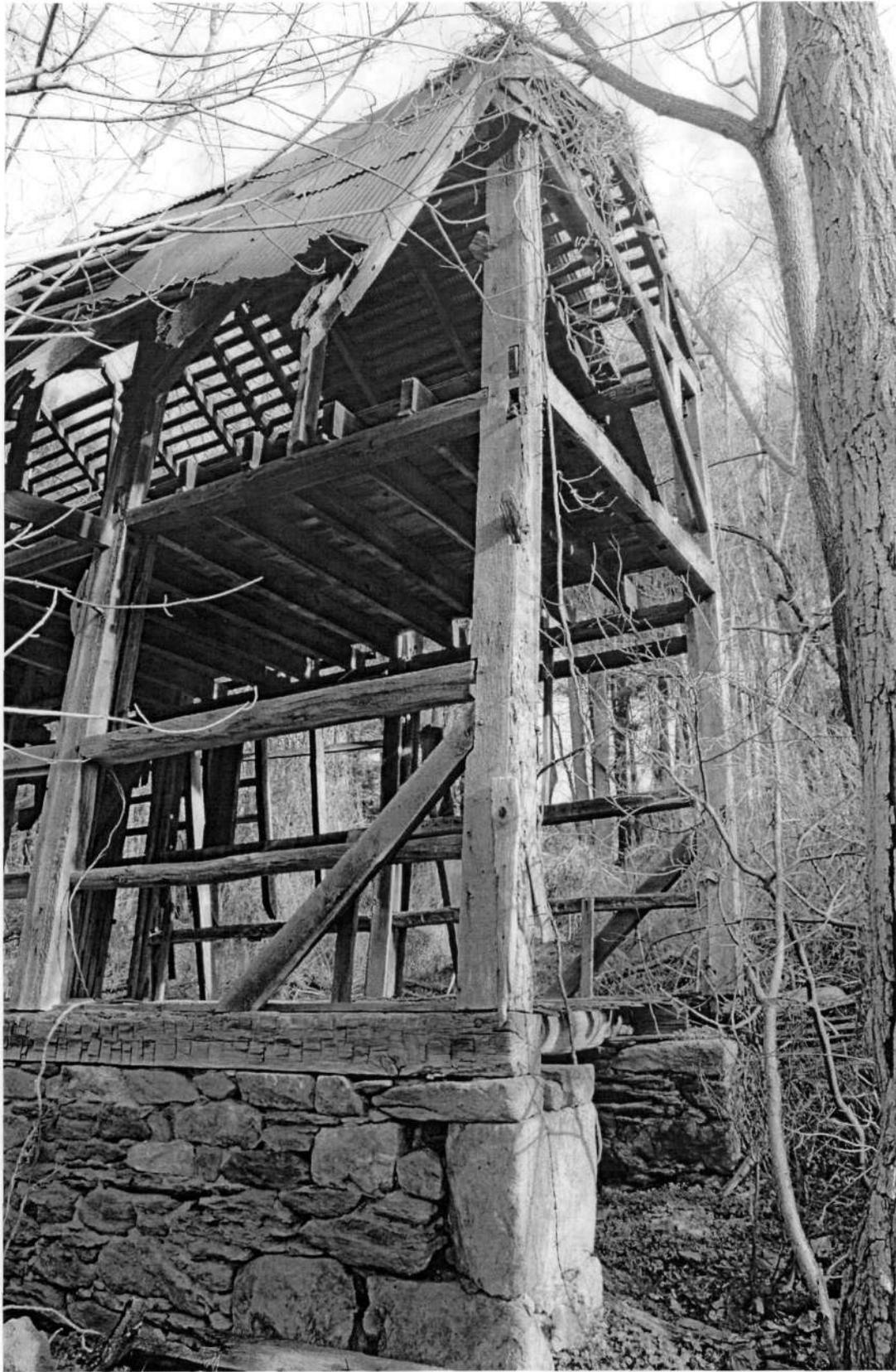


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Ridgely-Riggs Farm, site

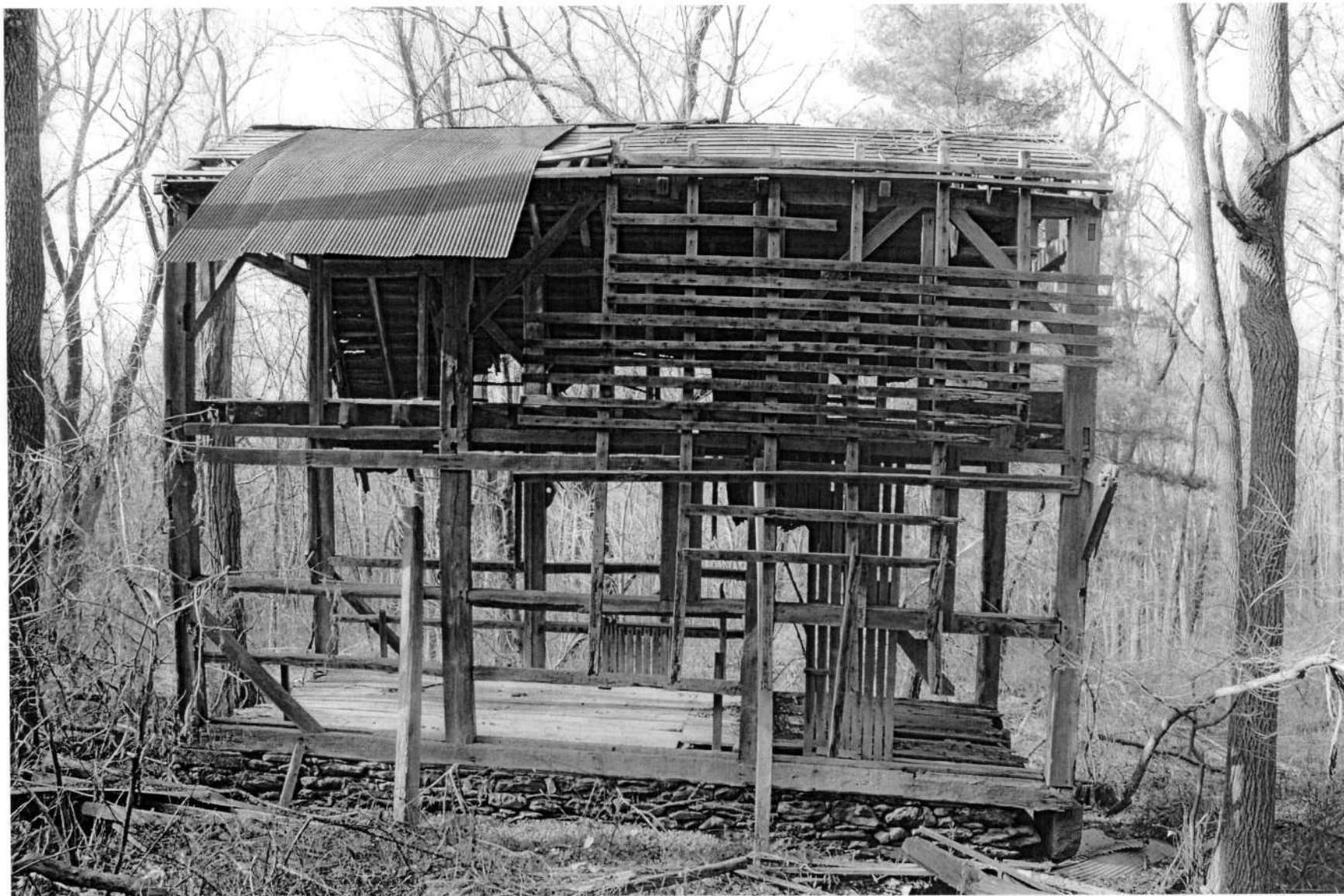




HO-930  
Ridgely-Riggs Farm  
Roxbury Road  
Woodbine Quad



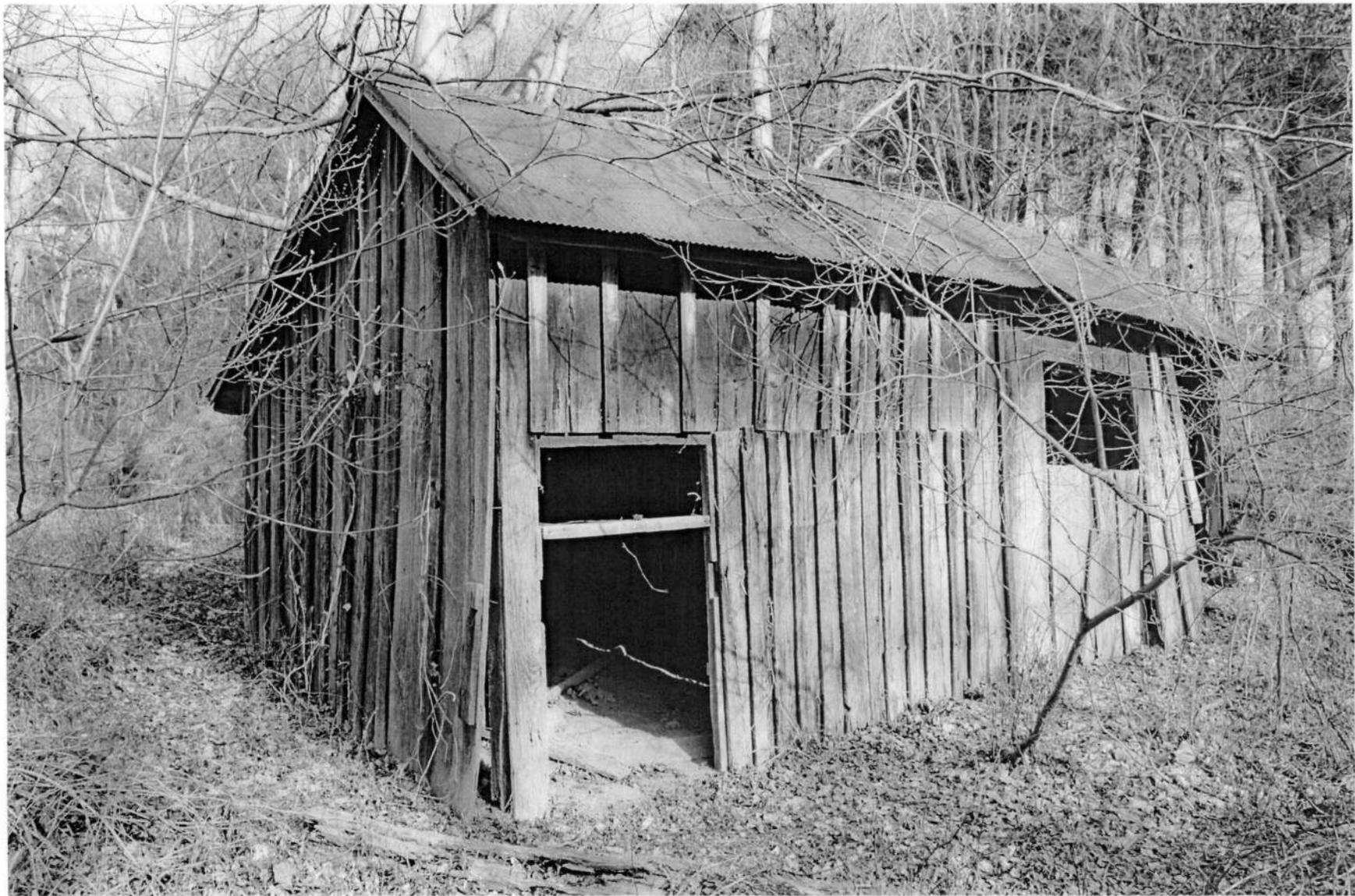
HO-930 Ridgely-Riggs Farm Roxbury Road Corn crib, west & south elevations  
Ken Short, December 2006 1/4



HO-930 Ridgely-Riggs Farm Roxbury Road Corn crib, east elevation  
Ken Short, December 2006 2/4



HO-930 Ridgely-Riggs Farm Roxbury Road Corn crib, north elevation  
Ken Short, December 2006 3/4



HO-930 Ridgely-Riggs Farm Roxbury Road Hog pen, west & south elevations  
Ken Short, December 2006 4/4

HO-0930\_20061228\_01  
Ridgely-Riggs Farm  
Roxbury Road  
Howard County, Maryland  
Corn crib, west & south elevations  
Ken Short  
December 2006  
1/4

HO-0930\_20061228\_02  
Ridgely-Riggs Farm  
Roxbury Road  
Howard County, Maryland  
Corn crib, east elevation  
Ken Short  
December 2006  
2/4

HO-0930\_20061228\_03  
Ridgely-Riggs Farm  
Roxbury Road  
Howard County, Maryland  
Corn crib, north elevation  
Ken Short  
December 2006  
3/4

HO-0930\_20061228\_04  
Ridgely-Riggs Farm  
Roxbury Road  
Howard County, Maryland  
Hog pen, west & south elevations  
Ken Short  
December 2006  
4/4