

Mumma Farm
Smoketown Road
Sharpsburg Vicinity
Washington County
Maryland

HABS NO. MD-950

HABS
MD.
22-SHARPS
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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MUMMA FARM

HABS NO MD-950

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Location: Antietam National Battlefield Park, Smoketown Road, Sharpsburg Vicinity, Washington County, Maryland

Significance: As a house that was destroyed during the Battle of Antietam and rebuilt the year after, the Mumma farm is significant both historically and as an example of the architectural style of Washington county during the mid-nineteenth century.

Description: The Mumma house is located along Smoketown Road, northeast of the visitor center. The house was constructed in two sections, the original brick building and a later frame. In their size and style, each of these sections is a dwelling in its own right. In building the more ornate, deeper frame section, the orientation of the house was shifted. The two main sections form a building slightly "L" in shape. Both rest on stone foundations. A later built one-story kitchen sits in the rear of the house with its own exterior chimney. The structure is joined by its raised seam tin roof and one-story veranda along the north side. An unusual feature of this gabled roof is its hipped portion at one end. There are three interior brick chimneys. Two of these are located in the frame building. The third is whitewashed and sits at the end of the brick section. Six-over-six-light sash windows are present in both sections of the house although there are some one-over-one-light sash replacements in the brick section. As well, the windows in the brick section are higher.

The spring house is a one-and-one-half story building constructed of stone. The roof is gabled and covered by wooden shingles. There is a fireplace located at the south end which has a brick capped masonry exterior chimney. Window openings are located at the first level of the west wall and in the south gable end. There are two adjacent doorways in the east wall. Immediately adjacent at the north end is the spring which sits in a sink in the ground and is enclosed in masonry walls and roofed with a brick vault.

History: The original Mumma house, built ca. 1790, was burned during the Battle of Antietam in 1862, and the present structure was rebuilt the next year. The only remaining structure left after the battle was the spring house described above.

History: At the start of the battle, the house was located within Confederate lines. Brigadier General Roswell Ripley determined that the larger buildings constituted a potential source of danger to his command. As a result, he gave the order that they be fired. Regardless, the house and the bank barn are typical for both the mid-nineteenth century and the region surrounding the farm. This house is unique however in that it encompasses two distinct dwellings, built during different periods. The property passed through several hands after being sold out of the Mumma family in 1885. In 1961, the United States of America purchased the property from Hugh G. Spielman and wife and the land has been held by the National Park Service since that time.

Sources: Antietam National Battlefield Site, National Register of Historic Places nomination form, October 1981.

Historic Structures Report, Antietam National Battlefield Site, Maryland, Benjamin Davis Superintendent, January 26, 1962.

Historian: Martha Wagner
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