

**Harris Farm** is a historic home and farm complex located at Walkersville, Frederick County, Maryland, United States. The main house was built in 1855, and is a three-story center plan house in predominantly late Greek Revival style, with some Italianate elements. At time of registration in the National Register of Historic Place in 1994 the agricultural complex consisted of a bank barn with an attached granary; a second frame barn that shared an animal yard with the bank barn; a row of frame outbuildings including a converted garage, and workshop, a chicken house and 20th-century buildings consisting of a frame poultry house, a dairy barn with milk house and two silos, an octagonal chicken coop and a frame pig pen from 1914 all of which was demolished in 2002. Remaining is also a drive-through double corn crib left along with the house and Bank barn. A lime kiln is located on the edge of the property.<sup>[2]</sup> The property is preserved as part of the Walkersville Heritage Farm Park.

Earliest records show German Settlers settled in 1746 at "Hawthorne Bottom". In the mid 1800's tax record show owners of property to be Henry Ross and Clarissa Barrick Harris. They had the current manor house built in 1855. The builder of the buildings was John Winebrenner. He was born on farm across the railroad tracks from the park baptized and reared in Glade Church, and mentored by and guided into the ministry by the Rev. John Helffenstein (pastor from 1811-1828). The Rev. Winebrenner went on to serve German Reformed churches in the Harrisburg, PA area. He embraced the ideas and worship style of the evangelistic fervor of the day and went on to form the Church of God in the United States

During the Great Depression Jefferson Patterson purchased several farms in the Frederick County Area, four of which bordered on Glade Road. Mr. Patterson and/or his estate/foundation owned the farm from 1933 until the town of Walkersville purchased the property in 1986. Mr. Patterson was a son of Frank Jefferson Patterson, co founder of the National Cash Register Company in Washington DC, He was an ambassador to Uruguay from 1956-1958 and an author. There is a park in Southern Maryland named after him. During the Depression, Mr. Patterson purchased numerous(13) farms in Maryland, many in the Walkersville area and Gas House Pike and New Design Road areas of Frederick County Maryland.

The Duvall family farmed two of these farms for 56 years. My grandparents moved to the farm in the fall of 1933 from the farm at Ceresville that included the Beatty Cramer House where my father was born. My grandparents Herbert and Grace Duvall raised their two sons and a daughter (whom was born in the Manor House) along with several foster children. My grandfather and father later formed a partnership and continued farming jointly until the sudden death of my grandfather in 1984. My parents remained on the farm until March of 1989 when they moved to George Street in Walkersville. In 1986 the Town of Walkersville purchased 154 acres of the 350 acres my family farmed. Of the remaining approximate 200 acres, part is now the subdivision of Winterbrook, the Glade Elementary School, a portion of Glade Cemetery and several privately owned properties.

According to the Maryland Historical Trust the Harris Farm complex was significant as an excellent example of rural domestic and agricultural architecture in Frederick County. It was also representative of agricultural development in Frederick County from the mid

19th century through the beginning of World War II. The house embodies distinctive characteristics of rural farmhouses in the mid 19th century as found in the region. These buildings are generally brick, Greek revival houses, and often incorporate a rear wing. The main block, with a perpendicular rear wing containing a recessed double porch, can be seen in many farmhouses in northern and central Maryland. The addition of the third full story, however, allows the house to stand out among others of the same type. Several three-story houses do exist in the area, but the third floor is rarely carried into the wing. Other distinctive characteristics of the house are its size and proportions, inclusion of frieze windows, recessed double porch, and symmetrical main facade. The original interior trim and mantels, baseboards, doors, and curving open-string staircase, all Greek revival, survive with few changes. These characteristics clearly illustrate the Late Greek Revival style with the inclusion of a few Victorian elements. Few other houses in the region retain the high degree of integrity. The farm was typical of large, mid-19th century, grain and livestock farms in Frederick County. Original outbuildings, such as the brick bank barn, with ventilator pattern, and the second equipment barn, illustrated the diversity of farm life during the 1850s and 1860s. The addition of other agricultural and domestic outbuildings represented the increased prosperity of farming in the region during the last years of the century. At the beginning of the 20th century, Frederick County began to focus on dairy farming. Many farms altered existing barns to accommodate dairying activities. At the Harris Farm, the dairy barn and milk house marked a transition in the dairying industry as health and sanitary regulations took effect. This barn, which was located adjacent to the original bank barn and granary, are pivotal in understanding the changes in agriculture throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Together with the secondary structures, they represented the agricultural development of the county to the start of World War II. Few other complexes in the Walkersville region remain with a complete set of outbuildings.

Two cabins sat at the intersection of Glade Road and Devilbiss Bridge Road near the kiln. These cabins are believed to have been built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Local fire companies razed one in 1987 as a training session. Elmer Boone lived in this cabin from 1918 until his death. He worked at McAleer Quarry. Remains of another cabin are along the railroad track C. 1858. This cabin also burned. Nails, china, etc have been found on the grounds. Near the location of the third cabin and railroad tracks is a horse burial grounds. In 1920 a number of horses were killed and buried at this location because the farmer who owned them was leaving the farm and did not want anyone to mistreat them.

Ice was cut for storage in local icehouses, one of which was located on Heritage Farm Park but since demolished. A six-post ice chute was located in Glade Creek. One post is all that remains.

#### Brick Kiln

Clay was dug and made into bricks, used to build the house, barn and smokehouse on Heritage Farm Park. Just behind this kiln is where the original homestead was built in 1746 by Cramer family of Germany.

Devilbiss Bridge Road was a single lane paved road from State Route 194 (Woodsboro Pike) to Dublin Road. The road from Dublin Road to Old Frederick was an overgrown dirt road with an iron bridge crossing the Monocacy River and farmland on either side until Hurricane Agnes washed away the bridge in 1972. When the bridge was replaced, the road was upgraded and widened.

Recently I asked Mr. Orley Bourland, the Burgess of the Town of Walkersville at the time of purchase, why the Town chose this piece of property to purchase. The town was looking at the field where Glade Elementary is located because it was in the town limits but price was more than the town could afford. Program Open Space had two types of money available, one to purchase land for parks and second, funding to develop the parks once purchased. The town used Program Open Space funds to purchase 30 acres and borrowed the rest. If the 30 acres are ever sold, the town will have to pay back Program Open Space. The loan was a seven year loan.

Today the Manor House is used as storage for the GVAA with the hopes of the Local Boy Scouts obtaining permission in the near future to maintain the Manor House as a museum and other activities related to the Boy Scouts and the community. At one time there was a Heritage Farm Park Preservation Society but that group is no longer associated with the park. The Heritage Farm Preservation Society was started to preserve the Manor House and farm buildings. The Society leased the site from the Town of Walkersville. The intention was for the Society to develop the property into a working farm display similar to Frederick's Rose Hill Manor. They gave schoolchildren and other groups tours throughout the year. They held Heritage days at the site several years in the early 1990's, usually around Labor Day weekend. Crafters, music, antique tractors and farm animals were on display during Heritage Days. The Maryland Antique Tractor Club would display antique tractors and other machinery including an antique corn shelling display. There were small engine displays, antique train displays and barnyard animals. Crafters displayed their wares including rope making display, spinners and weavers. A guided hayride tour of the park complex was enjoyed by young and old. An early morning bike tour was held. Square dancing and gospel music could be seen and heard. You could purchase used books in the Manor house. Silent auctions were held to help raise funds for the Heritage Preservation Society. Picnics on the lawn were seen, old fashion family style. Mini Midway had children's games which included breaking piñata, bubble blowing contests, face painting, and marble shooting demonstrations. Storytelling and other old fashioned games were enjoyed. A jousting tournament was held. Food and drinks were also available.

In the fall of September 2001, the Town of Walkersville decided to sell about 10-15 acres of the park including the farm buildings and Manor House. The Town gave the Heritage Farm Preservation Society notice to vacate the premises by December 31, 2001. Later the Town decided to not sell the property.

Life on the farm as my family knew it included milking cows twice a day, growing crops such as hay, grain such as oats, wheat and barley, field corn and sweet corn. My mother was proud of her garden, yard and flowerbeds. She planted beets, string beans, lettuce, squash, cucumbers, and other vegetables that she harvested and we either canned or froze for year round enjoyment which my sister Theresa and I continue to do. Mom faithfully mowed the lawn weekly and maintained numerous flowers beds around the house and yard.

Daddy managed the approximately 100 head of cows and heifers, maintained the machinery that kept the farm operating and determined the crops to be planted and grown. In the summer we supplied sweet corn to the local grocery stores including Carmack's in Downtown Frederick and the mom and pop stores in Walkersville, to the Jenkins cannery in Frederick and to the local folks who came to the farm to pick up their orders.

My sister and I helped with the housekeeping and yard work and taking care of the young heifers on the farm. In 4-H I showed Guersneys and my sister Theresa showed Ayrshires and added Guersneys after I aged out of 4-H. Our responsibilities after school included feeding the baby calves their milk replacer and the older heifers their feed. Daddy and the hired hand alternated taking every other Sunday evening off from milking and on Daddy's Sunday to work I would assist in the cow barn- feeding, bringing in the cows, turning the cows out after milking them, and scraping the barn while Daddy cleaned the pipeline milkers. During the winter we fed silage and we shoveled silage to each cow stanchion. I continued to help my father after I married in 1976, (Mom didn't want her hair to smell like cow manure.) It was a 50-stanchion barn and sometimes we milked more than what the barn held. If calling for severe winter weather we kept the cows in the barn, one to shelter them and two to keep the barn pipes from freezing. Then we had extra feeding of hay to do that night and cleaning in the morning. In nicer weather, we sometimes fed hay in the pasture field. I didn't know how to drive a Manuel transmission so Daddy would put the Jeep pickup in gear and I would "drive" across the field while Daddy was in the back throwing the hay out to the cows. That field is now the disc golf course. I never learned to drive a tractor until I started dating my farmer husband. He told me to go get a tractor and bring it to him and I looked at him and said "I don't know how to drive a tractor". What you are a farm girl and don't know how to drive a tractor? I said Nope! I soon learned out to drive the IH 560 tractor!

My family was involved in many community organizations. Mom and Dad were members of the Young Republicans, GOP, Farm Bureau, Elks Club (Daddy was exalted ruler), Grange, Toastmasters, and Civil Air Patrol. Daddy ran for public office serving on the Republican Central Committee several terms and Mom served on the Board of Elections Supervisors. Theresa and I were involved in 4-H. I was a member of two 4-H clubs with dairy as my main project in the Boys club and childcare, babysitting, sewing and crafts as my main projects in the Girls club. We both held leadership offices in our respective clubs. Today there is no boy/girl designation in 4-H clubs. Our entire family

attended the Frederick Church of the Brethren where we taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, played piano for the choirs and SS classes, participated in the Youth Group, served on numerous committees and served as ushers for the church services. Theresa and I attended Walkersville Elementary and Walkersville High School (no Middle School at that time) and were involved in school activities including sports, chorus, and the FFA. Both of us were honor roll students in high school.

Needless to say, we weren't home much growing up. Life in general was good on the farm but a lot of hard work.

When the farms were put up for sale, my parents were concerned that the land would be developed into houses and were relieved when the Town purchased part of it for a park. After moving to town, Daddy went out most every day and played golf until he was taken ill and evidential death. He said it felt good to be able to walk the fields again.

Since my family left the farm, the park has been developed to serve the Glade Valley community to include the water tower, mulch pile, individual gardens, walking and nature trails, sports fields, golf course, disc golf course, memorials, picnic pavilions, play equipment, etc. The Town of Walkersville/GVAA maintains the athletic fields, which include baseball, softball, soccer, football, and lacrosse fields. Recently dedicated was a memorial for the 21 lives lost in the plane crash of May 1981 in the field just past the park.

Thank you for inviting me to speak about my "home place". I have with me tonight a scrapbook I created showing the farm from the mid 50's until it became Heritage Farm Park including many newspaper articles from the Glade Mountain Mirror newspaper. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.