

AL-II-A-044

Helmick's Grocery Store

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 12-11-2003

HELMICK GROCERY STORE

AL-II-A-044
Old Route 40, Flintstone
ca. 1855

The Helmick Grocery Store is believed to have been built circa 1855 for James and Jemima Wilson, heirs of the original settler in Flintstone, Elijah Robosson. The store consists of a two story, two bay wide frame structure with a gable roof. Eli and James Ash operated the store during the years of ownership of the Wilsons, and during the Civil War era, the store was raided and looted by Confederate troops. The Ash family finally purchased the store in 1876 and continued the business. The store is still in operation and remains a document to a way of life once found in Alleghany County in the mid 19th century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AL-II-A-044 0101214511

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Helmick's Grocery Store

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

corner of Murley's Road & Old Route 40

CITY, TOWN

Flintstone

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☒ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Cleland Helmick

Telephone #: 478-2414

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2

CITY, TOWN

Flintstone

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 374

Folio #: 526

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland,

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-II-A-044

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☒ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☐ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☒ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Helmick's Grocery Store lies on the south east corner of the intersection of Murley's Branch Road and Old Route 40 in Flintstone, Maryland.

The store is a basic two story , two bay wide frame structure covered with novelty siding. It is rectangular in shape and rests upon a low stone foundation. A rear addition of the same description but of lesser width as above abuts the south side of the block. The addition is covered with plain weatherboarding. Windows have plain trim and are mostly double hung wooden sash frames with two over two lights. There is, however, a six over six window on the first story of the south side of the store. Entrances on the north and south ends both have replaced hardware. The north (front) entrance used to have a transom light, but now has an electric fan in the opening. The soffit under the eaves used to contain brackets spaced at two foot intervals, but they have been since removed. Roofs over both blocks are simply gabled and are covered with replaced tin sheeting. There are no covered porches on the structure. Circular ventilators decorate the gables of the main block. One original corbeled brick chimney has a central location on the main block.

Helmick's Grocery Store retains most of its original fabric and appears much as it did when built in the 1800's. It currently stands structurally sound and is in fair to good condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD****AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☒ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☒ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

ca. 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Helmick Grocery Store is believed to have been built circa 1855 for James and Jemima Wilson, heirs of the original settler in Flintstone, Elijah Robosson. Jemima Robosson Wilson inheirited the property from her father Francis Robosson and construction of the store was begun. During the time of ownership of the Wilson family, Eli and son James Ash operated the store room. During the Civil War, Confederate troops raided and looted the store, taking what they needed and strewning the remainder in the street. In 1876, the Ash family finally bought the store from the Wilsons and later sold to John Robinette.

The store is still in operation as one of the oldest stores in the county, and is in very near original appearance. It remains a cultural and architectural reminder of a way of life once found in small communities in Allegany County.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 85' x 122'

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John Nelson, Joan Baldwin & Steve Beale

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

11/8/76

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-8991

CITY OR TOWN

LaVale,

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

TITLE SEARCH

Helmick's Grocery
AL-II-A-038 ¹¹¹

Allegany County Deed; Liber 413, Folio 215
grantee: Cleland H. Helmick, et. ux.
grantor: Leah B. Twigg, widow, et. al.
October 18, 1967
Consideration: \$9,000.00

Allegany County Deed; Liber 374, Folio 526
grantee: Howard C. Willison, et. ux.
grantor: Leah B. Twigg, widow, et. al.
August 5, 1964
Consideration: \$3,000.00

Allegany County Will; Liber S, Folio 214
grantee: Laura M. Browning
grantor: Richard S. Bell, et. al., Trustees
August 17, 1918
Consideration: \$1,500.00

(Trustees sold the land on June 29, 1918 to the grantee. They were appointed to sell the estate of John B. Robinette.)

Allegany County Deed: Liber 107, Folio 333
grantee: John B. Robinette
grantor: James Ash, et. al.
November 15, 1910

Allegany County Deed; Liber 47, Folio 97
grantee: James Ash, et. al.
grantor: James Wilson, et. ux.
February 4, 1876
Consideration: \$2,200.00

(James and Jemima Wilson owned the store throughout the Civil War, but it was operated by Eli Ash and was later bought by the Ash family.)

INVENTORY NO. AL-II-A-044

DATE: 9/29/76

374/526
85'x122'

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: CORNER OF MURLEY'S ROAD & OLD RT. 40, FLINTSTONE

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: HELMICK'S GROCERY

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: NORTH

NAME OF OWNER: CLELAND HELMICK

478-2414

ADDRESS: Route 2, Flintstone 21530

STORIES: 1() 2(☒) 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2(☒) 3() 4() 5() 6() 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS: Rear 2 Story Gable Roof Addition - Probably Built Soon After

Dwelling Shape: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- Novelty
- (☒) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
 - () BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
 - () STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
 - () LOG
 - () Other: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS PLAIN

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2(☒) 6/6(☒) 9/6() 9/9() other()
pegged() nailed() wide() narrow() mitred() pediment()

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION:

HARDWARE: original() replaced()

FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN (Now Has Fan)

Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed) used to have Brackets
original() replaced() Rafter Ends, Modillions, Dentils, Frieze,

Architrave

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, SHED, MANSARD, GAMBREL, FLAT, DOYMERS #

MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original() replaced(☒)

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable()

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 1 BRICK(☒) STONE() CORBELED(☒) original(☒) replaced()

LOCATION: Flush end() Inside end() Outside end() Central(☒) Interior()

ARCHES: Door and window: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

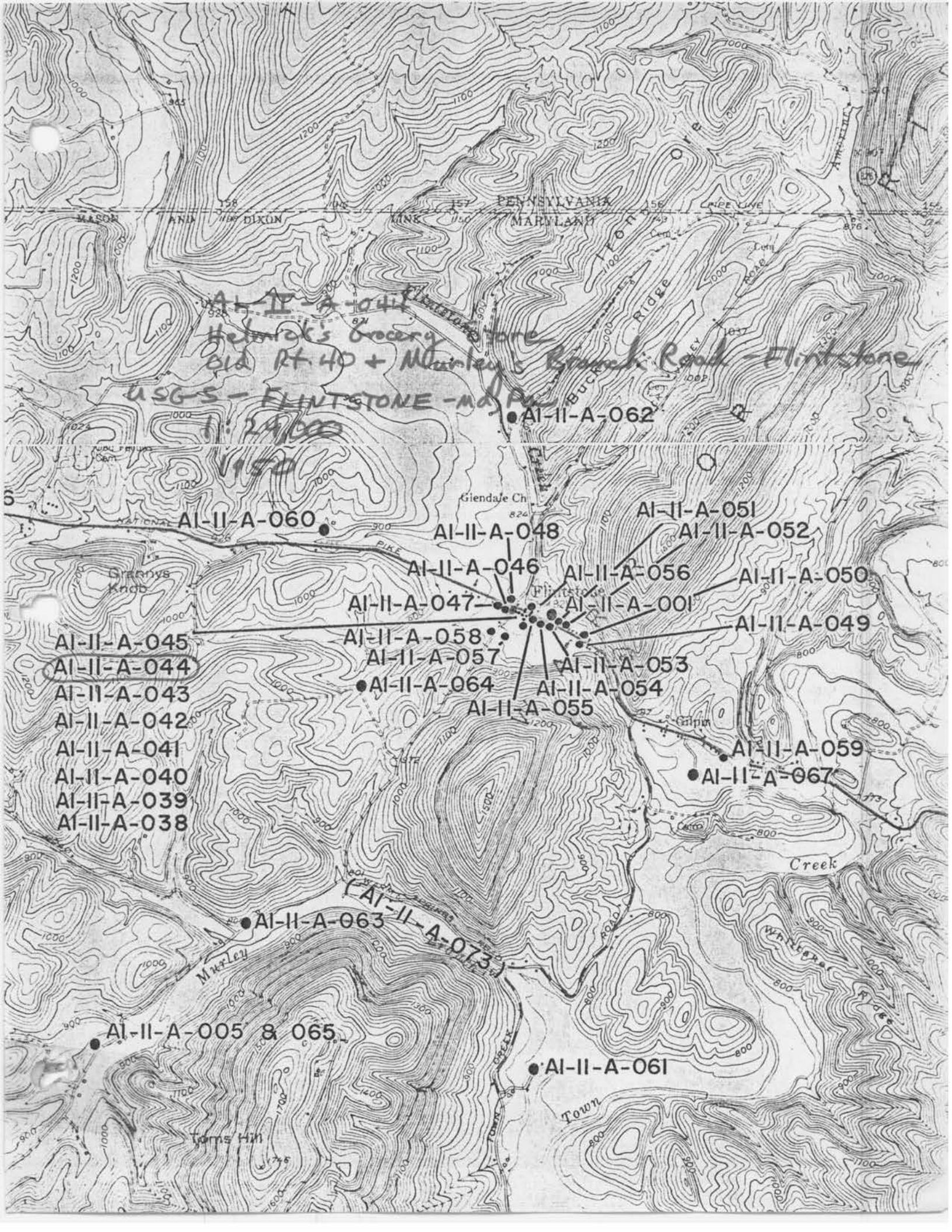
COMMENTS:

Use - Store

Significance - was Robbed by Confederates during Civil War - Arch

Date Constructed - 1850'

Condition - Fair



AI-II-A-041
Helmer's Grocery
Old Rt. 40 + Murley's Branch Road - Flintstone
USGS - FLINTSTONE - MD PA
1:24,000

- AI-II-A-045
- AI-II-A-044
- AI-II-A-043
- AI-II-A-042
- AI-II-A-041
- AI-II-A-040
- AI-II-A-039
- AI-II-A-038

- AI-II-A-060
- AI-II-A-048
- AI-II-A-046
- AI-II-A-047
- AI-II-A-058
- AI-II-A-057
- AI-II-A-064
- AI-II-A-055
- AI-II-A-056
- AI-II-A-051
- AI-II-A-052
- AI-II-A-050
- AI-II-A-049
- AI-II-A-001
- AI-II-A-053
- AI-II-A-054

- AI-II-A-059
- AI-II-A-067

- AI-II-A-063
- AI-II-A-073

- AI-II-A-005 & 065

- AI-II-A-061



A1-11-A-044

ItzImicks Grocery

corner of Murley's Branch Rd. +
Old Rt. 40, Flintstone

John Nelson

9129176

Southwest



A1-11-A-044

Helmick's Grocery

corner of Murley's Branch Rd +
Old Rt. 40, Flintstone

John Nelson

9/29/76

Northwest