PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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DARBY STORE
19801 Darnestown Road
Beallsville
Montgomery County
Maryland

HABS MD-1377

Photographs 1 through 7 were taken in March 2011. Photographs 8 through 14 were taken in May 2011 as the building was being readied for moving. Photographs 15 through 24 were taken in June 2011 as the building was being moved to its new site.

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Renee Bieretz, photographer,

MD-1377-1 Front (south) facade of the Darby Store. Looking north.

MD-1377-2 Perspective view of front (south) and east facades showing store's location at intersection of Barnesville-Poolesville Road (Route 109) and Darnestown Road (Old Baltimore Road, Route 28). Looking northwest.

MD-1377-3 Perspective view of east and rear (north) facades. Note Darby House in background, built by store owner H.C. Darby in 1921. Looking southwest.

MD-1377-4 Store interior, view of first floor, front room, looking south. Note original shelving and counters.

MD-1377-5 Detail of nail cupboard on back wall of first room of first floor. Looking northeast.

MD-1377-6 First floor, rear room, looking southeast. Interior finishes appear to be original.

MD-1377-7 Second floor, looking southeast. Note brick chimney at right.
MD-1377-8 Front (south) facade showing excavation of foundation. Contractor Expert House Movers, Inc. prepared the store for moving by excavating the foundation and inserting jacks to raise the structure.

MD-1377-9 Front (south) facade, showing excavation of foundation and sill.

MD-1377-10 Perspective view of north (rear) and east facades with covered entrance to basement. Gaps in foundation are for insertion of I-beams. Looking southwest.

MD-1377-11 North (rear) facade with bobcat being used to insert I-beams longitudinally.

MD-1377-12 West facade, showing insertion of shorter I-beam under the store. The shorter I-beams rest on the I-beams extending the length of the structure.

MD-1377-13 West facade, showing insertion of an I-beam under the building.

MD-1377-14 Detail of jacks used to raise the building prior to moving it.

MD-1377-15 View of store on I-beams in preparation for moving. The new, concrete foundation is in the middle of the photograph. View taken from Darby House, looking east.

MD-1377-16 View of store being moved to the north so that the rear edge of the store aligns with the edge of the new foundation. Chains attached to the bobcat were hooked to an I-beam. The bobcat then pulled the structure along the I-beams.

MD-1377-17 Store continuing to be moved to the north.

MD-1377-18 Completion of first phase of moving the store.

MD-1377-19 View showing the north facade of the store aligned with the north edge of the new concrete foundation.

MD-1377-20 I-beams were next laid horizontally on timbers stacked in the new basement so the store could be moved on them over the new foundation.

MD-1377-21 Beginning the second phase of moving the structure over the new foundation.

MD-1377-22 Store being moved west over the new foundation.
MD-1377-23 During the second phase, the store was pushed west over the new foundation. Looking west at south and east facades.

MD-1377-24 Store being pushed onto new foundation.
Location: 19801 Darnestown Road, Beallsville, Montgomery County, Maryland

The Darby Store was located at latitude: 39.179524, longitude: -77.412909 prior to its move 27' to the north and west in summer 2011. This coordinate represented the northeast corner of the building. It was obtained using Google Earth imagery, dated August 28, 2010. The Darby Store has no restriction on its release to the public.

Significance: The Darby Store is significant as one of the few extant examples of a rural, vernacular general store dating from the early twentieth century in Montgomery County. It was an important contributing element to the crossroads community of Beallsville and is now part of the Beallsville Historic District.

Description: Located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Barnesville-Poolesville Road (Route 109) and Darnestown Road (Old Baltimore Road, Route 28), the two-and-a-half story, balloon-framed structure is clad in clapboards and has a front-gable roof. Over 50 percent of the wood used in the building is chestnut. The store now sits on a new concrete foundation.\(^1\) The front (south) façade faces Darnestown Road and features a door originally flanked by display windows. Wood decking once served as a sidewalk/porch at the main façade, and the entrance was covered by an overhang supported by metal poles. This had to be removed after a traffic accident in the last quarter of the twentieth century destroyed it. Doors and boarded windows (originally double-hung) are located on the other three facades. A gable-roof enclosure covers a door to the basement on the rear (north) facade.

The first floor originally contained the store, which was divided into two spaces (north and south) by a beadboard-covered partition. The commercial space still retains original features, such as wall shelving and counters, and has intact interior finishes, like beadboard on the walls and wood floors. The rear room has a stairwell providing access to the second floor. The stairs to the basement were also once located in this space but were removed at some point. The first floor framing consists of 2" x 10" joists laid east-west and situated from 14" to 16" on center.

\(^1\) In its original location, the store sat on a concrete foundation, but the south half of the basement was a crawlspace while the north half was full height.
The second floor has an approximately 12' x 10' room at the southeast corner, but the rest is open. Three 2" x 6" joists joined as a girder support the second floor. The second floor framing is made up 2" x 12" joists spaced 16" on center. The roof is framed with 2" x 6" rafters sited 24" on center.\(^2\)

**History:**

Beallsville developed as a crossroads community due to its location at the intersection of two significant roads in Montgomery County (routes 109 and 28), and its proximity to the Sellman Station on the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and to an important area church, Monocacy Chapel. Commercial buildings could be found at this intersection beginning in the mid-nineteenth century.

The Darby Store is located on what was once the Brewer farm. In 1891, the Allnutts bought the property, eventually selling it in 1908 to Harry Darby who tore down the existing buildings on the property and erected his own general store in 1910. The Darby Store became an important addition to the community as it supplied area farmers and residents of the small neighboring communities and even housed the post office in the 1920s. In 1921, the Darby family constructed a two-story frame house next to the store that still stands. In 1954, Harry's widow, Catherine, sold the property to her son, Harry Dunbar Darby, who continued operating the store until his retirement in 1974. The store has been vacant since.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPNC), Montgomery County Department of Parks bought the property in September 2004 through its Legacy Open Space Program. Due to the store's closeness to the intersection, the Montgomery County Department of Parks' Cultural Resources Stewardship Section decided to preserve the structure by moving it 27' to the north and west of its original location. After careful study and stabilization had been completed during 2010-2011, Expert House Movers, Inc. moved the store in summer 2011. The store will next be rehabilitated as plans for its future use are developed.\(^3\)

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\(^3\) Snyderman, "Beallsville Historic District"; Darby Store Chain of Title, provided by M-NCPNC, Montgomery County Department of Parks, Cultural Resources Stewardship Section.
Sources:
Bell Architects, PC; Robert Silman Associates; AB Consultants, Inc.; and Anthony &

Darby Store Chain of Title. Provided by Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning
Commission, Montgomery County Department of Parks, Cultural Resources Stewardship
Section.

Snyderman, Lois. “Beallsville Historic District.” Maryland Historical Trust, State Historic Sites
Inventory Form, February 2, 1985.

“Structural Condition Assessment, The Darby Store.” January 23, 2009. Provided by Maryland-
National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County Department of Parks,
Cultural Resources Stewardship Section.

Historian: Justine Christianson, HAER Historian, summer-fall 2011

Project Information: The Darby Store Recording Project was undertaken for Maryland-National
Capital Park and Planning Commission’s Cultural Resources Stewardship
Section, Park Planning & Stewardship Division in spring-summer 2011.
Julianne Mueller (M-NCPCC) coordinated the project. Christopher
Marston, HAER Architect, served as project leader. Renee Bieretz
produced the large-format photography.