

AA-1019

C. 1865 with additions

Joshua Lackland Higgins House

Gambrills

Private

The Joshua Lackland Higgins House is thought to be the oldest surviving dwelling in Gambrills and is believed to have been started by Joshua Lackland Higgins in 1865, following his marriage to Mary Augusta Hammond. This vernacular farmhouse experienced at least two 19<sup>th</sup> century additions, with interior trim surviving from each building episode. A 19<sup>th</sup> century stone dairy and log (supposedly chestnut) smokehouse are also associated with this property.

AA-1019

Joshua Lackland Higgins House

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Farm House

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AA-1019

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Joshua Lackland Higgins House (preferred)

and/or common Fairview

### 2. Location

street & number 1031 Annapolis Road  not for publicationcity, town Odenton  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland 21054 county Anne Arundel

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Richard and Pamela S. Higgins

street &amp; number P.O. Box 3222 telephone no.: 410-551-9024

city, town Odenton state and zip code: Maryland 21054

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse liber 1730

street &amp; number 7 Church Circle folio 99

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local ository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. AA-1019

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Joshua Lackland Higgins House is situated atop a hill at the end of a gravel drive off Annapolis Road (Rt. 175) in Gambrills. Both the house and outbuildings are surrounded by heavy stands of mature trees and vegetation. The dwelling is a 19th-century, two-and-a-half story, gable-roofed, frame, vernacular farm house. Exterior walls are covered with cedar shingles and rest on a brick foundation. The building has a modified T-shaped plan that is an aggregation at least three 19th century building episodes. The most recent is the front (west), two-and-a-half story, side-passage, double-pile section. Behind and parallel to this is a two-story, single-pile block that projects beyond the south-side axial plane of the front section. The house's oldest portion is the long, two-story rear ell. Restricted access to this part of the house precluded a complete investigation, but it is likely that the ell was constructed in two, possibly more, phases.

The house features an open, hipped-roof porch that runs the entire length of the front facade and wraps around on both the north and south side. The roof is supported by square posts that are treated like Doric-order chamfered, but otherwise plain brackets, extend from the entablature to engage the roofline. Fenestration is evenly spaced and aligned on the front block and consists of two-over-two double hung sash windows, with three-over-three gable windows illuminating the attic level. The front entrance features a five-pane transom and with three-pane side lights. Windows in the remainder of the house are placed at irregular intervals and are primarily six-over-six types. Deviating from this pattern are a pair of eight-light casement windows, located in each of the middle block's gable ends. Secondary entrances include a west doorway that connects the center block to the screened section of the porch, and an south-side entry in the ell bay of the ell; the latter is protected by a small pedimented entry porch.

With respect to the interior, much of the original trim and finish work survives, especially in the front section. Variations in style and material exist in the different parts of the house. Most notably are the wider floorboards and lower ceiling height of the house's older section.

Several 19th century outbuildings are associated with the dwelling, including an ice house and smokehouse. The former is a small, square, pyramidal-roofed structure, constructed of rubble fieldstone. The smokehouse is log and has a gable roof. It features nine rounds of v-notched logs (reportedly chestnut) infilled with daub. A six-light, fixed sash window is inserted in the right side wall and a low, corbelled chimney pierces the roof toward the structure's anterior end.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	c. 1865	Builder/Architect						
Check:	Applicable Criteria:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D			
	and/or							
	Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> G
	Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local				

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Joshua Lackland Higgins House is believed to be the oldest surviving house in the town of Gambrills. It is constructed in three parts with the oldest section dating to about 1865; the year in which the first occupants, Joshua Lackland Higgins and Mary Augusta Hammond were married. The house is constructed on part of a 73-1/4 acre parcel of land granted as a wedding present to Mary Augusta by her father, George W. Hammond.

During the eighteenth century, the Hammond's were one of the most distinguished families in the county, and achieved prominence in law, politics, and the military. Col. Charles Hammond (d. 1777) is a direct ancestor of the house's current owner. He was known as the "the great land owner" with holdings from Annapolis to Curtis Creek, and the Joshua Lackland Higgins house sits on land formerly owned by Col. Hammond. Other notable relatives include Mathias Hammond, builder of the Hammond-Harwood House in Annapolis, and his father, Philip Hammond, a wealthy merchant and speaker of the Lower House from 1754 to 1760.

George Washington Hammond, grandson of Col. Hammond, and the father of Mary Augusta, was less successful than his forbears. He declared bankruptcy in 1849, and for the next decade and a half proceeded to sell, or have sold at auction, large amounts of acreage. George Hammond's gift of land to his daughter and son in law enabled them to achieve a comfortable standard of living. Joshua Higgins ran a truck farming operation. The farm was productive enough to require paid labor.

The relative prosperity of the Higgins farm is suggested by the two large additions made to the dwelling during the 19th century. Tax assessments for 1896 value the house at \$1,200 and report four tenant houses, ranging in worth from \$75 to \$400, while the stone ice house is valued at \$25. In 1928 Mary Augusta Higgins makes her will. In it she leaves "the house known as Fairview" and thirty acres to her three daughters. Ownership to most of the remaining acreage had previously been passed on to Mary and Joshua's son, Stanley. By this time the character of the region had changed substantially. The area had been platted for residential development, prompted by the railroad-inspired growth of Odenton, and the close proximity to Camp (now Fort) Meade.

Architecturally, the Joshua Lackland Higgins house is significant as an example of a nineteenth century, vernacular farmhouse, and is a good example of the type of dwelling house associated with upper-middle-class farm families. It possess a high degree of historic integrity and retains much of its original interior finish. Its significance is further enhanced by the presence of two outbuildings, a rubble field stone ice house, a v-notched log (reportedly chestnut) smokehouse.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No AA-1019

Land Records of Anne Arundel County: GEG 3/357 and SH11/594

Interview with Richard Higgins, owner of Joshua Lackland Higgins House, July 28, 1996.

Lorna Ware, Anne Arundel's Legacy: The Historic Properties of Anne Arundel County. Anne Arundel County, MD 1990

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 129,550 sq. ft.Quadrangle name OdentonQuadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UTM References Do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting	Northing
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B 

Zone	Easting	Northing
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C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Higgins' property was recently subdivided. 129,550 sq. ft. represents Lot 37 of the subdivision. This boundary includes a viewshed buffer between the house and proposed new construction.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared by

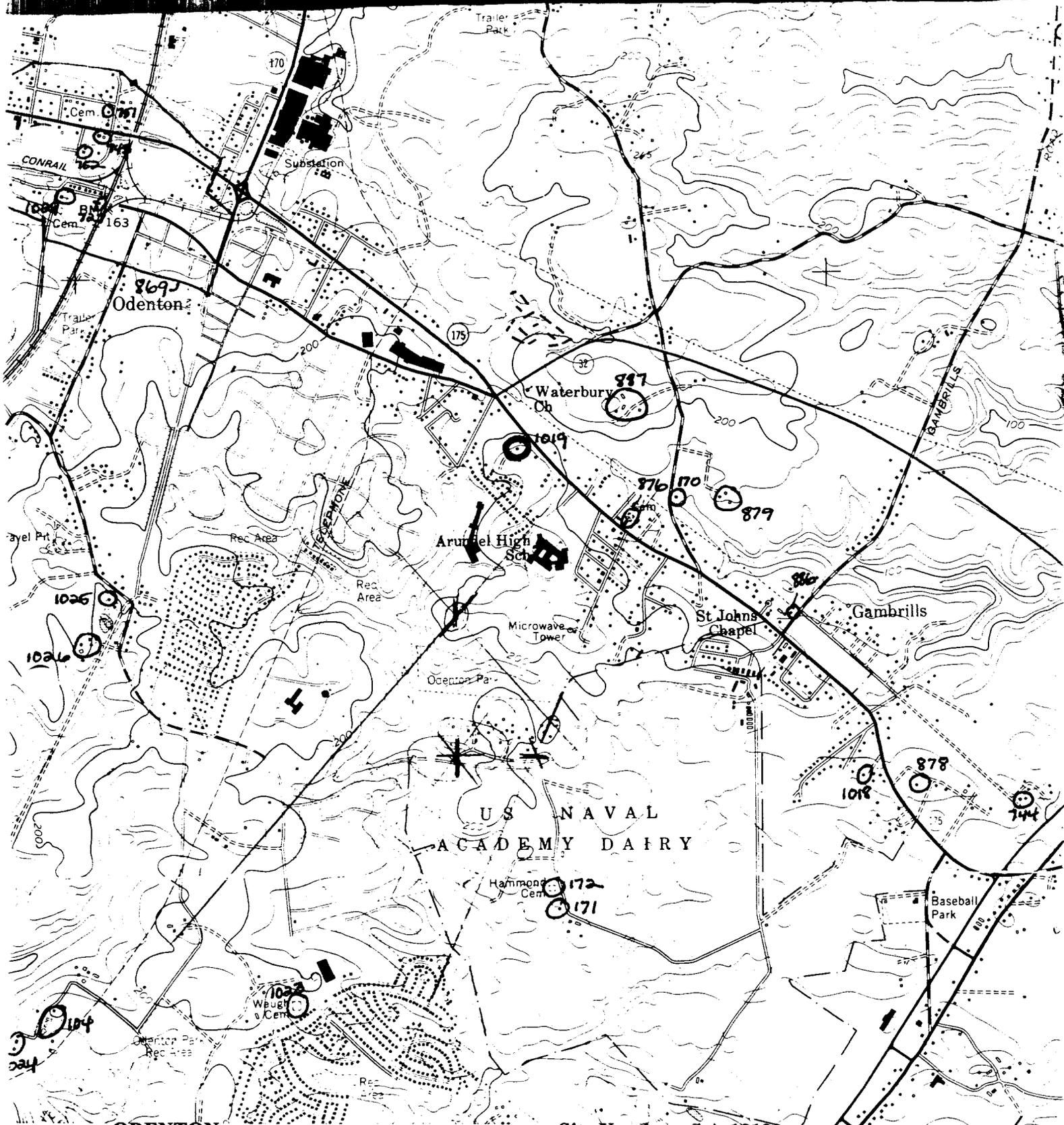
name/title	Sherri Marsh	
organization	Anne Arundel County Historic Sites Survey	date 8/1/96
street & number	2664 Riva Road, P.O. Box 6675	telephone 410-222-7441
city or town	Annapolis	state MD

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  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600





**ODENTON**  
 USGS 7.5 minute series  
 Scale: 1:24,000  
 1957, photo revised 1979

**Site Number: AA-1019**  
**Site Name: Joshua Lackland Higgins House**  
**Location: 1031 Annapolis Road, Gambrills**



AT-1019

Joshua Lackland Higgins HOUSE

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MARYLAND

Photo By ShERRI M. MARSH, AUG. 1996

NEG. AT MARYLAND SHPO

West ELEVATION

Photo 1 of 5



AA-1019

Joshua Lockland Higgins House

Anne Arundel Co., Maryland

Photo By Sherril Marsh

Aug 1996

Neg. at Maryland SHPO

SE perspective

Photo 2 of 5



AA-1019

Joshua Lackland Higgins House

Anne Arundel co, Maryland

Photo By Sherr. Marsh

Aug. 1996

Neg. at Maryland SHPO

NE Perspective

Photo 3 of 5



#1 = 1019

Joshua Lackland Higgins House

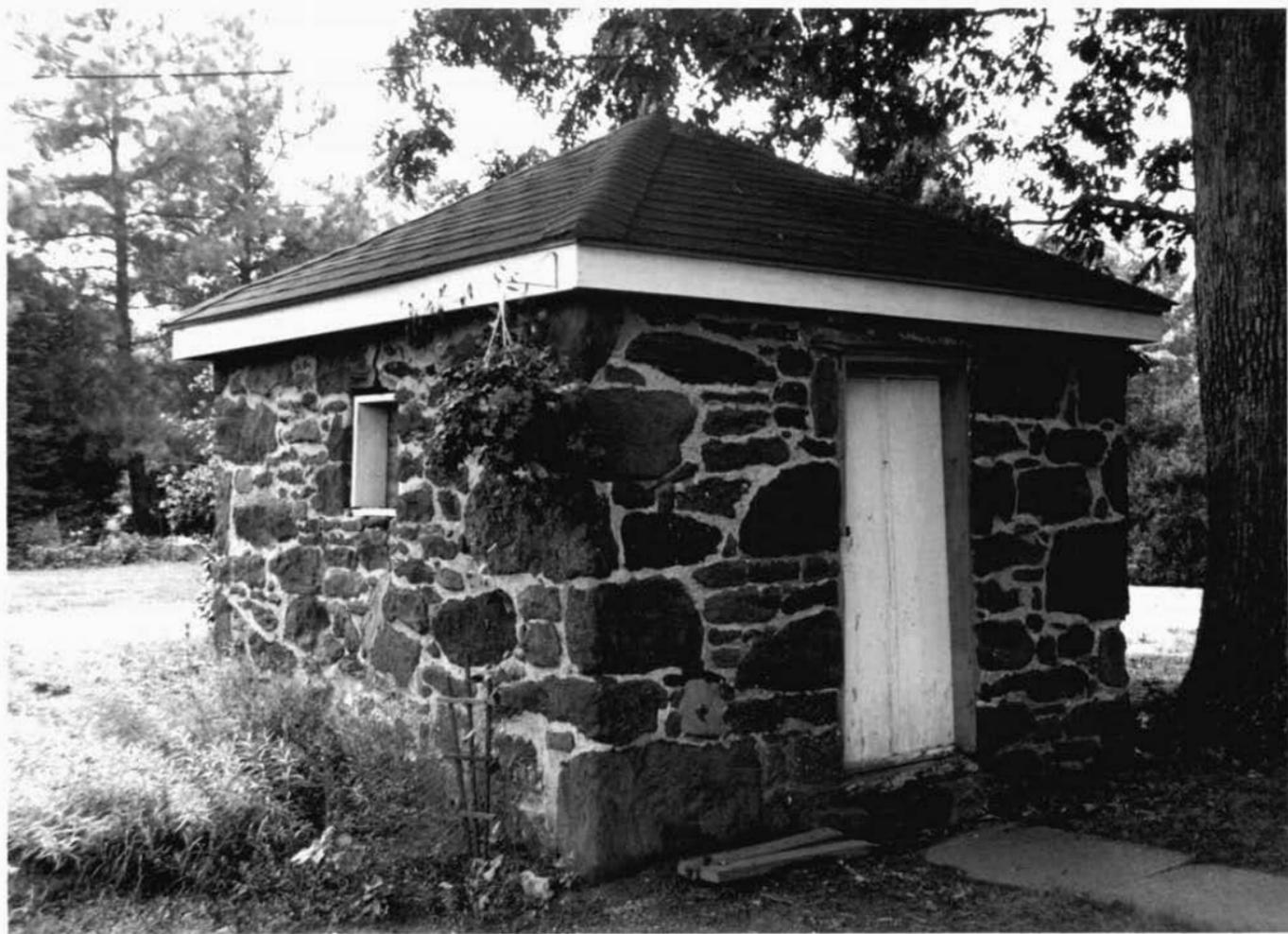
ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MARYLAND

Photo By SHERRI M. MARSH, AUG. 1996

NEG. AT MARYLAND SHPO

LOG SMOKE HOUSE (N.W. PERSPECTIVE)

Photo 4 of 5



AA-1019

Joshua Lackland Higgins House

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., Maryland

Photo By ShERRI M. Marsh, Aug. 1996

NEG. AT Maryland SHPO

ice house (S.W. perspective)

Photo sofs