

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Concrete Block House Survey Number: AA-867
~~AA-876~~

Project: Dorchester Ridge Subdivision Agency: F/COE

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Concrete Block House is a foursquare house built by John and Henry Blob in 1929. Rising two stories, the dwelling is a highly decorative example of the American Foursquare. The features of the house reflect Georgian Revival details in its contrasting quoins, dentilled cornice and Palladian dormer window. The house retains its original floor plan and materials as seen in the pine trim, original hardware and staircase and newel post. Displaying a high level of integrity, the John Blob House is significant as a representative example of ornamental concrete block architecture of the early twentieth century.

There are two outbuildings associated with the property as it once functioned as a truck farm. The frame and concrete block smokehouse and the frame shed were components of a larger farm complex now demolished. Due to the loss of integrity of setting, association and feeling, the outbuildings were determined ineligible. The Trust concurred that the two outbuildings did not possess architectural significance as support structures. Therefore only the Blob House is eligible resource.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Report AN 353, Phase I Archeological Investigation of the Dorchester Subdivision, Anne Arundel County, MD and the addendum to the MIHP

Prepared by: Parsons Engineering Science/Chris Martin, Goodwin and Associates/Brian Cleven

Lauren Bowlin 10/99 2/29/02
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable
B. Kuntz 2/29/02
Reviewer, NR program Date

[Handwritten mark]

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: building
Historic Environment: rural
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): domestic/single residence

Known Design Source: John Blob

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. AA-867

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Dorchester Concrete Block House (Amended)

2. Location

street & number Wright Road not for publication

city, town Harmans vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant |

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

name Dorchester, LLC

street & number 1338 Merrie Ridge Road telephone no.:

city, town McClean, state and zip code VA 22101

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Church Circle folio

city, town Annapolis, state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AA-867

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input 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.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-867

| 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"/> 500-1599 | <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/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

Description

A shed and a smokehouse are located southeast of the Blob House. Neither the smokehouse nor shed is in-service.

Shed

The shed is a one-story; wood-frame building that appears to have been constructed ca. 1920. The shed faces northwest towards a secondary elevation of the house and may have been aligned along a service lane. A trace of this lane survives.

The work shed adopts a rectangular footprint and is supported by poured concrete piers. The original building piers were supplemented with brick piers to provide additional support. The building is two bays wide by one bay deep and terminates in a side gable roof. The walls are clad with tongue-and-groove siding overlain with composition roll siding. The building incorporates a log sill. The roof is sheathed with composition shingles overlain with composition roll shingling. The shed features log sills and overhanging eaves with exposed 3" timber rafters.

The principal (northwest) elevation contains two primary entrances. The entrances are located at ends of the elevation. The north, four-panel door survives, while the south entry bay is open. The trim around the door bays is composed of simple boards and is not original.

The southwest elevation features one window bay and the rear (southeast) elevation features a triple window opening. Only one of the four windows is extant. This unit is a 12-light casement window located on the rear elevation. A clay tile pipe rises from the gable of the southeast elevation suggesting that the building once was heated with a wood stove.

The interior of the building comprises one room. The framing of the structure is exposed.

Smokehouse

The smokehouse is a one-story, wood-frame building constructed ca. 1929. The smokehouse faces northwest and is set slightly back from the workshop. The smokehouse occupies a square ground plan and is supported on a rusticated concrete block foundation. The building is one bay wide by one bay deep. The walls are clad with vertical wood siding. The siding has been patched numerous times with an assortment of materials, including chicken wire, plywood, and wood boards. The structure terminates in a front gable roof sheathed with composition roll shingling overlain with composition shingles. The principal (northwest) elevation features a central entrance. The door is missing.

The interior of the building comprises a single chamber. Charred, exposed framing evidences the historic use of the building.

Dorchester Concrete Block House (AA-867)
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
Continuation Sheet 8.1

Significance

The two outbuildings are simple agricultural support buildings similar in design to support structures historically associated with family farms. The main agricultural buildings historically associated with the Blob farm do not survive. Foundation rubble consistent with the footprint of a barn survives north of the outbuildings.

The historic use of the shed is unknown. The building is in poor condition and is no longer in service. The log sill of the shed suggests that the building may predate the 1929 Blob House.

The smokehouse appears to have been built at the same time as the house as evidenced by the concrete block foundation. The late 1929 date of the outbuildings is atypical for buildings of this type and it is unlikely that the smokehouse served the subsistence function of earlier examples.

The outbuildings do not contribute to the significance of the Blob House under Criterion C as an example of early twentieth century ornamental concrete design.

**Dorchester Concrete Block House (AA-867)
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
Continuation Sheet 9.1**

Major Bibliographical References

Ware, Donna M.

1984 *Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, Survey No. AA-867, Dorchester Concrete-Block House.*

Whitley, Cynthia A., Christopher T. Martin, and Madeleine Pappas

1998 *Phase I Archaeological Investigation of the Dorchester Subdivision, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.* Submitted to Dorchester Associates, L.L.C., Capitol Heights, MD. Parsons Engineering Science, Inc., Fairfax VA.

Dorchester Concrete Block House (AA-867)
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Photo Log

Photographer - Brian Clevon

Date - September 14, 1999

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | Two outbuildings from concrete block house | SE |
| 2 | Work shed - principal (northwest) elevation | SE |
| 3 | Work shed - northwest and southwest elevations | E |
| 4 | Work shed - southeast and northeast elevations | W |
| 5 | Work shed - detail of rear wall | N |
| 6 | Work shed - detail of northern end wall | E |
| 7 | Smokehouse - principal (northwest) elevation | SE |
| 8 | Smokehouse - northwest and southwest elevations | E |
| 9 | Smokehouse - southeast and northeast elevations | W |

Dorchester Concrete Block House (AA-867)
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
Continuation Sheet 10.1

Boundary Justification

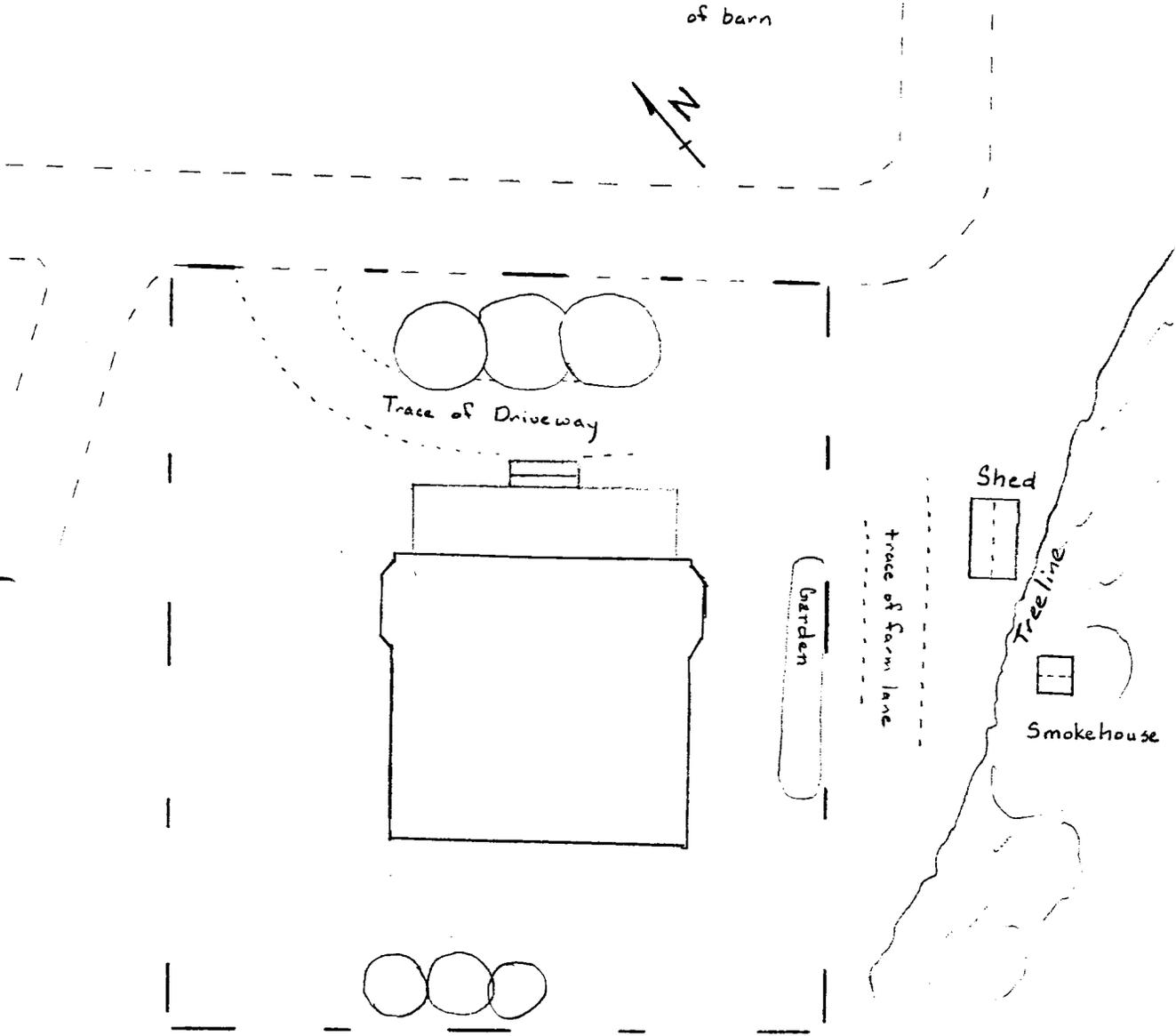
The boundary is defined as the immediate house lot of the Dorchester Concrete-Block House. The outbuildings have not been included in this area since they do not contribute to the property's significance under Criterion C.

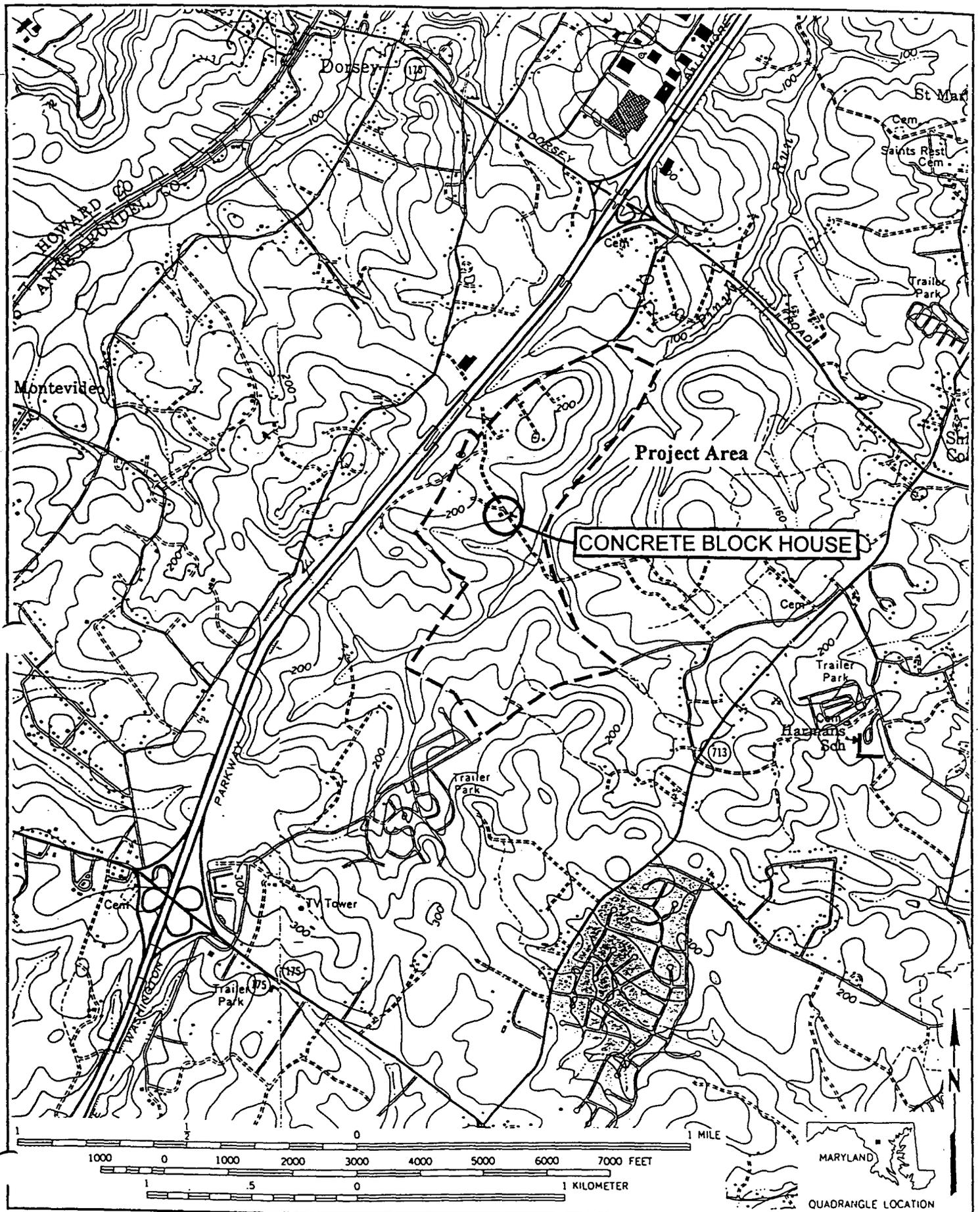
The boundary begins along Wright Road starting at the junction of Wright Road and a farm lane just to the north of the house. The boundary should run along Wright Road to a point perpendicular to southeastern edge of the garden. The line will run along the garden to the back of yard indicated by the remains of an old fence. It will then run this line to the point perpendicular to the junction of Wright Road and the farm lane and then return to the starting point.

Dorchester Concrete Block House (John Blob House)
Survey No. AA-867

Resource Sketch Map

former site
of barn





Source: USGS 15' Savage and Relay, MD Quads (1957/1966/1974)

Figure 1
Project Area Location

Dorchester

AA-867



AA-867

Dorchester Concrete Block House

Anne Arundel Co, MD

B. Cleven

9/14/99

MO SHPO

000 1810-NNNNH 10-000 101111010

View of Workshop (L) and Smokehouse (R) from house, view SE

1/9



AA-867

Dorchester Concrete Block House

Anne Arundel Co MD

B Clewin

9/14/99

MD SHPO

DATE: 09/14/99 TIME: 09:45 AM

NW elevation workshop

2/9



AA - 867

Dorchester Concrete Block House

B Clevelen

9/14/99

MO SHPO

NW & SW elevations of workshed

3/9



AA-867

Dorchester Coveck Block House

B Cleven

9/14/99

MD SHPO

SE & NE elevation of workshop

4/9



AA-867

Danbury Concrete Block House

B C Level

7/14/99

MD SHPO

Detail of rear (SE) elevation, view N

5/9



AA-867

Dorchester Concrete Block House

B. Charles

1/21/70

11/1/70

NE elevation - workshop

6/9



AA-867

Dorchester Concrete Block House

B. Clever

9/14/99

MD SHPD

Principal (NW) elevation - smokehouse

7/9



AA - 567

Dorchester Concrete Block House

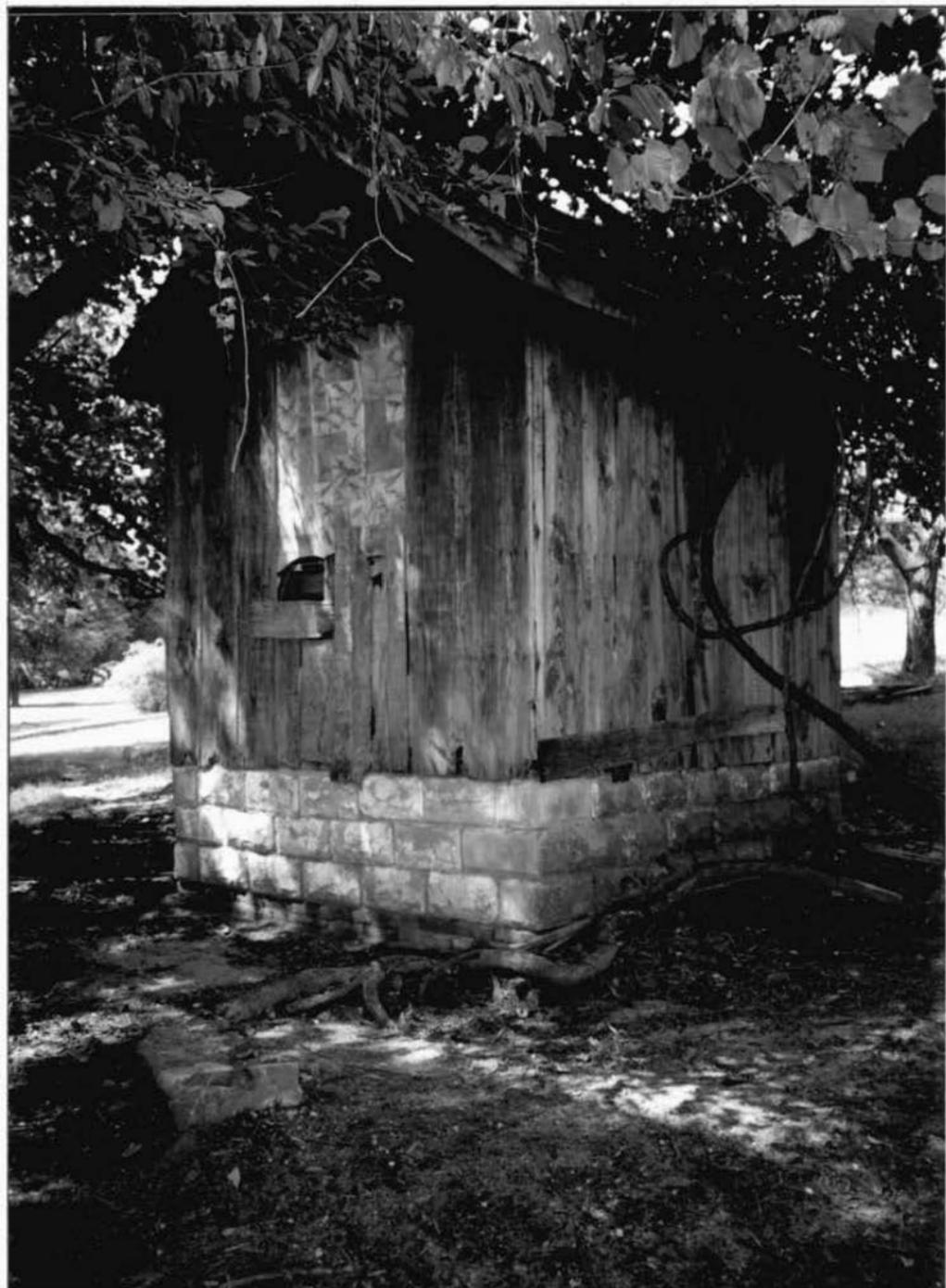
B. Clevon

9/19/99

MD SAPO

NW & W elevations - in site house

r/7



AA-867

Dorchester Co. with Block Line

B. Class

9/17/99

MD 5485

SE & NE elevations on block line

919

AA-867

Dorchester Concrete Block House
Harmans vicinity
Private

Circa 1920

The Dorchester Concrete Block House is located in northwest Anne Arundel County on Wright Road, south of Dorsey Road (Rt. 176) and east of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. This highly-ornamented house has a commanding view overlooking open and wooded land. It faces northeast. A frame barn with a collapsed roof sits northeast of the house.

The house is a 2-story, decorated concrete block dwelling, which embodies the early 20th century Neo-Rational or "Four-Square Plan" style of architecture. It is blocky, measuring 3 bays by 3 bays, with an almost square plan, except for an ell which extends from the rear, southwest elevation, at the south corner.

The house is richly embellished with classical details, reflecting a Palladian/Georgian Revival influence.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Dorchester Concrete-Block House

2. Location

street & number Wright Road ___ not for publication

city, town Harmans ___ vicinity of congressional district 4th

state MD county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

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

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

name Dorchester Limited Partnership, c/o Westchester Construction, Inc.

street & number 8401 Connecticut Ave. telephone no.:

city, town Chevy Chase, state and zip code MD 20015

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Church Circle folio

city, town Annapolis, MD state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AA-867

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved | date of move _____ |
| <input checked="" 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 Dorchester Concrete Block House is located in northwest Anne Arundel County on Wright Road, south of Dorsey Road (Rt. 176) and east of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. This highly-ornamented house has a commanding view overlooking open and wooded land. It faces northeast. A frame barn with a collapsed roof sits northeast of the house.

The house is a 2-story, decorated concrete block dwelling, which embodies the early 20th century Neo-Rationalistic or "Four-Square Plan" style of architecture. It is blocky, measuring 3 bays by 3 bays, with an almost square plan, except for an ell which extends from the rear, southwest elevation, at the south corner.

A 2-story polygonal bay extends from the northwest elevation, and a 2-story rectangular one from the southeast elevation. A 1-story hip-roof porch which extends across the facade (northeast elevation) covers a central entrance with a transom. A 1-story enclosed, shed-roof porch fills the west corner of the rear elevation.

The steeply-pitched hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has three hip-roof dormers on the facade, the southeast elevation, and the northwest elevation. The house rests on a poured-concrete foundation. There is a central interior brick chimney.

The house is richly embellished with classical details, reflecting a Palladian/Georgian Revival influence. The grey, rock-faced decorated concrete block wall surfaces are contrasted with light grey, smooth-faced quoins. The one-over-one sash windows are also defined with the smooth-faced quoins and white lintels. The facade dormer is lit by a Palladian-style window, whereas the other dormers are lit simply by a pair of windows. The wooden cornice is embellished with heavy dentils. The facade porch is supported by four, concrete-cast, fluted Ionic columns, and has a massive, turned balustrade.

The interior was not examined.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-867

| 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/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates c. 1920 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
Level of Significance: national state local

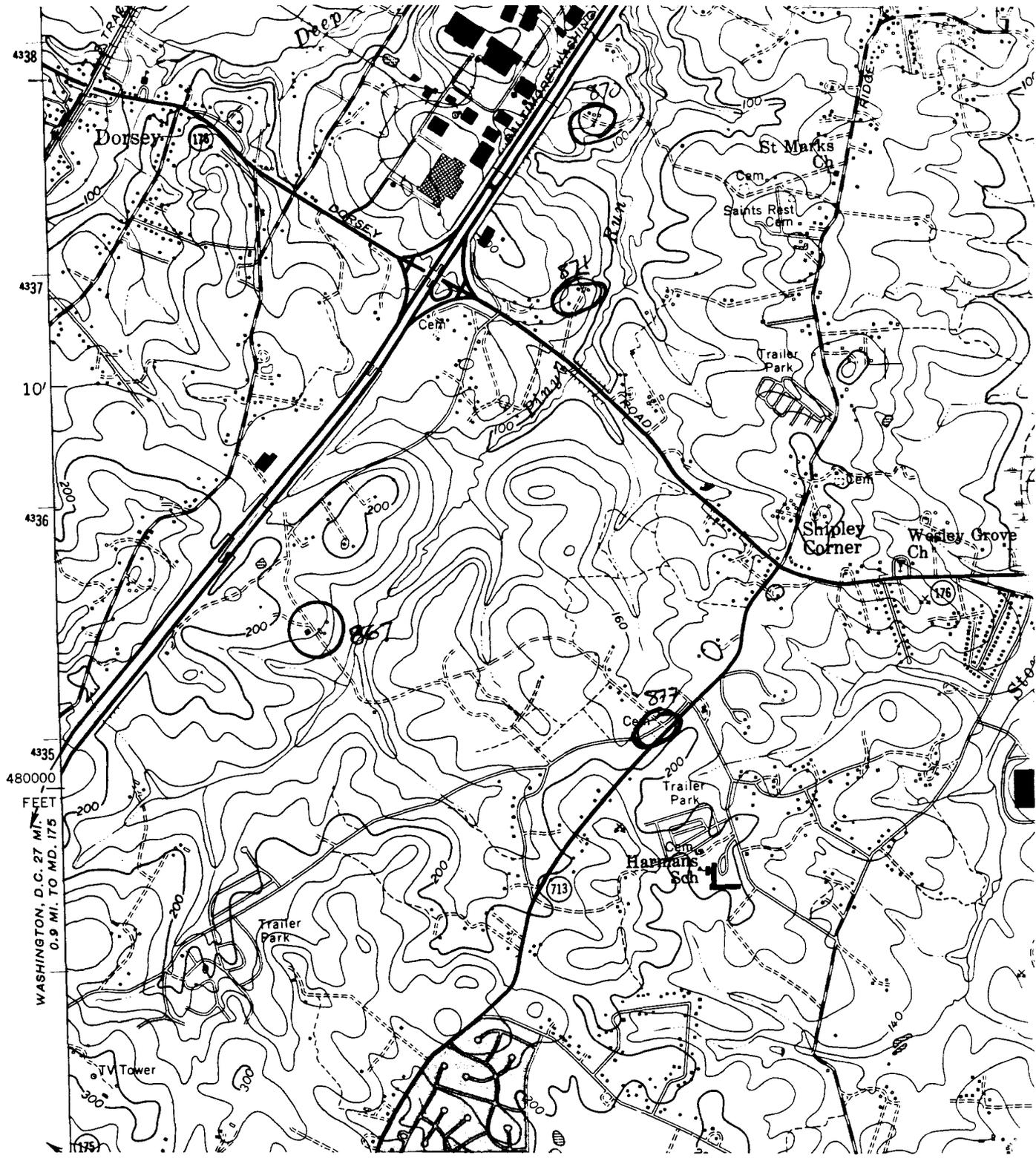
Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Dorchester Concrete-Block House is a highly decorative example of the early 20th century, Neo-Rationalistic or Four-Square Plan style of architecture, which is executed in another early 20th century construction phenomenon--cast, decorated concrete blocks. The Neo-Rationalistic style rejected some principles of the late 19th century Queen Anne design and embraced a modern, rationalistic¹ approach to geometric composition where architectural ornament was subordinate.

Few dwellings of this style, so richly embellished, exist in the North County area. This attention to detail suggests that a person of some means may have constructed this house in the early 20th century.

Footnotes

1. Bainbridge Bunting and Robert H. Nylander, Report Four: Old Cambridge, (Cambridge, Mass.: Cambridge Historical Commission, 1973), p. 120.



Relay, MD
 USGS 7.5 minute series
 Scale 1:24,000
 1957; photo revised 1966 & 1974

Site: # AA-867
 Name: Dorchester Concrete-Block House
 Location: Wright Road
 Harmans vicinity



MA-86 /
DORCHESTER CONCRETE BLOCK HOUSE

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

PHOTO: [unclear]

7-70-80

REG: [unclear]

CLAS: XTU-16 VIEW, [unclear]

1 25 14

4.76 81-02 NNN+05RU 142





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PA-837

Don't forget to check the other side

Adrian A. M. L. (2), MD

2000: 2.0.0.0

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2-23-78

NEB: 110 (PP)

Concrete upgrade at 1107 P&H

4 of 14





AA-007

DORCHESTER COUNTY DEPT OF HEALTH - 1125

ANNE ARUNDEL CO, MD

1-10-92 - 1-10-92

1-23-92

ALSO: MD - APO

ORANGE DEPT

505 ST. GEORGE ST. 143

6-1-92





AA-807

2. RUBBER TAPES 10 x 11/2
PAPER RUBBER = 2, 10

FOR RUBBER TAPES

10 x 11/2

= 10 SPPS

FOR RUBBER TAPES

10 x 11/2 RUBBER TAPES

10 x 11/2







AA-857

DORNBACH

P-51: C. MARTIN

7-23-52

8-25-52

10-1-52 L11160 23201

1-22-54

100-31-01 (NH-36RU 144)

FILE



AA-867

200.45716 CONCRETE GULLY PHOTO

ADVICE AUGUST 22, 1968

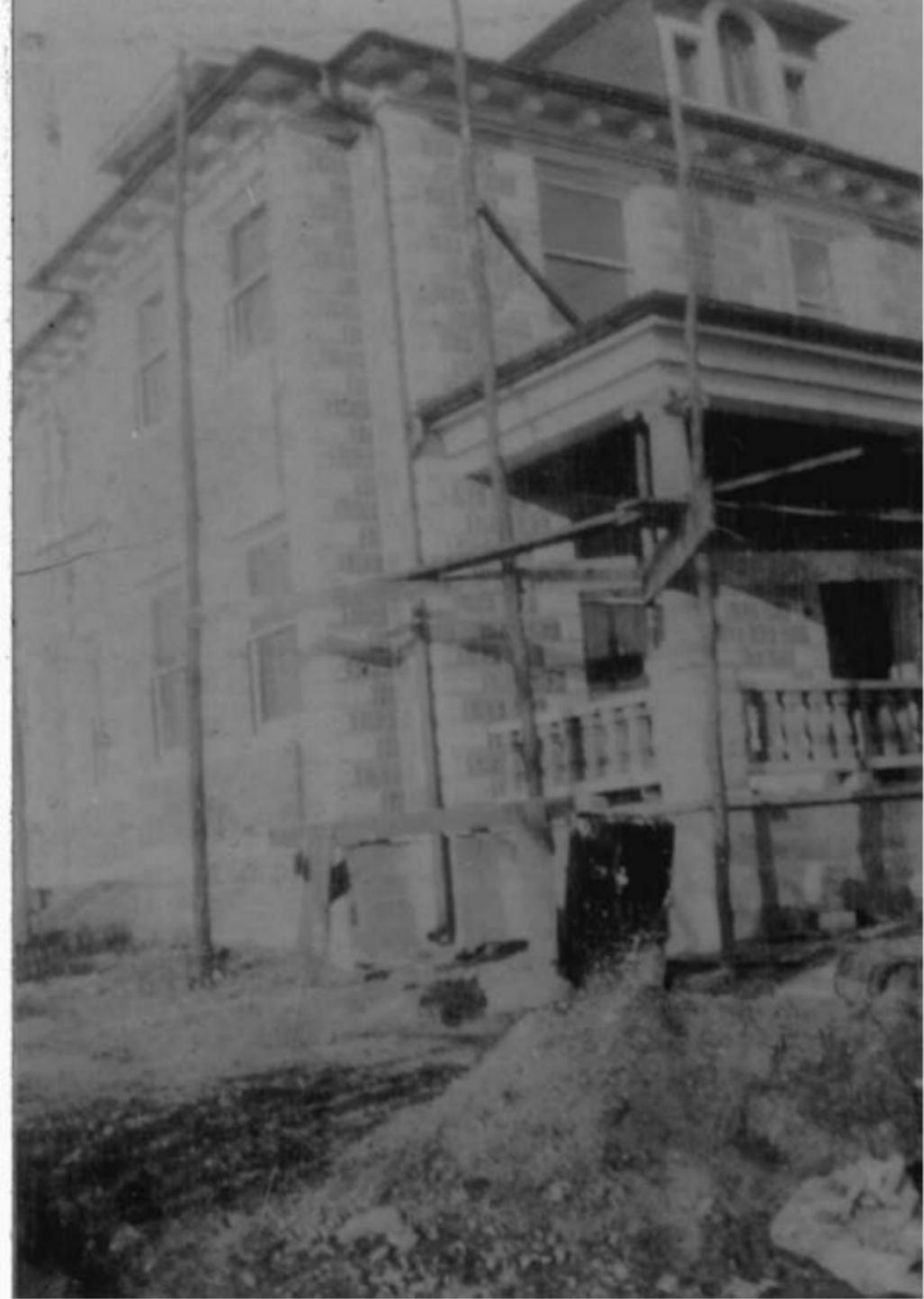
PHOTO: C. H. H. H.

7-1-68

NEB: MD SHAD

7-22-68

12 OF 14



AA 2137

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH SERVICE

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VOLUME 20: 1929

NO. 1 JANUARY 1929

CIRCA 1929

1929: 1-12

1929: 1-12



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PHOTO: J. MARTIN

1-1-78

22-03 NNN+06FIL 038

14 OF 14

SHPO

NE OF BALTIMORE AREA WAST

FOR DESIGN OF 1500



AA-867

Dorchester Concrete-Block House

Anne Arundel County, MD

Photo: D. Ware

3/84

Side: N.W. elevation



AA-867

Dorchester Concrete-Block House

Anne Arundel County, MD

Photo: D. Ware

3/84

Facade: N.E. elevation

& Side: S.E. elevation



AA-867

Dorchester Concrete-Block House

Anne Arundel County, MD

Photo: D. Ware

3/84

Side: S.E. elevation &

Rear: S.W. elevation