

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**BA-1717**  
**Sherwood House**  
**16305 York Road**  
**Monkton, Baltimore County**  
**ca. 1830**  
**Private**

The Sherwood House, at 16305 York Road, was erected on property historically associated with the prominent Merryman family, who owned land throughout Baltimore County as early as 1813. The dwelling was erected circa 1830, presumably by Nicholas J. Merryman. Originally consisting of 803 acres, the property remained in the Merryman family until 1878. It is located at the corner of Piney Hill Road near Monkton, on the east side of York Road, once the major turnpike thoroughfare connecting Baltimore to York, PA. The house, a typical example of rural stone dwellings commonly erected in northern Baltimore County prior to the Civil War, was substantially enlarged and altered with fashionable architectural elements in the late 19th century.

This six bay wide vernacular dwelling is two and a half stories in height. The building, constructed of randomly laid fieldstone with stone quoins, has a rectangular form. The extreme slope of the site presents a two-and-a-half-story building on the west side and a one-story building on the east side. The fenestration and elongated rectangular form of the main block indicate that the building was originally three bays wide, possibly with a hall/parlor plan. Additional evidence to support this theory is the subsequent painting of the building to hide alterations and the irregular bulging of the roof at the intersection of the main block and southern end of the structure. The main block has been altered further by the addition of a fashionable Gothic Revival style central gable, an exterior end ell addition on the north side, a reconstructed wing to the south, and new, gabled portico on the facade. The shallow pitch of the roof is contrasted by the steeply pitched center gable, which is further differentiated by its fishscale and hipped wood shingles. The roof has a slight overhang with a boxed molded cornice constructed of wood. The roofs of the main block and additional are clad in asphalt shingles. The ell is stuccoed, while the wing is clad in vertical board, wood shingles, and stucco. The ell also displays a central interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap.



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## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1717

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

Constructed circa 1830, this six bay wide vernacular dwelling is two-and-a-half stories in height. The structure, constructed of randomly laid fieldstone with stone quoins, has a rectangular form. The extreme slope of the site presents a two-and-a-half-story building on the west side and a one-story building on the east side. The fenestration and elongated rectangular form of the main block indicates the building was three bays wide, possibly with a hall/parlor plan, when constructed. Additional evidence to support this theory is the subsequent painting of the building to hide alterations and the irregular bulging of the roof at the intersection of the main block and southern end of the structure. The main block has been altered further by the addition of a fashionable Gothic Revival style central gable, an exterior end ell addition on the north side, a reconstructed wing to the south, and new gabled portico on the facade. The shallow pitch of the roof, now clad in asphalt shingles, is contrasted by the steeply pitched center gable, which is further differentiated by its fishscale and hipped wood shingles. The roof has a slight overhang with a boxed molded cornice constructed of wood. The gabled roofs of the ell and the one-story wing are also sheathed in asphalt shingles. The ell is stuccoed, while the wing is clad in vertical board, wood shingles and stucco. The ell also displays a central interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap. The house faces west and is located in close proximity to the east side of York Road amidst rolling hills, residences, and agricultural farms.

### EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The primary façade, facing west, presently measures six bays in width. The elongation of the main block by the construction of the southern addition, extending the three original bays to six bays, is clearly marked by the asymmetry and unequal placement of the openings on the second story of the façade. Within the original block of the structure, a single entry opening and an elongated window opening with a massive lug lintel mark the first story of the facade. The entry has a ten-light wood door with a double-leaf, shutter-like exterior door. A contemporary one-story portico with a gable roof supported by turned posts further shelters the inset entry. The second story is more symmetrically marked by three standard window openings holding 6/6 vinyl replacement windows with molded wood surrounds. A half-story projecting gable was added to the roof during the late Victorian era to reflect the Gothic Revival style. The steeply pitched gable has a molded wood cornice. The tympanum of the gable is clad with fishscale and hipped wood shingles, and pierced by a semi-circular arched 1/1 window.

The south addition to the main block presents symmetry within itself, while unequally placed to the original portion of the building. This addition has three 6/6-vinyl windows with molded wood surrounds and sills on both the first and second stories.

The northern end of the west elevation reveals the setback façade of the attached gabled fronted ell. The one-story ell displays concrete stucco cladding and a parged concrete foundation. There is a single-leaf entry with a two-panel and four-light wooden door flanked by two 6/6 windows with molded wood surrounds and sills. There is also a small square vent in the gable peak. The southern end of the facade elevation has a one-story wing constructed on a stone foundation with contemporary ornamentation. This includes an asphalt-shingled

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roof and two vinyl 1/1 windows cut directly into the wall plane with a continuous rowlock brick sill. The wing is clad with modern wood shingles from the window sill to the eaves.

The south elevation of the dwelling has a gable peak casement window of four-lights with a molded wood surround. The wing now serves as the main entry due to its close proximity to the driveway. The elevation consists of a fixed six-light wood window with a wooden surround and a one-leaf paneled wood door with nine lights and cross bracing. The wing is stuccoed on the first story, with wood boards placed in a 45-degree angle in the gable end. The extreme overhang of the roof shelters the elevation.

The rear, or east, elevation is only one story in height due to its construction into the slope of the hill. Within the original portion of the building, at the northern end of the elevation, there are two 6/6-vinyl windows with molded wooden surrounds. These openings are lower than those in the southern addition to the main block, further suggesting that this portion was the original part of the building. The southern end consists of a single-leaf entry with a six-paneled modern wood door with a paneled wood soffit and molded wood surround. Two vinyl 6/6 windows flank the entry. There are three modern skylights on the eastern slope of the roof. The rear portion of the wing is clad in vertical boards, devoid of openings.

The attached one-story ell on the north elevation of the main block is also built into the hill presenting a roof that barely rises above ground level. The rear of the ell has an attached saltbox roof shed clad in wood shingles. It is constructed on a concrete block foundation with a double-leaf door constructed of vertical boards laid diagonally. There is also a fixed wooden six-light window. A shed roofed storage porch supported by square wooden posts projects to the north.

The north elevation of the main block includes a half-story wooden four-light casement window with a molded wood surround. *The dominant north elevation feature is the one-story attached ell. It is ornamented with two replacement eight-light casement windows with square edged concrete sills.*

### INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the dwelling was not accessible for survey.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**Specific dates** ca. 1830, 1878 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** ca. 1830

Evaluation for:

National Register  Maryland Register  not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Sherwood House at 16305 York Road was erected on property historically associated with the prominent Merryman family, who owned land throughout Baltimore County as early as 1813. The vernacular stone dwelling was erected circa 1830, presumably by Nicholas J. Merryman. Originally consisting of 803 acres, the property remained in the Merryman family until 1878. It is located at the corner of Piney Hill Road near Monkton, on the east side of York Road, once the major turnpike thoroughfare connecting Baltimore to York, Pennsylvania. The house, a typical example of the rural stone dwellings commonly erected in northern Baltimore County prior to the Civil War, was substantially enlarged and altered with fashionable architectural elements in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### HISTORY

Although the exact date of construction for Sherwood House has not been determined, historic maps, deeds and stylistic detailing support a circa 1830 date<sup>1</sup>. Deed research indicates that John Merryman, Sr. owned the property by 1813 when he granted it to Nicholas Merryman, Sarah P. Merryman, Elizabeth Merryman and John Merryman Jr. It was during this period of multiple ownership that the dwelling on York Road was erected, presumably as a tenant house on the larger Merryman estate of Elzie's Game. In this area the Merryman property included tracts of land known as "Hereford Resurveyed", "Elzie's Game," "Brown Hall," and "Merryman's Mount."

By 1848, Nicholas J. Merryman and his wife Clarissa were the last surviving owners of the property. In 1848, under their direction, the property was placed under the trust of John Philpot. Following the directives of the trust, in 1878, Philpot conveyed the property to the Merryman's son Henry W. Merryman and his wife, Mary G.

The Merryman family was politically influential in Baltimore County.<sup>2</sup> The family can be traced in the United States to James Merriman and his wife Sarah who came to Virginia on the *George* in 1638. Other family members also settled in the area. In 1680, Charles Merriman, born in 1657 in Virginia, moved to Anne Arundel

<sup>1</sup> The building is denoted on J.C. Sidney's map of Baltimore, 1850.

<sup>2</sup> Neal Brooks and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), p. 278

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County, Maryland. James Merriman also settled in Anne Arundel County in 1700, where he served as a court commissioner. Charles married Mary Boone and established his family north of Baltimore on the Gunpowder River. It is thought that he changed the spelling of his name to Merryman in order to differentiate his land holdings<sup>3</sup>. The Merrymans settled "Clover Hill" north of Baltimore. "Hereford Farm" in Hereford, and at "Hayfields" in Cockeysville.

In October of 1878, the Merryman's put the house in trust under Richard W. Templeton until Katherine Miller and George Miller could pay the \$1,200 sum for "Hereford Resurveyed." The Millers owned the property by 1885. Again, the property was placed in trust, under Leban Sparks, after a court decision in the case of William F. Miller vs. Rachel B. and Ruth Miller. Leban Sparks sold the property in 1935 to Isabel Nicoll Ensor for \$2250. A 1918 tax ledger listed a carriage factory, which no longer exists, on the property.

John E. Magers, Jr. purchased the house in 1951, but sold it back to the Ensors on the same day. Isabel Nicoll Ensor and her husband Leonard conveyed the property to their son William W. Ensor in 1958. He and his wife Mary Ellen Ensor sold the property in 1959 to Sidney and Trudy Agress. In 1962, Carolyn Patricia Malone bought the house and resold it to Trudy Agress. In turn, she resold the property in 1962 to James B and Evelyn S. McCloskey. The property was transferred to Po-Mo, Inc. in 1971, who returned ownership to Evelyn McCloskey the same year. Her estate, represented by Edward J. Wilson, sold the property to the namesake Sherwoods in 1974. J. Donald and Margaret Sherwood sold the property to John Walters for \$64,000 in 1978. The Walter family is the current owner with a land area of 23,783 square feet.

The property on which Sherwood House is situated is on the east side of York Road, a few miles to the west of the Northern Central Railroad. It is located at the near the southern edge of the seventh district, which was one of the largest and most populated regions of the county in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, bounded on the north by Pennsylvania. In 1870, it had an area of 59.93 square miles and a population of 3,074. The area historically consisted of rolling hills, traversed by major transportation corridors, such as the railroad and York Turnpike. Arable fields for plantings of wheat, corn, oats, and fruits supported the district. It was known for its dairy production and the breeding of cattle. In addition, the waterpower of the Gunpowder Falls and its tributaries supported numerous mills

Although the property is located in the town of Piney Hill, near Monkton, little is known about this small village. Appearing on maps as early as 1850, the property is located just south of Hereford on York Road and north of Philopolis and Priceville. It is situated at the southern part of the Seventh District, just south of Hereford. Hereford and Philopolis are 19<sup>th</sup>-century towns that are less than twenty-five miles north of Baltimore City. Situated between the York Road and the Northern Central Railroad, Hereford was home to 300 inhabitants in 1881 and at that time, was the center of a rich agricultural region. Philopolis, whose population in

<sup>3</sup> Elsie Howlett Tracy. *Merrimans and Tracy: Pioneer Community Builders*. (La Jolla, CA. 1976).

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1881 was 100, is bisected by the York Turnpike and sits one mile to the west of the Northern Central Railroad. It is nineteen miles from Baltimore City. The close proximity of Hereford and Philopolis to York Road and the railroad rendered the small towns as centers of trade. Priceville was a mile to the west of Spark's Station and was settled as a stronghold of the Society of Friends, by immigrants from England and Wales.

Prior to the organization of turnpikes in Baltimore County, many of the county's roads were considered unfit for use. Earlier efforts to incorporate turnpike companies originated from the county government, yet, by the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, efforts to create better roads emanated from the state government's efforts to better serve the growing rural population. This action resulted in the laying of a road from Baltimore, Maryland to York, Pennsylvania that would replace the winding, indirect Old York Road.<sup>4</sup> The privately organized York Turnpike Company was incorporated in 1805. Work on the new road ceased in 1810, when the thirty-five miles of road from Baltimore to the Pennsylvania Line was completed. This route soon became one of the primary north/south corridors in Baltimore County. Taverns in Maryland Line, Wiseburg, Philopolis, and Timonium served travelers along the route.<sup>5</sup> In 1838, the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad Company began construction of a line that would run northward from Baltimore nearly parallel to the York Turnpike.

### Chain of Title:

- December 27, 1821: John Merryman, Jr., Sarah R. Merryman , and Elizabeth Merryman to Nicholas R. Merryman  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 162 Folio 124
- January 19, 1813: John Merryman, Sr. to Nicholas R. Merryman, Sarah P. Merryman, Elizabeth Merryman, and John Merryman, Jr.  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber WB 9 Folio 417
- November 4, 1848: Nicholas R. Merryman and Clarissa Merryman, wife, to John Philpot  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber AWB 405 Folio 303
- May 31, 1878: John Philpot, trustee, to Henry N. Merryman

<sup>4</sup> Sherry H. Olson, *Baltimore: The Building of an American City* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), p. 172; see also S. B. Clemens and C. E. Clemens, *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line: An Informal History of Northern Baltimore County* (np: C. E. and S. B. Clemens, 1976), p. 10.

<sup>5</sup> William Hollifield, *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County* (Cockeysville, MD: The Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978), p. 51; see also *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), pp. 44-49.

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Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 107 Folio 461

Henry N. Merryman and Mary G. Merryman, wife, to Richard W. Templeman  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 143 Folio 304

November 7, 1885: Richard W. Templeman, trustee, to Katherine Miller and George Miller, husband  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 148 Folio 403

December 13, 1935: Circuit Court Case of William F. Miller vs Rachel B. Miller and Ruth Miller, infant to Laban Sparks, Trustee  
Land Records of Baltimore County

December 19, 1935: Laban Sparks, trustee, to Isabell Nicoll Ensor  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 969 Folio 61

January 11, 1951: Isabel Nicoll Ensor and Leonard B. Ensor, husband, to John E. Magers, Jr.  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 1911 Folio 530

January 11, 1951: John E. Magers, Jr. to Leonard B. Ensor and Isabel Nicoll Ensor, wife  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 1911 Folio 531

April 22, 1958: Leonard B. Ensor and Isabel Nicoll Ensor, wife, to William W. Ensor  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 3338 Folio 532

July 23, 1959: William W. Ensor and Mary Ellen Ensor, wife, to Sidney Agress and Trudy Agress, wife  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 3567 Folio 300

April 26, 1962: Sidney Agress and Trudy Agress, wife, to Carolyn Patricia Malone  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 3582 Folio 308

April 26, 1962: Carolyn Patricia Malone to Trudy Agress  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 3982 Folio 310

September 4, 1962: Trudy Agress and Sidney Agress, husband, to James B. McCloskey and Evelyn S. McCloskey  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 4069 Folio 549

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- February 25, 1971: James B. McCloskey and Evelyn S. McCloskey to Po-Mo, Inc.  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 5171 Folio 28
- February 25, 1971: Po-Mo, Inc. to Evelyn S. McCloskey  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 5171 Folio 30
- May 8, 1974: Edward J. Wilson, personal representative of the estate of Evelyn S. McCloskey and James B. McCloskey to  
J. Donald Sherwood and Margaret Sherwood.  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 5445 Folio 360
- July 5, 1978: J. Donald Sherwood and Margaret Sherwood, wife, to John G. Walter  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 5907 Folio 581
- December 16, 1993: Carl E. Walter and John G. Walter to John G. Walter  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 10750 Folio 58
- January 14, 1994: John G. Walter to John G. Walter and Carol B. Walter, wife  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 10750 Folio 55

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Brooks, Neal A., and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
Clemens, S. B. and C. E. Clemens. *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line: An Informal History of Northern Baltimore County.* np: C. E. and S. B. Clemens, 1976  
Hollifield, William, *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County* Cockeysville, MD: The Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978.  
Olsen, Sherry H., *Baltimore: The Building of an American City* Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.  
Tracy, Elsie Howlett, "Merrimans and Tracy: Pioneer Community Builders." La Jolla, CA. 1976.
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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property Less than one Acre  
Acreage of historical setting 803 Acres  
Quadrangle name Monkton Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Since the 1830s, the Sherwood House has been associated with Parcel 16 as noted on Grid 3, Map 28 of the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's Office.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	L. V. Trieschmann, J. J. Bunting, and A. L. McDonald Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Inc.	date	8 October 2000
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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.

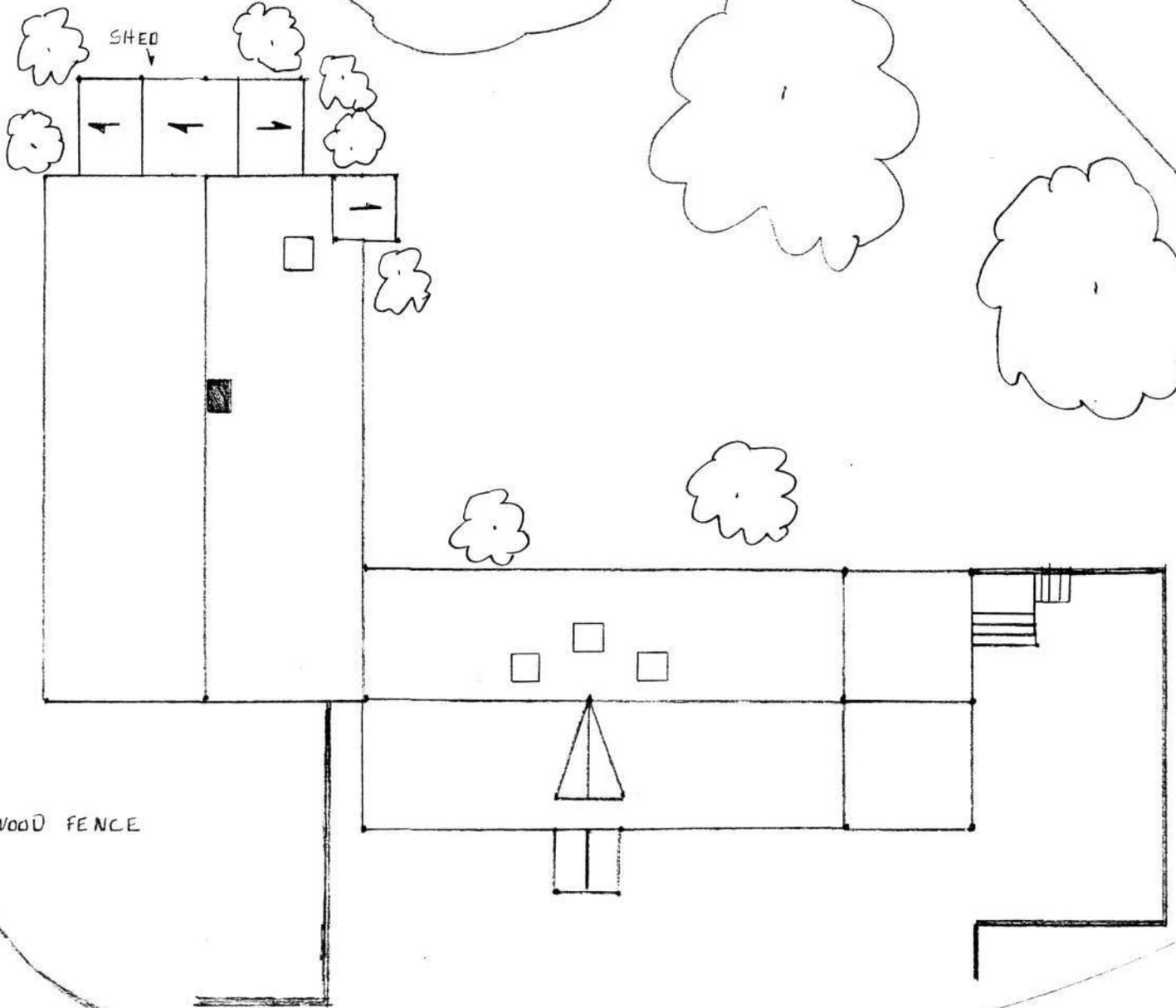
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

BA 1717  
16305 YORK ROAD  
MONKTON  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

SHERWOOD HOUSE

HEREFORD ROAD



YORK ROAD

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE







BA-1717

16305 York Rd

Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

western elevation, looking east

1 of 4



BA-1717

16305 York Rd

Baltimore County

Traceries

S/00

MD SHPO

SW corner, Looking NE

2 of 4



BA-1717

16305 York Rd.

Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

eastern elevation, looking west

3 of 4



BA-1717

16305 York Rd

Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

Northwest corner, looking southeast

4 of 4

BA- 1717

**SHERWOOD HOUSE** - Before 1850 - 16305 York Road, Sparks vicinity. This was a tenant house of a large estate called Elzey's Grove, and shown as property of Nicholas R. Merryman on 1850 map. Later owned by Henry N. Merryman, shown in 1877 atlas. Sold in 1878 to Katherine Miller. Located in sharp angle between York Road and Piney Hill Road (alias the Monkton Road). The 1918 tax ledger included a carriage factory, now a ruin. Long, two-story brick house that has been painted white. The southern-most of two houses. The rafters are round - not squared off. Owner: John C. Walters (since 1978).