

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-2896

Duncan House

542 Bentley Road

Parkton, Baltimore County

Ca. 1929

Private

The dwelling known as the Duncan House is located at 542 Bentley Road in Election District Seven, in Bentley Springs near Parkton, in Baltimore County. The dwelling, erected circa 1929 by the Duncan family, stands on the property of the circa 1866 Bentley Springs Post Office site and stone foundation ruins. After successive ownership by the Duncan family, the Southcombs, Lydia Lemn, and Gloria Springham, the property returned to Lydia Lemn Irons and her husband, David Irons, in 1987. David Irons currently retains ownership.

The two-bay wide, wood frame dwelling, which sits on a concrete block foundation, is clad in vinyl siding and capped by an asphalt-shingled half-hipped roof. Built into the hill, the dwelling features a one-story façade and two-story main block and addition. Vinyl cornerboards, overhanging eaves, and a boxed aluminum cornice accent the dwelling. An interior end concrete block chimney rises from the main block roof. The house is situated between the stone foundation ruins of the Bentley Springs Depot and Post Office and the Northern Central Railroad tracks (now the Gunpowder Falls State Park Trail/NCRR trail). A stream runs through the rear yard.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2896

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Duncan House (preferred)
 other Bentley Springs Post Office and Depot Site

2. Location

street and number 542 Bentley Road __ not for publication
 city, town Parkton X vicinity
 county Baltimore County

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

name David C. Irons
 street and number 542 Bentley Road telephone 410-357-8656
 city, town Parkton state Maryland zip code 21120

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 10059 folio 82
 city, town Towson tax map 12 tax parcel 45 tax ID number 0704075110

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>1</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>1</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u>2</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>0</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2896

Condition

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

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

DUNCAN HOUSE/BENTLEY SPRINGS POST OFFICE SITE

Constructed circa 1929, the Duncan House is located on property that historically served as the Bentley Springs Depot and Post Office, of which the foundations remain. The two-bay wide dwelling is located at 542 Bentley Road. The wood frame dwelling, which sits on a concrete block foundation, is clad in vinyl siding and capped by an asphalt-shingled half-hipped roof with a circa 1990 wood frame gable roof rear addition. Built into the hill, the dwelling features a one-story façade, two-story main block, and an addition. Vinyl cornerboards, overhanging eaves, and a boxed aluminum cornice accent the dwelling. An interior end concrete block chimney rises from the main block roof. The house is situated between the stone foundation ruins of the Bentley Springs Depot and Post Office and the Northern Central Railroad tracks, (now the Gunpowder Falls State Park Trail/NCRR trail). A stream runs through the rear yard.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The primary façade, which faces northeast, measures two-bays in width. The off-center entry features a single-leaf, wood, four-panel door with a square-edged wood sill and aluminum surround. Built into a hill, the second level is all that is visible on the northeast elevation. The façade is also pierced with a vinyl 2/2-window with a square-edged aluminum surround and sill, and louvered vinyl shutters. An inset, full-width porch shelters the elevation. The porch sits on a poured concrete foundation and is supported by a wood post balustrade. The ceiling is clad in aluminum.

The northwest elevation, which is parallel to the railroad track trail, stands two stories in height. A concrete retaining wall separates the main block from the façade, as the building is built into a hill. The northwest elevation is composed of the main block and gabled addition. The ground level of the main block is pierced with two vinyl 2/2-windows with aluminum square-edged surrounds and sills. A similar window also lights the first story of the addition. The second story features two wooden 2/2-windows with square-edged aluminum surrounds and sills and louvered vinyl shutters, placed just beneath the eaves. The main block is also lit with a pair of 1/1-vinyl windows with a shared aluminum surround and sill and louvered vinyl shutters. The second story of the gable end addition is marked with a similar single 1/1 window. The addition also features a louvered metal vent in the gable peak.

The rear elevation faces southwest and is composed entirely of the circa 1990 addition. The ground story features two symmetrically spaced wooden 2/2-windows with square-edged aluminum surrounds and sills. The second story features two evenly spaced 2/2-vinyl windows with aluminum surrounds and sills and louvered vinyl shutters.

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Name Duncan House, 542 Bentley Road, Baltimore County
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

Two 2/2-vinyl windows on the second story mark the southeast elevation of the main block. The windows feature aluminum square-edged surrounds and sills and louvered vinyl shutters. The first story is pierced with a single-leaf, vertical board, four-light entry, located near the rear addition. The addition features a ground story garage opening accessed by a vinyl paneled roll-up door. The second story features a tripartite window that consists of a wooden, fixed, plate-glass window with 1/1-sidelights. The window features an aluminum square-edged surround and sill and louvered vinyl shutters.

OUTBUILDINGS

The stone foundations of the 1866 Bentley Springs Post Office and Depot remains on the property to the southeast of the Duncan House. The dry-laid, five-foot high ruins are U-shaped and stand as the only remaining visible fabric of the post office and train depot that once occupied the site.

A circa 1990 pre-fabricated shed features a gambrel asphalt shingle roof, pressed vertical board siding and a wood post foundation. A double-leaf vertical-board door accesses the structure.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2896

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1866, 1939 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1866, 1939

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 dwelling known as the Duncan House is located at 542 Bentley Road in Election District Seven, in Bentley Springs near Parkton, in Baltimore County. The dwelling, erected circa 1929 by the Duncan family, stands on the property of the circa 1866 Bentley Springs Post Office site and stone foundation ruins. After successive ownership by the Duncan family, the Southcombs, Lydia Lemn, and Gloria Springham, the property returned to Lydia Lemn Irons and her husband, David Irons, in 1987. David Irons currently retains ownership.

HISTORY

Bentley Springs, originally known as Bentley's Springs, was established in the Seventh Election District, along the border of the Sixth District. The district was one of the largest and most populated regions of the county in the latter part of the 19th century, which had an area of 59.93 square miles and a population of 3,074 by 1870. It is bounded on the north by Pennsylvania, the south by the Eighth District, the east by Harford County, and the west by the Fifth and Sixth Districts. The area historically consisted of rolling hills, traversed by major transportation corridors, such as the Northern Central 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 farms and mills throughout the district.

Appearing on maps as early as 1850, the town of Bentley Springs is located near York Road and Parkton, along the Northern Central Railroad. Due to its location, Parkton was, in the late 19th century, a center for trade and shipping in the rich agricultural region. The town of Bentley Springs, founded by C.W. Bentley, was laid out just to the west of York Road, which featured many popular traveler's stops along the turnpike. 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 19th century, efforts to create better roads emanated from the state government's efforts to better serve the growing rural population. This action resulted in laying of a road from Baltimore, Maryland to York,

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Pennsylvania that would replace the winding, indirect Old York Road.¹ 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.

Just off the turnpike, Bentley's Springs was a popular summer resort, located twenty-five miles outside Baltimore City. The resort was settled around the nearby springs, which flowed from the nearby hillsides-- a popular medicinal and relaxation pastime in America. The spring water was bottled and sold in Baltimore. The resort town, developed by Charles W. Bentley circa 1850, originally belonged to a larger 7,000-acre tract of land owned by James Calder. Calder transferred 1275 acres to his daughter, Charlotte Withers in 1811, of which 165 acres were then purchased by Charles Bentley in 1865. A number of dwellings, a grand hotel (which, was destroyed by fire in 1868), a church, a post office (originally called the Bee Tree Post Office), and the train station further supported this thriving town which became known as Bentley's Springs. The station and post office opened in 1866. It is unknown when the post office fell into disrepair. However, the property, with the station, was sold to Edward Luby in 1908. In 1920, the property passed to the Sipe family who held it until 1924 when it was purchased with two-and-a-half acres by the Tracey family. In 1928 the same property was purchased by the Duncan family, who appear to have constructed the current house the following year. The foundation ruins of the post office and station stand on the present Duncan House site.

The Duncan House was constructed circa 1929 on the site of the Bentley Springs Post Office. Constructed in a vernacular manner, Duncan House appears to have been built for Payne and Alverta Duncan, who purchased the 2 ¾-acre property with the train depot remains from Norris and Esther Tracey in 1928. The Duncan family held the property plus an additional nine acres until 1984 when Marie Elizabeth Duncan sold the original 2 ¾ acres to the Southcombs and Lydia Lemns (later Irons). In 1987, the property was purchased by Gloria Springham, who sold it in 1993 to the Irons, who currently hold the title.

¹ 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.

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Chain of Title:

Part 1:

January 21 1863: Joseph Walker to Ann O. Bentley and Charles W. Bentley, husband
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber GHC 36 Folio 278

Part 2:

James Calder died in 1811 leaving 1275 acres to his daughter Charlotte Withers.

October 30, 1860: Charlotte Withers, widow, Susannah Withers, Edwin D. Withers, and Charlotte A.
Withers, heirs of James
Calder, to Adam Denmead
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber GHC 30 Folio 506

March 23, 1865: Talbott Denmead, Sucessor of Adam Denmead, Trustee for Charlotte Withers, to Ann
O. Bentley and Charles
W. Bentley, husband
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 44 Folio 319

Both:

November 22, 1882: Ann O. Bentley and Charles W. Bentley, husband, mortgaged to Samuel T. Beacham
and Harrison T.
Beacham, partners of John S. Beacham and Brother
Mortgage Records of Baltimore County
Liber WMI 102 Folio 202

October 30, 1905: Thomas S. Baer, Attorney, Frederick B. Beacham and Thomas S. Baer, Trustees of
the Estate of Elizabeth
Beacham, to Olivia D. Gillespie
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber WPC 290 Folio 386

December 8, 1908: Olivia D. Gillespie, widow, to Edward J. Luby
Land Records of Baltimore County

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Liber WPC 337 Folio 361

- January 12, 1920: Edward J. Luby and Estella Luby to John T. Sipe and Annie M. Sipe
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber WPC 520 Folio 175
- December 8, 1924: John T. Sipe and Annie M. Sipe, wife to Norris S. Tracey and Esther D. Tracey, wife
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber WPC 606 Folio 416
- May 2, 1928: Norris S. Tracey and Esther D. Tracey, wife, to Payne L. Duncan and Alverta Duncan, wife
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 659 Folio 525
- December 27, 1956: Payne L. Duncan and Alverta Duncan, wife, to Marie Elizabeth Duncan
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 3083 Folio 186
- November 27, 1984: Marie Elizabeth Duncan and Gilbert H. Southcomb and Lucille M. Southcomb
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 6836 Folio 21
- January 21, 1985: Gilbert H. Southcomb and Lucille M. Southcomb to Lucille M. Southcomb and Lydia L. Lemn
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 6863 Folio 819
- May 27, 1987: Lucille M. Southcomb and Lydia L. Irons, a.k.a. Lydia L. Lemn to Gloria Springham
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 7587 Folio 54
- May 27, 1987: Gloria Springham to David C. Irons and Lydia L. Irons, wife
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 7587 Folio 57
- August 6, 1993: David C. Irons and Lydia L. Irons, wife, to David C. Irons
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 10059 Folio 82

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2896

- 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.
Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.
Haile, Elmer R., Jr. "Post Offices in the Long Green Area." *History Trails Newsletter*. Baltimore Historical Society, Autumn 1975.
Maryland Historical Trust Vertical Files.
Scharf, Thomas J. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 2.75 Acres
Acreage of historical setting 165 Acres
Quadrangle name New Freedom Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Duncan House is located at 542 Bentley Springs Road in Bentley Springs in Baltimore County, Maryland as noted on Tax Map 12, Parcel 45 and in deed record Liber 10059 Folio 82. The Duncan House has been associated with the site since its construction circa 1939. Prior to the Duncan House, the Bentley Springs Post Office and Depot stood on the property. The post office and depot foundations, constructed circa 1866, remain on the site.

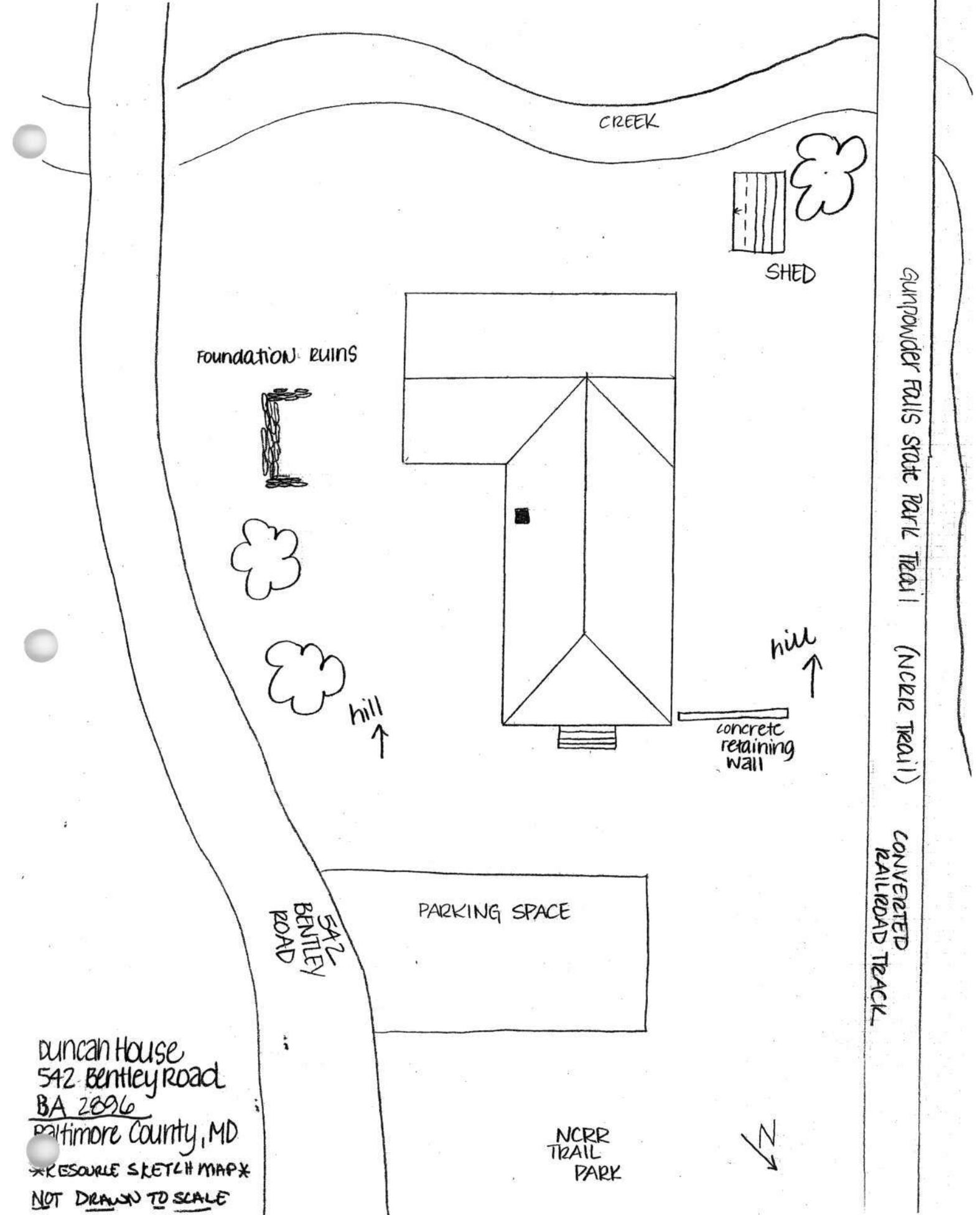
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	J. Bunting and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Inc.	date	February 18, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street, NW	telephone	(202)393-1199
city or town	Washington, DC	state	

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



CREEK

SHED

FOUNDATION RUINS

hill ↑

hill ↑

concrete retaining wall

PARKING SPACE

542 BENTLEY ROAD

GUNPOWDER FALLS STATE PARK TRAIL (NCCR TRAIL)
 CONVERTED RAILROAD TRACK

NCCR TRAIL PARK



Duncan House
 542 Bentley Road
 BA 2896

Baltimore County, MD

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
 NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

20814 YORK ROAD

(NORRISVILLE)
5663 1/4 NE



BA-2896
DUNCAN HOUSE
542 BENTLEY ROAD
PARKTON, BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA 2899
549 BENTLEY ROAD

BA 2898
19917 CAMERON MILL ROAD

BA 403
19635 EAGLE MILL ROAD

USGS Quad: New Freedom
Scale: 1:24,000





BA 2896

Duncan House

549 Bentley Road

Bentley Springs, Baltimore County, MD

Traceries

5/25/00

MD SHPO

Dwelling, East corner, view looking west

1 of 4

1 of 4



BA 2896
Duncan House
577 Bentley Road
Bentley Springs, Baltimore County, MD
Tracerzies
5/25/00
MD SHPO, WI
dwelling, north corner, view looking south

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BA 2096
Duncan House
549 Bentley Road
Bentley Springs, Baltimore County, MD
Traceries

5/25/00
MD SHPO

Dwelling, south corner, view looking North
& Foundation Ruins

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BA 2896
Duncan House
549 Bentley road
Bentley Springs, Baltimore county, MD

TracerIES
5/25/00
MD SHPO

Dwelling, southeast elevation, view looking northwest
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