

BA 90

OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE

1773

COCKEYSVILLE

PRIVATE

Old Gunpowder Meeting House is a solid, vernacular style stone structure built in 1773 as the second place of worship by its congregation on this site. The building and cemetery occupied this ground without benefit of a deed until 1815, when Colgate Deye Owings conveyed slightly more than an acre to trustees Mordecai Price, John Price, and Thomas Scott. The congregation abandoned this house as their regular meeting place early in its life, finding that most of them lived farther north. A new house was completed at Priceville in 1821. The cemetery was kept up at the old site and on rare occasions, there were indulged meetings in the original building.

The cemetery contains the graves of many early Baltimore County residents, including several mill owners, Quakers being unusually prominent in the gristmilling industry of the late 18th Century. There is a substantial stone wall around the cemetery and the wall is joined at two places to the meeting house itself.

This building provided segregated areas inside for male and female worshipers and some early benches are still intact. There was plain, in fact Spartan, living space on the second floor to accommodate participants at annual meetings. Henry Chandler Forman studied this building in 1956 and described it as "the finest example of the persistence of Medieval style into the eighteenth century in Baltimore County." This building has undergone deterioration, and its owners are seeking to sell it to a preservation-minded purchaser.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON
SAME

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 13,100 Beaver Dam Road (rear of gatehouse)
(E/S, 1.2 miles SE of Shawan Road)

CITY, TOWN _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____

Cockeysville --- VICINITY OF 2nd

STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore County

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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (vacant)

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Clark F. and Ann S. MacKenzie Telephone #: 821-8585

STREET & NUMBER 2324 W. Joppa Road, Suite 530

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE, zip code
Lutherville --- VICINITY OF Maryland 21093

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building

Liber #: EHK JR. 5589
Folio #: 253

STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE
Towson Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission
Preliminary Landmarks List

DATE June 1980 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of Planning and Zoning, 401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE
Towson Maryland 21204

7 DESCRIPTION

CLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Gunpowder Meeting House is a two-story plus attic stone structure with a gable roof and two corner chimneys. Dimensions are twenty by forty. The entrance for worshippers was by twin front doors that led into men's and women's seating areas inside. There were originally sliding partitions to make two separate meeting rooms if desired. Style is very plain, or vernacular. Overall plan is perfectly rectangular, with no projections of any kind. The roof ends flush with the end walls and the end rafters are exposed.

The cemetery wall joins onto the wall of the meeting house at two points. Some time before 1956, Henry Chandlee Forman reported that the brown fieldstone walls had "been crudely repointed." That crude workmanship is still evident in 1981. Forman called the structure an example of "hangover" of the Medieval building style of England that persisted in the colonies.

A winding staircase led to rooms on the second floor where guests were lodged at the yearly meetings. Doors are made of board and batten. Windows were sash type, six-over-six lights or panes in each. Original shutters were solid wood, in a paneled design. There were two fireplaces inside, one was built with an arch over the hearth. Forman also noted that the summer beams and supporting posts inside

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE

Henry Chandlee Forman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens (New York, 1956), pp. 171-175.
 Phoebe R. Jacobsen, Quaker Records in Maryland (Annapolis, 1966), pp. 25-26.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

S1E	36.51 ft.	NO° 21'W	110.81 ft.
S71° 37' 20"W	239.42 ft. to Beaver Dam Road	S83° 36"W	203. ft.
S59° 30"E	26. ft. along Beaver Dam Road	(Except portion reserved by C. D. Owings, Deeds WG 134:74)	
N71° 37' 20"E	215.99 ft.		
S1E	48.76 ft.		
N89E	199.90 ft.		

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning and Zoning, Baltimore County

DATE

April 23, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

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
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

the meeting room were replacements, but nonetheless copies of the original, Medieval style timbers notched with lambs' tongues and chamfering.

Forman stated that it was "the finest example of the persistence of Medieval style into the eighteenth century in Baltimore County, and one of the half dozen best examples in the State." (1)

This building has deteriorated in spite of several efforts to keep out vandals. Deteriorated cedar shake shingles, many missing, still serve as roofing material. In 1981, a set of plain wooden steps was installed on the north facade to give access to potential buyers. Old pews were still inside in April 1981, but scattered in disarray. Most windows were blocked with plywood panels.

NOTES:

1. Henry Chandlee Forman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens, pp. 171, 172, 173, 174.

and female worshipers and some early benches are still intact. There was plain, in fact Spartan, living space on the second floor to accommodate participants at annual meetings. Henry Chandlee Forman studied this building in 1956 and described it as "the finest example of the persistence of Medieval style into the eighteenth century in Baltimore County." This building has undergone deterioration, and its owners are seeking to sell it to a preservation-minded purchaser.

Old Gunpowder Friends Meeting House is the second place of worship on this site. Phoebe R. Jacobsen of the Hall of Records cites a tradition that there was a meeting organized on Western Run as early as 1675, but states that there are no records to prove the existence of this meeting until 1739, when Gunpowder Meeting and Patapsco Meetings were allowed to become independent of their parent body, the Monthly Meeting at the Clifts. (1)

Henry Chandlee Forman cites the somewhat romantic story that the meeting near Cockeysville "came about by the worship of one person seated on a log. He was joined by other worshippers." (2)

Forman states that a log meeting house was built soon after the establishment of the group. The land was held in some casual or informal manner, because it was not until 1815 that a deed was recorded certifying the Meeting as owner of the lot and graveyard. Colgate Deye Owings conveyed something more than an acre to trustees Mordecai Price, John Price, and Thomas Scott. (3)

Forman gives 1773 as the date of constructing the present building; it was covered by cedar shingles in the beginning, but they were later lost in a fire of 1886. (4) The body was incorporated in 1803. (5)

In 1819, the members of the Meeting concluded that most of them lived well beyond convenient traveling distance from the Meeting, as they were clustered in the Belfast and Western Run valleys. A committee was appointed to find a new site and to raise the funds and, thus, the "New Gunpowder Meeting House" (MHT Site No. BA 80) was built on Priceville Road in 1821. (6) The old place fell into disuse, although Mrs. Jacobsen reports that

an "Indulged Meeting" was held at Old Gunpowder in 1851. (7) The cemetery continued in use. Title to an access road was acquired in 1870 from John F. Shipley and wife. (8)

Forman's photos of 1939 show the structure in reasonably good condition, but his text, written in 1956, or before, reports the sad condition that the property had fallen into. Forman noted that entire sash windows were deteriorated and there were "animals walking in and out the doorways as well." He added the warning, "When the roof goes, the building goes." (9)

In 1972, Clark F. MacKenzie purchased the Meeting House and received title to the structure, but not to all of the surrounding cemetery. (10) He had the caretaker's house (MHT Site No. BA 968) moved out to the road frontage to block the cemetery entrance to vandals. However, the problem of vandalism (apparently unknown in 1939 when Forman's photos were taken) continues in spite of boarding up the structure.

At the time of this report, the property is on the real estate market to persons willing to restore or maintain the structure. In 1980, Mr. McKenzie's staff reported to the secretary of the Landmarks Preservation Commission that they were trying to acquire an adjoining half acre owned by the Aged German People's Home (unoccupied space being held in a trust) to acquire a drainfield that would allow conversion of the Meeting House to a dwelling. (11) Both Mr. MacKenzie and the trustees of Gunpowder Monthly Meeting made vain attempts to board up the structure against intrusion over recent years.

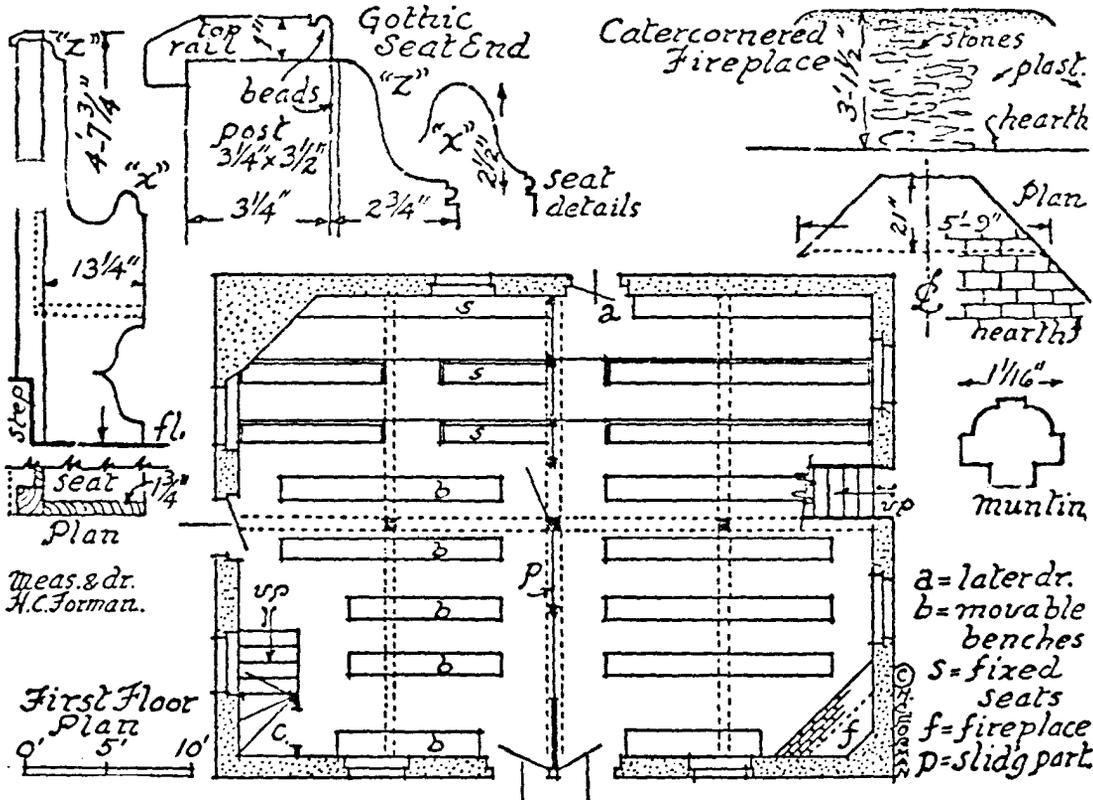
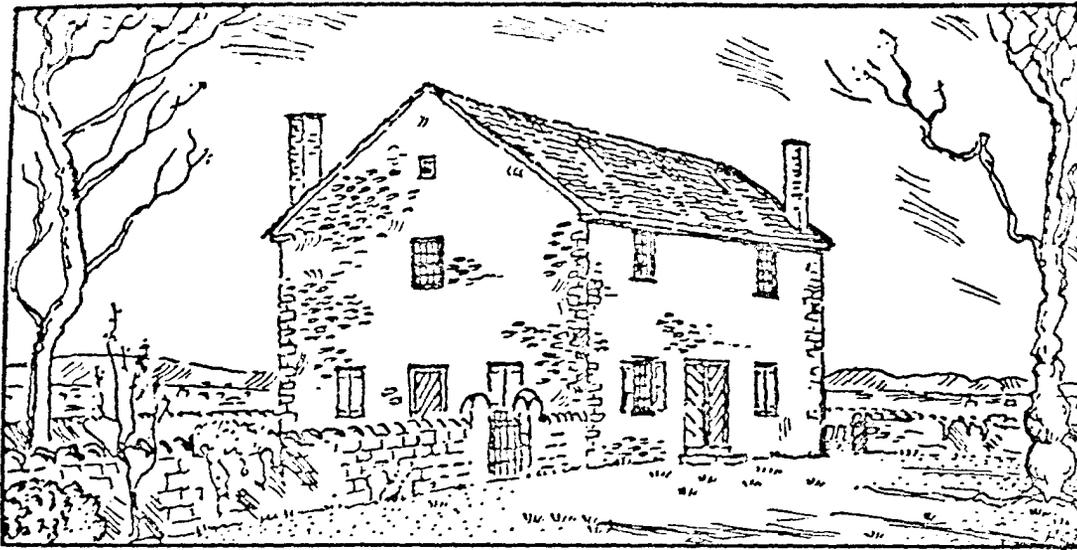
B4 90

CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 4, ITEM 8, PAGE 5, OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING
HOUSE

NOTES:

1. Phoebe R. Jacobsen, Quaker Records in Maryland (Annapolis, 1966), p. 25.
2. Henry Chandlee Forman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens (New York, 1956), p. 172.
3. Baltimore City Deeds, WG 134:74.
4. Forman, Tidewater Architecture, p. 172.
5. Old Baltimore City Charter Book, f. 66. Also, Baltimore City Deeds WG 45:77 (December 18, 1803).
6. William C. Gardner, "Gunpowder Friends Meeting House," informational sheet, one page.
7. Jacobsen, Quaker Records, p. 25.
8. Baltimore County Deeds, EHA 68:426.
9. Forman, Tidewater Architecture, pp. 171, 172, 188, 189.
10. Baltimore County Deeds, EJK JR. 5589:253.
11. Meeting, April 25, 1980, William B. Watkins of MacKenzie and Associates, Inc., with John McGrain, Office of Planning and Zoning, Towson.

FLOOR PLAN
 OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE
 BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
 BA-90



Well on the way to ruin is OLD GUNPOWDER FRIENDS' MEETING (1773), here shown by the writer by floor plan, details, and perspective. Note the two chambers each divided by summer beams into four equal compartments.

from: H.C. Forman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens. Bonanza Books: New York, 1956, p. 173.

LIST OF COLOR SLIDES - OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE, BA-90

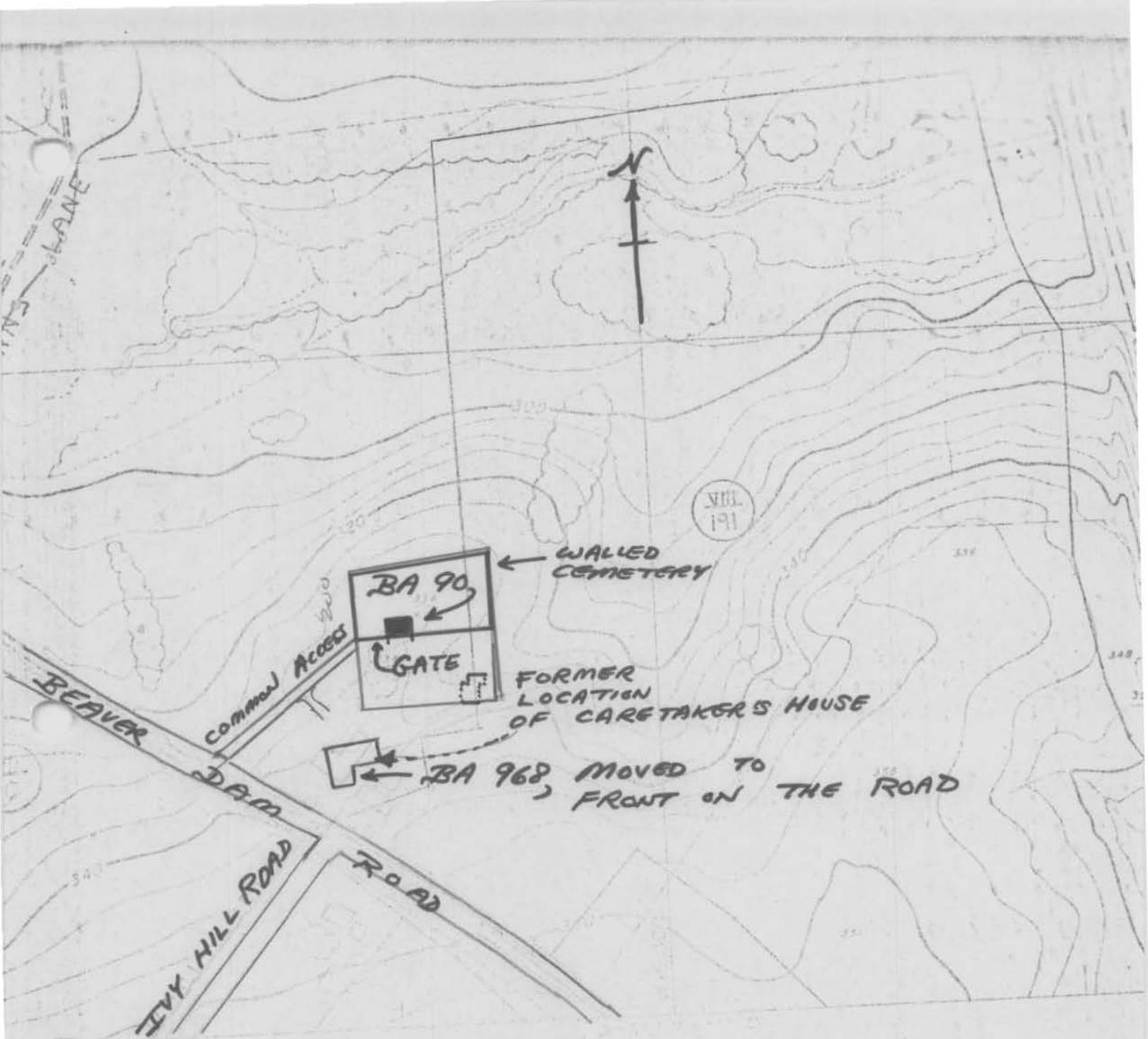
1. Old Gunpowder Meeting House, south facade from south
2. " " " " , east and north facades from NE
3. " " " " , west and north from NW
4. " " " " , west end and NW corner from NW

The above slides were taken by John McGrain on April 22, 1981 in late afternoon lighting.

5. Old Gunpowder Meeting House, south and east facades from SE
6. " " " " , east gable end
7. " " " " , east gable end and north facade
8. " " " " , interior, corner fireplace (SE corner)
9. " " " " , interior, typical chamfered post and panel
10. " " " " , interior, typical chamfered post and beams
11. " " " " , interior, stairs in SW corner
12. " " " " , interior, typical bench

Slides 5 through 7 were taken by John McGrain, May 5, 1981 in early morning light. Interior shots by electronic flash.

JWM:vh
May 21, 1981



PHOTOGRAMMETRIC MAP OF
BALTIMORE COUNTY METROPOLITAN

OLD QUAKER MEETING HOUSE BA-90
PROPERTY PLAT

Scale: 1 INCH = 200 FEET
B.C. Sheet NW 18-C

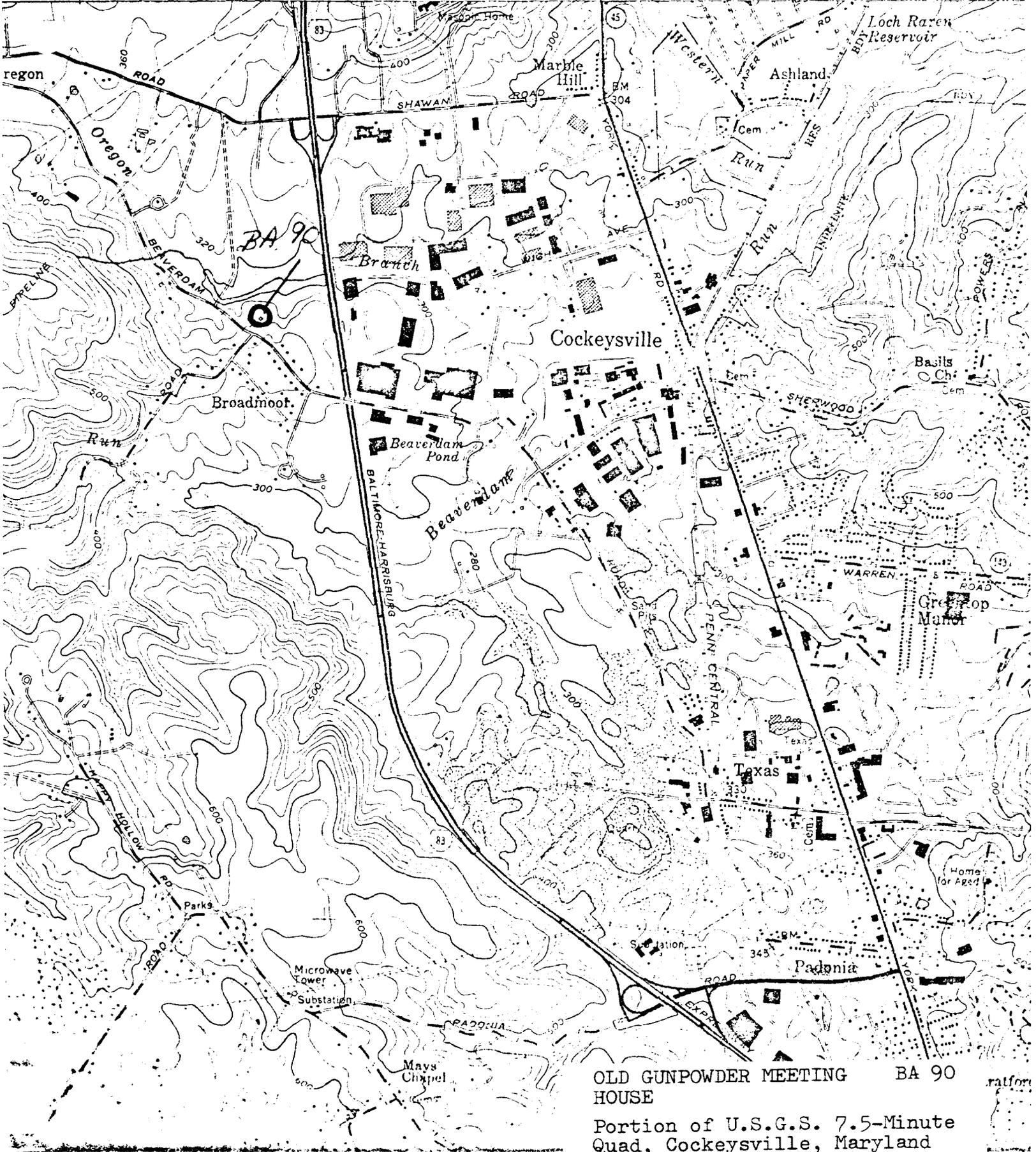
NW
B-C

COCKEYSVILLE QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND—BALTIMORE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPH)
NW/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE

HEREFORD 7.4 MI.
PRICEVILLE 3.1 MI.

HEREFORD 6.5 MI.
PHILOPOLIS 2.3 MI.

1:900,000 FEET



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA 90

Portion of U.S.G.S. 7.5-Minute Quad, Cockeysville, Maryland

Maryland
Baltimore County
District VIII
Beaver Dam Road

BA-90
Quaker Meeting House

0300905²08

1737

Remodeled in 1773 and 1886.

(First HABS Report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 29, 1965



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA-90
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain April 22 1981
Neg located at MHT
South facade from south
Photo 1 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA-90
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain April 22 1981
Neg. located at MHT
South facade from SW and west end
Photo 2 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA-90
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain May 5 1981
Neg. located at MHT
South facade & east end
Photo 3 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA-90
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain May 5 1981
Neg. located at MHT
East end from east; also cemetery
Photo 4 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA-90
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain May 5 1981
Neg. located at MHT
East end & north facade from NE
Photo 5 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA-90
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain May 5 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Interior, corner fireplace, SE corner
Photo 6 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA-90
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain May 5 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Interior, typical chamfered post &
panel
Photo 7 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA-90
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain May 5 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Interior, chamfered post and beams
Photo 8 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA-90
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain May 5 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Interior, laths in first story ceiling
Photo 9 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA-90
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain May 5 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Interior, stairs in SW corner
Photo 10 of 11



OLD GUNPOWDER MEETING HOUSE BA-90
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain May 5 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Interior, typical bench
Photo 11 of 11