

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes _____
no

Property Name: Crouse-Bish House Inventory Number: CARR-1695
 Address: 2306 Littlestown Pike (MD 97) Historic district: yes no
 City: Westminster, MD Zip Code: 21158 County: Carroll
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Littlestown
 Property Owner: Ms. Betty Bish Tax Account ID Number: 000796 and 07070
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 166 Tax Map Number: 30
 Project: MD 97 at Stone Road Intersection Relocation Agency: FHWA/SHA/Carroll County
 Agency Prepared By: MD SHA
 Preparer's Name: Katryn Barrett & Anne E. Bruder Date Prepared: 03/12/2012
 Documentation is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: Mount Pleasant Survey District
 Inventory Number: CARR-1714 Eligible: yes Listed: yes
 Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Description

Located at the crossroads of MD 97 (Westminster-Littlestown Pike) and Stone Road in the small community of Mt. Pleasant, the Crouse-Bish house and three outbuildings are situated on a 1.4 acre property. The lot slopes down and away from MD 97 and is bordered by agricultural fields to the west, Stone Road and a large house to the south, MD 97 to the east and older residential homes and fields to the north. The one-room Mt. Pleasant School House (CARR-120) is adjacent to the house and occupies the small northwest corner lot of the intersection of MD 97 and Stone Road. Constructed in 1913, the Crouse-Bish house is a two-and-one-half story, vernacular American four-square frame dwelling facing MD 97. Once a single-family home, the house is converted into two apartments. Some Prairie style elements are expressed on the house, though many cosmetic changes have been made during the general maintenance of the building. The main block of the house is rectangular in footprint (though almost square), with a small shed-roof bump-out projecting from the west side. The house is two bays wide by three bays deep and is supported with a combination of concrete block and brick foundation walls. This condition could be a result of a basement excavated at a later time, and the house may have originally been constructed on brick piers. Walls are clad in vinyl siding and a composite-shingled, hipped roof shelters the house. The roof overhangs slightly creating deep eaves characteristic of the four-square style.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Jim Talano ✓
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services
B. Kuntz
 Reviewer, National Register Program

4/19/2012
 Date
4/20/12
 Date

The roof slopes are punctuated with hipped-roof dormer windows on each elevation except the back (east side). A corbelled-capped brick chimney rises from the center of the roof ridge. All of the windows on the building have been replaced, with exception to the dormer windows, with aluminum framed sash systems. Most of these windows are two over two, with the exception of a larger, single pane window found on the south elevation, and small rectangular replacement windows punctuating the basement level. A metal bulkhead door leading to the basement extends from the east elevation.

The front and south elevations feature a wraparound porch. The composite shingled porch roof is supported by slender Tuscan-style columns resting on a tongue-and-groove porch floor. The porch roof was possibly replaced during the addition of siding and replacement of the main roof, as it is composed of metal and features an integrated gutter and drainage system. The porch foundation consists of concrete block piers with the spaces between filled in with brick. The main entrance is composed of a replacement paneled and glazed front door behind an aluminum screen door. Expressing a vernacular interpretation of Greek revival details, the door surround features a three-light transom supported by two-pane sidelights atop paneled wood pilasters. The fenestration on the front façade features two windows above the main entrance, and one window to the north of the entrance.

A wooden staircase leading to a door on the second level rises along the north elevation. A second floor window was converted to a door during the time when the house was reconfigured into two apartments (sometime in the 1960s). A central window and additional window are also found on the second story. Two windows are located on the first story of this elevation. The east (back) elevation features two windows on the second story, one on the first, and the one-story bump-out. A small window provides some sunlight into the bump-out on this elevation. Two additional entrances are found on the south elevation, one leading into the bump-out portion of the house. This could have been used as a mud room and possibly added at a later time. The other door is positioned on the west side of this elevation. Two windows detail the second story.

Three outbuildings are located on the property. The largest of these is a frame, board and batten clad garage. Sliding barn doors provide entrance into the gable end of this one-bay structure. A single, fixed four-light window is located on the south elevation. The building is supported on a brick foundation clad in stucco.

A small, frame, pyramidal roofed privy, clad in wood siding, is situated on the south side of the property. A vertical planked door provides entrance to the building. Nearby is a similar frame building that once housed a well pump. This building is sheltered with a gabled roof and is missing a door.

Historic Context

The Crouse-Bish property is located along the 18th-century Baltimore-to -Gettysburg route known as MD 97 or the Westminster-Littlestown Pike. Situated between the county seat of Westminster and Union Mills, the small crossroads town of Mt. Pleasant provided a convenient stopping point along the busy turnpike and Stone Road (a county road). Mt. Pleasant was the name of an original land patent and was likely named for its location atop Parr's Ridge, a small mountain ridge that runs along MD 97 north of Westminster. MD 97 was originally a privately-owned branch of the Baltimore and Reisterstown Turnpike, established during the 1808-1815 time-period. The road has several names, often referencing the route from Baltimore to Littlestown, or points in between. The nearest toll gate for the turnpike was located just south of Union Mills and north of Mt. Pleasant.

Constructed in 1913 for Abraham F. and Elizabeth Crouse, the house is currently owned by descendants of the Crouse family. The Crouse families are long-time residents of Carroll County and the Mt. Pleasant area, having appearances on 19th century maps, censuses and deed records. In the mid-19th century, John and Elizabeth Crouse carved out a parcel of land from an original land patent known as the Resurvey on Shoemaker's Lot to establish their family farm.

By 1880, the Crouses divided their property and distributed smaller parcels to family members. John and Elizabeth Crouse

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW													
Eligibility recommended				Eligibility not recommended									
Criteria:	<u> </u> A	<u> </u> B	<u> </u> C	<u> </u> D	Considerations:	<u> </u> A	<u> </u> B	<u> </u> C	<u> </u> D	<u> </u> E	<u> </u> F	<u> </u> G	
MHT Comments:													
_____ Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services							_____ Date						
_____ Reviewer, National Register Program							_____ Date						

donated a small portion of land at the southeast corner of their property, adjacent to the existing house, for the purpose of establishing the Mt. Pleasant School (Carroll County Land Records). Listed in the Census records as a carpenter in 1860, and later a farmer in 1880, John Crouse also served as one of the three original trustees for the Mt. Pleasant School (Sharf, p.241).

David Crouse, son of John and Elizabeth, purchased this parcel for \$145.75 in April of 1889, only to sell it two years later to William Beggs for \$2,100 (Carroll County Land Records). Listed in the 1880 Census as a dry goods merchant, David Crouse likely worked in the store once located on the lot adjacent to this parcel to the north. Mr. Beggs held on to the property for ten years when he sold it to William Hull in 1892. The parcel returned to the Crouse family by March 1902 when Abraham and Elizabeth Crouse purchased the parcel (Carroll County Land Records). According to Mrs. Betty Bish, the wife of Abraham Crouse's grandson Carroll Bish, the original farm house located on the property burned down in the early 1900s (Betty Bish, Feb. 2008). Abraham, Elizabeth and their two children, Airy and Oliver, lived in the original house on the property from 1902 until 1913 when the existing four-square house was constructed following the fire. Occupied as a produce farmer, Abraham cultivated his own farmland adjacent to the current house parcel. The 1910 Census records indicate his 22-year old daughter, Airy, taught school at a public school. According to Mrs. Betty Bish, Airy taught school for many years at the Mt. Pleasant School. Airy eventually married William C. Bish, moved out of the family house and rented a house with her husband's family in the Westminster District, and stopped teaching school by 1920. Oliver, a farm laborer, eventually moved in with his sister and brother-in-law by 1930. Abraham, at age 73, retired from farming by 1930 and continued living in the house with his wife Elizabeth, until his death in the early 1930s.

Elizabeth Crouse conveyed the house and parcel to her daughter Airy and husband William Bish in January 1936. Records are inconclusive as to whether Airy and William lived in or rented the house, but they eventually conveyed the property to their son, Carroll Bish and his wife Betty in 1985 (Carroll County Land Records). Carroll and Betty converted the house into two rental units, though were careful to minimally impact the exterior of the building. The house is in very good condition, having been well-maintained within the Crouse-Bish family since construction in 1913.

The house is not individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, but contributes to the Mount Pleasant Survey District.

Constructed in 1913, the Crouse-Bish house replaced an earlier house that occupied the property. The 1913 construction date is not a significant period in the development of the Mt. Pleasant community, county, or region. Though farmers, supporting the rural agricultural community and landscape, once owned and occupied the land, the building is not directly associated with the events and trends that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, and is therefore not considered eligible under Criterion A. The property is not associated with any person or group of persons of outstanding importance to the community, state, or nation, and is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B.

The house, although well-maintained has exterior renovations, and is an example of a rural American Foursquare building with subtle Prarie-style elements, while the interior has been altered to create two apartments. The house faces MD 97, the main road through the community and is surrounded by other residential properties and farmland. The assoicated outbuildings (privy, pump house, and garage) also contribute to the setting and historic context. The location on the outskirts of town is appropriate for this type of structure. Since the house lacks original historic fabric, such as windows and doors and is clad in vinyl siding, it has lost integrity of materials, workmanship and design. The house is therefore not eligible under Nantional Register of Historic Places Criterion C, although it contributes to the Mount Pleasant Survey District. The Crouse-Bish was not evaluated under Criterion D. The historic boundary of the house includes the three outbuildings and building footprint and three large oak trees in front of the house, and the boundary is confined to the boundaries of Tax Parcel Nos. 166 and 10, as shown on Carroll County Tax Map 30, for a total of 1.44 acres.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW													
Eligibility recommended							Eligibility not recommended						
Criteria:	A	B	C	D	Considerations:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
MHT Comments:													
_____ Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services							_____ Date						
_____ Reviewer, National Register Program							_____ Date						

Sources Consulted:

Hollifield, William. Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and Baltimore County, Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978.

Martenet, S.J. Martenet's Map of Carroll County, Maryland, Simon J. Martenet Surveyor & Civil Engineer, Baltimore, MD, 1862.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland, Volume II, 1882. Reprint. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968.

Warner, Nancy M. et al. Carroll County Maryland. Westminster, MD: Carroll County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Weeks, Christopher. The Buildings of Westminster in Maryland, Fishergate Publishing Company, Inc., Annapolis, MD. 1979.

Carroll County Land Records

JBB 19, page 44, John and Elizabeth Crouse and Alfred and Amelia Bish (Grantors) to the Trustees of the Mt. Pleasant School House Lot (Grantees), March 3, 1856.

FJS, 53, page 431, John and Elizabeth Crouse to David Crouse, April 16, 1880.

AIA, 56, p. 509 David Crouse to William Beggs, March 28, 1882.

Book 76, page 542, William Beggs to William Hull, March 15, 1892.

JHB 95, p. 156, William Hull to A. Franklin Crouse, March 15, 1902.

EMM, Jr. 163, page 314, Elizabeth and Oliver Crouse to Airy Bish, January 22, 1936.

Book 926, p. 864, Airy Bish to Betty R. Bish, November 15, 1985.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

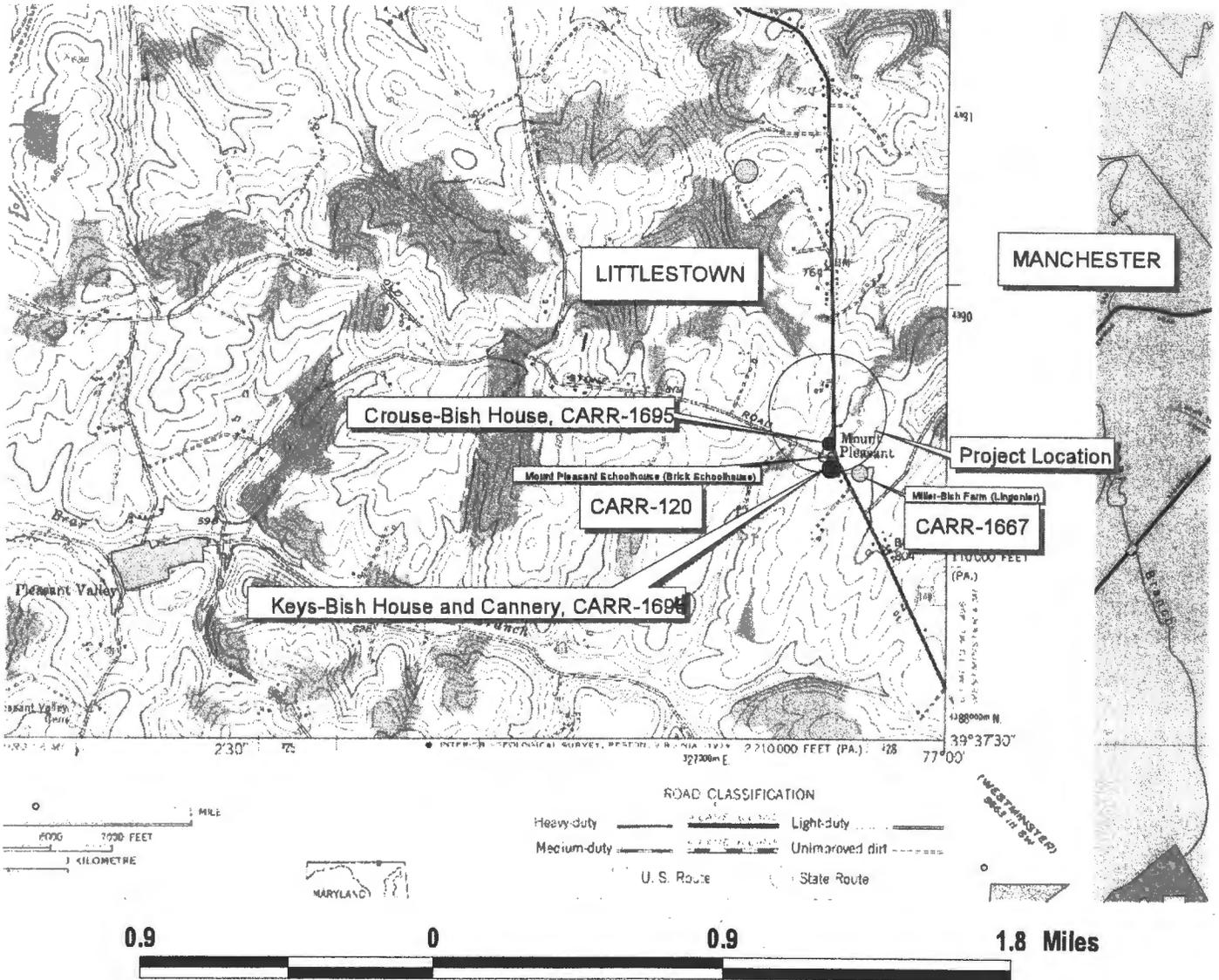
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

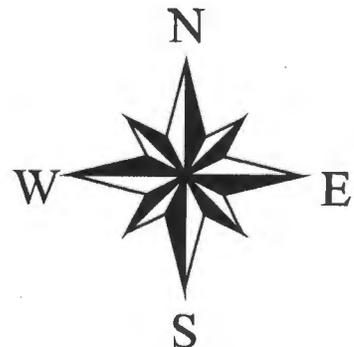
Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

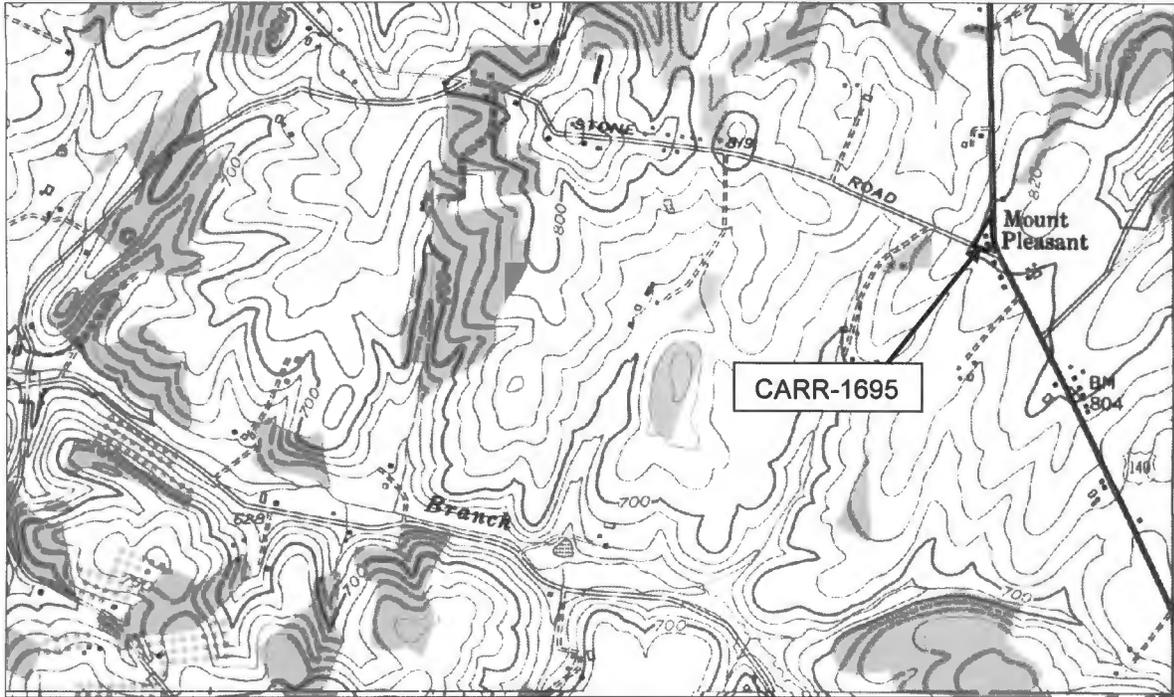
Resource Location Map on USGS Littlestown Quad



-  Maryland Inventory of Historic Places
-  Maryland Historical Trust Easements
-  National Register of Historic Places
-  USGS Topo Quad Index
-  County



CARR-1695
Crouse-Bish House
2306 Littlestown Pike (MD 97)
Littlestown quad 1953, Photorevised 1971, Photoinspected 1984



National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map c. 2011-13



JKC 1/23/2015



Carr - 1695

Crouse-Bish House

Carroll County, MD

SHA

January 2008

MD SHPO

View of Facade (East elevation) of
the house.

1/B



Carr - 1695

Crouse-Bish House

Carroll County, MD

SHA

January 2008

View of the South elevation,

2/10



Carr - 1695

Crouse-Borish House

Carroll County, MD

SHA

January 2008

View of the north and west elevation.

3/6



Carr-1695

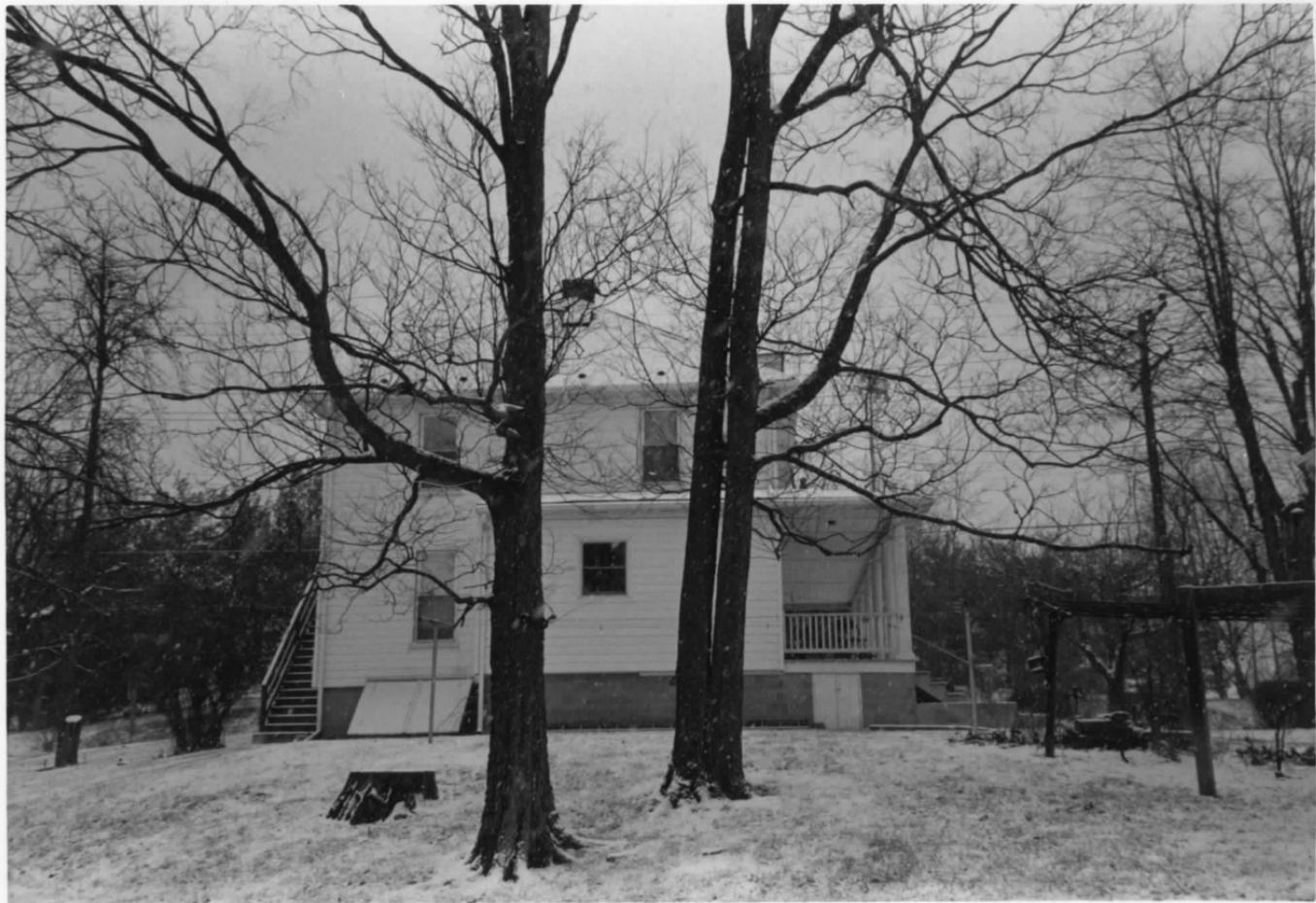
Crouse-Borsh House

Carroll County, MD

SHA

January 2008

View of the North elevation,



Carr - 1695
Crouse - Birch House
Carroll County, MD
SHA
January 2008

View of the west elevation,

S/6



Carr - 1695

Crouse-Poish House

Carroll County, MD

SHA

January 2008

View of the South elevation
of the house.

6/6