

**CH-319**  
**Richard T. Knott House**  
**Indian Head vic.**  
**Private**

**1916**

Located in a semi-suburban setting, the Richard T. Knott House displays typical features of the vernacular Victorian style. The house consists of a 2-story frame dwelling with a T-shaped footprint. The cross gable roof features gable end cornice returns and a single interior parged concrete chimney. A 1-story wrap-around frame porch supported on Victorian-style turned posts, extends across the facade and the windows retain their original 2/2 wood sash. The window trim consists of square-edged wood casings that feature slight overhanging ears.

The Knott House is a good example of the many modest dwellings that were erected in the late 19th and early 20th century near the newly opened and expanding Naval Proving Ground at Indian Head. Built as a speculative venture on land originally subdivided in 1910 as "South Glymont," the house displays a typical vernacular Victorian form and detailing.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH-319

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Richard T. Knott House

common/other name \_\_\_\_\_

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 4945 Strauss Avenue not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Indian Head vicinity  state Maryland code MD  
county Charles code 017 zip code 20640

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>		buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>		Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes  Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_  
No

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-319

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6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular Victorian

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation solid: poured concrete

roof cross gable: asphalt shingles

walls frame: asbestos shingles

other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance  
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1916  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1916  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation Undefined  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Charles County Land Records Office, Plat Book Files, Liber HCC 22, Folio 47, "Map of South Glymont, Charles County, Maryland, Prepared by Henry Crocker, Falls Church, Va., May, June 1910," Miscellaneous drawer, #M-39.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

Lorenz, Edward. "Indian Head in Historical Perspective," In *Praising the Bridge That Brought Me Over: One Hundred Years at Indian Head*. Andrea Hammer, ed. La Plata, MD: Charles County Community College, 1990.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 1.98 acres

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

The property at 4945 Strauss Avenue is designated as Parcel 300 on Map 11, Grid 18 on the Charles County Property Map.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

The dwelling at 4945 Strauss Avenue has been associated with Parcel 300, Map 11 since its construction in 1916.

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11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian  
organization Charles County Planning Dept. date Oct.15,1998  
street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689  
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646  
=====

12. Property Owner  
=====

name Clara Ardella Carpenter c/o Riley  
street & number 67 Circle Avenue telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Indian Head state MD zip code 20640  
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Section 7 Page 1

Richard T. Knott House  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

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Located in a semi-suburban setting, the Richard T. Knott House displays typical features of the vernacular Victorian style. The house consists of a 2-story frame dwelling with a T-shaped footprint. The cross gable roof features gable end cornice returns and a single interior concrete parged chimney. A 1-story wrap-around frame porch supported on Victorian-style turned posts, extends across the facade. The windows retain their original 2/2 wood sash and are trimmed in square-edged wood casings that feature slight overhanging ears.

The Knott House stands on a 2-acre suburban lot in a subdivision once known as South Glymont. Bordered on both sides by similar lots improved with modest 20th century dwellings, the property contains several medium sized trees. The lot slopes down from Strauss Avenue to the front of the house, and a dirt driveway extends back along the southeast side of the house. Dwight's Place, a dirt drive, borders the lot on the northwest.

Consisting of main front gable section with a "T" extension on its southeast face, the house stands on a continuous poured concrete foundation, and has been reclad in asbestos shingles. The cross-gable roof is covered in asphalt shingles, and its boxed eaves feature cornice returns and raking cornices on the gable ends. The single interior chimney extends from the ridge of the "T" extension, and is parged with concrete. The porch wraps around from the northeast wall of the "T" to the front gable of the facade. Its hipped roof is supported by turned wood posts. The porch has been screened and a knee wall erected to enclose the interior. The house retains all of its original 2/2 wood sash windows, as well as its square-edged and eared wood trim.

The house's facade consists of two parts. One part is the gable front of the main section, while the other is the northwest elevation of the "T" extension. Two window openings, one on the "T" section and a paired window on the front gable end, pierce the first story of the facade. In addition, a single-leaf wood panel-and-light door provides entry at the center of the facade. The second story also contains three windows holding original sash. Two of these open into the "T" extension, and the third onto the upper story of the front gable section.

The northwest elevation is broken by four symmetrically arranged window openings, two on the first story and two on the second. All contain original 2/2 sash. The rear wall of the front gable section contains two vertically aligned single windows. Several

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Section 7 Page 2

Richard T. Knott House  
name of property  
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county and state

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additions infill the south crook of the "T." One addition consists of a open shed roof porch with a second story bathroom addition above. The bathroom is lit by a fixed square light. Another 1-story frame addition extends off the rear wall of the "T." A second door provides access to the house through the open porch. Finally, the southeast gable end of the "T" contains two stacked original single windows.

No outbuildings are associated with the Knott residence.

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Section 8 Page 1

Richard T. Knott House  
name of property  
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=====

The Richard T. Knott House is a good example of the many modest dwellings that were erected in the late 19th and early 20th century near the newly opened and expanded Naval Proving Ground at Indian Head. Built as a speculative venture on land originally subdivided in 1910 as South Glymont, the house displays a typical vernacular Victorian form and detailing.

Richard T. Knott had the house erected in 1916 on lot number 33 in the subdivision of South Glymont. Knott purchased the lot from Williston B. and Agnes E. Stoddard of Washington, D.C. in June 1916 for ten dollars. In 1913, the Stoddards had acquired eleven lots in South Glymont from Sigal Brown, the original developer of South Glymont. After constructing the house, Knott sold it and the lot to a relative J. Hallie Knott for \$200 in 1918. The house came under the control of the Eastern Shore Trust Company in 1926, and was sold to Ruth E. Carpenter for \$1300 two years later. Carpenter owned the house until her death in 1977. After her death, the property passed to Clara Ardella Carpenter, the current owner.

The house was one of numerous dwellings erected during the build-up of the nearby Naval Proving Ground and Ordnance Plant at Indian Head prior to World War I. Opened in 1890 as the Naval Proving Ground, the installation provided much needed employment in the depressed local economy. It also increased the demand for nearby housing. In preparation for World War I and during the war, the Navy instigated a building program. Run by the United States Housing Corporation, the program designed and built residential communities on and off the base to house the plant's thousands of employees.<sup>1</sup> Private enterprises followed this lead.

Sigal Brown, a locally prominent land speculator in the early 20th century, purchased and subdivided several tracts of land adjacent to the town of Indian Head. One of these he named "South Glymont" after the nearby mid-19th-century postal village. The lots, generally 2-acres in size, lined the south side of Strauss Avenue leading into Indian Head. Many of the early 20th century houses built on these lots remain today, reflecting the early boom period of Indian Head Naval station.

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<sup>1</sup> Edward Lorenz, "Indian Head in Historical Perspective," In *Praising the Bridge That Brought Me Over: One Hundred Years at Indian Head*, Andrea Hammer, ed., La Plata, MD: Charles County Community College, 1990.

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**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Western Shore

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

ARCHITECTURE

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Richard T. Knott House  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====  
**Chain of Title:**

May 13, 1913:                    Sigal & Francis P. Brown of  
Washington, DC to Williston B.  
Stoddard  
\$10  
Lots 10, 11, 12, 13, 27, 33, 50, 51  
& 53; also "F," & "G" of South  
Glymont  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber HCC 25    Folio 670

June 13, 1916:                    Williston B. & Agnes E. Stoddard of  
Washington, DC to Richard T. Knott  
\$10  
Lot No. 33 of South Glymont  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 30    Folio 122

October 10, 1918:                    Richard T. Knott to J. Hallie Knott  
\$200  
Lot No. 33, South Glymont  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber WMA 33    Folio 626

June 5, 1926:                    J. Hallie & Lucy A. Knott to Eastern  
Shore Trust Company  
Lot No. 33, South Glymont  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber WMA 45    Folio 424

December 31, 1928:                    The Eastern Shore Trust Company to  
Ruth E. Carpenter  
\$1300  
Lot No. 33 of H. Crocker's Survey of  
S. Glymont (see Plat Book HCC 22,  
Folio 47)  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber WMA 49    Folio 517

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August 9, 1977:

Dorothy T. Conner, Personal  
Representative of the estate of Ruth  
E. Carpenter to Ruth Marguerite Cox,  
Mary Regina O'Malley, Catherine  
Eloise Echols, Clara Ardella  
Carpenter, Elizabeth Hazel Wright,  
Francis Cooksey Carter, Dorothy T.  
Conner & Gladys J. Riley  
\$1.00  
Lot No. 33  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 524 Folio 32

August 9, 1977:

Ruth Marguerite Cox, Mary Regina  
O'Malley, Catherine Eloise Echols,  
Clara Ardella Carpenter, Elizabeth  
Hazel Wright, Francis Cooksey  
Carter, Dorothy T. Conner & Gladys  
J. Riley to Clara Ardella Carpenter  
\$10  
Lot No. 33 of H. Crocker's Survey of  
South Glymont (see Plat Book HCC 22,  
Folio 47)  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 524 Folio 34

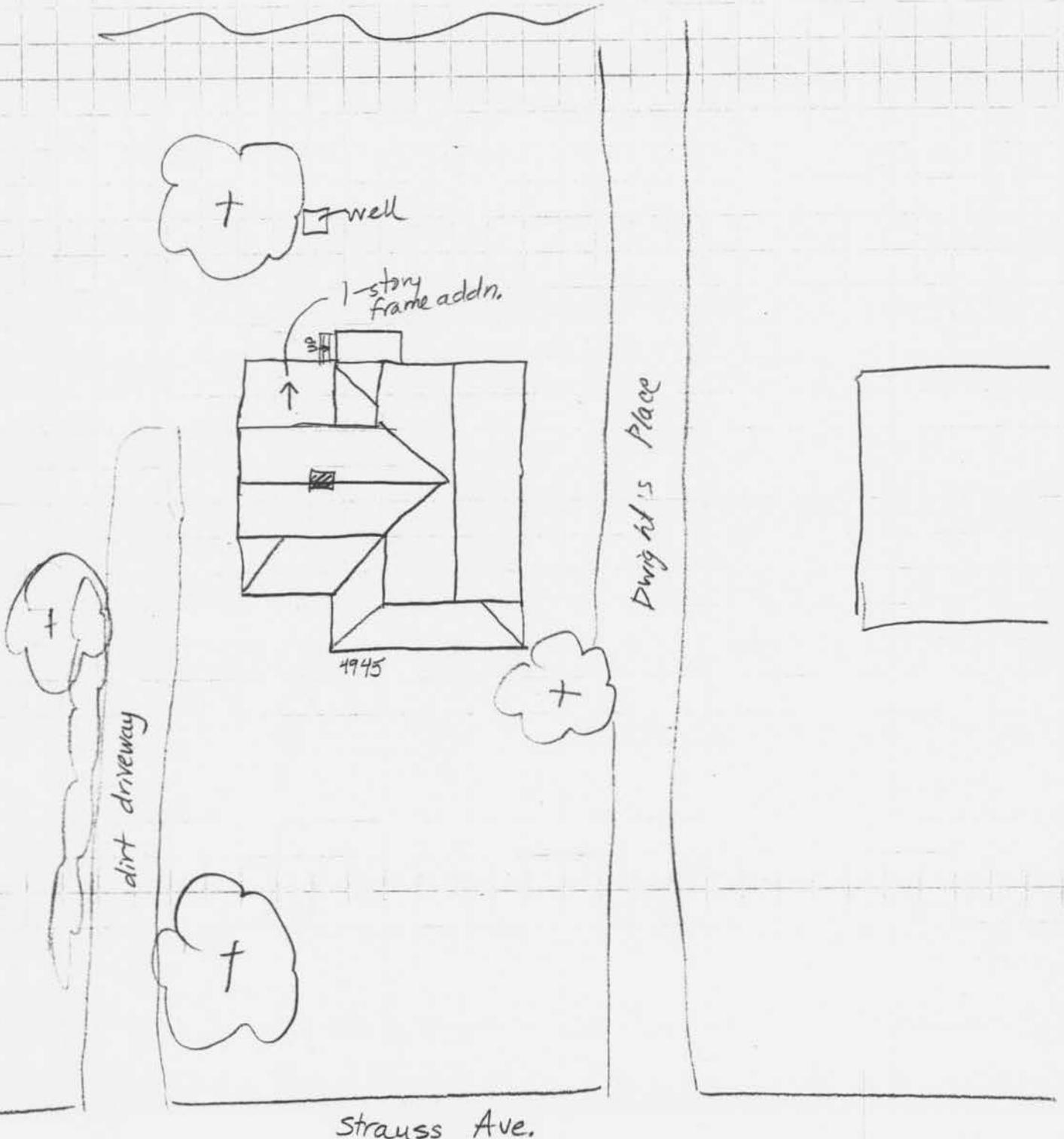
# RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

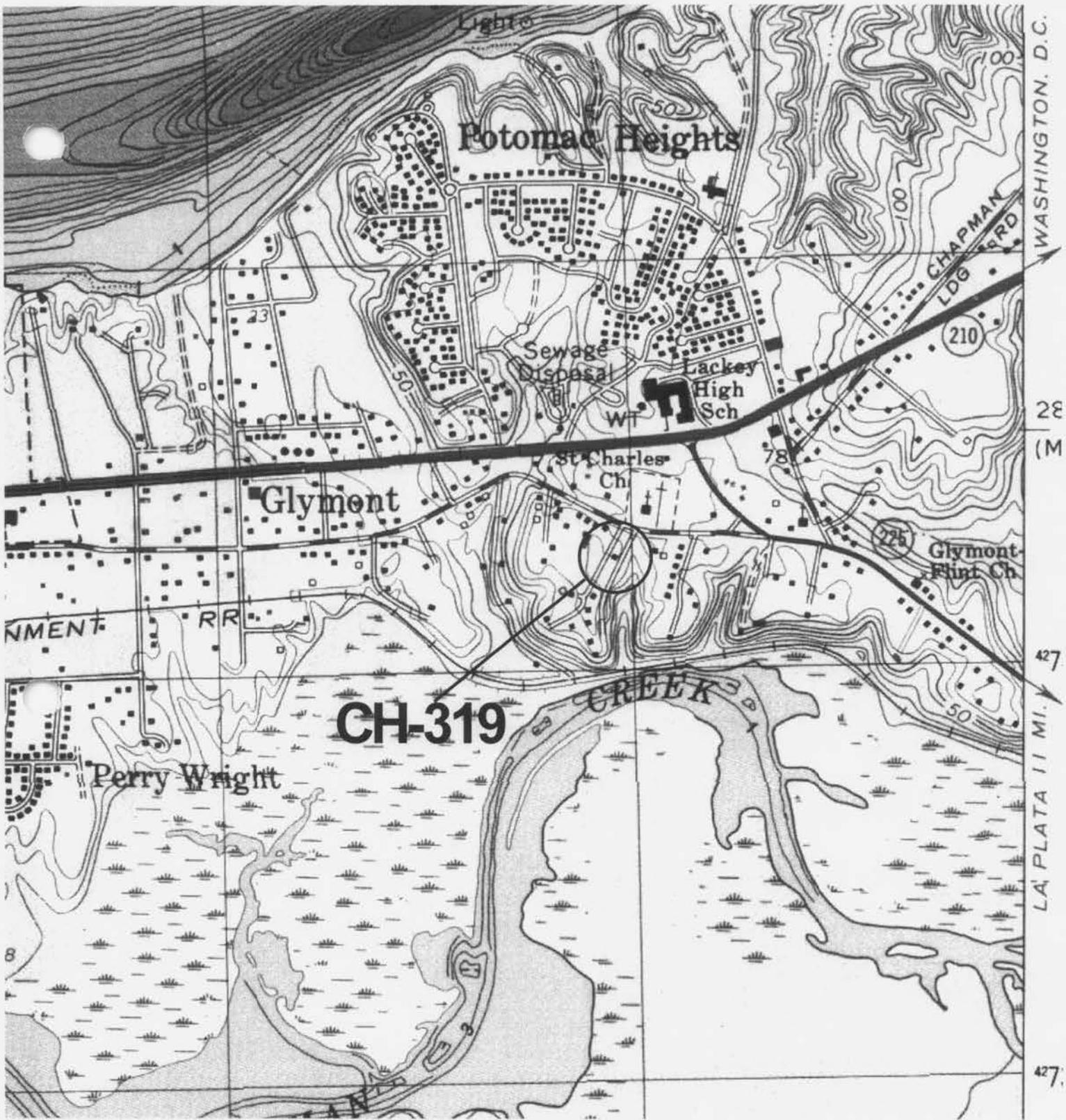
9/98

K.G. SMITH

RICHARD T. KNOTT HOUSE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
4945 Strauss Ave.  
Indian Head vic.

CH-319





Richard T. Knott House  
Charles County, MD

CH-319

INDIAN HEAD, MD QUAD



CH-319

RICHARD T, KNOTT HOUSE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
K.G. SMITH

9/98

MARYLAND SHPO  
LOOKING WEST  
1 OF 2



CH-319

RICHARD T. KNOTT HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

9/98

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING EAST

2 OF 2