

CH-354
Chillum
La Plata
Private

c. 1914

Built by W. Mitchell Digges shortly after he acquired the property in 1914, Chillum is named for the ancestral English home of the Digges family. A large and very handsome two-story, L-shaped frame house, it is of late Victorian design. Typical of this house type, it has deep verandas and many gables. It is one of the more prominent private homes in La Plata, enhanced by spacious and attractively landscaped grounds.

Maryland Historical Trust
 Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
 U.S. 301 South Corridor Transportation Study

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic Chillum

and/or common Digges Property

2. Location:

street & number 509 Washington Street ___ not for publication

city, town La Plata ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Charles

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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"/> education	<input checked="" 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"/> other:
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	

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

name W. Mitchell Digges, Jr., c/o Edward S. Digges

street & number P.O. Box 580

telephone no.:

city, town La Plata

state and zip code MD 20646

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Charles County

liber 1225

street & number 101 Catalpa Drive

folio 163

city, town La Plata

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Sites in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties

date 1980

___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository/survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville

state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No.: CH-354 (PACS C99)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Resource Count: 5

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

Chillum was previously inventoried by the Maryland Historical Trust in the 1970s; however, an extensive survey form was not completed. Chillum is a 2½-story, 5-bay cross-gable house with Folk Victorian influences on the west side of Washington Avenue in La Plata, Charles County. Constructed in 1915, the house has an L-shaped plan, a projecting cutaway center bay on the east and south elevations, and cutaway bays at the north and south gable ends.

The structure has a metal, cross-gable roof with centered gables on the east, north, and south elevations. The house has two brick chimneys; one is located near the center of the house and the other is located near the west exterior wall of the ell. The house is of wood-frame construction with wood clapboards; the foundation is not visible. The windows are 9/1 double-hung wood with wood shutters.

The east, or front elevation has an off-center projecting cutaway bay with a double door. The doors have a 3-light transom. The full-width hipped-roof porch has a pediment aligned with the entry. The pediment is supported by paired, round tapered wood columns. The porch wraps around the north and south elevations, and is screened at the first bay. The fenestration pattern is symmetrical, with four full-height windows on the first story and five windows on the second story. The gable above the cutaway bay and the pediment each have a semi-circular window.

The north elevation has a 2-story cutaway bay at the gable end which has a door and two windows on the first story, three windows on the second story, and a semi-circular window in the gable end. The 2-story ell, which is 3-bays wide, has a gable in the center bay, and two windows on the first and second stories. Located at the first bay of the ell is a 2-story shed-roof addition with windows on both stories, and a smaller 1-story shed-roof addition which has a sliding glass door.

The west elevation of the house is concealed at the first and second bays by the shed-roof additions. There are four casement windows on the first story and one window on the second story. The west elevation of the ell is 1-bay wide and has two small windows in the gable end.

The south elevation has a cutaway bay similar to the bay on the north elevation, and a projecting bay with a gable in the center of the ell. The fenestration pattern is symmetrical, with eight windows and two doors on the first story, and nine windows on the second story. The first bay of the ell has a small shed-roof entry porch.

There are four buildings associated with this property. Two of the buildings are wood-frame sheds with asphalt shingle, front-gable roofs. Constructed circa 1915, the sheds are located west of the house.

The third outbuilding is a garage with an asphalt shingle, gable roof. Constructed circa 1915, the garage is of wood-frame construction and is located west of the house and sheds.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Chillum

SURVEY NO.: CH-354 (PACS C99)

ADDRESS: 509 Washington Street, La Plata, Charles County

7. Description (Continued)

The fourth outbuilding is a 2-story barn with a standing seam metal, gable roof. Constructed circa 1915, the barn is of wood-frame construction and is located west of the house, sheds and garage.

The property is located on the west side of Washington Street on a large level site. The site is generally clear of trees; there are some mature trees near the house. There are residences to the north and south and woods to the west. The property's setting is a residential area of the town of La Plata, along the historic main road to Washington, D.C.

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No.: CH-354 (PACS C99)

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.02 hectares (5 acres)

Quadrangle name La Plata, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caroline Hall/Ryan McKay

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date September 1996

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

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
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Chillum

SURVEY NO.: CH-354 (PACS C99)

ADDRESS: 509 Washington Street, La Plata, Charles County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.
- Charles County Retired Teachers Association. A Legacy: One- and Two-Room Schools in Charles County. La Plata: Dick Wildes Publishing Company, 1984.
- Klapthor, Margaret Brown, and Paul Dennis Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.
- Martenet, Simon J. Martenet's Map of Maryland, Atlas Edition. Baltimore, 1866.
- Maryland Geological Survey. [1840] Map of Eastern Maryland with 1860 Additions. Copy on file at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Fieldguide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1983.
- Voire, J. Richard. Homeplaces, Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Southern Maryland Studies Center, 1990.
- Wearmouth, John M. Charles County Railroad. An unpublished paper on deposit at the Prince George's County Historical Society. August 1984.
- Ibid. La Plata, Maryland, 1888-1988, 100 Years, The Heart of Charles County. La Plata: Town of La Plata, 1988.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Chillum

SURVEY NO.: CH-354 (PACS C99)

ADDRESS: 509 Washington Street, La Plata, Charles County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Verbal boundary description and justification:

The National Register boundaries of Chillum follow the current property lines of 509 Washington Avenue (Charles County Tax Maps 108 and 109, Parcel 103). This 2.02 hectare (5 acre) parcel is bounded on the north, south and west by adjacent parcels and on the east by Washington Avenue. The boundary includes the house and the contributing shed, garage, and barn. The property is the parcel historically associated with the house.

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Chillum CH-354 (PACS C99)
509 Washington Street, La Plata, Charles County

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Buildings; Private Ownership; Public Acquisition - Not applicable; Occupied; Not accessible; Private Residence

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

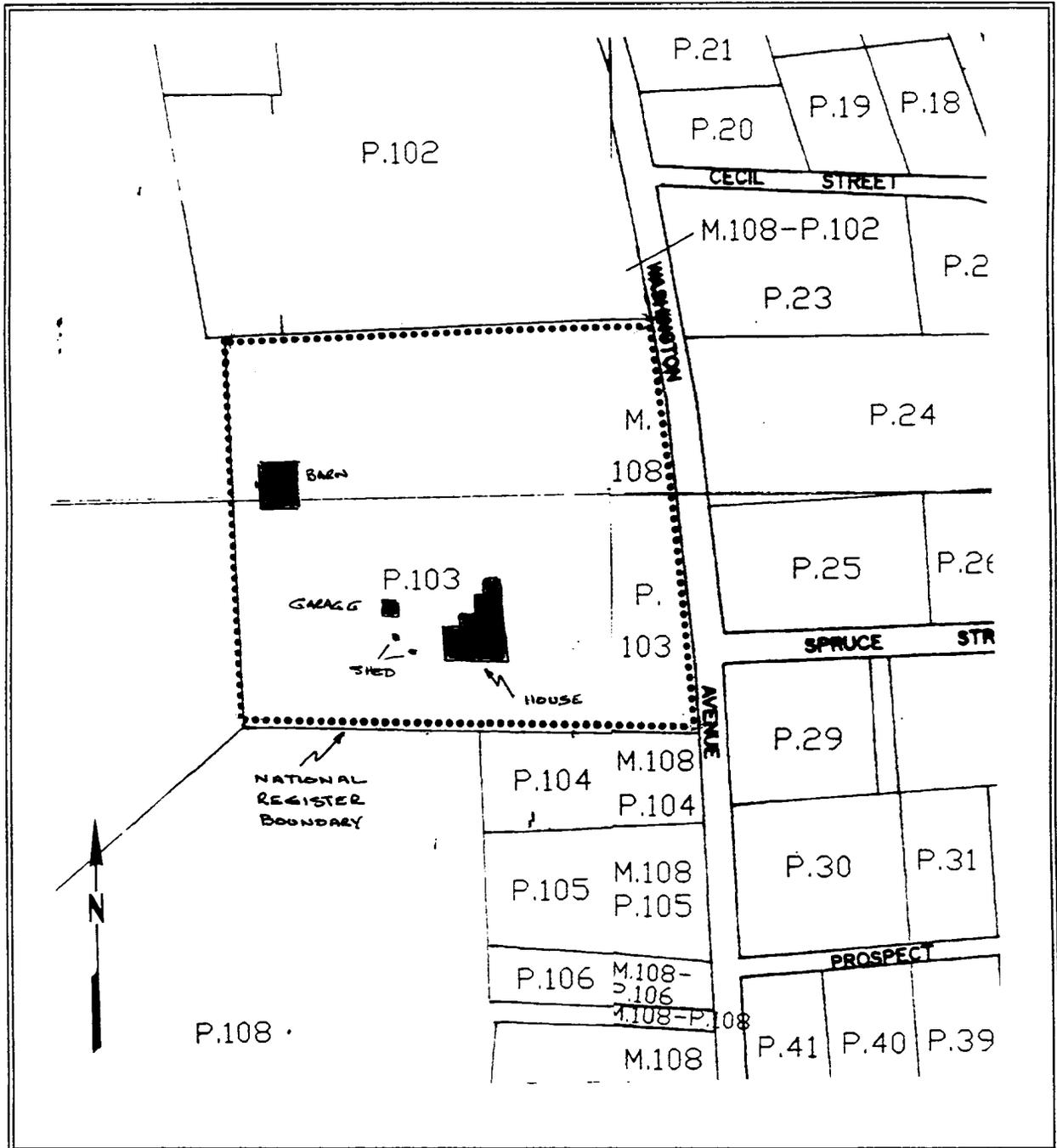
None

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
RESOURCE NAME: Chillum
SURVEY NO.: CH-354 (PACS C99)
ADDRESS: 509 Washington Street, La Plata, Charles County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

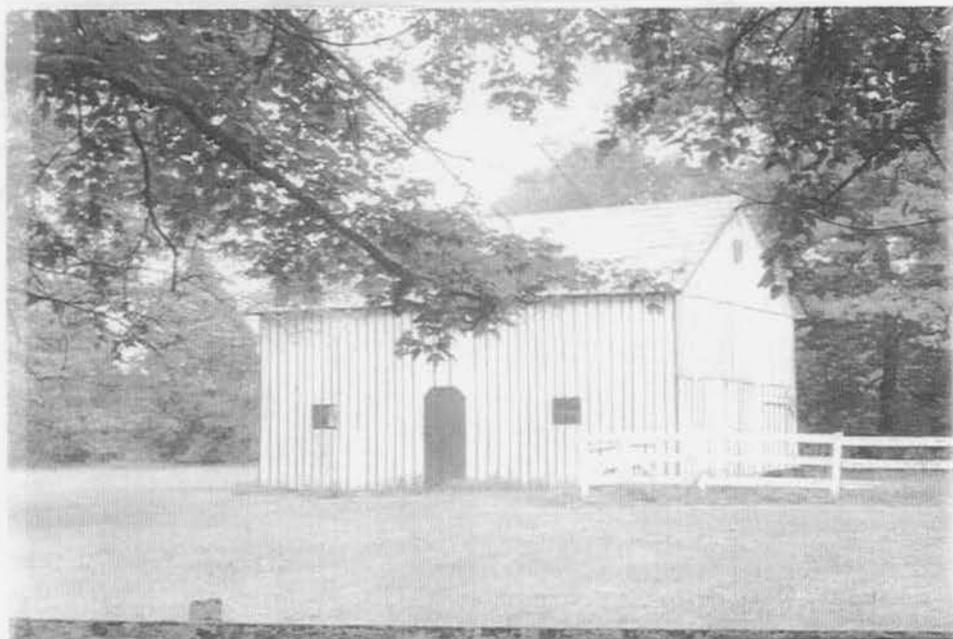
Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



CH-354



CH-354



CH-354

