

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: CH-418 (PACS A27) Construction Date: circa 1905

Name: Denton Higgs Property

Location: 6452 Valyn Drive, Hughesville vicinity, Charles County

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Restricted

Description: The Denton Higgs Property is a 2½-story, 3-bay residence with Folk Victorian details, constructed circa 1905. Located on the east side of Valyn Drive, north of Prince Frederick Road in the Hughesville vicinity, Charles County, the residence has a 2-story rear ell which projects north from the main block, a 2-story addition to the ell projects to the west, and a 1-story addition projects to the east from the rear ell. The wood-frame structure is clad in vinyl siding and has 1/1 vinyl replacement windows. The side-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles, has a center gable on the front (south) elevation and a central brick chimney. The foundation is covered with vinyl siding.

Significance: Denton Higgs purchased a parcel of land in 1905 and subsequently constructed the residence currently on the property. The property was reduced to .8 hectare (2 acres) in 1938, when Gertrude Higgs, heir of Denton Higgs, transferred the property to Ruth Austin. Through subsequent transfers of ownership, the parcel has retained .8 hectare (2 acres) of land. The current owners, William and Claire Parker, purchased the property in 1994. The property is not significant, as the form and materials of the residence have been significantly altered through the construction of three additions on the rear of the structure and the installation of insensitive features such as vinyl siding and replacement windows. In addition, the outbuildings on the property date to a later period.

Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
January 1997

Maryland Historical Trust
 Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
 MD 5 - Hughesville Project

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic Denton Higgs Property

and/or common Parker Property

2. Location:

street & number 6452 Valyn Drive ___ not for publication

city, town Hughesville x 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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | |

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

name William and Claire Parker

street & number 6452 Valyn Drive

telephone no.:

city,town Hughesville

state and zip code MD 20637

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Charles County

liber 1946

street & number Charles Street

folio 554

city,town La Plata

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city,town

state

7. Description

Survey No. CH-418 (PACS A27)

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

Resource Count: 3

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

The Denton Higgs Property is a 2½-story, 3-bay residence with Folk Victorian details, constructed circa 1905. Located on the east side of Valyn Drive, north of Prince Frederick Road in the Hughesville vicinity, Charles County, the residence has a 2-story rear ell which projects north from the main block, a 2-story addition to the ell projects to the west, and a 1-story addition projects to the east from the rear ell. The wood-frame structure is clad in vinyl siding and has 1/1 vinyl replacement windows. The side-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles, has a center gable on the front (south) elevation and a central brick chimney. The foundation is covered with vinyl siding.

The south, or front elevation includes the main block and the addition to the rear ell, which projects to the west. The main block has a 1-story hipped roof porch which wraps around to the west elevation. The porch has a concrete floor and modern wood posts. The first story of the main block has a 3-part picture window in the original first and second bays and a steel door with nine lights in the third bay. The second story has three, 1/1 double-hung, vinyl replacement windows and there is a fixed-light in the center gable. The south elevation of the addition has one, 1/1 double-hung, vinyl replacement window on both the first and second stories.

The first story of the west elevation is covered by the 1-story porch which wraps around from the front (south) elevation. The main block has a 2-story canted bay, with three, 1/1 double-hung, vinyl replacement windows on each story. The west elevation of the 2-story addition has no fenestration, and a louvered vent is located in the gable end.

The first story of the north, or rear elevation of the main block is covered by the rear ell and the 2-story addition which projects to the west from the rear ell. The second story of the main block has one, 1/1 double-hung, vinyl window. The north elevation of the rear ell has one, 1/1 double-hung, vinyl window on the second story and a louvered vent in the gable end. The addition to the ell has one door on the first story and one, 1/1 double-hung, vinyl replacement window on the second story. A 1-story, shed roof addition projects to the north from the addition, which has a 2-light, sliding window and an open porch supported by modern wood posts. A second 1-story shed roof addition projects to the east from the rear ell, and has one, 1/1 double-hung, vinyl window.

The east elevation of the main block has no fenestration. One, 1/1 double-hung, vinyl replacement window is located on the second story of the rear ell and the 1-story addition which projects from the rear ell has one, 1/1 double-hung, vinyl replacement window.

There are two outbuildings associated with the property. The first outbuilding is a 1-story, concrete block storage building, with a side-gable, metal roof. The structure has window openings, but there are no windows or window frames. The storage building is located northeast of the house.

The second outbuilding is a modern, concrete block garage with a front-gable roof and is covered with vinyl siding. It is located north of the house and west of the storage building.

8. Significance

Survey No. CH-418 (PACS A27)

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communication | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) | | |

| Specific dates | circa 1905 | Builder/Architect | Unknown |
|----------------|---|-------------------|---------|
| check: | Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D | | |
| | and/or | | |
| | Applicable Exceptions: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G | | |
| | Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local | | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Denton Higgs purchased a parcel of land in 1905 and subsequently constructed the residence currently on the property. There are no detailed, published historic maps of Charles County, Maryland that locate and indicate ownership of structures, however. The property was reduced to .8 hectare (2 acres) in 1938, when Gertrude Higgs, heir of Denton Higgs, transferred the property to Ruth Austin. Through subsequent transfers of ownership, the parcel has retained .8 hectare (2 acres) of land. The current owners, William and Claire Parker, purchased the property in 1994.

The Maryland Colony was granted by King Charles I to Lord Baltimore in 1632. Two years later, the first European community was established at St. Mary's City. Subsequent colonization moved north, along the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers. As settlers migrated away from St. Mary's City, the formation of a new county became necessary, and Charles County was founded in 1658. This area was originally inhabited by Algonquins of the Powhatan Confederacy. Road clearing began in the mid-eighteenth century as a result of the establishment of port towns and Maryland's rising population. Tobacco cultivation dominated the economic and social life of Charles County until the mid-nineteenth century when soil exhaustion required agricultural diversification. The introduction of rail lines in the late nineteenth century linked Charles County with the north and south, encouraging trade. While the suburbanization of Charles County was ensured by the widespread availability of the automobile in the mid-twentieth century, the County has retained its rural and agricultural character.

The area that became Hughesville was located in Lord Baltimore's grant of 6,879.9 hectares (17,000 acres) of Newport Hundred to Major William Boarman during 1650-1699. This land included the region "east of Zachiah Swamp" and became known as Boarman's Manor. Hughesville does not appear on an 1840 Map of a Part of Maryland, and Fisher's 1852 Gazetteer of the State of Maryland did not list the community. Hughesville was located at the crossroads of two of the main routes through Charles County: Burnt Store to Patuxent City and on to Annapolis, (Burnt Store Road and Prince Frederick Road/Route 231) and Bryantown to Charlotte Hall and on to St. Mary's City (Leonardtwn Road/Route 5). Accordingly, Hughesville is shown on Martenet's 1866 Map of Maryland, Atlas Edition. The 1871 State Gazette and Merchants and Farmers Directory for Maryland and the District of Columbia called Hughesville a "post town." Bland's 1887 Maryland Directory and State Gazetteer listed both Episcopal and Roman Catholic churches in Hughesville as well as a Friends' school, four (4) general merchandise stores, two (2) saloons, two (2)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Denton Higgs Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-418 (PACS A27)

ADDRESS: 6452 Valyn Drive, Hughesville vicinity, Charles County

8. Significance (Continued)

undertakers, a wheelwright, a blacksmith, a tobacco buyer, and a population of fifty (50). Gannett's 1904 Gazetteer of Maryland defined Hughesville as a "post village...on the Washington, Potomac and Chesapeake Railroad" (Gannett 1904: 43). By 1906 the community was known as "a station of the Southern Maryland Railroad...and a banking town" with two (2) physicians, two (2) general stores, two (2) blacksmiths, a grist and saw mill, a flour mill, an undertaker and livery, a hotel, a hotel and saloon, a grocer and saloon, an insurance salesman, and a population of 150 (Maryland 1906: 667).

The Denton Higgs residence is a vernacular structure with some Folk Victorian details. The popularity of Folk Victorian buildings coincides with the construction of cottages. In fact, many 2-story cottages with ornate Victorian woodwork are regarded as Folk Victorian. The Victorian wood detailing found on both resource types was made possible by new manufacturing advancements and increased shipping ability during the second half of the nineteenth century. These developments had a strong impact on the types of folk houses built in rural areas during this period. Typically built during the years 1870 to 1910, Folk Victorian style dwellings were simple folk housing forms ornamented with Victorian decorative details. As the Folk Victorian style attained popularity in the late nineteenth century, Folk Victorian detailing was sometimes added to earlier National Folk houses and I-houses.

There were many different types of Folk-Victorian houses including front-gable, gable-front-and-wing, side-gable, and pyramidal hipped roof. In some ways, these houses are difficult to categorize because they frequently combine elements of various Victorian styles. Queen Anne detailing, such as spindle porch supports are often combined with bracketed eaves derived from the Italianate style, and lancet windows derived from the Gothic style. Common to most Folk Victorian houses, however, are wide front porches with carved decorations such as sunbursts and scrollwork. Like the earlier National Folk forms, the widespread adoption of Folk Victorian dwellings and details resulted from the broad availability of machined wooden components which were mass-produced and made available to rural areas by the growth of railroads in the nineteenth century (McAlester 1984:309-10).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Denton Higgs Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-418 (PACS A27)

ADDRESS: 6452 Valyn Drive, Hughesville vicinity, Charles County

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

The Denton Higgs Property, a circa 1905 vernacular structure with Folk Victorian details, is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. The property is not eligible under Criterion C, as the form and materials of the residence have been significantly altered through the construction of three additions on the rear of the structure and the installation of insensitive features such as vinyl siding and replacement windows. In addition, the outbuildings on the property date to a later period. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended X

Comments: _____

Reviewer, OPS: [Signature] Date: 5/1/98

Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature] Date: 5/10/98

[Handwritten mark]

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. CH-418 (PACS A27)

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Hughesville, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date January 1997

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

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Denton Higgs Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-418 (PACS A27)

ADDRESS: 6452 Valyn Drive, Hughesville vicinity, Charles County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Bland, John R., ed. The Maryland Directory and State Gazetteer. Baltimore: The Baltimore Publishing Company, 1887.
- Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History. La Plata: Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.
- Charles County Department of Assessment and Taxation. 101 Catalpa Drive, La Plata, Maryland.
- Charles County Land Records Office. Charles County Courthouse, Charles Street, La Plata, Maryland.
- Fisher, R.S. Gazetteer of the State of Maryland, Compiled from the Returns of the Seventh Census of the United States, and Other Official Documents. Baltimore: James S. Waters, 1852.
- Gannett, Henry. A Gazetteer of Maryland. Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey, Bulletin No. 231, Series F, Geography, 39. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1904.
- Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988.
- Gowans, Alan. Styles and Types of North American Architecture. New York: Harper Collins, 1992.
- Grow, Lawrence. Country Architecture. Pittstown, NJ: The Main Street Press, 1985.
- Hinkel, John V., ed. See Charles County, Maryland, founded in 1658. Compiled by John V. Hinkel & Associates. La Plata: Charles County Chamber of Commerce, 1959.
- KCI Technologies, Inc. Draft Historic Context for the U.S. 301 South Corridor Transportation Study, Prince George's and Charles Counties, Maryland. Prepared for the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration, August 1996.
- Klapthor, Margaret Brown, and Paul Dennis Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.
- Klein, Marilyn W. and David P. Fogle. Clues to American Architecture. Washington D.C. and Philadelphia: Starrhill Press, 1986.
- Map of a Part of Maryland, Copied from the Geological State Map. 1840. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Denton Higgs Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-418 (PACS A27)

ADDRESS: 6452 Valyn Drive, Hughesville vicinity, Charles County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Martenet, Simon J. Martenet's Map of Maryland, Atlas Edition. Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1866.
- Martenet, Simon J. New Topographical Atlas of the State of Maryland. Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1873
- Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia State Gazetteer and Business Directory 1906-1907. Baltimore: R.L. Polk & Co., 1906.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1983.
- Meyer, Richard E., ed. Voices of American Culture. Ann Arbor, Michigan: UMI Research Press, 1989.
- P.A.C. Spero & Company. Maryland Historic Context, Montgomery County and Prince George's County, Intercounty Connector Project. Volume I. Prepared for the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration. Baltimore: P.A.C. Spero & Company, October 1996.
- Rifkind, Carole. A Field Guide to American Architecture. New York: Signet Press, 1980.
- Rivoire, J. Richard. Homeplaces, Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Southern Maryland Studies Center, 1990.
- State Gazette and Merchants and Farmers Directory for Maryland and the District of Columbia. Baltimore, 1871.
- Upton, Dell. "The Origins of Chesapeake Architecture." 3 Centuries of Maryland Architecture: A Selection of Presentations made at the 11th Annual Conference of the Maryland Historical Trust. Crownsville, Maryland, 1982.
- Wearmouth, John M. Charles County's Railroad. Prince George's County Historical Society, Glendale, Maryland.
- Wells, Camille, ed. Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1986.
- Wells, Camille, ed. Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, II, Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri, 1987.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

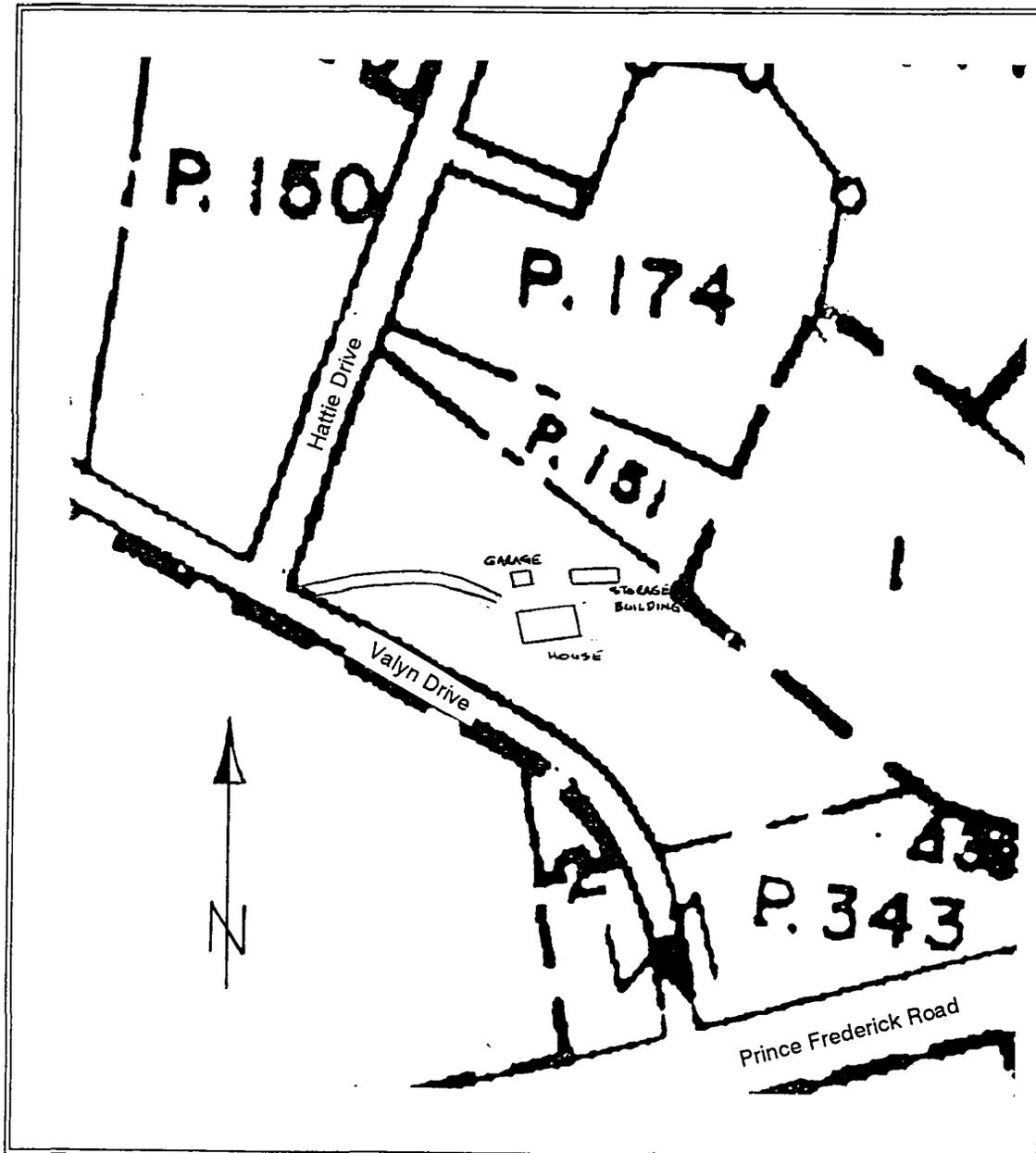
RESOURCE NAME: Denton Higgs Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-418 (PACS A27)

ADDRESS: 6452 Valyn Drive, Hughesville vicinity, Charles County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Denton Higgs Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-418 (PACS A27)

ADDRESS: 6452 Valyn Drive, Hughesville vicinity, Charles County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

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):

Building

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

Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

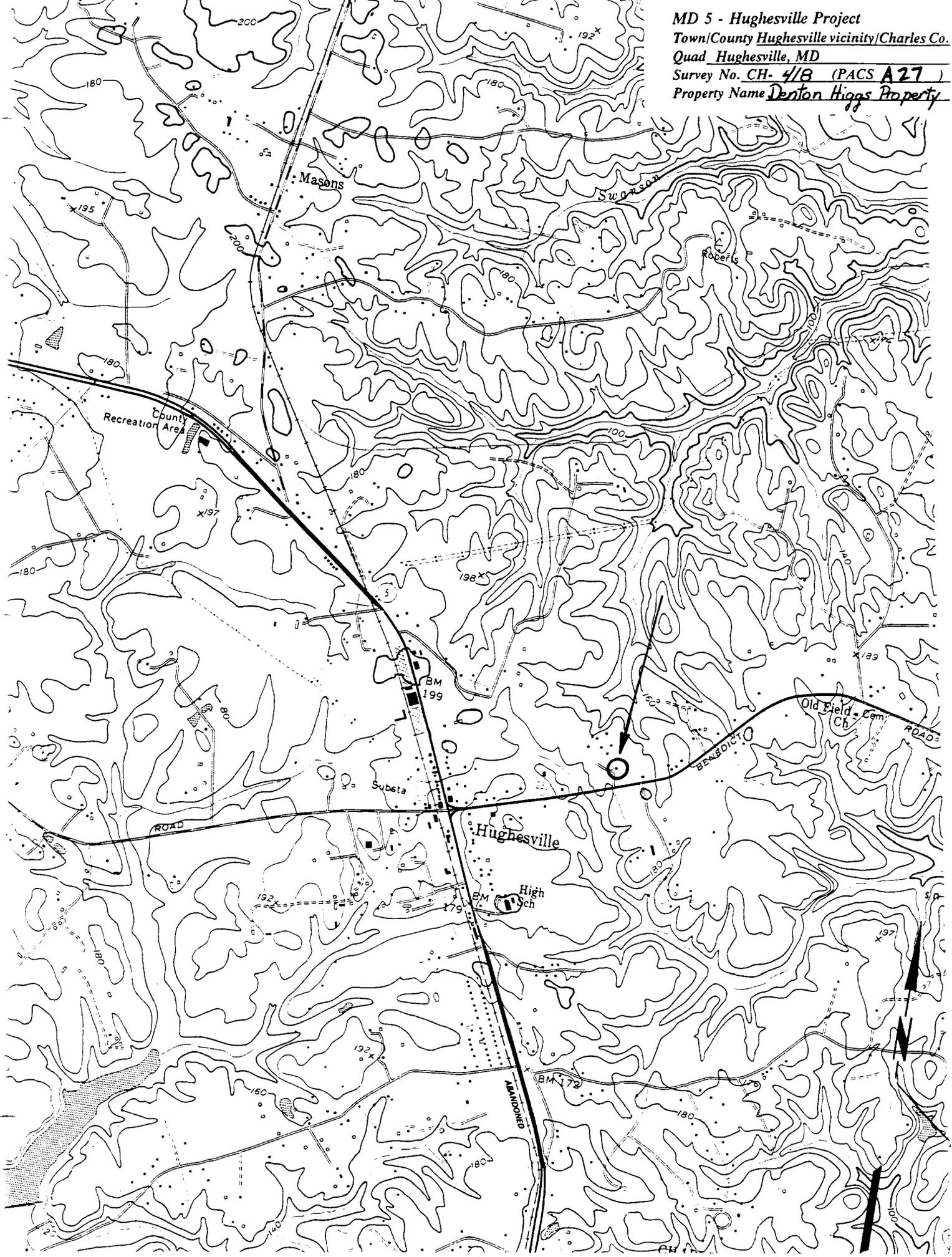
Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
January 1997

MD 5 - Hughesville Project
Town/County Hughesville vicinity/Charles Co.
Quad Hughesville, MD
Survey No. CH- 4/8 (PACS A27)
Property Name Denton Higgs Property





- 1 CH-418
- 2 Denton Higgs Property
- 3 Charles County, MD
- 4 Caroline Hall
- 5 January 1997
- 6 MD SHPB
- 7 South elevation, view N
- 8 1 of 6



- 1 CH-418
- 2 Denton Higgs Property
- 3 Charles County, MD
- 4 Caroline Hall
- 5 January 1997
- 6 MD STPO
- 7 West elevation, view E
- 8 2 of 6



1 CH-418

2 Danton Higgs Property

3 Charles County, MD

4 Caroline Hall

5 January 1997

6 MD SHPO

7 North elevation, view E

8 3 of 4



- 1 CH-418
- 2 Denton Higgs Property
- 3 Charles County, MD
- 4 Caroline Hall
- 5 January 1997
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 South + east elevation, view NW
- 8 4 of 6



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1-CH-418

2-Denton Higgs Property

3-Charles County, MD

4-Caroline Hall

5-January 1997

6-MD SHPO

7-Storage building, view NE

8-5 of 6



1- CH-418

2- Denton Higgs Property

3- Charles County, MD

4- Caroline Hall

5- January 1997

6- MD SHPO

7- garage, view

8- 6086