

## CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: CH-424 (PACS A38) Construction Date: 1908

Name: Brown Property

Location: 7830 Leonardtown Road (MD 5), Hughesville vicinity, Charles County

Private/Education/Occupied/Excellent/Restricted

**Description:** The Brown Property is located on the east side of Leonardtown Road (MD 5) in the Hughesville vicinity, Charles County. The property includes a 2½-story, 3-bay, Four-square residence, a front-gable cottage, a garage, a wood-frame shed, a barn, and two pre-fabricated sheds. The 2½-story, Four-square residence, constructed in 1908, has a 1-story, brick addition which was constructed circa 1990 and projects from the north elevation. The original section of the structure has a parged foundation and is clad in vinyl siding. The hipped roof has asphalt shingles and two brick chimneys; one interior chimney near the south elevation and one exterior chimney on the north elevation. The structure is now used as a daycare center and preschool. Located south of the Four-square is a 2-story, front-gable cottage, which is used as two apartments. Constructed circa 1920, the cottage has a concrete block foundation, vinyl siding and an asphalt shingle roof. The structure has large, shed dormers on both the north and south elevations and an interior brick chimney. In addition to the two residences, there are five outbuildings on the property; a wood shed, a garage, a tobacco barn, and two modern sheds.

**Significance:** The Brown Property is located on a 1.86 hectare (4.6 acre) parcel of land on the east side of Leonardtown Road (MD 5). The Four-square residence was constructed in 1908, according to Charles County tax records, and was converted to a daycare center and preschool in 1987, when the current property owners acquired the premises. The property is not significant, as the Four-square has been significantly altered through the construction of the 1-story, brick addition, and the use of insensitive building materials. In addition, the cottage on the property has been altered through the installation of siding and replacement windows, and is a poor example of a common building type.

Preparer:  
P.A.C. Spero & Company  
January 1997/revised February 1998

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

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

**1. Name:** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Brown Property

**2. Location:**

street &amp; number 7830 Leonardtown Road (MD 5) \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Hughesville \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Charles

**3. Classification:**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ other:
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military	
			___ transportation	

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

name John M. and Carolyn A. Brown

street &amp; number 7830 Leonardtown Road telephone no.: (301) 645-1046

city, town Hughesville state and zip code MD 20637-3104

**5. Location of Legal Description**

Land Records Office of Charles County liber 1247

street &amp; number Charles Street folio 411

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-424 (PACS A38)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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: 7

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

The Brown Property is located on the east side of Leonardtown Road (MD 5) in the Hughesville vicinity, Charles County. The property includes a 2½-story, 3-bay, Four-square residence, a front-gable cottage, a garage, a wood-frame shed, a tobacco barn, and two pre-fabricated sheds.

The 2½-story, Four-square residence, constructed in 1908, has a 1-story, brick addition which was constructed circa 1990 and projects from the north elevation. The original section of the structure has a parged foundation and is clad in vinyl siding. The hipped roof has asphalt shingles and two brick chimneys; one interior chimney near the south elevation and one exterior chimney on the north elevation. A hipped roof dormer with a vinyl, sliding window is located on the front (west) elevation and all windows in the structure are vinyl, replacement units. The front elevation has a front-gable hood over the entry, which is supported by two columns. The entry has a 3-light transom and 2-light sidelights. The addition to the Four-square has a front-gable pediment supported by four columns. The structure is now used as a daycare center and preschool.

Located south of the Four-square is a 2-story, front-gable cottage, which is used as two apartments. Constructed circa 1920, the cottage has a concrete block foundation, vinyl siding and an asphalt shingle roof. The structure has large, shed dormers on both the north and south elevations and an interior brick chimney. The windows in the structure are a combination of wood, 6/6 and 1/1 double-hung.

In addition to the two residences, there are five outbuildings on the property. The first outbuilding is a wood-frame garage, constructed circa 1920. Located east of the Four-square and north of the cottage, the structure has a front-gable, metal roof, wood clapboard siding and no foundation.

The second outbuilding is a circa 1920 shed, covered with plywood. The gable roof is covered with asphalt sheets and the structure is supported by concrete blocks. The shed is located east of the house, north of the cottage and west of the garage.

The third outbuilding is a 2-story tobacco barn, which appears to date to the same period as the Four-square residence. It is a front-gable structure with a metal roof and vertical, wood siding and is located east of all other structures on the property.

The fourth and fifth outbuildings are modern, pre-fabricated sheds. The sheds are located just east of the cottage and southeast of the Four-square structure.



## CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Brown Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-424 (PACS A38)

ADDRESS: 7830 Leonardtown Road (MD 5), 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 Four-square house was popular in both suburban and rural areas of America from the late 1890s into the 1920s. Four-square dwellings, such as the primary structure on the Brown Property, are usually 2 to 2½-stories tall with a simple square or rectangular plan, low-pitched, hipped roof, and a front entrance, usually off-centered, which served as the focal point of the facade. They also commonly featured dormers on all planes of the roof and a wide 1-story front porch. Inside are usually four roughly equal-sized rooms on each floor, with a side stairway. Exterior wall surfaces were generally clad in clapboards or wood shingles. In vernacular examples, the Four-square often featured hipped dormers, a 1-story, full-width front porch, and double-hung sash windows.

The development of the Four-square house was part of a stylistic movement known as "Rectilinear" which represented a reaction against the ornate Queen Anne style of the late 1880s. It was part of the same movement which produced the Colonial Revival style which returned to the symmetry of Georgian and Federal designs, and the Prairie School which stressed horizontal lines and intersecting, perpendicular planes. Four-square homes contain features of both the Colonial Revival and Prairie styles but the style developed independently from them (Wells 1987, 51). Like Colonial Revival houses, Four-square homes emphasize geometric forms, and like Prairie houses, they have low-pitched roofs and windows that feature multi-light panels. Yet the Four-square houses also differ from these other styles in significant ways. Unlike Colonial Revival houses, Four-squares do not contain historical features such as Palladian windows, fanlights, and ornamented bracketing. They also often have off-center entrances. Designers of Four-squares also rejected the Prairie School emphasis on horizontal lines and irregular forms.

From the architectural avant-garde, the Four-square form moved to popular builder's magazines, beginning in 1895 when they began publishing drawings of such houses. Companies such as Montgomery Ward and Sears Roebuck included Four-square variations among the designs for which they offered complete, pre-cut materials shipped ready for assembly (Wells 1987, 53).

The second residence on the Brown Property is an example of a front-gable cottage. Between 1870 and 1940 the vernacular cottage style was typically built for Americans of modest means. They are characterized by simple ornamentation and mass-produced components, such as door frames, moldings, sash and window units, and porch decoration. The development of post-Civil War machinery capable of producing large amounts of standardized housing elements, such as those found in cottages, contributed greatly to the development of the modern American housing industry. Designs for vernacular cottages were obtained from popular magazines, such as House Beautiful, or carpenter's and builder's journals, such as American Builder. A variety of front-



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## 9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. CH-424 (PACS A38)

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See Continuation Sheet

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Hughesville, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

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Name/title Caroline Hall

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date January 1997/revised February 1998

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

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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: Brown Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-424 (PACS A38)

ADDRESS: 7830 Leonardtown Road (MD 5), 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.
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- Caravan, Jill. American Barns, a Pictorial History. Philadelphia and London: Courage Books, 1995.
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- 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.
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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Brown Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-424 (PACS A38)

ADDRESS: 7830 Leonardtown Road (MD 5), Hughesville vicinity, Charles County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

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Wells, Camille, ed. Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, II, Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri, 1987.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

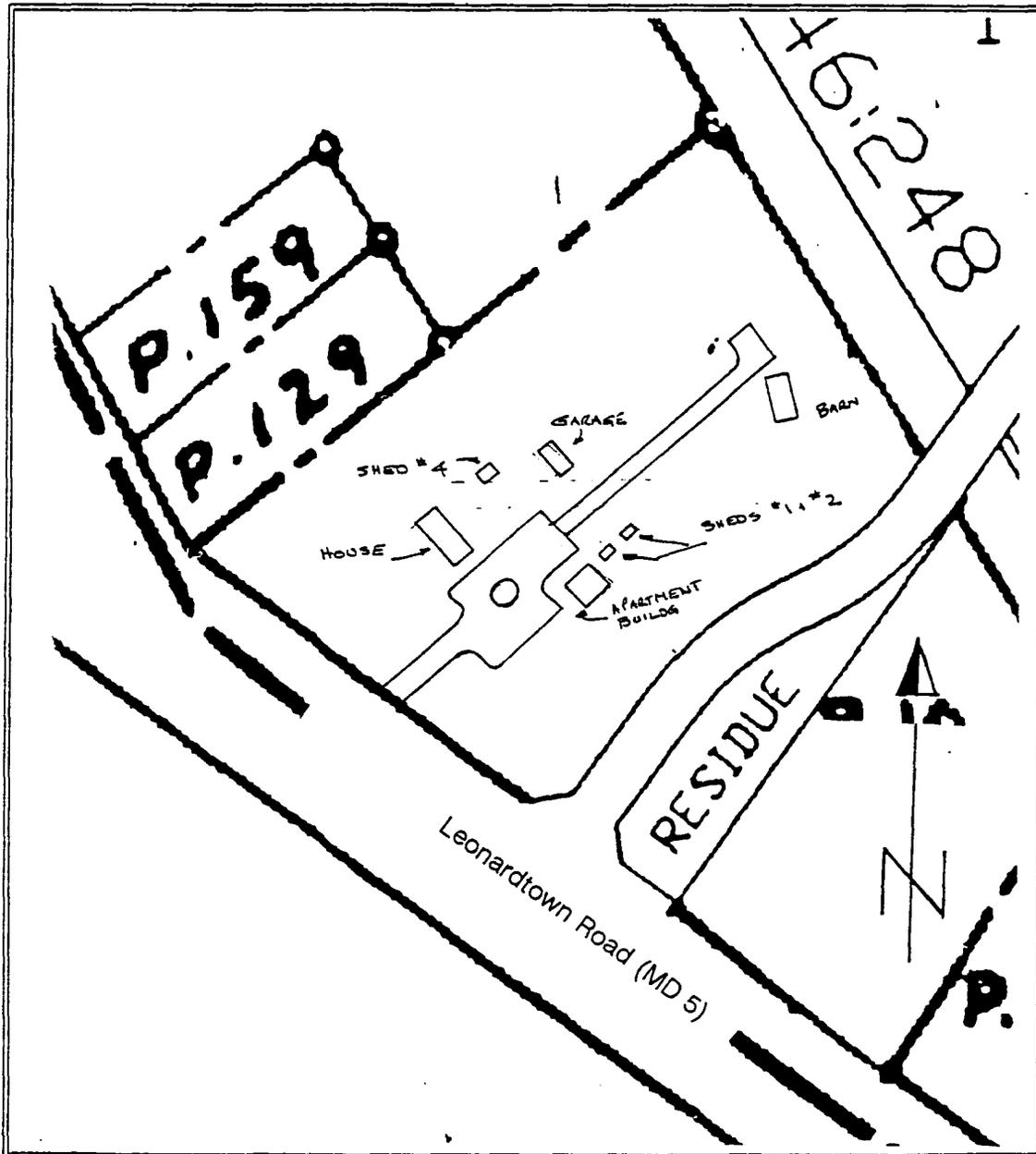
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10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Brown Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-424 (PACS A38)

ADDRESS: 7830 Leonardtown Road (MD 5), 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):

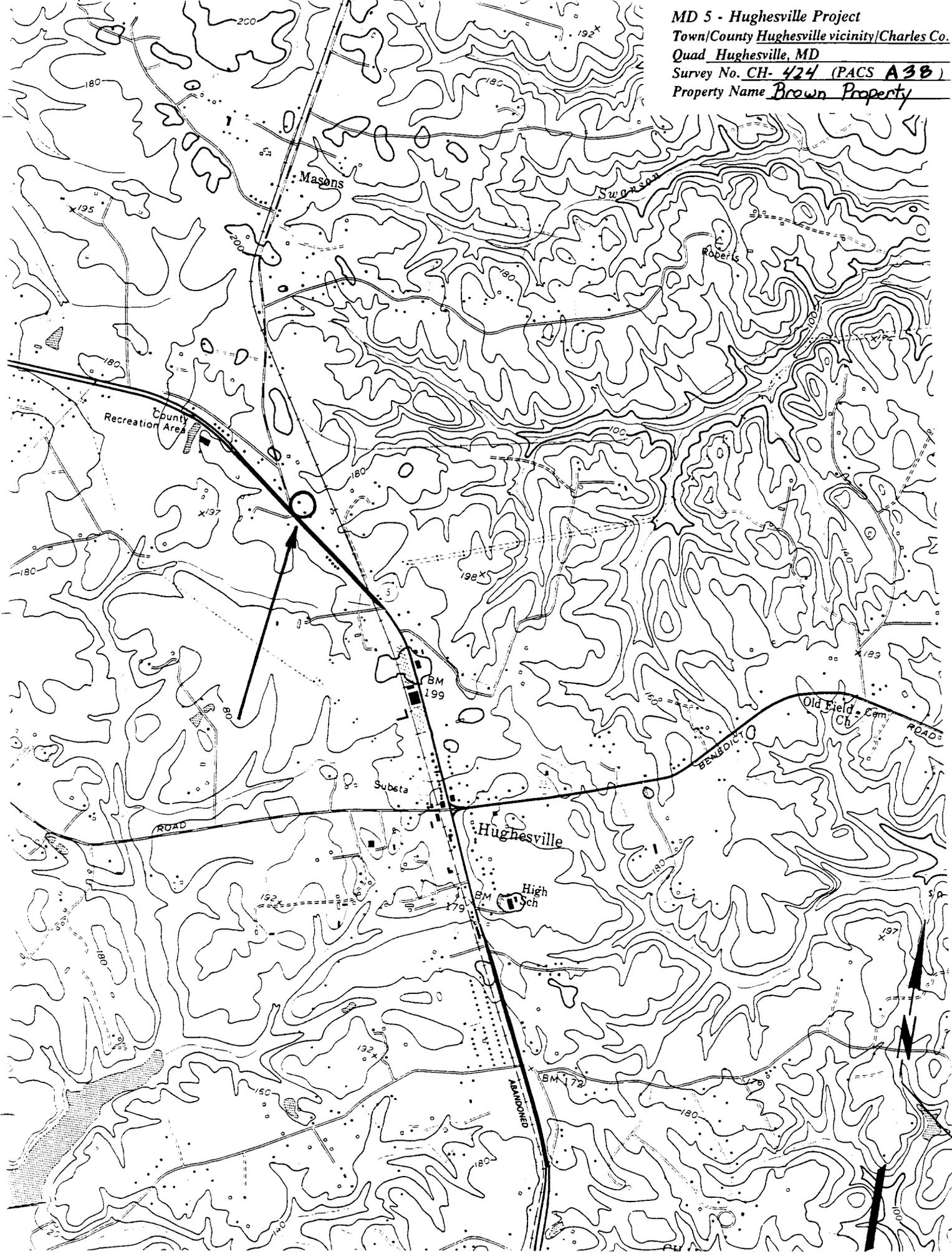
None

Preparer:

P.A.C. Spero & Company

January 1997/revised February 1998

MD 5 - Hughesville Project  
Town/County Hughesville vicinity/Charles Co.  
Quad Hughesville, MD  
Survey No. CH-424 (PACS A38)  
Property Name Brown Property





- 1 CHI-424
- 2 Brown Property
- 3 Charles County, MD
- 4 Tim Tamburrino
- 5 January 1997
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 Front elevation, view E
- 8 1 of 11



- 1 CH-424
- 2 Brown Property
- 3 Charles County, MD
- 4 Tim Tamburrino
- 5 January 1997
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 Rear and north elevations, view SW
- 8 2 of 11



1 CH-424

2 Brown Property

3 Charles County, MD

4 Tim Tamburino

5 January 1997

6 MD STPO

7 South elevation, view N

8 3 of 11



1 CH - 424

2 Brown Property

3 Charles County, MD

4 Tim Tamburrino

5 January 1997

6 MD SHPO

7 apartment building, front and  
north elevations, <sup>view</sup> SE

8 4 of 11



- 1 CH-424
- 2 Brown Property
- 3 Charles County, MD
- 4 Tim Tamburrino
- 5 January 1997
- 6 MDSHPO
- 7 Barn, north elevation, view SE
- 8 Sof II



- 1 CH-424
- 2 Brown Property
- 3 Charles County, MD
- 4 Tim Tamburrino
- 5 January, 1997
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 Front elevation, view NE
- 8 6 of 11



1 CH-424

2 Brown Property

3 Charles County, MD

4 Tim Tamburrino

5 January 1997

6 MD SHPO

7 Apartment bldg, <sup>front</sup> elev, view E

8 7 of 11



- 1 CH-424
- 2 Brown Property
- 3 Charles County, MD
- 4 Tim Tamburrino
- 5 January 1997
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 Sheds 1 and 2, view SE
- 8 B of 11



- 1 CH-424
- 2 Brown Property
- 3 Charles County, MD
- 4 Tim Tamburillo
- 5 January 1997
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 Shed 4, view NE
- 8 9 of 11



- 1 CH - 424
- 2 Brown Property
- 3 Charles County, MD
- 4 Tim Tamburrino
- 5 January 1997
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 garage (3), view N
- 8 10 of 11



- 1 CH-424
- 2 Brown Property
- 3 Charles County, MD
- 4 Tim Tamburrino
- 5 January 1997
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 Barn, West elevation, view E
- 8 11 of 11