

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: CH-436 (PACS A55) Construction Date: circa 1835

Name: Benjamin Adams Farm

Location: 6010 Cracklintown Road, Hughesville vicinity, Charles County

Private/Residence/Occupied/Deteriorated/Restricted

Description: The Benjamin Adams Farm is a circa 1835 farm complex, which includes the main house, three sheds, a tractor shed, two privies, and two barns and is located on the south side of Cracklintown Road in the Hughesville vicinity, Charles County. The residence is a 2-story, 3-bay, I-house with a stone foundation, asbestos siding, and a side-gable, metal roof. A 1½-story side-gable wing projects from the west end of the main block. A brick chimney is located at the intersection of the main block and the wing. The property includes 69.95 hectares (172.86 acres) of farmland, in an area which has experienced considerable modern residential development. The buildings are set back from Cracklintown Road approximately .8 kilometer (.5 mile), preserving the rural setting of the property.

Significance: Benjamin Adams acquired the subject property in 1833 and constructed the current residence circa 1835. The heirs of Benjamin Adams sold 85.7 hectares (212 acres) in 1876 to Warren Gibbons, and the property remained in the Gibbons family until 1893. The property passed through several owners and in 1895, the land and "dwelling house" were acquired by the Carroll family. The property had a series of owners in the twentieth century until the current owner purchased the structures and 69.95 hectares (172.86 acres) of land in 1962. The property is not significant, as it is an example of a common building type, and is not distinguished by any architectural details or significant features. The integrity of the residence has been compromised through deterioration, including the substantial rotting of the porch floor and the erosion of sections of the foundation.

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 Benjamin Adams Farm

and/or common Roemer Farm

2. Location:

street & number 6010 Cracklintown Road ___ not for publication

city, town Hughesville ___x___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Charles

3. Classification:

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

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

name Aaron Roemer and Robert Becker

street & number 10000 Brunswick Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code MD 20910-1068

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Charles County liber 1051

street & number Charles Street folio 288

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-436 (PACS A55)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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: 9

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

The Benjamin Adams Farm is a circa 1835 farm complex, which includes the main house, three sheds, a tractor shed, two privies, and two barns, and is located on the south side of Cracklintown Road in the Hughesville vicinity, Charles County. The residence is a 2-story, 3-bay, I-house with a stone foundation, asbestos siding, and a side-gable, metal roof. A 1½-story, side-gable wing projects from the west end of the main block. A brick chimney is located at the intersection of the main block and the wing.

The south, or front elevation has a full-width, 1-story, shed roof porch which covers the first story of the main block and the wing. The porch has a metal roof, a wood plank floor and wood posts. The first story of the main block has a central entry and two, 6/6 double-hung, wood windows. The second story of the main block has two, 3/3 double-hung, wood windows. The first story of the wing has one door and there is one, 3/3 double-hung, wood window in the ½-story above.

The west elevation of the main block is concealed by the side wing. The wing has one, 6/6 double-hung, wood window on the first story.

The north elevation of the main block has two, 6/6 double-hung, wood windows on the first story and two, 3/3 double-hung, wood windows on the second story. The side wing has one, 6/6 double-hung, wood window on the first story and there is one, 3/3 double-hung, wood window in the ½-story above.

The east elevation has paired, 6/6 double-hung, wood windows on the first story and one, 1/1 double-hung, wood window on the second story.

Interior access was not available at the time of the survey.

There are eight outbuildings associated with the property. The first and second outbuildings are 1-story, wood-frame sheds with front-gable, metal roofs. The first is located at the southwest corner of the house and the second is located west of the house and the first shed.

The third outbuilding is a 1½-story, wood-frame shed with a front-gable, metal roof. It has a 1-story, shed roof extension which projects to the north. The structure is located west of the house and north of the second shed.

The fourth and fifth outbuildings are 1-story, shed roof privies. Of wood-frame construction, the privies are located southwest of the house and south of the second and third sheds.

The sixth outbuilding is a 1-story tractor shed of wood-frame construction. It has a shed roof, three open bays and vertical wood siding. The shed is located northwest of the house.

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

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7. Description (Continued)

The seventh and eighth outbuildings are wood-frame barns, located approximately .4 kilometer (.25 mile) southwest of the house. The barns were not accessible at the time of the survey, due to the weather conditions and the condition of the farm lane.

The Benjamin Adams Farm includes 69.95 hectares (172.86 acres) of farmland, in an area which has experienced considerable modern residential development. The buildings are set back from Cracklintown Road approximately .8 kilometer (.5 mile), preserving the rural setting of the property.

8. Significance

Survey No. CH-436 (PACS A55)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input 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 1835	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.

According to deed research, Benjamin Adams acquired the subject property in 1833 and constructed the current residence circa 1835. There are no detailed, published historic maps of Charles County, Maryland, however, that locate and indicate ownership of structures. The heirs of Benjamin Adams sold 85.7 hectares (212 acres) in 1876 to Warren Gibbons, and the property remained in the Gibbons family until 1893. The property passed through several owners and in 1895, the land and "dwelling house" were acquired by the Carroll family. The property had a series of owners in the twentieth century until the current owner purchased the structures and 69.95 hectares (172.86 acres) of land in 1962.

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)

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

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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 Benjamin Adams Farm includes an early example of an I-house. The standard I-house is one room deep and two stories tall with three to five openings on each story. From the front, an I-house is often indistinguishable from a Georgian house. The gable view, however, reveals the greater depth of the Georgian house. Chimneys are most often located on the interior of the gable ends, however, some I-houses can have central, interior end or exterior end chimneys. Usually, an I-house has a 1-story porch running the length or nearly the length of the long side. On the interior, a central hall separates the two rooms on the first floor; the second floor contains either two or four sleeping chambers. Due to the narrowness of the main core, many I-houses have kitchen wings to the rear. During the Victorian period, pre-cut detailing or a 2-tiered porch was commonly grafted onto the traditional I-house. The I-form was popular into the early twentieth century, with examples appearing in catalogs of mass-produced suburban houses (Gowans 1992, 55-6).

Most inhabitants of the project area were engaged in farming at the time of first settlement. The barn, such as the two structures located on the Benjamin Adams Farm, was the principal building erected on a farm which provided space for cows, horses, equipment, and hay, straw or tobacco storage. Throughout the nineteenth century, barns increased in size or were newly built to include space for smaller animals, such as poultry and pigs, and as a place for the threshing and storage of grain. Their size also increased during the nineteenth century as the introduction of improved equipment led to more efficient and profitable operations, and, consequently, to increased need for storage facilities (Grow 1985, 60 and 76). Typically, livestock was housed on the lower level, while the upper level was reserved for the storage of hay and straw, and the threshing and storage of feed grains.

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8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed circa 1835, the Benjamin Adams Farm 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. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is an example of a common building type, and is not distinguished by any architectural details or significant features. The integrity of the residence has been compromised through deterioration, including the substantial rotting of the porch floor and the erosion of sections of the foundation. 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: 5/15/98

Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature] Date: 5/20/98

[Handwritten mark]

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. CH-436 (PACS A55)

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
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state	code	county	code
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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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9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

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- Caravan, Jill. American Barns, a Pictorial History. Philadelphia and London: Courage Books, 1995.
- 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.
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- 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.
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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
RESOURCE NAME: Benjamin Adams Farm
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ADDRESS: 6010 Cracklintown Road, Hughesville vicinity, Charles County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

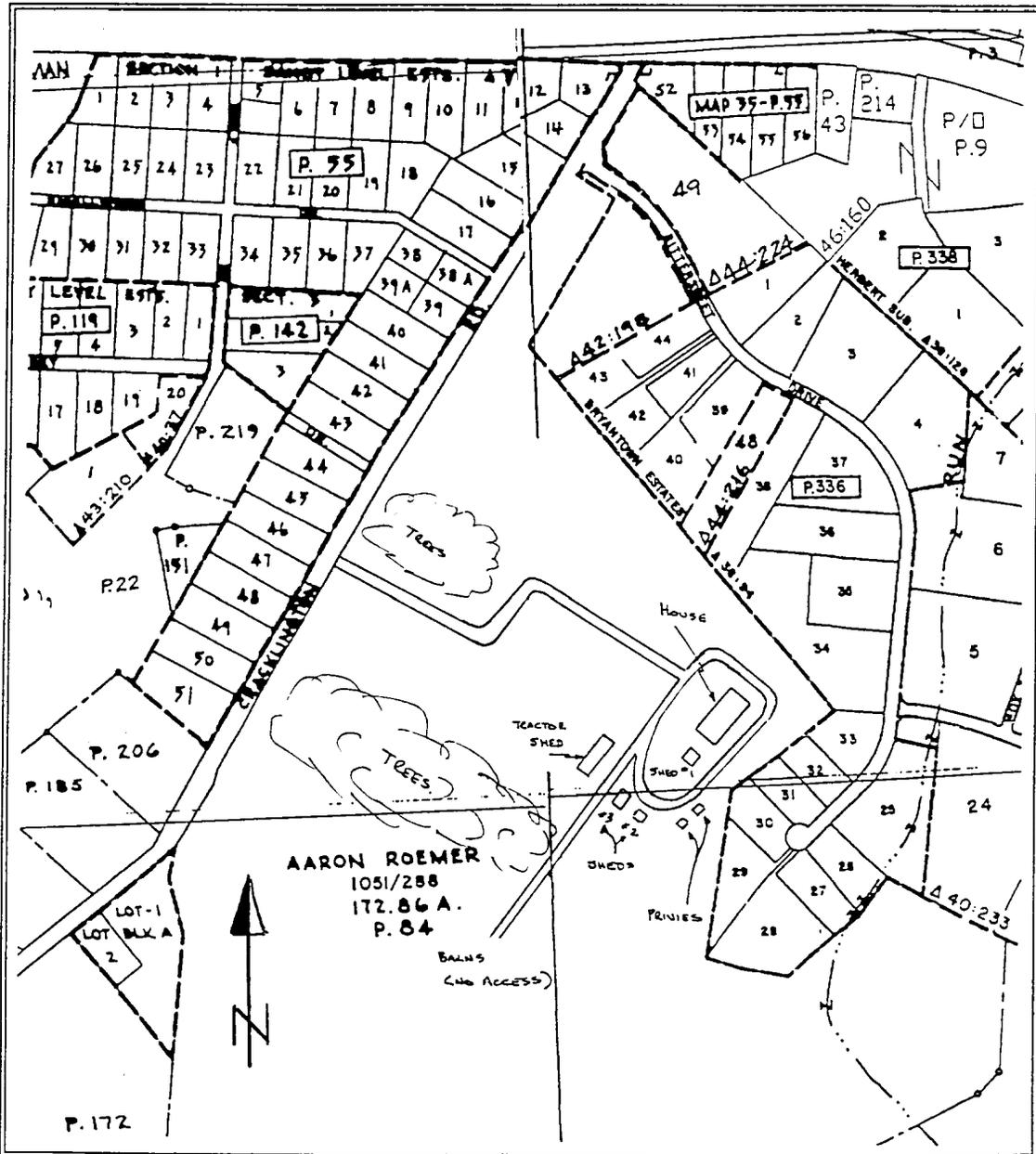
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10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



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SURVEY NO.: CH-436 (PACS A55)

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Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Building

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

Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

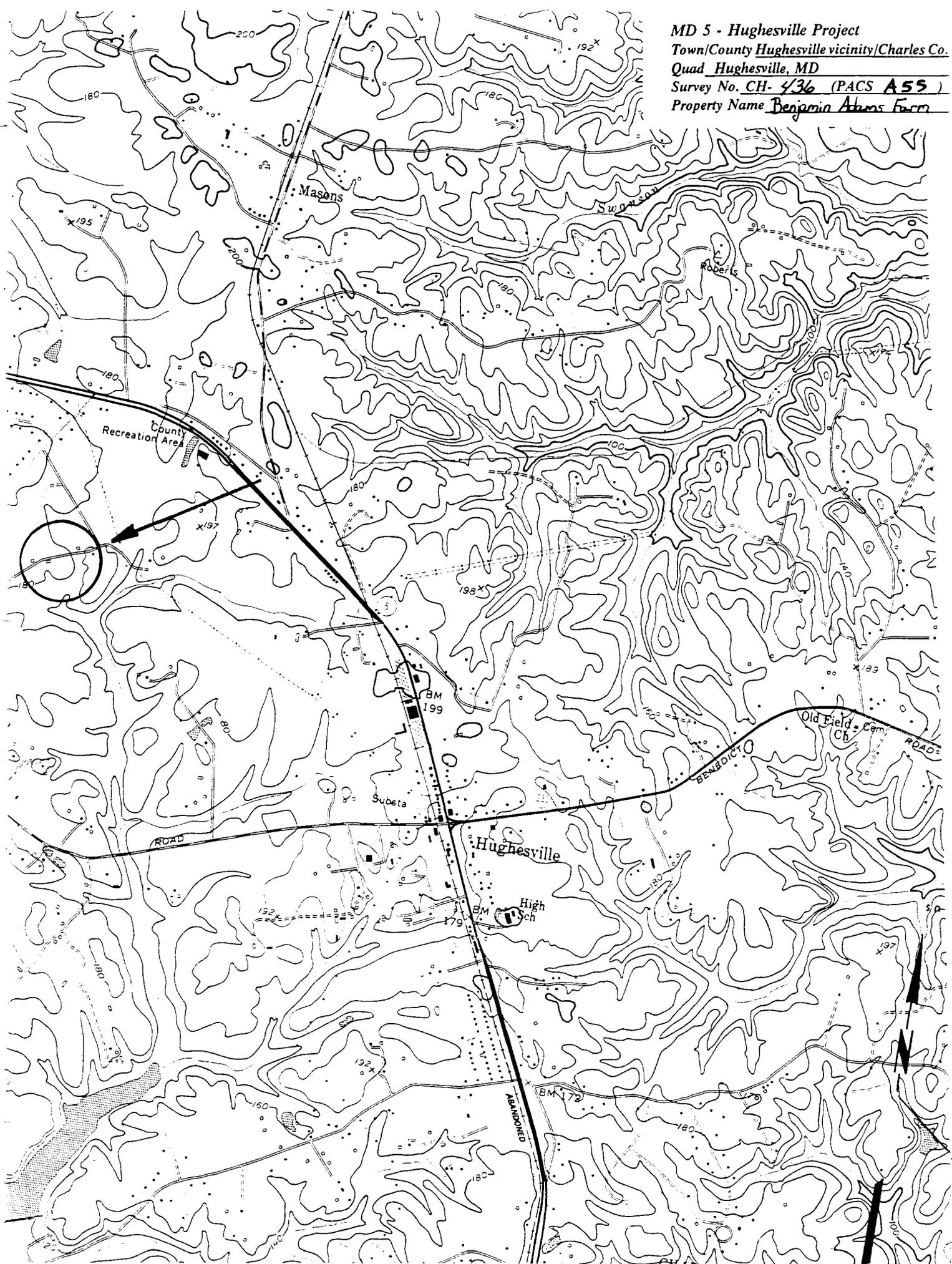
Agriculture/Residence

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-436 (PACS A55)
Property Name Benjamin Adams Farm





- 1 CH-436
- 2 Benjamin Adams Farm
- 3 Charles County, MD
- 4 Caroline Hall
- 5 January 1997
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 South elevation.
- 8 1 of 6



- 1 CH-436
- 2 Benjamin Adams Farm
- 3 Charles County, MD
- 4 Caroline Hall
- 5 January 1997
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 West elevation, view E
- 8 2 of 4



- 1 CH-436
- 2 Benjamin Adams Farm
- 3 Charles County, MD
- 4 Caroline Hall
- 5 January 1997
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 North elevation, view S
- 8 3 of 6



- 1 CH-436
- 2 Benjamin Adams Farm
- 3 Charles County, MD
- 4 Caroline Hall
- 5 January 1997
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 East elevation, view W.
- 8 4 of 6



- 1 - CH-436
- 2 - Benjamin Adams Farm
- 3 - Charles County, MD
- 4 - Caroline Hall
- 5 - January 1997
- 6 - MD SHPO
- 7 - 3 sheds + tractor shed, view NW
- 8 - 5 of 6



- 1- CH-436
- 2- Benjamin Adams Farm
- 3- Charles County, MD
- 4- Caroline Hall
- 5- January 1997
- 6- MD SHPO
- 7- 2 privys, view SW
- 8- 6 of 6