

**CH-499**  
**Robert Boykin House**  
**Indian Head vic.**  
**Private**

**1910**

Erected in 1910, the Robert Boykin House expresses many typical features of Queen Anne Victorian domestic architecture. A 2-story, "L"-shaped frame dwelling, the building features pedimented gable ends, a prominent square corner tower with a pyramidal roof and flared eaves, and decorative wood lintels over the main entrance door and windows. Originally clad in wood German siding, the Boykin House has been minimally altered.

The Boykin House is a good example of a Queen Anne Victorian-style residence. Elaborate for its location and period, the house appears to have been built using stock materials. The elaborate Victorian detailing, some of which has been removed, and the complex roof line and corner tower distinguish this dwelling from the majority of nearby Victorian-era dwellings. The house is one among many early 20th century residences erected in the area in response to the establishment of an employment center at the Naval Proving Ground at Indian Head.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH-499

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Robert Boykin House

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

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2. Location

=====

street & number 4120 Boykin Place not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  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-499

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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

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne Victorian

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation solid: poured concrete

roof cross gable: asphalt shingles

walls frame: vinyl siding (originally

other wood German siding)

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Inventory No. CH-499

=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

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

Period of Significance 1910  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1910  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.

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 3.0771 acres

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

The property at 4120 Boykin Place is designated as Parcel 318 on Map 11, Grid 24, Lot 42 on the Charles County Property Map.

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

The house at 4120 Boykin Place has been associated with Parcel 318, Map 11 since its construction in 1910.

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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 Robert M. Boykin, Jr. & C.B. Freeman  
street & number 4255 Hawthorne Road telephone 301-743-7419  
city or town Indian Head state MD zip code 20640  
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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-499

Section 7 Page 1

Robert Boykin House  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

Erected in 1910, the Robert Boykin House expresses many typical features of Queen Anne Victorian domestic architecture. A 2-story, "L"-shaped frame dwelling, the building features pedimented gable ends, a prominent square corner tower with a pyramidal roof with flared eaves, and decorative wood lintels over the main entrance door and windows. Originally clad in wood German siding, the Boykin House has been minimally altered.

The house occupies a 3-acre lot on the south side of Hawthorne Road in the village of Glymont. The house stands approximately 300 feet south of the main road at the end of Boykin Place. Backing up to a wooded area, the plot is strewn with numerous mature trees and bushes. Chainlink fencing encloses the rear yard.

Set on a continuous poured concrete foundation, the Boykin house is an "L"-shaped building of frame construction with a square tower nestled between the two arms of the "L." Originally clad in wood German siding, the dwelling has been covered in vinyl siding. The German siding is, however, still exposed beneath the wrap-around porch.

Reclad in asphalt shingles, the cross gable roof terminates in a boxed cornice. Pedimented gable ends adorn the house, and the horizontal cornice line continues unbroken around the front corner tower beneath a narrow visor roof. The pyramidal tower roof ends in flared eaves, and a 1-story wrap-around porch supported on turned wood posts extends across the north and east sides of the house.

The dwelling's principle facade, facing north, contains two bays. The easternmost of these holds the main entrance which contains its original single-leaf panel-and-light wood door with an elaborate molded wood lintel. The second bay holds a single double-hung wood sash window topped by a decorative wood lintel. The 1-story wrap-around porch that shelters the facade has been screened, and a portion of it fully enclosed on the east side of the house. The facade's second story is broken by two 1/1 wood sash windows, one under the front gable and one on the north face of the tower. Here, the original window trim has been encased in aluminum.

The west elevation is dominated by the projecting gable end of the rear side gable section. Its two story face holds two stacked window openings, while the pedimented gable contains an original lunette window. The first story window contains the only 2/2 wood sash in the house, while the upper story contains 1/1 wood sash.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-499

Section 7 Page 2

Robert Boykin House  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

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The only other opening on the west side wall is a single 1/1 window located at the second story level.

At the rear, a 1-story hipped roof enclosed porch projects from the building's face. The enclosed porch is pierced by a single-leaf door that leads to the rear wall of the house where the original panel-and-light wood door with decorative lintel opens. A single 1/1 wood sash window also opens into the enclosed porch. East of the porch, a 1/1 wood sash window pierces the back wall of the house. Two identical windows open onto the second story.

Finally, the west side features two stacked windows on its gable end, and a lunette window to match the one on the east gable end. The east face of the tower is pierced by a single 1/1 light window at its second story, while one identical window opens in the east wall of the front gable section.

Very little of the house's original form has been altered. One of the outstanding original features of the house is the elaborately decorated Victorian main door. Applied wreath and floral motifs adorn the door which is crowned by a heavy molded wood lintel. The same lintel tops the first story facade window as well, indicating that all of the windows may have been detail in a similar manner. However, when the exterior was reclad, the lintels were removed and the window casings covered with aluminum sheets. The only other substantial alterations made to the dwelling are the screening and partial enclosure of the front porch, and the addition/enclosure of the rear porch. It is not known whether the windows were replaced with the present 1/1 windows, or if these were original to the house.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
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Section 8 Page 1

Robert Boykin House  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

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Erected in 1910, the Robert Boykin House is a good example of a Queen Anne Victorian-style residence. Elaborate for its location and period, the house appears to have been built using stock materials. The elaborate Victorian detailing, some of which has been removed, and the complex roof line and corner tower distinguish this dwelling from the majority of nearby Victorian-era dwellings. The house is one among many early 20th century residences erected in the area in response to the establishment of an employment center at the Naval Proving Ground at Indian Head.

The Boykin House displays a typical form and materials appropriate to the Victorian era. The architectural expression is relatively elaborate for Charles County at this period. Its location near the booming town of Indian Head likely accounts for its architectural distinction. While modest in size, the house is a rare example of a "high-style" Queen Anne Victorian dwelling in this area of the county.

The Boykin House is located within what is today known as the village of Glymont. Glymont grew up around the steamboat wharf established before the Civil War along the Potomac River just north of Indian Head Point. Prior to the war, mail was delivered by contract with the Washington & Fredericksburg Steamboat Company whose steamers stopped twice daily at Marbury Landing (the lower of the two Glymont wharves). From there, mail was carried by stage to Port Tobacco and to various rural post offices.<sup>1</sup> In addition, Glymont served as a center of trade where farm products were shipped out and manufactured goods brought into the county. In 1827, regular steamboat passenger service was instituted along the Potomac River, servicing Glymont and the many wharves along Charles County's shoreline.<sup>2</sup> Steamboats, thus, became the main mode of transportation to the "outside world" for most Charles Countians up through the 1930s.

By the mid-19th century, Glymont consisted of two landings, Marbury to the south and Pye's to the north. The town grew to incorporate at least one store, a hotel, and the post office. By 1878, the town's population had reached 75, the fifth largest village in

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<sup>1</sup> Jack D. Brown, et al., *Charles County, Maryland: A History*, 1976: p. 75.

<sup>2</sup> Brown, et al., pp. 37-38.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-499

Section 8 Page 2

Robert Boykin House  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====  
Charles County at that time.<sup>3</sup> One doctor, N. Chapman, served the town, and shortly after 1882, the Glymont School was established. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Glymont was the undisputed "hub" of water transportation in Charles County, appearing in more steamboat advertisements than any other wharf in the county.<sup>4</sup>

In 1890, the United States Navy opened the Naval Proving Ground and Powder Factory at Indian Head in Charles County. Located just south and east of Glymont, the installation provided much needed employment in the depressed local economy. Following the Civil War, the agricultural economy of the county had experienced a severe decline, initiating a recession that lasted until World War I. The new Naval installation revived the economy in the western end of the county, and 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 workers.<sup>5</sup> Private enterprises followed this lead.

Sigal Brown, a locally prominent land speculator, purchased and subdivided several tracts of land adjacent to the town of Indian Head in the early 20th century. Profiting on the growth of the Naval plant, Brown provided conveniently located suburban-style lots for employees. The Boykin House was built on land purchased by Robert and Louise Boykin from Brown in 1910. The property remains in the Boykin family.

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<sup>3</sup> Brown, et al., pp.75, 243, 386.

<sup>4</sup> Brown, et al., p.41.

<sup>5</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.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
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Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

**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

Inventory No. CH-499

Robert Boykin House  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

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

Parcel A:

June 2, 1910: Sigal Brown to Robert & Louise  
Boykin  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber HCC 21 Folio 672

August 11, 1951: Robert M. & Louise H. Boykin to  
Robert M. & Shirley I. Boykin, Jr.  
.55 acres on south side of state  
road between Masons Spring & Indian  
Head (part of land obtained from  
Sigal Brown)  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 97 Folio 283

Parcel B:

August 21, 1945: William F. Slavin & Emma C. Slavin  
to Robert M. & Shirley Boykin, Jr.  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 82 Folio 87

Parcel C:

August 13, 1963: Louise H. Boykin to Robert M. &  
Shirley I. Boykin, Jr.  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 164 Folio 549

Parcels A, B & C:

February 13, 1995: Robert M. Boykin, Jr. to Robert M.  
Boykin, Jr. & Christine Boykin  
Freeman  
Parcel A: 3.077 acres, Plat of land  
of Robert M. Boykin, Jr. (see Plat  
Book 46, Folio 178)  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 2061 Folio 510

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

9/98

ROBERT BOYKIN HOUSE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
GLYMONT VIC.  
4120 Boykin Place

CH-499



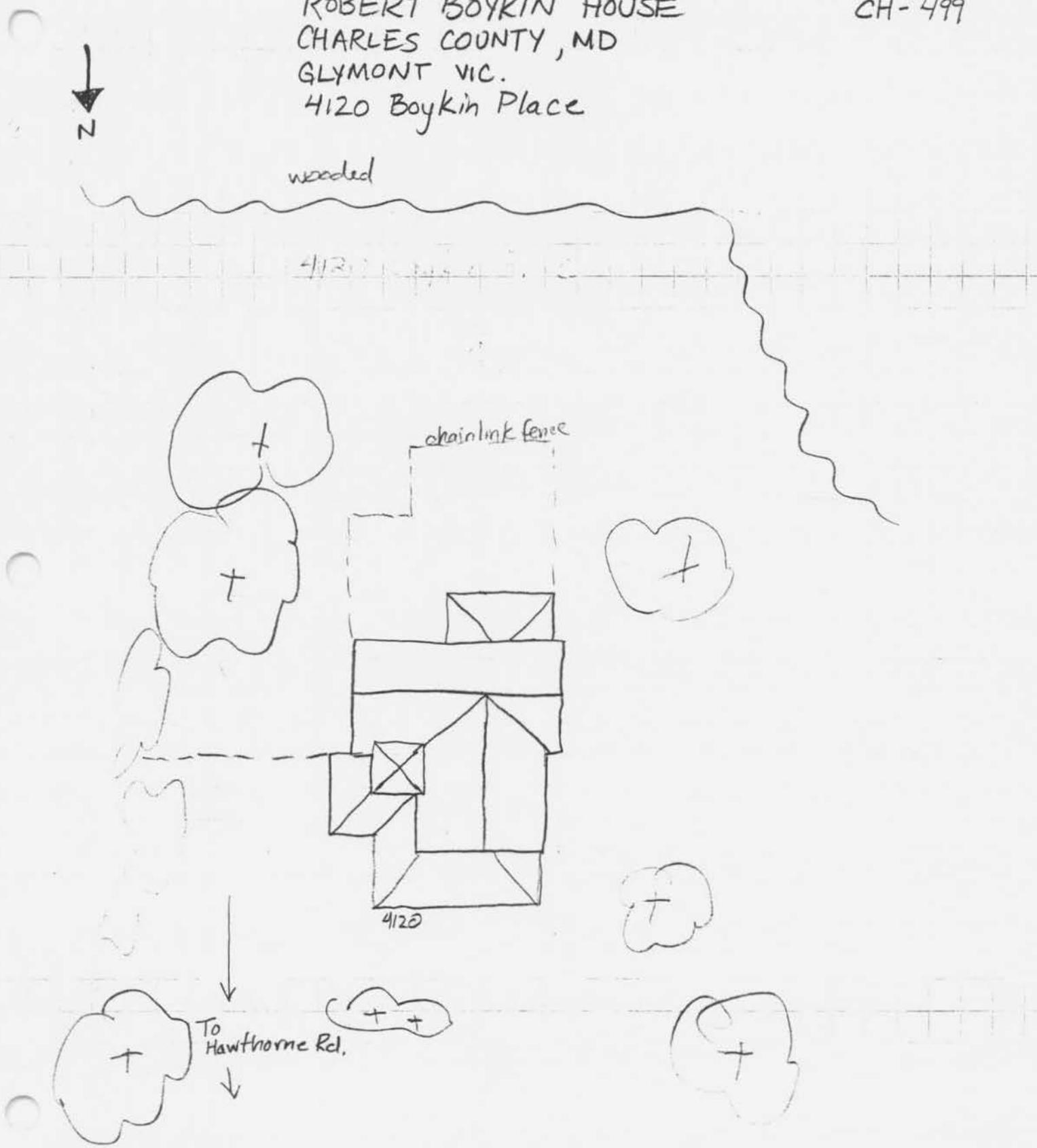
wooded

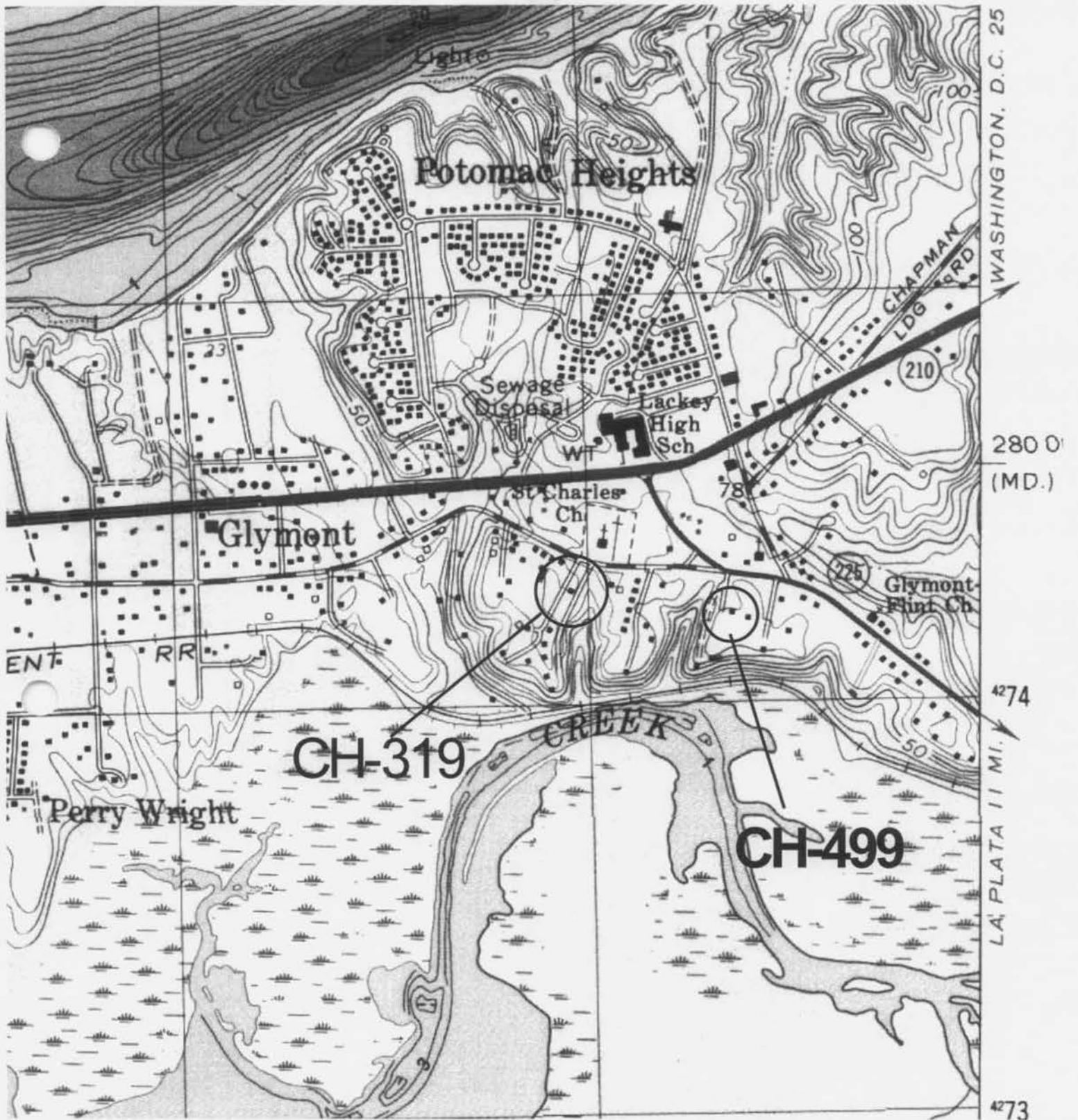
4120

chainlink fence

4120

To Hawthorne Rd.





Robert Boykin House  
Charles County, MD

CH-499

INDIAN HEAD, MD QUAD



CH-499

ROBERT BOYKIN HOUSE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
K.G. SMITH

9/98

MARYLAND SHPO  
FACADE - LOOKING SOUTH

1 OF 4



CH-499

ROBERT BOYKIN HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

9/98

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST ELEVATION

2 OF 4



CH-499

ROBERT BOYKIN HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

9/98

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

3 OF 4



CH-499

ROBERT BOYKIN HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

9/98

MARYLAND SHPO

NE CORNER

4 OF 4